

# The Narragansett Sun.

## HISTORY OF WESTBROOK

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1895

### CHAPTER XV.

The Lamb family of Westbrook.—The Gilman family who lived at Ammoncongan.—Grant of land to Joseph Quinby on the right of Edward Shovey.—

We have noticed in a former chapter the ownership of extensive tracts of land southerly of Deer Hill and on both sides of the road from old Ammoncongan to Portland by Benjamin Larrabee, father and son and their descendants. Connected with the Larrabees by intermarriages were the Lamb families, descended from William Lamb who first resided at Stroudwater, but subsequently purchased and lived upon the old homestead now owned and occupied by Marrett Lamb Esq., a little northwesterly from the crest of Deer Hill. On the 17<sup>th</sup> of February, 1767. This William Lamb purchased of Ichabod Hunt and John Wilson “a tract of land at a place called Deer Hill near Ammoncongan containing forty acres and bounded as follows: “Beginning at a stake standing 27 rods northwest from a pitch pine marked P. on Deer Hill aforesaid, said tree being the westerly corner of a tract of land Mr. Samuel Proctor formerly sold to Moses Goold; from said stake running north, northwest ninety-six rods towards Ammoncongan at a stake; thence east northeast, one hundred thirteen and one half rods to a stake; thence south twenty degrees west, one hundred eight rods to a stake; thence south forty-five rods to the stake first mentioned,— the said north north west course, or westerly side line of said forty acres, is bounded on the easterly side of a rod road from said tree down to Edward Gilman’s house, said forty acres being one half of eighty acres we this day had a deed of from said Gilman.”

There is reason to believe that the land which Proctor conveyed to Goold extended from the north easterly boundary of the present farm of Marrett Lamb, to the river; but from the perishable nature of the land marks used in those early days it is no longer possible to follow any of the ancient boundaries with any satisfactory degree of accuracy. All we really know now is that from the

corner of Goold’s land a rod road led to Gilman’s house which was nearer to Ammoncongan. From other investigations in the country records we are able to state that Gilman’s farm was the same now owned in part by Harlan M. Raymond at Cumberland Mills. It is described as beginning at Deer Hill and extending north, north-west two hundred and fifty six rods to Presumpscot river, and down said river until one hundred and fifty four acres are completed. The 25<sup>th</sup> day of January 1804, this farm was sold to Nathan Winslow by Ebenezer Gilman of Standish, John Gilman of Falmouth, Zechariah Small and Jermima his wife of Falmouth, in his right, Paul Leighton and Phebe his wife of Falmouth, her right, and Edward Gilman of Bolton in Lower Canada. The grantors describe themselves as grandchildren of Edward Gilman who purchased the farm as they tell us in their deed, of Edward Gilman of Exeter, N.H. We have no information respecting this family of Gilman’s except that Zechariah Small, whose wife was Jermima Gilman, was one of the sons of “Prophet” John Small, and lived in the farm now owned by Simon H. Mayberry in a house that formerly stood on the westerly side of the Windham road, now called Pierce street, at the curve rear the Maine Central Railroad.

On the 16<sup>th</sup> of April, 1770, William Lamb, Jr., son of the William Lamb, above named, bought of David Small twelve acres of land at Deer Hill “adjoining Edward Gilman’s land.” I do not know whether this Small was connected with Zechariah Small just mentioned. He is said to have lived a part of the year in a house which stood where the “White House” formerly stood, and at other times in a house which stood near the Presumpscot river. It would seem from this that he was a man of peculiar habits, perhaps somewhat eccentric, I do not find that he held title to any land except the twelve acres which he conveyed to Lamb. I suspect therefore that he was a truant of Benjamin Larrabee who owned the land where his house stood, and as Larrabee resided at Falmouth Neck, he may have been employed by him to guard his timber lands which were doubtless of considerable value, and offered great temptations to trespassers.

