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HISTORICAL

SOUVENIR BOOKLET

200TH ANNIVERSARY

OF THE

TOWN OF PELHAM

SEPTEMBER 2, 1946

Pelham Historical Society, Pelham, New Hampshire

William T. Hayes & Karen Genoter

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We Salute

THE PEOPLE OF PELHAM

This year 1946, marks the two-hundredth anniversary of the incorporation of the Town of Pelham. We have not tried in the pages that follow to give you a complete history of the first two hundred years of Pelham, but rather a few facts concerning the early formative years of our town, churches, and schools.

We hope a deep sense of pride will be yours as you read of the activities of the early settlers. Our Town became a town through the foresightedness of these people; today, two hundred years later, the foresightedness of the people is ever moving Pelham forward to its rightful place as one of the progressive communities of New Hampshire, continuing the even tempo of its growth started in 1746. Today you are the Town. Today your civic pride and public spirit will carry Pelham on to many, many more anniversaries.

We wish to thank Harry H. Atwood and Mary H. Sherburne for their literary efforts; Marion Clossay for compiling and editing; Hector Parker for his patience and understanding; Alma Titcomb, Ernest Q. Bigelow, Charles W. Hobbs, Adam Young and Arthur H. Peabody for their excellent salesmanship. There are many others who have contributed in some way towards making this the fine book it is; we thank them all.

Lastly we wish to thank the advertisers who appear in this book. The very fact that their names appear on these pages is evidence of the faith they have in the Town of Pelham. We ask that you patronize them.

Congratulations Pelham, may you ever go forward!

GEORGE CLOSSAY, JR.,
Chairman of the Souvenir booklet committee

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Early Days Of Pelham

By HARRY H. ATWOOD

THE TOWN

Pelham was incorporated as a Town on July 5, 1746 and was named in honor of Thomas Pelham Holles, Duke of New Castle, England.

The name was the choice of Benning Wentworth, then Governor of the Province of New Hampshire, who owed his appointment as Governor to this Duke of New Castle, then Colonial Secretary of this Province. The name "Pelham" was in no manner objectionable to the inhabitants who had petitioned that their district be incorporated as a town.

Governor Wentworth named many towns in this state in honor of personal friends and of his affiliates. Petitioners preferred to accept the name the Governor chose usually, rather than incur his displeasure which might result in their not having their petition granted.

Pelham, as now established, was originally territory of disputed ownership. Land titles were claimed by the Masonian Proprietors by authority of the English Government, who established right of ownership through grant of land to Capt. John Mason from the King of England, while the Heirs of the Wheelwright Purchase claimed title by citing direct purchase from the Indians by Rev. John Wheelwright of Exeter, where deed was actually recorded.

The question of the validity of title, without doubt, retarded more than anything else rapid settlement throughout what was to become the Township of Pelham, originally in part respectively of Old Dunstable, Dracut and Londonderry.

Pelham is situated in the southeast corner of the State on its most southern boundary, at present. On the north, it is bounded by Windham and Salem, N. H.; on the east, by Methuen and Dracut, Mass.; on the south, by Dracut and Tyngsboro, Mass.; and on the west by Hudson, N. H. As now established, it contains approximately 25 sq. miles. Three beautiful ponds lie within its boundaries — Island Pond, Gumpas Pond, North Pond (now known as White's Pond), also the north portion of Long Pond (about one-fourth mile). This pond extends across the state line from Dracut and is one and one-half miles in length.

Beaver Brook (or River), having its source in Beaver Pond, Derry, N. H., traverses the entire length of this town, from its most northwesterly bound, through Pelham Center to Dracut at Collinsville, flowing into the Merrimack River at Dracut Navy Yard. It was named for the beaver that once inhabited it.

Golden's Brook (once Golding's) rises in Cobbett's Pond, Windham, and flows into Beaver Brook just north of the Stone Bridge at Pelham Center. Tradition has it that it was named for Peter Golding, an aged Indian who resided near its bank and was drowned in it, while under the influence of "fire water." However, it should be stated that Pelham records of 1749 disclose that a highway was laid out in that year "crossing Golding's Brook at Golding's Mill to connect with the Londonderry Road." Also, Mr. Negus, Proprietor of an early land grant (defined as adjoining the Collicut Grant) sold this property to Peter Golding of

Boston in 1682. This property can be located at the mouth of Golden's Brook at Beaver Brook.

Many trout brooks traverse this countryside, the most favored of which are Hendersons, Wymans, Marshalls, Dohertys, Muldoons, Brandy, Tony, Lyons, Broad Meadow, Gumpas, Toole, and Island Pond, or Gages.

The western section is mantled with a range of beautiful hills known as Sherburne, Gumpas, Barker, Round, Baldwin, Keyes and Jeremy, upon which is established the New Hampshire Forest Warden's Observation Tower for the southeastern part of the State.

The elevation in the southeast section is now known as "The Highlands," although originally it was called Hog Corner, crudely named for reason of a flourishing business conducted there 150 years ago, when hogs were a common sight roving around that section, earmarked for identification. Although the older inhabitants objected for a time, naturally feeling no disparagement in the name, a resident clergyman who came here in 1900, was persistent after a time in referring to that part of the town as "Currier Highlands." The result was that this section is generally spoken of now as the "Highland District."

"Gage Hill," in the northeast part of the town, was so called for the Gages who first settled there.

The North Pelham District bears a name relative to its geographical location, as does the Pelham Center District.

The old "Hill District," once designated as District No. 6, embraced a large area at Sherburne's Hill and vicinity, but was long abandoned and it became again a part of the old Gumpas District, from which in 1822 it was originally "set off."

The name given the Gumpas District is of historical origin: "*Gumpass*" was "on the map" long before the Town of Pelham was incorporated — in fact, long before the wilderness in this region had even begun to be settled.

First, in its location, Gumpass Pond was a "land mark" for designating the location of early land grants and subsequently to transfers by deed in that vicinity. For a period of 200 years and more, this proper name appeared correctly spelled as "GUMPASS" and later "GUMPAS" became the accepted way, one "s" being dropped.

Gumpass Hill, Gumpass Brook, Gumpass Road, Gumpass Cemetery, are all mentioned in one order or another either applying to, or included in, authoritative *deeds* and *records* of date. Also it can be shown that "Gumpas" is actually a name of important historical significance, without doubt of Indian derivation.

The misspelling of "Gumpas" ("Gumpus" is but a corruption recently used in late years) detracts from the real significance of this old historic name. So, in this year of observing the 200th Anniversary of the incorporation of our Town of Pelham, let us also emphasize and preserve these facts.

Previous to settlement, the tract of land now comprising the Town of Pelham was known only and spoken of, as a wilderness, claimed as a part of Old Dunstable and Dracut, respectively.

Just prior to settlement and for a time following, portions of this tract were distinguished as Dracut District, Nottingham District and Londonderry District or Parish (Windham Parish, part of Londonderry). The Province Line (New Hampshire and Massachusetts) was not then established—a fact which contributed definitely to the uncertainty of lawful ownership of this whole section.

Land titles were claimed by the Masonian Proprietors, (Capt. Mason's grant

from the King of England) claimed to have been granted by no less authority than the English Government, while the "Heirs of the Wheelwright Purchase" claimed title by direct purchase from the Indians. (Purchased by Rev. John Wheelwright of Exeter, N. H.; deed recorded Rockingham County Records, which County embraced Pelham in part until about 1825.) So it was perhaps this question of validity of title that retarded more than anything else rapidity of earlier settlement, as other towns adjacent already embraced many homesteads by deed.

This section was traversed freely by pioneers to the north, especially in the Londonderry Parish, for as early as 1719 we find that a Block House was built on what is now Mammoth Road, on land later owned by Mr. Fred A. Cutter, and now occupied by Mr. Clifton H. Merriam, a son-in-law. The Block House was erected almost directly opposite his present residence by the Masonian Proprietors of Lands, who controlled a large area in that section and to the north. The object was protection to purchasers of homesteads and also to preserve a line of communication between Boston and the Londonderry Claims of the Proprietors.

A few soldiers were stationed at this rude fort, who possibly may also have tilled the soil there to a small extent, in the opinion of Mr. John Cutter, who, soon after purchasing and settling on the homestead, reported that he found long rows of hills in woodland of large growth, evidently a garden spot in former years. However, this Block House, long since out of existence, has always been considered only in the light of being incidental to settlement. It constituted the first building erected but was not a homestead project.

Tradition necessarily figures in much that transpired in those days of early settlement, where no records were kept or at least are not now available.

One memorable occasion passed down by tradition, identifies old "Pulpit Rock" as the spot where the first sermon was preached in what is now Pelham, sometime in April 1719. Pulpit Rock is situated in Bridge Street at a spot

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PULPIT ROCK -- BRIDGE STREET, PELHAM, N. H.

PULPIT ROCK
MARKS THE SITE
WHERE THE FIRST SERMON WAS PREACHED
IN WHAT IS NOW PELHAM, N. H.
ON A SUNDAY IN APRIL 1719
BY
REV. JAMES McGREGOR
WHO WITH OTHER PIONEERS
ENROUTE FOR PERMANENT SETTLEMENT
STOPPED HERE TO KEEP THE SABBATH

ERECTED BY
PELHAM LADIES CLUB
1932

referred to in early town records as "the notch." This notch was a natural rift between ledges in the road to Dracut just below where Stone Cottage now stands, built by Asa Carleton and occupied by members of the Lyon family for over a century. This homestead, originally of Asa Carleton, existed before Bridge Street, as now located, had been established on Record.

Morrison's "History of Windham" (1882) states:

> "Londonderry was a rendezvous for emigrants (from Scotland and from the north of Ireland) where they came, rested awhile and often settled in neighboring towns.
>
> "While coming from the seacoast to Londonderry (1740) the McAdamses passed through Dracut and had reached a point of land south of Pelham Center, when Saturday night overtook them. There they pitched their tents and bivouacked for the Sabbath near a ledge of rock contiguous to the spot where Stone Cottage now stands . . . and there the first sermon was preached."

However, it was at this "Pulpit Rock," we are also told, that Rev. James McGregor, with a band of hardy pioneers enroute for permanent settlement in Old Nutfield—now Derry and parts of Londonderry and Windham—stopped as Saturday night approached, so that, as was the custom in those early days, the Sabbath Day should be kept inviolate (1719).

These pioneers had journeyed up-river from Haverhill and were taking a cross-country trail when Saturday night overtook them. They were travelling an old Indian trail through wilderness, known then as Draw-Cutt District (Chelmsford Records) which led from the Great Bunt below Pawtucket Falls on the Merrimack, northward through more wilderness to Draw Pond and thence to their destination.

In 1720, this large territory lying to the north of Merrimack River—including all of what is now Pelham—was unbroken wilderness. It was spoken of as such by early settlers and pioneers located south of the river, particularly in Chelmsford and vicinity. As has been mentioned, actual settlement of this large tract was retarded principally for reason of disputed ownership and consequently unquestioned authority to grant clear and undisputed titles caused settlements to the north—Londonderry and vicinity—to progress much more rapidly. Many settlers journeyed by way of Chelmsford and passed through this disputed region to their destination northward.

Two trails were developed through this section for natural reasons—Beaver Brook and its main tributary, Golden's Brook, traversed it from north to south. Therefore, one trail developed on the west side, while another was established on the east, thereby avoiding the crossing and recrossing of these waterways which naturally flooded at times.

The Londonderry settlement on the west was conveniently reached by a trail then known as "The Path" (1721). Was "The Path" originally "Gum Path" and later "Gum Pass" and does this explain the derivation of the name "Gumpass" as applied by record to that district in the latter part of the 1790s? The Draw-Cutt District was originally known as "Au-*gum*-too-cook" in Indian Language and whatever the syllable "*gum*" meant in that phrase would be interesting to know. At least by tradition, the name of that section was of Indian derivation.

The Londonderry settlement on the east, that is, in the vicinity of Draw Pond (later "Cobbett's Pond") and Haverhill Pond (later "Policy Pond" and

now "Canobie Lake") were more easily reached via Draw-Cutt (synonymous to the name of the Pond) and this territory was eventually to become known as "Dracut."

The Indians by nature were not confined to any permanent place of abode and without question, trails frequented by them traversed this section of wilderness and as the territory became known to the white settlers of Chelmsford and vicinity, south of the Merrimack, it is logical to assume that this unsettled tract extending northward to Draw Pond should have had some name. Then it is also just as logical to assume, taking into consideration the probably well known objective of this trail, that this section should have become known as "Draw Cut" (as recorded) signifying plainly as meaning a favorite trail to Draw Pond, and which later should become contracted to the present form and name of "Dracut".

Dracut, Mass., as chartered, was claimed to extend within about one-half mile of Cobbett's Pond (originally "Draw Pond") on its north bound. The earliest recorded deed of land in what is now Dracut refers to "Web of Draw Cutt upon the Merrimack". (Note the significance of form and manner of spelling.) The Draw Meadows are also referred to in history and even after the incorporation of Dracut in 1702, Chelmsford records show that town as voting "That Draw Cut shall not voate in Chelmsford". All synonymous to this name as finally applied with crude writing and mis-spelling in early records given fair consideration.

This Dracut District continued of doubtful ownership until the establishment of the Province Line in 1741 and also it has been stated, continued under a proverbial handicap to rapid settlement for reason as ascribed by neighboring towns, perhaps in some spirit of sarcasm, "as being fit only to pasture the Devil and the blue-jays on".

However, from another angle, consider the geographical position of this section and particularly the Dracut District. Bear in mind that wilderness alone held no fears for settlement by pioneers but this section was Draw Cut, in the early days, habitually traversed by Indians as they journeyed back and forth from their Draw Pond habitats to their fishing grounds on the Merrimack. Consequently, settlers only naturally avoided unnecessarily endangering themselves, their dwellings, their creatures and their crops to the depradations of roving bands of the Redmen by locating deliberately in the path known to be constantly used by the savages. Just this condition alone may have been at least a contributing cause to backwardness of settlement in this wilderness, but the question of validity of title would, in all probability, overshadow all.

However, in 1721, John Butler and Joseph Hamblet of Woburn chose to gamble with nature and the Indians, regardless of the validity of land titles or other handicaps.

