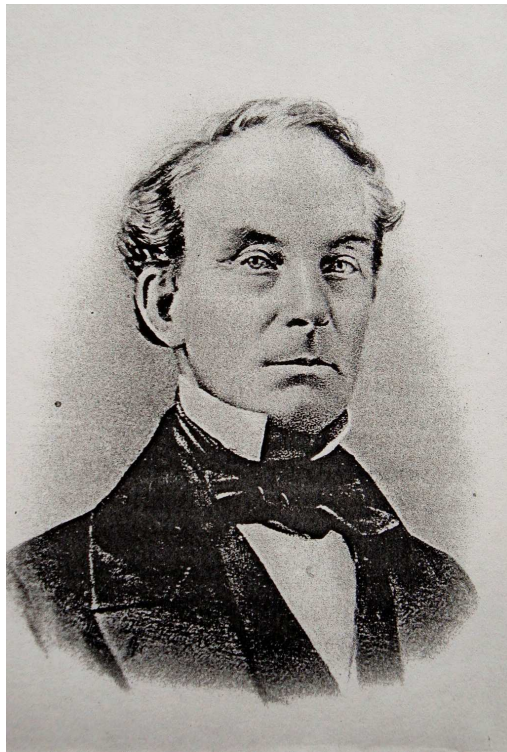


Gen. of R. G. Dennis 10/18/10

A GENEALOGY OF
REV. RODNEY GOVE DENNIS
HIS FOREBEARERS AND DESCENDANTS

THOMAS LITTLE
HARTFORD, CONN.
1911.



FOREWORD

The author of this genealogy, Thomas Little (1849-), was the son of Arthur Williamson Little (1819-1898) and Martha Jane Agnew (1825-), His siblings included Arthur Hutchinson Little (1847-), William Little (1848-) and two additional children. Thomas married Charlotte Wolcott Dennis (1860-1905), the daughter of Rodney Dennis (1826-1897) and granddaughter of Rodney Gove Dennis (1791-1865), by whom he had two children, Thomas Wolcott Little (1892-) and Drummond Williamson Little (1895-).

Arthur W. Little's brother, and Thomas's uncle, Thomas Little (1816-1852), also appears in the genealogy. He married Theodosia Dennis (1823-1911), daughter of Rodney Gove Dennis.

Prior to compiling this genealogy, which he considered to be preliminary, Thomas Little traced the descendants of his own ancestors, the brothers Thomas and Theophilus Little. The New Jersey Historical Society of Newark, N.J. has a collection of papers, correspondence, deeds, legal documents, wills, etc., compiled by Little. (see MS Group1207. Little Family. <http://www.jerseyhistory.org/findingaid.php?aid=1207>)

In the 1980s I obtained a photocopy of the Dennis genealogy from Rodney Gove Dennis III, Curator of Manuscripts at Harvard College Library, and the great-great grandson of Rev. Rodney Gove Dennis. The copy is not paginated, although page numbers are included in the indices. Photocopies of some of the photographs appear in this copy, but none is good enough for reproduction. Additional copies of the genealogy are in the Connecticut State Library in Hartford and the Westfield Memorial Library in Westfield, N.J., but apparently do not contain original photos. Amy Coffin of the Topsfield Historical Society kindly provided a photograph of Rev. R. G. Dennis, which I have included on the title page.

The photographs have been omitted from the following version, but a table of captions is included at the end. I have repaginated the text and omitted some chapter headings – mainly names of individuals. The original index contained only the names of the “main characters;” a new name index has been added at the end, containing all persons named in the text. All the indices have been revised, using page numbers from the new version. Spelling has been retained as recorded by Little except where typographical errors are apparent. I have attempted to correct all of my own typos, but am sure that the reader will find some that I have overlooked. Note that “L”s have been used in place of pound signs in English currency.

Copies of this revised version have been given to several libraries, including the Harvard College Library, the Westfield Memorial Library, and the Topsfield Historical Society. The file can also be accessed at <http://DennisFamilyOnline.com>, which contains information on the known descendants of Rev. R. G. Dennis's great-great-grandfather, Thomas Dennis (1638-1706) of Ipswich, Mass.

--Frank G. Dennis, Jr., 1600 Ridgewood Dr., E. Lansing, Mich. 48823.
fgdennis@msu.edu October 2010

PREFACE.

Shortly after my removal from New York to Hartford, in the summer of 1905, I became a member of the Connecticut Historical Society, just before coming here had finished the Little genealogy, which occupied my spare time for over fifteen years and developed in me a great liking for research work.

The care taken in New England in the preservation of their vital and other records with the many Town Histories, Genealogical and other publications accessible in the various local and State Historical Societies seemed to offer a tempting opportunity for further research work, and I very naturally turned to my wife's family, the Dennis's of Ipswich, Mass.

Made copies and notes of everything I could find pertaining to this family, in this way a mass of data accumulated, felt a strong desire to visit Ipswich, which I did during a summer vacation. there I not only saw the graves of the first settlers, but also the "Old Homestead" in a good state of preservation, from this time as vacations were spent visiting various New England towns and a vast amount of information was gathered, to say nothing of the pleasure enjoyed in seeing these beautiful old towns and meeting numerous residents, who without exception willingly and cheerfully gave me every assistance in their power, while at home the evenings were the only time I had leisure to continue my work, and many a summer eve has been pleasantly passed, oblivious to the heat and discomforts of that season, during the absence of my family, collating and arranging my material.

About a year ago a member of the family urged me to put what I had gathered in such form that it would be accessible to those interested, which I did during the past summer, want of time prevented me from doing more than to arrange the direct line. It is my desire during the next summer to include all the material I have, various photographs and pictures gathered are included in this work, which will no doubt prove interesting.

Have been greatly assisted and should be remiss did I not take this opportunity to express thanks to Mr. Holmes V. M. Dennis, Dr. David Dennis, the late Mrs. D. H. Van Mater, Mr. O. B. Classon and Miss H. S. Dennis and others for the valuable assistance given me, (p. 4) without which this record would have been far from complete.

Hoping that some member of the family may think this of sufficient merit to have it printed in book form, and thus rendered available to the numerous descendants of this sturdy pioneer, I present you with the results of my researches.

Thomas Little.

Hartford, Conn. October 1, 1911

DENNIS.

The record of the Dennis genealogy in America, begins with the group of sturdy old pioneers of New England who have made the history of the United States famous for all time with deeds of heroism and bravery, and illustrious by that singleness of purpose, unyielding integrity, and marked intelligence, which gave New England that prominence in shaping the destinies of the great Republic which she so richly deserves and has so signally retained to the present time.

(History of Litchfield, Maine.)

There being a tradition in the later generations of the descendants of Thomas Dennis of Ipswich, Mass. which the writer has not had the opportunity to authenticate, that Thomas Dennis came from England to America with a brother John, who settled at Wenham, Mass. it has been thought advisable to give a short genealogy of this line.

Wenham, Essex Co., Massachusetts., first settled as early as 1638, gave the name of Enon to this territory which was originally part of Salem.

The General Court, September 7, 1643, ordered that Enon shall be called Wennam. The present name is supposed to have been derived from the parish of Wenham, near Ipswich, in Suffolk Co. England.

JOHN DENNIS,
OF
WENHAM, ESSEX CO. MASS.

JOHN DENNIS, 1. of Wenham, Essex Co., Mass. m. at Wenham, June 12, 1679. Ruth White. b. Wenham, Mass. ___ 1662, d. Wenham, Mass. August 15, 1724. Aged 70 years, .dau. Thomas White & 2nd wife Ruth Hatfield, of Wenham.

John Dennis, d. Wenham, May 13, 1716. Estate settled by his son Josiah, then of Cambridge, at Wenham.

Children all born at Wenham.

Joseph. b. Feb. 8. 1680, d. Wenham, Jan 18, 1714/15, m. Nov. 16, 1710, Susannah Lucas of Beverly, Mass.

Issue. Benjamin .b. Aug. 25, 1712.

Joseph, .b. July 20, 1715.

John, b. ___ No trace

Rev. Josiah. b. 1694

Sarah. b. Aug. 28, 1699

Letters of Administration on Estate of John Dennis, late of Wenham, Husbandman, Deceased, granted to Josiah Dennis, his son, Date Ipswich. December 23, 1724.

John Appleton, Judge.

(Salem Probate Office. 314.- 133.)

Inventory of the Real & Personal Estate of John Dennis, late of Wenham, Deceased.

To Wareing Clothes. 60/ Beds & beding L 9.2/	
Chest drawers & Box. 40/	14. 2.6
To Table Linin 8/ Tables & Chairs 10/6	
Warming Pans 10/ Frying Pan 2/ 6	4. 10.0
To Iron Ware 29/ 1 Brass Skillitt 2/ 1 Pair Cards 8d	
Pewter 16/ Glass 1p	2. 7.8
To Meal Trough & sundry other small utensils	1. 4.
To One Cow 60/	3. 6.0
To a Dwelling House, Small Barn & 1 Acre 20 Poles of land adjacent.	40.0.0

	L 62. 5.4

Josiah Dennis, Admr.

Sworn to March 18, 1724.

(Salem Probate Office. 316.-199.)

Account of the Administration Estate John Dennis, Deceased.

Cr.

By Real Estate as per Inventory	40. 0.0
By Personal Estate as per Inventory.	22. 5.4

	62. 5.4

Dr.

Samuel Waldo, 10.10.0, Joseph Dennis.18.9.3	
Josiah Dennis. 9.4.9	37.14.0
Funeral Charges 15.9.7 Dr. Vallin 0.23.0	
Robert Buffin 0.13.10	17. 4.7
Bond of Admr, Inventory, Swearing & App ¹ &c &c.	15.6
Appraising Estate 9/ Administrator for time & trouble 75/	4. 4.3
Stating, Recording, &c.	17.0
Petition to Sup Court for sale of land &c &c.	1. 10.0

	62. 5. 4

Sworn at Ipswich. April 30, 1725.

SARAH DENNIS. 2. (John. 1.). b. Wenham, Mass. Aug 28, 1699. d. 1758. m. Nov. 12, 1724, Nehemiah Dodge. 4. (John. 3. John. 2. Richard. 1.) of Wenham, Mass. b. Jan 16, 1698/9. d. ----

After living for a time in Wenham they moved to Littleton, Mass. where they remained for life.

In July 1725, he bought of the estate of John Dennis of Wenham (probably his wife's father) 1 ½ acres and a house in the north part of Wenham.

On the same day Mr. Thomas White, Yeoman of Wenham "for the love and goodwill and affection toward my loving cousin Sarah Dodge now wife of Nehemiah Dodge, of said Wenham, and also for that uncommon pains and tender regards towards my sister, her mother in her helpless condition in the latter end of her days before her death, hath given &c &c., to said Sarah Dodge, two parcels of land in Wenham, about seven acres in both." (Essex Deeds. 48.219.)

Children, of whom the first five are found in Wenham records.

- Ruth Dodge, b. April 13, 1727.
- Lucy b. June 13, 1729.
- Job b. July 2, 1731.
- Mary b. Nov. 2, 1733.
- Sarah b. Sept. 28, 1737.
- Eunice b. Mar. 14, 1738/9.

REVEREND JOSIAH DENNIS. 2. (John. 1.) .b. Wenham, Mass. 1694, d. at Yarmouth, Barnstable Co. Mass. Aug. 31, 1763. Graduated at Harvard College in 1723. Ordained Pastor of the East Precinct, Yarmouth, Barnstable Co., Mass. in 1727. He was eminently successful in his ministry, and greatly beloved, admitted to membership 159 persona and baptised 560.

Evidence is found of the republican simplicity of the times, in the fact that, March 13, 1764, an appropriation of L 2.8 was made by the East Precinct, "for the payment of funeral charge and gravestones for Rev. Mr. Dennis."

The best evidence that in the 37 years ministry of the Rev. Josiah Dennis, he was personally acceptable to a past generation, and that his memory was hallowed, is found in the fact, that when the East Precinct of Yarmouth was about to become a town so long after his decease, a new generation of men, a portion only of the former surviving, determined as a token of honor to his worth, to give the new township his name.

Dennis was incorporated as a town, June 10, 1793., prior to that, from 1721, it was known as East Precinct of the town of Yarmouth.

By his wife Bathsheba, Mr. Dennis had born to him, Hannah, Oct 4, 1730. Bathsheba. Feb. 9, 1731/2. 2. d. Inf. Sarah. Oct. 2, 1732. Abigail. June 8, 1734. Josiah. April 18, 1736. d. Inf. Sarah, Aug. 18, 1737. Josiah. Aug. 22, 1739. d. Inf.

By a second marriage with Phebe Bangs, in 1746, had Bathsheba. b. Sept 6, 1748. And Phebe. b. Oct. 30, 1750.

References.

Wenham, Mass. Vital Records.

Felts History of Ipswich, Mass.

Descendants of John White of Wenham, Mass.

Genealogy of the Dodge Family of Essex Mass. 1629-1894. J. F. Dodge.

History of Cape Cod. Vol. 2. Barnstable Co. Annals of Yarmouth. East Precinct.

Will of Rev. Josiah Dennis of Yarmouth, County of Barnstable, Massachusetts Bay, New England. Dated November 19, 1761. Probated Feb 15, 1764. Barnstable Probate Office. Vol. 13. p. 14.

Bequests to wife Phebe, daughter Hannah Dunster, Church under my care 32 S. to buy Silver Cups for Communion Table.,

Poor of the Parish, excepting those who have no sense of steadiness of Religious Worship. 26 S. 8 d. Dr. Stilling. "Fleets Origins Sacro." Son-in-law Mr. Dunster, my Bookcase. Balance of Books to be sold by Mr. Green. Balance of Estate to be equally divided between my widow and two daughters, Abigail and Jane.

Rev. Wm Joseph Green and Kenelem Winslow, Executors.

Inventory, May 4, 1764. L 641.11.10 Do. Vol. 13. p. 266.

Will of Abigail Dennis, of Yarmouth, County of Barnstable, Massachusetts Bay, New England. Dated Feb. 11, 1767. Probated March 10, 1767. Barnstable Probate Office. Vol. 13. p. 283.

Bequests to Martha Dunster daughter of sister Hannah Dunster. L 26.13.4 To Aunt Eunice Howes, Aunt Sarah Allen. Cousin Sarah Newcomp, Cousin Mary Brown. Mrs. Mary Stone, Mrs. Martha Green. Abigail Green of Yarmouth. Sister Jane Dennis the balance of Estate. Sister Jane Dennis and Samuel Edredge, Executors.

Inventory. L 131.18.8

Do. Vol. 13.p.299

Will of Jean Dennis, Spinster, of Yarmouth, County of Barnstable, Massachusetts Bay, New England. dated June 6, 1767. Probated, August 11, 1767. Barnstable Probate Office. Vol. 13.p. 301.

Bequests to, Mother-in-law Phebe Dennis. Rev. Nathan Stone. Mr. Stones wife, his son, Aunt Eunice Howes, Aunt Sarah Allen, Cousin Sarah Newcomb, Cousin, Mary Bourn, Mrs. Margaret Green. Poor of the town that attends meeting 6s 8d. Balance of Estate to Cousin Martha Dunster. Friend Samuel Eldredge, Sole Executor.

Personal estate, 177.17.4 Real Estate, 339.6.8 Total L 517.4.0

Do. Vol.13.p.302

THOMAS DENNES, DENNISS, DENNIS. 1. undoubtedly came from England to Massachusetts Bay Colony, New England, but when or from where I know not. On September 26, 1663., a resident of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, he bought of William Searle, a house and lot in Ipswich, Essex Co., Massachusetts., on the north side of County Street, which dwelling is still standing and belongs to a descendant of the family.

On April 26, 1664, he purchased land in Portsmouth, N.H. on Strawberry Bank, on June 19, 1665, he was chosen a Constable of Portsmouth, on October 19, of that year he joined in the Portsmouth Petition to the General Court of Massachusetts Bay, on March 4, 1665/6, he was one of the subscribers to the support of Rev. Mr. Moody there, on March 8, 1666/7 he was a Jurymen of that place, after which his name does not again appear in the Portsmouth. N.H. records In 1668 he married in Ipswich, Mass. where he remained till his death.

He was a soldier in King Phillips War, under Captain Mosely, in garrison at Marlborough, Mass. from September 21, 1675 to June 24, 1676. February 13, 1678 had the right of commonage, Feb. 1680/81 was one of the petitioners to raise the seat in the Meeting House. May 16, 1685., bought house and land in Ipswich of Mary Rogers, on County Street, extending from East Street to Summer Street, formerly Stony St and Shipyard Lane; on Sept. 4, 1685. John Dennis of Ipswich for L 17. sells to John Shipway, house and land on Strawberry Bank, in Portsmouth. He was Constable and Collector of Ipswich from 1685 to 1692. His name appears on the Tax Record there in 1691. for L 1.6.0.

In 1700 had a seat assigned to him in the Meeting House. A pillow case, spun, woven and sewed by Grace Searle Dennis, - wife of Thomas Dennis – and embroidered with her initials, is in the possession of Augustine Caldwell, of Ipswich. It has been preserved by the several generations as follows: [no information – page missing ?]

Grace Searle Dennis 2. Elizabeth Dennis Hovey. 3. Elizabeth Hovey Caldwell, who was the great great grandmother of Augustine Caldwell.

Thomas Dennis. 1. Joiner. d. Ipswich, Mass. May 23, 1706. aged about 68 years. (Tombstone). m. 1st, at Ipswich, Mass. October 26, 1668. Grace Searle, widow of William Searle of Ipswich, who d. there August 16, 1667. – she d. Ipswich, Mass. October 24, 1686. aged 50 years. (Tombstone). he m. 2nd. Sarah who survived him and m. 2nd intention published December 7, 1706. Captain John How of Topsfield, Mass. who d. Topsfield Dec. 16 1728, aged 91 years. she d. Topsfield, May 6, 1730.

The gravestones of Thomas and Grace Dennis are to be seen in the Old High Street Graveyard at Ipswich.

Children

Thomas	b. Nov. 30, 1669.
John	b. Sept. 22, 1673
Elizabeth	b. 1675. m. Ebenezer Hovey, Int Pub. July 23, 1704

Will of Thomas Dennis. Died May 23, 1706.
Dated May 22, 1706. Probated July 1, 1706.

In the name of God, Amen ye 22 Day of May in ye Yeare of our Lord God One Thousand Seven Hundred & Six, I Thomas Dennis of Ipswich in ye County of Essex in ye Province of Massachusetts Bay, Joiner, being sick and weak in Body but of ye feet (?) Mind & Memory thanks be given unto God Therefore Calling to Mind that it is Appointed for all men once to Dye, Doe Make & Ordains this my last Will & Testament in Manner & form following & first of all I give & Recommend my Soule into ye hands of Almighty God at (?) gave it & my Body I Commend unto ye Earth to be Interred in Decent Manner at ye Discretion of my Executor here after Named, hoping thro ye Merittes of Jesus Christ of a joyfull resurrection & as touching such Worldly Estate as it shall please God to bless mee with in this Life, I give Devise & Dispose as followeth.

