

HISTORY OF CHELMSFORD

MASSACHUSETTS

BY

THE REV. WILSON WATERS, M. A., B. D.

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LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS
1917.

underwood Will Flecher and Abraham parker being
to lay out a highway for the inhabitants on other sid
Do determin that it shall beegine att the Country way
ans bridge and so a longe betwene the to swamps and
underwoods medow all along bowndid by markd treese
s and so runeth below mr hinchmans Dame and so to the
e to Answer the Contry Rode att meremake and on this
s atrew retorne of the Comity as About Datted and
ed by order of the selectmen * * *
Samell Adams
clerk.

Samell Bowers, when he reached maturity, settled where
ndant, Joseph Bowers, now resides on Wood street.
has been continuously in the family. The house, said
ar two hundred years old, is undoubtedly the oldest
ow standing in Lowell. Another road which helped to
is section was laid out from the newly incorporated town
able, viz.: [In margin] Country Way The 1 Day of
674 leften Thomas hinchman and liffen Samuell Foster
ointed by the Towne to Joyne with leftenant Wheeler
ham parker the Cometty to lay out the Contry Way
onstable to Chelmsford thay Doe Joyntly Agree
parties that the Way shall in Chelmsford bowns
t mr Tings Farne and so to bee sixe polle wid and so to
as by marked treese Downe to Jerathmell bowers
so to black brooke into the Contry way that Comes
rimack this is a trew Retterne of the Comity as above
Samell Adames
clerk

was the old road from Tyngsboro through North Chelms-
; swung to the left above Drum hill over a piece of road
le used, coming out upon what is now Westford street
eph Bowers'. The travel to Boston, from Dunstable
ns above, passed over this road for many years, passing
at is now Stedman street and the Golden Cove road and
the Concord river at Billerica.
; following year a new bridge was built across Stony brook,
higher than the former was."
re were two foot-paths laid out near Jerathmell Bowers
which are thus described.

A highway—By apointment of the townsmen ther is tew
foott waies laid out through the land of John Wright the one
beginning att the still next to Jerathmell bowers and * * *
so to the Cartt brige and then below the orchard to the land of
Jonathan butterfeild and then close by the fence of John wright
vp to the drift way and the other beginning Against John Sheplies
and then straight to the drift way at Jonathan buterfields barne
by William vnderwoods and Jerathmell bowers and for part of
satisfaction hee hath taken apece of land about an acer and halfe
bonendid North vp on the towne common east vp on the medow
of John wright South vp on the lands of Jonathan Butterfeild and
west upon the land of John wright: Recorded by order of the
Selectt men 21 7 mo 1677

This is a trew Coppey
of the Rettorn of the Comity
[Orig. Records, Book 1656, p. 129.]
Samell Adams
clerk

Whether it was Jerathmell Bowers' still which created the
necessity for paths leading in his direction, we can only conjecture.

In the transcript of the town records, which was made in
1742, the word is written stile, but the original record gives it
plainly "still."

In 1686 and again in 1688 Jerathmell Bowers was licensed
to sell "strong waters" by the General Court.

Capt. Josiah Richardson located upon what is now the road
leading from Westford to Lowell where, his descendent, the late
Edward F. Richardson lived. The farm had been continuously
in the family to the time of the death of the latter*.

STONY BROOK PATH.

One of the very early roads at first known as "Stony brook
path" was what is now Westford road. Upon this road, about
half a mile from the meeting house, settled John Perham, after
his marriage in 1664, but at just what time is not known. The
place has been continuously in the family to the present time.
The present writer, who now occupies it, is of the seventh genera-
tion from John. Edward Spalding settled about a mile and a
half further west, upon the farm of the late Henry R. Hodson.
This farm and those adjoining it on either side were occupied
by Spaldings for several generations. To the west of Spalding,
at what is now the William Martin place, at the foot of Francis
hill, lived John Stevens and his descendants for five generations.

*Family tradition.

may be allowed a Scout of men to Scout upon said River and other exposed part of the Town for about ye space of Two months from ye date hereof as in Duty bound Your humble Petitioners shall ever pray.
Chelmsford June ye 23, 1725. Jonathan Richardson Captains for
Jonas Clark
Chelmsford.

[Massachusetts Archives, Vol. 72, p. 247.]

