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Whitman Free Public Library

Dear Mr. Whitney

Permit-me to present-
to the Watertown Free Public
Library a copy of my paper
entitled "Watertown - The
Weems. - The South side. -
Morse Field. recd by me
at the April meeting of the
"Historical Society of Watertown"

Suppose you mention in
the Enterprise that it is in
the library. as I have had
many enquiries for it.

Very truly yours

Chas. S. Ensign.

Sept. 30. 90

15360.

Water

1890

Historical Society of Watertown.

A paper read at the April special meeting of the society by one of its members, Charles S. Ensign, LL. B., a life member, also of the New England Historic Genealogical Society.

WATERTOWN.

THE WEARS — THE SOUTH SIDE — MORSE FIELD.

History narrates that Capt. John Smith when exploring along the Massachusetts coast in 1614, proceeded up a river which he named the Charles, landed on the south bank within a few rods of the present Watertown bridge, and his party refreshed themselves from the pure springs located in this vicinity.

When the settlers of the town located within its territory they considered themselves the *sole* proprietors of the territory on both sides of this river; but preferred to settle on the north bank, as it was more easily adapted for immediate cultivation and safer from the Indians, who frequented the opposite shore for hunting and fishing, and who had a settlement at a place called Nonantum. The land on the south side was marshy, back of which extended bluffs heavily timbered, or high bluffs rising abruptly from the shore.

They believed that their territorial rights reached some eight miles westward, and as far southward as Dedham bounds. But for homelots the south side was too inconvenient and too remote from the main settlements in case of danger from the neighboring Indians.

When the settlers in Newtown (Cambridge from 1638) crossed the river and settled in little Cambridge, (Brighton), and extended to New Cambridge, (Newton), they were gladly welcomed by the planters in Watertown. So, when in

Historians say that the leading spirit in the building of the wear was Mr. John Oldham, a freeman in 1631, "whose house near the wear at Watertown was burnt in August, 1632." Sept. 4, 1634, the general court "ordered that no man shall fish with a net nearer the wear at Watertown, than the further part of the island in the river, and there also never to cross the river wholly with any net except it be at high water or after."

In April, 1635, a committee was appointed by the general court to determine the bounds between Newtown and Watertown, and reported, "It is agreed by us whose names are under written, that the bounds between Watertown and Newtown shall stand as they are already, from Charles river to the Great Fresh pond, and from the tree marked by Watertown and Newtown, on the northeast side of the pond, and over the pond to a white poplar tree on the northwest side of the pond, and from the tree up into the country, northwest by west, upon a straight line by a meridian compass; and further, that Watertown shall have one hundred rods in length above the wear, and one hundred rods beneath the wear in length and three score rods in breadth from the river on the south side thereof, and all the rest of the ground on that side of the river to lye in Newtown." William Colbron, John Johnson, Abraham Palmer."

This tract contained by estimation, on the south side, about 75 acres, afterwards called the Wear lands. In town meeting, Jan. 3, 1635-36, it was "agreed that there shall be four rods in breadth on each side of the river, and in length as far as need shall require, laid (out) to the use of the wear so it may not be prejudicial to the Water Mill. Also, one hundred and forty acres of ground to the wear upon the other side of the river, to be laid out in a convenient place."

"Agreed, that there shall be laied out to the use of the Water Mill twenty acres of ground neare to the Mill & foure rod in breadth on either side the Water, and in length as farre as need shall require, so it be not preduiciall to the Ware."

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settle upon land which later was called Hartford. My direct ancestor, James, was one of that colony.

The general court thereupon appointed a committee to settle the boundaries between Newtown and Muddy river (Brookline) which made the adjustment in April, 1636. Newtown retained the large territory gained in 1635, comprising Brighton, Arlington, Lexington, Billerica, part of Bedford, part of Tewksbury, extending to the Merrimack river, while Watertown never recovered the territory which it had originally granted. The reason for this may be accounted for in the fact, "it was not a shire town, nor place for much trade, no shipping-port, only reached by small vessels, and no resort for official men and capitalists." "After Sir Richard Saltonstall's departure, until 1686 there were no resident assistants or magistrates. The people were devoted to agriculture and some mechanical trade in the intervals of farming," plain in their habits and simple in tastes, and had no interest or pride in municipal aggrandizement.

In 1679 when the boundaries between Cambridge and New Cambridge or Cambridge Village were fixed, it was stipulated "that this Watertown reservation on the south side of Charles river, two hundred by sixty rods, should be maintained and held by Watertown for the protection of her fish wears."

The boundaries not being satisfactory, were in 1705 again readjusted so that this territory was increased by estimation to 88 acres. It is stated that the lines have been since rearranged so that the total number of acres, including that covered by water, is one hundred and fifty, and it is surrounded by Newton, except on its northern boundary which is the Charles river.

While on the maps the southern boundary line appears to run in a straight line from point to point, it seems not to be accurate. For the line starting from the boundary stone on the westerly line of Galen street runs diagonally in a north-westerly line across Boyd street to the boundary stone on the so called park, (Gleason estate), then a trifle southwesterly to a stone on Park street, west side; then in a southwesterly direction through

and across Boyd street to Fayette street, (Newton), and then in a straight line across Boyd's pond into the Joseph Faxon estate.

