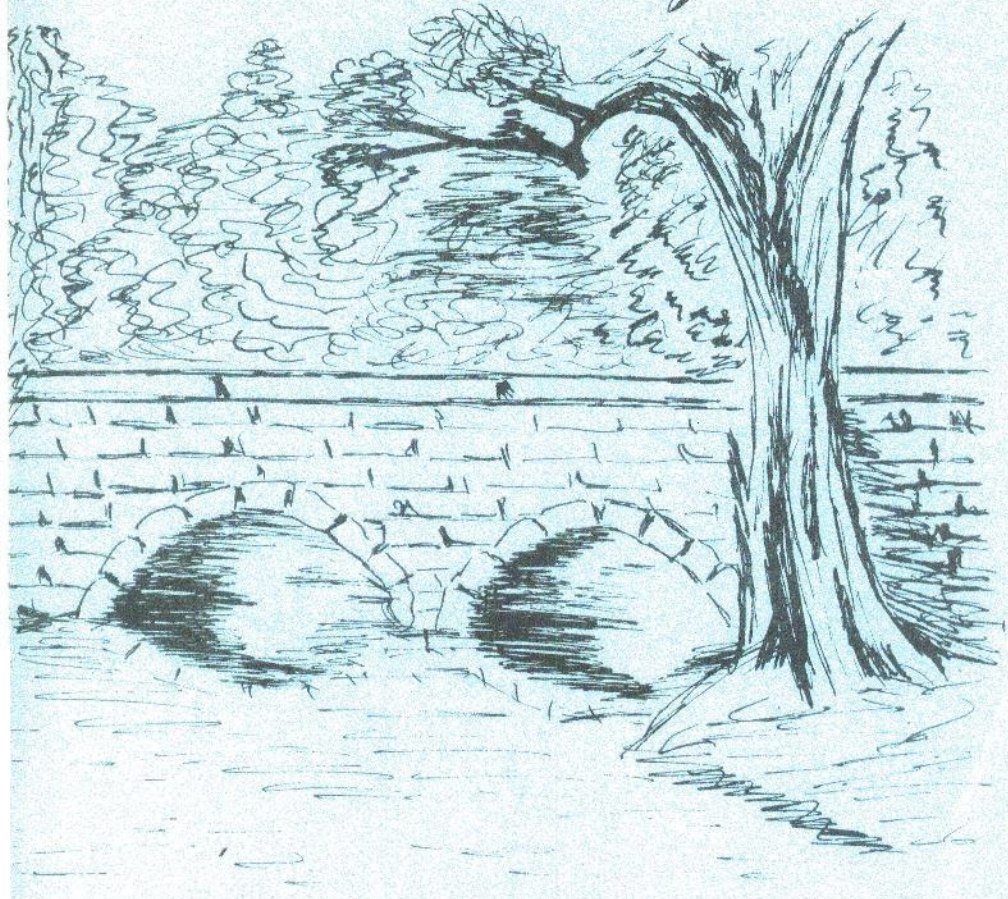


*Pelham:
Old Days &
Old Ways*



C. Frances Hobbs

Author:

Mrs. C. Frances (Hobbs) McLucas was a former president of the Pelham Historical Society. She felt strongly about the lack of written History of Pelham. At the time of her death she was compiling this story of town history and of the Hobbs family. The Pelham Historical Society was requested to publish it. We present it in its entirety-unedited and unfinished- just as Mrs. McLucas left it.

We would dedicate the story to Miss Mary Hobbs, her sister, who was the first regular Librarian appointed in Pelham. She served the town faithfully in that capacity from 1892-1955 a period of some 63 years. "Miss Molly" was held in high esteem by all those whom she served so well.

We thank Mr. Samuel Hobbs, her brother, now of California, for his financial assistance and encouragement. We know that he must be justifiably proud of his family's long tradition of service to Pelham, New Hampshire.

We also thank Mrs. Carla (Hobbs) Bordeleau, her grand-niece for designing the Cover.

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Carrolyn M. Law, President

EARLY HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF PELHAM

1845-1924

by

CHARLES WILLIAM HOBBS

This town has a history which may not be very interesting to or exciting to the general public; but to us who are natives, or residents of the town, it cannot fail to interest. At the same time it may be well to look back to the first settlement of the town and trace its growth and development from that time to the present.

We should ever keep in grateful remembrance those sturdy men and brave women who dared the perils of the wilderness and suffered the privations which new settlers everywhere have to undergo; and to which were added, in New England, the constant danger from the most savage and treacherous race of people on earth, the North American Indian.

At the time of the first settlement of this town, "Paugus", one of the most powerful, and treacherous of the whole race, was at the height of his career. That career carried death and destruction through the whole province of New Hampshire and into Massachusetts.

The man who went to plant his corn or to cut a tree in the forest carried his gun as well as his life in his hands. The loss of his gun meant the loss of his life. This danger was not the only trial that the first settlers had to undergo. At that time there was always a war between the English and the French who had settled in Canada; and who, as the English thought, were continually encroaching upon English territory. These wars called for large expenditures in men and money and the Provinces were kept poor and distressed by these calls. The Provinces had to fight the wars of the English King in this country, as well as their own battle for survival.

The first accounts of the settlement of this town must come mainly from tradition, or as we might say from family history, for the incorporation of the town, as the town of Pelham, did not take place until 1746.

The first building of any kind in the town was erected in 1719 very near or on the spot where the house of F. A. Cutter Esq. now stands.*

* F. A. Cutter property now Mrs. Virginia Merriam's. (Corner Mammoth and Sherburne Roads.)

This was known in those times as a block house or garrison house. It was built by the Masonian Proprietors for the purpose of opening up the land which they claimed to own for settlement; and by the settlers of Londonderry for a stopping place on their long trips to Boston when they went to market. It also served as a refuge, and was intended to preserve a line of communication between their settlement and Boston. Probably, during a portion of the year, a small garrison of soldiers remained there, cultivated a little land and kept the house in readiness to receive travelers.

Boston, Old Salem, and Portsmouth were the only markets in New England at that time. Of course, there were trading centers along the coast which were more difficult to reach.

In 1721 the first real actual settlement by men who intended to make this town their home was commenced by John Butler and Joseph Hamblett, who built a log house and commenced a clearing on what is now known as the "John Gage place".¹

Butler and Hamblett bought separate tracts of land and for company as well as economy built but one house on the line of their respective tracts of land. Here they kept Bachelors' Hall. After awhile, each thought he was doing more than his share of the house work, and contributing more to the general welfare of the colony than the other. Cutting the firewood was a matter of dispute with them. They concluded to divide the house and live as two separate families, by building a wall from the center of the door to the center of the stone fireplace. Thus, each had a tenement in the first house in Pelham.

The same year of 1721, and probably soon after Butler and Hamblett, there settled in this town the Richardsons, Jaques and Wymans, who as well as Butler and Hamblett came from Woburn, Mass. The Gages came from Bradford. One Gage settled on Gage Hill, and one near the center of town. William Richardson² settled on the farm now owned by Mr. Whitehouse. Jaques³ settled where D. M. Gould now lives and the Wymans⁴ as near as I can ascertain, where Mrs. Tyler now lives. These were the first settlers. Some others came in but, on the whole, the settlement of the town progressed very slowly for many years. There were a number of things which were unfavorable for the rapid development of the settlement of the town. First it was a question in what province the territory was in. It was claimed by both Massachusetts Bay and New Hampshire, as there was a clash in the charters of the two provinces. It was not until twenty or twenty-five years after the first settlement of the town that this question was decided.

1 John Gage place now Zolkos farm. 1888 barn now across road.

2 W. Richardson settled farm of Whitehouse, later Miss Clements.

3 Jaques - D. M. Gould, Atwood Road.

4 Wyman- Tylor- Mann - Hayes is present owner.

Massachusetts claimed a due west course from the mouth of the Merrimack River, and New Hampshire claimed the river itself as the boundary line of their respective provinces. Then there was a question as to the ownership of the land. It was claimed by the Masonian Proprietors or "Lord Proprietors" as they are frequently called in the records, who claimed the land under an old English Grant to Capt. John Mason, whose heirs they had bought out. It was also claimed by other parties under the title of the Wheelwright Purchase, this title was derived directly from the Indians, who according to the claim of this party sold all the land from the mouth of the Merrimack River, up to the river to Pawtucket Falls, and thence Northwesterly ten miles into the wilderness to the Rev. John Wheelwright. This was a deed, whether the Indians gave this deed or not had always been questioned, but it is on record in the Rockingham Registry of Deeds. Some claim it was a forgery and some say it was made in good faith.

The Wheelwright claimants, as I understand it, were never benefited at all by it. These causes doubtless prevented the rapid settlement of this region, for the proverbially careful and prudent settlers did not wish to settle in a country claimed by both Provinces, which would most likely be protected by neither in case of war with the savages. Each province would look after its undisputed possessions first. The uncertainty of titles to the land claimed by two claimants and any improvements which they might make under either claimant, might be wrested from them by force. In those days, more than at present, might made right.

The soil of the Dracut District was noted for its sterility. It was a saying that almost grew to be a proverb in the region round about, that all Dracut District was good for was to pasture the devil and blue jays on.

Pelham of the present, was at that time a part of the ancient town of Dunstable, and a part was in the Dracut District. The old Dunstable line in this town commenced at the Tyngsborough corner and ran North-easterly, dividing what are now the farms of Mr. Farmers and Seavy from Mr. Richardson, and continuing on the same course to the South-east corner of Mr. C.G. Moore's farm. Thence running northerly to a stone on the west bank of Beaver Brook, just above where Mr. Marshall's Mill was burned. This was the Londonderry corner. That part of Pelham, North and West of this line was in Dunstable, and all that part of the South and East was known as the Dracut District.

The ancient Township of Dunstable included the present towns of Hudson, Litchfield, Merrimac, Nashua, Hollis, Amherst, Brookline, a part of Londonderry, and a part of Pelham, in New Hampshire; and Tyngsborough, Dunstable, Pepperell, and Townsend in Massachusetts.

In the course of time this large Township was cut up into towns

and parishes. The westerly part of our town was attached to Nottingham West and it would appear, somewhat against the wishes of the people. At least there was a meeting and the question of dividing Nottingham West came up, and it was voted to do so. At this time the line between Massachusetts and New Hampshire had just been settled. This had been done in 1741 by a King's Commission and was not very satisfactory to either Province, each Province claiming more than it got. This line is the State Line of today, known as Mitchel's Curve Line.

This line is supposed to be three miles north of the Merrimac River from its mouth to the old pine tree, known as Mitchel's Pine on the south line of Pelham, and the stump can be seen on Coburn's land in the south part of town. Thence the line ran due west to Connecticut River. This line is still in dispute and a commission of our own state and the State of Massachusetts are at the present time engaged in settling the dispute.* The line in our town cannot be materially affected by it either way, for there is no dispute on the easterly portion of the line as that is the line of the river, and supposed to be three miles due north of the river from Pawtucket Falls to its mouth. The portion in dispute is the westerly part of the line and that is based upon the variation of the compass.

A large portion of the land in the town had been sold by the Masonian Proprietors before it was settled. It was probably sold very cheap for there was a risk in keeping it, as well as buying it. If the claim of the Massachusetts Bay Colony had been sustained, the Masonian title would have been worthless. As the result was uncertain, they preferred a "bird in the hand to two in the bush". There were sales or grants of land a great many years before any settlement was made in the town.

Gov. Endicott of Massachusetts had a plot of 400 acres of land purchased by him in 1674, and the plan of this tract is now in the possession of Wm. W. Butler whose farm is a part of the former Endicott Farm. A Kimball owned a large tract that bounded on Beaver Brook and L.C. Richardson, Muldoons, and the Moore Farm are a part of that tract. A Mr. Coburn owned a large tract, probably on the southerly side of Gumpas Pond. These were called farms but, were never improved by their owners, and were merely investments in wild land, waiting for a market.

The settlement of the town progressed slowly for many years, as has been said before, on account of the uncertainty of titles, until after the Colony lines had been settled in 1741 when the settlement took new impetus and the people began to think of themselves as a community.

The Dracut District and a part of Nottingham West, which were

* This line has been determined.

sheared off from their respective towns of Dracut and Dunstable in Massachusetts and left in New Hampshire, were without any government or representation in the colony, and a part of the territory was claimed by Londonderry and other towns. Some of the inhabitants were taxed in two towns. This and other reasons led Joseph Butler, who was the son of John Butler one of the first settlers, to petition the Colonial Congress to be incorporated as a separate town. The principal grievance of the petitioners was that they were taxed in two towns for the support of the Gospel, both Dunstable and Londonderry claiming a part, of the territory and taxing the inhabitants or as it was called at that time "rating" them for the support of the Gospel.

This petition was heard and granted, and on the 5th day of July, 1746, the charter of our Town of Pelham was granted. Thus the town was brought into legal existence and became one of the towns of the Colony.

From this time the history of the town is a matter of record and not of tradition. The first thing that the people of the new town were exercised about was that which caused the trouble that led to the incorporation of the town; namely, the support of preaching, meeting houses, and other matters pertaining thereto.

This will be tiresome enough to you all without going into a religious history of the Town. Some of the votes which are in the record would make the church people of today smile or scowl...that vote, for instance, appropriating money for the purpose of paying for rum furnished for the ordination of our minister, also for rum and refreshments furnished for the council.

The new town went on as all new towns do. Everything was looked after very closely in those times and every cent and dollar had to be accounted for in open Town Meeting. Every office was important and every officer was carefully looked after. Many things that appear trivial now were not thought so then. Some time we shall be thankful that so many little things were put upon the records.

INCORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF PELHAM - 1746

The first book of records, leather covered, brown and yellow with age, contains 369 pages of carefully written accounts of Town Meetings from 1746 to 1816. A copy of the Town Charter in the careful manuscript of Eleazer Whiting, the first Town Clerk, begins with the formal greeting:

Province of New Hampshire -

George the Second - by the Grace of God of Great Britian, France, and Ireland - King, Defender of the Faith.

To all whom these presents shall come, greetings:

Whereas sundry of our loyal subjects, inhabitants of a tract of land within the Ancient Boundaries of the town of old Dunstable and Dracut in our Province of New Hampshire, two miles and eighty rods east of the Merrimack River hereafter described, have humbly petitioned of us that there may be erected and incorporated into a Township and enfranchised with the same powers, authorities and privileges which other towns in our said Province by laws have and enjoy, and it appears to us to be condusive to our general good of our said Province as well as to the inhabitants, in particular by maintaining good order and encouraging the culture of the land that the same should be done.

Know ye therefore that we of our special grace, certain knowledge and for encouraging and promoting ends aforesaid, and with the advice of our trusty and well beloved Benning Wentworth Esq. our Governor and Commander in Chief of our council for said Province, have erected, incorporated, and ordained, that the inhabitants of land aforesaid bounded as follows: viz.

Beginning at the boundary pitch pine tree, made by Mr. Mitchell and running north boundary line of Massachusetts until it comes within two miles and eight rods of the Merrimack River; then north twenty degrees east to Londonderry; then Londonderry east south east five miles and one hundred forty rods; then south to the Methuen line, then by said curved line to the pitch pine where it began, and shall inhabit the same be and by the same precepts, are declared and ordained to be a town corporate and hereby erected and incorporated a Body Politick and a corporation to have continuance forever by the name Pelham, with all the powers, and authorities, privileges and franchises which other towns within the Province or any of them do have and enjoy.

To have and to hold the said town authorities and franchises and their successors, ever always reserving to us our heirs and successors all white pine trees growing and being and that shall hereafter grow and be on the land for the use of the Royal Navy reserving also the power of reserving and dividing said town to us and our heirs and successors where it shall appear necessary and convenient for the inhabitants thereof and in the several towns of said Province and by the laws thereof enabled and authorized to assemble and by the majority of votes to choose all such officers as are mentioned in said laws.

We do by these precepts nominate and appoint Zacheus Lovewell to call the first meeting of said inhabitants to be held within Town at any time within thirty days from the date hereof. Giving legal notice of the time and place and design of holding such meeting. In testimony we have caused the Seal of said Province to be hereunto affixed.

Witness Benning Wentworth Esq., our Governor and Commander in said Province, the fifth day of July, in the year of our Lord Christ, one

thousand seven hundred and forty-six and in the twentieth year of me---

B. Wentworth

By his Excellencies Command with advice of Council.

Theodore Atkinson, Sec.

The Charter of this new town having been "entered and recorded to the Original" this Sixteenth Day of September 1747- Page 33 & 34.

Theodore Atkinson

First Meeting Of The Town of Pelham
Province of New Hampshire

"Pursuant to the authority from his Excellency Benning Wentworth Esq. , Governor; or from this his Majesty's Province of New Hampshire to me giving for the calling the first meeting of this town of Pelham. These are therefore to notify the freeholders and other inhabitants in Pelham, qualified to vote in the choice of town officers, that they assemble and meet at the house of Captain Henry Baldwin, on Monday, the twenty-first day of July, currant, at two of the clock, in the afternoon, then and there to choose all such town officers for the ensuing year as the law directs."

Dated July ye 11; 1746

Zacheus Lovewell

This Notification posted by me- Zacheus Lovewell- Province of New Hampshire.

Capt. Henry Baldwin had been instrumental in getting this charter, so naturally his house was selected as the meeting place. The freeholders from all sections of the town trudged up "Baldwin Hill" to choose the following Town Officers.

Henry Baldwin was chosen Moderator, "to govern the meeting"; Eleazer Whiting, Town Clerk; *five Selectmen - Joseph Hamblett, Henry Baldwin, William Richardson, Jonah Gage, and Eleazar Whiting. Henry Baldwin, Town Treasurer; Jacob Butler, John Baldwin, Samuel Gage, and Simon Beard, Surveyors of Highways; Fence-viewer and Field-driver (viz.) William Elliot and Hugh Richardson; Sealer of Weights & Measures, Henry Richardson, and Amos Gage; Tythingman- Henry Richardson, Amos Gage. Foundation (cellar) of the Baldwin house is to be found on Baldwin Hill, beyond the Landry residence on the Landry Fruit Farm. The Landry residence was originally a Gage farm.

* Three Selectmen were elected each year in the March Town Meeting in the following years.

Building a town presented many problems to these hardy pioneers. A place to gather to carry on town business and to worship was a requisite for every New England town. Settling boundaries, building roads and bridges, and getting money by taxation to make these things possible were immediate needs.

Defining the boundaries was first considered at the Town Meeting of Sept. 3, 1746, Capt. Henry Baldwin presiding as Moderator. "Voted to act on articles of the warrant and choose a committee in behalf of the town viz. Joseph Hamblett, William Richardson, and Josiah Gage to join with a committee from Nottingham West to divide the land according to the charter and to settle the line as to the bounds between the towns. "Voted to choose Mr. James Ingalls, of Andover, a surveyor to assist the aforesaid committee in said service."

"Voted that the aforesaid committee and surveyor shall plan this town to find where the center of the land is. Joseph Colburn of Dracut, and William Gregg of Windham, chainmen to assist aforesaid committee in planning this town to find where the center of land is in this town, or the most next convenient place." Adjourned to the 1st. Monday in October.

The Town assembled and met on the aforesaid adjournment on Oct. 6, 1746, and further voted to raise a town rate for this present year- the sum of one hundred pounds. Certain bills must be paid as Major Zacheus Lovewell- the sum of thirty shillings, old tenor, for trouble in obtaining the town charter.

The Center of Town Established - A report on Oct. 22, 1746.

"We have proceeded and measured and tested said town and have found where the center of land is." "Protracted by a scale of three hundred poles in an inch which may move." On Oct. 27, 1746, "Voted to accept the report of the surveyor and chainmen and committee to find where the center of land is, "and have found said center."

Also, "voted to hire as much preaching this winter season as sixty pounds of old tenor will hire, and to build a house for public worship of God to be set in the center of town. - twenty-eight feet in length, and twenty-four feet wide."

The committee and surveyors presented the following report- "Between Nottingham West and the town of Pelham we proceeded as follows:- viz. We began at the Merrimack River and measured on the line between the Provinces, two miles and eighty rods, then we made a heap of stones which is the corner bound, between the towns in the land of Jeremiah Colburn; Thence we proceeded by a point of compass, north twenty degrees east, by a line of marked trees and a heap of stones to Londonderry line, to a heap of stones- which is five miles and thirty-four poles. Signed by James Ingalls, surveyor. Joseph Hamblett, William Richardson, and Josiah Gage - Committee.

The Center of the town having been determined by survey, Capt. Henry Baldwin was selected to apply to the General Assembly for the "Non resident land tax lying in this town to enable them to support and maintain the gospel among them." A committee was selected- Capt. Henry Baldwin Esq., William Richardson, Hezekiah Hamblet, Daniel Gage, and Amos Richardson, to manage and carry on the work in building the meeting house.

This building did not meet with general approval, and in 1748 the town voted to buy the Nottingham West Meeting House of Mr. Merrill, and appointed a committee "to manage in taking down said Meeting House to Pelham," at a work rate of twenty shillings a day, old tenor. "Anyone delinquent in the work of taking down said Meeting House and moving the Meeting House, if warned shall pay twenty shillings old tenor to the Town for each day." "Voted to raise one hundred and twenty pounds, old tenor, to purchase the Meeting House of Mr. Merrill, on Nottingham West and defray other charges that shall arise on that business."

The Rev. James Hobbs first preached in Pelham, "by way of probation." The town was content to make a choice with the last two gentlemen who had preached. The Rev. James Hobbs was one of these. "At a town meeting the voters made their choice of Mr. James Hobbs to be their gospel minister to carry on the work of the ministry in said town." "Voted further to the said Mr. Hobbs for his encouragement by way of a settlement the sum of seven hundred pounds, old tenor, and to grant to Mr. Hobbs for yearly salary the sum of four hundred pounds, old tenor."

A committee was appointed to apply to neighboring ministers for advice and approbation in this important affair - settling and ordaining a minister.

"The Rev. Mr. Hobbs accepted the offer as follows: Gentlemen- whereas you have seen fit to give me an invitation to settle amongst you as your minister, and have made your proposals to encourage and enable me to settle and carry on the work of the ministry amongst you and have confirmed the same as a legal vote; therefore upon the considerations of those proposals and also when fulfilled are found insufficient to support me in the quality becoming a minister of the gospel; that you will be ready to contribute all needed support. I do accept your call."

James Hobbs

The salary discussed was interpreted on Aug. 22, 1751 in practical values - "Indian corn at eighteen shillings pr. bushel; Rye corn at twenty-six shillings pr. bushel; Pork at two shillings per pound at the time of slaughter; Beef at sixteen pence per pound likewise from the slaughter to be reconed all according to old tenor."

Evidently the Rev. James Hobbs lived at the home of Amos Gage

following his ordination, as on March 25, 1752, the Town "voted to Amos Gage, for keeping Mr. Hobbs, two pounds old tenor a week, and to William Elliot a dinner for Mr. Hobbs upon the Sabath. "

The Town Record does not describe the ordination, but early Church records do, with visiting ministers officiating. There were ten members, but the whole populace attended.

The young minister, Rev. James Hobbs, was twenty-five years of age, a native of Hampton, N.H., a descendant of Morris Hobbs, one of the early settlers of that town. He was a graduate of Harvard College, class of 1743. Harvard College was founded in 1636, under the auspices of the Congregational Church.

He returned to Kingston where he had studied with Rev. Stephen Bachelder. There he became attracted to the daughter of the pastor, Elisabeth. Soon after his ordination, church records report the bans, "The Rev. Mr. James Hobbs and Miss Elisabeth Bachelder published in Pelham Dec. ye 28th, 1751." Elisabeth Bachelder Hobbs became the first woman member of the church. Records dated April ye 8th, 1753- "admitted to the full communion of this church, Elisabeth, wife of James Hobbs, pastor of the church in this place. "

Shortly after the ordination, Dec. 2, 1751, the town voted to purchase a certain tract of land in said town for the Rev. Mr. James Hobbs. The site of the first parsonage was the triangular piece of land between the present Marsh and Lowell Roads to the cross road. He built a substantial Colonial house, with the aid of the men of the town. Hand hewn beams, a huge brick fireplace and oven and a brick chimney, with large square rooms opening into a small front entry, from which a winding stairway led to the chambers above on the second floor. The "Cross and Bible" front door opened with an iron latch, into the orchard. The floors were of wide pine boards, walls wainscotted in knotted pine, with a corner cupboard in the best room, for Elisabeth's china.

Conflicting motions, votes and reports leave the reader in doubt as to the place used for the ordination. Although work had been done as boarded, shingled etc., on the first meeting house. Oct. 2, 1751 "voted to fetch the meeting house which the town purchased from Mr. Merrill, to set it up in Pelham. " "They voted likewise not to set up or rebuild said meeting house in the last place where the town voted to put the meeting house, but to set up or rebuild the meeting house on the two acres of land which Mr. Ferguson agreed with said town to set a meeting house upon. " "Again the town met on said adjournment (Oct. 16, 1751) and voted to board and shingle above said meeting house with convenient speed. " At any rate the ordination took place, the town furnished liquor for the occasion. The bill submitted on March 25, 1752 reads "voted Henry Baldwin thirteen pounds old tenor for finding liquor for the ordination. "

Work continued on the new Meeting House for in 1752, "Voted to allow pews or pew grounds so called, in the Public Meeting House in said town on the lower floor and voted also to have fourteen, from the wall. Voted to grant the above said Pew Grounds to thirteen of the highest payers, being freeholders or inhabitants of said town, viz., they have paid the most money since the town was first settled by a charter; providing they built the town a good handsome and decent Pulpit, and a canopy over it, also a Deacon's seat in said meeting house and the thirteen men do oblige themselves and families to sit in said pews and to take them for their seats until they are filled, and if they are not inclined to take said pews aforesaid, then the next highest in court to take their place in said affair." "Voted likewise further at said meeting to grant four persons more in the two hind seats on the lower floor of said meeting house, men and women side to four more of the highest payers according to the above said vote. Provided they will make three doors to said meeting house and hang them with good iron hinges and latches decently, and be double doors made of good boards."

The following year voted to purchase a box of glass in order to glaze the Meeting House but, this was not completed until 1758 when one hundred pounds old tenor toward furnishing glazing was appropriated. These church goers must have been enured to cold without the proper windows or heat. The little footstoves were a little help, but, sitting through long sermons during New England winters showed real endurance.

After serving as minister for fourteen years the minister fell sick and died on June 5, 1765, leaving his wife and four children,* to the tender mercies of the parish. The town voted to bury their minister, appropriating twenty pounds sterling money of Great Britian, and appointed a committee to see that the Rev. James Hobbs was decently buried. The next year a grave stone was provided. This stone found against the wall, years later in the Atwood Cemetary, and is now a tablet in the present Congregational Church, placed there at the one-hundred fiftieth Anniversary of the church. Another grave stone had been placed on the first ministers lot which is standing there today.

Mr. Amos Moody, who had substituted during the ministers illness, was chosen as the next pastor, Sept. 3, 1765. The Meeting "made a choice of Mr. Amos Moody for their minister to carry on the work of the ministry amongst them." Voted to Mr. Moody for his settlement twenty pounds sterling money of Great Britian, in Oct. 14, 1765 five pounds of money of Great Britian by way of addition to Mr. Moody.

The Ordination took place on Nov. 20, 1765. Jonathan Stickney, Eben Jaques, William Elliot, Uriah Abbot, and James Gibson were chosen "A committee to take care of the meeting house the day of the ordination-

* Four children - two sons, James & Nathan - Two daughters Mary & Sarah - an infant died.

to see that the doors be sheathed while the council was ready to reign. "

Church records state that Rev. Mr. Moody went to live in the parsonage occupied by the widow Elisabeth Hobbs and her family. Three years later he married her and brought his orphaned niece to be a daughter in the home. Evidently the Rev. James Hobbs' settlement and salary due him was paid to his widow for the Account Book of 1765 shows receipt, "The sum of ninety-six pounds old tenor, on account of the salary of my late husband, James Hobbs, deceased the year of 1765. I say received by me.

Elisabeth Hobbs "

Again on Jan. 7, 1766- Received of Mr. John Furguson, Treasurer the sum of sixty-three pounds tenor, of an order upon him from the town. "

Again on March 3, 1766- "Received from John Furguson, in order, the sum of one-thousand two hundred and thirty-seven pounds---shillings and nine pen pence old tenor. I say received by me, Elisabeth Hobbs. "

June 20, 1765 "Received of Selectmen the sum of twenty-six pounds eighteen shillings, old tenor by order of Elisabeth Hobbs and also paid the same." Signed by the Selectmen- John Furguson, Nehemiah Jaques, and John Gage. This seems to end the dealings with the widow except for an entry on Nov. 15, 1768- "Received forty pounds old tenor on account of what was due Mr. Hobbs' estate per. me." A. Moody. Thus, the community fulfilled their obligation as to "Settlement and Salary" to the family of their first minister. The town also assumed the funeral expenses as another item indicates- "Received of Deacon Amos Gage, Treasurer, four shillings, lawful money, for making the Rev. Mr. Hobbs' coffin." "I say received by me." Joseph Wilson.

The Rev. Mr. Moody was a good business man and kept careful account of salary received, amount due each year as - March 6, 1769, "Received in full from the town what was due to me from them for preaching before settlement and for my settlement and first year salary ending in November the 20th, 1766, and also thirty-two pounds fourteen shillings and eleven pence lawful money toward the next year. To me." A. Moody.

So days and years passed with notations of payments and failure to pay entire salary, until in March 6, 1780 "voted to choose three men as a committee viz. Lt. Nevens, Mark Gould, Major Coburn to agree with Mr. Moody and make report." "The Selectmen were directed to examine and see where the money is that the town is so much behind with Mr. Moody - to see how he will settle with the town for what is behind." It was then voted to make up Mr. Moody's salary for the time back four-hundred and fifty pounds a year. Evidently the towns men felt poor for in 1781 they voted "not to raise money for highways or schools" (pg 75 T.R.), and in 1782 not to allow Mr. Moody any salary for the ensuing year, but three days later voted to choose a collector to gather Mr. Moody's rates.

When Mr. Moody was first approached by the committee he offered

to resign the desk, but this was not considered, as the Congregational Council had a different procedure, which was that no minister could resign but must first be dismissed. September 23, 1782 "voted to dissolve Rev. Mr. Moody's contract and on Oct. 7, 1782 voted not to accept of Mr. Moody's first proposal that he sent in writing, and to make trial and later took names in writing who is for Mr. Moody's staying as their minister and who is not." In April, 1783 voted to excuse those of their minister's rates who hath or shall sign their names against Rev. Mr. Moody.

Finally a meeting was called Sept. 16, 1786 to act on the matter as the General Court decreed. Seventeen Signatures are inscribed (pg 116) (Vol. 1) with dates of signing. In January 1785 the town voted to settle with Mr. Moody according to his first proposal, pay his salary for times past, but that those not attending on his ministry be freed from any tax to him according to his written proposal. Those signers were exempt from the minister's rates.

In those days a council of ministers was called to settle disputes and dismiss the pastor. The settled minister could not simply resign and leave, even if in the right, but must await proper dismissal by the clergy. Accordingly a council was called for advice. Six ministers met in the Ecclesiastical Council, exonerated Mr. Moody from all blame, subscribed to his sound theology, praised his moral character, and deplored the strife and contention that was in the air. They recommended him as a candidate for any Congregational Church in a clear forceful statement signed by each member of the council.

Rev. Mr. Moody had loyal supporters, among them many of the sixty-one members he had brought into the church. He did not seek a pastorate elsewhere, but established a new home and devoted himself to his farm and his community. Neither did he leave the church but, gave his support to his successors.

The town showed their confidence in Amos Moody and sent him as their delegate to the State Convention that adopted the Federal Constitution. He voted to accept the Constitution making New Hampshire the ninth state to ratify this great document. He was elected as Representative to the General Court many times, and also received a flattering vote from the town for State Senator, although he did not win that office. He was a successful farmer, developing the farm in the Highland District, later known as the Nathan Hobbs Place. Nathan was one of his stepsons. He outlived his wife Elizabeth, who departed this life one day, Feb. 21, 1819 at ninety years of age.

A funeral sermon preached by Rev. John Hubbard Church, reveals

*Town Records show that Amos Moody was elected Representative in 1789, 1793, 1794, 1795, 1796, 1798, & 1804. Some count more times.

the religious belief at that time, as he counselled each member of the family to be ready for the "great change". He eulogized Elisabeth for her good works and Christian life, pictured the companionship that had been his in this community. This sermon is preserved with his finest sermons in the files of the church society. He wrote an original sort of shorthand which has been transcribed by this author. His History of The Beginning of New England is an excellent report of the Pilgrims and the history of the early church.

Dissension continued among the newcomers, as they represented different faiths. The major dissatisfaction seemed to be the "Ministry Tax," use of the Meeting House, and conflict of personalities, which continued until Dr. John Hubbard Church came as a settled minister.

The townspeople sought a new minister. Candidates applied and the people listened. On July 4, 1793 "voted to give Mr. Eli Smith a call to settle with them in the ministry by a majority of seven votes." This agreement went as far as an attempt to ordain Mr. Smith, but resulted in a violent quarrel, referred to as "frustration day" by the people zealous for Mr. Smith. Romance developed however, and the rejected Mr. Smith took as his bride Hannah Hardy, daughter of a prominent and well to do citizen, Daniel Hardy.

Mr. Smith became a professor in the Bangor Theological Seminary. Upon his death Mrs. Smith married Gen. Samuel Richardson of this town, bringing with her a generous dowry. In those days a women's property became her husband's upon marriage. The site of the Congregational Church, adjacent to their house, was given to the church by Gen. Richardson. She gave the Communion set now at the New Hampshire Historical Society.

Some years later April 27, 1797, "Voted to give Mr. Samuel Worcester a call to settle in the work of the gospel ministry." A settlement of \$1000, with security given to return said \$1000 should he resign. "Voted to give Mr. Worcester annually, three-hundred and forty dollars while he shall remain our minister." Mr. Worcester evidently did not accept this offer for there is no further reference to him in the record.

Protest against supporting a minister of another faith by public taxation had been registered and recorded as early as the pastorate of the Rev. James Hobbs. Protest was made by a citizen enrolled as a Baptist in a Boston Church. Such cases were considered and relieved of the minister's tax. Separation of Church and State was a problem that was assured in the Charter of early towns by the Provincial government. The General Court had passed an act, Jan. 4, 1787 recommending that a parish be formed of individuals rather than territory. A group in Pelham decided to form such a parish called a "Poll Parish."

Poll Parish - a parish of dissenters, is a parish of individuals

rather than territory. Services were conducted in a building on land now occupied by the parsonage, later moved. Seventeen men signed under the following - Agreeable to an act passed in General Court Jan. 4, 1787, the subscribers have decided to join a new parish in Pelham: James Gibson, Jesse Tenney, Benjamin Butler, John Hall, Ezra Wyman, Jesse Wilson, Timothy Clark, David Nevens, Moses Titcomb, John Titcomb, Isaac Marshall, Bill Butler, Aaron Wyman, Stephen Hall, John Wyman, Samuel Butler, and William Gage. Many of these signatures were dated.

First Recorded Objection To Paying Minister's Rates

To the Selectmen and others of the town of Pelham.

Gentlemen:

When you have an article in your warrant to raise money for the town, in order to repay charges that may or doth arise by any that refuse to pay rates to your minister, I utterly object against any rates to support of a Congregational Church, all because I am of the Baptist persuasion in full Communion with the Baptist Church of Christ in Boston, near this twenty years. Therefore utterly refuse to pay any rate that may be passed on me to support any other profession.

per me Eben Richardson

March 7, 1763

"Voted not to join with Nottingham West in carrying on lawsuit with those persons refusing to pay to the minister in said towns. Voted for town to order the constable to make (Distress) on those persons that refuse to pay minister rates in this town."

pg. 39 Vol. 1.

June 16, 1781 - pg. 116 Vol. 1.

"Agreeable to an act passed in General Court, Jan. 4, 1787 we the subscribers have a desire to join the new Parish in Pelham.

March 1787

"Voted that Selectmen shall be impowered to discharge all that can make it appear that they are of a different persuasion from Congregationalists at or before first day of May next. Voted to discharge Josiah Wyman of all his taxes 1784 excepting State and County."

"The Selectmen were impowered to discharge all that can make it appear that they are of a different persuasion from Congregationalists at or before the first day of May next." While the collectors gathered the "rates" the minister's tax was kept in a different account and only Congregationalists paid to the minister's tax for the Congregational minister. Such a list kept in a carefully homemade booklet proves this. "Tithing Man" was not a popular office as records in the 1800's show

with the refusal or withdrawal from nomination to this office.

The selection of Dr. John Hubbard Church restored harmony. He came with the backing of William M. Richardson, afterwards Chief Justice of New Hampshire, who was a college classmate, at Harvard in the class of 1797.

Dr. John Hubbard Church was a scholarly man, with an engaging personality. He was interested in everyone in the town, and constantly working to "save souls". His philosophy was of love and forgiveness and preparation for the future life. He succeeded in uniting the parish.

A recognized leader in New England church affairs, he was honored with an A. M. degree from Dartmouth College in 1813 and a D. D. from Williams in 1823. He was Trustee of Pinkerton Academy in Derry; of Dartmouth College from 1820 until death; of Philips Academy at Andover Theological School where he was considered a high authority in Theological discussions.

An able speaker and writer, many of his addresses and sermons were printed and widely distributed. "The Settlement of New England" is historically valuable. A sermon before the Female Heathen Society, of Dracut, gives an idea of the interest and support of missions given by the early church. Dr. Church was an official in the New Hampshire Missionary Society.

Differences were forgotten and the Town Meeting of Aug. 27, 1798 "voted to concur with the church in giving Mr. John Church a call to settle in this town in the work of the Gospel Ministry." "Voted to give Mr. John Church as a settlement, within one week of the time of his ordination five hundred dollars, and the said sum of money be paid him out of the money, due to the town for the parsonage land sold some time ago." "Voted to give Mr. John Church as salary Three-hundred-thirty-three dollars, thirty-three cents and one-third of a cent ($\$333.33 \frac{1}{3}$) annually, so long as he shall supply the desk, with this qualification of the last clause (viz) that he relinquish no part of his salary, though he should be sick and unable to supply the desk for six months, at any one time; that should he be unable through sickness to supply the desk longer than six months at any one time, ths salary cease, till he does supply the desk.