I give & Bequeath unto my Dear and Loving Wife Sarah ye Use Benefit Improvement & Income of all and Singular my Estate During her natural Life if she Continues my Widow & att her Death shee shall have Liberty to Dispose as shee Shall see Cause of ye sum of Twenty pounds as Money in Consideration of what shee brought with her Which sum shall be payed by my Executor according to her order in Three Years after her Decease, but in case she sees cause to Marry then she shall acquitt my Estate and all ye use thereof & Benefitt y^e by & my sd Exuto^f shall pay her the Sum of Sixty pounds at money price.

I give and Bequeath unto my Grandson Thomas Dennis Thirty pounds as pay when he shall arrive at ye age of Twenty & One years.

I give and Bequeath unto my daughter Eliz^a Hovey & ye heires of her Body One hundred pounds as pay within three yeares after (p. 24) my Decease or Marriage of my Wife which of them shall happen first.

I give and Bequeath all the Rse^d of my Estate, Reall and Personal unto my Sonn John Dennis & his heirs for ever freely to be possessed & Enjoyed by him, whom I Constitute make & Ordaine only & Sole Executor of This Last Will & Testament Utterly Disallowing & Revoking all other & former Ratifying & Confirming this & no other to be my Last Will & Testament.

In Wittness Whereof I have hereunto Sett my hand and seal y^e Day & Yeare above written.

Signed, Sealled, published, pronounced and Declared by ye said Thomas Dennis as his Last Will & Testament, In presence of us Subscribed.

John Caldwell.

John Staniford.

Margarett Staniford.

Y^e Mark of

Thomas ___ Dennis

Essex Co.

Before y^e Hon^{ble} John Appleton Esq^r Judge of y^e probate of Wills &c in sd County of Essex, at Ipswich y^e 1st day of July 1706. Mr. Jn^o Caldwell, Mr. John Stainford & Mrs. Margarett Stainford, all of Ipswich, Appeared & made Oath y^t they were personally present & saw Mr. Thomas Dennis late of Ipswich, Dec'd Signe & Seale y^e within document & heard him publish & Declare to same & other page to be his Last Will & Testament & when he so did he was of good understanding & Disposing Mind to y^e best of y^e and att y^e same time they all sett to y^e hands as Wittnessed in his presence.

Upon which This Will is proved, approved & allowed, which Will was executed by John Dennis, Sole Execut^r in sd Will Named & Appointed July 29, 1706, and Declared his acceptance of his Executorship & gave Bond to pay Debts and legacies.

(Essex Co. Prob. Rec. Vol. 309.p. 78-9). Attest. Daniel Rogers.

Estate of Thomas Dennis. Receipt of Legacy.

Ipswich, Jan 16, 1706/7. Then received of John Dennis of Ipswich aforesaid Executor to ye Last Will and Testament of his Father Mr. Thomas Dennis, late of Ipswich aforesaid, Dec'd the full & just sum of Sixty pounds in household goods, Syder Money & other things in full satisfaction of that Legacy of Sixty pounds Willed, bequeathed & Ordained by ye above named Mr. Thomas Dennis, in his Last Will to be paid by ye above named Executor Jn^o Dennis unto mee Sarah Dennis, Late Widow of said Mr. Thomas Dennis, Dec'd, now married to Capⁿ John How of Topsfield in County of Essex. Wee Say Received by me the Subscriber in full satisfaction of ye above named Bequest of Sixty pounds made in ye above sd Will.

Witness our hands
William Baker
Dillingham Caldwell.

John How
Mark
Sarah S. How.
Her

Acknowledged
January 20, 1706/7.

(Essex Co. Prob Rec Vol. 309.p. 147)

1685 September 4. Thomas Dennis of Ipswich, Joyn^r To John Shipway of Portsmouth, N.H. Consideration Seventie pound. A parcell of land & dwelling house upon it, lying upon Strabery Bank in ye Town of Portsmouth, in ye Province of New Hampshire, whose dimentions is expres'd upon ye Province Records, as also upon Sd Dennis his Originall Deed of Sale, sd Land & House being bounded Northw^d on ye land of Edward Melcher & southw^d on ye land of Tho: Wakam.

Acknowledged Sept. 7, 1686. Recorded June 6, 1698.
New hampshire Province Deeds. Vol. 6.p. 164. Sec State. Concord. N.H.

1665. June 19. At a gen^l Towne Meeting held the 19, June 1665, Mr. Richard Stileman & Thomas Denniss, Chosen Constables for the year ensuing.

(Portsmouth, N.H. Town Records. 1645-1693. Vol. 1.p. 54).

1665/66. March 4. At a gen^l Towne Meeting ye 4, March: 65/66.

Names of those that Subscribed towards Mr. Moody that came since ye year 58, or did not then subscribe & of such as have Lessened w^t they then gave. Tho: Denniss. (Original Portsmouth, N. H. Town Records. 1645-1713. Vol. 1.p. 112.)

1666/67. March 8. At a General Towne Meeting held ye 8th of March 1666/67. Chosen for Jury Trials, Tho: Dennis.

(Original Portsmouth, N.H. Town Records. 1645-1713. Vol. 1.p. 120.)

1665. Oct. 20. Abraham Corbitt was summoned to appear before the Gen^l Court or the Governor the 20, of October 1665, by me.

Thomas Denes. Consta^l (Portsmouth)

(Provincial Papers of New Hampshire. Vol. 1.p. 280)

1665. Oct 9. 1665. May Session. Portsmouth Certiffica^t.

To the Honoured Generall Court of Massachusetts.

May it please you, That whereas there is a bruite or fame of a petition drawne up by vs the inhabitants of Portsmouth, & sent to his Majestje, the contents of which is to charge the gouernment of the Massachusetts wth vsurpation vpon vs, & to supplicate an alteration of gouerno^{rs} & gouernment that his majestje hath at present established, by his royall charter, among us.

Wee the selectmen for the prudentiall affairs of the sajd towne, & sundry other the inhabitants, doe certify the honoured Court that wee are innocent & cleere of any such act & doe disclajme the same as any of our towne act, & doe account ourselves abused by any that have ffathered such a thing vpon us.

In testimony whereof wee subscribe our names, the 9th of October, 1665.

Rich: Cutt, Jno Cutt, Nath: Fryer, Elias Stileman, Selectmen. Th^o Dennis (and 26 others) other Inhabitants.

(Shurtleff's Records of Mass. Vol. 4. Part 2. 1661-1674.p.270).

1675. Sept 21. Thomas Dennis was a soldier in King Phillips War, under Captain Moseley, in garrison at Marlborough, Mass. from September 21, 1675, to June 24, 1676. (N.E. Hist & Gen Reg. Vol. 40.p.320. &Vol. 43.p.266-274).

1675. Feb 13. A list of the names of those persons that have the right of commonage, according to law & order of the Towne. Thomas Dennis. (N.E. Hist & Gen Reg. Vol. 7.p78.).

1680-81 Feb. 13. At the next Town Meeting. Feb 1680-81. Dr. Dane, Nath Treadwell, William Hodgkins, Senr., Andrew Dymond, Thomas Lull, Thomas Dennis, Thomas Hart, and Samuel Hunt united in a petition for liberty to "raise the hindmost seat in the northwest syde of the Meeting House two foot higher than it now is," for there wives to sit in," and it was granted.

That lofty row of eight ladies of the second order of social rank was a conspicuous offset against the pretensions of the family pew.

(Waters Ipswich in Mass Bay Colony. p. 114.)

1695. Thomas Dennis was Constable and Collector of Ipswich from 1685 to 1692 (Hist of the Town of Litchfield, Maine. 1785-1895.p.99.)



Thomas Dennis of Ipswich. Pl^t.
vers.

On Appeal from the County Court
holden at Ipswich

John Wainwright of sd. Ipswich. Def^t.
s^d. Wainwright, Fifty shillings money damage & cost &c.

March 31, 1691. where Judgem^t was for the

The Courts Judg^{mt} Reasons of Appeal & Evidences in the case were read
committed to ye Jury. The Jury find for the Defenden^t. Confirmation of the former
Judgem^t. & Costs of Courts.

(Records of the Court of Assistants. Colony of Mass. Bay. Vol. 1. 1673-1692.p. 347).

1691. The Ipswich Tax Record of 1691., the earliest on record, appear Thomas Dennis. L
1.6.0 Widow Searle. L 0.6.0
(Ipswich Antiquarian Papers).

1700. Thomas (Dennis) Sen'r had a seat assigned him in the meeting house in 1700.
(Ipswich Antiquarian Papers).

1663. Sept. 26. William Searle of Ipswich, Joyner, his heirs and assigns do make over,
and commit unto Thomas Dennes of Portsmouth, his heirs and assignes, my deed
of sale wherein is contained my house & land which I purchased of Shoreborn
Wilson of ye town and county abovesaid to have and to hold forever in
consideration of 8 pounds received of ye above sd Dennis, currant money of N.E.
this Sept 26, 1663.

W^m Searl.

(Essex Co. Deeds. Vol. 8.p. 89.)

SEARLE

Andrew Searle. (1) Born in England in 1616. came to Massachusetts, supposed to be the father of,

William Searle, who died at Ipswich, Mass. (2) Aug. 16, 1667, Thomas Dennis (3) was Administrator of his Estate, by a (4) noncupative Will proved Sept 24, 1667, gave all his property to his wife, was a Carpenter, (5) in 1663. made seats for the Meeting House.

He bought a lot (6) with house and cooper shop on it at County & Summer Streets, Ipswich, of Shoreborne Wilson, May 19, 1663., which he sold to Thomas Dennis, Sept 26, 1663. He had a Share (4) in Plum Island in 1664.

His widow Grace Searle, married 2nd, in Ipswich (7) Oct 26, 1668, Thomas Dennis, and died Oct 26, 1686, aged 50 years.

Children of William and Grace Searle

Samuel Searle. Eldest son (8), died in Rowley, Mass., (9) April 7, 1691. The Inventory (9) of his Estate taken in 1691. amounted to L 38.13s.6d. returned by Deborah the Admx. also a list of debts due from the Estate L 44.5s. Samuel Searle (4) and Deborah his wife had a son, born Oct 15, 1685., who died Dec 22, Deborah Searle died at Rowley, Mass., May 25, 1703.

William Searle. Youngest son (8) born (10) Nov 22, 1665., died at (10) Rowley, Mass. Nov 2, 1690., Inventory (10) taken Sept 2, 1691., by John Haniford and John Caldwell, Jr. amounting to L 10.5s., returned by John Harris (his brother-in-law) Administrator, Sept 3, 1691.

Grace Searle. (11) Died June 2, 1742., married Jan 8, 1685., Sergt, John Harris, who died Ipswich, Mass. Nov 21, 1732. Aged 82 years. They had 4 Sons and 2 Daughters, all born in Ipswich, Mass.

Sergt, John Harris was the son of Thomas Harris, of Ipswich, who married Nov 15, 1647, Martha Lake, daughter of John Lake (who was of the Lake family of Normanton, Yorkshire, who claimed descent from William the Conquerer,) and Margaret –Reade-Lake (who was the sister of Mrs. John Winthrop, Jr., and Mrs. Deputy Governor Samuel Symonds. She possessed land in Ipswich, Mass. Connecticut and Maine.

References

1. Cages History of Rowley, Mass.p.144.
 2. Haywards History of Hancock, N.H.p. 510.
Ipswich Antiquarian Papers. Vol.3.No.39.& Vol. 4. No. 50.
 3. History of Litchfield, Me. p. 99
 4. Early Inhabitants of Ipswich, Mass.p. 328.
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5. Ipswich Antiquarian Papers. Vo. 3. No. 31.
6. Waters Ipswich in Massachusetts Bay Colony.p. 416.
7. Haywards History of Hancock, N.H. p. 510..
Ipswich Antiquarian Papers. Vol. 2, No. 75. Vol. 3, No. 29 & 36.
8. “ “ “ . Vol. 3. No. 29.
- 9, Essex Institute Collections. Vol. 5.p. 141. & 204.
10. “ “ “ . Vol. 5.p. 141.
Ipswich Antiquarian Papers. Vol. 4. No. 46.
11. Early Inhabitants of Ipswich, Mass. p. 125 & 220.

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JOHN DENNIS. 2. (Thomas 1) Ensign, Captain. b. Ipswich, Mass. Sept 22, 1673. d. Ipswich, Mass. Jan 5, 1757. m 1st, Ipswich. Aug 31, 1699. Lydia White, dau. George White and Lydia Sampson, of Ipswich. b. Ipswich, Mass. Jan 5, 1672. d. there June 10, 1712. m. 2nd. July 8, 1713. the widow Sarah Ward. who d. Ipswich, Dec. 1756.

The gravestone of Lydia Dennis may still be seen in the High Street Burying Ground at Ipswich.

Children.

Lydia . b. Dec. 22. 1701. d. Feb 23. 1772. Single.
 Elizabeth . b. Aug 25. 1704.m.June 2. 1728. Nathan Day of Ipswich.
 Thomas . b. Aug 19. 1706.
 John . b. Nov 3. 1708.
 William . b.Aug 31. 1710. d. Nov 11.1711

In recent years it was discovered that the ancient tomb built, it is supposed, by Col. John Wainwright had partly fallen in. The entrance had been closed some years ago with old gravestones which were removed from the graves where they had been originally placed. The largest of these stones was in memory of Capt. Bemsly Perkins, whose house stood on the site of Mr. Manassah Brown's present residence. This slab is of freestone and has a square socket from which the Perkins Arms have been removed.

A smaller slab of slate has this inscription,

Here lys ye body of Mrs. Lydia Dennis, wife of Mr. John Dennis, who died June ye 10, 1712. And in the 40th year of age.

A tender mother,
 A prudent wife,
 At God's command
 Resigned her life,
 & at her flight
 Let this word fall,
 Submit my friend
 Now God doth call.

(Ipswich Antiquarian Papers. Vol. 2. No. 17.)

In an old account book, evidently a Coopers, the name of John Dennis appears, with the dates, 1690-1696. He had horses on the Common in 1697. Was commissioned Ensign of the Second Regiment of Militia, in the County of Essex. August 15, 1723. in 1756 was Captain.

Was Executor of his fathers estate and residuary legatee after the payment of several bequests, inherited the homestead and added largely to his real estate holdings during his life; he died intestate in his 84 year. on March 8, 1787., his son Captain Thomas Dennis was appointed Administrator of his estate, the inventory dated March 28, 1757., amounted to L 558.6.12

On August 15, 1757. Thomas Dennis of Ipswich, County of Essex, Gentleman, gave a Power of Attorney to his wife, Martha Dennis, "in my private capacity as administrator of the Estate of John Dennis, late of Ipswich, Dec'd, and on August 17, "Captain Thomas Dennis and many men from Ipswich Companies marched to the relief of Fort William Henry, as far as Sudbury."

Considerable friction seems to have arisen between the heirs as to the amount to be allocated their brother, the administrator probably for the care of their father during the latter part of his life, on Nov 15, 1757, John Dennis, Clerk, of Harwich, Barnstable Co, in consideration of the sum of L 46. sells to Thomas Dennis, Gentleman of Ipswich, all his right, title, interest &c &c in the Real and Personal Estate of his father, John Dennis, late of Ipswich, Dec'd, and thus avoids further controversy.

The sisters finally resorted to arbitration, on "November 22, 1757, Elisabeth Day daughter of John Dennis, Dec'd gave Bond for L 1000. to submit to award of Arbitrators, as to her share of the estate of her father," and was awarded L 42.1.4, her sister no doubt pursued the same course.

March 15, 1758. Estate of John Dennis, father of Thomas Dennis. Award to settle disputes between Thomas Dennis and ...

Lydia Dennis and Elizabeth Day, for sums paid and services done.

Award. Pay Thomas Dennis L 313.6.8 (?).

Certificate dated March 20, 1758. Estate of John Dennis late of Ipswich, Intestate.

Real Estate appraised as per inventory L 499.7.0
Personal Estate L 62.5.10 and debts against said Estate, charges administration and administration allowances amount to L 371.16.& ¾

Dan^l Appleton. Reg^t.

Commission of John Dennis. Ensign. 1723.

Seal. Province of Massachusetts Bay. William Dummer, Esqr
Lieutenant Governour & Commander in Chief, in and over His Majesties
Province of Massachusetts Bay in New-England, &c.

To John Dennis, Gent. Greeting.

By Virtue of the Power and Authority, in and by His Majesty's Royal Commission to Me
Granted, to be Lieutenant Governour, &c over this His Majesty's Province of the
Massachusetts Bay aforesaid: I do (by these presents) Reposing especial Trust and
Confidence in your Loyalty, Courage & good Conduct, Constitute & Appoint you the
said John Dennis to be Ensign of the Foot Company, on the North side of the River in
Ipswich whereof John Dennison Esqr is Captain & Nath^l Hart Lieutenant, in the Second
Regiment of Militia, within the County of Essex whereof John Appleton Esqr is Collonel.

You are therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the Duty of Ensign, in
Leading, Ordering, and Exercising, said Company in Arms, both Inferiour Officers and
Souldiers; and to keep them in good Order and Discipline: hereby Commanding them to
Obey you as their Ensign and your Self to observe and follow, such Orders and
Instructions, as you shall from time to time receive from Me, or the Commander in Chief,
for the time being, or other your Superior Officers, for his Majesty's Service, according
to Military Rules and Discipline, Pursuant to the Trust Reposed in you.

Given under my Hand and Seal at Arms, at Boston, the Fifteenth Day of August,
in the Tenth Year of the Reign of His Majesty King George, Annoque Domini, 1723.