From the orders of the general court it would seem that the wear built by the town in 1632 was public property. But soon after it became private property and was held in shares.

The general court had granted the "Oldham farm," on the north side to Mr. John Oldham, April 1, 1634. He mortgaged this grant to Mr. Matthew Craddock. The land was not ordered laid out until June 2, 1641, after Oldham had been murdered by the Pequot Indians at Block island, July 1636. But Oldham had soon after sold this grant subject to the mortgage to Thomas Mayhew, and this plot included the wear. For the general court confirmed the town's grant of one hundred and fifty acres with the wear, (Jan. 3, 1635-6), on June 2, 1641, when it was agreed that Mr. Mayhew shall enjoy the one hundred and fifty acres of land on the south side of Charles river by Watertown wear."

Thomas Mayhew, a freeman in Medford, May, 1634, came to Watertown in 1635. He received six large grants from the town. He was a townsman or selectman from 1636 to 1640 inclusive; also in 1642; also representative to the General Court from 1636 to 1644. He is described as a merchant in his deeds. From 1638 to 1642 he was a commissioner for Watertown "to end small causes." On October 10, 1641, Nantucket and two other adjacent islands, and on the 23d of October Martha's Vineyard and Elizabeth Islands were granted to him and his son Thomas by James Forett, agent of the Earl of Stirling, who constituted him governor. He removed to Martha's Vineyard in the spring or summer of 1645.

He built the first bridge, a foot bridge, in 1641 over Charles river, and one record states that this was the reason for the grant of 150 acres on the south side of the river.

In 1643 the general court granted to him "three hundred acres of land in regard to his charge about the bridge by Watertown Mill and the bridge to belong to the County."

Thomas Mayhew Sept. 29, 1638, granted to Simon Bradstreet, of Ipswich, (Governor of Massachusetts, under the first

charter from 1679 to 1686), for six cows worth about \$200 each, "All that his farm containyng by estimation 500 acres lying in Cambridge wth all the buildings thereto belonginge."

Sept. 23, 1646, Simon Bradstreet, Andover, gent. for £140 conveyed this tract to Edward Jackson, Cambridge, naylor, described as "his farm of 500 acres, which was lately in the tenure of Thomas Mayhew, adjoining the wear lands."

This tract commenced near the division line of Newton and Brighton, and included the present Newtonville.

His mansion-house, the first dwelling-house in Newton, was located only a few rods from Washington street, near the Catholic church.

Feb. 27, 1639-40, Mayhew conveyed to Governor Dudley for £90 the rent of his wear for the last four years, leased to Robert Lockwood, Isaac Sternes and Henry Jackson for six years. Also the river side and inheritance of the wear forever, subject to a certain mortgage, (referring to that made to Cradock.)

March 6, 1643-4, Dudley sold to Edward How for £59,10.2 all right and income to the wears in Watertown, except £22,15.2 due from Sternes and Lockwood.

Elder How by his will June 3, 1644, conveys to his heirs "the wears with all their privileges thereto belonging," which continued in the possession of his sons-in-law, Nathaniel Treadway and John Stone for many years.

Treadway with Sufferana (How) conveyed one-half interest, May 30, 1662, to Nathaniel Coolidge Sen. and Stone the other half, May 26, 1663.

At a town meeting held April 12, 1671, "Upon consideration that the Indians being like to buy the privilege of the wears and fishing at the river, which the town apprehend, will be much to the damage of the town, they (the Indians) being like to be bad neighbors, the town voted, all, as one man, that they were altogether against their having the wears, or that they should set down so near the town." It was voted to purchase the same for the town's use, and a committee chosen to negotiate with the owner, Nathaniel Coolidge, senior.

Since this period the wears have been the town property, and rented every season for the highest price to be obtained

as regulated by law.

In 1738, complaints were made to the general court by the people of Newton, Needham, Weston, Medfield, Sherburne and the Indians at Natick against the inhabitants of Watertown for stopping the course of the fish in Charles river.

In 1745, an act was passed making it an offence to raise the dam of the mill between the breaking up of the ice in winter and the first of May so as to prevent the fish from passing over, with a penalty of £5 for each offence.

In 1798, an act was passed authorizing the inhabitant of Watertown, Weston and Waltham to regulate the fishing within said towns, the proceeds to be divided among said towns as each paid towards the expenses of maintaining the Watertown bridge.

Weston and Waltham becoming in later years freed from this charge lost all rights under the law.

In 1805, an act was passed authorizing Newton to regulate the fishing within its town limits.

In 1815 and 1826, acts were passed constituting Brighton and Watertown one fishery, and regulating the same. This interest once valuable to the towns has ceased on account of the pollution of the stream by the numerous factories established along the banks of the river. Possibly it may be reestablished as soon as the projected sewer system shall become in use and the stream of water again fresh and pure.

(To be continued.)

Historical Society of Watertown.

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WATERTOWN.

THE WEARS — THE SOUTH SIDE — MORSE FIELD.

[Continued.]