Dr. Church built and occupied the colonial house on Nashua Road. It was spacious, with huge fireplaces and ovens, hand hewn beams, and hand hewn clap-boards. His property extended along that road around the curve and east to the famous blueberry swamp, known as the Church Lot. Several homes, of Hobbs, Boutwell, Provencal, and a development known as Greenwood Terrace, now occupy what was once his wood land, garden and pasture. The present occupants have completely rebuilt the house, making it into a modern two apartment house.

Work continued on the Meeting House with an effort to make the place more attractive, and possibly more comfortable, for the beloved pastor, as the Town Meeting of March 5, 1797 "voted to purchase a cushion for the pulpit, a curtain for the pulpit window, to build a cupboard in the lower part of the pulpit and to lay some gravel by the underpinning of the Meeting House." These purchases were to be taken out of the "funded" money and Capt. John Furgeson, Deacon Benjamin Barker, and Mr. Moses Whiting were a committee to do what they think proper with respect to conveniences." In 1804 - "voted to paint the Meeting House" and in 1805, "to shingle the foreside of the Meeting House and paint the roof," but the town failed to approve the Article 2 "to see if the town will vote to build a belfry and steeple to the east end of said Meeting House in said town."

Funds for improving the building were raised by the purchase of pews. In Dec. 1795 - "voted that the purchase of pews be put in the Town Book of such a number to such a man or men to him and his heirs forever." The First Floor lists 1 to 42 purchased for various sums between \$40.00 and \$60.00, several of these were shared by two families. The Gallery contained 25 pews purchased for between \$26.00 and \$43.00, ten of them occupied by two families. Today older citizens recognize family names, seventy-six of them, but find few of the same families today. Atwood, Hobbs, Hardy, Lyons, Sherburne, Spaulding, Carlton, Tallant, and Smith. A few return for special occasions such as Marsh, Cutter, etc.

The sale of pews brought in almost \$3000.00. Sometimes the pew was not left to the heirs and assigns forever, but was transferred by deed to another owner, in consideration of a definite sum, duly signed and witnessed and in some cases copied in the records.

As years passed the church membership increased as did the number of Baptists and Methodists. Throughout his pastorate Dr. Church received the same salary of \$333.33 1/3, voted in town meeting, but collected from the Congregationalists only. His influence was felt in school, community activities, and moral uplift. All looked to him for leadership and cultural growth. His wide associations in New England made him a first citizen. Dr. Church was buried in Atwood Cemetery.

RECORD OF THE PEWS TOWN RECORD - VOL. 1 - PAGE 202

Dec. 8, 1795 - "Voted that the purchasers of the Pews be put in the Town Book of such a Number to such a man or men, to him and his heirs forever."

Voted - That for and in consideration of the sum of money here after mentioned, well and truly paid to the Town of Pelham, by the persons here after named. The receipt whereof the Inhabitants of said town grant, bargain, sell and convey unto them the said persons hereafter named and to their heirs

and assigns forever, the following Pews in the Meeting House in said Pelham.
(viz)

1 - on the Lower Floor for the sum of Sixty-one Dollars is sold to Ens.			
Benjamin Barker and to his heirs and assigns forever			\$61.00
2 - Capt. John Ferguson and heirs forever			\$61.50
3 - James Hobbs & Jonathan Gilmore and heirs forever		?	(equally)
4 - Capt. Asa Richardson	"	"	\$52.00
5 - Lieut. Ezra Ralph Marsh	"	"	\$46.00
6 - James Richardson	"	"	\$49.00
7 - Daniel Butler	"	"	\$45.00
8 - Isaac Gage	"	"	\$44.50
9 - Caleb Butler	"	"	\$45.00
10 - Lt. Daniel Richardson	"	"	\$47.00
11 - Lt. William Wyman	"	"	\$46.00
12 - Ebenezer Palmer & John Cutter	"	"	\$46.00 (equally)
13 - Benjamin Coburn	"	"	\$45.00
14 - Roger Coburn & Jonathan Lyon	"	"	\$45.00 (equally)
15 - Jacob Butler	"	"	\$44.50
16 - Deac. Barnabas Gibson	"	"	\$46.00
17 - Capt. Jonathan Gage	"	"	\$48.00
18 - Lt. John Bradford & Asa Stickney	"	"	\$45.00 (equally)
19 - Benjamin Hamblet	"	"	\$48.00
20 - Capt. Thomas Spofford	"	"	\$43.50
21 - Abiel Barker	"	"	\$49.00
22 - Nathan Hobbs	"	"	\$46.00
23 - Capt. Nathan Butler & Jonathan Butler	"	"	\$46.00 (equally)
24 - James Gibson Esq.	"	"	\$46.50
25 - Jedidiah Hardy & Jedidiah Hardy, Jr.	"	"	\$45.00
26 - Capt. Jesse Smith	"	"	\$46.50
27 - Capt. Jesse Wilson	"	"	\$45.00
28 - Deac. Daniel Barker	"	"	\$49.00
29 - (Samuel Barker & Samuel Barker Jr.)			
29 - Ebenezer Barker	"	"	\$49.50
30 - Nemiah Butler & James Hall	"	"	\$52.00 (equally)
31 - Nathaniel & Henry Gage	"	"	\$47.00
32 - Amos Moody	"	"	\$48.00
33 - Joseph Pearson & Aaron Grosvener	"	"	\$45.00 (equally)
34 - Daniel Atwood	"	"	\$46.50
35 - Joshua Atwood	"	"	\$46.00
36 - Daniel Gage	"	"	\$46.00
37 - Josiah Gage Esq.	"	"	\$46.50
38 - Moses Whiting	"	"	\$48.50
39 - Enoch Howard	"	"	\$45.00
40 - James Ferguson	"	"	\$50.00
41 - Lot Spaulding & Daniel Wyman	"	"	\$46.00

Gallery

1 - Jonathan Butler	\$32.50
2 - Aaron Wyman	\$26.00
3 - Joshua Hamblet	\$37.00
4 - John Nevens & Lot Spaulding	\$27.50
5 - James Richardson & Isaac Carlton	\$37.50
6 - Edward Wyman	\$32.50
7 - David Atwood	\$37.00
8 - Samuel Davis	\$30.50
9 - Charles Hardy	\$33.00
10 - Benjamin Hamblet & James Ferguson	\$36.50
11 - David Sawyer & Moses Sawyer	\$40.00
12 - Abel Butrick & Jonathan Stickney	\$37.00
13 - Andrew Tallant	\$34.50
14 - Josiah Gage	\$33.00
15 - William Sherburne	\$38.50
16 - James Richardson	\$28.00
17 - Joseph Baldwin & Isaac Hall	\$32.00
18 - Isaac Hall	\$26.00
19 - Capt. Jesse Smith	\$26.00
20 - Ebenezer Ellingwood	\$36.00
21 - Ezra Wyman & Paul Atwood	\$34.00
22 - Esq. Abel Gage	\$33.50
23 - James Hobbs - Jonathan Gilmore - E. Ellingwood	\$38.50
24 - Solomon Barker & Jonathan Ferguson	\$41.00
25 - Edmund Tenny & Jacob Marsh	\$43.50
26 - Seth Cutter	\$38.50

Each sale includes "for his and his heirs and assigns forever."

This list includes a large part of the inhabitants of Pelham in 1795. It is the most comprehensive list available. Even today a complete list of inhabitants is not kept in the town. The census taken every ten years by the federal government is not available to the citizens. Its accuracy is often questioned as census takers, not aware of people living in the town or unfamiliar with the geography of the town, often skip whole sections of a town or city.

Each name in the list of pew owners represents a family. Eighty-seven such names are listed, but several owned more than one pew. Thirty-two owned one-half or one-third of a pew.

This plan was a method of financing the building or restoration of a church. This plan continued until the 1900's when the church took over and free seating allowed. The Family Pew was an institution and continued for many years.

People interested in early residents of Pelham find many familiar

names. Town Clerk, Selectmen, mail carriers should be employed to supervise such lists. Check lists contain lists of voters but, in spite of politicians many are not included, and those under voting age are left out. City directories are quite complete but smaller places do not list every member of a family. The early Family Records are valuable and should be continued.

About \$3000.00 was raised by this method and paid for the church building and renovation. As various religious groups came to live in Pelham, the Congregational Church at the center was built, and the Gage Hill Church built by the Baptists at about the same time. The Meeting House was remodeled into the Town Hall and used for town and social events through the generosity of General Richardson. This substantial building burned in 1906. Several years later the town bought the Pilgrim Hall, recently remodeled for offices and an upstairs hall.

PELHAM DURING THE REVOLUTION

The Town Records do not devote many pages to the Revolution. In fact, only when issues required definite action by vote of the town meeting was the vote recorded. Committees appointed, reports and discussion with instructions to delegates working to support the Revolution, or plan for the new form of government were also included in the records.

The charter granted in 1746 "to the loyal subjects of the King," granting them the privileges of free men, was not enough for these hardy pioneers. They brought with them the seeds of discontent that plagued the Massachusetts Colony; believing that trade could be expanded under their own management; that the exacting and sometimes cruel laws governing them were too severe for this new country; "that taxation without representation was tyranny;" resenting the mark placed on white pine trees, reserving them for the king's navy, when these Yankees had better use for them in their own shipping.

New Hampshire men, especially in towns bordering Massachusetts were in constant contact with Boston and other coastal towns and cities. They went to them for supplies, tools, and tea and spices from the Orient. As early as 1747 notices for non-residents holding land in Pelham, regarding rates and tax due to be used for the support of church and school, were advertised in Boston papers. Reading material found its way across the border. A few prosperous men sent their sons to Harvard College. The clergy, Rev. James Hobbs and Rev. Amos Moody were Harvard graduates. Dr. John Mussey and Dr. Aaron Grosvener not only attended the sick, but served on committees to discuss plans regarding public affairs, especially to instruct delegates attending conventions.

The population had grown rapidly from the first five settlers in 1720-21 to 684 recorded in the 1773 census, taken by order of the Committee of Public Safety at Exeter. Provincial Papers Vol. 11, give the number of inhabitants in 1775 as 749. An increase of 65 in two years.

There was much moving about at this time from Massachusetts to New Hampshire and from town to town in New Hampshire. In an attempt to exclude any person who might become a town charge, the constables were required to issue warnings to all newcomers to leave town. These names are recorded. They came from Methuen, Dracut, Rowley, Newburyport, Andover, Nottingham, Chelmsford, Dunstable, Salem, Windham, Gloucester, Holderness, Cornish, and Alstead to take up land. In spite of being "warned out of town" many remained and became good and leading citizens.

These newcomers knew what was going on in other places. Many had been members of the Militia and engaged in Indian Warfare, as their military rank of Lieutenant, Captain, etc. indicated. They had been

called on to protect the settlers in frontier towns and to drive out marauding Indians.

James Gibson's name figures as a leader in the early days of the Revolution. Journeying from Gibson Hill to Exeter, about forty miles on horseback, Vol. X of Provincial Papers gives the following citation. (pg. 29) "Pelham - James Gibson Esq. of Pelham, was a member of the Fifth Provincial Congress, in Exeter, in Dec. 1775; Representative in 1776; one of the committee to go to Boston to obtain information in order to fix on a method of raising an army. Representative in 1777, on committee, Justice of the Peace; Representative in 1778."

Events moved rapidly requiring the immediate action of every town. A Town Meeting, Jan. 8, 1775 with James Gibson Moderator - "voted to send Aaron Wyman, Deputy, to meet at Exeter, on the 25th of January instant, to choose delegates for this Province to meet the Continental Congress at Philadelphia, on the 10th day of May, next, in choosing a body to charge a committee to proportion the sum each town ought to pay toward sending said delegate."

The Town Meeting records include votes to pay soldiers; expenses of delegates to Exeter and later to Concord, sent to represent the town in planning for state and Continental Congress; providing a quota of beef for the army; appointing a committee to work out an "enverage", that each individual might pay his just share of the war.

No list of soldiers is included. That was kept by officers of the Continental Army. The list on the marble tablets in the Memorial Room of the Library was made by Moody Hobbs, authority on the history of the town, as Justice, State Senator, Representative of the town, School Supervisor, Surveyor, with a gift for keeping records, made in the 1800's, and carefully checked by his son.

The Continental Army required a certain number of three year men. Many joined a campaign or many campaigns for several months. Pay for such campaigns is listed on page 74 of the Town Records, with the bushels of corn or its equivalent in "lawful money" to be paid. As there was little "lawful money" available, corn was most acceptable to feed the family.

Soldiers from Pelham who went to Winterhill, the easterly hill sloping toward the Charles River, one of the cluster of hills (Breeds, Bunker, & Winter) where the so-called Battle of Bunker Hill was fought- 8 months- 2 bushels of corn per month; Portsmouth for 1 mo. 1 bushel of corn; Ticonderoga for 5 months- 2 bushels of corn per mo.; York for 2 and 3 month men- one bushel corn per man; Bennington 2 and 3 month men- 4 bushels of corn per month; Rhode Island- 6 month men- 2 bushels of corn per month. Each was promised lawful money value, but accepted the corn gratefully.

There were "29 males in the army" stated in Sept. 12, 1775 report to the Congress at Exeter. Thomas Spofford was one of those men who went to the defense of Concord, and doubtless others of the twenty-nine were also "Minute Men," summoned by the scouts at that time. Armed with muskets and powder horns; dressed in home spun with leather boots; corn bread and dried meat to sustain them; they rode or tramped the twenty miles to Concord, to join other Minute Men. Trained in Indian warfare, hiding behind trees and stonewalls, they picked off the British Regulars in their bright uniforms and completely routed them. (April 19th, 1775)

Sixteen year old boys joined in these expeditions. The story is told of a Gage youth among the Pelham men in Arnold's march* to Quebec, in September of 1775. The route was through Maine forests along the Kennebec River. One of the men fell sick. The lad was detailed to remain and care for him. He built a shelter of hemlock boughs against a great log, and kept a fire burning all night to keep away the wild beasts, whose eyes he could see glowing in the darkness. The man died. The boy covered the body with branches of trees, then pressed on overtaking the army before Quebec. Such was the dauntless spirit of pioneer youth!

EXPEDITION TO QUEBEC

Many went on this expedition among them were William Johnson, and Nathaniel Marten.

The New Hampshire troops at Quebec - August 1775 - Washington conceived the idea of sending a force to attempt the capture of Quebec. The route was up the Kennebec River to Canada, to the Chaudiere River, which is four miles above Quebec, under the command of Benedict Arnold. They sailed from Newberryport up the Kennebec landing on the site of Augusta. Here they formed four divisions. Lieut. Col. Enos returned to Cambridge. The remainder pressed on through out the swamp and the forests.

Pelham men went to Ticonderoga for five months or possibly longer, long enough to cross the New Hampshire Grant and surprise the fort on May 10th under Ethan Allen, and capture the cannon which was hauled to Boston the following year, on sleds pulled by oxen over rough country, to be set up on Dorchester Heights, compelling the British to abandon the seige of Boston, on March 5, 1776.

Eighteen men were enlisted to follow General John Stark to Bennington. This was a New Hampshire expedition, financed by John Langdon, Speaker of the General Court. Captain Jesse Wilson led the

* Also Seth Warner

Pelham men. Stark's two thousand men, 1467 of whom were New Hampshire men, defeated Burgoyne's forces in two engagements on August 16, 1776. The musket used by Captain Jesse Wilson was presented to the Town Library by Sarah and Samantha Wilson, Island Pond Road, direct descendants of Captain Wilson.

New Hampshire soldiers in Battle of Bennington- by Gilman- list the following men from Pelham:

Barker, Benjamin	Corpl.	J. Wilson's Co.
Barker, Richard	P.	" " "
Coburn, Edward	P.	" " "
Cole, Eliphalet	P.	" " "
Ferguson, John	P.	" " " (also Bunker Hill)
Gage, Phinehas	P.	Ford's Co.
Gage, David		Sargt. Wilson's Co. (also Bunker Hill)
Hamblet, Phinehas	P.	J. Wilson's Co.
Hardy, Edmond	P.	" " "
Johnson, Amos	P.	" " "
Tarbox, John	P.	" " "
Whiting, Nathan	P.	" " "
Wilson, Jesse Capt.	Capt.	" " "
Wyman, Jesse	P.	" " "
Wyman, Livi	P.	" " "
Lowe, David	P.	Died Dec. 1780
Wyman, Abel	P.	Died Sept. 11, 1781
Gutterson, Josiah	P.	

BENNINGTON TROOPS * 1777

State Papers - New Hampshire - Hammond - Vol. XV, Vol. 2, page 139-140

In consequence of the evacuation of Ticonderoga by Americans, and the southerly movements of the British force under Burgoyne threatening the subjugation of New England, the committee of safety of this state decided on the 14th day of July, to call the legislature together for consultation, and accordingly sent notices to the members requesting them to meet on the 17th day of that month.

The State was at that time destitute of money and means, and had done all that the citizens could do in the way of furnishing troops; but the alternative was before them, of insisting to check the advance of Burgoyne's Army by sending a force to Vermont, or having the battle-field of the future transferred to their own territory.

They decided to recommend dividing into two brigades. The 1st. Regiment portion of the State under Brig. - General William Whipple and

the 2nd. Western portion of State under command of Brig. - General John Stark. Vermont asked for assistance.

John Langdon's Offer - The patriotic John Langdon arose and said, "I have one thousand dollars in hard money. I will pledge my plate for three thousand more. I have seventy hogsheads of Tobago Rum which I will sell for the most it will bring. They are at the service of the State. If We succeed in defending our fireside and our homes, I may be remunerated. If we do not, then the property will be of no value to me. Our friend Stark, who so nobly maintained the honor of our state at Bunker Hill may safely be entrusted with the honor of the enterprise, and we will check the progress of Burgoyne."

This offer received with enthusiasm and the Legislature voted one-fourth of Stark's brigade, one-fourth of Thornton's Badgers, and Websters regiments, of Gen. Whipple's Brigade be drafted and marched to defense of the state. Force under the command of Gen. Stark.

He accepted with the understanding that he exercise own judgement. Stark led 500 men to Manchester, Vt. Reinforced by the Green Mt. Boys, Battle 16th, encouraged and led to the surrender of Burgoyne at Saratoga.

SUPPORT TO THE CONTINENTAL ARMY - MEN AND MONEY

Raising men and money to support the Revolution, as well as participating in plans for the new government required many town meetings which were called as needed, committees appointed to study plans suggested, and to instruct representatives.

Various plans for raising money were discussed, one - "voted July 6, 1781 - to make an Enverage in P. Town for the expense of war." Five men were appointed as a committee to make up an "Enverage" and lay it before the town. Also, at the same meeting, "voted to leave it with the Selectmen to provide the quota of beef required by law for the Continental Army."

The town was evidently responsible for furnishing soldiers and paying them in "lawful money" or its equivalent in corn, etc., the valuation being made by a committee.

April 1, 1777 - "Voted to pay the men that shall enlist in the Continental Army for term of three years by a rate - twenty pounds lawful money per man that shall enlist." "Voted a committee that assist the Selectmen in proportioning what each person shall pay toward defraying the charge of raising the soldiers for the Continental Army." "Voted to anex Ten Pounds to the above."

June 1777 - "Voted that each man who has served as a soldier in Defense of the United States of America shall be allowed sixteen shillings and eight pence each month and that Christopher Williams was chosen to gather the war rates." "Families of soldiers must be considered by an act of the Court for that purpose."

Feb. 2, 1778 - "Voted to choose a committee to provide for the families of such soldiers as are in the Continental Army." Lieut. John Bradford, Aaron Wyman, Capt. Asa Richardson were chosen. "Voted to affix how much shall be allowed to those who have served as soldiers in the several campaigns."

Dec. 8, 1777 - "Voted to pay Samuel Davis four dollars in lieu of a Counterfeit Bill which he received of the town for his services in the war."

Dec. 18, 1777 - "Voted to pay Asa Knowlton fifty dollars for his services three years in the war."

March 15, 1777 - "Voted to allow Daniel Gage and Simeon Hardy for their services in the Continental Army."

Dec. 15, 1777 - "Voted to pay a rate and everyone to pay according to their estates of what has been done in the services - 16 shillings and 8 pence a month."

June 1777 - "That persons who were in the service two months at Winterhill being present agreed to take but twelve shillings per month."

Feb. 4, 1782 - "Voted not to accept accounts that the committee brought in of Services out of the State." Six different men are named Lt. Bradford, Edward Coburn, James Farmer, Joshua Atwood, Edmund Hall, Joseph Baldwin. Evidently town people expected the Continental Army to assume this expense.

A copy of William Hardy's discharge from the service of the United States, on the last page of the Town Records Vol. 1, signed by General Washington, as follows:

His Excellency General Washington, Commander in Chief of the Armies of the United States.

William Hardy, soldier in the Fifth Regiment of New Hampshire, having been certified by a Board of Officers appointed for the examination of the Invalids of the army unfit for any further duty either in the field or garrison, on account of a rupture, is hereby discharged from the service of the United States.

Given under my hand at Headquarters Newborough this
third day of January 1783. By His Excellency's Command.

G. Washington

(The above is a copy of William Hardy's discharge from the service of the
United States.)

Attest - Daniel Barker
Town Clerk

The signature of Gen. Washington was cleverly copied and looks
like an original, we have seen in books and papers, but it was misspelled
proving it was a copy. William Hardy served as Town Clerk many times.
His disability was a handicap and his name appears in records as being
exempt from taxation on many occasions.

CAPTAIN THOMAS SPOFFORD

Captain Thomas Spofford came to Pelham about 1770 or 1771 and
made a home on the farm which he occupied until his death, which
occured on the 23rd of May 1833. He married Esther Pearl of Rowley,
which was his own native town.

He served as Ensign at Winter Hill in Capt. Waldron's Co. of
Militia in 1775 - 1776. (Rev. War Rolls (Hammond) Vol. 1, page 476.)

Later he enlisted in Capt. Amos Gage's Co. of Volunteers which
marched from Pelham on Sept. 29, 1777 and joined the Northern Conti-
nental Army at Saratoga. They were mustered out in Oct. 29, 1777
having served one month. (War Rolls Hammond Vol. 2, page 358)

Captain Thomas Spofford went to Winter Hill in Dec. 1775 to serve
as Ensign in Capt. J. Waldron's Co. of Militia to serve six weeks. At
the end of that time a Reg. was formed of the 31 Co.'s of six weeks men
to serve till April 1. On March 6, 1776 he was stationed at Temples
Farm in Brig. Gen. Sullivan's Brigade of the Continental Army. (See
list of Officers Rev. War Rolls Vol. 1, page 476) (No list of men was
found.)

Captain Thomas Spofford was one of the Minute Men that responded
to the call for the defense of Concord on that memorable 19th of April,
1775.

Thomas Spofford- Minute Man- Ensign and Sergeant in the Conti-
nental Army.

Note - This information was found on a paper included in a Family Record
of Descendants of John Spofford who emigrated from England and settled at
Rowley, Essex County, Mass., in 1638. By- Jeremiah Spofford M.D. pub-
lished in Haverhill 1869.

REVOLUTIONARY WAR ROLLS

1777 - Capt. Bell's Co. - Nathan Hales Regiment
For Continental Service - Pelham, May 7, 1777

Thomas Hardie - 1st. Lieut.
Simeon Hardy
Dan Richardson
Cyrus Hardy
John Kimball
John Marsh

Thomas Hayward
Reuben Hamblet
Samuel Davis
Eben Palmer
Ben Robinson
Amos Kemp

May 7, 1777 paid Lt. Tho. Hardy for 17 men travel

Noah Marsh May 6, 1777
Dudley Marsh " " "
Richard Howe

Capt. Blodgett's Co. - March 14, 1777

Asa Knowlton

N.H. State Papers Vol. II, pg. 588.

Pelham May 5, 1777

To Col . William Gregg:

These are to inform you that there is now Enlisted out of my company into the Continental Army to serve therein, for the term of three years, persons namely:

Abner Gage
Ebenezer Palmer, Jr.
Benjamin Robinson
John Marsh
Cyrus Hardy
Amos Kemp
James Hardy

Ziha Kimball
Samuel Davis
John Kimball
Merrill Coburn
Ebenezer Webster
Ruben Hamblet
Samuel Hayward

The above persons have enlisted under the command of Lieut. Thomas Hardy. Asa Knowlton in Capt. Blodgett's Company. James Farmer now in the Continental Army. Per me Asa Richardson Capt.

SOLDIERS IN THE CONTINENTAL ARMY

Asa Knowlton ----- 3 years
Simeon Hardy----- 1 year
Esa Coburn ----- 1 year
Daniel George ----- 1 year
John Wells ----- 1 year
Michael Fitzgerald ----- 1 year
James Gibson ----- July 20 - Sept. 25, 1777

Sept. 29, 1777 - Capt. Amos Gage's Company joined Northern Continental Army at Saratoga.

Sept. 25, 1777 - Gen. Stark's Brigade joined Northern Continental Army at Bennington and Stillwater.

June 11, 1778 - Jan. 5, 1779 - Capt. Simon Marston Co.

July 16, 1779 - Reynolds service in R. I. for 5 mo. and 6 days.

page 730 - Amount Depreciation 15.60.

John Gibson - July 16 - Pelham, 1780 Dec. 3 Rhode Island

Thomas Spofford - Sept. 1777 - Saratoga (see page 27)

Amos Kemp - 18 years

2nd. Batt. - N.H. Troops Commander Col. Nathan Hale

James Gibson - July 16 - Time of enlistment

John Gibson - Pelham

July 6th. - enlisted for term of one year for Pelham: (pg. 637)

Simeon Hardy

Daniel George

John Wells

Michael Fitzgerald

Esa Coburn

The above men have passed Master before.

Wm. Gregg Lt. Col.

PAY ROLL OF CAPTAIN AMOS GAGE'S COMPANY

These were volunteers who marched from Pelham to Saratoga under the command of Capt. Amos Gage to join General Stark.* This march took place on Sept. 29, 1777 and joined the Northern Continental Army when they reached Saratoga.

* (pg. 358) State Papers of New Hampshire - Hammond - Vol. XV - (Revolutionary Roll Vol. 2)

1.	Isaac Cochran, Lieu.	9/29/1777	-	10/28/1777	8.	2.	0
2.	Robert Nevens, Lieu.	"		"	8.	2.	0
3.	Thomas Spofford, Sgt.	"		"	8.	11.	10
4.	James Davidson, Sgt.	"		"	8.	11.	10
5.	Eliphlet Ladd, Sgt.	"		"	8.	11.	10
6.	Merril Coburn, Corp.	"		"	8.	7.	10
7.	James Hobbs, Corp.	"		"	8.	7.	10
8.	John Williams, Corp.	"		"	8.	7.	10
9.	Thaddeus Butler, Drum.	"		"	8.	7.	10
10.	Robert Dinsmore, Fifer	"		"	8.	7.	10
11.	Josiah Gage, Private	"		"	8.	3.	10
12.	James Gibson, Private	"		"	8.	3.	10
13.	Barnabas Gibson	"		"	8.	3.	10
14.	Nathan Butler	"		"	8.	3.	10
15.	Daniel Barker	"		"	8.	3.	10
16.	Jacob Butler	"		"	8.	3.	10
17.	Ebenezer Palmer	"		"	8.	3.	10
18.	Ezekiel Merrill	"		"	8.	3.	10
19.	Asa Baldwin	"		"	8.	3.	10
20.	David Butler	"		"	8.	3.	10
21.	Silas Johnson	"		"	8.	3.	10
22.	William Hardy	"		"	8.	3.	10
23.	Timothy Clark	"		"	8.	3.	10
24.	Jacob Marsh	"		"	8.	3.	10
25.	Benj. Kimbal	"		"	8.	3.	10
26.	Charles Hardy	"		"	8.	3.	10
27.	Isaac Gage	"		"	8.	3.	10
28.	Edmund Tenney	"		"	8.	3.	10
29.	Daniel Gage	"		"	8.	3.	10
30.	James Tallent	"		"	8.	3.	10
31.	Jonas Richardson	"		"	8.	3.	10
32.	Eri Richardson	"		"	8.	3.	10
33.	Stephen Parson	"		"	8.	3.	10
34.	Nathan Astin	"		8	3.	3.	34
35.	William McCoy	"		28	8.	3.	10
36.	John Cambell	"		"	8.	3.	10
37.	Alexander Gregg	"		"	8.	3.	10
38.	John Cochran	"		"	8.	3.	10
39.	John Armour	"		"	8.	3.	10
40.	Alexander Simson	"		"	8.	3.	10
41.	John Dinsmore	"		"	8.	3.	10
42.	Alexander Carr	"		"	8.	3.	10
43.	Daniel McIlvaine	"		"	8.	3.	10
44.	William Gorden	"		"	8.	3.	10
45.	Benj. Sherburne	"		8	3.	3.	4
46.	Benj. Gage	"		"	3.	3.	4
47.	Ezra R. Marsh	"		"	3.	3.	4

Two lieu 98 rations @8d.

Ten baggage horses to Northfield, 80 Mout @6d per mile is 40s each.

366. 18. 6
3. 5. 4
20. 0. 0
<u>2. 18. 0</u>
393. 1. 10

STATE PAPERS VOL. 2.

pg. 192.

Government furnished coats and blankets or money for the same.

1775 - October 17, received of sum: Walker Jun: Twenty-six pounds, eight shillings for the twenty-two men whose names are here after named. viz. (for coats)

James Hobbs
 Samuel Hobbs (twenty other names listed)

which money I promise to pay to the above men on demand.

Moses Leavitt

pg. 204.

James Gibson listed for blanket. Winter Hill ye 11 of Sept. 1775- Received of Timothy Jur. thirty-seven pounds sixteen shillings in full for blankets for sixty-three men in my company at 12/ each by me.

Wm. Walker Cap.

pg. 184.

Capt. Woodbury's Co. receipt of pay for coats.

We the subscribers belonging to Capt. Woodbury's Company in Col. Stark's Reg. do hereby acknowledge that we have received of Tim Walker, Jr. four dollars each man in full satisfaction for the regimental coat which was promised us by the colony of N. H.

Uriah Abbott	James Hardy	John Kimball
David Jenness	Phineas Goodhue	Ziba Kimball
James Farmer	Jonathan Morgan	Isaac Barker

Josiah Atwood
Jedidiah Hardy
Jonathan Gage

John Forster
Abiel Austin
Enoch Howard

Elisha Woodbury Cap.
Merrill Coburn

Which money I promise to deliver.

PELHAM'S SUPPORT OF THE CONTINENTAL ARMY

Men enlisted for from one month to three years. It was voted that corn should be the "specie" to settle this enverage or money to the value. February 15, 1781 - Town Record Vol. 1, page 74.

Voted to allow* those men that went to Winterhill for eight months two bushels of corn per month or value in money.

Those men that went to Winterhill for two months one bushel of corn per month or value in money.

Voted to allow the year men five bushels of corn per month or value in money.

Voted to allow those that went to Portsmouth one month, one bushel of corn per month, or value in money.

Voted to allow five month men that went to Ticonderoga two bushels of corn per month or value in money.

Voted to allow the three month men that went to York one bushel of corn, or value in money.

Voted to allow two month men that went to Bennington four bushels of corn or value in money.

Voted to allow the year men raised in 1779 three bushels of corn per month or value in money.

Voted to allow the one month men at Rhode Island one bushel of corn or value in money.

Voted to allow six month men that went to Rhode Island one bushel of corn or value in money.

Voted to allow the six month men that went to York four bushels of corn per month or value in money.

* Spelling in original "alow".

Voted to allow three months men raised in the year 1780 four bushels of corn per month or value in money.

Voted to allow those persons that went Volunteers that have done more than their proportion in the war of time have liberty to dispose of it as they please.

Voted to allow Lt. Hardy for six months time he has done in the war.

Voted to allow Lt. Hardy two bushels of corn per month or value in money.

July 9th, 1781

Voted that those persons that have paid their Beef rate shall take it back out of the hands of the constable.

Note -

Doubtless financial difficulties are responsible for the vote on March 5th, 1781 -

3/ voted not to raise any money for the support of highways for the ensuing year.

4/ voted not to raise any money for the support of schools for the ensuing year.

MONEY

Early settlers on frontier towns had little money. Owning land was their first objective. Securing equipment to run a farm was the limit of investment. Home made tools and furniture were the best they could do. The source of real money was in the thriving cities of Boston, Portsmouth, and coastal towns. A little money filtered into the inland towns.

British Pound Sterling was the legal tender of Pre Revolutionary days, reckoned in Pounds - Shillings - Pence - and Farthings. (5: 12s: 6p; 1f) indicated 5 Pounds, 12 Shillings, 6 Pence and 1 Farthing. "Old Tenor" was designated and "Lawful Money", sometimes abbreviated "L.M." stated on every agreement or receipt. Often stated "Lawful Money or equivalent."

The equivalent often meant bushels of corn, beef, or pork, the value being determined by a committee. Records show that these products were sometimes used in paying the minister's salary, and during the Revolution soldiers were paid in corn.

It is impossible to translate the value of Pounds, Shillings, Pence, Farthings, or Old Tenor into coinage of today. Rev. Augustus Berry's History of Pelham, included in the History of Hillsborough Co. (about 1870) states the value of a pound about 42¢, but, men were employed at \$1.00 a

day in 1870, in contrast to the minimum wage of \$1.25 an hour today, 1963. The present inflationary value of today would indicate a Pound Old Tenor a mere pittance.

Upon the incorporation as a town one of the first needs was a "Rate". Captain Henry Baldwin was instructed by the town meeting to secure from the Provincial Government regarding this matter. In 1747 permission for a "tax rate" was granted to the towns of Pelham and Hollis - "That all lands within the township of Pelham- shall be and hereby are subjected to annual tax of One Penny and Half Penny for acre." Non-resident owners were taxed in order "to have means to support a minister and build a meeting house."

Before and during the Revolution there was much confusion regarding lawful money. Coins from various countries were in circulation. Accounts were often settled partly in mixed currency and paper, partly in goods and services.

The words Dollars, Quarters, etc. appear in the records of the Revolutionary period. The Continental Congress and many States printed paper money which complicated matters. Counterfeit Bills plagued the authorities, even in the town of Pelham.

In 1777 the Town Meeting "voted to pay Samuel Davis four dollars in lieu of a Counterfeit Bill which he received of the town for his services in the war."

1789 Continental Certificates were used by the Pelham Selectmen "being the abatement of Wm. Webber's Poll Tax." Another receipt reads, "certificate equal in hard money 2: 18: 8: - 2 pounds, 18 shillings, 8 pence, which sum is in full for services as a Selectman for said town for year 1789." (Thomas Spofford)

The Account Book beginning 1762 to 1806 contains receipts for money expended by the Town Treasurer upon order of the Selectmen, a plan provided by the Provincial Government. The receipt, usually in the handwriting of the recipient stating: date, nature, and amount, closed with "I say received by me," with signature. This account book contains 269 pages of receipts.

THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS

Patriotic citizens were as concerned regarding the establishment of a new government, as in winning the war. A committee had been appointed to instruct the Representatives sent - Monday, Feb. 9, 1778.

To James Gibson Esq. Representative -

Gentlemen:

You being chosen by the voice of the Town of Pelham, to represent them in Great and General Court, and it must be agreeable to you to know the minds of your constituents in all important matters.

We think fit to give you the following instructions with respect to the articles of Confederation. You are directed to move for and exert yourself to get an alteration of a part of the fifth paragraph in the ninth article, where they mention proportion the number of land forces, by which white inhabitants in each state, which we conceive to be unequal.

Our reason is because of the vast disproportionable number of Black Inhabitants in this and some of the Southern States. In them the Husbandry Labor is chiefly done by the black men when we in this state have but few laborers of that color, and whether these blacks be continued slaves or not, many of them make good soldiers in the field of battle, therefore making the proportion of soldiers by the white inhabitants only leave their fields full of laborers when ours are empty.

You are also directed to move for and urge the calling of a full and free representation of the people of this state, to meet in Convention at such time and place as shall be appointed by the General Assembly, for the sole purpose of laying a permanent plan or system for future government of this state.

These matters with all others that may come before the General Court, we leave to your firmness and prudence, and trust your exertions to the common cause will be such as should recommend you to all lovers of Freedom and Liberty (and what is more) gain the approbation of God and your conscience.

Voted to accept the above report:

Maj. Daniel Coburn
Josiah Gage Esq.
Deacon Barnabas Gibson
Dr. John Mussey
Lt. Robert Nevens Jr.
Lt. Josiah Swan
Jacob Butler Jr.

Note - Census figures of 1775 show the number of slaves in New Hampshire in 1775 to be 632. Pelham listed 1 male and 1 female slave. Total population of New Hampshire was 72,092.

PLAN OF GOVERNMENT 1778 - 1779

As early as April 13, 1778, Mr. James Bernard was chosen as a member of that Convention that was to meet in Concord, on June 10th, in order to form a Plan of Government for the people of this State for their future good and happiness. A committee of eleven men to give instruction to said Bernard considering the plan of government included: Maj. Daniel Coburn, Esq. Gage, Dr. John Mussey, Esq. Gibson, Deacon Barnabas Gibson, Deacon Amos Gage, Thomas Spofford, Nehemiah Butler, and Capt. Jesse Wilson.

The form of government did not meet with approval and the next year on July 8th, 1779, "voted not to accept the Plan of Government formed by the Convention at Concord." There were 59 against.

Work continued and the town meeting called in Dec. 17, 1781 voted a committee to consider the proposed Bill of Rights as follows: Deacon Barnabas Gibson, Aaron Wyman, Jacob Butler, David Butler, Abel Gage, Joshua Atwood, Dr. John Mussey, Josiah Gage, Mark Gould. Another special meeting called Dec. 31, 1781, "voted to pass 23 articles in the Bill of Rights."

