

HISTORY OF OLD CHESTER,

FROM 1719 TO 1869.

BY

BENJAMIN CHASE.

AUBURN, N. H.:
PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHOR.
1869.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
CHAPTER I.	
The Proprietary History from 1719 to obtaining the Charter, May 8, 1721,	i
CHAPTER II.	
The First Settlement and Laying out of the Lots,	25
CHAPTER III.	
Original Grantees and their Lots,	42
CHAPTER IV.	
Settlement of the Lines,	59
CHAPTER V.	
Settling Ministers—Presbyterian Controversy—Closing the Proprietors' Affairs,	69
CHAPTER VI.	
History of the Town of Chester from 1737 to 1773,	89
CHAPTER VII.	
History of the Town continued, from 1774 to 1800,	128
CHAPTER VIII.	
History of the Town continued, from 1800 to 1868,	164
CHAPTER IX.	
History of Roads,	191

CHAPTER X.	
History of Mills,	222
CHAPTER XI.	
Pauperism — Rates or Taxes — Mail and Stage Facilities,	252
CHAPTER XII.	
Literary and Professional History,	272
CHAPTER XIII.	
Ecclesiastical, Religious and Moral History,	315
CHAPTER XIV.	
Military History,	365
CHAPTER XV.	
How the Early Settlers Lived, or the Industrial History,	409
CHAPTER XVI.	
Town Officers, or Official History,	447
CHAPTER XVII.	
Genealogical and Biographical History,	462
CHAPTER XVIII.	
History of Candia,	632
CHAPTER XIX.	
History of Raymond,	654

HISTORY OF CHESTER.

CHAPTER I.

PROPRIETARY HISTORY FROM 1719 TO THE PROCURING OF THE
CHARTER, MAY 8, 1722.

THE records of Chester commence with the proceedings of a meeting of "The Society for Settling the Chesnut Country, held at Said Country the fifteenth day of October, 1719." This society had probably existed some time, and held meetings and kept records. It was composed principally of Hampton people, with a few Portsmouth men.

At a meeting of the proprietors of Chester, held by adjournment, at the house of Joshua Wingate of Hampton, Oct. 7th, 1729, it was

"Voted, That Capt. Henry Sherburne and Dr. Edmond Topin be a Committee to Examine and Compare y^e town book, and y^e Duplicate book, & see y^t they Exactly Agree, they being upon Oath to Compare 'Em.

"Voted, That Dr. Edmond Toppin keep y^e Duplicate book, and it be kept at Hampton from year to year, and that y^e town Clerk Send attested Coppys after Every Meeting to him y^t keeps y^e Duplicate book, in order to be Entered in said book."

The records of the earlier meetings were probably entered in the book kept at Hampton; but it is, probably, with other papers, lost. The Hon. S. D. Bell has made enquiries for it, but without success.

There were also other parties who petitioned for a grant of this territory, or lands adjoining, and made efforts to have possession, which I will notice before following up the proceedings of the society.

In Council,

August 24, 1720. "The petition of John Calf & Compa. preferred to this board, praying for a township above Exeter, was read."

This was by Massachusetts men, Mr. Calf being an inhabitant of Newbury.

There is a deed on the Rockingham records, dated Oct. 23, 1717, from Samuel Smith of Haverhill to "Samuel Ingalls of Cheshire, Blacksmith," of a right in Kingstown. If Capt. Ingalls was in Chester at all at that time, it is probable that it was to have possession for some of the parties.

In Council,

Oct. 26, 1720. "A message to the board by Mr. Speaker, and Lt. Col. Wear, praying that the Consideration of the petition of Mr. John Calf and Company be suspended for the present."

In board,

"Ordered that the Petition of Mr. John Calf and Company praying for township north westward of Exeter be suspended till the land disposed of in that part of the province be laid out and bounded to prevent interfering of bounds.

Richard Waldron, Cler. Con."

In Council,

April 19, 1721. "A petition signed by about one hundred persons was preferred to this board by Messrs. Ezekiel Walker, John Calf and Elisha Story, praying for liberty and Encouragement to settle a town on a certain tract of land North westward from Exeter, lying partly between Cheshire and New Portsmouth and partly above new Portsmouth adjoining Cheshire line, containing the Quantity of ten miles Square, upon Such Conditions as in Said petition as is on file is contained: Wherefore it is ordered in Council that the petitioners have liberty To build and Settle

upon the said tract upon the Conditions in Said petition mentioned, provided it in no way infringe on or Interfere with any former grants or possessions or propertys.

Richard Waldron, Cle. Con.”

Mr. Calf's former petition was probably for Cheshire, which being postponed, he with others now petitioned for Nottingham. There is a deed on the Rockingham records, dated 1721, from Mary Cottle to John Calf for Moses Little, of a right of settlement in land lying westward of Exeter, called New Boston. The New Portsmouth was probably Barrington. Barrington was granted to the taxpayers of Portsmouth, according to the amount of rates they had paid for the last four years, May 10, 1722. It is said to have been used as an out-lot to settle their poor people on.

Nottingham charter is not in the Secretary's office, probably having been burnt in the office in 1736. It was, however, granted in 1722, shortly after that of Chester. In the House, Aug. 26, 1720: “Whereas our House having a petition from Mr. Brown & Company for a town Ship, We Think Itt Infrindg on our towns, especiall on Cheshire whare We have a petition on file for this two years. Have sent up the petition and Memorial to the upper House which Lays on file In y^e Clark's office.”

Who Mr. Brown and his company were, or where they resided, does not appear.

Stephen Dudley of Freetown (Raymond), who was of Exeter before and afterwards, obtained a deed from an Indian named Peter Penuet, and Abigail his squaw, of a tract of land at Freetown, as appears by a deed on Rockingham records, dated May, 1722, wherein, in consideration of affection, Dudley conveys to Francis James of Gloucester “his right in four hundred acres of land in Freetown to be taken out of that tract bought of Peter Penuet and Abigail his squaw, by deed dated Jan. 17, 1718-19, also in virtue of a power of attorney from John Vickers of Charlestown.” The deed to Dudley is not on the records. This was prob-

ably a move for color of title and possession for some of the parties.

We now return to the proceedings of the Society and the Governor and Council in relation to them.

At the aforesaid meeting Oct. 15, 1719,

“ 1st, Voted, That Capt. Henry Sherburne be Moderator.

“ 2^{dly}, Voted, That Joseph Tilton be Clerk of the Society.

“ 3^{dly}, Voted, That Capt. Henry Sherburne be Receiver.

“ 4^{thly}, Voted, That Joseph Tilton, Ichabod Robie, Caleb Tole, Clement Hughes, Capt. Henry Sherburne, Eph. Denet and Jacob Stanyon, be a Committee to manage the affairs of the Society; And That the s^d Committee Shall have power to Call meetings of the Society as often as they Shall Think Necessary, and to act in all other matters that they Shall Think proper for the good of the whole Society.

“ 5^{thly}, Voted, That Ichabod Robie, Jacob Stanyan, Caleb Tole & Michael Whidden be a Committee to Lay out the Lotts.

“ 6^{thly}, Voted, That all priviledges of Streams shall be Reserved for y^e Use of the Society.

“ 7^{thly}, Voted, That the Number of the Society for the settling Shall not Exceed ninety persons.

“ 8^{thly}, Voted, That the Committee Shall have power to admit Such as they Shall Think proper till the afore^{sd} number of ninety be Completed.

“ 9^{thly}, Voted, That Three men Shall be kept upon the spot at the charge of the Society.”

At a meeting of the Society for settling the Chesnut Country, held at Hampton the 20th of December, 1719,

“ Voted, That in case of a warr with the Indians before the Three years Limited for the Settling of the Chesnut Country be Expired, the Same Time of Three years shall be allowed after a conclusion of a Peace with the Indians for the s^d settlement.”

“ At the Same Time the Propri^{rs} drew their home Lotts.”
The home lots of twenty acres had been laid out since the October meeting, but the list of those who drew does not contain any names of the Massachusetts men who after-

wards became proprietors. There are the names of eighty-nine persons who drew their home lots at this time, eleven of which are erased as having sold out, or forfeited their rights.

Joseph Small died,—his wife was a daughter of Col. Thomas Packer, and her husband's right was voted to her, and her home lot exchanged for one near her father's. Thus came a woman to be a proprietor. She kept a public house in Portsmouth, and many of the committee meetings were held there. There is a deed on the Rockingham records, Book 14, page 20, in which Thomas Packer conveys to Susannah Small one "negro girl."

There is recorded in another place in the Proprietors' records, those "Propriet^s y^t did not draw for their Home Lotts at the first." The list contains thirty-nine names, a large portion of whom were those taken into the Society from Massachusetts.

[Council Records, Sep. 24, 1719, p. 388.]

"Mr. Clement Hughes preferred a petition to this board directed to His Excellency the Gov^r and council, signed by ab^t 100 Persons, praying for a township above Kingstown as on file, which being read, it was resolved that the Same should be considered when His Excellency comes next into this province."

At a meeting of the Proprietors of the Chesnut Country, held at Greenland the 16th day of March, 1719-20:

"1^{ly}, Col. Packer Chosen moderator.

"2^{ly}, Joseph Tilton Chosen Clark.