William Lamb, Jr., married one of the daughters of the elder Solomon Haskell and left a numerous family. Of his five sons Solomon settled in Naples, Nathaniel in Otisfield, John succeeded to the family homestead on Deer Hill, Samuel who married a daughter of Benjamin Larrabee settled on land inherited by his wife from her father, now the Deering city farm and Mark lived and died unmarried at the home of his brother John. One of his daughters was the wife of Capt. John Warren of Saccarappa and the mother of our fellow townsman, Lewis P. Warren Esq. William W. and Marrett Lamb, of Cumberland Mills are grandsons of William Lamb Jr., being sons of his son. John Marrett Lamb as we have already noticed is still in possession and owner of the old homestead.

In 1767 Edward Gilman sells eighty acres of land at Deer Hill to Ichabod Hunt, shipwright and John Wilson cordwains both of Falmouth. Previously, in 1744, Gilman had conveyed to these parties the same land and had received a reconveyance for some reason that after the lapse of years is no longer apparent. Through this tract Gilman reserved the "rod road" leading down to his dwelling house. I am at a loss to determine the locality of this road, but think it was easterly from the present Main street, or Portland road from Cumberland Mills. It was probably only a wood road at the time of the reservation. The 29<sup>th</sup> day of June 1779, Edward Gilman Jr., gave a bond to Wm. Lamb, Jr., in which he came under obligation to sell to the latter land adjoining his own. Gilman dies, probably at Falmouth, intestate. Chase Stevens of Windham, a somewhat noted surveyor in his time, was his administrator. It is not clear whether Edward Gilman and Edward Gilman Jr., are one and same person or not; but it is most probable that they were father and son, and that the former returned to Exeter, N.H., having come hither from that place, leaving the son in possession of his lands here. One of the Gilmans sold about two acres near the falls at Ammoncongan to Waite and Moody, who were probably engaged in the lumber business upon the river. He also sold land at the same place to Ebenezer Mayo in 1779.

The following grant of land made by the Falmouth Proprietors, committee may still be of interest to those living in the vicinity of Cumberland Mills, viz:

"Laid out to the right of Edward Shove at the request of Joseph Quinby thirty acres of land in the township of Falmouth and bounded beginning at a point of rods twelve rods up the river from the lowermost part of Ammoncongan Falls said point

of rocks being the most northerly corner of seventy acres of land laid out to said Shove June ye 1<sup>st</sup> 1772, thence south and by east seventy-six rods adjoining said seventy acre lot to a stake in the line of sixty acres laid out to William Hide, thence south sixty seven degrees and 30 minutes east one hundred and forty-six rods to a stake in the line of sixty acres laid out to Benjamin Larraby Jr., thence north, northwest one hundred and thirty rods to the river thence southwest up the river to the first bounds provided the same be free from former grants etc.

Approved by the proprietors May 5 1774.

ENOCH FREEMAN )  
STEPHEN LONGFELLOW ) Committee.  
BENJAMIN WINSLOW )  
JOSEPH NOYES )

R.

TO BE CONTINUED.

## HISTORY OF WESTBROOK

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1895

### CHAPTER XV.- CONTINUED.

William Hide, who is he?—Henry Wheeler an early Grantee of lands in Westbrook.—Edward Shove and his family.—Early Roads in Westbrook.

William Hide, who is mentioned in the grant to Joseph Quinby was an early grantee of lands in this part of the old town. The grant which was made to him on the 26<sup>th</sup> of August 1734, is the one referred to in the grant to Quinby nearly forty years later, and appears to be all the land he ever owned in town. This tract is described in the Proprietors' Records as follows: "On the southerly side of Presumpscot River, beginning at the west norwest corner of one hundred and fifty acres of land laid out to Henry Wheeler, and from thence to run west noreast one hundred and sixty rods to a stake; and from thence east south east one hundred and sixty rods to a stake standing on said Wheeler's line and from said stake south east sixty rods to the first bounds. The committee for laying out lands at this time were Edmund Mountfort, John East and Joshua Moody. Henry Wheeler, at whose "west norwest corner" this grant was made to begin, was, according the late Mr. Willis, admitted an

