

EARLY HISTORY OF BERLIN, VERMONT

1763 - 1820

By

MARY GREENE NYE

1951

THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED TO THE PIONEER SETTLERS OF BERLIN

Published by
NORBERT J. TOWNE *and* H. J. DODGE

Agent VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY Montpelier Vermont

COPYRIGHT 1954, BY NORBERT J. TOWNE

Capital City Press, Montpelier, Vt.

CONTENTS

FOREWORD	Earle W. Newton	
PREFACE	Mary G. Nye	
I. PROPRIETORS AND GRANTEES		Page 1
II. PROPRIETORS' RECORDS		17
III. PROPRIETORS' MEETINGS		25
IV. SURVEY OF THE TOWN LINES OF BERLIN		31
V. THE FIRST SETTLERS AND EARLY ROADS		42
VI. MARKS FOR CATTLE, ETC.; TOWN AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS; CEMETERIES AND CHURCH RECORDS; THE REV. JAMES HOBART		59
VII. TOWN MEETINGS-WHERE HELD		68
VIII. ILLUSTRATIONS		71
IX. ODDMENTS		79
X. Appendix		92

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to express my sincere thanks to all those who have aided me in the research and publication of this early history of Berlin. Let me first acknowledge my indebtedness to the inhabitants of the town who have encouraged me to bring this material into print.

At the Annual March Meeting of the town in 1940, Harvey J. Dodge and W. O. Comstock were appointed a committee to assist me in my labors, Norbert J. Towne, as Moderator, acting ex officio, with them, and at the Annual March Meeting in 1947, the following resolution was presented by Norbert J. Towne, and accepted and adopted by the voters of the town:

RESOLUTION: That the citizens of the Town of Berlin do hereby express their deep appreciation to Mary G. Nye for her exemplary devotion to this town in research and collection of the data for a history of the Town of Berlin, and also of the early history of Vermont.

That a copy of this resolution be given to Mary G. Nye, and that it also be spread on the minutes of the Berlin Town Meeting, held March 4, 1947.

I consulted with many persons whose suggestions and knowledge were helpful. Outstanding among these were Mrs. Sarah L. Brown, Town Clerk of Berlin, Helen E. Burbank and Rawson C. Myrick of the office of Secretary of State, Earle W. Newton and Arthur W. Peach, Directors of the Vermont Historical Society, G. N. Harmon and O. Fay Allen, J r., respectively County Clerks of Rutland and Orange Counties, H. J. Conant, State Librarian, John Clement, historian, of Rutland, Miss Edna Jacobsen, of the Albany, New York State Library, Miss Dorothy C. Barck, of the New York Historical Society, personnel of the New Hampshire State Historical Society and of the office of the New Hampshire Secretary of State, at Concord, and Mrs. Dorothy S. Eaton of the Library of Congress, Washington, D. c., all of whom have assisted me in multitudinous ways, putting their valuable time at my disposal with a generosity that only I can appreciate.

An especial expression of gratitude and appreciation is due to Messrs. Harvey J. Dodge and Norbert J. Towne, not only in assisting me in the work of gathering the information contained in this volume, but in financing its publication, an act of generosity, loyalty and good citizenship which deserves the heartfelt thanks of the townspeople of Berlin as well as the author.

Mary Greene Nye

FOREWORD

Vermont historians have been anticipating for many years the publication of Mary Greene Nye's *Early History of Berlin* long delayed while the author sought out that last elusive document in Albany, New York, Hartford, Concord, or the Rutland and Orange County Courthouses. This anticipation was not because Berlin was an especially key town in the development of the state, like Bennington, or Newbury, or in later times, Burlington or Rutland. Here would be an early history of a representative town where exhaustive research in local records would be set against a broad knowledge of state records in general. For Mrs. Nye, as anyone who has worked on Vermont subjects is aware, knows more about the source materials of her state's history than any other living person. For many years she lived with the primary records of the early history of Vermont, cataloging and indexing them in infinite detail. To this experience she added research in private and public manuscript collections.

In this documentary history of the beginnings of a small hill town, she has limited herself to the years where her broader experience and knowledge furnish background. But here we see in detail, almost in the words of the settlers themselves, the fabric of small town political life in the making, primarily because she would not trust herself to bridge gaps by means of her own interpretation-or speculation. There *must* be another document which would do so, could it but be found. . . ; and it usually was.

This is all the more remarkable, since there was so little reason to preserve much of the day-by-day documentary materials which were not-to the men who made them-materials of history. Church records, town records, land records. . . yes; these had practical, continuing value, and were carefully saved in most instances. But the personal and business material disappeared, for the most part, and its absence from the careful gatherings of Mary Nye indicates as fully as anything could, that it is lost and gone forever-at least in respect to Berlin. And the situation is not much better elsewhere. It is only from scraps, lighting one corner of the problem in one town, and a second corner in another, that we will piece together the picture of social and economic growth-the life of the people at home and in business, as well as their public-religious and political-life.

Mary Nye's *Early History of Berlin* will stand with the less than half-dozen really thorough and useful Vermont town histories, which constitute the core of our knowledge of local life and fundamental growth. Without such a "grass-roots" approach to history, we can never understand the basic roots of our national life. It is to painstaking documentary researchers like the author of this volume, that we are indebted for the materials to make possible this understanding. With Mary Nye our debt extends not only to this volume, but also to the many volumes of official state papers as edited and printed, and particularly to the massive and incomparable, infinitely detailed index to the original documents, many of which never have been and never will be printed.

Earle W. Newton

PREFACE

On March 5, 1940, the townsfolk of Berlin voted to have a history of the town prepared, and to that end appointed a committee consisting of Harvey J. Dodge, Norbert J. Towne, Will O. Comstock and myself.

After one or two preliminary meetings of the committee, it was decided that the biographical part of the history should not be done by me; I was to do the research and writing relating to the formation and actual growth of the town, which duty I have tried faithfully to perform, restricting my study mostly to the period between the granting of the charter, 1763, up to and including the first years of the 1800s. Beyond that period I did not feel that I could go, save as I have included some data of extraordinary interest found in the easily studied records of the town.

Through more than ten of the almost twelve years which have elapsed since the town made its request, I was employed as Editor of Vermont State Papers under the Secretary of State; and while in search of state-wide records, I kept alert for any items relating to Berlin. Thus have I been able to gather much material which no one unacquainted with these outside sources could have obtained. I have made many trips to libraries and other archival places, and among the sources of my material have been not only our town records, but those of the state, the state and public libraries and historical associations of New York, Connecticut, New Hampshire and Massachusetts as well as the Library of Congress. From all these sources I have gleaned items which are incorporated in our history. Also, I have gotten much information from the old Orange and Rutland County records in Chelsea and Rutland, which cover land transactions in the territory now Vermont before the towns were organized, when there were no town clerk's offices in which to have deeds and other documents recorded. From these two sources I made a card index, and filed it in our town clerk's office, of some 95 deeds which are recorded in Chelsea and Rutland, These cards show where each deed is recorded, date, parties, description, etc., and form a very valuable addition to our early land records.

I made a trip to Fishkill and Poughkeepsie, N. Y., the home towns of the original proprietors of Berlin; found the graves of a number of them; also saw the houses in which several of them lived, and talked with some of their descendants.

There is still much of interest to be discovered and recorded, especially relative to the history of the various churches, which were not established until after the period of my study. The story of the different mills, especially those which once flourished at Berlin Corners and at what later became known as "Berlin Side." There was a pottery at one time on Dog River, whose history is all but forgotten-can anyone retrieve it? There are many half-remembered stories of the lives of the first settlers which should be saved from complete oblivion. There must be among the descendants of the old families tales which should not be allowed to fade completely away. Cannot some one gather up what remains of them?

There is a story which will illustrate what I mean, told me by my mother when I was very young, about her great-grandparents who first settled in Berlin before they migrated two miles eastward into Barre town. Thomas Mower and his wife, Phebe Thomas, came to Berlin from Jaffrey, New Hampshire, at a very early date, and settled on the lot of land which lies directly south of our Berlin Corners cemetery; a few years later he exchanged his

holding with one Samuel Scott of Barre-hence the "Scott Hill Road" which ran through this land. At about the same time, David Webster, a native of Plymouth, New Hampshire, and Nancy Hobart, his wife, came from Haverhill and settled on the lot of land just south of the George Crandall farm, now part of the Brigham place, opposite the Chenette home. Mother told me that David and his young bride with a handsled holding all their worldly goods, walked over the old Coos Road from Bradford, until they struck south over what later became known as the East Road, to their "stake." Here in a log cabin which David had built the summer before, they began their married life. I have the very string of gold beads, handed down from daughter to daughter, that Nancy wore around her neck as she walked beside that handsled. Within a few years they, too, moved onto the same road in Barre that Thomas Mower had gone to, and in due course, Sally, daughter of David and Nancy, married Ezra Thomas Mower, son of Thomas and Phebe, who became my great-grandparents. There must be many other stories tucked away in the memories of our citizens awaiting the telling.

Because of my having had access to many documents relating to the early history of Vermont and especially of that period covered by the granting of that part of Vermont known as New Hampshire Grants (because they were granted by Governor Wentworth as a part of New Hampshire), and the part taken by the colony of New York which claimed the entire area west of the Connecticut River, I have deemed it wise to include in this history of Berlin copies of certain documents which have to do with the method of granting and making the earliest surveys; of the manner in which the townships were sold to speculators, who for the most part had no idea of settling themselves, notwithstanding the terms of their charters. I have done this that the results of my work in that direction might be available to other historians of New Hampshire-granted towns; this applies especially to those towns which lie along the Winooski River, all of which were granted at the same time as Berlin-on the 7th and 8th of June, 1763. These towns have almost identically the same history, and the lists of their grantees reveal that they were sold by the same man, Samuel Averill, of Kent, Connecticut, in the same general vicinity along the western tiers of Connecticut towns, and the three eastern tiers of New York towns, adjacent to the Hudson River. A few of the purchasers came from as far away as New Jersey.

I wish to express my appreciation of the help I have received in many ways from Mr. Dodge, of the history committee, and also from Mrs. Sarah Brown, Town Clerk, who has never failed to help me personally or give access to the records of the town for my study. Hers has been no small contribution of time and patience in handling over the numerous old books. Also Earle W. Newton, Dr. Arthur W. Peach, H. J. Conant, Rawson C. Myrick, Helen E. Burbank, G. N. Harmon, John Clement, Norbert J. Towne, O. Fay Allen, all of Vermont, and Edna Jacobson, State Librarian, Albany, N. Y., Dorothy C. Barck of the New York Historical Society, personnel of the office of Secretary of State, Concord, N. H., personnel of the State Historical Society, Concord, N. H., and Mrs. Dorothy S. Eaton of the Library of Congress, Washington, D. c., all of whom have assisted me in multitudinous ways, putting their valuable time at my disposal with a generosity that only I can appreciate.

I trust that someone will take up the story where I have left off. and bring it up to the present-no small endeavor.

Mary Greene Nye

I. PROPRIETORS AND GRANTEES

The township of Berlin was granted on June 8, 1763, to Rev. Chauncey Graham and sixty-three associates by Benning Wentworth, governor of the Province of New Hampshire. The original charter is in the office of the Secretary of State at Montpelier in the Surveyor General's Papers (II, page 149 A-B).

The first Proprietors' meeting *of record* was held at Arlington, Vermont, on May 17, 1785, and the town was organized and the first town meeting held at Berlin, on March 31, 1791. Around these three dates-1763, 1785 and 1791-runs the story which I shall try to record relative to the founding of the town of Berlin.

In order that a true picture can be given of the circumstances under which the township came into being, it is necessary to show the unconventional manner in which all the New Hampshire Grants under Governor Benning Wentworth were made.

The customary procedure whereby lands in the American colonies were granted began with a formal petition, signed by the prospective grantees (or patentees, as they were sometimes called) requesting a grant of a certain tract of land. These petitions were sent to the governor of the colony within which the land lay, and by him taken before his councillors, and together they made (or withheld) the grant, fixing the fees and terms and conditions of settlement.

There are no such petitions extant in the New Hampshire archives for lands west of Connecticut River for the simple reason that they never existed. Governor Wentworth pursued quite another course in making his grants which was contrary to explicit orders received by him in his Royal Commission from the British Government which contained instructions for carrying out the commands laid down in the Commission. The manner in which these grants were made is set forth in a sworn deposition of Joseph Blanchard, a surveyor and member of the New Hampshire legislative assembly, made on March I, 1771, and incorporated as Appendix XXVII of the famous document known as *State of the Right of the Colony of New York*, published in 1773, and is as follows:

City of New York, ss (Joseph Blanchard, Esq., being duly sworn, deposeth, that he has been one of the members of the House of Representatives of the Province of New Hampshire, for the space of about six Years, and was well acquainted with Benning Wentworth, Esqr., late Governor of that Province: That in the year 1760, the said Governor employed this deponent to survey Connecticut River, from a place in the north east corner of the township of Rockingham, to the northern end of the Intervale of Cohass, a distance of about sixty miles, upon a straight line; that at every six miles the deponent marked trees, for corners of townships, on both sides of the river and returned a map of the said survey to the said Governor; that the Deponent afterwards, at his request, laid down townships, each of about six miles square, on the said map, three tier deep from the banks of the river; and not long after, the said Governor assembled the council. of the said Province, and procured their advice of his granting all that part of the country under the Seal of New Hampshire, as this deponent about that time was informed that Col. Atkinson, then, and now, one of the Council of the Province of New Hampshire, and which this deponent believes to be true; that there were persons waiting upon the said Governor, who in a short time after issued Patents or Grants for about fifteen or sixteen of the townships laid down by this deponent as aforesaid, without any resurvey of the lands, or any survey, other than said survey as aforesaid. That then one Robert Fletcher surveyed from Connecticut River to Otter Creek, on the south line of the townships of Windsor, Reading and Salt Ash, as this deponent was informed by the said Fletcher, which he believes to be true; Soon after which, Shrewsbury and one or two other townships were granted. That by order of Benning Wentworth, one Aaron Brown, afterwards ran a line from the northwest corner of the Massachusetts-Bay, to the borders of South Bay, or Lake Champlain, as this deponent was informed by the said Brown, which he believes to be true, of which he returned a plan, and Patents issued to him and his associates in Sudbury and Whiting without any other advice of Council, except that abovementioned as this Deponent verily believes [*sic*], as he was present and assisted said Brown in obtaining the said lands Patent.

That in the year 1762, the said Governor promised to the Deponent and one Samuel Averill,* that if they would explore and survey Onion River, at their own expence, they should be preferred to all others in the Grants of such lands as they might elect there. That the Deponent and the said Averill at that time apprized the Governor of the claims of New York to that district of which he spoke slightly, and encouraged them to go on in the work, which they accordingly performed. And the said Averill having procured lists of names for the purpose, Mr. Wentworth after receiving the plan, issued patents, granting no less than eighteen townships without any advice of his Council, further than the general advice given before as above mentioned, and all at one time.

That not long after these Surveys and grants, Lieut. Governor Colden's Proclamation appeared in that Country in print, asserting the right of New York up to Connecticut River, and that the Inhabitants in that District were, at that time, very few, and almost intirely confined to the townships of Hindsdale, Westminster, Bennington and Rockingham, and under great discouragements until Mr. Wentworth published a Counter Proclamation. But even then, many of the subsequent Settlers proceeded upon the Supposition that they would be obliged to procure Patents of Confirmation, under the Province of New York.

*See footnote, printed *State Papers of Vermont*, vol. III, part 3, page 287.

And this Deponent further saith, that it was the constant practice of the said Governor Wentworth in every grant of a township to reserve for himself a tract of five hundred acres, and sometimes more, and Shares for the Members of his Council, or some of them. And the Deponent well remembers, that while he was in the Assembly of that Province, a Bill was devised to give Authority to the proprietors of the town to impose taxes for public service, roads and the like, which was sent up to the Council, and returned with an intimation to the Lower House, that it would pass, if it was so amended, as to exempt the Shares of the Governor and Council from any part of the taxes and public burdens, but the bill was lost because the Assembly would not consent to such a partial and inequitable Exemption. And this Deponent also saith, that before the said Eighteen townships were obtained by the said Averill as aforesaid, the said Benning Wentworth had issued Patents, on the Application of the said Averill for about eighteen other townships, about twelve of which were for lands on the west side of Connecticut River, within the Province of New York, all of which were also issued without any Advice of the Council of New Hampshire, further than that the general Advice given before as above mentioned, which this Deponent well remembers, being present when the whole thirty-six letters Patent were issued, and assisting therein; that before the issuing any of the said Patents for the first eighteen townships as aforesaid, the said Averill had contracted with divers Inhabitants of the Province of Connecticut and New York, for almost the whole of the said eighteen townships, after the rate of about forty shillings lawful money for three hundred acres, and this Deponent knows, that previous to the issuing the said Letters Patent for the last eighteen townships, that like contracts had been made by the said Averill with Inhabitants of the said Provinces for most the whole of the said last mentioned eighteen townships at the rate of forty shillings Lawful Money aforesaid, for three hundred acres, this Deponent having seen the Contracts therefor before the issuing the Letters Patent.

And this Deponent further saith that he knows it to have been the common practice of the late Governor Wentworth, and he believes it to be without an Instance to the contrary, upon suggestions made to him, that the Conditions of Settlement and improvement of the lands, for which he issued Letters Patent, had not been complied with according to the Tenor of the Letters Patent, to issue new Grants for the said lands, without any Office found, and upon suggestions of the Petitioners only, and without any other Advice of his Council but the general Advice abovementioned; that some of these tracts have been so granted by him three times over, without the new Grants mentioning any thing of the former grants of the said lands. That this Deponent is interested in one of the Second of the same tract, and that the two different setts of Grantees are now in dispute about the title to the said lands. And this Deponent further saith, that he is well acquainted with the Lands in the Province of New York, between the Green Mountains and Connecticut River, and also with the Northwestern Part of the lands in the said Province, formerly claimed by New Hampshire. . That at the Time of the notifying by Proclamation by both of the said Governments of his Majesty's Royal Order in Council determining the Boundary between the said Governments, in 1764, there were not, on a large Computation, above sixty families settled as Claimants under Grants by New Hampshire, in all that Country to the Eastward of the Green Mountains, from the Northern Boundary of the Massachusetts-Bay on Connecticut River, north-westward, to Lake Champlain the Deponent having in the year 1763 and 1764, frequently gone up and down in that Country, and in the year 1765, numbered the Inhabitants from Brattleborough to Hartford, and that these inhabitants

were scattered in eleven townships, lying on Connecticut River, on the southernmost part of the whole tract. That even in these townships the Cultivation of any part was just beginning, except in Hindsdale, Brattleborough, Westminster, and Putney, and in these the Degree of cultivation was small. That in none of all the other numerous grants issued under New Hampshire, in that Part of the Country just above described, were there any Inhabitants or Cultivation at the time, and this Deponent is fully convinced, that there is not even at this Day, one Grant made by New Hampshire, in that Country wherein the conditions of settlement and cultivation contained in the New Hampshire Grant are complied with.

And this Deponent further saith, that the whole Province of New Hampshire is one county, having but one Sheriff, that all the Courts of Justice, Civil and Criminal, are held at Portsmouth, except Courts held before Justices of the Peace, who by law of that Province, determine civil suits to the amount of forty shillings, lawful money, and no more; that every matter in suit, above that value, is determined at Portsmouth, and almost all criminal matters, except Prophan Swearing, is charged by the Sheriff from Portsmouth to the Place where the Process is served, though at the extreme parts of the province, and though the debt or offense be ever so small, so that the party sued suffers in proportion to his distance from Portsmouth, not only in this instance, but in the expenses of witnesses, and in his own attendance there, which has been long complained of, as very distressing to the remote Inhabitants.

That the nearest part of the lands within this Province, on the west side of Connecticut River to Portsmouth, is at least 120 miles, as the road goes, which this Deponent believes to be as streight as the Country will permit.

That by the Laws of the Province of New Hampshire, every township has authority to choose Select-Men and a variety of other town officers, and to hold Town-Meetings, all which are on the Plan of those in the Massachusetts-Bay Government: that these Select-men have by the Laws of New Hampshire Authority to execute, and do execute Magistratical Powers, respecting the levying of Taxes on the Inhabitants.

Sworn this 1st Day of March

JOSEPH BLANCHARD

1771. Before me

DANIEL HORSMANDEN.

From this deposition it appears that Berlin was the most easterly and southerly of the eighteen townships on Onion River explored and surveyed by Blanchard and Averill in 1762. These eighteen townships, arranged alphabetically are: Berlin, Bolton, Burlington, Colchester, Duxbury, Essex, Huntington, Jericho, Mansfield, Middlesex, Milton, Moretown, Stowe, Underhill, Waterbury, Westford, Williston and Worcester. They are all chartered on June 7 and 8, 1763.

Samuel Averill, Blanchard's associate in the business of surveying the Onion River townships, was a resident of that part of the town of Kent, Connecticut, now called Washington. His homestead there is still in the Averill family. Kent is situated

on the Connecticut:-New York border, about twenty miles east of Hudson River. Blanchard's statement relative to Averill's having secured lists of names to be filled in on the eighteen Onion River township charters appears to be borne out by the fact that these grantees were from among his, Averill's neighbors, residents of north-western Connecticut and the adjacent townships in New York, lying east of Hudson River, as a study of the names will prove, allowing of course, for the grants made by Wentworth to himself, certain relatives and members of his council and official family. Averill was a grantee of seventeen or eighteen other Vermont townships, as well as at least four townships east of the Connecticut River in New Hampshire. Blanchard, in his deposition, said he had seen the lists or contracts made by Averill with the prospective grantees; they are not in the New Hampshire archives, but it is quite possible that they are awaiting a research worker in the British Archives, where so many other New Hampshire documents are known to be.

A further study of the records will reveal that practically all of the Berlin grantees were residents of Fishkill on the Hudson, and its immediate neighbor, Poughkeepsie. It is recorded that Averill visited that locality with a map of the Onion River townships that were newly on the market and persuaded many Fishkill folk to invest forty shillings for the purchase of three hundred acres, as stated by his fellow surveyor, Joseph Blanchard, in his deposition above.

Before attempting to tell something about these Hudson River grantees of the township of Berlin, let us read the charter by which they became the owners of the township:

PROVINCE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

(*Berlin*) GEORGE, THE THIRD,

() By the Grace of GOD, of Great Britain, France and Ireland, KING,

(P:S:) Defender of the Faith, &c.

To all Persons to whom these Presents shall come.

GREETING.

