

Windham, Vermont

1770 - 1900



The History of Windham, Vermont by James H. Upham
With a Forward by Raymond A. Beardslee

Excerpts From Historical Manuscripts written by
Asahel Upham in 1902 and 1905



Prepared by the Windham School Club - 1967

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The first part of this book is a copy of a handwritten manuscript now in the Town Clerk's office in South Windham Vermont. The original working, spelling and punctuation have been kept as far as possible. However, the manuscript has been broken up into paragraphs to permit illustration and easier reading. This manuscript, by James Upham, has been copied in its entirety.

The second part of this book consists of excerpts from two papers read by Asahel Upham in the Windham Congregational Church in 1902 and 1905. The Clerk of the Church has a typewritten copy of both of these papers.

This book was prepared by the Windham School Club with the permission of the Selectmen of Windham and the members of the Windham Congregational Church.

The illustrations were made by Jane Newton.

FOREWORD

This manuscript history of Windham, Vermont, unsigned and undated, has long been preserved among the records of the Town, and was found between the front cover and the flyleaf of Volume I of the Land Records, when Harry Hall became Town Clerk in 1946.

Its identity is established by the following reference in a historical paper, preserved among the records in the hands of the Clerk of the Windham Congregational Church, which paper was written by Asahel Upham and read by him on August 14, 1902, on the 100th anniversary of the building of the Windham Congregational Church:

"For what I am to tell you, I am indebted to my father, Jonathan Upham, Jr., his brother Gardner, Dea. Hart Balch Abbott, Mr. James Gould, and quite largely to a historicial paper, written by James H. Upham (son of Gardner Upham) and read by him in this house Feb. 14, 1853. James Upham got much that he recroded from his grandfather, Squire Amos Emery, who was one of the leading men in this work" (sc., of building the Chruch.)

A careful reading of the two papers proves conclusively that the present, much longer paper is the one from which Asahel Upham drew "quite largely."

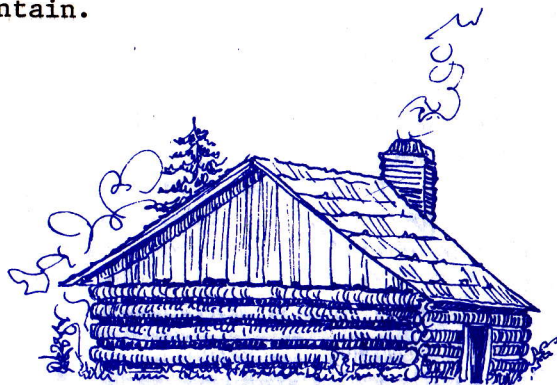
This James Hervey Pham was born in Windham, Vermont, June 5, 1828, the son of Gardner Upham and Eunice A. Emery, and grandson of Jonathan Upham and Squire Amos Emery, all of Windham.

He graduated from Oberlin College; was married December 12, 1854, to Harriet K. Hitchcock, of Spencer, Massachusetts; prepared for the Christian ministry at Bangor Theological Seminary; but died in Bangor on July 1, 1856, two or three days before his graduation.

He wrote this paper when he was twenty-five years old, and its delivery, as stated in the text, was before a church meeting of a missionary nature.

His chief sources of information about early Windham history were his father, his grandfather Upham, and his grandfather Emery.

James Hervey Upham's father, Gardner Upham, was born May 2, 1798, and was six years old when he came to Windham in 1804. Asahel Upham tells in another of his historical papers how he "heard Gardner Upham describe the great snowstorm that came in October 1804 ... how the trees fell crashing around the log cabin in the woods at the base of Glebe Mountain.



The trees were in full leaf and there was a very heavy snow fall." Practically all of Gardner Upham's long life was lived in Windham.

James Hervey Upham's grandfather, Jonathan⁶ Upham (Ivory⁵, Ivory⁴, Richard³, Phineas², John¹), was born in Killingly, Connecticut, June 2, 1761; served in the Revolutionary War; married Mary Wilson in Dudley, Massachusetts, May 19, 1787; lived in Thompson until 1796; moved to Guilford, Vermont, and Chester, Vermont; and finally settled in Windham in 1804, with the first eight of his eleven children; and there he died July 15, 1827.

Squire Amos Emery, James Hervey Upham's maternal grandfather was also an early, a prominent, and a long-time resident of Windham. Asahel Upham records that he "gave one of the (great overhead cross-) beams (of the Congregational Church), and sold his yoke of oxen to pay his contribution (toward the structure) in money."

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The identification of this manuscript, and the compiling of the biographical notes, were made by Rev. Raymond A. Beardslee, of Springfield, Vermont, in December, 1946, at which time he was serving as Pastor of the Congregational and Baptist Churches of Windham.

The binding was done, with the authorization of the Selectmen, by the Emery Record Preserving Company, of Taunton, Massachusetts, at the suggestion of Mr. Beardslee, and at his expense as a gift to the Town of Windham.

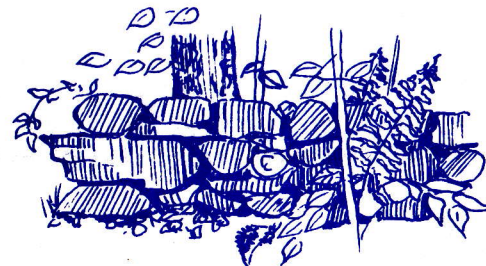
(Signed) Raymond A. Beardslee



HISTORY
OF
WINDHAM, VERMONT
BY
JAMES H. UPHAM
1853

Being deeply impressed with the magnitude of the objects of the Society which I am to address this evening, I feel incompetent for the task. The aim of this association is, if I understand it, it to assist those who have left friends and the loved scenes of Home, that they might bear the banner of Peace & Love to those who know not the true God. A nobler object! Where can it be found?

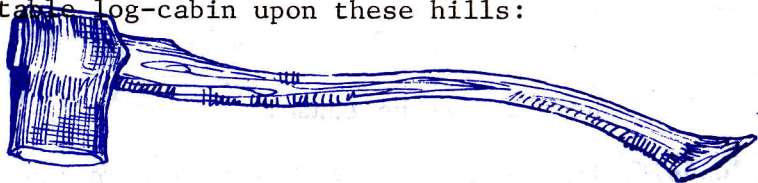
When considering the Missionary enterprise in its different bearings, I thought it might not be entirely inappropriate for us to look back and gather up a few fragments of our own history, to recount some of the trials and hardships endured by our venerable ancestors. By it we may learn to appreciate the blessings which we enjoy and with a more willing hand impart some of them to the destitute. It is characteristic of an American to enquire "from whence did ye come; and what is your origin: The American youth is taught to revere and honor the memory of those who fled from persecution and found a quiet resting place in the wilds of America.



