

Brigham's Early Hudson History

As written by Wilbur F. Brigham (1839-1901)

Compiled and Edited by Katherine Johnson and Lewis Halprin

Presented by the Hudson MA Historical Society and Museum

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*The story of its people.
People make the community,
people make history,
not buildings, not dates.*

Forward

This History of Hudson, MA, is a compilation of newspaper articles written by Wilbur F. Brigham to inform his fellow townspeople of the events and the people who had formed his new town of Hudson. He was born in Feltonville in this northern section of Marlboro, on April 9, 1839. As a young man he learned shoemaking by hand in the early shops, attended town affairs, and promoted the formation of a new town of Hudson in 1866. He loved his town, knew all its people, and wanted all to know its heritage.

The first nine articles called “Hudson Landmarks” were written 1883 to 1884 when he was about forty years old and all was fresh in his mind. The elder citizens could tell him stories from the 1700’s, about the people and their everyday lives so this book may not be a true “History Book” of all dates and facts in chronological order. These articles by Wilbur F. Brigham depict the attitudes, opinions, experiences of a prominent business man who was educated in one room schoolhouses, played on the streets, shopped locally, and employed many of the men in town. They were published in the “Enterprise”, the weekly newspaper of Hudson, MA. Which was inaugurated and first published in April 1883! Some foresighted soul cut out the articles faithfully and saved them in a scrapbook where they eventually made their way to the shelves of the Hudson Historical Society’s museum and were relegated to a back shelf to sit unattended for years. We, as editors, have brought these 136 stories “into the light” from their dark slumber on these museum’s shelves

The town of Hudson, Massachusetts was incorporated on March 19, 1866. The inhabitants came to live here in the late 1600’s but were citizens of Marlboro, MA. The community formed along the Assabet River was called “Cow Commons”, “The Mills”, “New City”, and eventually “Feltonville”. Its early history is found only in Charles Hudson’s volume “The History of Marlboro” printed in 1863.

In 1860, Charles Hudson writes, “It is our duty to transmit these records of the past to the generations which shall come after us. The deeds of our ancestors must not be permitted to sleep in darkness and in death.”

The editors of this history book are Katherine Johnson and Lewis Halprin. Together they published several books in the Images of America series by Arcadia Publishing Company titled “Images of Hudson” and “Postcards of Hudson”.

Katherine Johnson has been on the staff of the Hudson Historical Society Museum for twenty years and has been its Historian for the past 10 years.

Lewis Halprin is co-editor of nine Arcadia Publishing “Images of America” books about towns in the Hudson area, including the towns of Stow, Maynard, Lake Boon and Hudson.

Who Was Wilbur F. Brigham

Wilbur F. Brigham was born in Hudson, Massachusetts on April 9, 1839. The first of his family in America was John Brigham, born in England. He died in 1728 at age 84. Sarah, the mother of his children died 1698. A second wife, Deborah, died in 1716.

John Brigham had a sawmill in Northborough, a part of Marlboro. His grandson Solomon, born May 25, 1723 died on Feb 1, 1807. Solomon's son Ivory Brigham married Sally Wilkins on Feb 19, 1800. Ivory was born April 20, 1765 and died June 4, 1853 at age 88. One of his seven children was Francis, born April 12, 1813. Francis married Sophia Gleason on January 5, 1835.

Wilbur F. Brigham was son of Francis and Sophia (Gleason) Brigham. He and his twin William F. Brigham were born April 9, 1839. His siblings were Rufus A. Brigham, Waldo B. Brigham and Laura S. Brigham.

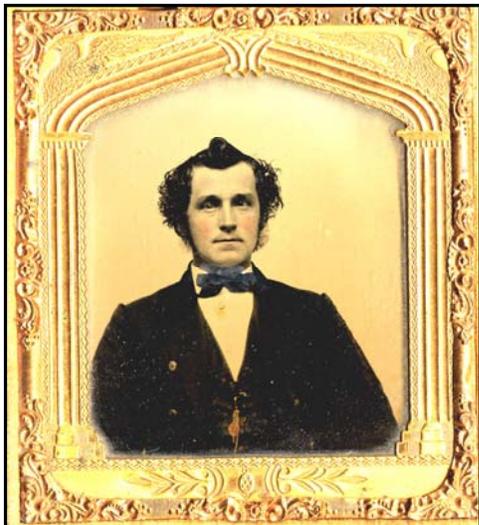
Sophia died at age 31, leaving 5 children and Francis Brigham married Emily Houghton. They had a daughter Ida. His third wife was Persis Gleason Watkins.



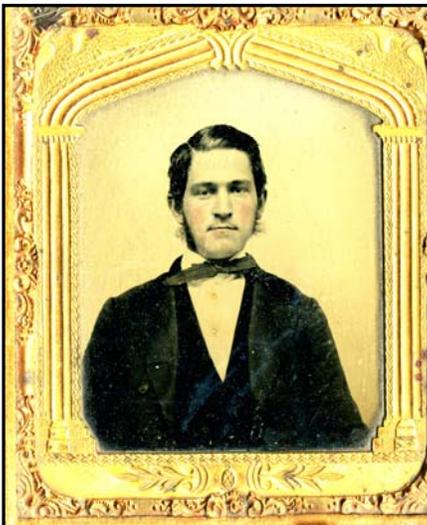
Mrs. Emily Brigham



Capt. Francis Brigham



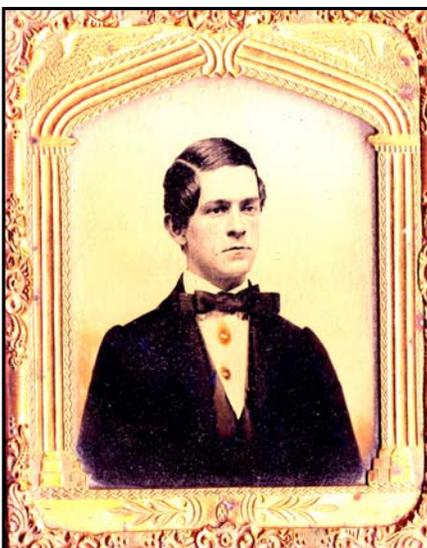
Rufus Brigham



William Brigham



Waldo Brigham



Wilbur Brigham

Obituary of Wilbur F. Brigham 1839-1901

Written by Mildred Brigham, a daughter of William H. Brigham

William F. and Wilbur F. Brigham were born in Feltonville, April 9th 1839 twin sons of Francis and Sophia Brigham. They attended the public schools of the town and at the age of fifteen entered Monson Academy. William later went to Tufts College where he had a fine record as a student. He enlisted in the Civil War, went into service in Co. 9, 36th regiment, and became Captain. He died Feb 6th 1865 at Annapolis of malaria.

Wilbur went into work for his father and later was made a member of the shoe firm of F. Brigham & Co. He was very anxious to serve his country in the civil war but the impaired sight of one eye barred him from the service. When the call came for men for 100-day service he was allowed to enlist and go out with Co. 9, 5th Regiment.

On returning home, he involved himself in the life and affairs of the town, was prominently active in the temperance cause and the old time Lyceum. He was very quick in thought and strong in argument, took an active part in our Town Meetings, stood firm for what he thought right and for the best interests of the Town. He was interested in Chautauqua and was President of the South Framingham circle.

In 1875 he was a member of the State Legislature where he served on the Committee of Labor. He always took an active part in debate on the floor of the House. It is said that his eloquent speech on Woman's Suffrage was published in full in the Woman's Journal.

He commenced a history of Hudson that was printed in the Enterprise bi-weekly. This material furnished some important facts, many of which could not have been gleaned from any other source, as he was in possession of much data.

He was a regular attendant of the Baptist Church and interested in all of its work, kind and helpful to the poor and needy.

Many Civil War widows have received pensions through his efforts and his many trips to Washington.

His literary tastes caused him to take a keen interest in the schools of the town, and he offered prizes for speaking contests. On Nov 13, 1901, he suffered a stroke while on the train from Boston, was taken to his home, and died the same evening. In his will he left the Town of Hudson seven hundred dollars, the income to be used under the direction of the school committee for prize speaking contests.

He was rather eccentric but an honest upright citizen standing firm for the principles he thought right.

Francis and Sophia (Gleason) Brigham's sons were Rufus A. Brigham, William F. Brigham, Wilbur F. Brigham, Waldo B. Brigham and daughter Laura S. Brigham.

Brigham's Landmarks and History Articles

These 127 articles, followed by the six titled "Recollections" were published in the "Enterprise", the weekly newspaper of Hudson, MA. starting in 1883 through April 1901.

In 1893, Mr. Wilbur F. Brigham, one of Hudson's best-known historians wrote a letter to The Enterprise suggesting that a series of articles on early Hudson History be written and if the paper would publish them, he would be happy to do so. As a result, 120 articles were written and published from 1893 to 1898. They cover the whole history of the Town from its earliest beginnings when a committee of 13 petitioned the General Court to be separate from the Town of Marlborough. These articles have never to our knowledge been collected and published as a series, yet they contain some of the most valuable history of the life and growth of Hudson available. This task of compiling them and indexing them has been undertaken by Lewis Halprin and Katherine Johnson, Historian of the Hudson Historical Society Museum. The articles have been on file at the Museum but forgotten until a new collection, aged and brown, carefully cut and folded over 100 years ago placed in a candy box and were found on the top shelf of a closet in Marlboro. This became a treasure of information. It has brought the history of Hudson alive. You can imagine walking the streets, seeing the buildings from the sketches included, and enjoying knowing your neighbors before the trolleys, trains, and autos took people afar.

These articles have been used by Hudson High School in the History classes and in English classes for teaching journalism. The newspaper articles were printed in columns but were entered into a full book page format by students in computer classes at Hudson High School.

The content of these chapters is copied exactly as written by Wilbur Brigham in his weekly columns of the Hudson Enterprise newspaper. When he quotes a legal document, a deed, or a will, he uses the exact words and spelling. Some phrases seem awkward with strange words due to the British way or lack of schooling. Remember, this is 1890 when few people even completed their High School diploma. Most students went to work after the eighth grade, and in early years boys only attended school for 6-8 weeks in the winter when there were fewer farming chores.

Some of the editing and all the indexing were done by a volunteer, Halley Grogan, a 2008 graduate of N.Y University majoring in photography and archiving.

From Charles Hudson, the town's namesake: *"It is our duty to transmit these records of the past to the generations which shall come after us. The deeds of our ancestors must not be permitted to sleep in darkness and in death"*.

HISTORY OF HUDSON.

BY WILBUR F. BRIGHAM.

No. 69.

It is not surprising that the Hunters should cling with the greatest tenacity of purpose to all their reserved rights in a farm they had owned for one hundred years. The Hunters were men of ability, father and sons having been elected and reelected to the highest offices in the gift of the town. The town had been successful in minor suits against the Hunters, but defeat only awakened a deeper feeling of wrongs inflicted and they were ready to renew the legal conflict with renewed energy. The town of Marlboro including Feltonville at the time, chose a committee of three, Mark Fay, Stephen R. Phelps, Stephen Morse to contest the claims of the Hunters and eject them from the farm. The suit began in May 1842. It came to a close Dec. 1, 1846. The state courts decided in favor of the town. This did not end the contest. William Hunter, son of David Hunter, moved to Henneker, N. H., that he might carry the suit before the supreme court of the United States.

The town had for counsel E. Rockwood Hoar of Concord, and Judge Mellen of Worcester, the ablest lawyers of those days. This suit occupied the whole time of these lawyers for six months. It occupied the whole time of the court sixteen days, part of this time through the sweltering hot days of early September. The closing argument of one of these lawyers occupied seventeen hours. The other lawyer spoke four hours. The able arguments were in ruin. The opinion of Judge Woodbury reversed the judgment of lower courts. The report of the committee shows the town was defeated by the most trivial oversight on the part of the town committee. The costs of the suit, \$1200, were charged to the town; the whole cost of the suit to the town was \$3386.59. In the division of property in 1867 the new town of Hudson came into possession of all the buildings and 119 acres 36 rods of land for \$4260.33. It will be seen that this suit devoured nearly the whole farm.

The farm was purchased in 1821, the suit ended in 1846. It will be noted a most remarkable fact, the trouble and fight with the Hunters was carried on for a quarter of a century. The whole cost to the town was more than the farm was worth. We will give the report of the committee that the reader may have a clearer insight into the most vital points of this extraordinary suit.

Judge Woodbury delivered the opinion of the supreme court in the following language:

"When the town purchased the farm with the knowledge and acquiescence of the plaintiff's father, all prior trusts and conditions were merged and extinguished and a new agreement made, but that the town had omitted to execute a conveyance to Hunter of the part set off to him as stipulated by the new agreement, and that on the execution of such conveyance, the town would be entitled to a release from the plaintiff of all title to the remainder of the farm.

The court accordingly adjudged and decreed that when the premises in controversy, comprising the farm long occupied by David Hunter, was conveyed to the town of Marlboro in 1821 by the Goodales and Draper, all previous trusts, existing in favor of Hunter in respect to it, whether fraudulent or otherwise, and whether from Joab Stow or Braubshaw, or the Goodales or Draper and, however proved, were by

the agreement to provide Hunter with a different house and barn and set him off a portion of the farm, meaning thereby to give him a title thereto, instead of his former trust, therein and being an agreement similar to what was set out in the plaintiff's bill, that the town proceeded to fulfill this agreement in all respects except conveying to him a title therein, that this part performance, took this agreement out of the statute of fraud, that nothing else was interposed or shown, which in equity ought to prevent or exonerate the town from the specific performance of the rest of the agreement, and that the town therefore was liable and bound to carry the rest of it into specific effect.

The town was therefore ordered and directed to execute a conveyance of all their interest in the house and barn and land set off to the complainant, and who represented the heirs of David Hunter; and thereupon, that the complainant should execute to the town a release of all his interest, including that of all the heirs of David Hunter, in the residue of the farm purchased by the town in 1821. The plaintiff was entirely against the decision, and petitioned the court for a rehearing of the whole case, stating among other reasons, that he felt aggrieved by the decision, that he had obtained nothing by it, and that he, or some one of the heirs of David Hunter had bought of the overseers of the poor in 1830, the home in which

they live for which they had paid Hunter \$6950, being the principal or original sum, with interest, and took his receipt therefor a deed to the 30 acres set off to David Hunter was then executed, and tendered to William Hunter, and a release of the remainder of the farm, containing 220 or more acres, demanded of him agreeable to the decree of the court. He utterly declined, receiving or giving any deed whatever, while he lived, and a deed was not obtained until legal measures were resorted to, compelling him to do it; the deed obtained, has been recorded in the register's office and now is in possession of your committee together with all the other deeds and papers which have come into their hands since the commencement of the suit."

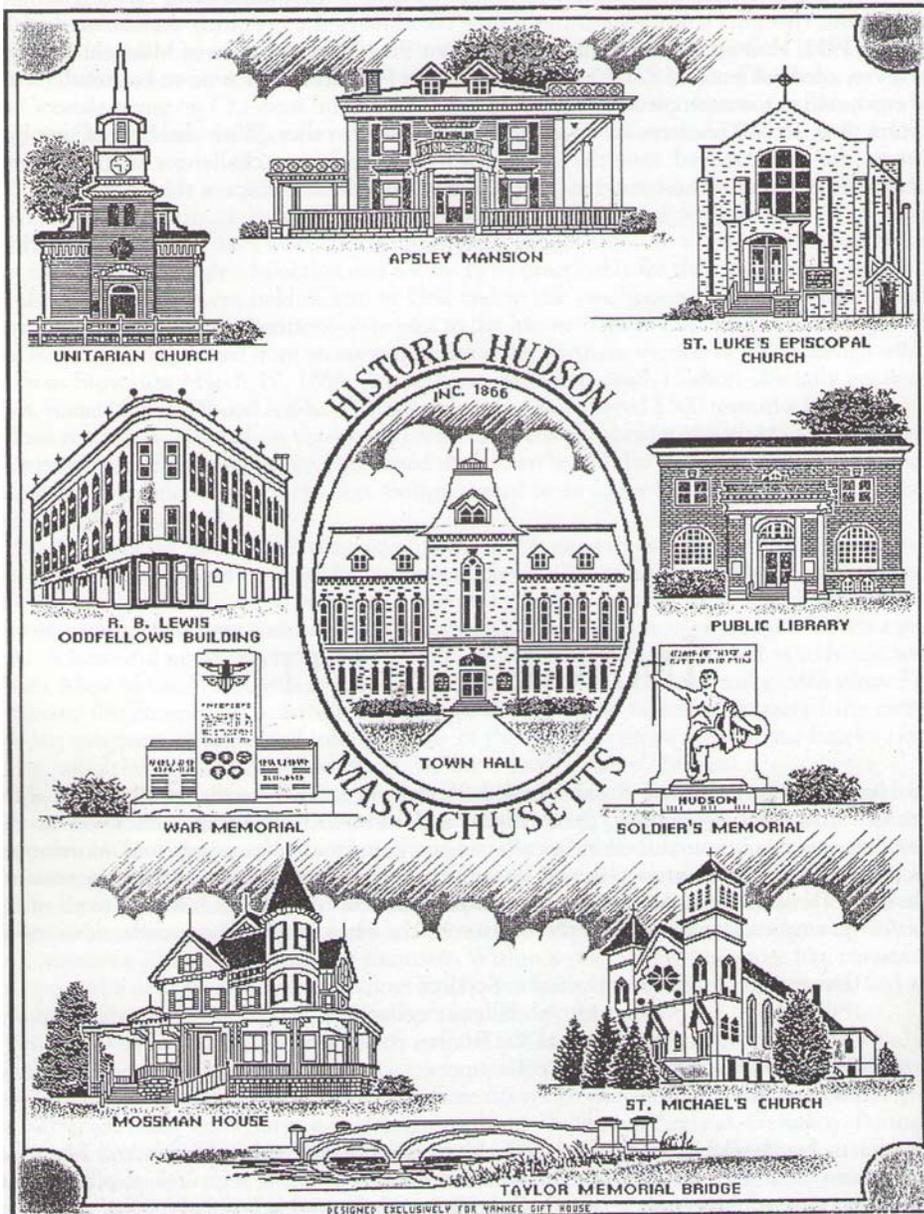
In this suit Judge Hoar charged \$692.87 Judge Mellen nearly the same.

This amount gave them less than the \$4 a day for time spent in the suit.

Stephen Morse spent 96 days at \$1.25 a day, Mark Fay 30 1-2 days at \$1.25 a day, S. R. Phelps 31 1-2 days at \$1.25 a day. Commissioners for taking depositions \$198.09. Other items make the grand total of \$3386.59.

Riding by the town farm on the railway you will see on the north side a dilapidated tumble down one-story house and a dwarfed old barn. On this place David Hunter lived. A half a century has passed away. All the contestants in this famous suit are in a world where peace offerings and fraternal love are the best panoply of citizenship. This suit developed into all the intencity and bitterness of hatred for the parties in interest and the poverty of results finally reached are a most eloquent commentary on the folly of going to law, to redress imaginary or fancied wrongs.

Example of an original Brigham newspaper column as saved in a scrapbook.



Design of cotton throw created for the Hudson Historical Society in 1997 showing some of the town's historical points of interest.

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for Wilbur F. Brigham Newspaper Articles about Hudson history

Landmarks:

- i **Old Landmarks** (Oct 17, 1883). *A row of tenements was built on Main Street about 1835. They burned Oct 3, 1880. There were two brick houses on the site of the new Town Hall, built in 1872*
- ii **The Story of Wilkinsville** (Dec 1, 1883). *John Wilkins came from Danvers in 1740 and all his forbears lived nearby. The will of his son Edward who died 1763 is given. The language in old wills is interesting and what was included.*
- iii **Peters Store** (Dec 8, 1883). *The first store was built 1790. The succession of owners and some events are described and still exists in 1883*
- iv **Old Hudson Buildings** (Dec 15, 1883). *An old elm tree in Wood Square had hitching posts all around it, where you hitched your horse while at the store. The blacksmith shop was built by George Peters in 1809. In 1820 there were 100 persons in Feltonville.*
- v **Rev. Wakefield** (Dec 25, 1883). *Rev. L. E. Wakefield served the needs of all the village at the Baptist Church, leaving because of illness, and then returning in great appreciation about 1840-1865.*
- vi **F. Brigham & Company** (Jan 5, 1884). *The story of F. Brigham and Co., and those who worked for Francis Brigham.*
- vii **F. Brigham & E. M. Stowe** (Jan 12, 1884). *Francis Brigham did many other forms of work. Edmund M. Stowe learned to make shoes in Brigham's shops and then went into business for himself with several partners. They created Stowe, Bills & Co. in 1867, one of the largest shoe firms in the world.. E. M. Stowe was also an excellent farmer and orchardist on Forest Avenue.*
- viii **F. Brigham & Company** (Jan 26, 1884). *Captain Francis Brigham of F. Brigham & Co. used and perfected the latest inventions in his shops to produce more product. The first pegging machine and the first sewing machine, "the eighth wonder of the world."were introduced in 1854 and 1858.*
- ix **Joseph Howe** (Feb 2, 1884). *Abraham Howe came to live here in 1657. His son Joseph built a grist mill on the falls of the swift moving river, grinding corn and rye for his patrons from Marlboro. Barstow, then Barnard continued to run the mill. Barnard owned nearly all the land that become Feltonville.*

Articles:

- 1. Petition of Sudbury Inhabitants Committee on Boundaries** (May 27, 1883). Petitioners to the General Court in 1656 seek additional land to farm
- 2. Covenant with Indians** (Jun 10, 1893). The Indian plantation of 6000 acres named Ockoocangansett The area awarded to the 13 petitioners, now 21 settlers, is named Whipsuppenicke, The cost is nine pence per acre.
- 3. Early Marlboro Settlement** (Jun 17, 1893). In 1660, 38 families were living in Marlborough, the new name. The first meeting house was built in the Indian land, a cause for trouble predictably.
- 4. Burning of Marlboro** (Jun 24, 1893). In 1676, 13 homes, 11 barns were burned while settlers were at church. Petitions to the General Court to purchase the Indian Plantation were denied and in 1684 they negotiated with the Indians and purchased the Plantation.
- 5. Taking Indian Plantation** (Jul 15, 1893). Purchase of the Indian land declared "null and void" by the general court. It was divided anyway to 52 persons. By 1719, only a few Indians were left. They lived at the Thomas Brigham farm.
- 6. John Barnes - First Grist Mill** (Jul 22, 1893). The favored bread of the settlers was made of rye and Indian corn. They needed a grist mill, so land was given to John Barnes to build a mill on the river, erected about 1690 and sold to Joseph Howe on Jan 13, 1701. The river was dammed, just as in 2000.
- 7. Stephen Rice, Benjamin Prentice** (Jul 29, 1893). 1711 - A garrison house was built on the North side of the Assabet River by the mill. The whole town slept in this garrison at night for fear of Indian raids. Story of the Rice home where Charles Hudson worked as a boy. Two blacks lived nearby.
- 8. Thomas Hapgood** (Aug 5, 1893). Thomas Hapgood farm and family on Round Hill. Constantly on guard from the Indian encounters. The farm was sold to Stephen C. Reed.
- 9. First Marlboro Meeting House** (Aug 12, 1893). Every settlement of 20 families was required by the general court to have a minister. They were taxed 12 pence each to provide a meeting house. The first was built in 1661. Then 1676, 1688 which lasted till 1806. Population was 500 in 1716.
- 10. Early Religious History** (Sept 16, 1893). Religious requirements, Assignment of pews, Rules of behavior, Singing introduced, A minister's duties, Rev. Aaron Smith, Rev. Robert Breck.

11. Joseph Howe (*Sept 30, 1893*). Howe built the first grist/corn mill in 1699 on land which he later purchased from John Barnes and his wife Johanna. Joseph Howe died in 1700 at age 40. Also, story of four children left motherless in 1875.

12. Early Settlers, Howe, Hubberfield, Hapgood (*Oct 7, 1893*). Estate and value of Joseph Howe. Thomas Hapgood gravely wounded in 1690 fighting Indians in New Hampshire. He was awarded \$25.

13. Indian Troubles (*Oct 14, 1893*). Many settlers wounded in fighting the Indians were awarded funds and also for the materials and horses lost in 1679, 1697 and 1708.

14. John Barnes (*Oct 28, 1893*). John Barnes, gravely injured in 1675 in King Philip's war, petitioned for monetary aid. Many homes were established as garrisons to sleep at night for protection from Indians. The Hudson area Indians were friendly. The government provided a fort and ammunition for the settlers.

15. Capt. Johnathan Poole & Lt. J. Ruddock (*Nov 4, 1893*). Marlboro, 1675, was a frontier town 15 years old. Lt. John Ruddock, commander of Marlboro soldiers in dire need of supplies: clothing, food, rum, bread.

16. Indian Wars - Garrison Soldiers (*Nov 18, 1893*). The first miller in Marlboro, before 1675, was Peter Bent. His son Peter Bent 9 years old was scalped. He and their slave Christopher Munchen were taken by Indians. Elizabeth Bent, left a widow with 7 children, is seeking pay. Indians are sold to be slaves of white men

17. Indian Wars (*Nov 25, 1893*). Sarah Kettles, 17, and young sister taken by Indians from Lancaster, Feb 10, 1676 and escaped, but appeared at the garrison in July pleading for food as they were nearly starved to death. March 1676, Indians raided, taking cattle, burning 16 homes, 13 barns. In another encounter 500-1000 Indians were killed.

18. Indian Troubles (*Dec 9, 1893*). An elderly Englishman is overtaken and murdered by an Indian and the body mangled, as was common. Likewise when King Philips was captured and killed, his body was dismembered by the whites. The massacre at Lancaster had been forewarned by a friendly Indian but was ignored. The inhabitants of Marlboro had been left in deplorable condition.

19. Baptist Church History (*Dec 23, 1893*). In 1844, there was interest in forming a Baptist Church. Cox's Hall was rented for 12 Sabbaths. By July 1845, the congregation moved to Manson's Hall, larger and more comfortable with settees. A Sabbath school was formed. Rev. L.E. Wakefield comes in 1845.

20. Baptist Church History (*Dec 30, 1893*). A newly built Baptist Church dedicated Sept 7, 1851. A church bell is purchased Jan 26, 1853. List of preachers, members, choir, maintenance by the ladies of the church. 170 Baptists from North Cambridge visited worship and a great meal.

21. Baptist Church History (Jan 6, 1894). With the onset of the Civil War, a daily meeting for worship at 6 PM was started everyday for 6 years by Rev. Wakefield. He visited with all the soldiers leaving for war.

22. Baptist Church History (Jan 13, 1894). By 1874, the congregation needed a larger church. Henry Glover and Francis Dana Brigham each pledged \$5000. The new church was dedicated Oct. 23, 1877.

23. Howes Mills & Division Howe Property (Jan 20, 1894). In 1699, a bridge was to be built where Washington St. Bridge now stands. No dam. The will of Joseph Howe is given in entirety, 1300 acres land, 1442 pounds value.

24. Jeremiah Barstow (Jan 27, 1894). Bethiah Howe's inheritance from Joseph Howe is sold to her sister Sarah's husband Jeremiah Barstow. He built a large home where Wood's Store was later built. He sells all his property to Robert Barnard of Andover for \$3000, 350 acres of land. Entire deed is given.

25. Abiel Bush & Early Homes (Feb 3, 1894). As early as 1690, Abiel Bush bought land in Hudson. His estate settled in 1757 states many acres and all valuables listed. A description of many homes.

26. Barnard Family (Feb 17, 1894). In 1723 the name Barnard's Mills became the new name of the Northern part of Marlboro, and continued for 75 years. The Barnard family and heirs are listed. An Indian visits the Barnard store.

27. Early Mills & Stores (Feb 24, 1894). The first sawmill is built in 1788 by William Cogswell. Mill sold to Phineas Sawyer. The Marlboro Satinet factory was built with 10 looms. A fulling mill is built using Assabet River water for power and teasels or burrs were grown locally. Weaving was done in homes. This was the best cloth in all the county.

28. Stephen Pope (Mar 3, 1894). Folger Pope and wife Theodate are the first of the Pope family to come to the "Mills" in 1802. His son Stephen learned the tanning of hides in his boyhood in Salem and came in 1806 at age 21 to build a tannery on Potash Brook. He takes a bride, Sally Houghton, at a Quaker wedding ceremony in Bolton.

29. Stephen Pope (Mar 10, 1894). Stephen Pope is a sharp businessman. Became a tanner in Troy, N.Y. and after selling at a profit, returns to the "Mills", buys 100 acres and built another tannery doing 2000 hides a year. Stephen Pope was influential in the community. A listing of the Pope family

30. Early Buildings & Houses (Mar 17, 1894). Town socials were held in a hall at Cranston's hotel and at a room in the Satinet Factory on Washington Street. In 1834 the Satinet Factory burned and the blacksmith shop burned in 1856. The first blacksmith shop was built 1790 by John Allen. George Peters bought this 1799 and he and son Luther worked there 50 years. The Knight family came in 1773.

31. Peter's Store & Hotels, Grand Calico Ball 1858 (Mar 24, 1894). Cranston and Felton store began in 1801. These two young men had a building for carding cloth, a distillery for cider brandy, served as selectmen and on other town boards. Silas Felton founded "Rock Bottom" and was the richest merchant in town. The new shoe factory of F. Brigham & Co. was dedicated March 16, 1858 with 225 couples for dinner at the "Grand Calico Ball".

32. Nathaniel Nourse (Mar 31, 1894). Story of Jonathan Nourse, 1772 and Nathaniel Nourse, 1813. Nourse was thrifty but generous. After his death his chest was opened to reveal 3000 silver dollars.

33. Early Homes (Apr 14, 1894). Names of homeowners, their location and dates.

34. Wilder Bush - Trade, Temperance Society (Apr 21, 1894). Wilder Bush arrives in town, in business at Wood Square and then to Tripp's Pond. He employed over 20 making tortoise shell combs for ladies in New York and South America, the high ornate ornamental style. Wilder Bush here 10 years turning his \$500 investment into \$50,000. A temperance society formed 1836.

35. Priest Farm, Elbridge Darling & Wilkins Family (Apr 28, 1894). The homes and locations of various Wilkins members. Willard Brown, a blacksmith, his wife Elizabeth attended the old North School which was built 1799 on Old North Road. Her teachers and classmates are listed. One teacher, Elizabeth Wilkins worked on farms for wages. One classmate was Amory Maynard, the name of Maynard, MA.

36. Gospel Hill, Wilkinsville & Round Top (May 5, 1894). More homes and their occupants 1770 on. The story of "Wet Ass Brook". Grinding corn at Josiah Howe's mill in 1752. An Indian encounter on Round Top.

37. Will - Jedidiah Brigham (May 19, 1894) The will of Jedediah Brigham written a year before his death in 1762. He is the grandfather of Francis Brigham of F. Brigham & Co. shoemakers.

38. Indian Free School (May 26, 1894). In 1698, an Indian Free School is proposed to which the English settler's children could attend, as there is no school in northern Marlboro. A school is finally built and staffed in 1702.

39. Early Schools (Jun 2, 1894). In 1708 school was started. There was only one school house so private homes were used moving each quarter year so as to vary the distances each student had to travel, called "squadrons". The homeowner nearest had to clean, provide wood and water. Sometimes he boarded the teacher.

40. Early Schools (Jun 9, 1894). The General Court orders proper education when 200 families in a town. Population 1789 - 1554 in all Marlboro. Rules given for maintaining schools. Female teachers are allowed. In 1812 a new school was voted. It was on Washington Street on the corner of Rutland Street.

41. Early Schools (Jun 16, 1894). Teachers in the new school built in 1812 on Washington Street are listed. Luther Peters, age 90, was in the first class. Names of the students who attended are given. A new school was built 1845 nearby. In October 1879, a reunion of the scholars of the 1812 school was held in Union Hall. They remembered sleigh rides, spelling bees, recitations, with glee.

42. Silas Felton (Mar 2, 1895). Silas Felton was the richest and most popular merchant during the early 1800's. He wrote of his life, reminiscences of his boyhood, family, background, and early adult years, having been born in 1776, the year of the United States of America. His schooling was over at age 13 but he read constantly.

43. Silas Felton (Mar 9, 1895). Silas Felton writes of his deep feelings for religion and thought, conflicting with his natural feelings of manhood and need for fun. He is asked to become the teacher of the town school. After being examined for such, he is given a certificate to teach and accepts the position.

44. Silas Felton (Mar 16, 1895). He found teaching a challenge and also that he was learning along with his students. He was successful, was paid well and after the session returned to his father's to help haying. He wished to improve his grammar knowledge and enrolled in Leicester Academy for 2 terms learning from a Harvard College scholar. After a summer of farming he returned to teach year round. He is enamored of Miss Lucretia Fay but concentrates on his teaching.

45. Silas Felton (Mar 30, 1895). Silas Felton takes a trip to New York State to visit an aunt and an uncle. After four weeks by horseback, he returns to teach school. He is tormented by his thoughts, wishes and desiring for Miss Lucretia Fay and they are finally married, Jan 10, 1799.

46. Silas Felton (Apr 6, 1895). In November 1796 he decided to teach the art of oratory. 30 students were given pieces to memorize and learn to recite. The first recitation evening for parents was very successful and the scholars greatly advanced. After this, the scholars in later sessions were eager to participate and perform for the townspeople. His brother Aaron becomes unruly and is disciplined harshly.

47. Silas Felton (Apr 13, 1895). A boy of 10 or 12 years teases the girls, lies about it and is disciplined. Silas Felton is called to task for this and seeks an attorney to defend him. The minister accompanies Silas to talk to the boy's father. This has a serious effect on the teacher and he was glad when that session of school was over.

48. Silas Felton (Apr 20, 1895). Needing more income, Silas Felton goes into business with Joel Cranston to open a store. He continued teaching, became the tax collector, and a storekeeper. Silas keeps complete records of all he earns and spends. His first child, Alonzo, dies at 1 ½ months. An additional teacher is hired, who degrades Silas Felton.

49. Silas Felton (Apr 27, 1895). Felton and Cranston build a larger store in 1801 for their increased business. It was later the Peters Store.

50. Silas Felton (May 4, 1895). *Silas Felton continues as a voracious reader and lists all the books he has read. He continues to calculate his expenses and income thoroughly. The capital in his share of this store has doubled in three years.*

51. Silas Felton (May 11, 1895). *Silas Felton and his wife have their child christened, named Harriet. Silas considers this a needless ceremony. There are more important virtues in life. A Society of Enquirers is formed to meet monthly at a home to discuss agriculture, philosophy, the arts and sciences.*

52. Silas Felton (May 18, 1895). *Silas Felton meets with unfavorable criticism for not being a church member. In April 1803, Mr. Osborn's store in Bolton is hired for five years but he has doubts of this venture.*

53. Silas Felton (May 25, 1895). *Silas Felton waxes eloquently with a long dissertation on economy. Joel Cranston in 1803 built himself a large house, the finest around. He expects to sell his former house to Felton or else the partnership is over. Felton being careful with his money, quits the partnership. This new house was destroyed in the great fire of July 4, 1894.*

54. Silas Felton (Jun 1, 1895). *Mr. Felton describes how the stock of goods, buildings and possessions were divided. Cranston will take the Bolton store. Felton will take the Marlboro store. Neither to open a store for five years within three miles of the other. They finally disagree and Felton sells all goods and rights to Cranston and resumes teaching school in 1804.*

55. Silas Felton (Jun 8, 1895). *In 1804, the snow accumulated until 4 feet deep. Needed snowshoes to get around. He is now 28 years old. He finds it difficult to collect some of the outstanding accounts owed him. He is not elected assessor after 5 years.*

56. Silas Felton (Jun 15, 1895). *A new daughter Charlotte is born May 10, 1804. Silas Felton rents a house in Stow large enough for a store also. He tries to collect more old debts. William Smith is sued for his 4 year debt.*

57. Silas Felton (Jun 22, 1895). *Felton gets displeased and disgusted with men who are not honest and truthful, lazy, not trustworthy. The Bruce family he especially despises, all three sons.*

58. Silas Felton (Jun 29, 1895). *The Bruces cheat Benjamin Prentiss and Wilkins. Cranston proposes a merger. Felton declined. The Stow house and store not finished as promised.*

59. Silas Felton (Jul 16, 1895) *The dilemma in Stow of the home and store not fit to live in causes much distress. He agrees to partner again with Joel Cranston and then again regrets it, as they own too many buildings and inventory of goods. He must make the best of it.*

60. Real Estate Values (Aug 24, 1895). *Felton writes of the changes in the village over the 100 years especially in real estate values. The land for the School Street School is purchased.*

61. Early Factories & Stores (Jan 25, 1896). *In 1803, Elijah Hale, 14 years old, of Stow, began work with Cranston & Felton. The population of all Marlboro was 1635 in 1803. These three men went to Rockbottom where water power was available and opened a cotton factory in 1813. The meaning of the Rockbottom name. A new owner Benjamin Poor built a larger brick*

factory but was not successful and on 1849 he sold to Benjamin Gleason and Samuel Dale - Gleasondale! In 1852, all lost to fire. Rebuilt and successful for 30 more years.

62. Rockbottom Mills & Feltonville Stores (Feb 1, 1896). Randall's Mills in Rockbottom sold in 1819 to Felton, Cranston and Hale. George Manson marries Harriet Felton and joins Hale at the store. Francis D. Brigham at 16 years worked at the store and it became Manson and Brigham. Due to Temperance, they emptied kegs of rum down the hill toward the Assabet River. Deaths of Silas Felton, Joel Cranston, Elijah Hale, F.D.Brigham noted.

63 Joel Cranston (Feb 8, 1896). Praising Joel Cranston, a town founder. His son was also Joel Cranston, the store keeper in these previous articles. This younger Joel lived as widower with Hale in Stow. The Wood store is established in 1825 with Jedediah Wood and sons William and Alonzo. A grandson Solon Wood continued the business in 1896. Jedediah died at age 90, in 1867. A new Wood store was built in 1842.

64. Civil War Response (Feb 15, 1896). Organizing a call for troops, April 17, 1861. One eighth of the whole population of the town served in the Civil War. Speeches, appropriations for equipment and to help the families whose men went to war.

65. George Houghton (Feb 24, 1896). George Houghton, son of a Quaker preacher, lived in poverty. The father died when George was 8 years old. He was boarded from home to home. At 12 years he received a suit made from new cloth, not the usual used wool. He learned to peg shoes, then tan hides. Shoe makers worked till 9 or 10 PM by oil lamps, receiving 6 cents a pair. At age 15, he was employed by F. Brigham & Co. boarding with Brigham and caring for the children evenings.

66. George Houghton (Mar 7, 1896). In 1849, George Houghton built a home and added a shoe shop and went to manufacturing shoes employing 10 men. As business increased, he enlarged the shoe shops several times, using the newest machinery. The Japanese Embassy came in 1872 to marvel at his business and top quality shoes. In 1866, sales for a single month reached \$110,494, taxed at 5% to support the expenses of the Civil War. In 1874, the Houghton business made 850,000 pairs of shoes. He built a tannery, one of the largest in the U.S.

67. Old Farms—Ward (Apr 4, 1896). History of the farm on Brigham Street where Wilbur Brigham grew up. The first owner, 1660, was William Ward, with 30 acres of land, animals, goods and cash. Through generations, the acreage increased to 203 acres on both sides of Brigham Street, named for the next owner, Capt Francis Brigham of F. Brigham and Co., thence to sons Rufus and Wilbur and a grandson William H. The Indians were treacherous neighbors in 1660.

68. Old Farms—Hunter, Beginnings—Poor Farm (May 2, 1896). Hudson "Town Farm" History 1655-1816. The Town of Marlboro purchased this farm from David Hunter, 1821, including 250 acres, a house, barn, and cider mill. Until this time, paupers, numbering 47, were auctioned to the highest bidder to be maintained. A law suit ensued between the Hunter brothers and the case was taken to the U.S. Supreme Court, settled in 1846.

69. Hunter Farm (May 9, 1896). The Hunters had owned this farm 100 years. The town did not handle the provisions of the sale correctly and were liable to the owners and the court expenses. This suit took 25 years and cost the town more than the farm cost.

70. Alms House (Jun 6, 1896). The Poor Farm - who was relegated to live here. A list of the overseers is given and the cost of foods for the year for the 28 or more residents. When

properly managed, food could be produced, wood cut for their use. The cost to the towns was more than was spent on schools and highways.

71. Goodrich & Barnes (Nov 28, 1896). Property, lands, homes and who lived in them are described especially those on Prospect Hill. The Robin Hill schoolhouse was built by John Barnes in 1779. Brigham Street had been a cart path until 1834.

72. Army & Navy Union (Dec 5, 1896). After the close of the Civil War, 1861-5, the soldiers returning desired to preserve their friendship and helpfulness to each other and their families. A meeting was called in Union Hall and an organization was formed. The name "Army and Navy Union" was changed to the "Grand Army of the Republic" in 1867 and a new charter voted.

73. Beginnings GAR (Dec 12, 1896). The original Army and Navy Union was very active and were enterprising in getting funds for the aid of their comrades. They held a grand ball in the new piano factory on Broad Street with a fine band and a grandly decorated hall. They helped the first representative from the new Town of Hudson get elected. Mr. Joseph S. Bradley awarded them with a new flag with an eagle on the standard. James Joslin gave a great speech in acceptance of this National Emblem for which these men had fought.

74. Withdrawal from Marlboro (Dec 19, 1896). For 250 years this northern area was part of Marlboro. All transactions were required at the town center requiring 50 cents to rent a horse for the four mile trip when the wages were only \$1 a day. It is time to separate from Marlboro. A committee of 9 is appointed.

75. Feltonville Petition (Dec 26, 1896). The committee of nine chosen to plan for the new town immediately drew up boundary lines carefully setting them up to accommodate those who wanted to be in the new town. The committee of nine reported their plan at a legal meeting in Union Hall, June 13, 1865. In September, 1865, a name for the town was selected. Out of 306 voters in town only 54 voted for the name. Hudson was the choice with 35 votes.

76. Petition Hearings (Jan 2, 1897). A Legislative Committee came on Feb 1, 1866 to see the proposed boundaries and talked with the citizens. A hearing before this committee lasted four days listening to the arguments for a new town. Francis Brigham, was the first witness extolling the value of businesses and that they needed a more convenient area to do business, not going 4 miles to Marlboro.

77. Annexation Bolton Berlin Territory (Jan 9, 1897). Francis Brigham continues to state reasons for a new town. George Rawson describes the need for schools, especially a high school. The Bolton and Berlin citizens did all their business in this area and attended the schools here.

78. 1866 Town Meeting, Street Naming (Jan 16, 1897). At a Town meeting in Union Hall, November 1866, a committee of three was chosen to name and put markers at each street. They were adopted April 25, 1870

79. Town Petitioners (Jan 23, 1897) More arguments from petitioners to form a new town. Most had spent their whole lives here. Many Irish and French were coming here wishing to purchase lots. Feltonville citizens paid taxes to Marlboro to pay for schools but students could not attend high school because of the distance.

80. Bolton Opposition (Jan 30, 1897). Charles Stevens of Clinton was the counsel for Bolton, saying that Bolton should not be split neighbor from neighbor. Other witnesses were called for Bolton. Taxes were higher in Marlboro, they liked their own government and one would pay \$100 to remain in Bolton.

81. Bolton Opposition (Feb 6, 1897). More opposition by Bolton. Opposition from Berlin. This hearing lasted four days. Many witnesses were called who really loved their town and did not want it changed. Berlin witnesses also.

82. Berlin Opposition (Feb 13, 1897). On February 16, 1866, Dr. Hartshorn of Berlin gave his argument, incisive, and convincing and succeeded so that no soil was given to or purchased by Hudson. He gives a fine speech. It was said that Hudson just wanted to straighten the border line!

83. Berlin Opposition (Feb 20, 1897). Dr. Harshorn is a great orator on behalf of Berlin.

84. Argument Hon. George F. Hoar (Feb 27, 1897). The Hon. George F. Hoar argues for Bolton and Berlin not to change the town borders nor move an area from Worcester County to another

85. Argument Hon. George F. Hoar (Mar 6, 1897). Mr. Hoar continues to defend the small towns of Bolton and Berlin in not being taken over by Hudson. There have been similar situations in Carlisle and Lancaster. Leave the agriculture areas be.

86. Argument Hon. George F. Hoar (Mar 13, 1897). On February 16, 1866, Hon. George Hoar of Worcester expounds on the virtues of the small town and its value to the state and its own forbears not to be governed by the political power of large manufacturing establishments. The annual Town Meeting is worth spending a day at, learning your town's business. Spending a few minutes just to vote is not discharging your duty.

87. Argument Hon. George F. Hoar (Mar 20, 1897). Mr. Hoar continues to defend Bolton.

88. Argument Hon. James T. Joslin (Mar 27, 1897). James T. Joslin, Esq, pleads his argument before the Legislative Committee on the same date. He cites the Mass. State Constitution and statutes which allow boundaries to be changed.

89. Argument Hon. James T. Joslin (Apr 31, 1897). James Joslin denies that taking less than one square mile will leave Berlin too small to function. Every county in Mass. has many towns of less than one thousand inhabitants.

90. Argument Hon. James T. Joslin (Apr 10, 1897). James Joslin, Esq. speaks further before the Legislative Committee that town lines, county lines and even state lines have

been changed to accommodate as few as one homeowner on occasions. Hudson is only asking for such consideration.

91. Argument Hon. James T. Joslin (Apr 17, 1897). More from lawyer Joslin about Clintonville wanting to separate from Lancaster and that Lancaster had been in Middlesex County originally

92. Argument Hon. James T. Joslin (May 1, 1897). Joslin concludes his arguments for incorporating Hudson into a new town.

93. Decision of Court on Bolton - Berlin (May 8, 1897). Hudson finally incorporated on March 19, 1866. None of Bolton or Berlin is included.

94. First Town Meeting, Voters List (Sep 11, 1897). The first ever Town Meeting is called for March 31, 1866. Town officers and boards were selected. The 306 voters of the town are listed.

95. Death & Marriages (Sep 18, 1897). First death in Hudson on March 21, 1866. First marriage on March 22, 1866

96. Acquisition Bolton-Berlin Land (Sep 25, 1897). The town immediately set out to acquire the desired land from Bolton. Committees were selected. Legislature refused to pass the petition in 1867 and again the town pursued for 1868. Bolton sells the area to Hudson, just 2 years exactly on March 20, 1868

97. Mrs. Mary Ann (Barnard) Babcock (Oct 2, 1897). The events and activities of the social life of a young girl are shown through the life of Mary Ann Barnard Babcock. Mary Ann's father writes to her while away at boarding school.

98. Names added from Bolton (Oct 9, 1897). Hudson receives 123 new voters from the additional Bolton territory. All are listed.

99. Act of Annexation March 20, 1868 (Oct 16, 1897). The act of annexing a part of Bolton is given in entirety with monetary responsibilities laid out.

100. See Article July 4, 1865 Celebration (Nov 13, 1897). On July 4, 1865, a huge celebration was planned to celebrate real freedom and independence brought about by the ending of the Civil War, with a procession of 1000 people and 1500 children with banners, flags, bands, and speeches. This was the last celebration of the whole of Marlboro.

101. Early Doctors (Nov 27, 1897). The medical doctors serving the north part of Marlboro at Sawyers Mills in 1809 and through the years, their services, fees, and diligent care. Dr. Whitney rents out his horse to help meet his expenses.

102. July 4, 1865 Celebration (Dec 4, 1897). The speech of Rev. George Anthony given at the July 4, 1865 celebration, that a "truer liberty has dawned." Alas! The problems of liquor being sold in 20 places in town.

103. July 4, 1865 Celebration (Dec 11, 1897). James T. Joslin speaks at the July 4, 1865 celebration, the first since 4 years of war.

104. July 4, 1865 Celebration (Dec. 18, 1897). The Rev. William W. Colburn, Methodist minister from Feltonville, speaks to the crowd.

105. July 4, 1865 Celebration (Dec. 26, 1897). George S. Rawson of Feltonville, a former teacher and school administrator, tells of the great opportunities of our young people to attend the best and free schools in all the country. Massachusetts is the leader in education.

106. July 4, 1865 Celebration (Jan 1, 1898). Wilbur F. Brigham is the speaker, comparing Marlboro and Feltonville as a mother and daughter who has been well nurtured and will soon be on her own. He describes the tremendous growth of Feltonville, its schools and industrious citizens. He thanks the mother, Marlboro.

107. Charles Hudson (Jan 8, 1898). At the bi-centennial of Marlboro, June 13, 1860, Mr. Charles Hudson was the orator of the day. He tells of his sincere fondness for this, his boyhood home, and his ancestor's home.

108. Charles Hudson (Jan 15, 1898). Charles Hudson's early boyhood, loving family, and leaving at age 12 to work and live with Stephen Rice. It was just a short walk away. He attended the local schools each winter 8-9 weeks and later studied to be a minister.

109. Charles Hudson (Jan 22, 1898). Charles Hudson enjoyed teaching until age 24 and was ordained a minister serving in Danvers and Westminster. He was elected a Mass. Representative and then a Senator and on to the U.S. Senate. He was a great orator against slavery.

110. Charles Hudson (Jan 29, 1898). In the U.S. Senate, Charles Hudson speaks out against slavery and against the War with Mexico because it would extend and perpetuate more slavery. These speeches are in 1846, long before the Civil War.

111. Charles Hudson (Feb 5, 1898). Charles Hudson continued to serve his country in many positions after the Senate. He was "one of the ablest and honest men Massachusetts ever had."

112. Charles Hudson - Literary Pursuits (Feb 12, 1898). A list of his many writings, histories, memories of famous men and of Abraham Lincoln, his friend. He worked diligently till his death, May 4, 1881. "Every moment of time is a golden grain."

113. William B. Rice (Feb 22, 1898). The story of William B. Rice, a successful business man in Quincy who was born in a rude tenement on Main Street, Hudson and attended Hudson's one room school houses in 1840's.

114. William B. Rice (Mar 5, 1898). At the "school upon the hill", Washington Street, the students prepared an evening of recitations given at Cox's Hall, 1852, for all the town, another in 1857 given at the Baptist Church meeting hall.

115. William B. Rice (Mar 19, 1898). The Cox Tavern is remodeled into the Mansion House. The Temperance Society, Young America Society, and Lyceum were formed. A chorus of boys and girls developed into a Boston soloist for William B. Rice.

116. William B. Rice (Mar 26, 1898). William B. Rice helped at farming, was a mischievous boy, and assisted at shoe making at seven years old. He learned well and became the

fastest shoemaker in the room. On Oct 25, 1860, he hired a vehicle, picked up his girlfriend and they went to Northboro to get married.

117 **William B. Rice** (Sep 23, 1899). Tired of shoemaking, William B. Rice goes to Boston to buy out a fancy goods and stationery shop on Hanover Street in partnership with William H. Chamberlain in 1861, at age 21.

118 **William B. Rice** (Sep 30, 1899). He went to Boston by train and carried goods to his newer store in Feltonville, which was patronized by his former shoemaker friends. He opened a woodworking shop.

119 **William B. Rice** (Oct 7, 1899). In 1864, President Lincoln called for 100 regiments. The local 5th Regiment enrolled 2 companies and Lieutenant William B. Rice is the commander in Baltimore.

120 **William B. Rice** (Oct 14, 1899). Returning to Feltonville in 1864, William Rice joined in business with Jonas Houghton. One item they sold was organs. Then he sold shoes for L.T.Jefts and clothing with Horatio Hutchins on Main Street. Then he took his shoe sales company to Boston.

121 **Recollections of Wood Square** (Feb 13, 1897). The old buildings, homes and their residents are all gone but Charles Brigham remembers them well. Jedediah Wood and his sons in succession owned the general store from 1800 to 1894 when it was burned in the great fire of July 4, 1894.

122 **Recollections of a Young Lady** (Apr 17, 1897). In his youth, 40 years ago, a "huckleberry ride" with 17 boys and 20 girls from the Baptist Church had an outing to Bolton in the four-horse furniture wagons. Forty years ago, two Indians would come for the summer living in their wigwams and attended the Baptist Church. The minister's salary was enhanced by donations of wood and groceries and wood also for poor families fetched by the young girls!

123 **Recollection of an Ancient Deed and Plan** (Nov 10, 1900). The story of the Brigham home as it is still known in 2009. The last owners were Ruth and Lillian Brigham. The land was first granted to Thomas Barrett in 1706, whose daughter married Gershome Rice and his great granddaughter married Francis W. Brigham.

124 **Recollecting the First Shoemakers** (Nov 24, 1900). The first shoe shop, built about 1816 by Daniel Stratton. Names of the shoemakers are given.

125 **Recollecting the Early Shoemakers** (Dec 8, 1900). Francis Brigham of F. Brigham & Co. first made shoes for John Hastings, then Lorenzo Stratton on Washington Street. The number of shoe shops increased rapidly making 302,000 pairs in 1845. A tannery, shoe wax factory and box maker shop soon followed. Wages and hours given.

126 **Recollecting Hudson's First Sawmill** (Apr 18, 1901). The first sawmill was built by Joseph Lewis c.1770 on what is now, 2000, Bruce's Pond and continues as a sawmill and lumber yard.

127 **Recollecting the Cox Family** (Apr 25, 1901). Elisha Cox and his five sons formed the Bolton Brass Band about 1839. Others of the Cox family.

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1.	Petition of Sudbury Inhabitants Committee on Boundaries	May 27, 1893
2.	Covenant with Indians	June 10, 1893
3.	Early Marlboro Settlement	June 17, 1893
4.	Burning of Marlboro	June 24, 1893
5.	Taking Indian Plantation	July 15, 1893
6.	John Barnes - First Grist Mill	July 22, 1893
7.	Stephen Rice Benjamin Prentice	July 29, 1893
8.	Thomas Hapgood	August 5, 1893
9.	First Marlboro Meeting House	August 12, 1893
10.	Early Religious History	September 16, 1893
11.	Joseph Howe	September 30, 1893
12.	Early Settlers, Howe, Hubberfield, Hapgood	October 7, 1893
13.	Indian Troubles	October 14, 1893
14.	John Barnes	October 28, 1893
15.	Capt. Johnathan Poole & Lt. J. Ruddock	November 4, 1893
16.	Indian Wars - Garrison Soldiers	November 18, 1893
17.	Indian Wars	November 25, 1893
18.	Indian Troubles	December 9, 1893
19.	Baptist Church History	December 23, 1893
20.	Baptist Church History	December 30, 1893
21.	Baptist Church History	January 6, 1894
22.	Baptist Church History	January 13, 1894
23.	Howes Mills & Division How Property	January 20, 1894
24.	Jeremiah Barstow	January 27, 1894
25.	Abiel Bush & Early Homes	February 3, 1894
26.	Barnard Family	February 17, 1894
27.	Early Mills & Stores	February 24, 1894
28.	Stephen Pope	March 3, 1894
29.	Stephen Pope	March 10, 1894
30.	Early Buildings & Houses	March 17, 1894
31.	Peter's Store & Hotels Grand Calico Ball 1858	March 24, 1894
32.	Nathaniel Nourse	March 31, 1894
33.	Early Homes	April 14, 1894
34.	William Bush - Trade Temperance Society	April 21, 1894
35.	Priest Farm, Elbridge Darling & Wilkins Family	April 28, 1894
36.	Gospel Hill, Wilkinsville & Round Top	May 5, 1894
37.	Will - Jedidiah Brigham	May 19, 1894
38.	Indian Free School	May 26, 1894
39.	Early Schools	June 2, 1894
40.	Early Schools	June 9, 1894
41.	Early Schools	June 16, 1894
42.	Silas Felton	March 2, 1895

43.	<i>Silas Felton</i>	<i>March 9, 1895</i>
44.	<i>Silas Felton</i>	<i>March 16, 1895</i>
45.	<i>Silas Felton</i>	<i>March 30, 1895</i>
46.	<i>Silas Felton</i>	<i>April 6, 1895</i>
47.	<i>Silas Felton</i>	<i>April 13, 1895</i>
48.	<i>Silas Felton</i>	<i>April 20, 1895</i>
49.	<i>Silas Felton</i>	<i>April 27, 1895</i>
50.	<i>Silas Felton</i>	<i>May 4, 1895</i>
51.	<i>Silas Felton</i>	<i>May 11, 1895</i>
52.	<i>Silas Felton</i>	<i>May 18, 1895</i>
53.	<i>Silas Felton</i>	<i>May 25, 1895</i>
54.	<i>Silas Felton</i>	<i>June 1, 1895</i>
55.	<i>Silas Felton</i>	<i>June 8, 1895</i>
56.	<i>Silas Felton</i>	<i>June 15, 1895</i>
57.	<i>Silas Felton</i>	<i>June 22, 1895</i>
58.	<i>Silas Felton</i>	<i>June 29, 1895</i>
59.	<i>Silas Felton</i>	<i>July 16, 1895</i>
60.	<i>Real-Estate Values</i>	<i>August 24, 1895</i>
61.	<i>Early Factories & Stores</i>	<i>January 25, 1896</i>
62.	<i>Rockbottom Mills & Feltonville Stores</i>	<i>February 1, 1896</i>
63.	<i>Joel Cranston</i>	<i>February 8, 1896</i>
64.	<i>Civil-War Response</i>	<i>February 15, 1896</i>
65.	<i>George Houghton</i>	<i>February 24, 1896</i>
66.	<i>George Houghton</i>	<i>March 7, 1896</i>
67.	<i>Old Farms—Ward</i>	<i>April 4, 1896</i>
68.	<i>Old Farms—Hunter Beginnings—Poor Farm</i>	<i>May 2, 1896</i>
69.	<i>Hunter Farm</i>	<i>May 9, 1896</i>
70.	<i>Almshouse</i>	<i>June 6, 1896</i>
71.	<i>Goodrich & Barnes</i>	<i>November 28, 1896</i>
72.	<i>Army & Navy Union</i>	<i>December 5, 1896</i>
73.	<i>Beginnings GAR</i>	<i>December 12, 1896</i>
74.	<i>Withdrawal from Marlboro</i>	<i>December 19, 1896</i>
75.	<i>Feltonville Petition</i>	<i>December 26, 1896</i>
76.	<i>Petition Hearings</i>	<i>January 2, 1897</i>
77.	<i>Annexation Bolton Berlin Territory</i>	<i>January 9, 1897</i>
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80.	<i>Bolton Opposition</i>	<i>January 30, 1897</i>
81.	<i>Bolton Opposition</i>	<i>February 6, 1897</i>
82.	<i>Berlin Opposition</i>	<i>February 13, 1897</i>
83.	<i>Berlin Opposition</i>	<i>February 20, 1897</i>
84.	<i>Argument Hon. George F. Hoar</i>	<i>February 27, 1897</i>
85.	<i>Argument Hon. George F. Hoar</i>	<i>March 6, 1897</i>
86.	<i>Argument Hon. George F. Hoar</i>	<i>March 13, 1897</i>
87.	<i>Argument Hon. George F. Hoar</i>	<i>March 20, 1897</i>

88.	<i>Argument Hon. James T. Joslin</i>	<i>March 27, 1897</i>
89.	<i>Argument Hon. James T. Joslin</i>	<i>April 31, 1897</i>
90.	<i>Argument Hon. James T. Joslin</i>	<i>April 10, 1897</i>
91.	<i>Argument Hon. James T. Joslin</i>	<i>April 17, 1897</i>
92.	<i>Argument Hon. James T. Joslin</i>	<i>May 1, 1897</i>
93.	<i>Decision of Court on Bolton—Berlin</i>	<i>May 8, 1897</i>
94.	<i>First Town Meeting, Voters List</i>	<i>September 11, 1897</i>
95.	<i>Death & Marriages</i>	<i>September 18, 1897</i>
96.	<i>Acquisition Bolton-Berlin land</i>	<i>September 25, 1897</i>
97.	<i>Mrs. Mary Ann (Barnard) Babcock</i>	<i>October 2, 1897</i>
98.	<i>Names added from Bolton</i>	<i>October 9, 1897</i>
99.	<i>Act of Annexation March 20, 1868</i>	<i>October 16, 1897</i>
100.	<i>See Article July 4, 1865 Celebration</i>	<i>November 13, 1897</i>
101.	<i>Early Doctors</i>	<i>November 27, 1897</i>
102.	<i>July 4, 1865 Celebration</i>	<i>December 4, 1897</i>
103.	<i>July 4, 1865 Celebration</i>	<i>December 11, 1897</i>
104.	<i>July 4, 1865 Celebration</i>	<i>December 18, 1897</i>
105.	<i>July 4, 1865 Celebration</i>	<i>December 26, 1897</i>
106.	<i>July 4, 1865 Celebration</i>	<i>January 1, 1898</i>
107.	<i>Charles Hudson</i>	<i>January 8, 1898</i>
108.	<i>Charles Hudson</i>	<i>January 15, 1898</i>
109.	<i>Charles Hudson</i>	<i>January 22, 1898</i>
110.	<i>Charles Hudson</i>	<i>January 29, 1898</i>
111.	<i>Charles Hudson</i>	<i>February 5, 1898</i>
112.	<i>Charles Hudson—literary pursuits</i>	<i>February 12, 1898</i>
113.	<i>William B. Rice</i>	<i>February 22, 1898</i>
114.	<i>William B. Rice</i>	<i>March 5, 1898</i>
115.	<i>William B. Rice</i>	<i>March 19, 1898</i>
116.	<i>William B. Rice</i>	<i>March 26, 1898</i>

Hudson Landmarks, Volume i

by Wilbur F. Brigham published in the ENTERPRISE, Oct 17, 1883 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

No. 4.

A row of tenements was built on Main Street about 1835. They burned Oct 3, 1880. There were two brick houses on the site of the new Town Hall, built in 1872.

Nearly half a century has passed away since the old block on Main Street was built. The building of the block was a great event at that time. The builders were George Whitney, Rufus Coolidge, Josiah Walcott, Abram Tyler, Walter Bruce, Francis Brigham, Albert Randall. The tenements cost five hundred and fifty dollars each. The carpenter was Josiah Walcott. He lost a good deal of money in the contract.

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Of the seven named persons who built the block, four of the number are still living. Many years ago each resident of the block had a little flower garden in the front part. The land in the rear of the block was flooded with water in winter time and when frozen over was a favorite resort for boys with skates and hand sleds. The block was destroyed by fire, Oct 3, 1880.

On the east side of the block stood the stage barn, built by Stephen Pope, about thirty-eight years ago. He had an old-fashioned raising and paid them off in hot flip and funnel-shaped doughnuts.

Near the stage barn stood the old tannery. It was built by a man named Giles. South of the tan yard stood the old bark house. Squire Pope often enlisted the boys in grinding bark. They could be hired for half a day for two cents, provided the boys had no shins to cut up at the time Pope wanted to tan hides. In the yard of the tannery the Methodists often held revival meetings. Thirty years ago the tannery buildings caught fire, but they were saved by the timely arrival of help.

Opposite the buildings named stood the two brick houses on the site of our present town house. One of these houses was built by James Wilson, and the other by Stephen Pope. On the site of the Unitarian church stood the John Burnham house, built by Silas B. Fairbanks. Burnham was a peculiar man; he wore a queue which gave him an odd look.

(editor's note: "queue", a braid of hair hanging down in the back of the head.)

We are here reminded of a little incident which occurred. One day Burnham was engaged to patch the roof of a barn standing where the Graves block now is. He went on the roof with a rope round his waist and one end in the hands of a small boy named W. F. Brigham. The boy was cushioned on the edge of the saddle boards to keep a taut rein on Burnham. Suddenly Burnham's foot slipped. The edge of the roof was within hailing distance of where he would have an easy drop of forty feet. "Boy, boy! Hang on, boy!" The boy was so pleased at the comical appearance of uncle John, that he had hard work to save him, which, however, he managed to do after a hard struggle.



Tenement building.

Hudson Landmarks, Volume ii

~~by Wilbur F. Brigham~~ published in the ENTERPRISE, Dec 1, 1883 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

~~NO:~~

John Wilkinson came from Danvers in 1740 and all his forbears lived nearby. The will of his son Edward who died 1763 is given. The language in old wills is interesting and what was included.

Uncle Joel Wilkins is the only one of his name left in his neighborhood to tell the story of Wilkinsville.

The sturdy yeomen of that name, and so familiar on our streets, each with his peculiarities, have passed away.

The first settler was John Wilkins. He came from Danvers in 1740. His house stood near the old barn where Edward Wilkins lived, and a few years ago destroyed by fire. He had two sons. His son Edward married Lydia Smith, Nov 21, 1748. He died Nov 27, 1763. His widow married Abner Cranson, Feb 6, 1765. She died June 14, 1801.

Edward Wilkins, son of the above named Edward Wilkins, was born Nov. 5, 1757. He married Sarah Dunn, Jan 14, 1779. He died May 17, 1837, aged 80 years. His wife died Jan 26, 1829, aged 73. His son, also Edward, was born Sept. 20, 1793. He married Mary Holman, aunt to the wife of farmer Daniel Stratton. He died March 19, 1865. He also had a son Edward. He died in Sept 1867. The house where Elbridge Darling lives was built by Levi Wilkins some eighty years ago. He was married to Hepzibeth Darling Oct 19, 1784. He died Jan 29, 1816.

Jonas Wilkins, the father of Joel and Edward Wilkins, was born Aug 25, 1755. He died May 13, 1822. He married Comfort Priest, Jan 20, 1785. He married for his second wife Sarah Barnard, Apr 22, 1786. She died Aug 21, 1892, aged 57. The house where Joel Wilkins lives was built by Solomon Wilkins. This house, as well as the one where Wm. Wilkins lived, were small one-story houses. They were raised one story some fifty years ago by Josiah Walcott. The house where Mr. Burden lived was built by W. Darling. The old house on the left, on the old Boston road, was built by Ethan Darling.

The Edward Wilkins who died in 1865, was a most successful farmer. He was a man of great natural abilities, and had he received the right training in his early days, he would have made one of the first orators of this Commonwealth. For the interest of your readers, I give the will of his grandfather, who died in 1763.

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In the name of God, amen, the thirteenth Day of November, Anno Dom. One thousand Seven hundred and Sixty-one, I, Edward Wilkins of Marlboro in the County of Middlesex yeoman being sick and weak of body but of perfect mind and memory thanks be given to God therefore Calling to mind the mortality of my body and knowing that it is appointed for all men once to Die: Do make and ordane this my Last will and Testament (Viz.) Principally and first of all I Give and Recommend my soul into the Hands of God that gave it nothing Doubting but at the General Resurrection I shall Receive the same again by the mighty power of God, and as Touching such worldly Estate as it hath pleased God to bless me in this Life, I Give and Bequeath of the same in the following manner and form.

Imprimis, I Give and bequeath to Lydia my Dearly beloved wife all my Indoor moveables (except what is hereinafter given away) to be at her own Disposal: and the Improvement of all my land till my son Jonas Tomas to the age of twenty-one years for her to keep and bring up all my children till that time (viz) till my son Jonas Comes to twenty-one years of age.

Item. I Give and bequeath to my son Jonas Wilkins his heirs and assigns forever one Quarter part of my Lands and Buildings when he comes of age also I give him my Gun.

Item. I give to my Second son Edward Wilkins Junior his heirs and assigns forever one Quarter part of my Lands and Buildings when my son Jonas comes to be twenty-one years of age.

Item. I Give to my third son Solomon Wilkins his heirs and assigns forever one Quarter part of my Lands and Buildings when my son Jonas comes to be twenty one years of age.

Item. I Give to my Daughter Elizabeth Wilkins her heirs and assigns forever one Quarter of my Lands and Buildings when my son Jonas comes to be twenty-one years of age.

Also my will is that my funeral debts and charges be paid out of my Creatures and out Door moveables and the money Due which I leave by my Executor here-after named and the overplus if any there be to be equally divided between my three sons heretofore named, and I do hereby appoint my brother Josiah Wilkins my Sole Executor of this my last will and Testament and I do hereby Disallow all former or other wills and Testaments by me before written by me Ratifying this and no other to be my Last will and Testament in witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the Day and year above written. Signed, sealed, published and declared by the said Edward Wilkins as his last will and testament in the presence of Ezra How, Kendall Persons, John Davis.

Hudson Landmarks, Volume iii

by ~~Wilbur F. Brigham~~ published in the ENTERPRISE, Dec 8, 1883 by ~~Wilbur F. Brigham~~.
NOT

The first store was built 1790. *The succession of owners and some events are described and still exists in 1883.*

The little, quaint, one-story building standing where Lewis' block now stands, was the first store ever built in Hudson. It was about 12x20 feet. The windows on the front, two in number, had very small lights, not less than forty to each window. This store was built by Joel Cranston, as early as 1790. He had as partner at one time, Francis Barnard. One day an Indian entered the store the worse for liquor. He was too noisy for a free show, and as a final result and in the interest of good order and perfect decorum, Mr. Barnard took hold of him, and after a short tussle put him out. The Indian started for Nobility hill. When near the residence of Solon Wood he sat down on the bank. A thunder shower was in progress at the time, and the Indian shook his fist at the lightning, defying its power. Soon after he returned to the store and told Mr. Barnard if he would give him his tomahawk he would go away. His word was taken and he kept it. Mr. Barnard was born Dec 18, 1768. Married Martha Howe in 1796, he died Dec 28, 1858, aged 90 years.

The store where John H. Peters is now located was built as early as 1800. The south part of the store, until recently used as a dwelling house, was built in 1786. Cranston's first partner in this store was the late Col. Hale of Rockbottom. His father came to the mills one day and brought his boy with him, then fourteen years of age. Cranston was so well pleased with his general appearance that he soon made a bargain with his father to let him come and work in the store. This was about 1802. He faithfully applied himself and through his good merit became a partner in the business. He was a partner fourteen years and made one thousand dollars a year during that time. It was regarded as a famous store in those days, and trade came from miles around. There was a fire-place in the store, as first constructed. The farmers would gather round it winter evenings, toast cheese, drink flip and tell stories. After his long partnership Col. Hale left the store and place, and returned to Stow where he resided until his death in 1881, aged 90 years. Silas Felton was the next owner of the store, Cranston having withdrawn and moved to Rockbottom, where he died Oct 22, 1835. His wife died July 20, 1846. Silas Felton was a very popular and successful merchant. He was honored with various offices, being selectman for eleven years, town clerk twelve years, and assessor seventeen years. He died Aug 16, 1828, aged 52 years.

George E. Manson then came in possession of the store, having married Felton's daughter. F. D. Brigham went to work for Manson when he was about 16 years of age. He had thirty dollars the first year, forty the second, and fifty the third. He became a partner under the firm name of Manson & Brigham. This partnership

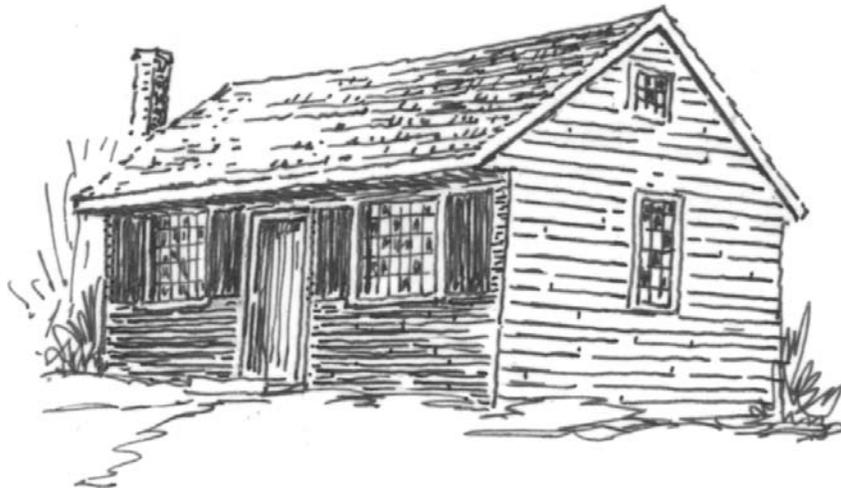
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lasted until 1850 when Manson retired from business. He sold the store at public auction. F. D. Brigham purchased it for \$2500. At this time Mr. Brigham formed a partnership with John H. Peters. Mr. Peters went to work in the store as early as 1838. For his first year's work he received \$118, and boarded himself. Brigham & Peters were partners for fifteen years, or until 1865. Mr. Brigham then retired from the firm, after a continuous service in the store for forty years. He was a man of great energy, and gave the most intense application to business. For many years he worked until nearly eleven o'clock at night, and his habit of years had become so confirmed in him, that after selling out he would go and walk the old piazza until late at night; this he did for months. He was a man of immense strength and few could throw him. One day after dinner he thought he would run to Marlboro and see his folks, residing in the West part. He went and returned so quickly he was not missed at the store.

George E. Manson in his young days was a very handsome man. He had a knack of carrying his hat on one side of his head, and in walking the streets the observers would say, there goes handsome Harry Manson.

Robert Derby of Stow, was the next partner in the store. He was with Mr. Peters until 1873, since which time Mr. Peters has been alone in business. The store was enlarged in 1840, in 1848, and in 1858, increasing its area to three times its original size. Col. Wm. Brigham was a partner in this store in 1832. He was a partner two years. The store has had a number of escapes from fire, but it still stands, while more modern structures melt to ashes.



Old Red House (first store)

Hudson Landmarks, Volume iv

by ~~Wilbur F. Brigham~~ published in the ENTERPRISE, Dec 15, 1883 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

NO.:

An old elm tree in Wood Square had hitching posts all around it, where you hitched your horse while at the store. The blacksmith shop was built by George Peters in 1809. In 1820 there were 100 persons in Feltonville.

On the south side of the old store stood the carriage house where was stored the one horse shay. In the rear of the store was a good sized, roughly built barn. This barn was torn down some thirty-five years ago. In front of the store stood a large elm tree with hitching posts all around it. The patrons of the store tied their horses here, and as it stood nearly in the middle of the road, the road was at times almost impassible. South of this stood another tree not less then one hundred years old. Under this tree were often seen plows and other agricultural implements. On the piazza were hogs-heads of molasses and barrels of cider. The boys often lifted the gates and let the contents have free roam on the King's highway. The merchant princes dusted after them with a horse whip.

One day the boys heard cries coming from the hallway in the dwelling attached to the store. It was not, dear father are you coming home tonight? He had got home and was laying on the braid and upbraiding the boy, who was lifting up his voice to an innuendo, saying, father, dear father, I will not do it any more. No my boy, I don't think you will, while his earthly tabernacle was again pulverized with the whip. That boy became eminent afterwards as postmaster of Hudson.

On the west side of the road opposite the old store stood then the blacksmith's shop. It is now standing on the line of the river, having been moved to its present position by the late Francis Brigham. This blacksmith shop was built in 1809 by George Peters. The part overhead has been used for several purposes. Elizabeth Bruce kept school in a corner room some forty years ago. Hubbard occupied the same floor, as a painter, at the time of his disappearance. He was last seen near Priest's bridge walking through the melting snows. It was spring time and in the night, between eight and nine o'clock. This floor was used at one time for a currier's shop, shoemakers running it. It was occupied for years as a shoe shop, also as a dwelling house. Moulton is harnessed in there now and his harnesses are called the best.

The old house that stood near the shop was built in 1786 by Joel Cranston. The brick house now occupied by Wm. F. Trowbridge was built by Luther Peters in 1833. The house next to it was built about 1850. Loring Cox died in this house in 1854.

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It was this year that the ledge of rocks in Wood Square were removed. The work was done by Levi M. Jones. On the east end of the rocks, nearly opposite the Mansion House, was an old fashioned hay scale. Near them stood a red barn, also a line of bee hives, while stacks of boards occupied the south side almost to Peters' store. All travel was formerly round by Wood's store.

This store was built in 1841. The inside has been modernized by the present proprietor Solon Wood, and has three times the area it formerly had. Col. Moore, the builder of the store, taught school in South Carolina in his early days. He was a man of large literary attainment and one of the guiding spirits of his time. He died in 1864. When first taken sick he predicted his death.

The old Felton house moved to make room for Chase's block, was raised July 31, 1803. It was built by Joel Cranston. It was the largest and finest building in this region at that time. On the day of the raising Edward Brigham, brother of the late Francis Brigham, was fatally scalded by falling into a tub of hot water. The father of the boy, Ivory Brigham, was at the raising and he was called home.

The hotel faced on the south. All the land between the hotel and Peters' store was covered with large apple trees. This land was bounded on the north by a massive stone wall. On the east end of the wall was a red gate that opened to the grounds around the hotel. On the east side of the hotel was the garden, where a large quantity of the "Garden sass" was raised for the patrons of the house. On the south side of the garden was a long line of currant bushes.

(editor's note: "Garden sass" would be vegetables, U.S. dialect)

On the spot occupied by Woodbury's store stood the hotel barn. It stood broad side of the street and teams drove through coming from the east or west. As the barn had a frontage of seventy feet, it was the chosen place for bill posting. Mr. Bugbee would take in this show every time, where the barn there now inviting his gruel pot and brush.

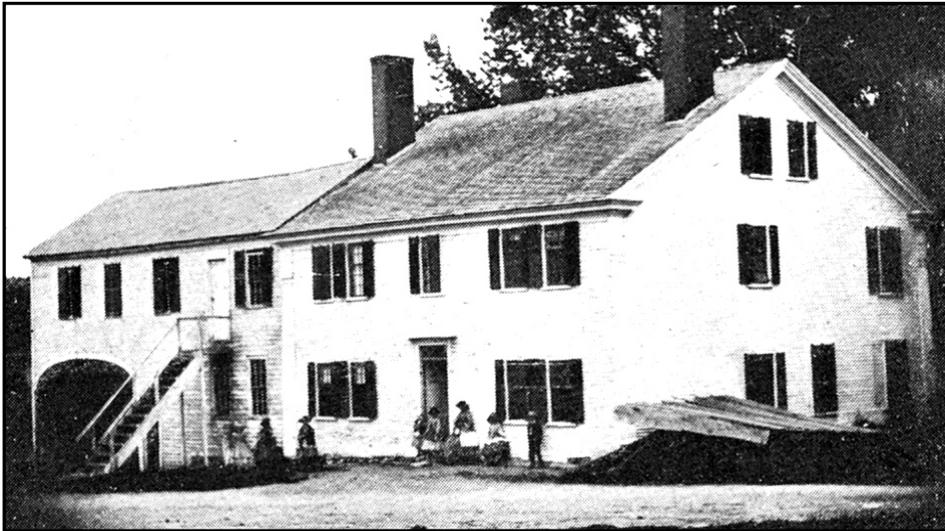
The hotel came in possession of Silas Felton. In the Garret of Mr. Peters' store is to be seen the old sign swinging in front so many years, reading "Silas Felton, Inn." The bar room was in the northwest corner of the house.

The dance hall was on the east side of the hotel and was reached in earlier days by a circuitous trip through the main building. The toe-setters were not plenty in those days.

There were only one hundred persons in this town in 1820. They came long distances to do some high kicking in "pumps," as their foot gear was then called. If they could not round a circle as artistically as they do it today, they often had down pain killer enough for that science, on the way home.

When Caleb Brigham kept dancing school the learners went through a discipline as strict as that of an Orthodox church. After Felton's death in 1828, Loring Cox kept the hotel until he built the Mansion in 1842.

The Baptist took possession of the dance hall in 1844. The hall was then reached by stairs that they placed on the outside. The minister was L. E. Wakefield. His pulpit was a common pine table. On this stood an old red trunk containing the library of the Sabbath School. Some of the teachers of the Sabbath School were Mrs. Reuben Hapgood, Mrs. Rufus Stratton, Mrs. Asa Hapgood, Miss Nixon Graves, Mrs. Wm. Chase. The singers were Mrs. Hapgood, Helen Coolidge, Silas Hapgood, F. D. Brigham, Mrs. Geo. Brigham. The old bass viol sawed out music divine, while the violin made the harmony more effective, yet the presence and power of God was in those little meetings, and many, who there first knew of the hidden life in Christ, have been faithful gleaners for the Master. Through all change and trial the revelation of the early time has been a constant and sure light, as they have journeyed on towards the Gates Ajar, where promise finds fruition.



The Felton House, site of Chase Building

Hudson Landmarks, Volume v

by ~~Wilbur F. Brigham~~ published in the ENTERPRISE, Dec 25, 1883 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

NO.:

Rev. L. E. Wakefield served the needs of all the village at the Baptist Church. Leaving because of illness and then returning in great appreciation about 1840-1865.

Mr. Wakefield preached in the old hall some two years, and then accepted a call from a town on the Cape. He was succeeded by the Rev. Mr. Batelle, who did much in raising funds for building the first Baptist church. In 1849, Mr. Wakefield returned soon after the erection of the church, and continued as pastor of the church until 1863. He was thoroughly consecrated to God's service. He was a Christian hero in its best sense. For six years he held a daily prayer meeting in his church. Often he rang the bell, built the fires, and had his meeting all alone, with God, but undismayed, he toiled on with humble trust in Him who holds human destiny in the hollow of His hand. He left town in 1863 on account of broken health. During his absence he wrote to a friend, a letter, from which we quote these golden lines: "In leaving Feltonville, I cast adrift from the dearest friends and associations of my life, but I do not complain. I have sown; another may reap; it matters not, so that the golden grain be gathered in."

After an absence of nearly a year he returned. He had a hearty welcome by the people of the place, in the Baptist church. He met them in the following eloquent greeting:

Friends: - Words fail to utter what I feel in meeting you in this familiar place. Long months have gone by since we were here together; months of watching and waiting. Now through the kindness of the unsleeping Keeper in His house of our most sacred service and tenderest memories, I may once more look you in the face. I hear the greeting that you speak, I see a hearty welcome in every look; I am glad to be here, glad to see you all. Friends of my earliest years in Feltonville, with joy I see you tonight; friends of later days, gathered year after year amid earnest toils and pleasant intercourse; little ones just learning to know, and I trust, to love me in life's morning, from my deepest heart I assure you I am glad to see you, one and all.

Wilbur F. Brigham then, in the following speech, presented the speaker with a purse of \$110, contributed by friends:

It was my brother's cherished hope that, on your return, he might extend to you a helping hand; and address you in words of hearty greeting. But sickness, sudden and continued, deprived him of this privilege and that pleasant duty has been assigned to me: and now, in behalf of those assembled here, and of those absent and more numerous than present company, I bid you welcome. In returning you have entered under no triumphal arch, you have passed no flaming bonnets, you have heard no plaudits of the populace, but the simple, cordial grasp of scores of hands, and the utterance of so many voices, has given you the assurance of a wider breadth

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of friendship, and a fuller, deeper feeling of heart-love for you and yours than could have been afforded by any pomp or ceremony. We assemble, not under the impulse of transient enthusiasm, but out of regard to exalted worth and sterling manhood. Nearly twenty years ago, with the years of youth upon your brow, with the hope and courage of a true man in your heart, you entered this village. On one of those pleasant August days of long ago, you saw moving with measured pace a funeral procession. It was bearing to yonder cemetery all that was mortal of my own loved mother. It was the first death that occurred after your arrival here. The population was then small, the means of worship were limited, and the ability of her people to sustain it was not large. In the "Old Mansion Hall" you gathered your little flock and commenced your Master's work. From that time to this what a change has taken place: the long continued industry and enterprise of her citizens has developed a degree of prosperity which has enriched her coffers, added house to house, workshop to workshop, until to-day, full of busy, bustling manhood and womanhood, she ranks with the first villages of the Commonwealth. In her rise and spread she has nearly lost sight of her ancient landmarks, yet, my friend, from the first to the present time you have never lost sight of her people; your interest in their highest well being has ever been all embracing as the wildest of their material, moral, and Christian growth. Those active qualities of virtue and philanthropy with which nature has so kindly endowed your intellect and heart, have not been restricted in their expression to this people alone, but were comprehensive enough to embrace every work and enterprise whose mission was to bless and redeem humanity. We have seen in you the faithful pioneer in every reform. The subject of Temperance, and the cause of the slave have engaged your best sympathies and thoughts for twenty years; you allied yourself with the champions and advocates of those reforms, when to do so was to draw upon you the opposition of the thoughtless and careless. With steady purpose, persistent, forgiving zeal and holy trust, you went onward, right onward, never doubting but that justice would finally triumph, and gain all hearts to itself at last. The soldier, as he wearily paces his picket beat to-night – those who have known you through their childhood and youth to manhood – will utter a silent prayer for you and your companion. For they owe you a debt they can never pay. They will never cease to remember that in all that has been done for them, you and your helpmate have been first and foremost – the most faithful and self-denying, to the extent of the sacrifice of health, to the cost of almost life itself – united you toiled on, until the body weaker than the indomitable spirit within, was obliged to succumb, and you were compelled to seek a distant retreat, where, in the seclusion of retirement, you might the better try to win back that lost health and strength, so nobly given to God, your country, your fellow-men. Through the blessing of Providence you are permitted to return to us again; but sorrow touches each hoping heart as we learn you have only partially succeeded in your mission; that this body, never too strong at first, has paid tribute to others to the kingly spirit within that, at last, weary and worn, it can never play that spirit's bidding as in days gone by. We have met to welcome you once more; time and change have done their work; you see many around you whose faces are not familiar; others are here who enlisted in your little guard when first you planted Calvary's sacred token in this community; others there are who have met with us on many occasions like this, but now, alas, no longer present with us – the little mound and the

tablet in yonder cemetery tell the story of their departure: Charlie, and Powers, and Bigelow, Messrs. Gleason, Peters, and scores of others, who, in other days, added much to the brightness of these festive hours, have passed beyond the “silent river.” They carried something with them wider than the grave, higher than the heavens – it was their trust in God.

Those remaining behind, and present tonight, desire to express through this little gift, the interest, the sympathy and affection they now feel, and will ever feel for you and yours. Please accept it, and let these earnest faces, and this purse, be the pledge, and the assurance that so long as the One shall live the other shall never be empty. The esteem and gratitude we bear you take this feeble form of expression. There is only One who can rightly reward, One whose blessings are as thick as the stars, whose gifts are as numerous as the years that form His own eternity. He will be your great reward.

Mr. Wakefield replied nearly as follows:

The kind words you have spoken, the generous gifts you have put into my hand, are not needed to assure me that we have firm and true friends here, but they do make me feel as never before how strong and enduring their friendship is. As it ever is with such affection, it does not stop to make a cool estimate of the desert of those on whom it is bestowed; it is lavish of its love and unstinted in the tokens of its devotion. I must interpret your friendly expressions by the laws, which govern the language of the heart. I have indeed sought to deserve the esteem of those who love truth and right. It has been a maxim with me to stand on what I felt to be true, let come what would. I have not always been able to see as others did, and I have, I know, more than once, perplexed my friends by the course I felt obliged to pursue. I had to speak what they would have left unsaid; I did what they would have left undone. But though perplexed they never forsook me; they gave me their hearts when they could not give me their heads, and I may say, as the result of some experience, that for a few years only, not to speak of the “eternal years of God,” it is better to stand by the truth, and keep safe the integrity of one’s own character. To do this you must sometimes stand alone and breast the rushing current of popular feeling. But this soon sweeps by; it does not need very much courage to stand firm against it. And one will be the stronger for doing it; soon, too, he will find, more likely than not, that which beat against him, become a strong “tide taken at the flood” to bear him right on to success. I rejoice to have the people with me; to feel the inspiration of their enthusiastic support pouring itself in upon all of faculty, of power there is in me, to impart to me a new energy. Surely I may feel this joy tonight. Only too kind and enthusiastic in its regard for me are the sentiments of this people that speak through you tonight. Let me thank you and them most heartily. This hour will cheer me in dark days, if they shall come, and make even the bright ones brighter, and both will come.

Your touching allusion to the past – to those who have passed before us, call up a host of tender memories. The loved ones, the truehearted, come to visit us once more. Their forms have faded, but they live. They have fallen asleep. I thank God tonight that he has permitted me to know and labor with them, and with those who

are gathered around me now. No heartier prayer have I breathed for aught of earthly concern than this; that it might please my Master to let my work be done with and for this people; that where they die I might die, and mingle my ashes with theirs in their final resting place, and may it be our lot and theirs, when life's work is well and truly done to give each other a happier greeting in that better land where the tearful farewell does not so soon force its way to the lips of those that have just spoken the glad welcome. No shadow chases the sunlight there, "no night swallows up the day," sickness does not waste nor toil weary the dweller on the "evergreen shore." There may we all enjoy the pure and blissful re-union of the redeemed.

Rev. John Blain who had supplied the pulpit of the Baptist church during Mr. Wakefield's absence was then introduced to Mr. Wakefield and in a speech at once most solemn and impressive, returned to him the Bible, whose life-giving truth he had so faithfully uttered for the last six months.

The recipient of this treasure replied nearly as follows:

My Brother: In my long absence from this people, it has been a source of truest joy to me to know that under your wise and faithful ministrations and counsels, the word of God has grown and multiplied. It is not always an easy task to take the place of another, and assume responsibilities that are to be laid down on his return. Self-forgetfulness if not self-sacrifice will be demanded. That you have been willing to meet this demand claims from me no slight degree of gratitude. Most truly would I thank you for all the love you have given to this people; for all the earnest labor bestowed on them. They are bound to me by so many ties of association and obligation, I have learned so to identify myself with them, that in my inmost soul I feel that whoever does work for them does it for me; whoever throws light on their pathway brightens mine, and I rejoice exceedingly that you have not only gone forth weeping, bearing precious seed, but you have come again bringing sheaves with you. There are hours, it not moments of joy so rich, so full of entrancing rapture that one might well give whole years, if not life-times of ordinary existence to win them, but is there among man a richer, a more rapturous or sacred delight than that which thrills the spirit of Him who watches for souls, when the prodigal, torn and starving, comes to the Father's arms and the Father's home? I thank God this joy has often been yours and this, my Brother, is not the last nor best of your reward. When the Master makes up His jewels, when those whom you have led to the Lamb shall walk with you in white, then, better than now, will you know the true grandeur and worth of the work you have done. May these and many more rejoice with you then.



1st Baptist Church - 1851

Rev Wakefield

Wilbur Brigham

Hudson Landmarks, Volume vi

by ~~Wilbur F. Brigham~~ published in the ENTERPRISE, Jan 5, 1884 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

The story of F. Brigham and Co, and those who worked for Francis Brigham.

The late Francis Brigham went to work for Lorenzo Stratton, Oct 1, 1831, when 18 years of age. During the year he made for Stratton 1328 pairs of shoes. The records show that he did his last work for Stratton, Nov. 7, 1834. About this time the firm of F. Brigham & Co. was founded. Brigham's first partner was Albert Randall. Their first credit was to Reuben Hapgood, Dec. 13, 1834, for making 75 pairs of shoes. Working in the shop at the time were Mark Andrews, Luther Nourse, Rufus Coolidge, Jonathan Andrews, Wm. Jackson, David Coolidge, Jonathan Randall, Nathan Coolidge, Isaac Bliss, Nathan Smith, Otis Brown, Alden Brigham, Earl Southwick, Paul Randall, Oliver Smith, Jonah Reade, Sidney Brigham. Silas H. Stuart commenced to learn the trade of making shoes, Aug 8, 1838. He worked shoemaking several years. He now resides in Harvard.

George Houghton went to board in the family of Francis Brigham, Feb. 4, 1838. Wm. Chase came Sept. 14, of the same year. He also boarded with this family the previous year, beginning Oct. 20. Hiram Temple came to board May 14, 1837. Oct 1, 1839, Temple engaged himself to work for Capt. Brigham one year, for \$122 and board. He agreeing to make six pairs of shoes a day. This work was done in the brick shop that stood where Holden's store now stands. This shop was built by Lorenzo Stratton some fifty years ago. It is nearly fifty years ago since Col. Stuart kept a tailor's shop and store in the west end of the building. Capt. Brigham purchased the shop of Stratton, Aug. 7, 1839. Stratton hired part of the shop for twenty dollars a year. Rents were cheap in those days; so was horse hire. Daniel Farnsworth hired Brigham's horse to go one and a half miles, for nine cents. For the horse to go to Boston, the price was one dollar and twenty-five cents, or less than four cents a mile. July 10, 1840, Brigham charged Farnsworth twelve cents for baiting his horse twice.

April 3, 1843, Wm. F. Trowbridge went to work for Brigham for twelve dollars a month, for six months. April 11, 1843, Nathaniel Smith went to work for eighteen dollars a month and board himself; when he boarded from home he deducted twenty cents a day.

Fifty years ago wood sold for two dollars a cord; cider for seventy-five cents a barrel; milk for three cents a quart. The best workmen earned only \$1.25 per day.

The observer of those days, watching Brigham, Houghton and Temple working on the bench, toiling all day to whittle out seven pairs of shoes a day, little thought they would do so much in after years to build up the town in which they lived – each at the head of a large business, and employing hundreds of workmen.

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Hudson Landmarks, Volume vii

by Wilbur F. Brigham published in the ENTERPRISE, Jan 12, 1884 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

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Francis Brigham did many other forms of work. Edmund M. Stowe learned to make shoes in Brigham's shops and then went into business for himself with several partners. They created Stowe, Bills & Co. in 1867, one of the largest shoe firms in the world. E. M. Stowe was also an excellent farmer and orchardist on Forest Avenue.

March 12, 1836, Wm. Jackman hired a horse and sleigh of the late Capt. Brigham, for one evening, for which he paid twelve and one-half cents. In June 1832, Brigham laid a bank wall for John Kendall, for which he received thirty-three cents. Aug 27, 1836, he worked shoveling for Kendall, earning thirty-three cents more. Oct 26, 1836, Rufus Coolidge paid Brigham \$13.35 for eight weeks board. June 6, 1840, Daniel Pope hired a horse twice to go to Bolton, for which he paid fifty-four cents. Loring Cox, Daniel Pope and Levi Wheeler are each charged to one pair of Nullifiers, \$2.25 a pair. Nov. 1, 1841, Wm. F Trowbridge to horse eleven miles, seventy-seven cents. Feb 1, 1842, Hiram Temple received \$3 for making thirty-eight pairs of shoes. July 28, 1842, Walter Bruce received \$6.80 for painting Brigham's house. It was the custom to sell three pair of clacks for a dollar. The style of shoes seldom changed.

In 1847 Brigham erected the shop occupied by Woodbury's store. Some of the first workmen were George Warfield, Alden B. Gleason, Samuel Bruce, John Bruce, Alden Burnham, Obed Rice, John H. Brigham, Charles, George, William and Eben Fuller, David Bliss, Wm. Horton. Joseph S. Bradley cut all the uppers. He hired boys to cut lappets for the shoes, for eight cents a dozen lots. Wm. F. Trowbridge worked in the pit cutting sole leather. Reuben Hapgood worked in the packing room.

Edmund M. Stowe went to work for F. Brigham and Co. in April 1851. He worked the first six months for \$1.37 per day. He worked hard and earned his money. He, in company with Reuben Hapgood, took the job of cutting all the stock. It was a job that paid \$1.50 a day, and at that time they thought it a regular bonanza. They worked together until April 1, 1853, when Stowe thought he would strike out in business for himself. He borrowed \$500 of Rufus Stratton's "Uncle Stevey," mortgaged his house, and built a small shop near his present factory. Not knowing how the wheel of fortune might turn, he left Hapgood, hoping to keep along the old job until he was sure of a good hold. Satisfied he could steer the ship, Hapgood joined him in the fall and continued in partnership until 1869. Hapgood then left the firm for private life, fearing that if he continued in business his pot of money might vanish. He has always kept a good grip on the pot of money he made at that time. He has kept it boiling only for the interest. He has taken no risks in a quarter of a century, and so has proved himself the wisest of men. Stowe's next partner was Stedman W. Nourse who was a partner for six months. Nourse then left the firm, preferring the

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steady gains of small earnings. Stowe continued alone four years. He then formed a partnership with A. K. Graves. Graves was in the firm until 1866. Josiah S. Welsh then became a member of the firm and was a partner eighteen months. In 1867 the firm of Stowe, Bills & Co. was formed and continued until 1882, when Whitney retired from the firm and Hawley took his place. Horace E. Stowe entering the firm at that time. The factory they now occupy was erected in 1858. All the workmen of F. Brigham & Co. went in long procession to the raising. The original building was 30x60 feet. In 1864, ninety feet were added to the main building. The two-wings were built, one in 1874 and the other in 1882.

Mr. Stowe worked on a farm until twenty-two years of age. He had his eye on "Fame's eternal temple," and started in that direction. Time, talent, energy, he placed under careful tribute; no chances to success were wasted; lofty purpose leveled all barriers to success and after thirty years of struggle, what a marvelous change! The poor farm boy lands at the head of one of the largest shoe firms in the world. His example should inspire others who would build solidly as the rock, for the benefit of coming ages. Mr. Stowe may pass from the ranks of men, but his labors will be the enduring monument of a true and earnest life.



E.M.Stowe mansion on Forest Ave.



Stowe, Bills & Hawley Factory

Hudson Landmarks, Volume viii

by Wilbur F. Brigham published in the ENTERPRISE, Jan 26, 1884 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

NO+

Captain Francis Brigham of F. Brigham & Co. used and perfected the latest inventions in his shops to produce more product. The first pegging machine and the first sewing machine, "the eighth wonder of the world." were introduced in 1854 and 1858.

The first pegging machine ever seen in Hudson was purchased and used by F. Brigham & Co. in 1858. The late Capt. Brigham aided Sturtevant, then a poor man, in perfecting the invention. The prospect of success was doubtful for some time, but at last improvements were introduced that made it a success. The old method of hand pegging, fifty pairs a day was a good days work. The pegging machine was a revolution in the business. Brigham had a royalty on every roll of peg-wood used in Marlboro, Feltonville included, during the life of the patent. In a quarter of a century the business increased enormously and paid handsome profits. The first sewing machine every seen in Hudson was purchased by F. Brigham & Co. in 1854. It was used in the house recently destroyed by fire, owned by W. B. Brigham. It was a Grover & Baker machine. It was thought to be the eighth wonder of the world. They came from far and near to see the little machine that was to reorganize the industrial forces of the whole world. The next machine was placed in the house now occupied by Wm. Chase. Alden Gleason lived there at that time. In a short time two more were added. Ann E. Brown, Nellie Whitcomb and two girls by the name of Warner ran the machines. Gleason ran a wheelbarrow express between the shop and his house. The increase of business demanded more machines and more room than Gleason had in his house if he would continue to live with his wife. He hired the building standing at that time opposite Newton & Campbell's market. The building was erected by Col. Wm. H. Wood about 1847. The room in this building was soon filled with busy workmen. Hannah no longer sat at the window binding shoes; she was running a sewing machine, a new revelation for her. Soon the rapid growth of the business of F. Brigham & Co. required a concentration of all their business, and the sewing machines were all run in the brick factory, destroyed by fire.

About this time the copper tip was introduced into the place by this firm. Capt. Brigham was offered the tip for three thousand dollars. He declined the offer. It has since paid a number of millions of dollars in dividends. Men often fail to be millionaires because they don't see it. In a short time all the factories had the sewing machines. The wonderful growth of shoe business in Hudson and Marlboro has taken place within thirty years. In 1837 there was, made on this territory only, 103,000 pairs of shoes, worth only \$41,000 and only 150 hands employed. In 1855 the annual production had grown up to over 2,000,000 pairs of boots and shoes,

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employing over 2,000 workmen. On this territory today the production is probably more than 10,000,000 pairs annually.

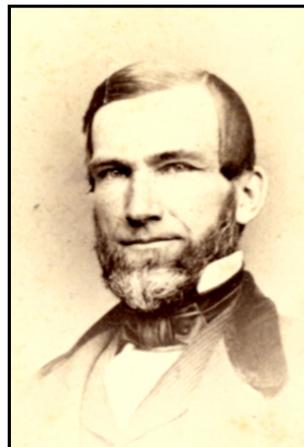
Wm. F. Trowbridge and Joseph S. Bradley entered the firm of F. Brigham & Co., Nov 1, 1852. In the articles of agreement, F. Brigham was to buy the stock, sell the shoes, and hire the help, but was not bound to render any further service to the firm.

