



CHAPTER XI.

THE PHYSICIANS OF WEYMOUTH.¹

Early Medical History—Salisbury—Nicholas Byram—Thomas Thacher—Nathaniel White—James Hayward—Benjamin Richards—Daniel French—Lazarus Andrews Beale—Cotton Tufts—James Torrey—Thomas Vinson—James Lovell—Noah Fifield—Appleton Howe—Jacob Richards—David Torrey—Timothy Gordon—Joseph Dorr—Ebenezer Turell Learned—Hervey Eliphaz Weston—George Fordyce Fifield—Charles Coffran—Daniel Lewis Gibbens—Josiah Ball—Ira H. Perry—Ephraim Lewis Warren—John Henry Gilbert—George Wyman Fay—William Cranch Bond Fifield—Lemuel Fuller—Charles Carroll Tower—Joseph Corlieu—Francis Flint Forsaith—Oliver Perry Piper—Moses Reuben Greely—Granville Wilson Tinkham—Roscoe Ellsworth Brown—John Chisholm Fraser—William Abram Drake—Joseph Porter Hodgdon—Norton Quincy Tirrell—William Fales Hathaway—Judson L. Beck—Mrs. Dr. Tuck—Mrs. Dr. Tirzah E. Goodwin.

THE old settlement of Wessagusset claims priority, as far as I can ascertain, as to the presence of a physician, over any place in New England except Plymouth. Certain difficulties are encountered in obtaining the early medical history of any community, especially if that history dates back near the first settlement of the country. One of these is the fact that, at that early date, the practice of medicine was not on so recognized a basis as at the present time. There were no medical schools or associations in the country, and each doctor

¹This chapter, covering an outline of the medical profession of the town with brief biographical sketches of its various members, who have, as far as has been ascertained, lived here, has been prepared with great care and much labor by Francis Flint Forsaith, M. D., a physician of more than twenty years' standing in the town, and is a valuable addition to the sketch.

was isolated and independent. There was no authorized power for conferring degrees, and any one, however incompetent, might assume the title Dr., with no authority but his own, and be recognized as such to a certain extent.

A third reason is because at that early date the clerical and medical professions were occasionally united in the same individual, and this person would usually be recognized as a minister rather than a doctor, so that his name would not appear in the annals as a physician.

Cotton Mather (*Mag.*, I., p. 428, 2d ed. Lond., 1702) says: "It is well known that until two hundred years ago, physic in England was no profession distinct from divinity." He also says: "Ever since the days of Luke, the evangelist, skill in physic has been frequently professed and practised by persons whose most declared business was the study of divinity. But I suppose the greatest frequency of this angelical conjunction has been seen in those parts of America where they are mostly the poor to whom the gospel is preached by pastors whose compassion to them in their poverty invites them to supply the want of abler physicians."

These things and the general indefiniteness incident to a new settlement render the early history of the medical, as of every other profession, somewhat unsatisfactory.

Thomas Weston's company of "merchant adventurers" set sail from Old England, April, A. D. 1622, under charge of Weston's brother-in-law, Richard Green. Among them was a surgeon, a Mr. Salisbury. This Salisbury was the first representative of the medical profession in Weymouth, and possibly the first in New England, although mention is made in the "Annals" of Dr. Samuel Fuller of Plymouth, who wrote to Governor Bradford, June 28, 1630, that at the request

of Mr. Warham, he "had been to Mattapan and let some twenty of these people blood." Concerning the character of this man and his success in his profession, history gives us no information, as far as I am aware, nor whether, when the settlement was temporarily broken up, he followed Sanders to Maine or Standish to Plymouth. Neither does it inform us whether, during the times of Blackstone, Morrell, Hull, Jenner, Lenthal and Newman, up to the date when Byram came, there was any physician in the colony. It is highly probable, however, that there was, or else that the office of physician was assumed by some of the reverend gentlemen above mentioned.

NICHOLAS BYRAM, a physician, came to Weymouth in 1638. He remained here twenty-four years, and in 1662 removed, with his family, to Bridgewater, being one of the first settlers of that town, and with his wife among the first members of the church there formed.

