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A history of Pembroke, New Hampshire

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHAPTER</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>I. EVENTS PRIOR TO SETTLEMENT</strong></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Features</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boundries</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topographical features</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian Depredations</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activities of Father Bigot and Father Thury</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attack on Norrige Wock Mission</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lovewell's Expedition</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petition to the General Court</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petition granted</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pigwacket Expedition</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decision to attack Paugus</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The fort at Ossapy</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March to Pigwacket</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fight at Pigwacket</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The battle</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retreat</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Results of the battle</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>II. THE BOW CONTROVERSY</strong></td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petition of the Pigwacket Survivors</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suncook Granted and Laid Out</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant by the Massachusetts General Court</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lots laid out</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Settlement</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Francis Droyan</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian inhabitants</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Mr. Whittemore called</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town improvements</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## CHAPTER II. Boundary Dispute

- Commission called ........................................ 10
- Conflicting claims ........................................ 11
- Claims referred to the King and Privy Council ........ 11
- Efforts of Mr. Thomlinson successful .......... 12

- Attempt to Settle Claims of Ownership .......... 12
- Commissioners from Suncook sent to London .. 12
- Suit against John Merrill ......................... 12
- Favorable judgment from the King .......... 13
- Claims of Bow proprietors abandoned .......... 13

## III. GROWTH OF THE SETTLEMENT .................. 15

- Early years of town .................................. 15
- Indian Raids .............................................. 15
  - King George's War declared ....................... 15
  - Blockhouses erected ................................ 15
  - Attack, May 20, 1747 ................................ 15
  - Capture of Robert Buntin ....................... 15
  - Militia guard supplied ........................... 16
  - Mrs. Whittemore's courage ..................... 16

- Incorporation .......................................... 17
  - Petition forwarded by John Noyes ............ 17
  - Buck Street settlement ......................... 17
  - Pembroke receives a charter .................. 17

- Extent of Town 1759 .................................. 18
  - Population ............................................ 18
  - Roads .................................................. 19

## IV. PEMBROKE BEFORE THE REVOLUTION ............ 20

- Development of the town ............................ 20
  - Land cleared ......................................... 20
  - First Presbyterian meeting house .......... 20

- Population Growth .................................... 21
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHAPTER</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IV. Representation in the General Court</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petition to the General Assembly</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facts supporting the petition</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Favorable action by the General Assembly</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disputed Election of 1777</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Captain McConnell elected</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderators' statement</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting adjourned</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problem referred to the General Court</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Result</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schools</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town divided into school districts</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenditures</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V. PEMBROKE IN THE REVOLUTION</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early reactions to the Continental Congress</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Response of Pembroke to War</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Captain Moore's company</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town meeting of May 15, 1775</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Companies of Captains Bunten and Connor</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loyalty Oaths</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Association test required</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refusal of Captain McConnell and others</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criticism of non-signers</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigation and vindication of non-signers</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extent of Participation in War</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VI. PEMBROKE FOLLOWING THE REVOLUTION</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schools</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appropriations</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School districts</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Hampshire School Law of 1789</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political Affairs</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inability to choose constable</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation of Continental script</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHAPTER</td>
<td>Page</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VI. Religious Affairs</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Aaron Whittemore</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Jacob Emery</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Zaccheus Colby</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union of Congregationalists and Presbyterians</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday School established</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VII. PEMBROKE 1800-1850</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schools</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Columbian School</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bequest of the Rev. Dr. Burnham</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pembroke Academy incorporated</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peoples' Literary Institute and Gymnasium</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Affairs</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economy largely agricultural</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First sawmill and grist mill</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pratt Paper Mill</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guinea Mill</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pembroke Cotton Factory Company</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suncook Manufacturing Company</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portsmouth and Suncook Railroad</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious Affairs</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methodists</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roman Catholics</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political Affairs</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pembroke answers to secession</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Battles in which men from Pembroke fought</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIII. PEMBROKE 1850-1900</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Affairs</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China Mill</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Webster Mill</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pembroke Mill</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Activities</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fraternal organizations</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social organizations</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Le Cercle Dramatique et Litteraire</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## VIII. Religious Affairs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Baptist</th>
<th>44</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Independent Society of Suncook</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Newspapers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Suncook Journal</th>
<th>46</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Suncook Banner</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## IX. PEMBROKE 1900-1954

### Economic Affairs

| Local control of mills | 47 |
| Textron Incorporated   | 47 |
| Mills closed           | 47 |
| Remaining industry     | 48 |

### Social Affairs

| Class structure     | 48 |
| 'Pembroke'          | 48 |
| 'Suncook'           | 48 |

### Schools

| Elementary School   | 49 |
| St. John the Baptist Parochial School | 49 |
| Pembroke Academy    | 49 |

### Political Affairs

|                              | 50 |
CHAPTER I
EVENTS PRIOR TO SETTLEMENT

Physical Features

New Hampshire is located in the northeasterly corner of the United States and resembles a right triangle, the base of which is resting on Massachusetts, the perpendicular on the right running north to Canada, and the hypotenuse following the southwesterly course of the Connecticut River with its right angle pushing out to the Atlantic Ocean between the Piscataqua and Merrimac Rivers with the southern line running parallel with the bank of the Merrimac about three miles north. Merrimac County, located in the south of the state, is named for the river which follows a southeasterly direction through it. In the southeastern part of this county on the eastern bank of the river lies the town of Pembroke in latitude 43° 8' 54.8" north and 71° 21' 34" west longitude as computed by the United States Government Geodetic Survey at the site of the Congregational Church.\footnote{Carter and Fowler, History of Pembroke, New Hampshire, Republican Press Association, Concord, New Hampshire, 1895, p.3}

It is bounded in the northwest by the Soucook River, on the southeast by the Suncook River, and on the southwest by the Merrimac. Across the Soucook lies the capital city of the state, Concord, across the Suncook, Allenstown; and across the Merrimac, Bow. From the falls of the rivers, the
land shows a gradual rise toward the center and established portions of the town. Rising to a height of more than one thousand feet above the Merrimac to Mount Plausawa, named for the Indian who according to the legend made his home there. Many small streams feed into the river, but there are no ponds within the town limits. The Suncook is generally sluggish where it touches Pembroke, but has provided the necessary water power for the industries of the community.

A large thick bed of clay covered by a few feet of sand lies over the eastern bank of the Merrimac River. This clay bed runs through Pembroke and Allenstown to Hooksett, a distance of four miles, and was largely used for brick-making. The soil is generally good with the ever present glacial rocks and is well-suited for the usual agricultural pursuits of New England. The area of the town was originally covered with great deciduous forests which were largely cut down for use in the kilns of the brick yards, and to make room for the farms of the settlers.