Chelmsford men in the Company of Capt Joseph Blanchard of Dunstable. 1725:

John Walker,	centinel	receivd	28/	per week
Thomas Spaulden,	"	"	28/	"
Samuel Barron,	"	"	28/	"
Jonathan Spaulden,	"	"	28/	"
Benj Kidder,	"	"	28/	"
Wm. Spaulden,	"	"	28/	"
John Corey,	"	"	28/	"
Zechariah Emery,	"	"	28/	"
James Burn,	"	"	28/	"
James Kidder	"	"	28/	"
Benj Smith,	"	"	28/	"
Gersham Proctor,	"	"	28/	"
The Captain	"	"	50/	"
Lieut.	"	"	40/	"
Ensign	"	"	32/6	"
Sergt.	"	"	32/6	"
Pilot	"	"	32/6	"
Surgeon	"	"	40/	"
Clerk	"	"	32/6	"
Centinel	"	"	28/	"

[Massachusetts Archives, Vol. 91, p. 169.]

Chelmsford men under Capt. Eleazer Tyng of Dunstable from June 10 to Nov. 10, 1725:

Jona. Butterfield, Lieut.; Eph. Cory, Corp.; Henry Keyes, Corp.; Thos. Chamberlain, Jo. Chamberlain, John Bowers, Jona. Bowers, Aaron Hubbard, Alexander Kelsy, Josiah Cory, Robt. Miers, Jona. Spaulding, Benj. Blodget, Nathan Cross, Jabez Davis, John Usher, Benj. Chamberlain, Eph. Barrot, Saml. Adams, John Williams, Centinels; Robert Dickie, John Wright, John Kerkin, Samuel Lennox, John Kerkin, Tho. Bixby, Thomas Bixby, Moses Colburn, Ebr. Virgin.
[Massachusetts Archives, Vol. 91, p. 193.]

1725. Under Capt Joseph Heath. James Coller [of Chelmsford]. (Same at Richmond Fort.)
[Massachusetts Archives, Vol. 91, p. 254.]

Benj. Blochet, Timo. Spaulding, Wm. Spaulding, Zach. Spaulding (servant to John Davis), David Procter, John Hildrake, Joseph Reed, Nath. Emerson, Benj. Smith, Henry Farwell, Heny. Wright, Wm. Jeffs (serv't to John Spaulding), Zach. Coburn, John Coburn, Thos. Coburn, Jno. Peirce, John Wright, John Procter, Thos. Lane, Wm. Richardson, Thos. Chamberlain, Zach. Stevens, Wm. Gasson (servt to Benj. Robbins).
[Massachusetts Archives, Vol. 91, pp. 66, 67.]

Another Roll, probably 1724:

John Foott, Capt.; Joseph Varnum, 13/4 per week; Benj. Kidder, Centinel, 10/ per week; Ephraim Corey; Ebenezer Frost, John Farmer, Wm. French, sons under age; Obediah Parker, Josiah Wright, Jonathan Wright, Eben Wright, James Kidder, Jona. Snow, John Barrot.
[Massachusetts Archives, Vol. 91, pp. 66, 67.]

Read and committed. House of Rep. June 18. 1724:

Jabez Fairbank, Capt.; Jona. Butterfield, Sentinel; Jno. Barret, Ebenr. Virgin, Benj. Chamberlain, Jona. Heldreth. These are all Chelmsford names.
[Ibid, Vol. 91.]

A list of soldiers dismissed. In Col. Tyng's Company.

Nov. 3. 1724:

Wm. Spaulding, Edw. Winn, Benj Baldwin, Saml. Barron, Nich Danforth, Wm. Jeffs, Saml. Winn, Ephraim Spaulding.

Those who remained in ye service:

Lt. Joseph Blanchard, En. Jonathan Butterfield, John Snow, Henry Keyes, Eph. Chandler, Wm. Proctor, Eph. Corey, Eph. Barrot, Saml. Adams, Wm. Boyd, Joshua Reed, Jona. Wright, John Wilson, Henry Richardson, Jos. Butterfield, Jos. Whittimore, Josiah Richardson.

[Massachusetts Archives, Vol. 91, pp. 124, 126.]

Sept. 13. 1724. Powder. bullets. and flints were delivered out by the Military officers of Chelmsford. 24 men received from half a jill to a pint of powder, from 6 to 18 bullets and 2 to 4 flints

PETITION OF CHELMSFORD CAPTAINS.