By His Honour the Lieut
Governour's Command,

W^m Dummer

J. Willard. Secry.

An inventory of the Estate of Mr. John Dennis late of Ipswich dec'd. as apprizd by us the Subscribers, viz,

A desk 26/8 A Cane 5/4 A Case of Drawers 13/4	2. 5. 4
A Carved Cupboard 6/2 Wooden Carved Chairs @ 2/	10.
2 Wooden do @ 1/ 1 Great Chair flagg bottom'd 1/	3.
1 Chair cover'd with Cloth 2/ 13 Chairs 20/	1. 2.
Long table black walnut leaf 5/ 3 3 tables pine leaves 5/4	10.8
Looking Glass 26/8 Warming pan 5/ 3 prs Andirons 6/	1.17. 8
Fire shovel & tongs 5/ 20 1/2 lb Pewter @ 1/ Pewter Dish & poring ^r 5/	1.10. 6
4 Glass bottles 1/4 A Wine Glass & painted Glass 2/	3. 4
Tin peper box 2d Sugar box & Small wooden box 8d	.10
A Chest 6/ Clothes press 5/ 1 Old Chest of draws 3/ Carved Chest 4/	18. 0
Painted do 5/ Cupboard on a frame 3/ 2 Wood ⁿ Chairs 1/	9. 0
Carved box 2/8 Carvd Salt box 8d Chest 4d Half round table 2/	5. 8
Pillian 1/ Old Square table 1/ 14 lbs Iron Hoops & boxes 2/8	4. 8
1 Pair old Stily ^d 2/ Smal Stilyards 2/ 1 Gun 16/	1. 0. 0
Pine Chest 8/ Brass kettle 16/ 3 Iron potts 5/4 Iron kettle 1/	1.10. 4
Trammel 3/ Wooden ware 1/ Iron Goose 8d Glass Case 4d	5. 0
Screen 2/ Pall 8d Old bell metal pott 2/ Joint Stool 6d	5. 2
1 p ^r Hedge Sheers ¼ Silver Tankard 8.16	8.17. 4
6.3.0 of Spoons & Cup @ 6/8 East Chamber feather bed & 1 pill ^o wt 36 lb @1/	3.15. 8
Under bed 3/ Bedsted & cord 4/ Coverlids 12/ Blanket 2/	1. 1. 0
An old bed & bolster wt 5.2 20/ In back room Meal chest & old table 1/8	1. 1. 8
1 Pair Brass Scales & 4 oz Brass weights 2/8 Morter & pessil 2/8	5. 4
Iron Croe 5/ 1 Chain ¾ Horse tackling for draw ^r 5/	13. 4
In lower Room, Feather bed 2 pillows & bolster 70 wt 60/	3.
Under bed 3/ bedsted & Cord 4/ 2 Coverlids 12/	19. 0
1 Blanket 2/ Curtains Teaster head Cloth & val ^{ts} 12/	14. 0
1 Pair tow sheets 6/ Some Old Silver 1/6 Old Casks 2/	9. 6
42 lb Old Iron @ 2d 7/ Wearing Apparel, A Light Coat Gray 20/	1. 7. 0
Black Jacket & Breeches 4/ 4 Pair Old Breeches 3/	7. 0
2 Old Jackets 2/ Old Coat, Jacket & Breeches 2/	4. 0
Bible & Old Books 3/4 Hand Saws 7/ A saw 8d	11. 0
4 Old Sythes 2/ Other Joyners & Turners Tools 12/	14. 0
1 Pair old last wheels 44/	2. 4. 0
The Mansion House & Homest ^d , North side ye way	18. 0. 0
Meadow on ye South side of ye way, containing abt 3 ½ Acres, together with Hovey's house (so called) Small house where Widow Harris now lives, The Shop and Old Barn.	106.13. 8
5 Old and 4 New Rights at Scotts Hill.	186.13. 4
Ab ^l 11 Acres Woodland & Meadow in ye North Field.	48. 0. 0
“ 3 “ Land on the Town Hill.	24. 0. 0
1 New Right in Gravel Brook Pasture.	10.13. 4

1 Old & New Right in Bartholemew Hill.	30. 0.0
1 Piece of Land Call ^d Roberts Lot. Ab ^t an Acre.	13. 6.8
An Old Right in Timber Hill Pasture.	33. 6.8
4 Old Upland Rights on Jeffries Neck. Numbered No. 67.235.247 & 36. @ L 6.13.4	26.13.4
½ An Old Upland Lott at Jeffries Neck. No. 56.	3. 6.8
½ “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “ . 156.	3. 6.8
½ “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “ . 130.	3. 6.8
4 New “ “ “ “ “ Numbered as follows.No.9.37.83.130. @ 60/	12. 0.0

Ipswich, March 28, 1757	558. 6.2

Thomas Dennis

Aaron Potter
Daniel Staniford Sworn.
Jer^o Perkins

Essex Ss. October 19, 1757, Cap^t Thomas Dennis Adm^r &c. Made Oath to the truth of this inventory and that if more Estate appeared he would cause it to be added.

Before me, John Choate. J. Prob.

(Essex Prob. Rec. Vol. 335.p.61.)

REVEREND. JOHN DENNIS. 3. (John 2. Thomas 1.) b. Ipswich, Mass. Nov. 3. 1708. d. Ipswich, Mass. Sept 2, 1773. m 1st. Intention published Dec 12, 1736. Martha Willcomb of Ipswich. dau. Richard Willcomb & Elizabeth Hodgkins. b. Ipswich. Mass. March 12, 1716. d. Ipswich. July 1, 1754. m 2nd. Ruth Bacon. b. . d. Ipswich. Oct 2. 1804.

Children

John	. bp. July 24. 1737. Tailor in 1777.
Martha	. “. Oct 8, 1738. m. Intention Published Nov. 26. 1757. Abraham Safford of Ipswich. Cabinet Maker.
Lucy	. b. Mar. 27.1740. m. Nov 26. 1772. William Robbins, Jr. of Ipswich, Mariner.
William	.bp. Oct 12. 1741.
Arthur	.b. Dec 25. 1745.
Elizabeth	.bp. Feb 23. 1747. m. Benjamin Griffin. Mariner.
Moses	.b. May 27. 1751.
Rebecca.	. Widow in 1777.

Reverend John Dennis, graduated at Harvard College in 1730. employed to preach in several parishes in Ipswich, also a teacher in the Grammar School. Was appointed Chaplain in the army September 1737, served till March 1749. while sustaining such office he acted as surgeon and physician, was at Fort George. He ine. [enlisted ?], in 1738, and had been sick there. at Fort Frederick, Maine. in 1748 in Colonel Webbs Regiment. Was granted several tracts of land near York, Me. for his services.

Was settled as pastor at Charleston, N.H. in 1754. and at Harwich, Mass., from 1756 to 1760., returned to Ipswich in 1781: appointed reading and writing master at Ipswich, on the north side of the river at ten dollars a month, Feb 11, 1771.

Vital Records of Ipswich, Mass.

Haywards History of Hancock. N. H. 1784-1869.p. 510

Felts History of Ipswich.p. 80-88.93.

Massachusetts Archives.

Index to Land Grants.

May 20, 1740. Petition of John Dennis, late Chaplain at St. Georges Fort, to the General Court, informing them that the grant they made to him last year, viz: L 50, and a further sum of L 30. for furniture &c for Chaplains room not having been paid owing in their being no funds in the Public Treasury, and being incapacitated for further duty owing to a distemper contracted at St. Georges prays for a grant of a Tract of Land or such other relief as in their vision shall seem meet &c &c.

A Grant of L 50. And 200 Acres, made July 2, 1740.

Oct. 1741. Return of a Survey of 200 Acres land made for John Dennis of Ipswich. 3 Miles N.E. of Saco Rive, on the N. E. Side Narragansett Township, County York. Me., agreeable to a Grant made by the General Court, July 2, 1740.

Feb 9. 1747. Petition of John Dennis, Chaplain at Fort Frederic. Pemaquid: to the General Court, in respect to increase made in salary not being paid.

A Grant of L 12/10 S made Feb 19. 1747.

Dec 20. 1752. Petition of John Dennis of Ipswich, to the General Court, for confirmation of a Survey of 200 Acres Land adjoining Narragansett Township, County York, Me. made agreeable to a grant made him by said General Court.

It appearing the land described having been already granted, he be allowed to lay out 200 Acres unappropriated in the County of York.

Nov. 9. 1753. Return of a Survey of 200 Acres land, Adjoining Phillipstown & Coxhall, to John Dennis, by virtue of a Grant to him by the General Court.

Confirmed by the General Court. Dec 19. 1753.

June 13, 1772. Grant to John Dennis of 400 Acres land eastward of Saco River.

Sept 25. 1778. Petition of Heirs of John Dennis, Dec'd, for 400 Acres of Land eastward of Saco River.

Oct 14. 1778. Grant of 400 Acres of land eastward of the Saco River. to heirs of John Dennis, Dec'd.

To His Excellency Jn^o Belcher Esq Governor in chief the hon^r Council & Representatives of his Majestys Province of Massachusetts Bay in General Court Assembled May 28. 1740.

The humble petition of John Dennis late Chaplain at S^t Georges Fort, sheweth That your Excellency & Honour^s were pleas'd in answer to his petition offer'd to this hon^r Court the last year to make him a grant of Fifty pounds for which he returns his most hearty thanks, and did also further grant & allow the Sum of Thirty pounds to provide Furniture and necessary Utensils for the Chaplains Room at said Fort but there being no money in the Publick Treasury said Furniture and necessary were never provided & your petitioner was necessitated to procure the same himself which he is now oblig'd to quit the Service proves much to his damage.

That your Petitioner during his abode & being in the Service at S^t Georges, has contracted a very hazardous distemper which incapacitates him from being further Serviceable there & obliges him to be at great expense on Physicians & having a considerable family & being reduc'd to very low Circumstances humbly apprehends himself to deserve the Compassion of their Hon^b Court and prays your Excellency & Hon^{rs} to take his said Case into ye wise consideration & to make him a grant of a small Tract or parcell of ye un appropriated Lands of the Prov, or to grant him such other Relief as to ye Wisdom shall seem meet And ye Petition^r shall ever pray.

John Dennis

Endorsed

In the House of Repr^{ves} June 24. 1740

Read and Ordered that the sum of fifty pounds Equivalent to Bills of the Old Tenor be paid out of the Publick Treasury to the Petitioner John Dennis.

A and also a Grant of two hundred acres of the Unappropriated Lands of this Province adjoining to Some former Grant, is hereby Granted to the Said Petitioner His Heirs And Assigns, He to return to Plot thereof to this Court within twelve Months for Confirmation.

Sent up for concurrence

J. Quincy. Spk^r

In Council June 28. 1740; Read & Consur'd with the Admendment^s, viz: Dela A.
Send down for Concurr^{cc}

J. Williams. Sec'ry

In the House of Repr^{ves} June 30. 1740.
Read and Nonconcur'd and the House adhere to their own Vote with the
Amendment at B.

Sent up for con currence.

J. Quincy. Spk'r.

In Council July 2, 1740.

Read & Concur'd.

Simon Frost. Dep Sc'y.

Consented to

J. Belcher.

Backing.

A Petition of John Dennis. June 12 to be considered tomorrow.
June 13. Committed to Maj^r Ponsoy, Maj^r Winslow & Mr. Kupell to consider and
Report.

Accepted 21, June.

July 2. 1740.

Committed to

(Archives Massachusetts Ecclesiastical. Vol. 12. 1739-1742. Land Grants. p. 160-161.)

200 Acres Adjoining Narraganset. No. 1. (Buxton)

(To John Dennis, of Ipswich.)

Plan

[sketch of area]

Three miles or 960 rods from Sacow River to the Land, on the N. E. Side of
Naragansett Township in the County of York, Number One.

Bedeford Oct 1741. By the Request of Mr. John Dennis of Ipswch & by Virtue of
a Copy of a Grant of Two Hundred acers of the Unappropriated Land of the Province of
the Massachusetts Bay adjoining to some former Grant within the County of York to the
foresaid Dennis by the General Cort dated July 2, 1740. I Have meshered a Certain Tract
of Land in the County of York a goyning. Late Narraganset. Number one. &c a
township in the County aforesaid and on the Northwest side of the same.

Beginning at a Maple Tree standing three miles Northest from Sacow River and
on the Northwest side of the township aforesaid, Then running Northeast two hundred
Rods, then running Northwest one Hundred and Sixty Rods, then running Southwest two
Hundred rods, then Rinine South est one Hundred and Sixty rods to the foresaid Mapell
tree the first mentioned Bounds, the Land within the foresaid Bounds Contain two

Hundred acers. Being some Upland and some Swamp and some fresh Medow, Meshured
& Laid out

Per John Davis
Loot Layr on oath.

(Massachusetts Archives. Vol. 46.p. 268.)

To His Excellency William Shirley Esq^f Cap^t General, Governour in Chief in and
over his Majesties Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England: The Honourable
His Majesties Council: and House Representatives, in General Court Assembled.

The petition of John Dennis showeth, That wheras Your Excellency and Hon^{rs}
were pleased to take into consideration an humble request of Your petitioner, praying
Your Excellency and Hon^{rs} would be pleased to make your petitioners Sallery, as
Chaplain of His Majesties Fort Frederic at Pamaquid, equal with other Chaplains, and
Your Excellency and Hon^{rs} in Your great goodness were pleased to answar Yours
petitionars request; But, in Your last Establishment, have (Your petitioner presumes) by
Mistake, made it but halfe so much, wherefore, your petitionar humbly hopes, Your
excellency and Hon^{rs} will be pleased to rectify the same.

And Your petitioner as in duty bound, shall ever pray.
Ipswich, Feb^y. 9. 1747.

John Dennis.

Endorsements.

in the house of Rep^{rs} Feb^y 18. 1747.

Rec'd as Ordered that the Petitioner be allowed out of the Publick
Treasury Twelve Pounds ten Shillings in full consideration for his Service as Chaplain to
November 1747.

Sent up for concurrence.

T. Whitecombe. Spk^r

In Council Feb 19.1747 Read & Concur'd.

T.N. Willard. Sec'y.

consented to

W. Shirley.

(Archives Massachusetts Ecclesiastical. Vol. 12. 1739-1749. Land Grants.p.412-413.)

200 Acres. Adjoining Phillipstown and Coxhall, to John Dennis.

By Virtue of a Grant of Two Hundred Acres of Land, Granted by the General Court to John Dennis by Virtue of the same, I have this Decem^r ye 20. 1752. Day Surveyed and Laid out Said

Two Hundred Acres of Land Laying on the North East Side of Phillips Town, Butted and Bounded as followeth. Beginning at a White Oak Tree marked with the Letters T.D. near the Western Corner of Mousem Great Pond. from thence Running North East upon the Head of Cox Hall Two Hundred Rods, to another White Oak Tree mark'd as aforesaid, from thence on a North West Course one Hundred & Sixty Rods, thence South West to Phillips Town Line and from thence by Said Line South East to the first Mentioned Bounds, all which including the Two Hundred Acres.

Attest. Sam Wheelright.

Surveyr's of Lands.

Novem^r ye 9. 1753.

Map of Survey.

Endorsement on face of Map.

In the House of Representatives, December 11. 1753.

The above plan of Two Hundred Acres of Land laid out to satisfy a Grant of the General Court to John Dennis presented for Allowance. Read & Ordered that the plan be accepted And the Lands therein Delineated be & are Confirmed to the S^d John Dennis his heirs & Assigns for Ever, provided the Land Exceed not the Quantity of Two Hundred Acres, and does not interfere with any former Grant.

Sent up for Concurrence.

T. Hubbard. Spk^r

In Council, December 12. 1753. Read & Concurr'd.

Thomas Clarke. Dep^t Secry.

Consented to

Wi^l Shirley.

At a Great and General Court or Assembly for his Majesties Province of
Massachusetts Bay in New England upon Wednesday the 27, May 1753. & Continued by
Prorogations unto Wednesday the 26, November following an the met [?]

December 20, 1752.

On the petition of John Dennis

vizt

A Petition of John Dennis of Ipswich, showing that agreeable to a Grant made to
him by the General Court, of 200 Acres of unappropriated Land to be laid out in the
County of York, adjoining to some former Grant, he has gotten a Surveyor and Chain
Men on Oath to lay out for him Two hundred Acres of Land, adjoining to the Narraganset
Township in said County called Number One, a plan whereof he herewith presents:
Praying that this Court would Confirm the same to him, Notwithstanding the Lateness of
the return.

In the House of Representatives Read and it appear that the Land described in the
Plan is already Granted by the Court, therefore

Ordered that the Petitioner be allowed to lay out Two Hundred Acres of the
Unappropriated Lands of the Province in the County of York, Adjoining to so Township
or former Grant.

He to return a Plat thereof to this Court within Twelve Months for Confirmation.

In Council: Read and Concur'd.

Consented to by the Lieut Governor.

A True Copy of Record Examined.

p Tho^s Clarke Dp^{ty} Secr'y.

(Massachusetts Archives. Vol. 46.p. 327-329.)

In the House of Representatives, June 13, 1772.

Received that there be & is hereby granted to the Petitioner, four hundred Acres of the unappropriated Lands, in this Province, lying to the eastward of the Saco River adjoining to some other Grant within this Province, be returning a Plat thereof to this court taken by a Surveyor & chainman under Oath for that purpose, in one year from the Date hereof, and the land so laid out & returned, to be in full Satisfaction for all former Grants, as well as for the Cost & charges arising therefrom, to the Petitioner.

Sent up for Concurrence

T. Cushing, Spk^r.

In Council June 13, 1772. Read and Concurred.

Tho^s Fluker. Secry.

Consented to by T. Hutchinson.

The above is a true Copy of the Resolve, on the Petition of John Dennis.

State of Massachusetts Bay.

To the Hon^{ble} the Council and House of Representative forsaid State in General Court Assembled this Eighth day of April. A.D. 1777.

Ruth Dennis Widow, John Dennis Taylor, William Dennis Perukemaker, Arthur Dennis Yeoman, Moses Dennis Cooper, Abram Safford Cabinet Maker & Martha his wife, Benjamin Griffen Mariner & Elizabeth his wife, & Rebecca Dennis, Widow, William Roberts Mariner & Lucy his wife, all heirs of the Estate of John Dennis, late of Ipswich in the County of Essex, Clerk.

Humbly Shew

That the last mentioned John Dennis on the 13, day of June. A.D. 1772., had by a Resolve of the Hon^{ble} the General Assembly of this State Granted him four hundred Acres of the Unappropriated Lands of this State, lying to the Eastward of Saco River, Adjoining to some other Grant Within this State, he returning a Plan thereof to said Court, taken by a Surveyor & Chainman under oath for that purpose in one year from the Date thereof.

That the said John Denis, being soon after taken sick & for a long time incapable of transacting the above business rendered it impossible to perform the Above Conditions, of which sickness he died.

That your Petioner Vigt. Ruth Dennis widow of said John Dennis, did on the fourth day of April, A.D. 1776., Petition the Hon^{ble} Assembly of this State then Sitting, to Grant the like number of Acres of Land to her in some place in this State not before Granted to some other person, but as the Major part of the heirs of said John Dennis's Estate did not Petition with her she had leave to withdraw her Petiton that the Major part of the Heirs might Petition with her & as your Petitioners are the Major part of the heirs of said Estate who do hereby promise that what may be Granted by the Hon^{ble} Court shall be justly Divided Among all the heirs of said Estate Agreeable to the Law of this State made for the Distribution of Intestate Estates.

Your Petitioners humbly pray your honors to take this Petition under your Wise Consideration And Grant them the like number of Acres of Land as was before Granted, from some unappropriated Lands next adjoining some other Grant, not before appropriated, to the eastward of Saco Rive, under such restrictions as your honors think best, or grant them such relief as in your wisdom shall seem meet.

And your petitioners as in Duty bound will ever pray &c &c &c,

Ruth Dennis.
Rebeckah Dennis.
William Dennis.
Moses Dennis.
John Dennis.
Benj^m Griffen
Elizabeth Griffen.

Backed, Sept 25, 1778.

Gen. Farley.
Capt Grenleaf.
H. Mercy.

State of Massachusetts Bay.

In the House of Representatives. Oct. 14, 1778, on the Petition of Ruth Dennis and others.

