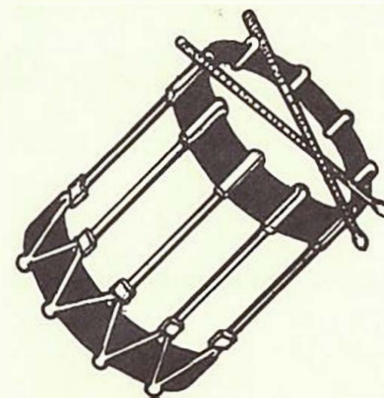


NEW HOLDERNESS in the REVOLUTION

by DORIS S. TATHAM

artwork by JAMES H. ROLLINS

(Ashland - Holderness)





Ashland American Revolution Bicentennial Commission

Note on missing pages:
Pages 20, 22, 29, 42, 45 and 60
were blank in the original book
and have not been reproduced.

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From its first meeting, the Ashland Bicentennial Committee was aware of the need for a history of New Holderness in the Revolution. The published histories of Ashland and Holderness mention the war only briefly and do not attempt to give the full story of those trying days. The Committee decided then to publish this book as the best means of recalling the part played by local men and women in the founding of our country.

Many should be thanked for their work on this project, especially Doris Tatham, who researched and wrote virtually all the book; James Rollins, who illustrated and designed it; David Ruell, who contributed the section on the Blair family; Earl Sanborn, who prepared the manuscript; John Smith, who handled the finances and printing; Marion Merrill, Elizabeth Cote, Noreen Crawford, Frances Platt, and Susan Edy, who canvassed the area for advertising; the businesses and patrons whose contributions made publication possible; and finally the taxpayers of Ashland, whose appropriation was used to subsidize this work.

The Committee hopes that you will find this history, the first on the subject, both interesting and informative, and that the struggles of these early settlers for a new nation will not again be forgotten.

Introduction
by David Ruell

"Province of New Hampshire
King George the Third

By the Grace of God, of Great Britain, France, and Ireland; King,
Defender of the Faith ec.

Know Ye that We of Our Special Grace, Certain Knowledge And Meer
Motion, for the Due Encouragement of Settling a New Plantation."

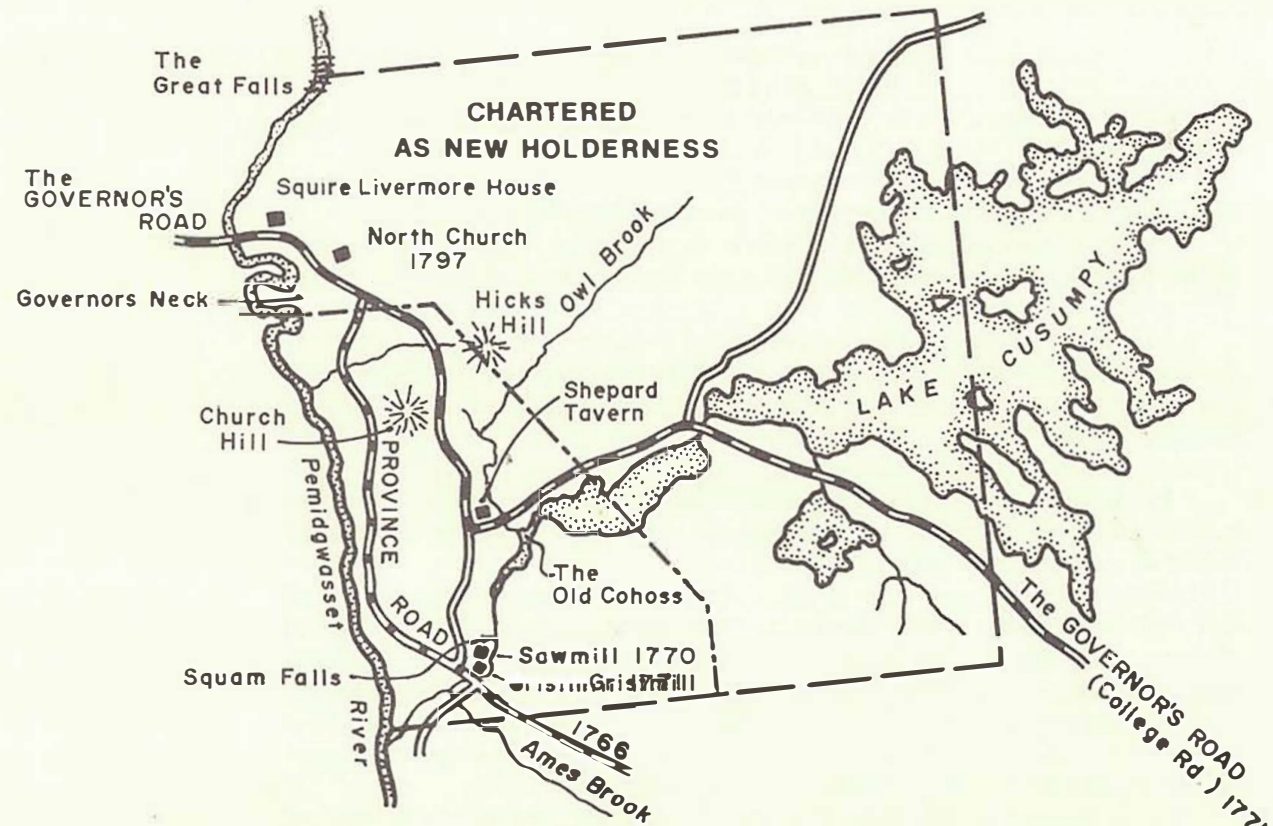
These words introduce the first charter of Holderness which was forfeited because the grantees failed to make the necessary number of settlements. Ten years later, in 1761, a second charter was granted, signed by the Royal Governor, Benning Wentworth, and Theodore Atkinson, Secretary of the Colony of New Hampshire. The new township was named New Holderness, the "New" signifying that the charter was granted anew. The first Town Meeting in New Holderness was held on October 16, 1771, at four of the clock at the home of Sam'l Gaines.

In 1816 the name was changed to Holderness by vote of the town. The southwestern part or village section was set off and incorporated as Ashland under an Act approved July 1, 1868.

The courageous members of Robert Rogers' Rangers saw the beauty of this region as they traveled the Indian Trail to St. Francis, Canada. Several Rangers were among the petitioners of the new town. Captain Hercules Mooney, Captain John Shepard, Samuel Shepard, Sr., Captain Joseph Hicks, Captain Thomas Shepard, Thomas Ellison, William Curry, Captain Andrew Smyth, Wm. Piper, Sr., and Nathaniel Thompson, Sr., were in Rogers' Rangers and were grantees or early settlers in New Holderness.

Coincidentally Judge Samuel Livermore, who later acquired over half of

*Prelude to
the Revolution*



HOLDERNESS 1761 for Robert D'Arcy Earl of Holderness, England.
ASHLAND 1868 for Henry Clay's home of Ashland, Kentucky.

the grants of land, and Major Robert Rogers of Rogers' Rangers, were brothers-in-law. Both men, so prominent in New Hampshire's early history, married daughters of Reverend Arthur Browne of Portsmouth, rector of the first Episcopal church in New Hampshire.

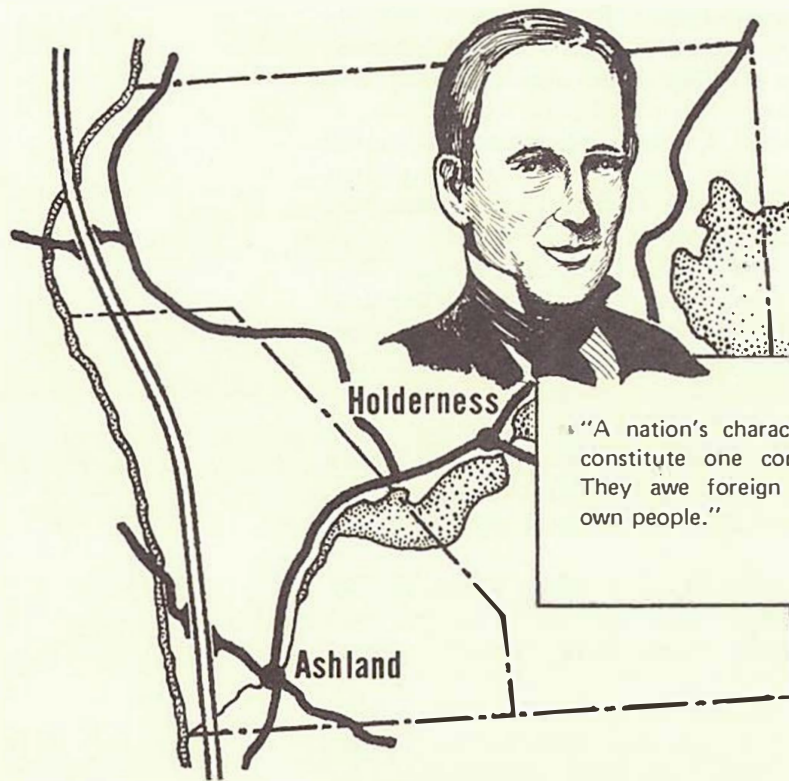
For nearly a century, the St. Francis (Canada) Indians had terrorized New England frontiers, pillaging, destroying, mercilessly murdering their victims or carrying them off into captivity. The Pemigewasset Indians had retired to St. Francis, Canada, which had long been a winter retreat.

"The Indian Trail used in the raids came down by land and water along the St. Francis River, across Lake Memphremagog, then to the Connecticut River, down this waterway and across land to Baker's River, to the Pemigewasset River, by Squam Lakes, along Winnepesaukee, and thence to Dover, Exeter, and Portsmouth."

The British Regulars were ineffectual in fighting the Indians. The Provincial soldiers, or Militia, were only slightly more successful. Effective defense required soldiers who were acquainted with Indian life and warfare, and were prepared to meet the Indians in their own habitat and use Indian tactics in battle.

