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Talk About  
Winslow

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Mr. Charles Jackson

# The Mail, . . . Waterville, Me., Dec. 25, 186

of the 19th; Nathaniel Perley, of Co. G, 3d; 1st Sergt. Charles Shurey, Co. A, 20th; Lieut. Chs. Low, Co. G, 3d.

## Talk About Winslow.

[A friend, to whom we applied for some facts in the early history of Winslow, sends us the following communication, which we know will be read with interest. We shall be pleased to have him continue his 'Talk,' as he promises; and we wish that all who have anything of this nature to offer, either in relation to the early history of Winslow, Waterville, or any neighboring towns, would forward it to us.]

The eagle soaring from his mountain eyry, and passing in his flight over villages and country towns, little thinks that his great grandmother, or more distant ancestor, sat here on a projecting crag, or there on the limb of a dead tree, watching the sprightly gambols of the rabbit before he pounced upon it, making a luxurious meal for the young eaglets far up the mountain side; neither does the captured moose exhibited at the state metropolis realize that in those sluggish pools his progenitors fed upon the lily-pads growing luxuriantly. The present they behold! The past is all unknown! 'Tis man who writes the history, and man alone profits by it!

I like to think of the history of Winslow, so far as I am acquainted with it, and it is not impossible but many of the readers of the *Mail* will also like to think of the same and become better acquainted with it. I do not intend to write a history of Winslow, but in a few short letters will mention many things of interest in relation to the town. Important events took place at Fort Halifax many years prior to the date at which I will commence; yet I will pass over them at this time as they were published in the *Mail* a few years since.

I will invite your readers to go back 97 years, to 1766; as it was at that time a company was formed in Massachusetts, known as "proprietors" of a tract of land around Fort Halifax—granted by the "Plymouth company" to the following gentlemen: Gamaliel Bradford, Esq., James Otis, Esq., John Winslow, Esq., William Taylor, Esq., Daniel Howard, Esq., and James Warren, Esq.—containing 18,200 acres except 1000 acres around Fort Halifax (that being particular property.) This tract lies on the easterly side of the Kennebec river and "is five miles and twenty-eight poles measuring on the shore" and runs east five miles, making the tract nearly square.

If we go back to the date of their deed we find a nameless township and an almost pathless wilderness. True, man had made his mark—civilized man! Fort Halifax had been built on the Point; two block-houses stood near the Fort and the

watered by the Kennebec river running the whole length, and the Sebasticook, its tributary, running a south westerly course, nearly three miles. The "Mile Brook," tributary to the latter, runs north nearly as far. Another stream of considerable size empties into the Sebasticook in the north part of the town, being the outlet of Patee's pond, a fine sheet of water in the center of the town. Two lesser streams are in the east part of the town, each being occupied by saw mills, and other machinery. The soil on the rivers and Mile Brook is good, being equal to any in Maine. Good farms are found in other parts of the town, though much harder to work and less productive. Much of the land away from the streams is either of a slate or granite formation. Slate ledge abounds to considerable extent. In the easterly part of the town there are several large bogs or meadows, skirted with cedar. The central portion is hilly, while the extremes are tolerably level.

In the above I have shown the shape and size of the town of Winslow, and as far as I can its appearance 97 years ago, also some of the leading natural features of the same, also that the tract was purchased of the Plymouth company by six proprietors, whose names I have given. This, I think, will do for the commencement of a talk about Winslow. In my next, I will show how it was settled, the inducements offered to settlers, by the proprietors, etc., and will give the names of a part of the first settlers, describing the farms on which they settled.

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### TALK ABOUT WINSLOW

The Proprietors finding it difficult to obtain settlers about the time 1766, made arrangements with a Timothy Heald of Ipswich, N. H., to settle one lot himself, on the north side of the Sebasticook river, giving him at the same time three other lots, each one hundred rods wide on the river, he performing settlers' duty on each; he also had the privilege of selecting two other lots in the central part of the town, one hundred acres each. This selection was made with much good judgment, so far as good pine timber was concerned, he taking as good lots as there were in town, if not the most valuable. Probably this did not trouble the Proprietors much, as they had secured a settler of much energy.

Gen. Ezekiel Pattee with similar inducements, settled on the east side of the Kennebec, about one and a half miles below Fort Halifax. He was an important man in the town. His descendants and those of Capt. Heald occupy parts of the land thus settled.

The next year Mr. Ebenezer Heald was persuaded to come from Ipswich and settle in the north part of Winslow, receiving 300 acres of land, through which a stream flowed that is the outlet of Pattee's Pond. Here was a good mill privilege, and Mr. Heald obligated himself to perform settler's duty one one lot, and in addition, built and put in operation a good saw mill in one year, and a grist mill in three years. Although I have no evidence that these mills were built within the specified time, yet built they were, and were the first mills in town. Those lots and the mill property, like that of nearly all the early settlers, have long since passed into other hands. After this, settlers gradually took up the gift lot till they were all taken. A portion of the lots on the south side of the Sebasticook and the Kennebec rivers above the Falls was thought unfit for settlers, and lots of equal size were surveyed in other parts of the town. Col. Arthur Lithgow was a man of considerable means in the town at that period, for whom six hundred acres of land were reserved, where the village

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now is and east of the village, by the Plymouth Co. in their sale to the Proprietors. Col. Lithgow built and occupied the house in which Robert Ayer, Esq., now lives. The farm now owned and occupied by Mr. Charles Drummond was reserved by the proprietors for a ministerial "lot". Provision was made to grant deeds to actual settlers, and a form was reported at a meeting of the proprietors as early as 1770; though I find no record of any deed being given until 1790; and the deed or grant to John Fugerson, although made out, was never delivered to him or his heirs till 1825, when it was delivered to Henry Furgerson. It was for lot #18 on the Seabasticook river; also a deed fo fifty acre lot #41.

Besides those already mentioned, whose descendants now live on the original lots, there are two others, the lots owned not only by the family descendants, but of those of the same name, - namely, the farm formerly settled by Hezekiah Stratton, Esq., and now owned by his grandsons; and the farm on the north side of the Seabasticook, settled by Mr. Enoch Fuller and now owned by his grandsons. These, I believe are the only farms in the town now occupied by those of the same name, and descendants of the original settler.

TALK ABOUT WINSLOW

Part 3

In my last, I promised to give the names of more of the early settlers of Winslow, and will endeavor to, if there is room in my column; but first I wish to speak of preaching and schooling, after its incorporation and prior to 1795.

Those who read these letters will bear in mind that what is now Winslow and Waterville was in 1771 incorporated as the town of Winslow, with hardly men enough to fill the various offices in town at that early period. For the gratification of the curious, I will give a list of officers chosen at that time in an inland town.

Moderator, Clerk, Selectmen, Assessors, Treasurer, Collector, Constable, Surveyors of Highways, Wardens, Fish Committee - consisting of from three to fifteen - Field-drivers, Fenceview-ers, Tythingmen, Hog-reaves, Deer-reaves, School Agents, Town Agent, Surveyors of Shingles, Sealers of Leather; besides committees to settle accounts. Less than fifty votes were usually cast, and at the earlier meetings less than twenty. The first meeting was holden at Fort Halifax, called by a warrant issued by James Howard; "Justice of the Peace to his Majesty....", and directed to Mr. Ezekiel Pattee. By order of that warrent the voters assembled May 23rd, 8 A.M. and proceeded to elect their first officers :

Lieut. Timothy Heald, Moderator; Ezekiel Pattee, Timothy Heald and John Tozer, Selectmen and Assessors; Solomon Parker, Constable; Ezekiel Pattee, Treasurer; Robert Crosby, John Perez Dool and Nathaniel Carter, Wardens; Francis Dudley, Joel Crosby and John Tozer, Surveyors of Highways; Jonah Crosby, Fence-viewers.

No other business was done at this meeting, therefore it was necessary to call another meeting, which was holden in September following and called by the Selectmen. The warrant commenced "In his Magesty's name

you are required," etc., and concluded, "In the eleventh year of the Majesty's reign". At this meeting the town voted to raise forty pounds for the use of the town.

We may at once conclude by the repetition of names as well as the small sum raised that the inhabitants must be few in number. But we find at the next annual meeting an increase of names in the different offices and also an increased number of offices; also that more business came before the town. At that meeting the subject of religions preaching was discussed, but from some cause, no vote was taken. The necessity of a town burying-ground was felt, and a committee chosen to apply to Dr. Sylvester Gardiner for a tract of land for one. (The Fort hill burying-ground, I suppose to be the one). A Town Pound was thought to be necessary and three pounds were raised to build one. Schools as yet were entirely forgotten. At a subsequent meeting of the same year (1772) the town voted "to hire one month's preaching". In 1773 it was voted to hire Rev. Deliverance Smith twelve sabbaths, if he comes to the town, if not, some other suitable man if he can be obtained with little or no expense in obtaining him.