The committee continued to study and present their thinking on the Bill of Rights being formulated and on Jan. 21, 1782 "voted not to adopt fifteen articles in the Bill of Rights as it now stands" and suggested alterations, "choosing" Representatives and Senators, concerning qualifications of voters, Justices of Superior Court, Governor's power to appoint officers in the Continental Army and Fort Garrisons, number of Representatives making a quorum by 23, Governor's power of demolition of fortifications, marriage and divorce laws, and to expunge 23 articles in the Bill of Rights. The committees amendments were accepted.

On March 7, 1782 - "voted to accept the Bill of Rights and plan of government, providing the remarks and amendments should be added." The number of voters which were then present were 52 and none against it.

The preparation of a Bill of Rights for the State was thus made, with citizens of every town studying and suggesting. Numberless meetings were called, certain citizens gave time and thought, others did not bother to attend preferring to leave such matters to the interested few.

The final vote did not accept the Pelham idea. The Pelham Representative voted against retaining religious qualifications, which were retained in the Constitution of New Hampshire at Concord, 1792. This applied only to offices of Governor and Senators.

RATIFICATION OF FEDERAL CONSTITUTION

Saturday, June 21st, 1788

Provincial and State Papers* - Vol. X 1749 - 1792.

Journal of Proceedings of Honbl. Convention assembled at Court House, Exeter, on Wed. 13th, Feb. A. D. 1788 for investigation, discussion, and decision of Fed. Constitution. (Page 17)

Chairman - Hon. Josiah Bartlett Esq. chosen.

Rules for procedure regarding conduct of Convention.

Adjourned Friday, Feb. 27, 1788 - to meet in Concord on the 3rd. Wednesday in June.

Convention meets - Concord - June 18, 1788.

Amendments proposed June 20, 1788.

All powers not expressly and particularly delegated - reserved to the State.

John Sullivan - Pres. of Convention

John Langdon - Pres. of State

Congress shall make no laws touching religion as to inferring rights of conscience.

Saturday - June 21 - Motion made by Mr. Livermore, seconded by Mr. Langdon and others that the main question be now put for adoption of the Constitution and yeas and nays being called-

Result - 57 yeas - 47 nays

Mr. Moody of Pelham - Yea.

New Hampshire the 9th state to ratify the Constitution.

Statement by Sec. John Calfe - Ratification of Constitution of the United States of America, submitted by General Court of New Hampshire together with suggested amendments.

114 delegates - 113 returned - 5 absent

2 delegates from Portsmouth

No delegates listed from Nashua or Manchester.

Pelham Representative - Rev. Amos Moody

No. miles traveled to Exeter - 60.

No. miles traveled to Concord - 40.

Present every session.

*Copied from Provincial Papers.

The map of the original town of Dunstable, of which a western strip of Pelham was a part, pictures "parcels" of land labeled with the names of owners or Proprietors. They bought the land as an investment, with the intention of selling to the land hungry pioneers, a typical land development project of that day.

Names of early settlers are not there. The Proprietors had no notion of living in this area, inhabited only by wandering tribes of savages. The said map shows a large tract of some seven hundred acres owned by Tyng. He acted as agent of this property, building a Garrison House on what was later known as Mammoth Road, but was then a trail or cart path to the north country.

Proprietors of such a venture did not leave everything to chance but encouraged settlers with a variety of trades and skills to become a part of the new community. Farmers, lumbermen, builders, shoemakers, blacksmiths, doctors, ministers were needed and encouraged. Indeed the Charter stressed the founding of a church and settlement of a minister, and building a Meeting House as a requisite.

Saw Mills were early established. The first was Golden's Saw Mill, on Golden's Brook, up stream a little from the bridge on Hobbs Road. Lawson's Grist Mill was on the road to Dracut, from where tradition tells us one John Gage returning with a bag of grain to his home on Baldwin Hill was caught in a blizzard and frozen to death in his own yard. (Now the Landry residence but, originally a Gage place.) Two millstones on the Frye Gage place mark the site of a mill, with a tree growing and filling the cavity in one of the stones. There were several Butler Mills on Gumpus Brook, one near the pond. Nettie Butler (Spaulding) remembers skating on the second pond. A Grist Mill on Beaver Brook in North Pelham was run by the Butlers, the last being the genial Wm. G. Butler (1890-1899) a man with a "peg leg". He lost his leg as a boy of eleven years of age, after being crushed by a heavy wagon. He was surprisingly agile in heaving bags of grain about. A drive to the mill to purchase grain was a popular ride for children just to see Mr. Butler.

Building a town's homes required beams, boards, hand-hewn clapboards and shingles. Wyman was a builder, his home was an example of his skill. He built a pioneer cabin which had a great chimney in the center with a great fireplace and brick oven on one side, and two other fireplaces with a secret pocket for hiding valuables on the further side, pine paneling, small paned windows, and a loft above. Restoration by Roland Tripp, Methuen architect and an authority on old houses, figured that the pioneer section of the place was built about 1720-21, and the Colonial Front added some fifty or seventy years later. On the west side, near the back door,

was a work bench and equipment used in making coffins. (Now owned by the Hayes Family on Marsh Road.)

The brick work of the Tyler house, now the property of Ann Morris, was in his opinion the work of said Wyman, as was the elaborate brick work in the John Richardson cellar with its smoke chamber and fireplaces. (Formerly property of Dr. Edwin Hyde now Mr. Phelps home). This was across the road from No. 1 Center School House, now the American Legion Hall.

Blacksmiths were essential, both for shoeing horses and for making iron tools and building wagons. Shoemakers sat at cobblers' benches and cut and sewed the leather boots and shoes needed in this rough countryside.

Women spun the flax on a flax wheel from flax raised in the home garden, and wove the linen sheets and towels; or spun the wool sheared from the sheep on every farm. They knitted stockings, mittens and caps or wove warm woolen cloth for winter wear. Women did the sewing by hand. The more prosperous employed a woman tailor, who went from house to house remaining long enough to complete an entire wardrobe for the family. Less prosperous women did their own sewing. A cloth of linen and wool called "linsey-woolsey" was popular for dresses.

More prosperous people went to Boston or Portsmouth and purchased silks and prints from abroad. Almost every woman possessed a silk dress kept for real occasions, such as weddings and community gatherings. These were saved and later generations dressed up for the Old Fashioned Concerts and Antique Exhibits. Elisabeth Hobbs, first minister's wife, wore a deep red silk gown with matching slippers, when married in her Kingston home to the Rev. James Hobbs. At that time marriages were performed in the home, or the home of the minister, and the legal ceremony used.

Men's clothes were more difficult to make, as heavier material was required. During the Revolution, woman's patriotic duty was making overcoats for the soldiers. These were reported in the Provincial Records - James Hobbs receiving one for the winter at Winter Hill, adjoining Bunker Hill where some Pelham men were stationed.

The frontier home had to be as self sufficient as possible. Corn and rye were the chief grain crops as well as some wheat. The rye crop was regarded as responsible for barren fields by some farmers. The garden furnished vegetables which were carefully stored away in cellars for the winter. Fruit trees and grape vines were set out and choice varieties raised. Cranberries and blueberries were plentiful, greens and herbs were gathered and some made into home medicines effective in doctoring the sick. Medical students in Dartmouth College were well versed in nature and knew the herbs valuable for medicines. These were well chosen

and many still used as - Goldthread for a sore mouth, checkerberry for indigestion, and soothing salves for irritated skin etc.

Every farm raised cattle for milk and cheese, as well as a beef creature for meat. They also trained a steer to oxen. Swine were raised for pork and bacon - one section of the town was called Hog Corner, because so many pigs were raised there. Sheep provided mutton and chops and the wool for yarn and clothing. Sheep also cleared the rough land; but that sort of grazing was too much for this light soil and was abandoned. Tallow for candles and the lanolin for medicinal purposes were well known. The wild animals were bear, deer, beaver, wolves and catamounts. The last bear heard of here was in 1809 or 1810 killed near Simpson's Mills. Men were appointed to prevent the killing of deer in the early Town Meetings. Venison was a valuable food and the pioneers wished to conserve wild life and prevent needless slaughter.

Corn meal was the major food in the early days. Corn meal mush with milk or maple syrup was relished and corn pone or Johnny Cake part of almost every meal. Vegetables and salt port were cooked in an iron pot over the open fire. (This was called a "boiled dish"). Beans were baked long hours in the brick ovens, as were pies and cakes. Molasses and brown sugar were used when obtainable from the coastal towns, when products from the Indies came in. The woodsmen were alert in spotting wild bees and brought home the wild honey. Home-made yeast was used in making rye bread and sometimes wheat bread, which was baked in the brick ovens. Every meal represented hours of labor in the field and in the kitchen, with every member of the family doing his or her part.

STORY OF THE GAGE CHAIRS

"Thomas and Phoebe Gage (maiden name Phoebe Frye, born in Andover, Mass.), two of the first settlers in Pelham, moved to Pelham not long after their marriage, near the year 1735. He died, it is supposed, in the French and Indian War. He left three sons; James, John, and Jonathan and four daughters; Phoebe, Joanna, Sarah and Elizabeth. James moved to Jaffrey and died there, John settled in Pelham near to his Father's, (which is the place now owned by Mr. J. Underwood).

John was frozen to death while returning from the mill. Jonathan, my mother's father, lived where Frye Gage now lives. He married Mehitable for his first wife, and Dorcas Swan for his second wife. She was a native of Methuen, Mass. He died at the age of 77 of Dropsy, very suddenly. She died in October (18th) of old age, 82 years. A very worthy woman. She was the daughter of Dea. Francis Swan.

The great chair now owned by my mother, was owned by Phoebe Gage, wife of Thomas Gage, and was purchased by them at her marriage

and must consequently by this year (1857) be as much as 122 years of age, as she was about 19 years of age at the time of her marriage."*

Dorcas Hobbs gave the great chair to her grandson, Charles W. Hobbs, the last time he saw her, home on furlough in 1865, toward the end of the War of the Rebellion. He cherished and preserved it through the years and gave it to his son, Charles Winthrop Hobbs, (who in turn gave it to his son, Charles Winthrop Hobbs Jr.). Another similar chair fell into the hands of Helen Hobbs, daughter of Moody Hobb's second wife, who gave it to Sam Hobbs.

This was a part of a set which fell into the hands of various descendants of the original Gage owners. Mrs. Proctor of Nashua gave her daughter three of the set, smaller chairs. Upon her death Mrs. Ira Harris (Mary Proctor) willed one chair to the Pelham Public Library, one to the granddaughter of John Gage of Missouri, and a third to Mrs. Clara Cutter Jack of Pelham.

Tradition tells us that this furniture was something of a novelty when Phoebe Frye Gage brought it to Pelham, and the townspeople came to view, as few homes possessed such fine furniture but, had to use home-made chairs.

* This description has been copied from a carefully written paper. No name is signed but, all evidence points to Miss Jane Hobbs, sister of Moody Hobbs, who lived in the Moody Hobbs Place. She was the daughter of Dorcas Hobbs, wife of Capt. Samuel Hobbs (Milit.). Aunt Jane was an important member of that family. She taught in the summer session of the district school, which was largely made up of younger children. The winter session was usually taught by a man.

If the chairs came into a Pelham home in 1735 they must now be about two-hundred and twenty-seven years old. A real treasure.

1962

TOWN CHARGES

As new settlers appeared, as early as 1758, they were challenged by one of the Constables, and warned out of town. This was recorded in the Town Records. A few left, but the majority remained. At first this was a town ordinance but, after the Revolution a more formal notice in the name of the State of New Hampshire was used.

In spite of the effort to keep the town free of town charges, there were cases which had to be handled by town officials. At the Town Meeting the citizens had the privilege of "bidding off" town charges. "In 1780

Tabatha Hardy went to board with Mr. Tenney at three shillings and ten pence a week; two pounds-four shillings-seven pence and note in hand 21; and four shillings and seven pence for keeping Sarah Loring until she arrives to 18 years of age." (John Bradford, Selectmen.) In 1887 the case of Soloman Loring required the sum of three shillings and six pence paid the Selectmen for "finding a pair of shoes for said Loring." In 1778, "Soloman Loring was put to board to Samuel Davis for one year for keeping said," three pounds and eight shillings.

At Town Meeting on Sept. 9, 1788, the voters were asked to consider Art. #2, "to see what method the Town thinks most proper to be taken with Lucy Foster who has of late become chargeable to this town." "Voted to send Lucy Foster to her parents as soon as she is able to go." Again on March 2, 1789- "voted to allow Mr. Eben Richardson for three pounds and twelve shillings for keeping Lucy Foster if said Richardson pays Doc. Mussey for doctoring said Lucy while at his house." In 1790 thirty shillings paid Josiah Gage for his services in affair of Thor Davidson and Lucy Foster. By March 1, 1790 both Lucy Foster and Tabatha Hardy are boarding at Edmund Hardy's (x his mark) and in 1791 the three Selectmen "reckoned with Edmund Hardy on account of his Boarding Tabatha Hardy from "the beginning of the world" to the day of the date and remained due to him 2: 8: 6."

The town gave sufficient publicity through the Town Meeting to all present, but the reader of today cannot understand the problems met by said Lucy or Tabatha. Perhaps people of today are mystified by Father and Daughter relationships in the following item in the account book- "Feb. 17, 1795- received of the Selectmen, one pound eighteen shillings lawful money, it being in full for my daughter Betsy keeping a school six weeks in said town, and for her board while keeping said school." Jacob Butler 1;16:0.

Upon reflection, women of that day were not independent as today. Upon marriage, a wife's property became her husband's; and a daughter's earnings could be claimed by her father.

Naturally, the town assumed the expense of moving the widow, two times (pg. 119) March 1759, "paid for moving the Widow Right twice-nine shillings. 0:9:0.

SETTLING DISPUTES

As the town grew, community needs developed. Wandering animals, roving at large, cows, sheep, and hogs caused plenty of damage. Certain farmers had built stone walls with rocks removed from their land, and put up fences to keep animals on the home place; but certain people did not bother, in fact they allowed farm animals to graze along roadsides.

Naturally, they wandered into fields of growing grain and devastated the vegetable gardens. In order to stop such depredations the Town Meeting decided to build a Pound to confine such animals until the owner appeared to claim the animals and pay charges for any damages.

Town Meeting of 1772, "voted to build a Pound, thirty feet square with stone five feet high, with good timber atop of said stone. Said stone is to be built in four months from this date." "Chose as a committee to perform said services - namely John Marsh, Jacob Butler, Nathaniel Gage, Asa Richardson, and John Wilson." (pg. 52, Vol. 1) This pound was built on the Windham Road at the Center, on land formerly of Ferguson, then Coulliard, Smith, and now Glen Koehler. While the Misses Smith lived above that pound they complained to the Town Fathers, that they could not see down town because of the Pound, which was never used at that time, so the Town voted to take it down at the request of the ladies. Only the one protest was heard and this historic landmark was taken away.

Disputes regarding land boundaries between individuals were settled by committees appointed appearing before a Justice of the Peace. If the decision was not agreed to, the matter could be taken to a higher court. Usually, the owners preferred the local decision.

"MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT:" "Between committee and Mr. James Foster concerning the late action in law with Hugh Tallent - to be laid before the town for approbation or disapprobation - it is proposed by the committee that James Foster give a lawful power of attorney to the committee (town) for that purpose to act in behalf of the above, and also give security and obligation to pay to the town if the land is recovered - the full value of the land that the Town convey to James Foster. Foster gave full consent. The Town proceeded according to the above to carry on action between Hugh Tallent - an action of ejectionment."

"Johnsen and William Johnson entered their dissent against the proceedings." Decisions were frequently questioned by citizens with statement that such dissention be recorded in the Town Record.

"FENCE VIEWER was an office called into action occasionally. On May 7, 1815, Mr. Samuel Hobbs and Mr. James Cutter submitted their findings before James Gibson, Justice of the Peace."

"We the subscribers being Fence Viewers for the Town of Pelham - and having been required to divide a partition fence on a line between George Tallent, of said Pelham and Mehitabel Butler, widow, of Nottingham West, having attended to the business of appointment, we do hereby direct and determine that the said Mehitabel shall build and keep in repair on said line, a good and sufficient fence. Beginning at a stake and stones in the swamp, to or near the southeasterly corner of said Mehitabel's farm." Thence running northerly about sixteen rods and one-half to corner of the

wall; thence easterly 28 rods on line between said George and Mehitabel. Then the said Tallent shall build and keep in repair a good and sufficient fence from on said line about 40 rods, being the remainder of the fence between them on said line. And we further direct that the above named Mehitabel Butler and George Tallent shall build the above mentioned fences in the term of ten days from this date.

Samuel Hobbs
James Cutter (Fence Viewers)

James Gibson J. of P.

PERAMBULATE THE LINE

A custom of early years which still continues in New Hampshire, is that of perambulating the town line by the Selectmen of each town, at intervals of seven years.

"April 8, 1762 - We the subscribers, Selectmen of Nottingham West and a committee appointed by the Selectmen of Pelham, have this day met and perambulated and renewed the bounds betwixt our respective towns. Dated at Pelham - April ye 22, 1762."

Samuel Greele
Samuel Marsh
Joseph Butler

Ephrem Cumings
William Richardson
Josiah Hamblet

"April 30, 1772 - Selectmen of Londonderry and Pelham perambulated the line between our respective towns."

Amos Gage
James Gibson
Joel Butler

James Gage
John Crombue
John Bell

Other lines were perambulated and bounds restored if necessary. Some of the bounds have been made more permanent as Mitchel's stone more recently erected as a town as well as a State Bound.

One of the early bounds still stands on the Sherburne Road marking the towns of Nottingham West and Pelham. A rough stone with letters N W on one side and P on the other. This original should be preserved and made permanent.

EDUCATION - EARLY SCHOOLS

Carefully written records prove that many of the early settlers had some education. Penmanship, beautiful script or almost manuscript, well worded in the English of that time, and occasional statement and instructions submitted by committees on policies of supporting the war and forming the new government disclose real thinking. Several personalities were outstanding as educated men. Eleazor Whiting, the first Town Clerk, Dr. John Mussey, early physician, William Richardson, later to become Chief Justice of New Hampshire, Dr. John Hubbard Church, Rev. James Hobbs, and Rev. Amos Moody were Harvard graduates. These men were leaders in the cultural and religious life of the community.

The quill pen and home-made ink, still colorful, closely written to preserve precious paper, show the ability to write well. The forms of expression reveal the individual; spelling varied and a word was often spelled phonetically as it sounded, as Noah Webster's Spelling Book had not appeared to standardize spelling. Names recorded were spelled in many different ways, but the actual signatures correct that. New officers were elected every year and everyone had an opportunity to serve in the office for which he was best fitted.

Quotations from the record enclosed in "quotes" are kept as originally written. Their way of speaking adds interest. Only one signature in the receipt book used his mark (x). Each one could sign his name or print it. Only a few women's names appear, Elisabeth Hobbs (always spelled with an s) receipted her husband's settlement and salary after his untimely death, and the names of two school "dames" who taught the summer term - namely Susana Wresht (?) and Abigail Scales, who acknowledged receiving from the Town Treasurer the sum of "Three Pounds Twelve Shillings, lawful money, which is in full for my keeping school six months in said town. I say received by me." Abigail Scales on December 2, 1768. Abigail wrote a beautiful script. A woman usually taught the summer term beginning in June and closing in the Fall. A school master took over for the winter term. In early pioneer days the school year varied from one month to two terms.

Boarding the teacher was paid by the Town Treasurer to various heads of families, one receipt is for dining the school master.

Before the school was established, learning to read was a family affair. The little ones had a horn book, a page under horn easily held in the hand, with the letters of the alphabet and the Lord's prayer printed on it. The child learned to say the alphabet and point to the letters and recite or read the prayer. Next, came the New England Primer, with the alphabet and words of one syllable then two-three-four-five and even six syllables. Sometimes the list of syllables was called the A-B- or the AB's. The

famous Biblical rhymes beginning in alphabetic order- beginning "In Adam's fall we sinned all" etc. A prayer for children and the Catechism were all a preparation for the reading of the Bible. This was usually carried on in the home, or in some home in a neighborhood where an able housewife could teach several children while she carried on her housework or spinning.

It was not until the town was incorporated that any group formed to conduct a regular school. The subject of school came up in the Town Meeting of August 1759, and is the first recorded action for schools. Meetings were frequently called in those early days. The regular Town Meetings were held to elect Town Officers, but other regular Town Meetings discussed matters demanding attention, sometimes only weeks or months apart. There was so much for these people to do.

The non-residence tax to be devoted to church and school was "voted the remainder of the money to be applied for a school in said town- the school is to be in four parts in said town and to be kept where they think proper." The Selectmen had that responsibility, for on Oct. 27, 1760 - "voted at said meeting to leave it with Selectmen to provide a school for said town." (Vol. 1.)

There was no school building as recorded in the report of the April 8th, 1762 - "voted not to build any school house or houses in said town. Voted four months schooling in said town to begin in September next insuing and so on until the four months is expired. Voted to raise the sum of twenty-five pounds as school rent to support the above said school."

Still pending was the settlement of the non-resident tax, as Capt. William Richardson was chosen to apply to the General Court in order to get "the non-resident land taxed that lieth in this town."

Writing and reading schools were specifically mentioned in 1761. This is understandable in this practical way of the early settlers to devote the major school day to the fundamentals. Signatures and ability to keep records and accounts was essential. Reading the Bible was the motivation for reading. "J. Lay received Ninety-six pounds old tenor in money it being for keeping a Writing and Reading School for said town for four months in the year 1761." Evidently the efforts on said J. Lay were satisfactory to the Selectmen, for he signed a receipt in 1762 - "received of Benj. Barker, Treas., sum of forty pounds four shillings (40-6s) old tenor for keeping Reading and Writing School four months in the year 1762. Rec'd by me, J. Lay." It is assumed that said Lay was a traveling teacher skilled in the arts of Penmanship and Reading.

A town resident Eleazor Whiting, whose name appears in the records frequently during the early years, taught a Reading and Writing School, for in June 5, 1765 he receipts the following - "province of New Hampshire- Received of Selectmen 119 - S 16 old tenor in part for keeping a Writing and Reading School. Eleazor Whiting."

Salaries fluctuated for Susana Wresht (?) received the sum of one pound, eight shillings, and ten pence, lawful money for keeping school three months, while John Butler was paid the sum of six pounds twelve shillings, old tenor, silver, for boarding the school master Mr. Eleazor Whiting six weeks, while he kept a school in town. John Crombie taught seven weeks in that same year (1768) and so shares honors as recorded school masters in eventful 1767-68. Custom of the time was to pay at the completion of the term. This custom was carried on until late in the 1800's.

The receipt book is the only clue to teachers who taught and the salary received until the school records or Secretary's minutes on the committee meetings were kept. Present day practice, at least from 1918 to 1952, failed to keep a record of Board Meetings in this town. However, beginning with 1805 adequate records were kept and published. School reports were printed before the annual town report was printed. This was due to the influence of Dr. John H. Church, Moody Hobbs and others who saw the value of written records.

Listed among schoolmasters were prominent citizens who filled in for short periods. In 1768 Barnabas Gibson was paid, "one pound seven shillings for keeping school one month." There is no way to translate coinage of that period to present day values. Suffice it say it was a public service in such a case.

Early School Masters - Time of Service - Salary

January 26, 1769	-	Stephen Peabody	-	1 month	-	6 dollars
November 28, 1768	-	Ebeneza Varnum	-	3 weeks	-	6 shillings
		Boarding Dame	-	3 weeks	-	16 shillings
January 26, 1769	-	John Banlding				
		boarding	-	2 months	-	16 shillings
January 16, 1769	-	Philip Hardy				
		boarding	-	2 weeks	-	4 shillings
May, 1778	-	Eleazor Whiting				
		boarding	-	3 months	-	2 pounds

May 8, 1769 - Jonathan Frye's name appears dated 1769 -

'Paid to Mr. Jonathan Frye, School Master, the sum of one pound ten shillings, lawful money, in full for his demands, and paid the sum of 16 shillings, lawful money, for boarding Mr. Jonathan Frye, School Master.'

Frye was a familiar name in Pelham, as Phoebe Frye, of Andover, Mass. married Thomas Gage who died in the French and Indian War. Doubtless related to Capt. Jonathan Frye, a young chaplain who went with Capt. Lovewell in battle with the Indians. He was killed at the Battle of Lovewell's Pond in 1725. The family revered his memory. A poem written about "that young student Jonathan Frye who in his blooming youth did die."

Appropriations for schools were kept at a minimum in those meager years: 1766 - 10 pounds; 1768 - 15 pounds; 1769 - 15 pounds; 1771 - 16 pounds; 1772 - 15 pounds; 1773 - 15 pounds; 1774 - 22 pounds; 1775 - 22 pounds; 1776 - 20 pounds; 1787 - 40 pounds; 1788 - 40 pounds.

Usually the Selectmen were empowered to find a place for the school, and hire teachers. In 1776 a Committee was appointed, Dr. John Muzzy, Jacob Butler, and Barnabas Gibson to serve. "Voted that every quarter of the town should have the use of their money, and that each quarter should enjoy the privilege of their own, and not send from one to another, and that when the school was provided that they should not send, should go without benefit of the school." This policy continued until the development of the Union District.

The next move related to building of schools in the various districts as follows: 1793- "voted to raise one hundred and fifty pounds in order to build school houses in said town. Meaning that those classes that have built their school houses shall receive an order from the Selectmen for their proportion of the aforesaid sum." "Voted that James Gibson be a committee to fix the place where the School House is to be built in the southwest corner of the town."

"Voted to divide the town into Five Classes according to the number of scholars that each class shall be, one fifth part of the number of scholars in said town- "that each class shall be entitled to receive one fifth part of the money raised in said town for the support of schooling." March 5, 1787.

A beginning in classing the schools was made, but in March 1797, a committee consisting of David Gage, Thomas Spofford, Ezra R. Marsh, appointed for classing the five classes for convenient schools was presented. This report is of interest to citizens familiar with names of old families. It also gives an idea of the location of the homes and of the number of families and population of the different districts. Changes were made in this plan from time to time, but the general division was kept to this day.

The report of the Committee on "Classing the Schools" of the Town was made to the Town Meeting of Feb. 13, 1797, and is recorded in Town Records - Vol. 1, page 220. This is of great interest to a present day historian in locating families and placing individuals. The number of families in each district was given as follows:

Southwest Class - 34; now known as the Gumpas District, No. 2.
Northwest Class - 30; now known as North Pelham, District No. 3.
Middle Class - 31; now known as Center District, No. 1.
Northeast Class - 31; now known as Gage Hill, District No. 4.
Southeast Class - 26; now known as Highland, District No. 5.

The district families were quite evenly distributed and inhabitants without children were included in the district. At times minor changes to convenience families as distance to walk, or number in the school.

1808 - At this time each district looked after its own school. A notice was posted summoning qualified voters to Moses Whittings' place, or some other home, to transact necessary school business. This was signed by the Head of the District. The notice stated that officers would be chosen as - Moderator, Clerk, and Head of Class, a title which later was Chairman of the Supervising Committee.

Such essentials as wood was "bid off" for \$1.27 in 1808; then \$1.99 in 1821, a cord. Board for the Master or Mistress was "bid off". Edward Wyman "bid off" the Master's board for \$1.71 per week in 1805; later Dr. Grovsnor \$1.49 per week, revealing an element of competition. The "Masters School" or "Winter School" usually began in late November or December. The proportion of money allotted to each term, to the Masters School $\frac{2}{3}$ or $\frac{5}{8}$ of the money, while the summer term taught by a Mistress used the remaining funds. The summer term included the summer months often beginning in early September and continuing until late November or December, really until the money gave out reserved for the younger children. All ages attended but, more mature students employed on the farms during the summer and harvesting in the fall, entered the winter session. A Master was usually employed, often a college student, able to discipline the big boys.

Finding a place for the building was a problem until the town purchased the shares held by Proprietors and purchased by Pelham men was available. Twenty-one men owned shares valued from \$1.01 (John Wyman) to \$12.90 (Sally and Samuel Hobbs). The total valuation was \$98.94. A building was available previously used as a store.

Repairs were needed for which small amounts were paid as \$4.07, \$.75; \$.66; for minor repairs. Finally in 1829 extensive repairs with items listed as- lumber \$23.29; boards \$11.58; shingles \$6.91, etc., with a total in labor and materials amounting to \$98.94. This place once a store was now ready for a school.

In 1805, leading men, Dr. John Church, Moderator; Dr. Aaron Grovsnor, Clerk, with Edward Wyman Head of the Class; Committee to inspect Rev. Amos Moody; Rev. Mr. Church, and Mr. William Hardy. Other men who held these offices were- Samuel Hobbs, Edward Wyman, Asa Stickney, Jesse Smith, Andrew Tallent, and David Atwood. There were frequent changes as offices were chosen every year.

New State Laws came into effect on April 14, 1829. The Head of the District ordered to notify all qualified voters to attend the annual School District Meeting. Notices were to be posted on the School House Door and some other public place, to assemble and act on articles of a

warrant similar to Town Meeting procedures. This was to continue until the formation of the Union Districts.

Periodic aggitation to establish a Singing School, provoked some debate in the Town Meeting of Feb. 1805. Later this was established, whether by private contributions or otherwise, at any rate we find the town did purchase a Bass Viol to help with the music in church or school. Singing School was popular in the rural communities, usually fostered by some talented musician, and subscribed to by local contributions or fees. The schools were slow in making music a part of the curriculum, depending upon the regular teacher for that leadership. A teacher able to lead music and teach children to sign was considered desirable.

COPY OF REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
FOR CLASSING THE TOWN OF PELHAM

(Town Records - Vol. 1 Page 220 - Report dated Feb. 13, 1797)

We the subscribers, being a committee appointed by the Town of Pelham to class the town into five classes, to convene schools in said town, beg leave to report, that the four school houses now built in the four outside classes, shall stand where they are now built, and not be moved, and the Town be divided into classes as follows: viz.

The Southwest Class shall begin at Mr. Abel Butricks thence to Mr. Daniel Butler's, Mr. Edmund Hardy's, Mr. Benj. Hamblet's, the widow Rebecca Butler's, Capt. Thomas Spofford's, Mr. Seth Cutter's, thence to Mr. Enos Hardy's, and Mr. John Well's, all of whom are included in the Southwest class, and all the inhabitants, who live southwesterly of the above mentioned inhabitants to the town line, from Mr. John Mills' to Capt. Asa Richardson's are to belong to the Southwest Class.

The Northwest Class shall begin at Lieut. David Butler's, thence to Mr. John Neven's, Mr. Caleb Butler's, Mr. Daniel Tenneys', Deacon Daniel Barker's, Deacon Benj. Barker's, Mr. Samuel Hutchinson's, Mrs. Ebenezer and John Elenwood, Mr. James Hobbs', Mr. Philip Richardson's, all of whom are included in said class, and all of the inhabitants Northwesterly of them to the Town Line, from Mr. Philip Richardson's farm to Lieut. David Butler's are to belong to the Northwest Class.

The Middle Class shall begin at Capt. Jonathan Gage's, thence to Maj. Daniel Coburn's, Mr. Amos Johnson's, Mr. John Atwood's, Mr. Uriah Abbot's, Mr. Simon Beard's, Mr. Kent's Jr., Mr. William Hardy's, Mr. Samuel Davis's, Mr. Wyman's, Mr. John Wyman's, Mr. Jacob Marsh's, Amos Moody Esq., Ens. Adjut. Daniel Hardy's, Mr. Edmund Tenney's the third, Mr. Andrew Tallent's, and Capt. Jesse Smith all of whom are west of Golding's Brook and within the compass of the above mentioned inhabitants, are to belong to said class.

The Northeast Class shall begin at Mr. Moses Noyes', thence to Mr. Joshua Atwood's Jr., Mr. James Foster's, Mr. Paul Atwood's, Mr. Isaac Gage's, Mr. Asa Gage's, Deac. Abel Gage's, Lieut. Alexander Grimes', Mr. Jonathan Webster's, Mr. Ebenezer Webster's, and Mr. Joshua Gutterson's, all of whom are included in the Northeast Class, and all of the inhabitants Northeastwardly of them to the town line from Gutterson's to Moses Noyes'.

The Southeast Class shall begin at Mr. William Webber's, thence to Mr. Silas Trull's, Capt. Jesse Wilson's, Mr. Daniel Wilson's, Mr. John Barkers, Mr. Nathan Hobbs', Mr. Nathaniel Currier's, Mr. Enoch Howard's, Mr. Abiel Barkers', Mr. Asa Carleton's, Mr. Asa Carlton Jr.'s, Mr. Ezekill Richardson's, Mr. Jonathan Lyon's, Mr. Roger Coburn's, all of whom are included in the Southeast Class and all the inhabitants Southeastwardly of them to the Town Line from Mr. Roger Coburn's.

Feb. 13, 1797

David Gage
Thomas Spofford - Committee on
Ezra R. Marsh Classing

HIGHER EDUCATION IN EARLY DAYS

Harvard College

A History of the United States Meridan Documents of American History by
George F. Scheer - Meridan Book Co. (pg. 133)

In 1636, under the auspices of the Congregational Church, Harvard College was founded. The founding was described by Edward Johnson in 1743.

"After God had carried us safe to New England, and we had builded our houses, provided necessaries for our livelihood, reared convenient places for God's worship, and settled the civil government, one of the next things we longed for and looked after was to advance learning and perpetuate it to posterity, deeding to leave an illiterate ministry to the churches, when our present ministers shall lie in the dust. As we were thinking and consulting how to effect this great work; it pleased God to stir up the heart of one Mr. Harvard (a goodly gentleman and a lover of learning among us) to give one-half of his estate (it being in all about 1700), toward erecting of a College, and all his library. After him another gave 300, others after."

Note:-

Rev. James Hobbs, first minister of Pelham, Rev. Amos Moody, second minister, were both graduates of Harvard College. Rev. John

Hubbard Church, a Harvard graduate, and a minister in Pelham, received A. M. degree from Dartmouth College in 1813, D. D. from Williams College in 1823, became professor at Andover Theological School and Trustee of Pinkerton Academy, was a Harvard graduate in class of 1797. William M. Richardson was a Harvard graduate in class of 1797, later became Chief Justice of the State of New Hampshire.

HIGHWAYS

The first pioneers traveled by foot or horseback, following Indian Trails which followed the line of least resistance, along streams and ponds to fishing grounds, and along hillsides to hunting grounds.

During the twenty-five years after settlement, rough roads had been cut through the forests by man and ox power. Rude wooden bridges had been built over Beaver Brook and Golden's Brook to reach the Sawmills early established by Butler and Golden. Part of the roads were fit for carts, others were no more than bridle paths.

Pelham people had paid taxes in Dracut and in Dunstable to support preaching, and had decided that the formation of a new township was necessary to straighten matters of boundary. This was accomplished when the town was incorporated in 1746. The citizens attacked their problems with new vigor. "The path now trodden" needed attention and was one of the major points of discussion at Town Meetings.

Petitions of subscribers for a Highway were presented to the Selectmen, who laid out a highway and presented the plan to the town meeting for approval. The voters decided whether to accept the plan and the road surveyors went to work. The first highways considered were in the western part of the town, where the "path is now trodden", were to be "three poles" * wide. A pole was about a rod, the terms were used interchangeably as surveyors used a pole a rod long in measuring. The present Mammoth Road was such a road as Londonderry followed that route on their way to market in Boston. A road from the center of the town to Windham and Derry, one from the center to Dracut, and another to Salem and Haverhill were the main roads first considered.

Then followed lesser roads "two poles" wide between districts often crossing private property, and passing the front door or even between the buildings of a farm. Bridle paths were also laid out.

Labor was man and ox power. It was necessary to go around rocky ledges, hence our picturesque winding roads, following the natural contour of the land. Beaver and Golden's Brook required better bridges. In certain places fording places were sufficient, but in the spring, freshets flooded the roads making them impassable.

The Town Meeting of 1746 attended by Free Holders and other inhabitants, "voted to allow open highways lately laid out by the Selectmen, three rods wide from the Londonderry line to the Town Line and to put the same on record."

* A pole equals 5 1/2 yards. (Webster)

Recorded on page 9 of Vol. 1, Town Record is a typical report of the Selectmen as follows:

A copy of Transcripts of roads laid out by Selectmen and presented to the Town Meeting for approval.

March 15, 1752 - Highway from Meeting House to Londonderry.

We the subscribers, Selectmen of said town, have proceeded to lay out several open Highways three rods wide.

We began at Pelham Meeting House, thence running northerly through land of John Ferguson, by marked trees standing on the westerly side of said Highway, and from thence through the land of Mr. John Cookson and from thence to a white oak tree standing on Beaver Brook bank and from thence over said brook of Philip Richardson and still northerly to a small oak, marked by a heap of stones on the line between Capt. Philip Demerice, still turning on said Richardson land to his corn house, and then easterly across land of Jonathan Hopkinson and William Mackwell to Londonderry road, and above road are laid out two rods wide.

1753 - Bridle Road - Also we have laid out a Bridle Road from this road beginning at a pine tree near a certain swamp; thence through ye land of the within named Mr. Parker, over the old causeway till it comes to ye land of David Gage. A true record- Amos Gage, Town Clerk.

Feb. 12, 1773 - Nottingham West to Windham, Province of New Hampshire.

We the subscribers, Selectmen for said town proceed to lay out an open highway two rods wide. We began at a highway west of John Hamblet's house thence running northwesterly by heap of stones on southerly side of said road and marked trees and so between lands of said John Hamblet and so down to Beaver River where the bridge now stands, called Butler's Bridge, and over said bridge and up the hill, as the path is now trodden on the land of said Richardson, and so between Windham line and the land of said Amos Richardson till we came to the highway laid out lately and accepted by the town, which leads by the house of Ebenezer Richardson to the said Windham line.

Selectment ---- William Campbell
Henry Richardson

1773 - Road to Haverhill.

