

## VII.

### Men of Rumford.

Our forefathers were soon to pass through a time of testing of their character. Let us, then, consider these men—their standards, their habit of life—that we may apprehend the sources of that power which proved itself in strong bodies and valiant spirits.

A steady purpose had conquered the privations of pioneer life and simple living and self discipline had become their habit. Each morning began with the Bible and prayer and often when evening came, the same reverent service closed the day of toil. Elizabeth Abbot was born in 1733, in a log house on our main street; as she neared her one hundredth birthday, she bore witness that during her girlhood, "family orders" were the rule in every household in the village with two or three exceptions. Regular attendance at the Meeting-house was the invariable custom. Few books were available but the Bible was read and studied with infinite profit to mind and spirit. Children were drilled in the Assembly's Shorter Catechism and they were required to respect and obey their elders.

This does not mean that life in Rumford was by any means joyless. Romance budded and blossomed into frequent weddings among the young men and maidens of the town, and weddings were always times of rejoicing and feasting. There is ample evidence of other social merrymaking among the townsfolk, as we shall see in future chapters.

"Early to bed and early to rise" was the rule, especially during the summer months; when shorter days made lights a necessity, the thrift in candles indicates habits of economy. Even the Minister used a substitute for candles for, in his diary in the fall of 1746, we find that he sent John "with my team for a load of candlewood." In pioneer towns, fats were too precious to be used in needless candle making and so the Rumford folk followed a custom learned by their ancestors from the Indians. Taking wood from the very heart of the pitch pine, they cut it /

to strips about eight inches long, tied the sticks into bundles of convenient size and left them in the open to season. When fully dry the sticks made an excellent substitute for the housewife's candles which she reserved for special occasions.

Food was simple but plentiful. There was little meat except salt pork and the game brought in by the hunter, fishing was excellent in our numerous ponds and for years to come, trout was abundant in the by brooks on the intervale. Shad and salmon ran up the river until hindered by <sup>The</sup> building <sup>of</sup> dams. The bread was a dark mixture of corn and rye sweetened by maple sugar, and this bread with a bowl of milk was the staple dish for supper-sometimes for breakfast as well. However, in cold weather, the housewife might provide a hot broth or a porridge of corn, peas or beans dried from the summer harvest. Porridge continued to be a favorite dish until after the Revolution. Tea was a luxury and coffee almost unknown in this inland frontier town, but one might, on great occasions, serve a cup of chocolate.

Clothing was almost entirely a home product. Every farmer cultivated flax and raised sheep for their wool. The flax was pulled and spread for rotting by the women and boys, and dressed during the long winter by the men. With hand cards, the housewife prepared the wool and then with spinning wheel and hand loom, she made the homespun linen and woolen cloth. Vegetable dyes provided a limited variety of colors and the men often wore with their deerskin breeches, a tow frock, dyed brown with oak bark. Sometimes their frocks were of homespun wool, woven in blue or black stripes and a sheepskin apron was customary for protection. Display in dress was quite unknown in Remford and the women were properly dressed for even the greatest occasion when, to a homespun gown they added a clean checked linen apron and a handwoven kerchief of goodly capacity.

Social life was simple and friendly. Legal documents of the time

make careful distinction between "gentleman" and "yeoman", but this distinction seems to have been largely on the basis of land acquired. A "yeoman" of ability and character often became a "gentleman" in later years. There seems to have been entire equality among these hard-working, self-respecting people. Exchange of labor was common and when the Minister traded a share of his cider mill with Stephen Farrington, for a certain half-day of work, the only record according to his diary was "the account is chalked up over Aaron Stevens's mantlepiece."

Lieut. Stephen Farrington from Andover, as recorded in a former chapter, was a pioneer settler. A housewright by trade, he invested in local lots as they were available, among them being property at Eleven Lots and house lots on Range 1, numbered, 26, 27 and 28. He evidently traded in real estate to some extent. Bouton says he was "an enterprising and useful citizen" and as such, he appears in future chapters.

In pioneer Rumford the Sabbath was a day for rest and worship—no play, no amusement, no walking abroad except to meeting, no unnecessary labor. But, "the Sabbath was far from being a day of gloom and weariness as it has too often been represented." \* It was, rather, a day to be anticipated—a day of freedom from heavy toil, a day of peace and family companionship, a day for fellowship at the Meeting-house, a day to think of God.

