

# History of Putnam

by Thomas W. McArthur

## FOREWORD.

The writer conceived the idea when a young man studying law of writing a history of his native town—Putnam, Washington County, New York—a locality, which even pace with his increasing years, grows dearer and dearer to him. He accordingly commenced collecting data, and finally in 1887 wrote out the following pages of manuscript. His idea contemplated two parts to the work: the following which was completed, except revising, the other a history of the various original and other early families in the town. This part is still incomplete, and the increasing demands of business compelled him to give up the project, at least for the present. There are doubtless many errors in the work. There almost of necessity must be where one has to rely so much on tradition and frail memory. The writer has tried to be absolutely fair and truthful, and to that end has spent a great deal of time and patience upon the work.

He has thought it best to preserve the work as far as done though incomplete, thinking that in the years to come it may be of interest and use to the descendants of the early families.

Glens Falls, New York, September 7<sup>th</sup>, 1901

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## PLEASE NOTE

This "History of Putnam" by Thomas W. McArthur is being presented by The Town of Putnam Historical Society which has not made any effort to change the character of the original.

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## INTRODUCTION.

Putnam is the northernmost town of Washington County, New York and comprises the lower end of the narrow peninsula between Lake George and Champlain. It is about seven miles long from north to south, with an average width of three miles, and comprises an area of 19,279 acres. The surface is hilly and broken. On the western side is a mountain range, called Defiance, rising abruptly from the shore of Lake George in places to the height of nearly a thousand feet, Anthony's Nose, a bold promontory rising almost perpendicularly from the waters of the lake, being the highest point. Near the top of this precipice is an almost perfect profile of an Indian's face which during the changeful cycles of time, has remained unshaken and unmoved by the wars of the elements and of race that has raged around it, and like some mighty god has looked placidly down on the thrilling scenes of victory and defeat. Those mute and voiceless lips, majestic and eloquent in their silence: what a story might they tell of this region when yet unknown to man; of the intermitting wars of the red man; the tales of their unequal struggle with the white race, growing feebler and feebler, like the efforts of a drowning man, with each successive attempt, in the desperate and hopeless contention against fate for supremacy. At the foot of this ledge is a large cave or fissure in which tradition says are hidden untold millions.

North of the nose the lake curves sharply to the east on its way to Lake Champlain, broken only by the projection called Black Point. From the rich and fascinating sources of legendary lore we have the story that this point was peopled by a black race, whose origin is quaint and romantic. It is said that a band of Mohicans made a raid on a New England settlement one night during the misty past and made captive a family of slaves, consisting of the father, mother and fourteen children. The parents were brutally murdered and the children carried many miles into the wilderness. They finally escaped from their captors and after weeks of wandering arrived at this point, where they established themselves. Here they lived and had children, one of whom, when he grew up, was of remarkable size and gigantic strength, and was known as the Black Prince, from whom this point received its name. The whole race was finally exterminated during the war-like immigrations of the Mohawks and Mohicans.

Just south of the nose is a charming indentation in the coast called Blairs Bay and still further south another one called Gull Bay, which for location and beauty are not surpassed by any spot on that justly celebrated lake. This mountain range extends back from the lake an average distance of three quarters of a mile and is principally covered with a forest of evergreen and hard woods. East of this range the country is divided by the Mill and Charter Brooks into three divisions and is broken by two mountain chains and several spurs, which gradually slope from the northwest terminating on the southeast in a ledge from one hundred to three hundred feet high. The first of these commences at a point called the Narrows on Lake Champlain and extends in southwesterly direction till it joins Mount Defiance, north of Putnam Corners. The second properly commences at Wm. Hutton's, like the other extends in a southwesterly direction, but it is more detached and broken than the other, and through it the Mill Brook flows into Lake Champlain. Six Miles Point on Lake Champlain is a low projection bounded on the west by an extensive marsh. It is commonly called Negro Point, from the fact that years ago a negro employed on one of the lake craft was taken with small pox and put off there where he died.

The soil is of a mixed character. Near the stream, it is of a clayish marl nature; further black clay predominates, while still further beyond the soil is a rich loam. The valleys grow

all crops peculiar to the region in luxuriance; the uplands afford excellent pasturage. There are veins of minerals in nearly all the mountains, but have never been worked to any extent. The rock formation of the town is of a granite nature.

The Population of the town according to the census of 1880 was 679. Putnam Corners, the only settlement in the town, is a small hamlet consisting of a store and post-office, a blacksmith shop, carriage shop, hotel and several dwellings. An Academy building is also located here, but for some years no school has been kept in it. Putnam, or Grahams as it is generally called, is a station on the NY & C.R.R.—R.P. Graham keeps a general country store here. A post office is also located there, called Putnam Station. Paterson is a station on the railroad in the north end of the town. Near both of these stations a ferry is maintained to transport passengers and freight across the lake.

## CHAPTER FIRST.

### EARLY HISTORY

The early history of Putnam is shrouded in that savage romance peculiar to all American communities. What is now comprised within the limits of the town was once covered with a dense growth of pine, hemlock, maple and other woods, through which roamed the bear, panther and other wild animals, undisturbed save by the occasional visits of the red man. The town once formed a portion of the territory of the Five Nations or Iroquois, one of the most powerful federations of tribes in all the history of the American Indians. This confederation was composed of the Senecas, Cayugas, Inondugas, Oneidas and Mohawks, later augmented by the addition of the Mohicans, and thereafter known as the Six Nations.

The Mohawks, at the time of our history opens the beginning of the seventeenth century occupying the locality including the town of Putnam, which they later on abandoned to their tributaries, the Mohicans of western Mass. It is thought, though not absolutely known, that the Mohawks once had a settlement in the town, and numerous relics of Indian civilization found particularly on the farms of Thomas Lillie and J. A. Wright go to show that it was at one time peopled by the red man, or was the scene of some of their early savage encounters. The early history of the Iroquois or Six Nations is lost in the unwritten past. There is a dim tradition that the tribes composing it were successively driven out of Canada by the powerful and warlike Hurons, and banded together against their common enemy. At all events when the French first visited Canada, they found a bitter feud existing between the two nations. When Samuel Champlain arrived at Montreal in the Spring of 1609, he found the Hurons ripe for an expedition against their old enemy, the Iroquois, and partly for the purpose of gratifying their warlike desire, and thus retaining and strengthening their friendship, and partly for the purpose of exploration and discovery he organized an expedition against the Mohawks, the easternmost tribe of the Five Nations. The force consisted of Champlain and two of his countrymen, and sixty Hurons warriors. About the first of July, 1609, the army proceeded southward. On the 4<sup>th</sup>, Champlain discovered the lake which bears his name. Embarking in twenty-four canoes, the party paddled up it during the fourth and fifth. Having now arrived near the locality where they expected to find the enemy, they took especial precaution to guard against discovery and surprise. They paddled along during all of the night of the 5<sup>th</sup>, but remained hid on shore during the daytime of the 6<sup>th</sup>. At dusk on the 6<sup>th</sup>, they again set forth and at 10 o'clock in the evening near a point, discovered a war party of Iroquois, also in their canoes near the western shore of the lake; the latter immediately went on shore, and commenced cutting down trees with their stone axes, and building a rough fortification. The Hurons remained on the lake in their canoes, fastening them together with poles, so in case they attacked, to be able to keep together, and thus better defend themselves. When all was completed they sent two canoes ashore and demanded of the Iroquois if they wished to fight. The latter replied in the affirmative, but advised a postponement of hostilities till morning, which was agreed to. The remainder of the night was spent by either party in abusing the other. The Iroquois, confident from their superior numbers of victory, assured the Hurons that they would make short work of them; while the Hurons conscious of the new agency of death, the fire arms which their white friends possessed, admonished the Mohawks that they could not stand before their arms. The location of this place of meeting has been a matter of some dispute, some claiming it took place in the immediate

neighborhood of Fort Ticonderoga. This is refuted by Champlain's own account of the expedition, in that he says that they saw the falls of Ticonderoga, and the outlet of Lake George, after which he narrates the meeting spoken of. The distance they had passed up the lake, estimated by Champlain to have been about one hundred and twenty-five miles, and the time it took them to traverse it, all go to show that the place of meeting must have been south of Ticonderoga, and within the limits of Putnam, probably in the neighborhood of what is now called Gourlies Point.

At daylight on the 7<sup>th</sup>, Champlain and his party went on shore. The French were clad in light coats of mail, and armed with arquebuses. The Hurons were resplendent in war paint and feathers, and were armed with bows and arrows, and tomahawks, some of the latter being of stone, and some of iron fashioned in the forges of France. Seeing the apparent weakness of the enemy, the Iroquois, who numbered about two hundred, boldly sallied out of their barricade, and advanced toward the Hurons, their faces hideously painted, and their heads adorned with gaudy feathers, while the bodies of a portion of them at least were protected by arrow proof armor, made of strips of wood fastened together with some sort of thread. In front marched their chiefs, whose rank was denoted by the exceeding loftiness of their plumes and more frightful hideousness of their faces. On going ashore, Champlain concealed the two Frenchmen with a few of the Hurons in the bushes, while the main body, with Champlain immediately in the rear, slowly advanced toward the Iroquois. When within a few rods of them the line suddenly parted, revealing Champlain who boldly moved forward, the Hurons closing in behind him. The Iroquois gazed with astonishment on the flashing armor, white face and black beard of this strange being; while the chiefs clustered together in council, Champlain advanced to within about thirty paces of them, when he halted. The Iroquois soon recovered from their surprise and began to fit arrows to their bows. Knowing that the time for action had arrived, Champlain raised his arquebuse, which was loaded with four balls, and aiming at the group of chiefs, fired. Two of the chiefs fell dead, and a third Indian in the rear was mortally wounded. The Hurons yelled with savage exultations, and fired a shower of arrows at the terrified Iroquois, who fired back. At this junction, one of the Frenchmen in the bushes fired his arquebuse, killing another Iroquois, when the whole party fled in dismay to the woods, followed by the Hurons who killed several more, and took about a dozen prisoners. About fifteen Hurons were wounded, but slightly, however, as Champlain says they were "promptly cured." The fate of these poor prisoners will never be known, but may easily be guessed. They doubtless suffered that death, which only the ingenuity of fiends can invent, and the hearts of demons execute.

After three hours spent in feasting, singing and dancing, Champlain and his party turned the prows of their canoes northward, and swept down the lake. This was the first blood shed by white men within the limits of the state of New York, and if you except the doubtful account of the entrance of Jean Verrazzani into the harbor of New York in 1522, this was the first time the foot of white man was set within the Empire State. Champlain however, had struck a blow, the consequence of which he little dreamed. He had antagonized the fierce and powerful Iroquois and combined them in deadly hostility against the French, and made Northern and Central New York the theatre of war, murder and massacre, and the burial ground of thousands of brave Frenchmen.

Like the waters of some river that have plunged seething and foaming over a precipice and then resumed its placid way with scarcely a ripple to disturb it, so the History of

Putnam, after the adventure of Champlain just narrated, glided uneventfully along till about the middle of the seventeenth century, when that intermittent struggle began between the French and their Huron allies on the one side, and the English and Iroquois on the other, for supremacy in the New World; and which ended in the extermination of French power in North America. Then as the fortunes of war ebbed and flowed through the Champlain Valley, Putnam again becomes a theatre of interest, as it is successively trod by the gaily attired Frenchman, the hideous Huron and Iroquois, and the resolute Englishman and American. The peculiar location of the town, situated at the lower extremity of the peninsula between Lake George and Lake Champlain, under the very guns of Ticonderoga, made it the warpath of five bloody conflicts, and the bivouac of the contending armies.

In January, 1666, Monsieur de Courcelles, a French officer with a force of four hundred French troops, and two hundred Canadians, set out to inflict a blow on the Iroquois clad in snow shoes and muffled in furs, each man carrying thirty pounds of biscuit besides his arms and ammunition, and accompanied by sleds drawn by dogs. The party proceeded up Lake Champlain to its head, and thence through the forests to the vicinity of Schenectady. Here a part of the force was ambushed by the Mohawks and slaughtered. In February, the remnant of the party, half starved and frozen, came hastening back to the lake, hurried down it to Canada. In September following, D. Tracy, governor of Canada, led another expedition up the lake, against the Mohawks; the latter however, hearing of this approach retired, and the French had to content themselves with burning their village and returning to Canada. About this time, through the influence of the English Colonial Government, peace was concluded between the Iroquois and the French, which lasted till about 1687.

The Grant of Charles the Second to his brother, the Duke of York, covered all the territory east to the Conn. River, and north to Canada. The latter limits were not clearly defined and were the sources of constant dispute. The English claimed it extended to the French settlements, while the French insisted that Canada included the whole of the Champlain valley.

In 1687, hostilities broke out between the French and Six Nations. Again this region swarmed with warlike parties of Iroquois, Hurons, and French who stealthily crept through the forests or swept swiftly over the waters of Lake Champlain in their bark canoes. Meanwhile France had espoused the cause of James the second, driven from the throne of England by William Prince of Orange in 1688, and war was declared between the two countries.

In February, 1690, a detachment of French and Indians committed the terrible massacre of Schenectady. This outrage aroused the colonists to action, and a force was collected at Albany, consisting of 535 whites and 180 Indians. The whole body under command of Fritz John Winthrop of Conn., proceeded to Lake Champlain. This was the first Anglo-American force ever in this region, but it accomplished nothing and returned to Albany. Major Peter Schuyler, however, with a force of two hundred and sixty whites and Indians proceeded down the lake, passing Putnam July 16<sup>th</sup>, and near the north end of the lake defeated the enemy with trivial loss.

In 1693, Count Frontinae, governor of Canada, determined to strike a blow against the Mohawks, the most dreaded of their foes. For this purpose he dispatched De Montelle with

a force of four hundred and twenty-five whites, and ten hundred Hurons. Mounted on snow shoes, their provisions loaded in sledges drawn by dogs, the party proceeded up Lake Champlain to Ticonderoga; here they left a portion of their store and then continued up Lake George, to its head, journeying thence on through the forests to the Mohawk settlements. After inflicting considerable injury, they commenced their return. They were closely followed by the Mohawks and also by Captain Schuyler and Major Peter Schuyler, with a force of white volunteers. De Mantelle was slain. February 22<sup>nd</sup>, the French arrived on the western shore of Lake George, their pursuers had stopped at the Hudson, but the French supposed them close at their heels, they found the ice rotten and in many places the men sunk to their waist. In the confusion a large number of their prisoners escaped. The entire body crossed over to Gull Bay, here they divided. The French with considerable difficulty continued down the shore of the Lake to Ticonderoga. Thus Indian allies crossed over the mountains, and ranging through the valleys of Putnam, joined the French at Ticonderoga, when the whole party proceeded back to Canada. In 1695, peace was concluded at Ryswick and quiet again reigned in the Champlain Valley.

The treaty of Ryswick caused only a temporary lull in hostilities. King James died in the autumn of 1701, and the French monarch recognized his son as rightful sovereign of England. On this account war was renewed in 1702, Queen Anne being on the throne, and the French and American Colonies joined in the struggle. Fortunately for the New York settlement, the Six Nations, the year previous had concluded a treaty with the French, and they remained an impassable barrier to the passage of the savage horde up the Champlain Valley. Peace was again established in 1713.

For thirty years after the close of Queen Anne's war the English Colonists enjoyed almost uninterrupted peace, and nothing of importance occurred in the Champlain Valley.

In 1744, French again declared war against England, which was carried on with as much vigor and more savage ferocity by the Colonists and their Indian allies in America. Again the Champlain Valley became the pathway of hostile forces. Again dark and hideously painted forms, bent on murder and massacre crept through the forests of Putnam. During the summer of 1746, a number of bands of French and Indians came up Lake Champlain on expeditions against the English settlements. These forces generally came up the Lake in canoes as far as South Bay, but sometimes only as far as Ticonderoga, and then ranged through the forests of Putnam, Dresden and Fort Ann.