Indian Depredations

The early settlers of New Hampshire were far enough removed from the defenses of the more populous Massachusetts Bay Colony to be the target of Indian attacks. In the early sixteenth century, agents of the French attempted to incite the Indians against the English Settlers in an effort to drive them from North America. Prominent among the French engaged in this work were the Jesuit Missionaries, including
Indian depredations were common in this area of New England and can largely be traced to the work of Father Sabestian Ralle who in a letter dated July 8, 1716 reported to the Governor of Canada on his work of inciting the Indians to raid the frontier settlements across the border. An expedition was dispatched to eliminate Father Ralle's mission at Norridge Wock on the Kennebec River and was successful. Father Ralle was killed along with eighty Indians and the mission completed with the burning and destroying of many buildings. Shortly afterwards, a party of seventy Mohawks attacked the frontier and on the evening of September 4, 1725 attacked Dunstable. The colonists were captured, buildings were destroyed and livestock killed before the invaders withdrew. The following day a party of 14 men under Lieutenant French went in pursuit and were ambushed and defeated with French and half of his company killed.

Lovewell's Petition

Since disastrous expeditions of this type were going largely unpunished, the General Court of Massachusetts acted favorably on a petition of John Lovewell, Josiah Farwell, and

2/Ibid., p. 5


4/Penhollow's Indian Wars. Unpublished manuscript. State Historical Society Library, Concord, N. H., p. 104
Jonathon Robbins all of Dunstable that they be allowed to
name forty or fifty others and to "range and keep out in the
woods for several months together, in order to kill and
destroy their enemy Indians provided they can meet with
Incouragement suitable----."  

The encouragements included: "two shillings and six pence
per diem each for the time they were actually within service
--- And they shall be intitled over and above the two shill­
ings and six pence per diem, the sum of 100 pounds for each
male scalp and the other premiums established by law to all
volunteers without pay of substances----."  A Captain's
commission was given to Lovewell while Farwell became the
Lieutenant of the company, and Robbins the Ensign. After
several successful campaigns, during one of which 10 Indians
were killed, the company determined to attack the village of
Pigwacket on the upper part of the Saco River in Maine.

Pigwacket Expedition

Pigwacket was the strong hold of Paugus, the head chief
of the Indians and leader of numerous raids on the English
settlers. A letter was dispatched dated Dunstable, April 15,
1725 by Captain Lovewell to the Governor of Massachusetts Bay
Colony informing him of the intention of the company to pro­
cceed immediately to attack Paugus. The complete company, of

5/Carter and Fowler, op. cit., p. 7
6/Ibid., p. 7
Captain Lovewell with 46 men, began the trek to the Saco.
The company's number was depleted when Toby, an Indian guide, fell sick and had to go back home.

By the time they reached Ossapy, William Cummings, disabled by a wound received sometime previously was forced to return accompanied by a friend. Benjamin Kidder fell sick and a small fort was built at Ossapy, and he was left here with the company's doctor, a sergeant, and several others along with much of the provisions of the the force. It was intended that this fort would supply an added measure of security in the event that Lovewell and his men were repulsed by Paugus.

The force reduced to only 34 due to illness, the loss of the garrison left at the fort, and the desertion of Benjamin Hassell, covered the distance of 118 miles in three days to attack Paugus and a party of eighty Indians. During the march, the group became concerned that they had been discovered when they observed smoke signals, but after marching a few miles further were met by an Indian who was apparently returning from a fishing trip. They assumed that the smoke observed had been from his camp fire, and were greatly relieved when they had ambushed and killed him.

Fight at Pigwacket

On the assumption that their presence was unknown, they

7/Benjamin Kidder, *Journal of Pigwacket Expedition*, p. 18
8/Ibid., p. 18
9/Ibid., p. 18
advanced to a point on the northeast shore of Saco Pond (now called Lovewell Pond) and when reaching an open field were immediately attacked by Indians in two parties, the one on the front of the company commanded by Paugus and the one on the rear by his sub-chief, Wawha. Captain Lovewell was killed in the first volley and his party surrounded, the battle lasted continually for nearly ten hours. Jonathon Frye, the Chaplin of the company, was mortally wounded, and when it was discovered that the enemy had withdrawn sometime after sunset, insisted upon being left unattended when the company withdrew on the homeward march. Eleven Englishmen lay dead and ten more badly wounded while forty Indians had been killed and eighteen mortally wounded.

The remainder of the company left Jonathon Frye and started back on the trail to the fort at Ossapy. Three wounded men at their own request were left on the route of march when their wounds made it impossible for them to continue. It was intended that the group on arriving at Ossapy and after refreshing themselves and replenishing their depleted supply of foods and munitions would immediately return with the doctor to aid these three. However, word of the battle had been received by the garrison of the fort and believing that the entire company had been wiped out they returned to Dunstable before the survivors of the engagement arrived. After they had finally made their way back and
had reported to the Governor, Colonel Tyng was dispatched to Saco Pond with a company to bury the dead. In all he buried twelve men and uncovered the graves of three Indians one of whom proved undoubtedly to be Paugus. Remarkably, Chaplin Frye was still alive as were Lieutenant Farwell and Elias Barron, but all three of these survivors died on the way home.

Many years later, Pigwacket was renamed Fryburg in honor of the gallant Chaplin's self-sacrifice.

Results of the Battle

Accounts of the fight at Pigwacket were described as a defeat, but it would appear to be more properly called a pyrrhic victory for the English, since the strength of the Indians of the region was effectively crushed and the raids on the English settlers ceased.

\[11^{\text{Ibid.}, \ p. \ 20}\]
CHAPTER II

THE BOW CONTROVERSY

Petition of Pigwacket Survivors

Two years after the fight at Pigwacket, the survivors petitioned the general court: "praying in consideration of the many hard Services, Fatigues, Wounds &c. they received in the services, as particularly or Enumerated in the Petition, that they may have grant of the Track of Land on each side of the Merrimac River near the township lately called Penny-cook,---" The general court on their approval granted on August 5, 1728 a track of land six miles square lying on each side of the Merrimack River to the Survivors of the engagement at Pigwacket to be divided accordingly,---" and that there be also granted three other shares of lots out of said Six Miles square according to any of the sixty viz One for the first Settled Minister, One for the Ministry, and One for the Site of the School, ---" The grant was to be known as Suncook.

Suncook Granted and Laid Out

The grant was made August 6, 1728 to the survivors of the Pigwacket engagement to the heirs and or assigns of the deceased and the first thirteen of the sixty-two men who had made a march with Lovewell prior to the battle with Paugus.


2/Ibid., Vol. XXIV., p. 236
(See Appendix One) The land was surveyed three months later and a controversy as to the division of the lots immediately followed.

