

CHAPTER II.

PROPRIETARY HISTORY.

Groton Grant in 1734, the earliest grant in this part of New-Hampshire. Order of time of grants in the vicinity. No. 1 granted by the Masonian Proprietors. First inhabitants. Division among the grantees. Plan of the township. Proceedings in proprietors' meetings. Roads. Report of settlements and improvements, in 1752. Meeting House. Mills. Ministers and preaching. Call of E. Champney. Two hundred acres added on the north side. Call of James Parker. Vote for incorporation. Vote giving the Meeting House to the town. Final meeting.

The earliest historical trace of the claim of ownership in the territory and soil of the town of Mason, is found in connection with the town of Groton. The original grant of the township of Groton, on the petition of Dean Winthrop and others, under date of 23d, 5th m., 1655, was of a tract "equal to eight miles square." In 1715, a portion of this territory was annexed to Nashobah and incorporated by the name of Littleton. There were also included within the bounds of Groton, as originally surveyed and located, two farms previously granted to individuals, containing about thirteen hundred acres, for which no allowance was made in the survey. In 1734, the inhabitants of Groton petitioned the General Court "for some of the unappropriated land of the Province, as an equivalent for the said farms, and the land so taken off by the line established, dividing between Groton and Littleton." On this petition a grant was made of "ten thousand eight hundred acres, in a gore between Townsend and Dunstable." This tract is undoubtedly the same represented on Douglas' map made in 1748, as "Groton Grant". According to that map, it embraced a territory extending to Souhegan river, which, would include a large part of Mason, and a part of Wilton. See extract from Douglas' map Hist. of New Ipswich, page 28. Under this grant, the inhabitants of Groton took possession of, and occupied the territory. It was their custom to cut the hay upon the meadows, and stack it, and early in the spring to send up their young cattle to be fed upon the hay, under the care of Boad, the negro slave. They would cause the woods, to be fired, as it was called, that is, burnt over in the spring, after which fresh and succulent herbage springing up, furnished good store of the finest feed, upon which the cattle would thrive and fatten through the season.

Bead's camp was upon the east side of the meadow, near the residence of the late Joel Ames. When the Province line was run in 1741, it "passed through Groton Gore, leaving a large portion thereof, and a triangular piece of what was originally Groton, in the state of New Hampshire." For the land so lost by the establishing of the Province line, on the petition of the inhabitants of Groton, the General Court in June 1771, granted them "seven thousand and eight hundred acres of unappropriated lands lying on the western part of the Province." See Butler's Groton, pp. 58—62. To have a distinct understanding of the state of territorial titles in 1734, the date of the grant of Groton Gore, it may be necessary to review the territorial grants previous and subsequent to that date, of the adjacent and neighboring towns.

Chelmsford and Groton were granted in 1655. Dunstable in 1673. This town originally comprised the territory now embraced in Dunstable and Tyngsborough in Massachusetts, Hudson, Nashua, Hollis, most of Brookline, all of Milford and Merrimack south of Souhegan river, and most of Litchfield, in New Hampshire. Dunstable was "bounded south by Chelmsford to Groton line, on the west by Groton and by countrey land, the line running due north from the boundary" [that is the north east angle of Groton] "ten miles till you come to Souhegan river, at a place called Dram Gup Hill at a great pine tree nigh ye said river, at a [bound or corner] of Charlestown scoole farm, bounded by the Souhegan river on the north," &c. As "a triangular piece of what was originally Groton" was by the running of the Province line in 1741, left within the State of New Hampshire, the north east angle of Groton must be found in Brookline ten miles south of Souhegan river, not far from Potanapus pond. The tradition is that the west line of Dunstable, which must have commenced at the north east angle of Groton, passed through this pond. A tract about one mile wide lying on the east side of Mason, was added to a portion of Hollis, formerly Dunstable, and incorporated by the name of Raby, afterwards changed to Brookline. Thus it appears that the western line of Old Dunstable passed about one mile east of the eastern line of Mason.

Townsend was incorporated in 1732. A part of this town also was left by the Province line, in New Hampshire, and is included within the limits of Mason. New Ipswich was

granted by Massachusetts in 1735. This grant was vacated by the establishment of the line; but it was regranted by the Masonian proprietors, with a change of boundaries, April 17, 1750. Hollis, the west part of Old Dunstable, was organized as a parish or precinct, December 28, 1739, and incorporated as a town, April 20, 1746. The name originally was Holles, from the family name of the Duke of Newcastle, prime minister of Great Britain in the reign of George II. at the time Louisburg was taken, in 1745, under Sir William Pepperell. Pepperell, another name commemorating the same event, was incorporated in 1753, being formerly a precinct or parish of Groton. Brookline, originally named Raby, was incorporated March 30, 1769. The original charter embraced a part of the west part of Hollis, two miles wide and the mile slip, so called, a piece of land a part of the old Groton Gore, about one mile wide, "lying on the easterly side of Mason." The east line of this mile slip must have been the west line of Old Dunstable, which bordered on "countrey land," from Groton to Souhegan river. In 1786, another portion of Hollis, three fourths of a mile wide, was added to Brookline. Wilton was granted by the Masonian proprietors, October 1, 1749. Temple was incorporated about the year 1770. Ashby in 1767. Thus it appears that the original grant of this tract to Groton, by Massachusetts, was prior, in point of time, to that of any adjoining territory, except Townsend.

The title to the township of Mason, except two gores, one on the north and one on the south side, was granted November 1, 1749, by an instrument of that date executed by Col. Joseph Blanchard, on behalf of the Masonian proprietors, of which the following is a copy:

[Copy of the Grant.]

PROVINCE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE.

Pursuant to the power and authority, granted and vested in me by the Proprietors of lands purchased of John Tufton Mason, Esq. in the Province of New Hampshire, by their vote passed at the meeting, held at Portsmouth, in said Province, the 16th day of June, 1749,

I do by these presents, give and grant, all the title and interest, property and possession of the proprietors aforesaid, unto William Lawrence, Esq., Peter Powers, Eleazer Blanchard, John Goff, Esq., David Adams, Paul March, Philip Olerick, Eleazer Farwell, John Stevens, Nathaniel Meserve, Jr., Peter Powers, Jr., Joseph Blodgett, John Butterfield, Jonathan Powers, Jr., Zaccheus Lovewell, Jonathan Hubbard, John Varnum, Josiah Brown, John Jennison, Joseph Blanchard, Jr., Elnathan Blood, Mr. Thomas Packer, Jonathan Hubbard, Jr., Clement March, Robert Fletcher, Jr., Israel Hubbard, Amasa Parker, Jacob Gould, Benjamin Parker, David Stearns, Thomas Tarbell, Samuel Tarbell, Shadrack Whitney, Edward Jewett, all their [heirs] of in and to all that part of a township or tract of land in the Province of New Hampshire aforesaid, containing about the contents of seventy-seven square miles, bounded as follows, beginning at a stake and stones the southeast corner of the premises, and runs from thence, north eighty degrees west, five miles and twenty rods by the Province line to New Ipswich corner, from thence north by the needle, five miles to a white pine tree marked, from thence east by the needle, five miles to a hemlock tree marked, from thence south by the needle, to the first bounds mentioned, which said township is laid out, drawn for, and lots ascertained for each grantee respectively, with two lots for encouragement of building of mills, &c. and three shares for public uses, viz: one for the first settled minister, one for the ministry, and one for the schools there forever, which said shares and lots, to be the same as already drawn and entered in the schedule and plan hereunto annexed, unto them respectively and their heirs and assigns. To have and hold on the following terms, conditions and limitations, and on them only, that is to say, that a meeting house be built as near the centre of said town, as by the grantees shall be judged most convenient, and that when such place shall be agreed on, six acres shall be reserved for public uses; that the remaining lands not entered in the schedule and plan aforesaid, specified within the bounds of the township aforesaid, be and hereby are reserved to and for the use of the Grantors of the premises, their heirs and assigns forever, free and clear from all charges, tax or incumbrance of settlement, until their, or any of their parts are improved by them, or some holding under them.

