

Early History of Berlin by Rev. James Hobart

1785

In the month of June 1785, Mr. Ebenezer Sanborn moved from Corinth in the East part of this State, into the north part of Berlin on a branch of Onion River called Dog River, about half a mile from its mouth. This was the first family that moved into the town. In the month of July the same summer, Mr. Joseph Thurber moved from the west part of the State of New Hampshire onto the north side of Berlin at the mouth of the Dog River.

1786

On the 11th of January 1786, Mr. Moses Smith moved into the southeast corner of Berlin from Granby in Massachusetts, supposing he was in the northwest corner of Williamstown in the beginning of May the same year Mr. Sanborn and Mr. Thurber removed from Berlin to Plattsburg on the west side of Lake Champlain, A short time before they left the town Mr. Daniel Morse moved his family from Washington about 18 miles eastward of this, on to the place which was Mr. Thurbers (at the mouth of Dog River). In the month of July the same season, Mr. Jacob Fowler moved from Corinth in this State on to the place, which Mr. Sanborn left (just above Mr. Thurbers,)

1787

In the month of May 1787 Mr. John Lathrop moved from Bethel in this State into the southeast corner of this town. About the middle of September the same season Captain James Hobart moved from Newbury in this State into the northwest corner of Berlin.

1788

In the year 1788 Mr. Morse removed from Berlin down the Onion River and Mr. Hezekiah Silloway moved from Corinth in this state onto the place Mr. Morse left. (At the mouth of the Dog River.)

1789

In the latter part of the winter and spring of 1789 there were eight families moved into Berlin, which made in the whole thirteen families in town. Mr., Ebenezer Collins moved into the east part of the town from Southbury in Massachusetts. Mr, William Flagg and Mr. Jacob Black moved into Berlin a little south of the Center from Holden in Massachusetts, (In the early days that part of the town about the old church on the hill and the place that Mr. Mitchell has recently bought, was the "Berlin Center". Old Mr. Martin and his son Daniel moved their families into the south part of the town

from Rumney in New Hampshire, Mr. Micajah Ingram, Mr. Eleazer Hubbard and Zachariah Perrin all moved into the east part of the town from the State of Connecticut, Mr. Ingram and Mr. Perrin from Gilead, and Mr. Hubbard from Glastonbury.

Death, the King of Terrors who always pursues the human race in every part of the world and from whose devouring jaws no one can escape, came this year to the few inhabitants here in the wilderness and cut down five of their number In the month of March Mr. John Lathrop buried an infant, which was the first death in the town, The next was the Widow Collins, who died the same spring, being in the eighty eighth year of her age, in August Mr. Eleazer Hubbard buried an infant and the fall Mr. Moses Smith buried two infants that were twins.

1790

In the course of this year there were eight families moved into Berlin, which made in the whole 21 families in town.

Mr. David Nye and his brother Elijah, Mr. Jaber Ellis and Mr. Aaron Strong all moved into the east part of Berlin from Connecticut. Mr. Nye and his brother from Glastonbury. Mr. Strong from Bolton and Mr. Ellis from Gilead, Mr. Joshua Bailey moved from Newbury in this state into the east part of the town. Mr. Joshua Swan came from Newbury in this State and married Mr. Collins' daughter and settled in the east part of the town. Mr. John Taplin of Corinth and Captain James Sawyer of Newbury both in this state, moved onto dog River in the west part of the town. In September the same year, the Rev. David Tappen of Newton, Massachusetts came as a missionary and preached several lectures and one Sabbath in the east part of the town. In the course of this year there were two deaths. In the fore part of the summer David Nye buried an infant. The same season Mr. Jacob Fowler buried a daughter about 8 years old.

1791

On the 31st of March the freemen of Berlin met, chose town officers and were organized according to law. In the course of this year there were the addition of five families which made twenty-six in the whole. On the 2nd of December Betsey Hobart, daughter of Captain James Hobart, as she was crossing Onion river in a Canoe with her sister Sarah and three young men, in the evening, the canoe unfortunately turning over, Betsey Hobart was drowned, being in her twentieth year, Betsey Hobart was found about a mile down the river the second day after she was drowned, the Rev. Elijah Lyman Minister of Brookfield being sent for attended her funeral and preach upon the solemn occasion, Mr. Brooks was not found until the first of the next April . In the month of September the Rev. Elijah Parish of Newbury Byfield Massachusetts, came as a Missionary and preached one Sabbath and several lectures in that part of the town. The

Rev. Mr. Mills, a Missionary from the State of Connecticut, preached two lectures one day about the same time tin the east part of the town.

1792

In the course of this year there were, by persons moving into town, the addition of nine families which made in the whole 35 families in town. There were three deaths in town this year making the whole number of deaths in town eleven. Mr. Joseph D. Wolf, Mr. Salvin Collins and Mr. Samuel Currier each them buried an infant.

In the month of March the Rev Azel Washburn, who had been dismissed from Royalton in this State, on the account of his mind's being some deranged, came and preached one Sabbath gratis in the east part of the town.

Here endeth Rev. James Hobart's History as copied into an index book by Arthur Hewitt, Town Clerk of Berlin.