In his harliest infancy he lisps the name of Washington and soon learns that his name is intimately connected with the history of our own country. The Green Mountain Bosys are taught the names of Allen, Chittenden, Chipman, Fay, Bradley

and Robinson. They love to hear of the manly sentiments and noble resolutions which actuate them. They enquire of History, Where they lived: What are their deeds, and where are their sepulchers? This is what they owe to their Fathers, to those whose integrity and firmness made the miserable "land jobbers" of New York and Benning Wentworth with his boundary of George the Second (in 1740) tremble.

Why should not we hold in sacred remembrance the names of those who first leveled the forests and reared the comfortable log-cabin upon these hills:



They have bestowed upon us a noble heritage. A precious boon made ready for us by their virtue, hardihood, endurance and wisdom.

The Town of Londonderry which embraced Windham was chartered by the state of New York February 13th, 1770 to James Rogers by the name of Kent. It contained 284,590 acres. In 1778 Mr. Rogers the principal proprietor became a Torrey and fled to Canada. By this act his lands were confiscated. The Town was again chartered by the government of Vermont April 20th 1780, to Edward Aikin, Samuel Fletcher and Joseph Tyler a committee appointed by the Legislature to carry out a resolve passed March 16th 1780 regranteeing the town. In this charter the town is called Londonderry, deriving the name from the town of the same name in New Hampshire, from whence the first settlers came.



Londonderry N.H. took its name from the city of Londonderry in Ireland, which is the capital of the county of Londonderry in the province of Ulster. It is situated on the river Foyle one hundred fifty miles northwest from Dublin. It was originally called Derry and was an ancient city, but having been sacked and destroyed, it was rebuilt during the reign of James the first, by a company from London and hence received the name of Londonderry.

The first settlers come in the year 1774. They were James Rogers, James Patterson, Samuel Thomson, Edward Aikin, James McCormick and John Woodburn. The three last were the first settlers of Windham. They were influenced to emigrate from Londonderry by Col Rogers upon whose lands they settled. They purchased their lands for three or four English shillings per acre. They came, it is supposed in the spring and selected their situations. During the summer they cleared a small spot and made preparations to remove their families the next spring. They returned to Londonderry and spent the winter.

Edward Aikin built the first log house in Windham,

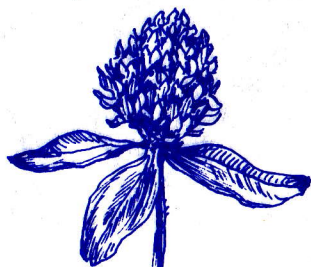


and it is probable the first frame house built within the boundaries of this town was a little north of the dwelling house now upon the farm owned by Widow Aikin and was erected by the same individual. Edward Aikin and his relative of the same name who settled in Londonderry, erected a saw mill near "Derry Pond" soon after they came

here. They had sawed their lumber for two houses one for each. A fire broke out near by and destroyed the mill and all of the lumber. In consequence of this the erection of their houses was retarded, hence it is not known what year the first frame house was built.

The records of the town from its first settlement to 1793, are nearly all lost. Robert McCormick was the Town Clerk in 1780. In 1793 Rufus Thayer was constable, Peter Aikin, James Mack and Abial Whitman were selectmen. Mr. Demming says in "Appendix", It is not to be supposed that these were the first officers appointed but that the early records have gone a journey and forgotten to return.

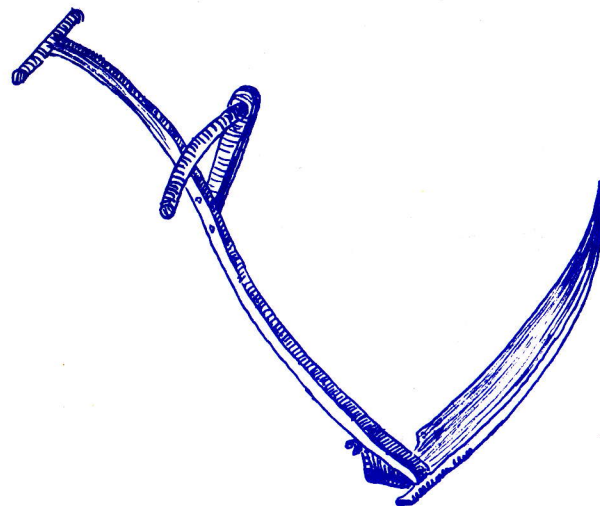
Col James Rogers and Edward Aikin were members of that memorable convention which met at Dorset, September 25th 1776. There were only fifty-one members in the convention, representing thirty-five separate (districts) Townships. At this time the members of the convention voted "To take suitable measures as soon as may be to declare the N. H. grants a free and separate district. This was the birthday of Vermont.



Edward Aikin was the first representative from the town and a member of the first Legislature which assembled March 12, 1778. He represented the Town from this (excepting one year) to 1795 when John Burnap was chosen representative.

Edward Aikin the Grandfather of the one who settled in this town emigrated from the north of Ireland in 1772. He had three sons who settled in Londonderry N.H., and it is supposed that there are over four thousand of his descendants living. Many are Clergymen and Lawyers, men who stand high in their professions.

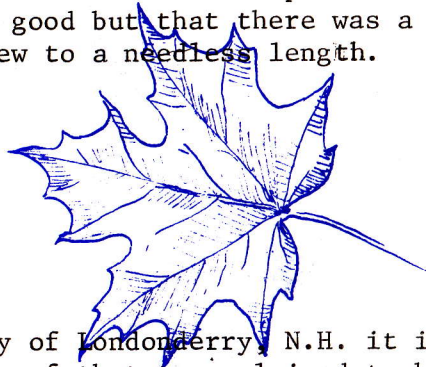
Dea Edward Aiking of this town was a man of great natural abilities. He acquired considerable property.



When the town was first settled and for many years afterwards, money was very scarce. It was with difficulty it could be procured. Men from neighboring towns as well as this when in straitened circumstances were accustomed to go to Dea Aikin for assistance. He was noted for his frankness and firmness. When he thought he was right he was immovable. A very good anecdote is told of him which illustrates this trait of character. It will be remembered that we had no Maine laws in those days, but that every man drank according to his own law. Dea Aikin had a neighbor by the name of Ayers who sometimes drank to intoxication, he bought a barrel of rum, brought it home and put it in his cellar. Dea Aikin thought it probable he would not use it as temperately as he ought. Therefore he told his boys one morning to yoke the team and to go to Mr. Ayers' and bring home that barrel of rum and if the old gentleman asked them why and by what authority they did it to tell him that Father sent for it and that he might come to his house when he wanted a dram. Mr. Ayers quietly submitted to this stringent law.

John Woodburn came to this country about the time that Edward Aikin did. He had two sons, David and John. The latter was the father of the one who settled in this town. David was Maternal Grandfather of Horace Greely editor of the N.Y. Tribune. Mr. Parker says that "the descendants of Mr. Woodburn attained to a great age, capable of great endurance. They were noted for their retentive memories."