Mayhew sold the Oldham farm March 18, 1647-8 to Nicholas Davidson, Charlestown, attorney of Rebecca Cradock, alias Glover, with the mortgage cancelled for 1000 acres in Martha's Vineyard. Soon after it was seized on execution granted to Richard Dummer against Mayhew, and on March 21, 1648-9 it was appraised at £70. It is sometimes called the "Dummer farm" in the early records, but is not that tract on the south side generally known as such.

Possibly this Dummer claim arose from this transaction: "Tho. Mayhewe of Watertown Marcht granted to Rich. Dummer Newbery Gent'l. and his heires (in consideration of fower hundred pou (nds) in hand payed) his farme in Watertown, wch he bought of Sim (on) Broadstreet Gent'l. containing five hundred ac. And all the Weire and one hundred and forty ac. of land thereto belonging wth certaine provisones by way of mortgage in the same expressed, and this was by indenture dated the 29th of the 7th (July) 1640."

Mayhew mortgaged to Dummer in 1640 the parcel he had sold to Bradstreet in 1638, unless he only intended to mortgage the farm to secure the payment for the six cows, while Bradstreet treated it as a valid sale. When Bradstreet sold it to Jackson in 1646, he gave a "warranty and bond of £2 to secure it from any claim, either against himself or Thomas Mayhew."

The Court of Assistants made Bradstreet a special grant of 500 acres of land on the south side of Charles river, condition that "he was to take no part of it within a mile of Watertown wear, in case the bounds of Watertown shall extend so far on that side of the river," which gave him a confirmance of title.

Through this territory were laid out two roads,—one designated the “Country or County road”—constructed in 1635-37, the present Galen street, and the great thoroughfare from Boston over Boston Neck, Roxbury, Brookline, New Cambridge, (Newton) and over the Mill Bridge through Watertown to Waltham and Weston. and by this road Roxbury people went to the Watertown grist mill. This was the only road leading to the west until the Worcester turnpike was built. It was probably laid out by or through the wear lands, under the town votes of Sept. 14, 1635. “Agreed that John Warren and Abraham Browne shall lay out all the highways and to see that they be sufficiently repaired,” and that of 1637: “ordered, that there shall be eight days appointed for every year for the repairing the highways; and every man that is a soldier or watchman to come at his appointed time with wheelbarrow, mattock, spade or shovel, and for default hereof to pay for every day 5s. to the town, and a cart for every day to pay 19s.”

The other highway was laid out in 1725-6 and forms the present Watertown street, it having originally commenced at the corner of the present California street and 5th avenue. Through this territory, from its sources near Newton Centre, runs “Cold Spring” Brook in early history called “Smelt Brook,” by reason of the fish of that name that used to pass up the water, which flows through Boyd’s and Cook’s ponds into the Charles river.

Presentment was made against the town in 1695 and 1705 for want of a bridge over Smelt Brook. In behalf of the town in 1705 James Bond, Esq. (known as the “marrying Squire”) answered it was a shallow place, and a good bottom, and needed not a bridge. The Court ordered that the said way be forthwith mended on pain of paying £5.

In 1632 Newtown (Cambridge) had granted to Thomas Shepard, late pastor, 300 acres of land beyond Watertown mill adjoining that which was Thomas Mayhew’s, also 200 acres more near Samuel Shepard’s farm.

The Rev. Mr. Shepard died in 1649 and this land passed to Richard Park, although there is no record of such transfer. Some authorities state that a small part of the northeasterly portion of this tract along the Charles river or wear lands was in Watertown. Excepting

former

this small portion the residue of the territory of the south side came into the possession of Richard Dummer as has been shown, which was confirmed by a grant from the General Court.

Richard Dummer sold to William Clements of Cambridge for £60, twenty-five acres bounded southerly by the highway from Watertown to Roxbury (present Washington street, Newton), — North-easterly on Charles river, and partly in Watertown and partly in Newton. Clements sold the same to Daniel Bacon of Bridgewater, tailor, for £60 in 1669. Daniels sons, Isaac and Jacob, settled on this tract, Isaac having in 1681 bought five and one-half acres from his brother Daniel of Salem. Jacob's house was situated on the present Galen street probably on the side of the hill; while Isaac's house was located farther towards Newton, probably near Williams street. Isaac's part subsequently was conveyed to Oakes Angier who kept a tavern on the site where the Nonantum house now stands. March 13, 1692-3 Jacob sold 7 acres for £39 to John Barton, and John Barton, Jr. and James sold their interest in 1742 to Jonas Coolidge, of Newtown, a house carpenter.

In 1672 Jeremiah Dummer, son of Richard (?) of Boston, sold to Gregory Cooke, shoemaker, Cambridge, 112 acres lying partly in Cambridge (Angier's corner, Newton) and partly in Watertown, with house and barn thereon for £145; bounded on the east by the highway, north by the Charles river, south by Edward Jackson and Daniel Bacon, and west by Thomas Park's land, and this included the weir lands. The old Gregory Cooke mansion stood on the southerly side of of the site of Mr. Henry Fuller's house in Newton.

