

EPITAPHS,

OLD BURYING-GROUND, PARK STREET, WOBURN CENTRE.

INTRODUCTION.

This collection of inscriptions from the gravestones now standing in Woburn Old Burying-ground was gathered by the undersigned during the fall of the year 1866. The time when this ancient depository of the dead was first opened for interments is not definitely ascertained. Its existence in 1662 is mentioned. (*Vide* Town Records, Vol. I., page 51.)

It was doubtless extant some time prior to that date. The oldest stone standing, *i. e.*, bearing the earliest recorded death, is dated, old style, "1689-90" (epitaph 1). Capt. Edward Johnson, author of the "Wonder-working Providence," and the most influential of the founders of Woburn, is supposed to be interred in this yard. No stone to his memory is found. When, during the present century, the wall and the town pound were built on the western side of the yard, several skeletons were exhumed. The earliest interments are thought to have been in this part.

In 1848-49, a list of deaths as found on the stones in this enclosure was published in the "New England Historical and Genealogical Register" (Vols. II. and III.), from material furnished by Nathan Wyman, Esq., town clerk. For want of space, but not in accordance with that gentleman's first design, a literal transcript of inscriptions was not attempted; and in that production, names, dates, ages, and poetry, almost without exception, were alone presented.

Woburn, 1866.

W. R. CUTTER.

EPITAPHS, FIRST BURIAL-GROUND.

(1.) "MEMENTO MORI."

"Here lies the body of Deacon Josias Conners aged 72 years, deceased the 3 of February 1689-90."

"FUGIT MORI."

Deacon Josiah Converse, eldest son of Deacon Edward and Sarah Converse, was born in England; came with his father to New England, 1630; and to Woburn, 1641; was deacon of Woburn Church, 1674. He married Esther Champney, March 26, 1651, daughter of Richard Champney, ruling elder of the church in Cambridge.

EXTRACT

FROM

"NOTES FOR A CONCISE HISTORY OF WOBURN."

BY WILLIAM R. CUTTER.

Ancient Public Burial-Grounds.—In Woburn proper there are two ancient public burial-grounds. The first and oldest of these is on Park Street, Woburn Centre, and is probably coeval with the first settlement of the town, 1642. The second burial-ground is on Montvale Avenue, and, like the other, is situated near the Common. It was first opened as a parish burial-ground in 1791, and was subsequently purchased by the town in 1821.

The First Burial-Ground.—The earliest mention of this burying-ground in the Town Records is the comparatively late date of 1662, and there are no stones now standing earlier than one double dated 1689-96. The number of epitaphs in 1866, the latest one being dated 1836, was 263, which is four less than were there in 1847. One was erected in 1872 to a person dying in 1792, and one was erected in 1875, to a hero of 1775. Adding these two to the four of 1847, the number is increased to 275. Of early references to interments in the yard may be cited the following from the first volume of the Town Records: The town debtor in 1678, to Gershom Flagg, "for Cutler's grave," 3s. 6d.; May 5, 1679, the selectmen appointed John Houghton, Senior, "to ring the bell, to dig graves, and to cleanse the meeting-house."

Two collections of the inscriptions have been made, one by Nathan Wynan, in 1847, and another by W. R. Cutter, in 1866. Mr. Wynan's list was published in the "N. E. Hist. Gen. Reg.," II., III., 1848-49, but for want of space all the material sent was not printed, and the literal transcript, which was expected, did not appear. The Cutter transcript is a literal one, with explanatory notes for each epitaph, and is in manuscript. The number of headstones now standing, of date previous to 1700, is 12 to adults, and 12 to young children. The age given of the oldest person of this number is 82; there are 4 of age from 72 to 79; 2 among the 60's; 1 among the 50's; 2 among the 40's; 1 among the 30's; and one only 19 years. The ages of the children are from a few hours, or 1 day, to 7 years, viz., 5 of age less than 7 days; 1 whose age was reckoned by

weeks; 3 whose ages were reckoned by months; and 3 whose ages were reckoned by years. These stones are of the enduring nature of those of the older persons, all being imported apparently from the old country.

The ground has been subjected by action of the town to some encroachment of its original territory; and, owing to these impairments, some gravestones are known to have been relocated. It may be supposed, however, that these changes have been small, and that they have effected little change in the appearance of the yard. The principal entrance was formerly by a passageway under the rock beside the Central House, and another entrance, in the direction of Park Street, was cut off with bars, being the way much used in former times leading to a spring, or watering-place, near the junction of Park and Centre Streets. The encroachments, the past entrance near the Central House, and the way to the watering-place appear on a plan belonging to the city, by C. Thompson, of date 1855.

The number of interments represented by headstones, during the period from 1700 to 1750, is 128. This number may well be used as an illustration of the corresponding growth of the town itself. Of this number there are in all 49 male persons, of ages from 17 to 94 years; 9 were over 70; 23, from 50 to 70; 12, under 40; while 5 were between 40 and 50 years. Of women there are 47, of ages from 20 to 98 years; 6 were over 70; 12, from 50 to 70; 20, under 40; and 9, from 40 to 50 years. The mortality of women under 40 appears large, nearly half the whole number. Of persons below the age of adults the number is 32, of ages from 2 days to 15 years; under 10 are 24; and 8 were over 10.

