

HISTORY
—OF THE—
TOWN OF ROCKPORT,

as Comprised in the Centennial Address of
LEMUEL GOTT, M. D.,

Extracts from the Memoranda of
EBENEZER POOL, ESQ.,
and interesting items from other sources.

COMPILED BY

JOHN W. MARSHALL, NEWELL BURNHAM,
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COMMITTEE.

ROCKPORT, MASS.:
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1888.

physician. He came from New Boston, N. H. He remained here about three years, when he was called to an office in the custom-house at Gloucester and was most of the time since in the honorable service of the town. He died Dec. 6th. 1853, aged seventy-nine years.

In 1803 the building of the new meeting-house was begun; it was completed in 1804 and was dedicated in October 1804; sermon by Rev. Abiel Abbott of Beverly, Mass. The cornerstone was laid with Masonic ceremonies. Documents were deposited in the stone of the western corner. Mr. David Jewett helped place the stone. The old meeting-house was taken down and sold at auction. We give a copy of a document now in existence relating to the disposal of this house.

“We, the subscribers, proprietors of the old meeting-house in the fifth parish of Gloucester, wishing to sell our respective rights in said house and such land belonging to said house as a committee shall think best, and give the purchaser or purchasers a warranty deed of the same, do each of us obligate ourselves by these presents to sell the above mentioned premises in such way and manner as the committee judge best, and each pew have an equal share in the money of said sale. Gloucester, 23d. day of August 1804.

Benjamin Tarr, Henry Witham, Caleb Pool, Wm. Rowe, Jonathan Pool, Joseph Smith, Eben'r. Pool Jr., (in behalf of his father) Samuel D. Thurston, Aaron Sargent, Caleb Norwood, John Gott, Sarah Todd, Mark Pool, Jabez Rowe, Daniel Thurston, Thomas Roberts.”

There were but two more owners, making eighteen, corresponding to the number of pews. It will be remembered that there were seats in the body of the house, for the old men and the old women.

The erection of this new meeting-house was a great undertaking. The expense was \$9000. It was entered upon with a good degree of spirit and interest. Many long years had rolled away since the fathers of the village had laid the foundations of the old house. Their posterity remembered their labors, their toils and self-denials to institute and perpetuate the worship of that God who had watched over them when an

New Boston, N. H. He remained in New Boston until he was called to an office in the town of New Boston and was most of the time since in New Boston town. He died Dec. 6th. 1853,

The new meeting-house was begun; it was dedicated in October 1804; it is situated on the north side of Beverly, Mass. The corner-stones were laid with great ceremonies. Documents were deposited in the western corner. Mr. David Child was the pastor. The old meeting-house was sold in 1804. We give a copy of a document of the disposal of this house.

The trustees of the old meeting-house in 1804, being desirous to sell our respective rights in said meeting-house as a committee shall direct, do hereby assign and transfer to the undersigned or purchasers a warranty deed of the premises by these presents to sell in such way and manner as the committee shall direct, and to have an equal share in the money of said sale. 1804.

The trustees, Caleb Pool, Wm. Rowe, Jonathan Child, Jr., (in behalf of his father) Samuel Child, Caleb Norwood, John Gott, Sarah Todd, and John Thurston, Thomas Roberts."

There were more owners, making eighteen, and a large number of pews. It will be remembered that the body of the house, for the old

meeting-house was a great undertaking, and cost 9000. It was entered upon with great interest. Many long years had passed since the founders of the village had laid the foundation. Their posterity remembered the labors of their forefathers, and their denials to institute and perpetuate the same. They had watched over them when an

infant settlement. The fifth parish and the inhabitants of Sandy Bay united in the erection of this house, to be improved between them. The fifth parish or society at this time consisted, according to town valuation, of about three-fifths of the amount of property of the place; the other inhabitants of about two-fifths, they being a part of the Universalist Society of the first parish of Gloucester. The agreement between the parties was, that the house might be occupied by the parties alternately in this proportion as to time. This arrangement was observed for awhile, when, from some disagreement, it ceased, the larger party refusing admission to the others. This led to protracted litigation which ended in the parish retaining control and disposal of the house. The merits of this controversy we do not propose to enter upon here, as the difficulties and animosity were the result.