That the aforementioned grantees, exclusive of the three public lots, shall carry on, perform and make settlement at their own expense, in the following manner, viz: that there be all necessary highways laid out in said town where they will be most convenient, without any pay or allowance, to those grantors or grantees, through whose land the same shall go, that the grantees build a convenient house for the public worship of God, there at or before the last day of May, 1753, for the use of those who shall then, or afterwards inhabit there. That there be on some one lot of each of the forty shares belonging to the grantees, three acres cleared, inclosed and fitted for mowing or triage, so far as is profitable, at or before the last day of November, 1751, and each of the said lots to be cleared as aforesaid, to be settled with having a house of sixteen feet square, at the least, and seven feet stud or more, with a chimney and cellar, finished and fitted for a dwelling house,

thereon at or before the last day of May, 1752, and some person or family inhabiting and resident in said house, and they or some others in each of their steads, continue residing there until the last day of May, 1755. That the owners of each of the forty settling shares, have on each of their rights respectively, three acres more, in like manner fitted, at or before the last day of November, 1752, and the like quantity annually, for two years then next coming. That the remaining six shares, to wit, the shares of Jonathan Hubbard, Benjamin Parker, Nathaniel Meserve, Jr., Josiah Brown, John Jennison, Eleazer Blanchard, be excused from the duty of building, improving or settling, until the last day of November, 1755, and then to have the whole duty performed as the others at that time. That each of the grantees at the executing of this instrument pay, thirty pounds each old tenor, to defray the necessary charges, risen or arising in bringing forward the settlement, to be deposited in the hands of such person as they shall appoint, being a freeholder and resident in the Province. That the aforesaid grantees or their assigns assess such further sum, or sums of money equally in [pro] portion to the right, or the share of each grantee, exclusive of the three public lots, as may be thought necessary, for carrying on and completing any of the public matters, in making the settlement and charges, always provided there be no Indian war, within any of the times aforesaid, for doing the duty conditioned in this grant, and in case that should happen, the same time to be allowed for the respective matters aforesaid, after such impediment shall be removed. That all white pine trees fit for masting his Majesties royal navy, growing on said land, be and here[by] are granted to his Majesty, his heirs and successors forever.

Lastly, said grantors do hereby promise to the said grantees, their heirs and assigns, to defend through the law, to the King and Council if need be, one action that shall and may be brought against them, or any number of them, by any person or persons whatsoever, claiming the said land, or any part thereof, by any other title than of the grantors, or that by which they hold and derive theirs from, Provided the said grantors are avouched in to defend the same, and that in case the same shall be recovered against the grantors, the grantees shall recover nothing over against the grantors for the said lands and improvements, or expenses of bringing forward the settlement, and further, that the said grantors will pay the necessary expenses of time and money, that any other person or persons shall be put to, by any other suit or suits, that shall be brought against them, or any of them, the said grantees for tryal of the title, before one action shall be fully determined in the law. In witness whereof, I the said Joseph Blanchard of Dunstable, have hereunto set my hand and seal, this first day of November, 1749.

JOSEPH BLANCHARD. [seal.]

This copy is a transcript from the proprietors' records. The original has not been found. There is undoubtedly a mistake in the number of square miles in the contents of the town. It should be twenty seven, not seventy seven.

There is no record or tradition existing which shows when the first inhabitants began to reside within the limits of the town. Joseph Herrick was chosen "second deer officer" in Townsend, at the annual town meeting in March, 1742. In 1745, that town "voted to abate Joseph Herrick's rates, provided the money was raised after he went out of town." Joseph Herrick lived in the south-easterly part of the town of Mason, near where Elisha Boynton lived. In what part of Townsend he resided before he "went out of town," is not known. He was undoubtedly the pioneer in the settlement of that part of Mason. There, probably, his oldest son, Joseph Herrick was born, Sept. 30, 1751. He may claim to be the first person of European parentage, born within the present limits of the town. His only competitor for this honor, is John Lawrence, son of Enosh Lawrence. No record of his birth is found. He was the youngest of the children of Enosh Lawrence and Sarah Stevens, his wife. The birth of nine of their children is recorded in the town records of Pepperell, the last of which was April 12, 1748. There is a tradition that he was born in 1751, and that he was the first child born in the town; that is, within the limits of the original grant. It would seem that Lawrence was residing in Pepperell in 1748, and that Herrick removed out of Townsend in 1745; so that the last was probably the earliest permanent resident within the present limits of the township. He was a "deer officer," which indicates that he was a hunter, fond of sylvan pursuits.

A meeting of the "grantees and proprietors" was held at the house of Capt. Joseph French, in Dunstable, Oct. 16, 1749; at which, the township having been divided into lots, and a list made of the lots, they were drawn, for, and entered to each proprietor his lots, which list is inserted [on page 34]. On [pages 32 and 33] will be found a plan of the town with the names of the grantees, &c., of the several lots according to the said list.

PLAN OF TOWNSHIP NO. 1, OR MASON

R 20	10 Robert Fletcher	9 J. Pierce	8 Jona. Powers, Jr.	7 J.T Mason	6 Scollay & Marsh
19	10 S. Moore	9 J. Pierce	8 Jona. Moffatt	7 Saml. Tarbell	6 Saml. Tarbell
18	10 S. Moore	9 D. Stearns	8 Thos. Tarbell	7 Jos. Blanchard	6 N. Messerve Jr. <i>D. Williams</i>
17	10 J. Odiorne	9 Maj. J. Hubbard	8 Wm. Lawrence	7 Wm. Lawrence	6 Benj. Parker <i>O. Nutting</i>
16	10 J. Odiorne	9 Maj. J. Hubbard	8 Jona. Hubbard	7 J. Blanchard	6 Jona. Hubbard <i>J. Hull</i> <i>E. & T. Blood</i>
15	10 N. Messerve	9 N. Messerve	8 David Stearns	7 Benj. Parker <i>H. Jefts</i>	6 Joshua Pierce <i>E. Fish</i>
14	10 J. Stevens	9 J. Stevens	8 George Marsh	7 J. Hubbard Jr.	6 M. H. Wentworth <i>N. Hall</i>
13	10 J. Stevens <i>J. Barrett</i>	9 J. Stevens <i>Z. Davis</i>	8 Th. Parker, Esq. <i>Saml. Lawrence</i>	7 T.J. Mason <i>Saml. Lawrence</i>	6 Thos. Parker <i>H. Jefts</i> <i>J. Bachelder</i>
12	10 J. Odiorne	9 N. Messerve <i>A. Allen</i> <i>Jos. Merriam</i>	8 Jos. Jennison <i>Josiah Wheeler</i> <i>H. Warren</i>	7 J. Hubbard Jr. <i>Samuel Hill</i> <i>John Blodgett</i>	6 Maj. J. Hubbard <i>Amos Holden</i>
11	10 J. Jennison	9 J. Stevens	8 J. Stevens <i>N. Whipple</i>	7 Maj. Lawrence <i>B. Mann</i> <i>S. Ames</i>	6 Joseph Blodgett <i>Ab. Merriam</i>
10	10 Josiah Brown	9 J. Stevens	8 J. Varnum <i>Jos. Merriam</i>	7 Maj. Lawrence <i>J. Jefts E. Ball</i> <i>N. Boynton</i>	6 School <i>Meet'g House Lot</i> <i>Dr. Wm Barber</i>
9	10 Maj. J. Hubbard <i>A. Wheeler</i>	9 J. Stevens <i>E. Lawrence</i>	8 W. Parker, Esq. <i>Jona. Searle</i>	7 J. Stevens <i>N. Barrett</i> <i>J. Whitaker</i>	6 J. Jennison <i>S. Abbot</i> <i>Rev. E. Hill</i>
8	10 Maj. J. Hubbard <i>Lt. O. Parker</i>	9 G. Jaffrey <i>T. Robbins</i>	8 J. Wentworth, Jr. <i>T. Wheeler</i>	7 E. Blanchard <i>D. Fay J. Wait, Jr</i> <i>J. Flagg</i>	6 E. Blanchard <i>Joshua Wyeth</i> <i>E. Wilson</i>
7	10 Mr. Livermore <i>E. Davis</i>	9 Mr. Livermore <i>James Wood</i>	8 Josiah Brown <i>Ministry</i> <i>Stev. Lawrence</i>	7 J. Wentworth, Jr.	6 Jos. Blanchard <i>D. Blodgett</i> <i>John Winship</i>
6	10 Z. Lovewell	9 M.H. Wentworth	8 J. Power, Jr.	7 John Butterfield <i>J. Webber, Jr.</i>	6 Ph. Olericke <i>W. Cummings</i> <i>John Swallow</i>
	10	9	8 Jos. Farrar	7	6

