

The pages hereafter are a transcription of a series of articles from The Bath Daily Times in 1924 about the early families in the Town of Topsham. Issues of The Bath Daily Times are available on microfilm in the Sagadahoc History and Genealogy Room of the Patten Free Library in Bath, Maine. Original bound volumes are in the custody of the City of Bath and at the time of this transcription in 2007, were stored at Bath City Hall.

I tried to render a faithful transcription of the articles just as they appeared in the newspapers, including inconsistent and sometimes incorrect spellings, punctuation and capitalization. There are errors and I made no attempt to correct them.

Throughout the newspaper text there appear these marks: (?) and \_\_\_\_ and where I encountered them, I transcribed them. Any such marks are original to the text.

In the Collection of the Maine Historical Society there are two books which pertain to these articles:

📁 A History of Topsham, Maine by C. Woodman: 1835.

This is a handwritten manuscript attributed to Cyrus Woodman of Buxton, Maine. (Maine Historical Society, Coll. 1498)

📄 A History of Topsham, Maine by C. Woodman: 1835

This is a handwritten manuscript with this notation on the inside cover:

“Gift of Capt. Andrew Curtis, Bowdoinham, ME copied by him May 1898.”

In addition to what appears to be a copy of the C. Woodman History of Topsham, there are also copies of the newspaper series from The Bath Daily Times in 1924 pasted on some of the leaves in this manuscript. There is additional information in this manuscript which does not appear in the C. Woodman manuscript. (Maine Historical Society, Coll. 846)

Moses Emery Woodman is the supposed author of this History of Topsham from which Mary Pelham Hill compiled the newspaper series. In Wheeler’s History of Brunswick, Topsham and Harpswell there appears this reference to Moses Woodman:

*“The name of the late Moses E. Woodman, Esquire, is also entitled to be held in grateful remembrance for the work he did in collecting and tracing the genealogy of Topsham families.”*

There is information in the newspaper series which does not appear in the 1835 manuscript and vice versa. Mary Pelham Hill (1865-1943), local historian who compiled books of vital records for Georgetown, Phippsburg, and Topsham, Maine and wrote several family histories, may have updated some of the information in the 1835 History of Topsham to prepare it for the newspaper series.

I did not perform a word-by-word comparison of the 1835 manuscript and the 1924 newspaper series, but I did compare certain sections and there are differences between the two versions. There is information in the newspaper articles which has been changed from the original text, indicating either typographical error or a deliberate correction.

Example: In the 1924 newspaper article,

“In 1660 the young Sir Ferdinando Georges petitioned the crown. . .”

In the 1835 manuscript, the very same sentence,

“In 1665 the young Sir Ferdinando Georges petitioned the crown. . .”

So, in conclusion, the researcher will want to use this document as any other source – with caution –

keeping in mind that there have been at least three transcriptions from the original words written by Moses Woodman and that each transcription would have created inevitable errors.

Diane J. Deans  
Topsham, Maine  
April 2007

**THE BATH DAILY TIMES, Thursday Evening, February 14, 1924**

**OPENING CHAPTER OF THE HISTORY OF TOPSHAM TOWN**  
Old Documents Show Earliest Owners of the Property

Following is a history of Topsham by Moses Woodman commenced about 1823, and finished about 1840 compiled by Mary Pelham Hill.

There were few settlers east of Casco before 1640, and even for several succeeding years.

Mr. Thomas Purchase was settled at Pejepscot, now Brunswick in 1639 and probably a few years before. At that date he conveyed to the Government of Massachusetts Bay, a tract of land on both sides of the Androscoggin, four miles square, for the settlement of a new colony, reserving to himself under a sufficient estate out of it. By the same deed he placed himself under their jurisdiction. Mr. Purchase had no other than an Indian title to the land, or he would not have thrown himself upon the protection of that colony. As it was included within the patents of Maine granted the next year, the intended colony was not planted, and Purchase himself after some delay acknowledged the jurisdiction of Gorges. – Folsom's History.

Thomas Purchase was one of the members then styled Commissioners of the first Court held in this State of which we have any record. This court was held at Saco, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 1636, under the authority of Sir Ferdinando Gorges, who sent over as governor his nephew, William Gorges. – History Saco, page 40.

In 1660 the young Sir Ferdinando Georges petitioned the crown, after the restoration of Charles 2<sup>nd</sup>, to the throne when the old party favorable to Gorges began to revive, to be restored to his lawful inheritance, which had been usurped by the Massachusetts and Plymouth Colony Governments and obtained letters to the Governor of Massachusetts from the King, requiring him to make restitution or show cause to the contrary.

The agent of Gorges came over with commissioners for councellors or magistrates to sundry persons, among whom was Thomas Purchase of Pejepscot.

In Maine Historical Society Collection. Vol. 1. Page 156, Thomas Purchase is named as one of the persons living out of Falmouth in 1675 and that he lived on Merrymeeting Bay.

The Colony of New Plymouth through their Kennebec Patent, established a government in that quarter in 1654 to which the inhabitants with Mr. Purchase of Pejepscot at their head, yielded obedience. – History of Saco, page 91.

In September 1675 about 20 Indians attacked the house of Thomas Purchase an ancient settler in Pejepscot, now Brunswick, and robbed it of liquors, ammuniton, etc. but did no injury to the females, who were fortunately, the only occupants at that time. When complained of for their depredation, they attempted to justify themselves on the ground that Purchase had injured them in their trading. – Maine Historical Society Collection, Vol.1, page

The account given in Folsom's History of Saco, is in the following terms: "The first symptoms of a disposition to follow in style of the Western Indians, were shown in the plunder of the dwelling and trading house of Mr. Thomas Purchase, the old planter at Pejepscot, (now Brunswick) by about 20 of the Androscoggin tribe, in the absence of Purchase and his sons.

They pretended to have been wronged in their dealings with him, but satisfied themselves with taking a supply of liquors and ammunition, spoiling a feather bed, and killing a few sheep.

"These," says a writer of that day, "were but the messengers of death." for as they departed, they warned the family that others would come and do them greater injury. – History Saco, page 153.

About this time (1628) Thomas Purchase settled upon land now included within the limits of Brunswick, the precise year in which he went there we cannot ascertain. In a deed to Richard Wharton, July 7<sup>th</sup>, 1684 from Worumbo and other sagamores, they confirmed to him lands conveyed to, and possessed by Thomas Purchase, deceased, who came to this country near three score years ago.

Purchase continued to live on the same estate which he purchased of the Indians, until the first Indian war, and is frequently noticed in the affairs of the province. His widow married John Blaney of Lynn, and was living in 1683. He left three children, Thomas, Jane and Elizabeth. – Maine Historical Collection. Vol. 1. Page 14, taken from York Records.

George Way was associated in the patent with Purchase The grant included land lying on both sides of the Pejepscot, on the eastern side of the Androscoggin river, on Kennebec river and Casco bay.

Eleazer Way, son and heir of George, conveyed his moiety to R. Wharton in 1683. The patent has long been lost, and is only known to have existed by references in early deeds.

Maine Historical Society Collections, Vol. 1, page 41, in note it is said, "A grant was made to George Way and Thomas Purchase, between the Kennebec and Androscoggin rivers and Casco bay, but its date is not known, the original having long since been lost, and no record remaining. It is referred to in very ancient deeds. This tract became the subject of long and bitter controversy between the Pejepscot proprietors and other claimants which was not finally settled until about 1814. In 1753 several pamphlets were published by the opposing parties containing the arguments on the question. Eleazar Way in a deed to Richard Wharton, of his right as son and heir of George Way, 1683 alleged that Way and Purchase had a grant of the territory from the Council of Plymouth."

The Council established at Plymouth in the County of Devon, for the planting, ruling, ordering and governing the affairs of New England, obtained a grant of all the lands from the 40<sup>th</sup> to the 48<sup>th</sup> degrees of North Latitude, from James 1<sup>st</sup> of England in the year 1606. – Maine Historical Society Collection, Vol. 1. pages 7, 10 and General Survey, p. 380.

In 1654 a deed was obtained from the Indians to Thomas Purchase, of a tract of land on the Androscoggin river which has since been known by the name of the Pejepscot Claim. The limits of this tract interfered with other titles, and were strongly contested, and after long and expensive lawsuits, were finally determined to extend as high up the river as to Minot on the west, and Leeds on the east sides. – Greenleaf’s Survey of Maine, page 314, edition of 1829.

In 1629 the Council of Plymouth made a grant to the Colony of Plymouth of a tract on the Kennebec, extending 15 miles from the river on each side.

This tract was transferred in 1661, to Antipas Boies, Edward Lyng, Thomas Brattie, and John Winslow. Their descendents and assigns afterwards associated under the name of the Kennebec Company.

The ambiguities and obscurities, as to limits, usual in the grants of this Council, produced long, expensive and severe contests between the claimants under this grant and those on its borders. – Greenleaf’s Survey, page 391.

From a recital in a deed (Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>, 1758) of a release from Belcher Noyes, agent for the Pejepscot proprietors to the Kennebec Purchase proprietors, recorded at Wiscasset, Lincoln County, Registry of Deeds, Vol. 1, page 21 it would seem that the title of the Pejepscot Co., was derived to them by deed from one Ephraim Savage.

“Pejipscott” in this deed. Sullivan sometimes write it”Pegypscott”. Mather has it “Pechypscott” and some writers have it “Pejepscutt.”

The controversy between the Kennebec Purchase and the Pejepscot proprietors was not finally adjusted and the limits between the lands fully determined till 1758. In the deed above mentioned Belcher Noyes of Boston, Co. Suffolk and Province of Massachusetts Bay, Physician, recites, that he was duly elected clerk of the Pejepscot proprietors, and was sworn into office as the law directs; that pursuant to a vote of said Pejepscot proprietors passed at their meetings, called and regulated according to law, held at Boston by adjournment on the 8<sup>th</sup>, June 1758, he was duly and especially empowered and authorized to execute the aforesaid deed, in order to prevent any controversy that might arise between them, the Proprietors of the Kennebec Purchase, and the said Pejepscot Proprietors touching their perspective claims of lands. The said Kennebec Proprietors by their deed duly executed by David Jeffries, their clerk, etc., had release and forever quitclaimed unto said Pejepscot Co., all that tract of land lying southward of the line thereafter mentioned in said deed. And ergo in consideration of five shillings sterling received of said David Jeffries Gent., and Clerk etc., etc. the said Belcher Noyes, Clerk, etc., releases and quit claims, all the right title and interest in and unto all the land lying and being within the said Pejepscot Co.’s claim northward of the same line.

The tract of land thus secured to the Pejepscot Co., by amicable adjustments with the Kennebec Co., is thus described, viz; “Beginning at the mouth of the Cathance River, which empties itself into the Merrymeeting Bay, said line to run a west north west course, without allowance for the variation of the compass, until it meets with the westerly line of said Kennebec Purchase and from thence running southerly, so far on the said Kennebec Co.’s line as to

terminate at four miles distant from Androscoggin river, from thence to run easterly until it meet with the mouth of the Bunganunganuck Brook where it empties itself into Maquoit Bay, as said bounds are described in said Pejepsco Co.'s deed from Ephraim Savage, then running round said Maquoit Bay, Mare Point, Middle Bay, Merryconeag Neck and so up New Meadows Bay, alias Stephen's River, until it meets with Stephen's carrying place, so-called, and from thence to run a west north west course over to Merrymeeting Bay without allowance for the compass, and thence to run northerly to the aforementioned line at the mouth of the Cathance River the first mentioned boundary, together with the Island called Great Jebasco Degin, and the island called Little Damariscove Island lying at the lower end of the aforesaid Merryconeag Neck, and all the Islands in the aforesaid Rivers of Androscoggin and Pejepsco comprehended within the aforesaid limits."

