



CHAPTER II.

King Philip War — Company of Horse — Town Affairs — Sir Edmund Andros — Military Company — Canadian Expedition — Local Matters — Town Boundaries — New Precinct — Dr. White — Town Regulations — Parsonage Property — Pigwacket Indians — Town Commons — Throat Distemper — French and Indian Wars — French Neutrals — Dr. Tufts — Highways — South Precinct.

KING PHILIP WAR. — During the period from 1651 to 1675 the town had been steadily growing in population and wealth, and laying the foundations of future prosperity, unconscious of the dark days before it. The people were upon the shore of the bay, far removed from danger of savage beasts or men; but trouble was gathering, and the ill-feeling between the white settlers and the Indians on the southern borders had risen to that point that it needed but an event of small importance in itself to bring about an outburst of hostilities. Such an event happened in the murder of a white man by an Indian, and the execution of the offender. This was an opportunity too favorable to be resisted by the young braves, and the attack upon Swanzey, June 24, 1675, was the result.

Upon this practical declaration of war, sides were at once taken, the savages eagerly thirsting to obtain their long accumulation of revenge, while the colonies of Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay joined hands for mutual aid and defence. Troops were quickly mustered and took the field in hope of a speedy crushing of their terrible foe.

But they reckoned without their host. Philip of Pokanoket was no ordinary opponent, and the events of

the following two years were such a record of horror as the settlements had never before seen and were never afterwards to know. All through the State, from Massachusetts Bay to the Connecticut River, the Indians spread with the utmost rapidity, carrying terror and dismay into every household. They seemed to be ubiquitous, appearing in places widely distant at the same time, and only to burn and kill.

The history of this deplorable war is too well known to be repeated. More than a dozen towns were destroyed and half a million of money expended, while it is estimated that more than six hundred young men were slain or died in the service, or one in twenty of the producing citizens, and one family in every twenty was burned out. Contributions came in from various sources. Connecticut, which had escaped the ravages of the war, sent a thousand bushels of corn, and other places were equally prompt with their sorely needed aid. Even across the ocean friends appeared, and Ireland sent forward a generous gift.

It will be sufficient to say that Weymouth was not the least among the sufferers. At the very beginning of hostilities (Feb. 12, 1675) an attack was made upon the town, and several houses burnt.¹ At the call of the State the men of Weymouth responded heartily to defend their homes from the ravages of the destroyer, and in the return made by Capt. William Torrey, on behalf of the Committee of Militia of Weymouth, Dec. 1, 1675, appear the names of twelve volunteers, and nearly all of those names were of her known and honored citizens.² In March following,

¹ See N. E. Gen. Register, Vol. VII. p. 143.

² Among the papers preserved in the archives at the State House, Boston, is found the following (Vol. LXVIII. p. 77): "Dec. 1, 1675. These are to certify the honorable counsell that in observance of a warrant to me directed from the honorable Major, we have called together the soldiers

the town was again attacked by a band of Indians who were on their way to Plymouth Colony, and seven houses and barns were burned;¹ while in February preceding several men had been killed in the town.² So many men had been drawn away from the place for frontier service, that not enough remained for their own defence, and the exigency was so great that on the 26th of March, 1676, a petition was presented to the governor and council, signed by the same William Torrey, and on the same behalf, urging the recall of the men then on the frontier for the protection of their own homes. Then follow the names of these, ten in all, none of them belonging to the preceding list. These, too, were all young men of character and promise.³

last listed, and divided your arms and ammunition, and hope they will appear complete when they are called out upon service. We have also viewed the clothing, and have taken order for the supply of such as did desire it, but the most did refuse to be provided for, choosing rather to provide it themselves. The names of those that are provided for this service are as follows: Hezekiah King, Jonas Humphrey, Joseph Richards, Allen Dugland, John Whitmarsh, Zachariah Gurney, John Reed, John Fford, John Lovill, Sen., William Mellis, John Burrell, Edward Kingman. William Torrey, in the name and by the order of the Committee of Militia for Weymouth."

New England Memorial, Nathaniel Morton, p. 437.

¹ N. E. Gen. Register, Vol. VII. p. 343.

² "To the honorable Governor and Counsel assembled at Boston:

"The humble request of the Committee of the Militia of Weymouth.

