

HISTORY OF LINCOLN.

General History. — Ecclesiastical History. — Description. — Statistics. —
Biographical Notices.

THE inhabitants in the southeasterly part of Concord, petitioned that town several times, between 1734 and 1743, to be set off into a separate precinct or town; but, being unsuccessful, a petition was preferred to the General Court, August 10, 1744, which obtained favor, though opposed by a committee of the town; and the following individuals, living in the easterly part of Concord, westerly part of Lexington, and northerly part of Weston, were incorporated as the Second Precinct of Concord, April 24, 1746, viz. Joshua Brooks, Thomas Garfield, Benjamin Brown, James Brooks, Robert Gage, Ephraim Segard, John Whitney, Benjamin Allen, Ebenezer Hunt, Thomas Baker, Samuel Dakin, Joseph Parks, John Wright, Ambrose Tower, Daniel Reed, Mary Conant, Jeremiah Clark, Thomas Garfield, Jr., Benjamin Brown, Jr., Hannah Corey, Jonathan Wellington, Jonathan Gove, George Pierce, Joseph Brooks, Jordan Clark, Amos Merriam, Joseph Pierce, Zebediah Smith, Ebenezer Lampson, John Headley, Timothy Wesson, Benjamin Monroe, John Gove, Samuel Bond, Thomas Wheeler, Ephraim Flynt, Joseph Pierce, Jr., Joshua Brooks, Jr., John Garfield, Ebenezer Cutler, Nathan Brown, Edward Flynt, Stephen Wesson, John Adams, John White.

The following individuals, living within the limits of the proposed precinct, did not sign the petition; and were exempt in the act of incorporation, unless they should choose voluntarily to comply with its provisions: Daniel Brown, Thomas Nelson, Nehemiah Abbott, Jabez Stratton, Nathaniel Billings, Daniel Billings, John Billings, Timothy Billings, Joseph Billings, Daniel Parks, Zaccheus Parks, Amos Heald, Samuel Farrar, Joseph Wheat, Joseph Wheat, Jr., John Wheat, Jonas Wheeler, Benjamin Wheeler, Nathaniel Whittemore, Samuel Billings, George Farrar Jr, Job Brooks, Daniel Brooks, Samuel Brooks, Hugh Brooks, Joseph Brooks, Jr., Timothy Lampson, Ephraim Hartwell, Josiah Brown, John Jackson, William Hagar, Joseph Underwood.

Several attempts were made to procure an incorporation as a town, and in 1753 the exempted persons were consulted on the subject, and Chambers Russell, Esq., Capt. Samuel Bond, and Deacon Joshua Brooks, were chosen to present a petition to the General Court. The town of *Lincoln*, named by Chambers Russell, Esq., after Lincolnshire, England, the residence of his ancestors, was incorporated, April 19, 1754. The bounds were then the same as they now are [1835].

The estates in Concord in 1753 were £15,007 9s.; and the polls, 442. That part set off to Lincoln contained £3,372 15s.; and of the polls, 88; about one-fifth.

The proceedings of the town [of Lincoln] appear to have been conducted with harmony, and no occurrence worthy of notice marks its history till the great question of opposition to England was agitated. In this controversy, it became early enlisted, and uniformly on the popular side; and was distinguished for its ardent, decided, and independent patriotism, and for its intelligence and originality.

March 15, 1770, the town [of Lincoln] voted, “that they will not purchase any one article of any person that imports goods contrary to the agreement of the merchants of Boston”; and in a long answer to a circular sent to the town, they say, February, 1773, “We will not be wanting in our assistance according to our ability, in the prosecuting of all such lawful and constitutional measures, as shall be thought proper for the continuance of all our rights, privileges, and liberties, both civil and religious; being of opinion that a steady, united, persevering conduct in a constitutional way, is the best means, under God, for obtaining the redress of all our grievances.”

The first committee of correspondence was chosen November 2, 1773, — Deacon Samuel Farrar, Capt. Eleazer Brooks, and Capt. Abijah Pierce; a similar one was elected annually till 1784. The sentiments of the town [of Lincoln], on several questions then agitating the province, being requested by the citizens of Boston, were communicated in the subjoined very interesting letter, on the 20th of December.



“Gentlemen, — We have read your letter, enclosing the proceedings of the town of Boston at their late meeting; as also another letter enclosing the proceedings of a collective body of people, not only of Boston, but the adjacent towns; in which, after some very pertinent observations on the alarming situation of our public affairs, you desire our advice and to be acquainted with the sense of this town respecting the present gloomy situation of our public affairs. We rejoice at every appearance of public virtue, and resolution in the cause of liberty; inasmuch as, upon our own virtue and resolution, under Divine Providence, depends the preservation of all our rights and privileges.

“We apprehend that we, in America, have rights, privileges, and property, of our own, as well as the rest of mankind; and that we have the right of self-preservation, as well as all other beings. And we are constrained to say, that after the most careful and mature deliberation, according to our capacities, weighing the arguments on both sides, we apprehend our rights and privileges have been infringed in many glaring instances, which we mean not to enumerate, among which the late ministerial plan, mentioned in your letter, is not the least.

“The Act imposing a duty on tea is alarming, because, in procuring the same, our enemies are dealing by us, like the great enemy of mankind, viz. endeavouring to enslave us by those things to which we are not necessitated, but by our own contracted ill habits; although, if tea were properly used, it might be of some advantage. When we speak of our enemies, as above, we mean those persons on either side of the water, who by many ways, either secret or open, are sowing the seeds of strife and discord between Britain and her colonies; or are in any way the active instruments of our distress.

“Now since it must be granted, that our rights and privileges are infringed, and that we have the right of self-defence; the important question is, by what means to make such defence. Doubtless the means of defence in all cases ought to quadrate with the nature of the attack; and since the present plan seems to be to enslave us, we need only (had we virtue enough for that) to shun the bait, as we would shun the most deadly poison. Notwithstanding, considering so many are so habituated to the use of tea, as perhaps inadvertently to ruin themselves and their country thereby; and others so abandoned to vice, expecting to share in the profits arising from the ruin of our country, as to use all means in their power to encourage the use of tea; we cannot, therefore, but commend the spirited behaviour of the town of Boston, in endeavouring to prevent the sale of the East India Company's teas, by endeavouring to persuade the consignees to resign their office, or any other lawful means; and we judge the consignees, by refusing to comply with the just desire of their fellow-citizens, have betrayed a greater regard to their private interest than the public good and safety of their country, and ought to be treated accordingly.

