

CHAPTER VII.

EARLY HABITS AND CUSTOMS.

In colonial days each man, beside his trade or profession, followed the calling of the farmer.

The early settlers in New England were hard working, industrious people; on their labors in the field and in the woods depended the life, comfort and happiness of themselves and their families. Spring, summer, autumn and winter followed each after the other with never failing regularity; each season had its duties.

With the advent of spring's warm sunshine and budding vegetation the hard work of the year began. Ground must be broken for planting; this could not be delayed. No matter how badly the services of a neighbor might be desired for other work, planting must be attended to. All the townsmen were busy in the field. In 1685 Edward Inman of Providence had granted to him a tract of land in "Loquassquissick woodes", but he was unable to have its bounds defined by a surveyor for the reason, as the records state, "it is ye season of ye yeare for planting."

Planting was not the only duty that commanded the attention at this season. Fruit trees had to be grafted, and when the new April moon appeared in the sky, with the "horns" up, that was the time to sow wheat and rye. Then there were the fences to be looked after and to be kept up, lest the wandering stock break in and later destroy the results of all their labors.

As the season advanced new duties were made necessary; haying time came, and a good farmer cut his grass while the morning's dew yet sparkled upon it. New ground which had been cleaned of "rubbish" must be burned, against another planting time. An old order of the town of Providence regulated the time when the fields in certain sections of the town should be fired; on the plains the second of the first month, and on the neck and other parts the "15th of the said moneth yearly".

While goodman toiled in the fields or in the woods until the horn blew near night-fall, goodwife, after her household duties were looked to, sought in the woods and meadows for the green herbs and other plants; these were carefully hung from the great beams in the attic, or

spread upon boards or on the floor. They filled the house with an aromatic odor, which even to-day can be detected in many old houses, although years have passed since any have been thus gathered and cured. Our ancestors were subject to many of the ills which now afflict us, and no household was without its stock of motherwort, thoroughwort, elecampane, lungwort, pennyroyal, and many other species of herbs, barks and roots of the meadow and woodland.

In colonial days doctors were not always available when sickness came to the household; nor was it possible to obtain always the benefit of a personal visit, but in order that the patient might receive the benefit of their professional skill, the sick person would write out in detail the symptoms of his sickness for the consideration of the doctor;



COREY HOUSE, ERECTED 1718, QUIDNISSET, NORTH KINGSTOWN.

In the chimney of this house Lieut. Job Cory was concealed while a British raiding party searched the house during the English occupancy of Rhode Island in the war of the Revolution.

and thus when a person was sick he would write the "discription of the operation of the sickness", which in one case was as follows: "sumtimes I have a strange knawing and fretting in my Stomack; and sids which seems both hot and Cold with a sour rising in my stomach and also a sour tast in my mouth and oftentimes a trembling at heart and sumtimes my heart beeteing very quick and sumtimes makeing of stops and then fetch a leep and sumtimes sumthing rising up and Coming over me like a fright which makes it seem as if I should die presently and sumtimes my breath going away just as I am going into Sleepe, and also many other strainge fainty feels to tedious for me to relate but one thing more I shall relate; that is I am very much troubled with wind in my Stomach and If I take that which is of a hot nature it is apt to make me faint, and much sweete makes me fainte and sour or tart things fret my stomach"; and the good old doctor

carefully reviewed the description and concluded in his mind that his patient was suffering from the dyspepsia, and forthwith returned a recipe which we hope afforded relief to the sufferer.

An old writing yet preserved gives us the name of one of the early medical advisers, Doctor Rodman; three generations of these Rodmans were physicians, and they were skillful and prominent in Southern Rhode Island.

In this it says, "If Doctor Rodman should send me any thing, I would desire him also to send a note of direction how to use it and how it will operate.

"I would also desire you to ask doctor Rodman whether he hath any such Cordill pills as Beniamen Newbuery did formerly make which said pill was also to cause rest and sleep and if he have such pill and accounts it good for me then I do desire a littel of it with directions how to use it."

Among the choicest household treasures were little scraps of paper on which were written the directions for making the mixtures for use in the time of sickness. They were compounded without a fine regard for quantities, but they no doubt served their purpose, for we know that our ancestors were hale and hearty and lived in most cases to ripe old age. Rheumatism afflicted them as it does us now, and for this the following was said to have been a remedy:

"A Receipt for the Gout or Rumatick Disorder. Take a Pound of Bittersweet Root and a Pound of Saxapiriller Root ye Bark of ye Root of Each and a Pound of Sweetfirn Boughs one Pound of Black Birch Bark Pound them well in a Morter Let it soak all night in Eight Quarts of Water then Boil it away to two Quarts then strain it out put in a Pound of Sugar Just Boil and Skim it then take it off and put in a Quart of West India Rum. Take three jills of it in a day (viz) a jill at a time one hour before Eating for Thirty Days."

Another was:

"A Diat drink to be made of Elder bark half a peck of the Green two ounssis of Race Ginger two ounssis of Spanish Ruborb one handful of Elicumpain one handful of horseradish Roots one handful of wormwood one handful of beech peas one handful of scurvigrass one Peck of Malt one quart of Molasses take half a pint in the morning fasting and Every Night take a Spoon full of Rum with Cloves of Garlick Steeped in it".

There were recipes for the cure of the rickets, sore eyes, jaundice, "a consumption", and many others. They were the curious combinations of roots, barks, herbs and spices, those old fashioned remedies, ancestors of the nostrums now called Indian Remedies.

Here is a "Cure for the Rickets":

“Take a handful of hartshorn & a handful of Shepards pouch & a handful of agramony & a handful of Garden Hyssup & a handful of balm & a handful of maiden hair & a hand [ful] of yellow Solomon seal and make Surup of all these and give the Child three spoons full a day at morning noon & night & let ye Childs blood twice a week.”

There was no finedivision of quantities in preparing these medicines, a “handful” was thought to be near enough without any regard to the size of the hand.

This recipe is called “An Extriordina Medseion for Sore Eyes to clensthe ball of the Ey from any Redness or fogeons flesh or any Such Like thing and it Rather Strengthens the sight of any Ey to whome it is Rightly applied.

“Take the Best of old England Saffron Dry it in a plate by the fire then Rob it to powder And in the morning wett your Ey with white Rose water then put in the powder of Saffron in to your Ey and there let it abide until it works out of its one accord and at night when you go to bed take a plegget of Clean to Dip it in vinigar then take some of the said ros water put it into a small vial then put to it the white of an Eg then shake it well together then Spred it on the plegget of to and bind it on your Ey and there to abide all night and so doe as often as you pleas.”

All sorts of remedies were thus prepared, and even to-day among the New England country folks these same old fashioned medicines made of roots, herbs and barks may be found regularly supplied in the household.

Goodwife also looked after the garden seeds for next year’s planting, picked them when ripe, sorted them over and rolled them up in papers and carefully put them away in drawers for future use.

Paper was a scarce article about the house in those days, and thus it came about that the Town Evidence, the deed which conveyed the title to all the lands included in the city of Providence and nearly half of the whole State north to the Massachusetts line, was once used for this purpose, for Howlong Fenner, who was the daughter of William Harris, the opponent of Roger Williams, said in 1708 that Joseph Carpenter told her that his grandmother, who was the wife of William Carpenter, “thought it was a pees of wast paper and Raped up garden seeds in it when she had soed her seeds she threw away the deed as waist paper and he found it and wt lieing out in the wet some of the deed Torn out”. Its mutilated condition to-day shows plainly that it has received hard usage and bears out the statement of the base use made of so valuable a document.

In August such spare time as could be taken from the work in the field was devoted to looking over and repairing the sleds for the winter’s work of hauling wood for the use of the household, and for carting stone to repair walls.

While the apples in the orchard were ripening in the summer sun, the barrels for the "orchard tea" required attention. Early cider was made in September. The barrels used the year before must be rinsed out with warm water and smoked with brimstone before filling.

Our ancestors looked carefully after the cider crops, for when winter came and old Boreas with his icy breath kept them within doors during the long evenings, no more comfortable spot could be found than before the great fire-place, piled high with blazing logs. Here families and neighbors sat in the ruddy fire light and feasted on roasted apples and nuts, drank mugs of mulled cider, cider royal, egg cider, and many other mixtures of which cider could be made the main part.

November brought the husking, when parties of merry boys and girls, and even the older ones of the families, went about from place to place helping one another to husk their corn. Husking parties combined both work and play, and the jolly people went about it, flushed with the anticipation of the red ear, pudding, nuts, cider, and all the good things that formed the "treat" when the work and fun was drawing to a close.

The long winter months now set in; even then there was much about the farm to occupy the time of the farmer; there were no idle minutes in his life. When the winter's snow covered the ground the sleds were hitched up and the field of activity was the wood lot, for the year's wood must be cut and hauled to the dooryard, split and piled up for drying before it was in condition for all uses of the household. To get a load of wood in the summer was a day's job, but in winter it took but a quarter of the time. There was an old saying among the farmers that "there will be no need of bellows if your wood is dry and you build your fire right", which was to say that the year's supply should be piled high in the winter so that the vexation of having to build a fire of green wood might not be encountered.

The people depended upon the resinous pine wood for lighting up the interiors of their houses; this they fashioned into pieces of convenient shape which they called candles. This means of illumination continued for many years. In 1681 this method was in use, for it was represented to the town of Providence, or, as the records quaintly expressed it: "There is a brute abroad that some person or persons are Determined to propagate the runing of Tarr from pitchwood; As also of pitchwood to make Coale: The Towne Well weighing ye premises, & Considering ye Great damage which will Accrew in Case such a designe be put in Execution, see Cause the same timely to prevent; And doe hereby declare against, and forbid any persons from this day forward to make any Coale of pitchwood, or runn any Tarr from pitchwood, or be a procurer or employer of any so to do, (Except it be to ye quantety of Tenn Gallons for his own proper use, and

he being an Inhabitant of this Towne,) and All ye Tarr and Coale soe made shall be fforfit, one halfe thereof unto ye informer, and ye other halfe unto ye Towne Treasuray: The which shall be seized either by a warrant from any one of Majestrates or by order from ye Towne. And that the sayd person or persons who make ye sayd Tarr & Coales, and their imployers and procureres for Each Defect, from time to time shall forfitt Each of them ye sum of fifty shillings and if any person or persons whatsoever shall remoue, deaspose of or Conveye away any Tarr or Coales that thereby ye seasure thereof might be obstructed, or shall be instrumentall to ye propagating of the same, Each person soe offending, shall from time to time for Each Defect forfitt ye sum of Tenn pounds in mony, which shall be recovered by a due Course of Law; one Third part of which fforfitture shall be to



THE ROWLAND ROBINSON HOUSE, NORTH KINGSTOWN.

Here lived the "Unfortunate Hannah Robinson" whose romantic story is told in Updike's "Narragansett Church." The pile of stones are beneath the window where she sat and watched for her lover.

ye Informer, and ye other two parts shall be to ye Towne Treasuray. And this order stand in force any former Act or Clawes therein by our towne at any time made to ye Contrarey here of in any wise not withstanding."

This contemplated wholesale destruction of the pine tree wrought the people up to the highest pitch of excitement, for fear that the "Great Benniffitt yt they haue had by there pitchwood for Candell light" would be taken from them. As a further notice to those persons who proposed to thus deprive the householders of their means of candle light, it was voted by the town "yt a Coppie of this order about

pitchwood be sett up in some publick place of this 'Towne which was Done''.

But there were families within the town that did not use these smoky pitch lights for illuminating purposes. Thomas Walling, in 1674, had "Tallow & Candals". John Smith (miller), in 1682, had "about two pound of tallow Candles". Brass candlesticks belonged to Toleration Harris and William Harris in 1681, while iron eandlesticks were used by others.

On stormy days the farmer in his barn, crib or tool house spent his time looking after the farming tools; the broken shovel, handleless hoe, the toothless rake, and the broken plough share all must be mended, for spring would surely follow the winter and the time would soon come when

"Little Robin-Red-Breast
The Thrush, Tom Tit and Sparrow
Awake the sluggard from his nest
And bid him plough and harrow."

With all the duties and demands on the farmer's time, there was now and then relaxation from them all and some recreation was indulged in.

Hunting in the woods was a favorite pastime for the men and older boys; squirrels, foxes, bears and even deer were to be found in the "wild woods", and when they were fortunate enough to find a beaver settlement, as they often did, their amusement was turned to considerable profit, for there was a great demand for these furs, and the Indians carried on an extensive traffic in them.

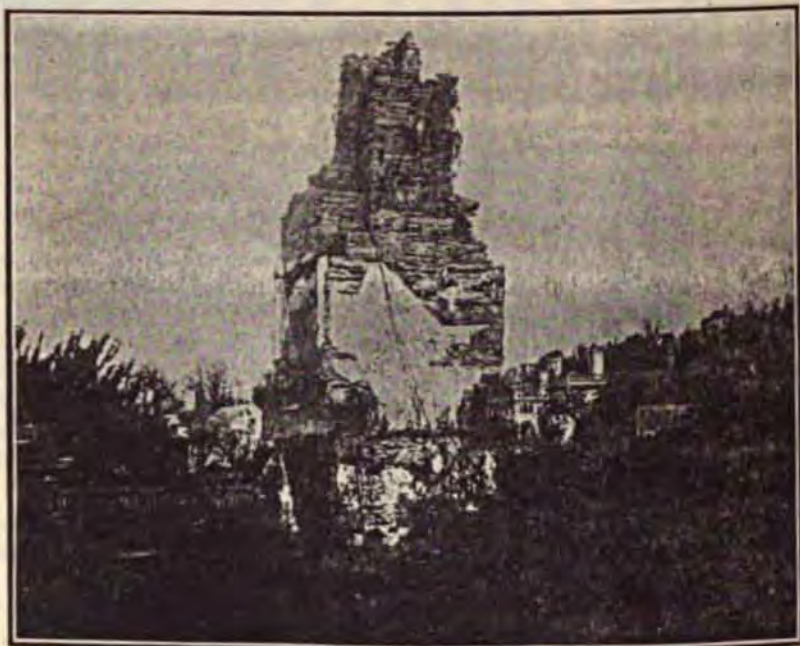
Wolves were hunted for the reward offered for their destruction, and to rid the country of these pests, much encouragement was given to killing them.

Wrestling and shooting at a mark were other pastimes, although in the early colonial days this latter divertimento would have been deprecated as involving too much waste of powder and lead.

To provide pasturage and protection for their cattle early became a subject of consideration to all of the New England settlers. In Providence, in 1649, swine and goats were taxed for common charges. Wolves infested the outlying country and were a source of much annoyance to the cattle as well as to the settlers themselves. Wolf traps were located at different places around the neighborhood; William Arnold had one, so did Thomas Olney the elder, and William Field: that they were contrivances of considerable importance is evidenced from the fact that they were often referred to in deeds as boundary marks.¹ In Plymouth these traps were constructed by an order of the town, and on Nov. 4, 1650, it was ordered "that five

¹*Early Records of Providence*, vol. i, pp. 62, 109.

trapps or more bee forthwith made by severall companies in severall Neighborhoods in the Townshipp and that Nathaniel Morton give due notice of papers of the names of such as are to joyne together for the end aforesaid that soe they may bee made and tended"; it was also agreed "that such as kill wolves to have an axe or hatchet for every such wolf".¹ These measures were adopted mainly for the protection of the cattle. Down in the lowlands grew grapes, barberries, strawberries, hurtleberries, cranberries, and a berry called by the Indians Sautash, a kind of currant; these latter were said by Williams to be



RUINS OF THE COL. BENJAMIN CHURCH HOMESTEAD, BRISTOL, BUILT IN 1681.

From an old photograph taken in 1859, in the possession of the Rhode Island Historical Society.

as sweet to them, when mixed with their parched meal and made into cakes, as the plum or spice cakes were to the English, and doubtless the settlers acquired a taste for these currants like their red brothers.

The medium of exchange among the settlers was seldom money, but in "Pork at 28s. hundred, wheate at 4s. 6d. Bushell, pease at 3s. 6d. bushell, Butter at six pence pound", and in the same way they paid their taxes.

Sometimes when it became necessary to hire additional help about

¹*Plymouth Records*, vol. i, p. 31.

their farms they resorted to the Indians for assistance, but they kept accurate account of the time thus employed, as the following extract from an old account book will show :

“About the 20 of June 1707 mor work done for me by John Absolom	
By husking of Corn	00-03-00
and one day and a half of his son	00-01-06
more work by husking of corne	
himself 2 days and his squaw 3 days	00-07-04
and margerett one day and his 2 days	00-00-04
Young Absolom 36 days hay making Cumes	01-04-00”

And they kept as accurate accounts of the time lost by reason of a “wet day” or a “veri hot day”.

“Thomas Barns began to work the 29th or the 30th of may: lost the 4 of June half a day and the 11 of June and 18th of June Besides one wet day and one veri hot day the 20 of June wet weather most part of the day Lost”.

Daniel Neal, writing about 1700 of “The Present State of New England”, says that “The first Planters found the Grass in the Vallies above an ell in Height: and consequently pretty rank for want of cutting. but their cattle eat it and thrive very well with it”. All around the Providence plantations were broad, free-flowing rivers, the meadow lands were fertile and extensive, as the long list of greater meadows which are found frequently referred to on the records will testify. The rank grass which the early settlers found at first growing so luxuriously on these numerous tracts, soon made way for a finer and more suitable fodder for the cattle of the settlers.

The colonial farmer looked carefully to his stock; wild beasts invested the wildwoods and the cattle were in most cases housed at night. Bells were attached to the cows in early times as they are now, so that their wandering might be traced, and the task of watching and driving them was assigned to the children. But with all the care that was bestowed they frequently wandered away from their owner and mingled with other herds, or were found straying along the road or roaming the woods and meadows.

Around the Indian villages were numerous dogs; these noisome, vicious creatures had become so great a nuisance to the settler on account of their worrying the cattle that, in 1667, the town ordered that

“Vallentine Whittman [who was an Indian interpreter] and Thomas Clemence shall goe into the Jndian dwelling at pomecansett, And unto other Jndians living neare this Towne; And warne them to Take som Course with their Dogges to keep them from ffalling upon the Jnglish Cattell or Else they must Expect to have their Dogges Killed”.

This unique and diplomatic communication was doubtless taken notice of and the Indian spared the penalty of having their "Dogges" killed.

Every owner of cattle had a mark by which the latter might be identified when found straying at large or causing mischief in unfenced corn fields. These brand marks were required to be recorded or registered on the books of the town. While no particular book was used for this purpose, they may be found scattered here and there among the faded pages of the record books of many towns, recorded thus:

"Joseph Mawrey his Brand marke for horses is I M on the neere Buttock, His Eare marke for Cattle is, a Cropp off of, the topp of ye Right Eare, & a halfe penney under it behind the Eare".

"The Eare marke which John Browne giveth his Cattle, is in Each Eare a hole".

"The Eare marke which Henry Mawrey gives his Cattle, is a Cropp off from the Topp of the left Eare & a halfe peney Cut out of the hinder part of the same Eare".

"The mark which Thomas Harris Junr Gives his Cattell is a fork in the Topp of both the Eares; Jt being the marke which his Grandfather, the deceased Thomas Harris formerly gave his Cattell, or to say, marked them with".

As the cattle frequently passed from father to son, upon the death of the other, this preserving them as family marks was a convenient way of saving to the poor dumb beast their auricular organs, otherwise it would have resulted in very materially reducing them in size and perhaps in usefulness, for

"The Marke which Edward Manton Gives his Cattle is a Cropp of of the Topp of ye left Eare".

The æsthetic taste of the colonial farmer may be seen in the mark which Zuriell Hall gives his "Cattell is a Cropp of the Topp of the Right Eare & a *flower deluice* on the left".

With this artistic design waving in the air, stimulated by the action of countless flies as

"Clarine Peach-bloom, and Phoebe Phyllis
Stand knee deep in the creamy lilies
In a drowsy dream",

there was a certain appropriate blending of the whole composition.

When horses or cattle were found astray the finder took them into his charge and informed the town clerk, who posted a notice thereof in some conspicuous place and also spread a record of the same upon the town books. This entry was made apparently upon the first page he came to when he opened the book, as often following the record of the birth of a child as preceding a deed or the findings of a "Crowners Quest", and the entries read:

"Upon the 18th day of January 1678 William Whipple made Proclamation of a stray horse that he had taken up the description of the said is as followeth for Colour bay, branded on the foreshoulder with X the two hind feet with a white in the forehead, with a small white on the Nose, Dock somewhat short of stature something small".

"January ye 23d 1667 William Haukins junr. gave notice to be Recorded that he upon the 22d of this Jnstant took up a Stray maire of a darke bay Couller with fowre white specks of saddle gauls thre on the left side and one on the Right side and a white Speck, on the hinder part of the neere foote before neare the hoofe and marked with a fore Gad on her right Eare".

Horses were highly valued, for in early times they were the only means by which the settlers could travel about unless they went afoot. The finding of a horse was advertised much more extensively than the taking up of cattle. In 1652 there was found within the township a stray horse for which no owner appeared, and in addition to the usual form of recording the find and giving notice, the town clerk was ordered "to write unto Mr Adderton Mr Browne & Mr Winthrop touching a stray horse wch was taken up the 27 of the 3d moneth last that notice may be given to the Countrey about him that the true owners may have him restored."



SAUNDERS HOUSE, NEAR ASHAWAY,
Erected about 1740.

In the taking up of stray cattle due formalities were observed, and the entries read:

"October ye 21st 1719

"Then Edward Hawkings junr gave notis that he had taken vp three stray Cattle one brown Cow haueing no Eare marke and one two and vantage heffer of a Red Culler Earemarked with a slitt in Each side of the Left Eare and the top of the Right Eare Cutt of : the other a yeare and vantage hiffer of a brown Culler with a white face haueing no Eare marke".

"December ye 24th 1717

"This day Ensign Epenetus Olney Gave notis that he had taken up a stray steere of a yeare and vantage old being of a Red Culler and Eare marked with a crop of on the Left Eare".

"March ye 13th 1702-3 John Browne gave notice that there was a Stray beast com to his Cattle he hauing made much inquiry but cannot yet find any owner. The beast is a heifer of a yeare old and Vantage

of Colour a kind of a Browne marked on the left Eare with a Cropp, or a kind of a fork; some small matter of white under her body”.