Wm. F. Trowbridge was to give his personal attention to cutting the sole leather when necessary and devote his time during reasonable hours of business wholly to the interests of the firm, and "shall use his best skill, judgment and discretion in promoting the profits of the business," "said Bradley shall give his personal attention to cutting the upper stock and binding of the shoes, during reasonable hours of business, wholly to the interests of the firm, and shall use his best skill, judgment and discretion in promoting the profits of the business., and during the continuance of this agreement neither of said parties shall engage in any speculation on his own separate account, or be in any way interested in any other business than that of the co partnership hereby established."

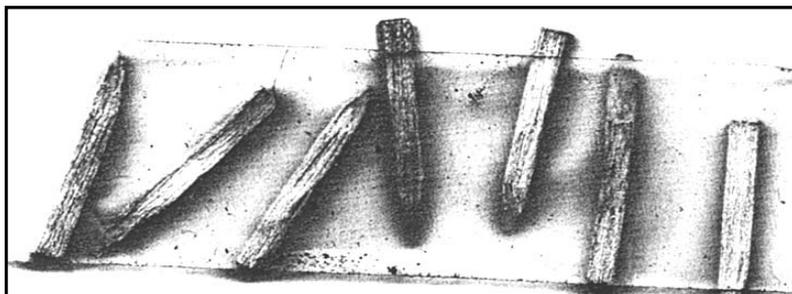
This partnership continued until 1865, when Trowbridge withdrew from the firm.



Bradley & Sayward Shoe Company



Joseph Bradley



Square wood pegs. 5/8" long

Hudson Landmarks, Volume ix

by Wilbur F. Brigham published in the ENTERPRISE, Feb 2, 1884 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

Abraham Howe came to live here in 1657. His son Joseph built a grist mill on the falls of the swift moving river, grinding corn and rye for his patrons from Marlboro. Barstow, then Barnard continued to run the mill. Barnard owned nearly all the land that became Feltonville.

Some seventy years after the landing of the Pilgrims, the first white inhabitant came to reside on territory within the present limits of Hudson. His name was Joseph Howe. He was a son of Abraham Howe who moved from Sudbury to Marlboro in 1657, and is on the record as one of the proprietors in 1660. Joseph Howe had an eye to business. The little stream running through Hudson territory, he thought should begin to pay toll to some one, as it had had its own way from the beginning of time. He built a small gristmill on the spot now occupied by the factories of F. Brigham & Co.

At that time Howe had to depend for most of his patronage from Marlboro center – as Marlboro had only three hundred and fifty inhabitants at the time – the chance to get a corner on grain, or jump the hog market, was somewhat limited. Howe was a prudent, economical man, with opportunities of gain so few – he left at the time of his death over seven thousand dollars. He died Sept 4th, 1700, aged 40 years. He married Dorothy Martin in Charlestown, Dec 23rd, 1687. He left six children, Sarah, Eunice, Bertha, Joseph, Abraham and Jedediah. Sarah, born July 27th, 1688, married Jeremiah Barstow in 1711. They had ten children, Elizabeth, Dorothy, John, Abigail, William, Sarah, Susannah, Julia, Jeremiah and Lucy. Barstow continued to run the mill until 1723, when he sold out to Robert Barnard. Marlboro had a population at that time of eight hundred inhabitants. The territory at that time embraced Southboro, Northboro, Westboro and Hudson. Land was common in those days; a man could help himself to virgin soil and forests, whose giant trees had stood guard for centuries. The only lien he found on the land was an occasional tomahawk or scalping knife, hospitably tendered by the original inhabitants, who often doubted the pious intentions of the white man.

Robert Barnard's purchase included the mill and 350 acres of land, extending to the Indian line on the east, to the Leominster line and the Bush place, now Bolton, on the north. It included the dwelling house where the store of Solon Wood now stands, and was the first dwelling house ever erected in Hudson. The sale included fencings, orchardings, garden and all accommodations and materials – the price paid was three thousand dollars.

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The whole valley of the Assabet river to the Indian line was known as “Cow Commons.” Settlers did not begin to enter this territory until 1700. The Indians owned 6000 acres of land between Hudson and Marlboro on the east. Robert Barnard came from Andover. He was born May 29th, 1689. He married Rebecca Osgood, Sept. 11th, 1710. They had nine children: Martha Rebecca – who died young, Rebecca Elizabeth, Joel, Abigail, Solomon, Martha and John. Robert Barnard died May 13th, 1773, aged 84; his wife died April 16th 1776, aged 80 years. His son Joel lived in the house on Wood Square. He kept tavern and probably run the mill. Joel was born July 11th, 1732. He married Lucy Stevens June 16th, 1756. He died Aug 15th, 1775. Joel left nine children, Silas, William, Lavinia, Mary, Elizabeth, Stephen, Francis, Lucy and Phoebe.

Francis Barnard married the daughter of Thaddeus and Lavinia Howe, May 9th, 1796. He died Dec 28th, 1858, aged 90. She died July 22nd, 1848. They had eight children, Elizabeth, Loring, George, Daniel, Mary, William, Daniel S., Edward D. Francis Barnard died on place near residence of Elisha Howe. His son Daniel S. Barnard now lives with his son, Charles F. Barnard, who lives near the Glover Place. Charles F. Barnard is the great great grandchild of Robert Barnard, who bought the mill in 1723. The Barnards of this race are a long-lived people, and nearly all of them are men of large size, and in character as substantial as their frames.



First Grist Mill - 1699

~~The ENTERPRISE May 27 1893~~

History of ~~Hudson~~, Part 1

~~by Wilbur F. Brigham published in the ENTERPRISE, May 27 1893 by Wilbur F. Brigham.~~

~~NO.:~~

Petitioners to the General Court in 1656 seek additional land to farm.

▲ The history of nations, cities and towns are worth preserving. They are beacon lights-invaluable to all generations, their growth or their decline, the causes that gave life and greatness or decay and death are instructive to all.

▲ Their warning voices, or the inspiration of their success, give life's mariner his true course through the infinite experiences and changes that environ all of mortal kin. The person who writes history is in large sense a public benefactor. The gleams from the events of the day, they pass through the crucible of time, from age to age, and give all succeeding generations a knowledge that can be obtained in no other way. The history of this country is different from the history of most countries. It is comparatively new. The story of the rise and fall of empires has no place in our records.

▲ The clash of nations in embattled lines. The extinction of races or the birth of new peoples cannot be told in the history of this the youngest of the nations.

▲ There is only one exception, the Indian. He occupied the soil in all its vast areas. When the white man came from the old world, whether Spaniard, Huguenot or Pilgrim, he found only the Indian to invite or to dispute his way and sway. By hostile or peaceful methods these first settlers had to treat with these original owners of the soil.

▲ When the colonists had formulated and set in operation their machinery for self-government and began to encroach upon the homes of the Indians they were disposed generally to respect their rights, provided the Indians let them have their own way.

▲ In giving a sketch of Hudson history it will be necessary to refer often to Marlboro. For more than two centuries Hudson and Marlboro were one and indivisible under one town government. The beginning of Marlboro was also the first pulse beat of the present town of Hudson.

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-The first step taken that opened the door for settlement on the territory now occupied by the city of Marlboro and the town of Hudson was in the petition to the general court held in Boston in May, 1656 reading as follows:

“To the Hon. Governor, Dep Magistrates and Deputies of the General Court now in Boston assembled. The humble petition of several of the inhabitants of Sudbury whose names are here underwritten showeth: that whereas, your petitioners have lived diverse years in Sudbury, and God hath been pleased to increase our children which are now diverse of them grown to men’s estate, wee, many of us grown into years so that wee should bee glad to see them settled before the Lord take us away from hence, as God having given us some considerable of cattle, so that wee are so straightened that wee cannot so comfortably subsist as could bee desired, and somee of us having taken somee pains to view the country, we have found a place which by the westward about eight miles from Sudbury which we conceive might be comfortable for our subsistence.

It is, therefore, the humble request of your petitioners to this Honorable Court that you would be pleased to grant unto us eight miles square or so much land as may contain to eight miles square for to make a plantation.

If it shall please this Honorable Court to grant our petition it is further then, the request of your petitioners to this Honorable Court that you will be pleased to appoint Mr. Thomas Danforth or Liesten W. Fisher to lay out the bounds of the plantation and we shall satisfy those whoever this Honorable Court shall please to employ in it. So apprehending this weighty occasion we shall no further trouble this Honorable Court but shall ever pray for your happiness. Edmund Rice, William Ward, Thomas King, John Woods, Thomas Goodnow, John Rudduck, Henry Rice, John Howe, John Bent Senior, John Maynard, Richard Newton, Peter Bent, Edward Rice. On May 14 1656 the General court answered this petition as follows.

In answer to the petitions of the afore said inhabitants of Sudbury, the court prolyeth it meete to grant them a proportion of land six miles or otherwise in some convenient form equivalent thereunto it at the discretion of the Committee in the place desired, provided it hinders no farmer of rank; that there be a town settled with 20 or more families within three years so an able ministry may be there maintained. And it is ordered that Mr. Edward Jackson, Capt. Ebenezer Lusher, Ephraim Child with Mr. Thomas Danforth or Leisten W. Fisher shall be and hereby are appointed a committee to lay out the bounds thereof and make returns Election or else the grant to be void.



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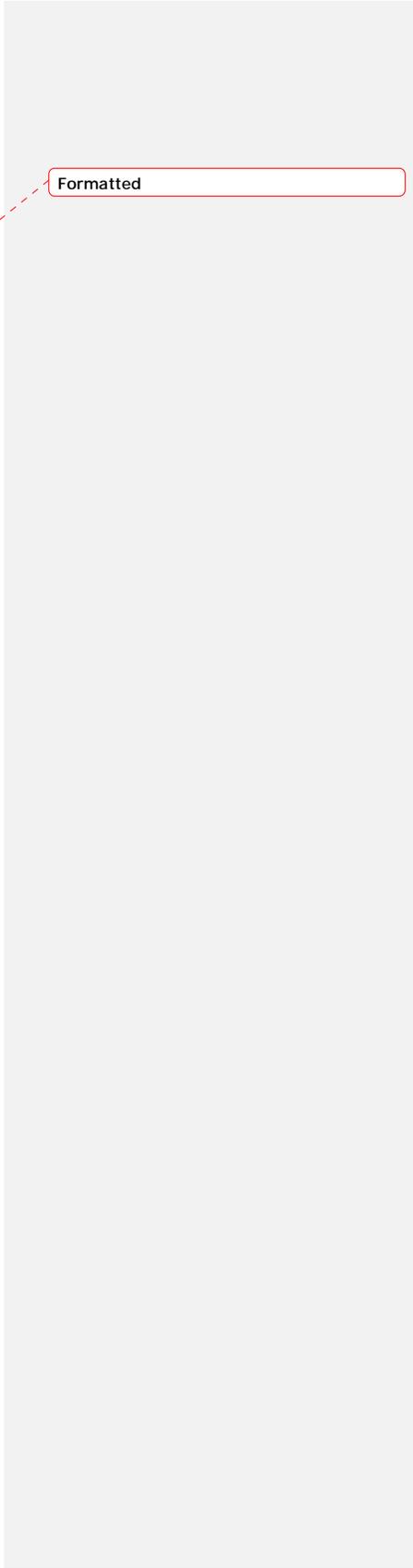
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History of Hudson, Part 2

as published in the ENTERPRISE, June 10, 1893 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

The Indian plantation of 6000 acres named Ockoocangansett. The area awarded to the 13 petitioners, now 21 settlers, is named Whipsuppenicke. The cost: nine pence/acre.

We find on May 14, 1656, the thirteen settlers from Sudbury obtained from the general court the right to enter and occupy the land covered in part by Marlboro and Hudson today. This grant of land was not to interfere with any other prior grant of land to other parties. The settlers wanted land that had already been granted to the Indians on the petition of Eliot, the celebrated Indian apostle as will be seen from the following quotation from the current records of the colony. The decision of the court held May 3, 1654 is as follows:

“Upon the petition of Mr. Eliot in behalf of the Indians, liberty is granted to the Indians of Ockoocangansett, being eight miles west of Sudbury, to make a town there provided it do not prejudice any former grant or that they shall dispose of it without leave first had been obtained of this court.” This covenant with the Indians was faithfully observed by the Colony for more than sixty years. The good faith of the Court with the Indians is seen in the first notice to the Sudbury settlers reading as follows:

“In reference to the case between Mr. Eliot in behalf of the Indians of Ogonokongsuansit, and the Sudbury men, the Court finding that the Indians had the grant of a township in the place before the English, the court determines and orders that Mr. Edward Jackson, Mr. Tho. Danforth, and Mr. Ephraim Child and Captain Tucker or any three of them as a committee, shall with the first convenient opportunity, if it may be before winter- lay out a township in the said place of 6000 acres to the Indians, in which shall be at least three or four hundred acres of meadow and in case there is enough left for a convenient township for the Sudbury men, to lay it out for them, the grant of Mr. Alcocke’s 842 acres, granted in 1655, confirmed by the last court, out of both accepted and reserved, and the Indians to have the hill on which they are, and the rest of the land to be laid out adjoining, to it as may be convenient to both plantations.

The field referred to in the decree of the court was the Indian planting field. It contained about 160 acres. The line commenced south of the present High school building, running east to the Spring Hill meeting house, and north to the late residence of William L. Howe. The religious influences of the apostle Eliot had a civilizing power over the naturally wild natures of the Indians. He planted apples, orchards, and corn fields and in a simple way were learners in the arts of peace. On the extreme north end of this field the Indians buried their dead. In excavating for laying a wall, skeletons, arrowheads, beads and other articles of the original owners were found.

The English and Indian plantations combined contained 35,419 acres, or more than 50 square miles. The settlers from Sudbury had in their grant more than 40 square miles. One would suppose with a tract of land of these dimensions the English could get along with the Indians. Such was not the case.

The boundary line between the English and the Indian plantation run from the northeast angle of the Indian planting field, north seven degrees west three miles to a point beyond the Assabet river, thence west twenty-five degrees south seven miles, thence south south east five miles to the south west extremity of the plantation, thence east nine degrees north two miles and three fourths, leading to cedar swamp, thence south east two hundred and twenty-six rods on Sudbury river, thence due east two miles and three quarters, thence north east by north two miles, and one hundred and twenty rods, thence north seventeen degrees east three hundred and forty eight rods, thence due north one mile and three fourths, which reaches to the Indian line, thence three miles due west on said line. In after years there was carved out of this territory the towns of Westboro, Northboro and Southboro. The Indian plantation commenced on the West line in the valley immediately west of the old common near where the High school, Marlboro now stands, and ran north seven degrees west, about three and a half miles, crossing the Assabet river between the Main street cemetery in Hudson and the Fitchburg depot, thence the line ran easterly to the boundary of the town. The southerly line of the plantation commenced near Spring Hill on the road leading to Hudson.

This Indian plantation contained some of the most fertile land, was well wooded and was bordered by a river on the north side. The Indian title was absolute; the only condition was, they should not sell or dispose of it, or any part of it without the consent of the court. The paternal watchfulness and care of the court is due to the fact, the Indians placed themselves under their protection in 1643. The clause of the court not to sell land without their consent was to protect the Indians from the covetous hands of the whites; their eyes like the man in the moon always looked one way, on the Indian plantation ready to grab it any time on the slightest pretext. The Indian plantation was named Ockoocangansett. The English plantation was named Whipsufferadge. The committee chosen by the court to lay out the Indian plantation reported as follows:

The committee appointed by the general courts to lay out a plantation for the Indians of 6000 acres at the place above named have given Mr. Eliot, who acted for the Indians, not only as their spiritual teacher, but as sort of temporary guardian, a meeting, and duly weighed all his exceptions in behalf of the Indians; first, what have been duly acted and returned to the general court do judge meete in way of compliance, that the bounds of the Indian plantation be enlarged to the most westerly bounds of the fence, now standing on the west side of the hill of planting field, called Ockoocangansett, and from thence be extended in a direct north line until they have their full quantity of 6000 acres; the bounds of their plantation in all other respects wee judge meete that they stand in the form returned, and that their full compliment of meadow by the court granted may stand and be exactly measured out by an artist

within the limits of the above said lines when the Indians or any in their behalf are willing to bee at the charges thereof, provided alwaies that the Indians shall have no power to make sale thereof, or any part of their aforesaid lands, otherwise than by the consent of the Hon Court, or when they shall be made and happen, the plantation of the English there seated may have the first tender of it from the court, which caution we rather insert, because not only the nearest and best planting land is taken away from the English, as we are informed, but the nearest and best part of the meadow, by estimation, about one hundred acres in one place, that this north line doth take away, which tendeth much to the detrimmenting of the English plantation, especially if the lands should be appropriated to any other use than the Indians proposed, that is to say for the Indian plantation, or for accommodating their plantation they should be deprived thereof.

Signed by committee- Eleazer Lusher, Edward Jackson, Ephraim Childs, Thomas Danforth.

The Indian plantation was changed in boundary lines by alterations and additions, between 1667 and 1700. This last named year the Indian plantation on the north side, was enlarged by land ceded by the town of Stow.

The English plantation named Whipsuppenicke was soon to weave the robes of a new life and in the looms of time draw at least a single thread which in the completeness of the whole fabric should burst forth in all the glory of a mighty nation. The first meeting ever held was called September 25, 1656. These first proprietors or sovereigns of a little kingdom passed the following notes. "It is concluded and ordered that all yt doe take up lotts in yt plantation shall pay to all public charges yt shall arise upon yt plantation according to their houselots and themselves to be residents there, within two years or set a man in the ye Town shall approve of or else to lose their lotts. But if God shall take away any man by death such a one hath liberty to give his lot to whom he will, this order to the contrary notwithstanding."

This year at another meeting, William Ward, Thomas King, John Ruddocks and John Howe were chosen "to put the affairs of the new plantation in an orderly way." In September, 1657 the fated "thirteen" settlers increased their strength by the following addition to their number: William Kirby, Jon Rediant, John Johnson, Thomas Rice, Solomon Johnson, Samuel Reed, Peter Kling, Christopher Banister.

The proprietors were incurring expenses and the titles to land were to be fixed to avoid future doubts or litigations. At a meeting held December 26, 1659 they voted as follows:

It is ordered that all that lay clayme to any interest in the new Plantation of Whisuppenicke are to perfect their house lots by the 25th of March next ensuing or else to lose all legal interest in ye aforesaid Plantation.

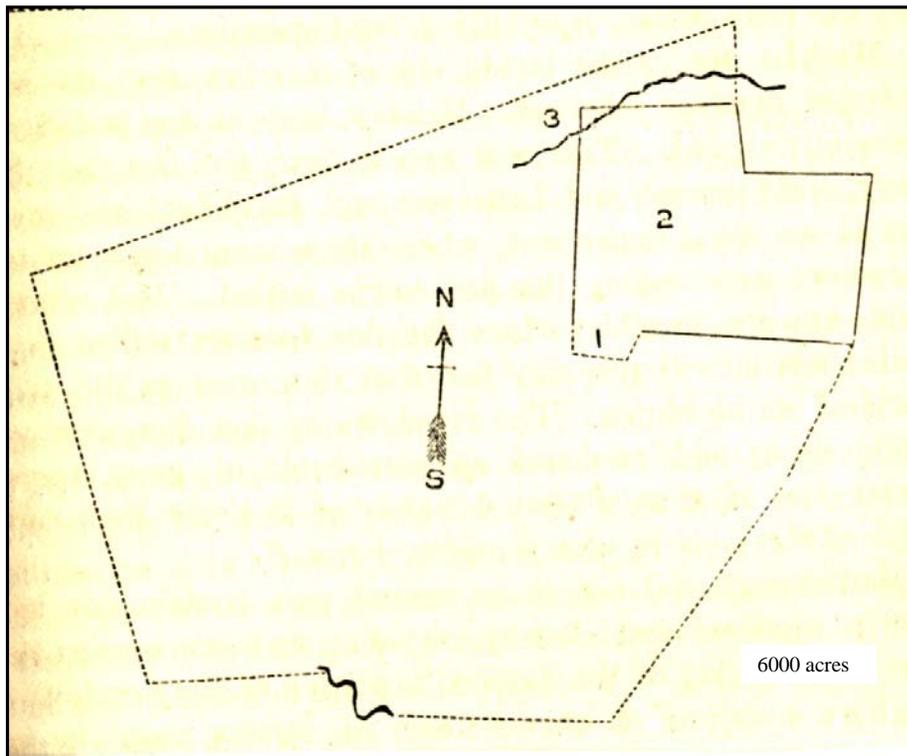
It is also ordered that everyone yt hath a lott in aforesaid plantation, shall pay twenty shillings by the 25th of March ensuing, or else lose all legal interest in ye aforesaid plantation. "At a meeting of ye inhabitants and proprietors of this plantation ye 6th of ye XI month 1659. It is ordered that a Rate be made for diffraying

and satisfying ye charge for laying out of this plantation and other public charges to be collected of the inhabitants and proprietors of ye same at ye rate of nine pence acre upon all House Lots already taken up, and upon such as shall hereafter be taken up.”

The Proprietors had entered a wilderness never trod by white men before, to occupy it and form a township, was a work requiring wisest forethought and labor; their resources must have been very limited; there was little chance to trade or exchange their products for money.

Map of Marlboro

(before Westboro and Southboro were set off)



1. The Indian planting field.
2. The Indian Plantation.
3. A section of Assabet River

History of Hudson, Part 3

as published in the ENTERPRISE, June 17, 1893 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

In 1660, 38 families were living in Marlborough, the new name. The first meeting house was built in the Indian land, a cause for trouble predictably.

The population was limited and in those days there were no men of large means. In 1636, 23 years before, there were only 20,000 white persons in all New England about the population of Marlboro and Hudson today. The valuation of all New England was only \$10,000,000. These proprietors had a faith that climbed every obstacle and found repose and reliance in sacrifice and danger. Wishing to be welded into a township the proprietors petitioned the General Court May 31, 1660. The court answered as follows:

“In answer to the petition of the Whipsuppenicke planters, this Court considering their former obstructions, doe confirm their grante and lands thereto by this Court, in case they proceed in planting the same according to the intent of the Court in their first grant, and the same be accomplished within two years next ensuing, and it is ordered that the name of the said plantation shall be called Marlborow and that Mr. Chauncy be by them repaired all his charges expended in laying out the same in any lands not formerly granted by this court.”

At a meeting of the inhabitants of the town Sept. 20, 1660, crowned with the name of Marlborough by order of the General court they put a tax on house lots to defray the expenses of the minister and the other expenses of the town. It was divided as follows: “Four pence an acre for each acre for their house lots to the minister and three pence for all the estate that hath been kept or bought to keep, being found in the town or about the town, and nine pence per acre for every acre of their house lots to town charges, till all the debts that are due from the town to them, that have been employed by the town or the plantation thereof.”

(editor's note: \$10,000,000, the valuation of all New England. The currency was pounds. There is no explanation of this figure.)

In those primitive days of simple life, a tax to support the minister was expected and accepted as readily as a tax to support a school or a highway. The General court adhered to the inflexible rule, where ever a township was formed of 20 families in the Colony they should support a minister. Those were the days of one faith and one baptism, they were imbued with the belief.

“They need not dread the skeptic's puny hand
Where near the school the churchspire stands
We fear the blinded bigot's rule

While near the church spire stands the school.”

We shall hereafter notice the growth and vicissitudes of the church. It will be appropriate to do so for the reason, there was only horseback preaching on Hudson territory up to 1844.

For one and a half centuries they took their families in the carryall or one horse chase and went to the centre of the town, Marlboro, to worship the manner of their fathers. On the 26th of November 1660, a block of land of nearly one thousand acres was laid out in house lots, occupied by 38 families or individuals; They knew nothing of boards of trade in those days, but knew the full value of the artisan or mechanic.

In appreciation of the worth of a blacksmith, they gave him 30 acres of land. Yet they little dreamed out of the womb of future ages would come a great commonwealth as seen in the following. “All the lands that were taken south of the said Indian line towards Sudbury are and shall remain a perpetual cow common for the use of the town, never to be allotted without the consent of all the inhabitants and proprietors thereof at a full meeting, accepting four score acres of upland within the said tract of land to accommodate some such desirable persons, withall as need may require, opportunity present, and the town accept of “on the west side, they followed the Assabet river until they came to the Indian line on the east.

The 38 families had a grant of 29,419 acres or more than 43 square miles. This enormous tract of land would seem sufficient to satisfy any ordinary cupidity or hoggishness of disposition. The settlers were not satisfied. The first act of broken faith with the Indians was the erection of their meeting house on the planting field of the Indians.

This wanton encroachment on their planting field justly irritated the Indians and they were only pacified when John Ruddock and John Howe bought it of Anamacks, Indian of Whipsuppenicke. The old common was finally purchased in 1706 by Abraham Williams and Joseph Rice, for the use of town to set a meeting house on. The whites had little regard for the rights of the Indians, yet when kindly treated the natural ferocity of their nature was subdued and they grew rapidly in spiritual life and worldly knowledge. This is seen in the christian labors of Eliot, the Indian apostle, and his co-worker, Gookin.

“Upon the Lord’s day, Fast days and lecture days the people assembled together at the sound of the drum, for the bells they have none, twice a day, morning and afternoon on the Lord’s day and once on lecture days, when one of the teachers, if they have more than one, begins with solemn and affectionate prayer. Then after a short pause either himself or someone thereto appointed readeth a chapter out of the old or new testaments. At the conclusion a psalm or part of a psalm is appointed, rehearsed and solemnly sung. Then the minister catechises and prays before his sermon and so preacheth from some text of scripture, then concludes with a prayer and a psalm, and the blessing is pronounced.” Gookin says further of the Indians:

“I have been often present with them in their meetings, they demean themselves visibly with reverence, attention, modesty and solemnity, the menkind sitting by themselves and the womenkind by themselves according to their age, quality and degree in a comely manner. I have no doubt but am fully satisfied according to the judgment of charity, that divers of them do fear God and are believers.” Their teachers were generally taken among themselves and they had money themselves, a kind of municipal organization and elected their overseers, constables and other officers much after the manner of the English Settlements. These Indians were generally known as the Praying Indians. In this description is an insight into the moral and religious qualities of the Indians who once held control and sway over Hudson territory.



Indian Village

History of Hudson, Part 4

as published in the ENTERPRISE, June 24, 1893 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

In 1676, 13 homes, 11 barns were burned while settlers were at church. Petitions to the General Court to purchase the Indian Plantation were denied and in 1684 they negotiated with the Indians and purchased the Plantation.

The settlers of Marlboro long desired to obtain possession of the Indian territory. They had a feeling of distrust and hostility of the Indians. They were suspected of treachery of active participation in King Philips' war. The burning of the town on the 29th of March, 1676, added to the flame of bitterness and hate for the Indians.

On this Sabbath day the people were in the church. There were no stay-at-homes in those days. Rev. William Brimsmead, the first minister, had just commenced his sermon when suddenly was heard the terrible cry, "The Indians are upon us!" The congregation instantly arose and ran for the garrison near by. They reached it in safety. The only one hit by bullets was Moses Newton, wounded in the elbow while aiding an aged and infirm woman who would have been murdered had it not been for his heroic action.

They were safe in the garrison but were compelled to witness a bivouac of fire consume 13 of their dwelling houses and 11 of their barns also the meetinghouse, at one blow they were practically annihilated in home and industrial life. Afterwards, by order of the Government, Capt. Mosely came from Boston with a body of troops, surrounded the Indian Fort in the night time, the Indians quietly surrendered. Their hands were tied behind them,. They were tied to a cart rope and in this way were driven to one of the islands in Boston Harbor and kept until the end of the war, which lasted some 14 months. After the Indians returned to their plantation, their unity and power was broken. The white settlers wanted the Indian plantation and sought to acquire it by peaceful means.

In May 1677, John Bowker, Josiah Howe, John Witherbee and Samuel Stowe of Marlboro, Thomas Beaman, Josiah Sawyer, Joseph Darby, Thomas Martin, Samuel Winch, John Heynes and Samuel Bush of Lancaster and Stowe, petitioned the general court, that the Indians of the Plantation Ockocangansett had been active in their aid and comfort in the war of extermination waged by King Philip, wherefore they "humbly pray that this Hon Court would be pleased to grant unto these your petitioners the said tract of land, or upon moderate terms, grant the sale of said land unto us, that with the blessing of God upon our labors and your honors good will, we may be in good capacity to provide for ourselves and families, and your humble

suppliants shall forever hold themselves obliged, and in duty they ought ever pray, and endeavor the good and welfare of this commonwealth and this Honorable Court.”

The General court did not grant the petitioners their request. They already had a plantation of forty-three square miles and as the population at the time was only two hundred and twelve, the court believed they had land enough as there was only five inhabitants to a square mile. The settlers coveted the Indian plantation for there was no better land to be found.

Its condition is best seen in the description given by the missionary Gookin in 1674. “This village contains about ten families and consequently about fifty souls of the quantity of land appertained to it is six thousand acres. It is much of it good land and yieldeth a plenty of corn being well husbanded. It is sufficiently stored with meadows and is well wooded and watered. It hath several good orchards upon it planted by the Indians. Their ruler here was Onomog, deceased about two months ago. He was a pious and discreet man, and the very soul, as it were, of the place, they have a constable and other officers as the rest have.” The above is a description of an eyewitness, and shows under intelligent direction and the helpfulness of kind counselors, the Indians could be changed from the murderous instincts of savages to industrious and law abiding citizens.

The settlers were not disposed to rest with one failure before the General Court. In their next efforts they employed new tactics and used some of the Indians for a catspaw.

In 1684, John Ruddocke and 34 others of Marlboro, and ten Indians petitioned for leave to purchase the Indian plantation. A counter petition was sent in by Indian Chief Captian Tom Witt Wahoughton and 25 other Indians. They say that “Tom Waban and Great James do appropriate to themselves the land at Marlborough and sell it, and that without order, and keep all the pay to themselves; they therefore ask that the general court be pleased to take so much matter of the business for us as to appoint a committee to inquire into the business that justice may be done to the Indians in this case, for many Indians are very much distressed about it. We having shown ourselves under the wing of your honors, do rest, hoping for a gracious answer.” The answer of the court was favorable to the Indians. They would not turn away from the covenants entered into with the apostle, Eliot, and the Indians 30 years before. The leading citizens of Marlboro were not to be defeated by the decisions of the highest tribunal in their purpose to possess the Indian Plantation. Under the leadership of John Brigham, in defiance of the declared wishes of the court, they went to work, and through puresuasion and cunning on the 15th of July 1684, obtained from the too trusting and confiding Indians, a deed of their plantiaton, taking in one-half of the territory included in the present town of Hudson.

History of Hudson, Part 5

as published in the ENTERPRISE, July 15 1893 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

Purchase of the Indian land declared "null and void" by the general court. It was divided anyway to 52 persons. By 1719, only a few Indians were left. They lived at the Thomas Brigham farm.

The deed to the Indian plantation had been obtained from the Indians by John Brigham and his associates. They knew full well the title was defective for the general court explicitly stated in the grant to the Indians in 1654, no sale of land should be made without the concurrence of the court. This promise was made for the humane purpose to protect the Indians from the greed and lawless acts of the white settlers. When therefore the court learned of the transfer of the Indian plantation it entered its emphatic protest in the following language:

"This court doth order and declare that the Indian deed of sale to the inhabitants of Marlboro of five thousand eight hundred acres of land lying at Whipsufferadge near Marlboro, granted to the Indians by this court, for township or plantation, which deed bears date July 15, 1684 is illegal and consequently null and void, being made and done contrary to the law and order of this court." The citizens of Marlboro ignored the decree of the court, and reckless and audacious, despised the highest legal tribunal. They took possession of the Indian plantation and went to work to lay out and divide the land. At a meeting held Oct. 29, 1686 it was ordered that every proprietor should have laid out to him, in some of the best of the land, lying as conveniently as may be to the town of Marlboro thirty acres for a first division of upland and John Brigham is agreed withal, to lay out the above said lands, and to have five shillings a day, the one half in money and one half in corn, rye at four shillings per bushel, and Indian at three shillings per bushel, and he to have his diet all the while he is about the work, it was further agreed that John Maynard Sen., and Richard Burns should join with John Brigham, to order the laying out of the land and order highways according to their best discretion, and they to have two shillings a day for their pains in corn at country prices." At the same time they established a kind of lottery, for it was agreed after the lots were laid out every proprietor should draw his lot.

Here was ten square miles of land, on part of which, the town of Hudson now stands, that had been traveled only, over Indian paths. In violation of every sentiment of justice to the Indians and respect to law, bounds were to be fixed, and highways laid out.

It appears in the records that Major Hincksman and others who had a claim against the colony, "should have the thousand acres of land which was surveyed by John Brigham and signified by the plats under his hands, should be recorded in the company's Book of Records, so that it make a final settlement of all differences about the said land as to any further claims."

The Indian plantation was taken by fifty-two persons. They knew this title was not sound in defiance of the court, so in 1693 they agreed that all their grants of land “shall stand good to all intents and purposes, if they attested by John Brigham, their clerk.”

Their illegal acquirement of the land made them uneasy, they had no rocked-ribbed and rockbound title. An original wrong could not be compacted into right by simple declarations and votes in a meeting of the proprietors held February 5, 1703. “It was voted that they would try to come into a way for a confirmation of their lands.” They chose James Sawyer, Thomas Howe and Nathaniel Gowe a committee for to attain a confirmation. They were unable to get the confirmation they wanted of the court.

They were getting desperate and rebellious at the same time as seen in their actions in a meeting held February, 1709. “Voted that they would make articles to bind themselves in a covenant whereby what we do may stand by force”, and they signed an agreement to pay each his proportion to defray all charges in defense of a bogus land title and to oppose any hostile action of the court. An end was to come to their anxiety, uncertainty and doubts.

In 1719 after more than a half a century of continuous persistent effort, they made a last appeal to the General court and they were granted absolute confirmation to their claims to the Indian plantation.

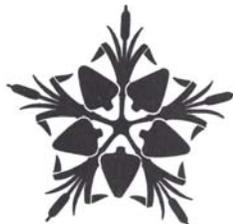
The question will be asked what became of the Indians? During King Philip’s war many of the Marlboro Indians were actively enlisted with Philip in destroying the property and lives of the whites. They were away from their plantation for weeks and could give no good reason for their absence. An Indian named David Mennanow, was among the absent. He had a slit thumb. After the war a man was in Marlboro from Medfield. He recognized him as the Indian who wounded him at the burning of Medfield. Being closely questioned, he admitted the fact.

He was allowed to live in his wigwam near Williams farm where he died at a great age. The remains of the tribe lived in the westerly part of the town on the farm of Thomas Brigham on the south road to Northboro. Thomas Brigham built his house soon after King Philip’s war. He died sitting in his chair which is still preserved. He was great, great, great grandfather of Uncle Charles Brigham so familiar a person on our streets today. The last of the Indians were shiftless, lazy and dissolute and in their burial ground in the south westerly part of the town the last of them were gathered for fairer hunting grounds.

Reeds and Arrowheads.

Logo of Hudson’s bicentennial celebration, 1976.

(Assabet means the “place of reeds”)



History of Hudson, Part 6

as published in the ENTERPRISE, July 22 1893 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

The favored bread of the settlers was made of rye and Indian corn. They needed a grist mill, so land was given to John Barnes to build a mill on the river, erected about 1690 and sold to Joseph Howe on Jan 13, 1701. The river was dammed, just as in 2000.

The great want of the settlers was a grist mill. There was none in town. They were obligated to go to Sudbury to get their grain ground. Rye and Indian bread were the staple articles of diet in those days when simplicity and economy were the necessities of their being. The erection of a grist mill involved as much care and labor as the erection of a large factory at the present day. Most all supplies came from Boston, only a small place and yet the largest town in New England.

The farmers could not get along without a place to grind their corn. In the role of the cheerful giver they deeded a lot on Assabet river, bounded and described as follows: "North side of the river 16 rods long 6 rods wide, on the south side of the river 16 rods long, and 13 ½ rods wide." The land was bounded on all sides by common land. John Barnes was the recipient of this gift in the wilderness where the factories of F. Brigham & Co. now stand. While the proprietors of Marlboro owned many miles of land, for some good reason in the line of economy, they were careful in giving it away.

John Barnes was born Dec. 26, 1666. The mill was erected soon after 1690. Barnes kept the mill running a short time and then sold out to Joseph Howe.

The former named never lived on Hudson territory, he died April 5, 1752, aged 86 years. He was a deacon in Rev. Mr. Breck's church, the second minister who preached in Marlboro. The farmers wanted something more substantial than a cart path from the centre of the town to the mill. On April 1, 1700, the town accepted a road laid out from Marlboro by Joseph Howe's mill to the Lancaster town line. Committee on the part of Marlboro were John Maynard, Isaac Amsden, John Bowker, John Barnes, E. C. Hawks, selectmen of the town. The committee for the town of Lancaster, were Josiah White and Thomas Sawyer. The road was laid out and accepted four rods wide. The dam was built, also the mill before the road was laid out.

The mill stood twenty-five feet from the dam, the line of road was east of the mill where the shoe factories now stand. The first dam was built of logs and in sheep-shearing time, the logs were pulled away so the farmers could get into the brook with their sheep. Before the bridge was built the roadway was over the brook below the dam. One hundred years ago the Assabet river was full of fish from the sea. The erection of dams deprive us of these welcome visitors. The deed of the mill to Joseph

Howe is dated Jan. 13, 1701. This deed was recorded at Cambridge. See record of deed book 13 page 302. It was recorded by the heirs of Joseph Howe for he died Sept. 4, 1700, aged 40. His estate inventoried \$7210. This was the first deed ever given for Hudson real estate.



First Grist Mill, 1699

History of Hudson, Part 7

as published in the ENTERPRISE, July 29, 1893 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

1711 - A garrison house was built on the North side of the Assabet River by the mill. The whole town slept in this garrison at night for fear of Indian raids. Story of the Rice home where Charles Hudson worked as a boy. Two blacks lived nearby.

The house standing on the farm of Francis W. Brigham was built by the grandfather of his wife, Stephen Rice in 1806. An old house stood on this farm prior to the erection of this house. It was built by Gershorm Rice, greatgreatgrandfather of Mrs. Brigham. Gershorm Rice was born May 2, 1710 and married Lydia Barrett, daughter of Thomas Barrett of Marlboro. Barrett did not live far away for he was assigned to the military garrison with John Bannister and family in 1711, a time when the whole population of the town slept in the garrison at night to escape the tomahawks of the savage.

The mill garrison stood where the factory of F. Brigham & Co. now stands, on the north side of Assabet river, Gershorm Rice died Oct. 11 1790, aged 81 years. His wife died June 4, 1799, aged 87 years. They left eight children. They had a son, Gershorm Rice, born July 3, 1755. He married Susannah Howe, daughter of Thaddeus and Lucinda Howe, they both died in April 1837. He was 82 years old, she was three years younger.

They had five children. Stephen, who built the present house, was born April 15, 1779. He married Annie Morse, April 4, 1804. She was a daughter of Francis Morse. They had five children—John F. Rice, the father of Mrs. Brigham, and Jennie Rice, now deceased, was born May 7, 1809.

On one occasion the grandmother of Stephen Rice, at that time a young girl, went with a select company of young people to a party, where they were going to feast on common potatoes. The festive potato bug had not then raided the soil. The etymology of the insect was not in the classics of the plodding yeoman.

On the farm of Stephen Rice lived a boy by the name of Charles Hudson. Penury, and want were the daily guests of his parents, the boy was thrown on his own resources to be the architect and builder of his future destiny. One day Mr. Rice heard the boy using words not used in pious conversation. He says to him, "Charles, when you hear me swear you can." The rebuke was sufficient for the boy whose mind even then was resolving problems that further on in life's play would give him a place enduring as the history of the Republic. Young Hudson attended the school on the hill nine weeks in the year. The same school building one story higher, stands today on Washington street and is owned by Mrs. Ada Woods. The scholars gathered for play on Pope's hill. On one of the trees they had a swing. Hudson wrote a poem beginning,

“High on Pope’s hill,
There was a swing
Made of a string.”

The studious boy spoke of the coming man; when he reached manhood he displayed a genius not to be circumscribed by the boundaries of a farm. He entered at once into public life. For 20 years he was pastor of a church in Westminster. Four years he was in the house of representatives, six years in the Mass. senate, three years a member of the executive council, eight years in Congress and was on the committee to establish the boundary line between Canada and the United States.

Four years he was naval officer in the custom house, Boston. He was six feet tall and a man of the most commanding presence.

When more than 80 years of age he visited Hudson, he called on the few survivors of his childhood days, he gazed on the places of his sports and his labors, and bidding each goodbye he returned to his home in Lexington with the mournful reflection he would see Hudson no more.

He was Hudson’s most distinguished son. Well may we wear a name reflecting so grandly in all life’s relations, the sterling character and princely virtues of nature’s true nobleman.

Near the Rice farm on Washington street stood an old house occupied by Daniel Wilson, a colored man. The old wellsweep and the well with its freight of pure sparkling water is still there. The house was owned in its early history by Hannah Goodale. She was probably the daughter of Benjamin Goodale, born May 3, 1717, married John Taintor. She sold the house to the town of Marlboro for a poorhouse. The house was built about 1814. Jona Rice, at one time one of the largest land owners in Marlboro, was reduced to want and spent his last days in this poorhouse.

The town sold the house to a colored man, Benjamin Prentice, April 10, 1822. He was formerly a slave in Connecticut. He had five brothers in the revolutionary army, and was anxious to go himself. His mother said “Benjamin, I have five sons in the army, bury me and you can go.” He often remarked the brilliant appearance of the troops as they stood in battle line a short time before marching to the bloody scenes of the revolution on whose bravery depended the birth of an empire. Prentice lived to be 97 years old, he was of short stature and venerable in appearance. He was born about 1756. Daniel Wilson lived to be 90 years of age. In middle life few could beat him running. One day during a military muster in Groton, Wilson was helping the cook of the Marlboro rifles, he went over the line to get a pail of water. At that moment General Benjamin F. Butler rode along the line.

He asked Wilson “what he was doing.” “after water,” “do you know you have no business to cross these lines, with all my authority I cannot do it.” Wilson replied “I know nothing about that.” General Butler said “you may consider yourself under arrest.” Wilson stood and blinked to the man on horseback. “You black rascal will

consider yourself under arrest or shall I call a guard?" "You had better call a guard." General Butler tried to collar Wilson. This son of Africa's sunny clime started on the run over the muster field and General Butler after him. He was not caught for soon after he crawled back under the back of the tent of the rifles no doubt feeling eternal vigilance was the price of liberty.



Charles Hudson

History of Hudson, Part 8

as published in the ENTERPRISE, August 5, 1893 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

Thomas Hapgood farm and family on Round Hill. Constantly on guard from the Indian encounters. The farm was sold to Stephen C. Reed.

~~History of Hudson~~

~~By Wilbur F. Brigham~~

~~No. 8~~

Stephen C. Reed is living today on one of the very oldest farms in Hudson. Thomas Hapgood came here before 1700. Shadrach Hapgood, his father, came from England when 14 years of age. He embarked at Gravesend May 30, 1656. On his arrival in this country he went to Sudbury. In King Philip's war in 1675, the Indians in Brookfield showing a desire for peace, Captain Hutchinson of Boston and Captain Wheeler of Concord were sent to treat with them. Shadrach Hapgood was among the party that went. The sachems agreed to an interview Aug. 2, 1675. On marching to the designated place, Wickaboag pond, the treacherous savages lay in ambush, they fired on the troops and eight of the soldiers were killed or wounded. Among the former was Hapgood.

Thomas Hapgood was born Oct. 1, 1669. He came to Marlboro and settled on the farm where Reed now lives, as early as 1695. We give a description of the first road ever built in that section. The road was ordered to be built "Ye twenty-ninth day of March" in ye year 1703. "Thomas Hapgood and John Wheeler's land running by the house of Thomas Hapgood, not abridging any former agreement between Wheeler and Hapgood. "Rout 4 rods wide, through ye above said Wheeler's land to ye Proprietor's undivided land." John Wheeler, mentioned above, married Mary Hapgood, daughter of Thomas



Thomas Hapgood House - 1669
Sold to Stephen Reed. The
house is still on Marlboro St,
near Reed Rd.

Hapgood. He afterwards moved to Shrewsbury.

The proprietors of Marlboro divided the common land into five divisions. We will give an illustration of their way of laying out the land. Hapgood desiring to enlarge his boundaries applied for more land. The proprietors held their meetings in private houses in different parts of the town.

At a meeting held June 4, 1711, "Laid out to Thomas Hapgood, upon the right of John Goode, 20 acres of land at Round hill, and there is 192 acres of ye same and is bounded southerly ye lott laid to Mary Hunt; westerly by ye common, northerly by lott laid out to John Howe; easterly has 3/4 of an acre that marked the full complement of 20 acres, is laid out at Round hill with three acres and a half that is laid out on account of way taken of land now in ye possession of Thomas Hapgood, and is bounded by land now in ye possession of Thomas Hapgood, and is bounded by land laid out to Thomas Brigham and laid out to Edward Rice and Jonathan Bush.

The proprietors were anxious to have the settlers take what land they wanted without unnecessary delay. At a meeting held Apr. 15, 1715, Joseph Stratton moderator; "It was voted at this meeting that every person shall take up his whole share of first and second division of upland and first division of meadow and first division swamp at or upon the third Tuesday in May next ending this date. This meeting is adjourned to the third Tuesday in May at twelve o'clock at noon, at house of Abiel Bush so to finish work afore mentioned."

Thomas Hapgood was a prosperous farmer for those times. He died October 3, 1764, aged 95. His wife died August 15, 1759.

Hapgood was the father of nine children, Mary, Sarah, Judith, Elizabeth, Thomas, Hepsibeth, John, Huldah, Joseph. He had 92 grandchildren, 208 great-grandchildren and 4 great-great-grandchildren, in all 313. His grandchildren saw their grandchildren and their grandfather at the same time.

The low, small houses built in those days, must have been taxed to the fullest capacity. When this army of loved ones came tramping home to spend Thanksgiving, Hapgood must have had a prolific hen roost, and seen his cattle crowding Round hill, to provide for the digestive functions to this host.

Hapgood was obliged to keep watch fires burning night and day to escape the scalping knife of the Indians. He was on land by the decree of the court, belonged to them. He had no rated title until 1719.

On one occasion the Indians were near Hapgood's house. It was a garrison house and they could not get inside without to danger their life. A white man was outside and he saved his life by secreting himself under a pile of corn husks.

Another time the Indians were after a man; a hollow log lay near the brook on Hapgood's farm called the three cole brook, the man crawled inside and lay all night. In the morning the Indians came to the log thinking the one thing they were after might be inside. The Indians looked at the opening --- "He is not here, the spiders have spun a web over the entrance to the log." They went away. Unconsciously the busy spiders had drawn the threads of salvation for the trembling fugitive within the log. There was plenty of game in those days. One day a lady lay sick in her chamber

in the Hapgood house. Looking out of the window she saw a herd of deer climbing the sides of the Round top hill, near the house. Then it was the Indian's hunting ground to save which he risked all and went down before a higher civilization.

History of Hudson, Part 9

as published in the ENTERPRISE, August 12, 1893 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

Every settlement of 20 families was required by the general court to have a minister. They were taxed 12 pence each to provide a meeting house. The first was built in 1661. Then 1676, 1688 which lasted till 1806. Population was 500 in 1716.

While the first settlers were hard at work subduing the forces of nature in their rugged primeval life the questions may be asked were they alive to their spiritual needs? The general court required every settlement of twenty families to provide a minister. Marlboro obeyed the command. In 1661 a meeting house was built and paid for by the tax of twelve pence on the house lots of the proprietors. Rev. William Brimsmead was the first minister. This meeting house was destroyed by the Indians March 26, 1676. A new house was erected, the roof was thatched with straw. The scarcity of material made it impossible for the first settlers to gain anything but comfort—architectural proportions and fine appearance were not in the thought of men whose home was in an almost unbroken wilderness.

The house was never completed. It was finally abandoned for a more substantial church, erected in 1688, near the location of the other churches on the High school common.

This church stood for one hundred and eighteen years, or until 1806. To this church the first settlers on Hudson territory went. Every family in town attended this church.

They did not walk over concrete ways, or by broad avenues. The humble worshippers went over the “bridle way” or the “cart path.” The wife was accustomed to ride horseback behind her husband. It was a time of heroism and sacrifice to obtain the bread of life.

The families had one faith and baptism. All church affairs were directed in the town meetings. Nothing was attempted in church management without first appearing on the town warrant and endorsed by vote of the town.

Many of the features in the church life are interesting and comical. They will afford interest at least to readers showing as they do the scrupulous care and attention to the minutest concerns, affecting the welfare of the church. The church erected before the church of 1688 was not an imposing structure as it was valued at only seventy dollars. Mr. Brimsmead preached until he became too feeble to discharge his ministerial duties without an assistant. He died July 3, 1701. He was a ripe scholar, well versed in Latin, Hebrew and Greek. The next minister was Robert Breck; he was born Dec. 7, 1682, graduated from Harvard in 1700 and was ordained

Oct. 25, 1704: at this time he was only 22 years of age. His salary was \$350 and firewood. Meagre as the salary was we do not learn that the ministers of those days were always listening for calls to other pulpits at larger salaries. Mr. Breck was an able minister; he preached the first sermon ever preached in Shrewsbury in 1720. He preached the election sermon in 1728. During his ministry of twenty-seven years two hundred and eighty persons were admitted to his church and one thousand and twenty seven persons received the rites of baptism. Mr. Breck died January 6, 1731.

His spiritual work was remarkable when we remember the population of the town when he began preaching was only 530, and 27 years after, when he died, it had only increased to 775.

The next minister was Benjamin Kent, ordained Oct. 23, 1733. It did not take them long to discover that his preaching deflected from the course of "pure and undefiled religion." On the 4th of February, 1735, at a council of the brethren, he was found "unsound by the faith" and he was suspended. Virtually this ended his ministry. The town had voted him 400 pounds at the time of settlement. Kent sued for that and after a long law suit he won. Kent went to Boston and commenced the practice of law. John Adams, second president of the United States, said of him:

"Kent is for fun, drollery, humor, flaunts, jeers, contempt. He has an irregular immethodical head, but his thoughts are often good and his expressions happy." The next minister was Aaron Smith ordained June 11, 1740. An article in the town warrant of that year read:

"See if the town accept of Mr. Smith's confession of faith. Voted in the affirmative." At the commencement of his ministry he had a good audience if we may judge from the following article in the town warrant March 5, 1749. "To the inhabitants of the town regularly met this is to inform you that in the woman's gallery we are in the summer very much crowded and are forced to sit on the stairs where we can't see the minister, or hear so well therefore we desire that you will take our difficulty into consideration at this meeting and grant as many of us liberty to crowd in the east end of the meeting house in the gallery behind the seats for as many as it will accommodate upon our cost and charge and when we have seats elsewhere or move out of town to have liberty to dispose of them to those that see cause to purchase them at first cost and charge and in so doing you will much oblige your petitioners." The town voted in the affirmative.

It is a true saying that birds of a feather flock together. In this old church of our ancestors, the young ladies wanted to be together, and not in too close continuity with bald heads and gray hair. May 20, 1756, they inserted the following article in the town warrant: "To see if the town will give a number of young women liberty to take away the hind seat in the front gallery and build a pew for their age during the town's pleasure." Voted that Mary Ward, Elizabeth Harrington and Dorathy Burnap and others they shall admit, may build a pew in the front gallery where the hind seat now is, and sit in it during the town's pleasure.

The gallery in the church was a prominent place at that time as seen in further action of the town. Sept. 27, 1756, voted that Solomon Brigham, Jonathan Tayntor and Larkin Williams and their associates sit in the old upper gallery seats, five years to come. The Solomon Brigham above named is the grandfather of Uncle Charles Brigham and came to the farm where our uncle now lives the very year of this vote, 1756.

The young men were not wholly lost to the satisfying pleasure of the being in view of the young ladies of that period. In 1740 the town “voted and granted to fifteen young men liberty to build a seat in the front upper gallery on the back of the fore seat on their own cost and sit there during the town’s pleasure.” It required a great care and attention in “seating the church” one hundred and fifty years ago. At the present time the longest purse seats a man. In ye olden time the town chose a committee of the first citizens to see that on the floor of the house and in the galleries everyone was impartially treated in seating them.

In 1716, the town voted that the front gallery fore seat be next in dignity to the seat below; voted also that the fore seat in the end gallery be in dignity next the third seat below; chose a committee of thirteen to seat the meeting house.

There was only five hundred inhabitants in the town at this time and yet the men of those pioneer days looked after the little things, that in the aggregate produce results not only surprising but blessing all subsequent ages. In our next we will give other interesting items of this ancient church where the ancestors of Hudson’s citizens went to meeting.

History of Hudson, Part 10

as published in the ENTERPRISE, Sept 16, 1893 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

Religious requirements, Assignment of pews, Rules of behavior, Singing introduced, A minister's duties, Rev. Aaron Smith, Rev. Robert Breck.

In the ancient church of our fathers the small, boy of the period was an object of paternal solicitude. During service time he was not left in the rear seats of the church, to follow out lines of reflection and conduct, not always in unit with the preached word. He was placed in the front rank of pews where any departure from pious examples would infringe on the chastening rod at home. An article in the town warrant of 1759 shows where they seated the boys. "To see if the town will take away the small boy's seat in the body of seats and secure them other seats in the body back, to make more room for the communion table in the meeting house." In those days the work of the mason was not proof against the tooth of time. In 1760 after the church had stood nearly three-quarters of a century "Voted to repair the cracks in the plastering on the inside of the meeting house and white wash the whole plastering." It was a grave concern of the elders that the church be fully occupied.

It was so serious a question in November 1758 the following article appeared in the town warrant: "To see if the town will make inquiry to see if the upper gallery seats are filled full."

The pews were calf pens, built square, seats on four sides; the pews were built so high it was not easy to enter except through the door. The women in the latest fashion were so completely boxed in there were no millinery displays during the hour of service.

It was the custom to choose a committee to seat the meeting house once in five years. In 1760 chose as this committee Jonathan Brigham, Jr., Simon Stowe, Cyprian Howe, Ensign Benjamin Brigham, Joseph Wilkins, Nathaniel Johnson, Ensign Samuel Stevens, Jacob Felton, Ebenezer Dexter.

In the early years of the church singing was not regarded as a valuable aid to public worship. Two long prayers and two long sermons every Sabbath furnished the spiritual quickening of our ancestors. They grew to feel more and more the power of song to awaken the devout life in the soul. In 1773 the town acted in the affirmative on the following article: "To see if the town will remove the partition between the men and women in the front pillar and the seat part, to appropriate to Joseph Howe, Jr., and others who may be disposed for singing, so that that part of divine worship may be carried on with decency, good order and to christian edification, all in such manner and during the town's pleasure as they shall think fit when meet."

The success of the choir under the direction of Joseph Howe, Jr. was satisfactory. In 1776 the town again “voted to give the singers the two hind seats in the meeting house below the men’s and women’s pews during the town’s pleasure.” The interest and power of sacred song to inspire devotional life continued. On November 7, 1796, the town “voted to appropriate \$40 for the promotion and encouragement of singing on days of public worship, and voted the selectmen for the time being, be a committee to see that the money be laid out to the best advantage in learning the youth in the art of singing.”

In those days of stern virtues and severe economy, the teachers who should have asked four dollars an hour for their services would have been accused of witchcraft. The modern teacher would have turned in the town appropriation in a single day. A century and a half ago the minister was not lighted by grand chandeliers, fire flaming from many points, he had tallow candles with their uncertain and limited light, or the whale oil lamp; he had to depend on the more sure light of day so far as it was possible to obtain it. The town came to his aid in the following action:

Dec. 25, 1753, “To see what the town will do to opening a window or windows on the north side of the house to give light to the pulpit.”

The preacher at this time was Rev. Aaron Smith. He commenced his ministry in 1740. During the first years of his labors he was generally liked. With advancing years he became feeble in health and unpopular. In 1776 the town voted him \$100 a year for life to resign the ministry. In 1777 some enemy of Mr. Smith fired two bullets through his bedroom window while he was sleeping. He lived in the house occupied by the late William Gibbon.

The town offered a reward of 100 pounds. The secret foe was never discovered. On April 16, 1777, by a vote of 29 to 21, Mr. Smith was dismissed. He went to Wayland and died in 1781, aged 67 years.

In the year 1767 his church numbered 164 members, a large membership, the population of the town being less than 1300 at that time. Mr. Smith preached for 37 years.

It requires a man of rare gifts and unusual abilities to satisfy a congregation for so long a time. Mr. Smith failed in health and in his last years of service failed to satisfy the majority of his hearers. The pastor of this church from 1704 to 1731, Rev. Robert Breck, was loved by all his people.

In 1825 nearly a century from the day of his death the town through a committee, in a very economical way, took action to save the tablet over his grave from obliteration and loss. The committee reported “That they had received the valuable stone tablet, placed over the remains of Rev. Robert Breck, that they highly venerate the spirit of their ancestors which induced them to make so liberal an appropriation to perpetuate and pass down to posterity the name and virtues of a pious and truly good man. Your committee cannot refrain from indulging the fullest

assurance that that as a respect for the feelings and sentiments of their fathers, will compel the children to make some effort to preserve so valuable a monument being hidden in the dust they would therefore recommend to the town to purchase four stone pillars to be hewn square, 9 inches diameter at bottom, 6 at top to be two feet above the earth and 1½ feet beneath, one to be placed under each corner of the tablet and on stone foundations, well laid in the earth under each pillar, all of which they have ascertained can be done for the sum of nine dollars, and they would further recommend that the selectmen be authorized to draw an order on the treasurer for that sum to be expended for that purpose. A good deal of rhetoric exploded for nine dollars.

On the stone is this inscription:

“Beneath this stone are deposited the mortal remains of the truly Rev. Robert Breck. His immortal spirit hath ascended to heaven to join the innumerable company of angels and the spirits of the just made perfect. He was by nature a man of acute intellect, a capacious mind and sound judgement together with singular mental resolution. As to his attainments he was eminently skilled in the learned languages, familiar beyond the common measure with polite literature, and what to others was difficult, he by the power of his mind, and close application to study, accomplished with ease.

Thoroughly versed in every department of theology and truly orthodox in sentiment, he was a scribe in every respect, instructed unto the kingdom of heaven.

The duties in the pastoral office in the church at Marlboro, over which the Holy Spirit made him overseer, he discharged faithfully and assiduously in peace and with great reputation for 27 years. He was a skillful and able asserter of the doctrines of revelation and of the worship and discipline of the New England churches. He was a counselor in cases of difficulty, both public and private, of distinguished uprightness and consummate prudence. He was a sincere lover of his friends, his country and the whole church of Christ. In a word he was a model of piety and every social virtue and of moderation in regard to earthly things. In the severe pains of his last sickness his patience had its perfect work, and his departure if not in triumph was full of hope and peace. Born Dec. 7, 1682, died Jan. 6, 1731. “Even the prophets do not live forever.”

History of Hudson, Part 11

as published in the ENTERPRISE, Sept 30, 1893 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

Howe built the first grist/corn mill in 1699 on land which he later purchased from John Barnes and his wife Johanna. Joseph Howe died in 1700 at age 40. Also, story of four children left motherless in 1875.

Joseph Howe was the first business man who ever did business on Hudson territory. He was a very successful man although he died in 1700 only 40 years of age, he had accumulated more than a thousand acres of land and a large amount of personal property. Later I shall give an inventory of his estate that the reader may know the kind of property that made up the possessions of a successful business man two hundred years ago. He lived in the west part of the town then Marlboro. He bought his farm of John Rudduck, deacon of the church. The purchase was made Dec. 31, 1761, for four hundred dollars and included house and barn and fifty acres of land in the home place and one hundred and sixty seven acres of upland and meadow lying in different parcels and lots besides a cedar swamp. At the time of his death he owned over four hundred acres within the limits of Hudson. On the 27th of January, 1698 he purchased of John Houghton, yeoman, ten acres of third division upland, for nine dollars. It was probably the land lying west of Lincoln street.

It is described as "Land laid out to the estate of Jacob Farer, in Lancaster, and yth adjoining to the East line of the town-bounds where Marlboro town line and it lyeth together, and is bounded East by said line, North by some land laid out by ye Estate of William Lewis, West by common hilly land, going between it and estate of Farer and Southerly it butts on undescribed land, that lies, taking in a little run of water" this may be "Cly brook." The Lancaster line in those days ran to River Street; it took in Central St. and crossed between the houses, where Col. Worcester and James T. Houghton now live.

It then crossed South where the central depot now stands. This land was afterwards detached and formed a part of the new town of Bolton. It was afterwards sliced off, to fall into the mass of the new town of Hudson. In the early days of the colony, the General court encouraged the Skilled Mechanic; blacksmiths were given thirty acres of land, a higher grade of skill received more. William Hubberfield was given three hundred acres of land in the wilderness for teaching the art of making cloth, this was sold to Thomas Howe who sold it to Joseph Howe, and a part, if not all of this land, was within the present limits of Hudson. The document is worth reading, as showing the fostering care, of the early law makers of the Colony.

"To all persons to whom these presence shall come. Thomas Howe of Marlboro, in the county of Middlesex, in his majesties Province of Massachusetts Bay, sendeth Greetings. Whereas the Great and General Court of Assembly of the Province aforesaid, at third session held by Porogation, ye fifteenth day of November, 1698, did pass a vote that there be granted unto William Hubberfield of Boston, in the county of Suffolk, within the Province aforesaid, clothier, in consideration of his good services in promoting

and instruction, many tons in ye trade and mystery of cloth working to the advantage of the public, three hundred acres of vacant land within the said Province where it may be taken, in any place not before granted, and that a survey and plan thereof be made and returned to the said General Court, and for confirmation, and as in and by the same vote in Record thereof, Reserved thereof, being had as may appear. Now know ye that I the said **Thomas Howe** for and in consideration of the sum of twelve pounds current money in New England to me in hand, at and before the ensembling and delivery of these presence, well and trusty paid by **Joseph Howe** of Marlboro, yeoman above mentioned.” Witnesses, **Jacob Houghton, Thomas Foster, May 21, 1701. Joseph Howe** had possession by deed before his death.

This corn-mill was certainly erected as early as 1699 on the north side of Assabet river, where the factory of F. Brigham & Co. now stands. Some men think **John Barnes** erected the corn-mill. They said **BCarnes** had gained a right to the acre of land, where the mill stood, and sold that acre of land to **Joseph HHowe**. There is ~~in~~ no proof **John Barnes** built the corn-mill. To satisfy the curious and the doubting, we give the original deed ~~forom~~ **John BCarnes** to **Joseph How** and the reader can decide for himself. “To all Christian people to whom these Presence come Know ye that **John Barnes** of the town of Marlboro, in the County of Middlesex, in the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, in New England, husbandman for and in consideration of a valuable fund of money to me already well and truly paid by **Joseph Howe** of the said town and county above mentioned, husbandmen, the receipt whereof I do by these presence acknowledge myself to be fully satisfied, consented and paid and thereof and of every part and parcel thereof, do fully clearly and absolutely acquitt, exonerate and discharge, him, the said **Joseph Howe** and by these presence, do fully, clearly and absolutely grant, bargain and sell and confirm unto the said **Joseph Howe** and to his heirs and assigns, one acre of land lying and situated in the town of Marlboro, above mentioned, on the northerly part of the town, at Assabeth river at the corn mill of ye above said **Joseph Howe** and the said **Joseph Howe’s** corn mill, standing upon the said acre of land, it lyeth upon both sides of the said Assabeth river, on both sides of the said mill, it being about six rods wide, on said northerly side of said river, and about sixteen rods long, butted and bounded every way be the town common land.

To have and to hold the above granted and bargained acre of land with all the issue and profits thereof unto himself, the said **Joseph Howe, I, the said John Burns, senr.,** have good right and full power and lawful authority to grant, bargain and confirm the above granted and bargained acre of land, unto him the said **Joseph Howe,** and to his heirs, and assigns and the said **Joseph Howe,** his heirs executors, admins or assigns, shall and may at all times, and from time to time, shall hold, occupy, possess and enjoy all said acre of land without the least disturbance or contradiction of the said **John Burns or Johanna Burns, my wife,** and that the above granted and bargained acre of land may continue and remain a good true absolute fee, sure, undefeasable title of inheritance in fee simple unto the said **Joseph Howe** and to his heirs, executors and administrators and assignees forever.

We ye above **John Burns and Thomas Burns** have hereunto put our hands and seals this thirtieth day of January in the year one thousand seven hundred and in the twelfth year of the reign of our Sovereign lord, **William, the third over England** the

King.” The possessors of large wealth were rare in this country two hundred years ago. Trifles were carefully watched for the day of want was never absent. If a corn-mill had stood on this land, belonging to John Burns, when the acre of land was conveyed to Joseph How^e the deed would certainly have mentioned it. Another corn-mill was erected on this spot before 1718 as we shall show in the future history of the town.

Eighteen years ago several young children were left motherless, and were told they must be sent to homes apart from each other. The last morning they were permitted to remain in their homes they lay nestled together in bed wondering if they would meet again. One of these children, grown to womanhood resides in Rockbottom and is an employee at the rubber factory, and another resides in Hudson. Another, a child three years old at the time of separation, was sent to the Worcester orphan’s home.

One day, very soon after entering that home the little one climbed upon a fence surrounding the institution, and to a lady who was passing said, “Can you tell me what they have done with my mamma? They have put her under the leaves and I want my mamma.” The woman’s heart was melted and this baby appeal for a mother’s love and care touched the motherly instinct in her and she at once took the child into her affections and her home, which was one of wealth, luxury and culture. The child forgot the mother of her babyhood and learned to know her benefactor as her mother.

Years passed by and one day a playmate spoke to the child of the time when her mother took her home to live. Returning home she asked the lady who had adopted her if she did not belong to her, and was quieted by being told that she did. She developed into maturity and beautiful womanhood in a home of refinement and became educated and cultured.

The Rockbottom sister is Mrs. Hattie Nourse. Two years ago she learned that her baby sister had been in the Worcester orphan’s home and went there to get trace of her, but did not succeed. The mother of the child was informed that relatives were looking for her adopted daughter, and was led to reveal to her the facts of her birth and adoption. Soon after this, the noble and devoted mother died.

A week ago last Saturday the Worcester sister came to Hudson in search of Hattie Wright, the maiden name of Mrs. Hattie Nourse. This was the name Mrs. Nourse gave at the hospital.

She inquired at the factories but without success until she reached the rubber factory, where recognizing her resemblance to Mrs. Nourse they directed her to her sister’s home in Rockbottom. There, a half hour later, the sisters who had been lost to each other for 18 years met. What passed between them on that occasion is hidden to the world and can only be imagined. The next day, Sunday, was spent by Mrs. Nourse in her sister’s home in Worcester.

The baby born when the mother of these children died is now a young man. Next Saturday there will be a reunion of these three and a second brother at the home of Mrs. George Jacobs a half sister residing in Stowe’s block. This is a romance in real life, full of heartaches and sadness, not to be partially compensated for in the reuniting of some, and possibly in time to come of all the living brothers and sisters of this family.

History of Hudson, Part 12

as published in the ENTERPRISE, October 7, 1893 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

Estate and value of Joseph Howe. Thomas Hapgood gravely wounded in 1690 fighting Indians in New Hampshire. He was awarded \$25.

In the last issue of this paper the printer was in error in following his copy. He started all right in the correct statement that John Barnes sold the acre of land for the corn-mill to Joseph Howe, he then dropped into the error of repeating the name of John Burns, he also made other errors that destroy the sense and value of an article.

Joseph Howe had three children, Abram, Jedediah and Bethiah who were not of age at the time of their father's death in 1701.

Samuel Morris was appointed their guardian during their minority. An inventory of the estate was taken. It may awaken the curiosity of some to know what a farmer had for property nearly two centuries ago. A good deal of his land was grants from the Proprietors or rights purchased of others who had already taken up the land. As Joseph Howe owned so much of the land within Hudson limits, it will be easy to follow the different owners of this land for two centuries. The inventory of Howe's estate was returned to the court Oct. 3, 1701. The principal items are "The homestead being a fifty acre lot with all the buildings upon it, and all other lands belonging to it viz., uplands and meadows of second and third grant with all the privileges belonging to it, that now are or hereafter shall have by the present proprietors or their successors. This was valued at thirteen hundred dollars.

Three hundred acres of land in the wilderness of grant of ye country to William Hubberfield, clothier, not yet laid out nor returned, but passed by deed to the aforesaid Joseph How, and paid for by money. This was valued at sixty dollars.

"Thirteen acres of upland in ye bounds of ye town of Lancaster (now Hudson) purchase of Josiah White and confirmed by his deed of sale, seventeen acres of land in ye bounds of ye town of Lancaster purchased of William Dwall, valued at fifty five dollars- the thirteen acres above mentioned, the same value. Land purchased in town of Marlboro as appears on record, fifteen dollars.

One Grist mill, one acre of land where-on it stands with all its accomplishments. Value two hundred and seventy-five dollars. Two bonds containing the sum of eighteen and five lbs, more acknowledgement by ye debtors, twenty-three lbs. His personal property consisted as follows: six feeding cattle, four yearling calves, fifteen swine, bigger and less, twelve sheep, horses, mares, and colts, grain, wheat, rye, barley, pease, touched with blast, not thrashed, Indian corn as standing on the ground.

Provision for cattle, hay of all sorts for feeding and keeping. Tackling for husbandry, two T. of wheels, one cart pin, six pair of chains, yoak with their irons, plow, irons, collars, tacklin, axes, beetles, wedges, scythes, forks, one clock, one still and still pot, one saddle with ye case, breast girt and bridle, one other saddle, male pillion and girth pillion and cloth, pistols and holsters, Rapier and belt, one cane, horse whip and spurs. Two fowling pieces and one musket with ammunition, Roger fork knife, shoe buckles, two feather beds equally alike

from bottom, straw beds, feather beds, bolsters, pillows, blankets, Coverlids, curtains, wall bedstead, three other feather beds, with all their appurtenances, eleven sheets of one sort, ten pair of another, napkins, one carpet, six table cloths, twelve towels, clothing, woolen, linen, hats, shoes, chests, trunk, press cupboard, tables, wool, flax barrels, measures, baskets, providing tubs, cheese fatts, milk vessels, bowls, trays, pailles, pewter, tin and brass utensils, iron vessels, pork and bacon, malt, boots, yarn for cloth to be woven.’

The whole value was thirty three hundred and seventy five dollars. He owned only seventy dollars at the time of his death. This item shows a careful, thrifty man and the amount and variety of his property an enterprise and a success in management that would be a credit to any business man today.

A large percentage of homes at the present time, cannot show the quality or abundance of household goods, possessed by this farmer and miller, whose active years were within seventy years of the landing of the Pilgrims. The population of the town in his day, was less than five hundred. The Indians were numerous, and with a hate that never slumbered, carried the torch and tomahawk, with a fury, for ruin and death, to every abode of the white man. Joseph Howe had many weapons of war. Every home was a camp and every male member, knew from personal experience, the cruelties and treachery of savage foes. We will illustrate this danger and trial, by citing a number of cases. Thomas Hapgood lived on the spot where Stephen C. Reed now lives. He was living there as early as 1690. This year he went with a party of soldiers in pursuit of the Indians; they were overtaken at Oyster River in N.H. when a terrible fight took place, and Hapgood was badly wounded, and just escaped with his life. He afterwards petitioned the General Court to recompense him for his losses at that time. We will let Hapgood tell the story in his own language. “To his Excellency, Joseph Dudley, Capt. & Commander in chief of her Majesties, Province of Massachusetts Bay, and the Honorable, The Court and Representatives in General Court, assembled- The Petitioner, Thomas Hapgood, of Marlboro, that your Petitioner was with others, detached into the service, against the Indian enemy in the year 1690, and was one of those engaged in the bloody fight, which happened near the Oyster river in New Hampshire, wherein Capt. Noah Wiswell and diverse others were slain, and wounded, and your petitioner was there, sorely wounded, his left arm broken, and his right hand much shot, so that your Petitioner endured much pain and smart and narrowly escaped with his life, which wound through the good care taken by the public, were cured without any charge to your Petitioner, but so as that your petitioner lost much time and hath thereby been very much disabled from his labor and getting his livelihood.

That he had been forced to sell what stock he had acquired before his wounds to maintain and support himself since, and your petitioner being so wounded in said fight was necessitated to leave and lose his arms with which he was well furnished at his own charge. Your petitioner therefore humbly pray your Excellency and House to take the premises into compassionate consideration and to grant him such allowance, as in your wisdom shall be thought convenient to him, who hath, never as yet, had the least consideration for the same.”

Nov. 13, 1703, thirteen years after the fight, the court voted and paid him twenty five dollars. Hapgood at the time of the fight was twenty one years old. He was a man of large vitality and physical powers. He lived to be ninety years old.

History of Hudson, Part 13

as published in the ENTERPRISE, October 13, 1893 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

Many settlers wounded in fighting the Indians were awarded funds and also for the materials and horses lost in 1679, 1697 and 1708.

In the days of Thomas Hapgood, Abiel Bush, Joseph Howe and a few of the first pioneers on Hudson territory, the means of travel were very limited. There was only one road from Marlboro to the Lancaster line, and that line ran to River street. There were "cart ways" running through the country, and in traveling from this town to Lancaster and other towns in other directions, the traveler was guided by marked trees. In those days there were vast areas of woods, and the snowfalls were in excess of what is seen today. It was often almost impossible to travel in the winter time. It was in times like these the Indians put in their murderous work. The General Court saw the danger of this alert foe, and in 1702 issued the following: "Whereas, the Indians have several times made incursions upon the frontier towns of this Province.

In the winter time, when the snow is, that there is no travelling- without snow shoes, which the inhabitants of said towns are generally unprovided with for defending themselves, and pursuing the enemy. The order is given at the charge of the Province so many good serviceable snow shoes as they think needful, with as many Indian snow shoes to be dispersed and lodged in the frontier towns, as his Excellency and council shall direct, to be ready as occasion shall be for the service against the enemy." The General Court ordered the manufacture of one hundred barrels of gunpowder at a time, large quantities of gunflints and other munitions of war. The resources of most of the settlers were not large, and any loss of horses or personal injuries in conflict with Indians the sufferers generally made out a bill to the General Court. We will give a number of them: House of Representatives Apr. 17, 1701. That the sum of three lbs and eighteen shilling be paid out of the public treasury to Thomas Howe he having paid so much for the redemption of Elizabeth Howe, who was captive to an Indian.

The Thomas Howe named was the son of John Howe, the first settler of Marlboro. Captain Thomas Brown put in the following claim: "Sept. 2, 1697, when the Indians alarmed the town of Lancaster was commanded by Major Tyng with a company of soldiers to surprise them, and in that pursuit and expedition lost a very good horse of about ten pounds value and never yet had any satisfaction for the same." This was allowed. We give another claim: "That one Elisha Ward of Marlboro, being in pursuance of his Excellency's order, sent from Marlboro to Colonel Partridge about the middle of August, 1709, was waylaid and killed by the enemy, and humbly to move, that whereas his gun, which was in my esteem worth fifty shillings, was then lost, said consideration and allowance be made to the relatives of the said Ward." Thomas Howe presented this petition and the court allowed twenty shillings.

In 1708 another petition was sent to the General Court for an award for losses in an encounter with the Indians. The soldiers were farmers of this neighborhood. The story of the conflict is as follows - "That sometime in month of August last, in an engagement with the Indians evening in ye woods beyond Lancaster, besides other damages not her mentioned, Ephraim Wilder of said Lancaster was then wounded, being shot through the thigh, which wound was considerable damage to him from loss of time, being very weak besides ye pain of

said wound, and cost of care, which was four pounds and ten shillings, as may appear by the doctor's bill, for ye care, also there was one gun lost being carried away by ye enemy, which gun belonged to John Farrer of Marlboro, who was then slain, and his widow and children left in a low condition. Ye gun was worth at ye least forty shillings, which ye petitioner prays may be allowed to said widow. There were two horses Killed and two wounded; one that was Killed belonged to Jonathan Brigham, being worth eight pounds, the other, valued worth four pounds, belonged to Samuel Ward. One of Ye horses wounded was Joseph Newton's, his charge of cure and damages was at twelve shillings. The other horse wounded belonged to Oliver Ward, whose claim for cure and damages was twenty shillings.

There was also something considerable expended as was necessary for ye decent burial of those persons slain in said engagement." The General Court responded to this appeal with the following allowance: To Ephraim Wilder for the loss of his time and cure of his wounds, five lbs., to the widow of John Farrer for a gun lost, 30 shillings; to J. Brigham for horse killed, four lbs.; to Samuel Ward for horse killed, two pounds. This petition was presented by Samuel Brigham, great great grandfather of Uncle Charles Brigham. The award was made by the General Court June 11, 1708. The settlers have ever in their pathway a sleepless foe. Those not engaged in fighting the Indians had to contribute of their substance of support those in pursuit or in battle with them. February 20, 1675, in King Phillips' war, John Woods, constable of Marlboro, received orders from the court to seize fifty-one bushels of corn for the troops under the commands of Capts. Whipple, Gookin and Parker and one half bushel to be given to the friendly Indians from Quabang, Westboro. The rest of the corn was stored in the Magazine in Marlboro until needed. In Philip's war the Indians destroyed by fire most of the houses and barns in town, and most all the cattle not protected by the four garrisons standing at the time, after the war the Indians showed their ability for roguery in the following tricks they played on the poor farmers of Marlboro, Stow and other towns that joined in the following complaint to the General Court May 26, 1679.

Hon. Sirs: "We thought it our duty to inform you that we apprehend it very necessary to the common good, our said inhabitants, that you tak sum cours for the preventing of Indians kindling of fires in the woods at the later end of the year, for there hath to our certain knowledge, great damage thereby, that was burned the best part of one hundred loads of hay in our town by fier so kindled, and although we did not se the Indians kindle them, and so cannot say, it was this or that man, yet we know they were there about hunting on those days, and had their rendivus thereabouts, and so it is our suggestion, and so we saw those that saw them, had hay abroad and therefore woud not set fier to burn their own hay, the like we have heard of mentioned, and then put their catel to wintering, the likes we have heard of mentioned.

We humbly present it to your consideration and pious care, for granted, so rest: "Abraham Williams in behalf of the farmers, forwarded this petition to the General Court. Most of the hay destroyed was stacked on the meadows of the town. The poor settlers, nurtured in constant sufferings, dangers and peril, kept bravely on, and by the irresistible might of those moral religious forces, locked in their courageous natures, laid deep and sure the foundations of a Republic that is to be the brightest and happiest home, for all nations of the Earth.

History of Hudson, Part 14

as published in the ENTERPRISE, October 28, 1893 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

John Barnes, gravely injured in 1675 in King Philip war, petitioned for monetary aid. Many homes were established as garrisons to sleep at night for protection from Indians. The Hudson area Indians were friendly. The government provided a fort and ammunition for the settlers.

John Barnes sold Joseph Howe the acre of land for his corn mill, on the bank of the Assabet river, near Washington street bridge. This Barnes did valiant service for the defeat and overthrow of King Philip and his savage allies in 1675. It is fitting in this place to give incidents relating to him and others never seen in print, that this and other generations may know at what a price the blessed securities of home and liberty were purchased for them. John Barnes went with the troops under Major Willard for the relief of the garrison at Quabaugue, Brookfield. He was wounded in a fight with the savages and afterwards asked aid of the Gov. and council in the following petition:

“To the Honorable Governor and Council now sitting in Boston January ye 11th 1675-6. The petition of John Barnes.

Humbly sheweth that your petitioner was wounded in the garrison at Quabaugue when Major Willard went up for the relief of that garrison and by his wound received in his shoulder he hath been near, the point of death and he yet remains under the Churgeon’s hand and is altogether unable to doe any business for to procure a maintenance for himselfe and he hath beene in Boston about eighteen weeks and for his maintenance all this time he hath sould of his owne, what he could make money of and he hath been forced to keepe his wife here with him, not being able to without helpe to put on, or put off his clothes, whereby his charge hath been increased and he hath only received from the commissioners his wages, and althought your Honors were pleased to grant your Petitioner an order to them for the payment of forty shillings.

Yet they did so cause to subduct the said sume out of what was due to him for wages, and now having spent all ye money that he can possibly raise for his estate, he is exposed to great straights and pinching wants, your Petitioner therefore, humbly requests ye favor of your honors, to consider the premises and his poor, low and helpless condition, and grant him some reliefe and supply, so shall he ever pray for your Honors, as in duty he is bound.” The Gov. and his council were very prompt in their action. January 14, 1675 they replied as follows: “In answer to this petition it is ordered that the Treasurer for the Army pay ye petitioner forty shillings for his present relief.” As the common soldiers received only six shillings a week in King Philip’s war, there were probably no “bounty jumpers.”

Self preservation and an inborn hatred of the Indian, were the leading motives to action against them. Most of the whites were hostile to the Indians. The Marlboro Indians were friendly and would have been of great service had they been kindly treated. The

Government aided them in building a fort in the town, and furnished them with guns and munitions of war. Many of the Indians had guns of their own. This peaceful condition of affairs was before the warwhoop of the King Philip was heard.

The name of Philip was beginning to awaken alarm among the inhabitants in Marlboro. Oct. 1, 1675, they met to take measures for their own safety and the protection of life and property in case of attack. They voted to establish garrisons in different parts of the town where the whole population could find refuge, as the extremities of war might require. Large numbers of the Indians were living on territory now incorporated into the town of Hudson.

It will interest the reader to know what was done at the meeting. We give the report as given in the state archives. "Oct. 1, 1675, at a meeting of the inhabitants in order to take care of the safety of our town, the following proposals were agreed upon and voluntarily chosen into, that in case of assault, these places hereafter mentioned, should be defended by the persons that are expressed by name, that is in Williams Kerby's house." Soulders, 2, or soulder allowed to the town. Thomas Martin, Thomas King, John Brigham, John Fay, Joseph Wait, John Maynard, John How Sr., Thomas How, John Witherbee.

In Sargeant Woods, his house, of the town soulders, 2, 6, of the Newtons, or soulder allowed the town, John Wood Junior, James Wood, Isaak How, John Bellows, Samuel Bellows. At Joseph Rice's Samuel Stow, John Barrett, Samuel Rice.

In John Johnson's house 9, and of the town soulders 3, in Deacon Ward's house, of the town soulders, 3, or soulder allowed the town, his family 3, Abraham How, William Taylor, Gersham Yeams, Samuel Ward. In Abraham Williams, his hous, of the town soulders, 3, or soulders allowed the town, Richard Barnes, John Ridiat Sen., John Ridiat, Jun., Samuel Brigham, John Rooks. In Thomas Rice's hous, of town soulders 2, or soulders allowed the town, John Brown, John Bowser, Peter Rice, Increase Ward, Thomas Ward, Jr. and three men of Peter Bent's to the Lieutenant, himself and the Magazeen 13 of the soulders that were allowed the town. All the men to be maintained in the respective parcels by the families in the several fortifications wheare they are placed, also that the ammunition of the town be proportional to the soulders of the town, in these fortifications. The above written is that which acted and assented unto by the persons whose names are subscribed.

Mr. Brimsmead, Deacon Ward, Thomas King, Solomon Johnson, Abrabam How, John How Sen., John Woods Sen., Richard Newton, Abraham Williams, Thomas Rice, John Johnson, Samuel Rice, John Bellows, Nathaniel Johnson, John Woods junior, Joseph Newton, Thomas Barnes, Josiah Barnes, John Mainard, John Rediat, John Fay, Moses, Newton, Richard Barnes, William Kirby, James Taylor." Every citizen had to fight for his fireside. Joseph How, the first Hudson miller, then a boy of fifteen years was enrolled for a struggle impending that had only one issue, life or death. John Ruddock, a large owner of real estate in the northerly part of the town where Hudson now stands, was a lieutenant of the troops and one of the leading men in those stirring times. In our next we shall give letters written by him to the council which will prove one fact, that in time of great peril and danger, the various passions and emotions that move human hearts, are the same in all ages, and as unchangeable as human life.

History of Hudson, Part 15

as published in the ENTERPRISE, November 4, 1893 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

Marlboro, 1675, was a frontier town 15 years old. Lt. John Ruddock, commander of Marlboro soldiers in dire need of supplies: clothing, food, rum, bread.

Captain Joathan Poole was in command of troops stationed in Marlboro in 1675. It was then a frontier town only fifteen years old. King Philip had fired the untamed spirit of the savage. The warwhoop was heard through every settlement. The white population of the united colonies was only thirty to forty thousand. The Indians numbered about the same. The whole force of white men capable of bearing arms was only from six to eight thousand.

The Indian cry of extermination was heard in every wigwam and around every campfire. The white population was so scattered and the poverty of the people was so general, the experience of war soon brought them into great want for the supplies of daily living. Captain Poole found his "souldurs" suffering for supplies, some of which were no help to them. July 30, 1675, he wrote the following letter:

"To the Comisary at Mallbery. Sur we want drawers and wayescots, and I am forced to let men goe home to fetch clothing becas they want and have no supply. Sur I pray send some soft tobekow and bred, by this person. I pray send me the runlet or lickors, for the army will drene us doubtless."

Lieutenant John Ruddock had charge of the "magaseen" and command of some of the soldiers, The citizens and the soldiers were dissatisfied with him, the spirit of revolt against his conviction of duty and action had so increased, that Ruddock was forced to appeal to the councell in the following letter, bearing date, Oct. 4, 1675.

"To the Hon. Gov. & Council,
"Hon. Sirs. "After my humble duty, these are to signify to the Honored Council, that upon hearing the council was informed the Comstable had forbed the men that were quartered in the town, and sent them to me for quarter. Sum cam to me this morninge, and threatened me if the men were taken away, I should answer for it, and many threatening words, and many were gathered together about it. I understand great complaints are likely to be made against me to the Council, but I hope the Hon. Council will have charity for me, till I can come to answer for myself. In regard to the charge of the town and the country, I cannot with convenience come down, the charge of the magazeen beinge committed to me, troubles me much. They are offended that I bring the souldiers to meetinge with me, and say, I must have soe many men to gard me. It is well known to many, that it has been my practise ever since I have had a family. I use to have them to meetinge with me. I think it my duty, having a garrison of soulders, to have them to meeting with me. Also I sent sum of them, the one half to gard the town in the forenoon, and the other in the afternoon, and them that do not ward, I have to meeting with me. When we met together to apoynt houses to be fortified, I would have houses apoynted and men apoynted these houses, but the Ensign would not yeald to that, but would have the town caled together and to see what houses they were willinge to goe to, and to fortify, so the designe was that my house should not be fortified nor have any gard of danger be.

They themselves will have the inhabitants to gard their houses, but if I have any, I must have of the soulders, and be at the charges to maintain them, myself. I have propounded to them that the inhabitants be equally divided to the houses, that are to be garded, and the garrison soulders divided likewise, but they would not yield to that, soe unless the honored Council be pleased to determine this thinge, it will not be determined. Sum have manedged there maters, soe I have Leetle or noe command of the inhabitants of the town. The sum of all is, there are that cannot Soolow that pill, than I should have so much trust, and pour commeted to me, soe I desire to leve myself with God and this Honored Council. The pore leve themselves with God.”

The citizens were divided as to the wisest and best course of action, they allowed unmanly prejudices and petty jealousies to usurp the place of earnest, serious thought and calm judgement. While differing on general policies of government and in daily bickerings forgetting the necessities for union. They did not dream, a few months later, the torche and the tomahawk would sow their homes with ashes and the soil redden with the blood of fireside idols and the whole town disappear in the carnival of savage foes. They knew not what was in store for them, they had their daily disputes with those in authority over them. John Ruddock was one of the targets for their enmity and opposition.

Two weeks after his first letter to the council he wrote again in the following language: “To the Honored Councill. “Honored Sirs. After my humble duty presented, these are to inform the honored Counsell that Capt. Pool has sent ~~sent~~ to me four times for things specified in the note inclosed, which I had none of but bread and liquors, which he have had but the other things I have none of, and now the rum is all gone, he have had seven gallons of rum all ready, and the soulders, the post passing to and agin and the army have had the rest. All so our men at the Garison want shoes and stockings and shirts very much, they ~~have~~ complaine to me dayly to goe home and supply themselves, but I dare not let them goe, because sum have gon on that account and Cum not agane namely John Boundage of Roxbury and John Orres a smeth of Boston and on Samuel Coffin is Run away. I sent to Mr. Davidson to aquaint authority with it but I heare noe more of it. Heare is but littell of any thinge Left in the Magaseen and if it pleas the honored Council to give me order to remove what is left to me hous, it would be less trouble to me, and if anything else be sent I may have it heare at my own hous.

I have set the garrison souldiers to fortify about my hous, now they have fortified the Magaseen all Redy by my order and soe I intend to employ them for the defense of the Town. I humbly pray this honored Council to send a suply for the souldiers heare at Quaboag (Brookfield) or derection how they shall be suplyed. Capt Wayt commanded me to returne James Chevers for absenting himself after he had prest him, who I have sent to make his own defenc.

Your humble servant John Ruddock, Marlborough, Oct. 13, 1675. “Sum of the garrison souldiers informed me when I was going to seale my letter that the Constable had bene this morning and warned the soldiers to come to me for their victles for the Town would diet them no longer, I desire derection in this case and also that he had warned them that did quarter them to quarter them no more. I am of necessity constrained to provide victles for them till I heare from the Councill how they will order it.” John Ruddock.

History of Hudson, Part 16

as published in the ENTERPRISE, November 18, 1893 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

The first miller in Marlboro, before 1675, was Peter Bent. His son Peter Bent, 9 years old, was scalped. He and their slave Christopher Munchen were taken by Indians. Elizabeth Bent, left a widow with 7 children, is seeking pay. Indians are sold to be slaves of white men

The first corn mill in Marlboro was built before King Philip's war, and not after, as suggested by Hudson in his history of the town. It stood on territory afterwards set off to Southboro. The confirmation of the fact is in the following incident. "Nov. 1, 1675, Capt. Henschman marched with a company of soldiers intending to visit the Indians in and about Hassanimesit, Grafton, noted at that time for its praying Indians. Capt. Henschman marched two days seeing nothing of the Indians. The third day they saw some fires of the Indians, yet could not meet with them that made them; the fourth day they were on the Indian plantation. It was the intention of the captain to take up his quarters of a mile this side of the plantation, but his officers overruled him, to whose importunity he gave way and marched a mile further toward the enemy, and by that means saved the miller's youth taken the week before Marlboro. In the morning very early as the scouts were looking out, they spied a wigwam nearby. When the Indians saw our soldiers they hasted a way and left the Marlboro youth behind them."

The boy's name was Christopher Munchen. He was a slave. He informed the captain that those seven Indians with whom he was taken had seized him at Peter Bent's mill, the day before, and had also seized and scalped a youth about nine years old, that was his master, Peter Bent's son.

Peter Bent went to England after losing his mill and other property, with the evident intention of trying to retrieve his fortunes. He was doomed to failure; he was taken sick and died there. His widow Elizabeth was left with seven children, and in her distress and poverty appealed to the council to pay her money then due in the following petition:

To the Honorable Gov. and councell, sitting in Boston 29th of May 1679.
The petition of Elizabeth Bent, relict widow of Peter Bent, late Marlborough deceased. "Humbly shewth that your Petitioner's Habitation and almost all that she had was consumed by the Indians in the last war, and her husband went for England and there dyed and lost all he carried with him, and left your petitioner a very poore widow with seven children, and in the time of the late war she billited several souldiers so long that her bill did amount to six pounds, and Captain Hull gave her a note to the Constable for the payment of the same, who will pay her only Three pounds in money.

So that she is an Extraordinary Loser thereby. Also she had two horses Impressed, viz. one from Watertowne and another from Charlestowne, which were out many months, and at last dyed, never being returned home to her againe, and being a poore Ignoraant widow, she never looked after her Tickett, -or pay for them, to this day. Your poore petitioner therefore humbly Intreats the favor of your honors to impute this neglect of duty only to her Ignorance, and that the Law, which doth Exclude all persons from making further claims to debts, due from the Country, after the time therein Limited, may not debarr your Petitioner from that which is justly due. So shall your Petitioner and her poore fatherless ones, Ever pray for yr honors etc. Elizabeth Bent.”

June 10, 1679, the “Council” voted to allow her six pounds. The billiting soldiers on the inhabitants was a great burden to them. The families were generally large. The houses were small, the garrets in these houses were almost as proof against wind as bullets. Most of the soldiers were quartered in the garrison in the town. As there are not many living, who know who they were, I will give a list of names. Some reader may recognize the name of an ancestor.

The soldiers were sent at different times and the pay received will give the time of service.

<u>Pound</u>	<u>Shilling</u>	<u>Pence.</u>		<u>Pound</u>	<u>Shilling</u>	<u>Pence</u>
<u>Sep. 21, 1675</u>				<u>Sept. 23, 1675</u>		
Darby Morris	1	13	4	Morgan Jones	8	2
John Dunster	2			Joseph Davis	6	
William Turner	1	19	4	Jonathan Jackson	1	5
Thomas Owen	4	13	4	Obadiah Searle	6	8
Joseph Barker	2	14		Daniel Davidson		
				Commissary	5	14
<u>Nov. 20, 1675</u>				<u>Oct. 19, 1675</u>		
Timothy Laskin	4	13	4	John Cheevers	2	14
William Firman	2	8		Thomas Furnes	2	12
Samuel French	3			William Blackwell	3	2
Richard Young	3	12		Henry Gibbs	3	7
Doniel Roff	3	2		Richard Roberts	4	4
Jacob Adams	4	13				
Daniel Weight	4	13		<u>Feb'y 29, 1676</u>		
John Figg	1	10		Robert Rownden	7	4
John Boughton	2	12		Thomas Owen	2	18
Jonathan Owens	3	12		William Firman	3	17
John Baker	3	8	6	John Gustin	1	19
Richard Young	3	6				
Henry Gibbs	2	19		<u>Mar. 24, 1676</u>		
John Nash		18		Richard Young	13	
Benj. Parmenter	2	3	8			
				<u>April 24, 1676</u>		
<u>June 26, 1676</u>				Thomas Hopkins	9	
Daniel Weight	2	9	8			
John Burgess	3	0	10			

The common **s**oldiers were allowed five shillings a week for “dyet” and six shillings a week for services, horses per week eighteen pence. The clothing was not expensive. Wash coats cost six shillings, drawers five shillings and six pence, stockings two shillings, shirts six shillings shoes four shillings. The equipment of the soldiers was not expensive, the clothing was coarse, but warm. The good wife at the spinning wheel with the light of the candle spun the yarn, that in its various changes by dexterous fingers, gave the apparel worn by largely both sexes. It is surprising that they were able to accomplish so much with the menace of destruction ever before them. Savage and Christian could not long abide in peace on the same soil. Had the whites treated the Indians with more kindness and justice large numbers of them would have been welded into the closest friendship; they would have been faithful allies instead of implacable foes.

The meanness of the whites is seen in their treatment of Job Hattenanit. This Indian with another by the name of James Quannapohit were spies for the English. They visited the camps of the savages and found out their secrets. The loss of many lives and the great destruction of property would have been prevented had their information been accepted, and precautionary measures for safety and protection had been taken by whites. The former Indian had left his wife and children with the hostile Indians to keep faith with the whites. He had a permit to go for them on a certain day and had appointed a place of meeting, when Captain Mosely in command of a company.

Troops in Marlboro objected to this mission of affection and although Captain Wadsworth, Major Thomas Savage and General Daniel Denniston were present and aware of the invaluable services of this poor trusting Indian, the domineering, Indian-hating Mosely would not let him go, and the other officers bowed in abject consent to this inhuman decision. This was about the beginning of March; 1676. Before the month was out the bells of retributive justice were ringing the doom of the town. The Indians were sold into slavery and in August of the above mentioned year† Mosely bought a young Indian boy and girl for twenty dollars, and thirteen squaws and papooses for one hundred dollars. The barbarism of war had closed every pitying eye and stilled every voice of sympathy.

(editor's note: “dyet” = diet.)

History of Hudson, Part 17

as published in the ENTERPRISE, November 25, 1893 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

Sarah Kettles, 17, and young sister taken by Indians from Lancaster, Feb 10, 1676 and escaped, but appeared at the garrison in July pleading for food as they were nearly starved to death. March 1676, Indians raided, taking cattle, burning 16 homes, 13 barns. In another encounter 500-1000 Indians were killed.

Marlboro suffered from the depredations of the Indians previous to the 26th of March, 1676. Earlier in that month on the 13th day, the Indians divided into small parties to destroy the houses that had been vacated by the inhabitants, who brought refuge in the garrisons.

There was a company of militia in the town at the time but the Indians were in such force they were powerless to prevent the destruction of property; another reason, the houses were "very scatteringly built;" they were an agricultural people; To make the tilling of the soil a profitable industry they must have goodly acres of field, meadow and woodland; they secured these, but in those perilous times always lived under the shadow of death. This generation can never realize the horrors of their daily living, the awful suspense and forbodings that clouded their pathway. One incident, a single incident will show how the spirit of heroism filled the heart of womanhood in those days of torture and suffering.

On the ninth of July 1676, Goodwife's Ketels elder daughter, about seventeen years of age, came into the Marlboro garrison bringing her little sister on her back, who was nearly starved to death. They had been taken captive by the Indians, the oldest daughter, watching for an opportunity, eluded the watchful eye of her captors, and after days of hardships, which only the loss of life could have made tolerable, the garrison was reached.

This young lady may have belonged to a family of that name in Lancaster. A number of the family were killed in the massacre of Feb'y tenth, of that year. Sarah Kettles and her little sister escaped at that time. Without doubt they were kept in captivity, until a fortunate moment she found deliverance in flight.

The burning of Marlboro by the Indians on that Sabbath morning in March 1676 is well described in a detailed account to the Council by Capt. Brockleback. His letter sent by post, was a slow and dangerous way of communication with the authorities of Boston. It was the best they could do, for science they had not quickened life with the glory of her greatest triumphs. Brockleback wrote as follows:

"After the duty I owe unto your honour this may let you understand that the enimie made upon the town of Marlboro, upon the sabbath day, did much damage as the inhabitants say, to the burning of the sixteen dwelling houses and thirteen barns, and seemingly did endeavor to draw out the men out of the garrisons, but we, not

knowing their numbers, and our charge of the country's ammunition and provision durst not go out then.

On sabbath day night there came about twenty men from Sudbury, and we out of the severall garisons about twenty men more and in the night they went out to see if they could discover the enemy, and give them some checke in their proceeding. We found them laid by their fires and fired on them, and they run away for the present, but the number being few and not knowing the number of the enemy but apprehending their noyse and firing at them they endeavored to compass them on their returne without the losse of any man, or any wound from the enemy. Only one of my men by the breaking of his gun, his hand is sorely shattered which ~~of~~ want of helpe here I have sent to Charlestowne or elsewhere in the Bay, where your Honors may thinke best for his helpe. We have great reason to acknowledge the goodness of God towards us for his generous preservation of us.

The enemy is gone for the present we apprehend by the scouts that went out yesterday, the which we may expect ere long, will fall on us with greater strength and rage, by reason of the breakfast they had on Monday morning. The scouts found only one Indian dead. This is brief, your honors will understand, how it is with us from him who is your honored servant."

Hudson, in his history of the town says Rev. William Brimsmead was in the pulpit when the Indians made their attack. Another writer says Thomas Graves occupied the pulpit that Sabbath morning. He was afflicted with the toothache and saved many lives. He had a written sermon. "His occasional going from his sermon, being forced thereunto by the extremity of the toothache, discovered the Indians ready to assault the town and the people might have been cut off had the accident not intervened."