Pioneers were apt to be restless folk and at the end of a decade some of the Rumford men were looking to broader fields. A deed of transfer dated May 1739, from the miller on Turkey river to such a restless young man, is prophetic of a new town on our western boundary:

"To all Christian People, these Presents Come, Know Ye that I, Borcias Farnum of Rumford, Millwright, for Fifty pounds bills of Credit well well and truly paid by Ebenezer Eastman, Jun<sup>r</sup> of Rumford \*\*\*\*convey Lott Number Three on the East Side of the North Range situate lying and being in the New Township Number Five, Bordering on Rumford granted

\* Abbot Genealogical Register.

to s<sup>d</sup> Potinores of Hopkinton". This was a New Hampshire grant and definite settlement awaited the close of the French and Indian wars.

One hardy pioneer did venture to "New Hopkinton" as it was called, in 1742. Aaron Kimball, brother of David at Sugar Ball, moved across the town line but not very far, and as Indian attacks increased, he built a garrison around his house. A tablet bears the date 1744. By 1750 the Indian threat had abated and a meeting was held in Rumford to stimulate interest in the settlement of the new town. Several local families enlisted in the enterprise, among them <sup>that</sup> of Daniel Annis.

Along our main street some of the property owners were enlarging their dooryards by moving their fences two rods into the highway. "In order to pay the Proprietors' debts", a policy had been devised to sell a strip of the main street to abutters; but before such sale took place, sixty-eight square rods of such space was granted to the Minister, extending along the entire front of his premises. This strip, "west of his home", was eighteen rods long bordering the three house lots which he then owned (1746) with an additional strip west of his barn which stood north of his house. These strips varied from two and one half to three rods wide. As this money raising scheme continued, the broad highway reserved in the 1726 survey, was reduced from its original width of ten rods.

In 1742 the town found it necessary to build its first schoolhouse. Twelve years in the new settlement had witnessed the establishment of new households as the young men took unto themselves wives. Children had become plentiful-~~toomuch~~ so to be housed in makeshift schools. By vote of the town meeting, the new building must stand in a central location and the site chosen was "between Widow Barker's barn and the brook by the clay pits". The clay pits lay in the hollow through which Tanyard brook flowed across the highway near the foot of present Montgomery St. William Barker's widow held the homestead by dower right and her barn

was on the Court House lot. This verifies Bouton's record that the first schoolhouse stood ten rods south of the Court House, which means

Three able men, Edward Abbot, Dea. John Merrill and Nathaniel Abbot, were given full responsibility for the building and maintaining of the school which was probably a simple structure not more than eighteen feet square, one story high with a roof rising to a central peak. It was built of the customary heavy hewn timbers and covered within and without by rough boards, with rafters left exposed. The only comfortable feature of the interior was a large fireplace, for the furnishings were limited to a crude table for the teacher and rough benches of assorted heights for the pupils. At that time and for years to come, it was the custom to seat the boys on one side of the room and the girls on the other.

William Barker, Jr. was the first of the original church members to pass away and shortly afterward his brother, David, sold "the house lot laid out to my Hon<sup>d</sup> Father, William Barker, No. 36" (Range 3) together with "all buildings, fencing and other improvements" to his neighbor across the way, John Russ. (1743) Russ died in 1745 and his property on either side of present No. State St. was purchased by the Minister's cousin, Isaac Walker, Jr.

This branch of the Walker family was headed by Isaac Walker from Woburn, one of the few original Proprietors who pioneered in our town. According to the record of the 1731 survey, he "with his family" was living in Pennycook in Zerubbabel Snow's house (Lot 35, Range 3) for his own house at the South End (Lot 28, Range 2) was unfinished. Isaac Jr. married Sarah Breed and their first child was born in Woburn in 1732 but their second was born in Rumford in 1734. Since his purchase of the Russ property Isaac Walker, Jr.'s descendants have continued to live on this homestead.

By trade Walker was a tailor—the first one recorded in Rumford and the Minister's diary frequently refers to this neighbor and kins-

man as "the Taylor". Likely he fashioned some of the ministerial garments. His son, James, succeeded him on the home place and he, too, was a tailor. Some years ago the foundation stones of the old log house in which the Russ family probably lived, were unearthed in the yard south of the present Walker house at 126 No. State St.

The Proprietor's own house was at the foot of present Thordike St. and he purchased the lot next south (drawn by Joseph Page) and these house lots with the accompanying home lots on the west, became the nucleus of his farm. His log house was garrisoned in 1746. The farm was inherited by his son, Timothy, Jr., so-called to distinguish him from the Minister, and this Timothy, Jr. was the first bricklayer in town. A third son, Ezekiel Walker, developed the share of Proprietor Joseph Parker (Lot 24, Range 2) which became the home place of Dea. George Abbot, at the foot of Fayette St.