The annoyance which these wandering cattle produced is shown by the notice which James Thornton filed with the town clerk regarding a horse which came unbidden within the bounds of his farm, for his troubles are set forth with much detail in the following writing, which by some curious combination of circumstances is found twice recorded on the old town record book :

“This writeing may Certifie all Persons that I James Thornton of ye Towne of Providence in ye Collony of Rhode Jsland &c: have taken up a certaine horse, a Smale one, of Colour Sorrill haveing a white face, the which horse jumpt over my fence into my Meaddow, Continually doeing of me damage amongst my Grass I severall times hunted him away, but Could not keepe him out, whereupon I was forced to take him up & to secure him, intending to have him Proclaimed & Enter him a Stray; But there being no Pound in the Towne was Constrained to secure him in my yard; But in ye meanwhile heareing of the owner of ye horse, that is said to be a man which went from our Towne to Block Jsland a Souildiar, his name I doe not know; I could not Proceed wth him as a stray, but as a Trespasser, And therfore must & shall Endeavour to secure sd horse for ye Space of one yeares time from the 7th day of this Jnstant July 1709: And if the owner of sd horse doe not come to looke after him before the End of ye said time & pay ye damage & my Charge & trouble about him, then when said time is Expired, I shall Repare to those in Authority & Request of them to dispose. concerning said horse in order as the law in such Causes Requires, that so I may have my damage & Cost paid out of Said horse & then the overpluss (if any be) may be to the Lord of ye ffee, as ye law directs: The aforesd horse was upon the 7th day of July 1709, by John Whipple & Thomas Angell apprized at Twenty & five shillings. They being both of sd Providence.”

Many laws were enacted for the protection of the cattle, for on these beasts depended much of the comfort of the household; milk, butter and cheese were most important products of the farm and without the cattle these were denied to the settlers. Cheese vats, called in the old inventories “Cheese ffats”, and churns were the property of nearly every householder.

It was to provide pasturage for their cattle that many of them established their homes so far from the compact part of the town.

With the lands which were purchased, assigned or laid out to the early settler there was nearly always included a “share of meadow” or “a piece of Meaddow”. These meadows are variously referred to: “Christopher Smith his ffirst share of meaddow is A Swampe”.¹ Another meadow belonging to Smith is described as “hauing a narrow

¹*Early Records of Providence*, vol. i, p. 55.

slang goeth from it". Epenetus Olney had a "meddow lying on the South Side of the River". William Field had shares of meadow lying upon Moshassuck River. In nearly every case the meadow is situated near a brook or river.

Few settlements were made in New England where the land was better watered than in Northern Rhode Island. Large rivers, like the Blackstone, Moshassuck, Woonasquatucket and Pawtuxet, flowed all around, while countless brooks and streams wound in and out between the lands through which the rivers found their way to the salt water. "The early settlers did not attach the same signification to the word meadow which now belongs to it in New England, where it means low, swampy land, without regard to the mowing. They called by the name meadow all grass land that was annually mown for hay, and especially that by the side of a river or brook, and the meaning of the word was the common one in England, whence they brought their language".

Some of these meadows were extensive tracts of land and became conspicuous geographical land marks. They had names given them by reason of their location and sometimes by virtue of their ownership. There was the Great Mattety meadow, Mashapauge meadow, Observation meadow, Great meadow, Many Holes meadow, Cranberry meadow, Wanskuck meadow, Mashantitut meadow, Reddock's meadow, Ways meadow, and Benedict's meadow. The meadow of Many Holes suggests a word now obsolete, but which finds many references among the land records; this is the word "hole". J. C. Atkinson in his "Glossary of the Cleveland Dialect"—a dialect spoken in a district of Northumberland, England—gives "Holl, a deep narrow depression in the surface of the land or place of no great longitudinal extent". Some of the places designated in the early records as holes can even now be identified, and show that such a name was given to deep places in brooks or very deep swampy sections, such as "Hawkins' Hole" in Johnston and Deep Hole on the Woonasquatucket; besides these there was the Devell's Hole and Dayle's Hole; but in Groton, Mass., its significance was apparently different, for in that town the record of Joseph Parker's land speaks of an acre lying "In a hole neare the Angle medow" and land containing two holes or three of swampy meadow, and Timothy Allen's grant mentions three acres at "Skull hole".

On the west side of the river, in Providence, nearly opposite to the home lot of William Hawkins and Christopher Unthank,¹ or where Wickenden street now appears, there was a point of land called by the name of Cowpen's Point, where, in 1657, John Crossman was accommodated with some land;² this geographical feature of the country has

¹Hopkins's *Home Lots of the Early Settlers*, map.

²*Early Records of Providence*, v. ii, p. 92.

long since been obliterated; the foot of South street, however, serves to designate to-day its location. This name was evidently derived from the use which was made of this tract of land. Cowpen's Point naturally was surrounded with water, except on one side, and could be approached only from one direction from the land. Protect this side and it was secure from the depredation of wild beasts and would be a comparatively safe place wherein the "kine, horses, goats, sheep and swine of the settlers could be assembled and cared for at night".

A night pasture was the public institution preceding nearly all others in the planting of a New England town. That of Boston was established in 1634 by the following order: "Item That there shall be a little house, built and a sufficiently payled yard to lodge the cattell in of nights att Pullen's poynt neeke". We find the name in Boston records as late as 1699 attaching to a field at Rumney Marsh. The "night Pasture" of Roxbury is frequently mentioned in deeds and other conveyances, while Concord, Groton, Salem, and other towns of early origin afford in their annals abundant proof that the custom was universally observed of driving the common herd afield daily during the season of forage, under the care of children and keepers. In Watertown this enclosure was called "Cowpen" or wolf pen.

In 1634 William Wood, in "New England Prospect", says "a few posts and rayles . . . keepes out the Wolves and Keepes in the Cattle".¹ That it was the custom of the early settlers of Providence to pursue such a course with their cattle is shown by the instrument called "Dexters Pluisster", endorsed by Thomas Clemence, wherein it states that "the Cattell Going so far in one day to feed as they might Come home at Night".

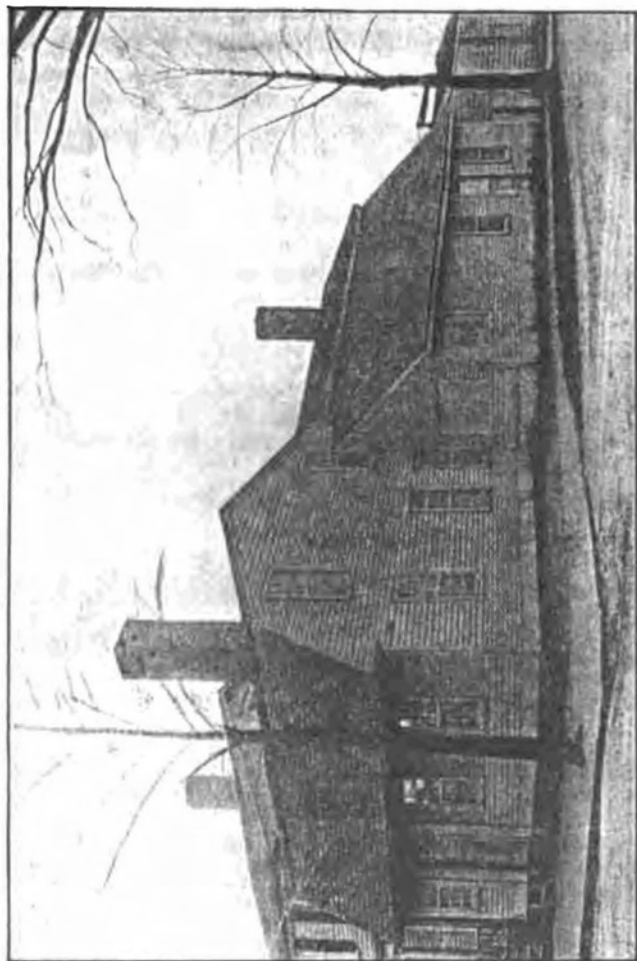
Cowpen's Point without doubt was the night pasture of the settlement, and quite likely had its "payled yard" for the better security of the little herds of the colonists. "Wolves were to the pioneers of New England the most troublesome of all wild beasts, being often too cunning to be trapped, too cowardly to come within reach of the gun and fearfully destructive in the midnight forays upon the unhousted flock".²

In 1659 it was ordered by the town of Providence, as an encouragement to the killing of these pests, that any one who kills wolves shall have "a halfe penny a head for each head of catel, they who kill the wolfe to gather it upp",³ and there are many entries upon the records where "the head of a wolfe" was brought in to the town clerk, and the fact duly certified. Sometimes these bloody trophies were brought in and "set up in a public place in the town". June 18, 1687, Nimrod, an Indian, brought in the heads of five young wolves, which he killed.

¹*Annals of Lancaster*, p. 21.

²*Ibid.*

³*Early Records of Providence*, v. ii. p. 122.



BURR'S TAVERN, WARREN, R. I.

One wolf catcher had carried his business to such an extent that he petitioned the town to have a part of the Common land set off to him as a reward for his services.¹

In the early part of the eighteenth century taverns or public houses of entertainment became quite common throughout New England. When the privilege was granted by the town to carry on such a public institution, there were certain regulations which governed their conduct. No unlawful games, such as "Carding, Dicing, Slide groat", etc., were to be permitted at the tavern. Carding and dicing are common enough in these days, but Slide groat was an old-fashioned game of chance which is even now sometimes indulged in, and is called by the name of "Shovel Board" or "Shuffle Board". In early days it was played by pushing or shaking pieces of metal or money to reach a certain mark designated on the board used in the play, and it is not difficult to see where the mischief of the game comes in. It was also stipulated that no "Evil Rule" should be maintained within the tavern which might have a bad influence on the persons who might there congregate. With an eye to the welfare of the younger element in the community, apprentices and boys were forbidden to frequent taverns or ale houses. Liquor was sold at the tavern as a matter of course, for our colonial fathers and mothers did not regard drinking as an evil habit. Tavern licenses, if we read the records regarding their grants correctly, were only issued to the "likeliest persons", and those who were fortunate enough to come within that class were expected to conduct their hostelries "to ye best of their skill & abilities".

✓ The first taverns or inns were almost entirely places of resort for drinking and its incidental sociability. Beside this they served to diffuse the news of the times. They were the common resort of the people. The main room of the tavern was the one inviting and attractive place. Here was the great fireplace, adding its cheer to the surroundings; while carelessly arranged on the sanded floor were a settle or two, a form, chairs, stools and chests.

"The chest contrived a double debt to pay
A bed by night, a chest of drawers by day".

In the corner, perhaps built into the wall, was the "bowfatt", as it was sometimes called, or a "cubbard" or press, where the liquors, the quart pots, the pint pots, the gill pots and other vessels were kept. There was also another indispensable article, which was as much a part of the barroom furnishings as the pots and bowls, and which usually hung by the fireplace. This was the "logger head", "hottle", "flip dog", or flip iron, or by whatever name it was called. This was used

¹*Providence Town Papers.*

when heated to give to certain mixtures a burnt, bitter flavor. Sometimes this became so worn from frequent heatings that it had to be turned over to the tender mercies of the village blacksmith before it could do the work which was expected of it. On the account book of Henry Bowen, who kept the old tavern at Barrington, R. I., for many years, there is the entry of the charge for repairing his flip iron and it reads, "For mending flip iron /8".

Over all this presided the landlord of the hostelry, who, next to the town clerk, was the most important personage in the town life. He was thoroughly informed on all public matters and generally on private matters as well. He was the confidant of those who gathered around his fireside, and he always held public office, for that was the



RUINS OF COLE'S TAVERN, WARREN.

A famous tavern of Warren, formerly standing at the corner of Main street and what is now Joyce street. This hostelry was established in 1766, and was destroyed by fire in March, 1893.

prerogative of the tavern keeper. In many of the old taverns the Town Council held its meetings. Notices of publishments of marriages, of auctions and stray cattle, and the Town's Acts and Orders were there posted.

It was the privilege of the magistrate to perform the marriage ceremony, always satisfying himself, however, before doing so, that the banns had been regularly posted on "some eminent tree" as the law required.

All these duties brought the tavern keeper into close communion with his fellow men and contributed largely to the influence which such persons always exercised in the community of which they were a part. Merry parties, too, congregated in these old inns, and around

the blazing fire sipped their flip, toddy and other seductive drinks of colonial days. There is an ancient rhyme which describes with great clearness a convivial party thus congregated. It gives us the banter and coarse jest of the tap-room and throws much light on the character of the conversation, when a congenial crowd met together for the purpose of paying their bets and gossiping about their neighbors. It is in these words:

"Landlord, to thy bar room skip,
 Make a foaming mug of flip—
 Make it of our country's staple,
 Rum, New England sugar maple,
 Beer that's brewed from hops & Pumpkins,
 Grateful to the thirsty Bumpkins.
 Hark! I hear the poker sizzle
 And o'er the mug of the Liquor drizzle,
 And against the earthen mug
 I hear the wood'n spoon's cheerful dub,
 I see thee landlord taste the flip;
 And fling thy cud from under lip,
 Then pour more rum the bottle stopping,
 Stir it again and says it's topping;
 Come, quickly bring the humming liquor,
 Richer than ale of British vicar,
 Better than Usquebaugh Hibernian
 Or than Flacus' famed Falernian,
 More potent, healthy, racy, frisky,
 Than Holland's gin or Georgia's whisky.
 Come, make a ring around the fire
 And hand the mug unto the squire;
 Here, Deacon, take the elbow chair,
 And Corporal Cuke, you sit there;
 You take the dye tub, you the churn,
 And I'll the double corner turn.
 See the fomenting liquor rise
 And burn their cheeks and close their eyes;
 See the sidling mug incline,
 Hear them curse their dull divine
 Who on Sunday dar'd to rail
 Against B——'s flip or Downer's ale.
 Quick, landlord, fly and bring another,
 And Deacon H. shall pay for 'tother;
 Ensign and I the third will share,
 Its due on swop for the pyeball mare".

Flip was an immensely popular drink in those days and so continued for many years, and even now cannot be said to be out of popular favor. There were many ways of preparing it. One of the most popular is said to have been of "home brewed beer", sweetened with sugar, molasses or dried pumpkin, and flavored with a liberal dash of rum, then stirred in a great mug or pitcher with a red hot hottle or flip dog, which made the liquor foam and gave it a burnt, bitter taste. Battered flip was sometimes called for, but this was the same concoction with the addition of beaten eggs or whipped cream.

Space does not permit any extended account of this peculiar New

England institution, the tavern. With the changes that have taken place it has ceased to exist as our grandfathers knew it, but its influence as an educational factor in the life of early New England will always remain.

Curious names were conferred upon the children in colonial days. Thomas Olney of Providence had a son Epenetus, a name from the Greek, and when transferred to the Latin form is written thus: E-pæn-e-tus, the accent being on the second syllable; it means "praiseworthy". This, like many other names bestowed in early times, was taken from the Bible. Of course there were the usual number of persons bearing the names of John, James, Abigail, Patience, Henry, Robert, William, Elizabeth, Margaret, Sara, and many others. As well as the more common names taken from Holy Writ, like Gideon, Daniel, Ephraim, Simon and Zachariah; Mary, Susanna, Rebecca, Esther and Ruth, but in addition to these there were names which it would seem were brought forth after long and persistent search to find something strange, unique or uncommon, and the result was colonial parents inflicted names upon their offspring which must have almost retarded their growth. Philip, Hope and Experience were given as names to both boys and girls. Alexander Balcom had a son named Freegift; Thomas Estance and Estance Thomas, supposed to be father and son, were joint partners in the purchase of a parcel of land from Stephen Paine in 1674; Robert Burdick of Newport and Westerly had a daughter Tacy; Thomas Butts of Little Compton had a son Idido; Hannah George of New Shoreham married Tourmet Rose; Teddeman Hull was a physician of Jamestown, R. I. The wife of John Saunders of Westerly was named Silence, and the records preserve the same silence as to her surname.

Some of the names have a certain appropriateness, for Endcome Sanford died young, so the record says. While his brother Restcome died *unmarried*. It is seldom that such uncommon names are combined in one family as in that of John Tyler of Portsmouth, for his children were Lazarus, Miriam, Tamar, Question and Friendship.

William Harris, with whom Roger Williams had lifelong controversies, had a son named Tolleration, and a daughter Howlong. Horod or Horrid Long, of Newport, was a woman of many names, and the history of her life is as horrid as the name she bore.

The most wonderful name and one which was the least likely to have been selected from all the names appearing in the Bible was that of Mahershalalhashbaz, and there were, previous to 1680, two persons in the Colony bearing this name, one a daughter of Samuel Gorton of Warwick, whose peculiarities brought upon him no end of troubles, while the other was a son of Mary Dyer, she who was hung for the

crime of being a Quaker, on the grounds now comprising the beautiful Public Garden and Common in Boston.

No law seems to have been more persistently disregarded in the early years of the Colony than the law for recording births, marriages and deaths. The importance of these records, so carefully and minutely kept in Old England, early engaged the attention of the authorities in the settlements in New England. In Providence as early as 1655 it had been ordered by the town that "all persons joining in marriage, all parents of children new borne and all executor () or next friends to persons dying shall Record in ye Towne () names and times of their maring of their children new Borne & the Burreill of their friends paying 3s. to ye Town Clerk for their record & this under ye Penalltie of paying 5s. for each neglect".

Neither the fee for complying nor the penalty for neglecting seems to have influenced the majority.

Marriages were more often recorded than other vital records. In colonial days this ceremony was performed by the magistrates, and this form, used to give notice of the fact, is found in the following paper yet preserved:

"Providence October the 24th 1705

"These are to Declare to all persons that there is an intention of marrig betwen Benjamin Westcot of providence and Bethiah Garner of Kings Towne that if any person hath just Cause to Shew to the Contorairi they may be under Shew there Reasons or ales Euer after hold there peuce".

Sometimes the magistrates would attend to properly recording these events upon the books of the town, but more often they would make a record upon a book kept for the purpose or upon sheets of paper; several of these are among the Providence Town Papers and many such marriages have never appeared upon the public records.

Justice Thomas Fenner during the year 1711 made use of a little almanac in which he notes these "unions of families and fortunes". It is a curious little book, three and one-half inches wide by six inches in length, containing eight leaves.

This old almanac was doubtless kept carefully in one of his chests, for it does not appear that he was the owner of a desk, and from time to time as a marriage was performed by him it was duly recorded on the margins of the pages in the book; from it we learn that

"Samuel Bats and Mary Corpes married
Janerary the 23 1710 or 11
Sammel Relef junor and Joane Spicer
was joyned in marriage March the 15 1711
On the 27th of June Experience Mitchel
was married

Mr Jonathan Sprague and Hannah Cook
joyned Jn marriage on the 3 of August 1711
John Corp and patiance Gorton was
married on the 18th of October 1711".

Another marginal note states that "the 2d munday Jn Nouember
Js to be a Councill day".

There were some peculiar marriage customs and ceremonies in
colonial Rhode Island, as may be inferred from the following ab-
stracts:

"In the town of Newport in the Colony of Rhode Island and on
the 13th of September 1714, John Gavett of the town and county
above said did meet with Sarah Stephenson widow, in the street within



JAHLEEL BRENTON HOUSE, NEWPORT. ERECTED IN 1720.

the town abovesaid stark naked save only her shift and they being
lawfully published the said John Gavett did accept in marriage the
above said Sarah Stephenson stark naked save only her shift without
housing or lands or any personal state whatever, and in said street
I did join together in marriage the above said John Gavett and Sarah
Stephenson on the day and year above said as witness my hand and
seal hereto affixed. Nath'l Sheffield Assistant."

A similar case is recorded in the records of the town of Warwick,
wherein appears the following entry:

"These are to signify unto all ministers of justice that Henry Strait
Jun of East Greenwich in ye colony of R. I. & Prov. Plantations took
Mary Webb of ye town of Warwick in ye colony a fousd. widow in

only a shift and no other Garment in ye presns of Avis Gordon May Collins and Presilar Crandall and was Lawfully Married in sd Warwick ye first of August 1725 by me Recorded ye 5th of Nov 1725 Pr John Wickes T. C."

In South Kingstown this same curious custom prevailed, and it is there recorded that "Thomas Cullenwell was joyned in Marriage to Abigaile his wife the 22d day of February 1719-20. He took her in Marriage after she had gone four times across the Highway in only her shift and hair lace and no other clothing. Joyned together, in marriage per me George Hassard Just".

In these days of the elaborate and expensive wedding trousseaux it is difficult to fully comprehend how simple and inexpensive was the wedding outfit of the colonial dames.

But this custom was not a common one; so far as the records show no such ceremony was performed north of the town of Warwick; isolated cases are, however, recorded in Newport, Warwick, South Kingstown and Richmond. It is related that these weddings occurred at "midnight", "between daylight and dark", and usually on the highway or where "four roads" met, and after crossing the road four times; what this had to do with the proper performance of the ceremony cannot be easily determined, but the reason for the scanty outfit, even in September and February, is perhaps better understood. It probably arose from an erroneous popular reasoning on the English Statute concerning marriage, the words of which are thus: "The husband is liable to the wife's debts contracted before marriage, whether he had any portion with her or not, and this the law presumes reasonable, because by the marriage the husband acquires an absolute interest in her personal estate", and thus they reasoned that as the wife brought nothing to the husband, he could not be held liable for any lurking indebtedness which might have survived the late departed.

The advantages which were offered to the early settlers in Rhode Island for maritime pursuits were soon recognized by the colonists. As early as 1652 a little trading vessel, called the Providence of Pequit, was plying between Providence and perhaps other colonial ports and Newfoundland.

One of the dangers of the seas in those days, it seems, was "leakage", not such, however, as would be occasioned by imperfect cooperage or evaporation, for when the vessel finally arrived in Providence a considerable shrinkage in the return cargo of liquors was noticeable; this, combined with a dispute regarding the freight charges, brought about a suit at law which involved all of the crew of the vessel and parties to the venture; in fact, became of such consequence that a special act was passed by the town, providing a legal

process for William Almy to prosecute his suit in behalf of his son Christopher, who was a minor.

A similar case was that of the *Friendship*, a vessel which arrived in Boston during the summer of 1631. A portion of her cargo was said to consist of two hogsheads of metheglin and was consigned to parties in Plymouth. When this vessel arrived at Boston this liquor was transferred into wooden flaglets and the ship proceeded to Plymouth. Upon reaching there and the liquors being turned over to the consignees, to their great surprise there only remained six gallons of the two hogsheads originally shipped, it having been "drunk up under the name leakage and so lost". The responsibility for this great shrinkage was finally determined and the metheglin loving parties were duly brought to justice.

Few records are found that give a satisfactory story of the vessels which were tied up at the wharves or lay on the stocks along the water side of Narragansett Bay.

In 1681 Joseph Wells, living on the Pawcatuck River, built for Alexander P'ygau, Samuel Rogers and Daniel Stanton a schooner called *Alexander and Martha*; the specifications for her construction say "the length to be 40 and one foot by the keel from the after part of the post to the breaking afore at the garboard, 12 feet rake forward under her load mark and at least 16 feet wide upon the midship beam, to have 11 flat timbers and 9 foot floor and the swoop at the cuttock 9 foot and by the transom 12 foot, the main deck to have a fall by the main mast, with a cabin and also a cook room with a forecastle."

For this vessel the builder was to receive an ownership in one-eighth and "£165-£16 in silver money; the rest in merchantable goods".

The owners, however, were to furnish the nails, spikes, bolts and other iron work.

This vessel, built almost within Rhode Island territory, when completed sailed from New London; she was considered a large keel in her day and was probably a good type of the greater part of the ships of that period.

The vessels at this time were schooners, brigs, sloops, pinnaces and snows; the latter being a vessel which would now be called a brig. It was the largest two-masted vessel of this period and was distinguished from the brig by having a square main sail below her main topsail; a fore and aft sail being also carried upon a small spar fitted to and just abaft the main mast.