We the subscribers proceeded to lay out a road. Beginning at the road which leads to Haverhill nigh Daniel Gages and then by said Gage's house as the road was formerly trod and then through Richard Barker's land as the road was trod before, through the corner of said Barker's and thence to Webster's land by a line of marked trees, through the said Webster's land by a line of marked trees, through the said Webster's land by a line of marked trees, to Ebeneza Webster's house.

Selectmen ---- Amos Gage
James Gibson
Jacob Butler

March 7, 1774 - Road to Salem.

Voted to fling up the road from Peirce Gage's to Salem line until Salem opens their road to meet Pelham Road now flung up. Voted to accept the road from Jonathan Webster's to Dracut Line as a Bridle Road.

July 5, 1782 - Voted to rebuild the Great Bridge over Beaver Brook with stones, between Lt. Thomas Hardy's and Mr. Marbles. Voted to choose a committee of nine men to take care of all the bridges over Beaver Brook and to have discessionary power, and to call upon the inhabitants of the town to work on said bridges, and to see that every person does their part. The Committee - Joshua Atwood, Aaron Wyman, Benjamin Gage, Ezekil Merrill, Jacob Kemp, Abiel Barker, Ens. Thomas Spofford, James Gage, and Caleb Butler.

1775 - Voted that those persons that worked on the road from the Meeting House to Lowell Bridge on Beaver Brook, should be allowed 15 s. old tenor per day out of their last years Highway Rate.

October 12, 1788 - Causeway Road - Transcript of road laid out by us the subscribers. Beginning at the Country Road near Mr. Edward Coburn's house, thence extending North of said Coburn barn, thence north of an old stone wall till it comes to a Causeway, thence nearly straight to a poplar tree on the north of said road marked, and also a white oak marked, thence about Northeast to Mr. Jacob Marshes' corner bound and a tree near it being a black oak on the North marked H, thence about Southeast part of Jacob Marshes and part on Abel Webber's land till it strikes the Country road near Mr. Jacob Marshes - the northerly bound being an old pine stump with a large stone on it, the above road meant for a curve-way two rods wide.

Note - Causeway - low swampy area. The road narrow and boggy. On dark nights men on road were supposed to call out, so that only one vehicle at a time went on that part of the road. There was only one lane and to meet another vehicle was dangerous.

Nov. 8, 1788 - Transcript of a road laid out by us the subscribers. Beginning at the Country Road that leads from Lt. David Butters to Capt. David Cummings, thence easterly on the line between Mr. Elijah Fletcher's and Mr. Eben Barker, to a pair of bars, thence northerly from said barn and westerly of a stone wall, and westerly of Deac. Gibbons House and barn to a pair of bars North of Lt. Neven's barn leading out Country Road to be two rods wide.

Selectmen --- Daniel Richardson
Benj. Hamblet

Oct. 12, 1788 - Transcript of a road laid out by us the Supervisors. Beginning at Dracut Line near Mr. George Burns, thence extending Northerly, as the road is now trod on, the line between John Butler Jr. and James Richardson's land to a white oak marked H on the south side of said road, thence running on James Richardson land to a large stone

on the north of said road from thence to the Widow Richardson's house. The above road meant to be two rods wide.

Selectmen --- Daniel Richardson
Benj. Hamblet

Feb. 16, 1789 - Griffin Road - Transcript of a road laid out by us the subscribers- beginning at Mr. Samuel Griffin's house, thence as the road is now trod to Jonathan Griffens House. Thence south of said Griffen's barn, thence south of a line of marked trees, nearly as the road is trod, through Quarter Master Ferguson's and Mr. John Butler Jr. 's land till it strikes Lt. William Wyman's land at a pair of bars, thence Easterly south of a stone wall till it comes to said Wyman's cow yard, sd. road leading out into Country Road between the cow yard and the corn house. Said road meant to be a curve way two rods wide.

Selectmen -- Daniel Richardson
Benjamin Hamblet

June 19, 1793 - Nottingham Line to Province Line (Mass.).

We the subscribers Selectmen of said Pelham proceeded to lay out an open highway two rods wide from Nottingham line to the road leading from Joseph Hamblet's to the Province line. We began at or near the said Nottingham, at white oak tree marked P, then running generally as the old path is now trod, by a line of marked trees, then turning a little out of the old path to the left hand by a line of marked trees, supposed to be Coln. Tyng's land, thence running across a corner of John Butler's pine land by a line of marked trees, and the most convenient place for a road, it comes to the said Mr. Joseph Hamblet's - a pasture of the said Mr. Hamblet about twenty rods - between the land of the said Mr. Hamblet and said John Butler Jr. on Gumpas Brook to a pond on the one, and a rod upon the other to the Country road first mentioned.

March ye 15, 1752 - We the subscribers of said town have proceeded to lay out several open highways three rods wide. We began at the Pelham Meeting House thence running northerly through the land of John Ferguson by marked trees standing on the westerly side and thence through the land of Mr. John Cookson and from thence to a white oak tree standing on the Beaver Brook bank, and from thence over said brook on the land of Philip Richardson and still northerly to a small oak marked, and one road turns easterly by marked trees on the northerly side of said road; and between Philip Richardson's house and barn, and between Ezra Littlehales house and barn, and thence to Londonderry Road; at the house of Isaac Littlehale's; and again beginning at said small oak and running Northerly by marked tree, letter H; through land of Isaac Littlehale, Edward Wyman, Samuel Waldons, and Capt. Philip Demerice and on the same course to the Southeast corner of Eleazer Whiting's land and to the corner of Henry Richardson's land and from thence turning Northwesterly to the said Whiting land to his house and to Ebenezer Richardson's house and from thence to said Hutchinson land and

between him and Ebenezer Richardson till it comes to the land of Amos Richardson, and still between them by marked trees to the Londonderry line of marked trees marked on the westerly side of said road. Also another open highway from John Ferguson's meadow fence till we came into the above said highway near Edward Wyman's fence. We began at said Ferguson's fence thence through the land of Mr. John Cookson, Col. Brown, Thomas Wyman, and the Ministry land to the above said road by a line of marked trees, marked on the westerly side of said road. Also, another open highway from a certain ---- whence the above said road and this road part till we come to the above ---- between the land of Col. Brown and Mr. Cookson, thence through the said Joseph Hamblet's to the above said road, by a line of marked trees marked on the north side of said road."

Note: Isaac Littlehale's land was in the northern part of the town. His name is preserved by the small tributary to Beaver Brook known as Littlehale Brook. Hutchinson's name was given to a bridge over Beaver Brook, known as Hutchinson's Bridge. The road here described began at the Meeting House and ran north turning to the left, road leading to Hutchinson's farm, (now Elsworth Smith's farm) continuing over brook at Hutchinson's Bridge, then north to the Londonderry Line. John Ferguson's land was in the center district, the Wyman property now owned by Doris Hayes the road known as Burns Road leads to land of Joseph Hamblet, who together with John Butler owned Gage Place now Zolkas's farm. This road would encircle the Center, Western and Northwestern part of the town.

Private graves of the Hutchinson family are in back of Herbert place now.

Eleazor Whiting's place now property of Marion Atwood, formerly owned by John Woodbury, then son of F. M. Woodbury.

"Request of the free-holders and inhabitants of said town to lay out several open highways viz: The first laid out three poles wide from land of Moses Gage to land on Derry Road, near Golding's Saw Mill. We began at Moses Gages land, thence through the land of David Jones, Samuel Barker, Benjamin Barker, John Colburn, through to Golding's Saw Mill, to the above laid Londonderry Road by a line of marked trees, marked on the Southerly side of said road."

"Likewise about five or six poles on land of Edward Wyman, also we laid another open line to the Province of Massachusetts. We began at the land of Joseph Butler, thence we generally laid the road as it was formerly laid out by the town of Nottingham and old Dracut to Province line, a line of marked trees, marked on the westerly side of said road."

"Also another open highway from John Ferguson's meadow fence, till we come into the above said highway near Edward Wyman's fence, thence through said Ferguson, thence through land of Mr. John Cookson, Col. Brown, Thomas Wyman and the Ministry land to the above said road,

by a line of marked trees, marked on the westerly side of said road."

The work rate in April 1749 was "twenty shillings per day old tenor and ten shillings for oxen, old tenor." "Voted to raise two hundred pounds old tenor."

Bridges were greatly needed - 1759 "voted to leave it to the fine surveyors to build the bridges over Beaver Brook and Golden's Brook by Golding's old sawmill. Each surveyor to work his proportion with his men.

Bridges recently built had to be paid for so in April 15, 1776, Ebenezer Webster was voted constable to collect and gather money to build the other bridges over said brook. "Voted to raise forty pounds lawful money to pay for the bridge lately built over Beaver Brook, nigh the Meeting House, and also for the others yet to build." "Voted two shillings per day for men who did the work - one shilling for one yoke of oxen per day." "Voted that the work shall be done in the month of May and June. Same rate for future work and notify men who have done no work, to repair and see the work is done."

THE WAR OF 1812
(Great Britian and United States of America)

Following the American Revolution the newly organized States watched the former "Mother Country" with watchful eyes. The State of New Hampshire feared encroachment on their frontier, and the city of Portsmouth resented the British ships interfering with their shipping business and even impressing American sailors into the service of the British Navy.

A strong militia was maintained and kept in readiness for defense in case of attack, with drills, gunnery practice, and a well organized plan of action. There was much trouble along the coast of Maine, then a part of Massachusetts; Portsmouth, New Hampshire was kept in a state of anxiety and on one occasion near panic because of rumor of attack from the sea.

The other area of activity was in the vicinity of Lake George and Lake Champlain as expeditions from Canada were expected. In fact, both sea and land battles took place on Lake Champlain and at Plattsburg, in which the British forces were forced to retire. Men from the western and northern part of the State of New Hampshire joined with the Green Mountain Boys in this area. Pelham men were engaged along the eastern coast of New Hampshire and Maine.

These members of the Militia who served in the War of 1812 enlisted for short periods of time in most cases, some even served as substitutes. Privates received \$10.00 a month, Corporals \$11.00, this caused the Adjutant to present a plea for better pay for the men ready to defend the people of the state with their lives, if necessary. He mentions the months of labor sorting, filing, and arranging more than forty bushels of miscellaneous papers.

ROLL OF PELHAM SOLDIERS IN THE WAR OF 1812
Adjutant General's Report - New Hampshire

<u>Capt. John Leonard's Co.</u>	<u>When enlisted</u>	<u>To what time</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Frederick Hardy	Aug. 17, 1812	Dec. 3, 1812	Pelham
Phinehas Coburn	" " "	" " "	"
<u>Capt. Jonathan Godfrey's Co. (page 159)</u>			
Samuel Pease	Sept. 26, 1814	60 days	"
Benjamin Ditson	" " "	"	"
Simeon Atwood	" " "	"	"
John Dutton	" " "	"	"
Amos Hadley	" " "	Died 10/23/1814	"
Nathan Gage	" " "	60 days	"
Jonas Butrick	" " "	"	"

<u>Capt. Allen Goss's Co.</u>	<u>When enlisted</u>	<u>To what time</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Corp. Elihalet Butler	May 25, 1814	July 16, 1814	Pelham
Horris Grovesnor Corp.	" " "	" " "	"
Jacob Marshall, Musician	" " "	" " "	"
<u>Privates</u>			
Jacob Butler	" " "	" " "	"
Benjamin Coburn	" " "	" " "	"
Benjamin Chase	" " "	" " "	"
Thomas Merrill	" " "	" " "	"
Enos Hardy	" " "	" " "	"

Samuel M. Richardson, Major - Adjutant General's Report - Military History. page 228

"These were officers detached and present at Portsmouth, but without any command. At least, if they had any, the rolls of their troops have not been found. I am inclined of the opinion that they were supernumeraries, detached for the purpose of looking after the troops in their regiments or brigades. One such officer was Samuel Richardson, Major. (Five others were listed.)"

"Samuel Richardson was of Pelham, where he was a well known farmer. He was Major of the 2nd Batallion of the 8th Regiment in 1814 - 15; Lieutenant Colonel of the same in 1816 - 17, and Colonel in 1818 - 19. He was appointed Brigadier General in 1819, and resigned in 1820. He was Senator in 1830, and again in 1835. He was a brother of Chief Justice William M. Richardson (deceased). He was a man of integrity and commanded the respect of all who knew him. He died at Pelham on March 11, 1850, aged eighty-two years."

Note - Samuel Richardson's and Gen. Joshua Atwood's (Militia) oil portraits burned in Town Hall fire of 1906.

The Town Records contain several references to requirements "if soldiers marched" and the necessity of supporting the Militia.

Soldiers from Pelham in the War of 1812- Memorial Room- Pelham Public Library.

Atwood, Simeon	Coburn, Phinehas	Hardy, Enos
Butler, Eliphalet	Ditson, Benjamin	Hardy, Frederick
Butler, Jacob	Dutton, John	Marshall, Jacob
Butrick, Jonas	Gage, Nathan	Merrill, Thomas
Chase, Benjamin	Grosvenor, Horris	Pease, Samuel
Coburn, Benjamin	Hadley, Amos	Richardson, Samuel
		Webster, John

Enos Hardy - The story is told of Enos Hardy, Mammoth Road - late days having an infected toe, and not believing in doctors, placed his foot on

the chopping block and cut it off with his axe. He recovered from his self-inflicted operation. (M. E. H.)

UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT - WAR OF 1812

(Regarding Samuel Butler enlisted soldier in the United States Army)

A letter written by Mr. Fred Spofford, Castine, Mass.¹ to his brother Mr. Dudley Spofford, Pelham, N. H. regarding Samuel Butler, son of Jacob Butler, enlisted in the United States Army, two or three years previous, and stationed at Wiscopett and Portsmouth.

Deer Isle

June 12, 1812

"About the middle of April last, twelve soldiers were sent to Castine, to keep in the new fort, at that place. Butler was one of them. I was informed that his appearance then was quite melencholy and dejected, and at some time he was considered delerious, he remained there within about the 25th of April, a space of about ten days, when Butler was missing, and it was supposed he had deserted his post and gone Eastward. No information however, could be obtained of him until about the 4th of June, when the dead body of Butler was taken up in the stream, about a mile below Castine Fort, in a salmon net and appeared to have been in the water about the time Butler had been missing. The body was examined and known to be the body of Butler from his dress and several other marks, also from his features (they not being disfigured). The opinion is that Butler voluntarily drowned himself by leaping from the walls of the fort.

I did not see Butler myself while at Castine, but have the information from respectable gentlemen at Castine, and for myself think it unquestionable.

This must be unwelcome news to his connections, but I hope you will communicate the circumstances to them immediately.

I have the pleasure to inform you that our small family is very well. Brother Paul is in Boston as Rep. to the General Court. You will doubtless see him before he returns.

Mrs. Spofford unites with me in expressing our best wishes to you and all our connections at Pelham.

¹ - Maine, formerly a Province of Massachusetts, became a separate state in 1820.

Please write me as soon as this is received and believe me to be with high esteem."

Your very affectionate brother,

(address to Castine)

Fred Spofford

June 15

Mr. Dudley Spofford

Pelham, N.H.

* This letter was carefully folded, sealed with wax, dated as indicated above, and now in possession of Frances Hobbs.

A THIRTEENTH NEW HAMPSHIRE VOLUNTEER
IN THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC AND
ARMY OF THE JAMES

1862-1865

BY

Charles William Hobbs
Pelham, New Hampshire

Note: - Essay found in my Father's desk copied by C. Frances Hobbs.

A THIRTEENTH NEW HAMPSHIRE VOLUNTEER IN THE WAR OF THE REBELLION

More than fifty years ago the boom of rebel guns firing upon Fort Sumpter, awoke the loyal north to the fact that war was upon us - a war of brother against brother. The descendants of the men who had won our independence, on the bloody fields of the Revolution, were to meet in conflict on still more bloody fields.

The news that the secession batteries had commenced firing on Fort Sumpter caused the North to rise in masses and offers of men, money, vessels, and munitions of war poured in to the nation's leaders. Meetings were held in almost every city and town in the north, and volunteers by the thousands offered their services.

At that time the length and severity of the conflict was little dreamed of even by the leaders on either side. Secretary Seward thought the rebellion could be quelled in ninety days, with 75,000 men. When it proved 400,000 loyal men lost their lives in conflict.

On the nineteenth of April, 1861, the Massachusetts 6th. Regiment, the first troops to reach the city of Washington, were attacked by a mob of secession sympathizers in Baltimore, and a number of men were killed and wounded. This still more excited the North. Troops were raised, armed as fast as possible and sent to the front.

Companies were organized and drilled. In our town the young men and boys met once or twice a week and were drilled by one of our Pelham boys, who at that time was an officer in a military company in Nashua. Later he went to the front with the 3rd. New Hampshire, and rose to the command of a company, Captain Charles Burnham.

Men from Pelham enlisted in different regiments, as troops were called for and went to the front. In the next year, 1862, when 300,000 more men were called for, after the bloody peninsular campaign, the people of Pelham had a meeting to encourage enlistments. After stirring speeches by the prominent men of the town, 26 men and boys of Pelham enlisted and were assigned to Co. 13 th., N.H., Volunteers. This was the largest number of men that went from the town in any one command. Their experiences may be typical of every organization that was upon the firing line.

After enlisting, the squad, with the Regiment, encamped at Concord, N. H., and were there drilled, and in time, equipped with uniforms and arms, but at first were armed with cord wood sticks for guns. The routine of the camp, the food and restrictions were something new to most of the men, but was submitted to gracefully. Visitors were plenty and the men enjoyed themselves in various ways in leisure time.

On one October day, after having received our arms, we marched to Concord, and in the State House yard were presented with our colors by the Governor of the State.

Three years later those colors were returned to the State that gave them, torn and shattered by shot and shell, grimed by the smoke of battle and stained by the blood of brave men who died under their folds.

Soon we were ordered to the front and taking cars at Concord, we arrived at Nashua, and there were met by shouting, cheering, and crying thousands. Nashua was the home of the Col. and Lt. Col. of the regiment, and our Co. was composed mostly of Nashua and Pelham men.

We were met by many from Pelham, and after marching through the city, were served a bountiful dinner, and taking the train left the good old Granit State, many to never see it again. Cheering thousands met us at all the principal places. When we arrived in New York the Sons of New Hampshire in N. Y., met us on Broadway and presented the Regiment with a beautiful State Flag.

On arrival at Philadelphia we were immediately taken to the "Cooper Shop"; and, as every other soldier going through that city, were fed and given every attention possible. Marching through that city in the evening, we found the streets were thronged with cheering crowds of men and ladies. Our guns and knapsacks were carried by enthusiastic men and boys and ladies. It seemed almost like leaving home again when we took cars for Baltimore.

Up to this time our train was of the best, but from here to Washington we were crowded into cattle cars. Baltimore received us with closed doors and windows, with deserted streets, except for the colored people. Arriving at Washington we were sent across the long bridge and were on the sacred soil of Virginia. Now began in earnest the making of a military machine from raw material. Drills, marches, reviews, work on forts, and excursions on picket, kept us busy all the time - until of a drizzly December morning we commenced our march through a part of Maryland, to join an army of the Potomac near Fredericksburg. After a strenuous march we joined the Army of the Potomac near Aquia Creek, there being at that time about six inches of snow on the ground. With no tents and only blankets, we were as uncomfortable as we cared to be. The snow went away quickly and the army moved to take Fredericksburg. Back of this city General Lee, with the Army of Virginia, was entrenched on the range of hills.

This was our first battle and fortunately for us we were not put in until almost night, when under a tremendous fire of shells, and cannons, we plunged into a ravine and crossing a railroad track behind which we had reformed, made an assault upon Mary's Heights where the fight had raged fiercest all day long. We gained the crest of the hill in the dark but,

the works were so strong and well manned that we had to retire, although in good order. The next day we lay in the city with the expectation of making another attack, but, officers of more judgement than Gen. Burnside persuaded him to give up the idea of attacking that accomplished soldier, Gen. Lee, upon his own chosen ground.*

Crossing back over the river we encamped and spent most of the winter in Smokey Hollow. Shelter tents, only one-half rations most of the time, homesickness, rainy weather with snow, ice, and mud made this the most uncomfortable part of our experience. We picketed one side of the Rappahannock River with the rebels on the other. The pickets were usually friendly and many exchanged little floats with a sail, that would cross the river by judicious setting of the sail. Of course, it would sometimes come to grief, but many pounds of coffee and tobacco crossed that way.

We were detached from the Army of the Potomac, and with other troops placed under the command of Gen. B. F. Butler and called the Army of the James, and were sent to relieve the town or city of Suffolk, then beseiged by Gen. Longstreet. Gen. Longstreet was forced to abandon the seige and we were stationed that summer near Portsmouth, Va., making threatened attacks upon Richmond and other places. Our spare time was used building forts, roads and entrenchments to repel a rebel advance upon Portsmouth and Norfolk.

Gen. Butler had his headquarters at Norfolk which was the largest city in that part of Virginia and was secessionist to the very core. Butler used his New Orleans discipline upon the most obdurate ones and soon had a well behaved and orderly city.

In the early spring of 1864, Gen. Grant, having been given full command of the Union Armies, ordered a general advance of all Union troops. From that time until the close of the war there was almost a continual battle in some part of the country. Sherman in the far southwest, Grant on the North and east of Richmond, and Butler on the south of Richmond and Petersburg where the final struggle was to take place.

An Army of the Potomac crossed the Rapidan, Sherman struck for Atlanta, and the Army of the James marched part way up the peninsular, and then took transports up the James River to City Point, a few miles below Petersburg, landed in boats, driving away a small force of rebels stationed at that point. Advancing immediately upon the railroad connecting Petersburg and Richmond, the 13th. was soon engaged, and for some days met determined opposition until the rebels were forced back to their works at Petersburg and Fort Darlington, on the south bank of the James River.

We were in light marching order, shelter tents and rubber blankets only for protection from the weather which most of the time was rainy.

* (Corporal Charles led his company from field, all higher officers killed or having disappeared.) C.F.H.

For two days we were on the skirmish line; the water in the swamps and creek where we were most vigorously opposed was knee deep and over. It was early in May, and cold at that, not a dry thread on any of us, and many attacked with fever and ague and no chance to be cared for or to care for themselves. Lay down and sleep on the wet ground, and if in a hollow, likely to be full of water on waking.

At last, Fort Darlington in plain view and two companies ordered to drive their skirmishers in from the front of the fort. Forming under cover of the woods, at the extreme right of the fort, the commander of the skirmish line, an officer of the 118th. N. Y., very generously gave our Captain the honor of having the right of the line, thus bringing us in front of the barracks outside the fort which were well manned by rebel soldiers. The bugle sounded the advance by the right flank and down the road we went under a storm of bullets, that now it doesn't seem possible that anyone could escape- but most of us did and in a few moments we were going in one end of the barracks while the "rebs" were going out the other. We closed up on the fort and thought it would surely be taken when our artillery came up in range, but it didn't come, and after holding our place till the second day, we were relieved and sent back a very short distance to the outer line of the rebel works around the fort for a nights sleep. About 3 or 4 o'clock in the morning, when all was still, we were awakened by volley after volley on our right and the rebel yell rang out above the firing.

Beauregard and Johnson, under cover of heavy fog, had surprised our line on the right, and were in among our men before they were fairly awakened. In our front, as it became light, our skirmishers came in with a few prisoners and soon the charging column broke from the woods in our front, and with rebel yell came down on us. Three times they formed and charged but the 10th. and the 13th. N. H. repulsed them both times, and then by orders, after as we thought having won the battle, slowly and steadily fell back on the other end of the line. The attack was more successful there, but it was really a drawn battle.

Soon after this our corps was detached from the Army of the James and sent by steamer to join Gen. Grant, who was then fighting near the wilderness. We joined his army and opened the bloody battle of Cold Harbor.

We arrived at the field about 6 o'clock and immediately were ordered to attack Hills and Longstreets' Corp. who were driving Sheridan, who had only cavalry and light batteries. We had marched more than thirty miles over dusty roads in a terrible hot sun, and for the last three miles on the double quick, for Sheridan's couriers kept coming with foaming horses shouting "Hurry up your men. Sheridan is badly used up." "Throw away everything but your arms and ammunition," said the Captain. Down the open field went the skirmishers across a small brook, on the other side of which was a Virginia rail fence, behind which

was the rebel skirmish line. Volley after volley greeted us but, did not stop our advance.

It was a close call but, the fence was gained and in the rush we almost went into the first line of the rebel works. The main body of our men charged desperately for the rebel line; but, it was strongly manned and gallantly defended with the result that the rebels held the works and more than 3,000 men of our corps, of 13,000 were killed and wounded. This happened in less than an hour. We, in the advance, held our position and during the night dug entrenchments enough to protect ourselves with our bayonets and tin plates for shovels.

The next day we lay in front of the rebel line, a rebel battery in our direct front; and by firing 250 rounds of ammunition for each man, kept down the rebel gunners. Works were thrown up and for two long, weary weeks we dug and fought day and night and then were hustled away for Petersburg again.

We took boats at White House Landing and went down the Pamunkey and up the James and Appomattox Rivers and landed at midnight, at 3 o'clock started up the plank road for Petersburg. This was called a plank road, we all thought, because it needed planking. A colored regiment had the advance and soon found the rebels in a small redoubt of two guns, which they attacked, and with the help of the cavalry, drove the rebels away. We were immediately advanced and marching up the road were greeted with canister at short range from Battery 5, the most advanced of the works at Petersburg. All day the fight was between the skirmishers of the two armies. Troops were supposed to be coming until at about 6 in the P.M. of June 15, 1864, the 13th. was ordered to assault.

A short run - a rush - a scramble up the face of the fort so steep that we had to drive in a bayonet to climb up by, while a part of the regiment circled to the rear. Battery 5 with 212 prisoners, 6 cannons, and ammunition was our Col.'s. For this successful attack our Col. was made a Brig. Gen. The Johnnies were, some of them, cooking supper when the assault was made so some of the boys made a hearty meal from Rebel Johnnycake, for they didn't have much else. Other troops came up, but the army of Gen. Lee came also, and after a few days of attacks and advances the Siege of Petersburg commenced and continued until that April day when Lee, finding himself outflanked, left his works to cut his way out to the South, but was met at Appomattox.

On the first of May when our campaign commenced we had between 700 or 800 men- on the 15th. day of June, 120 men reported for duty.

The story of the Siege of Petersburg would fill a volume. It was a continuous battle, not a day but what there was more or less firing. Many desperate assaults upon both sides. Trenches were dug, traverses

constructed, forts built, mines and countermines fired, bombproofs built, and a continual cannade from some part of the long line. The tour of duty in the trenches was four days. No shelter of any kind from either sun or rain- night or day- rations of salt pork and hard tack and only three hours sleep- usually, not that. The summer sun boiled in upon us; rifle shot and shell flew over us; mortar bursting among us and a rifle shot every time a head was shown above the works. In some places the works were so near that a stone could be fired from one line into the other. No outposts were kept up in the daytime but, at night videttes were in front of each army. These would go from each line at the same time. It was the unwritten law, and always lived up to, not to fire on these from either side. The vidette pits were but a few yards apart and the two parties would sometimes talk together for a time, until someone would say, "Get in your holes Yanks" or "Get under cover Johnnies" and every man was down and the truce was over.

Many times a white flag would be shown from one side or the other. If answered in the same manner men would meet between the two lines by the hundred and trading would be going on. Coffee for tobacco would be the usual trade with exchange of papers. All through the long hot summer we toiled, dug, skirmished, and lived in the trenches, sometimes filled with water by the fearful showers, and again dry as dust and burning like an oven. The fall and winter were more endurable. During the summer and fall, besides the regular seige we were engaged in the assault at the mine under Burnside, and had the advance on the assault and capture of Fort Harrison, a strong work of 40 guns, carried by assault. In the assault our Gen. of Division, Burnside, of Maine, was killed in the ditch; our Brig. Stevens very severely wounded so our Lt. Col. had command of the Brigade, as senior officer.

On the last day of the Rebellion we were among the first troops in Richmond and ours was the first Regimental flag of the Union Armies to enter that city.

Charles William Hobbs - 13th. N. H. Volunteers

LETTERS FROM A 13th. NEW HAMPSHIRE VOLUNTEER

IN THE WAR OF THE REBELLION 1862-1865

Charles William Hobbs Co. I 13th. New Hampshire

Organized and reported by his daughter - C. Frances Hobbs 1962-1965

LETTERS FROM A THIRTEENTH NEW HAMPSHIRE VOLUNTEER
IN WAR OF THE REBELLION 1862-1865

There they were in Grandfather's desk, and another lot in the top drawer of the old fashioned bureau in the attic. Letters carefully preserved through the years by loving father, mother, sister, young brother, and Aunt Jane.

Reading these letters written by my father, a youth of seventeen, who enlisted as a volunteer, on June 22, 1862, at a rally conducted by Capt. Charles Burnham, a native of Pelham, but working in Nashua and a member of the State Militia, made the life of a soldier real. Two more of the Burnham cousins Willis and Edward enlisted at the same time. Edward and Charles Hobbs were tent mates.

Charles Hobbs, son of Moody Hobbs and Elisabeth Spofford Hobbs, had completed his schooling in District No. 1, and attended a High School conducted by Miss Mary Gage and Miss Mary Richardson in the hall over John Woodbury's store, which attracted pupils from Pelham and neighboring towns. These two scholarly and dedicated women made a lasting impression upon their pupils, and continued to be interested in them through life.

His letters tell of camp experiences, long marches, picket duty, battles, field and general hospitals, as every one of the Pelham boys experienced hospitalization because of battle wounds, frozen limbs, exposure to weather, poor food and disease. Distribution centers seemed unnecessarily filthy, living quarters usually rude shelters which the men built of any material they could forage. Shelters were not suitable for winter weather in Virginia.

He tells of visits to the hospital to see Pelham boys, and of their visits to him during a long hospitalization. The loyalty of these comrades to one another continued throughout life. Living together, sharing dangers and hardships, enduring the discouragement of defeat or the exhilaration of success, molded them into the fraternal fellowship of the Grand Army of the Republic, which exerted great influence in the affairs of the nation in later years.

The character of this soldier is revealed in his letters- keen judgment, appreciation of fine leadership, admiration of General Stevens, and the 13th New Hampshire; disgust with drunkenness and cowardice, distrust of certain censors, and great respect for General Lee's leadership upon his home grounds' territory.

Love of home and everything about the farm is shown in every letter. He asks for Grandma, whom he recalled sitting by the fireplace telling

stories of early days in Pelham. Letters to his father were carefully written, as Moody Hobbs who had been Senator from the 7th District was the educated member of the family, well versed in law and surveying, interested in reading, and debating in the Lyceum - to mother he sent thanks for her good cooking - encouragement to younger brother Winthrop - best of all to his dear sister Mary, a young woman of great love and understanding to whom he confided his thoughts, joys, and sorrows.

VOLUNTEERS FOR THREE YEARS SERVICE AT THE PELHAM RALLY Camp Colby - near Concord, New Hampshire

The twenty-seven young men had volunteered for three years service at a rally in Pelham. Capt. Charles Burnham, a native son of Pelham, but working in Nashua and a member of the State Militia, came to Pelham "to raise a company." They were mustered in by August 1862. This was Pelham's answer to the call of the President Lincoln on July 1, 1862, at the instance of the governors of the seventeen loyal states, for three-hundred thousand volunteers to put down the rebellion.

Charles Hobbs, seventeen years of age, was one of the young men whose parents had to appear before Lieutenant Smith and give permission. His birthday was in November and he is listed as eighteen in the record.

Moody Hobbs, father of Charles, had served as State Senator from District 7, and was familiar with Concord and the capital buildings. He accompanied the boys there leaving them at the Inn. The boys went to their quarters, set up tents, cleared around them, and went to bed. Sleep was impossible because of the noise, loud talk, and swearing such as the boys had never heard, from recruits who had imbibed freely. One of their group snored so loud and noisily that Charles and Ed Burnham picked him up, blanket and all, and threw him into another tent.

On Sunday, twenty of this group were given fatigue duty and immediately started for Concord - some went to "meeting" but Charles made a tour of public buildings, the State House, State Prison, and Court House. Returning to camp they were set to work mowing brush, digging out stumps, and lugging brush. This was the hardest day's work on Sunday the boys had ever experienced. In Pelham Sunday was definitely a day of rest with only necessary work attempted.

Much time was spent in drilling, at first with sticks of cord wood. Recruits were instructed by officers and each man was given a physical examination. In Charles's paper, A Thirteenth New Hampshire Volunteer, he describes the march to Concord on October 11, 1862. In the afternoon the colors, the State Flag, National Flag, and two guidons were presented

to the Thirteenth New Hampshire by Secretary of State, Hon. Allen Tenney, in front of the State House. These colors were to be carried through the thick of battle and were the first to be carried through the city of Richmond. The 13th. was armed with Springfield rifles with bayonets, weighing nine pounds.

On October 6th the Regiment left Camp Colby at 4 a. m. , and Concord Depot at 7 a. m. , entrained for Nashua where they were served breakfast, the gift of the City of Nashua. Singing - "We are coming Father Abraham - three-hundred thousand more" the 13th marched past the residence of Col. Stevens and Lt. Col. Bowers. The Pelham folks were among the cheering, weeping throng assembled to say farewell - to many forever.

Charles' family had driven over the Hudson hills - Moody Hobbs, his father; Elisabeth Spofford Hobbs, his mother; young brother Winthrop; Mary, a young married sister with Enoch Marsh, her husband. Later Mary described the farewell as the saddest parting imaginable - one she would not wish to repeat.

The route taken - by train to Worcester, Mass., then Allyns' point on the Thames River; embarking on "The City of Boston" at 8 p. m. on a beautiful moonlight night; Jersey City at 4 a. m. on October 7th. They then took cattle cars for Philadelphia.

A highlight of the trip was the reception received in Philadelphia. The soldiers were fed at "Cooper Shop Volunteer Refreshment Salon" established and supported by Wm. M. Cooper and a few friends since April 1861. As they marched through the city to entrain for Baltimore and Washington through cheering crowds, patriotic young people marched with them, shouldering their rifles. A spirited teen-aged girl marched beside Charles, insisting on shouldering his rifle. The soldiers never forgot the encouragement given them by the city of Philadelphia, as they "facing disease, exposure, pain and dismemberment and death" entrained for the South.

At last they reached Washington, where they bivouaced on the capital grounds, in the rain and mud, without shelter.

First Impressions and Experiences at Camp Chase - Oct. 14, 1862 --

"We got to Washington Wednesday night, and there they put us in the room where soldiers sleep. We didn't stay there long as the floor of the building was all covered with lice and fleas. Our company and the rest went out and slept on the ground. The next day we marched out here. It was as hot as any day last summer, and the dust beat all - I could hardly see the third man from me it was so thick. The next morning we began to move our baggage and by night were in tents but nothing to lie on. The camp was on a hill about 1/2 mile from our first stopping place.

My shoulder got so lame that I could hardly move - then I went foraging. "

"Our camp is about a mile from the Arlington House, where the Rebel Gen. Lee used to live, and we go over to his spring to get water. This is the most desolate country I ever saw. Everything is gone but two or three houses, two or three miles apart. There is no grass or trees. The ground is worn by soldiers tramping around, no grass or trees as hundreds of acres of trees have been cut down so as to give the guns of the fort a good range. There are four or five forts here and the hills for miles are covered with forts. "

"There have been troops passing here bound for Harpers' Ferry or near there. A New York regiment, in camp within a quarter of a mile of us, went off and we didn't know anything about it for two or three days. That's the way the movement of troops is conducted we don't know anything that is going on, not half as much as you do in Pelham. "

"We have been used pretty mean - hard bread so full of maggots that we couldn't eat it no more than we could eat corruption. Good bread now, as the officers made a fuss. "

"Orders came when an orderly of Gen. Casey rode up, as the men were finishing Battalion drill, and gave the Colonel a paper. If Pelham people knew of the order they wouldn't sleep as sound tonight as they will. 'Stack arms and march to quarters- supper- then back to get arms- sleep on arms, and keep all equipment on- have guns where you can lay hold of them at a moments warning.' The boys are all ready for the fray and if the 13th doesn't do its duty I don't know who will. "

The letter continues on Wednesday morning - October 15, 1862 - "Last night was a false alarm although the rebels are supposed to attack us. "

October 26, 1862 - Camp Chase, Arlington Heights

A rainy day gave the boys a chance to write, so Charles wrote to his father asking him, "Please send some papers and write a long letter. Charles Wheeler is getting along well now. He has been pretty sick, and is still sick but gaining. " "We have been to Upton Hill, five miles from here. We went eight miles, it seemed to be up hill and the sun was hot. A pretty tired set of boys we were. " They were living in little houses with five men crowded in and have to squeeze to lie down.

"Back to camp, then taking our tents on our backs moved about 1/2 mile to our present position, where we had to lie on the ground two or three nights. Then Mike Tulley and I went out and found the Government Horse Hospital where there are hundreds of sick and disabled horses. Each of us took as much hay as we could carry and made for our camp as fast as we could. We have a good nest of hay to lie on now and are quite comfortable. I expect that we shall have to move soon. "

"We are about three miles from Long Bridge - we have a detail every-day to go down and guard it. We drill pretty steady now - Battalion Drill in forenoon - 9 to 12; Company Drill - 2 to 4:30 p. m.; Dress Parade at 5 p. m. - then supper."

Charles wrote Mary on the same rainy Sunday -

"Virginia mud is so soggy and sticky that it sticks like wax and you can hardly lift your feet, it clings so. The Captain has ordered men to stay in tents unless compelled to go out on duty. This means that you have to go out to post the guards, then be alert if a guard calls for relief."

"We drill three hours in the forenoon and three hours in the afternoon under a West Point Cadet, Lieut. Penrose. We have to fly around, I tell you. A soldier's satisfaction is that he makes the officers hop. If they don't do it just right they have to take it worse than the men."

"Writing on a cheese box cover with another man is difficult, then completing the letter lying on the hay in the tent, writing on your housewife, and a handy thing it is too. Thank you Mary for all you have done for me. Please send me New Hampshire or New England papers. Tell little Charlie that I will send him a piece of a bullet."