"Humbly showeth, that for as much as the numbers of men are far less than those of Hingham and no greater than those of Brantry and whereas we understand that both Hingham and Brantry have all, or very near all their men set at liberty from the country service to attend the defence of their towns and furthermore considering that our town by reason of the disadvantageous situation of it is more hardly defended than either of theirs, they being more plane and compact, therefore our humble request to your Honors, is, that we having ten able men upon the country service at those Towns upon Connecticut river, may have them set at liberty and sent home by your Honors' order, because of the great want of men for our defense, especially at this time when we are in daily expectation of the enemy. The confidence and assurance which we have of your great care for our defence, both embolden us unto this request, which if you shall see meet in your pleasure to grant, it will be a great

April 19, 1676, Sergt. Thomas Pratt was killed at Weymouth. And again the petition comes up from the distressed settlement, upon a demand for six more men by the State, representing in the most vivid colors the dangers of their position and the absolute necessity that the men should remain at home and defend their own firesides, "who when we are most are but a small company, and we have ten men out already and have the enemy appearing daily at our very doors, four killed already, all in danger wheresoever we go; in expectation every day and hour of being assaulted, stand continually upon our guard, whereby planting is obstructed and all things turning into confusion and destruction"; and in a postscript the writer, Capt. William Torrey, adds: "Just at this instant saw appearing of fire and smoke about the Town, whereby we certainly know that the enemy is very near us."¹

encouragement to us, but if otherwise, we shall humbly acquiese in your pleasure concerning it and pray as in duty we are bound ever.

"MARCH 28, 1676.

"William Torrey in the name of the Committee of the Militia of Weymouth."

The names of the men are Joshua Phillips, John Arnold, John Record, Benjamin Pool, John Luddon, Abram Shaw, Robert Corbet, Isaac Cakebread, Jeremiah Clothier, John Ashdown. Massachusetts Archives, Vol. LXVIII. p. 179 (State House).

¹ "To the much honored Governor and Council now in Boston. The humble petition of the Committee of Militia for Weymouth.

"Humbly showeth, that your poor petitioners have this morning received a warrant from the honorable Major for the impressing of six able men fitted for service both with arms, ammunition, and provision, which we shall endeavor to do, and are in the execution of said warrant, but we most humbly beseech your honors to consider of our present distressed and distracted condition, who when we are most, are but a small company, and we have ten men out already, and have the enemy appearing daily at our very doors, four killed by the enemy, already, all in danger wheresoever we go, unlike to have any help from any other, in expectation every day and hour, of being assaulted, stand continually upon our guard, whereby planting is obstructed, and all things turning into confusion and destruction, not knowing how to dispose of our cattle, which

A still later letter from the same hand continues the story of trouble and alarm, and it was only upon the death of Philip and the annihilation of his forces that the terror quieted and the settlement calmed down into its wonted peace. How many men were furnished by this town for service in this war it is impossible now to determine, as the records are very imperfect, and it is only by incidental mention in contemporaneous writings that most of the facts now known have been preserved. The twenty-nine men whose names are preserved were but a part of those who were thus engaged; others are known to have "fought in the bloody war." On Oct. 12, 1676, an abatement was made by the General Court in favor of Weymouth on account of its losses by the enemy, and ten days later the taxes of those persons "slayne in the war" were levied on the whole town.¹

Later on, March 23, 1678, there is the petition of John Lovel, of Weymouth, to be paid for service in this

were wont to go into the woods, now cannot; they will starve us, or we shall starve them, and this is a little of our deplorable condition.

"Wherefore our humble petition and request to your Honors, is, that if you cannot afford us any help, for the preservation of our lives, which now are in danger (and which is the only thing we have care of), that you will please to pity us, and so far to lend an ear to our humble request, as that our men now impressed, may be discharged and returned to us again, and we hope we shall respectfully acknowledge it, as a great favor and still remain your honors' humble servants.

"Wm. Torrey, in the name of, and by the order of the Committee of Militia for Weymouth.

"Just at this instant saw appearing of fire and smoke about the Town, whereby we certainly know that the enemy is very near us." — *Mass. Archives*, Vol. LXVIII. p. 233 (State House).