In connection with this period is an interesting discovery. The only table monument in the yard is *not* the monument of Elizabeth Cotton, as might appear, but the monument of Nathaniel Saltoustaill, Esq., who died in Woburn, June 23, 1739. It is a red sandstone slab, on which are indentations where a coat-of-arms and an inscription on tablets of lead or stone were admitted, but which, like the original base of brick, long ago disappeared. Four granite pillars now support it in a horizontal position, and on its top reclines the slate slab of Elizabeth Cotton (1742), a niece of Saltoustaill. The executors' probate account of Saltoustaill's estate, filed with his will and inventory, Middlesex County registry, of date June 25, 1739, presents amounts of considerable size on behalf of several persons; such as, Ebenezer Kendall, of Woburn, for digging a grave, and Isaac Snow, of Woburn, for coffin and plates, charges amounting to more than £10. Nathaniel Lamson, a stone-cutter of Charlestown, presents a charge of £26 for a tombstone. Thomas Moulin, an out-of-town party, charges for use of pall and portage, and for making a brick grave, — bricks and lime and workmen, — a sum amounting to more than £10. The items of tombstone, brick grave, etc., were contracted in the latter part of July, 1739, the whole being completed on the 29th. The Boston *Weekly Newsletter* for June 28, 1739, under the heading of "Boston," has

the following notice: "Last Saturday night, died very suddenly at Woburn, Nathaniel Saltonstall, Esq.; he was younger brother to the late Governor Saltonstall, of Connecticut. A gentleman well respected among us." He removed to Woburn before 1738. (See *Woburn Journal*, Jan. 19, 1883.)

The slate slab of Elizabeth Cotton, now evidently removed from its site, contains an epitaph unusually singular, of such phrases as she "died a virgin," and, "if a virgin marry she hath not sinned," &c. A search at the Middlesex registry fails to discover any papers of administration on her estate.

The headstones from 1750 to 1775, the remaining years of the provincial period, are proportionately numerous. The number erected to persons over 25 years of age is 60,—30 males and 30 females. Of the males, 2 were over 90,—1 in his ninety-sixth year; while 8 males and 9 females were over 70. The oldest female was 81; 10 females were under 50, and 11 from 50 to 70. Of persons under 25, the number was 24, including 4 married females; 15 were over 16; 1 was 6, and 8 were under 5 years. The age of the youngest was 4 days. The number was about equally divided as to sex. There is a noticeable decrease in the number of headstones to children at this time, and adulatory inscriptions are more common.

From 1775 to 1793 the stones are mostly those of aged persons; the number to children, from 1775 to 1787, being 6, of ages from 6 weeks to 3 years. The whole number to 1793 is only 36, or at most 38, counting two of recent erection. A new burial-ground was opened in 1794, and a small number, perhaps not over 3, were removed from this to that. The comparatively fewer stones after 1775 show that the Revolution bore hard upon the prosperity acquired by the people under the provincial system of government. The war began at their very doors, and little was left afterwards for luxuries of any kind.

On March 5, 1810, the town granted the request of the heirs of Col. Loammi Baldwin to build a tomb, the yard in which it was to be built being left discretionary with the Standing Committee. This yard was selected, and a granite obelisk over the tomb contains a marble tablet to Hon. Loammi Baldwin, died 1807, æt. 63; "erected by his children." Inscriptions still more recent are those of Wymon Richardson, Esq., 1841, and John Fowle, 2d, 1856; the latter on a marble monument, erected in memory of James Fowle, Esq., and his descendants, on a lot deeded to the town. Asahel Porter, killed at Lexington, April 19, 1775, was commemorated by a marble stone, erected April 21, 1875, by the local Grand Army Post.

In July and August, 1874, a series of articles by the present writer appeared in the *Woburn Journal*, on the subject of this and other Woburn old cemeteries. These were intended to describe their appearance, and gave a general account of the gravestones and the persons interred beneath

them. The subject was still further referred to in the *Woburn Journal*, May 1, 1875; and an article was printed on the subject of the Woburn Cemetery on Salem Street, *ibid.*, Jan. 9, 1875. From these articles and the lists of inscriptions, as well as the gravestones themselves, a good idea may be obtained of the value of these monuments as a record of the past. It had been the writer's intention to present a list of the names of those buried beneath these memorials, but his limits have already been exceeded.