inhabitant of Falmouth in 1729. He came from Charlestown, Mass. His first wife Sarah, died in 1736. The same year he married Mary, the widow of John East, and occupied the house which had previously been East's in King (now India) street, Portland. He was by trade a blacksmith, and a very active and useful man in the affairs of the old town. There was a connection between the family of Wheeler and the Riggs family of Capisic. It is not probable that Wheeler ever resided within the present limits of Westbrook, although the grant of land above mentioned or a part of the same was laid out the 29<sup>th</sup> of September 1731, as follows: "Laid out to Henry Wheeler a certain tract of one hundred and two acres bounded beginning at a pitch pine tree marked on the north side of Burch Hill, and to run S.S.W., one hundred and sixty four rods to a stake; thence N.N.W., one hundred and two rods to a stake; thence N.N.E., on hundred and sixty-four rods to a stake; thence to the first boundary mentioned. \* \* Said Wheeler to have a four rod way through said lot most convenient for the town's use. The proprietors' committee at this time were John Tyng, Thomas Haskell and Moses Pearson. By Birch Hill was probably meant the eminence North East of the present Stroudwater road now occupied in part as the Catholic cemetery; and assuming that the four rod way which Wheeler was obliged to have through his lot was identical with the above mentioned Stroudwater road, the grant in question would have embraced the lands now owned by Alonzo Libby, Smith Babb and others, while Hide's grant may have included the lands on the present Haskell street near Cumberland Mills.

In the grant to Quinby mention is made of a former grant to Edward Shove on the 1<sup>st</sup> June 1732. This grant according to the proprietors' records was as follows.

Laid out to Edward Shove seventy acres \* \* \* bounded as followeth, beginning at the upper side of Nathaniel Winslow's sixty acre lot at Presumpscot River near Ammonocong Falls and to run up said river seventy rods and to run back into the woods the same width bounded upon said Winslow's land until seventy acres be completed \* \* Said Shove to leave a convenient highway through said land where it will be most convenient for the town's use.

Dated in Falmouth June 1<sup>st</sup> 1732.

JOHN EAST                    )  
 THOMAS HASKELL        ) Committee  
 JAMES WINSLOW         )  
 THOMAS PEARSON        )

I am at a loss to determine the exact location of this grant, but I think it embraced within its limits the farm near Cumberland Mills, known as the Dexter Haskell farm, while the land intermediate and extending westward between the same and the Tyng hundred acres was laid out by the proprietors to the great land owner, Gen. Waldo. The highway reserved would therefore be the present Main street from Saccarappa to Cumberland Mills. Thus the great antiquity is established of two of our principal roads, viz: Main and Stroudwater streets. The latter may have been originally a mast road used by Col. Westbrook, and subsequently, in the establishment of said mills at Saccarappa, by the ox teams which drew the manufactured lumber to Stroudwater for shipment to the West Indian ports.

After the resettlement of Falmouth more of the wealthy and well-to-do citizens of the Neck had grants of land made them in the then wilderness pastures of the town. Edward Shove was evidently one of this class of citizens, if not rich, possessed of a competency for the time in which he lived. He was admitted an inhabitant at the time of the contention between the old and new proprietors, and had a house lot granted him at the foot of Centre street where he lived for some years. He was the son of Rev. George Shove, minister at Taunton and was born in 1680. He had a family of nine children. He came here from Dighton, Mass., and probably returned thither before his death. In 1766 his sons were Theophilus, Edward and Nathaniel, and he had daughters, Mary Smith, wife of John Smith; Ruth Southwick, wife of Paul Southwick; Elizabeth Osborne, wife of Paul Osborne, and Lydia Chase, wife of George Chase, all residing in Massachusetts and New York.

R.

TO BE CONTINUED.