"Besides these twenty-two men already enumerated in Mr. Torrey's letters there were William Read, James Stuart, John Hollis, Thomas Bayley, Samuel White, Richard Adams, and Jacob Nash, and probably others.

"On the 24th May, 1676, Weymouth was assessed £254 13s. 4d., to Boston's £3,000. On the following June, Weymouth is credited by paying assignments, and is afterwards assessed for sundry accounts £37 2s. 6d." — *G. M. Bodge, of Dorchester*.

¹ Records of the General Court, Vol. V. p. 124; and in Massachusetts Archives, Vol. LXIX. p. 177 (State House).

war; and Oct. 7, Richard Russ, also of Weymouth, a wounded soldier, was allowed forty shillings for his cure.¹ A night-watch was also kept up in the town as late as the summer of that year, showing that the alarm had not wholly subsided.²

COMPANY OF HORSE.—In 1679, in the fall, a company of horse was formed, which continued its organization for a number of years; and a year later, by order of the General Court, the soldiers of Weymouth, with those of the other towns in Suffolk County, were organized into a regiment, under the command of Major William Stoughton, thus anticipating any occasion that might arise which should call for troops.³

TOWN AFFAIRS.—Nov. 26, 1683, an important change in the manner of choosing the selectmen was effected by a vote of the following import, “that after this year the selectmen shall be chosen by ‘papers,’ as the law provides,” and this is the first appearance of the ballot in Weymouth.

At a meeting held on the second Tuesday of March, 1635–6, the following curious record occurs: “Caleb Littlefield, living in the house formerly Thomas White’s, warned to leave town, not being an inhabitant, or bring security to the selectmen.” He still remained in town, and a request was made to the General Court to enter a caution upon its records, that he or his may not become chargeable to the town, should they come to want. Such was the care taken that no unnecessary burden should be thrown upon the people. In the fol-

¹ Massachusetts Archives, Vol. LXIX. pp. 188, 189 (State House); General Court Records, Vol. V. p. 206.

² Town Records.

³ Records of the General Court, Vol. V. p. 294 (State House).

⁴ Town Records.

lowing autumn it was voted "that the selectmen should have their dinners at the town's charge when they meet for business."¹

On March 7, 1691-2, after various changes in the time of holding the annual meetings, the town returned to the former custom of holding two each year, one on the "last Second day of November, and the other on the first Second day of March," which all of the inhabitants who were voters should be obliged to attend, under a penalty of eighteen pence for each absence.²

SIR EDMUND ANDROS. — The advent of Sir Edmund Andros as governor of the colony, in December, 1686, was the beginning of a series of important events bearing upon its political fortunes. Hitherto the colonies had been permitted a large degree of freedom in the management of their local affairs, and the governor seldom interfered; now, everything was to give way to the will of the executive, whose power was nearly absolute. Learning and religion were given the go-by in lack of the usual supports. Town meetings were only allowed for the choice of town officers, not for deliberation on important matters. The vote by ballot was rejected. Personal liberty and the ancient customs were disregarded. None could leave the country without special permit. Probate fees were increased to an alarming degree. Oaths were administered on the Bible, to which Puritans would never consent. The Episcopal service, never before established in the colony, must have its place, and a meeting-house in Boston was demanded for the purpose. Heavy taxes were levied, which were generally refused. Writs of *habeas corpus* were withheld, and the laws of England denied

¹ Town Records.

² Town Records.

to the people of the colony. Men were tried, fined, and imprisoned for refusal, until even the clergy counselled resistance. The rights of property were denied, and old grants must be renewed at a high rate of fees, while grants under the charter were declared void by its forfeiture. Indian deeds were worthless.

Lands had been held under grants from the General Court to the towns and from the towns to individuals. These were now declared to be "not worth a rush." Possession and use were pleaded in vain by the answer, "You use and possess for the king." The common law and the Bible were brought forward in testimony only to be scorned. All commons and lands reserved for the poor were given to favorites. Everything must minister to the power and the purse of the governor and his associates, while all opposers were treated as rebels; but the unyielding spirit of the stern old Puritans could not be subdued. Ministers preached sedition and resistance, and once, at least, put by Thanksgiving day. Desperate measures were proposed and a petition to the king prepared, with which Increase Mather was already on his way to England when the rebellion of 1688 broke forever the power of James, and with him went his rulers in the colonies.