Abraham Williams of Watertown, free-man in 1652, purchased in 1654 a house and six acres of John Callon or Callow, and married Joanna Ward about 1660, and in 1662 purchased a house from Wm. Clements situated on the Country Road, (Galen street) southerly from Gregory Cooke's farm. In 1665 he sold his estate to Cooke and removed to Marlboro in 1668, where he kept the "Williams tavern." He was a colonel and representa-

tive from Marlboro to the General Court. The present Williams street leading from Galen, was named from him as he dwelt near it on the west side of the main-road. James Barton, a rope-maker, in Boston of large means, in 1688 bought 103 acres in Newtown, a portion of which bounded on the Mayhew farm. He bought other lands extending over the Watertown line and erected his dwelling house on the south side of Charles river, probably situated not far from the present Watertown street. In his will, dated 1729, he bequeathed among other things £30 per annum to his grandson, Thomas Stanton, for four years after entering college (Harvard); his great Bible with annotations, to his son John; to his mulatto maid servant, Tidy, her freedom and forty shillings; £50 and no more for his funeral expenses. His mansion and out houses with 6½ acres of land were valued at £2,696.14s. His wharf, known as Barton's wharf, situated at the foot of the present Barton street, Boston, was valued at £1,000 and the buildings thereon fronting Ann street, £1,200.

He and his wife Margaret were buried in Newton. His daughter Ruth married John Cook, the grandson of Gregory. His son John sold the homestead to Daniel Cooke.

Gregory Cooke died in 1690-1 and his only son Stephen administered upon his estate appraised April 7, 1691 at £190.11. His second wife, the widow Susanna Goodwin, married Sept 15, 1691, Henry Spring, who died 1695. He was from 1680 to 1695 the town "prizer" of Watertown.

Stephen Cook was born 1647, married Nov. 19, 1679, Rebecca the daughter of Thomas and Mary Flagg of Watertown; admitted into full communion in Mr. Bailey's church March 4, 1687-8, and possibly chosen deacon June 30, 1697; died in Newton 1738, aged 91. He built a grist mill on his land near Smelt Brook, which he conveyed to his son Stephen in 1733.

Stephen Cooke's large estate came into the possession of his grandsons, Stephen and Daniel.

Daniel, who married in 1722, Mary, the daughter of Abraham and Elizabeth (Bis-Jackson, died in 1754, leaving no issue. In 1735 his father deeded to him the homestead, probably the house be-

ing the one occupied by Gregory, his grandfather. Daniel left his large estate to his nephew, Capt. Phineas, the son of his brother Samuel of Windham, Conn.

Capt. Phineas built in 1760 the house at present standing on the corner of Centre and Pearl streets, over the Newton line, and died in 1784.

Stephen, the brother of Daniel, had an interest in the mill on the north side of the river, which he subsequently sold. He received the mill built by his grandfather on the Cooke lands, and on Sept: 1, 1749 he deeded it to his son John, with forty acres with dwelling house, barn, mill-house, and corn mill. This tract was bounded easterly by County road, or road to Boston, Galen street, 77 rods, and southerly by Daniel Cooke's land.

Jan. 10, 1782, John conveyed to his son John 90 feet of land on the Boston Road, bounded southerly by Daniel Cook's.

Stephen's house remains standing on California street. Close by it is that of John's, the latter being a frame building with brick sides. John's son's house was a small red house on Galen street, removed to the rear of the present frame block. A greater portion of the Cook estate still remains in the possession of the family.

In a chamber in the John Cooke house, Paul Revere engraved the plates and assisted by John Cooke struck off Colony notes, ordered by the Provincial Congress.

It is stated that Benjamin Edes first stopped at this house when he escaped from Boston with his printing press, and that the first number of "The Boston Gazette and Country Journal" was issued from here, before he established himself near the Great Bridge. While others dispute this fact, yet like the would-be president in 1884, the south side "claim every thing."

(To be continued.)

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WATERTOWN.

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[Continued.]

On the easterly side of Galen street near the Bridge stands what has long been known as the "Coolidge tavern," built in 1740-42 by William Williams, a ship builder.

Stephen Cooke claimed all the land upon the river in the town as being within limits of the weir lands and as he had an undisputed title to all land westerly of the Bridge he purchased in March 1722-3 from John Phillips, a grandson of the first minister, for £60, three acres by estimation (of the old grant) to strengthen his title. The land is described as within the bounds and limits of the "Township of Cambridge."

James Barton in March 1727 had sold to William Williams in Newtown a "houseright," for £440, 12 acres of land near the Great Bridge. Its boundary line on the west and north-west was the County Road.

In 1728 Stephen Cook sold to William Williams, described as of Newtown, for £16 15 s. twenty-six rods of land on the southerly side of the Charles river, bounded northerly and easterly by the County road, and westerly by the Town land now laid out for a road.

The old road referred to began at the south side of the old bridge at a point about opposite to the square on the north side of the river, the present Beacon square, from which the present Riverside place commences and ran in a south-westerly direction through the present Water street into the present Galen street and possibly a little south-westerly before entering the Country road.