It is recorded that John Butler purchased of Jonathan Tyng that year two lots of land containing in all 600 acres in the eastern part of Dunstable, adjoining the Dracut boundary, and on this land, in the vicinity of Gumpas Pond, and, tradition says, near the '88 Barn on Mammoth Road, they erected their log cabin on the line dividing their property, each owning separate tracts adjoining each other. They lived together for mutual protection and convenience of housekeeping, as "batchelors' hall" was the forté of the very early settlers for a time.

Thus was the first settlement in Pelham made, and it is related of these two men, that soon after establishing themselves in this manner, they became intensely dissatisfied, each with the amount of work that the other performed in relation to various household duties but especially as applied to "filling the wood

box", in a present day sense of choring. The disagreement resulted in their separation the very next spring, but they were forced for their own protection to continue to live together in the same log cabin for the balance of the winter. It is related in fact that for the balance of the winter, they resorted to a unique but crudely effective way of living apart. They divided their rude domicile by building a stone wall directly through its center, that is, from the outside entrance of their cabin to the center of the stone chimney, so that each, thereafter, was obliged to cut and prepare his own wood for the fireplace, the original cause of their trouble!

Other settlements were also made in 1721. The Gages from Bradford and the Wymans, Richardsons and Jaques, also from Woburn, fixed their habitations here. There is no way of knowing which of these families was first, but it is related of Butler and Gage, who located in different sections of this wilderness, that each saw the other's "smoke", immediately investigated, only to meet in travelling towards their objectives and thus to become acquainted with the fact that they were neighbors.

One Gage settled on what was to become known as "Gage Hill" and another settled on the Capt. Hardy place, now known as the "Joseph Landry Farm". Part of this residence is reputed to be the oldest dwelling now standing in Pelham and was originally erected by Lieut. Thomas Gage, who lost his life in the French and Indian War of 1755. Other men to lose their lives in this war were—Edward Wyman, Jonathan Wright, Ezra Littlehale, Simon Beard, Joseph Gage, Daniel Gage, John Webber and Simeon Wyman, but there is no way of finding out the number serving.

William Richardson located on a tract about 40 rods north of the Province Line on Mammoth Road, then called "The Path", lately known as the Whitehouse Farm and now occupied by Miss Alice Clement.

Jaques located east of Beaver Brook, at the Center, near the late D. M. Gould residence, which was destroyed by fire in 1929 when occupied by Finman and Metcock, butchers. This became the John and Joshua Atwood place in 1766 and was occupied for generations by members of this family. It is now occupied by Leopold Chenell.

Edward Wyman also settled at the Center, south of Pelham Common about one-half mile, where Edward F. Hayes now resides.

John Ferguson is not mentioned as one of the earliest settlers. However, he domiciled here in 1735 and in 1746 we find him in possession of a 400 or 500 acre tract including all of Pelham Common and many of the small farms that now surround it west of Beaver Brook. His farm was bounded on the east by Beaver Brook for about three-fourths of a mile, beginning at Abbot on South Bridge and extending north to just above "Steep Bank", and on the west as far as the Tenny Farm (now owned and occupied by Joseph Greenwood), and, I believe, to the east boundary of the old Jonathan Stickney Farm, or about three-fourths of a mile east and west.

The early settlers of this town were not subjected to ferocious attacks by the Indians and to subsequent horrors attending, as were some of their more unfortunate neighbors. It is not recorded or related that any of the early settlers were ever killed here by the Indians in warfare or ambush, that is, within the limits of this town. There did come a time, however, in the early days, when the inhabitants were alarmed to the extent that, owing to menace from Indian depradations, a garrison house was fortified as a haven and protection for the few scattered families that had domiciled here. The old Lee Place on the cross-

road to Gumpas was established as such a garrison. A new house now stands on this property and is owned and occupied by Walter J. Patenaud.

For 20 years following settlement, the geographical position of this town still retarded the development of its natural resources and growth in population. Bridle paths and fordways, corduroy passes through swamps and over causeways or casseys, were the extent of highway development, excepting in few instances.

There were three or four highways laid in the east part of Nottingham District mentioning as objective points Dracut, Londonderry and West Nottingham. Baldwin's Bridge is also mentioned as across Beaver Brook on the highway to Dracut (probably Hutchinson's Bridge later). Also, there were as many travelled highways in the old Dracut District with objective points and courses just as difficult to locate definitely.

It is well to consider previous to the incorporation of the Town, the outline of the districts that then existed, which later were to be embraced in one town, to be chartered under the name of "Pelham". For instance, as stated previously, Dracut District occupied by far the largest portion of this disputed territory, probably about two-thirds of it. So, draw an imaginary line from the northeast bound of Tyngsboro on the west of Long Pond at the State Line, where it joins Dracut, northeasterly directly through the West Cemetery (now Gumpas Cemetery) to the southeast corner of the Jonathan Stickney Farm (now R. J. Bergeron Farm) and thence northerly to a stone bound on the west side of Beaver Brook, a few rods north of the old mill site at the old Marshall Dam, now destroyed, but located in the Fred E. Houle place at North Pelham. The center of the Brook at this point now marks the boundary between Pelham and Windham and at that ancient time marked the northeast corner of Nottingham West and northwest corner of Old Dracut. All territory of the old Londonderry Claim was to be allowed west of this line (part of Old Dunstable Line), was known as West Nottingham District and so appears on record. All territory east and south of this line was known as Dracut District and recorded as such. All the territory north and west of the "north bound" of Nottingham West and Old Dracut, as mentioned, and enclosed by Beaver Brook from that point to a bound which now separates Hudson, Windham and Pelham, was then Londonderry District or Parish. And all this Londonderry section, as above mentioned, which is now the most northern tip of this town, all lying west and north of Stone Dam (Ancient name), or Butler's Mills at North Pelham, was set off to this town on petition of Joseph Butler to the New Hampshire Provencial Assembly soon after the Town of Pelham was incorporated in 1746. A 35 acre lot, south of Beaver Brook in the extreme northern tip, not being included in the survey of any township, was later joined to Pelham, probably in 1778 as in that year Nottingham West also was given additional Londonderry territory on its northern boundary. In all, this Town, as now established contains approximately 25 square miles.

Pelham, as now established, was originally constituted from territory of disputed ownership, which was claimed before settlement, in part, by Old Dunstable, Mass., old Dracut, Mass. and Londonderry, N. H., as has been stated.

The western portion of this town, constituting approximately one third of its present area, was originally a part of the old Dunstable Grant. This western portion was included in the Township of Nottingham, Mass., as chartered in 1733, which was that portion set off from old Dunstable, lying wholly east of Merrimack River.

The settlement of the Province Line in 1741 between the Provinces of Massachusetts and New Hampshire set off this whole northern portion of Nottingham, Mass. as New Hampshire territory. Consequently, the Nottingham

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District embracing the greater part of what is now Hudson, N. H. and the western section of Pelham, as mentioned with the northern part of old Dracut as cut off by the establishment of the Province Line, constituted a new unincorporated section embracing an area of over 33,500 acres.

So out of this new district, the Towns of Pelham and of Nottingham West were incorporated in 1746 and new boundary lines established. Then a short time later, that which is now the most northwesterly section of this town was granted, in answer to a petition to the New Hampshire General Assembly, made by Joseph Butler, a resident of that locality. This additional territory, now part of North Pelham District, was originally of the old Londonderry Grant and extends west and northwest from the point where Pelham and Windham join in Beaver Brook, a few rods north of the Fred E. Houle residence to the northwest corner bound of Pelham, where it joins Hudson on the west and Windham on the north.

The Proprietors of the Reserved Lands in Dracut, from time to time, had located, defined and staked out, beginning soon after the incorporation of Dracut, various lots of land throughout the district as an incentive to settlement and development.

On October 5, 1726, we find the Proprietors holding a legal meeting relative to defending of previous sales which evidently were being claimed by pioneers who had settled to the northward, especially in Old Nutfield, who had acquired title by grant. A committee was maintained for the purpose of continuing to lay out undivided lands belonging to said Proprietors. The Proprietors seemed jealous of any encroachment, even if clothed with legal powers given by the Province of New Hampshire. The titles obtained through the authority invested in the Province of Massachusetts Bay Colony on the one hand, and titles approved by the Province of New Hampshire General Assembly on the other, led to much overlapping and legal dispute. However, the establishment of the Province Line sustained New Hampshire's claims in much of that territory which had formerly been claimed by Dracut. Previous to this, Massachusetts' titles were zealously guarded and defended.

The Proprietors also voted in the same meeting, as above referred to, "to defend our lands against Nutfield men. Also against the fourteen petitioners or any other person whom-so-ever that may claim any part of our lands or any way molest us". A committee was empowered to make suit or defend suit, with or against any part necessary as the case might be. Said Committee was empowered "to sell that land that is planted and built upon to those now enjoying it at the price that they had purchased it at". Twenty pounds in money was raised to be used as necessary in defense.

An old deed, dated June 29, 1742, transferring an 86 acre tract to Daniel Gage of the northerly part of Dracut, in the Province of New Hampshire by Joseph Varnum of Dracut, in the County of Middlesex, in the Province of Massachusetts Bay, establishes beyond doubt that the northern boundary of Dracut as once laid out reached at least the vicinity of the Ledge of Rocks situated on the east shore of Simpson's Pond, as now flowed.

In the deed mentioned, said Joseph Varnum, quitclaims to said Daniel "Gaige", his "haires" and assignes forever, as follows:

> "All my right, title and interest, that I have in a certain tract of land situated in the northerly part of ye Township of Dracutt, a little southerly of the Ledge of Rocks: and on the easterly side of Goulding's Brook, near a brook called Curtieses Brook (but not adjoining to said Brooks or Rocks) as it was laid out to ye said Joseph Varnum in ye year A.D. 1721 by Ezekil

Cheaver, James Failes and ye said Joseph Varnum, who was then a committee for said work as by a record, in ye Register's Office in ye County of Middlesex appears, which ye tract of land was since on ye 25th of May 1733 (A.D.) measured and pland by David (Farrow) Surveyor and containing by estimation 86 acres be the same more or less and is bounded by line of marked trees lettered with IV: as by the said plan will more fully appear, which said tract of land lyes in the sd Province of New Hampshire." (Recd Lib 30 Vol. 397)

The affairs of Pelham and Hudson (then Nottingham West) were closely associated in the early days of township formations. Their interests and ideals were identical and there was no dividing line separating those early settlers in the common cause of religious and social matters.

While approximately two-thirds of the territory that was later to become a part of Pelham was then known as Dracut District and but one-third Nottingham District, the inhabitants of the latter district figured far more prominently and influentially in matters of concern that were destined eventually to bring about the incorporation of Pelham as a town, as it is defined today. As a matter of fact, Pelham men were among the foremost leaders in that whole Nottingham District and previously in the incorporation of Nottingham, Mass. Township in 1733, five of them were chosen at its first town meeting as officials of the town.

Henry Baldwin was chosen Town clerk and first Selectman; John Butler as fifth Selectman; Joseph Hamblet as Constable; Samuel Butler as Fence Viewer; John Hamblet as Hog Reeve; Capt. Henry Baldwin was Selectman 1733, 1734, 1737, 1738 and 1741; John Butler was Selectman 1733, 1734, 1735, 1736, 1737, 1738 and 1741. These men and others from Pelham, as at present outlined, continued to assist in directing affairs of the Town in official capacity until the very day of the incorporation of these two towns as separate townships in 1746.

From 1733 to 1741, Nottingham, Mass. embraced all of the territory of old Dunstable, lying on the east side of the Merrimack River and extended from Dracut on the south, 17 miles north to near Reed's Ferry. Included in this tract were the greater part of Litchfield, about one-third of Pelham, nearly all of Tyngsboro, Mass. on the east side of the River, and all of the present Town of Hudson, excepting that part of the Londonderry Claim (annexed to Hudson in 1778).

About one-sixth of the taxpayers, according to the first tax list, were men who inhabitated that part of the eastern portion of the town that was later to become the western part of Pelham, and incidentally, these same men were to take leading parts in bringing about the incorporation of this Town and the granting of its charter in 1746 and also to continue as public officials in its management and development.

John Butler	Joseph Hamblet	Capt. Henry Baldwin
John Butler, Jr.	Joseph Hamblet, Jr.	Josiah Winn
Samuel Butler	John Hamblet	Joseph Wright

were numbered among the taxpayers of Nottingham, Mass. in 1733 and were then domiciled in what is now Pelham, as stated.

In Pelham, as was the usual case in the early settlements of all other New England towns, the cause of religion had its early claim for establishment and support, directly with all other town matters of general interest and for the good of all.

Thus Town and Church affairs were intermingled inseparably in those early

days and combined in common purpose. For many years following the incorporation of Pelham, every taxpayer was obliged to contribute to the support of Gospel Ministry and at that time, there was but one church here, the Congregational.

Early settlers were joined principally with the Dracut Parish and the Parish of Nottingham District and they so remained, even after the establishment of the Province Line and during the period until 1746.

The Ministree Lands of Rev. Thomas Parker of the Dracut Parish were found, after the establishment of the Province Line between New Hampshire and Massachusetts in 1741, to lay to quite an extent in what later was to become part of Pelham, as cut off from Old Dracut by Royal Decree. The Royal Decree, establishing the northern boundary of Massachusetts, was dated August 5, 1740. George Mitchell located the eastern section of this line and Richard Hazen the western section in March and April 1741. They were surveyors appointed by Governor Belcher of the Province of Massachusetts. They began at a bend in the Merrimack River below Pawtucket Falls, called the Great Bunt, later referred to as "Pawtucket Pond", and measured north three miles. This line terminated at a pine tree which was marked and became known as "Mitchell's Boundary Pine".

This point was later designated by a polished monument of granite, bearing an inscription describing the reason of establishment and purpose, with the figure of a pine tree cut upon the east side. From this point, Mitchell surveyed a line three miles parallel with the course of the River to the sea and markers have since been set at proper angles and at highways to designate the course of this State Line. This was known as "Mitchell's Curve Line". Hazen surveyed west, 10 degrees north variation, according to instructions to establish the southern boundary line which was surveyed to the Hudson River.