Weymouth was not indifferent to these great movements, and May 20, 1689, a meeting was held in relation to a new government, at which it was voted, "in concurrence with the representatives," "that the governor, deputy, and assistants chosen in 1686, with the deputies then sent by the several towns, should be the settled government of the colony." In other words, the vote was to restore the old order of things.¹

When Sir Edmund Andros made his escape from the castle, Capt. Samuel White, of Weymouth, received a

warrant from Governor Bradstreet and his council to pursue and bring him back again, which he did with his troop of fifty-two men, for which, with other services, he claimed seventy pounds, but was allowed only twenty-two pounds eight pence.¹

MILITARY COMPANY. — June 24, 1689, the following officers were confirmed for the Weymouth and Hingham troops: Capt. Ephraim Hunt, Lieut. Jacob Nash, Ensign Richard Phillips.² Capt. William Torrey had declined the command on account of the infirmities of age. This seems to have been a reorganization of the former company raised several years previous, and which had been in service during the interval.

CANADIAN EXPEDITION. — In the Canadian expedition of 1690, Weymouth was represented by Capt. Ephraim Hunt and others. For his services in this campaign, Capt. Hunt received from the General Court a grant of the territory now Ashfield.³

¹ Massachusetts Archives, Vol. LXX. pp. 225, 226 (State House); General Court Records, Vol. VI. p. 372.

² Massachusetts Archives, Vol. CVII. pp. 44, 149, 150, 172 (State House).

³ The following document was found among the papers of Capt. Ephraim Hunt: —

“Samⁿ Bedlam, Yeo. & Ebenezer Hunt, Gent^o both of Weymouth, and Richard Faxon, Gent^o, of Braintree.

“Whereas the Proprietor of No. 7 in a certain township (usually call^d Huntstown) granted by the General Court to the officers & Soldiers vnd^r y^e commnd of Capt. Ephraim Hunt (of Weymouth in y^e Canada Expedition in 1690) is delinquent in paying the lawful dues upon said land, and whereas the Propriet^r at a meeting held in Braintree April 4, 1743, chose the above named to collect all such dues; therefore said Bedlam Hunt & Faxon by virtue of their authority for £20.5. sell to Micah Hunt of Weymouth the above named $\frac{1}{8}$ of Land No. 7 of the house Lots in the 1st Division of sd township.

“Dec. 25, 1744. Signed in presence of Joseph Melton, William Badlam acknowledged before Benj^o Dyer, J. P., Oct. 30, 1745.”

LOCAL MATTERS. — Nov. 27, 1693, the selectmen were ordered to "prepare and present to the Justices' Court in Boston, the laws and orders which concern the prudential affairs of the town"; and March 7, 1697-8, John Torrey, "to encourage his trade, shall have twelve poles of land next his father's, out of the town's commons, for a tan-yard, as long as he shall use it for that purpose."¹

In 1703, the town seems to have come under the displeasure of the government for dereliction of military duty, his Excellency intimating to the council, Aug. 19, that Col. Hunt was in default in the levy of soldiers ordered from his regiment, none appearing from Weymouth and Hingham, and Col. Hobby was despatched with ten men of the troop of guards, with orders to make a draft of twenty men out of each of the said towns.²

TOWN BOUNDARIES. — From the earliest times, the boundaries between Weymouth and Abington on the south, and Braintree on the west, seem to have been in a very unsatisfactory condition. Committees were frequently appointed by Weymouth to run the lines with a committee of Braintree, but in nearly all cases the latter town refused to act; thus the matter remained unsettled, which was a source of much irritation and annoyance, until Weymouth appears to have lost patience, and ordered its selectmen, June 13, 1712, to prosecute the selectmen of Braintree for refusing to run the town line as the law provides, voting to stand by them in the business. Whether or not the matter ever came into court is uncertain, but it is quite true that down to the present time the line has never been satisfactorily determined.³

¹ Town Records.

² Records of the Council, Vol. III. p. 474 (State House).

³ Town Records.