The Second Burying-ground — This was originally established by the society of the First Parish in Woburn. The subject was agitated early in 1793, and at first Ensign Ichabod Parker, Mr. Daniel Reed, and Capt. Joseph Brown were appointed a committee to see about "a new burying-place." The Standing Committee of the parish at this period appear to have charge of both burying-grounds, from allusions in the records to the old one. On April 14, 1794, the parish voted to purchase of Capt. Joseph Brown the land that had been Zachariah Brooks's, about one acre, for their purpose, for a sum a little less than £40. The three deacons, Samuel Thompson, Obadiah Kendall, and Josiah Richardson, with the Standing Committee, were to fix a fence about the enclosure, make a gate, and arrange the ground for interments. They were also to determine when the new burying-place should be opened, and the old one shut up. Certain members of the Baptist Society in the limits of the parish soon desired a share in the benefits of burial in the "new burying-yard," by paying their "proportionable part"; and on April 13, 1795, the privilege was granted. Later in the same year, the Baptists, not owing any right, were allowed liberty of burial, on the payment of half a dollar a grave. Later still, April 11, 1796, all Baptists were admitted joint proprietors, on payment of their proportional part of the expenses. In 1799, in respect to what the parish will do "respecting the burying-yard," it was decided that the Standing Committee shall "take care" of it, and "conduct that *article*" as they think best for the interest of the parish. After the separation of Burlington, in 1799, the town and the First Parish were practically one in the effect of their action in the matter of the burying-grounds. Thus the town in 1806, and following years, chose committees to take care of the meeting-house and burying-grounds. The parish was incorporated as the First Congregational Parish in 1816, and in 1827 the parish granted permission to Dr. Rufus Wymen to erect a tomb, under supervision of the Standing Committee. At the same time, in 1823, the parish took measures to sell their burying-ground to the town, and this was soon accomplished for \$102.50.

The earliest dated stones are removals from the older yard, or elsewhere, and many later ones have been removed to the Salem Street Cemetery, opened in 1845. Interments have rarely been made in recent years. Many useful characters, deserving of respectful remembrance, are interred here: Fathers of the Revolution; four victims of the fall of the Clapp house-frame, July 14, 1807; school-masters, doctors, magis-

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trates, the wife of a minister, and many others. There are *verbatim* lists of the inscriptions here as they were in 1847, and have been since. They were the joint work of Dr. Benjamin Cutter and Nathan Wyman, continued and recopied by the present writer. The number of headstones is about 550; some containing inscriptions to at least two persons. Dr. Cutter's number of inscriptions was, in 1847, counting by individuals, 365. The one of earliest date was 1789. Of persons over 70 there were 78; 7, over 90 years. The number under 20 was 105. Of unknown age, 2. Of women, there are 121 over 20 years; the number under 40 and over 20, being 47, — a very slight decrease in the mortality of that class over the corresponding period of the previous century. The Richardson family in Dr. Cutter's list presents an interesting instance of longevity. The number of persons of that name represented by inscriptions was 50. Of these 5 were over 90; 2 were 96; over 70 and under 90 were 16 persons; under 20 were 4 only. Of the remaining 25, there were 12 between 40 and 70; and 13 between 20 and 40. Of the last number, 2, one aged 39 and the other 31, were killed outright by accidents connected with the fall or destruction of buildings. In B. Cutter's list are some twenty-four inscriptions that are not in N. Wyman's; and in the latter, to 1847, are some accessions not found in the former; but, otherwise, they correspond fairly well. Mr. Wyman continued his work after Dr. Cutter ended, and thus obtained additions. The whole number, by individuals, to 1870, is 388. Since 1845, the removals have been far greater than the accessions, and some monuments have perished, from the character of their materials, wood having in some instances been used. Since 1848, there is one stone to a person of 24, another to one of 48; others to persons of 71, 81, 88, 83, and 97 years: total, 7.

(93.) "Here lyes Buried y^e Body of Lieut. John Carter Who Dec'd April y^e 8th Anno Domini 1727 Aged 75 Years."
 Lieut. John Carter, son of Capt. John Carter (epitaph 8) and Elizabeth, first wife (epitaph 3), was born Feb. 6, 1652-53, married Ruth Burnham (epitaph 84). (*vide* Sewall's Woburn, 598, etc.)

(96.) "Jonathan Blanchard Son of Jacob & Abigail Blanchard Dec'd Sept^r 14th 1727 in y^e 7th Year of His Age."

Jonathan Blanchard, son of Jacob and Abigail.

(97.) "Here lyes y^e Body of Esther Richardson Wife of Nathan Richardson Dec'd Nov^r 10, 1727 in y^e 27 Year of Her Age."

Esther Richardson, first wife of Deacon Nathan Richardson (epitaph 236).

(98.) "Margery Carter Daug^r of Samuel & Margery Carter Died Sept. 23^d 1728 Aged 3 Years 8 Mo. & 6 D's."

Margery Carter, daughter of Capt. Samuel and Margery (Dickson) Carter (epitaph 217), born Jan. 19, 1724-25.

(99.) "William Carter son of Samuel & Margery Carter Died October 6th 1728 Aged 1 Year 11 M^o & 11 D's."

William Carter, son of Capt. Samuel and Margery (Dickson) Carter (epitaph 217), born Oct. 25, 1726.

(100.) "Benjamin Converse Son of Capt. Robert and M^rs Mary Converse Dec'd Aug^t 19th 1729 in y^e Eleventh Year of his Age."

Benjamin Converse, son of Capt. Robert and Mary (Sawyer) Converse (*vide* Sewall's History, 996), and grandson of Major James Converse (epitaph 34), born Sept. 22, 1718.

(101.) "Here lyes y^e Body of John Hartwell son of M^r Joseph & M^rs Ruhamah Hartwell Who Died May 1st 1734 Aged 19 Years 6 Months & 27 Days."