There was another destruction of homes on the following 17th day of April. The whole town was abandoned for the greater protection of the garrison and homes in other towns. Captain Brockleback little thought when he so facetiously alluded to the "morning breakfast" they had given the sleeping Indians, that in a few days after the midnight assault, the superior cunning of the stealthy foe was to compass his own death; too impetuous for the exercise of proper caution, he was drawn into ambush. While on the way for relief of Sudbury he and his command went down in the terrible massacre of the 21st of April. He left the Marlboro garrison early in the morning with Captain Wadsworth, their commands flushed with the thought of victory. A number of Indians crossed their path as a decoy. The officers were not sharp enough to see the ruse: they rushed on after the retreating foe, when a thousand of the savages leaped from secret coverts upon them and the most of these brave soldiers were killed.

This same day Capt. Cutler of Charlestown was on his way to Sudbury with a convoy of carts from Marlboro. He secured his carriage at a garrison house, and narrowly escaped being cut off by the enemy. The soldiers and inhabitants in the

Marlboro garrison had no news of the massacre until the next day. That some great disaster had befallen the troops they learned through the action of the Indian who had returned to Marlboro. The account is best given in the letter to the council. "This morning aboute sun two hours high, ye enemie alarmed us by firing and shooting towards ye lowermost garason, nest Sudbury which made us feare ye garason to be in danger, which shooting we afterwards understood was ye enemy killing off cattle. Some after, they gave a shout and came in sight upon ye Indian hill, great numbers of them and one, as their accustomed manner, after a fight, began to signifie to us, how many were slain, they chooped seventy-four times, which we hoped was only to affright us, seeing we had no intelligence of any such thing.

Yet we have reason to fear the worst, considering their numbers, which we apprehend to be five hundred at ye least. Others thinke a thousand. The most of yein hastened towards ye north west side of ye town firing ye remainder of ye garrison houses and others that were deserted as ye went. They have been hunting in all quarters of ye town, to kill and take what cattle that were without command of the four garrisons that yet remain. Severall of ye foremost houses of this town next to Sudbury have been fired now towards night which gives reason to thinke that ye enemie has not yet departed from us. This I thought it my duty to give a briefe account of ye present proceedings of ye enemie to your Honors. Leaving it with your Wisdoms. Consideration. Begging pardon for this, my boulderness, I remain, your Honor's humble servant. Richard Jacobs."

History of Hudson, Part 18

as published in the ENTERPRISE, December 9, 1893 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

An elderly Englishman is overtaken and murdered by an Indian and the body mangled, as was common. Likewise when King Philips was captured and killed, his body was dismembered by the whites. The massacre at Lancaster had been forewarned by a friendly Indian but was ignored. The inhabitants of Marlboro had been left in deplorable condition.

During the massacre of the troops from the Marlboro garrison under Capts. Wadsworth and Brockleback, an incident occurred showing the God-defying nature of the untutored savage. An elderly Englishman endeavored to escape, and had reached the swamp in Sudbury, where he was overtaken by an Indian. A writer of those times describes the tragic end of the poor prisoner in the following quaint language. "Being destitute of weapons to defend himself or assail him, the Indian insulted over him, with that blasphemous expression, 'Come Lord Jesus and save this poor Englishman if thou canst, who I am about to kill.' It was heard by another Englishman hid in a bush close by. Our patient long suffering Lord, permitted that Bloody wretch to knock him down, and leave him dead." The fiendish nature of the Indian is seen too, in their treatment of the dead. They would cut off their fingers and making them into bracelets, wear them round their necks. They would take long strips of skin from the bodies of the whites, and dress it, wearing it round their waist. The whites had a touch of a kindred spirit. After the death of King Philip the troops under Capt. Church quartered King Philip and hung each quarter on four different trees. They took his head to the Plymouth fort, and stuck the ghastly trophy on a pole at the main entrance to the fort. There the fleshless head, the sockless eyes still glaring defiance, and the jaws, grinning a deathless hate, was permitted to remain for nearly thirty years. Rev. Cotton Mather was at the fort about the year 1700. He saw the skull and removing the lower jaw, carried away so much of the "Murderous Leviathan."

The Indians had a comical side to their nature. In the town of Swansey they went to the house of one of the inhabitants to grind their hatchets. The owner told them it was "the sabbath day and their God would be very angry if he let them do it." The Indians replied "they knew not who his God was, and that they would do it for all him or his God either." After this the Indians met a man, kept him captive for a short time and let him go with the injunction "He should not work on the sabbath day and he should tell no lies."

The Indian with all his cruelty was often a faithful ally. Lancaster would have been saved from destruction Feb'y 10, 1676 had the whites listened to the warnings of friendly Indians. See that faithful Indian Job Kettanamit, dragging his weary feet through the deep snows from New Braintree to the door of Major Gookin in Cambridge, telling the major the Indians would attack Lancaster the next morning. Mayor Gookin believed this devoted friend of the whites and did what Paul Revere

immortalized himself in doing one hundred years after. He sent a man on a midnight ride to Marlboro.

He reached the garrison before daylight and gave the alarm. Capt. Wadsworth set out without delay, with forty men for Lancaster, he was too late, the whites had got their "morning breakfast" this time, one eighth of the inhabitants had been slain before his arrival, some forty in number, and their homes were in ashes. All would have been saved had action been taken after the Indians' first warning. The situation of the whites was dismal enough but every man had the makeup of a hero. The great problems of liberty and civilization were not finally to perish on the edge of a tomahawk or a scalping knife.

After the deaths of Cpts. Brockleback and Wadsworth, Secretary Rawson of the council sent Lieut. Jacobs of Marlboro the following order under date Apr. 22, 1676: Lieut. Jacobs: Yesterday, upon the council hearing the sad intelligence of yor captain and Capt. Wadsworth's death, ordered your taking the charge of the soldiers of Marlborough, since which I received yours of 22 April giving intelligence of the enemyes infesting yor quarters, and appearance in a body of at least 500, and these wasting by fyres which they can come at, so driving cattle. Yesterday was ordered eighty troopers to advance and observe the motions of the enemy. Yor two souldiers return with a party of horse to Sudbury and so with these to you, I desire your vigilance and care for preserving of your men and which is under your charge, and you shall have further orders, so soon as the councell meete. Desiring God's presence and assistance of you."

On the 24th of April Lieutenant Jacobs wrote his second letter to the council. It shows the deplorable condition of the inhabitants left in Marlboro at the time. We give this letter as it is worth reading.

"Having now received information of God's further frowns on ye country in suffering two such worthy captains to fall before ye enemy, whom we might have hope to have been instruments of more good in these troublesome times. But in this God's will is done. Receiving an order from your honors, wherein your Honors are pleased to devolve the charge and betrusement of your late Capt. Brockleback upon me, for which I am sensible of my insufficiency and incapacity. Yet since it is your Honors pleasure to require me to certefy your Honor's of ye state of ye souldiers and of ye place, that I shall readily have, here is remaining of our company about forty six, whereof are young souldiers left here by Capt. Wadsworth, being unable to march. The town is wholly consumed, excepting four garasons that were saved when the enemy were last with us. All ye cattle without reach of ye garasons are lost. One of ye garason houses, which we judged to be most fitt your coptain who your Honors did apoint to order, according to his direction for a stated garason, now burned by reason of ye inhabitants not attending, thereunto, everyone being careful to secure his private interests; here is remaining only these two houses where the magazine. Yes that are in capacity to assist each other, ye other two lying at a greater with other inconveniences, may it please you Honors further to order eto ye state of our

company being such as generally live upon husbandry, and seed time being now far spent, which be prejudicall to ourselves, and others, if ye season so slip. But I shall leave that to your honorable consideration, only begging pardon for my bouldness, I rest your Honors servant to my best ability, Richard Jacobs.”

Postscript. Some of ye principle of ye townsmen, in behalf of ye rest yt are yet remaining, which are but few, would desire your Honors to consider the present condition being altogether incapable of remaining without assistance, both with carts and a guard, they are destitute of carts, their teams being at Sudbury and not daring to return. Removing of their goods if your Honors see meete to grant it or otherwise willing to refer their loss to your Honors’ further consideration.” Marlboro for a time was abandoned. The sufferings and horrors that were crowded upon her citizens in 14 months of savage King Philip was a very Hannibal in his masterly and adroit leadership of the Indians. Fifty towns were wholly or partly destroyed. Rachel mourned for her dead in every home. Smouldering ruins of the death of all joys, and the grave of hope. But the valor and skill of the whites prevailed. It became a fight for existence and in such a contest the barbarian went down.

“Where are those warriors, red and grim
Who from the thicket sprang,
And aimed their deadly weapons sure
And mocked the tortures pang?
Where are those flying forms that loved
The bounding deer to trace,
And stay the sunwards eagle’s flight.
Where is that forest race?”

History of Hudson, Part 19

as published in the ENTERPRISE, December 23, 1893 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

In 1844, there was interest in forming a Baptist Church. Cox's Hall was rented for 12 Sabbaths. By July 1845, the congregation moved to Manson's Hall, larger and more comfortable with settees. A Sabbath school was formed. Rev. L.E. Wakefield comes in 1845.

In the year 1844 it entered into the thought of Baptist denomination that Feltonville, in Marlboro, was very inviting field for a mission of their church; the two prime movers, to the manor born, were Elbridge and George W. Chipman. In boyhood days they were on farms and in store in this place and neighborhood. These young men knew the religious needs of the people. Mr. Chipman went to Father Fittz and requested him to go up and look the field over. "Why I have not got any money." He handed him three dollars, when he took the stage, Col. Daniel Pope, the driver and came lumbering over the dusty road to Feltonville. He talked with the people of the place and as a result of his observations and inquiries returned to Boston and reported it a very promising field for gospel work. Darling and Chipman had little capital, outside of native grit. They went to Boston in the days of youth and quickened in spiritual life, joined the churches in that city. Enthusiastic in the welfare to Feltonville they gave Father Fittz fifty dollars each and sent him back to smite the rock of salvation for this people. Cox's hall connected with the tavern and Manson's hall were the only halls in the place. The preference was given to Cox's hall. The hall was hired first for twelve Sabbaths. I give the original bill as it shows the time of the first meeting.

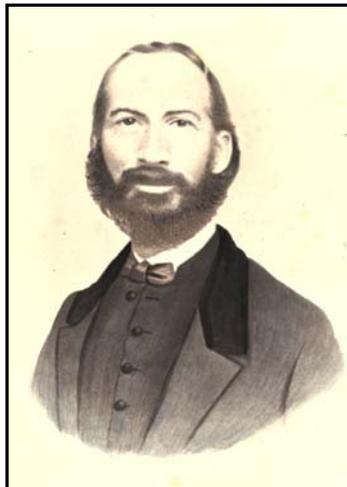
"Elbridge Darling to Loring Cox, April 14, 1844. To use of my hall 12 following sabbaths \$12. Rec'd Payment." The furnishings of the hall were cheap. On the east side of the hall, was a box stove, the box seats without backs required a careful balance and an attentive listener. There was no sleeping off a poor sermon in those meetings. The minister stood on the south side of the hall. Before him was a pine table and upon the table a large red trunk. On the trunk lay the Bible, thus equipped the faithful missionary imparted its unsearchable riches to those who were sitting in his presence. After the first meeting the question on continuing the meeting was open for the decision of the audience. Col. William H. Wood, who died in 1864, spoke in favor, followed by others in the same friendly spirit. These kind words were the life blood of that spiritual current that has flowed on for half a century in this place.

A Sabbath school was soon organized. The first superintendent of the school was Abram Tyler, who held the office for two years. He is still living in the fullness of his years on Brigham St. The teachers were Mrs. Rufus Stratton, Mrs. Dana Brigham, Mrs. Asa Hapgood, Mrs. Reuben Hapgood, Mrs. Nixon Graves, and others. The scholars were the children of most of the families in the place. Our enterprising merchant, Solon Wood, was one of those scholars. The library of the school was in the

old red trunk, which was a section of the minister's pulpit. Father Fittz stopped about three months; he preached week days, as well as on the Sabbath, he carried the gospel from house to house. The two first baptized into the church were Mrs. Rufus Coolidge, now living at eighty years of age, and Mrs. William Chase. The next three converts were Mrs. F. L. Brigham, Mrs. Rufus Stratton, and Mrs. Walter Bruce, his first wife. Some of the recruits had been previously immersed by advent preachers, and a few others already members of Baptist churches.

Father Fittz was followed by Amory Gale, a student in the seminary at Newton. He was here in the fall of 1844, and was especially active in his efforts to increase numbers and worth of Sabbath school. He was followed by Rev. Lucas Holmes from Edgartown, who preached until April, 1845; from this time until the following July, various ministers and students broke the bread of life to this society. On the first Sunday in July, which was the glorious Fourth, Rev. L. E. Wakefield from Hopkinton, R. I., began his work here. At this time the Baptists left the hall in the tavern and went across the road into Manson's hall. Settees were placed in this hall and they added greatly to the comfort of churchgoers, although the cushioned seat was a luxury that had not reached the place.

The pine table and the old red trunk still served as pulpit. The choir was led by F. D. Brigham who played on the fiddle and bass viol. The singers were William Horton, Silas Hapgood, Walter Bruce and wife, Nathan Coolidge and wife, Mrs. Asa Hapgood and others. Two long benches run the length of the hall. These were formerly occupied by dancers who made merry the hours, when Silas Felton ran the hotel connected with the hall. At the east end of the hall, sitting on one of these benches, could be seen during the services two venerable men Moses Wood and Benjamin Prentiss at the time of their death, 85 and 97 years of age.



Rev. Wakefield

Rev. L.E. Wakefield preached in his first sermon in Feltonville from the following text: "If the son shall make you free, you shall be free indeed." He preached until Oct. 1, 1848 when his labors for a while were over. In Oct. 1847 Moses Kelly of Maine came here and held protracted meetings. The unregenerate element was conspicuous in hostility to the preacher. This element indulged in various threats and encroached on the harmony of worship by stoning the hall and by other methods of overt acts tried to break up the meetings. A few were converted at time. I shall continue this history of the Baptist church. After this is finished I will give the history of the Methodists who commenced their labors nearly a century ago.

History of Hudson, Part 20

as published in the ENTERPRISE, December 30, 1893 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

A newly built Baptist Church dedicated Sept 7, 1851. A church bell is purchased Jan 26, 1853. List of preachers, members, choir, maintenance by the ladies of the church. 170 Baptists from North Cambridge visited worship and a great meal.

Before the first meetings of the Baptists in Feltonville, many of this faith were connected with the church in Bolton. In 1847 they withdrew from the church in Bolton and united with the church in Southboro, then in charge of Rev. John Alden. After the departure of revivalist Kelly from this place, Minister Alden continued the work and baptized three persons. The baptismal robes came from Boston. They were procured by Elbridge Darling. He continued to furnish them when needed for eight years. When in the place these robes were in the care of Mrs. Lydia Peters, wife of George Peters, who settled here in 1799; she was the mother of the late Deacon John H. Peters. The baptisms were in the Assabet river near the factories of F. Brigham & Co., above and below the dam; the last place the "old pout hole," opposite where R. H. Brigham now resides. There was a baptism in this place that fateful Sabbath morning in April 1861, when the news came during the ceremony that the rebels had fired on Fort Sumter. The Baptists were full of zeal and while in Manson's Hall they had much opposition, even from the boys. There was a large shed under the hall; on one occasion the boys rolled a hogshhead close to the hall; during the revival service they kept up a din and racket, the minister keeping right on sowing the seed among the "tares."

This hall was used for several years, George E. Manson charging nothing for its use. Elbridge Darling was an active working for this society. Believing the effectual, fervent prayer of the righteous availeth much, the Baptists in all their homes, at the hour of nine in the evening were to pray for the blessing of God on their present and future work. The Manson hall was not large enough for the numbers who attended the meetings. A new church was needed and under the leadership of Rev. A. E. Battelle went to work to raise the money.

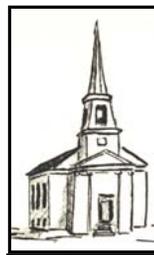
After many months of hard work some \$3300 was secured. Stephen Pope gave the land, the church was built by Capt. Albert Grant. The edifice was finished and dedicated Sept. 7, 1851. The dedicatory services were as follows: "Invocation, by Rev. M. Curtis of Southboro, Prayer by Rev. L. E. Wakefield of Barnstable, sermon by Rev. W. H. Shailer of Brookline, from John iv.24. "God is a spirit and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." Prayer of dedication by Rev. Hervey Fittz of Ashland. Closing prayer by W.C. Child of Framingham. Benediction by Rev. A. E. Battelle of Feltonville., A public notice of the service is as follows:

"The services were brief but exceedingly appropriate. In this award the exercises of a large choir deserve mention. The sermon especially was pertinent, well executed and impressive. A full congregation was in attendance."

No Baptist church has yet been formed in Feltonville, although for years a few there aided by the appropriations and watchful care of the convention have sustained the stated preaching of the word, "the pastoral labor."

The church now erected is near and attractive, especially in its interior finish, and is the only one for religious worship in the place. "May the prayers of the occasion, that this chapel may be the birthplace of many souls, and a fountain of spiritual good to a needy population, meet with abundant answers of blessing." On Sept. 10, 1851 there was a meeting of the Baptist church in the village. Letters from Baptist churches were read, dismissing and recommending the following persons as worthy of fellowship in the membership of the new church: Nixon Graves, Josiah Q. Packard, Mrs. Mary Hapgood, Sarah P. Brigham, Harriet H. Coolidge, Lydia V. B. Chase, Anne M. Randall, Lucy W. Peters, Scripta Graves, Mary Ann Packard, Laura A. Coolidge, and Sarah E. Bruce. On Sept. 15, 1857, the first board of trustees of the new church was chosen as follows: Francis Dana Brigham, George E. Manson, Benjamin W. Gleason, Josiah Q. Packard, George W. Chipman. In the early years of the church the choir was led by F. D. Brigham and Henry T. French. The ladies took care of the interior of the house. Mrs. B. W. Gleason came from Rockbottom broom in hand and with other ladies thus prepared, would sweep out the house Saturday afternoons.

They were willing to do the most menial work sitting at the feet of the master, their souls glowing with the joy of his presence. This devoted little band have long since passed on to their reward. Rev. A. E. Battelle terminated his labors here and Rev. L. E. Wakefield renewed his pastoral relations with the church May 1, 1852. The church had no bell to announce the time of service. They went to work and raised \$3300, purchased a bell weighing 851 pounds, put it in the belfry of the church Jan. 26, 1853. Henry R. Glover of Cambridge spent his summers for many years in this village. He was one of the most sincere, whole souled Christians that ever carried the cross of Christ: he worked with a power and influence that will never be lost. Aug. 1, 1856 was a festal day for the Baptist church and inhabitants of Feltonville.



Early Baptist
Church on
Church St -
1851

The North Cambridge Baptist church had been previously invited to come to this place and on that day 170 persons came from that city. Across the street where the Methodist and Unitarian churches now stand was a transparency, reading "Feltonville Welcomes North Cambridge." There was not a secret society in the place at that time; only one organization, the Hydraulic Engine Co. This body of men turned out and did escort duty, the citizens generally without regard to church affiliations were in the procession. There were no winding streets to march over. They took a bee line for Stuart's woods, beyond Tripp's box shop. Tables were set and all partook of a bounteous meal. A platform was near. Rev. L. E. Wakefield, George W. Chipman, Henry R. Glover, Hon. J. M. S. Williams and others were the speakers of the occasion.

This was only 37 years ago. At that time from the Baptist church for a mile beyond on the north side of Main street to the residence of Benjamin Hastings, it was open stretch of field. Now this territory is covered by hundreds of homes and places of business.

History of Hudson, Part 21

as published in the ENTERPRISE, January 6, 1894 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

With the onset of the Civil War, a daily meeting for worship at 6 PM was started everyday for 6 years by Rev. Wakefield. He visited with all the soldiers leaving for war.

The greatest revival of religion ever known in the Baptist church was in 1857 during the "great revival that went with mighty power all over the republic; all nations were shaken at that time by a presence and voice deeper and more convicting than that which thundered on the heights of Sinai.

At the noon hour the bell rung out its invitation to come up to the house of God. Workmen crowded the little vestry of the church. The eloquent voice of Rev. L. E. Wakefield was never heard to better advantage than when he appealed to his hearers to enrich themselves with those things relating to the higher life of the soul that was to course the ages of immortality.

The time of meeting was changed afterward to 6 p.m. For six years Mr. Wakefield continued his daily meetings. No discouragements could cloud his spirit, or dim his living hope of ultimate success. Personally he called upon every business man in the place. "I have a message to bring you today. Come to the Savior." This humble Christian preached for \$550 a year and found no time to listen to calls to pulpits with larger salaries. One evening in 1861 the patriotic people of Feltonville and vicinity, in crowds, never seen upon the streets before, were raising flags in different parts of the village. Mr. Wakefield stood upon the flat roof house, where N.G. Tripp now lives. The procession was delayed, the hour of 6 p.m. had arrived. He quietly left the roof and went to the house of prayer.

The first soldier brought from the battle field was Joseph Francis, a young French man. The funeral service was held on the green in front of the Baptist Church. Mr. Wakefield thrilled all hearts as with the matchless tongue he pictured in all the loftiness and beauty of speech, the heroic service and martyr death of the brave soldier.

He was a tireless laborer for the soldier and visited those that went from this place, as they stood on the southern soil, waiting the onset of battle. On account of failing health Mr. Wakefield was obliged to temporarily vacate his pulpit. In the fall of 1863, he went to Minnesota and was away for six months. During his absence the pulpit was occupied by Rev. John Blain, the revivalist. Twelve hundred persons were said to have been converted under his preaching in different places. Mr. Wakefield returned to this place and his pulpit in April 1864.

On the evening of the fifteenth of this month, a good sum of money having been contributed by friends, Mr. Wakefield was invited to meet them in the Baptist Church, the Hon. Benjamin W. Gleason of Rockbottom presiding over the meeting. In fitting words of congratulation and welcome the purse of money, \$110, was placed

in the reverend gentleman's hand. He replied in an impromptu speech. We give his reply entire that his generation may better appreciate the Christian worth and eloquence of this great pulpit orator: "The kind words you have spoken, the generous gift you have put into my hand, were not needed to assure me that we have firm and true friends here, but they do make me feel as never before.

As it ever is with such affection it does not stop to make a cool estimate of the descent of those on whom it is bestowed. It is lavish of its love and unstinted in the tokens of its devotion. I must interpret your favored expressions by the laws that govern the language of the heart. I have indeed sought to deserve the esteem of those who love truth and right.

It has been a maxim with me to stand on that I felt to be true, let come what would. I have not always been able to see as others did, and I have I know more than once perplexed my friends by the course I felt obligated to pursue. I had to speak what they would have left unsaid. I did what they would have left undone, but though perplexed they never forsook me. They gave me their hearts when they would not give me their heads, and I may say as the result of some experience, that for a few years only, not to speak of the eternal years of God, it is better to stand by the truth and keep safe the integrity of one's own character. To do this you must sometimes stand alone and breast the rushing current of popular feeling. But this soon sweeps by. It does not need very much of courage to stand firm against it, and one will be the stronger for doing it. Soon too, he will find, more likely than not, that which beat against him became a strong 'tide taken at the flood' to bear him right on to success. I rejoice to have the people with me, to feel the inspiration of their enthusiastic support pouring itself in upon all of faculty there is in me, to impart to me a new energy. Surely I may feel this joy tonight. Only two kind in enthusiastic in its regard for me are the sentiments of this people, that speak through you tonight. Let me thank you and them most heartily. This hour will cheer me in dark days if they shall come and make even the bright ones brighter; and both will come.

Your touching illusions to the past, to those who have passed before us, call up a host of tender memories. The loved ones, the true hearted, come to visit us once more; their forms have faded, but they live; they have fallen asleep. I thank God tonight that he has permitted me to know and labor with them and with those who are gathered around me now. No heartier prayer have I breathed for aught of earthly concern than this, that it may please my master to let my work be done with and for his people, that where they die I might die, and mingle my ashes with theirs in their final resting places. And may it be our lot and theirs, when life's work is well and truly done, to give each other a happier greeting in that better land, where the tearful farewell does not so soon force its way to the lips of those who have just spoken the glad welcome. No shadow chases the sunlight there, no night swallows up the day, sickness does not waste, nor toil weary the dweller on the 'evergreen' shore. There may we all enjoy the pure and blissful reunions of the redeemed."

Rev. John Blain was then introduced to Mr. Wakefield and in a speech most solemn and tender, returned to him the old Bible whose lifegiving truth he had so

faithfully uttered for the last six months. The golden-tongued Wakefield was again heard in the following reply:

“My brother, in my long absence from this people, it has been a source of truest joy to me to know that under your wise and faithful ministrations and counsels, the work of God has grown and multiplied. It is not always an easy task to take the place of another and assume responsibilities that are to be laid down on his return; self-forgetfulness if not self-sacrifice will be demanded. That you have been willing to meet this demand, claims from me no slight degree of gratitude. Most truly would I thank you for all the love you have given to this people, for all the earnest behavior bestowed on them.

They are bound to me by so many ties of association and obligation, I have learned so to identify myself with them, that in my inmost soul I feel that whoever does work for them does it for me; whoever throws light on their pathway brightens mine, and I rejoice exceedingly that you have not only gone forth weeping bearing precious seed, but you have come again bringing sheaves with you. There are hours if not moments of joy so rich, so full of entrancing rapture, that one might well give whole years, if not life times of ordinary existence to win them; but is there among men a richer, a more rapturous or sacred delight, than that which thrills the spirit of him who watches for souls, when the prodigal, torn and starving, comes to the father’s arms and the father’s home?

I thank God this joy has often been yours, and this my brother, is not the last or best of your reward. When the master makes up his jewels, when those you have led to the lamb shall walk with you in white, then, better than now, will you know the true grandeur and worth of the work you have done. May these and many more rejoice with you then.”

Henry R. Glover and George S. Rawson were then introduced to Rev. Mr. Blain. In words full of tenderness and appreciation they presented him with a beautiful cane, silver headed and elegantly chased, an album and a purse of money. His reply and farewell to those assembled was most solemn and affecting.

History of Hudson, Part 22

as published in the ENTERPRISE, January 13, 1894 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

By 1874, the congregation needed a larger church. Henry Glover and Francis Dana Brigham each pledged \$5000. The new church was dedicated Oct. 23, 1877.

Rev. L. E. Wakefield continued to preach until Oct. 1, 1864. On the first Sabbath in the month he preached his farewell sermon from the text "Love one another." The work of the pastor was through on the Earth. Never of rugged health, of the slightest build, yet by careful observation of the laws of health he wrought mightily for God and man for many years.

In leaving Feltonville he said: "I cut myself adrift from the dearest friends and associations of my life and yet I do not complain. I have sown, another may reap; it matters not so that the golden grain may be gathered in."

He went to Monticello, Minnesota, and died in this place May 9, 1865. It was a source of great joy to him that he lived to see the end of the war before he went within the veil of the brighter mansion to the rewards of a child of God.

A call to the pastorate of the church having been extended to Rev. E. H. Page of Brooklyn, N. Y., he accepted a call to this church, was ordained as pastor. He severed his connection with the church Oct. 4, 1870. Rev. W. H. S. Ventries was invited to the pulpit Jan. 29, 1871. He served as pastor of this church for seven years.

As early as 1874 the Baptists were talking of their need of a larger and more commodious church. The little church was repaired in 1862 at an expense of \$548.10. Further expense was not thought wise on a building too small for the rapidly increasing audiences, gained largely by the growth of the town. As there are supreme moments, that cast their light shadow for centuries in the life of nations, so the hour was reached in the life of this church when men of deeds, not of breath, were needed, Two men stood ready who with a single stroke of pen made the building of the new church an assured fact. The names of the two men were Henry R. Glover and Francis Dana Brigham. They subscribed \$5000 each. The benevolent spirit and great love of Mr. Brigham for this church is best revealed in the remarkable fact that his gift represented one-tenth of all he was worth at that time. Deacon George H. Chipman of Cambridge gave \$500. Others came forward with liberal gifts until the amount needed for the erection of a fine edifice was secured.

The contract for building was awarded to William Rawson of Boston for \$14000. The cornerstone was laid Dec. 2 1875. Under the corner stone was placed a box containing valuable church documents, photographs of pastors of the church, the building committee, the old church, views of the town, kernels of corn, letter to future generations by Wilbur F. Brigham, coins of various kinds and papers of the day. In

Oct. 1877 the new church was finished. The beautiful marble pulpit inside the church was the gift of Nathan Piper. The memorial window was the gift of various individuals.

Oct. 21, the last religious gathering was held in the old church. Around the pulpit were seen all that was loveliest in flower and leaf. In the chancel, raised above the pulpit, was a cross, festooned with autumn leaves and with its background of moss; twining through this were the words "Farewell Sabbath Home." Yes! The hour of farewell had come; Winter's snows might robe the earth, returning springtime unlock to view all the beauties of a renewing life, expiring nature drop her various garb and lay down to rest in Autumn, year after year, century after century, yet only in memory, in tradition, in history, will knowledge be given of this old anchor of Christian hope and trust. In the audience and taking an active part was the Rev. A. E. Battelle who preached the first sermon in the old church in 1851.

His address was founded on the text, 1st John 4,9. The other concert exercises were songs by Gertie Peters, Lilly French, and Willie Francis. Recitaions by Colin Campbell, Abby Bruce, Lizzie Eaton, Susie Campbell, Clarence Bruce, Alice Robinson, Lilly French, Sarah Rice, Cora Witt, Mary Bruce, Edith Moody, Grace Robinson, Grace Campbell, and Lizzie Bruce. Readings by Mary Busfield and Jessie Fairbanks, farewell essay by Carrie Rice, impressive remarks by Henry R. Glover, Charles H. Rice and Sanford B. Ring. "The Sweet Bye & Bye." Was sung and the record of the old church was ended.

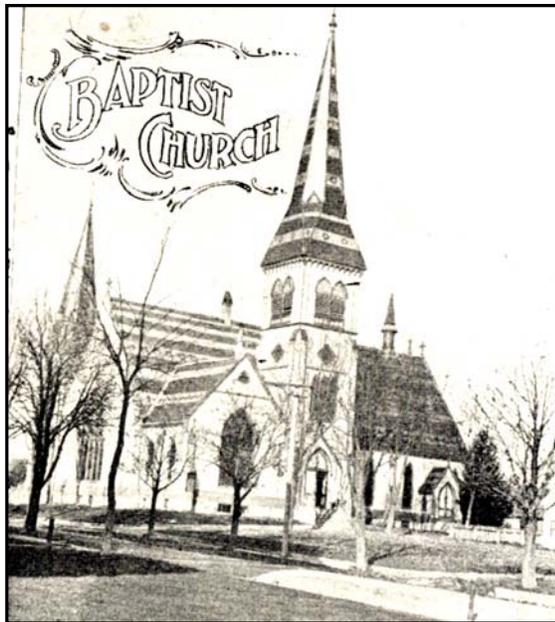
The power and influence of this old watch tower for God is not better expressed than in the words of the late Henry R. Glover to one of his Sabbath school scholars. "How the earlier associations of our lives were awakened by what we were permitted to enjoy yesterday afternoon. How many green sports are brought to mind and how the scholars of those days came back, and vividly appeared to me, as I, in my mind's eye, saw them during the exercises, as I went back and lived over again our meeting in the old meeting house. We never shall be any happier than we were in those days. How many have gone to their heavenly homes? My prayer is that I may always live so as to exert a good influence for my master. I daily pray that I may be kept as long as life lasts so as not to bring disgrace on the cause of Christ. I could write sheets referring to the many delightful incidents of my early days in Feltonville. Yes, I call it Feltonville because all these delightful events of my youth occurred with that name."

Tuesday, Oct. 23, 1877, the new church was dedicated; the exercises were as follows: Invocation by Rev. A. E. Battelle; reading of Scriptures by Rev. Mr. Edwards; hymn 942; psalmist, read by J.T. Burhoe of Marlboro; prayer by Rev. H. G. Gay, a former pastor; original hymn by Miss Phoebe A. Holder; dedicated sermon by Rev. W.S. Apsey of Cambridge; prayer by Rev. F. E. Tower of Boston, anthem by the choir; address by Rev. Hervey Fitz, the first preacher in Cox's hall in 1844; benediction by W. H. S. Ventries. Three hundred persons then partook of a collation provided by the ladies. In the evening there was a reunion of the members of the

church society and their friends, presided over by Deacon George W. Chipman of Boston. Addresses were made by Father Fittz, Henry R. Glover, F. D. Brigham Elbridge Darling, Revs. William A. Hambleton, Henry G. Gay, A. E. Batelle and F. E. Tower. The church was now fully dedicated-, as a sower of the golden harvest grain, the full fruitage best known in eternity. The value of the church property in 1877 was estimated to be \$23,389.79. Rev. Francis S. Bacon was ordained as pastor of the church June 21, 1878.

He was a tireless worker and thirty seven conversions were the result of his first year's labor with this people. He was pastor of the church for 10 years. He then resigned for a larger field of labor in Marblehead. June 13th, 1888. H. Francis Perry was ordained as pastor. He resigned in 1891. Rev. Arthur Crane was engaged. He preached a few months and resigned. In April, 1892, Rev. Frederick H. Gile was called to the pulpit and continued to preach until November, 1893.

Within a short time two of the most active members of this church have passed away. Mrs. F. D. Brigham and Henry R. Glover. The first named gave the church \$4000, , the last named \$2500. With this fund, a block is now being erected on Church street. Equipped with every need for spiritual and material progress and success, this church was the blessedness of vast good accomplished in half a century of life, will still be a mighty factor in gleanings souls for him whose kingdom is not of this world.



Baptist Church, 1877

History of Hudson, Part 23

as published in the ENTERPRISE, January 20, 1894 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

In 1699, a bridge was to be built where Washington St. Bridge now stands. No dam. The will of Joseph Howe is given in entirety, 1300 acres land, 1442 pounds value.

The citizens of Marlboro in town meeting Oct. 2, 1699, voted to build a bridge over the Assabet River in the northerly part of town where the Washington Street Bridge now stands. Ebenizer Howe and Joseph Howe were chosen to be foremen to carry on the work of hewing, framing and raising the above said bridge; they shall be allowed two shillings and sixpence per day. The locality was known as Howe's Mills. The growth of this part of town was checked by the death of Joseph Howe in 1701. Three of his children were not of age at the time of his death. The estate was not divided until 1718. It was one of the very first estates ever divided in this part of town. We will give the original document by showing how it was divided. The bounds and the names of the settlers of that early time in our history will interest the citizen of today. We wish to show how the land covering the present town of Hudson was disposed of, or the larger part of it, during the first two hundred years; who built the first houses, started the first business enterprise during this time. This can be done now, but it will be more difficult matter for the historian a half a century from now. Much would be lost beyond recovery. Howe's property was divided as set forth in the following to the court:

Honored Sir in observance to the order you sent us we have appraised the Real Estate which Joseph How Late of Marlborough Deceased: Died Sezed of Lying in the Towns of Marlborough Lancaster & Westborough and we find it to the best of our judgments to be worth one thousand four hundred forty two pounds which we have Devided into seven parts or portions as followeth: to Joseph Eldest son of Sd Joseph How two parts viz the home place being 50 acres whereon the mansion hous Stands with Sd hous & ye Rest of the Building fences & orchards upon it Also 27 acres & an half acre of woodland & swomp Land Lying at additionhill And 8 acres of wood Land Lying at west-hill being all Bounded as it stands Recorded in Marlborough town book of Records. Also a piece of meadow Known by the name of Rock-meadows being a part of pond meadow the Deviding Line Between this and the meadow Set of for Abraham the 2d son to be the Cartway over the Brook at the Little pond Also the one half of the Lot of Cedar Swomp Granted to John Rudduck in a Little Swomp near Rock-hill Bounded northerly by a Lot of Swomp in the possession of the heirs of Capt Samuell Brigham Southerly by a part of the Sd Swomp Set of for his Brother Abraham Also a fourteen acre town Right in the town of Marlborough within the Cow-commons & without viz all the town Right that any ways arises from 14 acres of the House lot Also a fifteen pond town Right in the town of Lancaster the Sd Joseph to pay Twenty three pounds mony to his Sister Bethyah

And To Abraham the Second Son of the Sd Joseph How one hundred acres & 12 Rods of Land Lying at pond- meadow with all the meadows Lying with the Sd Land the meados Known by the name of uperbrook, meadow midlebrook meadow Lower Brook

meadow & Rorsoe meadow the parting Line Between it & the meadow Set off for Joseph to be the Cartway over the Brook at the Little pond above mentioned all the Sd Land and meadow Bounded as it is Recorded in Marlborough town Book of Records Also one quarter part of the Lot of Cedar Swamp Granted to John Rudduck in a Little Swamp near Rock-hill Bounded northerly by a part of the Sd Swamp set off for his Brother Joseph Southerly by a part of the Sd Swamp Set off for his Brother Jedediah

Also an eight acre town Right in the town of Marlborough within the Cow-Commons and without viz all the town Right that any ways arises from eight acres of the houselot Also a nine pound town Right in the town of Lancaster the Sd Abraham to pay eight pounds mony to his Sister Behiah and one pound in mony to his sister Sarah.

And To Jedediah the third Son of the Sd Joseph How one hundred and fifty acres of Land Lying in the town of Westborough Lying all in one intier pece with all the Swamp & meadow Contained in it Bounded as it Stands Recorded in Marlborough town Book of Records. Also all the meadows Granted unto John Rudduck in the three Great meadows viz Coldharbor meadow middlemeadow & Chancy meadow the Sd meadow Bounded as it Stands Recorded to John Ruduck in Marlborough town Book of Records Also fourty one acres of Land Latly taken up westerly of Coldharbor the Countee Road Runin through it all the Sd Land & meadow Lying in Westborough Also one quarter part of the Lot of Cedar Swamp Granted unto John Rudduck in a Little Swamp near Rock-hill Bounded northerly by a part of the Sd Swamp Sett off to his Brother Abraham every other way by upland & meadows Also a Seven acre & town Right in the town of Marlborough within the Cow-Commons & without viz all the town Right that any ways arises from Seven acres of the houselot Also a nine pound town Right in the town of Lancaster.

And To Jeremiah Barstow Husband to Sarah Eldest daughter to Joseph How 143 acres & 40 Rods of Land Lying in the town of Marlborough on Both Sids of Assabeth River on the East Side of the Road Going to Lancaster Bounded westerly by the Sd Lancaster Road every other way as it is Butted and Bounded in Marlborough town Book of Records. Also a piece of meadow Lying on the northerly Side of Assabeth River Commonly Known by the name of the upper pece at the River Bounded Southerly by Sd River westerly by the meadow of John Bouker every other way by the upland granted from the meadow Sett off for Bethiah where the upland comes nearest the River Also one third part of a Lot of Cedar Swamp Granted upon ye Right of John Rudduck Lying in Chancy Swamp Bounded westerly by the Lot Granted to Richard Newton Easterly by a part of Sd Swamp Sett off to Thomas Amsden. Also a Seven acre town Right in the town of Marlborough with the Cow-Commons & without viz: all the town Right that any ways arises from Seven acres of the hous-lot Also a nine pound town Right in the town of Lancaster Also Twenty Shillings in mony to be paid to Abraham How.

And to Thomas Amsden Husband to Eunice Second Daughter to Sd Joseph How 137 acres & 104 Rods of Land 117 acres & 104 Rods is Lying in the town of Marlborough on both Sids of Assabeth River ajoyning to the Rivermeadow Granted to John Rudduck 82 acres & 104 Rods thereof is Lying on the Southerly Side of Sd River And 35 acres is Lying on the northerly side of Sd River all Bounded as it stands Recorded in Marlborough town Book of Records And Twenty Acres is Lying in the town of Lancaster

Bounded easterly by the Land of John Banister ever other way by Common Land Also all the meadow upon the River above mentioned that Lies on the southerly Side of Sd River viz that was Granted to John Rudduck for part of his ten acres of meadow there Also one third part of Lot of Cedar Swamp Granted upon the Right of John Rudduckeeekik Lying in chancy Swamp Bounded westerly by a part of Sd Swamp sett of to Jeremiah Barstow Easterly by a part of Sd Swamp Sett off to Bethiah How Also a Seven acre town Rgight in the town of Marlborough within the Cow-Commons & without viz all the town Right that any wya~~s~~ arises from Seven acres of the houselot Also a nine pound town Right in the town of Lancaster Also one acre & 28 Rods of Land already Granted yet to be taken up within the Cow- Commons in Marlborough the Sd Thomas- Amsden to allow Leberly to Jermiah Barstow & Bethiah How & to their heirs & assignes free Leberly to pass & Repass through his Land to Get & Cart their hay away from their meadow.

And To Bethiah the third Daughter of the Sd Joseph How the Grist-mill with all the utensils belonging to it Also 120 acres & 40 Rods of Land 53 acres and 40 Rods therof is Lying in the town of Marlborough 348 acres and 40 Rods is Lying at the Sd mill on Both Sides of Assabeth River 25 acres Thereof being the 25 acres which the heirs of Joseph How purchased of Mr. Saml morril the Sd 38 acres & 40 Rods is Bounded Easterly by Lancaster Road partly & partly by the land of Jeremiah Barstow every other way as it Stands Recorded in Marlborough town Book of Records the Sd Land taking in the Sd mill & the River at the mill And 15 acres thereof is Lying near Hockanum Bounded as it is Recorded in Marlboro town Book of Records And 67 acres of land is Lying in the town of Lancaster 40 acres thereof is Bounded Southerly by the town Line westerly by the Land of John Banister Every other way by Common Land And 17 acres is Bounded Easterly by the Land of James Keyes every other ways as it Stands Recorded in Lancaster town Book of Records And 10 acres is Lying northerly of Hockanum Bounded Southerly by the town Line Every other way by Common Land.

Comment [HG1]: Is this Samuel Morris perhaps?

Also one third part of a Lot of Cedar Swamp Granted upon the Right of John Rudduck Lying in Chancy Swamp Bounded westerly by a part of Sd Swamp Sett off to Thomas Amsden Easterly by the Lot of Thomas Rice Also a Seven acre Town Right in the town of Marlborough within the Cow-Commons & without~~h~~ viz all the town Right that any ways arises, from Seven acres of the house-Lot Also a nine pound town Right in the town of Lancaster Also one acre of Land Common Land of the town of Marlborough without the Cow-Commons already Granted yet to be taken up in the Commons Also Twenty three pounds in mony to be paid to her by Joseph How. And Eight pounds in mony to be paid to her by Abraham How Two peces of meadow Lying on the northerly Side of Assabeth River Commonly Known by the Broad pece & the hole at the wading place Both peces Bounded Southerly by the Sd River Every other ways by upland parted from Jeremiah Barstows meadow where the upland Comes nearest the River Dated in Marlborough, December 19th 1718

Nathan Brigham
Caleb Rice
Simon Gates
Nahum Ward

The partys have declared their consent to this thing all but Jeremiah Barstow husband to Sarah. A true copy. Attest. S.H. FOLSOM Register.

History of Hudson, Part 24

as published in the ENTERPRISE, January 27, 1894 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

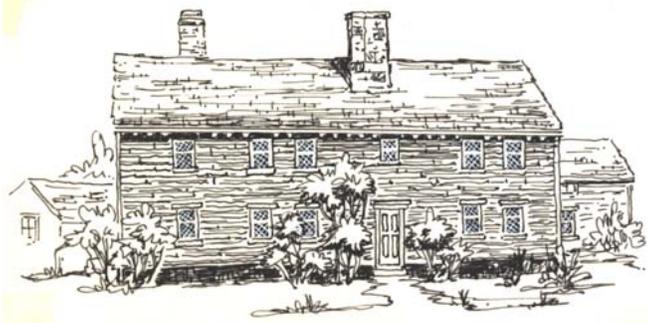
Bethiah Howe's inheritance from Joseph Howe is sold to her sister Sarah's husband Jeremiah Barstow. He built a large home where Wood's Store was later built. He sells all his property to Robert Barnard of Andover for \$3000, 350 acres of land. Entire deed is given.

After Bethiah Howe had received her share in her father's estate in 1718 for one hundred and twenty pounds, she sold and conveyed it to her brother-in-law Jeremiah Barstow. A description of a part of the property conveyed shows the erection of another grist mill after 1700. "Eleven acres thereof and one quarter and twenty rods thereof is lying near the corn mill, erected for the heirs of Joseph Howe, deceased, bounded northerly by the millpond and Assabeth river and every other way by ye common land."

Jeremiah Barstow married Sarah How in 1711. She was born July 27, 1688. Barstow erected about the time of his marriage, a dwelling house covering the spot where Wood's store now stands. It was not the first house erected on Hudson territory.

The house where Dea. David B. Goodale now lives was erected in 1702. Barstow's house was torn down in 1841. He was a miller and a farmer. He was the father of 10 children, Elizabeth, Dorothy, John, Abigail, William, Sarah, Susannah, Lydia, Jeremiah and Lucy.

In 1722 or 23, Barstow had an opportunity to sell out all his real estate for three thousand dollars. He sold to Robert Barnard of Andover three hundred and fifty acres of land. We give the deed of conveyance showing the bounds as they were first carved out of a wilderness. We shall show later subsequent owners of the land and its improvement. Robert Barnard lived fifty years after receiving his deed of this land.



The Goodale House

Built in 1701 originally as a two room house. Now, over 300 years old.

Expanded by family members so all could live together.

To all people whome these presents come:

GREETING: Know yee that I, Jeremiah Barstow, of the towne of Marlborough, in ye County of Middlesex in the Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England, Miller; for & in consideration of six hundred & sixty pounds, good and currant Money of New England, or equivalent to me in hand well & truly delivered & paid by Robert Bernard, of Andover, in the County of Essex in the province aforesaid, yeoman. The receipt whereof I the s'd Jeremiah Barstow do by these presents acknowledge; & therewith to be fully satisfied & paid & therefore thereof & for which consideration of every part thereof, do hereby acquit, exonerate and for EVER discharge him, ye s'd Robert Bernard; his heirs, executors, administrators & assigns, & for which consideration as aforesaid, I, the said Jeremiah Barstow, with the free consent of Sarah my now married wife, have granted, bargained, sold, & by these presents for myself, my heirs, executors & and administrators, do freely, fully & absolutely grant, bargain, sell, alien, enffeeffe, (*editors note: "enffeeffe" (en feef) to invest with a fee or fief*) convey and confirm unto the above named Robert Bernard, to him, his heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns for EVER, all that my homestead message or tract of land lying and being in Marlborough affores'd, containing by estimation, forty-five acres of six score & fifteen rods, be it more or less; as the same is butted & bounded and described in ye Towne records of Marlborough, together with my dwelling house & barn, or other housing, with all the fencing orcharding & gardens upon & belonging to said message, & fifty-two acres of land laid out to the right of John Ruddock, together with ten acres and not more hereby conveyed, & lyeth adjoining to ye Indian land at one corner, & bounded southerly by Elsabeth River, and every other way by common land; also nine-teen acres more of land laid out to s'd Ruddock's right, & is lying near to ye Corn Mill place, which formerly belonged to Joseph How, bounded northerly by Elsabeth river, and every other way by the common or undivided land; & also seven acres more of land which Joseph How purchased of ye Towne of Marlboro', bounded southerly by Elsabeth River, beginning at a swamp white oak tree, on ye southeast angle near the River, also six-teen acres and forty Rods Laid out to ye right of s'd Ruddock, two acres of it third Division: & fourteen acres & forty Rods for fourth Division within ye Cow Common: Bounded northerly by some of ye other land laid out fo yee Heires of s'd Joseph How: southerly by land lately taken up by Capt. Eliazer How, partly: and part by land taken up by Major Thomas How: and every other way by common land and Highway: and adjoining to the other land by the Mill: also thirty-three acres and one hundred and twenty-seven Rods: thirteen acres and sixty Rods thereof lying betwixt ye Indian land and some of my former land: Bounded northerly by the land of Abiall Bush: easterly by ye Indian land line: Running southerly to a Highway that leads to ye River: and bounds every other way by ye other land belonging to ye s'd Barestow; another part thereof being fifteen acres lyeth on ye westerly part of s'd Barestow's other land: & bounded westerly partly by Lancaster Townne line & partly by Common & northerly by common land; and every other way by s'd Barestow's other land: also another part thereof being five acres and sixty-seven Rods lyeth northerly of some of s'd Barestow's other land: & bounded westerly by

Common: and northerly partly by common land, & partly by land of Abiall Bush: & easterly partly by ye land of s'd Bush: & every other way by ye land of s'd Jeremiah Barestow: the s'd three parcells of land laid out for thirty -three acres & one hundred & twenty-seven Rods more or less: twenty-one acres thereof laid to ye right of John Ruddock: and the remainder upon ye right of Richard Newton: all of it fourth Division without ye Cow Common: also one Hundred Rods of Second Division land laid out to s'd Ruddock's Right: without the Cow Common: & lyeth westerly of Hockanum: also fifteen acres more laid out upon ye s'd Ruddock's Right for part of his last Division land without the Cow Common: lying on the northerly side of Elisabeth River, near Hockanum: Bounded southerly by land taken up by Samuell Morriss on ye account of the Right of Richard Newton: easterly by ye land of Abiall Bush; northerly part by the towne line; & every other way by ye common land: also seven acres more of land laid out to Ruddock's Right: two acres and ninety-four rods third division: & also twenty-five acres more of land lying in s'd township of Marleborough: eleven acres and quarter and twenty rods thereof is lying near the Corn Mill, and bounded northerly by the Mill pond & Elisabeth River: & every way else by common land: and thirteen acres and a half and twenty rods is lying a little more northwesterly on ye northerly side of s'd Elisabeth River: Bounded northerly by ye towne line: westerly by a twenty rod Highway: southerly by s'd river: easterly by s'd Barstowe's other land: also one acre more of land lying on both side of s'd river upon part of which ye Corn Mill and Mill Dam standeth adjoined: also the s'd Corn Mill with all the accommodations & materials thereto belonging: also forty-three acres of Ruddock's last Divission Land without ye Cow Common lying on the northerly side of s'd river and westerly of Hockanum Bounded northerly by land taken up by James Morriss upon the account of the right of Richard Newton; southerly partly by some of s'd Barstows land; and every other way by the common land: also seven acres more and thirty-three rods of land which was also laid out on the account of ye right of Richard Newton of the fourth division without the Cow Common: easterly of Wataquadock Brook; and bounded northerly by the towne line; easterly partly by common land & partly by some other of s'd Barstows land; also a twenty acre right in s'd Marlborough one-half thereof part of Richard Newton's right without ye Cow Common; and the other half or ten acre right part of John Ruddock's right both with and without the Cow Common: also all my lands lying and being within ye township of Lancaster (that is to say) seventeen acres of third division upland lying in s'd Lancaster on or in ye easterly side of the Town bounded easterly by ye Town line; westerly and northerly by undivided land; the northward line running neer to Wataquadock brook: and southerly or south, westerly some second division land laid out to ye right of John White: also ten acres more of third division laid out to the right of Wm. Lewis & lyeth neer to where Stow corner begins betwixt them & Marleborough; & bounds easterly by Marleborough & Lancaster Town line; and on all the other sides by undivided land, and lyes something in a square onely a little longest east & west & the west end ye narrowest the corner marks oake trees; also eight acres more of fourth division upland; pine land on the south side of William Divolls land neer Marleborough Town line; and bounds sixty rods north upon s'd Divolls land: and about twelve rods on s'd Town line; and south east on or neer to some land laid out for s'd Joseph How & fifty-two rods that line & butts westerly

partly on Thomas Sawyers land and part on Common the corner marks three pines and one an oak tree also laid out to s'd Lewises right; also thirteen pound to right in Lancaster with what remains of ye stated Common & fourth division to be laid out to s'd right with privilege accordingly in ye Commonage & in all after divisions thereof; all ye s'd Bargained premises as before Described; and as the said land is laid out & Recorded or shall or may be recorded; and all the buildings together with ye fencing orchard, Corn Mill & all & singular ye Profits, Privileges & Advantages in any manner of way appertaining thereto or arising therefrom to be to him the s'd Robert Barnard, his Heirs, Executors, Administrators & assignes to Have and to Hold: and quietly and peaceably to possess & enjoy the same and every part thereof in a sure possession & estate of inheritance in fee forever; & I the s'd Jeremiah Barestow for myself, my Heirs, Executors & Administrators do hereby firmly Covenant, Promise and Grants to & with him the s'd Robert Barnard, his Heirs, Executors, Administrators, & Assignes that I the said Jeremiah Barestow am at the signing & until ye delivery hereof ye true and lawful owner of all & every the above bargained premisses; & shall & will at all times Warrant & Defend the same and every part thereof free and cleer from all former Gifts, Grants, Bargains, Sales, Leases, Assignments, Judgements, Executions, Forfeitures, Seizures, mortgages, Jointures, Intails, Thirds, Dowers, and from all other lawfull claims that hereafter may be made by me the s'd Jeremiah Barestow or any my Heirs or Assignes of from or by any other person or persons whomsoever under any pretense whatever, claiming or having any Right, Title or Interest thereon or to any part Hereof; whereby the said Robert Barnard or any his heirs or Assignes shall or may be any means at any time be molested in or ejected out of ye quiet and peaceable possession of all or any part of the above bargained premises, & shall and will at all times Grant & Execute all such other & former deed or deeds & also do or cause to be done whatsoever in law or equity may be necessary for ye fuller conformation of the premises; for performance of all as above bargained I the s'd Jeremiah Barstow & Sarah my wife have set to our hand & seals this first Day of May in ye eight year of ye Reign of our sovereign Lord George of Great Britain & King Anno Domini 1722
Jeremiah Barstow,

Her mark: Sarah X Barstow.

Sign & sealed in presence of his mark: Isaac – | – How, Benj. Wood.

History of Hudson, Part 25

as published in the ENTERPRISE, February 3, 1894 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

As early as 1690, Abiel Bush bought land in Hudson. His estate settled in 1757 states many acres and all valuables listed. A description of many homes.

March 27, 1656 a road was laid out from Lancaster to Sudbury. The old road is about a third of a mile from the present residence of Herbert Stratton. It is known as the Woolly or Willy road. On the north side of this road the distance mentioned from Stratton's house, are the ruins of the home of Abiel Bush, who was living there as early as 1690. The massive stones of the cellar hole are a witness of the thorough workman; the old well now lined with ponderous stones, and the pure water imprisoned there, awaits now, as it awaited the call of the thirsty yeoman two hundred years ago. It will still be the pure sparkling water though centuries more shall pass away. The dead orchard in the rear of the ruin was once laden, with the most delicious fruit of the season.

An inventory of the estate of Abiel Bush, June 26, 1757 showed a personal property of 110 lbs., wearing apparel at 8 lbs., 2 pewter cups, 10 shillings; 3 pewter spoons, 2 oak-lined, 1 large bible, 1 lb. 15s.; 1 book of farewell sermons, 1 lb. 5s. 4 prayer books, 3s. Bush was the father of several children, Jonathan, Abiel, Hezekiah, Grace, John, Joseph, Sarah. Abiel Bush was a man of strong affection for his children. It finds expression in a gift of land to his son John. "In consideration of love, good will and affection which I have and do bear towards my well beloved son John Bush, now resident in Marlboro, and for other good causes and weighty considerations moving me therewith, the 38th lot of land granted me, the said Abiel Bush, in the town of Shrewsbury, Jan'y 3, 1726. Abiel Bush was a large land owner. Mar. 7, 1699, he bought for \$205. 56 acres of land of Joseph Rice. It was bounded partly by land of Moses Newton and James Keyes, partly by Fort Meadow brook and meadow of Daniel Rice, and eastward by an highway that goes over Fort Meadow brook. This land came into the possession of Abiel Bush, a son of Abiel Bush, and he sold out to Joseph Priest, Mar. 21, 1736. He gave the bounds partly as follows: Beginning a little southerly of a bridge over Fort Meadow brook, and a little northerly of my new dwelling house, running southerly by southwesterly bounding on a way, until it comes to a spring water, with the lands, housings and barns, orchardings, meadows, swamps, passing within the bounds hereafter mentioned. On the south side of Fort Meadow on the way to "Red Spring" is an old cellar hole; on this spot stood Bush's house in 1736.

In this house lived Isaac Maynard, the father of Amory Maynard. The last named was born here and in later life was the founder of the Assabet mills, the most extensive in their line in the country.

On the left hand side of the road beyond the cellar hole are the orchards planted by Bush. The decay and paralysis of time is upon them now, yet sixty years

ago, immense loads of cider apples were carried from these trees to the cider mill of Luke Fosgate. Jonathan Bush, son of Abiel Bush, once lived where Gilman Priest now resides. In 1719 Bush bought of Jeremiah Barstow ten acres of land for sixty dollars, described as “near the new dwelling house of said Jonathan Bush, it being land taken up in the right of Richard Bowker. Southerly by land taken up for heirs of Joseph How, on the right of John Ruddock, every other way by land of Abiel Bush. In March 1724, for fifteen dollars, Asa Bowker sold Jonathan Bush twelve acres of land, “In the tract which is without the cow common land, and in the fourth division of land as it is yet to be laid out in the cow common.” In 1725, Abiel Bush sold a tract, bound in part “on end of a meadow named hoganum, where my above named son, Jonathan Bush, doth now reside, but I the aforesaid Abiel Bush, doth reserve one acre of meadow, lying below the dam which made across the aforesaid named meadow, near the dwelling house of Jonathan Bush, together with a dwelling house and barn on the same, said land and buildings, being and lying within the said town of Marlboro.” This dam was across the road where the Priest bridge now stands. In this early time it was one stretch of meadow and field from the Barstow house, now Wood’s square, to Priest’s bridge there was not even a bridle way through this tract of land until 1769.

A number of years ago Mr. Feeney selected a spot where there was a depression in the ground as a suitable place for the erection of a house. It was on the east side of the northerly end of Maple street. In digging at this spot a cellar hole was uncovered some 24x18 ft. On this spot, one hundred and twenty-five years ago, stood a house occupied by Samuel Bruce. The big square red house on Cox street was built by Elisha Cox, 1810. Before Cox built his house he tore down an old house standing on the spot. Samuel Bruce lived here for awhile, having moved from the one he first occupied. On the bank at the corner of Cox and Maple street, could be seen a cellar hole a few years ago. Jessie Bush, grandson of Abiel Bush, lived here one hundred and twenty-five years ago. June 22, 1771, Samuel Bruce sold Bush twenty-one acres of land for \$140. “Lying on the southerly side of the road that leads from the said Bruce’s to the said Bush’ near the corner of said Bruce’s orchard.” The very last occupant of the Bush house was “Uncle Billy Smith.”

(editor’s notes:

Maple Street was renamed Manning Street in 1919.

Samuel Bruce occupied a house, 1770, giving the name of Bruce’s Pond.)

History of Hudson, Part 26

as published in the ENTERPRISE, February 17, 1894 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

In 1723 the name Barnard's Mills became the new name of the Northern part of Marlboro, and continued for 75 years. The Barnard family and heirs are listed. An Indian visits the Barnard store.

In the year 1723, the northern part of Marlboro ceased to be known as Howe's Mills. It was to wear the name of the new proprietor, Barnard's Mills, for the next three quarters of a century. It was a household name while generations came and went during this time. It was the most numerous and influential family for half a century. Robert Barnard was born in Andover, May 29, 1689. He married Rebecca Osgood of this town Sept. 14, 1710. She died July 29, 1727. He married Elizabeth Bailey of Lancaster May 15, 1729. He died May 13, 1773 aged 84. She died April 16, 1776 aged 80. The names of his children were Martha, Rebecca, Elizabeth, Joel, Abigail, Solomon, Martha, John, Rebecca. Three of his daughters died in infancy. The other three married and lived in this vicinity.

Elizabeth married Silas Bayley, Abigail married Samuel Nourse, Martha married Noah Howe. Joel married Lucy Stevens, June 16, 1756, Solomon married Mary Priest Apr. 27, 1762. He was in the French war and marched to the relief of Fort William Henry in 1757. He was a farmer and a miller and lived in the house he erected on the land now covered by the large square house formerly occupied by Phineas Sawyer and Capt. Jedediah Wood. It stood on the west side of Washington St. near the Corn mill. Joel lived in the Barstow house in Woods square. He was the eldest son and kept a public house. The two brothers died of an epidemic in August 1775. Solomon died the 1st and Joel the 15th of the month.

Joel Barnard owned and ran a saw mill. It stood on the tanyard brook near the bridge that leads to Maple street. It was in operation many years before the war of the Revolution. Aug. 31, 1786 the widow of Joel Barnard sold Daniel Stevens 28 ½ acres of land for 185 pounds. He had "liberty to flow the meadow with said mill pond excepting and reserving free liberty of passing and repassing from the saw mill, agreeable to an obligation given Joseph Lewis by the late Joel Barnard, deceased. Bounded northeasterly by land of Amaziah Knights, easterly by the land of Samuel Nourse, southeasterly by land of John Goodenow. This saw mill could be reached by going over Lincoln and Cox streets, and by cart ways over private land. There were no other roads at the time. Robert Barnard's son John was born May 19, 1743. He was educated for a physician. He settled first in Bolton, July 21, 1768. He married Elizabeth Fairbank of Lancaster, and had seven children in Bolton.

Dr. Barnard lived in the house afterwards occupied by the Rev. Isaac Allen. The Rev. Thomas Stone is living there at the age of 92. Dr. Barnard was a Royalist or Tory. He did not have the sympathy or support of the majority of the people. The

minister of the parish at the time, Rev. Mr. Goss, was a Tory. The toryism of a few at least divided the church; one faction followed the Minister Goss, while the larger part of the flock gave a call to Rev. John Walley of Roxbury. The spirit of the Tory, so inimical to liberty, could not find proper nourishment on Bolton soil. After yearious persecutions from citizens thirsting for independence, Dr. Barnard thought it time to seek more congenial air.

In 1781 he moved to and spent his last days in Sterling, the late John Barnard of Dorchester was a son of Dr. John. The first named died in 1858 aged 89. The widow of Joel Barnard kept public house after the death of her husband. One day about 1778 an Indian came in the house, his wife was with him. Mrs. Barnard treated the Indian to cider, he wanted more than her generosity prompted her to give, he was insolent. An old soldier, Capt. Church was present, he was an infirm man, but brave, he told the Indian that he would hit him over the head if he did not keep still. At that moment young Isaiah Bruce came in. He was courting Mary, the daughter of Solomon Barnard. He grabbed the Indian and put him out of the house. Bruce took his tomahawk, the Indian's wife returned and pleaded for it, it was handed to her.

A thunder shower came up, the Indian flourished his tomahawk and defied the lightnings.

Another witness of this scene was Mrs. Barnard's son Francis, a boy of 10 years. In after years he kept the first store that was ever built on Hudson territory. It stood about where Campbell's market now stands. It was one story red building 30x16 ft. The door was in the centre. An immense window on each side with some fifty lights in each window gave needed light. In this little store the farmers would assemble evenings, talk about the topics of the day, toast cheese over the cheerful fire in the fireplace, drink flip and go home.

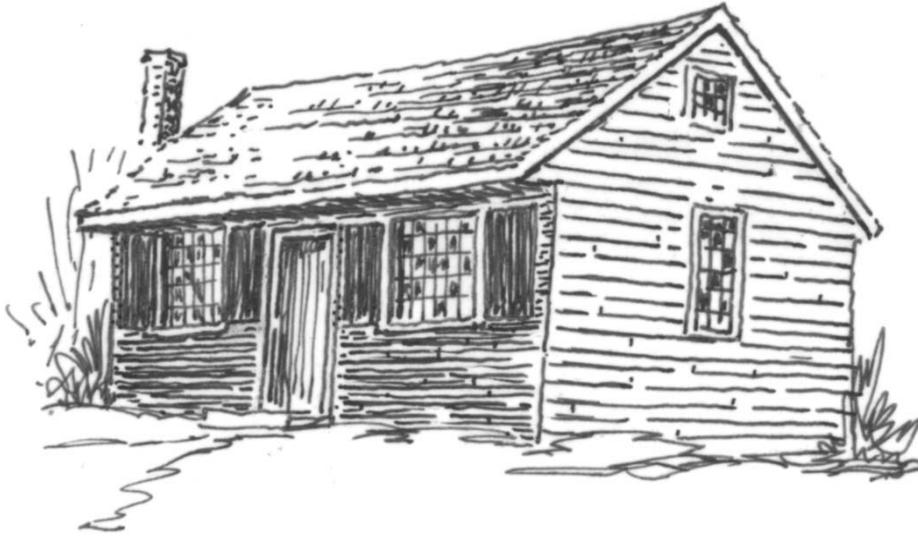
Feb. 23, 1796 Barnard sold this store, and the land on which it stood to Baradstreet Story for \$184.83. This store must have been erected as early or before the war of the Revolution, for in a sale of property in 1806 it is alluded to as "the old store."

Joel Barnard had nine children—Silas, William, Lavinia, Mary, Elizabeth, Stephen, Francis, Lucy, Phebe. The average age of five of his children was more than 88 years.

Solomon Barnard, the miller, had six children—Mary, Sarah, Josiah, Rebecca, Cate, Dolly.

Francis Barnard had eight children—Elizabeth, Loring, George, Daniel, Mary, William F., Daniel S., Edward A. Three at least, of the children of Francis Barnard are now living, whose average age is more than 84 years. The Barnards generally live to a great age. For generations, like Abraham of old, they have tilled the

soil and taken care of their flocks. Their rugged lives have given them vigorous constitutions and multiplied their years among the sons of men.



**The first store in Wood Square built about 1750.
Owned by Francis Barnard (c. 1775-1796)**

History of Hudson, Part 27

as published in the ENTERPRISE, February 24, 1894 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

The first sawmill is built in 1788 by William Cogswell. Mill sold to Phineas Sawyer. The Marlboro Satinet factory was built with 10 looms. A fulling mill is built using Assabet River water for power and teasels or burrs were grown locally. Weaving was done in homes. This was the best cloth in all the county.

In the year of 1788 William Cogswell erected the first sawmill on the south side of the Assabeth River, near Washington street bridge. He purchased 75 acres of land of Josiah Barnard. This comprised the entire farm of his father, Solomon Barnard. A water privilege was not considered of special value 100 years ago. Mr. Cogswell ran the sawmill a short time when he sold out John Peck of Newton on the seventh of April, 1790. He sold this property to Jonathan Walcott for \$650.

In 1802, he sold out to Phineas Sawyer for an advance of only \$20. Mr. Sawyer came from Harvard. He was a man of push and enterprise; a valuable acquisition to this little group of business men who were opening up this part of the town for new settlers and a larger growth. Mr. Sawyer built a factory in 1808 near sawmill. The Building was two stories high and some 60 feet long.

It was known as the Marlboro Satinet factory. There were 10 looms in the factory. Mr. Sawyer was a Methodist. He was converted under the ministry of Rev. Geo. Pickering in 1798 He held religious meetings in his house, also in the factory. The corn mill on the north side of the river was sold by Daniel Stevens to Ebenezer Witt "the honest miller" Apr. 14, 1795. He sold out to William Barnard in 1799. The next owner was Phineas Sawyer. The corn mill was to be the place of his death and sepulchre. In January, 1820 he went under the mill to cut away the ice that clogged the water wheel, the wheel suddenly started, he was caught in the swirl and lost his life. His lifeless body was found a number of hours later. In the twinkling of an eye this valuable life was swept into the mystery of eternity.

The first clothier in the place was Silas Reed. He bought seventy-nine rods of land of the widow Lucy Barnard for forty dollars.

The purchase was made Feb'y. 14, 1795, and included all the land on the east side of Washington street near the bridge, now covered in part by the brick shop ruin and Peter's store. He erected the same year the house attached to the old store, a barn and a clothier shop, where the ruin now stands. The venture appears to have been unsatisfactory to him, for Dec. 5, 1795 he sold out to Jedediah Brigham for \$1367 the house, barn, shop "tools standing on the same and all appurtenances thereto."

The fulling mill stood on the road by the bridge, east of the corn mill. For \$400 he had right to draw water from the river on northerly side of river, and to have the fulling mill and the spot of land it stands upon, right to flow river above said dam, as the usual privilege has been in years past, and in case there should be a very dry time, the water very low at said dam, the said Brigham shall not full more than one stock or mill full of cloth in each week during scarcity of water unless it should not injure said corn mill and the privilege thereto.

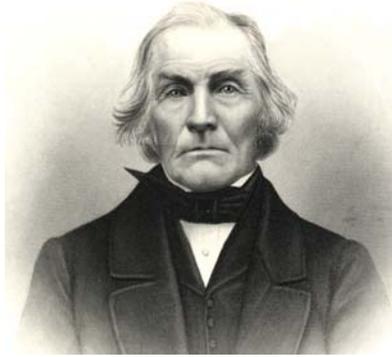
In 1798 Brigham sold the dwelling house and barn to Joel Cranston for \$1000. In the manufactured of the cloth, a teasel or burr was used. These were raised on the land where Rufus H. Brigham now lives. The heirs of Phineas Sawyer sold all his mill property to James Inman. He sold to Jedidiah Wood Sept. 23, 1822. Captain Wood came to this part of the town to seek his fortune 1796. His father, Peter Wood, was a poor man and like Jacob of old could only give his son his blessing. Young Wood had the metal in him that in the crucible of adversity would ring out full peaks of victory for him. He went to work for Hooker Sawyer to learn the art of coloring and dressing cloth in the building erected by Silas Reed. The first floor of the building was reached by a descent of a number of steps from the road. Among the apprentices at the time were Otis Hayden, William Brigham, Winthrop How, Washington Clarke and George Felton.

Mr. Wood was soon master and owner of his business. He colored and dressed the cloth. The weaving was done in the homes of the farmers in this vicinity.

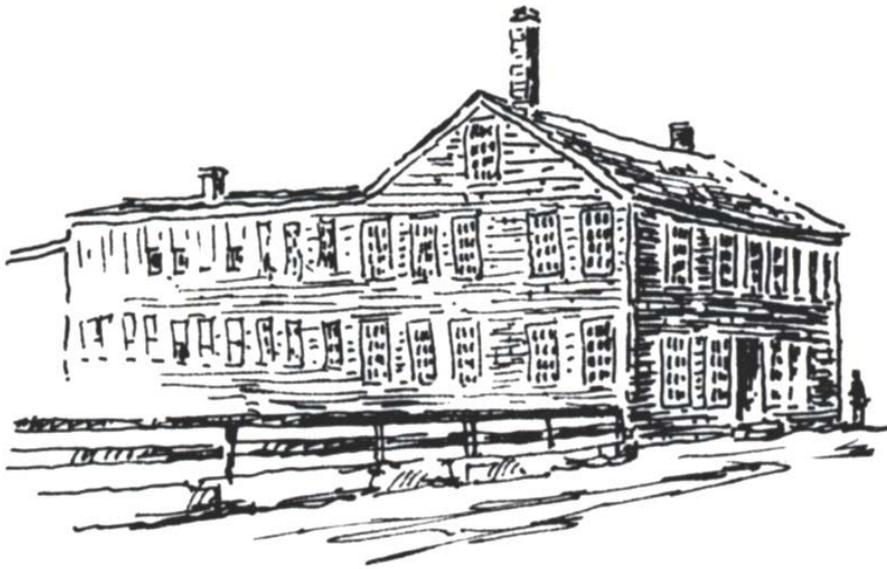
It added to the resources of the good housewife whose chance to earn money was very limited. Part of the work of mixing chemicals and drop cloth was done in the old building that stood close to the corn mill. Mr. Wood made cloth of such excellence he took the first premium at the Middlesex fair. The erection of the great factories at Lowell with their improved machinery made the business of no profit for him. In his old age he could scarcely eat. This weakened condition of the nervous system is thought to have come upon him from being in the water so much when coloring cloth. He died in January 1766 aged 90.

He was a soldier of the war of 1812. When he went to Boston he went to the centre of the town, Marlboro, to borrow his wagon, there being none in this place at the time. He rode all night to save time. The humane spirit that kept his heart ever young, is seen in his filial devotion to his aged parents. When limited in his own means, he received them under his own roof and tenderly cared for them for twelve years when death released him from his labor of love. This place owes much to his enterprise and labor for forty years of business life.

In his last days he expressed a wish to pass to the realms of shade. The majority of those nearest and dearest to him were beyond the touch and change of time, the very earth had changed its face. All was new, a strange people were around him. Life's work all done, its hopes all won or lost, crushed by nearly a century of time, the venerable pilgrim welcomed the grace as his only refuge from the solitude of existence.



Jedediah Wood



Old Red Shop

The Old Red shop was built in 1795 by Silas Reed, and was a shop of many owners: Jedediah Wood dyed and dressed cloth, Jonas Houghton made toys, Charles and John Wood made gossamer (waterproof) clothing. Its last business, the Marlboro Satinet Factory Shop, was torn down in 1926 after 131 years to make way for Broadbent's Ford Sales and Garage.

History of Hudson, Part 28

as published in the ENTERPRISE, March 3, 1894 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

Folger Pope and wife Theodate are the first of the Pope family to come to the "Mills" in 1802. His son Stephen learned the tanning of hides in his boyhood in Salem and came in 1806 at age 21 to build a tannery on Potash Brook. He takes a bride, Sally Houghton, at a Quaker wedding ceremony in Bolton.

The Pope family was one of the most influential families in this place in the beginning of the century. Folger Pope and wife Theodate came to the "Mills" to live in 1802. He bought one hundred acres of land of John Peck. This land was sold to Peck by William Barnard in 1801. Pope lived many years in Salem following his trade of Carriage building and harness making. His residence here was in the old house which R. B. Lewis tore down to make room for the house in which he now resides. The old house was probably built by one of the Barnards. We find in a record of April 12, 1806 Daniel Stevens sold Folger Pope "one-half of the whole land and buildings or parts of buildings set off to Lucy Barnard from the estate of her late husband Joel Barnard." The most prominent member of his family was his son Stephen, a longer time a resident of this place and more active than anyone of that name. We shall see in a full sketch of his life, he was a self-made man. A narrative of his life will be helpful to those who have life's untried pathways before them. Stephen Pope was born in Salem, January 11, 1784.

His early life to the age of fourteen years was spent at school in his native town. He applied himself to study with all the zeal that a lofty purpose ever inspires. As an evidence of the proficiency attained by him in the branches pursued, we find him occupying one of the twelve desks allotted to the best scholars in school numbering 175. While at school a little episode occurred, memorable as removing the last link connecting his generation with the most infamous page in New England history; it was the burning of the tree on which the Salem witches were hung in 1692. The fifth of March commemorating the gunpowder plot under Guy Fawkes, the boys were allowed to build a fire on Gallows hill. On this occasion some fifty of the boys went to that part of the hill where this tree stood leafless and dead, the bonfire was kindled round the trunk of the tree, the villagers saw the flame and rushed up the hill to save this ghostly relic of a barbarous ancestry; they were too late, the insensate fire soon dissolved it to those elements to which the victims once suspended there, had returned. At the time this dread superstition was prevalent, no class was exempt from accusation and death, not only children but women of four score years were hung if suspected of witchery. To show the diabolism engendered by dense ignorance, eight witches were hung at one time. Minister Noyes while witnessing their death struggles said, "There hang eight firebrands of hell."

In 1693 the insane folly and delusion had vanished and no person could be hung on the charge of witchcraft. Yet this monstrous inequity had flourished in the home

of the Pilgrim for 45 years. Young Pope had received some salutary impressions from lessons not in the curriculum of the schoolroom. It was then the custom of parents to take their children to the courthouse to see criminals branded, cropped, or whipped. Branding was for manslaughter, cropping was for forgery and whipping was for stealing and minor offences. These exhibitions of physical suffering were supposed to have a restraining influence on their children. Profanity was subject to punishment then. Were it the custom today most of the masculine backs would have a surfeit of lashes. After young Pope left school he was apprenticed to Ichabod Nichols and served for seven years in the tanning and curing business. The contract was \$12 a month and the glue stuff; he to clothe himself. As the law was then, no one could vote unless he was worth 100 pounds. Our young apprentice had an ardent desire to be a voter, and to do this he taxed every resource of his will and body.

He denied himself of many comforts, often working all night tanning skins purchased out of his little savings. At the age of 21 he had reached the goal of his ambition. He had the money needed to make him a voter. While serving his apprenticeship he listened to a speech by the celebrated jurist, Joseph Story, then a young man. He was so impressed with his ideas he launched out a Democrat and voted the ticket for more than 60 years. While in Salem, George Washington passed through the place. Young Pope had a fine view of the "Father of his Country." His brother, Daniel Pope, attended his funeral in 1799.

Franklin, the philosopher, a compeer of Washington, was uncle to the subject of this sketch. At the age of 21 young Pope left Salem and came to this place, July 9, 1806. He bought of his father 26 rods of land for \$60 with the privilege of using a sufficiency of water out of Potash brook, reserving the right of carrying the water through said land in such a manner as not to injure said yard by damaging the cisterns, bark house, and always having a sufficiency of water in the natural stream for the use of said yard. He commenced the tanning business in a small way, employing very little help. With his parents he attended the Friends' meeting in Bolton.

In these meetings he first saw and became enamored with the preacher's daughter Sally Houghton, he often accompanied her home, some two miles from the meeting house, staying to dinner's and supper and as late as the rules of the Friends allow, until nine o'clock in the evening, when much against his wishes he had to turn on a search light for his hat, the young maiden sending him home. After the course of first and true love had had its flow for two years, it ended on those lines by popping the question, as Sally accepted Stephen and Stephen Sally. Their bridges were all safely and happily crossed and according to the rules of the Friends, married themselves in open meeting. As comparatively few knew about the form of the Friends, I give a copy of the original certificate made out eighty-eight years ago.

"Stephen Pope of Marlborough, son of Folger Pope of Marlborough, in the county of Middlesex and state of Massachusetts, and Theodate, his wife, and Sally Houghton, daughter of Abel Houghton of Bolton in the county of Worcester, and

Sarah his wife, having declared their intentions of taking each other in marriage, before several monthly meetings of the people called Quakers in the county of Worcester according to the good order used among them, their proceedings after due inquiry and deliberate consideration thereof were allowed by the said meetings; they appearing clear of all others, and having consent of most concerned, now these are to certify all whom it may concern, that for the full accomplishment of their said intentions this fourth day of the ninth month in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and six, they the said Stephen Pope and Sally Houghton appeared at a public assembly of the aforesaid people and others in their meeting house in Bolton and he the same Stephen Pope, taking the said Sally Houghton by the hand did openly declare as followeth:

Friends: I take this my friend Sally Houghton to be my wife promising under divine assistance to be unto her a loving and faithful husband until it shall please the Lord by death to separate us and the said Sally Houghton did then and there in like manner declare the followeth: Friends: I take this my friend Stephen Pope to be my husband, promising under divine assistance to be unto him a loving and faithful wife, until it shall please the Lord by death to separate us, and the said Stephen Pope and Sally Houghton as a further confirmation thereof have hereunto set their hands, she after the custom of marriage assuming the name of her husband.

And we whose names are hereunto subscribed being present with others at the consummation of their said marriage as witnesses thereunto set our hands the day and year above written.

Stephen Pope, Sally Pope, Thomas Watson, Calvin Gates, Jonathan Frye, Daniel Sawyer, Phineas Firbands, Lydia Frye, Theodate Pope, Sarah Houghton, Folger Pope jr., Lydia Pope, Laba Houghton, Hannah Pope, Daniel Pope, Hannah Holder, Mercy Wheeler, Hannah Watson, Fannigin Southwick, Hannah Southwick, Abel Houghton, Thomas Holden, Daniel Smith, John Frye, Joseph Holden, Abner Pope, John Frye jr., Henry Earle, Stephen Southwick, Benj. Wheeler, Daniel Wheeler, Josiah Stowe jr., Jona Wheeler, Pelatiah Purinton, Diriah Baker.

History of Hudson, Part 29

as published in the ENTERPRISE, March 10, 1894 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

Stephen Pope is a sharp businessman. Became a tanner in Troy, N.Y. and after selling at a profit, returns to the "Mills", buys 100 acres and built another tannery doing 2000 hides a year. Stephen Pope was influential in the community. A listing of the Pope family.

Stephen Pope provided himself with a home two days before he was married. Sept 2 1806 he bought of Ezra Atherton eighty rods of land, and the small one-story house standing on the same for \$560. The house was built by John Allen in 1795 and stood in Cox Square where Jonas T. Houghton now lives. Mr. Pope did not meet with the success he expected, or he thought another location would be better for his tannery; he sold out June 1, 1808 to Joel Cranston for \$1000, took his worldly possessions and moved to the flourishing town of Bolton, and engaged in the same business and was also a farmer. While in Bolton he adopted into his family a little girl who in after years was the mother of one of our most worthy citizens, George Houghton. Mr. Pope worked out some in those days of struggle. Labor was only fifty cents a day. With a growing family he found in Bolton a rather narrow horizon for a lofty ambition. In 1813, Mr. Pope moved to Troy, N.Y. He engaged himself to Abijah Purington for \$40 a month, assuming the oversight of his large tannery. He lived in a little one-story house, his wife assisting him, earning money binding shoes and taking boarders, employing no help in the house. After serving one year in the tannery he went to Ogdensburg with \$1500 worth of shoes purchased on speculation. Arriving in the place and learning Lord Wellington's army was across the river, he went over to see the red coats. On his return he called at a store, the proprietor being absent, stated his business to his wife and where he was from.

She was from the same state and was so elated to see one from the old Bay state, she called her girls to bring the old Jamaica bottle, when they drank a goodly cheer and chatted until her husband returned. He had no trouble in selling him shoes at a good profit. He returned to Troy and bought out his employer for \$20,000, paying only \$300 down. After a short business career, Purington bought out Mr. Pope, paying a bonus of \$500 and engaged him to work for fifty dollars a month, he was in his employ until 1815 when he returned to Bolton.

He resided in this town one year. June 10, 1816 he bought one hundred acres of land of his father Folger Pope, great grandfather to the late Daniel F. Pope. He paid \$3000 for the land. It included the best land in the place. It lay in every part of this part of Marlboro.

The owners of homes on land bordering this purchase that year were Joel Cranston, Ebenezer Witt, Elisha Cox, Jedediah Wood, Jonas Smith, David Knight, Daniel Stratton, Mary Brigham, Phineas Sawyer, Silas Felton, David M. Giles. None of these men have been alive for a quarter of a century. Mr. Pope worked hard and practiced great self-denial to pay for his land; he made his last payment in 1827. The tannery was a coveted prize; he was anxious for its possession once more. It had changed owners a number of times. Oct. 12, 1809, Joel Cranston sold out to David M. Giles for \$900, the last named built the large dwelling house, where the Methodist church now stands. It was before 1819, for this year, the property came into the possession of Catherine Wendell of Boston through a mortgage. Nov. 1, 1826 John Mellen, one of the heirs of Wendell, sold the dwelling house, barn, tannery and fifty rods of land to Stephen Pope for \$500. He never did a large business, as there was a limited demand for leather.

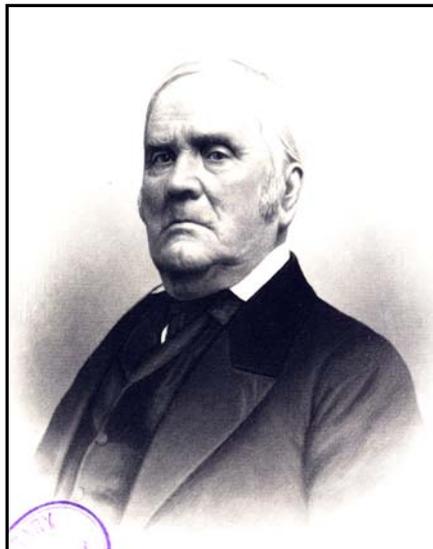
In 1837 there were only 103,000 pairs of shoes made in the whole town of Marlboro with a value of \$41,000. In 1855 his tannery was the only one in Marlboro, and tanned only 2000 sides of leather a year, valued at \$3500. He employed this year only two hands. The tannery and land was purchased by the Methodist society in 1866, their church occupying the spot where the old dwelling house stood. When Mr. Pope purchased his farm Main Street was one of his fields; from an apple tree standing thereon, he made six barrels of cider each year. He was a generous man. He gave the Baptists the land for their church. When the Fitchburg road was built to this place in 1849 he gave to the enterprise two and one half acres of his best land and \$200 in money. He was thoroughly honest. For many years in the absence of savings banks the people brought him their little earnings to take on interest. He returned every dollar with the interest earned.

With Silas Felton as a coworker he was one of the most active in establishing a post office in this part of the town in 1828, the name Feltonville, dating from this year. He was honored with many positions of trust. He was overseer of the poor for 15 years, assessor for a number of years, and school committee and justice of the peace for 27 years. He was elected to the Massachusetts senate in 1835, serving two years. He had seven children, two died young. The other children, Daniel, Abel, Segs, Sarah and Mary reached adult age. Colonel Daniel Pope came near being burnt to death in the burning of the city hotel stables, Boston, in 1845. He drove a stage from Feltonville to Boston at that time. His horses were in this stable. He worked to save them and he was successful, but at the penalty of being terribly burned. He was scarred and crippled for life and died April 22, 1878, aged 69.

Capt. Abel H. Pope was in the last war, and was wounded in the battle of Antietam. He died July 28, 1872 aged 46. Mary the daughter, wife of Col. Silas Fairbanks died May 19, 1878 aged 64. Seba married Philo A. Randall, she died Sept. 11, 1886, age 70. Sarah P. married Francis Dana Brigham, she died Feb 10, 1892, age 81. Stephen Pope died July 2, 1870, age 84. His wife Sally Pope, died Apr 26, 1869, age 78. They enjoyed life's companionship for sixty-three years. Remembering the holy influence of quiet ways and a cheerful presence, they allowed nothing to intrude, to cast a shadow, or disturb the sacredness of their early covenant, the sanctity of home, and those joys, that make the hearthstone a blessed retreat after the toils of the day. "Grandmarm Pope" as everyone called her exemplified in the fidelity of her earnest life, the worth and beauty of the Quaker faith. In passing on to the life immortal, they answer to the quiet universal law. "The aged sire who falls today leaves offsprings of his kind, so every link in nature's chain leaves other links behind."



Mrs. Sally Houghton Pope
Born 1791, died Apr. 25, 1869



Stehen Pope
Born Jan 11, 1784, Died July 2, 1870

Married, Sept 9, 1806

History of Hudson, Part 30

as published in the ENTERPRISE, March 17, 1894 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

Town socials were held in a hall at Cranston's hotel and at a room in the Satinet Factory on Washington Street. In 1834 the Satinet Factory burned and the blacksmith shop burned in 1856. The first blacksmith shop was built 1790 by John Allen. George Peters bought this 1799 and he and son Luther worked there 50 years. The Knight family came in 1773.

Sixty years ago the inhabitants of this place did not hold their social and literary entertainments in grand halls, the light softened by stained glass, or brightened by electric lights. There was only one small hall in Cranston's hotel; there was a room in the Satinet factory on Washington street. To this factory they went at candle light for play and amusement. About 1830, our honored citizen, Joseph S. Bradley distinguished himself in the play "Children In the Wood." He was one of the sleeping innocents whose mausoleum was built by the pitying robins. George Flagg run the factory during the last years of this existence. Some of the operatives were Helen Wood, Harriet Hill, Caroline Pope, Almira Pope, Sophia Gleason, Elizabeth Gleason, Sophia Wyman, Sarah Morse, Eliza Hill, Albert Randall, Jonathan Rice, Rowena Huntington.

In 1834 the factory was destroyed by fire. The villagers ran to save the principal hive of industrial life in the place. They formed in a long line from the factory to the ruin. The women were as conspicuous in their efforts as the men, in saving the building. They passed the water in pails along the line as long as there was any hope of saving the property, but their efforts were impotent before the fury of the devouring flames. The building went, never to be rebuilt. A pail of water and a spunky woman were the most potent factors in fighting fire in those days.

Near this spot there once stood a blacksmith shop. The shop was destroyed by fire Aug. 4, 1856. The little old house that stood on the east side of Washington street near the bridge, built in the beginning of the century, was sold by Ebenezer Witt, Jan. 1, 1822, to Capt. Jedidiah Wood for \$300.

It included a barn and shed standing near. The buildings were torn down in 1856. The first blacksmith shop stood in the open space between the Brigham and Chamberlain factories. It was built as early as 1790 by John Allen. He bought four rods of land of Josiah Barnard. The deed reads, "It lyeth near Barnard's mills so called, on which the said Allen's shop now stands." The deed bears date July 5, 1791. The village smithy was drawing card then; the brawny arm, the ponderous blows, the ringing anvil, the huge bellows, the crackling fire, the illuminated room made it an attractive place for the farmers for gossip and story, for jokes and repartee. The blacksmith shop came in possession of George Peters in 1799. Mr. Peters and his son

Luther toiled here for more than 50 years. The old shop is still standing in the rear of the original site.

The old house that stood where Chamberlain's shop now stands was erected by Joel Cranston in 1794. He bought 40 rods of land of Josiah Barnard for fifty dollars. In 1796 he sold the house, barn and shed to Calvin How. He kept a public house. In the little front rooms the young men and maidens gathered winter evenings for dance and frolic, a fife and fiddle making hearts glad until night candles pale before broken day. The house was not a success and he sold out to Daniel Stevens in 1798. George Peters came in possession soon after and it remained in this family for sixty years.

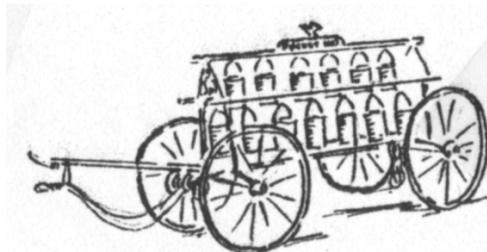
The brick house in Wood square was erected by Luther Peters in 1831. The old house, barn and shop once standing on land where Frank E. Brown now lives were built by Ebenezer Witt, the honest miller, in 1796. He planted at this time the immense elm now growing on the spot.

The first guide board in Cox square was placed there in 1813. Folger Pope was living in the old house on the north side of the street at the time. The house where Col. W. E. C. Worcester now lives was built by Elijah Hale in 1812. He purchased the land of Benjamin Stevens.

Col. Hale sold the place to Joel Cranston in 1823; he sold out to Otis Hayden in 1828. The place has changed owners several times since this sale. The place where Benjamin Hastings now lives on Central Street, was formerly owned by Amasiah Knight, great-grandfather to Frank D. Knight. The old house stood west of the present one. In 1773, Knights bought 40 acres of land for \$300. It embraced all the land west of Central street at this point to the Assabet river.

The Knights family lived on this farm, at least a hundred years. One warm, summer day a big bear was discovered in the brook running through the meadow south of Central street. He was standing there to keep cool. The farmers went to the house for their guns. When they returned Bruin was still there; they speedily ended his existence. He was very large size and it took an ox team to draw him away.

Aaron and David Knights were two sons of Amasiah Knights. When Aaron died it took three men two and one-half hours to count the money he had stored in the house. Rufus Knights, son of David Knights was the last owner of the farm.



History of Hudson, Part 31

as published in the ENTERPRISE, March 24, 1894 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

Cranston and Felton store began in 1801. These two young men had a building for carding cloth, a distillery for cider brandy, served as selectmen and on other town boards. Silas Felton founded "Rock Bottom" and was the richest merchant in town. The new shoe factory of F. Brigham & Co. was dedicated March 16, 1858 with 225 couples for dinner at the "Grand Calico Ball".

The Peters store in Wood Square was occupied first for business Aug. 15, 1801. The original building was 28x30 feet, two stories high and cost \$550. The building was erected by Joel Cranston; his partner in business was Silas Felton. When they formed the partnership Cranston was 28 and Felton 25 years of age. They were young men of decided business ability and were not long in building up a flourishing business. They run not only the store, but had a building for carding cloth in Cox square also a distillery where Tripp's mill now stands. They made thousands of barrels of cider brandy. Farmers sold cider for two cents a gallon and took their pay out of the store, a slow way to become a bloated bondholder.

When the late Colonel Elijah Hale of Rock Bottom was a small boy he went into the store one day with his father.

Cranston & Felton were so well pleased with his appearance they employed him to work in the store and in after years he was admitted a partner in the business. Cranston and Felton were two of the most popular men of their day. Cranston was selectman of Marlboro 1806-7 appointed justice of the peace 1811, elected to the state senate 1813, to the house of representatives 1820-21. Mr. Felton was equally as popular with all classes. He was assessor of the town in 1799-1803, 1805-25, 1828. selectman 1815-25, town clerk from 1815-27, representative 1822-24-25.

Joel Cranston built the hotel that stood where Chase's block now stands. It was raised July 31, 1803. He kept public house many years and sold the property to Silas Felton in 1826. Not far from this time he left the store and went to Rock Bottom. He was largely the founder of that place. He lived at one time in Wilkinsville in the house occupied by the late William Wilkins, where he kept public house. Mr. Felton died Aug. 16, 1828. He was the richest merchant in Marlboro at the time of his death. He had a branch store in Boylston at this time. His estate inventoried \$28,048 80.

The stock at the little store was appraised at \$7093.17. This was a large stock of goods for those days when the whole population of Marlboro was only 2000 souls. Joel Cranston died in 1835.

These two men were actively identified with the business and growth of the place for more than a quarter of a century.

It is safe to say no two men living in this part of the town ever did more, as they had means and opportunity, for the industrial development of the place. They will ever rank with its best and greatest citizens.

The Mansion house was built in 1843 by Loring Cox. In 1834 he bought 45 rods of land of George E. Manson for \$100. The original hotel was a pitch roof; the shed for horses on the west side of the house. Mr. Cox died in 1854. The hotel was remodeled to its present size by George W. Warfield. Col. Daniel Pope, Follansbee, Marshall Wood, George T.C. Holden are among those who followed in the management of the house.

The busiest night Mr. Warfield ever saw in the hotel was probably on the evening of the dedication of the shoe factory of F. Brigham & Co., March 16, 1858. Two hundred and twenty- five couples were present. Mr. Warfield furnished supper for the company. As the committee of arrangements were largely the grandfathers and fathers of the generation now living, we produce the original program of the ball for their curiosity and pleasure in reading:

“Grand Calico Ball” your company with ladies is respectfully solicited at the Mammoth Hall in F. Brigham & Co.’s new building in Feltonville on Tuesday evening , Mar. 16, 1858.

Committee of arrangements, Capt. Francis Brigham, William H. Wood, George E. Manson, Benjamin F. Vudorhill, Esq., Col. S.B. Fairbanks, Col. Silas Stuart, Col. Daniel Pope, Capt. Gilman Hapgood, Capt. Knott Pedrick, Silas Priest, Walter Bruce, Waldo Nourse , Alonzo Wood 2nd, Elbridge Wheeler, Geo. W. Warfield, Rufus Knight, Reuben Hapgood, Abraham Tyler, Henry Hayward, Parkman Nourse, George Houghton, C.A. Parsons, Caleb Haskell, Henry Morse, Stedman Arnold, J.J Tripp, Rufus Cox, S.M. Bruce, N. A. Gay, J.P. Nourse, Wm. G. Locke. Stillman G. Locke, L.P Ellithorpe, A.B. Gleason, Jonas T. Houghton, Solon Wood, Rufus Stratton, C.C Randall, L. Stratton, Jr., Capt. Henry Whitcomb, Dana Howe, J.H. Brigham, S.F. Manson, John McKenzie, Philo Brice, John F. Witt, Geo. L. Manson, William F. Brigham, C.L. Woodbury, J.C. Trowbridge, C.A. Ross, Geo. P. Fairbanks, William Osgood, Abel Howe, John Horman, J.M. Bullard, Geo. J. Maynard, Gilman Babcock, D.F. Pope, W.E Wood. Marlboro, Hollis Loring, J. Lewis, J.F Cotting, S.W. Nourse, Charles Putnam, Elbridge Carter; Bolton. Jacob Kendall, Elbridge Sawyer, Thomas Houghton, Solon Whitcomb, Jerome Burdett, Levi Carter; Stow, Marshall Davis, Chas. Conant, G.J. Conant; Concord. J.M. Smith, George Prescott, William Wild; Sudbury, Major Ephraim Moore, Captain Reuben Willis, Lancaster, W. Whitcomb, Edward Webster; floor managers, W.E.C Worcester, C.C. Randall, W.G. Locke, W.H. Horton, R.H. Brigham, A.K. Graves. A.H. Pope, Edwin Amsden, Wm. F. Trowbridge, Jonas t. Houghton. Reception Com., William H. Wood, Capt. F. Brigham, B.F. Underwood.

Music, Holder & Richardson's band; Tickets 25 cts., for sale at the door. Ladies are particularly requested to appear in calico dresses.

Supper served by George W. Warfield at the Mansion House. Conveyance to and from the house. Tickets to supper 75 cts. Dancing to commence at 7 ½ o' clock. This was a large committee of arrangements; since that merrymaking night in 1858 one half of the number have passed away.



The Cranston Hotel

History of Hudson, Part 32

as published in the ENTERPRISE, May 31, 1894 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

Story of Jonathan Nourse, 1772 and Nathaniel Nourse, 1813. Nourse was thrifty but generous. After his death his chest was opened to reveal 3000 silver dollars.

The house where Mr. Peterson now lives was built by Dea. Jonathan Nourse about 1825: the original house stood near the present one and was occupied by the deacon's father, whose name was also Jonathan Nourse. He was living there before the war of the Revolution. In 1772 he bought land of Samuel Bruce who lived at the time in the old house standing where the large red house now stands on Cox street. Deacon Nourse, through the kindness of his heart changed the destiny of one man's life. The story is an interesting one.

In the spring time of 1813 an old man by the name of Nathaniel Nourse from Salem, came along with an ox team, loaded with household goods, on his way to Canandaigua, Onondaga Co., N.Y., where his son lived. After he had started and before he reached Sawyer's mills (Hudson) he received word his son had sold his place and that his future movements were uncertain. In this dilemma he hired the little one-story house that time on Blueberry hill on the south side of Brigham street; the old cellar hole is still to be seen.

The unfortunate man started out for corn to feed his team, and went a long way without finding any. Reaching the house of Dea. Nourse, he obtained a bushel of corn. During the purchase he explained to him the misfortune that had overtaken him, Dea. Nourse offered him the use of the old house that stood near where he lived. Here he brought his wife, mother and daughter and remained until fall, when they left for New York and settled in Canandaigua. In a short time he buried his mother and daughter, and after residing there three years, he sold out, and coming east, bought a little home in Danvers, Mass. His wife died soon after, and in obedience to her dying wishes, and his own inclination, he came to Dea. Nourse and prevailed on him and his family to care for him during the remainder of his days. He lived thirty years after he entered his benefactor's home.

He died in 1846 at the advanced age of 93 years. He was a very eccentric man, and insisted there should be no display at his funeral, but he should be buried quietly back of the house as near to a cluster of three elms as possible and that no stone or distinguishing mark of any kind should reveal his last resting place. His wishes were complied with and he lies in the spot he selected under a large flat stone. He never as a pupil attended a town meeting. Although retiring in his ways and uncompanionable, with little sympathy with popular movements and institutions, he was a tender hearted and very liberal man, giving many and liberal sums of money to help others. He once employed a girl from the Danvers poor house by the name of Eliza Charlton, and when she returned he placed \$500_ in the hands of the overseers of the poor, to

purchase such articles as she might need, not provided by the town. He never went away from Dea. Nourse's but once in 30 years.