KNOW ye, that We of Our special Grace, certain Knowledge, and meer Motion, for the due Encouragement of settling a *New Plantation* within our said Province, by and with the Advice of our Trusty and Well-beloved BENNING WENTWORTH, Esq.: Our Governor and Commander in Chief of Our said Province of NEW-HAMPSHIRE, in *New-England*, and of our COUNCIL of the said Province, HAVE, upon the Conditions and Reservations herein after made, given and granted, and by these Presents, for us, our Heirs, and Successors, do give and grant in equal Shares, into Our loving Subjects, inhabitants of

Our said Province of *New-Hampshire*, and our other Governments, and to their Heirs and Assigns for ever, whose Names are entered on this Grant, to be divided to and amongst them into Seventy equal Shares, all that Tract or Parcel of Land situate, lying and being within our said Province of *New-Hampshire*, containing by Admeasurement 23040 Acres, which Tract is to contain Six Miles square, and no more; out of which an Allowance is to be made for High Ways and unimprovable Lands by Rocks, Ponds, Mountains and Rivers, One Thousand and Forty Acres free, according to a Plan and Survey thereof, made by Our said Governor's Order, and returned into the Secretary's Office, and hereunto annexed, butted and bounded as follows, *Viz.* Beginning at the North Easterly Corner of Moretown at the southerly side of Onion or French River, from thence Easterly up said River & bounding on the same so far as to make six Miles on a streight Line allowing the same to be Perpendicular with the Easterly Line of said Moretown, from thence Southerly a Parrallell Line with the Easterly Line of said Moretown, Six Miles, from thence Westerly about six Miles to the southerly corner of Moretown, from thence Northerly by said Moretown six Miles to the said River the place begun at And that the same be, and hereby is Incorporated into a Township by the name of Berlin And the Inhabitants that do or shall hereafter inhabit the said Township, are hereby declared to be Enfranchized with and Intitled to all and every the Priviledges and Immunities that other Towns within Our Province by Law Exercise and Enjoy; And further, that the said Town as soon as there shall be Fifty Families resident and settled thereon, shall have the Liberty of holding *Two Fairs* one of which shall be held on the.....And the other on the.....

annually, which Fairs are not to continue longer than the respective.....following the said.....and that as

soon as the said Town shall consist of Fifty Families, a Market may be opened and kept one or more Days in each Week, as may be thought most advantageous to the Inhabitants. Also, that the first Meeting for the Choice of Town Officers, agreeable to the Laws of our said Province, shall be held on the 19th July next which said meeting shall be Notified by Theodore Van Wyck Esqr who is hereby appointed the Moderator of the said first Meeting, which he is to Notify and Govern agreeable to the Laws and Customs of Our said Province; and that the annual Meeting for ever hereafter for the Choice of such Officers for the said Town, shall be on the Second Tuesday of *March*, annually. TO HAVE and to HOLD the said Tract of Land as above expressed, together with all Privileges and Appurtenances, to them and their respective Heirs and Assigns forever, upon the following Conditions, *viz.*

I. That every Grantee, his Heirs or Assigns shall plant and cultivate five Acres of Land within the Term of five Years for every fifty Acres contained in his or their Share or Proportion of Land in said Township, and continue to improve and settle the same by additional Cultivation, on Penalty of the Forfeiture of his Grant or Share in the said Township, and of its reverting to Us, our Heirs and Successors, to be by Us or them Re granted to such of Our Subjects as shall effectually settle and cultivate the same

II. That all white and other Pine Trees within the said Township, fit for Masting Our Royal Navy, be carefully preserved for that Use, and none to be cut or felled without Our special License for so doing first had and obtained, upon the Penalty of the Forfeiture of the Right of such Grantee, his heirs and Assigns, to Us, our Heirs and Successors, as well as being subject to the Penalty of any Act of Acts of Parliament that now are, or hereafter shall be Enacted.

III. That before any Division of the Land be made to and among the Grantees, a Tract of Land as near the Centre of the said Township as the Land will admit

of, shall be reserved and marked out for *Town Lots*, one of which shall be *allotted* to each Grantee of the Contents of one Acre.

IV. Yielding and paying therefor to Us, our Heirs and Successors for the Space of ten Years, to be computed from the Date hereof, the Rent of one Ear of Indian Corn only, on the twenty-fifth day of *December* annually, if lawfully demanded, the first Payment to be made on the twenty-fifth day of *December*, 1763.

V. Every Proprietor, Settler or Inhabitant, shall yield and pay unto Us, our Heirs and Successors yearly, and every Year forever, from and after the Expiration of ten Years from the abovesaid twenty-fifth Day of *December*, namely, on-the twenty-fifth Day of *December*, which will be in the Year of Our Lord 1773 *One shilling* Proclamation Money for every Hundred Acres he so owns, settles or Possesses, and so in Proportion for a greater or lesser Tract of the said Land; which Money shall be paid by the respective Persons abovesaid, their Heirs or Assigns, in our *Council Chamber* in *Portsmouth*, or to such Officer or Officers as shall be appointed to receive the same; and this is to be in Lieu of all other Rents and Services whatsoever.

In Testimony whereof we have caused the Seal of our said Province to be hereunto affixed. Witness BENNING WENTWORTH, Esq; Our Governor and Commander in Chief of Our said Province, the Eighth Day of June In the Year of our Lord CHRIST, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Sixty three And in the Third Year of Our Reign.

B. WENTWORTH

By HIS EXCELLENCY'S Command.

With Advice of COUNCIL,

T. Atkinson Junr Secry

Province of New Hampr June 8th 1763

Recorded according to the original Charter under the ProY Seal

T. Atkinson Junr Secry

The Names of the Grantees of Berlin (Viz)

Revd Dr Chauncey Graham	Daniel Sawyer Junr Jacob Griffin	Sam I Averill Matthias Horton
Matthew Brett	John Sheerar*	David Love
John Sharar Jun	Henry Ter Bos Jun	John Baily Junr
Cornelius Van Wyck	Gabriel Many	Wines Many
Willm Laurence	John J. Langdon	Mattw Allen
Asron Brown	Isaac Teller Jun	Jereah Teller
Charles Platt	Tho' Sheerar	Willm Sheerar
Benja Roe	Theodorus Van Wyck	David Sheerar
Simeon Smith	Jun	Robt Sheerarut (Sheerr)
Chauncey Graham Junr	Capt Jacobus Swart-	(Geo**) Isaac Brincker-
Francis Way	wo(ut)	hoff
John Van Wyck	Josefh Dorlin	Willm Van Wyck
Capt Cornelius Swart wout	Dan Lightheart	Jonas Canniff
James Wiltsie	Benja Southard	Jonas Southard
Andrew Bracestead	Jacobus Swartwout Junr	Willm Vantine
John Halstead	John Cooke	Nathl Sackett
John Montross	Benja Haasbrook	Daniel Haasbrook
Patrick McKey	Cornelius Osburn	Isaac Hodge
	Hendrick Brewoort	Collo John Brinckerhoff

*Spelled Sheerer in some Fishkin records.

**Gen. Isaac Brinckerhoff-See Mss. State Papers of Vt., XXII, p. 114.

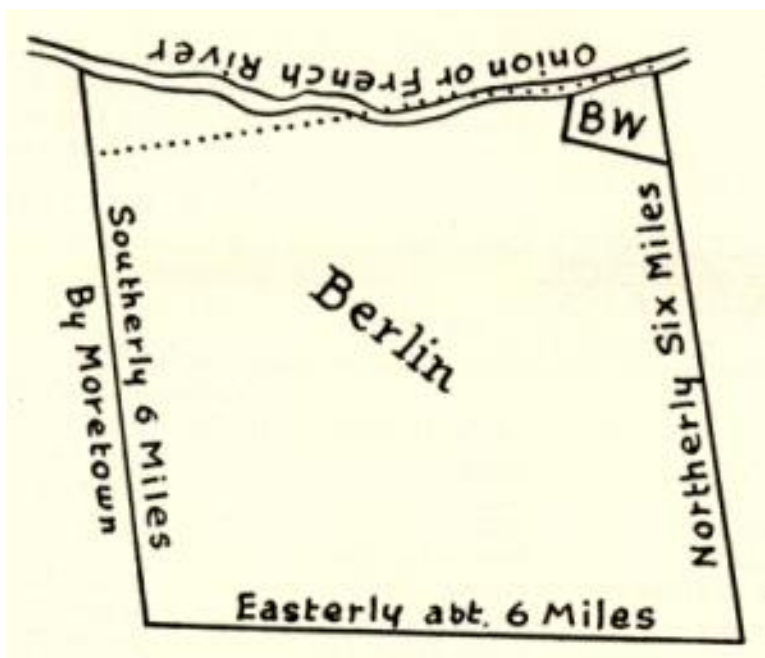
Hon: John Temple
Theo Atkinson } Esqrs
Mk Hk Wentworth

Willm Temple
John Nelson } Esqrs
Theo: Atkinson Junr

HIS EXCELLENCY Benning Wentworth Esqr a Tract of Land to Contain Five Hundred Acres as marked B-W in the Plan, which is to be Accounted two of the within shares, One whole Share for the Incorporated Society for the Propagation of the Gospel to Foreign Parts, One Share for a Glebe for the Church of England as by Law Established, One Share for the first settled Minister of the Gospell & One Share for the benefit of a School in said Town-
Prove of New Hampr June 8th 1763

Recorded from the Back of the original Charter of Berlin under the Prov Seal

T Atkinson Junr Secry



Province of New Hampr June 8-1763

Recorded from the Back of the original Charter of Berlin under the ProY Seal

T Atkinson Junr Secry

It will be noted that there were sixty-four individual shares, two shares for the governor and four shares called "Public Rights," making a total of seventy shares as provided for by the charter. The last six of the individual rights, as listed, were given to members of the governor's family and to his official staff.

It will be interesting to record something about who these grantees were, who received these seventy original rights in our township.

Rev. Chauncey Graham was the person named as principal, to whom, with sixty-three others, the grant was made. Mr. Graham was born in "Stafford in New England" according to the inscription on his headstone-other records show that it was at Stafford in Connecticut, in 1727, and he died at Wiccoppee, a village in Fishkill, New York, in 1784. He was grandson of the Marquis of Montrose of Edinborough" Scotland; his father, Rev. John Graham, having emigrated to America in 1718, and resided first at Exeter, N. H., later preaching in Stafford and Woodbury (now Southbury), Connecticut (*Genealogy Van Wyck Family*, p. 97). His mother was daughter of Rev. Isaac Chauncey of Hadley, Massachusetts. (*Yale Biographies*). He graduated at Yale in 1747 and in 1748 was ordained the first pastor of the Rombout Presbyterian Church at Fishkill, New York, where he continued for twenty-seven years; he also taught in the Fishkill Academy. He married Elizabeth Van Wyck, daughter of Judge Theodorus Van Wyck, by whom he had eight children. Mrs. Graham died in 1770. The eldest daughter, Elizabeth, married Thomas Storm, (whose name appears as a grantor in our first volume of Berlin Land Records) and his son Chauncey Graham, Junior, was one of the grantees of the town, and was a physician living in Poughkeepsie.

Judge Theodorus Van Wyck, who was designated by Governor Wentworth in the charter to call the first meeting of the proprietors of the new township and to act as moderator at that meeting, was one of the most important men in the vicinity. He was born in Hampstead, Long Island, in 1697, and died at Wiccoppee (in Fishkill) in 1776. He is buried in the Rombout Cemetery at Brinckerhoff, in Fishkill. He moved to Fishkill in 1736, having bought nine hundred acres from Madam Brett (daughter of Francis Rombout, a former mayor of New York city), in what was known as the Rombout Precinct-now East Fishkill, near the hamlet of Wiccoppee. En route to Fishkill from Long Island, the family were alarmed by Indians of whom very many lived in that region at that time, and had to retreat to Westchester County; it was two years before they dared to complete the journey to their new home. This was in 1736, only about twenty-five years before Berlin was granted to the Fishkill people. The Indians, Wappingers or Wiccoppees, continued to live on Judge Van Wyck's

land until the Revolution, when they joined other Indians at a settlement at Stockbridge, Massachusetts-thus becoming part of the Stockbridge Indians who are mentioned so many times in our early Vermont history; it was to some of these Stockbridge Indians that the town of Marshfield was first granted by Vermont in 179°. (See *State Papers of Vermont*, vol. 5, footnote, pp. 316317). .

In 1740 Judge Van Wyck built a house, which became headquarters of Generals Putnam, Lafayette, Washington, and John Jay and Alexander Hamilton at various times during the Revolution. This house still stands, and is now known as the James Van Wyck place. Judge Van Wyck held many offices of trust during his entire lifetime-among them, judge of the court of common pleas; he was one of the founders of the Rombout Presbyterian Church, and served as one of the first deacons under Rev. Chauncey Graham, its first pastor, who afterwards became his son-in-law.

Nathaniel Sackett was also another Berlin grantee who was very prominent in his community. He settled in Fishkill in 1756; was proprietor of the first general store there. He was in New York when news of Lexington came, and hastened home and organized the Committee of Observation which became the Committee of Safety; he was very active throughout the Revolution, among other things, being Chief of Washington's Secret Service Corps. He gave direction for the escape of Enoch Crosby (the Harvey Birch of Cooper's "*The Spy*"). "Hated alike by Tories and England's Secretary of State, loved and honored by his countrymen, respected and trusted by his patriot associates by whose valor the United States of America gained her independence." (*The Sackett's of America*).

To mention briefly some others among the Berlin grantees:

Cornelius Osborn was a physician of Fishkill.

John Bailey, Jr. of Poughkeepsie, married a daughter of Dr. Theodorus Van Wyck, and was chairman of the Committee of Safety during the Revolution.

Matthew Brett was a prosperous merchant and leading man of Fishkill-he was a great great grandson of Roger Brett who purchased the land from the Indians where Poughkeepsie and Fishkill now stand.

Francis Brett married a daughter of Cornelius Van Wyck.

Col. *John Brinckerhoff*, born in Long Island in 17^o2, and three brothers settled at Fishkill. His fine brick house, built in 1738, still stands. "He was a man of wealth and every inch a gentleman," and a personal friend of Washington.

Capt. *Jacobus Swartwout* was judge of the court of common pleas and also of the inferior court.

Jacobus Swartwout Jr. served with General Amherst; married a daughter of *Isaac Brinckerhoff*, who was also one of the Berlin grantees. Jacobus was member of a Board for the detection of conspiracies which sat daily from 1772 to September 1777, when the new state constitution became operative. Several members of the Swartwout family were members of the Society of the Cincinnati, which was founded at Fishkill on May 13, 1783, at the headquarters of Major General Baron De Stueben.

Cornelius Swartwout was captain of a company of Dutchess County Volunteers in 1758.

John Cooke was a merchant of Rombout, and *Matthias Horton* was son-in-law of *John Montross*. This information about these last three g'rantees was discovered from the records of some of the very early deeds of land in Berlin; a further study would doubtless show many other connections between these families which would indicate that the little community at Fishkill was just as closely knit by ties of blood, as were our own Vermont communities for many years after the formation of the state.

A list of taxpayers in Fishkill, as of 1760, included Mathew Brett, Asron Brown, Benjamin Roe, Francis Way, Cornelius Swartwout, Jacob Griffin, John Sherer (Sheerar), Henry Ter Bos Jr., Gabriel Manney, Theodore Van Wyck J r., Jacobus Swartwout Jr., Matthias Horton, Matthew Allen, Isaac Adriance, William Van Wyck, John Cook, Benjamin Haasbrouck, Cornelius Osborne, Henry Brevoort, William Vantine, Nathaniel Sacket, Daniel Haasbroock and John Brinckerhoff. (*Coll. of Dutchess County Historical Society*, vol. VI, 1938), all of whom were grantees under the Berlin charter.

The only one of these original grantees who we have positive proof ever visited the town site was *John Sheerar*, a native of Scotland*, who is mentioned in the warning for the first proprietor's meeting held at Arlington on March 29, 1785. One of the articles for consideration at this meeting was: "To see if they will confirm

*John Sherrar of Cincinnatus, N. Y., informant as to birthplace of grantee John Sheerar, 1951.

to Mr. John Sheerar a proprietor a certain Pitch he has formerly made in sd Town by consent & agreement of the proprietors for personal services done in finding and running the Town Lines by order of the Proprietors." To obtain this "consent and agreement" it would appear that there must have been some kind of a meeting or get-together of the Fishkill proprietors sometime prior to January, 1785, although there is no record thereof to be found, so that Sheerar could have obtained the order "to find out and run the town lines" and to have received a promise of the proprietors for payment for his services by choosing a "pitch" in the township as mentioned in the warning referred to above, and also in a deed which will be cited later on.

That Sheerar had always been actively interested in the township is proved by two petitions to the New York Colonial Legislature, one dated October 17, 1766, four years after the grant by Governor Wentworth, and the second dated June 16, 1772, five years prior to the formation of the independent state of Vermont in June 1777.

These petitions, copied from the *New York Colonial Manuscripts Indorsed Land Papers*, in the Manuscript Division of the New York State Library, at Albany, N. Y., are as follows:

From Vol. 32, p. 7 of above series of documents:

To his Excellency Sir Henry Moore, Governor & Commander in Chief in and over the Province of New York and Territories thereon depending in America & Vice Admiral of the Same

And in Council

The Petition of John Sheerar in behalf of himself and John Sheerar Jr., David Love, Thomas Sheerar, William Sheerar, David Sheerar & Robert Sheerar humbly Sheweth

That your petitioner on the 8th day of June A. D. 1763 Together with Sundry other persons obtained a grant from his Excellency Benning Wentworth, Governor of the Province of New Hampshire for a certain tract or Parcell of Land Suposed at the time of granting to be within the Limits of New Hampshire but since is Declared to be within the Limits of New York, Situate, Lying & being on Onion or French River Beginning at the northeasterly corner of Moretown at the southerly side of ye sd Onion or French River from thence easterly up said River bounding on the same as far as to make Six miles on a Streight Line Allowing the same to be perpendicular with the east line of said Moretown: from thence southerly a Parrallell line with the easterly line of said Moretown Six Miles; from thence wtsterly about six miles To the southerly corner of Moretown; from thence northerly by said Moretown six miles to the said River the Place Begun at-and is Incorporated into a Township By the name of BERLIN & was to be divided into 70 equal shares as by the said original Grant doth more at Large appear.

That all your Petitioners except your Petitioner John Sheerar at the time of obtaining the said Grant resided in Europe from which four of them have since

removed themselves & their families in America at a great expense with an intent to settle on sd new Lands the other two being daily expected.

And had it not been for his Honour Cadwallader Coldens extraordinary Proclamation Your Excellency's Petitioners would have been settled on sd Lands who are now reduced almost (*sic*) to poverty; But hope that your Excellency will take your Petitioners' undone State into Consideration and desires to obtain *from* your Excellency his Majestys Letter Patent for seven Equal parts or 3000 acres of sd lands to them their Heirs & Assigns with as Moderate Quit Rents as your Excellency shall see meet.

And your Petitioners as in
Duty Bound shall ever Pray

John Sherrer Senr

John Sherer Jur

Thomas Sheerar

David Love

David Sheerar

Robert Sharar

William Sharar

New York 17th Oct 1766

Filing on back of petition: Petition of John Sheerer and others for a Tract of Land in the township of Berlin situated on onion *or* French River.

Presented 18th Octr 1766.

From Vol. 32, p. 2, same series of New York documents:

"To his Exy Wm Tyron Esq. Capt. General and Governor in chief in and over the Province of New York and the territories dependent thereon in America-Chancellor and Vice Admiral of the same,

In Council

The Petition of John Sheerer, David Sheerer, William Sheerer, Thomas Sheerer, Robert Sheerer, David Love, John Sheerer Junior, Isaac Hodge and Patrick McKay-Most Humbly Sheweth

That your Petitioner, John Sheerer in behalf of himself and the rest of your petitioners purchased the patent under the Government of New Hampshire in the year 1763 (of) certain lands lying on Onion River in the township of Berlin.

That your Petitioner John Sheerer has since discovered the said lands to be within the Limits of this Province, and is desirous of having his and his associates lands secured to them by Letters Patent under the great seal of the Province of New York by paying reasonable fees

That your petitioner John Sheerer has at his own expence brought all the rest of his petitioners from Great Britain and which was said consideration, and your petitioner John Sheerer did by virtue of the said letters Patent convey to the rest of your Petitioners their several Rights in said tract of 3500 acres, your petitioner therefore most humbly prays that your Excellency will be favorably pleased to grant to your said petitioners the quantity of 9000 acres of vacant land in the said township of Berlin in compensation for the great trouble and expense they have been at in procuring the said lands under the government of New Hampshire

and your petitioner shall ever pray&c

New York 16th June 1772

Filing on back of petition:

Received 19th June 1772

Petition of John & David Sheerer &c for the township of Berlin. 1772 June 15 Read in Council and referred to a Committee 1772 Nov. 6 Suspended until his Majestys Final Instructions are recd respecting the claims under grants of New Hampshire.

In a petition to the legislature of Vermont, Mss. State Papers of Vermont, vol. 22, p. 114, dated September 2, 1786, Sheerer makes the following statements:

To the Honble General Assembly of the State of Vermont to be Convened at Rutland on the Second Thursday of October Next, the petition of John Sherer of the County of Albany in the State of Newyork Humbly Sheweth That about the year 1763 he at Great Trouble & Expencc obtained a Grant of Seven Rights of Land in the Town of Berlin on Onion River and as he was Told he must put in other Names for all the Rights but one, he put in his only *Son*, his Son-in-Law David Love & his four Brothers which were then in Europe, that is, Robert Sherer, Thomas Sherer, William Sheerer & David Sherer not Doubting but on his paying the Charter fees and other Attending Expencc the Rights would be his property and at his disposal until Lately, he is told is (*sic*) must obtain deeds from those persons which he has Enoeavored to do, but he is so far advanced in age being 75 years old that a Voyage to Europe is Impracticable for him, he is therefor Like to Loose the whole of the four Rights the only Interest he has left for his Support in his advanced age unless Relieved by your honors-He therefore prays that Your honors would take his distrest case into your wise & pattamal Consideration and order & decree that the Tittle of the Said four Rights be Visited in your petitioner & that the Sd Decree being Recorded in the proper office shall be good & Sufficent Evidence in Law of his Tittle to the Sd four Rights of Land, your petitioner as in Duty bound shall Ever pray,
Dated Sept 2d 1786

John Sherer

This petition was filed October 23, 1786, and on the same day read in assembly and referred to a committee of three, who reported on the 27th. Their report, which has not been preserved, was read and dismissed and the petition referred to the next session; on the 30th, the vote whereby the petition had been referred to the next session was reconsidered and the petition dismissed. -Printed *State Papers of Vermont*, vol. 3, part 3, pp. 241; 253; 256.

Thus it appears that more than nine years after Vermont had become an independent state, and over a year since the first proprietor's meeting of record, May 17, 1785, Sheerar was still pressing his claim for Berlin lands. As already stated, one of the items in the warning for this first proprietor's meeting was to see if "they will confirm to Mr. John Shearer a proprietor a certain Pitch he has formerly made in sd Town by consent & agreement of the Proprietors for personal services done in finding and running the Town Lines by order of the Proprietors." No action on the matter is recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

In this connection it is worthy of note that Governor Chittenden represented Shearer and his six other rights at the second meeting of the Proprietors held at Arlington on December 15, 1785. In *January 1785*, Shearer, then living at Little Nine Partners, Dutchess County, New York, deeded to Thomas Chittenden "one half of seven whole rights or shares of land in the township of Berlin, in said state of Vermont, in quantity and quality including one certain *already pitched* by a grant from the proprietors of said Town to me for services done them respecting said township." This deed is recorded in Book C, p. 159 of *Orange County Records*, and is on file in the Orange County Clerk's office at Chelsea. Thus it may be, that "good old Governor Chittenden" had a personal interest in seeing to it that valid titles to these particular tracts were forthcoming!

The Connecticut Courant of March 19, 1770, contains the following item: "John Sharrer of Fish-Kills, appointed member of a committee to collect money from proprietors of New Hampshire grants to prosecute the suit between them and New York claimants. See Report of a meeting at Canaan, Ct., on March 8, 1770."

From *Calendar of Historical Manuscripts* relating to the War of the Revolution, vol. I, p. 68 (New York State Library):

"John Sharer signed the Articles of Association in North East Precinct, Dutchess County, N. Y., July 5, 1775."

From *Roster of State Troops* printed in State Archives, vol. I (*Documents relating to the Colonial History of the State of New York*, vol. 15, p. 470):

"Certificate of pay issued to John Sherer for services as sergeant in Visscher's Company, Van Schoonhoun's Regiment."

Appended to a petition of Cotton Mather Smith and five others, addressed to the King, "Dated in New England, November, 1766", (asking for a confirmation of their lands under the New Hampshire charters, and that these "townships be put and continued under the Jurisdiction of New Hampshire as at the first"- which petition among others was taken to England by Captain Samuel Robinson, as agent for the settlers of the New Hampshire Grants) is the following power of attorney given by the signers of the above petition, which includes the name of John Sherrer. This would indicate that he was not only active but well considered among his fellow grantees:

We the Subscribers Proprietors and Claimants in and of sundry Townships, lately granted by Governor WENTWORTH, in the Western Parts of the then supposed Province of New-Hampshire, do hereby fully impower Our Trusty Friends and fellow Partners in those Interests, Samuel Robinson, Esq.; Ebenezer Cole, Jeremiah French, Benjamin Ferris, Samuel Hungerford, Ebenezer Fisk, John Brooks, *John Sherrer*, Samuel Keep, Partridge Thatcher, Abraham Thompson, Edward Burling, Benjamin Townsend, Tunis Wortman, Peter Clapper, John Burling, Joseph Hallet, Thomas Hicks, Esq.; and David Matthews, Esq; for Us and in Our behalf and Stead, to take and pursue all and every needful and proper Measure and Step, by Application to His Majesty or otherwise, to obtain a full Confirmation to Us of said Lands, on such reasonable Terms as may be; hereby granting to them and to any and every three or more of them, full Power of Substitution. Witness our Hands, in New-England, November, 1766.

