

PELHAM.

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY. The surface of this town is moderately uneven, but the uplands are excellent for grazing and for the raising of fruit. But two towns in the county exceed it in the value of its fruit productions. Over 6,000 barrels of cider were made in town, in the fall of 1872.

Lowell and Lawrence furnish the farmers a convenient market for their surplus productions. About sixty cans of milk are daily carried to Lowell, and thirty to Lawrence, the year round. In the eastern part of the town are valuable quarries of granite. About twenty stone workmen are constantly employed at these quarries.

Streams and Ponds. Beaver-River is the principal stream, and together with its tributaries furnishes some good water power. Gumpas, White's, and Island Ponds are the principal bodies of water.

Employments. The inhabitants are principally devoted to agriculture. Every hundred acres of improved land in town yields the farmer, on an average, \$1,300 annually. This includes pasturage, tillage, &c. The lumber business is valuable, over 1,100,000 feet of lumber, of all kinds, are annually sawed. A frocking manufactory annually produces \$35,000 worth of frocking. Stone quarried and dressed \$15,000. Besides there

are five blacksmith and two wheelwright shops, two grist mills, and about 3,400 pairs of sale shoes made. Total value of goods annually manufactured, \$96,800.

Resources. Productions of the soil, \$109,965; mechanical labor, \$19,500; money at interest, stocks, etc., \$23,190; deposits in savings banks,* \$54,698; stock in trade, 28,491.

Churches and Schools. Congregational Church, Rev. Augustus Berry, pastor. There are six schools in town. Average length of schools, for the year, twenty-six weeks.

Libraries. Abel Gage, private, over 500 volumes; A. Batchelder, private, over 500 volumes.

First Settlements. Pelham was originally a part of Dracut, Massachusetts, and was formerly included in Wheelwright and Mason's purchase. The first permanent settlement was made by John Butler, William Richardson, Joseph Hamblett, and others, in 1721, by erecting a log house. Two years before the above date, a block house was built by the Mason proprietors, to assist those who might purchase, and protect them from Indian incursions. The inhabitants of Pelham have always stood ready to defend their country, whenever assailed. In the French war of 1755, nine of her citizens sacrificed their lives, to give England Canada. In the Revolution, 86 of her townsmen were enrolled on the lists of the army; and the record shows she furnished 96 men to assist in quelling the Rebellion of 1861. The

town was incorporated, July 6, 1746, and the first town meeting was holden July 27, 1746.

First Church. The first church edifice was erected in 1746. A Congregational society was formed November 13, 1751, and the Rev. James Hobbs was ordained as its pastor; he died in 1765; Rev. Ames Moody, ordained in 1765, dismissed in 1792; Rev. J. H. Church, D. D., settled in 1796.

Boundaries. North by Windham and Salem, east by Methuen and Dracut, Massachusetts, south by Dracut, and west by Hudson. Area of improved land, 8,049 acres.

Distances. Thirty-seven miles south from Concord, ten southeast from Nashua, and six north from Lowell, Massachusetts.

Railroads. Six miles to Lowell station, by mail carriage, three times a week. A new railroad is in contemplation, from Lowell, through Pelham, to Windham depot, on the Manchester and Lawrence Railroad; also one from Nashua, through Pelham to Plaistow, on the Boston and Maine Railroad.

* The savings banks of Massachusetts got a large portion of the deposits of the farmers of Pelham.