

## Chapter XVIII.

### Concord Street in 1775, and During the Revolution.

In recent chapters we have reviewed the development of farm neighborhoods in the far corners of our township at the conclusion of the French and Indian Wars. Returning, at the close of a ten year period, to Concord Street we find it still a rural village with a number of substantial farms, a goodly number of comfortable dwelling houses with ample space between, two or three small stores, a tanyard, two blacksmith shops and three or four taverns. The total population of Concord in 1775 was about a thousand persons but only about a third of the number lived on the Street—some fifty to sixty families. The rest had moved to the farm neighborhoods.

The big Meeting-house dominated the north end of the Street, but in an unfinished state since its porch and steeple awaited prosperous times. This Meeting-house and the ancient schoolhouse on the north side of Tanyard brook were the only public buildings in town. No bridge had yet been built across the Merrimack but three ferries served the public need for transportation. Slaves, both black and Indian, were common in the households of the more prosperous folk and so continued until the adoption of the State Constitution in 1783.

Hogs ran at large up and down the Street, but stray cattle were held in a pound at the north end of the Street, awaiting claim by their owners. Wolves were still so menacing throughout the town that a bounty of ten shillings in 1770 was raised to twenty shillings the following year. Crows were such a pest in the cornfields that a bounty of sixpence was raised to ninepence per head and in one season, the Minister's son collected a bounty for fifty-three head.

For the most part people still rode horseback on their travels, but Col. Rolfe had a chaise purchased shortly before 1770 and the Minister sometimes rode in a "chair", a conveyance which had no top and would seat only two persons. These were the first carriages in Concord.

About 1775 Ephraim Potter of Turtletown began making wooden clocks which found sale here and there along the Street, so that townsfolk were no longer dependent upon Parson Walker at the North End and Dea. Hall at Eleven Lots when they wanted to know the exact time of day.

The Proprietors still maintained their organization and authority and Col. Rolfe had continued his long service as their clerk until his death in 1771—a period of forty years. When he died Col. Rolfe was the wealthiest man in Concord and the inventory of his estate shows twenty thousand dollars in money and such items as the following: A watch valued at two pounds eight shillings, books at two shillings eight pence, a tankard, two cans, twelve spoons, a pair of sugar tongs, three looking glasses, twenty chairs, three bedsteads, beds and furniture, fifty-two pewter platters, plates etc., one saddle, one saddle bags, one side saddle, one "shey", three pistols. This list gives an idea of the furnishings of the most comfortable type of Concord home immediately preceding the Revolution.

Col. Rolfe's successor as clerk to the Proprietors was John Kimball who lived next south of Parson Walker. His term of service was brief for, in 1774, he was succeeded by the Minister's son, Timothy, who signed his name "Tim<sup>o</sup>: Walker" in distinction from others of the same name. During his term as clerk the last of the "common land" of the township was apportioned and this practically ended the responsibilities of the Proprietors of Pennycook Plantation. Many of the original number had died and their holdings had passed to their heirs or had been sold to purchasers approved by the organization.

As yet no court had been held in Concord, nor would be for some years to come. The first mention of local representation in the court at Exeter was the election of Concord jurors in 1772. Before that time Concord's peace had been maintained and justice upheld, by Dr. Ezra Carter (his physician and constable, and by the church which wielded a powerful influence in every household of the town. Earlier contacts with Exeter courts

\* Justice of the Peace

was prevented by the ban placed upon Rumford by the Provincial government during the long years of the Bow controversy. That ordeal came to an end in 1774 and Tim<sup>o</sup>: Walker carried to the General Court of Massachusetts, a petition for compensation for the loss of land and for the expense incurred in defense of their rights, by our citizens. The petition asked for a grant of land on the Androscoggin river in Maine-then Massachusetts territory-and this was cordially granted but the war prevented immediate colonization. By 1800, pioneers from Concord had settled in sufficient numbers under the name of "New Pennycooke" so that the town was incorporated as Rumford, Me. There, more than a hundred miles away from the original Rumford, the sons of our own pioneers built a town in the wilderness, and ever since that time, the familiar names of Abbot, Carter, Eastman and Elliott: Barnum, Kimball, Rolfe, Virgin and Walker have been known along the Androscoggin.

In 1767 the royal Governor Benning Wentworth was succeeded by his nephew, John Wentworth. The new governor was a man of great intelligence and fine character. Following a long visit in England, he returned to his native land to take up his official duties and met with cordial welcome, because it was known that, at risk of personal unpopularity in England, he had steadfastly opposed the Stamp Act. With such assurance of their new governor's principles, New Hampshire was relatively free from the agitation which prevailed in other colonies-notably Massachusetts-just prior to the Revolution.

The new governor served his Province well, instituting various projects which promoted its development. First among these enterprises was the opening of Province roads which connected remote settlements with New Hampshire's sea-coast towns, thus making the latter the natural outlet for country produce. Beneficial as his administration was, it was bound to promote enemies among those who had profited by the lax and unprincipled methods of his predecessor and so it was that, in 1771,

a member of his council, Peter Livius, brought charges of mal-administration against Gov. John Wentworth and pressed those charges in London. In the spring of 1773, the harrassed governor was expecting the decision and hoping it would free him from unjust accusation.