Although the Kennebec Co., and the Pejepsco Proprietors seem to have adjusted, as between themselves, the controversy as to lines of division between their respective claims, as early as 1785, yet other disputes and difficulties arose affecting the Pejepsco title, which were finally adjusted in 1814. The Commonwealth of Mass., objected to the extent of the Pejepsco claims, and in 10, Mass, Rep. page 155, and in 7 Mass.Rep., page 399 etc., the legal course taken to settle the question may be fully seen.

But the limits and extent of the Pejepsco Purchase were not so easily settled. The General Court, March 8, 1787 resolved that the "Twenty Mile Falls" being about 20 miles above those at Brunswick, ought to be considered the "Uppermost Great Falls" in Androscoggin river referred to in the deed of July 7, 1684, from Worumbo and the sagamores to Wharton; and that no lands be sold by the Government Agents below the south line of Bakerstown (now Poland) which angles on the falls, on the western side; on the eastern side below the south line of Port Royal, (Livermore) which lies five miles above the falls. Dissatisfaction with the extents or limits so proposed, the Proprietors entered into a reference with Attorney General by which the disputes in 1798 were submitted to Levi Lincoln, Samuel Dexter Jr., and Thomas Wright.

The Government was ready to comply with the award as soon as they made it. Feb. 1, 1800, provided the Proprietors would assign to every settler within the purchase, 100 acres of land as stipulated, so as best to include his improvements, and in consideration of so much money, and on such terms of payment as Commissioners, (These Commissioners were Nathaniel Dummer, Ichabod Goodwin, and John Lord, Esq. and they made the assignment and prescribed the terms of payment. About 20,000 acres were conveyed to settlers in virtue of conditions stipulated) appointed by the Executive might judge reasonable. But the Proprietors refused to abide by the award and terms and therefore, the original inquest of office instituted by the Commonwealth against Josiah Little, acting for them, was ordered by the General Court, March 12, 1808 to be revived. However, in 1814, and not till then, the controversy was settled by means of that award and of actions brought in the Counties of Cumberland and Lincoln, and hence the tract or purchase was so limited and extended, as to embrace Brunswick, Topsham, and the lands on the west side of the Androscoggin River, four miles in width, to So. Falls and four miles in width on the eastern side to Leeds, inclusive.

More particularly, on the Eastern side of the river the Pejepsco purchase embraces Topsham, 4000 acres at the south west corner of Lisbon, all Lewiston and Greene, and three fourths of Leeds, on the southerly side of the town. On the western side of the river, the purchase embraces Brunswick, the greater part of Durham and Danville, except a gore of about

5000 acres, the easterly part of Poland, and about 4000 or 5000 acres in the south easterly part of Minot.

The falls at Lewiston were fixed upon as the "Upper Falls" referred to in the purchase. The Pejepscot Proprietors claimed the territory now Leeds and in 1780-81, laid out the township and called it "Littlebow," in honor of Col. Moses Little. The first settlement then was commenced in 1799.

It is said, that the Indians in Maine were, previous to the first Indian War of 1675, of a peaceful character, and from the long period which had passed previous to that memorable area in quiet and repose, it may be inferred that the exciting causes of the war of that time originated with the English.

The traders, who lived among and dealt with the Indians, were not all of them possessed of that uprightness, integrity, and fair dealing, calculated to earn the favor of the natives, and the abundant supply of spiritous liquors furnished them, was no doubt oftentimes made the means of enabling the traders the more easily to practise impositions upon them in trading, and thus of destroying the confidence of the Indians in the white man's faith, and of kindling jealousies and animosities.

The causes of the First Indian War, so called, in 1675 are attributed to the bold scheme of King Philip, of uniting all the Indians of New England in hostility to the English. The war at the eastward, it is more probable, originated rather in the ill-times zeal of the English, to disarm the Indians in the Summer of 1675, when they heard of the news of Philip's suspected designs.

The inhabitants of the Kennebec were informed by a letter of July 11, 1675, of the transactions occurring at the westward, and in "an attempt to force the Indians to deliver up their arms" they were so stoutly resisted "one belonging to the English came near being killed." This caused considerable tumult, but at length was settled by means of promises, and hostages on the part of the Indians.

The hostages found means of escape, and with others proceeded to Pejepscot, and retaliated by plundering the house of Thomas Purchase, a trader among them. At other places, particularly at Saco, where the wife of the chief, Sachem, Squando, was ill treated, offenses were given to the Indians tending to exasperate their minds, and disposing them to engage, with no great reluctance, in war.

The celebrated war between the English and the Indians called Philips war, in Plymouth Colony, commenced in June 1675. At this time, the settlements in this section of the state were small and feeble.

Settlements had been made at the mouth of the Kennebec, and in different parts of Casco bay. The principal place seems to have been at Falmouth and vicinity.

The residents in this section, on hearing the news of the war with King Philip, would naturally feel solicitous to learn the state of feeling among the Indians around them, and if necessary would endeavor to disarm them, or take such other precautionary, and perhaps not

wholly justifiable means to preserve them from the horrors of savage warfare, as the circumstances of the time might suggest.

In whatever was done, it is not impossible that collisions with the Indians arose, and that jealousies and animosities were excited, which resulted in the plunder in Sept. 1675 of the house of Thomas Purchase, and afterwards in hostilities and expulsions of the English from almost the entire province of Maine. (See Maine Historical Society Collection, p. 137.)

**THE BATH DAILY TIMES, Friday Evening, February 22, 1924**

**SECOND CHAPTER HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF TOPSHAM**

Some Facts About the Early Days in the Sagadahoc Town

History of Topsham, Maine

By Moses Woodman

Commenced in About 1823 and Finished About 1840

(Compiled by Mary Pelham Hill)

Continued

The first conflict which took place between the English and the Wampanoags of Narragansett Bay, under the control of King Philip, their chief took place June 24, 1675.

“The news soon reached this province and July 11, Henry Sawyer of York communicated it by letter to the inhabitants of Kennebec.” – History Saco, page 153.

The first blood shed was soon after the plundering of Purchase's house, at the northern end of Casco Bay, where a party of twenty-five whites, in attempting to intercept three Indians, killed two of them, and the third, through wounded, escaped.

About a week after, a family of Thomas Wakely of Falmouth was attacked, five killed and girl of eleven years, taken captive.

September 18, 1675, Saco was attacked by Squando, a sachem of the Sacco tribe who had united with a tribe Androscoggin. – History of Saco, page 154.

In October Falmouth was again attacked, and Newichawannock. (South Berwick)

In the Winter following, a peace was concluded with the Indians, at Dover, with Major Waldron. After the war was begun in Sept. 1675, most, if not all, the inhabitants probably fled, and removed to places of security. It is not improbable, that all those who resided in this neighborhood, Pejepscot, left the place, though possibly some might have returned previous to August 11, 1676, when was recommenced.

August 11, 1676, the day before King Phillips death, the Indians attacked Anthony Bracketts house at Falmouth. The Androscoggin tribe were principal actors. They killed some, and took captives, with whom they proceeded to the Kennebec River.

August 14, the war commenced in that quarter. Richard Hammond's house was attacked, he, Samuel Smith and Joshua Grant were killed.

Eleven Indians then went up the river, and captured Francis Lord and his family. The remainder went down to Arrowsic Island (in Georgetown opposite the lower part of Bath) took the fort by surprise, killed Captain Lake, one of its chief proprietors, with many others, and

wounded several, among whom was Capt. Silvanus Davis, who is often distinguished subsequently in the affairs of Falmouth.

In the vicinity of the Kennebec River, there now seems to have been nothing left which the Indians could find to plunder, and none to kill or take captive. A treaty appears to have been made at Boston, Nov. 6, 1676, by Muggler Mogg, who represented Mudochawando and Cheberrind, Sachems of Penobscot, prominent actors in the war, but it was not lasting.

In February 1677, Major Waldron had a conference there with some of the savages, but it resulted in nothing, and caused a fort to be built on the Kennebec, stationing Capt. Silvanus Davis there, with forty men.

Of the garrison left there, nine were cut off by surprises, and the rest returned home in April. – Maine Historical Society Collections. page 152.

Peace was finally effected at Saco April 12, 1678. After the peace of 1678, tranquility reigned for the most part, for about ten years.

The causes of subsequent war, which began in 1688, and is commonly styled the second Indian War, may be found minutely given in the Collections of the Maine Historical Society, page 193 etc., and in the History of Saco, page 189 etc.

Col. Benjamin Church received a commission, dated Sept. 2, 1690, from Gov. Thomas Hinckley, to proceed to Maine for the protection of the settlements there, and at the Piscataqua, received instructions also from Maj. Pike, dated Falmouth, Sept. 9, 1690. “To visit the French and Indians at Amerascogin, Pejepscoot, or any other place” – “using always your utmost endeavor, for the killing, destroying, and utterly rooting out of the enemy wherever they may be found.” Signed by Robert Pike.

(See Indian Wars of Col., B. Church for a full description of his expedition to Pejepscoot, in 1690.)

Peace was finally concluded at Mare’s Point, in Casco Bay (Brunswick) January 7, 1699.

(Note) Walter Mayer, Mare, or Mar, as the name is differently spelled, lived in Saco from 1654 to 1674. From the name of some such person perhaps Mare’s Point in Brunswick is derived. History Saco, page 183.

Captain Peltiah Haley, (so styled from being captain of the militia) was born in Kittery, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 1740 and died in Topsham, October 29, 1819, age 79 years. His wife was Elizabeth Lewis, born April 9, 1743. His sister, Susanna, was the wife of John Merrill, Esq. of this town.

He was in the campaign in 1754 or 1760 in the French War at Lake Champlain, and Montreal under Capt. John Wentworth of Kittery, and next year after Wolfe took Quebec was engaged in battle at the taking of the Isle Aun or On (?). He was one of the committee of

Vigilance during the Revolutionary War, and John Merrill was one also.

He was also one of the party at the capture of Capt. Mowatt at Falmouth in May, 1775. He was an orderly Corporal in Capt. Actor Patten's company in the Bagaduce Expedition in 1779. He was in the attack at the landing of the troops at that time. Capt. Patten and Capt. Thomas' companies of Bowdoinham, were engaged in the first fight. After the Americans were defeated, and the soldiers were left to find their way home as they could, he, guided by a compass he had with him, penetrated through the wilderness and reached Sebesticook, where he hired a canoe and reached home.

He removed into the town in May, 1769, by water, and first settled on the lot now occupied by Horace Eaton and mother. He lived there six or seven years and then removed on to the lot where he ever after lived, and died.

He is a grantee in a deed from Ebenezer Ayer, of Pepperellboro for forty pounds, of 100 acres, beginning at southwest corner of Robert Dunlap, and running up the river to south east corner of Actor Patten, or land in his possession, near about 40 rods, then north 21' east and so far back as to complete the quantity.

Peltiah and Elizabeth Haley had children, viz:

Peltiah Haley.

Susanna Haley, wife of Sam. Thompson, married Sept. 27, 1792.

Elizabeth Haley, wife of Andrew Whitehouse, married Apr. 3, 1795.

Mary Haley, wife of David Alexander, married Nov. 29, 1800.

John Haley, who died Oct. 23, 1832 and who married Nancy Higgins, Sept. 1827. His will was dated June 23, 1829. He left no issue.

Peltiah Haley was one of the committee of Correspondence, inspection and safety, for three years during the Revolutionary War, from 1777 to 1780.

Mrs. Elizabeth Haley died on the 19<sup>th</sup> of Feb., 1836, aged 92 years, 11 months and 10 days.

Joseph Haley, born in Kittery in 1738, died in Topsham, May 1800, aged 62 years. His wife was Mary Goodwin of Wells, sister of Samuel Goodwin.

Their children were:

Susanna, wife of \_\_\_\_\_.

Joseph who resided in Lewiston.

Mary married a Goodwin of Wells.

Joshua, resided in Lisbon.

John, born 1777.

Samuel, who resided in Lewiston.

Moses, who resided in Bath, a joiner.