While a member of the family, then he went to the home of Franklin Nourse in Sterling to escape the measles but was taken down with them on his arrival. He returned after his recovery. In the room where the old man slept there stood a large chest. The room was swept out year after year, the old chest was never disturbed. After his death it was opened and more than three thousand silver dollars were found inside. This old man reached a great age. He lived to see all kindred ties severed by the universal reaper, under the hospitable roof of the good deacon. He found a wealth of friendship, that sweetened his daily life, and made existence tolerable under the weight of great sorrows and bitter disappointments that shadowed his pathway during nearly a century of time.

Youth builds his lofty arches
 Hope gleaming toward the sky
Time makes his mighty marches
 All falls before his eye.
Youth and beauty have their bound,
 Old age creeps on apace.
The old arm chair is quickly found.
 By the youngest in the race.
Why should we lament the fate
 That comes to all below,
In a higher and holier life
 We reap what we now sow.
Sow the seed that will not blight
 In every kind of weather
Seed that will fruit all right
 In the life that is forever.

History of Hudson, Part 33

as published in the ENTERPRISE, April 14, 1894 by Wilbur F. Brigham

Names of homeowners, their location and dates.

On the field in the rear of Forestdale elementary you will find a cellar hole. On this spot, there was a dwelling house occupied by Nathan Reed, before the War of the revolution. Johnathan Bruce was the next owner and lived in the house. He sold the house and barn with eighty acres of land to William Cogswell, March 24, 1789.

The house on Washington street occupied by Charles Brigham was built about 1788 by Lonewell Brigham. An old house stood on the spot before this was erected, but the owner is unknown. Near the barn is a cellar hole. It is a hundred years since a house covered it. Who lived here no one has definite knowledge. Lieut. Abraham Moore owned Pope's hill or Mt. Bellevue as early as 1790; he may have lived here.

The Haskell place on the east side of Washington street, facing Brigham street was erected in 1843. An old house previously stood here, erected by Ezekiel Clisby in 1786. He purchased 48 rods of land of William Banard for \$20. The house now occupied by Simeon Bruce was erected by him in 1849. The house on the south side of Washington street, owned by Ada Wood, was built in 1812. It is "the old schoolhouse that stood on the hill" so familiar and dear to the Rawson scholars. It has lost its identity in part in being pulled up one story higher. On the same side of the street where Knights now lives stood an old house erected by Isaac Stratton in 1818. The house occupied by Martin Reynolds stood on the other side of the road at the time and was Stratton's shoe shop. The L part of G.T.C Holden's house was erected in 1848, the main building during the war; the barn was built in 1860. When Isaac Stratton purchased his land in 1818, he gave only \$175 for 60 rods. He bought the land of Phineas Sawyer.

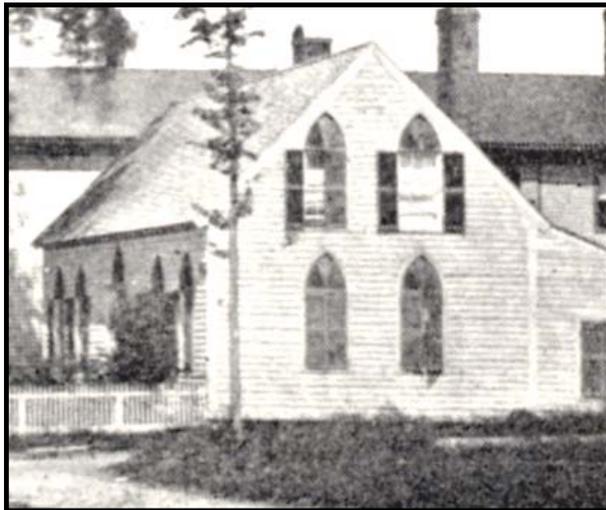
May 9, 1833 Lorenzo Stratton and George E. Manson bought one hundred and ninety-three rods of land of Stephen Pope for \$300. The Mansion House, Holden's store and the Stratton house are now standing on his land. The Stratton house was built in 1834 by Lorenzo Stratton; he built about the same time the brick shop that formerly stood where Holden's store now stands. Stratton occupied it first in the manufacture of shoes; later Silas Stuart kept store in the west end of the building; later it was used for shoe manufacturing purposes by Francis Brigham, but needing more room, in the summer of 1817, he erected the building now occupied by Woodbury Sons. The shop was built by Josiah Walcott. Adjoining the shop was a stable which was changed into a packing room, an office for the farm and the storage of shoes. Adjoining the stable stood a large barn, formerly connected with the hotel, built by Joel Cranston in 1803. In 1846 this barn was turned around to face the street. In the cellar under this barn was the horse power that run the machines in the shop. In the rear of this barn was another barn painted green.

The old house on river street now owned by John Williams once stood in the roadway leading to Mawhinney's shoe factory it was built in 1834 for a shoe shop by Francis Brigham and Albert Randall. They purchased 16 rods of land of Stephen Pope for one hundred dollars. The next year Brigham sold out his interest in the shop and land for two hundred and seventy-five dollars.

The cottage that stood where the Hudson House now stands was built by David Coolidge in 1863. The cottage that stood where Jeffs' block now stands was built by F.D Brigham in 1832. This year James Wilson an Irishman, bought half an acre of land where the town house stands, for fifty dollars, but sold it back to Pope the next year. Mr. Pope built one of the brick houses that stood on the land at the time of sale to the town. The other brick house was built by Sylvanus Poole in 1832.

Comment [HG2]: This house was moved to South Street about 1880 and the site on Main Street is where the Jeffs' Block was built.

The block of houses on the south side of Main street destroyed by fire, was built a little later. The first occupants of the block were Francis Brigham, Walter Bruce, Silas B. Fairbanks, Paul N. Randall, John Kendall, Josiah Walcott, Obed Rice. The carpenter was Josiah Walcott. Where Hall's harness shop now stands, was formerly a stage barn, built by Stephen Pope in 1846.



This cottage was built by F. Dana Brigham in 1832. It was moved to South Street about 1880 and the site on Main Street is where the Jeffs Block was built. The cottage is the basis of the "Horseshoe Pub" in 2000.



Francis D. Brigham

History of Hudson, Part 34

as published in the ENTERPRISE, April 21, 1894 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

Wilder Bush arrives in town, in business at Wood Square and then to Tripp's Pond. He employed over 20 making tortoise shell combs for ladies in New York and South America, the high ornate ornamental style. Wilder Bush here 10 years turning his \$500 investment into \$50,000. A temperance society formed 1836.

One of the most successful business men in Feltonville (Hudson) was Wilder Bush. His grandfather's name was Jonathan Bush. He lived at one time on the old Goodnow place, near where Herbert Stratton now lives. His father's name was Calvin. When a boy he went with his father to Concord, and arrived at the old North bridge just in time to see the British fire the last shot at the "embattled farmers" April 19, 1775. Wilder Bush commenced business in Feltonville in 1829 in an old building standing in Wood square.

He worked here something over a year and then went into the still house belonging to the Felton estate, standing where Tripp's mill now stands. Bush moved to this place to get the benefit of water power. He enlarged the building and built the house on River street where the late Gilman Hapgood resided. Mr. Bush came in possession of the old still house through the tragic death of Washington Cook, who was in the comb business. He was pressing combs one day; a workman was using a beetle in striking a blow; he accidentally hit Cook on the head causing his death. Mr. Cook married Charlotte Felton, daughter of Silas Felton.

Wilder Bush made, mostly, dressing combs. He also made large fancy back combs, five to seven inches high, for the South American trade. The other markets for his goods were Boston, New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore. The New York market took most of his goods. The names of some of his workmen were John Winch, D. M. Gates, Moses Turner, Ancill Tyler, Abram Tyler, C. B. Cook, Horace Cook, Warren T. Bush, M. Fairbanks, Aaron Wheeler, Otis Brown, Samuel Gibson, William Gibson, John Fairbanks, Almira Bush, Rhoda Whitney, Sarah Ball, Betsy Stone, Charlotte Gates. The value of the goods was \$25,000 a year. Not having the water power and not being able to secure it in this place, in 1839, he sold out to Samuel Gibson, and moved to Northboro and continued in the same business.

When Mr. Bush came to Feltonville, he was worth only \$500. When he left, ten years later, he was worth \$50,000-the fruit of good management and a very profitable market. He tried to buy the saw mill property on Washington St. Had he succeeded, this business would have been one of the permanent industries of the village.

Samuel Gibson, his successor in the business, built the house where E. P. Lawrence now resides, on River St. The workmen of those days gave some thought to moral improvement and growth in steady habits.

About 1836 they formed a temperance society, and as it was the first one in this place, of which we have any record, we give the articles of agreement from the original writing, for the benefit of the present generation. One of the leading spirits in the work was our townsman, Deacon George W. Chipman, then a boy in the store of Manson & Brigham. The following is the preamble and constitution: Whereas, It is not only fit and proper, but commendable in the highest degree, for members to associate for the suppression of vice, and the unnatural indulgence of appetite, and for the promotion of peace, happiness and good order, in society, the proper and legitimate offspring of intemperance and sobriety and whereas, by means of intoxicating liquors almost every day observation fails not to furnish us with lamentable proofs of the violation of laws and principles, on which are based the richest blessings, both temporal and spiritual, which it has pleased divine Providence, to confer upon our race, therefore we with firmness of heart, and unity of purpose pledge ourselves, strictly to observe the following:

CONSTITUTION

Art. 1. This society shall be known by the title of the Feltonville Young Men's Temperance Society.

Art. 2. Provides that two persons shall be chosen to transact the business of the society, a chairman and a secretary, the latter of whom shall be chosen by ballot, and shall retain his office six months, the former not to be chosen by ballot, shall only serve during the meeting at which he is chosen.

Art. 2. provides also a treasurer, also chosen for six months.

Art. 3. Every person in becoming a member of this society is considered to obligate himself wholly to abstain at all times from all kinds of intoxicating drinks, cider only excepted, unless other kinds shall be prescribed by a regular physician, in case of sickness.

Art. 4. No person shall become a member whose reputation hitherto has been such as to warrant the conclusion or induce the suspicion that his sole object is to impose upon the society without a concurrence of three-fourths of the members present at a regularly appointed meeting of the society.

Art. 5. No person shall become a member of the society who is over 40 or under 16 years of age.

Art. 6. This society shall meet on the first Saturday evening of every month at such place and also at such times, as may be decided on by a majority present, for the purpose of mutual edification and improvement of its members.

Art. 7. Membership is forfeited by the second violation of the third article of this constitution, if evidence, however, is not sufficiently clear to convince a majority of the members present, which shall be decided by their vote, the person accused shall retain his membership, which proceedings and also all others it shall be the duty of the secretary to record.

The following persons enrolled themselves as members of the society:

Daniel W. Kendall, William Gibson, Horace G. Cook, Helena W. Coolidge, Elbridge S. Wood, Almira M. Bush, Ezra S. Moore, Nancy Brooks, Jacob Warren, Charlotte Gates, Warren T. Bush, Hannah H. Hixon, George W. Chipman, Clarrisia Brigham, George R. Walcott, Melissa Farnum, George F. Rice, Abram Tyler, Ancell Tyler, Calvin B. Cook, Daniel M. Gates, Francis Walcott, Daniel Stratton, Edwin Rice, Rufus Knight, Obed Rice.



The Comb

History of Hudson, Part 35

as published in the ENTERPRISE, April 28, 1894 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

The homes and locations of various Wilkins members. Willard Brown, a blacksmith, his wife Elizabeth attended the old North School which was built 1799 on Old North Road. Her teachers and classmates are listed. One teacher, Elizabeth Wilkins worked on farms for wages. One classmate was Amory Maynard, the name of Maynard, MA.

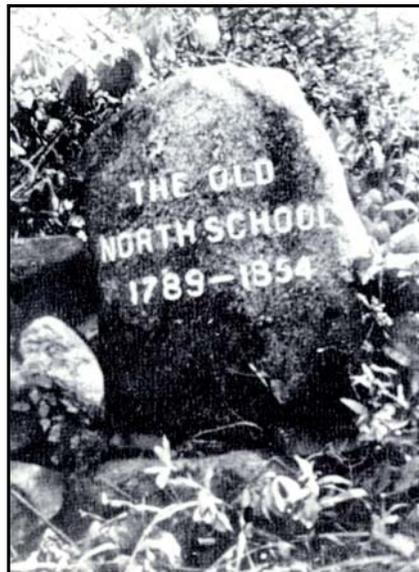
John Priest of Harvard, the grandfather of Gilman Priest, bought the farm where he now lives, March 31, 1738. He paid the owner, John Forbush, 700 pounds for the farm of 120 acres; 112 acres was on the north side of the Assabeth river. The sale included one-half of an orchard of two acres. The near neighbors of John Priest at this time were Heseiah Bush, John Gould, David Forbush and John Hapgood. In 1740 John Wilkins came from Danvers and settled within half a mile of the Priest farm. He built his house on the right hand corner; as you turn to go to Rockbottom. A large apple tree is growing today on land that covers the cellar hole; the old well is within 10 feet. As late as the year 1805, the chimney of this house was standing. Joel Wilkins, a great grandson of John Wilkins, wanted a handsled; his father, Jonas Wilkins, did not want him to have one. The boy got one and secreted it in the fireplace in the old chimney. The boy grew to manhood and lived to be 93 years of age. He died in 1887. The house where Donald Ross now resides was built by Edward Wilkins in 1808. He had a son Edward born Sept. 20, 1793. He was the ablest and most successful farmer of all the Wilkins name. He was a natural orator and did much to awaken the patriotism of the people during the great rebellion. He was the first man who died in the new town of Hudson in 1866.

The house where our venerable citizen Elbridge Darling now lives was built by Levi Wilkins in 1815. It is built of oak timber, he went to Boston to get the finish for the house during the trip he injured his knee and died in 1816. His brother David lived in the house with him. They owned 275 acres of land. The grandfather of Elbridge Darling, Jonas Darling, was one of the seventeen days men at the battle of Lexington. He returned to his home and enlisted for the war. His last service was at Fort Ticonderoga. John Fowle was the grandfather of Elbridge Darling's wife. He was an intimate friend of Jonas Parker, the first man who fell at Lexington. He married Parker's daughter and had five sons and one daughter. This daughter married David Jones Foster of Petersham. She died in Brooklyn, N. Y. in 1892 aged 92. John Fowler was twice married. His second wife was Margaret Briggs. He had two daughters, both now living. One married Rev. Joseph Coolidge, who preached at East Lexington. The other lives at Boston Highlands. Mr. Darling has the chest that Fowler had at Fort Ticonderoga. He served through all the wars of the Revolution.

The old house where the late William Wilkins lived was built by his father Jonas Wilkins in 1785, Jonas Wilkins was a soldier of the Revolution. The house occupied by the late Joel Wilkins was built by Solomon Wilkins about 1802. This house was kept as a hotel by Joel Cranston from 1818 to 1824. The second floor of the house was used for a ball room. We stated in a recent issue, the William Wilkins house was the hotel, a mistake. The great grand daughter of John Wilkins the first settler in 1740 is still living. Her name is Elizabeth R. Brown. She was born Aug. 8, 1802-; she is fast nearing the century line. She married Willard Brown and were the first to occupy the house where Mr. Stone now resides, May 19, 1825. This house is at the head of the Hapgood road leading to Jeffs' farm on to Marlboro. Mr. Brown was a blacksmith and his shop was near the house. The original North schoolhouse built in 1779, stood in the sand bank near this house. Mrs. Brown attended this school in her childhood days. We will give the names of some of her teachers and schoolmates of eighty years ago.

Her teachers were Sally Witt, sister to Ebenzer Witt, "the honest miller," Petsy and Sophia Warren, Polly Hapgood, Nathan Goodale, David Goodale, Issac Stratton, Dwight Witt. One of her teachers gave her the following diploma: "Elizabeth R. Wilkins, by her close attention to her studies, is worthy of the praise and esteem of Sophia Warren. Aug 9 1813."

Through the changeful years this diploma has been carefully treasured. Her schoolmates were Mary Hapgood, Petsy Hapgood, Almira Spurr, Sarah Spurr, Phebe Priest, Mary Priest, Silas Priest, Benjamin Priest, Sarah Maynard, Aaron Maynard, Caroline Maynard, Ned Smith, Charlotte Wesson, Elizabeth Bruce, Amory Maynard, Lydia Maynard, Amory Bruce, Ann Hapgood, Hepsabeth Hapgood, Frank Hapgood, Molly Barnard, Catherine Barnard, William Brigham, Solomon Brigham, Betsy Arnold, Betsy Wilkins, Edward Wilkins, William H. Wood, Mary Dunn, Betsy Brigham. On winter days when the snow was deep this bright school girl would ride to school seated on a horse behind her father. Her chief competitor in study was William Brigham. When Miss Wilkins reached womanhood she would work out all day until nine o'clock at night, the practice then, for ninepence a day, 12 1-2 cts. She would ride horse to plow for half this sum, 6 1-4 cts. A day. In a devoted, faithful service for all mankind, She has gathered the fairest sheaves. The golden sunset of life is around her. The glorious light of another world is before her, which will soon break into the sweet rest of Heaven.



History of Hudson, Part 36

as published in the ENTERPRISE, May 5, 1894 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

More homes and their occupants 1770 on. The story of "Wet Ass Brook". Grinding corn at Josiah Howe's mill in 1752. An Indian encounter on Round Top.

The old house on the south side of Gospel hill was built by Loveweil Dunn, who had a shoe shop near the house. The house was enlarged by Josiah Hapgood who married in 1773. On the opposite side of the road stands the old house where Ethan Darling lived and died. He lived with his wife sixty-five years. His son Elbridge Darling, now living, was born in this house in 1808. His brother William, now living, is 88 years old. On the east side of the hill as you turn to go to Rockbottom, you will see a depression in the ground. On this spot stood the house of Phinehas Moore, a soldier of the Revolution. The house was torn down in 1822. The families on the hill formerly went to Stow to do some of their trading. Mrs. Moore set out one day to walk to the store. On her way she had a brook to cross. She attempted to jump it but erred in judgment or lacked in nimbleness of execution, she fell back and took a seat in the brook.—A hundred years have passed away, but from that time to this, in conveyances of land and by the speech of man it is known as "Wet Ass Brook."

The house where John Jewell now resides was built by his father, Lewis Jewell in 1814. An old house formerly stood near this house, erected by Silas Jewell, the first of the name to settle here in 1768. By a vote of Marlboro, March 5, 1770 it appears Jewell was a blacksmith as well as farmer, "Voted to discontinue a part of the old roadway between Silas Jewell's and Barzelial Moore's, beginning at the country road, near Jewell's blacksmith shop and leading towards, said Moore's, until it strikes the town way lately laid out and that the said Jewell have the old way in lieu of the new way."

The road through Wilkinsville was laid out this year 1770. The road through the land of Edward Wilkins was laid out March 4, 1750.

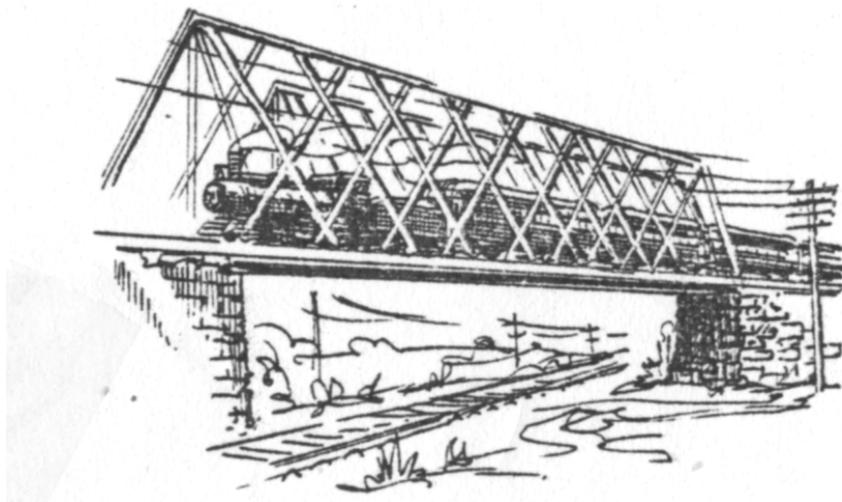
The house where Joel Ray now lives was built by William Darling in 1840. The house where William Whitney lives is the original Colonel Wesson place. Colonel Wesson gained his title, as colonel of a regiment of troops, in the Revolutionary Army. His son William lived on the spot where Charles F. Barnard now resides. Near the residence of John Jewell is a house built by Jabez Greene in 1820. He had a shop and manufactured axes. Near the house run "King George third road four rods wide more if needed." Near the town farm where William Hickey lives, Robert Hunter resided. His house was used as a hotel. Near here once stood a house occupied by Bonny Hayden. The stone chimney of the house was standing a few years ago. Blind Oliver lived in this house. On the left hand side of the road is a cellar hole. A man by the name of Carr got involved by endorsing notes for his son, and hung himself in the cellar before erecting the house. In the rear of the spot where the north schoolhouse stood, destroyed by the fire in 1851, is to be seen the foundation that were laid for a meeting house two hundred years ago. After the floor was laid the builders changed their minds and erected the house on high school common in Marlboro. Near the house of Tim Shea is a large stream of water that flows from the direction of Fort Meadow. On this stream stood a grist mill. This grist mill was erected by

Ephraim Maynard about 1773. The millstones were drawn from Hopkinton by eight pair of oxen. The water wheel was outside the mill and was ten feet wide. A house and a barn stood near the mill. One April morning in 1845 the house was struck by lightning and consumed the building. The last millers were Truman Walcott, Captain Tom Whitman and George Whitney.

A more ancient grist mill once stood on this stream, owned and run by Josiah Howe. Oct. 10, 1752, Joseph Hapgood went to the mill with a load of grain. Howe could not grind it for him, as he was busy breaking new ground with twenty head of oxen; the next day Hapgood went and took the miller's place in the field and his grist was ground.

The old house torn down a few years ago where the late Moses Hapgood resided was built about 1731 by his grandfather, John Hapgood. On the opposite side of this road to Marlboro, two more houses formerly stood, owned by the Hapgood family. They were taken down many years ago. Where Mr. Parmenter lives an old house once stood built by Artemas How in 1767. Jabez How built the house where Elijah How now lives, David How the house on the Cunningham place. They were the sons of Artemas How who died in 1810.

On Round Top, a hill near the places described, formerly covered with a forest, two men were chopping down trees; it was in the early years of settlement when Indians were plenty and on the warpath, they saw the indians coming. They were between them and the house; there was no chance to escape—they crawled under the limbs of a large tree they had felled and remained secreted until the indians went away.



Wilkinsville Bridge
Built in 1881 by the Central Mass Railroad.
The bridge crossed over Route 62 and the trolley line to Stow and Maynard.

History of Hudson, Part 37

as published in the ENTERPRISE, May 19, 1894 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

The will of Jedediah Brigham written a year before his death in 1762. He is the Great Grandfather of Francis Brigham of F. Brigham & Co. shoemakers.

Many of the wills of our ancestors were expressed in the quaintest language and show the study and care in the minutest details, in the disposal of their property. We have before us the will of Jedediah Brigham written in the year before his death 1762. The phraseology of the will is so different from the wills today, we give it for the interest it will have many readers. "In the name of God, Amen, I, Jedediah Brigham, of Marlboro, in the country of Middlesex and Province of Mass Bay in New England, Being in a weak and languishing condition, infirm in body and under sensible decays of nature, but of perfect mind and memory, thanks being given to God. Therefore, calling to mind the morality of my body, and knowing it is appointed for all men once to die, do make and ordain this my last will and testament, that is to say, Principally and first of all, I give and recommend my soul into the hands of God, that gave it, and my body I recommend to the earth, to be buried in decent christian burial at the direction of my executor. Nothing doubting, but at the general resurrection I shall receive the same again, by the Almighty power of God.

As touching such earthly goods and estate as it hath pleased God to bless me with in this life, I give and dispose of the same in the manner and form following: I order all my past debts which I owe to any person or persons to be well and truly paid by my executor, hereafter named, out of my personal estate, after which I will and bequeath to my well beloved son, Solomon Brigham, ten shillings to be paid and levied out of my personal estate and paid by my executor, and one quarter of my wearing apparel, and this to be his full share, having given him before in my life time.

I give and bequeath to my well beloved son, Francis Brigham, thirteen lbs, six shillings and eight pence, lawful money to be paid him within one year next, following my decease, by my daughter, Doratha Howe, out of the land which I gave her, by my last will and testament on condition of her paying the same sum as aforesaid; also one fourth part of my wearing apparel, this to be his full share, having portioned him off in my life time. I will and bequeath to my well beloved son, Stephen Brigham, fourteen lbs, six shillings, eight pence lawful money to be paid him by my daughter, Lucy Baily, out of the land which I gave her by my last will, within one year next after my decease, and also one fourth part of my wearing apparel, and this to be his full share, having portioned him off in my life time.

Editor's note: "Moiety"; share, half, part.

I will and bequeath to my well beloved daughter, Doratha Howe, and to her heirs and assigns forever the moiety or half part of that tract of land lying in Prince Town which is not given away or disposed of by deed, heretofore and is the east or north east part of which I hold by deed, executed by one Joseph Priest.

The one half part of the same, both for quantity and quality, and I give the same on these conditions namely my said dau. Dorothy paying to her, Bro. Francis Brigham thirteen pounds, six shillings and eight pence within one year next after my decease, as is before expressed in the legacy willed to him, also I give and bequeath to my dau. Dorotha, eight lbs. lawful money to be paid her by my Dau. Lucy Baily, out of the land I gave her by this my last will and testament, and this to be her full share, having portioned her at her marriage.

Item. I give to my Dau. Dorotha, a tract of land lying in the town formerly called Lancaster, now called Bolton in the county of Worcester, said land I hold by deed, executed by Jedediah Stow, James Keyes and Nathaniel Hapgood, and the same was taken up on right, The legacy is to extend to my dau. Lucy and her heirs and assigns, and this to be her full portion, having portioned her off at her marriage.

I give and bequeath to my well beloved son Winslow Brigham, and to his heirs and assigns forever, all my real and personal estate, and the profits and privileges appertaining thereunto belonging, which is not given away by this my last will and testament, and I do likewise constitute, make and ordain, my said son Winslow Brigham, my sole executor of this my last will and testament and I do hereby utterly disallow, revoke and disannul all and every other former testament, wills and legacies and bequests and executions by me in any ways before named, willed and bequeathed. Ratifying and comprising this and no other to be my last will and testament.

In witness whereof I , the said Jedediah Brigham have hereunto set my hand and seal this 21 day of December and in the third year of his majesty's reign Ano Domini 1762.

Signed, sealed, and delivered by the said Jedediah Brigham, as his last will and testament, in the presence of us the subscribers Samuel Stowe, Jedediah Brigham, Darius How, Elisabeth Burnel.

In 1807 his son, Solomon Brigham passed away. An inventory of his personal property, shows him to have been a very prudent man in dress, and not the owner of a large library. A few items will show his wardrobe was seriously out of repair. One black coat, waist coat and breeches \$2.75, one pair of shirts \$1.25 one great-coat \$2.25 one hat, 25 cts., one old coat and waistcoat \$2.50, one pair shoes 50 cts., a number of books \$1.25. The expense of the last sickness was three dollars, funeral expenses ten dollars. It appears his wearing apparel was worth only \$13.50 and his library \$1.25.

His son Ivory Brigham, passed away June 4, 1853. He beat this record. He was 88 years old. He ate his breakfast as usual then went to bed not feeling well, a doctor

was suggested: “No I will be at no expense for a doctor, my work is done and I have lived long enough.”

The doctor never came. In two or three days the weary pilgrim, in the peacefulness of a full resignation for the mystery of the unseen, he entered the eternal world. It will be seen from the dates, the grandsire and grandson lived in three centuries. The first born June 8, 1693. the last, April 20, 1765 and died in 1853. The two lives from birth to death covered a period of 160 years. Not equal to the record of the man who died in New York who lived in three centuries. He was born in 1699 and died in 1801.

History of Hudson, Part 38

as published in the ENTERPRISE, May 26, 1894 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

In 1698, an Indian Free School is proposed to which the English settler's children could attend, as there is no school in northern Marlboro. A school is finally built and staffed in 1702.

The first settlers of Marlboro were of deep religious convictions. In all their hardships and sufferings for home and religious freedom, they recognized the providence of God. Their hearth fires were hardly glowing for the first time in the wilderness when they built the house for worship; they met with all their devout earnestness, the spiritual needs of the people they did not stop with this work, they knew the mind of the young must be instructed to equip them with the best helps to good citizenship. The very first efforts for the youth in Marlboro were made by Gen. Daniel Gookin, "the Indian apostle in behalf of the Indians". The Indians had a tract of land of 150 acres, and in the language of Gookin "this tract of land doth so embosom itself in the English town, that it is encompassed about with it except one way." On the edge of this, the settlers placed their meetinghouse, which was an injustice to the Indians. In this tract of land were fifty acres of woodland and twenty acres of meadow; this meadowland lay north of Main Street, Marlboro from a point near the Catholic Church.

The Indians were willing that this land, valued at two hundred pounds, should go for school purposes. Gen. Gookin proposed "that the part of land above expressed be set apart for an Indian free school, and be confirmed by an act of the General Court of this colony into a corporation for the Indians for this end forever, and that it be enclosed with a stone wall into two or three enclosures for corn, pastures, etc., and this will be done easily, because there are stones enough at hand upon it, and there to build a convenient house for schoolmaster and his family under the same roof, may be room for a school; also to build some out building for hay, cattle, etc. The charge of all this will not amount to over two hundred pounds in money. This being done, the place will be fit to accommodate a schoolmaster and his family without any other salary but the use of this farm. Moreover it is very probable that the English people of Marlboro will gladly and readily send their children to the same school and pay the schoolmaster for them, which will better his maintenance, for they have no school in that place for the present, in which I have heard some of the most prudent of them lament. But it being chargeable to raise a school and maintain a schoolmaster for twenty or thirty children, the inhabitants are backward to do it until compelled by the law, which requires every village of fifty families to provide a school to teach the English tongue and to write; but the people of Marlboro, wanting a few families do take that low-advantage to ease their purses of the common charge."

"But if the school herein proposed is set up, it will be their true interests to put their children in it being the most thrifty and facile way they can take." The efforts of

Gookin were unavailing. The settlers were too poor to bear large expenses; they were clearing forests for cultivated fields; money was scarce, and to secure the common necessities of life was a constant source of anxiety and daily struggle.

The war whoop of King Philip was ominous of the coming storm that was soon to break into appalling disasters upon the settlers. Before the fury of battle was spent, the inhabitants of Marlboro had left their homes for towns that afforded greater security for life. After the war, those who had survived the cruelties of a savage foe returned to their farms to build new homes and plant new orchards which the red-skinned fiends with the torch and tomahawk had destroyed. This was the toil of years. The education of the youth was a paramount thought in the mind of the citizens, but it did not crystallize into practical shape until November 1696 when Benjamin Franklin, supposed to be an uncle of Dr. Franklin, was employed to teach until March 1697, for eight shillings a week. He engaging carefully to teach all such youths as come, or are sent to him, to read English once a day at least and more, if need require, also to learn to write and cash accounts.”

This school was kept in an unoccupied house owned by Isaac Wood. The next teacher was Jonathan Johnson. He commenced teaching in his own house Dec. 17, 1699; he was to teach the same branches taught by Franklin. The town voted in 1698 to build a new schoolhouse. It was not erected and ready for a school until 1700. Mr. Johnson was employed to teach one year for fourteen pounds. It appears at this time the citizens were a little careless in the support of the only school in town. They failed to provide a teacher in 1701, and were fined; this salutary reminder quickened their sense of duty, for in December of this year, the town voted, “that Thomas Rice and Isaac Amsden do go forth, with all speed convenient in the town’s name, and behalf, to do what they can to provide a schoolmaster qualified according to law, and to treat with him, with terms, for a half year or a twelve months as they shall think fit.”

This committee of the town secured the services of John Holman of Milton. He was to teach the branches taught by Franklin and Johnson “and also in Latin as occasion is and in doing the duty of schoolmaster four months, his salary for this time was seven pounds. Dec 1, 1703 Benjamin Oats commenced teaching this school and continued four months. He was a graduate of Harvard. We have no record showing the teacher in each consecutive year. The records of Marlboro are lost from 1665 to 1739.

Much information of great value to the settlers in the northern part of the town, now Hudson, is lost forever. We shall continue to show with all the information obtainable what was done for schools and the education of the youth of the town for two hundred years. From the humble beginning, the growth has been wonderful. The facilities for the instruction of the youth at the present time are among the marvels of the age, and gives new and lasting strength to our republic; the world’s greatest almoner of freedom.

Editor’s note: “Almoner” – one who distributes alms for a King or a person of rank – a social worker attached to a hospital.

History of Hudson, Part 39

as published in the ENTERPRISE, June 2, 1894 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

In 1708 school was started. There was only one school house so private homes were used moving each quarter year so as to vary the distances each student had to travel, called "squadrons". The homeowner nearest had to clean, provide wood and water. Sometimes he boarded the teacher.

June 1, 1708, Abraham Coffin was engaged to teach the school: his salary was twenty-four pounds a year. He taught three years. In 1714, Mr. Witt was a teacher of the school. This is probably John Witt the first of the name to settle in this town. He built his house in 1707, near the Hudson poorfarm. In 1714, the town voted to purchase an hourglass and place in the school; it cost one shilling and four pence. In those days timepieces were scarce and high. The flight of time was measured by the shifting sands. The family living nearest the schoolhouse generally had charge of the key to the house by vote of the town. The school teacher was a perambulating factor in the distribution of knowledge. There was only one schoolhouse, and as the scholars were scattered over several miles of territory, the town had schools in private houses as will be seen by a vote of the town in 1774.

"That the school master keep school a quarter of a year at a time at the general quarters of the town for this year." Voted that the selectman order where the school shall begin, and go on from quarter to quarter. July 4, 1715, the town voted and granted nineteen pounds and 15 shillings to pay for building a new schoolhouse and shingling it. The schoolhouse was to be 24 by 18 feet and 7 feet between joints. When the town was voting less than one hundred dollars for the erection of this schoolhouse, they little thought that sixty one years from that very day the Declaration of Independence would ring out its glad voice for freedom to all the centuries, while the triumphant colonies in the panoply of statehood, took a foremost place in competition in all civilizing arts, in the grand march of nations. The yeoman of Marlboro were building better than they knew.

Supply Weeks was the teacher in the northeast part of the town in 1713-4. About this time William Thomas was engaged to teach, and taught twelve or fifteen years. Mar. 12, 1719, the town voted "that the school master be removed to the quarters of the town, and that Zerubabel Eager and Nathaniel Joslin hire Mr. Thomas for another year, and that he be first at Stoney brook." We find by the record Sept. 25, 1721, he was hired for another year "to keep school first in the Indian land." He died July 25, 1733, aged 45. Without doubt he continued to teach until his last sickness. Religious meetings were held in the schoolhouse, the town voting that "outlivers have the liberty of the schoolhouse on the Sabbath days, leaving the fire safe." There was an earnest desire among all classes of citizens for the education of the children and youth of the town. The leading citizens were put on committees in moving the school to the several parts of the town, that equal privileges and rights might be accorded to all.

In 1739 the town voted that Joseph Baker, Daniel Barnes, Daniel Bartlet, Jonas Morse, John Hapgood, be a committee to move the schoolhouse to several parts of the town. The town voted in 1745 "All those families that live more than 1 ½ miles away from either of the school houses, where the school has been kept the past year, shall draw their proportion of school money out of the school rate." We learn from this action of the town there were only two schoolhouses in the town at this time. Further instruction of the children was through moving schools, or "squadrons," as they were called. This gave the youngest a chance to attend school, who would have been deprived of this privilege had instruction been confined to two schoolhouses. One of these squadrons or schools, was near the house of John Hapgood not far from the residence of E.M. Stowe. The time given the rising generation to attend school was very limited. In this school the scholar was allowed seven weeks and two-thirds of a day yearly. This school and all the other outside schools were kept in private houses. The town voted May 15, 1749 to proportion the school into six societies or squadrons. The pay of the teachers we learn from the receipt of Samuel Brigham, who was paid 57 pounds, 10 shillings for keeping the school two quarters. The school master in his grand rounds was boarded at a price that would be regarded low in these days of high prices. In 1773 we find Gershom Rice, who lived where Francis W. Brigham now lives, was paid 1 lb., 12 shillings for boarding the school master, 6 ½ weeks would be \$1.35 a week. He must have taught near the residence of the widow Mary Bruce, where E.M. Stowe resides.

In 1769 the town built a schoolhouse near Jacob Felton and another house at Robin Hill. John Barnes was the Carpenter. The Robin Hill house cost \$495.55. The town voted May 10, 1779 to provide a schoolhouse in the northerly part of the town. It was the first North School house ever erected. It stood near the sand bank where Mr. Stone now lives. The second one was built on a lot on Thomas Hapgood's land in the wilderness in 1816. The stove put in this year cost \$123.49. We give a description of a schoolhouse built in 1791 which shows the cheapness and simplicity of schoolhouses erected one hundred years ago.

This schoolhouse to be furnished in the following manner "Clapboarded and painted with Spanish brown, and window shutters, outside, the chimneys to be built with brick, and entry by the chimney and glass over the door, a double floor, ceiled up to the windows and plastered, the remainder of the sides and overhead the timbers to be cased; two seats on the sides for the writers, the second one raised and one seat in front for the small ones; two windows on each of the three sides, 15 squares 7x9 glass.

The schoolhouses were of the most primitive construction; to read, write and cypher were the solid attainments of those days. The population were mostly engaged in agricultural pursuits. The simple instruction of the school covered all the practical demands of an industrial life, the people were simple of habit and their wants were few, the fevered life of today had not touched the hand, that held the plow, that turned the furrow, for the golden harvest fields, which were the consummation of their highest ambition and joy, as they added to "basket and to store."

History of Hudson, Part 40

as published in the ENTERPRISE, June 9, 1894 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

The General Court orders proper education when 200 families in a town. Population 1789 - 1554 in all Marlboro. Rules given for maintaining schools. Female teachers are allowed. In 1812 a new school was voted. It was on Washington Street on the corner of Rutland Street.

In Decemeber, 1789, the town chose a committee to see what action should be taken to carry out the act of the General court, passed in June of this year reading, "every town or district containing two hundred families or householders, shall be provided with a schoolmaster of good moral character and instructed in the Latin, Greek and English languages and that in addition thereto, shall be provided with a schoolmaster of good morals, to teach children to read, and instruct them in the English language as well as in arithmetic, orthography and decent behavior." The act also requires that every town with two hundred families, should have two schools each, which are to be kept for such a term of time, as shall be equivalent to twelve months for each school in each year. To cover the act of the General court the committee for the town recommended the seven schoolhouses in town be open to the instruction of the children and youth of the town fifteen weeks in each year

The selectmen were made a committee to provide the able schoolmasters for the schools. The population at this time was 1554 there were no addition of changes in the school for several years. The act in the general court requiring the instruction in the languages was not adopted and carried into effect at this time.

In 1803 the town chose a committee consisting of Benjamin Rice, Aaron Brigham, Lovewell Barnes, Silas Felton, Stephen Ames, Daniel Brigham and Abner Goodale to examine and report on the best methods to improve the condition and efficency of the schools. This committee reported "that a person be employed and competent to teach the scholars in town who may desire to be instucted in the Greek and Latin languages; also that suitable grammar schoolmasters be provided." Under the report of this committee District No. 4 the North school was to be kept eighteen weeks in a single year. The committee further recommended that "the town choose by ballot, seven persons one for each schoolhouse; it shall be the duty of this committee to provide wood for said schools, and with the minister or other person visit the schools and carry out all the regulations recommended by the committee." This committee touched the pulse beat of the truest and best life when they futher declared "As no legacy we can bequeath to posterity is so valuable as a good education your committee do further report that in addition to the other schooling the aforesaid committee shall provide suitable schoolmistresses to keep seven weeks and a halfannually in each town school house and regulate said woman schools."

The report of this committee was accepted by the town.

The effect of this action was to place the school on a more sure and permanent basis. It relieved the selectmen of duties that belonged to the several school districts. By an equitable distribution of the care and labor for the education of the children and youth, they would receive the largest benefits to be derived in those days of limited means and still more limited resources. For the first time after the lapse of more than a hundred years, women were permitted to take their place as teachers in the Marlboro schools.

The town voted that no children be allowed to attend the schools under three years of age. The duties of the female teachers were largely elemental and correctional. A certain amount of judicious walloping to direct the tender thought in the straight and narrow way, was better than to barb the opening faculties with too much learning.

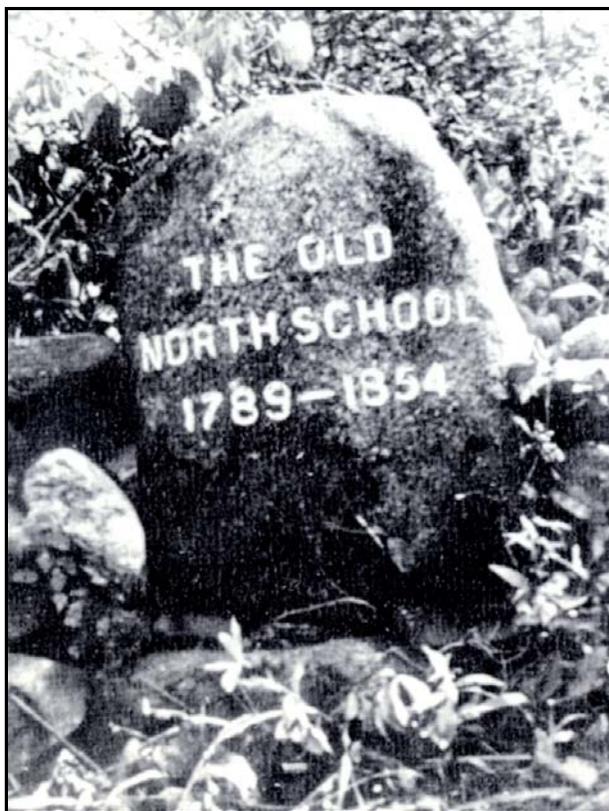
While the schoolmarm did little washing or ironing in the school room, her domestic duties were faithfully attended to. The town thought it was wise to simplify her household affairs and on May 2, 1814, passed the following vote: "No work be allowed in a woman's school except sewing and knitting." She taught little besides A B C and physical science for unruly urchins.

In 1812, the town voted to build a new schoolhouse in the north part of the town at Sawyer's mills, now Hudson. The contest in town meeting was a close one, the vote being 63 to 61, only two majority in favor of building. To prevent adverse action at the next town meeting before it was called, the victors went into the woods, cut and framed the timber and had the building ready for use. The building had a small L. This opened into an entry way the width of the small building; on the west side the fuel for the stoves was stored; on the east side two shelves the width of the entry were placed against the wall.

These shelves held the dinner pails of the scholars, many of whom came a long way to school and were obliged to eat a cold bite in the schoolroom. The water pail and dish and the girls' bonnets were on these shelves. On the left as you entered the schoolroom was the teacher's desk. The seat to the desk was not a stuffed opera chair, but a good solid plank of hard wood which was helpful to a frequent change of position. The desk was some four feet high and roomy enough to swallow up unruly pupils of small measure, who occasionally got the proprieties due the "stern guider of the young idea." In front of the desk was a seat where the teacher sat and to the infant class taught the mysteries of the alphabet. The stove stood in the middle of the floor. The boys took turns in cold weather building fires and sweeping out the schoolhouse. The janitor had not then appeared as one of the products of time. On the east and west side of the room was a bench some 12 feet long.

Behind these long benches the smallest boys were seated. They were so hidden from view, they often first learned their roguery was discovered when they suddenly

landed over the bench, waiting for something to drop. On the north side the floor was raised. There were four rows of benches, and four benches in each row. The seat was a good wide plank long enough for two scholars. The benches were badly cut and disfigured by the jackknife in constant use for two generations. There were eleven windows in the schoolroom and two in the entry. The windows and doors furnished all needed ventilation. A hardier, healthier looking lot of boys and girls never walked the streets. They were unlike the puny, sickly looking scholars seen so often at the present time, whose whitened, pulseless appearance is due more to diet at home, rather from any air or contagion of the schoolroom.



Marker for the
Old North School
On Old North Road
1789-1854

History of Hudson, Part 41

as published in the ENTERPRISE, June 16, 1894 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

Teachers in the new school built in 1812 on Washington Street are listed. Luther Peters, age 90, was in the first class. Names of the students who attended are given. A new school was built 1845 nearby. In October 1879, a reunion of the scholars of the 1812 school was held in Union Hall. They remembered sleigh rides, spelling bees, recitations, with glee.

The dimensions of the schoolhouse were 36 x 24. It was the second one ever erected in this part of the town. This school of 1812 drew many scholars from the north school who were better accommodated in the new building on Washington street. The first teacher of the school was Josiah Randall. Some of the earlier teachers were Samuel Witt, Dea. David Goodale, Samuel Brown, who taught in the years 1819-20, Dea. Calvin Hale 1820 to 24, Cyrus Shepard 1824-25, Col. William H. Wood 1825-26, Asa Sawyer, 1826-27, Rufus S. Pope 1827-28, Rev. Levi Brigham 1828-29, Asa Sawyer 1829-30, Captain Caleb Nourse 1830-34, Elbridge G. Wood 1835-37. Roswell Barrett, William Brown and Whitney taught the school before 1845. This year Charles Brigham was school committee for this district and engaged George S. Rawson to teach the school. He taught for several years. He was followed by Henry J. French in 1852-3, followed by Walker and Wheeler. The last teacher was Mr. Rawson. In the fall of 1855 the new schoolhouse on School street was completed. The first female teachers of the "old school on the hill" were Abigail Stevens and Caroline Darlymple.

The only scholar known to be living, who attended the first day of the first term of the school in 1812, is Luther Peters of Berlin, now nearly 90 years of age. When Captain Caleb Nourse taught the school in 1832, the inspecting school committee was Stephen Pope, Solomon Weeks, Ezekiel Bruce. The following report of the committee show them to be very moderate in literary requirement: "We believe it would be for the benefit of our schools that the masters teach the scholars in the first place to read and write, spell and cipher; have those branches for to show at the examination, and if there should be any scholars that have the above branches, sufficient grammar and geography might be taught in such a way as not to infringe on those important branches as described above.

While the committee were not rich in classic lore, but only secure in the common elements of knowledge, yet by their native force of character and good sense, they were enabled to take a high position among men. Stephen Pope was elected to the state senate in 1837; Ezekiel Bruce to the house in 1840-42; "Uncle Sol Weeks" for 40 years was one of the most active men in the Methodist church. In 1845 the town voted to build a new schoolhouse on Washington street to stand near the old schoolhouse provided it can be done at an expense not to exceed \$350. The building

committee was Charles Brigham, Stephen Pope, Ebenezer Witt. The building was about 18x15, one story high.

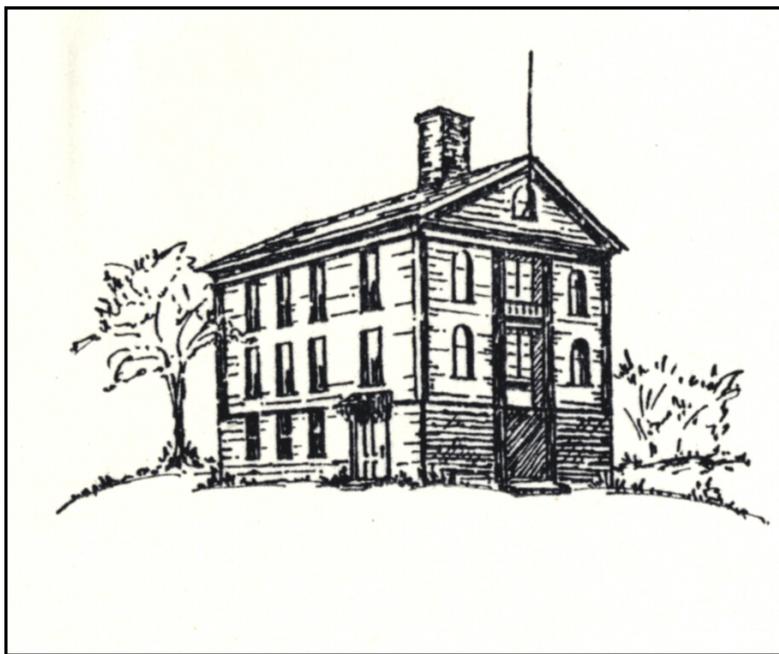
The schoolhouse had five windows, two windows on the east side, one on the south side, two on the west side. On the east and west side were a single row of benches or desks, a low seat was in front of these for the smallest scholars. There was seating capacity for forty scholars. A pipe went through the roof and furnished ventilation for the room. The first teachers were Ann B. Sawyer, Caroline Fay, Louisa Heywood. All scholars attending this school were under ten years of age. Before the erection of this school the children went to school in the little shoe shop that stood on Main street near the Hudson House. Sarah Burnham taught here fifty years ago. The school was kept in the blacksmith shop and in the box shop near the bridge. The teacher was Elizabeth Bruce. The northern part of the town, now Hudson, required only three schoolhouses in sixty-six years. The date of building, 1779-1812-1845. The schoolhouse erected in 1812 was the chief source for the education of the children and youth of Sawyer's mills and Feltonville.

We will give the names of many of the scholars who attended this school, who are no longer with the living. Charles Hudson, Betsey Haskell, Franklin Rice, Freeman Rice, George F. Rice, Augustus Rice, John F. Rice, Mary, Ann, Louise and Jane Rice, John H. Peters, Daniel Pope, Abel H. Pope, Sarah Pope, Mary Pope, Seba Pope, Francis Brigham, Willard Brigham, Levi Brigham, George Brigham, Ebenezer Witt, Eliza Witt, Sarah Witt, John, Dana and Charles Witt, Mary A. Weeks, Ann Parks, Caroline Stratton, Sarah Stratton, Rufus Stratton, William H. Wood, Alonzo Wood, Solomon Brigham, William Brigham, Mary Kendall, Mary Rice, and scores of others, whose names we have not room to give.

In October 1879, there was a reunion of the old scholars in Union hall. Two of the old teachers were present Dea. Calvin Hale, and Rev. Levi Brigham. Luther Peters and Betsey Haskell who attended the first school in 1812 were present. The other scholars of ye olden time were John F. Rice, Charles Brigham, Mrs. Trow. Mrs. Hastings, Mrs. Caroline Randall, Mrs. F. D. Brigham., Francis Brigham, Gilman Priest, Edwin Rice, Dea. Elbridge G. Wood, Daniel Stratton, Maria Bliss, Caleb Haskell, John H. Peters, Mary Kendall, Joseph S. Bradley, Augustus Rice, Louisa Coolidge, Abigail Coolidge, and many relatives of the above named. Altar fires were kindled anew, hearts were flowing again with the flames of youth, eyes were sparkling with the luster and beauty of life's morning, they clasped hands once more, with something of the vigor that once quickened them, when youthful blood was leaping to the charges of life's opening battlefield of experience and change.

They told the story of sleighride and frolic on winter days, the evening schools when the scholars came with candles and whale oil lamps, no two alike, in reading and spelling, to contest for the first place in scholarship, they told of their school parties in the old shrine of learning on the hill. The day of examination when all the scholars assisted to scrub the floor and old benches. Long ribbons of oaken leaves, twining in graceful festoons and cluster, gave the schoolroom an added charm for

merry hearts. It was an hour of living joy for memories were golden with the delights of childhood and youth. Not a single shadow to cast one somber line through the clear light of youthful felicity and pleasure. As we gazed upon that company, their heads covered with the silver badge of years, the shortened step, with frame stiffened by the chill of time, we ask the question, is it possible for half a century to work a change like this? We know too well, they have their last reunion. Soon the surges of time will touch measureless seas and the tired feet find rest in an eternal bivouac. Since this reunion a majority of those present have entered this bivouac of rest.



School Street School

History of Hudson, Part 42

as published in the ENTERPRISE, March 2, 1895 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

Silas Felton was the richest and most popular merchant during the early 1800's. He wrote of his life, reminiscences of his boyhood, family, background, and early adult years, having been born in 1776, the year of the United States of America. His schooling was over at age 13 but he read constantly.

Silas Felton was the richest and most popular merchant in this place during the early years of this century. From the time of the location of the postoffice, 1828, to the incorporation of the new town of Hudson in 1866, a period of 48 years, the village was known as Feltonville. I have in my possession the only manuscript of his life, written by himself. His childhood days, his boyhood days on the farm, his experience as a teacher, his courtship and marriage, his mercantile career, his political and religious opinions will interest all readers who are interested in a knowledge of the early founders on this place. To every young man the perusal of his life will be helpful in forming in them purposes and principles that fruit in noble lives. In the preface introductory to his life, he writes as follows: Not knowing whose hands accident or negligence may cause these hasty or inaccurate lines to fall into, I therefore write a few lines by way of preface and assert that they were not penned with an intention of ever being shown to any individual whatever, but mostly for my own amusement.

Having frequently contemplated upon my past conduct and wishing to call to mind every important change of my past life, and knowing that as we advance in years, we often by slow and imperceptible degrees become forgetful, therefore not knowing whether this may be my unfortunate lot or not, I think it the most sure, and know it to be the most agreeable way to me, that I can retain or call to mind each transaction of my life. Considering the foregoing observations, I sometime during the winter of 1801 began in my leisure hours to think, and then to write, to the best of my remembrance, the transactions which have occurred in my past life, and have occasionally continued it to the present time. I have occasionally thrown in some of my observations upon different subjects, but have intended to make them as few and short as possible, but think it is full enough, interspersed with things for the more concise and plain anything of the kind is, the higher I esteem it. Mr. Felton begins his biography with a reference to his ancestors in the following language:

Jacob Felton, a cordwainer by trade, came from Danvers in early life to Marlboro, Middlesex Co., Massachusetts, and settled down for life, here he was twice married. By the last wife he had four sons and two daughters, Sarah, Stephen, Silas, Matthias, Joel and Lucy. He followed his occupation, more or less, until the infirmities of age brought him unfit for labor. In autumn he was seized with the gravel and died Nov. 20, 1789 aged about 77 years having acquired a handsome estate which his children cheerfully and peacefully divided among themselves after his death.

Stephen, his second child by his last wife, married Lavina Stow, eldest daughter of David Stow of Grafton, by whom he had six sons and two daughters, Silas, myself, Elijah, who died at age of a few months, Sally who died about two years old, William, Lydia,

Aaron, Jacob and Stephen. Stephen, my father, settled down at home with his father, and followed farming and brought his children up to it, giving them common school educations. I was born February 24, 1776 and named Silas, after my uncle of that name, who died about twenty years old. In my infancy I am told, I was generally unwell, but as I advanced in years, I became more healthy. When I arrived to an age of sufficient for labor, I followed working with my father upon the farm except such times when we had a school kept near us, which I generally attended. Our schools at time were short, only 7 ½ weeks kept in one house yearly, although I used to attend, sometimes, more than one in a year, being more fond of school than work. I generally had more praise bestowed upon me at school than at home. I was called rather lazy, but at school I was most always at the head of the class to which I belonged. At the age of 9 and 10 years old I was very fond of reading interesting stories, and borrowed all the story books within my reach, these I perused evenings, and stormy days, becoming more fond of reading, I would at every convenient opportunity, take my book and step out of sight, by often repeating this and being out of the way when wanted, caused the people to often bestow the name of lazy upon me, which I acknowledge was not altogether misplaced.

Experience has since taught me that people do not pay attention enough to the inclinations of their children, but commonly put them to the same kind of business which they themselves follow, and when they find them not attentive to those particular occupations, accuse them of being idle although diligently employed in forming something which their different fancies or inclinations lead them, being chastised for such things, it often damps their spirits which renders them careless of what they do and sometimes leads to looseness of manners, whereas if the leading inclinations of the children were sought after and when found, permitted to follow them, might often prove highly advantageous to themselves, their parents, and society. About 1790 a law passed doubling our schooling. My father having considerable business to transact, I was kept at work, so that I had only a common chance like the other boys in the neighborhood. Strictly following my old practice of reading, I used generally to have some book or newspaper every evening or stormy day, except when I was roaming about on the evening which is generally the case with the boys from 10 to 21 years old. From 14 to 19 I followed the schools only a part of the time they kept but practiced carrying my book home on the evenings to study, because I was generally ambitious to excel in learning.

When at school I was pleased with the business, but when at home the hours seemed to glide slowly along. I frequently met with some accidents, such as cutting my fingers: once I broke my leg by a wheel falling on it which caused me often to say that nature never formed me to follow an agricultural life, for my mind was not content when about it, but learning was my greatest delight. When I arrived at the age of 19, I had ciphered through the principal parts of Pike's large arithmetic, could write a middling hand and could read as well as most boys that age.

In the year 1792 a number of inhabitants of Marlboro formed themselves into a society by the name of "The Marlboro Library." It consisted of about sixty proprietors, who put in at first two dollars and fifty cents annually the first Monday in October. This sum purchased books sufficient to be called a handsome library. By frequent solicitation I caused my father to join as one of the first proprietors, and he, not being fond of reading, I had the books to myself. This gave me an excellent opportunity of improving my mind.

History of Hudson, Part 43

as published in the ENTERPRISE, March 9, 1895 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

Silas Felton writes of his deep feelings for religion and thought, conflicting with his natural feelings of manhood and need for fun. He is asked to become the teacher of the town school. After being examined for such, he is given a certificate to teach and accepts the position.

The following article will reveal the religious opinions of Mr. Felton and the beginning of his experience as a school teacher. It is best told in his own chosen words, continued from our last article to this paper.

“But at this age the inclination for the love of company generally keeps the mind disturbed, sensible that it is best for young people to associate together to partake of the pleasures annexed to the prime of life, and possessing a strong desire to drink of the fountain of youthful pleasures, like the rest of my companions which was commonly done by visiting each other in the evening. By practicing these, I soon found they interfered with each other, which lessened my chance for reading. I sometimes thought of giving up one of them, but my desire for each being so great, I could not think of parting with either. Contemplating upon them, I thought I would go out evenings much together, as I could make it convenient, than after I had slept one night I was tolerably bright for reading the next, this I soon found helped me in a considerable degree for the remainder of the evenings and Sundays gave me a very good chance to satisfy my inclination for reading. Some of the books which fell into my hands appeared to me to contain dark and mysterious passages, which my reason (though small at the time) caused me to doubt very much, especially some passages of the scriptures.

About this time the Age of Reason written by Thomas Paine appeared, I perused it very attentively, although many advised me not read it. A number of answers immediately written with an intention of confusing the statements advanced by Paine. These I as readily read with close attention, compared passages together and these with the texts referred to in the bible. These had a contrary effect with me than what the authors intended. The ministers also appeared zealously engaged in preaching against the Deists or as they styled them infidels. Almost every one I heard carried their points to such a pitch that I think I may safely say, they advanced many large strides beyond the truth. Their being so zealous of the clergy’s interest, and so regardless of the truth, as many times to say in the pupil, that there was not a Deist to be found who was an honest man, caused me to have a paltry opinion of them and had I judged of the christian religion by them, I should utterly rejected it, as being an imposition upon the people. But having set reason at helm, and by that, and conscience, I say these caused me to consider of my ways, and in contemplating I thought it best to judge of the doctrine itself, not by the pretended actors. Saying so many different sentiments, each embraced by a number of followers, proclaiming that their own tenets were orthodox, all others heterodox, some carried their points so far, as to allege that belief is optional. Viewing each attentively, without prejudice, so much as possible, I stood halting between two opinions. At length reason resumed her seat and insinuated that they who assert that they can believe as they

please, either act through ignorance or obstinate will, at this time, when about eighteen years old Dr. Franklin's life and writings fell into my hands.

I perused them attentively and found many very valuable precepts which I endeavored to treasure up and follow, and I believe I may safely say they kept me from many errors; for from that time I determined to adhere strictly to Reason, Industry, and good Economy, to always examine both sides, to keep my mind free from prejudice of any kind whatever; always to practice reason and truth, believing it better to follow the dictates of reason and conscience than to run headlessly on after some headstrong fanatic, who blinded by his own prejudice sees only one side and is ready to extirpate from the face of the earth every person who does not think like him, and under all the pretence of doing God's service. Situated in a land of liberty, books being plenty and newspapers circulating freely, I not only confined myself to morality and religion, but made politics no small part of my study. Many volumes fell into my hands that continued true, genuine Republicanism. By a perusal of these and the newspapers of time I formed a steady, uniform resolution to adhere to reason and truth, and in doing so to add my mite towards supporting a Republican government which I believe is not only good but the best form, where the people possess knowledge sufficient to maintain it with wisdom and firmness. My being so much attached to books and sometimes venturing to speak my religious opinions caused me to be subject of some conversation, especially among those who had never ventured to think for themselves, but had taken the opinions of their fathers as handed down to them, without inquiring why they did so; this class of people, urged on by the priests, are always ready to condemn any person, who they find of a different religion from their own.

To see one thus early engaged in the study of religion, morality, and politics, we might suppose sufficient to employ his mind; but I assure you the desire for pleasure and amusement, also that still stronger one of the fair sex, implanted in man, will not permit him to sit silently at home, studying into the knowledge of futurity, especially me, who although fond of reading, was fond of other recreations, and did as opportunity presented, partake of youthful joys like other young people. Among the number of misses, to whom I paid my address, was one Lucretia Fay. In October 1794, being about 18, I began to court her, and for some time, not with any intention of marrying her but merely to spend a few evenings, in a sociable and agreeable way. About the last of March 1795 the selectman of Marlboro, applied to me to teach the town school in the easterly part of the town; this was entirely unexpected to me, and I have great reason to acknowledge myself very much indebted to Capt. Aaron Brigham, who was the one that applied to, and that this was mainspring of the prosperity which followed.

When I consider, I was but a few days past 19, that I was almost ignorant of the English Grammar, I almost determined to answer them in the negative, notwithstanding it had been my fixed determination, for a considerable time, to follow the business as soon as I thought myself sufficiently informed. My father said I might do as I pleased; others informed me it was probable I should meet with no difficulty in teaching school. Upon this information I consented and immediately applied to Rev. Asa Packard to be examined. After questioning me upon the rules of reading etc., he gave me a certificate, certifying that I was in his opinion capable of the business both in point of learning and in moral character.

In our next article we will let him give his experience in the schoolroom. The school house was probably in the Warren district.

History of Hudson, Part 44

as published in the ENTERPRISE, March 16, 1895 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

He found teaching a challenge and also that he was learning along with his students. He was successful, was paid well and after the session returned to his father's to help haying. He wished to improve his grammar knowledge and enrolled in Leicester Academy for 2 terms learning from a Harvard College scholar. After a summer of farming he returned to teach year round. He is enamored of Miss Lucretia Fay but concentrates on his teaching.

“On the 31st of March, 1795, I set out from my father's, and arrived at the school house about 9 o'clock, it being about 4 1-2 miles. When I entered the schoolhouse my heart almost leaped into my mouth, for fear that I was not sufficient for the undertaking, and consequently should not give satisfaction. Recollecting my former determination to be faithful in what I undertook I roused my resolution and exerted myself to the utmost, both by attending diligently to the order and regulation of the school, likewise on the evenings and mornings by looking over every sum or lesson which I set, with an intention they should not say I set them sums or lessons which I did not understand myself. By this means they found me ready to answer any question proposed and thought me much more learned than I really was, also by practicing in this way I soon found I advanced in knowledge faster than any one of my pupils. I thought when I began the school I understood almost all the rules of arithmetic. I soon found my mistake. Although I had ciphered through these rules a number of times, I had never been informed into the nature of them. Knowing now I had to teach them, I sought into the very elements of them and found myself well rewarded. After persevering 7½ weeks in this way, I had the pleasing satisfaction of knowing I had pleased the scholars and won the approbation of their parents.

When I began, many who wished me well, feared lest I should not give satisfaction; these acknowledged they were happily disappointed, while others silently hoped I should not succeed, and would sneeringly say they did not know I was better qualified to teach than anyone else; to my inexpressible satisfaction I found these inwardly disappointed. I was paid for adhering to truth and reason. I received my wages, satisfied my employers, discomfited my enemies. Immediately the selectmen engaged me to teach another school in the north part of the town, and raised my wages to nine dollars a month, which before was eight dollars, thirty-three cents. I continued the same practice as before and found myself well rewarded. Ending this school about the first of July, my father wanted me home. Accordingly I went home and followed farming until the middle of October. I intended to take another school as soon as convenient. Knowing that my knowledge of grammar was very small, I solicited my father, and at last gained his consent to attend an academy for a few months. From October, 1794, to the present time, October, 1795, it being one year, I had visited Miss Lucretia Fay. Considering my circumstances and knowing I was in no condition to marry, that if I attended school, it was necessary to have my mind fixed there; that if I followed the same course much longer it would be difficult to part with each other. Considering all these, I finally drew up a resolution in my own mind to bid her farewell. Accordingly, I visited her one evening, and told her my determination. We then parted, never expecting to keep each others company again. The next next day I proceeded to Leicester academy and there continued six weeks.

It being thanksgiving the most of the scholars left the academy to keep thanksgiving with their friends. I did as the others, but as fortune would have it, on thanksgiving evening most of my companions were going to Miss Fay's to spend the evening. I accompanied them. After spending the evening they returned home. I thought I would chat with Miss F—a little while. I tarried behind. Time, when we are in such company passes swiftly on and in the morning I found myself, Where? A few days I could almost sworn, I should not have been, but now, I summoned all my resolution and resolved once more to bid her farewell. This I did though not without many silent thoughts on both sides I dare affirm. I now set out for Leicester. On arriving there I found the scholars who remained very much disturbed with the assistant. Mr. Adams, the preceptor, being absent, Mr. Dehon, the assistant, a young man just graduated from Harvard university, a native of Boston, and a barber's son, being a good scholar, and feeling himself quite important, also ignorant of human nature, or the manners of the country people thought he could display his importance, but he found his mistake, for some left the school, others grin and bore, while one composed, or caused to be composed, a piece, setting forth the powers he wished to display over those who were under his tuition. This he appeared not to notice. But for my part, though I often saw his great importance, showed to others, for the most part, he treated me well, so that at the expiration of 10 weeks, I had acquired considerable knowledge of the English Grammar.

With his help I had solved the hardest sums in Pike's arithmetics, also a small portion of geography. He told me, my lessons and progress in learning, that I was in his opinion, well qualified to teach an English school. I now returned to my father's, and worked upon the farm one week, and then engaged, to keep the town school, at ten dollars a month, and continued it until the next July, they raising my wages to 10 1-2 dollars a month. After the first three weeks expired, I went home and helped my father hay six weeks. During this time I visiting now and then, some of the young Misses, but as for Miss Lucretia, I was in company with her at Election, and as before I tarried until morning, and that sufficed until July, being then at my father's, a short distance from there, I waited but three days before I visited her again, and continued to do so for some time.

Immediately after haying was over, I engaged in teaching school again, at twelve dollars a month, and boarded, and continued constantly employed, both summer and winter, going round the towns, at 7 1-2 weeks in a house till the last of August 1797.

In the meantime I thought my wages very good, being 144 dollars a year and boarded, but at the year's end my money fell short of what I expected. I resolved to know what my expenses were to every particular, and what every particular cost. Accordingly on the first day of October 1796 I prepared me a book and kept an exact amount of my wages, and expenses, intending to reckon and settle with myself at the expiration of every year. Having had for some time, a desire, to take a journey to the Westward, I agreed with one William Ward to accompany me on the last of August but he failed me. I then resolved to set out alone. I provided myself with a good horse and on the last of August 1797, I set out from my father's and proceeded to Leicester, thence to Northhampton, Albany, and up to the Mohawk river, to a place called Norway, on the Royal grants, so called. After riding six days without seeing any person I knew, or ever been any of the way after I passed Leicester, I arrived at the house of Theopolis Hardy who married an aunt of mine.

History of Hudson, Part 45

as published in the ENTERPRISE, March 30, 1895 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

Silas Felton takes a trip to New York State to visit an aunt and an uncle. After four weeks by horseback, he returns to teach school. He is tormented by his thoughts, wishes and desiring for Miss Lucretia Fay and they finally marry Jan 10, 1799.

Mr. Felton tarried with his aunt Lucy Felton three days. His future journeyings, courtship and marriage we will let him give in his own language.

“I proceeded to the Little Falls on the Mohawk river, thence three miles up the river, then turned to the south and traveled through Anderstown and Warren to the head of Lake Otsayo, thence down the side of the lake, through Cooperstown, 20 miles down the Susquehanna river, to John Felton’s, in a town called Suffrage, he was the child my grandfather had by his first wife. Here I tarried four or five days but not altogether pleased, for here I expected to find a friend, and cousin, with whom I was well acquainted, but he had moved 150 miles further down the river. This was a disappointment but having traveled sufficiently to form an idea of the soil of the manners of the inhabitants. etc, I set out for home, accompanied by my uncle for a few miles. I took my route through Cherry Valley, to the Mohawk river, crossed at the same places as before and came all the way on the opposite side that I went before, crossed the Hudson river, at or just below Albany, came down the turnpike through Pittsfield, Northampton etc., and in four weeks from the time I set out, arrived home in good health and spirits. Immediately I engaged the school again and continued to go round the town as before, also had my pay raised to thirteen dollars a month.

I continued in the business until the 23rd of May, 1799 except nine days, that I learned the art of surveying of Mr. Joel Cranston, which art I practiced when occasion required. On the first of October, 1797, being in my 22nd year since I began an account of my expenses, I examined them and found that books, paper, Quills, Matches, etc., amounted to \$14.90, Expenses on Journey before mentioned \$12.46, horse hire for the trip \$9, Clothes \$46.92, other expenses immediately consumed such as dances, etc., \$14.30, total \$97.50. My wages this year amounted \$127—Which leaves a balance in my favor of \$29.42.

From July, 1797 to July, 1798 I continued my addresses to Miss Fay—and here it will be necessary to inform my readers who she is. Miss Lucretia Fay was about two years younger than myself, being born Mar. 3, 1778. She was the second daughter of Levi Fay of Marlboro. He was a good farmer, but had always lived by hiring farms until 1798 when he purchased a tract of new land in Lunenburg, Vermont and moved his family there in February, 1799. By this practice of hiring farms, although he had one farm for eighteen years successively, he had only acquired property sufficient to purchase his land and move his family. Consequently he was not able to help his children very much, but could afford them a decent setting out as it is generally

called. I now began to consider what I could do with a family, that if I did not intend to marry it was a time our courtship was ended. My fortune was small and my prospect of gaining it to any considerable amount was also gloomy, so that to me it appeared best to end our courtship by mutual agreement, and often when going in the evening to visit her, did I form to myself a determination that this should be the last, but after spending the evening agreeably and the morning appearing, I as often thought I would come once more, and this did I continue until July, 1798 when we mutually agreed to part with each other after a considerable conversation, but not without many silent thoughts on each part and perhaps I might add something more but I forbear.

Miss Lucretia at this time lived in Northboro. Returning home in the morning, I expatiated largely over the result of the night past, also on the course I meant to pursue. Now, methinks, I can live without troubling myself about the means of providing for a family at present; that I will enjoy myself as easy as possible, visit some of the misses now and then, but declared to myself that I would not court anyone steadily; this did I continue a month or two from Miss Fay, and thinking that she was not entirely easy, made me wish to converse with her for a few minutes, and then did I resolve I would not; to shake off those thoughts, I found it necessary to quit reading, which you may judge was not very easy to accomplish for I generally read upon an average twenty to thirty pages a day, and followed visiting the neighbors and ladies after school. In this way I continued until I became quite unsteady in my mind. In the meantime a number of misses were striving to excite my attention, but they succeeded no further than the pleasure of my company for a night or two. In this serious dilemma did I meditate on my pillow hour after hour what step to take. If I went back I must marry, for her father was about to move to Coos the coming winter and what to do with a wife I did not know. If I kept away from her I was persuaded she was not entirely easy, for I had reason to believe her mind was not more callous than my own, and I seriously confess that I believe it very hard for any young couple to part with each other after a courtship of three or four years, and that without having the least difference, I acknowledge that after this length of time spent together, we each had a kind of feeling for each other.

Meditating night after night on my pillow, I at length resolved to send her a few lines, and write them in as forcible a manner as possible, thinking if she withstood them and gave me a denial, it would ease my mind entirely, and I should feel myself completely justified in not visiting her again but if she did not, and answered in the affirmative, I would see her again, and consult what would be for the best. But viewing other people and contemplating on their lives, I had formed the idea that a couple equally yoked, and well disposed, are the most happy, and those hasty marriages for money, honor, or lust, are most unhappy consequently, that marriage is the most important step of life, and ought to be entered upon as such after seriously thinking and thinking the foregoing over and over again I wrote the following lines:

Marlboro, Sept. 25th, 1798. Miss Lucretia: —Having a few moments of serious reflection, I have ventured to resume my pen, to write a few lines to you, but what

shall I write? Shall I write as a friend or a foe, I will write what has been the theme of my thoughts for some time past, though it is impossible to unfold the whole, for my mind has traveled the globe around but no relief has found. In vain have I endeavored to penetrate into the fore knowledge of hidden mysteries in search of something which may be productive of mutual advantage to our temporal concerns. Every project which could be devised, either by the idle delusive dreams of fancy, or by the more serious and deliberate considerations, has not escaped the strict scrutiny of my mind. I have ransacked the different occupations, which are followed in the world until I have almost distracted my brains.

Yet, I know not what to do. But what signifies all this? Is it not better to make up some final determination and abide by it, than to remain as I am? This I believe is best, and this I thought I had done, and more than once too, as you very well know, yet I hope you will believe me, when I tell you that there is something implanted in my breast which seems to say that your company is of much more satisfaction to me than your absence, and had it not been for what was said when we parted, I should have had a short talk with you if nothing more. But perhaps you have heard of some reports which have been circulated since I left you, and will say, that I left you with a determination to pay my addresses to somebody else. But this I affirm and solemnly declare before God and man that it was with no such intention, but it was with full conviction, as I thought, that it was best for both of us and a sincere desire that we both might become more happy, as I believe you think, or anybody else would, had they known, reasons, as well as you. But fearing I shall weary your patience, I will close by only observing that I should be happily gratified, with a short conversation if agreeable to you, and hope that you remain as much of my friend yet, as to return me an answer whither it is, or not, as soon as a convenient opportunity admits. By so doing remain your ever loving and affectionate friend.

S. Felton.

In anxious suspense did I wait for an answer, but was soon relieved by receiving one, in the affirmative, and as chance would have it, we soon had a convenient meeting, which meetings were continued as we had formerly done until the seventeenth of January, 1799, when the parson. Rev. Asa Packard ratified the treaties by marriage.

History of Hudson, Part 46

as published in the ENTERPRISE, April 6, 1895 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

In November 1796 he decided to teach the art of oratory. 30 students were given pieces to memorize and learn to recite. The first recitation evening for parents was very successful and the scholars greatly advanced. After this, the scholars in later sessions were eager to participate and perform for the townspeople. His brother Aaron becomes unruly and is disciplined harshly.

This article shows the prudence and economy Mr. Felton exercised in his daily living, also the time he commenced in trade and his experiences in the school room.

We will let him tell the story in his own language. "In the February following, 1799, I kept the school near my Father's and boarded with him until the 12th of the June following. Here I shall go back a little in order, first to give my expenditure from October, 1797 to 1799. Also some of my modes in school and some incidents which befell me while teaching school. From the 1st of October 1797 to 98, my expenses were for books, paper, quills, etc., \$1.37; pocket money, \$14.57; clothes \$45.65, taxes \$2.08, learning the art of surveying and purchasing tools for the same \$25.33, total \$89. My wages were \$141, 33, which leaves a balance of \$52.33 gain this year. From the first of October, 1798 to the 20th of June, 1799, being the time I began trade, my expenses were for books, papers and quills \$3.34, expenses immediately consumed \$8.05, clothes, \$32.96, furniture \$13.08, taxes \$2.59, total \$60.62. My wages were \$124, which leaves a balance in my favor of \$63.38. Thus I find that in two years and eight months I have gained by teaching school \$145.73. In reality it will amount to considerable more, for out of the above expenses I included my surveying tools, and was better clothed than when I began.

I find my clothes for two years, 8 months cost me nearly \$4 a month. Adhering strictly to the principle I laid down when I first engaged in school I constantly studied what would be advantageous to the scholars. Among the many schemes I tried, was that of teaching the scholars the art of oratory, although I was never taught it myself, yet I thought I would make the attempt. Accordingly in Nov. 1796 at the schoolhouse near my father's, I gave a number of pieces to about thirty of my best scholars to learn so that they could say them without the assistance of any book or prompter. These pieces I first carefully perused and studied to suit them as possible to the tempers and dispositions of the scholars.

The pieces being, a considerable part of them, of the funny kind and the undertaking entirely caused them soon to have each of their parts by heart, but when they began to speak it was very awkwardly indeed. Though I had seen one or two exhibitions, I did not understand the mode of teaching on as the sense of the different subjects taught me, and the scholars were entirely acquainted with the very meaning of what they were to perform. Accordingly many of the performances were some discouraged, but as soon as I began to dress them to suit their respective parts, it raised their ambition to such a pitch that their greatest thought was who would perform the best. Accordingly when out of school hours, they were learning their pieces, for I made

them learn their pieces at home in the evening and met at the schoolhouse in the evening, also to hear them speak, so it was done in the time that they would have been at play, except four afternoons, which I devoted to that purpose. As soon as I thought they were sufficiently advanced and their minds fortified with courage I allowed those person who wished to see them to come to the schoolhouse and had more or less spectators every evening they performed.

On the last of February, 1797, my school drawing near a close at this place, I appointed an evening for an exhibition which happened to be in a very warm, muddy time, but notwithstanding the going, the schoolhouse was crowded with people who acknowledged they were much gratified with the performance. When I ended the school, I sincerely believe that the scholars in general were further advanced in reading, writing and ciphering than they would have been had the exhibition been omitted, and I had the pleasing satisfaction of having the parents of the children of my opinion, and pleased with my instruction, although it was in the same school in which I had previously been instructed, and some of the scholars, my mates, except a few superstitious bigots, who pretended they thought it the work of the devil. In the winter of 1798-9, I kept the term of 15 weeks near Samuel Witt's. Here I mentioned to the scholars to have an exhibition, which so pleased them that they immediately purchased Stevens' dialogues by my recommending them, which greatly eased my task; for before I selected the pieces as I found them in different places, I proceeded as before, and had the satisfaction to find them advance very fast, not only that branch but in all others. At the close of the school the selectmen and minister, for the first time, visited my school; after hearing them read, recite their lessons in grammar, viewing their writing and ciphering, we proceeded to Deacon Josiah Howe's to perform the evening exercise where we were crowded with spectators, notwithstanding we left the schoolhouse to have a larger place. After the performance was over the selectmen highly applauded the scholars, and said that they performed in every branch beyond the expectations, and their parents frequently told me their children never learned so much in one school before.

In the winter of 1800, I again had another exhibition in the south part of the town which proved equally successful as before. Many of the selectmen asserted that they performed much better than they expected. These exhibitions pleased the greater part of the people, and many who were strongly opposed in the beginning, had honesty of heart to say to me they had their information from the enemies of it, and their information was false, but after seeing the effects it produced were highly in favor of it, a few superstitious and bigoted persons who had preached against it, could not be prevailed upon to come and see them perform; I determined they should find nothing against it, they must acknowledge they were wrong or produce arguments that it was a bad practice, as for myself, I affirm after an experience of teaching school nearly four years, I can learn scholar more in the same time, in this way, than in any way I know of. I don't intend to inform my reader every incident in the schoolroom. After having kept school in different parts of the town, before that near my father's, here I had some, who were some younger than myself, and being acquainted with me thought they would not mind me. One of the number was my brother Aaron. After frequently calling them up and informing them the consequences, I caught three of them one day, deeply engaged in play, these I flogged stoutly and two behaved well for the future, but Aaron said he wasn't going to mind Silas. I whipped him once or twice more and he behaved well.

History of Hudson, Part 47

as published in the ENTERPRISE, April 13, 1895 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

A boy of 10 or 12 years teases the girls, lies about it and is disciplined. Silas Felton is called to task for this and seeks an attorney to defend him. The minister accompanies Silas to talk to the boy's father. This has a serious effect on the teacher and he was glad when that session of school was over.

“On the second time of my keeping at the meeting house, namely on the 16th of April 1798, I thought I would exert my talents to the utmost, but unfortunately for me, some of them thought themselves much better than their poorer neighbors, consequently these wished to be indulged in play very much, but I determined to treat all alike and show favors to none; This caused these well feeling misses to dislike me in school. Having kept about half the term, about four weeks, I caught George How, son of Lowewell How, a boy 10 or 12 years of age, in a lie. I examined the witnesses carefully, which were some of these well feeling misses, who affirmed point blank that he had absolutely done something to them which he denied. After examining a considerable number of witnesses, who all told one story, I took my ruler. It was a large round ruler made of cherrytree wood.

This I applied to his hand quite moderately at first, but he insisted that he was innocent, and they as strongly that he was guilty. I repeated the operation of the ruler to his hand till I made him confess the crime and say he was sorry. I then let him go to his seat and dismissed the school as usual. The next morning I could hear from one and another how George's hand was hurt, that when he got him it turned black, and was swelled as big as two hands. I confess I took wrong way to punish him, although it was a common way, and that I used some severity for he was very stubborn, and I then believed and I still retain the same belief he was guilty, but I expected when I began he would quickly knuckle to me and I thought I would persevere in the same way I began. His hand was rather tender for he had been sick some months before and was then weakly and roguish and from the best I could obtain his hand swelled some and was sore a day or two, although I am positive it would not have made common boys' hand sore, for I am certain I had punished other boys more in the same way and never heard any complaint.

But as I was afterwards informed these well feeling misses went home and told his and their parents how severely I had punished him, that they never saw a boy punished so before, that they were sure he did not deserve it, and he also denied being guilty to his parents. All these caused his father to be very angry, he was of little stature, quick tempered and when offended very hard to be cooled down again, withal very ignorant, possess of a quarrelsome disposition.

Next day in the forenoon Mr. How went to Mr. Phelps' shop, which was about ten rods from the schoolhouse, to enquire of them if they heard the blows I gave George. They told him they did not. He then came to the schoolhouse as much exasperated as possible for human nature to be, so mad was he when he called me to the door his voice trembled so it was with difficulty I understood what he said. He accused me of flogging the boy unmercifully, that the scholars told him they could hear the blows a good many rods, that one boy forty rods from the schoolhouse told him he distinctly heard the blows, that his hand was black and swelled as big as three hands, in short that he was shamefully abused, and that I should make him immediate satisfaction. I told him it was false, and then related the truth to him as near as I could. He would not hear a word of it but said I lied, his boy was abused and I should pay for it.

I left him, went into the house, heard the scholars through. At noon I questioned a few of the largest boys about what I had done, they said they did not think I punished him any more than he deserved, nor that I hurt his hand any more than to make it smart a little, but I could hear reports from almost every quarter, I had abused the boy, all this I assure you made me feel very disagreeably, hearing so much about it. I spoke to Mr. Brigham, the attorney about it. He informed me Mr. How had been to him. He said he should not engage on either side but I had better settle the matter. I went to Mr. How and told him the circumstances again, but he was so red hot with madness I could do nothing with him. I cannot blame him so much, for these well feeling Misses, told him a thousand, what I call whopping lies, which enraged him and continued to keep him so. I then applied to Col. Barnes for information what to do. He told me the law was very favorable to schoolmasters if I had related the truth I need not fear. Returning back I met Rev. Mr. Packard, who I had previously acquainted of the affair. He had talked with Mr. How and he appeared to be more calm, and he thought probable if I took some person with me, and went and informed him of the circumstances and made some slight acknowledgement, I might settle it, he had talked with some persons, who thought I was rather too severe.

He thought I would stand a good chance in the law, but that would cost considerable and I should gain but little, therefore advised me to take some person with me and go and talk with Mr. How. I invited Mr. Packard to walk down there with me, which he did. He soon introduced the subject to Mr. How, who through fear of Mr. Packard, seemed quite mild. Mr. Packard stated the case in as fair a light as possible and asked Mr. How what would settle. He said he meant to have satisfaction, but if I would acknowledge I was sorry, and give him some trifle, he would quit. I told him that I readily acknowledged if I had done wrong I was sorry, that in the present state of the boy's health the hand might appear a little injured, I had often punished scholars much more. It was not my intention to abuse any scholar, but I meant to maintain order in the school. He then asked the second time if I was sorry. I replied as before. He then asked what I should do if he sent the boy to school again. I replied if he behaved well I should treat him well. If he was roguish I should punish him, but should take some other way. Mr. Packard said, Mr. How, I suppose you are satisfied.

He replied, Yes, if he treats him well in the future. Thus was the affair settled, which had caused no little talk over town, for every person I saw at most, told how they had heard I punished George How. Some said his hand was hurt so much it would rot off.

Others said he could not go for a number of days; others said his father had got a warrant for me and it would cost me dearly; every person had a different story to tell about it, and those that took their rise from these well feeling misses, when they had gone through a number of hands and gotten to some distance were frightful indeed, such as would cause persons not acquainted with me to think I was a monster. I seriously believe had I not been well established in school keeping before this affray, the selectmen would not dared to employ me again. Having my character well established before, and people who well knew the circumstances told the story in my favor, those awful lies soon vanished in a cloud of smoke which had arisen altogether from the lies of George, and these well feeling young misses, who I hope will be forgiven for they did not consider the consequences attending such conduct.

Although most of the scholars were in my favor, yet knowing I had a few who disliked me, made me feel disagreeably. Every day I went to the schoolroom, I counted the days I had to keep, until the happy day came when I dismissed the school, never to teach it again while the present set of scholars attended the school thus did I end a school, that I took the most pains to learn of any I ever taught. This was the only affray I ever had and God grant it may be the last, for my mind was perplexed night and day, about that tittering boy, his lies, but I forbear, and will only say, the master who succeeded me, had another affray with the same boy and man.

This boy, George How, lived to be an old man. In his old age, he lost his property, was taken to the Marlboro poor house, now owned by the town of Hudson, where he died about the year 1850.

History of Hudson, Part 48

as published in the ENTERPRISE, April 29, 1895 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

Needing more income, Silas Felton goes into business with Joel Cranston to open a store. He continued teaching, became the tax collector, and a storekeeper. Silas keeps complete records of all he earns and spends. His first child, Alonzo, dies at 1 ½ months. An additional teacher is hired, who degrades Silas Felton.

Mr. Felton kept a record of the names of all scholars attending his school as well as the school districts in which he taught. The record shows that 778 scholars attended his schools during the time he kept. This number for a term of years does not seem large. It must be remembered, one hundred years ago the population of Marlboro, including the larger part of the present town of Hudson, was less than sixteen hundred souls. It will be of value to future history to know where he taught. We give the following table arranged by Mr. Felton:

<u>At the schoolhouse near,</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>D.</u>	<u>Y.</u>	<u>Each place</u>
Samuel Witts,	March,	31	1795	7 ½ weeks
Amos Rays	May,	20	1795	7 ½ weeks
Samuel Witts,	January,	11	1796	7 ½ weeks
Jacob Barns,	Mar.,	5,	1796	7 ½ weeks
Amos Ray,	April,	25,	1796	7 ½ weeks
Benjamin How's	Sept.,	19,	1796	7 ½ weeks
Samuel Browns,	Nov.,	10,	1796	15 weeks.
Meeting House,	Feb'y,	23	1797	7 ½ weeks
John Stows,	April,	18,	1797	7 ½ weeks
Benjamin Hows,	June,	12,	1797	7 ½ weeks
Jacob Barns's,	Aug.,	7,	1797	7 ½ weeks
Samuel Witts,	Oct.,	31,	1797	7 ½ weeks
Isaac Brown's	Dec.,	25,	1797	7 ½ weeks
Samuel Browns,	Feb'y,	21,	1798	7 ½ weeks
Meeting House,	April,	16	1798	7 ½ weeks
Jacob Barns's,	June,	27,	1798	15 weeks.
Samuel Witts,	Oct.,	15,	1798	15 weeks.
Samuel Browns,	Feb'y,	4,	1799	15 weeks.
Jacob Barnes,	July,	25,	1799	2 mos., 2ds.
Samuel Witts,	Oct.,	23,	1799	1 mo., 4 ds.
Isaac Brown,	Dec.,	23,	1799	7 ½ weeks.
Isaac Browns,	Jan'y,	29,	1800,	15 weeks.
Samuel Browns,	Jan'y,	2,	1804,	14 ½ weeks.

Mr. Felton tells us how he commenced his successful business career and his first experience as an office holder. He says "Finding by calculation, with what I

made in three years my property amounted to only about two hundred dollars and that I now had a family to provide for, I therefore thought it necessary to follow some other occupation. Accordingly I agreed with Joel Cranston to open a store of goods in partnership at the north part of Marlboro, near Barnard's mills, so called. My property at this time amounted to two hundred dollars, in cash, besides my watch, clothes, etc. My father also lent me three hundred more, for which I gave my note. Cranston also signed with me, this made my capital \$500, in cash, this amounted to about \$100 more but was in book accounts, etc., so that we agreed to share equally of the loss and profit. Our bargain being mutually agreed to on both sides I accordingly hired a house of Mr. Daniel Stevens, which I moved into the 12 of June, 1799. We then went to Boston, purchased our goods, and opened our store the last of June 1799. Our capital being small, and our business new consequently our line of dealing at first must be small. In August I again engaged in the school and in the first two years of our trading I kept occasionally about fifty-eight weeks, dismissing the school when either of us went to Boston to purchase goods. One being engaged in the store, the other in the school, kept us both very busy; for in the meantime I collected taxes for one quarter part of the town being paid four pence on the pound for it. Cranston also served as one of the constables in 1799.

In the year 1798 I gave my invoice to the assessors, which by no means would make me a voter in town affairs, they seeing cause I suppose, rated me very high for income, so high that it caused me to be a voter in town affairs. At March meeting, 1799, to my great surprise I was chosen one of the assessors of the town of Marlboro, being only 23 years of age, this office I was about to decline accepting, thinking myself too young and not qualified for the business, through the influence of my friends I accepted the office and was reelected in 1800 and 1801. In 1801 the General Court ordered a valuation to be taken throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, this I assisted in doing. Our business in trading gradually increased, for our determination was to sell very cheap for cash in hand.

On the first of June, 1800 I examined my expenditures, it being the first year of my keeping house. During this year my family consisted of myself and wife, also a man who boarded with me for six months, who worked for me in the smithing business. After examination I found that expenses for victuals etc. amounted to \$166.70, clothes \$60.22, furniture \$14.01, wood \$28.46, books, paper, etc., \$1.32, right in the library \$4, horsekeeping \$26.05, blacksmith work \$6.41, interest paid my father \$18, rent paid for house hire \$24, total \$350.02, credit given for some of the articles sold again \$22.04 which leaves \$33.08 and to this \$7.40 for taxes which makes \$344.48, making my daily expenses 94 cents and four mills, expenses of the store not included.

Then taking an inventory of the goods in the store at the first cost, I find we have gained \$58 in the store and \$100 in the school which makes \$158, half which is mine; that is \$79, add to this, making taxes \$15, collecting taxes \$13, which makes my gain this year \$107, besides my expenses.

On the fourteenth day of January, 1801, Mrs. Felton, was brought to bed with a fine son who I named Alonzo. On the last of March, 1801, it was taken sick and expired April 1, 1801, aged one month and 15 days. During this year I taught the school some in the north part of the town. Also a Mr. Watson, a stranger to this town taught in other parts of the town. He was of middling size, round shouldered and stout built, possessed of middling learning, though not great, as others informed me. He was very important in school and out of school, though I believed he kept a good school, very much conceited in favor of his own abilities, and constantly extolling them, imprudent in his conversation and without professing to be very religious, strongly attached to the Calvinistic doctrine, I say this qualified, he wished to establish himself by my downfall. He often said in the presence of the parents of the scholars and of the scholars themselves, that I was an ignorant fellow, not qualified to teach a school. In short, that I could not read, write or anything else, fit to teach a school. Some of them told him I could do either better than himself. Others informed me what he said; the next time I spoke with him (it was the third time I ever spoke with him) I informed him what I had heard.

He stood confounded for some minutes, but at last denied the whole. I told him he need not deny it for I had sufficient proof of it. He then denied a part, called another part spoken in jest, and a third he was obliged to acknowledge. He then confessed he did wrong and asked forgiveness, which I readily granted, and told him if he was sorry for his errors I was satisfied, and here the matter ended for that time. In the spring of 1801, I finished my school, determined not to engage in that business again for the present.

History of Hudson, Part 49

as published in the ENTERPRISE, April 27, 1895 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

Felton and Cranston build a larger store in 1801 for their increased business. It was later the Peters Store.

Mr. Felton now tells when he built his new store in this place, his continued business experiences, also a valuable diary of the weather at that time.

He says "During the year 1801 we continued to increase our stock of goods by keeping a more general assortment and our business increased as fast in proportion, and extended to a greater distance. From the first of June 1800 to 1801 my family consisted of myself and wife, except others occasionally. On examining my expenditures for the before mentioned time, I find that board and things immediately consumed amounted to \$152.65, clothing \$76.46, furniture and tools \$22.62, horse keeping and blacksmithing \$20.89, books and paper \$2.03, doctrine \$5.54, house rent \$28, wood \$23.03, cow-keeping \$10.42, interest paid my father \$18, totally \$368.64. Of the above articles I sold to the amount of \$37.21, which leaves a balance of \$331.43, my taxes not included. With the board which is \$7.93, this makes it \$339.16, this averages 93 cts. a day.

After inventorying every article in the store at the prime cost, and reckoning with myself, this year I find I have cleared about \$200; \$50 in keeping school, \$8 in making taxes, \$142 in the store. This is my half of the gain. The whole gain, \$400 or thereabouts. We having previously hired the store in which we traded, and having of late made considerable additions to our stock, which the store being small, made it very inconvenient for us to continue in it, therefore in the spring of 1801, we built a store 30 feet long, 28 feet wide and two stories high. Upon examining our accounts we find it cost us about \$550. We moved our goods into it Aug. 15, 1801. During the year our trading business gradually increased. In the spring of 1801, I was so unwell I did not teach the school for a fortnight but I went out every day. From my infancy to the present time I have enjoyed good health one week excepted. I often met with some accidents while farming. When 9 or 10 years old I had my leg broken by a wheel falling off the axle tree, and have since cut my feet, legs and hands a number of times.

Having brought the minutes of my life up to the time I am now writing so that I can now keep a more particular account of things than I have hitherto done, therefore I shall add a succinct diary of the weather. I will go back as far as the spring of 1801, which was very wet and continued so until Aug. and as the old proverb says after a storm comes a calm, a very dry autumn, which continued to hold until the first of January, 1802, before most of the people had water in their wells. During December, January, until the 22nd of February, 1802, we hadn't snow enough to make scarcely any sledding or sleighing. A few days in January a little snow fell which caused a few people to stir with sleds and sleighs. In a few days it joined the watery elements. Sunday, the 21st of February, 1802, was a most beautiful and pleasant day, but before daylight on the Monday succeeding a most violent snow storm commenced,

which continued through the day, attended by high winds, which left the snow in piles. On Tuesday the winds resumed their activity and heaped it still more.

Wednesday opened to us a calm and delightful day, the people turned out to break paths for the snow was generally believed to be 18 inches deep on a level. Thursday the snowstorm again commenced with its former speed, coming quite heavy and lying more still, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday the snow and rain fell alternately, blocking the road so they were almost impassable, notwithstanding the persevering industry of the people in breaking paths through the snow, which was judged to be 32 inches in depth, on a level and was very hard and solid. On Monday, Mar. 1 there was a crust upon the snow sufficient to bear a person to pass anywhere upon the snow and over fences. This day being our annual March meeting, we walked upon the crust over fences in the most direct route, to the meeting house, where I was again elected assessor for the year 1802. From this time the weather was moderate, and a warm pleasant sun gradually decreased the snow so that by the 20th of March it mostly belonged to the watery element, without doing any damage to the mills or bridges.

Having before hinted my inclination for reading and the perseverance I continued in it, I will now for my own gratification and also as a tablet of memory, insert the titles of the books which I had read previous to 1802, arranged under the different professions or arts to which they belong. But it is with sorrow, I must here remark, that had I studied particular authors more, and read fewer pages daily and those pages I did read examined and reexamined I believe I should now have been more and better informed, but it is now too late to remedy the past and I must attend more to the future, for in my opinion it is good to mend when we see our errors.

But on the other hand, what great and useful advantages, not only so, but what pleasure I now derive by looking back and contemplating upon the time I have spent in studying while others were rousing, gaming, employed in what was not only spending the time heedlessly, but to their very great damage, as I can fully demonstrate to many of my age and equal advantages with myself, have often been to me to transact their business for them, such as writing notes, casting interest and many other things too numerous to insert here. But to return to the authors I have read. We will give the list of books in our next article. The store built by Cranston & Felton was the Peterson store, destroyed in the great fire July 4, 1894. They commenced business in the little red building which stood where the block of R. B. Lewis now stands. This red building we have described in a previous article. It was erected by Joel Barnard who died in 1775. It came into the possession of his son Francis Barnard, who sold the property to Mr. Bradstreet. After this Cranston and Felton took possession in June, 1799.



Peters' Store - 1801

History of Hudson, Part 50

as published in the ENTERPRISE, May 4, 1895 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

Silas Felton continues as a voracious reader and lists all the books he has read. He continues to calculate his expenses and income thoroughly. The capital in his share of this store has doubled in three years.

The direction and strength or weakness of the mind is indicated by the books a person loves to read. In the titles of the books Mr. Felton was fond of reading and studying, we find him an enquirer after truth and knowledge, furnishing the best equipment for good citizenship. He classifies his books under the following heads:

Religion and Morality

Christian Bible, Mohammedan Bible or Alcoran, Christianity as old as creation, Fletcher's Reconciliation, Vol. 5, Seneca's Morals, Addison's Evidences of the Christian Religion, Blair's sermons, Paley's Moral Philosophy, Yengus Origin of Evil, Evidences of the Christian Religion by Mendon Association of Ministers, Mason on Self Knowledge, Nelson's Letters, Hezekiah Packard's Catechism, Winchester's Universal Restoration, Watkins' Sermons, Milton's Paradise Lost, Gentleman's Religion, Watson's and Wakefield's answers to Thomas Paine's Age of Reason, Thomas Paine's Age of Reason, Volney's Ruins, Johnson's Letters, Voltaire's Philosophical Dictionary, besides a great number of other books, the titles I do not recollect.

Heathen Gods

Tooks Pantheon

Laws and Constitution

Burlemague on Law, Beecane on Crimes and Punishment, Masonic constitution, Constitution of the United States, and of the 16 states, besides a

History

Heredotus' of Greece, Robertson's of South America, Hume's of England, Smallet's Continuation, 13 Volumes, Sullivan's, of the District of Maine, Williams of Vermont, Millet's Elements of History, Extracts from the Encyclopedia about America, Hannah Adams' View of Religion, Gibbon of Rome, Priestly's Corruption of Christianity, Starkhouses History of the Bible, Hutchinson of Massachusetts, Minot's Continuation, Ramseys of the American War, Whitneys of Worcester county.

Geography

Salomon's, Morrisses, Gunther's geography.

Travels

Brydons, Tower, Nuber's travels into Africa, Parks into the interior of Africa, Moore's travels, Cook's Voyages round the world.

Novels

Fristram Shandy, Algerine Captive, Emma Corbitt, Romance of the forest, Prince of Abyssinnia, Tom Jones, Fool of Quality, Tolemachus, Robinson Crusoe, Sentimental Journey, Boyle's Voyages, Don Quixote, Gulliver's Novels, Rural Sotrate's Female Review, Bellifanus, Constania, Vicar of Wakefield.