NEW PRECINCT.—In 1722 an important matter came up which threatened to seriously disturb the friendly relations that the two sections of the town held toward each other. With the increase of population, the settled portions of the town gradually extended until they covered more or less densely its entire territory, verging in the north and south towards villages. The length of the town and its narrowness contributed to form it into distinct sections, with separate interests and associations, and this naturally engendered a feeling of conflict, if not of hostility, when any questions came up on which there could be a territorial difference of opinion.

These opportunities often occurred, particularly in school and parish affairs. The former could more easily be adjusted, as schools could be supplied at moderate expense for all portions; but with regard to church and parish, the matter was more difficult to manage, since the church was already established, with its meeting-house located in the north part of the town, and a second church with its necessary expense would involve a burden too heavy for the abilities of the town to sustain. Yet the distance, some five or more miles for a large portion of the inhabitants, and the constantly occurring occasions of disagreement, finally brought the matter to a crisis, the south portion of the town coming to the determination to have its own church and meeting-house either by a new precinct or by a new town.

Accordingly, a petition signed by about forty of the inhabitants of the south part of the town was presented to the General Court, setting forth the difficulties of their position, and praying to be set off as a distinct town or precinct. The north part being in the majority, and disliking to be disturbed in its old-time arrangement, determined to oppose the movement and prevent,

if possible, its consummation. A town meeting was called and a committee chosen to oppose the petition to the General Court. Attempts were made to accommodate the difficulty by a proposed removal of the meeting-house to a more central locality, all of which failed. Notwithstanding the efforts of the town, as represented by its majority, the General Court, in the spring of 1723, recognizing the reasonableness of the request, granted it, and the South Precinct was organized with a territory covering more than half of the area of the town. But this did not heal the breach, as subsequent events proved, for there were yet continual sources of trouble and difficulty arising from the parsonage property which was in possession of the North Precinct, and which its people refused to relinquish.¹

FISHERIES. — In the early days of the town no insignificant portion of the food supply came from the fish taken within or near its borders; and of these, the most dependence was placed upon the herring, or alewives, which were in the habit of running into the ponds that feed Back River, to spawn. For many years the supply was doubtless sufficient for all, and there was little need of restriction or care lest that supply should fail. It was, therefore, unnecessary that the town should concern itself about the matter. But as the population increased, and the multiplying of mills upon the stream threatened to prevent the fish from ascending to the ponds, it was found necessary that the town should take some control of the matter and provide that proper care should be taken to preserve this important source of food.²

As early as 1648 mention is made of the "herringe broge," giving evidence that this fishery dates back to

¹ Town Records; General Court Records, Vol. XI. p. 523.

² Town Records.

the first settlement of the town. For the reasons previously given, very little notice is subsequently taken of the matter for three quarters of a century. In 1724-5, at the town meeting held March 8, a committee was chosen "to treat with the mill-owners on the river, by Bates', to make a convenient passage for fish into Whitman's Pond, to pay not over £5." From that time onward the "alewives business" occupies a large space upon the town records. Officers were regularly chosen to have charge of the fisheries, to preserve the fish, and also to take and dispose of them in the season, while the proceeds of the sale were a source of income that the town valued highly, as will be seen in the subsequent history. The arranging and settling of this business often proved quite perplexing and difficult.

NEW COUNTY. — About 1725, the subject of forming a new county, to be set off from Suffolk, was agitated, but the project was steadily opposed by Weymouth, unless the court house should be located within five or six miles of the centre of the town, to which the other towns would not consent.

DR. WHITE. — At the March meeting, held on the 14th of that month, 1726-7, the town felt a necessity for encouraging the settlement of a physician within its limits, and for this purpose voted a "grant of five acres of land to Dr. Nathaniel White while he should remain in the town and practise medicine."

TOWN REGULATIONS. — On July 21, 1729, a list of the first jurymen chosen by the town appears upon the records, and from that day to the present the matter has never been allowed to fall into disuse.

From the first settlement of the town, for more than a century, its expenses were very light, the highways

being provided for by personal labor of all the male inhabitants above sixteen years of age, and no regular appropriation was made for the support of the poor, the cases being very few, and each as it came up was cared for as the circumstances of the matter required; hence are found occasional records like that of Aug. 23, 1733, when the three daughters of Widow Ruth Harvey were provided for by the town; the largest tax being that for the ministry and the schools. These matters will be more fully treated in another department of this sketch.