In 1741, the Province Line was established and automatically Nottingham, Mass. ceased to exist north of the line, and subsequently, the southern portion became a portion of the Town of Tyngsboro. North of the Province Line, the Nottingham, Mass. section became known as Nottingham District and so remained in name until incorporated as Nottingham West in 1746. There is no record of any town or district meeting until 1743. A Committee appointed by Governor Benning Wentworth of the Province of New Hampshire, in its travels to view new districts falling into this Province by the establishment of the new Province Line, met with each district so affected and on April 22, 1742 reported "We proceeded to Nottingham and opened the meeting house there—Distance from Methuen 12 miles from information".

The following were voted: Capt. Henry Baldwin, Moderator—Henry Baldwin, Clerk—Capt. Henry Baldwin, Zacheus Lovel and Jno. Snow, Selectmen—Thomas Gage, Collector. Four offices were assigned to Pelham men.

District meetings were held periodically each year in succession until definite action was taken on March 10, 1746. At this meeting, by virtue of a warrant issued by two of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace and Quorum, they passed sundry votes. First, they made choice of Mr. Thomas Gage (Pelham), Moderator, and secondly, it was put to vote "To see if the district will signify by a vote that they will be incorporated into a district town: and it passed in the affirmative —32 yeas, 21 nays."

A large majority of those voting "yea" were residents of the eastern part of the district, while those voting "nay" were *all* residents of the western part. As has been stated previously, the eastern part of Nottingham eventually became the western part of Pelham, so the vote plainly showed that leading men in favor of

EAST SIDE

1741
Mitchells
Boundary
Pine
Latitude 42°41'-50.26"
Longitude 71°19'-22.02"
Said Pine stood
on land of
Jonathan Coburn
Ancestor of
The present owner
Zachariah Coburn

NORTH SIDE

P
N. H.
1890
John J. Bell
Nathl. H. Clark
C. H. Roberts
Commissioners
E. T. Quimby
Surveyor

1825
Samuel Bell
Henry B. Chase
Samuel Dinsmore
Commissioners
Elephalet Hunt
Surveyor

WEST SIDE

THE ROYAL
Decree
Establishing
The Northern
Boundary of
Massachusetts
was dated
Aug. 5, 1740

George Mitchell
Located the
Eastern Section
of the line and
Richard Hazen
The Western Section
March and April 1741

SOUTH SIDE

D
Mass.
1890
Henry Carter
Geo. Whitney
Edw. B. Savage
Commissioners
Nelson Spofford
Surveyor

1825-7
Samuel Dana
David Cummings
Ivers Jewett
Commissioners
Butler and Varnum
Surveyors

incorporation and the setting apart of Nottingham West from that territory which was to become Pelham, were Pelham men.

The District then chose Mr. Thomas Gage (Pelham), Mr. Ephriam Cummings (Hudson) and John Butler (Pelham) to treat with the Courts' Committee and represent the circumstances of the District to them. That part of Pelham as formerly included in the District of Nottingham embraced about 20 families; Baldwin, Butler, Hamblet and Gage seemed to be the leaders and highly influential in all affairs pertaining to the District. In fact, Deacon John Butler is mentioned in history as having been one of the most prominent and useful men in Nottingham, Mass. and later in Nottingham District, previous to the incorporation of Pelham in 1746.

The Town of Pelham, New Hampshire, was incorporated July 5, 1746 and the Town of Nottingham West was incorporated the same day.

The Charters were granted by "Benning Wentworth, Esq., Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Province of New Hampshire in the Twentieth Year of the Reign of George the Second, by the Grace of God of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith."

The Pelham Charter was obtained from Portsmouth, N. H. by Major Lovewell of Dunstable (Nottingham West), for which he afterward was allowed by the Town of Pelham, 30 shillings, old tenor, for his trouble. Major Lovewell also warned the first Town Meeting by authority from the Provincial Government, which was held at the house of Capt. Henry Baldwin on July 21, 1746. (The first Town Meeting of Nottingham West was held four days earlier. The name was changed to Hudson on July 1, 1830.) This location was at Baldwin's Hill, on the road west from the Joseph Landry place and near the Nottingham West, now Hudson, Line.

A copy of the record of the first Town Meeting follows:

"Province of New Hampshire, Pelham, July 21, 1746.

At a general town meeting of the freeholders and other inhabitants of the Town of Pelham, regularly assembled July 21, 1746 proceeded to choose town officers as follows (viz.): Capt. Henry Baldwin, Moderator: Eleazer Whiting, Town Clerk: Selectmen, Joseph Hamblett, Henry Baldwin, William Richardson, Josiah Gage and Eleazar Whiting: Town Treasurer, Henry Baldwin, Jr.: Constable, Thomas Wyman: Surveyors of Highways, viz., Jacob Butler, John Baldwin, Daniel Gage, Simon Beard: Tythingmen, Henry Richardson and Amos Gage: Fenceviewers and field drivers, William Elliot and Hugh Richardson: Sealer of Weights and Measures, Henry Baldwin: Surveyor of Timber, Amos Gage: Hogreafs, Simon Beard and David Jones".

The next step to be taken was to establish definitely a divisional line between these twin sister townships and with this in view, the inhabitants and freeholders of this Town met in duly organized town meeting on September 3, 1746 and chose a committee of three to act in behalf of the town (viz.): Joseph Hamblett, William Richardson and Josiah Gage to join with a committee from Nottingham West to divide the land according to the charters and to settle the line and to make the bounds between the towns.

Mr. James Ingalls of Andover, Surveyor, was chosen to assist the committee in the service mentioned and also to assist in planning the town to find "where the center of land is". Jabesh Colburn of Dracut and William Gregg of Windham were chosen as Chairmen. It was then voted to erect or build a meeting house in the center of land in this town or the most next convenient place in time convenient.

The next town meeting was held October 6th following, which was an adjourned meeting. It was voted to raise 100 pounds, old tenor, as a town rate for the year. This is the first town rate established and it was at this meeting that it was voted to allow Maj. Zacheus Lovewell the sum of 30 shillings, old tenor, for his services in obtaining the Town Charter from Portsmouth. (30 shillings, old tenor, was 63c—1 pound, old tenor, was 42c.)

October 27, 1746, the Town voted "to accept the report of the committee, surveyor and chairmen in their planning this town, in order to find where the center of land is, and their report of the settlement of the line between this town and the Town of Nottingham West", which was as follows:

> "We began at Merrimack River and measured on the line between the Provinces—two miles and eighty Rods east—and made a heap of stones which is a corner bound between the Towns, in the land of Jeremiah Colburn. Thence we proceeded by a point of compass, North 20° East by a line of marked trees and heaps of stones to Londonderry Line to a heap of stones which is 5 miles and 34 poles".

At this meeting, it was also voted "to build a house for the Public Worship of God to be set in the Center of the Town and that said House shall be 28 feet in length and 24 feet wide" (to accommodate 30 families).

The first money raised for preaching was voted at this meeting in the following manner. Voted "to hire as much preaching this winter season as 60 pounds money, old tenor, will hire" and Daniel Gage and Thomas Gage were the committee chosen to hire the preaching.

Locating the first meeting house was something of a problem and action regarding it showed a difference of opinion, but on November 17, 1746, it was voted in town meeting *not* to have a committee from outside locate such site and a town committee consisting of Daniel Gage, Amos Richardson and Hezekiah Hamblett were then chosen to manage and carry on the work in building the meeting house which, it is related, was finally located about 15 rods southeast of Pelham Junior High School in the open triangle on the opposite side of Marsh Road and near where the "Block" now stands, and 12 pounds, old tenor, was voted in this meeting to defray the charges of building, etc.

In 1747, a town committee sought to purchase a tract of land "suitable for a minister of the Gospel to settle on". A committee, William Richardson, Josiah Gage and Eleazar Whiting, was chosen to treat with a committee from Dracut, Old Town, concerning the Ministerial land lying in said Town of Pelham and it was at this time, January 26, 1747, that Capt. Henry Baldwin was appointed "to apply to the General Assembly in behalf of the Town, in order to get non-resident land taxed, lying in this town, to enable them to support and maintain the Gospel among them".

The first open highways were laid out at this meeting.

July 6, 1747 it was voted to accept an act of the General Court relative to taxing lands both resident and non-resident for a space of four years next ensuing. This act authorized that "all the lands within the Township of Pelham shall be and hereby are, subjected to an annual tax of 'one peney half peney' per acre and all bills of credit or money that shall be raised by virtue of this act shall be applied to the building or repairing of a meeting house in this town and for supporting the Gospel Ministry there". Similar measures were enacted later which embraced the building of schoolhouses also. But the provisions of this act did not apply to Quakers if any should be owners or proprietors of land situated anywhere in this Province.

Constant preaching was hired by vote of the town until the first day of March following. In April, the town voted "to settle a minister as soon as they 'caan' with convenient speed", and to have six months' preaching during the year. In December, it was voted to "hire preaching" until March if the season should allow, it all being left to a committee to decide.

In March 1749, it was voted to "hire preaching" for the whole year, placing the matter wholly in the hands of the Selectmen to carry out, etc. It was also, at this time "voted to buy the Nottingham West meeting house owned by Mr. Merril (Merriel) and to accept other highways".

On April 10, 1749, a committee was chosen, Joseph Hamblett, Capt. William Richardson, Lieut. Josiah Gage, Thomas Gage and Henry Spaulding, Esq., to buy the Nottingham West meeting house of Mr. Merril, who were empowered also "to manage in taking it down and bringing it to Pelham". A work rate of 20 shillings per day, old tenor, was voted for the work of taking the building down and all delinquent in working when warned, were to pay 20 shillings a day to the town for each day delinquent. 120 pounds, old tenor, was voted to purchase the meeting house and to pay all other expenses that should arise in relation to it, but the work did not then start.

The work rate on highways that year was 20 shillings per day for man and 10 shillings for oxen, old tenor.

On October 2, 1749 it was voted "to set the meetinghouse about 18 rods from where the meetinghouse now stands, southwest, to a stake and stones and to leave it with the selectmen to treat with Mr. Edward Wyman to see what his demands are on the account of what he did to the building of the meetinghouse and to lay it before the town, the next meeting". This would have meant the erection of that meeting house somewhere in what is now the Gibson Addition Cemetery but this vote was reconsidered on October 2, 1751, exactly two years later and, in the meantime, until that date, all work relative to it was held in abeyance. However, the matter of building a new meeting house and the settling of a minister was always being seriously considered.

The circumstances leading up to the purchase of the Nottingham West meeting house were brought about by the establishment of the Province Line in 1741. Nottingham West (now Hudson) was formerly a part of Dunstable, Mass., as has been previously stated (1673 to 1733 Dunstable).

Later, it was a part of Nottingham, Mass., which was set off from Old Dunstable and incorporated as a town in 1733.

A survey of Old Nottingham to find its center of land, showed such point to be in the vicinity of Musquosh School House, near which its first meeting house was "set" and that was the meeting house now in question. The establishment of the Province Line (1741) cut off about 4500 acres of the southern portion of Old Nottingham, throwing such portion into the Province of Massachusetts, while the remaining portion north of said line became New Hampshire territory known as Nottingham District and later (1746) to become the Town of Nottingham West, N. H. Thus another survey was called for to establish anew the "Center of land" whereon to erect a new meeting house in such central location and consequently when this was all accomplished the old Nottingham meeting house at the old center eventually became "for sale".

However, it could more correctly be stated that "the part remaining" became "for sale", as we find by Nottingham West records this interesting information: The Town voted August 31, 1748 "to remove the seats and pulpit and deacon's seat out of ye old meeting house and place them in the new house

and put up some of the old glass windows". Then on October 26, 1748, it was likewise voted "to pull up the old floor in the old meeting house and the breastwork and take out the nails". Then in Town Meeting on January 30, 1749, a unanimous vote was passed "to give the old meeting house, all that is remaining, except window frames, casements and glass and pews, that is, all their right, title and interest in and to the same, excepting what is before excepted", as a present to Rev. Mr. Merril, his heirs and assigns. A number of Pelham people had contributed towards the building of this meeting house originally and had attended services there for a dozen years or so. Some of them had retained a financial interest in the building by reason of proprietorship rights, all of which must have been fully satisfied previous to the time that the Town of Nottingham West made a present of it to Mr. Merril.

So, in reality, we find that the Nottingham West meeting house, so consistently sought and finally bargained for by the good people of Pelham, was actually but a shell at the time of ultimate purchase and then we most naturally conclude that it must have been the old rugged hand-hewed framework that appealed to our early townsmen as desirable property and highly suitable in dimension for their needs in rebuilding. This building was 35′ x 40′ in dimension.

However, the purchase evidently did not meet with the approval of many of the townsmen and for the next two years, there was continued delay in utilizing this building in the construction of a new meeting house here. In fact, opposition had developed to the extent that in April 1751, it was voted in town meeting to 'make sail' of the meeting house, which the Town had bought, to Mr. Merriel in Nottingham West and a committee consisting of John Butler, Jr., Amos Richardson and Daniel Gage was chosen "to make sail of said house" and they were limited to one-quarter of a year to accomplish such sale, which did not materialize.

1751 was an important year for Pelham and things began to move more rapidly and with decision.

In May, it wasn't considered necessary to call or invite the three gentlemen to preach by way of "probation" who were to have been considered, as the Town was then "content to make a choice with the last two gentlemen which have preached in said town in order for a Gospel Minister" as the records show.

On June 3, 1751, the Town voted "to make choice of Mr. James Hobbs to be their Gospel Minister to carry on the work of the Ministry in said town, etc." Voted further to Mr. Hobbs for his encouragement by way of settlement, the sum of 700 pounds, old tenor, ($294), which amount was increased a few weeks later to 800 pounds, old tenor ($336). Voted further in this town meeting "to grant to the said Mr. Hobbs for his yearly stated salary, the sum of 400 pounds, old tenor" ($168), and additional incentive was offered in August.

Ministers in neighboring towns were applied to for advice and approbation in this important affair and it was requested of Mr. Hobbs that his answer be presented at the next town meeting on August 9, 1751 when "by way of addition" to Mr. Hobbs, his salary "100 pounds, old tenor, was voted to begin five years hence from this town meeting, viz: 20 pounds, old tenor, in a year, for the space of five years then next ensuing", and still further, it was voted that Mr. Hobbs "by way of addition" should have "25 cords of firewood yearly during his carrying on the work of the Ministry in said town—said wood to begin when the said Mr. Hobbs hath a family and keeps house by himself."