Joseph lived on the 50 acre lot which was conveyed to John Merrill, by the proprietors, Aug. 5, 1768, near the present Baptists Meeting House. This meeting house was built by him

and Capt. Actor Patten 1<sup>st</sup>, John Merrill, Esq.; Capt. Peltiah Haley and James Purinton the tanner. He is the purchaser from John Merrill of the 50 acres lot by deed dated Aug. 5, 1768. He is one of the signers of a petition or remonstrance, protesting against unequal taxes by the fathers of the town for the support of the minister, and for town charges, which bears date May 4, 1768.

Johnson Graves, came from Falmouth, near the Presumpscot River, into Topsham about 1762. He is grantee in a deed of March 4, 1763, from Samuel Staples, John Patten and John Fulton, of Lot No. 3, of 50 acres in the Cathance millright.

Johnson Graves' brothers, Samuel and Joseph came here before him. John Graves, an other brother, came afterwards.

His first wife, Sarah, a sister of Stephen and Samuel Staples came with him. By her he had:

Elizabeth, born about 1760 before they came here, wife of Benj. Jacquith of Bowdoinham.

John, born before they came here.

William, born in Topsham

Crispus, born in Topsham, Oct. 20, 1767.

Johnson Graves' second wife was Susanna, widow of Stephen Staples. Her maiden name was Hobbs, from Falmouth.

Johnson and his second wife lived together for twenty years or more, and she survived him, leaving no issue by him.

Johnson Graves was born Aug. 19, 1732 and died Jan. 8, 1824, nearly 92 years of age. He married Mrs. S. Staples, June 23, 1803. Johnson Graves was in the disastrous expedition to Bagaduce, in the commencement of 1779. He was a private in the company under the command of Capt. Actor Patten of this town.

Peltiah Haley of this town (afterwards called Captain Peltiah Haley, being afterwards captain in the militia) was an orderly corporal in Capt. Patten's company. Mr. Graves travelled through the wilderness from the Penobscot, and struck the Sebasticook where he was met by his brothers, Samuel and John, who on hearing that the remnants of the ill fated soldiers were endeavoring to wend their way homeward had started on to meet and relieve their suffering brother and fellow patriots. He was found by his brothers much fatigued and in wan, but sorrowing more for the ill success of the expedition.

He was among the troops who first engaged in battle in the attempt to land at Bagaduce. When landing, or going ashore in boats, the enemy overshot, and the bullets flew like hail over their heads.

A ludicrous anecdote is handed down respecting John Wilson, father of Humphrey F. Wilson. He, as the boats were passing to the shore, threw himself into the water, and clung to the stern of the boat, thinking he would be less likely to be hurt by the fire of the enemy. When

the boats returned so that his security would be endangered the more from the change of position, he climbed into the boat again.

Johnson Graves came into town about the same time with Deacon James Henry, the cooper, who originated from Providence, R.I.

John Orr, came also about the same time from Mare Point, Brunswick, these all settled in the same neighborhood.

John Orr died in the Winter of 1773 (?). His wife was Betty Work (who lived at Merrymeeting Bay) and who came from Ireland, or perhaps she might have been born here, as her parents came from Ireland.

John Orr is grantee in a deed from Samuel Winchell of Jan. 21, 1760 of Lot No. 1 of 100 acres in the Cathance mill right.

James Henry, cooper, is a grantee Sept. 3, 1762, from Adam & James Hunter, of 57 acres 1<sup>st</sup> lot, in the second division of Cathance millright, and also in a deed from Samuel Winchell of Feb. 12, 1765 of 50 acres 2<sup>nd</sup>, lot 2<sup>nd</sup>, division 26 rods wide on the river.

Johnson Graves and Sarah (Staples, sister of Stephen and Samuel Staples) left children as follows:

Daniel, who died of measles at Falmouth, 20 months old.

Elizabeth, born April 19, 1759, who married Benj. Jaquith of Bowdoin.

John, born July 4, 1762 in Falmouth, resided in Litchfield, Maine.

William, born, Aug. 4, 1765 in Topsham, married 1<sup>st</sup>, Sarah Jacques of Bowdoin, a sister of Benj. Jacques, above mentioned. She died Apr. 6, 1816, aged 44, being 44 the 4<sup>th</sup> of June next. His second wife was widow Catherine Dunham, of Bowdoinham. She was born in Topsham, her first husband being Capt. Thos. Dunham. Her maiden name was Potter, a daughter of Elder Potter, Jr., formerly of Topsham.

Crispus Graves, born Oct 20, 1767, married Betsey Jacques, Dec. 13, 1792.

John Graves, and Sarah Boynton (of Falmouth) she born Mar. 9, 1747, were published April 10, certificate rendered Aug. 29, (year not given) had children:

Daniel, born June 16, 1770.

Sarah, born Oct. 12, 1771.

Johnston, born Feb. 21, 1774.

Elizabeth, born Jan. 18, 1778.

John, born Sept. 26, 1780.

Esther, born, Mar. 24, 1788.

Levi, born Nov. 16, 1790.

Samuel Graves, brother of Johnston Graves, died in 1792 (?). His children were: Ebenezer, born Aug. 21, 1775, died Aug. 14, 1832 aged 57, a selectman in 1773, left children, Betsey; Thankful; Ezekiel; Mary; Demuitt; John; Samuel; Ebenezer; and Joel a minor. Jacob, resided in Topsham.

Thomas, had a family.

Jabor, married in New Brunswick.  
Susan, wife of Jos. Jack of Bowdoinham.  
Molly, wife of Epm. Mariner.  
Ann, wife of Isaac Jacquith of Bowdoin.

Joseph Graves was a selectman in 1770, a brother of Johnston and Samuel. Joseph and Saml. Graves and Saml. Staples, are said to be "late of Falmouth but now of a placed called Topsham" and are grantee of 1-2 of 1000 acres, to be laid out near and convenient to the two branches of the Western Stream of Cathance River.

The grantors are, Samuel Waterhouse of Boston, merchant, and Hannah, his wife, the only representative and daughter of Job Lewis, Esq., late of Boston. They sell in said deed "all our right" which they declare to be 1-2 of 1000 acres etc., as the same is derived us by virtue of a deed dated Feb. 20, 1740 from Henry Gibbs, to our said father Job Lewis, recorded in York County.

The other half it is said belonged to Samuel Winchell and others.

**THE BATH DAILY TIMES, Tuesday Evening, March 11, 1924**

**HISTORICAL DATA REGARDING EARLY FOLK IN TOPSHAM**

Third Paper in the Series on Early Days in Topsham Town

History of Topsham, Maine,  
(By Moses Woodman)  
Commenced in 1823 and finished in 1840.  
(Continued)  
(Compiled by Mary Pelham Hill, 1924)

William Graves, and Sarah (Jacquith) Graves, had children as follows: (His second wife was Catherine Potter),

- 1-Hannah born Sept. 14, 1792.
- 2-Daniel born Sept. 21, 1795.
- 3-William born Nov. 10, 1797.
- 4-Rhoda born Oct. 6, 1790.
- 5-David born Nov. 5, 1801.
- 6-Lucinda born Oct. 9, 1805.
- 7-Julianna, born Mar. 22, 1811.
- 8-Coolidge born May 17, 1812.

John Graves, (Brother of Crispus), and Margaret (Gray), had children: -

- 1-Lucy born Mar. 19, 1787.
- 2-Elizabeth born Mar. 19, 1791.
- 3-Jane born Sept. 5, 1793.
- 4-Sara born Apr. 4, 1797.
- 5-Mary born Dec. 13, 1801.

Stephen Staples, born Mar. 27, 1730, wife Jude, born Nov. 15, 1738 died Oct. 6, 1768, had children as follows: -

- 1-Lucy born Nov. 8, 1760 probably the one published to Hatick Laten of Falmouth.
- 2-Joseph born Aug. 12, 1762 died in Falmouth.  
He married 2<sup>nd</sup>, Susanna, and had children, (married about 1764.)
- 3-Ephraim born May 28, 1765 resided in Gray.
- 4-Anne born Apr. 15, 1767, pub. Nov. 30, 1787 A. Howland.
- 5-Jude born May 9, 1769 m. Geo. Potter of Bowdoin son of Wm.
- 6-John born July 27<sup>th</sup>, 1771.
- 7-Josiah born May 2, 1774.
- 8-Daniel born Apr. 9, 1777.
- 9-James born June 2, 1779.
- 10-Mary born July 9, 1782 unmarried.
- 11-Robert born May 6, 1788 (Bowdoinham).

Susanna survived Stephen and was again married to Johnson Graves June 23, 1803.

Samuel Staples born April 1, 1733, Libbel his wife born Oct. 31, 1737. Their children: -  
1-Dorcas, born Dec. 9, 1753, married first, James, son of Stephen Staples (1<sup>st</sup>). 2<sup>nd</sup>, a  
Mr. Houdlette.

2-Stephen, born Nov. 6, 1756 married Coombs, died in Lisbon.

3-Mary born Jan. 31, 1760 married Mr. Hobbs.

4-Elizabeth born July 16, 1763.

5-Libbel, born Mar. 23, 1764.

Samuel Staples and Lydia Wells were published July 1779, she of Falmouth. Children,

6-Jeremiah born June 9, 1780.

7-Winslow born Mar. 30, 1782.

8-Lydia born Mar. 28, 1784, married James Waire.

9-Eleanor, born June 4, 1786 married Nathaniel Quint Dec. 1802.

10-Child born Aug. 4, 1788 dead.

11-Lucy born Dec. 8, 1789 unmarried.

There was a Charity also, married Apr. 20, 1778, who was daughter of Libbel, it is said.

Richard Craine is said to have taken two lots in Topsham, Nos. 32 & 33 under Benjamin Larrabee, the agent of the Pejepscot Proprietors, and a deed executed Apr. 7, 1738. He was killed by the Indians August 26, 1747, together with William Potter and probably John Moffat and James McFarland.

A daughter Rebecca, who in May 18, 1762 was the wife of William C. Bryant of Georgetown, schoolmaster, and who sold to Adam Hunter 1-3 of lots 33 & 34.

Martha, another daughter. A Jane Crane was married in 1764 to Nathan Winslow of Falmouth.

Joseph Berry, was born at New Meadows, Brunswick, Sept. 26, 1740, and died in Topsham Sept. 23, 1830, aged nearly 90 yrs. His parents resided in Berry's Mills, in Bath, then Georgetown.

His first wife was Jane, or Jenny, a daughter of Capt. Adam Hunter. Jane was born Feb. 28, 1810. Married in Feb. 1767.

She died leaving: -

1-Adam, born Jan. 25, 1769, unmarried, lost, or died at sea.

2-Joseph, born abt. 1772 died 1810, aged 38, unmarried.

His second wife was Jennett, (or Jane) a daughter of Deacon James Henry, the Cooper. She was born in Providence, Sept. 25, 1751, children by second wife: -

3-Jenny, married Crispus Graves.

4-John married a Simpson and died in Demarara, Mar. 18, 1803.

5-Hannah who died an infant.

6-Robert born April 28, 1786, unmarried, drowned May 17, 1838 at Cathance Stream.

7-Rufus born Mar. 22, 1792, unmarried and drowned near Seguin Sept. 27, 1817, as he was coming from Portland in a small boat.

8-Havey born Sept. 19, 1798.

Joseph Berry Dec. 28, 1768, is a grantee in a deed from James Hunter of 100 acres of the N.W. part of lots 30 & 31.

He was one of the Committee of Correspondents, etc., in 1785.

William Potter had brothers James and Alexander. His wife is said to have been Catherine Mustard. He was killed by the Indians in 1747.

Children: -

“Elder” James Potter was 13 years old when his father was killed he was the eldest of eight children.

Alexander, had one son, Charles Potter, Esq., of Bowdoin.

John, who resided in Georgetown, Maine.