The proposition for a new county still continued to be agitated. Feb. 2, 1729-30, the town went so far as to choose an agent to treat with the towns of Scituate, Hingham, Hull, Braintree, Hanson and Abington, respecting the matter, and Sept. 1, 1735, a vote was passed in favor of a new county, to be composed of the towns in Suffolk County outside of Boston.

At the following town meeting, held March 1, 1735-6, two important measures were passed; one allowing all freeholders to vote in the affairs of the town commons, and the other to divide all the commons among the householders "who are freeholders" in equal shares; and this vote was reaffirmed at a subsequent meeting held March 29.

March 7, 1736-7, a committee was chosen to unite with Braintree to build a cart bridge over the Smelt Brook at Weymouth Landing, a proceeding so necessary that it is almost impossible to conceive that an important thoroughfare like this, on the main road leading from Boston to Plymouth, should have been so long permitted to remain without such an improvement.

And again, on the 13th of March following, the town votes its mind that Boston should be a county by itself, and a committee was chosen to petition the General Court to that effect.

PARSONAGE PROPERTY. — Ever since the division of the town into two precincts, there had been constant trouble about the parsonage matters before referred to; the South claiming a share in the property, and the North steadily refusing to allow the claim. Yet it was such a continual source of irritation that on June 23, 1741, the town chose a committee to consider the matter and to see if some amicable adjustment could not be made; but the effort failed, and the subject remained to be the cause of much future trouble.

PIGWACKET INDIANS. — In 1744 a proposition was made that the Pigwacket Indians, then stationed in Boston, should be placed in Weymouth, but the disposition of the town was shown by a unanimous vote, on July 25, that this should not be done.

TOWN COMMONS. — On May 23, 1751, the town made its first general appropriation for the poor by voting twenty pounds for this purpose. At the same meeting it was also voted that the Second Precinct should have its share of town meetings in proportion to its tax; also that the town commons should be divided among the inhabitants according to the tax of 1750, each poll to draw one share, and other shares in proportion to the tax; but this vote was changed as all previous votes of the kind had been, on July 1, so as to except all not over twenty-one years of age, all not born in town and who were not householders and freeholders, and also all persons renting property.

THROAT DISTEMPER. — At this period occurred the terrible throat distemper that raged so violently in the town during a whole year, from May, 1751, to May, 1752, that out of an estimated population of about twelve hundred, one hundred and fifty died, being an eighth of

the whole number. This scourge is unprecedented in the history of the town, and was long remembered with dread and horror. Another disaster of a very different character occurred in the burning of the old church, in the First Precinct, on the 23d of April, 1751, in which were stored three barrels of gunpowder. These two occurrences were deemed of so much consequence that the town voted not to send a representative to the General Court that year on that account.¹

FRENCH AND INDIAN WARS. — Soon after this the peace of the colonies was seriously disturbed by the wars between England and France, which, to a large degree, were carried on upon this continent, and in which the French made alliance with the savage tribes of New York, Canada, and the nearer western territories, who carried on the wars in their usual merciless and bloodthirsty manner; and although New England, especially upon the shores of Massachusetts Bay and the southern borders, was far removed from the scene of active strife, yet even the little town of Weymouth was not exempt from its share in the hardship and expense attendant upon their continuance. The records are very bare and many of the muster rolls have been lost, but enough remain to show something of what these wars cost the town in blood and treasure for matters in which it had no real concern. In the expeditions of 1755 and 1756 to Crown Point and Lake George, about forty men of Weymouth belonged in the regiment of Col. (afterwards Gen.) Benjamin Lincoln, under the command of Capt. Samuel Thaxter. Of this number six never returned to the town, but died or were killed during the year's service. Among the men of this company was Lieut. Solomon Lovell, afterwards general during the Revolutionary struggle. But these

¹ Dr. Cotton Tufts, Town Records.

were not all, for in the many hard campaigns along the northern frontiers during these and subsequent years, until the capture of that last stronghold of the French on this continent, Louisburg, in 1758, and the victory of Wolfe on the Plains of Abraham, below Quebec, in the year following, by which the power of that nation in this quarter of the world was completely broken, Weymouth sent her sons to assist in the general cause.