In the original brigs this fore and aft sail was set upon the main mast itself, and was the main sail; in the snow it became the spanker.¹

In those early days the masters of vessels had little to aid them in

¹*Life aboard a British privateer in the time of Queen Anne*, Leslie, London, 1889, p. 18.

ascertaining their whereabouts on the trackless ocean, and they were mostly dependent on dead reckonings for their longitude.

Such instruments as were at hand were crude and unreliable. Chronometers were unheard of, and time aboard English frigates was reckoned by the "glass", and three glasses was an hour and a half.

The charts of the time were imperfect and the instruments for observation that were used in the time of Columbus were at this period still found aboard vessels sailing in Narragansett Bay.

In 1716 Capt. John Dexter, of Providence, while on a voyage, doubtless from the West Indies, for his cargo was molasses and sugar, was stricken with small-pox and his ship put into Saybrook, Connecticut, where he died. The inventory of his estate gives a good idea of what instruments and appliances were used by the "ancient mariner".

The values of these old inventories in studying the history of colonial times cannot be overestimated, for they give to us details of personal belongings in those days which can be derived from no other source.

Among Captain Dexter's effects were a Quadrant, Gunter's scale, a Nocturnal, the "vaines of a fore staff", "The English Pilatt", a pair of dividers and "2 Prosspect Glasses", and this collection was a most complete set of instruments for use in navigation.

The quadrant was undoubtedly the instrument designed by John Davis, the celebrated navigator, and which was used from the year 1594 down to 1731, when Capt. John Hadley laid before the Royal Geographical Society the quadrant which has since borne his name.

The "vaines of a fore staff" refer to a more interesting instrument, for the forestaff was used as far back as the time of Columbus. The instrument itself was called the cross-staff or forestaff, and was simply a four-sided straight staff of hard wood, about three feet long, having four cross pieces of different lengths made to slide upon it, as the cross piece does upon a shoemaker's rule. The cross pieces or vanes "were called respectively the ten, thirty, sixty and ninety cross, and were placed singly upon the staff, according to the altitude of the sun or star at time of observation; the angle measured being shown by a scale of degrees and minutes intersected by a cross piece on that side the staff to which it (the cross) belonged".¹

The Nocturnal was used in latitudes north of the line, it giving the hour of the night "by observing with it the hands of the great star clocks, Ursa Major and Minor, as they turned about the Pole Star".

The dividers and Gunter's scale were used in the calculation after the observations had been made.

There are many books on Navigation, like the English Pilot, Seaman's Secrets, Seaman's Practices and Practical Navigation; besides,

¹*Life aboard a British privateer in the time of Queen Anne*, London, 1889.

there were almanacs containing much that was essential to the mariner; these were mostly printed in London, and were found aboard all vessels bound on long voyages.

The demand for various kinds of sailing craft for the coasting trade and deep sea voyages brought to the Colony the industry of ship building, which thrived in the Colony for more than a hundred years, and the sound of the broad-axe, the tap of the caulking hammer and the sharp ring of the anvil went up from the shore lands along the bay.

Rhode Island built up her wealth from the sea, her vessels sailed to every port in the world; Warren, Bristol, Newport, Greenwich and Updikes Newton, now and long called Wickford, were all great shipping centers, and the riches of the Indies found their way into the Colony's ports.

So numerous were the crafts in all the great foreign ports from Rhode Island, and so great was her reputation as a maritime colony, that it is said "from a period long preceding the war of the Revolution the term 'Rhode Islander' had come to be synonymous with a born sailor".

The fisheries drew large numbers of vessels and loans were made by the Colony to promote them; many a whaler sailed from these ports for the leviathan of the deep, and there may be found to-day in many of the old homesteads in these towns, arranged on the mantel or adjusted in a corner, relics of these long sea voyages.

At the Providence town meeting held on the 25th of March, 1687, there appeared a young Scotchman, who humbly presented his petition in which he "desired of ye towne to Reside amongst them & here to follow his way of dealing in goods". This man was Gideon Crawford from Lanark in Scotland. He was thirty-six years of age, having been born December 26, 1651: and was said to be of noble birth. The privilege which he asked of the town was granted, and this Scotch merchant and trader actively participated in the commercial ventures which soon followed his coming.

The next month after his petition to the town for the privilege of "dealing in goods" had been granted, he married Freelove Fenner, the daughter of Capt. Arthur Fenner. His son, John Crawford, continued the great sea trade which his father had established. His vessels, the Dolphin, Sarah, and the Indian King, made successful voyages and their cargoes brought to the people of Rhode Island articles of household use, utensils and fabrics, which before had only been obtained from the shops in Newport and Boston.

A new era was marked in the domestic circle. China ware and many other articles which had been hitherto unknown now began to be found in the houses of the more fortunate.

Fabrics of various kinds came gladly welcomed by the colonial

dames: Holland muslin, calico, Bangall tape, "cambric kenting", cherry derry, silk stockings, edging laces, silk fereting, combs, gloves, swanskin, alamode remaul silk, romaul "moheaire", cantaloons, crape, calaminco, checks, druggets, camblet, baize, broadcloth, poplin, silk crape and shalloons. Many of these have long since passed from memory and from the dry goods lists.

Mrs. Earle, in her admirable treatise on "Costumes of Colonial Times", resurrected from the files of old newspapers and family letters much valuable information relative to this subject. "Cherri-dary", she says, was an Indian cotton stuff much like gingham, used for gowns, "wastcotes", and aprons.

Fereting or ferret was a narrow ribbon or tape used for binding. Swanskin, Fairholt says, was a thick fleecy hosiery. "But from early days we read in American newspapers of runaways in Swanakin jackets and also of Ellwide Swan skin for Ironing cloth, which would seem to point to its being a cheap fleecy cloth like Canton flannel".

Alamode was a "plain soft glossy silk much like lustering or our modern surah silk but more loosely woven".

Persian silk or Persian was a thin silk, chiefly used for cloak and hood linings or for summer wear; while romaul was an East India silk.

Some of the other fabrics found among the list of goods which were a part of the stock in Crawford's store are not found described in this book, nor can information regarding them be obtained.

Others are of such common knowledge that the mere mention of the names serve as a description, like crepe, poplin, broadcloth, etc. As time advanced many of these fabrics were produced in the various mills which sprang up on nearly every stream with the growth of the factory system.

The custom in early times to name the trade or calling of a person whenever his name was mentioned in deeds or other instruments leaves no doubt as to what sort of labor would be furnished by John Smith mason, Henry Fowler blacksmith, and Henry Neale carpenter.

All of the colonists had more or less rudimentary knowledge of the use of the tools belonging to the trades most in demand; the carpenters, the masons and the blacksmith, and had such tools in their possession. By a custom of exchange growing out of the necessity each one of the colonists had a well-nigh complete set of such implements at his command as was necessary for ordinary use.

The skilled carpenter was the craftsman most in demand. It was he who was to contribute to their domestic comfort; he had learned his trade in old England or perhaps in Holland, and under his guiding hand and watchful eye the hardy colonists soon became earnest apprentices.

The earliest carpenter of whom there is positive evidence by a curious coincidence was William Carpenter. He came from Amesbury, Wiltshire, England, and was one of the early comers to the Rhode Island Colony. He was conspicuous in its affairs and held many important trusts. None of the deeds which he executed or those conveying property to him, and they are many, for he was a large land owner, make any reference to his trade or profession. There is, however, a petition in the handwriting of Howlong Fenner, who was the daughter of William Harris, addressed to the "Honoured Cort Sitting at New Port on Rhod Ile land the fourth day of May 1708". It is a narrative of the troublesome and vexatious Pawtuxet controversy which well-nigh upset the whole Colony. In it she says:

"I am Prest in my Spirit to lay before your Considerations the many Strang and Strong undermining Trancactions acted & done by those men Called Pavtuxet men. I haue Seuerall times heard my honoured father giue a Relation of the settlement of the plantation of the Town of Providence I heard my father say that himself with the other twelue agreeded among themselves to lay out to euery man a Share of meddow and then to cast a Lorts and so they that set to my father by lot did and they that see cause to set theire houses by their meddows and my father did settel by his meddow Old mr William Arnold laid out my fathers meddow Old mr William Carpenter built the house for my father by my fathers meddow and my father settled down by his meddow."

This old stained manuscript, which has been hidden for years among other old papers, gives us the name of one of the early builders.

There can be no doubt of the person, for there was only one Old Mr. William Carpenter. But there is other evidence to confirm the statement that he was a carpenter, and that is the inventory of his estate. Besides his wearing apparel there was little else than carpenter's tools; they were "two old axes narrow ones one old broad axe one cross cut saw two tenant sawes three Clevises & two pinns one sledge & one Iron Crow tenn augurs greater & smaler two broad Chizells & two narrow ones. Three plain irons & one wenscutt plough. Two gouges two drawing knives & old burr one spoke shave & one Gennett and one adds".

William Carpenter came from Amesbury in Old England, where he had left some possessions. In December, 1671, he gave to his sister, Fridgsweet Vincent, as a free gift, "my dwelling house with what land belongeth to me adjoining to the said house the which said house is standing in the town of Amesbury in Wiltshire and in a street commonly called by the name of Frog Lane . . . the which said house did in the original belong to my father Richard Carpenter now deceased". Perhaps the house which he built for Harris "down by

his meddow" may have contained features which were inspired by the recollection of the old home in Frog Lane.

Another of the early carpenters was John Clauson, a Dutchman and a contemporary of the Amesbury craftsman.

The inventory of Clauson's estate, which is the earliest inventory to be found in Providence, shows that he was the owner of a great variety of carpenter's tools. In fact, it is a more complete collection than is found among the possessions of the later and more prosperous townsmen. These he must have acquired during his residence in the town, for Williams says he found him naked and starving in the woods, which would preclude his being surrounded with a great quantity of personal belongings.

There was a froe, an iron bench hook, hammer, inch and a half auger, inch auger, narrow axe, "hallowing plane", clearing plane, moulding plane, a forr joynter, a forr plane, a hand plane, a Broad chisell, a Sloape poynted chizell, a gouge for Carpenters works, a peareing chizell, a little hammer, a Three square ffile, 2 cold punches, 3 Brest wimble bittes the biggest The midlemost The least Bitt "and a whettstone".

This is the most interesting collection of woodworking tools and is the earliest that there is evidence of in the Colony; although this inventory is not dated, we know from the fact that Clauson's death occurred in 1660 that this schedule was prepared about this time.

Sons usually followed the calling of their father and they began their apprenticeship at an early age. Benjamin Waterman, whose grandfather added the stone end to the old Waterman homestead, erected before 1690 and which is now standing on the "Poor farm road" in Johnston, is said by his granddaughter, to whom he told the story of the changes that have been made in the old house, that his grandfather was just old enough to "tend mason" when the stone end was added to it, doubtless a mere boy. In the family of John Smith the mason, called thus to distinguish him from the numerous John Smiths in the Colony, three generations were masons, while the grandson had also the trade of joiner. James Babcock of Westerly, the ancestor of the family of Rhode Island, was a blacksmith, and so also were two of his sons. Pardon Tillinghast combined the vocations of shop keeper and cooper, and his son John was a cooper. This division of occupations was quite common, sometimes that of shoemaker and physician were combined, and then again stationer, minister and printer; such was Gregory Dexter. The Rodmans were physicians, father, two sons and two grandsons. Alexander Balcom, of Portsmouth and Providence, and his son Alexander were both masons. Benjamin Church of Little Compton, that old Indian fighter and chronieler, was a carpenter and so was his son Thomas. Stephen Harding of Providence, his two sons and a grandson were blacksmiths.

Peter Busecot of Warwick was a blacksmith, and a deposition of his taken before Thomas Olney the "11th 7th mo. '49" gives an idea of the antiquity of the individual who perambulates the city streets and sonorously shouts "Umbrellas to mend! Old tin washboilers to mend!" in other words, the tinker. It also shows that the scions from Mr. Blackstone's orchard had been brought to the point of bearing "faer fruit" early in the days of the settlement, for Peter Busecot being "Engaged saith that that man wch is commonly called the Cooper an tinker cam vnto him in Warwick to learne som of his skill to Boare holes in a pot wch he saith the Cooper said he bought at prouidence and paid 5s for it, but vpon discoverie he being unwilling to shew him his skill for nothing the Tinker said that if he would shew him he would give him 20 apples".



BENJAMIN WATERMAN'S HOUSE.

Between Hughesdale and Hartford Pike, Johnston, erected about 1690.

The examples of early hand forging are marvels of the ancient blacksmiths' skill. A door latch from one of the original doors to the Epenetus Olney homestead in possession of the author will testify to a degree of skill which the blacksmith of modern days with all the improved tools and appliances would find difficulty in imitating. Epenetus Olney's brother, John Olney, was a blacksmith, and this may be an example of his skill. The blacksmith in those days did not have his material conveniently shaped to be wrought into the object desired, but it was in all shapes and conditions, and it is even said that the trade of blacksmith combined both mining and smithing.

Eleazer Whipple was a housewright and built the south end of the Whipple homestead at Louisquisset. His work and that of William

Carpenter is the only work of the very earliest craftsmen that we are able to definitely identify, and there is ample testimony to vouch for this.

The mason work of the early craftsmen is, even after a lapse of years with the exposure of weather and disintegration of material, superior in many respects to the work of the mason of to-day.

The walls of the old cellar to the Fenner castle, the huge stone chimney to the Epenetus Olney house, the curiously panelled chimneys on the Manton homestead, the Smith house, Eleazer Arnold house, and the Phillips house in old Narragansett, all show a skill in selecting, cutting and placing stone that modern builders may well copy.

The panelled chimneys, five of which now remain almost in their original condition, are a peculiar type and nearly alike. There is some reason to believe that the influence of John Smith the mason is shown in these relics.



RUINS OF OTHNIEL GORTON
TAVERN.

West of Oaklawn, Cranston,
erected between 1710-20.

Children were "bound out" at a very early age, if one can judge by the length of time they were to serve by the indenture of apprenticeship.

Samuel Cose, a minor, was bound out to Edward Merron, to learn the art, trade or mystery of a cooper, for the space of "Eighteen years eight months and two days".

Others were to learn the "art of a cord-wainer", the "mystery of a Distiller", "mystery or art of a crosswork cooper", of "ship wright", "house carpenter", "blacksmith", and "husbandman"; while females were to learn the art, trade or mystery of "spinster" and "housewife".

Many of these ancient "Indentures of Apprenticeship", with their serrated edges or indentures, are yet preserved. They were written in duplicate, then separated by irregularly cutting the paper, so that the two pieces exactly fitted when matched together; from this feature they received their name.

Their conditions were as rigid as the Mosaic law. Apprentices were required to serve their master or his executors or administrators from the day of the date of the indenture until the minor "shall attaine and Com to the full age of twenty one years; dureing all which term the said Apprentis his said master faithfully shall serue his secrets Keepe his Lawfull Commands Euey where obey; he shall do no Damage to his said master he shall not wast his said masters Goods nor Lend them vnlawfully to any att Cards Dice or

any unlawfull Game he shall not P'lay where by the said master may haue damage in his own Goods or others he shall not Cummit fornication nor Contract Matrimony with in the said term; he shall not absent himself day nor night from his sd masters seruis without his Leauē, Nor haunt aile house or Tauerns: But in all things behaue himself as a faithful apprentis ought to do dureing all the said term''. And the master would promise and "Jngage for himself and his Executors and administrators to Learn and Jnstruct said Apprentis Jn the trade mistry or art of a Joyner in the best manner that I Can within the said term; and also Instruct him in the trade of a House Carpenter as I haue oppertunity: and not put him to any other seruis dureing the sd term without his Conccnt; and also Learn or Cause him to be Learned or taught to Reade English and wright and Cypher so far as to keepe a Booke: and to find and Prouide for him sufficient meate Drink apparril Lodging and washing befitting an apprentis dureing all the said term: And when the said term Js Exspired to sett him ffree: with as Good apparrill in all Respects fit for his body throughout as he now is in at his first Entrring into his seruis''.

These latter conditions sometimes varied in the different indentures, and the master was to instruct him "in Reading and Writing and Arithmetick so far as the rule of three", "to work the rule of division", "to learn him to read a chapter in the bible if he shall be capable of learning", or "to teach him so far as to keep a book".

While many of these apprentices were children of poor parents and even town charges, yet children of well-to-do parents were thus "bound out". In 1716 William Potter was bound an apprentice to Daniel Cook. A list of the clothing which he brought with him to his new master shows that he was well and comfortably supplied; besides this it gives a most perfect description of the wearing apparel of a boy in early colonial times:

"First that which was new; a Loose bodyed Coate a streight bodyed Coate and Jacket all Casy and faced with soloone: a wosted Coate and two wosted jackets all Lined the Coate and one of the jackets Lined with solloone a paire of drudget Briches Lined: a washed Paire of Leathor Briches a Caster hat three shirts two home spun ones and one fine one three paire of stokins one paire of them wosted three neck Clothes two of them silk and a paire of shoes and a paire of washed Leather Gloues: next his wareing apparril now worn but whole: A hatt Coate briches stokins and shoocs. Memorandum that Cloathing which was Casy was home spun."

Soon after the settlement of the northern portion of the Colony the townsmen had discovered the great ledges of lime rocks that lay within the boundary of their purchase. This was a most necessary article for their use and contributed much to their comfort, without

which they were under the necessity of preparing lime from the shell along the shore.

William Hawkins in 1648 was granted liberty by the town to burn lime on his own lot during the pleasure of the town, and so far as the records show the privilege yet remains.

In 1661 one Hackelton was granted liberty to burn lime upon the common and to take stone and wood for this purpose. Four years later it was ordered by the town that those "Lime Rocks about Hackletons lime Killne shall be petually Common and that no land shall be laide out on the north East & south East of the saide Kilne within 6 poles nor upon the other sides, or pertes of the saide Kilne within 60 poles. This said Kilne being att or neere a place Called Scoakeganocsett", probably the locality now called Socanosset.

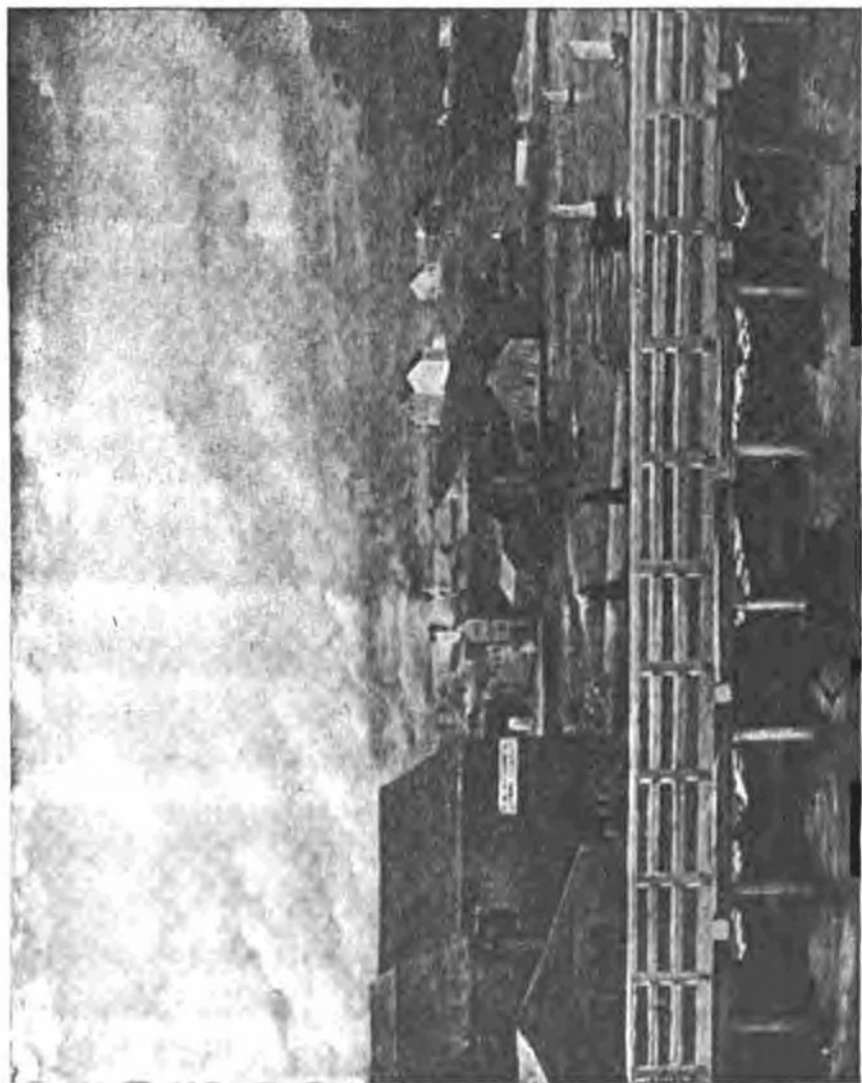
Lime rocks wherever located, "of any considerable quantety according to the judgement of the Surveiors", were by order of the town in 1665 to remain common or to be considered as common land.

In 1656 William White of Boston, a bricklayer, was in Providence, and by order of the town was to be accommodated with a house lot; two years later a share of meadow was granted to him. In 1662 he sold his possession in Providence to Benjamin Herenden, and it is stated in the deed that he was then of "Boston in New England". He doubtless found little opportunity to follow his trade in the Providence Plantations, for brick making at that period had not been conducted to any extent, if at all; but in Boston for more than twenty years before this time brick making had been carried on by several persons. In 1636 Thomas Mount was granted a piece of marsh "for the making of brick in", and in 1644 Jasper Rawlins was granted liberty to make bricks "at the Eastern end of Sergeant Hues, his corne field neere Roxsbury gate".

But it was not until 1698 that bricks are found mentioned in Providence.

Thomas Roberts, John Whipple, sr., and Resolved Waterman were all carpenters. They were the men employed by Thomas Harris, sen., and Valentine Whitman, the committee appointed in 1664 by the town of Providence to see about "mending the Bridge att Wayboysett", about where is now located the Great Bridge. The brief contract and specifications for doing this work provides that:

"they shall mend vp that pt of the bridge that is downe in this manner following they are to make Timber worke in the forme of a square, diamond fashion which shall serve in the steed of those two Tressells that are downe, and shall rare it vp in the riuer to make up the Bridge and lay sufficient Gice ouer the said diamond vnto the other Tressells next it on both sides and to planke wth plankes vntill it be sufficiently planked and if there be not old plankes enough then to find plankes to finish it and to mend all the defects of the rest of



VIEW OF FEDERAL HILL FROM CANAL STREET, NEAR MARKET SQUARE.
TAKEN IN 1839. FROM AN OLD PAINTING BY GEORGE W. HARRIS, IN THE POSSESSION OF THE RHODE
ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

the planks that are faultye, and also to procure posts and rails and raile vp the Bridge where the defects are, and also to set vp new posts where they are wanting at the end of the Bridge as well at the onne end as the other, and their Timber is to be carted by the Towne to the end of the said Bridge."¹

Such were the specifications for building one of the greatest pieces of engineering which the early townsmen were called upon to provide, and is the earliest contract for a public work found among the town records. The spot where this original bridge at Weybosset was located can only be conjectured. It was probably not far from where the Great Bridge is now located; here was a strong current, both by reason of the force from the two rivers, the Mooshausick and Woonasquatucket, increased from time to time by the rush of the spring tides and freshets. Although the water was not deep even at full tide, the great rush of water and ice in the springtime kept this bridge constantly under repair and sometimes carried it away completely.