David, who resided in Bowdoin, married Ruth Clatter Curtis of Harpswell, dau. Of Caleb Curtis.

Samuel, who was drowned.

Joseph, who resided at Moose Island, Eastport.

Matthew.

William’s wife Catherine afterward married Edw. Cunningham of Bowdoin, where she died.

“Elder” James Potter married Mary Spear of Bowdoin.

He was a preacher of the Baptist denomination, and called “elder” also called “miller” to distinguish him from his uncle James and because he was concerned at the mills at the Falls, resided where Samuel Hunter now lives in Topsham. He thence removed into Bowdoin during the Revolutionary war. He was in the Bagaduce Expedition, acting as Lieut., under Capt. Hinkley. Hinkley was killed and the command then devolved upon William Potter. He was the parent of John Potter 3<sup>rd</sup>, a Dept. Sheriff.

Children: - of James & Mary (Spear) Potter: -

Martha married Israel Simpkins 1<sup>st</sup>, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Simon Conner.

Katherine who married Capt. Thomas Dunham, after his death, she married Wm. Graves, being his second wife.

John, resided in Bowdoin.

Robert, married Hannah Reed, Jan. 4, 1794, and removed to Ohio.

William, unmarried, lost at sea.

Matthew, married Martha Spear and died in Bowdoin of “Bilious Colic” aged 27 years.

James Potter, and son of William, who James Potter, and son of William, who was killed by Indians, married Martha Moulton, sister of Jedediah Moulton of this town, daughter of John Moulton, born in York, resided in Little River Plantation (now Lisbon) where Martha was born. William Potter and Martha Moulton were published Nov. 19, 1792.

James Potter, son of James Potter the first and Jenny Mallett were married April 8<sup>th</sup>, 1784.

Alexander Potter, son of Alexander the older, is supposed to have married Abigail

Randall in 1782. Yet he is said to have married a Snipe of Georgetown, Town records of Topsham Page 219.

Alexander, son of William had one son, Charles Potter of Bowdoin.

Samuel Potter son of James the elder and Elizabeth Dunlap, were married April 21, 1778.

Mary Potter, sister of Alexander the 2<sup>nd</sup>, who was son of Alexander the elder, married Hatherly Foster of Georgetown, April 18, 1777.

Hugh Wilson, Yeoman of Topsham, is a grantee from a deed of William Skinner & Belcher Noyes, esqs., as agents of the Pejepscot Proprietors authorized by a vote of May 13, 1757, of a tract of land, 100 acres, lying up Cathance river, described according to a plan of Stephen Gatchell, Surveyor: said lot lying to the Northward of a lot belonging to Samuel Wilson, extending on said river N. 50 R.: W. 397 R.; S. 40 R. E. 404 R., to first mentioned bounds.

Robert, Hugh, Samuel and William Wilson, were brothers. Hugh had his leg broken among the logs on the Eastern branch of the Cathance Stream. An amputation was had, but he did not long survive the operation. The physician who cut his leg off, was from (Casco) Portland. \_\_\_\_\_

Elizabeth is mentioned as the widow of Hugh, in a deed to her from Belcher Noyes. James is called the father of Hugh, and is said to have taken up a lot etc.

Jane a sister of the older Hugh Wilson, was the wife of William Alexander, who once lived in Topsham, but afterwards in Harpswell where he died.

Hugh Wilson and Elizabeth (Hewey) Wilson had children:

- 1-Hugh, married Mary Durgin Feb. 27, 1785.
- 2-James unmarried, died 1786.
- 3-William married Sarah Chase.
- 4-Betsey married Jeremiah Davis of Lisbon.
- 5-Martha married Ebenezer Farrin.

Elizabeth, the widow, afterwards married Timothy Weymouth, who resided a short time in Topsham, and they parted and afterward he died in Topsham. Weymouth was from Brunswick.

Hugh Wilson, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Mary (Durgin) had children: -

- 1-Mary unmarried.
- 2-Hugh married Staples.
- 3-James unmarried went south.
- 4-Margaret married James Weymouth.
- 5-John married a Hodgkins.
- 6-Esther, unmarried, twin.

7-Hannah, married Stephen Crain, twin.

Samuel Wilson and Mary (Reed, sister of Col. John Reed) had children: -

1-Hannah born Oct. 27, 1762.

2-James born July 2, 1764.

3-Susanna born May 18, 1766.

4-John

5-William.

Samuel Wilson was licensed as an Inn holder by the Court of Sessions of Lincoln County in October 1762, and for each successive year down to September 1766, when his last license was granted.

He removed to Lisbon prior to 1790, and lived and died on the farm now owned by Charles Thompson. His second wife was widow Elizabeth Holdbrook, (wife of Abijah who lived in Harpswell. Her maiden name was Snow. Wilson had no children by his second wife.

William Wilson, the elder and innholder and Larabee, his wife had children: -

William who died on the homestead, married an Owen.

John married Abiel Thompson.

Samuel lived near the Baptist Meeting House in Topsham.

Elizabeth married Thomas Owen of Topsham.

Isabella married Rev. Elihu Purington of Bowdoinham.

Hannah married a widower by name of Linscott.

John Wilson died in August 1835. He was a Revolutionary Pensioner.

Joseph Haley, the clothier, called "Fuller Haley" from his occupation, is a grantee for 14 pounds of a two acre lot on the road from John Dunlap, August 18, 1790. He is a different person from him named on page (?). He died Sept. 20, 1832.

His wife was Esther Towne of Kennebunk.

Their children were: -

1-John born May 4, 1777, married a Milliken of Searboro.

2-Olive, born Jan. 22, 1779 married Obed Burnham May 19, 1796.

3-Jesse, born Sept. 8, 1780 married no issue.

4-Susanna, born Oct. 8, 1783 married David Foster.

5-Sarah, born July 22, 1784 married Actor Wilson.

6-Joseph, born Dec. 6, 1785 married a Towne of Kennebunk.

7-Esther, born May 6, 1787 married Timothy Foster.

8-Rebecca, born Dec. 1, 1788 unmarried.

9-James, born Oct. 26, 1790 married Lois Durell of Woodstock.

10-Abigail, born Aug. 2, 1793 unmarried.

11-Abner, born Mar. 30, 1795.

12-Ruth, born Nov. 4, 1797 unmarried.

Dr. Ebenezer Emerson and wife Sally had children: -

Sally, born Nov. 21, 1701

He built and occupied the house in the angle of the roads leading down the "Foreside" and to Bowdoinham, just below the tannery of William Purington.

Dr. Ebenezer Emerson, and Beckey Miller (daughter of Rev. John Miller, the second settled minister of Brunswick, she was born May 176\_\_\_) had their intentions of marriage "Cried."

They had children: -

Rebecca who died when 12 or 14 years old, and a son who died when 23 or 24 years old in Mass.

Beckey Emerson (the widow) married Stephen Calef of Milton, Mass., Dr. Emerson's first wife was a sister of Capt. John Stinson of Woolwich. He came from Reading, Mass. Died prior to 1798.

David Gray and Mary had children: -

John, born Oct. 30, 1788.

Solomon, born Sept. 15, 1790.

Uriah, born Aug. 9, 1792.

Rebecca, Oct. 25, 1795.

Joseph, Mar. 25, 1798.

Andrew, born Oct. 24, 1801.

Daniel Gray and Mary Williams of North Yarmouth were published Sept. 29, 1789.

Daniel Gray had a brother Alexander, Margaret, a sister became the wife of John Graves, Jr.

An Alexander Gray was in Topsham in May, 1768.

**THE BATH DAILY TIMES, Thursday Evening, March 27, 1724**

**FOURTH CHAPTER IN THE HISTORY OF TOPSHAM TOWN**  
Something About the Early Settlers of That Town

By Moses Woodman commenced 1823, Finished 1840  
(Compiled by Mary Pelham Hill)

Thomas Wilson came from Ireland when he was about fifteen years of age; arrived in Boston, and later came to Topsham, and when the Indian War was commenced, he returned to Boston. On peace, he returned to Topsham, and there tarried during the last celebrated French and Indian war, and till his decease. He was buried in the graveyard near the old meeting house. The old meeting house, is no longer standing.

He was the only one of his family who came into this country. The other Wilsons are no connection of his.

He is called "Captain."

Thomas Wilson married Ann Cochrane of Londonderry, N.H.

They left children:

William Wilson, who was born in Boston (?) and came here when about one year old, and died here Apr. 15, 1826, aged 84 years. His wife was Mary Patten, daughter of Robert Patten of Kennebunk, who never resided here, and who was the father of Actor Patten of this town. Actor Patten was the father of Hugh Patten and of Actor Patten, 3<sup>rd</sup>. This William and Mary Wilson had eleven children: -

- 1-Robert, married Margaret Owen of Brunswick for 1<sup>st</sup> wife; Mary Preble of Bowdoinham for second wife.
- 2-Lettice, married David Owen of Wayne
- 3-Johnson, married Hannah, daughter of Gideon Walker and who afterwards absconded.
- 4-Actor, of Bowdoin, married a Pennell.
- 5-Ann, was wife of Actor Patten, 3<sup>rd</sup>, Esq., and mother of John S. Patten.
- 6-Peter, who died non-sane idiot by fits.
- 7-Thomas, of Bowdoinham, unmarried.
- 8-Isaac, of Strong.
- 9-Mary, married Josiah Sandford, a Selectman of Topsham.
- 10-Rachel, married Joel Thompson of Lisbon.
- 11-Adam, a graduate of Bowdoin College in class of 1819, and editor of Zions Advocate, in Portland.

James Wilson was another son of Thomas and Ann Wilson, died 1803 in June aged 59 yrs., and left a widow Ann, who was a daughter of James Henry of Providence, R.I., who removed to Harpswell and then to Topsham where he died. His widow was living in 1823 then aged 84 yrs. James and Ann, had children: -

- 1-Henry, born Sept. 25, 1775, died unmarried in 1813, aged 38, after his father's death.
- 2-Thomas, born Jan. 14, 1778, died 1810.
- 3-John, Jr., (General) born Apr. 8, 1780, died Feb. 6, 1832 leaving a widow Eunice.
- 4-Hannah, born Jan. 6, 1783, unmarried.
- 5-Charles, born Dec. 15, 1785, died after his father, in 1812 unmarried.
- 6-James, born July 31, 1789, unmarried, a lame man.

Thomas Wilson, was another son of Thomas and Ann Wilson. He was unmarried, went to sea, and was never heard from. (A Torey) Capt. John Sandford went to New York City to hear of Wilson's fate.

Lettice Wilson, was a daughter of Thomas and Ann, she died about a fortnight after her marriage. Her husband was a Martin of Brunswick.

Margaret Wilson, a daughter of Thomas and Ann Wilson, married Alexander Rogers, father of George Rogers, her first husband was John Hunter.

Mary Wilson, was another daughter of Thomas and Ann, and was the wife of John Sandford, married June 18, 1776, was living in Feb. 1803.

Elizabeth Wilson, another daughter of Thomas and Ann, married Wm. Poterfield. Resided in Stroudwater, married Nov., 1772 probably. March 6<sup>th</sup>, 1793, Elizabeth Poterfield conveys to James Wilson (her brother it is supposed) 136 acres wild land in Topsham supposed to be in rear of land mentioned below.

No description is given.

Note – July 2, 1778, Thomas Wilson conveys, 164 acres 90 poles, front on Androscoggin River,  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile above the Falls at Brunswick Fort in Topsham, to James Wilson (it is supposed his son). These two parcels constituting 300 acres. General John Wilson, Jr., resided on this tract.

July 13<sup>th</sup>, 1785 Thomas Wilson conveys to James his son (?) 101 acres bounded on Terreminjoes Cove, Androscoggin River, 50 rods wide, and running north 22 minutes east to land of Sam'l Thompson and joining land of widow and heirs of William Wilson deceased. This land is the same marked on the town plan as lots Nos. 54 and 55 and on which are the Courthouse and Meetinghouse and including the Nathaniel Green house, and that of Nahum Perkins, (lately Thomas G. Sandfords).

