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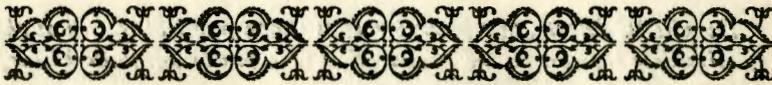
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1930



PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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THE EARLY HISTORY OF MANCHESTER

by JUDGE JOHN S. PETTIBONE

1786-1872

*Aside from the accounts of Manchester given in Hemenway and Zadock Thompson, the only published history of the Town is an address given in 1875 by Judge Loveland Munson, printed the following year, a book of some sixty-five pages. This was a finished but necessarily brief sketch. In his introduction, Judge Munson mentions as important sources his conversations with the late Judge Pettibone and a manuscript of the latter. This manuscript was transmitted by Mrs. Munson to the Vermont Historical Society with the letter given below.*

*There is no indication as to when the manuscript was written, except that the letter at the end of the manuscript mentions the burning of the State Capitol in 1857. Judge Pettibone took part in the War of 1812, and thus was old enough to remember some of the early settlers of the town. He was the town's representative in the legislature for many years, and a member of the Governor's Council, in the days before the State Senate was instituted. He was also Judge of Probate. His manuscript is obviously not a finished product, but the editor has corrected some errors of form. Part of the substance is contained in Judge Munson's history, but there is much detail as to individuals and the land they lived on, narratives, and interpretation, which has not appeared elsewhere. The numerical ratio between Whigs, Tories and Neutrals, is the same as that recently described by James Truslow Adams; and Judge Pettibone gives a more sympathetic treatment of the Tories than is usual.*

*Despite its defects, this manuscript is worth publishing. It ought to stimulate interest in the preparation of a really adequate history of a town which ranks among the most important in our early history.*

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*Manchester, Vermont*

*September 25, 1929*

*The Vermont Historical Society,  
Montpelier, Vermont.*

*Sir:*

*Enclosed is a manuscript and copy of the same which I am glad to give to the Society for safe keeping.*

*I have been familiar with the manuscript in a general way ever since 1882, but until last winter I never had read it; when I realized that it was the manuscript given to Judge Munson by the Pettibone family, referred to in the introduction to the "Early History of Manchester."*

*I first had a typed copy made and sent to Miss H. Canfield and Mr. Harris Whipple who are more familiar with the early history of the town than any others I know, and with their help some names and places were cleared up which I did not succeed in reading from the manuscript. Then the second copies were made, one of which I enclose.*

*As Judge Pettibone was Thompson's authority for the incidents in the "Rangers" the account in the manuscript has additional value.*

*I have just been reading Mr. Fleetcroft's book on Thompson, and on p. 124 there is reference to Thompson's finding traces of the New England witchcraft delusion still lingering in his day, and I am wondering, knowing he had talked with Judge Pettibone, whether the incident in the manuscript could have been the basis of Thompson's "Witchcraft."*

*The Capt. Isaac Burton, whose wives were the subject of the witchcraft incident, was a brother of my great-grandmother and I never heard any tradition of the incident from any one of the family. The only trace of an independent source came thro the son of old Judge Fowler who told Miss Canfield he had heard his father tell the story as one he heard from the older residents of the town in his day.*

*As to Judge Pettibone's reliability, I have no way of knowing. He states that Mrs. Josiah Burton, whose son Elijah was kept from the Battle of Bennington by measles afterward married Timothy Mead. Her tombstone says she was the widow of Philip Mead, but reference to the Burton genealogy throws some doubt on that, so Judge Pettibone may have been right after all. In time we shall find which is right.*

*I was sorry that I had not Callahan's Documentary History of New York at hand to verify the reference to it.*

*Judge Pettibone's opinion on the morals of Manchester in early post-Revolutionary times agrees with that of the Rev. Mr. Perkins of East Hartford who made a horseback journey in 1789 thro this region and wrote that Manchester was a "loose town."*

*I wish Judge Munson had had time to rewrite and expand the history of Manchester as he hoped to do, but he did not, tho almost his last piece of work was to annotate a copy of the "Early History" in pencil.*

*I became greatly interested in the traits opened by the old manuscript, but I could not follow them far enough.*

*Yours truly,*

MARY C. MUNSON.

## PETTIBONE MANUSCRIPT

### PART I

THE Town of Manchester was chartered August 11, 1761, containing 36 square miles, by Benning Wentworth, Governor of New Hampshire, to sixty-four individuals, with two rights reserved to the Governor, one to the first settled Minister, and one to the Society for Propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts, called the Society Lot. No steps were taken by the original proprietors or grantees to survey or settle the Town. It appears a road had been laid out before the survey, leading from Sunderland to Hardwick, now East Dorset.