At the annual meeting in 1774, it was thought best to adopt some mode of punishment for offenders other than that practised by the Tythingmen, who had no power except to keep them in custody during the sabbath if they were found violating the law of the sabbath, and to prosecute for such offences; accordingly Capt. Timothy Heald was authorized by the town to procure a pair of stocks for the punishment of those guilty of certain offences, and the town voted to pay him for the same from the town treasury eight shillings lawful money. Whether these were ever bought or used the record does not say, neither have I learned anything about them from the old people with whom I have conversed. For the credit of our fathers it is hoped they were never purchased.

But little interest was manifested at the town meetings either for



preaching or schooling till 1785. Occasionally the subjects were discussed. In 1785 the town voted to raise fifty pounds for preaching and sixty pounds for schooling, but so little interest was felt and another meeting was called and the vote reconsidered. In the years 1791 and 1792 more interest was manifested and fifty pounds was raised each year for schooling. Twenty pounds was raised in 1793 for preaching and sixty for schooling. The same year it was voted to have preaching alternately on both sides of the river, but not to continue after the first of November and begin as early in the spring as practicable. Twenty-four pounds was raised for preaching in 1794 and 100 pounds to build a meeting house, and in the same year Rev. Joshua Cushman was invited to settle as a gospel minister with a salary of 110 pounds so long as he remained their minister.

When we think of the small sums raised for such important objects as preaching and schooling, and the little interest manifested by those early settlers, we feel at first disposed to blame them, but when we think of their poverty, the difficulty in procuring the necessaries of life, bad roads to travel, or no roads, no meeting house, not a school house in town, besides being so far from the place of worship, which was the "old Fort", also so far from each other that it was almost impossible for children in any number to meet at a private house for instruction, we forgive them, even if their children did grow up in ignorance, while the parrents were unblessed by the preaching of the gospel. Persons are often blamed for not being better educated or richer than they are, when if we knew all the circumstances connected with their history, we should think differently.

I will give a few names of early settlers, and the names of those now occupying their lots, notwithstanding my column is nearly full, and more in my next. Mr. Josiah Farewell owned and occupied the first farm in Winslow on the river Kennebec - south part of the town. I

presumed he settled the lot, as I find nothing in the contrary. Mr. Farewell was probably a man of some consequence in his day, holding some town office. Mr. Alfred Taylor now owns the farm, which he received from his father, Nathan Taylor. Messrs. Nathaniel and Joseph Carter owned the farms next north, now owned by Messrs. Franklin and George Blackwell and Josiah Hutchinson, who probably were the first settlers. One or both of them left this town and moved to Unity.

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## TALK ABOUT WINSLOW

## Part 4

The farms of the original settlers have been so much divided since they passed into other hands that it is nearly impossible to fix the location of the pioneer, without a great deal of trouble, therefore, it will not be expected that in all cases I am entirely correct. The next farm north of Mr. Hutchinsons (as mentioned in my last) is that of Mr. Joseph Wheelright. A portion of this with a part of one of the adjoining farms was settled by Joseph Richardson. A few of his descendants live in the town now. Mr. Bennet Wood probably settled where Mr. Reuel W. Smiley now lives and formerly owned by the late Rev. David Hutchinson. Mr. Wood's descendants are quite numerous, though, but three families now live in Winslow.

Adjoining and north of the last, Mr. Sidney Howard now lives. This was originally settled by Mr. Manuel Smith. Tradition tells us that Mr. Smith was a very good and useful man, but his descendants like many others are now almost unknown in the town - only one family claiming him as an ancestor. Mr. Solomon Parker owned the farm now owned by Clark Drummond, and I presume was the first settler; his descendants mostly live in Winslow, being the children and grandchildren of the late Ambrose Howard, Esq.

A man by the name of Phipps settled the lot now owned by Daniel Hayden. I do not know where he went or anything about his family; probably he sold to a Mr. Reed, who afterwards sold to Col. Josiah Hayden. In 1789, Col. Hayden immediately moved onto it from Mass. with a large family, which, with two exceptions settled in the town, and from them descended a very numerous posterity, who have settled not only in Winslow, but in many other towns in this state, and in several other states. Col. Hayden was a self-made man, never having

attended school, but by his indefatigable exertion obtained a fair degree of knowledge. He was a prominent citizen, doing much town business, besides representing the town several times in the "General Court" at Boston. Col. Hayden was engaged in lumbering some and built a saw mill (the first) near where his grandson, T. J. Hayden now lives. I have heard one of his sons say that when they built the mill it was heavy wood nearly all the way from his father's to the mill. At that time, bears were plenty and so it was no uncommon sight to see a bear roaming in his native forest. The settlers feared them on account, mainly, of the depredations made on their small flocks of sheep and defenceless calves. He said as they came home one night, rather late, they heard a piteous complaint from a calf, or small yearling. As it was too dark to hunt they went home and got lights and succeeded in finding a calf, or small yearling, that, in trying to escape from the bruin had got between and under two big logs that were fallen in such a manner as to make a very sharp angle; it had crowded itself so far between and under these logs that the bear could not more than occasionally get a mouthful from his hind quarters or tear it with his paw. The calf was living when they found it, with its hind quarters badly torn, but the bear had decamped.

The next farm, as we go north, was originally settled by Mr. Francis Dudley and afterwards owned by Hon. Charles Hayden, and now divided between R. R. Drummond, R. C. Drummond and C. H. Keith. Mr. Dudley has one daughter still living in town (Mrs. Ann Heywood). Next north of this are the lots formerly given to Gen. Pattee; one of them was owned a while by a Mr. Sloper, who went away, leaving it to Gen. Pattee. Those lots are now owned by the Messrs. R. R. Drummond, Sidney Howard and James Chaffee. Gen. Pattee, as seen in a former letter, was one of the first town officers and continued to hold town offices nearly as long as he was capable of performing the duties of them; he also went

to Boston several times as representative. He was a justice of peace under the king. One daughter of his is living in town, at an advanced age, - Mrs. Elizabeth Freeman, and several other descendants.

A present was made, of a small piece of land, for a burying yard, to the neighborhood, by Gen. Pattee, in which are buried nearly all who have died in the neighborhood for the last eighty years. This yard is now nearly full (not judging from the gravestones), for there are nearly one hundred buried there who have no monument to mark their place of burial. It is to be hoped that the present and future generations will feel a sufficient interest, and have esteem enough for their friends to erect at least a simple monument to their memory. In this yard, as in many others, fathers and mothers, husbands and wives, brothers and sisters, lie, liable to have their ashes upturned for the reception of other bodies.

In continuing north, we next come to the farm lately owned by Mr. John Drummond. A Mr. Phillips formerly occupied it, and I presume settled it. I know nothing of his former history except that he moved away. Mr. Drummond who succeeded him, married a daughter of Col. Hayden and reared a large family, all of whom at first settled in Winslow, and all but two now live here - one having died. The sons, of whom there are six living, have all been engaged in lumbering in a greater or less degree, and two of them are now pretty extensively.

But one more lot remains in school district #1, and that is the farm owned by Cyrus Howard. I have been unable to ascertain who settled the farm. It was purchased more than 60 years ago by Mr. Ambrose Howard, who lived on it, till within a few years of his death, when he gave it up to his son, the present occupant. Mr. Howard was a valuable citizen, was Deputy Sheriff a number of years and also collected the taxes a long time. Whatever he did was done faithfully. He left a large family, all but one in Winslow. A much larger subscription for the support of the gospel is made by his family than any other.

The first school house in town was built in 1806 or 1807, and the late Sidney Keith, Esq. taught the first school. Since that period, or rather since 1870, a great change has taken place. Then a foot path near the river was their road, if they did not take a canoe. Carriages were unknown. Their houses were built of logs, generally, and near the river. Since then a road has been made, and all farms, or nearly all, are furnished with good buildings. There is but little poor land in this district and no unthrifty farmers.

## TALK ABOUT WINSLOW

As we leave Mr. Cyrus Howard's and proceed towards the site of Fort Halifax, we come first to the situation of the late Mr. Shurtleff. All travellers know this place on account of the fanciful finish of the house. I have not been able to find for a certainty who settled this lot, or the farms north of it. A Mr. Thomas Parker was the earliest resident that I can hear of. Rev. Joshua Cushman afterwards purchased it, and ornamented it with trees. His house was an unpretending structure of one story - made for convenience and not for show, - and his out-buildings were in keeping with the house. When the trees and shrubbery were in full leaf the buildings were nearly hidden from view as we passed in the road, though situated within four rods of it. This little farm with its cottage - its Lombardy poplars, of which there were long rows. Its "lover's retreat", its solitary walk," and its other winding paths, overhung with Ivy and native wild grape vines, besides many other things which give happy hours to the wanderer, as he thinks of his old home and childhood days; was sold. A rude vandalism sacrificed those ancient poplars. The beautiful shrubbery was uprooted; the hard, beaten path turned by the plowshare; the beautiful Syringas and Snowballs that had delighted the eye so many years became also the prey so many years became the occupants where peonies, marigolds and daisies once flourished. How strange it is that some individuals have so large a lump of destructiveness that even ornamental trees must fall! This was the place where the Rev., afterwards, Hon. Joshua Cushman, the first minister of Winslow, lived.