Resolved that there be and is hereby Granted to the Widow Ruth Dennis and all the Lawfull heirs of John Dennis, Clerk., late of Ipswich, Dec'd four hundred Acres of the unappropriated Lands of this State, to the Eastward of Saco River, adjoining to some other Grant within said State, they returning a Plan thereof to this Court taken by a Surveyor & Chainman under oath for that Purpose in one year from the Date hereof, and the Land so laid out and returned, to be in Full Satisfaction for all former Grants as well as for the Costs and Charges arising thereupon to the Petitioners.

Sent up for Concurrence.

In Council, Oct. 14, 1778. Read & Concurred.

John Pickering. Spk^r
Jn^o Avery. Dp Sec'y.

Consented to:

Jeg Powell.	Benj. Austin.	M. Cushing.	Saml Niles.
B. White.	J. Fisher.	F. Fuller.	Jn ^o Danielson.
W. Spooner.	Moses Gill.	Timothy Edwards.	
Dr. Hopkins.	Dan Davis.	Josiah Stone.	

(Massachusetts Archives. Revolution, Resolves &c. 1773-1779. Book. 15.p. 50-52.)

Know all Men by these Presents that I Ebenezer Stanwood of Ipswich in the County of Essex, Barber, in the name and behalf of John Dennis of Harwich, in the County of Barnstable; Clerk, by Virtue of Power Given me by the said John, in Consideration of the Sum of forty Six Pounds Lawful money Paid me by Thomas Dennis of Ipswich aforesaid, Gentleman, for the said Johns use have Remised, Released and Quit claimed and hereby Do for the said John Dennis and his Heirs, Remiss, Release and forever Quit claim to the said Thomas Dennis all the Right, Title, Interest, Claim or Demand which the said John Dennis hath or Ought to have in or unto all or any Part of the Estate both Real and Personal which belonged to the said John's Father, John Dennis late of Ipswich aforesaid Deceased and is now in the Possession of said Thomas Dennis. To have and to hold the same to the said Thomas Dennis, his Heirs and Assigns forever so that neither the said John Dennis first named nor his Heirs nor any Person Claiming from by or under him any Right, Title, Interest, Claim or Demand of in or unto all or any Part of the Estate aforesaid hereafter shall or will have, but therefrom hereby shall & will be utterly Excluded and Debarred.

In Witness whereof I have hereunto Set my hand and Seal in the Name and behalf of the same John Dennis, this fifteenth Day of November in thirty first Year of his Majesties Reign. Annoque Domini. 1757.

John Dennis.
sined by & A Seal.
Ebenezer Stanwood.
Atorney.

Signed, Sealed & Delivered
In Presence of us
Joseph Appleton.
Jeremiah Perkins.

Essex. Ss. Dec^f 8, 1757. Then the above named Ebenezer Stanwood Personally appeared and Acknowledged the above written instrument to be his free deed., before me
Joseph Bowditch. Jus o'Peace

Essex.Ss. Rec^d on Record December 6, 1757 & entered & examined by John Higginson. Register.
(Essex Deeds. Vol. 106.p.112.)

John Dennis, is recommended by the 1st Church of Ipswich, to the Church about to be gathered at Charlestown, N.H. where he was settled as minister, in 1754.

(Felts History of Ipswich. p. 80.)

The first minister installed over a Church in Charlestown, N.H., was the Rev. John Dennis. He was of Ipswich, Mass. Graduated at Harvard College in 1730., no further information of his life from then, till September 1737, when he was appointed Chaplain in the Army and served till March 1749. While Chaplain acted as Surgeon and Physician. Nothing more known of him till his call to Charlestown.

At a legal Town Meeting held May 13, 1754., at 1 P.M. Voted. 1st. That they will apply to Mr. John Dennis to settle in the work of the gospel ministry in this town; and for the encouragement of the said Mr. Dennis, to settle in this town, in the work of the gospel ministry as aforesaid.

Voted. That the town will build for the said Mr. Dennis, a log house of hewn timber, of the following dimensions. viz: the house to be 36 feet in length, and 19 feet in width, and 16 feet stud: and to be jugged at the chamber in the common manner; and also to build and set up a stack of brick chimneys; and find boards for the upper floors, and set up the partitions and doors to the lower rooms; and also to board and shingle the roof of said house.

Voted. That the town will clear up a 3 Acre lot, No. 14. in the Great Meadow, fit for mowing: and that they will plough, fit and sow with wheat 4 Acres of a 5 Acre lot, No. 59. lying in the Great Meadow.

Voted. That the town will pay Mr. Dennis the sum of fifty pounds, annually, lawful money, to be paid equal to silver at six shillings and eight pence per ounce, if he shall see cause in the work of the gospel ministry in the town, and also to provide his firewood, brought to his house and cut cordwood length.

Voted. That five men be chosen to carry and offer the proposals of the town to Mr. John Dennis, and to receive his answer, and make such return thereof to this meeting.

At an adjourned meeting held May 22, 1754.

Voted. That the town will raise the sum of eight pounds, ...

lawful money of the province of Massachusetts Bay, to defray the charge of transporting Mr. Dennis' family to this town, if the said Dennis shall accept the proposals the town has made; and shall see cause to come and settle in the work of the gospel ministry among us.

On July 15th following a town meeting was called to act on the following articles.

1st. To choose a Moderator.

2nd. To receive the answer of Mr. Dennis, to the proposals made him by the town of his encouragement to settle in the gospel ministry among us.

3rd. To see if the town will agree to make any addition to the yearly salary which they have already voted to give to the said Mr. Dennis.

At this meeting ----- the committee appointed at a previous meeting, gave in Mr. Dennis' answer, which was as follows: "Honored and Beloved: The very hearty and unanimous invitation, which you have given me, to settle in the work of the gospel ministry among you, I esteem as a call in Providence for my compliance. I would, therefore, in the fear of God, intimate my acceptance of this, your invitation, earnestly requesting your prayers for me, that I may be found faithful unto death, and in the end receive a crown of life.

I also accept your offers of encouragement and in many respects esteem them generous and handsome: only in the article of salary, considering my family is large, and will require an annual demand not less than almost any of yours, and yours are ordinarily supported with that sum: and as yours are a growing people, and will have the assistance of the non-residents, and the sum of three pounds, six shillings and eight pence, when divided among many, will be no great additional burden, I hope you will be willing to divide the honor of giving, with the annual comfort of receiving, that sum, in the way of augmentation between us, which is all at present.

Yours to serve in the faith and fellowship of the gospel.

John Dennis.

Charlestown, New Hampshire. July the 15th, 1754.

The meeting then

Voted. That the town will allow, as an addition to the Annual salary they have already voted to Mr. John Dennis, at their last meeting, the sum of three pounds six shillings and eight pence, silver money, at six shillings and eight pence per ounce, as is requested by him, in his answer to the proposals made him by the town.

This vote was carried to Mr. Dennis, from the town, and Mr. Dennis was pleased to return the following answer, in writing, viz: Honored and Beloved; Your further addition to my salary according to your vote in answer to my request in that behalf, confirms my sentiments of your regard. Accordingly I accept this as a renewed instance, with all suitable gratitude, and thankfulness; which is all at present.

From yours,

to serve you in the faith and fellowship of the gospel.

John Dennis.

Charlestown, N.H. July 15th, 1754.

At a legal meeting of the proprietors held August 15, 1754, we find them passing the following votes.

Voted, that the Proprietors will be at the charge of settling Mr. John Dennis in the work of the minister among us.

Voted, that the sum of 350 pounds old Tenor, equal to Spanish dollars at 45 shillings, per dollar, be raised and assessed on the proprietors for building Mr. Dennis a house, and for fitting and sowing his land.

Voted, that Peter Labaree, Mr. Seth Walker and Ebenezer Putman, be a committee, to see that the house voted to be built for Mr. Dennis, be forewarded and

perfected: viz., the body of the house set up and the roof covered by the last day of September next.

Voted, that the sum of 16 s. old Tenor, be allowed to common laboring men per day, and that a carpenter be allowed 25 s. per day.

Voted, that any man, who shall provide boards, shingles, or other materials needful for said buildings, shall be allowed the common price for the same: &c &c &c.

Voted, that the Proprietors will be at the charge of providing for the Ministers, and delegates that are sent for to assist in the ordination of Mr. Dennis.

Voted, that John Hastings, Ensign David Farnsworth, and Lieutenant John Sawyer, be a committee to agree with some suitable person to provide for the ministers and delegates aforesaid.

Voted, that Peter Labaree, John Hastings, and Thomas Adams be assessors to make the rates above voted.

Voted, that Peter Labaree be a collector to collect the same.

This was on the 4th of August 1754., on the 30th Peter Labaree, Mr and Mrs Johnson, &c, were taken prisoners by the Indians. Another collector was therefore required in his place! and at a legal meeting held at the Fort, January 8th, 1755., Benjamin Allen was appointed to this office; and instead of the former Committee of the assessors Thomas Adams, Ebenezer Putman and William Heywood were substituted.

It was contemplated at the time the call was given to Mr. Dennis, that his ordination should take place at Charlestown, but danger being apprehended from the Indians, it was ultimately thought best that the council should be held at Northfield, Mass. and Captain Samuel Hunt of Northfield, father of the distinguished Colonel Hunt, subsequently of Charlestown, was engaged to entertain the ministers and delegates who should attend.

The Council met at Northfield, Mass. December 4th, 1754, where a church was organized of persons belonging to Charlestown, who had previously subscribed to a covenant, which the Council approved; and the following was forwarded by the scribe, to be inserted in the town Records.

To Mr. John Hastings, Clerk of Charlestown in New-Hampshire, Sir: Please to insert the following certificate in your records.

These may certify that Mr. John Dennis, was ordained a minister of the gospel, and had charge of the church of Charlestown in New-Hampshire committed to him on the 4th of December, 1754, by Elders of the Churches of Swanzey, Sunderland, Deerfield, Hatfield and Northfield.

Attest, Jonathan Ashley, Scribe

The ministry of Mr. Dennis thus auspiciously begun, was brought to a termination in a year, and a little less than four months: as he was dismissed March 31st, 1756. Through imprudences on his part, dissatisfaction very soon arose, which resulted in difficulties which rendered it best that the pastoral relation should be dissolved. This was done by an ecclesiastical council, mutually invited by Mr. Dennis and the town, consisting of the following Pastors, viz., Rev. Ezra Carpenter, of Keene and Swanzey; Rev. Joseph Ashley of Sunderland; Rev. Jonathan Ashley of Hatfield; Rev. Timothy Woodbridge of Deerfield; and the Rev. John Hubbard of Northfield.

Both the conduct and course pursued by Mr. Dennis, were severely censured by the Council, who went so far as to say to the people of the town, that "They thought it a favorable Providence that he had left them."

According to a previous agreement, under date of April 20, 1756., at Deerfield, Mr. John Dennis gave a discharge to the town of Charlestown of "All right or title to any lands that might accrue to me, in said town, either by an Act of the General Court of the Province of Massachusetts Bay, or any vote or votes of the inhabitants and Proprietors of said Charlestown, or any other way whatever, on account of my being ordained a minister of the gospel to said people."

After leaving Charlestown Mr. Dennis became pastor of the South Precinct of Harwich, Massachusetts, where he continued till 1760, when he resigned his pastorate and brought an action in court for the stipend which the Precinct had promised him, but which he alleged had not been paid; after which, nothing is known of him save that he died September 2, 1773., having nearly completed his 65th year, but at what place has not been ascertained.

In his acceptance of his call to Charlestown, Mr. Dennis makes allusion to his large family. His children by his wife Ruth, were as follows: John, William, Nathan, Moses, Martha, who married Abraham Safford, Elizabeth, who married Benjamin Griffin, Lucy, who married William Roberts.

By the settlement of Mr. Dennis, great injury undoubtedly accrued.

(History of Charlestown, N.H. p. 211-217. & 222.)

On May 13, 1754., Vote obtained for the settlement of Mr. John Dennis, at Charlestown, N.H. &c &c &c &c. On December 4, a small church was formed and Mr. Dennis was Ordained, &c &c &c.

In about six months, difficulties arose in consequence of imprudent, if no worse, conduct of Mr. Dennis; but the people, under the influence of that charity which is ready to provide a suitable covering for faults, "consented to a reconciliation, and agreed to establish Rev. John Dennis in the ministry, and to fulfil their contract, provided he does agreeably to what he has professed and declared in writing to the community, that he has entirely dropped, and will drop, his addresses and suit to Eunice Farnsworth; and shall not for the future give the town occasion to fault him for fallacy and prevarication." But it is the misfortune of most disorders of this character to gather strength from the means adopted for their remedy. In the present instance, the difficulties were healed so slightly, that they soon made their appearance in aggravated form. On the 31st. March 1756, a council was convened at Deerfield, when the pastoral connection between Mr. Dennis and his flock was dissolved.

(New Hampshire Historical Society Collections. Annals of Charlestown. Vol. [?] p. 122-123.)

Rev. John Dennis of Harwich, settled in 1756, removed in 1760

(History of Cape Cod. Church Pastors. Vol. 1.p. 567.)

In 1756, Rev. John Dennis was settled as minister of the South Precinct. Was from Ipswich, and graduated from Harvard College in 1730.

In 1760, Rev. Mr. Dennis resigned his pastorate of the South Precinct, and in December, the precinct was cited to answer at the Court of General Session, on complaint of Mr. Dennis, that the stipend promised him was not paid.

(History of Cape Cod. Annals of Harwich. Vol. 2.p.517-518.)

Extracts from the records of the Congregational Church of Harwich, Massachusetts

Feb. 13, 1756. Notice to the Freeholders of the 2nd, Precinct of Harwich to meet at the Meeting House on Tuesday March 2, next to vote their concurrence with the Church in giving the Reverend Mr. John Dennis a call to settle in the work of the Ministry among them. (p. 85.)

March 11, 1756. Do. Do. Voted to give Rev. Mr. John Dennis a call and voted a salary of L 40.0.0 yearly. (p.85-89.)

April 5, 1756. Do. Do. To vote what method may be best to provide necessary hay and wood for Rev. Mr. John Dennis. (p. 93.)

July 10, 1756. Do.. Do. To vote to raise money for the support of Rev. Mr. John Dennis (p. 95.)

Met July 10, and adjourned to August 18. (p. 95.)

August 18, 1756. The inhabitants meet and vote to raise L 47. for Mr. Dennis salary and other charges of the Precinct. (p.95.)

August 28, 1756. Notice to Freeholders of the 2nd Precinct of Harwich, to hold a meeting Sept. 3, 1756., to choose a man to take care of the Meeting House and Ministers house and to mend the windows. (p. 97.)

Sept. 3, 1756. Met and chose Daniel Doane to do the above work. (p. 97.)

Aug 7, 1758. Voted to raise L 40. for the support of the Gospel in the 2nd Precinct. (p. 109.)

Dec. 14, 1758. The Precinct Meeting voted in the negative as to giving Rev. Mr. John Dennis, wood and hay. (p. 109.)

Aug. 11, 1759. The Precinct Meeting voted to raise L 40 to support the Gospel this year. (p. 113.)

Dec 2, 1760. The Precinct Meeting chose Gershom Hall and Deacon Edward Hall agents to appear at a Court to be held at Barnstable, to make answer to the petition of Rev. Mr. John Dennis, exhibited against said Precinct. (p. 117.)

Dec. 17, 1760. A Precinct Meeting held, to make proposals to Mr. Dennis. Adjourned. (p. 119)

3rd Tuesday in Feb. 1761. A Precinct Meeting held, voted in the negative as to accepting any of Mr. Dennis proposals. (p. 119.)

May 21, 1761. At a Precinct Meeting held, it was voted to concur with the result given this day. (p. 127.)

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF HARWICH, BARNSTABLE CO., MASS.

The Harwich Congregational Church is the oldest religious organization in the town, it was constituted November 12, 1747.

The first Meeting House was built in 1747, it was a rude structure and stood a little westward of the present Chapel. From 1777 to 1792, there was no regular Pastor, and the house was occupied by Freewill Baptists.

A new and more commodious church was commenced August 1791, and completed in April 1792, it was erected a little to the eastward of the first one, about where the Chapel now – 1909 – stands, on its completion the first one was removed. After forty years it became dilapidated and unfit for use and was taken down and sold.

The third Meeting House, the present structure was built in 1832, and dedicated Dec 5, 1832., said to have been erected after plans of Sir Christopher Wren, it was enlarged and renovated at an expense of \$ 6000. in 1854, dedicated May 16, 1855.

Pastors of the Congregational Church of Harwich, Mass.

The first Pastor, Rev. Edward Pell, graduated at Harvard college in 1730., was settled at Harwich, November 12, 1747, and died there Nov 24, 1752. His salary was 160 bushels of grain, (15 bushels rye, 10 bushels wheat, 135 bushels Indian Corn) 16 Cords of Oak and 20 Cords of Pine Wood.

Rev. Benjamin Crocker, graduated at Harvard College in 1713., called to Harwich, April 12, 1753, preached till after April 1755.

Rev. John Dennis of Ipswich, graduated at Harvard College in 1730, succeeded Mr. Crocker, March 2, 1756, at a salary of L 40. He preached till the spring of 1761, when he returned to Ipswich, after entering suit for the stipend due him.

Rev. Benjamin Crocker returned Oct 14, 1761, remained till the middle of 1765, when he returned to Ipswich and died there in 1766.

Rev. Jonathan Mills called Nov 7, 1765, died 1773.

Rev. Joseph Litchfield called June 12, 1777.

After Mr. Litchfield according to the records from 1777 to 1792, there was no regular pastor of the Church, and the house was occupied by the Freewill Baptists.

Rev. Nathan Underwood called Oct 20, 1792. He ceased preaching late in 1819, and was dismissed April 8, 1828.

Rev. John Sanford preached one third of the time 1822. 1823. 1824.1825.

Rev. Nathaniel Cobb preached six months 1825-26.

Rev. Isaac W. Wheelwright preached six months 1826-27.

Rev. William Cornell. Nov 1828, left June 1829.

Rev. Lucius Fields. 1829-30.

Rev. Mr. Powers six months 1830.

Rev. Caleb Kimball 1832 to June 1, 1834.

Rev. William Withington Sept 1834 to Dec 1834.

Rev. Charles S. Adams Feb 1, 1835 to Feb 12, 1838.

Mr. John H. Avery Aug 8, 1838 to March 14, 1839.

Rev. Caleb Kimball May 1, to Aug 1, 1839.

Rev. William Marchant Aug 1, 1839 to Feb 14, 1841.

Rev. William H. Adams Aug 1841 to April 1844.

Rev. Cyrus Stone Sept 1, 1844 to Dec 1, 1848.

Rev. Theophilus P. Sawin Dec 1848 to May 11, 1851.

Rev. Moses H. Wilder Oct 1851 to Feb 1858.

Rev. Joseph R. Munsell Nov 1858 to May 1868.

Rev. William H. Beard Nov 1869 to Dec 25, 1870.

Mr. Charles H. Whitney May 7, 1871 to Oct 6, 1872.

Rev. Bradish C. Ward Oct 1872 to Jan 1876.

Rev. Joseph Hammond 1877.

Rev. S. Norton 1878.

Rev. S. W. Powell 1879.

Mr. R. B. Tobey Oct 1, 1880.