"3^{ly}, The form^r Committe are Confirmed in their place wth the Same power as formerly.

"4^{ly}, The former Lott Layers are confirmed.

"5^{ly}, Capt. Sherburne chosen Receiver.

"6^{ly}, That whereas there was a petition formerly preferred to the Govern^t for the Granting the Chesnut Country for a Township to the Society, That the same be withdrawn and another preferred when there is a convenient Season.

"7^{ly}, Voted, That our Annual meeting to chuse prudential men Shall be on the third Wednesday in March, yearly."

At a meeting of the Committee, April 25, 1720,

“Voted, That a home Lott and a Farm of five hundred acres be given to His Excellency our Govern^r, or fifty pounds in money.

“Voted, Also a home Lott and a Farme of five Hundred Acres to his Honn^r our Lt. Govern^r.”

By the Council records this company seems rather to have the preference over the others, yet it was deemed wise policy to hold out this inducement, which looks a little like bribery. But we do not know the inducements offered by the other parties.

[Council Records, April 28, 1720, p. 148.]

“The petition Preferred by Mr. Hughes at the Sessions in September last, signed by about 100 persons, and suspended till this Time, and also another signed by Capt. Henry Sherburne and Mr. Clem^t Hughes and comp^a as a Supplement To the aforesaid petition, preferred this day, was read at the board, praying for a Township in the waste land adjoining Kingstown, &c.

“Ordered, that the Clerk give notifications to Such persons as have claim upon the Said land or have anything to object against the making a Township according to the tenor of the above petition, To appear before His Honor the Lieut. Gov^r and Council, to whom the matter is referred.”

[Council Records, May 24, 1720, p. 154.]

“The Petition of Clement Hughes and Henry Sherburne preferred last session in behalf of themselves and sundry others, praying for a township at a Place called Cheshire, read at y^e board; also another petition from sundry persons of Exeter and Haverhill, praying to be joined with the first petitioners in the settlement of the township, was read as on file.”

[Proprietors' Records, May 24, 1720.]

“This day the Committee (agreeable to a vote of the Society of y^e 16th of March last) preferred a Petition to the Govern^r and Council for withdrawing the form^r Petition and a grant of a Township in the Chesnut Country of ten miles Square, w^h Lys under consideration till next Term.”

[Council Records, August 26, 1720, p. 169.]

“The petition of Messrs. Henry Sherburne, Clement Hughes and comp^a, preferred May 24, praying for a township &c., is granted, and Col. Hunking, Capt. Wibard, Capt. Henry Sherburne and Capt. Tilton appointed to lay out the lands.”

I have made an examination at the Secretary's office for the foregoing petitions, but without success. There are petitions relating to Chester, bound up in a volume with other towns back to 1726, but none of these are among them. The old files are in a very confused condition, every thing mixed together,—due partly, probably, to their being removed to rebuild the State-House,—so that it would be almost an impossibility to make a thorough examination. The following (apparently genuine) is copied from Bell's “Facts in relation to the history of Chester” in N. H. Hist. Soc. Coll., Vol. VII, p. 403.

[From the Council Records of 1719.]

PETITION FOR GRANT.

A petition for a township in y^e Chestnutt County, signed by about 100 hand, preferred by Mr. Hughes, Sept. 24, 1719. Minuted—Read again, Apr. 28, 1720.

To his Excellency Samuel Shute, Esq., Capt. Gen^l & Comman^{dr} in Chief in an over His Majesty's Province of New Hampshire, &c., and the Hon^{ble} the Council, now sitting in Council at Pourtsmouth, in and for said Province :

The humble petition of sundry of the Inhabitants of s^d Province Humbly sheweth That y^r Petitioners have associated themselves together to settle a certain tract of waiste land containing Eight miles square, laying in the Province of New Hampshire afores^d, and adjoining on the East to Kingston and Exeter, and on the South to Haverhill, and on the West and North to y^e woods.

And forasmuch as y^r Petitioners are informed that sundry persons belonging to severall Towns in the Province of the Massachusetts Bay design to petition y^r Excellency & Hon^{rs} to have the same lott of land granted to them for a township,

Your Petitioners therefore most humbly pray that they may have the preference (having been at a vast expense of blood and treasure to maintain the same against the Enemy), and that the said tract of land may be granted a township to them, and as many more as are willing to settle the same, so as to make up the number of one hundred (and twenty five) persons, under such limitations for the settling of it as y^r Excellency & Hon^{rs} will in your great wisdom see convenient for the speedy settling thereof, and y^r Petitioners ever will pray as in duty bound.

Sept. 24, 1719.

Tho ^s Phipps,	Henry Shurburne,
Jos. Pierce,	Benj. Gambling,
Tho. Packer,	Jos. Sherburne,
Joseph Tilton,	Clement Hughes,
Nath ^l Batchelder, jr.,	Sam ^l Plaisted,
John Cram,	Elez ^r Russell,
Philemon Blake,	Samuel Hart,
Jacob Stanyan,	Eph ^m Dennett,
Robt. Row, Sen ^r ,	John Preston,
David Tilton,	Benj. Sanborn,
Reuben Sanborn,	Joseph Sanborn,
John Morrison,	James Prescott,
Sam ^l Blake, jr.,	Jonathan Prescott, jr.,
Nath ^l Healey,	Richard Sanborn,
Nath ^l Sanborn,	Richard Clifford,
Joseph Batchelder,	George Veazi, jr.,
John Sealy,	Jonathan Sanborn,
Jethro Tilton,	Nathan Longfellow,
Ichabod Robie,	Sam ^l Sanborn,
Edward Sauborn,	Jacob Green,
John Prescott, jr.,	Henry Dyea,
Zachariah Clifford,	Benj. Fitiel,
Joseph Batchelder, jr.,	Sherburne Tilton,
Sam ^l Blake, senr.,	Benj. Fogg,
Edward Gilman,	Joseph Love,
John Searl,	Jacob Gilman,
William Godfree,	Joseph Young,
Nehem ^h Leavitt,	Ephraim Hoit,
John Morrison,	Abraham Sanborn,
Sam ^l Elkins,	Israel Blake,
Rob ^t Wade, jr.,	William Healey,
Jeremiah Sanborn,	Charles Stuart,
Daniel Tilton,	Enoch Sanborn,

Thomas Veazi,	Daniel Lovering,
Joshua Prescott,	Ebenezer Lovering,
John Cass,	Jona ⁿ Robinson,
Daniel Ladd,	Reuben Smith,
Abner Herriman,	Thomas Veazi, jr.,
Sam ^l Prescott,	Nath ^l Stevens, jr.,
Nath ^l Bachelder, senr.,	James Leavit,
John Ladd,	Wm. Stevens, Porch th ,
Oliver Smith,	Jona ⁿ Plummer,
Edward Fifield,	John Smith,
John Gilman, jr.,	Benj. Tole,
John Knowles,	Caleb Tole,
Sam ^l Veazi,	Abraham Drake,
Benj. Veazi,	Sam ^l Smith,
Thomas Veazi, jr.,	Thomas Garton,
Nicholas Norris,	James Purckins,
John Norris,	Jacob Moulton,
Nicholas Seavy,	Jonathan Nason,
Thomas Rollins,	Elisha Smith,
Joseph Lorrane,	Jonathan Dearborn,
John Roberts,	Thomas Leavitt,
Moses Norris, senr.,	James Fogg.

COPY OF THE LAYING OUT OF THE FIRST GRANT.

Whereas we the subscribers were Ordered and directed by the Committee appointed by His Excellency the Govern^r and Council to Lay out a new Town adjoining to Haverhill, Kingston & Exeter, Pursuant to the afors^d Directions we have run the following Lines, viz.: We begun at a white pine Tree marked R. W., H. S., I. T., W. B., Standing on the Supposed Kingston line, where Haverhill Supposed Line Cutts it, and run Ten miles upon a W. N. W. Line to a pitch pine Tree notcht on four Sides; Then we begun again at the afors^d white pine Tree and run Three miles, along Kingston Supposed head Line to the Supposed Kingston North Corner Bounds next to Exeter; And from thence Seven miles upon a N. b E. Line to a Hemlock Tree marked R. W., H. S., I. T. the other two Lines being run parrallell to those two Lines will make a Tract of Ten miles Square, Agreeable to the Petition preffered by Capt.

Henry Sherburne, Clem^t Hughes & Comp^a to and Granted
by His Excellency the Governour & Council. Dated at
Portsmouth

Jan^y 4th, 1720-1.

Tho^s Pierce,
Eph^m Dennet,
George Pierce,
Jo^s Tilton.

Prov. of }
N. Hamp^r. } Whereas, we the Subscribers were appointed
by His Excellency the Govern^r & Council a Committee to
Lay out a Tract of Land of Ten miles Square adjoining to
Haverhill & Kingston & Exeter, for a Township, and after
having duly considered how the Said Tract of Land ought
to be Layd out Consonant to the Petition prefered to His
Excellency the Gov^r and Council by Henry Sherburne,
Clem^t Hughes & Comp^a, and that the Land may not In-
fringe on any Former Grant, and having Chosen Capt. Jo^s
Tilton, Capt. Tho^s Pierce, m^r Ephraim Dennet, m^r George
Pierce, m^r Ich^d Roby & mr. Jacob Stanyan to run the Lines
for y^e bounds of y^e above Township, we did order and direct
them the s^d Capt. Tilton, &c., to run the Lines as is Ex-
pressed in their return on y^e other side ; & being persuaded
y^t y^e same will not Infringe on any former Grant, we do al-
low & Confirm y^e s^d return as far forth as it Lyes in our
Power, and pray that y^e same may be allowed and Con-
firmed by His Excellency the Governour & Council.