“The situation of our public affairs growing more alarming, and having heretofore tried the force of petitions and remonstrances and finding no redress; we, the inhabitants of this town, have now come into a full determination and settled resolution, not to purchase, nor use any tea, nor suffer it to be purchased or used in our families, so long as there is any duty laid on such tea by an act of British Parliament. And we will hold and esteem such, as do use such tea, enemies to their country; and we will treat them with the greatest neglect. And as we beg leave to recommend it to the several towns within this province, who have not done it, to go and do likewise.

“How easy the means! How sure the event! But be the event what it may, suppose this method should not obtain a repeal of the act, which we judge to be unrighteous, but the event should be a total disuse of that destructive article, we might then (if we may so express ourselves) bless God, that ever he permitted that act to pass to pass the British Parliament.

“We trust we have courage and resolution sufficient to encounter all the horrors



of war in the defence of those rights and privileges, civil and religious, which we esteem more valuable than our lives. And we do hereby assure, not only the town of Boston, but the world, that whenever we shall have a clear call from Heaven, we are ready to join with our brethren to face the formidable forces, rather than tamely to surrender up our rights and privileges into the hands of any of our own species, not distinguished from ourselves, except it be in disposition to enslave us. At the same time, we have the highest esteem for all lawful authority; and rejoice in our connexion with Great Britain, so long as we can enjoy our charter rights and privileges.”

This able paper is attributed to the pen of the Hon. Eleazer Brooks. The original agreements of the town [of Lincoln] about the disuse of tea and non-consumption of imported articles of merchandise have been found among his papers, and are now [1835] deemed worthy of preservation.

“Whereas, the town of Lincoln did, on the 27th day of December current, by a full vote, come into full determination and settled resolution, not to purchase nor use any tea, nor suffer it to be purchased or used in their families, so long as there is any duty laid on such tea by the act of the British Parliament; and that they would hold and esteem all such as do use such tea, as enemies to their country; and that they will treat with them with the greatest neglect; — We, the subscribers, inhabitants of said town, pursuant to the same design, do hereby promise and agree to and with each other, that we will strictly conform to the tenor of the abovesaid vote. In witness whereof we have hereunto subscribed our names.

“Lincoln, Dec. 27th, 1773.”

This was signed by 52 of the principal inhabitants. The following by 82.

“We, the subscribers, inhabitants of the town of Lincoln, do sincerely and truly covenant and agree to and with each other, that we will not for ourselves, or any for or under us, purchase or consume any goods, wares, or manufactures, which shall be imported from Great Britain, after the thirty-first day of August, seventeen hundred and seventy-four, until the Congress of Deputies from the several colonies shall determine what articles, if any, to except; and that we will thereafter, respecting the use and consumption of such British articles, as may not be excepted, religiously abide by the determination of said Congress.”

This was a time when it was impossible to stand on neutral ground and escape censure. Those who were not decided in opposition to the measures of Great Britain, were supposed to favor them. Of the suspected was the minister of the town [of Lincoln]; and, though the suspicion was groundless, and of short duration, the people in September assembled around the meeting-house on a Sabbath, and prevented him from entering to preach. Two or three individuals were subsequently obliged to leave the town [of Lincoln] for not conforming to the prevailing sentiments of the people. One of the largest estates in the town [of Lincoln] was for some time in the hands of the government.

March 6, 1775, “voted that £52 4s. be granted to provide for those persons who have enlisted as minute-men, each one a bayonet, belt, cartridge-box, steel rammer, gun-stock, and knapsack; and that they attend military exercises four hours in a day twice a week, till the first day of May next. In case anyone refuse to attend, 2s. for each four hours, and in proportion for a smaller time, shall be deducted from their wages.”

The part performed by Lincoln in the county conventions at Concord, and by her minute-men and militia on the 19th of April, 1775 has been noticed in the History of Concord, and was highly honorable to her patriotism and valor.

At length, on the 24th of June, 1776, the town [of Lincoln] passed this important vote: “That, should the Honourable Congress, for the safety of the United American Colonies, declare themselves independent of Great Britain, we, the inhabitants of this town will solemnly engage, with our lives and fortunes to support them in the measure.”

About this time the town [of Lincoln] was requested to instruct their representative, according to the general custom at that period; but it was thought more proper to “empower him to act



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according to his best judgement and discretion.”

The following table, compiled from a report, made May 8, 1778, to the town [of Lincoln], by its committee to estimate the services rendered by the citizens in the war, furnishes important information.

Date.	Men.	Places.	Service	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1775	32	at Cambridge	8 months, hired at	8	0	0	=256	0	0.
1776	7	at Cambridge	2 months, hired at	2	0	0	14	0	0.
1776	7	at Canada	12 months, hired at	18	0	0	126	0	0.
1776	6	at the Southward	12 months, hired at	12	0	0	72	0	0.
1776 and 1777	6	at Boston	12 months, hired at	4	0	0	24	0	0.
1776	19	at Ticonderoga	5 months, hired at	12	10	0	237	10	0.
1776	4	at Ticonderoga	4 months, hired at	15	0	0	60	0	0.
1776	5	at Roxbury	4 months, hired at	6	0	0	30	0	0.
1776 and 1777	17	at Dorchester	3 months, hired at	1	0	0	17	0	0.
1776	12	at New-York	2 months, hired at	6	0	0	72	0	0.
1776 and 1777	8	at New-York	3 months, hired at	9	0	0	72	0	0.
1777	4	at Providence	2 months, hired at	4	10	0	18	0	0.
1777	10	at Saratoga	3 months, hired at	11	5	0	112	10	0.
1777	12	at Saratoga	1 months, hired at	3	0	0	36	0	0.
1777 and 1778	9	at Cambridge	5 months, hired at	7	10	0	67	10	0.
1777	26	Continental Army	3 years	30	0	0	780	0	0.
1777	8	at Worthington		1	10	0	12	0	0.
							£2006	10	0.

These bounties were paid by the town [of Lincoln], beside many other charges for the public service. When it is recollected that the town did not then contain more than 187 male inhabitants over 16 years of age, and that several enlisted into the army not included in the above estimate, it will appear that Lincoln contributed a large proportion of men to promote the great revolution. I have no means of ascertaining the precise number furnished subsequently to the above dates, but the town always contributed promptly all required; though it was supposed at the time the burden was not justly proportionate to other towns. A petition was presented to the council early in 1778, to obtain some relief. In this petition it is said, “The large farm of Dr. Charles Russell, now in the hands of the public, greatly augments the tax on the town, and consequently the number of men required.” Several officers were furnished for the army from this town. The Hon. Eleazer Brooks was at Ticonderoga, in 1776, as a Colonel, and the Hon. Samuel Hoar, as a Lieutenant, and both were at the taking of Burgoyne. The former [Hon. Eleazer Brooks] was at Dorchester Heights in 1777. On the 4th of September, of that year [1777], Brig.-General Prescott sent an order to Col. Brooks to have his enlisted men formed into companies and to meet in Concord the following Saturday, to appoint his field-



officers. He wrote in this order, that “he never received one of greater importance,” and entreated him “not to fail paying attention to it, as he valued his own reputation or the salvation of the country.” These orders, like all others, were promptly obeyed. Col. Pierce, Capt. Samuel Farrar, and others, were also distinguished in the service.

