

The Narragansett Sun.

HISTORY OF WESTBROOK

THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 1895

CHAPTER V.

Thomas Haskell and his Descendants, --
Continued.

William Lunt, of whom and his ledger, mention was made in the preceding chapter, would seem, according to the ledger, to have had business dealings with most of the physicians resident in the old town in his day, mowing their hayfields, or mending their shoes, according to the demands of the house, in return for which he received their professional services and nostruma for himself and members of his family. On the same pages, and immediately following his account with Dr. Haskell, are debits and credits to Dr. Coffin, who has been already alluded to, as the leading practitioner of his time, east of Boston. Among the items for which he is credited are the following: "1 visit, Som Salts, Som Snakroots," and lastly "Bleeding me" thus making it evident that Haskell, although only entitled during his lifetime to the "addition or mystery" of "yeoman," did not differ essentially in his medical practice, from the regular physicians of that day.

Intentions of marriage between Benjamin Haskell of Falmouth, and Abigail Parsons of Gloucester, were entered with the town clerk on the 10th of May 1752. She was no doubt a relative, perhaps a cousin of Haskell, whose mother was Mary Parsons, also from Gloucester. The marriage probably took place, at least, there is reason to suppose that it did, as Benjamin Haskell is reported to have been twice married. His second wife, was Lydia Freeman, of a Cape Cod family of that name. She survived his decease nearly thirteen years, dying the 20th of May 1798. Below the name of the parents on the double headstone, are those of children, Benjamin and Lydia Parker Haskell. The only other headstone in the old neglected cemetery, which bears an inscription, was erected to a daughter of Thomas Haskell, who married Z. Hunnewell, a native of Scarborough, who was the first of the name to settle in Windham. The inscription is as follows:

Here Lyes Buried
the Body of Mrs.
Hannah Hunniell,
Wife of Zorubabel
Hunniwell
Died July the 20
1758
Aged 88 years.

Dr. Benjamin Haskell had sons, Thomas, William, Bani and Parsons, and daughters, Hannah and Mary, who survived him. Parsons at the time of the decease of his mother in 1798, was still a minor, but probably soon after, became of age, as he and his brother, Bani, made provisions, near the beginning of the present century, for a home for their maiden sisters in the dwelling house of the family. This house I am unable to locate with accuracy, but it was probably in the easterly side of that portion of Bridge street which runs northerly from the end of the bridge to the present grammar school building. Possibly it was on the site of the latter. William Haskell, son of Dr. Benjamin, had a wife, Lucy, and was living in Portland in September 1814. He was by trade a cabinet maker. Bani Haskell, had a wife Catherine, who joins in relinquishment in dower, in a conveyance of lands and mill property to Jonathan Webb, the 17th of December 1800. Included in this sale was a quarter interest in the Haskell gristmill, which was owned in common with Solomon Haskell, John Haskell and William Cobb. Cobb was a son-in-law of Joseph Quinby, and his wife Mary, a daughter of the elder Thomas Haskell.

Joseph Quinby and his wife Mary Haskell, were the ancestors of the Quinby, Pierce, Seal and Slammons families of Stroudwater and vicinity.

Of the elder Solomon Haskell much has already been said in these chapters. His intentions of marriage with Mary White were filed on the 24th of September 1749. She is said to have been a widow. By her he had two sons, Solomon Jr. and Mark to whom he left the "Tyng Hundred Acres," and daughters Anna, who married Daniel Conant and _____ who married William Lamb, Jr., of Deer Hill. Mr. Haskell was a deacon of the Congregational

church, and is said to have been greatly exercised in spirit when the first Methodist minister held services in the town of his adoption. Since then however, some of his own descendants have been useful and honored members of that household of faith.

In spite of difficulties between the Windham proprietors and the town of Falmouth in relation to a bridge over the Presumpscot river, and the dividing line between the towns, it is a fact worthy of notice, that the early residents of Saccarappa attended divine worship in Windham, where a church was gathered in 1748, under the ministry of the Rev. John Wight, who was ordained on the fourteenth of December of that year. The church records in the handwriting of Mr. Wight, disclose the names of several persons who are known to have lived in this town, namely those of Thomas Haskell and several members of his family. Haskell was dismissed from the First Parish of Falmouth (now Portland), to unite with the church in New Marblehead (Windham;) and subsequently, in 1765, was again dismissed to join in the organization of the Fourth Congregational Society of Falmouth, now known as Capisic. Among the original members of this church, long under the pastoral care of the Rev. Thomas Browne, and subsequently under that of the famous Parson Bradley, were the following persons who are known to have resided within the present limits of Westbrook, viz.: Thomas Haskell, Nathaniel Knight, Solomon Haskell, Benjamin Haskell.

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TO BE CONTINUED.

HISTORY OF WESTBROOK

THURSDAY, JULY 4, 1895

CHAPTER V.—CONTINUED.

Daniel Godfrey.—Early Surveys of Saccarappa and Vicinity.—Chas. Gerrish, the First Settler in Durham.

