

HISTORY OF WARNER

(Extracts taken from the original written in the "Red Book" in 1885)

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CHAPTER I

[EXCERPT]

These settlers, so far as we are able to ascertain, resided as follows: Davis and Gilmore lived at Davisville; Thomas Annis, Moses Annis, Solomon Annis and Fifield, at Dimond's Corner; Smith and Bagley, at Bagley's Bridge; Heath, Hoyt, Joseph Currier Daniel and Christopher Flanders, at the Lower village; Watson Fowler, Moses Clark, and Daniel Currier, at Joppa; Roby, Trumball, Philip Flanders and Seth Goodwin, at Schoodach; Joseph Sawyer, Abner Chase and Richard Goodwin, on Kelly Hill; Joseph Foster, in the Kimball District; Gould, Stevens, Rowell, Theodore Currier and Ezekiel Goodwin, on Waldron's Hill; Moses Colby and James Flanders, on Burnt Hill; Isaac Chase, on Pumpkin Hill; Edmunds and Carter, on Tory Hill; Abner Watkins, in the Gore; Daniel Young, at the Levi Bartlett place, on the Joppa road; and Jacob Tucker, near the site of tile Kearsarge Hotel, at the Center village. By 1770 about fifty-five families were settled in Warner, or New Amesbury, as it was then called.

The habits of the early settlers, their privations, sufferings and endurance, possess a fascinating interest. Their first dwellings were rude and simple. As late as 1773 there were none but log houses. David Bagley built the first frame house at Bagley's Bridge, a little after this date. Francis Davis and Ruben Kimball built the next earliest; Mr. Kimball also built the first frame barn. Rev. William Kelley, the first settled minister, erected the first two-story frame house in 1774. Money was scarce; watches and clocks were few. When houses were built, compasses were set to square them by, so that the sun might shine in at the front doors when it was noon. They had also nine o'clock marks, one o'clock marks and others. These rude timepieces, of course, were available only on sunny days.

The fare of the first inhabitants was plain and simple. Bean porridge, Indian corn, rye, pumpkins, turnips, fish and game were the most common articles of food. One barrel of potatoes was considered a large quantity for one family to store for winter use. Sometimes, when provisions were scarce in the summer-time, boiled beech leaves were substituted. For a number of years after the place was settled the people went to Concord to grind their corn, drawing it upon hand-sleds or carrying it upon their shoulders. Captain Daniel Floyd used to carry two bushels at a time on his shoulders to that place, and bring it back in the same way. Another settler, Jacob Collins, carried the board; of which to build his rye-bins on bis

shoulders from Waterloo, through the woods and over the hills, the edge of Bradford, because no team could go by the wood-path. The first grist and saw-mills were erected in 1765, and they stood at Davisville.

Some of the first roads laid out in town were the main road to Perrytown (now Sutton), which ran over Denny Hill and south of Frank Bartlett's, crossing the Tory Hill road about a third of a mile up; the road to the North village, by the first meeting house and Levi Bartlett's; the one from the first meeting house, by Kimball's-Corner and the Major Hoyt Place to Henniker; the one through Joppa; the one through Schoodach, which crossed the river at *Bagley's* Bridge; and the Pumpkin and Burnt Hill roads. The first bridge built in town was across the river at the Lower village. It was built in the autumn of 1774, and a part of its cost-forty dollars was contributed by Councilors Daniel and Jonathan Warner, of Portsmouth.

The first public meeting of the inhabitants of the town was held December 27, 1770. At another meeting held July 14, 1774, among other actions it was "*Voted* that Captain Francis Davis shall go and get the town incorporated, if the Proprietors will find the money to do it with.