Robert Rogers of Dunbarton joined the New Hampshire Militia in 1746 at the age of nineteen. He was tall, powerfully built, and daring. He was soon commissioned a captain; and with a company of some fifty men, was assigned to scouting duty at Lake Champlain.

As scouts and supply-train raiders, Rogers' Rangers changed the course of the French-Indian War. He mustered and led several companies of Rangers into Canada in 1759. They utterly demolished the Indian stronghold of St.



"A nation's character is the sum of its splendid deeds. They constitute one common patrimony, the nation's inheritance. They awe foreign powers, and they arouse and animate our own people."

— Henry Clay

Francis, base of the numerous Indian raids against the early settlers.

Major Robert Rogers married the beautiful daughter of Anglican Minister Arthur Browne of Portsmouth in June, 1761. Her wedding gown was of soft yellow satin and lace. They lived in Concord. They had three servants and an Indian boy named Billy who returned from St. Francis, Canada, with Major Rogers.

One of Rogers' Rangers, Captain John Shepard (1730-1779), served in the Provincial Militia for several years in the early 1750's. In August, 1756, he was captured at Oswego and carried off to Canada. He escaped and was again captured and taken to Canada. Shepard escaped a second time and joined Robert Rogers' Rangers at Lake George, having previously known Major Rogers. He became captain of a company of Rangers in February, 1757, and served until 1759 when he resigned because of ill health.

Captain Shepard was one of the original grantees of Holderness in 1761. His son, John Shepard, Jr., also received a grant.

Captain Shepard was alluded to as the "infamous John Shepard" in records of the Committee of Safety. In October, 1776, he deserted from the British Army and fled to New York. Soon afterward he was apprehended, with orders sewed in his breeches, to enlist men for British service under Sir William Howe.

He was committed to jail in Connecticut but escaped. One report said he was "powerfully strong and when he raged the walls of the jail trembled." He was captured in New Hampshire and sent to prison in Exeter, but escaped a second time.

The records of the New Hampshire Committee of Safety recount his

stay at Exeter:

May 30, 1778: "Upon complaint being made that John Sheppard Mathew Thornton & others, prisoners in Exeter Gaol had broke out of that department in sd Gaol in which they were put & had endeavor^d to make their Escape—ordered that the Said prisoners be remov^{ed} and put into the Strongest rooms in sd Gaol & that Sheppard & Thornton be put in irons, and upon Examination it appeared that one Hannah Roberson had been Guilty of Conveying Sundry Tools to y^e aforementioned prisonirs, by means of which they had like to have made their Escape—whereupon it was ordered that the said Hannah be Committed to sd Exeter Gaol . . ."

June 3, 1778: "Upon a request from John Sheppard & Mathew Thornton, Prisoners in Exeter Gaol, representing that they were unwell & pray'd that they might be releas'd from being hand cuff^d, the Committee taking the matter under consideration, voted that the Gaol Keeper have liberty to take said irons off, and that he examine the Gaol every day so as to prevent said prisoners from breaking out and making their escape."

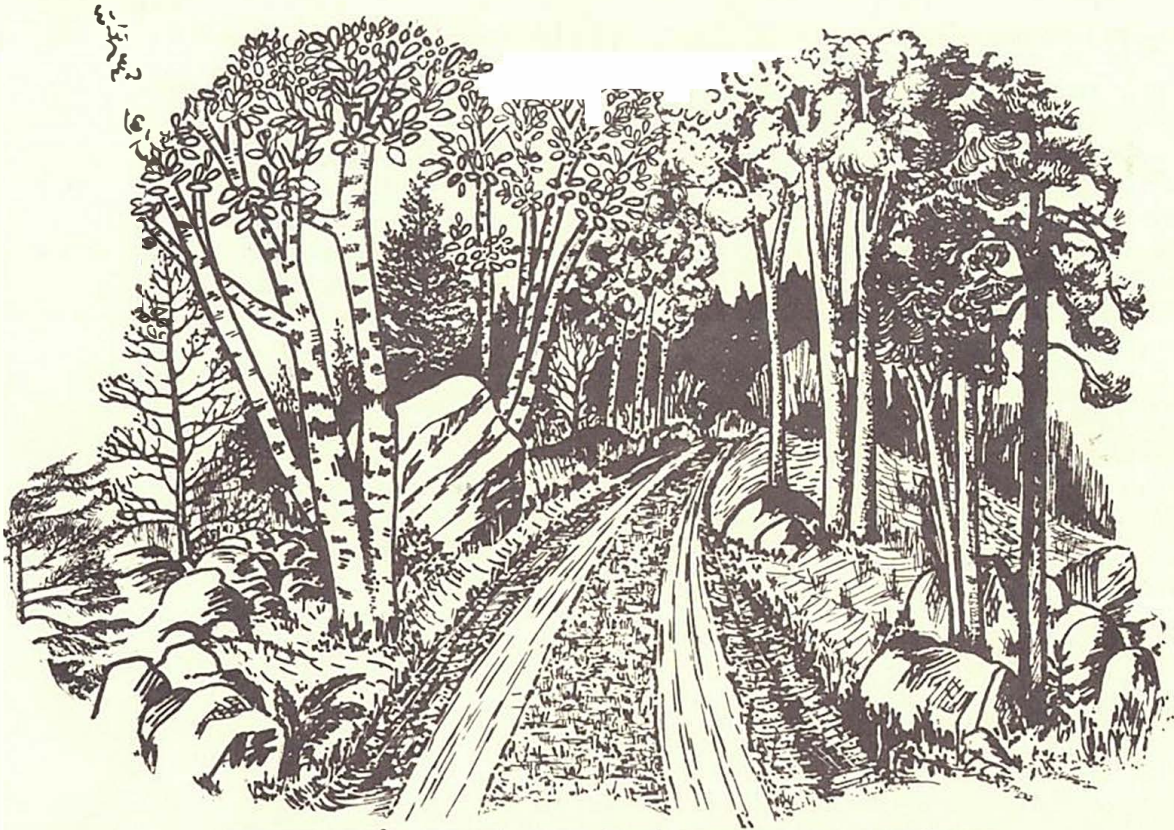
On the same day the Committee examined Hannah Roberson and decided that she "inadvertantly gave the Tools referred to in her Committment to Sheppard" and ordered her released.

June 5, 1778: "gave orders that the wife of John Sheppard have liberty to visit him in Gaol being properly searched."

September 4, 1778: "ordered the Gaol Keeper at Exeter to liberate from Confinement John Shepard, a Prisoner in his Custody, sd Shepard having given Bond with Sureties to remain in the Town of New holderness, be a Good Subject, &c.

He did not keep his bond but served for a time in R. Rogers' Queen's Rangers (part of the British Army). One report states that he died in battle; another, that he joined the British Navy and died off the Grand Manan.

Captain Shepard did not settle in Holderness; but his wife Susannah (Smith) Shepard and her two sons, Richard and John, Jr., settled on one Shepard grant on the shore of White Oak Pond. Shepard Hill received its name from this family. Captain John and Susannah Shepard's daughter Susannah married William Piper. She had her father's lot No. 31 as dowry. They built their log cabin near White Oak Pond in 1763. Their son Nathaniel was the first child born in the new town.



GOVERNOR'S ROAD 1771 (Owl Brook Road, Ashland)

The hardships borne by the early settlers were incredible. There was a severe drought in 1761; the next winter there were deep drifts of snow and extreme cold. One tale of a settler on the present North Ashland road tells of the young father going on horseback to Concord in midwinter to purchase grain and food. There were only trails as the Province Road had not been laid out. Heavy snows impeded his return. After ten days he reached his log cabin and found his wife and two small children had died. They are buried off the North Ashland road under a big maple.

At this time, 1775, Holderness was a small and remote settlement with 92 males and 80 females. Thirty-five had fire arms. The College Road from the Governor's Mansion in Wolfeborough to Dartmouth College, Hanover, had been surveyed and laid out in 1771 but was passable only on horseback. In 1763 Hercules Mooney had "piloted" part of the Province Road from Canterbury to Plymouth, but this road was not completed until after the War.

In spite of hardships, several patriotic men of Holderness left their families to enlist in the Continental service. New Hampshire became the first to transform itself legally from a British colony into an American state. Royal Governor John Wentworth, alarmed at an attack on his home, took refuge with his wife and infant son at Fort William and Mary. They left New Hampshire on August 23, 1775, never to return. Later Governor Wentworth became Governor of Nova Scotia.

The real governing power of the new State lay in the formidable Committee of Safety (1775-1784). Matthew Thornton was head of the Committee from 1775 to 1776 as President of the Provincial Congress. Then Meshech Weare of Hampton Falls became Chairman. He was also Chief Justice of the

Superior Court and bore the title of President, being the official head of New Hampshire. Weare served continuously from 1776 to 1784.

John Langdon served for one year, and the third New Hampshire President was John Sullivan (1786-1788). New Hampshire records revealed this letter from Holderness:

“To the Committee of Safety appointed by the Colony of New Hampshire or the Congress of said Colony—

“Gentlemen: Whereas we are Informed the Honourable Congress appointed that there should be a Company of Men Raised in this County for the Safety of the Fronteer Towns and that a part of said Company is to be Raised out of this Regiment, we would Recommend Capt. Matthew Thornton as a Man Shutable we think to Inlist said Company and a man that we can Depend upon in the graitest troble or Distress which if your Honours thought proper to give him orders for so Dowing we think that he Could Raise a Company in a Short Time and it would give Sattysfaction to the new Towns Heare and oblige your Humble Sert^s.

“Plymouth, June 23, 1775.

David Hobart
David Webster
Sam'l Shepard”

The foregoing relates to Matthew Thornton of the Town of Thornton who was arrested for Toyrist in 1777, not the Matthew Thornton who served as President of the Provincial Congress.

