

close of the century, were men with the names of Charters; Harper, Hicks, Gilbert, Cole, Palmer, Keech, Killam and Brown. Capt. Gideon Palmer was then a lieutenant in the Queens Own Fusilier Guards and had fought in the revolutionary war. He was thus a loyalist and took up land along the present Palmer Creek, where the family of this name have large land interests today. The following is the order of settlement beginning at the present site of the Penitentiary and extending down along the river front: Weldon, Keillor, Harper, Palmer, Hicks, and Cole. The grants extended about two miles back.

Some of these men began early the erection of saw and grist mills. The earliest builders were Gideon Palmer, Robert B. Chapman, Reuben Taylor, a Scotchman named Robb and Aaron Brown, all in the early century. The land was cleared and the marsh further dyked, the French, some of whom remained, appearing to render their assistance.

Tanning was another industry in bygone days.

An old gentleman's memory gives 1820 as the date of the first regular mails. Dorchester was the exchange point for the weekly mails on Thursdays from Chatham, St. John and Halifax. These arrived during the day, horses were rested, and mails assorted and next morning the journey was resumed.

The history of Dorchester has been closely connected with that of the lives of its numerous brilliant legal gentlemen, and shortly after the Court House was erected.

Between 1785, and 1915 there have been five registrars of deeds, namely Amos Botsford, M. Blackhouse, Andrew Weldon, William Blackhouse (1852-1900) and Hon. A. D. Richard (1915).

THE GILBERTS

The Gilbert family in New Brunswick is descended from Thomas Gilbert of Massachusetts—by descent one of the most distinguished of all Loyalists. He was a nephew of Sir Humphrey Gilbert and he married a daughter of Governor Bradford. He was a member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives. When the Revolutionary War broke out he organized at Freetown, Mass., a corps of volunteers or "Minute Men." He was an active participant in the French and Indian wars; was at Louisburg in 1745, and at Crown Point and Lake George. He came to New Brunswick in 1783, having obtained a grant at Gagetown, where he settled and became a tiller of the soil he was then 68 years of age.

The Gilbert family monument in the Dorchester Cemetery is conspicuous. A portion of the inscription is given below: Sacred to the memory of Lt. Robert Keech, a British Loyalist, born at North Castle, N. Y., November 12th, 1759, who after the Declaration of Independence left New York with his wife and only child, and landed at Fort Cumberland,