John Hartwell, son of Deacon Joseph (epitaph 121) and Ruhamah (Cutter) Hartwell (epitaph 182), born Oct. 3, 1714.

(102.) "Ruth Belknap Daug^r of Samuel & Lydia Belknap; Died June 27th 1734 Aged 2 Years, 7 Months & 16 D's."

Ruth Belknap, daughter of Samuel and Lydia (Stearns) Belknap, born Nov. 11, 1731. (See Winchester Record, Vol. II., p. 274.)

(103.) "Here lyes Buried y^e Body of M^r James Wright Who Departed this Life January y^e 6th Anno Domini 1734-5, in y^e 59th Year of His Age."

James Wright, born March 10, 1677, son of Deacon Joseph and Elizabeth (Hassell) Wright (*vide* Sewall's History, 173, 651), married wife Elizabeth, by whom he had issue in Woburn. (17th Town Records.)

GRANDFATHER
 9th Feb. 1727

(2.) "Here lyes the body of Lieutenant James Fowle aged 49 years, died y^e 17 of Decemb^r 1690."

Lieut. James Fowle, supposed son of George Fowle, of Concord, was taxed in Woburn, 1666; was a cordwainer by trade, and probably had a shop on land behind the "Bell Hill," now "Powder House Hill." His wife Abigail married, April 18, 1692, Ensign Samuel Walker (epitaph 25). Lieut. Fowle was constable of Woburn in 1672. (*Wilde Sewall's History*, pp. 51, 612.)

(3.) "Here lyes y^e body of Elizabeth Carter, wife of Cap^t. John Carter, aged 78 years died y^e 6 of May 1691."

Elizabeth Carter, first wife of Cap^t. John Carter (epitaph 8).

(4.) "Here lyes y^e body of Ann Conners wife to James Conners, aged 69 years died August the 10 1691."

Ann (Long) Converse, wife of Ensign James Converse, otherwise Lieut. Converse (epitaph 59), was daughter of Robert Long, of Charlestown, and married Converse, Oct. 24, 1643. (*Sewall's History*, 176.)

(5.) "Edward Conners son of Edward & Sara^h Conners aged 3 dayes died 28 of Octob^r 1691."

Edward Converse, son of Edward (epitaph 7) and Sarah (Stone) Converse.

(6.) "William Batman, son of John & Abigail Batman aged 1 year & 9 m^o died y^e 7 of July 1692."

William Bateman, son of John and Abigail (Richardson) Bateman, born Sept. 29, 1690. His father, enlisting from Woburn in Philip's War, came originally from Concord (son of Thomas), and after the war, settled, married (June 30, 1681), and reared a family in Woburn. (*Wilde Sewall's History*, 115.)

(7.) "Here lyes y^e body of Edward Conners aged 37 years died y^e 26 of July 1692."

Edward Converse, son of Lieut. Converse (epitaph 60) and Ann (Long) Converse (epitaph 4), born Feb. 27, 1654-5; married Sarah Stone, Nov. 5, 1684. (*Wilde Bond's Watertown Genealogies*, 521.)

(8.) "MEMORIO MORI."

"FUGIT HORA."

"Here lyes y^e body of Cap^t. John Carter aged about 70 years, deceased y^e 14 of September 1692."

Cap^t. John Carter, an early inhabitant of Woburn, subscribed the "town orders," 1640; styled ensign, 1653, and lieutenant, 1664; was captain in 1675, the time of Philip's War; was selectman 1664, and 1672 to 1679; a commissioner "to end small causes," 1664, 1674; and commissioner "of the rate," 1653, 1658, and 1668. Ensign, 1651; lieutenant, 1664; captain, 1672. Ordered that Lieut. John Carter be captain, 1672. (*See Colony Records*.)

His first wife, Elizabeth, died 1691 (epitaph 3). He married, second, Elizabeth Groce, 1691. (*Wilde notice of his family, Sewall's History*, 318, and further of him, *ibid.*, 38, 59, 79, 112.)

10th-GR
GRANDFATHER

(83.) "Here lyes Buried the Body of Jonathan Tyng Esq'r who Dec'd Jan'y^e 19th 1723-4 in y^e 81st year of His Age."

Jonathan Tyng, Esquire. — colonel, — was born Dec. 15, 1642, son of Col. Edward Tyng, of Boston (died in Dunstable, 1681). He married Sarah, daughter of Ezekiah Usher; died 1713 (epitaph 47). Judith, his widow, died 1736 (epitaph 104). His father's family was one of the most prominent families in Massachusetts. He was colonel of the Second Regiment of foot and a justice of the court, was one of Sir Edmund Andros's Council, 1687, a magistrate, and a man of influence. Col. Tyng is mentioned in Sewall's "History of Woburn," pp 83, 142, 227. Arms. Argent, on a bend cotised sable, three martlets, gold. (*Wife* "Gore Roll of Arms," Whitmore's Elements of Heraldry, 92.)