The garrison lists of 1746 provide a directory of all adult males in Rumford, with the exception of those serving on scout duty. There are ninety-eight names but several of them are of men outside the township who were granted the protection of our garrisons. One of the interesting facts in this list is the number of families-thirteen in all, who lived in the exposed territory on the east side of the Merrimack. The garrison for protection of these people was built around Capt. Ebenezer Eastman's log house and four of his sons took shelter there in the dread time of Indian raids.

Philip Eastman, the second son, had married Abiah Bradley in 1734 and their home was on the isolated north slope of the Mountain, on the site of today's Crystal Spring Farm. Their nearest neighbor was Abiah's brother, Lieut. Timothy Bradley who lived on the farm next south. Mrs. Bradley was born Abiah Stevens, perhaps of the family of Nathan Stevens who was listed in the Eastman garrison also. Little is to be found concerning Stevens who died prior to 1764, leaving a wid-

ow, Anna, who was living in 1778. These two pioneer families on the Mountain were joined later by relatives until the saying became tradition, that the Eastmans and Bradleys owned practically all the Mountain.

Ebenezer Eastman, Jr., he who had purchased land in Hopkinton with his younger brothers, Joseph Jr. and Jeremiah, took refuge in their father's garrison. Joseph Jr. was living in Hopkinton in 1750 but later he returned to Rumford and seems to have lived near his father's house. He married Abigail Mellen of Hopkinton, Mass., their banns having been published Dec. 24, 1738.

Another name on the garrison list was that of Philip Kimball, son of Robert Kimball, a Proprietor. Very likely he was the son who, in 1731 was occupying his father's lot on the south corner of present Franklin St. He was then twenty years old and fancy free until his attention was caught by young Dorcas Foster who lived opposite the Minister's new house. Their banns were published at the Meeting-house July 1, 1735. Ten years later after his father's death, Philip bought up the shares in Rumford inherited by his brothers and included was an eighty acre lot across the river. This lot was bounded on the north by Eastman's mill pond and on the south by the highway we know today as Portsmouth St. Evidently the young couple made their home on this lot.

In Dr. Bouton's time this farm was known as the "Stevens place". There is evidence that Philip Kimball's daughter married James Stevens and that the farm, inherited by her children, came to bear the Stevens name. Philip Kimball was a famous hunter and a skilled marksman, taking part in the shooting matches which were favorite sporting events in his day. "He would fire at arm's length across the river at Tucker's ferry" (west of Federal bridge) and hit a mark the size of a dollar, twice out of three times and thus win a pistareen with each shot. On the hill westerly of Thomas D. Potter's is a rock called the 'deer

rock' where Kimball shot a noble buck", according to Bouton. Familiarity with woodcraft and the habits of the Indians, made Kimball a valuable addition to the local scouting service and in the dread year of 1746 he was corporal in a company of scouts under Capt. John Goffe.

Ebenezer Virgin's family was assigned to the Eastman garrison and also that of Jeremiah Dresser who owned land on "Mill Brook Intervall" prior to 1743. He was in Rumford as early as 1734 when he was elected field driver. His wife was Mehitable Bradley of Haverhill, their banns being published in September 1735. He was one of the early apple growers across the river, memorialized in the name Appletown given to the section south of Turtle pond. The Minister records in his diary the purchase of apples at Dresser's.

Daniel Annis listed in the same garrison, arrived in Rumford about 1745 but some ten years later he became a Proprietor of Hopkinton by purchase and in 1757 made his clearing on the southwest slope of Putney hill. Five years later, in company with his son-in-law, Reuben Kimball 2d, of Hopkinton he made the first settlement in Warner. William Curey at the Eastman garrison, was a Canterbury man whose home was just across the town line. Nathaniel Smith was a Bow resident owning a grist mill and a saw mill on Turkey river closely south of the Bow line, which property with a dwelling house between the mills, he sold to Henry Lovejoy in 1759. Last on the Eastman garrison list was Judah Trumble who probably lived on Mill brook above the mills. His name survived for many years at Trumble falls and Trumble bridge, now Batchelder's. In 1755 Judah Trumble joined the Crown Point expedition and two of his sons, Simon and John, signed the Test Act (1776) and a third son, Nathaniel (b. 1746) was an early settler in Warner with his neighbor, Ebenezer Eastman 3rd.

Another outlying garrison was at the house of Capt. Henry Lovejoy on Rattlesnake brook, The log house stood on the site of present Garrison School and a later owner, Levi Hutchins, says the "dilapidated fort" was standing in part, as late as 1809 when he took possession.