An early settler of Saccarappa was Daniel Godfrey, by trade a housewright. In his own

day he must have been a personage of no small importance on the present main street of the village, then recently "swamped out" for the passage of log and lumber teams. On the fourth of December, 1732, the Proprietors' Committee laid out to him thirty acres of land about ten rods above Saccarappa Falls. This territory was on the southwesterly side of the river, and probably included the tract of seven or eight acres now owned by Mrs. Conant. The twenty-sixth of September, 1732, another tract of seventy acres, adjoining the above tract, was laid out to Godfrey. This tract included the present "old cellar field." The twenty-fourth of November, 1738, one acre was laid out to him "for a house lot" at the corner of his thirty-acre lot. Four days later there was laid out to him a lot of three acres "on the thirty acre lot;" and the twenty-seventh of December, the same year, he received four acres more. He is known to have been an owner in sawmills and water power, for on the twenty-third day of November, 1761, Benjamin Godfrey, shipwright, sells to Robert Johnson, yeoman, "one-eighth part of a double sawmill at a place called Saccarappa, in said Falmouth, together with one-eighth part of the stream thereunto belonging, where said double sawmill now stands, being one-eighth part of said double sawmill and stream which I purchased of Daniel Godfrey, late of Falmouth, housewright, deceased * * * being in common and undivided with other owners of said mill and stream."

Daniel Godfrey made a will, which may be found in the volume of "Maine Wills," published from the York Records by the late William M. Sargent. It bears date twenty-fifth December 1750, and was witnessed by Thomas Haskell, and Joseph and Samuel Conant. It was admitted to probate the second of July, 1753, rendering it probable that Godfrey died in the early part of that year. The appraisers were Thomas Haskell, William Bucknam and Charles Gerrish, and his estate was inventoried in English money at £187—4s—7d.

In the first item of the will he gave to his brother, Joseph Godfrey, five shillings. In the second item he gave to his sister, Sarah Godfrey, five shillings, and to his brother, Benjamin, all his personal estate. Then follows a third item in which he gives to Benjamin all his real estate and appoints him executor of his will.

Upon a tracing, now before me, of land and water power at Saccarappa, from a survey

by William Pote, recorded in the York County Registry of Deeds, and dated twenty-eighth April, 1742, a mill standing in nearly the same spot where the mill of W. K. Dana & Co, now stands, is indicated as the Godfrey mill. On the westerly shore of the island, where the electrical building now is, is Bayley's mill, while an open space, apparently much longer in extent than can be found at the present day, is indicated as the "Log Yard." Only one dwelling house is given on this plan or survey, that of Mr. Knight, which was near the present site of the furniture factory.

On the tenth of May, 1732, there was laid out a tract of land also shown on the above plan, whose central situation in what is now the most valuable part of our city, will justify a full transcript of its description as the same appears in the Proprietors' records:

"Laid out to the right of James Simpson ten acres of land in the township of Falmouth, beginning at a stake at the south east side of Daniel Godfrey's thirty acre lot and to run down Presumpscot river, bounded upon Sackerapy Mill yard, til it meets with John Tyng's hundred acres at the lowermost part of ye Falls, and then to run back into the woods the same course of Tyng's and Godfrey's lots, till ten acres be made up; if ye same be fre from former grants."

The record does not show at whose instance the land was laid out; but seven acres thereof, with the road through it, were afterwards sold to Moses Pearson by the heirs of General Samuel Waldo. This "read through it," was doubtless the "forebear" of our present Main street.

In a plan of the "Cooper claim," also made by William Pote, no doubt in 1743, a bridge across the river is laid down, at a place apparently between the upper and lower falls near the present location of the railroad bridge of the Westbrook Manufacturing Company. This may have been the bridge about which the town had so much trouble with the good people of Windham and others, by whom they were presented at court.

A tract of land above Godfrey's and easterly of the division line between Falmouth and Gorham, was laid out to one Moody, who had purchased the right of Richard Plowland, an old proprietor in the first settlement. This land was purchased of Moody or his heirs, by Moses Pearson, whose descendents hold some portions of it at the present

time. The Godfrey lands, after the death of Godfrey, were owned in part, at least, by Charles Gerrish. In 1762 Gerrish sold twenty acres, with house, barn and outhouses thereon, to Major Enoch Freeman. This I take to have included the field west of the present Conant place, now owned by the heirs of the late Hon. George Warren. Gerrish had previously (twenty-eighth April, 1758,) conveyed to George Knight "the moiety of the twenty acres beginning at the northwest corner of thirty acres laid out to Daniel Godfrey," which he and Bartholomew Thompson had bought of the heirs of Josiah Plummer, then late of Falmouth, deceased. By this time Gerrish had removed to a place called Royallsborough, now the town of Durham, of which he was the first settler. In 1787 he conveyed by quitclaim to Major Enoch Freeman, "all the rest of his farm at a place called Saccarappa." He appears to have received from Freeman a large tract or tracts of land in the new town to which he removed, in exchange for his Saccarappa lands, which thereafter passed into the possession of Enoch Freeman, Jr., who resided in a large mansion house which formerly stood in the field already mentioned, west of the Conant cemetery. This house was subsequently removed to the southerly side of the present Longfellow street, where it stood until a few years since, when it was taken down to make room for the present double house of John W. and Albert F. Warren. Enoch Freeman, Jr., died on the fourth of December, 1732, at the age of eighty-two years, and lies buried in the Conant Cemetery.

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TO BE CONTINUED.