Letter-Book of Samuel Sewall, — Samuel Sewall, Jr.'s, Memoranda, Mass. H. C., 6th Series, Vol. II., page 394: —

"January 19, 1723-24, Col. Jonathan Tyng dies. (See News letter, N. 1043.) Interred the 24th, at Woburn. I went with two brother Dudley's; a large funeral. Gave me and wife gloves."

(84.) "Here lyes y^e Body of Mr's Ruth Carter wife to Lieut. John Carter, who Dec'd Jan'y 10th 1724 in y^e 55th Year of Her Age."

Ruth (Barnham) Carter, wife of Lieut. John Carter (epitaph 95), married June 26, 1678.

(85.) "Here lyes the Body of Mr's Elizabeth Winn Wife to Mr Timothy Winn who Dec'd May y^e 14th 1724, Aged about 34 Years."

Elizabeth (Brooks) Winn, first wife of Timothy Winn (epitaph 156).

(86.) "Here lyes y^e Body of Mrs Judith Walker Wife to Deacon Samuel Walker, Who Dec'd Nov'br 14th 1724, in y^e 57th Year of Her Age."

Judith (Howard) Walker, wife of Deacon Samuel Walker, 2d, son of Deacon Samuel Walker, 1st (epitaph 25), married June 1, 1689. Her husband, chosen a deacon of Woburn First Church, 1769, and one of the first two deacons of the Precinct (Burlington) Church, 1733, died Sept. 28, 1744, aged 77, being interred in Burlington burying-ground, where his gravestone is standing. His second wife was Mary (Richardson) Fowle (epitaph 141). (*Wife* Sewall's Woburn, 172, etc.) Deacon Samuel Walker, 2d, first located near the meeting-house in Wilmington; afterward in Burlington. (J. B. Walker, Bouton's Concord, N. H., 691.)

(87.) "Phebe Wright Daught'r of Mr Josiah & Mrs Ruth Wright Dec'd Decem'br y^e 7th 1724, in Her 3^d Year."

Phebe Wright, daughter of Deacon Josiah (epitaph 130) and Ruth (Carter) Wright, born July 13, 1721.

(88.) "Here lyes Buried y^e Body of Cap't John Cogin Who Dec'd Feby'y y^e 17th 1725 in y^e 59th Year of His Age."

Capt. John Coggin, married Elizabeth, daughter of Joseph and Hannah (Green) Richardson, April 12, 1692. (*Wife* Sewall's Woburn, 634.) "Lieut." 1713; selectman, 1719. (*Ibid.*, 227, 380.)

7th Gr
GRAND-AUNT

(361.) [New marble stone.] "Harriet Bell Died Jan. 23, 1885, Aged 66 yrs.

"I am trusting in the Lord."

Harriet, daughter of Daniel Bell (epitaph 143).

(362.) Epitaphs in Second Burial-Ground, Woburn, found in B. Cutter's list and not found in N. Wyman's list.

Blodget, Capt. (wooden).

Bowles, Sarah M., w. of Jesse . . . Jan. 31, 1840, aged 35 y.

Brooks, Polly, w. of Calvin . . . June 5, 1824, " 49 y.

Cummings, Moses . . . Sept. 10, 1840, " 40 y.

Earnes, Stephen . . . Dec. 17, 1839, " 49 y.

Emerson, Lydia (wooden) . . . [July 23, 1810] " 15 mos.

Evans, Phebe C., d. of Thos. J. and

Mary D. . . . April 27, 1840, " 1 w'k.

Flanders, Mary, widow of William, of

Salisbury . . . Feb. 27, 1842, " 63 y.

Lewis, Chas. Edw., s. of Hanson and

Sarah . . . Mar. 5, 1840, " 3 y. 8 m.

McIntire, Abi F., w. of Caleb . . . June 1, 1841, " 32 y.

Munroe, Miss Arethusa, d. of Dennis and

Elizabeth . . . Nov. 1, 1835, " 19 y.

Pearsons, Hezekiah J. . . . Aug. 25, 1830, " 36 y.

Reed, Capt. Joshua (wooden) . . . 1806.

Reed, Luke . . . Aug. 17, 1821, " 51 y.

Richardson, Josiah M. . . . Sept. 2, 1843, " 31 y.

Richardson, Dea. Jesse (Universalist) . . Dec. 16, 1838, " 65 y. 9 m. 23 d.

Richardson, Mary, w. of Marshall . . Mar. 30, 1844, " 26 y.

Richardson, Jesse, s. of Jesse and

Submit . . . Dec. 11, 1843, " 62 y.

Richardson, Samuel Roswell . . . Dec. 25, 1843, " 2 m.

Smith, John W., s. of Aaron and Harriet, Aug. 25, 1838, " 4 y. 6 m.

Wyman, Samuel Converse (wooden) . . May 25, 1814, " 29 y.

Wyer, Lydia, w. of Benjamin . . . Sept. 10, 1840, " 44 y.

Wright, Jacob . . . Jan. 13, 1843, " 74 y.

Waller, John, s. of Josiah, Jr., and

Mary . . . Dec. 10, 1839, " 2 y. 11 m.

EPITAPHS, SECOND BURIAL-GROUND.