Dr. Byram, according to family tradition, was the son of an English gentleman of the county of Kent, who removed to Ireland about the time Nicholas was born. His father sent him, at the age of sixteen, to visit his friends in England, in charge of a supposed friend who betrayed his trust, robbed him of his money, and sent him to the West Indies, where he was sold to service to pay for his passage. After his term of service had expired he made his way to New England and settled in Weymouth, finally removing, as aforesaid, to Bridgewater.

He married *Susannah*, daughter of *Abraham Shaw*, of Dedham, and was the father of eight children, at least six of whom were born in Weymouth, viz.: —

- I. NICHOLAS.
- II. ABIGAIL, who married *Thomas Whitman*.
- III. DELIVERANCE, who married *John Porter*.

- IV. EXPERIENCE, who married *John Willis*.
- V. SUSANNAH, who married *Samuel Edson*.
- VI. MARY, who married *Samuel Leach*.

He died in 1727.

REV. THOMAS THACHER. — Contemporary with Dr. Byram for seventeen years was the Rev. Thomas Thacher. This man was the son of *Rev. Peter Thacher*, rector of St. Edmunds, Salisbury, in County Wilts, England. He was born May 1, 1620, and came over with his uncle Anthony, in the "James," from Southampton, arriving in Boston, June 4, 1635. He then went to Ipswich with his uncle and other friends, and, in order to avoid the peril of a return to England in August of the same year, — on which voyage all but Anthony and his wife were lost, — he was put under the direction of the Rev. Charles Chauncy, of Scituate, who prepared him for his profession "with great diligence," as it is said.

This Rev. Charles Chauncy, was equally celebrated as a divine and a physician, and Mr. Thacher received instruction in both these professions. His good sense, united with a general acquaintance with the science of the day, acquired for him a great reputation as a physician, and, to complete his honors, Mather asserts that he "composed a Hebrew Lexicon, so compressed that within one sheet of paper he had given every considerable word in the language."

He married, May 11, 1643, *Elizabeth*, youngest daughter of *Rev. Ralph Partridge*, of Duxbury, and was settled over the church at Weymouth, as successor to Rev. Samuel Newman, Jan. 2, 1645. He spent about twenty years in Weymouth, and then removed to Boston and joined the First Church there, Aug. 4, 1667.

Mr. Thacher was installed as pastor over what is now the Old South Church, Feb. 16, 1670, and is said to have been the first minister ordained in America. He is said

also to have been the author of the first medical work ever published in this country, — a tract entitled "A Brief Guide to the Common People, in the Small-Pox and Measles," first published in Boston in 1677, and a second edition in 1702.

Cotton Mather informs us that having preached for his father, he visited a sick person after going out of the assembly, whereby he got some harm, which turned into a fever of which he died Oct. 15, 1678, aged fifty-eight years.

DR. NATHANIEL WHITE was born in 1690,¹ according to Alden's Early History of the Medical Profession, in the county of Norfolk, Mass., and to the inscription on his tombstone, or in 1701, as stated by Vinton, in his "White Genealogy." He graduated from Harvard College in 1725, and was a man of much talent and eminent in his profession, although a very eccentric person. It is asserted that when he was summoned to a patient in stormy weather, he frequently would refuse to go, saying, "the weather was not fit for any one to go out"; but the messenger on his return usually found him, with his *saddle-bags*, at the bedside of his patient. He resided on the corner of Main and Pond Streets, the site of the house formerly occupied by Dr. Greeley, dentist. He married his first wife, *Sarah Lovell*, April 27, 1726, who died March 15, 1733;

¹ Dr. Nathaniel White, the son of Deacon Thomas and Mary (White. White, was born in Weymouth, Sept. 4, 1701. His mother was the daughter of James and Sarah (Baker-White, of Dorchester, and granddaughter of Edward White, the first of the name who settled in that town.

As Deacon Thomas and Mary White were not married until 1700 and he then only twenty-seven years old, Nathaniel could not have been born earlier than the above date, and the date upon the gravestone is evidently an error. His age upon the town records is put down as fifty-eight. These facts agree with the record of Col. Asa White, one of the family born in 1736. — *Weymouth Historical Society Papers*.

his second, *Ruth Holbrook*, April 15, 1742, who died May, 1752, aged thirty-seven; his third wife, *Widow Abigail Keith*, of Bridgewater, July 1, 1755. He was the son of Deacon Thomas White, grandson of Ebenezer White, great-grandson of Thomas White, who was admitted a freeman of Massachusetts colony, March 3, 1635-6, "being then and previously an inhabitant of Weymouth and a member of the church."