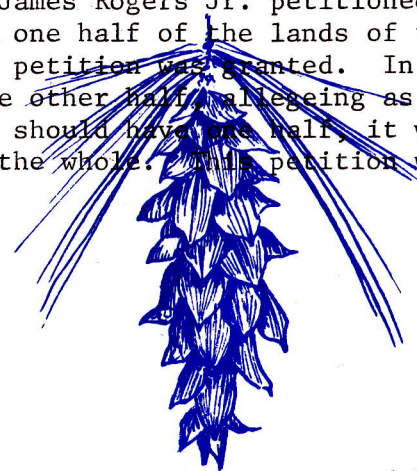
James McCormick was a man of sound judgement, and of strict religious principle. When he returned to Londonderry, he was asked how he liked this place? he replied that the soil was very good but that there was a sort of a sugar tree which grew to a needless length.



In the history of Londonderry, N.H. it is said that the first settlers of that town claimed to be the possessors of the better qualities of both the Scotch and the Irish. Hence the name which the first settlers of Windham bore Scotch Irish.

In the year 1795, a petition was presented to the Legislature to divide the town of Londonderry, also to make a new town of the eastern part. In October 22, 1795, an act passed the Legislature incorporating the eastern part of Londonderry and Mack's Leg into a new town called Windham. This town has no separate Charter but is under the charter of Londonderry. Two years later a part of Windham was annexed to Londonderry. It took its name from Windham N.H. which was formed as part of Londonderry in the year 1742, taking the name of Windham from a place of the same name similarly situated in relation to Londonderry in Ireland.

In 1795 James Rogers Jr. petitioned to the Legislature to grant him one half of the lands of the town that remained unsold. The petition was granted. In 1797, he petitioned again for the other half, alleging as a reason that if it was right he should have one half, it was right that he should have the whole. This petition was also granted.



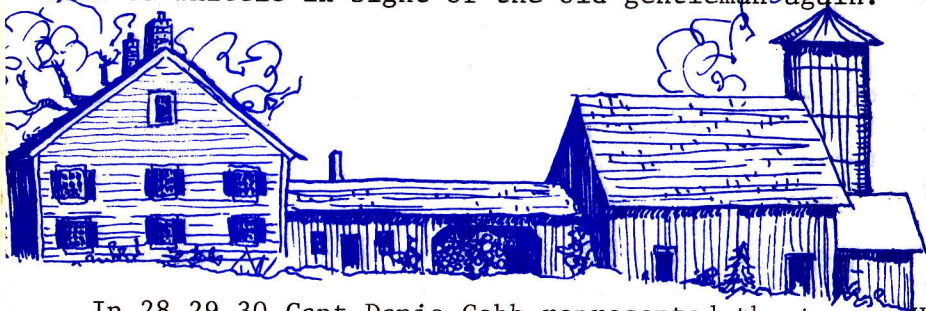
The first town meeting was warned by Edward Aikin a justice of the peace. It was held at the dwelling house of Hon John Aikin on the 14th of March 1796. John Burnap was chosen Moderator, Peter Aikin Constable, James Aikin Town Clerk, Edward Aikin Treasurer, John Aiking, James Mack, Salmon Cole Listers, James Aikin, John Burnap and Benjamin Pierce Selectmen. Abial Whitman collector, Archibald Mack grand juror and leather sealer, George Person Tythingman.

On the 4th day of May (the same year) a town meeting was held to elect a representative to represent the state in general assembly at Philadelphia, six votes were cast in this town.

The first justice of the peace in Windham was James Aikin. John Aikin was town clerk from 1797 to 1818, and was justice of the peace for 20 years. James Aikin received the appointment of County Judge in 1808. The next year his brother John succeeded him, he held the office for five successive years, 2nd appointment 1815, served two years. He was the son of Dea Edward Aikin. His wife was a Miss Gregg from Londonderry. He had a large family. He removed to the State of Pennsylvania where he died a few years since. Several of his sons live there at the present time.

John Aikin was the first representative from Windham. He represented the town for 8 years, from 1805 to 1814. The years 14, 15 Luther Stowel represented the town. 16,17,18 Amos Emory. 19,20,21,22,23,24 Benjamin Pierce. 25 Amos Emory. 26,27 Benjamin Pierce.

Capt Pierce came to this town about 1782, from Westmoreland N.H. He built the first frame house in the south part of the town, which was erected in 1794. Capt Pierce was remarkable for his attention to business as a legislator. Once whilst he was a member of the Legislature he was much annoyed by two member who sat near him. They were accustomed to whittle their desks. (It will be remembered that this was in the old State House). Capt Pierce considered this as using the property of the State unjustly. A few days afterwards he came in one morning with a large block of wood under his arm. Very soon the whittling took their seats and commenced an attack upon their desks again. He modestly turned to them and asked them to use their knives upon the block of wood instead of their desks. These members were never known to whittle in sight of the old gentleman again.



In 28,29,30 Capt Danie Cobb represented the town. He was the son of Col Daniel Cobb, who removed to this town from Westmoreland N.H. about 1790. The Col was noted for his ability and corporeal strength. Probably his equal in these respects was not to be found in town. It was the custom formerly to form wrestling rings on the usual town meeting day, which was in March. The Col's son had come off conquerors. They boasted of it in presence of their father and said that they would throw all Derry the next day as they had Windham. The aged Sire told his

boys to be still and not talk going to Derry until they could throw their Father. This they thought they could easily do. A trial of strength ensued. The father laid them low, then called upon Judge Aikin to give them a treat. After which he told his boys to go directly home and get up the cows for their mother.

At the raising of the saw mill at the falls near Samuel Hamilton's in Jamacia the Col walked on a peeled pole from plate to plate while the pole was rolling. When this church was raised he sat astride of the plate and was raised with it. After the body of the church was raised he was standing upon the plate when by accident one of the rafters fell upon the others which had been placed and he jumped from off the plate as he saw the rafter coming and let the rafter slide between the plate and his feet. At this time he never came down from the frame until it was raised. Then he started from the ridge pole and descended head foremost to the ground.

Soon after the Col settled on the hill at the west part of town. There was a scarcity of breadstuff, almost a famine. His wife was a kindhearted affectionate woman, ever ready to assist the poor and needy. She often furnished the destitute families around her with clothing and bedding. At this time Aunt Hannah as she was called, was accustomed to give bread to those in want. When her husband found it out he told that he thought she had better not give away any more for it was probable that they should need it. After this he noticed that his wife did not eat any bread at her meals. He enquired why she did not? She replied "How can I eat bread, when there are so many poor ones around me who have none?" He was affected with this reply and told her to give away as much bread as she pleased.