5	Z. Lovewell <i>T. Wheelock</i>	N. Messerve, Jr. <i>Samuel Woods</i>	<i>Mill Lot</i> <i>E. Shattuck</i>	John Butterfield <i>Seth Robbins</i>	School <i>Zac. Barrett</i>
4	10 S. Wallingford <i>O. Hosmer</i>	9 N. Messerve, Jr.	8 Geo. Jaffrey <i>T. Hodgman</i>	7 Rich'd Wibird	6 Wm. Lawrence <i>Capt. I. Brown</i>
3	10 T. Wallingford	9 Phil. Olericke <i>Wm. Cummings</i> <i>R. Weston</i>	8 Josiah Brown	7 Joseph Blodgett	6 Wm. Lawrence Enos Lawrence
2	10 P. March <i>E. Hodgman</i>	9 D. Adams <i>John Barrett</i>	8 W. Parker, Esq.	7 Rich'd Wibird	6 Wm. Lawrence <i>Josiah Robbins</i> <i>Dea. J. Webber</i>
1	10 G. Jaffrey <i>J. Hodgman</i>	9 P. Powers	8 E. Blanchard	7 School	6 Mark H. Went- worth <i>N. Winship</i> <i>W. Barrett</i>

20	5 Theo. Atkinson	4 Jona. Lawrence <i>J. Hubbard</i>	3 Jona. Hubbard	2 Benj. Parker	1 Amasa Parker <i>J. Jefts</i>
19	5 Wm. Lawrence	4 Thos. Tarbell	3 Elnathan Blood	2 David Stearns	1 Thomas Parker
18	5 Theo. Atkinson	4 Jacob Gould	3 Mr. Th: Packer	2 J. Hubbard, Jr.	1 E. Jewett
17	5 Wm. Lawrence	4 Wm. Lawrence	3 J. Hubbard, Jr.	2 George March	1 Ministry
16	5 Jona. Hubbard	4 Amasa Parker <i>J. Jefts</i>	3 J. Hubbard, Jr.	2 J. Blanchard, Jr.	1 J. Blanchard, Jr.
15	5 John Moffat	4 Saml. Tarbell	3 Robert Fletcher	2 Joseph Farrar <i>Mill Lot</i>	1 Eleazer Farwell
14	5 M.H. Wentworth	4 Jacob Gould	3 Robt. Fletcher	2 Jos. Blanchard	1 Scollay & March
13	5 Scollay & March	4 Samuel Moore	3 J. Hubbard, Jr.	2 J.T. Mason	1 Peter Powers
12	5 Amasa Parker <i>J. Jefts</i>	4 Peter Powers	3 Elnathan Blood	2 Jacob Gould	1 Peter Powers <i>Wm. Spaulding</i>
11	5 Minister	4 Thos. Tarbell	3 Elnathan Blood	2 John Stevens	1 Peter Powers <i>Wm. Spaulding</i>
10	5 Minister <i>J. Searle</i>	4 Peter Powers <i>John Tarbell</i> <i>Joshua Davis</i>	3 E. Jewett <i>T. Tarbell</i>	2 T. Parker, Esq. <i>Edm. Tarbell</i>	1 Th: Parker, Esq <i>Wm. Spaulding</i>
9	5 J. Stevens <i>N. Warren</i>	4 Jona. Blanchard <i>Jason Russell</i>	3 John Moffat	2 J. Wentworth, Jr.	1 M.H. Wentworth
8	5 John Goff <i>___ Greeley</i> <i>H. Russell</i>	4 Thos. Taylor <i>H. Russell</i>	3 Theo. Atkinson	2 Jona. Livermore <i>Hubbard</i>	1 J. Powers, Jr.
7	5 Ministry <i>Joseph Winship</i>	4 Paul March <i>S. Smith</i>	3 George March	2 M.H. Wentworth	1 Peter Powers
6	5 Peter Powers, Jr.	4 Jos. Blodgett <i>B. Barrett</i> <i>H. Richardson</i>	3 Davis Adams	2 Peter Powers	1 J. Powers, Jr.
5	5 J. Powers, Jr.	4 David Adams <i>Amos Blood</i>	3 Ministry <i>J. Brown</i>	2 Phil. Olericke <i>Cummings</i>	1 Peter Powers
4	5 John Varnum <i>John Dutton</i>	4 John Goff <i>S. Greeley</i>	3 Maj. J. Hubbard	2 W. Parker, Esq.	1 Rich'd Wibird

	<i>John Blood</i>	<i>Joseph Blood</i>			
3	5 E. Farwell	4 John Stevens	3 John Stevens	2 Wm. Lawrence	1 Minister
2	5 T. Wallingford	4 John Stevens	3 John Stevens	2 John Goff <i>Powers</i>	1 M. Livermore
1	5 Paul March	4 John Butterfield	3 Shadr. Whitney	2 Eleazer Farwell	1 John Varnum

The plan of which the above is a copy was found among the papers in the town clerk's office. It is in the hand writing of John Blodgett, Esq., who was for many years town clerk. On the south side is represented a gore 240 poles wide at the east end, the south line of which runs to the southwest corner of the town. It is not laid out into lots. The only note or memorandum on the plan is in these words: "A plan of Mason without any north slip," and on the south side, "Five miles East"; on the east, "Five miles North"; on the north, "Five miles West"; on the west, "Five miles South". In some instances the name of the original grantee is not on this plan, and is restored in this copy. The names of the grantees are in Roman letters. The names in *Italic* in all cases are those of subsequent residents on, or owners of the lots, and in most cases, of original settlers on the lots.