In the old town records may be seen the following: "March 13, 1727, *Voted*, at the aforesaid meeting whether the Town will give to Doctor White five acres of land below — hill, that was formerly granted to John Vinson, provided the said Doctor White continues in the town of Weymouth and in the practice of physic, and in case he shall remove out of town, said White to purchase said land, or to return it to the Town again" It passed in the affirmative.

Where the first and third wives of Dr. White lie buried I do not know, but in the Highland Cemetery, South Weymouth, on a quaint, old moss-covered, double slate headstone, the following inscription is still to be made out, although some of the words are imperfect: —

"Here lies inter^d y^e Body of
Doct^r Nathaniel White who de-
parted this life Nov. 23^d 1758, in
y^e 68th year of his age.

Here lies Buried y^e Body of
Mrs. Ruth White, wife to Doc.
Nathaniel White, who died 1752,
in y^e 37th Year of Her Age.

Thousands of journeys Night & Day
I've travelled weary on y^e way
to heal the Sick but now I've gone
A journey never to return."

On a headstone adjoining is the inscription: —

"Here Lies Buried y^e Body of Asa, son of Dr. Nathaniel White
& Ruth his wife who Died 1747, Aged 8 months 4 days."

Children of Dr. Nathaniel and Sarah: —

- I. ABNER, born in Weymouth, Jan. 9, 1727; died 1741.
- II. ALETHEA, born in Weymouth, June 2, 1728.
- III. ASA, born in Weymouth, Dec. 22, 1729; died 1730.
- IV. TAMAR, born in Weymouth, Jan. 19, 1731.

Children of Dr. Nathaniel and Ruth: —

- V. ABNER, born in Weymouth, Dec. 24, 1742.
- VI. ASA, born in Weymouth; died 1747, aged 8 months.
- VII. THOMAS, born in Weymouth; died March 18, 1766, aged 14 years.

And perhaps others.

DR. JAMES HAYWARD. — For most of the information I have in regard to this physician, I acknowledge my indebtedness to the secretary of the Weymouth Historical Society, who has kindly furnished me with many facts taken in part from the Suffolk probate records and in part from the Weymouth town records. Still the knowledge in regard to him is exceedingly meagre, not even comprising the date of his birth or his death.

From the Suffolk record, book 34, page 282, we are informed that Nehemiah Hayward, of Hingham, tailor, was appointed to administer upon the estate of his brother James Hayward, physician, of Weymouth, March 27, 1739. From page 536, same book, it appears that the estate of Dr. James Hayward, of Weymouth, was valued at £241 11s. 4d., January, 1739; Jeremiah Beal, Samuel French, Thomas Waterman, appraisers. In book 35, page 125, the account of Nehemiah Hayward in the settlement of his brother's estate is given as follows: Inventory amount £253 16s. 4d.; bills paid and allowed £32 5s. 8d., Sept. 3, 1740. By the same record it appears, book 37, page 487, that James Hayward, minor, aged about eighteen years, son of James Hayward, physician, of Weymouth, chooses Benjamin Wesson, of Stoneham, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, housewright, for his guardian over property left

him by his father, April 22, 1745; George Craddock, John Payne, witnesses.

We are informed by the Weymouth records that Dr. James Hayward was published Aug. 3, 1738, to Sarah Green; also, that Lydia, daughter of James and Elizabeth Hayward, was born Feb. 24, 1736. These facts seem to be established by the records, that Dr. Hayward was a citizen of Weymouth, in comfortable circumstances, that he married two wives, that he had two children, a boy and a girl, and that he died previous to 1739.