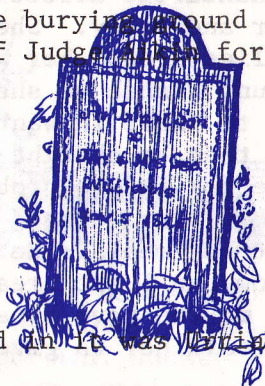
Several of the first inhabitants of this town were revolutionary soliders and took an active part in the battle of Bennington. Their names were Samuel Ayers, John Burnap, Stephen Twitchel, John Gould. Archibald Marck, who belonged to Capt George Reed's company from Londonderry, N.H., John Mack, Archibald McCormick, Daniel Putnam,

Nehemiah Pierce, Benjamin Pierce, who was sold for a guinea by the traitors Arnold and James Smith. Mr. Smith was a deserter from Burgoine's Army. He was employed in the Armerican army as an artificer.



The pupulation of this town has varied considerable each census. Of late there has been a decrease until the last census, when there was an income of six from 1840. The population of Londonderry embracing Windham in 1791, was 362. In 1800, the population of Windham was 362. In 1810, 782. In 1820, 931, In 1830, 847. In 1840, 757. In 1850, 763.

The first born in Londonderry was David Rogers son of James Rogers. The first born in Windham was Nabby Woodburn daughter of John Woodburn, first male child was John Woodburn Jr. Second Robert McCormick now a resident of Grafton. The burying ground in the center of the town was purchased of Judge [unclear] for 20 dollars.



The first buried in it was British Burnap brother of John Burnap.

The first Grist Mill erected in town was erected by Mr. MacMurphy near by the place where the one now stands about the year 1791



Mrs. MacMurphy was a genuine specimen of an Irish woman, full of ready wit. She once went to West Townshend to trade. As there was no Hotel in the village, she called upon Mr. Marsh the merchant to give her horse four quarts of oats. He filled his measure with oats and went out to the shed. No horse was to be found. He went back and told Mrs. MacMurphy that he did not know where her horse was. She said that she would go and show him. There, there said she, don't you see it stuck up in that brace? Mr. Marsh saw there a huge walking stick which Mrs. MacMurphy wanted fed with oats. When Mr. MacMurphy was drawing his mill stones a brother-in-law of Mr. Patterson overtook him as he was coming up the hill by Mr. Farnsworth's

He says to Mr. MacMurphy, "It is written that we should not worship the likeness of anything that is in the heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, but said he according to that it would not be wrong to worship that carriage of yours, for it is not like anything that is in Heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath."

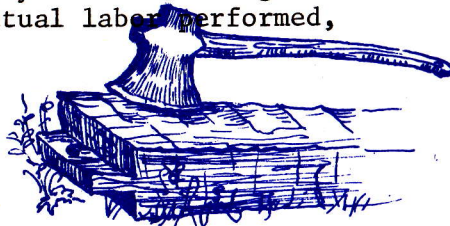
The first celebration of independence in Windham was in 1812. Second celebration in 1825. Third celebration in 1849.

Windham has never had a lawyer settled within her boundaries, but she claims some who have practiced the healing art. Dr. Eli Tyler was the first regular Physician. Dr. Britton was here the same time but did not practice much. He was a noted school teacher. Dr. Boyden the next, he lived at the south part of the town. Dr. Gates next, he lived on the Goddard place, and removed to the State of N.Y. Dr. Silas Clark next. Dr. Burbee, his wife was daughter of Elder Kingsbury the next. After him came Dr. Randall Clark, a botanical Physician, settled in the enter of the town. John Austen the next. Asa Begelow the next, he did not remain long. William A. Chapin followed him and is now our practicing Physician.

The early settlers Windham may truly be said to be a devout religious people. They had strong Presbyterian predilections. They understood well that the organizations of schools and churches, was necessary to ensure to themselves and posterity happiness. They maintained under many disadvantages the public services of religion. In nearly all the families the family altar was reared and morning and evening prayer ascended to Heaven. For several years as first they did not have a settled Minister. They held their meeting in log school houses and dwelling houses and even in barns.

The first church built in this town was near the farm owned now by Ameziah Howard. November 11th 1799 a meeting was holden to see what could be done in respect to building a church; A vote was taken to build a house 54 feet long, 42 feet wide with posts 25 feet in length. They also

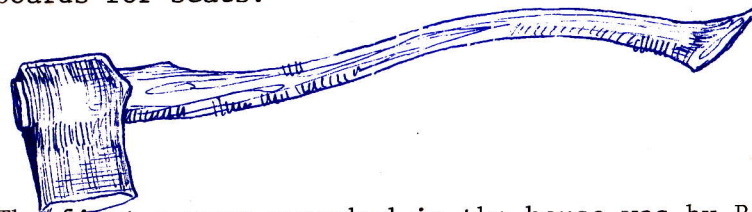
voted to pay their building committee 4 shillings per day for actual labor performed,



that a days work should be 10 hours. Capt Davis, John Woodburn and John Andrews were Committee. They gave a bond of 2 thousand dollars to the society to be paid in neat stock if they did not faithfully execute the work. Edward Aikin, John Woodburn and Peter Aikin each signed eighty dollars on the first subscription paper. The House was erected in the summer of 1801.

In July 1802 the Church was erected in the Center of the town. There were originally twenty-five proprietors. One poor man who could hardly support his family signed 15 dollars, he made salts in the woods and carried them to Townshend to sell to procure the money to pay his subscription.

July 8th 1802 was a memorable day for Windham. As the sun arose from yonder hill you might have seen gathered together the vigorous athletic yeomanry standing upon the ground we occupy this evening. They with uncovered heads and uplifted hands were looking unto Heaven whilst their Minister poured forth to God an earnest prayer that this might be the house of the living God where he would delight to dwell. This was an affecting scene, the whole company wept. Within a year from this time meetings were held in this house, a carpenters bench for a stand and rough boards for seats.



The first sermon preached in the house was by Rev. William Hall of Grafton.

In 1825 the meeting house was finished. At that time it cost 1000 dollars to finish it. It was painted white in 1826 which cost \$228.01. Rev. Philetas Clarke preached the dedication sermon. The pews were sold at auction to highest bidder. Peter Aikin and James Streamns bid off the two highest for 52 dollars a piece.

The Baptist meeting house was built in the year 1825 never dedicated. The Methodists have never had a house of worship in town have had their meetings in school houses and private dwellings.

For several years previous to the organization of a church in town, Ministers were sustained by a town tax. In a town meeting held April 12th, 1797, the town voted to lease out the minister land by a durable lease whilst wood grow and water runs, also to raise four cents on the pound on the polls and rateable estate to hear preaching for the ensuing year, to be appraised on the invoice of 1797, voted that Dea John Woodburn, Nehemia Pierce and John Burnap be a Committee to procure a candidate to supply with preaching the ensuing year.