“That the Town of Holderness did not escape anxieties common to all early settlements during the Revolution is attested by the following petition sent to the General Court for ammuniton in 1776:

“We, the Subscribers, Inhabitants of the Town of New Holderness, having gain’d Intelligence, that a considerable Part of our Army in Canada have lately been forc’d by our unnatural Enemies (the British Troops in s’d Canada) to retreat and relinquish their ground; and apprehending ourselves in the gratest Danger from the s’d Troops, and scouting parties of Indians that may be sent down to annoy & destroy us; and being in no Capacity for Defence, do in Behalf of the s’d Town, pray your Honours to send us by the Bearer hereof, Mr. Samuel Curry, the necessary Powder, Musquet Balls & Flints for thirty three able and effective men (belonging to s’d Town) who are ready with their Lives and Fortunes to assert & maintain the American Cause, and we your Humble Petitioners as soon as may be will pay to your Honours, or the Committee of Safety for the time being, an Equivalent for the same; and as in Duty Bound will ever pray &c

Wm. Cox			Sam’l Shepard
Samuel Curry	Selectmen	Committee	And’w Smyth
			Nath’l Thompson”

On July 6, 1776, the General Court voted “Samuel Cressy (to receive) £5 (for firearms, lead and flints) for Holderness, Nath’l Folsom to deliver to Samuel Cressy 25 pounds of powd^r for the use of the inhabitants of Holderness.”

The Association Test separated the Tories and Loyalists from the patriotic Colonists.

The Continental Congress passed and issued the following resolution to all sections of the country to ascertain the respective strength of the friends and enemies of the patriot cause:

“In Congress March 16, 1776
“Resolved: That it is recommended to the general Assemblies, Conventions,
and Councils or Committees of Safety of the United Colonies, immediately
to cause all Persons to be Disarmed within their Respective Colonies who
have not associated and refused to defend by arms, the United Colonies against
the Hostile Attempts of the British Fleets and Armies.

Extracts from the Minutes.

Charles Thompson, Sec’y.”

This was submitted to the Committee of Safety of New Hampshire of
which Hon. Mesheck Weare was the efficient President. A copy was for-
warded to the Selectmen in every town:

“Colony of N.H.
In Committee of Safety
April 12, 1776

“In order to carry the underwritten Resolve of the Hon’ble Continental
Congress into Execution, you are requested to desire all Males about 21 years
of ages (Lunaticks, Idiots and Negroe excepted) to sign to the Declaration
on this Paper and when so done to make return thereof; Together with the
name or names of all who shall refuse to sign the same, to the General
Assembly, or Committee of Safety of this Colony.”

Mesheck Weare
Chairman

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

“In consequence of the above Resolution of the Hon. Continental Con-
gress and to show our determination in joining our American Brethren in
defending our Lives, Liberties, and Properties of the Inhabitants of the
United Colonies.

"We, the Subscribers, do hereby Solemnly engage and promise that we will, to the Utmost of our power and at the Risque of our Lives and fortunes with arms oppose the Hostile Proceedings of the British Fleets and Armies against the United American Colonies."

Thomas Burley (first settler on the present Burleigh Farm, Webster Estate) was one of the first of the 46 men who signed the Association Test on June 16, 1776. This antedated the Declaration of Independence by three weeks. His log cabin was the first in that area.

Ninety-three percent of the men of New Hampshire signed the Association Test. Non-signers (except for religious reasons) were dubbed "Tories." There were a few men in Holderness who either signed reluctantly or did not sign at all because they were staunch Loyalists. Samuel Shepard and Andrew Smythe were known as Tories. Samuel Shepard was proud of his Tory coat, wore it on Sundays to church, and was buried in it. Yet he was active in the Militia after the War.

"Province of New Hampshire
Captain-General and Governor in Chief in and over His Majesty's Province of New Hampshire in New England, etc. To Sam^l Shepard, Gentleman, Greeting:

"To be Captain of the Military Co. of Foot in the Town of Holderness, in the Regiment of Militia in the Province of N.H., whereof Joseph Badger, Esq. is Colonel.
Wentworth

"June 1st, 1772

Theodore Atkinson
Joseph Badger
Ebenezer Smith"

"Province of New Hampshire

June 5, 1772

This certify that Captain Samuel Shepard appeared and took the oaths appointed by act of Parliament, to be taken instead of oaths of allegiance and supremacy and signed the test etc.

Before us

Joseph Badger

Ebenezer Smith

Rockingham ss"

(This is proof that Samuel Shepard remained a Loyalist.)

"The Congress of the Colony of N.H.

To Samuel Sheperd, Esq.—

"First Major of the Eleventh Regt. of Militia, within the said Colony of N.H.

"Nov. 15, 1775

Matthew Thomson

"Exeter

Pres."

Some excerpts from "The State of New Hampshire Rolls of the Soldiers in the Revolutionary War," edited by Isaac W. Hammond, are as follows:

Vol. I: Capt. Caleb Hodgdon's Co., Long's Regt., Newcastle, Aug. 23, 1776. John Mooney one of several who acknowledged receipt of 52 shillings—1 month's pay in advance wages and 2 dollars blanket money for enlisting with him in Continental Service for 12 months. John Mooney of Lee (son of Col. Hercules Mooney, later of Holderness) enlisted on Sept. 26, 1776.

Vol. II: Joseph Sheppard, a Lieut. in Company of Militia commanded by Lieut. Col. David Webster which marched from Plymouth and Towns Adjacent to reinforce the Garrison at Ticonderoga on the Alarm in July 1777 and proceeded as far as Cavendish, Vt., where we met out troops on their retreat. Engaged July 5, 1775 and discharged July 16, 1777.

Holderness men in the same company included Job Harris, Corporal; Sgt. Stephen Ames; Joshua Smith (Smythe), a private; Joseph Sandborn (Sanborn), a private; Matthew Ramsey, private; and John Smith, private.

Jeremiah Hackett, an Ensign in Col. Thomas Stickney's Regt., commanded by Lt. Col. Henry Gerrish at Ticonderoga. His son S. Moulton Hackett lived off the Owl Brook Road before 1800. (Direct descendants, Clifton, Neale, and Deane Bavis.)

James Robinson of Holderness, engaged in Concord, April 30, 1779 for Duration of the War.

John Tyler (Taylor), John Whitten (father of Rueben Whitten) were in Capt. Stone's Co. May 18, 1778.

Dec. 7th, 1778: The Committee of Safety "Ordered the R. G. (Receiver General) to pay . . . , also the acco't of Jon^a Robins, amounting to £36-13s

for apprehending and bringing to Exeter from New Holderness, Jn^o Tyler, a Continental Soldier belonging To Capt. Benj^a Stone's Company."

John Whitton of Holderness in McGregor's Co., 3rd N.H. Regt., 1779.

Record of Town Returns, Newholderness: (Each town was required to send periodical returns)

John Whitten 1781, April 26th; Isaac Head July 26, 1782, Sam'l Commell—never join'd. (This is at variance with the Selectmen's later report.)

Vol. III: John Whitten 37 years old, 5 ft. 11 in. Dark complexion, mustered April 26, 1781 from Holderness.

Recruits 1781 Wm. Hamblet of Holderness Sept. 21 to Dec. 31.

Paid Wm. Lyons for supplies £8-13s. (Another recruit.)

"A Return of our Quota of Men in the Continental Service for Three Years or Dureing the war.

John Whitten for 3 years

Wm. Lyon — Dureing the War

Samuel Commell (Connell) Dureing the War.

All Inhabitants of the Town of New Holderness.

Aug. ye 3d 1781"

Sam'l Shepard

Selectmen of New Holderness

Samuel Curry

Capt. Joseph Hicks (Hix) in Capt. Winborn Adams Co. (first settler on Hix Hill, on road beyond Mrs. Howard Small's off the Owl Brook Road. This road was part of the College Road. Local tradition tells of a fort on Hix Hill. A deep ditch and ramifications which could be the ruins of this fort were found.)

Private Daniel Page of Holderness was on the Pension Rolls of 1840 for

Revolutionary soldiers.

Ref. "Military History of New Hampshire from its Settlement in 1623 to 1861" by Chandler E. Potter:

Pay Roll of Lieut. Nathaniel Burley's Co. lists John Cox 3d enlisted Sept. 26, 1777 for 60 da. (Both Burley and Cox were from Holderness.)

Grafton County Gazeteer:

"Enoch Rogers, a native of Byfield, Mass., who was a soldier in the Revolutionary War, was one of the men who threw the tea overboard in Boston Harbor during the Boston Tea Party." (Direct descendants of Enoch Rogers, whose son settled in Holderness, include Irene Berry and the late John Ernest.)

Other Sources:

John Bowles, a Revolutionary soldier from Concord, Mass. had a grandson, Stephen, who became a tanner and settled on a farm near Little Squam Lake. He had seven children. Miss Madge Pease ascertained that John Bowles, the Revolutionary soldier, and some of the Bowles children were buried in the small cemetery near F. Murdock's woodworking shop on the Howe Road.

Obediah Smith's father, Stephen Smith, served in the Revolution as a private in Capt. Benj. Whittier's Co. in Col. Nichols' Regt. His enlistment was from July 6 to Oct. 24, 1780. His field of service was at West Point, N.Y. (Direct descendants are Dr. George Whipple, Frances Platt, Elizabeth Fletcher, and Dorothy Kelly.)

Thomas Cox, 28 yrs. old, of Pembroke (later of Holderness) a weaver, in Capt. Parker's Co., was paid his first month's wages, August 2, 1775, for a 15 day March from Canedey (Canada). Date of arrival home Dec. 17, 1775.

John Patee (Holderness) in the same company.

Thomas Eastman of Hopkinton (later of Holderness), in Capt. Hutchings Co., Col. Joseph Cilley's Regt., 21 years old, 5 ft. 7 in., dark complexion, brown hair, left Albany on furlough Jan. 10, 1778. He had served at Valley Forge.

In the Mooney Cemetery on the old Mountain Road, near residence of Charles Parker Howe, there is a Capt. Parker Prescott who died Dec. 5, 1849.

In the cemetery on the Burleigh Farm, Webster Estate, off the Sandwich road, is a Revolutionary marker at the grave of Lieut. Thomas Burley who died June 24, 1822 at 89 years.