The builders, having completed their work, were to be paid for their services thus rendered, "ffourteene Pounds Ten shillings" "to be paid vnto them equally". But real money was scarce, and so the committee in their contract provided that they should receive their compensation in "wheat at fiue shillings p bushell pease at foure shillings p Bushell and Indian Corne at Three shillings p Bushell and what peage is paid is to be at sixteene p penney white and eight a penney Black".

Thomas Roberts, like John Clauson, came to the town sick and destitute, being wounded during the Pequot war. He was taken into the home of Roger Williams and tenderly nursed and cared for by Mrs. Williams during his sickness. He belonged in Massachusetts and after his recovery took up his residence in the town and married a daughter of William Harris. He died in Newport in 1676, to which place he had fled for safety during Indian hostilities.

John Whipple had formerly lived in Dorchester; he was an apprentice to Israel Stoughton, who built the town mill at that place, and doubtless learned his trade in Dorchester, where he resided for more than twenty years.

The cost to the early settlers for the services of the skilled carpenters and other craftsmen is difficult to obtain, nor is it strange that so little information on the subject is at hand. Such expenses were no part of the town's affairs, and it is only by accident that references to such matters appear among the musty town records. From old memorandum books and other private writings now and then some facts may be found bearing on this subject, but such books and papers are difficult to obtain.

It has been possible, however, to ascertain some information of these

¹*Early Records of the town of Providence*, vol. xv, p 109.

expenses, for among the Providence Town Papers are found brief memoranda, without name or date, relative to the cost of a "leanto". These old papers are in the handwriting of John Whipple, one of the earliest carpenters in the town, and this fact shows that they must have been written previous to 1685. The first is for the construction of the "leanto" itself, and is as follows:

"To makeing of ye leaneto and worke aboute it	06-00-00
To makeing of ye Seller Roufe & Shinglin it	01-05-00"

The second is for work on the interior of the structure and is:

"To makeing of a doore and Shelves in ye Leantoo	0-8-6"
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For whom this work was done there is nothing to show.

The working tools of the early craftsmen were of a much greater variety than might be expected.

Nearly every one of the colonists had in their possession the instrument or tool called the "fro" or "froe". It was used in making staves, shingles and clapboards. It is now more generally classed as a cooper's tool. But the use made of it in those early days was for the purposes mentioned. By placing its keen edge upon the end of a section of a log and striking upon the back of the blade it cut with the grain such widths and lengths as their necessities required.

John Whipple, senr., in 1685 had "a Rye bitt" and an iron square, besides a great number of the usual carpenter's tools.

Benjamin Beers in 1714 had a lathing hammer, which shows that the period of daubed walls had passed and that the interiors of the houses were lathed and naturally plastered, for there was no end of material for plaster, both from the lime rocks and from shell, quantities of which were at the command of the people, and laths, in 1729, cost £4 10s. for "four thousand & a halfe". He also had a pair of compasses, nippers, and "spike gimblett".

Isaac Bull in 1716 had six foot of glass, not likely in length, but in several pieces, and a set of cordwainer's tools; the word cordwainer and cordwiner are both used indiscriminately, but whichever way it is spelled the signification was the trade of shoemaker.

Obadiah Brown in the same year had a joynter stock, "square & Compassis", and a froe.

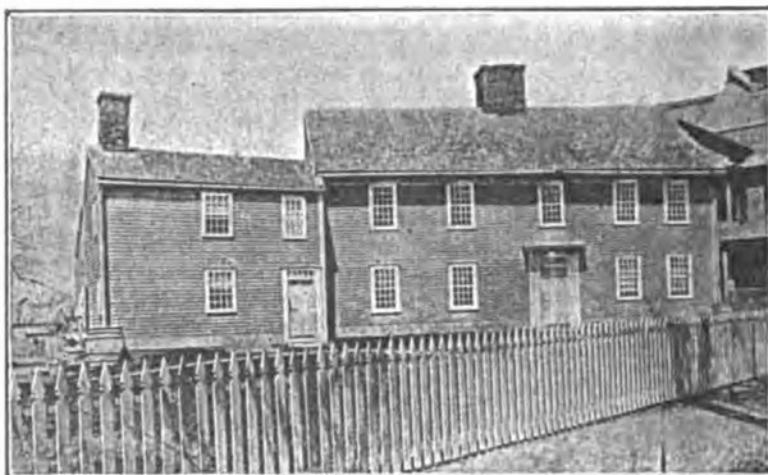
Epenetus Olney in 1698 had a great variety of carpenter's tools—a saw, small joynter, a carving toll, small froe, iron square, axe, clearing plane, whetting steel, wimble stock and bits, a "Soding iron", pair of compasses, and a "brass roule for a chalk line".

Arthur Fenner in 1703 had a joynt rule, "a trowell", a froe, "cedar clapboards & shingles". Benjamin Whipple in 1704 had a froe.

William Harris, at his death in 1681, had the largest assortment of instruments and tools of any of his contemporaries. Besides carpenter's, blacksmith's, cooper's and shoemaker's tools, he had surveying instruments, brass compasses, "2 sights for surveyor's work belonging to an index", a brass table, a brass pen, "2 other brass instruments". It would seem as though he had at one time, if not at this date, a lathe for wood turning, for there were two turning chisels, and "screw hook for a lath", among his effects.

William Carpenter, one of the earliest builders, had when he died in 1685, among other tools, "one wenscutt plough", "Ten augers greater & smaller", "three clevises & two pinns", "one shave & one Gennett".

Among the articles mentioned in the inventories of this early period



THE OLD ARK, WARREN.

This house formerly stood on Main street. Its site is now occupied by St. Mary's Institute. The ancient boundary line between Warren and Bristol ran through the front door of this house. It was demolished in 1894.

may be found listed other tools, and from these ancient writings most of our information relative to them must be obtained. Years of use finally wore them out and they have disappeared like those who once used them, and it is seldom that there can be found examples of the working tools of the early craftsmen.

Some idea of the kind of houses which were occupied by the substantial yeoman of the middle of the eighteenth century may be derived from the following agreement, made in 1743 by Jeremiah Field with Israel Young. This house was to be built on the Scituate farm, which Jeremiah Field had received from his father in 1743, and

in 1746 had contracted with Israel Young to build him a house on this land. The old contract, a portion of which is now preserved, will convey a very good idea of the homes of the well-to-do farmers at that period; it was as follows:

“Ye said Jsrael Young Doth hereby agree for himself &c to Procure or Cause to be Procured at his own Cost and Charge a Good and sufficient Quantity of Timber for a Dwelling house for ye said Jeremiah field of one story high and of ye following Dimensions (Viz) Jn Length Twenty one foot and in wedth twenty four feet and Eight foot and half stud the Great Room to be fourteen foot one way and fifteen feet ye other way the bed Room to be Nine foot one way and fourteen feet ye other ye Roof of said house to rise Eleven foot from the beam and ye said timber so by him to be Procured to be framed



AN ANCIENT RHODE ISLAND FARM HOUSE, NORTH KINGSTOWN.

Erected and set up by ye said Jsrael Young at his own Cost and Charge upon a Part or Place of a Certain Tract of Land situate in ye township of Situate &c and said frame when Erected to Jn Close with good and sufficient bords and to Clapboard and find ye Clapbords and Nails for ye same to say to Clapbord ye front and East End with good white Pine Clapbords and ye West End and back side with good Red oak Clapbords and to shingle and find ye shingles and Nails with good white Pine shingles and also to find (s) tuff and make four good Plain Doors and hang them to be made of good yellow Pine and one door for ye selar &”. Such were the houses of those who were classed as substantial yeomen along in the middle of the eighteenth century.

The floors of the dwelling house of the early settlers in Rhode Island were sanded; carpets in those days were not floor coverings, they were for a more dignified purpose and reposed on tables or chests. The action of the sand on the hard wood floors, with its constant grinding by many feet and frequent sweepings by the proverbially neat colonial housewife, soon made the floors smooth, a result which the early builders failed to produce.

There was little furniture to be found in the early colonial homes in Rhode Island. It was not until some time after the development of the carrying trade by Gideon Crawford that the townsmen began to add such to their domestic comforts.

OLD LANDMARKS.

CAPT. STEPHEN OLNEY HOMESTEAD.

On the highland overlooking what in early days and even now is called Wanskuck, on the road in North Providence which is the continuation of Admiral street, stands the house where Capt. Stephen Olney, one of Rhode Island's heroes of the Revolution, lived and died. The appearance of the house is somewhat changed now from that in the illustration, for it has undergone some renovation in the past few months.

Captain Olney died within this house on the 23d of November, 1832, at the age of seventy-six years, and was buried within the little graveyard on the homestead farm where his fathers sleep. A substantial stone is reared over his grave on which is inscribed his honorable record.

Stephen Olney was born in the town of North Providence, in the old homestead that formerly stood near the site of the house in which he died, on September 17, 1756.

He was a descendant in the fifth generation of Thomas Olney, an associate of Roger Williams. A year or so before the war of the Revolution, when the North Providence Rangers was organized in that town, he enlisted as a private, but in May, 1775, upon the organization of the three regiments for the defence of the Colony, he was selected as ensign in Capt. John Angell's company of the second regiment. From that time on to the surrender of Cornwallis, Stephen Olney was in active service. At the battle of Yorktown his company led the assault on one of the British redoubts; in this action he was badly wounded, and his military career ended and he retired to private life. His townsmen, however, would not permit him to remain in obscurity, and they manifested their confidence and esteem by electing him to the State Legislature and to the office of president of the Town Council. When Lafayette visited the United States in 1824, a play entitled "The Siege of Yorktown" was performed in New York in

honor of the nation's guest, and in this Captain Olney was made to appear as a prominent character, and when the gallant Frenchman was triumphantly escorted through the streets of Providence, upon alighting at the State House he was met on the steps by Captain Olney, whom he instantly recognized, and with all the warmth of the French feeling folded him in his arms and kissed him on each cheek, a scene that is well remembered to-day by Mrs. Rachel Peck, widow of Horace M. Peck, who is doubtless the last survivor of that merry party of young women who strewed flowers in the path of the distinguished Lafayette at the time he made this visit to Providence.



HOME OF CAPT. STEPHEN OLNEY, NORTH PROVIDENCE.

Captain Olney was severely wounded while leading the storming party at the Battle of Yorktown.

THE FIELD HOMESTEAD.

Pungansett was the ancient Indian name for that neck of land now known as Field's Point. It was a famous gathering place for the red men before the English came here to settle. Underneath the turf, along by the water side, shells of the oyster, clam and muscle have been found in great quantities, and even now on the sand blows these broken bits remain to recall the former feasts and powwows of the ancient heathen. Here also have been found numbers of Indian stone implements, arrow-heads, axes, gouges, and other curiously fashioned articles for the red men's use.

Not many years ago there was turned up by the plough a stone mask with hideous carvings upon it; and an iron spur and sword of peculiar size and shape, covered with the rust of many years. The former is of Indian origin and is a rare specimen of Indian stone work; the

latter relics are of more uncertain origin; perhaps they may have belonged to some adventurer or trader who sailed into the Narragansett Bay long before a settlement here was thought of, and then again they may have belonged to one of the early settlers in the plantation, for they are a type far different from those used at the time of the Revolution.

Here was the home of Thomas Field and his descendants. This old house was a conspicuous landmark for many years. During the years it has stood on the Field's Point highlands it has been located in three different jurisdictions: Providence, Pawtuxet, Cranston, and finally in Providence again, as the lines marking the boundaries have been changed about.

The location of this farm, in the early days of the Colony, was a



RUINS OF THE THOMAS FIELD HOUSE AT FIELD'S POINT.

Erected 1694, demolished 1896.

most desirable one. It was not many years after the settlement that the townsmen began to build their homes near their meadows, for within the little tract along which ran the Town street there was little opportunity for cattle to graze. It was this, undoubtedly, that led Field to acquire this property. The very earliest reference to the territory calls it "old cleare ground"; there were few such tracts near the settlement, but here at Pungansett were ample meadow lands covering many acres, while on the shores of this highland farm were marshes and thatch beds.

There is an instrument preserved among the Field papers in the

Rhode Island Historical Society which shows that Thomas Field, jr., was living in the house in 1712; this is the earliest date found on the records showing that a dwelling house was there located. But the house itself indicates a much earlier construction, the diminutive size of the old part, the stone chimney, the arrangement of the frame and the chamfers on the beams all show a much earlier period of workmanship and style. This would give reasonable grounds for assuming that the house was built for Thomas Field at the time he was married, and this was about 1694 or 1695.

Thomas Field lived to be eighty-two years of age and died July 17, 1752. Several years before his death his son, Jeremiah Field, entered into an agreement to "find and provide for . . . Thomas Field and Abigail his wife sufficient . . . house Roome in his the said Jeremiah's now dwelling house or in some other suitable place and also to keep for the said Thomas one horse and one cow and also to find Provide and Furnish for the said Thomas and Abigail good sufficient and Suitable Provision and Drink of all sorts . . . both in Health and Sickness . . . also good decent and Convenient apparel of all sorts . . . also good fire wood Sufficient to maintain one fire . . . and suitable attendance both in Health and Sickness for and during the full term of the Natural Life of the said Thomas Field".

Jeremiah Field lived with his father at the homestead until November, 1752, when he and his brother Nathaniel exchanged the farms which they had received from their father.

Within a few years the old "sheep run" under the road, through which the cattle passed from one side of the farm to the other, could be seen, but when Eddy street was rebuilt this old landmark was obliterated.

Early in the Revolution, Field's Point was fortified. Its position was such that it was of great consequence to the protection of the town from any attack by water.

During the stay of the French officers in Rhode Island the Field homestead is said to have been the scene of many brilliant assemblies, in which Lafayette and other French officers and the social element of the town took part. As one views this old ruin, it is hard to realize that within its walls such social assemblies have met and such distinguished characters once merrily danced upon its floors.

Beyond the house a little to the eastward was the family graveyard; four granite bounds serve to-day to identify this spot. Here were buried the generations of the Fields of Pungansett. When the property passed into other hands, the remains there buried were removed to the North Burial ground and inclosed in a lot with granite curbing, on which in plain but elegant letters is inscribed the "Fields of Field's Point".

THE ELEAZER ARNOLD TAVERN.

The old homestead of Justice Eleazer Arnold stands on the road which skirts the Moshassuck River, formerly called the "road leading to Mendon"; and a little more than half a mile southerly from the historic Butterfly factory in the town of Lincoln. Eleazer Arnold was the son of Thomas Arnold, who came to America in the ship Plain Joan in May, 1635, and settled in Watertown in the Massachusetts Colony, where doubtless Eleazer Arnold was born. He appears to have been located at this house on October 2, 1708, for by a deed signed on that day he gave to Thomas Smith and six others certain land, as the old deed recites, "scituate in the Township of Providence near his dwelling house on the north side of the highway that leads from the town of Mendon to said Providence, containing about one-half of an acre and being that Piece or percell of land on which stands a certain Meeting house of the people called Quakers". This "meeting house" is yet standing on the land conveyed in 1708 and is "near his dwelling house", being distant only a few hundred feet. Eleazer Arnold married Eleanor Smith, the daughter of John Smith, jr., the mason, and ten children were born to them. On the 14th of August, 1710, the Town Council granted Eleazer Arnold a license to keep a public house, and the formal record of this privilege is thus quaintly expressed:

"Whereas the Lawes do Provide that no Person Jnhabiting on our Collony shall keepe any Publick house of Entertainement for strangers, Travilers or others, nor Retale Strong drinke, vnless they have a licence from the Councill of ye Respective Towne whereunto they do belong; And Whereas you Justice Eliezer Arnold Jnhabitant of this Towne of Providence, in ye Colloney of Rhode Jsland & Providence Plantations in New England haveing desired of ye Towne Councill of sd Providence that they Would Grant unto you a licencc in order to that Purpose, whereby you might be in a Capacitye to keepe a house of that Order, & for that imploy: The Towne Councill of said Providence being mett, & haveing Considered your Request, and to ye end that strangers, Travilers & other Persons may be accomodated with suteable Entertainement at all times as Ocation Requires do by these presents Grant un to you ye abovesd Justice Eliezer Arnold licence & libertye to keepe a Publick house of Entertainement in sd Providence Towneshipp at your dwelling, for the Entertaineing of Strangers, Travilers & other Persons, both horse & foote, Carters, Drovers, &c: at all times for & duiring the full & just Terme of one yeares Time forward from ye day of the date of these presents: And that at all times duiring the said Terme of time you do (within your Prescinks) well & truely Observe, do & keepe good Orders according as ye lawes do Require Persons Who are licenced to keepe such houses to do & Performe.

"Dated August ye 14th: 1710."

The highway beside which the tavern was located led to Mendon in Massachusetts and thence to the neighboring towns in the Bay Colony. It was the only travelled road through that section, and no doubt a good share of the patronage of those who travelled along its winding course fell to the lot of Esquire Arnold.

One of the names which has designated this old house for generations is "The Stone Chimney House", and not only the chimney but the whole northerly end is constructed of stone. There is a tradition which suggests good reasons for this. At the time it was built the clearing in which it was located extended to the eastward, southward and westward, while to the northwestward, north and northeastward the primeval forest, as yet unmarked by the woodman's axe, almost



ELEAZER ARNOLD TAVERN NEAR QUINSNICKET, LINCOLN.

Erected 1637.

touched its walls. It was to protect this exposed side of the house from fire arrows, which lurking Indians might direct against it, that it was built in such a fire-proof manner, and this seems to be corroborated in a measure by the fact that the roof was originally covered with shingles laid in mortar. These shingles being thus laid, lasted for more than a hundred years ere they were replaced.

There is also a tradition that the house was once used for a garrison, and a heavy oaken ladder is pointed out as being used to mount to a lookout on the roof to scan the neighborhood for hostile Indians. This story, although interesting in connection with the history of the

old place, has probably no foundation; for it is a fact that the relations between Eleazer Arnold and the red men were most friendly and cordial, while the necessity for garrison houses had passed long before Eleazer Arnold was laid away in the ground.

Unlike many of the houses of the early settlers, this had four rooms on the lower floor, the living room, kitchen and two other rooms, doubtless sleeping rooms. This was more pretentious than others of this period, for few of them had more than one great room, which occupied the whole ground space of the house. The second floor had two rooms, chambers they were called, and one of these contained a fireplace.

The great room or living room was large and commodious with great fireplace. Extending lengthways along the ceiling and protruding through it was the great "summer" beam, making a convenient place on which to hang the guns, and even to-day in some of the old south county houses the farmer's gun may still be found occupying a similar resting place. Over the fireplace there was a great eye-bolt firmly fixed in the masonry, to which a block and tackle could be attached to haul the great logs to the fire. Mantel-pieces were no part of the interior furnishings of the early colonial houses. Whatever was arranged about the walls was hung on long hooks made of natural branches, fitted according to the ingenuity of the owner.

In the old chimney stack there may yet be seen the scar made when the stone Dutch oven was closed up after long years of service, suggesting memories of the good things to eat which were there cooked in the days gone by.

When this home was built a primitive wilderness surrounded it on either side. Although it was in the town, it was many miles to the little cluster of houses that formed the Providence settlement. Few habitations for white men were located in the neighborhood. Across the river was the dwelling house and lands which Eleazer Arnold had settled his "beloved son Eleazer Arnold down upon"; but the Indians were the nearest neighbors. In the clefts of the rocks at Quinsnicket Hill tradition tells us were the natural walls for the red man's winter home, and Quinsnicket in the Indian tongue is said to mean "stone-huts". Here on the southerly side of the hill, sheltered from the winter's northerly blasts and open to the winter's sunshine, may yet be seen openings in the rocks with perpendicular walls. Over these the Indians spread poles and covered them with bark and thatch, and thus furnished comfortable homes during the cold winter months. But the Indians were not compelled to huddle in these smoky, rocky clefts. Eleazer Arnold was a friend to the red man and permitted them to enjoy the cheer and comfort of his home, and within the tavern when he died was "an old bed the Indians used to lie on".

The estate has descended from generation to generation and the

old house has been called successively the Eleazer Arnold house, the Martin Arnold house and the Sabra Arnold house, accordingly as the property has been owned. By the latter name it is perhaps better known to-day than by any other.

THE BULL HOUSE.

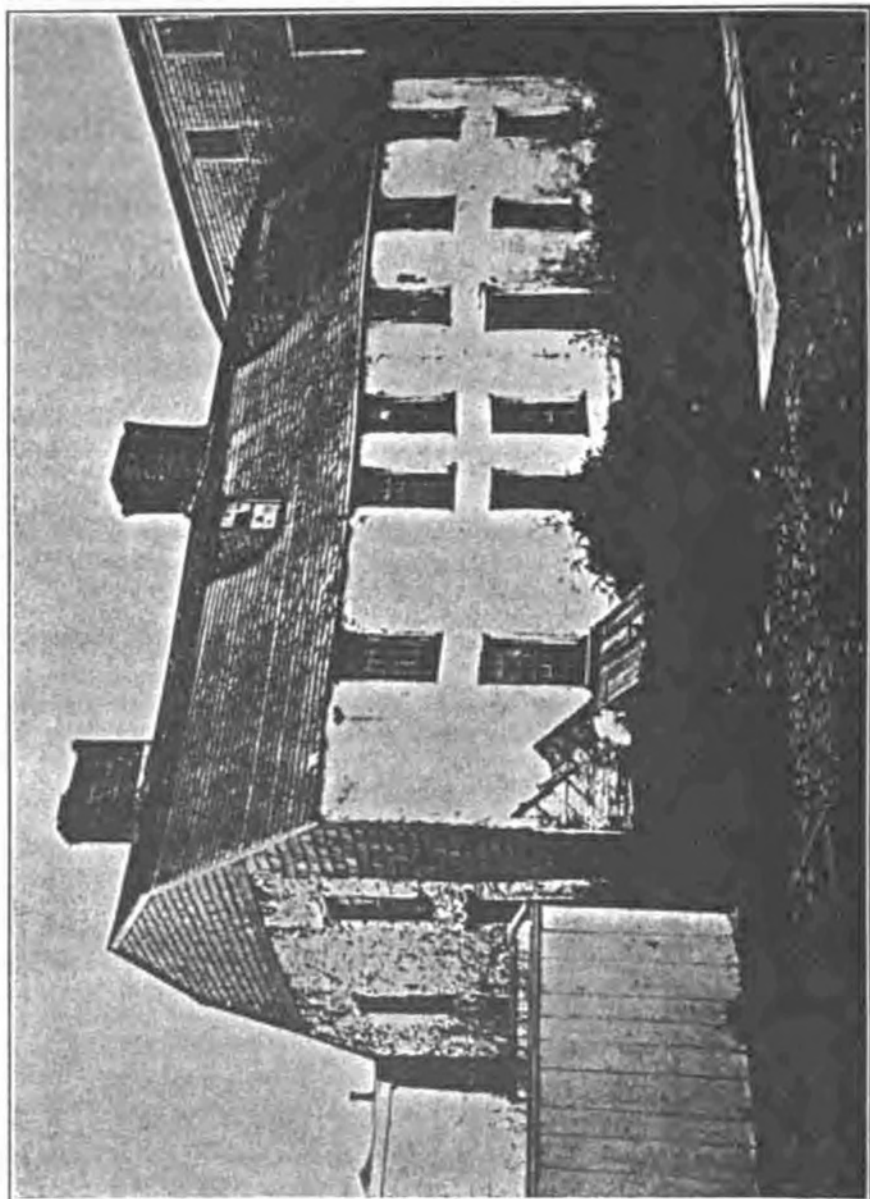
The Bull House is one of the historic houses of Newport. It is situated on the easterly side of Spring street, a little in the rear and fronting a short street running northerly and westerly to Broad street, which street was formerly called "Bulls gap"; the house, although changed somewhat by alterations which have from time to time been made, yet preserves enough of its ancient appearance to mark it as a venerable relic of the early days of Newport.

