

THE
HISTORY OF HAVERHILL,

MASSACHUSETTS,

FROM ITS FIRST SETTLEMENT, IN 1640,

TO THE YEAR 1860,

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Home of my fathers ! * * * *
O never may a son of thine,—
Where'er his wandering steps incline,—
Forget the sky that bent above
His boyhood, like a dream of love.

— WHITTIER.

HAVERHILL:
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this stream, known as "Mill Brook," there is at the present time a plaster-mill, a grist-mill, a bark-mill, and a hat factory, with a variety of other machinery attached. Near its mouth is also located a steam saw-mill. The first corn-mill in the town was erected upon this stream, as was also the first tannery, and fulling-mill. In its passage from the pond to the river, the water of this brook can be used for mill purposes at least five times, though we believe that four times is the most ever yet required of it.

Round Pond is situated about one mile north of the Haverhill Bridge, and about half a mile north-westerly from Plug Pond. It covers an area of about eighty acres, and was formerly called "Belknap's Pond," and also "Little's Pond," from persons of that name who lived near it. With the exception of one small cove at its north-western extremity, the shores of this beautiful sheet of water are entirely free from mud, and show its bottom to be a clean gravel. There is not a single living stream, large or small, seeking outlet into the pond, but it is, with the exception of what water may be turned into it from the gently sloping hills surrounding it, entirely supplied by subterranean springs. From this pond, by means of an aqueduct, the central village is mostly supplied with pure, cold, soft water, for domestic purposes. The water in the pond is about one hundred and fifty feet above that of the Merrimack, and is well stocked with pickerel and perch. The natural outlet to the pond was to the south-west into the Little River, through which salmon, and other fish, passed up into the pond, in the appropriate season, to deposit their spawn. The direction of this outlet was long ago artificially changed,—toward the Plug Pond,—so as to secure the surplus water for the mills upon Mill Brook. Within a few years, the Aqueduct Company have purchased the original mill privilege upon the latter stream, and the above outlet has been discontinued.

Great Pond, or, as it has recently been re-named, "Kenoza Lake," is situated about one and a half miles from Haverhill Bridge, in a north-easterly direction, and about one-third of a mile east of Round Pond. It covers an area of about three hundred acres, and is the largest sheet of water in the town. The water, which in some places is fifty feet in depth, is about one hundred and fifty feet above the bed of the Merrimack, and abounds with the finest pickerel,—hence the new name, "Kenoza," signifying "pickerel." The only outlet from this miniature lake, is the Fishing River, already mentioned, through which large numbers of salmon and alewives formerly passed into the pond. White perch, of the finest flavor, once inhabited the waters of this pond, but have now nearly disap-

CHAPTER XXV.

1800 to 1815.

THE opening of the year 1800, found the whole American people in mourning for the loss of their beloved WASHINGTON.^o Never was a mortal man more beloved; never had a free people greater cause for tears. "First in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen," the sudden death of Washington overshadowed and made trifling all other sorrows; and from the one end of the Union to the other, was seen the "mournful procession," and was heard the solemn dirge, and the soul-moving eulogy.

In these public manifestations of sorrow, this town took a prominent part. The record of January 9th informs us that a meeting of the town was held on that day, "at the request of James Brickett, and others," to see if the town would take measures to notice in an appropriate manner the death of Washington. It was decided to set apart February 22d, (the birth-day anniversary of Washington,) as the most fitting time for that purpose, and a committee of twelve were chosen "to determine in what manner it should be done." On the day appointed, the inhabitants assembled in the old meeting-house on the common, where an eloquent eulogy was delivered by Rev. Abiel Abbot, and Washington's *Farewell Address* was publicly read. After the services at the meeting-house, the town again met, passed a vote of thanks to the orator for his eloquent production, and ordered copies of it to be printed, together with "the Invaluable last address of President Washington," and distributed to each family in the town.

The first notice we find in the records, or elsewhere, of a proposition to supply the village with water by means of an *acqueduct*, is in 1798, when the town's Representative, Nathaniel Marsh, was instructed "to oppose Osgood's petition for an Acqueduct" to take water from "the Round Pond." The next we hear of it, is in 1801, when Benjamin Willis, Jr., Nathan Ayer, Samuel Walker, Jonathan Souther, and Jesse Harding, petitioned the town "for leave to conduct the water by means of an acqueduct from the round pond, so-called, into this part of the town, for

^o George Washington died December 14, 1799.

private and public convenience." The petition was referred to a committee, of which Bailey Bartlett was chairman, who reported that leave ought to be granted such a company, provided that subscription books for the stock were open for all who chose to take a share; that no one should be allowed to take more than one share until ninety days after the book was opened — at the end of which time the remaining shares might be taken by any of the subscribers; and that the rules and regulations of the company be offered to the town for their approbation.

The company was organized the same year, under a general law of the State. The water was at first, and for many years, conducted in wooden pipes, exclusively. Within the last fifteen years, the works have been greatly extended; and the old logs have given place to pipes of cast iron. The works are now among the best in New England. The pond being fed entirely by springs from the bottom,^o the water is remarkably pure and sweet; and, if properly economized, the supply will probably be sufficient for the reasonable wants of a population of twenty thousand. The cost of the works thus far, has been nearly \$100,000.

In 1801, the town again chose five selectmen, instead of three, as they had done for the fifty-one years previous; three assessors; and five overseers of the poor. This was the first time the latter had been chosen since 1734; and the first time in the history of the town that assessors had been chosen as a separate board of officers. From this time forward, the three offices have been kept entirely distinct, and regularly filled. In 1806, the number of selectmen was again reduced to three, and has so remained to the present time.

Some idea of the importance attached to the office of school committee, at this time, may be judged from the fact that the committee for the 1st district consisted of twenty-two persons; that of the 2d of eleven; and the 3d and 4th,^o of eight each.

This year, twelve "Fish Wardens" were chosen, — the first officers of the kind in town, — for the purpose of regulating the fisheries in the town, and seeing that the fish courses were not obstructed so as to interfere with the free passage of the fish up the streams into the ponds. The alewife fisheries had now become quite an important business, so much so, that the next year (1802) the town petitioned the General Court to pass laws regulating it. They declare the present mode of catching the fish to be very destructive, and that but little advantage accrued to the inhabitants from

^o There is not a single living brook, — not even of the smallest kind, — running into this beautiful pond; and, except a small place at the north-west corner, the bottom of the whole pond is a clean gravel.