The Congregation Church was organized September 9th 1805. Edward Aikin, Thomas Burnap, Nathaniel Aikin, Peter Aikin, John Burnap, Jona Brintnall, John Aikin, Anna Aikin and Nappy Burnap were the first members. Soon after the organization of the church Rev. John Lawton of Barnard (VT) was invited to come and settle in town. He was ordained October 4th 1809. The ordination sermon was preached by Rev. M. Preston of Rupert. Mr. Lawton remained pastor of this church about 10 years. He received the minister lot which was granted to the first settled minister. It was the lot now owned by Judge Harris. His store and dwelling are now upon the lot.

November 12th 1824 the society gave Rev. L.K. Arms an invitation to settle for one-half of the time. He was ordained at Grafton January 5th 1825. Rev. Charles Walker of Rutland preached the ordination sermon. Mr. Arms commenced preaching here more than four years before he

was ordained. August 13th 1831 the Society voted to give Rev. L.K. Arms a call to settle the whole of the time. June 9, 1834 he was dismissed by a council appointed for that purpose. October 24th 1835 Harvey Burnap, E.K. Aikin, and William Harris were appointed a committee to give him a call to return again. Rev. Mr. Pine was the minister one year from 1835 to 5. January 1849 Mr. Arms was again dismissed by a council.

February 12 1849 the society voted to hire Rev Reuben Hatch of Alsted N.H. He was ordained January 1 1850. Sermon Rev. L.L. Arnold of N.H., ordaining prayer by Rev. A.T. Clarke of Peru, charge to the pastor by Rev John Hill of C.port Chge to the people by Rev Moses Bradford of Grafton. August 17th 1851, Mr. Hatch asked a dismission. March 24th 1852, Rev. Roger Park now the present Minister accepted a call to come to this place.

The Baptist Church was organized January 12th 1807. October 20th 1807 a council was called for the purpose of setting apart Dea Thomas Baker to the work of the Gospel Ministry. The society voted that the council should meet at Col Daniel Cobb and that he should provide for it and be paid therefor by an equality on the grand list The council ordained Dea. Baker. The ordination was the the dwelling house of Col Daniel Cobb. Elder Jeremiah Higbee of Alsted N.H. preached the sermon. Elder Choat of Wardsboro gave the right hand of fellowship. Elder Samuel Kingsbury made the concluding prayer. Elder Baker was the Baptist Minister about 10 years.

Elder Samuel Kingsbury was the next Minister. He came to Windham about the year 1821. Before this he resided at West Townshend and was the pastor of that church. He asked for a dismission in 1838 on account of his age. Elder Milo Frarey was ordained the 21st of February 1838. Elder Graves preached his ordination sermon. He was dismissed in 1839 or 40. In the spring of 1840, Elder M.D. Miller came from _____ he remained about two years. In 1843 Elder C.H. Green from Cornish N.H. became the pastor of this church. He left for Castleton the beginning of this year.



The first sabbath school in this town was established by Miss Luch Burnap, now Mrs. Wood. She kindly furnished me with the following account. She says the sabbath school was established during the autumn of 1816.

The Children comenced their lessons at the first of St. John. To induce them to commit as many verses to memory as they were able, small oblong tickets were given to them, which were indicative of their progress and which were to be redeemed at the close of each school, by religious tracts. The school did not continue through the winter for many years as we had no comfortable place for them to assemble. The tickets were purchased at a trifling expense being printed upon sheets of coarse thick paper either red or blue with a small border around each ticket. A test of scripture or some valuable sentiment was printed on each. The red tickted was received for learning ten verses and was marked one cent. The blue tickets were marked one mill and one was given for learning one verse. In this way all the schollars were furnished with tracts at one mill a page. This furnished with reading which they felt as if they themselves had procured. The tracts were purchased by voluntary contributions from parents and others who felt interested in the welfare of the school.

Day schools were kept in private housed in the early settlement of this town.



For many years schools were held in log school houses many times in the summer they were held in barns. The first frame school house was situated about one hundred rods west of Dea Edward Aikins.

The schollars used Perrys spelling book, Websters third part for a reading book. They ciphared upon shingles or the hearth. The teacher was accustomed to give examples orally to be performed. Arithmetic's were not in use then.

The first school in the Centre District was kept in a log house situated on the farm now owned by Daniel Goddard. Miss Patty Ellingwood was teacher.

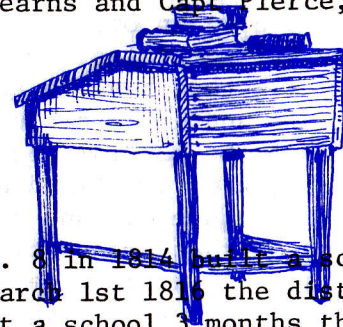


The first winter school was kept by Amos Emory. The first district meeting was held at Judge Aikins 6th day of January 1803. June 3rd 1803 the district voted to erect a school house. The house was built a short time afterwards.

Several of the school meeting were at Esq Kelleys Blacksmith shop. The first in South Windham was kept by Miss Anna Amesbury. The school was held in a log barn on the Wheeler place now owned by Esq Pierce. The first school meeting held in the district was at the dwelling house of Nehemiah Pierce on the 2nd of December 1796. John Burnap was Moderator and Clerk. In July 2nd 1798 the District voted to hire two months settling and to pay according to the number of schollars subscribed for, voted also that the committee be directed to hire a mistress a 3 shillings per week and pay her in salts at 20 shillings per hundred or butter at 18 cents per pound or wheat at 6/3 per bushel or rye at 4/ and corn at 3/per bushel. January 7th 1798 voted to raise 15 dollars to paid in salts or grain or butter at the market price. Several votes were taken to raise money to build a school house, one to raise fifty pounds for that purpose. The final vote was taken in August 1801. They erected a school house 22 feet square with a square roof. fist cost \$172 and fifty cents.

The school at the west part of the town was first kept in the dwelling house of Capt Daniel Cobb. The first school house was erected a little west of the dwelling house now occupied by Widow Ester Hastings.

The school in the Stearns district 1798 was kept by Sally Stearns. The first school house was situated midway between Capt Stearns and Capt Pierce, built in 1806.



District no. 8 in 1814 built a school house near the Tenney place. March 1st 1816 the district voted to raise money to support a school 3 months the present year upon the invoice of 1816 to be paid in good flax or wool. In 1817 they paid in the same coin for their schooling. Miss Mary Pierce, now Mrs. Burton kept one of these schools and took part of her pay in the above articles. In 1823 the Brick school house was built in that district. Miss Mary Kingsbury kept the first school in the house.