In the summer or fall of 1763, Timothy Mead of the Precinct of Amenia, Dutchess County, N. Y., called Nine Partners, with several others went on an exploring tour to that section of country now Washington County, N. Y., which was then a wilderness. They passed east on to the mountain called Equinox, south of

Skinner Hollow, and discovering a valley between that and the Green Mountains, they descended into the valley and made a careful examination of the lands between the mountains. They returned to Amenia and made a report of this section of the country so favorable for agricultural and manufacturing purposes that an agent was sent to New Hampshire to make a purchase of the Township. The Proprietors' records do not show where the Proprietors of the Grant resided. In 1764 a majority of the rights were conveyed to Timothy Mead, Samuel Rose, Jeremiah French and others. Ephraim Coven [Cowen?] one of the original grantees, deeded on the 11th day of August, [December?] 1764, nine rights to Samuel Rose including his own; to Timothy Mead seven rights, Jeremiah French eight rights, to other individuals from one to three rights. Coven states in the deeds "he having good right to convey the same." There is no evidence that Coven had any deeds from the original Grantees. [It seems likely that Coven was really the principal proprietor, to whom the others, mere dummies, had transferred their rights.] No paper title can be traced back to the original grantees of the Charter, of nearly or quite one half of the Town. Coven deeded the right of George Gilmore to Samuel Rose. Samuel Rose, Jr., went into possession of No. 34, 1st Division, and No. 44, 2nd Division, a right which was set to him as heir of Samuel Rose. Samuel Rose, Jr., received a Captain's commission from the King and joined the British forces during the Revolution; his property was confiscated, and was purchased of the State by Samuel Pettibone for £784/9s. It was discovered later that George Gilmore, the original grantee, never deeded to Coven. To perfect his title Pettibone proved a deed from George Gilmore of his whole right divided and undivided. It appears from the deed that Gilmore then lived (1785) in Cambridge, N. Y. In all probability the property of the Frenches which was confiscated, was held by no better title, as Coven conveyed to the Frenches using the words "Having good right to convey the same."

Under these titles the proprietors were by a warrant from Samuel Robinson\* warned to meet at the house of Michael Hopkins in Amenia in the County of Dutchess, N. Y. then called Nine Partners on the 14th day of February, 1764. The proprietors met

\*Father of Col. Samuel Robinson of Bennington.

at the time and placed named, organized by choosing Samuel Rose Moderator and Jonathan Ormsby† Clerk. At this meeting John Vaughn, Nathan Smith, James Mead, Stephen Mead and Samuel Shipard (Shepard) were appointed a Committee who were directed to survey to each proprietor 100 acres of the best land in Manchester equal in quantity and quality. The Committee were to receive 12 shillings (\$1.50) per day, and Samuel Shepard, surveyor, 13 shillings per day, and find themselves. The Committee were to proceed as soon as the weather would admit and the necessary arrangements made for the survey. The survey was completed and signed by Daniel Shepard (not Samuel appointed by the proprietors) on the 10th of June, 1764. It appears from the settlement and allowance of the accounts of the Committee that 22 days were spent in surveying seventy 100 acre lots. sixty-four to the sixty-four original grantees, two to Governor Wentworth for signing the charter, one to the first settled minister, one to the church of England as by law established, called the Glebe, one to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, and one for the use of schools, called the school lot. These lots, called old hundreds, were all numbered and each proprietor drew for his lots. There is no evidence on the proprietors' records that the original grantees were present at any of the meetings or attended the survey except in the account of the expense of the surveying the Town. "E. Coven is allowed for six days, waiting for the Committee at Pownal."

The proprietors were now prepared to commence improvements. It is proverbial at this day that on the 1st day of April when property is to be set in the list for the purpose of making up taxes to defray the expenses of the Town, the leading business men have become extremely destitute of personal property, although from their manner of living they have the appearance of being wealthy and even rich. By an examination of the early settlement of this Town this trait of character seems to have been inherited from the first settlers, for on the 17th of September 1764, the expenses were audited and allowed and a committee appointed "to assess each proprietor according to the number of rights he possessed." When the assessment was made, Rose who, not six months be-

†Father of Gideon Ormsby and Grandfather of Jonathan Ormsby. Killed by the smuggling crew of the Black Snake. Embargo time. See Crockett's Vermont, Vol. III, p. 11-14.

fore had nine rights, on this 18th of September had but three rights. Mead who had on August 11th eight rights, had but one in September. Jeremiah French seems not to have been quite so unfortunate as he had lost but four or five rights. After the tax had been assessed, the proprietors seem, by some way which does not appear from the records to have regained their rights. In September, 1764, the second Division, of fifty acre lots, were surveyed and divided.

In the summer and fall of this year, six clearings were commenced, one by Samuel Rose on the farm now owned by John S. Pettibone, one on the farm now owned by David Dyer, by James Vaughn, who built no house on his clearing. He was a shoemaker and had a log house a few rods from the barn of J. S. Pettibone. Judge John White says he chopped for Vaughn to pay for shoe making. Judge White then lived on the Governor's lot.