(Manual of the Congregational Church of Harwich, Mass. 1881.)

(History of Barnstable Co. Mass.

ARTHUR DENNIS. 4. (Rev. John 3. John 2, Thomas 1.) b. Ipswich, Mass. Dec 25, 1745. d. Phelps, Ontario Co, New York. April 24, 1825. m. Ipswich, Mass. Dec 11. 1766. Mary Goodhue. b. Ipswich, Mass. Jan 19. 1749, d. Mt. Vernon, New Hampshire. Feb 15. 1819.

Children.

Arthur .b. Ipswich, Mass. May 29. 1768. d. Pennsylvania. m. Ipswich,
April 21. 1791. Lucy Burnham.
Mary .b. “ . “ . Dec 9. 1769.
John .b. “ . “ . Oct 1. 1771. m. Ipswich. Oct 1. 1790
Lucy Osborn, of Ipswich.
Sarah .b. Jan 19. 1773. d. Feb 2. 1851.
Samuel .b. Aug 29. 1775. Bpt. Groton, Mass. Oct 1.1775. d. Nov 1775.
Samuel .b. Oct 17. 1776. d. Dec 11. 1855.
Moses .b. June 16. 1779.
Lucy .b. Mar 17. 1781. d. Feb 1825.
Patty .b. Jan 1. 1783. d. April 1838.
Frances .b. Dec 20. 1784.
William .b. Jan 21. 1787.
Joseph .b. Mar 6. 1789. d. May 7. 1815.
Rodney Gove .b. April 17. 1791.

The first three children of Arthur Dennis were born in Ipswich, also probably another child in 1773, whose name does not appear on the vital records of Ipswich, so he must have been a resident of that place until 1773 if not later.

Arthur Dennis, of Groton. Cordwainer. in 1774, bought land in Groton, Middlesex Co. Mass. two pieces, one containing 28 acres with all the buildings &c thereon, and the second piece 25 acres.

(Deeds. East Cambridge, Mass. Vol 80. p.345)

His name appears as Sergeant, on the muster roll of Captain Asa Lawrences Company, (he is credited with a march of 70 miles and 12 days service) of the persons that marched from Groton to Headquarters at Cambridge, on the Lexington Alarm, April 19. 1775., as a Company of Minute-men. the following is a copy of a certificate of his service, in the writers possession.

COMMONWEALTH of Massachusetts, Office of the Secretary, Revolutionary War Service of Arthur Dennes.

Arthur Dennes. Appears with the rank of Sergeant on the Lexington Alarm Roll of Capt, Asa Lawrence's Co of Minute-Men which marched on the alarm of April 19, 1775. from Groton to Headquarters at Cambridge. Town to which soldier belonged. Groton. Length of service, 12 days. (Vol. 12.page 174.)

Boston, June 14. 1910. I certify the foregoing to be a true abstract from the Record Index to the Revolutionary War Archives deposited in this office.

Seal.

Witness the Seal of the Commonwealth.

Wm. M. Olin.

Secretary.

A son was baptised at Groton, Oct 1. 1775. named Samuel.

June 4, 1777. Arthur Dennis, Yoaman, sells to Daniel Hart of Reading, "A tract of land and meadow in the town of Groton, where the said Arthur Dennis now lives, with all the buildings on the same," containing 28 acres, also another peice in Groton containing 25 acres. (Deeds. East Cambridge, Mass. Vol. 80.p.346.)

June 10. 1778. Arthur Dennis, Yeoman, of Amherst, N.H. bought land in the township of New Boston, Hillsborough Co, New Hampshire, part of the 2nd Division, being Lot no. 7. containing 50 acres. (Deeds. Nashua. N.H. Vol. 5.p. 387.)

Nov 12. 1782. He is one of the signers of a Petition to the General Court for an increase of the currency.

(State Papers of New Hampshire. Vol. 18.p. 722.)

Feb 1783. One of the singers of a Petition of the inhabitants of Hillsborough Co. N.H. to the General Court Assembled, "To make goods, chattels &c, a legal tender for debts."

(Town Papers of New Hampshire. Vol. 11.p. 92.)

May 25. 1786. With about 100 others, signs a Petition to the General Court "For a rehearing of the conviction of Dr. Jno Gove of New Boston, convicted October 1778., on perjured testimony of Silas Hedges, of passing counterfeit money."

(Town Papers of New Hampshire. Vol. 12.p.655.)

Oct 8. 1787. Arthur Dennis, Yeoman. of New Boston. N.H. buys "Land in the easterly part of New Boston, being Lot. No. 25. in the 2nd Division, containing 150 acres."

(Deeds. Nashua. N.H. Vol. 18.p. 340.)

Aug 30. 1790. Arthur Dennis of New Boston. Cordwainer, buys "Land in New Boston, containing 96 acres, 140 Rods."

(Deeds. Nashua. N.H. Vol. 37.p. 509.)

June 29. 1789. Arthur Dennis, Yeoman, and wife Mary, of New Boston, Hillsborough Co. N.H. sell "the whole of my Homestead Farm in New Boston, containing 50 acres, and is part of the 2nd Division, being Lot. No. 7. with all the buildings and improvements thereon."

(Deeds. Nashua. N.H. Vol. 22.p. 481.)

August 17.1793. Arthur Dennis of New Boston, sells "A parcel of meadow in the easterly part of New Boston, being part of Lot. No. 25. in the 2nd Division, containing 6 acres."

(Deeds. Nashua. N.H. Vol. 34. p. 136.)

Recorded Dec ye 17. 1798. The mark of Arthur Dennis Sheep, is a crop off the near ear and hole through ye same and half a cross off the upper side of the off ear.

Aug 22. 1801. Arthur Dennis. Yeoman. of New Boston,. N.H. sells to his son Moses Dennis of New Boston. N.H. Blacksmith, "Land in New Boston, being the whole of Lot. No. 25. in the 2nd Division, except 6 acres previously sold, with the house and barn thereon, reserving during my natural life and the life of Mary my wife as long as she continues my widow, the use and improvement of the whole of the land and buildings, and give him the privelege of erecting a Saw Mill on the stream of water near the house and raising the dam &c &c &c &c.

(Deeds. Nashua. N.H. Vol. 53.p. 246.)

Sept 14. 1802. Moses Dennis of New Boston, deeds to Arthur Dennis of New Boston, "The land and buildings in New Boston, conveyed by him to me by deed, August 22. 1801."

(Deeds. Nashua. N.H. Vol. 56.p. 90)

Oct 30. 1895. Arthur Dennis of New Boston, sells to Frederic French of Dunstable, "Land in New Boston containing 257 acres, reserving 6 acres previously sold, with all the buildings thereon."

(Deeds. Nashua. N.H. vol. 67.p. 327.)

NEW BOSTON. NEW HAMPSHIRE

=====

New Boston was granted January 14, 1735/36 by the Great and General Court of Assembly for his Majesty's Province of Massachusetts Bay, to John Simpson and fifty-two others of Boston. Grant confirmed by the Masonian Proprietors February 2, 1748/49.

The name New Boston, suggested from the residence of the Grantees, first applied to the Township April 16, 1751.

Bounded on two Narraganset towns viz: No. 3. & No. 5. (Amherst and Bedford.) Grant six miles square. The grant was located February 1736 and confirmed March 20. 1736. December 24, 1751., Masonian Proprietors conveyed to the Proprietors of New Boston, the original Township and an addition thereto. Incorporated as New Boston, February 18, 1763. By the original grant the township to be laid out in 63 equal shares. The Massachusetts grant was divided into Lots of 150 acres and the new addition into Lots of 100 acres.

A small tract severed and annexed to Goffstown, June 18, 1836.

Map of New Boston Township. N.H.

Weare.

Francestown.

Goffstown.

New Boston.

Lyndeboro.

Bedford.

Mt. Vernon

Amherst.

REV. RODNEY GOVE DENNIS. 5. (Arthur 4. Rev. John 3. John 2. Thomas 1.) b. New Boston. N.H. April 17, 1791. d. Southboro, Mass. Sept 29, 1865. m. at Billerica, Mass. Nov 20, 1820. Mary Parker. b. Billerica, Mass. May 1, 1793. d. Grafton, Mass. March 19, 1877.

Children.

 Mary .b. Nov. 30. 1821.
 Theodosia .". Mar. 10. 1823.
 Jesse Appleton .". May. 28. 1824.
 Twins.
 Jane Abigail .". May. 28. 1824.
 Rodney .". Jan. 14. 1826.
 Joseph .". Feb. 14. 1828.
 Edward Parker. .". Dec. 1. 1829.
 Isabella Holmes. .". May. 8. 1833.
 Frances Louisa. .". Aug. 24. 1834.
 Henrietta Pease. .". Oct. 26. 1838.

Rev. Rodney Gove Dennis, For derivation of his name, see letters March 8, 1856. to his son-in-law, Rev. Harry Finch and March 23, 1858. to his daughter Theodosia.) born in New Boston. N.H. April 17, 1791., the youngest of thirteen children of Arthur and Mary (Goodhue) Dennis, the only one who obtained a liberal education, was baptised when about five years of age. He fitted for College at the Appleton Academy, New Ipswich. N.H. While pursuing his academic studies in that town, in the autumn of 1811, during a powerful and extensive revival of religion, his mind was specially impressed with his relations and accountability to God; and at that time he became a Christian. He united with the Congregational church in New Ipswich, N.H. Feb 2, 1812. In the autumn of 1813 he entered the Sophomore class in Bowdin College, under President Jesse Appleton. D.D., a son was named after him, he found in the institution but one professing Christian brother. Honorable mention of his example and influence as an undergraduate is made in Professor Egbert Coffin Smyth's religious history of the college.

He graduated in 1816, and took his second degree in 1820. The same autumn in which he left college he entered the Theological Seminary at Andover, under Dr. Woods and Stewart and graduated in 1819. He was approbated by the Association of Salem and vicinity July 13, 1819.

Acting Pastor, Brunswick, Me. 1819-1820.

Home Missionary, Me. 1819-1820.

Ordained Pastor, Topsfield, Mass. Oct 4, 1820. Dismissed May 6, 1829.

Installed Pastor, Somers, Conn. June 30, 1830. Dismissed June 30, 1839.

Agent American Educational Society, 1839-40.

Acting Pastor, Fairfield, Conn. 1841-45.

Supplied Darien, Ga. 1855-56.

“ Hillsboro, N.H. 1857-59

“ Squan Village, N.J. 1859-60.

Resided at Grafton, Mass. 1843-61... and at Southboro, Mass. from 1861, till his death Sept 29, 1865. buried at Grafton, Mass.

Publications of Rev. R. G. Dennis.

1. A Right Hand of Fellowship.
Given March 7, 1821. At the Ordination of Elijah Demond, in West Newbury.
2. A Speech delivered at the 1st Anniversary of the Auxiliary Foreign Missionary Society of Essex Co. held at Newburyport, Mass. April 10, 1827.
3. Address at the opening of the Topsfield Academy, May 7, 1828.
4. Two Sermons.
Christ seen by Every Eye.
A Pastors Farewell to his People
Preached at the Congregational Church & Society, Somers, Conn. June 30, 1839. Published in Hartford, Conn. 1840.

Mr. Dennis was married in Billerica, Mass., Nov 28, 1820., to Mary Parker, eldest daughter of Captain Stephen and Mary (Duren) Parker. b. Billerica, Mass. May 1, 1793. d. Grafton, Mass. March 19.1877.

They had ten children, seven of whom were born in Topsfield and three in Somers, they adopted, when a child, Elizabeth, the eldest daughter of Deacon Samuel Cherry and Lydia (Gould) Todd, of Topsfield, she married Theodore D. Billings, resided at Topsfield where she died at a good old age.

One son Jesse Appleton was educated at Amherst and Rutgers College, another Joseph at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, now Columbia College, New York.

The deceased children all died in the faith of the gospel, and all the survivors are members of the Christian Church,.

During Mr. Dennis pastorate of about twenty years, his salary at Topsfield was \$400, and rent of house and at Somers \$ 500. and use of the Parsonage, on this, now meager sum he raised and educated his eleven children, two of them being College graduates, he was instrumental in founding the Topsfield Academy and subscribed \$ 25. towards the purchase of the site and erection of the building, he gathered an extensive Theological library, many of the volumes being bound in calf, this is now in the possession of the family of his son, the late Rodney Dennis, of Hartford, Conn, as well as the Mss. volumes of many of his Sermons.

I send you a picture of the Academy which my father founded, he was very proud of this enterprise, indeed it was a wonderful thing for Topsfield. My sister Mary and myself were taken by my father to this institution, and installed among some of its pupils is as vividly impressed upon me, as if it had just occurred. I was five years old and my sister six; just think of it, mother protested against it, but father said it would have its influence and give character to the school. We retained our positions there until we moved away, when I was seven. Let me tell you my studies, Woodbridge Geography,

Murray's Grammar, Colburns Geography, one column of Dictionary with the definitions and Astronomy. Mother often told us that she was obliged to teach us our lessons every day, but I must have enjoyed it as I was happy as a general thing. Once I was kept in to learn my geography over, and the experience I had I cannot tell you on paper. I often talked with father about this Topsfield experience, and insisted that we were too young to endure such discipline, but he always said, "why Theodosia it was the making of you and Mary", but I did not agree with him.

Seven of the children were baptized in the Topsfield church.

(Letter January 3. 1909, from Theodosia D. Finch to her nephew Thomas Little.)

On April 15, 1830. the Congregational Church and Society of Somers, Conn., voted to give a call to Rev. Rodney G. Dennis, of Topsfield. Mass. to become their Pastor, the call was accepted. Teams were sent by the new parishioners, 120 miles for the family and household goods. Captain Jarvis Kibbe, the hotel keeper, who owned and drove the team was dispatched with his public hack or Concord Stage (being in those days upon thorough braces) in and upon which to transport the family, consisting of Mr. Dennis, his wife and eight children, one being an adopted child, the eldest was about nine years of age and the youngest about six months old.

On their arrival they were bestowed in the ell of an old but most respectable house standing at the corner of Main and the street leading to the south burying ground. this home was [an ?] known as the Collins homestead, was destroyed by fire early in the morning (1.30 A.M.) of Nov 21, 1910. opposite to which stands the Kibbe Hotel, built in 1809. Mrs. Achsah Beardsly, a lady ninety three years old, told the writer that when Mrs. Dennis saw the new home and was informed by her husband that he would require a whole room for his study, she was in despair as to how her large family would be stowed away. In about two years the Society erected a two story brick parsonage, near the second church, into which Mr. Dennis and family moved when completed, and resided during the balance of his ministry in Somers, after the third church was built this parsonage was sold.

Mr. Dennis was installed June 30, 1830., and continued in the pastoral office till June 11, 1839, when he was regularly dismissed at his own request, the period of his ministry being about nine years, during which time there were two seasons of special revival, in the years 1832 and 1838, in both of which considerably large additions were made to the church.

At the time of his settlement in Somers, the town gained a considerable impulse owing to the palm leaf hat and bonnet industry, which was started and vigorously prosecuted at that time, bringing into the town a large number of young people of both sexes from the best families in the surrounding towns, so that the church and sunday school were filled with numbers and interest. Somers for this reason became a favorite place for the visits of solicitations for Colleges and other Elomesonary enterprises. Dr. Baird, Mr. Phinney, Dr. Nettleton and others, notable figures in the Congregational Church and in the Theological landscape, were familiar visitors at his house.

In less than a year after Mr. Dennis became Pastor the old communion set was evidently found insufficient for further use, indicating a marked growth of the congregation, even previous to the first revival of 1832, for at a church meeting held at the house of the pastor on March 22, 1831., "it was voted unanimously to obtain a set of Britannia Ware for the table of the Lord, viz: two flagons, if both will hold six quarts or three if the two hold a less quantity, ten cups, two plates and a bason." Deacon David Cady was authorized to furnish the money to defray the expense of said ware, and the Pastor and Deacon Billings were chosen a committee to confer with the purchasing committee, and give them directions respecting the number, quality and price of the articles. Evidently the purchase was soon made for at a church meeting held August 23, 1831, "Deacons Billings and Cady were chosen a committee to make inquiries respecting the sale of the old communion ware and to dispose of it at a reasonable rate, if they may find an opportunity." No record is found of the sale, but it is presumed that after being in use, possibly for several generations it passed out of the possession of this congregation. !!

During the Anti-Masonic agitation, while no resolution can be found in the Society or Church records, it is evident that a decided stand was taken on the subject, for at a Church Meeting held November 19, 1834., it was voted to repeal the Act, passed October 16, 1832, in respect to the subject of Freemasonry.

That during his ministry the members were held strictly to the church discipline is evident from the frequent entries in the records, attested to under the Pastors signature, excommunications for various offences, such as neglect of church duties, intemperance, immorality and whipping ; a servant too severely, are only too frequent, and it would seem to the writer at this time, that indulgence with toleration would have been more effective in reclaiming the backsliders, than to cast them from the Church of their childhood and forebearers.

The entries are usually viz:

"At a Church meeting held March 22, 1831, it was voted unanimously to proceed and take the last step, authorized by the Gospel in cases of open and obstinate delinquency, with Mr. -----, a member of this church. Brethren -----, -----, -----, were chosen a committee to furnish him with the Act of excommunication and inform him when it will be read in publick.

Attest. R. G. Dennis, Pastor.

April 10, 1831. The above committee having performed the duty assigned to them, Mr. -----, excommunication was announced this day from the pulpit and read according to the established usage of the Church.

Attest. R. G. Dennis. Pastor "

The number admitted to this church under Mr. Dennis ministry, as stated by himself, was by profession one hundred and fifteen and by letters of recommendation from other churches, twenty-eight; making the total number one hundred and forty-three.

While Mr. Dennis was pastor at Somers occurred the hated controversy, that shook the New England Churches to their centers between the "Old and New-School Theologians, the former represented and championed by Dr. Bennet Tyler and the East Windsor Theological Seminary. This institution under the title of "The Theological Institute of Connecticut, was founded at East Windsor Hill. Conn. by the Pastoral Union in 1833, and Chartered in 1834, removed to Hartford, Conn., in 1865, is now known as, The Hartford Theological Seminary." Its first President was the Rev. Bennet Tyler. D.D. 1834-58. the faculty Rev. Jonathan Cogswell. D.D. 1834-44. Rev. William Thomson. D.D. 1834-81.

Mr. Dennis interest in this institution is shown by his subscription to its support for some years, and his going on a tour of solicitation to obtain funds for it. The Waldo endowment of \$ 11000. the first ever received, from Miss. Rebecca Waldo of Norchester,. Mass., in 1839, was obtained by him. During his absence the Seminary supplied his pulpit by DR. Tyler, DR. Cogswell, DR. Thompson, DR. Nettleton and others.

Dr. Bennet Tyler. D.D. was born July 10, 1783, at Middlebury, Conn. President of Dartmouth College 1822. Pastor 2nd Church, Portland. Me. 1828. President of the Theological Institute of Connecticut 1834. Died May 14, 1858.