The corner bound of Chester, next to Londonderry, near
Mr. Tenney's, down to 1801 was a beech tree, which is ex-
pressly mentioned in the charter of Londonderry, June
21st, 1722. In this survey they commenced at a white
pine, but if the points were not identical they were not
far apart, for a range of the home lots laid out in 1719
certainly commenced near the present corner. This return
runs on Kingston line three miles (probably to the corner
near David Lane's) and "next to Exeter," whereas Exeter
corner was finally established more than two miles farther
east. The lines were all uncertain, as we shall see when
we come to the settlement of the lines. This was merely
a grant of the land, not the charter of a town, and whether

satisfactory or not, the bounds of the charter were essentially different, including much more land. The Society seem to have made great efforts, and spent time and money to secure their object. They built a possession fence around the country. The committee had a meeting June 15, 1720, and examined and allowed various accounts, including an account of "Mens days Fencing the Chesnut Country & going there to Oppose the Haverhill people." There were 484 days allowed, at an expense of £144, 18s. This could hardly have been expended since the October meeting.

Whether the claim of the Haverhill people was merely an effort to get a grant, or a claim under the charter of Haverhill from Massachusetts, or both, I do not know. When I was surveying on the additional lot No. 31, in 1819, Mr. Peter Hall and Mr. Abraham Sargent were present, and they said that they had seen a monument near there, said to have been erected by Haverhill people. Their tradition was that the charter of Haverhill began at "Holt's Rocks" (so called), and was to run thence N. W. to Merrimac river; that they started at the Rocks and run twenty miles; failing of provisions and liquor they erected their monument and went home. They were probably right in regard to the monument, but wrong in regard to the explanation, as the following, which is taken from a copy in the case of French vs. Morse, before the Court of Appeals in the Secretary's Office, will show:

"Haverhill, July y^e 4th, 1674.

At the Request of the Selectmen of Haverhill, the Bounds of Said Town were perfected as followeth: From Holts Rocks we run due northwest according to the Compass, not allowing any variation, allowing almsbury their full and just bounds, as hath been determined by the honoured General Court; all the other line on the west Side of the Plantation we run from Merrimack River due North until it cutt with the first line, where we erected a great Pillar of Stones. this last line was Set out & begun to run by Ensign Noyes and Sargeant John Parker at eight miles distance from Haverhill meeting [house], upon a due

west Line, which is according to the grant of the General Court. the Running lines on both Sides of s^d Plantation were bounded by markt trees and heaps of stones, laid out by Jonathan Danforth, Survey^r. Bilereca 12 3m., 1675.

The Court approves of the Return, as attests Edwd. Rawson, Secretary."

This pillar of stones was probably the one seen by Mr. Hall and Mr. Sargent. Capt. David Shaw tells me that there used to be an oak tree by the poor farm which was called "Haverhill bounds." Margaret Shirley and Mrs. Cowdery recollect the tree. By looking at the map it will be seen that the northwestern line from the corner of Chester and Derry (the road over Walnut Hill and down Jack's Hill) does not correspond with the northeastern end of the additional lots at and above the poor farm, and the question may arise, If they intended in laying out the home lots to follow Haverhill line, how came the offset? In answer, we may suppose that Haverhill line was not well defined; that if trees were marked in 1675 many of them were down; and that they started at the supposed intersection of Haverhill and Kingston lines, and on the supposed course, and run on to near Three Camp meadow, and then offset about sixty rods to keep clear of the meadow to the road through Hall's Village. The line of the home lots over the hill, if extended, would be about the northeast line of home lot 124, on which John Shirley settled, where Mr. Cowdery now lives. They then found that they were about sixty rods northeast of the old Haverhill line, the oak tree and perhaps other monuments, and they run that range of lots to the line, and then continued on as far as the home lots extend.

This is corroborated by the fact that, accompanying a petition of Richard Hazzen, Jr., and others, to the Council of Massachusetts in 1728, complaining of the encroachments of the people of Londonderry, was a plan in which the line running northwest passes over the corner of Chester, and extends into Chester, so as nearly or quite to correspond to this monument. A reduced copy of this plan is

inserted in Chase's History of Haverhill, page 290. And further, the first settlers of Londonderry obtained a deed, dated Oct. 20, 1719, from John Wheelwright (a grandson of the original grantee of the Wheelwright claim), of "A certain tract of land bounded as followeth, not exceeding the quantity of ten miles square: beginning at a pine tree marked, which is the southwest corner of Cheshire, and running to the northwest corner of the said Cheshire, and from the northwest corner running a due west line unto the River Merrimack, and down the River Merrimack, until it meets with the line of Dunstable, and there turning eastward upon Dunstable line until it meet with the line of Dracut, and continuing eastward upon Dracut Line until it meets with the line of Haverill, and Extending northward upon Haverill until it meets with the line of Cheshire, and then turning westward upon the said Line of Cheshire unto the pine tree first mentioned where it began."

This line of Haverhill is probably the one on Hazzen's plan, but stopped at the line of Cheshire running west north-west, according to the grant of 1720,—which had probably been previously surveyed,—and not up to the northwest line to the monument seen by Mr. Hall and Mr. Sargent. It would probably intersect the Londonderry line not far from the Derry road.

At any rate, there was a line of Haverhill run up into Chester, and the proprietors or lot-layers, in laying out the home lots in 1719, did not intend to trespass on Haverhill, and began on what they supposed to be the intersection of Haverhill and Kingstown lines, and run north-west the course of the supposed Haverhill line; and the gore, between these lots and Londonderry line as established by the charter, was laid out into additional lots in 1726.

The return says: "We the subscribers have lay^d out an additional lot of fifty acres to Each home lott, beginning first at y^e south-east corner of y^e town next Haverhill, Running westerly along Derry line, called the first Range."

There was allowed at the same time, June 15, 1720, "For time about the Law suits, 9 days, £2—14s." Also of

“Money expended on the Law Suits & paid by Capt. Henry Sherburne the Receiver for the Prop^{rs}.”

It would seem from the Proprietors' records that they had lawsuits, but who the parties were, and what legal authority any body had, does not appear. There is a credit March 30, 1723: “So much recovered of Jarvis Ring; £2 12.” I have examined the Court records of that period, but have found no such cases.

	£	s.	d.
Paid to Mr. Acmuty for pleading	1	10	00
to Cap ^t Phipps, do. Sundry times	2	10	00
to Mr. Waldron	1	00	00
to Mr. Jeffries	1	00	00
to Jno. Pray, serving a writ	2	00	00
to Michael Whidden, for do	15	00	

In 1723, there is credit given for cash recovered of Jarvis Ring, £2 12. There is also “an account of men's Labor Since the Lotts were drawn,” amounting to £47 10, giving the inference that the other was before the lots were laid out.

	£	s.	d.
To Lot-layers	24	10	00
to Committee	8	2	00
to Committee's expenses	6	00	00

Clement Hughes' charges.

	£	s.	d.
To drawing a petition	5	00	
to cash paid the Clerk of the Council	10	00	
to Drawing articles for the Society to Signe	6	00	
to do. a plat for the Society	5	00	
to Copy of an Indian Deed (probably the deed to Stephen Dudley)	6	00	

There is also a charge for “4½ gallons of rum, 6 lbs. of sugar of Capt. Sherburne, w^{ch} was given y^e men at work in the Country,” £1 16 6. The whole amount of their account current, June 15, 1720, was £247 7 6.

“At a meeting of the Committee the following persons

were admitted proprietors in the Town of Checher agreeable to the Desire of the Govern^t, viz:

William White,	Jona. Clough,
Jona. Emerson,	Thos. Whiting,
Jno. Packer,	Jno. Jaquish,
Jona. Kimball,	Wm. Daniels,
Steph. Webster,	Step. Johnson,
Thos. Silver,	the Rev. Thos. Simms,
Sam ^l . Ingalls,	Rich ^d Haselton,
James Fales,	Nathan Webster, of Bradford,
Jno. Littlehale,	Richard Jaquish."
Eph. Guile,	

At a meeting of the committee Nov. 20, 1720, the following persons were admitted proprietors, viz.:

" Capt. Henry Sloper,	Jacob Gilman,
James Boid,	Ed. Gilman,
Benning Wentworth,	Thos. Smith, in the
Wm. Crosswait,	Room of Richard Swain,
Clem ^t Mishervey,	Robert Ford,
the Rev ^d Nath ^l Rogers,	Amos Cass,
Samuel Sherburne, in y ^o	Eben ^r Eastman,
Room of Wm. Stivens,	Luther Morgan,
Jos. Young,	Samuel Thompson."

The first, and a part of the second list, were Massachusetts men, and a part were Exeter men, including probably the petitioners mentioned May 24, 1720, and was a matter of compromise and put an end to the contest with Haverhill people.

" At a General Meeting of the Proprietors of the Town of Checher held at Hampton the 11th day of January, 1720-1,"

" Voted, Col^o Packer moderator.