The titles to the miscellaneous books read by Mr. Felton. Common Sense, Rights of Man, Spectator, Knoxe's Essays, Mr. Fingal Jefferson's notes on Virginia, Smith's Wealth of Nations, Stearns Road to Liberty, Beauties of History, Stearn's Dialogues, Goldsmith's Animated Nature, Elegant Extracts in prose and poetry, Forrester's John Bull. Father's legacy to his daughters, Chesterfield's principles of Politeness, Peter Pinder's works, Enfield's Natural Philosophy etc. To show Mr. Felton's carefulness and interest with which he read, he says "I kept a book for the purpose of extracting anything remarkable, or anything that very much pleased or displeased my fancy, this I entitled Extracts from different authors by Silas Felton. After teaching Arithmetic for a considerable time I carefully extracted from my old cyphering books all I thought valuable and from other authors and some of my own forming, to this I added the rules of Surveying, this book contained four quires of paper, well bound with leather, titled Silas Felton's cyphering book. The months of March, April, May and June, 1802 were very cold. April and the first part of May was very dry and the remainder of May and June wet and cold, so that people did not plant their corn until the last of May. The cold and wet causes English grass to be quite backward but promising, About the middle of April Mrs. Felton bled at the nose very much and my child was unwell which caused me to consult Dr. Whitman of Stow. This child became the mother of our townsmen George E. and Silas F. Manson.

We quote Mr. Felton's expenses for another year, for his methodical way of doing business was the great element of his success in life. A valuable example for all. Another year having passed, and the usual time of reckoning with myself having arrived, I find upon examining that my family consisted of myself, wife and a girl who lives with us, together with some more occasionally. My expenses were: Work hired and provisions, \$237.29; house rent, \$45; clothes, \$98.61; furniture, \$21.95; wood \$22.06; doctrine, \$8.75; taxes \$10.23; books, \$2.67; total \$446.56; deduct \$48 for some of the things sold, and add \$18 interest paid my father which leaves the sum \$416.56. I find by dividing this by 313 days makes my expenses amount to nearly \$1.33, I mill daily; horseshoeing and keeping expenses to Boston, not reckoned, because I consider them belonging to the shop. After reckoning and deducting my expenses, I find I have gained this year, 1802, \$350 or thereabouts; \$50 is doubtful whether it can be collected. From June 1, 1800, to 1801, we purchased goods to the amount of \$9000, and from June 1, 1801, to 1802, to the amount of \$14,000, estimated by the purchasing bills.

In our reckoning on the 7th of May, 1802, the goods in the shop were not measured but guessed at and intended to be quite low. On the 27th of July, 1802, we inventoried all the goods by actual measure, and cast up the amount of debts we owe and find it amounts to \$475 more than in May, which sum could not be well made in the above time, but we estimated our goods quite too low, therefore instead of \$350 gain, add half of the \$475, which makes the gain the 27th of July, 1802, \$687.50, \$100 of which is very uncertain whether we collect. In June 1799, where we commenced our trade together, our united capital was \$1400. In July 27, 1802, after trading together about three years and one month, our capital together is \$3500. By this statement it appears in three years and one month we have gained \$2020, my half of which is \$1000, to this add my capital in 1799, which is \$540, makes me worth, after deducting \$340 borrowed in the beginning, \$1210.

My furniture is considerable better than in 1799. Out of both our capitals we may consider \$200 of uncertain debt. When we commenced trade my property was about all cash, his book accounts. Now our property is but a small part cash, but in goods, notes and book accounts, so that it is not to be considered equal to cash. I will state what our property lies in on the 27th of July 1802 so that I may look back without turning to papers kept together.

On book \$2029, on notes \$1432, goods in store \$3093, horse, chaise, sleigh, etc. \$300, store \$641, cash \$100, this I may call our present standing as to property. Capital July 27, 1802, \$3500, capital in June, 1799. \$148. Gained \$2020. I now consider half mine.

In 1799 half was not mine. My family not being so expensive as Mr. Cranston's, has increased my stock. In our next we will give Mr. Felton's views of baptism on the occasion of the baptism of his child Harriet. He also starts a lyceum in this place. We will give the names of some of the Ciceros in this place nearly one hundred years ago.

History of Hudson, Part 51

as published in the ENTERPRISE, May 11, 1895 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

Silas Felton and his wife have their child christened, named Harriet. Silas considers this a needless ceremony. There are more important virtues in life. A Society of Enquirers is formed to meet monthly at a home to discuss agriculture, philosophy, The arts and sciences.

Mr. Felton's views of baptism: "Custom appears to me to rule 3•4 of mankind. My wife frequently asks me to get our child baptised. For my part I must confess I can see no good or hurt in the bare act of sprinkling a little water in the face and saying a few words over it. When I ask what she wants it done for the answer is, because others do it, or it is our duty. For my part I told her I had no objection to its being christened, but did not wish to step into the alley to confess what I did not believe. But considering it carefully I thought some part of the creed I could interpret to suit my tenets and by bravely making a bow as a token of belief, could not hurt society or myself, because I injured nobody thereby, for I consider a crime by the effects it has on society and the intention of the person who commits it, believing the All Wise Creator looks on things as they really are, not placing great virtues on mere ceremonies. Therefore on the 8th day of August, 1802 we carried our child to meeting and had it christened by the name of Harriet, considering the thing very needless.

I dreaded it much, and would have given my wife considerable to drop the matter, but when I came into the alley, I considered it nothing but a superstition which the priests load their people with, the better to get their living, and as such I met it with fortitude; I am heartily glad it is over. Believing I have neither benefited the child by the act as to futurity, nor my wife injured, myself or society, I have always strictly adhered to my first intentions to do justice, walk uprightly and pay my debts with punctuality, also to strictly adhere to truth, thinking that if all would thus walk, we should find happiness enjoyed by more persons than at present. Also if those who make great show and parade about professions and forms would be more attentive to truth, honesty, sincerity and punctuality that they would be much better members of society "During April, 1802, we had dry cold weather so much, many judged it would injure the English grass, but in May the rains commenced and continued alternately until July. We then had a fair, warm spell of weather, very suitable for gathering our English grain and grass. But dog days ushered in a very wet time of continued rains which raised the water so high that it was with difficulty many finished getting their meadows until September commenced, and much grass was finally left standing in the meadows, the rains continued every few days until October.

We then had two weeks of pleasant weather, but on the 14th, the rains again commenced. English grain, grass, Indian corn clothed the harvest in a more or full

middling degree, and made glad the heart of the honest husbandman. Cider was not plenty but in this and the adjoining towns a considerable was spared.

In autumn, 1802 Mr. Asa Wheeler mentioned to me, that he should like to attempt forming a society of a few people, to meet in the evenings monthly, and each propose some suitable question, either in agriculture, philosophy, the arts and sciences etc. I replied to him that I should be highly gratified, if it could be obtained and informed him I had read something of the like in the life of Dr. Franklin, and had tried to form one three or four years before. But the dancing, courting and the like, bore so great a sway with those to whom I mentioned it that I abandoned it entirely. We both concluded to attempt again, accordingly we spoke to some persons about it, all seemed pleased but apologized for their abilities. Soon after Mr. Wheeler sent me word to meet a few at his house and draw up a few articles needed for such a society, but I did not get the information until after the time set. The next day Mr. Lonewell Barnes informed me they met and made a beginning. They had signed a paper Mr. Wheeler had drawn, but it was not quite complete, and they wished me to form one. He also informed me they had chosen a president, and clerk to stand until January 1, 1803. This meeting was at Mr. Wheeler's house, on the 20th Sept. 1802. Mr. Moses Ames was chosen president, Mr. Asa Wheeler, clerk, and they then adjourned to Mr. Eli Rice's. On Sept. 27, we met at Mr. Rice's. I presented the articles which I had drawn up, to which they all agreed with a few amendments and each signed it.

We debated upon the question "Whether happiness was alike attainable by all, and if each did not enjoy an equal share, whether it was not his own fault." We then agreed to meet at the oldest member's house and meet in rotation according to age. We adjourned to meet at Capt. William Gates'. Met there Oct. 11. We had the constitution written in a book and the following signed: Moses Ames, Capt. William Gates, Capt. Aaron Brigham, Col. Lonewell Barnes, Asa Wheeler, Abraham How, George Peters, Silius Felton Eli Rice, John Stevens and Luther Wood. After a few meetings had elapsed Ephraim Brigham and Jedediah Wood were admitted and signed the constitution.

At the fourth meeting the society voted that at the annual meeting of choosing officers in January each to wait on his consort, have a supper and have an oration delivered by one of the society. We proceeded to ballot for one. A majority of the ballots were for me and I accepted. During the autumn of 1802 nothing more than the common business as it respected myself. But as the old proverb is after a calm comes a storm, so it is here. When I first came to this place it went by many for a vicious place, but most of the inhabitants moving away we all continued in peace and harmony till autumn, 1802 when many reports were in circulation about some persons in the city (as we term the place) but they soon expired. It seldom happens in any place for the space of three or four years some incidents take place that cause the public much conversation. As to my diary, the weather continued wet, and uncommonly warm till the middle of December, when all at once it changed and Thursday Dec. 16 was very cold and windy. Friday continued cold, these days were

uncommonly cold and the frost penetrated into the cellars more than it did the previous winter. During all this season the weather has been uncommonly changeable and wet. Until the last days of January 1803 we had not any snow, then a little fell two of three times which caused people to use their sleighs although they tumbled over rocks. On the 3rd of February it joined the watery element. Feb 6th and 7th the rain fell in torrents. On the 10th of January 1803 the society of social Enquirers met at Abraham How's. I pronounced my oration to a very attentive audience and received the thanks of the society for my labors and we spent the evening in social glee with our sweethearts. All the members of this society have long since passed away. Capt. Jedidiah Wood one of this society the last one of this society, lived to be ninety years old and he has not been alive for thirty years.



History of Hudson, Part 52

as published in the ENTERPRISE, May 18, 1895 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

Silas Felton meets with unfavorable criticism for not being a church member. In April 1803, Mr. Osborn's store in Bolton is hired for five years but he has doubts of this venture.

Life of Silas Felton, one of the early founders.

Mr. Felton continues his life record. About the last of January I became troubled with the headache; I tended store in the daytime but could not stand it in the evening. On Wednesday, February 2, 1803, I found myself broke out with the measles, but had them favorably. At the same time my daughter Harriet, had a very bad cold which lasted a week. About this time a certain Samuel Watson died, who came from the country, having kept school in this town two or three years, and having during this time endeavored to injure my character in diverse ways, but without effect. Reports concerning his character were very unfavorable to it, his moral character whilst in Marlboro did not appear in so good a light, as his profession of christianity ought to have had it. The Rev. Mr. Packard tried to conceal them all because Mr. Watson professed christianity and was a bungling adept in superstition and hypocrisy. A certain Mr. Parker informed me he was very intimately acquainted with Mr. Watson, that he had informed him so much of his mind, he did not believe he had any true religion, but an outside show.

This I told. When Mr. Packard heard of it he stepped into Mr. Watson's beaten track of defaming characters, and leveled his darts at my reputation. I spoke with him concerning it. Mr. Packard endeavored to maintain his ground because he believed Mr. Watson was a sincere Christian and Watson had informed him I was an enemy to it. I informed him I had sufficient proof of what I had reported and would then prove it to his face if he wished. I also informed Mr. Packard that it was ever my wish to be right, that I did not wish to be censured in that way. I did not dispute his profession, but considered his moral actions very different from what Christianity dictated. I had simply related what I heard and considered he had treated me very unfreindly. He said if he had injured me he would make me satisfaction, and endeavored to quibble off. This I plainly saw, although a minister of the town he did not hesitate to endeavor to destroy my character because I did not belong to his church, yet acknowledged he knew of no slur upon my morals, but it appears he would cast me down, though living, for the purpose of raising up a dead man's character, whom he acknowledged did not live up to what he professed. Thus I had human nature entwined with superstition, prejudice, learning and ignorance to contend with. But thanks be rendered to God, who has hitherto preserved and led me in the path of virtue for raising me at this time, above the frowns of a would-be tyrannical monarch, clothed with the outside attire of religion. Also may I ever praise the glorious ruler of the universe that I have discovered that goodness does not always rest in professions and professions and worldly honor do not always deceive the people but that meaning well and doing right is the duty of man.

Here I wish I could stop relating the action of prejudice, but would here remark that Mr. Packard has by insinuations to injure the society of Social Inquirers, and me for delivering the oration at the annual meeting, with pleasure may I record, his attempts were fruitless of what he attempted, but with increased satisfaction I record that his base attempts produced a good effect by strengthening our minds, which causes us to pursue information with increased pleasure." Another year having rolled on and March meeting having arrived, I was re-elected assessor March 7, 1803. The weather continued through the winter warm and wet, which causes our business to be not so brisk a nature, as when the ground is covered with that icy snow which enables us to use snow with ease and facility. The first of April 1803 having arrived, we have hired Mr. Osborn's store in Bolton five years, and hiring Mr. Nathan Goodale to tend it the first year. This venture makes it necessary to inventory our stock April 1, 1803, so to know whether it will prove advantageous. I will now show what our stock lies in on the first of April, 1803, so that I can see at once the gain from July 27, 1802, to April 1, 1803, which will be without our own accounts and state my family expenses.

My family during the year consists of myself, wife, child and girl who lives with me. Upon examining I find for the last ten months that it costs me for board \$231.33, clothes \$90.38, furniture \$16.92, doctrine \$3.33, wood \$25.31, books, papers, etc. \$4.97, house rent \$31.33, my half horse keeping \$10.25, taxes supposed \$13 but are not paid yet, which is equal to \$372.09 being almost \$1.43 daily, due on books \$2072.80, on notes \$1452.02, goods in store including lumber and wagons \$3783.16, horse, chaise, sleighs, cow, hogs, etc. \$318.67, store building \$641, cash lent \$217.18, cash on hand \$600.50, work done in blacksmith shop \$100, total \$9183.33. We owe \$4522.96. Capital Apr. 1, 1803 \$4660.37, capital on 27 July, 1802 \$3500, gained \$1160.37, after deducting expenses, half of which is mine, which makes my gain in about eight months \$580.18. Amount of goods purchased in ten months from June 1, 1802, to April 1, 1803, is \$11,000.

"A severe storm of snow, hail and rain commenced April 15, 1803, and continued several days. This storm is considered as tedious as any during the preceding winter, and as much snow fell as at any one time.

"Life is chequered with a variety of events, and the human mind is never satisfied with knowledge, the ear with hearing, and much further are from being contented with the property we possess, are striving as we advance in years to accumulate property, and I may say the love of accumulating wealth, increases in a double ratio, as we advance towards that Bourne where riches cease to add to the happiness of changeable beings, to a person of the lowest class our past profits would appear noways inconsiderable, and I solemnly declare the time was when I thought that if I could be placed in my present situation I should be completely happy here, but having arrived at the once desired pitch of wealth and honors, I now bound forward as earnestly in search of riches, knowledge and honor as when I first entered upon the stage of life, and believe I now increase in knowledge as fast as ever I did, and much faster in riches. What the future events will be time alone will unfold. Mr. Cranston has for some time past endeavored to persuade me to join him to hire Mr. T. Osborn's store in Bolton. The arguments he used were, if it should be filled by some able, discreet person it would decrease our trade here, and if we filled it, it would largely add to our profits, and I have yielded to him, although I have strenuously maintained that one store well filled, so that people may be accommodated with almost any article is better than two partly filled.

History of Hudson, Part 53

as published in the ENTERPRISE, May 25, 1894 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

Silas Felton waxes eloquently with a long dissertation on economy. Joel Cranston in 1803 built himself a large house, the finest around. He expects to sell his former house to Felton or else the partnership is over. Felton being careful with his money, quits the partnership. This new house was destroyed in the great fire of July 4, 1894.

Mr. Felton tells us of his further experience with the Bolton store and other incidents of much interest he says. Thus have we hired the house, store, etc., for five years, paying one hundred dollars yearly. On the 20th day of April, 1803, we opened having put into the store \$1750 worth of goods for a beginning and hiring Nathan Goodale and a boy named Joel Barnard to tend it. Goodale is to have two hundred dollars a year and the boy his clothes ie, found. We have prepared books and shall keep debt and credit accounts, separate from the other store so that we may know whether it may be advantageous or not, for many have predicted we shall soon fail. But of what consequence are predictions of this kind. If people mind their own business we'll make good calculations, purpose to continue and fill punctually, let the people predict what they may, it matters not, provided unforeseen incidents keep aloof.

As the preceding winter was unusually warm and open here, although at the southward and in Europe it was the reverse; the spring was cold and backward. On Friday night, May 5, 1803 it was so cold the top of the ground and water was frozen and on Sunday, May 8, snow fell very fast for a number of hours and on Monday, May 9, the ground was frozen considerably.

June and the first of July were dry till July 10. We had a very small shower and it is dryer than it had been so early in the season for a number of years past. As time rolls on it unfolds scenes new to us, and changes the temporal prospects of prosperity. Some who stem the middle path of life, of joy and sorrow, upon moderate terms, carry a steady hand, either in pleasure or trouble, enjoying the greatest quiet. Others whom prosperity seem to favor for a time, become proud and haughty, look down with disdain upon their poorer neighbors, until by and by they are by their inconsiderate action hurled down by the God of riches and forced to seek a livelihood at the shrine of industry. Thus it seems the Almighty had graciously taught them to look around in this chequered world, and lest they should not favor true ideas without partaking of the different circumstances of society, he has formed them so as to partake of a part of each. Those well feeling misses who reported those atrocious lies about George How's hand being hurt, have become as poor as I then was, their fathers having very fast upon their interest, have failed, and they obliged to work for their living, which may induce them to haul down their pride. For the convenience and good of mankind the great Disposer and Director of the dispositions of all created

beings has so ordered that each should be naturally inclined to follow some particular occupation for a livelihood and possessed of a peculiar taste, so that for the gratification of the tastes and occupations all may be employed in something satisfactory to themselves. Accordingly as they regulate them by reason and the natural fitness of things. None of the occupations, tastes, fashions or inclinations being bad or good in themselves only as they tend to increase or decrease the happiness of our fellow beings. Thus when a man is possessed of any of these, and has property sufficient to gratify them in a reasonable and moderate way it increases others as well as our own happiness by our paying our surplus of money for them to the growers, manufacturers and senders of them, but when we let our desires get the better of our reason, and so obtain the gratification of them to the injury of our property, so as to injure our families, connections, creditors, or partners, either in friendship or trade, it proves to be a damage, consequently ought to be avoided, yet for these gratifications how many do we see undoing themselves and their friends. "My partner in trade being destitute of offspring, possessed of a strong and lively fancy for those fashions which are esteemed among the higher classes, would purchase many conveniences and luxuries which I thought in our present circumstances had better been omitted until such times when we could have them and owe less, but in addition to these, after we had opened our store in Bolton, I soon learned that he was about to build a small house, which soon grew into a large one thirty-six feet square. I soon informed him that I thought his present house sufficient; that building such a house would greatly injure our trade, in consequence of reducing our capital from trade to buildings. He replied we were in good standing, that our debts we could easily pay at any time, that he wished for a more convenient house, and he thought that if ever he built he was far enough advanced in years to live to enjoy it, that he had lived for some time near the store, and wished to rid himself in some measure of the trouble.

I replied that our debts amounted to nearly \$5000, and although we had nearly as much out, it would be very bad for us if we were called upon for settlement; that I thought we had better omit building till we were more able; that his house was a very convenient one, if finished, and I thought it not best to risk too great ventures; that as to the trouble of the store I would change houses. But all to no purpose. I asked him what he meant to do with his house. He replied, could sell it at the expiration of a few months. I could hear from others he was going to sell me his house. About the first of August, 1803, he asked me to buy his house. He having before importuned a man to buy my house, or rather take it off my hands, as I had only bargained for it, I replied I was well contented with my own; he insisted upon my taking it, and after frequently denying him, he told me I must either buy it of him or dissolve partnership. This you may readily judge after I had advised him not to build, raised my feelings, and I replied that I was both ready and willing for a dissolution, which I expected was not such an answer as he expected, although it was what I was determined on since I knew of his building so large and elegant a house; this with some difference that had happened with our wives and some girl who lived with us, brought us to determine to part. "This elegant house" was the old Felton house destroyed in the great fire July 4, 1894. This house was raised July 31, 1803, and stood where Chase's block now stands. It was the finest house in the place in those days, and although it cost only about one thousand dollars, it did not meet Mr. Felton's ideas of prudence and economy.

History of Hudson, Part 54

as published in the ENTERPRISE, June 1, 1895 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

Mr. Felton describes how the stock of goods, buildings and possessions were divided. Cranston will take the Bolton store. Felton will take the Marlboro store. Neither to open a store for five years within three miles of the other. They finally disagree and Felton sells all goods and rights to Cranston and resumes teaching school in 1804.

Mr. Felton tells how the stock of goods was divided in settlement with Mr. Cranston. "The goods at Bolton not to be inventoried but considered for one to take, the other to take the goods at Marlboro with the shop, and if he took them to have his house at a certain price, the chaise and horse to belong to the one at Marlboro; also, that one collect all the bills and pay all, and then to bid upon each other what we would allow for it. If anything more than his part at Boston was in the store, he was to turn off the other with what goods he pleased. If it should so happen that there was more at Marlboro than his part to let the other have an equal share at English goods. We then bid up to \$570, to strike off of the whole sum and divide the amount left. It then standing upon me, I told him I would take the store at Marlboro. This \$570 was allowed me to pay for collecting the debts and risking them, I concluded that \$300 would be very doubtful about collecting. We then gave each other bonds for the fulfilling of each others part. He was to clear me of paying any part of the lease part due, or that might be due on the Bolton store.

I was to clear him of all debts within three months, which amount at that time to \$7700. Before we began to bid, we gave each other our words that we would not trade or any way molest each other within three miles of the store at Marlboro for five years. This we did not put to writing, for a bond in this line is considered as injurious to trade, therefore not solid in law, but he promised me before witness that he would not molest me in any way for five years, within three miles. I then took a deed of his half of the shop and his house and went on as usual at this place with the business. Immediately upon Mr. Cranston taking the store at Bolton to himself he put the price of the English goods at the cost, meaning to sell out as fast as possible, and on the 1st of Nov. took away what goods were on hand, dismissing Mr. Goodale. After inventorying what was left he told me it amounting to \$100, after paying rent, etc. Mr. Osborne then gave up the lease and leased the store to Dr. Cyrus Fay, who let the store to a Mr. Merriam. Mr. Cranston then pretended to buy a farm, but did not. He then wished, as I suppose, to deter me some way from trading and threatened to build another store and let it until the expiration of five years. I gave him to understand I considered it contrary to his promise. He pretended to quibble about it, and we dropped that.

At the time of my taking the store to myself, which was on the 20th of August, 1803, which was four years and two months from the time we entered partnership.

According to our inventory I considered my property to be about \$2130. Some of the goods was very unsalable; from this sum I must deduct \$300 borrowed of my father at the time we commenced business together. The inventory in detail Aug. 20 1803, was as follows; Goods at purchasing cost and cash \$4645.12, accounts due, \$2660.42, notes on hand, \$1849.36, cash lent \$318.13, store \$615, horse and chaise \$240, goods at Bolton store \$2195.65. Total \$12523.58. Debts we owe, \$7725.91, deduct upon our bidding for risk \$570. Leased \$4227.77, half of the above being mine \$2128.88. I now told all my debtors they must positively pay me before 1st of December 1803. When this time arrived I found I could not pay my debts as they became due and keep my shop filled. I then sat down and cast up what I owed, and found I did not owe so much by more than one thousand dollars as I did when I took it. I then cast up what I had due, and found almost one thousand more out than when I took it; from this I judged if I could not collect money in the best season of the year, for that use I should meet with trouble in the next spring, and further more supposed as Mr. Cranston had built a new house at this place, and could not very well dispose of it advantageously, that at the expiration of five years, he would injure me, and probably might be doing business in the new threatened store, in an indiscreet way before that time.

Considering all these I thought it best to rid myself of debt as soon as possible. About the middle of December, 1803 I went to Princeton and Hubbardston to hire a store but found none to please me. I then sold my house, shop and goods to Mr. Cranston and gave him possession on the 27th of December, 1803. The house and store he had at what I allowed him for them. On the goods I allowed \$130 from the purchasing cost. Previous to this I had disposed of as many unsaleable goods at Boston as amounted to \$120. These were sold for \$35 less than they cost. Mr. Cranston gave a bond promising to take me off at the following places: Silas Gates \$400—Phineas Sawyer \$50—Daniel Williams \$230—Samuel Dexter \$1000—Samuel Blood \$42—Moses Wood \$63—Almy & Brown \$40—Jedediah Brigham toward the house \$400—Which he is to pay me as follows: What goods I wish before I go into trade and the amount of fifty dollars which I owe in small debts.

This he is to let me have and deduct out of the first or largest payment. Total to be paid me \$2573. He had until the spring of 1806 to make his last payment. Dec. 27, 1803 I stand indebted after Mr. Cranston had taken me off about \$5500 and have about as much due except what is due from him. How much I shall lose by these debts, what it would cost me to find another place, to maintain myself and family, till that time, I cannot now determine, but, as soon as we shall complete our writings, I again enter upon business. I intend to make a further statement of my affairs at this place, from the commencement of business until I quit it. Immediately upon my selling out, I engaged to keep the school near my father's fourteen weeks and three days at fourteen dollars a month. I began January 14, 1804, and ended May 3d owing to my other business caused me to lose considerable time, especially Saturday. But the money I earn in this school I consider as so much clear, for I must lay upon my oars so long before I can commence business again.

History of Hudson, Part 55

as published in the ENTERPRISE, June 8, 1895 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

In 1804, the snow accumulated until 4 feet deep. Needed snowshoes to get around. He is now 28 years old. He finds it difficult to collect some of the outstanding accounts owed him. He is not elected assessor after 5 years.

Mr Felton continues his narrative by giving us an account of the weather and business experience. He says: "About the time of my selling out the store the snow fell so as to make good sleighing, which continued steadily until the 23d and 24th of February 1804, on which days the snow fell so much as to entirely to block up all the roads and stop the traveling entirely until the people turned out with their cattle and sleds and broke the paths. As soon as the people had made the roads passable we were again blocked up. On the 28th of February the snow came hastily and plentifully so as to stop the traveling until paths were trodden. March 2d we experienced another snow storm which filled the roads completely full between the walls and in many places much higher. The snow was now judged to be more than four feet deep on a level. After the inhabitants had trodden the paths so as to be passable the path on which we went was in many places higher than the walls upon the sides.

In consequence of which, when either person or cattle stepped out of the path they were plunged all over in the snow. On Saturday, Mar 3 I put on a pair of rackets and walked from my father's to my family at the mills, four miles, the first time in my life I ever had occasion to use rackets in consequence of the great depth of snow. Not a sign of my path did I discover and when I arrived at the place I saw no person stirring except upon rackets. On Monday morning, Mar 5th to 8th, the people collected the cattle etc., together and set out to break the paths towards town. I took my rackets and passed by them and went to March meeting. When I arrived about 12 o'clock the meeting was open and a number of town officers chosen. The people did not arrive from the remote parts until the principle part of the officers were chosen. In consequence a few chose whom they pleased which some offended the others.

Having sold all my effects and proposing to move out of town I did not expect to be reelected assessor this year, and was not disappointed. Capt. Jedediah Brigham was chosen in the place I had filled for five years and am now only 28 years old. Few are chosen younger to fill so important places.

As to the society of Social Enquirers, we met this winter as last, but instead of having the form of the meeting as we did last year, it was agreed to have a sleighride, and invite some others to ride with us. We had a very agreeable ride. The officers of last year were reelected. Having every year hitherto stated my yearly expenses, as usual I will state this year's also, but it will be impossible to do it exactly as I have made so many shifts during the year.

From 1803 to April 1804, my family consisted of Mrs. Felton, my daughter Harriet, a girl, named Lydia Moore, about 12 years of age, boarded and clothed 9 months, a boy Joel Barnard, 15 years old, boarded 8 months and clothed 10 months, a man, Levi Howe, boarded 4 months. The above family cost me, board and doctrine, \$228.93. House rent, \$48. Taxes, \$31.18. Clothes, \$24.88. Wood, \$32.73. Furniture, \$63.74, books, \$7.29. To these I may add the maps of Massachusetts, having purchased them in part before, but not taking any account of them before \$5.50; total of expenses without the maps, \$485.18 which makes my weekly expenses \$9.24, allowing 6 days to the week, my daily expenses were \$1.55, add to books, three dollars for weekly magazines and two dollars for newspaper.

Amidst the multiplicity of business since I have been in the trading line, renders it difficult to keep an exact account of my expenses, but I have endeavored to keep as near exact as possible. When I commence I then intend to know the situation of my affairs complete. Since I left the school May 1, 1804, my business has been collecting in my accounts and paying off, which is a very disagreeable task; it is not pleasant to dun or to be dunned; both I have been very familiar with, both of which and trading in goods I have learned a little of human nature. When persons appear to be very fond of praising you before your face; when they are very ready to promise fairly, when they do not have to attend to any business steadily, but had rather attend the grog shops, pitch a game of quoits, play a game of cards, tell stories, and when trading say "We shan't differ about trifles, I'll make you well satisfied when we settle you shall not lose anything by me; let us have another mug of flip to start with," I say all persons above described with whom I have dealt have proved to be upon settlement with them, when I could get them to settle, which is hard work, the most troublesome of any I have dealt with. Two of the before described disputed my account after they had been of two or three years standing and persisted in their being an error.

One I flatly told he was wrong, and after much quibbling he paid me, the other who said he could bring receipts to cancel more than 15 dollars, was obliged on a settlement for which I took his note, to allow me the whole, and I then detected him of having a number of dollars in his book charged to me, which I proved by receipts, I had already paid him, which he paid me afterwards. I think the reason of this conduct is very plain, those persons possessing considerable cunning, a great share of laziness, must connive some way to supply the deficiency, which they would earn if they followed business steadily, therefore they take this way to lull the people to be careless of their accounts, that they may the better pick some flaw. You will always find them talking a great deal about honesty and honor and possessing little of either. I have been personally acquainted with such characters and felt the disagreeable task of dealing with them, and in the future shall look after them as earnestly as a cat after game. I find that he who preaches honesty does not pretend to more than middling honesty, and the boaster of honesty possesses little genuine honesty, left with the power in his own hands. When persons are over great on one side, they fall upon the other.

History of Hudson, Part 56

as published in the ENTERPRISE, June 15, 1894 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

A new daughter Charlotte is born May 10, 1804. Silas Felton rents a house in Stow large enough for a store also. He tries to collect more old debts. William Smith is sued for his 4 year debt.

Mr. Felton continues by giving an account of the weather.

“From April to August 10th, 1804 the weather was considerably cloudy, some rain, though not very wet. Nothing remarkable as to the weather happened during this time. On Thursday, May 10, 1804 Mrs. Felton was brought to bed with a fine girl weighing with clothes 5 lbs., 6 oz., who on the 29 of July, 1804 was baptized “Charlotte.” On August 17, 1804 Joseph Brigham Esq. made the writings between Joel Cranston and myself, he giving me a Bond to take off of persons to the amount of \$1800 and notes to the amount of \$2271.51. He to pay me \$200 to be paid Oct. 1, 1804; \$1171.50 to be paid Dec. 27, 1804; \$200, Apr. 15, 1805; \$500, June 27, 1805; \$200, April 15, 1806, the three \$200 notes on interest from Aug. 27, 1802. The other notes upon interest after Dec. 27, 1804.

I gave Mr. Cranston a deed of the house and the store adjoining. During the summer of 1804 I made considerable enquiry of people I chanced to find from the country where there were any vacancies of traders, or good places to set up stores.

I took one route. Princeton, Hubbardston, Rutland, Brookfield and returned home. I found no place that pleased me well, that I could hire. Previous to this, one Elisha Gates of Stow had very earnestly importuned me to hire a house of him, the frame of which he had put up, that he would finish it off just as I wished. About the last of July I bargained with Gates for his house for two years; he to finish it suitable to live in and to trade, the house being so large it might accommodate both, it being 40x30 ft.

Having now wearied along with my notes and accounts from the 20th of August, 1803, mostly and all from the 27th of December, 1803, I drew up a determination to see the remainder of them at September court, 1804, but to avoid it as much as possible. I threatened them first in a calm way, next a more positive manner, but all did not attend to the sharp call for cash, and a number I sued. One of which, William Smith, was hardly offended, although I had waited from four years for some, and a shorted time, and six months after the time he set to pay me, none of which he had any encouragement of being waited on, but three months when the goods were delivered.

As this said Smith caused considerable talk in the neighborhood, and some very disagreeable feelings within my breast, by his often repeatedly, telling me, I had used him very well, threatening to throw me out of the whole debt, it being about seventy dollars, in consequence of our asking and taking one penny more for every shillings worth of goods when trusted over 20 days, than for ready cash, which sum of money did not so much trouble me, as the precedent, it set for other unprincipled villains, for if it were in his power to make this gratis more than 6 per cent interest, against the law, and throw me out of the debt. In this way I considered some of his club might complain of me in behalf of the state, and summons the others as witnesses, and by this means, they would succeed, or rather swindle me out of my little property and the club enrich themselves. The names of them were William, Calvin, Jeduthan and David.

They are all very much of one cast, being very talkative, notorious blackguards, very flattering to your face when good natured, very fair promisers, slow performers where money is for them to pay, possessed of quick and revengeful tempers, though uncommonly kind to those who can so contrive as not to have any demands against them, or as long as others wait on them, when pleased very fond to speak well of you and your friends and run out all manner of abusive language against you and their enemies, fond of relating large stories, more large than 1, by inquiring for the truth, have found true, very fond of each other, if you affront one you affront all four, middling industrious, though notorious dull paymasters, and very full of plausible promises and very regardless of fulfilling them, and full of excuses to justify themselves, though all are possessed of from \$500 to \$1500 each. In getting my dues, all have been affronted with me, one other brother Gideon, not non compos, but possessed of a full share of blackguard.

I always considered them as not being naturally dishonest, or meaning maliciously to relate lies, but being very illiterate, and not considering the consequences of letting their anger run at large, they take very large strides towards destroying the morals in society. I do not know what idea William could form to himself, amidst all his angry passions, of trying to throw a person out of a debt, which he himself has hundreds of times, voluntarily confessed was strictly just, only because after he had disappointed me more than twenty times, had caused me to wait six months longer than he asked, and saw no probability of getting it, I sued him, then his hasty temper was roused and run at random, like the ruffled sea, and sought revenge without reflection, and then aided as I suppose by Jonathan Bruce, that he might feather his own nest in this way. But thanks be rendered unto the supreme ruler of the universe, they failed and I saved my money. Smith showed his disposition, paid some of his money to the attorneys, lost his good name, if he had any among the honest, and disappointed his devil, at first he could hardly speak to me, he now can speak, and appears some ashamed of his conduct but is there any person who can regard this any better than stealing if the law will only protect him.

History of Hudson, Part 57

as published in the ENTERPRISE, June 22, 1895 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

Felton gets displeased and disgusted with men who are not honest and truthful, lazy, not trustworthy. The Bruce family he especially despises, all three sons.

Mr. Felton looked upon honor and integrity as bright particular stars in the conduct of men. He had the most withering abhorrence and contempt for any departure from the path of rectitude. This trait in his character is best seen in his description of a family by the name of Bruce, who lived in this place one hundred years ago. He says "The Bruces, Isaiah, Jonathan and Joel, I cannot look upon in any other light than as the greatest pests this vicinity is plagued with."

Their father Samuel in his younger days was possessed of a handsome property. He was very fond of company, uncommonly fond of dancing, and so good a one he passed by the name of "dancing Sam." By his negligence to attend to his business, and paying his debts, and his fondness for spending his estate, has reduced him to a beggarly state. His attainments in knowledge is small, his abilities as small in everything except dancing and telling stories.

He is always a friend to every one he meets and joins in sentiments with all if he converse separately with them though ever so different in opinion. In short we may say he passed his morning in luxury, in idleness, neglecting his future prosperity, but attending to the plausible recreations of the present moment, without any serious thought for the future, to the damage of society; his middle age he passed like the morning to the ruin of his estate, and his children's welfare, letting them live in idleness, especially his sons, his daughters are married and likely women generally; his evening he passes in reaping the harvest of his former years and is the natural consequence of such conduct. He now moves from place to place, not wished for anywhere, but is obliged to gain something to support himself, by industry, although his infirmities render him unable almost so to do.

His wife is a talkative, mischief-making, brazenfaced, undefinable creature, obliged to earn something to subsist on from hand to mouth to support herself and husband. Josiah is a smoothtongued, sharp, lazy, lounging fellow, brought up in idleness and ignorance, thus long habituated, and nursed in the lap of licentiousness, together with a bad heart, which entices him in eternal oscillation, vibrating either way, as change offers an opportunity for gain that he may support himself and family. Having ten or twelve children bringing up in the same idle manner without being instructed in good morals or anything about religion, thus does he with his brothers and children endeavor first to continue without labor or attending to any steady business by striving to pick, unsuspected, the honest, industrious person's pocket, appearing with fair words upon their lips, full of blustering pretensions about honor and honesty and destitute of both, except when they can gain some property,

uttering them in a flattering way, with a harmonious voice and a smiling countenance, while inwardly their fixed principle is, if we may be allowed to judge by their actions, to get property by any means without earning it.

They appear never to think of God, unless it be to effect an insurance of deception. With them the most solemn oaths are broken when an opportunity of gain presents itself, they will all join together as one to defraud an honest unsuspecting, industrious person of his hard earned property, but when obtained and the property in their possession, their seeming good friendship among themselves is at an end, till the property is divided among them and spent and another opportunity is presented to them for plunder; for in dividing their unjust gains, brother, father and son, will quarrel with father, brother and son, damn each other, call each other all the bad names that can be thought of, each reviling the other before company.

Going to law with each other, no so damned creatures in society as each other as long as his property remains among them, but as soon as it is expended they are good friends again, putting their heads together in order to obtain more property. Jonathan's character is like unto Josiah's, only that he has been more fortunate in defrauding people of large sums of money, consequently he moved in a larger scale, such as driving cattle, and is now reduced so as not to be able to pay his debts. He has generally bore a better character than Josiah. I think it will appear no better in the end. Joel is perhaps possessed of an equal share of laziness and as firmly attached to knavish principles, which are more openly put in practice owing to his not possessing quite so full a share of that smooth, low, glossy, crafty, inward cunning, so as to contrive his plans for gaining property, under a cloak, so that he is oftener detected and in poorer credit than the rest. I will now relate a few incidents relative to their characters which are related among us as facts and not doubted by any.

History of Hudson, Part 58

as published in the ENTERPRISE, June 29, 1895 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

The Bruces cheat Benjamin Prentiss and Wilkins. Cranston proposes a merger. Felton declined. The Stow house and store not finished as promised.

Mr. Felton refers to Benjamin Prentiss in his first incident illustrating the character of the Bruces. Prentiss was a slave in Connecticut and run away and settled in Marlboro where he died at the age of 97. He had five brothers in the Revolutionary Army. Mr. Felton says Josiah, with the help of one Howe, who is now in the gaol for debt, laid a plan so as to deceive a simple, honest, industrious negro out of all his hard earned property. Howe pretended to be his greatest friend, persuaded one Benjamin Prentiss, a black man, to buy a house of Bruce, which he said was so cheap it was better than money at interest. In consequence Bruce sold a house to Prentiss for more than \$500 and took notes against other men who owed Prentiss for labor. The house cost Bruce only \$60. Bruce was to give Howe a number of sheep, etc., for his help, but fortunately for the negro the neighbors assisted him, proved a failure in his deed, so that he gave up the house, and received back his notes except ten dollars the rascal kept.

He was once bound into court, but by his absolute lies he deceived the man, he stayed at home and Bruce got up his bonds. Of late Josiah has been very thick with thieves confined in gaol; what his business is I leave others to guess.

Jonathan as principle, with Josiah and their sister, married one by one the name of Blood, who accused one Col. Roberts of being too domestic with his wife. To avoid trouble he settled privately, giving his notes for \$1000, which Jonathan agreed to share with the rest when collected; but when he obtained the money he kept it, which so offended the others, they made the matter public. Roberts not only lost his money but his character in consequence of Bruce's knavery. Josiah not content to let Jonathan share so much money quietly, accused him of stroking his wife, and threatened to prosecute him if he did not pay him a large sum of money. This so offended Jonathan he took up a shovel and struck Josiah over the head, felling him to the ground, apparently for a few moments.

Perhaps the fear of futurity, and threats ended the matter at the cider mill where he fell. Joel borrowed a horse of one Wilkins to ride a few miles. He changed it off for a poorer one, run off and spent the whole, but with the assistance of his brothers he afterwards returned. He then married. He endeavored to persuade an honest teamster to change horses with him, but he declined. He induced him to untackle a horse from his wagon, worth more than one hundred dollars, and put in a ringboned colt in its stead to see if it would draw. After going one mile through the woods with this colt in the team, Joel returns to bring the good horse to the teamster. But behold he puts his saddle on the good horse and rides him off, declares he

swapped horses with him. There were no witnesses with them. The teamster could not prove to the contrary, so his master lost a good horse. I might relate numerous instances of similar frauds, but I desist. Reflecting a few moments I ask what good are such knaves to society and are they not worse than burglars and horse thieves?

Perhaps had they been away, perhaps Smith's ungoverned temper would have only rustled a little and shrunken back, ashamed and confirmed as it now is, without his discovering his dishonesty to the world, and I rested in peace, thus should I have enjoyed myself much better. But, some say "whatever is, is right." It may be, it is for the good of the whole that I should suffer that others may know Smith's disposition. But other causes may be assigned, but I will not venture to relate any, and only remark that such persons as the Bruces, do not to the outward appearance, add in any way to the happiness of society, for they appear to me like the drone bees, that only consume what the others earn, and do not in any way cultivate the soil, nor facilitate trade, but often obstruct both by defrauding the industrious, and rendering trade more uncertain and risky. Thus much have I digressed from my subject to describe the greatest villains in society. But to return to my narrative. A few days previous to my moving away from this place, Mr. Cranston wished me to join him again in trade, but I refused him, I could not readily overlook his past conduct and further thought I should be better suited to do business alone, and in my own way, accordingly on the first of November 1804 I moved my goods into the before mentioned Elisha Gates house in Stow, but when I arrived there the house was not in such a state of readiness as Gates agreed it should be, some things appeared different from what I had expected, and considerable of my dues remained uncollected. A number failed, who had given me encouragement of lending me money, thus, not withstanding all the fair promises I had received, I saw I had not cash on hand, sufficient to pay my debts in Boston, which debts I knew was highly necessary for me to pay before I again commenced business, both on my keeping friendship with those persons and getting goods advantageously. Under all these considerations I felt very disagreeably, and halted very much what was best to be done, whether it was best to save all my remaining notes and accounts and make one strenuous effort to begin and keep business along until my notes became due that I held against Cranston or join him in trade. In a day or two I went up to see Cranston and get about \$200 that became due, but he pretended he had not so much by him then.

History of Hudson, Part 59

as published in the ENTERPRISE, July 6, 1895 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

The dilemma in Stow of the home and store not fit to live in causes much distress. He agrees to partner again with Joel Cranston and then again regrets it, as they own too many buildings and inventory of goods. He must make the best of it.

Mr. Felton concludes after a good deal of doubt and perplexity to unite with Mr. Cranston once more in business, he says: "I then made him a proposal to join him in trade and I remain at Stow, but to this he would not agree; so we left it and I asked advice of my friends what was best to be done. Those that lived in Stow wished me to stay there; those in Marlboro advised me to move back, and in particular my father. For one or two days I considered the matter, and went to Marlboro, when after much talk, we agreed to commence trade together again, and I engaged teams to move me back, the teams to be at Stow at sunrise the next morning. After having made the agreement and riding from Marlboro to Stow in the evening, reflecting on what I had done, that I would not move back, but I would go directly back and stop my team, halting my horse, turning him round and riding back some rods; thinks to myself I wont go back but return to Stow, thus turning my horse I again rode towards Stow, and again, and again, and again did I turn him round and round till I arrived at my family at Stow.

I found my wife at Mr. Gates'. I went there at about 9 o'clock in the evening. I related to Mr. Gates what I had agreed to. He appeared thunderstruck and sorrow appeared on the countenance of everyone present. About 12 o'clock we retired to our home but all the time I kept thinking. After some serious conversation with Mrs. Felton we retired to bed, but sleep was a stranger to my eyes this night. On my pillow did I lay my head, without scarcely closing my eyes this night, contemplating what would be best. Towards morning I arose, caught my horse, saddled and bridled him and rode about half a mile towards Marlboro to tell him I would not come back again. But on a sudden, methought what a fool am I, to keep changing my mind thus, and moreover, it is now so late I shall meet the teams, thus did I turn about my horse, ride back turn him out and went to bed, but not long had I laid before it was light. I raised my head, looked out of the window towards Marlboro and behold the teams were there already. We began immediately to load our goods, Mr. Gates came in, he appeared as though he had lost all his friends. You may very readily judge I felt as bad as he. He then made me some considerable offers to stay and urged me to take a ride with him to Marlboro to make some agreement with Cranston. We went but did not accomplish anything. When we returned the goods were all loaded and we immediately moved back. Thus in eight days we were in the same house we moved out of the Thursday before.

On arriving back it being Wednesday, Nov. 7, 1802, we proposed to begin next morning to inventory Cranston's goods and then my share of the profits began. I will

now relate the bargain we made. I was to receive the house and other buildings belonging thereto, with one half the shop at the prices I put them to him for. The house at \$1000, the shop \$307.50. I received the goods at cost in Boston, making no allowance for transport and refuse goods which at this time was small, he having bartered away the principle poor articles for hops and got the amount in good goods, his debts to be paid out of the stock and if any had any overplus to receive interest at 6 per cent from the other. At this time my property amounted to \$1464.78 after paying for the house and shop, but as each is to warrant all debts of his own I think of those I have turned in \$100 may be lost, also I owe Silas Gates \$254 and my father \$300, my other debts being now all paid, which makes me worth \$2177, my horse and chaise, house furniture, watch, books not reckoned as we had considerable business on hand.

We did not complete our inventory till Apri. 6, 1805. The foot of the inventory of Mr. Cranston's goods, etc., amounted to \$9274, but after deducting debts, etc., reduced it down Apr. 6, 1805 to \$1307, stock in trade with me, over and above mine, which we supposed the company owed him and for which we gave our note, running to him. Cranston has not now paid all his debts, he takes money out of the stock to pay his note with, and endorses it on the note. I have had some doubt of our settlement of this note and contemplate looking into the matter some further. If I find anything wrong I shall right it in some future page. I am now in my old place doing business as usual. Joel Barnard who formerly lived with us is with Corey tending his store and I have Levi How with me at present. Business appears considerably lively, but I don't feel right, things don't appear quite right.

When I look back and reflect on my past conduct since Aug. 20, 1803, I cannot help thinking I have acted a foolish part, to dissolve, collect the debts, live upon hire and return to the same place again.

By joining Mr. Cranston in trade for five years, made business appear pleasing and I enjoyed myself better than I ever did before or ever expect to again, for his building the large house nearly ended the career of my happiness and I now think he used me very unhandsomely in doing it, and on this 14th day of July, 1805, wish from the bottom of my heart I had not connected myself with him again, but I have and must make the best of it. From Nov. 8, 1804, to July 13, 1805, we have sold considerable many goods, but having so much property in buildings and carrying so many goods makes it very difficult for us to make our payments as they become due, which hurts us very much in purchasing goods as cheaply as formerly. Owing to trusting so many goods we have in the last winter \$2000 out of Worcester bank, which makes it very difficult to purchase the goods and make the payments at the bank.

History of Hudson, Part 60

as published in the ENTERPRISE, August 24, 1895 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

Felton writes of the changes in the village over the 100 years especially in real estate values. The land for the School Street School is purchased.

It will interest many citizens of Hudson to follow the changes in the value of real estate for 100 years. The land covered in part by Chamberlain's factory, previous to the great fire, was sold by Josiah Barnard to Joel Cranston in 1794. Cranston paid \$50 for 40 rods of land. In the year 1809, Joel Cranston sold David Gile the tannery buildings, vats and some 40 rods of land, bounded by Potash brook, for \$900. The tannery stood where the Methodist church now stands.

James Wilson was the first Irishman to build and occupy a house in the village of Feltonville, now Hudson. Oct. 30, 1832, Stephen Pope sold him one-half acre of land, where the Hudson town house now stands, for \$50, a little more than 62 cents a rod.

On the east side of the driveway near the Hudson House, Ari Witherbee bought of Stephen Pope 16 rods of land for \$100. This sale was made Aug. 4, 1835. The same year Mr. Pope sold David Coolidge 20 rods of land now covered by the Hudson House for \$125. The sale was made Sept. 28, 1835.

May 9, 1833, Mr. Pope sold George E. Manson and Lorenzo Stratton 193 rods of land for \$300—this was a little more than \$1.55 a rod. The land faced on Main street from the town house ground to Felton street. The Hudson Savings bank recently bought 59 rods of this land for \$13, 500 or \$228.81 a rod.

The Stratton house stood on this spot. In the year 1856—one half of the double house and land was sold at public auction for \$1100—Charles Brigham was the purchaser, who sold his interest to Lorenzo Stratton for a bonus of \$10. Nov. 15, 1834 Stephen Pope sold Francis Brigham and Albert Randall 16 rods of land for \$100. This land is the driveway east of the Hudson House. A shoe shop was erected on this land June 17, 1835. Francis Brigham sold Albert Randall his half interest in shop and land for \$275.

In 1834 George E. Manson sold Loring Cox 45 rods, where the Mansion House stood for \$100. Wood's new store now stands on this spot.

Dec. 7, 1857 Francis Brigham sold the town of Marlboro six rods of land on School street for \$12, \$2 a rod. April 14, 1858 Francis Brigham sold Knott Pedrick 49 acres and old buildings on Washington street for \$4300. In 1854 Francis Brigham sold for \$800 the house and land, the house standing where the Hudson House now stands.

History of Hudson, Part 61

as published in the ENTERPRISE, Jan 25, 1896 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

In 1803, Elijah Hale, 14 years old, of Stow, began work with Cranston & Felton. The population of all Marlboro was 1635 in 1803. These three men went to Rockbottom where water power was available and opened a cotton factory in 1813. The meaning of the Rockbottom name. A new owner Benjamin Poor built a larger brick factory but was not successful and on 1849 he sold to Benjamin Gleason and Samuel Dale - Gleasondale! In 1852, all lost to fire. Rebuilt and successful for 30 more years.

Silas Felton ceased writing the memoirs of his life when he was less than 30 years of age. The business methods that were so prominent in his earlier life distinguished his daily conduct to the day of his death, Aug. 16, 1828.

In 1803, a Stow farmer by the name of Hale visited the store, bringing with him his 14-year old son, Elijah. He made so favorable an impression he was employed as a clerk by Cranston & Felton, and in after years he became an active member of the firm. These three men were possessed with unusual business capacities; the trade of the whole town of Marlboro, with a population of only 1635, did not level up to the height of their ambition. In seeking larger fields for business they went to Rockbottom where water power was available for manufacturing purposes.

Joel Cranston was the first man from the "mills" to engage in business in Rockbottom.

He went into partnership with Silas Jewell, Nov. 17, 1812. On this date Jewell sold Cranston one-half interest in about an acre of land on the west side of the Assabet river above and below the dam, belonging to Randall's mills, together with the privilege of drawing water from the millpond above the dam through a gate 14 inches square. Cranston paid \$200 for his interest in the property.

They commenced the erection of a cotton factory and had it completed for business in the spring of 1813. On the 8th of January, 1814 for the sum of \$3000, Silas Jewell sold to Silas Felton and Elijah Hale three-eighths of his interest in the cotton factory. The equipment of the factory at this time was two spinning frames each having 75 spindles, two breakers, two finishers and one drawing frame.

In those early days nearly all the factories in New England produced only yarns for the spinning wheels, to be found in nearly every farmer's home. Here the thrifty wife found time to weave the "homespun" for the family, whose hardy rugged life and simple ways, made these suits more welcome than the showy dress of nabobs and swells.

On the 6th of January, 1815, Jewell sold Felton & Hale his remaining one-eighth interest in the factory for \$1516. The firm name was "The Rock Bottom Cotton and Woolen Company." The name Rockbottom had this supposed origin. In digging the foundation for the factory the workmen came to solid rock. Mr. Cranston came along and watching the work men said "You have struck rock bottom."

The partnership of Cranston, Felton & Hale continued successfully for several years. The business was so promising, in 1819 this firm purchased Randall's mills, located near the cotton factory. In 1823, Mr. Felton withdrew from the partnership, receiving \$6000 for his one-third interest. This increased value shows that success had attended their labors.

In 1829 reverse came, Cranston & Hale could not grapple with the financial storm that swept and engulfed great and small business enterprises. They were obliged to assign. We will give the subsequent history of the business as it will interest many readers.

On March 10, their assignees sold the property to John A. Laforest for \$6000, subject to mortgages etc. for \$12,000. Mr. Laforest was a manufacturer from Fitchburg, Mass. He did no business in his new purchase, but sold the property to Benjamin Poor of Boston a commission merchant. He enlarged the capacity of factory and water power. The old dam gave a fall of 10 feet. Mr. Poor erected a new dam five rods above the old one, bringing the water through a canal; he obtained a fall of 14 feet.

The first brick factory was erected by Mr. Poor and furnished with the most improved machinery. He organized a company and for the 12 following years was not successful in business. Jan. 14, 1847, a mortgage of \$30,000 was given to Benjamin E. Bates of Boston, a commission merchant; having failed to keep the conditions of the mortgage it was assigned to Benjamin W. Gleason of North Andover and Samuel J. Dale of Ware, Mass. They foreclosed the mortgage and took possession of the property Feb. 1, 1849. Mr. Gleason was a shrewd business man and gave an impetus and life to the business it had never known before. He received a serious check to his business in the loss of his factory by fire June 6, 1852.

It was Sunday morning, the alarm was given in this place; the engine company and most of the male population went down to Rockbottom to aid in checking the fire. It was impossible to save the factory, all was lost, but Mr. Gleason was a man of heroic mold. He immediately erected a new factory and was successful in all his business enterprises to the day of his death which occurred Jan. 18, 1884.

Mr. Gleason in physique was large and portly, of fine personal presence. He attended the Baptist church in this place, his wife being one of its founders and one of its most consecrated, earnest working members. Mr. Gleason was in the house of representatives and held other positions of public trust. A man of great executive ability, faithful, active and constant in labor, he honored every public or private trust or confidence reposed in him.

History of Hudson, Part 62

as published in the ENTERPRISE, February 1, 1896 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

Randall's Mills in Rockbottom sold in 1819 to Felton, Cranston and Hale. George Manson marries Harriet Felton and joins Hale at the store. Francis D. Brigham at 16 years worked at the store and it became Manson and Brigham. Due to Temperance, they emptied kegs of rum down the hill toward the Assabet River. Deaths of Silas Felton, Joel Cranston, Elijah Hale, F.D.Brigham noted.

In giving the history of the Rockbottom factory, we have alluded to the Randall mills, a sawmill and a grist mill located near the factory, and familiar to the traveler of 40 years ago.

It will interest the curious reader to know their origin, which is as follows: From a deed dated Feb. 19, 1770 we learn that John Gordon and his wife Mary conveyed the land with a sawmill and a grist mill upon it to Timothy Gibson, receiving L300. The first mentioned parties came into possession of the property from their father Ebenezer Graves, who purchased it of Zachariah Whitman Sept. 17, 1716. In previous conveyances no allusion is made to the mills, and they were, without any doubt, erected by Mr. Graves soon after his purchase. He was in the full flush of young manhood being about 26 years old at the time. On March 28, 1776, Timothy Gibson sold the land, 60 acres, and the mills, to Abraham Randall for L462. For half a century they were known as Randall's mills. He died in 1815.

The mills came into possession of his two sons, Abraham and Paul, Aug. 20, 1819. They conveyed the mills to Joel Cranston, Silas Felton and Elijah Hale of Sawyer's mills, afterwards known as Feltonville now Hudson. The business venture of these three men in Rockbottom as we have previously stated, was a failure. Mr. Felton luckily withdrew with \$6000 before the collapse came. Colonel Hale was a partner in the Feltonville store when Mr. Felton died in 1828. At this time there was working in the Rockbottom factory, a young man by the name of George E. Manson. He was born at Marlboro in 1798. He informed his father one day he was going to strike out for himself, and asked him if he could help. He thought he could, and gave him \$1. Young Manson found time to visit this place occasionally and soon found his affinity in the person of a young lady by the name of Harriot Felton, daughter of the merchant, Silas Felton. After the death of her father, this couple were married, and young Manson entered the store and became a partner with Mr. Hale in the business. There was a clerk in the store by the name of Francis Dana Brigham. He was born at Marlboro in 1811, and entered the employ of Mr. Felton when he was 16 years of age. In 1831, Colonel Hale left the firm. The firm was reorganized, F. D. Brigham and Colonel William Brigham being admitted. The style of the firm was Manson & Brigham.

Colonel Brigham left the firm in 1833. In 1832 a boy went to work for the firm by the name of George W. Chipman. He was 14 years old, he had previously worked some for George Peters, the village blacksmith. His time was mostly spent on the forge feeding wind into the maw of a huge pair of bellows and in keeping flies from being too familiar while horses were being shod. In the store he spent his spare hours in the attic painting water pails and wash tubs and in improving the appearance of various articles that had already waited too long for a sale. Our townsman, Silas F. Manson was at this time a blossoming infant. Young Chipman would put him in a soapbox fastened on a pair of wheels and draw him about the store and on the street. The young clerk boarded in the family of F. D. Brigham until 1836 when he went to Boston and entered a dry goods store. This year the temperance question took practical form at Feltonville. Manson & Brigham resolved to sell no more intoxicating liquors. They rolled the liquor outside the store. One hogshead of rum and other kinds of quickening spirits they let loose, to flow down the hill towards the Assabet river. Leading citizens told them they were making a great mistake, they would be ruined in business.

Colonel Silas B. Fairbanks was a teamster. Manson & Brigham sent him over the road to Boston and he returned with groceries. This was before the age of railroads. Flour was sold for 50 cents more per barrel than it cost in Boston. All their goods were sold at the same reduced rate, as a result, they did a larger business than ever before. To show the line and price paid for goods in those days, we give the items of a bill of merchandise sold a widow woman in July and August, 1836.

July	25	To	1 gal. rum	.44 cts.
July	25	To	2 qts. molasses	.21 cts.
July	25	To	2 lbs. sugar	.23 cts.
July	25	To	7 lbs. flour	.32 cts.
July	25	To	1 rake	.28 cts.
Aug.	6	To	1 gal. rum	.44 cts.
Aug.	6	To	7 lbs. flour	.32 cts.
Aug.	6	To	1 lbs. sugar	.12 cts.
Aug.	6	To	1 lbs. w. sugar	.13 cts.
Aug.	6	To	tobacco	.02 cts.
Aug.	13	To	1 gal. rum	.44 cts.
Aug.	13	To	2 qts. molasses	.21 cts.
Aug.	13	To	1 lb. w. sugar	.13 cts.
Aug.	17	To	1 gal. rum	.46 cts.

About the year 1851 Mr. Manson withdrew from the firm and John H. Peters was admitted under the firm name of Brigham & Peters. Mr. Peters worked for the firm in boyhood and continued in their employ with little interruption until he became a member of the firm. This partnership continued until about 1868 when F. D. Brigham withdrew and was succeeded by Robert W. Derby of Stow. They continued in business a few years, when Mr. Derby withdrew and the business was carried on by Mr. Peters to the day of his death, May 10, 1887. The stock of goods

was sold at public auction. William Holden restocked the store and occupied it until the last line of its history was written in the flames of the memorable July 4, 1894.

This store first occupied Aug. 15, 1801 was a familiar presence to a number of generations.

Only two men doing business at this store are still living, R. W. Derby and Wm. Holden.

Silas Felton died Aug. 16, 1828. His funeral was attended by Rev. Russell Streeter of Watertown, a noted Universalist preacher. Mr. Felton was selectman 11 years, town clerk 12 years, assessor 17 years, in house of representatives three years, 1822-46, also a justice of the peace. Joel Cranston, his partner died Oct. 22, 1835, aged 72. He was in the house of representatives in 1820-1, a member of the senate in 1813, selectman of Marlboro 1806-9. George E. Manson died March 17, 1874, aged 76. He was selectman of this town 1835 43-58-60.

Colonel Elijah Hale died in 1879, aged 90. He was in the house of representatives. F. D. Brigham died March 7, 1883, aged 76. We do not learn he ever held public office, although the equal of all those I have named. These busy merchants would often work summer evenings until "Jocund day stood dancing on the misty mountain top." How laboriously they toiled from youth to old age, the wealthiest one on retiring worth \$60,000! The offices they held is the measure of public esteem, and trust, and should inspire young men in the faith that truest and purest manhood are the best credentials to highest honors and enduring fame.



Francis D. Brigham Block, Brigham and Manson Store



Francis Dana Brigham

History of Hudson, Part 63

as published in the ENTERPRISE, February 8, 1896 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

Praising Joel Cranston, a town founder. His son was also Joel Cranston, the store keeper in these previous articles. This younger Joel lived as widower with Hale in Stow. The Wood store is established in 1825 with Jedediah Wood and sons William and Alonzo. A grandson Solon Wood continued the business in 1896. Jedediah died at age 90, in 1867. A new Wood store was built in 1842.

There are some persons who believe Joel Cranston did more than any other man in laying the foundations of the town of Hudson. He was certainly one of its founders. Too much cannot be known and treasured relating to the early pioneers of this place. We shall give from time to time the most valuable incidents in the lives of our most prominent citizens through every generation from William Hubberfield in the wilderness to the present day.

More can be said of Joel Cranston than has been given in previous writings. He was born in the town of Marlboro, Sept. 17, 1763. He was the eldest son of Amasa and Mary H. Cranston. His father was in the French and Indian wars, entering the army when only 16 years of age.

He was also in the Revolutionary war. He marched to Lexington to repel the entrance of the British, a lieutenant in Captain Cyprian Howe's company, he was in the army most of the time during the seven years struggle. He fought at the Bennington and White Plains and in other battles with the enemy.

The war of the Revolution successfully ended, he bought a farm, the "Whitney farm" sold at auction last December, the soldier was paid in continental money. It depreciated in value very rapidly. His wife urged him to take his money and go to Boston and pay the man who sold him the farm. He was detained by business a few days, and then he started for the city, on horseback, with one of the panels of the saddle filled with continental money.

When he arrived in the city he soon learned his money was practically worthless. He returned home, poor and discouraged. He was obliged to leave his farm, and went to live in another state. After a struggle with misfortune for seven years with health impaired, he returned to the "mills," now Hudson, and resided with his son Joel until the day of his death, April 26, 1808, aged 78.

The Revolutionary war ended in 1783. Here was an old soldier, his last 25 years of life, embittered by poverty, the best gift of a free but bankrupt country. His son, Joel Cranston, came to the "mills" in 1793, when 30 years of age. He went into business with Francis Barnard in the red store. Soon after this he went into

partnership with Silas Felton. Mr. Cranston married Lucretia Eager, Sept. 27, 1784, they never had any children.

He built the Peters house in 1794, the Felton house in 1803, he owned the tannery, engaged in carding wool, cloth dressing, blacksmithing etc. In company with Mr. Felton they made thousands of barrels of cider brandy in a mill standing where N. G. Tripp's box shop now stands.

Mr. Cranston closed out his property and went to Rockbottom to live in 1833. He lived with Colonel Hale until the day of his death. He gave his property to Joel Hale. To Miss Butter, a member of his family for many years, he gave \$100 to be paid in four annual payments.

Silas Felton had a competitor in business in the store that stood near, on the north side of the Assabet river. The building is now standing on the south side of the river. It was moved by Captain Francis Brigham in 1856. The proprietors were Captain Jedediah Wood and his son, Colonel William H. Wood then a young man of about 23. They commenced business in 1825, they moved into their new store in 1842.

Another son, Alonzo Wood, was a member of the firm for a number of years, but left for another business. Colonel Wood married Caroline Henderson Nov. 5, 1826. He had three sons Jerome, Marshall and Solon, the last named, continues the business. His present building, so massive and elegant in architectural appointment, and his extensive business, are proofs that the genius of this family for business does not dim, although a hundred milestones stand between grandsire and grandson.

It is an interesting fact, that the three earliest merchants of this place, Francis Barnard, Colonel Elijah Hale, and Captain Jedediah Wood died at the age of 90 years.

Before 1840, Lorenzo Stratton, merchant and shoe manufacturer, had his buildings partly on land crossed by Felton street. He was partly in construction. He loved a clay pipe, jovial in nature, a shrewd, successful business man. He died in 1865. His competitor, Colonel Wood died in 1864. His father died in 1867. On the east side of Cox's tavern within two rods of the building, Silas Stuart had a brick store.

On the spot now occupied by the new Mansion House stood a little building occupied by Danie Farnsworth, the village watchmaker. With the exception of the old tannery 50 years ago there was not another place of business on the whole stretch of territory to Wilkinsville and only seven dwelling houses east of tan yard brook or Potash brook the name 100 years ago.

History of Hudson, Part 64

as published in the ENTERPRISE, February 15, 1896 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

Organizing a call for troops, April 17, 1861. One eighth of the whole population of the town served in the Civil War. Speeches, appropriations for equipment and to help the families whose men went to war.

The part that Marlboro and her youngest child Feltonville played in the great Rebellion of 1861-65 will be worth preserving. It will be the most heroic epoch telling of patriotism, sacrifice and martyrdom that her history will ever record. The first public meeting ever held in response to President Lincoln's call for troops was April 17, 1861. The call was issued at noon hour for the citizens to meet in the town hall in the evening at 6:30. At this hour was gathered the most excited and largest body of men ever seen within its walls. Feltonville was honored her young citizen William F. Brigham was made president of the meeting. The reporter said: "On taking the chair Mr. Brigham opened with an able and effective speech, which showed at once that Marlboro will do her share in supplying the talent and patriotism requisite to meet the crisis in a manner comporting with the ancient glory of the good old common wealth."

A committee consisting of Hollis Loring Esq., William H. Wood Esq., C. F. Morse, Samuel Boyd and Sylvester Bucklin was appointed to report measures for calling a regular town meeting at an early day. While this committee were preparing the report, James T. Joslin addressed the meeting, his remarks showing he understood well the political condition of the country. The committee reported a petition to the selectmen to call a town meeting to make appropriations to provide uniforms and equipments for the Marlboro Rifle Co. and to aid the families of its members. The report was accepted by one deafening shout of "Aye," and before the meeting closed hundreds of voters signed the petition. The Marlboro cornet band was present and quickened the patriotic feeling of the citizens by the inspiring airs of "Hail Columbia," "Yankee Doodle," etc. Speeches were made by Edward Wilkins, Rev. George N. Anthony, J. F. Clafin, F. H. Morse, Lieut. C. F. Morse, William B. Gale, Wilbur F. Brigham, John Chipman, Esq., Charles Brigham.

The sentiment of the meeting was voiced in the speech of H. Felton, Esq.: "Fellow citizens, I am so indignant I can't talk, the time for speech has passed. It only remains for us to act. We must cease argument and strike. Strike instantly-strike heavily, and let every blow kill an enemy. Today treason runs riot over one half of these United States, and traitors are doing the best they can to crush the best Government God ever suffered to exist, and to plunge into utter and endless ruin twenty millions of free people. To rescue that Government and to seize those millions, let every man who can, lift a musket, shoulder it and march. Let every man who has a dollar to give, give it; nor withhold one dollar, nor pause one instant in the march till

every traitor's bones lie bleaching in the sun." The second great war meeting was held in the Town Hall April 29.

The moderator was William H. Wood of Feltonville. The town voted to appropriate \$10,000, for the equipment of volunteers and support of their families while going to war. the fund to be distributed by the following gentlemen, Hollis Loring, Mark Fay, O.W. Albee, W. H. Wood, Samuel Boyd, Stephen Morse, Elbridge Howe, Edward Wilkins, Francis Brigham, L. E. Wakefield. This committee of ten are all dead. Rev. L.E. Wakefield made an eloquent speech that savored of "saltpeter and war." Hon. O. W. Albee, Charles Brigham and Hollis Loring were the other speakers. In these first two Great War meetings, the Feltonville end of the town was well represented. The chairmen of the meetings were from this part of the town, and seven of the speakers. The most extreme enthusiasm animated all hearts. Everywhere the "flag of the free" was unfurled. The universal pulses of loyalty were best expressed in the ringing words of poet.

"Fling out the starry banner
Men of the kingless land,
The hour of duty is tolling
Be faithful heart and hand.

Face all who dare decry it,
Clasp all who seek its shade,
If need be die beneath it
For the country it has made.

They come to us by millions
As once they went to Rome
Give everyman a welcome
Give each and all a home.

But teach them first this lesson,
They in return must stand
Be ready to slay for the starry flag,
Or to die for the kingless land."

This sentiment of the fact found quick expression in the action of the devoted firemen of the town. The town had voted \$1,000 at the March meeting for the erection of a truck house for the Union Hook and Ladder Co. These firemen met the next night after the first great war meeting, and one in thought, purpose and heart, passed the following resolutions:

"The present crisis in our national affairs make it probable that the Rifle Co. of this town will be called into active service, and perhaps many more of our citizens, and we would desire to see them properly equipped and their families provided for in case of need, which may draw heavily on the treasury of our town, and feeling as we do that every true patriot should make every sacrifice in his power to promote so worthy an object, therefore Resolved. That we, the members of Hook & Ladder Co. No. 1 request the building committee to postpone the building of our truck house for the present, that the town may not be embarrassed in making liberal appropriations, for the benefit of such of our citizens as may respond to the call of our country, and go forth to defend the honor of the stars and stripes against the traitors and thieves now arrayed against us.

Committee: Levi W. Baker, E. P. Pevey, committee, Frank Sretson.

The sentiment of the poet found an answering thrill in the noble action of our Irish Americans. The July following the war meetings, Captain John Carey marched with nearly one hundred men for the encampment at Long Island in Boston harbor. Captain Henry Whitman and Captain Robert C. H. Scribner followed this company with nearly two hundred men more. There were sad hearts on those days when these soldiers went away for the light in the window of many a sunny home was extinguished forever.

The unquenchable love of country distanced every other thought, every other tie, every other affection. In the flames of battlefields the sufferings of the march of the camp, they would bravely do their duty, though a continent should be girdled with the graves of the slain.

Hereafter we will give with more detail and at greater length the part that Feltonville took with Mother Marlboro in the four years struggle for the preservation of law and the republic. The spirit that animated the loyal heart of the citizen never failed. Her sons went forth to little until one eighth of the whole population of the town were enlisted in the armies of the United States



William F. Brigham, President of First Meeting, 1861
He died of malaria at Annapolis, Md hospital, Feb 6, 1865, age 25.

History of Hudson, Part 65

as published in the ENTERPRISE, February 29, 1896 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

George Houghton, son of a Quaker preacher, lived in poverty. The father died when George was 8 years old. He was boarded from home to home. At 12 years he received a suit made from new cloth, not the usual used wool. He learned to peg shoes, then tan hides. Shoe makers worked till 9 or 10 PM by oil lamps, receiving 6 cents a pair. At age 15, he was employed by F. Brigham & Co. boarding with Brigham and caring for the children evenings.

Our townsman, George Houghton had no sunny enclosures in his infantile years the refuge of a manger, would have been hospitality, to the dire distress and pinching poverty and want that accompanied life's beginning. His father was a Quaker preacher. The call of his faith led him on a journey to Canada. In Ontario county July 23, 1822 the subject of this narrative was born.

His father's religious tenets awakened hostility and persecution from those of different belief and they were so persistent and remorseless in their attacks upon him he was obliged to leave and return to this state. The hardships he endured and the constant burden of anxiety, impaired his reason with the result his relatives were obliged to carry him to the asylum at Worcester where he lived for a short time when he happily escaped the shadows of earth for the rest of heaven.

Friends gave the wife and mother a home at Berlin. Her son George was 8 years old. In those days the poor of the town were auctioned off to the lowest bidder. The boy lived with Squire Mirriam for a while. His next home was with Hollis Johnson, after living with this family a few months he was taken under the roof of Tim Bailey. One day he went to turn out the oxen, he struck his toe against a cobble stone, the impression of pain on the nerve centers was so well defined he bawled lustily, at this moment of vocal disturbance, Priest Allen of Bolton came along and showed practical sympathy in presenting the boy with a new fourpence, which he kept for many years. His fortune at this time amounted to 14 cents.

When 12 years of age he had his first suit of clothes out of new cloth. Previously the treasury of old garrets that had escaped the eye of the rag gatherers, furnished material for the garments he wore.

In 1833 he went to live with Mark Andrews in South Sudbury. Andrews was a shoemaker and his little apprentice learned to peg shoes. At this time he commenced sowing the seed that was to bear such abundant fruit in after years.

He worked for Andrews about one year and then went to live with Albert Randall of Stow; he lived with him about one year.

He then returned to Feltonville and went to work in the tannery for Stephen Pope, Esq. He was an all round boy, scraping hides or sawing wood; he worked for him about one year; he then went to Fitchburg and worked a year for a man by the name of Lawrence; he returned to this place and made a bargain with Daniel Pope to work in the tannery until he was 21 years of age for \$100, three suits of clothes and a silver watch worth \$50. After this trade, Philo A. Randall bought out Pope and Houghton got nothing for his labor.

He worked for Randall three months, then entered the employ of F. Brigham & Co. in 1837. He commenced work in the brick shop built by Lorenzo Stratton in 1833, and standing where Holden's store now stands.

I will give the names of some of the shoemakers who worked with him 60 years ago: Joseph S. Bradley, Silas H. Stuart, Hiram Temple, Obed Rice, William Chase, Jahiel Watkins, Alden Burnham, Ai Roe, Dana Howe, George Brigham, George Whitney, Rufus Coolidge. He worked for Lorenzo Stratton one year. Rufus Stratton, Austin Brigham, Caleb Haskell, Rufus Williams were of the number working with him in this shop. He was in the employ of F. Brigham & Co. 14 years.

The store, occupied by C. L. Woodbury Sons, destroyed in the 4th of July fire was built for a shoe shop in 1847. Young Houghton worked in this shop. His shopmates included some of those already named, in addition, Alden B. Gleason, Samuel Bruce, John Bruce, George W. Warfield, William H. Horton, David Bless, John H. Brigham, Reuben Hapgood, Henry Morse, Seth Haskell, Levi Ellithorpe, Eben Oaks.

The lap stone stood by the side of every bench, each shoe maker hammered his own stock, made his wax ends with bristles, fixed for lasting the shoes. Each shoe maker made and finished the shoe, receiving 6 cents a pair.

In those early days of shoemaking in this place, with no secret orders the shoe makers worked evenings until 9 or 10 o'clock, before the days of kerosene oil, the primitive lamp filled with whale oil, camphene, or fluid was all the light furnished. Young Houghton lived in the family of Francis Brigham, three years, and was often left to take care of the children when the elders of the family were away.

In 1847 he married Sophia Morse. He asked Captain Brigham to rent him two chambers in the tenement in the old Main street block where he lived at the time. If an order for shoes was to be filled in a hurry, this obliging industrious young shoemaker would work by the light of midnight oil to accomplish the object desired.

At one time in his shoe experience a poor widow by the name of Farnsworth offered the services of her boy for his board. Young Houghton set him to work on his job, he was so faithful and helpful he not only did all the widow asked, he gave her \$8 a month for his services.

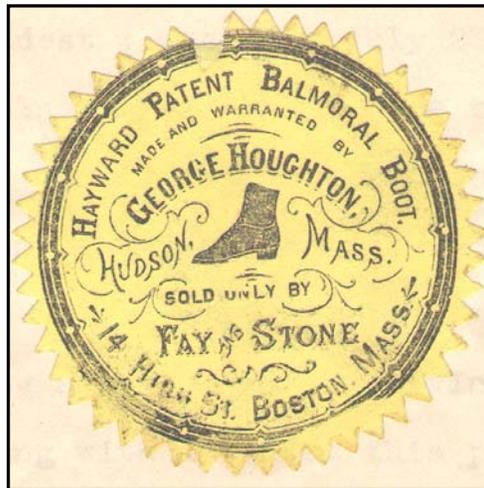
A conscientious regard and a desire to reward true merit and service was characteristic of his early and later business career. He never studied the art of robbing the poor as well as the rich.

In 1847 he purchased of Captain Jedidiah Wood one acre of land on which his home stands today. Wood gave only 15 an acre for the same land he sold Houghton for \$400. It was then a frog hole with thick brush on the line of the road.

Uncle Ivory Brigham a patriarch of 88 years had heard of the great price paid for this land but did not know the buyer. Houghton asked him who bought it. The old man replied "I told a man I did not know of only one devilish fool to buy it and that was you."



George Houghton



Label used by George Houghton

History of Hudson, Part 66

as published in the ENTERPRISE, March 7, 1896 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

In 1849, George Houghton built a home and added a shoe shop and went to manufacturing shoes employing 10 men. As business increased, he enlarged the shoe shops several times, using the newest machinery. The Japanese Embassy came in 1872 to marvel at his business and top quality shoes. In 1866, sales for a single month reached \$110,494, taxed at 5% to support the expenses of the Civil War. In 1874, the Houghton business made 850,000 pairs of shoes. He built a tannery, one of the largest in the U.S.

George Houghton showed a readiness to grapple with the roughest and most uninviting handiwork of nature in leveling and filling a large area of swamp land until suitable for the foundations of a dwelling house where he now lives which he erected upon it in 1849. When 32 years of age he became weary of the monotony of shoe making in "teams." The impelling ambition to do something for himself drew him from the treadmill he had paced so patiently. He fitted up the west end of his house for a shoe shop and went to manufacturing shoes for himself. The following are the names of some of the shoemakers he employed in 1854: Barney Wall, Thomas Taylor, Patrick Cole, Charles Regan, Uriah Booley, Thomas Taft, William Bass, John McKenzie, Charles Morse, Abel Howe. His house room was too small for his increasing production of shoes. His ambition was for larger growth and success in the business. In 1856 he built a shoe shop on the spot now covered by his grotto. He purchased the best labor saving machinery known at this time and was fast taking prominence as shoe manufacturer. This shop soon proved too small for the steady increase of his business.

In 1861 he purchased the old depot erected in 1848. He fitted it for the shoe business, moved the shop on High street and joined it to the main building. He added another wing on the west side. He now possessed a plant that took a place in the front rank of the shoe industry of the country. His goods went to most of the states in the Union. He had so enlarged and perfected his business and his celebrity as a leading shoe manufacturer had become so extended, that when the Japanese Embassy visited this country in 1872 to study the marvellous industrial life of the Yankees they came to Hudson to inspect his factory, which at the time, in extent and production of goods had few equals. In an industrial procession that went through the streets of Boston in 1880, Mr. Houghton had in line a miniature shoe factory, with workmen busily engaged in making shoes. The novelty of this display awakened great pleasure and interest for such an exhibit had never before been seen on Boston streets. During and after the war heavy taxes were imposed on every business to defray the expenses of the government 5 per cent on the amount of business done.

The revenues tax for August, 1866, show his sales for a single month reached the enormous figure of \$110,494.00. The tax on a business of this magnitude was of great value to the country, just emerging from the exhaustion and ruin of a desolating war. The volume of his business did not diminish for many years. In 1874 he made 850,000 pairs of shoes, the largest number of pairs ever produced by a single firm in any one year in the history of Feltonville or Hudson. In 1866 he asked a number of our business men to meet him in conference, with the view of forming a syndicate to buy the old tannery, a carpenter shop, a dwelling house and nine acres of land for \$10,000. The meeting was a failure. He went the next morning and closed the bargain with Stephen Pope, Esq. He went to work, laid out Houghton street and commenced work on the tannery which is today one of the largest in the land. The tannery went into other hands, but had it not been for his energy and push when others failed him, it would not exist today. Its powerful help in the development and growth of this town would have been lost.

In the incorporations of Hudson in 1866 Mr. Houghton was selected one of the committee, to effect a division and settlement between Hudson and Marlboro.

When the first board of selectmen was chosen, he was one of the members elected for this high office, his two associates, Charles H. Robinson and William F. Trowbridge have passed away.

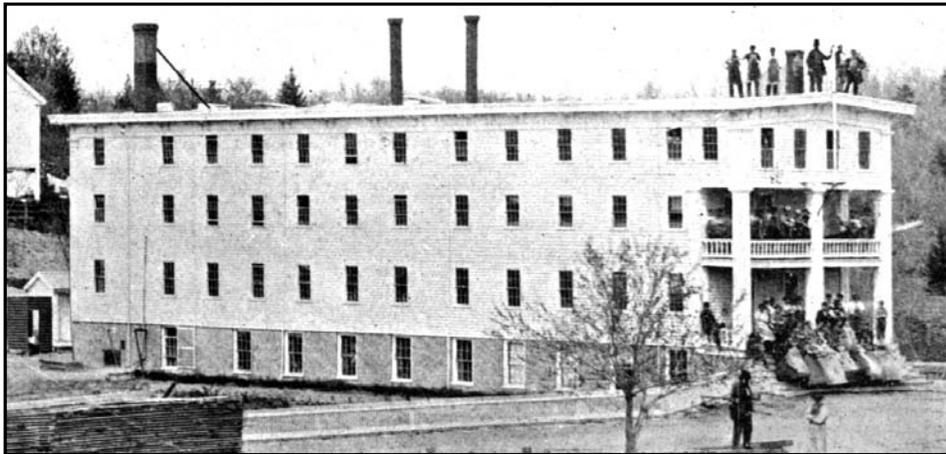
For many years he served the town in various positions of responsibility and trust, with large ability, and with heartiest appreciation and acceptance by the public. He was one of our earliest firemen and in years of comradeship proved to be one of their most opulent benefactors.

In his prosperous years no supplicant hand ever turned from his unfilled. In all his social relations, he had a word of kindly cheer and the most hospitable greeting for everyone. His domestic relations have always been most happy. Shadows have chased the sunlight from his hearthstone, as one by one, the happy home circle has been depleted by the Reaper, whose harvest never ends.

His second wife was Clarinda Millis of Walpole, N.H. He married her in 1857, she died in 1874. He has had nine children—six boys and three girls, only two are left to comfort and sustain him in the last years of his pilgrimage on earth.

Business reverses dissipated the great industry his genius and industry had created, but the fruits of that business to the material prosperity of this town will never be dissipated or lost. Wrought into the woof and web of its growth and life, it will ever endure and be appreciated by a grateful citizenship through all the retreating years. Thousands of men attain the greatest eminence in society from the humblest origin, but not often in a generation does a poor friendless waif, auctioned off by towns, untaught and unschooled by the sheer force of an unconquerable will and ability, without the patronage of wealth or influence, climb to the commanding representative business position reached by our honored townsman. Such a course

should inspire young men, and teach them that the largest success depends a good deal on the strength of the blow you give to life's great work. There are examples before you as wide as the reaches of civilized society, but out of the crucible of direst and the hardest school of adversity, you will not often find in country towns business careers more surprising or entitled to a gratitude and remembrance that is not due our fellow citizen, George Houghton.



George Houghton's First Shoe Factory, Corner of Main and High Streets, 1857.



George Houghton's Shoe Shop, 1860
On South side of Main Street, corner of Houghton Street. Burned in 1904.

History of Hudson, Part 67

as published in the ENTERPRISE, April 4, 1896 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

History of the farm on Brigham Street where Wilbur Brigham grew up. The first owner, 1660, was William Ward, with 30 acres of land, animals, goods and cash. Through generations, the acreage increased to 203 acres on both sides of Brigham Street, named for the next owner, Capt Francis Brigham of F. Brigham and Co., thence to sons Rufus and Wilbur and a grandson William H. The Indians were treacherous neighbors in 1660.

Hudson's history of Marlboro gives the time of settlement of several of the farms on Hudson territory. He makes no allusion to others of equally ancient date. One of these old farms is the "Pease place" so called, situated on both sides of Brigham street.

This farm was first occupied by Phinehas Ward, he was the grandson of Samuel Ward who was the son of William Ward. The last named Ward came to Marlboro from Sudbury in 1660. He was a prominent man in town affairs and the father of 14 children. He died Dec. 24, 1697. In the inventory of his estate we find him a man of ample means for a farmer of 200 years ago. At the time of his death he owned 21 head of cattle, three mares, one horse, two colts. Money L57, 14s, 9d. You may search scores of wills of those days and you will not find one with so much cash on hand.

He had 14 sheep, 9 swine, "some fat some lean," two feather beds, "with all that belonged to them," one pair Holland sheets, three pair Holland pillows, various articles in pewter, brass and iron, three Bibles and other small books, also 30 acres of land, with all the rights thereunto, pertaining, lying in the 6000 acres lately purchased of Indians by some of ye inhabitants of Marlboro. The total value was L376 18s 1d.

William Ward's son, Samuel, died in 1729 aged 84. His son Joseph Ward died June 30, 1717, aged 47. He left seven children. His real and personal estate inventoried 581 lbs. One of his sons was named Phinehas. His grandfather Samuel Ward. "In consideration of love and good will" gave him "one half of a tract of land being and lying within the limits and bounds of the town of Marlboro, between Prospect hill and Assabet river, on the easterly side of said river, and containing 80 acres." This land was deeded Feb. 6, 1726. He also gave his daughter Sarah a tract of 80 acres.

He says, "In consideration of love, good will and affection, which I have and do bear my loving daughter, Sarah Ward, above mentioned, spinster, one-half part of a tract lying and being within the limits and bounds of Marlboro, lying between Prospect hill and Assabet river, containing 160 acres, one-half of which I have given my grandson, Phinehas Ward, the easterly part. Bounded by common land, John

Barnes, and John Banister.” This deed bears date May 26, 1727. There was no mention made of buildings in the gift, and without doubt they were erected soon after by Phinehas Ward. May 31, 1732, Phinehas Ward bought of John Banister 20 acres of swamp and meadow, “bounded by Zachariah Eager and Jonathan Marble,” showing these two men were living in this vicinity at the time, Phinehas Ward died Oct. 19, 1756, aged 51. By purchase he added to the original gift, leaving 203 acres of land. The inventory of his estate shows him to have been a prosperous farmer. Some of the items read:

	<u>L</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>D</u>
Wearing apparel,	7	4	6
Saddles, bridles, pistols			
Housen sword fire lock	2	4	6
Beds and bedding linen, napkins,	10	1	8
Husbandry tools ox cart,	7	0	8
plows, chains			
Case, draws chests, tables,	3	3	10
Pewter, wooden and earthen			
Ware, hatchet and steelyard	5	15	6
Horses, 1 pr oxen, 12 cows	53	6	8
3 calves, lean swine, 4 sheep	6	12	
12 bush rye, 4 bush wheat,			
9 bush barley, 6 bush oats,			
36 bush corn	3	5	
203 acres land, buildings, 3 acres			
right in Cow Common	400	0	0

His widow Mary “To have the privilege of using the oven in the west room for baking, also to pass and repass in the cellar, use the chamber and garret stairs, also use the barn floor as she shall have occasion.” He left four children. Josiah, Phinehas, Reuben, Martha. May 5, 1769 Josiah sold to his brother Reuben, some 40 acres of land bounded in part, northerly 6 rods to the middle of the chimney and the upright part of the house bounded by land set off to Martha, land of Daniel Barnes, Jonah Rice and John Barnes showing these men were living near this farm in 1769.

Reuben Ward bought out the other heirs in his father’s farm, and was the owner in 1774. He then sold out to Daniel Stevens. The farm then contained 190 acres. After selling this year 40 acres to Amayah Knights, Stevens paid L373, 6s, 8d for the farm. He was bounded by lands of Moses Barnes, Deacon Daniel Barnes, Daniel Barnes, Jr., Solomon Barnard and Amayah Knights. These men were nearby farmers at this time. Daniel Stevens lived on this farm 36 years. He died Nov. 7, 1810. He was chasing his cattle and dropped dead. He was a busy man; during his lifetime he bought and sold 38 pieces or parcels of land. He was a patriotic man, being at Lexington in answer to the “alarm” of horsemen who rode through the town on the morning of April 18, 1775. Jabez Rice married his daughter Betsey. They were nearly the same age. Miss Stevens was born Sept. 11, 1786; Jabez Rice born Aug. 24, 1786.

They were married Oct. 3, 1811. They had several children, Abby, Elizabeth, Mary, Edwin, George, Franklin, Freeman, twins, and Augustus. Mary is the only one now living. Mr. Rice owned the farm by purchase and inheritance. His son, Franklin, sold it to Argalis Pease May 81, 1866. His father continued to reside in the family of Mr. Pease until his death Oct. 23, 1868. His wife died Dec. 31, 1845. Mr. Pease lived on the farm some 12 years, when it came into the possession of Captain Francis Brigham and is owned by his sons Rufus and Wilbur and his grandson William H. at the present time. From William Ward to the present owners, 203 years are recorded. When this farm was first occupied by the Wards the Indians were numerous. A few years before it was settled, the whole population of the town were obliged to find refuge at night in garrison houses for security from attacks of these treacherous neighbors.



**William H. Brigham Home on Church Street
(Now the Hudson Senior Center)**

History of Hudson, Part 68

as published in the ENTERPRISE, May 2, 1896 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

Hudson "Town Farm" History 1655-1816. The Town of Marlboro purchased this farm from David Hunter, 1821, including 250 acres, a house, barn, and cider mill. Until this time, paupers, numbering 47, were auctioned to the highest bidder to be maintained. A law suit ensued between the Hunter brothers and the case was taken to the U.S. Supreme Court, settled in 1846.

There are not many persons riding past the Hudson town farm on the railway or townway who know its origin or history, some of the land in the farm originally belonged to John Alcock. He received a grant of 842 acres from the court in 1655, for services he had rendered the colony. Sixty acres of the land was owned by Elisha Dyer, he sold out to Nathaniel Hathorn for L600. He sold this land to Edward Hunter Nov. 9, 1745. At this early date there was a house and barn standing on the farm and was included in the purchase. Another tract of 80 acres originally in the Alcock grant, was owned by John Whitman, he sold to Josiah How, he sold the land to Edward Hunter Feb. 27, 1746, for L80. Josiah How sold Hunter another tract of land for L100. In 1761 Robert Sprowl sold Edward Hunter 50 acres more.

Edward Hunter had two sons, Robert and David. In 1794 he sold his son Robert 19 acres of land. May 21, 1796, the elder Hunter sold his son David 240 acres of land for L800, "one half of house, westerly end, one half of barn, one half of syder mill house, excepting 30 acres in said bounds." He sold his son David soon after 35 acres more north of the barn; for this land he paid L200. When the town of Marlboro bought this farm of David Hunter in 1821, the sale included 250 acres of land. The record of sale shows the purchase was made for \$175. Previous to 1821 the poor of the town were auctioned off to the lowest bidder. In the year 1820, the last year of such sales, the language of the article in the warrant does not indicate much tenderness of feeling of sympathy of heart for the unfortunates, "Voted that the overseers dispose of at auction all the paupers amounting to 47, to the lowest bidder, for one year, and Daniel Stevens appeared to be the lowest bidder, amounting \$876."

No pitying eye rested on the unfortunate poor in the earlier days of the town. They enjoyed little or no freedom of life. They were guarded by a selfishness that had the fewest germs of charity in it. The town vote of Mar. 25, 1816 will illustrate the poverty of the sympathy felt for the poor. "That the dwellings of such paupers be enclosed with such a fence as to make it difficult to get out of such enclosure without leave." For many years there was a growing sentiment that the poor of the town should be sheltered and cared for under one roof. Feb. 15, 1799, the town bought the dwelling and one fourth acre of land of Hannah Goodale for \$120. This place was located on the west side of Washington street, beyond the railroad crossing. The well and ruin of the house are still to be seen. Miss Hannah and her sister Sarah Goodale purchased this place of Solomon Brigham Feb. 6, 1781. The house was standing at

this time. Hannah Goodale died in this house—at the time of her decease, Ivory Brigham and Ezekiel Clisby were watchers for the night. While Brigham was sound asleep he was suddenly awakened by a shaking by Clisby “Ivory the old woman has come to life,” sure enough there was a flopping in the dark room.

On investigating the cause of the noise, it was found, a cat had entered the open window with a chicken’s wing in its mouth and was eating and drawing it over the floor. The Hunters were living in the old farm house when purchased by the town. The barn was 36x74, built at two different times. In 1836, all but 30 feet was pulled down, and a new barn or addition built; the hog house was built at this time. The town’s poor, 26 in number, were removed to this poorhouse, Jan. 7, 1822. Joel Cranston moved them. There were ten rooms in the house. David Hunter lived in one end of the house, claiming the right under terms of sale. The late Stephen Rice, overseer of poor in 1834, stated the cost of the farm to be \$4000. It is stated on good authority, the town committee got Hunter drunk, and while in this preoccupied condition got him to agree to trades he would not ratify when sober; they frightened him with the “serpent of the still,” the second time, and he agreed to their terms again and signed his name once too many times for his own good.

He continued to live on the farm until in 1829, the town voted “David Hunter should not live on the farm land free of rent.” Mr. Hunter claimed 34 acres of land reserved at the time of sale, and subsequent events proved his claim to be good. January 17, 1835, William Hunter was sued for trespass for carrying off wood from the town farm; he was tried at Concord and judgement found against him for \$1219. The friction between the Hunters and the town continued to increase until in 1842 a law suit was commenced between the parties in interest and continued for four years. It was one of the most remarkable suits ever tried in this state. It was carried to a finish to the supreme court of the United States. We will give the history of the suit in our next article.



Old poor farm

History of Hudson, Part 69

as published in the ENTERPRISE, May 9, 1896 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

The Hunters had owned this farm 100 years. The town did not handle the provisions of the sale correctly and were liable to the owners and the court expenses. This suit took 25 years and cost the town more than the farm cost.

It was not surprising that the Hunters should cling with the greatest tenacity of purpose to all their reserved rights in a farm they had owned for one hundred years. The Hunters were men of ability, father and sons having been elected and reelected to the highest offices in the gift of the town. The town had been successful in minor suits against the Hunters, but defeat only awakened a deeper feeling of wrongs inflicted and they were ready to renew the legal conflict with renewed energy. The town of Marlboro including Feltonville at the time, chose a committee of three, Mark Fay, Stephen R. Phelps, Stephen Morse to contest the claims of the Hunters and eject them from the farm. The suit began in May 1842. It came to a close Dec. 1, 1846. The state courts decided in favor of the town. This did not end the contest. William Hunter, son of David Hunter, moved to Henneker, N. H., that he might carry the suit before the supreme court of the United States.

The town had for counsel E. Rockwood Hoar of Concord, and Judge Mellen of Worcester, the ablest lawyers of those days. This suit occupied the whole time of these lawyers for six months. It occupied the whole time of the court sixteen days, part of this time through the sweltering hot days of early September. The closing argument of one of these lawyers occupied seventeen hours. The other lawyer spoke four hours. The able arguments were in ruin. The opinion of Judge Woodbury reversed the judgment of lower courts. The report of the committee shows the town was defeated by the most trivial oversight on the part of the town committee. The costs of the suit, \$1200, were charged to the town; the whole cost of the suit to the town was \$3386.59. In the division of property in 1867 the new town of Hudson came into possession of all the buildings and 119 acres 36 rods of land for \$260.53. It will be seen that this suit devoured nearly the whole farm.

The farm was purchased in 1821, the suit ended in 1846. It will be noted a most remarkable fact, the trouble and fight with the Hunters was carried on for a quarter of a century. The whole cost to the town was more than the farm was worth. We will give the report of the committee that the reader may have a clearer insight into the most vital points of this extraordinary suit.

Judge Woodbury delivered the opinion of the supreme court in the following language:

“When the town purchased the farm with the knowledge and acquiescence of the plaintiff’s father, all prior trusts and conditions were merged and extinguished and a new agreement made, but that the town had omitted to execute a conveyance to

Hunter of the part set off to him as stipulated by the new agreement, and that on execution of such conveyance, the town would be entitled to a release from the plaintiff of all title to the remainder of the farm.

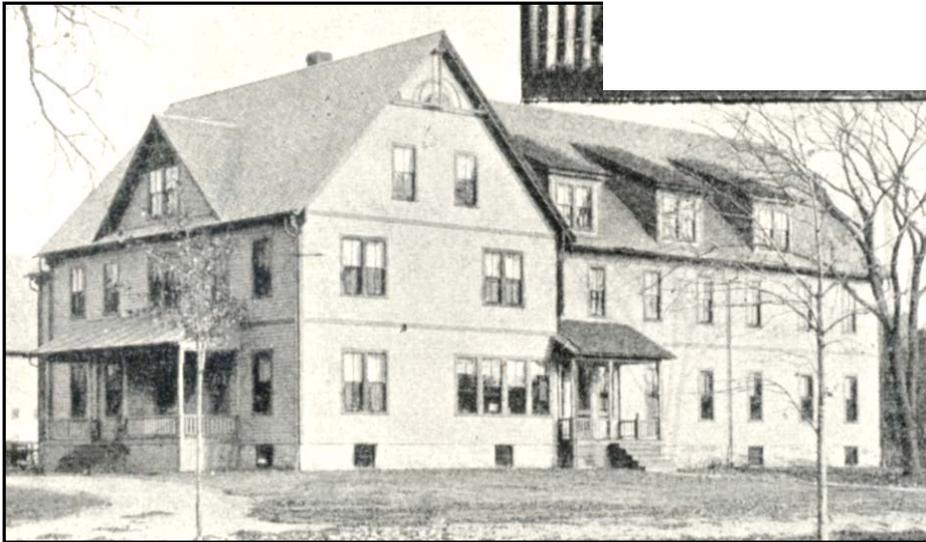
The court accordingly adjudged and decreed that when the premises in controversy, comprising the farm long occupied by David Hunter, was conveyed to the town of Marlboro in 1821 by the Goodales and Draper, all previous trusts, existing in favor of Hunter in respect to it, whether fraudulent or otherwise, and whether from Joab Stow or Bardshaw, or the Goodales or Draper and however proved, were by the agreement to provide Hunter with a different house and barn and set him off a portion of the farm, meaning thereby to give him a title thereto, instead of his former trust, therein and being an agreement similar to what was set out in the Plaintiff's bill, that the town proceeded to fulfill this agreement in all respects except conveying to him a title therein, that this part performance, took this agreement out of the statute of fraud, that nothing else was interposed or shown, which in equity ought to prevent or exonerate the town from the specific performance of the rest of the agreement, and that the town therefore was liable and bound to carry the rest of it into specific effect.

The town was therefore ordered and directed to execute a conveyance of all their interest in the house and barn and land set off to the complainant, and who represented the heirs of David Hunter; and thereupon, that the complainant should execute to the town a release of all his interest, including that of all the heirs of David Hunter, in the residue of the farm purchased by the town in 1821. The plaintiff was entirely against the decision, and petitioned the court for a rehearing of the whole case, stating among other reasons, that he had obtained nothing by it, and that he, or some one of the heirs of David Hunter had bought of the overseers of the poor in 1830, the home in which they live for which they had paid Hunter \$6950, being the principal or original sum, with interest, and took his receipt therefore a deed to the 30 acres set off to David Hunter was then executed, and tendered to William Hunter, and a release of the remainder of the farm, containing 220 or more acres, demanded of him agreeable to the decree of the court. He utterly declined, receiving or giving any deed whatever, while he lived, and a deed was not obtained until legal measures were resorted to, compelling him to do it; the deed obtained, has been recorded in the register's office and now is in possession of your committee together with all the other deeds and papers which have come into their hands since the commencement of the suit."