On August 22, 1751, the Town voted to rate the salary of Mr. Hobbs as long as he should carry on the Ministry in the Town on the following basis if paid in grain or other provision: Golden corn at 18 shillings per bushel: Rye Corn at

26 shillings per bushel: Pork at 2 shillings per pound at the time of slaughter, and beef at 16 pence per pound likewise, and all to be reckoned at old tenor rate. Henry Baldwin, Esq., Capt. William Richardson, Joseph Hamblett, Lieut. Josiah Gage and Daniel Hutchinson, a previous committee, were chosen to continue to carry on and to take all proper means in order to get Mr. Hobbs ordained as a Minister of the Gospel in this Town provided that he accepted the call.

Mr. Hobbs accepted the call and made the following reply by letter:

"Gentlemen: Whereas you have seen fit to give me an invitation to settle amongst you as your minister and have made your proposals to encourage and enable me to settle and carry on the work of the ministry amongst you and have confirmed the same as a legal vote. Therefore, on the consideration of those proposals and also when fulfilled are found insufficient to support me in the quality becoming a minister of the Gospel that you will be ready to contribute all needed support, I do accept your call.

JAMES HOBBS."

Preparations for the reception and ordination progressed and a committee was chosen to provide for the occasion, viz: Henry Baldwin, Esq., Capt. William Richardson, Amos Gage, Henry Wyman and Henry Richardson. Action became urgent and it was voted to shingle the present meeting house and also "to pull down the meeting house which the town bought of Mr. Merril" and voted further "that any person that shall be delinquent in taking down the said meeting house shall pay 18 shillings, old tenor, to said town for each day's neglect."

Prompt action resulted and on October 2, 1751, the town voted "to fetch the meeting house which the Town bought of Rev. Mr. Merril to Pelham in order to set up or rebuild the said meeting house", and "not to set up or rebuild the said meeting house in the last place where the town voted to set up a meeting house on." (vote of October 2, 1749 reconsidered) Then further voted in the same meeting "to set up or rebuild the said meeting house on the two acres of land which Mr. Forguson (Ferguson) agreed with the said town to set a meeting house on".

And so "Pelham Common" originated. Mr. John Ferguson, who owned a large acreage in the Central Part had offered a lot of his land as a location for the new meeting house and after treating with Mr. Ferguson regarding his proposition, the town voted aforesaid.

The two acres mentioned constitute what is now the greater part of Pelham Common and was deeded to this Town on October 9, 1751. It was of triangular form. Then the southeast portion, containing about 55 square rods, opposite and adjoining the residence of Daniel S. Atwood and partly north of the old "company house" so called, and extending across Marsh Road to the original southwest corner of the Common, was deeded to the Town by John Ferguson, a grandson of the first mentioned Ferguson, on October 19, 1830, 79 years later, in consideration of notes due the Town from said Ferguson, the third in line.

Thus were preparations made for the erection of the 1751 Meeting House on Pelham Common, planned to supersede the 1746 structure which for several years had been considered "not of convenient proportion", the latter having been built to accommodate the 30, or thereabout, families then domiciled here. The old building was 24′ x 28′ in dimension, while the new building was to be 35′ x 40′.

The new meeting house was erected near the site of the old Town Hall, which was destroyed by fire on November 29, 1906, probably about opposite the

Frank H. Lane place (now occupied by George Dionne). This building was in use several years before being completed and is said to have been occupied as a place of worship even prior to the ordination of Rev. Mr. Hobbs.

During the time intervening, October 2 to October 16, 1751, the Nottingham West Meeting House was taken down and moved to Pelham Common in process of construction. On October 16th, the Town voted "to board and shingle the abovesaid Meeting House with convenient speed . . . That a committee provide boards and slit work for the lower floor and galleries . . . For the committee to give any man named in their lists liberty to provide any article necessary for service at a reasonable price . . . To allow 15 shillings, old tenor, a day to a man for his work at said Meeting House and all that do not appear at said work is to pay the sum of 15 shillings, old tenor, in money on his non-appearance . . . Likewise to underpin the Meeting House."

November 11, 1751 to clarify all action previously taken relative to the settlement of Rev. Mr. Hobbs, it was voted "to reconsider all votes touching Mr. Hobbs, etc. and all other votes that have been acted in all town meetings touching this affair . . . Voted likewise to confirm all the above written (recorded) votes touching Mr. Hobbs, his being called as a Gospel Minister in said town . . . In this last warrant, none but freeholders voted in this confirmation in this affair."

Then, in December, we find the Town voting to purchase a certain tract of land for the Rev. Mr. Hobbs. It wasn't until the following March that measures were actively taken to shingle and clapboard the Meeting House and lay the lower floor. Construction proceeded only as fast as money could be raised or labor supplied and consequently, the interior was finished at "odd jobs". In fact, the actual completion of the building, in all respects, was not to be accomplished until 1756, its construction in detail covering a period of over five years and requiring many distinct and specific votes by the Town regarding it.

In 1752, the Town voted to build fourteen pews, the pewground to extend around the room from the walls on the lower floor of the new Meeting House. Thirteen of these pews were granted to the "highest payers" so distinguished, all of whom were freeholders or inhabitants of the Town. One pew was reserved as the Minister's pew.

The "highest payers" were described as "those who had paid in the most money since the Town was settled by Charter". These thirteen pew grants were made on condition that the taxpayers accepting them "should build for the Town a good, handsome or decent pulpit, with canopy over it and provide a deacon's seat in the meeting house". It was also required that these thirteen grantors should oblige themselves to sit in these pews, with their families, until said pews were filled. Then four more pews were granted to the next "highest" payers", located in the hind seats on the lower floor, men's and women's side, provided that the pew holders accepting these should make the three new doors required for the meeting house, and hang them with good iron hinges and latches, decently, the double doors to be made of good boards, etc.

A committee was chosen to "dignify the seats" when finished. Following is a description of this Nottingham West Meeting House before its removal and subsequent rebuilding on Pelham Common (Kimbal Webster's History):

> "The meeting house stood end to the road and was forty feet in length from east to west, and thirty-five feet wide. It was twenty-one feet between joints with king posts. There were three entrances or outside doors, one at the center of the east end, one at the center of the south front and a third at the center of the west end. The galleries were on the east, south and west sides. The gallery stairs for the women were at the southeast corner

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and for the men at the southwest corner of the house. The pulpit was at the center of the north side and the broad isle extended from the front door on the south to the pulpit. This last was elevated several feet and was reached by a short flight of stairs on the west side."

It seems logical to assume that this building was reconstructed in practically this same form as the time occupied, in taking it down, moving it to Pelham and rebuilding its frame work was approximately two weeks.

In November 1753, it was voted "to buy a box of glass to glaze the windows of the new meeting house". This was over two years after the meeting house was first erected, during which time there had neither been a fire in the house, nor glass in its windows. Additional money was also raised towards finishing the building and building seats at this time and likewise "to take out the middle post on the backside of the meeting house in order to build a handsome pulpit and provide four handsome pillars for the said house".

On November 13, 1751, James Hobbs was ordained as Minister of the Gospel and settled as Pastor of this Church and Parish. The ordination was a notable event and delegations were present from all the neighboring towns and from Kingston and from Hampton, his native home town. As was the custom in those days, no occasion of moment of whatever degree or magnitude was complete without the serving of liquor during festivities and this ordination was no exception to the rule as we find at the next March meeting the Town voting to pay Deacon Henry Baldwin 13 pounds, old tenor, "for likker furnished for the ordination".

Rev. Mr. Hobbs was at this time about 25 years of age. He was the great grandson of Morris Hobbs, one of the first settlers of the Town of Hampton, who located there about 1640. He graduated from Harvard College in 1748 and pursued his theological studies with Rev. Stephen Bachelder, a minister at Hampton, and it was while studying with Rev. Mr. Bachelder that an attachment was formed between himself and Miss Elizabeth, a daughter, which resulted in their marriage soon after his ordination in this Town.

Rev. James Hobbs of Pelham and Miss Elizabeth Bachelder of Hampton were married in January 1752.

It is stated that Miss Bachelder came to Pelham on horseback in her wedding dress at the age of 22 and that she was considered a very handsome and accomplished lady. It was also reported that Rev. Mr. Bachelder objected to the idea of his young and accomplished daughter Elizabeth going into the backwoods (Pelham) to share the privations and hardships of a pioneer minister's life. He said that after enjoying the society of such a town as Hampton, she could not content herself in the wild region where Mr. Hobbs had taken up his life work, but woman generally has her way and Elizabeth Bachelder was no exception, even in those early days. She lived here respected, honored and loved by the people of this town until the time of her death in the 91st year of her age, in 1819.

Rev. and Mrs. James Hobbs occupied the "old parsonage" built by Mr. Hobbs in 1751 on the Minister's land, first bought and provided him by the Town. The "old parsonage" still stands at a southwest point off Pelham Common, a relic of the past, abandoned and unfit for occupancy in its present state. The Minister's Farm, so-called, was sold for the Town on December 4, 1798 by James Gibson, Esq., acting as Vendue Master. In every generation of the descendants of Rev. James Hobbs, there have been members of this old Hobbs family who have taken important and conspicuous parts in the affairs of this Town.

Rev. Mr. Hobbs continued his pastorate until the time of his death on June 30, 1765. A Town Meeting was warned for the day following by sending constables of this Town to every man and giving him personal notice, and at this meeting, June 21, 1765, it was voted "to bury our Reverend Minister at the expense of the Town" and 20 pounds was voted "to bury him decently". Later, grave stones were bought by the Town to mark the resting place of the first minister of Pelham. At the time of his death, Mr. Hobbs had four children living, the eldest being about 11 years of age.

Rev. Amos Moody supplied this pulpit a few months and was called to the Ministry, then ordained and settled as Pastor here on November 20, 1765. He was given a settlement of 70 Pounds Sterling, money of Great Britain, and a yearly salary of 50 Pounds Sterling.

Rev. Amos Moody married Mrs. Elizabeth Hobbs, the widow of Rev. James Hobbs in 1768 and he died here in 1819, within a month of the date of the death of his wife, with whom he lived 51years. His pastorate covered a period of over 27 years and included the turbulent and trying times of the American Revolution, with the many changing conditions that subsequently followed.

The Town got behind in the settlement of this minister's salary. The matter became a subject of common discussion and many conferences were held relative to obtaining a satisfactory adjustment. In October 1780, the Town endeavored to meet the situation squarely and voted "to make up the back salary of Rev. Mr. Moody at the rate of 500 pounds, old tenor, a year, in silver or paper money, as the general exchange of silver is, when Mr. Moody receives it". But it was war time, money was scarce and many were not at all enthusiastic in supporting Rev. Mr. Moody in the Pulpit. However, Rev. Mr. Moody led a militant number of loyal supporters and it became increasingly difficult to unseat him.

In 1782, we find the Town voting "Not to allow Rev. Mr. Moody any salary for the year ensuing". And at a later meeting, held the same year "Not to dissolve Rev. Mr. Moody's contract, but to see on what terms he would stop preaching."

Feeling continued at a high pitch, regarding the payment of the Minister's salary, some objecting not only to paying such tax but also to retaining him in the Pulpit for reason, they claimed, that they were of a different persuasion. Consequently, in 1783, a committee was appointed to consult with Rev. Mr. Moody again, this time "to see what method could be taken to remove the unhappy uneasiness" that then existed between a number of his parishioners concerning his continuing as their Minister".

Following is Rev. Mr. Moody's reply, dated November 10, 1783:

"To the Inhabitants of the Town of Pelham,

Brethren. As you have rejected all of the proposals that I have hitherto made to the Town in regard to the present uneasiness, it is now evident that my first settlement and contract with the Town remains the only agreement between us: But as there is still so much uneasiness in the Town and it is such a pity that there should be so much contention about religion in which we all aught to be united in love: Therefore, I am still willing to comply with any reasonable method for restoring peace and quietness, even tho a union between the two parties cannot be effected: But as to the pulpits being taken from me and another put into it part of the time, I can't at present see my way clear to comply with it, if I can help myself, as doubtless I can some way or other: for as the Town regularly put me into the pulpit, it don't

appear reasonable that they have any just right to put another in my place until I am regularly dismissed from it, neither doth it seem proper for two parties that can't worship together, one to worship part of the time and the other, the other part of the time: but it seems much better that both should be content in the publick worship of God in different places, so long as they can't agree to worship together, and it is probable that an entire separation between the two parties for a while would soonest put an end to that unchristian frame of Spirit, and those unchristian words and actions, which are too common when persons are in contention: And that you may be directed into those measures which are most for the interest of religion and your own peace and comfort here and hereafter is the desire and prayer of

Yours,
AMOS MOODY."

The division became very acute between the two factions and finally action was taken to build a new meeting house at the Center, partly from the actual need of a new house for public worship and partly for reason of the growing division in religious sentiment. This was finally accomplished but only after much and persistent agitation, as the two factions, at the time, were about evenly divided in sentiment. Several votes relative to the matter became necessary before favorable action was finally taken. Among other votes taken, we find in December 1783, it was voted "*Not* to build a new meeting house", and on October 17, 1784, it was voted "*Not* to repair the public meeting house", emphasizing a hopeless situation but serving to stimulate public spirit to the extent that two months later, in December, the two factions apparently compromised in the matter and voted "To build a new meeting house in the Town of Pelham that shall give general satisfaction to said inhabitants".

However, apparent success proved to be of but short duration, as some of the parishoners could not conscientiously compromise their principals and consequently, on December 28th, one week following the previous meeting, the whole matter was, by vote, reconsidered, and in January (1785), a committee was chosen to "treat with Rev. Mr. Moody concerning those that cannot attend on his ministry, that they might be freed from tax supporting him, for reason, that they were affiliated with another denomination and should, therefore, be excused from paying a Minister's tax in Pelham, which town supported the Congregational Denomination only".

But it was not until 1787 that the Selectmen were empowered in the matter and it was then that the Town voted "To discharge all those from paying tax to the Minister, that can make it appear that they are of 'different persuasion' from the Congregationals". A few only are recorded as having registered to such effect and Rev. Mr. Moody still continued a bone of contention among his parishioners. He still successfully held the Town to its contract and full settlement was not made with him until several years later.