This was known in history as King George's war, was terminated by a treaty of peace in 1748, but it was only the lull before the final storm, which extinguished the power of the French in North America, and forever banished the cross of France from the shores of the Champlain. This contest, unlike the others, originated in disputes over territorial possessions in America. Hostilities informally began on the part of the colonies in 1755, but it was not until a year later, that England declared war against France, and extended aid to his colonies.

In the years 1755-6, the French pushed their line of fortifications further up the Champlain Valley and commenced the erection of the fortress of Carillion or Ticonderoga. The Valley of the Champlain had been determined upon, as one of the objective points of the war, and in conformity to the general plan of the campaign, General William Johnson collected a force of six thousand troops at Fort Edward. About the first of September, 1755, he proceeded with a portion of this force to the head of Lake George, on his way

against Crown Point, that being considered the most feasible route. In the meantime Baron Dieskau, with two thousand Canadians and Indians, was coming up Lake Champlain, and disregarding his instructions, he acted on the strength of a rumor that Johnson had retired to Albany, leaving Fort Edward feebly garrisoned, and determined to attack that place. Accordingly he set out from Crown Point in boats and proceeded with his army up the lake. In the night of September 4<sup>th</sup>, he encamped his forces at Pulpit Point, and the next day disembarked at South Bay. Proceeding southward through the forests, on the morning of the 8<sup>th</sup>, they won the battle of Bloody Pond, but in following up their victory they were defeated at Lake George the same day and Dieskau with a large number of his men taken prisoners. The remainder of the force fled to their boats at South Bay, in which they embarked and hastened back to Crown Point.

While Johnson was at Lake George, numerous scouting parties were sent out to observe the movements of the enemy, at Ticonderoga and Crown Point. These sometimes proceeded down Lake George in boats, and sometimes ranged through the forests of Fort Ann, Dresden and Putnam. They were invariably commanded by Captain, afterward, Major Rogers of New Hampshire and Captain Israel Putnam of Conn., who sometimes acted together and sometimes alone. One of these parties commanded by Capt. Robert Rogers, Capt. Israel Putnam, and Lieut. Noah Grant, great-grandfather of U.S. Grant, had a sharp engagement with the French, near Black Point, in which the latter were defeated with considerable loss.

In June 1756, Rogers and Putnam went down Lake George to a point opposite the Narrows on Lake Champlain, for the purpose of intercepting St. Luc la Corne, who had landed from South Bay, and plundered a train near Halfway Brook, and was retreating by way of Lake Champlain. Rogers and Putnam with their forces crossed over the mountains dragging with them two pieces of artillery, and took up a position at Pulpit Point, where they awaited the approach of the enemy. Soon the French came in sight, rowing tranquilly down the Lake. Putnam and Rogers reserved the fire of their men till the enemy were within short range of their guns, when the command was given. A well directed fire was poured into the flotilla of canoes with deadly effect; several of the boats were sunk and score of Frenchmen sunk to rise no more. The latter, ignorant of the strength of the rangers or their exact locations, never returned the fire, but fled precipitately down the lake.

June 30<sup>th</sup>, 1756, Rogers with a small force proceeded down Lake George, to Blairs Bay, where they disembarked and began their march over land to Lake Champlain. Three days were spent by the party toiling through the forests and over the mountains with their five whale boats, arriving at Lake Champlain on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of July. On the night of the 4<sup>th</sup> they slipped by Ticonderoga within sound of the sentinels. The following night they passed Crown Point in the same way, destroyed a number of boats and a quantity of stores, and returned by circuitous route to Fort William Henry.

In the summer of 1757, Montcalm, who had succeeded Dieskau, arrived at Ticonderoga with a force of nine thousand men, two thousand of whom were Indians. The latter part of July he transported this force up Lake George, and besieged Fort William Henry. The Fort capitulated on the 9<sup>th</sup> of August, and was followed by that terrible massacre, which has no parallel in all the annals of American warfare. About a year later, Lords Abercrombie and Howe collected a force of over fifteen thousand men, at the scene of the outrage. On a Sabbath evening in July, 1758, they embarked their army and sailed

down the Lake to attack Fort Ticonderoga, where Montcalm, with about four thousand men, was entrenched. This was the most magnificent pageant ever witnessed in this region, and for romantic interest, ancient or modern times, has produced no parallel. From a position on Anthony's Nose the thrilling panorama of that July night is open at our feet, as the impressive spectacle in the early morn sweeps by, the stillness of the primeval solitudes, broke only by the splash of oars, and the subdued murmur of voices. The force occupied nine hundred bateaux, and about one hundred and thirty-five whaleboats, the artillery being mounted on rafts, the rangers and light infantry were in front, the regulars in the center, and the provincials on either wing. Early on the morning of the 6<sup>th</sup>, they landed at the foot of the Lake and marched to that fatal field, which put the badge of mourning on many an English and American home.

A year later Lord Amherst with eleven thousand men advanced by the way of Lake George to Ticonderoga. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July, 1759, this stronghold fell into his hands: a few days later Crown Point also capitulated, and the standard of France forever ceased to wave in the Champlain Valley. At the outbreak of the Revolution, this region again became the theatre of war, but nothing of importance occurred within the limits of Putnam, till after the evacuation of Fort Ticonderoga by St. Clair, July 5<sup>th</sup>, 1777, and his pursuit by Burgoyne. In the siege and evacuation of Ticonderoga, nothing of especial importance transpired within the actual limits of Putnam, the main body of the American army crossing over to the Vermont side, a portion of the British army pursuing, while the remainder sailed up the Lake. Meanwhile, Lincoln was engaged in collecting and organizing a force of about four thousand militia at Manchester, Vt. A portion of these was to be used in a bold undertaking, designed to sever Burgoyne's communications, and besiege Ticonderoga. Col. Johnson was sent with five hundred men against Skeenesborough and other points and Col. Brown with about the same number, was instructed to proceed to the foot of Lake George, and release American Prisoners confined there.

He crossed Lake Champlain at Pulpit Point, and marching in a northwesterly direction through Putnam. The whole night was spent in traversing the unbroken wilderness, the men guided by hoots in imitation of owls, made by their guides. In this way they crossed the rugged mountain region, toiling in the darkness amid precipices and chasms, a distance of about fourteen miles. At daybreak they burst upon the enemy at the foot of the Lake, taking them completely by surprise. The Americans were liberated, besides a quantity of stores, and a number of prisoners were taken.

Captain Ebenezer Allen had been detailed to capture the post on Mount Defiance. He left the main body of the army while yet in Putnam, and marching northward scaled the precipice, in one place so steep that the men had to climb on the shoulder of each other to make the ascent. At last reaching the summit, surprised the garrison and captured the post without firing a single shot. Col. Johnson arrived early the next morning with about five hundred men, and uniting his force with those of Brown's attempted to invest the Fort, but the effort failed and the plan was abandoned. This closed the military operations of the great struggle for liberty within the purview of this work, and the soldier and his wakeful bivouac makes way for the hardy pioneer and his rude cabin.

## CHAPTER SECOND.

### SETTLEMENT OF THE TOWN

Putnam is composed of two tracts, known respectively as Hutton's Bush and Turner's Patent, the former occupying the eastern, the latter the western part of the town. The land was originally granted to provincial troops for services in the French and Indian wars and one supposed to have been made on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April, 1772. The names of only a few of these original grantees are known, and those of whom we have any knowledge, were located in the eastern part of the town. Their names were Thomas Comes, John McKensey, James Rossberton and William Price, each having one thousand acres, Edward Zeacher with four hundred acres and Hugh Scott with seven hundred acres. Comes was the farthest north, and the rest were to the south of him in the order of their names. It is probable that some of these came on and occupied their claims, but if any settlements were made by them they were obliterated during the Revolution.

These grants were in some instances abandoned by their owners, and in others transferred for a nominal consideration to third parties. In this way the western part of the town came into the possession of Alexander Turner, and in the same way the eastern portion came into the control of John Hodgson of Hudson. He came and examined the land, and afterwards returned to Paisley, Scotland, when he organized a company to make settlements on the land. This company was composed of three individuals, William Hutton, Johnson Hodgson, or Hudson, and George Moscript, and was known as William Hutton & Co. Moscript died, and Hudson became discouraged and sold his interest to Hutton; the conveyance running to "William Hutton, shoemaker," and reciting a large tract of land on the west side of South Bay in the town of Westfield; at this time Lake Champlain was, as far north as Ticonderoga, at least, known as South Bay. Mr. Hutton and his family came to this country, probably as early as 1778, lived for a while at Cambridge, and then at Whitehall, finally locating on his land in 1784. He built a log house south of Negro Marsh, and near the Lake shore. Soon after he began to experience trouble over his title to the land. John Williams claimed title to the land, through an alleged purchase from Alexander Turner, and sought to enforce his claim in the Courts. Hutton determined to contest the matter, and for that purpose employed a lawyer by the name of John Dickinson, living in Lansingburgh.

The case was brought to trial, the plaintiff withdrawing his case. Hutton proposed to pay his lawyer in land, and accordingly employed a surveyor, by the name of William Cockburn to run it out into lots, which he did in 1801. Dickinson took the north, Hutton the central, while Cockburn received the southern portion for his services.

In the western part of the town John Williams purchased Alexander Turner's tract, and soon after Turner became insolvent. Certain creditors of his, among them being John Knickerbocker, and two others, Bakeman and Goodwin, claimed a right to it, and threatened to contest Williams' title in the Courts. The matter was finally compromised, the tract run into lots, each receiving a certain number of them in proportion to his claim.

The first settler of the town was Joseph Haskins. He was a native of Conn., of a solitary nomadic disposition, fond of hunting, trapping and fishing, and came to this wild region about 1782, or earlier, to enjoy the sports and occupations in which he so delighted. He built himself a log cabin in a few rods to the south and west of the present residence of J. D. Burnett. Of the life of this individual, little is known. He continued to live in his rude

cabin in this unbroken wilderness for several years, with no other companions but his dogs and gun. He cultivated a small patch of land, but subsisted principally upon the fruits of the chase. On the arrival of William Hutton, in 1784, Haskins' right to the land was disputed by that gentleman. Haskins claimed title by virtue of a grant from Alexander Turner. About 1787, Hutton gave Haskins a deed to his land consisting of about 700 acres. In 1803 Haskins sold his land to James Burnett and afterwards moved away.

The next settler, and the first permanent one, was William Hutton, who came in 1784, settling on the shore of Lake Champlain. Descendants of his are still living on the same place.

George Easton settled in 1785, just south of William Hutton, a daughter of whom he married. The place, until recently, was owned by P. W. Hutton. His house, a log one, stood near where the present one stands. Descendants of his still live in the town.

Robert Cummings, in 1789, married Hana Hutton, and settled at lot number 19. His first house, a frame one, is still standing. A grandson, James L. Cummings, now lives on the same place.

Alexander Corbett, landed in New York in 1795, and shortly afterwards came to Putnam, settling in the vicinity of the Corners. His house, a log one, stood a few rods west of William Graham's tenement house. His wife Agnes, was a daughter of William Hutton. None of the Corbet name now live in town, save Mrs. Jean (Gourlie) Corbet, and her daughter Belle, the latter being a great great grand-daughter of the original settler by that name. Mrs. Thomas Anderson is also a grand daughter of Alexander Corbet. John Gourlie married a daughter of William Hutton about 1800, and settled on lot 18, which he purchased from his brother-in-law, John Hutton. His house stood near the Lake, and a little north of the present one. A nephew of his, John Gourlie, now lives on the same place.

Alexander McLaughlin settled about 1802. He purchased lots number 43 & 44, consisting of 198 $\frac{1}{4}$  acres, of William Cookburn, for \$495.62. His first house stood down in the fields to the north and east of the present one. His son James, still lives on the homestead.

James Burnett settled about 1803, on lot 22 which he purchased from Joseph Haskins. His first house was a frame one and stood a few rods north of the present residence of his grandson, Geo. G. Burnett. John D. Burnett, another grandson lives on a portion of the homestead.

Robert Paterson and Walter Graham settled in the north part of the town in 1803. Graham settled near Lake Champlain, and Paterson about a mile to the west of him. Mr. Graham died in 1807, and afterwards Paterson married his widow. A number of Walter Graham's descendants still live in town, and a grandson of Mr. Paterson's lives on the homestead.

Pelatih Bugbee settled about 1800, on the place now owned by David Cummings. His house stood at the corner of the roads, just south of the present one. None of his descendants now live in town.

A number others settled prior to 1803, but at what precise time is not known. Their names are as follows, also the places where they settled, and the present occupants of the same.

George Wiley, on the place now occupied by Geo. W. Thompson; his first house stood on the top of the hill to the east of the present one. A number of his descendants still live in town.

James McArthur, on lot 30, Hutton Bush; his first house stood south of the hollow, and a few rods west of the present road. A grandson, John G. McArthur, lives on the north part of the homestead, and a daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Maxwell, is still living in the town.

Luther Grant, on the place now owned by Simon Crammond. Fuller on the place now owned by William McLaughlin; his house stood a number of rods to the north and east of the present one. John Robertson on the place now owned by Edgar Ledgerwood. William Jones on the place owned by Mrs. Alice McLaughlin; his house stood near the Lake.

Goodspeed opposite Chipmans Point. For this reason what is now called Gourlie's Point, was for a long time known as Goodspeed's Point. Ephraim Case on the place now owned by John Simpson. He died about 1816, and the place afterwards came into the possession of William Simpson, grandfather of the present occupant. Lemon Bunce on the place now owned by Mrs Agnes Anderson. Josiah Clark in the extreme southern part of the town on the place now occupied by Edwin Peabody. None of the descendants now live in town. Frederick Dedrick on the farm now owned by Ezra Roberts; he probably came as early as 1800. His house stood just north of the present one. A number of his descendants now live in town. A grand-daughter, Mrs. Ezra Roberts, with her husband and children, live on the homestead.

John Hale on Burnt Point, Lake George. Subsequently his son, John Hale, Jr., lived here, after which he moved to the farm now owned by John A. Easton. Several of his grandchildren yet live in town. Luke Welch also settled on the latter place. One of his sons Anthony D. Welch, afterwards lived on the east side of the road, north of James McLaughlin's and later on where the ferry now is, at Putnam Landing. Another son lived across the road, and a little south of the present residence of John Hale. John Butterfield on the place now owned by J.G. Williamson. His son, Nathan, subsequently lived at the same place. Later on various members of the same family lived in the north part of the town, near the present schoolhouse in District No. 2.

Peleg Durphey on the place now occupied by David Easton. He drowned himself in a spring west of his house. Ords B. Johnston on the place where Daniel Williamson use to live, on what is known as the old Williamson place. Subsequently he lived in the north part of the town. George Record or Rickert, on the same place now occupied by Mrs. Charlotte Graham, on the hill. Myron V. Rickert, a great grandson still lives in the town. Aaron Backus on the place now owned by T. W. & David E. Lillie. His house stood near the present one. Descendants of his still live in town. Christopher Burgess on the same place; his house was to the south of the present one. Abiather Odell, and Jonas Odell, on the place now owned by Thomas Lillie, and Warren Odell at Blairs Bay. Asahel Herrington, also where Thomas Lillie now lives. Levi, a brother, on the place now owned by John L. Lillie.

Samuel and Phillip Rogers and Samuel McCarle on the place now owned by James Smith, and Dyer Petty on the place now owned by Mrs. Calistee Cummings.

Prior to 1806, a number of other families settled in town. Their names are as follows, with the where they located, and the names of the present occupants, so far as known.