" Voted, That each prop^r that does not Settle pay ten Shillings per year during three years, the whole to be Divided yearly among them that Settles.

" Voted, To Coll^o Packer, Coll^o Wiar, Caleb Tole and Sam^{ll} Ingalls the whole Priviledge of the upper Falls on the great Brook forever, to build a Sawmill or mills on, and also ten acres of land gratis on Each Side of s^d falls for the

s^d mills conveniency, with condition that the s^d mill shall be fitt to Cutt boards in a Twelve month from this time and that they shall saw at halves the Prop^{rs} Loggs, So much as they shall have Occasion for, for Building.

“ And those prop^{rs} that Shall have Occasion to buy boards shall be supplied with So many as they shall have occasion for at the Rate of thirty shillings per thousand del^d at the mill.

“ And if the making of a pond or ponds for s^d mill dam-nifie any of the prop^{rs}, the Town shall make good the Damage.

“ Voted, that as soon as Thirty Householders are settled there Shall be a minister of the Gospel maintained by the whole proprietary; and as soon as fifty families are Settled there shall be a meeting House for the Publick Worship of God built by the Whole Proprietary.”

This was a grant of the privilege of the “ Old ” (Has-elton’s) sawmill. Samuel Ingalls was one of the grantees, and the Haverhill people were quieted before this.

Thus early, too, was provision made for preaching, and a meeting-house.

At a meeting of the Committee, Jan^y 25, 1720-1,

“ Voted, that whereas the number of proprietors is con-[a part of this word is torn off] and no provision made for a school master, that the next proprietor that shall Forfeit his Lott the Same Shall [be] appropriated for a School.”

At a meeting of the Committee, March 15, 1720-1, “The following acco^{ts} were rec^d & allowed of. Ac^t of charges about y^e bridge the first time.” There are the names of persons and the days worked amounting to sixty-two days.

“ Acco^t of Charges about the Bridge the Second time,” eighteen days. “ The third time,” twenty-seven days, the whole amounting to £134 10s.

This was on the bridge between Sandown and Danville, which was always called “ Cheshire Bridge.”

“ Acco^t of time Searching the Country,” thirty days by five persons, £9.

“ Acc^t of Charges in Running the Line.” There were

twelve men five days each; seven hands four days each, and one man three days, — £38 16s.

“Acco^t of Charges Looking and cutting the way,* and keeping possession, &c.” There were twelve men five days each; fifteen men four days each; seven men six days each; amounting to £48 12s.

The committee had a bill for settling, from three to ten days each, £16 6s., besides collecting the assessments, &c.

Joseph Tilton charges “six days attending the Gov^r & Council.”

“Acco^t of Time laying out y^e Haverhill mens lots,”— four men six days each, £9 12s.

“Account of Charges Repairing the possession fence,”— seven men two days each, two men four days each, £6 12s.

“Acc^t of time to Give Evidence at Court,”— two men two days each, £1.

“Acc^t of time to find if any Trespas^d upon the Society,”— four men three days each, £3 12s.

“Account of what allowed the Committee appointed by the Governor to Lay out y^e Town,”— four men one pound each, £4.

Clement Hughes' charges.

To Attendance on the Govn ^t 2 days	£0 12
To do. on Courts 3 days	0 18
To P ^d Dan ^t Levit for two horses that run away from people left in the Country to keep pos- session	7 10
To drawing 2 new mapps	£10 00

and many other items.

*There was probably no kind of a road this side of Kingston Plain, and when they first came to the Chestnut country they must have come through the wilderness on horse-back, if not on foot, and therefore kept south of Exeter river, and come up on to Walnut Hill. But they afterwards looked out and cut a way over Beech Plain, and built some kind of a bridge across Exeter river, to come through the north part of Sandown.

At the June Term of the Court of Sessions, 1736, the grand jurymen from Londonderry represented that there was no highway from Kingstown to Chester. An order of notice was served on the selectmen of Kingstown, who appeared in 1737, and prayed for time.

Capt. Henry Sherburne charges.

To a book 9s. 6d.; pair of marking irons 3s. 6d.	0 13
To a mapp	10
To So much paid Mrs. Small for expenses w th y ^e Lt. Gov. &c.	1 00

and other items. The general price of labor and time is 6 shillings per day. The whole amount is stated March 30, 1723. The Dr. side is £583 4s. 7d.

The Credit :

125 proprietors 60s. each	£375 00
For forfeitures	6 16
Recovered of Jarvis Ring	2 12
Balance due from the Proprietors	198 16 7
	£583 04 7

The account current is stated again for 1724 and 1725. The Dr. side, including the above balance, £541 16s. 9d.

The Credit side consists of :

126 Propri ^{ts} 50s each 2 payment	£315
126 do 3 payment 20s.	126
126 do 4 do 10s.	63
One for the first omitted	3
	507
Balance	£34 16 ^s 9 ^d

I give these items of the accounts to show something of what these men did and paid to start the settlement of Chester.

“ At a Publick meeting of the Proprietors, held at Capt. Wingate’s at Hampton, March 16, 1720–1 :

“ Voted, mr. Eph^r Dennet moderator.

“ Voted, Clem^t Hughes Cl^r.

“ Voted, Capt. Tho^s Pierce, Clem^t Hughes, Eph. Den-
net, Capt. Jo^s Tilton, Caleb Tole, Ich. Roby and Jacob
Stanyan be a Committee to manage the affairs of the So-
ciety for y^e Year Ensuing.

“ Voted, Capt. Jo^s Tilton Receiver.

“ Voted, Cap^t. Tilton, Caleb Tole, Ich. Roby, Geo.
Pierce and Jacob Stanyan Lott Layers.

“ Voted, That y^e Lott layers lay out a Second Division
of 100 acres each Lott, and Such Highways as they see
meet.

“ Voted, That Cap^t Wingit, Deacon Shaw, & mr. Ingalls be a Committee to audit the Committee’s acco^{ts}.

“ Voted, That Each proprietor pay thirty Shillings by the first day of May next to discharge y^e Society’s debts.

“ Voted, That the four persons to whom the Stream is granted Shall give each a bond of Fifty pounds to the Committe to perform the Conditions of s^d Grant; and if any of them Refuse to do it, the Committee is Impowered to admit others.

“ Voted, That y^e Haverhill people that are proprietors make their way to the Chesnut Country passable for Carts, at their Charges, and that mr. Ingalls be Surveyor.

“ Voted, That the bridge on the Road from Kingston to the Chesnut Country be made passable for Carts, and that Jo^s Sanborn, Jun^r be Surveyor.”

“ At a meeting of the Committee Sep. 29, 1721, the following persons were admitted Proprietors, viz., Coll^o Peter Wear, Capt. Rich^d Kent, Capt. Josh. Wingate, Tho^s Dean, Sam^l Shaw, John Calf.”

.

“ Voted, That the proprietors of the upper Falls on the great Brook have the priviledge of the Lower falls also, for their Further Incouragement to build a mill according to a vote of the Society at a publick meeting held Jany. 11, 1720; And in consideration of w^{ch} additional Priviledge they are to build a Grist mill as Soon as the Town will need it.”

This grant was where Haselton’s grist-mill and pail-factory are.

“ At a meeting of the Committee Jany. 2, 1721–2,

“ Voted, Sam^l Welsh, and Jacob Moulton have forfeited their Right in the Town of Checher, they not having paid their Charges.”

“ At a meeting of the Committee Jan^y 22^d, 1721–2,

“ Present, Thos. Pierce, Eph^r Denet, Clem^t Hughes and Caleb Tole.

“ Sundry of the Proprietors having complained to the Committee That it was Detrimental to the Town That the second Division was not Laid, nor the first yet perfected, and having also Desired That a meeting of the Prop^{rs} might be warned to consult the Affairs of the Town: —

“ Voted, That Notifications be Sett up accordingly.

“ Voted, That His Excellency’s Farm of 500 acres be Laid out as near the Center as may be without Discommoding the home Lotts.”

“ THE NOTIFICATION, VIZ :

These are to Notifie all Concerned That a Gen^l meeting of the Propriet^{rs} of the Town of Checher is appointed to be held at the House of mr. Nicholas Perryman in Exeter on Monday the Fifth day of Feb^{ry} next, at ten of the clock in y^e morning, to Choose lot layers to Lay out the Second Division, the lot Layers chosen at the last meeting having neglected to do it, and Further to Consult and do what may be Thought Needful for the Town Service.

Jan^y 22^d, 1721-2.

Rich^d Webard, }
Tho^s Packer, } Just. Pe.

Tho^s Pierce,
Eph^r Dennet,
Clement Hughes,
Caleb Tole.”

“ At a Publick meeting of the Propriet^{rs} of the Town of Checher held at Exeter, Feb. 5, 1721-2,

“ Voted, Coll^o Tho^s. Packer Moderator.

“ Voted, That the Second Division be two hundred acres instead of 100 before voted.

“ Voted, Sam^l Ingalls, Clem^t Hughes, and Caleb Tole Lott layers, to Lay out the same.