In recognition of this situation, the townspeople of Concord voted in April of that year to send to the governor "an Humble Address" commending "His Excellency's wise Administration". It was an expression of "good will and Affection between Rulers and Ruled" and highly laudatory of "His Excellency's great care and Wisdom." It was signed by "Tim<sup>o</sup>: Walker, Jr., Town Clerk" but tradition says that the writer of this "Humble Address" was the new schoolmaster in town, Benjamin Thompson of Woburn.

During the preceding year, this very handsome young man, then only nineteen years old, had come to Concord to teach school. He had shown brilliance of mind during his own brief school days and brought to our town new ideas and new methods. One of his innovations was the introduction of physical exercise into the curriculum, but his great enthusiasm was for science and he held his pupils spellbound with his experiments. Benjamin Thompson was nearly six feet tall, erect and finely proportioned, with clear cut features of the Roman type, bright blue eyes and dark auburn hair. Already, though but a youth, he was a striking figure and a handsomer man never walked our main street. The accompanying portrait, attributed to Gainsborough, and said to be the famous painter's one and only portrait of an American, was made a few years later in London. The original now hangs in the Fogg Art Museum at Harvard college, by whose permission, it is here reproduced.

When young Thompson arrived in Concord, Mrs. Sarah Walker Rolfe, newly made widow of the town's richest citizen, was living in the new mansion house built by Col. Rolfe at Eleven Lots. It was quite the most pretentious house in town and today the handsome hand-carved woodwork preserved in its hall and some of its rooms, make it our finest relic of colonial building. The oldtime picture of this House shows it as it prob-

ably looked in the years just prior to the Revolution when Widow Rolfe and her little son, Paul, lived there. Mrs. Rolfe was about fourteen years the senior of the youthful Benjamin Thompson but that did not prevent a courtship which must have been of the whirlwind type, since they were married in the fall of 1772, not many months after the schoolmaster first appeared in Concord.

A marriage which brought wealth and the social standing of connection with the Minister's family, opened up opportunities which the bridegroom was not slow to grasp. Tradition tells that before the wedding Benjamin dutifully took his lady to Woburn to meet his mother, the couple arriving in a carriage-doubtless the "shey" mentioned in the inventory of Cpl. Rolfe's estate. Mrs. Thompson's eyes widened when she beheld such elegance, but the resplendent attire of her son was even more astonishing and she is said to have greeted him thus: "Why, Ben, my child! How could you spend your whole winter's wages in this way?"

After the wedding the Thompsons bought a curriole to replace the "shey" and drove about in added style-sometimes with one horse and sometimes with a span. Doubtless it was in this equipage that the couple descended upon Portsmouth where they met the governor and the fashionable folk of the town and of nearby Exeter. The ex-schoolmaster's enthusiasm in writing the "Humble Address" of 1773 becomes understandable. Gov. John Wentworth is said to have been mightily impressed with handsome young Thompson and especially so with his appearance on horseback. Favor came speedily and the Concord officers of the 15th Regiment of Militia were stupefied to learn that this untrained stripling had been made a Major.

The first of the Concord companies was officered by Capt. Joshua Abbot and Lieut. Jonathan Stickney and Ens. John Shute: the second company was under Capt. Abiel Chandler with Lieut. Ebenezer Virgin and Ens. Jonathan Eastman. All these officers were men of the pioneer tradition in Concord and of more or less active experience in military affairs. When they and

the men in their companies beheld the new Major in all his magnificence of red coat cuff'd lin'd and lapel'd with sky-blue. Sky-blue waistcoat and breeches, all trim'd with white. Black hat with silver hat-band, button and loops, without lace. White stockings, cockade, sash and white gorget. Sword with silver belt, and silver shoulder knot"-it was a sight which filled the Major's bride with delight but which just as surely stirred the regiment to resentment and jealousy. Then and there a root of bitterness sprung up in Concord which bore evil fruit in days to come.

The taverns of this period were an important element in the life of Concord, since, aside from their function as houses of entertainment for travellers, they were the gathering places for the men of the town during the months leading up to the war. The tavern which Widow Hannah Osgood built on the site of the present First National Bank, was managed by her youngest son, Richard Hazzen Osgood. Hannah, herself, opened a third Osgood tavern next south of the Stickney farm on the site of Exchange Block. "She was", writes Joseph B. Walker, "a hostess of whose good sense, executive ability and well-kept inn, the Concord inhabitants of her day had every reason to be proud. During the Revolution her house was the general town exchange. She was patriotic in her very heart of hearts, and insisted upon signing the Covenant of 1774, intended for male signatures only. She was known by everybody as implied by the significant name, "Mother Osgood."

The tavern's bar room was in the cellar and there Mother Osgood served her famous flip, favorite beverage of the bar's patrons. This is the recipe as Bouton records it: "A mug was nearly filled with malt beer, sweetened with sugar; then a heated iron called a 'loggerhead' was thrust into it, which produced a rapid foam. Instantly a quantity of the 'ardent' (a half pint of rum was allowed for a quart mug) was dashed in, a little nutmeg grated on top, and the whole quaffed off by two men or more as they could bear it." According to tradition, it was in this bar room that much old pewter from the shelves of Concord homes, was melted and run in

bullet moulds on the night when news arrived of the battle of Bunker Hill. Tradition also tells that Prince, <sup>de</sup> Talleyrand, during his exile from France (1793-95) and while travelling in America, was a guest at this tavern.