Stephen Mead commenced a clearing the same year on the farm now owned by Levi Purdy. Timothy Mead owned two 100 acre lots embracing all Factory Point. He was the oldest son of Timothy Mead, and with his father and two brothers, James and Stephen, moved into Manchester in 1765. Zebulon and Ezra removed to Manchester soon after. Timothy Mead, then Timothy Jr., built a grist mill near Clark's Tannery, a fulling mill, a saw mill, and a store. There were a large number who must have settled the next year, Benjamin Purdy, Jeremiah and Isaac Whelply, Nathan Smith, Michael Hopkins, Jeremiah, Andrew and Benjamin French.

The following extract from Vol. 4 of the Documentary History of New York throws some light on the early settlement of the Town, in 1765, one year after the first survey. "The following is a list of persons living in Manchester Dec. 18th, 1765 furnished at that date by Samuel Robinson and Jeremiah French to the Governor of New York, they then being in the city as agents for the settlers (to wit). Timothy Mead, Stephen Mead, James Mead, —Earl — Welsh, Jeremiah French, Wm. Marsh, Daniel Allen, Michael Hopkins, Benjamin Mack Millen (?), Thomas Bronson, Henry Biddleston, — Johns, Wait Hopkins, Stephen Hopkins, Pinne (?) Jeremiah Whelply & 'divers others' ". Jeremiah French lived where E. Swift now lives, James Mead where Benjamin Munson now lives, Andrew French on No. 40, east of the Court House, Zebulon Mead on the 100 acres north of

the Glebe, Isaac and Joseph Whelply where A. Hollister now lives, William Marsh on No. 1 where all the village on the west side of the Street extends, as far south as the south line of William Bronson. The property of William Marsh, Samuel Rose, Jeremiah, Andrew and Benjamin French, Joseph Lockwood, William Reynolds, Joseph Baker who lived near James Wheaton, Dater Selick, and David Sturges, was all confiscated on the 23d of April, 1778 by His Excellency, Thomas Chittenden, Timothy Brownson, Joseph Bowker and Jeremiah Clark\*. The property of others living in the State who had taken side with the enemy was confiscated by this same Court of Confiscation. Samuel Rose, Senior, who died in 1777 or 1778, was the largest land owner in Town. His whole property would have been confiscated, I have been informed by those who lived in the neighborhood, if he had lived a few months longer. An act of the Legislature was passed in 1779 to prevent the return to this State certain individuals including those in Manchester whose property was confiscated, except William Marsh and Benjamin French. Joseph Lockwood did return and lived several years in Town, where, I have been informed, he died.

The question has frequently been asked "At what time was the first religious society organized in Manchester?" The Baptist Church in Manchester was organized June 22, 1781, and Elder Joseph Cornell [Cornall?] elected Pastor. This was the first settlement of a Minister as he received the Minister's lot granted to the first settled minister. Soon after this date the Congregational Church was organized and the Rev. Job Swift was the Pastor. About the same time the Episcopal Society was organized—Barber was their minister for several years. His son Martin became a Catholic, went to Rome, was made a Priest, and settled on his return in Claremont, N. H.; the father soon after became a Catholic. It was twenty years and eleven days from the day the town was chartered before any decisive measures were adopted for the regular administration of religious ordinances. The people were not destitute of the preaching of the Gospel all this time, for there were meetings held at Soper's Tavern on the Fall,† below the Glebe lot, and *barns* were opened for religious worship in the summer. In

\*Grandfather of Judge Clark.

†Munson's Falls.

1785, the Vermont Baptist Association was formed in Elder Cornell's barn. There were at this time nearly or quite as many families in Town as there are at this time, if we omit Factory Point. On the 200 acres owned by Timothy Mead I believe there was not a family living during his life time except his sons or one or two families who carried on the mills, store, etc. To what can be attributed the neglect for 20 years of the regular administration of the Christian ordinances? One cause which can reasonably be assigned for this neglect was the difficulties which arose from the conflicting claims of New York and New Hampshire to lands in the New Hampshire Grants.

Those settled in Manchester were from New York, and being near Albany the inhabitants were exposed to vexations and suits: executions were levied on their farms. In September, 1766, only one year from the time the first deeds were given, Michael Hopkins was appointed agent to meet the agents of the other Towns on the west side of Connecticut River at Springfield at 10 o'clock A. M., at Landlord Hoit's Hotel, and in October, 1766, Lieut. Jeremiah French was appointed agent to go to New York and negotiate on affairs for Manchester and Danby. This vexatious and costly contest with New York must have produced great pecuniary embarrassment to the first inhabitants. The severe trials they had to meet and the obstacles they had to overcome are well understood by those who have read the early history of Vermont.