Now God his sudden summons sends
 To me so unawares;
 That I cannot bid my friends farewell,
 But leave them all in tears.
 But hush, dear parents; silence, every friend!
 God gave my life, & pointed out its end;
 To murmur not, but say that God is Just,
 Who made us of & turns us to the dust."

Joshua Richardson, born (twin) 1777; son of Joseph and Abigail (Felton) Richardson (epitaph 7); a member of Woburn First Church; admitted July 6, 1806. (Church Manual, p. 15.) Birth not on Woburn Records.

(See account of accident which caused his death under note to epitaph 43.)

(42.) "In Memory of Mr Samuel Wright, Deceased July 14, 1807
 Ætat. 27.

"This death was occasion'd by the fall of an House frame;
 his death has deprived his parents of an affectionate son, on whom
 they had built their hopes in declining life,
 and a Brother and Sister of a sincere and
 affectionate Friend, and blasted the fond
 Hopes of a Virtuous Female, and the Town of
 an useful & exemplary man, whose Information
 And correct habits rendered him an Object of
 their esteem and Regard.
 Ah, cruel death! why hast thou cut him down!
 And withheld his usefulness to his native Town.
 Stop, thoughtless youth, come view my clay!
 I once like you was young and gay;
 But God, who's just in all his ways,
 Soon put a period to my days.
 My sudden Death proclaims aloud,
 Prepare, O Youth, to meet thy God."

Samuel Wright, born Oct. 27, 1780, son of Deacon Josiah and Lydia (Buckman) Wright, of Woburn.
 (See account of accident which caused his death under note to epitaph 43.)

(43.) "In Memory of Mr. Nathan Parker who died July 10. 1807
 Ætat. 38.

"By a wound which he receiv'd by a fall
 of a frame of an House, he has left a
 widow and five children to lament the

loss of one of the best of Husbands
and Fathers. As a provider he was very
remarkable for his attention to his
Family. A very industrious & ingenious
Tradesman, a real good neighbour,
Social & confident Friend, very regular &
Just in all his dealings, & to conclude
All his moral Virtues an Honest Man.
Oh Death, thou Victor of the human frame
The soul's poor fabric trembles at thy name
How long shall man be urged to dread thy sway
For those whom thou'd untimely take away."

Nathan Parker, born in Woburn, Feb. 21, 1769, son of Josiah and Mary Parker.

Nathan Parker and Polly Richardson, both of Woburn, were married Nov. 10, 1793.

Polly Parker (Mrs. Nathan Parker) admitted member of First Church, Sept. 2, 1804. (Church Manual, p. 14.)

The account of the accident which caused Parker's, Wright's, and Richardson's deaths is the following extract from the first newspaper article ever published by W. R. Cutter. It formed part of an article printed by him in the Woburn Journal for Feb. 6, 1869:—

THE FALL OF THE CLAPP HOUSE FRAME, JULY 14, 1867.

On July 14, 1867, an important event occurred in Woburn, which veiled the entire community with sorrow, and proved long the common topic of conversation in all the region round about. This memorable occurrence, not noticed in our admirable town history, recently published, is well remembered by the aged among us. We refer to the lamentable accident at the building of the "Clapp Mansion," that large, square house of three stories, standing until a recent date at Central Square. It was the fashion to rear the frame of the sides of the dwellings complete; and "raisings," as they were called, were rendered important in the eyes of the general public by the provision of the usual *popular entertainment* for all strangers attending not invited to private houses.

Major Jeremiah Clapp, Esq., being a man of wealth and importance, the erection of the frame of his dwelling, of more than ordinary dimensions, commanded an unusual attendance of guests and assistants. Two sides of the mansion, to be of brick, put in after the frame was raised, were ill supplied with the necessary braces. Consequently, when the timbers intended for the crown roof were passed to the top of the structure, together with thirty or more persons to construct the same, it was casually noticed by certain of the spectators that the frame leaned perceptibly to the west. The raising was nearly finished, the hour of six had arrived, and the expectant workmen hopefully ruminated on the prospective festivity of the evening. The frame leans more discernibly than before; it is too late to avoid the calamity; all efforts are in vain; the frame falls with an awful crash, heard miles distant. A cry of agony ensues, too fearful to be ever forgotten; the spectators stand aghast at the catastrophe. Then followed a confusion that baffles description. There was a rush to extricate those buried in the ruins.

Joshua Richardson and Samuel Wright, young men of promise, were instantly killed, and their bodies were removed, horribly mangled. John Lyman, of North Woburn, after excruciating suffering, died the same night. Nathan Parker, an industrious and ingenious tradesman, died during the week, leaving a wife and five children "to lament the loss of one of the best of husbands and fathers." Thirty or forty individuals, "the strong men of our town," were wounded in an inconceivable variety of ways. Some lingered months, and even years, until death eventually relieved them of pain. Others were crippled for life, and many gradually recovered from their injuries. Jonathan Tidd, of North Woburn, had his back broken, and never walked readily afterwards. Capt. Ismael Munroe, of Burlington, Deacon Benjamin Wyman, Capt. John Edgell, Josiah Parker, Jonathan Thoupson, Jacob Converse, and many others of prominence, were likewise among the wounded.