In 1804, in the months of September and October, it is recorded a violent gale of wind prevailed here, causing much damage and resulting in the loss of several men belonging here, in Squam river.

It is now we hear for the first time of Baptists in this village. Capt. Benjamin Hale and wife came here to his native place, both Baptists, having been married and baptized in New York. Capt. Hale was a pious and devout man, and here he laid the foundation of the Baptist Society. In 1805, Elder Elisha Williams, Baptist minister of Beverly, came here to preach and was admitted into the new meeting-house, there being no minister as yet for the Congregationalists except Rev. Mr. Cleaveland, and he aged and infirm. James Woodbury was the first person baptized by immersion, in town. He was a descendant of Sarah Pool, the first wife of the first John Pool and he was the first professor of religion that settled in Sandy Bay, having joined the Orthodox church in Beverly some twelve years before. This ceremony of baptism took place on the back beach, near the wharf. Elder Williams officiated.

It was on Oct. 30th. 1805, that Rev. David Jewett of Hollis, N. H., settled here as minister of the fifth parish. It seems before he settled here that he was accustomed to teach school, for the following advertisement was contained in a Salem paper of that early day.

"New School.—The subscriber will open a school in Mr. Joseph Glover's Chamber, Essex Street, for teaching the following branches, viz: Reading, Writing, Mathematics, Geography, English Grammar, and the Latin and Greek Languages; the number of scholars not to exceed thirty-five. School hours, 8 to 11 o'clock A. M. and 2 to 5 P. M. Price four dollars per quarter.

April 26th. 1803.

DAVID JEWETT."

Mr. Jewett also taught school here while he preached, at first, and lived in David Kimball's house and had his school there. It is also known that before settling here he received encouragement to settle in Wenham. The ordination of Mr. Jewett was a great event, the people manifesting great interest in the occasion. The old and the young came up to the house of God to witness the interesting ceremonies. The grey-headed men and women who had so long worshipped in the old house now came up to mingle their prayers and tears once more for the prosperity of Zion, before they go hence to be here no more. The following churches with delegates were present at the ordination: Tabernacle Church, Salem, Rev. Samuel Worcester and delegate; Second Church, Gloucester, Rev. Daniel Fuller and delegate; Second Church, Newburyport, Rev. Samuel Spring and delegate; Church of Hollis, N. H., Rev. Eli Smith and delegate; Church at Manchester, Rev. Abraham Randall and delegate; Second Church, Ipswich, Rev. Josiah Webster and delegate; Third Church, Beverly, Rev. Joseph Emerson and delegate; First Church, Newport, Rhode Island, Rev. Caleb T. Tenney; Third Church, Gloucester, Rev. Ezra Leonard and delegate; First Church, Gloucester, Rev. Percy Lincoln; First Church, Beverly, Rev. Abiel Abbott and delegate. The sermon was by Rev. Samuel

David Jewett of Hollis, of the fifth parish. It seems accustomed to teach school, as contained in a Salem

open a school in Mr. Joseph Jewett the following branches, Geography, English Grammar, the number of scholars not to be less than 10 o'clock A. M. and 2 to 5 P. M.

DAVID JEWETT."

ere while he preached, at the house and had his school settling here he received the ordination of Mr. Jewett manifesting great interest in the young came up to the interesting ceremonies. The people had so long worshipped in the temple their prayers and tears were poured out, before they go hence to the churches with delegates from the Tabernacle Church, Salem, First Church, Second Church, Third Church, and delegate; Church of the Redeemer, and delegate; Church at Manchester, and delegate; Second Church, and delegate; Third Church, and delegate; First Church, and delegate; First Church, Beverly, Rev. Jewett's sermon was by Rev. Samuel

Worcester of Salem, and the venerable Rev. Daniel Fuller of Gloucester was Moderator of the Council.