A letter in the Statesman of Feb. 21, 1845, claims that a slave market was once held in Hannah Osgood's tavern when Andrew McMillan bought a "Negro Girl, named Dinah" for twenty pounds from Patrick Gault of Chester. Bouton prints the receipt in full. (History of Concord, p. 249)

Richard Hazzen Osgood, commonly called Hazzen, was still resident in Concord in 1778 but his career as a taverner was interrupted when he went into the war. He was a sergeant in Capt. Joshua Abbot's company at Bunker Hill. In later years he joined his brothers who had migrated to Conway and lived there until his death in 1796.

Hannah Osgood sold her tavern property in 1778 or earlier, to Capt. Aaron Kinsman who was a patriot after her own heart since he had command of a company in John Stark's regiment at Bunker Hill. She lived until 1782—long enough to rejoice at the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown. Capt. Kinsman came to Concord from Bow where he had been selectman in 1768 and where he had built the first mills at Bow Mills. He seems to have built himself a house on his new property in Concord, south of Hannah Osgood's tavern and about opposite School St. After the war, during which he served 1780-81, in Col. Thomas Stickney's regiment, he kept <sup>a</sup> tavern ~~in this house~~ until he married for his second wife, the widow of an army surgeon, Dr. John Crane of Hanover. He then moved to Hanover and in 1790, purchased from Eleazer Wheelock the lot of land upon which Rollins Chapel now stands. There he built "a great Commons hall."

There remains in Concord but one small token of the Kinsman family—a crude little gravestone in the Old Burying Ground which bears the inscription: "Salle Kinsman, daughter of Capt. Aaron and Mrs. Mary Kinsman, died Sept. 18, 1778, ae 17 mos."

Hannah Osgood's tavern was owned and occupied for a time by Dea.

Jonathan Wilkins who sold it to Henry Farley in the eighteen twenties. The big square two-story old house was moved back from the street and a three-story addition built in front of it for a business block known as Williams Block, only to be destroyed in the great fire of 1851. The Exchange Block now standing next south of Eagle Hotel, was erected on the site. The Kinsman tavern became the property of George Hough and later of Joseph Low who built brick blocks on its site.

Before the Revolutionary War ended another tavern was opened at the South End. In the angle made by the road leading from the main street to the ferry was the home of Samuel Butters, a favorable location for a tavern. In 1775 the family consisted of Samuel, his wife, Tabitha, and two young children. In that year Samuel marched in Capt. Moulton's company of Minute Men called out on the Lexington Alarm, April 19, 1775. He opened his home as a tavern about 1780 and continued as host until 1811 when his son, Timothy, took over the management until 1814. Butters tavern had a long and reputable career.

During the war period, Concord had three physicians. The first of these was Philip Carrigain (McCarrigain) who arrived in town in 1768 soon after the death of Dr. Ezra Carter. Born in New York, the son of a physician recently arrived from England, he studied, as was the custom, in a doctor's office and when prepared, moved to Haverhill in Massachusetts. There he doubtless heard much of Concord for the contacts between the two towns were intimate. The professional opening in Concord attracted him and he decided to locate here. Marrying a Canterbury girl, Elizabeth Clough, he purchased for a home the Benjamin Emery house which still stands on the east side of the main street at No. 238-40 at the North End. The south part of the building was the family home and Dr. Carrigain used the north part as his apothecary shop.

Two sons, Philip, Jr. and Obadiah, were born in this house and as soon as they were old enough their father set them to tending shop. Tradition

tells that the Doctor suspected that the lads sometimes held back on the cash receipts, but he was too wise to accuse them without proof: but one morning he called them before him. "Boys", said he, "in passing Horseshoe pond last night, I heard voices saying-'Who is a rogue? Who is a rogue?' One answered 'Philip! Philip!' Another said 'Obadiah! Obadiah!'" His humorous mimicry of bull frog and of piping small frog took away the sting of reproof and the boys took the hint.

Dr. Carrigain was a courtly gentleman and even the children who met him were honored with a low bow and a sweep of his cocked hat. As a surgeon he was noted throughout the countryside in a day when there were few and very crude surgical instruments, no anaesthetics and no antiseptics. One of his famous cases was the successful amputation of an injured finger with a chisel and mallet: another, the amputation of a badly crushed leg suffered by Richard Potter in a logging accident in Loudon. Several doctors were in consultation on this case and all except Dr. Carrigain agreed that the injury was so severe that Potter must die, hence amputation was useless.

Dr. Carrigain held his peace until his brother physicians left and then he set to work. He first cut away the flesh just below the knee and then, with an ordinary saw, began to cut the bone. The saw proved too dull, so a neighbor ran to fetch another from his home a quarter of a mile away, and after that trifling delay the amputation was completed. Mercifully the patient lost consciousness before the ordeal was over. "In order to make the skin heal over", reads the old account, "Dr. Carrigain ordered New England rum to be heated and poured slowly on while the bone was picked and broken with an awl." The patient recovered and lived to good old age and being a right clever man, he whittled himself a wooden leg with which he could not only walk but run and even wrestle.