“ Voted, That the Lott layers go on the same as Soone as possibly they can, and as soon as they have accomplished it and make a Return thereof to the Committee, That the Committee Notifie the Prop^{rs} to meet to draw their Lotts ; And whereas there is a former vote that there should be a meeting annually on the Third Wednesday of March, and it not being probable that the Said lotts can be laid out before that time, That the meeting be Defered till the first Monday in may next Except the Committee See Cause to call the meeting Sooner.”

THE ROYAL CHARTER.

PROVINCE
SEAL.

GEORGE by the Grace of God of Great Britain,
France and Ireland, King, Defend^r of the
Faith, &c. :

To all People to whom these p^rsents Shall come, Greeting.
Know y^e That we of our Especial Knowledge and meer
motion, for the due encouragement of Settling a new plan-
tation, by and with the advice of our Council, have given
and granted and by these p^rsents as farr as in us lies do
give and Grant, in Equall Shares unto Sundry of our beloved
Subjects, whose names are Entred in a Schedule hereunto
annexed, That Inhabit or Shall Inhabit within the said
Grant within our Province of New Hamp^s, all That Tract
of Land within the following bounds: (Viz) to begin at
Exeter Southerly Corner bounds and from thence run upon a
West and by North point two miles along Kingston north-
erly Line to Kingston North Corner bounds, then upon a
South point three miles along Kingston head Line to Kings-
ton South Corner bounds, then upon a West North West
point Ten miles into the country, Then to begin again at
the aforesaid Exeter Southwardly Corner bounds and run
seven miles upon Exeter head Line upon a North East
point half a point more Northerly, Then fourteen miles
into the Country upon a west North west point to the
river Merrimack, and from thence upon a Straight Line
to the End of the afores^d Ten Mile line; and That the
same be a Town Corporated by the name of Chester to the
persons afores^d, for ever To have and to hold the said Land,
to the Grantees and their Heirs and assigns forever, and to
Such associates as they Shall admit upon the Following
Conditions:

1. That Every proprietor build a Dwelling House within
Three years and Settle a Familley Therein, breack up Three
acres of Ground and plant or Sow y^e same within four
years, and pay his proportion of the Town Charge when
and so often as Occasion shall require the same.

2. That a meeting House be built for the Public worship
of God within the said Term of four years.

3. That upon default of any particular Proprietor in Com-
plying with the Conditions of this Charter upon his part,
Such Delinquent proprietor Shall forfeit his Share to the
other Proprietors, which Shall be Disposed according to y^e
major vote of the Said Comoners at a Legall meeting.

4^{thly}. That a Proprietor's Share be reserved for a Parsonage; another for the first minister of the Gospel, another for the Benefit of a School.

PROVIDED nevertheless that the Peace with the Indians Continue during the aforesaid Term of Three years; but if it should so happen That a warr with the Indians Should commence before the Expiration of the afores^d Term of Three years, the aforesaid Term of three years Shall be allowed to the Proprietors after the Expiration of the warr for the performance of the aforesaid Conditions, Rendering and paying therefor to us, our Heirs and Successors, or Such other officer or officers as shall be appointed to receive the same, The annual quit rent of acknowledg-
em^t of one pound of Good merch^{ble} Hemp in the said Town on the Twentieth of December yearly forever; re-
serving also unto us, our Heirs and Successors, all mast
Trees growing on said Land — according to acts of Parlia-
ment in that behalf made and provided. and for the bet-
ter order, Rule and Government of the said Town we do by
these p^rsents Grant for us, our Heirs and Successors, unto
the said men & Inhabitants, or those that shall Inhabit the
Said Town, That yearly & every year upon the last Thurs-
day in march forever, they shall meet to Elect and Chuse
by the major part of them Constables, Selectmen and all
other Town officers, according to the Laws and usage of our
afores^d Province, for the year ensuing, with Such Power,
priviledges and authority as other Town officers within our
aforesaid Province have and Enjoy.

In Wittness whereof we have Caused the seal of our
Said Province to be hereunto annexed. Wittness, Sam^l
Shute, Esq^r, our Governour & Command^r in Chief of our
Said Province, at our Town of Portsmouth the 8th day of
may in the Eighth year of our reign, annoq. Domini 1722.

By His Excellency's Comand
wth advice of the Council.

Sam^l Shute.

R. Waldron, Cler. Con.

A SCHEDULE OF THE PROPRIETORS' NAMES, OF THE TOWN OF
CHESTER.

Cap ^t Henry Sherburne,	Jethro Tilton,
Benj ^a Gambling Esq ^r ,	Amos Cass,
Tho ^s Phipps Esq ^r ,	James Perkins,
Cap ^t Josh ^a Pierce,	Susan ^a Small,

Coll ^o Peter Wear,	Will ^m Hally,
Rev ^d Nath ^l Rogers,	Zach ^s Clifford,
Clem ^t Hughes,	Enoch Sanborn,
Cap ^t Tho ^s Pierce,	Josiah Bachelder,
Cap ^t Jos Sherburne,	Sam ^l Prescott,
Cap ^t Arch ^d Macphedris,	Nath ^l Bachelder, Jun ^r ,
Eph ^m Dennet,	Benoni Fogg,
Benning Wentworth,	Rich ^d Clifford,
Cap ^t Eben ^r Wentworth,	James Fogg,
Cap ^t Rich ^d Kent,	Eben ^r Easman,
George Pierce,	Eben ^r Loverell,
Eleaz ^r Russell,	Rob ^t Row,
Ichabod Roby,	Philip Tele,
Rev ^d Tho ^s Simms,	Edw ^d Sanborn,
Sam ^l Shackford,	Henry Works,
Jn ^o Shackford,	Jery Sanborn,
Will ^m White,	Caleb Tole,
Sam ^l Ingalls,	Jon ^a Plummer,
Mich ^l Whidden,	Benj ^a Tole,
Will ^m Rymes,	Benj ^a Smith,
Will ^m Godfry,	Cap ^t Jon ^a Sanburn,
Eben ^r Dearbon,	Moses Blacke,
John Cram,	Jacob Basford,
John Present, Jun ^r ,	Jacob Garland, Sen ^r ,
Abram Browne,	Jon ^a Brown,
John Present, Sen ^r ,	Philemon Blake,
Joseph Bachelder,	Stephen Sweat,
John Packer,	Jn ^o Sanburn,
John Silly,	Sam ^l Marston, Jun ^r ,
Tho ^s Levit,	Nath ^l Drake,
Sam ^l Page,	Henry Sloper,
Nath ^l Sanborn,	Tho ^s Smith,
James Present,	Will ^m Crosswait,
Nath ^l Bachelder, Sen ^r ,	James Boid,
David Tilton,	Joseph Young,
Jon ^a Emerson,	Clem ^t Mesharvy,
Elijah Smith,	Luther Morgan,
Sam ^l Smith,	Rich ^d Hasleton,
Jon ^a Dearborn,	Jacob Gilman,
Abram Drake,	Sam ^l Sherburne,
Cap ^t Joshua Winget,	Edw ^d Gilman,
Sam ^l Blacke,	Tho ^s Dean,
Jos Sanburne,	Sam ^l Shaw,
Ruben Sanburne,	John Calf,
George Brownell,	Jon ^a Clough,

Benj ^a Sanburne,	Rob ^t Ford,	
Maj ^r Jn ^o Gillman,	Jn ^o Jaquish,	
Sam ^{ll} Thompson,	Will ^m Daniel,	
Stephen Webster,	Steph ⁿ Johnson,	
Edward Emerson,	Nath ^{ll} Webster,	
Tho ^s Silver,	Rich ^d Jaquish,	
Tho ^s Whiting,	James Fales,	
Jn ^o Littlehale,	Jn ^o Cutt &	} one prop ^{trs} share.
Eph ^m Guile,	Benj ^a Ackerman,	
Jon ^a Kimball,		

Province N. Hamp^e, May 10th, 1722.

His Excellency the Govern^r and the Hon^{ble} Lieut. Govern^r
and Council Entered associate with the within persons,
(viz) —

His Excellency a Farm of five Hundred acres and a
home Lott.

The Lieu^t Govern^r the same.

Sam ^{ll} Penhallow, Esq ^r ,	a proprietor's Share,
Mark Hunking, Esq ^r ,	ditto,
George Jaffrey, Esq ^r ,	ditto,
Shad ^a Walton, Esq ^r ,	ditto,
Rich ^d Wibird, Esq ^r ,	ditto,
Tho ^s Packer, Esq ^r ,	ditto,
Tho ^s Westbrook, Esq ^r ,	ditto.

A True Copy of Chester Charter and the Schedule
annexed to it.

Compared P^r Rich^d Waldron, Cler. Con.

CHAPTER II.

THE FIRST SETTLEMENT AND LAYING OUT OF THE LOTS.

THE FIRST SETTLEMENT.

THE grantees of Londonderry were actual settlers; but the grantees of Chester were not residents, and very few of them ever did reside in Chester. Most of them were residents of Portsmouth and Hampton, but several dwelt in Haverhill, Bradford, Newbury and other places. Among them were merchants, farmers, mechanics and clergymen. However patriotic and desirous to develop the resources of the country they may have been, the idea of making money by the enterprise entered largely into their plans. As has been seen, they spent a great deal of time and money. Many grew tired and refused to pay more, and forfeited their rights, both before and after the charter, and others took their places. At nearly every meeting, while the affairs of the town were managed by the Proprietors, there was a vote passed and a committee chosen to enforce payment of the assessments due. The "Rights" were thrown on the market like railroad shares of the present day, and in order to show something of their value, I insert a few of the sales, with the consideration named in the deeds:

John Calfe sold his right, in 1725, for fifty pounds.