Many who read this will recollect Mr. Cushman as a minister, liberal in his views, reverent in prayer, profound in his reasoning, as he on the sabbath, endeavored to elucidate certain texts of scripture. In those early days a minister's labors were limited to Sabbath preaching, mainly; marriages and funerals excepted.

Mr. Cushman was settled and ordained as a gospel minister in Winslow the second Wednesday in June, 1795. From the great number of invitations to churches to send pastors and delegates, and as so large a committee was chosen to wait on the delegates (consisting of 20) at the ordination, we may conclude that it was something not common, no every-day affair.

The meeting house was built so far as to erect a frame and cover it with boards, clapboards - shingles, in 1797. It was also glazed, and the pews made, on the floor. A pulpit was also made. There was neither plastering, paint, not even lathing. Many who read this will remember gazing on those naked beams and rafters as they entered the house of worship; and also that the attention of young persons and children in summer was frequently diverted from the solemn truths uttered by the preacher to the swallows that flew and chirped in the open space above, unmolested.

Rev. Mr. Cushman was ordained in that part of the town which is now Waterville, on the plain. A large booth or awning was made, principally of boughs for the reception of the audience and the numerous pastors and delegates present. Here, as I am told, with much ceremony, Mr. Cushman was ordained a gospel minister of Winslow - I have the names of the committee to wait on the pastors and delegates which I will give, and very much regret that am unable to give you the names of the pastors.

The names of the committee chosen to give Mr. Cushman a call to settle as a minister, and also to draft an agreement with him, and a platform for a Christian Association, with articles of faith, etc.: also to make provisions for its ordination were; Joshua Hayden, James Stackpole, Arthur Lithgow, Joseph Craggin, Jonah Crosby, Zimri Haywood, and Benjamin Chase. These performed the first part of their duty and received Mr. Chushman's answer, and then proceeded to do the rest, which was accomplished and a report of their doings accepted, which (although lengthy) will be published in my next.

Another committee of five, as follows: Josiah Hayden, Jonah Crosby, George Warren, Joseph Craggin, and David Pattee, were chosen to extend invitations to pastors and delegates of the following churches, viz: the "Churches of Christ", in Canaan, Pownalboro, Woolwich, Brunswick, Topsham, Second Church in Wells, first church in Kittery, first church in Pembroke, and two other churches at the option of Mr. Cushman.

The committee of twenty chosen to wait on pastors and delegates were James Stackpole, Ezekiel Pattee, Arthur Lithgow, Abraham Lander, Jonah Crosby, Benjamin Chase, Zimri Heywood, Asa Redington, George Warren, Timothy Heald, Ephriam Town, Solomon Parker, Nathaniel Low, Josiah Hayden, James McKinna, David Pattee, John Pierce, Joseph Craggin, Elnathan Sherwin, and Benjamin Runnels. I believe I stated in a former letter that the town voted to pay Mr. Cushman 110 Pounds annually, so long as he remained their minister.



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It is uncertain why so many were united in marriage the first six months of Mr. Cushman's labors, but probably they had been anxiously waiting for a minister to solemnize their marriages. Annexed are the names of those joined in marriage by Rev. Mr. Cushman, from June 16th 1795 to January 24th 1796:

Thomas Sewall to Content Leonard

John Runnels to Mary Brown

Josiah Kenniston to Jane McGrath

John Drummond to Damaris Hayden

Trail Hall to Lucy Phillips

Jonethan Kenniston to Susanna Beaman

Jonathan Steward to Lucy Pattee

Samuel Fowler to Sarah Heald

John Wyman to Abiah Spaulding

Moses Sawtelle Jr. to Polly Clark

Joseph Drew to Abigail Spring

Isaac Pishon to Ruth Hallet

Joseph Proctor to Ruth Runnels

James Wyman to Nancy Harden

John Mesil to Catherine Peerpole

The last couple married were Indians, who probably desired a christan marriage. From 1774 to 1795, I find a record of 124 marriages and in this period of about six months, eighteen being more than three times as many as in the former six months.

We will leave this subject, for the present, and pursue our way, and look at Mr. Franklin Dunbar's house and out-buildings and well-tilled acres. Opposite his house we see a post with two boards nailed on near

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the top. Travellers no doubt look at it and think it a "Guide Post", but are unable to tell where it directs them. On this tract of land including Mr. Charles Drummond's whose brick house we see a little further on, were once two houses built near the river, one a two story house built by Mr. Swazey who owned two hundred acres of land. Mr. Swazey and some other families occupied it till it was torn down. The other was built and first occupied by Mr. George Warren. The late Esq. Rice occupied it when he first moved into Winslow. I know but little of the history of either Mr. Swazey or Mr. Warren.

Several years previous to the events recorded in my last, much discussion had been had in relation to building a meeting-house or meeting houses; at first they talked of one only, and voted to build it on "Fort Hill"; then they changed their minds, and agreed to build it on a lot of land afterwards given to the town by Col. Lithgow; then they thought best to build two, and finally agreed to build the house on the east side of the river where it now stands, and that on the west side where the town hall now stands, which is the same building. After this decision the meeting-house interest seemed to subside, and the people turned their thoughts to preaching. These meeting-houses were not built till 1797 and then finished as stated in my last, great square buildings without steeples.

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## Part 7.

Now we will journey northward, past Mr. Charles Drummond's known as a successful lumberman, and rest on the estate of the late Hon. Thomas Rice. I believe some of his early history was published in "The Mail" last year. He commenced business as a lawyer, and was very successful, living as was said in my last, near the river, and having an office near the Seabasticook bridge. He afterwards was elected a member of Congress, lived in Augusta a while, then bought this estate, now in the possession of his widow and Mr. Weymouth Jones. Esq. Rice was a very good farmer, but as he began to feel the infirmity of years, he sold to Col. R. H. Green, who did much in the improvement of horned cattle while he retained the farm, also in improving agriculture in general. From a similiar cause as that which induced Esq. Rice to sell, he sold to Mr. Jones and several others. The early history of this valuable farm I am ignorant of, but think it likely it was a part of the Lithgow tract.

We now come to the valuable farm of Capt. Amasa Dingley, which he inherited from his father, Nathaniel B. Dingley, who did a large amount of business besides carrying on his farm. He traded in West India goods and groceries, in a small store near his house. In those days rum was sold in all stores, and report says Mr. Dingley sold his part, and, of course made his share of money. He built one or more small vessels, near his house, and became quite an owner of navigation. He left three sons, one of which - Nathaniel B. Dingley, Jr., has since died. He lived in the house now owned by Mr. Ayer, and for many years improved the farm now owned by Col. W. E. Drummond, on the Seabasticook. N. B. Dingley, Jr. died several years since, and his family have all left the town. A good many years ago there was a small tan yard, near

the Rail Road Crossing, owned by a Mr. Garland, after his death there was no business done there. He left one son who had an enterprising farm, in Carmel, where he died a few years since; one daughter, the wife of Mr. William Freeman, still lives in town.

We come now to Winslow village - long known as "Fort village". Unpretending in appearance, it boasts of no gothic structures, no princely residences, adorned with cupolas and porticos. Although we make no pretensions to architectural embellishments or classic literature, yet we sometimes feel a little pride in speaking of the worthy dead, to say nothing of the living. And we, too, can speak of, and see, beautiful shade trees, planted by honored hands now cold in death.

Hon. Thomas Rice, Francis Swan, Esq., and Nathaniel B. Dingley did much towards improving the appearance of this village in planting the trees.

Here the meeting-house which was so long talked about, stands, answering the double purpose of meeting-house and town-house. In one part, gospel truths have been urged on the sabbath, for many years, to attentive audiences, in an uncrowded room; while in the other, town business is transacted, sometimes, in tumult and noise, with so little room that it is of the greatest importance to control all angry feelings. Formerly town meetings were in the meeting house, where the pews and pulpit alone told what kind of a building was occupied. Prior to town meetings being holden in the meeting house, the "Old Fort" and private houses (viz;) Mr. Sherwins, Gen. Pattee's and Mr. Swazey's were occupied for a similar purpose. It was in one of these meetings that George Warren, Esq. in April, 1791, was sonstituted an agent to petition the general court of Boston for a lottery to raise money to build a bridge across the Sebesticook river near its junction with the Kennebec. If Mr. Warren petitioned, it is probable the prayer of the petition was

not granted, as we find the subject of a bridge discussed again at future meetings, and in 1794 the town chose a committee to solicit aid by subscription for the same purpose.