James Wilson at his decease in 18 \_\_\_\_ was in possession of the greater part of this 101 acre lot.

Actor Patten 3<sup>rd</sup>, and General John Wilson, Jr., were administrators of James Wilson in 1815. They probably finished the administration business in 1816, August 26. This Actor

Patten is the same who married Anne, 5<sup>th</sup> child of William Wilson.

Actor Patten was the administrator of Henry Wilson the first son of James Wilson. John Wilson was a co-administrator. This administration was partially closed Aug. 26, 1816.

Actor Patten was adm., of Charles Wilson, 5<sup>th</sup> child of James.

The above named Actor Patten is the same person who married Ann, daughter of William Wilson. He was captain in the militia, and a justice of the Peace, and is often styled "Captain." He died in April, 1829, aged 58, and was buried in the grave yard nearby opposite the Courthouse. Born in this town.

Actor Patten 1<sup>st</sup>, was the father of Actor Patten, 3<sup>rd</sup>, mentioned above. He was the son of Robert Patten of Arundel (Kennebunk) and brother of Mary, wife of William Wilson. He married Jane McLellan of Gorham (who was born Dec. 29, 1748) in Nov., 1766; died Aug. 28, 1835. He died July 26<sup>th</sup>, 1816, aged 79, was born in Ireland Jan. 22, 1737. Their children were:

1-Elizabeth, wife of Benj. Patterson of Saco.

2-Robert married, resided in Palermo.

3-Actor Patten, 3<sup>rd</sup>, mentioned before and who after his father's death was called Actor Patten 2<sup>nd</sup>.

4-Mary, whose first husband was Thos. Buckminster of Saco, and her second, Dr. Shannon of Saco. Died at the mouth of the Passadumkeag of croup in Jan., 1834.

5-Abigail, wife of William Tate, of Topsham.

6-Jane, wife of John Marston of Monmouth.

7-Rebecca, widow of Robert McLellan of Gorham.

8-Hugh, who married Lucy Green, sister of Nathaniel and Gardiner Green.

9-Rachel, unmarried.

10-Capt. William Patten, mariner

11-Margaret, married Joseph Levett, first, and second Noah Melcher

Actor Patten 1<sup>st</sup>, was born in Ireland, and was six weeks of age, when he, with his parent emigrated to this country. He was the only son of his mother who died after five years residence here. He was born Jan. 22, 1737. He came into Topsham in June, when he was 23 years of age, and moved here in Dec. of the same year (1760). At that time there was not a dwelling house above where is the westerly line of the Enoch Danford lot, on the easterly line of the Actor Patten lot on this river. His wife, Jane McLellan, was a daughter of Hugh McLellan, who is mentioned in Willis' History of Portland, page 300.

Note – John Wilson, Jr., Actor Patten 3<sup>rd</sup>, adms., Of James Wilson, at Lincoln County Probate court, obtained license to sell real estate of deceased to pay debts, etc. From a certificate of the Judge of Probate accompanying the petition for license to sell, it appears that said James Wilson's real estate was appraised at \$695.91 and the personal estate at \$1025.67; the list of debts as handed to said Judge by the adms. was \$1751.08; for \$338.81 Aug. 24, 1815 sale was made of 104 ¼ acres of land in said Topsham bounded south on Androscoggin River; east by land of John Haley, Jr., north by land of John Wilson, Jr., et als.; west on the remaining part of said farm being a part of the upper farm, etc.

James Potter, the oldest left children:  
William resided in Litchfield, Maine  
John resided in Litchfield, Maine  
Samuel resided in Litchfield, Maine. Died about 1800, aged 54.  
Hewey resided in Gardiner, Maine  
Joseph resided in Ohio  
James resided in Bowdoin, Maine. Married Jenny Mallett Apr. 8, 1784.  
Andrew resided in Gardiner, Maine.  
Christine married Eben R. Dunlap of Litchfield Jan. 6, 1777.  
Elizabeth married James Dunlap of Litchfield Nov. 26, 1782.  
Jane married Natl. Marston of Gardiner April 1787.

Samuel Potter, the son of James, above mentioned, married Betsey Dunlap April 21, 1773. She was a daughter of Old John Dunlap. She survived her husband and was a second time married to Old Dr. Wight of Lewiston where she was living in 1835; her brothers and sister are Margaret, Dunlap who married Jonathan Baker Oct. 3, 1734 of Smithfield (or Litchfield) now Hallowell. David Dunlap who died in Bowdoin about 1833. Eben R. Dunlap who resided in Litchfield. William Dunlap who resided in Ripley.

James Dunlap of Litchfield married Elizabeth Potter Nov. 26, 1782.  
Joseph Dunlap, died in Brunswick.  
Mary Dunlap, married Moses Eaton of Brunswick.  
John Dunlap married Dorcas Sparks.  
James Dunlap, unmarried, supposed drowned aged 35.

The above Dunlaps were children of John Dunlap and he was the only son of Robert Dunlap who came from Ireland, and who arrived here, it is said, when his son John was nine years old.

Robert Dunlap had John and Jane, who married Daniel Eaton of Brunswick. Margaret married James Potter the eldest.

Samuel Winchell, I find by recital in a deed of Jan. 1, 1760, to John Patten, was a purchaser of one-eighth of undivided land in Topsham, from John Belcher Noyes, as agent, by deed of Nov. 21, 1759. This deed of Nov. 21, 1759, was from Belcher Noyes in trust for the creditors of the estate of Adam Winthrop, Esq., late of Boston. He was also one-fourth proprietor of the Cathance Mill-right of 1100 acres.

So in Dec., 28<sup>th</sup>, 1757, he sells all his rights to 125 acres, in common and one-eighth of a double sawmill and stream to Adam Hunter, as bought by said Winchell and Jacob Eaton, of Isaac Roral by deed of Nov. 15, 1750, wherein is sold to them 500 acres, and all his rights in said stream.

In the division of the 1100 acres June 15, 1761, on the plan as recorded in the Registry of Deeds, a small lot, No. 4, in the 3<sup>rd</sup>. division of lots, is assigned to Samuel Winchell, and is called his "home lot."

I find Samuel Winchell and Sarah, his wife, named in a deed dated April 15<sup>th</sup>, 1800, acknowledged before Jonathan Ellis, Aug. 26, 1803, in which they, with Jenny Fulton, single woman, quit claim to William Patten, mariner, two-fifths of house and land in which Robert Fulton died. I have the original deed and the name of Samuel Winchell is written in a fair plan and steady hand. This Samuel Winchell is grandson of Col. Samuel Winchell.

I am not sure that he is the one mentioned before, though I have heard it said that the first named Samuel had only one son, John Winchell, the same, I suppose, who is called Deputy Sheriff in 1767. He had a daughter Sarah, who became the wife of Arthur Hunter, son of Capt. Adam Hunter, born about 1751.

Samuel Winchell was styled "Colonel" from the circumstance of being a superior officer and worthy member of a fraternity which in these latter days would be called the "Lazy Club." He was capable of doing as much work as anyone, but he disliked it. In his later days he became too fond of strong drink.

His son John abhorred the habit for a time, but eventually contracted the same inordinate thirst for liquor.

Capt. John Rogers, born in Georgetown June 20, 1747, old style. Jane, his wife, born in Topsham Dec. 11, 1743, old style.

Children:

John, born Aug. 30, 1771, lost his leg Jan. 1836.

William, born June 2, 1773.

Jenny, born Nov. 15, 1775, wife of Eph. Larrabee.

Alexander, born March 13, 1778 removed West.

Dinah, born Apr. 1, 1781, wife of Nahum Houghton.

Hugh, born Feb. 9, 1785.

Jane, was a daughter of Alexander Potter, who was a brother of James and William Potter.

Capt. John Rogers was one of the selectmen in 1790, 1791, 1792.

A John Rogers was in Topsham, May 1768.

A John Rogers was Town Clerk in 1797 and 1798. This was Capt. John Rogers.

John Rogers was son of William Rogers who lived at Dromore's Mills.

William Rogers and wife came from Ireland, they left: -

George, who died in Freeport.

Thomas, who died in Georgetown.

Hugh who died in Georgetown.

William, who died in Freeport.

Ann (?) married Benj. Kendall, father of Robert Kendall of Freeport.

Margaret married Rev. John Miller of Brunswick.

John, above named.

Robert, who died in Phippsburg.

George Rogers, above named, was the father of Alexander Rogers who was the father of George Rogers, called "Major" George. Alexander Rogers, born Jan. 9, 1754 in Georgetown, wife widow Margaret Hunter, wife of John Hunter, and whose maiden name was Margaret Wilson.

Children of John Rogers and Susanna (daughter of Robert Patten, born Sunday, May 15, 1774.)

From family register.

Susanna, born Wednesday Jan. 19, 1803 at 3 p.m.

Margaret, born Sunday, Sept. 2, 1804, at 9 p.m.

Robert P., born Tuesday, July 8, 180 -, at 3:30 p.m.

Rankin, born Tuesday May 31, 1808 at 2 p.m.

John, born Friday Oct. 6, 1809 at 4 p.m.

Maria, born Friday, July 19, 1811 at 3 a.m., died Oct. 24, 1813.

Rebecca, born Sunday, May 23, 1813 at 7 p.m.

Maria, born Thursday, April 13, 1815 at 2 p.m.

**The Bath Daily Times, Tuesday Evening, April 8, 1924**

**SIXTH CHAPTER OF EARLY HISTORY OF TOPSHAM TOWN**

Some Names of Those Who Figured There in Early Days

By Moses Woodman, commenced 1823, finished 1840  
(Compiled by Mary Pelham Hill)

The Randall Family, early settled in Topsham, Maine.

Paul Randall, who not long after he came into town, removed to Harpswell.

Ezra Randall, whose wife Margaret was from Scituate, Mass., died in Bowdoinham, aged 88.

Daniel Randall, married widow Kemp, of Harpswell, where he died.

William Randall whose son William now resides in Topsham, and who gives me the dates.

Their father, Benjamin Randall, never lived in Topsham, but resided in Scituate, Mass. His father was William Randall, who emigrated from Ireland.

William Randall, the son of Benjamin, was born in Scituate, Plymouth county, Jan. 1, 1743 and died in Topsham June 1826 aged 83.

His wife was Jane Patten, a daughter of John Patten, born Sept., 1746, died Nov. 1832 aged 86.

The children of William and Jane Randall were:

Jane, wife of James Jameson, she born Apr. 28, 1783.

William born Aug. 22, 1785, resided in Topsham.

Benjamin born Nov. 14, 1789, a graduate of Bowdoin college.

Paul, Ezra and Daniel, settled in Topsham before William came

Ezra is called shipwright, in a deed to him dated Oct. 15, 1761, from Jacob Eaton of a lot No. 18, in the Town Plan. May 7, 1762, he also bought lots 13, 14, 15 and 16 of Michael Malcolm of Georgetown for 426 pounds 13 shillings and 4 pd. And May 14, 1762 sells lots 13 and 14 for 240 pounds to Paul Randall who is called "Blacksmith."

June 4, 1776 for 40 pounds Ezra sells to William Randall who is styled of Scituate, Mass., 50 acres.

Nov. 8, 1768, Paul Randall and his wife Mary, styled of Harpswell, sell to William and Daniel, who are called of Scituate, 58 acres.

William Randall of Scituate Mar. 16, 1770, is again mentioned as a grantor in a deed to John Reed, Jr.

William and Daniel are grantees May 4, 1773 from William Thorne, Jr., of about 50 acres.

Ezra is grantor to Daniel Aug. 20, 17\_2 of 19 ½ acres.

Ezra sells also to Joseph Foster 56 acres Mar. 23, 1769 and 51 acres Mar. 12, 1778.