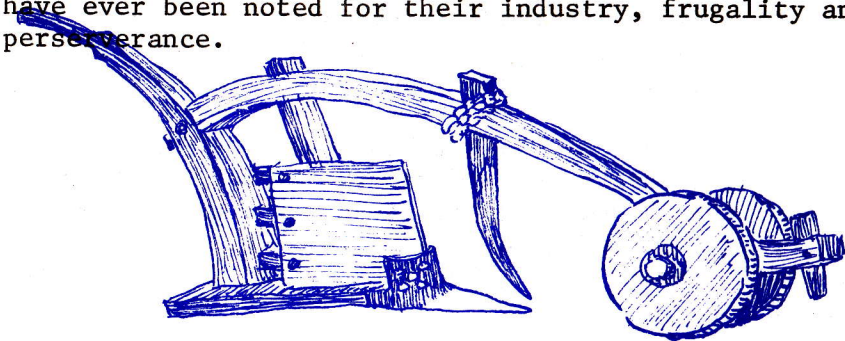
It cannot be said that Windham has raised no literary men. A few only of her sons have had the advantages of a Collegite education. Her graduates have all been members of Middlebury College and graduated there. They are Samuel C. Aikin, Edward Aikin, Henry L. Aikin, John L. Burnap and Urriah C. Burnap.

The Ministers who have gone from this town are 13. Baptists Sem Pierce, Aaron Stowell, Samuel Kingsbury, Ruford Wheeler and Charles Pierce. Congregationalists; Rev Samuel C. Aikin, Urriah C. Burnap, John L. Burnap and Bliss Burnap. Universalists; Larand Willis late of Charleston S.C. Methodists, Lorenzo Barrows, Elijah Gale and Ralph Robbins.

Edward Aikin became a physician and settled in Florida where he died 1831. Elijah P. Burton is the only other physician raised intown. Lawyers, Clark H. Chapman of Ludlow and Azro Emory of Missouri.

Some of her daughters are of the chief women not a few. She has furnished Academies with teachers. Two have been (one remains there now) in one of the first Female Institutions in the United States. Others have consecrated themselves and all they have to the Missionary work. Some have been writers and their productions have graced the columns of some of the Literary periodicals of our land. Others have had a more retired situation. They have instructed our common schools and shown themselves worthy of confidence and the highest respect. Windham has never since its first settlement been dependant upon others for her teachers, may this ever be the case.

The material resources of this town are equal in many respects to those of her Sister towns. Our farmers have ever been noted for their industry, frugality and perseverance.



Nearly all have comfortable dwellings with property enough to procure the necessities of life and even many of the luxuries. We are shielded from many of the distracting elements and destroyer influences which are working the ruin of many of the older towns. We are surrounded by fortifications which have been raised by the hand of the Almighty which will forever exclude the idea that our town will ever become the theatre of railroad scenes or that we will be noted for Manufactures. Her glory depends upon the general intelligence of her townsmen.

Let there be a deep heartfelt interest manifested on the part of her citizens in the maintenance of the Gospel Ministry and in support of good schools. Let the young have access to libraries of well chosen books where they can drink deep at the fountain of ancient and modern lore. Let her sons remember that righteousness alone exalteth a Nation. Then happiness and peace will remain in our household.

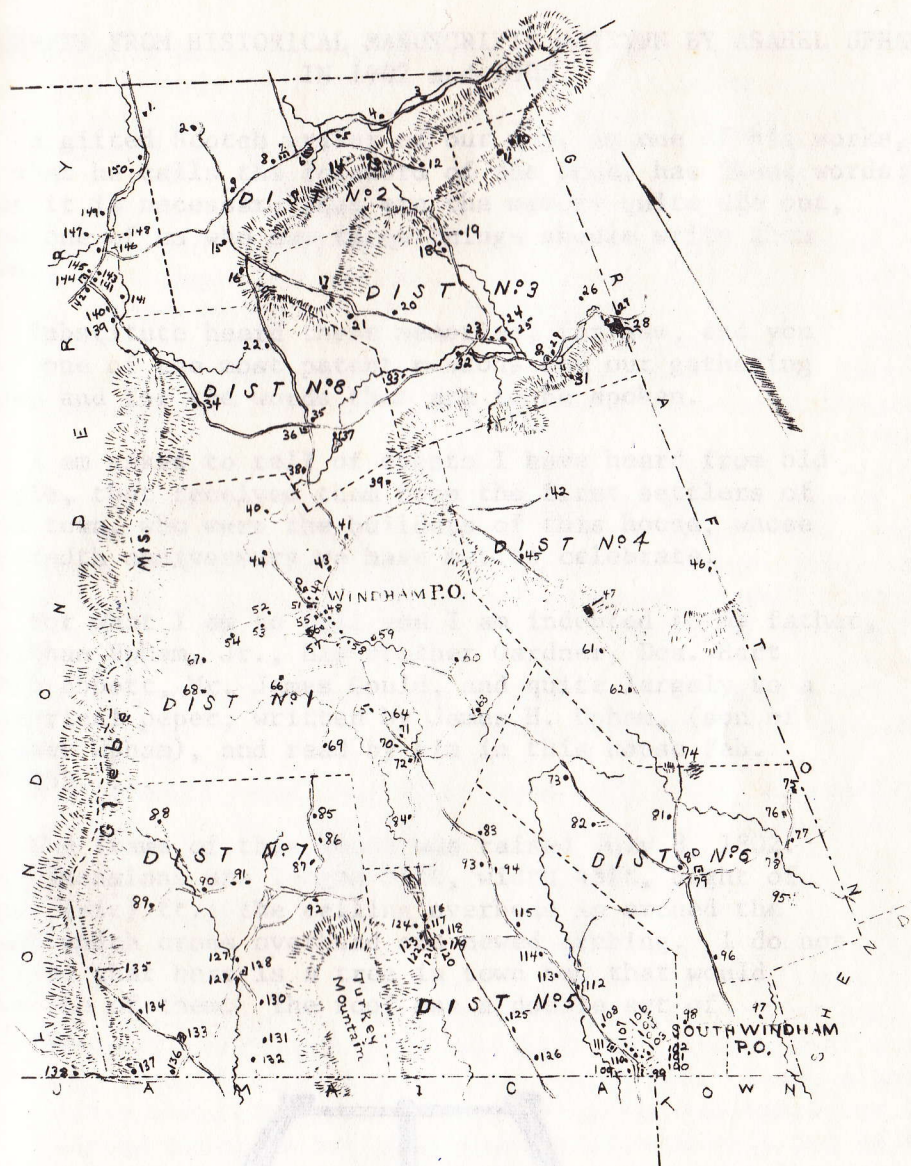
I will close by giving a description drawn by Dr. Belknap of a desirable town Community. He says a town consisting of a due mixture of hills, vallies, and streams of water, the land well fenced and cultivated, the roads and bridges in good repair, decent inns for the refreshment of travellers and for public entertainment. The inhabitants mostly husbandmen, their wives and daughters domestic. Manufacturers a suitable proportion of handicraft workman and two or three traders. A physician and a lawyer. A clergyman of good understanding, candid disposition and exemplary morals not a metaphysical nor a polemic but a serious, practical preacher. A school master who should understand his business and teach his pupils to govern themselves. A social library annually increasing and under good regulations. A decent Musical Society; No intriguing politician, horsejockey, gambler, or sot. Such a situation may be considered as the most favorable to local happiness of any which the world can afford."

