

The Friends, of whom there has ever been some in the place, have a meeting house, not far from the sea shore. There may be fifteen families now in the town. Those of the Baptist denomination have a modern edifice on the confines of Fair Haven, but within this place.\*

The first or old church is in fact, at the present date, two incorporate societies, with one minister and two places of worship, as we have stated, dividing his time, in certain allotted sabbaths, to each.

We are not furnished with any bills of mortality of Rochester. Mr. Moore, we are told, was very accurate and minute on this head, as well as on the temperature, and many other topics, for several years. His manuscripts are in the hands of his descendants in Rochester. Mrs. Snow, whose maiden name was King, is living at the great age of ninety seven.

A mortal fever prevailed in Rochester, in the early part of 1816. It spread from Fair Haven, where it appeared in Sept. last.

Fifty deaths are stated to have occurred in its bills of mortality, since February; but the fever is now abating, in the month of May. Near 200 deaths are stated in the circle of contagion, say Fair Haven, Rochester, east of Freetown and borders, since Sept. 23, 1815, to May, 1816.

*Anecdotes of the gale and tide, Sept. 23, 1815.*

Theophilus Pease, of Rochester, aged 73, having repaired to a small island at Mattapoiset during the gale, to preserve some hay, soon saw his dangerous situation. Having a pitchfork in his hand and a line in his pocket, he lashed the fork across the limbs of a tree, which he selected and stood upon it about six hours, partly in the water, until the tide ebbed. There were only three or four trees on the island, all of which were carried away by the flood, but the one he selected; a remarkable instance of preservation.

A store containing West India goods, situated at great neck, was floated entire to Wareham, perhaps a

\* The Baptist church in Rochester may date about 1793, according to Mr. Backus.

mile, where it remained with its goods in perfect preservation.

The damage sustained at Mattapoiset was great. Vessels floated from the stocks; two ropewalks, several stores and houses were destroyed, and a great amount of salt lost. The total of loss in Rochester is stated at \$50,000. The tide there rose fourteen feet above low water mark, and four feet higher than ever known there before; the ordinary tides being about six feet.

*A notice of Indian names and claims.*

In the year 1682, (after the sale of Rochester) a native brought forward a claim to all the land "from Sepaconnet, alias Cowasset river, to Wancenquag river, and so to Plymouth westerly bounds," which claim the colony court, on due inquiry, admitted, and quieted by a grant of lands elsewhere; probably at Manomet ponds, in Plymouth.

It appears by the words of this claim, that Seipican bore two names. The word Sippiquunnet evidently signifies "long river;" the word Cowasset is applied to many places. Kawassa is "to hunt," and Cowesuck, is "pines," synonymous terms, because it is in pine forests the deer are generally found.

*Mattapoiset.* This name we find here, also at Swansey, and at Middletown, in Connecticut; in each place, doubtless, having the same meaning. Mattapash, a plural term, signifies to "sit down;" a courteous colloquial expression. How shall we apply it here? Perhaps at all these places there was that intermixed growth of wood, which afforded the materials for their "sitting mats," called probably Mattapash, giving name therefore to such places.

*Monchausest* was the name of the central part of the town. The word Monchisses is used in the sense of "much food;" probably the natives had planted where the colonists first settled.

*Quetequas*, it appears, was the name of certain hills in this town, and of the great pond in that vicinity, and of the little brook, connecting the ponds. In the year

hence its significant name, Wuttoowaganash, "ears," that is, they "hear quick." The English settlers, it seems, without knowing the meaning of this name, have used and transmitted the plural termination only, Waggans, which has no meaning, but a plural merely. We shall seek this bird now, at this spot, in vain; but it appears and is taken, now and then, in the salt ponds, near Ellis' tavern, Plymouth. The name given this bird, with trifling addition, is a watch word, or an alarm; as much as to say, hark! listen! These explanations awake a dead language without alarming us.

*Historical Anecdote.* 1741, Sabbath, March 30. The town of Plymouth was alarmed, during divine service, by Joseph Wampum, a native, who gave information that eight Spaniards had landed at his house, situate four miles distant from Buzzard's Bay. War existed at this date between England and Spain. This notice, therefore, justly excited an universal panic. The drums beat to arms; and the militia were ordered out. It proved, however, to be a false alarm, and has ever been called "Wampum's war." Old people have now almost forgot it; but, when questioned, memory revives it, disarmed, however, of all its terrors. At this period, several vessels had been captured by the Spaniards in the West Indies, belonging to New England; and, in Nov. 1742, a Spanish prize, estimated at £800,000, O. T. was sent into Boston.\*

*Note on the tide and gale of Sept. 23d, 1815.* The damage sustained by this storm and tide here, may be estimated at \$3000. Upwards of 200 tons of salt hay was lost, much cord wood drifted away, and some salt works destroyed. A vessel, of some size, was left on the top of the mill dam at the Narrows, while the water entered the houses there situated.

*Church History.* There is one Congregational society in Wareham, made a precinct 1733, the succession of pastors in which is as follows:

Rev. Roland Thacher, ordained Nov. 1740, died 1773, aged over 60.

\* Private Diary.