Cotton Mather Smith
G. Caldwell
Samu Elmer Juner
Samuel Hurlbut

Tempe Worthington
Thos Pardee
Martin Elmer Juner"

This original document is preserved in the Vermont State Library at Montpelier.

So much have we been able to discover regarding the one proprietor of Berlin who is known to have visited the township.

As we have seen, under the terms of the charter the inhabitants were to be entitled to all the privileges and immunities that other towns within the province had concerning their annual meetings, the settlement, cultivation and improvement of the land, reservation of pine trees, payment for the first ten years of an ear of corn on Christmas Day, and thereafter one shilling Proclamation money for each one hundred acres owned by the settler. So far as there is any known record in existence, not one of these requirements was ever lived up to by the grantees. Knowing the reputation of Judge Van Wyck, it is hardly to be believed that he did not call a first meeting of the Fishkill grantees as required by the charter, but no trace of any record of such a meeting has come to light, although a patient search has been made among Duchess County records in both the local and state historical societies' archives.

II PROPRIETORS' RECORDS

Before taking up the contents of the volume of Proprietors' Records, the first records of our town, let us spend a little time in trying to find out why, in spite of the requirements laid down in the charter, no settlement had been made within the township, nor so far as we are able to ascertain, had any steps been taken towards the fulfillment of any of these charter requirements, with the one exception of having sent a surveyor to "find and run the outlines of the town" as will appear later.

The date of granting, 1763, was during what we know as the French and Indian War; the country was very unsettled, and in reality, it would not have been safe to have entered the Great Wilderness so far from any other habitation, with the intention of settlement, for several years-not until after the Revolution had broken down the British dominion over its American Colonies, south of Canada.

As we have seen, many if not all of these Fishkill people who were interested in our town were loyal Americans, holding positions of trust and military importance in that very strategic portion of the country, the Hudson River Valley. Doubtless that was one very important factor; there may have been another which existed between and around the French War and the Revolution-the controversy between the colonies of New Hampshire and New York over the legal possession of this tract which was claimed by both colonies, together with the Order in Council fixing the boundary between New York and New Hampshire at the western banks of the Connecticut River. The questions involved are too intricate to enter into here, but the fact remains that not a few of the grantees of Berlin (under a New Hampshire charter) were also grantees of lands within what is now Vermont under New York patents. Prominent among these was Judge Van Wyck, the first appointed Moderator of our township under the New Hampshire charter. It may well be that these canny Dutch folk, with an eye to the main chance, felt that it was better to await the decision of the question of legal jurisdiction before they spent their money and their energies in settlement, and so

Berlin, Vermont

they quietly "sat tight" holding on to their rights in the town of Berlin until the matter was settled. It is interesting to note here that no one *New York* patent covered the entire township of Berlin as it was granted by New Hampshire; rather it was divided, and part of it was included within the patent of *Kilby* (which covered parts of present Montpelier and Middlesex as well; the easterly part was included in the New York patent of *Newbrook*, which extended, (judging from a map found in Vol. XXXIII, p. 151, *New York Land Patents*, dated 1774), as far west as the height of land we call Irish Hill, and included Berlin Pond and its outlet, together with Stevens Branch, and extended through Barre and possibly part of Williamstown. (A photostat of this map is in the archives of the Secretary of State at Montpelier). Also, there was a very narrow triangular gore which formed the extreme northerly portion of the New York patent of *Windham*, covering besides this gore a portion of Moretown and Waitsfield.

As we all know, the independent State of Vermont was formed out of this disputed land in 1777, and thereupon the new state began to grant townships out of lands not already granted by New Hampshire, the New York Patents being by the Vermonters considered not valid. In order to ascertain what lands were vacant between the Onion and Connecticut Rivers it became necessary .to ascertain the bounds of Berlin, the most easterly of the Onion River grants, and in *Manuscript State Papers of Vermont*, Vol. 9, p. 84, there is the following item in the account of John Payne, Jr., under date of 1781, June: "Going to Onion River and finding the distance between the grants on Connecticut River and Onion River, and erecting the bounds of Moretown and Berlin on said River." John Payne, Jr., was the son of John Payne, then of Brookfield, Vermont, a surveyor. This account was rendered to the State of Vermont.

Also, in order to finance the new state, and to make the surveys that were necessary in order to locate and layout the new townships, it became imperative to raise money. In 1781, therefore, a tax of ten shillings on every hundred acres of land was levied. At that time a shilling was equivalent to 16% cents, so the tax amounted to \$1.66 per hundred acres,- "publication of the act in the *Vermont Gazette*, the *New Hampshire Gazette*, a Boston newspaper, the *Connecticut Courant*, and the *Massachusetts Spy*, to be sufficient notification to all persons concerned." (Slade's *State Papers*, p. 420). To conform to this law was not difficult

where towns had been settled and organized, but in towns like Berlin which had made no progress towards settlement and whose proprietors were in fact residents of other states and not likely to be readers of the newspapers which contained the notice of the tax, it is not strange that this tax was unpaid and uncollectible.

IVES VENDUE

To care for that situation, on October 21, 1783, another law was enacted by the legislature levying a similar tax of ten shillings on each hundred acres of fifty three unorganized towns in the state among which Berlin was one. This law, recorded in Manuscript Laws of Vermont, Vol. 1, pp. 389-403, provided that the tax should be paid in hard money or state bills or notes issued by the Treasurer, on or before the first day of January, 1784. The sheriff of the county to act as collector, and in case any part of the tax remained unpaid on the first day of January 1784, the collectors were authorized to sell unimproved land enough to pay the tax, and if the Collector did not have the money paid into the hands of the Treasurer before the first of April, the Treasurer was to issue his *extent* against the Collector.

As a result, on December 25, 1783, the following advertisement appeared in the *Vermont Gazette*:

State of Vermont: Whereas the legislature at their sessions in October last, granted a tax of ten shillings on each hundred acres of land in the following towns: Burlington, Williston, New Huntington, Duxbury, Mooretown, Berlin, Colchester, Essex, Jericho, Bolton, Waterbury, Middlesex, Milton, Westford, Underhill, Mansfield, Stowe, Worcester, Georgia, St. Albans, Swanton, Highgate, Fairfax, Smithfield, Fairfield, Hungerford, Shelburne, Charlotte, Ferrisburg, Panton, Addison, Bridgeport, Shoreham, Orwell, Hindsburgh, Monckton, New Haven, Pocock, Cornwall, Waybridge, Sudbury, Whiting, Hubbardton. Middlebury, Salisbury, Lester, Neshobe, Fairhaven, Benson, Bethel, Brookfield and Randolph-excepting public rights, and the Treasurer having issued his warrant to me the subscriber, being Sheriff of the county of Rutland, to collect the same. These are therefore to notify all persons concerned in the aforesaid lands, that constant attendance will be given at the now dwelling house of the subscriber in Wallingford, until the second Tuesday of March next, and also at Bennington, during the sessions of the assembly for the purpose of receiving said taxes, all persons owning lands in said towns, who bring or send money to pay said taxes, are desired to be particular in describing the name of the town, together with the original proprietor or proprietors of such land as they cannot have a proper receipt therefore. And all persons owning lands in the abovesaid towns, refusing or neglecting to pay said taxes, before the abovesaid second Tuesday of March next, may depend on having so much of their land sold at public vendue, at the said dwelling house of the subscriber, in Wallingford, on the said second Tuesday of March next (March 9, 1784) as will pay said taxes and all legal costs arising thereon.

Wallingford, December 6, 1783.

Abraham Ives, Sheriff

That such a sale, which appears to have been a continuing one, extending over a considerable period of time was actually held by Sheriff Ives is beyond doubt, but I have been unable to locate either the minutes or the record (which minutes and record were mentioned in a deed of land in Berlin from David Fay to Thomas Chittenden under date of January 21, 1786) after careful search in the County Land Records of Rutland and Orange Counties, as well as in the state archives at Montpelier.

However, on March 8, 1874, the day before the expiration of the time limit of the warrant put into the collector's hands by the state treasurer, the legislature, then in session at Bennington, passed another law which delayed the sale for a few days, until the lawmakers should have time in which to look after their own and the proprietor's interests in the sale. This act is recorded in Manuscript Laws of Vermont, Vol. I, p. 442, and reads as follows:

"AN ACT IN ADDITION TO THE EXPLANATION OF AN ACT INITIALED" AN ACT FOR THE PURPOSE OF LEVYING THE RESPECTIVE TAXES" THEREIN CONTAINED AND DIRECTING AND REGULATING THE MODE FOR COLLECTING THE SAME

Whereas by a Resolution of this Assembly the Sheriff is not liable to be called on by the Treasurer until the first day of *June* A D 1784 for the payment of the said tax, and whereas sundry persons interested in such lands and who are not inhabitants of this State and who have intrusted the management and payment of such Tax to persons who attentions are taken up in the present concern of the Council and Assembly and therefore cannot attend to the settlement of such taxes at present-Therefore

I Be it enacted, and it is hereby enacted, by the representatives of the freemen of the State of Vermont in General Assembly met, and by the Authority of the same that Abraham Ives, Esquire, Sheriff of the County of Rutland, do suspend the sale of such proprietors rights of land in the County of Rutland as was taxed by this Assembly at their session in October last, until the first day of April next.

II And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid that the said ,Sheriff receive for his fees for Collecting and cost of the Sales of any such lands the same species as is directed in said act to be received for the taxes on said lands, and that the whole sum a person pays at one time be subject to no more cost than one Shilling for the first pound and three pence for every other pound before it be entered."

The Resolution referred to in the above act was adopted on February 23, 1784 in response to a motion of Sheriff Ives, who was the member from Wallingford, because he was finding it difficult to know what sum he ought to collect on each right, as some towns are much larger and some have more proprietors than others. A committee was appointed to consider the matter, which reported on the following day, a list or tabulation of the

sums to be collected for each right in the different towns, Berlin's assignment being LI.13.0. This would amount to £108.18.0 on the 66 taxable rights of the township.

How long the sale continued, or how completely the tax was collected cannot be known unless and until the minutes and record of the sale can be located. There are, however, a goodly number of deeds on record in the Orange County Land Records and also in Berlin town records, which mention the purchase of Berlin land at that sale; for instance:

There are at least two deeds from Thomas Chittenden recorded in the Orange County Land Records at Chelsea, and two in our town records at the town clerk's office, which plainly state in the descriptions of the lands conveyed therein, that the land was purchased by him, Chittenden, at the Ives vendue more than fourteen months prior to the date of the first proprietors' meeting held at Arlington. A list, probably incomplete, of these purchases made by Chittenden at the Ives sale, include the following:

- (1) Lot 2 in the 17th Range "bought at Ives Vendue"
- (2) 300 acres in Berlin "which was purchased to pay the ten shilling tax, etc."
- (3) Lot 3, in 17th Range "out of land purchased at Ivy's sale"
- (4) Lot 6, 10th Range "bought at Ives Vandue"

Also the Orange County Land Records show that on July 13, 1784- (almost a year before the first proprietors' meeting) Thomas Chittenden had purchased of one Abraham Merrifield of Sunderland the original right of Daniel Sawyer, Jr., which right Merrifield had purchased for £4-0, of Elias Jackson of Litchfield, Connecticut, in April-a little more than three months before Chittenden bought it, as evidenced by a deed recorded in the Rutland County Land Records at Rutland; and six months later, on January 5, 1785, four and a half months prior to the first proprietors' meeting, Chittenden purchased a one-half interest in the seven shares or proprietor's rights of John Shearer, being the original shares of David Love, John Shearer Jr., Thomas Shearer, William Shearer, Robert Shearer, David Shearer and John Shearer's own right including "one certain lot already pitched by a grant from the proprietors of said town to me for service done them respecting said township", which service "in finding and running the town lines" was mentioned in the warning for the first Arlington proprietors meeting. These rights which Chittenden owned would have given him sufficient shares to have enabled him to call this first meeting himself, if he had so desired, the law requiring that onesixteenth of the proprietors could call such a meeting.

And thus we have proof that Governor Chittenden was financially interested in the town, and must personally have desired its development. This is further proved by later records of deeds in the Orange County Land Records covering the period from September 1785 to October 1789, showing purchases by him of Berlin lands, as follows:

- Sept. 2, 1785 50 acres, which land had been acquired by the grantor at the Ives sale;
- June 21, 1786 David Fay of Bennington conveyed "all the lands that I purchased at public vendue of Abraham Ives Sheriff of the County of Rutland in the township of Berlin, Reference being had to the minutes of the said venue and the record of the said County Clerk for more particular description of said lands";
- In 1787 Chittenden purchased one whole right and an undivided 150 acres, also an undivided 148 acres which, too had been purchased at the Ives sale;
- In 1788 Chittenden made nine purchases which conveyed to him sixteen whole rights besides 190 acres of undivided land which had been purchased at two bids at the Ives sale.
- Oct. 6, 1789 Sheriff John Gd. Bayley of Orange County issued a deed for "the whole of five original rights or proprietor's shares, of David Love, Daniel Lightfoot (Lighthouse), Patrick McKey, Isaac Hodge and Daniel Sawyer, Jr., sold to him at the vendue on March 17, 1789 in Newbury, and not redeemed."

The Orange County Records show that Chittenden began selling his Berlin lands in 1789, when he deeded lots to Micajah Ingham on January 26; to David and Elijah Nye on February 5; and to Zachariah Perrin and Jabish Ellis on July 7. On October 9, 1790, he sold four lots to David Nye and one lot to Aaron Strong; March 14, 1791, he sold a lot to Solomon Goff; March 6, 1792, he sold a lot to David Nye. All these purchasers were numbered among the first settlers of the town He had sold also, to John Gd. Bayley of Newbury, the Orange County Sheriff, 300 acres which he had purchased at the Ives sale, and on March 21, 1792, he sold twelve lots to Daniel Farrand of Newbury; finally, on April 5, 1793, he apparently closed out his Berlin holdings by deeding to David Nye and Eleazer Hubbard 17 1/2 lots and all the undivided lands he owned in Berlin.

From these records it appears that he had owned at one time or another, at least thirty-four shares or proprietor's rights in Berlin between July 13, 1784 and April 5, 1793. A record seldom equalled.

In this connection copy of a letter now we are very fortunate to be able to insert a in the archives of our town clerk, written in

his own hand by Thomas Chittenden to Marston Cabot, a surveyor employed by "the proprietors" to run the lines and allot certain of the lands of Berlin, as will appear a little later in Cabot's accounts. This letter, which is undated, contains instructions from Chittenden to Cabot relative to purchasing certain rights of Berlin lands at some "vendue" apparently to be held by Sheriff Bayley at which Chittenden would not be present, and how to act in case he was not allowed to bid them off as expected. This is an extremely rare and valuable document, and reads as follows:

Sir:

The Right of Robart Sheerer Thomas Sheerer William Sheerer David Sheerer & David Love of Right Belong to John Sheerer & my Self and I wish to Secure the Title by the vandue, which general Bailey has agreed to, Andrew Brasteads Right belongs to his Son John Cook, and I have agreed to Secure that to him the Same way, (if it can be) John Sherrer Junr is advertised but must not be Sold as I will pay the Tax out of my due Bill, the Right of James Wiltsey is advertised but must not be Sold as it is paid to Capt Bailey and I have his receipt for the Tax by the Name of Jonas Wiltsey and there is no Jonas Wiltsey in ye Charter it is a mistake in writeing the Christian Name and if it Should So happen that those that attend the Vendue will not Suffer you to Bid of those Rights the whol or aney of them which I wish to Secure then you will Request Capt Bailey not to Sell them but Turn the money in his hands for the payment of the Taxes if he Should refus to do that and Sell them you wil1 Let them Know that there wil1 be nothing made by the purchas as they will be all Redeamed by me .

ThoS Chittenden

Mr A/aslon Cabott

Another heavy manipulator in Berlin lands was Sheriff J. G. Bailey of Newbury. The Rutland County Land Records show purchases in his own name as follows:

One right on October 19, 1784 (probably at the Ives sale, though it is not stated), seven months before the first Proprietors' meeting at Arlington; and on June 28, 1785, nine rights; on September 3, 1785, one right and another right on February 23, 1789. He paid for the twelve rights, a total of £253.5.0. A survey of the Orange County Records shows that he purchased the equivalent of eleven whole rights between May 1788 and April 1791, at a total cost of £171.0.0. This last transaction of April, 1791, is interesting, in that he purchased of Daniel Farrand of Newbury (a young lawyer who afterwards became a Vermont Supreme Court Judge), seven whole rights for £30.0.0, which same rights Farrand had purchased of Bayley, as Sheriff, at vendues, and then sold them back to Bayley. The Bayleys, even in those days, appear to have been good managers!

Still another large deal occurred in 1793, when Samuel Franklin, a merchant of New York City, purchased for £900 forty lots of the Second Division from Ebenezer Judd and Timothy Olcott, land speculators. A note in Vol. II, page 21, *Surveyor General's Papers*, states that "all the rights of the Second Division of Berlin were deeded to Franklin by Esquire Knapp (Abel Knapp of Berlin), except the shares of Joseph Dorlin, Nathaniel Sacket, John Montross and Chauncey Graham."

PROPRIETORS' RECORD BOOK OF BERLIN

The first record we have of any action by the grantees is found in the warning for a meeting of the proprietors of Berlin issued on March 29, 1785 by Eliakim Stoddard, Justice of Peace of Arlington, Vermont, in the splendidly preserved and priceless volume entitled "*Proprietors Record Book of the Town of Berlin*" which is in the keeping of the town clerk, and reads as follows:

Warning for a Meeting of the Proprietors of Berlin

Whereas Application hath been made to me the Subscriber by more than one Sixteenth part of the Proprietors of the Township of Berlin in the state of Vermont to call a Meeting of said Proprietors: these are therefore to warn sd Proprietors to meet at the dwelling house of Eliakim Stoddard Esqr innholder in Arlington in the County of Bennington on the 17th day of May next, at two of the Clock in the Afternoon, then and there to Act on the following articles, Vizt; To promote a speedy settlement of sd Town to prevent the forfeitures being taken, First, to chuse a Moderator, & other necessary Officers for sd Proprietors, second to see if they will surveyor layout a first Division in sd Town; if so determined, what Number of Acres to each right, and in what part of the Town & in what form and what allowance for High-Ways, Third, to choose a Committee to prosecute the business, and make a return as the Law directs. Fourth, To see if they will confirm to Mr. John Shearer a proprietor a certain Pitch he has formerly made in sd Town by consent & agreement of the Proprietors for personal services done in finding and running the Town Lines by order of the Proprietors. Fifth. To see if the Proprietors will grant liberty to any person to pitch land in sd Town on Condition of building a Mill or Mills. Sixth. to agree on what mode they will (choose) for warning Proprietors meetings in future, and to do any other business that shall be found necessary and Lawful to be done at sd Meeting.

Eliakim Stoddard
Just. Peace

Arlington March 29th 1785

Published in both of the Papers of this State as the Law directs. A true Copy.

III PROPRIETORS' MEETINGS

In accordance with the warrant issued by Eliakim Stoddard, cited above, the first proprietors' meeting was held at the inn of Justice of Peace Stoddard of Arlington. The record does not give the names of the persons present, or the proprietors' names whose shares were "represented" thereat, the record simply stating that thirty-five rights were represented. It is certain that Thomas Chittenden, Governor, and Thomas Tolman, Secretary of the Council, who was Chittenden's amanuensis on many occasions, were there; also William Bailey, who was chosen clerk *pro tem* to serve at the opening of the meeting until Mr. Tolman's arrival. Evidently, the "slate" had been pre-arranged. so far as its moderator and clerk were concerned. Without doubt William Bailey was one of the proprietors, who lived in Poughkeepsie, N. Y., although this is not stated. The fact that his name was spelled with an "i" instead of "y", as the Newbury family at that time spelled theirs, together with the fact that a William Bailey of Poughkeepsie was one of the original proprietors, and had been and continued to be active regarding some of the shares of other Fishkill-Poughkeepsie grantees of Berlin lands as shown by the Orange County Land Records, makes this statement plausible if not probable. That being the case, it is quite likely that he did represent various Dutchess County landowners. It is a fact, too, that in September 1784, he had purchased from the heirs, the entire right of William Van Wyck, deceased.

At this meeting it was voted to layout a first division, each right to contain 103 acres, the three acres being the allowance for highways. Directions relative to laying out the lots were given, and it was particularly specified that they should not interfere with two of the most convenient millplaces (the rapids at the head of the present city of Montpelier's reservoir, and the mill site on Benjamin Falls).

Thomas Chittenden, Marston Cabot, Moses Moss (Morse) and Samuel Horsford were chosen as the committee to survey, superintend and layout this division, and they were to make their return at the next Proprietors' meeting.

It was ordered that the clerk, Thomas Tolman, apply for, ask and receive the Charter "where it may now be lodged," whether in the hands of the Surveyor General or any other person within or out of the state, and upon its receipt the clerk was to record it in the first pages of the Proprietors' Records "as the law directs." Evidently the document was duly located and turned over to Mr. Tolman, who recorded the charter according to orders.

The next business taken up by the meeting was relative to the method of warning future proprietors' meetings, which should state the business to come before the meeting, and the legal warnings were to be printed in the two newspapers published in the state.

The Record Book itself bears evidence that not all the records of meetings actually held were engrossed therein. There are blank pages and spaces in the Record Book, apparently left as space when the rough minutes should come to hand; also there are several advertisements of Warnings to be found in the newspapers calling for meetings at dates upon which no record appears in the book. A case in point is the warning appearing in the *Vermont Gazette* for October 10, 1785, for a meeting at Stoddard's in Arlington on November 15th, "to receive the return of the committee employed to survey the first division and to adjust and settle their accounts and other expenses that have accrued; to vote a sufficient tax to cover the same and to appoint a Collector; to make a draft of the division; to see if liberty would be granted to any person or persons to pitch lands on condition of building a saw or grist mill; and to see if the proprietors would layout a second division." This advertisement was issued on September 22, 1785 by Thomas Tolman. It is very likely that this meeting was postponed, as practically the same business schedule was carried out at the meeting held at Stoddard's on December 14, 1785. The warning for the December meeting appears in both the *Vermont Gazette* and *Windsor Journal*.

THE FIRST DIVISION. (*See Proprietors Book, p. 10, for plan*).

This December meeting was very important and occupied two days. His Excellency, Thomas Chittenden, again occupied the chair, and the meeting proceeded to accept and order recorded the map or plan returned by Marston Cabot and Messrs. Moss and Horsford, which contained seventy lots, each one-half mile long and one hundred three rods wide. This division was plotted in the northeast part of the town, and was four miles from east to west, extending approximately from the mouth of Dog River

to the Wildersburgh, or Barre, line and southerly from the Winooski River to the present cross-roads at Berlin Corners. That portion of land lying between the northerly line as plotted on this map or plan, and the Onion River became a part of the third division. At the time of drawing, the two mill lots at the site of Benjamin Falls and the Reservoir were reserved for the purpose of building a mill or mills. At a later meeting, July 24, 1787 (Proprietors Records, page 25) these lots were set off to Governor Chittenden as part of his third division, *providing* he should set up a grist mill within six months and a sawmill within twelve months after there were twelve families in the town; and on March 1, 1794, these two lots were pitched by Thomas Chittenden as a part of the third division rights of Benjamin Haasbrook and Joseph Dorlin, and which rights Chittenden had purchased at the vendue held at Newbury on October 22, 1787 for the twelve shilling six-penny tax assessed to cover the expense of laying out the second division one hundred acre lots (see *Proprietors Record Book*, pp. 28 and 31). The record of this sale also shows that Chittenden purchased fifteen other proprietor's shares which were not redeemed. A deed from J. G. Bayley, Collector, to Chittenden dated June 1, 1795 and recorded in Volume I, p. 183 of *Berlin Land Records*, conveys fourteen of these same shares of the Second Division lots and fourteen shares of undivided lands (which became the Third Division). Chittenden thus became possessed of more than 3000 acres of Berlin lands for the sum of £9.15.0, as specified in Bayley's deed.

