

All the others were graduates of Brown University.

1732-3 a second church was formed in Plympton, of which an history will be given under Carver. Mr. Downham was the first deacon of the first church.

We have no bill of mortality of Plympton, but we should assume it as presenting an average rather above that of Carver.

#### DESCRIPTION OF CARVER, 1815.

**CARVER**, in the county of Plymouth, is bounded north by Plympton near four miles; east by Kingston one, and by Plymouth six miles; south also by Plymouth, a brook line, four miles; south-west by Wareham three or more miles; and west by Middleborough near eight miles. It lies in latitude  $41^{\circ}, 55' N.$  longitude  $70^{\circ}, 39' W.$  distant from Plymouth seven miles, S. W. and from Boston thirty-eight, S. S. E. It was incorporated June, 1790, being then the second parish in Plympton, and derives its name from that of the first governour of Plymouth colony.

It comprises the greatest and the poorest territorial part of the town from which it was taken, the original growth being chiefly pitch pine, though there is a good proportion of red and black oak, with a large tract in its S. E. section of low, sunken, swampy grounds, not well adapted to improvement. The arable lands produce Indian corn, yet not in quantity equal to the consumption of its own population, but of rye a surplus. So different are these two contiguous towns in their productions; the rivalries being butter and cheese in the one, and corn and rye in the other, when described by the residents.

*Rivers, Brooks, Ponds.* The shape of the town is an oblong square. Three copious brooks cross its whole width in a S. W. direction, with many lesser brooks, while its S. W. limit on Middleborough, and on Wareham is, for several miles, a river boundary, being first the "South Meadow," and then the "Weweantic River" (having received two and more of the brooks

first named) from two to three rods wide. This S. W. part of Carver, being in autumn and winter flooded land, has much fresh meadow grass. Wankonquag Brook, the south line of the town on Plymouth, meets tide waters at Wareham village. "Beaver dam Brook and Falls" and "Cedar Brook" are early names in this town.

*Ponds.* There are at least twelve ponds, the principal of which, "Samson's Pond," a mile and a half long, by a mile or more wide, has been, in times past, very prolific in iron ore of a good quality.\* It is a source of one of the described brooks, and is resorted to by alewives. This pond is in the centre of the town. "Charlotte furnace" is seated at the mouth of it.

Wenham Pond, a beautiful piece of water with a small island, is in the north section of the town, near the main road. Alewives also seek this pond. The name is derived from the circumstance of an early settler having married at Wenham in Essex county.

"Mohootset Pond" is intersected by the Middleborough line near the N. W. corner of this town. A brook from it passes into that town, but soon enters Carver, and joins South Meadow brook. "Pope's Point furnace," an ancient establishment, perhaps of 1730, is on the Mohootset Brook. It was built by the late Col. Lothrop, Dr. Le Baron, a Mr. Shaw, and others.

On "Crane Brook Pond," intersected by the Plymouth line, is situated Federal Furnace in this town, a modern erection, seven miles from that place. The other ponds, known by various names, and less in size, are chiefly without brooks.

*Cedar Swamp.* There is a tract of white cedar swamp, of several hundred acres, in the east section of the town, which has, for a long series of years, yielded large supplies of that valuable wood, not only as posts and rails, but in various sawed materials. It is an employment of the winter season to get out these trees, and that of the

\* It now, 1814 and 15, yields 80 tons annually. This pond is private property, and may be worth \$3000.

advancing spring to saw them. At the present period, it is remarked that the swamp maple, white pine, and hemlock trees, are coming in where, formerly, an entire growth of white cedar only existed. Twenty years since, posts and rails were sold at about 20s. the hundred, but now at eight and nine dollars. There is here a "rocky neck," of several hundred acres, which bounds on this swamp, and there seems to be a rocky tract near the south meadow meeting house.