Ephraim Dennet deeded H. L. 143, in consideration of settlement, building a house and breaking up three acres of land.

John Karr sold H. L. 13 and half of the right of Henry Sherburne, to Alexander Craige, 1725, for thirty-four pounds current money.

Edmond Tappan sold to Joseph Dearborn half of Nath. Drake's right, in 1727, for sixty pounds money.

Thomas Symmes sold to Richard Haselton his father's right, for one hundred pounds bills of credit.

Richard Kent sold to John Tyler his right, in 1727, for one hundred pounds good money.

John Wentworth sold to Moses Hale his home lot, extending from the meeting-house to Shackford's Corner, for thirty pounds, in 1730.

Moses Hale to Ebenezer Flagg, two home lots and a house, for two hundred pounds, in 1736.

Lovewell's war (as it was called) with the Indians commenced about the time the charter of Chester was obtained, which no doubt retarded the settlement. There does not seem to have been any great accession to the population before 1727 and 1728. The settlement at Londonderry was commenced in 1719, by the Scotch Irish, as they were called (Scotch people who had emigrated to the North of Ireland). Others came over, and some stopped awhile in the older towns,—Alexander Craige in Chebacco, the Wilsons in Stratham, Tolford in Bradford, &c. Others came to Londonderry first, and then came to Chester. Here were two races, and a considerable prejudice existed between them, though I think not nearly as much as is represented by the writer of the New Hampshire Churches. They were of two denominations, but both united in the settlement of Rev. Mr. Hale, though after he left the Presbyterians settled a minister of their own, and refused to pay taxes for the support of Mr. Flagg, which would, no doubt, produce ill feeling. Then they had different modes of living. The Irish ate potatoes and the English did not; the Irish churned their milk and drank buttermilk and the English did not; the Irish put barley into their pot-liquor and made barley broth, the English put in beans and had bean porridge. It is true that intermarriages were considered improper. As late as 1762, when Benjamin Melvin married Mehitable Bradley, it was considered an improper connection. But, after all, I have seen no evidence to

show that they as neighbors, did not live quietly and peaceably together, or that there was any difference made in the election of officers.

The question, *when* the settlement commenced and *who* were the first settlers, is difficult to answer. We have seen that Samuel Ingalls is said, in a deed, to have been of "Cheshire" in October, 1717. He was a Haverhill man, and would, naturally, belong to the Haverhill people, whom the Society were opposing. Mr. Ingalls is said in a deed to be of Haverhill in 1719. In March, 1721-2, Samuel Ingalls, of Winfield, otherwise Cheshire, conveys to the Rev. Mr. Phillips the right of Stephen Webster, reserving the home lot No. 64, which "he lives on," so that he had made a permanent settlement previous to that, and was probably the first settler. There is a list of the proprietors who were allowed "Settlery for y^e first year," containing twenty-four names, but I think only two of them were actual settlers—Samuel Ingalls and Thomas Smith—and Smith might not then have resided in town. The proprietors had voted, January 11, 1721, "That each Prop^r that does not settle shall pay ten Shillings per year during three years, the whole to be Divided yearly among those that settles." The proprietors would build a house and break up a piece of ground, and would be entitled to the money. This settlement money, amounting to twelve pounds, is charged by the receiver or treasurer as having been paid to Samuel Ingalls in 1723. There is another list, "For y^e 2^d & Third year," of eighteen, all but Ingalls and Smith non-residents. But this account has no date. The town officers were chosen and all business done by the proprietors, so that it is somewhat difficult to determine which of the officers were residents and which were not, in some cases. Ichabod Robie was a proprietor and held several offices, which would indicate a residence; but probably he never lived in town.

The following is a list of those who were allowed ten shillings for settlement in 1723, "For the first year," with the numbers of their lots and the name of later owners; they erected a log house and cleared a piece of land:

Clement Meshervey, No. 31; Ephraim Elliot bought of Ezekiel Worthen of Kensington, 1747.

Amos Cass, No. 100; sold to John Calf, 1724; and afterwards owned by John Stockman, and by Benjamin Severance in 1751.

George Pierce, No. 121; sold to Dea. Ebenezer Dearborn of Hampton, Oct. 3, 1729.

Col. Wear, No. 124; Sampson Underhill, 1730, and John Shirley, 1731.

Col. Packer, No. 30; Robert Runnels previous to 1733; Ben. Brown, W. M. Richardson, have owned since.

Capt. Thos. Pierce, No. 131; Ebenezer Dearborn, Jr., 1731.

John Sanborn, No. 120; John Smith, and he deeded it to his sons Paul and Sylvanus in 1751.

Zach. Clifford, No. 53; Anthony Towle; now Samuel Kendal.

Thomas Smith, No. 109; James Basford, Moses Hills, Jacob Hills; now Calvin Hills.

Thomas Smith lived on No. 150.

Benjamin Smith received settlement money on 111.

Caleb Towle on 55; Francis Towle, his son, lived on it.

Jona. Kimball, 63; Samuel Ingalls.

Samuel Ingalls, 70; Dea. William Tolford lived on it.

Ephraim Gile, 61; Thomas Wells; now Wm. Tenney.

Robert Ford, 149.

William White, 74; Thomas Haseltine; now Z. Shirley.

Thomas Dean, 19.

James Perkins, 59; Henry Hall lived on it.

I now insert the names of some of the early settlers, and when their names are found on any record, to make it nearly certain that they resided in Chester:

Samuel Ingalls is named in a deed, March, 1722, though said to be of Haverhill.

Thomas Smith received settlement money, 1723, was a committee to run Londonderry line in December, 1722, and was constable, 1724.

John Tolford, of Bradford, bought of John Packer, H. L. 66, on which he settled May 25, 1724; was constable 1730.

James Whiting was lot-layer in 1725, had a child born in in Haverhill in 1724, and one born in Chester in 1726, and was constable in 1726.

John Karr of Chester sold to Alexander Craige of Chebacco H. L. 113, in 1725, and divided lots with Caleb Towle in 1727.

Jonathan Goodhue had deeds in 1727.

William Powel, constable in 1727.

Jacob Sargent, surveyor of highways, 1727.

Eldad Ingalls, town clerk and treasurer, 1728. He sold to Thomas Wells, 1729.

William Healey settled on his H. L. in 1728; child born in Chester, 1729.

William Wilson was in Stratham, 1727; was fence-viewer in 1728.

James Wilson was in Stratham in 1727; had a deed in 1728, was tythingman in 1729.

Robert Wilson of Stratham had a deed of Geo. Jaffrey in 1725; was in Chester in 1729.

John Smith is mentioned in the return of Gov. Wentworth's farm of 200 acres in 1728. He was the first settler at the Long Meadows, on Brownel's additional lot No. 51.

Ephraim Haseltine, lot-layer, 1728; constable, 1729.

Nathan Webster, selectman, 1729.

Benaniah Colby, fence-viewer, 1729.

Isaac Foss of Greenland, deed, 1729; surveyor in 1731.

Sylvanus Smith, committee to prosecute trespassers, 1729.

Thomas Glen, deed, 1729, fence-viewer, 1730.

Benjamin Sanborn gave to his son-in-law, Enoch Colby, half his right with the house in 1723. He was assessor in 1730; child born Jan., 1730.

Thomas Wells of Amesbury, deed, 1729; surveyor, 1731.

Titus Wells, fence-viewer, and child born, 1730.

Ebenezer Dearborn of Hampton, deed, 1729; selectman, 1730.

Israel Huss, field-driver, 1730.

Page Bachelder, deed, 1730.

James Basford, deed, 1730.

Lemuel Clifford of Chester, tanner, deed, 1730.

John Shirley, deed, 1730; surveyor, 1733.

Jonathan Blunt had a sawmill, 1730; constable, 1731.

John Boid, highway across his lot, 1730.

John Aiken, highway and mill grant, 1730.

William Crawford, deed, 1730; tythingman, 1734.

Samuel Emerson, selectman, 1731.

Sampson Underhill sold his farm in Salisbury, April 1, 1730, probably came to Chester in 1730.

John Ambrose, deed, 1731.

Henry Ambrose, deed, 1731; field-driver, 1733.

Nathl. Ambrose, road across his land, 1733.

Robert Graham, deed of No. 128 in 1733.

Who were the early surveyors in laying out the lots is uncertain. Clement Hughes charges for "drawing a plat for the society," "To drawing a Second plat," "To drawing two new Mapps." He might have been a practical surveyor.

Ichabod Robie was a lot-layer to lay out the north division, and was voted fifteen shillings per day while the others had but ten shillings. In his account in 1723, he has credit for seventeen days lot-laying, and five days running the line, which may indicate that he was a surveyor.

Samuel Emerson, Esq., was probably surveyor in laying out the 2^d P. 2^d D., and all subsequent divisions, and it was said that his memory was so tenacious that he was seldom at a loss to find any bound or tell where it stood if lost.