March, 1778, £3880 were granted to pay soldiers; and in 1780 it was voted, “that each person that furnishes one cotton shirt for the continental soldiers, shall received out of the town treasury, £4¹/₂; and each person that furnishes a pair of shoes for the same purpose shall have £3¹/₂; and each person that furnishes one pair of socks shall receive £2.” On the 2d of June, £18,000 were granted to hire men for the war; and in September, £15,840 for the same object, and £8,500 to purchase beef for the army. On the following January, £16,240 more were granted for the same object. During 1781, large sums were raised to hire men, buy clothing, and for other public objects, till this town [of Lincoln], like many others, became exceedingly embarrassed.

Such are a few items selected from the proceedings of the town [of Lincoln] in relation to the Revolution. They are sufficient to show the undeviating and devoted patriotism of the town; a patriotism not consisting in resolves only, but in a series of noble sacrifices of self-interest for the general good, alike honorable to it as a town and to the individuals composing it, and worthy of being remembered and imitated.

The town [of Lincoln] guarded their rights with careful jealousy. When the constitution, formed by the State Convention, February 28th, 1778, was submitted to the town, it voted, 39 to 38, to disapprove of it. In May, 1779, it was voted, “that the town will not choose at this time to have a new constitution or form of government made”; but on July 28th, the Hon. Eleazer Brooks was chosen a delegate to the convention in Cambridge, “for the sole purpose of framing a new constitution, and the delegate was instructed to cause a printed copy of the form of a constitution, they may agree upon in said convention, to be transmitted to the selectmen of each town.” This constitution was submitted to the town, 22d of May, 1780.

“On the 2d Article in the 1st Section of the 1st Chapter in the form of government, voted, that this town disapprove of the said article; 1. Because we think the legislative, executive, and judicial powers ought to be in separate departments and not exercised by the same body or bodies of men, either in whole or in part. 2. Because we judge this article to be repugnant to the 17th and 30th articles in the bill of rights; as also to the 1st article in the frame of government, which we think to be founded in reason.

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“On the 2d Article in the 3d Section of the 1st Chapter, voted, that the town disapprove of this article; because we think the mode of representation pointed out in this article is not founded upon the principles of equality as provided by the preceding article. We apprehend that all circumstances ought to be taken into consideration to determine a representation founded in equality, and that neither the number of rateable polls nor any other circumstance, singly considered, determines such a representation. This state is constituted of a great number of distinct and very unequal corporations, which are the immediate constituent parts of the state; and the individuals are only the remote parts in many respects. In all acts of the legislature which respect particular corporations, each corporation has a distinct and separate interest, clashing with the interests of all the rest. And, so long as human nature remains the same it now is, each representative will be under an undue bias in favor of the corporation he represents; therefore any large corporation having a large number of representatives, will have a large and undue influence in determining any question in their own favor. Should the number of rateable polls in any particular corporation increase till they overbalance all the others, they could completely tyrannize over all the rest, and every degree of inequality gives power for the same degree of tyranny. Another circumstance which renders the mode of representation pointed out in this article unequal is, that the small corporations can have no voice in government without being at the whole expense of a full representation; whereas, the large corporations, by



dividing the attendance of their representatives, can vastly lessen their expense, and yet, in such cases as respect their particular and separate interests, have a full representation.”

The 3d Article in the Declaration of Rights was accepted 46 to 2; the last clause of the 10th Article, 3d Section, and 1st Chapter was rejected 30 to 11. Voted unanimously to revise the constitution in 7 years by 40 votes, and to accept it with the foregoing exceptions.

The first meeting under the new constitution was held on the first Monday of September, when there were 41 votes cast, all of which but one were for the Hon. John Hancock.

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ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY. The ostensible object of those who obtained the act of incorporation for the town of Lincoln, was to enjoy the preaching of the gospel. Measures were taken, even before the precinct was formed, to effect this object by private individuals in their houses. Mr. Edward Flint gave a lot of land on which a meeting-house was erected and nearly completed by the following individuals by whom it was given to the precinct, — viz.

Benjamin Brown	Benjamin Monroe	Jon. Wellington
Edward Flint	John Hadley	Ephraim Flint
Judah Clark	Samuel Dakin	Thomas Wheeler
Joseph Brooks	Ebenezer Cutler	Joseph Pierce
Joshua Brooks	Jeremiah Clark	Nathan Brown
Samuel Bond	Amos Merriam	Jonas Pierce
Jonathan Gove	John Gove	Timothy Wesson.
George Pierce		

Money was raised to complete this house, by the precinct and a vote passed in 1747, that pews should be built and allotted to the inhabitants according to their valuation, — the highest to take the first choice. A steeple was built in 1755 and furnished with a bell, the gift of Mr. Joseph Brooks. This house has been several times repaired and its appearance is still respectable.

On the 18th of August, 1747, twenty-five male members of the churches in Concord, Lexington, and the second precinct in Weston, met together and agreed to embody themselves into a distinct church. The public organization took place on the 20th of the same [same] month, when Mr. Benjamin Brown was chosen permanent moderator till the ordination of a minister; and the Rev. Messrs. John Hancock, Israel Loring, William Williams and Wareham Williams, assisted in the public religious exercises on the occasion. A covenant was adopted



and signed by the following persons.

Jonathan Gove	Woodis Lee	George Pierce
John Hadley	Thomas Wheeler	Ephraim Flint
Joshua Brooks	Benjamin Brown	Jonas Pierce
Josiah Parks	Thomas Garfield	Joseph Brown
Joseph Pierce	Edward Flint	John Garfield
Samuel Bond	Joseph Brooks	Nathan Brown
John Gove	Timothy Wesson	Judah Clark
Stephen Wesson	Benjamin Monroe	William Lawrence.
Thomas Garfield, Jr.	Benjamin Brown, Jr.	

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The persons employed as preachers in 1746, '47 and '48 were John Brown, Benjamin Stevens, Jonathan Winchester, Cotton Brown, Samuel Pemberton, and Samuel Turrell. Mr. William Lawrence was first employed in April, 1748, on trial. On the 18th of May, the church and precinct, being together, voted 22 to 7, to invite him to become their minister. It was agreed to give him £800 currency as a settlement, and £400 and 10 cords of wood, as an annual salary. This salary was finally fixed according to the prices of corn at 15s. and rye at 20s. per bushel, and pork at 1s. 8d., and beef at 1s. per pound. The estimate to be made near the close of the year.