November 2, 1862 - On Picket Duty:

Rumors of spending the winter at Camp Chase were soon proved false. The men did not relish remaining in such a desolate place long. Returning from picket duty at Falls Church on Sunday night he found a letter from Mary. On Wednesday night more guard duty.

"Saturday morning we had orders to start about ten o'clock and marched to Fairfax Seminary and stopped, we thought for the night. No sooner than we had unslung our knapsacks we had orders to sling our blankets and start out on picket. Well we started, 5 Co. of our Regt., and the way we went to Falls Church was a caution. More than half of the way we had to run, as the officer who was posting us was on horse back, and in a great hurry, as it was getting late at night, and they were a little afraid that the "Rebs" would get around in that direction, as they had captured a train of cars near there the night before. They are getting a little ugly out on our front, and are trying to give the brave Sigel a whipping, but they couldn't do it."

"We have to stand on picket duty the same as in camp, only we don't have to walk any, just stand and watch. I didn't sleep any Friday night, and only part of Saturday night, and didn't have but a small loaf of bread from Friday night to Saturday night. I was hungry Saturday night, but after rolling up in my blanket and lying down in the cedar woods, I soon forgot everything. It was awful cold that night as we couldn't have a fire in the night."

"Sunday morning, about six o'clock, I started with one of the Titcomb

boys and went to a house close by our picket line, routed up the folks, and got them to get us some breakfast. A good breakfast it was, too!"

"We had coffee and milk to drink, nice warm biscuits, fried ham and mackrel, and some of the nicest things I ever ate, corn doggers or hoe cakes. They are nice. Besides we had nice sweet butter, and something I never ate before on the 2nd day of November, raw fresh tomatoes cut up in vinegar. I saw apple blossoms on a tree Sunday as we came in from Picket, but I couldn't get it. I'll send a little cedar bough to you from Virginia."

Answering an inquiry from his father in a later letter, Charles assured him that "the family who served him breakfast for 25¢ said they were Union." (But they all say that around here.) The white women did the cooking, a black wench the cleaning and such chores. "She was so black that she made Dr. Burmington look milk white." Dr. Burmington was a negro doctor in Pelham, specializing in herbs. In his imposing home on Mammoth Road he had a dispensary with built in shelves and cupboards. He was a respected member of the community.

Charles commented on brother Winthrop's and cousin Otis' comments about the reported soldiers' diet. He assured the boys that when they become really hungry they would eat anything, or even be driven to steal.

November 15, 1862 - In the woods on Picket Duty - Guard asleep:

"Our Regiment is now on Picket Duty. We came this forenoon and are to stay 48 hours. We were tired and thirsty, but built a fire and set to work making coffee. That with the hardtack and salt pork made us a good meal, I tell you. I brought along a lot, a pound of sugar, a couple of pounds of salt pork, a loaf of bread, and 10 or 12 hardtacks, so there is no danger of starving."

The previous Saturday night "when going out to post the guard, I found a fellow asleep at his post. I reported him as I was obliged to the Officer of the Guard. The next morning the officer reported him to the Colonel's headquarters. The Colonel asked me two or three questions, and after hearing how it was ordered charges be preferred then, and they be court-marsheld. The next morning I had a short notice served on me which ordered me to make my appearance at the Colonel's headquarters. Pretty sudden, but was of no account as the court was postponed. The fellow I reported was mad at me for doing it, but I couldn't help for I would have been reported if I hadn't. He vows that he will shoot me if he ever gets the chance, but that doesn't worry me."

"Sunday morning the order, 2nd relief fall in. We went about 2 miles from the reserve to station the men at 3 p. m. Stayed there until 7 a. m. when we went back to the reserve. No sleep until 3 p. m. No fires allowed so had to eat the salt pork raw, but managed to have enough fire

at the station to make hot tea and coffee. My hands are so cold I can't write well, as you can judge. Since we came on picket this morning I have been through the woods and got a lot of persimmons and ate them. They are nice I tell you."

November 19, 1862 - Life at Camp Casey - Fairfax Seminary:

Charles described picket duty and the way it was organized. "Two companies were put together A & C under the command of Capt. Graulman, and divided into three reliefs - 1st. -2nd. - and 3rd. The reliefs were kept at headquarters. Four men are posted between picket and headquarters, to carry messages and give the alarm. Our men were kept out on picket line, about a mile from headquarters. Pickets are on post for four hours at a time, then off eight hours."

November 24, 1862:

Many soldiers are sick. The soldiers training was strenuous. "The Battalion Colonel put us around as fast as we could run for two or three hours. The Regiment has about 300 on the sick list and it will be more if they don't use us differently. Can't get out more than 300 men on drill (244 this p. m.). Only about 500 men in Regiment fit for duty."

"Father asked how old Gen. Casey was. He is as much as 60. He looks about as old as Uncle Frye Gage does. His head is bald on top, the little hair he has is white as snow. He is not a very good looking General. He can ride a horse about as good as old Tige, not a bit better."

"Chever Gage and Gilman Webster are in the hospital now but, I shouldn't wonder if Lieut. Smith got his discharge. I guess Smith was pretty tired of going to wars."

-Thanksgiving at Camp Casey-

Nov. 20, 1862 - Mud ankle deep:

"Mud is ankle deep around our camp, and there is no way of getting it off our boots. Our tent looks worse than our hog pen ever did. Our hogs have a cleaner, dryer place to sleep, and they have straw to sleep on and we don't. How quickly our boys would tumble into our hog pen to sleep. We have pretty hard times but, they haven't discouraged me yet. I am sending this by Lieut. Smith."

Nov. 27, 1862 - Thanksgiving at Camp Casey:

Charles wrote to his brother Winthrop: "I don't see much Thanksgiving about it, only there is no duty to do except clean up the street, and that is enough, I vow. As usual the dinner was fried salt pork, salt enough to keep through all ages of eternity! But we down with it."

Thinking of New England Thanksgiving he wrote, "If some of the Pelham turkeys and chickens were out here they would get disposed of pretty soon. What I want though is some of mother's mince pies. Oh, wouldn't they taste good!"

Nov. 30, 1862:

"Now we have just fixed up living quarters we are ordered to pick up and leave. Today, Sunday had to go through inspection for nothing. They kept us standing for almost three hours with knapsacks on, then have guns, cartridges, knapsacks inspected." "You used to say a middleaged man was a great deal better than a young man, but it 'ain't so". Take it as a general thing a young man stands it better, as Kim Chaplin, too old to stand life in the army."

Ever interested in home and things his younger brother was doing he wrote the lad, "I want you to tell me how the horses and colts are doing. I want to know as much as when I was at home, or more. If school has begun tell me how you like the Master, and how the scholars behave."

-The Battle of Fredericksburg-

Dec. 17, 1862 - "On the march along since the first day of December, so no letters received until Dec. 17th. Your letter sister Mary, feared we were in a dangerous place when you wrote, but I tell you we have been in a dangerous place since then."

"We marched from Washington through Maryland to Fredericksburg. All we had to eat since we started was salt pork and hard bread, but we had plenty of coffee, so we got along pretty well."

"Thursday the bombardment of the city began and we were kept drawn up in line of battle all day, and at night crossed the pontoon bridge and laid in a lumber yard, in the city of Fredericksburg all the remainder of the night. I wish you could have seen the city the next morning. Of all the looking places, that beats all. It was a beautiful city once, I would judge, but our shot and shell riddled it all to pieces. The houses were full of shot holes and plenty of shells around. Rebels lying around too, one with his head all but his chin shot off, another with eyes shot away."

"Friday morning was still, no firing going on. The soldiers busied themselves picking up stuff and rumaging the houses. They took feather beds, chairs and other furniture out of the houses and scattered them around the streets. I saw nicer furniture in the streets than there is in any house in Pelham."

"Along in the afternoon our batteries on the opposite side of the river, began to fire on the rebels back of the city, and the shells they sent back flew lively for awhile. Of all the noises I have heard, a shell rushing through the air beats all. It will make a fellow curl down awful quick. At any rate, I didn't see anyone who didn't curl."

"Saturday morning we were called out and marched down by the side of the river, behind a kind of hill, to protect us from the rebel shells, and the battle opened."

"Anyone who never saw a battle cannot form an idea of it, at least I never had. The cannon roared, the musketry sounded like hail pattering down on the roof all day. When we were on the side of the river, shells from our guns burst over us, killing one man and wounding five or six others. A shell passed by within a foot of my head, and struck in the mud amidst a cluster of men- but, didn't explode, although one man was hurt."

"About half an hour before sundown we were ordered to march. We didn't go more than twenty rods before a battery was played upon us in great shape. Oh, how the pieces of shell flew around us. We kept on and after a half mile got behind a railroad embankment and laid there ten or fifteen minutes, within a mile of their battery, with our guns just behind us, firing as fast as they could. The rebel shells burst over us, so near that I could feel the heat of them in my face."

"We were ordered to charge and away we went, across the field, through the mud and ditches, up close to them. Nothing but shells fired at us until we got on top of a kind of hill, and then they opened on us with musketry. I never saw rain fall faster than the bullets fell for awhile. We rushed on until a New Jersey Regiment that was ahead of us, and ran into and over us. Then we took into a ditch, partly out of their fire, and laid there some time, with the bullets flying round us at a fearful rate. After a while we were ordered to fall behind some trees and we found our Regiment."

"But what a regiment! More than one half of the men were missing and the only officers left were two Corporals, Willis Burnham and myself. We marched them off the battle field, back to within a half mile of the city, and laid there that night. In the course of the night and the next day all our men came into camp, part of them wounded and part more scared than hurt. One man who had been in seventeen battles, Fair Oaks among them, says that he never saw such a volley fired into a brigade, as was fired into ours."

"All that I wonder at, is that every one of us was not killed. I came out of it without a scratch, and thank God, I did not run until I was ordered to by our officers."

"The next day after the fight, all our officers were sick, so our

Company was left with only three Corporals and some thirty Privates. Our Lieutenant was wounded in the foot. Capt. Wright was back in the camp sick all that time, and all of our Sargeants were suddenly taken unwell, as they were expecting another fight Sunday. We were left alone until a Lieutenant from another company was appointed to command us. Sunday passed off without anything but picket firing. On Monday, we were called out again. We expected another battle but, didn't see anything but a few shells the "Rebs" sent down to let us know that they were not all killed."

"Along toward morning we started and came back over the side of the river, leaving the city of Fredericksburg to its owners, what little there was of it. A good part of it burned down and the rest pillaged of everything movable or eatable. We got any quantity of flour, molasses, chickens, pigs, and tobacco, that was the best of all, cigars and jewelry, though when I got there I couldn't find any jewelry, or I would send you something."

He writes to brother Wintie, "after the battle; I was not afraid but, I don't want to go into such a fight as that again."

Jan. 25, 1863 - Field Hospital- After Fredericksburg:

No letters after the 17th of December describing the battle of Fredericksburg until Jan. 25th. His comrades had notified the Pelham folks that Charles lay in a Field Hospital, feet frozen. It happened this way. Men took turns keeping the camp fire burning, but someone fell asleep, the fire went out, and exhausted soldiers sleeping with feet toward the fire suffered, some seriously.

The home folks appealed to Dr. Hook, of Lowell, to go down and investigate, as his comrades heard the doctors were thinking of amputation. Dr. Hook was the husband of Charles' Aunt Sophia, his mother's sister. Doctors, Congressman, Governors and others were referred to as visiting hospitals occasionally.

Charles wrote his brother "Wintie" on Jan. 25th. "My feet sting some yet but, they are a good deal better than a few days ago. I am hungry as a bear, and I would give \$5.00 to sit down and eat just as much of one of Mother's Boiled Dishes as I wanted. I believe I could eat her big dinner pot full. We get hard tack as principal sick living. Here in the hospital they give us short rations. If I couldn't send to Sutters I guess I would starve. They have butter, cheese, pies, and apples to sell. Butter is 60¢ a lb., cheese 40¢, apples 6 for 25¢, pies about the size of a saucer 20¢, so you see the extras cost something.

Jan. 29, 1863 - Dr. Hook, of Lowell visited Charles:

"Never so surprised in my life, just before dark, to see Dr. Hook step into the hospital. It was great to see someone I knew. He said he

was coming in again. He didn't know me at first, and I was surprised to see him stepping into the tent where I lay."

To Mary he wrote- "My feet were the sorest things. There were three days and three nights that I never shut my eyes to sleep a wink. Oh, how my feet did ache! It seemed as if they would hurt all the time. I couldn't turn over- not with my blankets on my feet. I had to lift off the blanket and then take hold of my leg and lay my feet over, then serve the other the same way. Then bear all my weight on my hands and work over. Oh, those were long nights. I was in agony all the time. I would have thanked anyone to kill me but, now I feel well. My feet pain me some, but nothing to what they were. I hope father won't come out here for I shouldn't like to have him see how we live out here. It would make him feel bad I am afraid."

Jan. 30, 1863 - Charles wrote:

"Dear Mother, I have been pretty sick and awful lame, but I have got so now that I can walk down to our Company, that is 10 or 15 rods, I should walk around more but, the snow is melting. It is awful muddy. I can't get my boots on yet, so I have to wear an old pair of shoes with heel pieces cut off. They are not pretty things to travel on the road with. I have got to get a pair of boots soon. I can buy them here for \$6.00. Dr. Hook came into the hospital and inquired after me. I was sitting on my bed, but he didn't know me."

The Winter campaign had been hard on the boys. Charles wrote, "Eddie Burnham has been very sick, and sent to a hospital at Aqua Creek."

Jan. 27, 1863:

"Saw Bill Kittredge and Dave Raney (in Maine Regiment) Lieut. Thom and Geo. Gage (Cavalry), Ben Moreland & Jess. Heard that Gil Woodbury had run away and gone home- Don't know, just heard."

Feb. 2, 1863 - Pelham Home Guard:

Always interested in the men at home he wrote his father regarding the home guard recently formed, "I think that Charles Scavey, E. Burt, and Hen. Jones better shoulder their guns and serve their country in the army, than serve at home. It is all very well to play at soldiering, but it is some different out here, coming down to the real soldiers' life."

Feb. 2, 1863 - From a camp opposite Fredericksburg:

"When I wrote to Wintie I had been sick with jaundice, or as one of our doctors said with a mild case of camp fever. I was getting well when, all of a sudden, my feet swelled up and have been awful sore."

"Anyone that can stay at home can afford to do a great deal for the

soldiers. I think Pelham folks are doing nobly." "There are a good many people in Pelham who don't think but that the soldiers live as well as they do at home, but if they could sit down to their table some morning and find nothing on it but raw salt pork and hard tack, they might think differently. That is what the army lives on most of the time, and they have to cook it themselves, if it is cooked at all."

"The way we do it is to take our pork and fry it on our tin plates, then fry our hard bread in the fat that fries out of the pork. Perhaps you will think it rather a greasy living, but that is what we live on. We do get a little fresh meat once in awhile, but not half enough.

"Here in the hospital our living is water gruel three times a day. I hate the sight of the old gruel kettle. I am going to get out of this place as quick as I can or starve to death. I can't write very well sitting in this tent with the wind blowing."

Feb. 17, 1863:

"After a pleasant day snow came during the night. Sorry to miss the barrel sent to the Regiment and the things sent to me. Our things, with a whole lot of boxes were at Aqua Creek 3 or 4 days before we started, and they wouldn't bring them up to Falmouth to the railroad, where we could get them. Well- no matter about soldiers, let them go. What is a private! No matter about them. They enlist for the money and are well paid!" (A little sarcasm provoked by various reports. Belated pay days occurred and Charles says he must send home for money).

The Army to move to Fortress Munroe. Those unable to march to be sent to a hospital, possibly Aqua Creek. A letter from John Woods asks Charles to save his woolen stockings for him. Unfortunately, Charles too, did not receive his gifts.

Feb. 16, 1863 - Columbia College Hospital, Washington, D.C.:

Evidently Charles was not sent to Aqua Creek but to a government Hospital in Washington, D.C. He wrote-

"I am in one of the great hospitals of Washington, and a nice place it is, too. It seems more like home than any place I have seen since I came out here. We have a good bed to sleep on and good food to eat, enough of it. We have a nice nurse in our ward. Her name is Mrs. Russel. She is rather particular, but I like her all the better for that, for there are some here who would be so dirty we couldn't live."

"This place is about two miles from the capital. Standing in the window you can see the whole city and the Potomac for a long distance. In this building and in the tent around, are about five or six hundred soldiers. Close is the great Carver Hospital, with accommodations for 2500 patients, so our doctor told me. He is a New Hampshire man. I like him. In summer, I think this must be a beautiful place, for there

is a large square around the building planted with beautiful shade trees."

"Our doctor's name is Buck - nurse is Miss Snow. Dr. Buck used to live somewhere near Great Falls and Miss Snow is a Maine lady. When we first came here we were in Miss Russel's ward. The surgeon in charge of this hospital is a New Hampshire man - Thomas R. Crosley. When a number get well they are sent to Alexandria, to what is called a Convalescent Camp. When there gets to be a number from a Regiment they are put aboard a boat and sent to join the regiment."

"There are four Germans in our ward who sing. Our doctor is a first rate fiddler, so with singing and fiddling we have music enough."

"When we were coming up from Aqua Creek on the boat, there was a man on board I pitied. He had two sons in the 9th N. H., and hearing they were sick came down to see them. The night after he got there one of them died. He took his body and started for home. Coming up on the boat the other son died, so he had the bodies of his two sons to take home."

"William Gage, brother of Sara Gage, came to see me. He said he had been to see Ed Burnham. A letter from Ed Burnham. I wanted to see him. Now that I have my boots I shall go to see him in a day or two."

"I suppose that the Democrats are trying their darrest to carry New Hampshire, which I hope they won't. We want somebody to send us troops to help us if we need them, and I think we shall."

Now that his boots had come, Charles journeyed to see his tent mate, Eddie Burnham. He found him doing well, better than he had expected. He felt exhausted wading through the Washington mud, but stopped to see the capital buildings. He was impressed with some of the historical pictures. The city was full of officers. "If sister Mary were here, she would feel it a disgrace to be seen with a soldier without shoulder straps," he ruminated.

"But what a sight the streets of Washington are! A Pelham farmer would be ashamed to see his hog pen look as the main street of this city does, to say nothing of the side streets. All through the city hogs, of all sizes and descriptions, are allowed to run at large without fear of a pound keeper."

"There is one institution that should be credited to them, that is Horse Cars. Probably they were introduced by some Yankee who wanted to line his pockets. You can ride anywhere in the city for 5¢. The cars run within 30 rods of our hospital, so it is easy to go down town."

"You said you wished you had been here so you could have come to see me when I was sick, but I am glad you couldn't. It would have made you feel sick to see poor wounded men froze to death, and then buried

like dogs without any coffins, or grave hardly. That is enough to sicken one. The city of Lowell has done well, but the Sanitary Commission will do better than I know of their doing, if the soldiers get the benefit from it. When I was in the hospital at Falmouth, a lady brought some preserves and cornstarch for the sick soldiers. They got the cornstarch but, the jellies went to the hospital staff, that is the steward, cooks, etc."

"I hear from the Regiment once in a while. The Pelham boys were well. Caplin is doing pretty well and he and I have a quiet time in a room by ourselves. He is rather downhearted, but I have done my best to cheer him."

March 15, 1863: Charles was eager to receive his sister's photograph, and all members of the family. He found the March 15th weather very cold. A hospital attendant reported 8 degrees below zero, the lowest of the year. He wrote, "I have never suffered as much from the cold as this past winter."

April 15, 1863: "I suppose you heard of the Invalid Detachment. They are those able to work around the hospital and not able to go into the field. A N.H. boy says my name is on the Invalid Detachment. If it is, I shall not be able to go to my Regiment for some time. Well, here we don't have to lie on the ground - a good thing."

"A lady, sister of Smith said she knew you well. She came with the New Hampshire Relief. She said, "You are Squire Hobbs' son." I told her I was."

"My weight is 155 and three fourths pounds, height 6 ft. three fourths in. as measured in the institute, I am alive, never in better health - only my feet - if I walk a mile I am down, so to speak." He asked his father if he was as busy surveying as ever! He wanted to know if he had hay enough to keep the colts all winter? He wanted to know about things.

April 26, 1863 - On Duty At the Hospital:

"The steward took me off guard and put me here. I must have work to do that I can stand it in the Regiment. I want to go back. I don't want it said that I stayed in the hospital to keep out of danger. I am too much of a coward to want to be called a coward. Wouldn't you like to see me work around the house, Mary? You would have cause to laugh, too. I have one man to help me."

"Sometimes we work hard in the forenoon, not much in the afternoon but, look after the sick men. We have to be as particular as you are at home, for a doctor comes around to inspect, then reports every Sunday morning. Not a chance to shirk. Only seven men in the ward now, one very sick. He is a regular "Old Betty" and nothing suits him. He won't

take medicine or drink wine and is as contrary as can be. Everything is handy here. Steam comes into every ward and every room to heat. "

April 27, 1863 - On Duty at the Hospital:

"We are expecting to have a lot of sick men come to fill up the house. Then there will be plenty to do all of the time. Miss Snow is the nurse. She is a native of Maine. "

"If it is God's will that I die in the army it makes no difference whether I am shot or die by disease, only I had rather be shot. I have seen too many die by disease to want that kind of death. "

"Lonesome here. In the Regiment I know lots of boys, but here I don't, though they use me well. I hope the war will close soon. I wouldn't want to have Wintie, Charlie, or Willie come out here. A letter from Eddie Burnham asking if I would go with him to shoot "Rebs" if he would call here. "

April 29, 1863 - To Mother- Regarding Soldiers' Duty:

Charles wrote his mother that he was almost well and going soon, so lonesome for the boys.

"I hear that our Regiment had a fight at Suffolk. I don't like to be in a fight, but I want to be with the boys and share the danger with them, and the honor too, if there is any. I don't want to have the name of staying in the hospital to keep away from the danger and hardship which the boys have to undergo. I have done my duty and I want to do it all the time. "

"Don't worry about my clothes for I can get good ones here, charged to us, and don't cost half as much as at home. We are charged \$3.00 for a nice pair of pants, \$6.00 for a dress coat, and \$7.00 for an overcoat, so you see things are cheap enough. "

May 7, 1863:

"One of the Rebel patients says it is the 6th time he has been wounded and taken prisoner and sent to Union Hospitals. He gets well and goes back to fight again. Must go and carry dinners to wounded men, about all I can do. "

"Thank mother for the stockings, cake and popcorn she sent. " Always interested in town news, he remembers that he learned that Uncle John Woodbury was elected representative.

May 23, 1863 - Mother's Death- Grief of a Soldier:

"Received a letter from Aunt Achsah, and was never so surprised in my life, and probably never shall be, as I was to hear that our dear mother was no more. I can't tell you how I felt but, you can imagine my

feelings. I had a letter a short time ago from Wintie and Father, and they said nothing about mother being sick. I can't bring myself to believe that mother is really dead - it seems like some horrid dream!"

"I may be thought weak and boyish to cry, but I did shed tears, and bitter they were, too. It is the first time I have done such a thing; since I parted with you in Nashua. Oh! I shall long remember Mother's "Good-bye" to me. Thank God I did not run away from home, for if I had, the thought of that would have added to my grief. How I wished it had been so ordered that I could have seen dear mother once more before she died. Poor Wintie, it is a hard blow to him - harder if anything than to you or me. He needs a mother's care, while we can get along. I cannot believe it to be true, while I know it is. If there was anyone I loved and had cause to love - it was mother!

May 23, 1863 - Mother's Death - Grief of a Soldier:

"Mother's Soldier Boy," as he signed his letters to her, struggling to regain his health, received another crippling blow in the loss of his mother who had sent him hand-knit stockings, cake and popcorn a few weeks previously. He referred to the parting when the 13th, N.H. left Nashua. His sister, Mary, in describing the sad leave taking, said that it was heart breaking and she would never wish to experience such a farewell again. Mary was unable to write as she had a sick infant at the time. Charles regretted that he had not been sent for, as he thought a furlough might have been granted.

Elisabeth Spofford Hobbs died at the age of 42, of a strangulated hernia. The operation was performed unsuccessfully. Charles said years later, that his daughter Sara, was the most like his mother of any of his seven daughters. He added a P.S. to his letter to Mary, "I was examined by the doctors and they said I was not fit for field duty. I can't help myself."

July 4, 1863 - Fourth of July at C. C. Hospital:

Fourth of July was celebrated at the Hospital with special exercises, speakers and singing. "The speakers were a judge from the city, fourth auditor of the Treasury, so you know how willing he was to serve his country, and a brother of John Brown, who was more rabid, if possible, than John Brown ever was."

"Dr. Crosby made a speech. It was a credit just to come from the same state he did. After the exercises were over, we were invited to go over to Carver Hospital and witness the fireworks. They were very good. Some of the soldiers showed their dispositions for fighting by throwing rockets at each other and into the crowd. When anyone ran they would be asked if they belonged to the 18th Corp. at Gettysburg."

"All of the lemonade we could drink that day, and a mug of beer at

dinner. I'll give a list of the grub that day. It was extra. For breakfast- a slice of break (1 in. thick), a cup of coffee, a little rice; for dinner- a chunk of meat, a potato and a turnip, with a cup of ale and a spoonful of pudding; for supper- a slice of bread, a slice of raw meat (ham), and a cup of tea. Better than we generally have. I know a man can live on it. I find no fault with it either. It is better for us to live on that than the way we live at home."

Reaction to Gettysburg - July 4, 1863 - To Father:

"What do the newspapers of the North say of Gen. Mead? I suppose he is cracked up the same as all the Generals have been. I think that General Hooker ought to have a chance to fight them, after he had followed them up so quickly, for it is a pretty difficult operation to move so large an army such a distance, in such a short time. It seems that Lee might be captured now, but I am an unbeliever in the project to take Lee or Richmond."

"All patients in the Hospital drill 1/2 hour each day and if needed go into the trenches in defense of the city. Well, if the "Johnnies" do come they will have a warm time of it before they capture the city." "I will know within an hour when I leave to join the Regt. I can continue on Invalid Corps but, I don't like the style. You just did it when you sold "Old Bill" for \$90.00. Don't sell the colts."

"Your Son, Charles"

July 27, 1863 - A Surprise Visit From His One Time Schoolmaster:

Charles wrote Mary - "I had just got to the end of my last sentence, when one of the boys showed a Captain into my tent where I was writing. He greeted me with, "How are you Charlie!" I looked at him and said, "Captain, you have the best of me, for I can't call by name." He said, "My name is Hazelton." So it was my old schoolmaster."

"He was stopping in the city, and I must go down with him. We had a very good time visiting the capital and other buildings. He is quartermaster and ranks as Captain. Here to be assigned to duty with some Brigade. He had been in Pelham. He makes a fine looking officer, and I think he must be a good one."

A letter from Willie Burnham - "They used the boys pretty hard on the last march. A number of men fell dead on the last march. All threw away clothes and all they had to get along. That is better than to fall and die by the way. By the way, I wish I was with them."

August 31, 1863 - Back in the Ranks - Joining the Regiment:

After his long hospitalization, Charles was eager to join his regiment, even in the intense heat of summer. Writing to Winthrop- "I am pretty well, better than when I left the hospital last Friday a. m. Stayed

that night at Soldiers Retreat, in Washington, and Saturday got aboard the cars and came to Convalescent Camp. Those wishing to join the regiment were told to step out. I stepped out and was sent here, Camp Distribution, Alexandria, Va., one or two miles from Fairfax Seminary."

Evidently the health of these soldiers was considered. "We have to take a ration of whiskey with quinine in it everyday, to keep off the fever. I don't think a soldier will get a craving for liquor with quinine in it - Not I." Charles repeatedly mentioned his dislike of strong drink and drunkenness.

"Starting from the Distribution Camp Wed. p. m. went to Alexandria, got aboard a boat about 4 p. m. and started down the Potomac and kept on until about 4 the next morning when we stopped at Point Lookout and left a squad for the N. H. Regiment there. We went on again until about 2 in the afternoon, when we hauled up at Fortress Munroe."

"The names of half a dozen were called and we were told we were to be sent to Norfolk that night. Up to this time we had expected we would go to Charleston, for they told us that our Regiment was there, but it appears that our Brigade did not go, although a part of our Division went."

"When I got there the boys appeared to be glad to see me, and I tell you I was glad to see them. All I wish was that I could have been well so that I could have stayed with them. If I had been well I might have been a Sargeant, but such was my bad luck."

Sept. 7, 1863 - Rejoins the Regiment - Regarding the Draft:

Charles wrote his father of rejoining his regiment and the satisfaction of being with the boys again.

Sept. 11, 1863 -

Soldiers in arms were anxious for the draft to take place, and in a letter to Winthrop he wrote:

"I received your letter with the names of the drafted men, today. I was glad to hear that the draft had come off, and I think it has hit some of the right men."

"I saw a letter Otis wrote. He seemed pretty mad about it taking so many Democrats and so few Republicans. We know whose opinion he expresses when he writes. I hope they will not get it fixed up so that the drafted can get off from coming here without paying the \$300.00. By what I have heard about the town meeting that is to come off, it would seem as if the town was going to pay the money to get the drafted exempted."

Sept. 17, 1863 - Camp Gilmore - near Portsmouth, Va.:

"Dear Sister Mary, It is a pleasant evening to write as there is just

rain enough falling on the tent, to make it sound as it used to at home some nights."

"You will see by this that I have changed my position from the Hospital to the Regiment. I am glad to say that the change pleases me and it seems to agree with me too, but I am not as well as I used to be at home."

"Left the hospital Aug. 25th, went to Distribution Camp at Alexandria and stayed in that hole about a week - orders to rejoin the Regiment - marched down to Alexandria - pretty hard on me - took something they called a steamer to go down the Potomac. For speed I would about as soon get into a wash tub and paddle it with hands, as to take that steamer."

"Down the Potomac stopping at Point Lookout to leave some N.H. men who belonged to the 2nd. and 12th. Regts. After we had left them we went on down the Chesapeake Bay till about 3 o'clock in the afternoon, when we arrived at Fortress Munroe."

"There is no use giving a description of that place for two words (Forts and Cannons) do that. We fooled around there a while, regular soldier fashion, until the Provost Marshal got us started for Norfolk, some eight or ten miles from the fortress. We got there about 1/2 past six and had to go to another Provost Marshal. He sent us to another Pro. Marshal who sent us across a little ferry to Portsmouth, to a house where some of the soldiers were quartered for the night."

"I think I shall not forget that night very soon for fleas played the 'old scratch' with me and I have played the scratch part on their bites. In the morning tried to get passes to the Regiment. Finally found the Lieut. Col. and laid the case before him. Soon had the passes. There is a guard around all these Rebel cities so anyone can't get out of them without a pass. Found a team going out with bread, got aboard and rode out saving three miles travel."

"At Camp Gilmore the boys have fixed a good camp in good shape. We have small tents, not shelter tents though, and bunks built up so we don't have to sleep on the ground. Mine is made out of two poles and a flour barrel. Knock a barrel to pieces and nail the staves to the two poles and raise it. My bunk is about four feet from the ground. There is another fellow under. Four of us in the tent and we are quite comfortable for soldiers."

"The greatest trouble out here is, the water is not fit to drink - not fit for a horse to drink. If we only had good New Hampshire water here we could get along all right."

"Ed Burnham is on guard at Gen. Getty's Headquarters near by and is looking tough and hearty. Will looks poorly. He ought to have a furlough

and go home for a little while and get well. "

Sept. 24, 1863 - Camp Gilmore - near Portsmouth:

"The best stopping place they have had in Virginia, if they didn't have to work so hard. They talk as if barracks are to be built for the winter. Col. Stevens has a house 20 by 30 ft. The place needs troops to hold the place men have fortified. Cold - the nights are uncomfortable - makes a fellow think of a warm bed. "

"They have the finest oysters here, some so large you can hardly hold in your hand. Hard to get as Gen. Getty won't allow peddlers. Can get oysters at Portsmouth for about 10¢ a quart, fresh and nice. Many of the boys got them when they went swimming, take them out of the mud like that. "

"Will Burnham is pretty used up and Frank Butler is down at the hospital at Portsmouth. I will send you \$10.00 greenback in this and if I am well and don't have to buy stuff to live on I shall send a little more by and by. "

(Another hand writes on the remainder of the letter):

Pelham English
Governor of Conn.
You may not
No

This explains Charles' distrust of certain people who handled soldiers' mail, although there seems to have been little censoring. In another letter the name of a fort the boys expected to attack was snipped out, by an official censor. Charles mentioned packages opened and contents taken out if desirable. (I wonder what this meant. Was it opened, censored, or robbed! F.H.)

Oct. 4, 1863 - Camp Gilmore - "Dear Brother Wintie - (note):

"Had a chance to send this by Will. He is not well. If he could get cider to drink! He needs a furlough for thirty days. One fellow George Smith died, one of the Hudson men that Alf. Smith enlisted. He was around in camp until a few days before he died. Dropsy, fever, and chills was the matter with him. "

"I am mighty glad that Will has got a furlough for he would never get well out here. I wish I could get a furlough but isn't any show for it now. "

"I am going to send home for a little box some of these days with some extras in it, to see if I can get something that I can eat as I can't go salt pork the way I feel now. Did the folks make any catsup and pickles this year? Let me know and if they did, by and by, I shall send for some. P.S. I have sent home by Will to Mary to send me a box. If you folks would put in some butter and cheese I would like it very much. "

If you send me some catsup, I would like it. Ask father to pay my part of the freight on the box if Mary sends it. You see Ed and I are going to have one together."

Charles

Oct. 8, 1863 - Charles wrote to his father reporting pleasant weather but chilly nights:

"We have got our conscripts or substitutes, and a part of them are quite decent fellows, but the other part - the least said the better. Five of them made off the same night. The "Subs" have to go out chopping and shoveling. Officers who go with them are armed and equipped for anything.

Charles expressed a desire for a position he could fill, as he can't stand army life. Troubled with diarrhea, he feels that if he could have proper medicine he would get cured. He speaks of Cherry Rum as a good home remedy which would cure him.

"The Colonel and Captain are building houses to live in this coming winter. "Pioneers" build houses. Mike Tully belongs to the "Pioneers". He sends his love to all the Pelham people."

Charles asked Wint to send him a jack-knife.

Oct. 11, 1863 - Outside Suffolk - to Sister - Conditions outside the lines:

"Folks just outside our lines have a pretty hard time, as they don't allow them to come inside the lines at all to buy anything or for anything. I guess there isn't much of anything to buy or sell outside the lines anyway. They have had to take some families on because they were starving to death. At Suffolk, 1/2 mile from here, boots are worth \$60.00 a pair, sizes 5 to 7, that is all the difference."

"If the Northern people would submit to half the privations the Southerners do the war would soon be done. Now the Northerners wouldn't stand a conscription taking everyone between 18 and 45 or 60 as the Southerners have."

"Now there was a riot in New York and they had a chance to get clear, but we don't hear of riots in the South where they take them all, and they don't have a chance to get exempt. As things look now I don't think the war will ever be settled (not under this administration at any rate). The leaders on our side talk now as if the South should offer to come back into the Union as it was, but that they wouldn't take her because it never would be settled until slavery was abolished."

"I should like to see you and your good baby that you tell about. I do hope that the war will wind up so that I can come home and see you and her in the spring. What a glorious day it will be for the country the day

it is settled. Fourth of July wouldn't be anything compared to that. I am afraid that day is a good way in the future.

October 8, 1863: "Have a lot of substitutes that came here a week ago yesterday. 170 of them - a rough set of fellows they are too. About all they can think of is to desert and quite a lot of them have deserted already. Five or six of them have been brought back dressed in citizens clothes. It will go hard with some of them. A few might be shot as an example to the rest. The way of the transgressor or deserter is hard. We have 15 in our company and only one deserted."

October 22, 1863: Charles wrote to brother enclosing letter to Aunt Jane. He referred to the possibility of getting a furlough. He must make the best of it and go to work unless doctor orders otherwise.

"Conscripts here, raise the devil, and many are drunk and fighting. For punishment they have to travel around with the clogs fastened to legs, once in awhile a barrel for a coat. The Old Boys hate the Subs, anticipating trouble between them."

"Last night - excitement - 'Light marching orders' with 'cooked rations'. Fires were built and the cooks went to work. Orders were countermanded and all was quiet in 5 minutes. We think that Gen. Forster will try to raid. Fortifications are built. The boys are getting out timber for winter quarters."

October 22, 1863 - Camp 13th N.H. Vols. - About Abolitionists:

"Dear Aunt Jane, I think you can never dun me for a letter again for I am two or three ahead of you by this time. If I didn't suppose that you had about as much as you could do I would give you a good scolding for not writing oftener. Very respectful language for me to use to an Aunt, but you know I am a soldier and they are supposed to do as they have a mind to."

"We have been having very pleasant weather but today it is cloudy and quite chilly. The days have been pretty warm and the nights pretty cold, but it is always so here. The nights are much colder in proportion to the day than at home. It seems so to us fellows with only one blanket over us at night."

"We have the soft side of a plank to sleep on and not any too much grub. We have stinking cod fish for breakfast and stinking meat for dinner and musty bread for supper. I expect we shall go away in a few days and the sooner the better. When we came here the fellows took us for recruits and they began to run on us. We got at them, and they found we were not raw recruits. Since then they have used us better. We expect a transport soon and then have us for the front. I will write as soon as I know where we shall go."

"The boys are content to stop here this winter. All you read in the paper about the army being ready to move on the enemy - I don't believe it for a minute - there is no truth in it. What I have seen of the army - they are never anxious to fight the enemy, although they will do it if ordered to. Soldiers value their lives about as high as anyone else, and as a general thing do not care about getting in a place to endanger themselves."

"Aunt Jane what do you think about freeing the negroes? Do you believe it would be a good thing for either them or the country? If there are any Abolitionists in the North they ought to come out here, that is all I have got to say about them."

"I am sorry to hear that Grandmother's health is as poor as what I hear. I hope that the fall and winter will restore her to her usual health. I hope that by Spring this war will be over and I can come home and see her and the rest of "the dear ones at home". No one can think more of home than I do. I didn't know what home was before I left home."