Before these difficulties were settled more difficulties arose. The struggle of the Colonies with Great Britain commenced in less than twelve years from the first settlement of the Town. This contest produced a division of those who by their united wisdom and courage had enabled them to successfully resist the unjust claims of New York. This contest divided the inhabitants into three parties. The two extremes, the Whigs and the Tories were nearly equal in numbers and talent, the latter possessing the most property. The third class were called neutrals. They were so, in name, but in acts, spies and harborers of Tories. The leaders of the rebellion as they were called had made up their minds that English Rule should no longer be endured, cost what it might. The Tories were imbued with the belief that the power of Great Britain could not be resisted and also believed they were bound by their oath of allegiance to obey their King.

These men were not actuated by cowardice as they had shown in the contest with New York. They could and would fight and most of them joined the army of the king. The neutrals who nearly or quite equaled either of the other parties were men of weak minds, generally timid and cowardly, and these were looked upon with contempt by both parties, Whigs and Tories. These timid creatures could not comprehend that spirit which gave utterance to the noble sentiment which proclaimed a readiness to sacrifice property and life to obtain independence. They would not object to the sacrifice of life and even property as their conduct evinced when their lot came to sacrifice the property or lives of others, but should the lot cast make them the victims for the bloody sacrifice it made their flesh quiver. But few, I believe, even at this day can be found who would not be the officiating priest at the altar rather than the victim offered.

The Meads, Frenches, Roses, Ormsby, Hopkins, and others who were before friends and neighbors, now were found in arms seeking to destroy each other. Rose, French and Marsh were allies in arms against their neighbors. The Meads, Ormsby, Beaman, Smith, Barney, Burton, and others were Whigs. A religious sentiment may in charity be urged as a reason which influenced the minds of some who adhered to the cause of the king. This idea was suggested by noting the phraseology of two deeds one signed by Mead, a Whig, the other by Jeremiah French, a Tory. Mead's deed was written December, 1770, in the 10th year of his Majesty's Reign; French's in these words, "In the tenth year of the Reign of our *Sovereign* Lord. Geo. the 3d, by the Grace of *God Defender of the Faith.*" Those who belonged to the Church of England would perhaps consent to break their *political* ties to the King, but would not rebel against the head of the Church, and by the Grace of God the Defender of their Faith, for whom they offered up daily prayer. In those towns, as far as my knowledge extends, where the church of England was the prevailing religion, the inhabitants were mostly Tories.

To whatever cause these divisions may be attributed they were obstacles to the progressive improvements of this town. There was no want of talent. For in the village of Manchester resided more men of College education before the Churches were formed than have been educated of those born in Town since that time. Judge Buell [?] was a lawyer and built a house where

F. W. Hoit [Hoyt] now lives. Dr. William Gould built a house south of E. B. Burton. Dr. Bebee [?] lived in the village. Col. Keys, who was a Major in Col. Sheldon's Regt. of Dragoons in the war of the Revolution, lived near where Mr. Black now lives. Judge Hitchcock, Capt. in Sheldon's Regt., lived south of Keys. These were all graduates of Yale College. They were not religious men.

The Roses made no profession of religion and did little or nothing for its support. James, Stephen, Zebulon, and Ezra Mead, who were the first settlers, were professors of religion, but these, except Stephen, removed to Rutland County soon after this Town was settled. Stephen moved to Pittsford before the war. Timothy Mead was not a professor, but aided the cause by his property and influence. Not one of his children were religious; they became intemperate, except Truman, and nearly all the large property embracing the whole of Factory Point passed out of the name soon after the death of the father. The Purdys, though moral men, were none of them professors of religion except Solomon who removed to Rutland. Major Ormsby was not a professor of religion, but was a man of strong mind, one of the leading men of the revolution. He possessed a liberal spirit and did more than any other man to build up the Town. His wife was a woman of remarkable ability and possessed a mind and courage that would do honor to most men. She was a professor of religion and was one of the few that first united with the First Congregational Church in Manchester. Major Ormsby died in 1802 or about that time.

The war had a bad influence on the minds of the people. The leading men in Town had formed habits of drinking—if not of intercourse; they were in the habit of assembling at Taverns. At this time Manchester village might be called an immoral place. Drinking, gambling and whoring were common. From 1794 to 1800 a great moral change was manifested. Col. Keys, Judge Hitchcock and others of that class left Town. A new set of merchants and professional men settled in Town. Robert Pierpoint\* removed from Connecticut to Manchester. Though he was never a professor of religion himself, his wife was, and his influence both of property and mind were devoted to build up and maintain a good moral and religious community. He built and kept a public

\*See Miner's List of Episcopalians.