His following persistently favored the erection of a new house and finally adopted a new method of forcing the issue by proposing to erect one by proprietorship. So, on February 10, 1785, a meeting of a number of the freeholders of the Town was held and they agreed "to build a new meeting house in Pelham by Proprietors", and voted "that the following article should be offered to the inhabitants of the Town of Pelham to show who would sign for building said house".

"We, the subscribers, being sensible of the unhappy situation we are in at present, with regard to a comfortable and decent place for Public Worship, and the meeting house in our opinion is not worth repairing, we hereby

manifest our desire to build a meeting house by subscription, and with every man that is a well wisher to the Cause of Religion and the Credit of the Town would subscribe what they will give towards building a new meeting house and as soon as sufficient sum shall be subscribed call a Proprietors' Meeting and conclude on what method we will take for building the same."

In response to this action, it was voted in Town Meeting in June 1785 "to give liberty to set a meeting house on the Common near the old meeting house, preparations for building by Proprietors being already underway".

In October 1786, it was voted "to give leave to Rev. Mr. Moody to 'leave off' preaching in town, in case he can be agreed with", and also at the same meeting "to choose a committee (nine men) to treat with Rev. Mr. Moody as to his terms for 'leaving off preaching' and settle with him".

No agreement was reached, neither did Mr. Moody "leave off preaching" at that time, and the Town continued to run behind in the payment of his salary.

The erection of the new meeting house progressed slowly for reason of a lack of funds, so the Proprietors, in order to accomplish a more speedy completion, voted in legal assembly on June 8, 1789 "to sell the new building, as partially constructed, to the old Parish to finish as it saw fit, provided that the Proprietors should be paid in money or in pew ground when the meeting house had been fully completed". The proposal was accepted and the Town then voted "to sell the old meeting house at Public Vendue in such way and manner as shall be thought most likely to fetch its full value to pay Town debts with the same".

No sale resulted and construction continued to drag and what little was accomplished was done "piece meal".

The Town, in 1792, was confronted with the fact that the salary of Rev. Mr. Moody was in arrears for a period covering several years and in July of that year, it was voted "to pay Rev. Mr. Moody the sum due him from the Town, on condition that he resign the Desk".

The conditions incorporated in this vote evidently met the approval of all concerned as full agreement was promptly reached between Rev. Mr. Moody and the Town and his resignation was handed in and accepted and it became effective on October 24, 1792. Then a committee was appointed and it acted in adjusting differences between the factions, so long at strife, with much success.

"Rev. Amos Moody's Dismissal:

"A Council convened in Pelham on ye 24 of Oct. 1792 consisting of the following Churches, viz: The Church of Billerica, Dunstable and Tyngsboro, and chose the Rev. Mr. Cummins, Moderator. Then after addressing the Throne of Grace, attended to the Rev. Mr. Moody and Ye Parish Committee, who informed that Pastor and People had agreed upon a dissolution of his Pastoral connections with them in case it should be approved by ye Council convened.

"The members of the Church present were asked whether there was any objection to a separation, who confessed that they knew not of any.

"They were then asked whether they did not suppose it to be ye wish of the Church that the Council might ratify the agreement referred to in ye latter missive, who answered in the affirmative.

"The above questions being answered, the Council, tho they highly disapprove of the dismission of a Minister upon the ground of division and alienation of which he is not the . . . cause, except he desire it.

"Yet considering the mutual agreement between ye Rev. Mr. Moody and

ye People of his charge which agreement the Church consented to or complied with on condition of the approbation of the Council as expressed in the latter's missive: They judge it expedient that his Pastoral relation to them be dissolved and accordingly declare it dissolved.

"But in justice as well as charity to Mr. Moody, we are obliged to say his character as a man and as a Christian and as a Minister stand fair and unimpeached, no objection having been offered or even suggested against his civil deportment, morals, doctrine or conduct in ecclesiastical matters. And being ourselves persuaded of the goodness of his character and pleased with the Christian Spirit which so far as we can learn he has exemplified in the whole course of the unhappy division in this place and as we have reason to believe, he cannot in any instance be justly charged as the blamable cause or promoter thereof, we can and do with the utmost cheerfulness recommend him to any people who may wish to employ him as a Minister.

"It is with the utmost sorrow and grief of heart we reflect upon the unhappy division and alienation that prevail in this place on account of diversity in religious sentiment and as those who are engaged in religious disputes are exceeding apt to give themselves up to the guidance of unenlightened zeal, we earnestly recommend to ye parties in this place, wise self-examination. Let them consider that infallibility is not the prerogative of men and that they may possibly be mistaken, however confident they are that they are right, if they know themselves as well as they know one another. It might be well or better for them: let them cultivate the temper of charity which is the distinguishing love of a Christian. Ye proprieties whereof are described at large by ye Apostle in ye 13 Chap. of Hebrew VII, and if they will do this, no doubt they will unite and realize how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.

HENRY CUMMINS, *Moderator*
By unanimous vote of the Council

"A true copy: Attest: Nathaniel Lawrence, Scribe."

As a townsman, Rev. Mr. Moody was highly esteemed and enjoyed the respect and confidence of his fellow citizens. It was regarding religious matters only that they had differed. This may easily be seen, as immediately after retiring from the Pulpit at Town Meeting in March 1793, he was elected to the New Hampshire Assembly as Representative to the General Court and continued in such office successively for many terms.

The new meeting house was still unfinished and methods were considered for completing it.

The old Meeting House on the Common was still unsold, although it had been appraised for sale sometime before. So the Town voted "to accept both meeting houses as they stand and to pay to the Proprietors without further delay". Also, "to sell the little meeting house and the land where it stands".

And in this manner, came to conclusion a long period of turmoil and strife in Town and Church affairs.

In 1794, the land known as the "Ministree Land" was sold at Public Vendue in about a dozen separate lots, allotted to suit purchasers. The net proceeds from the sale are not recorded but notes against the purchasers were held by the Town to the amount of a little over $1,000. However, sufficient had not been realized to finish the new Meeting House.

So, early in 1795, the pews yet to be installed in the "Great Meeting House" were "set up" at Public Vendue and sold singly to each highest bidder, each pur-

CHARTER

Province of)
New Hampshire) George The Second, By the Grace of God of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, Defender Of The Faith, etc.

"To All Whom These Presents Shall Come Greeting:

"Whereas, Sundry of our Loyal Subjects, inhabitants of a tract of land within the Antient Boundaries of the towns of old Dunstable and Dracute, in our province of Newhampshire, two miles and Eighty Rods East of Merrymack River, herein hereafter described, have humbly Petitioned and Requested of us that they may be Erected and Incorporated into a Township and Infranchised with the same Powers, authorities and Prevelidges which other towns within our said Province by law have and Enjoy, And it appearing to us to be conducive to the General good of our said Province, as well as of the said Inhabitants in Particular, by maintaining Good Order and Encouraging the Culture of the Land that the same should be done; Know Ye, therefore, That We, of our Especial Grace, Certain Knowledge, and for the Encouraging and Promoting the Good Purposes and Ends aforesaid, by and with the advice of our Trusty and well beloved Benning Wentworth, Esq., our Governour and Commander-in-Chief, and of our Council for said Province, have Erected, Incorporated and Ordained, and by these Presents, for our heirs and successors, Do will and Ordain, that the Inhabitants of the Tract of land aforesaid, Bounded as follows: viz., Beginning at the Boundary Pitch Pine tree, made by Mr. Mitchel, and Running on the north Boundary line of the Massachusetts until it Comes within two miles and eighty rods of Merrymack River; then north twenty Degrees East to Londonderry; then by Londonderry East South East five miles and one hundred and forty rods; then south to Methuen line and to meet the Curve Line called Mitchel's Line; then by said Curve Line to the Pitch Pine Tree, where it began, and that shall Inhabit the Same,—Be and by these Presents are declared and Ordained to be a town Corporate, and are hereby Erected and Incorporated into a Body Pollitick and a Corporation to have Continuance forever by the name of Pelham, with all the Powers and authorities, Prevelidges, Imunities and Franchizes which other towns within our Sd Province or any of them by law have and enjoy; To Have and to Hold the said Powers, authorities, Imunities and Franchizes to them, the said inhabitants, and their successors forever always, Reserving to us, our Heirs and Successors, all White Pine Trees Growing and being, and that shall hereafter Grow and be, on the said Tract of land, for the use of our Royal navy; Reserving also the Power of Dividing said town to us, our heirs and successors, when it shall appeare necessary or Convenient for the Inhabitants thereof, And as the Several Towns within our said Province are by the Laws thereof Enabled and authorized to assemble, and by the majority of Votes to Choose all such officers as are mentioned by the Said Laws We do by these Presents Nominate and appoint Zacheus Lovewell, Gentleman, to call the first meeting of the said Inhabitants to be held within said Town at any Time within thirty Days from the date hereof. Giving Legal Notice of the time, Place and Design of holding such meeting. In Testimony whereof, We have caused the Seal of our said Province to be hereunto affixed.

Witness, Benning Wentworth, Esq., our Governour and Commander in Chief of our Said Province the 5th day of July, in the yeare of our Lord Christ one thousand seven hundred and forty-six, and in the Twentieth Yeare of our Reigne. By his Excelencies Command with advice of Council—

"Benning Wentworth.

"Theodore Atkinson, Secretary.

"Entered and record accorded, according to the Original, This sixteenth day of September, 1746, Page 33 & 34.

Theodore Atkinson, Secretary"

chaser in turn having his choice of any pew as numbered and arranged on a plan, except one. That one was reserved, as customary, as the Minister's Pew. By this method, sufficient money was raised with which to install the pews and finish the meeting house and in this manner, 42 prospective pews which were to occupy the lower floor were disposed of at sums varying from $45. to $61.50 each.

Capt. John Ferguson was the highest bidder for any one of the pews in prospect.

The gallery was planned for 25 pews, all of which were sold in the same manner to highest bidders. Successful bids for gallery pews ranged from $26. to $41. each. Capt. Eliphalet Hardy was the Vendue Master.

The proceeds from this sale amounted to $2,813.50, which proved to be more than sufficient to finish the new Meeting House and the balance remaining was loaned at interest, which was later used to keep the Meeting House in repair.

It was related "that Lieut. Ezra Marsh drew one of the beams of this house with his team from the vicinity of Island Pond, the 2nd day of April, crossing all walls and fences without impediment, the snow being of sufficient depth and packed so hard that it carried the load and team safely above and across all buried obstructions".

There was nothing purchased or furnished for the building unless the Town took action upon it—a cushion for the Pulpit, a curtain for the Pulpit window, a cupboard under the Pulpit, gravelling by the underpinning—in fact everything of whatever nature must first be sanctioned in open Town Meeting.

Preaching was hired again from late in 1792 until October 31, 1798, when the Rev. John Hubbard Church was ordained and settled as Minister.

The Town voted in August preceding this date "to concur with the Church in giving Rev. Mr. Church this call and at the same time voted him a settlement of $500 to be paid within one year of his ordination out of money due the Town from the sale of the Parsonage land which had been made as previously mentioned. His salary was stipulated at $333.33-1/3 yearly.

Rev. John Hubbard Church continued to occupy this Pulpit for a period of almost 37 years, his service lacking but one month of that long space of time. He resigned September 30, 1835 for reason of poor health. It was during his Ministry that a movement originated finally resulting in the erection of the Congregational Church at the site where it now stands.

Rev. John Keep succeeded to this Pastorate after the resignation of Dr. Church and he was ordained on September 30, 1835, officiating until October 13, 1841, which was the date of his withdrawal.

The period from 1828 to 1842 became especially acute in relation to denominational affairs.

The justice of demands made by members of denominations other than the standing or established order in Town affairs, who sought proportionate right in the use of the Meeting House as a place for public worship, according to their own doctrine, could not go on forever unrecognized. The right of occupancy, as requested by petitioners, was based on a ratio either of the number of their polls or of the amount of their invoice in relation to the total number of rateable polls or the total amount of the invoice of the Town.

So, at a special Town Meeting in April 1832, after five previous attempts to bring favorable action had been turned down, in as many consecutive years, it

was finally voted "To give each denomination of Christians liberty to occupy their equal share of the property in the Meeting House owned by the Town of Pelham, in proportion, as the amount of the invoice of each denomination shall be to the whole amount of the invoice of said Town of Pelham". "Liberty of occupancy for the year ensuing" was granted to all denominations of the Town, at the three following successive Town Meetings.

In the year 1819, a law was established relative to the support of all religious institutions by taxation, which changed the whole order of things. This act was called "The Toleration Act" and did away with all compulsory support of the Minister, which had long been a thorn in the public mind.

Two outstanding clauses of this act were—

(1) "Provided, that no person shall be compelled to join or support or be classed with, or be associated to any congregation, church or religious society, without his consent had first been obtained."

(2) "Provided, also that if any person shall choose to separate himself from such society or association to which he may belong, and shall leave a written notice thereof with the clerk of such society or association, he shall thereupon be no longer liable for any further expenses which may be incurred by said society or association".

PULPIT ROCK

It is the Sabbath morn,
The day of all the best.
A band of Pilgrims here have stayed
To Worship God and rest.

No canopy spread o'er their heads
Save the blue vault of heaven,
While from the Book the Pastor read
Of the Saviour for sinners given.

Would we could lift the veil of years
And gaze as pilgrims kneel
We know not now what hopes and fears
That picture would reveal.

Though many years have passed since then
The place a grandeur wears
Which through eternity shall last
And all that its impress bears.

We'd call it holy ground
The spot where first they trod,
'Twas here they stood and sang
Their hymns of praise, to God.

OTIS WOODBURY,
Pelham, New Hampshire

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THE CHURCHES

This law put an end to the taxing of an unwilling people by the Town for the support of the Church. However, towns at first did not take advantage of this law but continued to raise money in the same way as usual.