On Dec. 6, 1782 the state Committee of Safety "Ordered the Board of War to deliver To Oliver Smith & Stephen Ames, such Cloating as they may stand in need of, To enable them To go To Camp, they having been in Captivity."

Hugh Ramsey was in Capt. James Osgood's R. R. Company of Rangers. He joined the Northern Continental Army and was discharged Dec. 18, 1775.

5 months 10 days in service

10.13.4 amount of wages

1.16 cents and blankets

3.9 Billeting

17.13.1 Total amount

Moses Shaw, a Revolutionary soldier, was an early settler of Holderness. His youngest son, William H. Shaw, married Charlotte E. daughter of Timothy and Esther Cox Marden. Direct descendants are members of the late Mark

Marden's family.

John Hughes was a Revolutionary soldier. His grandson lived in the Brick House on the North Ashland road, presently owned by Mr. and Mrs. Chris Luff. Direct descendants are the Hughes families of Ashland.

Mrs. Louise Brock is a direct descendant of Richard Chamberlin, first settler in Wells River, Vermont. He was born in Oxford, Massachusetts, June 24, 1714.

During the siege of Charlestown, New Hampshire (Old Fort #4) in 1747, he was one of sixty men who held the Fort from the French and Indians.

In 1775, he and all but one of his seven sons served in the American Revolution, some with distinction.

In June, 1777, the Provincial troops were forced to retreat from Fort Ticonderoga. Lieutenant Colonel Webster (of Plymouth) and a detachment of men were ordered to reinforce the Army. Several men were from Holderness. They met the troops who were retreating and were in several skirmishes.

In October of 1777, the New Hampshire troops were at Saratoga under the command of Lieutenant Colonel David Webster and Colonels Bellows and Chase. General Burgoyne and the British troops fell back on Saratoga. Here the decisive battle of the Revolution resulted in the surrender of the entire British Army. One day after surrender, Lieutenant Colonel Webster and his regiment were discharged.

For the remainder of the war period, Colonel Webster was in command of supplies for the army and of raising troops for enlistment and draft. Both Colonel Webster and Judge S. Livermore were in favor of the proposed new government, and their influence was of great value.

SOLDIERS FROM HOLDERNESS:

Squam Bridge Cemetery

Hugh Ramsay, Col. James Osgood's Co.—died 1831

Samuel Shepard, David Gilman's Co.—died 1820

O. P. Smith Cemetery

John A. Smith—died 1842

SOLDIERS FROM ASHLAND SECTION OF HOLDERNESS:

Green Grove Cemetery

Nathaniel Cummings, Col. Reed's Co.—died 1820

Ebenezer Howe, Jacob Gerrish Regt.—died 1829

Mooney-Drew Cemetery

Col. Hercules Mooney—died 1800

Church Hill Cemetery

Capt. Joseph Shepard

Clark Cemetery (Leavitt Hill Road)

John Clark

from Records of Harold B. Trombley
Graves Registration Officer of New Hampshire
American Legion 1948

The Holderness Historical Society has also identified Jared Church, Samuel Gaines, William Humphreys and John Bryant as Revolutionary Soldiers.

*Location of Graves
of New Hampshire
Revolutionary Soldiers*

Vol. 2 p. 66, Petition of John Bailey of Holderness:

Sept. 8, 1832. Bailey deposed "that in Nov. 1775, he enlisted from Dunbarton, N.H., under Capt. Joshua Abbott, serving 14 months, when he was taken with smallpox and allowed to return home from Fort Independence, N.Y. where he was then stationed, that owing to his illness he was captured by the enemy and kept imprisoned 3 months. That after the Revolution he moved to Bow, N.H. where he remained until about 1782 when he moved to Holderness where he has since resided."

Judge Arthur Livermore stated that "Bailey came by my father's house in Holderness in 1783 and lived with my father and labored for him a year and that he has lived in Holderness ever since." Claim granted.

Vol. 6 p. 200, John Clark, petitioned by his widow Elizabeth, then at Wolfeboro, March 4, 1845:

"That she is the widow of John Clark, who was a private in the Revolutionary War and served 4 years, 10 months and 76 days under Col. Cilley (Feb. 1777-1781 inclusive). That she was married to said Clark Sept. 4, 1788 and that he died April 28, 1813 and she has remained his widow."

Priest Fowle testified that he was present at the marriage of John Clark and Elizabeth Innis at Holderness. They were married by Judge Livermore. Martha Fowle and Eleanor Shepard of Holderness were also present.

John Sweeney of Holderness, aged 84, testified "That he had worked with John Clark, then of Holderness many a day and heard him tell of his services in the Revolution. Also that Clark formerly lived in Hampstead and enlisted from there." John Clark died at Thornton in 1813. Claim granted.

Vol. 6 p. 227, under petition of Johnathan Clark of Danbury, N.H.:

"That he enlisted in June 1776 at Plymouth, N.H. under Capt. Jeremiah Ames and Lieut. Zachariah Parker, State Militia, served 3 months in what was then called 'Upper Coss' and that John Willoughby, now of Holderness, N.H. served with him and could testify if he shall be alive."

Vol. 11, p. 3, petition of James Eastman of Hiram, Maine, aged 80 years Oct. 1, 1832:

"That he enlisted from Holderness, N.H. where he then resided in 1775 and served under Captain Jeremiah Clough, Col. Poor for one year.

"That he was in no battles; joined the army in Dec. 1775 at Winter Hill, near Boston, Mass., marched from there the following spring to New York and then to Canada. Col. Stark's regiment marched at the same time to join General Montgomery but when they reached Canada they learned that the Americans had been defeated and General Montgomery killed. The two regiments then retreated; crossed Lake Champlain, were stationed at Fort Independence, remaining there until the fall of 1776. They then had orders to march to New Jersey. He proceeded as far as Albany, was taken sick, marched a short distance further. He was so sick that he was obliged to be left. Capt. Clough was also taken sick at Albany and having procured a horse, overtook Eastman and advised Eastman to help him home."

Eastman died at Hiram, Maine, Nov. 13, 1833. No further mention of his residency in Holderness until 1818. Claim permitted.

Vol. 14, p. 37-39, Petition of John Carter Gale at Holderness, aged 68 yrs.

Sept. 4, 1834:

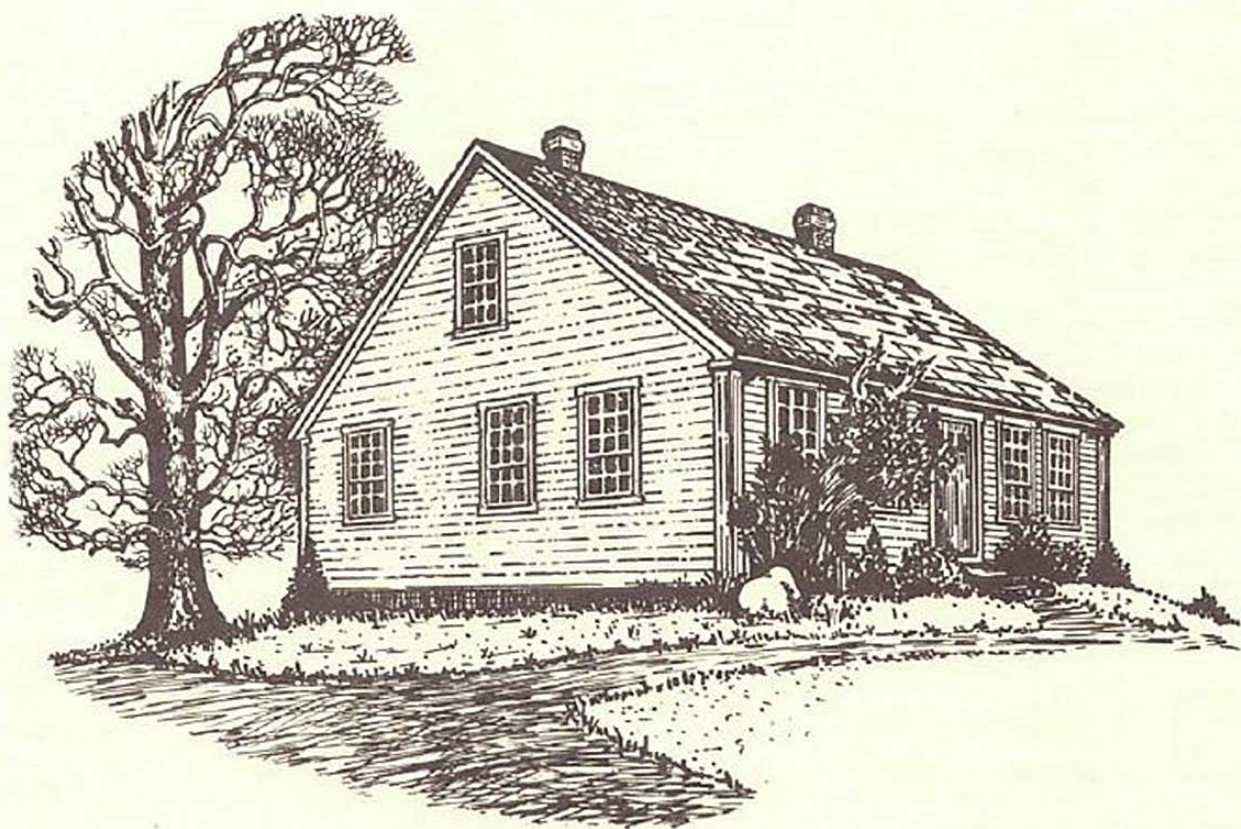
"That July 22, 1780, he enlisted at Sanbornton, N.H. and served in the State Troops under Capt. Samuel Runnels, Col. Benjamin Whitcomb, until Nov. 25, 1780 when the company was disbanded. He was stationed on the northern frontier and served there 3 months. That he was born at Exeter, N.H. Dec. 19, 1763, lived in Sanbornton during the Revolution but later moved to Holderness." He died in Holderness Dec. 12, 1836. Claim granted.