They next approved the accounts of the committee, amounting to £48.0.0, and ordered the accounts recorded. These accounts are of interest, not only because they were the first expenses of the town, but because of the human interest they contain, and the requirements of early surveying parties in the wilderness. These accounts not only appear in the Record Book, but the original bills, brown with age, are in the archives of our town clerk. The following is a copy:

The Proprietors of Berlin Dr to Marston Cabot

	£	s	d
To Twentyseven and a half days works done in running the lines and Collecting hands and stores for the purpose of Lotting out the first division lots in said Berlin at 9/ pr day	12	7	6
To Expense money spent in traveling to and from sd Berlin 6 ½ days at 6/ pr day	1	19	0
To A marker I paid and found 2 days	0	16	0
	£15	2	6

Berlin Septr 1785

MARSTON CABOT

<i>The Proprietors of Berlin Dr to Cap' Joseph Thurber</i>			
To 2 days work in lotting the first division in sd Berlin at 6/	0	12	0
To transporting stores from Newbury for the surveying party	1	4	0
To same Cooking and Sundries	0	<u>18</u>	0

Berlin Septr 1785 £2 14 0
JOSEPH THURBER

<i>The Proprietors of Berlin to Lieut. Ebenr Sandborn</i>			
To 8 days work done in lotting out the first Division in sd Berlin	1	16	0
Berlin Septr 20th 1785			
			EBENR SANBORN

<i>The Proprietors of Berlin Dr to Moses Morse</i>			
To 18 days and a half work in carrying pack and marking after the Surveyor at 6/	5	11	0
To 56 lbs pork at 11 1/2d pr pound	2	13	8
To 116 lbs flour	1	6	0
To transporting provisions	1	<u>17</u>	4
Berlin Sept 1785	11	8	0
			MOSES MORSE

<i>August 29th 1785 The Proprietors of Berlin to John G.d Bayley Dr</i>			
	£	s	d
To 1/2 lb tea at 3/ and 2 lb Chocolate at 1/8	00	6	4
To 5 lb sugar at 1/ and 6 lb Cheese at /9	0	9	0
To Provisions to Carry Messurs Cabot and Thurber to Berlin from Newbury	00	5	0
To 4 gallons rum and 6 lbs sugar	1	6	0
To 2 gallons Ditto at 5/	00	10	0
To 4 lb sugar at 1/ and 6 lb cheese at 8/	00	<u>8</u>	0
	£3	4	4

<i>Proprietors of Berlin Dr to Thomas Chittenden Esqr</i>			
To Samuel Horsford acct for work and traveling expenses	9	0	0
To Thomas Tolman for writing	1	10	0
To first advertisement 6/ to 2d ditto 18/4	1	4	4
To my Account of Provisions &c	3	<u>5</u>	8
	15	0	0

And Thomas Chittenden, acting as "Clerk Pro Tern," examined and approved the accounts.

They next voted to lay a tax of fifteen shillings on each proprietor's right, public rights excepted, to discharge this indebtedness, and that Capt. John Gd. Bayley be the collector to collect the tax. At this time, J. G. Bayley was Orange County Sheriff as well as owner of a considerable quantity of Berlin lands.

They then proceeded to draw the numbers of the lots against the proprietors' names; Samuel Curtis, "an Indifferent person" drawing the numbers, which concluded that day's work.

The next morning they met at the house of Elnathen Murren in Arlington and voted to have a Second Division laid out the next Spring or Summer, of the same shape and size of the first division. Five persons were chosen as committee to layout the new division, Marston Cabot of Hartland, surveyor, John Gd Bayley, Samuel Horsford, Roger Burchard of Wilmington, Ephraim Bayley of Newbury and Moses Moss (Morse).

The *Proprietors Record* states that "The Acting Proprietors in the foregoing Votes were Thomas Chittenden Esqr, who represented eight original Proprietors, Capt John G. Bayley who represented eleven Proprietors and Samuel Horsford who represented sixteen Proprietors.

"All agreed in every Vote except determining to layout a second division in which Samuel Horsford Voted in the Negative."

The names of the Proprietors that the several Persons represented are as follows and entered under their respective names:

<i>Thomas Chittenden Esqr</i>	<i>Capt John G. Bayley</i>	<i>Samuel Horsford</i>
Daniel Sayer Junr	William Temple	John Haustead
John Shearer	Isaac Adriance	Benja Haasbrook
John Shearer Junr	John Vn Wyck	Daniel Haasbrook
Thomas Shearer	Jacobus Swartwout	John Cooke
Robert Shearer	Simeon Smith	Andrew Bracestead
David Shearer	Jacobus Swartwout Jr	John Montross
William Shearer	Charles Platt	Henry Brevwoort
David Love	Henry Ter Bos	Co!. Jacob Griffin
	Cornelius Van Wyck	Theodore Van Wyck
	Cornelius Swartwout	William Van Wyck
	William Laurance	John Bailie Jr
		Aaron Brown
		Chauncey Graham
		Chauncey Graham Jr
		Joseph Dorlin
		Joseph Canniff

As already noted, prior to this meeting Governor Chittenden had purchased the Sayer (Sawyer) right and a half interest in all

the Shearer rights (See *Orange County Land Records*). In like manner Sheriff J. G. Bayley had purchased in 1784 and 1785, the rights of all but three of the list he "represented," and he purchased the Temple right in February 1789. (See *Rutland County Land Records*). In a document found in the *Surveyor General's Papers*, Vol. I, p. 238 C 2, marked "Vendues" Samuel Horseford is stated to be the purchaser of the "Governor's Lot" on May 20, 1784. Apparently this was at the Ives sales, as several lots named in this list are known to have been purchased at that vendue. Therefore, Samuel Horsford was owner of Berlin land, although there is no known record of his purchase of the shares of persons in the list attached to his name above.

Before resuming the records of the Proprietors' meetings, it is proper to state that an official survey of the town was made by Ira Allen, Surveyor General, during the fall of 1785. This record is found in the *Surveyor General's Papers*, Vol. I, page 14, and is as follows:

IV SURVEY OF THE TOWN LINES OF BERLIN

The west line begins at a large birch tree on the south bank of Onion River on Intervale land marked Berlin and Moretown Corner July 13th 1785. Said tree is the N W corner of Berlin and the N E of Moretown. Thence S 280 W at I MILE a birch tree marked, at 2 MILES a birch tree marked, at 3 MILES a birch tree marked, at 4 MILES a spruce tree marked, at 5 MILES a beech tree marked, thence at 3° chains a stream 50 links wide course NE at 6 MILES a hemlock stake in the point of intersection marked Berlin and Moretown corner Nov. 27th 1785 said stake is the S E Corner of Moretown and S W of Berlin

The East line begins at a beech tree the N E Corner of said Berlin on the south bank of the great north branch of Onion River course West said tree is marked Berlin Corner Novr nd 1785, the stream I chain wide, timber small beech, birch and spruce thence S 280 W, at I MILE a large Maple tree marked, at 75 chains the South (or Steven's) branch of Onion river course W 5°0 W one chain wide, at 2 MILES a large Spruce tree marked, at 55 chains the road from Corinth to Onion River (Cohos Road), at 3 MILES a beech tree marked, at 4 MILES a Maple Stake marked, at 5 MILES a small hemlock marked, at 6 MILES a hemlock tree about 7 Inches diameter, marked (name omitted) corner Novr 25th 1785. Land descends to the East, timber of various Kinds, said tree is the S E Corner of Berlin,

The South line begins at the aforesaid Hemlock tree and runs N 61° 5' W at I MILE a stake standing 8 links S 280 W from a beech tree marked, 2 MILES a beech tree marked at 40 chains a brook 12 links wide runs North, at 3 MILES a birch tree marked, at 4 MILES a black ash tree marked, then at 2.25 links Dog River 75 links wide, at 5 MILES a black birch tree marked at 14.14 links a brook 15 links wide runs S E, at 6 MILES a hemlock stake described already in the West line-North line Onion River.

State of Vermont Surveyor General's office Sepr 10, 1795

The preceding is a true copy of the outlines of the township of Berlin as surveyed in the year 1785

Attest: *James Whitelaw*, Surveyor General.

In *Surveyor General's Papers*, Vol. I, p. II3A, is a letter from Ira Allen to James Whitelaw, under date of November 1, 1795, a portion of which refers to an error in the east line of Berlin, as follows: ". . . As it is necessary for many reasons to bring the Surveys together that are dependent on Connecticut River and the Lake (Champlain) you will as soon as circumstances will admit Proceed to the East line of Barlin by the New Road then follow it to Stevens Branch which through Mistake the Corner of Barlin was made. I have not with me the minutes of said line But by your Compass you can find it. You will continue that line on the same Direction to the mane Branch of Onion River where you will make the northeast Corner of Barlin you will then take the Travice of Onion River to Middlesex Corner on sd river-the easterly Line of Middlesex is N 36 E.-on your return you will measure the easterly line of Barlin southerly from the Corner you make six miles which will be the southeasterly corner of Barlin-the Southerly line of Berlin will be the same Course as a line extended from the Corner on Onion River is unknown yet."

It is probable that this error in the easterly line of Berlin was the cause of the misunderstanding of Mr. Moses Smith, who moved into the southeast corner of Berlin from Granby, Mass., January 11, 1786, supposing that he was in the northwest corner of Williamstown". (*Rev. James Hobart's history* appended to this document).

The next proprietor's meeting of record took place at Arlington on June 21, 1786, at the house of Elnathan Murran. The warning for this meeting does not appear in the Record, nor has it been located in the newspapers of the state.

At this meeting it was voted to suspend the laying out of the second division until after the next proprietors' meeting, and it was voted to adjourn until October 18th, to meet at the house of Elihu Smith, Esqr., of Clarendon. There is no record of this meeting, although the *Surveyor General's Papers* contain an item noting an advertisement for a sale at Elihu Smith's of Clarendon, on October 18, 1786. The date of the advertisement is given as September 12, 1786 (*Surveyor General's Papers*, XII, p. 80), and the meeting of February 7, 1787 mentions an adjourned meeting at Rutland, which may have followed this Clarendon meeting of which we have no record.

An advertisement of John G. Bayley as Collector appeared in the *Vermont Gazette* and *Vermont Journal* under date of October 23, 1786, for a sale at Jacob Fowler's in Berlin on the third Tuesday

of December, 1786, for the fifteen shilling tax (Expense of surveying first division) *Surveyor Generals' Papers*, III, p. 80. There is no known record of this sale if it took place. It probably was authorized at the Clarendon or Rutland meeting.

On January 9, 1787, the proprietors met at the house of John G. Bayley in Newbury, the warning for which meeting was issued on October 3 I, 1786 by Isaac Tichenor, Assistant, and reads:

The Proprietors of Berlin in the County of Orange and state of Vermont are informed that application has been made to me the subscriber by more than one sixteenth part of the Proprietors of sd Township to warn a meeting of the Proprietors these are therefor to warn them to meet at the dwelling house of Capt John G. Bayley, in Newbury, in sd County of orange, on the second tuesday of January next, at 10 O'clock in the forenoon to act on the following Articles Viz 1st to Choose amoderater 2d To Choose apropietors Clark 3d To see if the proprietors will raise money to defray the expense of laying out sd

-division 5t To see if the Proprietors will choose Assessors, and a Collector, to assess and Collect the Proprietors taxes. 6th To see whether the Proprietors will pitch or draw the third division, and on what conditions if pitched 8th To see if the Proprietors will raise money for laying out the third division and making roads

Rutland Octr 31st 1786

Isaac Tichenor Assistant

The above Advertisement was published in both the newspapers in this state according to Law

James Whitelaw Clk.

(Recorded in Proprietors' Book, p. 16)

At the meeting on January 9, 1787, James Whitelaw was chosen Clerk, and it was voted that General Jacob Bayley should call on Thomas Tolman Esqr, and receive the Proprietors Records of the township. From that date onward, no more Berlin Proprietors' meetings were held in the western part of the state. Adjournment was taken to February 7, 1787, at Colonel Thomas Johnson's house, in Newbury.

The following advertisement seems to have been written and agreed upon at this January meeting. It appears on page 18 of the Proprietors' Book:

The Proprietors of Berlin on Onion River, in the State of Vermont, are informed that so much of each Proprietors right in said Township, will be sold at Public Vendue at the dwelling house of Col. Thomas Johnson of Newbury in the County of Orange on Wednesday the 14th day of march, at ten O'Clock in the Morning as will pay the sum of fifteen shillings on each right with Costs unless prevented by previous payment. The fifteen shillings is a tax granted by said Proprietors to pay the expence of laying out the first division &c.

The names of the delinquent proprietors are as follows, viz.

Matthew Horton

Peter Horton

Matthew Britt

George G. Brinkerhoff

David Love

Francis Way

<i>John Shearer, Junr</i>	<i>Daniel Lighthouse</i>
<i>Gabriel Many</i>	<i>Benja Southward</i>
<i>William Laurence</i>	<i>James Southward</i>
<i>John]. Langdon</i>	<i>Nathaniel Sacket</i>
<i>Isaac Teller Junr</i>	<i>John Brinkerhoff</i>
<i>Jeremiah Teller</i>	<i>Samuel Aoverill</i>
<i>Thomas Shearer</i>	<i>Theodore Atkinson</i>
<i>William Shearer</i>	<i>Mark H. Wentworth</i>
<i>David Shearer</i>	<i>Theodore Atkinson Junr</i>
<i>Benjamin Roe</i>	<i>Robert Shearer</i>

P. S. The Proprietors meeting of sd Berlin stands Adjourned to wednesday the 7th day of february next, at ten O'Clock forenoon at the house of Col: Thomas Johnson of Newbury Newbury Jany 9th 1787

John G. Bayley, Collector
A true Copy Attest *James Whitelaw Clk.*

The above Advertisement was published in both the newspapers Printed in this State according to Law

At the adjourned meeting in Newbury on February 7, 1787, it was voted to confirm the votes passed at their adjourned meeting at Rutland. As before stated, no record of this meeting, or the votes taken, have been located. Adjournment was taken to March 20, 1787 at.. the house of John G. Bayley.

I

In the meantime (March 14, 1787) the sale took place which was mentioned in the advertisement of Collector Bayley dated J anuary 9, 1787, and the report of the Collector is recorded on pp. 19 and 20 of the *Proprietors' Book*. This report shows that lands of twenty-five delinquent tax payers, varying from 123 to 140 acres of the undivided lands (second and third divisions), were sold. Daniel Farrand purchasing all but three of the lots, which were sold to Ephraim Bayley.. Only five of the twenty-five lots were redeemed according to the record, certified by James Whitelaw, Clerk.

THE SECOND DIVISION. (See *Proprietors Book*, p. 32, for plan)

At the adjourned meeting of March 20, 1787, at the house of John G. Bayley, a further adjournment was made to May 17, 1787, at which time it was voted to accept the survey of the second division of 103 acre lots as returned by the committee and to accept the committee's account for expenses, amounting to £32.15.0.

General Jacob Bayley, James Whitelaw and Ephraim Bayley were elected assessors, and John G. Bayley, collector. It was voted to raise a tax of twelve shillings six pence on each right to defray the expense of laying out the second division and contingent charges.

They then voted to layout the remainder of the township in one division and pitch the same. John G. Bayley, Zacheus Peasley and Ephraim Bayley were appointed a committee to layout the third division, which vote was rescinded on July 24th.

James Bayley, an "indifferent person", was selected to draw the numbers of the second division against the proprietors name's as read by the clerk, which was done and the meeting was adjourned to the third Tuesday of June, upon which date a further adjournment was made to July 24, to be held at the dwelling house of Jacob Fowler, in Berlin.

FIRST PROPRIETORS' MEETING HELD IN BERLIN, AND THE LAST MEETING OF RECORD.

In accordance with the adjournment at Newbury, the Proprietors met on June 15, 1787, at the house of Jacob Fowler in Berlin, and voted first, to reconsider their vote of May 18th whereby they had selected John G. Bayley, Zacheus Peasley and Ephraim Bailey as a committee to layout the third division.

They then voted that each proprietor should have a right to pitch 114 acres of land to his right as a third division, to be done at his own expense with lines parallel with those already run in divisions one and two, and that no lot should be more than twice as long as it was wide, and a survey of said lots, attested by a sworn surveyor, be returned to the proprietors' clerk and by him recorded, which should entitle the proprietor to his land in the third division.

It was then voted that Thomas Chittenden should have the mill lots (in the first division) reserved by the Proprietors at their Arlington meeting on December 14, 1785, as a part of his third division, providing he should "set up a grist mill within six-months and a saw mill within twelve months after there are twelve families in said town."

No adjournment of this meeting is noted, nor is there a record of any later meeting of the proprietors, in the Proprietors' Book.

MISCELLANEOUS ENTRIES

The next entry in the Proprietors' Book is an advertisement of Collector John G. Bayley, dated May 22, 1787, which according to law appeared in both the *Vermont Gazette* and *Windsor Journal*, as certified by the proprietors' clerk, James Whitelaw, under date of August 20, 1787. This was a legal notice of the sale of such

lands in Berlin as would defray the expense, with legal costs, of lotting the second division, unless prevented by previous payment to the collector at Newbury, and reads as follows:

The Proprietors of Berlin in the County of Orange and State of Vermont who have not paid the tax of Twelve Shillings and Sixpence on each right, granted by said Proprietors at their meeting holden at the house of the subscriber in Newbury on the 18th of May last to defray the expence of Lotting the second division in sd Township are hereby notified, that so much of their land will be sold at public Vendue, at the house of Co!. Thomas Johnson, in said Newbury, on tuesday the 16th of October next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, as will pay said tax with legal costs, unless prevented by previous payment to the Subscriber, in sd Newbury. The names of the delinquent proprietors are as follows, with the sum of twelve shillings and six pence due on each right.

<i>Chauncey Graham</i>	<i>Thomas Shearer</i>
<i>Jacob Griffin</i>	<i>William Shearer</i>
<i>Matthias Horton</i>	<i>David Shearer</i>
<i>Matthew Britt</i>	<i>Benjamin Roe</i>
<i>John Sheerar</i>	<i>Theodorus Van Wyck</i>
<i>David Love</i>	<i>Theodorus Van Wyck Junr</i>
<i>John Sheerar Junr</i>	<i>Peter Horton</i>
<i>John Bayley Junr</i>	<i>Chauncey Graham Junr</i>
<i>Gabriel Maney</i>	<i>George I Brinkerhoff</i>
<i>Wines Many</i>	<i>Francis Way</i>
<i>William Laurence</i>	<i>Joseph Dorling</i>
<i>John J. Langdon</i>	<i>William Van Wyck</i>
<i>Aaron Brown</i>	<i>Daniel Lightheart</i>
<i>Isaac Teller Junr</i>	<i>Joseph Canniff</i>
<i>Jeremiah Teller</i>	<i>Benjamin Southward</i>
<i>James Wiltsey</i>	<i>Patrick MCKey</i>
<i>Nathaniel Sacket</i>	<i>Hendrick Brevwoort</i>
<i>Andrew Bracestead</i>	<i>John Brinkerhoff</i>
<i>John Cooke Daniel</i>	<i>Sayer Junr</i>
<i>William Vantine</i>	<i>Samuel Averill</i>
<i>John Haustead</i>	<i>John Temple</i>
<i>Benjamin Haasbrook</i>	<i>Theodorus Atkinson</i>
<i>Daniel Haasbrook</i>	<i>Mark H. Wentworth</i>
<i>John Montross</i>	<i>William Temple</i>
<i>Cornelius Osburn</i>	<i>Isaac Hodge</i>

Newbury Augt 20th 1787 *John G. Bayley*¹, Collector.

The above Advertisement was published in both papers printed in this state According to law

James Whitelaw Clerk

All but twelve of the sixty-four proprietors of the second division were included in this published list, and thirty-three shares were sold at the vendue which occurred on the 17th and 22nd of October, 1787. Fourteen of the thirty-three lots were later redeemed, as appears in the schedule or record of the sale, certified by the proprietors' clerk immediately following the advertisement.

Further entries are as follows:

On page 32, a chart or plan of the *Second Division*, and on page 33, a plan of the *Third Division*, with notations as to pitches of Thomas Chittenden for fourteen acre lots to seventeen original proprietors, whose shares he had purchased at the tax vendue; also five and one half lots "for land purchased at the State Vendue for the tax of ten shillings on the hundred acres. . . said tax was granted by the Legislature of the State of Vermont at their sessions at Westminster in October 1783."

Also notations of three lots, pitched by John Bayley for land purchased at the above mentioned State Vendue. (The Ives Vendue)

Then follows a receipt dated March 14, 1786, of John G. Bayley, witnessed by Thomas Johnson and James Whitelaw, for £40 lawful money for the redemption of seven bids "redeemed of Cols. Ira and Levi Allen that they purchased of Abraham Ives, late Sheriff of Rutland County in the township of Berlin to pay the ten shilling tax on each one hundred acres, granted October (21), 1783, which he, the said Thomas Chittenden has paid me for the redemption of parts of rights of land he owns in said town of Berlin that may have been sold at vendue for the payment of the ten shilling tax."

The next entry is the record of a Sheriff and Collector's deed, dated June 12, 1785, from Abraham Ives to Gideon Ormsby of Manchester, for three bids of land, one containing fifty-eight, one fifty and the other forty acres in Berlin, "sold by virtue of a Statute law for levying and collecting taxes." The consideration was £5.17.0 (Less than a shilling an acre).

THE THIRD DIVISION. (See *Proprietors' Book*, p. 33, for plan)

The third division extended southerly of the first division, on the east side of the township, beginning with Range Ten (in line with the south bound of Berlin Corner Cemetery) and extending westerly to and including lot 8 just east of Dog River. There are seventy-two lots in this division as shown on the plan.

The record of the survey bills for this division occupy almost the entire remainder of the *Proprietors' Book*. They consist of bills returned by James Whitelaw and Caleb Willard, of forty-two lots of land for John G. Bayley and Daniel Farrand, for their third division lands in Berlin, and by them pitched to the several original rights purchased by them as entered at the bottom of the survey bills of the several lots. These are in turn followed by thirty

seven lots surveyed by Abel Knap, dating from March 1, 1794 to July 7, 1813. Seventeen of these lots were pitched by Thomas Chittenden as part of the third division lands of the original proprietors whose rights he had purchased.

This manner of allotting the third division was in accordance with the vote of the proprietors at their meeting of July 1787, when it was agreed that each proprietor should have 114 acres of land, to be surveyed at his own expense, the lines to be parallel to those already laid in the first and second divisions, and the surveys to be attested by a sworn surveyor and returned to the clerk and by him recorded.

By actual measurement twenty-nine lots contained approximately 108 acres; eighteen lots, 104 acres; eighteen lots, 100 acres, and seven lots varied from 6 to 85 acres, due to their abutting on the ponds. These variations in size were of course confusing and unsatisfactory. The situation appears to have been amicably settled by dividing certain of the lots into small portions, varying from 6 to 14 acres each, which portions were allotted to the various proprietors' shares to make up the 114 acres, each allotment being apportioned to its particular proprietor by name, in the survey bill.

There are several outstanding items among these documents which are of interest, among them being the pitching by the selectmen of Berlin on March 4, 1794, of lot No. 10 in the 18th Range as the Glebe right; on the same date they pitched lot No. 12 in the 18th Range for the Society right; and on the 6th day of March they also pitched the school and minister's rights in the third division, lots Nos. 8 and 7 respectively, in the 10th Range.