It is this year, 1805, July 4th., that the old pastor, Rev. Ebenezer Cleaveland, like Jacob of old gathers up his feet into his bed and dies. He had lived to be over eighty years old, and to experience a variety of fortune. His life had been a checkered one. He had seen the second meeting-house built and dedicated and preached in it himself, when he baptized nineteen children at one time, and now he is about to depart to be here no more, a hallowed radiance surrounds his dying bed. When asked by a friend, at his last dying hour, respecting his prospects for eternity, he calmly replied with a confidence sustained by Christian faith: "I trust in the same God that I did when the bullets flew about my head," referring to Revolutionary scenes. His remains rest in yonder burial ground, with those of the fathers. And posterity will rise up to do homage to his memory. His funeral ceremonies were observed in the new meeting-house, and also those of his wife, the year before. He was a man much esteemed in his day as a Christian minister. Easy, familiar and affable in his manners, he adorned the doctrine of the gospel he had so long preached, by a well ordered life and godly conversation.

In 1806, fishing business continues good. Codfish sell at four dollars per quintal and hake at three dollars. Several houses are in process of erection.

In 1807, the state of public morals in a portion of the community may be judged by the circumstance that, during the exercises attending the immersion of two persons of the Baptist persuasion, some individuals of the baser sort, but claiming respectability, fired a cannon near the middle wharf, while others paraded the streets and the schoolhouse beach with fife and drum, to disturb the ceremonies. Here was exhibited, in the most offensive form, the spirit of religious intolerance, the same which in other times had led its victims to the scaffold and the stake. But we trust the influence of

unanimous call from this church
 or, and was installed by council
 1880. The order of exercises
 Rev. S. B. Andrews of Lanesville;
 Rev. John Capen of Rockport;
 of Boston; installing prayer,
 large to the pastor, by Rev. C.
 township, by Rev. F. G. Clark of
 ple, by Rev. F. H. Boynton of
 y Rev. E. S. Potter of East
 pastor.

is attended with a good degree
 condition of the church and
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 during his ministry, seventeen
 and nineteen upon profession
 e Secretaryship of the American
 pastorate June 1st., 1884.”
 he part of the church it was
 y council February 13th., 1885.
 was called to the pastorate of
 e autumn of 1884. He took
 anuary, 1885, and was installed
 February, the same year. It
 th anniversary of the organiza-
 ighth pastor. The installation
 ation, by Rev. Arthur W. Tirrell
 Scriptures, by Rev. Nathaniel
 y Rev. W. J. Tucker of Andover;
 G. Clark of Gloucester; right
 hemiah Boynton of Haverhill;
 v. R. B. Howard of Medford;
 ev. Temple Cutler of Essex;
 his pastorate under favorable

auspices. The parish free from debt and united in his settlement,
 at the present time, 1888; are enjoying a tolerable degree of
 prosperity. The regular services are quite well attended.

The Sabbath School is in a healthy state. Its services are
 fairly attended; it has a good library. Dea. Calvin W. Pool
 is Superintendent. He is the tenth that has occupied that
 position during the seventy years of its history. It has lately
 received from the children of our late respected citizen, John
 G. Dennis, a donation of five hundred dollars, they carrying
 into effect the expressed will of their father, though on account
 of his sudden death he failed to execute it.

BAPTIST CHURCH.