Joseph Randall, son of Ezra, was published to Martha Reed, in April 1778.

Ezra Randall and Margaret had children:

Isaiah, born Nov. 4, 1772.

Margaret born Aug. 6, 1762.

Heatherly, born Aug. 26, 1766.

John born Feb. 24, 1769.

Issac born June 1, 1776.

Elizabeth born Nov. 28, 1779.

Elizabeth Randall and William Wigery were married June 26, 1776.

Nabby Randall (dau. Ezra) and John Mustard were married Jan. 22, 1778.

Margaret the daughter mar. Alexander Potter of Bowdoin son of Alexander Potter.

Abigail Randall, dau. Ezra, published to Alexander Potter, April 1783.

William Randall was one of the Selectmen in 1776 and one of the Committee of Correspondence in 1778 and 1785.

Gideon Walker, born in Kennebunk, married Mary, daughter of Thomas Perkins, Esq. of Kennebunk. Thomas Perkins' father was a minister.

Children of Gideon and Mary Walker:

Hannah, born Jan. 2, 1780.

Nathaniel, born Sept. 25, 1781.

Lucy, born June 29, 1786.

Susanna, born Mar. 28, 1792

John Patten came from Ireland when eight years old and settled in Topsham, Maine. No brothers came into this town with him.

He died in 1799 (?) aged 77 years.

His wife was Mary Means of Saco, she died aged 77, two or three years after her husband.

John was a proprietor in the 1100 acres on Cathance mill rights, and 1-16 of the sawmill and stream.

Children:

Robert, born May 1742, and came from Scarboro when 10 or 12 years old, father of Adam Patten.

Sarah married Robert Fulton.

Jane married William Randall, published July 23, 1783.

Mary married Sam'l Jameson of Brunswick.

Margaret married James Maxwell.

John who went to England, died in Topsham unmarried.

William, died in England, a prisoner, unmarried.

Dorcas, married James Hunter, son of Col. James Hunter.

Thomas, born Feb. 10, 1761, father of Capt. John Patten.

Joseph, drowned through the ice in Merrymeeting bay, Jan. 4, 1809 aged 45, Actor.

David died in Bowdoinham, married.

Thomas, Joseph and Daniel, Oct. 7, 1796, for \$96.00 were grantors to Robert Patten of about 32 acres, lying on the rear of settling lots No. 9, etc.

Jane, daughter of John, was born Sept., 1746, died Nov. 1832, age 86.

Robert Patten and Margaret Hunter were published Oct. 9, Dec. 19, 1768.

Joseph Patten and Mary (Fulton) Patten, had children:

Hannah, unmarried.

Matthew.

Rhoda married Joshua Foye.

Joseph.

John M.

Sarah.

David F.

Theodore.

Margaret.

James Henry, the Cooper, was married to a McNeiss (?) the mother of the wife of James Wilson.

Their children were: --

James, the only son.

Mary, married Robert Gower, Jan. 17, 1771.

Ann, married James Wilson.  
Betty, married Stephen Titcomb July 28<sup>th</sup>, 1776.  
Jennett, married Joseph Berry, born Sept. 25, 1751.  
Sarah, married Henry Sewall, of Bath.

James Henry, Sr., was one of the selectmen in 1769, and is the same person. who is named selectman in 1766 probably. He came from Providence about 1761, or 1762, to Harpswell, where he had intended to reside, but having been disappointed in the purchase of a tract of land he has contemplated buying, he shortly removed to Topsham, on the lot, probably, which he bought of Adam and James Hunter. His wife was a McNeiss or McNeith, who came into this country when 18 years old, two years after her parents, and she was a sister of the wife of Col. Samuel Winchell. He was a farmer some years before he came into this part of the country, living a few miles out of Providence. Before that he used to follow the seas, and had experienced disasters and encountered dangers, so that he was induced to abandon that mode of life and become a farmer. He was not, it is said, a cooper, by trade, but acquired that appellation from the fact that his early seafaring pursuits had made him somewhat familiar with that business.

A James Henry, Jr., was married to Mercy Beveridge, by A. Preble, Esq.

James Ross, anno 1720, as from a recital in a deed of July 1761, from Belcher Noyse "the only one surviving of the Committees of the Proprietors of Topsham," who recites also that he was empowered hereunto by a vote of said Proprietors at their meeting held March 31, 1752, in which deed Jacob Eaton is grantee, did take up a certain lot in said Topsham, in right of said Proprietors, conditioned to pay 5 pounds, in money on demand, and build a dwelling house on said lot within two years, and dwell there for the space of three years. The recital shows that said Ross was dead, that the conditions, excepting the payment of the 3<sup>rd</sup>. 5 pounds had been performed, and that the heirs of said Ross had sold their rights to said Eaton, had sold their rights to said deed to said Eaton, with the full consent of Sarah his wife, sells for 113 pounds Oct. 15, 1761, the same land to Ezra Randall, shipwright, containing 100 acres, bounded southerly on Merrymeeting Bay, northeasterly on heirs of Thomas Thorne, southwesterly on land of William Malcolm, and running back 25 rods in width (this lot is probably Lot No. 18).

I find mention made of a James Ross in the Maine Hist. So. Coll. as follows: -- James Ross was born in Falmouth in 1662. He was taken prisoner with his father's family in 1676, and again in 1690. He was a shoemaker by trade, and occupied his father's farm, a part of it at Back Cove. His mother was Ann, the eldest daughter of George Lewis. On his return from his second captivity he resided in Salem. His father was here about 1657.

Col. Samuel Winchell, with Jacob Eaton, is a grantee in a deed dated Nov. 15, 1750 from Isaac Royal. His wife was a McNeith, who came from Ireland when five or six years old, and settled with her parents in Harpswell (?).

They had one son, John Winchell, a deputy sheriff, who was drowned in the Kennebec river, in October or November, and in July or August next year was buried. They had daughters:

Sarah, who married Arthur Hunter (son of Capt. Adam Hunter). She was born in 1750 or 1751, being 83 years old in 1833. She was born in Harpswell, and her parents removed to Topsham when she was a babe.

Martha, was another daughter I suppose, mention of her may be found in Liber Secundus, p. 65.

The wife of Col. Winchell was Sarah, who affixed her mark to a deed from him to James and Robert Fulton, Feb. 13, 1765 of 1-16 of the double sawmill and stream on the lower falls at Cathance.

John Winchell, the deputy sheriff, was on a raft of slabs to be transferred to Bath, with Samuel Staples the brother of Stephen. He left the raft in a boat to go ashore, and was never after seen, till found dead some months afterwards near Peterson's wharf in Bath. He was buried near the old meeting house in topsham. John Winchell married Ann Given of Brunswick, left children. He had two brothers, James and Robert, both of whom were drowned at Cathance Mills in childhood. John Winchell is mentioned as surveyor of lumber Apr. 6, 1789.

John and Ann (Given) Winchell left children: --

Samuel, born Feb. 10, 1768, married Sarah Fulton Nov. 12, 1794.

Jennett, born Sept. 3, 1769, married John Perry in the latter part of 1792.

Sarah, born Aug. 5, 1771, married John Fulton, Jr., Sept. 5, 1794.

Ebenezer, born June 20 1773.

Robert, born Sept. 5, 1775.

Daniel, born Aug. 3, 1777, unmarried.

John, born Oct. 2, 1779.

Silence, born Nov. 4, 1781.

Martha Winchell was published to Benj. Barrens of Harpswell in May and June, 1768. He afterwards lived in Bowdoin and was killed by a tree, felling it.

Mary Winchell and John Given were married Aug. 8, 1771.

John Merrill and wife, Susanna, was a sister of Capt. Peltiah Haley. Children:

Susanna, born in Topsham Nov. 25, 1768.

Mary, born in Topsham Apr. 9, 1770.

John, born in Topsham Oct. 4, 1772.

Joseph, born in Topsham Jan. 22, 1774.

Abel, born in Topsham July 30, 1776.

John Merrill was one of the selectmen, in 1764, at the first organization of the town after it was incorporated, and held the office of a selectman for 18 years at various times prior to 1800. He was one of the committee of correspondence in 1776, and was one of the principal actors in the town during all of the period above named. At the June term of the Court of General Sessions of Peace, held at Pownalboro, in 1777, he took his place on the bench as one of the justices, and he also officiated in that station in 1782 and 1783. In 1772, he was licensed by that court, as a Retailer, and also in 1778, and as an Innholder in 1774.

Dec. 2, 1772, in town meeting, it was "voted John Merrill to recognizance of debts."  
Adam Hunter's Commission as Captain Province of the Mass. Bay:

William Shirley, Esq.,  
Captain General and Governor in Chief  
In and over His Majesty's Province  
Of the Mass. Bay in New England, etc.

To Adam Hunter: -- Gentlemen, Greeting,

By virtue of the power and authority, in and by His Majesty's Royal Commission to me granted to be Captain General, etc., over His Majesty's Province of the Mass. Bay, aforesaid, I do, by these presents, reporting special trust and confidence in your loyalty, courage and good conduct, constitute and appoint you, the said Adam Hunter, to be a Captain of an Independent company of fifteen volunteers, forthwith to be raised in the Town of Topsham, and parts adjacent in the County of York, for marching upon any sudden alarm to the relief and protection of any neighboring English Fort or settlement (mentioned in the instructions herewith sent) which shall be attacked or molested by the Indians, and for cutting off their retreat. You are therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the duty of a Captain in leading, ordering and exercising said company in arms, both inferior officers and soldiers and to keep them in good order and discipline, hereby commanding them to obey you as their Captain, and yourself to observe and follow such orders and instructions as you shall from time to time receive from me or the Commander-in-Chief for the time being, or other your superior officers for His Majesty's service according to military rules and discipline, pursuant to the trust reposed in you.

Given under my hand and seal-at-arms, at Boston, the fourth day of March, in the twenty-seventh year of the reign of His Majesty King George the Second, Anno Domine 1754.

(Signed) W. Shirley.

By His Excellency's  
Command, J. Willard, Secty.

(Copied form the original loaned me by Lithgow Hunter September 23, 1833).

W. Shirley became Governor in 1771.

**The Bath Daily Times, Saturday Evening, May 3, 1924**

**ANOTHER CHAPTER OF EARLY HISTORY OF TOPSHAM TOWN**

Some of the Old Time Families and Land Owners

By Moses Woodman

Commenced 1823, finished 1840

(Compiled by Mary Pelham Hill)

Sixth Installment

The births of the children of Dr. Philip Hoit and Elizabeth, his wife, recorded in records of Topsham, Oct. 20, 1786.

Abigail Hoit, born June ye 24, 1777.

Samuel Hoit, born Jan. 30, 1779.

Martha Hoit, born Sept. 1, 1780

Philip Hoit, born Aug. 11, 1781.

Philip Hoit, born Aug 1, 1782.

The above children were born in the town of Weare in the County of Hillsborough, State of New Hampshire, where the first named Philip and Martha died.

Betsey Hoit, born at Greenland, and died in Topsham, Feb. 7, 1785.

John Hoit born May 21, 1786.

Dr. Philip Hoit was moderator in Town Meeting and his name appears in the proceedings attendant on the settlement of Rev. Mr. Ellis. The widow of Philip Hoit married one "Oliver" from Boston who was a tailor, and subsequently studied with Dr. Hoit, and then married his widow.

Thomas Thorne, is said to have built and inhabited Lot No. 18, three years, and also to have taken up Lot No. 23, this was probably as early as 1740. These data are derived from the representation of Caleb Heath, the first agent of the Pejepscot Proprietors. In 1747, he is said to have then paid "for his lot in Topsham, sixteen pounds." He is at an other time stated to have a deed of Lot 19, from B. Larrabee, the agent who succeeded Heath, May 13, 1742.

William Thorne, received a deed from B. Noyes, the proprietor's agent who succeeded Larrabee, of Lot No. 22; Dec. 3, 1763.