RECORD OF THE DRAFT OF LOTS IN TOWNSHIP NO. 1

Names	Draught	Number	Range	Number	Range	Number	Range	Names	Draught	Number	Range	Number	Range	Number	Range
Ministry	1	5	7	3	5	1	17	John Stevens, Esq.	35	8	11	9	9	3	3
School	2	6	5	6	10	7	1	Samuel Moore and *	36	10	18	10	19	4	13
George Jaffrey	3	10	1	9	8	8	4	Joseph Farrar †	37	2	15	8	5		
Peter Powers *	4	9	1	2	6	1	5	Minister	38	5	10	5	11	1	3
Eleazer Blanchard	5	8	1	7	8	6	8	Joseph Blanchard, Jr.	39	4	9	2	16	1	16
John Goff, Esq.	6	5	8	4	4	2	2	Peter Powers ‡	40	4	10	1	12	1	13
David Adams †	7	9	2	4	5	3	6	J.P. §	41	4	12	1	11	1	7
Paul March	8	10	2	4	7	5	1	Elnathan Blood	42	3	12	3	11	3	19
Philip Olerike	9	9	3	6	6	2	5	Thomas Parker, Esq.	43	8	13	1	10	2	10
Eleazer Farwell	10	5	3	2	1	1	15	Mr. Thomas Packer	44	6	13	1	19	3	18
John Stevens, Esq.	11	4	3	5	4	4	2	J.P. ¶	45	3	13	2	18	7	12
Thomas Wallingford	12	10	4	10	3	5	2	John Tufton Mason, Esq	46	7	20	7	13	2	13
Nathaniel Messerve, Jr.	13	9	5	9	4	6	18	George Marsh	47	8	14	3	7	2	17
Peter Powers, Jr.	14	5	5	5	6	1	6	Mark H. Wentworth	48	6	14	5	14	2	7
Joseph Blodgett	15	7	3	4	6	6	11	Capt. Robert Fletcher	49	3	14	3	15	10	20
John Butterfield ‡	16	7	6	4	1	0	0	Saml. Scollay and March	50	5	13	6	20	1	14
Jonathan Powers, Jr.	17	8	20	1	8	8	6	John Moffat, Esq.	51	5	15	8	19	3	9
Mark Hunking Wentworth	18	6	1	9	6	1	9	Jonathan Lawrence	52	6	16	4	20	2	8
Thomas Taylor §	19	10	6	10	5	4	8	Mr. Trowbridge, now Hubbard	53	5	16	3	20	8	16
Matthew Livermore	20	10	7	9	7	1	2	Amasa Parker	54	4	16	1	20	5	12
John Stevens, Esq.	21	10	14	7	9	5	9	Jona. Hubbard, Jr.	55	3	16	3	17	7	14
William Lawrence, Esq.	22	5	19	6	2	2	3	Jacob Gould	56	4	14	4	18	2	12
William Parker, Esq.	23	8	9	8	2	2	4	Wm. Lawrence, Esq.	57	5	17	8	17	7	17
John Wentworth, Jr.	24	8	8	7	7	2	9	Benja. Parker	58	6	17	2	20	7	15
Maj. Jona. Hubbard	25	10	9	10	8	3	4	Maj. Jona. Hubbard, J.P., ¶¶	59	9	17	9	16	6	12
Maj. Wm. Lawrence ¶¶	26	7	10	7	11			Mr. David Stearns	60	9	18	2	19	8	15
John Varnum ¶¶	27	8	10	1	1	5	4	Capt. Thomas Tarbell	61	8	18	4	19	4	11
John Stevens, Esq.	28	9	10	9	11	2	11	Joseph Blanchard, Esq.	62	7	18	6	7	2	14
Josiah Brown	29	10	10	8	3	8	7	Theodore Atkinson, Esq.	63	5	18	5	20	3	8
Richard Wibird, Esq.	31	10	17	10	12	10	16	Wm. Lawrence, Esq.	64	4	3	6	4	4	17
Jotham Odiorn	31	10	17	10	12	10	16	Capt. Saml. Tarbell	65	7	19	6	19	4	15
Nathl. Meserve, Esq.	32	10	15	9	12	9	15	Joshua Pierce	66	9	19	9	20	6	15
John Gennison	33	10	11	8	12	6	9	Shadrack Whitney	67	3	1				
John Stevens, Esq.	34	9	13	9	14	3	2								

The foregoing is a True Copy of the Draught and numbers of the lots In the Township No. One, so-called, lying, in the Province of New Hampshire, as they was Drawn by the Proprietors of said. Township. A true copy. Examined and Recorded,

Pr JOHN STEVENS, Prop's Clerk.

NOTE. In the original copy, in the margin against the names and figures, are sundry additions indicated by the references below:

*7.5	*Daniel Pierce
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†8 [in the 6 th column should be 3.]	†Mill Lot
‡7.5	‡J.P.
§Z. Lovewell	§Capt. Peter Powers
ⓂTwo lots to this one right	ⓂJona. Hubbard, Jr.
¶J.P.	¶J.P. [above the name]

At the same meeting, William Lawrence and John Stevens, Esq., were "directed, at the charge of the grantees and settlers of this township, to mark out a highway in said township, from where the road enters into said township, that leads from Amos Sartell's house in Townshend, to the meeting-house place, as marked on the plan of the division of said township, and from said meeting-house place, to near the middle of the north line in said township, in the most convenient place for a road, and fit for a, feasible cart road, the said highway, as soon as may be, and that Messrs. Benjamin Parker and Peter Powers, be desired and empowered as aforesaid, to lay out, and clear, and fit for a feasible cart road, in the most convenient place, from said meeting-house place to the town of Hollis." In this extract from the proprietors' records, a distinction is made between "grantees and settlers," which is kept up through the whole period of the proprietorship, which continued long after the incorporation of the town. Many of the proprietors never resided in the town; some of the original proprietors resided in the town, and several persons, whose names do not appear among the original proprietors, resided in the town, and attended proprietors' meetings, and voted and took an active part therein; while other persons who resided and owned land in town, do not appear to have attended the meetings, or to have been recognized as having any of the rights or powers of proprietors. What constituted the line of distinction between the owners of land who had a right, and those who had not a right to meet and vote in proprietary meetings, does not appear. The road first above described, is substantially the same now travelled from Townsend west village, leading by the meeting-house northerly, to and beyond Jonathan Bachelers. The other was the road leading from the meeting-house to Brookline, then a part of Hollis. At an adjournment of the same meeting, held Nov. 7, 1749, at the same place, Joseph Blanchard, Jr. was chosen Clerk, Joseph Blanchard, Esq. Treasurer, Major Jonathan Hubbard, John Stevens, Esq. and Capt. Samuel Tarbell were chosen a committee "for managing the prudentials of the society." The mode of calling future meetings was also provided for; notices for which were to be posted fifteen days beforehand, in some public place in Dunstable, in Townsend, and in Groton. It was also "voted to accept of the two mill lots marked on the plan for that use, and chose a committee to bargain and indent with some person or persons, to build and finish a saw mill by the last day of February, 1750, and a corn mill in nine months from that time; that they contract for said mills to be

kept in repair; also that every of the inhabitants on bringing suitable timber, have it sawed for half the stuff at least; also to dispose of the two mill lots, or so much of them for that use as they shall agree for; that Messrs Benjamin Parker, Major Jonathan Hubbard, Capt. John .Stevens be the committee for this purpose."

The plan referred to has not been found; nor any plan upon which the mill lots are marked, among the records of the proprietors, but in the schedule of the lots drawn to the different rights against right or "draught," No. 37, are two lots 2 R. 15, and 8 R. 5, marked in the margin "mill lots," and in a plan in the hand-writing of John Blodgett, Esq., who was in 1799, and many years after, town clerk, on file with the papers in the town clerk's office, these two lots are each marked "mill lot."

Some question seems to have arisen at this early period as to the nature and the validity of the title claimed under the grant, for at this same adjourned meeting, Mr. John Varnum, Major William Lawrence, and Capt. John Stevens were chosen a committee "to enquire into, and view the tenor of the grant, and report their opinion of the safety therein; and that Capt. Thomas Tarbell be joined to this committee." Probably the committee were satisfied "of the safety therein," for no report has been entered on the records, nor does any question as to the validity of the title seem ever after to have been seriously made. This movement, probably, had reference to Allen's advertisements before mentioned to, cautioning persons not to take titles under the Masonian proprietors.

At this same adjourned meeting, it was also voted, that the committee chosen at the first of this meeting, for marking out and clearing highways, be directed to mark out, and open a road so that horses or cattle may pass from the meeting-house place, westward, near to the west line of the town." This was, probably, the road from the meeting-house to New Ipswich, by Obadiah Parker's house. At this early period, the roads leading from the south to the north, and from the east to the west borders of the town through the center, seem to have been provided for.