DR. BENJAMIN RICHARDS, the same person who is spoken of in the genealogy of the Richards family as Ephraim Richards, was the son of *Benjamin* and *Joanna (Hunt-Richards)*, born in Weymouth, Aug. 12, 1714. He settled in practice in North Weymouth. He married *Abigail*, daughter of *Ephraim* and *Sarah (Bass-Thayer)*, Braintree, Nov. 21, 1734. They had ten children, as follows:—

- I. BENJAMIN, born Nov. 29, 1735; died the same day.
- II. BENJAMIN, born Feb. 21, 1737; died the same day.
- III. BENJAMIN, born Dec. 24, 1739; died in the army, 1757.
- IV. EPHRAIM, born Oct. 25, 1740.
- V. ABIGAIL, born Nov. 17, 1742.
- VI. SARAH, born Oct. 13, 1744.
- VII. JOANNA, born Sept. 26, 1746.
- VIII. PETER HUNT, born Jan. 13, 1749; was killed on board a privateer, 1778.
- IX. RUTH, born Aug. 20, 1750; died Sept. 26, 1833.
- X. MARY, born April 9, 1753.

Dr. Richards is said to have been an eminent practitioner in his day, especially in the throat distemper, which, with the bloody flux, were the fatal epidemics, and prevailed with uncommon mortality in the years 1746, 1747, 1748, 1749. One of his daughters married

Rev. Jonathan French, who was born in Braintree, Jan. 30, 1740. Dr. Richards died Jan. 25, 1755, at the age of forty-one.

DR. DANIEL FRENCH. — It is believed, on good authority, that Dr. French was born in Hingham about the year 1720,¹ although the precise date cannot be established. The town records show his intention of marriage, Oct. 28, 1744. He married *Mary Lane*, of Hingham, and had nine children.

Children: —

- I. ZETHAN, born in Weymouth, Aug. 4, 1745.
- II. BETTY, baptized in Weymouth, Dec. 18, 1748; married *Ichabod Pratt*, June 5, 1773.
- III. JOEL, baptized in Weymouth, Nov. 25, 1750; married *Elizabeth Hobart*, Sept. 20, 1793.
- IV. SAMUEL, born in Weymouth, Dec. 12, 1753.
- V. BELA, born in Weymouth, June 1, 1755.
- VI. MARY, born in Weymouth, June 7, 1758.
- VII. LYDIA, born in Weymouth, Feb. 19, 1761.
- VIII. CECILIA, born in Weymouth, April 7, 1763.
- IX. STEPHEN, born in Weymouth, Sept. 30, 1765.

He lived in East Weymouth, on the site of the house recently occupied by the late Samuel French, his grandson, on Commercial Street, nearly opposite the foot of Grant Street. The present building is the third one built on the same spot. The death of the doctor, ac-

¹Dr. Daniel French, son of Stephen and Abigail (Beale-French), was born in Hingham, date not on record. He was grandson of Capt. Stephen French, who was one of the most prominent men of Weymouth, and resided on what, until quite recently, was known as the Tufts place, on the corner of East and Green Streets, North Weymouth, and great-grandson of Stephen French, the first settler of the name in that town. The family estate of the father of Dr. Daniel was upon both sides of the town line of Weymouth and Hingham, and he probably had dwellings in both towns; hence the confusion in the records. He was published Nov. 30, 1740, to Ruth Stowell, of Hingham, who died Aug. 6, 1742, without issue. He afterwards married *Mary Lane*, Jan. 3, 1745.

according to reliable private record, occurred in 1775, suddenly, while he was crossing a field near his house to visit a patient, at the age of about fifty-five.

DR. LAZARUS ANDREWS BEALE. — Dr. Ebenezer Alden, in his History of the Medical Profession in Norfolk County, says, "The next physician in Weymouth, after Rev. Mr. Thacher, of whom any tradition remains, was Dr. Beale. He is said to have resided in the North Parish, near the Hingham line." Dr. Alden evidently did not have any definite knowledge of him, and what little knowledge he did have seems to have been obtained from Dr. Richards — Benjamin probably — and was traditional.

There was a Dr. Lazarus Beale, born probably about 1753, son of Deacon Lazarus Beale and Ruth, his wife, grandson of Lazarus and Susanna Beale, great-grandson of Jeremiah Beale and great-great-grandson of John, the progenitor of the family in America.

Competent authority — Solomon Lincoln and George Lincoln — asserts that Dr. Beale, at one time, "lived in Newton, where he married *Lydia Wheat*. It is thought he afterwards moved to Hingham, as the records of that town show that two children were there born to him, viz.: —

- I. MARTHA, born July 10, 1765.
- II. DANIEL, born Sept. 27, 1767.