He was ordained the 7th of December following; and £100 were granted to pay the expenses. The council on the occasion consisted of the Rev. John Hancock, of Lexington, moderator, who prayed and gave the charge; Rev. William Williams, of Weston; Rev. Nathaniel Appleton, of Cambridge, who made the introductory prayer; Rev. Caleb Trowbridge, of Groton, who preached from 1 Tim. iii. 15; Rev. Wareham Williams, of Waltham, who gave the right hand of fellowship; Rev. Daniel Rogers, of Littleton, who prayed after the charge; Rev. Samuel Cook of West Cambridge; and delegates from their respective churches.

Few important occurrences took place worthy of notice for several years. The church voted, in May, 1751, to receive any member of the church in Concord who should be dismissed. In 1763, the reading of the Scriptures was first introduced as a part of the exercises of public worship; and in 1768, a short prayer was made before this reading. A vote was passed, 27th of April, 1767, "that in future Dr. Brady's and Mr. Tate's version of David's Psalms and some Hymns of Dr. Watts, which are now bound up and published with this version, shall be made use of and sung in carrying on the public worship of God in this place." In 1771, forty-two persons, "who had attained a good degree of understanding in the rules of singing," were seated together by vote of the town [of Lincoln] on the lower floor.

The Rev. WILLIAM LAWRENCE, son of the Hon. William Lawrence, and grand-son of Jonas Prescott, Esq., of Groton, was born, 7th of May, 1728, and graduated at Harvard College, 1743. During his ministry, his church, unlike many in the neighbourhood, enjoyed great peace. 122 persons were admitted into full communion, 31 of whom were from other churches, the remainder by original profession; 120 owned the covenant; 605 were baptized; 122 marriages were solemnized; and 294 died. His epitaph appears in the Lincoln burying-ground thus:

"In memory of the Rev. William Lawrence, A.M. Pastor of the Church of Christ in Lincoln, who died April 11, 1780, in the 57th year of his age, and 32d of his ministry. He was a gentleman of good abilities both natural and acquired, a judicious divine, a faithful minister, and firm supporter of the order of the churches. In his last sickness, which was long and distressing, he exhibited a temper characteristic of the minister and Christian. 'Be thou faithful unto death,



and I will give thee a crown of life.”

His funeral expenses, amounting to £366 currency, and £300 to purchase mourning for the surviving widow, were paid by the town of Lincoln. He married Love, daughter of John Adams, who died January 3, 1820, at the advanced age of 95, and had the following children, William, Love (married to Dr. Joseph Adams,) John P. (died 1808,) Susanna, Sarah, Phebe (married to the Rev. E. Foster of Littleton, 1783,) Ann, and Abel.

Dea. Samuel Farrar was moderator of the church from the death of Mr. Lawrence to the ordination of his successor. A day of fasting and prayer were held, according to the usual custom in such cases, on the last Thursday in August, 1780, and the Rev. Messrs. Cushing, Woodward, and Clark were present on the occasion.

Mr. Charles Stearns was first employed to preach in Lincoln in October, 1780, and on the 15th of January, 1781, the church voted unanimously (29 votes) to invite him to be their pastor; and in this vote the town [of Lincoln] concurred on February 5th, 65 to 5; and agreed to give him “£220 in hard money, or its equivalent,” (to which £70 were subsequently added,) as a settlement, and £80 and 15 cords of wood, as an annual salary. His ordination took place November 7, 1781. The church then consisted of 96 members. The churches in Waltham, Weston, Lexington, Lunenburgh, Leominster, East Sudbury, 1st in Reading, Stow, and Concord, were represented in the council, of which the Rev. Mr. Cushing was moderator. The Rev. Zabdiel Adams preached on the occasion from 1 Timothy iii. 3, and his sermon was printed.

In consequence of the fluctuating relative value of money, the town [of Lincoln] voted, in 1797, “that the Rev. Mr. Stearns’s salary should be £80 per year, at all times when the current price of Indian corn is 3s. and rye 4s. per bushel, and beef 20s. and pork 33s. per hundred; and to be increased or diminished according as the prices of those articles vary.”

In 1789, the church voted, that the reading of the psalm by line, after it has been once distinctly read, be discontinued.

The church has never had a confession of faith. The covenant into which the communicants enter does not differ materially from that in the Concord Church. The principles of the first organization of the church appear to have been somewhat more liberal than those of the Rev. Mr. Bliss. As early as 1749, it was voted not to “require public relations of religious exercises, as a condition of admission into the church,” but it was left optional with the candidates to do it or not. Public confessions before the whole church and congregation for crimes, were not uncommon until late in Dr. Stearns’s ministry.

The Rev. CHARLES STEARNS, D.D. was son of Thomas [Stearns], and grandson of Charles Stearns, whose ancestors first settled in Lynn. He was born in Leominster, graduated at Harvard College in 1773, and died July 26, 1826, in the 75th year of his age, and 45th of his ministry. At the time of his ordination the church consisted of 96 members, and during his ministry 155 persons were admitted to full communion, 78 owned the covenant, 536 were baptized, 201 marriages were solemnized, and up to 1818, 387 died. The town [of Lincoln] erected a monument to his memory, on which the distinguished traits of his character are drawn with force and accuracy.

“He was distinguished for his high attainments in various branches of science; for strength and soundness of mind; for method and accuracy in reasoning, and facility in communicating knowledge. By his piety, benevolence, and learning, he gained the affection and respect of his beloved people, the esteem and confidence of his numerous friends, and the well-deserved honors of literary societies. His life was full of practical goodness, the genuine fruit of deep-felt piety, and his death of religious hope and peace. By the habitual exercise of faith, humility, patience, and charity, he exhibited Christianity in a strong and prominent light; and is gone, it is believed, to enjoy the rewards of a good and faithful servant of Jesus Christ.”

The Rev. Dr. [Charles] Stearns¹ married Miss Susanna Cowdry, of Reading, 1781, and had the following children, Susanna, Charles, Thomas, Julia, Sarah, Elizabeth, Francis, William Lawrence, Daniel Mansfield, Rebecca, Samuel, and Edwin.

During the ministry of Mr. Lawrence and Mr. Stearns, the church and town [of Lincoln] were in great harmony. No council was at any time called to settle difficulties. After the death of the



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latter [the Reverend Charles Stearns], Dea. Thomas Wheeler was chosen moderator, and Dea. Eleazer Brooks, clerk, to serve till the ordination of another minister.

