

There were also others of note present, smacking of royalty, towit, Kings, Queens and Jacks. They were held in high repute after the business of the day was over and few did not consider it a loyal duty to attend such high company.

Time passes and the motley crowd has disappeared. Those of Dorchester—friends and foes, prince and peasant—are all neighbors in the sacred ground beside the Pond; their joys and sorrows, their hopes and disappointments are over; the same turf covers them all; the same dew of heaven falls on them and neither summer sun or winter's blast will disturb their eternal sleep.

### THE FIRST SHIRETOWN

The original shiretown was at Westmorland Point, the county buildings being located a mile from the Fort near St. Mark's Church. They were apparently erected by the Government, before the Court of Sessions was instituted. The first court was held in July, 1785. Speaker Botsford was Clerk of the Peace, Andrew Sherman and Ralph Siddall, High Constables. The parishes were then Westmorland, Sackville, Petitcodiac, Memramcook and Shepody. Memramcook was not christened Dorchester until 1789, and it did not become the shiretown until 1803. In the roll of Justice in 1785, John Weldon and Joseph Cook Lamb were the only ones hailing from "Memramcook".

The Court of Sessions met at Dorchester on 16th June, 1803 when £300 was assessed on the County for a Court House and Jail. It was a two storey building 48 ft. long and 32 feet wide. Mr. John Keillor gave the land, 4 acres. The first storey contained the prisoners' apartment beside the tavern. The second storey the court room and two jury rooms; the third, bedrooms, etc.

The Commissioners for building the Court House were Richard Wilson, Duncan Reed and John Wheldon. The Justices forming the Court of Sessions were James Law, Charles Dixon, Samuel Gay, Christopher Harper, William Allan, John Wheldon, William Black, Ralph Siddall, Richard Wilson, Titus Knapp, Duncan Reed, Jonathan Burnham, Joseph C. Lamb, James Watson, Robert Dickson, Hugh McMonagle and Rufus Smith.

The first keeper was Mr. Robert Keillor. In 1803, Mr. Keillor added a kitchen and stable. He was succeeded in 1807 by Mr. Josiah Wood, father of the late Mr. Mariner Wood, of Sackville, who became lessee for £10.00 per annum. Mr. Wood was by trade a weaver and Capt. Palmer built him a fulling mill at Palmer's Pond. This was probably the first in the county. After his death, Capt. Palmer continued the business. Previously he kept school in a log building near the Court House. Mr. Andrew Kinnear became jail keeper when he gave up and was in charge in 1820 when the jail caught fire and was burned up.