William Shiell where E. H. Sears lives. James Moore where J. D. and T. T. Graham now lives; grandchildren of his yet live in town. Obadiah Blake, west of J. G. Williamson's. William Paterson of the old Williamson place. Ludwick Shear, where James Smith now lives, a number of his descendants still live in town. David Williamson north of William M. Cummings, and later on the old Williamson place. John Blair at Blair's Bay. Joseph Wright in the extreme north of the town. William Oakley on the Campbell place. Descendants of these still live in town. Justice Rice on the road to Gull Bay. William and Samuel Woodstock in the Mill Bay district, the former a few rods east of where David Lillie now lives.

A number of other families arrived prior to 1820, and among whom were the following, and the places where they settled.

David Scott on the place lately owned by Daniel Graham. James Crammond on the place now owned by J. A. Wright, and later on the farm now owned by his son Robert W. Crammond. James Lidgerwood at the four Corners, west of James Blair's. Thomas Lillie where his son John L. Lillie now lives. John J. Hennessey on the road to Gull Bay. Robert Maxwell at the Four Corners on "the hill".

In 1803, the town was feebly settled by about thirty eight families, divided into the communities known as Hutton Bush, the South Settlement, and the West or Hill Settlement. Fully nine-tenths of the land remained uncleared, and wild animals abounded. There were no roads in the town, but bridle paths straggled through the forest, from house to house. The latter with the exception of William Hutton's and Robert Cummings' were built of logs, and surrounded by small clearings only. Hunting and fishing formed no small part of the occupation of the people.

By 1806, the number of families had more than doubled. The axe of the sturdy settler had extended the limits of the clearings, and log houses, generally in clusters dotted the hillsides. Rough roads, not unlike modern lumber roads, connected the various parts of the town, but were in many places so narrow that only one horse could go abreast. In this way a road stretched from James Craig's on the north, south and by Joseph Wright's, Walter Graham's, John Gourlie's, Robert Cummings', James Burnett's, and thence keeping to the east of Geo. Wiley's to Corbet's, thence across the valley to McLaughlin's; down to William Shiells, and so on around to Butterfields. Another extended from near Buttersfield to Gull Bay. Still another road extended from James Burnett's to William Hutton's, and thence by Geo. Easton's to Corbet's, a lane running to William Jones'. Commencing at Peletiah Bugbee's, a road extended west to Blair's Bay. A road commenced at the present school house in Distrct.No. 6 and extended South over the mountains to Bitterfields, and thence south to Josiah Clark's. Another road commenced a little north of the present residence of W. J. Wright, and skirting Mount Defiance and passing Levi and Asahel Herrington's, crossed the road to Blair's Bay, and then extended south past Dyer Perry's, and the Rogers brothers, connecting with the road to Gull Bay. Still another road, or rather a path, extended from James Moore's on Lake Champlain, west by John Robertson's, Ephraim Case's, joining the road leading to Josiah Clark's. Another road run extended from the Prince Taylor's (Black Point) south to the road leading to Blair's Bay.

## CHAPTER THIRD.

### POLITICAL HISTORY.

Putnam originally formed a part of Westfield, now Fort Ann, and was known as Hutton's Bush. It was organized as a separate town Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>, 1806, and appropriately called Putnam, in honor of General Israel Putnam, many of whose most remarkable military exploits were performed within its boundaries. At this time it included the present town of Dresden, which was set off in 1822.

The first town meeting was held at the residence of James Burnett, Esq., on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of April, 1806. Not to exceed twenty voters were present on that occasion. The following is verbatim of the meeting as recorded in the Town Book.

"Putnam," April 4<sup>th</sup> 1806.

The freeholders and inhabitants of the town of Putnam, met at the house of James Burnett to hold their first town meeting, and chose James Burnett moderator, proceeded to business as follows: Viz. Voted that all aliens and them that are not free holders, shall hold office is voted in.

Chose John Gourly, Supervisor

George Willey, Clk.

Assessors.

Robert Cummings,

Levi Herrington,

John Butterfield,

Commissioner of Highways.

William Hutton, Junior,

Levi Herrington,

Pelutiah Bugby, Junior.

Overseers of the Poor.

Levi Herrington

George Easton

Constablers.

Peter Hutton

Levi Herrington

Collector.

Peter Hutton.

Overseers of Highways.

1. Robert Paterson
2. Robert Cummings
3. William Hutton, Jun.
4. George Record
5. George Easton
6. Alexander Corbet
7. John Butterfield
8. Frederick Didrick

Fence Viewers.

Samuel Rogers  
Pelutiah Bugby Senior  
Obadiah Bleak  
George Easton

Pound Keepers

James Burnett  
Levi Herrington  
Nathen Butterfield  
George Easton

Horses is not to run on the commons. A horse above two years old found out of an incloser the owner is fineable of twelve dollars and fifty cents. Rams is not to run from the first of September till the tenth of November or the owner will be fined of two dollars.

Hogs not Commoners.

By order of the Commissioners every person is to work two days on the road from Mr. Clarks to Walch hollow. Next town meeting to be held at the house of George Willey.

The Commissioners divided the town into Districts at there meeting as follows.

District No.1

Beginning near James Crages thence south to John Gourleys north line.

District No.2

Beginning at John Gourleys north line thence south to Mr. Bugbys north line. The alterations made by the commissioners the 21<sup>st</sup> day of April, 1807, that this district is to extend north to Mrs. Graham's house

District No. 3

Beginning at Mr. Buckbys north line thence to the house of William Hutton.

District No. 4

Beginning at George Eastons thence to the northeast corner of Alex. Corbets field thence from the west end of Alex Corbets lane to the west end of James Burnetts lane.

District No.5

Beginning at the northeast end of Alex Corbets field thence Mr. Shills.

District No.6

Beginning at the mill bay thence to Nathan Butterfield.

District No.7

Beginning at Nathan Butterfields thence to Josiah Clarks.

District No. 8

Beginning at John Blairs thence to Mr. Bugbys.

District No.9

Beginning to the west of Levi Herrington barn thence to the top of the hill south of Mr. Shears.

District No. 10

Beginning at Gull Bay thence to Obadiah Bleaks.

District No. 11

Beginning at Amons Hiscock thence to the road south of Mr. Clarks thence north to said Clarks.

District No. 12

Beginning at or near the house Cyslies Neelson, near Lake George thence south to the house of Judathen Dickson and from the Issac Lymon eastwardly to the main path.

Overseers of Highways

Levi Herrington  
Timothy Rice  
Amos Hescock

Appointed by the commissioners of highways. The proceeding of the town of Putnam of the year past was recorded by me George Willey Clk.

The next town meeting was held at the residence of George Willey on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of April, 1807. At the meeting it was voted to build a pound on the north line of Alex Corbet's farm. The work was to be under the supervisions of the supervisor, and was to be completed by the first of June following. A bounty of \$5.00 was also voted for each wolf taken and killed in the town.

At the town meeting of 1810, a bounty of fifty cents was voted for every crow killed between the first of May and the last of June. Esquire Burnet was designated as the person to receive crow scalps. At the same meeting the bounty for wolfs was raised to ten dollars. In 1811 a bounty of two cents was voted for each black bird killed between the first of May and the last of June.

John Gourlie, James Burnet, John Butterfield and John Graham were designated as the persons to receive black bird heads, and also crow scalps. The next year a bounty of fifty cents was voted for fox skins, and a set of measures were purchased for the use of the town. In 1813, it was voted that the School Commissioners of the town receive seventy-five cents per day for their services. In 1814 the bounty for wolves was raised to twenty-five dollars. In 1815 the supervisor was instructed to purchase a compass and chain for the use of the town, and seventeen dollars was voted for that purpose. In 1818 a vote was taken on the question of dividing the town, and a majority were found to be in favor of it.

Prior to the organization of the town, the voters of Hutton's Bush assembled at the Tavern on Negro Point, and voted by the uplifted hand; at the various elections, the vote was carried by a certain person by boat to Whitehall, and thence to the Westfield Settlement.

The following constitutes the greater part of the civil list of the towns from its organization to the present time, as taken from the town records.

SUPERVISOR	TOWN CLERK
1806 John Gourley	George Willey
1807 " "	" "
1808 " "	" "
1809 " "	" "
1810 " "	" "
1811 James Burnett	" "
1812 " "	" "
1813 Robert Cummings	" "
1814 " "	" "
1815 " "	" "
1816 Alexander McLaughlin	" "
1817 " "	" "
1818 David Congdon	Freeman Clark
1819 " "	" "
1820 Alexander McLaughlin	George Willey
1821 David Congdon	Anthony D. Welch
1822 Peter Hutton	George Willey
1823 " "	" "
1824 " "	Abel Comstock
1825 " "	" "
1826 Robert Easton	Alexander Robertson
1827 " "	" "
1828 " "	" "
1829 " "	George Willey
1830 Alexander McLaughlin	" "
1831 Alexander Robertson	" "
1832 " "	Daniel Williamson
1833 " "	" "
1834 " "	James Blair
1835 Andrew Meiklejohn	George Willey
1836 Robert Wright	" "
1837 Alexander Robertson	" "
1838 James Blair	" "
1839 " "	William Hutton
1840 William Hutton	George Willey
1841 " "	" "
1842 William G. Corbet	" "
1843 " "	William M. Wiley
1844 John Wright	William E. Woodstock

SUPERVISOR.	TOWN CLERK
1845 " "	William G. Corbet
1846 John Backno	" "
1847 Alexander Wiley	" "
1848 " "	James Burnett
1849 William G. Corbett	James McLaughlin
1850 Robert Paterson	" "
1851 " "	William G. Corbet
1852 D. Williamson, Jr.	" "
1853 " "	" "
1854 James McLaughlin	" "
1855 " "	George Easton
1856 John Gourley	D. Williamson, Jr.
1857 " "	" "
1858 James Ledgerwood	James McLaughlin
1859 " "	D. Williamson, Jr.
1860 Henry Belden	" "
1861 " "	" "
1862 A. G. Meiklejohn	Alex. C. Thompson.
1863 " "	D. Williamson, Jr.
1864 Anthony Anderson	" "
1865 " "	" "
1866 William McArthur	William McLaughlin, Jr.
1867 " "	D. Williamson, Jr.
1868 Arnold Hulett	Charles W. Williamson
1869 " "	" "
1870 Thomas Lilly	" "
1871 " "	" "
1872 William McArthur	" "
1873 " "	" "
1874 William McArthur, died	" "
1874 Thomas Ledgerwood, vacancy	" "
1875 Robert P. Graham	" "
1876 " "	" "
1877 Henry D. Easton	" "
1878 " "	" "
1879 William Graham	" "
1880 " "	" "
1881 Nathaniel King, resigned	" "
1881 George W. Thompson, vacancy	" "
1882 " "	" "
1883 " "	" "
1884 " "	D.A. Higgins
1885 James Blair	" "
1886 " "	F. M. Dedrick

COLLECTOR

1806 Peter Hutton  
 1807 " "  
 1808 " "  
 1809 " "  
 1810 " "  
 1811 James Easton  
 1812 William Corbet  
 1813 Freeman Clark  
 1814 " "  
 1815 William Cummings  
 1816 Arthur D. Welch  
 1817 Peter Hutton  
 1818 " "  
 1819 William Patterson  
 1820 Josiah Clark, Jr.  
 1821 Walter Benjamin  
 1822 " "  
 1823 " "  
 1824 Alex. Robertson  
 1825 " "  
 1826 Samuel J. Woodstock  
 1827 John L. Hiscock  
 1828 " "  
 1829 " "  
 1830 Silas Beecher  
 1831 George Easton  
 1832 " "  
 1833 " "  
 1834 David Williamson  
 1835 D. Williamson, Jr.  
 1836 " "  
 1837 " "  
 1838 Abram Shear.  
 1839 Andrew Williamson  
 1840 " "  
 1841 William E. Woodstock  
 1842 William M. Wiley

COLLECTOR

1843 D. Williamson, Jr.  
 1844 " "  
 1845 " "  
 1846 Robert C. Wright  
 1847 D. Williamson Jr.  
 1848 " "  
 1849 Robert Williamson  
 1850 " "  
 1851 George E. Meiklejohn.  
 1852 " "  
 1853 John McLaughlin  
 1854 " "  
 1855 Thomas B. Wright  
 1856 John McLaughlin  
 1857 Anthony Anderson  
 1858 " "  
 1859 Thos. W. Cummings  
 1860 W. M. Cummings  
 1861 " "  
 1862 Elburtore Spaulding  
 1863 " "  
 1864 " "  
 1865 Thos. B. Cummings  
 1866 John S. Cummings  
 1867 Albert Smith  
 1869 William J. Wright  
 1869 George G. Burnett  
 1870 John G. Burnett  
 1871 John Best, Jr.  
 1872 " "  
 1873 Dan'l Williamson  
 1874 Erastus H. Sears.  
 1875 William McLaughlin  
 1876 " "  
 1877 James E. Hutton.  
 1878 " "

COMMISSIONERS OF HIGHWAYS

1806 Wm. Hutton, Jr., Levi Herington, Pelatiah Bugby, Jr.  
 1807 James Easton, Isaac Limmon, Ephraim Case, died, Robert Cummings, vacancy  
 1808 Prince Taylor, Wm. Jones, Ludwick Shear.  
 1809 Robert Cummings, James Easton, Peter Hutton.  
 1810 Freeman Clark, David D. Johnston, Robert Cummings.  
 1811 John Gourly, Robert Cummings, Justice Rice.  
 1812 Wm. Woodstock, Justice Rice, Peter Hutton.

COMMISSIONERS OF HIGHWAYS

- 1813 Justice Rice, Alexander McLachlan, Wm. Woodstock  
 1814 Alex. McLachlan, Wm. Woodstock, Robert Shiell.  
 1815 James Easton, Wm. Woodstock, Alex. McLachlan.  
 1816 Wm. Butterfield, James Blair, Cephas Nelson.  
 1817 Albert Easton, Wm. Woodstock, Wm. Corbet.  
 1818 Peter Hutton, James Blair, Doty Allen.  
 1819 James Blair, Abraham Clemans, John Backers.  
 1820 Doty Allen, John Backers, James Burnett.  
 1821 Elnathan Benjamin, John Backers, John C. Burgew.  
 1822 Robert Easton, Winas Davis, Abraham Clemans.  
 1823 Robert Easton  
 1824 " "  
 1825 James Graham, Robert Easton.  
 1826 Thomas Cummings, John Backers.  
 1827 John Backers, Wm. Corbet, Thomas Cummings.  
 1828 James Graham, David Beecher, John Easton.  
 1829 John Backers, James Blair, John Easton.  
 1830 John Backers, Peter Hutton, D. Beecher.  
 1831 Robert Wright, Peter Hutton, John Easton  
 1832 D. Beecher, A. Smith, William Cummings.  
 1833 " " " " " "  
 1834 Wm. Cummings, Robert Paterson, Jr., Wm. Hutton.  
 1835 John Easton, Wm. Cummings, Wm. Hutton.  
 1836 James Easton, John Easton, Wm. Hutton.  
 1837 James Easton, James Blair, Wm. Hutton.  
 1838 John Easton, Wm. Cummings, John Backers.  
 1839 Johnathan Blair, " ", George Easton.  
 1840 John Wright, Robert Simpson, Simon Crammond.  
 1841 James Ledgerwood, John Easton, William Graham.  
 1842 George Easton, James Blair, " "  
 1843 Jas. Ledgerwood, R. Wright, Wm. Hutton.  
 1844 R. Paterson, Jr., Jas. Ledgerwood, Geo. Burnett.  
 1845 John Easton, " ", T. T. Graham.  
 1846 W. Lillie, " ", John Easton.  
 1847 Peter Meiklejohn  
 1848 Henry Dedrick  
 1849 Wm. Cummings  
 1850 Wm. Lillie.  
 1851 Volney Rice  
 1852 R. McArthur  
 1853 Jas. Shear  
 1854 Thos. Ledgerwood.  
 1855 A. G. Meiklejohn  
 1856 Thos. Lillie  
 1857 Robt. Williamson  
 1858 John Anderson  
 1859 Thos. Lillie  
 1860 R.W. Hutton  
 1861 H. D. Easton  
 1862 James Shear  
 1863 P.W. Hutton  
 1864 J. A. Ledgerwood  
 1865 R. W. Crammond  
 1866 Thos. Ledgerwood  
 1867 Thos. W. Cummings  
 1868 R. W. Crammond  
 1869 Thos. Ledgerwood  
 1870 T. W. Cummings  
 1871 W. J. Wright