One of Dr. Carrigain's patients was the famous Ann Lee who seems to have been seriously ill during her unwelcome visit to Concord. In the bitter controversies engendered by her missionary work in town, a pamph-

let was issued in which Dr. Carrigain cited his professional experience with her.

In the summer of 1775, Dr. Carrigain contracted small pox from one of his out-of-town patients. He protected his own family by the crude vaccination practiced in that day and he, himself, recovered readily. But before the nature of the malady was recognized, young John West, fifteen year old neighbor directly across the main street, was infected and the disease spread through the West family until six of the nine members of the household were ill. Nathaniel West, father of the family, died.

It was a Saturday night in July when the fact of this epidemic became known and so great was the alarm that the men of Concord spent Sunday in building a pest house in the woods on Franklin St. hill, well apart from the village. By nightfall the timber for a four room house had been felled and hewed and the frame raised; boards for a covering and brick for a chimney had been hauled to the spot. It was a busy and noisy Sabbath, entirely out of keeping with Puritan principles, but the emergency for a people was ample justification/whose religious scruples were properly balanced with humanity and good sense. As soon as the house was completed, the Wests probably moved in to be segregated until all danger was past. As further precaution, Dr. Carrigain's house was isolated by building fences across the highway and detouring all travel over a temporary road through the fields east of the main street.

Nearest neighbors to the Carrigains seem to have been Richard Herbert on the south, in the house still standing on Ferry St. and Dr. Ebenezer Harnden Goss, the second of local physicians, who owned the lot where the Rumford Arms stands today. In later years Dr. Carrigain acquired this property so that he owned all the land on the east side of the street from the Herbert homestead north to the Kimball estate.

Dr. Goss arrived in Concord a few years earlier and had courted and married the Minister's daughter, Mary Walker, in 1768. The next year he pur-

chased the land for his home place. Dr. Goss is described as a tall man with "strongly marked features and of eccentric temper." He took an active part in town affairs and held public office as late as the year 1785.

At one time he was part owner of the mills at the Borough. During the Revolution he served as army surgeon under Gen. John Stark, but his military career was brief because he could not submit to the necessary discipline. N.H. pension papers show that immediately after the April 1775 fight at Lexington and Concord, Dr. Goss was with the N.H. troops organized by Stark and that his appointment was as chief surgeon of the regiment. He served until Jan. 1, 1776 and was then re-commissioned in the same regiment, serving until Sept. 3, 1776.

Following the war, Dr. Goss moved to Brunswick, Me. leaving a pleasant evidence of his residence at the North End, in a fine row of young elms which he had planted in front of his home. For generations these trees grew and spread their graceful branches over the main street. One survivor is left, its huge trunk rising near the northwest corner of Rumford Arms-one of the most ancient of Concord's fine old elms.

The third of Concord's physicians resident at the time of the Revolution was a man of delightful memory-Dr. Peter Green, native of Lancaster, Mass. and graduate of Harvard college in 1766. Saddened by the death of his young wife and their new-born child, Dr. Green left his practice at Lancaster and came to Concord about 1772, entering upon a career which lasted for more than half a century. He combined in unusual degree, the unselfish ideals of Christian living with the skill of an ambitious and practical student of the healing art. It was no uncommon thing for him to watch all night by his patient's bedside, that he might administer the remedies himself and study their effect. In fact, Dr. Green often assumed the duties of nurse, especially in cases where the family was too poor to employ needed help. No service was too menial for his gentle hand to perform. During the years of poverty incident to the war, his skill and

care were as readily available to the poor as to the well-to-do and he was greatly loved for his charity and devotion. Moreover, in a day of extravagant and harsh methods of fighting disease, he insisted upon the sparing use of simple remedies: in other words, he was a man of great good sense and independence of thought.

After coming to Concord, Dr. Green married Ruth Ayer of Haverhill, a sister of Mrs. John Kimball, and their home was in a house which stood directly opposite our present Court House. In that home thirteen children were raised. The Doctor was an honorary member of the Massachusetts Medical Society and one of the original members—perhaps one of the founders of the N.H. Medical Society whose leader was Dr. Josiah Bartlett of Kingston, famous as a patriot and as one of our state's signers of the Declaration of Independence. At the outbreak of the war, Dr. Green was appointed a regimental surgeon.

Following the custom of the times, the good Doctor made his professional rounds on horseback, carrying his medicines in saddlebags. He was a familiar and benevolent figure about the town until he was eighty or more years old, and even at that age "he would place one foot in the stirrup and mount from the ground into the saddle with the agility of a young man." When the days of his professional activity were over, his life was "peaceful and serene" for he loved the Word of God and spent the quiet years in reverent study and meditation.

Dr. Green, like Dr. Goss, planted elms for coming generations when, shortly after the Revolution he employed Eph Colby, the wrestler, to set out four young trees in front of his homestead. There they stood in beauty, long years after the Doctor's death and long after his old home was destroyed by fire in 1846. All are now gone, but until very recent years, the huge and tall stump of the last survivor stood, shrouded in Virginia creeper, near the sidewalk in front of No. 194 No. Main St.—the last tangible memory of a beloved physician of old Concord.