Then the people turned their attention to the building of meeting houses and continued to be interested for that object till the houses were built and the pews made. Town meeting during that time were very frequent. How natural it is for new towns to have some particular hobby, and that is the all engrossing question. As soon as the meeting houses were completed thus far, their attention was again turned to the bridge and at a town meeting in November, 1802 the town raised \$400 for the purpose. In 1803 it is probable the subscription had increased, for it is recorded that "the building of a bridge at the mouth of the Sebasticook was set up at auction and bid off by John Spaulding for \$1500". I presume Mr. Spaulding was unable to obtain bondsmen for a committee was subsequently chosen, who built the bridge. I have been unable to ascertain the cost of this bridge, but presume it did not exceed \$1500, for the town voted to raise no more money for that purpose. It will be recollected that the town was divided in 1802, hence the burden came upon Winslow with about 100 voters. This bridge stood but about one year. I have been told that it was built near, or in the same place of the present bridge, was poorly and cheaply built. In 1807 another committee was chosen to raise money to rebuild, consisting of Messrs. J. Webster, R. Thomas and Thomas Smiley.

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## Part 8.

Since writing my last I have ascertained that the free bridge across the Sebasticook, instead of being as I stated, on, or near the site occupied by the present bridge, was built where the railroad bridge now stands - the south end occupying the same land the free bridge occupied, while the north end is farther to the right, or up stream. This bridge, as I said, stood but a short time, and was carried away by an uncommon freshet, in Feb., 1807. Capt. Timothy Heald and Thomas Smiley were a committee to build it.

The next May, we find the inhabitants still anxious for a bridge to cross the river and in town meeting made choice of Messrs. John Webster, Richard Thomas and Thomas Smiley, as a committee to raise funds by subscription to rebuild the Sebasticook bridge. How well they succeeded the record does not say, but we may infer from what transpired afterwards that they were unsuccessful. The valuation of the town was small, then, as compared with the present; beside many of the people no doubt were discouraged - judging from a vote recorded previously, viz; "that we will never vote any more money for the Sebasticook bridge".

In 1808 a charter was granted, by the General Court at Boston, to build a <sup>o</sup>tall bridge; which was built about 1812 or 1814. This as I have been informed, was a very weak and imperfect structure, although made of large timber and a large amount of iron. In a short time this shared the same fate as its predecessor - the free bridge leaving to its proprietors but little toll for all their trouble. The river was then crossed by a ferry till 1824, when another toll bridge was built. Since the first toll bridge was built, to the building of the second, great improvement has been made, so that this bridge resisted the water, the ice and logs, until the mighty freshet of 1832, when all the bridges in

in Maine, except such as were made in the most substantial manner, were swept away.

The present bridge was built in 1834. During the interval of ten or more years, science had not been idle, and had advanced, even in bridge building. The present one was built on an improved plan, so that for about thirty years it has resisted the watery elements, and all things connected with it, with but very little repairs; also it has placed in the pockets of its fortunate owners, the pretty little sum of from \$1000 to \$1600 a year, if we can credit the toll takers.



## TALK ABOUT WINSLOW

## Part 9.

Robert Ayer, Esq. also lives in the village, and conducts the affairs of the only Post Office in town. He has lived in town upwards of thirty years, been once elected to the State Legislature as representative, and for many years town clerk and first selectman. He now occupies the house built by N. B. Dingley, Sr. who received the farm now owned by Capt. Amasa Dingley, as compensation for the house, paid by Arthur Lithgow. Messrs. Lemuel and Frederick Paine were early settlers, but both have passed away, though not to be forgotten: the former as a political man and farmer, though earlier a lawyer. He left two sons, one a distinguished lawyer, in Mass., and the other an enterprising farmer on the "old homestead". The latter was noted as a practical christian, with a heart, house and purse always open. One of his sons ranks high as a lawyer, in Bangor; another occupies a pulpit in Mass., while one lives in town, as Depot Master and merchant. Two daughters are married, and live in Mass., and one remains at the old home.

While lingering in the village, we may as well record the history of Winslow ministers, as it is here that all have resided, save Mr. Cushman, about whom much has already been written, so that it is needless to remark further, than to say that he labored as a gospel minister till 1812, when by an agreement, his connection with the town as minister closed; he receiving \$1200 from the town treasury. He was subsequently elected representative to congress, and in 1833 to the state legislature at Augusta, where he died and was buried on the "hill" in Augusta, but was afterwards removed to the State Cemetery, where he remains repose with such as have died while in the Legislature, and their names are inscribed on a granite monument. The meeting house that had caused so much anxiety, was now closed to regular preaching.

Occasionally the pulpit was supplied by ministers sent by the Missionary Society till 1826. During that interval a Mr. Danforth labored with the people, for some time, very satisfactorily. A Mr. Caliph also labored here, and others.

A Congregational Church was organized in 1822 by Rev. T. Adams, who supplied the pulpits of the Congregational Churches in Vassalboro, Winslow, and Benton - preaching one half the sabbaths in Vassalboro and the other half in Winslow and Benton, or Clinton, as it was then. Mr. Adams at that time lived in Vassalboro, but afterwards left, and for a while preached in Waterville, then removed to Ohio, where his home now is, though he is preaching in Pittston, Me., this winter.

We find by examining the warrants for annual town meetings, articles like this; - "To see what measures the town will adopt relative to finishing the meeting house."

In 1826 they began with a will, and only finished the inside but added a belfry and steeple. To do this without dissatisfaction to the inhabitants was a work of no small magnitude, as the original was town property, while individuals owned the pews. I ought to have mentioned that the inhabitants of the town were assessed to pay Mr. Cushman's salary, as well as to build the meeting house, whether they wanted a meeting house or ever went to meeting. This was a matter for dissatisfaction and some "polled off" as it was termed, leaving the rest to pay for preaching. It was for this reason that the town gave Mr. Cushman \$1200 to retire.

## TALK ABOUT WINSLOW

## Part 10.

After a great deal of talk and numerous town meetings, it was decided to repair the meeting house - preserving a part of the addition for a town house. This was done by a town tax, and the pews sold, nearly in the same way as when it was built. The religious society now got a very comfortable house of worship, and the town, an inconvenient, ugly town house. Some unpleasant feelings were the result, and a little litigation; but time removes the keenest sorrow, and almost forty years has mainly obliterated its effect. When the meeting-house was finished, it was, in a formal manner, dedicated: then a minister was sought, and Mr. William May of Winthrop was found, who gave so good satisfaction, that he was ordained as pastor of the Congregational church. Mr. May remained as minister a number of years, and left at his own request, and afterwards settled in Strong where he remained till he died. While in Winslow, he married Miss Delia Johnson.

Mr. Adams, before mentioned, married a daughter of Major William Swan of Winslow. After Mr. May left there was no regular preaching for some time when Rev. Henry C. Jewett was obtained, and meeting the wishes of the society, was installed as pastor of the church. Mr. Jewett left in 1842 for his native town, where both himself and wife have since died. The pulpit was again supplied by some of the professors at Waterville College and young ministers from Bangor Seminary, and for a time by Rev. John Perham, till about 1845, when Mr. Albert Cole of Cornish, came and was ordained minister and pastor, and labored satisfactorily till 1851, when by his own request he was dismissed and removed to his native town, where he still resides.

Rev. David Shepley was his successor, and continued to labor, though much impaired in health, till 1862, Mr. Shepley removed to Yarmouth where he had previously been settled for twenty years. Rev. John Dins-

more succeeded Mr. Shepley and is the present incumbent. Mr. Dinsmore is a native of Maine as was Mr. Shepley but removed here from North Hampton, N. H.

When Winslow was first settled, and for many years after, religious denominations still less, hence the cause of taxing all to build meeting houses and support preaching of one denomination,, but in processs of time other denominations crept in, and men knowing that they lived in a free country believed they might make denomination selections. We find Methodist ministers, preaching in Winslow as early as 1806, although they had no other places of worship than private houses or barns. When school houses were built they were occupied for religious meetings, most of which were holden in the evening.

The denomination increased rapidly though they had no house of worship till about 1833, when they built a very neat structure in the south west corner of the town. Previous to this they had occasionally held their quarterly meetings in the meeting house, at the village. Once since my remembrance such a meeting was holden, in the barn, on the place where Charles Keith now lives. Another Methodist meeting house has been erected in the easterly part of the town but it has not been finished.

There has also been built about fifteen years since, a Baptist meeting house in the north easterly part of the town, which is a very neat and comfortable house of worship. They have preaching there a large portion of the time, and a very respectable attendance. Previous to the organization of this society, such as were Baptists in sentiment went to China to meeting.

The people in Winslow generally belong to one or the other of these denominations, or are so favorable to them as to attend worship with them. In the northerly part of the town on the Seabasticook, are some who attend the Church at Benton, and in the southerly, are some who meet with the people of North Vassalboro on the sabbath.

I hope to be able, in a future article, to give something near the average attendance in each of the churches, also the number of Sabbath School scholars in the town. Our people generally profess to be a church-going people, though there are many who outwardly pay no regard to sabbath worship.

In 1853, some more than a thousand dollars was raised by subscription, to repair and improve the condition of the meeting house, at the village, which was wisely expended - much to the comfort of such as attend meeting, besides greatly improving the appearance of the house. The average attendance for the last thirty years, in this house, will probably be about one hundred, though occasionally it exceeds two hundred.

In the south easterly part of the town is a neighborhood, mostly belonging to the society of Friends' in East Vassalboro. A few people, also, between the rivers, attend church at Waterville. The statistics of the religious societies will be given in a future number; ending its ecclesiastical history, for the present.