The last third division lot to be surveyed and recorded was dated July 7, 1813. This was lot No. 12 in the second range, (which lot had previously been accounted as a double lot of the second division) and contained 103 acres. It was surveyed by Abel Knapp, Surveyor, "for Charles Bulkeley Esqr and by him pitched as the third division of Wines Manney." This is the last entry in the Proprietors' Book.

One gathers from the record, that the method employed in surveying and pitching the third division had not been entirely satisfactory, and it appears that the Surveyor General, James Whitelaw, under date of August 7, 1802, issued a warrant to Abel Knap, (town clerk from 1795 to 1845) as follows:

Sir, you are hereby authorized and empowered to layout and Survey any of the third division lots in the Township of Berlin when requested by any of

the proprietors, and make return of the same agreeable to the vote of the proprietors of said Township and this shall be your Warrant.

This document was sworn to before Charles Bulkeley, Justice of Peace, on May 3, 1803, and recorded on that date in the *Proprietors' Book*, p. 58. Under this warrant Mr. Knap appears to have surveyed two lots for Eleazer Hubbard, which adjoined the pond and together contained 114 acres.

There is no record of a warrant authorizing Abel Knap to survey prior to August 7, 1802, but the survey bills dated from March 1, 1794 to September 25, 1797 and returned by him to the proprietors' clerk for record, are certified to by "Abel Knap, Sworn Surveyor". The warrant for these earlier surveys appears never to have been recorded.

A later warrant, from the then Surveyor General, specially authorized Mr. Knap to layout a certain lot, viz.

State of Vermont-To Abel Knapp Esqr of Berlin in the County of Orange, Greeting: Reposing special Trust in your Fidelity and ability as a land surveyor I do Authorize and appoint you a Surveyor to Survey and layout a third division lot to the Right of Wines Manny in said town of Berlin on some third division lot, and this shall be your warrant for the same-Given under my hand at the Surveyor General's Office at Fairfax, Sept. 2d 1805

Joseph Beeman Junr S. General

State of Vermont

Jefferson County ss }Personally appeared Abel Knapp within named and was duly sworn to the faithful discharge of the trust reposed in him by this warrant

Before me, *Salvin Collins* Justice Peace.

While this certificate of Salvin Collins is not dated, it was made during the time Berlin was a part of Jefferson County-December 1, 1811 to November 8, 1814. It would appear that it had not been easy to discover a third division lot for the purpose of making the grant to Wines Manny's right referred to in the warrant, and as a last resort, acreage was taken from unassigned second division lots shown on the chart as Nos. 9 and 10 of the second range.

Although there are no more records of the doings of the Berlin proprietors in their original record book, the *Surveyor General's Papers* in the office of the Secretary of State, Vol. XX, p. 196, contain a notation of a proprietors' meeting at David Nye's, on October 11, 1791, "2d per acre for roads. P. Davis, Col." The advertisement for this meeting appears in both the *Windsor*

Journal and Vermont Gazette. Some twenty-one other items relative to Berlin matters, dating from 1789 to 1803, appear in the *Surveyor General's Papers*.

THE PUBLIC RIGHTS

In each of the townships granted by Governor Benning Wentworth, which later became a part of the State of Vermont, there were four shares or rights, called Public Rights, granted by Royal Order. They included a share or right to *The Incorporated Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts*, a missionary organization under British patronage, financed in part by the income of these and similar land grants. After the Revolution its status was changed, and efforts were made to transfer these grants to the support of schools and other objects here in Vermont, but in the end the funds raised from these shares have been turned over to the Diocese of Vermont, Protestant Episcopal Church, together with those arising from the income from the shares given to the *Church of England*, or "glebe 1'ights" as we call them.

The share "*for the benefit of a school in the town*" is still just that, the income therefrom being turned into the town school fund. These three groups form what we now know as "*lease land*"; they may not be sold, but are leased. The buildings erected on these lots, together with any other improvements may pass by deed, but title to the land itself is not included in any transfer.

The fourth public right, called the *Minister's Right*, was intended as an inducement to a minister to settle in the newly developed community, and when he had stayed long enough to be recognized as "settled," he was entitled to the share, in fee, and it became his personal estate. Rev. James Hobart, by agreement with the town, received two of the three "Minister's lots" in Berlin. Under the terms of this agreement the lot in the first division was quitclaimed by Mr. Hobart to the town.

Following is a list of the Public Rights in Berlin as they were set aside when the divisions were lotted:

For the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts:

1st Div.: Lot 5, Range 3

2nd Div.: Lot 12, Range 16

3rdDiv.: Lot 12, Range 18

Glebe (Church of England):

1st Div.: Lot 5, Range 5
2nd Div.: Lot 10, Range 9
3rd Div.: Lot 10, Range 18

School:

1st Div.: Lot 4, Range 9
2nd Div.: Lot 10, Range 13
3rd Div.: Lot 8, Range 10

First Settled Minister:

1st Div.: Lot 7, Range 4
2nd Div.: Lot 9, Range 17
3rd Div.: Lot 7, Range 10

V
THE FIRST SETTLERS AND EARLY ROADS

No known record exists of a meeting of the proprietors or inhabitants of Berlin between June 15, 1787 (the date of the first proprietors' meeting held in Berlin at the house of Jacob Fowler) and March 31, 1791, when the voters met at the house of Aaron Strong for the purpose of organizing the town and electing officers.

During the three years and nine months between these two meetings, many things must have taken place which would be of great interest had a record been kept. It is not known how many people lived in the town when either of these meetings occurred. From the Berlin sketch in Hemenway's *Vermont Gazetteer* (based evidently on the "*History of the first settling of Berlin. . . collected and written by James Hobart,*" and recorded in the *Record Book of the First Congregational Church of Berlin* we learn that Ebenezer Sanborn from Corinth and Joseph Thurber from New Hampshire had each begun a settlement near the mouth of Dog River in 1785, but moved to New York state the next year. In 1787 Daniel Morse from the town of Washington moved onto the Thurber place, and Jacob Fowler of Corinth to the Sanborn place; also John Lathrop from Bethel moved into the southeast part of town; John Taplin of Corinth had purchased a farm on the lower part of Dog River, and James Hobart at the mouth of Jones Brook.

From the record of deeds in the *Orange County Land Records* at Chelsea (where all deeds of Berlin Lands were supposed to have been recorded prior to the organization of the town) we learn that Joseph Hubbart (Hobart) of Newbury purchased "100 acres of land in the northwest corner of the town on Onion River" on September 18, 1786. This was the farm long occupied by Captain James Hobart (father of Rev. James Hobart from 1787.) From this same source we find the following persons, who became residents of Berlin, as having purchased their farms:

In 1786: Joseph Hubbart (Hobart).

In 1788: Joshua Swan, Zachariah Perrin, Joseph Arbuckle, Jacob Black, Ebenezer Collins, Joel Phelps, William Flagg, Micajah Ingham, Daniel Martin:

In 1789: David Nye, Jonathan and James Ayer, James Sawyer, Jabish Ellis and Elijah Nye.

In 1790: Ebenezer Bayley, David Corliss and David Webster In 1791: Solomon Goff.

From the Berlin sketch in *Hemenway's Gazetteer* referred to above, it is stated that Hezekiah Silloway and Abel Sawyer came in 1788; Capt. James Sawyer, Eleazer Hubbard and Joshua Bayley in 1790, while Salvin Collins and a Cummins family came in 1791. Joel Warren in 1796, and Abraham Townsend and Daniel Thompson in 1800.

From the records of the first two town meetings, March 3 I and October II, 1791, we can add to this list the names of Eleazer Hubbard, Jr., Aaron Strong, Lica (?) Silloway, Joshua Bayley and William Flag.

Another source is the *United States Census* of 1790 (which was not taken in Vermont until 1791, because Vermont was not a part of the United States until March 4, 1791) which includes the following names not listed above:-Cornelius Collins, Jonathan Emerson, James Hubbard (probably Hobart), John Sawyer, Joseph Smith and Aaron Silloway. The census gives a total population of 134 persons, of which 38 were males over 16 years of age, 23 of whom were heads of families; 33 males under 16, and 63 females of all ages.

SETTLERS BETWEEN 1791 AND 1800, INCLUSIVE

Between 1791 and 1801 many families entered the town. The *United States Census* for 1800 gives a total population of 674 persons, of which 382 were children under 16 years of age. Of the remaining 292, 78 were heads of families; 17 of the names listed in the 1790 census are included in the 1800 census.

From the *Town Meeting Record Book* we find the following names which would indicate that they had become residents at least as early as the year of the meeting in which their names appear:

In 1792: Moses Smith, Josiah Caswell, Thomas Woodbury, Mical Sprout and Gustavus I. Sumner.

In 1794: James Sawyer, Jr., and Samuel Emerson.

In 1795: Eliada Brown, John Flanders, Seth Johnson, Elijah Wright, Ephraim Holt, Jobb Poor, Paul Stratton, Justis Brown, Jeremiah Culver, Ammi Andrews and Aaron Silloway.

1795 is the first year that names were listed in the *Town Meeting Record Book* of persons taking the Freeman's Oath, they were: Aaron Goff, Josiah Benjamin, Abel Andrews and Daniel Martin, and were sworn on September 1.

In 1796: Matthew Wallace, Increase Batchelder, Joel Coburn, Timothy Baxter, Silas Clark and Simeon Dewey.

In 1797: Gurdon Pierce, Jacob Cummins, Moses Holt, William Dewey, Paul Black, Amos Strong, Jesse Cole, Cyrus Johnson, Matthew Wallace, Paul Stratton, Peter Hubbard, Samuel Currier, Gershom Heaton and John Phelps.

A footnote appended to the record of 1797 gives a list of names from the former town clerk as having taken the Freeman's oath prior to 1797, which had not been recorded, and is as follows: John Pearley, James Pearley, David Nye, Daniel Taylor, Jabez Ellis, Ebenezer Collins, Jesse Cole, Simeon Dewey, John Taplin, James Sawyer, Ammi Andrews, Joshua Bayley, Ebenezer Bayley, Jesse Poor, Eleazer Hubbard, Solomon Goff, John Flanders, Moses Holt, Israel House and Joel Phelps.

In 1798: William McAllister, Samuel Scott, John Black, Zacheus Lovell, Samuel Jones, Elisha Woodbury, Simpson Steward, James Braman and Reuben Strong.

In 1799: Solomon Nye, Joel Shurtleff, Zebulon Gurley and Abner Paul.

In 1800: Bennet Field, Jesse Goodenow, Silas Clark, Josiah Foster, John Phelps, Jonathan Hollister, Bethuel Goff and William Buck. This year Zachariah Perrin, Lemuel Stickney, William McAllister, Increase Batchelder, Bethuel Goff, Asaph Pierce, Silas Black, Elijah Andrews, Allen Andrews, Ephraim Silloway, Nathaniel Hollister and Samuel Hubbard took the Freeman's Oath. It is noteworthy that Zachariah Perrin, one of the earliest settlers in town and holding one or more town offices each year from the organization of the town, had not heretofore taken this oath.

EARLY ROADS IN BERLIN

As previously stated, the last proprietors' meeting recorded in the *Proprietors' Book*, took place on June 15, 1787 at the home of Jacob Fowler. It is evident that the proprietors' clerk failed to make entries of meetings which must have been held between that date and March 4, 1791, when the town was organized and the keeping of the records became the duty of the town clerk. In proof of which, we proffer a petition to the Vermont legislature

from Berlin, dated October 8, 1788, asking for a land tax on the town for the purpose of building a bridge across Onion River and a road down the same. No such request could have been made without a vote of the residents of the town, consenting thereto.

This original petition, signatures and all, is preserved in the *Manuscript State Papers of Vermont*, XVIII, p. 40, in the archives of the Secretary of State at Montpelier, and reads as follows:

Barlain Octr 8th 1788

To the Honorable Assembly of the State of Vermont The Petition of the Inhabitants of the Town of Barlain in the County of Orange Humbly sheweth that your Petitioners are greatly embarressed in bringing forward the settlement of Sd Town for the want of a Bridge over Onion River and a Road down the same which will lead To and from Market, therefore Your Petitioners Humbly Pray that your Honours would Grant a Tax of Two pence on each acre of Land in Sd Town of Barlain, Publick Rights excepted for the purpos of building Sd Bridge & Making Sd Road under the direction of your Honours and in some other way enable your Petitioners to Compleat Sd Bridge and Road-and as in duty bound will ever Pray

Jacob Fowler
James Hobart
Joseph Hobart

On the reverse of the petition appears the filing of the Secretary of State: "Barlain Petition for Land tax filed Oct. 20th 1788. Attest *Rosll Hopkins*, Secy". "In Genl Assembly 21st Octr 1788 Read & the prayer thereof granted with leave to bring in a Bill accordingly.

Attest *S. Jacobs*, Clerk."

And in the Assembly Journal, (*State Papers of Vermont*, III, (IV), 105, 106, is the following entry: "An Act granting a tax on the town of Montpelier, Berlin, Middlesex, Waterbury & Bolton, read and passed 23 Oct. '88."

On the previous day, October 7, 1799, a *similar petition* had been presented the legislature from Montpelier, signed by Jacob Davis, Ebenezer Aphem, Jr., Parley Davis, Parker Burnham, Samll Upham Junr, Ziba Woodworth, Levi Humphrey, Hiram Peck, Nathaniel Peck, Isaac Putnam, Benjamin Tucker Jun., Theophilus Brook, David Wing Jun. and Clark Stevens.

Thus it would appear that the two towns joined forces in building a bridge over Onion River-the first bridge in that part of the country. It also appears that not .only Montpelier and Berlin, but the other towns along the Onion River were all anxious to open up a Market Road leading to Burlington. A separate

act of the same date granted a land tax on New Huntington (now Richmond) for the purpose of making roads, &c.

That the bridge was built is proved by the vote of Berlin citizens on October II, 1791, "to have a road from Esquire John Taplin's on the South Branch to the bridge across Onion River." Taplin lived on the lower part of Dog River-then called South Branch-on the place now known as the Sallies (?) place. The Whitelaw plan of Berlin shows a crossing of Onion River a short distance east of the junction of Dog and Onion Rivers; and this is corroborated by another entry in the Town Clerk's Book of the same date, October II, 1788:- "Voted to have a road from James Sawyer's up the Branch and down sd Branch to the river and from the mouth of sd Branch *down* the Onion River to Moretown line-and from the mouth of sd South Branch *up* Onion River to the bridge across sd river."

The following, taken from Daniel Thompson's *History of Montpelier*, pp. 40, 41, records that in June 1787, Jacob and Parley Davis were appointed a committee to layout public roads in Montpelier. It would appear that they were not very particular about town lines, for Thompson states that they

also cut a road from the Tilly Hubbard place (now known as the Monti place) on the Berlin Ridge, at the point where the road diverged westward towards the mouth of Dog River, directly down the east side of the hill, to the Winooski River, by the Andrew Cummings farm, in the same place where the road has ever since been maintained. (Hill Street). The object of making this road being to save the unnecessary distance occasioned by going round by the mouth of Dog River in journeys from the Davis Opening to Brookfield. It was brought down the Berlin side of the river below the falls, where the Langdon mills now stand (old Colton shops, recently razed) to about the point now occupied by the Gas Works, where the river could generally be forded.

The first reference to roads in the *Town Clerk's Record Book*, after the organization of the town, appears in the minutes of the adjourned meeting held October 11, 1791, when it was voted

To have a road beginning at the Cohos Rode, beginning at the North West corner of-lot Number 2 in the 7th range, and running southerly on the (lot) line to the South West corner of lot Number 2 of the 15th range; from thence bearing westerly to the Brookfield Road.

From this it is evident that previous to this meeting there were at least two established roads within the township-the Cohos Road, and the Brookfield Road. The Cohos Road was none other than a section of an old Indian trail leading from Newbury and Bradford-the Coos Country-to Onion River and from thence to Lake Champlain, near the present Burlington. This so-called

"Cohos Rode," running in a northwesterly direction, entered the town of Berlin near the present Allen farm in Barre, and is still in partial use, beginning at the home of Joseph Gonyo, passing Will O. Comstock's, crossing Pond Brook at the Gunnison Bridge, past Paul Davis's and Clarence Stewart's, and after reaching the so-called Brookfield road near the old Bugbee place, now owned by William Hoare, continued westerly, crossing the height of land and descended to Dog River, following that stream until it joined the Onion River near the present Montpelier Junction. This is without doubt the oldest travelled route in central Vermont, having been used by the Indians long before the white men came into the country.

The "Old Brookfield Road" ran along the easterly side of the main range of hills, or mountains, west of the pond. It was a blazed trail from Brookfield, which for several years was the frontier town in this section of the state, being on the watershed between the Connecticut and Winooski River valleys. It was over this trail that Jacob Davis and Isaac Putnam travelled when they settled in Montpelier and Middlesex. For a number of years the Brookfield Road merged with the Coos Road from the height of land near William Hoare's, to Montpelier Junction. As already stated, in 1787, Jacob Davis cut out the road leading up Hill Street to this junction point of the two roads, thus shortening the distance to the settlement at Montpelier. This Brookfield Road was used until 1799 when Judge Elijah Paine of Williamstown built his famous turnpike, (which entered Berlin, several rods east of the Brookfield Road, and ran east of the pond through what is now Berlin Corners to the Bridge at the Bailey Mills at Montpelier). Over this old Brookfield Road passed the Boston-Montreal Stage Coaches, and it was over this same road that Edward, Duke of Kent (Queen Victoria's father) journeyed in 1794.

Going back now to the first road ordered built by the town, it is of interest to know that until the construction of the Airport, when two minor changes were made, it was used in its entirety, and was and is known as the East Road. At one time it was also called "Bible Street," perhaps in derision of the extremely religious character of the people who lived along its way. The present "Nigger Hill" road is the same identical road that was then built from the southwest corner of lot Number 2, 15th range, "bearing westerly to the Brookfield Road"-thus connecting the new "East Road" and the old "Brookfield Road." On this same

October II, 1791, it was voted to build "a peace of a road from near the northwest corner of lot Number 2, 15th range, from thence bearing southerly east course to Williamstown line." This led from the south end of the "East Road" past the Colonel House place, which road is still in use. Also it was voted to "have a road from the Senter of the town A Cross the hill to Mr. James Sawyer's on the South Branch (Dog River)."

It may be well here to say that for many years that part of the town where the Brookfield Road was crossed by the east-west road running through the present Berlin Corners, was known as "Berlin Center." Near here was built the first church, a school, the town pound, the powder house; the town clerk lived at the junction of these roads, and a hotel or inn was established for the benefit of travellers on the old stage road. Here too, was the "Meeting House Common."

It was also voted at this time "to have a road from Esq. John Taplin's on the South Branch to the Bridge across Onion River"; also "from James Sawyer's up the Branch and down said Branch to the river and from the mouth of said South Branch up Onion River to the bridge across said river."

On this same day it was voted "to have the road to Mr. Hubbard's Mills as it now is or their abouts," These mills were near or on the Benjamin Falls, and the road ran from a point on the Coos road, near Mr. Thomsen's, to the mill site. This item goes to show that some, perhaps considerable, work had been done on the roads prior to the organization of the town and election of proper officers to conduct the work. This is also borne out by the vote that "the work done to the roads that are accepted by the town for one year back to be accepted by the several Sevaers (surveyors)."

One week later, October 18, 1791, it was voted "to build a road beginning at the south east corner of lot No.3 in the 10th range and run westerly across one lot and about a half to the Brookfield Road." It is apparent that this road was not laid as directed, for it ran from the northeast corner of lot No.3, and is the road running westerly through Berlin Corners. This connected the "East Road" with the "Brookfield Road," and by the extension of the road "near the senter of the town across the hill to James Sawyer's on South Branch," connected these roads with the road on South Branch, or Dog River. This road over the hill originally ran directly west from the west end of the road from Berlin Corner

where it intersects the old Brookfield Road, past the home of the town clerk, Abel Knapp, just north of the first church site-where the monument now stands-past the town pound, substantial remains of which still exist, to a point near the dooryard of the Abel Warren place, now the Fruchter farm, from there along the present road to the old Hobart place; thence directly down the hill to Dog River, as at present.

On September 3, 1793, it was voted "that the Sign Post and Stocks be erected at the Crotch of the roads on the fifth lot and the third range in said township of Berlin." This was at the "crotch" or junction of the old Coos and Brookfield roads, near William Hoare's house. Both the Sign Post and the Stocks were requirements of the statute laws of that day. The Sign Post for the purpose of furnishing a legal place upon which notices of public meetings should be fastened, and the Stocks as a means of punishing law breakers, as defined by statute.

During the three decades following the organization of the town, many changes were made in the highways within the township; a considerable number of farms lying high up on the hills were abandoned, and the roads which had been laid to reach them were accordingly given up, while new ones connecting the farms in many neighborhoods were built, some of them "pent" roads, for the accommodation of the individual farms. The following excerpts taken from the *Town Meeting Record Book*, from 1791 to 1820, give a pretty clear picture of the highway development during that period; some of these roads have been discontinued when better routes were discovered, and a specific case of a road discontinued because of abandoned farms is that of the road that once ran southerly from the house lately occupied by Leon Stewart (the old Simpson Stewart place), along the easterly side of the mountain where once three homes had been established.

EXCERPTS FROM VOLUME I, BERLIN TOWN MEETING RECORDS, RELATIVE TO
ROADS. 1791-1820.

Oct. 11, 1791

Voted to have a road beginning at the cohos Rode beginning at the northwest corner of lot No. 2 in the 7th range and running southerly on the line to the southwest vomer of Lot No.2, 15th Range From thence bearing westerly to the Brookfield Road.

Voted a peace of a road from near the northwest corner of lot No.2 in the 15th range from thence bearing southerly east course to Williamstown line.

Voted to have a road from near the Senter of the town A Cross the hill to Mr. J ames Sawyer's on the South Branch.

Voted to have a road from Esq. John Taplin's on the South Branch to the Bridge Across Onion River.

Voted to have a Road from James Sawyer's up the Branch and down sd Branch to the river and from the mouth of sd branch down the Onion River to Moretown line-and from the mouth of sd South Branch up Onion River to the bridge across sd river.

Voted to have the road to Mr. Hubbard's Mills as it now is or their abouts. Voted the hiway work to be done as the law Directs for the year Ensuing--

Voted the work done to the roads that are accepted by the town for one year back To be accepted by the Several Sevaers

Oct. 18, 1791

Voted a road beginning at the southeast Corner of lot No.3 in the 10th Range and running westerly a Cross one lot and about a half to the Brookfield Road so Caled

Mch. 29, 1792 .

Voted to rais one Shilling on the pound to be laid out on the highways for the year ensuing

Voted the work done to the roads from the first of May to the last of September four

Shillings per day

Voted the work done in October and November three Shillings per day

Aug. 19, 1793

Art. 2 of the warning: "To see if the town will give their Selectmen orders to look and layout roads in different parts of the town as shall then be thought needfull" .

Sep. 4, 1793

Voted that the Sign post and stocks be erected at the Crotch of the roads on the fifth lot and the 3rd range in sd township of Berlin

Mch. 6, 1794

Voted to raise 18 pence on the pound for highways

Voted that the road from Pond Brook to Barre between the 8th and 9th ranges is not excepted by the town.

Mch. 4, 1795

Voted that the work done at the Highways the year ensuing shall be as the Law directs

Sep. 1, 1795

Voted the town relinquish a piece of road from John Perleys southwest Corner to the Pond Brook and as much further as the Selectmen shall think best

Mch.15,1796

Voted to raise sixpence on the pound upon the list of 1795 for the purpose of opening new roads the present year-to be laid out under the direction of the Selectmen; and also to raise the amount of 4 days work on the poll, averaged on the Grand List of the year 1795 including the money last voted for the purpose of repairing highways

June 9, 1796

Action in County Court re a road on the east side of Stevens Branch Petition of Col Davis and others for a Com. fr sd Court to layout a road-Voted un

animously to defend the Actions brought by Col. Davis et al of Montpelier and Samuel D. Cook et al of Barre.