Across the main street from Dr.Green's home stood the ancient schoolhouse in a neighborhood made odorous by a tanyard on the site of present Lyster Block.Jeremiah Abbot,youngest son of Capt.Nathaniel Abbot,seems to have been the proprietor at this time but in 1778 he sold to "Richard Ares".Richard was a brother of Mrs.Peter Green and had come to Concord the year before when he was twenty years old,with his bride,Susannah Sargent of Methuen.For the ensuing fifty years and more,Mr. Ayer was a dominant figure in town affairs for,to a powerful physique, he added public spirit and a certain aggressiveness which was tempered with excellent judgment.

This tanyard investment of Richard Ayer's is thus described in the deed:"One half part of a tanyard on the main street leading through Concord.One half a bark house,Curryers shop,pits,tools etc."Four years later he purchased"the easterly half part of the Tanyard in the main street", including"beam house and water pit",the other half of the bark house and "bark stone",also"all the Pitts for leather on the easterly half part." Years after Richard Ayer's day,the excavations for Lyster Block uncovered traces of the tanyard,deep down in the original brook bed many feet below the present surface of our Main St.

For"six Spanish milled dollars",Mr.Ayer purchased additional land farther up the brook and west of our present Court House,and in 1785, Col.Thomas Stickney sold him the water privilege on the brook on his own property which lay north of present Court St.This purchase was for the purpose of"improving the same for a grist mill".We do not know whether the grist mill materialized,but it challenges the imagination to picture a brook with such possibilities,running across this land and flowing openly across Main St.

In 1779,Aaron Stevens sold to Richard Ayer the northeast corner of his homestead place-a tract of land nine rods on the main street and nine rods on the south side of Centre road(Centre St.)Two years later Ayer purchased another piece of land on the south side of this lot which increased his frontage on the main street to fifteen rods,thus taking practically all the land between Centre St.and the present Patriot Building.This became the Ayer homestead and it is probable that the family

occupied the old house of Aaron Stevens since Bouton's History lists "a part of Capt. Richard Ayer's house-now (1856) the Union Hotel, opposite the Free bridge road" (Bridge St.) as having been built prior to the memory of Richard Herbert (b. 1761). The old Union Hotel was burned in 1861 and thus disappeared one of the historic homes of Concord.

We know little of the stores in Concord in 1775 since there were neither newspapers nor directories at that period. Andrew MacMillan had moved to Conway and left his partner, John Stevens, in possession of the little store on the north corner of Mill road (Pleasant St.) "Merchant Stevens", as he was commonly known, came from Charlestown, Mass, and when he brought his wife to town, it is said they rode about the village that she might select the house of her fancy, or a site whereon he might build a home. She chose the Farrington house which occupied the site of present Wonalancet Club and her husband purchased it and the field which adjoined the house lot on the west.

Stevens enlarged the store on the main street by adding a second story which he fitted up for a public hall—the first in the town. There in after years the N.H. House of Representatives sometimes met in legislative session and according to Andrew McFarland, the new members were "shod" at Hazzen Osgood's tavern across the highway. This unseemly ceremony was performed by a committee of experienced members of the House who waited upon each new member and notified him of the time appointed for the "shoeing of new members." Everyone was on hand for the first assembling of the House, but as soon as preliminary business had been accomplished, a majority carried a motion to adjourn and then all proceeded to the tavern across the street. The orgy which followed left broken glass, "we know not but broken heads", made whole at the expense of the unfortunate new members. It is true that Concord consumed her full quota of strong drink in that generation, but such rowdyism as "shoeing new members" was alien to her citizenry. Stevens's store stood until replaced by the present Masonic Block and for generations the name "Parliament Corner" clung to that site.

In 1772 a rival storekeeper came to town from Harvard, Mass. in the person of Gordon Hutchins, bringing with him a wife, Dolly, and six chil-

dren. He purchased a house and barn which stood on a half acre of land- the site of present Concord Theatre- and opened his store there. Mr. Hutchins was then about forty years old, a man of unusual energy and tireless industry. In his youth he had been an Indian fighter and had joined an expedition up the Kennebec river to Canada. When the news of "the nineteenth of April '75" reached Concord, it was inevitable that Gordon Hutchins should stand forth as a leader in the struggle for liberty. No man in Concord exceeded him in patriotism.

In 1779 Robert Harris purchased a house on a half acre of land next north of Ranger Rogers farm. He was a man of substance for he brought to Concord a chaise. Moreover he had two attractive daughters, Mehetabel and Dolly, who made excellent marriages after they came to live in our town. Being a shrewd "trader", Mr. Harris accumulated wealth and his family introduced genteel fashions hitherto unknown in Concord.

In "Rambles about Portsmouth", C.W. Brewster tells a story of a young man from that town who figured in an amusing incident in Concord. Edward St. Loe Livermore and his friend, Jeremiah Smith of Exeter (later Chief Justice of the Superior Court of New Hampshire and an intimate of Daniel Webster's) made a trip to Concord to pay their addresses to the two Harris sisters. Livermore invited Miss Mehetabel to drive with him and, at the appointed time, he appeared before the Harris home in a handsome chaise drawn by a spirited horse. But all this style had its embarrassments for the horse refused to stand quietly and the driver dared not trust him while he helped the young lady into the chaise. With commendable judgment he decided to continue driving until the spirits of the animal became subdued, and so he whirled by the mystified young woman in the doorway and tore away toward the North End.