At an adjournment of the same meeting, holden on the last Tuesday in Dec. 1749, Capt. Thomas Tarbell was added to the committee for laying out and clearing the road from the meeting-house place to Hollis'; also "voted, that John Stevens, Esq. amend the range line between the sixth and seventh range, so as equally to divide the quantity of land between the two ranges, and he to be paid six pounds old tenor for that service, which he agreed to;" also "voted, that Capt. Samuel Tarbell be joined to the committee chosen to contract with some suitable person to build the mills in this township, in the room of John Stevens, Esq. ', voted, that Joseph Blanchard, Esq. take security of the person who builds the mills; that John Stevens, Esq. go and look out the mill places and see on whose lots they fall, and make return to Joseph Blanchard, Esq. where they are, by the first day of next March, and if any mistakes should be in his first account of said lots, that Col. Joseph Blanchard procure the said lots where the mills are to stand, in behalf of the grantees, they paying the sum or sums of money which they shall cost." No report on this subject is entered on the records. If any was made in writing, it has not been found. The two lots marked on the plan, were, one in the north east part of the town, near where Elias Elliot built a mill, and the other in the south west part, near where the mill of Frederic Jones stands. It seems that under this vote and instruction, some change was made, for the mills contracted for by the proprietors were built on the site of Dakin's mills, in the village.

At this adjourned meeting, it was also "voted, that Mr. Benjamin Parker run. out the two lines that are not already run, and that he have twelve pounds old tenor for doing said work, which he agreed to, [and] that he go and lay out two hundred acres of land lying between the north line of No. 1, and the south line of No. 2, in the best manner he can, for the use of the grantees of No. 1. Voted that the Treasurer pay him for doing said work, at his returning the plan of said land, [and] that if anything should happen that he should not do the work by the middle of January next, that Capt. Peter Powers be directed to do said work forthwith, on the same conditions as aforesaid."

By what claim or right the grantees of No. 1 were entitled "to go and lay out two hundred acres of land" between No.1 and No. 2, does not appear. A tract or gore of land between

the original lines or boundaries of these townships, was at some time annexed to No. 1. In the original location of townships in that part of the state, there was not the precision which has prevailed in the surveys of the public lands of the United States, or in the more recently settled parts of New England. No base lines or meridian lines were run. Each township or tract was run out by itself, and it might readily happen that different surveyors going into the wilderness to run out tracts of land, not knowing what other surveyors may have done, should not make their lines parallel, or corners coincident; so that it is not a matter of surprise, that gores should be found to exist between tracts, which were intended and supposed to be bounded by the same line. Such seems to have been the case in this instance. The original grant of No. 2, now Wilton, was as follows: In June, 1735, the General Court granted to Samuel King and others, in consideration of their sufferings in the expedition to Canada, in the year 1690, the township of Lyndeborough, and about one third of Wilton, on the north side, under the name of "Salem Canada." The word "Canada" added to names of grants, was common at that time. Thus, Ipswich Canada, New Ipswich, Dorchester Canada, Ashburnham, &c. are instances. The tracts, with this addition to the names, were granted to the citizens of the several towns indicated, for their services in the expedition to Canada in 1690. In 1749, the Masonian proprietors made a grant of a tract of land adjoining "Salem Canada" on the south, under certain conditions, to forty six persons. The grantees had it laid out and annexed to a part of Salem Canada, and called No. 2; which was afterwards, Jan. 2, 1765, incorporated under the name of Wilton.

A trouble which is apt to be incident to the undertaking of all new enterprizes requiring the expenditure of money, that is, the want of promptness on the part of those who are chargable with the payments, seems to have met the grantees at an early stage of their proceedings; and very frequent and repeated references to the same difficulty, even to the very last stage of their proprietary existence, show that it was a constant and permanent source of annoyance. The final proceedings of this first meeting, continued so long by adjournments, referred to this matter, as follows: "Voted, that all persons refusing or neglecting to pay the respective sums of money raised on their rights, after the third Tuesday of January next, [their rights] are hereby forfeited to the rest of the grantees,

they paying the aforesaid sums of money, to defray the necessary charges in bringing forward the settlement of the town."

The next meeting of the proprietors, was holden at the house of William Lawrence, Esq., in said township, on the 3d day of Dec. 1751. Wm. Lawrence, Esq. was chosen moderator. The proceedings were as follows: "Voted to build a meeting-house in said township, for the public worship of God, of the following dimensions; viz: thirty feet in length, and twenty four or twenty six feet in width, as the committee chosen for that service shall think fit, and sixteen feet between joints. Voted and chose for said committee, William Lawrence, Jonathan Hubbard, Esq., and Capt. Thomas Tarbell. Also voted, that the said committee be directed to inclose said house, lay the under floor, and to build a convenient place for the minister to stand to preach in."

"Voted, to choose a committee to let out the mills in said township. Chose for said committee, Wm. Lawrence and John Stevens, Esq.; the saw mill to be built and completed, fit for service, by the 25th day of May next, and the corn mill to be completed, fit to grind by the 25th day of May, 1753. Also voted, that the committee chosen to build the meeting-house, be directed to employ the proprietors or inhabitants both at the meeting-house, and at the highways, provided they will work as cheap and as well as others."

At a meeting held at the house of Mr. Enos Lawrence, on the 4th Tuesday of Oct. 1752, a vote was passed to change the dimensions of the meeting-house to be built, to 40 feet by 30, and to add Benjamin Parker and John Stevens to the, committee; that the frame should be set up by the first of January next, and the house finished as directed by the former vote, by the first day of November next, which must be intended November, 1753. At this meeting John Stevens was chosen proprietors' clerk, the road from the Province line to the meeting-house place, was accepted as laid out, and "the meeting was adjourned to Mr. James Lawrence's in Groton west parish, that day three weeks." At the adjourned meeting, "Voted, that if every proprietor, by the twentieth day of May next, obliged by the charter to settle a lot in said township, have not built a dwelling-house and

fenced six acres fit for plowing or mowing, [he] shall forfeit his land, according to the charter; except such proprietors at said time, shall ease or consider the same; provided that those persons that have done nothing on their rights, pay each man two shillings and eight pence lawful money for the use of said proprietary, for their past neglects, or else to have no benefit by the former vote."

And on said adjournment, the committee chosen to view the lots report, as follows:

THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

" This contains an account of what each man has done in No. one.

Enos Lawrence has a house, and about eight acres cleared, and dwells there.

Nathan Hall, a house and seven acres of land, six of it broke up, and dwells there.

Nathan Fish, a small house, about five acres cleared.

Henry Jefts, seven acres cleared, and about three of it broke up, and a house.

Obadiah Parker, a good house, and about two acres cleared.

Ebenezer Butterfield, a good house, eight acres well cleared and broke up.

Josiah Bobbins, about three acres cleared, and a poor fence.

John Swallow cleared about one acre, and got some timber for a house.

William Lawrence, a house and barn, and about ten acres cleared.

Samuel Bight, [Wright,] a cellar dug, two acres cleared.

James Withee, a cellar dug, and three acres cleared and broke up.

Simon Green, about two acres cleared and broke up, and a cellar dug, and a frame.

Ensign Shattuck, one acre cleared on each lot.

Capt. Thomas Tarbell, about three acres cleared.

Capt. Samuel Tarbell, about three acres cleared.

James Lasley, [Leslie,] house up, about three acres cleared.

George Lasley, [Leslie,] a camp, about one acre cleared.

Reuben Barrett, about three acres cleared, and two of it broke up.