"Give my love to Grandma and all the rest."

"From that (poor boy)- Charles"

October 22, 1863 - Camp Gilmore - Barrel arrives:

"Dear Sister, We got the barrel on Tuesday and it was a present to make us proud of the town we came from. I am sorry that you undertook to make me the extra shirt as I should think you had enough to do. The things from home make me feel bad, for they made me think how mother would have taken such interest in making and sending these things."

Balfour General Hospital - Portsmouth, Virginia -

Nov. 11, 1863 - Charles wrote his father:

"The doctor sent me here one day last week. I was no worse than for a month. Curing diarrhea after such a long time is impossible because it is hard to get suitable food. I can get toast etc. here, which I couldn't get at the Regiment."

"This hospital used to be Ocean Grove House, and this ward used to be the dining room. Five years ago filled with the "Chivalry" of the South, but now usurped by Mudsells of the North. I do not doubt that it is fully as respectable now as then."

"It is so cold that I can't write decent as we have no fire as yet in the room. They talk of putting up some stoves today. We get good treatment and good food- that is enough. I ain't going to stay long, that is certain, for I have been in hospitals as much of my time as I want to."

"We are situated on the Main Street of the city, a short distance from the ferry to Norfolk and about a mile from the Navy Yard, so they tell me. I have not been over to see the Navy Yard but, mean to before I leave here."

"Write me as soon as you get this and send me a few postage stamps and a fifty-cent bill, if you have got it, for I am out of stamps, paper, and money, too. I have not got my pay for two or three months. When I do get it, I shall have fifty dollars coming to me."

"Tell Mary where I am, and tell her to write to me. Give my love to Grandma and all the rest of the folks." "Direct to me- Ward 3- Balfour General Hospital, Portsmouth, Va. - Charles."

Nov. 26, 1863 - Box from home - to Father:

"I will write you a few lines to let you know that I am among the living and doing well. You will see by this paper that I got the paper you sent. I got it yesterday, and it came through in good condition."

"The Provost somewhere, when they opened the box, thought they were going to get a haul of liquor out of that jar of applesauce. As they were disappointed they didn't put the cork in very tight, and it leaked over a little, and spoiled two or three papers. With the exception of that, and the cayenne pepper, which got spilled, everything was in good shape, as it was when it started."

Nov. 26, 1863 - "Uncle Ben" deals with the "Secesh":

"This must have been quite a business city before the war, and it is something of a place now. The buildings at the Navy Yard must have been very nice once, but the Vandals or Secesh, when they left the place, burned it down. At the present they do considerable work. Several hundred hands are at work and are adding to the number. There are some four or five Negro Regiments here now. One came in from Ohio. They were dressed in Zouave style and looked wild, I tell you. It makes the old Secesh curl to see Nigs march through the streets, but they can't help themselves. They have to grin and bear it."

"These Secesh here, the women particularly, who have husbands in the Southern Army, would suffer a good deal if it wasn't for the generosity of Uncle Sam. He feeds hundreds in this place and thousands over in Norfolk, which is about 1/2 mile off. That is the way they do it, feeding the families of those who are fighting against us, or let them starve. They might as well starve as we would be shot by those we are indirectly supporting. Still, hardly anyone would have the heart to see women and children starve."

"I have seen women here that it wouldn't worry me a mite to see them starve. For instance, one said she wouldn't even stay in the room

where U.S. rations were cooking. She would go and draw hers and sell them and buy other food, such as was fit for a Southern woman to eat. Quite a number of women and children have been sent through our lines to Secessia, and it would be a good thing to send many more. I hope Uncle Ben will put them through a course of sprouts, and the F.F.C. seem to be afraid they will. They hate him worse than other men in the United States.

Dec. 6, 1863: "A lot of partially disabled men of our Regiment came down here, and they will go into the Invalid Corps. They are clearing out the Regiment of all but well men so as to be ready for the Spring Campaign."

Charles inquired of his brother Winthrop regarding the colts, and reminisced about the previous winter. As always, with brotherly concern. - "You are 16 years old now so, I suppose you must be as large as I am. I don't much doubt that you could handle me now. I hope to come home and try it with you when my time is out."

"I have heard they are building barracks to live in the winter. I hope we do not suffer, as we did at Falmouth. You at home can't imagine what we went through last winter. We had nothing to eat, nothing to wear, nothing to shelter us, and nothing to make fires of. So, you might say that we had nothing there at all. Tell Father, if he has got it to spare, to send me \$5.00 by express, for I want to get my boots fixed before it becomes any colder. I suffered enough from bad boots last winter, and don't want to be in such a fix again. I have not got any pay for some time and shall not get any until January. Send as soon as he can for I shall probably leave here soon and want to get them in the city.

Love to Grandma, Charles"

Dec. 24, 1863 - Balfour Hospital, Portsmouth, Va.: Charles wrote to his father, pleased with the money and to hear the news from home that all are well.

"Colonel Stevens came to see me before he went home and wanted to know what he should tell you about my health. I am about well and have had enough of hospitals."

"I suppose Ransom Hobbs thinks he will be better employed providing soldiers to fight the rebels in the next war, than to fight himself in this. He takes a very sensible view of it, too. I am sorry that Wint makes such a fuss with the pistol, but tell him to lay it away and let it stay, if he is dangerous in his handling it. I didn't send it home with the intention of having it operate as an infernal machine. After I sent it I was sorry, for he is such a fellow with pistols."

"Mary writes that he is a boy that you or either of us need not be

ashamed of. I hope he will have more sense than his brother by staying at home, where he is well off. If Wint takes a tantrum same as I Dad, to join the Army before he is 21, don't let him come if you can help it."

"About Guerillas- They show no mercy to the Guerillas in particular. Some of them went out and took a number of the devils and made short work of them. They took 7 and hung them right to trees That is where they were right, for they would have served the same way if Mr. Reb had got them. That is the only way to stop the Guerilla business - by hanging every one they get hold of."

Jan. 3, 1864 - Conditions in Norfolk, Va.: Charles wrote to his brother "Wintie":

"I got your letter of the 29th yesterday and will write a few lines so that you may know that I am still alive and doing well. I suppose you have plenty of skating and sleighing also, by your account of the weather. Here there has been no snow but some cold days. Yesterday was pretty cold, but today moderated to be quite comfortable."

"There are several vessels of war in the harbor now, one of them a French steamer and the other a sloop of war. These with our gun-boats, one of which lays at the entrance all the time, and a number coming and going up and down from the Navy Yard, give the harbor quite a war like look."

"There are always a lot of schooners here loaded with hay, grain, and lumber for the army, and large steamers come here every little while, loaded with provisions of every kind for the army, make a busy looking wharf."

"Norfolk is quite a large place and I think there was considerable business done here. They celebrate Christmas about as we used to celebrate 4th of July at home. Boys firing crackers all day and night and a lot of Fantasticles parading through the streets, made up the principal parts of the celebration. But, we in the hospital get a little extra dinner - a piece of roast beef, and one or two little cakes, so we had no cause to regret Christmas. It ain't every day that a fellow can get a dinner like that in the army."

General Butler deals with the "Secesh"

"General Butler is bringing the "Secesh" here to see the error of their ways. They have to take the oath or go to Rebeldom. They are enrolled for a draft so they find no rest for the wicked. Over at Norfolk the stores are full, and have the appearance of doing business mostly Northerners who came down to make money. Only a few of the old businesses are left. No young men that would do for the Southern Army are left."

"Those that are left are old men or cripples. They gather at the street corners to curse Gen. Butler and all the North. A good many of them have the honor of having a black soldier stationed at their houses or place of business, on account of trying to communicate with friends outside the lines."

"A good many of them have been caught selling liquor to soldiers, which is against the law (Ben's orders). Ben shows them no mercy. Some have to pay a heavy fine and some the privilege of taking up their abode in Fort Norfolk, for a term of months or years as the case may be."

"I saw one man on the street, who was making a face as if he had been taking a dose of wormwood. Another asked what was the matter. Said he, "I have swallowed the pill. It was hard to do but I had to, and have taken the oath."

"I see by the papers they are talking of having Gen. Grant for president. You like him? I don't think he would do any better than Lincoln has done. It would seem that the rebellion is about played out, but I think they will stick it out for some time. This war will teach a good many, beside myself, what home is."

"A lot of partially disabled men of our Regiment came down here. They will go into the Invalid Corps. They are clearing out the Regiment of all but well men so as to be ready for the spring campaign. Give my love to Grandma. - Charles"

Feb. 15, 1864 - Portsmouth, Va.: Charles had expected to be with his Regiment by this time but, the doctor had not allowed him to return. He wrote, "the doctor is as nice a man as I wish to see and he seems to think that a common soldier is partly human. Some of the doctors don't value a man's life as much as their breakfast. He is not that kind. Only five men have died under his care since I have been here, and he has about 75 patients, all of them new since I have been here. I am so well I am sitting up nights with some wounded men, as the nurses are tired out and I had as leave do it. You must excuse this writing and any mistakes, for I won't read this over to correct them. If there is anything that disgusts me it is reading over one of my letters."

Again he urged Mary to write soon and direct to his Regiment. He had been disturbed by news from home, and wanted Mary "to keep an eye on Wintie, and don't let him get to be a fellow such as his brother." The love for the younger brother permeates the letters of both Mary and Charles. "If he is used right he will be an honor to both you and me" he writes. A great sorrow came to them both when Winthrop's tragic death occurred a year later, at the home of Mary and Enoch Marsh, where he was making his home at that time.

Trip Down - Suffolk - Yorktown -

Returning from furlough Charles wrote the story of the trip from Portsmouth Grove, Rhode Island to Bedlows Island. Travelling alone was a disadvantage for - "I was put upon a transport with a lot of deserters, the roughest crowd ever. As soon as it came dark they got all the lights there were in the hold of the steamer, where we were. They would take a candle, go around and pick out a man and put out the light, choke him and take everything he had. If he made a row they would knife him."

"They managed to get my things all out of my knapsack, but in the morning I found my portfolio. By some hard work I managed to save my watch and money. There was not another one who came with me and 60 or 70 of them from different regiments lost their money. There were some 250 deserters and only 14 guards aboard. We didn't stand a show."

April 30, 1864 - Letter to Wintie:

"Got back to the regiment about a fortnight ago, about April 9, Monday the "long roll call was beat." "We were turned out a little after, within three miles of Suffolk. We saw no Rebs in Suffolk, although a negro Cavalry reported rebels there. Received rations the first in 24 hours. Had to go on guard with blistered feet, then back for inspection."

He wrote his father, "I am all right and on my muscle. They are trying hard to take the kinks out of us. I am in hopes to stick it out this time. Since my return three weeks ago, I have not been sick a day and have done everything that any of them have. We have been drilling, reviewing, and parading all the time. I have had little time to write."

April 30, 1864 - Yorktown:

"We started on a tramp above Suffolk and the night after I got back to the Regiment. The third day we marched 30 miles, and I got through with a few blisters. You may think that is not much for one day, but thirty miles here is different from thirty miles over a good road. The bridges were all taken up, the roads full of water, so we got our feet wet. Then come to march a fellows feet blister dreadfully easy. After we got back from that we came here - Yorktown, and had two more days marching to do, instead of being brought here on the steamer, as we might have been as well as not."

"This morning we struck our tents and sent them off. We are awaiting orders, with four days rations and 100 rounds of shooting stuff. It looks as if we had some fighting to do this summer, and I suppose we have seen the last of our tents, until next winter at least. Stories are around that we are going to City Point, and make an attack on Fort Dar - (censored - word cut out.)

May 8, 1864 - Near City Point - Fighting in the Wilderness:

"About five minutes after I stopped writing, we took our luggage to Yorktown wharf, got on the steamer for Fortress Munroe, up the James River. City Point at night. In the morning came to six miles from City Point, on the road to Petersburg. Yesterday we went out about four miles and had a ripping old fight for about four hours."

"We drove the Rebs about a mile through the woods, brush and briars that baffle description, cut the telegraph, tore up the railroad, raised particular _____ with them. We were under fire all that time but, lost only three men wounded. Our Regiment lost some sixty or eighty men. The Rebs would then set the woods afire where our wounded lay, and would fire on us when we went to bring them out. Not a fair fight for they hid all the time."

May 4, 1864 - City Point:

Most all New Hampshire troops here in the field. The 2nd., 5th., 12th., 3rd., 4th., 7th., 9th., 10th., and 13th., are all here, I believe so if anything is done, New Hampshire will have the praise or censure. I saw Lt. Col. Drew of the 4th, and Gen. Marston over here the other day.

May 11, 1864 - Camp Forlorn Hope - near Petersburg:

Possibly the name of the camp conveys the feeling of the men at this time. Charles wrote to Mary. -

"You will see by this letter heading about what the feelings are and where we are. We are right on the fight now. Have had two pretty good fights within the last four days. I have been in both and came out all right, only very tired. We have taken and torn up a piece of railroad between Richmond and Petersburg."

"Last Saturday we went out and had a pretty hard fight for four hours, then came back and went out again Monday, driving them from the railroad, and some two miles on the road to Petersburg, when our skirmishers ran onto a large force and a good position. We got them as far as was wanted, and held them until Tuesday noon, when we came back to camp."

"Monday night we laid on the field in front of the Rebs. They made three or four attacks upon our brigade, and went back as fast as they came on. The first time we were laid out in the dirt, when on they came yelling like fiends, as fast as they could."

"Not a shot was fired on our side, until they were within a few rods of our line. Then the 10th N.H. gave them a tremendous volley. They put back faster than they came. It was our turn to run and charge them."

We gave them all they wanted. One of our brigades, that the rebels tried to flank, gave them a volley that killed over 100 rebs, besides the wounded, while our boys lost only six wounded. No one was hurt in our company, but quite a number of narrow escapes. I feel so tired now that I can hardly write, but I mean to get a letter from you - if I can by writing."

"Night before last we had to lay on the ground all night without a thing over us, and no chance to sleep, on account of Rebs attacking us. All the day before we were hunting them through the woods, worse than any of our old swamps. Yesterday they were shelling us so we had to keep moving. In the afternoon we came off to camp."

May 11, 1864 - Above City Point - Bermuda Hundreds - Cold Harbor: Charles wrote to Winthrop and Otis:

"We took the rebels by surprise when we came here. We came from Yorktown on transports, then up the James River and landed above City Point. Marched up here and have made a few improvements on their railroad and the telegraph wires."

"I hope we won't have to go and hunt the rebels out of their holes to fight them anymore, but if they will come to us we will give them a breakfast, that will stand them for awhile. They won't give us a fair fight. They set the woods on fire, where our wounded lay, and would fire on our men when they went to pick them up. They found Monday that it wasn't any fun to break through our lines where New Hampshire men were, for boys from our state repulsed them. Fighting three days out of four may be fun for some, but it isn't for me."

Letter written from Bermuda Hundreds. - (The following written across the letter head section.)

"I saw Gen. Grant and Burnside down near Petersburg. I think most of the Army of the Potomac is near Petersburg now. We cleared the way and leave the honor of taking the city to someone else. The boys behind us when we took the fort, cheered the 8th. and the 13th. Great, I tell you. Excuse the paper for it has been wet, dirty, and everything." C.

June 18, 1864: "Dear Father, I take this opportunity to tell you that I am still alive. I don't know that I shall have time to finish this, but I shall begin it at any rate."

"The 28th day of May we left Bermuda, took trains for Fortress Munroe, then went to White House where we stopped one night - there just one day then started marching all night and the next day. That night was quite a fight - that was Cold Harbor, June 1st. Our company was not in the charge being on skirmish. After the charge that night we did not have anything very severe as to losing men but, were under fire everyday, both shell and bullets. We had a picket line, but it was a line

of Regiments behind some rifle pits thrown up by our boys and the Rebel fire. We were in good shooting distance of the rebel works. We could pick off the rebel gunners as they would try to work their guns."

"With such amusement as that every other day we existed with the Army of the Potomac for twelve days. Then we started back to the White House, marching about twenty miles in half a day, and a hot day at that. That was last Sunday. Monday morning we took transport again at White House and came down here again. Got here Tuesday afternoon."

"Wednesday morning, at about one o'clock, we were routed out at two. We started and crossed the Appomattox and started toward Petersburg, on the south side of the river. A little after sunrise the cavalry started them up, and in a little while the 'niggers' got at it and they did well. They captured one or two of the big guns but, no prisoners."

Capture Fort - Raised Flag on Fort - 8th. and 13th. N.H.

"Our brigade then passed by them and went on skirmish. In a short time the firing commenced and the 13th. deployed under a pretty good fire from the rebel skirmishers assisted by their batteries throwing shells, grape and canister. It is kind of pokerish business, skirmishing against their sharpshooters, and they have some good ones."

"We spread out when we skirmish to five paces and then advance to the right or left, as the case may be. Part of the way we were in plain sight of them in their pits, and the way they would throw the bullets was a caution!"

"After we got our position, we got behind tree trunks and then it was not safe for the Johnnies to show their heads. We kept working on them until night. The 8th. and the 13th. were ordered to advance over the field under tremendous fire - Grape Shell and Schrapnel, besides volleys of musketry, and drove the rebels from their pits and took them prisoners. Then on farther and took the fort of six guns and 200 prisoners. Our old flag was planted on the fort!" (The last part of this letter was so faded, folded and worn that it did not seem possible to read it. At last with the aid of a reading glass and lights, managed to decipher it.)

"Our old flag was the first planted on the fort. After disarming the prisoners turned the guns on the flying rebels and further increased the speed. At the same time attacks were made on the other part of the line of works, forts or whatever you call Petersburg. We advanced still farther and occupied a place called White Hills, and threw up some rifle pits in the night. When morning came we could see the city of Petersburg before us in the range of guns. We laid there all day Thursday and Friday till just at night when we started at about two o'clock in the morning, we

got here. We are expecting to move but, don't know when or where. I warrant it is to fight somewhere. "

"We have been marching and fighting almost everyday since we left Yorktown. As for me, I am about tuckered out. They used me up for three or four days going from White House so, I could not do anything at all. They had quite a fight, it is said, where we came from, but our boys beat. "

"Love to all. Write soon and often. Charles. "

The Petersburg Campaign - Near Petersburg-

June 24, 1864 - Near Petersburg- "To Dear Brother-

"As we are having a kind of resting day today, I will try and scratch off a few lines to let you know that, as yet, I am not a victim to the Johnnies. We have been very busy marching, fighting, etc. I had not had time to answer your letter till now. I wrote to father and Mary the other day, but you must not think I forget you if I write them oftenest. "

"It is very hot today and has been for a number of days. When I wrote to Father we were in Bermuda Hundreds, but the next morning at daylight, we started and came up here to Petersburg, or in sight of it, and as soon as it was dark, we went to our front line of rifle pits and stayed there till last night at midnight, when we were relieved. Now we are about a mile from our rifle pits but in another direction. The Rebs have got a fort about a mile off and the way the shells flew by us this morning, from the fort to ours and back was a caution. "

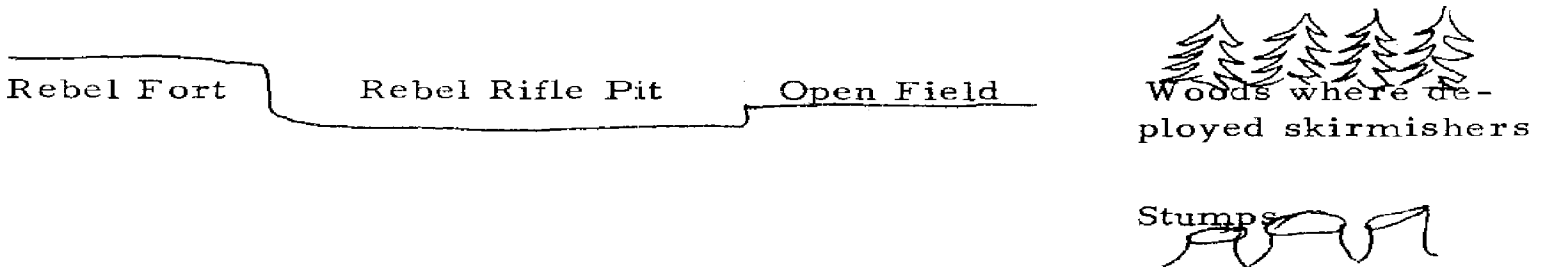
"Our batteries made some splendid shots but, the Johnnies didn't do as well. Now it has gotten very quiet and nothing is going on this moment. "

"This morning the Rebs made a little ruse of a portion of our lines but, were repulsed with considerable loss. Yesterday afternoon, when we were up in the rifle pits, the Rebels planted some mortars and began to shell us. They made some splendid shots. When they fire them from the guns a (piece?) kind of slanting in the air, and they came down almost straight, and where they begin to turn - if they are coming toward you - you can see them. Then it takes some smart dodging to get out of the way of them. The pieces fly in every direction. They threw one right into our pit, and it exploded there, severely wounding a man in Co. K. "

"The Colonel had his headquarters in a house right by us. When he was eating his supper they put a shell into it. One of the pieces came down and mashed the table all to pieces without hurting any of them. They put them in the house and round it so, the officers had to evacuate it. "

"When we had our fight here on the 15th, we did some pretty good shooting, but since then we have not fired a gun, although we have been under fire a good share of the time. That day our Regiment was out skirmishing we worked pretty busy on the Johnnies for a while. They did their share for awhile, but after we got our position and got a chance to see them when they would raise up to fire we rather dried them up, although they had all the advantages being in rifle pits, top of a rise, and we were laid down in open fields behind stumps or anything we could find."

"It looked kind of rough to stand up in an open field and then charge forward onto them, but the 13th. did it and in good shape. The ground laid very much this fashion:"



"By this you will see that from the woods we could not see the fort but, they could burst shells on us and then the rebels, in their rifle pits in front of the first fort, could give it to us as we came up the hill. When we got on top of the hill, the fort would give us grape shot and canister, and then a deep ravine to cross and climb up to the fort. It was one continued hell from the time we started till we had taken the six guns in the fort and the 214 prisoners. Then it was three cheers."

"When we started we were deployed as skirmishers or scattered all around behind stumps and trees, in the edge of the woods. With all the smoke and dust which the Rebs shot and our feet kicked up it was hard to see a man. I couldn't see who the next man to me was, on account of the smoke and dust. All I know is that I got there and that was enough to satisfy me. No more now.

Write soon to, Brother Charles."

July 27, 1864 - Camp 13th. N. H. - near Petersburg:

"Father - we are about in the same condition that we have been for over a month."

"We are under fire about all the time, out of reach of the enemies' guns, and only remain in place at their pleasure, and you may be sure that they keep us pretty well stirred up most of the time. They take special delight in throwing mortar shells which are bad things, for nothing affords any protection from them but, burrowing like woodchucks, and a fellow has to burrow deep, too, or they will find him. They don't trouble us as much as some other parts of the line, especially Burnham's Nigs. There is hardly a minute, day or night, that they are not popping

away there on both sides, while on our front there is no musketry firing at all in the night, and a great many nights no shelling."

"As soon as it gets to be dusk along our front, we can see the Rebel pickets come out in front of their works, and ours go out in front of ours - no firing on the pickets on either side. One night when I went out on picket, the moon was full and it was as light as day. We went out in a squad and then stretched out along our line. The Rebs were standing up and looking at us, just about as far off as, our house to the barn, and in some places nearer. After we got our places each one of us went into his picket hole, just big enough for one man to get into. Our orders were not to fire unless attacked and then to fight as long as we could. They lay down in our holes, no falling back to the breast works, as they had orders to fire if there was any alarm, and we could be shot going in. There it was - Victory - Death - or Libby - no running. We are now in the 1st. Brigade - 1st Division - 18th A. C. W., Col. Stevens has command of the Brigade. I think that he deserves it more than a good many that get it."

July 6, 1864:

"Dear Sister Mary - My sickness that you spoke of was not of much account as it was occasioned by marching in intensive heat. I was off duty only two or three days and then I was 1/2 mile from the Regiment. I was so bad that the doctor told me to stay with him so he could see to me. I was back in the regiment before you knew that I was sick."

"You say right when you say that we have to be in all the fighting for our Brigade has the advance always. It was our Regiment that stormed the largest fort here in front of Petersburg. We took more prisoners than we had men in the Regt. whether we get credit or not."

"You say that Enoch says he will come out if he is drafted. Tell him never to come as long as he can beg a crust at a neighbor's door. It is a disgrace to be in the army now; and more so to come in at this time - the way things are carried on. It is not our country we are fighting for - it is the negroes - and they are fighting against us, I know it. If we were out of it nothing in the world would tempt me to come into it again."

"We have hot weather here. You had better believe the hottest days we were in the front pits, (rifle) laying in the hot dirt and not a mite of air, for we couldn't raise our heads without being shot by their sharp shooters. If that wasn't tough, I never say anything that was. Every few minutes the Rebs would throw a mortar shell right amongst us. There is no such thing as getting away from them, as they are thrown high in the air, and then drop almost straight down and explode."

"It was by one of them that Col. Stevens came near being killed. He and a few officers were in a house, a little out of range, eating supper. The Rebs dropped two into it, going through the roof, and

another through the window - broke their table - Colonel not wounded but, pretty well jarred. He is with us now."

"For about two weeks we have had about three hours sleep a night and sometimes not as much. Last night we were relieved for 24 hours and slept from 11 o'clock till morning."

"You think that the war will soon close. I hope it will. I think they can stand out as long as we can and I am afraid longer. The war can never be settled by fighting, mark that. I won't write anymore for I am tired, discouraged, and about worn out.

Write soon. Yours with love. Charles."

"I am sorry that Colonel Stevens has left the Regiment for I must say I don't like the Lt. Col. that has the command now. I wish I could get detailed to Brigade Headquarters for if I were there I could stand it first rate, as I could take better care of myself than I can now. Watching in the pits half the night and all day, four days out of six, and laying in the mud is kind of wearing work on a fellow. I am not feeling as I wish I was. Perhaps a few lines from you to Gen. Stevens would not do any hurt. I wish you could send me a little money, if you could spare it. I have not been paid since I was at home, and I don't think I have been extravagant. Give my love to Grandma, and the rest. Tell the folks to write. Charles."

July 29 - 30, 1864 - Attack on Fort under Gen. Burnside:

"To dear sister - When you wrote on the 30th, I was firing at Rebels around that fort that Burnside blew up that morning. On the 29th we were relieved by another Corps and sent to support Burnside. Marched and fooled around all night and were on the watch to see the fort go. At last it went, and then there was fighting in earnest. Our men drove them at first but were repulsed, then we who had been in reserve were hurried to the front. Although we were pretty well shelled we did not lose a single man in our Regt. - only by sunstroke. We had to go up a cut where there was no air at all, with the sun pouring down upon us. If it wasn't hot, I don't know what hot is. We were crowded in there for about two hours, right in the middle of the day, as well as being under heavy fire, so we had to keep our heads if we valued them."

"At last we got up to the front line of works, and just as we got there the Rebs made a charge and took back the fort, which was in front of us. We could not fire on them for some of our men were within the fort. Then we tried our hand at firing and it got so that a Reb could hardly put his eye to a port hole to fire at us. I guess they thought we had seen a gun before."

"That place in front of the fort was the worst looking place! Without

parting from the truth, I might say the ground was blue with men. It was fairly colored with our men- dead and wounded. It was horrid! There the wounded had to stay, I don't know how long, but we stayed there until Monday, and they were there then, dead and alive as most of them died before that time."

"You know how it was the last day of July and the first of August, and all those days they laid there in the hot sun, without any shade over them, and not daring to move for fear of the Rebs shooting them again. All that time they only had a drink once. That was when the flag of truce went out. Then there was some whiskey and water carried to them. I saw a lady come out and look over the breastworks then. She probably never saw a worse looking sight (or men either) for that matter. She had brothers killed there on the field, or somewhere. There were negroes and whites, all mixed together. They could not be told apart on account of color, for they were all black as coal - that is the dead men were."

13th. N.H. Volunteers near Petersburg: The letters written during the siege of Petersburg are faded and worn, having been wet, folded, spattered, and scorched.

July 5, 1864 - Charles wrote to his young brother Winthrop, when about a mile from Petersburg under shell fire.

"We are at present kind of still - not much doing, only occasional shelling, most of it done by Rebels who have a raking fire on our lines. They are across the river opposite and below our lines, and can throw shot and shell lengthwise and up to the rear of our lines. It seems kind of rough to see and hear the bullets, shot, and shell coming in front, on the right, left, and in the rear of our lines. Still we hold our own, and are within a mile of the city. The front of our line is some quarter of a mile nearer still."

"Our Regiment today is in the 2nd. line of works, but before this we have been in the front line. The way we have it is pretty rough. We are out three days and nights, and go back and stay one day and night. While we are in the front line, one half has to be awake all the time in the night, for at three o'clock in the morning, all hands have to turn out. We have rifle pits to lay in. They are pretty good protection against bullets, but don't amount to much when a shell comes plum in - length of our line."

"Last night they sent the shells along from the other side of the river pretty lively - still they didn't disturb us much as we were pretty sleepy, having been out the night before on picket. We had to go out after dark at night, and came in before eight in the morning. They have got to throwing shot across here again, a couple of them just going by screeching and howling through the air."

"In my opinion Gen. Grant has got stuck, in fact I think he has a number of times since the campaign commenced, but he has had good luck running off and leaving them so far - he may not this time. He hasn't got Gen. Johnson, Pemberton, or Bragg against him now. If Gen. Lee is outwitted very much, I should like to know about it, for we don't see much of it down here."

"It is very hot and dry here - no rain of any account since some time in May. Everything is dry with so much dust flying around that we can hardly see or breathe when we were marching."

"The other day they opened from across the river on some of our works, on the side we lay. If the shot and shell didn't fly thick! Some of us timed them and they came over at the rate of thirty to sixty a minute, just in the little place where we lay."

"They threw some into our rifle pits and tore them up some, but didn't hurt a man in the Regt. One man was killed in our company the other day. A. J. Smith from Hudson, shot through the head by a Reb sharp shooter."

Back to New England - Portsmouth Grove, Rhode Island

The Petersburg Campaign had taken a heavy toll in the Union Army. Many of the Pelham boys suffered. Lieutenant Thom was killed outside Petersburg, the Gage brothers died in field hospital near Petersburg. Others suffered sickness from poor food and the horrors of trench warfare. Terrific heat, heavy rains that half filled the trenches, the weary duties on front line picket, and the violent battles had exhausted the men. Fever and ague, dysentary, every sort of disease attacked them. Strong, rugged youths were mere skeletons with nerves shattered, but they persevered driven by intrepid command.

A hospital for New England men was maintained at Portsmouth Grove, Rhode Island. Early after Fredericksburg, Kimbal Chaplin was sent there after being a patient at Columbia College Hospital when Charles Hobbs was there suffering from frozen feet. Now in the fall of 1864 Charles arrived there. He writes to Mary on stationery furnished by the "U. S. Christian Commission." The letter heading reads - "U. S. Christian Commission sends this as a message to his home. Let it hasten to those who await tidings. Behold now is the accepted time; behold now is the day of salvation." Portsmouth Grove, R. I.

"Dear Sister Mary,

I received your letter in due season and meant to answer it so you would get the letter today, but I missed the day of the week and so did not write it in season. But it will be just as well now. You say you want me to come home. Would like to and mean to make you a visit sometime before winter, but I don't want to go home now. I couldn't enjoy it myself

anymore than you could. I am almost too sick to be at home anyway. For the last week I have not had my clothes on but, am beginning to gain some now. After I feel a little better I am going to ask the doctor for a furlough. If I can't get it, I will get a pass for five or six days and call around.

Coming on the boat from Fort Munroe was too much for me, and I have been a good deal worse than I was when I left there. I am in hopes to keep improving as I have the last few days.

You ask me what I would like most in the clothing line. I have to have a pair of shirts, but I am to get home to get them myself. As long as I stay here I can have hospital shirts to wear but they feel mighty cold. You can't imagine how the cold took hold of me when we came North.

When we started it was so warm that we went around barefooted. When we got here they had a big fire. I never saw anything that felt so good as that fire did. In the next letter you write me tell me what a pair of shirts will cost at home. Must excuse this writing for I am on my back in bed and writing on my knees. Tell Wintie to write me a longer letter than my last one if he wants an answer. Give my love to all and give my instructions to Wintie, write as soon as you get this so that I shall have a good letter next week.

Your aff. brother, Charles"

P. S. to letter to Mary written Oct. 22, 1864:

"I got a letter from father a day or two ago written Oct. 10, 1864 that had been sent to Hampton, Va. and from there here. I am in hopes to get yours and Wintie's letters sometime. Tell Wintie to write and tell me all about the milk business, and how he gets along. From Brother. Ward 66 Portsmouth Grove Hospital, R.I. "

April 20, 1864 - A Soldier's Reaction to the murder of President Lincoln: Following an extension of furlough sent here awaiting being sent to the front. Charles was in Lowell, Mass. Friday night and stopped there until Saturday, looking for Wint, but saw nothing of him. He went on to Portsmouth Grove awaiting being sent to the front.

"I got here after dark Saturday night and was sent to Ward 12, and here I am. I thought I would have to go to the guard house as they had no notice of my extension, but my papers were all right so, I didn't have to go. At Concord, I was all right so I didn't care what they thought anywhere else.

We have some pretty good times here but, it has been rather solemn since the murder of the President. There was a meeting here, guns were fired every half hour, the flag at half mast, officers wearing the badge of mourning, and headquarters draped in mourning.

That was awful - the murder of our President! Such excitement I never saw as there was in Boston when I came through there - crowds of people on the street. It was not healthy for anyone to express disloyal sentiments then.

I think that the death of the President will prolong the war considerably but, I hope it will not. Everything seems to look hopeful now and it seems a pity that the man who has guided the nation through the storms of war so well, could not live to guide us still in the calm of Peace.

The most severe punishment in the world is too good for him. If ever a man should go where 'the fire ever burneth' he is the one. The curses of a nation rest upon him.

They are going to send a squad of men to the front pretty soon and I suppose I shall be among them. You must write to me for I may not go for a couple of weeks. There may be a lot of sick come, and if so there is no knowing as they will let anyone away then. Write soon and long. Tell Wint to write soon as he can. Love to all. Charles"

April 28, 1865 Gallops Island, Boston Harbor:

"My dear Sister - I received your kind letter this evening. One of the boys brought it down from the Grove, so I'll write a letter this evening. We left the Grove yesterday morning early, and got here last night. We are on our way to the front and this is a distribution camp. We got to Boston about 1/2 past 9 and stayed there until 4 in the afternoon. While there most of the boys got drunk, some of them beastly so. There were several who could not walk through the streets and had to be carried in a wagon. There were two or three out of the 27 of us who were sober. Thank God, I was one of them. A fellow by the name of Drinkhouse said to me, "Hobbs, you and I were the only sober ones there were," and I think we were. This place is not a very nice place I can tell you, it is not like home. We have the soft side of the plank to sleep on, not any too much grub, stinking cod fish for breakfast, stinking meat for dinner, and musty bread for supper. All the recruits are going to be discharged - I am sorry that I left the hospital for if I hadn't I would have been discharged. Now I suppose I shall have to stay my time out. Charles"

Return to Service - Last days of the War:

Returning from service during the last days of the war, was delayed by red tape, waiting for further orders. Soldiers were confined in dirty quarters, fed stinking fish, stinking meat, and musty bread. Charles regretted leaving the hospital as he would have been discharged along with new recruits. He wrote his brother-

May 12, 1865 - Gallops Island, Boston Harbor:

"Dear Brother, I am going to write you a few lines to let you know where I am.

This is a lousy, dirty place, and we don't get much to eat, and what is worse not enough to drink, to say nothing about washing. When I wrote to Mary I thought I would be with the Regt. by this time. This is fairly certain. We shall leave the last of this week or the first of next. The sooner the better will suit me for this is not as good a place as in the field and nearly as dangerous. If a fellow goes out after dark he is very liable to get knocked down and robbed. There have been quite a number who have been robbed since I came here, but I have been lucky.

You can see by this that I am a mite excited by the way my hand trembles. I have just been having a little kind of muss with a fellow here. I rather guess he found he was afoul of the wrong boy. He is likely to get his head mashed a little more if he isn't careful.

Some of the recruits here have been mustered out. They are going home. I wish I was a recruit then I would go home, but as it is I am booked for the front and the sooner I get there the better. I am feeling pretty good, and I think I can stand it. I hope you are well."

May 18, 1865 - Gallops Island: Charles wrote his father's young bride, Lizzie:

"I will write a few lines to let you know that I am in the land of the living and all right. This is a nasty old place and I tell you it is rotten with lice and dirt. We get mighty little to eat. This place is about eight miles from Boston. Nothing on the island but soldiers, only once in awhile some of the ladies of Boston come up here to see the soldiers. We do have a Sutler but, he asks just about three times as much for anything as they do at home. All I buy from him is tobacco and the lord knows that is enough.

I was in hopes that father would find time to write to me, but, I suppose he is busy now. I wish I was at home to help him with the Spring work, but that is not to be. You must excuse this writing for I am writing on my haversack and the fellows are crowding around me as thick as bees in a hive. They are playing "euchre" and make some noise at it too. There are 110 men in our Barrack, and our Barrack is small so you may know that we are thick! Give my love to Aunt Jane and all the rest of the folks. Yours truly, Charles"

June 17, 1865 - Soldiers' Rest, Alexandria, Va.:

"Dear Sister, This morning, with great pleasure, I got your letter of the 13th and am going to answer it now. I was very glad to hear that you were over the sickness at your home and had come out of it so well. I am as well as can be expected in such a place as this. All that ails me

now is the worry to get out of it.

As you fear I am compelled to stay, not by some neglect or fault of my own. All I am waiting for is to have them find out what they are going to do with me. I shall get out of this some time, but when that time will be worries me.

The reason I can't go to my Regiment is because my time is out before the first of October. There has been an order to retain all such men here till further orders. This is the perfect (well, I won't say what) you can think of a name bad enough for it. It is the dirtiest and lousiest place I ever saw - they just swarm here.