An old road, now overgrown, leads off Hutchins St. to Long pond and the site of the first dam built by the John Chandler privilege granted in 1734. This dam was built across the brook which then drained the pond at this point and when the water is low, one may still see below its surface, the old causeway which provided a roadway, and fragments of the old logs which formed part of the dam. At ordinary height of water all this is overflowed by the modern dam on Lake St. in West Concord.

Capt. Henry Lovejoy married Phebe Chandler, sister of Lt. (or Capt.) John Chandler, which probably accounts for Lovejoy's interest in the first mill on Rattlesnake brook. The families listed in Lovejoy's garrison were mostly Abbots and Farnums living on Rattlesnake Plain. James Abbot and his three adult sons, James Jr, Reuben and Amos, are on the list. This Abbot family arrived in Rumford in 1735 with a complement of fourteen children, but in 1741 three of the older sons died within five weeks of a fever—one of those mysterious and virulent epidemics against which the people of that day were helpless. When Lovejoy's garrison was ordered to close in 1747, the populous Abbot family built a stockade around their own log house on the site of Swenson Granite Co. and there gave shelter to the family of Joseph Farnum who lived in a lonely spot north of Long pond, now the site of Hobbs Farm. Not until about 1760 did the Abbots leave their log house for a new frame house across the highway. •

The three Farnum brothers, Ephraim—who lived on Rattlesnake Plain, Zebediah who lived on the site of 70 Hutchins St. and Joseph, already mentioned, were in the Lovejoy garrison. Zebediah had married Mary Walker, probably daughter of Isaac Walker, in 1739, their banns having been published a year or two before. Abiel Chandler with his wife, "Rebecca" Abbot, and their little son, Abiel Jr. were in this garrison. A second son, Peter, was born in 1747 and both these lads when grown to manhood gave their lives in service during the Revolution. Abiel Chandler was brother of <sup>John</sup> John Chandler. He died, yet young, and his estate

Original grants made to his father, Ensign John Chandler of Andover. The inventory shows a quarter interest in a mill valued at 125 pounds and a dwelling house valued at 60 pounds. Since Abiel lived near the Lovejoy garrison, this must have been the mill on Rattlesnake brook.

Abiel Chandler's wife, Rebecca, was sister to Capt. Nathaniel Abbot, who, it is said, urged his brother-in-law to join the Pennycook pioneers and suggested that he might fill the office of surveyor of highways. Arriving in town in his early twenties, he was appointed fence viewer in 1739 and surveyor of highways in 1743. He died about 1750 and in two or three years his widow married Amos Abbot one of her many cousins in Rumford.

After their father's untimely death his two sons, Abiel, Jr. six and Peter three, appear to have lived in Andover probably in their grandfather Chandler's family, but in 1768 when Peter became of age, their inheritance and that of Sarah, a younger sister, was apportioned to each.

Abiel Jr. returned to his native place and married Judith Walker, the youngest in the Minister's family. He invested in considerable land on Pine Plain next west of Rattlesnake Plain and he bought lots on the north slope of Rattlesnake hill down to Rattlesnake brook, and others on the north side of the brook. Presumably he made a home for his bride in that neighborhood.

The last name on this garrison list was that of James Peters whose wife was Elizabeth Farnum—their banns having been published on Nov. 21, 1737. They had two young children and a third was to be born in 1747 and named Obadiah. The fact that Mrs. Peters was a member of the Farnum clan doubtless explains why they were living in this neighborhood. The name of Peters occurs frequently in the early history of Rumford and adjoining towns. A William Peters developed the lots of Rev. Samuel Phillips in pioneer days and the same name occurs among the earliest settlers on Diamond hill on the Hopkinton side of the town line. This settler was first deacon of the Hopkinton church in 1759.

James Peters may have been a son of Seaborn Peters, an early settler near the mills on Turkey river, for his little son, <sup>Obadiah</sup> born in 1747, bore the name of Seaborn's son who was killed in the massacre of 1746. In 1761 James Peters made the first <sup>permanent</sup> settlement (permanent) in New Marlborough (Henniker) when that township was unbroken wilderness and forest

with no roads and few trails. His wife, so tradition tells, saw no white woman for the first eighteen months, save the serving maid who went with her into this wilderness. The nearest neighbors were the settlers on Putney hill, Hopkinton and there was no store nearer than Rumford. Somewhat later, their son, William and his wife joined them in Henniker.