## COMMISSIONERS OF HIGHWAYS

1872 Nathaniel King	1880 " "
1873 G. G. Burnett	1881 W. M. Cummings
1874 Johnathan Shear	1882 P. W. Hutton
1875 " "	1883 James Shear
1876 G. G. Burnett	1884 John Lillie
1877 T. G. Maxwell	1885 D. E. Higgins
1878 Ezra Roberts	1886 D. E. Higgins
1879 W. M. Cummings	1887 " "

## ASSESSORS.

1806 Robert Cummings, Levi Herington, John Butterfield.  
 1807 " ", Peter Hutton, James Burnett.  
 1808 " ", " ", " "  
 1809 " ", " ", " "  
 1810 " ", Wm. Woodstock, " "  
 1811 Peter Hutton, Wm. Woodstock, Alex McLachlan  
 1812 " ", Robert Easton, " "  
 1813 Abraham Clemons, Robert Paterson, " "  
 1814 John Gourly, Wm. Woodstock, Freeman Clark  
 1815 Alex. McLachlan, James Burnett, Wm. Paterson.  
 1816 Robert Cummings, " ", Joseph Coburn  
 1817 " ", " ", Robert Shiell  
 1818 " ", " ", James Easton  
 1819 Wm. Paterson, Elnathan Benjamin, Jas. Blair  
 1820 Robt. Cummings, Doty Allen, Palmer Blaut  
 1821 Jas. Burnett, Elnathan Benjamin, Jas. Blair  
 1822 Robt. Cummings, " ", Palmer Blaut  
 1823 " ", James Burnett, Alex. McLachlan  
 1824 " ", " ", " "  
 1825 David Congdon, John Gourly  
 1826 Robert Paterson, Robt. Cummings  
 1827 Anthony D. Welch, John Blair, Robert Shields  
 1828 " ", Robert Paterson, Jas. Blair  
 1829 " ", " ", Able Comstock  
 1830 A. Meiklejohn, Robt. Paterson, Jas. Crommond  
 1831 Jas. Blair, Jas. Cummings, John Backers  
 1832 " ", " ", " "  
 1833 Jas. Blair, Thos. Cummings, Jas. Backers  
 1834 D. Williamson, Jas. Cummings, Alex. McLachlan  
 1835 Robert Easton, Robt. Paterson, Jas. Blair  
 1836 Adam Darling, " ", Wm. McLachlan  
 1837 Wm. Cummings, Jas. Crammond, A. D. Welch  
 1838 John Backers, Alex. Wiley, Jas. Cummings  
 1839 " ", Robt. Paterson, " "  
 1840 " ", Jas. Crammond, Robt. Paterson, Jr.

## ASSESSORS.

1841 " ", T. T. Graham, Jas. Blair	
1842 Jas. Backers, Alex. Wiley, Jas. Cummings	
1843 John Wright, Alex. Robertson, Jas. Crammond	
1844 Wm. Hutton, Robt. Wright, Jas. Cummings	
1845 " ", Robert Easton, Robt. Paterson, Jr.	
1846 J. A. Ledgerwood, Jas. Cummings, Robt. Paterson	
1847 Robt. Easton	1866 H. D. Easton
1848 William Hutton	1867 Wm. Graham
1849 John Wright	1868 John Gourlie
1850 T. T. Graham	1871 Wm. M. Cummings
1851 Jas. Blair	1872 Jas. M. Blair
1852 Robt. Paterson, Jr.	1873 Thos. Ledgerwood
1853 A. Hulett	1874 Wm. M. Cummings
1854 Wm. Lillie	1875 " "
1855 Robt. Hutton	1876 J. A. Easton
1856 Robt. Simpson	1877 W. J. Wright
1857 Geo. Burnett, resigned	1878 John Lillie
1857 Jas. Cummings, vacancy	1879 John Easton
1858 Jas. Shear	1880 Wm. McLaughlin
1859 David Lillie	1881 J.M. Blair
1860 John Gourlie	1882 D. C. Easton
1861 T. B. Maxwell	1883 Wm. McLaughlin
1862 Wm. M. Easton	1884 Johnathan Shear
1863 G. W. Thompson	1885 D. C. Easton
1864 John Gourlie	1886 David Cummings
1865 J. L. Lillie	1887 " "

## JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

1806 James Burnett	1821 Alex. McLachlan,
1807 " "	Robert Easton
1808 " "	1827 Alex. McLachlan,
1809 Pelatiah Bugbee	Robert Easton,
1810 " "	James Blair,
1811 " "	Anthony D. Welch
1812 " "	1828 Able Comstock
1814 Alex. McLachlan	1829 Robt. Easton
1815 James Burnett,	1830 Jas. Blair
Freeman Clark,	1831 Anthony D. Welch
Levi Herrington	1832 Able Comstock
1816 Alanson Clark,	1833 Alex. McLachlan
Wm. Butterfield	1834 Jas. Blair, Robt. Wright
1818 Jas. Burnett,	1835 Anthony D. Welch,
Wm. Butterfield	Andrew Meiklejohn
1819 David Congdon	1836 Geo. Wiley
1820 Alex. McLachlan	1837 Jas. Cummings
1821 Jas. Burnett	1838 Alex. Wiley, Jasper Shear

## JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

1839 Robt. Paterson, Jr.	1863 A. Hulett
1840-41 Alex. Robertson	1864 Wm. McArthur
1842 Jas. Blair, Dan'l McLaughlin	1865 Wm. G. Corbett
1843 Wm. Hutton	1866 Thos. Lillie
1844 Alex. Robertson, Jasper Shear, V.	1867 A. Hulett
1845 Alex. Wiley	1868 Wm. McArthur, Jas. Shear, V.
1846 Jas. Blair	1869 Thos. Ledgerwood
1847 Wm. Hutton	1870 Thos. Lillie, Wm. Hutton, V.
1848 Robt. Paterson, Jr.	1871 Ezra Roberts
1849 Alex. Wiley	1872 A. Hulett
1850 James Blair, Wm. McArthur, V.	1873 Wm. Hutton
1851 Wm. Hutton	1874 Thos. Lillie
1852 Gustave A. Goodwich	1875 David L. Butler
1853 Wm. McArthur	1876 A. Hulett
1854 John Wright	1877 Wm. Hutton
1855 W. McLaughlin	1878 H. D. Easton
1856 Gustave A. Goodrich	1879 Thos. Lillie
1857 Wm. McArthur	1880 A. Hulett
1858 John Wright	1881 Thomas W. McArthur
1859 Wm. G. Corbet	1882 Wm. Graham
1860 Gustave A. Goodrich, Arnold Hulett, V.	1883 S. W. Crammond
1861 Robt. R. Hutton, Wm. Graham, V.	1884 Ezra Roberts
1862 Thos. Lillie	1885 Thos. Lillie
	1886 G. G. Burnett
	1887

Up to 1821, Justices of the Peace were appointed by the Governor, and confirmed by the Senate. From 1812 [*sic; probably 1822*] to 1827, the appointing power was vested in the Board of Supervisors, and Court of Common Pleas of the several counties, but no record of those appointed during the latter period was kept. In 1827, the office was made elective, which it has continued to be to the present time.

## CHAPTER FOURTH.

### DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH OF THE TOWN

The real growth and development of the town, dates from its organization in 1806, at which time it was a sparsely settled, unorganized community.

In the Spring of 1808, under the directions of Ludrick Shear, and Prince Taylor, Commissioners of Highways, a number of the roads of the town were surveyed, and on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of May, 1808, were recorded in the town book. Some of these roads have been discontinued, and others altered, but in the main they are substantially the same today as they were when laid out. In this way the following roads were surveyed and recorded:

From the Schoolhouse on "the Hill" south over the mountains to the Dresden line, the length of the road being five miles and eighty-nine rods.

Timothy Rice's road from Gull Bay, a distance of one mile, one hundred and twenty seven rods and fifteen links. This road has been shifted and changed a number of times, so that but little of it as originally surveyed, remains.

Mr. Easton's road to Nathan Butterfield's or from the Lake near P. W..Hutton's to the old Corbet place, the old McLachlin log house by Sear's, and out to J.G. Williamson's, a distance of four miles, and a hundred and eighty rods. This road has been radically changed near the corners.

The road from Mill Bay bridge to Mr. Shiell's, now Sear's a distance of two hundred and forty-six rods. This road has been changed at R. E. Simpson's.

The road from Pelatiah Bugbee's, now David Cummings', to Blairs Bay, a distance of three miles and a hundred and seventy-eight rods. This road has been changed over Mount Defiance, and between Cummings and the Four Corners.

A road from the county line to Esquire Burnett's a distance of five miles, and two hundred and fifty-eight rods. This road remains substantially as it was laid out. The road by J. E. Paterson's was laid out later.

A road a little south of Esquire Burnett's, leading to William Hutton's big house, a distance of one mile and thirty-five rods. The eastern end of this road has been discontinued, and its course considerably changed.

A road from the county line south skirting Mt. Defiance by the Frenchman's hut, Levi Herrington's, now John Lillie, Asahel Herrington's, now Thos. Lillie's, to the schoolhouse on the road to Blairs Bay, a distance of three miles and two rods. This road has been discontinued north of John Lillie's otherwise it remains substantially as laid out.

A road from Inglean Hollow, on Lake Champlain, to the road that leads from Wm. Hutton's big house to James Burnett's, a distance of one mile and six rods. This road has been considerably changed.

A road from Prince Taylor's on the County line, south to the road to Blairs Bay. This is the Odell Hill road, and remains substantially as laid out.

After the completing of these surveys, and on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of March, 1809, the Commissioners redivided the highways into thirteen road districts. April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1809, the following roads were surveyed by Robt. Cummings, Peter Hutton and James Easton, Commissioners of Highways, and recorded in the Town book.

A road from a point in John Butterfield's meadow, easterly to the fork of the roads, south of Wm. Shields barn. This is the road that now runs from J. G. Williamson's by the old Meiklejohn place to E. H. Sear's.

A road beginning on chain south of the south bridge in Alex. Corbet's farm, and thence west to the state road. This road was a few rods south of the Corners, and was abandoned long ago.

On March 20<sup>th</sup>, 1810, the same commissioners recorded a survey of a road from Mill Bay bridge to Lake Champlain, at James Moore's. This is the present "ferry road." On the same day was recorded the survey of a road from Wm. Woodstock's north line, north to the last named road. This is the road that runs by the present residence of Thos. Ledgerwood.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> day of March 1811, the survey of the following roads was recorded by David D. Johnson, and Freeman Clark, Commissioners of Highways.

A road from near the house of Levi Beldens' on Lake Champlain, at Pulpit Point, west the State road near Freeman Clarks'. This is the present Pulpit road with slight changes.

A road from Wm. Woodstock's west to the State road, near John Shirlif's, a distance of two miles and five rods. This is the present road running from Edgar Ledgerwood's to the White Schoolhouse, with some alterations.

November 5<sup>th</sup>, 1811, Robert Cummings, John Gourly and Justice Rice, recorded the survey of another road from Inglean Hollow on Wm. Jones' land, north to the lone bridge west of Peter Hutton's on the road from Wm. Hutton's to James Burnett's. This road traversed substantially the same ground that the one surveyed in 1808 did, and probably superseded it. The length was one mile and twenty-three rods.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> of Dec. 1814, Robt. Shiell and Alex. McLachlan recorded the survey of a road a little north of the Charter Brook at Wm. Paterson's house, thence west to the State road, north of Robt. Wright's. With a few alterations this is the same road that now runs from near the north schoolhouse west to the State road, north by W. J. Wright's. Also a road commencing at the State road, east of Blair's, thence west to the northeast corner of John Rickert's house. This is the same road that now runs by James Blair's west of the "Four Corners."

April 17<sup>th</sup>, 1817. Wm. Woodstock and Wm. Corbet surveyed and recorded a road, commencing at the house of Alex. Corbet, thence north by the Beberage place to the Mill Bay road. This road was long since abandoned. July 12<sup>th</sup>, 1819, Jas. Blair and John Backers recorded a survey of a road, commencing on the road running by Thos. Lillie's on the line between the lots 79 and 80, and running east to the State road. This is what is now known as the Lillie road.

The same Commissioners Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>, 1819, recorded the survey of a road commencing at the road south of Thos. Lillie's house and running west to Lake George, a distance of a

mile and one hundred and forty-six rods. This road was finally closed. Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>, 1821, John Buckers and John C. Burgess, surveyed a road from the road leading from Corbet's to Burnett's, east of James McArthur's, west to a large hemlock tree, marked "Ft" on the State road; and on Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1822, it was recorded. This is the road that runs between John G. McArthur's and John Hennessey's, and is known as the "McArthur lane".

Other roads have been laid out at different times, but were long since abandoned. Of late years few alterations have been made in the roads, and but one alteration of importance—the road commencing at J. D. and T. T. Graham's and running to Putnam Station.

In 1874-5 the New York and Canada R.R. was built along the west shore of Lake Champlain from Whitehall to Plattsburg. The road was built under great disadvantages and at an enormous expense, there being innumerable rock cuts to be made, and numerous marshes and bays to cross, in some of which it was almost impossible to construct a solid roadway.

By steady perseverance and by a liberal expenditure of money, these difficulties were finally overcome, so that in the latter part of 1875, the iron horse awoke the echoes of the Champlain Valley, and brought Putnam a direct communication with the outside world.

Two stations were located in the town, one in the north part called Paterson, after Maj. Robert Paterson, and one in the south part called Putnam. To encourage and aid the construction of the road, the town in unison with a number of other towns along the line bonded itself in the sum of \$1200. Wm Hutton, Wm. McArthur and George Easton, were appointed commissioners for that purpose. Mr. McArthur declined to serve and A. G. Meiklejohn was appointed in his stead. After the completion of the road the town repudiated the contract to take the stock agreed to. An interminable litigation followed in which the town eventually succeeded, and was relieved from paying the bonds, substantially on the grounds of the irregularity of the bonding.

In 1854 the Montreal Telegraph Line was laid through Putnam. It followed the State road with Ticonderoga as the nearest local office. Some years later the line south of the Corners was changed. The new route extended by way of Mill Bay to Graham's Landing where it crossed the lake by means of a cable. Thence the line extended to Benson. After the change an office was opened at Benson Landing. On the completion of the railroad the entire line was shifted to the latter route, and an office located at the Station called Putnam, so that the town now has direct telegraphic communication with all parts of the world.