William Thorne, Jr., is grantor, May 14, 1773 to William and Daniel Randall of about 50 acres.

William Thorne and Robert Clark are grantees in a deed from Saml. Winchell, Jan. 24, 1764, of 1-4 of a saw mill and 1-4 of stream being the uppermost mill in Cathance, and 1-4 of the mill right of 30 acres.

Thomas Thorne sells to William Thorne, on Mar. 24 1759, Lot No. 13; in consideration of which is "for love and affection to brother William Thorne Jr., son of my father William Thorne and for 25 pounds in note."

On Aug. 2, 1749 mention is made of a William Thorne, in a deed from John Tarp to Adam Hunter of a piece of marsh of 6 3-4 acres. In further explanation of the ambiguity which attends the genealogy of the Thorne family, I have found on the Book of Records for the Town of Topsham at page 316 the following data:

William Thorne Sen., son to Thomas Thorne was born Mar. 17, 1704-5 (lived in Topsham from 1720. Dep. In Lincoln Co. Court.) and Mary his wife.

Martha, wife to William, born May 26, 1712, died Aug. 1, 1767.

Their children:

Mary, born Feb. 1, 1732-3 old style,

Thomas, born May 26, 1736.

Sarah and Martha were born Oct. 14, 1738.

Elizabeth, born Dec. 20, 1740, married Jacob Eaton of Broad Cove, published Nov. 1764.

Rachel, born Feb. 22, 1741.

Katherine, born June 7, 1743, published Sept. 1764 to Reuben Freeman.

William, Aug. 18, 1749

Susannah, born Oct. 19, 1751, married Robert Sinclair, Sept. 1770.

Lucy, born Feb. 21, 1754, married George White, Nov. 19, 1771.

The above is recorded March 1, 1765 by William Thorne, Town Clerk.

William Thorne & Lucy Freeman were published in July 1771,. Date of certificate, December 17, 1771.

Lucy Freeman was of Falmouth, they left children:

Sarah, born Nov. 8, 1772 not married.

Thomas, born, Jan. 17, 1773 of Dixfield.

Elizabeth, Sept. 4, 1774, married a White.

Martha born Jan. 26, 1778, married a Ring.

A William Thorne was published to Katherine Smart, of Brunswick, in September 1769, although on the town records, no record is made that they had been published according to law, a mode of practise adopted in all other cases at that time.

This William Thorne, may possibly be William Thorne Sen. whose wife Martha, died in August 1767.

A William Thorne was Town Clerk of Topsham, May 9, 1764 elected when the town was organized under its Act of Incorporation and also again chosen March 18, 1776.

William Thorne was one of the selectmen March 23, 1769.

Rachel Thorne was published to Col. John Reed, March 1769.

John Whitten and Hannah, had children:

1. Moses, their eldest son died at West Point, during the Revolutionary War.
  2. John, born Dec. 14, 1758.
  3. Hannah, born Apr. 20, 1761.
  4. Ruth, born Mar. 12, 1763.
  5. Molly, born, Jan. 18, \_\_\_\_.
  6. Joshua, born Oct. 28, 1768 in Topsham.
  7. Samuel, born March 8, 1771 in Lewiston.
  8. Joseph, born July 18, 1774 in Bowdoin.
  9. Sarah, born Aug. 26, 1776.
  10. Elenor, born Feb. 22, 1779.
- Peggy, a child to the above named Ruth, born Mar. 15, 1783.

John Whitten was born about 1734 in Arundell, died 1802 aged 68 yrs. His wife, Hannah (Walker) was also born in Arundell, she died in 1825.

John Whitten's was the uppermost settlement in Topsham and on the Androscoggin River for many years.

Richard Knowles, Jr., born in Topsham, Feb. 3, 1767.

Mary his wife born in Woolwich Jan. 3, 1765.

Had children:

Mary, born Nov. 3, 1794.

Jenny, born Aug. 23, 1796.

Mary or Polly Knowles, a daughter of Richard, was the wife of Francis LeRoy, who in 1790 was a trader near where Matthew Patten now lives. LeRoy resided here only a few years, and removed to Quebec (?).

Susanna Knowles married Vine Hoit of Brooklyn, Conn., Oct. 27, 1793.

There was in Topsham in May 1768 one Richard Knowles.

Worumbo, an Indian Sagamore, probably of the Androscoggin tribe, is mentioned in a deed, July, 1684, as referred to in this M.S.

Robin Hood, a very prominent Sagamore of the Androscoggin tribe is mentioned as having taken an active part in the war of 1675. – Me. Historical Society Collections.

Capt. Adam Hunter, settled in Topsham as early as 1718.

From a recital in a deed to him of Nov. 10, 1753, from a committee of Props. of Brunswick and Topsham, consisting of Henry Gibbs of Newtown, William Skinner and Belcher Noyes of Boston, it appears that "said Hunter did in 1718 take up two lots of 100 acres each, conditioned to pay 5 pounds for each lot, to build a dwelling house on each in two years, and dwell therein three years," and that he had performed said conditions except the payment of the money, and now by virtue of a vote of said Props., passed March 31, 1752, authorizing said Committee to execute deed, for the consideration of 8 pounds they sell to him the two lots, bounded fronting southeast, on Pejepscot River, so called, then to measure 50 rods in width, and to run back holding the same width till 200 acres be completed, bounded north east on land of Richard Craine, deceased; and south west on said Proprs.

Capt. Adam Hunter is said to have originated from Boston, a house carpenter. He married Mary Lithgow, who came from Ireland, at about ten years of age, and who had as her brother, one Colonel Lithgow.

Capt. Adam Hunter died about 1770, and his widow married Capt. David Dunning of Brunswick in \_\_\_\_\_ aged 74, whom she survived.

Adam Hunter, is a grantee in a deed, dated Aug. 2, 1749 from John Tarp of Georgetown, the consideration of which is 76 pounds "good bills of credit of the old form and tenor," of a piece of marsh or meadow on Muddy River of about 6 3-4 acres.

Capt. Adam Hunter is a grantee in a deed dated March 13, 1758 from Samuel Stanwood of Brunswick, Gentleman; the consideration of which is 66.13.4 of two lots, 50 rods in width, fronting on Merrymeeting Bay, running back N.W. 30 degrees North, and containing 200 acres, being lots Nos. 30 and 32, (on town plan).

Adam Hunter is a grantee in a deed dated Dec. 28, 1757 from Samuel Winchell, for a consideration of 53;6;8 of all his rights to 125 acres and 1-8 of a double sawmill and stream at Cathance as bought by said Winchell and Jacob Eaton, Nov. 15, 1750, of Isaac Royall, wherein is sold to them 500 acres and all his, Royall's, right to said stream.

Adam Hunter Gent., as by deed of June 25, 1761, with Samuel Winchell, James Hunter, Samuel Staples, Joseph Graves, Samuel Graves, John Fulton, and John Patten, Proprietors of land in Topsham, called the "millright," containing 1100 acres and a mill stream called the Western Brand of Cathance River, with a double sawmill thereon. The whole tract is divided into three divisions, and an other division called the Gore Lot. A plan of the division is on the records of Registry of Deeds office in Wiscasset. The first division is divided into 8 lots of 100 acres each. The second division into 4 lots of 50 acres each. The third division is on the Southeastern side of the Cathance stream and divided into 5 lots, only one which is called Lot No. 4, of 12 acres 26 rods is assigned to Samuel Winchell and is called his house lot, and the mills are on the S.W. corner of the lot. The other 4 lots are to lay in common till our further pleasure to the use and convenience of said Proprietors.

On the plan though it is not mentioned in the partition deed as written, and signed by all of them, one acre of land on the Western side of and adjoining the sawmill, be, and is hereby,

allowed to be used for the use of said mill. The Gore lots are bounded on the North by Bowdoinham line and are on the Western side of the stream, as are also all the lots in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> division of lots; the second division lying between the 1<sup>st</sup> division and the Gore Lots.

In the Gore, one tract of 116 acres, next to the stream and Bowdoinham is marked as "in common." The rest of the Gore is called No. 1 and 2. No. 1. adjoining the 2<sup>nd</sup> division is assigned to Jos. Graves and Saml. Graves, and No. 2, to Col. Winchell and Samuel Staples.

No. 1, of the Gore (or No. 1 and 2) is called 60 acres, and are also marked as "in partnerships between the four persons last named."

The North line is styled on the plan as, "the Plymouth line N. 61.W". It is believed that this is not correct, because the line of division between bowdoinham and Topsham, is on a course W.N.W. or N. 67 30 W. So also the course of the division lines between the Kennebec and Pejepsco Proprietors in the deed of 1758 is W.N.W.

Of the sawmill and stream, Adam Hunter takes 1-8, S. Winchell 1-4, J. Hunter 1-8, S. Staples 1-8, Jos. Graves 1-8, S. Graves 1-8, J. Fulton 1-16, and J. Patten 1-16.

Adam Hunter was one of the Selectmen in 1766.

Children of Capt. Adam Hunter and Mary (Lithgow) Hunter:

James Hunter, died Jan. 1808 or 9, age 74, left a large family, he was born Apr. 15, 1735; was one of the selectmen in 1768, 9; 1773 and 1779, and was chosen, but declined in 1770. He was one of the committee raised in Feb. 1781, and he is therein styled "Major" to see to the procuring of 7 men for the Continental Army. Adam Hunter is a grantor to his son James Hunter, of two lots of 100 acres each, fronting Merrymeeting Bay, 50 rods. His wife, Mary, who relinquishes her dower, makes her mark.

John Hunter, born July 1, 1743, an Innholder, had a family.

Robert Hunter, born Jan. 15, 1745, died 1808, aged 63, married Margaret, daughter of Ezra Randall.

Arthur Hunter, born April 5, 1749, died Feb. 1829 age 79, and left family.

William, born Dec. 2, 1741.

Margaret, born June 28, 1747, died July 1831, age 81, married Capt. Robert Patten.

Jane, born Feb. 28, 1740, married Jos. Berry, had 2 children.

Elizabeth, born Sept. 13, 1733, married Wm. Woodside of Brunswick.

Susanna, who married Benj. Lemont of Bath, and perhaps another who married James Lemont.

Mary, born Dec. 6, 1738.

Arthur Hunter, (son of Capt. Adam Hunter) died in Feb. 1829; married Sarah Winchell, a daughter of Col. Samuel Winchell, who is mentioned in the partition deed of 1100 acres, June 15, 1761. She was living in June 1833 at the advanced age of 82 years.

She was born about 1751 was married Feb. 16, 1775.

Arthur Hunter was one of the Selectmen for 8 successive years from 1781 to 1788 inclusive. He was one of the Committee of Correspondence, Inspection and Safety, in the year 1779. He kept the first public house in Topsham, not a tavern as is now used, but his house was deemed the first in town, and for his house, strangers used to inquire.

The children of Arthur and Sarah were:

Sarah, married (Little) Thos. Hunter 3<sup>rd</sup>, July 12, 1796.

Samuel unmarried and under guardianship, as non sane.

Arthur Hunter Jr., married Hannah Mustard and died in Jan. 1829.

Adam Hunter, married a Foote.

Lithgow Hunter unmarried, a graduate of Bowdoin college.

Silence Hunter, married Richard Adams a stonecutter.

**The Bath Daily Times, Tuesday Evening, May 13, 1924**

**CLOSING CHAPTER OF EARLY HISTORY OF TOPSHAM TOWN**  
Familiar Names in the Sagadahoc Town in Years Long Ago

(Compiled by Mary Pelham Hill)

(7<sup>th</sup> installment)

James Hunter, son of Capt. Adam Hunter, died in Feb. 1808 or 9, ae. 74, or within a few days of that age. He is said to have been a Major in the Revolutionary War (and also Col. at the end of the war) to have been engaged in Rhode Island or Long Island or both perhaps under Sullivan. His commission is said to have been signed by \_\_\_\_\_ Hancock.