house and a *Tavern* in which neither drinking to excess or any gambling were allowed. Israel Roach moved to this Town about the same time or a few years after. He purchased the house formerly kept as a tavern by John Pierce. He kept an orderly house where no drunkenness or gambling was allowed. In 1801 or 1802, Richard Skinner came from Litchfield and settled in Manchester as a Lawyer. He was admitted to the Bar at the June Term of the County Court. At the next Session of the Legislature he was appointed States Attorney for the County of Bennington, which admitted him to the bench of the Supreme Court. It is unnecessary to speak of the character of Judge Skinner; his character has become the property of the State and will be preserved and cherished. Dr. Gould, a graduate of Yale College, and Dr. Asel Washburn were the physicians of Manchester. Dr. Washburn was esteemed as an excellent physician but his usefulness was much lessened by intemperance, and Dr. Gould became a drunkard. Ezra Isham settled in town about the time Mr. Skinner came to town. Dr. Isham possessed talents of a high character and, had his profession admitted it, would no doubt have raised himself to an equal eminence with Judge Skinner. Joseph Burr, whose influence was always on the side of good morals and religion, was for many years a merchant; his life and character is also before the public. Joel Pratt came to reside in Manchester village about 1798. He had been in trade on Factory Point, failed in business, removed to the village, was appointed Town Clerk, which office he held for many years, was a Town Representative and a member of the Council many years. He was an able, industrious, moral inhabitant, kind to the poor, universally respected.

The regular administration of the ordinances of religion in the village cannot properly be said to be established before 1801. Dr. Swift remained in Town but a few years when he removed to Bennington. After his removal the inhabitants of the south part of Town as far north as Isaac Burton's, uniting with the people of Sunderland, built a meeting house on the flat east of the Batten-Kill. This was at that time a wealthy society including Isaac Burton, Major Ormsby, S. Pettibone, J. Sheldon and Eli Brownson, in Sunderland, Timothy Bronson, Gen. Gideon Bronson, Joseph, Levi, and Gilbert Bradley, Amos Chipman and many others, all at that time men of good property for farmers. Chauncey Lee from Connecticut was their Pastor for several years,

when he left about 1794 or 1795, without any just reason, as was believed by the society. Soon after he left the society was dissolved. The church which was then respectable for numbers and united has become extinct, and the spot where the meeting house stood is now covered with grass. The inhabitants of the South part of the Town, after Mr. Lee left, united with the former Society.

## PART II

Esquire Powel's second wife was the widow of Joseph Harris and sister to Isaac Whelpley. Captain Isaac Burton married her daughter, Rachel Harris. She was, to use the words of one who was well acquainted with her, "a fine, healthy, beautiful girl." Not long after they were married she went into a decline and after a year or so she died of consumption. Capt. Burton after a year or more married Hulda Powel, daughter of Esquire Powel by his first wife. Hulda was a very healthy, good-looking girl, not as handsome as his first wife. She became ill soon after they were married and when she was in the last stages of consumption. a strange infatuation took possession of the minds of the connections and friends of the family. They were induced to believe that if the vitals of the first wife could be consumed by being burned in a charcoal fire it would effect a cure of the sick second wife. Such was the strange delusion that they disinterred the first wife who had been buried about three years. They took out the liver, heart, and lungs, what remained of them, and burned them to ashes on the blacksmith's forge of Jacob Mead. Timothy Mead officiated at the altar in the sacrifice to the Demon Vampire who it was believed was still sucking the blood of the then living wife of Captain Burton. It was the month of February and good sleighing. Such was the excitement that from five hundred to one thousand people were present. This account was furnished me by an eye witness of the transaction.

In the south part of the town Samuel Rose owned all the governor's right, the farms of David Dyer, James Bowen, John S. Pettibone, Joseph Burton, number fourteen across the river, now owned by the Town and J. S. Pettibone, and the whole of number six where Ralph Purdy lives. He built the first frame house in Manchester near the old school house, in 1769. Rose must have died soon after the house was built. He had seven

sons and four daughters. His oldest son, Samuel, received a Captain's commission in the Royal army and his farm now owned by J. S. Pettibone was confiscated. The wife of Joel Rose, who was a firm Whig, kept her husband from joining the Royalists. Asa lived where David Dyer now lives, and pretended to be neutral, but was actually a spy and harborer of the Tories.

Joshua Rose was paying his addresses to Hannah Howard, the heroine in Thompson's *Tory's Daughter*. She was the daughter of — Howard who lived near the river north of Curtis Burton. [On the "Harwood" place on the cross road on the Wilbur property. H. C.] Her mother was a sister of Major Gideon Ormsby; who lived on the Skinner farm where Noble Purdy now lives. It was all a wilderness between the east road and Major Ormsby's; in the center between the two roads was a black ash swamp. Howard lived in a log house with two rooms in it having two outside doors. Joshua was over visiting his dear Hannah one evening, and gave her a Canada pin, a rare article in those days of non-intercourse with the British nation. The women were obliged to make use of thorns and other materials for pins. She inquired where he got the pin; he was loathe to tell. She pressed her suspicion so shrewdly he told her his secret. He said his brother Samuel was at his brother Asa's with seventeen Tories. He had enlisted for the Royal army and they were to leave for Canada that night. Hannah made an excuse to step out and entering into her mother's room, awoke her, relating what her lover had disclosed. Hannah returned and kept Josh longer than usual lest he might return and make known what he had said.