William Spaulding, a pretty good house, and some land cleared, and something done to a second lot.

William Elliot, two acres cleared, and a cellar dug, [and] timber drawn for a house.

Capt. Stevens, about nine acres cleared and fenced, also, about five acres more.

Samuel Right, [Wright,] two lotts about one acre and a half cleared, and a camp.

Shadrack Whitney, a house and barn, and about twenty acres cleared and fenced, and a young orchard.

Signed, WILLIAM LAWRENCE, per order."

At a meeting at the house of Enos Lawrence in said township, on the 27th of November, 1753, "Col. Lawrence chosen moderator of said meeting; voted to choose a committee of three men for the service hereafter mentioned, &c. The committee to send Mr. Bellows a letter, to have the corn mill done by the first of June next, or else the Treasurer to put the bonds into execution.

"Voted to allow sixty pounds to pay for preaching between this and next May, and the inhabitants of said town to appoint the time and place. Col. Lawrence chosen to get a minister, and Col. Lawrence chosen Treasurer. Voted that the papers belonging to the proprietors, be put on public record, in the Province of New Hampshire so far as the committee shall think fit. The committee for said service to be the same that takes the bonds."

The delinquent proprietors continued to be a source of difficulty. On page 49 of the proprietors' records is entered at large the vote first, above referred to. It is as follows: "Whereas, it appears to this proprietary that some rights in the said township No. One, that were obliged to settle the lots according to charter, have neglected to comply with the same, and in order for as speedy compliance with their duty as possible, it is necessary that such others should be admitted in their room that will comply with the same. Therefore,

"Voted, That Col. Lawrence, Samuel Tarbell and John Stevens be a committee fully impowered to make a strict enquiry who are now wholly delinquent, or that was delinquent on the 4th Tuesday of October, 1752, and to take good security to the value of one hundred pounds new tenor, that they will enter upon and perform their duty agreeable to the charter, viz: that is to say, to have three acres of land well cleared and fenced at the least, a house built and inhabit the same by the first day of May next, and upon the failure of entering into bond with the aforesaid committee within one month from this date, to enter upon such delinquent proprietors' right and take possession of the same, and dispose of it to some suitable person, that will immediately enter upon such right and comply with the duty as abovesaid, and pay such sum of money for the use of said proprietors as

the said committee and the new grantee shall agree for, or such old grantee to pay such a sum of money for the use of said proprietors, to the abovesaid committee for the past neglect, as the said proprietors shall order at this meeting; and the abovesaid committee are further directed to take a bond of each grantee or settler, that hath not complied with their duty, for the faithful performance of the condition of their grants, &c., and to save the proprietors harmless, &c., for want of the duty being done and taxes paid in season, the obligation and condition of said bond to be as the abovesaid committee shall think most just and reasonable and better to bring forward the settlement of said plantation, &c. Also, Voted, That each delinquent proprietor that hath done nothing on his right shall pay three pounds, old tenor, to said committee for the use of said proprietors."

A meeting was called at the house of Enos Lawrence, on the 16th of July, 1754. A recital in the record of that meeting sets forth that William Lawrence, Esq., and others, at a meeting on the 17th of November, 1753, were appointed a committee and authorized to enter into and dispose of delinquent rights, and to take bonds for performance according to the tenor of said vote, &c., so that it is probable that the &c. after the word "vote," is one of the pregnant &c's of Lord Coke, and embraces and includes the whole vote so entered as above, and that the whole record commencing with the word "Whereas," should have been inserted in place of the &c., but not having been drawn up in proper form till the rest of the record had been made and entered, it was entered by itself, without preface or explanation. At the meeting July 16th, 1754, the time for taking bonds by the committee was extended thirty days from that date, and the time to comply with the requirements of the charter as to "inhabiting, fencing and clearing," was extended to November next, and Joseph Blanchard, Esq., was desired to apply to the grantors for an enlargement of the time for compliance with the settling duties.

At the same meeting, one hundred pounds of the money already raised was appropriated for preaching, and Thomas Tarbell, Enos Lawrence and Reuben Barrett, were chosen a committee "to provide preaching so far as one hundred pounds old tenor goes."

At a meeting held at the house of Enos Lawrence, November 18, 1754, fifty pounds, old tenor, was allowed out of money already raised to pay for preaching, and a committee of nine was appointed "to view for a burying place and make return to the next meeting." The committee were Enos Lawrence, Thomas Tarbell, Nehemiah Gould, Obadiah Parker, Beuben Barrett, Nathan Hall, Henry Jefts, Eleazer Butterfield and William Eliot, all of whom were probably then inhabitants, and most of whom remained inhabitants till the time of their death.

There is no record of any meeting between November 18, 1754, and May 11, 1757, at which last date a meeting was held at the house of Enos Lawrence. William Lawrence, Esq., was moderator. A vote was passed to have "ten days' preaching in said township, as soon as conveniently may be. Also, to raise ten pounds old tenor New Hampshire bills on each right liable to settle in said township, or two Spanish milled dollars to answer the same tax"; by which it would seem that one pound old tenor New Hampshire bills was equal to twenty cents. One hundred and fifty pounds was also appropriated to be worked on the highways, at thirty shillings per day. Enos Lawrence, Thomas Tarbell and Nathan Hall, were appointed "to have the oversight of working out the money on the highways." One half was to be worked out from the meeting house on the east to Pole Hill, one quarter from Townsend line to the meeting house, and the other quarter "by Mr. Hall north of the meeting house, and from said house to Obadiah Parker's house."

"Voted, To choose a committee to put Mr. Bellows' bond in execution for not building the mills, unless he immediately prevent the same by accommodation." Col. Blanchard, Col. Lawrence and John Stevens were chosen for this purpose, and directed if they could not agree with Mr. Bellows "then to agree with some other person or persons to build one or both of said mill or mills." "Voted, To add Nathan Hall and Thomas Tarbell to the committee for finishing the meeting house according to the former vote."

At a meeting held October 24, 1758, "Voted, That Reuben Barrett be joined to the committee for laying out highways in the room of Mr. Goold deceased."

This is the first record of death in the town. It appears by the journal of Joseph Holt, who resided many years in Wilton, which has just been published in the tenth volume of the New England Historical and Genealogical Register, see page 307, that Corporal Gould of No. 1, was killed in battle, near lake George, on the 20th of July, 1758. This was undoubtedly Nehemiah Gould, referred to in this entry in the proprietors' records. Who of the present inhabitants ever heard his name, or knows where he resided? How completely one hundred years had swept him to oblivion, but for this casual entry in this comparatively unknown and almost forgotten book. Jacob Gould was one of the grantees of the town. His lots were No's 4 R. 18, 4 R. 14, and 2 R. 12. Whether he was a relative of Nehemiah Gould, is not known. Nehemiah Gould was married to Molly Kemp, at Groton, March 9, 1773. He may have been a son of Corporal Gould. An extract from Holt's journal may be found in the Appendix.

A tax of £90 was "assessed on the rights liable to pay charges; to be laid out only for preaching." "Voted that Enos Lawrence provide a preacher."

A meeting was held January 2, 1759. "Chose Col. Lawrence, moderator. Voted, That Jonathan Blanchard be a committee man to supply the place or places of the late Col. Joseph Blanchard in anything wherein he was concerned for said proprietary. Obadiah Parker was chosen collector. "Voted the sum of forty six dollars, or equal thereto, accounting them equal to £276 New Hampshire old tenor, be raised on this proprietary. Voted, That half a dollar on each right, or equal thereto, in New Hampshire bills, be assessed on this proprietary, to be applied for preaching."

