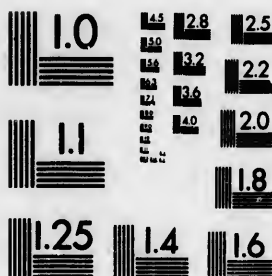
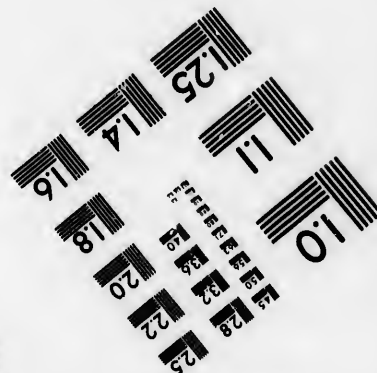
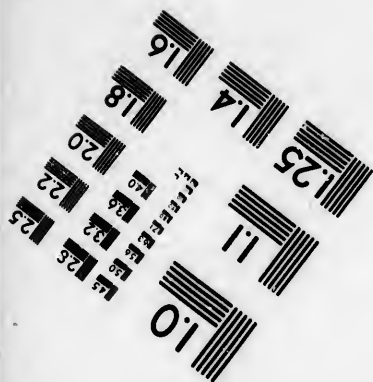


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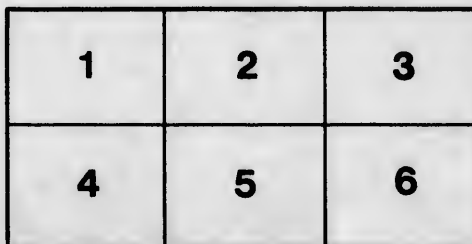
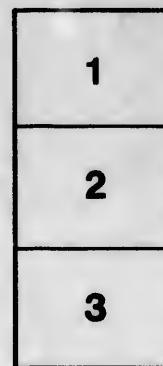
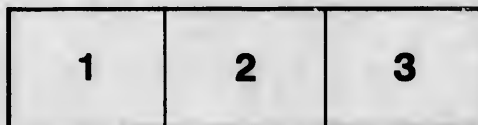
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A CHAPTER  
IN THE  
HISTORY OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ONSLOW, NOVA SCOTIA.

BY ISRAEL LONGWORTH, Q. C., TRURO.

IN the early history of Nova Scotia it was customary to call new settlements after men of note, in the civil and military service of Great Britain. In accordance with this practice it is believed that the government of the day named the Township of Onslow in honor of Arthur Onslow, an English statesman, who was born in 1691; speaker of the Commons from January 1727 to 1754; pensioned in 1761; died 17th February, 1768; and after whom a county, and shire-town, known as Onslow Court House, in North Carolina, had been called.

The erection of the township was ordered by Governor Lawrence in Council, 24th July, 1759, though the grant did not pass the great seal of the province till the time of Lord William Campbell. The formation took place upon the application of Joseph Scott and Daniel Knowlton for themselves and fifty others, of the Massachusetts Bay, for a tract of land at Cobequid. Several were of the Fort Cumberland expedition of the previous year, and were attracted to the province from what they had seen of it, and in consequence of Governor Lawrence's proclamations\* for settling the townships. The fifty-two proposed grantees, with their families, were represented to number three hundred and nine souls. A grant of fifty-two shares or rights in the township to these persons passed the Governor-in-Council, 26th July, 1759.

The township was stated as being at the head of Cobequid Basin, to extend upon the north side of said Basin, and to run westerly six miles; from thence northerly about twelve miles; thence easterly about twelve miles; and thence southerly twelve miles; and thence to Cobequid Basin six miles. All to be laid out on the north side of Cobequid River.

\* Governor Lawrence issued two proclamations for settling the Townships. The first in October, 1758; the second in January, 1759. (See Murdoch's History of Nova Scotia, Vol. II., page 359.)

Scott and Knowlton and their associates were to have 26,000 acres Half were to settle in October, 1760, and the remainder in May, 1761.

That the grant might not be forfeited, Scott and Knowlton, on their return to the Massachusetts Bay, prevailed upon one hundred and sixty-four others, the principal of whom was Richard Upham, to sign a paper requesting an interest in the grant they had obtained, upon the same conditions, with which they promised to comply. Timothy Houghton and William Keyes came to Halifax as a committee chosen by these persons, and submitted to the Government the names of fifty-one they considered most desirable for settlers in Cobequid.

An order-in council passed 18th October, 1759, granting to Timothy Houghton and others, of the Massachusetts Bay, fifty-three rights or shares of 200 acres each in the township. Thirteen were to settle 30th September, 1760; twenty on the 30th September, 1761; and twenty on or before the 30th September, 1762.

The same date (18th October, 1759,) Joseph Twitchell and Jonathan Church obtained a grant of fifty shares in the township, for that number of persons including themselves, all of the same place, except Joseph Fairbanks of Halifax, gentleman.

It also appears by minute-of-council, dated 26th October, 1759, that Daniel Knowlton that day applied for one hundred and fifty more shares in the township; but there being only forty-one left, in order to accommodate him and his associates, it was resolved that another township should be erected by the name of Wolfe, adjoining Onslow, and on the River Shubenacadie, in which the shares desired should be laid out.

Besides Scott and Knowlton, the only individuals comprising the fifty-two first intending settlers who came to the township and became grantees thereof, were Jacob and Thomas Stevens, Jacob Lynds, William Tackles, Hugh Tackles, David Cutten, Abijah Scott, and William Whippie.

It is also worthy of remark that out of the large number of persons who would have been the grantees of Onslow and Wolfe, had all settled in the Province, no more came than were necessary to fill the requirements of the Onslow grant. This resulted in the proposed township of Wolfe going to others, about the same time, under—not the more euphonious, and certainly not the more illustrious name of Truro.

The names of the first settlers, in the order they appear in the township grant, are as follows:—

Richard Upham, William Hamilton, Anthony Elliot, Thomas Stephens, James Lyon, John Steel, James Wilson, Frances Blair,



Jonathan Higgins, Joseph Scott, John Carter, William Tackles, Hugh Tackles, Jacob Stephens, William McNutt, the heirs of Jacob Lines, Nathaniel Gallop, Edward Brooks, David Hoar, Martin Brooks, William Blair, Ephraim Howard, Joshua Lamb, David Gay, David Blackmore, Abner Brooks, Carpenter Bradford, George Howard, Ephraim Scott, John Polly, Samuel Nichols, Peter Richardson, Ephraim Howard, jr., Robert Crowell, Abijah Scott, David Cutting, Isaac Ferrell, Daniel Knowlton, and Mary Knowlton, Elizabeth Blackmore, Abigail Upham, Caleb Putnam, Nathan Upham, Richard Upham, jr., Nicholas Blanchard, James Tackles, John Cutting, Solomon Hoar, William Blair, jr., William Whippy, Peter Wilson, James Brown, the heirs of Jabez Rude, Joseph Pierpont, John Howard, Daniel Calf, the heirs of Samuel Whippy, the heirs of Joel Camp, the heirs of Benjamin Brooks, Asa Scott, Francis Harris, John Barnhill, Samuel Bencraft, John Hewett, John Polly, jr., Reuben Richardson, William Crowell, Jonathan Higgins, jr., Mercy Brooks, Hugh Acton Tackles, Christopher Stevens, Jacob Stevens, jr., Abner McNutt, Jacob Lines, jr., Silvanus Brooks, Edward Brooks, jr., Ebenezer Hoar, John Blair, and Deborah Wright.

For some unaccountable reason the grant was withheld for about eight years, during which period a number of the first settlers died, and their rights went to their heirs, widows, or daughters, whose names are included in the list of grantees.

"It appears from manuscript letters of the late Colonel Alexander McNutt, which are still extant, that the settlers encountered great difficulty in procuring their grant, and that it was not only different from what they had been led to expect, but also much more restrictive in its terms than that of the Township of Truro. The Onslow patent reserves to the Crown 'all mines of gold, silver, lead, copper, and coal,' and also '1000 acres for the use of a church, a school, and glebe.' It also differed from the Truro grant, in the manner in which the quit rent was reserved, 'being one farthing per acre in three years,' and in default of payment, the grant was declared to be null and void. It was also subject to forfeiture, if not registered and docketed at the Register's office within six months. It was signed by Lord William Campbell, on the 21st inst., audited on the 22nd, and registered on the 23rd of February, 1769. It would be interesting to ascertain the causes which occasioned this marked difference in the two grants, though perhaps it is now impossible."\*

The first settlement took place about June, 1760; though if Haliburton, and the earliest recorded dates in the "Township Book,"

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\* Haliburton's History, Vol. I., page 44.

and in the "Book of Records for Deaths, Births, and Marriages for the Town of Onslow" are to be taken for authority on this point, it did not commence till the following year. It is matter of record, however, that the people of both Truro and Onslow applied to the Government for aid in opening up communication with Halifax, on the fifth of August, 1760. It is therefore reasonable to conclude that the statement of Mr. Haliburton that "the first British settlers, who came from the Province of Massachusetts, and were of various origin, landed in Onslow in the summer of 1761, to the number of, thirty families, and brought with them twenty head of horned cattle, eight horses, and seventy sheep," relates to the second instalment of the signers under Scott and Knowlton, who were to settle in May of that year.