In this suit Judge Hoar charged \$692.87 Judge Mellen nearly the same. This amount gave them less than the \$4 a day for time spent in the suit.

Stephen Morse spent 96 days at \$1.25 a day, S. R. Phelps 31 1-2 days at \$1.25. Commissioners for taking depositions \$198.09. Other items make the grand total of \$3386.59.

Riding by the town farm on the railway you will see on the north side a dilapidated tumble down one-story house and a dwarfed old barn. On this place David Hunter lived. A half a century has passed away. All the contestants in this famous suit are in a world where peace offerings and fraternal love are the best panoply of citizenship. This suit developed into all the intensity and bitterness of hatred for the parties in interest and the poverty of results finally reached are a most eloquent commentary on the folly of going to law, to redress imaginary or fancied wrongs.



The New Poor Farm on East Main Street.

History of Hudson, Part 70

as published in the ENTERPRISE, March 17, 1896 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

The Poor Farm - who was relegated to live here. A list of the overseers is given and the cost of foods for the year for the 28 or more residents. When properly managed, food could be produced, wood cut for their use. The cost to the towns was more than was spent on schools and highways.

The committee who served in behalf of the town of Marlboro in the great lawsuit with the Hunters, ending in 1846, was not the original committee to purchase lands for a poorfarm. This committee was chosen April 2, 1821, as follows: Joel Cranston, Jedediah Brigham, William Barnes, Joseph How, William Gates. To buy lands and build poorhouse not to exceed \$5000. The actual cost of buildings and lands was about \$4000. The proportion of the poor was much larger to the number of inhabitants seventy-five years ago than it is today. This due mostly to the fact they were an agricultural people. The few scattered factories employed only a few hands. The dependence for a livelihood was out of the soil, and under the most favorable conditions the accumulation of property was very slow.

Many farmers with growing families, in times of short crops were unable to care properly for all their needy kindred, and as a necessity of their preservation from dire want and distress, were compelled to send their loved ones to the poor house. Others did it to get rid of them, after getting possession of their property.

The records of the Hudson almshouse from 1822 to 1829 cannot be found. From 1829 to 1855 the records show the average number of inmates was 28. The largest number present was in 1831-2, the number being 50-52. Many of these inmates were aged and infirm. In 1833 there were ten inmates whose average age was over 80 years. In 1835-67 there were in each year 14-13-12; over 60 years of age. The oldest inmates who have died in the almshouse are Mary Gates 100 years, 9 mos, Susanna Moore 97 yrs, Anna Waters 94 (her husband Joseph Waters, came over with the Hessians at the time of the Revolution,) William Loring 91, Mary Arnold 90, Otis Heyward 90, Tom Hayes 90. The burial of the inmates involved little expense to the town as seen in the following item in 1830. "To making three coffins, butts, screws and nails, \$4.34."

Passing away, outside the pale and joys of home, the victims of circumstances they could not control, may we not believe, they are emancipated angels, who will find in the free airs of a brighter world, richest compensation for all the friendlessness and loneliness that chilled life's days and cast an ever deepening shadow from sunrise to sunset?

From 1829 to 1842 with the exception of the year 1830, the almshouse was run on lines of economy that not only paid all bills, including warden and doctor but left a

surplus. In 1836, the surplus was \$473.27. The average surplus for twelve years was \$222.15.

While the living was substantial, it was not what an epicure would consider necessary to fill one with the aroma of blue blood. We give some of the items of expense in 1834: 261 lbs of beef 3½ c; 315½ lbs beef 3c; 1137 lbs of shanks and tongues at 2c; 44lbs mutton 6c; 26 heads and plucks \$4.59; 2 qutls salt fish \$5.50; 200 lbs salt pork, \$18.50. The last year we were with Marlboro, 1865, the surplus was \$145.33. Our townsman, A. K. Graves was one of the overseers; this year the woodlot was cut off. Some of the items of income were: Wood and lumber, \$618.48; butter and calves, \$192.73; pigs and lard, \$35.94; beef, cattle and hides, \$261.24; poultry and eggs, \$12.96.

Among the items of property on hand are 1 horse, 2 oxen, 7 cows, 4 swine, 40 bushels corn, 30 bushels rye, 1 bushel beans, 175 bushels potatoes, 190 lbs. ham, 500 lbs. pork, 120 lb, butter and lard, 250 lbs. beef. In the year named, 1865, the number of inmates was 23. In the years of surplus the ablest farmers were on the board of overseers. Among the number from this part of the town were Stephen Pope, Lewis Jewell, Ezekiel Bruce, Edward Wilkins, Stephen Rice (who in 1835 took a prize for the best managed farm in Middlesex Co.) John F. Rice, Jabez Rice. This year \$5000 is asked for the support of the poor. This is as much as Marlboro and Feltonville expended for the support of common schools, repairs on school buildings and highways in 1861. The present number of inmates is 8. In the early days the warden's salary was only \$2.75. The annual fee of the doctor was \$25. Drs. Whitney, Hildreth and Baker were the doctors for many years.

Formerly little assistance was given outside the almshouse. Now the largest items of the expense are in aid of outsiders. While the appropriation may be large, humanity voices in eloquent petition for those hapless ones, no longer able to care for themselves. In the glow of a generous spirit, with open handed benevolence towards God's unfortunates you are heir to the promises of him, who rewards the gift to the least and humblest of earth.

History of Hudson, Part 71

as published in the ENTERPRISE, November 28, 1896 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

Property, lands, homes and who lived in them are described especially those on Prospect Hill. The Robin Hill schoolhouse was built by John Barnes in 1779. Brigham Street had been a cart path until 1834.

The farm now owned and occupied by Walter H. Goodrich is one of the oldest farms in town. It is on the west side of the road from Marlboro to Berlin. The electric car stopping place is on this farm. The house standing on this farm was built by John Kendall, who has been dead nearly fifty years. The original house was erected in the early days of colonial life. It was constructed with port holes to more easily watch, and for greater protection in firing on hostile Indians. The long stretch of hill in front of the house is known as Prospect hill. It has been known by that name since 1688. The writer of this history has in his possession a plan of sixteen acres of land near "Prospect hill" surveyed by John Brigham for Thomas Barrett in 1707. Barrett received the land from the Marlboro proprietors. There was a road through the land four rods wide. Mr. Barrett's daughter Lydia married Gershom Rice, the great-grandfather of the late John F. Rice. The Rice farm had its origin in this marriage. The Barnes family, John, Moses and Lowewell in line of descent, owned the Goodrich farm for more than a century.

This is probably the John Barnes who built the original Robin hill schoolhouse in 1779. Lowewell Barnes was a colonel in the militia. He married the widow of our early merchant, Silas Felton, who died in 1828. Col. Barnes died soon after marriage in 1831. The widow dropped the name and the weeds that went with it, and again assumed the name of Felton. In the pines, on the west side of the above named farm, is a well stoned cellar. It was never covered by a house. Some 70 years ago parties commenced the manufacture of bricks from clay found in that vicinity. The enterprise was not a success and the erection of a house and the business was abandoned. The farm owned by the late George Brigham carries its title deeds back to the first century of this nation's life. A deed bearing date July 20, 1721, gives the bounds of land owned and exchanged by Samuel Ward and John Banister. The description of land reads as follows: "Sixty acres of land confirmed to me by deed of sale of John Banister by way of exchange with said 60 acres of land west of land, Samuel Ward senior, 60 acres within the limits of bounds of town of Marlboro, bounded partly by town next Lancaster line, on north side of Assabet river, bounded south by said river, west by land of John Banister, north by town line, east by common land or highway." A part of this land, without doubt became a part of the Brigham farm. In those days the Lancaster line came to the Assabet river.

In 1726, the above Samuel Ward gave his grandson Phineas 80 acres of land on the south side of Assabet river and his granddaughter Elizabeth, 80 acres on the west side of the river. A part of this land went subsequently into the Brigham farm.

Daniel Barnes owned this land after the Wards and must have built the first house on this land about 1735. He sold the farm May 11, 1767 to Caleb Brigham, great grandfather to our townsman, Deacon Caleb B. Brigham. The farm contained 92 acres and sold for L182.

Caleb Brigham's son Willard was born on this farm Oct. 7, 1772. He married Betsey Russell. He was the father of seven children. The children were educated in the school upon the hill. One of the number Levi, afterwards taught this school. He and his brother Willard were graduates of Williams College. Their life was spent in the ministry. Willard had a natural aptitude for business, his brother suggested this to him as a greater bread winner.

His reply was, "I may not gain the riches of this world, I may be richer in the end." The two brothers long ago carried their full sheafs of golden grain to the heavenly garner, the possessors of a reward and a glory, veiled to mortal eye, and beyond the knowledge of human ken. The Bigelow farms are not far from the Brigham farm. The late Charles and Henry Bigelow lived here. Their grandfather, Ivory Bigelow, married in 1763, and was one of the first settlers at this place. Many of the settlers in this region are no longer numbered with the living. Now and then an old cellar hole tells of former habitations, but it will be a difficult task to gather up the threads and weave once more the story of the early tillers of the soil. The roads over which they traveled were constructed with the least possible expense. Simply cart or bridle ways. The road through Brigham street was not laid out until 1834. Before this time the traveler had been riding over a cartway for one and a quarter centuries. The road built in 1834 was laid out two rods wide. It was 260 rods long and cost \$388. The land owners were John Kendall, Aaron Bigelow, Jabez Rice and Ivory Brigham. They are all dead.

The house on the north side of Brigham street, occupied by E. D. Wood was built by Aaron Bigelow in 1824.

History of Hudson, Part 72

as published in the ENTERPRISE, December 5, 1896 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

After the close of the Civil War, 1861-5, the soldiers returning desired to preserve their friendship and helpfulness to each other and their families. A meeting was called in Union Hall and an organization was formed. The name "Army and Navy Union" was changed to the "Grand Army of the Republic" in 1867 and a new charter voted.

After the close of the war in 1861-5, the soldiers returning to their several States, and homes, desired to preserve through a fraternal organization, not only the memories of heroic service but through the increased strength of united action, be a means of great helpfulness to each other. To give this general desire of the Hudson soldiers practical effect a meeting was called in Union Hall May 12, 1866. The temporary chairman of the meeting was Capt. Abel H. Pope; J.S. Bailey Jr. Sec. Protem. Speakers in favor of organized action of the soldiers were made by K. H. Pedrick and W. F. Brigham. Voted to choose permanent officers, chose President Capt. Henry Whitcomb, Vice President Capt. A. H. Pope and Savillian Arnold, Sec., Charles Williams. Cor. Sec, J.S. Bailey jr., Treas., S.E. Hunt. The next meeting was held May 19, and a Preamble and Constitution were adopted. The Preamble was as follows: Whereas the objects of an Army and Navy Union are to perpetuate at home, the pleasant relations heretofore existing between the members as comrades in arms in the army and navy; to protect the members from fraud and extortion; to aid disabled soldiers and needy families, and to assist and prosecute all just claims of their members against the State and National Government for services rendered and sacrifices made during the late rebellion. We also give the names of the members of the organization at this time.

Capt. Henry Whitcomb, Capt. Abel H. Pope, Capt. A. A. Powers. Lieut. Rufus Howe, Lieut. William B. Rice. Dr. John H. Longenecker, Luther E. Stuart, John Russell, Samuel E. Hunt jr., Henry J. Nourse, James S. Baily, Cyrus H. Brown, Nathan R. Wheeler, Putnam Simonds, Joseph W. Pedrick, Louis T. Howe, Seth G. Haskell, Calvin H. Carter, Benjamin Barnard, Savillian Arnold, George W. Edson, Wilbur F. Brigham, Alanson W. Chase, Parkman Nourse, C.A. Wood, C.H. Williams, Royal L. Dodge, S.L. Holt, D.W. Warner,, Charles G. Brigham, Henry S. Moore, R.B. Lewis, Martin V. Tripp, E.T. Phelps, William H. Kind, Henry J. Watkins, John Dolan, E.E. Houghton, Isaac G. Kennedy, George H. Thomas, C.H. Munroe, A.S. Trowbridge, W.A. Safford, S.O. Lancy, William H. Strong, Thomas P. Bailey, John A.W. Crawford. S.B. King, Frank B. Russell.

The list of members represents 18 different regiments of infantry, three batteries, 2 cavalry companies, the Navy and Surgeons Corps represented by three others. Thirty years have passed away since this first meeting. The pendulum swinging the departed years has sounded the last call for seventeen of these comrades,

or more than one-third of the number. Nineteen of those surviving, reside in Hudson at the present time. A pleasant reflection, that the accustomed places of childhood and youth, sown with the tenderest and sweetest experiences of life, hold the heart and hand and stays the footfall that would seek new abodes. The reason more of this number are not dead is because when they entered the army they were in the full flush of youth and young manhood, and in the full possession of physical strength and endurance.

At a later period of life most of them would not have survived the exposure and hardships inseparable with actual warfare. After a few meetings in Union hall the Union moved to the Old Manson hall adjoining the Felton house. It had been cheaply but properly arranged for their occupancy. The meetings continued to be held in this hall for several months. The name the veterans had selected for comradeship, Army and Navy union, was not satisfactory and it was merged into the more inspiring title, "Grand Army of the Republic." In 1867 they reorganized under a new charter which contains the following names: J.S. Bailey Jr., Joseph Rand, Ira B. Goodrich, A.S. Trowbridge, Luther E. Stuart, Calvin Carter, C.H. Williams, H.S. Moore, C.G. Brigham, Joseph W. Pedrick. "The Grand Army of the Republic" has gathered to its fraternal arms a large percentage of those who survived the fortunes of war. This name will live while a single battle-scarred and time worn veteran is left to tell in patriotic speech, the story of the most bloody drama in the nation's life. when the last survivor shall enter the bivouac of the dead.

Their sons and grandsons will perpetuate the grand memorials of this struggle for the preservation of the republic. Generations may multiply into other generations and centuries the product of other centuries. While liberty is enshrined in human hearts and the loftiest ideals of patriotic life are preserved, the memories of the work they did will continue to live to light the pathway of freemen and make them ever tenacious of the rights of man.

History of Hudson, Part 73

as published in the ENTERPRISE, December 12, 1896 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

The original Army and Navy Union was very active and were enterprising in getting funds for the aid of their comrades. They held a grand ball in the new piano factory on Broad Street with a fine band and a grandly decorated hall. They helped the first representative from the new Town of Hudson get elected. Mr. Joseph S. Bradley awarded them with a new flag with an eagle on the standard. James Joslin gave a great speech in acceptance of this National Emblem for which these men had fought.

While the Army and Navy Union, the parent organization of the Grand Army of the Republic, existed in this town it was very efficient and active in its work, and were most enterprising in their efforts to keep their treasury supplied with funds for the aid of worthy comrades. On Oct. 4, 1866 they gave a grand ball in the new piano factory, recently erected on Broad St. by John A. Lynch, they had the Germania band of Boston, called the finest band in the city. The names of the most illustrious Generals of the late war, covered the walls, flags and bright colored ribbons were tastefully distributed. The ladies were gowned in the best the country stores had for sale, the attendance was large which gave financial success. In the following December they gave the public a course of lectures. Among the speakers were Rev. N. M. Gaylord, chap. of 13th Mass. Reg., Edwin P. Whipple and others.

Dec. 7, 1866 the Union elected officers for the new term. They chose for president Savillian Arnold, Sen. V.P., Luther E. Stuart; Jun. V.P., Capt. Henry Whitcomb, Sec., Charles H. Williams; Cor. Sec., W. F. Brigham; Treas., S. E. Hunt jr.; Financial Sec., S. P. Bailey; Trustees, C. A. Wood, C. H. Carter, Cyrus Brown, M. V. Tripp, Dr. J. H. Longenecker; Relief Com., C. G. Brigham, A. S. Trowbridge, J. W. Pedrick, C. H. Munroe, John Russell, John Dolan, Henry J. Nourse.

This was the last election of officers. Their distinctive title and membership were merged into the Grand Army of the Republic on the following May, 1867. "The Army and Navy Union" gave its united support in behalf of their fellow townsman, Joseph S. Bradley, first candidate for Representative from the new town of Hudson. The Representative district was composed of the towns Hudson, Littleton, Stow and Boxboro. The result of the election was most surprising. Mr. Bradley had only three votes against him in the three towns outside of Hudson. In Lawrence church on Christmas eve, 1866, one of the most interesting features of the gathering was the presentation of a very handsome American flag to the Army and Navy Union by Representative-elect Joseph S. Bradley.

The presentation speech was made by a young man by the name of James T. Joslin. The speech had in it the quickening elixir that "Old Glory" always awakens, and for the benefit of a new generation of men who did not exist when the speech was

made to the veterans, we reproduce it for the pleasure and benefit they will find in reading it. It shows in a most patriotic way, the oratorical powers of young Joslin, thirty years ago:

“Gentlemen of the Army and Navy Unions of Hudson:

As the exponent of our Representative-elect, and in his behalf, I have accepted an invitation to present to you on this occasion this standard of colors. It is perhaps needless that I should state, that I esteem this a rare privilege and a pleasant duty. To you, also gentlemen, who are by no means novices in the science of war, or in the art of arms, this must be a pleasant occasion, and an agreeable surprise, from the fact this presentation will bear witness that the many hardships and perils, endured by you in the camp and upon the field, are not forgotten by your friends here assembled, and from the fact that the unfurling of this beautiful ensign to your view, must necessarily bring to mind, more vividly than before, the cherished recollections of many a daring and heroic act performed by you in common with that mighty host of gallant men, who but a few years since rallied to the rescue and defence of this dear flag, the emblem of our nationality.

Furthermore, gentlemen, this occasion is a fitting one. On this Christmas eve, the anniversary of the birth of that Saviour who came to bring, not alone peace and goodwill to men, but “fire and the sword” as well, it is fitting, highly fitting, that the defenders of right and justice should be remembered. It is not my purpose, gentlemen, on this occasion, with this large assemblage of children and interested friends in attendance, to expatiate at length upon the glory and significance of this national emblem, to you, who rallied to its defence, when it was assailed by a traitorous foe, to you who stood unswervingly by it through long years replete with the varying fortunes of war, to you who suffered grievous wounds in the preservation of the Republic, this flag speaks a language which I have no power to interpret. Yet, gentlemen, there is a language which this flag speaks, common and intelligible to every true American citizen, Instead of its being “a mean rag,” a worthless tissue, as it has been contemptuously designated by those who raised the red hand of treason against it, its gorgeous folds are covered all over with those noble declarations and inscriptions, dear to every loyal heart, declarations enunciated by the fathers and vindicated by the sons. Equal rights to all men, freedom to all! Oppression to none, civilization, refinement, intellectual development, agricultural greatness, mercantile and commercial supremacy, financial importance, and, gentlemen, what is more important than all rest, civil and religious liberty triumphant, insurrection, rebellion and treason conquered.

But gentlemen, this flag, which everywhere, at home and abroad, represents our growing nationality, is not the symbol of physical strength and material greatness, or of military prowess by sea or by land, chiefly. The British lion and the Russian bear more appropriately represent these qualities. That Kingly bird whose mute form surmounts this standard, more fully symbolizes those higher and noble aspirations of the nature of men to which we, as a government and a people, should

strive to attain. Gentlemen ever stand strong and steadfast in defense of this flag which is soon to be committed to your custody. In the future as in the past exalt its dignity and grandeur as you shall bear it onward under the leadership of that proud bird in his upward flight, as it is endeared to you by extraordinary toil and hardship, as it is consecrated to you by the precious blood of your fallen comrades who yet exist in the memory of the living. Stand around it and guard it as the “Holy of Holies,” as the Ark of the Covenant, and if ever again it should need be, even as did the Guardian Angels of old, with flaming swords.

And now gentlemen, will you receive into your care and custody, for the use of your Union, the national ensign, coming as it does not only from the hand but the heart of our honored Representative-elect, renewing at the same time the solemn vow, heretofore taken, and which was so faithfully redeemed, that its sacred folds shall ever be preserved from all insult and violence, though your lives should be required in its defence.” Luther Stuart briefly responded in behalf of the Veterans, three cheers were given for the flag, three more for Mr. Bradley and this stirring event passed into the niche of history.



Piano Factory on Broad St.
Destroyed by fire July 4, 1874.

History of Hudson, Part 74

as published in the ENTERPRISE, December 19, 1896 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

For 250 years this northern area was part of Marlboro. All transactions were required at the town center requiring 50 cents to rent a horse for the four mile trip when the wages were only \$1 a day. It is time to separate from Marlboro. A committee of 9 is appointed.

From 1660 to 1866, a period of two hundred and sixty years, most of the territory upon which the town of Hudson now stands was a corporate part of the town of Marlboro. An identity of interests united the citizens of the northern part of the town with those of the east and west part of the town. In peace and in war they were equal sharers of burdens and duties. In King Philips war the Indians had undisputed control of the Assabet valley, but in the old French wars, the revolutionary war of 1812 and the Great Rebellion, the line of the Elizabeth, now Assabet river, was peopled by sturdy yeomen, and they furnished their quota of men for war, and their ablest men for town office, and their wealth to meet all their manifold obligations of citizenship. For many years the citizens in the northern part of the town were dissatisfied with the necessity that compelled them to go to the centre of the town to vote and transact town business. A long range of hills intervened, and a journey of nearly four miles made the work laborious, while a horse and team cost only fifty cents for the trip, hammering out stock on the lap stone, and whipping in shoes with waxed ends, magnified the looks of a dollar which was all a shoemaker could earn in the early days of team work.

It was only when questions of exciting interest were before town that the voters of this section would turn out in large numbers. Feltonville held the balance of power, but generally voted so wisely and impartially for the general good of the whole town as to secure and hold the goodwill of the east and west part. The class of citizens who went from this place would command respect for their character and ability. Among them were Col. William H. Wood, Capt. Jedediah Wood, Alonzo Wood, Stephen Rice, John F. Rice, Jabez Rice, Capt. Francis Brigham, William F. Brigham, Obed Rice, Nahum A. Gay, George E. Manson, Lorenzo Stratton, Benjamin Dearborn, Charles H. Robinson, Stephen Pope, Edward Wilkins, Joel Wilkins, William Wilkins, William F. Trowbridge, Luman T. Jefts, W. E. C. Worcester, Col. Daniel Pope, Abel H. Pope. These were among the active influential citizens' of thirty years ago; they are no longer among the living. It was suggested that Feltonville be organized into a ward and vote at home. This proposition had few supporters. At that time Feltonville did full as much business as the other divisions of the town, and it promised to be the most populous and wealthiest part of the town. The citizens of Feltonville were ambitious and nearly unanimous for townhood.

If a person wanted to search the town records or to see the town clerk—to report the decrease or the increase of the family circle—or a marriage certificate to

be in line to offset mortuary notice he had to go to the centre of the town. The East and West villages required large outlays of money for roads and schools. The High school in the center costing some \$9000—and its annual support a large additional outlay and of no practical advantage to the northboro part of the town. Feltonville was required to pay her share of all outlays and she felt often more than her share, and with no value received with her rapid growth, with the bright prospect of outstripping the mother of towns, Feltonville felt that “Mahomet had better come to the mountain, rather than the mountain go to Mahomet.” The crucial point of action of the citizens in this part of the town was taken when a public call was issued for all citizens interested in a new town to meet in Union Hall on the eve of May 16, 1865, James T. Joslin chairman; Silas H. Stuart, Sec.

A general confab of the meetings showed an unanimous feeling for the new town, those living on Bolton and Berlin territory adjacent to Feltonville with few exceptions were anxious to come into the fellowship of proposed new town. Wilbur F. Brigham having circulated a paper for funds to defray expense of surveys, hearings and legal contests, reported a subscription of \$907.

A doubt of the legality of this meeting having been called in question, a call was issued for the next meeting to be held in the same place May 23, or one week later. At this meeting, Pres. Francis Brigham, Sec., Silas H. Stuart. The following preamble and resolution were presented.

Whereas, We, the inhabitants of Feltonville and vicinity, believing the time has arrived when it will be for our best interests and welfare to withdraw from our respective municipal corporation and be incorporated into a new town; therefore

Resolved: that a committee of nine be appointed to take into consideration the subject of establishing a boundary line of said new town, and the most feasible way of drawing up the petition for that purpose, and that they be instructed to procure such legal advice as they may deem necessary on the subject and report at some future meeting.

Chose as this committee, Francis Brigham, George Houghton, E. M. Stowe, Silas H. Stuart, James T. Joslin, Feltonville, Albert B. Goodrich, Caleb E. Nourse, Jonathan P. Nourse, Bolton, Ira H. Brown, Berlin.

History of Hudson, Part 75

as published in the ENTERPRISE, December 26, 1896 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

The committee of nine chosen to plan for the new town immediately drew up boundary lines carefully setting them up to accommodate those who wanted to be in the new town. The committee of nine reported their plan at a legal meeting in Union Hall, June 13, 1865. In September, 1865, a name for the town was selected. Out of 306 voters in town only 54 voted for the name. Hudson was the choice with 35 votes.

The committee of nine, chosen at the legal meeting of the citizens of Feltonville May 23, 1865, went immediately to work to draw boundary lines that should enclose territory ample for a well-proportioned town and extensive enough for future unlimited development. If at first it was thought the committee overreached in their ambitious desires and stretch of geographical lines, in the end their persistency and wise energetic action was successful in gaining nearly all they started in to win. After carefully perambulating the territory the committee decided to establish and report the following boundary lines: Commencing at a point above the house of Daniel Stratton in Bolton and striking across to a point near the house of Octa. Danforth, thence to a point near the house of Rufus Coolidge, thence across Berlin to the Marlboro line near the house of Stephen Fay, thence following the line to the bound on the Northboro road, thence to a point about 60 rods south of Simeon Cunningham's house, hence to a point between the houses between Lewis Hapgood's and Aaron Maynard's, hence to Stow line near what is called "Mosquito hole," thence by the town line to the point first mentioned.

This line was modified to enclose the homes of Hapgood and Maynard. The committee counseled by Tappan Wentworth of Lowell and Hon. Charles Hudson of Lexington recommended that three petitions be drawn up and presented to the next legislature; one from the citizens of Marlboro, with those of Berlin and Bolton favorable to the new town. At a meeting of committee held June 2, they agreed on the name of Hudson, as the most suitable name to recommend for the new town. The next legal meeting was held in Union hall on the eve of June 13, 1865. The committee of nine reported. The only change in their report was to lap over and include a small piece of Stow property near the residence of Daniel Stratton. They voted to choose a committee of five to carry forward to a finish all the plans and details in process, for the incorporation of the new town.

Chose as this committee, Francis Brigham, George Houghton and James T. Joslin of Feltonville, Daniel Stratton of Bolton, Ira H. Brown of Berlin.

The last meeting of the citizens, legally called, was held in Union hall, Sept. 27, 1865. This meeting voted leave to Lyman Perry and others, of the Goodale district, to

petition the legislature at their own expense to be included in the new town of Hudson.

In this meeting the name was selected by ballot for the new town. George E. Manson, Esq. offered the contemplated new town, \$1000 if it was called Felton, in memory of his wife, whose maiden name was Lucretia Felton, the daughter of Silas Felton, the old merchant of nearly 100 years ago. Hon. Charles Hudson offered to give \$500 if the town bore his name. The result of the ballot by marking was as follows—Butler 1, Felton 18, Hudson 35. This is a most meager showing of interest on the part of the citizens in the choice of the name that was to endure as long as the life of the town. The legal voters of the new town numbered 306. Hardly one in six voting on a matter of such vital importance. This meeting fixed the name of this place for all time. It was known, from as early a period as 1695, as Howe's Mills. Joseph Howe died in 1700, but undoubtedly the name continued until Howe's son-in-law, Jeremiah Barstow, sold out to Robert Barnard in 1723, the mills and 350 acres of land. It was then known as Barnard's Mills. Robert Barnard died in 1773.

In the beginning of 1800, Phineas Sawyer, the pioneer Methodist, came in possession of the mills, building his cotton mill later in 1810. The place bore his name at least, to the year 1820, when he was killed in his mill by a revolving waterwheel. In 1828 the post office was established, and this year Silas Felton died. From this year to 1866 it was known as Feltonville, when it received its final baptism of Hudson.

In the early days of this place no man ever did more for it than Joel Cranston. He came here in 1793. He was in the old red store, later was associated with Silas Felton in mercantile and various business enterprises, and for 30 years he was an active, pushing, wideawake citizen, and was as much the founder of the place as any man that ever lived in it. The name of Cranston was not mentioned. It was "let the dead bury their dead." At another time we will give the life of Charles Hudson. It will show that in those regal elements that make massiveness of character and intellectual supremacy of mind; he had no superior and probably not an equal in any generation of our history.

HUDSON

----- Feltonville's new name -----

History of Hudson, Part 76

as published in the ENTERPRISE, January 2, 1897 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

A Legislative Committee came on Feb 1, 1866 to see the proposed boundaries and talked with the citizens. A hearing before this committee lasted four days listening to the arguments for a new town. Francis Brigham, was the first witness extolling the value of businesses and that they needed a more convenient area to do business, not going 4 miles to Marlboro.

The several petitions in behalf of the proposed new town of Hudson, were presented to the legislature in session and by that body referred to the committee on towns. This committee notified George Houghton and others that on Tuesday, Jan. 30, 1866, they would give a public hearing to the petitioners and all other interested parties. At this time the town committee and others in interest appeared before the legislative committee. The hearing was opened by the petitioners' counsel, who requested the committee to assign a day to view the premises. They assigned Thursday, Feb. 1. Upon this day the committees, legislative and town, George F. Hoar of Worcester, Charles G. Stevens of Clinton, counsel for Bolton Hon. J. W. P. Abbott, district senator at the time, Nahum Witherbee, representative from Marlboro, visited Hudson, Bolton, Berlin and Marlboro. They saw the general boundary lines for the proposed new town, and heard much of the opinions of the citizens for and against the new town.

The hearing before the committee on towns was resumed Tuesday Feb. 13, 1866. This hearing continued four days. The witnesses in behalf of the new town gave information of much value to the generation, who had no status in life's affairs at that time. The first witness called before the committee was Francis Brigham of Feltonville, part of his testimony was as follows. "I was born and have always lived in Feltonville, the distances to the middle of the town was so great, it made it inconvenient to transact town business. Distance to centre of town was about three and one-half miles. The entire territory included in the proposed new town, contained not far from 2500 inhabitants, of this population 2100 was taken from Marlboro, 400 from Bolton, and 46 from Berlin. The amount of business done in Feltonville the past year was \$1,801,930. Of all the manufacturers, only one was located over the line in Bolton."

He presented a schedule of the business and amount of business done by the manufacturers and merchants of Feltonville in 1865. The figures are taken from the internal revenue returns and are correct.

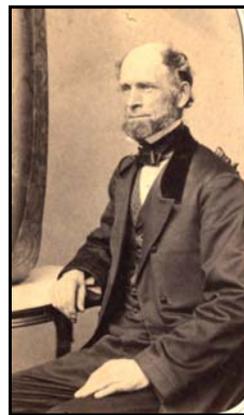
Four English and W. I. goods stores, \$124,000; 3 tailors and dealers in R. M. clothing, \$30,000; 3 provision dealers, \$84,000; 1 fancy goods store, \$8000; 2 shoe dealers, \$16,000; 7 shoe manufacturers, \$1,325,600; 4 lumber dealers, \$26,5000; 5

carpenters, \$30,000; 1 die manufacturer, \$1500; 1 last manufactory, \$13,000; 1 apothecary, \$4000; 2 blacksmiths, \$3500; 3 machinists, \$11,000; 4 house painters, \$6200; 2 harness shops, \$7000; 1 toy factory, \$20,000; 1 mason, \$5000; 1 stove dealer, \$4000; 2 flour and grain dealers, \$10,000; 2 sawmills, \$1500; 1 coffin dealer, \$1000; 2 barbers, \$2400; 3 box factories, \$12000; 1 jeweler, \$2000; 1 hotel, \$4000; 1 restaurant, \$5000; 2 livery stables, \$10,000; 1 pumpmaker, \$1000; 1 expressman, \$24000; 1 dealer in patent medicines, \$1500; 3 physicians, \$4700; 3 ministers, \$2400; 1 deputy sheriff, 6 months, \$530; 1 printer and publisher of paper, \$2500; 1 conveyance and insurance agent, \$1000; 1 lawyer, \$2000; 2 milliners and dress makers, \$8000.

This schedule of business shows seven shoe manufacturing firms in this place in 1865. There are only five firms at the present time, and the value of the shoes, I doubt, reaching the value of 1865. They certainly do not make as many shoes to day. The labor and cost now of a pair of shoes, is twice as much as in the former period. This in the face of the fact of the immense number of new inventions, that economize in the production of shoes. There are in business today only three of the seven firms of 1865. Viz. F. Brigham & Co. Stowe, Bills & Hawley and L. T. Jefts. The senior members of two of these firms have passed away. The other firm has changed its membership a number of times. There is no security or protection from the infinite changes and mutations of time. The list shows no business poorer than the undertakers business, a fortunate circumstance for the general public.



F. Brigham & Co., built 1857, burned 1882



Capt. Francis Brigham

History of Hudson, Part 77

as published in the ENTERPRISE, January 9, 1897 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

Francis Brigham continues to state reasons for a new town. George Rawson describes the need for schools, especially a high school. The Bolton and Berlin citizens did all their business in this area and attended the schools here.

Captain Francis Brigham continued his testimony as a witness before the committee in the following language: "As Feltonville was a manufacturing village it was necessarily very inconvenient and often expensive for both employer and employes, to be obliged to leave their business and go a distance of nearly four miles to cast a vote for town officers, breaking up usually a whole day. Our high school, so called, in the village, was not a high school in the sense regarded by the law, but merely a grammar school. In this building four different schools were taught and all were very much crowded for room. As the village was situated, could not get along very well without all the territory mapped out. The roads leading from Feltonville to Bolton had been neglected by the selectmen of Bolton. The interests of Berlin and Bolton required that they be annexed to Hudson.

The lines had all been carefully examined and originally taken from the maps of the towns, so as to accommodate all as nearly as possible. One fire department in the place, composed of many of the leading men, who usually attended town meetings, leaving the village more exposed to fire during their absence; several members of the company resided in Bolton and were paid by the town of Marlboro. A large part of the territory lying in Berlin, included in the survey, was owned by Marlboro men, at least one third, and was mostly a wooded section of the town. Two large shoe manufactories are to be built the coming spring, also a new church, and was every prospect of a large increase in the erection of buildings than ever before. The land taken from Bolton was very eligible for building lots, and if incorporated would be taken up much more rapidly than if allowed to remain as it now is. The number of workmen who came from the centre of Bolton to work for the firm of F. Brigham & Co. was 56; within the line of Hudson 117.

The people came from Bolton to church, to the post office, and some sent their children to our schools. Feltonville was the centre of trade for these people. Scarcely knew of a house on this territory that had been built by a Bolton man. Mr. Caleb E. Nourse, however, had built several, and was anxious to be set off with the new town.

Would make no difference about employing his help, whether they were a part of Bolton or not, employed them because it was for his interests. Land was not as suitable for building purposes on the line of the Assabet river as on Bolton territory. Feltonville was growing rapidly; it had doubled within the past 10 or 15 years. The fall of the Assabet was so slight, it afforded no other opportunity of erecting a

manufactory on its banks.” The next witness was George Houghton, “I have been a resident of Feltonville for 28 years. Reasons for being incorporated:

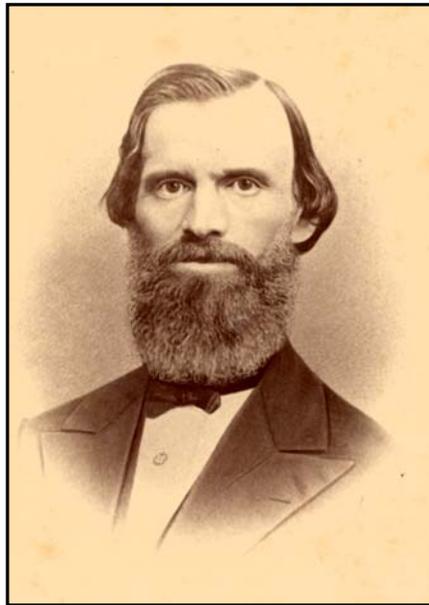
Our highways were neglected, schools illy provided for. With present accommodations did not consider it safe to send his children, and had provided a room at his own expense for the purpose of accommodating those parents who preferred to send their children and pay the extra expense of a select school, than attend town school in its present crowded condition.

A large part of his workmen were foreigners and seldom, if ever, attended town meeting. The absence of one workman often broke up a team, so the whole were thrown out of employment for the day. Had been a member of the fire department twenty years, ten members of the company lived in Bolton. There had been difficulty about building the highways in Bolton. Maple street had been built by the town of Marlboro, and the selectmen of Bolton laid one out to meet it, but it went some two rods below the road as made in Marlboro. Thought the amount taken was as little as could be asked for, and made a very respectable shaped town. My letters are often sent to Marlboro by mistake, which often caused great inconvenience, was proprietor of a new tannery; should employ about 60 hands when in working order. I am not in favor of a city charter; prefer to remain as we are now than be incorporated as a city. The land not suitable for building within ten rods of the Assabet river, away from the river, the land was considered quite good; had recently built several tenements quite near the river.

One fifth of the workmen were obliged to be absent on town meeting day. There were days when the shops were still and a great part of the American population were away to town meeting.

George S. Rawson testified, had been on the board of selectmen, was on the school committee. Prepared the survey of the new town. Within the territory of the proposed new town were 500 families. The school in the village was a high grammar school and not a high school, and the teacher was not compelled to be competent to teach a high school. When this schoolhouse was built there was a much smaller population and the increase of population has overflowed the school, requiring a larger one. The high school was built that people living on Bolton and Berlin territory might have the benefit of the school.

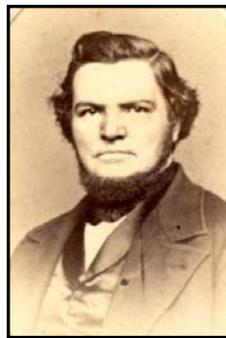
If Bolton and Berlin were annexed, the business would be entirely in the centre. They are in fact a large part of them, our own citizens, doing business in our village; was more good building land there than in other sections of our survey. There seemed to be a natural boundary line along where the new line run.



George S. Rawson



**George Houghton's first shoe factory
Corner of Main and High Streets, 1858**



George Houghton

History of Hudson, Part 78

as published in the ENTERPRISE, January 16, 1897 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

At a Town meeting in Union Hall, November 1866, a committee of three was chosen to name and put markers at each street. They were adopted April 25, 1870

At a legal town meeting of the citizens of Hudson held in Union hall, November 1866, Francis Brigham, George Houghton and James T. Joslin, were chosen a committee to name the streets of Hudson and place guideboards or stones in a suitable and permanent manner at the entrance of each street. It was generally believed at the time, that Bolton, the part adjacent to Hudson, would be soon annexed, but this desired object, through the active opposition of opposing parties, was delayed until 1868.

The committee proceeded to carry out the instructions of the town and named the streets, placing a distinguishing token or mark, not easily displaced or removed. Not desiring to assume full responsibility in so important a matter the committee deferred final action in their report to the town until they had consulted the residents along the several streets of the town. The committee issued a call for all citizens in interest to meet in Union hall June 11, 1868. The general subject was discussed and residents approved of the report the committee had prepared, to submit for the final action of the town.

They submitted the following report: "The committee chosen to name the streets in the town of Hudson, has considered the subject matter referred to them, and beg leave to submit the following report for the action of the town: That part of Main street from the residence of Mrs. Mary Stratton, westerly to George L. Manson's house, including both roads, running southerly to the stone bridge near Francis Brigham's mills, to be called Wood's square.

The road leading from said Wood's square towards Northboro to be called River street. The road leading from said Wood's square, towards Berlin, to Berlin line, to be called Central street. The road leading from Central street past the house of Henry Tower, to Prospect street, to be called Cottage street. The road leading from Central street to the road leading to Bolton, past the house of George W. Houghton to be called Rice street. The road leading from Lincoln street, westerly past the new house of Octa Danforth to be called Prospect street.

The road leading from said Wood's square to Bolton line, to be called Lincoln street. The road leading from Central to Lincoln street past the house of Josiah Q. Packard to be called Packard street. The road leading from Lincoln street near the schoolhouse past the house of hose company to Maple street to be called Cox street. The road leading from Church street westerly past the house of John H. Peters to

Lincoln street to be called Pleasant street. The road leading from Washington street past F. Brigham's blocks of tenements to be called School street.

The road leading from Washington street past the house of John F. Reid to Marlboro line, to be called Hudson street. The road leading from Washington street past the house of Argulus Pease, to the house of Franklin Richardson, to be called Brigham street. V from Wood's square easterly to Sudbury line over Jewell's hill and past the town farm to be called Main street. The new road leading from Main street to Pleasant street to be called Pope street. The road leading from Main street past the house of Francis D. Brigham to be called Church street. The road leading from Main Street past the house of Philo A. Randall to the Bolton line, to be called Maple Street. The road leading from Main street past the house of James S. Welsh and that of Thomas Thornton 2d, to be called High Street. The road leading from Maple Street to High Street in front of the new schoolhouse, to be called Cross street. The road leading from Main Street past the railroad depot to Washington Street to be called Broad Street.

The road leading from Main street past the house of Elisha Gates and that of Amory Bruce to be called Grove street. The road leading from Grove street westerly, past the house of Loring heirs, to be called Loring street. The road leading from Broad street across Grove street to the river past A.K. Grave's new house to be called Winter street. The road leading from Broad street to Grove street past the house of Samuel P. Tucker to be called Summer street. The road leading from Grove street, easterly past the house of George S. Rawson, to be called Cherry street. Francis Brigham, George Hamilton, James T. Joslin, committee. Hudson, June 15, 1896.

This report was afterwards accepted and adopted by the citizens in town meeting assembled April 25, 1870. In this list of streets, the names of 21 persons are mentioned as residents on these streets. Fourteen of the residents, or two-thirds of the number, have entered the road that awaits and will catch the footfalls of all mankind. The expense of naming and marking the streets is seen in the report of the selectmen for expenditures for the year ending Feb. 28, 1870: Francis Brigham, guideboards and posts, \$74.75; James T. Joslin advice and services, \$34.66.

Note: The name Maple Street was changed to Manning Street in honor of the Manning brothers, Ralph and Frank who died in World War I.

History of Hudson, Part 79

as published in the ENTERPRISE, January 23, 1897 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

More arguments from petitioners to form a new town. Most had spent their whole lives here. Many Irish and French were coming here wishing to purchase lots. Feltonville citizens paid taxes to Marlboro to pay for schools but students could not attend high school because of the distance.

Lyman Perry one of the petitioners for annexation to the new town of Hudson, lived in the east part of Marlboro. Wanted to be annexed for the country was very hilly in the direction of Marlboro, it was much easier to come to Feltonville. With two exceptions all were unanimous to be set off, two objecting, owned only 60 or 70 acres of land, he owned 80 or 90 acres, there were 1400 acres in the whole territory.

Albert Goodrich of Bolton, did business in Feltonville, provision dealer, lived about ten or fifteen rods from the county line. It was about one half the distance to the Feltonville school that it was to Bolton, the reason for taking a part of Berlin, a large part of the real estate was owned by men in Feltonville, it would increase the value of real estate, while he found it hard to sell land he had no trouble in disposing of it since the effort for incorporation had been made. While he had paid taxes in Bolton he paid for schooling in Feltonville, he found it, some of the time, impossible to sell land at any price, the cheapness of the land did not seem to be any object while it remained a part of Bolton.

E. M. Stowe testified: 13 years a resident of Feltonville (1866), shoe manufacturer, employed 130 hands. The people came to Feltonville to bury their dead because it was some two miles nearer than their own, found trouble in the administration of justice, often because of county lines, population mostly working men, more than half own houses they live in, the Irish and French are proverbial for taking up land and settling upon it.

Charles Brigham had resided in Feltonville from birth, his reasons for being set off were as much on account of moral and social differences existing between the two sections of the town, as business relations, had been annoyed for a long time by parties crossing the line and selling intoxicating liquors to the citizens of Feltonville, and with no power to reach them by law except in Worcester county. Valuation was as high in Feltonville as Marlboro, yet the people of the village were obliged to suffer many inconveniences. Within the past 16 years 40 or 50 Irishmen had settled in the village and built their houses. The French had not until within a few years commenced building. The number of legal voters who turned out on town meeting day was about one in 10, have attended every town meeting in 29 years and sometimes was the only one present from Feltonville. Cemetery was free to Bolton people, no hearse in that town, had always been supplied by town of Marlboro, should have as good schools as Marlboro in accordance with our valuation. The high school cost \$10,000, was carried on at an expense of \$1500, no one ever went from Feltonville.

L. T. Jefts testified, resident of Feltonville, formerly a school teacher, taught in Bolton five and seven years ago. Often saw scholars on their way to the Feltonville school. Bolton children have to pass through a part of Feltonville to get to their school. If Berlin district was united with Robin Hill district it would make one good district. Some of the business men were obliged to pay taxes for the schooling in Bolton and send their children to school in Feltonville, and pay the regular tuition. If the town was incorporated and a good high school building erected all those included within the survey might have the privilege of attending it, whereas they are now debarred this privilege by distance. The population was generally permanent, as the cessation of shoe business in one town affected all shoe manufacturing towns equally, and did not induce the hands to leave for employment elsewhere. The population had increased during the war. Was on the building committee for the new church. Would be satisfied with only the whole territory, unless there was no possibility of getting parts of Bolton and Berlin, as it would make an incomplete town without these being annexed.

Daniel Stratton, witness, was a resident of that part of Bolton included in the new survey; have lived there since four years of age. If Hudson was incorporated it was his desire to become a part of this new town, as he, and the inhabitants living in this part of the town had suffered many inconveniencies. Petitions for roads had been refused. The expense of boarding his children at the Bolton high school, was as much as the tuition would be at Feltonville, his business called him to Feltonville 30 times where it did to Bolton Centre once. The American population as well as most of the foreigners owned most of their own houses. There had been a decided increase in the enterprise of the place, since the new town was talked of. None of the buildings had been erected by the men in the middle of the town of Bolton, attended church in Feltonville and did all except town business there. There was a change in the county line in 1849 when a part of Marlboro was annexed to Bolton, had suffered much from poor schoolhouses which went unrepaired long after they needed it. In serving on the jury it would be much more convenient to go to Concord or Cambridge than to Worcester. To centre of Bolton the distance was 4 or 5 miles. The Agricultural road was nearly completed. Thought the war had increased the population some.

A. A. Powers, Bolton, witness, I have been a resident of Feltonville four years; during this time attended town meeting twice. Voters seldom cared to attend town meeting. Business interests all in Feltonville.

Ira H. Brown of Berlin, witness, leading petitioner from that place. Had been a resident for 46 years. Owned 80 acres of land in this territory; the real estate was valued at \$19,900 or \$20,000; population 43. The distance to his school by actual measurement was 512 rods; number of scholars who attended school was about four during the winter. Thought by taking a part of Robin Hill district, a good and more convenient district could be made. Attend church in Feltonville. All but three of the petitioners own real estate, King, Right and Logee, about 400 acres belong to Berlin men.

George H. Maynard, witness, I am a shoe manufacturer; employ 5 to 10 hands; was the only manufacturer petitioning for annexation. It was more convenient to schools and business in Feltonville than Berlin Centre, and felt better to be connected with a town where the postoffice, schools and churches were the most convenient. This was the last witness examined in behalf of the new town. The ablest and best men for the object desired had been on the witness stand. The defence now mustered; the attack on the petitioners was commenced by Charles G. Stevens, counsel for Bolton.

History of Hudson, Part 80

as published in the ENTERPRISE, January 30, 1897 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

Charles Stevens of Clinton was the counsel for Bolton, saying that Bolton should not be split neighbor from neighbor. Other witnesses were called for Bolton. Taxes were higher in Marlboro, they liked their own government and one would pay \$100 to remain in Bolton.

Charles G. Stevens of Clinton, council for Bolton, in opposing the annexation of any part of its territory to the new town of Hudson, asked the favor of making the opening argument as he was to make one speech only, and was the junior council in commencing, he would say, the citizens of Bolton did not desire to interfere with the rights of the citizens of Marlboro, and if in his remarks he should say anything that seemed to bear upon the interests of that town he hoped no one would attribute it to any feeling which he had in the matter.

The reasons given for dividing Bolton and Berlin were as follows; 1. We were better accommodated by schools; 2. Time lost and expense of attending town meeting; 3. Were obliged to send their children into Marlboro to get to their school; 4. They have made this territory what it is; 5. The centres of the two towns are left in as favorable a condition as before.

If the town was not incorporated the citizens of this territory would have the same privileges of attending church and transacting their business as they now have. The school accommodations are so poor at Feltonville that they would be better accommodated at home; the town had located the schoolhouse as asked for, and so far as favors coming from the town, they had received their full share. If there was anything in the character of the school at Feltonville that accommodated the children in this territory better than their own, they had a right to ask the town of Bolton to pay for their tuition. This had been done and would be continued if required. In regard to social relations that had been referred to, could not discover anything that would be likely to affect the committee. Would it be advisable to make a new town for the sake of cultivating social intercourse? They will have social intercourse wherever they please. If they wish for a cemetery let them ask for it.

They should not complain until imposed upon. One of the reasons given for including parts of these towns in the survey, was that it would make a better shaped town, but from the gross inequality of the map before them, he might well say that this was not the object, but rather to get more territory without regard to beauty or shape. Did not wonder that a shoe manufacturing community should select a town so nearly in the shape of a last. If the land was cheaper in Bolton, it was made so to induce people to come and settle there. The matter of town meetings was one of great importance. The state had always had a system of town meetings. If the town of Marlboro were divided, those who did not make a practice of attending town

meetings at the middle of the town, would be no more likely to do so if the townhouse was within a few rods of their own door. The town of Bolton has now all the elements so necessary to enjoy the advantages to be derived from these town meetings.

If you divide them it is destroyed, the town is quite regular in shape and well balanced, if this part of the town is set off, other and more isolated parts might ask for the same grant, until Bolton became entirely extinct. It was now proposed to take one third of the population, 452, which was more than the increase of the town in the last 15 years.

Lawyer Stevens then called witnesses in behalf of Bolton; first witness, N. A. Newton. Lived in the south part of Bolton within one half mile of proposed new line, this line divided 11 farms, had always attended town meetings, and had never known the town to refuse any reasonable request after due consideration. The manufacturers, merchants and mechanics, living in Bolton carried on their business in Feltonville, did not know of a single shoemaker that worked in Bolton, he found a market for his produce and wood in Feltonville. After some delay the schoolhouse as asked for had been arranged to accommodate the people of this section of the town.

Ebenezer Witt, next witness, lived over the line in Bolton, was perfectly satisfied and preferred to remain where he was, taxes not so high as in Marlboro; during the time he had lived there, most six years, the people had never asked for anything but they had received, although sometimes they had been a little tardy about it. Previous to moving into Bolton he had been a resident of Marlboro. Owned 11 acres of land, all of which came within the limits of the new town, and was mostly wood and sprout land. Bolton was a little behind the times; the people of this section of the town persevered and accomplished their end.

Jesse B. Wheeler, next witness, lived about one and one fourth mile from new line. Rate of taxation \$1.95; highway 27 cents. Appropriation for schools last year \$1500 exclusive of state fund which was equally divided among nine schools. The town had appropriated \$2000, for the benefit of the school in district included in new survey.

G. W. Logee, witness, lived in northeasterly part of town, signed remonstrance. If annexed, taxes would be higher. Owned 100 acres of real estate, have been in town one year.

D. J. Pearce, witness, lived in territory included in the new survey. Resident two years next May, post office address Feltonville. Would give \$100 to be left out of new town; liked the government of Bolton and preferred to live there. Caleb Wheeler, witness, lived about three fourths mile east of meeting; there was a prospect of a village springing up near station of new railroad running through the town, no village near station although about three houses, the town had expended for roads in this part of the town during the last 25 years \$1500 to \$1600.

History of Hudson, Part 81

as published in the ENTERPRISE, February 6, 1897 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

More opposition by Bolton. Opposition from Berlin. This hearing lasted four days. Many witnesses were called who really loved their town and did not want it changed. Berlin witnesses also.

The next witness called on the stand to oppose the annexation of Bolton territory to Hudson was Roswell Barrett. Had lived in Bolton from birth, formerly a surveyor and school teacher, knew about the laying out of Maple street, it was done by private individuals in Feltonville for the purpose of making building lots, and after being legalized by the selectmen of Marlboro, another road was laid out in Bolton to meet it, this part of the town had received a fair proportion of favors. The town was incorporated in 1738, and a strong attachment had grown up for it by the inhabitants, which was oftener the case, with an agricultural, than a manufacturing community. This attachment had manifested itself by wealthy individuals leaving funds for the benefit of the town. Resided upon Long hill within two miles of centre of Bolton and two and a half miles of Feltonville.

Edwin A. Whitney witness, said: The smaller you made a town, the less they thought of it, and less likely people were to settle. The people were held by family attachments to the old town, and were almost unanimous in opposing the cession of this part of the territory. I am one of the largest property holders in town, resided in northeastern part of town, which had not increased in population. Population bordering on Harvard about 100, near Stow 75, near Clinton was no village of any account. Real estate had often changed hands, but generally in the line of descent. Knew of families living in this territory who sent their children to Feltonville, knew of none who came from there to attend church in Bolton.

Josiah E. Sawyer, next witness, selectman of Bolton for the past six years. Rate of taxation for 10 years before the war had been from 55 to 65 cents. Waldo B. Brigham was chosen constable last year from that part of the town, but has since moved out of town.

The next witness was Solomon H. Howe, the chairman of committee on remonstrance: They were a feeble people in Bolton, and this great slice taken from her borders would be a serious blow to her interests. Other villages springing up in close proximity to manufacturing towns, would follow the example of this people and poor Bolton would be no more. They were a very generous people; from residing among them four years, he had found them remarkably so. A grant having been obtained of the county commissioners to build a road over a rugged country, at the next town meeting the town voted unanimously to build the road. It was the best town he ever lived in, and could not see why they should ask to be set off. Descendants of Bolton families wherever he met them, spoke with pride of the old town, and he spoke

the name of Bolton with respect, and wrote it in large bold letters. His early associations brought him back to the old town.

General Amory Holman, witness: A native of Bolton, was familiar with the growth of Feltonville from its commencement, and there had always been a friendly feeling existing between the town and the village.

As a petitioner he felt some interest in the county as well as the town line, the old line has always existed, regarded town lines as arbitrary, political lines, would oppose idea of a city charter which included Bolton territory.

L. Moore, witness: Several families near Feltonville had availed themselves of the opportunity to send their children to the Bolton high school.

Mr. Barrett, called to witness stand: He had examined the record of schools from the town clerk's books, from which he learned that in 1858 the schoolhouse in this district was the best one in town. In 1861 the scholars had increased and \$50 additional was voted to the school, \$10 more than was asked for, in 1862 \$40 more, and in 1863 \$50 extra, in 1864, another story was added to the schoolhouse at an expense of \$128.50. In 1865 made them equal in all respects to two schools.

Francis Brigham recalled: Had examined the land crossed by the old line, and found it divided 36 different tracts in all, 28 on county line, eight on town line.

Mr. Nahum Witherbee, representative from Marlboro, asked that he might correct any wrong impressions, which the committee might have received from the witnesses from Feltonville to rights or privileges had been denied them by the people from the middle of the town, they preferred to let things in peace than have any feeling about it, therefore there was no open opposition.

This hearing lasted during four days. The gladiators of the bar next appeared for their respective clients, Berlin, Bolton, Feltonville. Dr. Edward Hartshorn, now living in Berlin appeared for that town, and gave the Feltonites, a precipitate of pills, not prepared exactly in the regulation form of allopathic doses; the doctor made an able argument, and as subsequent events proved, a successful one. We shall give the best of the arguments of all the lawyers, as it should be pleasing and instructive reading to the last two generations who have never read them.

Note: Dr. Hartshorn had a thriving business in Berlin bottling pills and patent medicines.

History of Hudson, Part 82

as published in the ENTERPRISE, February 13, 1897 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

On February 16, 1866, Dr. Hartshorn of Berlin gave his argument, incisive, and convincing and succeeded so that no soil was given to or purchased by Hudson. He gives a fine speech. It was said that Hudson just wanted to straighten the border line!

Dr. Edward Hartshorn of Berlin disputed every inch of ground Hudson attempted to slice from that town to give more opulent and symmetrical proportions to the new town of Hudson. Berlin was the adopted town of the worthy doctor, he settled here in 1840 and was the youngest physician in Worcester county. June 22 1841 he married Lucy E. Howe, she was a sister of Solomon Howe of Bolton, and of Addison Howe formerly President of Eliot Bank, Boston. The doctor can say with Webster, "I still live" and spends his summer months in Berlin, the memories of nearly three score years clinging to him, making his attachments secure and unchangeable as the woof and web of his own life. He must have the ministry of satisfaction and pride in the reflection that in his labor and argument before the legislative committee he was successful in preserving intact the soil of his adopted town from the covetous and aggrandizing spirit and effort of her more colossal neighbor, Hudson.

The doctor's argument before the committee on towns was made February 16, 1866. The argument, incisive and convincing, was as follows: "Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the committee, I am happy to afford you pleasure in the announcement on the part of Berlin, that we shall not annoy you with statistical evidence, and that my remarks will be brief, both of which statements must be gratifying at this late stage of a tedious examination. I intimated previously a disappointment at not being furnished with counsel. This is owing largely to the fact that the principal contest of the petitioners for a new town would be with Bolton, and that the time allowed us would be brief, as is the fact, but principally because we have confidence in this committee, that justice will be the result of this decision. We have so exalted an opinion of Mass. legislatures and their committees that we are willing to trust them. We believe this committee was appointed, not principally to incorporate new towns, but to guard the rights of older towns and especially the smaller ones, against the encroachments of ambitious, prosperous villages which seek incorporation and desire large territory and population. Existing towns have priority of rights and those rights should be carefully guarded. Doubtless large towns may be divided in extreme cases, by mutual consent. This may be one of those cases. We do not argue against it, but the case must be extremely rare where such divisions should extend to towns already small and struggling with fate. You have before you the remonstrance of Berlin, individually and collectively.

We represent the town in committee and you have the printed remonstrance of 181 legal voters. To save you time we submit our case, on that remonstrance and the testimony of the petitioners, to which I will refer; to be sure had I time, I would like to argue, especially to the members of the committee from the smaller towns, how seriously these towns feel the loss of even a little territory, how, once lessening they dwindle lower and lower in the scale of towns, while buyers and business men shun them as the plague, also, how those towns are injured by proximity even to a manufacturing town, not large enough to constitute a good market, but just large enough to draw off their population, empty their houses, and depreciate their real estate. But all these reasons are appreciated by the committee and will receive due consideration from the talented counsel. I invite your attention to especial points, having particular reference to Berlin. It appears in evidence in this case, that a large amount of money has been made, in a very short time, in the village of Feltonville.

The leading men of this village, distinguished for ability, enterprise and business talent, for which we honor them as worthy of all praise, have raked money into coffers with astonishing success and in their prosperity have forgotten that theirs was once, a small poor village. They have stretched out their hands to rake in the adjacent towns, as they have money, as if it was almost a favor to us. We are at least told by them that it would be no loss to us to part with our territory. Of these, there are two, to whom this village owes its success, mainly without whom Hudson would present no claim for a township, without whom, excepting of course the talented counsel who conducts this case so admirably, Hudson would have no committee.

One of these gentlemen told you they did not wish for Berlin territory, except to make a better shaped town of Hudson. I beg here your remembrance of the remark of the learned counsel of Bolton: If Berlin territory is worth nothing to them, but to make a pretty map, I beg you to persuade them to go without it, and allow us to buy pictures for Hudson children. We cannot afford to lose so much value to us, for such a purpose. The other gentlemen, who for aught I know, might buy the town of Hudson, and pay for it in a single draft, tells you it would cost as much to provide the Berlin territory asked for with schools and roads as it would be worth.”

History of Hudson, Part 83

as published in the ENTERPRISE, February 20, 1897 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

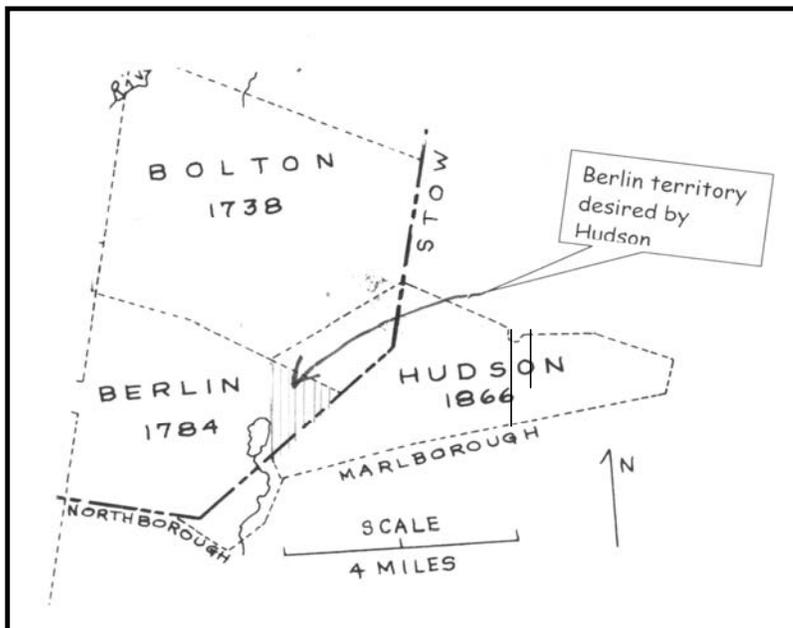
Dr. Harshorn is a great orator on behalf of Berlin.

Dr. Hartshorn of Berlin concluded his argument before the legislative committee in the following language: We pray you gentlemen not to compel them to take this territory, for we have already provided it with schools, roads and all municipal conveniences. The same gentleman tells you at another time, that Hudson is compelled to take about ten houses from Marlboro, south west corner, not enough to make a school district, therefore they must take enough from Berlin to make up that district. Gentlemen was there ever a bolder demand upon enlightened men? Hudson must take ten houses from Marlboro, because the line agreed on, cuts off the houses the gentlemen say they do not want, but having made this bad bargain with Marlboro they wish to take one-third of a very small school district in Berlin; had they taken but five houses from Marlboro they would have demanded twice as much from our little district.

One word about this school district. When this committee visited this territory I called your attention to the nice, commodious house we had built half a mile nearer the petitioners than the old house. In this district there are about thirty houses; nine, almost one third they propose to take. It happens this winter that but three attend one school from this territory. But it is fair to assert that during an average of years, as many children attend school from these nine houses as from any other nine houses in the district, is it reasonable to break up this district? There appears to be two classes of petitioners for the annexation of Berlin. One class petition from Marlboro, and I would like to enquire what moral power there is in their prayer? On what grounds have they a right to ask for Berlin soil? If Marlboro may thus petition, why may not all the other towns in the commonwealth petition in aid of their petition, and where would be the little town of Berlin? A large share of the evidence before you, gentlemen, has been to claim your clemency for this class. Do not understand me, however, as intimating for a moment that this class of petitioners of their evidence, weight a feather in your minds; in generosity you admit it. I come now to a class of petitioners, who have weight with this board and who alone have a right to ask the dismemberment of our town, and who are they? It is proposed to annex from Berlin to Hudson 667 acres, with a valuation of \$23,000 and it appears from evidence before you, that two landholders taxed from 90 acres, valued at \$3,400 aided by four tenants of rooms, one of whom has already left the territory, and who with the others, are as likely to petition for the annexation of South Berlin to Northboro, or Provincetown to Nantucket, next year as anything else, I say, these two men aided by four tenants of rooms, and two tenants of real estate, to the amount of 67 acres, ask you to set off this large portion of Berlin for their convenience. I say gentlemen, that tenants of two or three rooms, moving yearly from neighborhood to neighborhood, and from town to town, have no moral right to petition to this effect. We grant their legal right, but they

have no moral power before this committee. They may be excellent men but they ought not to act on such grave questions as the dismemberment of towns, and now Mr. Chairman, the statement is this, two men, with full weight as owners of the soil, but desiring to sell their farms, and who will sell, perhaps, before an act of annexation can be passed, these men, backed by six tenants, ask you to give up to Hudson from Berlin a valuation of \$23,000.

What for? Not for the interest and convenience of the tenants, for they very likely, next year will live elsewhere, not for their own interest or convenience, for they propose to sell their farms and move as soon as possible, but for Hudson, they are tools in the hands of able men, who wish with their help to make a good town, and also to make a school district, where there is none and there will be none. Lest I be burdensome with Berlin griefs, I will call your attention to one point more and close; the petitioners as is shown, do not live contiguous to Hudson, but in the central and west part of the territory petitioned for. Did they live on the line, and ask to have their own farms alone set off, there would be more reason in the request. But it is urged, the non resident property of this district is owned by Feltonville men. Grant it if you please, that every cent worth is owned by them, though it would not be true, what then? As outskirts residents of Marlboro they bought those lands because they were cheap, they held them because it was a good investment. They can now sell them at a good price, and is the fact they choose to hold these lands a reason for a division of the town. If this be sound argument, then if real estate was low in Berlin these same parties might invest all the way to its centre, and then ask you to invest the whole half of our town.



History of Hudson, Part 84

as published in the ENTERPRISE, February 27, 1897 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

The Hon. George F. Hoar argues for Bolton and Berlin not to change the town borders nor move an area from Worcester County to another.

The argument of Hon. George F. Hoar against the Petition for the Incorporation of the Town of Hudson was made before the committee on towns Feb. 16, 1866. The length of his argument is too long to interest the general reader. It is rich in eloquent passages and we reproduce some of these, of value to all those who enjoy the forensic lore of a most brilliant orator. His argument was based on "four petitions."

1st. You cannot without violating the constitution, transfer this territory from the county of Worcester to the county of Middlesex.

2d. You cannot take from these towns their territory against their will, without departing from the principles of a sound public policy.

3d. The interest of these petitioners do not require you to grant the prayer of their petition.

4th. You cannot yield to it without grievous injustice to the remonstrants.

We shall give his argument on his "4th position." "I say it is not a question solely of what the people of a town wish, especially the people of a manufacturing village where a few manufacturers, not unjustly or improperly, but still practically, influence and control public sentiment. Not what you wish but what you want, is the language of legislative as well as it is of providential government to the persons who come under its operation. "Not what you wish, but what you want." I say, gentlemen, that this is not time to rearrange and reconstruct town lines. Our population is just now upon the move, more rapidly, more generally than ever before. The old towns throughout the western and central portions of our state were built, as you know, upon the hills, especially in the county of Worcester, and the river counties. The best lands, to a great extent, lay upon the hills, and the center of towns will be found upon the hills; there you will find the little village, the church, the school house and the store, and the farmer's houses on the various roads where the good farming land is found. Within the last few years, influences have been in operation, and are in operation today with infinitely more power that they ever were before, which are sucking up, and moving the population from the old centres; a railroad comes up from the valley, a village gathers about the depot.

A manufacturing establishment is formed on the stream, in the same valley, workmen gather about the same factory, and it is the cry of the whole commonwealth, from every old town you hear the same complaint. Our young men are leaving the agricultural centres, and are going to the manufacturing or railroad centre. Now, this matter of arranging town lines, is a serious and permanent matter. These gentlemen will not tell you that they want a town, to whose limits they do not expect to get attached they, and their children, which is to be there today, and gone tomorrow, they will build up their own churches and establish their town hall, make their school district. I say then

gentlemen, that this is not time, while the population is moving to lay the foundation of new towns, a delay of ten or twenty years is but a trifle, but the pulsation of an artery in the mighty national life of which the state and towns, constitute a part and we should wait until the population has become fixed and settled and until a new order of things has to some extent developed itself before we lightly or rapidly change those town lines.

Then gentlemen. I say it is expedient as a matter of public policy to have a variety of interest in a town, the very fact that there is a manufacturing population in the town of Hudson with its interests all identical or similar, and an agricultural population in the town of Bolton is a reason, not for separating them, but for keeping them together.

My friend, Mr. Stevens, well said in his opening, that where you find a town with but a single interest, you find a town which is wanting in some of the best element, in the culture of the citizen. You want to have a variety of interests in the same town; you want to have the representatives of those interests exchange views of the town meeting; you want the bustling manufacturer, accustomed to carry his point, apt to succeed, retrieving by one venture what the errors of the last have lost. You want also, the cautious, cool, safe, clear headed, slow brained farmer, slow of speech, not quick of comprehension, but when he does get an idea into his head, bringing it out as from a mill, digested, and with a sound and safe result, and to use the language, which John Adams, the father of our constitution, the statesman, whose far sighted vision, saw the growth of these towns, and saw in them the security and strength of public liberty, to use the lines he loved to quote in this very connection, you want:

“From various discords to create
The music of a well tuned state.”

I say, gentlemen, we are to let the farmers of Bolton, have the benefit of the enterprise, and prosperity and zeal of the manufacturers; and to let the manufacturer have the benefit of the ballast of the wisdom and conservative character, and clear head and slow movement of the farmer.

Then, I say gentlemen, that as a matter of public policy, it is not well to invade the sanctity of town lines. The counsel for the petitioners asks what historic associations are connected with Bolton. It is not a question of historic associations. Do you suppose the poor man whose cottage was never heard of half a mile from the place where it stands, loves his family associations as well as the man through whose veins courses “the blood of all the Howards.” It is not a question whether a town is famous or not. It is not a question whither distinguished generals and distinguished statesmen have dwelt within its borders. It is not a question whither it contains battlefields or not. It is the old town, his birthplace, the scene that has been familiar to his childhood’s eye which the man loses. They say that from these old towns men go away, leaving their old homesteads and seeking the cities, and they do; but this feeling is not extinct in the breast. I happened to be the other day in the little town of Lincoln where my father was born—a place of six or seven hundred inhabitants—hardly ever heard of by those of you gentlemen, who live at a distance from that section of the state, and there I found within sight of the burial place of my ancestors, men of my kindred who had come back from the cities whither they had gone years ago, and you would have thought they had forgot all about the old place; having got rich as merchants they build themselves sidences in which to spend their old age, and have their families live after them.

History of Hudson, Part 85

as published in the ENTERPRISE, March 6, 1897 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

Mr. Hoar continues to defend the small towns of Bolton and Berlin in not being taken over by Hudson. There have been similar situations in Carlisle and Lancaster. Leave the agriculture areas be.

Mr. Hoar continued his argument in behalf of Bolton in the following language impressive with eloquence, and tenderness of thought: "In that very neighborhood of Lincoln is the town of Lancaster, a town that has become proverbial almost, for the number that have left her limits, and how are they going back there. Mr. Nathaniel Thayer, a man at the head of the wealth and business enterprise of the city of Boston, with his palatial residence almost within sound of my voice, is not content with that, but turns back to the place where his feet walked in childhood and where he took hold of his father's and his mother's hand, to spend his old age and give the aid of his wealth and public spirit in building up the old town. This seems to me a vital and essential element of Massachusetts character. I do not know why it is that I love the town where I was born, but I do know this, that this attachment is one of the strongest feelings of my heart, and it extends to the whole territory as an identity—a unit, it is my town, my birthplace.

The town of Concord owns a piece of territory up in Carlisle surrounded entirely by Carlisle, when Carlisle was set off from the town of Concord in 1780, the Legislature provided that those persons who dissented, might file their dissent within a certain time and they should be regarded as retaining their places in the old town. The owner of a large tract called Blood's farm filed his dissent accordingly and that tract of land still belongs to the town of Concord. Mr. Joslin asks, "Has it not been set off?" Mr. Hoar. "Set off, I rather think not. You would have another revolution and a second Concord fight if you should try it, the thing was proposed one year, and I remember Mr. Robinson, now Clerk of the House, who was once a citizen came down here, and almost with tears in his eyes, said to me why ; Mr. Hoar, you might as well, to use the language of Macbeth, "pour the sweet milk of concord into hell." Another thing, these New England towns are the mothers of this continent. It is a peculiarity of this Anglo Saxon race, this capacity of multiplying itself. You think the Irishmen, the Celt, and the men of the Latin race have a great many children, and they seem to by the way you see them about the gutters, but you put ten families of one of our New England towns in a county out west, where there are a hundred coming from the South and in the course of a generation every man will tell you his ancestor was a New England man.

Bond's history of Watertown, containing simply the genealogy of the inhabitants who lived there before 1700, makes two stout volumes; the power of multiplying is immense. Now, from all this continent, from the Pacific, from the

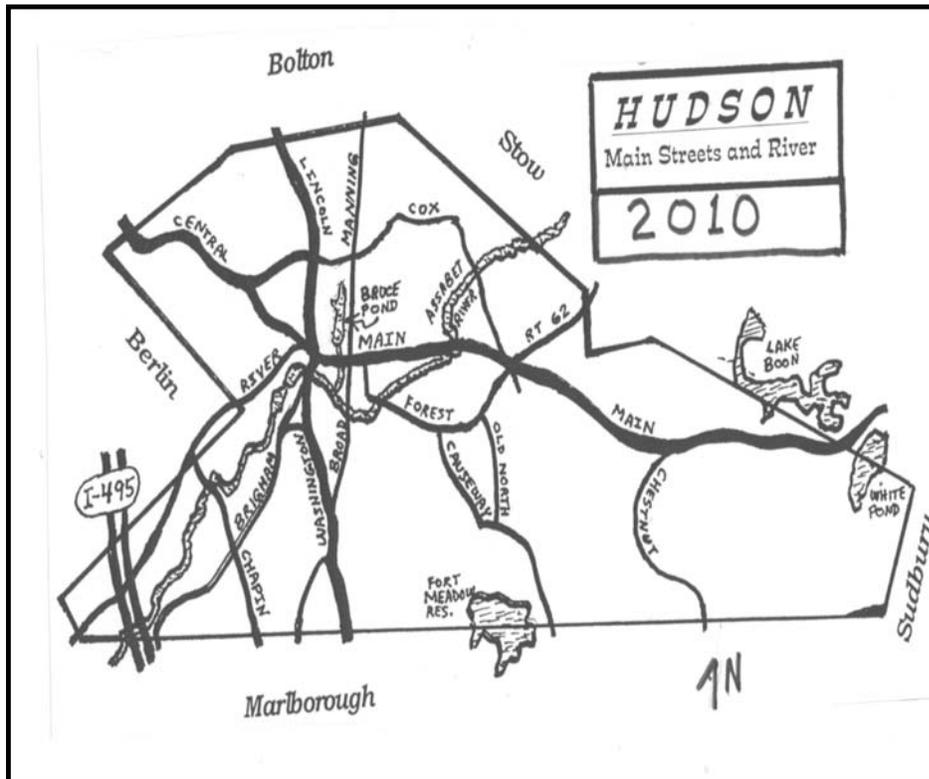
woods where rolls the Oregon, and hears no sound save his own dashings; from the great central land which is to fill up, men will come back year after year and century after century to these old New England towns, to seek after the birthplace of their ancestors and to trace their genealogies. The legislature has received from England the gravestones which marked the burial place of the ancestors of Washington, and they now stand by the side of his statue in your hall, and we have taken pains to bring to this country the register which shows the births of the ancestors of Franklin; and so when men become famous as statesmen, generals, artists, poets, from all parts of this continent, hundreds of years hence, men will come to these little village graveyards, and try to trace under the moss the names of the ancestors from whose blood they sprung, and will search the town records of revolutionary times and the records of our recent war for the proof that their ancestors have distinguished themselves, or have done good service in their day and generation as patriots and citizens.

These simple records may be spelled badly, and torn and yellow with age, but they will be luminous with a celestial light, and they will become more and more treasures of history, treasures of patriotism as the generations roll by, and it is as the records of our towns, of these consecrated, sacred communities, round which all our affections cling, and from which all that is manly or noble in our character is chiefly derived, that they will have their value and significance. It is not, therefore, a light thing to ask a committee of the legislature of Massachusetts, in this era, when Massachusetts is impressing what she is upon the policy of the nation and of the world, it is not a light thing I say to ask them to disregard the sanctity of that institution, to which Massachusetts owes all that she has been in the past and all that she promises to be in the future, I say, therefore, as a matter of statesmanship, you, statesmen and legislators of Massachusetts, have no right to say—you will not say, that for causes such as these the sanctity of town lines shall be invaded. One other consideration of public policy, gentlemen, and I hasten to another part of the case. It is not expedient as it seems to me, and I submit it to you, to build up these manufacturing centres, composed of such a population as they are and guided and controlled as they are at the expense of the agricultural community. I am not here to indulge in any outcries against manufacturers, or to indulge in any of the slang which we sometimes hear in regard to the control that is exercised by men of wealth and influence, of their disregard of public sentiment and of their power over their workmen.

Such a thing, I hope, I should scorn to do anywhere. I submit to the manufacturing gentlemen of this committee, whether the great danger of the state today is not in the loss of the influence of the agricultural communities. In less than 30 years 12 of the cities of this commonwealth will exercise a large majority of its political power and will contain a large majority of its population. In the year 1890 probably, certainly in the year 1895, Boston, Lowell, Lawrence, Salem, Roxbury, Charlestown, Worcester, Newburyport, Lynn, Springfield, Taunton and Fall River will have a considerable majority if the present rate of increase continues of all the inhabitants of the commonwealth, taken as a body, and these great centres of

manufacturing and commercial power, is true, and to a great degree, of the smaller manufacturing towns, as compared with their neighbors—the agricultural towns.

The prophetic eye of the eloquent lawyer, sweeping the horoscope of the years for a quarter of a century, how true all he foretold has come to pass.



History of Hudson, Part 86

as published in the ENTERPRISE, March 13, 1897 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

On February 16, 1866, Hon. George Hoar of Worcester expounds on the virtues of the small town and its value to the state and its own forbears not to be governed by the political power of large manufacturing establishments. The annual Town Meeting is worth spending a day at, learning your town's business. Spending a few minutes just to vote is not discharging your duty.

Hon. George F. Hoar of Worcester continues his great argument in behalf of Bolton before the committee on Towns February 16, 1866. "I say it is not right to dismember a town like Bolton, an old farming town, simple, as it is true, a town laughed at, as Mr. Whitcomb says when he came here, but at the same time its inhabitants have been trained in the school of town administration plenty of men have grown up fit to be representatives, County Commissioners, and Senators each in his turn, studying administering and understanding public affairs. It is not right. It is not wise to transfer political power, from a community of that sort, growing rarer, as they have been for the last ten years, and as they will continue to do with accelerated speed to a manufacturing village, which of necessity is ruled and controlled by a few men, followed and obeyed by the working men of the large manufacturing establishments, dependent, for their daily bread upon the will of their employers. I do not mean to say that Francis Brigham or George Houghton, would in the least abuse an influence they possess. I do not mean to say that the people of Feltonville are not quite as respectable as the people of Bolton, or of any other town, but it is a fact which we must all admit, that they are different, with different interests, different ways, and it is not right that political power should be taken from a town like Bolton, and transferred to a village of this character. It is a matter of very grave consideration, this change which is going on in this state. We see that by natural causes which no legislation can control, or opposition retard, the change is going on quite fast enough. I suppose we can all of us remember, when in the little country towns all about the Commonwealth, you would find a lawyer of great ability and eminent character, content to take up his abode in a little town, of a thousand or two inhabitants, a man like John Adams, who practiced in Braintree, and so you found a clergyman of great influence, who was content to stay with his parishioners, who regarded his engagement to his parish like a marriage spent his life where his early vows were taken, and the traces of whose influence, you can see in the character of the town, where he has lived and labored for generations. Mr. Chairman many well known men of the last generation were fitted for college in the little town of Lincoln, by a clergyman whose salary was £80 and 15 cords of wood, who it is said, refused the presidency of Harvard colleges. Another fact occurs to me, coming within my own knowledge. The little town of Brookfield, in Worcester county, had as lawyers living and practicing, Mr. Jabez Upham, who was one of the ablest lawyers this commonwealth ever contained, cut off rather early in life, and Mr. Dwight Foster, the grandfather of the late attorney general who was U. S. senator of this Commonwealth during Washington's presidency, and one of the most influential

statesmen of his day. Now where are their decendants? Judge Gray, who is the grandson of Judge Upham, comes to Boston; he would not think of going into the country to practice in a little country town, and give it the benefit of his talents and influence. Mr. Foster does not find the county of Worcester a proper place for him, but moved to Boston. Where is the country clergyman who stays in his town, and makes his influence felt in his parish not only as a preacher, but as a father, making up in intensity and power, what he loses in extent, they are all in the cities; the able lawyer, the successful doctor, the successful and pious clergyman, are all called away from the country; and so of the business men, so of the trade. The city warehouses are sucking up our trade. The manufacturing villages are drawing away our young men, and I say it is not for the legislature of Massachusetts to give another stab to the influence of the smaller country towns, these towns, my friend, reminds me, have not died out yet; they have not lost their original character with all that has been lost. In the late war the first regiment raised came from the country. The old Sixth regiment that got to Washington first, and the old Eighth that went to Annapolis, came from the country; the slow and unready farmers, quick enough, and decisive enough, when great interests that brook no delay, are at stake, and great battles that admit of no indecision, are to be fought, they are a little before our city neighbors. I have been told that the fight at Concord bridge, in the contest at Cambridge in '76 and in the defence of Washington in '61, but as I was saying, you cannot retard the operation of these natural laws.

But you can preserve, you can carefully guard and cherish our municipal system; you can respect the sanctity of our town lines. There have been few weaker cases presented, than the case made out here by Feltonville, even as against Marlboro. First they say in the matter of town meetings, that if they go they have to give a day to it, whereas if they had the town meeting in Feltonville, they could run in and vote, and run out again without disturbing the laborer's business or breaking up the operations of the shop. I say as my friend said before me, that if this is to be the result of the incorporation of this new town, in Heaven's name deny them the prayer of their petition. They ought to give a day to this duty; they ought not to run in and run out; they have no right to discharge this important trust in this way, to run in at the bidding of their employer and cast their votes and run out again; for to the citizens of the commonwealth, and especially to the population of the manufacturing villages, composed largely of men of foreign birth, the town meeting is the best and only school in the duties of the citizen. What will they know or learn about public affairs unless they give a day every year to the town meeting, that they may understand the duty they are discharging.

History of Hudson, Part 87

as published in the ENTERPRISE, March 20, 1897 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

Mr. Hoar continues to defend Bolton.

We give the closing selections from the great argument of Senator Hoar in his defense of Bolton before the legislative committee February 16, 1866. In other issues by this paper we shall give selections from the equally able argument of James T. Joslin, Esq., counsel for Feltonville before the same committee. In closing his argument Senator Hoar said: "The town of Bolton has a school fund amounting to twenty thousand dollars, of the benefit of which Feltonville will be deprived, if the prayer of these petitioners is granted." "They have had more than their share of the school money. My Brother Joslin asks, Is that so? Does not that district have only twelve scholars, and this have thirty or forty? They never have complained and do not complain today that either in the matter of school accommodations or in the matter of furnishing roads every reasonable request has been granted. Mr. Houghton said the town meetings were so distant, that their people would not go, that a great many of the population were non-voters, but of those that had a right to vote, not more than one in ten or fifteen turned out to town meeting. But when he came to speak of the fire department, he said that when their people were all off to town meeting and there were only two or three men in the shops that was the time when the fires always broke out, and there was great danger from fire, when the question of the efficiency of the fire department is opened, everybody goes to town meeting. It is four miles off, and there is nobody but foreigners and minors to put out the fires. When the voting question is opened, only one in fifteen go to town meeting. I leave these two arguments to fight with each other without any further controversy on my part. They say on the outskirts of Bolton they have business interests in Feltonville. Well, getting letters, going to lyceums, holding lots in cemeteries, and trading, have nothing to do with municipal and political associations. That is true of every small town. The inhabitants of the centre of Bolton of course trade largely at Feltonville or elsewhere. The inhabitants of Paxton get their letters and papers, sell their produce and do their trading in Worcester—would it be quite fair to ask you to annex them to Worcester on that account. Then there is this matter of benefits, these gentlemen seem to suppose, indeed they come in here, and say, they have benefited this territory, and therefore, after sugaring and buttering it with their benefit, they ought to be allowed to swallow it as an equivalent. Mr. Francis Brigham has had labor, to the amount of fifty thousand dollars a year, on the average for a great many years, out of which his laborers have earned a moderate living and out of which he has become rich, and become almost the largest taxpayer in the town. He comes in here and talks of the benefits he has conferred upon the town of Bolton.

I should like to know which is the party that has given and which received. I do not mean to say it has not been a mutual benefit, it blesses him that gives, and him that takes. But it is not for me to say to the other, that because he has got rich, he is conferred all the benefits and received none. Balance the benefits and you will find

them equal, and neither has a right to claim he is independent of the other. The eye cannot say unto the hand I have no need of thee, nor to the head, or the feet, I have no need of you. They have both contributed in their proportion, and in their place to the common interests, and common benefits of the community in which they have a common share. What is to become of the town of Bolton if you establish this principle, that every little manufacturing village that grows up on its borders is to be a separate municipality; here are three villages, each of which will come in here for an act of incorporation, and what is to become of Bolton. Here comes Brother Joslin on the east, “Comes me cranking in and cuts me from the best of all our land. A huge half moon and monstrous cantle; then on the north, somebody from Still River comes and makes out a case and says, you must grant it for you did the same for Feltonville and that was not half so strong a case as ours; then somebody comes from Clinton and says, why you have got this depot which Clinton men use, you have got the best building lots and we are going to make a raid upon them, like Huns or Visigoths, take possession and make a village. What is to become of Bolton, the poor old town must shut up its church, and its schoolhouse, sink its fund, and Mr. Whitcomb and General Holman must have its gravestone erected in the old churchyard *Hic Jacet*, Bolton.

(Note: Hic Jacet – Latin; here lies, an epitaph)

It is not necessary for me to dwell upon this point to show you that these anticipated benefits are trifling and doubtful that the measure is opposed not only to the letter and spirit of the constitution, but to all sound statesmanship, that it would be a great in justice and a grievous injury to us to take away from this town one third of its voters, so that in future, every public burden shall weigh us heavier by a third! To take away the manufacturing element which gives variety to its industry and its populations and which contributes largely to its present and prospective growth and prosperity all these things, not to dwell upon them, would certainly produce a most grievous and fatal injury to the town of Bolton. As Gov. Lincoln said in a similar case “where you belittle a territory you belittle the men,” and every man in Bolton feels that to take away so much of what constitutes the identity of a town is a personal loss, like the loss of a limb almost. They are not only made actually smaller, but they are made proportionately smaller as compared with the other smaller towns of the commonwealth. It is a small town but yet these men love it; their attachment to it is strong, as strong as the attachment of either of you is to the town where you live. You cannot disregard this attachment, this sentiment of town pride and interest, as trifling.

I put it to you as a strong point in this case, unless you are prepared to say the love of the state is trifling, unless you would consent to apply to Massachusetts, as compared with the other states of the Union, the principle which these petitioners want to have applied to Bolton as compared with other towns, as you love your country, as you love your state, as you love your home, respect the equal affection which the remonstrants feel to the town which was their birthplace, and which they fondly hope may, unimpaired, with all its original territory and all its original members, remain until it shall afford them a burial place, within its borders by the side of their ancestors.



History of Hudson, Part 88

as published in the ENTERPRISE, March 27, 1897 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

James T. Joslin, Esq, pleads his argument before the Legislative Committee on the same date. He cites the Mass. State Constitution and statutes which allow boundaries to be changed.

The argument of James T. Joslin Esq., before the legislative committee February 16, 1866, contains much historical information and will be valuable for reference in coming time. The knowledge secured by Lawyer Joslin was obtained only by a great deal of study and research, and to get this information by simply reading his argument or abstracts of it, is a wise investment of time, to everyone. He introduces himself in the following language: "Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the committee. I feel that I may with equal propriety with the learned counsel for the remonstrants, congratulate you that this hearing is drawing to its close. As its close approaches, however, I feel that my duty to this cause has but commenced. I have sustained myself thus far, with the feeling, the assurance, that the petitioners were enlisted in a meritorious case, one which when fully presented to this committee would be, without doubt, sustained by them. And now that the learned counsel for the remonstrants has closed his arguments my faith in the case is not in the least shaken, notwithstanding this, however, I must say, gentlemen of the committee, that as I rise to this duty I am overpowered with a feeling of anxiety and solicitude; not on account of the merits of the cause I represent, but on account of the magnitude and importance of that cause to the petitioners and on account moreover, of my own inexperience and inability to meet the learned gentlemen, who have appeared here for the remonstrants. Lord Erskine when quite a young man before he had attained to the zenith of his fame as an advocate on opening for the defense in the case of Lord George Gordon, indicted for high treason and on trial before the court of Kings Bench, said that of the two before the jury, client and counsel, he felt the guiltier in having consented, under any circumstances to defend that nobleman. So I begin to feel that I am guilty almost of some wrong, of some indiscretion, at least in consenting to represent before this committee the petitioners in this case from the fact it is to them, (I may say to us as I am one of the petitioners) a case of so much magnitude and importance I approach the discharge of this duty gentlemen, with the determination to demean myself as becomes the occasion and to address myself properly to the subject that is before you. But gentlemen I have a twofold duty imposed upon me, first to answer the objections raised by the counsel for the remonstrants from the town of Bolton and the county of Worcester; and second, to present to you in the best possible manner in which it can be marshaled, the evidence on which the petitioners rest their case. The learned counsel opened his argument by presenting to you, what he doubtless considers a serious constitutional objection against granting the prayer of the petitioners before you. He says that if you shall come to the conclusion that a case has been made out here for the petitioners there is a constitutional provision intervening, which prohibits you from reporting a bill, or

the legislature from passing a law incorporating a part of the town of Bolton and a part of the town of Berlin into this new town of Hudson. It does not become me gentlemen, to question this law without due reflection and consideration; and yet at the outset, allow me to say, I differ with him in the interpretation which he gives to the Constitution and the law under it. I wish to call your attention to the same section to which he referred, sec. 2nd, chap. 1 of the constitution which has been in existence for years and under which many changes have taken place, both in county and town lines. The language of the section is as follows: "There shall be annually elected by the freeholders and other inhabitants of the commonwealth, qualified as in this constitution, is provided, 40 persons to be councilors and senators for the year ensuing their election; to be chosen by the inhabitants of the districts into which the commonwealth may from time to time be divided by the General Court for that purpose. Now mark what follows! And the several counties of this commonwealth shall, until the General Court shall determine it necessary to alter the said districts be districts for the choice of councilors and senators, except that the counties of Dukes county and Nantucket shall form one district for that purpose, etc.

Now I refer to the 13th article of amendments which was passed in the year 1840 after stating that a census of the inhabitants of each city and town on the 1st day of May, shall be taken and returned into the secretaries' office on or before the last day of June, 1840, and of every tenth year thereafter, the amendment provides that the several senatorial districts now existing shall be permanent. In 1857 in art. 21st of the amendment to the constitution was ratified by the people and in this amendment occurs the following language: And such districts having stated how representative districts shall be formed, shall be so formed that no town or ward of a city shall be divided therefore, nor shall any district be made which shall be entitled to elect more than three representatives. Now notwithstanding my brother has raised this question, I venture to say there is no insuperable constitutional objection to the passage of an act, incorporating the territory, which is described in the petition headed by George Houghton, although by such an act of incorporation a part of four towns and two counties are to be united, and why? What is the constitution of Massachusetts? It is the fundamental organic law, upon which the legislature may from year to year, pass enactments to meet the exigencies of the different cases which will constantly arise in our state, vigorous and progressive as she is. Now has the legislature by any law exercised this jurisdiction under the constitution? I say it has, I call your attention to a part of the constitution to which my brother did not refer. I cite chap. 17, Sec. 1 of the General Statutes. "The boundaries, rights, duties, powers, privileges and immunities of the several counties shall remain as now established. Each county shall continue a body politic and corporate for the following purposes: To sue and be sued, to purchase and hold for the use of the county, personal estate, etc." That provision of the law was incorporated into the revised statutes in 1836 and re-enacted into the general statutes in 1859: "That provision first referred to saying that these counties should be senatorial districts and remain so, was passed in 1840.



Judge James T. Joslin

History of Hudson, Part 89

as published in the ENTERPRISE, April 3, 1897 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

James Joslin denies that taking less than one square mile will leave Berlin too small to function. Every county in Mass. has many towns of less than one thousand inhabitants.

Mr. Joslin continues his able argument before the legislative committee in the following language, "Do we find that county lines since 1840 have been changed and that this question has been raised. Part of Southboro was annexed to the town of Marlboro March 24, 1843, thus changing the town line between these two towns, also the line between Middlesex and Worcester county. I hold in my hand, the very able argument of Hon. Rufus Choate, delivered in 1854, before a committee of the legislature, sitting as this committee is now sitting upon a division of Middlesex and Worcester counties, for the purpose of erecting those portions of the two counties into a new county to be called "Webster." This question was agitated from year to year, yet throughout the whole case the question which the learned counsel for the remonstrants has urged was never raised. The gentleman who has just closed his argument has submitted and I thank him for the admission that we as a people, although we have gone through many revolutions, social and political, during the last five years, are still a progressive people. Permit me to dwell a moment upon that remark. The state of Massachusetts within the last twenty five or fifty years, has undergone an entire change. She has ceased to be emphatically an agricultural state and has become proverbially a manufacturing, a mercantile and a commercial state and the change shows the wisdom of her people in keeping fully up with the times, because things are not today as they were a hundred years ago, before the great west was opened and great railway thoroughfares built by which the products of those rich prairies could be brought to the ocean and by which the state of Massachusetts has been brought into direct competition with the great agricultural states of the west. In that competition therefore to save her reputation, her dignity, her wealth and her population she has done the only thing she could do, turn her attention to manufacturing and commercial interests and to the arts and sciences. I am not saying this to disparage the agricultural interests of Massachusetts, I respect the farmer, the honest tiller of the soil, I am myself the son of a farmer and born in Worcester county. I feel a laudable pride in that descent. I could not do otherwise; but I say the agriculturist has had to give way to the manufacturer, the merchant and the man who follows the sea. Many and vital changes have taken place and these manufacturing districts have sprung up. The river courses running from the hills and the mountains to meet the sea have made facilities for building mills and enlightening men, men like those I represent in this case, improving those natural resources and facilities have turned back the waters by dams, have built their mills and are now manufacturing goods of various kinds for the south and west. Railroads have been built and those railroads, as has been admitted by the learned gentlemen, have followed the water courses, avoiding the centre of many of the old towns situated as they are upon the hills. This is a new condition of things industrially, politically and socially, has sprung up and we, as enlightened, progressive men, are ready and determined to meet the emergencies that this condition of things presents. I shall hope to show you that these enterprising men, building their mills, furnishing the

opportunity for the laborer and the artisan and thus building up from a small village, a thriving town, are not to enjoy municipal rights and privileges because some old towns that have lapped behind the wheels of progress are not their equals today. I respect and esteem the gentlemen who appear here from the towns of Bolton and Berlin; they are honorable men. I would not say a word that would reflect upon them as neighbors or citizens. We are asking for a small portion of the territory of Berlin to help make a respectable and thrifty town in the valley of the Assabet, to be called Hudson. Both the learned counsel on the other side have been inclined to call this project by which our social privileges are to be enhanced and perfected “a humbug.” I deny that there is any humbug in this. I claim that it is a just and proper prayer, that the petitioners have made. I claim also, there is no arrogance or presumption on our part that we ask to have jurisdiction over that we have taken from the wilderness and made to blossom like the rose. The objection is raised that the towns of Bolton and Berlin are small towns. In one sense the town of Bolton is a small town, not in point or territory however, she comprises twenty-one square miles, her population, if she shall lose four hundred and fifty-two, will be about one thousand. Some of the remonstrants have told you she will be so small after this little fragment of her territory is gone, that in order to be known when away from their house they must label their hats, that they may know whence they come. Berlin also raises the same objection upon the same ground, that if we take less than one square mile of its territory, it will be a small town. Berlin is, and will be a small town. I wish she were larger. We would not trespass one inch on the territorial domain of that town if we could help it. The towns of Bolton and Berlin will number over one thousand inhabitants, according to the showing of the remonstrants themselves. I have carefully examined the census of the state of Massachusetts for 1860, and desire to call your attention to the fact, there are many towns in most of the counties of the state that at that time fell below one thousand in population. I will merely call them by counties. In Barnstable county containing fourteen towns, there were two with less than one thousand inhabitants. The good old county of Berkshire with thirty-one towns had fourteen with less than one thousand inhabitants, the county of Bristol, bordering on the sea, had one town with less than one thousand inhabitants, Essex county, with thirty towns and four cities had four towns with less than one thousand. Franklin county, with twenty-six towns had fourteen with less than one thousand, Hampden county, with twenty-one towns had six with less than one thousand, Hampshire county with twenty-three towns had nine with less than one thousand, Middlesex county, containing forty-nine towns and three cities eight less than one thousand, Nantucket county none less than one thousand, that county having but one town, Norfolk county with twenty-two towns one with less than one thousand, Plymouth county with twenty-five towns had four with less than one thousand, Suffolk, the Hub of Mass., if not of New England with two cities and two towns, had two towns with less than one thousand, Worcester county with which the towns of Bolton and Berlin have always since the erection of that territory into a county, been allied, and to which they will always be wedded, I trust, with fifty-seven towns and one city has seven towns with less than one thousand population. I say, therefore that the objections which the remonstrants have brought here in opposition to the granting of the prayer of the petitioners that they will be left small towns, unprecedentedly small, so small that the citizens of those towns are not to be known when they go among their friends or among strangers is an entire mistake upon the record.

History of Hudson, Part 90

as published in the ENTERPRISE, April 10, 1897 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

James Joslin, Esq. speaks further before the Legislative Committee that town lines, county lines and even state lines have been changed to accommodate as few as one homeowner on occasions. Hudson is only asking for such consideration.

We give further selections from the able argument of James T. Joslin, Esq., before the legislative committee, February 16, 1866. It sparkles with historical and legal gems that will be new to many readers of this paper.

“Now gentlemen it devolves upon me in further reply to the remonstrants, to show to you what has been the policy of the state of Massachusetts in regard to meeting the wishes and wants of the people of this state, therefore I call attention to a few historical facts which are pregnant with meaning at the present time and in view of the question now under consideration. The Colony of Massachusetts Bay was originally divided into four counties, namely Essex, Middlesex, Suffolk and Norfolk. By an act passed May 10, 1643, the original county of Norfolk composed of the towns of Haverhill, Salisbury, Hampton, Exeter, Dover and Strawberry Bank, now Portsmouth, upon the separation of New Hampshire from Massachusetts in 1680 was abolished. Here one of the first four original counties of the state was blotted out, upon the incorporation of the state of New Hampshire, and the balance of the towns of this original county, not described within the limits of New Hampshire, Haverhill and Salisbury were made a part of Essex county. The county that bears the name of Norfolk was not established until long after this. Middlesex county, one of the original counties, formerly extended over much of what is now Worcester county, and here is a fact upon which I lay much stress, Lancaster, the oldest town of Worcester county, incorporated May 18, 1653, just ten years after the incorporation of Middlesex county until April 2, 1731, a period of seventy-eight years, was part and parcel of Middlesex county. The then town of Lancaster, comprised what is now the towns of Lancaster, Leominster, Sterling, Clinton, Bolton, Berlin and a part of the town of Harvard.