The Baptist Church at Sandy Bay, of a few members, some
 of whom were residents of Gloucester harbor, was constituted
 in 1807. Previous to this, services of this denomination were
 held in this village. Rev. Elisha Scott Williams (Baptist)
 preached once at least in the new Congregational meeting-house
 before Rev. David Jewett was settled here. The society was
 incorporated in the year 1811, by the name of the First
 Baptist Society of Gloucester; they had no settled pastor until
 1819 or 1820. The first person baptized by immersion, at
 Sandy Bay, was James Woodbury, March 10th., 1805, by
 Rev. Elisha S. Williams of Beverly. Capt. Benjamin Hale,
 born in Sandy Bay in 1776, was the prime mover of the Baptist
 denomination in this village. He was converted on shipboard,
 about the year 1800, while on a voyage from Bristol, England,
 to Madeira. They encountered a heavy gale of wind; the
 brig was considerably damaged and was obliged to put back
 for repairs; a part of her cargo was contraband; Captain Hale
 conscientiously refused to continue the voyage with such a
 cargo; the owners put the mate in charge; the brig was partially
 repaired; sailed and was never heard from. Capt. Hale took
 passage for Alexandria, Va. On the voyage the captain of
 the vessel became disabled and Capt. Hale brought her safely
 into port. He was awake to his religious principles, and in

1811 was licensed to preach the gospel. He was married in New York, in 1804, to Judith White of Sligo, Ireland, with whom he became acquainted at her home. He was baptized in New York. After a few years on shore he again took to the sea, and in 1817, while on the passage home, he, in a gale of wind, went aloft, the crew refusing to go. He received an internal injury, which terminated in consumption; he died in 1818, aged forty-two years.

Previous to the building of their meeting-house, even before the society was incorporated, they held meetings for worship in private houses, often in the dwelling-house of Eben'r. Pool and the Stephen Roberts house.

Rev. James A. Boswell was the first pastor of this church, from 1820 to 1823. He preached in an unfinished hall; it was the second story of the building next east of Eureka Hall. He taught school during the week, in the same room. The Sabbath School was organized in 1821. Their meeting-house was built in 1822; it was occupied for preaching service and Sunday School, without pews, until 1828, when it was furnished with pews, and on the fourth day of July, the same year, a number of them were sold. The cost of the house, with the land and pews, was two thousand, two hundred and eighty-four dollars. March 10th., 1840, name was changed to the First Baptist Society of Rockport.

The parties that succeeded Mr. Boswell were:

Rev. Reuben Curtis,	1827	to	1830.
“ Bartlett Pease,	1831	“	1833.
“ Otis Wing,	1833	“	1836.
“ Gibbon Williams,	1837	“	1838.
“ Benjamin Knight,	1839	“	1840.
“ Otis Wing,	1840	“	1842.
“ Levi B. Hathaway, May 1843, died Aug. 1, 1843.			
“ B. N. Harris,	1844	“	1846.
“ Samuel C. Gilbert,	1846	“	1848.
“ Thomas Driver,	1849	“	1849.
“ George Lyle,	1850	“	1852.
“ Thomas Driver,	1852	“	1854.

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1839	"	1840.
1840	"	1842.
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1844	"	1846.
1846	"	1848.
1849	"	1849.
1850	"	1852.
1852	"	1854.

Rev. A. E. Battelle,	1855	to	1856.
" J. M. Driver,	1856	"	1859.
Deacon Samuel Cheever,	1860	"	1863.
Rev. Benj. I. Lane,	1863	"	1867.
" Lewis Holmes,	1867	"	1869.

Rev. Otis L. Leonard was ordained pastor Sept. 23d., 1869. Order of exercises was as follows: Invocation, by Rev. W. D. Bridge of the M. E. Church; reading of the Scriptures, by Rev. J. C. Foster of Beverly; opening prayer, by Rev. Mr. Gannett of East Gloucester; sermon, by Rev. Justin D. Fulton of Boston; ordaining prayer, by Rev. S. H. Pratt of Salem; right hand of fellowship, by Rev. F. F. Emerson of Gloucester; charge to the pastor, by Rev. T. E. Vasser of Lynn; charge to the church, by Rev. Harvey Fitz of Middleton; closing prayer, by Rev. Wm. M. Lyle, a returned missionary; benediction, by the pastor.

Mr. Leonard served until September 1874, then resigned and was dismissed.