In the eloquent language of Another May this town in its future character realize still more fully the picture here presented, and, blending the glory of the children with that of the fathers enlighten the dark vista of future years "till time shall be no more."



1. Brick Kiln
2. E. Rhodes
3. A. H. Wait
4. C. Wiggins
5. A. Edson
6. Cemetery
7. School No. 2
8. Mrs. Aiken
9. A. Howard
10. D. H. Gould
11. L. Fletcher
12. J. Boutin
13. J. Marsh
14. Soap Stone Ledge
15. L. S. White
16. H. A. Bemis
17. S. Mack
18. J. Gould
19. L. Howard
20. E. White
21. E. Rhodes
22. A. A. Cook
23. School No. 3
24. E. A. Lawrence
25. E. H. Rhodes
26. Mrs. Lawrence
27. G. S. Pierce
28. Saw Mill
29. C. Tenney
30. Cooper Shop
31. E. Butters
32. E. Lawrence
33. A. A. Thompson
34. E. Tenney
35. J. E. Brimwell
36. School No. 4
37. Saw Mill
38. L. Giles
39. Mrs. W. Howard
40. E. Woodard
41. J. Pratt
42. E. J. Smith
43. E. H. Harris
44. L. E. E.
45. D. W. Smith
46. E. A. Pierce
47. School No. 4
48. E. Harris
49. Cong. Church
50. J. E. Gould
51. School No. 1
52. S. Farr
53. S. A. Rhodes
54. W. A. Dugan
55. Dr. S. Spafford
56. J. D. Jones
57. W. L. Cronin
58. Carpt. Sh.
59. F. Mack
60. S. C. Woodburn
61. R. Rhodes
62. A. Pierce
63. S. Moore
64. Cemetery
65. H. G. Stowell
66. G. W. Dimick
67. L. Moore
68. L. H. Simonds
69. R. Harrington
70. S. Hill
71. A. Moore
72. D. Lamphear
73. J. & D. C. Stearns
74. Soap Stone Ledge
75. H. Lamphear
76. J. L. Farr
77. S. Pierce
78. S. Adams
79. School No. 6
80. C. Stearns
81. E. H. Howard
82. G. A. Farr
83. A. J. Baker
84. J. Ramsdell
85. H. C. Whitcomb
86. A. C. Prentiss
87. C. Stowell
88. C. W. Williams
89. H. W. Prentiss
90. J. & A. Ophum
91. C. W. Hastings
92. Store
93. E. A. Stowell
94. A. J. E.
95. D. D. D.
96. Mineral Ledge
97. E. L. Pierce
98. W. A. Ruffer
99. A. Whitman
100. A. Smith
101. L. E. Robbins
102. L. S. Sh.
103. Mrs. Jennings
104. Dea W. Kingsbury
105. Store
106. J. E. Whipple
107. S. Barrett
108. Capt. Parsonage
109. Baptist Church
110. I. & W. Farr

109. Capt Sh
- R. Harrington
110. A. Donnell
111. School No. 5
112. E. Pierce
113. E. Pierce
114. C. C. Burton
115. O. Grow
116. Mrs. Preston
117. E. S. Sh.
118. E. Pierce, Jr.
119. J. Walker
120. Saw Mill
121. W. B. Rhodes
122. A. Cook
123. C. Holton
124. W. B. Rhodes
125. J. Trumbly
126. E. Lawrence
127. S. Jones
128. School No. 7
129. S. J.
130. G. W. Dutton
131. S. C. Dutton
132. A. J. Parker
133. Cemetery
134. Dea A. Hobman
135. C. Holman
136. N. Hastings
137. A. Bemis
138. G. Walker
- Londonderry
139. H. Moore
140. J. Greely
141. J. Greely
142. C. Bailey
143. Mrs. S. Howard
144. School No. 7
145. G. W. Davis, P. O.
146. H. W. Smith
147. H. Howard
148. G. W. French
149. D. Gleason
150. Mrs. J. Smith



EXCERPTS FROM HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS WRITTEN BY ASAHEL UPHAM
IN 1902 and 1905

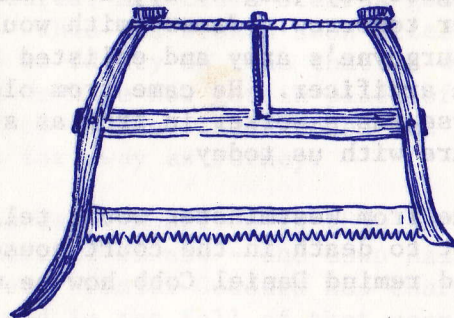
A gifted Scotch writer of our day, in one of his works, in what he calls the foreword of the book, has these words: "But it is necessary that ere the memory quite die out, some one of us who saw these things should write them down.:

Substitute heard these memories, for saw, and you have one of the most patent reasons for our gathering today and for the words that are to be spoken.

I am asked to tell of events I have heard from old people, that received them from the first settlers of this town, who were the builders of this house, whose hundredth anniversary we have met to celebrate.

For what I am to tell you I am indebted to my father, Jonathan Upham, Jr., his brother Gardner, Dea. Hart Balch Abbott, Mr. James Gould, and quite largely to a historical paper, written by James H. Upham, (son of Gardner Upham), and read by him in this house Feb. 14"1853.....

The frame of this house was raised July 8, 1802. Its dimensions are length 55ft, width 45ft, height of posts (sic) ft.; the ceiling overhead is arched the beams which cross overhead are hewed arching. I do not believe that here is a tree in town now that would make one of them. The roof has a double set of rafters.



The name of the carpenter who began the work was Blodgett. I have been unable to learn anything further about this man only that he got muddled and that Thomas Burnap, father of Dea. Harvey Burnap and grandfather of Mrs. H. M. Prentiss took up the work and carried it to completion.

There were a hundred picked men summoned to the raising, gathered from five towns; viz: Londonderry, Peru, Weston, Andover, and of course Windham - one score from each. A barrel of rum was provided and Dea. John Burnap was appointed to deal it out. We know that there was enough, for the Peru delegation returned after starting home and took another drink.....

Several of the first settlers were in the Bennington fight, viz. Samuel Ayers, Nathaniel Aikin, John Burnap, John Gould, Archibald Mack, John Mack, Archibald McCormack, Nehgmish Pierce, Benjamin Pierce, Daniel Putnam, James Smith, and Stephen Twitchell.