In the early history of the town, we find an interest manifested for the education of their children; but from their isolated situation and the necessary burden that fell upon them, they were unable to do but little. The town usually voted small sums of money for educational purposes, and by some unrecorded process, a teacher was employed, who did as well as he could, or as well as he did, occupying a room in a private home, or an uninhabited dwelling. These teachers suffered more of the anxieties of the teacher's of the present day, in passing the ordeal of a formal examination, but were employed, and set to work by some one who had or assumed the authority. Good penmanship in those early days was a sine qua non; and it was expected that the teacher would teach his pupils to read and cipher. Declamations were of frequent occurrence; or "speaking pieces" as it was called.

Some of the old people remember songs taught them by the "Master". One of the first teachers in Winslow was the father of the late Nathaniel

Gilman of Waterville. As the town became more thickly settled, School Districts were erected, so that in 1810 there were nine districts and nine agents chosen. At that period there was no superintending school committee, though it had been so far discussed as to inquire what the qualifications of a teacher should be. In 1810 there was but one school-house in town; now we have fifteen school-houses and seventeen districts.

Annexed are the names of Representatives chosen in Winslow, after 1810:

Zimri Heywood, 1782

Gen. Ezekiel Pattee, 1783, 1784, 1786, 1787

Col. Arthur Lithgow, 1789 - 1795

George Warren, Esq., 1791, 1792

Benjamin Runnels, 1793

Col. Josiah Hayden, 179<sup>4</sup>, 1809

Dr. Obadiah Williams, 1796

Elnathan Sherwin, 1799 - 1800, 1801 - 1802

Charles Hayden, Esq., 1803 - 1804, 1805 - 1806

Eleazer Wheelock Ripley, 1807 - 1808

Lemuel Paine, 1810

In those years when no Representative was chosen, the neglect was by a vote of the town; as they could vote or not as they pleased.

TALK ABOUT WINSLOW

Part 11.

We now pass from Winslow village, leaving all its pleasant scenes and reminiscences, and pass up the Sebasticook river to school district #3. Don't be discouraged, kind readers, and think we shall never get over 17 districts - having been over but two yet. You will bear in mind that in the position gone over have transpired more important events than in all the other districts. In leaving #2, I forgot to mention the farm of Mr. J. W. Drummond, situated at the extreme easterly part of the district with its every outward appearance of thrift, good judgment and prosperity.

The western boundary of District No. 3, is the Mile Brook - a stream already noticed, and possessing great facilities for manufacturing purposes. Only one "mill privilege" is in this district, and is occupied by Messrs. J. D. Flye and T. J. Hayden for a saw mill and lath machine. This mill is situated about seventy rods from the mouth of the stream. A large amount of lumber is annually manufactured here, principally from Hemlock logs taken from the Sebasticook river, at high water, and secured in the stream till manufacture, by a dam and boom.

This stream at an early day seems to have forced its way through a hill of solid clay, till its bed lies nearly one hundred feet lower than the hills on either side. Just below the mill the stream is crossed by a bridge of considerable height, having uncomfortable hills on either side, particularly the west. This "mill privilege" has had more owners than any other in town. Col. Lithgow built the first saw mill here, though I have not ascertained the date. It was built much nearer the river than the present mill, and was what is termed a double mill. Messrs Stafford and Eaton afterwards owned it; then Messrs. Norcross. The latter built a gristmill that did business a number of years. It was purchased in 1837 or 1838 by Messrs. J. J., J. D. and B. F. Hayden of



Mr. T. W. Smith, and has been owned in that family since, though the last two named long since deceased. The farm now owned by Mr. Elnarin Withee, and that of Mr. J. D. Flye, were connected with the mill, and have changed owners quite as often as that has.

Hon. David Garland and his two brothers Jonathan and Thomas L. own and occupy the tree next farms. They came to this town from Parsonsfield about forty years ago.

These farms, as also those above, now owned by Mr. Samuel Smiley, who moved from Sidney. Col. W. E. Drummond and Mr. James Warren - always residents of Winslow - have had a number of owners, though I am unable to give their names with their locations. Mr. Job Bourne lived on one of these farms. I presume it was that of Mr. Samuel Smiley. Mr. Wm. Percival, the father of those of that name in Waterville village, Mr. Joseph Swift, Mr. Mordecai Ellis, Mr. Stackpole, Capt. Nahum Wood, Mr. N. B. Dingley, Mr. Breed Newell, and Capt. James Heald were all owners of these farms and it may be others, though I am not only unable to give their names, but am also unable to tell who settled any of them.

Mr. James Warren owns that formerly owned by Mr. Amos Richards, Mr. Joshua Wilmarth, Mr. Lapretelle Wilmarth and Maj. William Swan. Mr. Edwin Spring has the next farm, formerly owned by his father. On the road from Col. Drummond's to North Vassalboro are several farms, owned by Mr. David Ellis, Mr. Carlos Nelson, Mr. Freeman Reynolds, Mr. Lauriston Richards, Mr. J. Usher Garland and Leavitt Reynolds Jr. On the road leading to China are several houses and families, though I cannot say there are any farms, notwithstanding there is plenty of land, and it is called "Gold Coast". Mr. Hartwell Getchell owns the last farm in the easterly part of this district which is situated about a half mile from the road, and on the west shore of Pattee's Pond. These mentioned last have been more recently settled, have had but few owners, and are of a harder and less productive soil than those on the Sebasticook river. Mr.

Elisha Ellis formerly owned one of these, and was a very estimable man. He died, also his father and brother, William, a number of years since. The farms on the river are principally clayey loam and very productive.

School district No.4 is situated on the Kennebec river, beginning at Mr. Tufton Simpson's near Ticonic Falls, and extending northward to Benton. A large portion of this land is sandy loam, naturally not productive, but by good husbandry well repays the labor. Mr. T. Simpson's farm is large and by being well tilled yields good crops. This was a part of the original "Fort farm". Two of his sons live on the same farm. The farms above are occupied by the following men; - Wm. Watson, Ezeiel Simpson's heirs, Jeremiah Proctor, Howard Getchell, James Wall, William Freeman, farm formerly occupied by Ripley Simpson, George Simpson, Winslow Simpson, Reuben Simpson, Thomas Kinney, Orrison Mayo, Levi Pollard, Jacob Orsborn and Samuel Brown.

There is one other farm in this district, on a by-road and formerly owned by Aaron Proctor. Here as in No.3 I am unable to say who the first settlers were. Ephraim Osborn, Benjamin Simpson, Reuben Simpson, King Runnels, Williard and John Spaulding and Moses and James Wyman were former owners. Mr. James Wall owns what was once two farms - mostly good land and well tilled. His receipts are greater than any other farmer in town. The most of the buildings here are in good repair and some (particularly Mr. Wall's) are admirably adapted for a thrifty, independent farmer.

When I first became acquainted in this district - some 16 years since - I was surprised to find much (meaning almost everything) in a dilapidated a condition. Their schools were kept either in a corn house, a chamber or an unfinished room; children were ragged and without books, and the appearance of some at least of the houses indicated imtemperance somewhere. Since then a great change has taken place. A schoolhouse inferior to few has been built, which is occupied by well dressed and

well booked scholars. Some good men from Waterville, a few years since, organized a sabbath school here, and since, there has been frequent religious meetings in the schoolhouse. The inhabitants of this district are nearly all natives of not only Winslow but of district No.4. There is no neighborhood in town where so much improvement has been made as in this; but still there is room for more, and no reason why it should not rank as high as an agricultural district as any district in town.

## TALK ABOUT WINSLOW

## Part 12.

School District No. 5 is mostly on the road leading from Winslow village to North Vassalboro. Its northern bounday is the north line of the farm of Mr. C. Edward Cushman and extends southward to Vassalboro. This district characterized for the thrift of its inhabitants; the tidiness of its buildings; its well-tilled farms and intelligent population. Mr. Charles Cushman and his sons own the first farm or farms, as the buildings are all on the original farm. It was formerly owned by Col. Charles Hayden and prior to that, by his father, Hon. C. H. Hayden. These farms butt on to the river farms and were reserved by the proprietors to sell after the river lots were taken up.

Col. I. W. Britton owns the next farms, as we go south, which was sold by Major Josiah Hayden, about 40 years since, to Mr. Isaac Britton, father of the present occupant. Mr. Calvin Taylor owns the next farm, and is the first settler on it, having cleared the most of it, of trees and stumps, and erected his own buildings. The next farm - now owned by Mr. Prescott and Mr. Hedge - with the two sets of buildings, and now two farms, was first owned by Capt. Bradford, then by Capt. Fletcher, N. B. Dingley, N. B. Dingley, Jr., Mr. David Smiley, and the part owned by Mr. Prescott by Mr. R. W. Smiley, afterwards by Mr. Hawes. Mr. David Smiley owns the next - having purchased it of Mr. Zipheon Howard, more than 40 years since.