Mrs. Howard (her husband being then in the army) got up, went through the woods in the night to her brother, Major Ormsby, and related what she had heard to him. The Major immediately called out the Whig neighbors to go and take Samuel Rose and his party. Captain Thomas Barney lived then where Levi Purdy now lives. Capt. Barney, Jonathan Ormsby and Daniel Purdy were directed to take a foot path leading from Barney's to Asa Rose. Samuel Pettibone was to go directly out, near the east line of Rose farm. Another party was to go from Sunderland, the Brownsons and others; and when this last party should arrive, by a concerted signal all were to surround the house. Before Barney and his two associates reached the place assigned

them they met Rose and his seventeen Tories in the woods. Captain Rose and the other party were well acquainted with each other. Barney halted Rose and ordered him to surrender, at the same time ordering his lieutenant, Jonathan Ormsby and Ensign Purdy to charge their men to keep perfect silence and to advance. Captain Barney at the same time gave orders to the soldiers to fire down the first Tory that attempted to escape. Rose knew Barney was Captain of the Militia Company and that Ormsby and Purdy were officers, and did not suspect that these officers had turned out without their men. Rose delivered up himself and his seventeen soldiers as prisoners. S. Pettibone and his party had reached their appointed place and could hear the communication or order of Captain Barney. They went to his aid and when they arrived, found Captain Rose and seventeen Tory soldiers seated on the ground some rods from where they had put down their arms.

Before Joshua had returned home his brother Samuel and all his party were prisoners. This case should be a warning to all young men to be cautious lest their locks be shorn by some Delilah and the Philistines be upon them. Captain Rose removed to Canada and became a man of wealth and influence. His mother lived to an old age and died in the house where James Bowen now lives. Joel Rose had a handsome property and died soon after the war closed. None of the family did much to promote the cause of religion or education.

John Hitchcock lived in the southeast corner of the town [*where Johnnie Mattison now lives. H. C.*] He removed early to Kingsbury, New York. Jabesh Hawley lived on the farm adjoining Hitchcock's. He removed to the farm where Levi Purdy now lives, about 1790. John White lived near where M. Bently now lives. He was a man of strong mind and an active and firm supporter of the cause of the Whigs. He removed after the close of the war to Georgia, Franklin County, and was for many years Chief Judge of the County Court. Aaron Mason made the first settlement on a fifty acre lot now owned by Eli B. Lathrop. He was a plain, honest, good citizen. He sold out to Isaac Brevoort and moved to the north part of the town on the farm south of Burr Smith. He moved from there to Malone. Brevoort built the house where Eli Bronson lives, sold to Col. Eli Bronson and moved to the farm now owned by Orvis and Boynton. He had a

small store of goods when he lived in the south part of the town, became wealthy and was respected until after he moved to the farm out of the village. After he was 82 years old I saw him in the Vermont State Prison. Timothy Crittenden and his brother, both worthy citizens, lived in the neighborhood of Col. Bronson, or a little south of Miner Purdy; one or both removed to Poultney. There was Elias Hopkins who lived near where Miner Purdy lives; Caleb and Josiah Sheldon, farmers, and Esquire Bliss lived in the same neighborhood. The father of Mahalon Cook's mother lived about a half a mile east of David Dyer, near one ————. Haven and Langdon, mechanics, lived south of George Purdy's. [*The Langdons lived on the Pike place. H. C.*] Benjamin Purdy, grandfather of Levi and George Purdy, as soon as the second year of the settlement of the town, moved on the 100 acre lot number seven now owned by George Purdy, coming from Nine Partners with the first settlers. He had six sons and four daughters. Solomon removed to Rutland and died there. Smith, the youngest removed to Monkton, Addison County. David remained in town till after the death of his father and mother who lived with him. There were a greater number who could claim to be of the descendants of Benjamin Purdy and his wife, than from any other in this town. Ninety-three walked in the procession as mourners at the burial of the wife of Benjamin Purdy. Samuel Southerland married one of the daughters and had seventeen children all living at the time of the death of their grandmother. Two daughters are now living, Hickox and Vanderlip. [?] None of the sons or daughters of Benjamin Purdy who lived in this town ever made a public profession of religion. They were all moral industrious good citizens.