*Furnaces.* There are three furnaces, as we have stated, in this town. The ore, now made use of here, is chiefly procured in the state of New-Jersey. Ware, of a good quality, and various castings, furnished from these establishments, is vended in various parts of the United States.\*

The pine forests, by which these erections are surrounded, afford the wood which is preferred for coal.†

Coal is generally made from the middle of August to the middle of November, or later. The wood is cut five and a half feet long. A cord and an half is estimated to make eighty bushels of coal, for which the furnaces allow, on delivery, fifteen shillings for a load of 80 bushels; twenty four shillings is allowed at certain works in Plymouth for an hundred bushels.

Six men may make two hundred load in three months under favourable circumstances. An acre of well wooded land may afford twenty load, the average being much less. The men employed, together with a team, say two yoke of oxen and two horses, must be supported. Contingencies must be kept in view. It is easy to see that the profit, if any, in making coal, must depend on the nearness of the place where it is prepared to the place of

\* The cast iron tea kettle was first cast at Plympton (now Carver) between 1760 and 1765. So modern is this very common utensil in New England. Wrought iron imported tea kettles were used before a copper tea kettle was first used at Plymouth, 1702.

† The first growth, after a pine lot has been felled, we have remarked to be as follows: ferns, brakes, pines, shrub oak, laurel, cross-wort, whortleberry, box-berry, partridge-berry, mullein, wild-sumach. The birds noticed thereabout are, the crow, thrush, wood-pigeon, partridges, whetsaw (a bird of the cuskoo kind, always heard, but seldom seen in the groves,) grouse.

delivery, and to contiguity, too, to a populous town, affording an incidental market.

The division of labour in the arts and employments of men in society is an instructive subject of inquiry. Under this impression, these details are submitted to the publick.

*Mills.* There is in Carver, beside the three furnaces, four saw mills, and several grist mills.

*Fish, birds.* The ponds afford pickerel and perch, and the brooks trout and alewives. A place called "Swan Holt" by the first planters, a little southeast of Wenham Pond, denotes the former visits of that bird, the earliest harbinger of spring; for before the ice is yet broken up, the swan finds an open resting place among the ozier holts, while the kildee,\* flying over the land from the sea shore, soon after confirms the vernal promise. How pleasant therefore, though a seeming cry, is its welcome note: it awakens and brings back a thousand associations of vernal life. Here too, on the confines of the Wanconquag, among the high trees of the impenetrable forest, the eagle, the crane, and the bittern build their nests. "As for the stork, the fir trees are her house," is in the accurate language of biblical ornithology forever true.

With what inimitable truth, too, has the author of the Seasons marked the yet doubtful appearances of spring,

"So that scarce  
The bittern knows his time, with bill ingulft  
To shake the sounding marsh, or from the shore  
The plovers when to scatter o'er the heath,  
And sing their wild notes to the listening waste."

The rude nest of the eagle, several feet in diameter, built of sticks, may be seen hereabout. This bird, with wide spread flapping wings, may be daily seen in the summer months, steering a north-west course to the flats in Plymouth harbour for food, and soon returning. It is probably the brown, or "fisher eagle," we have noticed in the winter season, when it visits the place on the

\* A species of plover, probably the "que ce qu'il dit," of the French. It may be added that kildee is the Danish word for a spring.

ice in Plymouth harbour, where eels have been taken. As it passes over, its neck and a part of its tail appear to be white. It does not take the aboriginal generic name Mickasew (denoting the talons) but Wompissacuck, "white head birds." The bittern and the lesser heron are common and partial to the swamps and brooks, in the south part of Carver, while the Aumkuck, "painted bird," or grouse, has now become rare; wood pigeons, partridges, and quails are common. The skins of furred animals were formerly collected hereabout for exportation, as well as domestic use; \* rabbits, minks, and misquash are yet taken, as well as foxes and racoons; the otter, occasionally seen in ponds, has become very rare.

Mohootset, "the owl," giving name, as we believe to a brook, even now makes excursions, late in autumn and winter, to the gardens in the town of Plymouth. Deer, formerly common, have become rare. The records speak of a place at South Meadows, called "Beaver Brook and Falls;" also "Popos Neck," probably "Partridge Neck;" also "Polypody Cove," a place of "brakes." In this section of the town is also "Horse Neck," a place where the colonists "depastured horses;" also "Rocky Neck."