In 1742 William Williams sold his mansion house and barn with seven acres to Ebenezer Thornton of Watertown, a ship builder, who was living on the premises. Mention is made of the "Ancient Country road" running from said river between the aforesaid Mansion House and said

barn across and a slant near the N. W. corner of the premises into the New Country road to be excepted and reserved out of this deed for said Town's use." Mention is made of a wharf twenty feet square and a gangway leading thereto. The gangway is the present Water street, and the wharf adjoining the line of H. Barker & Co.'s starch factory at the foot of old Factory Lane (Water street) by an old elm tree, was owned by Samuel Hunt, a trader of Watertown. He had purchased the same in 1739 of Thornton and Williams with 4 acres of land for £400. In the deed he is described as a ship builder of Boston.

Ebenezer Thornton, a trader in Boston, in 1738 removed to Watertown and engaged in the business of procuring timber for house and ship building. The south side and adjacent territory being heavily timbered offered him ample opportunity for carrying on the business. Moreover it was considered safer than Boston which was poorly protected from a sudden attack by an enemy.

In April 1716, he purchased "a mill stream dams, etc." in Dunstable near the New Hampshire line, and he had valuable timber interests in Dracut on the Merrimac river. The town of Boston March 8, 1734 voted to erect fortifications within its limits and Ebenezer Thornton with Elisha Cook, Esq., Edward Hutchinson, Edward Winslow and others were chosen a committee under this vote. They erected the fortification at "North Battery Wharf" and "Fort Hill."

He married in 1721 Elizabeth Gilbert, the daughter of Capt. Thomas, a famed shipmaster and navigator of Boston and son of Jonathan Gilbert of Connecticut, (an ancestor of mine) who was Colony Marshal from 1646 until 1676-7. She died in Watertown June 10, 1740, aged 38 years 4 months, 3 days. After her death he married the widow Matthias Cussens.

Possibly Thornton and Williams were engaged for a short time in the business of procuring lumber for household and shipping purposes, though he had removed to Mausfield, Conn., when he sold to Thornton. In 1740 Richard King had settled in Watertown and in 1742 Thornton sold him a piece of land on which he erected a shop and engaged in the same business with Thornton. In 1745 Gov. Shirley appointed him a commissary of the troops destined for Annapolis Royal.

Oct. 1746 he mortgaged his shop and lot to Jonas Coolidge "for surety in consideration the within named Jonas was my surety for money due to the Govt. when I went on the service to Annapolis Royal." Feb. 16, 1740, he petitioned the selectmen for leave to erect a sawpit or scaffold at the south end of the Bridge, which was denied. In 1746 he removed to Scarborough, Maine, engaged in trade, became a large exporter of lumber and the wealthiest man in town.

His son Rufus, who died in 1829, aged 74, was the celebrated jurist, and William, who died in 1852, aged 84, known as General King, was the first governor of Maine and at one time one of the largest ship owners in the United States.

There is no doubt that ship building to a limited extent was carried on at this point and that the old bridge slip was used for that purpose, and probably Hunt's wharf, known latterly as Coolidge's wharf.

Ebenezer Thornton's eldest daughter Elizabeth, born March 4, 1722, married Jonas Coolidge, the house carpenter, in 1742-3. Ebenezer sold him this house with three acres of land for £300 in August of that year. Jonas sold a moiety in the dwelling house and about five acres of land to his nephew Nathaniel Coolidge Jun., in 1762.

Becoming "non compos" and placed under guardianship, in 1764 a partition of their interests was legally made by which Nathaniel obtained the northerly part of the home-lot and dwelling house and subsequently control of the remaining half.

Jonas Coolidge died in the spring of 1767.

Jonas Coolidge's elder brother Samuel, known as "Sam the schoolmaster," a graduate of Harvard in 1724, was appointed town school master in 1725. He was librarian of Harvard college 1734-5. Also chaplain for a short time on Castle Island. He became intemperate and mentally deranged. He was accustomed to wander from home as a vagrant, sleeping in barns and out of doors and the selectmen were continually in trouble about him by complaints coming from the selectmen of Roxbury, then from Charlestown, then Dorchester, to be repeated continually. Nov. 4, 1743, Thanksgiving day, a collection was taken

during church service to be laid out in clothing for him.

In 1751 he was again appointed school-master but soon wandered off according to his custom. "At a meeting of the selectmen at Mr. Jonathan Bemis' on the 4th of December, 1752, Mr. Samuel Coolidge was present, and the selectmen gave him a thorough talk relating to his past conduct, and what he might expect if he did not behave well in the future, they declared unto him that they put him into the school again for trial, and if he behaved well he should not be wronged, and that he was to begin the school the 11th day of this December. Mr. Coolidge complained that he wanted a winter coat; desired Mr. Bemis to get him a bear skin coat and get Mr. Meed to make it, and to give the selectmen an account thereof."

The demented man when walking along the way was continually muttering and talking to himself in Latin, and once passing an apothecary's shop drenched by a pouring rain was addressed by some one from within in these words:—"Domine Coolidge! pluit tantum nescio quantum, seisne tu"? (Master Coolidge, it has rained very hard, I don't know how hard, do you know?) Quick as a flash the angry man seized a stone, sent it crashing through the window, breaking glass and show bottles, and said: "Fregi tot nescio quot, seisne tu"? (I have broken a great many things, I don't know how many, do you?)