"The 'Cohasset Precinct' records establish the birth of these and also of

- ALPHEUS, born June 1, 1770.
LUSITANUS, born Sept. 15, 1772."

It is the opinion of Solomon J. Beale, Esq., that after the birth of the last child he removed to Weymouth from Cohasset. Nothing very definite can be established concerning him.

Dr. Richards asserts that he sustained a "good character as a citizen and physician."

It will be remembered that the house once occupied by Lazarus Beale, grandfather of the present Elias S. Beals, Esq., is still standing (1884) near the junction of Commercial and Essex Streets, North Weymouth, and is now owned and, till recently, was occupied by Mr. Martin Goodman.

The town records indicate the death of Lazarus A. Beale, Nov. 23, 1822, aged sixty-nine years.¹

DR. COTTON TUFTS.—Hon. Cotton Tufts, A. M., M. D., M. M. S., A. A. S., was born in Medford, Mass., May 31, 1731. Peter Tufts, his great-grandfather was one of the first settlers of that town, and was its representative at the General Court about 1684. He had a son, Captain Peter, whose son Simon was born Jan. 31, 1700. This son received a liberal education, graduating from Harvard College in 1724, studied medicine and practised in his native town, where he held several positions of trust.

This Dr. Simon Tufts had two sons,—Dr. Simon Tufts, Jr., who succeeded to his father's practice and occupied the old homestead; and Dr. Cotton Tufts, the subject of this sketch. In the fourteenth year of his age, Cotton was admitted a member of Harvard College, graduated in 1749, and took his second degree in 1752. After graduation he taught school successfully, for a

¹The above record is evidently greatly confused. If Lazarus A. was born, as his death record asserts, in 1753, he could not have been the father of the children attributed to him in Hingham and Cohasset. By the Weymouth record he was married Oct. 29, 1776, to Bethiah Lewis who died Aug. 5, 1809, aged forty-nine years. Children:—

- I. LYDIA, born in Weymouth, June 10, 1782.
- II. ELIZABETH, born in Weymouth, July 11, 1785.
- III. LEWIS, born in Weymouth, Oct. 13, 1793.
- IV. ELIAS, born in Weymouth, Nov. 13, 1796.

time, and then turned his attention to the study of medicine, which he pursued under the direction of his elder brother. He graduated in due course, and shortly afterwards settled in Weymouth. As a practitioner of medicine he was faithful, considerate, courteous, kind and sympathetic. His professional labors in his early and meridian life were extended and exacting. They were not confined to his own immediate territory, but were sought for and freely given to those at a distance. He labored for the spiritual as well as the temporal good of his patients. Even in his more advanced age, while engrossed with other cares and duties, he still found time to aid his professional brethren in difficult cases and to give a kind word of advice and cheer to the younger physicians around him. He was one of the original members of the Massachusetts Medical Society, was chosen vice-president and in due course of time became president, which office he held from 1787 to 1793, discharging the duties of that office in an efficient and acceptable manner. In social life he was distinguished by urbanity of manner and courteous address. In conversation he was pleasant, interesting, and instructive. In the domestic circle he was the pleasant companion, the instructive friend, the kind husband and father. During the Revolutionary war his ardor, activity and zeal in the public service were conspicuous on many occasions.

He was an exemplary Christian, and for more than forty years was deacon of the Old North Church in Weymouth. He was one of the trustees of Derby Academy, Hingham, and for several years president of the board. He was president of a society for moral reform, — probably a temperance organization, — then existing. He was an honored member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

He was for many years State senator, and in that

position was firm, patriotic and influential. He was appointed a member of the convention for adopting the Constitution of the United States. As was remarked by the Rev. Jacob Norton, his pastor, in his funeral sermon, "he was a man of general erudition and attainment to no inconsiderable eminence. His researches were various and extended, judicious and accurate. He was an ardent Federalist, and happy had it been for our country in times past had its citizens in general been Federalists, or, to use a more appropriate term, Federal Republicans of this description."

No physician ever settled in Weymouth acquired a more extended and enviable reputation than Dr. Cotton Tufts. A man of strong character by nature, cultured and educated under the most refining influences, his power was felt by all the community in which he dwelt.