Since the records of the proprietors for the first eight years have been lost, we can only assume that the first meeting for the division of these lots was held early in June, 1729. Since on June 19th of that year, the general court of Massachusetts received a petition from Thomas Richardson and others complaining that the meetings held at Chelmsford, Massachusetts were conducted in an irregular fashion. They contended that: "the proceedings were very irregular & unwarrantable, many persons voted who were in no way qualified, but only such as had purchase of the grants,----And therefore praying that the Proceedings of the Meetings may be declared null & void," This controversy was settled when the general court ordered another meeting of the Proprietors and after the redistributions of lots; settlement was immediately begun.

Settlement

Traditions hold that the first settler was Francis Doyen, one of Captain Lovewell's soldiers, but the absence of records makes this impossible to check. There are signs that this area was visited during the summer of 1729 since on November 24th of that year, Joseph Furrar, one of the proprietors, 


deeded to James Moor all of his rights, titles, and interests to the land in Suncook, (about 365 acres for 24 pounds).

The area included in this grant was inhabited by the Indian, Plausawa, who had a lodge in the northeastern section of the grant. Two others, Sabatis and Christis frequently hunted and fished within the limits of the township. These Indians were friendly or indifferent and were well-known to the settlers since they had from time to time assisted them in erecting the first buildings of the town.

It is assumed that by 1738, the town had grown to include only about 35 to 40 persons. In that year, the proprietors made a call to Mr. Aaron Whittemore of Concord, Massachusetts, a minister newly ordained to settle in Suncook; to administer to all spiritual needs. By 1748 fewer than forty families were living in the town.

The town by 1730 boasted a road to Haverhill which was laid out in 1726 by Ensign John Chandler, John Ayer, and William Barker. Also that the road required by the survey was laid out in 1730, and that in 1729, Mr. Henry Rolf began his ferry service across the Suncook River, and a bridge had been ordered built across the Suncook. These were undoubtedly built to accommodate the larger settlement at Penny-cook.

Boundary Disputes

With the improvements mentioned above, difficulties of ownership of the land began. In 1725 Massachusetts had

5/Ibid., p. 244
granted the Plantation to Penny-cook and the Plantation of Suncook in 1728. However, in March of 1727, New Hampshire had granted to 100 or more persons living mostly around Stratham the township of Bow; containing a track of land nine miles square which included much of Penny-cook and Suncook.

This was caused by a boundary dispute between Massachusetts and New Hampshire. This confusion was eliminated shortly after August 1, 1737 when commissioners from Nova Scotia, New York, New Jersey, and Rhode Island met on the call of the King and Privy Council to settle the dispute. This came about because of an appeal from Massachusetts stemming directly from the settlers of Suncook.

The assembly of New Hampshire convened in Hampton on the same date that the commissioners met and the general assembly of Massachusetts in the town of Salisbury.

New Hampshire claimed that where the southern boundary line should begin was three miles north of the place where the Merrimac River enters the Atlantic and should run in a straight line west. Massachusetts granted that the southern boundary line of New Hampshire should begin three miles north at the: "place listed, so called at the mouth of the river Merrimac as it ascended into the sea sixty years ago---." and in an irregular line to the fork of the Merrimac and then due west.

The commissioners failed to reach an agreement on this

\[6/\text{Ibid.}, \ p. 41\]
dispute and referred the question to the King and Privy Council where it was received on March 5, 1740.

Due to the efforts of New Hampshire's agent, Mr. Thomlinson, the boundary line was fixed in line with New Hampshire's claim. This meant that the grant made to the survivor of the Pigwacket fight, by the Massachusetts General Court, lay entirely within the province of New Hampshire.

Attempt to Settle Claims of Ownership

The proprietors of Bow took no action against the squatters, but the settlers of Suncook sent Richard Waldron, John Hassel, and Eliakin Palmer to England to plead their cause. They had settled the land, cleared it, set out roads, provided for ferry service across the Suncook, built a bridge across the Soucook and had a church with a regularly settled minister, and now were faced with the prospects of having to relinquish the lands to settlers across the river. The commissioners were not successful, but the two settlements lived amicably side by side except for numerous law suits over the ownership of the land.

Since the proprietors of Bow had not improved their land as required by the grant, a question of the right to the area was raised, and in 1755 when a town meeting was called at Bow on April 22, only one inhabitant appeared.

In 1762 a law suit against John Merrill who lived in Rumford (Concord) by the proprietors of Bow was finally decided
in Merrill's favor after 12 years in the courts. This marked the first victory of the inhabitants of Suncook in an effort to obtain clear title of their land. The proprietors of Bow had not settled their claim and had not improved it as required by the grant.

In 1759 the town of Pembroke had been incorporated and included the settlement of Suncook.

The law suits having been continuously found in favor of the settlement of Suncook resulted in another attempt to receive favorable judgment from the King. The King's judge: "after hearing the cause and in consideration of these facts found that—his majesty has been pleased,—to declare that the decision of the boundary between Massachusetts and New Hampshire was not to effect private property, yet certain persons in New Hampshire desirous to make the labors of others effect themselves, and to possess themselves of the town of Pennicook, otherwise Rumford and Suncook as now improved by the industry of the appellants and the first said settlers thereof, whom has sought despoil of the benefit of their labors,——." 2/

This report to the King's Council and the King's decision in the Merrill case showed the stand of the Council against the Bow Proprietors, and was sufficient to cause the abandonment of the claim against Suncook. From this time on, there

2/Ibid., p. 50
were no suits disputing the ownership of the land and settlement proceeded normally.
GROWTH OF THE SETTLEMENT

Early Years of the Town

The early years of settlement passed uneventfully, with farms being laid out along the Merrimack River on the site of the old Indian corn fields. Homes were built on the heights along the present route of Pembroke Street probably for ease in protecting their inhabitants from the Indians, who customarily traveled past the settlement along the river. The Indians seldom bothered to leave their trails to do injury to the settlers unless on the warpath.

Indian Raids

However, when in early 1743, war was declared between England and France, the settlers, knowing that the entire frontier was in danger from the Indians, incited by the Canadians, took steps to protect themselves.

Tradition maintains that four block houses were erected of green logs, two stories in height, and situated strategically in town. One was built on the property of Rev. Aaron Whittemore. The settlers began to carry arms with them to the fields on workdays and to church on the Sabbath. Two petitions were sent to the Governor of the Province asking for protection against the Indian threat... The settlement

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was free of all depredations from the Indians until 1746 when Rumford was raided resulting in the death of five and the capture of two.

Suncook immediately activated a scouting unit of nine men commanded by Capt. Daniel Hadd. This group proved unable to keep the Indians from the settlement and on the twentieth of May, 1747 one man was killed, five attacked, houses looted and fired on before the attack was repulsed.

Robert Buntin and his son were captured during this engagement and transported to Canada and sold to a French trader in Montreal where they remained almost eleven months before escaping and making their way back to their homes.

As a result of these attacks the assembly ordered that eight men be posted at Suncook to provide a military guard for that community.