A few rods south of Mr. Smiley's buildings stands as fine an edifice for a country schoolhouse as can be found in any country town. It was built last year, by the enterprising farmers of this district, and reflects much honor to them, as well as to the contractors, who labored for low wages. It possesses all the necessaries, comforts and beauties

(for they have planted shade trees in front) of a first class schoolhouse. That it may prove of inestimable value to the youths of that district is the wish of all friends of education.

Beyond and adjoining the farm of Mr. Smiley is that of Mr. John Taylor, who has occupied it longer than the writer can remember. Mr. Edward Getchell owns beyond the last mentioned, and has for the last 40 years. This farm is bounded on the south by the "mile brook", and a part of it has, I believe, passed several hands, though I am unable to give their names. Adjoining is an excellent mill privilege, which was early occupied by the late John Getchell, for a saw mill. It was then called "Getchell's Lower Mill", and was used to saw pine lumber, which is seen in the thousands of unrotted pine stumps. Joseph Brann and John Jackson occupied the mill for sometime and I presume owned it. A company of men living in that district afterwards bought it. A little more than 30 years since a part of the privilege was purchased by another company, for the purpose of manufacturing cloth, or twine or something else, from the fibres of hemp. Pretty good buildings were erected for that purpose, but it was a failure. The "Hemp fever", like the "Hen fever" and many other fevers abated with more or less injury to those diseased. Mr. Joseph Southwick and Mr. Moses Taber of Vassalboro were owners.

These buildings were afterwards occupied for a carding machine, fulling mill and shingle mill; then another shingle machine was put in operation, a stave machine, and a threshing machine. Mr. W. C. Bassett and Josephus Wilbur and a Mr. Leonard then were the owners. Mr. Bassett afterwards for a while improved it as woolen factory. Then it was all sold.

The saw mill had been burned down, and its site is now occupied, by Messrs. Leonard and Ira E. Getchell, as a mill for manufacturing shingles and various other articles from wood. On the opposite side Messrs. H.

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and Charles Priest occupy two large buildings - one a grist mill, adapted to the grindings of any kind of grain, the other a manufactory of pegs, for the Liverpool market, it is said. These are all enterprising men, and are fast making their mark. The stream is there crossed by a bridge of less expense than that in District #3, and much easier, hills on either side. The Messers. Priest live quite near their mills.

Mr. Charles Taylor lives beyond, on the last farm in the District. Mr. Leonard Getchell lives near by, north of Mr. Taylor's on the road on the east side of the stream; also Mr. Daniel Taylor, and the heirs of the late Mr. James Drummond, on the road leading to the river road at the Methodist meeting house. There is no district in town where agricultural resources are more abundant or more fully developed. Well filled barns, granaries, and cellars; yards of bleating sheep and stalls of lowing cattle; with a good supply of nice horses, hogs and poultry, make the declaration stronger than words.

Mr. Britton removed from Attleborough, Mass. and engaged in lumbering on the Kennebec and Penobscot rivers, accumulating a large property. He afterwards moved to North Vassalboro, where he died leaving to his heirs the accumulation of years of toil and economy. Mr. Z. Howard came from Bridgewater, Mass. and afterwards moved to Winthrop, where he since died. Mr. David Smiley moved from Sidney. Messrs. Calvin Taylor Prescott, S. and H. Hedge, Edmund Getchell, H. & C. Priest, were formerly residents of Vassalboro. All others whose names do not appear elsewhere were native born citizens of Winslow.

Although this district has been in existence less than fifty years, yet it has had four schoolhouses; one was burned, two abandoned, while one, newly built invites other districts, of which I shall speak to take such a course in the future as District #5 has the past year.

(From "The Eastern Mail"...Waterville, Me...April 7, 1864)

## TALK ABOUT WINSLOW

### Part 13.

As we are describing and giving a history of the town, by taking each school district separately we will commence this article by giving some account of district #6. This district is located on the north side of the Sebasticook river beginning at the south line of the heirs of the late Enoch Fuller, and extending to the south line of Benton; also including the farm of Mr. Wardwell, which is situated on that portion of land between the rivers known as the "Gore", some distance from the road; also the farms on the easterly end of the road leading from the Kennebec river to the Sebasticook. The Fuller farm has been in possession of those of the same name for a great many years; and for ought I know, the first Mr. Enoch Fuller was the first to till the virgin soil. He died about twenty years ago. He was the father of a large family. Two daughters only survive at the present time. His wife's name was Webb. His son Enoch inherited the old homestead, married Miss Harriet Warren, raised a large family, and died two years since. Next to this is the farm formerly owned by Mr. Joseph Cragging, who died leaving one daughter, the wife of Capt. Timothy Heald. A good part of this farm is now owned by Silas R. Getchell. Another tract of land joins this on the north, which has passed through a number of hands. Ellis Smiley, of the army, owns a part of it. Mr. Ephraim Town owns the next farm, which he inherited from his father, who was one of the first settlers of the town, and for many years an efficient town officer. Beyond this is the "Poor Farm", previously owned by N. B. Blanchard. It had been our custom for a great many years to hire one or some persons to keep the town's poor, and sometimes they had been sold to the lowest bidder; so that we find records like the following in the town's books: "March meeting

1808 - Joshua White, a pauper, being set up at auction, was struck off to James Wall at one dollar a week, for one year, and to provide said White with sufficient meat, washing and lodging." A little difference between this and selling slaves, these, being sold to the lowest bidder instead of the highest, and to be properly provided for during one year, instead of being left to the tender mercy of the slave owner for life. By degrees our people saw the inpropriety of such a course, and purchased this farm as a home for such unfortunate persons as had a home nowhere else. Mr. Barnum Hodges, Jr. and wife, were hired to superintend this home - which they have done two years to the satisfaction of the town, and most if not all of this unfortunate class.

We now come to the farm formerly owned by Capt. Timothy Heald, whose history has already been given. It is now owned by Mr. Royal Brown. Capt. Heald left a numerous family, some of whom settled in Winslow. Nearly all are now deceased. Portions of this farm have been sold, so that but a small part is now in the hands of Capt. Heald's descendants. Prentiss Flagg owns the next farm, and near by is the schoolhouse - comparing favorably with most schoolhouses in town. William P. Harlowe and one of Mr. Flagg's sons own two small lots beyond this. Daniel Libby owns the farm originally owned by Capt. Simeon Heald, and sold after his decease to Nathaniel Crommet of Waterville; then to Paul Brown, of Corinna; then to Philander Soule of Clinton, and then to the present owner, who was formerly from Albion.

Zimri Haywood and Charles Stewart own the next two farms. Mr. Gower owns the next farm, previously owned by Freeman Crowell and Mr. Hatch, James M. Abbott and Nathan Stephens, who bought of the heirs of Capt. Zimri Haywood. Mr. Hatch still lives on another part of the farm. Capt. Zimri Haywood moved from Mass. and was one of the first settlers of the town. He owned a large tract of land and reared a large family, a number of whom settled in Winslow. All have since died, and the farm



has become the property of other owners. Mr. Stillman Flagg lives still further up the river, on the last farm in Winslow. On the cross road Joseph Paul lives.

The soil of this district is clay loam, and very productive by good husbandry. Nearly all these men have made farming their business, though a few have, in connection with it, pursued lumbering.

School district #7 was originally, like most others already mentioned, very large, but has been so much reduced by creating other districts that it is now limited to much narrower bounds. It is situated in the easterly part of the town on the road leading from Benton village to China village, and extends from the "Bog Bridge" to Jacob Abbotts. The men here have been engaged in lumbering. Hemlock bark was peeled in the summer, and that with the logs was hauled to North Vassalboro, about six miles, and the logs to the Sebasticook river. A few families on the road to "Wilson's Mill" are in this district, and also a few on the road to Vassalboro. Mr. Ephriam Wilson settled in this district prior to its town organization, and built a saw mill, which is still used, on a stream that is the outlet of Wilson's Bog: Mr. Wilson was always engaged in pine lumbering and accumulated a large property. A few of his descendants live in the town, but his valuable landed property is in the possession of none. Mr. Thomas Webber is another resident, and owns the farm formerly owned by his father, who was a Baptist minister, though so unfortunately situated in his earlier years that he never learned to read or write. He was anxious to have the bible read aloud, and possessing a retentive memory, could repeat much of it verbatim. His language was strictly colloquial, his arguments nature's own, when his smiles were drawn from objects around him. That his preaching was in many instances beneficial many now living can testify, though but few in our own New England of the present day can approve of a man as a minister whose education is so limited.

Mr. Park Smiley formerly owned the next farm as we go south, but sold

many years since and moved to Penobscot. The heirs of Mr. Cyrus Sanborn now own it. Messrs. Sullivan Abbott and William Hodges own the farm originally owned by Mr. Samuel Heywood. Near Mr. Hodges' house is the district schoolhouse, a very unpretending building with a small and unpleasant room and an "old"- "fashioned" open fireplace.