Rev. A. J. Lyon,	1875	to	1876.
" E. D. Bowers,	1878	"	1881.
" George A. Cleaveland,	1882	"	1883.
" N. B. Wilson,	March 1885	"	Feb. 1886.
" W. B. Smith,	Oct. 1887.		

During the years 1866—67, this society purchased an additional lot of land and enlarged and improved their church edifice. It was raised several feet from its foundation, and was moved from fronting on High St. to its present location. An addition of twenty feet was made to its length. The interior was completely renovated, and re-furnished with a new pulpit, furniture and pews. At a later date, the walls and ceiling were neatly frescoed, thus providing an attractive audience room. A small room for social meeting was constructed over the vestibule. A new tower and steeple were erected and at a later day were supplied with a bell. The entire exterior of the house was put in good condition, by carpenters and painters. The entire cost of these improvements

and repairs exceeded \$6,000, which was met when the work was completed, except \$1,300. It was but a short time when this balance was paid. The society continues free from debt.

The church edifice was re-dedicated, April 10th., 1867; sermon by the pastor, Rev. Benj. I. Lane.

Some years since, this society adopted the free pew and free-will offering system and continue it until the present time, with good results.

The Sabbath School is in good condition, with a membership of one hundred and a library of three hundred volumes. Nathaniel Richardson, Jr., is now on his seventeenth year of service as Superintendent.

UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY.

The Universalist Society in Sandy Bay was organized February 27th., 1821, by the name of the Universalist Benevolent Society of Gloucester. Aaron Pool, Solomon Pool, John Manning, Francis Pool, Moses Colbey and Daniel O. Marshall (who were members of the Independent Christian Society of Gloucester Harbor), Wm. Norwood, Charles Norwood, Jr., David Babson, Daniel Wheeler, Wm. Norwood, Jr., and Epes Norwood (who were members of the Third Parish, Annisquam Society,) with others, constituted its membership.

Previous to this, services of this denomination were held in this village. Rev. Thomas Jones of Gloucester preached several Sabbaths, in the new meeting-house built by the Fifth Parish, in 1804, which, by an understanding with the Congregationalists, they were to occupy two-fifths of the time; but after some months of this way of occupying the house, the Universalists were denied the privilege and were not allowed its use. This act resulted in a suit at law which, after being before the Court several years, was decided in favor of the Congregationalists (or the parish, as it was called), they to have the exclusive use and occupancy of the meeting-house. After they were refused admission to the meeting-house, as a

his position; George W. Kenney of Danvers was chosen captain and succeeded him. Soon after this the company was recruited to the maximum standard; thirty-six of its members were from Rockport. The 17th Regiment left Lynnfield for Baltimore, on the 20th day of August, '61, where it arrived in due time, and was there stationed several months and did good service.

It was from this company the first one of our citizens fell a sacrifice on the altar of patriotism. First Lieut. George W. Tufts, of Co. G, 17th. Reg't. M. V., died at Baltimore, Oct. 27th, 1861, aged thirty-three years, six months and twenty-one days. His remains arrived at Rockport, Thursday evening, Oct. 31st, enclosed in an air-tight metallic case, under escort of some members of the company. Funeral services were held Friday afternoon in the Congregational church which was filled at an early hour with those that came to pay their respects to one that went forth to do and dare for the preservation of the Union. There were present Ashler Lodge, of which he was a member, and a delegation of Tyrian Lodge, A. F. & A. M. As they entered the church the choir sang a dirge, then Rev. W. Gale read appropriate selections of Scripture and offered prayer; after which Rev. David Bremner made remarks appropriate to the occasion, a part of which was: "Although it was not his fortune to die on the battle-field amid the shrieks of the wounded, he died at the post of duty, and all honor to him be given. The position his regiment occupied was one of defense, but their services were as necessary as were those who took a more active part in scenes of strife. He was ready to fight for his country and his patriotic heart throbbed with manly devotion. The last hours of the deceased were pleasant, and his last words, "I die happy." He was attended by kind friends during his illness. Kind ladies of Baltimore sent him such delicacies as his case required. * * * Everything which could be done for his comfort was kindly bestowed."