To ye Honourable William Dummer Esq. Lieut Governour in Chief and over his Majesties province of the Massachusetts bay in New England. The petition of us ye Subscribers Humbly sheweth that where as Merrymacke River is at present being exceeding low and thereby ye Town of Chelmsford is very Exceedingly endangered and we humbly pray your honour we

Chelmsford names on the Muster Roll of John Lane's Company. 24 Billerica names are followed by these:

John Swolow	Aug. 30.	Sept. 4.	6 days
Centinel	"	"	"
Samuel Sady	"	"	"
Samuel Chamberlin	"	"	"
Henry Spaldin	"	"	"
Benony Periam	"	"	"
Eephrim Hildreth	"	"	"
John Baritt	"	"	"
Thomas Tarbell	"	2	3
Simon Stone	"	"	"
Samull Parker	"	"	"
William Nutting	"	"	"

[Lane papers. A. B. Cutler, Bedford. Copied by Henry A. Hazen for H. S. Perham.]

Soldiers were "for their encouragement" paid seven shillings for the first cost of their snow shoes and mogginsons, and two shillings a year afterwards from the year 1711.

DUMMER'S WAR.

In August, 1723, Lieutenant-Governor Dummer, then acting Governor of the Province, ordered detachments of from three to six men from the several frontier towns to range the woods, as the Indians were still in a threatening attitude. Groton, Dunstable and Lancaster were then more on the frontier than Chelmsford, but this town was still necessarily watchful, and contributed men for the service. A number of men (some of them prominent) who are credited to other towns were born in Chelmsford.

In Dummer's, or Lovewell's, War, snow-shoe companies were raised in all the towns lying upon Merrimack river, says Allen, page 182. These companies were minute men, equipt with snow-shoes and fire arms, &c., holding themselves in readiness to go on scouting parties in pursuit of the Indians at the moment of alarm.

The following constituted the snow-shoe company in Chelmsford in 1724; under the command of Captain Robert Richardson and Lieutenant Joseph Parker:

- Paul Fletcher, Samuel Fletcher, Joseph Keyes, Henry Stevens, Robert Peirce, Josiah Spaulding, Zacharias Richardson, Nathan Proctor, Matthias Cowdrey, John Proctor, Jr., Benjamin Robbins, John Butterfield, James Burn, Benjamin Chamberlain, Benjamin Gould, Moses Graves, Timothy Spaulding, Phineas Spaulding, Joseph Underwood, Jacob Blodget, Ebenezer Parker, Joseph Warren, Jr., Jonathan Parker, Joseph Fletcher, Jonathan Spauld-

ing, James Kidder, Ezekiel Keyes, Edward Foster, Benjamin Parker, John Spaulding, John Corey, Jonathan Hildreth, Josiah Burge, Simon Rummery, Daniel Blodget, Henry Spaulding, Jonathan Cummings, Thomas Reed, Joseph Foster.

JOSEPH PARKER'S COMMISSION.

William Dummer, Esq., Lieut. Governor and Commander in Chief in and over his Majesty's province of Massachusetts Bay in New-England.

To Joseph Parker, Gent.—Greeting.

By virtue of the power and authority in and by his Majesty's Commission to me granted, to be Lieutenant Governor &c., I do by these presents, reposing especial trust and confidence in your loyalty, courage and good conduct, constitute and appoint you the said Joseph Parker to be Lieutenant of a company of snow-shoe-men, and of those that are appointed to be in readiness to issue out against the Indian enemy and rebels upon any alarm or attack; whereof Robert Richardson is Captain, in the regiment of Militia in the county of Middlesex, whereof Eleazer Tyng, Esq., is Colonel. You are therefore diligently and faithfully to discharge the duties of a Lieutenant, &c.

Given under my hand and seal at arms at Boston, 5th day February, in the Eleventh year of the reign of his Majesty, King George. A. D. 1724.

[Allen, p. 183.] Wm. Dummer.

CAPTAIN RICHARDSON'S CERTIFICATE.

May it Please your honores By Virtue of an order from Coll. Eleazer Tyng I have drawn out of my company Thirteen able bodyed men well fitted with snow shoes and moggasons according to the order of ye General Court and I desire the money may be paid to Robert Richardson Capt. over said snow shoemen to be repaid by him to his men.

Your humble Servant
Jonth Richardson, Capt.

Chelmsford
Feby. 22, 1724/5
[Massachusetts Archives, Vol. 72, p. 218.]

The following rolls contain Chelmsford names:
A Muster Roll of the Company in His Majesty's Service under the Command of _____ Captain [1724?]:
Jonathan Butterfield, Sergt., Dunstable; Joseph Richardson, Centinel; Joseph Bassow, Joseph Chamberlain, Wm. Chamberlain,

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