In the early days of the town, fences were almost unknown, and the flocks and herds of the settlers roamed at large, the tinkling of their bells resounding from the forest and dale. In order to distinguish each one's stock, a peculiar mark was adapted by their owners and recorded in the town book, so in case of disputes over ownership, the difficulty could be adjusted by referring to the records. The following are some of these early marks as recorded by the town clerk. Wm. Hutton Jr.'s mark is a round hole in the right ear, recorded April 21<sup>st</sup>, 1807. Frederick Dedrick's mark is a square cross on the right ear and a slit in the left ear. Recorded April 21<sup>st</sup>, 1807. Luke Welch's mark is a half penny on the upper side of the right ear, and a nick in the underside of the left ear. Recorded April 27<sup>th</sup>, 1809. Obadiah Blake's mark is a round hole through the left ear, recorded the 12<sup>th</sup> day of

May, 1810. Warren Robert's mark is a slit in the end of the left ear, and a nick in the underside of the right ear. Recorded April 29<sup>th</sup>, 1811. Henry Rickert's mark is a swallow tail in both ears. Recorded May 7<sup>th</sup>, 1811. Philip Roger's mark is a half penny on the upper side of each ear. Recorded July 15<sup>th</sup>, 1811. David Congden's mark is a swallowtail in the left ear. Recorded April 19<sup>th</sup>, 1816. Wm. Butterfield's mark is a half penny on the under side of the right ear. Recorded June 14<sup>th</sup>, 1816. Christian Sear's mark is a nick on the upper side of the left ear, and the right ear cropped. Recorded April 25<sup>th</sup>, 1817. Silas Robert's mark is a half crop off the left ear, the underside, and a nick in the underside of the right ear, Recorded June 10<sup>th</sup>, 1818. A. Welch's mark is a square crop off right ear and a half penny on the underside of the same. Taken from Joseph Osborn, he being removed from town, recorded May 29<sup>th</sup>, 1819. Levi Belden's mark is a round hole in the right ear. Taken from Wm. Hutton, Jr. Recorded Feby. 18<sup>th</sup>, 1820. Nathan Bellant's mark is a swallows tail in the right ear. Recorded Feby. 26<sup>th</sup>, 1822. Thos. Lilly's mark is T.L. on the right side. Recorded March 19<sup>th</sup>, 1822. John Graham's mark is J on the right side. Recorded March 19<sup>th</sup>, 1922. The gradual enlargement of the clearings, and the enclosure of the fields with fences eventually done away with this custom, though it is yet practiced to some extent in the husbandry of sheep.

#### SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

Prior to October 19<sup>th</sup>, 1813, there were no regular organized school districts in the town, but owing to the peculiar topography of the place it was naturally divided into five divisions, on each of which was a small log schoolhouse. In this way there was a school house in the north part of the town across the road and a little to the south of the present residence of J.M. Crammond, also one a little north of the present one in the "Church district". At Mill Bay it is supposed, but not absolutely known, that a schoolhouse stood, or at least a school house was kept in a log house across the hollow to the west from the old Boag or Bogue house, where it stood before it was moved, by its present owner Holly Hale. In the south settlement a schoolhouse stood at the fork of the roads near Butterfields. On the hill a schoolhouse stood on the south end of the road leading to Levi Harrington's.

October 18<sup>th</sup>, 1813, Alexander McLachlan and Levi Herrington, Commissioners of Common schools for the town, divided it into school districts, and on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March following they were recorded in the town book. The districts as originally divided were as follows:

District No.1, beginning at the southwest corner of Samuel Woodstock's lot, thence west to the marked line to the Patent Line, thence north said line to the State road, thence north said road to the south line of Robt. Wright's lot, thence east said line to Lake Champlain, thence south Lake shore to the place of beginning.

District No. 2 beginning at the State road north of Mr. Bugbee's house, thence west the south line of Henry Rickert's and Ludrick Sear's lot to Lake George, thence north said Lake to the County line, thence along said line to Mt. Defiance, thence south said Mt. to the southwest corner of Robt Wright's lot, thence east said line to the State road, thence south said road to the place of beginning.

District No.3. Beginning at the southeast corner of Samuel Woodstock's lot, thence south the lake shore to the southeast corner of Anthony D. Welch's lot, thence west to the

southeast corner of Asahel Jones' lot, thence west said line to Lake George, thence north said Lake to the corner of District No. 2, thence east to south boundaries of No. 2, to the State road, thence south the Patent line to the southwest corner of Thomas Beverage's lot thence south said Lake to the place of beginning.

District Nos. 4 & 5 were principally within the limits of the present town of Dresden, the former comprising all the territory east of the State road, including Pulpit Point, the latter all the territory west of the State road.

District No. 6. Beginning at the southeast corner of Robert Paterson's lot, thence the marked line to Mt. Defiance, thence due north to the county line, thence east said line to lake Champlain, thence south said lake Shore to the place of beginning.

In locating the boundaries, it perhaps might be well to state in the connection, that Robert Wright lived where Wm. J. Wright now lives; Mr. Bugbee where J. D. Leigh now lives; Thomas Beverage on the old Meiklejohn place, and Samuel Woodstock.

April 13<sup>th</sup>, 1816, James Burnett, Robert Paterson and Freeman Clark, Commissioners of Common Schools, redivided the town into school districts, in much the same way as they are at present, with the exception, that the Odell Hill district formed a part of the Hill district, out of which it was subsequently formed.

At present the town is divided into seven school districts. District No.1 comprising the territory adjacent to the U.P. Church - No. 2, the north slope of the town - No. 3, Mill Bay including the Corners and Putnam Station - No. 4, the white school house district, comprising the territory from the old Williamson place south to the Baptist Church and west to lake George - No. 5, All the territory south of the Baptist Church, excluding Pulpit Point No. 6, the locality known as "the Hill" - No. 7, comprising all of Odell Hill.

In the north district the first school house was a log one, and stood across the road, a little south of the present residence of J. M. Crammond. The next one was a frame building and stood on the site of the present one. It has been thoroughly remodeled several times until it appears as it does today.

In the Church district the first schoolhouse was built of logs, and stood about two rods north of the present one. The next was a frame building and stood on the site of the present structure. This building was sold in 1844 to Thomas Anderson for \$8.62 and moved to where John Hale now lives, and is now used by him as a dwelling. In 1845 the third schoolhouse was built on the present site at a cost of \$225. This stood until 1880, when it was sold to John Graham for about \$30.00. It subsequently came into the possession of G. G. Burnett near whose residence it now stands. The present building was erected in 1880, at a cost of about \$500.00. William Graham was the building committee, and the structure stands a monument to his good taste and thorough business methods.

In the Mill Bay district the first school house was built for a dwelling, and was of logs. It stood across the hollow to the west of the old Bogue House, and south of the second school building, which stood on the north side of the road to the east where E. H. Sears now lives. This building was painted black and was known as the black schoolhouse. The third school building stood across the road from the last one named. It was painted red. It was torn down in 1880. The present one stands on a shaded and picturesque plateau, west of R. E. Simpson's. The building in its location and surroundings, and its interior

arrangements reflects credit upon A. G. Meiklejohn and the building committee. It was erected in 1880, at a cost of about \$400.

In the White schoolhouse district the first schoolhouse was a log one, and stood near the present residence of Thomas Anderson. It was build about 1805, and was probably the first building erected in the town for that purpose. The next was also made of logs, and stood in the fork of the roads near the house of D. C. Easton. The third building was a frame one and is still standing. It has been thoroughly renovated since it was built.

In the south district the first schoolhouse was built of logs, and stood on the first pitch south of the present residence of Ezra Roberts. The next one was a frame building and still stands, though it has been thoroughly repaired at different times.

The first schoolhouse on "the Hill" stood at the end of the road leading to Thomas Lillie's. It was built of logs. The next one was also built in the same manner and stood across the road and a little to the east of the Wiley house. The third was a stone building and stood on the site of the present one. Subsequently it was torn down, and a frame building erected in its stead. This is still standing, but it was almost entirely rebuilt in 1886.

In the Odell Hill district, so far as can be learned there has been but one school building, which stands today as it was built, except, that it has been repaired.

The first school kept in the town was in the winter of 1803-4, with Robert Paterson as teacher. It was held in the log house built by Joseph Haskins on the Burnett farm. Putnam Academy was built in 1854, at a cost of one thousand dollars; it stands at the corners on lands donated by George Easton. The stock was originally divided into shares of fifty dollars each, and was held by the following persons: D. Williamson, Solomon French, George E. Meiklejohn, George Easton, Wm. G. Corbet, Samuel W. Haynes, M.D., Wm. McLaughlin, Wm. Graham, Jas. L. Cummings, Alex. Wiley, Thos. Lillie, Jas. McLaughlin, Wm. Shiell, Robert Hutton, Robert Easton, John Backers, Rev. Isaac Law, Jas. Blair, Wm. Hutton and Robert Paterson. In this building an excellent school was kept for a number of years, presided over by an instructor of eminent ability and scholarly attainments, who did much to mould the thought, and shape the purpose of the community; the following are the names of the principals in the order of their service; Joseph McKirahan, Joseph Shortledge, Joseph Thyme, Wm. J. Smith, Miss Boudry, Mary A. McLaughlin, Jane Easton, Margaret Easton, Judith Perry, and Mrs. Jean A. Corbet.

#### BUSINESS ENTERPRISES.

The first saw mill in town was built by Robert Cummings in 1802. It stood on the north side of Mill Bay about a mile from the Lake, and was called the Angel Mill, though for what reason it is not known. It was carried away by a freshet. The saw in this mill was of the upright pattern, and operated by an overshot wheel. The next one was built by Pelatiah Bugbee, and stood in the hollow southeast of his house. Later on this mill was operated by James Burnett. About 1806-7, another saw mill was built in the north part of the town on the Chester Brook, a little above the bridge by the school house. It was built by Wm. Paterson. From 1825 to 1832, at least, Isaac M. Kenyon operated the same mill, and perhaps a small grist mill in connection with it. Some years later Simon Crammond ran a saw mill still further up the stream. As early as 1825, at least, a saw mill was built on the Sucker Brook emptying into Blairs Bay, by Robert Stewart. This mill was subsequently operated by John Graham and Leonard Guyle. Francis Craig and one of the Cummings

also operated a mill on the Charter Brook at one time. A saw mill was built at Gull Bay quite early in the history of the town, but by whom is not known.

Mill Bay stream is appropriately named, as it has been literally lined by mills of various kinds. The first mill on this stream has already been spoken of. It was followed by a grist mill in 1814. This mill was built by Abel Comstock, and was the first grist mill in the town. It stood on the south side of the stream. In 1837 Wm. and Robert Hutton built a grist mill on the north side of the stream, and on the site of the present of one. This mill successively passed into the hands of Gustave Goodrich, who built and operated a sash and blind factory, on the north side of the brook, Peter Meiklejohn, James McLaughlin, who entirely rebuilt and refitted the mill, Alexander and Anthony Anderson, who operated it for several years prior to 1862, in connection with the saw mill; Peter Hutton, Alexander McLaughlin and David Butler. In 1876 while Mr. Butler was in possession, the grist mill was entirely destroyed by fire. A fulling mill was also at one time operated in the building erected by Goodrich. The next owners of the Mill Bay property were Crampton Belden & Co. of Troy, who purchased it from George Gibbs, a son of Mrs. David Butler by a former marriage. This firm expended several thousand dollars on the property and converted it into a paint mill. Extensive dry houses were erected on the south side of the stream, also a large mill for grinding, run by both steam and power, as well as a large bake house. The latter was located on the north side of the brook. The latter was obtained from the old Williamson place. For some reason this enterprise was discontinued, and in 1886 the property passed into the hands of William Dedrick and William Burgess, who rebuilt the saw mill on the south side of the stream, and converted the paint mill into a grist mill.

A number of other mills have stood on this stream, but are now all gone into decay. In this way a saw mill stood south of the present residence of R. E. Simpson's, another stood on the Meiklejohn place and was run from about 1823 to 1840. A little below this a woolen factory was built in 1841, and run by Lovejoy and Malcomb; others perhaps operated this same mill. Still another saw mill stood on the farm of J. C. Williamson's. William Anderson also conducted a saw mill for a number of years prior to 1872, on the mountain west of the State road. A steam saw mill was built on the bay south of Putnam Station about 1872, by Wm. Anderson, R. P. Graham and John Simpson. This mill did a large business for a number of years. In February, 1874, Simpson fell on the circular saw and was instantly killed. A few years since Anderson sold his interest to Graham, who put in a shingle machine. Mr. Graham recently disposed of the machinery and closed the mill. A number of other factories have at different times flourished in the town. Alex. Robertson ran a potash factory in a building that stood nearly opposite the old red school house at Mill Bay. John Rickert carried on an extensive tannery business on the old Williamson place during the latter part of the second quarter of the century. William Wiley had a carriage factory at the Corners, and later Wm. McArthur had one on the McArthur place. The last carriage shop in town was conducted by Ezra Hill at the Corners, as late as 1875.

#### BLACKSMITHS.

It is not known who the first blacksmith was, but it is supposed that William Jones had a small shop as early as 1804, followed by Frederick Dedrick in the south part of the town; Thomas Lillie at Pelatiah Bugbee's old house, and later on "the Hill". After his death his son John carried on the business. Benjamin French had a shop on the James Blair place about 1818, and afterwards where John McLaughlin now lives. Henry Dedrick, during the

second quarter of the century on the Detrick place. This shop was continued by his son Lewis for some years, till the latter moved to the Corners in 1875, when it was carried on by his son-in-law, Ezra Roberts. George Rickert had a shop on the Wiley place, and afterwards at Thomas Anderson's. Solomon French, during the middle of the century, carried on the same business at the Corners, which is now conducted by Lewis T. Detrick and his son Frank. Levi Smith for a number of years had a shop on Odell Hill.

#### SHOEMAKERS.

The first was William Hutton in the big house, and the next was Samuel McCarle on "the hill." Others were John Thompson, on the old Thompson place, his mantle fell upon his son George's shoulder; John Lee, on the Lee place, Joseph Mace at the Corners, and a number of others of brief duration. George Thompson carried on the most extensive business of this kind in the town, amounting in two years, at one time, to \$14,000.

#### HOTELS and INNS.

William Hutton owning a large tract of land naturally had to entertain people who came to look at it. In this way the "big house" came to be considered a tavern as well as a meeting house. The next was on Negro Point, and was probably owned by a son of Mr. Hutton's. This was succeeded by Alex. Corbet at the Corners on the site of the present residence of Dr. Higgins, this was a log building and the most elaborate one of the kind ever built in the town. It afterwards came to be known as the "Aunt Namey Corbet Tavern", and was variously used as Hotel, church, store and town hall. The next tavern was probably at the old Williamson place. George Meiklejohn, a number of years later kept a hotel where George Easton now lives. He afterwards conducted a hotel where the present Putnam House now stands, which he sold to Daniel Williamsons.

Andrew Williamson kept a small inn and store at Williamsons Landing, and, Alex. Gourlie a similar establishment at Paterson's; he also owned the ferry at that place. His sign read: "A. C. Gourlie, Store, Inn, and Ferry." These last enterprises flourished during the palmy days of Lake navigation.

#### MERCHANTILE ESTABLISHMENTS.

The first store in town was probably kept on Negro Point by John Hutton or Wm. Hutton Jr., as early as 1800. It was perhaps more of a depot, where supplies brought from New York were left for distribution among the settlers. The next one was kept by Abel Comstock at Mill Bay in his house, which stood on the south side of the stream on a little knoll (now graded away) about east of the dam. About the same time a store was opened in a building which stood near the present residence of Thomas Anderson, and which was nicknamed by Athan Darling as the "Synagogue." This Establishment was conducted by a firm known as Hitchcock, Collins & Co., they soon failed, but Hitchcock afterward opened a store in the upper part of Wm. Corbet's house, which stood on the brow of the hill, to the west of the present residence of William McLaughlin's. Subsequently Mr. Hitchcock and Wm. Cummings formed a co-partnership and opened a store in the old "Aunt Namey Corbet Tavern." About this time Alex. Robertson kept a store in the first Mill Bat school house. Sometime near 1837, he owned a store across the road from where E. H. Sears now lives, in a building which now stands at Mill Bay. It is probable that Mr. Robertson built this house, and also moved it where it now stands, at any rate he kept store in it after it was moved. Afterwards Peter Bogue also had a grocery store in the same building. All

these ventures spoken of were conducted on a small scale, sufficient probably to supply the limited wants of the early settlers. As early as 1836, Daniel McLaughlin built a store at the Corners on the site of the present one. It was painted red and faced to the north, the following year it burned. He then built what is now the storehouse on the same site. About 1840, William G. Corbet bought the property. From 1843 to 1849, George Easton was associated with him in the business. Mr. Corbet built the present building in 1856, and for a number of years carried on an extensive business here. In 1866 he retired from the store. The following year James McLaughlin and Henry O. Easton, purchased the property and reopened the store on a large scale. In 1874, McLaughlin sold out his interest to Easton, who conducted it alone until 1877, when he sold it to O. A. Higgins and James A. McLaughlin. Higgins soon after purchased McLaughlin's interest and continued in the business until 1884. The same year Robert S. Lillie purchased the property and some months afterwards opened the store, which he has since conducted.