By July, 1761, the inhabitants numbered some fifty-two families. They were located at the expense of the province about the end of May of that and the previous year. They immediately set to work to raise corn and roots for their subsistence, but the second year, it is said, a severe drought, followed by an early frost, destroyed the former. They succeeded, however, in raising some corn, but scarce roots sufficient; and cut hay for their stock. The first two or three years the privations they experienced were great, and it is matter of tradition that Joel Camp died from starvation, after eating the end of a tallow candle. The days of many were shortened from the hardships they encountered at this early period, and their sufferings would have been far greater had not Government supplied them with corn for food and for planting.

On the 17th of April, 1762, Governor Belcher sent this message to the House of Assembly:—

"From representations to me of the present distressing indigent circumstances of the inhabitants in several new townships, particularly those of Truro, Onslow, and Yarmouth, for want of supplies for provisions, and seed corn in the present season for improving their lands, I must earnestly recommend to your immediate examination the state of their necessities, that such relief may be speedily administered as the nature of their compassionate case may in all humanity deserve from the benevolent interposition of the Legislature, to whom alone their application must be directed, as there is no other method for their public assistance."

The members of the House having taken the communication into consideration, "Resolved that a message be sent to His Honor in answer thereto, to acquaint him that they find it impossible, by reason of the great load of debt due by the public, more than the present funds will

in any degree answer, to afford these poor people any present supplies. But as there may still remain in the Treasury some part of the old duty money, the Assembly would humbly request, that so much thereof as His Honor should think necessary, may be applied towards this charitable purpose."

The determination of the Lower Branch having been sent to the Council for concurrence, that Body replied that they could not concur with the Assembly's request to the Governor, as he had expressly declared in his message to both Houses that "there was no other method of relieving the distresses and indigent circumstances of the inhabitants of the several new townships but from the interposition of the legislature."

The House, not disconcerted by the strange action of the Council, resolved to send their reply direct to the Governor, and appointed Jonathan Binney, member for the town of Halifax, and William Neville Wolsely, member for Onslow, a committee for that purpose. Those gentlemen shortly afterwards reported "that His Excellency would take the matter into consideration."

On the twenty-first of April, 1762, Archibald Hinshelwood, member for Lunenburg, by order of the Governor, laid on the table of the House an abstract of the old duty fund, showing a balance of £350 2s. 8d. remaining in the treasury, and acquainted the House that "His Honor was willing the same should be applied to the help and assistance of such persons in the new settlements as stood most in need of supplies."

The House thereupon passed a unanimous resolution agreeing with His Honor in the application of the fund. Four days later the following commission, for the relief of the inhabitants of Truro and Onslow, was granted by the Governor.

"BY THE HONORABLE JONATHAN BELCHER, LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, &c., &c., &c.:

*Orders and instructions for Richard Upham, Esquire, of the Township of Onslow :*

You are to acquaint the inhabitants of Truro and Onslow that the corn to be delivered them is to be paid for at the rate of  $\frac{3}{8}$  per bushel, being the cost of the said corn, whenever the Government shall demand the same.

To deliver corn to those only in real want, and where he suspects those demand who have stock to swear them.

To be as frugal as possible in the distribution, not to deliver more than for one month at a time, allowing not more than one bushel per

month to one person over ten years, one bushel for two children under ten years. Those who have stock of their own by no means to be supplied. To keep a book of the supplies, taking receipts from the head of family, to whom supply is given, of quantity, which is to be delivered to the Secretary of the Province that it may be accounted for.

To consult with the committee of both towns that you may be the better informed of those truly necessitous, as a quantity of seed wheat and barley will be shipped for the use of the towns. To deliver it to those only who have lands fit for its reception.

25 April, 1762.

J. BELCHER."

The order for the corn, given to Mr. Upham, was on Isaac Deschamps. It reads as follows :—

"BY THE HON. JON. BELCHER, ESQ., LIEUT.-GOVERNOR, &c., &c.:

You are directed to deliver to Richard Upham, Esq., 1000 bushels of corn to be distributed among the indigent settlers of Onslow and Truro according to the instructions delivered him for that purpose, taking his receipt for the same, or the quantity that may be delivered him at different times till he shall receive the whole."

29 April, 1762.

J. BELCHER.

TO ISAAC DESCHAMPS, ESQ.

That this timely aid to the Cobequid settlers was urgently required, and did no more than keep them alive, without materially improving their condition, may be inferred from an extract from Governor Montagu Wilmot's report of 27th October, 1763, to the Lords of Trade on the state and condition of Nova Scotia :—

"Within the Basin of Minas, on that branch of it called Cobequid Basin, are the two townships of Truro and Onslow. Onslow has about fifty families. These are the most indigent, as well as the most indolent people in the colony. Several families suffered very severely last winter, and some were famished. If they are not relieved this winter there will be great danger of their starving or quitting the colony. They have but a small proportion of stock to the other inhabitants of the province. Very few people of any substance among them. Five hundred bushels of corn will be scarce sufficient to keep them from starving. If one hundred bushels of wheat for seed were sent them early in the spring, it would in a great measure alter their circumstances."

By this report Onslow was stated to have fifty-two families; one thousand four hundred acres of dyked marsh land; one hundred cleared upland; 98,500 woodland, or a total area of 100,000 acres.

A later report (a) from the first Governor to visit the townships, gives a more hopeful account of the settlers. Lieutenant-Governor

(a) Murdoch's History, Vol. II., page 581.

Marion Arbuthnot, in his letter of 15th August, 1776, to Lord George Germaine about his visit to the Townships of Windsor, Horton, and Cornwallis, to review the volunteer militia in each, under the command of Colonel Francklin, goes on to state :—

“After which I proceeded up Cobequid Bay and landed at Londonderry, Onslow, and Truro, three townships inhabited by the offspring of those Irish emigrants who first settled Londonderry, in the Massachusetts, Scotchmen and Irish people, who have been brought hither soon after the place began to be settled,—a strong, robust, industrious people—bigotted dissenters, and of course great levellers. But, my lord, how can it be otherwise, for, to my astonishment, no governor had ever visited these poor people, or sent any person among them, so as to form a judgment of the necessary steps to make those men useful subjects; but, on the contrary, they have been left to be the parent of their own works. I found full 500 men capable of bearing arms, the finest men in the province, settled on the best land, and the most flourishing, because they are the most industrious.”

In striking contrast with the friction that prevails in England on the question of home rule for Ireland, a very significant passage appears in Governor Wilmot's report, which speaks volumes for the great wisdom of the soldier statesman into whose hands were committed the destinies of Nova Scotia in a crucial period in its history :—

“Upon application by the settlers from New England for townships to General Lawrence, among other things to induce them to come, this was not the least prevalent, that they should be entitled to the same privileges they enjoyed in the other colonies, and in particular that of being constituted into townships and having officers chosen by the respective towns to legislate their own affairs. This would be essential to establish peace and good order among them, and promote their welfare.”

As the early proceedings of a newly organized branch of the body politic are interesting to the descendants of the actors, the records of the first two Town-Meetings are here given entire :—

“Att a meeting of the Proprietors of the Township of Onslow Holden at sd. Onslow The 28th day of July, Anno-Dom. 1761, The following Vots were passed—Capn. Ephraim Hayward chosen Moderator.

1. Granted unto Capn. Ephraim Hayward, David Hoar, and Jeams Wilson, the Privilege of a Mill-place on a Stream Lying west of sd. Wilson's first Devision Lott Next Ajoying to the sd. Lott : Joyntly and Eaquily to have the above mentioned Mill Place with the pondage and privialages Belonging Thereunto—for the above mentioned Hayward to Build a Grist-mill, And for said Wilson and Hoar to Build a Saw Mill.



Both said Mills to be Built on One Dam against or near above sd. Wilson's House."

Voted 2nd. "That the above mentioned Hayward have his Second Devision Lott Laid out Ajoying East on sd. Mill River Bounded South on the Mash. The same Wedth of the other proprietors.

Voted 3ly. That the above said Hayward have fifty acres of his Third Division Lott north of his Second Devision Ajoyning to To the same."