He stood before them the urbane, old-school gentleman, the type of which has long since died out from among us, he being, perhaps, its latest representative.

Like a faithful servant, his duties all done, he rests from his labors, and his works do follow him.

He died Dec. 8, 1815, in the eighty-fifth year of his age. His residence was very near the spot on which now stands the house of the Hon. James Humphrey, near the depot, North Weymouth. He married, first, Dec. 2, 1755, *Lucy Quincy*, of Braintree (now Quincy), by whom he had one child:—

COTTON, born in Weymouth, Aug. 4, 1752.

Mrs. Lucy Tufts died Oct. 30, 1783, aet. 56 years; and Oct. 22, 1789, Dr. Tufts married, second, *Mrs. Susanna Warner*, of Gloucester.

DR. JAMES TORREY was born in Ashford, Conn., in 1756. His first employment was tanning of hides. He afterwards studied medicine, and began its practice in

Lebanon, Conn. He then removed to Nantucket, and continued to practise in his profession there. There he married *Deborah Fitch*, daughter of *Gorham Fitch*, of Nantucket. He served six weeks as surgeon's mate in the war of the Revolution. He was also at one time surgeon of the Second Regiment, First Brigade, First Division, Massachusetts Militia. His commission was dated Sept. 3, 1800. His discharge bore the date June 16, 1812.

He removed to South Weymouth in the year 1783, and settled on a spot at or near the corner of Pleasant and Union Streets.

He is described as "a small man, with a dark complexion, hazel eyes, and a very strong hand to pull out teeth." Dr. Torrey was the seventh of seven sons, and like all seventh sons, in those days, was supposed to have peculiar, not to say miraculous, powers in curing "king's evil," by the laying on of hands or "touch," though in his latter days he entirely discontinued this kind of treatment. He was, however, particularly successful, as it is said, in this disease and also in "throat-ail," and had patients from Boston and other places, who boarded in his family to receive treatment.

For more than thirty years he was the only physician in South Weymouth, where he acquired a fair business. He died Dec. 16, 1817, aged sixty-one years. He left seven children: —¹

I. JAMES GORHAM, born in Lebanon, Conn., Jan. 17, 1779, who married *Susan White*.

II. SARAH, born in Nantucket, Aug. 23, 1783, who married *Elijah Bates*.

¹ Dr. James Torrey was the son of *James* and *Sarah* (*Nash-Torrey*, born in Ashford, Conn., after the removal of his father from Abington, Mass. He was the son of *Deacon Micajah* and *Sarah Torrey*, grandson of *Deacon Micajah* and *Susanna Torrey*, and great-grandson of Captain William Torrey, who settled in Weymouth in 1640, and became one of its most distinguished citizens. He was the celebrated "clerk of the deputies" for many years.

- III. SUSAN, born in Weymouth, Nov. 10, 1785, who married *Amos Merritt*.
- IV. REUBEN (Rev.), born in Weymouth, April 3, 1789, who settled in Connecticut.
- V. NANCY, born in Weymouth, Sept. 10, 1790, who married *Amos Merritt* (his second wife).
- VI. LUCINDA, born in Weymouth, June 4, 1793, who married *Edward Blanchard*.
- VII. LAVINIA, born in Weymouth, March 25, 1795, who married *Reuben Burrell*.
- VIII. A boy, not named and not recorded.

DR. THOMAS VINSON¹ was successor to Dr. Torrey and for a time contemporary with him. But few particulars in regard to him can be ascertained. He was born, June 8, 1756, and died probably about 1840. He lived in South Weymouth, on the spot now occupied by Mr. Edward Rosenfelds' new house. He was at one time colonel in the Revolutionary army. He is said to have been a learned man and acquired a large practice, but eventually became dissipated.