On the return trip conditions were not improved and Miss Mehetabel and her mother watched him drive by again. This performance was repeated

~~was repeated~~ up and down the main street until the horse was finally exhausted and then Livermore hurried into the Harris house to make his excuses. ~~Pepper~~ Mrs. Harris gave him no chance to explain but, believing that he had deliberately trifled with her daughter's feelings, she gave him a resounding box on the ears. Evidently it was the heartless Jeremiah who appreciated the joke and told the story abroad. He, himself, was canny "and retired from his suit, not being willing to subject himself to such treatment." But young Livermore's ardor was not dampened for he persevered and eventually married his Mehetabel. Their third child was Harriet Livermore, baptized in the Meeting-house in 1788, and destined to be a famous, although eccentric woman who travelled in the Holy Land and wrote concerning her experiences.

Although deserted by Jeremiah Smith, Miss Dolly Harris did not lack for suitors and near the close of the war she married William Duncan who had come to Concord to open a store. As the years went by he became a leading merchant hereabouts and in the Concord Herald for Feb. 1, 1792 appears this advertisement:

"Wm. Duncan has just received, by the last vessels from London, and is offering for sale, a fresh and general assortment of European goods, which he is determined to sell as low as can be purchased at any store in town."

Again on May 16, appears an advertisement of a long line of dry goods-

"Just imported in the ship Mary."

As he prospered, William Duncan acquired the six acre property opposite the Mill road where James Osgood's old tavern was still standing and there in 1801, the estate is described as including "a Mansion house", "a store, barn, potash, slaughter house and out houses." ~~Perhaps the store was housed in the old tavern. Duncan's "mansion" was Elm House in later years.~~

Next south of this estate lived Thomas Wilson, saddler by trade, who married Mary, daughter of good Dea. Hall at Eleven Lots. The saddlery shop was probably on the premises with their home. Mrs. Wilson died soon

after the birth of a daughter in 1772 and Mr. Wilson later married again and established a new home across the highway on the south corner of Mill road (Pleasant St.) where we shall mention him in a later chapter.

Next south of the first Wilson home was the Robert Harris house, but immediately at the close of the war Harris sold to Ebenezer Dustin (Duston), a tanner, who already owned a small lot adjacent on the south. It is Dustin who is first mentioned as running a tanyard at the South End, although it is possible that David Gage who owned a part of this property prior to 1777, may have been a tanner also. The location favored this business since a copious brook crossed the main street at this point and flowed through the lot on its way to the river. Dustin made this his home place and there stood his dwelling house, a barn and a small tannery on the south side of the brook. Next south was the large Ranger Rogers farm.

Ebenezer Dustin was prosperous in those days and in addition to his tannery business he evidently dealt in real estate. He was a leading citizen and held many town offices including that of selectman in 1795. He continued to live on this homestead until 1812 when he seems to have fallen on evil days and the place, mortgaged to the Concord Bank, was finally sold to William Stickney, excepting only the tannery which Dustin had sold to Sherburne Wiggin in 1811.

Aaron Kinsman, the tavern keeper, once owned a large part of the land on the south side of Mill road, between the main street and the "Country road (South St.)" Before the Revolution ended, a schoolmaster of distinction served in our town, in the person of Henry Parkinson. Of Scotch-Irish descent, Parkinson had graduated at Princeton college in 1765 and during the early years of the war he served as quarter-master in the army. His home in Concord was on the site of Optima Building on a lot which he purchased from Capt. Kinsman. His latter days were spent in Canterbury where

his house is preserved. His grave is in the old cemetery at the Center and his tombstone with its erudite Latin inscription written by him for that purpose, is a point of interest in the town.

Near the east corner of Mill road and the "Country road", Capt. Kinsman once ran "a potash" and on the west corner was the home of Nathan Kinsman, probably a brother of Aaron's. In 1769 he had purchased an acre of land on this corner and doubtless built his house shortly after. His wife, Mercy, lived but a brief time in the new home and later he married (1773) Elizabeth Shattuck of Bow, the town from which both of the Kinsmans came to Concord. Nathan served during the Revolution.

Following the war this house was purchased by Dudley Ladd, a hatter from Haverhill, Mass., who married Bethiah Hutchins, daughter of Col. Gordon Hutchins. The Ladds lived there for many years until they removed to Franklin to live with a son. Our picture shows the old Ladd house as it stood on its original site (45-47 Pleasant St.) and it seems probable that it dates back to the time of Nathan Kinsman. It now stands at No. 36 Stone St., minus the back section which gave the original house its long slanting roof. Parson Walker's diary records frequent visits at the Harris home and some at Capt. Kinsman's. It also notes that on Aug. 27, 1780, Nathan Kinsman and his wife were admitted to full communion in the church.

Concord's first lawyer, Esquire Peter Green, arrived in town in 1767. Born in Worcester in 1746, he studied law with Samuel Livermore, King's Attorney for New Hampshire, during the period when the latter lived in Londonderry. Two of Livermore's sons, Arthur and Edward St. Loe Livermore, practiced law in Concord in later years. When Esq. Green came here, his father, Nathaniel Green, moved his family to Concord and it was here that Peter Green's younger brother, Samuel, was born in 1770 - to be a prominent lawyer in his turn.