The third of Rumford's outlying garrisons was at the mills on Turkey river. In 1745 Barachias Farnum sold his homestead "called the Mill Farm" to Jonathan Eastman, a cousin of Capt. Ebenezer. Associated with the new owner was his son, Amos who, two years before had married Abraham Bradley's daughter, Mehitable. Amos was a member of Rogers Rangers with much experience in Indian scouting. In later years these young people left Rumford and made their home in Hollis. Barachias Farnum appears no more in local history but some years later when Henniker decided to build a grist mill, it was "Barachias Farnum" who was commissioned for the enterprise and his name still clings to Farnum's pond in that town.

Mrs. Amos Eastman's brother, Jeremiah Bradley, owned a farm near the mills. His land lay on either side of Hopkinton road and included "Jerry's hill" which perpetuates his nickname. His family was on this garrison list. There also was the family of Seaborn Peters whose son, Obadiah, was a victim of the 1746 massacre. By 1762, Seaborn Peters had moved to Hopkinton whither William Peters had preceded him. The family name still survives in Peters brook (sometimes called Bela's brook) in the southwest part of Concord.

Timothy Burbanks whose name is on this list, was a pioneer settler in Hopkinton in 1755. Of Isaac Citizen we find no trace. The Hoyt family on the list was known for generations to come in Concord. Sometime between 1728 and 1731, Abner Hoyt moved to Pennycook from Amesbury with his wife, Mary, and six children. On Sept. 10, 1732, a son named John was born, said to be the second male <sup>white</sup> child born in this new town. In due time the family moved out on the Mill road and lived on the site of

270 Pleasant St.

Bouton tells the story of the narrow escape of Betsy, one of the Hoit daughters who, escorted by a soldier, made a trip from the garrison to the home place to milk the cows. The young man sat on the cowyard fence, admiring the fetching maid at her task until she teasingly said: "Roane, you better look the other way and see if there are any Indians!" Laughingly, he obeyed, just in time to see a savage with tomahawk in hand creeping slyly toward them. With a scream, Roane jumped and fled leaving Betsy to take care of herself. Pioneer girls were far from being helpless creatures and Betsy had the nerve and good luck to reach the garrison in safety.

On the place where Betsy milked the cows, stands an ancient house pictured as it looked before careful restoration in recent years. From 1818 till 1836 it was a tavern kept by B. H. Weeks, with a family tradition that it dated back to the time of Indian raids. This is partially substantiated by the fact that Betsy's brother, Jacob Hoit, sold this farm in 1775. Since it was the custom to enlarge the small house of pioneer times rather than replace it, this may be Betsy's home rebuilt. Its record as a tavern dates back of 1818, for in the N. H. Patriot April 13, 1813, it is advertised for sale by Capt. James Yalding:

"One and one-half miles from the Court house, two story house; has long been occupied as a tavern." etc.

Capt. Yalding, according to family tradition, was born in Plymouth, England March 1, 1777. He married his first wife, Hannah Parker (1800 or 1801) in Andover, Mass. He is said to have been in command of an American man-of-war and to have sailed twice around the globe. From 1834 to 1848, he and his second wife, Abigail Palmer, owned a house lot with buildings on our Main St. near the site of Concord Theatre.

The number of families listed in these garrisons remote from the main village is significant, for only men and women of great courage

could have persisted in maintaining homes in so dangerous an area. This implies no reflection on the people along our main street during the Indian wars, for living anywhere in Rumford was a test of faith and character. The Proprietors sent their precious records to Massachusetts for safe keeping, but there is no hint that a single mother sought for her children and herself, the protection of the old home in Essex County.

Most of the men living on the main street at this period will appear actively in the story of ensuing years, but a few of them may well be introduced now. The north end of the street and its neighborhood was provided with a garrison around the Minister's house. This was a sparsely settled section in 1746 for only seven families beside the Minister's are listed. Included are Nathaniel Rolfe, son of Proprietor Henry Rolfe of Newbury. Nathaniel owned (1739) property on or near the site of Rumford Arms and probably lived there. Obadiah Foster who lived opposite the Minister on Lot 3, Range 2, Joseph Pudney of whom we know little except that he and Foster later pioneered in Dunbarton, Abraham Bradley and his son, Samuel, and their neighbor, John Chandler, were in this group together with Isaac Walker, Jr. who lived on Lot 1, Range 2.