On the 13th of August, 1827, the church gave the Rev. Elijah Demond a unanimous call to be their pastor. He was born at Barre, November 1, 1790; graduated at Dartmouth College, 1816; and had been minister of West Newbury. In this vote the town [of Lincoln] concurred, and voted him \$600, as an annual salary. He was installed November 7, 1827. The public exercises were performed as follows: Introductory prayer, by the Rev. Rufus Hurlbut, of Sudbury; sermon by the Rev. John Codman, D.D., of the 2nd church in Dorchester; installing prayer by the Rev. Gardner B. Perry, of Bradford; charge by the Rev. Samuel Stearns, of Bedford; right hand of fellowship by the Rev. Sewall Harding, of Waltham; address to the people, by the Rev. Rodney G. Dennis, of Topsfield; and the concluding prayer by the Rev. Marshall Shedd, of Acton. These and the churches in East Sudbury and Weston composed the council, of which the Rev. Mr. Stearns was moderator. He was dismissed in 1832, and installed in Holliston, October 31, 1833.

On the 16th of January, 1833, the Rev. Ebenezer Newhall, a native of New Ipswich, New-Hampshire, and recently a minister at Oxford, was installed over this society. The introductory prayer on the occasion was by the Rev. Mr. Gilbert, of Newton; sermon by the Rev. Mr. Nelson, of Leicester; installing prayer by the Rev. Mr. Hurlbut, of Sudbury; charge by the Rev. Mr. Allen, of Shrewsbury; right hand of fellowship by the Rev. Mr. Demond, the late pastor; and the address to the people by the Rev. Mr. Harding, of Waltham.

SUCCESSION OF THE DEACONS [OF LINCOLN].

Names.	Chosen.	Died.	Age.
Benjamin Brown	Aug. 20, 1747.	April —, 1753.	—.
Joshua Brooks	April 18, 1749.	June 26, 1768.	80.
John Gove	April 18, 1749; was in office about 40 years.		
Samuel Farrar	Dec. 28, 1763.	April 18, 1783.	75.
Joshua Brooks, Jr.	Dec. 28, 1763.	March 8, 1790.	70.
Edmund Wheeler	May 6, 1784.	June 1, 1805.	74.
Samuel Farrar	May 6, 1784.	Sept. 19, 1829.	93.
Eleazer Brooks	Nov. 6, 1794.	Nov. 9, 1806.	80.
John Hartwell	April 9, 1804.	Nov. 2, 1820.	73.
Thomas Wheeler	Sept. 2, 1805.		
James Farrar	April 27, 1812.		
Eleazer Brooks	April 27, 1812.		

DESCRIPTION. Lincoln lies about three miles and a half southeasterly from Concord, and is

- The following works were published by Dr. Stearns: —
 The Ladies' Philosophy of Love; a Poem in four Cantos. Written in 1774, while a student in College, and published in 1797.
 A Sermon at the Exhibition of Sacred Music in Lincoln.
 Dramatic Dialogues, for the use of Schools. Published in 1798.
 A Sermon, preached Nov. 11, 1806, at the Interment of the Hon. Eleazer Brooks.
 A Sermon, delivered at Concord before the Bible Society, April 26, 1815.
 A Sermon, delivered before the Convention of Congregational Ministers in Massachusetts, in Boston, July 1, 1815.
 Principles of Religion and Morality. First edition in 1798, 2d in 1807.
 A Sermon at the Interment of Mrs. Foster of Littleton.



bounded southwesterly by East Sudbury, southerly by Weston, southeasterly by Waltham, easterly by Lexington, northerly by Bedford, and northwesterly by Concord. Its greatest length is about five miles, and greatest breadth three and a half, nearly; and it contains about 7000 acres. It has all the varieties of soil from the richest to the poorest. Though rough and uneven, it contains some of the best farms in the county. The most celebrated is that known at different times as the Russell, Codman, and Percival farm. Farming constitutes the principal employment of the inhabitants. The hill on which the meeting-house stands is 470 feet above high water mark in Boston. Two other hills, one 370 and the other 328 feet high, lie near the Lexington bounds.

Flint's or *Sandy Pond*, the only considerable collection of water, contains, according to the estimate of the Hon. Samuel Hoar,² 197 acres. It derives its name from the first owner, being situated in the farm of Ephraim Flint, one of the principal owners of Lincoln. This pond is a favorite resort for pickerel; and its fisheries have been considered of sufficient importance to require the interference of the Legislature to regulate them. An Act was passed February 16, 1824, prohibiting any person, under penalty of \$2, from fishing with "*more than one hook*"! between the first of December and April; providing, however, that the town [of Lincoln] may repeal its operation for one year at a time. This pond is the source of Stony Brook, and receives Lilly Brook, the outlet of *Beaver Pond*, lying near the south line, and containing about 50 acres; and it flows into Charles River at the northwest corner of Waltham. Its waters also have flowed by an artificial channel, made, as is supposed, for the benefit of the Mill which once stood in the centre of Concord, by Mill Brook into Concord River.

A Post-office was established in the southwest part of the town [of Lincoln], in 1825, in which the Post-masters have been, David S. Jones, from January 24, 1825, to September 18, 1826, resigned; Luke Gates, from September 19, 1826, present [1835] Post-master.

A county road and the Cambridge and Concord Turnpike (which was also made a county road in May, 1829,) run through the north part of the town [of Lincoln]. Another similar road runs through the south part. These add greatly to the expense, and very little to the convenience of the inhabitants.

According to a valuation taken in 1784, it appears that there were 143 polls, 26 of whom were not rateable; 88 dwelling-houses, 84 barns, 1 tan-yard, 1 grist-mill, and 21 other buildings; 454 acres of tillage land, 429 of English mowing, 800 meadow, 1502 pasturing, 2057 wood land, 2128 'other land,' and 137 unimproveable; 840 barrels of cider were made, 105 horses, 155 oxen, 266 neat cattle, 378 cows, 155 sheep, and 136 swine were held. Probably, if an estimate was made now [1835], it would not essentially vary from the above. The polls in 1790, were 156; the houses in 1801, 104. The population in 1764 was 639, including 28 negroes, and in 1790, 740; in 1800, 756; in 1810, 713; in 1820, 786; and in 1830, 709.

In 1820, there were 3 foreigners not naturalized, 81 engaged in agriculture, 5 in commerce, and 34 in manufactures. The militia is comprised in one company of about 50. An estimate, made by Dr. Stearns in 1820, appears in the church records in which the following "averages from the beginning of the town are determined (the nearest being taken when there is a fraction:) births, 22 in a year; baptisms, 19; admissions into church, 4; marriages, 4; and deaths, 10." These average annual estimates, will hold good now [1835], excepting in the baptisms,

2. Hon. Samuel Hoar, Lt. William Lawrence, and Mr. Nathan Weston, were chosen a committee August 21, 1794, to take a plan of the town [of Lincoln] agreeably to a resolve of the General Court the previous June, to be deposited in the Secretary's office.



the number of which has diminished.