Thus from 1653 to 1731 the date of the incorporation of Worcester county a period of seventy eight years, the above named towns were a portion of Middlesex county and the Probate Records, the Registry of Deeds and other court records covering this period are to this day to be found at Cambridge in Middlesex county. What is now the flourishing city of Worcester was not incorporated until Oct. 15, 1684, thirty-one years after the incorporation of Lancaster and 47 years before the establishment of the county that bears the same name. Now I wish to call your attention to other changes of county lines. April 21, 1761, the county of Hampshire was divided into two counties, the western part taking the name of Berkshire, June 24, 1811, the northern part of Hampshire was erected into a new county by the name of Franklin, February 12, 1812, the southerly portion of the remaining part, was incorporated as the county of Hampden, thus showing that the policy of the state has been to change or modify the counties of the Commonwealth so as to meet the wants

of the people and secure the speedy and free administration of justice. I will now call your attention to the changes in the county line of Middlesex county have taken place within the last sixty years, within five miles of where this change is contemplated now. Marlboro, a very ancient town incorporated May 31, 1660, seventy one years before the incorporation of Worcester county originally embraced what is now the towns of Marlboro, Southboro, Westboro and Northboro. June 20, 1807, a part of Marlboro was annexed to the town of Northboro and the county line was changed, merely to accommodate a few inhabitants residing near the line between Middlesex and Worcester county. February 11, 1829, a part of Marlboro was annexed to the town of Bolton, requiring a change of the county line and now these petitioners only ask back the territory which was then taken from Marlboro with a small tract in addition to make a new town. March 20, 1843 a portion of the town of Southboro, in order to accommodate the inhabitants resident thereon was annexed to the town of Marlboro again necessitating the change of county lines between Worcester and Middlesex. I therefore say, it is the policy of the legislature to change these lines whenever an exigency exists, whether it be upon the petition of one individual as in the case of the change of the town line between Marlboro and Bolton, which is admitted to be done to accommodate only one settler, or whether a more general exigency is known to exist. It is the policy of Massachusetts to change town lines whenever the necessities of the case requires it should be done. Within the past fifty years the legislature of Massachusetts, to accommodate one or more persons, in each instance, has made not less than one hundred and sixty eight changes in town lines, not infrequently to accommodate but one individual. This the legislature has done and will continue to do in the exercise of a sound discretion. Not only has the state changed town and county lines, but in certain instances the state line has been changed to accommodate certain sections of the state. There was a tract of territory containing 940 acres, about 1 ½ square miles, situated so remote from Mt. Washington centre, that it was very inconvenient for the inhabitants to attend churches and schools in that town. This territory had seventy three persons residing upon it. Did the state of Massachusetts say they should not be better accommodated? Not at all. Application was made by his Excellency, the Governor of Massachusetts, to the Governor of New York, requesting him to secure the passage of an act by the Assembly of that state to receive this territory and these inhabitants, and thereupon an act was passed. May 14, 1853, the legislature of Massachusetts passed an act, ceding this territory and so many of her population to that state forever. After this was accomplished the state line between Massachusetts and New York was changed by a special act of Congress of the United States, that body only, having power to change or establish state lines. This amount of territory belonging to the state of Massachusetts with the population upon it, small as she is compared to the state of New York and some of the western states, Massachusetts ceded to the great Empire state, merely to accommodate the people upon that territory.

This, gentlemen, shows more conclusively the tender regard and consideration which the Pilgrim state has ever felt and exercised towards her citizens. This act was fully in keeping with her ancient history and her present policy. I cite only one other case, which is more recent. I beg to call your attention to the fact of the change of the

state line between Massachusetts and Rhode Island by an act passed by the legislature of this state in 1861. The city of Fall River was formerly situated partly in Massachusetts and partly in Rhode Island. The state line ran along the middle of one of the principal streets of that city. A dweller on one side of the street could talk with his neighbor upon the other side, who was out of the city, out of the county, and out of the state. This state of things was constantly giving rise to a multitude of inconveniences and difficulties, especially in the administration of justice and the punishment of criminals. A man upon the Rhode Island side of this street could throw missiles at this neighbor's person or buildings upon the opposite side with impunity because the laws of Massachusetts could not reach him. I cite this case, because in some respects it is a parallel case with the one under consideration as regards county lines.

History of Hudson, Part 91

as published in the ENTERPRISE, April 17, 1897 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

More from lawyer Joslin about Clintonville wanting to separate from Lancaster and that Lancaster had been in Middlesex County originally.

Lawyer Joslin continues his argument in behalf of the new town of Hudson. Only a few years ago, a little village started up on the territory of Lancaster, called Clintonville, and prosperous, successful and enlightened men like my Brother Stevens and his compeers, in the enterprise of that place, came to the conclusion that they ought to be incorporated as a distinct town. Well, what did they do? They did what was needful to be done in the case, they did the very thing we have done, they drew up a petition. I believe Bro. Stevens indited it, and that he engineered the whole matter from beginning to end. Having commented so eloquently as he has upon the petition we present let us see what he says about his own case. "Respectfully represent the undersigned citizens of Lancaster, that a manufacturing village called Clintonville has recently sprung up in the south part of said town, containing already some 3000 population while its favorable location with the amount of capital invested in manufactures, gives assurance of a large increase. That the citizens of Lancaster and Clintonville have separate and distinct business interests and associations.

That the distance from the centre of the town, two miles, renders it expensive, whilst their occupation renders it highly inconvenient for the citizens of Clintonville to meet with other citizens of Lancaster as they are now required to do, to hold elections and other municipal purposes, that a division of the town now much desired, will soon be demanded." There the strong hand crops out, gentlemen, "will soon be demanded." Bro. Stevens was the leading petitioner in the case and as you see he objects to go two miles to Lancaster to attend town meeting, over a beautiful road, a delightful road. I have often passed over it and appreciated the beauty and the thrift of Clinton. It is really a charming town, up there between the hills of Worcester county, containing however, only about five square miles. The committee in this case reported a bill which passed the legislature March 14, 1850. Gentlemen, before I proceed, pardon me for a single reference to the testimony of Solomon Howe of Bolton. He very graphically delineated to you what he believed would be the result to the town of Bolton of losing this small proportion of its territory and taxable property.

But, gentlemen, unless you regard his statements as the result of a poetical imagination and not as very prophecy, you are at once driven to the inevitable conclusion that the town of Bolton is in a more pitiable condition than that of the Fallen Spirit so vividly described by the Great English Poet, who, while writing with pain and agony in the Lower Regions believed that he saw

**“Whilst in the lower deep
A lower deep still threatening to devour him
Open wide.”**

The remonstrants spread before you a very pretty map of the town of Bolton, they tell you that Feltonville is a very thriving part, really the only thriving part of the town.

Now, gentlemen, in regard to the historical associations of the town, I know they are to receive due consideration. But all these things that are past and gone, are not to be stored up, as in an urn, to be laid away in some sarcophagus, or are they to be guarded forever against the interests of the state and the people. When the voice of progress says “Onward” they are to give way to other interests, they have shown to be sure, that one General Whitcomb, a native of Bolton, figured somewhat conspicuously in the Revolutionary war: that a General Gardner once resided here and other good people. Well, gentlemen, such good people have resided in all our towns, as old as Bolton and not great importance is attached to it. They say if we are incorporated as a new town we shall be obliged to change our places of recording deed and probate documents, and that the place where our town records are kept will be changed. All this we know and we know it will be for good because we know it is well to bring the centre of town business, to the place where the great majority of the people reside. The learned counsel who has just closed this hearing for the remonstrants with so much power and eloquence, has had much to say in reference to old associations and attachments as well as historical reminiscences. While listening with much pleasure as we certainly did, to his fascinating portrayal of these old attachments and historic reminiscences, the thought occurred to me that in his zeal for his clients’ cause he had in a measure forgotten the parentage of Worcester county, his own native Concord, to say nothing of Bunker Hill, Lexington and that distinguished ancient university which graduated him. No county in this commonwealth contains so many monuments of revolutionary fame as this county of Middlesex, I should hardly come wide of the mark, if I stated more than all the other counties put together. Now, admitting for the sake of argument all that the learned counsel claimed in favor of old attachments and historic reminiscences, what must have been the feeling of old Lancaster of which town this territory originally formed a part when the old township of Lancaster was taken from Middlesex and made a part of the new county of Worcester, thus severing a section from a corporation connection with all their sacred associations then existing and thereafter to be, would he tell you that the inhabitants of that ancient township, yielded without a sigh or at most

**“Some natural tears they dropped,
And wiped them soon.”**

Worcester county which stretches its broad arm from New Hampshire on the north, through the entire heart of the state, a distance of almost sixty miles to Conn. and R.I., on the south, comprising one fifth of the whole area of Massachusetts containing nearly twice as much territory as Middlesex and more than the state of

Rhode Island has, moreover, three flourishing towns erected from territory formerly belonging to old Marlborough. Now shall Worcester say to Middlesex, that in exchange for three towns, Middlesex shall not have three square miles only in return. Gentlemen, I think this is a full answer to Worcester county. Worcester county seems "to feel a pang as when a giant dies" whereas it is only the throes that attend the birth of a new town. For a division of Marlboro, we are unanimous. We ask for the incorporation of the new town. We have arranged with the mother town. The people of Marlboro have been fair and honorable, they have said, we think you are entitled to an act of incorporation, so, although we should be sorry to lose you, we shall not resist your going. Situated as you are we should do as you are doing. Now that is just and kind. With regard to the good people of Bolton and Berlin if you think the exigency requires the taking of a part of those towns, give us what you think we ought to have, and impose the terms upon us yourselves, or, if more satisfactory to you, we will have it to the Superior court of Worcester county, to appoint three disinterested men, to say on what conditions we shall have a part of those towns. We do not intend to be captors but it is quite essential that we have this territory in order to make a good town. I have shown you on the one hand that Bolton and Berlin, if the whole of our prayer is granted, will not be reduced in territory or population below many of their sister towns in the commonwealth. On the other hand if we can be incorporated with only that part of Marlboro, for which we ask we shall then be larger than one half the towns in Massachusetts, both in point of population and territory. I find that in the state of Massachusetts before Taunton was chartered as a city, there were 322 towns, out of this number 183 or 22 more than one half, by the census of 1800 had less than 2000 population.

History of Hudson, Part 92

as published in the ENTERPRISE, May 1, 1897 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

Joslin concludes his arguments for incorporating Hudson into a new town.

The following abstract will conclude our quotations from the great argument of James T. Joslin, Esq., before the legislative committee February 16, 1866.

We exhibit a sufficient area of territory. It may not be quite as regular in its geographical form as we should like to have it. It may be as my brother Stevens says, in the shape of a last, but that is an honorable emblem. Many a man in this state has made his fortune upon a last, and we pride ourselves upon a last, and we pride ourselves, not a little, upon a senator from Massachusetts who earned a part of his reputation there. We should have liked it better if the northeastern part could have been left off, but it was the wish of the people there to come in. Now I will answer the criticism of the gentleman on the other side when he asks, "Why don't you go on a straight line without that angle on the northern border. For the very good reason that would be to run directly through the village of Rockbottom, cut in two a school district and leave that village in precisely the condition we are now in. Not only that, but such a line would take in the railroad station there. It would be doing injustice to those people and therefore we could not do it. I will not detain you gentlemen to show that we have, besides that area the next essential element to make a town, namely population. We should have in Marlboro 2100 at least; we should have on that territory 500 polls, we should have 325 voters; and we should be in point of wealth in advance of more than half of the towns of the commonwealth. We have shown you by this schedule that we have all the professions, all the mercantile and manufacturing interests that are necessary to make a respectable and a thriving town. We have shown you our business was \$1,801,930 last year and that is undoubtedly a low estimate. Why gentlemen the witnesses we have brought before you, representing three of the leading firms in this part of Marlboro, did a business last year, 1865, amounting to \$1,200,000. With this population and this business we say we are entitled to a new town. One word in regard to a new town. One word in regard to our schools. It is impossible as we are now situated with the county lines running through our village to build up a system of graded schools, such as will meet our wants, whereas if we were united, made politically as we are socially, and in every other respect, one town, with equal political rights, we could build up our schools and give the children of our mechanics better educational privileges than they can now have. Mr. Stevens has said that county lines and town lines do not interrupt social relations. I demur at that declaration. The fact is, if three gentlemen living in three distinct towns although within a stone's throw of each other, are obliged if they attend town meeting at all, to go in opposite directions, they cannot be as closely and intimately linked together as if they were united into one and the same interest, in one community. In regard to the county line running through our village. It is precisely analogous to state line in Fall River which was changed, if a person has a disposition

to break the laws by selling liquor or committing thefts, it is often times impossible to reach him by any process of law from Middlesex, from the fact, the act may be committed immediately over the line in Worcester county and we are powerless to reach the offender, although we have a Deputy Sheriff to take care of such matters. As an illustration of this fact, I will mention, that one of the remonstrants from Bolton who has been here upon the stand, bought the liquor when the prohibitory law was enforced against our hotel, carted it off half a mile over the line, and continued the sale for sometime, as a nuisance until the temperance people employed me to go to Northboro, the nearest trial justice to have the matter rectified. This is not merely a fanciful objection, it is a real one. Within two months a neighbor living just over the line in Bolton had a lot of clothes stolen, just in the edge of the evening there was a light snow upon the ground and the thief was easily traced; the party immediately came to me over the line, but I could render no assistance. I could not issue a warrant, or if I could, I could not send a sheriff there; the result was when the party was told he must go to Northboro or to Clinton to obtain a warrant, said it would cost him ten dollars and he had better lose his clothes. Is it no inconvenience to live this gentlemen? We have shown you that this line, runs through twenty-eight different pieces of land owned by as many different persons, besides running through three different dwelling houses. You must see this must be an inconvenience. We have shown you that we have all the elements which are essential to constitute a new town, namely, population, wealth, business capacity and ability to manage municipal affairs.

In conclusion gentlemen allow me to thank you for the kindness, consideration and indulgence you have extended to the petitioners and to myself as their counsel. It is with the utmost confidence that we submit this matter to your determination. We believe we entrust it to the hands of gentlemen who have sound judgment and wise discretion in such matters. If it shall appear to you upon the evidence that we have not made out such a case, as will warrant you in granting our petition in full then we do not ask you grant a bill in conformity with that prayer. But if we have shown you such a case in regard to the division of Marlboro, if, however, we have shown you an exigency, conformable to the definition I have given, then we ask an act of incorporation for that whole territory. It had better be granted now, than be delayed year after year until a feeling of hostility springs up between the petitioners and remonstrants. Certainly we have no wish to wrong Bolton in the slightest degree. We are willing to leave it as I have stated to you, to say just how and upon what conditions the division shall take place, or we are willing to leave it to three disinterested men to say how it shall take place. Only grant us the incorporation, that is what we desire and I say, it is for the interest, not only of our village, but of the old historic state of Massachusetts that we should have this incorporation why, by incorporating the citizens of Feltonville, another business centre is created, people will be drawn there, who would not go to a place that sustains merely a provincial relation to other towns, and thereby the great aggregate wealth of the state will be enhanced, the interest of the state will be directly subserved by the granting of this act, as well as the interest of the petitioners. Therefore gentlemen, sitting here as representatives of that

**“Sovereign law, the State’s collective will
Which o’er thrones and globes elate, sits empress,
Crowning good, repressing ill.”**

Pass upon these facts and if you find there is a good to arise from our incorporation, greater than the injury to be sustained by any town interfered with, then confer that incorporation and we will remember with constant gratitude, the services of this committee and the wisdom of the legislature. If incorporated, I believe that the town of Hudson at no distant day will become a town that will do honor to Middlesex county, do honor to the towns from which she is taken and will remember them in turn for what she has done for them.



Judge James T. Joslin



Mrs. James T. Joslin

History of Hudson, Part 93

as published in the ENTERPRISE, May 8, 1897 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

Hudson finally incorporated on March 19, 1866. None of Bolton or Berlin is included.

The garnered wealth of law libraries was placed under tribute by the lawyers for and against the new town of Hudson. A more brilliant argument could not have been made to save a nation, than was made to remove Feltonville as an annex of Marlboro and carry her to the stateliness and independence of municipal life. The legislative committee lost no time in reaching a decision. This decision was a disappointment to the citizens of Feltonville. The coveted territory over the border, belonging to Berlin and Bolton was retained by them. If the petitioners on the Bolton territory had been unanimous the verdict might have been different. A divided house has no abiding place in habitation or community. The legislative committee decided to allow the Boltonites to gather wisdom in the maturer reflection. "In union there is strength" and when more united, to try again. The new men of the new generation know little of the legal formulas necessary in the birth hours of a new town. Everything has to be adjusted with the nicety of a chronometer balance, foundations are to be laid that shall endure, unaffected by the storms of nature or the storms of man. There are not many citizens in Hudson who ever saw or read the Act incorporating this town. We give it for their benefit.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In Senate March 6, 1866.

The committee on towns, to whom was committed the petition of George Houghton and others in aid, report the accompanying bill. Per order,

JOHN HILL, Chairman.

AN ACT.

To incorporate the town of Hudson. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled and by the authority of the same as follows.

Section 1. All the territory within the towns of Marlboro and Stow in the county of Middlesex, comprised within the following limits, that is to say: beginning at the westerly corner of said territory at a stone monument on the dividing line between said territory and the town of Berlin, in the county of Worcester; thence south easterly, angling twice, as said dividing line now runs, ninety-seven and sixty-eight one hundredth rods to a stone monument standing at the south easterly side of the road leading from Feltonville, so called, to Northboro; thence in an easterly direction in a straight line across the entire territory of said Marlboro, to a stone monument on the division line between said Marlboro and Sudbury, standing on the easterly side of the Sudbury road, near the house of Albion Parmenter and about two

hundred and thirty one rods south of the Stow line, thence in a northerly direction on the present dividing line, between said territory and said town of Stow now runs, to a stone monument near the house of Abijah Walcott; thence in direct continuation, north, fifty four degrees west, across a corner of said town of Stow, to a point on the county line between said Stow and Bolton; thence southerly, and a south westerly direction as the county line between the counties of Middlesex and Worcester now runs to the first mentioned bound,—is hereby incorporated into a town by the name of “Hudson” and said town of Hudson is hereby invested with all the powers, privileges, rights and immunities and subject to all the duties and requisitions to which other towns are entitled and subjected by the constitution and laws of this commonwealth.

Section 2. The inhabitants of said Hudson shall be holden to pay all arrears of taxes which have been legally assessed upon them by the towns of Marlboro and Stow respectively, in the same manner as if this act had not passed and also their proportion of all county and state taxes that may be assessed upon them previously to taking of the next state valuation, said proportion to be ascertained and determined by the last valuation in the respective towns.

Section 3. Said towns of Marlboro and Hudson shall be respectively liable for the support of all persons who now do or shall hereafter stand in need of relief as paupers whose settlement was gained by or derived from a settlement gained or within their respective limits.

Section 4. The towns of Marlboro and Hudson shall retain the corporate property within their respective limits, excepting the real estate owned by the said town of Marlboro and used as a farm for the support of the poor and the personal property connected therewith, said farm and personal property to be sold and the proceeds to be divided as follows, to wit, the town of Marlboro to retain two thirds, and the town of Hudson to receive one third thereof; the town of Hudson shall assume and pay one third of the public debt of the town of Marlboro existing at the time of the passage of this act and said town of Hudson shall receive from said town of Marlboro one third of whatever amount may hereafter be refunded to said town of Marlboro from the State or United States to reimburse said town of Marlboro for bounties of soldiers or state aid paid to soldiers’ families, after deducting all reasonable expenses and the said town of Hudson shall bear the expense of making the survey, and establishing the line between Marlboro and Hudson.

Section 5. In case the said towns of Marlboro and Hudson should not agree in respect to a division of property, debts, town paupers or state or county taxes, or to sale and division of the proceeds of the town farm and personal property belonging to the same, the Superior Court for the county of Middlesex, shall upon the petition of either town, appoint three competent and disinterested persons to hear the parties and award thereon, and their award or the award of any two of them, being accepted by said court, shall be final.

Section 6. Any justice of the peace, within and for the county of Middlesex may issue his warrant directed to any principal inhabitant of the town of Hudson, requiring him to notify and warn the inhabitants thereof qualified to vote in town affairs, to meet in the time and place therein appointed for the purpose of choosing all such town officers as towns are by law authorized and required to choose at their annual meetings, and said warrant shall be served by publishing a copy thereof in some newspaper printed in the town of Hudson, and by posting up copies thereof, all attested by the person to whom the same is directed, in three public places in said town, seven days at least before said time of meeting, such justice or in his absence such principal inhabitant shall preside, until the choice of moderator in said meeting. The selectmen of the town of Marlboro shall, before said meeting prepare a list of voters in said town of Hudson qualified to vote, at said meeting and shall deliver the same to the person presiding at such meeting before the choice of a moderator thereof.

Section 7. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

House of Representatives, March 16, 1866.

Passed to be enacted. James M. Stone, Speaker.

In senate, March 16, 1866.

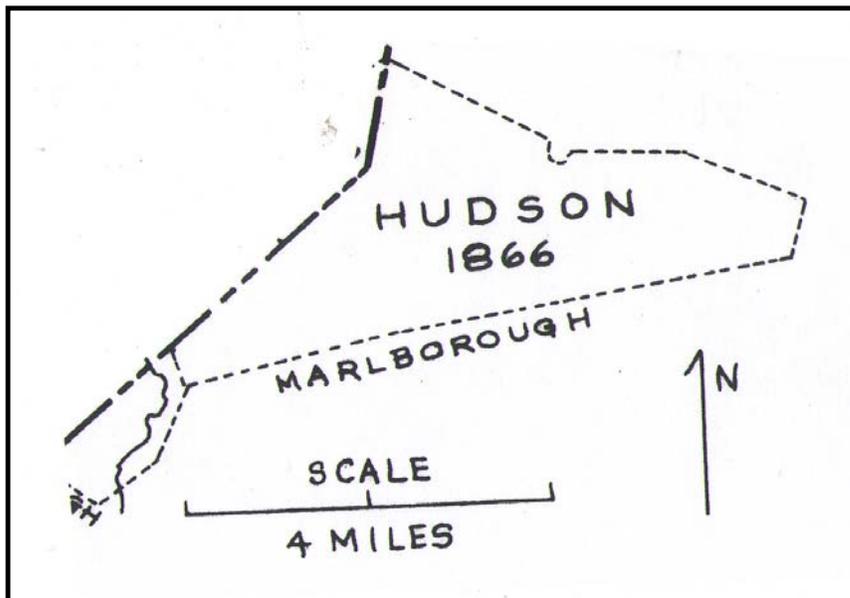
Passed to be enacted. Joseph A. Pond President.

March 19, 1866.

Approved. Alexander H. Bullock.

Secretary's Department, Boston, March 19, 1866.

I certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the original act,
Oliver Warner, Secretary of Commonwealth.



History of Hudson, Part 94

as published in the ENTERPRISE, September 11, 1897 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

The first ever Town Meeting is called for March 31, 1866. Town officers and boards were selected. The 306 voters of the town are listed.

It is not often that new territory is organized into township with the small expense incurred in the creation of the new town of Hudson. The funds to defray necessary expenses were solicited by W. F. Brigham. The amount subscribed was \$907. The actual expenses from the beginning to the final act of incorporation of the new town were \$889.15. The various surveys were made by George S. Rawson Esq. He received \$400 for his services. The balance of the subscription went to defray the expense of legislative hearings and other incidental expenses. That so large an amount of work could be done for the amount named speaks highly for the honorable character and incorruptible honesty of the committee, consisting of Francis Brigham, George Houghton, James T. Joslin of Feltonville, Daniel Stratton of Bolton, Ira H. Brown of Berlin.

Governor Bullock signed the act of incorporation March 19, 1866; two days after, March 21, Charles H. Robinson, a justice of the peace issued a warrant to James T. Joslin to call the citizens of the town to Union hall March 31 to elect the necessary town officers. The citizens came together on the day named under the call of the warrant. The meeting was called to order by Charles H. Robinson. Many citizens assembled were profoundly impressed with the solemn import of this first meeting. Not alone the strength and wisdom of man, but the strength and blessing of almighty God was necessary to crown their first labors and duties with the highest success. Deacon David B. Goodale arose in his place and offered the following resolutions:

Voted, that, whereas, we recognize the divine providence in all human events, that in his favor is success and happiness and in his displeasure defeat and sorrow, that in virtue, integrity and faithfulness is his delight, while vice and infidelity bring to individuals and to communities his grievous punishments. Therefore, resolved, that on the organization of this first town meeting we invite one of the clergyman of this town to offer prayer, that God's blessing may rest upon us and all who may succeed us." Voted that the Rev Henry C. Dugan be invited to offer prayer. He was pastor of the Unitarian church at this time. After the prayer it was voted that the proceedings be entered on the town record. The meeting then balloted for and elected their first board of town officers as follows:

Moderator, George S. Rawson; town clerk, Silas H. Stuart; selectmen, Charles H. Robinson, George Houghton, William F. Trowbridge; assessors, Alonzo Wood, Lyman Perry, George Stratton; overseers of poor, Augustus K. Graves, Luman T. Jefts, John A. Howe; treasurer, George L. Manson; school committee, H. C. Dugan

one year, George S. Rawson two years, David B. Goodale three years; constable, William L. Witham. Only five of the first board of town officers are now living: George Stratton, A. K. Graves, George L. Manson, David B. Goodale, William L. Witham. Ten of the men on the several boards, or two-thirds of the whole number, have passed away.

Hudson commenced her municipal life with 306 voters. The mutations and changes of this transitory life are only too apparent as we scan this list and see the large number of citizens who no longer have a place with the living. For the interest and profit too, of the present inhabitants of the town we give the list of voters as prepared by the selectmen of Marlboro, March 22, 1866. From memory I will check those who have passed away. Edwin Amsden, Stedman Arnold,* William Arnold,* Savilian Arnold, Barnabus E. Bull, Benjamin Barnard,* Geo O. Bradley,* Joseph S. Bradley, Caleb B. Brigham, Charles Brigham, Charles G. Brigham, Francis Brigham,* Rufus H. Brigham, Warren S. Brigham, Wilbur F. Brigham, Freeman Brigham, Charles L. Brigham,* Waldo B. Brigham, Cyrus Brown, Henry O. Brown,* Amory Bruce,* Horatio Bruce, John Bruce,* Samuel Bruce, Sylvester B. Bruce,* William Bruce,* John Burnham,* Charles L. Buss, John G. Busfield, George H. Bailey, John Burgess, Lyman N. Bigelow,* Henry Bigelow,* Charles Bigelow,* Joseph Balcolm, Warren Bemis, Eletham Crouch, Hiram W. Chase, Calvin Carter, Elbridge Carter, Nathan C. Carter,* Stedman T. Carter, William H. Chamberlain, William S. Chapin,* Patrick Coleman, John Coleman,* Henry Coolidge, Willard Cox,* George W. Crandall,* William H. Crandall,* John Crawford, John Colburn,* William W. Colburn,* Elbridge Darling,* George Darling,* Albert A. Dispeau,* William A. Dispeau,* David Dutton, John A. Dearborn, Hiram C. Dugan,* Francis A. Davidson, Levi P. Ellithorpe, George Fairbanks, George W. Farnsworth, L. H. Farnsworth,* Stephen G. Fay,* Michael Feeney,* Levi L. Felton,* Joshua Francis,* Nahum A. Gay,* Michael Gilroy, Michael Gilroy 2d, Patrick Gilroy, Alden B. Gleason, Sylvester H. Gleason, William F. Goddard,* David B. Goodale, William J. Goodnow,* Ira B. Goodrich,* Augustus K. Graves, Nixon Graves,* Daniel Griggin, Charles E. Hall, Charles W. Hapgood,* Christopher B. Hapgood, Ira Hapgood,* Moses Hapgood,* Reuben Hapgood,* Caleb Haskell, Seth G. Haskell, Horace Hastings, Edmund Hayes, Otis Heywood,* Otis F. Heywood, Stephen L. Holt, Stephen A. Holt, George Houghton,* Jonas T. Houghton, Moses Houghton, Williard Houghton,* Oliver C. Hopkins, Charles Howe,* Dana Howe,* Elijah Howe, Henry Howe,* John A. Howe, Willard Howe, Rufus Howe, George H. Howe*, Samuel C. Hunt, Samuel C. Hunt Jr,* John Hurlburt,* Horatio H. Hutchins,* Charles H. Hastings, Samuel Holder, Robert S. Harlow, J. L. Harriman, George T. C. Holden, Levi M. Jones,* Frank Jones, George W. Jones, Andrew L. Jackson, John L. Jewell, Luman T. Jefts,* James T. Joslin, John Keating,* Elbert Leighton, Elbridge Lewis,* John B. Lewis,* Thomas Lewis, Russell B. Lewis, Stillman Locke,* William G. Locke, Oscar Lancey, Henry F. May, Gardner H. Macomber,* George E. Manson,* George L. Manson, Silas F. Manson, James Maun,* George Gregory, Joseph S. McClary, Gardner Morse, Stedman W. Nourse,* Parkman Nourse, Ephraim O. Nourse, Patrick Noon,* E. M. Nutter, John O'Neil,* Eben Ordway,* William D. Ordway, Lucas Parmenter,* Wesley Parmenter,* Knott Pedreck,* Henry K. Pedrick,* Abel H. Pope,* Daniel

Pope,* Daniel F. Pope,* Stephen Pope,* Stephen Pope 2d,* Elisha Pope,* Elna Pratt,* Emerson S. Priest,* Gilman Priest,* Marshall S. Priest, Silas Priest,* Lyman Perry,* Emery H. Page, Proctor Pingree, Joseph S. Parker,* Onslow B. Peters, Franklin Richardson,* Philo A. Randall,* Levi A. Randall, Paul N. Randall,* Charles H. Robinson,* George S. Rawson,* Thomas Ray, Charles Ryan, Stephen C. Reed, Martin Reynolds, Charles H. Rice, Jabez Rice,* John F. Rice,* Silas Rice,* Stephen Rice,* William B. Rice, Benjamin Rollins,* Osca F. Rollins,* Charles A. Ross,* John Russell, Nathan Russell, Dennis Ryan,* George Q. Sawyer,* Theodore W. Sawyer, Charles G. Searles,* Henry M. Searles,* Calvin Smith, Stephen Smith, T. C. Smith, E. Ward Stow, William H. Stone, Abraham H. Stowe, E. M. Stowe, Edmund Stowe, George Stratton, Joseph Stratton, Joseph Strong,* Silas H. Stuart,* Cornelius Sullivan, Isaac A. Samson,* Edmund A. Taylor, Rufus Temple,* Marshal M. Temple, Thomas Thornton,* Thomas Thornton 2d,* Henry Tower, Wm T. Trowbridge,* Robert Tulloch, A. A. Tarbell, Abraham Tyler, Samuel P. Tucker, Charles Tenney, Truman Walcott,* Augustine G. Walcott, George W. Warfield,* Henry J. Watkins, James S. Welsh, Baxter F. Wheeler, Elbridge Wheeler, Nathan R. Wheeler, Jedediah Wheeler, Francis D. Wheeler, Calvin H. Wheeler,* Asa L. Wheeler, Oliver S. Wheeler, Henry Whitcomb,* Solon A. Whitcomb, William L. Witham, Daniel Whitney, Francis H. Whitney, George H. Whitney,* George W. Whitney, James B. Whitney,* William E. Whitney, Edward Wilkins,* Freeman Wilkins, George E. D. Wilkins, Henry Wilkins,* Joel Wilkins,* Rufus Wilkins, Theodore Wilkins,* Daniel Wilson,* George D. Witt,* William T. Witt,* George L. Wood,* Alonzo Wood,* Charles A. Wood 2d,* Marshall Wood, Charles A. Wood 3d, Solon Wood, Edwin D. Wood, Henry F. Wood,* Charles Woodbury,* Nathaniel White, Marshall A. Warren, Hartshorn Wight,* Charles H. Williams, John Marshall, Andrew I. Maynard, Orrin Maynard,* Freeman F. Maynard, John McKenzie,* Edmund Merrigan, D. N. Millay,* George Mills,* Charles L. Moore,* Henry J. Moore,* William H. Moulton, Jeremiah Munroe,* Charles H. Munroe,* Charles N. Murdock, Levi Mason,* John McKeen, Jeremiah Manning, Obed Rice.*

This list shows that 160 voters, of the total of 306 voters, have passed away during the last thirty-one years, more than half of the whole voting population when the township of Hudson was launched upon the billows of time. Twenty six of the voters at that time are no longer residents of Hudson.

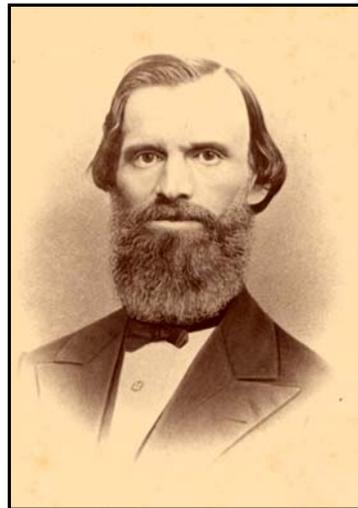
One year makes a little difference, but a generation of time desolates and shatters home and business circles, the grim messenger gloats over his harvest for the grave.

The boatman he is rowing
 He is never lost to view
 His oars are always going
 All men compose his crew.



Unitarian Church

Union Hall was in the lower level of the Unitarian Church. The pastor, Rev. Henry C. Dugan, prayed for God's blessing on the new town of Hudson. The building was originally called the Lawrence Church.



Geo. S. Rawson
The first moderator to preside
over Town Meetings

History of Hudson, Part 95

as published in the ENTERPRISE, September 18, 1897 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

First death in Hudson on March 21, 1866. First marriage on March 22, 1866

The marking of the names of the voters of 1866 was not correct in every instance. Reported as absent from the body, but still living, are, George P. Fairbanks, Ira B. Goodrich, James Mann, John Keating. Those deceased, not reported in the last issue of this paper, are, Edmund Merrigan, William L. Witham, John Crawford, John A. Howe, Willard Howe, Thomas Lewis, E. H. Page, Theodore W. Sawyer, George W. Whitney, William E. Whitney, Andrew I. Maynard, Freeman F. Maynard.

The first death in the new town of Hudson was Edward Wilkins. He died March 21, 1866. He was born Sept 20, 1793. His great grandfather, John Wilkins, came from Danvers in 1740 and settled on territory now known as Wilkinsville. The subject of this notice was no ordinary man. He was endowed with great natural abilities and with the discipline of the higher schools of learning would have distinguished himself in the state and nation. He was often present and addressed the great war meetings that were held during the first years of the civil war. He was a tall man, blue eyes, bald head, the hair he had curled and as white as fleece. His form was stooping, acquired by many years of hard labor on his farm. When he stood before an audience he had the habit of clasping his hands behind him, and as he became enthusiastic in patriotic speech, walked all over the platform. He was brim full of the old fire of liberty that in ancestral veins had been tested with full heroic measure in the French wars and the Revolution. His audience was with him in the heartiness of their repeated cheers. Without doubt the venerable orator settled the destiny of many youthful listeners who left home, the farm, the workshop for the battlefield. "Uncle Ed" as he was familiarly known lived to see his county saved and peace restored in all her borders. He lived to see his new town of Hudson, with 1800 inhabitants, in the procession of towns. A citizen for two days when death ended a most worthy and useful life.

The last marriage in the village of Feltonville was that of Marshall H. Inman of Stoneham to Nellie M. Baker of Marlboro. Knot formed by Rev E. H. Page. The first marriage in Hudson was Nathan R. Wheeler to Annie M. Walcott of Stow, Rev W. W. Colburn, altar binder, March 22, 1866.

History of Hudson, Part 96

as published in the ENTERPRISE, September 25, 1897 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

The town immediately set out to acquire the desired land from Bolton. Committees were selected. Legislature refused to pass the petition in 1867 and again the town pursued for 1868. Bolton sells the area to Hudson, just 2 years exactly on March 20, 1868

The failure to secure the incorporation of the Bolton territory into the new town of Hudson in 1866 did not dishearten the town committee. In labor they showed the unconquerable will of man and “the perseverance of the saints.” Gen Grant told the enemy “I propose to move immediately on your works.” The Hudson town committee proposed to move immediately to acquire this coveted territory; as necessary for the proper geographical boundaries of the new town of Hudson as the yolk to the egg. They circulated a new petition and without any delay forwarded it to the legislature of 1867. It was received favorably by the joint committee on towns. In the house it was defeated by the most exasperating margin of one vote. The committee, alert and active, lost no time for a renewal of the contest for the possession of Bolton’s best rib of land. New petitions were circulated to be carried before the legislature of 1868.

Bolton saw the handwriting on the wall—she knew this territory was wanted and in the end would be captured by her valorous and persistent neighbor. Bolton saw that an amicable adjustment of boundary lines would be wisest and best for both towns. Overtures were made with the result, it was agreed to choose the necessary committees to confer together. Hudson chose Francis Brigham, Joseph S. Bradley, George Houghton, James T. Joslin, Augustus K. Graves. The petitioners on Bolton territory desiring to be annexed to Hudson chose Robert W. Derby, A. A. Powers, Jonathan Nourse, George A. Tripp, Daniel Stratton. The town of Bolton chose Amory Holman, E. A. Whitcomb, N. A. Newton, Joshua A. Sawyer, Roswell Barrett. This committee held several meetings. A conciliatory spirit was a most pleasing feature of their several interviews. After a most exhaustive interchange of views it was agreed to choose three persons thoroughly competent and disinterested who had never been a member of any legislative committee before which the matter had previously come, Bolton and Hudson jointly to choose the chairman of this commission, each town to choose one member. This committee to establish division lines, and decide on the sum of money to be paid by Hudson to Bolton for the loss of her territory, all the decisions of the committee to be binding on all parties in interest, subject to no change or appeal; this committee to make their report to the joint standing committee on towns of the legislature of 1868, within 30 days. That august body to be informed of the harmonious action and desire of the citizens of the two towns.

On those lines of agreement the joint committee of the towns of Bolton and Hudson selected Hon. James D. Colt to be chairman of the commission. The Hudson committee and petitioners decided in favor of Hon. Josiah G. Abbott. Bolton selected

Hon. George P. Sawyer. The men selected were lawyers; they have been judges in the court of Massachusetts and were men of the highest literary and forensic abilities and reputation. They accepted the delicate and onerous duties assigned to them and held their first meeting in Union Hall, Lawrence church, Feb 18, 1868. The territory desired was carefully perambulated by the commission.

For two days they gave a hearing to all interested parties. They went to Bolton town hall and gave a hearing of one day to the citizens of that town. This closed the hearings of the commission. They quickly arrived at their lines of settlement between the two towns, they established the boundary lines as they exist today. Hudson was to pay \$10,000 for the territory taken. The inhabitants on the acquired territory were to pay to Bolton all taxes and all other claims the town had against them. A legislative act embodying the findings of this commission went before the legislature and received the concurrent action of senate and house. Governor Alexander H. Bullock of Worcester affixed his signature to this important document March, 20, 1868. The settlement was satisfactory to all parties, the reign of peace and good fellowship began and has always continued unbroken between the two towns. The loss to Bolton in territory was small compared to her whole area which embraces 21 square miles. Bolton lost 452 of her inhabitants, or more than one quarter of her whole number.

The south side of Bolton was growing very rapidly and time has proved it would soon have been the centre of the population and business of the town. Bolton followed the suggestions of the highest wisdom when she said "go in peace." Bolton is purely agricultural, her unsurpassed fairs show her most excellent ways in husbandry. Tillers of the soil for generations, schooled in the wise councils and thrifty ways of an honored ancestry, they have ever brought to their labors that true worth and integrity of life which are the pride and safeguard of a people or a state.

Hudson asked Berlin for 667 acres of her territory valued at \$23,000. After one defeat Hudson never renewed the effort to obtain it. This part of Berlin has the same sparse population it had 30 years ago. There has been no increase in dwellings and no business. Hudson furnishes the means for temporal existence and progressive life to the few dwellers on this territory. Taxes are low in Berlin and her citizenship is of unquestioned worth and character, but that class of people in dread of famine and kindred calamities have thus far kept off this borderland.

History of Hudson, Part 97

as published in the ENTERPRISE, October 2, 1897 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

The events and activities of the social life of a young girl are shown through the life of Mary Ann Barnard Babcock. Mary Ann's father writes to her while away at boarding school.

One of the most venerable persons living in Hudson today is Mrs Mary Ann Babcock. She resides with her daughter on Washington Street. She was born Aug 23, 1805. Her great-grandfather was Robert Barnard, born May 29, 1689. He came to this place in 1723 and for \$3000 bought 350 acres of land, embracing nearly all the land covered by the present town of Hudson. He died May 23, 1773, aged 84. Her grandfather Joel Barnard was born July 14, 1732, the year George Washington was born. Mr. Barnard died Aug 15, 1775. Mrs Babcock's father, Francis Barnard, was born Dec 18, 1768. He was a trader in the little red store standing near Wood Square. More than a hundred years ago he sold the store to Bradstreet Story for \$184. He died Dec 28, 1858, aged 90. The subject of this sketch spent her girlhood years in that artless, innocent way, common to the life of the rural population one hundred years ago. At that early day, the circus had not come to town, and the only theatre known was the product of the district school where the stage effects were hard seats and tallow candles. The pleasures of corn huskings and sleigh rides provided for the overflow of animal life and the convivial joys of their little parties was a restful change from the daily round of toil on the farm. We quote one of the invitations extended to the young maiden Miss Barnard to show that those pleasures, making merry the heart, and driving away dull cares, come from the same heart fountains in every generation of time.

“Marlborough, January 15, 1822.

Dear May Ann. I this morning received word from Abigail Stevens that she expected to have a party tomorrow afternoon, requesting me to inform you that your company would be agreeable if you could make it convenient, adding that George must come for all the girls are going to be there. Master and the other gentlemen in the evening. Accept this epistle from you unworthy friend Lavinia Bruce.”

We give another specimen of the invitations sent out, probably the same year. “Miss Charlotte Felton, compliments to M. A. Barnard, requesting the favor of her company Thursday eve, 20th. Likewise Mr. Babcock and your Brother William. Monday eve.”

While the frolics at these social gatherings were participated in with all exuberance of youth, there was alive in these bright youths a quickening spirit, that awakened the nobler powers of the mind and they were keen competitors for first

place in study. That Miss Mary Ann was a prize winner, we give the following testimonial from her teacher.

“Miss Mary Ann Barnard, industrious and good behavior, gains the esteem of her Governess and honors herself by standing at the head of her class. L. Weeks.”

At one period of her girlhood, when seventeen years of age, she was a student in Bradford academy. We have a glimpse of her high literary attainments in the perusal of the following composition, she wrote while a member of this academy.

“Bradford Academy, Oct 5, 1822.

Home.

Home is the endearing place of all our enjoyment, which confines the wandering desires, calms the agitated mind and brings the soul to rest, when pain afflicts us, when anxiety perplexes or fear torments us, we eventually seek the abode which is home. Home is the resort of affection, sincerity and happiness. There dwells contentedness, and when business or pleasure requires our attention abroad, how often will faithful memory revert us to our home, to the happy seat from our infancy, the sweetest and most delightful spot on earth. When I am from home, how often have my thoughts been directed to home. Oh! I would think, if I Was only there, I will never leave it again. There are my dear parents, brothers and sisters at home, while I am separated from them, but let me think I can enjoy myself in this place as well as at home. We ought not to have our affections placed entirely on one spot, so if we are removed let it not make us unhappy.

M. A. Barnard.”

Home was an ideal spot to this scholar. It had a charm to her above all the places of earth. She clung to it with all the sweetness and devotion of heart love. Around the altar and fireside of her humble home glowed other loves that made the family circle a blessed and a pleasing presence. It is best seen in the letter her father wrote her while a student in the academy. It will interest many descendants of those to whom he refers.

Marlborough, Aug 27, 1822.

Dear Mary:

Having an opportunity of writing to you by way of Mr. Walcott, and knowing that you would be very anxious to hear from us and how we get along with our business, I would inform you we are all well, as usual. Your marm’s health is better than it was when you left home. We get along with our business within doors as yet without a girl. I would inform you that Mrs. Jonas Wilkins is dead. She departed this life last week, a Tuesday, of fever, very sudden, Col. Hapgood is very sick and

Mr. Silas Jewell. Mr. Robert Hunter has lately been visited with his old complaint very violently. Yet notwithstanding these visitations, it is not sickly in general in Marlborough. I have nothing in particular to inform you of. I shall come to Bradford after you after the expiration of twelve weeks from the time the school commenced. Probably Deacon Hapgood will come with me. Give my respects to Miss Ann and Mrs. Kimball and daughter. So I remain your affectionate father until death, Francis Barnard.”

Col. Hapgood did not live long after this letter was written. He died Sept. 14, 1822. Deacon Hapgood referred to was grandfather to our townsman, R. H. Hapgood. He died April 12, 1849, aged 90. Silas Jewell alluded to was the grandfather to our fellow citizen John L. Jewell. Robert Hunter lived until 1827, aged 76. The lives of all these men named in this letter antedate the Revolution. Col. Hapgood if alive would be 150 years old, yet Mrs. Babcock remembers them very well. The “George” of the social gatherings became the husband of Miss Barnard. They were married in 1827. She has been blessed with several children, a number are now living. Her daughter Addie is unwearied in her care of the aged pilgrim. A ship dismantled and tossed by changing seas is a pitiable sight. But the environments of helpless imbecile old age is sadder still. No kindly hand to press back the infirmities imposed by relentless time. Mrs. Babcock has lived an industrious life abounding in charities, and in her long journey ever ministering to the suffering and needy as she was able to do and to work. The changes of life, broken home circles, and companionships never to be renewed, makes existence a burden for her and death the only refuge from the loneliness inseparable with the passing years. How keenly she can understand and interpret the mournful words of the old man when he says:

“Thirty or forty years once seemed a long and difficult journey to make; it now seems but a day, yet along the way are broken shrines where a thousand hopes wasted to ashes; footprints sacred under their drifting dust, green mounds where grass is wet with the waterings of tears, shadows even that we will not forget. We will garner the sunshine of those years, and with chastened hopes press on towards the evening whose signal lights will soon be seen swinging where the waters are still and the storms never beat.” The experience of one person is the experience of all mankind.

History of Hudson, Part 98

as published in the ENTERPRISE, October 9, 1897 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

Hudson receives 123 new voters from the additional Bolton territory. All are listed.

When the town of Hudson came in possession of the Bolton territory in 1868, she added 123 voters to her voting population. We give the names of the voters. Many of these names will be familiar only to the oldest citizens of the town. Nathan Russell, Henry Robinson, John Robinson, Oliver Sawyer, Ransom Stowel, Edmund M. Taylor, Edward Trull, George A. Tripp, Edwin L. Tobey, Robert Tulloch, Albert Vallier, William White, Lewis T. Whiting, Anthony French, Henry T. French, T. F. Trow, Anthony Francis, John Francis, Obed Frye, George T. C. Fletcher, Charles Fletcher, Robert W. Derby, Frank Gadeau, Frank Gervaise, Jesse Goodwin, George H. Thomas, Omer Fairbanks, Ezra T. Fairbanks, Stephen Smith, William Smith, Eli Shortsleeves, E. W. Stone, Putnam Simonds, Lyman Stewart, Abram Sharon, James C. Trowbridge, Augustus S. Trowbridge, John Trull, Joel Trull, Thomas B. Houghton, George C. Houghton, Abel Houghton, George W. Houghton, John W. Houghton, Octa Danforth, Walter Danforth, Alfred Danforth, Albert Goodrich, Rufus Stratton, Lorenzo Stratton, Isaac C. Stratton, Lewis B. Goodnow, John Gibbon, Ira Dutton, Lewis T. Howe, Charles G. Williams, Ephraim Gates, Henry Tower, George Hapgood, Reuben Hapgood, William P. Hapgood, John J. Hapgood, Gilman Hapgood, Calvin H. Wheeler, William T. Hastings, Sylvester Gleason, Charles W. Holden, William P. Holden, Amos Heywood, Samuel Gilson, William Jeffrey, Robert Jeffrey, Edwin A. Jones, Frank Jones, John Lyon, Mathew Lyon, Michael Keefe, Henry Kaneabeau, Samuel H. Leet, George W. Logee, Timothy J. Leary, Russell B. Lewis, John McNallie, John McCarthy, Paul Mitchell, Henry F. Moore, N. W. Mason, Thomas Murray, Michael Murray, John McValey, George Morse, Otis Morse, P. F. Naley, John McGrath, Rufus Coolidge, Walter Coolidge, Lyman Coolidge, William Chase, Charles Crowell, Martin Crowell, Lorie Cox, T. S. Carter, Calvin Carter, John Chambo, Frank Chambo, Dennis Conlin, Oliver Dow, John C. Martin, John G. Parsons, John S. Peters, O. B. Peters, A. A. Powers, G. L. Packard, Josiah Pike, Eber Pike, Thomas Pollard, Patrick J. Raddy, Alvin Monard, Frank Girvaise, Lewis Duprel, John Goodnow.

The entire expense of the Hudson committee in their labors for a division and settlement with Bolton was \$1062.60. The fifteen members of several committees, only five of the number are living today. The entire Bolton committee are dead. Amory Holman, E. A. Whitcomb, N. A. Newton, Joshua E. Sawyer, Roswell Barrett, committee on the part of the petitioners, A. A. Powers, Jonathan P. Nourse, Daniel Stratton, are with us no more. Only two have passed from this life who were on the Hudson committee, Francis Brigham, George Houghton. The judges composing the commission, Abbott, Sanger and Colt are dead. Nearly one half the voters in the list given are dead. Many more have left for greener fields than they found in Hudson. In 1868 the acquired Bolton territory was largely woods and pasture. The throbbing

pulses of a new life invaded this land and changed the primeval face it had worn for centuries, the population has quadrupled. It is lined with streets and studded with electric lights. A water system, fire alarms, fine schools and hundreds of cozy homes filled with more sunshine than you see in the heavens, are everywhere seen.



Danforth Falls
In Bolton and owned by the Danforth family

History of Hudson, Part 99

as published in the ENTERPRISE, October 16, 1897 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

The act of annexing a part of Bolton is given in entirety with monetary responsibilities laid out.

It may interest many of the present generation to read the act annexing a part of Bolton with the town of Hudson in 1868.

“Commonwealth of Massachusetts,
In the year one thousand eight hundred and sixty eight.

An Act

To annex a part of Bolton to the town of Hudson.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court, assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows.

Sec 1. The boundary line between the town of Bolton in the county of Worcester, and the town of Hudson in the county of Middlesex is hereby altered and established as follows, to wit: Beginning at a stone monument on the present boundary line between the counties of Worcester and Middlesex at the southwesterly corner of the town of Hudson, thence running south, eighty-six degrees west four hundred thirty-eight and twenty-one hundredths rods to a stone monument at an angle, thence south sixty-six and one half degrees west three hundred and forty-six rods to the present dividing line between the said town of Bolton and the town of Berlin in the county of Worcester, thence south fifty and one-fourth degrees east four hundred and forty-seven rods along the said dividing line between Bolton and Berlin to the present line of the town of Hudson and all that portion of land, with the inhabitants thereon, easterly and southwesterly of the line hereby established, is hereby set off from said town of Bolton, and annexed to and made a part of the said town of Hudson, in the county of Middlesex and the line between the aforesaid termini, separating the said counties of Worcester and Middlesex is hereby altered and established, as herein specified; provided however, that the several courts, civil and criminal, in and for said county of Worcester, shall have full authority to hear, determine, render judgment, issue, execution, enforce, and complete all suits, processes and matters arising on the territory so transferred, pending before any of said courts at the time this act shall take effect as if this act had not been passed; and all crimes committed on said territory before the passage of this act in which proceedings have not been commenced at the time of its passage, shall be prosecuted and punished in said county of Worcester in the same manner as if this act had not been passed.

Sec 2. The selectmen of the said town of Hudson shall procure at the expense of said town, and cause to be erected at the points, where the line is herein altered and established between said town of Bolton in the county of Worcester and said town of Hudson, in the county of Middlesex crosses the several roads on highways, and also at the angles in said dividing line, good and sufficient stone monuments, lettered as the law provides, and said selectmen shall also cause suitable monuments to be maintained and continued, showing the line between said town of Bolton and said town of Hudson as they have heretofore existed, and shall cause said line to be perambulated in like manner, and with the same penalties for neglect, as now by law is or are provided in respect to the boundary lines of cities or towns, until the next apportionment of senators and representatives in pursuance of the twenty-second articles of amendment of the constitution, such penalties to be recovered against the said town of Hudson.

Sec 3. The said territory hereby transferred to the said town of Hudson with the inhabitants thereon shall for the purpose of electing senators continue to be and remain a part of the said town of Bolton, and all the inhabitants residing upon the territory so transferred shall, until otherwise provided for by and under the Constitution always enjoy in relation to the election of Senators, all the rights and privileges of, and in relation to voting in the said town of Bolton, which they would have possessed if this act had not been passed, and the said territory hereby transferred to the said town of Hudson with the inhabitants thereof, shall also remain part of said town of Bolton for the purpose of electing the representative to the general court, to which the district of which the said town of Bolton forms a part, is entitled and for the purpose of electing state and county officers, representatives to congress, and electors of President and Vice President of the United States as said town of Bolton shall vote for said officers, until the next decennial census, or until another apportionment be made in pursuance of the provisions of the constitution, and the selectmen of said town of Hudson shall make a true list of all persons within the limits of that part of Bolton, hereby annexed to said town of Hudson, qualified to vote at any such election, and shall post up the same in said town of Hudson and shall correct the same as required by law, and keep said list so posted up in said town of Hudson until ten days prior to any election in which said list is required to be used, and then deliver a true copy of said list to the selectmen of the said town of Bolton seven days at least, before such election and the selectmen of the said town of Bolton shall, after receiving said list, post up, revise and correct the same, in the same manner as they revise the list of the voters of said town, and shall use said list at said elections with the general list of the voters of said town.

Sec. 4 The inhabitants of said territory hereby annexed to the said town of Hudson, shall be holden to pay all arrears of taxes which have been legally assessed upon them by the said town of Bolton, and all taxes heretofore assessed, and not collected, shall be collected, and paid to the treasurer of the town of Bolton in the same manner as if this act had not been passed. The said town of Hudson shall pay to the said town of Bolton annually in the month of November, one-fourth part of all state and county taxes that may be assessed in said year upon said town of Bolton,

previous to the next state valuation, and if the same are not paid in the said month of November, in any year, the said town of Bolton may maintain an action thereof against the said town of Hudson.

Sec 6. The said town of Hudson shall pay to the said town of Bolton, within three months from the passage of this act, the sum of ten thousand dollars, with interest thereon, from the twentieth day of February in the year eighteen hundred and sixty eight.

Sec 7. The said town of Bolton shall convey to the said town of Hudson, upon the request of said town, by a good and sufficient deed, the lot of land with the school house thereon, belonging to the said town of Bolton, and the appurtenances belonging situated within the annexed territory, and the said town of Hudson shall receive no other part of the corporate property and shall not be liable to pay any part of the said debt of the said town of Hudson.

Sec 8. The said town of Hudson may assess upon its inhabitants, from time to time, such sums of money as the said town shall pay to the said town of Bolton, under the provisions of this act.

Sec 9. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

House of Representatives, Mar 9, 1868.

Passed to be enacted.

Harvey Jewell, Speaker in Senate, Mar 19, 1868.

George O. Brastow, President, March 20, 1868.

Approved.

Alexander H. Bullock.

A true copy, witness the seal of the commonwealth.

Oliver Warner,

Secretary of the Commonwealth.

History of Hudson, Part 100

as published in the ENTERPRISE, November 13, 1897 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

On July 4, 1865, a huge celebration was planned to celebrate real freedom and independence brought about by the ending of the Civil War, with a procession of 1000 people and 1500 children with banners, flags, bands, and speeches. This was the last celebration of the whole of Marlboro.

The city of Marlboro is discussing the question what they will do with the monument or tablet on high school common erected in 1865 by the town to commemorate the erection of the first church on this spot in 1662, afterwards destroyed by the Indians in 1676. The greatest celebration Marlboro ever knew with a single exception (1860) was when this tablet was dedicated July 4, 1865. The celebration was made more memorable from the knowledge that Feltonville was meeting the mother town in patriotic rejoicing for the last time. It will interest our younger citizens who were not alive at that time to read the detailed proceedings of that great gathering. It was estimated that 1000 persons went from Feltonville to see the processions or to take an active part in the events of the day. The Floral procession in the morning was one of the most attractive features of the day. Fifteen hundred children and 1000 adults were in line. Chief Marshal, John E. Curtis; and, E. P. Dart, E. C. Whitney. The schools marched in the following order. The Sabbath school of the Union church, banner, "First pure, then peaceable;" Sabbath school Unitarian society, banner, "Independence is ours;" Sabbath school Baptist society, Feltonville, banner, "Freedom Forever;" Sabbath school, Methodist society, banner, "Methodist Sabbath school." The Sabbath school of the Catholic church 500 in number, carried three banners reading: "Civil and Religious Liberty the first of man's desires, and the last of his rights to be surrendered." "Suffer little children to come unto me for of such is the kingdom of heaven." "Peace, Union and Brotherly Love." Sabbath school, Lawrence church Feltonville, banner "The hope of our county;" Sabbath school Universalist society, banner, "God our Father, Heaven our Home;" Sabbath school Methodist society, Feltonville, banner, "Justice and Equality to all men."

Route of procession: From Washington to Main, through Main to the pavilion on High School common. A collation was served under an enormous tent, but wholly inadequate to cover the multitude. After the collation Pres, Rev William A. Start; sec, S. Herbert Howe; the literary exercises began. Prayer by Rev Mr. Page, Baptist church, Feltonville; first speaker, Rev W. W. Colburn, Methodist church, Feltonville; speaker, C. H. Rice, supt of Sabbath school, Lawrence church, Feltonville; "Marching Along," sung by children; speaker, Rev Mr. Conlin, Catholic church, speaker, Rev Mr. Marcy of the M. E. church, followed by J. Q. Packard of Baptist school, Feltonville; song, "Tramp, Tramp, Tramp," by Lawrence Sunday school; leader, Henry T. French, speaker, C. F. Harris, Unitarian church, Marlboro; speaker, Rev George N. Anthony of Union church; Sabbath school, Feltonville, leader, F. D.

Brigham. Song, "Independence Day." This part of the exercises closed by singing "America."

The procession formed at 11 a.m., the right of the line resting in front of and facing the Exchange building. The procession formed in the following order:

Police. Chief Marshal. Capt David L. Brown. Aids, William B. Rice, L. H. Farnsworth, Capt A. A. Powers, F. Bean. Band. Fire Department. Board of Engineers. Henry O. Russell, George F. Brown, Thomas Campbell, Sidney Brigham, A. K. Graves, W. F. Trowbridge. Torrent. Engine No 1, George Balcom, foreman; Oacammesit Engine, John N. Howe, foreman; Eureka engine, No 3, Capt Abel H. Pope, foreman; Union Hook and Ladder Co, F. A. Marshall, foreman; aid, W. M. Warren. Town officers. Pres of Day. Vice Pres and secretaries. Aids George L. Crosby, D. R. Hinckley. Old gentlemen in carriages as follows:

Jedediah Wood, nearly 90 years, oldest man in town; Capt Lewis Howe, Edward Wilkins, William Hager, Martin Howe, Capt Thaddeus Howe, Stephen Rice, Jonah Howe, Capt Aaron Stevens, Moses Barnes, Capt N. Longley, James Mallord, Joel Gleason, Williard, Arnold Hastings Brigham, J. L. Ames, Daniel Wilson, wounded soldiers, Capt Henry Whitcomb, John S. Fay, William Barnes, W. A. Shute. Warfield's Battery of Feltonville; aid E. P. Dart. Masonic lodge Marlboro; Doric lodge Feltonville; aid J. H. Belcher.

Onamog division Marlboro; Feltonville division Sons of Temperance aid D. R. Kaine.

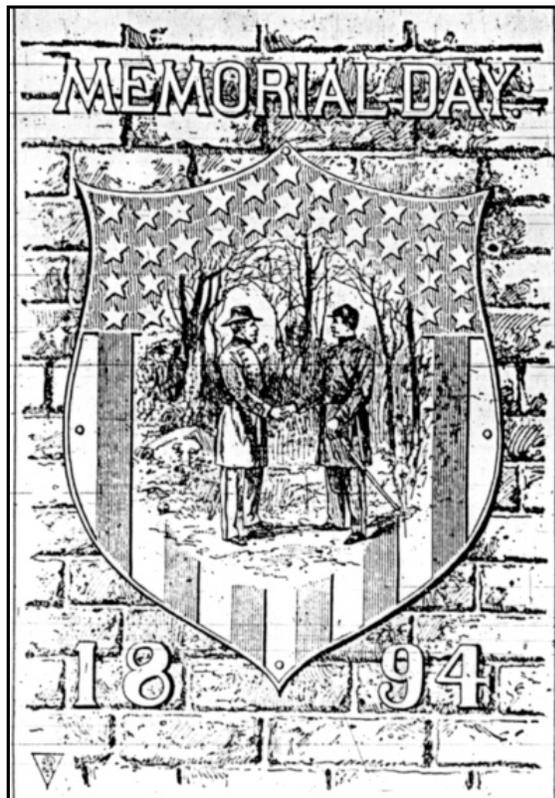
Father Mathew T. A. B. society; aid M. Dunn.

Fenian brotherhood Marlboro; Fenian brotherhood Feltonville; aids William Baker, G. D. Witt. Citizens with ladies.

The procession as formed marched through the principal streets of Marlboro reaching the tent at 1 o'clock. When all were seated in the tent, a select choir led by William Stetson Jr sun a song entitled "Hurrah for the Union." The great audience was called to order by the chief marshal who introduced Rev George N. Anthony president of the day. The president announced the following vice presidents: Isaac Hayden, Solomon Weeks, James T. Joslin, S. R. Phelps, George Houghton, O. W. Albee, Adolphus Parmenter, Francis Brigham, Eber Howe, William Stetson, Charles H. Robinson, Mark Fay, Samuel Boyd, Francis D. Brigham, S. B. Maynard, Sylvester Bucklin, Joseph S. Bradley, Elbridge Howe, Nahum Witherbee, Edmund E. Stowe, E. F. Barnes, John O'Connell, George Stratton, Luman T. Jefts, William P. Brigham, Rufus Howe, Edward Wilkins, William Gleason, Charles Miles, George S. Rawson; secretaries Edward L. Bigelow, B. F. Smith, Charles A. Wood. Prayer by Rev J. Macey. After a good dinner furnished by the ladies, President Anthony made the opening speech followed by many other. Five of the speakers, Rev W. W. Colburn, James T. Joslin, George S. Rawson, Rev H. C. Dugan, Wilbur F. Brigham were from Feltonville. As this great natal day was the last gathering as citizens of Marlboro, in

another number we shall give the president's speech and the speeches of the five citizens named.

By all means Marlboro should keep this spot sacred and resent the touch of vandal hands; consecrated by the holy faith and zeal of the early founders, once trampled over and swept by the flames kindled by savage foes—treasured as a most precious heirloom by succeeding generations, let the clustering memories of the changeful years, the years of martyrdom, sacrifice and devotion, covering colonial and municipal life for nearly two and a half centuries, be all sufficient and inspiring to awaken enthusiasm and the loyal purpose to keep this spot and memorial as the fathers left it.



Civil War Celebration
On Memorial Day

History of Hudson, Part 101

as published in the ENTERPRISE, November 27, 1897 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

The medical doctors serving the north part of Marlboro at Sawyers Mills in 1809 and through the years, their services, fees, and diligent care. Dr. Whitney rents out his horse to help meet his expenses.

Hippocrates, the father of medicine, never had more worthy or faithful followers than the physicians who lived in Marlboro seventy five years ago. With their simple remedies for the ills of poor suffering mortals, enclosed in substantial saddle bags, they answered all calls, at all hours of the night or day, at all seasons of the year, near or far from their home. For such visits, whatever discomforts or inconvenience might attend it, their charge was the surprisingly small fee of seventeen cents. Dr. Flagg was one of the early physicians in the north part of Marlboro known as Sawyers Mills, (Hudson). He was here in 1809 and boarded with George Peters, the village blacksmith. He was in practice some two years and went away. In 1823 Dr. Isaiah Whitney came to this place. He boarded with the Widow Hannah Sawyer who lived in the old house on the west side of Washington Street. Dr. Whitney was 27 when he came and was the village physician for four years.

Apr. 6, 1824

Ivory Brigham

To Benjamin W. Hildreth, Dr.

To reducing fracture of knee pan and dressing do and visit 50 cents.

Mar 7, 1825. Rec'd Payment,

Benjamin W. Hildreth.

The most famous physician of the days of Sawyers Mills was Dr. Isaiah Whitney who came to this place at the age of 27, and resided in the home of the Widow Hannah Sawyer. She lived in the old Wood house on the west side of Washington Street. Dr. Whitney was the regular physician to Ivory Brigham when he injured his knee pan. For visit and dressing the same he charged 25 cents. He has this charge "Visit and preparing box for leg 34 cents." For 11 visits and medicines, 14 different times, the total charge was \$5.82. He took his pay in hay. The Widow Sawyer had eight children and the doctor's medical services helped him out on board, for which he paid \$1.34 a week. We will give some of the charges as diversified and varied as the wants of ordinary mortals: "For bleeding Betsy 12 cents, geography and atlas 75c, hymnbook, Sarah 42c, white beans 42c, my horse to Bolton for mills 20c, pair pantaloons Zenas, \$1, paid Mr. Bigelow for cyder 17c, time spent in getting cow for which you wished to pay \$1, my horse to Lowell 28 miles at 6c, \$1.75, cash paid Mr. Stowe for chase \$1.12, getting pigs and potatoes from poor farm 25c, Col. Barns having my horse half day 25c, trimmings, Jonathan's clothes, 51c; paying Miss Bruce for making a coat and cutting a pair of pantaloons for Jonathan, \$1.50. This boy Jonathan grew to manhood, married and raised a son, who was governor of New

Hampshire. Dr. Whitney found a good nest of patients in the widow Sawyers' home. After boarding with her 73 weeks he found his account stood as follows:

73 weeks' board at \$1.34,	\$97.82
Hay,	\$18.75
	<hr/>
	\$116. 57
My acct,	\$101.06
Due you	\$14.71

The income of the worthy doctor was woefully below the salary of a horse back minister. His income from Nov 25, 1825 to Nov 8, 1826. \$243.99. Forty dollars of this was for taking care of the town's poor. We find by the records, Dr. John Lyscum was a dentist in this place as early as 1824.

Some of Dr. Whitney's charges are written to the name of "Edy Manson" as he was familiarly called in those days. His full name was George E. Manson of the firm of Manson & Brigham, the leading merchants of Feltonville. The doctor was here from 1823 to 1827. Bleeding, calomel and jalap were the leading remedies for any irregularity or decadence of the human anatomy. The doctor's charges for in town visits were 17c. When he went to Bolton, Berlin, Stow, all the nearby towns he charged 25c. Some of his patients of 70 years ago were Abner C. Dunn, John Bigelow, Joel Orin, Beniah Oaks, Ira Brigham, John Barnes, Samuel Arnold, Col Lowell Barnes, Edward Wilkins, Isaac Stratton, Rufus Stratton, Jonas How, Levi Bigelow, John Wilkins, Capt Elijah Hale, John Lyscum, Ebenezer Morse, Aaron Maynard, Thomas Cook, James Hapgood, David Knights, George Peters, Willard Brigham, Stephen Pope, Daniel Wilson, Jeduthan Smith, Jonathan Nourse, Thomas Hapgood, Daniel Stratton, Asa Houghton, Abraham Priest, Joel Cranston, Loring Cox, Silas Goodnow, Isaiah Bruce, Silas Goodnow, Eli Maynard, Silas Felton, Joel Knights, Willard Cox, Elisha Cox, Benjamin Prentiss.

The doctor's fees were small. He was obliged to collect the smaller bills to provide for his daily needs. When they were too slow he gave them gentle reminders of their indebtedness to him with a little legal pressure. We give one of his remedial appliances: May 24, 1825. "Put into John Barn's hands to collect note signed by Lowell and William Dunn, dated Marlboro, May 3, 1825, \$14.37. Acct Mr. How 34c.

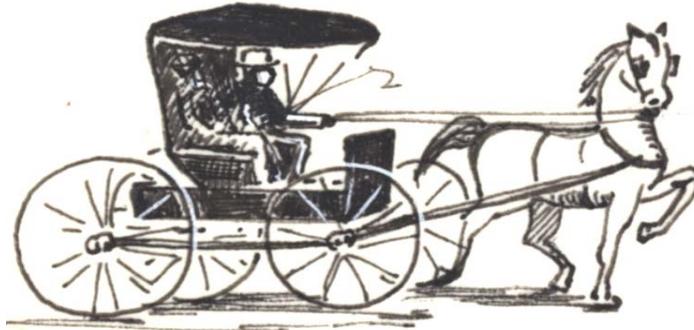
P. Fry's acct, \$2.39; Solomon Green's acct, \$1; Williard Cox, 34c, Elisha Cox 33c, Loring Cox 50c." The last three named brothers became wealthy men. The widow of Willard Cox left the town of Hudson the "Cox fund," the income to help the needy poor. Joel Cranston of the firm of Cranston & Felton had widow Butler for his housekeeper. Dr. Whitney has this charge: "Visit and removing a foreign body from the throat of widow Butler's child 25c." It is interesting and amusing to read other entries in the young physician's book. "George Peters, having my horse 3 or 4 miles, 25c; my horse to Mr. Osborn's funeral 17c, horse to Bolton 17c, horse and shay to town 33c, Col Elijah Hale having my horse 42 miles at 6c per mile, \$2.52, Stephen

Pope, my horse one day in pursuit of yours as far as Worcester \$1.08. Visit and bleeding Daniel 25c (late Col Daniel Pope). Uriah Eager received an injury and our worthy doctor visited him 39 times, on consecutive days, charging 17c each visit. The fee for medical services was wholly inadequate to satisfy, and the field of labor was too small for a man of his ability. He left Sawyer's mills in 1827 and went to Provincetown, where he practiced nearly 40 years. He died in 1866. He was converted while in Feltonville. Rev Mr. Otis was the pastor at the time. Dr. Whitney was class leader in the Saturday night meetings he held in his house for twenty-five years. He cared for the infirmities of the body and for the sick and sin burdened spirit he would renew it with new born powers that peacefully, joyfully it might "course the ages of immortality." Dr. Whitney was born in Ringe, N. H. and was one of 12 children, six boys and six girls. In boyhood he attended New Ipswich academy. One of Boston's old time merchants, Marshall P. Wilder, was in this school at this time, also a native of Ringe completing his schooling. The struggle and battle of life was before him. Young Whitney went to Brattleboro, VT and studied for the practice of medicine. There has been an Isaiah Whitney in this family for a century and a half. The first Isaiah settled in Harvard, Mass, was a leader in the church which he helped to build. He was one of the "embattled farmers" in the battle of Lexington.

The father of this sketch was born in Harvard Dec 1, 1765. He married Dorcas, daughter of Dr. Charles Whitman of Stow. Mass August, 1787. Dr Charles Whitman was the son of a doctor of the same name, he was also a doctor, and whose grandfather, also a doctor came from England in the Mayflower. The grandfather of Dr. Whitney on the maternal side was a surgeon in the army during the war of the revolution. Dr. Whitney's father continued the practice of medicine until the year of his death in 1839. One of his brothers, Charles Whitman Whitney was also a doctor at Troy, N. H. where he died in 1861.

The skill of the surgeon and physician was a natural possession in this line of the Whitney family. Dr. Whitney of Sawyer's mills (Hudson) and his patients, with few exceptions, have passed to a world where they are no longer sick. The influence of this Christian physician will not perish. A life so devoted to his profession, of such moral altitude and such sincerity of aim and purpose, carrying the scales of justice with equal hand, for every unfortunate, whether suffering from bodily or moral infirmity, leaves an impress on human life that sanctifies, enobles and blesses it unto every generation.

**The Doctor's
Horse and Buggy**



The Cox home at Central and Lincoln Street

**Susan Cox (Mrs. Willard)
“Aunt Suzie” left the Cox Charity Fund to care for the needy
poor.**



History of Hudson, Part 102

as published in the ENTERPRISE, Dcember 4, 1897 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

The speech of Rev. George Anthony given at the July 4, 1865 celebration, that a "truer liberty has dawned." Alas! The problems of liquor being sold in 20 places in town.

It is not a subject of wonder the citizens of Marlboro were brimful of enthusiasm when they held their great celebration July 4, 1865. It was less than three months after the close of the most sanguinary and desolating war of modern times. Great sorrows were on the hearts of the people, the death angel was grinning on the hearthstones of the loyal north, penury and want were the unbidden guests in nearly every home; above all was the unabated patriotism of the people. Rev George Anthony, president of the day, made a speech, the trend of which would indicate a battlefield whose victims were never mustered out, and seldom retired on a furlough, when once in action. He spoke as follows:

"Friends and Fellow Citizens—I congratulate on the recurrence of another anniversary of our National Independence. It is difficult for us now to realize that the 4th day of July was not always the great day of the year. Previous of 1776 it was in fact, just like the 3d or the 5th day. The sagacity of our fathers discovered that the loss of national independence would involve the loss of personal freedom, and hence they solemnly pledged their lives, fortunes and sacred honor to maintain the independence of this country. A new luster has been given to this anniversary in these recent years. Hitherto our Declaration of Independence has read like a burlesque upon the actual condition of a considerable portion of our countrymen. We were humiliated before the world by the crime of slavery. Was it the sin of the south? Yes, but it was a sin to which we of the north too readily consented. By the contest now closed, millions in this land have for the first time come into an inheritance of this day's privileges. They never had a 4th of July before. But this is not all. Two years ago we were in the thick gloom of the struggle. The enemy were bold, confident, victorious. Just then a man, whom the governor of Illinois had commissioned as a colonel, but who had risen by due promotion, one of Uncle Sam's West Pointers of whom the country then knew nothing, went down the Mississippi, cut in two the rebel army, chased one part in one direction, the other in another, locked up the greater part in the stronghold of Vicksburg, besieged it in front with ironclad, in the rear with an army and by earth works, till on the 4th of July, Pemberton and his rebels surrendered. Since that day U. S. Grant has been known in this country.

With the success at Vicksburg was blended another victory, adding renown to our anniversary. The rebels under Lee, Hill, Ewell and others threatened Baltimore, Washington and Philadelphia. The Gettysburg fight, a sanguinary contest of three days' duration, baffled the enemy, and sent back the invaders as fugitives. I see around me heroic actors in the bloody drama. The old 13th was there; other regiments

containing Marlboro men were in that battle. The Ninth battery, with other batteries, planted on the slope of Cemetery hill, and when the desperate charge of rebel infantry was made, those hurrying columns returned quicker than they came, the air filled with heads, limbs and quivering flesh, the work of grape and canister from our well served batteries.

A new luster is given to this 4th of July. A truer liberty has dawned upon our renovated country. But whence came the spirit of the day we celebrate? Did it originate in July, 1776? Is freedom the sudden growth of a political assembly? No, my townsmen, the spirit of this day came to this land when the founders of settlements on these shores first landed. Our freedom is the development of principles which those men firmly embraced, and whence did they get them? They found them in the religion of Jesus Christ. They dug them from the mine of Scripture and would we perpetuate the noble inheritance, we must see to it that the Bible retains its place in the esteem and affections of our countrymen. It must do its work in the school and in the family. A free people must be educated and a moral people, a people taught to read for themselves, to interpret scripture for themselves, and to speak without unbecoming fear of men. Great as are our occasions for rejoicing on this the first anniversary following peace, I cannot forbear to state here a plain fact which mingles for us shame with our glorying. The themes of this day are too weighty to admit of trifling compliments and wicked flattery. On a spot so near to this that a strong man could throw a stone to it from the place where I stand, I found this morning lying in the wet grass, a young man insensible. He was poisoned with rum. He could not be roused to consciousness. He had lain there I know not how long, wet with the heavy dews of night. That young man had one brother, slain in battle, that this day might be rendered glorious.

He has, I learn, neither parents or other kindred who will properly care for him. Nine-tenths of this population desire the extermination of liquor selling, and yet there are at least 20 places where these poisons are known to be vended. Are we free men to be tyrannized over by a lawless few? Shall these men with a robber spirit, defy the whole people?

The fathers of the town have not enforced the law and the children of the town are with the fathers. I learn that these liquor sellers are restrained for one day. Your known wishes have been regarded to that extent.

But if you can stop this business for one day, can you not stop it for two days, and if you can stop it for two days cannot you wipe it out altogether. Then I call upon you in the name of humanity to do it, and women of Marlboro, if the men are afraid, let me beg you to come to the rescue. So much, fellow citizens, I am constrained to say in all honesty and plainness. Our rejoicings over the bravery and intelligence, and purity of a self-governed people are mingled with palpable proofs of our supineness or timidity, and of a recreancy which disgraces us. We rejoice at this nation's advance. May we be able to keep our next anniversary with the satisfaction that the law has been vindicated in our own township. When we are gathered to celebrate the triumphs of law and order over the would be destroyer of our nation's life, let us not suffer law breakers and law defiers in our midst to drag our young men down to drunkards' graves.

History of Hudson, Part 103

as published in the ENTERPRISE, December 11, 1897 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

James T. Joslin speaks at the July 4, 1865 celebration, the first since 4 years of war.

The great celebration of Marlboro July 4, 1865, Charles M. Howe toast-master offered the following sentiment:

“The Fourth of July, 1776, the natal day of American independence. The fourteenth of April, 1861, the birthday of American freedom. The Fourth of July, 1865, the national anniversary which witnesses the bridal of American Independence and Universal Liberty.”

James T. Joslin of Feltonville responded in the following eloquent speech.

“If I had been called upon to speak to a sentiment like the one that had just been read, on any other Fourth of July, I should have most certainly have declined the offer. But situated as we are on the present Fourth, it is eminently proper that such a sentiment should be announced and that it should receive a becoming response. This sentiment not only refers to important crisis in our country’s progress, but it also most happily illustrates a great law of history. The passage of time, it is well known, is computed by years, generations or centuries. Not so with history. Its formation and advance is reckoned by eras or epochs. If we turn to the pages of sacred or profane history we shall find the course of both is marked by great events, and not by the lapse of years or centuries. The great eras or epochs which constitute its pivotal points stand out from the great expanse of time, as the mountains rise above the plains and lowlands.

The sentiment which has just been announced is an unimpeachable witness to this fact. It refers to the three great eras in our history. First, the era of American independence. Second, the inauguration of the era of civil war. Third, the era of welded Independence and Liberty. Of the Fourth of July, 1776 I need not speak. Its memories have been revived by the able remarks of our worthy presiding officer and also by listening to the reading of the Declaration of Independence. It is however, a day to ever be remembered, for on that day the Adamses, Franklin, Lee, Rutledge, Jefferson, and their immortal compeers gave to the world and to America an example of courage and manhood which will never die. It required the highest type of manhood to enable them to set their names to that instrument which has just been read, and then pledged to its support their lives and their sacred honor.

To have failed in support of the principles therein enunciated was to merit their hanging as high in mid-air as we trust that arch traitor Davis will hang within twelve months. But they succeeded, and why? Simply because they were in the right,

and were trying to rear a temple of justice against the assaults of tyranny, whereas Davis and his minions have striven to tear down the temple of justice and on its ruins build up a system of unmitigated oppression.

God bless the memories of the heroes of '76. But we now come to the second cause of our text: The fourteenth day of April, 1861. How do our minds regret to recall the recollection of that day. How do we wish it might be erased from the remembrance of the past. On that day how did the spirit of America sink in despair. The foundations of our country seemed to be undermined, and the gaunt spectre of ruin seemed to stand at our door. But no. Out of ashes and sackcloth, America, all that portion worthy of the name, put on the habiliments of patriotism and devotion to the country. The sound of the first gun at Sumter aroused the whole north, and on that day with both hands upon the horns of the altar, the freemen of the north took anew the vow of allegiance. The heroic deeds of our gallant braves who have saved and redeemed our land, attest the sincerity of that vow.

Although painful memories cluster around the fourteenth of April, 1861, yet had it not been for the work of that day we should not have had the 4th of July, 1865. The one is to the other what the shower cloud is to the succeeding sunshine.

But how shall I speak of the present occasion. Truly the first national anniversary of independence which witnesses the bridal of independence and liberty. All anniversaries heretofore, when compared with this have been a burlesque. Today, however, we can without a blush and with no mockery in that use of language say that "this is the land of the free and the home of the brave."

Today, in many a place where the fourth of July was never observed before, thousands of freemen, some of a little darker hue than the assemblage before me, are celebrating the anniversary of independence which, to them, is a season of jubilee. Thank God! there is no longer a distinction between the bond and free. Today, therefore, bondmen rise to the dignity of freemen. At the capitol of the nation, where only a few years ago slave coffles were seen upon the avenues, today thousands are assembled within sight of the White House celebrating the same occasion which we here celebrate. Truly it is a bridal occasion and may we not all say, "Let the twin principles which, through four long years of blood and sacrifice, have been attracted to each other and the solemnization of whose union we this day celebrate, never be divided."

History of Hudson, Part 104

as published in the ENTERPRISE, December 18, 1897 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

The Rev. William W. Colburn, Methodist minister from Feltonville, speaks to the crowd.

The great celebration of Marlboro, July 4, 1865, Rev William W. Colburn responded for the clergy. This was his first year in Feltonville. After a very successful ministry he left for another field, returning to this place then Hudson, in 1880. He has now gone home and to rest. He replied to the following sentiment, "The clergy their master was cradled in an Inn. We welcome to our festival those who have learned holiness from their Lord's cradle, patience from his cross, whom poor man's eyes and hearts consent to bless. To whom for Christ the world is less." "There have been many ages through which the world has passed, the age that gave to the world its Redeemer, however may well be called the age of joy and gladness. How dear the words, "unto us a child is born and unto us a son is given. Music richer far, than the lingering notes of a long loved song." Christ spake and all were comforted. He lived and died the first fruits of them that slept. Yea from his manger cradle he came; and is now a priest after the order of Melchisedee, and will make intercession forever. Before leaving this world he commissioned men to preach the gospel. Hence the divine idea was to be reflected on man, through man. Those early defending the gospel felt their responsibility, feeling if they searched the scriptures and proved themselves workmen that they need not to be ashamed. The clergy of the American colonies, like those early commissioned by Christ searched the scriptures and searching they found that anciently the war power was an attribute of governments. Still searching they cannot find when the Christian era was ushered in, any, express, unequivocal precept or prohibition of this power. Indeed Christianity changes not the powers of a civil government. Hence, Jonathan Mayhew in 1750 in a Boston pulpit proclaimed against tyranny and priest-craft. Champion of Litchfield, Ct, prayed that God would so strengthen the fathers of our Revolution that one could chase a thousand and two, put ten thousand to flight. Caldwell of Elizabethtown in 1789 learning wadding was needed, flew to the church, and filling his pockets and arms with Watts' Psalms and hymns rode back to the company, crying out as he threw one here and one there. "Now put Watts into them, boys." The clergy of America in 1860 still recognizing the war power, to be an attribute of government, went to their bibles to learn their special duty. Turning to the 20th chapter of Judges they learned that God assisted Israel in a civil war. Saying to Israel, Go up tomorrow. I will deliver them into thine hand, thus taught from that book, clothed with the authority of heaven. The clergy used their influence against a rebellion the worst that ever cursed the earth. The clergy, sir, giving their influence for the good of their country until the rebellion took leg bail, felt at liberty to shout, amen, when the chief of the rebellion was caught in the crinoline of his wife, and especially, sir, did we feel like shouting aloud when we remembered that Col Priehard's work in Georgia, was like that of Abraham, at Hobab, namely that of catching, "Confederate kings." Abraham caught

the king and God blessed him. Richard caught Davis and we said God bless him also. Now sir, with the president of the so called Southern Confederacy up, what shall we do with him? We go to first Sam'l and learn what God did with Saul, because he destroyed the vile and refuse, but saved Agag, the king. If we learn sir, that our modern Agag is worthy of death, and can there be any doubt of it, and not visit it upon him, as the kingdom was rent from Saul anciently, so our republic may be rent from us, and given to another, God help us to do right though the heavens fall, may God help the clergy in not only preaching liberty to all, but that all are equal in right.

If all the clergy and the people do right, the glory of our nation shall not be in her history but in her destiny.

History of Hudson, Part 105

as published in the ENTERPRISE, Dcember 26, 1897 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

George S. Rawson of Feltonville, a former teacher and school administrator, tells of the great opportunities of our young people to attend the best and free schools in all the country. Massachusetts is the leader in education.

The great celebration in Marlboro July 4, 1865, George S. Rawson of Feltonville was one of the speakers. For a number of years he taught school in the old school house upon the hill.

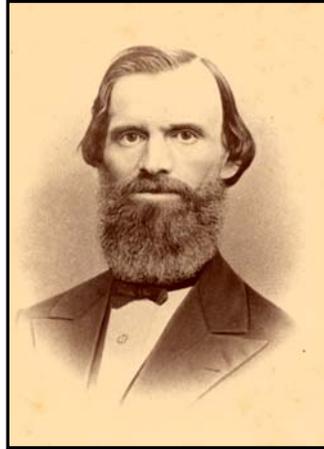
The Rawson scholars in annual reunion still honor his memory. He died in 1866. The following sentiment was offered by Toast master Howe. "Our common schools the nurseries of freedom and universal intelligence." Mr. Rawson replied in the following speech:

That sentiment is gospel truth every word. It carries one back in imagination, over a period of two hundred and eighteen years, to a time when our infant colony numbered a little over twenty thousand souls, and the whole united wealth of the colony was not equal to the amount possessed by many a single citizen of today, when the legislature enacted that "Education should be free and universal". The men of those times saw with prophetic eye that the preservation of Liberty lay only in the virtue and intelligence of the people and though surrounded by perils from the wilderness and crippled by poverty and innumerable hardships, and stinted in the most common necessaries of life and deprived of all its luxuries, they willingly imposed upon themselves, still heavier burdens that they might bequeath to prosperity the priceless gifts of freedom and universal intelligence. They launched forth upon unknown and untried depths, with no precedent to lean upon and no charts to guide them, but their own unwavering trust in God, who led Israel and them from bondage. While our fathers were fostering an institution, which was to bless and save the country, Virginia was hugging to her bosom and nursing with fondest care, the institution of slavery, with the delusive hope, that upon it as a foundation, she should become a great empire. Sir William Berkley who at the same time was governor of Virginia (then a colony older by a score of years than Massachusetts) said to her legislature, "thank God we have no free schools nor printing and I hope we shall have none these hundred years."

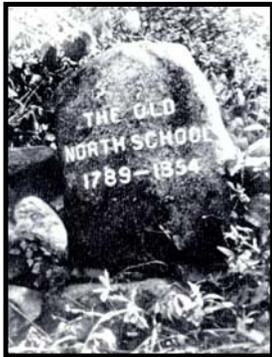
His wish has been doubly fulfilled, so far as the schools were concerned, and if he had lived until the fall of Richmond, I have no doubt that the old tyrant would have found the press of Virginia during the better part, at least, of the two centuries, entirely satisfactory. But who of you today would exchange the institutions of Massachusetts for those of Virginia? Exchange did I say, Virginia has no institutions, she drew the sword against freedom and intelligence to perpetuate slavery and ignorance and in accordance with the prediction of Jesus her institution has perished

by the sword, and we hope its remains will be buried in the depth of that lower deep, of which the poet Milton speaks. But to come back to our own good state let me ask what has been the result of the toil and privations of our ancestors for their posterity. Why the world knows no better system of education, and there is no state from which goes out, so great an amount of energy, enterprise and intelligence to bless the country, other states and nations are slowly following the example of Massachusetts. Even the great state of New York has not until a few years made her schools free. The poorest boy or girl in our own town may now obtain an education equal to that obtained at most of the universities in the country and as free to him or her as the breath of heaven, as a consequence of our educational system. The influence of Massachusetts is felt in every corner of the union. Her blacksmiths and shoemakers, her machinists and printers, have become generals and supreme judges, statesmen and philosophers. In the common school the mind is taught to act and think for itself and the thoughts of the people become bayonets when opposed by tyranny. Some time during the Rebellion some western demagogue suggested that in the reconstruction of the union, New England be left out in the cold, as well for a man to leave his stove or his furnace out in the cold and expect his house to be warmed. Why New England is the great heart of which Massachusetts is the innermost heart that warms into life the enterprise and intelligence of the country. Take away from many of the large cities of the country the direct and indirect influence of New England, and what amount of enterprise would be left. The theme is a broad one and prolific of thought and I am wandering from home. If you wish to procure for your children all the benefits intended by our fathers, you must give the common schools your earnest support. You freely give your money for the cause of education but your whole duty is not alone here. You must give continuance to the work and I wish to be understood literally. You must take your teachers by the hand and strengthen and encourage them in the minds of your children. There is much to be learned in school besides learning to “read, write and cipher.”

Children are educated for eternity. Our Puritan fathers understood this and with them learning and religion were indissolubly joined wherever their settlements extended. They erected a church and in the shadow of its walls the schoolhouse followed. A division of this town has been referred to here today and in addition to what was already said upon that matter, let me say that in future years, as this good old mother of towns sits enshrined in her circlet of green hills, surrounded by her fair daughters.



George S. Rawson



**Marker for the Old North School
(1789-1854)**



School Street School (1855)



**Old High School on High Street
(1867 – 1882, then a grade school)**



**Hudson High School on Felton St.
(1882)**

History of Hudson, Part 106

as published in the ENTERPRISE, January 1, 1898 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

Wilbur F. Brigham is the speaker, comparing Marlboro and Feltonville as a mother and daughter who has been well nurtured and will soon be on her own. He describes the tremendous growth of Feltonville, its schools and industrious citizens. He thanks the mother, Marlboro.

The last great celebration in Marlboro July 4, 1865, when Feltonville formed part of her citizenship the following sentiment was offered, "The village of Feltonville about to leave her dotting mother looks with pride upon her future prospects."

To this sentiment, Wilbur F. Brigham of Feltonville replied in the following speech—It has been said that your daughter Feltonville is inclined to rebel against the authority of the old mother Marlboro.

I deny the charge brought against her. This morning she sends up a thousand of her children, that they may sit on the lap of their old mother, if only for a single day. The growth of the mother has been remarkable, that of the daughter has been wonderful indeed. A glance at the record of each as they appeared a half a century ago, and as they appear today, will fully illustrate and justify the claims of the latter to her independence. Within the memory of our oldest citizens, present with us today, your daughter had only five houses within her bosom, her whole population could have taken seats at a common dinner table, or in an omnibus. All her land lying east of Brigham & Peter's store was uncultivated and uninhabited a common bridle path extended through the entire length, and over this the people journeyed on their way to Boston.

There was but one wagon in the town at that time, owned by Capt William Gates. The second was built by our venerable citizen Capt Jedediah Wood.

Previous to building one for himself, he, with others, used to walk to the center of the town to borrow Capt Gate's. A quarter of a century ago the population of the town was a little over two thousand, your daughter has as many inhabitants today.

Twenty years ago, the number of boots and shoes manufactured in the town was 300,000 pairs, at a value of a little less than \$93,000. Today your daughter has single firms that produce twice the number of pairs, at a value nearly four times as large, while the value of all the shoes she manufactures yearly is more than a million dollars, or four times the value of all the products of every description in the whole town, twenty years ago.

At that time there was employed in the various shops throughout the town less than four hundred persons, today. Your active daughter kicks off shoes so fast they

require the constant services of more than a thousand persons, while the capital invested in the business twenty years ago was less than \$50,000. She carries a quarter of a million in her pocket that she may continue the lasting process.

Twenty years ago, the religious element of our daughter was represented in the little company that gathered Sabbath after Sabbath in the Manson hall. Today she has three flourishing religious societies with more than five hundred children in her Sabbath schools. The old Methodist seed, passed from a man to a ghost, from that to a shadow, and disappeared, has lately renewed its life and multiplies itself a hundred fold.

The school children of that day might have been seen going from house to house, to gain an education, today she has three capacious school rooms with all the aids of learning.

A half a century ago the best lands your daughter had were offered in the market at \$25 an acre, the same lands today are worth \$1200 per acre.

This increase in price is a necessary sequence to her rapid growth. This daughter, Feltonville, is the last, as well as the fairest and most promising child you have ever reared, to send forth to care for herself.

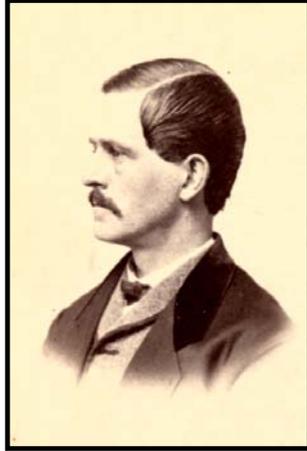
Gratefully she remembers, and heartily thanks her mother for her kind treatment during the two centuries she has stayed at home, you have given us good schools, roads, bridges and a handsome tax bill, you have instructed the daughter in the spirit of freedom, her sentiment voice and vote, speak constantly as eloquently of that liberty she enjoys and wishes the equal boon of all, you have taught the lesson of providence; it is seen in the wise foresight and reasoning generally distinguishing her conduct, should she leave home before long. She only asks a few acres of the old homestead, to improve which she has done so much.

Living side by side, may mother and daughter live happily together, sundering none of those ties welding and uniting a people.

May each continue to visit, interchange their greetings with each other, ever responding every kindly purpose, every urgent want in life, waxing strong, growing more abundantly in all those things, strengthening and enriching a people.



Wilbur Brigham



Wilbur Brigham



Wilbur Brigham



Wilbur Brigham Residence

The Wilbur Brigham home later became the George P. Keith mansion. George Keith was Superintendant of Dunn, Green & Co's extensive tannery, 125 employees, and was Selectman, 1896-1899. The home was purchased for use as the Hudson Hospital in 1950 which closed in 1953. Then the Hudson Institute used the site, planning to become a four year college, and later moved to Hosmer Street. The home was razed in 1974 to build an elderly housing complex called Brigham Circle. Brigham Street was named for Francis Brigham.

History of Hudson, Part 107

as published in the ENTERPRISE, January 8, 1898 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

At the bi-centennial of Marlboro, June 13, 1860, Mr. Charles Hudson was the orator of the day. He tells of his sincere fondness for this, his boyhood home, and his ancestor's home.

Most of the citizens of this town know the town bears the name of a man by the name of Hudson. With a knowledge of this fact they can say no more. Who Hudson was or why he should be thus honored in the perpetuity of his name they do not know and cannot explain, because they do not know. We will give in detail the life of Charles Hudson, a name ineffaceably stamped on the state and national life. He was born in Marlboro Nov 14, 1795. He died in Lexington May 4, 1881. The first 21 years of his life was spent in Marlboro and Feltonville. In these formative years, the attachments, affections and character of the young man were rooted and fixed for life. At the bi-centennial of Marlboro June 13, 1860 Mr. Hudson as orator of the day, in most pathetic speech, interpreted the tenderness of his feelings and love for his native town and of memories as quenchless as a hope that never dies. He says:

“My Friends, while you are all rejoicing in your birthplace and doing homage at the tombs of your fathers, will you permit one who has been absent as a resident more than 40 years, to bring his humble offering of filial regard and lay it at the feet of old Marlboro, “which is the mother of us all.” My connections with this town are neither few nor remote. My parents and grandparents have been residents among you. My maternal ancestors extend back to the first settlement of the township when Abraham Williams received a grant of land upon the borders of your beautiful lake, and became a permanent citizen, and when more than a century ago a dark cloud hung over the community and apprehensions were felt that the war whoop might break the silence of midnight or the blaze of the dwelling might light its inmates to their graves, when fears were entertained for the safety of the colony itself so that despair was a secret companion and the sons of little men were afraid, my paternal ancestor John Hudson with two of his sons took the field, in company with other stout hearted sons of Marlboro, to guard the homes of the citizens, and defend the colony against the combined attacks of the French and Indians.

In the glorious struggle for our Independence the same ancestor, with eight hardy sons, was among those who, like Moses, were not afraid of the king's commandment, but showed their devotion to liberty by arming in its defense. My parents held a humble position in this community and have found a resting place beneath the same roof with myself repose in yonder graveyard, while I, the sole member of the family, remain. It was within this town, and in sight of this very spot, that I drew my first vital breath. Here were the sports of my childhood, and here,

amid the gay visions of youth, were framed those habits and those modes of thought which have contributed to shape my humble destiny.

In your venerable old meeting house, on the southern slope of this hill, I was by parental fidelity, offered up to Him in whose service I have attempted to labor in the community. In your schools I received my first lessons of instruction and in the same little seminaries, 40 years ago, I endeavored to impart the rudiments of instruction to your children, some of whom I have had the pleasure of greeting this day. I have mingled my labor with your soil, and devoted some of my most anxious thought to the improvement and welfare of those confidingly committed to my care when their minds were most susceptible of impressions.

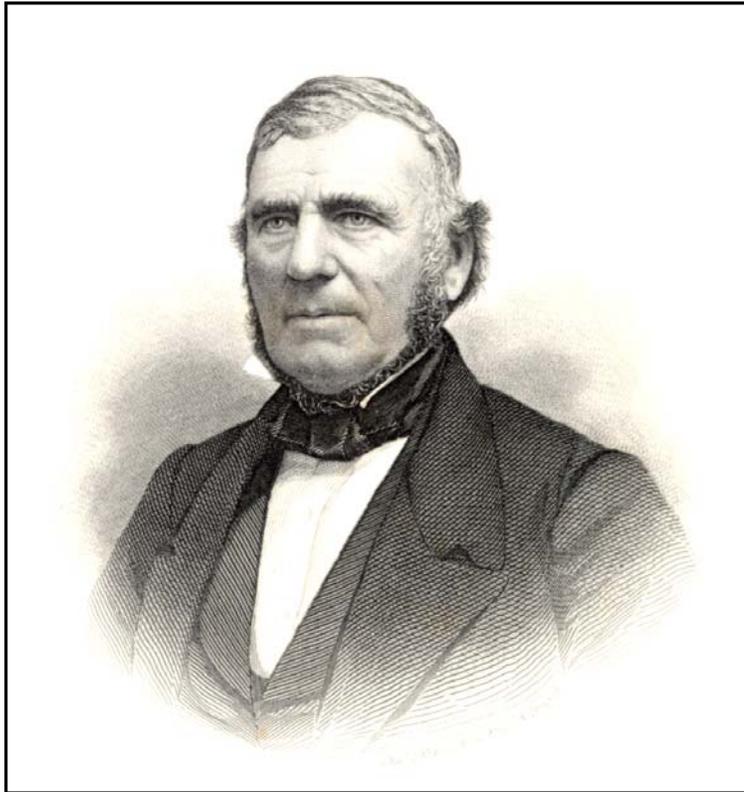
Never did the glorious old town appear more lovely than she does today. But her flowery meadows and grassy hill side, her gentle flowing river and her murmuring rills, her fields with golden harvests and her orchards, bending with delicious fruits, however pleasing to the eye or grateful to the sense, are less dear to my heart than the fond recollections of past friendships, renewed this day by cordial greetings and generous sympathies, the past and the present. All that I have known heretofore and all I have witnessed this day combine to strengthen the ties which bind me to the old homestead, and whatever may be my fortune during the rest of my brief sojourn here below, the recollections of Marlboro will be fondly cherished, and her happiness and prosperity will ever cheer and gladden my heart.”

This brief from Mr Hudson’s oration gives a clear insight into his family history. The name of Hudson is known from the days of wild ruin and butcheries of King Philip’s war in 1675. The earliest American ancestor of Mr. Hudson was Daniel Hudson, who came from England to this county about the year 1639 and first settled in Watertown. In 1665 he purchased a tract of land of Major Simon Willard in Lancaster and settled in that town. He and his wife, two children and two grandchildren were killed by the Indians 1697. The name of Hudson will be found on the army rolls of every war period of the colonies. They marched to battle through the three French wars to the end of the war of the Revolution.