DR. JAMES LOVELL² was born Jan. 1, 1768. He lived in an ancient but, for his time, imposing house on Neck Street, North Weymouth, near the junction of this

¹ Col. Thomas Vinson, son of *John* and *Sarah* (*Colson-Vinson*), was born in Weymouth, June 8, 1756, and died Jan. 12, 1841, at the age of eighty-five years. He was the descendant of an old and prominent family in the town which sprung from London and came here in the latter half of the seventeenth century. He was a mathematician of no mean ability, and made the calculations for almanacs for several years. He married, Jan. 27, 1782, *Hannah*, dau. of *Samuel* and *Elizabeth* (*Shaw-Holbrook*, born in Weymouth in 1760, and died Nov. 28, 1788, aged twenty-eight years and six months.

Children: —

- I. WARREN, born in Weymouth, Sept. or Oct. 5, 1782.
- II. SUSANNA, born in Weymouth, June 1, 1784.
- III. BETSEY, born in Weymouth, Dec. 25, 1785.
- IV. THOMAS WARREN, born in Weymouth, Nov. 28, 1788.

² Dr. James Lovell was son of *General Solomon* and *Hannah* (*Pitney-Lovell*), and a descendant of Robert Lovell, who came to Weymouth in 1635, with Rev. Joseph Hull. He inherited his father's homestead and one of the finest properties of that time in the town.

street with Green Street. He was born, lived and died in this house, and his remains were buried in the family tomb, which was demolished when the road was made to Pilgrim Wharf some years since, when they were removed to the old North Cemetery and finally placed there in the family tomb. He was the son of General Solomon Lovell, the commander of the land forces in the Penobscot expedition, whose original journal constitutes the first published document of the Weymouth Historical Society. He married, Nov. 8, 1798, *Widow Winch*, whose maiden name was *Priscilla Ford*. He entered Harvard College, but before completing the course of study left to go "down East" to attend to a vessel belonging to his father. He studied medicine with Dr. Thaxter, of Hingham. He did not enjoy its practice or pursue it to any great extent, as he was wealthy and was much engaged on his farm and in town business. He died April 8, 1820. He had no child.

DR. NOAH FIFIELD was the son of *Ebenezer* and *Mary (Sanborn-Fifield)*, and was born at East Kingston, N. H., July 22, 1783. He studied medicine under the direction of his uncle, Dr. William Sanborn, of Falmouth, Me., and afterwards pursued his studies under the care of Dr. Nathan McKingstry, a Scotch surgeon of Newburgh, Vt. He attended medical lectures at Boston, in 1804. The next year, 1805, he commenced the practice of medicine in Maine, but soon returned and settled in Weymouth, June 12, 1806. He was welcomed cordially by the venerable Cotton Tufts, who took a great interest in him, and advised and befriended him in his youthful days. He was for sixty years a physician in this village of his adoption, and won for himself a high character for ability.

Dr. Howe, his contemporary for many years, says of him: "As a citizen and a neighbor it is believed that

he sustained a character above reproach. As a physician he brought to the aid of his patients a sound and vigorous mind, well stored with professional knowledge and an aptness in the investigation of disease which rendered his opinions of great value to the sick and of great weight with the members of his profession." He was a man of sound judgment, few words, and dignified in his bearing. He was successful in his profession pecuniarily, believing that the physician, like every other person who depends for his support upon his professional or mechanical efforts, is worthy of a just and honest remuneration for his exertions, and that he should not be defrauded of them in the one case more than in the other. He was earnestly engaged in the temperance reform and labored for its success.

He was admitted a fellow of the Massachusetts Medical Society in 1807, and was for several years one of its councillors. In his latter days he relinquished entirely his practice and resided for a few years with his son in Dorchester. When quite advanced in life, he married *Hannah Cranch Bond* (date of publishment June 16, 1820), and they were the parents of three children:—

- I. GEORGE FORDYCE, born April, 1822; died Nov. 15, 1846.
- II. MARY S., born March 27, 1824; died Aug. 17, 1845.
- III. WILLIAM C. B., born Aug. 27, 1828.

He died Oct. 21, 1867, and was buried from the old church, where he used to attend services, in the family lot in the village cemetery, Weymouth, aged eighty-four years. His wife was born in Portland, Me., April 13, 1787, and died in Dorchester, Mass., March 8, 1870, aged eighty-two years and ten months, and was buried by the side of her husband.

HON. DR. APPLETON HOWE, major-general Massachusetts Volunteer Militia, was the son of *Rev. Nathaniel* and *Olive Howe*, of Hopkinton, Mass. He was born