Henry Bull, its first owner, was one of the early comers to Portsmouth. At the time of the settlement at Providence Henry Bull and his wife were at Roxbury, but two years later, on account of his connection with Mr. Wheelwright and Mrs. Hutchinson, was ordered to depart from the Bay Colony and came to Portsmouth and with eighteen others joined in a compact of settlement of that town. He was one of the earliest military officers of the Colony being corporal of the Train Band which was organized at the settlement.

In January, 1639, he was elected town sergeant; the duties of this officer at this time included the keeping of the prison, and at the time of his appointment the town passed a vote that the prison, then in course of building, "should be finished and that it should be set near or joined unto the house of Henry Bull". Although there is no definite knowledge of the locality of this first prison at Newport, it is possible that it was located near this house, if not forming a part of it, for Henry Bull occupied the position of keeper of the prison for several years.

During his career he was one of the active men in the town of Newport and held various offices of importance and trust. He was three times married, but his children, of whom there were three, one son and two daughters, were the children of his first wife.

Jireh Bull, his son, took up his abode in Kingstown on the mainland and built a substantial house on Tower Hill, which was used as a garrison house during King Philip's war. During this disturbance, however, it was attacked by the Indians and all but two of its inmates killed and the house destroyed. Henry Bull lived to a very old age, and his death occurred in January, 1694. The Society of Friends, of which he was a member, has inscribed upon its records these words: "Henry Bull, aged about eighty four years; he departed this life at his own house in Newport (he being the last man of the first settlers of this Rhode Island), ye 22d 11mo. 1693-4".



THE HOME OF HENRY BULL.

LOCATED ON SPRING STREET, NEWPORT. ERECTED 1889-90. FROM A PHOTOGRAPH MADE IN 1880 BEFORE

This old house is the only link now remaining between the beginning of the Newport settlement and the present. All the other houses of the early settlers have been destroyed, and the people of Newport should see that this ancient structure, within which the last of the first settlers of this city lived and died, is forever preserved.

THE ARTHUR FENNER HOMESTEAD.

Out on the meadow land near the Pocasset River in Johnston, almost under the shadows of the boulder-capped hill of Neutaconconitt, there may yet be seen the ruins of the cellar and rotting pieces of the wood work of the home of Arthur Fenner, sometimes called the "Captain of Providence."

Babbling and sparkling down through the meadows and only a few feet from where this historic house once stood, the brook called Ocquoockomaug winds in and out until it joins the waters of the Pocasset.

'Tis a picturesque locality and in the summer time, when all nature is clad in its green vesture, with the towering Neutaconconitt on one hand, the irregularly rising and falling meadow lands on the other, and the great stretch of green fields before, no more quiet and peaceful spot could be wished for.

Here on the grassy knoll stood for generations the home of one of the most prominent and picturesque characters in Rhode Island colonial life.

It was only a few years ago that the old stone chimney, elaborately adorned with mouldings and pilasters, pointed to the sky, while not far distant a great white mulberry tree, its trunk full four feet in diameter, cast its shadows over the structure; but now all are gone; the scattered fragments are all that is left to remind one of the old Fenner Castle, a name which in late years was given to the old mansion.

The ancient driftway, down which it was necessary to turn from the road leading to Plainfield in order to reach the house, passes the Larkin farm, situated on higher ground, and from this farmyard you may look down upon the tract which was once the homestead lands of Arthur Fenner, and where he lived and died.

Arthur Fenner is said to have come from a family of distinction in Old England. Tradition also affirms that he was a lieutenant in Cromwell's army, and there seems to be some reason to believe that this tradition is well founded, for his military qualifications early caused him to be chosen captain of the militia or Train Band.

Captain Fenner first appears in Providence "the 27 of the 2d month 1654"; from this time until his death he was constantly in the service of his fellow-men.



HOME OF CAPT. ARTHUR FENNER, CRANSTON, R. I.
ERECTED ABOUT 1655; DEMOLISHED IN 1896

Arthur Fenner married Mehitabel Waterman, a daughter of Richard Waterman, who came to Providence from Salem in 1638; six children were the fruit of this union.

The military career of Captain Fenner in the Providence settlement commenced in 1654, when it was "Ordered that Lieutenant Thomas Harris, Thomas Hopkins, Corporall, James Ashton, Corporall, and John Sayles Clerke of the band, John Browne & Arthur Fenner are hereby authorized to order the matter of taking the fines from absent souldiers wch are listed in the Clerks Book"; but it was not until 1665 that he began to be called captain; from this time on for more than thirty years he was the leader in the rude military organization of the times.

It was a custom of many of the early settlers to have a dwelling house in the town proper and besides this a "house in the woods". This house in the woods was for the purpose of shelter during the season of planting and harvest, for their planting lands and meadow lands were mostly located in the outlying districts; they were also used during the hunting season, and in some of the settlements they were called hunting houses.

In the town of Scituate there is to-day a brook which derives its name, "Hunting house brook", from the fact that such a retreat was built upon its bank for the convenience of sportsmen from Providence while hunting deer in that wild unsettled region in the eighteenth century. These lodges were rudely furnished, containing only such articles as were necessary for cooking and sleeping purposes.

Resolved Waterman's house "in ye woods", in 1670, was valued when he died at £10, just the same amount that was placed upon his "fifty acres of land & a share of meadow in the new division", but he was a carpenter and a skillful builder, and doubtless had prepared a substantial house for his purposes.

William Harris called his a cabin, and the only furnishings appearing connected therewith was "1 feather bed", "1 small Rugg & a piece of a blankett belonging to ye Cabbin bedd".

Perhaps the Fenner homestead was originally a house in the woods, for the elaborate work on the mammoth chimney stack was a later addition to the original, and the great fireplace in the lower room was built against a very small one. The timbers with which the old house was framed were heavy and massive, some of them more than twelve inches square and all of native oak. When the old structure finally fell apart from decay and the action of the elements, one of these hidden timbers showed plainly where fire had once charred its edges; this had suggested that perhaps not all of the house was destroyed by the Indians, but enough remained to be used in rebuilding. The window panes were diamond shaped and very small; parts of these

and two of the old hinges used on one of the doors may be seen among the collection of the Rhode Island Historical Society.

By his second wife, Howlong Harris, daughter of William Harris, he had no children, but there is reason to believe that she made an affectionate mother in his household.

On the 27th of August, 1703, Arthur Fenner, while "very sick", made his will.

He was a long sufferer, his illness continuing from June until October, when, on the 10th of the month, he died and his long and useful life ended. He was then eighty-one years of age. His will disposed of his large estate among his wife and all his children.

Upon the death of Arthur Fenner the house became the home of his son Arthur, the other son, Major Thomas Fenner, having already been provided with a home only a short distance away.

Arthur Fenner the younger lived and brought up his family at the old homestead. He married Mary Smith, and died April 24, 1725.

Curious stories are told of many of the later generations who occupied this old homestead; of Daniel Fenner, the conjurer; of Samuel Fenner, who was lame and made pounders for use in the laundry barrels on wash days and other useful articles, and who disliked to wear boots or other covering for his feet; of Benjamin Fenner, who in early youth resolved never to use the words "yes" or "no", and who is said to have accomplished this heroic undertaking; and last of all, Polly Fenner, who delighted her hearers with the stories and tradition interwoven with the mouldering old mansion and who boasted of having been honored by a kiss from the noble Lafayette.

Polly Fenner was the last of the line to occupy this ancient homestead, and upon her death in 1861 it ceased to be occupied as a dwelling; gradually from lack of care the winter storms and summer suns wrought sad havoc with the old structure and it began to tumble apart. It afforded shelter for the beasts of the field and the fowls of the air, however, for it was many years before it became useless as a shelter, testifying to the good work of its early builders.

THE ELEAZER WHIPPLE HOUSE.

When Eleazer Whipple gave to his son James the homestead which he had occupied for many years, he stated in the deed of conveyance that the "land lieth on both sides the highway from Providence towards Wensoket and is bounded on the North west with an Elme tree which is now fell down and gone".

Vague and indefinite were the boundaries in those early times; they were perfectly understood then, no doubt, but it would involve much search to find now the location of the "Sharpe peece of land lying

neere the place where Rich Watermans Great Cannoo was made", "the white oake tree marked which is now turned up by the roots and is down", the land "lying on ye top of a hill between three hills". They are as indefinite now as though reference was made to a red cow standing in a brook.

From other evidence we know where the elm tree, "now fell down and gone", was located, for the homestead lands of Eleazer Whipple were in the Louisquissit country and near the Lime Rocks. Here his mansion house is yet standing on the road to Woonsocket, at the top of a gently rising hill overlooking the Moshassuck valley.

Eleazer Whipple, who built this house, was the son of John Whipple, who came to Providence from Dorchester, Mass., and was received by the proprietors of Providence as a purchaser, July 27, 1679. He was born in Dorchester in 1646, and married, January 26, 1669, Alice Angell, the daughter of Thomas Angell, who came to Providence when a mere lad with Roger Williams and was one of his associates at the planting of the little settlement around the spring where the Moshassuck emptied into the salt water. He was by trade a housewright.

Although his name is not included in the list of those twenty-seven men who stayed in the town during King Philip's war, it was no fault of his, for he had seen service and was wounded many months before the others were called upon to make any sacrifice; but he shared in the spoils of war and received his part of the proceeds from the sale of the Indians that were captured. Like his companions in arms, Capt. Andrew Edmonds, who was granted a tract of land near the water side at Narrow Passage for "ye building of a house and ye keeping of a fferry", Whipple received from his fellow townsmen the reward for his "services done in ye warr time."

Four years after the war he addressed this letter to the "town mett":

"I desire ye Towne to take Some Care speedyly that I may have ye mony that I stand obliged to pay for my Diett when I lay under Cure being wounded by ye Indians in ye late troublesome warr my necessitte Calleth for it, being often called upon for ye same, Saying they have great need of ye same.

"Yor ffriend Eleazur Whipple".

Those were times of plain and homely speech; there was no long preamble and pleadings, the simple statement of few unembellished words telling their wants and asking for favors.

It is hoped that he was able to liquidate the claims that were charged up against him, although there is no reply to this request found on the records of the time, but in the records of the Colony it appears that his claims were recognized, for it was "Voted, That upon the

petition of Eliezer Whipple, the General Assembly doe allow unto the said Whipple the sum of tenn pounds in or as money to be paid unto him or his order, out of the General Treasury."

After the war was at an end Whipple returned to his lands in Loquasquussuck, where lay the ashes of his former home and rebuilt his house.

On August 25, 1719, Eleazer Whipple died, being then seventy-three years of age. A life of hardships and sufferings was ended, and he was laid away in the grave down in his meadow in front of his house.

The Whipple house was built between the years 1676 and 1684, for in that year he purchased of his brother Samuel five acres of land, lying northwesterly from Providence town and a "little to the northward of ye said Eleazer Whipple his dwelling house"; the bounds of this tract show that it was in the Loquasquussuck country. The house



ELEAZER WHIPPLE HOUSE NEAR LIME ROCK, LINCOLN.
Afterwards known as the Mowry tavern, erected 1677.

may be safely stated to date from this latter year, and there is a continuous line of references to it in deeds and other conveyances to the present day. It was a grand old mansion house in those times, and there is even now a stately dignity to it that cannot but attract the attention of those who reverence and respect these old relics of former days.

Like most of these ancient habitations, changes have been made from the original structure, but the great stone chimney stack, extending nearly the whole width of the house, built of solid and well constructed masonry, still remains to evidence its antiquity; perhaps a portion of this may have survived the fiery ordeal that the first house built upon this site went through.

The doorway and hall is in the middle of the house, with a great

room on either side; the south corner is the older part, this being built by Whipple himself. Here in the center of the ceiling the great "summer" may be seen, showing to those of to-day how well our forefathers builded.

Five years before he died Eleazer Whipple gave to his son, James Whipple, "for good consideration me Thereunto moving But more especially for the natural love and affection I have and do beare unto my son James Whipple All that parcel of land which I had of my father John Whipple both upland and meadow being at Loquassussett", also other land, and "my mansion house which I now dwell in standing on the above said land with orchards gardens edifices and buildings excepting only that my wife Alice Whipple shall have the privilege of that part of my dwelling house which I built which is the southern part during the term of her natural life". This grant was made with certain conditions of payments to his other children.

Upon the death of Eleazer Whipple it became the homestead of James Whipple and here he lived during his lifetime.

In 1731 the new town of Smithfield was incorporated. This territory included the lands on which the Whipple homestead was located.

After the death of James Whipple his heirs sold the property to Jeremiah Mowry, and in the conveyance the property is described as being the "Homestead farm of James Whipple of Smithfield deceased, lying on both sides of the highway which leadeth from Providence town to the place called Wansocket . . . and on Loasquiset brook".

There was also included in the deed this memorandum: "Before signing this deed the grantor reserves to himself the old Burying place containing four Roods square with liberty to pass and repass at any time".

Across the road in the meadow opposite to the house is this old burying-place. It is surrounded with tall evergreens, a distinguishing mark for country graveyards, and enclosed with a substantial fence. Here, amid creeping vines and brambles, are the graves of Eleazer Whipple and his wife, both of whom attained to a ripe old age, he being seventy-three years old at his death, while his wife was ninety-four. Here also is buried their son, James Whipple, whose children were the last of the name of Whipple to own the ancestral estate. With this transfer of the farm the property passed out of the Whipple family and was purchased by Jeremiah Mowry, whose family had intermarried with the Whipples. It yet remains in the Mowry family and many of them are buried in this ancient graveyard opposite the house.

In 1825, when the eastern part of the house was built, for the house stands with the road nearly east and west, it became a tavern, and

doubtless became an attractive place in the days of the lumbering, clattering stage coach. The curiously contrived little table, whereon were displayed the articles of refreshment for the thirsty travellers, may yet be seen in a corner of one of the lower rooms.

The whole region hereabouts is a picturesque and interesting country; only a few rods distant are the white cliffs of the lime pits and beyond this an undulating country of hills and vales.

The view from the Whipple house is a commanding one. Below to the eastward the Blackstone River like a thread of silver winds its way through green meadow land and gently rising hills, while the spires of churches and the chimneys of many mills rise above the tree-tops. But in the days when these men built their homes and sought to provide for their families, it was one vast wilderness of primeval forests and hills.

Descendants of many of the original settlers yet live on the original homestead farms about the neighborhood. But all is changed; the shrieking locomotive and the tolling factory bell all give unmistakable evidence of the change that has come over the Louisquisset country.

THE CHRISTOPHER GREENE BIRTHPLACE.

The old town of Warwick abounds in historic houses and localities. It was the scene of many interesting events in colonial history, and its people were influential and active in the affairs of the State. It would be a long list to include all of the men claiming Warwick as their home who won honor and fame during the years when the war of the Revolution was fought.

Not far from Cole's station on the railroad which winds down through old Warwick is the house where Col. Christopher Greene was born. It is now owned by Edward A. Cole and is one of the ancient houses of Rhode Island, having been built, it is stated, while the ashes of many of the homes of the colonists were yet smouldering from the fiery ordeal of King Philip's War.

Col. Christopher Greene was the son of Philip Greene, an associate judge of the Supreme Court of Rhode Island. He was one of the incorporators of the Kentish Guards, that military organization which furnished so many brilliant officers for the Continental line. In 1775 he was a lieutenant in that body and his rise in rank was rapid and merited. The services of Colonel Greene were of the highest character; his bravery at Red Bank won for him the approbation of Congress, which voted him a sword for his gallant defense of the fort. He did not live, however, to receive it, for in May, 1781, he, with Major Flagg, another Rhode Island officer, were cruelly murdered by a party of the enemy consisting of two hundred and sixty cavalry, who forded the Croton River at Points Bridge, where Greene was quartered, surprised his camp and killed him.

The circumstances attending his death were of the most horrible character, his body being shockingly mutilated. The Cole place is designated as being his birthplace. His home was at the village of Centerville, just north of the Bridge. Many years ago this house was destroyed by fire, and with it much material that would have shed additional light on the early life of this distinguished officer. The sword with which Congress honored him is now the property of his grandson.

THE GREENE HOMESTEAD.

On Potowomot Neck in the town of Warwick may yet be seen the home of Gen. Nathanael Greene. Here he was born and here his



BIRTHPLACE OF GEN. NATHANAEL GREENE, POTOWOMUT, R. I.

boyhood days were passed. A short time before the outbreak of the Revolution he removed from the homestead beside the Potowomot River and settled in Coventry, where he operated with his brother a forge, "carrying on an extensive business in forging anchors", for in those days vessels from Rhode Island were found in all of the ports of the world. His forge is said to have been located at the spot where the railroad bridge at Quidnick now stands.

The services of Gen. Greene are too well known to be here repeated. When the Kentish Guards marched from East Providence in response

to the Lexington alarm, Nathanael Greene was a private soldier; that was in April, 1775. "I viewed the company", says John Howland in his recollections, "as they marched up the street in Providence and observed Nathanael Greene with his musket on his shoulder in the ranks as a private. I distinguished Mr. Greene, whom I had frequently seen, by the motion of his shoulders in the march, as one of his legs was shorter than the other", and this private soldier, carrying a musket in the ranks, a month later was a brigadier-general. Next to Washington he was the greatest military commander that the Revolution produced. A few years after the war he removed to the State of Georgia, where he died June 19, 1786. Until within a few months his last resting place was unknown, his remains having been placed in a tomb and all memory or record of the spot lost.¹ The Greene homestead is now owned by Hon. William Maxwell Greene.

THE WILLIAM GREENE HOUSE.

The old Greene house at Coweset is another historic house of Warwick. It is an old house, too, for it was built, or at least a portion of it, by Samuel Gorton, jr., as early as 1685, and its substantial appearance to-day shows how well our fathers builded. The house has been the home of one of the historic families of Rhode Island. Here William Greene, who held the office of deputy-governor from July 15, 1740, to May, 1743, and afterwards that of governor for nearly eleven years, between 1743 and 1758, lived and died. It then became the home of his son William, jr. In the year 1777 its owner was elected to the office of chief justice of the Supreme Court, and in the following year to that of governor, a position which he ably filled for eight successive years. The war of the Revolution was then in progress and the west room became the governor's council room.

In it the Governor and his Council, with General Sullivan, Gen. Nathanael Greene, Lafayette, Rochambeau, and other notable personages, both civil and military, held frequent consultations upon important national affairs. "Among the notable visitors of that and subsequent years was Dr. Franklin, who was on terms of intimacy with the family and usually made a friendly visit here whenever he came to New England". The west window overlooking a beautiful valley bears the name of "Franklin's widow", from the interest he is said to have taken in sitting beside it and gazing at the prospect it afforded. In the rear of the house is the old family burying-ground, "where

¹At the exercises attending the first celebration of the birthday of Nathanael Greene since that day was set apart by the State as a holiday an address was made by Hon. Asa Bird Gardiner, president of the Rhode Island State Society of Cincinnati, in which was told the story of the discovery of the remains of General Greene in a vault in the city of Savannah, Ga., on the 4th day of March, 1901. The story of this discovery is told in the *Providence Daily Journal* of June 7, 1901.

repose the deceased members of the family of several generations". It has another interesting association connected with it, for within its walls Gen. Nathanael Greene met the young woman who afterwards became his wife, and in the west room of this ancient dwelling they were married, July 20, 1774.

THE VARNUM HOMESTEAD.

Back of the court house in the town of East Greenwich, on what is sometimes called Pearce street, stands a large and substantial colonial mansion. On the south end of this grand old residence there is inscribed the date 1767, the year in which the house was built.

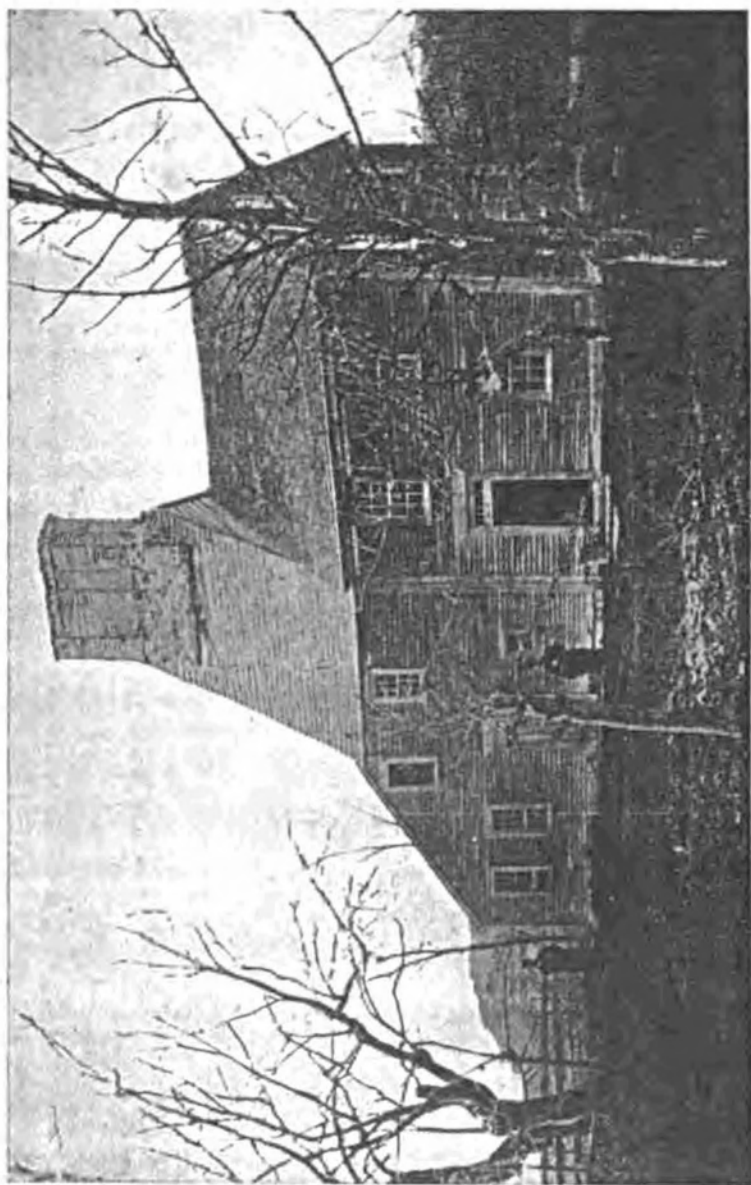
So well preserved and so well kept is this handsome structure that it is difficult to realize that it has stood so long upon the hill of Greenwich town. Surrounding it are spacious lawns filled with plants and flowering shrubs, while shading it stand magnificent elms.