At this time, Pembroke gave birth to her own counter part to Molly Pitcher, when, during an attack on the blockhouse located on the property of the Rev. Whittemore, since the men were all absent working in the fields, the minister's wife assumed command. After sheparding the women and children into the fortification she donned her husband's uniform, seized his sword and standing where she might be observed by the Indians began to issue orders to her non-

existing force in a voice forceful enough to cause the savages to retire in the belief that they faced an overwhelmingly powerful enemy.

In this way Pembroke survived the attacks of the Indians during the French and Indian War and emerged a strong, healthy settlement.

Incorporation

As early as 1742 the inhabitants of Suncook had considered asking the Assembly of New Hampshire for incorporation as a town, but since ownership of the territory was still in dispute with the proprietors of Bow, they agreed on April 28, of that year to "Let that article Drap Concerning petitioning for town privileges for the present." 3/ In 1758 the settlers did petition for incorporation through their agent, John Noyes, despite the opposition which stemmed from the inhabitants of Bow. Noyes, in his petition states that the town had grown to include 60 families settled on farms within the boundaries of the original grant. He reviews the development of the town and lays great stress on the fact that a minister had been settled for several years.

A small group had settled in the area known as Buck Street and this group agreed to the inclusion of their

3/Ibid., p. 68

4/Even though it was necessary for the Rev. Mr. Whittemore to bring suit in the courts for the salary which had not been paid to him in 1747
settlement in the proposed township providing that they be free from any back taxes and assessments due to or from the residents of Suncook.

In consequence of these petitions, the assembly of New Hampshire passed an act of incorporation dated November 1, 1759. This charter provided for the establishment of a town "--by the name of the Parish of Pembroke" bounded and limited as follows (viz) on the west by the Merrimack River, on the North by the Suncook River, on the east by a part of the Township of Chichester and Epsom and on the south by the Suncook River—the extent of six miles square of land. The charter gives the township the usual rights to lay and collect taxes, lay out roads, and other matters necessary for the government of the town.

On the passage of this act of incorporation, the Plantation of Suncook, (or Lovewell's Township) ceased to exist, and the Town of Pembroke began its history. Amazingly, the name "Suncook" has survived for one hundred and ninety four years and today appears on many maps indicating the site of the town, and the federal government has even seen it fit to establish a Post Office for Suncook rather than Pembroke.

The terms are both used to indicate the entire town, and by the inhabitants to indicate the two areas of the town.

5/Manuscript, New Hampshire State Papers, Concord, New Hampshire, Vol. 8, p. 235
Extent of Town 1759

The town at the time of its incorporation was populated by 60 families, or probably about 300 persons with established title to their lands. Farms had been laid out next to the Merrimack River and substantial homes had been built along the heights overlooking the fields. A road had been laid out as early as 1726 leading to Haverhill, Massachusetts on the south and north to Penny-cook. In 1729 a ferry was established across the Suncook River to accommodate the travel between the two cities connected by the road. This ferry was continued in use until 1735 when a bridge was built possibly because of dissatisfaction over the service offered by the ferry.

Several other roads were laid out for use within the town and several of these are still used today.
CHAPTER IV
PEMBROKE BEFORE THE REVOLUTION

Development of the Town

During the decade preceding the Revolutionary War, the town prospered in peace. For the first time since original settlement the ownership of the land, which at one time had been in dispute by as many as four owners, was settled. The Indian menace had been controlled and all factors favored the rapid growth of the town.

The acreage of cleared land was greatly increased, and the original log houses, built partially for protection, gave way to framed structures affording better comfort for the owner.

For the most part the town was self sufficient depending on the coast towns for staples such as salt, sugar, molasses, and the famous West Indian rum.

Food was generally the result of hunting or farming and serious difficulties arose during the years 1761 and 1762 when a severe drought followed by fierce forest fires ravished the province.

During the year 1760 the first Presbyterian meeting-house was probably built, and on December 3, Rev. Daniel Mitchell was ordained pastor of the church.

By a special act of the General Assembly, December 17, 1763, the Presbyterians who had been taxed for the support of
the Congregational Minister, were exempted from these payments and incorporated into a separate parish to include all persons who "belonged or might there-after belong," to the congregation. Lieutenant Thomas McLucas was authorized to call the first meeting.

Population Growth

The Annals of the town for 1767 show the results of the first recorded census. It shows a total population of 557 souls including 284 males, 271 females and 2 slaves. A second census was held in 1773 and showed an increase in population to 666; and on September 30, 1775, a third census indicated 744 persons living in the town.

Representation in the General Court

With the increase in population, it became necessary to increase the amount of town activity, and consequently, a justice of the peace was authorized as a result of the petition to the General Assembly dated September 3, 1767 which stated, "We therefore Humbly Conceive Your Excellency and Honors will not think us Impertinent or acting more than our Duty in offering This our Humble Request That we your Petitioners in the Parish of Pembroke aforesaid may have a Person assigned them to Keep the peace throughout this Province."

Pembroke had been settled for forty years, and was a

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prosperous and growing town with a population of nearly 700. Since the prospects of increased activity in the community were excellent, the residents felt that they were entitled to some voice in making the laws for the province.

Consequently, a petition was forwarded to the provincial government dated April 12, 1774, praying that the petitioners "Sensible of the right inherent to English Men to be represented in General Assembly according to the British Constitution," be allowed to "send a proper person to represent them in General Assembly as They Can by no means Think Taxation and Representation Can be Sever'd without Committing a Palpable Breach in the Inestimable Paladium of English Liberty, Magna Charter." 2/

The Assembly acted favorably on the petition and a special meeting was called for November 26, 1776, when the Rev. Jacob Emery was chosen to represent the community in the General Court.

Disputed Election of 1777

The Rev. Mr. Emery passed away on March 29, 1777 and this necessitated a special meeting of the town to name his successor. The meeting was called to order on the last Tuesday of April 1777, at the Presbyterian meeting house and was adjourned until the twenty-eighth of May. When the meeting was reconvened, Captain Samuel McConnell was chosen representative after a very stormy session.

2/Ibid, p. 663, 664
According to the statement of the moderator the voters of the town were almost evenly split on the first ballot with 44 votes for Captain McConnell. After the first Ballot the meeting was adjourned and several voters demanded of the moderator that a poll be taken and violent arguments ensued.

Even though many voters had left for their homes the meeting was called to order and the right of several of the voters was questioned since some were not of age and others could not meet the proper requirements.

The meeting was adjourned until the next day when it was found that the meeting house was closed to it. After moving to the Congregational Church the ballot was taken and again after a stormy session Captain McConnell was elected.

At this point in the difficulty, Colonel Gelman, a selectman in possession of the precept from the General Court, refused to surrender it or to certify the election of the Captain.

The problem was resolved when it was referred to the General Court itself where no action was taken until after the appointment of Colonel Gilman to an important army post. Captain McConnell then assumed his seat.