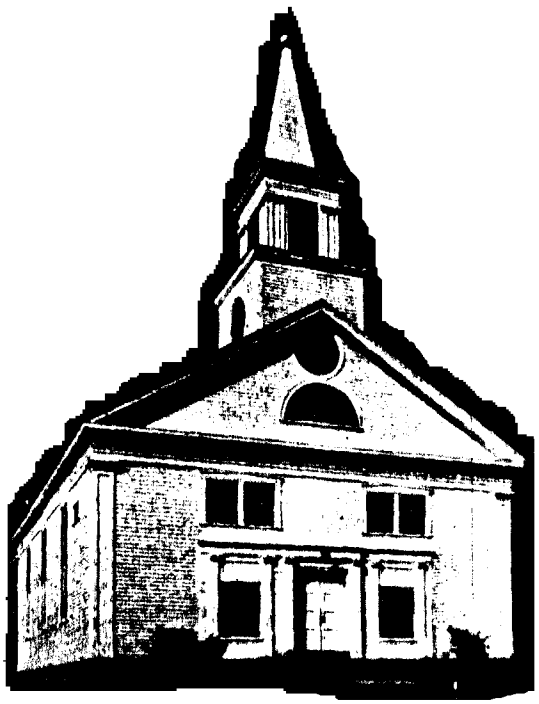
In 1832, and in several town meetings held periodically thereafter, the town warrant presented various articles for consideration, that in subject matter pertained to selling or remodelling and repairing the Public Meeting House, and to selling the land on which it stood and around it or removing it to another site and then making alterations and improvements that occasion demanded.

In either case, if voted favorably, the Town and the Congregational Society were to act jointly in the matter with reservations made to protect all interests and the Society to be given absolute jurisdiction of the Meeting House as far as public worship was concerned. It was also specified that the Town should retain sufficient room in the building to conduct all necessary town affairs.

Articles of such import were invariably acted upon negatively. For nearly a century previous, parishioners of this order had worshipped, in turn, in the three public meeting houses built by the Town, primarily with such purpose in view, and each of which in its turn had served such purpose admirably. But the trend of religious thought and influence had gradually changed local conditions, so that now a vital issue confronted The Congregationalists. They desired a place of public worship where they could meet without interruption, which

gave rise to the formation of a society for the support of all the interests of this denomination.

So, the First Congregational Society in Pelham was duly formed by a number of parishioners who were legal voters of the Town at a meeting held in Tyler's Hall at Pelham Center, May 8, 1832, and organized at an adjourned meeting held at the same place June 7th following. Officers were elected and by-laws adopted. This Society then sought, as previously stated, ownership or jurisdiction of the Public Meeting House that stood on Pelham Common, at various town meetings, but without success.



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF PELHAM

However, it all led to a climax that finally resulted in the erection and establishment of Pelham Congregational Church at its present location, which proved an harmonious solution of a matter that had long been a source of friction in Town affairs. Gen. Samuel M. Richardson in 1842 gave to the First Congregational Society the site of the present church, which was completed in the same year with Rev. Cyrus Allen as the first settled minister. This Church still stands and its present Pastor is Rev. Thomas Rolen. It was remodelled in 1890 and rededicated in 1899.

As a result of the many disagreements, a meeting house was built on Gage Hill for the use of both Methodists and Baptists in 1820. The Reformed Methodists Society was established in 1842 and met at that Church until 1844, when a larger edifice was erected on the Salem Road.

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH OF PELHAM

The Pelham Free Will Baptist Association also held services in this Church, as did the Methodist Episcopal group and it continued in use until the late 1870s and the Church was torn down in 1883.

The latest church building erected in Pelham is St. Patrick's Church. Previous to its erection, services were conducted in Pelham Town Hall from 1908 to 1913.

Fr. Hennon of Westville, N. H. was the first assigned Pastor here and he was followed by Fr. McNamara.

St. Patrick's Church was built in 1913 by Father John J. McNamara, the Pastor of Salem and Pelham parishes combined. The land was donated by the Eastern Massachusetts Street Railway Co. The Church was dedicated in the Fall of 1913 by the late Bishop of Manchester, The Most Reverend George Albert Guertin, D.D.

Father McNamara, late Pastor of St. Mary's Parish, Rochester, N. H., died a few years ago.

Father Thomas C. Laughlin, D.D., took charge here in 1914 and continued as Pastor until 1926.

From October 9, 1926, the Parish was in charge of Father John J. Boyd, whose residence was in Salem, and it is at present in charge of Rev. P. J. Kenneally, also of Salem, N. H.

THE SCHOOLS

School matters lagged. Perhaps no more than in other towns during this early period—but nevertheless interest in affairs of education developed slowly and received but slight impetus for several decades following the incorporation of the town.

By an ancient provincial law the selectmen of a town were obliged to levy a tax upon the inhabitants "to build schoolhouses, minister's houses and meeting houses" and also to provide a school-master. By a Colonial law passed by this province in 1719, which continued in force until 1789 it was enacted that every town in the Province, with a population of 50 families or householders, shall be constantly provided with a school-master to teach children to "read and write". When a town had 100 families "a Grammar School should be set up and kept". March 30, 1789, this town voted *NOT* to have a grammar school.

In 1789 the school laws previous to this date were all repealed and new laws enacted. The new law made it the duty of the selectmen to assess annually the sum of 45 pounds, Old Tenor, upon each twenty shillings of the town's proportion of public taxes for the teaching of "reading, writing and arithmetic". Latin and Greek were taught in Shire and HalfShire towns. This act of 1789 continued until 1805 in which year a law was passed giving towns authority to organize school districts and a few years later made such obligatory.

Appropriations for the support of schooling was of uncertain amount and of much irregularity during the early period and for a number of years was only of sufficient amount to hire a schoolmaster but for a few of the winter months each year.

In fact, it seems that for quite a number of years, even after incorporation, the town chose to neglect this subject entirely and raised no money whatever for the support of schooling.

The residents had occasional schools, supported by subscription with periods of three or four weeks duration, but these were not open to all.

Finally the town voted to raise 10 Pounds, old tenor, for the year and for several years this vote was duplicated. Even the expenditure of that amount occasioned much quarrelling.

In 1760 it was voted "to leave it to the Selectmen to provide a school for the town".

The first schools are spoken of as "reading and writing schools".

In 1775, a committee was chosen "to expend the appropriation for schools they established in each corner of the town" signifying that schooling had developed to the extent of supporting schools in four sections. The school houses were built by the residents of each section and were maintained accordingly.

In 1776, it was voted "that every quarter of the town should have the use of its own money and not send pupils from one to another". Also "that when school was provided, they that would not send, should go without the benefit of the school". The dividing lines between these "quarters" are not defined by record. However, jumping a few years we find "five classes" arranged in sectional parts of the town by a committee chosen to make such division and the town accepting the report of this committee and establishing these classes to be known as follows. "South West Class" "North West Class" "North East Class" "South East Class" and "Middle Class". The divisions were made by "house to house" mention with detailed description of portion intended for each class.

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that is north, south, east or west of such line of houses. The South West Class is first mentioned in records as Gumpass School in 1807. These "classes", so called, were in 1819 defined as School Districts and numbered as such by vote of the town, 1-2-3-4-5-. These districts were then divided by bounds and courses of compass defining the general direction of lines between all districts. However, in 1794 owing to a conflict in school matters in the South West Class, the class voted to divide itself into two classes. This western section became known as the "Westward Class", also as the "Hill Class", and in 1822 as District Number 6 when it was set off as such by vote of the town from District No. 2 which maintained the Gumpass School. For support of its school, No. 6 received only what its proprietors paid to the town in school taxes amounting to an average of about $30 a year for a number of years. The other five districts each received one fifth of the balance remaining or an average of about $80 a year at the time corresponding.

A Report From the Record: "At a school meeting of the South West Class in Pelham held at the house of John Butler Jr. on January 6, 1794—voted to divide the South West Class into two classes.

"Voted that each class should draw their equal proportion of the money that was raised and should be raised hereafter for the use of building schoolhouses, and providing schools according to the taxes that the proprietors of each class pays in said town for the use above mentioned—

WILLIAM SHERBURNE, *Clerk*"

This was recorded in the Town Records March 30, 1808.

The Westward Class so called, later known as the Hill Class consisted of the following:

James Sherburne	Lot Spaulding, Jr.	*Non res*
William Sherburne	Zacheus Spaulding	Lt. Abiel Coburn
Joshua Hamblett	Jonathan Butler	Jonathan Gould
Joshua Hamblett, Jr.	Jedidiah Hardy	Andrew Seavy
Mark Gould	Samuel Griffin	Robert Stewart
Mark Gould, Jr.	John Tarbox	Elijah Fletcher
Lot Spaulding	John Wells	

Pelham, February 13, 1797: "Report of the committee, appointed by the Town of Pelham to class the Town into five classes, to convene school in said Town.

"The four schoolhouses now built in the four outside classes, shall stand where they are now built and not be moved, and the Town is divided into classes as follows (viz):

"The South West Class—shall begin at Mr. Abel Butricks thence to Mr. Daniel Butlers, Mr. Edmund Hardys, Mr. Benjamin Hamblets, the widow Rebecca Butlers, Captain Thomas Spoffords and Mr. Seth Cutters; thence to Mr. Enos Hadleys and Mr. John Wells, all of whom are included in the South West Class and all the inhabitants who live south-westardly of the above mentioned inhabitants to the Town-line from Mr. John Wells to Captain Asa Richardson are to belong to the South West Class.

"The North West Class—shall begin at Lieutenant David Butlers thence to Mr. John Nevens, Mr. Caleb Butlers, Mr. Daniel Tenneys, Deacon Daniel Barkers, Deacon Benjamin Barkers, Mr. Samuel Hutchinsons, Messrs. Ebenezer and John Ellenwoods, Mr. James Hobbs' and Mr. Philip Richardson's Junior, all of whom are included in said class and all the inhabitants North-westwardly of

them to the town line from Mr. Philip Richardsons Jr. to Lieut. David Butler's are to belong to said North West Class.

"The middle class shall begin at Captain Jonathan Gage's, thence to Major Daniel Coburn's, Mr. Amos Johnsons, Mr. John Atwood's, Mr. James Wilson's, Doctor Aaron Grosvenor's, Mr. Joshua Atwood's, Mr. Uriah Abbot's, Mr. Simon Beard's, Mr. Asa Kent's Jr., Mr. William Hardy's, Mr. Samuel Davis's, Mr. Asa Wyman's, Mr. John Wyman's, Mr. John Marsh's, Amos Moody, Esq., Adjut. Daniel Hardys, Mr. Edmund Tenney's, Mr. Asa Stickney's, Mr. Daniel Wyman's, Mr. John Wyman's the 3rd, Mr. Andrew Tallants, and Captain Jesse Smith's, all of whom are included in said Middle Class and all the inhabitants west of Goldings Brook and within the compass of the above mentioned inhabitants are to belong to the said middle class.

"The North East Class—shall begin at Mr. Moses Noyes's thence to Mr. Joshua Atwood's Junior, Mr. James Fosters, Mr. Daniel Atwoods, Mr. Isaac Gages, Mr. Asa Gages, Deacon Abel Gages, Lieut. Alexander Grimes, Mr. Jonathan Webster's, Mr. Ebenezer Websters and Mr. Josiah Guttersons, all of whom are included in said North East Class and all the inhabitants North Eastwardly of them to the town line from Mr. Josiah Guttersons to Mr. Moses Noyes'.

"The South East Class—shall begin at Mr. William Webbers thence to Mr. Silas Trulls, Captain Jesse Wilsons, Mr. Daniel Wilsons, Mr. John Barkers, Mr. Nathan Hobbs, Mr. Nathaniel Curriers, Mr. Enoch Howards, Mr. Abiel Barkers, Mr. Asa Carletons, Mr. Asa Carleton's Junior, Mr. Ezekiel Richardsons, Mr. Jonathan Lyons, Mr. Roger Coburns, all of whom are included in said South East Class and all the inhabitants south westwardly of them to the Town line from Mr. Roger Coburns to Mr. William Webbers.

DAVID GAGE
THOMAS SPOFFORD } Committee
EZRA R. MARSH for classing the Town of Pelham unto five classes for covering schools in said town."

Pelham February 13th, 1797

NUMBER OF FAMILIES IN EACH CLASS

So. W. Class	34
No. W. Class	30
Middle Class	31
North East Class	31
South East Class	26
	154

Realizing the need for a centralized school and a junior high school in the Town, money was appropriated and the school, now known as the Junior High School, was built. The first occupancy of the school was on December 3, 1920. The first First Year High School Class was started September 15, 1921. In this school, the 7th and 8th grades and the first year of high school were taught for several years. For a time, the second year of high school was also taught but this was soon discontinued.

As the classes grew larger each year, it was finally decided to have the 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grades taught here, eliminating the first year of high school from this school and the 5th and 6th grades from the district schools.

At this writing, there are approximately, fifty-two children who will be attending neighboring high schools this next year. The school budget provides for the paying of high school tuition.

THE LIBRARY

The Pelham Free Public Library was at one time housed in the Town Hall. In 1892, at Town Meeting, an appropriation was made to start a library. The State of New Hampshire contributed $100. for books to assist in starting the library.

In 1896, the Town, instead of having a celebration for the 150th Anniversary of the incorporation of the Town, decided to build the present beautiful brick building. The Town raised approximately $6,000. by taxation over a period of years and approximately $2,500. was raised by public subscription. Many former townspeople, who had sought their livelihood elsewhere, donated the major portion of this public fund. The late John M. Woods of Somerville donated the beautiful satinwood finish that so many of the present townspeople now admire. The late Frank M. Woodbury gave the land upon which the Library stands, also some of the finish. Space is limited here to note all of the individual donations and the donors but suffice it to say that this building is really a monument to townspeople cooperation

Miss Mary E. Hobbs is at present Librarian. This kind lady has been the one and only Librarian the Pelham Free Public Library has ever had from

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the time it was founded in 1892. Here is an outstanding record of 54 years of understanding public service. Miss Hobbs takes a keen personal interest in her position as Librarian, always accompanying the Library Trustees on their book buying journeys, giving advice and counsel, then labelling and cataloguing the newly purchased volumes herself.

At the present time, our Library numbers approximately 9,000 volumes.

The present Library Trustees are Mary H. Sherburne, Carl M. Mansfield and Alice M. Overlock.

THE BRIDGES

It is hard to believe now, but during the administration of President Andrew Jackson, the country's revenues exceeded its expenses. The surplus money was returned to the States, which in turn apportioned it to the towns. Pelham received about $3,800. from this refund in 1837.

At a Town Meeting on March 14, 1837, it was voted to receive the "Public Money", and Capt. Edward Wyman was chosen agent to receive and loan the same. At the same meeting, it was voted to build a stone bridge across Beaver Brook, with suitable arch or arches, and David Cutter, Esq. and Jonathan Atwood, Jr., were chosen to carry the same into effect.