"The above mentioned privileges Granted to the above sd. Capn. Ephraim Hayward on Conditions that he Build a Grist Mill in the Place above mentioned With in one year from the Date here of and keep the Same in good Repair for the Term of Seven years."

Voted 4ly. That Jeams Wilson's Second Devition Lott be layed out on the East Side of sd. Mill River Bounding on the Same the Same Wedth of the Other Proprietors."

Voted 5ly. That David Hoar have his said Second Devision Lott Laid at the East End of the Improvements on the North Side Beginning 20 Rods north of a Little old house, Running West 30 Rods, Running North so far the same Wedth as to make the same quantity of Land With the other proprietors in the Second Division.

Voted 6ly. That Jeams Wilson and David Hoar have Three Hundred Acres of Land Laid out to Them as part of There Fourth Devision on the River East of said Hoar's Second Devision Lott, not Including any (Improvements or) Improved Land, Said Land to be Laid out in a Squar form Leaveing highwayes Sufficient Through the same."

The above mentioned Privilidges Granted to the above sd. Wilson and Hoar on Condition that they Buil<sup>d</sup> a Saw Mill in the Place before mentioned or Granted In three months from the Date, and keep the same in Good Repair for the Term of Seven years, on neglect or failer there said Last Grant is to Forfeit and of none Effect."

*Onslow, July 28, 1761.*

Transcribed by me,

EPHM. HAYWARD,  
P. Clerk.

EPHRAIM HAYWARD, *Moddrator.*  
JOSHUA LAMB, *P. Clerk.*

"Onslow, September the 7, 1761. We the Subscribers Petition to Charles Morris, Esq., in Onslow to have a meeting Caled of the proprietors of sd. Onslow to Chose a Moddrator. 2ly. To Chose a proprietor's Clerk. 3ly. To Chose a Committee to take Cair of and Deall out the Stears to the Inhabitants, and Like Wise to Chuse a Committee to Devide the Mashs and the Improved Lands, and the first Devision of the unImproved Lands, Likewise to Chuse Commissioners to Take Cair about mending the Dykes, and a Comittee to Lay out High Ways and Surveirs to take Cair they are mended or any other necessary business to be done the day apoynted for said meeting; and to meet at David

Cuttins, jr., in sd. Onslow, at nine of the Clock on the 15th day of this Instant, September, att nine of the Clock, 1761.

PETTER RICHARDSON,  
ISAAC WARNER,  
ICHABOD MECHOM,  
JOHN POLLEY,

EPHM. HAYWARD,  
WM. BLAIR,  
ELIJAH FITCH,  
JEAMS WILSON,

THOS. STEPHENS.

The Warrant for calling the Meeting :—

“To Mr. EPHRAIM HAYWARD, one of the proprietors of Onslow :

Aplication being made to me that propriators may be Called then and there to act on the folowing perticlers :

- First. To Chose a Modrator.
- 2ly. To Chose a Propriator's Clerk.
- 3ly. To Chose a Committee for Calling Meetings for the future.
- 4ly. To Chuse a Committee for Distrebuting the Corn.
- 5ly. To Chuse a Committee to Devide the Mash and the Improved Land, and the first Devision of the un Improved Land.
- 6ly. To Request of the Commander-in-Cheff to apoynt Commis-sioners for mending and Repairing the Dykes.
- 7ly. To Lay out High Ways or Roads, and to Chuse a Committee and Surveirs to Clean the Roads.
- 8ly. To Consider of Things that will be needfull and profitable for the propriaty.

These are Therefore to Desiar and Impower you to call a meeting of the said Propriators to meet at the house of Mr. David Cutten, in holder, in Onslow, on Monday, the 14th day of September instant, at Nine of the Clock in the fore noon.

CHARLES MORRISS,

*Justis of ye Peace.*

Onslow Sept. 7, 1761.

Onslow, Sept. 14, 1761. At a meeting of the propriators of Onslow, pursuant to a warrant granted by Charles Morriss, Esq., for calling of said meeting, meatt aCording to said Warning and Voted :

First. DAVID CUTTING, Maddrator.

2ly. EPHRAIM HAYWARD, Propriators' Clerk.

3ly. PETTER RICHARDSON, } Be a Committee for Calling of  
4ly. JOHN HUETT, } Meetings for the future.

5ly. EPHM. HAYWARD, }  
6ly. PETTER RICHARDSON, } Be a Committee for Receiving  
7ly. ELIJAH FITCH, } and Distrebuting the Corn.

8ly. EPHM. HAYWARD, }  
9ly. DAVID CUTTEN, } Be a Committee to Devide and  
10ly. ELIJAH FITCH, } Lay out the Mashas and Plow  
11ly. WM. BLAIR, } land and the first Devision of  
12ly. JOSHUA LAMB, } the un Improved Lands.

13ly. THOS. STEPHENS,

- 14ly. EPHM. HAYWARD, }  
 15ly. ISACC WARNER, } Be a Committee to Request the  
 16ly. PETTER RICHARDSON, } Commander-in-Cheff for Commis-  
 sionar for Repairing the Dikes.

17ly. Voted that the Committee chosen to lay out the Mash and Improved Land and the First Devision of the unimproved Lands be a Committee for Laying out the Highways.

- 18ly. GEORGE HAYWARD, }  
 19ly. JACOB LINDS, } Be Suerveirs of High Ways.  
 20ly. NATHL. GALLOP, }

21ly. Voted That Each Propriator owning one Right have one Hundred acres and a half Righ or Shair Fifty Acres in the First Devision of un Improved Land.

22ly. Voted that the Consideration of the Method of Laying out the Lands be ajorned to Tusday, the 22 Day of this Instant with the other Business Necessary.

Meet According to the Ajornment.

23ly. Voted that the 21 Vote Conserving Laying out 100 acres to a Right and 50 acres to a half Right be Reconsidered.

24ly. Voted That Each Single Right have Sixty Acres Laid out in the first Devision of the unimproved Lands, and a half Right Thirty acres.

25ly. Voted that the Propriators of Each Village Draw There Lotts in the first Devision Granted to be Laid out in the foregoing Vote by Them Selves.

26ly. Voted that The Meeting be Desolved.

DAVID CUTTING, *Moddrator.*  
 EPHM. HAYWARD, *Propr. Clerk.*

Transcribed from the original papers by me, EPH. HAYWARD, P. C., being a true copy.

In this account both the arrangement and the orthography have been retained, and the record, which is in the hand writing of Captain Ephraim Hayward, would do credit to the office of a modern attorney.

The settlement was originally held in common by the grantees, who settled different parts under their township rights, and occupied the same for a number of years, without having their lands set off in severalty. On the 8th day of February, 1780, George Thompson applied to the Supreme Court at Halifax for a Writ of Partition of the township on the petition of Samuel Lyons and others. The writ was granted and issued by D. Wood, junior, Dy. Clerk, July 28th, 1780. It was directed to the Provost Marshall of Nova Scotia or his deputy,

and included the names of the grantees, and settlers, directing that each have forty days notice of division to be made before two justices of the peace on the oaths of twelve men of the county of Halifax, after hearing all of the evidence of ownership of proprietors. The justices who acted were Eliakim Tupper and Doctor John Harris of Truro; and the jury, consisting of:—

Joseph Scott, Dy. Sheriff,	Thomas Gourley,
James Fulton,	Samuel Wilson,
Alexander Miller,	John Oughterson,
James Duniap,	John Logan,
James Archibald,	John McKeen,
Adam Boyd,	Robert Johnson,

with one or two exceptions were also residents of Truro.

They returned the writ, July 28th, 1783, dividing 51,750 acres into 98½ shares among 82 claimants, one being "the Church," and another "the School."

In Trinity Term, July 20th, 1785, the Supreme Court at Halifax having heard counsel on the Writ of Partition, gave judgment to confirm the proceedings thereunder, pursuant to the sheriff's return, saving only to Alexander McCurdy the possession of that piece of ground called the poundage, claimed under the return of said writ by John Barnhill, and in case it should appear that Alexander McCurdy had a greater proportion of land than he was entitled to, he should assign unto John Barnhill as much unimproved land as in the opinion of three indifferent persons appointed by the court was equivalent to the piece called the poundage reserved to Alexander McCurdy. To make the assignment under this order, the court appointed Lawrence Peppard and Peter McLellan of Londonderry, and Samuel Densmore of Noel.

To the Return a plan of the township, with the divisions made by the jury, was annexed. Copies of the plan and other proceedings were placed in the custody of the late Daniel McCurdy, with whose widow they remained for a number of years. The plan was made in two parts, one containing the marsh lands, the other the upland, which was divided into three large blocks, known as the First, Second, and Third Divisions. The plan of the marsh is still in a fair state of preservation, but a portion of the south-western corner of the upland plan is much mutilated and worn, there being no remnant of that part sufficient to delineate the lands of and surrounding Fort Belcher.