Vol. 17, p. 245. William Hamblet of Morgan, Vt., 69 years old in 1818. "That he enlisted under Captain Joseph Shepard of Holderness, N.H., was marched to Saratoga, N.Y., and put under Capt. Isaac Frye and Col. Dearborn. He served therein until June 1783 when he received a discharge.

"Dec. 1775, he joined Col. Bedel's regt., was taken prisoner but later released."

"He served 3 months in 1776 in Mass. under Capt. Samuel Runnels. In 1777, he served 3 or 4 months under Capt. Page and Col. Dearborn."

Claim granted.



SHEPARD TAVERN · Social, Political, and Commercial Centre of Town

At the beginning of the war, militiamen, Rogers' Rangers, and new volunteers filled the ranks of the armies.

Many of these men had already seen a few years of service. They served their terms but then were eager to return home. Sorely tried by the conduct of the Militia and the poorly trained volunteers, General George Washington begged Congress for a regular army. At last, in the closing years, Washington had a large body of men pledged and well disciplined for action in battle.

Immediately succeeding the Revolution, the military spirit of the people was spontaneous. They felt that "A well regulated militia is the proper, natural, and sure defense of a State." Militia Acts of 1780 and 1786 provided for an increased number of Regiments. The age limit of active militiamen was reduced from 50 years of age to 40. Several years later, the Junior limit was raised from 16 to 18 years of age.

The historic Eleventh Regiment (commanded by Colonel David Hobart of Plymouth and after June 14, 1779, by Lieutenant Colonel David Webster) became the Fourteenth Regiment. Many men from Holderness, Campton, and Rumney were involved.

Captains of the Militia Companies were now given rank of Colonel, Lieutenants became Lieutenant-Colonels, and Ensigns became Majors.

Under the Act of December 28, 1792, the Militia of New Hampshire was reorganized and the regiments increased to twenty-seven. From 1792 to 1816, the unit of organization was a battalion. Two battalions constituted a regiment.

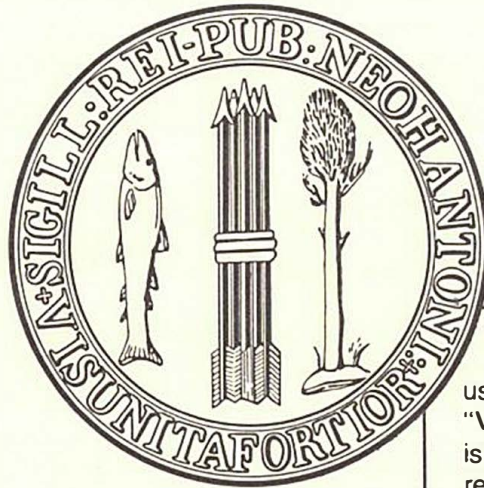
From 1792 to 1808, Plymouth, Holderness, Rumney, Campton, and Thornton constituted the First Battalion. Bridgewater, Cockermouth (Bristol), Alexandria, and Hebron made up the Second Battalion of the Fourteenth

Regiment.

The Militia was divided into two classes, the Train Band and Alarm List. The latter included males under 70 years of age who were exempt in the Train Band.

The Field Officers of the Fourteenth Regiment (all of Holderness) from 1784 to 1843 were:

Dec. 25, 1784	Richard Shepard, Major
June 17, 1790	Michael Dwyer, Major
May 17, 1816	Joseph Shepard, Lt. Col.
June 14, 1814	Stephen Baker, Major 1st Bn.
July 4, 1816	Joseph Shepard, Colonel (resigned June 25, 1819)
Nov. 5, 1819	Walter Blair, Colonel
June 24, 1848	Jesse Ladd, Colonel
June 23, 1818	Major Walter Blair promoted to Lieutenant Colonel
June 18, 1825	Russell Cox declined
July 5, 1834	George L. Shepard, Major, declined
July 2, 1841	Jesse Ladd, Major, promoted
June 8, 1843	Major Daniel Smith, resigned



New Hampshire's first state seal, used in 1776, bears the latin motto, "Vis Unita Fortior" — "Strength United is Stronger." The fish and the tree represented the state's principal sources of wealth, and the five arrows represented the five counties that existed at the time.

Mr. Joseph Baker.

State of New Hampshire

You being a member of the Company of Infantry commanded by Capt. Wm. Curry, you are hereby requested to appear on the Parade near Moses Merrill's Store in Holderness, on Tuesday, the first day of May, next, 1821 at one o'clock p.m., armed and equipped as the law directs, for inspection, And military Exercise and there wait further orders.

By order of the Captain.
the
Andrew Baker, 4 (Sgt.

Captain Nathan Baker was ordered to the parade near east church house in Holderness, Sept. 1821.

1817—Joseph Clark, Sargent (Sgt.) to meet at Moses Merrill's Church (Store).

The muster was the supreme event of the year. It was a wonderful time for patriotism, gingerbread, and rum. Muster Day was held in the fall and was a review of the Militia Training Band's progress and a forerunner of the country fairs.

Muster fields were comparatively smooth and level grass land. In Holderness, there were at least three muster fields. One was on Livermore's Intervale near the covered bridge (in area of present Plymouth State College Field House). Another was near the North Holderness Church (now Holderness Historical Society Building). The third was in the present village of Ashland, in the Washington Street area.

Each soldier was required to have a gun with two flints, priming wire, and brush, a knapsack, bayonet, and twenty-four rounds of ammunition. Soldiers who failed to report were fined heavily unless they could give a reasonable excuse.

Light infantry men wore white linen pantaloons; blue or black coats trimmed with red, white, or yellow; tall shiny leather caps with high plumes. Sharpshooters might wear small caps and simple black feathers. Artillery men had dark suits, cocked hats, sword strap and sword in a scabbard. Cavalry men were attired in short pants, high topped boots, yellow trimmed jackets, low caps with long bending white plumes. They were armed with swords and pistols.

Drums rolled, banners waved, and the soldiers marched! The Commander's first orders formed his regiment into a hollow square for prayers. All noise ceased, all heads were uncovered, and the Chaplain led the prayers. Inspection followed; then the Inspector General criticized, commended, and exhorted, until buglers sounded the call for dinner.

Drill in the manual of arms was the program after lunch.

Then the fun began. Bakers' carts with toothsome gingerbread, peddlers with their varied wares, told jokes, auctioned their goods, and sang comical songs. They sold gloves, combs, beads, feather fans, and other wares.

Many townspeople sold homemade foods, drinks, mittens, aprons, and other homemade articles.

The Holderness Town Report of 1858 mentions "A Gun house located near Carr School", (on Perch Pond Road) "Gun House, 14th Regt." on the sign. The parade field was just across the road.

MILITIA OF HOLDERNESS Sept. 28, 1829

Paid out for Rations for Soldiers 4 gallons rum	\$1.80
Geo. L. Shepard to 1 gal. rum	.45
To paid George S. Small for going to nurse after the Run and carrying Rations up to J. Cox	.50
To paid Wm. Follansby for horse and waggon for same	.25
May 1830 To 1 gall. Rum up to John Ward	.50
May 1831 To 1½ gall. Rum to John Ward	.75
To 3 gall. Rum to J. Shepard	1.50
To ½ Barrill Cyder	.50
To paid O. Tyler	2.00
To paid for cider to J. Ward	<u>.18</u>
	\$8.43

Wm. P. Sawyer Esq.



Posting a copy of the Declaration in the village

New Hampshire and New Holderness had a minority of Loyalists; but during the Revolution, a few were apprehended who were suspected of being counterfeiters or assisting the enemy by passing worthless paper money.

Volume VIII (1776-1783) of New Hampshire State Papers contains the following letter:

“To the Committee of Safety of the State of N.H.

Gentlemen: The Committee of Safety for the Town of Plymouth, being apprehensive that a Combination of Persons disaffected with & inimical to the interest of this the United States of America were assembled at a certain place for purpose of the most dangerous consequence—The place and some persons being suspected—a secret spy was sent out in order to make discovery, who upon return Report: That at and near the house of Brion Sweeney’s northerly of Great Squam Pond in the Town of Newholderness (a place very remote from any other humane settlement) was discovered sundry persons who by their number & dress did not appear to be proper Inhabitants of that place (no man in the family being grown but Sweeney himself). As we have long suspected that place to be a Den of mischief, we are now more confirmed that there is secretly mischief & planning & carrying on at & near sa’d Sweeney’s such as counterfeiting money, or some other plan to assist our Enemies and the like. Mr. Abel Webster, the bearer hereof, being one of the spies who will give further intelligence. As we think it not safe for the publick & especially for the Inhabitants of these parts that the above affair should not be properly looked into, we thought it our duty to give you this information, hoping that you will not fail to give the same proper notice, and pass such order thereon as in the prosecution thereof will effectually secure the

publick safety in general against the same, as well as ease the minds of the good people in these parts, in particular.

In Committee of Safety
Plymouth, September 8th, 1777

Stephen Webster,
Chairman."

Bryan Sweeney's household was listed in the U.S. Census of 1790 as having 2 males, 16 yrs. and up and 4 females. However, his name was not in the Town Inventory of 1803 or 1810.

Records of the New Hampshire Committee of Safety dated September 11, 1777, state, "Rcd a Letter from the Committee of Plymouth, Informing that several Strangers well dressed, had been discovered in a very unfrequented place in the Wood, which they supposed were engaged in a Bad Design. Wrote to sd Committee to apprehend sd Persons, make search &c."

No further information was found.