The first at Grahams was kept in the second quarter of the century, by Volney Rice. About the same time the south part of the dock was built, and the ferry at this point established, under the supervision of A. D. Welch. The property next came into the possession of Wm. and Daniel Woodstock, the former living on the farm, the latter at the ferry. Thompson T. Graham was the next owner. He enlarged the dock and also the store. His son Robert succeeded him. An extensive business was carried on here for a great many years. On the location of the depot known as Putnam Station, Robert Graham erected a building there, and opened a large general country store, which he now carries on.

Williamson Landing took its name from Andrew Williamson, who built the dock and house, and kept a small store and Inn here, during the middle portion of the present century. A ferry used to be in operation near this point, as early as 1806, probably under the control of Williams Jones.

Paterson Landing received its name from Robert Paterson, who built the dock or a portion of it about 1840. Subsequently it was enlarged by him, and his son Robert Jr. who also kept a store at this point about the time the dock was built. He also ran the ferry which has since been conducted by Robert Paterson, George Wright, Harry Schnedicker and J. A. Wright. Mr. Gourlie after leaving this location built a small dock on Gourlie's Point, and also a store.

John C. Lee kept a small store in the old Lee house on the State road, about 1848-9. When the first post office was established in Putnam, is not definitely known, but is supposed to have been about 1808, at the residence of James Burnett, he being postmaster. The mail was carried from Orwell Vt. by James Burnett, Jr. At this time it might possibly have been only an adjunct of the Orwell Post Office, and used as a place of delivery for the Putnam people. At any rate a few years later, a regularly established post office was located here under the supervision of Esquire Burnett. Subsequently the office was located at the Corners, where it has since remained. A few years ago a post office was established at Putnam Station with Robert P. Graham as post master.

#### LAWYERS.

There never has been a regularly licensed attorney in the town, but there has been a number of the citizens who have practiced in the local courts. Among the first were

Alexander McLachlan, and George Wiley, who had many a hotly contested battle in Ezra Bugbee and Burnett's courts. John Robertson, A. O. Welch and Levi Herington, also practiced to some extent in the first quarter of the present century. In the second quarter Alexander Robertson did the most of the law business for the people, and was an able practitioner. Wm. Hutton, Arnold Hulett and Wm. McArthur, were the principal advocates from 1850 to 1874. The present legal advisers in the town are Wm. Hutton, Thomas Lillie and Wm. Graham.

#### DOCTORS.

The first doctor to locate in Putnam was Obadiah Blake, about 1804-5. He lived somewhere in the neighborhood of the Rice place. He died here. The next that we have any knowledge of, and perhaps the first regular physician in the place, was Dr. Austin, "Gad Austin" as he was called. He lived in the old Thompson house on the Burnett farm. For a number of years Dr. Gad Austin, with a small nag and quaint saddle bags, was a familiar sight on the roads of the town. It is not known what became of him. Dr. Dewey was the next physician and lived in a part log and a part frame house, which stood north of Robert Easton's stone residence. He moved away after a short time. Dr. Lane succeeded him, and lived at the same place. He also soon moved away. Dr. Mulzason was the next to locate in town, and with a sort of fatality in the same house as Dewey and Lane. Like them his stay was brief, soon moving west. He was followed by Samuel W. Haynes, who located at the Corners on the old Corbet place. Dr. Haynes practiced his profession with success in Putnam and neighboring towns, for upwards of thirty years, and until the infirmities of old age compelled him to close an active life of service in his profession. In 1875, Dr. David E. Higgins settled in town locating at the Corners, where he has since resided. He has met with flattering success, and his practice already rivals, if not excels his predecessors. By a singular coincidence all these Doctors, with the exception of Blake, came from the State of Vermont.

## CHAPTER FIVE.

### RELIGIOUS HISTORY.

The first settlers in Putnam were a hardy God-fearing people, thoroughly imbued with the spirit of Christianity, and brought all their religious ideas, beliefs and hopes into this wild region with them. The first meal partaken amid the solitude of their new home was hallowed by the humble invocation or the divine blessing. The breaking up of old ties, and the disturbance and bustle and confusion incident to beginning a new life in the wilderness, caused no interruption in the sacred and venerable custom of family worship. The same songs of praise they had sung in their old homes amid the hills and dales of Bonnie Scotland and in the quaint boroughs of the Netherlands ascended heavenward with the smoke of their first camp fires, and bore witness to the fact that the land was taken by loyal subjects of the King of Kings.

The extreme southern part of the town was settled largely by people of Dutch extraction, with a predisposition to the Baptist faith, the central part of Scotch Presbyterians, who were prepared by their life in the Highlands for the rugged experience they must undergo in this wild and somewhat similar region.

#### THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Scotch being the first to settle in the town, were naturally the first to have formed religious worship, but at what precise date it is now impossible to state. Sacred prayer meetings were held on Sundays at Hutton's big house long before there was formal preaching. At these meetings different ones present took part. In this way the identity, and sanctity of the Sabbath was preserved, and the spirit of Christianity nourished and sustained.

The first preaching was probably had about 1798, in the big house by supplies sent from the lower part of the county. The organization of the associate Congregation of Putnam, the first religious body in town was effected in 1803, in Wm. Hutton's Big House. The persons officiating at the organization were Revs. Archibald White and Robert Lange, who were a committee appointed for the purpose by the Associate Presbytery of Cambridge. The original members numbered seventeen persons in all as follows: Wm. Hutton, Sr. and wife; Wm. Hutton, Jr. and wife; John Gourlie and wife; George Easton and wife; Alex. Corbet and wife; Robert Cummings and wife; George Wiley and wife; John Robertson and wife and Alex. McLachlan. The elders chosen at the time of the organization were John Gourlie and Alex. McLachlan. A short time afterwards Wm. Shiell was added to the number. These original numbers were all or almost all natives of Scotland, and now sleep in the churchyard in the shadow of the cliff. The ordinance of the Lord's Supper was first observed on the Sabbath following the organization of the congregation, the same persons officiating as did on the other occasion.

From the organization of the congregation in 1803, until 1807, such preaching services as were had were held in Wm. Hutton's Big House, as the congregation was too few in number, and too poor to afford a regular place of worship. The lack of a Church, however, was not seriously felt, as the congregation was small, and without a regular pastor or supplies; and since Wm. Hutton's Big House, which had been tendered to the congregation by that gentleman, was a rather roomy and elaborate residence for those days, and served the purpose very well.

In 1806, at a meeting of the congregation, held at Wm. Hutton's on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of January, it was resolved to erect a house of worship. The following is a transcript of the minutes of the meeting.

At a meeting of the congregation of Hutton's Bush held at Wm. Hutton's on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of Jan'y, 1806, John Gourlie, President, the following regulations were adopted;

First - That members only shall vote.

Second - That a meeting house be built on the southern part of James Burnett's farm 22 x 32 post and beam; post 14 feet high.

Third – That James Burnett, Wm. Hutton, Jr. and Alex. McLacklan be a committee to carry on said building.

Fourth - That said meeting house shall only be inclosed and the ground flood laid, &c.

The same year the erection of the building was commenced, and early the following year it was enclosed and put in a condition to use. It was not fully finished until 1817 or 18, owing to the limited financial condition of the congregation. The cost of the edifice was in round numbers \$349, of which amount \$223 was raised by the congregation, and the balance was donated by friends in New York City.

The building stood a few rods to the southeast of the present Church and about where the soldiers' monument now stands. The structure was 24 x 32 with fourteen feet ceiling, gable roof and stood to the east and west. The main entrance was in the centre of the east end, and from this an aisle extended back to the west end where the pulpit, a high and elaborate affair, stood. On the east end of the church, on either side of the aisle, was an enclosed square, seating about twelve persons, with a table in the center. The rest of the Church was filled with ordinary pews. Afterwards an addition of seventeen feet was added to the west end, and a door placed in the north side, a few feet from the west end, from which an aisle extended across the Church. Back of this aisle on either side of the pulpit an enclosed square was built, similar to those in the east end. Some years later, when the financial condition of the Church would admit of it, a small box stove was purchased for the use of the congregation, and placed in front of the pulpit.

In 1810, an attempt was made, probably for the first time, to obtain a regular pastor. The congregation of Putnam and Hebron united in extending a call to Rev. Mr. French, who had recently been licensed to preach. He declined and for nine years longer the people were without a regular pastor, and preaching was had only at rare intervals. Among those who preached to the congregation during this period were Revs. White, Robert Lange, Peter and Alex. Bullions and Rev. Mr. Shaw. These were all noble men, eminent in scholarship, piety and pulpit ability, and undoubtedly did much by their occasional ministrations to keep alive the spirit of religion and morals among the people.

Notwithstanding the difficulties which the congregation labored under, its isolated location at that time peculiarly difficult of access, its weakness both numerically and financially, it struggled along and persevered, its organization, faith and morals intact until 1819, when the eyes of the people rested on their first pastor, the Rev. James Miller. The meeting at which it was voted to call a pastor was held in the Church, and was presided over by John Gourlie. It was unanimously agreed to petition the Presbytery of Cambridge

for the moderation of a call. John Gourlie and Alex. McLachlan were chosen commissioners to represent the congregation at Presbytery. At the same meeting \$400.00, a free house and garden, cow keeping and fire wood were voted as annual salary for the pastor. In answer to the petition of the congregation a moderation was granted and at a congregational meeting held Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>, 1819 presided over by Rev. Peter Bullion, the Rev. James Miller was unanimously chosen pastor, and having accepted was on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of November, 1819, ordained and installed. One can somewhat imagine with what satisfaction these early settlers and founders of the Church must have looked upon the ceremony of installation, and their pastor mount the pulpit for the first time to conduct the services. For sixteen years they had looked forward to this event, and prayed and labored for its realization, and now their prayers were answered, and their labors rewarded. Mr. Miller remained pastor of the congregation till sometime in 1825, when a charge was preferred against him of gross immorality. Pending the investigation, his relations with the congregation was dissolved, at the request of the latter, on the ground that his usefulness there ended. The Synod, in Oct. 1826, found him guilty of the charge, and deposed him from the ministry. He was a native of Scotland and received his education there, coming to America in 1818. Of his subsequent history nothing is known. He was able in the pulpit, affable in his manners, and during his ministry the Church prospered. In the month of April, 1823, Adam Darling, John W. Graham and Robert Shiell were added to the board of ruling elders.

The congregation was without a regular pastor until July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1828, when Rev. Alex. Gordon was installed. Mr. Gordon continued pastor until Aug. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1842, when at his request the relation was dissolved. Subsequently he moved to Johnstown, N.Y., where he died Aug. 20<sup>th</sup>, 1845. He was a scholarly man, eloquent in speech and a writer of acknowledged merit. His life was a succession of misfortunes and troubles of a nature sufficient to wreck a much stronger character, but his unswerving faith carried him safely to the end. During his ministry the parsonage was burned, and he resided with his family in the house now occupied by Moses Dalton. In 1838-9, the second Church edifice was erected. It was a brick structure, and stood where the present one now stands, but its cost cannot now be ascertained. Wm. Hutton, James Cummings and Wm. Easton, were the building committee. In June 1835, Joseph Thompson and James Burnett were chosen ruling elders, and on June 25<sup>th</sup>, the former, and on July 23<sup>rd</sup> the latter was ordained and installed.

From the close of Mr. Gordon's ministry in 1842, to 1847, the congregation was without a pastor, and what preaching was had were supplies sent by the Presbytery. In 1846, the congregation extended to call to Rev. Alex. Story, which he declined, and also one to Rev. Mr. Wolf, who also declined. In the Spring of 1847, a call was given to Rev. Isaac Law of Salem, N.Y., which he accepted, and entered upon his labors July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1847. On the 7<sup>th</sup>, of October following, he was installed. November 25<sup>th</sup>, 1847, John Gourlie, James Cummings, James McLaughlin, Robert Simpson and Joseph Thompson, were chosen ruling elders, and in Jan'y. following they were ordained and installed. In March, 1852, Wm. Anderson, Thomas Ledgerwood, Robert McArthur and David Lillie, were also chosen elders, and April 29<sup>th</sup>, the two former were ordained and installed, McArthur and Lillie having declined to serve. In 1857 the present Church edifice was erected at a cost of about \$5000, and it stands today as it was built, except that a platform has been substituted for the old fashioned pulpit, and the tin on the steeple has given place to slate.

Mr. Law continued pastor of the congregation some fifteen years, and until his death, Jan'y. 28<sup>th</sup>, 1861. He was a man of true piety, a sound preacher, and possessed of eminent qualities as a pastor. He was greatly beloved by his church and the community in general, and his death was sincerely mourned by all. Under his pastorate the church prospered greatly, and at his death, numbered about one hundred and twenty-five resident members.

The fourth pastor was Rev. Thomas Lawrence, who commenced his labors on the first Sabbath of July, 1862, and on the 8<sup>th</sup> of Sept. following, he was ordained and installed. He was reared in Alleghany City, Pa., and received his education at the Western University, and the United Presbyterian Theological Seminary at Alleghany; Mr. Lawrence continued pastor of the congregation until June 18<sup>th</sup>, 1867, when at his request the relation was dissolved. Afterwards he united with the Presbyterian Church. He is an eloquent and effective speaker, a warm hearted man, and did much toward building up and strengthening the church. During his pastorate, Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1864, John Lillie, Wm. G. Corbet and David Easton, were chosen ruling elders, and Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>, following Mr. Lillie, and May 25<sup>th</sup>, 1865, Mr. Corbet was ordained and installed.

After the removal of Mr. Lawrence the congregation was without regular preaching, till the first Sabbath of July 1868, when Rev. Samuel Bigger became the fifth pastor. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of Sept. following he was ordained and installed. Mr. Bigger remained pastor of the church until the fall of 1880, when at his request the relation ceased, and he removed to Greenwich, N.Y. He is a man of undoubted piety, a good preacher, and has few equals as a pastor. The congregation exceedingly regretted his departure. A call was next extended to Rev. Mr. Gibson of Pa., which he declined. Subsequently a call was given to E. D. Campbell of Mammoth, Ill., who accepted and began his labors in July, 1881, and continued till the fall of 1884, when the relation was dissolved at his request. He returned to Mammoth where he soon after died with consumption. Mr. Campbell received a liberal education in the schools of this country, supplemented by a thorough course in the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. He was a profound thinker, a logical speaker, a close Bible student, and a thoroughly exemplary man.

The seventh and present pastor, Rev. John A. Reynolds was installed December 9<sup>th</sup>, 1885, He is a man of scholarly attainments, genial in his nature, affable in manner, an affective speaker, and greatly beloved by his people. Under his ministry the Church is prospering.

#### THE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

This Church was a scion of the Baptist Church of Benson, Vt., which was organized prior to 1817. In 1820 under the pastoral care of Elder John S. Carter, a wonderful revival of religion took place in this congregation, which extended across the Lake into Putnam, so that the whole southern portion of the town, as well as Dresden, felt the influence of the spirit. Soon after this, Carter became somewhat exercised in mind over certain doctrines of his Church, which he questioned, and was disciplined by that body. Meanwhile at two meetings held at Benson, Vt., April 6<sup>th</sup>, and at Putnam April 7<sup>th</sup>, 1823, a Church was organized by Elder Sylvester Robinson, assisted by Elder John S. Carter and Deacon Gideon Carter. This was the nucleus of the present Free Will Baptist Church of Putnam. The original membership, as enrolled at the organization, numbered twenty-eight persons in all. Their names are as follows; Gideon Carter, Joannie Carter, John S. Carter, John C.