The information I have is derived from his son John, alias "Bald-headed John." Bald-headed John says his father was under Col. North whom he styles Judge North of Augusta. James Hunter married Abigail Williams who was born about the year 1734, probably in Bath. She died Jan. 4, 1828 falling short a few days of being 94 yrs. of age.

Her father was Thomas Williams, who came from England Feb. 18, 1707, "when gooseberries were in blow, and reached Boston April 17, when the snow was very deep," as the mother of Abigail (Williams) Hunter used to say, and she, Abigail has often spoken of it to her son, Bald-headed John.

Thomas Williams, father of Abigail Hunter, was employed in teaching Latin in Boston, and subsequently removed to Georgetown, now Bath. He was also a doctor, it is said, and often expressed his regrets at having "left England."

Thomas Williams left only one son, and four daughters.

James Hunter had children: -

Adam, who died unmarried, and whose history will be mentioned later. This was the first child.

James, who married Dorcas Patten, daughter of John Patten. He died in Clinton.

William who married Martha, dau. of William Reed.

Mary, who married - Mowry.

Jane, died young.

Margaret, married Eben'r Coombs.

Thomas lived in Clinton, Kennebec Co.

John, who is commonly called "Bald-headed John" from the circumstance of having no hair upon his head.

Susan, married William Malcolm, Jr., Sept. 18, 1794.

Abigail unmarried.

Adam Hunter, the first, son of James Hunter, named after his grandfather, enlisted in

the army of the Revolutionary war, under Capt. John Reed, afterwards Colonel, when only 16 yrs. old. He is said to have been under Sullivan who fought the Indians, and having been sent out under a scouting party, was taken captive by the Indians. By then he was stripped of all he had, and was left with hardly a blanket, or some such slight covering. In his captivity, he was associated with a Dutchman, who has lived among the Indians and was acquainted with their language. The papooses, or young Indians, were in the habit of applying pointed splinters of pitchwood, pricking and tormenting him, and then laughing to see him dodged their mock assaults.

The Dutchman, having been flogged by one of the squaws, resolved to attempt his escape, and communicated his purpose to Hunter, they contrived to quit them, Hunter carrying his hat full of corn, which they had contrived to secrete for this purpose, and the Dutchman a hatchet. With these splendid means of sustenance and defence, they escaped after Hunter had been among them three weeks. Their only food for eight days was the dry corn which they took, about two quarts.

At one time in their wanderings, they lost their way, and heard the barking of the Indians' dogs.

The Dutchman was for surrendering himself again to the Indians, but Hunter contriving by some excuse to get possession of the hatchet threatened "to split his brains" if he attempted to give himself up and they at length succeeded in reaching the settlement at Harpersfield (?) where Hunter with supplied with clothes, and again joined the army. At the time of their escape, it was in the month of October for Hunter said there was occasionally to be found some snow in the lowlands. Hunter served three years and then returned home.

This Adam Hunter the grandson of Capt. Adam Hunter, after his return, went to Bath to attend school. While here, after much persuasion, he went on board a privateer, some prizes were taken, carried into Salem or Boston, but at length he was captured and carried into Halifax. On hearing this sad story, his father James, went to Portland, procured two prisoners, and proceeded with Robert (?) Hunter his father to Halifax to obtain an exchange for his son.

Before his arrival, however, Adam, with about 500 other American prisoners had been put on board a vessel called the "Cornwallis" to be conveyed to Boston. The vessel was lost, and so Adam was never heard from. James the father, was detained and imprisoned about a fortnight at Halifax, it being alleged against him that he was a spy. He was liberated, however, and sent home in a schooner, one Capt. Powell, master, who landed him at the mouth of the Kennebec river. And he reached home about Christmas in 1781.

James Hunter, son of Capt. Adam Hunter, if 74 yrs. old at his death in 1809, was born about 1734-35. He is a grantee in a deed dated July 27<sup>th</sup>, 1759, from Stephen Getchell of Topsham, the consideration of which is 93;6;8 in which deed is conveyed 125 acres of upland in the millright and a 1-4 of the Southermost sawmill. This is a part of the 1100 acres on Cathance mill, a partition of most of which was made June 15, 1761, between the owners and this James had assigned to him Lot No. 5, of 100 acres, and 1-2 of another lot of 50 acres. (His father Adam took the other half of the 50 acre lot) and he, James also, having 1-8 of the double sawmill and millstream.

Robert Hunter, and Susannah Thompson, of Boston 1<sup>st</sup> wife, married Nov., 1770, had the following children: --

Thomas, 3<sup>rd</sup>, born April 14, 1771. By Margaret, 2<sup>nd</sup> wife, (daughter of Ezra Randall) had: - Adam, born Jan. 15, 1783 (shot by accident aged 13 yrs.)

Robert, born June 19, 1784, married Mary Randall.

Susannah, born July 22, 1786 married William Randall.

Benjamin, born Dec. 11, 1788 married – Lemont.

Joseph

Isaac.

John.

Margaret.

Robert Hunter was one of the Committee of Correspondence in 1776, and was Town Clerk from 1776 to 1793 inclusive.

John Hunter a son of Capt. Adam Hunter, married Margaret Wilson, daughter of Thomas Wilson, both born in Topsham. She kept tavern after his decease, was married Nov. 14, 1765. He died about 1776 Jan. 16; born July 20, 1745. She was born July 20, 1745, subsequently married Alex Rogers, died in 1830 age 84. Had children: --

William, born Dec. 30, 1766 commonly called Capt.

Thomas, born Dec. 9, 1768 lives (1833 near the site of the old meeting house.

Adam born Feb. 4, 1771, died young.

Ann, born Apr. 5, 1773, married Actor Patten Sept. 4, 1796.

John, born Mar. 7, 1776 unmarried, died at sea.

John Hunter was town clerk from 1773 to 1775 inclusive.

David Reed, lived where Willis Sprague now lives. He was licensed by the Court of Sessions as an Innholder, and also in 1762, 1763, 1764, 1766, 1767 and in 1771, as a Retailer. and again as an Innholder in 1772, 1773 and 1774. He was one of the Committee of Correspondence etc. in 1776, Lt. David Reed in 1781, and Capt. David Reed in 1783, were on the same committee. David Reed was a lieutenant, under Capt. Actor Patten at the Bagaduce. George Thomas of Bowdoinham was ensign. David Reed removed to the Penobscot about 1790. One of the first settlers at Stillwater, and built the first mills there. Had a large family, children:

Delna, born July 12, 1760.

Mary, born July 8, 1762

Margaret, born Aug. 20, 1764.

Anna, born July 22, 1766.

David, born Mar. 7, 1769.

Col. John Reed, a nephew of David, and son of John who came from Ireland.

Col. John Reed's wife was Rachel Thorne, a daughter of William Thorne, they were married March, 1769.

The children were: --

Hannah, married David Patten.  
Mary, married Levi Peterson.  
Thomas, unmarried, lost at sea.  
Lucy, married Edward Kelleran (?)  
Jane, married David Stinson.  
Rachel, married Nehemiah Harding.  
Even'r, died at age or 12 or 13.

There was a William Reed (whose wife was Mary) who sold to John Reed, Jr., part of lots 2 and 3. He also mentioned a William Reed, Jr.

Col. John Reed first went out into the Revolutionary War as ensign, in a company commanded by Capt. Blaisdell of Portland, and afterwards went to Ticonderoga, where Lieut. Hammond died, and was succeeded by Ensign Reed, who subsequently took a captain's commission before he came home in the Fall of 1776.

John, David and William Reed were brothers.

Old John Reed had two wives. He died in Topsham. His daughter Jane, married Joseph Porter of Topsham. She was a sister of Col. John Reed.

Martha, sister of Jane, married Joseph Randall, son of Ezra Randall.

Hannah, married Robert Potter, son of Rev. James Potter.

Charity, married Benj. Randall, son of Ezra Randall, who was lost at sea, a day or two after marriage. She then married a Prescott who ran off, and then married John Hern of Ireland, later of Whitefield.

Susan Reed, unmarried.

James Purinton, born April 9, 1742 old style, in Truro, Cape Cod, married Priscilla Harding, and had children: --

Francis, born Nov. 21, 1775.  
James, born Feb. 25, 1777.  
Nathaniel, born Jan 10, 1780, died at age of 16 yrs.  
Ezekiel, born July 14, 1782, m. Isabella Wilson.  
Priscilla, married Sam'l Wilson.  
Rachel, married Josiah Smith.  
Susan, married Noah Melcher.  
Rebecca, married Nathaniel Melcher.  
Fanny, married James W. Purinton.

James, was son of Hezekiah, who lived on the Bath side of the New Meadows river, near the turnpike bridge.

Hezekiah, came from Capt. Cod ,where all, perhaps of his children were born. His

children were:

Nathaniel, who lived in Harpswell, died Feb. 7, 1786, ae. 85, his wife was Priscilla Woodbury of Portland.

Abial (daughter) wife of Brig. Samuel Thompson of Portland.

Joshua lived in Bath, the old road.

Hezekiah.

James, the youngest, above named.

Humphrey, lived in Bowdoin, father of Humphrey and Elder Nathaniel Purinton.

A James Purinton is named as living in Casco Bay in 1675 out of the limits of Falmouth. Me.Hist.So.Coll. page 156.

Nov. 23, 1786, James Purinton, married Silence Winchell, by her had no children. He was one of the Committee of Correspondence, etc., in 1778. He was licensed by the Court of Sessions as an Inn holder, in 1774 & 1783. He came with his father in 1750 to Georgetown, now Bath, and his father built the house near the turnpike bridge. With his father, James learned his trade as "tanner" and when of age, he first settled in the "Basin" so called in Phippsburg, and there carried on his trade, but he soon removed to Topsham where he continued to reside till his death.

Robert Gower, Margaret his wife, she died June 29, 1765, had children:

Edward, born Feb. 12, 1761.

William, born Nov. 30, 1762, mar. Margaret Alexander in 1785 (?)

by Mary his second wife whom he married Jan. 27, 1771, they had: -

James, born Feb. 2, 1772.

John, of Industry.

Samuel, of Waterville.

George, of New Sharon, and daughters.

He was town clerk from 1767 to 1772 inclusive, 6 yrs. His second wife, Mary, was a daughter of James Henry, the cooper, and sister of Ann, widow of James Wilson. Ann is younger than Mary. He removed to Farmington, one of the first settlers in that town. Was induced to go by the representations of Thomas Wilson (brother of James Wilson) who was at that time a noted hunter. He first lived where Ezekial Purinton now lives and afterwards where Elder Randall now lives. His first wife was a sister of Robert Alexander. He originated from Kent, in England.

Robert Douglass and Barbara his wife had children: -

Margaret born Nov. 8, 1763.

Barbara, born Dec. 4, 1764.

James, born Nov. 2, 1766.

William Douglass and Eunice Stuart, or Steward, were married Oct. 22, 1776.

Andrew Douglass and Jane his wife had children:

Sarah, born Feb. 19, 1763.

Mary, born Nov. 12, 1764

Margaret, born Mar. 22, 1767.

James, born Mar. 31, 1769.

John, born Feb. 27, 1771.

There was in Topsham in May, 1768, one James Douglass and James Douglass, Jr.

Robert Clark son of Samuel Clark and Martha Clark, was born Apr. 18, 1738.

He married Mary, and had children: -

Samuel, born Oct. 26, 1760, Litchfield.

William, born Jan. 10, 1762.

Martha, born July 8<sup>th</sup>, 1763.

Robert Clark, married June 18, 1770, Elinor Ingraham.

Samuel & Martha Clark were both born in Ireland, but married either in Ireland or Boston. Samuel was deacon in Brunswick Church, supposed to be 1<sup>st</sup> Deacon.

Joseph Ingraham and Elinor his wife had children,

Disdemaier, born Dec. 19, 1757.

Joseph, born Sept. 1, 1759.