The names of such, to a great extent, are wanting, but in the incidental mentions upon public archives, and in private family histories, enough is gathered to show that there were many of them, and that they bore an honorable record.¹

¹ "See Colonel Lincoln's Return, Oct. 2, 1755, State Archives, Vol. XCIII. Capt. Samuel Thaxter's company.

The names of the men [of Weymouth] were: —

Lieut. Wm. Whitmarsh,	Ensign Nath'l Bayley,
John Canterbury,	Jonathan Darby,
Hezekiah White,	Benjamin Tirrell,
Joseph Truefant,	Stephen Saulsbury,
Silas Lovell.	

"The following list made up from the various muster rolls of the troops engaged in that campaign [Lake George in 1756], and found in the State Archives, Boston, Vols. XCIII., XCIV., and XCV., is believed to be very nearly correct: —

First Lieut., Solomon Lovell.	
Sergt. Caleb Eldredge,	Corp. John Canterbury, jun.
Sergt. Jonathan Darby, jun.	Corp. Benjamin Nash,
Sergt. Thomas Cushing,	Corp. James Hunt,
Silas Lovell,	Stephen Canterbury,
Benjamin Tirrell,	Joseph Trufant,
Joseph Pratt, 3d,	William Holbrook, jun.
Noah Bates,	Benjamin Richards,
William Richards,	Samuel Orcutt,
Joseph Ford,	David Orcutt,
Lemuel Barbar,	Stephen Saulsbury,
Joseph Blanchard,	William Salisbury,
Ebenezer Tirrell,	Thomas Colson, jun.
John Lincoln,	Nehemiah Joy,
James Nash,	John Randall Vining,
William Rice,	Isaac Joy,
Humphrey Burrell,	William Bates,
Isaac Pool,	Nathaniel Blanchard.

FRENCH NEUTRALS. — In 1755, after the capture of Acadia (Nova Scotia) by the English, large numbers of the unfortunate inhabitants, who were, with the greatest inhumanity forced to abandon their former pleasant homes, and seek shelter wherever they might, were brought to Boston, and as no provision had been made for their support, they were parcelled out among the several towns that were thus compelled to provide for them. Weymouth received its share, but how many there remains no record to show, excepting such as is found in the votes of the town in special cases and upon the treasurer's books, like the following: "March 8, 1756. Dr. Nathaniel White was paid eight shillings per week for a year for keeping the French Neuters." This by vote of the town, and upon the treasurer's account there is an item of six pounds paid to James Humphrey, Feb. 28, 1761, for subsisting the "French Neuters."¹

DR. TUFTS. — Again, March 10, 1760, Dr. Cotton Tufts, who had recently settled in the north part of the town as a physician, and who afterwards, for more than half a century was one of its most valuable and prominent citizens, was chosen agent to confer with other towns about a new county.

"(The last named and Benjamin Nash should, perhaps, be credited to Braintree). Of these, six died during the campaign: Thomas Cushing, John Canterbury, James Hunt, William Holbrook, Benjamin Richards, John Randall Vining. The term of service was from February to November, about nine months." — *Weymouth Historical Society, Publication No. 1, pp. 31, 32.*

[Besides these, many went into the various Northern campaigns during that war, but the records are so deficient or wholly wanting, that it has been impossible to the present time to ascertain how many or who they were, but probably many more than are named in the above lists. — *G. N.*]

Town Records.

HIGHWAYS. — About the same time, also, the town was found to have outgrown the primitive method of working the highways, and something different and more effective was needed. New regulations were consequently adopted, whereby each poll was to be taxed two shillings and one penny (one day's work), other taxes in same proportion. Those having teams, horse or ox, were rated at certain prices, and the whole matter was reduced to a kind of system, rude to be sure, but a vast improvement upon the ancient plan. This arrangement was continued, with comparatively few changes, for several generations.¹

SOUTH PRECINCT. — During these years the South Precinct seems to have been steadily gaining upon the North in population and influence, and had become strong enough to command a vote, March 24, 1761, defining the word "ministry" in the parsonage deed to include *both* ministers, and that each should draw of the income from that source in proportion to the tax paid by his parish.²

¹ Town Records.

² Town Records.