The original grant, neatly engrossed on two skins of parchment; the upland plan, and the field notes of the jury on the partition of the

township, are among the papers in the office of Nathaniel Marsters King, Town Clerk.

On the 31st day of March, 1856, an act passed the legislature entitled "An Act to make certain Records of the Township of Onslow receivable in evidence." There are two sections to this act. The first receives in evidence in any court of law the old copies of the Plans of Partition of the Township then in the possession of the town clerk of Onslow, or so much thereof as is not defaced or obliterated by use. And the second constitutes the old copy of the return of the jury executing the Writ of Partition, then also in possession of the town clerk, a part of the plan, and to be received in evidence as such.

The surveyor who assisted the jury to divide the lands, and survey and make plans of the township under the Writ of Partition, was Robert, second son of Major David Archibald, of Truro. He was a justice of the peace, and afterwards became a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas. He was also a colonel in the militia. In 1787 he removed from Truro to Musquodoboit.

"The Book of Records for Deaths, Births, and Marriages for the Town of Onslow, in the Province of Nova Scotia, Began in the year of our Lord, 1761." This volume is well bound, though much worn from constant use. It remains in the custody of George F. Crowe, Esq., Central Onslow, a former town clerk, and a gentleman who has held the position of Municipal Councillor for the district.

Among the first births may be cited those of Jess, son of Thomas and Elizabeth Stevens, born July 22nd, 1761; Richard, son of Peter and Sarah Richardson, November 26th, 1761; and Cloe, daughter of Carpenter and Mary Bradford, January 4th, 1762.

The persons first to enter the bonds of holy matrimony were Captain Ephraim Howard and Sarah Blair, on the 8th of December, 1763; Joshua Lamb and Mercy Brooks, September 11th, 1766; Samuel Whippie and Jemmima Polly, February 17th, 1767; Robert Archibald, and Hannah Blair, April 2nd, 1767; and William Whippie and Ruth Hoar, 5th of December, 1771.

At a Town Meeting held on the 13th of September, 1763, of which Richard Upham was Moderator, and Ephraim Hayward, Proprietors' Clerk, it was voted, "14ly. That the East side of the Island in the Uper Mash be aloued and sequestred for a buring place."

Though the inscriptions on the principal monuments erected in this hallowed resting place of the first English settlers, are not so quaint as



one to be found on an Irish limestone, under "a death's head and hour glass and a codfish just taking the hook," in the Methodist graveyard at Carbonear, Newfoundland :—

"Expired in 85.  
The prudent Mary,  
Dear and only wife of Jemmy Geary,  
Late of Carbonere.  
Who awfully the laws of God did fear.  
For whose good works  
Let each who passes—pray  
Her soul to rest full blest for aye."

Yet a few may be given to keep green the memory of the pioneers of civilization in a once wilderness section of Nova Scotia, which, under their labours, and the enterprise of their descendants, has become one of the finest agricultural districts in the Maritime Provinces.

"Here lies interred the  
body of WILLIAM BLAIR  
who departed this life on the  
4th day of August, 1791,  
aged 75 years."

"JANE BLAIR  
Consort of William  
Blair, Senior, who died  
on the 8th day of January  
1814, in the 91st year  
of her age."

"Sacred to Memory of DAVID ARCHIBALD 7th  
late Lieutenant Colonel  
of the 7th Battalion  
of the Nova Scotia Militia.  
He departed this life 25 Nov. 1814  
Aged 42 years."

"In Memory CAPTAIN JAMES  
CLARK, a native of New England  
District of Maine, who was un-  
fortunately drowned in the Bay  
of Fundy the 22nd June 1815  
in the 55th year of his age,  
being a freeholder in this  
Township for 30 years."

"AARON CROWE, SENIOR,  
who departed this life  
October 30, 1818,  
Aged 75 years."

"JOSEPH McLANE  
Native Londonderry, Ireland  
died 16 March, 1829  
aged 76."

"THOMAS ROBERTSON  
died Jan 26, 1842  
aged 69."

"In memory of  
JAMES KING  
of Onslow who died  
July the 18th 1848  
aged 80 years.  
He was a native of  
Dun. frieshire  
Scotland."

"WILLIAM HENRY KING  
a senior student of  
Acadia College, drowned  
June 7th 1852, in company  
with Professor Chipman  
and three students.  
aged 16 years.  
He was universally beloved."

"In Memory of  
JAMES McCURDY, SENIOR  
died June 6th 1854  
aged 88.

AGNES ARCHIBALD his wife  
died May 7, 1851  
aged 81."

"Erected by Mrs. Sarah  
Ann Moran, to the  
Memory of her Father  
JOHN DICKSON, Esq  
who died  
December 10, 1858  
Aged 85 years.  
Also his wife  
LYDIA DICKSON  
who died  
April 29, 1866,  
aged 89 years."

"Sacred to Memory of  
JENIE GORDON  
the beloved wife of  
Rev. John I. Baxter  
who fell asleep in Jesus  
on the 8th day of June  
A. D. 1862, in the 54th  
year of her age.  
With permission  
the Presbyterian Ladies  
of Onslow have erected  
this monument as a  
token of respect."

"MRS. SIMON KOLLOCK  
died in Truro Sep. 21, 1863  
aged 105 years."

Chapter 46, Acts of 1853, entitled "An Act relating to the Onslow Burial Ground," opens the burial island to all classes and denominations of persons, and provides for the appointment of three freeholders at any Town Meeting for voting money for the poor, whose name of office shall be "The Trustees of the Onslow burial ground." Under this Act the trustees have power to fence, make roads, improve, ornament, and protect the ground, and the inhabitants are authorized at any such meeting to vote and assess the sum they expend on the ground, not exceeding fifty pounds at any one time, to be collected by same means as other monies voted at the meeting, provided twenty days written notice of the amount to be voted for such purpose is posted at four public places in the township.

Chapter 43 of the Acts of 1880, being "An Act to amend the aforesaid Act," provides a mode by which persons interested in other burial grounds can be relieved from assessments thereunder.

At a Town Meeting held on the —— day of November, 1853, David McCurdy, John King, and Silas Clarke, Esquires, were appointed trustees of the burial ground, being the first chosen under the Act of 1853. Those now in office are Silas Morrison, Charles Hill, and John A. Dickson, who will no doubt strive to carry out the intention of the law, and perform the duty imposed upon them by the inhabitants, by placing that beautiful resting place for the dead in the condition that all who feel a sentiment of veneration for the memory of their forefathers must desire to see it. May each consider with Daniel Webster that "the man who feels no sentiment of veneration for the memory of his

forefathers ; who has no natural regard for his ancestors, or his kindred, is himself unworthy of kindred regard or remembrance."

By the seventh of August, 1761, the male freeholders over twenty-one years numbered fifty, and were entitled under the order-in-council of 20th May, 1758, to send two representatives to the General Assembly, as well as to vote in the election of twelve for the province. Truro was similarly situated. On the nineteenth of that month Governor Belcher issued warrants for the election of two members for each township. Onslow returned William Neville Wolsely of Halifax, and David Cutten, a resident. The former, who remained but a short time in the province, had the honor of being the first sitting member for the township. He attended the sessions of parliament from 17th of March, 1762, to July, 1763. On the 24th of March, 1762, he was chosen one of the five members of the House to confer with a committee of His Majesty's Council, and prepare a bill to regulate trade with the Indians, in furtherance of the Governor's message intimating that a treaty of peace had been concluded between His Majesty's government and the tribes of Indians of every district, and recommending that all reasonable methods should be pursued for preserving the same inviolate. He also acted as one of a committee of two, to intercede with the Governor for the old revenue duty, to aid his own constituents, and destitute settlers of other townships, in April of the same year, as already noticed. His last public act was to wait as one of a committee of two upon His Excellency (Governor Wilmot) 21st July, 1763, to request a recess till the 10th of August in consequence of the Council having replied in the negative to the House's message, "Whether they had any business to lay before the Assembly." Mr. Wolsely was Clerk of the Crown for the province towards the close of the year 1762, and in the former part of 1763. In the summer of this year he went to England on a visit, as it was supposed, when James Monk, junior, was allowed to perform his Crown duties till his return. On the 24th of April, 1764, however, Mr. Monk was appointed to the office, on account of Mr. Wolsely's continued absence from the Province, to which, so far as I can discover, he never returned. It appears by the Journals of the House under date of April 3rd, 1764, "That no attendance had ever been given by Mr. Cutten, and that Mr. Wolsely had left Nova Scotia." This statement of fact regarding Mr. Cutten's legislative career is doubtless correct, though it does not accord with the belief entertained by his descendants, who consider him the first member from Cobequid, and speak of his having

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walked to the winter sessions of the House upon snow shoes, with a musket on his shoulder. If Mr. Cutten did not act, it was because he considered that his colleague, Mr. Wolsely, who resided at Halifax, was well qualified to look after the interests of the special constituents of both :—the people of Onslow ; and he did not deem it necessary that the town should be at the expense of sending him to the Assembly. Members pay of 10/ a day did not begin till 1787. The first representatives had to fight the battles of the country at their own costs and charges, or look to the people who sent them to parliament for remuneration.