He died Jan. 1767, aged 63 years and was buried at the town charge.

Nathaniel Coolidge, Jr., kept a tavern, here as a licensed inn-holder from 1764 to 1770 when he died, and was succeeded by his widow, Dorothy (Whitney).

By the town records it appears that the widow Ruth Child, daughter of Caleb Church the miller, was licensed as an inn-holder in 1717-8 near the bridge on the south side of the river, but where cannot be located; possibly on or near this spot.

While there had been for some years a great deal of commercial life in Watertown, still in the early part of the Revolutionary war it was a very important and busy town, for within its limits the Provincial Congress and the "Committee of Safety" were holding continual sessions. The town was crowded with tem-

primary residents and tradesmen from Boston who were often entertained by private hospitality. The public schools were closed as the buildings were used for armories and the streets daily resounded with the noise of life and drum and marching men.

This tavern known as "The Sign of Mr. Wilkes near Nonantum Bridge", was a popular resort for gatherings, for town and social meetings were often held within its doors. In the winter of 1775 the Massachusetts House of Representatives held a session in it while workmen were engaged in putting up stoves in the meeting house. Here, in 1775, it was agreed, was to be the rendezvous for the "Committee of Safety" in case of danger. On its northerly side along the river was the road leading from the ferry that for many years was used between the north and south shores.

In front of the tavern door once stood a post upon which was a swinging decorated sign board upon which was the portrait of King George 3d, where it hung until the news of the Declaration of Independence was received, when it was taken down and afterwards raised to its former position with the portrait of George Washington upon it.

Here during the war many distinguished persons in the colonies as well as officers in the American and British armies were entertained. The bar room was the middle room facing Galen street and British officers stifled their shame at the continued American successes in steaming hot flip, for which they paid in gold, which the government compelled Madam Coolidge, much to her disgust, to exchange for colonial currency.

The selectmen paid "widow Dorothy Coolidge for Rum the 19th day of April, for the men in the Lexington battle, 12s. 8d.," the town records mention.

The Rev. J. F. Lovering in his centennial oration delivered July 4, 1876, stated that "General Washington stopped here on his way to take command of the army at Cambridge, July 2d, 1775 and ate breakfast, Mrs. Coolidge making for him journey-cake, i. e., Johnny-cake." While Leathe's version is, that on Sunday, July 2d, at 12 o'clock the Commander-in-Chief with General Lee arrived and reached the meeting house where after divine service, Congress assembled to receive him.

He dismounted and was presented at the door of the broad aisle with an address by the Speaker James Warren. After an hour and a half spent he proceeded to Cambridge where he arrived at 2 o'clock. On the next day under the elm tree near the Common he formally took command of the American army.

On Dec. 11 at noon Mrs. Washington attended by her son John Custis and wife reached Watertown in her own carriage drawn by four horses, colored postillions in scarlet and white liveries, military escort and a guard of honor. Two hours were spent at the Fowle house as the guest of Mrs. Warren, and the party arrived in Cambridge at 3 o'clock.

During the winter season dinner and evening parties were given in town which were attended by the General and Mrs. Washington, and probably the town has never witnessed such social gaiety since that time.

Oct. 17, 1789, President Washington again visited Watertown on his way to Boston and was received with great enthusiasm, the ringing of the meeting house bell and royal salutes, quite in contrast to his first reception when powder and shot were too scarce and valuable to be thus used. On his return, Nov. 5, he came from Lexington to Watertown over the same road that the minute men had taken April 19, 1775; rode quietly without escort to the Coolidge tavern for supper and rest. He took supper in the public dining room which extended the entire length of the south end of the house. At the table he was served by attendants who wore white dresses and neat checked aprons. He lodged in the north west chamber next to the river.

This property latterly came into the possession of the late Mr. John Brigham who lived here while he had a lumber yard near by along the river.

Across the lane, the present Water street, was situated the house of Samuel Sanger, then Daniel, later Abraham Sanger, the boatmen, who early in the present century, twice or more each week was accustomed to row upon the the river to and from Boston as a passenger and express carrier.

A few rods south upon the same side of the road once stood an old house, the mansion house of John Hunt, representa-

tive from the town to the General Court in 1741, 1751 to 1758; a farmer of the excise in 1752, and retail trader from 1740 to 1770. Jonas Coolidge in 1745 sold him 11 acres with the old mansion built and occupied by James Barton. It was built about 1715. It was from the windows of this house flashed the light long past midnight that told that Adams, Warren and Gerry were in counsel, answered back from a score of farm houses where the women were busily engaged in baking and cooking for the soldiers in camp. Here Major General Joseph Warren lodged, and in the southwest corner room on the first floor ate his breakfast, June 17, 1775, going directly to Bunker's Hill, where he gave his life for his country. Before he started he urged upon the ladies of the household to prepare lint and bandages, saying "The poor fellows will want them all before night." Slowly on horse-back he went down the hill to the bridge but galloped back and again bade them all farewell.