Woodstock, Daniel Carter, Jarel Carter, Samuel Fish, Stephen A. Fish, Lei Fish, John Backers, Hiram Congdon, Hannibal Congdon, Isaac Congdon, Abraham Shear, Wm. Woodstock, Simeon Bugbee, Oatman Fish, Lei Fish 2<sup>nd</sup>, Joseph Congdon, Anthony D. Welch, John Shear, Millard Woodstock, Ruth Moston, Jerusha Carter, Clarrissa Carter, Highly Carter, Almira Fish and Nancy Dedrick.

Upon the organization of the church, Elder John S. Carter was called to the charge. About this time he was convicted by the Baptist Society for holding false doctrines, but was sustained by his congregation, who shortly afterwards embraced the principles of the Free Will Baptist Church, to which they have since steadily adhered.

Carter remained pastor of the congregation till 1825, when he was succeeded by Abraham Shear. In the spring of 1832, he was again called to the charge, and teams were sent by the congregation to Benson to move his effects across the Lake. While on their way back, Carter embraced the Mormon faith, "leaving the Church," as the records recite, "after all its expenditure and trouble without a pastor."

The next pastor succeeding Elder Shear was Rev. Leland Huntly, who filled the pulpit in an acceptable manner for some time. He was succeeded by Rev. Charles Bowles, a colored preacher, possessing wonderful powers of persuasion and eloquence. In 1831, during his ministry, fourteen converts were baptised by him at one time in Lake George. The next pastor was Wm. P. Chase, who in turn was followed by Samuel Hart. He was succeeded by Rev. S. D. Keniston, a man of scholarly attainments, and unquestionable piety and pulpit ability. In 1840, successful protracted meetings were held by him, assisted by L. E. Bixby and J. E. Davis. During their meetings there was a wonderful outpouring of the spirit, and thirty-five converts were added to the Church. Keniston was succeeded by Rev. A. Kilborne, a man of many excellent qualities. He was an active temperance worker, and during his pastorage succeeded after many attempts, in having a temperance pledge made one of the covenants; this was accomplished in May, 1841 and to this early stand on the question of temperance by the church is, due no doubt in a great measure the healthy condition of temperance among the people in the south part of the town.

Elder B. S. Baxter was the next pastor. He was a man of undoubted ability, both in the pulpit and out of it, but was somewhat visionary in the views. In 1843, he began to preach Adventist or Millerite doctrines. This produced considerable excitement in the church for a time, and a number were partially, at least, influenced by his teachings. His views were eventually combatted, however, by the efforts of Deacon John Backer and others.

Baxter was followed by Rev. Henry Belden, a man of true piety, untarnished reputation, and scholarly attainments. He was beloved and respected by the whole people, and was repeatedly called to the charge. Under his ministrations the church had a healthy and steady growth. He was successively followed by Harvey, Loren E. Bixby, Joshua Tucker, Joseph Bruce and Peleg Fuller, are men of exemplary character and pulpit ability.

Frederick A. Partridge, the next pastor, was a variously accomplished man, and labored faithfully many years to build up the church. He was succeeded by Rev. W. A. Nealy, a man of pronounced ability, and an untiring worker for cause of his Master. He was an earnest and forcible speaker, and by his efforts the church was greatly strengthened. His departure was regretted not only by his own flock, but by the people of the town generally. Rev. R. H. Lozer succeeded him, and labored faithfully for several years.

The present pastor is Rev. E. Newell, he was born in Huntington County, England, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 1846, and received his education at Homerton College, London. He was installed pastor of the church in April, 1884. He is a man of marked ability, and one of the ablest preachers ever located in the town, earnest and forcible in his manner, apt in his illustrations, a convincing reasoner, he has few equals as a pulpit orator in this region. Under his ministry the church is prospering. Besides these regular pastors, occasionally ministrations have been rendered by Gideon Carter, Jas. Rickert, Daniel Jackson and others.

Of the various ministers who have been called to this charge, Revs. Chase, Kilborne and Partridge were each twice pastors, and Belden four times. The history of this church has been characterized by seasons of remarkable growth, followed by periods of depression. At present the congregation is in a healthy and vigorous condition. The Society was incorporated in 1860. The Sunday School was organized in 1843, with three teachers and twenty scholars. At present the School is in a healthy condition and is under the direction of the Pastor.

After the organization of the church, religious services were held in school houses, private dwellings and sometimes in barns, until 1841, when the first church edifice was erected, which still stands. It was dedicated October, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1841. The building is 26 x 36, neat and attractive in its appearance, and cost \$650. It has seating capacity for one hundred and eighty persons. In 1878, the building was thoroughly repaired, at a considerable expense, and the interior tastefully remodeled. Part of the fixtures were the gift of Messrs. Albert Crampton and Emerson Belden of Troy. The parsonage was built in 1858, on lands leased by John Backus. The building committee were Hiram Burgess, John Backus and Arnold Hulett. This congregation has long been noted for the number of excellent singers and musicians, which it contained, and the music both vocal and instrumental, has always been an attractive feature of the service.

## CHAPTER SIX.

### THE GREAT REBELLION.

The attack on Ft. Sumter fired the heart of the whole patriotic north, and made it one vast encampment. In every city, village and hamlet, in many instances for the first time, the old flag floated to the breeze, while the air resounded with the tramp of marching feet, and the stirring strains of martial music. Like the accumulated snow in the Spring, which under the rays of the ascending sun melts into ten thousand rivulet and expanding into torrents, gradually broadens into the river, and pours into the Ocean of waters, so from the hills and dales of the north, little knots of patriots assembled, and converging poured an army of resolute men into Washington, determined to defend the old flag, and preserve the Union.

The nation's appeal for volunteers met with hearty and generous response, and the little town of Putnam liberally contributed its quota to help swell the assembling host. In the early part of 1861, a meeting was held at the Corners for the purpose of furnishing such aid to the prosecution of the war as the town could afford. Addresses of a patriotic nature were made by a number of those present. The meeting resulted in the appointment of a war committee, consisting of A. G. Meiklejohn, Wm. G. Corbet and Francis Craig, who were empowered to make all necessary arrangements to secure volunteers.

The first Reg. for which a quota was desired was the 44<sup>th</sup> N.Y. better known as the Ellsworth Avengers. This Reg. was raised in the early part of 1861, from all portions of the state, the intention being to have representatives from every town. The appeal of the war committee for volunteers for this Reg. was responded to by five persons, viz: James F. Burnett, Wm. Craig, John A. McLaughlin, Henry Stevens, and Nathaniel King, who were all accepted, and enrolled for the greater part at least in Company A. The Reg. proceeded to Washington in the fall of 1861, and was incorporated in the army of the Potomac. It was in the service three years, and took part in the following battles, Yorktown, Hanover Court House, Gaine's Mill, Malvern Hill, Second, Bull Run, Antietam, Fredericksburgh, Chancellorsville, Gettysburgh, Wilderness, Spottsylvania, North America Welden Rail Road, Petersburg, and numerous minor engagements.

It was mustered out of service October 11<sup>th</sup>, 1864, the veterans and recruits being transferred to other regiments. The next Reg. to which the town of Putnam contributed was the 87<sup>th</sup> N.Y. This Reg. was raised principally in Brooklyn, but Company A was composed almost exclusively of volunteers from Putnam and Dresden. The following are the names of the Putnam boys who served in this regiment: Anthony J. Blanchard, Wm. C. Corbet, Allen Congdon, Patrick Flanery, Wm. W. Miller, Ezra M. Rickert, Myron Rickert, James L. Rickert, and Henry H. Rickert. This Reg. was mustered in the early part of the fall of 1861, and at once proceeded to Washington. It was assigned to the army of the Potomac, about the time McClellan commenced his peninsular campaign. It took an active and meritorious part in the battle of Williamsburgh, Fair Oaks, White Oak Swampy, Malvern Hill and Manassass Junction. In all of these engagements it suffered severely, and so much were its ranks depleted, that in Sept. 1862, it was consolidated with the 40<sup>th</sup> N.Y. The 40<sup>th</sup> thereafter took part in the battles of Fredericksburgh, Chancellorsville, Gettysburgh, Mine Run Wilderness, Spottsylvania, Cold Harbor and the Siege of Petersburg. It was Mustered out June 27<sup>th</sup>, 1865.

McClellan's unsuccessful campaign around Richmond opened the eyes of the north to the magnitude of the war, and the effort that must be put forth to suppress it. Fresh regiments were raised and hurried to the front, and a determination took possession of the people to furnish adequate means to put down the Rebellion. The citizens of Washington County, N. Y., were not behind their neighbors in this crisis. At a meeting held in Argyle, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of July, 1862, and subsequently in various parts of the county, it was determined to raise a regiment of volunteers, and with that end in view, efforts were accordingly made in the several towns. Alex. Anderson was selected as the person to secure volunteers in Putnam. His efforts met with marked success. The following are the names of the Putnam boys who served in this regiment:

Alex Anderson, Wm. Anderson, Jr., James D. Backer, Lei A. Belden, George W. Blair, Andrew E. Benson, James L. Cummings, John S. Cummings, Robert I. Cummings, Joseph H. Congdon, Henry A. Dedrick, Darwin Easton, John C. Gourlie, James H. Haynes, Wm. Hutton, Jr., Edwin F. Harvey, James D. Leigh, Robert Maxwell, James McLaughlin 2<sup>nd</sup>, Kelborn A. Miller, Wm. D. McLaughlin, Alex. McLaughlin, Wm. Moore, Wm. McLaughlin, Joseph Petty, Alex. C. Thompson, James W. Vaughan, George T. Wright and Daniel R. Williamson. The men were mustered into the U. S. service as the 123<sup>rd</sup> Volunteer Infantry on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of Sept. 1862, at Albany, and the day following started for Washington, arriving on the 9<sup>th</sup> at the latter place, when they received their equipments. At Pleasant Valley, near Harpers Ferry, the regiment was assigned to the 22<sup>nd</sup> Brigade (Brig. Gen. Thomas L. Kane) 1<sup>st</sup> Division (Brig. Gen. A. C. Williams) 12<sup>th</sup> Corps (Maj. Gen. H. W. Slocum). On the 19<sup>th</sup> of Jan'y, 1863, the regiment started on what was called the "Mud March" towards Richmond, and on arriving at the plank road running to Frederickburgh, received its baptism of fire in a sharp engagement with the Rebel Cavalry. Subsequently it participated in the battle of Chancellorsville and Gettysburgh, as well as the other battles in which the army of the Potomac was engaged at that time.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> day of Sept. 1863, the regiment was ordered to the west to join the Union forces in Tenn. Its history thereafter is glorious, in common with the whole "Army of the West." In the campaign which terminated in the capture of Atlanta, Ga. the 123<sup>rd</sup> took an important and heroic part, and suffered severely. Many a brave son of Washington County lies sleeping on the battle fields of Chickamauga, Chattanooga, Peach Tree Creek, Dalton, and the numerous other battle grounds of that Campaign.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> day of November, 1864, Sherman (having previously headed off Hood in his threatened invasion of Tenn. and left Gen. Thomas to watch him) commenced his memorable march to the sea. Toward the latter part of November, he captured Milledgeville, the capital of Ga., and on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of December entered Savannah in triumph. In Jan'y. following, Sherman and his army crossed the Savannah River, and marched northward through the Carolinas. On the 17<sup>th</sup> day of Feb'y, 1865, Columbia, the capital of S. C. was taken and on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of April, Johnston and his Army surrendered in North Carolina. This closed the active military operation of the war.

Subsequently the 123<sup>rd</sup> participated in the grand review at Washington, and was mustered out of service June 8<sup>th</sup>, 1865.

There were some of the regiments in which certain Putnam boys "smelt powder," notably the 5<sup>th</sup> N.Y. Cavalry (Hammond's regiment); the 2nd, veteran cavalry, the 93<sup>rd</sup> N.Y. Int. and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bat. Art.

In the 5<sup>th</sup> N.Y. were James D. Leigh, John D. Rickert, Theodore Easton, and Harvey Rickert. This regiment for the greater part was with Sheridan's forces in Shenandoah Valley, and took an active part in all the battles in that region, particularly that of Cedar Creek.

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vet. Cav. were Edward Lyons and Philo K. Rikert. This regiment was stationed principally in the Southwest and took a prominent part in the Red River expedition, as well as the raid into Alabama to cut the Mobile and Ohio R.R.

In the 93<sup>rd</sup> N.Y. were Benjamin and Thomas Clark. This regiment was with the army of the Potomac, and saw active service in the numerous campaigns against Richmond.

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bat. Art. were Philander Odell, Eber Odell and Peter Crammond. This battery formed a part of the army of the Potomac, and participated in the numerous battles in which that force was engaged.

During the process of the war, various sums were voted at different times as bounty for volunteers. The largest appropriation of this kind was \$7000, which was voted at a special town meeting July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1864. Town fairs were held at the Corners for the benefit of the soldiers, and in this way many articles for their use and comfort were secured.

Lee and Johnston had surrendered and the stars and stripes again floated from Maine to the Gulf - the war was over. July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1865, is a day that will long be remembered by the Putnam people. "The boys" came home and were given a hearty reception. They were received at the Corners in an appropriate manner, and afterwards banqueted in Wm. McLaughlin Grove. It was a day of rejoicing, but it was not unmixed with sadness at the thought of the many brave fellows who went forth in the vigor of manhood, and who now slept in a soldier's grave in the far away south.

Twenty-two years have since rolled round and the roll call elicits few and feeble responses. The heroes who so nobly faced the awful fire at Fair Oakes, at Malvern Hill, at Gettysburg, at Winchester, at Chickamanga, pass in review, but what a change! The strong vigorous boys, where are they? A few men aged and whitened beyond their day complete the procession - Death has been among them. Against this foe no picket line could guard, and one by one the noble fellows have been "missing" at roll call. A few years more and the last will have laid down his arms, and the boys in blue will sleep that great sleep under the flag, which they so nobly defended.

## CHAPTER SEVEN.

### GENERAL REVIEW.

It is now one hundred and three years since the town was first settled by Wm. Hutton, and the same landscape that greeted that pioneer's eye still greets the eye of the present resident, save that the valleys and uplands have been shorn of their primeval forests, and farm houses and barns dot the well cultivated hillsides. The streams still flow in their sinuous courses to the Lakes; the everlasting hills still rear their heads as the proudly have for ages, and there is still the regular recurrence of the seasons, with the periods of growth and decay. Nature is the same today as it was when the Hutton family partook their first meal on the bank of Lake Champlain.

But what of the early settlers and their families, and the result of their industry? Not even the rubbish of their log dwellings remains to mark the spot where they commenced the struggle in the town. In the graveyards they now lie sleeping, and a moss covered and almost forgotten slab marks the only spot of all their hard earned acres they can call their own.

With the changes in the people have come a change in the habits and customs, and social life of the community. The good old ways of the fathers have been disregarded by their children, and are now only known as traditions of a hardy and industrious race. Some of these changes are possibly to be regretted, others are yet...*[text missing]*

In the early history of the town the use of intoxicating liquors was quite common, and those who did not "celebrate" at logging bees and general trainings were the exception to the rule.

A story is told in this connection which shows how general was the custom of imbibing in the early days of the town. A charge of intoxication had been preferred against one of the number of the United Presbyterian Church, and a meeting of the elders had been called to take action in the matter. A sentiment seemed to prevail at the meeting that the tipping brothers should be censured. Finally one of the elders arose and counseled moderation, remarking that if they expelled one for drinking, of necessity they would have to expel all who were guilty of the same offense. Continuing he observed; "There is a deacon—he takes a drop now and then, and a deacon—he likes his toddy, and a deacon—he likes to be one of the boys on training days, and I don't mind a drop now and then myself, so if you enforce this rule we'll all have to be expelled, and the Lord will have no Church at all in Putnam." It is needless to say that there was no disposition on the part of the elders to totally eradicate the church, the counsel of the blunt but honest deacon prevailed, and the offense of the brother was passed over.