Steven Mead settled on the lot now owned by Levi Purdy. He was a man of talent and took an active part in favor of the revolution. He was one of the party who rescued Remember Baker from the New York Sheriff. He was town clerk for 10 or 12 years. He was a professor of religion. He removed to Pittsford and settled on Otter Creek near the Great Falls. Thomas Barney purchased the farm of Stephen Mead. He married the eldest daughter of Gov. Thomas Chittenden. He took an active part in the war of the revolution. The widow of Samuel Rose occupied for many years the old Rose house. None of the Rose family, either male or female, ever made profession of religion,

and none except Joel did anything to promote the cause of religion or education beyond the school district.

Gideon Ormsby, son of Jonathan Ormsby who was clerk of the first Proprietor's Meeting at Amenia, Dutchess County, N. Y., on the fourteenth day of February, 1764, settled on the farm where Noble Purdy now lives. He and Jeremiah French were in 1766 appointed a Committee to lay out highways. He was appointed to other town offices on the early settlement of the Town. He was an influential leader in the revolution, and one of the Committee of Safety. He was, though then young, a man of strong mind, of great firmness, open in the expression of, and firm in maintenance of his sentiments. He was a strong advocate of the political measures of Jefferson and opposed to John Adam's administration. President Adams proclaimed a fast in the spring or summer of 1798. The Democrats disregarded the proclamation. The Federalists kept the day as a fast and just before the hour for the people to pass to the meeting house where religious exercises were held, Major Ormsby had two yoke of oxen prepared to draw stone for the wall he was building north of his house, west of the road. As soon as the people going to the meeting appeared in sight, he, who did not labor, himself, except on extraordinary occasions, took charge of the teams, and was busily engaged in drawing stone, making quite as much noise as was necessary to make the teams work. He did this to show his contempt of the Proclamation. Party spirit ran so high at that time that neighbors, before friendly, were so much influenced as to break off, in some cases, neighborly intercourse. Major Ormsby was elected representative about this time. He was not a professor of religion, but I heard the minister who visited him in his last sickness say he believed he was a Christian man. He was foremost in the building of the meeting house; and liberal in maintaining preaching. He did more than any other man in town toward building the Courthouse and Jail. He had four sons and seven or eight daughters. His wife was a woman of a strong mind and possessed a courage that would do honor to any man. The Tories had girdled a young orchard Major Ormsby had set out, and once or twice set fire to his house, after the defeat of the American army on Lake Champlain. The armed force under Col. Warner retreated as far as Manchester. Col. Warner made a stand at Jeremiah French's, where

Edward Swift now lives. The three families of Meads who first settled in Manchester, and had moved to Rutland County were driven from their homes with others. Timothy Mead and family fled. John Smith and family fled as far as Bennington. Elijah Burton, Truman Mead, and Nathan Beaman, had all enlisted with Warner's Regiment and Mead and Beaman were in the Bennington battle. Elijah Burton was confined with measles. His mother, afterwards the wife of Timothy Mead did not leave home. Mrs. Ormsby, though she was openly threatened with having her house burned, bade defiance to their threats, and remained at home with her small children.

The land on both sides of the village settled by William Marsh and the Frenches, was all confiscated. Col. Marsh owned lot number one; one hundred acres on the west side of the street was owned by William Marsh, and on the east by Andrew or one of the Frenches. Thaddeus Munson purchased the one hundred acres west of the street. Nathan Smith, father of Elijah Burton's first wife, lived somewhere near the Willson stone mills, or as some say, over near the Brick Tavern. He was one of the Committee to survey the town. The Town Records show that as long as he remained in town he was highly respected, holding town offices. He removed to Shoreham, Addison County. There were several Smiths that lived in Manchester at an early day, one, the father of Levi Purdy's mother, grandfather of Gurdon H. Smith.

The original Proprietors of the Town left two acres, forty rods long by eight rods wide, called a meeting house plot, a piece of which, where the court house and tin shop now stand was used as a burying ground. [*The grandfather and grandmother of G. H. Smith were buried there.*] This spot was consecrated as a final resting place for the dead, and some who fought in the struggle for the independence were buried there. In 1812, the graves were leveled to make a place to drill the young recruits of the army of 1812. The two acres dedicated for a meeting house and a public green was first encroached upon by a hatter's shop south [?] of the Courthouse. The occupation of the ground for a courthouse was believed to come within the view of the original Proprietors. The next encroachment was the erection of a barn and horseshed. This produced for a while great excitement. The barn and shed was claimed to be an appendage of the Court-

house and Jail, as teams were necessary to convey prisoners, (such as had no property to pay their debts) to jail. The shed was necessary to shelter the teams. The next was the erection of a schoolhouse, then the new courthouse. The next a dwelling house, now a part of the Vermont Hotel. Then the tinshop, and lastly the horse shed row. I have seen a battalion of soldiers paraded on the public green in rear of the meeting house and courthouse; and I have lived to see the time when a place on the two acres cannot be found, not claimed by private individuals, of sufficient size to drive a one horse wagon on.