The next farm, settled by Wilson Abbott who moved to Ohio, and has since died there; is now owned by Barnum Hodges Jr. The heirs of Thomas Abbott own the next. Mr. Stephen Abbott settled the next farm about the time the town was organized. He was a good citizen and worthy man; married the daughter of Ephraim Wilson. His youngest son James M. Abbott, now owns it. Dea. Ebenezer owns the next, which was in a state nature when he bought it. Mr. Tilley Abbott settled the one beyond that last named, about the same time his brother Stephen did his farm. His son Jacob now owns it. Mr. David Gaptill owns the farm formerly owned by Mr. Hardison on the road leading to Vassalboro, also Mr. Scruten Abbott.

There is a road leading from that first mentioned by the east side of Pattee's Pond, on which live two brothers Littlefield and Mr. Joseph Taylor, who belong to this district. Luke Wilson, Otis Wilson and Scruten Wilson's families live on the road to Wilson's Mill. Generally the soil in this district is of a granite formation and hard to till, but the inhabitants being industrious and economical have secured good homes and many comforts. In this district there is a very neat Baptist meeting house, which is open for worship a large portion of the sabbaths.

## TALK ABOUT WINSLOW

### Part 14.

It is hoped the readers of this "talk" - will bear in mind that the author is liable to mistakes, and holds himself ready for corrections; while at the same time he would gratefully receive any information calculated to make this "talk" more interesting. In the article last week it was said that landed property of the Ephriam Wilson was in the possession of none of his descendants. By this it was meant timber land, that was valuable. His son, Luke, lives on a small farm, formerly his father's, and the heirs of this grandson, Scruten Wilson, also his grandson, Otis Wilson, live on a part of the old homestead. No doubt there are other mistakes, which will in future be corrected.

School district #8 is situated in the south easterly part of the town and extends from the line between Winslow and China on the south to the south line of Timothy Hamlin's farm; also it includes the farms of George Richardson, Jr. and William Abbott on the China Road, and on the (?) Southwick (?) Road that of George M. Richardson, and Edwin Hodges on the road to district #9. The soil here as in #7 is rather hard to cultivate, but by good husbandry well repays the laborers. All are engaged in agriculture. Generally the buildings denote thrift and comfort within. On some of the farms in the western part of the district the ledge breaks out occasionally and the soil is of a slate formation.

William B. Robinson owns the most southerly farm, which has been in the possession of those of the same name for a long time. As we go north we next come to that of the late James Alley, now owned by his son James H. Alley. It was formerly owned by David Robinson, Levi Varney comes next, whose farm is joined on the north by that of Jacob Jenkins, whose full granary, fat pigs, sleek oxen and horses have a powerful tendency to convince the stranger that this is the home of a

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good farmer. John Nichols formerly owned this farm, whose daughter, the present owner has married.

Nathan Bailey, whose buildings though in good repair are some distance from the road, (a great evil in a land of deep snow) comes next. His is an excellent grass farm. Cornelius Duglass formerly owned it. Jacob Partridge, with his son-in-law Samuel Newhall, own the next farm, with buildings still farther from the road. The late Jonathan Furber was the original owner and was succeeded by Joseph Eaton and he by Stephen Nichols.

North of this is the farm of the late John Hobby, now owned by his son-in-law, Stephen Nichols, 2nd. This farm has been well managed and made very productive. Near by is a schoolhouse where a large number of excellent scholars have taken the first steps towards scholarship.

Stephen Nichols owns the farm formerly the property of Esq. Brackett, deceased, and then of Jacob Hanks. Luther R. Lamb owns the last farm as we go north and erected the buildings about 35 years since. Mr. Lamb is a gunsmith by trade and has not given his attention to agriculture so much as others in the district. The farm of George M. Richardson was formerly that of Elias Pinkham. That of Edwin Hodges was owned by his father Barnum Hodges and by him cleared of tree, stumps and rocks and made very productive. He has a fine orchard of his own planting. George Richardson, Jr's farm was previously owned by Ezekiel Coleman and William Abbott by Nevin Burkett. There are a number of good orchards in this district. Several families belong to the society of Friends' who will be spoken of in a future number, when different religious sects will be talked of.

School district #9 embraces the inhabitants and land on the road from North Vassalboro to Benton beginning at the line between Vassalboro and Winslow, and extending north toward the "Withee Corner" or, land of Leavitt Reynolds Jr.; also the farms on the Southwick road of

Seth Richardson, Jacob Wyman and Stephen Bragg; the last mentioned being a good way from the road. Both these farms have very good soil and are easily tilled, but are more liable to early frost than farms on higher land. The owners have comfortable buildings and good stocks of cattle. They were formerly owned by Joab Bragg and Ezekiel Wyman. There is a road running easterly and crossing the first mentioned road at right angles, near where Dea. Talbot formerly lived, and extending to district #8 on which are the farms of Cyrus Starkey - far from the road - having had a good many owners, Dea. A. H. Palmer's, formerly owned by French Richardson, and Elijah B. Richardson's also a small farm lately occupied by Rev. A. Palmer.

From this road another diverges in a northerly course, on which are the farms of Charles Hodges - formerly Miner Philip's and that of Daniel C. Breed - owned previously by Robert Ludwig and before him by George Richardson Jr., who cleared the land, built a log house and planted a good orchard. It is a very stony hard farm.

TALK ABOUT WINSLOW

Part 15.

On the road between Winslow and China are the following farms, beginning at the South, viz; Edward Bragg's formerly owned by Phillip Towle; farm of the late John W. Garland owned by William Bragg, and now by Henry Eastman, Charles and Ephriam Plummer - two small farms; farm of Arthur McQuillin; farm of \_\_\_\_\_ formerly owned by John Getchell. Alexander Jackson and David Towle were former owners of this farm.

We next come to the farm originally owned by Joseph Brann, and afterwards by William Getchell. It has, since the death of Mr. Getchell, had a number of owners and is divided into several parts. Isaac McQuillin owns a part and has recently built a neat cottage house. Thomas Reynolds owns the farm first owned by Dea. Talbot, who settled it about ~~1810~~ 1810 and lived on it till about 1838, when he sold to Hiram Simpson. Leavitt Reynolds owns the farm first settled in 1803 by the late Sidney Keith, on which he lived till 1857. It has since seen owned by three of his sons: then by Thomas Reynolds and Samuel Chaffee. Col. W. E. Drummond owned and occupied the next farm a number of years, but it is now owned by Vose Reynolds, 2nd.

Thomas Reynolds settled the next farm about 1810; raised a large family and remained here till he died, about 1851. His son Leavitt now owns it, though no one lives on it.

Squire Spalding settled the next farm, that is now owned by Leavitt Reynolds and nearly all the land round it, besides large tracts in other parts of the town. Adna Reynolds owns the last small farm.

Most of the land in this district is hard, and excepting those farms already described is generally of a slate or granite formation. The inhabitants are all agriculturists and wood haulers. There are a few good houses, though the most demonstrate but little pride in

the owners. There is a very good schoolhouse in this district, built on the top of the highest hill. Literature is at a low ebb, while hauling cordwood, logs and bark has engrossed the attention of a number of the inhabitants. Large ox teams are more numerous here than elsewhere.

School district #10 so far as it regards buildings and farms, is yet young, though possessing natural elements which in time will enable it to compare favorably with several other districts. It is situated in the north east part of the town, immediately north of "Wilson's Bog". The road from "Wilson's mill" to Albion passes through it. It is but a few years since this road was made. The farms have been recently cleared of trees and bushes and on most of them the stumps and rocks still remain. There was formerly a good deal of valuable pine and hemlock timber here, with hardwood and cedar. I think the soil good for tillage, grass and pasturage. As yet they have no schoolhouse and but few scholars. I am unable to give the names of all the proprietors.

Dr. Harris owns quite a large farm with a large barn and a small house. When his land is properly subdued it will be valuable for grass and grain. Dea. Thomas Smiley's heirs own an excellent farm on the top of quite an elevation. It has been cleared longer than any other, and has very good buildings. Beyond this, towards Albion, are the farms of Mr. Isaac Webber and his son; very good land and comfortable buildings. There are a number of other farms with new, small buildings. As sawed lumber was easily obtained when this district was settled there has never been a log house in it, which I believe can be said of no other in town.

School district #11. embraces the territory between district #7. and Albion line, on the road from Benton to China village; also that on a road running south from this to the town of China on the County road. Ebenezer Ellis owns the more westerly farm. It is rather stony,

but productive, and has had several owners.

We next come to the farm of Samuel W. Abbott; settled by his father Mr. George Abbott. George Gowen owns the farm beyond him, and the next was originally owned by Winthrop Ross and sold to others. Andrew Keay owns the last farm at the east, beyond the "Ross farm", formerly the property of his father. On all these farms are good orchards. On the other road as we go south are farms owned, the first by the successor of George Spaulding, Mudgett; the second by George Abbott, Jr.; the third by John Wilson; the fourth by a Mr. Mudgett; the fifth by Andrew Keay, formerly owned by Sullivan Abbott; the sixth by Samuel Morrell, or his son James W. Morrell; the seventh by Mr. Watson; the eighth by James Morrell; the ninth and last by William Morrell. They have an apology for a schoolhouse in this district, but like a few others it needs to be removed, or at least another be built somewhere besides on a cobble hill. I suppose there were no building sites near enough in district #<sup>7</sup>1 and #11 except those occupied. The most of the land in this district is hard, slaty land. All the men are farmers, and by diligence and economy have secured for themselves good homes, and some no doubt are laying something by for old age. The buildings generally are pretty good, though most of the houses are small.