In the warrant for the meeting, November 26, 1759, the 5th article was " To see if the proprietors will make up the depreciation of the New Hampshire bills to Mr. Francis Worcester." This was undoubtedly Mr. Francis Worcester, of Hollis, the ancestor of the Rev. Dr. Noah Worcester, of Brighton, Mass., the Rev. Leonard Worcester, of Peacham, Vt., the Rev. Thomas Worcester, of Salisbury, N. H., and the Rev. Dr. Samuel Worcester, of Salem, Mass. The service for which he had been paid in depreciated bills, was probably preaching, for that was his vocation. The record of the meeting does not show

specifically what was done with this claim. No doubt it was allowed among" sundry accounts, the particulars of which are on file." where is a tradition, probably well founded, that Mr. Worcester, on one occasion going to No. 1 to preach, being overtaken by night and darkness in the forest, in the valley east of the old meeting house near where the railroad crosses the highway, was pursued by wolves and driven to take refuge upon the top of one of the immense bowlders so abundant in that locality, on which he spent the night, and in the morning went on his way rejoicing. Another version of the story concludes with stating that by his shouts he alarmed the neighbors, who, under the lead of Capt. Thomas Tarbell, went to his assistance and delivered him from his perilous condition. At this meeting, one dollar was raised on each right, to be applied for preaching next April, and Obadiah Parker was chosen a committee to provide a preacher.

In the warrant for a meeting to be held November 25, 1760, the second article is, "To see if the proprietors will choose an agent or trustee to succeed Joseph Blanchard, Esq., deceased, for the recovery of a certain bond given to him in that capacity by Benjamin Bellows, Esq., for building mills in the township aforesaid," &c. At the meeting, Jonathan Blanchard was chosen trustee in place of Joseph Blanchard, Esq. One dollar on each right was raised for defraying the expenses of prosecuting the suit on Bellows' bond, and one dollar also for further finishing the meeting house, and one dollar more for highways.

This last record is in Jonathan Blanchard's hand writing, but is not signed. It is the last entry in his hand writing. A notice issued by him for a meeting, dated August 16, 1762, is recorded by Thomas Tarbell, Clerk. All the subsequent entries are made by Thomas Tarbell, as clerk.

His oath of office as clerk is recorded by him as follows:

"October the 20, 1762. Then Thomas Tarbell parsonely appeard & maid orth that in the offies of Propts Clerk for No. one, to which he was chosen, he would act acording to the beast of his judgment.

Sworn before

JOHN HALE, Jostes pees."

At the meeting September 14th, 1762, it was "voted that the remainder of the money not already laid out, that was raised for the prosecution of Mr. Bellosses Bond, be appropriated towards paying for preaching. Voted to rais for dolers for to pay for Preaching; voted, Capt. Thomas Tarbell, Mr. Nathan Hall and Enosh Lawrence, be a new meeting house comeete; voted Mr. Nathan Hall and Blias Eliot, be a committee to examin, and see if a good road can be had from the falls in Souhegon river at William Mansur's, through part of this Township, to come in by Mr. Hall's, and to make return at Next meeting." This was undoubtedly the road leading from the village, by Silas Bullard's and Jonathan Bachelder's, to the meeting-house. "Voted that Mr. Barrat and Mr, Robins, Capt. Thomas Tarbell, be comeett to provid preaching. Voted that ten dollars be paid to Jonathan Blanchard by the Treashuer as .soon as the saim coms into the Tresure, and Treshr be discharged of that sum accordingly when paid, for his sarvis as clark, with the ten dolers reed for the prosecution of Belloses Bond in full for his sarvis."

In the warrant for the meeting of the proprietors to be held on the 6th of April, 1763, the second article was, "to see if the proprietors will give a call to any of the gentlemen who have preached with them, and choose a committee to present said call and Incouragement, if any they will give, to said gentlemen, as shall be agreed on by said propraits." At the meeting, Obadiah Parker was chosen moderator. "Voted to give the first seteled minister, seven hundred pounds silver Old tenor as setelment, and four hundred pounds salary yearly, and a right of land in said township. Voted to give Mr. Ebenezer Champney a call to setel in the Gospel; chose for a comeett to present said call, Thomas Tarbell, Enosh Lawrence and Whitcomb Powers." There is a tradition, that Champney's reply to the committee who presented the *call*, was that it would take more than two such *cauls* to make a candle. His tastes inclined him to secular rather than clerical pursuits. He left preaching and became a lawyer, and was for many years Judge

of Probate, which office he held till he resigned it a short time before his death, September 10th, 1810. "Voted to give six months to have the mills completed." At the meeting, March 29th, 1764, Oliver Eliot, moderator, "chose Col. James Prescott, Capt. Thomas Tarbell and Obadiah Parker, a committee to examine the papers, and accompts belonging to said propts, and put them in a proper form, and prepare a list of the names of the *paiers* as well [as] the original grantees, with the sum of money that they may be *Essesed* for. Voted 10 reserve one dolar for preaching. Voted to except Left. William Prescott and others, to come in as proprietors of No. one, upon their obliging themselves to pay taxes as other propts, and that they should have a strip of land Ginning No. two." This Left. William Prescott was the famous Col. William Prescott of Bunker Hill memory. At a meeting, January 29th, 1765; "Voted to turn the road through Obadiah parker's land from wheare it was laid out, to wheare it gose now."

"Voted, that each man have half a dolar a day, [for work on the highways] said work to be done by the last day of Agost next."

"At a meeting of the priters of No. one, March 20th, 1765, at the house of Capt. Thomas Tarbell. Voted and chose Leftenant William Prescott moderator.

Voted not to chues a new proprts clerk. Voted not to chues a new Treshurer at present.

Voted to rais too dolers a wright to pay for preaching.

Voted for comeet to hier preaching, Capt. Thomas Tarbell, En. Enosh Lawrence and En. Whitcomb Powers.

Voted to have the proporters' meetings at the meeting-house in No. one, and their onely for the futer.

Voted that the svears of highways be etherized to setel with the Treshurer about highway raits," &c.

At the meeting April 23rd, 1766, "chose for svers, John Swallow, Jonathan Crosby, Ensign Whikomb Powers and Reuben Barrett.

Voted to Obadiah Parker four dolars for costs that he paid for being sued on the propts accompt. [interlined, June 16th, 1767, then the above accompt paid to Obadiah Parker.]

Voted that Jonathan Crosbe and Eben Blood be cometee to lay out a road from Richard Lawrence's, to the road that comes from Blood's to the meeting-house." This is a part of the same road which Hall and Elliot were to examine. In the warrant dated November 5, 1766, for a meeting to be held December 16, 1766, the 7th article was, "To see if the proitors will give the Rev'nd James Parker a call to setel with them in the gospel, and to see what Incouragement they will give him as to setelment and salery, and chose a comett to present said call.

"

At the meeting "chose Left. William Prescott moderator. Voted, To give Mr. James Parker a call to setel with them in the Gospel. Allso, Voted, To give him, if he setls, setlment, ninety three pounds six shillings & eight pence, Lafel money. Allso, Voted, To give as salery Four hundred pounds silver, old tener, yearly, until there is eighty familys, and then four hundred and fifty yearly until there is one hundred families, and then five hundred pounds yearly. Allso, chose a comeett to presant said call, Capt. Thomas Tarbell, Mr. Jona. Crosby, En. Whitcomb Powers."

In the warrant- for the meeting March 10,1767, the 4th article was "To see if the propoitors will chues a comeettee to lay out the pew and seat ground in said No. 1 meeting house.

" 5thly. To see if the propts will order in what maner the pues shall be disposed of.

" 6thly. To see if the propoitors will pass a vote that every man's vot in said meeting shall be according to the taxes he shall pay in said township."

At the meeting, it was "Voted, Chose Obadiah Parker, Nathan Hall and Whitcomb Powers comeett to Lay out the pue ground & seat ground in said meeting houes.