This ancient house was the former home of Gen. James Mitchell Varnum, one of Rhode Island's brave officers. It was built by him in the year which is noted upon it, and the elm trees which throw their shadows across it were set out by the general's direction years before that great crisis which brought his great qualities to the fore had commenced. James M. Varnum was not a Rhode Islander by birth, but was born in the little town of Dracut, in the Massachusetts Colony, in 1749. Instead of being sent to Harvard College, where most of the youths of Massachusetts received their education, Varnum was enrolled as a student at the Rhode Island College, located at Warren, and he was of the first class to be graduated at this institution which has since become Brown University.

In this class was the Rev. William Rogers, afterwards chaplain in the Continental army from 1776 to 1781; Richard Stiles, a captain in the Continental army who was killed at the battle on Long Island, August 27, 1776, and the Rev. Charles Thompson, also a chaplain in the Continental army from 1775 to 1778.

In 1771, having studied for the profession of the law, Varnum was admitted to the bar and settled in East Greenwich. A few years after he had taken up his residence in that town a number of the young men who had a taste for military affairs petitioned the legislature of Rhode Island to incorporate them into a company by the name of the Kentish Guards, and a charter soon followed. The name of James Mitchell Varnum was the first name mentioned in the charter, and he became its first commander.

When the news of the affair at Concord reached East Greenwich Varnum assembled his company and immediately set out for the relief of his countrymen. When they reached Pawtucket they learned that the fight was over and the company returned home. The next week Varnum was commissioned colonel of a regiment to be raised in the



HOME OF CAPT. ARTHUR FENNER, CRANSTON, R. I.
ERECTED ABOUT 1655; DEMOLISHED IN 1886

forming the cellar of the old home of Fones Greene, which was erected in 1687, but which was doubtless demolished before 1715, when the present house was built. For many years the present house was supposed to be the original house at this location, but the exhaustive researches of Messrs. Isham and Brown, who have done so much to preserve the details of early Rhode Island houses, has fixed definitely as it is possible to fix it the time when the present house was built.

Visitors to this ancient dwelling for years were hospitably entertained by its venerable occupants, the late Mr. and Mrs. Henry Whitman Greene. The house was well stored with many interesting family relics and articles of domestic use in the early days of the Colony, and they never tired of showing these curious articles to the scores of visitors who found their way to this quiet country home. It was perhaps the best known old house in the State.

THE THOMAS FENNER HOUSE.

In the woods beyond and to the south of "Neutaconconitt", back from the road leading to Plainfield, stands the former home of Major



CIDER MILL AND PRESS, NORTH KINGSTOWN.

Thomas Fenner, the eldest son of Capt. Arthur Fenner, the "Captain of Providence".

Major Fenner was a man of note in the early days of the Colony. He was born in Providence, in September, 1652, and was thus a young man at the outbreak of Indian hostilities in 1675. In the old town records, written by the hand of Roger Williams, he is listed as one of those who stayed and went not away while the town was in danger, and later was a member of the garrison established at the house of Nathaniel Waterman. He married Alice Ralph, the daughter of Thomas and Mary Ralph, but the date of the marriage is unknown.

The land on which the house of Thomas Fenner was built belonged to his father; on the old stone chimney there is rudely cut figures 1677, which serves to fix the year in which it was built. No doubt

Arthur Fenner contributed largely to the erection of this new home for his son, for when William Harris died in 1683 there is mentioned in his inventory as one of the debts due to him the item "of Clabord nayles lent to Capt. Fenner 1500 to be pyd in nayles againe", and these "nayles" perhaps were used in the construction of the house.

Thomas Fenner was appointed by the General Assembly, in 1712-13, "Major for the maine", a position of considerable military consequence, for he was by this appointment commander of all the military forces on the mainland.

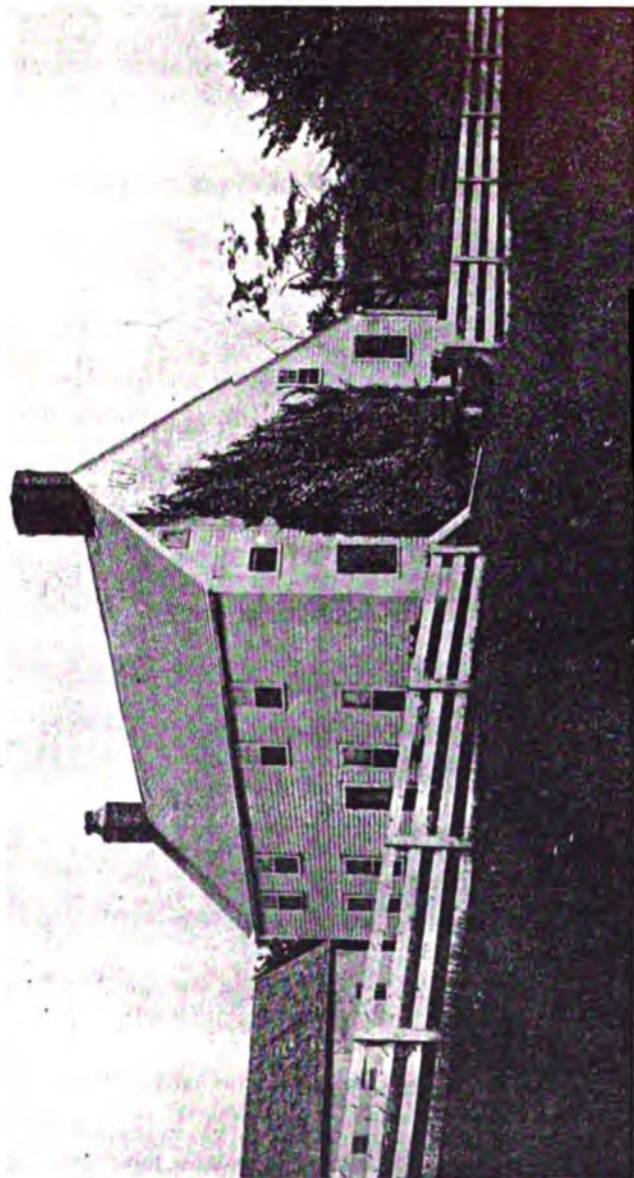
During his occupancy of the homestead he carried on both a tavern and what would pass for a country store. There are preserved among the manuscript collection of the city of Providence many hundreds of papers and documents which were once the property of Arthur and Thomas Fenner, and from these a very good idea of the life at the old Fenner tavern may be derived. He also kept curious books of accounts in which were detailed the family expenses and his dealings with his neighbors; thus: "In the yeare 1698 lent to Joseph Latham in silver moni 00-17-00", "Receved of my ffather fouer pounds in monni more Receaved in Shepes woll nineteene pound". He had many transactions with his relatives and others in which all sorts of commodities formed the subject of trade. A popular quality and a considerable quantity of cider was produced on his farm and was bought extensively by his neighbors. "In the yeare 1696" he "deliured to William Randall

to one quarter of bef	00-06-00
more 2 bariles of Sider	00-16-00
more 2 bariles of Sider	00-13-00"

Down on the meadow lands of his farm, herds of cattle fed on the sweet grass; and the butter and cheese which this farm produced show the industry of the Nutacononet farmer.

"The Account of butter and Cheese that mr Moses Reaid had of me in the yeare 1700 delivered to the aboue said Reaid 1227 pounds of Cheese and of Butter 353 pound and in the year 1701 more Butter 337 pound and more Cheese 850 and in the year 1703 more butter 2 firkinnes and 10 Cheeses not wayed".

All manner of chroniclings appear among his writings, even that always engaging subject, the weather, and he has preserved the record of a wonderful happening: "In the yeare 1703 Theirre fell a Snow apone the 28th of September and apone the nouember following one the 2d day of the month therre fell a frezeng halle Snow with Som Raine which froze one the trees very much and apone the 9th day of the fore named nouember theirre fell a nother snow and one 15th day thierrre fell a nother snow and apone the 27th day and the 28th day theirre fell a greate Snow then theirre did not fall much more Snow



HOME OF CAPT. THOMAS FENNER, CRANSTON, R. I.
ERECTED 1677.

until the 25th and 26th of the December following the 26th day was a Exstreame Storme of Snow with a very hi winde''.

It would be of additional interest if the Major had given us a more detailed account of this "Exstreame Storme" and "hi winde".

There are also other meteorological reports from the tavern with their varying statements of "Cleare and Coole", "Sumthing Cloude" and "indifferent worme for the Season".

Public office always fell to the lot of the tavern-keeper, and Thomas Fenner was no exception to the rule; and no wonder that it was so, for the influence of the tavern-keeper, consulted and advised with by all the neighbors as he was, could not but make him a conspicuous personage and his services valuable to his fellow men. As captain and major in the militia, deputy, assistant, surveyor, pound-keeper and tavern-keeper, he ran the whole gamut of public trusts.

Thomas Fenner died on the 27th of February, 1717-18, being then sixty-six years of age. In his will, executed only a few weeks before his death, he says that "being very sick and weake of Body yet through the mercy of God of a Good understanding with Respect to a disposing mind and memory and not Knowing how Shorte my time may be here on Earth", he devised his estate, amounting to £433 19s. 09d., besides his houses, and lands and meadows, to his wife and children.

His "beloved wife Dinah ffenner" was to have the "old parte of my dwelling house during her life". One hundred and fifty acres of land and also the half of the "Housing" which he received by will from his father, was given to his son, Thomas Fenner, and the property since that day has never been out of the family, being owned now by one of his descendants, Mr. Samuel A. Hazard. The house is more generally known to-day as the Sam Joy place.

The major was buried in the family ground on the farm of his father adjoining.

This old Fenner house was more than a hundred years old when the French army marched by it that June day in 1781, on the way to Yorktown, to take part in that memorable engagement which settled the claim of England to the United Colonies.

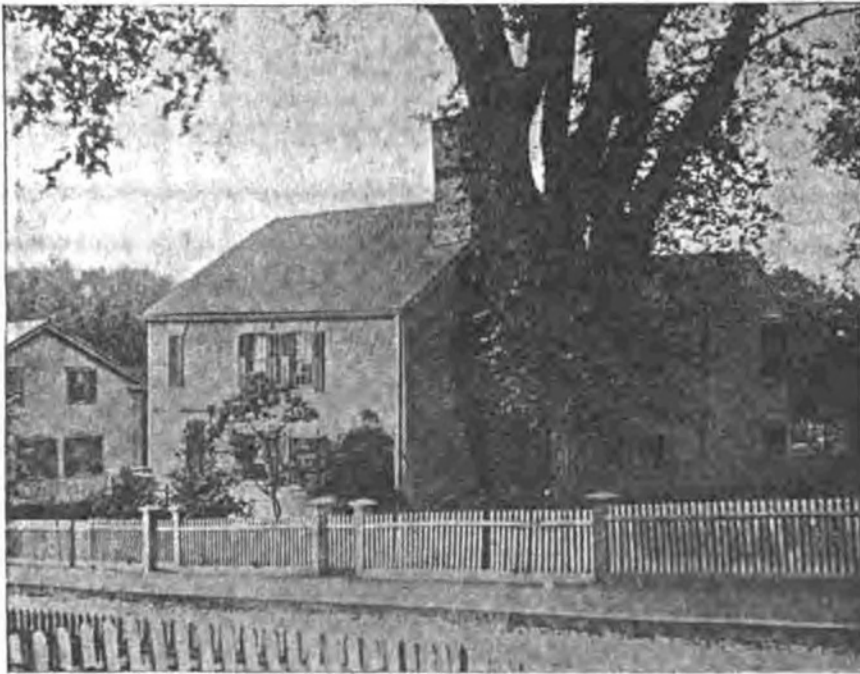
Around this old house have congregated all of the men who laid the foundation for this little commonwealth, and within its walls all the thrilling episodes in our national life have been discussed.

THE ROGER MOWRY TAVERN.

One by one the old houses which were connected with the early history of the town have been demolished, and the Roger Mowry Tavern, the only house which dated back to the dark days of King Philip's war, was demolished within the past few months. It was originally a little house with a huge stone chimney, but from time to

time as years rolled on additions were made to it, so that to a stranger's eye there would appear nothing venerable about it, until he entered the house or, proceeding up the hill, turned and viewed the old chimney stack extending up on the outside of the structure, or, pausing for a moment, considered the extreme age of the graceful elms which shaded its yard. The house was situated on Abbott street at the north end of Providence, only a few steps from North Main street, and was often resorted to by those who were interested in studying such venerable relics of early days.

It was in May, 1655, that Roger Mowry was granted a license to



THE ROGER MOWRY TAVERN.

Sometimes called the Abbott House, situated on Abbott street Providence. Built about 1653. Demolished 1900.

keep a house of entertainment and was directed to "sett out a convenient signe at ye most perspicuous place of ye saide house thereby to give notice to strangers that it is a house of entertainment".

It is unfortunate that no record exists as to the name or device which must have appeared upon this sign so conspicuously displayed. In Old England the tavern sign was a most important appendage to the tavern; they were elaborately and ingeniously designed, nearly always

with some device illustrating the name by which the tavern or inn was known. In later years tavern signs were numerous enough throughout Rhode Island, and they remained, swinging idly on their rusty hinges, until well along in the present century.

In the early days of the town's life this house was a conspicuous place, as the tavern always was. It served many purposes, too; besides being the first hostelry in the town, its rooms were used for town meetings and for council meetings. Here, too, prisoners who had been apprehended for alleged crimes were kept in confinement. Here the Indian Waumanett was brought and confined in irons after his murderous assault on Clawson, the Dutch carpenter, and tradition says that Roger Williams held service for the worship of God within its walls.

Roger Mowry, who is so identified with the old house, came to Providence in 1643 from Salem. He had formerly resided in Plymouth, in all of which places Roger Williams had been located for a greater or lesser time. It is mainly from this fact that a tradition has been based that the two Rogers were kinsmen. If, however, no relationship existed, Mowry seems to have been a devout follower of his more illustrious namesake. Mowry first appears in Salem in 1636; a year later he was appointed by that town to the office of "neat herd" and had the keeping of all the town cattle; the custom of the time being to drive the common herd afield during the day and returning them at night during the season when the grass was suitable for feed. His term of office commencing the "fifth of the second month" and to continue eight months; "another sufficient man" was associated with him. A stated time was fixed when each townsman should have his cattle ready to be driven with the common herd, and those who from various circumstances neglected to have theirs ready at the appointed time and place were obliged to bring them themselves after the herd. For this duty the price was regulated at 7s. a head for "all except bulls"; this was ordered by the town "to be paid in four equal payments and always one quarter before hand".

His life in Salem seems to have been, with this exception, an uneventful one, and in 1643 he joined his lot with the men who had established in Providence a free government. But it was not until 1655 that he comes prominently to notice, and in that year everything came showering down upon him at once.

He was selected by the General Assembly to the important and honorable offices of tavern-keeper, constable and "Serwaier", but his connection with the tavern was the most important; in point of fact, if the truth could be known, it was this that brought to him his official preferment, for after a lapse of nearly twenty years, during which time no public house had been a part of the town's institution, he came and filled a long felt want.

In the early days of colonial life the habit of drinking liquor was indulged in by all classes—men, women, and even children; large quantities were brought into the town, while, besides this, some of the townsmen had all the paraphernalia necessary to make such liquids.

One of the greatest hardships which the early settlers in America were called upon to endure was their inability to procure liquor. Good old Governor Bradford has left us the evidence of the troubles of the Pilgrims in this respect, and Parson Higginson, of Salem, said in 1629: "Whereas my stomach could only digest and did require such drink as was both strong and stale I can and oftentimes do drink New England water very well"; another early chronicler says that it was "not accounted a strange thing in those days to drink water".

But they were not long destined to be deprived of the drinks of the mother country, for the records contain references early in the Plantations' existence of sack, Dutch brandy, Spanish wine, rum, and "Jonavah", which was their method of spelling Geneva and what we call gin. Liquor legislation was as bountiful then as now, and it would seem that the reason for it was just as great. Notwithstanding the fact that all liquors brought into the town should be regularly entered upon the town books, there was the same inclination in those days to disregard the liquor laws that is found to-day.

It seems that on the 4th of July, 1655, a day certainly celebrated for illegal liquor transactions, Roger Mowry, the constable, and Sam Bennett, the town sergeant, had their attention brought to certain irregularities in this respect, and so they instituted a search, which resulted in the following record being made by the town meeting:

"Whereas there was search in ye Town made by Roger Moorie & Sam: Bennet & there was found in the possession of mr ffouler Marie Pray Mr Sayles wine & liquors wch for theire diffect of non entrie of it it was the halfe of it forfeit to ye Towne. But they all pleading ignorance in the law made to yt purpose were By the Towne remitted freely".

Our ancestors were of a forgiving nature and the early records contain many entries where misdemeanors of various kinds were "forgiven freely", if the offender appeared before the forgiving body with a contrite heart.

The excise of liquors required that "all Spanish wine that is retailed in this Towne shall be sold at 22*d.* P qrt & all liqrs at 3*s.* P qrt & in case any who doe retaile exceede these prices upon prooffe thereof the parties offending shall forfeit for everie qrt not sold at ye price above sd the sunnm of 5*s.* at 8 P d."

As the town grew and opportunities increased, the townsmen were enabled to gratify their desires for alcoholic stimulants. When sufficient time had elapsed for the apple and peach trees to bear fruit, attention was directed to making cider, peach juice and

peach brandy; apple mills, apple pounders, cider mills, cider presses and cider troughs are found frequently named in the old inventories along with summer cider, winter cider and peach juice.

Roger Mowry died January 5, 1666. His widow, Mary Mawrey, as the name is spelled in the records, was made the executrix of his will, but owing to the loss of the earliest book of probate records, we are unable to ascertain how his estate was divided or of what it consisted. The inventory of his personal effects would have no doubt shed much light on the character of the caravansary over which he presided with dignity for many years.

On the fifth day of September, 1671, Mary Mowry, "late wife of Roger Mowry", sold to Stephen Paine of Rehobath, "The dwelling house and out housing with three house Lotts, or home Shares of Land adjoyneing to the said hovseing the which formerly belonged unto my said husband Roger Mowry . . . scituate lieing & being in ye north part of ye afore said Town of prouidence near the Towne Street".

The boundaries given in this deed and subsequent deeds of the property show the location of the house and the old driftway (now called Abbott street) which originally led from the town street to the tavern yard.

The next transfer was from Stephen Paine, who conveyed the property thus acquired to Samuel Whipple. Here he lived for nearly forty years until his death in March, 1711.

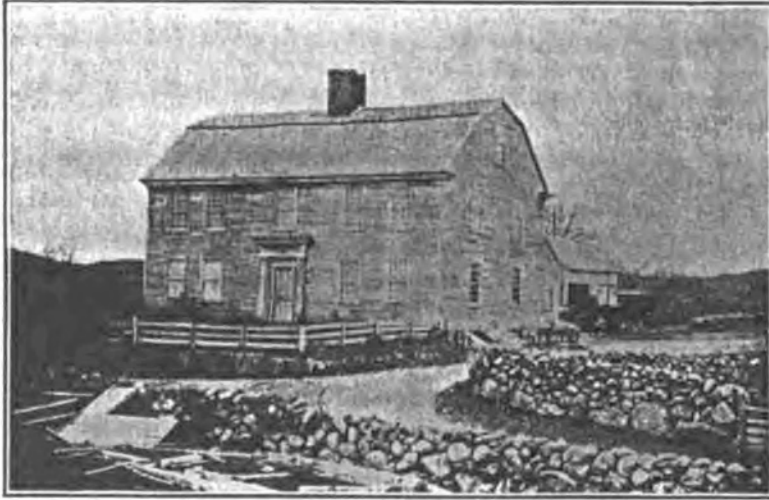
There was a "leanto" connected with the house at this time, having two rooms, one up stairs and one down, the lower one being a sleeping room.

By the will of Samuel Whipple, made three days before his death, when "sick & weake of Boddy", he gave his homestead or dwelling house with all the "lands & orchard thereunto adjoyneing Reaching from the Town street & Extending Eastward to the land which belonged to the deceased Daniell Brown", to his wife, Mary Whipple, during her lifetime, and after her death to his daughters, Abigail and Hope. About ten years previous to the death of Samuel Whipple a portion of the tract of land now known as the North Burying Ground, and then the "most desolate sand hill in the plantation", had been selected as the town burying-place; here Whipple was buried, being the first interment that was ever made in these grounds.

Abigail and Hope Whipple both inherited the homestead estate of their father. Subsequently each became the wife of Robert Currie, first Hope, then Abigail upon her sister's death. Eventually Currie became the owner of the old place and held this ownership until 1737, when he sold it to William Smith, Job Whipple and John Whipple. It remained in the Whipple family until 1761, and it is from this ownership that has given it the name of the Whipple House.

In the latter year it was purchased by Capt. Joseph Owen; one of his daughters married Thomas Abbott, of Andover, Mass., a tanner by trade, which pursuit he followed at a tannery formerly located directly opposite to this old house. Here Thomas Abbott lived until his death, June 11, 1826, and thus gave to it the name of the "Abbott house"; by this name it has been known more extensively than by any other, although it was upwards of one hundred and seventy years old ere this name was bestowed upon it.

This ancient dwelling is full of historic interest, for here the men who founded the first free state met to enact laws for its government.



HOME OF LIEUT.-COL. THOMAS NOYES, NOYES POINT, NEAR WESTERLY.

During the war of the Revolution this house was used as an armory and as military headquarters. It was demolished in 1884. From a photograph made in 1873.

THE JOSEPH NOYES HOUSE.

At Noyes Point in the town of Westerly was the homestead of Col. Joseph Noyes. It was an important place in the years of the Revolution, for it was the military headquarters of this section. The Noyes farm bordered on the seashore. In front of the house, to the southward, sand dunes, with fringes of coarse beach grass, rose here and there between which sparkled the waters of the ocean. To the northward was gently rolling farm land, crossed and recrossed with many stone walls. Like many of the ancient farm houses which were formerly scattered along the seashore, this, too, has been sacrificed to make way for the summer cottage, and in 1883 the Noyes homestead was demolished.

On the second floor of this old homestead was a room called the "Big Room"; this was the Armory where a portion of the town arms and equipments were kept for the use of the Westerly companies.