Schools

The annual town meeting for 1768 was held at the Presbyterian meeting house on March 28, when after some slight argument, fifteen pounds were voted for school purposes, to be paid in corn, rye and peas at the market price.
The town meeting ordered the selectmen to divide the parish into four quarters of schools and to divide the money raised accordingly.

As the time moved on the school fared better, being voted £ 300 in 1769; £ 400 in 1770; but only £ 25 in 1771 and £ 100 in 1773. The amount of money spent for educational purposes continued to fall and in 1774 the amount of the appropriation was left to the discretion of the selectmen. Sums expressed in dollars instead of pounds were spent from 1775 on and the increased amount represented the inflated currency of the newly formed nation and did not mean larger amounts available to the educational plant.

In all probability the appropriation was used solely for the teachers salary and that the four schools were served by the same instructor during specified periods of the winter.
CHAPTER V
PEMBROKE IN THE REVOLUTION

Early Reaction to Continental Congress

The excesses of the British government had been causing widespread dissatisfaction among the colonials. This attitude culminated with the adoption of the Declaration of Independence of July 4, 1776.

That the citizens of Pembroke shared this feeling can be noted in many documents, principally the petition of the town for representations in the General Court, part of which reads: "by no means Taxation and Representation Can be Severed."

No actual breach of the peace had occurred, but on November 19, 1774, a warrant was issued by the selectmen, "In compliance with the Proceedings of the grant American Continental Congress at Philadelphia" calling a town meeting for November 28, 1774.

At this meeting was called to "choose a Committee to carefully observe and Look to the Behavior of all Persons within the Limits & when it appears to the majority of said Committee that any Person or Persons has Violated the Results of the aforesaid Congress then said Committee is to Cause to be published in the Gazette to the End that all such may be known."

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-25-
The new "colony" of New Hampshire believed that the first blow for American Independence was struck during the month of December, 1774 when the British Fort William and Mary, at the mouth of the Piscataqua was razed by the colonists.

Response of Pembroke to War

The results of the Battle of Lexington and Concord soon became known throughout New England. When the news reached Pembroke a company was immediately raised and with Captain Daniel Moore marched to join Colonel John Stark's command on the heights around Boston. Part of this company was engaged in the action of Bunker Hill.

A special meeting was called for the fifteenth of May, 1775 and, after choosing Ensign David Gilman to attend Congress at Exeter, voted to raise money for the protection of the town in the event a British expedition should invade New Hampshire. The town voted: "raise their Equal Proportion of men to be in Readiness for an Expected Expedition, and allow them pay for exercising Two half days in a week for any Term of Time which shall then be thought Proper," and to "Raise flour and Pork to the Value of one half of our Proportion of the Province Tax the last year or the support of said men when called to go into said service."

Responding to an appeal of General Sullivan the citizens of Pembroke raised two companies for service with Stark's regiment on Winter Hill. These were commanded by Captain Andrew Bunten and Captain Samuel Connor.
Loyalty Oaths

It has been estimated that fully one-third of the colonists remained loyal to their king, and this group was, of course, suspected. In an effort to minimize the possible effectiveness of this group as a fifth-column the Continental Congress issued a resolution requiring that they be disarmed.

The colony of New Hampshire, in view of this resolution issued a request to the towns to require all males to sign other following oaths: "We, the subscribers, do hereby solemnly engage, and promise, that we will to the utmost of our power, at the risk of our lives and fortunes, with arms oppose the hostile proceedings of the British fleets and armies against the United American Colonies."

This so-called "Association Test" is looked upon as a Declaration of Independence on the part of the people of New Hampshire, and actually includes the wording "defending the Lives, Liberties, and Properties of the inhabitants of the United Colonies." This was to appear in almost the same wording in the first draft of the Declaration as written by Jefferson fully three months later. It was signed by 129 of the house holders of Pembroke and was refused by only 9, including Captain McConnell.

As a result of the test most of the town was now irrevocably alienated from their king and forced to function as a solid unit in Pembroke's efforts in prosecuting the war.
The nine non-signers were subjected to all kinds of criticism and their every movement was suspected. However, in spite of careful observation not one of the nine were to engage in any activity contrary to the public good.

The enmity of the disputed McConnell-Gilman election for the General Court was still to be found in the town, for as soon as it became known, that the Captain had refused to sign the Association Test and notwithstanding the fact that he was now in command of a company of Colonel Burnham's regiment at Winter Hill, he was the object of a widespread whispering campaign. This culminated in a petition to the Governor's Council which stated that McConnell was "an enemy to the Glorious Cause we are now Engaged in and that Such Persons being Introduced into our Public assemblies will be Attended with the Most Dangerous and Fatal Consequences" and asking for his removal as a dangerous subversive.

These stories resulted in an investigation and the complete vindication of Captain McConnell. The report of the Pembroke Committee of Safety said in a statement issued June 5, 1777 that "he has appeared to be a friend to his country and has always Been Ready both in Person and Estate to assist and Contribute in Defense of the Common Cause of American."

\[2\]
\[3\]


\[3\] Ibid., p. 160
Save for a slight alteration involving Captain Ebenezar Frye which resulted in his complete exoneration, this was the only incident questioning the loyalty of a citizen of Pembroke toward the new nation.

Extent of Participation in War

Men from Pembroke served in Continental forces at the battles of Bennington, Saratoga, Ticonderoga, Bunker Hill, Boston during the invasion of Canada; and during the terrible winter at Valley Forge.

In all, one hundred seventy one men of Pembroke saw service in the Continental Army during the war. Most of these men served for periods of three months and many reenlisted. This was particularly true when the theater of operations was centered in New England but, as was true of most of the colonies, patriotism did not extend to include the long arduous campaigns in the South.

All adult males were formed into provisional companies and although they did not leave their homes, stood ready to instantly join with other groups to repulse any invasion of the state.
CHAPTER VI

Pembroke Following the Revolution

During the last half of the eighteenth century Pembroke grew rapidly with increased activity in all fields.

Schools

During the Revolution the annual appropriation for the schools were not made since the money was diverted to the more important function of purchasing beef for use by the Continental troops. While the schools were closed, the only instruction the children received was from their parents.

As has been stated, for the convenience of the widely spread householders, the town was split into four quarters. The number of quarters was successively divided into seven, eight, nine, ten and then back to nine, when one of the districts was grouped with the schools of Concord.

Each district had a clerk who functioned after the manner of our present day superintendent.

In 1789 the State of New Hampshire passed a law requiring every town of fifty householders, or upwards, to provide a schoolmaster to teach children to read and write, and every town of one hundred householders, to have a grammar school, kept by "some discreet person of good conversation, well instructed in the tongues."  

These instructors kept school for the town until the

1/Carter & Fowler, op. cit., p. 372

-30-
ancient districts were eliminated and the town system inaugurated in 1886.

Political Affairs

In these days of patronage, it seems remarkable that the office of town constable was forced to go begging.