Esq. Green married Elizabeth Bulkeley and in 1772 he purchased

the farm formerly owned by Dr. Ezra Carter (1st) with its house on the site of the N.H. Savings Bank. <sup>Cor. Main & Capital</sup> Five of the Green children were born on this home, <sup>stead</sup> and then, in the summer of 1783, Esq. <sup>Green</sup> enlarged his holdings by purchasing the entire farm of Aaron Stevens adjoining on the north, excepting only the corner on Centre road which had been sold earlier to Richard Ayer. The Green farm then comprised nearly a hundred acres with a frontage on the main street south to Daniel Gale's homestead (site of State Capital Bank) <sup>non-Concord Nat.</sup> and west along Mill road <sup>from present Green St.</sup> to the vicinity of Pine St.

Esq. Green was an able man and successful in his profession. In his prosperity he gave generously to town enterprises and it seems that he moved into a house on the Aaron Stevens homestead <sup>stead</sup>, for Bouton says his residence stood near the northeast corner of the present State House lot. The barn stood somewhat to the south of the house and in that barn were kept his chaise and horses.

The contrast between our Main street today and the main street of Revolutionary days is startling when we thus realize that between Centre St. and Pleasant St. in that long ago, there were, on the west side, only four dwellings, a smithy and a general store. On the east side of the street between the Stickney house (site of present Elks Club) and William Duncan's estate opposite Mill road, only the three taverns—Mother Osgood's, Kinsman's, <sup>(possibly)</sup> and Richard Hazzen Osgood's, with possibly two or three small shops in their dooryards. There is no record of other buildings at that time in what is now the business section of Concord.

The well-to-do men of this period, as indicated by the town rates for 1778, were Dea. George Abbot & Sons, Benjamin Abbot & Sons, James and Amos Abbot, Robert Ambrose, Lot Colby, William Coffin & Son, Ezekiel Dimond, Philip Eastman, Capt. Benjamin Emery, Lieut. Richard Herbert, Dea. Joseph Hall and son, Ebenezer Hall, Robert Harris, Capt. Ruben Kimball, Nathaniel Rolfe 2d, John Stevens, Col. Thomas Stickney, Lieut. Jonathan Stickney, Mrs. Sarah Thompson (Rolfe estate) Timothy Walker, Esq., Thomas Wilson. All these paid

rates of ten pounds or over.

Early Revolutionary days found some change at the North End. John Kimball had replaced his small house with a substantial home as pictured herewith. This house stood on the site where his descendents still live at No. 266 N. Main St. The ell of the house may very well be the one owned and occupied by Lieut. John Webster many years before John Kimball came to Concord. The Kimball house now stands at 18 Church St. Following the war, one of New Hampshire's most famous patriots, John Langdon, made this his home when official business called him to Concord. Five times elected governor of the new state, during which time the Legislature frequently met in the nearby Meeting-house, Gov. Langdon, found Dea. John Kimball's hospitality a welcome relief from the responsibilities of his position. Tradition says that he feasted in this house on his favorite dish of baked pumpkin and milk.

Family tradition also tells that in later years, young Daniel Webster came to this home wooing Sarah (b. 1779) the youngest daughter of the Deacon, but Sarah was an ardent advocate of the temperance movement and could not accept the attentions of a man so "addicted to his cups". That a romance existed, nevertheless, is indicated by the story that, long years after, when Daniel Webster's death was referred to on a Sunday in the Meeting-house, Miss Sarah who had never married, dropped her head to hide her tears.

Sarah's youngest brother, Samuel Ayer Kimball, graduated from Dartmouth college and practiced law for a time in Dover, but returned to Concord and succeeded his father on the homestead. He played his part as a good citizen in town and state but his most lasting memorial is the row of elms which he set out in 1819 on the west side of the street opposite his home. He must have been a lover of trees for, during his term as highway surveyor in 1831, he set out the willows which bordered Horseshoe pond with beauty until neglect has all but wrecked them. Trees seem to

have been a family interest for an older brother, Hazen Kimball, set out the elms and the magnificent sycamore directly in front of the homestead. Hazen Kimball (b. 1767) went south and became a prosperous merchant in Savannah, Ga.

During the Revolution, Dea. Kimball's cousin, Stephen Kimball, moved to Concord from Haverhill and opened a shoemaker's shop next south of the Kimball house. His own home was a little one-story house which stood on the south side of West brook near the site of No. 202 N. Main St. Later he built a more pretentious house which, under new ownership, had historic associations in future years.

Another newcomer to the North End was David George, born in Haverhill in 1745. Soon after he arrived in Concord he married Dorothy Abbot, one of Capt. Nathaniel's daughters, and their home was next south of the Burying-ground on the north corner of N. State and Church Sts. In that home their son, David, Jr. was born in 1767, and there he lived for many years to come. David George was a "Taylor" and continued his trade through the war years and after. In 1791 he advertised "his price for making a genteel suit of super-fine broadcloth is three dollars; for making a suit of coarse cloth, two dollars." (Concord Herald & N.H. Intelligencer, March 31, 1791) In 1782 he purchased the Dr. Ebenezer H. Goss place on the site of Rumford Arms and his activities there will be told in a later chapter.