Some of the men are so lousy and dirty that when they sit down you can see bugs running all over their clothes. The food we eat - it is a shame to keep men on such stuff. If I could have my choice for the same length of time, between the State Prison at Concord and this place, I would take the State Prison.

There is a high fence and a guard besides, all round this place and there is no such thing as getting out. If we could have a little liberty it would seem better, but we can't have that in a country where every man is free. I am going to send this to father and tell him to give it to you at church, for I have only one envelope and that is already directed to him. I am going to ask father if he can do anything to get me out of here. If you write to me do as soon as you can for I am in hopes not to stay here long. Tell me all you hear about the Regiment. Give my love to all. Tell Wint to write. Yours with much love, Charles"

The War Of The Rebellion is Over

The last letter is dated June 17, 1865 - Soldier's Rest, Alexandria, Va. Anything but rest in such surroundings, and worried about future assignments. His long illness at Portsmouth Grove, R.I. and a furlough home, extended (due to illness) by New Hampshire Military, delayed his being mustered out until July 5th.

Every day spent behind a tall fence with guards on duty waiting for assignment was difficult to accept for a soldier who had served and fought at Fredericksburg, Cold Harbor, the Wilderness, and in the trenches at Petersburg, the bloodiest battles of the war. However soldiers were used to disappointments.

Due to illness he had not been able to march with his 13th, N.H. into Richmond, an honor given the 13th under General Charles Devens, Maj. General USVC Comdr., but he shared with his Regiment an extract from a citation sent from Gen. Devens to Gov. Smith dated June 22, 1865:

"Sirs: The 10th, 12th, and 13th regiments are temporarily organized as a provisional brigade - the 13th N.H. being the first regiment of the Army whose colors were brought into Richmond. You will see by their thin ranks the terrible ravages the war made. Their battered ensigns will recall the many night marches, the wet and dreary bivouacs, and the fierce and desperate conflicts. These men return inured to the rugged toils of the war, bronzed with the smoke of battle." Signed: Charles Devens, Maj. General USV Comdr. The battle flags of the 13th N.H. are to be seen in the Hall of Flags, in the State House, Concord, N. H.

Imagine the joy of these youths to be at home in quiet, peaceful Pelham, with friends and family, but still haunted by the horrors of war they had seen and suffered. Some did not return but sleep in mounds on a Military Cemetery. Some died of disease - James Smith at Portsmouth, Va. in 1863; Isaac Daniels at Camp Casey, Va.; the Gage Brothers, the Titcomb youth, Lieut. Thom of the horse Cavalry, killed at Petersburg, rest in the Pelham Center Cemetery. Many bore battle scars and suffered amputation. Of the original Volunteers of Co. 1, 13th N.H. from Pelham, one suffered frozen feet, six wounded in battle, two died of disease in field hospitals, four killed in battle. Ten of the 27 survived the campaign from Sept. '62 until June to July, 1865.

Other Pelham men endured similar experiences in other regiments. The story of the 13th N.H. is vividly told by Lieut. Thompson in his diary, with sketch maps which he drew on the field, and day by day accounts told with understanding and accuracy, together with statistics listed in tables easy to follow. This author used this record to check the accuracy of the young Charles Hobbs' letters, and major incidents agreed, although Charles' letters were the personal experiences of a soldier on the front line of battle. Other Historical accounts were studied - the recent American Heritage, Picture History of the Civil War, Life's Great Battles of the Civil War, original copies of Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, written and illustrated by reporters and artists on the spot, History of the Civil War published by an act of Congress, Pelham Town Records Vol. 2, and many Histories of the Civil War - and the letters by the youth which show the life of a soldier in the ranks and his brave comrades who fought to save the Union of the United States of America.

Twenty-Seven Volunteers Recruited by Capt. Charles
Burnham - Pelham, New Hampshire - June 22, 1862:

Lyman C. Webster	29	Sept. 20, 1862	June 8, 1865
John M. Woods	22	" " "	June 21, "
William H. Titcomb	24	" " "	Nov. 20, "
Frank E. Titcomb	18	" " "	Jan. 18, "
Michael Tulley	23	" " "	Dec. 13, "
Charles P. Titcomb	26	" " "	June 21, "
Mark H. Webster	18	" " "	June 8, "

Ezekiel C. Gage	18	Sept. 20, 1862	Dec. 19, 1865
Gilman H. Woodbury	18	" " "	June 24, "
Joseph F. Lamson	22	" " "	July 1, 1864
Daniel H. Fox	26	" " "	June 21, "
Kimball J. Chaplin	34	" " "	May 12, "
Isaac H. Daniels	24	Died at Camp Casey, Va.	Nov. 22, 1862
Joseph W. Bright	21	Sept. 20, 1862	June 21, 1865
Willis G. Burnham	18	" " "	Jan. 20, 1863
Edwin S. Burnham	19	" " "	June 21, 1865
Charles W. Hobbs	18	" " "	July 5, 1865
Sidney J. Lyon	18	" " "	May 25, 1863
Michael Murray	35	" " "	March 12, 1863
George C. Jackman	18	" " "	May 19, 1865
Benjamin F. Bean	25	" " "	Aug. 24, 1865
Alfred E. Smith	44	" " "	Nov. 14, 1862
Frank E. Butler	18	" " "	June 21, 1865
Alonzo Ellenwood	19	" " "	" " "
Frank M. Ellenwood	?	" " "	Sept. 20, 1864
Benjamin Chase	27	" " "	May 1862
Charles Wheeler	22	" " "	May 22, 1863
Russell C. Richardson			Nine months

Dates of service from Thompson's "13th, New Hampshire Volunteers"

Eighty-three names are listed on the tablets in the Memorial Room of the Pelham Library as serving in the War of the Rebellion. The 13th New Hampshire experienced active service in the three year period. The Regiments' ranks had numbered a total of nearly 1300 men. The 13th came home numbering 321 all told - Company I numbered 33. Several recruits from Pelham were unable to stand Army life and were released as this table indicates.

Town Records show a list of sixteen men already in the service before Capt. Burnham came to town to conduct a rally and secured the 27 enlistments. Others served in various regiments and did valuable service. Various volumes of reports on such regiments are available.

51st. Encampment Of The Department of New Hampshire
Grand Army Of The Republic - Charles W. Hobbs, Commander

(Charles Hobbs - Member of John G. Foster Post, Nashua, N.H. Department Commander of the State of New Hampshire, Grand Army of Republic, led New Hampshire delegation in Washington, D.C. in the Grand Army parade - 50th Anniversary.)

"We are gathered here for the 51st Encampment of the Department of New Hampshire Grand Army of the Republic. A mighty conflict is going on, in which our country is engaged, with so many of our bravest and best in a foreign land, with many more preparing to take part in this world carnival of blood and destruction

The work of centuries has been destroyed, and we seem to have gone back to the dark ages instead of having advanced in civilization. For more than a year we have been at war with the central powers and we know not how many of our soldiers are now on the firing line. We hope enough to turn the scale on the side of right, justice, and humanity. The flower of our country has been called to arms. We know they will do their duty as soldiers and sailors of our beloved country for which long ago we did our bit. We are confident they will return as we did - as victors.

This is no easy task for the enemy has without doubt, the most perfect fighting machine on earth - with poison gas, liquid fire, long range guns, supplemented by infernal devices that science and brute force can conceive of. We will all have to give of our best for the success of our cause. Many sacrifices will have to be made besides the precious lives destroyed.

As will be seen by General Battles report, we have lost from all causes, 129 members this year. Among those were Junior Vice Commander Isaac Baty; Department Inspector O.H. Foster; and Senior Aide de Camp W.A. Happy of the Department of Officers. The whole department will mourn the loss of worthy and earnest comrades who have done well their part and gone to their reward.

National Encampment - The Department of New Hampshire established headquarters at the Hotel Vendome, Boston, and received many visitors from almost every state in the Union. The Relief Corp and other auxiliaries were also present in goodly numbers. All received a warm welcome from the city of Boston and the Massachusetts Department. We were proud of the showing our small state made in the parade, for New Hampshire had a larger number of veterans in the marching column than any state in New England except Mass., and was outnumbered by only five states in the whole country.

The Department of Massachusetts entertained the delegates with a trip around the harbor, visiting the Navy Yard at Charlestown and other interesting points. A shore dinner at Paragon Park and entertainment by professional entertainers, made a delightful end to the Encampment.

The next week was the annual reunion of the Veterans at the Wiers. The attendance was smaller than usual due to unfavorable weather, and torrid heat. Grand Army Day was so rainy that speaking had to be omitted. The Evening Campfire, under the efficient management of the Committee was interesting and attended by a goodly number.

The next National Encampment will be in the West. The West had the call and we hope a representative of this Department will be able to attend."

No man had greater love for the town of Pelham than Charles William Hobbs. He knew every parcel of land; every family as he performed legal work for practically everyone; the history of every transaction of property as he not only wrote the deeds but, surveyed the land; the financial standing of every person as the assessment of taxes was made by the Selectmen. All legal work was strictly confidential and his family was brought up never to divulge any business as they were frequently called in as witnesses.

Returning from three years service in the Union Army in the War of the Rebellion, he chose to remain in Pelham. Cousins going West, to take up land, urged him to go along with them to Iowa to take up land open to settlement. Many went to the city but, he preferred to remain in Pelham, and the quiet life in the country town.

He used to say that he never asked anyone to vote for him with one exception, when he had some objective in view, something he thought the town needed as free textbooks. He was always nominated at the party caucus, and usually elected. Some men did active campaigning with a few drinks offered, but not Charles Hobbs. Men came out and voted for him because he was an honest man, had sound judgment, worked for the interests of the town, and to keep the taxes down. Some years the town was free from debt due to his administration. The town officers did their own work, no secretaries or typewriters. It was necessary to write well, and know how to figure - he could do both.

He served as Selectman from 1877 to 1894; again 1912 to 1917. On six different occasions he held the two offices of Town Clerk and Selectman. Town Clerk from 1880 to 1896, again 1920 to 1921. The beautiful script of Charles Hobbs and Pearl Atwood adorn the Town Books.

Town Treasurer from 1901 to 1911 and School District Treasurer from 1906 to 1921. He negotiated with Supt. Fasset, of Nashua, a contract for Pelham pupils to attend Nashua High School. Supt. Fasset became interested in son, Sam, and urged him to send Sam to Dartmouth College, where he graduated Phi Beta Kappa and Magna Cum Laude.

School Board, with Mr. Jonathan Woodman and Rev. Augustus Berry were eventful years, as through hard work Charles succeeded in building two new District School Buildings, and furnishing free textbooks. They personally examined and selected excellent texts.

For years he served as Library Trustee, the building he had served as building chairman; Cemetery Trustee, where he had purchased, surveyed and laid out in lots in the Gibson addition. He was always listed as Surveyor of wood and lumber, and sealer of weights and measures. He was an ex-

cellent judge of woodland and values. All this was done at a minimum cost.

The Town Reports list his name more frequently than that of any other man. Year after year he worked on organizing the report. Often he was called in to assist other officers, which he did generously. The earlier reports were most interesting and easy to understand as the story was told in their own way, clear and businesslike. The 1925 report lists his death -

April 21, 1924 - Charles W. Hobbs, Justice of Peace -
Son of Moody Hobbs and Elisabeth P. Spofford.

MEMORIAL DAY IN PELHAM

Memorial Day, a day set apart to honor the soldier dead, had become a National Day. In 1868 "The whole community joined in honoring those who had given the last full measure of devotion."

Eighty-three Pelham men had served in the Union Army, in the War of the Rebellion. This army was to become known as the Grand Army of the Republic as the years went on. There were those who had served from the eventful day they answered President Lincoln's call for 300,000 volunteers to put down the rebellion, until they were mustered out in June and July of 1865. Some had been unable to stand the hard life in camp, the cold of winter in tents and hastily constructed barracks, or the intense heat of the southern sun in summer; and had been discharged as unable to live the rugged life of the soldier. Others had contracted disease, lost limbs, been blinded, or suffered shattered nerves under the terrific bombardments of shot and shell. Others had died on the southern battlefields, and were buried under long mounds - "a common grave"; or some lie in natural cemeteries marked by long lines of markers. A few were buried in the Pelham Cemetery - The Gage brothers; Lieutenant Thoms, of the Horse Cavalry; Titcomb and others.

Gathering on the common at the Old Town Hall were the veterans, the fife and drum corps or the local band; the school children and their teachers from each district. The girls wore white dresses, hair neatly braided (or curls for the naturally fortunate) and white hats - flower trimmed or decorated with ribbon streamers. The boys wore neat suits, jackets buttoned, hair parted and sleek for the occasion. The older girls were "Flower Girls" and carried beautiful wreaths. The younger children carried bunches of flowers. It was the ambition of all small girls to reach the age of Flower Girls and make and carry a beautiful wreath.

The Grand Army veterans in blue, wearing the broad brimmed Grand Army hat with cord of gold, led the procession. Otton Moore was marshall of the parade. He got the children in line with military precision,

and barked out the orders. The drummers and fifers struck up a tune and the procession moved down the Lowell Road. As the long line neared the gate the drums sounded a muffled beat, the fife ceased and the procession moved down the road into the grove of giant pines near the hearse house. There a circle was formed and Marshall Moore counted off a group for the right section, one for the left section and a third to cross over into the new Gibson addition.

Veterans escorted the Flower Girls to the graves, where sad faced kinsfolk stood with thoughtful minds reaching back to the day when the gallant youths had marched away to the call of their country. The drums rolled. The Flower Girls hung the wreath on the flag standards over each grave. The little ones placed their flowers, they all moved back to the grove; and Rev. Augustus Berry led the prayer. Otton Moore's crisp voice called out the order and the procession moved out the great iron gate up the Lowell Road to the Congregational Church.

The church was already half filled with parents, out of town friends returned for this day of memories, citizens of all religious groups, and always some babies in mothers' arms to add their voices to the program. The church was decorated with bunting and flowers. The full choir was seated in the choir loft, and Mr. Greeley was at the organ which pealed out a stirring march. The veterans, with colors lowered, came first followed by the school children and teachers of Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 - the children filing into the pews waiting for Marshall Moore's order to be seated.

The Chairman of the Day, Charles Hobbs, who served three years in the Army of the Potomac came forward. He stood in front of the assembly never mounting the platform. His usually sparkling blue eyes and genial manner was missing. His countenance was solemn, his eyes fixed on memories of his fallen comrades. His voice announced the program - The Prayer, Rev. Augustus Berry - The Battle Hymn of the Republic, by the Choir - (the chairman recalled hearing Julia Ward Howe, author of this famous hymn sing it in Washington, D. C., when he was convalescing in a Military Hospital; the Gettysburg Address was recited by Grace Coleman, Sadie Hobbs or some other able reader.

The Schools were called to the platform, first District No. 1, then others in order 2, 3, 4, and 5. The children marched to the platform arranged with the older and tall pupils in the rear, and the little ones in front. Usually there was a song by the entire group, recitations, exercises, and an occasional solo. Each District was allowed ten or fifteen minutes.

Anxious attention of parents resulted in sympathetic amusement for the stage struck and pride in rendition and appearance of the home district. Often the solemnity of the occasion was broken by the voices of preschool

children in the audience recognizing some brother or sister on the stage, and always a crying baby.

Patriotic songs were sung- The Battle Hymn of the Republic, Battle Cry of Freedom, Tenting Tonight, The Vacant Chair, and Marching Through Georgia were favorites. The Blue and the Gray, Barbara Frietchie, and "pieces" found in the Teacher's Magazine were recitations often repeated.

A distinguished speaker from a nearby city or town addressed the assembly; e. g., Attorney Spring from Nashua; Rev. Kelly from The Yellow Meeting House in Dracut; Col. King, a Nashua veteran who had suffered in Libby Prison; and John M. Sullivan, New Hampshire's Representative to Congress. It was a long afternoon, but filled with inspiration. It was nice to see the children of the town assembled; to meet friends and neighbors; to hear a distinguished speaker; and to close with the entire audience singing America. There was a feeling of dedication to our Republic, togetherness as a community, and pride in the younger generation soon to take over the responsibilities of leadership.

As the years went by and a Junior High School started, interest lagged. Out of town teachers wanted a holiday, many wishing to go to the city and turn such ceremonies over to patriotic organizations. The exercises were curtailed and consisted of singing, the Gettysburg Address, a speaker, and possibly a program from one of the Districts. After World War 2, the American Legion Post No. 100 took over the exercises. They met at the Legion Hall to form for the Parade- with scouts, school bands and patriotic organizations taking part. They marched to the Cemetery where Military Services were conducted- returning to the Legion Hall for exercises and lunch. The public turned out well, and the exercises were in keeping with the times.

DEACON JOHN BUTLER MONUMENT - 1887

The descendants of John Butler, an early settler of Pelham, New Hampshire, had approached Pelham officials with the proposal that they erect a monument at Pelham Center in honor of their pioneer ancestor.

Accordingly, in the Town Meeting of 1887- "Voted that a committee be appointed by the moderator to cooperate with the authorized committee in relation to the erection of a monument to Deacon John Butler."

Mr. Frederick Cutter appointed the following committee: John Woodbury, Enoch M. Marsh, Daniel Marshall, Samuel Kelley, George H. Currier and Warren Sherburne.

The sense of the meeting was taken as to have the monument erected on the Town Common, and it was unanimous that they should erect it there if they so desired.

"\$300.00 was raised to inclose that part of the Public Common between the Town Hall and the Congregational Church, in the shape of a triangle which surrounds the John Butler monument with a suitable fence, and set out some shade trees therein; the same for the use of the town."

"About forty citizens of the town assembled on the Public Common and graded a park thereon, said Park being in the form of a triangle and surrounding the John Butler monument. Eight Rock Maple trees were purchased from Asa Clement of Dracut, who was present and supervised the setting of the same. Elms were also set out, they being presented by Frederick O. Cutter of this town. As the first tree was placed, Rev. Augustus Berry made some remarks appropriate to the occasion."

"George S. Butler, Daniel Marshall, John Wilson, George H. Carrier, and Frank M. Woodbury were in charge of the work. The ladies provided an excellent dinner which was served in the Town Hall."

A book entitled, The Butler Family arranged by Albert Wilmont Rook, contains an Ode by Frederick Paul Hill (a descendant of John Butler) written for the Dedication of the monument. It also contains an address delivered at the Dedication on June 9, 1886, by one of his descendants; and "some account of Deacon John Butler of Pelham, N. H., and of His Descendants, by Caleb Butler of Groton, Mass." (published in 1848-1849) as printed below:

"John Butler, one of the earliest settlers of Pelham, N. H., was born in Woburn, Mass., July 22, 1677. His father, James Butler appears on the tax-list of Woburn, Mass., for the years 1676, 1677, 1678, but the name of Butler is not on later lists, so the inference is that he died soon after the birth of his son John.

John Butler was first taxed in Woburn, Mass., March 8, 1698 and for the last time in 1721. The birth of eight of his children is here recorded.

Jonathan Tyng, of Woburn, March 8, 1721, conveyed by deed to John Butler, of said Woburn, 450 acres of land lying in Dunstable next adjoining the Dracut line, and soon after another parcel of 150 acres. The line between Dunstable at that time is known to have run from "a pine tree in sight of Beaver Brook" to Long Pond, crossing "Mammoth Road", now so called, near the school house and burying ground in the southwesterly part of Pelham. Hence it appears that the John Butler land was situated in a territory afterwards including in Nottingham West, and subsequent to establishment of the State Line, incorporated into the town of Pelham, and is the same upon which he and many of his posterity lived and died, and

where some of his descendants still reside. It appears that he moved from Woburn to take possession of his lands in the spring of 1721-1722.

Proprietors of wild lands in this region about this time erected a building on the side of Benjamin Cutter's present dwelling house for the purpose of encouraging settlers in those regions by giving them the use and occupation of it while preparing habitations of their own.

It is believed that John Butler was one of the first who settled in that region to avail himself of the privilege tendered, and occupied the building until he built a house on the land he had purchased from Mr. Tyng. This he erected on a spot between the present house and barn of Mr. John Gage, upon or near the easterly side of the present travelled "Mammoth" road. It was constructed of pine logs, hewn and locked or dove-tailed together at the corners, with a ditch and palisades around it, and port holes through the logs on all sides of convenient height for shooting in case of attack by the Indians. This stood about fore-score years after its erection to be viewed by two generations and was then taken down and all traces obliterated.

Little is known of the life of this pioneer. It appears that at the first meeting in Nottingham west (now Hudson) he was chosen Town Clerk and a Selectman, which offices he held for several years. He is styled Deacon in the records both of Pelham and Hudson, and must have been one of the first in both places. He was the progenitor of a numerous race of hardy, robust, honest, yeomanry. The small rough stone which marks the spot of his interment in the common burying ground a little south of where his humble dwelling stood, bears the following inscription rudely engraved upon it.

D.
John
Butler
1759 A.
82.

The following answer was sent from the genealogical bureau as to who was the first settler of Pelham, N.H. Five men from Woburn, Mass. came in 1721-1722. Tradition reports Butler and Hamblin occupied the same cabin. The first settler in the place was a Butler. He located on Beaver Brook, and built a saw and grist mill, and it is known as Butler's Mills to the present. A man by the name of Gage settled on what is now known as Gage Hill, who supposed that he was the only one in the place, but one morning he was on the hill and discovered smoke on what was called Gumpas Hill. He took his axe and started for the smoke, marking the trees on the way, and found Butler located there, and building his mill." (From-The Butler Family- pg. 19)

At present (1961) Mrs. Nettie Spaulding Butler and her son Chester

Spaulding, and grandson Chester Spaulding Jr., and daughters Mrs. Alma Styles and Mrs. Ruth Styles and son, and Miss Hazel Spaulding are the direct descendants of Deacon John Butler now living in Pelham.

INSCRIPTION ON THE DEACON JOHN BUTLER MONUMENT

Deacon
John Butler
born in
Woburn, Mass.
July 22, A. D. 1677
Settled in Pelham
Mammoth Road near
Gumpus Pond A. D. 1721
Died A. D. 1759

To Deacon
John Butler
the first
Settler in Pelham
This Monument
Erected by
His Descendants
June A. D. 1886

TEACHERS

The name of Mary Richardson appears in the Supervising School Committee minutes of 1854 as certified for Summer Term. This was the beginning of life time service as a teacher, in the District School, or giving home instruction in her home in Pelham.

Her early schooling was that of the usual country school of that period. She studied several terms at Kingston Academy, at Kingston, N.H., then entered the senior year at Bradford Academy, Bradford, Mass., and graduated in 1854.

She taught in various rural schools; and with the assistance of Miss Mary Gage, she conducted what was called a high school, or Miss Richardson's Select School, where only older pupils attended. The courses were beyond the usual country school subjects. She also taught High School, in the hall over John Woodbury's store and later in the Town Hall. Her classes were popular and attracted a large group of young people of Pelham and adjoining towns.

In 1871 she returned to Bradford Academy to teach Natural Science. In 1876 she returned to her native town to care for her parents, and became the wife of the pastor, the Reverend Augustus Berry. "

Her home was always open to people of the community. They came to her with their problems- school, health, and social. She organized classes for young people not able to go away to school, but able students. Backward children were tutored. A young woman who had lost ability to speak through unsuccessful surgery, was taught to speak again and to read and write once more. High School students came to her with their problems which she helped them reason out for themselves.

An eloquent speaker, she was in demand for special occasions and even preached one summer in the Congregational Church. Inspired she carried her audience with her. Some of her fine poems and speeches are preserved in "Loose Leaves," papers gathered from her desk.

For years she served as Superintendent of Schools, and stands out as the most dedicated, progressive, and efficient person to hold that position. She worked with teachers helping them to grow in service. They received her counsel gladly and developed as teachers.

Gradually the employment of young men teachers in winter became less frequent, possibly because local young women were willing and able to cope with the discipline of big boys. More teen-age boys were going away to school for at least a year, or to complete the course at some High School or academy.

Among the familiar names were Harriet Ann Chase (1865); Mary Elizabeth Hobbs (1856-1857) (later to become Mrs. Enoch Marsh). Sybil Currier taught at No. 3 and No. 5; Miss Susan Smith began a life career in 1865, teaching No. 3 and later in almost every school district. She was a handsome woman, sparkling dark eyes, and a quiet voice and manner. She won the lasting affection of her pupils. Abbie J. Sleeper taught in No. 5 (1867-1868) and also at Marsh Hill in Dracut, and one winter on Sherburne Hill, No. 6 School. She married Charles Hobbs and became the mother of twin daughters, and five other girls and two sons. Alice Woodbury taught in District No. 1 and No. 4, and married E. C. Gage who operated a large farm on Gage Hill.

Due to disciplinary difficulties, when a young man teacher was "put out". Mr. Berry persuaded Charles Hobbs, a very few years out of the army, to take the winter school. He did so solving the disciplinary problem in a unique way. Boys quarreling and complaining of being hit, resulted in the "master" serving as referee and requiring a real "hitting fight." This solved the big boy problems. Charles soon won his pupils' good will and admiration. One man said of his winter with the rugged ex-soldier: "We don't have teachers like him today- he could put a mathematics problem on the board and teach us how to solve it without a book." Charles, however, did not wish to make teaching a career. He taught the practical things they would need everyday such as measuring wood, and keeping accounts. He also instilled a love of good literature in his pupils. His favorite authors were Sir Walter Scott, and Lord Macauley. The stirring martial theme had its appeal.

Miss Annie Hill of North Pelham took the school the next winter (1877-1878). She was the daughter of Deacon Hill of the Pelham Congregational Church, whose home was the Herbert place on Mammoth Road. A young woman of some education, she advanced in the profession, later running a private school in the vicinity of Philadelphia. Ann and her sister eventually entered the mission field, one working in Africa and one in Labrador. During the earlier years of their teaching they returned to town for vacation, setting up classes for girls in elocution and physical culture, closing with a recital in the Town Hall, which was a special event for the young people.

Miss M. Ammanda Cloyd is first listed as a teacher in 1869. She served in District No. 2 for many years. A brilliant student with a strong personality, she made an enviable record. Many innovations were made such as the "Gumpus School Library," which included reference books, and well selected books for leisure reading. She also served in the church school, teaching a class of young ladies and gentlemen in Bible Study. She served as Sunday School Librarian, selecting and dispensing moralistic stories for women and girls. She was also leader of the Laurel Band, a group of young women.

Miss Julia Ann Bixby appeared in the Pelham Schools in 1881, as

teacher in No. 5 District. Her name appears on District No. 1 in 1886. For years she taught in one or the other of these districts until the two schools were combined in 1900, as the No. 5 school was small that year. Pupils were transported in "Ben" Simpson's covered milk wagon to the Center School, making a total of about forty pupils distributed in the nine grades.

A great organizer, she managed her school whether small or large so that all classes were heard everyday. A strong disciplinarian, she demanded perfect order and got it. She was no respecter of persons; but tongue-lashed individuals and the group, reducing everyone in the school into tears. On the other hand she was happy and gentle and tender with children underprivileged or suffering some sorrow. Her pupils were able to enter city schools and Academies and stand well, or enter business or employment and compete with more highly educated young people.

During the 1890's a group of attractive and able young women taught in Pelham. Many home town girls graduated from High Schools or Normal Schools and secured a position in the home town. Emma France Woodmann (Carleton) taught in District No. 2 for several years. She was alert, intelligent, able in Music and Drawing, and well liked by her pupils. She arranged the room attractively, provided a recitation corner where a socialized recitation was carried on.

Miss Mae Chase was another No. 2 teacher. Young and filled with enthusiasm she was recognized as a successful teacher. She later taught in Andover and other Massachusetts towns.

Miss Bertha Smith came from Derry, N.H. to teach in the Center School. She had studied at Plymouth Normal School and had absorbed all the newest developments in teaching elementary schools. (1889-1900)

She was a beautiful young woman with dark wavy hair, brown eyes, a dimpled cheek and a pleasing voice. She was gifted in music, could play the organ, sing well, and teach children to sing in parts. Able in Art, she introduced water color painting. She could teach the older children well, as she was a keen student. The beginners were of special interest. All study activities of older pupils stopped and attention was centered on her methods of teaching. The Ward method, a phonetic method, was in vogue. Soon the little tots, some from homes where no English was spoken, were reading fluently. She taught the little beginners songs with free dramatic action. Every subject was made interesting and understandable. Greatest of all she taught self reliance, honesty, fair play, and self government. "Miss Bertha" as she was affectionately called went skating with the children and entered into all the community activities. She later became a Missionary Teacher in the schools for Negroes of the South. In later life she returned to Pelham to see her former pupils. She reported doing Americanization work with immigrants. This gifted teacher did valuable

work in every sphere of educational work.

Miss Kate Lee began her teaching career in 1887. She was a graduate of Pinkerton Academy with a gift for elocution and public speaking. She taught District School No. 2 for several years then married Mr. Steven Donovan and raised a family. She returned to teaching when widowed to continue teaching until she reached retirement age. She was an excellent teacher and a beloved friend to everyone in the community, always ready to take part in community activities. She was tactful in dealing with her pupils and their parents, considerate and respectful to older people and encouraging young people to continue education.

Mrs. Mary C. Berry was Superintendent during those years. She instituted a School Exhibition Day at the Town Hall. Each school was given a period to demonstrate from the platform the School in action. This was a matter of some planning although the demonstration was unrehearsed. Art and hand work was on display and all parents and friends attended. Winthrop Hobbs drew a map of Pelham. John M. Woods, formerly a Pelham man and a successful business man bought the map from him for \$5.00, an unheard of event. Many citizens returned to the town for such events. Roy Jones displayed woodwork with an excellent student's desk he had made.

George S. Butler was a familiar figure, visiting the schools to bring supplies, and make friendly visits. In those days the teacher often invited the visitor to speak to the children. Mr. Butler always had a pleasant message for the children. Of course, they were curious regarding supplies brought, pencils, pens, and best of all books.

SCHOOL REPORTS

The Town Reports of 1880 and continuing until the present, include a section for the School Report. The 1880 to 1899 Town Reports contain a sample of concise, condensed reports. On one page the complete statistics, including the cost of each school, number of pupils, name of teacher, length of term, and the name of the Prudential committee. These reports were clear and easily understood. This is recommended to present day state statisticians whose reports puzzle the uninitiated.

There is a scholarly brief on aims, needs, and principles of education and usually an appeal for continued interest and financial support. These reports began in Dr. Church's day and were well worth reading. Dr. Church was the best educated man in the town, and had a gift for writing and keen insight in the matter of education.

One feature in the early days - the report was first submitted to Town Meeting; and then the vote taken to have it printed for people to study at

leisure. Later the auditor's report for the town was also printed.

To encourage better attendance at school a Perfect Attendance record was printed in the 1880's and on. Clarence Stickney and George Hobbs were present without being absent or tardy for seven years. Later in this period Richard Currier had perfect attendance for a year or even a term.

The Prudential Committee, one man representing each district, had the responsibility to look after his district - to see that there were supplies, wood for the stove, visit occasionally and report any needs to the Supervising School Committee. Familiar names appear on the list indicating that many citizens served their turn.

Selecting at random one of the reports of 1883, for District No. 2. Mr. Timothy Donovan representing the Prudential Committee. Miss M. Amanda Cloyd, Teacher 1st. and 2nd. terms, 9 weeks each; 3rd. term 12 weeks; Number of scholars 1st. and 3rd. term, 31; 2nd. term 35; wages 1st. term and 2nd. term \$32.00; 3rd. term \$40.00. Miscellaneous expenses, \$14.75. Whole number of scholars 36; 22 boys and 11 girls.

Each district is thus reviewed with the general statement: "The wages of teachers are per month, and include board. The whole number of scholars is the number of different scholars that have attended the school the past year. The number of children in town between the ages of 5 and 15, enumerated by the Selectmen in April last, 154; 71 boys and 83 girls, 5 more than, "enumeration of 1881." The number of all ages attending school the past year, 160; 83 boys and 77 girls."

"The amount expended for schools as appears from the school registers is \$1437.53. District No. 1 for 27 weeks, \$230.00; No. 2 for 30 weeks, \$278.75; No. 3 for 34 weeks, \$278.00; No. 4 for 29 weeks, \$268.61; No. 5 for 30 weeks, \$270.00; No. 6 for 21 weeks, \$112.17. The amount raised by the town, \$1179.50, Literary Fund, \$61.49, Dog Tax, \$67.00. The whole amount available for school purposes \$1307.99. The amount expended beyond that sum available for school purposes, \$129.54. The money expended in the five districts, for school purposes, is about the same as last year. In these districts the expense per scholar is the same as last year, \$8.44."

March 1, 1883 Augustus Berry, Superintending School Committee

The Philosophy of Education as expressed by Augustus Berry was of a practical yet inspirational quality. His criteria for teachers was expressed in the 1880 Town Report, under the topic "Teachers We Need- These should be persons of enthusiasms who have a passionate love for teaching, a natural aptness for the work and were born to be teachers- persons who have something positive in their make-up who, to use a slang expression, have some snap to them. They should have authority as a constitutional element, at the same time hearts so loving as to render love the apparent sceptre of their power. They should handle a class with perfect control, move it with

versatile minds, broad scholarship, professional training, refined, graceful manners, and a pure heart and life."

In the 1884 report he stated that he had sought the best educational methods for school, and had spared no labor or personal expense to keep informed in regard to educational progress. He sought to make education of practical value to prepare pupils for the ordinary intellectual needs of life, stressing the importance of exercising correct habits of thought.

The 1879 report states- "The curriculum should be more diversified, classes pursuing Algebra following Arithmetic; advancing through Elementary Geography through Natural Science." Under this plan the 12-14 year group became more advanced than the 15-17 year group, when the tendency was to keep scholars term after term, going over the same study. "Dwarfing the Mind," he termed it. He stressed English Grammar as important and recommended vocal culture.

"The human mind is a delicate and wondrous thing, and there is danger that the teacher who has no understanding of it may do it unremediable harm. A teacher should be able to distinguish between the sluggishness of mind, and a mind laboring for a clear perception. It is better to wait several minutes for an answer, and have it right and clear, than the instantaneous reply that may be correct or incorrect. A child is often spoiled as a thinker and reasoner by being hurried in his answers."

This dignified, ponderous, kindly scholar was especially loved and respected by the children of No. 1 School. He visited school frequently, called every child by name. He often took classes, or a series of classes of older pupils, to the delight of the teacher, who learned much from his development of the subject. Little children, as they passed the parsonage garden, climbed on the fence to call out a greeting.

One day he drove to the hill orchard to gather apples and did not return. He was found dead among his trees. The children of No. 1 sat around and "Dilly" Atwood and "Lu" Cogger, older girls took the lead and decided that each child should bring a nickle at least, toward a pillow of white carnations for their old friend.

Such devotion, a free service to the community, fostered by high ideals and noble example, made a lasting impression on the townspeople. It gave the schools a reputation worthy of emulation. Service was the watch-word in the life of Augustus Berry. Much inspiration was given by his devoted partner Mary Richardson Berry, who assumed the work of Superintending the School upon his death.

This couple attended many educational meetings and Teachers' Institutes, and became acquainted with many leading educators of this area including Dr. Windship, often referred to as the Dean of American Education. He visited their home and engaged in educational discussions, and lectured, as he was a gifted speaker.

NORTHEASTERN ELECTRIC RAILROAD 1902-1924

Connected Pelham with Nashua, Lowell, Haverhill, and Lawrence

Pelham citizens were delighted with the idea of a railroad coming to Pelham. The Town Records have nothing on the subject as this was the proposal of an interstate commission which made all arrangements preliminary to the building of the road.

The railroad was surveyed and mapped out. The next step was to secure rights of way from individual owners and town authorities. Three types of deeds were offered to land owners. Many gave the right of way freely, glad to have the railroad near their property. Others received payment and gave up all claims. In some cases the land reverted to the owner, if and when the road was discontinued. The lawyers sought the help of Charles W. Hobbs, Selectman, Surveyor and Justice, in tracing legal rights as he knew every parcel of land and had written deeds for many transfers of property.

The road was well planned by Arthur Dean, C.E. and the work progressed rapidly with many Italian laborers on the job. A few Pelham men were employed, especially men with teams of work horses to haul, and level etc. Simultaneously the car barn, waiting room, and electric power room were being built and formed the center of the project in Pelham.

From Pelham Center the road followed the road north of the common, past Woodbury's Store, Atwood's Store now, along the left side of the road to Nashua, turned near the end of the Shufelt property, continuing through Muldoon and Mansfield property to Mammoth Road at North Pelham, turned left and went to Hudson through Valley Farm, Smith's, and Hazelton's Fruit Farm, through Hudson Center, then past Tarnic Pond, along the road to the Hudson Bridge, across the Merrimack River and through the Boston and Maine Railroad square, through West Pearl Street to Main Street, Nashua. Here the car stopped, the crew changed the trolley for the return trip, after calling, "Car for Hudson, Pelham, Lowell, Lawrence, and Haverhill."

The route to Lowell started at the Car Barn, crossed the common turned south-west at the Center, and passed the Old Town Hall and went down what is known as Marsh Road, around Greeley's corner, past the left side of the Marsh Homes Farms; the white-house residence to the Dracut line; through Collinsville past the Richardson and Cutter farms to Meadow Road and south across the Merrimack bridge, left to Merrimack Street, and on to Merrimack Square. The car unloaded passengers, the crew changed the trolley and picked up passengers for the return trip.

The route to Haverhill and Lawrence from the car barn east across the extension to Middle Bridge, turning abruptly left across property of Daniel Atwood, turning onto the road past the Frye Gage place, now called Greenwood's crossing, up Gage Hill across fields and the farm of the Young

family to a place in Salem called Point A, where passengers changed for Lawrence, and the trolley continued through Salem Depot, Salem Center, and finally reached Haverhill.