At the town meeting, held on April 19, 1782, Captain Joseph Emery was chosen constable and after refusing to serve was fined and excused from duty. Several other meetings were held during April and May and during all of them men were appointed, refused the office and were fined.

Apparently, the town was not able to fill the post until March 31, 1783 when Thomas Brickett was accepted as town constable as a substitute for William Knox.

This difficulty in filling the office remained for several years and was caused by several reasons.

It was a time consuming task, which did not allow the constable sufficient time to maintain his own property, also, since the main duty was the collection of taxes, it was bound to be a disagreeable job.

This was caused by the depreciation of Continental script and the resultant depression which gripped the entire nation.

Pembroke, with the rest of the new nation, felt the effects of it, even to raising the daily wage for labors on the highways to fifty dollars, this only twenty years after
an appropriation of £ 25 had been sufficient to maintain the roads for an entire year.

Religious Affairs

It has already been noted that a Congregational society had been formed with the Rev. Aaron Whittemore as pastor. This group continued to meet in the original meeting-house until 1759 when a new framed meeting-house was built on the site of the old one.

Mr. Whittemore's ministry to the people of the region was long and useful, but the latter years were full of difficulties concerning unpaid salary and opposition, the exact nature of which seems to be in doubt.

It was resolved when the minister recovered judgment against the town in the courts and when the town meeting on November 15, 1762 forbade his preaching in the parish.27

Rev. Jacob Emery succeeded Mr. Whittemore's pulpit in 1767, and remained to minister to the spiritual needs of the people for seven years. He was apparently highly respected since the church prospered under him and he was tendered the high honor of representing the town in the stormy convention held in Exeter in 1775. Mr. Emery's health failed and at

2/Willey, Rev. Isaac, Brief History of the First Congregational Church in Pembroke, R.W. Musgrove, Bristol, New Hampshire, 1876, p. 32
his death in 1775 the church was left without a minister for the first time since the settlement of the community, although it remained an active and vital force in the area.

On January 17, 1780, the Rev. Zaccheus Colby was called at a salary of £ 75 and twenty cords of wood per year. He arrived shortly after the famous 'dark day' of May 19th, when the area was so heavily overcast that candles were burnt at noon and the fowl went to roost.

This together with the trying times combined to cause a great spiritual awakening in the town resulting in the addition of thirty new members to the church.

Mr. Colby began to preach in the Congregational Church, but so many of the Presbyterians of the town were attracted to his preaching that arrangements were made for him to preach alternately in the two houses of worship. This arrangement worked so well that the two congregations caused a committee to be formed to arrange for the union of the groups. This was accomplished without difficulty except from a group of Congregationalists who, with two deacons, withheld their support.

This occurred in June of 1797 when sixty-one signed a

3/Willey, op. cit., p. 35
4/Carter and Fowler, op. cit., p. 347
confession of faith and thus ordained the new society.

Following the consolidation, a new church building was erected to satisfy the needs of the enlarged congregation and in 1836 the present edifice was built. The new building cost only $3,568.33 and was of sufficient size to accommodate the newly established Sunday School.

The Sunday School had grown out of an association for the Improvement of the Morals of the Town of Pembroke and evolved during the first part of the long and successful ministry of the Rev. Dr. Burnham.

5/Pembroke (N.H.) Congregational Church - Manuel - Pembroke, 1881, p. 93

6/Willey, op. cit., p. 47
CHAPTER VII
PEMBROKE 1800 - 1850

Schools

About 1802, Moses Foster deeded to the school district a tract of land about 3,000 square feet of land for the proprietors to use for the erection of a new school.

This school known as the Columbian School was governed by those persons who had subscribed the cost of the buildings and pledged themselves to support it. On January 24, 1803, a constitution was prepared. It was privately owned and controlled and remained in operation until the middle of 1817, serving the community, when the school district in which it was located was divided by the town meeting. When the new schools were built, the Columbian School passed from the scene.

Around 1807 three men arrived in Pembroke, Dr. Abel Blanchard, Rev. Abraham Burnham, and Berwell Stevens. Dr. Blanchard's health began to fail, and at his death on March 15, 1818, it was discovered that, at the suggestion of Rev. Mr. Burnham, a bequest had been made for the establishment of "a public school or academy at Pembroke." 

The school was incorporated June 25, 1818 as 'Pembroke Academy', but was known popularly as Blanchard Academy for many years.

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1/Address at one hundredth anniversary of the Academy delivered by the Honorable Trueworthy Fowler, Pembroke, 1919, p. 2

-35-
Using money collected from the townspeople for the building, the foundation was laid in 1818 and the completed building was dedicated on May 25, 1819. The school opened the following day with forty-eight students and has not ceased operation up to the present time.

In 1840, the principal of the Academy, Mr. Isaac Kinsman, severed his connection with the institution and began the Peoples' Literary Institute and Gymnasium. The Literary Institute was incorporated on June 28, 1841 and began instruction immediately.

Considerable emphasis on military tactics came as the result of the association of Captain A. Partridge with the school. The Institute became a branch of the military school at Norwich, Vermont in 1850 and continued as such until it was dissolved in 1863 because of financial difficulties, and the facilities and students were absorbed by the Academy.

Economic Affairs

Until the early part of the nineteenth century, the community was almost entirely agricultural, excepting only those activities which normally are thought of as contributing to the healthy growth of any new town.

These sprang up along the river and included the sawmill and grist mill of John Coffrin (later Cochran) which had started early in 1738. This activity had continued until

\[2/\text{Fowler, op. cit., p. 6}\]
February 2, 1796 when James Cochran III sold to Christopher Osgood all of his holdings on the Pembroke side of the river.

Mr. Osgood sold the property in turn to Charles Flanders in 1801 when it started operation as a blacksmith shop, with mill privileges on the river, but in 1809 the property was again transferred.

This transfer, to Lewis and Leonard Pratt resulted in the establishment of the Pratt Paper Mill which functioned for only a few years before closing down.

Several other paper mills started operations at about this time, notably the firm known as the Guinea Mill, but, because of several fires, and the dim view taken by the federal authorities about the manufacturing of paper to be used for counterfeit money, the company ceased functioning in 1817.

In 1811, the Pembroke Cotton Factory Company bought all the remaining property belonging to Mr. Osgood with mill rights. The following year, the title passed to Major Caleb Stark, the son of General John Stark, who received a charter as the Pembroke Cotton and Woolen Factory Co. Major Stark sold the factory in 1830.

\[\text{\textsuperscript{3}}\] Carter and Fowler, \textit{op. cit.}, p. 347
\[\text{\textsuperscript{4}}\] Ibid., p. 350
\[\text{\textsuperscript{5}}\] Merrimack River Directory (1869-(c)1891) W. A. Greenough & Co., Boston, Massachusetts, 1897, p. 204
Financial problems arose and after a period in receivership the property came into the possession of the Suncook Manufacturing Company in 1847. It was reorganized and re-modeled and in 1855 was merged into the newly formed Pembroke Manufacturing Company.