This is the South Bridge, formerly known as "Abbott's Bridge" and it crosses Bridge Street in the Center, but slightly south, on the way to Dracut and Lowell.

On March 12, 1839, it was voted to build a stone bridge over Beaver Brook with one or more suitable arches, and Jonathan Atwood, Jr., David Cutter, Esq. and Joseph B. Gage were chosen a committee to build the same. This is the Middle Bridge, or as it was formerly known, "Whiting's Bridge", and is on the road to Lawrence.

On March 11, 1840, it was voted to build an arched stone bridge across Beaver Brook, and Asa Stickney, Moody Hobbs and Joshua Atwood were chosen a committee to build the same. Sufficient money to build the same was appropriated from the "surplus revenue". This is the North Bridge, or as it was formerly known, "Richardson's Bridge" and crosses Beaver Brook on Bridge Street, slightly beyond Pelham Center, on the road to Windham.

Each is of arched stone construction and each has withstood the battering of freshets and today's heavy automobile traffic without the slightest sign of weakening for more than a century.

An iron bridge on Mammoth Road at North Pelham, between this Town and Windham, was constructed in 1895 by contract, at a cost of $300. to each town. Incidental costs to this Town were $81.26.

This bridge was replaced by a cement bridge built by the State of New Hampshire by joint fund—Pelham, Windham and the State.

HAYES-GENOTER HISTORY AND GENEALOGY LIBRARY

THE WARS

From the earliest colonial days up to the present time, the men of Pelham have always performed their part as true men and soldiers.

Some of the first settlers of the town were with Lovewell in the famous Indian fight at what is now Fryeburg, Maine. In the long winter march through the wilderness which ended in the capture of Quebec, Pelham men were present. At the reduction of Louisburg and in other engagements, Pelham was represented by men who were on the firing line. The record is given only of those who died abroad.

In the Revolutionary war, Pelham was represented on almost every battlefield, especially at Bunker Hill, where, under that grim warrior John Stark, they were at the rail fence and gave the British grenadiers their first taste of true Yankee fighting. Again, when Burgoyne with his well provided army marched from Canada to cut the colonies in two, the men of Pelham, at Stark's call, marched to Bennington, and under him broke the power of the British commander. These men were volunteers for the special occasion, for Pelham at that time had its full quota of soldiers in the Continental Army. At Trenton, Brandywine, Monmouth, during the dark winter at Valley Forge, and at the closing scene of the Revolution at Yorktown, Pelham men were in the ranks.

In 1812, although the war was very unpopular in New England, the men of this town rallied to their country's call and bore an honorable part. The Military Company of this town and Salem were under marching orders for the defence of Portsmouth, and their members were not subject to the draft. They were not called out, as the enemy concluded not to make a land attack.

In the Civil War, Pelham was represented in every department. At Hilton Head and Charlestown, in the desperate assaults at Fort Wagner, Fredericksburg, Petersburg, and for almost four long and bloody years, the men of Pelham did their part to preserve the Union. At the closing scenes of Richmond and Appomattox, they saw the fruits of the long struggle for the preservation of the nation.

The flag of the 13th N. H. Vol's., in one company of which twenty-eight Pelham men were enlisted, was the first regimental flag carried into the City of Richmond when the Confederate Capitol fell into the hands of the Union troops.

Again in the Spanish War, Pelham had its representatives in the nation's armed forces, and this beautiful rural community sent many of its sons into service during those grim days of 1917 and 1918 as the United States joined with its allies in putting an end to the first World War.

The people of the Town of Pelham thought, as did all people everywhere, that this first World War was the war to end all wars. But again the youth of Pelham was called on to join with other Allied youth to stamp out the Fascist threat to Democracy in Europe and the Pacific. All those who served their country in World War II did so admirably, many especially distinguishing themselves and the Town of Pelham.

SOLDIERS FROM PELHAM WHO DIED ABROAD IN THE FRENCH AND INDIAN WARS

Jonathan Wright	Simon Beard	John Weber
Edwin Wyman	Thomas Gage	Simon Wyman
Ezra Littelhail	Joseph Gage	Daniel Gage

HAYES-GENOTER HISTORY AND GENEALOGY LIBRARY

SOLDIERS FROM PELHAM IN THE WAR OF THE REVOLUTION

1776 --1782

Atwood, Joshua
Abbott, Uriah
Austin, Abiel
Barker, Isaac
Barker, Benjamin
Barker, Daniel
Bailey, Joseph
Bayles, Joseph
Beard, Simon
Bradford, John
Butler, David
Butler, Gideon
Butler, Mathar
Butler, Daniel
Butler, Jacob
Butler, Nathan
Brown, Samuel
Coburn, Daniel
Coburn, Merrill
Coburn, Asa
Coburn, Benjamin
Coburn, Edward
Cole, Eliphalet
Cutter, Seth
Campbell, William
Campbell, David
Davis, Samuel
Farmer, James
Ferguson, James
Ferguson, John
Fitzgerald, Michael
Foster, John
*Gage, David
*Gage, Abner
*Gage, Daniel
*Gage, Jonathan
*Gage, Abel
*Gage, Asa
*Gage, Amos
Gage Daniel
Gage, Richard
Gage, Amos
Gage, Josiah
Gage, Benjamin
George, Daniel
Gibson, Barnabas
Gibson, John
Gibson, James
Greeley, John
Goodhue, Phineas
Gordon, William
Graham, Alexander
Gutterson, Josiah
Griffin, Jonathan
Hamblet, Phineas
Hazeltine, Nathaniel
Hardy, Thomas
Hardy, Asa
Hardy, Simeon
Hardy, Noah
Hardy, Jedediah
Hardy, William
Hardy, Cyrus
Hardy, James
Hardy, Silas
Hamblet, Benjamin
Hamblet, Reuben
Haywood, Samuel
Howe, Richard
Hobbs, James
Howard, Enoch
Howard, Samuel
Hoyt, John
Johnson, William
Johnson, Silas
Kimball, Phineas
Kimball, Ziba
Kimball, Benjamin
Kimball, John
Kimble, Edward
Knowlton, Thomas
Knowlton, Asa
Kemp, Benjamin
Kemp, Amos
Lowe, Daniel
Loring, John
Marsh, Jacob
Marsh, Noah
Marsh, John
Marsh, Dudley
Martin, Nathaniel
May, Zebulon
Morgan, Jonathan
Nevens, Robert, Jr.
Palmer, Ebenezer
Richardson, Daniel
Richardson, Ezekiel
Richardson, Thomas
Robinson, Benjamin
Spofford, Thomas
Swan, Joshua
Tenney, Edmund
Tenney, Jonathan
Thistle, Thomas
Tarbox, John
Whiting, Nathan
Wells, John
Webster, Ebenezer
Wilson, Jesse
Williams, John
Wright, Joseph
Wyman, Josiah
Wyman, Abiel

* Of same family.

SOLDIERS FROM PELHAM IN THE WAR OF 1812

Atwood, Simeon
Butler, Jacob
Butler, Eliphalet
Buttrick, Jonas
Coburn, Phineas
Coburn, Benjamin
Chase, Benjamin
Dutton, John
Ditson, Benjamin
Gage, Nathan
Grosvenor, Horace
Hadley, Amos
Hardy, Frederick
Hardy, Enos
Merrill, Thomas
Marshall, Jacob
Pease, Samuel
Richardson, Samuel M.
Webster, John

SOLDIERS FROM PELHAM IN THE WAR OF THE REBELLION

1861 - 1865

Bean, Benjamin F.
Buttrick, Caldwell
Bright, Joseph W.
Bates, Sidney T.
Bates, Edward S.
Burnham, Willis G.
Burnham, George H.
Burnham, Chas. S.
Butler, Frank E.
Butler, Chas. W.
Butler, William W.
Caldwell, Nathan
Carey, James
Chaplin, Kimball J.
Chase, Benjamin
Daniels, Isaac H.
Dow, Edward
Ellingwood, Alonzo
Ellingwood, Frank M.
Everett, Joseph S.
Everett, Franklin
Fox, Daniel B.
Freeland, John
Gage, George H.
Gage, William H.
Gage, Joseph A.
Gage, Ezekiel C.
Gibbs, Edward H.
Gove, Lorriman G.
Humphrey, Horace W.
Herbert, Warren W.
Hobbs, Chs. W.
Jackman, Geo. C.
Johnson, Geo. B.
Kittredge, Edward G.
Kittredge, William W.
Kent, Chs. M.
Kent, George E.
Lamson, Joseph F.
Lee, David
Lyon, Sidney J.
McCoy, David A.
McCoy, James E.
Moore, Orton
Miers, John
Moreland, Chs. L.
Marsh, George
Moran, Edward
Murray, Michael
Nudd, John H.
Peaslee, Alexander
Palmer, William
Philbrick, Chs. W.
Roney, David
Richardson, Russell O.
Richardson, Orlando W.
Richardson, Silas
Runnels, Farnum J.
Sleeper, Chs. W.
Smith, Alfred S.
Southerland, Neil
Spaulding, Orlando W.
Spear, Thomas S.
Thom, William B.
Thom, Videl L.
Titcomb, Isaiah
Titcomb, William H.
Titcomb, Frank E.
Titcomb, Charles P.
Tulley, Michael
Upham, Andrew C.
Wheeler, Charles
Wheeler, Moses F.
Webster, Mark H.
Webster, Lyman O.
Wilkins, George W.
Wilkins, Henry A.
Woodbury, Gilman H.
Woodbury, Eben A.
Woods, John M.
Wright, Chs. J.
Williams, John
Wilson, George

SOLDIERS OF WORLD WAR I

1917 — 1918

Banister, John T.
Bedard, Cyrille J.
Bedard, William, Jr.
Cogger, Henry P.
Coombs, Elmer L.
Cahill, Joseph A.
Doherty, Charles A.
Foisie, Phillip S.
Fortier, John J.
Greeley, Frederick A.
Greeley, Paul E.
Guild, John H.
Gariepy, William
Galucia, Wallace L.
Greenwood, Arthur E.
Greenwood, Daniel J.
Hobbs, Charles W.
Hillman, Carl R.
Hillman, Harvey F.
Hillman, Ralph G.
Herbert, Chester D.
Herbert, Willard F.
Lewis, Frank H.
Livingstone, William G.
Morneau, George J.
Raymond, Roswell M.
Stickney, Charles B.
Tallant, Samuel O.
Tallant, Hugh V.
Tallant, Albert A.
Tillotson, Frederick R.
Wilkins, William O.
Cutter, Martine
(Army Nurse)

PELHAM'S HONOR ROLL

The following served their country in World War II

Ackerman, Thomas R., Jr.
Allard, Raymond T.
Fletcher, Malcolm
Forrest, Kenneth D.
McCallum, Harlan G.
Merriam, Frederick C.

Allen, John
Allman, Morris
Alliette, Armand
Archambault, Ernest
Archambault, Fred H.
Atwood, Harry H., Jr.
Atwood, Frank W.
Atwood, Shirley A.
Atwood, Willis H.
*Bagley, Donald R.
Baril, Fred G.
Battles, Chester W.
Beattie, William C.
Beaulieu, Emile
Bedard, Donald A.
Bedard, Emile A.
Bedard, Raymond
Beaudoin, Phillip L.
Bennett, Fred J.
Bennett, Rita M.
Bergeron, Peter
Bisson, Jean Emery
Bisson, Gerard
Bisson, Maurice
Blute, William A.
Boissonneault, Maurice
Boucher, Roland A.
Boucher, Roger L.
Bourgeois, Albert R.
Boutwell, Ralph S.
Burton, Donald E.
Carleton, Frank O.
Choquette, Albert
Christian, Eli S.
Cikacz, Walter J.
Costa, Anthony
Cutter, Arthur H.
Danesewich, Michael
Danesewich, Stephen
Dionne, Joseph W.
Dionne, Rome G.
Doherty, William A.
Donovan, Frank L.
Ducharme, Arthur J.
Ducharme, Dolores R.
Ducharme, J. Alfred
Ducharme, Roderick W.
Edwards, Harry L.
Fairbanks, Roy F.
Fassas, Archilleas
Ferland, Arthur J.
Fox, Earl K., Jr.
Gagne, Raymond A.
Garland, Frederick W.
Garland, Newton C.
Gaudette, William C.
Gauthier, Joseph R.
Gendron, Alfred
Gingras, Wilfred F.
Gould, Charles F.
Greenwood, Donald A.
Greenwood, Francis A.
Greenwood, Kenneth J.
Hardy, Ilda G.
Hardy, Roy E.
Habeeb, Martin M.
Harris, Gilbert H.
Harris, Leslie I.
Herbert, Frederick E.
Herbert, Paul K.
Herbert, William S.
Hirsch, Albert E.
Hobbs, Charles W., Jr.
Hodgman, Alton M.
Hopkins, John N.
Houle, Alice D.
Jack, Charles C.
Jewett, Elwin S.
*Jurewicz, Raymond
Kennedy, Phyllis M.
Kennedy, Warren J.
King, James M.
Koehler, Dorothy B.
Koper, Zigmond
Korelishan, Stephen
Lane, Frank H.
Landry, Clarence W.
Landry, Jerome G.
Landry, Joseph Edmund
Lavoie, Emil A.
Laws, Clifford W.
Leonard, Harry M.
Livingston, John M.
Magnant, Leo L.
Mailloux, Andrew L.
Mansur, Edgar B.
Mansur, Marden
Mansur, Robert Earl
Marchand, Clarence A.
Marchand, Roderick
Marchand, Roland W.
Marquis, Leonard
Moore, Edgar B.
Morin, George
Nariniak, Andrew
Nariniak, John
Neskey, Anthony
Neskey, John
Neskey, Stanley
Neskey, Stephen E.
Nickerson, Albert M.
Ouellette, Robert J.
Paquette, Leon A.
Paquette, Roland A.
Paquette, Wilmer L.
*Pariseau, Charles E., Jr.
Patenaude, Theodore A.
Pothier, Rene
Provencal, Maurice
Provencal, Norman
Quigley, John T.
*Raymond, Elmer G.
Richardson, Jesse P.
Robinson, Peter
Robinson, Paul
Romanuk, John
Romanuk, Ledimer W.
Romanuk, Paul
Rowell, Robert
Roy, Eugene
Roy, Leo J.
Roy, Rudolph J.
Sherburne, Ruth E.
Sherwood, Joseph R.
Simard, Dora M.
Simpson, Charles L.
Steckiewicz, Irene
Steckiewicz, John
Steckiewicz, Charles
Stiendl, Arthur W.
Stiles, Herman F.
Stiles, Richard C.
Sullivan, John L.
Symonovit, Leo Mike
Therrian, Edgar
Therriault, Charles
Titcomb, Otis E., Jr.
Vining, John E.
Vining, Sidney E.
Vining, Warren
Wolf, Lewis
Zannoni, Henri E.
Zolkos, Helen Honor

* Gold Star.