Voted also that Samuel Smith do attend the next Co. Ct. to be holden at Newbury to defend the aforesaid action.

July 12, 1796

Voted to raise a sum of money to pay the cost which has already arisen and which may hereafter arise in consequence of a committee coming into the town to view the road on a pet. of Samuel D. Cook et al.

Mch. 21, 1797

Voted to raise four days work to the poll, to be averaged on the Grand List for the purpose of repairing highways the present year

Mch. 13, 1798

Voted same as above-(4 days, etc.)

June 11, 1796

Voted to raise one cent on the dollar upon the list of 1797 to be laid out under the direction of the Selectmen to complete the road from Barre line down Stevens Branch to Onion River
Voted to allow John Taplin Esq. Eleazer Hubbard and John Pearley \$16.33 out of the Town Treasury for monies by them expended on the board as Committee men on the penny tax

Apr. 15, 1799

Voted to allow Simeon Dewey \$2.50 for plank furnished to repair the bridge over Onion River

Sep. 3, 1799

Voted that the selectmen be instructed to procure Plank at the expense of the town to Repair the Bridge over Onion River

Mch. 3, 1800

Passed over Art. 7th of Warning re raising money to repair highways.

July 1, 1801

No action on 3d Art. of Warning re repairs on Onion River Bridge and to build a bridge over Pond Brook by Jeremiah Culver's

Aug. 24, 1801

Voted that the Selectmen of Berlin be requested to meet the Selectmen of Montpelier for the purpose of consulting with respect to the propriety of repairing Onion River Bridge
Selectmen reported at a Special meeting Sept. I-No action taken on their report.

Sep. 26, 1801

Art. 2 of Warning: "To see if town will choose an agent to meet the agents which shall be chosen in Montpelier and Barre to choose a Com. to assess each of the towns of Montp., Barre and Berlin with a sum of money for the purpose of building a bridge over Onion River a few rods from the mouth of Stevens Branch according to benefit it shall be to each town".

Oct. 9, 1801

David Nye chosen agent to treat with Montpelier and Barre agents as set forth in the warning

Mch. 9, 1802

A Com. agreed on by the towns of Barre, Montpelier and Berlin to divide the expense of building a bridge over Onion River made the following reports, viz. That dividing the expense into nine parts the town of Barre pay four, Montpelier Three and Berlin two-- Report accepted.

Acct. exhibited by John Johnston for repairing Onion River Bridge referred to Z. Perrin, Charles Bulkeley and Josiah Benjamin to examine and report their opinion at the adjourned meeting.

Mch. 29, 1802

Above Com. reported they considered the account reasonable and it ought to be allowed-- Allowed at \$39.46

May 3, 1802

Voted that the town will be in readiness to build their proportion of a bridge over Onion River the ensuing season and that Major Benjamin be an agent to Supt. said business.

Voted that the Agent be authorized to advertise and let it out at Vendue

Nov. 7, 1804

Voted to raise 4 mills on the dollar on the list of 1804 to defray the expense of clearing the road from the South Branch to Moretown line.

Voted to let out the expense of clearing sd Road to the lowest bidder--and John Stewart being the lowest bidder it was struck off to him at 5 Y2 cents per rod. (Probably Chase Brook Road)

Mch. 27, 1804

Voted that the Road from the cross Road near Jesse Poor's to Northfield line be discontinued and also the Road from the Turnpike near Jonas Parker's to the cross road near the Sawmill

June 6, 1804

Voted to repair the bridge over Dog River called Sawyer's Bridge and the bridge over the mill Pond on Pond Brook with such timber as may be found necessary; that the Selectmen let the work out by Vendue or otherwise and after ascertaining the expense to assess the town in such sum as may be necessary and that the same be payable in labor.

July 7, 1805

Voted that the town accept the road as laid by the Selectmen leading from Jacob Cummins house to the turnpike, if accepted by Elijah Nye and Jabez Ellis

Nov. 13, 1806

Voted that the business of rebuilding the bridge over Onion River near George Caldwell's be referred to the Selectmen to act discretionary about it.

Apr. 11, 1807

Art. 3 of Warning: "To see if the town will raise money to build above bridge where George Caldwell formerly lived.

Apr. 24 1807

Motion on above negatived.

Mch. 14, 1809

Voted (in response to a pet. of a no. of inhabs) that the Selectmen be requested to turn the road from Jacob Cummins to the turnpike to the place where it formerly laid.

Sep. 2, 1809

Voted that 5 mills on the dollar upon the list of 1809 be assessed to defray the expense of repairing certain bridges in town

Mch. 13, 1810

Bill of \$12.16 of Elijah Wright for repairing bridge ordered pd

Apr. 2, 1811

Voted that Mr. Shepart have leave to erect two gates on the rd between his house and Mr. Bradford's

Sep. 3, 1811

Voted to raise one hundred dollars on the list of 1811 to be at the disposal of the selectmen for the purpose of building and repairing bridges

Apr. 7, 1812

Voted that the road from Stephen Parsons to Stevens Branch be discontinued Voted that the road from Joel Warren's to the branch road (Dog River) near Jonathan Cady's be discontinued

Voted that the Road from Widow McAliisters to where Jona. Miller lately lived, be discontinued (South of Leon Stewart's farm)

Voted that the selectmen be instructed to take suitable measures to cause the old Road to be opened from Jacob Cummins to Onion River.

Sep. 7, 1813

Voted that the Selectmen be instructed to submit the Road business to indifferent men, to decide whether any, and what damages Charles Bulkeley Esq., shall receive from the town and turn the road back to the former place.

Sep. 23, 1813

Voted that one cent on the dolar be assessed on the lists of 1812 to defray the expense of building and repairing bridges, etc.

Apr. 11, 1814

Voted That the Selectmen be instructed to confer with Judge Paine and the selectmen of Montpelier respecting any assistance which the two towns may afford him in consideration of his rebuilding the bridge over Onion River at the place where it formerly stood and report to the town the conditions.

Voted that the Road from Timothy Baxter's to the Coos Road near Aaron Strong's be discontinued.

Mch. 12, 1816

A list of 22 names of persons who exhibited accts. for work done on the Branch Road, allowed at \$35.45 total: Jabez Ellis, Elijah Nye,-Potter, David Nye, Solomon Nye Jr., Moses Bayley, E. Perrin, Samuel Emerson, Jonathan Ayer, Increase Batchelder, Eleazer Hubbard, Asaph Pierce, Reuel Covell, Isaac Stickney, Samuel Hubbard, Timothy Baxter, Amos Strong, Daniel Thompson, Josiah Benjamin, Abel Sawyer, Zebulon Gurley and Josiah Hubbard.

Apr. 2, 1816

Voted that the Selectmen be instructed to confer with the selectmen of Montpelier respecting an application to the County Court re building a bridge over Onion River near the mouth of Stevens Branch (Goodnow bridge)

Voted that such part of the highway tax of the two southeastern districts as may be necessary to repair the road to Hubbards Mill.

June 5, 1817

Voted to raise a tax of one cent and 5 mills on the dollar on the list of 1816 to defray the expense of making a road from or near Capt. Ayers on the west side of Stevens Branch to Onion River and the Selectmen to be a com. to let out and Supt. the business, to be made the present season.

Mch. 10, 1818

Voted that the road between Daniel Thompson's and Onion River be discontinued. .

Mch. 2, 1818

Voted that the Selectmen be authorized to agree with Daniel Thompson on a Com. to take into consideration his claim for damages on acct. of the road being laid across his land.

Mch. 16, 1819

Voted to raise one cent on the dollar in addition to the usual highway tax payable in Labor if done before July 15 . . . to repair roads in such parts of the town as the selectmen shall think most necessary

Mch. 30, 1819

Voted that the road leading from Jeremiah Bradford's to Jonathan Shepards house on Onion River be discontinued.

Voted that the Selectmen be instructed to examine into the expediency of laying a road from the house of Richard Bayley, Jr. to the road near Jonas Goodnows, and if thought proper to set over the old road in lieu of it.

Voted that Jonas Goodnow & Richard Bayley Jr. be exempt from all taxes for roads or bridges the present year.

Mch. 28, 1820

The petition of Richard Bayley Jr. et al to the selectmen requesting a road to be laid out and a bridge supported over Onion River near Jonas Goodnows was laid before the town, whereupon Voted the town instruct their selectmen not. to grant the request of the said petitioners.

EARLY RECORDED ROAD SURVEYS IN BERLIN

The first Road Surveys as recorded, are found in the last part of Volume I of the LAND RECORDS, a brief summary of which follows:

Survey of the road leading from Onion River Bridge in Berlin to the South Branch of sd River, on Esqr John Taplin's land and up sd Branch. Beginning at sd Bridge. . . to the Branch.

Survey of the road from Brookfield Road on the Line between Messrs John Peadey Line and Jacob Black. Beginning at Sd Road. . . to Wildersburg.

Survey of the Road Leading from Coos Rode Between the 2d & 3 tears of Lots to Brookfield Rode. Beginning at Coos Roade . . . to Northfield Line

Survey of the Road leading to Williamstown. Beginning at the above m<;ntioned Road about 2 Rods from the North Corner of Lot No.2 in the 15th Range . . . to Williams town line

The within (above) mentioned roads were Surveyed in the month of November 1793, under the Direction of Messrs Joshua Bayley & James Sawyer Jr. Abel Knap Sur

Joshua Bayley}selectmen
James Sawyer

Berlin Town Clerks office March 16th 1794 then Recd for Record and the above is a true Coppy

Attest *James Pearly* T Clark

Survey of the Road from onion River Bridge in Berlin down the River to Lieut. Sillaways viz Beginning at sd Bridge thence to Lieut. Silleways house

Survey of the Road from Lieut. Silways up the South Branch of onion River 1;0 Esqr John Taplins Beginning on the Bank of the River at sd Silliways thence . . . to the Road Leading from Onion River Bridge to Esqr Taplins

Road from Pond Brook to Wildersburg on the Line Between the 8th & 9th ranges North 62a W two miles November 1793

Road Leading from Cohass Road to Mr hubarts mill Beginning about two Rods West of a bridge November 1793 Berlin March 16 1794 then Recived for Record and the above is a true Coppey

atst *James Pearly* T Clark

Survey of a road leading from Barre line on the East side of Stevens Branch (so called) to Onion River Bridge. Beginning at sd line. . . to Coos road (so called)

Survey of a road leading from Stephen Parsons to Stevens branch road (so called) Berlin Town Clerks Office May 3d 1796 I hereby certify the foregoing is a true copy of the original survey bills made out the 26th of April 1796 by Abel Knap Sur & Sam! Smith & Jacob Black Selectmen

Attest *Abel Knap* T Clerk

Survey of the Road from Moretown line up the River to Lieut. Silaways. The above road was laid out by the Selectmen and surveyed under their direction on the 13th day of September 1797 *Abel Knap* Surv

Survey of a Road leading from Coos Road (co called) Northwardly towards Mr. Hubbards Mil\ . Laid out & surveyed on Oct. 7, 1797 by *Abel Knap* Surv

Survey of Brookfield Road (so called, from Onion River Bridge to Northfield line. The above road Surveyed Sep. 1796 under the direction of the Selectmen by *Abel Knap* Surv

Survey of the Coos Road (so called) Beginning at Brookfield Road on the north line of No.5 in the 4th Range to Barre Line. Surveyed September 1796 under direction of the Selectmen by *Abel Knap* Surv.

Survey of Mr. Stickney's Road-Beginning at on Brookfield Road, seven rods northwardly of north line of Lot No.5 in the 3d Range. . . to the road leading to Stevens Branch. The above Road was laid out three Rods wide, and Surveyed June 15th 1798, per *Abel Knap* Selectman & Surv.

Survey of the Road on the S. Branch altered at the Request of Co\ . Davis Beginning at the old road about 20 rods North of the House on the Taplin Farm (so called) to the old road. Surveyed in the year 1798 by *Abel Knap* Surv. & T. Clerk.

Survey of a road on the E side of Stevens Branch-Beginning on the Branch Road about 10 rods west of the W. line of Amos Strongs land. . . to the Branch road by Mr. Z. Lovewell's. Surveyed Sept. 1798 by *Abel Knap Surv. & T. Clerk*

Survey of Road to Moses Holts. Beginning at the S. E. corner of the Burying ground on Brookfield Road thence w. (29 rods in all) to the East line of Holts Land (this road ran westerly up the mountain side). Surveyed April 10, 1800 by *Abel Knap Surv. & T. Clerk*

Alteration of the Branch Road by Mr. Hayden's. Beginning at the turn of the road about 10 rods S of Daniel Hayden's house. . . to the Bridge. Surveyed December 26, 1809 by *Abel Knap Surv & T. Clerk*

EXCERPTS FROM ROAD SURVEYS AS RECORDED IN THE FIRST SURVEY BOOK

Road to South Branch (Dog River) from" Berlin Center".

This road was surveyed in November 1794. Originally surveyed to begin at the center of the east line of lot No.6 in the 9th range, but altered to .begin "at the S. E. corner of No.6 in the 8th Range-thence W.28° N 52 rods", etc. to the road on the West side of tne Branch. (Went westerly past the old Pound). Road from Warren's to the Pound discontinued Dec. 1, 1841. See page 214 *Survey Book*.

Road to Simpson Stewart's.

Beginning at Brookfield Road at a Maple Staddle a few rods from the north line of number 5 in the 12th range, etc. . . to the N. W. corner of number six in the 13th Range. Surveyed July 1794

Southern part of South Branch (Dog River) Road. See Book I of Deeds for survey of northern part, as of 1793. Survey June 8, 1796.

Cross Road by the Mill at Berlin Corner.

Beginning at Brookfield road between the 8th and 9th Ranges, running easterly to the road formerly laid out on the south line of the 9th Range. (For this last named road see Vol. I, Land Records). A little more than a mile long. Surveyed June 16, 1796.

Matthew McAllister's Road.

Beginning in the Road against Simson Stewart's dwelling house-thence S. I°E 28 Yz rods to the north line of Wm. McAllister's land. Surveyed November 20, 1800 and laid two rods wide. Salvin Collins and Gershom Heaton, Selectmen; Samuel Scott Surveyor.

Road from D. 114.artin's to Jesse Poors .

About $\frac{1}{2}$ mile. 1800

Road from Ephraim Smith's past Simpson Stewarts, 240 rods. 1800

Zelotes Scott's Road

Begin on westerly side of above Smith road to the south side of the highway leading from Squire Knapps to Dog River (2 miles 12 rods) 1800

Johnston's Road Begins at S. E. Corner of Joel Warren's land and runs northeasterly-crossed Dog River to the west bank to *Johnston's Sawmill*. 1800

Road from Northfield Line.

Running N. E. 2 miles and 28 rods to highway leading past Wm. McAllister's barn-passes southerly edge of Mr. McAllister's improvements. (This must have been an extension of the Matthew McAllister Road leading south from Simpson Stewart's, along the easterly slope of Irish Hill). 1801

<i>Major Benjamin's Road</i>	
Begins at his Log House and runs southwesterly 68 rods to turnpike road.	1803
<i>Joseph Richard's Road.</i>	
Begins at west line of Barre, 4 rods north of the corner of number 1 in the 2d and 3d ranges; then N. W. 85 rods to the road leading to Mr. Bidwell's.	1803
<i>Road from Mr. Bosworth's Shop.</i>	
Beginning at westerly corner of sd shop, thence S. westerly 47 rods to the road near the Bridge	1812
<i>Road from Hill's Mill.</i>	
Beginning at westerly corner of sd Mill, thence S. westerly 12 rods to the road from Bosworth's Shop.	1812
<i>Road from Bosworth's Mill.</i>	
Beginning at north side of mill, then east and southeast and southwest a total of 38 rods to the road leading to the Meeting House.	1812
<i>Road from Calvin Cady's.</i>	
Ran in westerly direction 85 rods to the Branch Road.	1813
<i>Isaac Stickney's Road.</i>	
Began on east side of Paine's Turnpike on south side of Lemuel Stickney's barn yard, then E. 8° S. 41 rods.	1813
<i>Road to Chauncey Perry's west line.</i>	
Begins on the Branch Road about 30 rods S. of Ezra Chandler's house, thence westerly past Abner Fowler's 295 rods.	1813
<i>Road from Clark Parson's to Abner Fowler's.</i>	
258 rods. Discontinued. See Book 3, page 159.	1813
<i>Road from Samuel Hubbard's to Aaron Strong's.</i>	
Beginning at the old road nearly opposite sd. Hubbard's Saw Mill-thence southwesterly a total of 301 rods to the road leading from sd Strong's to Stephen Parson's.	1814
<i>Booth and Jackman Road.</i>	
Begins near the west end of the bridge over Pond Brook east of Jeremiah Culver's; thence N. 20° E 35 rods to Paine Turnpike.	1814
<i>Bridle Path from Daniel Taylor's Jr. to house of Simeon Wells.</i>	
Southerly direction 269 rods.	1815
<i>Road on Steven's Branch.</i>	
Begin at a bow of the branch about 10 rods north of Capt. Jona Ayer's dwelling house-thence northeasterly 290 rods to <i>Onion River</i> .	
<i>Road from East Road to the Turnpike near John Poor's. (Nigger Hill?)</i>	
Beginning at the center of the east line of Lot #3, 15th range; thence west 28°N 66 rods; thence W. 60S. 26 rods; thence W. 210 B 44 rods to the Turnpike road.	1818
<i>Road from Jonas Goodenow's house to road on north side of Onion River-in Berlin and Montpelier</i>	1820
<i>Road from Turnpike Road to Brookfield Road by Daniel Sprouts.</i>	
Begin at the turnpike opposite the crossroad from E. Hubbard's; thence N. 700W 75 rods to the west side of D. Sprout's meadow; thence N. 58 W 38 rods; thence N. 800W 14 rods; thence N. 60° W 22 rods to Brookfield Road	1821

Road from Barre line down Onion Rifler to Jonas Goodenow's 1824

Road across Pond Brook to Richardson's Mill.

Begin at center of road at west end of Jonathan Bosworth's Shop, thence N. 40°E 6 rods; thence E. 40°S 2 rods to the road on the north side of the mill. 1826

Bridle Road from Jonathan Holt's House on bank of Onion Rifler to Edward Langdon's woodyard. 1828

Traverse Batchelder's Road.

Beginning on Stevens Branch near Major Benjamin's on the south side of the bridge across Pond Brook; thence in a northwesterly direction 199 rods to the turnpike road on the south line of Lemuel Stickney's land. (Old road from near Benjamin Falls Schoolhouse to Turnpike?) 1827

Road from house of Joseph Thompson to Daniel Thompson's, across Stevens Branch' - discontinued. 1836

(Old Belknap Road-extension of East Road)?

Beginning in the north line of Williamstown about 6 rods east of the S. W. corner of Jesse House's lot in Berlin, where the travel now goes; thence N 18°E 16 rods to a sluiceway-thence N. 25 °E 34 rods to the S. E. corner of Truman C. Foster's land-thence northerly on the line of the lots 201 rods to the brook-thence N. 18 E 43 rods; thence N. 26°E 38 rods thence N. 7°E 39 rods; thence N. 33 °E 34 rods to the brook near the cross Road-being one mile and 84 rods. 1836

Change in Road from old Meeting House Common to Joel Warren's.

Beginning at a cherry tree at the east end of the bar_ opposite Joel Warren's woodshed, southeasterly 185 rods to the old Brookfield road; then in that road 21 rods to the Meeting House common. 1841

Survey of road from Pond Brook Road up Taylor Brook to Joel Warren's. 1841

VI
 MARKS FOR NEAT CATTLE, SWINE, SHEEP, etc., TOWN AND SCHOOL
 DISTRICTS, CEMETERIES AND CHURCH
 RECORDS, REV. JAMES HOBART

In accordance with a law of the state, it was the custom among the early residents of Berlin, to have a private mark for their cattle; sheep, etc., which because of insufficient fences, often ran at large and often became intermingled. Following is a list of the entries in the *Records of Berlin Town Clerk* from 1792 to 1800. The custom continued until December, 1836.

May 5, 1792	David Nye	A crop of the left ear
May 6, "	Elezaer Hubbard	A crop of the left ear & slit at the end
June 6, "	Elijah Nye	Two slits the under side of the left ear
Sept. 10, "	Aaron Strong	A Swallow Tail in the right ear
Sept. 12, "	Eleazer Hubbard, Jr.	A Swallow Tail in the right ear and a crop in the left ear
Jan. 21, 1794	Samuel Currier	A Swallow Tail in the left ear
June 24, "	Eliada Brown	A crop in both ears
" " "	Elijah Wright	A crop of the off ear
May 20, "	Stephen Persons	A crop of the near ear & a slit in the same
Feb. 11, 1795	Jacob Black	A wire in the right ear
Mch, 12, "	John Pearley	A slit the underside each ear
" 16, "	William Flagg	A happeny the underside the left ear
" 16 "	James Pearley	Two hapenes the underside the right ear
Dec. 22, "	Simeon Dewey	Swallow tail inrt ear & a half Penny the underside of the same
Mch. 9, 1796	Jeremiah Culver	A crop of both ears & slit at the right e
June 3, "	Samuel Emerson	Halfpenny on underside of right ear
" " "	Abel Knap	A hole through the right ear
" 23, "	Jesse Cole	A half crop off the left ear
July 6, 1797	Jesse PoorA"	"underside of right ear
Aug. 15, "	Increase Batchelder	A hole through the left ear'
Mc. 27, 1799	Job Poor	A slit in the end of the left ear
	Jonas Parker	A slit underside right ear & out the end of same
Nov. 11, 1800	Enoch Smith	A Swallowtail in each ear
Nov. 11, 1800	James Bra. . ?	A crop of the right ear & a half penny the underside of the left

TOWN DISTRICTS

At the town meeting held October 20, 1791, it was voted to divide the town into four districts-apparently for convenience in attending to the needs of the various sections of the township, to wit:

Berlin, Vermont

Voted the *Middle District* to contain the inhabitants of Brookfield road, so-called.

Voted *Northeast District* to Contain the inhabitants on Cohos Road.

Voted *Jabez Ellis Destrict* to Contain the inhabitants East and South of the Middle & North Districts

Voted the *West District* to contain the rest of the inhabitants of sd town of Berlin.

From the record of March 4, 1795, it would appear that the *Northeast* and *Jabez Ellis Districts* had been combined, for it was "Voted the *West District* should have the first selectman; voted the east district should hav", the second selectman.

That year James Sawyer was first selectman-(West District)

Samuel Smith was second selectman

Jacob Black was third selectman-(Middle District)

THE EARLY SCHOOL DISTRICTS (from Vol. I, *Town Meeting Book*)

Mch. 4, 1795. Voted that the town will divide themselves into school districts. Voted to chuse a Committee to divide the town into school districts. Voted the East side of the Pond Brook and pond, together with Mr. Flanders and Culver be one School District. Voted the West District begin on the height south of Onion River Bridge extending on that height to Northfield line.

June 9, 1797. Voted to divide the eastern school district-the dividing line to be between Messrs. Perrin and Ellis. Voted that the northern part be known as No.1 and the southerly as No.2. That the Center District be known by the name of No.3 and the Western District No.4. Voted also that District No.1 shall extend Westward to include Messrs Flanders, Culver and Hubbard. No.2 shall include Mr. D .Martin and all South to Northfield line and that Abel Andrews be annexed to Dist. No.3.

Mch. 13, 1798 Voted to divide Dist. No.3 in the Center and also that District No.4 be divided on the line between James Sawyer and John Johnston.

Apr. 15, 1799 Voted that the Cross Road be considered the Center line which divides Dist. No.3 into separate districts, and that Messrs E. Andrews and D. Martin be considered as belonging to the southernmost of said district.

Sept. 3, 1799 Voted that Major Jones school tax be abated till he can be accommodated with a school in this town.