The day of his death he exercised in the garden of his daughter, Mrs. Greely, and entering the house at nine in the morning said "I have finished the garden, if I do not live to eat its fruit." He was immediately seized with illness and could not be moved to his home. In the presence of his wife, children and grandchildren, expired at eight o'clock that evening. His remains are interred in the cemetery in the rear of the "Institute" which he loved so well and served faithfully.

Mr. Dennis was contemporary with Dr. Dow of Thompsonville, Dr. Calhoun of Coventry. Dr. Diedate Brockway of Ellington. Dr. Nettleton of Windsor. Dr. Robbins of Enfield, Dr. Harvey of Thompsonville, and was intimate with the faculty of East Windsor Seminary, all of whom shouted the Old School Shibboleth, at the meetings of Consociation [?] and Association, they agreed and discussed and denounced and grew red in the face, so that when their horses were harnessed and paraded in the yard ready for them to start for home, they would linger, their foot upon the carriage steps, to say the last word and make their latest protest and testimony.

Now after the lapse of a generation and a half, these factions are well nigh reconciled, and largely in Dr. Bushnell's platform.

The writer regrets that he cannot give a personal description of Mr. Dennis, he was a faithful pastor and husband, kind and gentle as his means allowed to his children, and loved by his parishioners, this after a lapse of seventy years is attested to by survivors of his Somers congregation.

I have almost forgotten to mention that in the vital records of New Boston, N.H. the birth of Rodney Gove Dennis is entered under the name of Rodney Hawthorne Dennis, In the course of correspondence with a grandson in which I called his attention to this he has written me viz: "He was originally named Rodney Gove Hawthorne Dennis, it was afterward changed. Really his baptismal name was Hawthorne, named for Nathaniel Hawthorne, the author his mother and Hawthorne's mother were related. He

formerly told the story of receiving a suit of clothes as a namesake gift: this is an interesting bit of history that might be of interest to you”.

The following from a letter written by Alpheus S. Packard, a fellow student of R. G. Dennis, afterward Professor and son-in-law of President Jesse Appleton of Bowdoin College, to his widow soon after the death of Mr. Dennis, gives an insight of his life while a student. “It is pleasant to me to cherish my recollections of his College days. to recall as I frequently do his diligence as a student, his uniformly exemplary conduct and especially, his fidelity to his Master, which commanded for him the unmingled respect of all the College. His bearing and even his attitude, the expression of his countenance, and his tone of voice at the Saturday evening prayer meeting, which he conducted aided by two or three only, of like faith, are all now vividly before me. I have often referred to him as an example for our students, and I am sure his influence, as he stood almost alone in that generation of students, has had its effect on the subsequent religious history of the institution. Such steadfastness and fidelity are now, I doubt not, receiving a blessed reward.”

[p. 98 is a duplicate of p. 97.]

Authorities.

Historical Collections, Topsfield, Mass. Historical Society. Vol. 6. p. 44.
Historical Manuel of the Congregational Church. Topsfield, Mass. .p. 28.
General Catalogue, Theological Seminary. Andover, Mass. p. 52.
Graduates of Bowdin College. Brunswick, Me.
Hazens History, Billerica, Mass. p. 105, 106.
Billerica, Mass. Vital Records.
Mss. Recollections of the late Rodney Dennis of Hartford, Conn.
Stiles Ancient Windsor. Conn.

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THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF TOPSFIELD. MASS.

The Town having concurred with the Church in the appointment of a day for the Ordination of Rodney Gove Dennis, an ecclesiastical council met at Topsfield on Wednesday, October 4, 1820, agreeable to letters missive from the Church in Topsfield, requesting them to assist in ordaining Mr. Rodney G. Dennis as their Pastor.

Present.	Pastors.	Delegates.
Church in Hambleton.		Brother Whipple.
South Church, Ipswich.	Rev. Dr. Dana.	“ Day.
First “ “ .	“ . David Kimball.	“ Moses Lord.
“ “ . Danvers.	“ . Dr. Wadsworth.	“ Putnam.
Second “ . Rowley.	“ . Isaac Braman.	“ Adams.
First “ . Boxford.	“ . David Briggs.	? Perley.
Church in New Ipswich, N.H.	“ .Richard Hall.	
“ “ Newburyport.		“ Pettingal.
“ “ Middleton.		“ Symonds.

The council being organized, the Rev. Joseph Dana, D.D. was chosen moderator and the Rev. J. Braman, Scribe,. The moderator addressed the throne of grace.

Documents were then read testifying to the call from the Church and people in Topsfield to Mr. Dennis and his answer in the affirmative to the same.

The candidate then being examined, it was voted unanimously, that the council are satisfied of the regularity of the proceedings of the Church and Town relative to the settlement of Mr. Dennis, and also with his qualifications as to piety and knowledge for the sacred ministry; and that they will proceed to ordain him as soon as may be over the church and people in this place.

Voted, That Rev. Mr. Braman make in prayer, Rev. Mr. Hall preach the sermon, Rev. Dr. Dana make ordaining prayer, Rev. Mr. Wadsworth charge, Rev. Mr. Briggs give R't hand, Rev. Mr. Kimball address the Church, and conclude by prayer.

Voted, to proceed at half past ten.

No further record appears of the proceedings of the ordination.

Rev. Rodney Gove Dennis upon his own request was dismissed from the pastoral office in Topsfield by a Council of Churches held May 6, 1829. The relations existing between the Church and Pastor were dissolved, on May 18, 1829.

(Collections of the Essex Institute, Vol. 32.p.37-39.)

Rodney G. Dennis was ordained Pastor of the Topsfield, Mass. Congregational Church, October 4, 1820. and dismissed at his own request May 6, 1829., giving as a reason that his success, did not Justify his remaining there. Soon after he settled there he married in Billerica, Mass., Nov 20, 1820, Mary Parker, dau. Stephen and Mary (Duren) Parker, they first lived for over a year in the Billy Emerson house on Main Street, now 1911, occupied by C. Fred Jordan, their first child was born there, during the remainder of their stay resided in the Towne house, on High street, now 1911, the residence of Mrs. Benjamin Hodges.

WOODBINE. THE RESIDENCE OF C. FRED JORDAN.
MAIN ST. TOPSFIELD. MASS.

On March 7, 1733., the proprietors of the common lands in Topsfield, for L 14. Conveyed the southern end of this lot 2 acres and 20 rods, to Rev. John Emerson of Topsfield, who probably soon after built a house upon it, Mr. Emerson died in 1774, having devised the mansion house to his son Thomas Emerson. Thomas Emerson died in 1803, having devised it to his son Billy Emerson, who in 1808, built the present three story house, the end towards the street being of brick, retaining a part of the old house said to have been the parsons study at the easterly end, and occupied till he died, Nov 2, 1835., he mortgaged in 1830, and Mehitable Emerson, widow of Thomas Emerson to whom it had been assigned, conveyed the estate to Gilbert Brownell, Jan 5, 1835. Mr. Brownell conveyed to Humphrey Balch of Topsfield, July 9, 1852. Mr. Balch died about 1907, the property passed to his daughter, Anna Balch, now Mrs. C. Fred Jordan, who at the present time, 1909, resides there with her husband.

The Rev. Rodney G. Dennis, Pastor of the Congregational Church, lived in part of this house and occupied the parsons study, from about Oct 1820, to Dec 1821., he married in 1820, and brought his bride there, where their first child, Mary was born.

THE JACOB TOWNE HOUSE.
HIGH ST. TOPSFIELD, MASS.

On rising ground in the field below the present house, formerly stood a small two story house which was taxed to Jacob Towne as early as 1774. The present house was built in the fall of 1815, the barn was erected in 1810.

Jacob Towne and his son Jacob Perkins Towne were town clerks of Topsfield from 1810 to 1878, and the latter was clerk of the Congregational Parish for 50 years. The Town records were kept in this house for seventy years. The steps and piazza have been added in recent years and the front lawn graded, formerly a wooden picket fence ran in front of the house. In 1909, the dwelling was occupied by Mrs. Benjamin Hodges.

Rev. Rodney G. Dennis lived in the western half of this house for nine years, after leaving the Billy Emerson house, which comprised the remainder of his pastorate in Topsfield, six of his children were born there.

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF TOPSFIELD, MASS.

HISTORICAL SKETCH.

From the beginning of the settlement of New Meadows about 1639, provision was made for "the publicke worship of God", and the first minister of the gospel of which evidence now exists, was William Knight, who "dispenced the word in 1641." Having had serious differences with the Ecclesiastical Courts in England, he emigrated to New England and arrived at Salem in 1636-37.

His term of service covered only a few years, and "Good News from New England," published in London in 1648, is authority for the statement that he "has gone back to England." Whether or not the settlement was without preaching during the interim between the departure of Mr. Knight and the arrival of William Perkins in 1655, is an unsettled question. Mr. Perkins continued his labors until the organization of the church in 1663, with Rev. Thomas Gilbert as minister. The existence of a church within the territory at this date is shown by the following entry in the Roxbury Church Records: "Nov 4, 1663. A church is gathered at Topsfield with Mr. Thomas Gilbert over it.

From the incorporation of the town in 1650, until the creation of the parish (Acts of 1823, Chapter 117), the maintenance of the minister was a regular charge levied upon the inhabitants and he was chosen in open town meeting. The parish still continues to hold title to the church property and selects the minister, but its proposed ministerial contract is approved by the church body. The church has given largely from its membership for the formation of churches at Boxford, 1702; Middleton 1729; Linebrook 1749; and the local Methodist Episcopal Church 1830.

The town records prior to March 25, 1659, were lost in the destruction by fire of the home of Town Clerk Redington during that year. The first volume of the church register now preserved begins with the service of Parson Capen in 1684. The membership of the church in 1684 was 49 22 males, and 27 females. To day (1907) the total number enrolled is 107.

MEETING HOUSES.

The first meeting house in Topsfield is supposed to have been located near the present junction of Howlett Street and Meeting House Lane, but the architecture, furnishing and final disposition of the structure must be determined by the imagination, as neither records nor tradition furnish the information. It is known, however, that the building was without a pulpit.

Years of experience having demonstrated that the former situation was not sufficiently central for the majority of the worshippers, and the proposition of the settlers of Rowley Village (now Boxford) who enjoyed church privileges in this town, that, if the meeting house were more conveniently located for them, they would contribute toward the ministers salary, were large and potent factors in reaching the decision that the second meeting house (erected in the Fall of 1663) should be built on the southwesterly side of the highway now called Haverhill Street, the site selected being nearly opposite the barn of Samuel Todd, deceased, and the pulpit (tradition relates) stood over the spot today marking the grave of Parson Capen, which point is about three rods easterly from the main entrance to Pine Grove Cemetery.

On January 13, 1681. the selectmen and Samuel Symonds of Boxford, who resided near what is now the First District School House, entered into a written agreement by the terms of which the latter was to "bild a pulpit ten foot Long and if ye rome will give way it is to be longer & for breth as ye rome will give way is to be a wainshote pulpit" and was to receive "ten pounds ----- on half in Corne at ye Contry price and the other halfe in neate Cattel when ye work was done."

The building having ceased to be used for public worship in 1703, was sold by the town on March 7, 1703-4, to "sargt John Gould for L 5 in money, he to have the glass," and (tradition says) was removed to what is now known as the Smerage-Balch field on the westerly side of the Turnpike at Springville.

Early in 1703 measures were taken by the town (which for 174 years from its incorporation in 1650 exercised ecclesiastical (authority) for the erection of the third house of worship, which building was by duly recorded votes to be "2 & forty foot wide & forty foot long, "and upon the hill that is to be leveled for that which is on the plain by Mr. Capens." And "ye pulpit shall be placed on ye north side of ye new meeting house," and in due time the edifice was completed and occupied.

At length after years of use and occupation the condition of the building becoming a matter of general public concern, on May 19, 1757, a committee was appointed "to search the meeting house and see if it was worth repairing." Nearly two years after date of appointment, the committee reported adversely to such repair, and on January 9, 1759, the town voted "to build a new house fifty-four foot in Length and forty-two foot in Bredth and twenty-six foot stud ----- with a perponable [?] Steeple and set it where the old one now stands." The old house when taken down was used as a barn on the river meadows.

The new meeting house, the fourth erected in the town and the second located on "the common," was raised July 4, 1760, and six weeks later the construction had so far advanced that at a town meeting held in the edifice the question of the interior finish was discussed, and shortly the building was completed and dedicated. The total cost of the

building was 743 L 10 s 7 ³/₄ d. and Dea. Bixby, Jacob Averill, Thomas Symonds and Nathan Hood comprised the building committee.

Several committees were at different times assigned the duty of seating the people in the meeting house “according to their best skill and judgement,” but were charged to have respect to age and money.”

Within the past few months Mr. Benjamin Albert Orne (a native and resident of this town) has made and placed on public exhibition a model of this church, which is admitted to be a faithful reproduction of the old structure, and through his courtesy appears the illustration here found.

In 1817 a bell (the first in town) weighing 938 ¹/₂ pounds and inscribed “Revere & Company, Boston, 1817,” was purchased for \$ 400. and placed in position in the belfry, and the town voted that it “be rung on all public days and tolled for funerals.”

Within this house were to be found the high pulpit, overhung by a sounding board, the square pews with the more peculiar seating of the congregation, the deacon’s straight snug box where they sat facing the congregation, the elders’ pew, and the tithing man with his long rod. Surmounting the steeple was the weathercock vane. at the Essex Institute in Salem is preserved the iron stand which held the christening basin as early as 1703, and also the contribution box which was used by Deacon George Bixby.

The following appeared in the Salem Gazette, July 24, 1827.

From the Lowell Journal.

The following is a fact and deserves public notice.

The Town of Topsfield versus Benjamin Franklin.

About eight years since, the more sober and inventive ones of this notable town of “steady habits” thinking that they were behind the age, in the style of church architecture, collected, en masse and with ruthless hand brought down from its elevated resting place, the weather cock which had faced the storms for half a century. The towering spire fell to the earth amidst the huzzas of the multitude and added another melancholy instance of the triumph of enthusiasm for innovation over the venerable works of generations gone by. The old church that was piously framed by the hands of the pilgrims, and which imaged their characteristic simplicity, assumed in a few weeks an entirely new appearance. The steeple was modernized, and instead of the gallant cock, that had seen the forest, above which he originally towered, fall away before the hand of improvement, was raised, on a less elevated spot, a golden fish. A bell too sent out its unearthly sounds of modern harmony, and it only remained to complete this specimen of human perfection by the addition of an electrical conductor. It was resolved, after various wise deliberations, to fashion this rod after the models of the innovating age – and accordingly they procured three silver tipped points, and presented them to the admiration of all concerned in this work of amelioration.

But here their zeal became suddenly quenched, and as it was utterly impossible to excite the people to more than one united effort in the accomplishment of any purpose it was thought on the whole that there was no substantial reason for having a rod to connect the points with the earth, and the only obstacle to putting the finishing article to the edifice, was the want of courage to mount the fish. At this interesting crisis, the master-workman, the most aspiring man of their number, put his hand to this deed of daring. He

was successful in enterprise, and placed securely upon the dorsal vertebrae of the fish their brilliant attracters of the fires of heavens, and there they are, inviting the destruction they were originally intended to avert; and there they will be, until rifled by the lightning.

- the smouldering spire
Stands, a sad shattered trunk, and stretched below
A lifeless group, the beauteous maidens lie.

The pulpit used by Parson Capen was preserved for many years. In 1850, at the bicentennial, it was used as the speakers rostrum, but all trace of it has now been lost.

One of the pulpit chairs used in the 1759 meeting-house is now in the possession of Mrs. Malcolm McLoud. Another pulpit chair is in the possession of the Topsfield Historical Society.

The physical condition of the building was frequently the subject of animated discussions and many votes for repairs are recorded. At a meeting held February 2, 1842, a resolution was passed that “the time has come when the interest of the Congregational Society and the comfort of its worshipers require that something should be done whereby the house in which they worship shall be rendered more acceptable and inviting. William Munday, Cornelius B. Bradstreet and John Gould Hood were appointed a committee to investigate the matter “and make a report of their doings at the annual meeting in March next.” The committee presented an exhaustive report, discussing repairs and alterations of the old building and even considering the advisability of a new edifice.

April 27, 1842, John Gould Hood (chairman), William Munday, Benjamin P. Adams, Joel R. Peabody, Augustine S. Peabody and Cornelius B. Bradstreet were “chosen to contract for building of the new meeting house,” and authorized to “dispose of the old meeting house as they think proper.

To enable the new house of worship to be erected on the site of the two predecessors, agreeable to the vote of the town, the old building was taken down during July and August 1842, and sold in portions to suit the convenience of prospective purchasers, and the sum of \$ 222.82 was received from such sales.

Capt. Perley Tapley of Danvers, the famous building mover of Essex County, purchased at private sale a part of the frame and boards, which were hauled to Salem by oxen and used in the construction of a large building on Boston Street, which structure in more recent years was used as a currier’s shop. On the evening of August 11, 1906, the building was totally destroyed by fire.

The committee invited proposals for the construction of the edifice according to plans and specifications and several bids were received. The contract was awarded to Mark R. Jewett of Rowley, for the sum of \$ 4300. September 1, 2, and 3, 1842, the edifice was raised, and the work being prosecuted with due diligence was dedicated Wednesday, February 22, 1843.

In May 1853, a vestry and organ loft was built on the western end of the church.

In 1857, the first pipe organ was presented to the parish "By the ladies aid Society and friends of the parish." It was manufactured by William Stevens, and was last heard in public on February 11, 1907. It was sold to the French Catholic Church at Van Buren, Maine.

In November 1906, a large pipe organ of great power and sweetness was purchased at an expense of \$ 2500.

In 1891, the interior of the church was repaired and adorned at an expense of \$ 1200. and memorial windows placed to preserve the names of beloved worshippers.

CHURCH AND VESTRY FURNISHINGS.

June 23, 1816. A Bible was presented for pulpit use by thirty-one young ladies. The book is still in very good preservation and in the possession of Deacon Edwin Clifford.

In 1842. A chandelier of twelve lamps and also two pulpit lamps were presented by Mr. Solomon Wildes and family of Boston.

February 23, 1843. A Bible for pulpit use was given by Mrs. Solomon Wildes.

January 1850. A clock was received from John Cleaveland, Esq of New York City.

SACRAMENTAL FURNISHINGS.

In 1734, the church voted to buy two new flagons and two new tankards, and sell the old ones for all they could, and take the balance of the money for the new ones from the church stock.

In 1764, the church voted that the Deacons buy two silver tankards for the communion table, and sell the three old pewter tankards used at the Lord's table.

In 1778, the church sold to Deacon George Bixby a pewter tankard not in use, for twenty-one shillings.

In 1801, the Deacons bought for the church from a legacy and interest of \$ 46.26 a silver tankard for the sum of \$ 39.00 and also one demijohn, one stone jug, one tunnel and lock for the church chest, and the balance of money was put at interest.

May 29, 1818. Dr. Nehemiah Cleaveland purchased for the church two silver plated flagons at a cost of \$ 40.00 and six silver plated cups for \$ 27.00 at a total expense of \$ 67.00.