Rev. Elijah Mason read a hymn he composed for the occasion. A few stanzas we here insert.

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 re insert.

1. "Ringing o'er hill and plain
 The cry of war's alarms;
 The nation's freedom to maintain
 Our brothers rush to arms,
 From old Atlantic shores
 Where Pilgrim ashes lie
 To where the broad Pacific roars,
 Beneath a genial sky."
 * * * * *
8. "Death lurks amid these bands,
 Though clad in armor bright,
 And palsies oft the Patriot's hands
 Contending for the right.
 Some in the battle's strife
 Amid the cannon's roar
 Yield, for their country's weal their life
 And fall on fields of gore.
9. Some felt the sickly blast
 Which on the midnight air,
 Above the slumbering soldier passed,
 And left its poison there.
 Their strength and beauty wane
 Far from homes away
 And skill and friendship strive in vain,
 The spoiler's hand to stay.
10. At length their force is spent
 Like waves upon the shore;
 And tidings fly from tent to tent,
 'Our comrade is no more.'
 Then with the lightning's flight
 The painful message comes,
 The hopes of kindred hearts to blight
 And cloud the sunny homes.

11. May each the lessons heed,
These solemn scenes afford;
That we may learn such lives to lead
As win a sure reward.
Our country's rights defend,
Oh! vindicate our cause;
Let treason in confusion end;
And honored be our laws.
12. Inspire our men of might
With wisdom from on high;
Guard those our soldiers in the fight,
Till all the traitors fly,
Till war at rest is laid;
And free the fettered slave;
Till stars and stripes, with blending shades,
Throughout the nation wave.
13. But most of all we pray,
Our wayward passions bind;
And let religion's gentle sway
Subdue the carnal mind.
Through scenes of light and shade,
Serenely then we'll pass;
And crowns of Glory on our heads,
Be our reward at last."

Rev. Stillman Barden spoke feelingly of the character of the deceased, and of the occasion which had brought so large a concourse of people from their homes to the house of worship. "Here, lying before us in that casket, is a martyr to the cause of his country. Death found him actively performing his duty and ready to exert his might in defence of the government. Our brother is not dead—he has only made an advance step for further light. Men who depart from us while at their posts of duty, with their armor on, do not *die*; their mortal

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remains crumble to dust, but their example, their actions and their influence still remain, to incite us to more vigorous action. * * * * It is an honor to leave the world as he left it, engaged in the work in which he was. To the relatives and friends I offer my heartfelt sympathies; may they have the sweet consolation which cometh from above, in this their hour of bereavement." Rev. Wakefield Gale made a short and appropriate address. He was followed by John W. Marshall, who spoke of the privilege he enjoyed of being with Lieut. Tufts the last day of his regiment's encampment at Lynnfield, as they were about leaving for the seat of war. He recalled with pleasure his appearance that day: his whole soul was in the work before him. He was a general favorite with the men, and a strict disciplinarian. An appropriate funeral hymn was then sung. The benediction was pronounced and the vast audience left the church, formed in procession and followed the corpse to Beech Grove cemetery. The procession was escorted by the band, which played a dirge. The Ashler and Tyrian Lodges of A. F. and A. M. performed the appropriate and impressive burial service of their order at the grave.

"Everything connected with these funeral ceremonies was well carried out and reflects the greatest honor upon the town of Rockport."—Cape Ann Advertiser, Nov. 8th, 1861.

The 17th Regiment in the spring of 1862 left Baltimore and joined Major-Gen'l Foster's command at Newbern, North Carolina, where it remained, and continued in that vicinity during the war, rendering good service. The Adjutant General of Massachusetts, in his report of this Reg't for 1865, closes with these words, "Thus terminates the splendid record of the Seventeenth Regiment."

Following are the names of those who served in the quota of Rockport, their age at the time of enlistment, the Company and Regiment in which they served, date of muster and discharge, and the cause thereof; also the names of those who