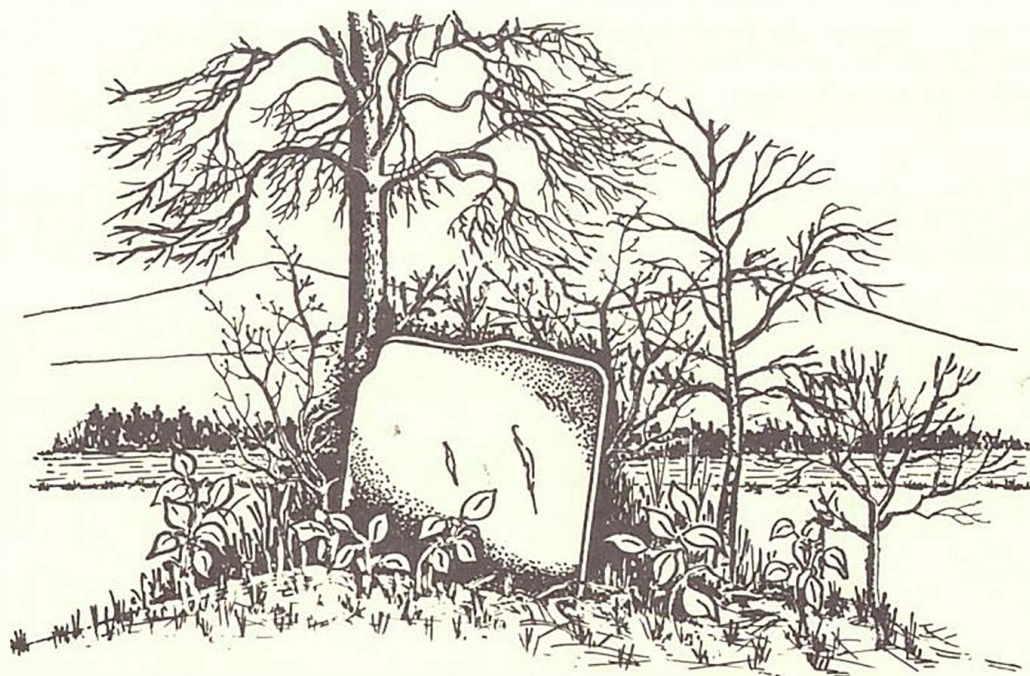
Revolutionary War Journals of Henry Dearborn (1775-1783):

October 6, 1778: "This Day two men belonging to New Hampshire (one by the name of Blare belonging to Holderness, the other, Farnsworth of Hollis) were taken up within the Lines of our Army, with a Learge sum of Counterfit Money which they brought from New York"

October 7, 1778: "A Special Court marcial was ordered to sit To Day for the Tryal of the two men above mentioned, they ware tryed for being spys and haveing a Learge Sum of Counterfit money with them which they brought from New York. The Confess'd they ware Guilty of bringing the Counterfit money and that they ware To send word To the Enimy: viz Col^{os} Holland & Stark & Esq^r Cummins & others what situation our army & country is in, as Near as they could; they ware both Condemn'd to suffer

Death as spys.—”

November 12 through 30, 1778: “I find that the 2 men who ware try’d
as spyes the 7th of Octobr at Danbury (Conn.), ware hang’d at Hartford
Novem^r 4th.”



**Rough slab marking the grave of Col. Hercules Mooney,
war hero, teacher, and surveyor of the Province Road.**

Holderness (and Ashland) may be justly proud of Colonel Hercules Mooney, a true American who played a vital role in the early history of New Hampshire.

He was a volunteer in Robert Rogers' Rangers. He was Colonel of a battalion in the Continental Militia where his son Benjamin was a lieutenant and a younger son was a private.

Colonel Mooney and his son Lieutenant Benjamin took part in the expedition to Crown Point. Captain John Shepard, one of the grantees of Holderness, was in the same regiment under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Goffe. Hercules Mooney and his son lost all their firearms and private baggage. In 1758, Captain Hercules Mooney and Lieutenant Benjamin Mooney again marched to Crown Point.

In 1760 a regiment of 800 men was raised in New Hampshire, under command of Colonel John Goffe for the invasion of Canada. Lieutenant Benjamin Mooney was in Captain Berry's company. His brother Jonathan enlisted March 14, 1760, and was taken sick at Crown Point with small pox. He was removed to Albany. In 1761 Hercules Mooney petitioned for and was allowed an "allowance for care of getting home, his son, Jonathan."

Hercules Mooney represented his town (Lee) in the Provincial Congress at Exeter in 1775 and until 1783, except for one year when he was appointed Major and stationed at Newcastle, then ordered to Fort Ticonderoga. In the retreat, Lieutenant Colonel Hercules Mooney lost his horse, "cloathes" and camp "equipage" and upon petition was allowed partial compensation.

During 1778, he was a member of the Committee of Safety. Then he was appointed Colonel of a regiment for Continental service in defense of

Rhode Island.

After the war, he removed to Holderness in 1785. He was appointed coroner for Grafton County and a justice of the peace. Also he became a selectman and represented the town in the legislature.

Hercules Mooney was a grantee in New Holderness. His son John became a judge and acquired large tracts of land in Holderness. Hercules Mooney's daughter Susanna married James Smyth of Holderness. He spent his last years with them.

He died in April, 1800, and was to be buried in Lee with his two wives. But Nature intervened. A heavy snowstorm fell that night and then high winds caused big drifts. His family and friends placed his casket on a sledge drawn by two oxen. He had lived in a house on the Don Smith Road, off Thompson Street. When they reached the area near the Bavis house, the sledge overturned. It was decided that he should be laid to rest beneath a huge willow tree, on the banks of Squam River, in the tiny Drew burial plot.

Direct descendants of Hercules Mooney who lived in Holderness or Ashland included George Washington Mooney who lived on the Sandwich Road and for whom Mooney Point was named.

Obadiah Smith (grandfather of Dr. George Whipple who generously donated the beautiful Whipple House to Ashland) married Mary Mooney as his first wife. She was directly related to Hercules Mooney.

Mrs. Betsey Shepard, daughter of Samuel Shepard, first Town Clerk of New Holderness, remembered Hercules Mooney well. "He was tall, spare, stern, and well-spoken. Everyone trusted his judgement. He was dignified, thoughtful, careful in speech and a highly respected citizen."

The History of Durham states "Colonel Hercules Mooney was one of Ireland's most precious gifts to young America, a leader in thought and activity, a moulder of character in the training of youth, a wise builder of the Granite State, a valiant Commander in Battle, a peaceful and highly useful citizen in the Towns he served."

Samuel Livermore had many titles—Judge, Lawyer, Attorney General, Senator, and Chief Justice—but in Holderness he was known as Squire Livermore.

Livermore was born in Waltham, Massachusetts, on May 15, 1732, son of a miller. He taught school in Waltham and Chelsea, Massachusetts. In 1751 he sailed from Boston in the sloop “Lydia” to New York, on his way to college at Princeton. An extract from his diary states, “Laid in 5 qts. West India Rum, £17.6, ½ lb. Tea, 1 doz. fowls, 2 lbs. loaf sugar, 1 doz. and 8 lemons, 3 lbs. butter.” His stock of clothes consisted of “2 close coats, 1 great coat, 2 jackets, 13 shirts, 7 prs. stockings, 4 cravats, 1 pr. breeches and 3 handkerchiefs.”

He was graduated from Nassau Hall, Princeton, New Jersey, in 1752 and returned home by horseback to Waltham.

His career was illustrious. He began law practice in Waltham and then removed to Portsmouth, New Hampshire. On September 22, 1759, he married Jane, the daughter of Reverend Arthur and Mary (Cox) Browne. Mr. Browne was the rector of the first Episcopal Church in New Hampshire.

Samuel Livermore was Representative of Londonderry in 1768, where he moved after his marriage.

Governor Wentworth commissioned him King’s Attorney General in 1769. He was one of the original grantees of Newholderness and later acquired 10 to 12,000 acres of land in Holderness, Campton, and Plymouth.

Judge Livermore was in the Continental Congress in 1780-1782. In 1782 he was appointed Chief Justice of New Hampshire. He also played a key role in the incredibly involved discussions over the problem of Vermont.

A constitutional convention was called in New Hampshire to consider the proposed Constitution. It had already been presented to eight states and assented to by them. One more state was needed to ensure its adoption. According to history, Chief Justice Livermore made the decision and New Hampshire was the ninth state to settle the fate of the Constitution.

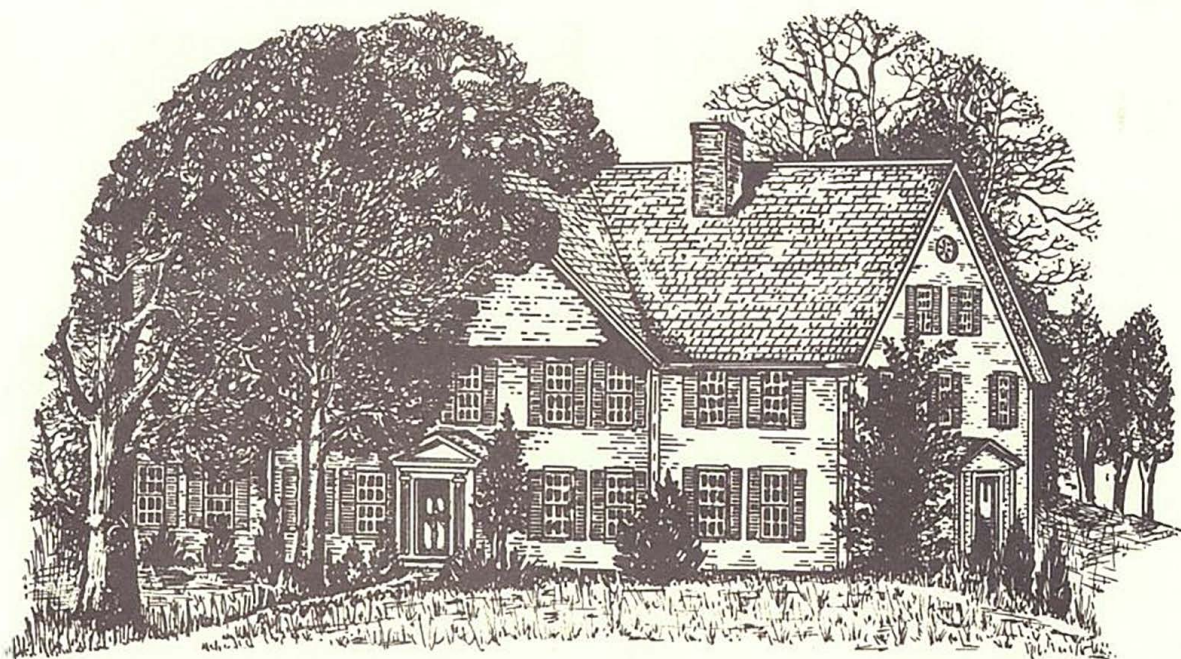
The year 1785 found Samuel Livermore in New Holderness but his important role in New Hampshire's early government continued. He represented New Hampshire in the First Congress of 1789 in New York. He resigned as Chief Justice to attend Congress in 1790 and 1791, also in Pennsylvania in 1792.