Their surveys were inaccurate. There is no certainty that they ever surveyed the side lines of the lots, but probably run through on one side of the range-ways and marked bounds on both sides. The manner of measuring may be inferred from the complaint against the Londonderry committee, that they would not allow eleven chains for ten.

On the old plans of the Old Hundreds (Raymond) the lines next to Chester and Candia are both straight; whereas both are really very crooked. The same is true of the

third division. There were probably rough plans made of all the divisions at the time, which accompanied the proprietors' records.

At a Proprietors' meeting, Jan. 6, 1747, it was "Voted, That the Proprietors Shall Pay for Riting a Return and Drawing a Plan of the fourth Division Lotts."

Hon. S. D. Bell says, in the index which he prepared for the two volumes of the Proprietors' Records, that the plan there inserted, of the home and additional lots, was made from a copy which he made from the original plan in the first volume. I recollect the plan perfectly well in 1819 and 1820. That plan is now lost; but it was far from being accurate.

The corner of the additional No. 101, lying on Sandown line, is, according to that plan, the corner of Sandown; whereas the record of the lot says that it is about thirty-two rods west of it, and it *is* thirty-one rods and a half. The range-way (the road passing Benaiah Spofford's), on the plan, is four lots of about thirty rods each above the corner of Sandown; whereas it is actually but one lot.

In that plan three home lots, Nos. 41, 42 and 106, have a corner cut off by Sandown line; whereas, according to the record, and as a matter of fact, the additional lot No. 131, at the north end, is thirty-two rods wide between the home lots and Sandown line. The additional lot No. 132, according to the plan, is some forty rods from the home lots, but the records bound it on the home lot. And Three Camp Meadow is not correctly represented on the plan.

I have seen several plans of the Old Hundreds (and have one in my possession), apparently ancient copies, and similar, drawn on a scale of eighty rods to an inch. I think there are some old copies of the third division.

When I was first acquainted with the records in 1819 and 1820, I think there were vestiges of plans of some of the other divisions. This was earlier than Judge Bell's copies. But I copied from the plans of Stephen Chase, Esq., the same that Judge Bell copied from into the Index; and as he commenced surveying about 1785, I supposed

that he might have originally copied from the old plans, though the plans I then copied from were comparatively recent, made, I think, in 1810, by his son Stephen Chase, Jr. Esquire Chase made a plan of all the lots in town much earlier than that, which I think is yet extant.

An act was passed December 30, 1803, requiring the several towns in the State to cause surveys to be made and plans to be sent to the Secretary's office for a State map. The map was contracted for by Philip Carrigain, and was called "Carrigain's map." Stephen Chase, Esq., made the survey and plan of Chester, Joseph Shepard, Esq., of Raymond, Richard Emerson, Esq., of Candia, and David Patten, Esq., of Derryfield. There are great discrepancies in their measures and some in the bearings of their lines. Patten makes the line of Derryfield, from No. 134 across the pond, 80 rods longer than Chase does. Shepard makes Raymond line 62 rods shorter than Chase. Shepard's plan had been returned and a letter was endorsed on the back, saying that he at first drew partly from other men's surveys, but he had now surveyed for himself and he knew that he was correct. In making a preliminary plan for the map I followed Shepard, as he was so positive; and Raymond was too short, and crowded the lots out of place, so I am confident that Chase was nearer right than Shepard. Massabesic Pond agrees, essentially, with a more recent survey.

In making the plan, the outlines were drawn as near as I could from these surveys. I then made an examination of Candia lines, in respect to the lines of the lots, and made extensive examinations and some surveys in respect to roads, etc., and have availed myself of my own surveys and those of Stephen Chase, Esq., to make corrections, but mathematical accuracy is not claimed. It has been a very perplexing job to construct the map, for many times when an alteration was made to correct one place it injured one or two more.

It is, after all, what the lawyers would call a "chalk," but it gives a good general idea of the situation of the lots, of the roads and the early settlers.

THE LAYING OUT OF THE LOTS.

We have seen that the Home Lots, of twenty acres each, were laid out in the fall of 1719, before, so far as I have seen, that they had obtained any grant of the land. They laid out small lots, so as to live compact and be safer from the Indians. The settlement seems to have commenced at Walnut Hill and Hall's Village, and the first burying-ground was near "Three Camp meadow." But it seems that they had an idea that the "town," the "centre," was to be at its present location, and it was laid out on rather a magnificent scale, for in laying the lots they reserved a ten-rod way northwest and southwest one mile, and northeast half a mile to Shackford's, and southeast as far as the lots extended, to near where G. W. Everett now lives.

In laying out the road from Sandown by Asa Wilson's, July 5, 1731, the selectmen allowed "Every one of these men to take up six Rods of the ten Rod Highway that Lyeth at the southend of their home Lotts." The lots were laid out in squares, and reserves left for roads, many of them traveled a long time before there was any formal, legal laying out. What induced them to make the offsets in their squares of lots and reserves is incomprehensible to me. The idea of Haverhill line running northwest gave that direction to the lots. The home lots, when laid out in 1719, were not recorded in the book, if any record was kept. There was afterwards a committee chosen to renew the bounds of the several lots when called upon by the owners. Only a portion of them were re-surveyed, and those returns were made by the committee on separate sheets of paper, and were not recorded until December 1, 1794, when Capt. John Emerson and Stephen Chase, Esq., were chosen a committee "to record, in regular order, in the Proprietors' book all the Home lots they can find on old records, and other matters that appear to concern the Proprietors." They did it, and most of the home lots are dated about 1740.

At a meeting of the proprietors held March 16, 1720-21,

“Voted, That y^e Lott layers lay out a Second Division of 100 acres each Lott, and such Highways as they See meet.”

These lots were never laid out.

At a meeting of the proprietors of the town of “Checher,” held February 5, 1721-2,

“Voted, That the Second Division be two hundred acres instead of 100 before voted.”

This was not laid out at that time.

THE ADDITIONAL LOTS OF FIFTY ACRES.

At a general meeting of the proprietors of Chester, held the 28th day of March, 1723 (the first under the charter),

“Voted, That the Comons be laid out in fifty Acre lotts for an Addition to the home lotts; and what is wanting to accomodate all the home lotts, to have as many of the 200 acre lotts divided into 50 acre lotts as will Compleat it.”

These additional lots were laid out nearly all around the home lots, extending from Sandown and Derry to near the Long meadow, and it was voted that “The Proprietors draw for their addition on the same Quarter of their home lott Lyes.” They were laid out in 1724.

THE OLD HUNDREDS OR NORTH DIVISION.

This division includes the town of Raymond. “At a meeting of y^e prop^{rs} of the town of Chester, held at the house of Sam^l Ingalls, 10th of June, 1728,

“Voted, That there Shall be a Division of Land Lay^d out, Containing 100 acres to Each originall prop^r which is halfe y^e Second Division which was formerly Voted to be 200 acres. It is to be understood that this Division of land Shall be laid out in parish order, viz, beginning on Exeter head line where Nottingham line Divides between them &

us, & so Extending five Miles upon Each line or so farr as to Make up Every full prop^r 100 acres to his Share.”

“ Voted, m ^r Ichabod Roby m ^r Nath. Heley m ^r Jacob Gilman m ^r Eben ^r Derbern m ^r Ephraim Heselton	}	to be a Committee to lay out y ^e 100 acre lotts.”
--	---	--

“ Nov. 27th, 1728. The wages of the committee set,— Ichabod Robie 15 Shillings, the rest 10 Shillings per day.”

The report of the committee was accepted Nov. 19, 1729.

Before these lots, called the Old Hundreds or North Division, were laid out, there was a mill built at Freetown, and a road made from there to Exeter line. Some of the lots were bounded on the mill pond, others on the “ Easterly side of y^e highway y^t leads to the afores^d mill pond.” There was one tract of about forty acres where the mill stood, and another of about sixty acres between the 66th and mill pond, not lotted. There were a great many votes passed, and committees raised, about these tracts, and something was sold to James Wilson and Robert Wilson, and the residue was finally sold at auction, Sept. 6, 1774, to Capt. John Underhill for eleven dollars; he to have no claim on the proprietors if he did not recover any thing. The lots appear more regular on the old plans than they lay in reality. The lots in the twelfth range, the one bordering on Chester, were not bounded at the south end, and were supposed by the early purchasers to extend south to the reserve where the road now is, and they settled there. The proprietors called them to account, and in 1773, the owners employed Nathan Lane to survey these lots, who decided that the lots extended only to where Raymond line now is, forty-three rods north of the road. In June, 1773, the proprietors chose a committee to prosecute the owners of these lots unless they would settle, and the first of October, 1773, they voted to John Lane the land against Nos. 126 and 128 for twenty-four shillings; to Joshua Hall, against No. 129 for twelve shillings; to John Lane, Jr.,

against No. 130 for twelve shillings; to Abigail Smith, against No. 127 for twelve shillings; to the owners of 123, 125, 127, 131 and 132, twelve shillings each.

THE MEADOWS.

Cheshire abounded in beavers that built dams across the various streams, which, by flowing killed the growth, if there was any before there were beavers; and when the hunters killed the beavers, the dams went down and the land came into grass, which was of great use to the early settlers. Beaver ponds and beaver dams are frequently mentioned in the records.