A traveller through Concord during the Revolutionary period would have noted the large flocks which grazed her hill pastures, for sheep raising was very general, since very little wool was imported. From 1770 on, sheep marks were registered and the Town Records list some of them of which these are samples:

Daniel Chandler's - "A Swallows Tail in each Ear"  
 John Bradley's - "A Crofs and a Slit in each Ear "  
 Rev. Timothy Walker's - "A Swallows Tail in the off Ear and a  
 half Penny the under side of the near Ear".

During all the years of the war, Concord's first concern was her own part in the conflict, and that part she performed well and gallantly.

It meant financial as well as moral stress and strain, and there was little money and less enthusiasm for the ordinary enterprises of peace time. Schools suffered especially and it is doubtful if they were maintained with any regularity at town expense. A certain amount of schooling was carried on through private effort, for, in the warrant for the Town meeting in 1781, we find: "To see if the town will excuse those persons who have kept constant schools in town from paying taxes for the current year." No action is recorded, probably because the town was too pressed for funds to remit any taxes even though the request was reasonable. There was pressing need for a new schoolhouse, but the meeting voted it down.

There was one obligation, however, which Concord citizens considered to be of paramount importance even in the lean years of war- and that was the suitable completion of their Meeting-house. Only as a matter of faith can such courage be explained. In 1779 the parish offered "to give up the pew ground to any number of persons who will finish the Meeting-house and add a perch and the value of another perch"; and the parish agreed "to be at the expense of building a steeple." By the summer of 1782 such an arrangement was made and the Proprietors of the Meeting-house sold their rights in the building and land to the parish for "Ten pounds, Lawful money" and construction began. The steeple-a feature of especial pride- was built by Ephraim Potter of Turtletown who, with his customary ingenuity, contrived to frame and finish it inside the newly built porch and then raise it into position with the aid of block and tackle. In 1783 all was complete and the Meeting-house stood suitable in all points for the worship of God. Since this was still the only public building of any size in town, it was used for various gatherings of the people, and especially for sessions of the State legislature during the years before the State House was built.

The accompanying picture is a reproduction of one of the earliest photographs of the Meeting-house and shows it with the circular addition

which, in later years, was built on the south side of the edifice. In 1783 the Meeting-house was still rectangular in shape with a porch and steeple as pictured, on the east side and a second porch on the west side facing the Burying-ground. There was a third entrance on the south side. The pulpit was on the north wall and it stood twelve feet high with a large sounding board overhead and backed by a large window. The aisles extended from the south door toward the pulpit and there were cross aisles from east to west. There were also side aisles which separated the wall pews from those in the body of the house. This arrangement was a part of the general improvements made in 1783.

Provision was made for an "Old Men's seat" on a platform about two feet high at the base of the pulpit and in front of this, but at a lower level, was the seat for the deacons. The communion table was a circular board hinged to the front of the deacons' seat. The accompanying picture gives a fairly accurate idea of the pulpit arrangement except that it fails to show the "Old Men's seat". A part of the pulpit and the communion table used prior to 1783, were treasured by First Church after the Meeting-house was abandoned many years later, but they were finally removed from the chapel auditorium and stored in a somewhat inaccessible place where they were easy prey to the flames which destroyed the church in 1935. A picture in this group shows the horse-block which stood in front of the old Meeting-house.

As indicated in the pulpit picture, the stairs were on the west side, and under those stairs was a roomy closet where the Minister may have hung his gown between services and where the communion service was probably kept. The pews were square enclosures with hinged seats to be raised when the congregation stood during the "long prayer". Pews were sold at "public vendue" and their owners are listed in the Town Records. It is not uncommon to find in old deeds the recorded sale of a pew which

was transferred as a piece of real estate might be.

Near the middle of the Meeting-house, five seats were reserved at each side for persons who did not own pews—the men sitting in the west side pews and the women in the east. In the gallery (also new construction) the pews were elevated back to the walls and on the south side, opposite the pulpit was a large square pew for the singers, with a circular table for their books of music. Instrumental music was not to be tolerated until a later generation and so, when the singers rose to perform their part in the service, they stood facing each other in a hollow square and the chorister used a pitch pipe to give the key. Hymns were "lined out" two lines at a time. Last of all, the slaves had their own gallery slip near the tower on the east side of the building.

It was characteristic of the God-fearing folk of Concord that they began their house of worship in the days of their civic humiliation when the very existence of the town was threatened and no man knew when his lands might be confiscated by an unscrupulous provincial government. Now, a generation later, when war had sapped their man power and high taxes had brought them to hardship and a measure of poverty, these sorely tried people had, by faith, completed their Meeting-house. No wonder that they valued it: no wonder that it was a source of thankful pride: no wonder that they filled it each Sunday in the spirit of praise and worship.

In due time the steeple which lifted its slender spire toward the heaven, was topped by a shining cock wrought in brass, probably by the deft hand of Ephraim Potter. Every man, woman and child knew the significance of that bright symbol—unstable, "carried about with every wind". They looked upon it and remembered Peter, and it was the sign of humility which crowned their pride—a reminder that, except for continual watching and prayer, they, too, might deny their Lord.