Col. Joseph Noyes and his son, Lieut. Thomas Noyes, both lived in this old house. They were actively engaged during the war, the latter seeing a longer and harder service than the former. Col. Joseph Noyes was the commander of the First Regiment of the militia in Kings county, his military service being almost entirely confined to the State of Rhode Island; but there was actual warfare here, and at the battle of Rhode Island Colonel Noyes performed valiant service. He also served in the legislature of the State and held important positions on committees for his town and State. Thomas the son, however, was a lieutenant when but twenty-one years of age in Capt. Thomas Arnold's company of Col. Christopher Lippitt's regiment, and was with the Continental army at the engagements of Harlem Heights, White Plains, Trenton and Princeton. After his term of enlistment terminated he returned to his home and became active in the affairs of his native town.

The original commissions of Thomas Noyes are yet preserved by his grandson, who prizes these ancient documents, for they bear testimony to the part this old patriot took in the struggle for American Independence.

THE EDWARD MANTON HOUSE.

The locality where the Edward Manton homestead stands has been called for many years "Manton". You will find it painted in huge letters on the little red shed that passes for a railroad depot, and the cars of the electric road have the same name painted upon them.

And well may the country hereabouts be called Manton, for nearly the whole territory, covering acres and acres, originally belonged to the Manton family, and the name perpetuates the memory of one of the great landholders in the early days of the Plantations.

The house would never be noticed as an old house, so disguised is it by the ells, porticos, piazza and other ornamentations that have been added to it, were it not for the curiously built stone chimney at one end, which looks as though at any minute it would topple over and crush the little structure beneath it. It is this chimney that stands out before you that suggests its age, and leads you to enter the house for a confirmation of your suspicion.

An examination of the interior confirms all you may have conjectured, and although within and without many changes have been made, there is yet remaining marks that show its age, so interwoven with the structure that they can never be effaced while the house itself remains.

It originally had but two rooms, one up and down stairs, and the

stairway led right up by the side of the chimney in nearly the same place where the present stairs are located. With the exception of this space occupied by the little stairway, probably nothing more than a ladder originally, the whole width of the house was fireplace, that being nine feet between jambs, while the length of the house was a little more than fifteen feet. It is low studded, only seven feet between floor and ceiling, with the great "summer" running through the center of the ceiling.

This little structure was the original house; additions have been tacked on here and there until no part of the outside of the house to-day is in its original condition, save the end where the great chimney stack is located, and even this has had a few bricks laid on it to stop up cracks and make the chimney tight.



EDWARD MANTON HOUSE, MANTON, JOHNSTON—ERECTED 1688.

The owner cherishes the old place from family associations, and has had repairs made from time to time and the date "1687" carved in pretty letters in the peak of the modern dormer window. She may well have carried this date back four years, for there is good reason to believe that it was erected as early as 1683 by Edward Manton, grandson of the first Edward and son of Shadrach, the town clerk of Providence, a companion and associate of Roger Williams.

The land on which this house is built was a part of the territory "laid out in the right of his grandfather".

Edward Manton, the grandson, doubtless received it from his father, but no record of such a transfer is found. It was a part of the Secesakut lands, which were mostly in the possession of the Mantons and Olneys.

Edward Manton was the son of Shadrach. He married, December 9, 1680, Elizabeth Thornton, the daughter of John Thornton, a man of distinction in the early life of the Colony and one of the founders of the First Baptist Church.¹

Although there was no evidence to fix definitely the year in which this house was built, the record shows that Edward Manton was living at Secesacut, July 1, 1702.²

But this house was erected before this time, for the study of the houses having this peculiar type of chimney shows that they were all erected within the period between 1676 and 1696. As he was married in 1680 and was living out of town or remote from the settlement in 1688, it seems certain that the house was built between these dates.

Back of the house to the westward was the "Wildwoods" and upland, over whose uneven surface the road to "Wiunkheage" wound this way, and then that, to escape a huge boulder or some ancient oak of the primeval forest, while in the front of the house was the Woonasquatucket valley, with the river down between the wooded hills, stretching towards the Providence settlement.

Edward Manton died August 14, 1723.

This road leading to Wiunkheage is the highway now known as the Killingly road or "pike", but at the time of his death it had not been extended to the Connecticut line, and was not laid out and called the "Road to Killingsley" until March, 1728.³

But the highway to Wionkeake was "stated" many years before this. In 1703 it appears that, "Whereas some time since there was a Request Made by Some of the Inhabitants of Wiunkeake in the Townshipp of Providence, that a highway might be stated out from the Towne to said Wiunkeake, that so a highway might be from thence to the Mill & to the Market; Whereupon the Towne made an order that William Hopkins & Thomas Olney surveiors should state out a High way from the Towne to Wiunkeake: The which about the latter end of March or the begining of Aprill in the yeare 1703" was done, and the record of this survey may be found minutely given upon the ancient town records. This report gives the names of the persons who owned the land through which this road passed. It shows the location of Manton's lands and the Assopumsett or Ossapimsuck brook. This name does not appear on late maps of the State, but on the map of Rhode Island by Caleb Harris, engraved for Carter & Wilkenson in 1795, it is there shown and called "Assapumpset Brook". The same little brook to-day trickles down its mossy bed only a few feet from the Manton homestead.

It was at Wiunkheage that a settlement was proposed early in the

¹ *Austin's Genealogical Dictionary of R. I.*

² *Early Records of Providence*, vol. v, p. 116.

³ *Early Records of Providence.*

history of the Colony; a plan for the proposed township was prepared by Thomas Olney, which is now preserved among the archives of the City of Providence. It contains the rude drawing of a town house or block house on the Main street, in the center of this proposed township, but it does not appear that a settlement of the character contemplated was ever carried out. The name, however, is preserved and is applied to a hill in Smithfield; but the township of Wiunkeake exists only in the imperfect references found on the town records. In 1829 the legislature of the State granted a charter to the Wionkheigue Detecting Society, an organization founded for the protection of the horses, fowl and other live stock belonging to the incorporators.

The territory covered by this society may convey some idea of the locality of "Wionkeage", for it was declared in the charter that the "center of said jurisdiction shall be the store owned by Dan Mowry, standing at one of the four corners in Smithfield formed by the intersection of the old road leading from Wonsocket to Scituate by the Providence and Douglas turnpike road". Anywhere within nine miles of this point was within the jurisdiction of the "Wionkeheigue Detecting Society". The store of Dan Mowry and the old Angell toll gate were located at opposite corners on the Douglas turnpike. Besides these references to Wionkeage, the writer has seen old books which had written across their title pages, "Wiunkeage Library".

The estate of Edward Manton remained undivided for seven years, until June 4, 1730, when his children made a deed in which they divided the property. By this instrument the land on the "east side of the road that leads to Killingly" was divided into fourteen parts; this tract comprises all the land eastward from the road as far as Woonasquatucket River, "on which the dwelling house and barn standeth".

The homestead was not included in this division, but was to remain in the possession of all of the children, as was also "about a quarter of an acre of land round the said house with a free passage to the well and to the highway".

In course of time the house and lands belonging to this estate passed to other hands, and to-day but a small portion of the Secesecut farm belongs to descendants of the original owners.

THE EPENETUS OLNEY HOUSE.

On the banks of the Woonasquatucket River, nearly opposite the Manton homestead, until quite recently stood the tottering ruins of the deserted mansion house of Epenetus Olney. It was a grand old house in its day, with great square rooms, and boasted of a chimney topped with brick. It originally was much smaller than its appearance would indicate, for the north half was added many years after the other part was built.

Epenetus Olney, the first owner, if not the builder, was the grandson of Thomas Olney, who came from St. Albans, Hertfordshire, England, in 1635, and was one of the first settlers in Providence. His son Epenetus, the father of the owner of the house, came to America when an infant in his mother's arms.

Epenetus Olney was born in Providence, in 1675, during the dark days of the Indian war. He married Mary Williams, a descendant of Roger Williams, but no record of when this marriage occurred is found upon the records.

Epenetus Olney the elder died in 1698. He left no will disposing of his earthly possessions, for, as the record says, "Death seized him



**EPENETUS OLNEY HOUSE, BETWEEN ALLENDALE AND LYMANVILLE,
NORTH PROVIDENCE.**

Erected between 1700-5. Demolished 1898.

before he could accomplish the same". Under the old English law of primogeniture his estate fell to the oldest son, James Olney; but James Olney, knowing that his father if he had been able would have divided his estate among his children, proceeded to comply with a wish that his father in his lifetime had expressed. It was not until August, 1702, that this was done.

In May, 1702, Thomas Olney, surveyor, "Rectefied & laid out a tract of land unto Epenetus Olney at his ffarm where he now dwelleth lieing between the place called Wanskuck (in Providence Townshipp) & Woonasquatuckett river". This land is bounded with great minute-

ness in the records, but a "heape of Stones", a "White Oake", and such boundaries convey little information to-day; one bound, however, was a "Red oake" on the Woonasquatucket River, and from this ranging along the river. It therefore shows plainly that the "ffarm where he now liveth" bounded on the Woonasquatucket. From this also we may assume that Epenetus Olney was married at this date, for here he had established his home.

Three months later his brother James conveyed to him by deed the tract "lieing and adjoining to the Woonasquatucket river", laid out by Thomas Olney in May. In this deed it is written "that my brother Epenetus Olney is now desirous to settle & be accommodated with some of his father's land to himself & hath already begun a settlement upon some part thereof by building & planting thereon".

These deeds fix the time when this house was built, for in May, 1702, it was the place "where he now dwelleth", and in August of the same year he had "already begun a settlement". The house being built, most likely, in the fall of 1701 and his first spring planting was finished when the land became his by act and deed of his brother James.

It was two stories in height and the chimney was topped out with brick, perhaps the very brick which was included in "a parcell of Brickets £00 05s. 00d." mentioned in the inventory of his father's estate. He selected a charming spot on which to build his home. Here the river widens and forms a basin with sloping banks on the southern side, opposite the house, while the grounds about it slope gradually to the river. A little brook, its source on the higher land to the northward, flows through his lands.

The southern end of the house is the oldest part; here was the solid wall of masonry extending almost its whole width into the second story, and was at the time the house was demolished with the cracks made by the elements, a most wonderful example of the work of those early craftsmen. Many changes had been made in the old structure. Little rooms and big rooms, fireplaces and cupboards were added here and there, until one might almost be lost in wondering through its deserted halls. In the front hall there was a great trap door which led down into the deep, cavernous cellar.

On the Olney farm tobacco was raised in considerable quantity. "Four hundred weight of Tobacco" was stored here in 1698. Here was raised in those early days beans, "turnops", "wheate", Indian corn, rye, "flex", while in the orchard, through which passed the road leading to the Providence settlement, there were "Apple and peach tree, fruited deep".

Epenetus Olney died in 1740, and for many years the old house was occupied by descendants of the original owner, until in time it fell

into decay, became ruinous and was abandoned as a place of residence, and finally demolished to make way for modern improvements.

THE PALMER NORTHUP HOUSE.

The Palmer Northup house in North Kingstown, on the post road near the village of Wickford, is another very old house.

It is said to have been built in part between 1640-50, but it is difficult to prove this fact on account of the destruction by fire some years ago of the North Kingstown records. The house stands on what in early days was the Pequot path, an Indian trail that led from the Massachusetts settlements into Connecticut, and this dwelling was doubtless a welcome spot for travellers over this lonely road. Nearly opposite was the trading post and garrison house of Richard Smith,



PALMER NORTHUP HOUSE, NEAR WICKFORD, NORTH KINGSTOWN.

Erected between 1640-50, situated on the Pequot path, the ancient Indian trail from Massachusetts into Connecticut.

while about a mile northward on the same trail was the trading post of Roger Williams. Near here, too, is Devil's Foot Rock, wherein are depressions said to have been made by the cloven foot of his Satanic majesty on an early visit to Rhode Island. The neighborhood about here was a well-known locality in the early history of the State and bore the euphonious name, Cocumsquissic.

At the time of the King Philip's war the forces that participated in the Swamp Fight made this locality their headquarters and numerous encounters with the hostile Indians occurred here. Tradition has left little to give the house special interest, and the records, too, are silent, but the marks which the early builder left upon it stamp it as of early construction.

“MOWBRA CASTLE.”

To the southward of the Northup house, near the railroad station at Bellville, on the same road stands the Phillips house, or, as it is sometimes called, “Mowbra Castle”.

Like the Northup house, little definite regarding its early history is known, but it is stated that it was built by Michael Phillips between 1695 and 1700.

Its curious pilastered stone chimney marks it as a house of early origin and in a measure gives some authority for its date.



THE PHILLIPS HOUSE, BELLVILLE, NORTH KINGSTOWN.

Erected about 1700, located on the old Pequot path, the original Indian trail from Massachusetts into Connecticut.

THE JOSHUA BABCOCK HOUSE.

The mansion house of Dr. Joshua Babcock is located in the town of Westerly. It is a fine example of early colonial architecture and is admired for its strength and beauty. The Dutch tiles around the fireplaces, the elaborate cupboards and ceilings, the carved and costly staircase, the secret closets, and great square rooms, all testify to the good taste and refinement of its builder.

Dr. Joshua Babcock was a major-general of militia, and also a member of the State's council of war during the period of the Revolution, and his abilities and character gave him great prominence. Benjamin Franklin, while postmaster-general, in his official tours

through the country, is said to have made the Babcock house his resting place; and it is also stated that he attached lightning rods to the doctor's residence. Here was established, in 1776, the first post-office in the town and Dr. Babcock was the first postmaster. The receipts of the office for that year were one pound, three shillings, and eight pence. Prior to the Revolution the nearest post-office was at New London, Conn.

"Dr. Joshua Babcock was born in Westerly, in the year 1707. He was graduated at Yale College, and soon after commenced the study of physic and surgery in Boston, and afterwards went to England to complete his education. He settled in his native town, where he soon obtained an extensive practice. He was likewise much in public business. As chief justice of the Supreme



BABCOCK HOUSE, WESTERLY.

Here Benjamin Franklin established a post-office in 1776, Franklin being a guest of Dr. Joshua Babcock, who was appointed postmaster.

Court of the State he pronounced the sentence of death on the notorious Thomas Carter for the murder of Jackson. Dr. Babcock had two half-brothers and three sons, who were all graduated at Yale College".

Dr. Babcock was elected one of the first corporators of Brown University in 1764, and was one of the Board of Fellows in 1770, and is recorded in the History of the University as a Seventh Day Baptist. He died April 1, 1783.

In this house Col. Harry Babcock, a distinguished soldier of Rhode Island, was born, April 26, 1736. At the age of eighteen (1754) he was appointed captain of a company, composing one of a regiment

raised in the Colony during the old French war, and marched to Albany, from thence to Lake George, and joined the army in the campaign of 1756, to dislodge the French from Canada. In 1757 Captain Babcock was promoted major; at twenty-one, was promoted to a lieutenant-colonel; at twenty-two, he commanded the Rhode Island Regiment, consisting of 1,000 men; and in July, 1758, marched 500 of his men with the British army against Ticonderoga. He had 110 men killed and wounded and was wounded himself by a musket ball in the knee. The next year he was with the force that took that fort under General Amherst. He had then served five campaigns in the old French war with great reputation. About the age of twenty-five,



BAKER HOUSE, CORNER WATER AND BAKER STREETS, WARREN.

Colonel Babcock spent a year in England, chiefly in London. Soon after his return he married and settled in Stonington, Conn., and commenced the practice of the law. When the Revolution commenced he was a staunch Whig; and in 1776 he was appointed by the legislature commander of the forces at Newport. Early in the Revolutionary struggle he had a severe illness which so affected his mind as to give "incontestable proofs of insanity", and he was consequently retired from the service.

THE BAKER HOUSE AND BURR'S TAVERN.

Within the town of Warren is an old structure called the Baker

House, situated at the corner of Water and Baker streets. Tradition asserts that this was one of the houses visited by the Hessian soldiers at the time Warren was attacked by the British forces in May, 1778. By some fortunate circumstance this house escaped being plundered, for it is said that one of the British officers ordered the marauders to keep away from it, and the house and its occupants were spared.

Here, too, was located the Burr Tavern, which formerly stood at the corner of Main and King streets, the latter now called Washington street. This hostelry was an important institution in the early days of the town, and here were entertained at different times many distinguished individuals. During the days of the Revolutionary war Generals Lafayette and Putnam were numbered among the guests, and Washington was entertained here on his visit to Rhode Island in 1781.

THE JOHN CRAWFORD HOUSE.

The Crawford house, so called, was built by John Crawford, the youngest son of Gideon Crawford, one of the first merchants of Providence, who was born in 1693. He married, at the age of twenty-two years, Amey Whipple. From both of his parents, who had died previous to his marriage, he inherited a considerable estate. By his father's will he was to receive £100 upon arriving at the age of twenty-one, while from his mother he received £137—large sums of money in those days; besides these amounts, other property, lands and goods were inherited by him from both his father and mother.¹

It naturally followed that when this young merchant established his home that a dwelling more pretentious than others in the town was provided.

When John Crawford acquired the land on which he built his dwelling, his warehouses and wharves, cannot be ascertained from the records. The land may have been a part of the estate of his father or mother, but there seems to be evidence to suggest that it was otherwise acquired.

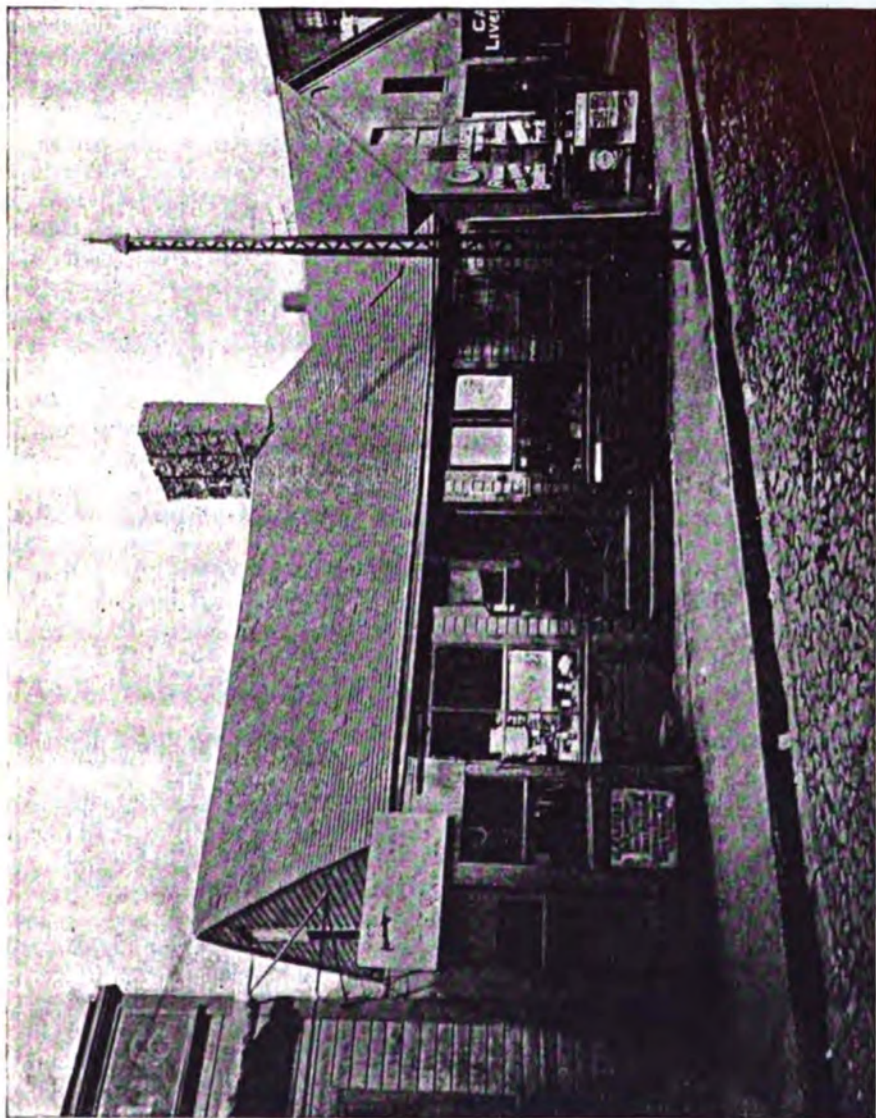
This house was situated on what in those days was called the "Highway running from the main street to Elisha Brown's corn-mill"; this thoroughfare is to-day known as Mill street.²

In January, 1763,³ John Updike and Joseph Whipple, two merchants of Providence, sold to Joseph Nash, merchant, "two-thirds part of a certain lot of land situate in Providence aforesaid and butted and bounded as followeth, beginning at the northeast corner of a piece of land purchased by John Crawford of the Committee chosen by the Proprietors of the Lands in Providence on the East side of the seven

¹ Prov. Probate Records, Will Book I, p. 161-219.

² Prov. Deeds, Book 16, p. 236.

³ *Ibid.*



THE CRAWFORD HOUSE.

**FORMERLY LOCATED ON MILL STREET; ERECTED ABOUT 1708, DEMOLISHED 1898. IN THIS HOUSE
NICHOLAS BROWN, FOUNDER OF BROWN UNIVERSITY, WAS MARRIED.**

mile line for laying out house lots and selling common lands in and about the town and fully described in the return made by the said Committee dated the 25th of January 1717/8"; this statement, together with other known facts, makes it easy to determine why no record of the purchase by John Crawford is found upon the records.

For many years the town records and the records of the Proprietors of the lands in Providence were kept independently of each other. When at last the Proprietary lands had been disposed of and the Proprietors ceased to carry on their business in real estate, the records of their transactions remained in the hands of the person who last acted as the clerk of this body. He kept them as long as he lived, and upon his death they fell into the hands of his children. These old documents, books and papers were kept in a chest or trunk at the place of business of their custodian, and for a consideration antiquarians, conveyancers, and lawyers engaged in unraveling knotty problems of family history or the ownership in real estate were permitted to examine their yellow and musty pages.

After a time the custodian of these records endeavored to get the city of Providence to purchase them, for, it was urged, they were of great importance in the examination of the land titles in the city, but the amount which the city was asked to pay was considered too great, and after a while the subject became forgotten.

One cold winter night a few years after these negotiations had ended, a fire broke out in the business part of the city. In the morning, where only a few hours before stood substantial business blocks, there was left only their blackened and smouldering ruins; in this fire was destroyed the "Records of the Proprietors of the Lands in Providence".

The return made by the committee in 1717-18 contained all of the information which would have determined the question of title. There is enough, however, to confirm the tradition regarding the house and lands of John Crawford. It is stated that the house was built in 1716, as Crawford was married in 1715 and the land was his previous to 1717. There can be no doubt but what the Crawford house was built as early as 1716.

Many changes have taken place in the topography of the neighborhood about his home. To the westward where now are streets teeming with the busy life of a city and great brick buildings devoted to manufacturing and business purposes was, in the days of Crawford, shore lands and a picturesque basin of water where the Mooshauc River emptied into the Salt Water Cove. The grade of the highway leading to the corn mill was much lower in Crawford's time than it is to-day, for the sidewalk to Mill street now is even with the windows in the second story where is the entrance to the building; from the

street it has the appearance of a one story building, but by passing to the rear down toward the river its original size can be seen.¹

Down by the waterside back of the house were the ship yards, wharves and warehouses. No records or traditions are found that give a satisfactory story of the vessels which were tied up at the wharves or lay on the stocks, but they probably differed little from those built in other parts of the Colony about this period.