As to the cedar swamp, we have never heard any aboriginal name for it, unless "Woncenquag," applied to the brook, was intended to designate that. Onnaquege is one of the names for "bark," and Woenuncke is "a ditch." The brook partakes of this character. As to Annisnippi and Winnatuckset, the names for the brooks within Plympton, and giving name to the place, Noosnippit has the meaning of "beaver water, or pond;" and Taggoskit, "to shake," is the name applied to "fresh meadow," that is, "shaking meadow." Winna is an epithet of approbation in all its uses; hence Winna-taggoskit would be a name given to good meadows of that description.

The Craneberry is a very plentiful production of the low wet meadows, in the south of Carver and of Middle-

\* Furs, collected in the vicinity, were exported from Plymouth to London, down to 1774, and in less quantities, since 1788.

† Noosup, being one of the names for the beaver in the dialects of N. England.

borough. Of some tracts it is the most profitable production, whence they are furnished in quantity to a wide vicinage, even to Boston.

The wild cherry is a common native fruit tree, sometimes yielding abundantly an autumnal fruit.

Of cultivated fruits, the apple, button and orange pear were common, but have become scarce.

Among its manufactures, that of baskets, of an excellent kind, and of every variety of form, is entitled to notice. These are made solely by Mr. Jacob Vail, a foreigner, who resides here; and finds, among the ozier holts, and other places, the flexile woods, suited to his useful art, which it is desirable may be perpetuated. Many of these, such as bottle baskets, &c. are sold in Boston.

The early employment of the people of Carver, next to agriculture, was making tar and turpentine in very considerable quantities. This has ceased for many years. Supplying the furnaces with coal, and Plymouth with fuel, together with the sale of a surplus of rye, and some few other productions, are the usual resources of the inhabitants, most of whom are farmers, with some mechanics; and in the summer months furnishing a few fishermen from Plymouth. In 1790, there were 150 families; and in 1800, 124 houses, many of which are of one story only.

On a pleasant green, near the first meeting house, in which plain and humble edifice the swallow (in time past) has literally found an house,\* there are a few houses in close neighbourhood; also near the second, with a few stores, near the several furnaces; but the small population is spread over a wide surface, so that it may be truly said, in all time, when speaking of the respectable village pastor, in the words of the oldest of the English poets,

“Wide was his parish; not contracted close  
“In streets, but here and there a straggling house.”

The people of this place are, almost wholly, descendants of the first planters of Plymouth. The most numerous names, by the census of 1790 were, Shurtliff,

\* We hope the sun of 1816, will shine on a new edifice.

Cobb, Atwood, Shaw, Cole, Ransom, Dunham, Lucas, Vaughan, Sherman, Burrows, Savory, Hammond, Tilton, Murdock, Crocker, Ellis, and formerly Ward. Of the three first names, there were then about fourteen males of each over 16 years of age. Many have attained great age in this village. Mr. Issachar Fuller is now (1815) living, about 90 years old, and a female yet older.

Census.	{	1790, souls 847, includes 12 of colour.
		1800, ,, 863,
		1810, ,, 858.

Those of the name of Shaw are descendants of John Shaw, who arrived at Plymouth about 1627. Those of Cobb, probably, from Gershom Cobb, one of the earliest settlers of Middleborough, and son of Henry Cobb. Those of Savory,\* from Thomas, who came from Slade, in Devonshire. Those of Atwood, from Henry and Stephen Wood. Those of Shurtliff, from William, who was a surveyor and selectman at Plymouth, and an early settler of Lakenham. Vaughan and Sherman were early Marshfield names, and came in here from Middleborough.

#### *Succession of Ministers.*

In this second church of Plympton, now first at Carver,

Rev. Othniel Campbell, ord. 1734, dism. 1744.

John Howland, ord. 1746, died 1804, æ. 84.

John Shaw, ord. 1807.