ADMINISTRATION OF PELHAM

Town Meeting today, as 200 years ago, is the government of Pelham—all else works out of the business transacted on that day. Arthur H. Peabody is the present Moderator and upon him falls the duty of conducting the townmeeting, assisted by George P. Wood, Town Clerk, who has (served) continuously for 25 years in this important post.

Carrying out the business of the Town is the Board of Selectmen; Chairman Ernest Q. Bigelow, Charles W. Hobbs and Walter S. Burton, with other officials including Carl M. Mansfield, Treasurer; Ernest G. Sherburne and Fred A. Houle, Auditors; Daniel S. Atwood, Tax Collector; Arthur Greenwood and Frederick J. Gariepy, Highway Agents.

PRESENT TOWN HALL OF PELHAM

Maintenance of law and order is the task of Arthur H. Peabody, Chief of Police and Town Prosecuting Officer. There is a large area to be policed and miles of highways to be patrolled, so the Chief and his special officers are kept busy.

Fire protection is under the supervision of Richard C. Mansfield, Roy Silloway, William Melanson, Frank S. Foisie and Ernest Q. Bigelow constituting the "fire wards", a title that has been carried down through the years.

The present schools comprise the Junior High School, covering Grades Five to Eight, inclusive, and the three smaller schools known as The Center School, Gumpas School and Gage Hill School, each covering Grades One to Four, inclusive.

HAYES-GENOTER HISTORY AND GENEALOGY LIBRARY

They are all under the general direction and supervision of a School Board consisting of Chairman Theresa Muldoon, Ernest G. Sherburne and Fred A. Houle, with Lucy Koehler as Clerk and Treasurer and Carl M. Mansfield as Auditor.

Modern methods of teaching are used throughout the system, giving the town a high rating. Bus transportation to each of the schools is provided by the Town.

The validity of your vote is checked and approved by the board of supervisors of the check list. The present board of supervisors is composed of Charles Peabody, chairman,—Alice M. Overlock, Lucy Koehler.

TALES OF OLD PELHAM

By MARY H. SHERBURNE

In this year of the 200th Anniversary of the founding of Pelham, our thoughts revert to those pioneers who braved the hardships and dangers of the wilderness to make of this a town, to the faithful preachers whose ministry helped to carry on, to the resolute teachers who imparted much more than the "three Rs," and to the public-spirited citizens who also gave of their time and talent to make of this a better town.

We are reminded, too, of many tales that have come down through the years of notable or amusing incidents, some of which we will record here.

For many years before its settlement, Pelham was but a thoroughfare between Pawtucket Falls and Londonderry. The soil was not considered fertile enough for agricultural purposes—in fact was reputed to be fit only to raise bluejays and the Devil. However arid the soil, they succeeded in raising some very large families.

In one family, there were seventeen children. On an occasion when the parents had to be away all day, they admonished the children on no account to open the outside door. The Minister came to call and they were in a dilemma. Finally, one of them called out, "Come in through the cat-hole." People were wont in those days to have a little hole by the outside door through which kitty could go in and out at will.

Of the first five men who decided to settle here, two built a home together, but very soon, each thinking that he did more than his share of the housework, they built a partition right through the middle of the house and each thereafter had to carry his own wood and water, do his own cooking, etc.

There were many town "characters" who were known and loved either because of, or in spite of, their oddities. There was the superstitious woman who lived all alone and ironed the cows' backs to keep the witches away; the storekeeper who sold cheese of such ancient vintage (the kind we'd like to get now) that he was known as "Maggoty" Marsh; the fireman at Seavey's Mills whose recreation was reading Latin and Greek. There was the maiden lady who worked around as long as she was able, then had her living by visiting her friends. It came to her ears that one man had said he would rather give a dollar than endure her visit! So she presented herself at his doorstep and said, "I hear you would rather give a dollar than have me visit you, and I'd rather have the dollar. Hog Gowan."

One man had a little shop and invented and made pruning shears. Many years later, a townsman, going to California to live, found a pair of these original pruning shears in the closet in the upper story of his new house.

William T. Hayes & Karen Genoter

Two men were known to have made various musical instruments. To one of these a little boy said, "Please, Mister, when one of your big violins has little ones, could I have one?"

The Town at one time had a band of sorts. They rehearsed in the lower Town Hall and gave their concerts from a bandstand just outside. Three young men had a habit of going out on the pond in a boat to play their instruments together. One night, the violinist fell overboard. When he came dripping and sputtering to the surface, one of his companions called out, "Sound your 'A,' Joseph." He was so mad, he never played again!

Many a romance budded in the old singing school, "Seeing Nellie Home." In the early days, there was but one song book, the Singing Master's and he used to "line it off," that is, read, and teach one line at a time.

The once famous Pelham Sings, directed by A. D. Greeley, will long be remembered. Once a year, singers gathered from near and far, rehearsed all morning, had a dinner prepared by the townspeople. and gave their concert in the afternoon. It invariably ended with the "Hallelujah Chorus."

For many years, there was no musical instrument in the Church. Alonzo Greeley said if they would install an organ, he would play it free of charge, and he did so for forty years. It was a number of years before the majority of the congregation would consent to the purchase or use of an organ. The first Sunday it was played, a woman, who was still opposed to it, flounced out of Church, saying, "I don't think much of coming out of Church to the tune of 'Hi Biddy Martin, Tiptoe Fine'," (a then popular dance tune).

One elder and his wife always sat at opposite ends of their pew and he was prone to fall asleep. One Sunday his snores embarrassed her so that she threw the hymn book at him. Rousing suddenly, oblivious of time and place, he threw it back again!

Is it strange they'd fall asleep? They had all day services for many years—no heat in winter save the little foot-stoves they may have taken with them, and in summer they walked the several miles barefooted, putting on their shoes and stockings only when coming in sight of the Church.

The first Sunday it was voted to discontinue the afternoon service, one devout attendant was so perturbed, he whipped his horse all the way home.

The coming of the itinerant peddler was always welcomed. He exchanged papers and rags for pots and pans, needles and pins, dry goods, etc. He was the butt of many jokes, and would often find his horse's harness snarled up, the front and rear wheels of his cart reversed, or a woodchuck or toad would jump out of his valise when he opened it to display his wares.

Feeling was strong in politics at times. There were torch-light processions, many bets paid by wheelbarrow rides and such. The record blizzard of '88 fell at Town Meeting time and there was little thought of a meeting. However, one staunch Republican of the Gumpas District, hitched four horses to a sled, got through somehow, mostly through the fields, rounded up all the Republicans en route, held the meeting and, needless to say, the Town went Republican that day. A load of Democrats arrived later from North Pelham and tried in vain to prove the meeting illegal.

Lovers came in for their share of teasing then, as now. One practical joker fastened a string across the roadway with an old-fashioned doorbell attached to the end and knew by the merry ting-a-ling-ling when a certain swain returned home at night. Another fastened all the pots and pans he could find to the doorknob and when that young swain attempted to make a quiet entrance, pandemonium reigned!

One damsel refused to leave her home unless she could go in a coach and four. Nothing daunted, her persistent lover procured the necessary equipment, married her and they drove away in style.

Two elderly people decided to get married but soon found they did not enjoy one another's company. So one fine morning, the gentleman invited his wife to go for a ride, deposited her and her worldly goods on her doorstep, tipped his hat and drove away.

A hard-working townsman noted that his pile of cordwood was gradually disappearing. So he took an augur, drilled some holes and inserted some gunpowder, covering the holes. It wasn't long before he heard that a certain man had to buy a new kitchen range!

The Schoolmaster also had his trials. The children walked to school regardless of distance—in winter, the one with the biggest feet went first to make a path for the rest. Many pupils went up to the age of 21, getting the equivalent of a high school education insofar as the Schoolmaster was capable of teaching the subject, and many were. They sat on hard wooden benches and often had to gather around the old wood stove on winter mornings to keep from freezing. The stove had a long funnel extending almost the length of the room and frequently it fell—often with help—so filling the room with smoke that school ended for that day.

Every Thanksgiving, turkeys used to be driven over the road from Vermont to Boston and they and their drivers rested overnight at the Jones Tavern.

There have been many improvements in transportation, in heat and light and labor-saving devices in these 200 years and time has speeded up accordingly. If a man missed the coach that plied once a day between Boston and Concord, he sat down and made a leisurely visit—now it is a calamity to miss one section of a revolving door.

THE 200th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION GENERAL COMMITTEE AS APPOINTED BY THE TOWN MODERATOR, MR. ARTHUR H. PEABODY, ACCORDING TO THE VOTED RESOLUTION AT TOWN MEETING, MARCH 1946

DANIEL S. ATWOOD
E. FRANCES CARLETON
ERNEST Q. BIGELOW
WALTER S. BURTON
GEORGE CLOSSAY, JR.
CATHERINE DONOVAN
FRANK C. FOISIE
MARY E. HOBBS
VELMA HOULE
LUCY KOEHLER
RICHARD MANSFIELD
ALICE OVERLOCK
ARTHUR H. PEABODY
ERNEST SHERBURNE

OFFICERS OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE AS ELECTED AT THE FIRST GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Chairman.....ARTHUR H. PEABODY
Vice-Chairman.....ERNEST Q. BIGELOW
Secretary.....GEORGE CLOSSAY, JR.
Treasurer.....ERNEST SHERBURNE

COMMITTEES

Program Director.....E. FRANCES CARLETON

Assistant Program Director.....ALICE OVERLOCK

Sports Committee Chairman.....WALTER S. BURTON

Dinner Committee Chairman.....DANIEL S. ATWOOD
Under direction of GEORGE HARRIS

Music Committee Chairman.....LUCY KOEHLER

Historical Relic Committee.....MRS. ZENA CURRIER, CHAIRMAN
MRS. LILLIAN WOOD
MISS ALICE CARLETON
MISS MARY E. HOBBS
MRS. BERTHA GREELEY

Parade Committee.....VELMA HOULE, CHAIRMAN
ETHEL YORK
MARION ATWOOD
CHESTER W. BATTLES
FREDERICK A. HOULE

Decorating Committee.....EDWARD GREENWOOD
ELMER RAYMOND

Invitation Committee.....CATHERINE DONOVAN, CHAIRMAN
MABEL BURTON
LILLIAN WOOD
ALICE CARLETON
PEARL GAGE
MARY QUIGLEY
MARY SHERBURNE
CHARLES HERBERT
MARY HOBBS

Finance Committee.....ERNEST SHERBURNE, CHAIRMAN
CECILE ALLARD
FREDERICK GARIEPY
CHESTER W. BATTLES
CORA BIGELOW
WALTER BURTON
VELMA SMITH
FRANK FOISIE
EDWARD F. HAYES
MABEL BURTON
ALMA TITCOMB
ROSE BEAUCHENE
ROSE BEDARD
FLORENCE HAMMAR
FLORENCE FOISIE
FREDERICK LYON
EDWARD GREENWOOD
ELIZABETH SIMPSON

HAYES-GENOTER HISTORY AND GENEALOGY LIBRARY

200th Anniversary Ball Committee ..... ERNEST Q. BIGELOW
RICHARD MANSFIELD FRANK C. FOISIE

Guest Book Committee Chairman ..... HILDA PEABODY

Centennial Tree Committee Chairman ..... FANNIE CLEMENT

Souvenir Booklet Committee Chairman ..... GEORGE CLOSSAY, JR.
Historian ..... HARRY H. ATWOOD
Tales of Old Pelham ..... MARY SHERBURNE
Photographs ..... ERNEST Q. BIGELOW
Compiling and Editing ..... MARION CLOSSAY
Advertising ..... ALMA TITCOMB
ARTHUR H. PEABODY CHARLES W. HOBBS
ADAM YOUNG

Sales and Distribution ..... ALMA TITCOMB

HAYES-GENOTER HISTORY AND GENEALOGY LIBRARY

As Long As Deep Love Of Country Burns in the Hearts of Our Young Men, We Need Not Fear the Future

To the people of Pelham:

The interest which you have shown in making plans for the celebration of the 200th Anniversary of the founding of your typical New England town, brings to my mind a few thoughts of an editorial which appeared during the war in one of the issues of Field and Stream. The editorial in question said something that we often hear expressed in many different ways by commentators, news columnists, politicians, and the man on the street. Yet in the case of most of us, this editorial says it in a manner that makes itself understood and at the same time includes all. I might quote a few lines:

"When we sing, 'I love thy rocks and rills, thy woods and templed hills,' we mean exactly that.

"Great cities are necessary for our industries, but love of our homeland comes with the scent of spruce and the color of maple leaves; with the wind over the prairies and sunset over the snow peaks; with mockingbirds in the live-oaks and geese honking in a cold sky. It is for these things and the right to enjoy them that we will fight."

These are the things that you and I would rather think of as defending or fighting for. On the other hand, there are those who would fight for the freedom of the seas, economic freedom, political freedom, or some other "freedom." I am sure that the people of Pelham and almost all New Englanders fight for the things as expressed in the quotation whether they realize it or not. "Anyone who has shivered in a duck blind as the sun crept slowly over the horizon, or paddled along the river at sunset, or heard the weird sorrowful note of a hound on a trail, or paddled through the cypress trees at night, or watched a setter frozen on a covey of partridges, is fighting for things that are realistic to him and worth the price which he might be forced to pay."

Our country may mean spruce and juniper and high mesas, or it may mean palmettos and cypress swamps. The important thing is that it means something deep and stirring to all of us. I know that these are the things that make you folks love Pelham's countryside, and as long as that same love burns within the hearts of the young people of America, we need not fear the future.

G. N. Longarini