The funeral of Richardson, Wright, and Lyman was held in the Third Meeting-house. Rev. Joseph Clickering, the pastor, preached an appropriate discourse to a large and sorrowing audience, from the text: "And behold, there came a great wind from the wilderness, and smote the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young men, and they are dead; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee." Job i. 19.

Richardson and Wright were both about to be married, and their bereaved ladies appeared with the chief mourners at the obsequies. The gravestones of Richardson, Wright, and Parker are found in the Second Burying-ground, adorned with inscriptions uniquely descriptive of their several virtues, and eulogistic of the merit thus untimely lost to the town.

(44.) "This stone erected in Memory of Mrs. Elizabeth Richardson wife of Mr Zachariah Richardson; she died Aug. 5, 1807 Aged 63 years."

"Read this & weep, but not for me
Who willing was to part with thee,
That I may rest with Christ above,
In peace & joy and endless love."

Elizabeth (Brooks) Richardson, wife of Zachariah Richardson (epitaph 69), married Dec. 30, 1767. She was born April 22, 1742; daughter of Nathaniel and Submit (Poulter) Brooks, and grand-daughter of Jabez and Hephzibah (Cutter) Brooks (epitaph, First Yard).

(45.) "This Stone erected in Memory of Mr. Joseph Lawrence 2d, who departed this life on the 21 of August, 1807 in the 19 year of his age.

"Remember your creator, God,
Before you feel his chastening rod;
For death will come and stop your breath,
And you must sleep with me in death.
The Lord was pleased mercy to show,
He was resign'd & long'd to go,
When God did call, without a moan
Yielded his breath without a groan."

Joseph Lawrence, 2d, son of Deacon Ebenezer (epitaph 304) and Hannah (Estabrooks) Lawrence (epitaph 226), was born Sept. 23, 1788, in Woburn.

(46) "This Stone erected in Memory of Mr. Ebenezer Lawrence, Jr., Student of Colledge, who suddenly departed this life on the 11 of January, 1808, in the 23 Year of his age.

"O come, my young friends, remember me,
And let my sudden death a warning be,
Let not the morrow your vain thoughts Employ,
But think this day the last you may enjoy.
Improve your time while you have health,
And now in youth prepare for death,
That I may meet you all above,
And feast on Jesus dying love."

Ebenezer Lawrence, Jr., son of Deacon Ebenezer (epitaph 304) and Hannah (Estabrooks) Lawrence (epitaph 226), born June 5, 1785.

"On January 11, 1808, Ebenezer Lawrence died suddenly, aged 23. He was son of the venerable Deacon Ebenezer Lawrence, long a prominent citizen of the town, and at the time of his death was a student at college. A contemporary writes: 'He had been in a consumptive habit, but kept school that day, and went to bed well as usual. He was found dead about eleven o'clock that evening.'" (From article entitled "Interesting to Woburn — Casualties, 1768-1826," *Middlesex Journal*, July 30, 1870.)

(47) "This Stone erected in Memory of Mr Nathaniel Lawrence, the last son of Mr. Ebenezer and Mrs. Hannah Lawrence, who departed this life the 22 of January, 1808, in the 17th year of his age.

"With faith in Christ, this youth did die;
We trust his soul is now on high,
With the redeem'd and blest above,
With Christ, his Saviour and his God
Behold, look here, and weep with us,
All our dear sons sleep in the dust,
But though the flesh to dust are given,
We trust their souls are now in HEAVEN."

Nathaniel Lawrence, "the last son" of Deacon Ebenezer (epitaph 304) and Hannah (Estabrooks) Lawrence (epitaph 226), born in Woburn, July 12, 1791.

(48.) "Sacred to the Memory of Cap Joseph Brown, who died April 16, 1808, Aged 53 years.

"Low in the silent mansions of the grave I lie,
Yet this night shall end when angels hail the morn;
Then shall the soul return & with its dust arise,
When clothed anew with flesh to God it will return,
Here rests the man amidst life's busy scenes,
Who while he lived his active powers displayed;
With friendly habits, and cheerful mind did please,
Then closed life — with calmness met the grave."

JUDITH PROCTOR. The same remarks in the above two cases apply in part to this. She is not mentioned in S. Thompson's list. We have no definite information, other than the record of her death.

SAMUEL CARTER. "Capt. Samuel Carter," says S. Thompson, "died," and was "buried this week" (Jan. 21-27, 1787), "aged 92 years or more." Died Jan. 21, 1787, aged 92, according to gravestone at Arlington. He was born in Woburn, Oct. 31, 1694, and, at his death, was actually 92 years, 2 months, 20 days. His age, as given in the records, is therefore overstated, the record of the diarist and the gravestone being right. (Cf. Sewall's Woburn, 598; Cutter's Cutter Family, 44, 377; Cutter's Arlington, 201, 202.)

REBECCA RUSSELL. "Widow Russell died, aged about 98," says S. Thompson in diary. Her maiden name was Kendall. She was born in Woburn, Jan. 26, 1694-5. Her actual age at death was 96 years, 6 months, or 96½. Her age, as given in the records, was therefore overstated. (Cf. Sewall's Woburn, 621; Locke's Book of the Lockes, 28; N. E. Hist. Gen. Reg., XXXIX., 20).