At the time Crawford built his house, brick had become common for building purposes. Brick clay was abundant. A few years later a committee was appointed by the town to "agree with Mr. Thomas Staples upon what terms he may have liberty to dig clay at Waybausett Hill to make bricks".²

One end, the north end, was built entirely of brick. Here was the chimney with a triple stack, and the good work of the builder was clearly shown, for it faced the northerly blasts for more than one hundred and eighty years and stood as firm and rigid as when it was built.

John Crawford followed the sea and soon obtained the command of a vessel.

Captain Crawford did not long enjoy the substantial fortune which he had acquired. On the 18th of March, 1718-19, he died, having been married less than four years. He was stricken down in the midst of a busy life in the full flush of manhood. His vessel, the *Indian King*, which he commanded, lay at his wharf unloaded; in his shipyard was a "new sloop upon the stocks almost finished", while his shop was well stocked with all sorts of articles of his trade.

The inventory of his estate gives much information as to the articles of domestic use that had at this time been brought within the reach of the townspeople.

His home must have been the most elaborately furnished of any in the town, for he had two chests of drawers and "carpett" to cover them, for carpets in those early days were not coverings for the floor, but for chests, tables, &c., two Japanned tables, two oval tables, "Joynt" stools, desks, nineteen chairs, looking-glasses, candle-sticks and other small articles of household use, besides bedsteads, beds, flock beds and feather bed, he had "an Campire bedstead and furniture", whatever that may have been, and a "hanmack", "puter" dishes, china dishes, glass ware, earthen ware and wooden ware for his table and fine linen to place them on. Besides bottles, wine glasses and brandy to put in them, he had five pipes of wine. In his shop goods of all kinds and varieties were stored. Besides a great variety of dry

¹Since this account was prepared the Crawford house has been demolished and the street on which it abutted has been widened in carrying out the improvement of Charles street.

²*Early Records of Providence.*

goods there were articles to suit all customers, indigo, glassware, tobacco, boxes, axes, brushes, pewter, knives, bolts, "treacle manna", beeswax, ginger and "allum", nails, powder, "gun flints, sugar and halters".

His whole estate was valued, outside of his lands and meadows, at £1,614 02s. 11d., showing the thrift and ability of this young trader. His lands consisted of "his Lotts of Land, Dwelling house, Warehouse, Stable and wharfe", "neere toagether", valued at £400, while besides this there were large tracts in the outlying country appraised at £1,665.

Captain Crawford left a widow and two children, a son and a daughter. From this daughter was descended Ann Carter, the first wife of Nicholas Brown. She died June 16, 1798, having been married about eight years.

The Crawford homestead in course of time came to the possession of Captain Crawford's granddaughter, who married Benjamin Steele, a son of Rev. Isaac Steele, who had established a Latin school in Providence in 1776.¹

Benjamin Steele was an active patriot during the Revolution. He was adjutant in Colonel Tallman's regiment, was "officer of a flag of truce sent to Rhode Island at the time Rhode Island was evacuated", and later was deputy paymaster-general in Rhode Island. From his long residence here it became known as the Benjamin Steele house and is more frequently called by that name.

It was here on the 22d day of July, 1801, that Nicholas Brown,² the "eminent merchant, the friend of the friendless, the patron of learning, the benefactor of the insane, and the liberal promoter of every good design", was married to Mary Bowen Steele, the daughter of Captain Steele.

In those days the neighborhood where the Crawford mansion is located was occupied by the homes of the townspeople, but with the growth of the town and city the condition of the whole neighborhood has undergone a great change. The houses along the street, erstwhile the "highway leading to Elisha Brown's Corn mill", are now packed with refugees from distant lands. The little shops scattered throughout this section bear signs with the name and trade of their occupants in the strange characters of a foreign language, and all about there is striking evidence of neglect and decay.

THE TAGGART HOUSE.

When the British army landed on Rhode Island in December, 1776, many of the families fled to the mainland, taking with them such

¹ *Chad Brown's Memorial.*

² *Ibid.*

effects as they could hastily get together, while others undertook to continue their abode on their farms.

Such as remained were forced to submit to all manner of indignities. Their homes were selected as quarters for both the English and Hessian officers, and their property was treated as though its owners had no right or title to it.

Perhaps no family on the island sustained so great a loss or suffered more severely from the depredations of the enemy than that of William Taggart, and the story of the Taggarts is a sad recital of the sufferings that were endured by the patriots of '76.

The story is mainly obtained from the memoirs of William Taggart the younger, who was an officer in the war, and who prepared, in 1833, a very full account of the trials of his family; the story has been printed and appears in full¹ or in part² in books long since out of print. It is such a graphic account of the thrilling days of the war that it is repeated here substantially as prepared by Taggart himself.

"William Taggart, the elder, was a respectable citizen of Newport", and held many offices of trust and importance in the town and Colony. He resided in the town of Newport until 1770, when, having returned from a voyage to sea, he removed with his family, consisting of himself, his wife and twelve children, to a farm which he had purchased in the town of Middletown and about six miles from Newport.

They were thus happily situated on their farm when the war of the Revolution commenced. A few days after the British army landed on the Island a Hessian colonel took possession of their home, for himself and his officers.

"Although the Colonel was extremely polite", says Taggart in his memoirs, "yet the mother of this numerous family was rendered very uneasy, and could not bear the idea of being among soldiers, in such a state of vassalage and danger, more especially on account of her daughters, who, she was very apprehensive, would be particularly liable to the insults of a brutal soldiery. She therefore prevailed upon her husband to remove the family from the Island; and accordingly the whole, with the exception of my father and two of my brothers next in age to myself, removed, under my care, to the town of Little Compton. During the following summer an expedition was formed, under the command of Major-General Spencer, to attack the British troops and to obtain possession of the Island, and the town of Newport.

"About this time, a person came from the Island with a flag, and informed me that my father had expressed a wish for me to come over to the Island and have an interview with him.

"I communicated this fact to Colonel Joseph Stanton, who then commanded at Howland's Ferry, in Tiverton. He assented to the proposal and directed three officers of the American army to accom-

¹ Cynthia Taggart's *Poems*, three editions, 1833, 1834 and 1848.

² Cowell's *Spirit of '76 in Rhode Island*.

pany me, and to obtain the best possible information of the force, strength and situation of the enemy.

“One of these officers was a Lieutenant Charles Handy, of Newport. On the following night we proceeded to my father’s mansion on the Island, and ascertained, to the best of my recollection, that the British force did not exceed two thousand men, who had scarcely any intrenchments on any part of the Island; that their naval force was very small, and in such a situation, that an expedition might, if judiciously arranged, be so conducted as, under God, to insure success. We returned in safety, and made report of every particular to the proper officers. The expedition was rapidly progressing.

“In the interim, I several times went upon the Island, to obtain additional information, previous to the night which had been assigned for the landing of our army; and through the same channel, I received all the intelligence which was desirable or necessary.

“The night at length arrived. Our troops, said to be twelve thousand strong, were drawn up, under arms, ready for embarkation. A party of about thirty, of whom I was one, was detached in three boats; and having landed, well down to the mouth of the river, we immediately repaired to my father’s house.

“He, with his two sons, who, until this period, had remained on the Island, and had communicated much important information to the American commander, now joined us.

“Our orders were, to proceed to Black Point, so called, which was the place designated for the landing of our army.

“The landing was to be made, at a signal which had been previously arranged; and we were ordered to secure the sentinels in our route, and to call on the inhabitants to come out with their teams, &c., to assist in transporting the cannon. On our way we captured two mounted light-horsemen, who were patrolling the shore; and, after our arrival at the appointed station, we waited until near day break, for the signal. But it was not given; and to our great mortification and disappointment, we were under the necessity of leaving the Island, accompanied by my father and brothers, who undoubtedly would have been condemned to an ignominious death, if they had remained; as the active part which they had taken, in communicating intelligence to the American forces, was now discovered. They were accordingly compelled to abandon a valuable property, which was destroyed by the ruthless enemy.”

Houses, barns, orchards, fruit trees, fences, were all wantonly torn to pieces; and the whole farm left a barren waste—the mere soil, which they could not destroy, alone remaining.

A short time previous to this a farm in Little Compton, called the Seaconnet Farm, belonging to a man by the name of Sisson, a Tory, had been confiscated, and on account of the serious loss which Judge Taggart had sustained, the General Assembly, in December, 1777, in recognition of his patriotic services, directed that the farm be delivered

to him to improve the same for the support of himself and family, rent free; the sum of £300 was also voted him from the treasury as a gratuity for his "suffering and damages sustained by his extraordinary exertions in behalf of, and for the advantage of this State in the late intended expedition against the enemy on Rhode Island".

In May, 1778, another expedition was planned against Rhode Island by General Sullivan, and William Taggart, senr., was appointed commander of the boat service in connection with the contemplated expedition, his experience as a ship master particularly qualifying him for this important service. This position gave him the rank, pay and rations of a major; associated with him was his son William, who was commissioned a captain. They were both engaged with Sullivan until March, 1779, when they returned to the farm at Seaconnet.



TAGGART HOUSE, LITTLE COMPTON.

"Toward the latter part of the July following, a large party of Refugees from Newport, came to Little Compton, for the express purpose of making prisoners of Taggart and his sons.

"This party landed undiscovered", continues Taggart in his narrative, "although there was a guard kept at the house where we dwelt and sentinels were stationed on the shore.

"Two of the sentinels, discovering a boat, hailed and fired; but were immediately seized by the enemy, then at their backs, with threats of immediate death for daring to fire. We were alarmed at the house by the report of the muskets; and I and my unfortunate brother, having armed ourselves, were instantly made prisoners by the enemy, who were in ambush.

"As they appeared to be in confusion, my poor brother attempted to escape, by leaping over a stone wall; and had proceeded some

distance, when he was fired on, and wounded through the thigh. One of the merciless desperadoes pursued, and ran him through with a bayonet. They then took four of our party on board their schooner, and lodged us in the jail at Newport.

"I there remained a prisoner for about a fortnight, when, with a Captain Benjamin Borden, of Fall River, I made my escape, in the following manner. The prisoners were occasionally permitted to go into the cellar, where we observed that, instead of iron, the windows were furnished with wooden bars, which might easily be removed with a good knife. But even then, there were difficulties to be surmounted, which, to persons less determined than ourselves, would doubtless have appeared insuperable.

"Sentinels were placed both in front and rear of the prison; and were continually patrolling. At the east end of the building, there was a narrow street, communicating with the front and back streets of the prison.

"From the cellar window, by which we escaped, a few steps brought us into the street in front, and in view of the soldier; who, fortunately for us, was at that time in the sentry box, on account of the rain which was falling. We had previously selected a topic of conversation respecting New York, that we might appear to have recently arrived from that place; in order to avert suspicion which might arise in the mind of the sentinel, or of any other person whom we might meet. We had agreed to walk deliberately, and without betraying any signs of fear, and were providentially enabled to pass, in the twilight, safely through the compact part of the town.

"Near the hay-scales in Broad street, we went into the fields on the south-east of that street; and at a short distance from thence, without detection, we crossed the lines which enclosed the town, although these were strictly guarded.

"We then attempted to cross the road, and to steer our course between the forts by Irish's and Tammany Hill, in order to avoid the regiment of Anspach, which was encamped near by; but, as it had then become very dark, we soon found ourselves much too near for our safety. The darkness however prevented our recapture; for, as we heard the sound when the guard was relieved at the fort at Irish's, we (to use a not unapt metaphor) were enabled 'to steer between Scylla and Charybdis.' We came out into the west wood; and having proceeded about eight or nine miles towards Bristol Ferry, halted at the house of Nathan Brownell, who received us with great kindness.

"As the troops at that season of the year, were encamped in the fields, it was extremely hazardous for us to visit, at seasonable hours, those of the inhabitants who were friendly to the American cause; but still greater, and apparently insurmountable obstacles opposed any attempt to leave the Island, undiscovered.

"As the shores were closely guarded, we could not possibly obtain a boat; and our only alternative was to procure a number of rails from

the fences, for the construction of a raft; and then to await a proper time for making an attempt to escape in that manner. This was truly the most hazardous part of our enterprise; for we were obliged to launch our frail and unseaworthy bark between two of the nightly guards which were stationed on the shore. But the same Providence, by which we had thus far been so signally favored, still shielded and protected us. We left the shore with our raft, unperceived. A thick fog soon came up, and as it was very calm we knew not in what direction to steer.

"We were all night upon, or rather in, the water, as our rude bark was not strong enough to keep us entirely above the surface; and at daybreak, when the fog passed away, we found ourselves so near the Island, that we could see the sentinels leaving the shore, and were in momentary expectation of being pursued and retaken. We were, however, enabled to continue our cruise; and, about an hour after sunrise, we safely landed from our sinking raft, on the south point of the Island of Prudence, a distance of eight or ten miles from the spot where we embarked. From Prudence, we were taken in a boat, and conveyed to the town of Bristol; and from thence proceeded to our respective places of abode."

The Taggarts remained at the Seaconnet Point farm until the evacuation of Newport and the Island by the British, when the family again returned to the Island, but the home which they had been obliged to so hastily abandon no longer greeted their gaze.

Not a vestige of the house or the buildings around it remained; "the orchards, the fruit and ornamental trees were utterly destroyed; even the hay and rails were consumed and nothing remained but a barren, uncultivated heath."

Judge Taggart never recovered from the losses which he had sustained; when he died his farm was heavily encumbered, and his son William, who inherited his estate, struggled for years to maintain it. A short time before his death he secured a small pension from the government for his honorable service.

The house where he died is still standing on the westerly side of the west road near the town clerk's office in Middletown and is occupied by one of his descendants. The house on the Seaconnet farm is also standing and is located on the Kempton farm at Seaconnet, in Little Compton, not far from Warren Point.

It is not materially changed from its appearance that night when one of the household was so brutally murdered.

The story of the Taggarts would be of greater interest and more satisfactory had the chronicler mentioned somewhere the name of the "unfortunate brother"; but nowhere in the narrative or other accounts is his name mentioned.

DAVID ARNOLD'S TAVERN.¹

The stories of the old taverns and the events that transpired within their walls contribute no mean part to the history of the eventful days of the Revolutionary struggle. The colonial inn or ordinary was the common gathering place for the community in which they were settled. Here the people could assemble around the blazing fire in winter or lounge where the summer breezes blew and discuss political questions and other subjects which entered into their everyday life.

The tavern was the center around which the whole town swung. The townsmen assembled within its spacious rooms on town meeting day; the town council here held its sessions; notices for the information of the people were posted upon the tavern door, and the traveller from a distant town found here refreshment and shelter. The traveller was always a welcome guest for the news and gossip which he brought. Newspapers were few, the post irregular, and most of the information from the outside world was obtained in this way. In some respects the tavern was of far more importance than the town in which it was located. People knew of the tavern and the tavern-keeper while they knew nothing of the town; distances were always reckoned from tavern to tavern, and not from town to town, and this custom was kept up until well along in the present century. The early numbers of the *Old Farmer's Almanack* contain the tables of the old stage routes, and the distances from tavern to tavern are scheduled with the same exactness as the trains on the railroad folder are to-day. The tavern-keeper was the only licensed person to sell liquor, and this fact alone gave to the inn a popularity which, in those liquor loving days, could not be found elsewhere.

From his environment the landlord naturally became a most conspicuous personage.

He was fully informed as to what the town council would or would not do, had great influence in furthering such objects as he had been convinced, in one way or another, were for the public good, and while he was the friend and confidant of all who gathered around his board, he was always a good friend to himself.

But they were by no means a selfish lot, and many a poor, penniless wayfarer found a comfortable seat by the fireside and a good meal at the table, even though his score was left unsettled.

The tavern-keeper always enjoyed the confidence of his neighbors, and his views on public and current questions were regarded with great weight and importance.

During the years preceding and following the American Revolution the tavern or public house became the headquarters for discussing the

¹For photograph of this historic house see chapter on the Wars and the Militia.

situation of affairs in the Colonies; here the yeomanry of the country discussed their grievances and within the walls of these houses were unfolded many of the plans which finally resulted in bringing about American Independence.

During those exciting days in Rhode Island when British troops held possession of part of her territory, stirring scenes were enacted within the walls of an old tavern located in the town of Warwick.

David Arnold's tavern was situated on the main road in Old Warwick, a few rods southerly from the road which leads down to Warwick Neck. The house is still standing, although changed considerable from what it was in those eventful days. It is a low gambrel roofed house, painted red, and stands back from the road surrounded with a spacious yard.

Near Arnold's tavern, in 1776, John Low was ordered to erect the public stocks and whipping-post and to procure iron and timber for the same. This action would seem to indicate that there were those in the town who imbibed a spirit other than that of patriotism. These machines for the punishment of evil doers were frequently located near the public houses, for the reason that as it was the common gathering place for the community, the punishment would be more severe on account of its publicity and consequently the more complete.

It was the custom in the early days of this Colony, and, in fact, throughout New England, for the town council to hold its sessions in some one of the many taverns located in the town, and naturally David Arnold's tavern was frequently resorted to for this purpose.

During a good part of the war David Arnold shared with Caleb Arnold, who also kept a public house, the patronage of town meetings. These sessions were held incessantly for the purpose of considering measures incident to the times: so busily engaged were the members of the council that the town meeting promptly voted "that the Town Council be allowed their dinners for the future when convened together to do the town's business and that the same be paid out of the town treasury".

The old tavern witnessed many exciting scenes during all this time. Around its spacious grounds the minute men were ordered to assemble equipped for the stern duties of war: the leading men in this patriotic old town gathered here to discuss the events which were transpiring throughout the Colonies, while outside in the road the Alarm companies marched by to the sound of the fife and drum on their way to take position at the fort at Warwick Neck. But by far the most interesting episode in connection with the tavern was that which occurred on the night of the 9th of July, 1777, the night when the gallant Barton and his crew of brave soldiers, by a bold and audacious stroke, captured the British General Prescott while quietly sleeping at his headquarters at the Overing house, on the Island of Rhode

Island, and bore him away from his own army, right under the guns of the British fleet, across the bay to Warwick Neck, where they all landed. From here the party having in charge General Prescott, Major Barrington and Graham, the sentry, proceeded to David Arnold's tavern, where they arrived late in the night.

On their way to the tavern Prescott, humiliated at the position in which he now found himself, yet fully realizing the bravery and daring of his captor, said to Barton:

"Sir, you have made a bold push to-night", to which Barton is said to have replied:

"Sir, we have been very fortunate."

Upon their arrival at the tavern a messenger was dispatched to General Spencer, at Providence, for a coach to take the party to that town in the morning, and the two distinguished guests were assigned to their rooms and carefully guarded.

In the morning while at breakfast it is said that Mrs. Arnold, the wife of the inn keeper, noticed that Prescott did not appear to relish his meal, and fearing that her cooking did not please him, made some observations to that effect, but the British general assured her that it was no fault of hers; the fact was that he had not much appetite. The hurried way in which the general had been obliged to gather up his clothes upon leaving his headquarters did not permit him to bring along all of the usual articles of his toilet, and Mrs. Arnold, noticing that he had no cravat, took one of her white handkerchiefs and presented it to him.

When the news of the capture of Prescott was received by General Spencer, he dispatched Thomas Sabin with his coach, accompanied by Colonel Robert Elliot, to receive the general and Colonel Barrington, and early in the morning the party set out for Providence.

On that July morning, doubtless, an excited and curious crowd congregated in front of the old tavern, eager to catch a glimpse of those two real British officers who had been so unceremoniously brought across the bay the night before.

PELEG ARNOLD'S TAVERN.

At the old Bank village, now Union Village, near Woonsocket, in the days of the Revolution was another tavern around which congregated the patriot spirit of the northern part of the State. It is more generally known as the Peleg Arnold tavern, although it had been a famous house of entertainment long before Peleg Arnold was born. It was in September, 1739, that Lieut. Thomas Arnold, the father of Peleg Arnold, was licensed to keep a public house, and here he lived catering to the weary traveller who chanced to pass along the "Great road" leading by his house on his way to Worcester and other neighboring towns.

But in 1765 Lieutenant Arnold died and his son Peleg came into possession of the house and continued to maintain the reputation which his father had established. Here he lived when the news of the fight at Concord and Lexington was passed from town to village throughout the Colonies, and when the messenger, dusty and excited, rode to his door, telling him that the farmers of Lexington and Concord had been fired on by British troops, the patriotic spirit of Peleg Arnold was aroused to its highest pitch. He entered at once into the cause of the Colonies and his tavern became the center for the work in that section incident to the struggle which had now commenced in earnest. Here



PELEG ARNOLD TAVERN, OLD BANK, NEAR WOONSOCKET.

Erected 1690. The military headquarters of North Smithfield during the American Revolution.

the town meeting was held and its walls echoed the patriotic measures there enacted.

The work of recruiting men for the cause was here commenced and Peleg Arnold was the recruiting officer. A portion of the arms which the town procured for distribution among the North Smithfield soldiery was here deposited, and the ground about the old hostelry reverberated with the tread of martial feet.

He was also for many years chief justice of the Supreme Court of Rhode Island. "Towards the close of his life Judge Peleg was widely known, not only as an extensive dealer in, but an ardent lover of, New



HOME OF JOSEPH WILLIAMS, SON OF ROGER WILLIAMS.
BUILT IN 1690.
FORMERLY LOCATED ON ELMWOOD AVENUE, OPPOSITE ROGER WILLIAMS PARK WAITING STATION.

England Run. He left no descendants. His portrait is among the collection belonging to Brown University."

Near his house, on the Great Road and opposite the Quaker Church, is an old mile stone, erected by Peleg Arnold.

The house, a two-story white house, with doorway and long hall through the center of it, has been much altered since those times, but its neat and attractive appearance, standing in such a commanding position, gives to it a stately dignity thoroughly in keeping with its honorable record and the patriotic associations surrounding it.

THE JOSEPH WILLIAMS HOUSE.

The home of Joseph Williams, the youngest son of Roger Williams, formerly stood on Elmwood Avenue, in Providence, opposite the park which bears the name of his illustrious father, and almost opposite the old family burying ground. Joseph was the most distinguished of any of the children of the founder. He served as deputy, town councilman and assistant. During the war with the Indians known as King Philip's war he served with distinction and his service in this respect is amply testified to by the inscription on his gravestone in the burying ground at Roger Williams Park. For more than two hundred years this old house sustained the wear and tear of storms and sunshine, but in the year 1886 it was demolished to make room for improvements. It is a pity that so interesting a relic so closely identified with the life of Roger Williams should have been destroyed. It would have cost but a small amount of money to have it removed within the borders of the park where it could have been carefully preserved.



MILE STONE, NEAR WOONSOCKET,
SET UP BY PELEG ARNOLD.

David F. J. Williams