A Town Meeting held " Pursuant to a Warrant Dated Octoter, 1762, meat and Voted as foloeth :—

Daniel Knolton, Moderator.

Voted That Liett. David Cutten have four shillings a Day so long as he waits on The General Court at Halifax as our Representative, and The same to be Raised on the Rights of the proprietors proportionable as soon as he bring his accoupt attested."

DANIEL KNOLTON, *Moddrator*.

EPHM. HAYWARD, *Proprs. Clerk*.

The right of the Cobequid, and other townships, to two representatives apiece, under the order-in-council 20th May, 1758, was only exercised by Onslow in the case of Cutten and Wolsley. Townships soon became too numerous to be allowed such a privilege, and in 1765 an Act passed giving one member to each.

In the election of 1765 James Brenton of Halifax, barrister-at-law, was returned member for Onslow. He was a young lawyer from Rhode Island, who came to the province at a very early period. He had a brother—the Honorable Jahiel Brenton—who remained in Rhode Island, and was the head of the family in the middle of the last century. He was father of Admiral Sir Jahiel Brenton, Baronet, and of Captain Edward Pelham Brenton, Royal Navy, also of Susannah Brenton, who married Dr. John Halliburton, R. N., father of the late Sir Brenton Halliburton, Chief Justice of Nova Scotia. Sir Jahiel married a lady of Halifax—Miss Stewart—daughter of Anthony Stewart, father of the old Judge James Stewart who died about 1830.—James Brenton was admitted an attorney of the Supreme Court on the 9th of December, 1760.

By the records of the court it appears that on the seventh of April, 1762, James Brenton, attorney for Caleb Lincoln, having charged the court with partiality by saying that, "they would not receive a verdict



in the cause *The King et al. v. Caleb Lincoln* unless it was against the defendant, and that there might be verdicts *ac' finitum*, and that he was not allowed the liberty of other attorneys in court," whereupon "it was ordered by the court, that Mr. Brenton do make good his charge in a proper place, and that in the meantime he be not suffered to speak at the bar of this court." On the eighth of the same month, Mr. Brenton appearing in court and "making an acknowledgment (of his indiscretion), asked pardon of the court, and prayed that the suspension might be taken off." The court "ordered that it be taken off accordingly."

On the 31st of October, 1778, Mr. Brenton was appointed Solicitor-General, and on the 12th day of same month in the following year, he was sworn in Attorney-General. He held this office until the 8th of December, 1781, when he was raised to the Supreme Court Bench, vice assistant Judge Morris, deceased.

His conduct as a judge was brought in question in the House of Assembly, the 28th of November, 1787, by Major Millege, member for Digby, who made a motion which led to his impeachment along with Chief Justice Deschamp, on charges preferred by three attorneys named Sterns, Taylor, and Wood. For having written in the newspapers about the charges Sterns and Taylor were disrobed by order of the Chief Justice on the first of April, 1788. The impeachment on thirteen articles took place in 1790. Murdoch says that:—

"Some persons deemed the attack on the judges as an unfriendly, if not a cruel act, to deprive men of their bread in the decline of life—men who could not live many years longer—men who had large families to struggle for, and who had served the public in difficult offices for many years, on charges of, at most, errors of judgment on one or two trifling occasions." He refers to them as "two old gentlemen, both highly respected and eminently loyal—and Deschamp having long been identified with the colony, and Brenton, formerly secretary to the Royal Commission at Rhode Island to inquire into the destruction of the vessels of war by the disaffected."

A contemporaneous writer treats the charges as futile. The judges remained under the odium of this affair till 1792, when they were acquitted by an order of the Privy Council.

In 1770 Joshua Lamb was returned member for Onslow. Mr. Lamb was among the first settlers, and a grantee of the township. He resided on the farm now occupied by Augustus McCurdy. He was the first Registrar of Deeds for the county, and kept the office in Onslow from March 2nd, 1770, to 1777. On the 17th of May, 1771, he was

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commissioned a justice of the peace for the townships of Onslow, Truro, and Londonderry. He married Mercy Brooks, (not Mary, as stated by Thomas Miller in his invaluable Genealogical Record) September 11th, 1766, by whom he had three sons and two daughters in Onslow :—

Caleb . . . . .	{	Born, 29th April, 1767.
		Died, 7th June, 1775.
Huldah . . . . .		Born, 25th July, 1769.
Joshua . . . . .	"	13th June, 1771.
Sarah . . . . .	"	27th Nov., 1773.
John . . . . .	"	7th June, 1776.

On the 10th of December, 1774, Mr. Lamb's seat was declared vacant for non-attendance for several sessions, and offering no apology to the House for his absence. In 1777 he sold his property and removed to New England. A year or two before taking his final departure he visited Machias, Maine, and had the honor of having his name mentioned as "Esq. Lamb, who last evening arrived here in a boat from Cobequid in Nova Scotia," in a letter from that extremely enthusiastic and erratic individual, the Rev. James Lyon, to the Honorable Council of the State of Massachusetts Bay. This letter was written in Mr. Lyon's usually extravagant and anti-British style. Among other things it suggested the propriety of allowing all who came from Nova Scotia to enlist in the companies of the State, to show their loyalty to the American cause, and strongly recommended the council to raise and commission a corps to take Nova Scotia, and reap the benefit for the State that would attach to such an undertaking. Mr. Lyon's letter also stated : "Enclosed I send your Honors a copy of a Summons from the High Sheriff of Nova Scotia to Mr. Adams Johnson of Cobequid, requiring him to take the oath of allegiance to the British Tyrant, by which may be seen the manner in which they use those who are friendly to the American cause in that Province."

As one of our earliest public men, and the first resident member who sat for Onslow, it would be interesting to know what became of Joshua Lamb in the United States, and how his descendants have fared in that great country. I have, however, been unable to ascertain anything further than that he lived to a ripe old age. On the 9th of May, 1800, his name along with those of David Gay and Martin Brooks, all grantees of the township who had left the province, and that of the notorious Adams Johnson, were reported to the Massachusetts House of Representatives, among 70 refugees from Canada and Nova Scotia, who had presented claims as entitled to relief under the provisions of the Act of

April, 1798. To Lamb, Brooks and Gay were allotted 960 acres ; and the sacrifices of Johnson in decamping from Cobequid to evade the consequences of the Sheriff's writ, as well as for his great devotion to the cause of the Rebellion, were recompensed with 320.

In 1777 Charles Dickson was returned member for Onslow. Having presented himself to take his seat the 11th of June of that year, the House, by resolution, excluded him, declaring that by the refusal of the people to take the oath of allegiance they had forfeited their right to representation in the Assembly. Thirty-nine persons, being all who were asked in Onslow, had refused to take the oath before John Cunningham and George Pyke, Esquires, two Halifax Justices sent by Government to administer it to the people of the townships in Cobequid. In consequence of this refusal the townships were disfranchised for a short period. At every election from 1777 to 1793 Charles Dickson was returned for Onslow. He was born in New England, and was son of that Charles Dickson of Horton, for whom William Nisbett memorialised Governor Wilmot in 1765 for a free grant on the north side of the Basin of Minas. The memorial states that Dickson had charge of a company under General Moncton at the taking of Beau Sejour, and was at considerable expense in raising men for that and other services during the war, as appears from his commissions ; and shows by affidavit made by him before William Smith, a Halifax J. P., December 23rd, 1767, that he had received no grant.\*

After the war Charles Dickson, Senior, gave up his business in New England and settled in Horton, from which place his son removed to Onslow about the year 1771.

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\* As the descendants of Lieutenant Thomas Dickson of Cumberland, and some others, have started a contention that he is entitled to the honor of being the Dickson who was an actor at Beau Sejour, a letter from late Governor Sir Adams Archibald, whose widow is a grand-daughter of Charles Dickson of Onslow, is given as a foot note, as it throws some light upon a matter about which a difference of opinion appears to exist.

“GOVERNMENT HOUSE, HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA,

Feb. 21, 1831.

*My dear Longworth,*

In reference to your note of the 10th instant about Charles Dickson, I think you are right about the family but mistaken as to the person.

The Charles Dickson, Esq., of Horton, for whom Mr. Nesbitt interested himself, must have been the father of Charles Dickson of Onslow.