Appropriations made by the Town [of Lincoln] at different Periods.

Date.	1755.	1765.	1775.	1785.	1795.	1805.	1815.	1825.
Minister	£56	£69 ² / ₃	£70 ² / ₃	£85	£105	\$—	\$600	\$460.
Schools	13 ¹ / ₂	20	13 ¹ / ₂	50	85	—	480	520.
Highways	25	50	40	80	80	\$450	600	400.
Incidental charges	24 ¹ / ₂	19	37	250	125	830	1450	500.

The existing records are not sufficiently particular to enable us to compile the annual bill of mortality. A summary of several years is sometimes placed together. The subjoined statement may be considered as nearly correct.

From 1760 to 1770, to 1780, to 1790, to 1800, to 1810, to 1820, —Total.							
Intentions of Marriage	56	79	65	69	73	59	=401.
Marriages	38	40	35	48	87	56	=274.
Births	185	196	186	192	168	164	=1091.
Deaths	83	122	104	86	118	94	=607.

It appears from this table that the excess of births over the deaths is 484, more than two to one; and, according to the census, that, from 1790 to 1800, one in 86 died annually; from 1800 to 1810, one in 64; and from 1810 to 1820, one in 78; a result which is highly favorable to the healthiness of the town [of Lincoln].

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SCHOOLS. Lincoln has always given liberal support to her common schools, and has been rewarded in the distinguished character of her educated sons. At its incorporation in 1754, it was divided into three districts; and a 'moving school' was kept in each. A school-house was built in the middle of the town [of Lincoln] in 1762; and in 1763, £5 were granted to build one in the southwest district, £5 for the southeast, and £10 for the north. In 1768, the schools were kept in three instead of four places; and in 1770, and some other years, the grammar school was substituted for all the others. In 1780, the town was again divided into four districts, which having been continued, excepting a few years since. In 1791, a committee was appointed to make a general regulation for dividing the school money, who reported, that the east district have 21 weeks, the south 17 weeks, and the north 14 weeks, in proportion to the 12 months' schooling. This regulation was accepted by the town, which was divided into three districts; but continued a few years only. It was so altered in 1791, as to give 17 weeks to the south, 14 to the north, 11 to the east, and 10 to the middle district. Since 1812, the south has drawn ¹¹/₅₆ and the three others ¹⁵/₅₆ each of the money. Among the teachers of the grammar school, I find the names of Jacob Bigelow, Timothy Farrar, Fisher Ames, and others who have been distinguished in public life. Mr. Joseph Brooks, among other liberal donations, made one for the support of schools, which has been of great service to the town [of Lincoln]. It amounted in 1761, to £388, and now [1835] to more than \$1,000, the annual interest of which is divided among the districts in the same proportion as other school money. An institution called the "liberal school," similar to an academy, was established by the Rev. Dr. Stearns, and several other gentlemen in 1793, and was successfully continued about 10



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years. From the annual return made to the State in 1829, it appears that the aggregate time for which the four public schools were kept was 32 months, 17 by males, and 15 by females; and that they were attended by 220 scholars. \$576.70 were paid for their support. There were two private schools, and 8 pupils attending academies. The estimated amount of tuition was \$70. None are unable to read in the town]. The north district [of Lincoln contains 40 scholars, the south 86, and the east 42, and the middle 44.

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The poor were supported previous to 1785 in such families as undertook it at the lowest rates. £8 were granted for this purpose in 1760, £35 in 1762, and £18 in 1783. A committee was chosen in 1785, consisting of the Hon. James Russell, Edmund Wheeler, and Eleazer Melvin, by whom a poor-house was built; principally from the liberal donation of the chairman. The land on which it stood was presented by Mr. John Adams. The poor were supported here til about 1800, when the house was abandoned, and the old system of letting them out to the lowest bidder was again adopted. The annual expense now [1835] is between \$400 and \$500.

There are two burying-grounds in town [of Lincoln], one the gift of Mr. Ephraim Flint, and



the other of Dea. Samuel Farrar.

TOWN CLERKS [OF LINCOLN].

Ephraim Flint	1746-'62[-'52], '54, '56, '57.	Grosvenor Tarbell	1799-1803.
Ebenezer Cutler	1753, 1755, 1759.	Thomas Wheeler	1804-1806.
Samuel Farrar	1758, 1760-1766.	Elijah Fiske	1810-1821.
John Adams	1767-1777.	Stephen Patch	1822-1827.
Abijah Pierce	1778, 1779, 1781.	Charles Wheeler	1828-1830.
Samuel Hoar	'80, '82, '87-'98, 1807-'9.	Elijah Fiske	1831.
Richard Russell	1783-1786.		

REPRESENTATIVES [OF LINCOLN].

Chambers Russell	'54-57, '59, '62, '63, '5.	Joshua Brooks	1809-1811.
Samuel Farrer	1766-1768.	Leonard Hoar	1812-1814.
Eleazer Brooks	'74-'78, '80, '5, '7, '90-'2.	William Hayden	1815, 1816.
Chambers Russell	1788.	Elijah Fiske	1820-1822.
Samuel Hoar	'94, '95, '97, '98, 1801, '3-'8.	Joel Smith	1824.
Samuel Farrar, Jr.	1800.	Silas P. Tarbell	1827, 1828.
Not represented 1758, '60, '62, '69-'73, '79, '81, '82, '86, '89, '93, '96, '99, 1802, '17, '23, '25, '26.			

SENATORS [OF LINCOLN].

Hon. Eleazer Brooks	1780-'86, '88-'95.
Hon. Samuel Hoar	1813-1816.

COUNSELLORS [OF LINCOLN].

Hon. Chambers Russell	1759-1766.
Hon. Eleazer Brooks	1788, '92-1800.



JUSTICES OF THE PEACE [OF LINCOLN].

Chambers Russell	Chambers Russell	William Hayden
James Russell	Samuel Hoar	Charles Wheeler
Charles Russell	Eleazer Brooks, Jr.	Elijah Fiske
Eleazer Brooks	Joshua Brooks	Stephen Patch
Joseph Adams	Grosvenor Tarbell	Joel Smith

Clergymen and Physicians are the only professional men who have resided in town. The former have already been noticed in the Ecclesiastical History; the physicians are the following:

Dr. Charles Russell, son of the Hon. James Russell, born in Charlestown, graduated at Harvard College, 1757, and inherited his uncle Chambers's estate in Lincoln, where he resided as a physician. He married Miss Elizabeth Vassall of Cambridge, and from his father-in-law he contracted opinions opposed to the measures of the people in the revolution, and left Lincoln on the 19th of April, 1775, and went to Martinique, in the West-Indies, where he died.