The martial spirit of the family finds remarkable expression when eight sons offer their services and accept the fortunes of war and follow their father through the throes of sacrifice and suffering that liberty for all men might glorify the new born republic.

One writer says: “I am sure that Mr. Hudson at nearly 80 years of age did not know that his mother was the granddaughter of Rev Robert Breck,” the second preacher or minister over the Marlboro church and among pulpit orators a great leader in that age. He was a graduate of Harvard college class of 1700. He was settled over the Marlboro church Oct 5, 1704, when only 22 years of age. He was a very learned man. It was his custom in morning devotions to read from the Hebrew Bible translating into English as he read. He died Jan 6, 1731, universally mourned after a ministry of nearly 27 years. He united the people and dowered their souls with

spiritual power they had not felt before. Abraham Williams referred to by Mr. Hudson married Elizabeth Breck Dec 22, 1725. They had a son Larkin Williams. His daughter Louisa married Stephen Hudson, father of Charles Hudson Feb 10, 1791. This line of ancestral descent was known to Mr. Hudson from the earliest period of his own life.



Charles Hudson

History of Hudson, Part 108

as published in the ENTERPRISE, January 15, 1898 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

Charles Hudson's early boyhood, loving family, and leaving at age 12 to work and live with Stephen Rice. It was just a short walk away. He attended the local schools each winter 8-9 weeks and later studied to be a minister.

There are not many citizens in this town who know where Charles Hudson was born. The general impression is he was born within our present town limits, this is not the fact. Mr. Hudson settled the question of the place of his birth with the remark he made at the bi-centennial of Marlboro June 13, 1860. He said, "It was within this town, and in sight of this very spot that I drew my first vital breath." He was standing at this time in the pavilion on Ockocangansett Hill. His old home and birthplace stood on the border of this hill, not far from the location of the first church. The house is no longer standing. The names of his three sisters were Nancy, Elizabeth, and Louisa Hudson; Nancy never married—she died Sept 30, 1853 aged 62. Elizabeth born August 28, 1793 married Sept 5, 1814 Thomas Coolidge. She had 10 children, she died Feb 25, 1835 aged 42. Louisa born May 3, 1798 married Joseph Shurtleff, she died June 17, 1825.

The three sisters lived in houses on the place where the late Stephen Coolidge resided. Three dwelling houses were standing on this land fifty years ago and they were old houses at that time. Mr. Hudson's childhood home was full of sunny memories for him, penury and want were there but even indigence was wreathed with blessings for his trusting confiding loving heart. The vicissitudes and changes of daily life he accepted cheerfully, and when at 12 years of age he left his childhood home never to return to it again, he did not complain. He went at this time, 1807 to live with Stephen Rice who owned the farm where Francis W. Brigham now resides. He was to live with him and work on the farm until he was 21 years old. He was to go to school, some nine weeks in the year. The boy thought a great deal of the chance to go to school and when Mr. Rice was very busy and kept him from school the absences were faithfully kept and were added to his days of schooling later on. The first school he attended was the North school. He went to this school in the winter, for some five years. The boys and girls from their scattered homes, arranged to walk a mile most of the distance, over pathways through the woods. The feet of both sexes were shod with cowhides, patent leather and dongola kid, were not in the category of earthly possessions at that time. The buxom youth from spinning wheel and wood pile, did not need the aid of an omnibus to carry them to the little red schoolhouse. In 1812 a schoolhouse was erected on Washington Street. Young Hudson was present the first day of the first term of this school, and went through the term. The teacher was Josiah Randall. Of the 40 or more scholars who attended the first term of this school the three last survivors were Charles Hudson, who died May 4, 1881, aged 85, Betsey Haskell who died Sept 17, 1883, aged 83 and Luther Peters who died Feb 27, 1895 aged 89. Young Hudson made the best use of his time in the school room and was a

good scholar. He was a ready composer and wrote little poems which were read before the school. He was developing his intellectual powers, not for the fullest measure of use in the plodding paths of a farmer's life. The maturing forces of his active mind, gathering in daily strength and power, were in the end to occupy and till the largest fields of activity and usefulness. There was little from day to day to change the monotony of the boy's life on the farm, that he was faithful and a good farmer with others is witnessed to in the prize this farm received, for being the best managed farm in Middlesex county. As young Hudson neared his majority and the end of his apprenticeship on the farm the occupation for future life gave him the most earnest and anxious thought. The tendency of his mind was in the direction of the ministry. The tenets and teachings of the evangelical church he did not fully subscribe to. When nearly 21 years old Rev. Edward Turner, a Universalist minister from Charlestown came to Marlboro and preached in the schoolhouse. This sermon first drew his attention to that faith. When Mr. Hudson was 23 years old, or in 1818, the first Universalist society was formed in Marlboro. He enrolled himself in the membership of this society and resolved to devote his life to the ministry. He went to Shirley, Mass. and studied with the Rev. Jacob Wood for some two years. Some of his time was employed in teaching school. He was without means and no one to help him. He taught in Marlboro, Leominster and neighboring towns. He gave the scholars. "Rewards of Merit" for scholarship and good behavior and they are to be seen to this day in many of the old homes of this section. He also preached for short periods in Portland, ME and in several towns in southern New Hampshire and in Massachusetts.



History of Hudson, Part 109

as published in the ENTERPRISE, January 22, 1898 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

Charles Hudson, a teacher, a minister in Danvers, and Westminster, then elected to the state Legislature from Worcester, and then the State Senate in 1833, and U.S. Congress.

Charles Hudson won a high reputation as a thorough painstaking teacher, his highest recompense was not in the small salary he received, but in the pleasure he had in fitting and qualifying the youth under his career, for worthy and honored places in the role of active citizenship. His vocation as a teacher ended in 1819. At this time he was ordained and settled over the Universalist church in Danvers Mass. He preached in this town and vicinity for a number of years. Satisfied that the well rounded life of a pastor required a helpmate he was married July 21, 1825 to Anna Ryder of Shrewsbury daughter of John Ryder. She died Sept 19, 1829. The next year, May 11, 1830 he married her sister Martha B. Ryder.

Mr. Hudson left Danvers and went to Westminster Mass, as early as 1827, for his first child, Harriet Williams was born in this town Aug 18, 1827.

The abilities of the new pastor over the Restorationist society in Westminster were early appreciated not wholly in a religious way. He was deeply interested in the secular and political affairs of the town and district, and so favorably impressed himself on the people as an energetic worker, they sent him in the legislature in 1828. He was a most valuable member of the House of Representatives, and the citizens of his adopted town were so well pleased with his eminent services they returned him year after year until 1833. He grew rapidly in honor and fame. The people of Worcester County were united in giving him a larger field of service and usefulness.

In 1833 he was elected to the state senate and continued a member of that body until 1839. He never was found unworthy the confidences of his constituents. His official conduct, thus far, showed statesmanship of the highest order. He had won a place in the hearts of those he represented not easily disturbed by political cabals or factions. In 1839 to 1841 he was counselor, Marcus Morton governor at the time.

In 1841 he was elected to the National House of Representatives from the Fifth Massachusetts district, the successor of Hon. Levi Lincoln of Worcester. He was a member of Congress until 1849.

Mr. Hudson was a Whig of the staunchest kind. The tariff was one of the vital questions of the day. Our national resources had dwindled down to twelve millions of dollars. Our financial straits was the mockery of the nations. The Bay State was represented by a member fearless, active and ready. He was in the daily presence of the greatest men the Republic ever produced. Daniel Webster, John Quincy Adams,

Rufus Choate, George N. Briggs, Robert Pantoul, Stephen A. Douglas, Abraham Lincoln. Mr. Hudson had several forensic tilts with Douglas who afterwards gained lasting renown in his debates with Lincoln, prior to his election as president of the United States, when Mr. Hudson entered congress. Slavery was entrenched and upheld through all the southland, the mutterings of freemen and the wrath of heaven were in the storm that was gathering for its overthrow.

The first speech of Mr. Hudson was directed against it. This speech was made Dec 27, 1841 soon after he became a member of this august body. We give a quotation from this speech that the reader may have some idea of his style of oratory. He made the speech in reply of Mr. Rhett of South Carolina and other members from the south, who said that "a protective tariff was a tax upon southern labor to increase northern capital". Mr. Hudson replied:

"I wish to assail no section of the country, but I am compelled to say that the truth is the very reverse of this. It is southern capital against northern labor. From a full view of our manufactures, it will be seen that our fabrics, in a great degree, the product of labor and not of capital. But how is it with the products of the south. Take their great staple cotton, of what is that the product, of labor or of capital? Of capital almost exclusively. Their lands are capital and their slaves are capital, made so by their laws. In strictness of speech they have no labor, in the sense in which that word is used, as distinguished from capital, in the production of their cotton crop, if we except the few overseers and the few white men who are employed. By the institutions and laws of the south their slaves are property, capital in the same sense that our machinery is, and when they talk of protecting their labor, they mean, if they mean anything, protecting their property. With these facts staring them in the face, will southern gentlemen on this floor have the effrontery, to tell us that the doctrine of protection, is a contest between the northern capital and southern labor? It is a contest between southern capital, or what is made so by their laws, and the free labor of the north.

History of Hudson, Part 110

as published in the ENTERPRISE, January 29, 1898 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

In the U.S. Senate, Charles Hudson speaks out against slavery and against the War with Mexico because it would extend and perpetuate more slavery. These speeches are in 1846, long before the Civil War.

Charles Hudson opposed the war with Mexico with all the energy and argument at his command. He was one of the fourteen who voted against the war bill. War with Mexico had for its ulterior object the extension of slavery. The acquisition of new territory were a poor boon for freemen, if the shackles of human servitude were to be the insignia of victory and possession. Mr. Hudson's moral sense revolted against the base purpose to acquire larger areas, to multiply human woes for an enslaved race. You see the vehemence of his indignant protest in the speech he made in congress, May 14, 1846.

"I have no boasts to make of my devotion to my country, I am a citizen of this country and my fortune is connected with hers. When she is right I will sustain her and if I believe her to be in the wrong, I will not give her up, but will point out her errors and do all in my power to bring her into the light, so that, if war must come and our young men must be offered on the altar of our country, we may safely commend them to the God of battles, to that Being who rules in the armies of heaven and among the inhabitants of earth. I desire the prosperity of my country, and nothing but my devotion to her interests, and to the higher principles of moral rectitude, induce me to separate from those with whom I have generally acted, I could not consent to involve my country in a war which I believe to be unnecessary and unjust. A war of conquest brought about by ambitious men to answer personal and party purposes.

"Though I have always regarded slavery as an evil, a political and moral wrong having no power over it in the states. This war is one of the first fruits of the annexation of Texas and that measure was got up to extend and perpetuate slavery. I opposed it then and I voted against the war because its object is not to extend the area of freedom but the area of bondage and I wish to commend this subject specially to the gentleman from Illinois whose bosom glows with such ardent patriotism that he is willing to spill rivers of blood in this war with Mexico. He is so devoted to his country and so in love with her institutions, that he is willing to sustain with treasure and blood an institution at war with the first principles of a republican government, liberty and equality. He denounces Mexico as an uncivilized and barbarous power, and still he desires to be a leader in a policy, designed to extend and perpetuate slavery and to plant on the soil of Mexico an institution which she, barbarous as she is and corrupt as the the gentleman would represent her to be would not permit to pollute her soil. This is the position of the gentleman who denounces all as traitors, who will not bow to the dictation of the majority on this floor." To show Mr.

Hudson's intense hatred of the slave power we give a short extract from a speech he made on the President's message Dec 16, 1846.

The president wished to distinguish his administration and he wished to distinguish it by a further accession of territory. He wished to acquire a large portion of territory in that section of the Union in order to give the south a perpetual preponderance in the councils of the nation. There is deep feeling in the country against the extension of slavery. There are thousands upon thousands in the northern portion of the union, and I allude to no fanatics, but sober deliberate and substantial men, men who have the good of the country at heart, who would resist by every means in their power, the establishment of slavery in these Mexican provinces, if they should be annexed to these United States, this feeling is strong and deep. Let this war go on, let victory crown our arms, till Mexico shall yield up a large portion of her territory and we shall have questions of internal regulation which would be more difficult to settle than the boundary between us and Mexico."

Mr. Hudson was fearless and constant in his opposition to the slaveholder, Feb 13, 1847 he concluded his speech in the following language.

"I tell you Mr. Chairman the north will stand firm. You cannot judge of the present by the past, within two with death and an agreement with Hell." In a speech made June 20, 1848, he said:

"That slavery is a great political evil no reflecting point of view it is a burden to any community where it exists. The idleness which it induces, the degradation of labor which naturally arises from it, mark it everywhere as a withering curse to the community, too plain and palpable to be denied. But the institution of slavery is a political evil in another respect. It weakens a state, not only in its pecuniary, but in its physical resources. It is an element of danger, it contains the seeds of insurrection. But slavery is a great moral as well as a political evil. So long as oppression is a moral wrong, slavery will stand forth as one of the crying sins of the land. To convert men into chattels, and expose them to public sale, tearing husbands from years, there has been a radical change in the public sentiment of the free states. The Texas outrage followed by this iniquitous, both for the extension of slavery has brought the people to their senses. They have seen this administration, breaking through the barriers of the constitution to extend and perpetuate slavery.

"The people of the free states have resolved the evil shall extend no farther. I say to the south, with all frankness, you will find northern sentiment immovable on this subject, 'as firm as nature and as fixed as fate.'"

We give only one more extract from the speeches of Mr. Hudson while a member of Congress. He was brave, even to defiance of the slavery power, and in scathing burning speech, exposed a system that was "a covenant wives, and children from parents, to degrade human beings, created in the image of God and render them mere beasts of burden, to deprive them of all means of cultivating their moral nature,

and of reading the word of eternal life, if this is not a moral wrong, I know nothing which is worthy of this appellation. I am willing to admit of all the palliation which can be urged in favor of the institution but nothing in my estimation can justify it. It begins in a wrong, in a violation of the first principles of natural right, that of enjoying personal liberty and the fruits of one's own labor, and this first violation of moral right must of necessity lead to others.

“Believing slavery to be a moral and a political evil, I feel it my duty to use my influence to exclude it from the territories. I should be false to myself, to my constituents, to my country and even to the territories themselves, did I not do all in my power to save them from this calamity.

“If a wish to save the nation from disgrace and free soil from a withering blight be treason to the Union, set me down as a traitor. Entertaining these views, I can never by my vote doom human beings to servitude, who have been guilty of no crime. I should be false to myself, to every principle of humanity, to every sentiment of honor, were I to do it. God forbid that I should record my vote to extend and enlarge its present area or pollute with this institution one foot of freedom's sacred soil.”

When Mr. Hudson made the first of these quoted speeches, there was present a former president of the United States, John Quincy Adams who declared it to be “An excellent speech.”

History of Hudson, Part 111

as published in the ENTERPRISE, February 5, 1898 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

Charles Hudson continued to serve his country in many positions after the Senate. He was "one of the ablest and honest men Massachusetts ever had."

Charles Hudson in his opposition to the further extension of slavery and the slave oligarchy of the south was one of the most aggressive men in congress. If he did not feel the bludgeon saved for Charles Sumner it was largely due to the wholesome respect they had for the giant proportions of this son of the Bay State. On the 10th of January 1846 the hatred of the south exploded in the most wanton attack and violent abuse of Mr. Hudson on the floor of the house. When he appealed to the house for justice, the wrong was so apparent, the public printer, one of the most active of his enemies, was saved from expulsion by only a few votes. June 20, 1848 Mr. Hudson made a speech on "The Constitutional power of Congress over the territories and the right of excluding slavery therefrom." He was interrupted by representative Lahm of Ohio who asked him, "entertaining those views of slavery will the gentleman from Massachusetts vote for Gen Taylor," he referred to the presidency. The answer in closing was: "If I am compelled to vote for either I should vote for Gen Taylor in preference to Gen Cass, just as I would vote for an honest man in preference to a hypocrite." Mr. Hudson voted for Gen Taylor. It did not please many of his constituents in the Worcester district. Without honor or fairness they worked to defeat his reelection. The opposition was led by Hon Charles Allen of Worcester.

Mr. Hudson was defeated. During eight years of distinguished service he added much to the high name and renown of this commonwealth. During these eight years he made 12 to 14 speeches. We will give the topics he discussed and they were the paramount questions before the country at that time. Discriminating duties 1841, the annexation of Texas 1845, the tariff 1846, the wheat trade of the country 1846, the Mexican war 1846, the President's message on the war with Mexico 1846, the three million appropriation bill 1847, the cost of the Mexican war and the finances of the country 1848, the constitutional power of congress over the territories and the right of excluding slavery therefrom. We have previously given extracts from some of these speeches.

Mr. Hudson was offered a seat in President Taylor's cabinet, the Interior department, but declined. In 1849 the year he closed his congressional life he was appointed under Taylor's administration naval officer of the port of Boston and held this office until 1853. He was a personal friend of Abraham Lincoln and one of his advisers at a conference held at Springfield, Ill in 1860. During Lincoln's first term Mr. Hudson was assessor of internal revenue for the Middlesex district. For a quarter of a century he was seldom free from the duties of office in state or nation. Hon Robert C. Winthrop ex-member of congress from this state pays him this glowing tribute: "He was one of the ablest and honestest men Massachusetts ever had."

“My earliest association with him was in the legislature of Massachusetts more than 40 years ago where he did more I think, than any other member in either branch in the organization of our infant railroad system. In 1841 he was transferred to the House of Representatives of the United States, where for eight years he exhibited the same practical sagacity and ability in the legislation of congress.”

Mr. Hudson was possessed of solid business attainments and was recognized as a wise manager among the ablest business men of his day. For many years he was a director in the Boston and Albany railroad. He was state commissioner of Hoosac Tunnel, one of the first and most active to organize the Vermont and Massachusetts railroad. At one time he was president of the Lexington branch railroad. The legend of the sign boards stretching across the highways half a century ago, “Look out for the engine while the bell rings” was invented by Mr. Hudson. He became a member of the American Antiquarian society at Worcester in 1844. He was admitted a resident member of the Massachusetts Historical society Dec 25, 1855. He was vice president for Massachusetts, from Jan 1859 to Jan 1861. A member of the publishing committee from Nov 1861 to Oct 1863. He received the degree of A. M. from Harvard college in 1841. We recognize his high place in the esteem and homage of men, who honor him with a degree, from America’s most venerable and celebrated university.

History of Hudson, Part 112

as published in the ENTERPRISE, February 12, 1898 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

A list of his many writings, histories, memories of famous men and of Abraham Lincoln, his friend. He worked diligently till his death, May 4, 1881. "Every moment of time is a golden grain."

Charles Hudson regarded every minute of time as a golden grain, to be hammered for every blessing in it, to enrich his own life, and others in touch with his influence and example in private or official life. While he was settled over the church in Westminster he wrote several pamphlets that had a large circulation, notably his letters to Hosea Ballou on future retribution 1827. Reply to Balfour's essays 1829. These were printed volumes, "Sacred Memoirs" were printed in the volumes. He wrote the history of Westminster in 1832. His history of Marlboro was published in 1862. His history of Lexington was published in 1868. These three histories alone required years of patient research and study. These alone represent the satisfactory work of an ordinary lifetime. The Massachusetts board of education was established in 1837. Mr. Hudson was one of its earliest members and worked hard to build the infant society, on deep and sure foundations. For eight years he was associated with illustrious men like Everett Dwight, Putnam, Rantoul, Robbins and Sparks. The momentum and strength it received from the genius of such men, has given it a field and capacity for vast good.

In his life so consecrated to hard work, one eminent writer has written "genius is only hard work," Mr. Hudson found time to write memoirs of three Massachusetts governors from the city of Worcester, Levi Lincoln, John Davis, Emory Washburn. Since the memoirs were written the city has given at least one more governor, Alexander H. Bullock. He wrote a memoir of George N. Briggs, "The American Trio or the Character of Henry Clay, Daniel Webster and John C. Calhoun." The lives of Edward and Marcus Morton as governors of the state contrasted. Mr. Hudson was a member of the council of these governors. He wrote "a sketch of Horace Mann" also "the Memoirs of Abraham Lincoln."

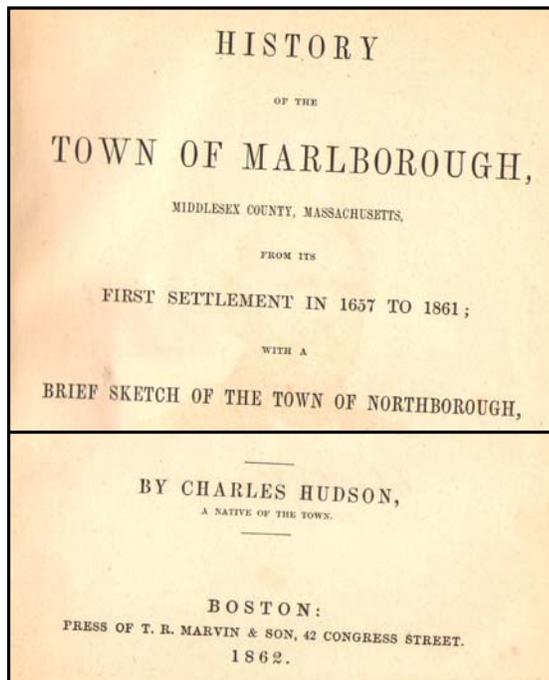
In 1879 Mr. Hudson stood in the presence of his venerable associates, the veterans of the war of 1812. They were gathered for the last time to disband their organization, he concluding his farewell address as follows: "We have reason to rejoice that our lives have been prolonged to witness the growth and extension of our country and the adaptation of our institutions, both to peace and to war; and above all that we have lived to see the foul stain of human servitude blotted out from our escutcheon."

Mr. Hudson personally organized the Lexington centennial in 1875. Gen U. S. Grant was present with Ralph Waldo Emerson the orator of the day. The last year of Hudson's life found him as busy as ever. The infirmities of age limited his field of

labor, but did not subdue his unconquerable will to be useful to the last. He had an absorbing interest in the Carey library, in the town of Lexington. To provide it with a cabinet of marbles, minerals and other curio awakened all his enthusiasm, by personal appeal and correspondence. He received contributions far beyond his most sanguine expectations; to arrange his ample collection properly on the shelves was his study and delight. He worked with a zeal and diligence far beyond his failing powers.

Wearily he toiled from day to day. When asked to rest from labors too severe with life currents ebbing so fast away, his answer ever was, "I can work today, I cannot count on tomorrow." Even while he spoke the dirges of his last day were sounding on the airs of time. On the 25th of April 1881 he was carried to the hall and he commenced to arrange his specimens. He worked part of the forenoon, when the poor tired frame, no longer able to respond to the mandates of his imperial will completely collapsed. He was carried home, intensely suffering, relieved only by powerful opiates. He lingered until the afternoon of Wednesday the fourth of May, when peacefully, he exchanged the scenes of earth for the revelations of Eternity.

*Write the name of Hudson upon the scroll.
With the immortal few, who on the long roll,
Of the marching centuries will ever be,
Beacon lights for all humanity.*



History of Hudson, Part 113

as published in the ENTERPRISE, 26, 1898 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

The story of William B. Rice, a successful business man in Quincy who was born in a rude tenement on Main Street, Hudson and attended Hudson's one room school houses in 1840's.

Hon William B. Rice, a resident of Quincy, Mass, is one of the most eminent and the most successful business men ever born within the territorial limits of the town of Hudson. The place of his birth was in the block standing on the south side of Main street opposite the present town hall. This block was erected 64 years ago, the builder was Josiah Walcott. It contained seven tenements and the contract price was five hundred dollars for each tenement. Obed Rice the father of this sketch, was one of the original proprietors. This wooden block was two stories high, with pitched roof, a garret run through the entire length and in this garret the children slept and dreamed of "Brighter Days to Come."

The cheapest kind of a picket fence run the entire length of the block on the front side. The back side of this block was a general rendezvous for little barns, woodsheds, pigpens, and clothes lines, that were carefully guarded by each tenant. A right of way made common ground for every one to travel over. In this humble home as we describe it Mr. Rice was born April 1, 1840. He lived here the first 22 or 23 years of his life with short intervals of absence from home. In October 1880 a destructive fire swept the Main Street of Hudson. It had no respect for this historic building. Its fiery maw more rapacious with increasing flame, licked up tenement after tenement until it reached the last one, the birthplace of Mr. Rice. This was saved. It still stands, looking exactly as it did three score years ago. It should be sacredly reserved, for in impressive silence, eloquent as human voice, it speaks of the pioneers of the early days of Feltonville.

Mr. Rice from the first year of his childhood on the hard lines of experience was taught the value of the passing hour. When hardly old enough to balance himself on the face of a chair, "Like Hannah at the windows" he sat binding or closing shoes. The sports of whilom youth came at rare intervals to gladden his heart. The first school he ever attended to wrestle with the alphabet and the multiplication table was in a schoolhouse, costing less than five hundred dollars. His teacher was Miss Ann B. Sawyer. The little benches and plank seats of the rudest construction had little about them for ease or comfort. Even here the leaven was working, in the crude processes of learning, that should awaken and develop powers and activities in after years rarely seen in the business world.

Note – whilom: formerly, once.

When the boy of six had exhausted the teachings of his first school, he went to school in another schoolhouse that cost one thousand dollars. The assessed value of the village was not half enough to build one of the school palaces of the present day.

The only condition imposed to be fitted to attend the winter term of the larger school, you must arrive to the mature age of ten years. A. B. C. column, was a puzzling enigma for the bare footed child and when able to comprehend the simplest lines of the "Kings English, he felt more than conqueror, to write and cipher well, was all the learning considered necessary in those days, for all the the active duties of life. The next teachers who taught little boy Rice, were Louisa Haywood and Caroline Fay. His first male teacher was George S. Rawson. This teacher above all other teachers in the grand influence of his noble life, and in various scholarly attainments, which he imparted and impressed on the mind and heart of his pupil did more than any man who lives or has lived to give him his success so signal and complete as a business man. For a number of years young Rice attended the school taught by Mr. Rawson. The scholars looked forward to and enjoyed his evening schools. From the farms within a radius of one or two miles boys and girls came tramping over snow covered roads, each one brought a lamp or candle, whale oil, fluid or camphene was used for light; the lamps were of every size and shape. You may be sure there was nothing covered by a patent. Kerosene oil was then hidden from all knowledge of men. The old school room had ample light. Choosing sides, reading down and spelling down was the amusement and pleasure of those winter evenings. More solid pleasure for guileless youth, than banquet hall ever gave to mature age.

After the evening school the chivalrous youth kindly aided the girls in carrying their lamps to their several homes. It was during these school days that young Rice first got his eyes on the little home beyond the "Old Maids Woods." He with his schoolmates were always busy the afternoon before examination day. A huge round pole was made secure in the stone wall that run on a line with the schoolhouse, north and south. A large copper boiler was attached to the pole. This was filled with water and a fire kindled under it. When the water boiled the girls were ready with pails and rags to commence the renovating process. The floor, the benches, what was saved from the jackknives of the boys, the sides of the school room, and the windows and doors all wore a bright clean face after the girls had finished their work. Most of the farmers made their own soap and it was brought to school in pails, "six cakes for a quarter" was a remark never heard in those days.

The next work of young Rice and his schoolmates was a trip to the oak trees on the bank of the Assabet river near the schoolhouse. Stones were gathered and little enclosures made. Inside these the girls were seated, on seats, prepared from the foundations of the world. The boys dropped the leaves from the trees, they were formed into wreaths and woven into long oaken trings. The work finished, the nimble workers and merry makers returned to the schoolroom. These leaves in every fantastic shape were fastened to the walls of the room, everything was now ready for examination day. The girls came with sunny confident faces, arrayed in all the calicoes known to the trade. The boys came in homespun with no fear of man hanging on their jocund features. The school committee came, questions were asked and answered with perfection of a chronometer balance. Teachers and scholars were praised. With tear glistening eyes the committee listened while they sung. "I will go to school where once I went. And stand on the same old floor."

History of Hudson, Part 114

as published in the ENTERPRISE, March 5, 1898 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

At the "school upon the hill", Washington Street, the students prepared an evening of recitations given at Cox's Hall, 1852, for all the town, another in 1857 given at the Baptist Church meeting hall.

In the school upon the hill Wednesday afternoon was anticipated with pleasure by the scholars under Mr. Rawson. The afternoon was devoted to readings of your own selection, declamations, spelling and adding columns of figures. The first one correct, received the coveted No 1, the wrong addition was a "W." The scholars gained a high reputation through the rapidity and accuracy of their work, in this last exercise. They came from other schools to see the scholars at this exercise. There were scholars of ten years who could add figures faster than scholars of any age in any other school in Marlboro, of which Feltonville was a most distinguished adjunct at that time. William F. Brigham and William B. Rice were the very quickest in figures.

Itinerant writing masters often visited this place, and held evening writing schools. A prize of a gold pencil was offered for the most improvement in penmanship. He came near winning the prize; he occupied the same seat with the boy who won it. The boy's name was Wilbur F. Brigham. Master Rice attended another writing school taught by a man named Hanson. A prize was offered, and this time it fell to the pen defeated in an earlier contest.

We will give the names of some of the school mates of William B. Rice when he was twelve years old. Rufus Stratton, George P. Fairbanks, Henry Coolidge, Franklin Wheeler, Levi Hapgood, Lyman Coolidge, Edwin Aiken, Nestor S. Fairbanks, Wilbur F. Brigham, William F. Brigham, Amory A. Cox, Charles D. Farnsworth, Nathan Russell, Lucien A. Cox, George Stratton, Henry Brown, Thomas D. Hapgood, Willard Brigham, George Bigelow, Jediah Wheeler, Bryan Jackson, Francis B. Russell, Albert Tibbetts, R. H. Hapgood, D. F. Pope, Charles H. Rice, Jonas T. Houghton, Solon Wood, Daniel Stratton, Charles A. Brigham, Marshall Wetherbee, Ledra A. Coolidge, Lorenzo Stratton, Sarah Stratton, Mary E. Brigham, Lucina H. Wilson, Caroline E. Ross, Caroline M. Rice, Sarah A. Witt, Ann E. Brown, Ellen Brown, Mary J. Pope, Susan Rice, Caroline Burnham, Sarah Grant, Arathusa Haskell, Emma Roe. There was a good deal of literary dramatic and musical talent in many of the scholars named. They gave an exhibition in the hall in Cox's tavern. Sermons, preached, balls, theatricals, shows, sleight of hand and long handed for the almighty dollar, given in that hall for many years were never reported in public print for it was years before a paper was printed in Marlboro. We will give the program of one of the exhibitions, the leading play was "Rip Van Winkle" the "Joe Jefferson" of that day was a conspicuous actor. William B. Rice was in the play.

Order of exercises young ladies' exhibition, Cox's hall in Feltonville on Thursday, Dec 21, 1852.

1. **Song. Happy are we tonight.**
2. **Introductory Solon Wood.**
3. **Dialogue, Fortune telling, T. E. Brown and others.**
4. **Adams and Jefferson, Wilbur F. Brigham.**
5. **The Grammar Lesson, Miss S. Hapgood and others**
6. **The Hearth is all Lonely.**
7. **The Gambler's Wife.**
8. **The Indians' Wrongs, Solon Wood and Miss E. A. Witt.**
9. **Rienzi's Address to the Romans, Rufus Stratton.**
10. **Dialogue, Rip Van Winkle, Wilbur F. Brigham and others.**
11. **Duett, Can We E'er Forget the Valley.**
12. **Stanza for the Times, Franklin Stratton.**
13. **The Sister Band, Love, Joy, Peace, Long Suffering, Gentleness, Goodness, Faith, Meekness, Temperance, Miss L. H. Ross and others.**
14. **Landing of the Pilgrims, Miss C. E. Wilson.**
15. **Dialogue, Don't Be too Positive, C. A. Brigham and others.**
16. **Song, the Mariners Song.**
17. **Men of the American Revolution, William F. Brigham.**
18. **Dialogue, Queen Catherine, Miss E. A. Maynard and others.**
19. **Palfreys Reply to McDowell, Daniel Stratton.**
20. **School Committee, Miss Sarah Stratton and others.**
21. **Song. Oh, Lemuel.**
22. **The Sultane Mother, Miss M. J. Hapgood.**
23. **Dialogue, Forcing Conversation, Miss J. L. Priest and Miss Lucy Hapgood.**
24. **Home, Charles A. Brigham.**
25. **Dialogue, Beauty of Piety, Miss E. A. Witt and others.**
26. **Song, Ten O'Clock.**
27. **Battle of Waterloo, Solon Wood.**
28. **Dialogue, The Village School, Miss D. H. Ross and others.**
29. **The Bachelors Sale, Miss J. L. Priest.**
30. **Dialogue, The Village Squire, Solon Wood and others.**
31. **Valedictory, Miss Lucinda H. Ross.**

This was the only hall in the village for entertainments at that time. The box seats with no backs did not invite long sessions of any kind. Mr. Rawson inspired his scholars to their best work, and the program given show lofty ideals in the selection of parts for the pleasure and interest of their audience. The program shows no charge for admission. It was a careful painstaking disinterested service for the pleasure of the public. The actors were amply repaid in the generous applause of "Uncles, Cousins and Aunts." This was all the reward for many of the best entertainments given in those days. They were occasionally given in the Baptist church—the only church in the village until 1860—We give a verbatim copy of an original program

that the newest boy and girl may know how their grandparents spent some of their evenings forty years ago.

Order of exercises at the exhibition of the young ladies' and gentlemen's literary society in the meeting house in Feltonville, Wednesday evening, April 15, 1857.

1. Song. Good Evening.
2. Introductory, C. A. Brigham.
3. The Soldier (from Bingen) Miss S. A. Witt.
4. Dialogue. The Rehearsal, C. H. Wheeler and others.
5. I Sigh for Home, Miss L. L. Tyler.
6. The Captive's Tear, S. W. Brigham.
7. Dialogue, The Tea Party, Miss F. E. Brown and others.
8. Song, When Night Comes O'er the Plain.
9. Speech of a Presidential Candidate. William B. Rice.
10. Heirs at Fault, N. S. Fairbanks and others.
11. Excelsior, Miss Laura S. Brigham.
12. Mr. Puff's Account of Himself, Elliot Draper.
13. Dialogue, Tamerlane and Bajazet, C. A. Brigham and W. B. Rice.
14. Voice of Spring, Miss M. J. Hapgood.
15. Song. Lillie.
16. Dialogue, The Well of St. Keeyne, Miss S. Hapgood, W. B. Rice, others.
17. Massachusetts to Virginia, C. G. Brigham.
18. The Convict Ship, Miss F. Gleason.
19. The Farmer and Student, C. A. Brigham and others.
20. Apostrophe to Washington, Charles H. Rice.
21. Woman's Rights, Miss Augusta Brown.
22. Dialogue, The Quack Doctor, W. F. Brigham and others.
23. The Inquiry, Miss Lillia Knight.
24. Song, The Moss Grown Dell.
25. Unpublished Oration, Wilbur F. Brigham.
26. Dialogue, The Standing Army, W. B. Brigham and others.
27. The King Fisher, Miss I. F. Peters.
28. Fuss at Fires, Willard Brigham.
29. The Sabbath, Miss Lucy W. Peters.
30. Dialogue, The Oddity, William F. Brigham, Miss F. E. Brown and others.
31. Declamation, C. B. Brigham.
32. Landing of the Pilgrims, T. J. Leary.
33. Song, Sweet the Hour.
34. The Angel's Whisper, Miss A. Haskell.
35. Dialogue, Put In the Telegraph Office, Willard Brigham and D. F. Pope.
36. The Captive's Tear, S. W. Brigham.
37. 'Tis Not Fine Feathers That Make Fine Birds, Miss F. E. Roe
38. The Stanger's Grave, Lester V. Randall.
39. Song, The True and the Noble.

40. Dialogue, The Twelve Gems, Miss Lucy Hapgood and others.
41. Zenobia's Ambition, Miss E. A. Witt.
42. Spartacus to the Envoys and Gladiators, William F. Brigham.
43. Dialogue, The Tear, C. L. Woodbury, F. E. Brown and others.
44. Valedictory, Miss Susan Hapgood.

Door open at 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ o'clock. Exercises commence at 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ o'clock. Admission 15 cts, children under 12 years of age 10 cts. The names of some of the other teachers of the schools attended by W. B. Rice were Orissa Nourse, Sarah Rice, William Brown, William Walker, William Wheeler, Henry T. French. None of these teachers taught more than two terms. Mr. Rawson taught for several consecutive years.

Above all other teachers he had time and opportunity to quicken into active use every natural gift and moral quality of mind and heart which should find their best expression and true value in the highest standards of responsible citizenship.

History of Hudson, Part 115

as published in the ENTERPRISE March 19, 1898 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

The Cox Tavern is remodeled into the Mansion House. The Temperance Society, Young America Society, and Lyceum were formed . A chorus of boys and girls developed into a Boston soloist for William B. Rice.

In 1856 the "Cox tavern" erected by Loring Cox was remodeled and changed into the more stately proportions of the Mansion House. George W. Warfield was proprietor. It was early dedicated by a dramatic entertainment given by home talent. The leading play was "The Drunkard." The leading character in the play Edward Middleton was represented with fullest success by William B. Rice. Soon after this time public temperance meetings were held weekly in the vestry of the Baptist church. The President was Rev L. E. Wakefield. The literary entertainment was furnished largely by the young people. One attraction of the meetings was the paper entitled the "Star of Progress" edited by William F. Brigham and William B. Rice. It was spiced with original articles from young and old. The Editors were fearless exponents of temperance; they had the heartiest opposition of the corkscrew element in the village and at one time threatened disturbance to the physical functions of these young Editors if they did not cease their attacks on their liberties as free men to drink.

The paper, still in existence, accomplished much good. One pleasing incident in one of these meetings was the presentation of a large purse of money to Uncle Charles Brigham prior to his departure for the west with a view to settlement. This was in the spring of 1859. A most eloquent and pathetic speech was made by President Wakefield. The recipient of the purse feelingly responded. The clustering memories of home and Feltonville were dearer to "Uncle Charles" than all the invitations of illimitable prairies and he returned July 12, the same year.

These public meetings were afterwards displaced by the orders of the Sons of Temperance and the Good Templars. William B. Rice was one of the officials in the latter order and one of its most enthusiastic workers and continued his interest and activity in temperance work while living in this place. There was in Feltonville the "Young America Society" where the young men weekly gathered for debate and declamations. Their ages were from 16 to 20 years. They had initiation ceremonies; it was a very exclusive order. Ladies were not allowed to be present and no person unless an initiated member. There were some twenty-five young men of the ages given in this order. The meetings were held in one of the school rooms on School Street. They were held weekly for more than a year.

On one occasion a departure was made from the iron clad rules. A perambulating lecturer visited the place. For five dollars he was hired to lecture on South America. Capt Francis Brigham was invited to preside, he accepted the

invitation. He was next invited to pay the lecturer. He paid, and never visited the Young American society after that.

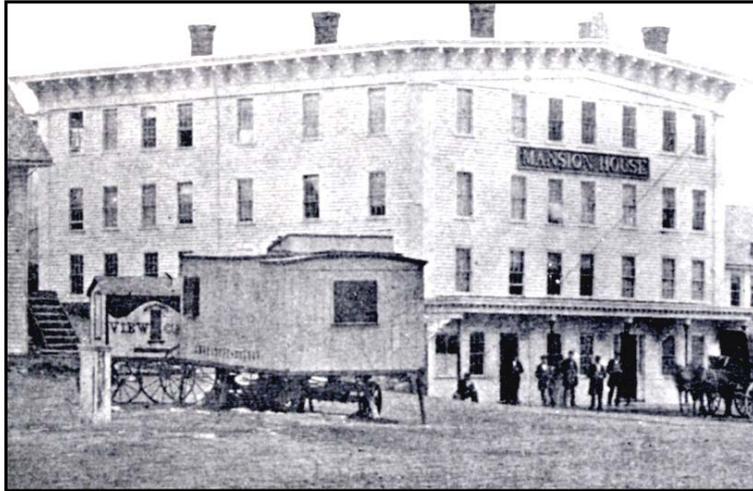
Legal tender was an unknown article to those ambitious boys. These secret meetings were surrendered to the more public lyceum, this was held in a room over the coal sheds belonging to George Houghton. William B. Rice and his first partner, H. H. Hutchins were two of the most prominent members. One night one of the speakers was called to order by his opponent. The President requested him to state his point order. "The speaker is disturbing the people in the public square." This lyceum practice quickened thought and awakened a readiness of speech not known to the debaters before. This extempore speaking was a valuable equipment for forensic encounters in after years.

W. B. Rice acquired his ability for well rounded periods and close reasoning before cultured audiences through the tutorage of Feltonville debating societies and public lyceums. It was a recreation that ennobled after the fatiguing trials of the day and helpful for a lifetime. This was not all the young people enjoyed. Henry T. French taught the evening singing school. The boys and girls went, some had gifts, they were musical from the cradle. William B. Rice had this gift and was a success; he climbed the bars and caught some of the harmonies of the old masters; he sung in the Methodist church a number of years and added to the reputation of their excellent choir. Afterwards when a resident of Boston, he sung in the leading churches in the city and received a salary of one thousand dollars a year. The country shoemaker and music teacher, with his own efforts, developed a gift of greater pecuniary value to him, in the hour of need than the gift of "gab" in many others.

The first reward W. B. Rice received for singing was in the days of his earliest childhood. In his childhood days a ledge of rocks covered part of the ground now known as "Wood Square." On the north side of these rocks was a road. On the south side was a passageway to Manson & Brigham's store called "Tin Pot Alley." Lining the side were stacks of boards. Little Rice and his playmates often stood in a row behind these boards and with a stick in each hand pounded the boards and awakening the suggestion that pandemonium was let loose. The late F. D. Brigham coming along one day when the boys were agitating the air and the neighbors generally, offered to treat the orchestra from Bedlam, if they would entertain him with one of their concerts. With sticks in hand they beat time and started in with "Old Dan Tucker." He soon understood old Esq. Pope's description of Methodist singing "Holding your breath and screaming as loud as you can." Mr. Brigham was very soon anxious to have Rice and other musicians fall into line for the store, where candy and raisins were passed over the counter to receptive hands.

One of these little boys was shrewd in trade. He would contract to move a woodpile from the outside to the inside of the woodshed. He would go to the store and purchase a pound of Key raisins for four cents. The boys readily accepted his offer of one raisin for every armful of wood carried into the shed; twelve or fifteen boys

required only a little time to pick up the last stick in a large pile of wood. The contractor paid all bills and had fruit of the vineyard left for the next job.



Mansion House – Built 1843, Remodeled 1856

SOCIAL BALL.

— — — — —

At *L. Coy's Hotel, Feltonville,*
Wednesday Evening, Nov. 26th '45, at 5 o'cl'k.
Sir--Your Company with Ladies, is respectfully solicited.

~~~~~

**COMMITTEE.**

|                |             |                           |                |
|----------------|-------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| W. H. Horton,  | C. Haskell, | T. E. Haggood,            | A. R. Gleason, |
| A. B. Gleason, | S. Arnold,  | A. H. Pope,               | F. H. Whitney, |
| A. S. Howe,    | B. Morse.   | J. H. BRIGHAM, Secretary. |                |

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Music, **C. BARNES' Quadrille Band, Northboro'.**
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Hastings, Fr. Waltham.

## History of Hudson, Part 116

as published in the ENTERPRISE, March 26, 1898 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

William B. Rice helped at farming, was a mischievous boy, and assisted at shoe making at seven years old. He learned well and became the fastest shoemaker in the room. On Oct 25, 1860, he hired a vehicle, picked up his girlfriend and they went to Northboro to get married.

The fancies and capers of sportive childhood and exuberant boyhood are generally the same in this class in every generation. When William B. Rice was a child of some five years he took a walk one day down to the old tannery. Near his home, he observed one of his little playmates standing on the wall, bordering the tanyard pond. Little Rice approached him and playfully applied a little pressure, there was a vacancy on the wall, at the same time a splash was heard in the water; workmen near rescued the boy before the respiratory organs had congested and little Rice went home to receive the proper discipline. When he was 9 years old he went to reside with his uncle, Capt Caleb Nourse a farmer of much experience. He carried with him a bundle that held his slender store of wearing apparel.

The farm was about one mile from his home, now owned by Capt John Phillips. He was very helpful in doing chores and other work on the farm. One day he had a surplus of hilarity and for some overt act, not laid down in any elementary treatise on agriculture he was well spanked. He worked on this farm one and a half years, then returned to his home. One day he went with one of his playmates to gather chestnuts in the "old maid's woods." His companions climbed a very tall old tree, surrounded with ragged rocks, while shaking the tree a limb on which he stood suddenly broke and the boy fell a number of feet, lodging on a lower limb. He reached the ground suffering from injuries received. He asked Rice what he would do had the fall been on the rocks. The quick answer was "had your injuries allowed you to walk I would help you home, otherwise I would have finished you, got a wagon and hauled you home."

The first introduction W. B. Rice had in the mysteries of shoemaking was in the small brick shop, standing a few feet from the Cox tavern. The fitting of stock in part and the packing room was down stairs. The bottoming room was not large enough for more than fifteen workmen. The lap stone stood near the bench, and the process of constructing the shoe was nearly as crude and primitive as in Abraham's day. The first machine of any intrinsic value to simplify the work of making a shoe had yet to be made. It was hand work from the beginning to the finished shoe. The bottom of the shoe was gummed over. They were called "lacks" three pair for a dollar. This was the shoe familiar to W. B. Rice as a workman in his childhood days. When not over seven years of age, seated at this father's bench he aided him in many little helpful ways in the making of the shoe.

In 1847 the workmen went from this shop to the new one just completed on the opposite side of the street. Shoemakers in those days always worked evenings generally until nine o'clock. There was a temperance society, the only society in Feltonville or Marlboro at that time and dull cares and constant work were a blessing to killing time for those busy contented shoemakers who reached the shop first in the morning and swept out the room received one cent, for building the fire another cent. It would be small pay for the class of men who have their hand in the treasury and help themselves at the present day.

Young Rice worked in the shop until he attained his majority; when he reached the age of eighteen years he bought his time of his father, paying him twelve dollars a month for board and one half of all he earned. Out of his half he was to buy all his own clothes and whatever else he needed. He was not only a first class workman but easily did more work than any man in the room. The bargain he made with his father looks on the face of it like a hard bargain. "Working by the piece" he was so quick in every movement he was able to do a large amount of work every day; it was after all a good bargain for young Rice. He was the soul of honor and kept faith with his father, yielding to him to the uttermost farthing all he had promised in his contract with him. While busily employed, multiplying his knowledge in the shoemaker's craft his mind traveled into biblical reflections. "The solitary shall be gathered together in families," he had no doubt of the wisdom and the practical increase of human happiness in this declaration of "Holy Writ."

His idea of domestic bliss was located near the old maid's woods and "Fort Meadow" formerly the camping ground of the Indians. The 25<sup>th</sup> of October 1860 was an eventful day for young Rice. He hired a vehicle of the newest pattern and fresh from the hands of the manufacturer, before he ended his journey he found it was too freaky. He drove without unnecessary delay to the residence of Miss Emma Cunningham and invited her to ride on a road that should open into one of the newer and brighter vistas of life. He went to Northboro by the most direct route, and called on the venerable Rev Joseph Allen. He stated in a word his mission. The words that cemented two souls and two destinies in one were quickly uttered. Young Rice started for Feltonville burdened with the awakening responsibilities of a family man. When within a mile of the village the wheels suddenly ceased to revolve and the horse stood on his pedals in mute wonder. The application of braid was useless. The law of evolution in this case had ceased. The panacea was grease for the axles. After a little discussion with Mrs. Rice on the "whereat" they left the vehicle and with still hopeful, rejoicing hearts walked into the village of Feltonville.

## History of Hudson, Part 117

as published in the ENTERPRISE, Sept 23, 1899 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

Tired of shoemaking, William B. Rice goes to Boston to buy out a fancy goods and stationery shop on Hanover Street in partnership with William H. Chamberlain in 1861, at age 21.

When William B. Rice walked into Feltonville with his bride of a few hours leaving on the Northboro road a carriage with congested wheels, he did not imitate the apostle and live in "mine own hired house." It was more congenial to his domestic tastes to live in his own house, and pay tribute to no one. He built a house on Church Street at an expense of only \$1250. He was obliged to mortgage the house.

Soon after, he was taken sick with typhoid fever. This affliction would have discouraged any ordinary person, with life's battle hardly on the skirmish line. While his blood was boiling with fierce fever fires, amid physical suffering, he saw beyond the pain and the shadow, the gleam of a summer day.

After his recovery from severe sickness, he continued in the employ of F. Brigham & Co. until 1861. The monotony of life in a treadmill gave no response to the ambition of the young shoemaker. His environment at the time showed a wolf in every doorway for him. He resolved to do a small business on his own account, although every shingle was mortgaged that covered his little home.

Feltonville showed no promising field for business at that time and young Rice decided to visit Boston, whose streets were entirely new to him, and find a suitable place for trade. After a careful search he decided to locate on Hanover Street and try fancy goods and stationery business. His capital was wholly inadequate for a small business. He induced a shopmate, William H. Chamberlain, to go into business with him as a silent partner and furnish \$500.

This being the first business enterprise of William B. Rice, we give the articles of agreement between the active and silent partner to show the care exercised to guard against future doubt or misunderstanding: ---

Articles of agreement, made and entered into this first day of October, in the year of our Lord, One thousand eight hundred and sixty-one, by and between William B. Rice of the city of Boston, in the county of Suffolk, and commonwealth of Massachusetts, of the one part, and William H. Chamberlain, of Marlboro, in the county of Middlesex and commonwealth aforesaid, of the second part.

Witnesseth that the parties above named have agreed and by these presence, do agree to form a limited partnership in trade for the purpose of carrying on the Fancy Goods and Stationery business at No. 201 Hanover Street, in the said city of Boston,

as successors to Eaton & Simons, for the term of three years from the date thereof, unless sooner terminated by the mutual consent of the parties thereto, upon the following stipulations, conditions, agreements, viz: ---

The capital stock in trade is to be one thousand dollars of actual cash investment, or its current equivalent. Five hundred dollars of said capital stock is to be paid into the concern by each party thereto. The capital invested is at no time to be less than said sum of one thousand dollars. Said William H. Chamberlain is to be, and is to be known as a special and not as a general partner, in the business transactions of the firm. The business of said concern is to be done under the firm name of William B. Rice, who is in all respects to have the management, direction and supervision of the business.

Said William B. Rice, general partner as aforesaid, is to keep a set of books, in form acceptable to the parties thereto, in which the said Rice, is to keep a true and faithful account of all business transactions entered into by said concern, and which will at all times exhibit truly and accurately the net income of the business transactions of said limited partnership. Said books are to be open at all times to the inspection of said William H. Chamberlain, special partner as aforesaid.

Said William B. Rice, general partner as aforesaid, is to perform, or procure to be performed, all the labor necessary of essential for the carrying on the business of said limited partnership, and in consideration thereof, and in consideration of said one hundred dollars by him invested in the capital stock of said concern, is to receive at the end of each year from said first day of October, A.D. 1861, during said term of three years above named, five sixths part of the whole net income of said limited partnership. Said William H. Chamberlain, special partner as aforesaid, is to receive as the income of said five hundred dollars by him invested in said concern at the end of each year, from said first day of October, A. D. 1861, during said term of three years, one sixth part of the proceeds of said business transacted by the above named partnership.

The amount of income of said concern at the end of each year, as aforesaid, is to be estimated and computed by the parties thereto, or in case of any disagreement therein by some disinterested person, capable to decide the same, to be agreed upon by the parties hereto.

The name of William H. Chamberlain is not to be used in any of the business transactions of the concern, in any manner whatever, and he is known only as silent partner thereto as provided for, under and by virtue of the provisions contained in chapter 55 of the General Statutes of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts of the year 1859 representing limited partnership.

In case any losses occur in the termination of the business of said limited partnership, such loss or losses as the case may be, are to be sustained entirely by the said William B. Rice, general partner hereto.

L. T. Jefts, Pres.                      E. M. Stowe, Vice-Pres.  
Caleb L. Brigham, Cashier.

## HUDSON NATIONAL BANK.

CAPITAL \$100,000.

### DIRECTORS:

Luman T. Jefts, Edmund M. Stowe, Joseph S. Bradley, Chas. H. Robinson,  
Benj. Dearborn, Hermon C. Tower, Edward H. Dunn, James D. Tyler,  
Nathan L. Pratt, Joel Proctor, Geo. A. Tripp, Alfred D. Gleason,  
Henry Tower, Josiah S. Welsh, Savillian Arnold.

Banking Hours from 9 to 12 A. M., and 1 to 3 P. M.  
Discount Day, Monday.

## HUDSON SAVINGS BANK

Jefts' Block, Main Street.

Deposits Draw Interest from the third  
Wednesday of October, January,  
April and July.

Dividends payable Saturday after the third  
Wednesday in January and July.

BUSINESS HOURS:— From 9 A. M. to 12 M.  
EVERY DAY, and Saturdays from 9 A. M. to 12  
M., and 1 to 5 and 6 to 8 P. M.

MONEY LOANED on Real Estate. Persons  
having loans can pay on the principal fifty dollars  
or more at any time and stop interest on amount  
paid at once.

Investment Committee for 1887.— E. M. Stowe,  
Chas. H. Robinson, J. S. Bradley, Benj. Dearborn  
L. T. Jefts.

E. M. Stowe, Pres.                      Daniel W. Stratton Treas.

**Personal and Business Loans available in Hudson**

## History of Hudson, Part 118

as published in the ENTERPRISE, Sept 30, 1899 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

He went to Boston by train and carried goods to his newer store in Feltonville, which was patronized by his former shoemaker friends. He opened a woodworking shop in Hudson. He joined the troops of the Civil War for a 100-day term.

The first business venture of William B. Rice in the Hanover Street store in 1861 gave ample opportunity for him to demonstrate his capacity to do business. He was hopeful and resolute in spirit. He asked no partnership support from any one. In success or failure he stood alone. Only 21 years of age, he assumed risks that would have dismayed the most of men. Working on borrowed capital was another chance to misfortune that would have checked anyone with less native grit than he possessed. An almost infinite variety of articles made up his stock in trade. He kept everything for sale, and for cash and a small profit was ready to furnish any article, from a church steeple to a mousetrap.

It is amusing to see the list of articles on his shelves and which he was selling every day to customers all over New England, for from the beginning young Rice came under the denomination of a "hustler." From a multitude of articles we select a few he kept for sale; Perfumery, violins, cigars, cradles, pipes, dolls, writing paper, carts, bats, balls, drums, caps, flags, harps, portfolios, wallets, rocking horses, music books, combs, fans, rings, scissors, masks, shaving brushes, torpedoes, splices, tops, firecrackers, tail pins, umbrellas, trumpets, ink, wheelbarrows, bracelets, locomotives, bedsteads, almanacs, sad irons, watch chains, hoop skirts, accordions, etc.

He had many expenses and he was obliged to practice the strictest economy and save every cent. He had a pass on the Fitchburg R.R. In his early business days he came to Feltonville and secured quite a trade. Most of them were his shopmates, who bought what they needed and what they did not need to help and encourage him in business.

We give the names of some of his Feltonville customers: John H. Witt, Chas. E. Witt, Lester V. Randall, Henry Coolidge, Benjamin Barnard, Henry Watkins, Charles G. Buss, O. B. Peters, Levi A. Randall, William H. Chamberlain, D. F. Pope, H. T. French, George L. Manson, Levi P. Elithorpe, Charles G. Brigham, A. C. Flee, Wilbur F. Brigham – the last named was his best customer. Of this list of 17 persons, 14 of the number were his former shopmates.

To save express charges, young Rice brought his packages in his hands and personally attended to delivering the goods he sold. The express company found fault, and to save his pass over the road he was obliged to employ the express man.

Mr. Rice was very hospitable. On one occasion one of his old schoolmates called on him and was invited to stop over night. He had on a pair of tight fitting, long leg boots. He had traveled in the slush and rain of a winter day. When he went to retire, those boots clung to his feet with a tenacity resisting all muscular efforts to remove them. The visitor took a philosophical view of the situation. He got into bed and slept with his boots on his feet. He left next morning after adding materially to the onerous duties of the laundry.

Mr. Rice was in business on Hanover Street for two years, or until late in the year 1862. He sold out the business and returned to Feltonville.

He thought it more profitable to manufacture many of the articles he had been selling. He hired a large room with waterpower of the late Francis Brigham and associated himself with Charles M. Randall. The machinery adopted for the successful prosecution of the business was purchased. It was mostly for sawing, turning and molding in wood. The lumber was purchased and brought from distant points in and out of the state, and of farmers in the vicinity of Hudson. Mr. Rice was not afraid to work. He had no use for clerks or figureheads of any kind. He filled all departments of service from proprietor to office boy. At this time, flour was \$2.50 a bag and kerosene oil 75 cents a gallon and everything entering into the economy of housekeeping was correspondingly high in every market. Every dollar must be saved.

Most of his capital in trade was his own brawn and muscle. Costumed in a suit of blue jean drilling, with a paper hat on his head, his face blacked with the dust evolving from swift revolving saws, he worked from sun to sun. He was as adept at painting and varnishing goods, many of the patterns and designs were original with him. His goods were sold to the leading houses of Boston and New York.

During his busy years the war of the Rebellion was raging with increasing fury. The Confederate armies were pressing on the northern frontiers. In this crisis of the nation's life, President Lincoln called for 100,000 troops for 100 days. There was a call for volunteers throughout the loyal states. Mr. Rice stirred by a love of country, above all earthly loves, resolved to leave home, business and kindred and lend a helping hand to rescue his country from the deadly peril of opposing foes.

## History of Hudson, Part 119

as published in the ENTERPRISE, Oct 5, 1899 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

In 1864, President Lincoln called for 100 regiments. The local 5<sup>th</sup> Regiment enrolled 2 companies and Lieutenant William B. Rice is the commander in Baltimore.

In answer to the call of President Lincoln in 1864 for additional troops, 100 regiments of volunteers were quickly organized and ready for the Southland. The 5<sup>th</sup> Regiment enrolled two companies from this section. Co. I commanded by Capt. A. A. Powers were soldiers mostly from Feltonville. Co. E, commanded by Capt. David Brown were recruited mostly in the other two villages of Marlboro. William B. Rice was 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant of this company. The Regiment went into camp at Readville.

They took the cars for Maryland. The reception was most cordial as they passed through the northern cities and towns. On entering Maryland, the greeting had got down to "The cold respect of a passing glance." Gen. Bradford's house was burned two days before the 5<sup>th</sup> Regiment reached the sacred soil. It was one of the hottest days known for years when the troops commenced the march for Mankin's Woods. Some of the soldiers drank ice water before the march and this act of indiscretion cost young Gott of Berlin his life. The morning after arrival was the Sabbath, ten regiments of troops were out on dress parade. A score of them fell on the field from heat and sunstroke.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Regiment was camped in these woods three weeks, the officers spending most of their time drilling these raw recruits into veterans as fast as possible. A river coursed through these woods, and the foliage of richly draped trees made the locality a satisfactory home for the soldiers, although his bed was a hard fraction of this terrestrial ball.

After being thoroughly drilled in the manual of arms and in various tactics employed in actual battle, the regiment was ordered to march to Fort McHenry. The regiment was a number of miles north of Baltimore. In marching through the streets brilliantly lighted parlors were passed and not an inmate to be seen. The polite Yankee, with his business engagements, was no attraction for them at that time. The regiment was in Fort McHenry a few days and was then ordered to march to Fort Federal Hall, the former headquarters of General Butler and his troops.

The fort was a center for drafted and volunteer soldiers; thousands of them came and from this point went to the armies in front of the enemy. Details of soldiers from the 5<sup>th</sup> Regiment were sent to guard them, for there was a class of soldiers called "bounty jumpers," whose patriotism took the form of securing all the greenbacks possible without detriment to life or limb. Many of these recruits were distributed

along the Maryland shore, City Point and Harper's Ferry. This place ever famous from the raid of John Brown.

When the guards of the 5<sup>th</sup> Regiment were there the engine house and other places of refuge were the same as the old hero left them. The town had been torn by shot and shell. In the parlors of brick houses on the main street horses and mules stood munching their oats, having no positive convictions of the ravages of war.

One night, a horseman, exhausted by hard riding, appeared at the main entrance of Ft. Federal Hill, with the intelligence that 30,000 Confederates were marching on Baltimore. The 5<sup>th</sup> Regiment was ordered to be ready to march in an hour with two days' rations. This regiment had never been under fire and they were so eager to go, the sentinels could find no one to relieve them that they might march to meet the enemy. Before morning this order was countermanded.

One night in mounting guard a sentinel left on the line at the rear of the fort was informed three "bounty jumpers" would offer \$300 to let them pass the lines, and if not accepted the sentinel would be grafted with bullets. An extra guard were sleeping on their arms near the line, ready to respond to a call for help. Near midnight the three soldiers passed inside the lines to a building below the sleeping guard. Word was passed from sentinel to sentinel until it reached Lieut. W. B. Rice, lieutenant of the guard, who came with a bodyguard and arrested them.

While the 5<sup>th</sup> regiment was in Fort Federal Hill a presidential canvass was in progress. The candidates were Abraham Lincoln and General George B. McClellan. A very large percent of the soldiers were republicans. One day a soldier was having an open discussion with another soldier of opposite political faith. The republican was evidently holding his own, for old dishes began to fly near his organ of speech. The Ohio volunteers, giants in stature, came up in large numbers and offered to protect the speaker. Lieut. William B. Rice, who was officer of the day, came to the speaker and offered him protection. The speaker, believing silence to be the best means of harmony, withdrew from the field. W. B. Rice cast his maiden vote for president for Abraham Lincoln.

The soldiers were on duty two hours and off four hours, day and night. They acquired the most thorough practical knowledge of the manual of arms and a perfect mastery of military evolutions. Intense heat and work made the soldiers look thin, and they could cast a shadow easier than anything else. The time of the regiment expired a number of days before the November election.

The night before election the Regiment marched up Broadway singing patriotic songs. The balconies of the great hotels and sidewalks were drowned with people and the report preceding them, they were Butler's troops, sent to defend the ballot boxes, awakened great enthusiasm and cheering. The regiment reached the old Bay State without accident and was received in their homes with a fusillade of open arms and tearful embraces.

In giving a brief sketch of the 5<sup>th</sup> Regiment, we give a glimpse of the soldier life of Lieut. Rice. He was a skillful tactician and was fearless, prompt and efficient in the discharge of every duty. When this Regiment left the Bay State, the danger of invasion by the Confederates was so imminent, the general opinion was, most the Regiment would find their final bivouac on southern soil, while they escaped the actual carnage of battle, on many occasions they were eyewitnesses to the horrors of war.



**William F. Brigham**

## History of Hudson, Part 120

as published in the ENTERPRISE, Oct 14, 1899 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

Returning to Feltonville in 1864, William Rice joined in business with Jonas Houghton. One item they sold was organs. Then he sold shoes for L.T.Jefts and clothing with Horatio Hutchins on Main Street. Then he took his shoe sales company to Boston and became rich. IRS taxes are now due.

After the disbanding of the 5<sup>th</sup> regiment, in November 1864, William B. Rice entered actively into the business he relinquished when he went to the Great War. He severed business relations with his first partner and formed a co-partnership with Jonas T. Houghton under the style of Rice & Houghton.

They did not do a large business as compared with the shoe manufacturers in Feltonville. January 1866 the "Internal Revenue" tax paid by several firms was as follows: - Rice & Houghton \$5.94; F. Brigham & Co. \$2307.36; George Houghton \$2490.24; L. T. Jefts \$235.54; Stowe & Welsh \$1316.06; Trowbridge & Chamberlain \$35706. In April 1866, Rice and Houghton's tax was \$6.54; May tax \$9.06. The last month Mr. Rice did business in Hudson was in August 1866. This month he paid a tax on sales amounting to \$427.

The sales of F. Brigham & Co. the same month were \$122,656. George Houghton \$110,494, L.T.Jefts \$10,315. There was at that time quite a difference between the "Little David and the Goliaths" of other firms. Little David counted his tabs later. An income tax was paid for a few years during and after the war on incomes over some fifteen hundred dollars. W. B. Rice paid no income tax in 1866. His father, Obed Rice, paid on \$162 above the several allowances of the tax. William B. Rice had a number of outside lines to increase his income at this time.

We give one of his advertisements: "The American Organ, an instrument without a superior in quality of tone, beauty of finish, variety of expression. They are finished walnut, rosewood and oak, in different styles and compass, price \$90 to \$500. W. B. Rice, agent for Feltonville and surrounding towns, of whom circulars containing further information can be had."

He was also engaged as a salesman for L. T. Jefts, shoe manufacturer. His success in handling this new line of goods was a surprise to himself and his employer. While developing several business projects he was interested and active in social and benevolent societies. He was a member of a literary society called "The Circle." Feb. 5 1866, he was elected president of this society, H. H. Hutchins was secretary and treasurer. Mr. Rice was a member of the Hudson Army and Navy Union. Sept. 18, 1866, he was the first member chosen of a delegation to a convention of soldiers in Faneuil Hall, Boston, General Banks presiding. Sixteen hundred soldiers were present with the scars and mutilations, the grim insignia of a hundred battles on land

and sea, upon them. This same year, July 4<sup>th</sup>, at the celebration at Wheeler's grove. Lieut. W. B. Rice, was 1<sup>st</sup> asst. marshal.

The honorable positions he occupied show how thoroughly he was identified at this time, with the affairs of Hudson and the appreciation of his fellow citizens in his ability and fidelity in public place and trust. His boyhood and youth was along "the straight and narrow way" as a scholar in the Baptist Sabbath school and attendant of this church into which he was dutifully led every Sabbath by his devoted parents. His teacher was the saintly Henry R. Glover. The teachings of Sabbath and day schools, forecasted that stability and integrity of character and manhood that distinguished him in later years. The hidden powers for a successful career were revealed to him while a shoe salesman.

He had anchored at the golden means of success in life. He resolved to make it his sole business. He wanted two things to start with, a partner and more capital than he owned. There was a clothier by the name of Horatio H. Hutchins. His store was on Main Street. He invited him to a partnership in his business, which was accepted. The next want was found in an unexpected way. The manly character and honorable dealings of Mr. Rice in the past with businessmen served him well in seeking financial aid. He went to the First National Bank of Marlboro and asked for a loan of two hundred dollars.

A few days later he received the following letter:

Marlboro, Mass., May 21, 1866

W. B. Rice, Esq.:

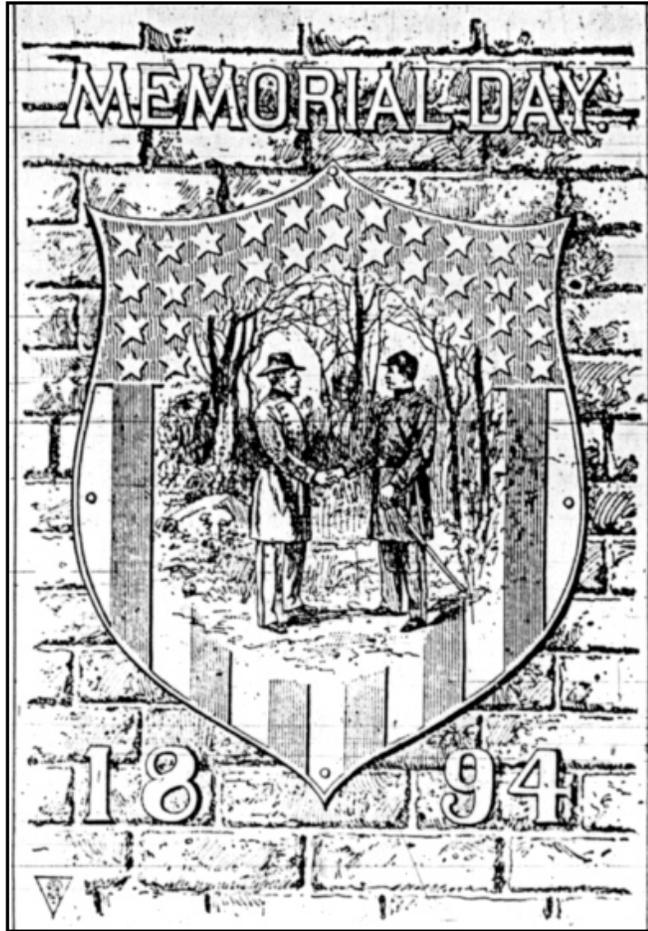
Dear Sir – Our directors voted to lend you the \$200 asked for, if Francis Brigham will write us a letter as follows: "I know Mr. W.B.Rice and Mr. H.H.Hutchins and they are both perfectly good for any liabilities they may assume and worthy of credit." Let him sign this in ink and return when you come for the money.

Yours, E.C.Whitney.

Mr. Rice handed the letter to Francis Brigham. Reading it he said, "I guess I can fix it for you." He harnessed his horse, went to Marlboro and returned with the desired funds. Capt. Brigham handed it to Mr. Rice. With this small capital he went to Boston, hired a room and in a small way commenced a business which, in its subsequent growth and development, places him today in the forefront of the world's greatest shoe manufacturers.

During the winter of 1897, Mr. James Reed, one of the leading citizens and merchants of Clay, Clay Co., W. VA., struck his leg against a cake of ice in such a manner as to bruise it severely. It became very much swollen and pained him so badly that he could not walk without the aid of crutches. He was treated by physicians, also used several kinds of liniment and two and a half gallons of whisky in bathing it, but nothing gave any relief until he began using Chamberlain's Pain Balm. This brought almost a complete cure in a week's time and he believes that had he not

used this remedy his leg would have had to be amputated. Pain Balm is unequalled for sprains, bruises and rheumatism. For sale by E. B. Lucia, Hudson.



## History of Hudson, Part 121

as published in the ENTERPRISE, Feb 13, 1897 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

The old buildings, homes and their residents are all gone but Charles Brigham remembers them well. He reflects on those he can recall. Jedediah Wood and his sons in succession owned the general store from 1800 to 1894 when it was burned in the great fire of July 4, 1894. Eight streets ran out of Wood Square. The names of 14 citizens are given to the streets in the new town.

Standing in Wood Square and seeing what is, and remembering what was, and a lifetime is before me. The familiar scenes of other days I see no more. Buildings and builders gone, and all the families of my boyhood days, not one is left to tell their story, and I seem a stranger in a strange land, now the name is gone of the once familiar place.

The names of the builders and businessmen and some of all the families, but the first, I remember that have lived here. I remember the old unpainted house with stone chimney, built by Jeremiah Barstow in 1711, and sold to Robert Barnard in 1723, who kept the first public house there between Marlboro and Lancaster until his death in 1773 and his son Joel took his place until his death in 1775, leaving his wife with nine children from 2 to 18 years old.

The widow died in 1805, the children all lived to grow up, and four of them lived in the place and I knew them, Mrs. Lavinia Stevens, widow of Daniel Stevens, she died in 1854, aged 94 years. Lucy died in 1853, aged 82; Phoebe died in 1859, aged 86; Francis died in 1858 aged 90 years. The ages of the four averaged 88 years, and three of Francis's children now living average 86 years – Mrs. Babcock 91 years, Wm. F. Barnard 87 years, and Daniel 81 years.

The Barnard heirs sold out their shares in their father's estate and left the place. Mr. Reed was the first to buy and build the clothier's shop by the bridge, and sold to Mr. Joel Cranston in 1794, and he built the Peters house, which was moved away to give place for Trowbridge's shop. James Barker came next, and built the Pope house in 1796, where now stands Mr. Lewis's house. I think Barker had no deed of the land, for John Peck bought of the Barnard heirs for \$3333.33 the Joel Barnard estate including the old Barnard house and the Pope house, and Peck sold to Folger Pope of Salem, 100 acres of land and both houses and barns for \$2833.33 in 1802.

Mr. Reed sold the clothier's shop, house and land to Jedediah Brigham for \$1000. Mr. Brigham sold the shop and land south of driveway to Jedediah Wood for \$600 and land north of driveway, house and barn to "Tin Pot Alley" since called, to Mr. Felton, and he built the store and continued there mostly until his death in 1823, and the familiar name of Felton's store was no more. Joel Cranston was with him for a time. He built more in his time than any other man in the square. He built the Peters

house and blacksmith shop and the old Manson house, burnt with the rest at the time of the fire. He sold out, went to Rockbottom and his name was here no more. Colonel Hale was here for a time was an active businessman. He sold out, went to Rockbottom in 1826 and that was the last of him with us here. Mr. George Peters bought the house and blacksmith shop that Cranston built, and carried on the blacksmith business until released by age.

His son Luther was with him for a time. He built the brick house next to his father's that was burnt with the rest. He sold out and left the place, and the last of this familiar name for 75 years was gone with the death of John H. Peters where he spent a large part of his life. But there is nothing left now to tell that this family was once in Wood Square.

Mr. Ebenezer Witt bought the engine house lot in 1797 and built his house there, married, had four children, three girls and one boy; he died in 1840, aged 85 years. Ebenezer jr. lived in the house with him until his death, and some years after he sold the land to George Manson, moved the house on to River street, and soon the name of Witt was heard no more in Wood square.

Stephen Pope bought of Folger, his father's farm, in 1816, for \$3000, and Folger went back to Salem, and Stephen and wife, and all six of his children have died and I attended the funeral of all, the last of the name in Wood square.

Mr. Felton will be remembered in the post office name of the village from 1828 to the time of the incorporation of the town in 1866, and the name of Manson will be remembered in store and post office for 50 years.

The name of Wood, the last and longest in the square of any name, the first, Jedediah, came here a young man of 18 years in 1795 to learn the clothier's trade of Mr. Reed, and in 1798 Mr. Reed sold the shop, trade and land, from the driveway to the river to Jedediah Brigham and in 1800 Brigham sold to Wood the same property for \$600, without any money or security, but a mortgage back for the same amount, and the confidence gained in learning the trade, and in six years he had it all paid for.

In 1801 he married Betsey Wilkins, and they had six children, and after the war of 1812 they began to build factories which injured his business and he took part of his shop for a store, and for some 30 years he was in the clothier's business, and 20 years in the store. Besides he owned the grist mill, saw mill and factory, that was burnt in 1834, and a large farm to carry on, and he gave up the clothing business and store to attend to his other business. His son who had been with him in the store, built where the old Barnard house stood in 1841, that was burnt at the time of the fire, known as Colonel Wood's store until his death in 1864. For 22 years he did a successful business in store, surveying, town office, etc.

He surveyed the town and made the map we have now of Marlboro. Solon took his place, and from 1864 to 1894, with no check but the fire for 30 years kept a store

that was a credit to himself and the town, and took a place among the rocks that but few would have dared to have undertaken and built a store that is a credit to Wood square, if it never has the name as it ought to, a family name here for more then a 100 years, and 95 in successful business life. Three generations have gone in my time. Peter Wood Esq. received his commission from Governor Hancock in 1783, and when his house was burnt in Marlboro, he was getting old, he came to live with his son known as Captain Wood. He died in the old house in the square in 1820, 80 years old. His wife died in 1822 aged 81 years. Captain Jedediah Wood, his son, died in 1867 aged 89 years; his wife died in 1855 aged 73 years; his son Colonel William Henry Wood died in 1864 aged 62 years; his wife died in 1879 at 77 years, and there are three generations now living here, and we have seven streets leading out of the square as all streets should where there is a square or a common. I was told in justification of the change here, that they were doing away with the square now, that there was no Haymarket Square now that Washington Street ran through it but it could not do it; there is nothing to run through; it is all a square with eight streets leading out of it.

There is the Boston and Maine depot, Canal Street, city scales, Merrimac Street, Sudbury Street, three stores, Washington Street, Union Street, Blackstone Street, and Charlestown Street to B&M depot, and no street can run across the others, and Dock square is numbered as it has been for many years. You can see in large figures the highest number, 30. We have the names of some 14 citizens of Hudson as streets, many of which have done their work and journeyed on, Pope Street, Felton, Rice, Houghton, Brigham, Loring, Cox Street; Apsley Street, Packard Street, Mason, Byron, Russell, Warner and Wilkins Street, all right, and it would be more so for the streets to lead out of a square as good as we have, with a name that has survived the change of time, and the only name that was here in my boyhood days; it will cost but little to change it as it has been for 30 years. Wilbur had the vote of the town two weeks ago all right. I close with pleasant memories of days that will come no more.



Marshall Wood



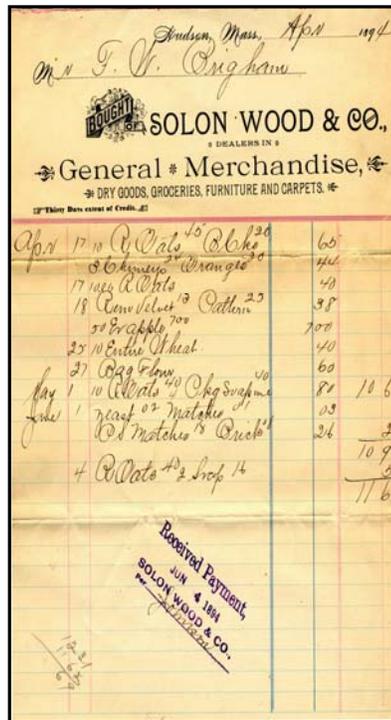
Jedediah Wood



Jedediah Wood's House



Solon Wood's Store



Solon Wood Receipt

## History of Hudson, Part 122

as published in the ENTERPRISE, Apr 17, 1897 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

In his youth, 40 years ago, a "huckleberry ride" with 17 boys and 20 girls from the Baptist Church had an outing to Bolton in the four-horse furniture wagons. Forty years ago, two Indians would come for the summer living in their wigwams and attended the Baptist Church. The minister's salary was enhanced by donations of wood and groceries and wood also for poor families fetched by the young girls!

The recollections of the past are often in the minds of elderly people, and those who were with me in the bloom of my youth 40 years ago, may like to be reminded of that summertime and recall some of the good times which, with us, are forever past. Shall we begin with that famous "huckleberry ride" where four-horse furniture wagons were filled with the young people. The girls were requested to furnish bowls and spoons. The boys furnished the rest. A jolly crowd went over in Bolton and on the way took on cans of milk from some of the farmhouses. The pasture was situated quite a distance from the road and several bars had to be removed for us to pass through. Arrived there we were soon scattered over the pasture, and after a sufficient time had elapsed we were called together under the shade of large trees, wagon seats and robes were used for seats as far as they went, the rest thought the grass was good enough. Rufus Stratton was soon busy with his aids pouring milk into our bowls and from sundry boxes produced crackers and cheese; also, do you not remember the package of cinnamon which he sifted over each bowl?

My memory may be at fault in mentioning the names of those who went to this ride, if so, someone must correct them who has a better one, Rufus Brigham, George Fairbanks, Caleb Brigham, Charlie Brigham, William B. Rice, Lorenzo Walcott, Cyrus Randall, Charley Woodbury, Nester Fairbanks, Ariel Crosby, George C. Houghton, Folger Pope, William and Wilbur Brigham, William Osgood, Willard Brigham, Silas Manson. For the girls I remember Lucy Peters, Lucy Hapgood, Susan Hapgood, Arethusa Haskell, Ellen Brown, Ann Eliza Brown, Lavinia Tyler, Annie Frost, Lillie Knights, Dolly Stratton, Laura Brigham, Esther Ellithorpe, Nellie Hastings, Josephine Priest, Caroline Rice, Elmira Crosby, Rhoda Coolidge, Sarah Stratton, Adelaide Parsons, Sarah Witt, and probably there were many others. The ride home in the cool evening, the remainder of the evening spent in the old Mansion House parlors, all passed very happily. There were no policemen to quiet the overflowing spirits of the party, and the merry voices rang out on the air; no one thought of naught but the happy young people going home.

Forty years ago there was but one church in the village of Feltonville, the Baptist, with Rev Mr. Wakefield as pastor. Most of the people attended church, young and old, and the pastor was liked by all. During the summer two Indians spent several weeks in the village. They erected a wigwam in the woods over beyond Charles Brigham's place. Their names were familiar to me then (now forgotten) as they were

to every one. They became well acquainted and some of the young people had them write in their autograph albums, which was quite the rage at that time. I well remember an evening meeting at the church when they were present and were invited to sing. They went on the platform and stood side by side, they were large and tall, of perfect form, and they sang "Old Hundred" in the Indian language. It filled the whole building, such deep, powerful and not-to-be-described melody.

At one meeting in the church, when many of the older as well as the young people were present, some things in regard to the salary of the pastor were talked over and some pledged themselves to help it out by subscription. Mr. B. W. Gleason of Rockbottom rose and said, "I will give a barrel of flour, if the girls will come down to my mill and get it and draw it up here." He had no sooner made the offer than Caroline Rice rose and said "I will be one to go," and a few others followed with offers to help. Mr. Gleason said, "I guess you will all go, make your own arrangements and let me know what day you are coming, so I will be sure to be at home." Those girls got a donkey cart and started for Rockbottom. A rope was fastened to the front of it as we see on the hook and ladder truck and, two by two, gay and happy, they marched along. Mrs. Glover in a roomy carriage was near us and often cheered us and constantly tried to take in any one who was tired. We did not get tired. Arrived at the mill, Mr. Gleason invited us in, and all who wished were shown through the various departments. The remainder waited in the office.

When they came back we passed out and Mr. Gleason ordered his man to load the barrel of flour. He looked at it after it was in and said, "That looks lonesome, can you carry another barrel to keep it company?" A shout went up that we could, though I secretly thought we should have all we could manage. An empty barrel was then put in the cart and from his store, package after package of groceries was loaded until it was full. We cheered him as we started and were in turn cheered by the mill hands and others who were gathered to see us. As we passed along we came to a grocery store. The proprietor was on the piazza to see us pass when some one called to him "that barrel is not quite full." He went into the store and brought out a codfish which he tucked in so that it stood up above the barrel. We gave him three cheers and with laughing and chatting passed along. We began to wonder after a time, who was drawing the cart, for the rope was slack all along, no one was pulling at all. One or two of us quietly dropped out and went along back to the cart and found they were all wondering for no one was pulling at all. We were then satisfied. Many hands made light work.

Nothing occurred until we were perhaps half way home, when to our surprise we saw a company of young men on horseback drawn up on either side of the road. They accompanied us and after a time we were halted and a messenger sent for Sam Holder and Dana Brigham to play us into the village with fife and drum. When they arrived we once more resumed our march and no more stops were made until we drew up triumphantly at the door of the parsonage. Speechmaking ensued and after a light collation we wended our way to our several homes.

At the next evening meeting, Mr. Gleason after complimenting the girls on the successful trip for the flour, made another offer, this time a load of wood which the girls were to draw from Rockbottom. We were not required to draw it ourselves, but could have a team to be driven by the girls and they must load and unload the wood. This offer was at once accepted and on the day agreed on Lucy Hapgood drove a 3-horse wood wagon into Wood square and it was soon filled with girls. When we arrived at Rockbottom Mr. Gleason was ready to show us the immense pile of wood we were to select our load from. He cautioned us to "Take the best, don't take a crooked stick," and "Pack it tight so you can carry more" and when we had our load complete, that woodpile looked as though a cyclone had been there. Our load looked well, and it all staid on even if girls did load it. We fell into line behind the team, and marched out of the village but when we were part of the way home, we found a barge drawn up beside the road awaiting us.

We were very glad of it as it was rather hard work for us. We got the wood unloaded, the yard was large enough so that we left it all there, but I can remember how the sticks were lying in all directions. I saw in the Clinton Courant (I think it was) an account of this and it said the "Best of the village" drove the team. We spent the rest of the day, some of us at least, in mending town dresses and picking "slivers" out of our fingers.

After all these times were past, the whole society old and young, went and gave Mr. Gleason a surprise party. Among them I remember Mr. and Mrs. F. Dana Brigham, Mr. and Mrs. S. B. Fairbanks, Mr. and Mrs. H. T. French, Mr. and Mrs. S. J. M. Weston, Mr. and Mrs. Wm Horton, Mr. and Mrs. Obed Rice. A few weeks afterward Lorenzo Stratton, sr., announced that he had a lot of small wood which he would give to the girls for the poor people in town. This time we had horse-carts, eight or 10 of them, two or three girls to a cart. Each took their load to some deserving family, making their own choice. In the winter we attended singing school taught by Henry T. French. A dramatic club was formed and several entertainments were given. Among the members I can remember Mr. and Mrs. W. E. C. Worcester, Mr. and Mrs. Jonas Houghton, William Horton, William B. Rice, Cyrus Randall, Caleb Brigham, Sarah Witt, George C. Houghton, S. J. M. Weston and wife, Lucy and Susan Hapgood. Many of these have passed away. We are no longer young, our children and grandchildren are among the young people of "up to date" Hudson.

#### ONE OF THE GIRLS

## History of Hudson, Part 123

as published in the ENTERPRISE, Nov 10, 1900 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

The story of the Brigham home as it is still known in 2009. The last owners were Ruth and Lillian Brigham. The land was first granted to Thomas Barrett in 1706, whose daughter married Gershome Rice and his great granddaughter married Francis W. Brigham.

One of the oldest farms in Hudson is the one upon which Francis W. Brigham and family at present reside.

I have in my possession a deed and plan of 16 acres of land, covering the land upon which his present dwelling house now stands. This land was granted to Thomas Barrett, by the Proprietors, first settlers of Marlboro, April 1, 1706. It is described as being "near Prospect hill bounded on every side by common land." He was to lay out through his land a road four rods wide.

Thomas Barrett was a son of John Barrett, one of the incorporators of Marlboro in 1660. Thomas Barrett had a daughter Lydia. She was born May 3, 1712, and married Gershome Rice who came in possession of the farm. He died Oct. 11, 1790 aged 81, and she died June 4, 1790 aged 87.

They had a son Gershome Born July 3, 1755, who married Susanna Howe. He died April 11, 1837, and his wife April 18, 1837, aged 82 and 79 years.

They had a son, Stephen, born April 15, 1779. He married Anna Morse April 4, 1804. He died Feb 24, 1868, age 89. His wife died July 28, 1868, aged 83 years 10 months.

Stephen Rice gave the clock now on the steeple of the Unitarian church. He also employed and gave a home to Charles Hudson through all his boyhood years. The town honors the memory and fame of the latter by bearing his name.

Stephen Rice had a son, John F. Rice, born Jan 7, 1809, who died May 28, 1881. He married Abigail Rice Nov. 15, 1832. She died Dec 9, 1875, aged 65 years. Four generations averaged to live to 80 years of age. On the death of John F. Rice the male branch of this line became extinct. His daughter Annie married Francis W. Brigham.

This ancient deed that I have referred to is a paper of few lines, signed by Abraham Williams, clerk of the "Proprietors." Abraham Williams erected the Williams Tavern in 1663. Its most distinguished guest, Washington, dined in this tavern in 1789. The plan and survey of the land was made by John Brigham.

When Barrett Settled on this farm there was no security from the attacks of the Indians they were so busy with tomahawk and scalping knife, there was no place of shelter except in garrison houses.

In 1711 Marlboro established 26 garrison houses in different parts of the town. One was the “mill garrison” near the bridge on Washington Street, Hudson, then known as Howe’s mills. Thomas Barrett and John Banister with families were assigned to the “mill garrison.” John Banister lived near Barrett but the exact locality has perished from human knowledge.

On the easterly slope of Prospect hill is a cellar hole. In the pasture, easterly of the Rice farm is another cellar hole. There are others I could name.

There were a number of settlers near for “Prospect hill” was known in 1706

The Indians were a menace and a scourge for several years from 1711. But they gradually disappeared or perished through the survival of the fittest.

A few years before Thomas Barrett settled on this farm there were only 20,000 white persons in all New England and the estimated value of this section of the country was only \$10,000,000, but these men of brain and muscle, of intellect and conscience were the beginners of the country. The greatness and grandeur of our national life today is the natural fruitage of those sturdy virtues and humble trust in God that inspired their daily living.



An exterior view of the Brigham/Rice estate, built in 1814 by Stephen Rice who spent 10 years saving up money to build it.

## History of Hudson, Part 124

as published in the ENTERPRISE, Nov 24, 1900 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

The first shoe shop, built about 1816 by Daniel Stratton. Names of the shoemakers are given.

If the record is not soon made there will be no one living to tell the names of the first shoemakers of Feltonville, now Hudson.

The first shoe shop ever built in this town stood on the vacant land between the residences of Messrs. Ballantyne and Knight on Washington Street.

In 1815 Isaac Stratton bought of Phineas Sawyer 60 rods of land for \$75. For some reason Stratton did not finish his house. He sold it in an unfinished condition to Daniel Stratton for \$500. He received his deed to the property Feb. 29, 1816. This house was destroyed by fire. The little room finished off in the barn erected when the house was built was used for a shoe shop until one was built in the garden.

Sixty years ago this shop was moved to the east side of the street and is now owned by the Reynolds family. The main part of the house as it stands today was the shoe shop.

There was room for only a few shoemakers in the shop. Ari Weatherbee, Charles Dexter, T. Andrew, David Coolidge, Nathan Coolidge, Rufus Temple, Mark Andrews, Jonathan Andrews, William Jackman, Daniel H. Carter, Isaac Blais, Nathaniel Smith, Otis Brown, Alden Brigham, James Wilson, Rufus Coolidge, Francis Brigham, Samuel Chipman, James Cotting, Phineas Gates, Nathaniel Hapgood, Luther Nourse, Sydney Brigham, Silas Stuart, Oliver Smith, William R. Duston, James Carey, Gehiel Watkins, Dana Gleason, Hiram Temple, Charles Rice, were the earliest shoemakers in town 60 or 70 years ago.

Hiram Temple is the last one left to receive marching orders. When he commenced work for F. Brigham & Co, he signed the following agreement:

“Oct. 1, 1839, Hiram Temple begins his time to work one year for \$122 and boarded; is to make six pairs of shoes a day.”

The next article to the Enterprise will give more of the inside history of the early shoemakers.

## History of Hudson, Part 125

as published in the ENTERPRISE, Dec 8, 1900 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

Francis Brigham of F. Brigham & Co. first made shoes for John Hastings, then Lorenzo Stratton on Washington Street. The number of shoe shops increased rapidly making 302,000 pairs in 1845. A tannery, shoe wax factory and box maker shop soon followed. Wages and hours given.

Francis Brigham, the founder of the firm of F. Brigham & Co. commenced to learn the art of making shoes when 18 years of age. He worked for two years with John Hastings in one of the chambers of his father's house, the house where the late Charles Brigham resided. He made shoes for Lorenzo Stratton who made them for John Hill of Stoneham.

His first record as a shoemaker was from Oct. 1 1831 to April 1, 1832 to Oct. 1, 1832; the first year he made 1326 pairs of shoes. The first \$100 he earned he offered to his father. His answer to his son showed a father's affection, "Francis you have been a good boy to me – keep the money and make as good use of it as you can."

He loaned the money to John Kendall then residing on the farm now owned by Walter Goodrich. Mr. Kendall kept the money until his death 14 years afterwards.

The last of his work on the bench, so called in the old days, was in the little shoe shop on Washington Street described in the last issue of The Enterprise. He worked for Lorenzo Stratton some three years.

In 1834 he commenced to manufacture for himself. Shoe business in Feltonville and Marlboro was in its swaddling clothes in those days. Samuel Boyd started in the business in 1836, and was the only manufacturer in that part of the town. These two firms grew very slowly the first few years.

In 1837, there were manufactured only 103,000 pairs of shoes in the whole town valued at \$41,200. In 1845 the business in town had increased to 302,725 pairs, valued at \$92,932.

The population of the whole town in 1850 was only 2941. There were two tanneries in the town but the value of the product was only \$3950. Only four hands were employed, the tanneries had decreased from the product of 1837, when it was valued at \$11,500, seven hands being employed.

Fifty years ago Col. Stuart made all the shoe waxes used in Feltonville and Marlboro. He did most of the work and perched up on his high framed wagon went to Marlboro two or three times a week, the Feltonville end was supplied in the same

way. He was an active hustling man, at one time a merchant in this place. He died about 1858.

Captain Brigham in his earliest business career gave the closest attention to all details that would add to his stock in trade. He kept cows and sold large quantities of milk for three cents a quart to his workmen.

He boarded his help. April 3, 1843, William F. Brigham went to work for \$12 a month for six months. April 17, 1843, Nathaniel Smith commenced work for \$18 a month and board himself. When he boards from house deducts 20 cents a day. George Houghton, Hiram Temple, William Chase and many others boarded in his family; board was \$1.50 to \$2.00 a week.

He kept a team which was hired for 10 cents a mile. He sold shoes to Manson & Brigham. They bought as many as 280 pairs at a time, paying 40 cents a pair. Col. William H. Wood was the other purchaser of these shoes. The shoes were of the most primitive construction; the increase of style and beauty of manufacture is one of the marvels of the age.

Sixty years ago the workmen worked until 9 o'clock at night and were paid once in six months. The workmen were glad to work evenings, for in those days the only place to go was the prayer meeting. Most of the shoes were hewn out by home talent. The same style would run unchanged for years.

Sixty years ago shoes were made ahead of orders, awaiting customers, sure to come. It would be ruin now to follow the custom of the early years. There is not a shoe factory in Hudson today that does not produce more shoes than was made in Marlboro and Hudson 50 years ago.

The shoe makers with lap stone and waxed thread and awl, who opened the door for Hudson's greatest industry have nearly all passed away. Soon, very soon, every one will be known only on tombstones and in history.



Shoe Factory of L. Stratton

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**F. BRIGHAM & CO.,**  
Manufacturers of  
**WOMEN'S and CHILDREN'S BOOTEES,**  
and Dealers in Choice Family Flour. Hudson.

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**WM. F. TROWBRIDGE,**  
Manufacturer of  
**MEN'S MISSES and CHILDREN'S BALMORALS,**  
Buff, Split, Calf, Peble, and Goat Boots and Shoes and  
Dealer in Family Flour.  
Wood Square, Hudson.

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Ads for Brigham and Trowbridge

*From a story about F. Brigham & Company:*

*Their Boston office was at 5 High Street, which was presided over by Mr. Charles M. Brett. Their large brick factory was totally destroyed by fire in 1882, entailing a loss of about \$60,000, but thanks to their large resources, they were enabled to commence manufacturing shoes again in one week from the date of the fire. Mr. Brigham advanced step by step until at his death he had done more than any other person for the development of Hudson and had accumulated the largest property of any of her citizens. After his death, the business was carried on by his two sons Wilbur and Rufus and a grandson William H. Brigham. He died on December 7, 1879 in his sixty-eighth year and was buried with greater honors than had been shown to any other citizen of Hudson.*

## History of Hudson, Part 126

as published in the ENTERPRISE, April 18, 1901 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

The first sawmill was built by Joseph Lewis C.1770 on what is now, 2000, Bruce's Pond and continues as a sawmill and lumber yard.

The first sawmill ever erected on Hudson territory was built by Joseph Lewis a few years before the Revolutionary war. This sawmill stood on the meadow land north of Church Street, near the residence of S. Bradley. Joel Barnard sold the land to Joseph Lewis. The widow of Joel Barnard, Lucy Barnard, afterwards sold this mill property to Daniel Stevens, grandfather of Mr. Bradley. From an ancient deed before me I give a description of the property, "In consideration of one hundred and eighty-five pounds, five shillings, lawful money, to her in hand paid before the delivery thereof by Daniel Stevens of Marlboro, aforesaid, yeoman, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged therefore the said being, in her capacity and by the authority as aforesaid here by have given granted, bargained and sold and do by these presence give, grant, bargain, sell alienee and fully, freely and absolutely carry and confirm unto him, the said Daniel Stevens and to his heirs and assigns forever a certain tract or parcel of land lying and being in the northerly part of Marlboro aforesaid, containing by estimation, twenty eight acres and a half acre, and is bounded as follows, viz, beginning at the southwesterly corner of a Great Gate, and runs northerly by a Townway, forty seven rods and a half rod to stones, hence northerly by land of Amariah Knight fifteen rods to stones, thence northerly twenty-six rods and a half to stones, thence easterly by land of Samuel Nourse, forty one rods to stones, thence thirty-eight rods to a stake, thence southerly easterly by land of John Goodnow forty rods to a stake and stones, thence south westerly by land of the said Joel Barnard deceased, forty-four rods and a half to the corner of the wall, thence fifty six rods and half to the gate first above mentioned. Excepting and reserving free liberty of passing and repassing to and from the saw mill, also liberty to flow the meadow with said Mill pond; agreeable to an obligation given to Joseph Lewis by the said Joel Barnard, deceased. In witness unto whereof I the said Lucy Barnard administratrix and by the power and authority as aforesaid have hereunto set my hand and seal this twentieth day of February, One thousand seven hundred and seventy eight. The second saw mill was built by William Cogswell near Washington Street Bridge on the south side of the river about 1788. He gave three hundred lbs. for this land. In 1790 Cogswell bought thirty-five acres of William Barnard for one hundred lbs. Cogswell's saw mill was moved to the east side of Washington Street 60 years ago. Capt. Jedediah Wood & Son erected another sawmill on this spot. This saw mill ceased to run twenty-five years ago.

## History of Hudson, Part 127

as published in the ENTERPRISE, April 25, 1901 by Wilbur F. Brigham.

Elisha Cox and his five sons formed the Bolton Brass Band about 1839. Others of the Cox family.

The history of the Cox family is not all written. I will write what I know of the family. The old red house on Cox Street was erected by Elisha Cox in 1806. He was a drum major in the Revolution. He lived to a great age, his wife, Polly Cox lived to be 94 years of age. Elisha Cox had five sons and at least one daughter. Their names were Elisha, Rufus, Willard, Loring, Lorie and Maria. Father and sons were musical. Sixty years ago they were known as the Bolton Brass band. Elisha had four children, Emory, Eliza, Emily and Almira. Emory alone survives. He went to Illinois 40 years ago and resides there at the present time. Loring Cox had four children, three sons and one daughter. The names of the sons were Rufus, Edwin and Lucius A. Rufus Cox built the house at the corner of School and Washington Streets owned now by William G. Locke. The writer of this sketch was in the Cox tavern when Edwin died. The brokenhearted father walked the barroom floor, wringing his hands and sorrowing as though all hopes had vanished forever. Nine years from that time I was passing a house on the west side of Wood Square. I heard some one groaning in the house. In answer to a question I was told "Loring Cox is dying" yes, the veil was lifted to his opening vision, the lost idol of his heart. The house in Cox square, where Willard Cox lived and died was built by him, some of the timbers in this house came from the old house standing on this spot, and erected by John Allen the first blacksmith in 1795. Rufus Cox was the coachman of Cushing of Watertown, the rich Chinese importer. The brick house near Cox's bridge was owned by Mr. Cox and fifty years ago was the finest house in this place. The writer has in possession a valuable box of satin wood presented to Mr. Cox by his employees. Lorie Cox lived and died in the red house. One day he was out hoeing. A thundershower overtook him and he started for the house, the hoe over his shoulder. He was struck by lightning. The writer saw him as he lay in an unconscious condition. He never fully recovered from the shock. Lucien A. Cox is still living. Maria, the daughter of the original Cox, married Col. Daniel Pope and was the grandmother of Charles E. Bennett. Of the number who sat down to supper at a reunion of the Pope family thirty-five years ago, twenty-nine have passed away. Willard, Rufus and Lorie Cox died childless.

**Note: Wilbur F. Brigham died Nov. 13, 1901, age 62. He suffered a stroke on the train home from Boston and died the same evening.**

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(Aug 1, 2009)

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