In 1828. the church voted that the communion service be held bi-monthly instead of once in six weeks as heretofore, which practice is still in use.

February 22, 1843. George Hood presented the church a baptismal font beautifully inscribed.

May 29, 1843. By a vote of the church, the Deacons disposed of the old silver tankard purchased in 1801, at an expense of \$ 39. for \$ 24.63 and with that amount purchased two silver plated baskets to be used in the distribution of the bread at the communion table, and a plate for the baptismal font costing \$ 1.25.

August 25, 1850. John Cleaveland, Esqr. of New York City presented to the church one half dozen silver plates, three for the distribution of bread at communion table and three to be used in taking the contribution.

In 1850. The church gave the two baskets formerly used at the communion service to the pastor, Rev. Anson McLoud, and Deacon Samuel C. Todd.

1885. Nine lady members presented the church with two modern silver tankards, which are still in the possession of the church, as are also the six drinking cups purchased in 1818.

1906. One of the old fashioned pewter plates formerly used at the communion table is still preserved by the church.

PASTORS.

Thomas Gilbert	Nov. 4,	1663.			1671.
Jeremiah Hobart	Oct 2.	1672.		Sept 21.	1680.
#Joseph Capen	June 11.	1684.	d.	June 30.	1725.
#John Emerson	Nov 27.	1726.	d.	July 11.	1774.
Daniel Breck	Nov. 17.	1779.		May 26.	1788.
#Asahel Huntingdon	Nov 12.	1789.	d.	April 22.	1813.
#Rodney G. Dennis	Oct. 4.	1820.		May 6.	1829.
#James F. McEwen	May 5.	1830.		May 5.	1840.
#Anson McLoud	Dec 8.	1841.		Oct 1.	1869.
#Edward P. Tenney	Dec 1.	1869.		Sept 10.	1870.
#James H. Fills	June 22.	1871.		March 22.	1880.
Franklin P. Tompkins	Aug 7	1881.		March 4.	1883.
Lyndon S. Cawford	Sept 27.	1883.		Oct 18.	1886.
Charles V. Luck	June 29.	1887.		Sept 10.	1890.
Albert E. Bradstreet	Sept 1.	1891.		Sept 1.	1894.
Francis A. Poole	April 12.	1895.		Aug 29.	1899.
Herbert J. Wyckoff	April 12.	1900.		Jan 21.	1903.
William G. Poor	Sept 1.	1903.			

Also Church Clerks.

(Historical Manuel, Topsfield, Mass. Congregational Church.)

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOMERS, CONN.

The church in Somers, (formerly East Enfield) was organized March 15, 1717. The Society was at first called East Enfield. Its remoteness from the First Church, eight miles, led to the formation of the church, which was with nine members, all males the inhabitants being less than two hundred.

The first meeting house was built in 1731, four years after the first minister was settled. This house was situated near the north burying ground and was occupied more than fifty years, when another house was built in 1787, a little south of the above mentioned burying ground, which was occupied till the erection of the present house, in the village center, in the year 1842.

PASTORS AND SUPPLIES.

Rev. Samuel Allis	Pastor	May	1727.		1747.
“ Freegrace Leavitt	“	July	1748.		1761.
“ Charles Backus	“	Aug	1774.	Dec	1803.
“ William L. Strong	“	April	1805.	July	1829.
“ Rodney Gove Dennis	“	June	1830.	June	1839.
“ James P. Terry	“	Dec	1839.	Aug	1845.
“ Joseph Vail	“	Aug	1845.	Dec	1854.
“ George A. Oviatt	“	Dec	1855.	Dec	1867.
“ J. C. Dutcher	Supply	Sept	1867.		1869.
“ R. S. Underwood	“		1869.		1870.
“ Charles H. Gleason	Pastor	Sept	1870.	Oct	1889.
“ C. H. Ricketts	“	Dec	1890.	June	1896.
“ Fosdick B. Harrison	“	Nov	1896.	April	1898.
“ Paul Strayer	Supply	Oct	1898.	April	1899.
“ W. J. C. Ralph	Pastor	Jan	1900.	Jan	1902.
“ L. A. Goddard	“	Mar	1902.	April	1904.
“ Edward P. Root	Supply	Sept	1904.	April	1909.
“ H. A. G. Abbe	“	Aug	1909.		

Contributions to the Ecclesiastical History of Conn.
 Congregational Church Records. Somers. Conn.
 Manuel of the Congregational Church. Somers. Conn.

No pictures exist of the first two churches, but from descriptions given by a few old residents who attended the second church built in 1787, the location and a fair idea of its appearance may be gathered: it was almost a counterpart of the old Meeting House at South Windsor, erected in 1761, and demolished in 1845.

It was situated on what is now the south end of the north burying ground, the land being sold on the completion of the third edifice in 1842, later becoming a part of the Cemetery, the pulpit stood where the Warren Kibbe monument now stands.

The structure was of wood, with steep shingle roof two stories high with large windows on each floor, a door in the middle at each side as well as one at either end, the end were at the eastern and western extremities, the edifice was above the level of the road running north and south which passed the western end, the pulpit was at the centre of the north side, a gallery was on each side and end of the interior, whether built with the church or added later, is not known, we learn from the church records that a Steeple was not built till nearly forty years later, it was erected from the ground at the north side of the building, a bell the gift of some of the congregation, was at once hung and a weather vane, a fish adorned the top of the spire, this came into the possession of Henry N. Wardwell and was on his barn in Somers in 1908, two years later the writer purchased it from him, it has been erected on the summer grounds of the late Rodney Dennis, at South Lyme, Conn., it is made of copper and by actual measurement four feet long, 10 inches wide at the centre and 18 inches wide at the tail.

Until about 1820 a Rooster, "the cock that crew" when Peter denied the Lord, was universally used for church vanes, but as we have seen in my account of the Topsfield, Mass. church, taken from the Lowell Journal and published in the Salem Gazette of July 24, 1827., about 1819, the cock was removed from that church and a fish substituted in its place, much to the indignation of the writer of the article, it may not be amiss to give the significance of its use, the following is taken from the Century Dictionary

Ichthys (ih ' this) n. Gr. [Greek letters], lit, a fish, chosen as an emblem and motto because the order of its letters corresponds with the order of the initial letters of the words by which it is interpreted: I [Greek letters] "Jesus Christ, Son of God, Saviour."

A word found on many seals, rings, urns, tombstones &c, belonging to the early period of Christianity, and supposed to have mystical reference to the name of Jesus Christ.

In December 1824, A committee was appointed To repair the meeting house, shingle and paint the roof and paint the body of the house, "a tax of \$ 250. was laid for that purpose: evidently this was not promptly done, but a meeting held March 2, 1825, "to consider the making of a Steeple," adjourns to May 9, 1825., in the meantime some agitation as to moving the meeting house must have arisen, for at the meeting held May 9, 1825, it is decided "not to remove the meeting house to the street."

Mr. Hamilton and others offer "to procure a bell if the Society will build a Steeple." "Voted to build a Steeple and repair and shingle the meeting house in 1826." On August 2, 1826, it was voted "to build a Steeple immediately to be completed by Dec 1st next" and on March 24, 1828, it was voted "to accept the Bell procured by individuals

for the meeting house and that the names of the subscribers be recorded in the records of the Society.” and on March 31, 1828, voted “to employ some person to ring the bell for religious worship, if the town does not do so.”

In 1829 there was a choir in the church, as on March 2, of that year a vote of thanks “to the Choir and Choristers, for their services” was passed. Some mishap must have happened to the bell, for on June 17, 1830, it was voted “That the bell be repaired possibly it was beyond repair, for in November of that year it was voted “To exchange the old bell for a new one seen in Hartford, weighting 810 pounds and hang the same at the expense of the Society.”

We now pass over a period of nearly ten years in which the second meeting house seems to have fallen in need of repair, and its location in a sparsely settled portion of the town, nearly a mile from the village center was no doubt felt to be inconvenient.

On Dec 20, 1840, “A committee was chosen to consider the expediency of repairing the meeting house or building a new one”.

They reported on Feb 1, 1841, in favor “of building a new meeting house, in preference to repairing the old one.” Accordingly ground was secured in the village center and steps taken which resulted in the erection of the present edifice.

On Dec 23, 1841, The building Committee was authorized “to dispose of the old meeting house to the best advantage, according to their discretion, to be removed after the new house shall be completed so that it can be occupied for holding meetings of the Society.” On Nov 18, 1842, A committee was chosen” to see to the removing of the stoves and bell from the old to the new meeting house.”

The old bell evidently did service in the present meeting house until about 1850, the one now there bears the following inscription, “From Meneelys Foundry. West Troy, N.Y. 1850. Percute Dolcecano [?]. A bill for the same dated 1850 is among the records of the Ecclesiastical Society.

On Jan 8, 1844, Voted that “the Society Committee quit-claim to the purchasers of the land for the new meeting house, all the right of the Society to the land formerly bought for the old meeting house, lying south of the south line of the burying ground, as lately established by the town.”

References.

- Records of the Congregational Church of Somers. Conn.
- Records of the Congregational Society of Somers. Conn.
- Manuel of the Somers Congregational Church.
- Contributions to the Ecclesiastical History of Connecticut.

SOMERS CHURH.

Call, Installation & Dismissal of Rev. Rodney Gove Dennis.

At a meeting of the Congregational Society in Somers held April 15, 1830. it was resolved that the Congregational Society in Somers, invite the Revd. Rodney G. Dennis of Topsfield. Mass. to become their Pastor.

Voted. To offer Mr. Dennis an annual salary of \$ 500.

Voted. That Emery Pease, jr., Noah Pease, David Cady, Oliver Chapin, 2nd, be a committee to wait on Mr. Dennis with the proposals of this Society.

(Records Congregational Society. p. 29.)

At a regular meeting of the Church, connected with the Congregational Society in Somers, held on the 15th day of April. A.D. 1830.

Voted. To concur with the Congregational Society in Somers in giving an invitation to Revd. Rodney G. Dennis to become Pastor of this Church and Society as expressed in the votes this day passed at a meeting of said Society.

Voted. That H. A. Hamilton, Solomon Billings, and Samuel Pomeroy be a Committee to invite the Revd. Mr. Dennis to become our Pastor.

Voted. To adjourn to Monday next at one Oclock, P.M.

(Somers Church Records.)

At a meeting of the Congregational Society in Somers held April 19, 1830.

Voted. That the following provisions by added to, and become a part of the vote of the Society passed at the last meeting, inviting the Revd. Rodney G. Dennis to settle over this Society in the work of the ministry.

Viz: Provided that in case Mr. Dennis shall accede to the proposals of this Society and become the Pastor thereof, and either of the parties shall wish for a seperation, and shall signify such wish to the other party, the connection between him and the Society, after nine months previous notice or such reasonable time as shall hereafter be agreed upon, shall be dissolved, and

Provided also that Mr. Dennis shall be allowed two or three Sabbaths, in each year to visit his distant friends, whenever it shall be necessary or convenient for him to be so long absent for that purpose.

(Records of the Congregational Society. p. 29.)

At a meeting of the Church Council with the Congregational Society in Somers, held by agreement on the 19. day of April 1830.

Voted. To concur with said Society in the votes which they have this day passed, relative to the settlement of Revd. Mr. Dennis as Pastor of this church and Society.

(Somers Church Records.)

At a meeting of the Congregational Society in Somers, legally warned, and held on the 17, day of June 1830, Horatio Hamilton, being duly chosen Moderator of the meeting,

The Society having heard a communication addressed to the Church and Society, by Revd. Rodney G. Dennis, Signifying his acceptance of the invitation lately given him to become their Pastor.

Voted. That the time for the installation of Mr. Dennis be Wednesday the 30th Instant and, that a Committee be chosen to unite with a Committee of the Church in calling an Ecclesiastical for the purpose of installation, and to make such arrangements as may be proper and necessary to carry the above vote into effect.

The Committee chosen for the above purpose were, David Cady, William Collins and Oliver Chapin, 2nd.

Voted. That the Committee just chosen in conjunction with the standing committee make the necessary provision to entertain the Council and that the standing Committee draw orders on the treasury for the expenses.

Voted. That the standing committee put the meeting house in order for the installation.

(Records of the Congregational Society. p. 30.)

At a regular Church Meeting held at the meeting house, June 17, 1830.

Voted. To comply with the request of Mr. Dennis in giving the following Churches with their Pastors & Delegates an invitation to sit in the Council and in the Installing Duties & Ceremonies, as Mr. Dennis has acceded to the Invitation given him by the Church and Ecclesiastical Society in this Town.

For their purposes a committee were appointed for to invite, the Church in Hartford of which the Rev'd Mr. Haws is Pastor & the Rev. Mr. Spring, also the Rev'd Dart Osgood of Springfield and Rev'd Mr. Damond of Lincoln, Mass. & Rev'd Mr. Booth of South Coventry, Mr. Calhoun of North Coventry, Mr. Miller.

Adver Lords day June 30, the Church were requested to tarry after the Congregation retired.

Voted. That this Committee consisting of three persons, Samuel Pomeroy, Solomon Billings and Noah Pease constitute this committee and be authorized to make such additions and alterations as should conform to the Rules and Regulations of the Consociation [?] of this County.

Accordingly this committee invited the Church in North Mansfield, Mr. Ely, Pastor, Mr. Robbins of Enfield and Mr. Clark of Wilbraham. Mass.

(Somers Church Records.)

At a meeting of an Ecclesiastical Council convened by letters at Somers, in the hall of Capt. James Kibbe, June 29, 1830. for the purpose of installing Rev'd Rodney G. Dennis as Pastor of the Church and Society in that place.

Present. Elders. Rev'd Messrs. Diodate Brockway, Francis LDRobbins, Aurel Nash, Chauncey Booth and Lucius M. Clark.

Messengers of the Churches.

Deacon	Charles Sexton	from the Church in Ellington.
“	Jonathan Pease	“ “ “ “ Enfield
Brother	Ebenezer Root	“ “ “ “ South Coventry
Deacon	John Norris	“ “ “ “ Wilbraham. Mass.
“	Selat Lomis	“ “ “ “ North Coventry

Mr. Nash was chosen Scribe and Mr. Brockaway Moderator. Prayer was offered by the Moderator. After adjournment the Council met again at 2 Ocl'k, P.M. Documents were presented containing the votes of the Church and Society in Somers, giving Mr. Dennis a call to become their Pastor, his acceptance of the call, and the evidence of his regular dismission from the people of his former charge and his good standing in the Christian Ministry.

Rev. William L. Strong and Rev. Henry Robinson being present were invited to sit as corresponding members of the Council.

After a particular examination of the Pastor elect, as to his acquaintance with the principles of natural and revealed -----, his ability to defend and teach the same; his experience of the love of God in his own heart, and his motives in continuing in the Christian Ministry,

The Council expressed themselves unanimously satisfied with his qualifications for the Pastoral Office, and

Voted that the installation be attended tomorrow at eleven oclock. A.M. and that Mr. Nash, make the Introductory Prayer, Mr. Haws of Hartford, Preach the Sermon, Mr. Booth, make the Installing Prayer, Mr. Brockaway give the Charge, Mr. Robbins, the Address to the People, Mr. Nash, the Right hand of Fellowship, Mr. Clark the concluding Prayer.

Adjourned to meet at half past Nine Oclock tomorrow morning and observe a season of prayer.

Met according to adjournment, the prayer meeting was attended agreeably to appointment, Rev. Joel Haws and brother Normand Smith from the Center Church in Hartford, took their seats.

Voted the above as the minutes of the Council.

Pursuant to the above arrangements the Revd. Mr. Dennis was installed Pastor of the Church at Somers.

Ansel North.	Scribe.
Diodate Brockaway.	Moderator.

(Somers Church Records.)

Pursuant to arrangements previously made, an Ecclesiastical Council convened at Somers on Tuesday, the 29, of June 1830, consisting of Revd. Messrs. Diodate Brockaway of Ellington, Aurel Nash of Tolland, Chauncey Nash of Coventry, Joel Haws of Hartford, Lucius M. Clark of South Willbram and Francis L. Robbins of Enfield, with their Delegates, and on the day following proceeded to the Installation of Mr. Dennis, in the following manner, viz:

Mr. Nash	Made the Introductory Prayer
Mr. Haws	Preached the Sermon.
Mr. Booth	Made the Installing Prayer.
Mr. Brockaway	Gave the Charge to the Pastor.
Mr. Robbins	Gave the Charge to the People.
Mr. Nash	Gave the Right Hand of Fellowship.
Mr. Clark	Made the concluding Prayer.

(Records of the Congregational Society. p. 30.)

At a meeting of the Congregational Society, in Somers, held December 24, 1838. A communication from the Revd. R. G. Dennis having been read, and also a certain paper signed by sundry members of the Society.
Voted to adjourn to January 7, 1839., at One P.M.

(Records of the Congregational Society. p. 43.)

At a meeting of the Congregational Society in Somers, held January 7, 1839. The meeting being opened according to adjournment, the following resolution was laid before the Society, and adopted by a vote of 24 in the affirmative and 22 in the negative, viz:

Whereas, the Revd. Rodney G. Dennis has deliberately communicated his request in writing to the Congregational Church and Society in Somers, that his pastoral relation with said Church and Society may be dissolved; and whereas said Society have taken said communication in their friendly consideration, and have thought proper to grant the prayer thereof:

Therefore be it resolved that this Society respectfully accede to the wishes of the Revd. Mr. Dennis, and consent that his pastoral relations with said Society may be dissolved.

Voted that the time of Mr. Dennis dismissal be the same as that named in his communication to the Society.

Voted to comply with Mr. Dennis request in relation to the Parsonage house, as stated in his said communication.

Emery Pease, Oliver Chapin 2nd, and David Cady were chosen a committe [sic] to communicate to Mr. Dennis the doings of this meeting, and also unite with him in taking measures to call a Council to dissolve the connection between him and the Society, at such time as may be agreed upon between them.

(Records of the Congregational Society. p. 43.)

June 11, 1839.

This day the Rev. R. G. Dennis was dismissed from his pastoral charge, by a mutual Council, regularly convened and was furnished by said Council with a fair and full recommendation.

(For result of Council, see files of Church papers.)

(Somers Church Records. p. 56.)

MARY DENNIS. 6.

MARY DENNIS. 6. (Rev. Rodney Gove.5. Arthur. 4. Rev. John.3. John. 2 Thomas. 1.). b. Topsfield. Mass. Nov 30, 1821. d. Macon, Georgia. Jan 30. 1856. m. Grafton, Mass. April 29. 1846. Holland Newton Batcheller of Millbury, Worcester Co., Mass. b. Grafton, Mass. Sept 28, 1818. d. Aug 18. 1867. at Mt. Pleasant, District of Berkley, South Carolina.

Children.