Had he a premonition that he should never see them again?

William Hunt, son of John, a graduate from Harvard in 1768, a lawyer and Justice of the Peace, representative in 1784-1794; 1800-1801, had married Mary Coolidge, the daughter of Nathaniel and Dorothy. When Washington first came to Watertown she was about twenty-one years old, and probably charmed him with her handsome face and maidenly ways, for in 1789 after supper he mounted his horse, galloped across the bridge into the square, where Mistress Hunt then lived, on the west side opposite the Spring Hotel, and as the sick matron appeared at the window of her mansion he politely raised his hat as she courteously saluted him.

John Hunt was a distiller having his still next to the wharf of Samuel Hunt with a store, and did a successful business. He had a stone wharf farther to the east upon the river, not far from the bounds of Newton. In 1768 he sold his homestead and distillery to his eldest son Samuel.

The Hunt property finally came into the possession of Nathaniel Whitney, Jr. and was the birth place of Miss Annie Whitney, the sculptress. A few years ago the property was purchased by the

late Mr. F. E. Howard and the building removed to Water street where it is now devoted to tenants of a humbler class.

The death of Washington was greatly mourned in this town and a funeral service to his memory performed with great pomp and solemnity. A negro slave, who, when Washington had been a guest at his master's house had served him, wore as his emblem of mourning an old scarlet coat worn at the battle of Bunker Hill, trimmed with crape, and stood thus arrayed in the meeting house during the service on successive Sabbaths to the great amusement of the worshippers.

Watertown square and the Main street for many years was a lively spot and the merchants did a thriving trade. Money was scarce but barter and exchange was carried on with the farmers for miles around.

"Angier's Corner," (Newton) was named from Oakes Angier, the son of the Rev. Samuel Angier, a saddler by trade.

In 1742, he with Samuel Jackson and Daniel Cooke, purchased from Jonas Coolidge 11 acres with an old house. He erected a tavern on the site of the present Nonantum House which he kept for many years.

It was a small hamlet with about a dozen houses, two taverns and a small store. It was nick-named "Hell's Corner" from the disreputable orgies that frequently took place in one of the taverns. Some of the more progressive citizens deemed it would be more advantageous if the territory was annexed to Watertown, and in March 1779 a committee was chosen on the part of the town to join with some of the inhabitants of Newton in a petition for the annexation to Watertown, but the movement was unsuccessful. In March 1782 the attempt was again undertaken with like result.

The records show that in April 1781 the town voted to establish a poor house upon the south bank of the river, but this vote was never carried out.

A few years later Esquire Wm. Hull, afterwards General Hull, undertook the scheme of having a large town or village at Newton corner to include the greater part if not all the territory on the south side.

In Sept. 1794 he purchased from Stephen Cooke some fifty acres with dwelling house and barn—including the

Phineas Cooke house, with the right to improve the upper mill pond (Boyd's), for fish ponds, baths, etc., and mortgaged the same to Cook for £1211. He was living in the Phineas Cooke house, while building the Nonantum House which he afterwards occupied, and had a wharf on the Charles river near the Watertown line. The present Williams street leads direct to the spot, near which was his malt house. He became somewhat financially embarrassed and in 1805 conveyed all his interest in this Cooke tract to Eliakim Morse, a wealthy merchant in Boston who paid the mortgage and released the Phineas Cooke homestead.

Dr. Eliakim Morse studied medicine with his uncle in Woodstock, Conn., came to Boston, engaged in foreign trade and accumulated a large estate. He built the colonial mansion that stands upon the most elevated spot of the Cooke estate. It was built by days work and when finished was the finest mansion in style and situation for miles around. It was through his efforts the country road was named Galen street in honor of the father of medicine among the ancients, the road having been widened and made more uniform and beautified with trees. After his death the homestead passed into the hands of Mr. Harrison Page, while the meadow land near Newton was mapped out into building plots. Morse and Chestnut (now Boyd) streets, were laid out, and the land thrown into market, and settled upon mostly by persons allied in all respects to Newton. On this tract formerly stood a fine grove of handsome chestnut trees. Back of the Morse estate near Watertown street stands the homestead built by Capt. Samuel Somes who married one of the daughters of Stephen Cooke. Somes was a handsome vivacious man of free and convivial habits and captain of a "crack" military company in Boston known as the Fusiliers. Once the company had a field day on this territory which attracted a great crowd from the surrounding villages.

Next northerly to the Dr. Morse estate stands the Abraham Lincoln house built 1824-26 by Stephen Cooke. On the easterly side of Galen street, adjoining Water street, the early portion of this century was built what is at present known as the "Stone house." It was built before 1768 by John Hunt, either for himself or

his son John, who was his business partner. He sold it to Josiah Capen in 1772. In 1832 it was kept by Nathaniel Broad, as a tavern, who died there. Rev. Theodore Parker in the month of April of that year opened a school in an old bakery that stood in the rear of this mansion, formerly Hunt's shop, but since removed to the corner of Maple street, (opened within a few years) and Galen. Having leased it he personally assisted in flooring it, made a rude wainscott a dozen desks, and opened school with two pupils one of whom was a charity scholar. Here he met Lydia D. Cabot, his future wife, who was boarding in the same family. He taught school for two years with great success until he had earned money enough to permit him to pursue his theological studies. He preached occasionally on Sabbaths in the town hall and elsewhere during this time, and enjoyed the friendship of the Rev. Convers Francis.