The inhabitants of the town, isolated in a great measure from the rest of the world, have always been obliged to rely on their own resources for amusements and social recreation. In the early days of the town these diversions consisted principally of husking, paring and quilting bees. At all of these gatherings, dancing was indulged in, the music being the enlivening strains of the violin. Several of the town's people gained quite a reputation as violinist in this way, accumulated considerable money.

The husking bees began early in the evening, and were attended by both sex, who invariably came on foot, the ladies preceding the gentlemen by an hour or two. Husking

was industriously engaged in the barns and outbuildings for a couple of hours, when the party adjourned to the house, where refreshments were had in the shape of pumpkin and apple pies and various kinds of cake, dancing followed until eleven or twelve o'clock, when the company broke up, the young men gallantly seeing the ladies home.

The ingathering to the paring bees was much the same as that of the husking bees, with about the same amusements and refreshment. The company was generally divided into three classes; parers, quarterers and stringers, the apples when prepared being strung on strings, and suspended in loops from the ceiling for drying. At these festivities the young people indulged in many harmless amusements, one of which was attempting in a measure to forecast the future. This was done in substantially the following way: A person would take a long apple paring, swing it several times around the head, and then cast it upon the floor. The letter of the alphabet, which it most nearly assumed in shape was considered the initial letter of the future companion of the person in question. These gatherings terminated in much the same way as the husking bees.

The quilting bees were more of a field day for the ladies than the other gatherings spoken of. The ladies assembled in the afternoon and quilted until towards evening, when they "cleaned up" and had supper. Later the gentlemen arrived and games were indulged in for a while, when refreshments were had, consisting of pumpkin and apple pies and cake. Dancing followed until about twelve o'clock when the party broke up, the gentlemen as on the other occasions seeing the ladies home, generally on foot. The usual beverage at these various gatherings was cider, though occasionally tea and coffee was served. Sometimes the parties went to these bees on horseback, the gentlemen ahead driving, while his lady companion rode behind. Sometimes a load would go on a lumber wagon, and for this purpose a strong board would be placed on the bolsters for a seat, while a chain stretched from the same points served as a rest for the feet. This crude conveyance, very often drawn by oxen, would be driven from house to house till a load was collected, when the complement of young people would proceed to the house where the bee was to be held, with as much mirth and contentment as though riding in the luxurious vehicles of today. It is pertinent in this connection to observe that human nature does not change with the seasons or with the generation either. In all these rides to and from the bees the ladies and gentlemen alternated with systematic regularity, and talked those sweet nothings, which though somewhat venerable and stereotyped are never stale to the parties interested.

Speaking of the ways of going to the bees, makes a word or two about the mode of traveling in the town proper. In the very early days there were few if any wagons, rough sledges taking the place of those vehicles. Oxen were more common by far than horses, and were often ridden in the same way. Indeed the roads would not admit of any means of locomotion save, on foot and horseback. Gradually lumber wagons and colts become common, the sledges being restricted in their use to the winter months. There was no such thing as a light or pleasure wagon until along in the thirties. About this time they made their appearance. They were a heavy affair with wooden springs. Alex. McLaughlin, William Shiell, Peter Hutton, Robert Paterson, "Big Rob," and Thomas Lillie, each had one, and perhaps a few others. About 1844, steel spring wagons began to come into use; G. W. Thompson had the first one. The cutters used along about the forties or fifties were marvels of design and elaboration. Some of them still in existence show how profuse was the style of those days.

Back prior to the thirties, farmers use to go to mill on horseback, generally with two bushels of grain in a bag placed across the horse in front of the rider. To the credit of the town it may be said that the custom of loading one end of the bag with a stone never prevailed.

Going to church in the early days of the town was not without its quaint features. Shoes of any kind were a luxury during the summer months, and fine shoes and boots a rarity at any season. Some of the members of the congregation who possessed these luxuries would on Sunday walk nearly to church barefooted, carrying their shoes and stockings in their hands, at some spring or brook the latter would be put on and the remainder of the distance completed in full dress. The services were unusually long, and the worshipers brought with them a lunch, which was partaken during a recess for that purpose. The sermons were orthodox in the extreme and owing to the scarcity of hymn and Psalm books, two lines of the sacred song were read and then sung by the congregation, and then two more in the same way, and so on through the whole piece. In these days nearly every man possessed a dog, which he religiously allowed to accompany him to church; so on Sundays there was quite a respectable congregation of dogs at the meeting house. The canines, however, were not allowed to enter the building, but during the summer months, when the doors and windows were open a dog would occasionally stray in. Invariably, if not sooner headed off, he would march to the front of the front of the pulpit and nine to one, attempt to argue with the preacher about the points under discussion. To obviate any disturbance of this kind, a man was appointed for each aisle to eject dogs. This individual was known by the rather unromantic name of "dog kicker." There has been a wonderful backsliding among the dogs of the town in these latter days, the mission of the "dog kicker" is ended, and he is now only a character of history.

The garments worn by the people in the olden days were mostly of homespun, the ladies doing the spinning and weaving and then, generally, getting the cloth fulled at some fulling mill, several of which flourished in the town. But however plain and coarse the ordinary every day garments were the suits for weddings and gala days were gorgeous and elaborate affairs, and beat anything in the wardrobe of the most fastidious lady or gentleman of to-day.

In this connection it is proper to speak of the general trainings. These were at the zenith of their glory along in the thirties, but were irregularly held up to the breaking out of the Civil War. The general trainings were held at some central point at which the whole company assembled, previously each man being notified to attend, by a sergeant. Prior to these gatherings the companies met in their respective towns at various times and were drilled by the local officers preparatory to the great day. Fines were imposed for failing to attend the general training, and were summarily collected by an officer, who visited the various towns for that purpose. The general trainings were gala days, and drinking was quite generally and freely indulged in. Wrestling matches and other exhibitions of strength and skill were had in which the various companies vied with each other for the honors of the day. The whole was enlivened by the presence of many fair ladies, who as in the gladiatorial contests of old smiled their approval on the champions of strength and skill. The original Putnam Company was called the Rifle Greens from their suits, which were of green cloth with bright metal buttons. The men also wore high military hats with feathers and presented a very creditable appearance. Alex. Wiley, Jasper Shear, and perhaps other Putnam men, were Colonels of the regiment to which the Rifle Greens belonged, at

various times, Robert Paterson was a major and James Crammond and a number of others were captains of the Putnam Company.

The long interval of peace from the close of the war of 1812 to the outbreak of the Rebellion, broken only by the Mexican War, which did not particularly engage the attention of the north, had the effects of dissipating the military spirit of the people, so that from about 1845, strict military discipline began to be relaxed, and the general trainings to be attended only in a desultory manner. Efforts continued to be made to collect the fines, and for some time they were paid by the delinquents, but this exaction was finally resisted and was eventually abandoned. About 1860, the old time militia entirely ceased to exist and the general trainings with their attending circumstances passed into history.

The Putnam people of today, living in their comfortable homes, little realize what their forefathers experienced in their rude log cabins. Some of the older people still living remember some of the hardships of living in those early dwellings. Instances are related of people waking up in the morning during the winter months and finding several inches of snow on the floor of the chamber, as well as on the bed, which had blown in through the cracks and crevices during the night. These early log houses, with a single exception, were one story high, with an attic, which was reached by a ladder. Generally in each end of the attic was a small opening serving the purpose of a window. These would be boarded up during the winter, but left open through the summer. The floor was covered with loose boards. In this room were several beds where the children slept. The lower floor was divided into two rooms, a kitchen or living room and "a spare room" or parlor. Each of these rooms had a window front and back, and the parlor had a third window in the end of the building. The end part of the kitchen was occupied by the fire place. This was an immense affair built of brick or stone, and projected somewhat from the building on the outside, tapering up to a square chimney, after the manner of some seen in certain parts of the country to this day. These fire places required a large amount of fuel which greatly facilitated the leveling of the primeval forests. A huge buck-log was first rolled to the rear of the arch, and then a smaller one was placed in front, on this was piled cord-wood. This constituted the fire for the evening, and to a large extent the light by which the family performed their evening duties. The buck-log burned slowly and would last all night, so that in the morning there would be a nice bed of coals, which with some small wood would soon produce a rousing fire by which to prepare breakfast. The buck-logs were generally snaked into the kitchen with a horse or ox, the only outside door of the house, which opened into the living room, being made wide for that purpose. Once in a while the fire would go out during the night and as there was no such thing as friction matches, a member of the family would be dispatched to a neighbor's with a pine knot or torch for a light. The furniture of the kitchen consisted generally of a bed for company, a table and several severely straight backed chairs. There were curtains at the windows of the room and several pictures, mostly representing Bible scenes and characters adorned the walls. Papered walls were unknown at this time, and carpets had not as yet found their way into the community. The first dwellings to have papered walls were what is known as the "Dalton House" and the old Lillie residence. The former probably had the first carpet. Cooking was done by hanging the kettles on a sort of an arm with a hook which was fastened within the fire place. This arm was made to swing so that the kettle could be pulled outside the arch. Elaborate brass headed tongs were used to stir up the fire and manipulate the kettles. For baking purposes some of the families had bake kettles. These

were flat iron dishes on short legs, with a broad rim into which fitted a tight cover. This kettle would be set on a bed of coals and the coals heaped around and upon it in sufficient quantities to bake the batter which had been previously put in.

Fish have always abounded in Lake Champlain, and fishing with nets, until recently, has been extensively engaged in. The shores of Putnam being generally low, and the water shallow, has made it a favorite place for this kind of fishing. Invariably the nets have been owned by residents of Vt. The boys of Putnam have always tacitly maintained that fish, even when enclosed in a net, were common property, and that it was not stealing to take them. Accordingly there has always been more or less meddling with the nets in the Lake, which has been strenuously resisted by the owners. In this way a good deal of bad feeling was engendered which sometimes culminated in open violence.

One night, a good many years ago, a number of the boys gathered on the bank of the Lake north of Negro Point. They had helped themselves to a large amount of fish in the nets near by, and were going to have a fish bake. A rousing fire had been built and the boys were just beginning to thoroughly enjoy the sport, when their festivities were suddenly interrupted. Several fishermen attracted by the blaze of their fire, had stealthily approached and surrounded the merry makers, the darkness intensified by the fire, making it impossible for the boys to discover their approach. All at once the fisherman broke in upon them. The boys taken completely by surprise and not being able to cope with their assailants scattered in all directions. Several, however, were captured by the fishermen and unmercifully thrashed. This aroused the ire of the boys, and they determined to have revenge. For the purpose of watching their nets in the neighborhood of Negro Point, the fishermen had built a small shanty on the point just at the waters edge. In this two of them slept nights armed with guns. One morning about two o'clock, a number of the boys quietly surrounded the shanty, and partially succeeded in tipping it, together with its occupants into the Lake. The two fishermen finally succeeded in getting out and opened fire on the boys. The latter who had come prepared returned the compliment, and quite a little skirmish ensued. Fortunately no one was shot, though several had a close call. The next day the whole town was excited over the matter. The fishermen threatened to prosecute the perpetrators, and left no stone unturned in trying to find out their names, even employing a detective for that purpose. But the boys were wary and for years the matter was kept a secret amongst themselves, so that nothing could be found out. This was the most serious disturbance between the fishermen and the boys of the town ever had, and gradually the troubles ceased altogether, partly owing to the enforcement of the game laws, and the decadence of fishing in Lake Champlain; and partly owing to a lack of appreciation of that kind of sport among the present generation of boys.

Going to school in the olden days had some features which are eliminated from the present school routine. The lunch of the children consisted, as a general rule, of Johnny cake and sausage. The sausages were put up in links and held over the fire until the grease would run, which would then be allowed to drip onto the cake as it was eaten, as a substitute for butter. The scholars had to prepare all the wood for the fire, and this, especially in cold weather consumed a large part of the time. The rod was at all times a conspicuous adjunct of the school room, and was unsparingly used. Physical power was considered as much, if not more, as a qualification in the teacher, than intellectual capability.

The Putnam youths of to-day as they periodically journey in their comfortable carriages to see their inamoratas, little dream what nerve it took on the part of their forefathers to secure the older generation of mothers now living. The girls then were just as fond of being courted as they are now, and it took just as long to woo one, and cross dogs and perhaps not overly pleased parents were not by any means the only dangers the ardent young man had to brave. Fully seven-tenths of the town was yet covered by dense forests, and bears and panthers and other wild animals were not rarities. The young men on their sparking evenings generally started early and reached the home of the young lady before dark. Once there he probably enjoyed himself in the society of his intended as much as the lover of to-day, though there must have occasionally flitted before his imagination visions of the lonely trip home with its attendant dangers. It was not unusual when wild animals were reported to be prowling around for the young men, at the urgent request of his affianced, to remain over night at her home, and it is reported that often the friendly barn of the ladies' father was eagerly sought by the brave swain after the "good night" was said, where he remained until nearly morning, taking his departure before the family were up.

For a number of years Putnam maintained a very creditable town fair. They were held at the Corners, on the Academy grounds. During the war of the Rebellion, the proceeds of the fairs were expended for the benefit of the soldiers from the town. Many a brave fellow in the far way south was gladdened by the receipt of various articles of wearing apparel, fashioned by the hand of some Putnam lady. These fairs were abandoned for some reason, and it is now a good many years since one has been held.

It may be interest to the present generations to know something of the property standing of their forefathers. The following schedule is compiled from rough statements made by the town assessors at the time of taking up the assessments. It is regretted that it is not more complete, but it will give an idea of the amount of property possessed by the early settlers, and how humble was their beginning in the town.

NAMES OF THOSE ASSESSED	No. Acres	Inalty [sic]	Valuation	Horses	Oxen	Cows	3 yr. old	2 yr. old	1 yr. old	Sheep	Hogs	Clocks	Watches	Wagons	Sleighs	Plows	Debts
John Blair	80	2	\$380	1	2	3	3	1	3	30	5						\$100
Johnathan Blair	160	3	380	2		2		3	1	11	2						250
David Blair	110	2	365		2	2		2		9		1					100
James Burnett	598	1	4233	3	4	8	3	8	9	48	5	1	1	3		3	
Jas. Burnett Jr.				2		1			1					1	1		
Robt. Cummings	140	1	1790	2	2	9	6	6	8	53	7	1	1	1	2		600
Thos. Cummings	141	2	1276	4	2	8	2	5	6	22	4	1		1	1		
Wm. Cummings	89	2	760			1		1	1	15	2		1			1	
Jas. Cummings				1			1						1				
Jas. Crammond	318	3	950	2		4		2	4	8	3	1		1		1	
John Gourly	263	1	2170	2	2	8	2	2	7	24	4	1	1				
Thos. Lillie	160	2	494	2		6	3	2	4	19	2	5					
Jno. W. Graham	80	2	322	2		2		2	1	12	3						
John Graham	160	1	1065	2	2	7	1	4	8	26	4						
Henry Rickert	50	2	237		2	1					1						
John Rickert	100	3	237		2	3		3	4	12	3						
Absalom Lyons	5	3	19			1	2	1		6	1						
Jasper Shear	85	1	665	4	4	3	1	5	4	26	4		1				
Christian Shear	80	3	228	2		3			1	13			1				
Lodwick Shear	160	3	456	3													
Robt. Paterson	409	2	1995	2	2	7		7	7	23	4	1		1		1	
Leonard Guyle	60	3	171		2	2			2	5	3						
Robert Wright	119	1	904		2	4	4	6	3	15	3	1		1		1	
Thos. Wright	25	1	384	2		1		1	1	9	2		1			1	
Dan. Williamson	190	1	1444	2	2	4			1	18	2		1				
Robt. Maxwell	107	3	332		2	3			1	13			1				
Wm. Graham	80	2	380		2	2		2	2	4	2		1	1		1	