Dr. John Binney died August 14th, 1760, aged 55. His widow married Capt. Daniel Adams.

Dr. Joseph Adams was also unfriendly to the revolution, and went to England, where he died.

Dr. Mann practised in Lincoln between 1780 and 1790. He afterwards removed to Castine, Maine, and married a daughter of Mr. John Adams.

Dr. Richard Russell was son of Mr. Richard, a brother of the Hon. Chambers Russell, born in Charlestown, settled in Lincoln in 1778, drowned in the Beaver Pond August 12th, 1796, aged 46.

Dr. Grosvener Tarbell was from Sturbridge, settled in Lincoln in 1796, and died in 1822.

Dr. George Russell, son of Dr. Richard Russell, born September 23d, 1795, graduated at the Medical Institution at Cambridge, in 1820, and has since practised in Lincoln.

GRADUATES AT COLLEGE [FROM LINCOLN].

STEPHEN FARRAR, son of Dea. Samuel Farrar, was born September 8th, 1738, and graduated 1755. He studied divinity, and was ordained as the first minister of New Ipswich, New Hampshire, October 22d, 1760, and performed the duties of his office with distinguished ability till his death, June 23d, 1809.

TIMOTHY FARRAR, brother of the foregoing, was born June 28, 1747, and graduated 1767. He studied law and settled in New Ipswich, New Hampshire, was elected Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, under the temporary constitution of N.H. in January, 1776; was a Counsellor in the year 1780, 1782, and 1783; appointed Judge of the Superior Court in 1790; resigned that office 1803; appointed Judge of the Court of Common Pleas in 1803 or 1804; and was afterwards Chief Justice of the Circuit Court of Common Pleas. Besides these offices, he was an elector of President and Vice-President of the United States in 1792, 1796, 1800, and 1808³; and in 1804, and since, one of the trustees of Dartmouth College.

CHARLES RUSSELL, of Lincoln. He received a Medical degree at Aberdeen, died at Antigua, May 27th, 1780, aged 42.

JOSEPH FARRAR, son of George Farrar, was born June 30th, 1744, and graduated 1767; was ordained at Dublin, New-Hampshire, June 10th, 1772, when the church was organized; dismissed, January 7th, 1776; installed at Dummerston, Vermont, in 1779; dismissed 1784; and is probably the same who afterwards settled in Eden, Vermont. He died at Petersham.⁴

3. MS. Letter of John Farmer, Esq.



JONATHAN GOVE, son of Dea. John Gove, born August 22d, 1746, and graduated 1768. He studied medicine and lived many years in New Boston, New Hampshire; was Representative at the General Court, a popular physician, and one of the oldest in practice, at the time of his death, in the county of Hillsborough. He was also a Justice of the Peace. One of his sons, Charles F. Gove, is [1835] an Attorney at Law in Goffstown.⁵

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MOSES BROWN graduated in 1768 and settled as a merchant at Beverly; Justice of the Peace and of the Quorum; died June 15, 1820 aged 72.

JONAS HARTWELL, son of Ephraim Hartwell, was born June 26th, 1754, and graduated 1779. After he graduated he engaged in mercantile pursuits, went to Bilboa in Spain, and while innocently engaged in his vocation, was arrested and confined in the Inquisition, where he died, March 2d, 1784.

NATHANIEL PIERCE, was born September 27th, 1754, and graduated 1775. He was a merchant in Boston. Died in Watertown, December 3d, 1783, aged 30.

ABEL FLINT, son of Mr. Ephraim Flint, was born June 22d, 1758, and graduated 1780. He taught a school several years in Haverhill and elsewhere, and died in Lincoln of consumption January 25th, 1789, aged 32.

WILLIAM BROOKS, son of Dea. Joshua Brooks, was born March 13th, 1757, and graduated 1780. He settled as a merchant in Augusta, Maine, and has held several civil and military offices in that State.

DANIEL STONE, graduated 1791, and was ordained at Augusta, Maine, October 21st, 1795, and dismissed by mutual consent, May, 1809. He has since lived a respectable private citizen in that town.

DANIEL ADAMS, son of Joseph Adams, graduated at Dartmouth College 1797, and received a medical degree at Harvard College; settled in Keene, New Hampshire, and obtained an extensive professional business.

SAMUEL FARRAR, son of Dea. Samuel Farrar, born December 13th, 1773, graduated 1797, was tutor one year, studied law and settled in Andover, is the President of the Bank in that place, and Treasurer of the Theological Seminary.

SAMUEL HOAR, son of the Hon. Samuel Hoar, born May 18th, 1778, graduated 1802. He studied law and was admitted to the bar September, 1805, and immediately after settled in Concord. He was a member of the Convention for revising the Constitution of the State in 1821, and of the Senate in 1825 and 1832.

JOHN FARRAR, son of Dea. Samuel Farrar, born July 1st, 1779, graduated 1803, was tutor from 1805 to 1807; and appointed that year Hollis Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy in Harvard University, and yet continues [1835] in that office.

NATHAN BROOKS, son of Joshua Brooks, Esq. born October 18th, 1785, graduated in 1809, established himself in the profession of law in Concord, represented the town in 1823, 1824, and 1825, and was Counsellor in 1829, and Senator in 1831.

NATHANIEL PIERCE HOAR, son of the Hon. Samuel Hoar, born September 2d, 1784, and graduated 1810. He read law with his brother in Concord, and commenced practice in his profession at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, in 1813, where he soon obtained an extensive business. Being attacked by a fatal disease, he removed to his native town, and died deeply lamented, May 24th, 1820, aged 35.

THOMAS FISKE, son of Elijah Fiske, Esq., graduated 1819, read law, and began his professional business in Charleston, South Carolina, in 1826.

WILLIAM LAWRENCE STEARNS, son of the Rev. Dr. Stearns, born October 13th, 1793 [twin brother to Daniel Mansfield Stearns], graduated in 1820, studied divinity and was ordained at Stoughton, November 21st, 1827.

DANIEL MANSFIELD STEARNS, a twin-brother of the preceding [William Lawrence Stearns], graduated at Brown University, 1822, and was ordained minister at Dennis, May 21st, 1828.

JOSEPH GREEN COLE, son of Capt. Abraham Cole, graduated 1822, read law with Gov. Lincoln in Maine, and is now [1835] settled in his profession at Paris in that state.