Thus evolved one of the three major industries of the town, which during the first half of the last century, together with smaller industrial efforts such as the lead pipe manufacturing plant, represented the inroads of the Industrial Revolution on this small village of New Hampshire.

The growth of the community was spurred on when, in 1850, the Portsmouth and Concord Railroad began service and established a station at 'Suncook'.

The railroad provided transportation facilities between Pembroke and Manchester, Nashua, Concord, Lowell and Boston. It served for years as a valuable adjunct to the efforts of the town's industry.

Religious Affairs

The first meeting of the Methodists to be held in Pembroke occurred in 1804 when the Rev. James Cochran, the brother of Colonel Cochran of Pembroke, visited the town and preached to a small gathering.

Colonel Cochran had previously remarked that if his brother "turned out to be one of these bawling Methodists, 

6/Merrimack River Directory, op. cit., p. 207
he could yell as loudly as he chose and it would be none of anybodies business." Apparently, Rev. Cochran was not, since he met with success in Pembroke, converting several and causing a petition to be sent to Rev. George Pickering, the presiding deacon. This petition requested regular Methodist preaching and resulted in the inclusion of Pembroke in the circuit of the Rev. David Batchelder.

Circuit riders provided services for the Methodist community of the town until 1841 when the Rev. A. Folsom arrived as permanent pastor for the church which had been built in 1837.

A chapel was housed in the so-called "Gymnasium" serving the communicants in the northern sections of the town and a Sunday School was organized. These, together with projected plans for a parsonage and vestry, gave a solidarity to the church which caused its ready acceptance by the town, in spite of the widespread distrust of Methodism in the country.

About 1830, many French Canadians, communicants of the Roman Catholic Church arrived in town, probably to work in the mills. Possibly, because of economic pressures from the Protestant mill owners and since most of the newly arrived citizens chose to settle just across the river in Allenstown, no attempt to form a Catholic community or to build a church took place within the strict geographical limits of Pembroke.

/Carter and Fowler, op. cit., p. 249
No violence, characteristic of attempts to found these churches in New England, is found in the records and the first Catholic service in the town itself appears to be a wedding by Father John E. Barry of Concord on September 29, 1866.

This situation has persisted until the present time, but, a vigorous Catholic Church and Parochial School in Allenstown supplies the spiritual needs of citizens of Pembroke subscribing to the tenets of the Roman Catholic Faith.

Political Affairs

Pembroke in 1860 was a vigorous town with a population of 1313 persons. This group responded to President Lincoln's call for 300,000 volunteers, to meet the crisis brought about by the firing on Fort Sumpter, by immediately authorizing a bounty of two hundred dollars.

This bounty was raised in 1863 to three hundred dollars and provision was made to equalize the bounties paid to any men who had served.

Responding to the call of the President, 100 men from Pembroke enlisted in the regular military establishment of the federal government and 19 men enlisted for service in New Hampshire. This represented forty-one more than the town was required to supply under her draft quotas, and of this total, 8/Pembroke Town Report, 1861, Pembroke, New Hampshire 2/Carter and Fowler, op. cit., p. 223.
thirty-two died in defense of the union. Many others were wounded or served varying periods as prisoners of war.

A few deserted, but the overwhelming support accorded the Union by the town stands as a tribute to the men who served in such arduous campaigns as The Peninsula, Cold Harbor, Winchester, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Vicksburg, the Wilderness and the rest of the long list of battles in which the men of Pembroke fought.
CHAPTER VIII
PEMBROKE 1850 - 1900
Economic Affairs

Following the Civil War, the town experienced an increase in growth caused primarily by the establishment of the Webster and China Mills, which with the Pembroke Mill formed the basis for the town's economy for many years.

The China Mills Company, formed originally to manufacture cheap cotton cloth for the China trade, was chartered in 1867. The Webster Mill was chartered in 1865, and although it was separate and distinct from the others, it was owned and operated by the same group that controlled the Pembroke and China Mills.

Besides the known movement to urban areas which occurred between 1860 and 1890, the figures concerning these mills will help to explain the increase of better than 100% in the town's population.

The Pembroke Mill, by 1890, was 273 feet long by 72 feet wide, had 20,000 spindles, 422 looms, employed 255 persons and using 24,000 pounds of cotton was manufacturing 110,000 yards of cloth per week.\(^1\)

The Webster Mill was 310 feet long by 72 feet wide, had 36,000 spindles and 900 looms, employed 500 operators and turned 35,000 pounds of cotton into 225,000 yards of cloth.

each week.

The largest of the mills, the China Mill, was 510 feet long by 72 feet wide, paid a total of $17,000 a month to 900 employees and produced 330,000 yards of cloth each week from 60,000 pounds of cotton.

The three mills combined, gave work to 1655 persons, with a monthly payroll of $35,000 and were manufacturing 34,580,000 yards of cloth each year.

Social Activities

A number of fraternal organizations were organized in Pembroke during this period, the first group to organize being the International Order of Odd Fellows.

Howard Lodge #31, I.O.O.F. was organized on September 24, 1849 and Friendship Lodge of Hooksett and Evergreen Lodge of Short Falls have grown from it.

Other groups organized at this time include: Knights of Pythias, Jewell Lodge (December 6, 1871); Grand Army of the Republic (July 1, 1878); Jewell Lodge #94 A.F. and A.M. (April 7, 1879); Pembroke Grange #111 P. of H. (December 30, 1885). These are the more familiar groups.

But, several others served the town during the period from 1860 to 1900. These were: The Suncook Commandery of

2/The Granite Monthly, op. cit., p. 58
3/Ibid., p. 59
the Order of the Golden Cross (May 21, 1894); Pembroke Lodge #200, the Order of the Fraternal Circle (October 18, 1890); the Court Gen. Natt Head #7846, Ancient Order of Foresters of America (April 22, 1890); the Cercle Dramatique et Litteraire (January 11, 1885); and Subordinate Division #29 of the Provident Mutual Relief Association (August 3, 1878).

These organizations have contributed to the development of the town because of their many philanthropic and benevolent acts; and provided much public amusement and entertainment especially Le Cercle Dramatique et Litteraire which presented many plays and brought many lecturers to the town during its existence.

Religious Affairs

The religious communities of the town continued to function and expanded their offerings to the communities each year.

The first meeting of the Baptist sect was held on December 20, 1863 pursuant to the instructions issued by the Baptist State Convention.

This convention meeting earlier in the year had instructed its missionary agent for the state, Rev. David Gage, to establish services at Suncook. The Rev. David Gage personally supplied the pulpit until the organizational meeting convened on May 11, 1865.

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4/Carter and Fowler, op. cit., p. 347
Following the Organizational meeting, the church started its work and several were baptized, examined and accepted for membership in the church.