Mr. Campbell, who was born in Bridgewater, entered Harvard College, it is said, when near thirty years old, where he graduated, 1728. He removed from this parish of Tiverton, about 1747. A contemporary manuscript, taking notice of the period of 1744, says, "Lakenham, (the name of the parish) dismissed Mr Campbell for giving way too much to itinerants, though it is doubtful whether his friends or enemies are the greater number. It is thought he has had hard measure, being in the main an honest and good man." He has a daughter, (Mrs. Ellis) who survives in Plympton, which place he visited about 1772.

\* Thomas and Anthony Savory came before 1640; the latter settled above Boston, near Haverhill.

Mr. Howland, who graduated at Harvard College 1741, the son of John Howland, was born in the parish of Great Marshes, Barnstable. This exemplary pastor, of humble desires, of primitive simplicity of manners, of cheerful and of hospitable disposition, after having lived to see his parish become a town, and surviving that era fourteen years, died, Nov. 4, 1804, in his 84th year.

“At church, with meek and unaffected grace,  
His looks adorned the venerable place.”

Mr. Howland's wife was a daughter of the Rev. Mr. Lewis, of Pembroke. Four sons—and three daughters survived him. One of the latter is the wife of the Rev. Mr. Weld, of Braintree. One son, John, a promising young man, educated a merchant at Plymouth, died in the West Indies, early in the revolution. The youngest son continues on the paternal farm in Carver. This family is lineally descended from John Howland, who arrived at Plymouth, 1620, whose four sons settled, John at Barnstable, Joseph at Plymouth, Isaac at Middleborough, and Jabez at Bristol; from whom, and many daughters, the lineage, like that of Abraham, is spread over the land in countless numbers.

Mr. Shaw, the present pastor, is a graduate of Brown University, 1805, and officiates one sabbath in three at the South Meadow district, or precinct, where, also, Rev. Abraham Cummings, (baptist) a graduate of the same university, preaches the interval sabbaths. Baptists began to appear in this section of the town about 1761.

In the old meeting-house, before Mr. Howland, it was, that Mr. Nathaniel Gardner, an usher of a school in Boston, a scholar and a wit, occasionally preached. His sabbath was passed here; but his social week at Plymouth, to and from which he usually travelled on foot. The late Rev. A. Crosswell, of Boston, also, supplied the pulpit at the South Meadows, incidentally, during the revolution. In the vicinity of this latter place of worship, there is a pleasant view of Samson's Pond; it is near the centre of the town, on the Rochester and Wareham road.

Carver is an healthy town. The annual bill of mortality varies from three to twenty deaths; the last number

applies to 1815. The average is stated at twelve. Consumption is the prevalent disease. Of the influenza, which has prevailed, (autumn of 1815,) several aged people have died. This last remark applies also to Plymouth, in a peculiar manner, in November, where there were fifteen deaths in that month, chiefly aged females. Those on the poor list in Carver are few, sometimes not one, partially six or more.

### NOTES ON HALIFAX.

ABOUT the year 1733, some of the inhabitants of the north of Plympton, the north-east of Middleborough, and the south of Pembroke, built a meeting-house, and became incorporated as the town of Halifax,\* July, 1734. It is bounded northerly by Pembroke, east and south by Plympton, south by Middleborough, and west by Bridgewater; twelve miles distant from Plymouth W. and from Boston by the shortest route, thirty-two S. S. E. Having a large pond in these bounds, with much swamp and low meadow, the population is not in proportion to the given contents, which may be near four miles square. Its outline, however, is irregular, insulating, as it were, whole farms on the Plympton border, the result doubtless of diversity of sentiment as to location in 1764. The original growth was walnut, oak, much white pine, some pitch pine, and white cedar.

King's cedar swamp, of 200 acres, is in this town, with a part, say 60 acres, of the Pembroke great cedar swamp, which contains 1000 acres. Saw mills were early erected, and the first generation were not so much an agricultural people as otherwise. Sawing boards and plank, procuring masts, ranging timber, and the making of shingles for exportation, were early employments, and are yet pursued, modified and controlled by circumstances. Jones' River Landing, Plymouth, Duxbury,

\* There was a period in colonial history, when many towns in British America adopted this name, probably in compliment to the Earl of Halifax, or, it may be, in some instances, from a town of that name in England.