In the memorial to Govr. Wilmot, drawn by Mr. Nesbitt, it is stated as the ground work of the claim that the memorialist had incurred expense in getting up a company and serving at the taking of Beau Sejour.

This must have been in 1755. Mr. Charles Dickson of Onslow would appear at that time to have been only nine years old. In 1796, when he died, he was in his 50th year. He must have been born in 1746 and was a boy of nine at the siege of Beau Sejour.

But there can be no doubt, I think, that our Charles Dickson was the son of that Charles. His father probably had come in from the Old Colonies when the French

Here for several years he conducted an extensive mercantile business, farmed on a large scale, built vessels on either side of the Bay, became a large land owner in both townships, and was the most influential business man of his day. Some of his vessels were chartered by the government in 1792 in the deportation of the Maroons from Nova Scotia to Sierra Leone.

The last vessel Mr. Dickson built was a barque of 500 tons. She was launched full rigged, and full of people, from his ship yard, now better known as part of the upland farm of the late John Bishop, now owned by John Dixon, Esq., near the Board Landing Bridge, and in front of which a large flat of splendid marsh has since been reclaimed from the Bay. While the vessel was gliding off her ways Tom Cotter, a well known piper of the period, discoursed appropriate music from the top of the cross trees of the main mast. On reaching the water, for want of sufficient ballast, she upset. Cottar's pipes were put out and all on board got a great scare and a good ducking, to the consternation of the spectators on shore, who believed that a fearful catastrophe had happened, but were soon relieved to know that no more serious accident had taken place than the injury sustained by the ship. In the language of a would-be moralist of the day, "*It was the Lord's mercy that they were not all killed and drowned too.*" This occurrence was witnessed by young and old for miles around, a launch in those days being a great event, and it proved an interesting topic of conversation in the settlement for many subsequent years.

Mr. Dickson was Registrar of Deeds for Colchester from 1777 to 1796. On September 16th, 1780, he was appointed a Justice of the Peace for the Districts of Colchester and Pictou, in the County of Halifax. In 1772 he married Amelia Bishop of Horton, who bore him

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were about to be expelled, and after that event settled at Horton and applied for his land, which, it seems, was never granted. But having asked for it on the north side of the Basin of Minas he would seem to be directing his attention towards the part of the coast on which, (though much further up the Bay,) our Charles Dickson eventually settled. I see "Miller" says our Onslow Charles came to Nova Scotia when he was very young. It could not therefore be that he had carried on business in the Old Colonies. But if you suppose the father did and then removed to Horton, settled and traded there, brought up a family, of whom one was Charles Dickson, the whole thing is cleared of difficulty.

The Records of Deeds in the County of Kings would show the facts.

Old Mrs. Soley of Lower Village, who was a Hamilton, will probably know all about what took place within a mile or two of her residence.

Peter Hamilton and Mr. Bulmer both believe my solution to be the correct one.

Believe me,

Dear Longworth,

Yours truly,

A. G. ARCHIBALD.

I. LONGWORTH, Esq.

a large family of sons and daughters. The girls were handsome and married well. Abigail married Andrew Wallace of Halifax, February 27th, 1798, and after his decease became the wife of Robert Lowden of Merigomish. Mary married Doctor John Murray Upham, son of Judge Upham of New Brunswick, in 1803. Olivia married Colonel David Archibald, 7th, father of the late Hon. Thomas Dickson Archibald, Senator, Feb. 5th, 1801; and after his death, John Henderson; Elizabeth married Nova Scotia's greatest commoner, Samuel George William Archibald, 16th of March, 1802; and Lavinia, who was noted for her beauty among the fairest daughters of Nova Scotia in the days of Lord Dalhousie, married April 27th, 1823, the Reverend John Burnyeat, of Loweswater, England, the first clergyman of the Church of England stationed at Truro, and father of Lady Archibald of Truro.

The sons were also good looking, tall, and of fine commanding presence. Three of them at least were colonels in the militia. They inherited much of the military bearing and spirit of their grandfather, Charles Dickson of Fort Beau Sejour fame. It is also worthy of remark that these brothers, Robert, William and Thomas, were members of the House of Assembly at the same time, along with their brother-in-law, the Hon. S. G. W. Archibald, which made them men of great influence.

In 1796 Mr. Dickson visited the West Indies in one of his vessels. On his return he died of yellow fever at Halifax. At this time the highway from Onslow to the metropolis was in such a primitive state that it took Mrs. Dickson, on horse back, three days to get there. Her husband died soon after her arrival. His remains were interred in the cemetery opposite Government House. A stone is erected at his grave in the north-west corner of the ground, bearing the following inscription:

"Here lyeth the body of CHARLES  
DICKSON, Esq., who died Sept. 3rd, 1796,  
in the 50th year of his age.  
He lived Respected  
and died Lamented."

In 1799 Daniel McCurdy, son of Alexander and Janet McCurdy, who emigrated from the north of Ireland, and were among the first settlers of the township of Londonderry, was returned for Onslow. He was born at Londonderry 1st of April, 1768, and while quite young removed with his parents to Onslow. His brother James, who married Agnes, second daughter of Matthew and Janet Archibald, according to "Thomas Miller," had a remarkable family,—seven sons and seven daughters,—all of whom grew up, married, and had families. Two of



the sons were ministers of the Gospel; and all of the others, one being the Honorable David McCurdy, M. L. C., were Elders of the Presbyterian Church. The good moral fibres which constituted the warp and woof in the life of the old members of this family appear to have been inherited from their ancestor, Daniel McCurdy, of Bellyhelly, Ireland, which may be inferred from the religious tone running through a long letter from him, dated May 24th, 1763, written to his children Alexander and Peggy McCurdy, who had, two or three years previously, emigrated to America, which letter is preserved as an heir-loom in the family of Hon. David McCurdy, at Baddeck, C. B.† Daniel McCurdy

*My Dr Childn.*

† "BELLYHELLY, May 24, 1763.

I Recd Two letters from you last year wch was great pleasure to us and all friendsto hear from you & more so as you let us know of yr Being so happily fixed in a Contry where I Believe most of yr Countrymen has left it. Land family is purty well. I myself Enjoy but a Very Indifferent state of health. But still has Reason to be Thankfull to Divine providence for all his great Mercies to me. Dr son I find in yr letters that you & pegey is both Living in a Gentleman's farm & I believe by your acct's that you will both do very well. I pray God to grant his Blessing with yr Endeavours, yr Complain of not hearing from me since you Left this, but be assured I sent you Two letters last year & yr Cousin James McElheron wrote to you likewise and got no Answer of any of them. Dr son you write to me Briefly to Come to you but I am so much failed I Cannot think of Coming But begs you Miss of no Oppty in writing to me as its the Chief pleasure I have in hearing from you Both. Our Markets here has been very smart. Oatmeal is at 2s. & Everything in Proportion."

Turn Over.

"Your Uncle patk & Aunt Moly & Aunt Elizth & all Friends in Derry is well & Desires to be Rembrd to you. Yr Cousin James & Molley & Cousin Archd & wife are all well and Desires in Love to be Rembrd to you Both. Ann McColom & Sister Desires to be Rembrd to you & Ann has bound her son in Coleraino to be a Dyster. Old David Miller was not pleased you Did not Mention him in yr letter. Jams Miller Died Last Winter & Tell pegey that Willm Moore her Lover is Dead also. My dear Childn I beg youl be mindfull of yr Duty & always be Mindfull of yr great & Bountifull Creator in the Days of youth. Yr Mother Joyns me in Blessing to you Both yr Two little Brothers are Both well—all Neighbrs is well & Desires to be Rembrd to you wch is all at at prest from yr affte father.

*Daniel*

~~DAVID~~ McCURDEY.

TO ALEXANDER & PEGGY  
McCURDY America.

married Eunice Wright, 4th of August, 1792. They had four sons and seven daughters. He died on the 18th July, 1815.