To give public recognition to the new organization, a public meeting was called for June 14, 1865 in Suncook Hall and was attended by representatives of the Baptist Congregations in neighboring towns. At this meeting application was made for acceptance in the Salisbury Baptist Association, the district organization for the church.

A church was erected in 1870 at the corner of Main and Cross Streets in Allenstown, directly across the river. This building proved to be inadequate for the congregation. More pews were necessary and the expanding Sunday School required enlarged quarters.

Consequently, when the original church was destroyed by fire on August 14, 1878, the new quarters were built larger and more commodious. It was dedicated on May 27, 1879 and was enlarged and repaired in 1890 when it also became the first church serving the community to boast a pipe organ.

A parsonage was donated in 1885 by Mr. Enoch Alexander of this town.

The First Independent Society of Suncook was organized on June 17, 1880 over the drug store of Charles F. Hildreth. This short lived organization seems to have simply declared itself in existence, neglected to adopt a confession of faith
and promptly dropped out of existence.

Newspapers

During this period, the only newspapers published in town were distributing the news.

The Suncook Journal was started in 1874, by Otis S. Eastman. The offices were burned in 1879 and the property was transferred to Mr. Eugene Lane in April, 1883.

Mr. Lane sold the property to the Syndicate Publishing Company of Manchester in October, 1894, and the last issue was printed on October 20th of that year. Since that time no paper has been printed exclusively for the town.

The Suncook Banner was published as the local organ for the temperence groups between November 20, 1880, and June 27, 1881.
CHAPTER IX
PEMBROKE 1900 - 1954
Economic Affairs

Pembroke today is a small community of 3,616, according to the latest state census.

In 1900 the town resembled any New England community whose economy was based on the several small mills which lined its river and on the many small neat farms which were located in the outlaying districts.

This picture fitted Pembroke entirely until 1940 when the corporation which controlled the mills of the town transferred control to a group of local businessmen. This group modernized the mills and attempted to form a sort of community industry patterned after the well known Amoskeag Mill Yards of Manchester.

This group attempted to maintain this situation and raise the economic level of the town until 1950 when it became apparent that they lacked sufficient national outlets to carry on the enterprise as planned.

They transferred control of the mills to Textron Incorporated in that year, but difficulties with the labor force and the quick expansion following the transfer caused Textron to close the mills during the summer of 1953.

This, of course, meant economic crises for the entire town when over one thousand jobs were lost during three months.
The mills have been empty since that time and the other industries in town together with those of Concord and Manchester, have been able to absorb most of the labor force. The Emerson Manufacturing Company, makers of fine quality furniture; several small mills which manufacture labels for cotton products exclusively; the Pembroke Boat Company; and a small toy factory are all that remains of a once thriving industrial area.

Social Affairs

The sharp cleavage of social groups along the lines of national origin have been tightly drawn in the town. The term Suncock, which ceased its existence in 1759 is still understood to mean that area closest to the river and inhabited almost exclusively by the newer immigrant French-Canadian Catholic families who supplied the mills with labor.

The 'French' groups control the veterans organizations and the Lion d'Or Club, a snowshoeing and fraternal association. Pembroke, the name of the town, is used to describe that area, higher and overlooking the river inhabited by the old 'Yankee' stock.

This grouping is to be found among the organizations of the community. The Masonic Fraternity, The Daughters of the American Revolution, The Rebecca's, and the Pembroke Men's Club are almost exclusively 'Yankee'.

Schools

The schools reflect this same situation.

The town elementary school is located close to the center of the community and operates in an ancient building with a modern addition and accommodates a school population of 273 students.

This school serves most of the children of 'Pembroke' and some from Suncock, but many students attend the parochial school attached to St. John the Baptist Catholic Church of Allenstown.

In the latter school, instruction is given to the students in the French language and English is offered only as a school subject. This, of course, serves only to strengthen the nationalistic feeling of this element and to create a language barrier which has resulted, if town tales are believed, in the election of selectmen of Allenstown, and only a few years ago, of three American citizens none of whom could speak English.

After completing the eight years of grammar school the students are sent to Pembroke Academy, a public academy, for their high school work. The town pays tuition directly to the Academy, which is open to any student and which draws its population from as far away as ten miles.

However, many eighth grade graduates from St. John the Baptist School choose to commute to the large diocesan Bishop
Bradley High School in Manchester, and a few of the young people of the town attend the private St. Johns School in Concord.

**Political**

An investigation of the town warrants for many years reveals almost nothing of a nature sufficiently controversial to warrant the existence of political parties on a town level.

They exist, however, but voting is very fluid with persons shifting their political allegiance regularly. The vote is usually quite even, but the town does have a larger percentage of Democrats than most sections of New Hampshire.

With the exception of the appointment of one man to the State Recreation Commission, the parties have received very little patronage.

This is Pembroke today. A quite little, residential community perched on the banks of the Merrimack River. High, dry and friendly.
ORIGINAL PROPRIETOR OF PEMBROKE

Appendix one

Capt. John Lovewell*
Lieut. Josiah Farewell*
Lieut. Jonathan Robbins*
Ensign John Harwood*
Noah Johnson
Robert Usher*
Samuel Whiting
Jonathan Cummings**
William Cummings**
Benjamin Hassel*
Edward Lingfield
Nathaniel Woods Jr.**
Daniel Woods*
John Jefts*
Joseph Gilson Jr.
John Gilson*
John Chamberlain
Issac Whitney**
Issac Lakin
John Stevens**
Benjamin Parker**
Lieut. David Melvin
Zachariah Parker**
Joseph Farrar
Elias Barron*
Eleaser Melvin
Josiah Davis*
Eleazer Davis
Josiah Jones
Jacob Farrar*

Ebenezer Wright**
Moses Graves**
Joseph Wright**
Jacob Gates**
Robert Phelps**
Jonathan Houghton**
Joseph Wheelock**
John Pollard**
Jeremiah Hunt**
Jonathan Kittredge*
Capt. Seth Wyman
Thomas Richardson
Josiah Johnson
Ichabod Johnson*
Timothy Richardson
Jonathan Frye*
Francis Droyen**
Dr. William Ayer**
Ebenezer Ayer
Abiel Austin
Zebadiah Austin**
Jacob Pullan*
Benjamin Kidder**
John Goffe**
Solomen Keyes
Toby, Indian Scout
Edward Spooney**
Ebenezer Halburt**
Samuel Moore**
Thomas Woods*

* Dead

** Not in fight at Piqwacket
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15. Rand, Mary A., Miss Rand, an old resident, and correspondent for Pembroke town affairs for the Concord and Manchester papers, gave much information about the economy of the community prior to 1900.


20. Whittemore, Laurence F., ninth generation descendant of the Rev. Mr. Whittemore, was able to supply much of the material concerning recent economic activity in the town.