Land damages granted for construction of the Hudson, Pelham, and Salem Railroad- from 1902 Report of the N. H. R. R. Commission:

1. James Carr	\$ 30.00	5. Heirs of Edward M. Titcomb	\$430.00
2. John W. Carr, Sarah Cousin, Ada Hutch, & a minor child of Lizzie Burrill	\$ 60.00	6. Laura A. Titcomb	\$ 50.00
3. George C. Jackman	\$260.00	7. Henry K. Webster	\$150.00
4. Henry S. Russ	\$150.00	8. Thomas Harrison	\$400.00
		9. Milton E. Titcomb	\$275.00

This Electric Railroad was an asset to Pelham. People could get to the cities to carry on business, go shopping, commute to work or school- Lowell or Nashua High receiving them. Recreation facilities were enjoyed, attending theater, vaudeville shows, Lodge meetings, concerts, and other forms of entertainment. People employed in offices would commute to work. Mill workers in Lowell and Lawrence could commute. Many were employed in stores in the city.

Perhaps the greatest satisfaction was the opening of "Cool and Shady Canobie," an amusement park at Canobie Lake. A beautiful sheet of water with extensive groves and many amusement attractions. The park was beautifully landscaped, with colorful flower beds, and picnic groves, and a high class of amusements. Included in these amusements were a summer theater, bowling alleys, a dance hall, merry-go-round, and a multitude of amusement booths. Rowing, canoeing, and a steamer trip around the lake was offered. A dining room, refreshment booths, and picnic grounds were available. Canobie Lake became a popular place for church, family, and Lodge picnics, or dancing parties. Ball games and athletics were popular. For a few years Gilbert and Sullivan operettas were presented and Mr. Hood's oratories were occasionally given in the open air theater.

Cars from Nashua, Lowell, Lawrence and Haverhill entered the park, circled about, and discharged a multitude of passengers to enjoy the beautiful park and the entertainments offered. We must not neglect to mention the Penny Arcade, with the first moving pictures many had seen, operated by turning a crank. The Merry-go-round, with a choice of animals to ride, and a chance to get the brass ring, as the riders whirled by, was very popular with the children.

Excursion trips to the beaches were also popular. The Pelham Grange chartered a car, and went to Hampton Beach for a day of pleasure, including swimming, and the recreations offered there. This trip was the greatest attraction.

Pelham folks found work in the cities, in the mills, stores, as secretaries, and on the electric cars and at the Pelham Car Barn and Power Station. (These buildings have been renovated or removed and are part of the St. Patrick complex.)

Many Pelham men got work on the electric cars as motormen and conductors. Asa and Dan Carleton, and Willis Atwood served as motormen. Oscar Hirsh, Frank Marsh, Milan Stickney, Henry Cogger, Roy Overlock, Al Jones, Frank Carleton, Pearl Atwood, Otis Giles, Howard Fox, and Gage Fox worked for the company. Several workers on the railroad came to town to live - Charles and Frank Piper, Hutchison, Harold Frost and Fred Tillotson manned the power room. Moses Raymond was the greaser. Ernest Overlock was manager and a very efficient one, who kept all the plant in order and the service running properly.

Special ticket books were issued to school children. A new state law required every town, not supporting a High School, to pay tuition for pupils going to approved High Schools in the State of New Hampshire. Mary Hillman (now Sherburne) was the first to attend Nashua High under this provision, graduating 1906. Sam Hobbs, Ernest Jones, Virginia and Clara Cutter, Ellen Muldoon, Frances Hobbs and Bertha Lewis were in the class of 1907. Bertha transferred to the Business College the second year. A contract was made with Nashua High School. A few attended Lowell High School and some went to Pinkerton Academy, in Derry. They came home for the weekends going on the Electric cars to the Salem Depot then by train to Derry.

Pupils continued to go to High School in neighboring cities until crowded conditions made it impossible. In the year 1955, a contract was negotiated with Alvirne High, Hudson, N.H.

The first years of the Pelham, Hudson, Salem Electric Car Company were successful both with the towns serviced and amusement seekers, when the unfortunate accident took place. Sunday crowds travelled on the cars to Canobie Lake Park, to the beaches and the country towns to avoid the heat of the cities. On September 6, 1903, a traffic center was set up to expedite traffic, on the common in front of the Old Town Hall. A starter was in charge who directed the cars. Mr. Stevens, filled with anxiety for his wife, gave the signal for a car, driven by Plinny Knapp, to leave the center and go towards Nashua. The down coming trolley scheduled to arrive at the common in a few minutes collided with the North bound car.

Four persons were killed and forty injured in the collision. George Gillman Andrews, Postmaster of Hudson, N.H.; George Gilbert, Nashua, N.H.; Samuel W. Mayes, Motorman Salem, N.H.; died at 9:10 p.m.; Albert Collette, Nashua, N.H. were the dead. Injured were taken to Lowell General Hospital, St. John's Hospital, Lowell; Nashua and Haverhill. Patients were treated for fractures, several amputations were performed, scalp wounds, and internal injuries were suffered.

They were taken in the electric cars to the cities where ambulances were waiting and crowds assembled. Pelham men assisted in the care of the injured. Charles Hobbs, veteran of the Civil War cared for a woman suffering and bleeding profusely, as did Mr. Lemuel Mansfield on whose farm the accident occurred. They described the crowd frantic with anxiety, fearing their own relatives were among the injured. The police had the difficult task of controlling the crowd and placing the injured in ambulances. Several fatal injuries followed.

Report from a Lowell paper- "The car that left Pelham at 11:15 yesterday morning was manned by Conductor Howard Fox and Motorman Plinny Knapp, both of whom are said to be new men on the line. That they traveled fast there is no doubt. The car went along at a high rate of speed until it entered the private land, and then the wheels turned with greater velocity, for here the car was supposed to have the absolute right of way. After turning into private land there is a curve about 75 yards in length, and then comes a straight stretch for about half a mile. The Nashua car was already late and trying to make time so that it was going at its speed limit."

"The car bound for Nashua apparently had a clear track, and it was traveling at a fast rate. The result was that when the motorman first saw the danger, the distance that separated the cars was small, and the speed of the cars was great. Plinny Knapp of the north bound car saved his life by jumping after he had applied the brakes. Samuel Mayes, the motorman of the approaching car applied the brakes full force, and the wheels ceased to turn and slipped along the track as if the track were greased. Mayes did not jump. He stood at his post. There was a crash, followed by the sound of breaking timbers a second later. Mayes was impaled by timber and iron. Passengers were struck by flying splinters and were thrown about by the terrific shock resulting from the sudden hold up. The roofs of both cars fell in. The car from Nashua having a greater speed than the other car, was forced on top, and for a distance of ten feet, had the other car under it. In the other car there were 54 passengers, on the car bound for Nashua there were only 16. Of the seventy, there were four killed, and something like forty injured. The heroic Mayes, who stood by his car pleaded to be told, and at intervals expressed a fear that he might have been partly responsible for the accident. Later death came to his relief. He was assured by Fox, "you were not to blame, it was Stevens' orders."

Knapp entered on the road about three weeks ago, and was regarded as a competent man. The facts that the brakes were found hard set after the collision shows that he made an effort to stop the car before jumping.

Without doubt the damage claims were heavy. The Hudson, Pelham, and Salem Electric Railway was forced into receivership late in 1904, being organized as Hudson, Pelham, and Salem Street Railway

during September 1907. Somewhat more than five years later, on April 1, 1913 the company was consolidated with Massachusetts Northeast Street Railway.

Service was continued to Canobie Lake Park and to the several cities. Pupils continued to commute to High School, mill workers to the mill cities. The early Town Farm route was used to take Lawrence workers to the Arlington Mills. Two Nashua business workers traveled daily from Nashua to Haverhill. Legal business at Hillsborough County Courthouse was a convenience and Pelham banking was done in Nashua rather than in Massachusetts cities.

With the coming of the automobile, especially the Ford, passenger service declined to the cities and to "cool and shady Canobie". Finally the line between Nashua, Pelham, and Salem was discontinued. The small trolleys to Lowell, dubbed "Maude and Peggy" were the only remaining cars. When that was discontinued, Pelham was without public transportation service.

Many had purchased Fords and drove themselves or in groups. The Selectmen worked to have bus companies give service to Pelham, but the public would not patronize it. They preferred to drive themselves or form groups.

Pelham had become an integrated part of the state through their experience. The Street Railway Hearing before the Public Service Commission, relative to the abandonment of services of Mass. & Northeastern Street Railway, was well attended. Counsels presented arguments.

The hearing seemed finally to hinge wholly on the company being unable to finance necessary repair to roadbeds. Representatives of the various communities spoke in favor of communities' needs for transportation. Mr. Belden claimed the railway company was not able to meet the financial requirements and did not care to continue the responsibility of operation of these lines under present conditions.

Time Table Published in Souvenir For Old Home Day- 1909

Cars leave Pelham for Collinsville and Lowell at 7 and 37 minutes past each hour. First car 5:37 A.M.; Last car 11:45 P.M. Leave Collinsville for Pelham at 7 and 37 minutes past each hour. First car 6:07 A.M.; Last car 12:07 P.M.

Leave Pelham for Nashua at 8 and 38 minutes past each hour. First car 6:08 A.M.; Last car 11:08 P.M. Returning leaving Nashua for Pelham at 15 and 45 minutes past each hour. First car 6:45 A.M.; Last car 11:45 P.M.

Leave Pelham for Haverhill and Lawrence at 22 and 52 minutes past each hour. First car 6:22 A.M. Last car 10:52 P.M. Returning, leave Haverhill for Pelham on the hour and half hour. First car 6 A.M. Last car, 10:30 P.M. Leave Lawrence for Pelham at 15 and 45 minutes past each hour. First car 6:45 A.M. Last car 10:45 P.M.

TORCH LIGHT PARADES 1880-1890

Vigorous political campaigns were popular in the 1880's-1890's. Rallies were held by the two parties, Republicans and Democrats in the Town Hall. Feelings ran high and men exerted themselves to support the party of their choice.

Huge banners were stretched high above and across the main roads at the center. The Democrats banner was across Gage Hill Road in front of John Woodbury's store and the Republican's across Windham Road in front of the parsonage. These banners were attached to tall trees set out along the highway by public spirited citizens to beautify the village.

There were Torch Light Parades with men carrying blazing torches, the Pelham Band in full regalia playing patriotic and popular songs as they paraded around the common. The crowd gathered on the common in front of the Town Hall, the band then assembled in the Band Stand and rendered frequent selections. Party leaders and visiting politicians delivered stirring speeches - "and the band played on".

Needless to say, the ladies and older men cheered from the wayside and the little boys trailed along with the parade, while little girls stood with their mamas, wide eyed and thrilled.

The Pelham Band gained some notoriety at this period. The organization included Homer Proper, Fred Hand, George Roberts, Clarence Stickney, and others. They wore uniforms, gave outdoor concerts on the Common on summer evenings and were employed by nearby communities. During some of their out of town performances several fell from grace, and could not give satisfactory performances when under the influence, so they lost popularity with the audiences.

On the nights of Federal Elections people gathered at the Town Hall and F.M. Woodbury's store to get the returns, as the only telephone in town was at the store. Citizens were as interested in the 1890's as they are today. Returns came in slowly and people waited impatiently for the complete coverage in the Boston paper the next day.

The period of the early 1900's brought many changes in the foreign relations of the United States with other countries. The United States had looked on, as the German war machine attempted the conquest of Europe. France and Belgium had been invaded, and England attacked. The German armies had reached the coast and the German air force bombed England. The English Army, which had gone to the rescue of its ally France, was almost exhausted before the power of the United States entered the conflict.

Authorities regarded the power of Germany almost impregnable. The English would not accept defeat but, it took the sinking of the American Ships and interference with our shipping to awaken the United States to action.

Early in 1914 when the first news of the war came to America, President Wilson issued a proclamation declaring the neutrality of the United States. He urged all Americans to observe neutrality. Trade with warring nations was carried on, even though ports were closed and waters mined. The menace of the submarines was great. The British Lusitania with American passengers and some ammunitions was torpedoed by a German submarine. 114 American men, women, and children went down to death on the sinking ship off the coast of Ireland. The German government had assured President Wilson that liners would not be sunk without warning providing no resistance was offered.

Six American ships were torpedoed. On April 6, 1917, Congress declared war on Germany. Immediately a plan for drafting men 18 to 45 inclusive was adopted. Draft boards were set up, bond drives organized, higher taxes on inheritance and corporation profits were imposed. The President issued the famous 14 points in this "war to end war."

Several men volunteered in order to get into the branch of the service desired. Roswell Raymond and John Guild were the first men drafted. They reported to Camp Devens and within a few months were sent across to fill up the ranks of the French Army. This was hard on the boys with so little training; but Private Raymond wrote of his experiences in the Argonne, where the Veteran French soldiers taught him how to take care of himself. He told of the German soldiers on platforms high in the trees, shooting at the French. Fortunately, the war ended soon and boys came home. John Guild was assigned the duty of serving as escort to wounded men to their homes, thus giving an opportunity to see a little of his own country.

Harvey Fred Hillman served in the Air Force and piloted a plane over France. Charles Stickney became a cook in an American camp in France. This had been a favorite avocation on camping trips before entering the service, and became his vocation in later life. Charles

Winthrop Hobbs, 6 ft. 4 1/2 in. tall enlisted in the Navy. He was sent to work in the Mine Plant Barracks, in Portsmouth, Va. on the James River. He aided in making and loading of mines, which were sent to the North Sea and were instrumental in effecting a barrage on the German submarines. The ammunition depot was heavily guarded. The men handling the T. N. T. wore masks and special clothing, that endured the heat and danger of munition workers. Philip Foisie served as 2nd. Lieutenant, 19th Field Artillery, following his entrance to Officers Training. After the war he entered Medical School, and became a successful M. D. Frank Lewis served in the Navy. At the close of the war he returned to his position as Principal of Somerville High School, New Jersey. His special mission was to advocate and build up the health of our youth. Later, he was in the Pentagon working for that cause. Henry P. Cogger suffered from gas poisoning which eventually resulted in his death.

Martine Cutter, known in her home town as "Sue", served as an army nurse. In an unfortunate accident in a hospital camp she received an injury which limited her activities for life. However, she carried on bravely, travelled widely, and was self-sustaining. Mary Cutter, her sister, entered social service abroad during the occupation of Europe by American troops.

The whole nation rose to support the war effort, and go to the rescue of Europeans from whom many were descended. As of old, Pelham rose to the occasion.

Mr. Frank Stark of Nashua, came to Pelham to start the movement in Pelham. He contacted Charles W. Hobbs, civil war veteran and Commander of State Grand Army of the Republic, as well as leading citizen, to head the drive for War Bonds. He also asked him to recommend someone to head the Red Cross. Several were suggested, but Mr. Stark insisted that Miss Mary Hobbs should be President of the Pelham Red Cross. She met with a good response from the women of the town. The Memorial Room at the Library became the headquarters. The Red Cross met every Thursday afternoon to make surgical dressings under the supervision of Mrs. Alice Overlock. The women wore the white uniform with the veil and emblem. Sewing and knitting was also accomplished. The officers chosen were: Miss Mary E. Hobbs, Chairman; Mrs. M. V. McAlister, Vice Chairman; Mrs. Alice Hillman, Treasurer; Mrs. Albert H. Jones, Secretary.

Quantities of work was delivered to the Nashua Headquarters. The electric cars and people going to the city delivered the work. Mrs. Alice Overlock was appointed to represent the home service section of the Nashua Chapter of the Red Cross. The Red Cross at this time had charge of the nursing, prepared hospital supplies, and gave First Aid and Home Nursing courses. They served efficiently for the short period that the United States was at war, and did valuable service for soldiers' families following that time.

The Bond Drive was equally successful. Commander Charles Hobbs secured speakers to interest the people and canvassed the town with good results. It was a wonderful revelation of the loyalty and devotion of the people of Pelham.

Mrs. Charles Foisie organized a group on Gage Hill to do Red Cross work. Her adopted son, 2nd Lt. Philip S. Foisie, 19th. Field Artillery, transferred from Camp Stanley, Texas to Camp Upton, New York.

A service flag was dedicated on the common by the Ladies Club of Pelham, on Memorial Day, to honor the Pelham men in the service. Charles W. Hobbs was Chairman of the Day. Lt. Col. E.H. Masace, Judge Advocate at Camp Devens was the speaker. Alfred Favor, of Melrose Highlands, rendered several patriotic selections. School children, men in uniform, and veterans were given places of honor.

The prompt action of the United States in furnishing arms and men to the relief of the Europeans and the exhausted British; and the complete mobilization of economy and food supplies to stricken countries brought the war to a sudden close.

Rumors of an armistice got around and the populace went wild with joy and excitement. People drove about blowing horns and ringing bells; everyone rushed to the street to join the crowd. Then news came that the celebration was premature. In a few days the armistice became a fact, and real celebrations began. This took a more dignified form. Parades were organized as were patriotic meetings with officials taking part.

The return of troops began. Men returned to former work or were gathered into camps for training for new jobs. I was in New York City attending Columbia Summer School and attended a parade of troops who had seen active service abroad. As the veterans marched down Fifth Avenue they were indeed a band of tired men dressed in the worn uniforms and battered helmets they had worn in France. They showed just what they had been through. Following the parade, I went downtown to do a little shopping, and bought a pair of white gloves in Gimbel's store. Upon reaching my apartment I noticed a mark "Made in Germany" on them. This showed how quickly trade relations had been made - only eight months since the armistice! America has ever been ready to forgive and to forget.

Men returning to civilian life received more consideration than in the Civil War days. Many returned to previous jobs, all were given a small bonus, and others entered C. C. C. Camps and learned other types of work. The period of readjustment is always difficult for returning soldiers.

THE STORY OF THE FIRST OLD HOME DAY IN PELHAM

AUG. 18, 1906

The first Old Home Day in Pelham was a community affair - an answer to an appeal from the Governor of New Hampshire for a state wide celebration of Old Home Day. Every town was doing it and Pelham rose to the occasion.

Citizens of Pelham responded with enthusiasm. The new Electric Railroad connected the town with neighboring cities of Nashua, Lowell, Lawrence, and Haverhill offering a pleasant ride through the countryside. Pelham had had a reputation for hospitality which former residents remembered. Invitations were sent out, 500 of them; and judging from the attendance, all families and friends came.

At 10 a.m. the reception committee received guests in the Library where there was an interesting display of historic antiques.

The old "Singing School" met with Mr. Alonzo Greeley in the Congregational Church. He had conducted Singing School for years and the 100 or more pupils returning renewed acquaintance and joined in singing favorite selections. They closed with the hymn "We Shall Meet Beyond The River" as was his custom at Choir Rehearsals.

Guests assembled at Pilgrim Hall at noon for a bountiful dinner. Both upstairs and downstairs was filled and second tables were served. The Pelham women had prepared favorite pies, cakes, and puddings; the farms had supplied choice fruits. Mrs. Avery Jones served as chairman of the committee and couples assisted her. All the teen-agers waited on table. 500 - 600 people were served.

Exercises were held in the church at 2:30 with full attendance. Charles W. Hobbs, Chairman of the Day, in his introductory remarks, gave full credit to the women of the town, The Ladies Club (Woman's Club) for forwarding the celebration. The Rev. J. L. Hoyle spoke the opening prayer. "The Call To Come Home", a poem by Mrs. Mary C. Berry, was recited. The music was by the Rossini Quartet.

Address: "The Past, Present, and Future of the Country Town," by
Rev. H. P. Farwell of Wellesley, Mass.

Address: "Beauties of New Hampshire", by Ira F. Harris, World
Traveller and President of Indian Head Bank, Nashua, N.H.

The addresses were well adapted to the occasion and showed appreciation of the contributions of citizens of the country towns. Mr. Harris compared the beauties of New Hampshire with famous scenes abroad, which, in his opinion, could not compare with the New Hampshire forests, rivers, and lakes.

A feature of the day was the "Souvenir Book" entitled "Old Home Day, Pelham, N.H. - August 18, 1906." The book included an historical sketch by Charles W. Hobbs, and photographs of public buildings, homes, and beautiful scenes of brooks, ponds, and landscapes by Mary E. Hobbs. The gift of these pictures by Miss Hobbs represented much work. Those were the days of plate cameras, dark rooms, do it yourself developing and printing. It showed the town at its best in the days of the real farms, big barns and colonial houses.

Advertisements of local businesses helped defray expenses, as did the sale of the "Souvenir Book." There were no other sales. This was hospitality graciously extended by the citizens to old residents and friends.

The Officers of the Day were as follows:

Chairman ----- Charles W. Hobbs
1st. Vice Pres. -- George H. Currier
2nd. Vice Pres. -- Richard Hillman
Treasurer ----- E. G. Sherburne
Secretaries ----- Mary E. Hobbs, Mrs. B. Cutter, Mrs. George
Johnson, and Mrs. Henry Currier

THE HURRICANE OF 1938

The afternoon of Sept. 21, 1938 was sultry and humid. Little air was circulating, clouds hung low over the town threatening rain.

About 4:30 conditions changed suddenly and dramatically. Breezes came, gaining swiftly in intensity. By 5 p.m. people knew something more serious than a September rainstorm was here.

Trees toppled - one woman saw her grove of Pines swept down in one long windrow. Fine old elms along the road by the Library and giant elms along Nashua Road were blown in confusion across the road. Fine stands of lumber along Sherburne Road were downed in wild confusion. Wood roads were blocked with trees with branches making such roads impassable.

Vast forest areas were a mass of fallen trees. An area on Sherburne Road, the Cutter property, in prime condition for lumbering, was a hopeless mess. Later, in the attempt to salvage it, a Pelham man lost his life. Shirley Vining left a wife, and six children. Hobbs' woodland was devastated. Muldoon Bros., lumber dealers were extensively damaged. Every section of the town suffered.

Local men cleared up some of this, clearing highways and areas about homes and public buildings. It was hard and dangerous work. The

government came to the rescue tardily. C. C. C. workers joined in the work under supervision of town authorities. Wood and logs drawn to nearby ponds and lakes were stored there to await marketing. The market was glutted with all sorts of lumber. While lumber dealers managed to dispose of their own stock, they were unable to give much aid to the average owner.

The lumber in Canobie Lake, in the North Cove, lay there for several years before it could be marketed - then at such a low price it hardly paid for hauling it there. Some men who owned trucks attempted to cut, haul, and dispose of it; but could not make much as the tangled branches were difficult to handle. The wood lot which had been the farmer's "money in the bank" was the greatest bank failure of a life time.

Every tragedy has a human side. Miss Caddie Smith an aged woman living along since Miss Susan's death, was trapped by the fallen trees - a tangle of branches across the door and windows. Peering out through the thicket of twigs and branches she saw the face of her eight year old neighbor, Charles Hobbs 2nd., smiling at her. He called out, "are you all right, Miss Smith? Unlock your window and I'll come in and help you." Miss Caddie was relieved to see her young friend and neighbor. Soon Ralph Boutwell appeared and the boys cleared the way sufficiently to go in and out. They went and got provisions from the store for her, and pumped fresh water from the well for her. They did not mention their good deed; but Miss Caddie did. "I never was so alone as on the night of the great wind that blew all night or so glad to see a visitor as when I saw that smiling face at my window."

It was a great loss to Pelham financially and aesthetically. To this day the Common looks bare and the roads are without shade. Pelham needs a tree planting day such as Dr. Bachelder started as a Centennial project in 1875.

WORLD WAR II - PELHAM'S PART IN THE STRUGGLE

"The United States was entrapped in the wreckage of the depression, and resolved to avoid future participation in foreign wars. Europe was in chaos economically. The march in Europe was toward dictatorship, controlled economy and revived imperialism."

The Russian Revolution had become a dictatorship, called Communism. Italy was in the hands of Fascists under Benito Mussolini, stressing brute force. Yugoslavia, Greece, Spain, and Portugal were swallowed by Russia.

Germany had launched a constitutional government; but upon the death of General Von Hinderburg, Adolf Hitler assumed power. He immediately organized youth, industries, and the military, then turned his attention to Europe, seeking the conquest of the supposedly victorious European states.

The United States looked on with bated breath; heard on the radio that German machines were invading Belgium and parts of Europe, but did not take action or go to the rescue until England, faithful to her allies, seemed in danger of being overpowered.

Not until Pearl Harbor was bombed and our shipping had been attacked by German submarines and England had been greatly depleted did the United States declare war. As always the townspeople rose to the occasion. They cooperated fully as individuals and as a community. A "Pledge Campaign" was organized on June 20th for the sale of defense bonds and stamps. Walter Burton and Frank Foisie were co-chairmen. The committee included Theresa Muldoon, Helen Zolkos, Anna Herskin, Phyllis Atwood, Mary Sherburne, Flossie Hammar, Catherine Foisie, Frederick Garland Jr., Mrs. Arthur Simpson, Shirley Anne Atwood, Richard Ivers, Florence Foisie, and Mabel Burton.

A heap of salvage was collected by the committee, and their helpers. Mrs. L.A. Hinds assisted by Charles Hobbs Jr., and Ralph Boutwell brought in quantities. George Harris, Richard Mansfield and Arthur Greenwood were also on the committee. A huge pile adorned Pelham Common.

A service flag with 49 blue stars and one gold star for Raymond Jurewicz was dedicated by the Pelham Ladies' Club. The ceremony was conducted on Monument Square. Charles Hobbs Sr. presided. Mrs. Hutchinson represented the Ladies' Club. Mr. Alfred Favor, of Melrose Highlands, was the soloist. The flag was later displayed on the Library grounds.

Forty-five local young men were included in the Military Draft. Out of the 2,036 young men of the area, drawn for service, 598 were from Hillsboro County outside Manchester.

The whole community went into action to serve our men in the service:

The War Bond Drive was over subscribed. Fred A. Greeley and his committee canvassed the town. (Women from every district were on the committee - Mrs. Ilda Hobbs, Mrs. Jennie Palmer, Mrs. Lena Kezer, Mrs. Margaret Derosier, Mrs. Catherine Donovan, Mrs. Pearle Gage, Mrs. Emma Day, Mrs. Samuel Richardson, and Mrs. Mary Richardson.)

A Military Whist was held to raise money for Christmas boxes. A Pageant was held on the Hillman's lawn, the proceeds to be used in furnishing comfort kits to soldiers. A concert for the benefit of Soldiers and Sailors was conducted successfully by the Ladies' Aide of St. Patrick's Church.

Blackouts were enforced for the war years. People used black curtains at their windows and colored flashlights out of doors. As Pelham

was near industrial plants many worked in munition plants.

The Pelham Grange, No. 144, organized "The Broadcast" with Mary Sherburne as editor. This carried Pelham news to the men in the service, and many letters were received from them. These letters are precious, and preserved by the Pelham Grange today. A complete set of "The Broadcast" are in possession of the Pelham Historical Society.

Frances Greenwood was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service in Holland. He distinguished himself for interest in the health of the troops. He was a registered nurse and had worked with workmen in the quarries in this country.

Ralph Boutwell and Charles W. Hobbs Jr. (II), both 17 years, went to enlist in Boston. Charles was sent from Sampson, to Boston, to attend Wentworth Institute. He did well and received further training at Norfolk, where he was made an engineer. He went to the Pacific Coast and there was assigned to a Carrier, and drove a landing craft. The ship went to the Northern Islands of Japan.

Ralph failed the first fitness test, but went to Manchester and enlisted not mentioning his slight back difficulty. He entered the Health Service. He later became Chief of Police.

Lieut. Harry Atwood Jr. went to attend officer's training at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. His assignment to the Aleution Islands seemed a dull and lonesome post, which he brightened by clever and ingenious devices and occupations. Upon returning home, he was involved in an accident on a foggy night, and died in a Lowell Hospital soon after.

Roy Hardy was also involved in this same accident. Roy had enlisted and was with Gen. McArthur in his return to the Philippines. He had great admiration of General McArthur, who met them at the beachhead. "Everything moved perfectly and they accomplished their mission."

Donald Burton enlisted and after training was assigned to Elgin Field, Florida, where he was commissioned Corporal and was active in the First Gunnery School.

PELHAM WOMEN IN THE SERVICE OF WORLD WAR II

Alice Gage Schlapp, a Pelham woman who had married and was living in Methuen, considered, "It is my duty." "Those of us who stay at home must try to keep things running as smoothly as possible until our men return. Of course, I expect to like the work, but its purely a duration of the war job. When my husband comes home, I'll turn the office over to him at the very next election." Alice served as Representative to the Massachusetts General Court from Methuen-Andover District.

Ruth Sherburne served as Red Cross Staff Assistant. One coincidence was meeting Frances Greenwood "somewhere in France."

Captain Elizabeth Hill Hay, R.N. was numbered in the invasion forces on D Day. Her group was one of the first to go ashore on D Day in France. In an interview she described the landing, living without sleep, and the difficulty in finding time to write.

" - The first nurses to come on the beachheads, wading ashore, finally to be picked up by amphibious boat jeeps, and living in the foxholes and field tents. "

They moved as circumstances required and served every nationality, of wounded men. She described the joy of washing and drying her clothes, of a bath and clean hair after living in her uniform for days. Elizabeth was honored as a guest at Pelham Bicentennial.

Ilda Grace Hardy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Willis Hardy enlisted in the Army Nurse Corps. She was assigned the duty of travelling across the Atlantic on a hospital ship caring for wounded soldiers. One day she heard a voice call, "Hardy", and turned to find one of her classmates from Lowell High. He had suffered amputation of one hand and other injuries. Naturally, he was comforted by her presence there. She continued her work among crippled veterans in Fort Lauderdale where she made her new home.

Ilda returned home to marry her soldier husband and the Chaplain from the ship came to assist in the ceremony and dance at her wedding.

Lieut. Dolores Ducharme notified her Mother of her safe arrival at Honolulu, Hawaii where she did hospital work. A graduate of St. Joseph's Hospital in Nashua, she placed her name on the Red Cross reserve list for duty. She was assigned for foreign duty and ordered to Hawaii with a large group of nurses.

CASUALTIES OF WORLD WAR II

Chief Machinist's Mate, Steve Neskey, a member of the U.S. Merchant Marines, survived when his ship was torpedoed. Inflated tubes were dropped by a patrol bomber. This happened at 3 a.m. Sunday, he survived on a life raft until rescued Monday noon by a sub-chaser. On the journey to England his ship was again attacked by a submarine, and then he suffered an air raid upon arrival. Steve received a bronze medal for bravery under fire.

Lt. Elmer G. Raymond, only son of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Raymond, a member of the United Air Corps, met his death while instructing a novice flyer at Napier Field. A military funeral was held from Pelham Congregational Church. Tragically, his bride to be was on the way to marry her fiance, when

a Red Cross representative met her and told her the sad news. She returned to her home.

Charles Pariseau Jr. at his gunners post was killed in action in a plane crash, somewhere in the Mediterranean. The plane was engaged in transport duty. His body was brought to Pelham and the American Legion gave a military funeral. A memorial service was held at the Congregational Church later.

Raymond Jurewicz was reported as seriously injured in an accident. His brother was called to the bedside of Raymond, at Kent Hospital in Dover, Del. Raymond was a member of the 80th Bomb Squadron. There seemed an element of mystery surrounding his death. The citation from the government reads in part:

"He lived to bear his countries arms. He died to save its honor. His sacrifice will help to keep aglow the flaming torch that lights our lives. We pay him homage, and revere his memory, in solemn pride rededicate ourselves to the complete fulfillment of the task for which he so gallantly placed his life upon the altar of man's freedom."

Donald H. Bagley, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Bagley of Gage Hill, enlisted in the U. S. Air Force at Manchester, as a cadet glider pilot. He was detailed to Westover Field, Chicopee, Mass., for basic training. He had been on several cruises and on his last trip home expressed doubt of the seaworthiness of the ship assigned. He also regretted a change of officers, feeling that his former skipper would never have allowed it to depart on a voyage. Strangely enough the ship was caught in a hurricane and split in two with the entire crew lost.

CENTENNIAL OF CIVIL WAR IN PELHAM

June 18, 1961 at 3 P. M. Library Building

A reenactment of the Dedication of the Pelham Public Library and Memorial Room, Dec. 2, 1896, in honor of the heroic soldiers who fought to win and preserve our freedom.

Chairman of the Day - Albert Lynch (impersonating George S. Butler)

America - Choir - led by Rita Ducharme

Honorable George Butler (Judge Lynch), "Ladies and Gentlemen:

It gives me great pleasure to greet so many who are interested in the Library and Memorial Building erected by the Town of Pelham and the generous donors who have gone from Pelham and contributed to it, and in their behalf I bid you a most cordial welcome to these dedication ceremonies.

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the most desirable, and which we believe will meet with the approval of all. You have here the Memorial Room, the book-stack room, the room for the Town Officers with apartment for keeping the safe and the records, the delivery room, and all has been completed without, except some of the furniture for this Memorial Room, which is soon to be put in position. It has been completed without exceeding the appropriation and the gifts of old residents and descendants of the town. This committee, whatever their faults, have had in mind only the best interests of the town in the construction of this building. It has been their intention to finish this building without incurring a single dollar of outside debt and get a return for every dollar they invested here.

Now Mr. Chairman, I will present to you the keys of the building and the deed of the lot of land on which it stands. "

The keys were received by C.W. Seavey, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen with the following remarks: (Mr. Albert Harris, chairman of the Board impersonated Mr. Seavey.)

Mr. Seavey's Remarks: "Mr. Chairman and fellow citizens; In behalf of the town it gives me great pleasure to receive the keys of this beautiful library. I think I voice the sentiments of all when I say we are proud of our Library. It fills a long felt need.

When we think of the advantages this library will bring to the rising generation, I think we have a right to be proud of our Library. In connection with our Library, we have this beautiful Memorial Room, with tablets containing the names of the soldiers who have gone forth to fight the battles of their country. We all have a pride here. The names of the soldiers will always be kept sacred in the hearts of the people. Many of our soldiers have answered the last great roll-call but, we are fortunate in having with us today many who have survived.

We bid you all welcome here today, and thank the donors for their generous contributions. We wish to express our thanks and invite you to come here always. Our doors are always open to you, not as strangers, but as stock holders who have an equal right with us. Today the Selectmen of this town assume the responsibility of this building. These keys which I hold will pass into the hands of our successors, who we trust, will so regard the interests of the library, that we have passed on- our Library will remain down to the twentieth century, in as good or better condition than today.

Dedicatory Prayer - Rev. Augustus Berry - (impersonated by Rev. James Kidd)

Roll Call of "Soldiers from Pelham in War of the Rebellion" by Selectman Thomas J. Cleghorn

Taps - Played by Bugler -- John Woodbury Richardson

Doxology - Choir led by Rita Ducharme

TESTIMONIAL IN HONOR OF MARY E. HOBBS
LIBRARIAN OF PELHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY

May 18, 1955

Written and read by Lucy Lyon Koehler

At first, in justice to all, I think it is in order to speak in limited detail at least, of this beautiful Library building, (mentioning the facts and figures that led to the construction following the four years 1892-1896 that a small library had been established and maintained in the old Town Hall that burned in 1906) - it all being a background to this pleasant occasion tonight.

So, to begin, let us review the progress of it:

In 1892, at Town Meeting, an appropriation was made to start a Library. The State of New Hampshire contributed \$100.00 for books to assist in starting a Library. In 1896 the town, instead of having a celebration for the One-Hundredth Anniversary of the incorporation of the Town, decided to build the present beautiful building. The Town appropriated \$4000.00, and approximately \$2500.00 was raised by public subscription. Many former townspeople, who had sought their livelihood elsewhere, donated the major portion of this public fund.

The late John M. Woods, of Somerville, donated the beautiful satinwood or southern hazel finish of this Memorial Room. The late Frank M. Woodbury gave the land upon which the building stands - also, some of the finish, as well as unlimited hours serving as a member of the building committee. The late Charles W. Hobbs, father of our Librarian, was chairman of the building committee. On its dedication on Wednesday, Dec. 2, 1896, he gave an interesting account of the committee's work and officially turned over the deed and key to Charles W. Seavey, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen.

The company then left the Library and went to the church for exercises. George S. Butler, with fitting remarks, introduced the speaker of the day, the Rev. Augustus Berry. The Grand Army Veteran took a prominent part and there were several other speakers. Mr. Edward Burnham, of Manchester Union, said that it was a pleasure to take part in anything that will endure. He then spoke of the position of the State of New Hampshire upon the matter of Public Libraries. "It is not generally known that this state has the distinction of having inaugurated the first public library in New England," (and continuing to quote Mr. Burnham) "and when we are comparing our state with our more polished and cultured neighbor, Massachusetts, it would be well to remember that fact." The day closed with a bountiful dinner served in the Town Hall.

Now, we can be justly proud of this Public Library Building and all

that it includes. It is a great credit to the Town, the Townspeople who fostered the idea and all the others who made a success of the undertaking. They have the everlasting thanks of the community. Veritabily, it will always stand monumental to the efforts and civic pride of our townspeople and to friends alike, of all generations involved - both past, present and future.

Naturally the environment afforded by such a Public Library as ours, is truly an incentive to decorum, trust and pride. In no less degree of pride and appreciation do we hold our own Miss Molly Hobbs, who during all these years of successful service as Librarian, has maintained the high moral caliber of this local institution, the Pelham Public Library. She has accomplished just what our forefathers intended and expected she would accomplish when she was first appointed in 1892. She has kept pace with modern literature of all classes ever since, and thus has ably advised and assisted in procuring additional volumes yearly. Familiar with books and authors, she has the aptitude to assist the patron invariably when his wishes are made known, surely a helpful accomplishment. She readily interprets the needs of school children in the selections of editions best suited to their studies or their pleasure reading.

Sixty-three years of service as Librarian- let us pause this while and reflect! What a long and faithful stewardship! Miss Molly Hobbs devoted and but a few years the senior in our Library- surely you are destined to continue your duties here for years ahead. So hope all of us!

Now Miss Molly, we would all most affectionately salute you on your birthday anniversary, which transpires tomorrow, May 19th., Good health, Good wishes, and may God bless you.

Please accept as a small token of our sincere regard this bouquet.

Editor's Note: This book is dedicated to Miss Mary Hobbs - "Aunt Molly" as she was fondly known to most of the townspeople - for her long and faithful service to Pelham.

CML