"Voted, That the first setelers & highest payers have the pew ground, provided they seal the meeting house to the girts by October next.

"Voted, That every man should not vot according to what he pays in said township.

"Voted, To except of Mr. Elias Eliot's mills."

At a meeting November 4, 1767:

"Voted, That the comeet Brais the meeting house forthwith.

"Voted & chose a comeett to view the roads to accomodat Slipton, said comeett, Mr. Joseph Bullard, Mr. Josiah Robins, Left. Obadiah Parker, Mr. John Swallow, Mr. Nathan Hall, and if the comeet think the road by Mr. Baret's mills will accomodat Slipon, then said comeett to lay out said road."

This was the road leading from Mason Village to Temple. Slipton was a slip or tract of land north of No. 1, and now included in Temple and Sharon.

" Voted, To rais one doler on each right for highways, and to make a bridge over the river at the mils, said mony to be divided as was usal, said comeett, Cornelius Cook, Ruben Barrat, Ins. Whitcomb Powers, Left. Obadiah Parker."

In the warrant for the meeting January 5, 1768, the 6th article was "To see if the propoortors and Inhabitance will pas a vote to be Incorporated, and if so to chues a man or more to Goo to Portsmouth & get the same accomplished."

At the meeting it was, "Voted, for a comatt to make Inquiryes how the Township may be incorporated. Ens. Whitcomb Powers & Capt. Thomas Tarbell & Leftenant Obadiah Parker. Then ajornd the meeting four weeks.

"The propts meet at Time & place and voted as followeth, viz: Voted, To be incorporated. Allso, Voted, That Left. Obadiah Parker disburst the money, & that he shall have a hansom reward for the same, & that he get the same Incorporated as soon as may be."

In the warrant for the meeting March 8, 1768, the 3d article was, "To see if the propts will dispose of any of the public lots in No. 1. Namely: Lot No. 5 in 7 Raing, & No. 6 in the 5 raing. No. 1 in 3 raing, & No. 9 in 1 raing."

At the meeting it was,

"Voted, To dispose of two of the school lots, namely: No. 6 in the 5 raing, and 7 in the 1 raing, by a comeett chosen for that sarvis, sd comeett, En. Whitcomb Powers, Capt. Thomas Tarbell, Ruben Barrett and Josiah Robens. Voted and chose for comeet to Rectifie the mistakes in the school [lots], Josiah Wheeler, Enosh Lawrence and Thomas Ta.rbell."

The following is a copy, verbatim and literatim, of the warrant and record of the meeting, June 22, 1768:

"Where as aplication hath ben maid to me the subscriber for calling a propts meeting of the propts of No 1. North of Townshend in the province of Newhampshier These are there fore to notifie & warn said propts to asembl & meet at the meeting house on the 22 Day of this Instant June at Nine O clock in the fore noon to act on the foleing articals:

1ly. To chues a modrater to govern said meeting.

2dly To see what the propts will chues to have the Town called.

3dly. To chues a comeett to setel with such parsons as have ben consarned with the propts money sins the setalment with Col Lawrence ares.

4ly To see what the propts will do consarning Road to Mr Thos Barts mills

5ly To alow accompts to any persons that has don sarvis [for] said propts If they Think proper.

6ly To see if the propts will dispose of the grond of the two hind seatts to such parsons as they shall think proper,that shall make aplication

7ly To see if the propts will turn the road a few rods Through Thos. Robens Land that comes from Left Parker to the meeting house.

Test THOS TABBELL, propts Clerk.

June the 7th, 1768.

At a Legual meeting of the propts of No. one held at the meeting house on the 22 day of June 1768.

Voted & chose Josiah Robens modrator

Voted to have the Town called Sharon.

Voted for comeet to recon with the comeette [and] Treshureyr Joseph Bulard Ruben Baret & Olever Eliot.

Voted, for comeett to view & Lay out the road to Mr Thomas Baretts mills Obadiah Parker Nathan Whipel & John Swallow.

Voted Capt Thomas Tarbell four Dolers for his sarvis as propts. Clerk To be Drawn out of the Treshery to be in full for this sarvis to this Day.

Voted not to dispose of the Ground of the two hind seats.

Voted to turn the road a fue rods thru Thos Roben Land.

Then the meeting dismissed.

A True Intry. THOMAS TARBELL, propt Clerk."

At the meeting held March. 22, 1769, it was,

"Voted, To give the meeting house to the town, except the privilege of the pues."

At the meeting held October 18, 1769, it was,

"Voted, To raise two dolers on each right liabel to pay taxes in Mason, and the comeett to have their pay out of said money for their being sued for said propty for hiring preaching."

At the meeting held January 6, 1772, it was,

"Voted, To Josiah Robens one doler." [Interlined. "Robens got the doler March the 30, 1773."]

The following is the record of the last doings of the proprietors :

"PROVINCE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE—*Hillsborough, ss.*

"Pursuent to the request of more than five of the propts of Mason, in the county aforesaid, for calling a propts meeting, These are, therefore, To Notifie & warn the propts of sd Mason to meet at the public meeting house in Mason, aforsaid, on the second Tuesday of January next, at one of the clock in the afternoon, then and there to act on the fowling articals, to wit:

1ly. To chues a moderator for the regular carying on said meeting.

2dly. To hear and examine the accompts and demands of all persons that have any demands on the proprorts, for past services as Individuals, and they are desired to bring in the same, or Else Expect to befor Ever after debarred, &c.; and to alow such as shall appear Reasonabel, and give order for payment as the propriorts shall think proper.

3dly. To chuese a commettee to examine into the conduct of those who have heretofore recevd any of the propts money, as Tresherer, comats or Trustees, and to enabel them to give such discharges as they shall think proper, and to report as soon as may be.

THOMAS TARBELL, propt's Clerk.

MASON, Dec. 16th, 1772,

At a legal meeting of the propts of Mason, hild on the 12th of January, 1773,

Voted and chose Mr. Nathan Hall modrator, and voted to agorn the meeting to Mr. Samuel Abbots.

Voted for comeetee to Look into the Estait of the Treshery, and to Recon with the Tresherer, or commettes, or Trustes Last chosen, to sell the Delinquants propts lands, said comeet Mr. David Bloget, Mr. Reuben Baret, Mr. Oliver Eliot. Then voted to agorn

the meeting to the Last Tuesday of March next, to the meeting-house in Mason, at one o'clock afternoon.

March 30 the propts met according to the agreement, and by reason of the cometeet making a mistake in reconing with the Tresherer, agorned to the thirteenth day of Aprial, at three o'clock afternoon, at this place. April the 13 the propts met at the time and place, and voted to agorn the meeting to the third Wednesday in May, One o'clock afternoon, at this place. May the 19, then the propts met at the time and place and agorned to the first tuesday of June Next, att one oclock afternoon to this place. Test Thomas Tarbell propt Clerk."

Sic exit in furno,—thus vanish into shadows, the original proprietors of Mason. This is their last appearance. Whether the mistake made by the "cometeet in reconing with the Tresherer" was ever rectified, does not appear, and will never be known by those who at this late day, endeavor to peer into their doings. They were a worthy body of men, and deserved well of the town and of their country, for their indefatigable efforts under circumstances of great embarrassment, in "carrying on the settlement" of the place.

Undoubtedly, before this apparently last and inconclusive meeting, all the land, except perhaps the lots reserved for schools and for the minister and ministry, had become the property of individuals; so that there was little if anything left for the proprietary to concern itself with. The town was incorporated, and was thus made capable of taking and holding the fee in the said lands, for the uses set forth in the original grant of the territory. It seems that the "delinquent propts" lands had been sold, and this last meeting had been called for the purpose of a general settlement of all out-standing claims, against the proprietary; which it is hoped and trusted was satisfactorily made, although it does not appear of record.