School district #12 embraces all the land between the west end of T. J. Hayden's farm, on the China road, and the east line of Alfred Wood's farm; on which are the farms of Joseph Eaton (occupied by Gideon Walker), T. J. Hayden and Alfred Wood; also the farms of Edward Patterson, Benjamin Spaulding, Elkanah Dellano and Vose Reynolds, on a private road, running south from the China road; also the farms of Joseph Eaton (occupied by Silas Ellis) previously by R. H. Keith, John Richards and others, Lauriston Withee, Henry Rhoades, farm of I. W. Britton, W. C. Bassett, Dea. William Bassett, Snell Rhoades, George Pillsbury, Jr. and Joshua Pillsbury. Nearly all the land is clay loam and productive. The houses and barns are about an average of those in other districts.



Hamden Keith, who since died in North Vassalboro settled the farm of W. C. Bassett about 60 years since and erected the buildings. About 1825 he sold to W. C. Bassett and Williams Bassett, and the last named has erected a new set of buildings. These farms are stony and harder to till than any other except that owned by Col. Britton. There is an apology for a schoolhouse, that should not remain in the midst of a population of so much thrift; its location is better than those in Nos. 1. and 2., but in badness it can hardly be equalled.

Joshua Pillsbury's farm was once purchased for a poor farm, but was sold to George Pillsbury, he obligating himself to support five paupers through life, viz: Charles Brann and wife and three idiotic sons, Rufus Rhoades formerly owned the farm now owned by Col. Britton.

H. Keith and the Messrs. Bassett came from Bridgewater, Mass. R. Rhoades from Pelham, N. H.; George Pillsbury from Vassalboro. The others were native of the town. T. J. Hayden has a saw and lath mill; a threshing machine on the Mile Brook, that runs through this district, which formerly did a good business, but now there is lumber to keep it going but a small part of the year. There is a large quantity of grain threshed here annually. A grist mill was in operation here a number of years, but it run down from some cause. There is an unoccupied privilege for a mill in this district, between the land of Joseph Eaton and Lauriston Withee. Those privileges are valuable, as the stream is unfailling; besides being so near the depot of the K. & S. railroad. Col. Josiah Hayden built the first mill here, about 70 years since, for Isaac Winslow, who afterwards sold it to Seth Alden, after which it became the property of Major Josiah Hayden. It was then used to saw pine lumber, which was worth only \$5.00 per thousand.

School district #13 is situated west of #11, on the road from Dea. Ebenezer Abbott's to East Vassalboro and extends from the south line of David Guptil's farm, to the south line of Timothy Hamlin's, and embraces the farms of Samuel Phillips, william Shorey (now owned by

the sons of Watson Nowell) John Brimmer and William Warriner (now sold) on the road from that first named to the road on the east side of Patt-ee's Pond.

Robert McClintock, Jabez Crowell, Robert McClintock 2nd, David Burgess, Freeman Crowell, Isaiah Hanlin, Hiram Robinson, William Elvin, Watson Nowell, Henry Nowell and Timothy Hamlin, own the farms on the first mentioned road though I think there are a few families I have omitted. The most of these farms are new and small. Generally the houses are comfortable and convenient for the purpose for which they are built. The soil is reddish and slaty on many of the farms, but produces pretty well. Much of it is well adapted to pasturing. A stream of sufficient size runs from the "Mud Pond" through, this district, on which there are two dams - one saw mill and two shingle machines. Originally there was much good pine, hemlock and spruce lumber here. Timothy Hanlin and the Messrs. Nowell own farms which were owned by their fathers, and by good management produce well. There is a Methodist meeting house partly finished in this district, and one of the best schoolhouses in town.

Charles Buck of Vassalboro, and William Buck of Waterville were former owners of the saw mill and the farm of William Warriner.

TALK ABOUT WINSLOW

Part 16.

School district #14 was annexed to #3 and #15 in 1859. It embraces what is called the "Gold Coast" having become so reduced by emigration that there was no alternative.

School district #15 lies immediately east of Pattee's pond, extending from the farms of Dea. Joseph Taylor on the north, to the China road on the south. There is a cheap comfortable schoolhouse in this district. A part of the land is clay loam, and very productive, and the rest is stony with a reddish soil.

It was in this district Capt. Nehemiah Getchell, Col. Josiah Hayden, John and Rutherford Drummond, Daniel McFadden, more than sixty years since cut a large portion of the six hundred masts, which were contracted for by British ship builders. They were taken to Wiscasset and hewed, and then carried to England. The longest mast got was 118 feet in diameter. Many of the stumps can be readily found, as they were cut near the ground. A great amount of pine, and other valuable timber has been cut there. As we begin at the China road and go north, we find the following owners of farms - all cleared with thirty years, and exhibiting very many unrotted stumps.

First is the farm of Hosea E. Paine, then Daniel Phillips, James Furber, Arthur Lowe, Samuel B. Prentiss, former property of George L. Phillips, heirs of Josiah Hamlin, (owned by Sylvanius Hamlin) George H. Furber, Jacob Hamlin, Elbridge Hamlin, and Ira Palmer, Samuel Furber, and W. Lyman Gowen, who live on the China Road. This land has been so recently cleared that but few apple trees as yet have grown.

School district #16 extends from district #3 on the south side of the Sebasticook river to the south line of Benton, and also embraces the farm of Edmund Hodges, on the road toward Albion. In ascending the river we first view the farm of the late William Stratton, formerly

settled and owned by his father, Hezekiah Stratton. It is now divided though all is still owned by the family. John B. Stratton owns the north part, and the other heirs the south part, on which are the buildings erected by William Stratton. John B. has also put up his buildings. Both sets are in good repair, and convenient for farm use. The buildings erected by Hezekiah Stratton, although built to last a century and longer, were a great way from the road, and have been removed. The land is of good quality, and being well managed amply rewards the owners, as well filled barns and granaries afford the stronger evidence.

The next farm was formerly owned by Jacob Harding and sold by him to Asa Burnham about 1826, who has since sold to Joseph Eaton and the latter to John Rhoades, who still lives on it. This is a very good farm, though some broken by deep gullys, it produces well, and has good barns. Mr. Harding, after settling this farm, purchased the farm afterwards sold to Franklin Wood, and now owned by Samuel Warrne. When Mr. Harding purchased, there was not much improved land on the farm; he erected a very good house and barn, and did something towards improving the farm, but he chose to leave it and go back to his native town, Attleborough, Mass. Mr. Burnham came from Parsonsfield and now lives in Bangor.

Simon Gaptill purchased the next farm, about 25 years ago, and, although it was by some once considered worthless land, he has by good husbandry made it as productive as any farm in town. When Mr. Gaptill bought it, it had an old tumble down house, and barn or better; now it has good buildings, with every mark of thrift. Stephen Crosby owns the next farm, which was once his father's, Joel Crosby. The present occupant has erected very good buildings with a few years, and from all appearance tills his acres well.

Hanes L. Crosby inherited from his father, the next and last farm. Formerly the buildings were near the river which was so inconvenient for farming purposes that Mr. Crosby took them down and built new, in

a substantial manner, on the hill. There was a saw mill and some other machinery in operation a good while, near the old house, but it has gone to ruin; now there is a shingle machine and corn mill only on the dam. The saw mill was built some way below the dam, on the bank of the river, but the water was carried to the wheel in a long trunk from the dam on the brook. Joel Larned was the owner.

The Crosby's and Mr. Guptill have been considerably engaged in lumbering. Mr. Hodges on the Albion road has a farm lying very near the "Smiley Bog", which is very liable to frost. He cuts a great deal of bog hay. A man named Wallace formerly settled this farm, but became discouraged and sold, and moved to Ohio. Since then it has had a number of owners.

School district #17 is in the north part of the town and although it can boast of having one selectman - Mr. T. J. Hinds - it has no schoolhouse, but few inhabitants, and in 1860 but one scholar. Dea. Thomas Smiley's father settled in this district, and occupied the mill first built in the town by Ebenezer Heald, (as was mentioned in a former article). Mr. Smiley reared a large family and left his farm and mill to his son, Thomas, who retained it till within a few years of his death. He left it to his son, from whose possession it has since passed. I believe it has entirely run down now, there not being timber enough to saw to make it an object to repair. Once this district embraced more territory and more families; but since it became reduced the school money appropriated to them has been expended in Benton, agreeable to an act of the Legislature.

I have now given a tolerably correct view of the seventeen districts gone over; although I have made some omissions, and no doubt some mistakes; yet in general it may be relied on as strictly correct. There remains now but one district and as that was where the earliest and most important events took place, I shall reserve it for a separate talk.