He was chosen President of the Convention to revise the New Hampshire State Constitution. He received the honorary degree of L.L.D. from Dartmouth College in 1792.

He represented New Hampshire as a Senator from 1793 to 1799 when he was reelected. He resigned on June 12, 1801, because of the impaired condition of his health. In 1803 his career ended permanently.

McClintock's "History of New Hampshire" states that "Livermore became a great land owner. He bought the Governor's Farm in New Holderness, 1500 acres in Plymouth of Col. John Fenton and acquired ten or twelve thousand acres in Holderness, Plymouth, and Campton.

"It was Judge Livermore who moved that the Constitution be adopted. Eight states had already assented. One more vote was needed to secure its adoption and thus to make the thirteen independent states into a nation. With the affirmative action on Judge Livermore's motion, the United States came into being. He had put the ninth star on our flag."



Squire Livermore's Home overlooking the Pemigewasset.

*Squire Livermore
of Holderness*

Squire Livermore's son gave a very plausible reason for this great man's removal to the new settlement of Newholderness: "In a very critical part of the Revolution, my father did not take an active part in public life, for he was not a man who made terms to secure office." It is tradition that Squire Livermore arrived in Holderness at night in a sleigh. It was believed that he decided to become a miller as millers were exempt from military service, but undoubtedly he had helped his father in his youth in the Livermore grain mill in Waltham.

It is believed that Squire Livermore lived in at least three or four locations before building his mansion on the bluff overlooking the Pemigewasset River. His sawmill and flouring mill were at the mouth of Mill Brook.

At the close of the war he was called upon to reenter public life. He often rode to Exeter, Portsmouth, or Concord on horseback. Major William Shepard, a close friend, accompanied him on the longer trips to New York and Philadelphia, traveling by carriage or coach. "Memoranda of Samuel Livermore" collected by his son, Arthur Livermore, reveals: "In 1789 I set out from Holderness for Congress on April 18. 21 days from Concord, 26 days from Roxbury (by coach 27 days) 27 days from Providence." This was copied from notes of Samuel Livermore.

One early settler said that Squire Livermore became "an overlord to his willing vassals, the sturdy Scotch Irish settlers who followed him from Londonderry."

The "overlord" was a benevolent man. When his own children were ready for school, he engaged a tutor, Robert Fowle, who taught his children and those of his servants and neighbors.

One neighbor had the misfortune to lose a barn full of hay by fire. Squire Livermore called out the neighbors and furnished the lumber for a new barn. After the barn was raised, he stocked it with hay from his own farm.

The Livermore mansion was a large, oldfashioned farmhouse with high-pitched roof and dormer windows, huge chimneys, and twenty-five ample rooms. The Livermores entertained often, one guest being the Royal Governor, John Wentworth.

Squire Samuel Livermore and his wife, Jane Browne Livermore, had five children: Edward St. Loe, born in Portsmouth, 1762; George Wmson, born in Londonderry, 1764; Arthur, born 1766; Elizabeth, born 1768; and the youngest son, Samuel 2d, born in Holderness in 1783.

Edward St. Loe Livermore was a lawyer in Portsmouth, an Associate Justice to the Supreme Court 1797-1799.

Arthur, a profound scholar, was Chief Justice to the Supreme Court from 1809 to 1813, and a Representative to Congress. He was reputed to have a "sharp tongue, fearless bearing, and never hesitated to speak his mind."

George Wmson died young. Elizabeth married Deacon William Brown of Waltham.

Samuel Livermore 2d was perhaps the ablest of all. He was a graduate of Harvard, Class of 1804 (one year after the decease of his father). He studied law, settled in New Orleans, and was the author of several works on law.

Squire Samuel Livermore died May 18, 1803. The tablet on his grave in the Trinity Church Cemetery is inscribed "The character of the just will live in the memory of the just." Surely this was the creed by which he lived.

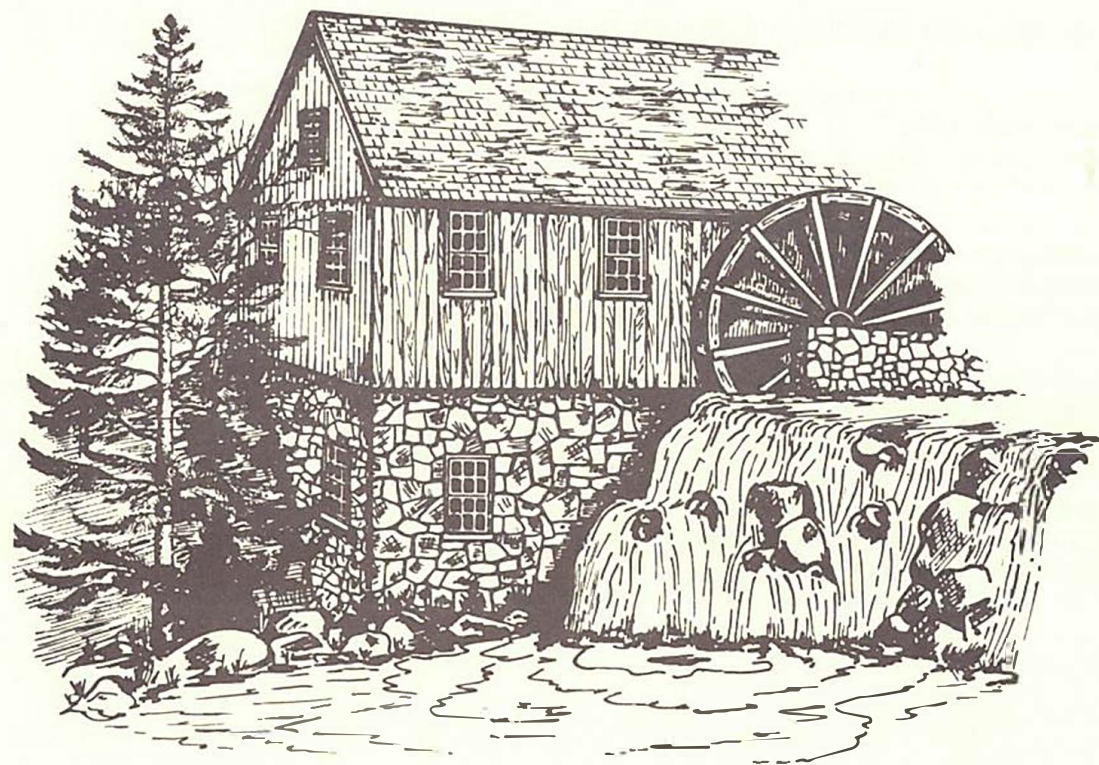
The Livermore Mansion and grounds were believed to be haunted by his spirit. Mrs. Connell of the Mount Prospect Road often told the story of seeing a tall figure of a man, with arms folded, dressed in olden garb. "Squire Livermore walks again."

Mrs. Betsey Shepard, daughter of Samuel Shepard who lived over a century (102 years) remembered Squire Livermore well and described him as "a dignified gentleman and the man who knew the most of anyone, anywhere about here. If anybody wanted to know anything, they went to Judge Livermore. His say-so was the law."

The Livermore mansion burned in 1892. The Livermore property had been purchased in 1878 by the Episcopalians as a school for boys.

The Grafton County Gazeteer gives further insight into the character of Holderness' most prominent grantee. Under "Bar and Bench" are the following comments: "But of him it is said that tho' bred to the law, he was not inclined to attach much importance to precedents or to any merely systematic or technical rules of procedure. In a manuscript report, I find him cautioning the jury against paying too much attention to the niceties of the law, to the prejudice of justice.

"He dismissed one case with 'Every tub must stand on its own bottom.'"



SQUAM FALLS 1776

Mr. Cox, of Cox's Hill in New Holderness, was an early settler.

"Mr. Cox came from Ireland with his family, bringing a servant, Mrs. Connel, a reputed witch. Shortly before leaving Ireland, the oldest daughter fell in love with a young man who was studying to be a priest. For her sake, he gave up his studies and one day, came with a horse and carried her away. The father opposed the match, pursued and overtook them, bringing his daughter back home.

The young man went to the Cox home and told Mr. Cox that even if she should be taken to the ends of the earth, he would follow her.

Mr. Cox put his daughter on board the ship on which they were to sail, for safe-keeping; while he returned home to complete preparations to go to America.

The Captain of the ship was so much in sympathy with the young lady, that he offered to put her on shore. But Miss Cox said she would be faithful to her father's trust.

After reaching New Holderness and settling on Cox's Hill, the father kept her prisoner for fear the young man would keep his promise. Later, he gave her more liberty and let her visit some of her cousins in another town.

Here she met an English officer and eloped with him. Her father was soon reconciled with her and she settled within a few miles of his home.

Mr. Cox's second daughter, Esther, married Major Dick (Richard) Shepard, son of Captain John Shepard.

Mrs. Connell, the Coxes' servant, later went to work for Squire Livermore with her husband. Mrs. Connell seems to have had a rather a bad character, and was a witch besides.

"Whenever cows refused to give milk, or butter would not form in the churns, or unusual things happened, people believed that Mrs. Connell had cast a spell."

Miss Caroline Mudgett, renowned historian of the Mount Prospect Road, told about the Connell son who married and lived in a small house on the Mount Prospect Road. Five of the Connell children died young of "throat distemper" and are buried in Trinity Cemetery.