Apr. 2, 1811 Voted that part of Berlin including the Gore north of the first division, to the westerly line of land belonging to the estate of William Hutchins and to the easterly line of Charles Bulkeley's land, and including Hez. Gaylords and Nicholas Bailies farms and also Jonathan Shepard's in the first division be annexed to the south district in *Montpelier Village* during the pleasure of the town of Berlin and that Charles Bulkeley be appointed Trustee for said district. (Part of "Berlin Side")

A trustee seems to have been appointed for each district, and in 1816 there were fourteen Trustees: Jabez Ellis, Elijah Nye, William Flagg, Jr., Stephen Wright, Ezra Chandler, Jacob Cummins, Jesse Poor, Increase Batchelder, Simeon Wells, Gershom

Heaton, Daniel Thompson, Samuel Jones, Azarish Grant, Jr., and Charles Bulkeley.

EARLY CEMETERIES IN BERLIN

From Volume I, *Town Meeting Record Book*:

Oct. 20?, 1791 *Voted*: Mr. Eleazer Hubbard, Micajah Ingham and David Nye a Committee to look a Suitable (place) for a burying place for the east part of the town.
. *Voted*: Jacob Black and John Perley a Committee to look a Suitable place for a burying yard in the Senter of the town.
Voted: Capt. James Sawyer and James Hobart and Hezekiah Silloway a Committee to look a Suiteable Place for a Burying yard for west part of the town.

EAST ROAD CEMETERY

Sept. 4, 1792 It was voted to have a burying yard on the East end of Lot No.3 in the Seventh Range; to have one acre and a half of land for the above Described burying ground, and to have the above described ground ly in square form. It was also voted that the several Committees appointed to look suitable places for burying places in this town are to agree with and for sd land for burying ground.

Men. 12, 1793 It was voted to give Jonathan Ayer twenty shillings per acre for land for burying ground; that the Selectmen apply to Mr. Jonathan Ayer in behalf of the town and take a deed of the land purchased of him for burying ground; and that the Selectmen be a committee to superintend the labour to be done on the several burying yards in this town.

BLACK CEMETERY

Mch. 6, 1794. Voted that the Report of the Committee that is to layout a Burying Ground Brookfield Road is Excepted (Accepted) '.

Mch. 31, 1801. Voted to allow the Western District \$5 to purchase burying ground.

Mch. 26, 1806. Voted David Nye be authorized to take care of and lease out
the
burying ground in the East part of the town. .

FIRST CHURCHES OF BERLIN

While no attempt has been made to write a history of the churches of Berlin, the following items gleaned from the first three volumes of *Berlin Town Meeting Records*, ranging in date from 1796 to 1818, probably will reveal the more important happenings relative to the early church life of the town.

Mch. 29, 1792. Voted to raise Sixty Bushel of wheat or Nine Pounds in money to hire a suitable man to preach the gospel for the year ensuing to be raised on the list of 1792.

Mch. 12, 1793, Voted to reconsider the vote past at the annual meeting in 1792 to raise Nine pounds money or Sixty Bushel of wheat.

Mch. 4, 1795, Voted not to raise money the year ensuing to hire Preeching. Voted the last vote be reconsidered. Voted that if the town raise money for preeching it shall be equally divided in the three Destricts. Voted not to hire Preeching the year Ensuing.

Mch. 15, 1796, Voted to raise eighteen Pounds for the support of the Gospel the present year-and that Eleazer Hubbard Jr., Josiah Benjamin and Mathew Wallace be a committee to layout sd money. Voted not to lease the Ministerial right of land in this town,

Mch. 21, 1797, Voted to hire preaching the present year, and that Abel Knap, David Nye and Joshua Bayley be a Committee for that purpose, Voted to raise forty dollars for the support of the Gosepl the present Year. Voted to allow Josiah Benjamin two dollars'for his trouble and expenses in procuring a minister, and Eleazer Hubbard Jun. one dollar and 75 cents for boarding the same,

June 9, 1797, Voted to recommend to the Committee appointed to hire preaching the present year, to endeavor to procure Mr. Jesse Olds, as a Candidate for Settlement, to preach upon probation.

Oct. 2, 1797, Voted not to raise any further sum of money to hire preaching this season. Voted to adopt measures to procure preaching the next summer. Voted also to choose a Committee- and that Zachariah Perrin, Simeon Dewey and Aaron Strong be a Committee for that purpose, with instructions to engage some person two months, & longer if the Town & Candidate shall agree,

Mch. 13, 1798, Voted to raise forty dollars to hire preaching the ensuing year, to be assessed on the list of 1797.

Aug. 15, 1798, Voted to give Mr. James Hobart a call to settle in the work of the Ministry on the following conditions-viz, That the Town will give him as a Sallary, after the rate of two hundred dollars a year until the expiration of one year from the day of his Ordination; after which time his said Salary shall rise yearly in the same proportion with the list of said town until it shall arrive to the sum of three hundred dollars a year, and then to remain at that sum yearly during the time he shall remain our Minister-And further, that he shall have the use of one hundred acres of land, with a house & barn on the same; twenty acres of which land shall be cleared & fenced-Which buildings, clearing &c shall be completed within three years from the day of his Ordination-Provided nevertheless, that the said Mr. Hobart shall give bonds to the Selectmen of said town and their successors in Office, in the sum of four thousand dollars, conditioned that he will immediately after his Ordination, Quitclaim to the town of Berlin, all his Right and Title (which he shall derive in consequence of his being settled) to the Right of land in Town which was granted to the first settled Minister. Voted, That Messrs. Elisha Woodberry, Aaron Strong, David Nye, Jacob Black & Abel Knap be a Committee to wait on Mr. Hobart, with the above proposals, & .request an answer thereto as soon as may be convenient.

Sept. 4, 1798, Voted to propose to Mr. Hobart, in lieu of the proposals heretofore voted to him as a call for settlement in the following manner, viz.
That he shall have as a Salary, the sum of fifty pounds the first year, & to rise in proportion with the list of said town, til it arrives to eighty pounds a

year; then to remain at that sum yearly during the time he shall remain our Minister. And that he shall Quitclaim, to the town the first division, & either the second or third, of the Minister Right (as he shall choose) at the time of his Settlement. Voted also, that the Committee heretofore appointed to confer with Mr. Hobart, be further directed to lay before him the doings of this Meeting

Sept. 18, 1798. The Committee appointed to wait on Mr. Hobart, Reported verbally, That Mr. Hobart cannot accept of the proposals heretofore made him for Settlement, Whereupon it was further voted, That in lieu of the former proposals, he should retain as his own property the second & third division of the Minister Right in said town and receive as a Salary, fifty pounds for the first year and rise in proportion with the list til it shall amount to eighty pounds a year; and to remain at that sum, annually.

A transcript of the last three items is to be found in the handwriting of Rev. Hobart, himself, in volume I, *Berlin Congregational Church Records*, practically verbatim.

Nov. 5, 1798 Voted, twenty five dollars to defray the expense of Ordination. Voted that Elisha Woodberry, Aaron Strong, David Nye, Jacob Black & Abel Knap, be a Committee to superintend the business of said Ordination.

Sep. 24, 1799 Article 3 of the warning for a meeting of the town to be held on October 7, 1799, reads as follows:

To see if the Town will take any measures for building a House for Social & Public worship in said Town, and if any, to choose a Committee to adopt a Plan and make proposals to the Town, and to transact any other business thought necessary when met.

Oct. 7, 1799 Voted to Choose a Committee to view the Ground & Report to this Meeting the most suitable place to build a Meeting house-Persons chosen for said Committee David Nye, Matthew Wallace, Simeon Dewey, Zechariah Perrin and James Braman. Voted that this meeting be adjourned for half an hour.

The time of adjournment being expired, the meeting was again opened, & the Committee aforesaid made Report that they considered the Northeasterly corner of Capt. Daniel Taylor's land, the most suitable & convenient place for a Meeting house, which Report was accepted. Voted, that Jacob Black, David Nye, Simeon Dewey, Salvin Collins & Samuel Jones to be a Committee to draught a Plan of a House & lay before the Town for their consideration & Acceptance.

Dec. 2, 1799 The Committee aforesaid Reported a Plan of a House 58 feet by 48, which was adopted by the Town. Voted aforesaid be instructed to make Sale of the Pews, take obligations for the Pay, and let out the building to the lowest bidder.

Apr. 7, 1800 (That it was not always easy to collect the ministerial tax assessed on the grand list is indicated by items in the report of the town meeting of April 7, 1800, when it appears that to Gurden Pierce, Constable and Collector, there was due on the Minister tax for 1797, \$8.59; for 1798, \$40.18 and for 1799, \$164.54).

May 3, 1802, Voted that the Money paid on the Minister Right be appropriated for the payment of Mr. Hobart's Salary.

Mch. 6,1804 (First town meeting to be held in the Meeting House).

Mch. 11, 1805 Voted that the town will sell the first division lot of the Minister Right, and that Salvin Collins, E. Hubbard Jr. and Samuel Jones be a Committee for that purpose. Voted that said Committee be instructed to sell or Lease the lot aforesaid, at their discretion.

Mch. 25, 1805 Voted, That the Selectmen be instructed to use their endeavors to collect the arrears of Rent due on the first division of the Minister Right.

Mch. 11, 1806 Article 7 in the warning for a meeting to be held March 26, 1806, reads as follows: "(Entered by Request) To see if the town will be at the expense of setting up posts to hitch horses at or about the meeting house."

Mch. 26, 1806 Voted to dispense with the 7th Article in the warning without acting on it.

At variance with the statement in *Hemenway's Vermont Gazetteer*, "that Methodism was first introduced into Berlin about the year 1830", the records of the town indicate that one Samuel Smith became a minister (preacher) of that denomination in Berlin in or around the year 1806. On March 22, 1807, the town clerk recorded the following certificate of ordination of Samuel Smith as a Deacon of the Methodist Episcopal Church:

Know all men by these presents, that I Francis Asbury one of the Bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church in America, under the Protection of Almighty GOD and with a single eye to his Glory, by the imposition of my hands and Prayer have this day set apart Samuel Smith for the office of a Deacon in the said Methodist Episcopal Church; a man whom I judge to be well qualified for that work; and do hereby recommend him to all whom it may concern, as a proper person to administer the Ordinance of Baptism, Marriage, and the burial of the dead in the Absence of an Elder, and to feed the flock of Christ, so long as his spirit and practice are such as become the Gospel of Christ, and he continueth to hold fast the form of Sound words, according to the established doctrines of the Gospel

In Testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this sixteenth day of July in the year of Our Lord *one thousand eight hundred and five*.

Done at Lynn Conference

Francis Asbury (LS.)

This explains the meaning of the following items in the *Town Meeting Record Book*, under date of April II, 1807:

The second article in the warning for the meeting to be held on

Apr. 24, 1807 reads: To see if the town will agree to divide the Rent of the first division lot of the Minister Right in said town according to the Grand List ,if not, see if they will vote the same to the use of Schooling in said town.

Two motions relative to the income from the Minister Right were negated- one, to appropriate it to the use of Schooling to be divided according to the number of scholars, and the other that the rent be divided by the list among the inhabitants.

Voted that Samuel Smith's taxes be abated-and on his agreeing to pay his school taxes, it was further

Voted that he *be placed on the same footing as other Settled Ministers.*

June 10, 1808 We the subscribers do hereby covenant and agree to & with each other ,and with the Rev. James Hobart, to pay annually our respective and equal proportion of his salary to be assessed on the list as heretofore & collected in the same manner until such time as we shall severally enter our dissent in the Town Clerks office and pay all arrearages of taxes previous to the last session of the Legislature.

Dated at Berlin the 10th day of June 1808.

<i>James Braman</i>	<i>Jesse Goodenow</i>	<i>Abel Knapp</i>
<i>David Johnson</i>	<i>Jonas Goodenow</i>	<i>William Flagg</i>
<i>William Dewey</i>	<i>Zebulun Gurley</i>	<i>David Nye</i>
<i>George Tryon</i>	<i>Amos Strong</i>	<i>Eleazer Hubbard Jr</i>
<i>Henry Dewey</i>	<i>Salvin Collins</i>	<i>Zacheriah Perrin</i>
<i>Joseph Grant</i>	<i>Solomon Nye</i>	<i>Jabez Ellis</i>
<i>Nathan Z. Bojworth</i>	<i>Job Poor</i>	<i>Bennet Field</i>
<i>Calvin Cady</i>	<i>Joel Phelps</i>	<i>Israel Dewey</i>
<i>Alpheus Field</i>	<i>Samuel Perrin</i>	<i>Jacob Miller</i>
<i>James Tryon</i>	<i>Peter Hubbard</i>	<i>Bems. Huntoon</i>
<i>David Nye Jr</i>	<i>Stephen Andrews</i>	<i>Thos. Goodale</i>
<i>Nathl Bosworth Jr</i>	<i>Elijah Andrews</i>	<i>Jesse Poor</i>
<i>Isaac Stickney</i>	<i>Asa Andrews</i>	<i>William Buck</i>
<i>Jona Bosworth</i>	<i>Edm Sprout</i>	<i>Israel House</i>
<i>Simeon Dewey</i>	<i>Samuel Emerson</i>	<i>Tela House</i>
<i>Richd Bailey Jr.</i>	<i>Reuben Ellis</i>	<i>Jesse House</i>
<i>Simeon Wells</i>	<i>Jacob Cummins</i>	<i>Job Reed</i>
	<i>Mastain Holt</i>	<i>Aaron Strong</i>
	<i>Peter McKenzie</i>	<i>William Griffith</i>
	<i>Dexter May</i>	<i>Wm. R. Griffith</i>
	<i>Jesse McAllister</i>	<i>Levi Hills</i>
	<i>Bennet Field Jr.</i>	<i>Josiah Benjamin</i>
	<i>Jonathan Miller</i>	<i>Jonathan Holt</i>
	<i>Ebenr Knapp</i>	<i>Lemuel Stickney</i>
	<i>John Black Jr</i>	<i>Asaph Pierce</i>
	<i>Joel Warren</i>	<i>Samuel Hubbard</i>
	<i>Abel Andrews</i>	<i>Daniel Thompson</i>
	<i>Benj. Strickland</i>	

The following certificate of Abel Knapp, Town Clerk, is appended to the above:

"Recorded Augt. 29, 1828 at the request of J. Pearley, & the foregoing is a true copy of the Original."

CERTIFICATE OF ORDINATION OF ELDER DAVID KILBOURN.

June 24, 1812 Know all men by these presents that I William McHendree, one of the Bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church in America under the protection of Almighty GOD, and with a single eye to his Glory by the imposition of my hands & prayer (being assisted by the Elders) have this day set apart *David Kilbourn* for the office of an Elder in the said Methodist Episcopal Church, a man whom I Judge to be well qualified for that work and I do hereby Recommend him to all whom it may concern, as a proper person to

Berlin, Vermont

administer Baptism and the Lords Supper,- To do all the works of an Elder, and to feed the flock of Christ so long as his spirit and practice are such as become the Gospel of Christ In Testimony whereof I have this twenty fourth day of June in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred & twelve, set my hand and seal
Lynn June 24th 1812 W. McKendree (L. S.)

Recorded Dec. 6th 1813

A true copy Attt *Abel Knapp* T. Clk.

CERTIFICATE OF ORDINATION OF DEACON JOEL STEEL.

Feb. 18, 1816 Know all men by these presents that I Francis Asbury Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church in America, under the protection of Almighty GOD and with a single eye to his Glory by the imposition of my hands and prayer have this day set apart Joel Steel for the office of a Deacon in the said Methodist Episcopal Church a man whom I Judge to be well qualified for that work: And do hereby recommend him to all whom it may concern as a proper person to administer the Ordinance of Baptism Marriage & the Burial of the Dead in the absence of an Elder and to feed the flock of Christ so long as his Spirit and practice are such as becomes the Gospel of Christ, and he continueth to hold fast the form of sound words according to the established Doctrines of the Gospel.

In Testimony whereof I hereunto set my hand and seal this Nineteenth day of April in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Eight Done at N London

Francis Asbury (L. S.)

Recorded February 18th 1816

Attest

Copy

G. *Heaton* T. Clerk

From the above certificates it is reasonable to infer that religious meetings had been held in Berlin under the leadership of the Methodist church as early as IS06 through ISI6, at least. It is of interest to note that in Volume III of *Berlin Town Meeting Records*, page 81, there appears a record of the certificate of the marriage of Dudley Bridges and Mary House Hubbard on April 7, ISI3, by "Samuel Smith Minister of the Gospel". And on

May 13, 1816, It was moved that all the monies arising from the Rents of the Minister Right, and interest of the Monies, be appropriated to the use of Schools. On which motion the vote was declared to be in the negative. It was then voted, that the Rents & Interest which have already accrued be appropriated to the payment of Mr. Hobart's Salary-After which it was moved, that the Interest for the present year *be divided among the different denominations* according to the grand list, and the vote being called, was declared in the negative Mch. 18, 1817 Voted that the Interest arising from the public money be applied in part to the payment of Mr. James Hobarts Salary.

Apr. 7, 1817 Moved that the vote passed at the last meeting respecting the Interest of the public money be reconsidered-which was negatived.

ITEMS IN VOLUME II OF TOWN MEETING RECORD BOOK RELATIVE TO THE SETTLEMENT WITH REV. JAMES HOBART AT CLOSE OF HIS LONG PASTORATE.

Mch. 4, 1829. Warning: To see if the town will vote to dismiss Rev. James Hobart as their Minister.

Mch. 17, 1829. Action on above postponed for the present.

Mch. 31, 1829 Voted not to dismiss the 8th Art. above and the following request was presented to the town: "Whereas there is an adjourned meeting of the town this day-I therefore request the town to take suitable measures for my dismissal from the town of Berlin as their Minister and for a settlement with me" (Signed James Hobart Jr.) Voted to comply with the request of Rev. James Hobart for a dismissal and settlement with him, and a committee be appointed to carry the same into effect-persons chosen: Jabez Ellis, Edmund Langdon and Israel Dewey.

Voted that so much of the, public money from the first division of the Minister's right as may be necessary, be appropriated to the payment of what is due him.

May 4, 1829. The report of the committee appointed at the last meeting to settle with the Rev. James Hobart being called for, and read, On motion

Voted to accept said report so far as to allow Mr. Hobart \$900. The meeting became disorderly-and after an unsuccessful attempt to dissolve or adjourn the meeting, the Moderator, (James H. Langdon, Esq.) declined serving and requested that some other person be appointed in his room. Whereupon Col. Jonathan P. Miller was nominated and appointed.

Voted to rescind the last vote accepting the Report of the committee to settle with Mr. Hobart Voted That the property which has been transferred to Mr. Hobart by the committee appointed by the town be returned to the Town Treasury. Voted That a committee be appointed to replace the property in the town treasury-*Appointed Jonathan P. Miller, Ebenezer Bailey and Elisha Reynolds.

Voted That the votes taken at the last adjourned meeting respecting the public money be rescinded.

Voted That the committee for replacing the money in the Treasury Report at the Annual March Meeting in 1830.

No further mention is made in the *Town Meeting Record Book* of this matter. No report is mentioned in the record of the Annual Meeting. At that meeting it was voted to apply the income from the First Division Minister's right to the care of the town paupers.

VII

PLACES WHERE BERLIN TOWN MEETINGS HAVE BEEN HELD

Until March 1804, when the new "Meeting House" at the center of the township was used for the first time, Berlin had no fixed place for holding its town meetings. It has been interesting to go through the *Town Meeting Record Books* and note the different places, homes of persons living near the center for the most part, where both the regular and adjourned meetings were held to that time; and later, after the burning of the Meeting House, in 1838, to list the places as recorded.

The first, organizational, meeting was held on March 31, 1791, at the home of Aaron Strong (on the farm now occupied by Thomas Thomsen); in October of that year an adjourned meeting was held at John Pearley's; the March 1792 meeting was again held at Aaron Strong's; Freeman's meeting of that year at John Pearley's; also the March meeting of 1793, when it was voted that the next annual meeting be held at David Webster's (opposite the present Chenette place) but in fact it was held at Jeremiah Culver's, Mr. Webster having removed to Barre. From the Freeman's meeting of 1794 to the March meeting of 1794, all meetings were held at the house of James Pearley (present Hiram Turner farm); in 1796 four meetings were held at the house of Capt. Daniel Taylor (present Edward Walker place); from the March meeting of 1797 to and including March 1799, four meetings were held at Gershom Heaton's (the C. A. Pike farm); the two last meetings were called for the purpose of choosing a site for: a Meeting House; from March 3, 1800, to March 6, 1804, all meetings were held at the house of Capt. Daniel Taylor. And from March 6, 1804 to March 8, 1838, all town and freeman meetings were held at the Meeting House on the hill (occasionally adjournment being made to the schoolhouse a few rods south of the church on the old Brookfield Road, known as the Berlin Center Schoolhouse. This building was later moved to the Corner and became the blacksmith shop of Frank 'Barney, well remembered by many now living). The first time the old Meeting House was called the Congregational Meeting house in the warnings for town meetings was on December 24, 1836, which would in

dicates that the Methodist chapel was then in existence. The warning issued on February 20, 1838, called the town meeting at the Congregational Church on March 6, 1838. The following entry appears at the beginning of the record of that meeting:

Meeting opened pursuant to warning at the Scite of the Congregational Meeting House and made choice of Osman Dewey Moderator pro tern. *The House having been burnt since the meeting was warned*, Voted that the meeting be adjourned to the Methodist chapel in said town, and after repairing to the Chapel the meeting was called to order", etc.

The Methodist chapel then stood a few rods south of the southwest corner of the cemetery at Berlin Corners, on land owned by the late Henry Goodhue. It was afterwards moved to a site a few rods north of the Congregational Church, about opposite the house now occupied by Harold Willey, which was the Methodist parsonage until that church was disbanded.

The next two meetings, September 1838 and March 1839, were held at the Methodist Chapel; the following three meetings, of March 5, May and September, 1839, were held at the Center Schoolhouse above referred to. At the March 5 meeting the selectmen were instructed to confer with a committee of the Proprietors of the Methodist Chapel respecting the terms on which the town could have the use of that house for town meetings. The report of this committee was laid on the table. Satisfactory arrangements must have been made, for all town meetings were held there until December 16, 1858, when a resolution was presented requesting that the town and freemen's meetings be held near the Red Arch Bridge, and for the present in S. R. Clark's hall, which resolution was sustained on a ye and nay vote. On January 6, 1859 a meeting was held in Clark's hall to "see if the town would vote to rescind the vote taken at the December meetings in Clark's hall," at which the result by ye and nay vote was 171 to 174 in favor of the *nays*. Thus we have a picture of the fight between the denizens of the hills and the valley. Accordingly, all town meetings were held at Clark's hall until March 8, 1879, when it was voted to build a town hall, and the Special Town Meeting of December 2, 1879 was held in the "New Town Hall" (the present Vermont Beverage Company, Inc. property); and the meetings were held there until the division of the town in 1899, when the annual meeting of March 7, was held in the "White Church" in West Berlin, which practice was continued until the church burned in

; from which time the meetings have alternated between the schoolhouses at Berlin Corner and West Berlin (Riverton).

In going through the records it was interesting to note that a special town meeting was called on December 23, 1824 for the purpose of raising a sum of money to repair the meeting house in consideration of having used it for a town house, and for the purpose of having the use of it in future for town meetings, and it was voted (after some altercation) to dissolve the meeting! On September 6, 1825, a vote was taken for appointment of a committee to make inquiry and report at the next March meeting the most expedient way to provide a place for holding town and freemen's meeting; and on March 7, 1826, they reported as follows:

"That the town raise the sum of two hundred and fifty dollars to be applied towards repairing the meeting house on consideration that the proprietors of the House will add thereto, by subscription, sufficient to put it in good repair and allow the different denominations to occupy the house a share of the time for religious purposes, in proportion to their interest in it and that the town have the use of the house for town meetings", which report was accepted.

70

Early History of

IX ODDMENTS

In leafing through the *Town Meeting Record Books* to obtain the information relative to roads and places where town meetings were held, many interesting items were found, which I noted down, under a general title of "Oddments," and which give a good deal of information regarding the growth of the town and the way the problems of government were met as they came along; some of these items seem worth preserving where they can be referred to without too much research. They cover the period from the formation of the town's government up to about 1836, with a few items of a later date which seem outstanding.