Close by the division line on the corner of Galen and Williams streets stands the old Segar house built by Ebenezer Segar in 1794. Connected with it in the rear was an extensive building and a brick shop where in 1820 the New England Lace company, had their factory. The street was called Lace Factory lane. In 1823 the factory was removed to Ipswich. The originators of the factory with some of the workmen came from Nottingham, England, as their factory there had been broken up by those who were opposed to lace being made by machinery instead of by hand, under the Heathcoat patent. Many of the leading young ladies found pleasant and congenial work in the factory and the departure of the works from the town was regretted.

Subsequently the property belonged to Stephen Perry, and was the boyhood home of William Stevens Perry, the present Episcopal bishop of Iowa. In this house were held the first services of that denomination gathered in Newton, and the parish of Grace church organized.

On the opposite corner stands the house of Rev. A. B. Earle, the well known evangelist, occupied during his life time by Lawyer Alfred B. Ely, of Newton, known in civil and military life, who died July 30, 1872.

In March 1827 the Newton and Watertown Universalist society was organized

and on Aug. 15 it dedicated a house of worship situated on the corner of Galen and Water streets.

It was dissolved in 1866 and the town purchased the building for a schoolhouse, the present Parker school, named in honor of the late Rev. Theodore Parker.

From Galen street by the bank of the Charles river next to the Coolidge tavern is an ancient way, a little lane, a gangway as called in early deeds, running a short distance to Hunt's wharf, then turning abruptly into Factory lane, running westwardly up the steep hill to Galen street by the Parker school—now known as Water street. By and upon the river bank there have been and are located many industries. Besides the ship building before mentioned, was the potter's shop of Samuel Sanger in 1771.

Beyond Brigham's lumber yard and wharf was formerly a hat factory, now occupied by the Warren soap works, commenced in 1868. Next are the works of the Newton and Watertown Gas Light company, with the electric plant lately located. Beyond was the wharf and warehouse of Samuel Hunt, which came into the possession of John Hunt. At the end of this lane stood the distillery and store of John Hunt which he sold to his son Samuel with his wharves and dwelling house in 1768. Some fifty years later it was changed into a starch factory, which business still thrives under the management of H. Barker & Co., though the buildings are of later date. Factory lane was a private lane that led by the distillery through Mr. Hunt's estate to the Samuel Hunt wharf.

Among the other factories, may be mentioned the wool factory of Capt. Joseph Crafts, later John W. Hollis' on Galen street; the knitting factory of John W. Tuttle, succeeded by the Porter Needle company, later by the Empire Laundry Machinery company on California street; the bicycle factory of Sterling Elliott and the Stanley dry-plate company (in process of erection) off from Maple street.

The ice business of Howard Bros. is located on California street. The White and the Derby tripe factories, no longer in existence, were in the vicinity of Watertown street. On Morse street near the ponds, still remains an old unused silk mill, and the factory of knit and woollen goods of Mr. Thomas Dalby, while on

the same street near Galen is Sanger's sash and blind factory.

In 1871 by Chap. 184 the legislature granted the right to the Massachusetts Central Railroad company to extend its tracks from Weston through Waltham, Newton, Watertown, Cambridge and Brighton or any of them to some point adjacent to the location with the Boston and Albany Railroad company, and it was expected that the site would be laid out along Water street to Faneuil to connect with the Boston & Albany railroad.

In 1868 Chap. 151, the "Nonantum Horse Railroad company" was chartered by the legislature. Miles Pratt, Nathaniel Whiting, and James F. Simons Jr., were the incorporators, and they were empowered to build and maintain a track from the flag staff opposite the Spring hotel, Watertown, to Fowe's apothecary store in Newton; the capital stock being fixed at \$50,000.

In 1874 commenced the agitation and petitioning for various causes, for the annexation of the whole or part of this territory to Newton, and ten times has this effort been made without success, though in 1889 fifty nine out of one hundred and twenty voters were petitioners, with only eleven neutrals.

This territory financially is valuable to the town as it consists of ninety-four acres valued with the factories and buildings for taxable purposes at eight hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

In 1888 there was completed in conjunction with the city of Newton, a system of surface drainage for Morse Field. The sewer system known as "Charles River valley," adopted in 1889 by the state legislature, will pass through this territory along the banks of the Charles river through Faneuil and Brighton into the main sewer in Boston and out into the harbor.

This territory well drained, supplied with pure water, electric lights, good municipal privileges at low taxation, in a few years will be covered with the homes of law abiding citizens attracted by its superior advantages.

Whatever in the future may be its municipality—town or city—one thing is certain, the South side of Watertown has been no unimportant factor in the history of the old town of Watertown.

CHARLES S. ENSIGN.

NOTE. The name of Watertown's "marrying squire" was Jonas (not James) Bond, as printed by mistake in our last issue.