At a meeting of the proprietors held Feb. 5, 1721-2,

“Voted, That the Lott Layers survey the principal meadows and Reserve them out of the Second Division for the Publick use untill the Prop^{rs} See Cause to Divide 'em.”

April, 1727, it was

“Voted, That The Inhabitants, and those That are coming to Settle, divide y^e Cutting of y^e meadows in Equal Proportion among Themselves for y^e Year Ensuing; and that none Cutt any before the Last day of July on the penalty of 20s. to be paid by each person for Every day y^t he or they shall offend, to be paid to the Selectmen for y^e use of the Poor of the Town.”

March, 28, 1728, it was

“Voted, That there shall be a Division of Meadow to Every Right according as it will hold out in quantity & quality, according to y^e goodness or badness of y^e Meadow, to make every man's share as Equal as can be.”

The meadows were in all parts of the town from Three Camp meadow to the White Hall mill and Derryfield. The most prominent one commenced just below the Congregational church in Auburn, and united with the north branch just back of the burying-ground, and extended to Londonderry line, and was the “Long Meadow”; hence that part of the town was called until recently the “LONG MEADOWS.”

SECOND PART OF THE SECOND DIVISION.

At an adjourned meeting held December 11, 1735, it was

“Voted, That there shall be a Division of Land of one hundred acres Laid out to Each full Proprietor’s Share for Quantity and Quality, beginning at Kingston Line and so filling up the Vaquency between the additional Lotts and the north division Hundred acre Lotts, so Extending Round the additional Lotts, which is one half, and to Compleat the second division formerly voted to be two hundred acres.

“Voted, Cap^t Sam^l Ingalls, Insin Jacob Sargent, Ephraim Haseltine, Sam^l Emerson, and James Campbell, be the Committee to Lay out the same.”

This division was laid out in 1736, and fills the space between the additions and Old Hundreds, and extends into Candia and Auburn to the neck of the pond.

THE THIRD DIVISION.

At a meeting held Jan. 17, 1738-9,

“It was put to vote whether to Lay out another division or divisions of Land. Past in the negative.”

At an adjournment of this meeting May 16, 1739,

“Voted, That the Vote Relating to Laying out another Division or Divisions of Land, that was Passed in the negative, shall be Reconsidered.”

And it was

“Voted, That there shall be a third division of Land Laid out for Each full Proprietor’s Share, Containing Eighty acres; bounding the same Easterly on the old Hundred acres Called the north division, Northerly on Nottingham Line, and Southerly on the Second part of the second division, so Extending Westerly to Compleat the same; the Committee having Power if they meet with mean Land to give reasonable allowance, and if they meet with Exceeding mean land to leave it undivided.

“Voted, That Lt. Ebenezer Dearborn, Insin Jacob Sargent and Mr. James Campbell to be the Committee to Lay out the s^d third Division of Land.

“Voted, That Sam^l Emerson be Sirvaior to assist to Lay out the s^d third Division of Land; but if by Sickness or

otherwise he be disabled, the Committee to Provide sum other Sirvaio as to them shall appear needful; and for Each Lott shall be Paid fourteen Shillings before the Lotts be drawn, by the Proprietors Respectively."

This division lies in Candia and the lots are more regular on the old plans than they are in reality, though it is presumed the committee did not meet with any *exceedingly* mean, or even *mean* land.

What was the inducement to lay out the upper end of the first range at such an angle, I cannot explain. The upper lot, instead of N. 29° E., is with the present variation of compass, N. 68° E. This division lay entirely in Candia.

THE FOURTH DIVISION.

At a meeting March 27, 1745,

"Voted, That Capt. John Tolford, Lieut. Thomas Wells & Capt. Sam^l Ingalls be a Committee to lay out another Division Containing 60 Acres to each full Proprietor's share; considering the Quality, If it don't exceed 120 acres to a Lott.

"Voted, That the Afores^d Committee for Laying out each Lott shall have three shillings Lawful money to be paid to them by the Proprietors.

"Voted, That the afores^d Committee shall lay out the afores^d Division of land & make return to the Proprietors by the first day of Decemb^r next."

The return is dated 1746.

The Fourth Division lay partly in Auburn, but mostly in Manchester and Hooksett.

FIFTH DIVISION.

At a meeting held December 28, 1749,

"Voted, That the Remainder of the Common Lands in this town Shall be Divided and Laid out and Called the fifth Division.

"Voted, That Messrs. William Crafford, Anthony Towl and John Tolford shall be the Committee to lay out the fifth Division of Lands agreeable to the foregoing Vote, and

to Lay it out for Quantity and Quality as near as they Can, So that Every Proprietor may have their equal Proportion as near as may be, and as soon as may be.”

The return is dated 1752.

The Fifth Division lay between the Fourth Division and Allenstown line in Hooksett.

SIXTH DIVISION.

The vote for laying out the Sixth Division was passed Nov. 9, 1772. The lots were called ten acres each. The committee were John Tolford, John Underhill and William Crafford, who made their return June 7, 1774. This Division was made up of tracts of undivided land, and of supernumerary lots in the other divisions in all parts of the town.

THE GOVERNOR AND LIEUT. GOVERNOR'S FARMS.

It has been seen that the committee for managing the prudential affairs of the proprietors of the Chestnut Country, April 25, 1720, voted a home lot and a farm of five hundred acres to the Governor and the same to the Lieut. Governor. This was also a condition of the Charter.

Gov. Shute's home lot lay on the southeast side of the Derry road, southwest from the meeting-house. His farm was bounded on the southwest by Pennacook path, sixty-four rods, extending from the farm of Jacob Chase southeast by east, and extending back nearly two miles. To whom it was originally sold I have not learned. There is recorded in the Rockingham Records, Book 21, page 443, an indenture dated 1735, in which Samuel Shute, of the Parish of St. James, Westminster, England, gives to his nephew, John Yeomans, of the same place, all his lands in Chester, Nottingham, Rochester, Bow, Barnstead and elsewhere. It is made in two parts and certified by the Lord Mayor of London, and the great seal affixed.

A power of attorney was made by Yeomans to William Shirley, Richard Waldron, John Boydel, Samuel Ingalls, Ephraim Haselton, Samuel Emerson, Hugh Montgomery

and John Morrison, to enter and take possession in his name. Dated April 21, 1736; July 1, 1736, proved in the Inferior Court of Boston; June 18, 1736, John McMurphy, John Calf, John Boydel, Samuel Ingalls and Ephraim Haselton entered and took formal possession.

Yeomans brought an action of ejectment against Elizabeth Underhill (Sampson's widow), in September, 1738, who appeared and entered a disclaimer.

Gov. Wentworth's home lot lay from the meeting-house to Shackford's Corner, and was sold by him to Rev. Moses Hale, May, 1730. Mr. Hale sold to Rev. Ebenezer Flagg two home lots, September 22, 1736. The corner was about eight rods north of the meeting-house. Jabez French bought five rods of the ten-rod way, and James Varnum five rods against his lot.

Gov. Wentworth's farm was laid out in 1728 in three tracts. Two hundred and fifty acres, nearly the square on the southwest side of the road southeast of the Congregational church in Auburn, sold to Andrew and Alexander Craig; two hundred acres in the south part of Auburn settled by Nathaniel Linn; fifty acres sold to John Moore on Sandown line.

There were a great many tracts laid out as amendments of lots and compensation for highways. Many tracts were sold to pay debts. One hundred and fifty acres lying on Oswego brook, from Clark's mill to the Oswego mill, extending back northeast, were sold to the Rev. Moses Hale, to pay arrears of his salary. Land was sold to the Cochrans to pay arrears for building the meeting-house, and a gratuity for their loss in building it. A large tract was sold Robert Boyes, Esq., on which is the Head tavern in Hooksett.

Joseph Brown, Samuel Gault, a Knox and Andrew Octterson settled at the upper end of the town on land not lotted, and claimed by the proprietors, and long lawsuits were carried on, commenced in 1749, some of which were carried before the Governor and Council as a court of appeal, but were finally settled by the individuals purchasing

and quieting their titles. June 19, 1753 it was "Voted, that an agreement be made with Messrs. Gallt, Knox, Brown and their associates that the proprietors have Sued, of the northwest part of the town, they paying the Proprietors of Chester Sixty pounds old tenor in part pay of our Charges, and Sink their own charges and pay twenty Shillings per acre for their Land they are Sued for, that they have Deeds of, according as what they were laid out for in Quality by them." They probably settled under title from Suncook, which was granted by the General Assembly of Massachusetts, as Tyngstown, was granted. The deeds were dated 1754. The proprietors kept during nearly the whole time of their corporate existence equivalent to a standing committee to prosecute trespassers, and held hardly a meeting without passing a strong vote on the subject. When the Rev. Mr. Flagg was settled the proprietors gave him, by way of settlement, two hundred acres, lots No. 20 and 21 in the second part of the second division. The Presbyterians dissented, and in return a large tract was given to Rev. John Wilson:

"That piece of Common Land about the west meadows, bounding southerly on Londonderry line and Easterly and Northerly on Cochran's land and on Governor Wentworth's farm of two hundred acres, northerly on the Highway by the side of the 39th lott and westerly on the 88th and 92^d hundred acre lotts, which Land was set apart for the use of those who dissented against giving away Land. At their, the dissenters request, it is voted and given to the Rev. mr. John Wilson their minister."