The last family on the list was that of Lieut. John Webster who lived next south of Rev. Timothy Walker, on the site of present 266 No. Main St. Lieut. Webster was living in Rumford as early as 1733-34 when he was surveyor of highways. He was to become one of the most widely known men in frontier New Hampshire. His homestead place comprised four acres "with buildings and edifices thereon". His commission probably dated from 1755 when he joined the expedition to Crown Point. He was best known as a mast maker and his prize mast was cut in Northfield, measuring thirty-eight inches in diameter at sixty feet from the butt. This record for size seems never to have been equalled in these parts and fifty-two teams of oxen were required to haul the huge timber.

Lieut. Webster bought and sold much real estate in Rumford, Bow and Canterbury. In 1761, in partnership with his son-in-law, Samuel Osgood, he purchased Kent's Farm of three hundred acres in Canterbury, directly north of the Concord line and bordering on the Merrimack river. He lived there in a house nearly opposite the mouth of the Contoocook river and held a ferry privilege "across Meremak River" which was "granted to me by his Excellency, John Wentworth." This privilege extended along the Merrimack three miles north and three miles south and passengers were transported between the three towns of Canterbury, Boscawen and Concord. The present Canterbury bridge at Penacook is the modern successor of the old Webster ferry. In 1767 he deeded the ferry to his son, Enoch Webster, who had already bought that part of Kent's Farm owned by Samuel Osgood. During the latter part of the French and Indian wars, Enoch Webster was a pioneer settler on Carter hill, West Parish

Bouton relates a grewsome story of the harsh treatment accorded debtors in the old days. A man lost his property and fell into deep debt. He ended his days in a little cabin back of the Ballard farm at Little pond and when he died, to prevent seizure "his body was first concealed in a potato hole, which was covered with straw with logs laid on top. At the time of burial the bearers rode on horseback with drawn swords, which the sheriff perceiving, he dare not molest them." This is the traditional end of Lieut. John Webster.

The garrison around Jeremiah Stickney's house (site of Elks Club) provided shelter for twenty men and their families, indicating a more thickly settled portion of the village street, extending evidently from Franklin St. south to Mill road. There were several Stickneys listed, three Abbots, three Eastmans, three Carters, Aaron Stevens and several others with names less well known. Among the latter was Stephen Hoyt, son of Abner Hoyt out on the Mill road. During the later Indian wars he served with the Rogers Rangers and lost his life in that desperate

type of warfare, In this summer of 1746, his wife Abigail gave birth to her first child undoubtedly while staying in the garrison.

The Eastmans in this garrison were Joseph, cousin of Capt. Ebenezer and his two sons, Samuel and Joseph 3rd. The father was the first tanner of whom we find record in the town. A Joseph Eastman (4) born in Salisbury in 1697, seems to have been resident in town near this time, perhaps a year or two later. He, too, was a cousin of Capt. Ebenezer and he joined the exodus to Hopkinton after the Indian wars.

Edward West, assigned to this garrison, was the first of his family to arrive in Rumford and in 1739, for "Sixty Pounds Currant Money" he purchased a homestead on Range I, a little north of Ferry St. At his death in 1762, two sons and a daughter deeded their shares in the "Peice of land" which their "Hon<sup>d</sup> Father was posse'd of at the time of his Death" to their brother Nathaniel, living in Rumford. There was a "Small Dwelling House on y<sup>e</sup> same." In 1746 Nathaniel was listed at the Timothy Walker, Jr. garrison and so he must have been living at the South End at the time, with his wife, Sarah Burbank and their three small children.

At Stickney's garrison was Ephraim Carter who, during this year of 1746, purchased Lot 12 in Range I. Three years later he added the lot adjacent on the north so that his home place was bounded on the north by Ferry St. His sons, Dr. Ezra and Joseph (who never married) were also in this garrison. The Doctor was probably the most popular man in Rumford. The only physician in this part of the Merrimack valley, he rode the bridle paths to homes far and near as need arose, picking his way by spotted trees where no paths had been made. He was a familiar and beloved figure as he rode his professional rounds, his saddle bags packed with the physicks and nostrums and rude instruments of the day. "Of a kind and benevolent temper, of quick wit and pleasantry in con-

versation" (Bouton), ever generous to those who found it difficult to pay for his services--every detail coming to us through the years pictures a charming, lovable friend of humanity.

In 1742, two years after his arrival in Rumford, Dr. Carter married Capt. Ebenezer Eastman's only daughter. It was a marriage to startle the modern mind for Ruth Eastman was barely thirteen and the first of her babies was born before she was fourteen years old. Family tradition tells of her playing games with other children after she had a child of her own. Unnatural as this seems, there is no reason to question the happiness and well-being of her three children born before this child-mother was seventeen years of age.