In 1806 Nathaniel Marsters was elected to represent the township, and he was returned for a second term in 1811. He was born in Massachusetts, June 6th, 1758. His father, Jonathan Marsters, and his uncle, Abraham, with their families, removed to Falmouth, Nova Scotia, in 1760. He shared largely in the trials and vicissitudes of a new country. He lived with his father, who was a farmer, until he was about 26 years old, when he came to Onslow, where he married Sarah, daughter of Richard and Elizabeth Upham, 5th of July, 1787, by whom he had two sons. One of these—Richard Upham Marsters—became a skillful watchmaker. He invented an improvement on the chronometer, with which he went to England and presented it to the British Government. In about two years and a half after marriage Mr. Marsters wife died. He remained a widower for nine years, and on 5th of November, 1798, married Lydia, daughter of Thomas Lynds, by whom he had two sons and a daughter. One of the sons died young. The other—Jonathan Marsters—studied law, and was afterwards Judge of the Court of Probate for Colchester. His second wife died in 1830. Mr. Marsters was an active magistrate for upwards of thirty years. On the fourteenth of February, 1820, he was appointed Coroner for the District of Colchester, in place of Matthew Archibald, deceased, had a seat in the legislature for twelve years, and was for some time Registrar of Deeds. Though he was not what is termed an educated man, yet, possessing a vigorous mind, he rose with the improvements of the day, and perhaps for penetration of thought, ripeness of judgment, and wholesome counsel, he far exceeded many of superior advantages in literature. In 1790 he first became acquainted with the late Reverend Joseph Dimock. Mr. Marsters, then a widower, had been on a visit to Falmouth to see his parents and friends. In passing through Newport on his return, he made a statement in presence of Mr. Dimock, of the situation of Onslow, as it regarded the ministration of the Gospel, and dwelt on the effect produced by the preaching of Reverends Messieurs John Payzant, Harris Harding and Edward Manning. He urged the want of experimental preaching, and invited Mr. Dimock very strongly to accompany him home, which he did. Mr. Dimock had then been preaching some six or eight weeks. They made their way through newly cultivated farms and lonely deserts on foot, and in two days arrived at Onslow. The Reverend Henry Alline of New Light fame,

preached at this time in several parts of the province. Many opposed and ridiculed the cause of God, especially in the village where Mr. Marsters lived, and any one who appeared serious and attended Mr. Alline's preaching was branded as a New Light. What between the fear of losing his name or losing his soul, the conflict was very sharp, and Mr. Marsters often went to meeting by a back road through the woods to escape observation. In 1794 he was a member of the mixed communion body then called New Light, and clerk of the church. Mr. Dimock saw him again in the autumn before his death, and thus renewed an acquaintance of over fifty-two years standing, and was present twelve hours before he died. He preached his funeral sermon, on which occasion the Revd. John I. Baxter made the closing prayer. This period, and doubtless many circumstances in the life of the deceased, will recur to the old inhabitants on hearing the inscription on the stone at his grave in the Onslow Cemetery :

In Memory of  
NATHANIEL  
MARSTERS, ESQ.,  
who died  
July 19, 1843,  
Ae 85 years.  
He was for fifteen  
years a member  
of the House of As-  
sembly, and for up-  
wards of thirty  
years a Magistrate  
and Coroner for  
the County.

"Faith led him on the pilgrim's road  
And thus he made his way to God  
From death's strong bands his spirit fled  
To dwell with Christ his loving head."

This monument,  
was erected by his  
only daughter,  
SARAH ANN KING.

In 1818 Robert Dickson, son of Charles, was the member returned. He was not in the next General Assembly. The seat was taken by John Crowe, who sat for four years from 1826, but was not returned again till 1843, of whom reference is omitted for the present, to give some account of the men who held the position during the interval, and whom Mr. Crowe succeeded as the last township representative.

In 1830 when the Brandy Election, so called, took place, the Archibald and Dickson influence proved too strong for Mr. Crowe, and Robert Dickson was again elected. Besides being representative, he was a Justice of the Peace, Commissioner of Sewers, Colonel of the Militia, and last, though not least, an extensive farmer. He married Lavinia DeWolf of Horton in 1798, who bore him seven sons and three daughters. He was born in the township July 8th, 1777, and died there Novr., 1836. He is the same person referred to in "Sabine's Loyalists" as "having settled in Nova Scotia, where he became a member of the House of Assembly and a Magistrate for the District of Colchester, whose death occurred in 1835." This notice, no doubt, was intended for his father, Charles Dickson, who died in 1796.

In 1836 Alexander McCurdy Upham, son of Luke 2nd, son of Nathaniel, who was the son of Richard Upham, Esq., the first person named in the township grant, was returned member for Onslow. He was a farmer, merchant and ship-builder. His residence and place of business was at Lower North River, on the property subsequently owned and occupied by the Rev. John I. Baxter. On the 25th June, 1826, Mr. Upham married Mary Cutten, by whom he had nine children. His eldest son, Henry M., born 11th of July, 1827, now a resident of Drayton, Walsh County, Dakota, U. S. A., is remembered as the first Inspector of Schools for the County of Colchester, under the Free School System of Education in Nova Scotia.

The session of 1839 opened on the 10th of January. On the 30th of March, the House was notified that Alexander L. Archibald and Alexander McC. Upham, two of the members, were absent without leave, and had returned to their respective homes at Truro and Onslow. The Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms was ordered to go to their lodgings and ascertain the facts. On his report the Speaker informed the House that Mr. Archibald had returned home on the 26th instant, and Mr. Upham on the 29th, and had since been absent. Whereupon Honorable Mr. Uniacke "moved, that the twentieth standing Order, by which the members had subjected themselves to the censure of the House and had forfeited their pay for the session, be acted upon; and Resolved, that the Speaker sign no pay ticket for either, and that both remain under the censure of the House," which being seconded, Honorable Mr. De Wolf "moved an amendment not to interfere with the pay of the members, but to leave them subject to the censure of the House until they made a suitable apology before taking their seats next session." The amendment was lost and the original motion carried 19 to 10.

Besides filling the positions stated, with a fair amount of success, Mr. Upham was a deacon in the Onslow Baptist church for several years, and towards the close of his life he engaged in ship-building. Though a person of few words, and not given to debating, he was possessed of superior judgment for the advantages he enjoyed, and was looked up to as one of the best members of society.

His unexpected death, on the 10th August, 1841, at the early age of 39 years and 36 days, was long regretted by a large circle of relations and friends, as well as by the community in which he had passed a short, though by no means an inactive, nor an unimportant life.

To complete the list of township members we have only to add the name of John Crowe, already mentioned, who was the third son of John and Elizabeth Crowe, born at Onslow, August seventh, 1784. His father was one of six brothers, who with their father, James Crowe, senior, and sister Margaret, emigrated from Londonderry, Ireland, in the ship *Hopewell*, about the year 1761. They first settled at Windsor, from which place the brothers John and Aaron removed to Onslow. His mother, the eldest daughter of David Marshall and Sydney Holmes, was born in England in 1752.

Mr. Crowe went to sea several years while young, and afterwards became a successful farmer on the fine property now owned by his son George F. On the 7th of April, 1818, he married Agnes, daughter of William McNutt and Isabella Dickson. They had six sons and two daughters. The eldest son, James Nicholas, is a farmer at Old Barns, a county magistrate, a commissioner of schools for the district of Colchester, and has held the office of municipal councillor for the important district of Lower Village of Truro and Old Barns. John is a carpenter at Chicago, Illinois; Robie a miner at George Town, Colorado; George F. farms on the old homestead, is a justice of the peace, and an ex-municipal councillor for his district; while Homer, the youngest, is a practicing physician at Folly Village, in the township of Londonderry.

Mr. Crowe was first sent to the Assembly in 1826. In 1830 when the province was convulsed from the loss of revenue resulting from want of a proper understanding between the Upper and Lower House relative to the duty to be imposed on brandy, notwithstanding Mr. Crowe took the popular side of the question, he found the Archibald and Dickson influence too strongly in favour of the late member for him to be re-elected that year. Circumstances, however,

transpired which led to his being returned for a second term in 1843. Before the election of that year a public meeting was held in the church at Onslow to hear Joseph Howe and others speak on the great educational question then agitating this province. At eleven o'clock a. m. on Monday, the 9th of October, Mr. Howe entered the church accompanied by George R. Young, James F. Gray, William Annand, and others, and took their seats at a table in the middle aisle in front of the pulpit. The sheriff, Charles Blanchard, Esq., then read the requisition addressed to him, signed by a number of persons, authorizing him to call the meeting. Mr. John King, of Onslow, was proposed as chairman, and simultaneously the Sheriff was named, and to save a contest on the question of the chair, the friends of Mr. King waived their objection to Mr. Blanchard, and chose Mr. King as vice-chairman, when both took their seats as moderators of the meeting. The business of the day commenced by Isaac Logan, Esq., reading several resolutions and a speech favoring one college in Halifax, which was seconded by Isaac McCurdy, Esq. They were followed by G. W. McLellan, Esq., M. P. P. for Londonderry, who spoke at some length, giving his own views on the subject. On resuming his seat, Mr. John Ross moved several resolutions in amendment of the others. They maintained denominational colleges at Horton and Pictou, and proposed to concede to Mr. Howe's party to unite with the Catholics to found one in Halifax. Mr. Ross' speech contained a number of sallies and home thrusts of a political character, some of which were rather personal to Mr. Howe. E. F. Munro, Esq., seconded the amendment very forcibly, but at less length. Robert Chambers, Esq., next spoke, and adverted to the dispute of Mr. Howe with the editor of the *Christian Messenger* as the source of the present attack on their institution at Horton. He was followed by Mr. McLeod, a teacher in Onslow, and a student of Pictou Academy, who in a neat and able speech showed the beneficial effects of such institutions by contrasting the sort of teachers which he remembered in the neighbourhood where his youth was spent, with those which followed after the Pictou Academy began its influence. Mr. McLellan, an aged gentleman, the father of G. W. McLellan, M. P. P., made some remarks on the unfitness of a college in Halifax to benefit the country.