On the next lot north of the seminary lot lived Noah Smith. He belonged to the Masonic Society, and set up an independent lodge which was called Smith's Lodge. Some members of Smith's Lodge afterwards joined the regular lodge which was called the North Star, and I heard some say Smith's Lodge was the more orderly of the two. Col. Lee lived west of the main road and the valley, as did Samuel French, the first Proprietors' Surveyor. Samuel Beaman, father of D. B. and N. S. Beaman, of Troy, lived on the Glebe. On the main road north lived Benjamin Purdy, Henry Bullis, Thomas Bull, Aaron Mason, John Smith. Turning east from Smith lived Nathan Richardson, father of Andrew, John, Amos, and Nathan, then Samuel South-erland, next east two families of Frenches. Major Aiken lived where Gen. Roberts lives, then the Benedicts and the Andersons. All these were good industrious farmers. Near where the Brick Tavern stands, lived Aaron Saxton and two families of Spears[?]. South of Gen. Roberts lived the family of William Marsh. Mrs. Marsh was daughter of Jeremiah French and the farm was deeded to her, which saved the property from confiscation. Soper, father of Peletiah, lived on the farm now owned by Col. Baker and C. Green.

Timothy Mead owned two one hundred acre lots, embracing nearly the whole of Factory Point. Mead moved his family on to this farm in 1765. He built a grist mill, a saw mill, a fulling mill, store, a tannery. Timothy Mead, father of all the Meads who came to Manchester, moved in 1720 from Horse Neck, (now Greenwich) Conn. to Amenia, in Dutchess County N. Y., then called Nine Partners. His sons were Timothy, James, Stephen, Zebedee, and Ezra. The four youngest were all professors of religion. Timothy, the eldest who lived in Manchester

till his death was a man of a different character. He was not a professor of religion, but rather partial toward the Baptists. He used to attend meeting regularly, was a very good man when he was good natured, when mad he was like a tiger. He was overbearing, high tempered, though not quarrelsome in the neighborhood, as absolute as a Turk in his family. I had this statement of the character of Timothy Mead from one of his grandsons. He says further none of his sons were religious men or possessed good business habits. That large property remained but a short time in the possession of the children after the death of their father.

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*The manuscript ends here.*

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*Two pages in a different handwriting are included with the manuscript, but have been omitted by the editor because their substance is contained in the following letter or series of notes:*

Gideon Ormsby—May 26, 1778. The Militia of the State was organized. The 1st Co. of the Regiment: Capt. Gideon Ormsby, Lieut. Solomon Soper, Ensign Wm. Saxton. The Regiment included all the Towns west of the mountain north of Arlington and Sunderland. I do not find any further mention of Gideon's military service after this. I think his name is on the rolls at Montpelier if they were not burned. He represented Manchester in 1778 and in each [year] thereafter except 1781 till 1788, and again in 1789, 90, 95, 98, 99, 1801, 1802. See Slade's page 66 and Journals; in Slade's you can find more.

General St. Clair evacuated Mt. Independence July 6th, 1777, reached Castleton that night (except those overtaken at Hubbardton) and the next day St. Clair dated a letter at Col. Mead's at Otter Creek, July 7, in which he writes he is on his muster to Bennington. On the 9th he dates another letter at Col. Marsh's [in Manchester] in which he says, "If I can be supplied with provision at Manchester [I will] join Gen'l. Schuyler at Fort Edward with all expedition." I cannot learn which way St. Clair went from Manchester. I presume down Battenkill unless he went through Rupert, as the Tories were numerous in Arlington and Sandgate and much elated by St. Clair's defeat.

## COUNCIL OF SAFETY.

His Exc. Thos. Chittenden P. — Timothy Bronson, (grandfather of William Bronson), Joseph Bowker, Jeremiah Clark. This was the Court of Confiscation held on the 23d of April, 1778. Those of Manchester whose property was confiscated were Jeremiah French, living then where John Phelps [?] does, Samuel Rose, where I live, Andrew French, one of the Frenches, owned the lot back of the Court House, Benjamin French, Joseph Lockwood (his was south of D. Dyer's now owned by D. Dyer), William Reynolds, Dater Selick, Josiah Baker (he lived where S. Boynton lives), Daniel Sleeper [?].

In 1779 the Genl. Assembly passed an act to prevent [the return] to this State of certain persons named viz. all the names whose property was confiscated in this Town except William Marsh & Benjamin French. See Slade's State Papers 355.

The mother of Thompson's "Tory Daughter" was sister of Major Ormsby. She went through the woods in the night from where Daniel Purdy now lives, to her brother Major Ormsby on the Skinner farm, and notified him that Samuel Rose with a lot of Tories was at Asa Rose's, where Dyer now lives. They were all taken, 17. You may perhaps find something interesting to you in some papers I handed Mr. Wickham.

Yours truly,

JOHN S. PETTIBONE.