The year after his marriage, Dr. Carter purchased the homestead of "Joseph Eastman, tanner"--a farm of thirty-one acres which comprised the land along the west side of the main highway from Aaron Stevens's south to James Osgood's pasture on the north corner of Mill road (Pleasant St.)  
(1450, cor. Main & Capital)  
The family home stood on the site of the present N.H. Savings Bank and the farm included most of the original house lots between present Park St. and Pleasant St., together with land stretching far to the west. This illustrates the concentration of property in the hands of relatively few men during the early years of the settlement.

Although we shall hear more of Dr. Carter, this may be the place to quote from his will, drawn up three weeks before his untimely death in the early fall of 1767:

"In the name of God, Amen, I, Ezra Carter of Concord in the province of New Hampshire, Esq<sup>r</sup>, being in the regular Exercise of my Understanding, though weak in body, and sensible of my frail State, after Commending my Soul to God, and my body to Christian burial, at the Direction of my Executrix, I dispose of the Earthly Estate wherewith God has blessed me in the following manner;" \*\*\*\*\*

Ruth Carter was made executrix and a worthy wife she must have

been to merit so unusual a choice in those times. To his wife the Doctor left all his personal estate to support their three minor daughters, also "one of my front lower Rooms, both of my front Chambers, and also one half the Remainder of my Dwelling House, and also one half of my Barn, also the same proportion of my Homestead and the piece of Land I purchased of Mr. Reuben Kimball"-for the period of her natural life. To his son Ezra (b. 1743) he bequeathed five shillings "which with what he has had I judge to be his Proportion of my Estate." To a son, Hubert, a forty acre farm and buildings "at Almesbury Town" (Amesbury) and to his son, Ephraim, the real estate in Rumford after his Mother's death. Mrs. Carter later married Samuel Fowler of Boscawen.

Near the foot of present Fayette St. lived Dea. George Abbot, a pioneer who carried out the requirements of Samuel Grainger's share- Lot 22, Range 2. He purchased the share thus becoming a Proprietor. His banns with Sarah Abbot of Andover were published Dec. 24, 1736 and they were married Feb. 1, 1737. Bouton commends them as kindly, charitable and godly people. Dea. Abbot was, he says, "a man of sound good sense, whose remarks were treasured up as maxims." In the early years of the Indian terror, Dea. Abbot fortified his house but, because he made "no provision for house room and conveniences", he and his immediate neighbors were ordered to the Walker garrison at the South End. There, presumably, the garrison plan of individual cabins for each family within a stockade was carried out.

With the Indian menace on the increase it became necessary for continuous living within garrisons during the summer months. In some cases the householder built and owned his own cabin as proved by a deed of sale in later years.

Dea. George Abbot and his wife, Sarah, had a family of nine sons six of whom lived to adult years. Samuel died at the age of eighteen at Crown Point during the French and Indian wars. Five sons lived to

honorable old age and through them, many descendents have been proud to claim Dea. George Abbot as ancestor.

Dea. Abbot's "mansion house" was probably built after the French and Indian wars ended and until it was torn down it stood on the site of the more modern house at 4-6 Fayette St. There are some in the older generation who remember it. It was of the salt-box type, so-called, two stories in front with a long slanting roof down to one story at the back. Edwin Lull who tore it down, described it to the writer in detail. It set very low on the ground with not more than two shallow steps at the front door which was in the middle of the house. The entrance hall was small and it was backed by a huge central chimney of bricks set in clay which had baked with every hot fire kindled on the hearths of the house. The chimney bricks were about twice the size of modern bricks.

The front hall opened on either side into a front room east and west, and into corresponding chambers above. The kitchen stretched the entire width of the house at the back and its fireplace was far larger than that of any other room, with brick work on either side of it projecting into the room. It was the custom to pull an old-fashioned high-back settle closely up to this brick work, so that one sitting thereon was "in a little room inside the fireplace" - at least that was the boyhood recollection of Mr. Lull.

The house faced south although there was no Fayette St. till long after its building. The west front room had a fire-place large enough for four foot logs and both rooms had plain wainscot of wide first growth pine boards, but no panelling. The stairs ascended three steps to a landing where they turned to the front of the house and their treads had hand-carved skirting. The walls of the house were those of a fort, constructed of heavy hand-hewn plank enclosed in a second wall of bricks set in clay. A third wall of boards an inch and a half thick

enclosed the other two and this and this last wall was clapboarded on the outside. Such concern for safety against attack, indicated that the house was built before the town felt secure against Indian attack.