Blair Family
by David Ruell

No New Holderness family suffered so severely in the Revolution as the Blairs. William Blair, a native of Londonderry, became acquainted with Samuel Livermore, no doubt while the Squire was living in that town. (In fact, he named his third son Samuel Livermore Blair.) This friendship probably explains why he chose to settle in New Holderness when he moved north. But events were to drive the two men apart. "When the Revolutionary war broke out, William Blair, then an old man, was a devoted loyalist—and party feeling ran so strong against him that he, with one or two of his elder sons, found it needful to flee for safety to the British Provinces, where he died; some of his descendants are still there."

Before William fled, he and a brother had become bitter foes, each taking opposite sides in the Revolution. "And all communications between their families was forbidden." However, William's daughter Frances "was devotedly attached to one of her cousins. They saw there was no way out of this difficulty but a clandestine marriage, which took place and, soon after the young husband enlisted and 'was lost in the army.'" The given name of her husband is now lost. On December 12, 1778, a son named Peter was born to Frances, who was then nineteen. For years, she lived with the family of Samuel Livermore, who apparently had not forgotten his past friendship with the Blairs.

John Blair, the Loyalist counterfeiter and spy, is one of the most mysterious figures in the history of New Holderness. We know that William Blair had a son named John, but we cannot definitely say that the spy and the son are the same man. In fact, we know very little about the man.

One of the most successful schemes of British intelligence in the Revolution was the use of counterfeit money to depreciate the rebel currencies.

The money was both sent from England by the shipload and printed in New York City, then occupied by the British forces. The English were brash enough to advertise in at least one New York newspaper:

"Persons going into the other Colonies may be supplied with any Number of counterfeit Congress-Notes, for the Price of the Paper per Ream. They are so neatly and exactly executed that there is no Risque in getting them off, it being almost impossible to discover, that they are not genuine. This has been proved by Bills to a very large Amount, which have already been successfully circulated.

"Enquire for Q. E. D. at the Coffee House from 11 P.M. to 4 A.M. during the present month."

These counterfeit bills were passed by Loyalists supplied from New York. Several prominent New Hampshiremen were caught in the act. Among them were Stephen Holland of Londonderry, now thought to be the leader of the counterfeit passing ring in the state; William Stark of Dunbarton, General John Stark's brother; and Thomas Cummings of Hollis, a prominent lawyer. All three men fled to New York City, Holland escaping from the Exeter jail the night after he was condemned to death. The three Loyalists were all rewarded with commissions in the British army. Colonel Holland, in particular, played an important role in British intelligence.

Our first glimpse of John Blair is in the last act of his career. And even then, the records are fragmentary. We have no idea what services he may have performed for the British before he was found near the Connecticut camp of the American army. The first notice of Blair appears in a letter to Meshech

Weare from General Enoch Poor who writes of "a David Farnsworth of Hollace & John Blair of Holderness in the State of New Hampshire who was brought to my Quarters on the Evening of the 7th—On a Close Examination Thus all the Reason to Suspect them to be Concerned in a very Dangerous Conspiracy against the well being of the United States.—Therefore Referd them to the Determination of a Court Martial which is now Sitting as they are Charg'd with Coming under the Denomination of Spies from N York They Brott with them from N York 10:007 Dollars in Counterfeit Money. They Conceald it about ten Miles from hence; by their Information have all the Reason to think there may be Large Sums Circulating with you."

The court-martial was ordered by Major General Horatio Gates and held at Danbury, Connecticut, on October 8, 1778, Brigadier General Patterson presiding. A short entry in the diary of Captain Henry Dearborn is the best account of the trial known to survive. "A Special Coart marcial was ordered to sit to Day for the Tryal of the two men above mentioned, of which I was a member, they ware tryed for being spys & haveing a Learge sum of Counterfit money with them Which they brough(t) from N. York. They Confess'd they ware Guilty of bringing the Counterfit money & that they ware to send word to the Enemy: viz Col.^{os} Holland & Stark & Esq^r. Cummins & others what situation our army & Country is in, as Near as tha could; they ware both Condemn'd to suffer Death as Spys."

The court-martial judges were able to get some useful information from the prisoners, especially Farnsworth, for whom they recommended leniency. But as Poor remarks, "as Yet: They Appear to be Obstinate & Nothing They have Discovered but what seems to be with the Greatest Reluctance."

General Washington hoped for more information and decided to "direct a sensible Clergyman to get as ample a confession from them as possible." On the 12th, Washington wrote to an artillery chaplain, Rev. McWorter,

Sir: There are now under sentence of Death, in the provost, a Farnsworth and Blair, convicted of being spies from the enemy, and of publishing counterfeit Continental currency. It is hardly to be doubted but that these unfortunate men are acquainted with many facts respecting the enemys affairs, and their intentions which we have not been able to bring them to acknowledge. Besides the humanity of affording them the benefit of your profession, it may in the conduct of a man of sense answer another valuable purpose. And while it serves to prepare them for the other world, it will naturally lead to the intelligence we want in your inquiries into the condition of their spiritual concerns. You will therefore be pleased to take the charge of this matter upon yourself, and when you have collected in the course of your attendance such information as they can give, you will transmit the whole to me. I am etc.

We do not know whether more information was forthcoming, but nothing could now save the two men. The General Order of October 23 states, "The Commander in Chief approves the sentence and orders them to be executed as soon as they arrive at General Gates's Division." A month later, Dearborn notes simply, "I find that the 2 men who ware try'd as spyes the 7th of octobr at Danbury, ware hang'd at Hartford Novem^r. 4th."

Excerpt from Journal of History of Medicine and Applied Sciences
1962, Vol. 1, No. 3, Dept. of Medicine, Johns Hopkins University.
Holderness, from Otto's Report of 1803

*Hemophilia
in Early
New England*

Dr. Otto received this information from the Hon. Judge Samuel Livermore and it was confirmed by Drs. Rogers and Porter, gentlemen of character residing in the area. Dr. John Porter practiced in Holderness for about ten years before removing to Plymouth in 1780 to read law with Judge Livermore. Dr. Rogers practiced in Plymouth from 1782 until his death in 1814.

Samuel Livermore (1732-1803) lawyer, judge, farmer, miller, squire, Senator, represented New Hampshire in the Continental Congress (1780-1782), and was a member of the first Congress, served in the House of Representatives from 1793 to 1801. He made a practice of driving to Philadelphia in his own coach with Major Thomas Shepard on the box.

In Philadelphia, Livermore probably sought out Dr. Benjamin Rush and was referred to Dr. Otto. Dr. John Conrad Otto (1774-1844) was in practice in Philadelphia.

Unless Major Thomas Shepard was a hemophiliac or unless Otto visited Holderness in 1802, when he was known to have been in Boston, all his information was second hand. However, his report is remarkably complete and accurate in the essentials. (Thomas Shepard was related to Capt. John Shepard, husband of Susannah Shepard.)

Further details on the hemophiliacs of Holderness is provided in a manuscript written by Ellen Goodrich (1863-1902). The Goodrich family of

Brunswick, Maine, were among the earliest summer residents in Holderness. Dr. Goodrich and his daughter, Ellen, lived near the farm of Helen Severance and her mother, Jane Livermore Shepard Severance (1802-1886), on Shepard Hill. Jane was then "small and bent, with white hair; always wearing a necklace of golden beads, as most of the older women do. I often used to find her sitting by the fireplace, smoking a pipe. She would say, 'Seems as if you might sit.' Then she would wander on about when she was young."

One favorite story was about Mr. Smith, a farmer at Dunstable at the time of the French and Indian War. One day he invited some of the British officers who were encamped nearby, to dinner. Among them was Capt. John Shepard who upon meeting Susannah, the daughter of Mr. Smith, soon fell in love with her.

Mr. Smith did not approve, but the young people found many opportunities to meet without his knowledge. One day, Susannah, her father and maid went blackberrying. Her father grew tired and returned home, leaving Susannah with her maid. No sooner had the father left, than Capt. Shepard came from behind a fence and carried Susannah off. They went to a nearby church and were married.

When the maid returned alone, Mr. Smith went in search of his daughter accompanied by his farm hands. He met a neighbor on the road and asked him if he had seen the missing Susannah. The farmer replied that he had just witnessed the marriage of Susannah and Capt. Shepard. "Then she ain't no daughter of mine." The angry parent returned to his home.

Capt. John and Susannah Shepard had seven children. Some of them were bleeders (hemophiliacs). Apparently some died young as Susannah and

her two sons Richard and John, Jun. were the only ones who came to New Holderness to live. Susannah's first son, Richard, was born in 1753.

Since hemophilia is transmitted only by the female and father-to-son transmission never occurs, then Susannah must have been a carrier. She probably had a hemophilic brother and perhaps hemophilic maternal uncles. This may account for the fact that her father knew a "cure" or remedy for hemophilia.

Mrs. Severance's story also included this, "Once one of Susannah's sons was ill and it seemed as if he would bleed to death. Mrs. Shepard sent for her father, who possessed the secret of the "cure" for this mysterious disease. He relented and came, cured the child and made up the quarrel with his daughter."

Dr. Otto also referred to the fact that the family had found that orally administered sodium sulfate (Glauber's Salts) was an effective remedy for bleeding.

Susannah Shepard, who died in 1813, is buried in the Squam Bridge Cemetery in Holderness, in the same lot with her son Richard. There are two unmarked graves in the same lot. Possibly more of her family? Her son, John Jun. died in 1851 and is buried nearby.

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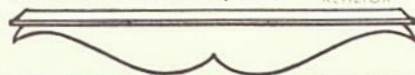
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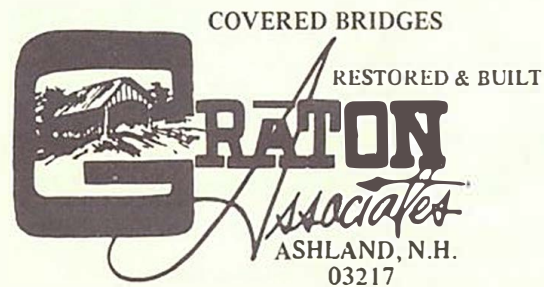
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