JOSEPH JOHNSON. "Lieut. Joseph Johnson, 2d Parish, died, aged 97," remarks S. Thompson in his diary. He was born in Woburn, Feb. 9, 1701-2. If this date is correct, his age is but little overstated; and if 1701 is the year, 97 years is right. (Cf. Poole's W. W. Prov. introd. cli.)

Of the second group (1799-1850), CHLOE, the black, is described by S. Thompson in his diary as an "aged negro woman," dying in Woburn, but "buried at Medford"; she being "said to be 100 years old."

JOSEPH RICHARDSON was born in Woburn, Feb. 9, 1726-7. His age was therefore correctly stated. (Cf. Vinton's R. Mem., 254, 255, and his Vinton Mem., 389.)

PRINCE WALKER, the black man, was an interesting character. He was the servant or slave of the Rev. Timothy Walker, the first minister of Concord, N. H. The master originated in Woburn, and the slave is supposed to have originated here also, though his birth is not discoverable on the records. That he died at the Woburn almshouse, after an extended residence there, would show that he was probably a native of the town. The Countess of Rumford, grand-daughter of Rev. Timothy Walker, alludes to him in her memoirs. (Cf. Ellis's Life of Rumford, 228; Diaries of Rev. Timothy Walker, ed. 1889, 25, 30, 31, 32, 35, 37, 38, 44, 45; Bouton's Concord, N. H., 232, 233.)

WIDOW HOLBEN. No further definite information. A reference to the church records has led to an examination of the early printed church catalogues for the full name of this person, and in that of 1827, the name of Abigail Holden, adm., Nov., 1817, is found; alive in 1827, — called Mrs. William Holden, in that of 1832, in which her name is erased as a person deceased; the copies referred to being marked copies belonging to the church officers.

ABRAHAM RICHARDSON. "Æt. 96," — gravestone. He was born in Woburn,

8th Green
Gravel Walk

2nd Burial Ground

(130.) "Here lyes Buried y^e Body of Deacon Josiah Wright Who Departed this life Jan'y 22nd Anno Dom'i 1747 in y^e 73rd Year of His Age." 1743?

Deacon Josiah Wright, deacon of First Church, Woburn, 1736-1747, married Ruth Carter, Sept. 17, 1700; daughter of Lieut. John (epitaph 95) and Ruth (Bunham) Carter (epitaph 84); born Oct. 18, 1681. She died Jan. 31, 1774, aged "92 years, or more." (*Vide* Sewall's Woburn, 589, 598.)

(131.) "Here lyes Buried y^e Body of M^{rs} Sarah Brooks Wife to M^r Nathan Brooks Who Departed this life Feby 21st 1747 Aged 40 Years 6 Mo & 3 D's."

Sarah (Wynan) Brooks, wife of Nathan Brooks (epitaph 151), daughter of Cornet Jonathan and Hannah (Fowle) Wynan, born Aug. 18, 1706. (*Vide* Sewall's Woburn, 652.)

(132.) "Here Lyes Buried y^e Body of M^r Timothy Snow Who Departed this Life March 11th 1747 in y^e 74th Year of His Age."

Timothy Snow, born Feb. 16, 1674-75; son of John Snow; grandson (?) of Richard Snow, the earliest of the name in Woburn, married Lydia Peirce (epitaph 197). (*Vide* Sewall's Woburn, 641.)

(133.) "Mary Tay Dau'tr of M^r William & M^{rs} Abigail Tay, Died May 5th 1747 Aged 1 Year & 10 Mont's."

Mary Tay, daughter of Lieut. William and Abigail (Jones) Tay (epitaph 248); born

(134.) "Here lyes y^e Body of Abigail Richardson Dau'tr of M^r Jonathan & M^{rs} Abigail Richardson Who Died Octo^{br} 2^d 1747 Aged 25 Years 11 Months & 3 Days."

Abigail Richardson, daughter of Jonathan (epitaph 186) and Abigail (Wynan) Richardson, born Oct. 29, 1721.

(135.) "Here lyes y^e Body of Elizth Reed Daug'tr of M^r. Israel & M^{rs} Hannah Reed; Who Died Decem^{br} 9th 1747 Aged 10 Years Wanting 9 Days."

Elizabeth Reed, daughter of Israel and Hannah (Wynan) Reed, born Dec. 18, 1737. (*Vide* History Reed Family, 67.)

(136.) "Here lyes y^e Body of M^{rs} Eunice Richardson Wife to M^r Joshua Richardson Who Died April y^e 13th 1748 Aged 26 Years."

"Also Israel Richardson their son Died April 20, 1748 Aged 20 Days."

Eunice (Jennison) Richardson, first wife of Joshua Richardson, son of Joshua (epitaph 142), married July 11, 1739; daughter of Samuel and Mary (Stearns) Jennison, of Watertown, born February, 1721-22. (*Vide* Bond's Watertown Genealogies, 308, 809.) Israel Richardson, her son, was born March 28, 1748.

GR-GRAMPATHOR
8th 1743