It was on September 3, 1793 that the town voted the Sign Post and Stocks be erected at the Crotch of the roads at the fifth lot and third range; also on that date they voted to have three Pounds in Berlin, one on the South Branch, one in the Center of the Town, and one in the East District.

On September 15, 1794, they voted to raise money to furnish the Magazine for the Militia, and also voted to raise seven pounds to purchase Powder Ball and Flints for the above.

September 1, 1795, voted the town petition the legislature to be annexed to Chittenden County.

March 4, 1795, voted the town would not do any thing towards building a house for the town to meet in to Do town Business in.

On May 1, 1797 the warning contained an article "to see if the town will agree to appoint a committee to Establish a place for erecting public buildings. . . . June 9, 1797, *as the meeting was thin*, the Town did not choose to Act.

March 31, 1801, Voted that Nathaniel Hollister be allowed 50 cents for *making a seal* for the town.

August 19, 1802. Warning: "To see if the Town will give liberty to Gershom Heaton to set up a pest house in some remote part of the town for the purpose of innoculating for the Small Pox." No action recorded on this article in the meeting of September 7, 1802.

March 8, 1803 "It being represented by the Selectmen that certain persons were infected with the Small Pox, & others exposed to take the disorder in the natural way, therefore Voted that leave be given Doctor Paddock (of Barre) under proper restrictions to innoculate with the Small Pox for the space of three days & no longer."

Mch. 13, 1810 it was voted that a bounty of twenty five Cents per head be given for all *crows* that shall be killed in Berlin between the first day of May & the 15th day of June and a certificate from the Trustee of the District, to be evidence of such Claim.

March 31, 1813, Voted that Bennet Field be allowed 34c for *drying the powder*. March 18, 1817. Voted that the Selectmen be instructed to let out *at Vend_e* or otherwise such of the town's poor as in their opinion they may think the interest of the town may require. (Total account of the *Overseer* of the Poor for 1817, \$95.08).

March 24, 1818. Voted that William Ware & wife be let out to the lowest bidder to support.

April 7, 1818, Voted that William Stafford a minor & pauper be put out to board by the week til the Selectmen can find a place to bind him til he is twenty one. March 16, 1819. Account of Daniel Taylor allowed for " Keeping Lodemia Y. Mellen 49 weeks at 32 cents per week. . . \$15.68.

March 14, 1815 Voted to instruct the Selectmen to examine the corners of the town & if necessary erect permanent monuments. Also *voted* to instruct the Selectmen to *receive the guns* as they now are and repair them if necessary.

All of the above items are taken from Volume I of *Town Meeting Record Book*. From Volume II were gleaned the following:

After the turning over of *Judge Elijah Paine's Turnpike* to the several towns through which it passed, in 1819, the upkeep of the bridge across Onion River at the head of Main Street became a serious problem to both Montpelier and Berlin, and on

March 27, 1820 Berlin citizens *voted* to instruct the Selectmen to settle with the Montpelier Committee for building the bridge *over* Onion River, by taking one half the expense, each town to pay its own committee.

And the warning for a special meeting to be held

April 24, 1826 included the article "To see if the town will build an arched bridge (with Montpelier) across Onion River near Montpelier Village or some other kind of bridge", and it was *voted* to raise a tax of two cents on the dollar of the list of 1825 toward defraying the expense of building a bridge *over* Onion River . . . the Selectmen being a committee to build.

An interesting item in the Treasurer's account of March 28, r827 reads: "To Zenas Wood for sign for Arch Bridge. . \$10.00".

On March 1, 1836 it was *voted* to petition for a committee to make a new distribution of the expense of supporting the Arch Bridge between Montpelier and Berlin and to notify Northfield thereof.

Another item affecting the immediate vicinity of the old Arch Bridge is recorded at the March 28, r836 meeting, when the Agent reported that the saw mill, machine shop and probably the grist mill are "partly within the limits of the road near the arch bridge, as formerly surveyed, and it was voted that the Selectmen cause sd road cleared so as to admit of safe passing by sd buildings-owners of buildings to be notified and if damages arise in consequence of such incumbrance they will be held responsible."

(The buildings referred to were razed in 1951). The ledges on the southerly side of the roadway past them still plainly show the marks of the workmen in widening this street.

THE STONE POUND

On September 7, 1830, it was voted that the town build a pound of stone and have it completed by the first day of November next. Also voted to let out the building of the pound to John Hubbard at \$20.75, he being the lowest bidder.

This old pound is still in existence, located a few rods above the head of the cross-road leading from Berlin Corners to the site of the old meeting house. Ranging through the lists of town officers from 1830 up to 1880, persons residing in the immediate vicinity of this pound were appointed pound-keepers, beginning with Rollin Knapp, 1831 - 1844 and including at various times and for differing lengths of service, Hiram Taylor, Samuel Pratt, Moses Strong, Thomas Spear, Jonathan Woodbury, Stephen Black, James Hobart Jr., Moses E. Howard, A. D. Warren, David Hobart, Martin Campbell and others. .

THE MAGAZINE

August 30, 1831 the town voted to build a Magazine or Powder House, the Selectmen to be a committee to superintend the building.

This Magazine was of brick and stood on the westerly side of the old Brookfield Road northerly of the Cross Road leading from the Pond Brook to the Stone Pound, probably forty rods from the Common at the Meeting House, which was used as training ground for the Militia company of Berlin.

March 9, 1835, the town voted to appropriate \$10 towards repairing the fire engine at Montpelier Village.

CERTIFICATE OF SELECTMEN ON DEATH OF HON. ABEL KNAPP, TOWN CLERK

Preceding the record of the appointment of Frederick Hovey as town clerk, appears the following certificate:

March 28, 1845, The following appointment by the Selectmen was occasioned by the decease of the Hon. Abel Knapp, who had faithfully discharged the duties of Town Clerk for nearly fifty years.

Schuyler Phelps
Theodore Strong } Selectmen of Berlin
Andrew Comings

A unique entry in the *Berlin Land Records* occurs on page 523 of Volume 8. Immediately following the last record in the handwriting of Mr. Knapp, the following words, also in his handwriting, written *diagonally* across the page, are inscribed:

"It is finished It is finished It is finished" A silent
and enduring testimonial of the love and care this faithful servant of the town had for so many
years given to the work entrusted to his care.

CARE OF TOWN PAUPERS

The following items selected from many others of a similar nature found in the second volume of *Town Meeting Records*, show by comparison with our present practices, the change that a century and a quarter has wrought in public opinion and conscience:

- March 1, 1825. Voted to Vendue the Doctoring of the town Poor for the year ensuing;-which was bid off to James H. Langdon at \$29.00.
- March 7, 1826. Same as above, for \$20.00
- March 8, 1827. Same as above, for \$5.00. By his order set to J. Winslow.
- March 11, 1828. Doctoring of town poor struck off to Dr. Winslow at \$5.50.
- March 11, 1828. The following town paupers were disposed of to the lowest bidders: Nelson Johnson to Isaac Preston for 1 year at \$11.74; Sidney Dowe to Cyrus Johnston til he is 21 years of age at \$22.00. Harriet S. Dowe to James Perley til she is 18 years of age at \$25.00.
- March 2, 1830. Doctoring of town poor sold at auction to Gershom Heaton, at \$2.00. Paid to Dr. Smith, he having done the business.

BOUNTIES FOR BERLIN'S CIVIL WAR QUOTA

November 28, 1863, at a special town meeting it was

Resolved that the Selectmen of Berlin be directed to pay to each man that shall enlist and be mustered into the United State's Service to fill the quota of Berlin under the late call of the President to raise 300,000 Volunteers, the sum of three hundred dollars.

After some discussion, said resolution was adopted and the meeting dissolved.

February 16, 1864, it was voted to raise 170 per cent on each Dollar of the Grand List of Berlin for the year 1863, to repay the money borrowed and expended by the Selectmen to pay the bounties to volunteers enlisted by said Selectmen under the vote of the town Meeting held November 28, 1863. Voted that said tax be made out and collected after the next Annual March Meeting.

THE OLD CHAIR FACTORY (As told by "Gib" Doten in 1949)

The factory stood just north of the bridge over Coos Road (the so-called Gunnison bridge)-part of the dam stones are still in

place. The water set back above the bridge. The factory was a story and a half wooden structure, nearly square, approximately fifty by fifty feet. It contained lathes and other machinery for turning and working the wood; a steaming arrangement for curving the backs of chairs. Only kitchen chairs were made. "Chairmaker" Smith (Benjamin S.) was the owner and died in the 1870'S when Doten was a small boy-he could just remember him. The property was sold by the widow of Smith to a man named Howe of Northfield, who carried on the business until it was sold to H. A. Bullock, who put in shingle making equipment.

Smith was said to have come from Canada. He had three sons, George, Otis, and "Si", who worked with their father. "Si" continued to work with Howe; Doten worked for a time for Howe learning to paint the chairs, but the turpentine of the paint affected him and he had to give it up. Howe employed one or two men.

Smith lived on a farm on which the house and barn stood just north of the present Cunningham place. These buildings were burned, and he later lived in a house that stood nearer the factory than the Bullock house-just north of the factory site.

Mr. Doten said the clover mill was down on the Benjamin Falls mill site.

150th Anniversary

of the

Organization of the

Town of Berlin, Vermont

March 31, 1791

March 31, 1941



Cover page of the Sesquicentennial Program.

Programme

Music: Medley of Old-time Airs	Mrs. W. O. Comstock William D. Bartlett
Historical Essays	School Children
Song: "Young Charlotte"	Mrs. W. O. Comstock Mrs. Sylvia Freedom
First Town Meeting	See opposite page for cast
Explanatory Remarks	Mary G. Nye
Song: "My Berlin Town"	School Children
Skit from <i>Life</i> , by Maude Perry	A Group from Barre Road
Old-time Family Prayers	A Group from West Berlin
Song: "America"	Audience

Second page of the Sesquicentennial Program.

Cast of Characters

*Aaron Strong	Harold Willey
*Mary Ann Strong	Ethel Gross
Joshua Bayley	Dean Bancroft
Sarah Bayley	Ruth Willey
*John Taplin, Esq.	Paul Taplin
Capt. James Sawyer	Clarence Pike
*David Nye	Richard Nye
Jonathan Ayers	Joseph Gonyo
*Zachariah Perrin	Henry Perrin
Micajah Ingham	Clarence Dodge
*Salvin Collins	James Powers
Lieut. Silloway	Richard Campbell
Elijah Nye	Ray Turner
Jacob Black	Dean Bancroft
Jacob Fowler	Frank Eastman
Capt. James Hobart	Arthur Greaves
Eleazer Hubbard	Dan Perry
*Jabez Ellis	William Ellis
William Flagg	Adrian Granger
John Perley	William Turner
Moses Smith	Wayne Stewart
Ebenezer Bayley	Wendell Williams
*David Webster	Richard Nye
Eleazer Hubbard, Jr.	Richard Campbell
Thomas Woodbury	Henry Goodhue
*Jesse Poor	Henry Goodhue

*These persons are direct descendants of the characters which they impersonate.

MY BERLIN TOWN

Let all the mountains ring with -song
And echo on the river
For Berlin Town, where I belong,
Forever and forever.

O jubilant in heaven's blue
The birds that sing so clearly!
The old Green Mountains never knew
A place to love so dearly.

CHORUS: O Berlin Town, my Berlin Town,
A lovelier was never!
I sing the praise of Berlin Town
Forever and forever!

We love her for the noble men
And women brave that love her,
By sun of noon or moving moon
Or stars that shine above her.

We sing her praises all abroad;
We tell her deathless story;
Defend her, O Almighty God,
And thine shall be the glory!

CHORUS: O Berlin Town, my Berlin Town,
A lovelier was never!
I sing the praise of Berlin Town
Forever and forever!

Fourth page of the Sesquicentennial Program

X
APPENDIX

Feeling that no one in the future can possibly produce so accurate an account of the early settling of the town of Berlin as is found inscribed in the handwriting of Rev. James Hobart, the first settled minister of the town, in the Old Record Book of the First Congregational Church, a copy thereof is an appendix hereto.

In one respect Mr. Hobart's account is misleading-while he enumerated the people who came into the town, he failed to mention those who left it for other places, so that the net growth of the town was not actually so large as appears from his statistics. M. G. N.

THE HISTORY OF THE FIRST SETTLING OF BERLIN, THE FOUNDING OF THE
CHURCH &c. COLLECTED & WRITTEN BY JAMES HOBART, MINISTER OF SAID
TOWN.

"On June 8th AD 1763, His Excellency Benning Wentworth, Governor of the state of Newhampshire, in the council chamber at Portsmouth, gave a charter of the town of Berlin to be situated on the south side of Onion river & to be six miles square, being now in the county of Orange & center of the state of Vermont.

In the month of June AD 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 Newhampshire into the north side of Berlin at the mouth of Dog river.

On the 11th January AD 1786, Mr. Moses Smith moved into the south east corner of Berlin from Grandby in Massachusetts, supposing that he was in the northwest corner of Williamstown.

In the beginning of May the same year Mr. Sanborn & 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 eighteen miles eastward of this, on to the place which was Mr. Thurber's. In the month of July the same season, Mr. Jacob Fowler moved from Corinth in this state onto the place which Mr. Sanborn left.

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

In the year 1788 Mr. Morse moved from Berlin down Onion River & Mr. Hezekiah Sillaway moved from Corinth in this state on to the place Mr. Morse left.

In the latter part of Winter & Spring AD 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 & Mr. Jacob Black moved into Berlin a little south of the centre from Holden in the state of Massachusetts. Old Mr. Martin & his son Daniel moved their families into the south part of the town, from Rumney in Newhampshire. Mr. Micajah Ingham & Mr. Eleazer Hubbard & Mr. Zachariah Perrin all moved into the east part of the town from the State of Connecticut. Mr. Ingham & Mr. Perrin from Gilead, & Mr. Hubbard from Glassenbury.

Death the king of terrours, who will always find the human race in every part of the world to make them his prey, came this year to the few inhabitants here in the wilderness & took away 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 & in the fall Mr. Moses Smith buried two infants that were twins.

In the year AD 1790 there were eight families moved into Berlin, which made in the whole twenty one families in town. Mr. David Nye & Mr. Elijah Nye his brother moved into the east part of the town from Glassenbury in Connecticut. Mr. J abez Ellis from Gilead in Connecticut & Mr. Aaron Strong from Bolton in the same state, both moved into the east part of the town. Mr. Joshua Bayley moved from Newbury in this state into the east part of the town. Mr. Joshua Swan came from Newbury in this state & married Mr. Collin's daughter & settled in the east part of the town. Mr. John Taplin from Corinth & Capt. James Sawyer from Newbury both in this state, moved onto Dog river in the west part of the town. In Sept. the Rev. David Tappan

came as a missionary from Newbury, Newton Mass. & preached one Sabbath and several lectures in the east part of the town.

In the course of this year there were two deaths. In the fore part of summer David Nye buried an infant. The same season Mr. Jacob Fowler buried a daughter about eight years old.

On the 31st March AD 1791, the freemen of Berlin met, chose town officers & 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 second of December Betsey Hobart, daughter of Capt. James Hobart, as she was crossing Onion river in a canoe with her sister Sarah & three young men, in the evening, the canoe unfortunately turning over Betsey Hobart was drowned being in her twentieth year. One of the young men by the name of Brooks belonging to Montpelier was drowned at the same time & the other three very narrowly escaped the devouring jaws of death. Betsey Hobart was found about a mile down the river the second day after she was drowned. Mr. Brooks was not found until the first of the next April: In the month of September 1791, the Rev Elijah Parish (in pencil in another handwriting *Dana Tappan*) minister of Newbury Byfield came as a missionary from Massachusetts to Berlin & Preached one sabbath & several lectures in the east part of the town.

In the month of March AD 1792, the Rev. Azel Washburn, who had been dismissed from Royalton in this state, on account of his minds being some deranged, came & preached one Sabbath gratis in the east part of the town.

In the course of the year there were by persons moving into town the addition of nine families, which made in the whole thirty-five families in town.

There were three deaths in town this year. Mr. Joseph Dwolf, Mr. Salvin Collins & Mr. Samuel Currier each of them buried an infant.

In the Spring AD 1793 the people of the east part of the town & one or two in the middle subscribed money for preaching & appointed Mr. Eleazer Hubbard to procure a minister. He having received some encouragement from the Rev. Azel Washburn by previous application, but fearing lest he should fail of coming to supply them & finding Mr. John Wyeth, he engaged him three Sabbaths beginning with the last Sabbath in June, who preached in the east part of the town. In the meantime Mr.

Washburn came & after Mr. Wyeth's three Sabbaths were ended, he preached seven Sabbaths by engagement & one gratis. Six Sabbaths he preached in the east part of the town & two in the centre.

In the course of this year there were the addition of eleven families, which made in the whole forty & six families in town.

There were but two deaths in town. Mr. David Nye & Mr. Parsons each of them buried an infant.

In the Spring AD 1794, the inhabitants of the east part of the town raised money by subscription for preaching & accordingly engaged a Mr. Steel a candidate from Connecticut, who preached six Sabbaths in the east part of the town in the forepart of Summer.

The addition of families this year was eight, which made up fifty-four families in the whole.

There were four deaths in town this year. John Taplin Esqr. buried his wife. Capt. Ayers buried an infant & Mr. Elisha Taplin lost two children.

AD 1795. Mr. James Hobart a young candidate, who afterwards settled at Berlin, was the son of Capt. James Hobart, who moved into this town in Sept. 1787. This Mr. James Hobart took the degree of Batchelor of Arts at Dartmouth College in the latter part of August, 1794, & having attended to the study of divinity with the Rev'd Asa Burton of Thetford in this state, the next Spring he approbated to preach the gospel. In July he came from Chelsea in this state where he was then preaching as a candidate, to visit his parents in Berlin, at which time he preached two lectures, one at his fathers house, the other at Mr. Samuel Smith's in the east part of the town.

The people in the east part of the town did again this season raise money by subscription for preaching, & according applied to the Rev. Azel Washburn to supply them. In the latter part of summer he came & preached three Sabbaths in the east part of the town. In the fall he came & preached three more in the east part of the town together with a thanksgiving sermon.

In the course of this year there was the addition of eleven families, which made in the whole sixty & five families in town.

There were this year three deaths in town; Mr. Elisha Taplin, Mr. Sprout & the wife of Doct. Collins.

In the Spring of 1796, the town of Berlin met & voted to raise a sum of money to procure preaching a part of the season & ap-

pointed a regular committee to layout the same. They waited a while in hopes of having an opportunity to engage Mr. James Hobart, but failing at length they engaged a Mr. Norton from Woodstock in this state, who came the beginning of September & supplied them six Sabbaths, preaching in the east, middle & west parts of the town alternately.

About the middle of Sept. Mr. James Hobart came from Plymouth in Newhampshire his native place, to visit his parents in Berlin, at which time he preached a Sabbath at Montpelier a town joining Berlin. He likewise preached four lectures in town one at his father's, one at Capt. Wood buries on Dogriver, one at Abel Knaps Esqr in the centre & one at David Nye's Esqr, in the east part of the town. At this time the people made known to him their desire that he should come the next season & preach with them as a candidate for settlement.

In this year there was added to the number of families in town ten, which made up seventy five families.

There were two deaths in town this year. David Nye Esqr. buried an infant & old Mr. Martin died.

In the Spring of 1797, the town of Berlin again voted to raise more money for preaching & chose David Nye Esqr, Mr. Joshua Bayley & Abel Knap Esqr as a committee to layout the same. In the same Spring the committee employed a Mr. aids three Sabbaths a candidate who was settled the next November at Williamstown & dismissed the following Spring for his bad conduct.

According to the desire of the people Mr. James Hobart came in August from Nottingham in New hampshire where he had been preaching, to Berlin & preached here nine Sabbaths by engagement & then left them.

The addition of families this year was only three, making in the whole seventy eight families in town.

In the course of this year there were three deaths in town. Mrs. Susanna Tillotson a young woman belonging to Orford in Newhampshire having come here for the sake of her health & to visit some relations in town died very suddenly. Mr. Elijah Andrews & Mr. James Pearley each of them buried an infant.

In the year 1798, there was the addition of seven families, making in the whole eighty five families.

In the course of this year cruel death swept away nine. In the beginning of June Mr. Daniel Martin had two sons, one aged twelve & the other ten years old, who as they were alone going

across Dog river upon a log when the stream was high, they both unfortunately fell in & were laid in a watery grave. The youngest was found in a few days-the other not until about three weeks after they were drowned. Mr. Simson Steward, Mr. Samuel Emerson, Mr. John Pearley, Mr. Samuel Scott, Mr. Zaccheus Lovel & David Nye Esqr each of them buried an infant. Mr. Zachariah Perrin also buried a daughter aged sixteen.

Before the nine sabbaths, which Mr. James Hobart preached here last year were ended, the town had a meeting to make some preparation for preaching the next season & chose Mr. Zachariah Perrin, Mr. Aaron Strong & Lieut. Simeon Dewey as a committee for that purpose, who spoke to Mr. Hobart before he left the town to come & preach here the next season; he however did not engage to come. Early in the Spring the committee wrote to Mr. Hobart requesting him to return to Berlin, who was then preaching at Nottingham in Newhampshire, being under a call to settle there. Having given Nottingham an answer in the negative, he came to Berlin about the middle of June & continued preaching here until the middle of August, at which time the town proceeded to give him a call to settle with them in the work of the gospel ministry. After some alterations in the proposals made at two meetings adjourned for that end, they finally voted, that Mr. James Hobart should keep the second & third division lots of the minister right as his own property, that upon his giving a quitclaim of the first division lot of said minister right to the town he should have as a salary for the first year fifty pounds & to rise in proportion with the grand list of said town until it arrives to eighty pounds, at which sum it is to continue annually. On the first Sabbath of the next October Mr. Hobart after the exercises of the day gave his answer to the call of the town in the affirmative to settle with them in the work of the gospel ministry. Mr. Hobart, previous to his giving his answer had drawn up a confession of faith, church covenant & articles of discipline & had several conferences with a few professors of religion, who proposed to be embodied into a church, at which times each one gave a relation of his christian experience & attended to the confession of faith, church covenant & articles of discipline drawn up by Mr. Hobart & being well satisfied with them, they then at a conference holden at Mr. William Flagg's on Thursday October 11th agreed to have Mr. Simson Steward go after the Rev. Elijah Lyman of Brookfield to come & imbody them. Mr. Steward went & the next day Mr. Lyman came. On Saturday Oct. 13th

met in the forenoon at Mr. Steward's, Mr. Lyman having preached on the occasion the following persons came forward, Mr. Aaron Goff, Simson Steward & William Flagg, to whom Mr. Lyman read for their public assent the confession of faith & church covenant drawn up by Mr. Hobart, which they publicly acknowledged & were pronounced by Mr. Lyman a church of Christ regularly imbodyed in the Congregational order.

The church then proceeded to appoint Mr. Lyman their moderator for this meeting and then voted to unite with the people of this town in giving Mr. James Hobart a call to settle over them in the work of the gospel ministry.

Voted that the day of his ordination be on Wednesday the seventh day of November next.

Voted that we invite the following pastors & their churches to sit in council for the purpose of Mr. Hobart's ordination; viz, the Rev. Messrs Burroughs of Hanover, Burton of Thetford, Smith of Haverhill, Fuller of Vershire, Williston of Tunbridge, Tullar of Royalton & Lyman of Brookfield.

Voted that Simson Steward, William Flagg & Aaron Goff be a committee to sign the letters Missive & to wait on the council when convened for the ordination.

Voted that this meeting stand adjourned till the seventh day of November next at nine o'clock A. M. at the house of Mr. Gurden Peirce in this town.

Attest *Elijah Lyman* (Moderator

The above is a true copy from the records.

Attest *James Hobart* (Pastor.

The ordination of Mr. Hobart took place on November 7, 1798 as per vote of the church, above.

The remainder of the volume of *Records* relate only to the history of the church, there being no further items relative to the growth of the town.