GEORGE FISKE, son of Elijah Fiske, Esq., born August 22d, 1804, graduated at Brown

4. Ibid.

5. Farmer & Moore, Gazetteer of New-Hampshire, p. 143.



University in 1825, and is now [1835] Episcopal minister in New-York.

HUMPHREY FARRAR [brother of Joseph, George, and William Farrar], son of Humphrey Farrar, was born September, 15th, 1773, and graduated at Dartmouth College, 1794.

JOSEPH FARRAR, born February 14th, 1775, brother to the above [Humphrey Farrar, and George and William, four sons of Humphrey Farrar], graduated as his classmate [at Dartmouth College in 1794], and studied law.

GEORGE FARRAR, graduated at Dartmouth College, 1800, brother to the two abovementioned [Humphrey, Joseph, George, and William being four sons of Humphrey Farrar], and is [1835] an eminent physician in Derry, New Hampshire, and Fellow of the New Hampshire Medical Society.

WILLIAM FARRAR, another brother [Humphrey, Joseph, George, and William being four sons of Humphrey Farrar], born October 2d, 1780, graduated at Dartmouth College in 1801.

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

MR. JOSEPH BROOKS died September 17, 1759 aged 78. He was son of Joshua [Brooks], and grandson of Thomas Brooks, the first American ancestor of the Brooks family. He acquired a respectable estate, as a farmer, and while living was distinguished for his liberality. From him the church in Lincoln received a part of its communion plate; and the town, the meeting-house bell, and the school fund. These, and several other acts of liberality, render his name deserving of lasting remembrance.

HON. CHAMBERS RUSSELL, was son of the Hon. Daniel Russell, of Charlestown, who died December 6th, 1763, aged 78, a member of the Council, commissioner of imports, and treasurer of the County of Middlesex upwards of fifty years. He grandfather was the Hon. James [Russell], and great-grandfather the Hon. Richard Russell, who in 1640, at the age of 29, came from Herefordshire, England, and settled in Charlestown, was a most eminent merchant, a member of the Council, and otherwise distinguished. His mother was daughter of the Hon. Charles Chambers. He graduated at Harvard College in 1731, and soon settled in that part of Concord which is now [1835] Lincoln, on the estate of his father-in-law, which has since been known as the Russell, Codman, and Percival estate. He represented the town of Concord several years in the General Court; and was the chief instrument in obtaining the act of incorporation for the town of Lincoln. After this town was set off, he was eight times elected its Representative. In 1759 he was chosen a Counsellor, just a century from the time when his great-grandfather was chosen to the same office. He was appointed, September, 1747, Judge of the Court of Admiralty, and at his death sustained that office, and also that of Judge of the Superior Court. He died without issue, according to the Lincoln records, at Guilford, in Surry, England, 24th of November 1767. He married Mary Atkins, who died in Lincoln, 13th of August, 1762.

HON. JAMES RUSSELL, brother of the foregoing, was born in Charlestown, 5th of August, 1715, and succeeded to all the public honors of his respected ancestors, as a Representative, Counsellor, and Judge. He represented the town of Charlestown 13 years from 1746, was a Counsellor many years, and 16th of May, 1771, was appointed one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas. When Charlestown was invaded by the British in 1775, he removed to Dunstable; and after his son Charles, who inherited his brother Chambers's estate, left the country, he removed to Lincoln, where he lived fifteen or twenty years. This town is indebted to him for several valuable donations. The expense of the poor-house, erected in 1786, was principally borne by him. He married Katharine, daughter of the Hon. Thomas Graves, a descendant, of the third generation, from the Hon. Thomas Graves, who arrived in Salem in 1629, and soon after settled in Charlestown. She died in Lincoln 17th of September, 1778, aged 61. He died in Charlestown. His children were Hon. Thomas, a most eminent and opulent merchant of Boston; James, who went to England; Dr. Charles, Harvard College, 1757; Chambers, who died in S. Carolina; Katherine, who married Mr. Henly of Charlestown; Rebecca, who married, first, Judge Tyng, and secondly, Judge Sewall; Margaret, who married John Codman; and Sarah and Mary, who died single.



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HON. ELEAZER BROOKS, was the son of Mr. Job Brooks, and a descendant of the fourth generation from Capt. Thomas Brooks, one of the first settlers of Concord, was born 10th of September, 1727, and died 19th of November, 1806, aged 79. His grandfather was Daniel, and great-grandfather Joshua Brooks. His father was a respectable farmer, and intended his son for the same employment. The circumstances of the times, when he lived, were such, that his education did not equal that of many of his contemporary young farmers, which at best was very ordinary. Considering that he was self-instructed, his future intellectual improvements were truly remarkable. He early discovered indication of talents; and, before the great work of the Revolution commenced, he was called into office. He was appointed, by Governor Barnard, a lieutenant of a foot company in Lincoln, 11th of May, 1768, and a Captain by Hutchinson, 13th of July, 1773; by the Council, a Colonel of the 3d regiment, 14th of February, 1776, and a Brigadier-General, 15th of October, 1778, and to the same office under the new constitution, 22d of August, 1781. He commanded a regiment of the Middlesex militia at the battle of White Plains, in 1776, and at several other times appeared in the camp, where he distinguished himself for his cool and determined bravery. The laborious duties, which his military office imposed during the revolutionary war, were performed with great ability and decision. He was often chosen a member of the town's committee of safety, and the state's committee of secrecy; was a member of the Provincial Congress in 1774, and was afterwards annually a member of the General Court or executive Council till 1800. He was appointed Justice of the Peace in 1777; and on the 27th of March, 1786, a special Judge of the Court of Common Pleas. He was delegate to the convention at Cambridge in July, 1779, to form the constitution, and at Boston, in 1788, to ratify the Constitution of the United States; and in various other places, during his public life, his services were put in requisition. After being 27 years a public man, he declined, in 1800, being a candidate for the suffrages of his fellow-citizens, and retired to private life. As a military man, he was brave, patriotic, and considerate in designing, but expeditious in executing his plans. His habits of thought and action were systematic and correct; his industry untiring. By a judicious improvement of his faculties, by reading, conversation, and reflection, he compensated for the neglect of his early education. Possessing the confidence of his associates in public life, he acquired great influence, and his opinions were much respected. But for nothing was he more respected than for his strict probity, real goodness of heart, and exemplary piety. He united with the church early in life, and was chosen one of its deacons in 1794. In all his important trusts he set a noble example of what may be accomplished by a judicious application of one's own powers of mind, and left a character worthy of remembrance and imitation.

TO CONTINUE READING:

CHAPTER XX. — HISTORY OF CARLISLE. — General History. — Miscellaneous Notices. — Ecclesiastical History.

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