The Hon. Mr. Howe then rose. He spoke over two hours. His speech was chiefly a reply to Mr. Ross and Mr. Munro, and abounded in humorous comments. He charged the fall of Pictou Academy, not to the spirit of animosity between sects, but to the tory party in Halifax



and the country. Should it be admitted he had a bias against the Baptists, he asked what bias could Huntington, McLellan, Annand, or Stairs be supposed to have? He charged the commencement of these public agitations to the meetings of the Baptist Education Society. Four Secretaries of State, he said, had sanctioned the expedient of one college—and that the Attorney General, in a printed protest, had formerly maintained that position.

Mr. Howe then proceeded to argue against the expense and exposure to immoral influences of a town education, and urged many things he considered advantages—said they only required £800., which would enable them to start with seven or eight professors,—alluded to an address which he said was signed by hundreds of Baptists at Yarmouth, praying Mr. Huntington to become again their representative, and was very confident that more petitions would be signed throughout the province in favor of the proposed plan of a metropolitan college, and against the denominational system, than were ever signed in its favor.

Immediately on closing, the Rev. Edmund Crawley, whose presence was a great surprise to the requisitionists, addressed the meeting. He said he was a man of peace, and saw no reason why the subject should not be peaceably discussed, but that he must acknowledge he was astonished when he entered the meeting, and previously, to perceive the strong excitement that existed, and especially to perceive that so many of the Presbyterians, and as he was informed, all or most of the clergy who so late as last session of the Legislature were in favor of denominational colleges, and signed petitions to that effect,—nay, five of whom only two years ago signed the petition in favour of Acadia College, were now for destroying that institution, and their own Pictou Academy, and joining in with Mr. Howe for a metropolitan college. What, asked the reverend speaker, can have so rapidly changed the spirit so long cherished by the Presbyterian body, and sanctioned so many years by the name and efforts of the departed and venerated McCulloch?

Mr. Crawley then showed that Mr. Howe, at the late college meeting at Halifax, divided the income of the Windsor College by three instead of fifteen, the average number of students, so as to make it appear the expense of a student to the public was the enormous sum of £440 a year, thereby producing the most erroneous impression on the minds of the plain people among whom these miscalculations circulate. That Mr. Howe had thrown in £5000 which his own data excluded, and had also kept out of sight that a large academy, averaging at least forty scholars, often having had fifty, sixty, and seventy students, had always

been maintained at Windsor out of the money given by the province, while Mr. Howe's calculations went on the ground that all was expended on but three students a year.

Mr. Crawley showed also that the Hon. Mr. Bell had stated that nearly half the money given for education by the province was expended on the eighty youths said to be at college, together with five or six hundred lads now receiving their education in the various county academies.

Mr. Crawley also stated that Mr. Young had made it appear that Acadia College had received from the provincial treasury £5000 and still it wanted more.

Mr. Young rose to explain that he did not mean this. Mr. Crawley insisted that his words bore such a meaning, and read the paragraph from the report of Mr. Young's speech.

Notwithstanding all this miscalculation, and misinformation, continued the reverend gentleman, I have been charged with insulting the House for daring to say they were misinformed on this subject, and therefore not suitable persons to pass the unripe and hurried measure carried during the last session. He denounced strongly this endeavour to frighten the people out of freedom of speech, and with great animation and earnestness claimed on behalf of the people of Nova Scotia, the same latitude of remark on the proceedings of their representatives, as was acknowledged in the Mother Country to be the birthright of Englishmen,—the same that Wilberforce, Clarkson, and their band of fellow philanthropists used when opposing the slavery of the sons of Africa, and must necessarily be used by every minority, however small, that sought to repel measures they deemed unjust.

Mr. Crawley then dwelt upon the unfitness of a metropolitan college for the country, and when he spoke of the influence of fashionable habits, on the expensiveness of a town education, and the danger of immoral influences, the uncommon stillness of the assembly showed that the remarks met a very general response in the judgment of his hearers.

Mr. Crawley then proceeded to point out the political bearing of the college question. The proposed system of one college withdrew higher learning from the country, and thereby tended to deprive the people of that cultivation and mental power which is essential to the maintenance of their liberties—whilst it placed all these advantages in the capital amongst the already powerful and the wealthy.

He closed by calling on the people to observe the true character of the plans proposed for their support, and to repel the threatened danger, for so surely as they allowed these measures to be ripened, and to operate as their contrivers seemed to design, the liberties of Nova Scotians were gone forever. *was then taken*

The vote of the meeting the people forming in two companies, east and west of the church door, till counted. The majority appeared obviously for country colleges. They afterwards formed on either side of the road. The sheriff passed through the double line, and declared the number to be 150 for the country, 170 for the town. Mr. King also passed through the lines, and declared the number to be for the country, 202, for the town, 161, making a majority of 41 in favor of denominational colleges. The sheriff subsequently conceded his mistake, and the majority stood as found by the vice-chairman.

Had the sheriff been right in his first count, it might appear that Mr. King had counted John Crowe for a large number, and thus followed a precedent set by Lord Grey as a teller in the House of Lords, on the passage of the "Habeas Corpus Act." If the precedent were to hold good, he might well have done so, for John Crowe was such a man as might have given a famous statute to England. He was a man of the finest physique, large and well proportioned, standing about six feet four inches in his boots.

By a note to Blackstone's Commentary, Vol. III., page 135, it appears that "Bishop Burnet relates a circumstance respecting the 'Habeas Corpus Act,' which is more curious than credible; but though we cannot be induced to suppose that this important statute was obtained by a jest and a fraud, yet the story proves that a very formidable opposition was made to it at that time." It was carried (says he) by an odd artifice in the House of Lords. Lord Grey and Lord Norris were named to be tellers. Lord Norris being a man of vapours was not at all times attentive to what he was doing, so a very fat lord coming in, Lord Grey counted him ten as a jest at first, but seeing Lord Norris had not observed it, he went on with this misreckoning of ten, so it was reported to the House, and declared that they who were for the bill were the majority, though it indeed went on the other side; and by this means the bill passed." (1 Bs. His. Ch. 11.—485).

"In the Oxford edition of Burnet's History, there is the following note by Speaker Onslow": "See minute book of the House of Lords with regard to this bill, and compare there the number of lords that day in the house with the number reported to be in the division, which agrees with the story."

Although John Crowe was a staunch Presbyterian he took the side of denominational colleges, and standing on a hummock when counted with the majority, he was the most noticeable man in the crowd. This circumstance, it is said, led to his being elected a second time in 1843, and in 1847, the last time the people of the township were privileged to have a representative, for a third term. The strong friends Mr. Crowe made by the stand he took on the educational question claimed that they would have returned him to parliament for Onslow as long as he was able to stand up and put a hat on his head, had not the township been disfranchised: while Mr. Crowe himself asserted that his opponents could not unseat him and resorted to the expedient of turning him out of the House by an Act of Parliament. He sat till 1851 when township representation was done away with.

Mr. Crowe was always a conspicuous figure in any public gathering, while his quiet disposition, and the easy manners he acquired in following the sea, coupled with the large fund of information he possessed concerning the early settlers, and the great common sense he manifested in the affairs of every day life, made him an agreeable companion to all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance.

The closing sentence of the inscription on a chaste freestone monument recently erected in the Onslow cemetery gives a truthful account of the life and character of this worthy member of a former generation, who was the last successor of Wolsley in the representation of the township.

"Our Father,  
JOHN CROWE  
died  
Aug. 30, 1878  
Aged 96 years.  
For many years  
a member of the  
Legislature for the  
Township of  
Onslow.

He died as he lived—a prudent  
upright man."

And now Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen, the lateness of the hour and the already too great length of this paper, to which I must thank you for having given such a patient hearing, precludes the possibility, even if it was thought desirable to do so, of giving further details necessary to complete the history of the first to be laid out and settled, and originally, for a considerable period, occupying the unique position of the shire township of the District of Cobequid, the present County of Colchester. These must be left for another chapter, and a more convenient season, or better still, for some one else to furnish who can do greater justice to the view propounded by Matthew Arnold, so far as it relates to everything of importance in the history of Onslow.

"The harvest gathered in the fields of the past is to be brought home for the use of the present."

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