The presumption is that if they were all living at this time that they were all present.

There is but little doubt that Capt James Stearns was one of them.

I have sometimes drawn on my imagination for a picture of the dinner that was given the raisers by the town people - what a prodigious quantity of food would have to be provided; what a jolly time they would have while eating it. Wouldn't we like to hear the stories that they told. I hazard a guess that Archie Mack told how "awfu cauld" his brother Johnnie was on that August day (August 16, 1777:RAB) just 125 years ago day after tomorrow. James Smith would tell how he got away from Burgoyne's army and enlisted in the Continental army as an artificer. He came from old Birmingham and of course was a worker in iron as some of his descendents are that are with us today.

John Gould who came from Westminster would tell how William French was shot to death in the court house fight. The barrel of rum would remind Daniel Cobb how he won the

election of Col of the New Hampshire Militia regiment over a man which he said was better fitted for the office than he was - but as Kipling is wont to say that is another story - that happened across the Connecticut.

Rufus Edson of Andover if he had his fife with him would be called on to play the tune that he played when Baum marched out his Hessians to stack their arms in front of John Stark and the Greenmountain boys. Nathaniel Aikin would tell of his march from Bennington to Yorktown and describe how Washington and LaFayette appeared at the surrender of Lord Cornwallis.

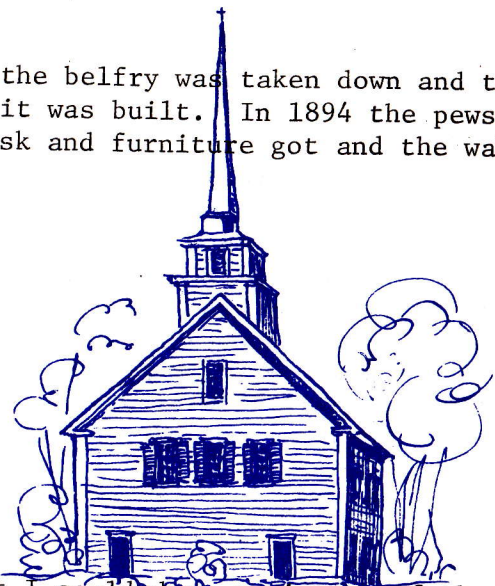
Within a year from the raising, meetings were held here - a carpenter's bench serving as platform for the speaker ...

It was clapboarded and glazed in 1804. James Rogers, son of Jil.ie Rogers the Tory, gave the glass - one authority has it that he gave the glass and paint - but this doubtful as the house was not painted until 1826. James Upham has it that it was painted white at that time. He says that it was finished in 1825 and that Rev. Philetus Clark preached the dedication sermon. The committee to finish it were Maj. Peter Aikin, Amos Emery and James Stearns. Capt Stearns has ten cows and he told the other members that if they would let him off, they might pick out the best one - they did not take the offer. It cost \$1000 dollars to finish it. The work was done by Rice Harrington, probably other carpenters were employed.

A belfry was put on it in 1849 Silas Stewart, the father of Mrs. Cronin and Mrs. Wiltshire Mack, doing the work. A bell was procured, Mr. Clark Stearns going with his team to Troy for it. This was broken soon after, another was got which proved so faulty in tone that it was carried back and the one that we have now got in place of it. The first one was said to be the finest toned one in the County. It was heard as far away as Putney.

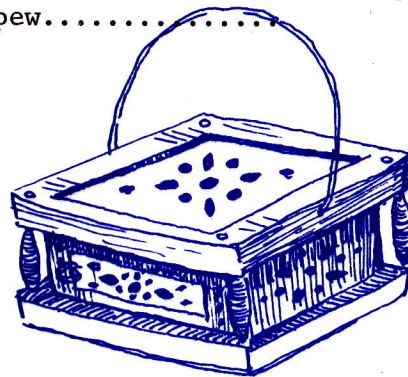
The house was remodelled in 1850 the audience room being raised to where it is now - the town hall and vestry being finished later. Daniel Goddard had charge of this work. It was rededicated in the fall of that year. Some time in the

early sixties the belfry was taken down and the spire that now surmounts it was built. In 1894 the pews were rearranged the present desk and furniture got and the walls and ceiling frescoed.



I wish that I could draw a picture of the interior of this house as I remember it before the audience room was raised up. The entrance doors were the same as at present - they opened into what was termed a lobby; that was partitioned off from the main room and contained two small stoves, at each end were winding stairs leading to the galleries, across the south end was the gallery occupied by the singers, there was also a gallery on the east and west sides. The floor of the galleries, extended over the two aisles. There were three or perhaps four tiers of pews rising by a series of steps from the front to the wall. In front was a bulwark of some 4 or 5 ft. in highth with a moulding or cornice at the top and bottom - the space between was painted bright blue - the paint of the interior work was white with trimmings of a dark wine color. I should have said that the floor of the galleries was the same as the floor of the present room. The pews were high with pannled doors - there was a bright yellow oval painted on each door with its number in black figures - the pulpit was on the north end as now and reached by quite a long flight of stairs; it was barrel shaped and the desk was quite high so much so that a short man had to have a stool to stand on in order to see his audience. There was a spider window back of it. Underneath was a closet with a small door opening from the west where the town kept the gunpowder and bullets that it was required to keep on hand by the State. Of course

it was impossible to warm sufficiently 50 large a house with so small stoves nearly shut off as they were by the lobby partition. The women quite generally had foot stoves in the winter. I can remember how the Arms boys followed Madame Arms carrying her footstove up the long aisle to the minister's pew.....



I wish to say a few words about the men and women that founded this Church. This town and the adjoining town of Londonderry was chartered as the town of Kent. Edward Aikin, the name that heads the list of first members of the Church settled on the farm now owned by Lyman Howard in 1773. I should have said that this town was settled by Scotch Irish from Old Derry N.H. as they called it and they were notable men and women. This Edward Aikin's name appears in the minutes of the Early Vt. Conventions 1776 and 1777 as delegate from Kent at the General Convention held at Caphas Kent's Dorset 29th September 1776. His name appears in the list of members present along with the names of such men as Col. Thomas Chittenden, Col Seth Warner, Col. Ben. Carpenter and Capt. Herman Allen.

At this Convention he was appointed to give notice to the towns of Kent and Chester of the action taken by the Convention with reference to the town of Arlington "which appeared to the Convention to be principally tories" - these towns were to apply to the Committee of Safety under certain conditions. He represented Kent as the Convention held at Westminster Court house October 30th 1776 and also at the most important Convention held at Windsor meeting

house June 4th 1777 the last one before the battle of Bennington.....

The other deacon, John Woodburn, married Mr. Aikin's sister, and his sister was Lucy Woodburn Greely - the mother of Horace. I can remember when Horace Greely visited his cousin, Samuel Woodburn, here in Windham.