David Kimball, the ferryman, had a cabin in this garrison according to the inventory of his estate dated March 26, 1746. He and his wife died the preceding November within eight days of each other, leaving six young children, Reuben, the eldest being fifteen years old. The family homestead was a seven acre place which included Lots 24 and 25, Range I nearly opposite Dea. Abbot's garrison. Next north of the Kimball property was the homestead of James Osgood where the first tavern in Concord was located and this building had been fortified as a garrison. In May 1746 it was discontinued as inadequate along with the garrison at Dea. Abbot's and that at Edward Abbot's house north of Centre road.

S. C. Badger's map in Bouton's History marks the Osgood garrison on Lot 24 but this is an error—one of the few in the History. The Osgood garrison was on Lot 23.

At the Timothy Walker ~~Jr.~~ garrison (foot of present Thorndike St.) we find the name of Abraham Kimball, administrator of the estate of his brother David and responsible for his orphaned nephews and nieces. His homestead was a twenty acre place on the east side of the main highway next north of ferryman John Merrill's. A third brother, Aaron Kimball, had moved to Hopkinton prior to 1742 and in 1746 he was building a garrison. Meantime he, too, was assigned to this Walker garrison. Somewhat later Abraham Kimball moved to Hopkinton.

Samuel Gray who owned the property next north of Abraham Kimball's, was also in this Walker garrison and Isaac Walker, Proprietor, made his home there with his son, Timothy Jr. and another son, William. Neighbors sheltered there include Jacob Shute, Daniel Chase and his son, Daniel Jr.

Richard Hazelton(Haseltine), Benjamin Abbot, Dea. George Abbot, Stephen Farrington and Nathaniel West-all of whom will appear again in this record. The Rodgers(Rogers) and Pudney(Putney) families on this list were refugees from Dunbarton. The marker for this Timothy Walker, Jr. garrison is misplaced for tradition in the Thorndike family says that the house stood where the north sidewalk on Thorndike St. leaves Main St.

The marker for the last in the list of garrisons-that of Dea. Joseph Hall-is also misplaced. Our picture of the house looking toward the south, shows it definitely on the west side of present Hall St. and probably a little north of the house now numbered 10 Hall St. The name of Isaac Waldron is on the Hall garrison list. His wife was Susanna Chandler and their second child was born in June of the ominous year 1746. Mrs. Waldron lived many years a widow, dying in 1804 at the age of eighty-three-an old lady with still vivid memories of pioneer days and the Indian terror.

Lot Colby, one of the most substantial men of the town, was on this list. His banns with Ann Walker, daughter of Proprietor Isaac Walker, had been published at the Meeting-house in 1738 and their home farm was next south of the present Rolfe and Rumford Home. In 1746 there were three young children in the family. Lot's brother, Abraham, was in the Hall garrison and so were Col. Benjamin Rolfe, Dea. John Merrill, the ferryman, with his sons, Thomas, John, Jr. and Moses. After the Indian trouble was over, Moses and John Jr. settled in Pembroke and Thomas moved to Conway.

A refugee family in the Hall garrison was that of Patrick Garvin whose farm was on the east bank of the Merrimack below Garvin's falls. He owned "thirty acres of land, dwelling house, barn and Corn House". Garvin had built this house in what was then Bow, as early as 1734, near the spring which Passaconaway Club still uses. The course of an old

Indian trail lay across the Garvin land, used as a canoe carry to avoid Turkey falls and Garvin's falls. East of Passaconaway Club House is a little gully at Great Bend in the river and there, according to tradition in the Garvin family, the carry began. Following a course across a neck of land the canoe was launched in the Soucook river and paddled down into the Merrimack. This carry was used especially by the Indians in the trip up the Merrimack

Patrick Garvin opened a ferry across the Merrimack from a point near the present Club House, as early as 1738 and, at a later period, he ran a ferry below Garvin's falls the ancient road to which runs through present Red Gate. Cellar holes along this old road indicate where a colony of Garvins once lived. Later a branch of the family settled on Hall St. in Concord.

These were the "Men of Rumford" who, during the years of Indian alarm, never faltered in their purpose. The total population of the town was only about three hundred and fifty counting men women and little children. The burden of responsibility was heavy: fields must still be cultivated through the dangerous summer months and each able-bodied man must take his turn scouting in the surrounding forests. The expense of maintaining such service added to the cost of building garrisons was a severe strain upon the resources of the people. With fortitude and an abiding Faith, the "Men of Rumford" met the challenge and preserved to us an heritage in this fair valley.