Mary Louisa Batcheller. b. Jan 11. 1848. d. Charleston. S.C. July 29, 1866.
John " . b. Salmon Falls. New Hampshire. Jan 20. 1850. d.
 Hilledgeville, Georgia. Dec 1850.
Joseph Edward " b. July 19. 1852. d. Millbury, Mass. Feb 5. 1909. m. 1st
 Millbury, Mass. June 23. 1875. Mrs. Johanna M. (Allen) Everett. of North
 Sedgewick, Maine. b. Mar 30. 1844. d. Nov 2 1887. Issue. Wilfred Eugene
 Batcheller. b. July 20. 1876. d. April 25. 1899. Walter Irving Batcheller. b.
 Mar. 1878. d. Sept 1. 1878. m. 2nd. May 25. 1893. Mrs. Lizzie M.
 (Holman) Waterman. b. June 14. 1857. No issue.

Mary Dennis Batcheller taught school at Topsfield, Bolton, West Brookfield,
Marlborough and Grafton, Mass. also resided at Millbury, Mass. Salmon
Falls, N. H. Hilledgeville, and Macon, Ga. where she died.

BATCHELLER.

JOSEPH BATCHELLER. 1. B. Canterbury, England, Tailor. Came with his wife Elizabeth, one child and three servants from Sandwich in 1636. Settled first in Salem, Mass. then in Wenham, Mass. Freeman 1637. Deputy to General Court, Boston, 1644.

Inventory of his Estate taken March 31, 1657 on file in Salem, Probate Office. He d. March 1657.

JOHN BATCHELLER. 2. (Joseph 1.) bp. 1st Church Salem. Jan 20. 1638. d. Wenham. Nov 17. 1698. m 1st. July 12. 1661. Mary Dennis. who d. June 26. 1665. m. 2nd. Sarah Goodale. May 4. 1666. who d. March 22. 1729. Was one of the Jurors that tried the famous Witchcraft cases in Salem.

DAVID BATCHELLER. 3. (John 2. Joseph 1.) b. Wenham, Mass. 1673. d. there Jan 29. 1766. Resided at Wenham. m. May 7. 1709. Susanna Whipple of Ipswich, Mass. who d. June 13. 1764.

DEACON JOSEPH BATCHELLER. 4. (David 3. John 2. Joseph 1.) b. Wenham, Mass. Sept 17. 1713. d. Dec 1797. Resided at Wenham. and Grafton, Mass. Weaver. m. 1st. at Boxford. Jan 26. 1737. Mary Perley. m. 2nd. E. Sudbury. Sept 8. 1780. Sarah Tilton.

On May 27, 1780. Snow 4 feet deep on his ground. He was an alarm soldier on duty in Grafton, during the French and Indian War, 1757. Deacon of the Congregational Church, 1765. often held Town Offices. 1774-5 & 1779. Member of the Provincial Congress.

PERLEY BATCHELLER. 5. (Joseph 4. David 3. John 2. Joseph 1.) b. Grafton, Mass. Sept 7. 1745. d. Feb 7. 1812. Resided at Grafton. m. there Mary Merriam. b. Oct 5. 1743. d. Aug 19. 1828.

He enlisted in Capt Aaron Kimball's Co. in Col. Artemus Ward's Regiment that marched from Grafton, on the Lexington Alarm, April 19. 1775.

JOHN BATCHELLER. 6. (Perley 5. Joseph 4. David 3. John 2. Joseph 1.) b. Grafton, Mass. Sept 13. 1783. d. Oct 9. 1843. Resided at Grafton and Millbury. m. Grafton, Sally she d. Millbury. 1859.

HOLLAND N. BATCHELLER. 7. (John 6. Perley 5. Joseph 4. David 3. John 2. Joseph 1.)

(From the Batcheller Genealogy. F. C. Pierce. 1898.)

THEODOSIA DENNIS. 6

THEODOSIA DENNIS. 6. (Rev. Rodney Gove. 5. Arthur. 4. Rev. John. 3. John. 2. Thomas. 1.) b. Topsfield. Mass. March 10. 1823. d. Red Bank, Monmouth Co. New Jersey. June 12. 1911. m. 1st in Monmouth Co. New Jersey. Dec 12. 1844. Thomas Little. s. John T. Little and Eleanor Williamson. of Shrewsbury. N. J. b. April 19. 1816. In Shrewsbury. Monmouth Co. New Jersey. d. there March 7. 1852.

Child.

Sarah Amanda Little. b. Shrewsbury. N.J. Nov 21. 1846. living 1911. Single, at Red Bank, Monmouth Co. New Jersey.

m. 2nd at Shrewsbury. N.J. May 19, 1857. Rev. Harry Finch, for 34 years Rector of Christ Church, Shrewsbury, N.J. b. Stamford, Conn. April 2. 1797. d. Shrewsbury. N.J. Feb 14. 1864.

Children.

Rodney Gove Dennis Finch. b. Shrewsbury. N.J. Feb 26. 1858. d. at Statsville [?]. N.C. April 24. 1885. m. Sept 24. 1884. Alice Walker, who d. in 1890. No issue.

Jane Abby Finch. b. Shrewsbury, N.J. Oct 25. 1859. m. Red Bank. N.J. Oct 23. 1882. Thomas Davis. jr. s. Thomas & Mary Davis. b. New York City. N.Y. Both living 1911. at Red Bank, N.J. Issue. Ethel Finch Davis. b. Red Bank. N.J. March 1. 1883. m. Red Bank. N.J. George Harold Nevius. b. Glen Ridge. N.J. both living at Red Bank. N.J. 1911.

Theodosia Dennis the first of six children born in the Jacob Towne house at Topsfield, Mass., the western half of which her father occupied during his pastorate there, he later removed to Somers, Conn., and afterwards to Grafton, Mass.

When five years of age her father placed her with her sister Mary, a year older in the Topsfield Academy, of which he was the founder, where they remained until their removal to Somers, her mother protested but her father insisted and said it would give character to the School. Her studies were Woodbridge's Geography, Murray's Grammar, Colburns Arithmetic, one colum [sic] of Dictionary with definitions and Astronomy. In later years she often talked with her father in respect to this Topsfield experience and insisted she was too young to endure such discipline, but he always said it was the making of her.

After her brother Appleton, who was the President of the Educational Institute of Middletown, New Jersey., went South, through him she secured the position he had occupied and in the year 1842 or 1843, came to Monmouth County, New Jersey, as she then thought temporarily, but where she remained for the balance of her life. She married twice residing for many years on a portion of the "Old Little Homestead", which afterwards she sold, much to her regret later on, the house is still standing; during the life of Mr. Finch she was active in church work and had the records of Christ Church copied,

to preserve the originals which were becoming much time worn, after the death of Mr. Finch, for many years she had a school for young ladies at Shewsbury in later life she was much interested in church and charitable work, prominent as a member of the Monmouth Co. Historical Society, well known and beloved by a large circle of friends.

The following obituary appeared in the New Jersey Standard of June 16, 1911.
Aged Teacher and Active Church Worker Gone to Her Reward.

Mrs. Theodosia Finch, widow of Rev. Harry Finch, for many years rector of Christ Episcopal Church, Shrewsbury, died Monday morning at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Thomas Davis, Jr. of Bergen Street. She was 88 years old and her death was due to the infirmities of old age.

Mrs. Finch was a remarkable woman in many respects. Coming to this section from Massachusetts at the age of sixteen years she began her career as a teacher in the old schoolhouse at Nut Swamp, where she had among her pupils John S. Applegate, Sr., Charles B. Parsons and Joseph S. Hendrickson. She married Thomas Little, and following his death she was wedded to Rev. Harry Finch, who died some years ago. After Mr. Finch's death she conducted a private school for several years. For over thirty years Mrs. Finch was president of the Red Bank library association and was actively engaged in church and charitable work. She was beloved by all who knew her. Two daughters, Mrs. Thomas Davis and Miss Sarah Little, both of Red Bank, survive.

The funeral was held yesterday afternoon at Trinity Episcopal church and burial in Christ church cemetery. Rev. Robert Mac-Kellar conducted the service and there were many beautiful floral tributes.

A TRIBUTE.

At a special meeting of the Red Bank library company held Wednesday the following tribute to the memory of Mrs. Finch was presented and accepted.

“The occasion which calls us together this morning is a solemn and impressive one, for we are met to pay our tribute of respect and honor to the memory of Mrs. Theodosia Dennis Finch, for thirty years our president. It would seem trite for us who were so closely associated with her to enumerate her many virtues, but our sense of loss is great and we would place our rosemary beside her bier. This community was long privileged to know her, and contact with her as teacher, coworker [sic] and friend was an inspiration. Possessed of great energy she gave of her best to establish and maintain this library; wise in counsel, courageous, cultured, charitable, she walked in the sunshine and rejoiced in bird, song and budding flower. A fragrance will ever cling about her memory, exhaled from those rare gifts which adorned her character. Our full sympathy goes out to those in the home circle bereft of her presence. Mrs. Finch was a perfect type of God's best gift to mortals, a good mother, and she has left to her kindred a legacy “whose price is above rubies.”

It is not deemed amiss to here insert letters from her father, congratulating the parents on the birth of a son, and elucidating the name given him.

Grafton, Mass., March 8, 1858.

Rev. Harry Finch.
My dear Son.

With you and your wife, my beloved daughter Theodosia, I rejoice exceedingly and desire to unite in expressing thanks to God for the recent reception from his hand of an infant babe -- a son. New and immensely weighty obligations are imposed on you, by this invaluable gift. I know you will both seek, and may you obtain abundant measures of Divine grace, to enable you to train up this precious one together with your other children for the service of the benevolent Author.

I feel high gratified and honored by the name which you have given him. There is much that is prominent and interesting in its distant lineage. It owes its original descent to Lord George Bridges Rodney an eminent English admiral who for his moral virtues and heroic services which he performed in defence of his country and the promotion of her honors, was raised to the peerage, and had settled upon him a pension for life of two thousand pounds a year.

Gove as its ancestral line extends to myself, derives its parentage from the late Jonathan Gove, M.D. whose professional skill, extensively in New England was held in high estimation especially in the department of obstetrics, and who was for many years, the confidential favorite physician in my fathers family. As an expression of grateful admiration which the character and services of these two distinguished personages were held by my parents. I received the name Rodney Gove Dennis. While I would express my full concurrence that the name which can claim so honorable a lineage should be transmitted to my little grandson, recently added to your family, and which, indeed, I would myself make bequest of it to him; I am not ambitious to desire that he may rise to the highest moral medical or any other merely literary or civil rank; but that he may live and rise to the rank of an exemplary Christian man and especially of an able zealous and useful minister of Christ. Your observations and experience have taught you too many lessons, to render it necessary that I should admonish you at all that he is a frail plant liable notwithstanding the most anxious parental care, at any moment, to be recalled by Him who sent him forth and placed him in your family circle. Do not let him to your vision eclipse his Master.

Fulfill faithfully the trust: and hold yourselves in readiness to relinquish him whensoever he may be called, or yourselves summoned to give an account of your guardianship. The family here all join in expressing toward you their cordial congratulations. May God continue to smile on mother and child, as well as on yourself and other members of your family, bestowing on you health, strength and every needed blessing in this and the life to come.

Your affectionate father.
Rodney G. Dennis.

Grafton, Mass., March 23, 1858.

My Dear Daughter Theodosia:

In tracing the original of the name which you have given to my little grandson, I thought at the time of adding that of the name of Dennis, but modesty in part deterred me from doing it. I have since thought that I had better do it, so far as I have the means, that you may have the whole lineage before you. The name of Dennis in this country, extending to my own family so far as I have been able as yet to trace it, takes origin from two brothers of that name who emigrated among the first adventurous Puritans from England and settled in that part of Massachusetts now the ancient and venerable town of Ipswich, Essex Co. From one of these brothers, my grandfather, Rev. John Dennis descended. He graduated at Cambridge College in this State 1730, and settled in the ministry in Harwich, Mass.

(# This town was originally large, the town of Dennis consisting of two parishes. North and South Dennis was incorporated from it, and named after my grandfather, your great grandfather and the great great grandfather of your little son Rodney.) He served officially as chaplain in the Revolutionary war, (see Barbers Historical Collections).

Several of the last years of his life he passed in his native town, Ipswich, where he gained high celebrity as a teacher of youth, and after a long useful and eventful life, he reposes among his venerable fathers. My little grandson, therefore, should he live may look back, through the line of Dennis as it embraces your family and fix his eyes on some link at least which may deservedly inspire his heart with gratitude to God the Author of every good gift.

You have I suppose given him the whole name Rodney Gove Dennis. When it is abbreviated it will not be cumbersome, but will be quite euphonic tasteful and dignified R.G.D. Finch.

I hope the little fellow will grow up to manhood and will become eminent in learning piety and usefulness.

Your affectionate father.
Rodney G. Dennis.

This is an error and refers to Rev. Josiah Dennis who was settled at Yarmouth, Barnstable Co, Mass., a portion of which was afterwards named Dennis. – T.L.

JOHN APPLETON DENNIS. 6

JESSE APPLETON DENNIS. 6. (Rev. Rodney Gove. 5. Arthur. 4. Rev. John. 3. John. 2. Thomas.1.) b. Topsfield, Mass. May 28. 1824. d. Yellow Fever, at Darien, Ga. Oct 27, 1854. buried there. m. Holmdel, New Jersey. June 4, 1848. Catherine Van Mater. daughter of Holmes Van Mater and Micah his wife, b. Holmdel, Monmouth Co. New Jersey. Feb 22. 1822. d. East Freehold. New Jersey. Aug 27, 1896. buried in the graveyard of the Brick Church at Marlboro, N.J.

Her brother, Daniel Van Mater married her husbands sister, Frances L. Dennis.

The line of descent of the Monmouth Co. N. J. Van Maters is viz:

1822-1896.	1824-1854.
Catherine Van Mater. m. 1848. Jesse Appleton Dennis.	
1789-	1795-
Holmes “ “ m. Micah Van Mater.	
1747-1803.	
Chrineyome “ “ m. 1772. Huldah Holmes.	
1710-1792	1715-1748.
Joseph “ “ m. 1734. Sarah R. Schenck.	
1650-1720.	

Kreijn Janse. Born at Bonnel, Netherlands. Came to Kings Co. Long Island, later on with others purchased a large tract of land in Monmouth Co. N.J. and removed there in 1711.

Children.

Holmes Van Mater Dennis. b. Holmdel. N. J. April 11. 1849.
Joseph Rodney “ . b. “ . “ . “ . Sept 1. 1851. d. Newton. L. I. Oct 21. 1853.
Margaret “ . b. Newton. L. I. Sept 6. 1853. Living 1911. With her brother,
At East Freehold. N. J. Single.

Jesse Appleton Dennis, prepared at the Enfield Conn. High School, entered Amherst College 1838, left in Junior year, 1840., After leaving college was anxious to make some money and reimburse his father for the expense of his education, a friend in Monmouth Co, New Jersey, informed him he could secure him a good position there, he availed himself of the offer and was very successful not only as a teacher but also as a lecturer; he arrived about the time Henry Clay was a candidate for President, was frequently called upon to make stump speeches which were enthusiastically received.

He rose from one position to another and became President of the Educational Institute of Middletown, N.J. 1842-1850. Received the Honorary Degree of A. M. from Rutgers College 1845; Principal of the Darion, Georgia, Academy 1853-1854, studied law and was admitted to the Georgia Bar.

HOLMES VAN MATER DENNIS. 7. (Jesse Appleton. 6. Rev. Rodney Gove. 5. Arthur. 4. Rev. John. 3. John. 2. Thomas. 1.) Living 1911, at East Freehold, New Jersey. m. 1st, at Marlboro. N.J. Dec 26. 1871. Eugenia C. Baird. (daughter of David Baird. b. Marlboro. N.J. Jan 28. 1824. d. Colts Neck, N. J. about Aug 1863, and Ann Eliza Conover. dau. Peter G. Conover. b. May 15. 1824. d. Marlboro. N.J. about July 1861.) b. Marlboro. N.J. April 2. 1850. d. New York. N.Y. Feb 25. 1874. m. 2nd, Freehold. N. J. Sept 6. 1876. Caroline Elizabeth Baird a sister of his first wife. b. Colts Neck. N.J. Aug 28. 1853. Living 1911. One child by first wife.

Child.

Holmes Van Mater Dennis. b. New York City. N.Y. Feb 5. 1873.

Holmes Van Mater Dennis prepared for College at the Freehold, N.J. Institute 1865-1866, entered Rutgers College Sept. 1866, graduated June 1869 with Degree of B. Sc. received Degree M. Sc. 1872. Engaged in business in New York City 1871 to 1881. as Civil Engineer, in 1881 removed to East Freehold, N.J. where he now lives.

President of the Freehold Gas Light Co. and of the Monmouth County Farmers Exchange, Director of the Central National Bank of Freehold, N. J.

HOLMES VAN MATER DENNIS. Jr. 8. (Holmes Van Mater. 7. Jesse Appleton. 6. Rodney Gove. 5. Arthur. 4. Rev. John. 3. John. 2. Thomas. 1.) m. New Brunswick, N. J. June 6, 1895. Mary A. Howell. dau. Benjamin Howell and Amelia Furman his wife. b. South Amber. N.J. Both living 1911. at New Brunswick, N.J.

Children.

Holmes Van Mater Dennis. b. New Brunswick. N.J. July 7. 1896.
Mary Amelia “ . b. “ “ .. “ . Dec 14. 1900.

Holmes Van Mater Dennis, lived in New York City, 1873-1877: at Newton, L. I. 1877-1881 at East Freehold. N. J. 1881-1895. New York City 1895-1900, New Brunswick. N.J. 1900-1911.

Prepared for College in Freehold, N.J. Institute 1885-1890. entered Rutgers College Sept. 1890. graduated June 1894 with Degree A. B. graduated New York Law School with Degree L. L. B. June 1896. Admitted to New York Bar as Attorney and Counsellor at Law. June 27, 1896. Admitted to the New Jersey Bar as Attorney and Solicitor June Term, 1903 and Counsellor at Law. June Term 1906. Master in Chancery of New Jersey, June 1906. Admitted to United States Supreme Court, May 1908.

Has always practiced in New York City, at present a member of the firm of Dennis & Buehler, New York.

Received Honorary Degree A.M. Rutgers College, June 1899.

JANE ABIGAIL DENNIS. 6.

JANE ABIGAIL DENNIS. 6. (Rev. Rodney Gove Dennis. 5. Arthur. 4. Rev. John. 3. John. 2. Thomas. 1.) b. Topsfield. Mass. May 28. 1824. d. Grafton,. Mass. April 10, 1861. m. Grafton, Mass. April 1, 1844. Benjamin Heywood, Jr. b. Grafton, Mass. April. 1807. d. Grafton, Mass. Oct 12. 1875.

Children all born Grafton, Mass.

Benjamin Herbert Heywood. Died in infancy.

Mary Agnes “ . b. Nov 21. 1846. d. Grafton, Mass. June 12. 1876.
Never married

Edward Warren “ . b. June 24. 1851. d. Boston, Mass. Jan 1902. m. Troy, Ohio. 1876. Josephine Harter. Issue. Agnes Harter Heywood. b. Dec 2. 1878. m. June 11. 1902. Geoge Corrie Bartram. they reside at Mt. Vernon, New York. and Ross Dorothy Heywood. b. June 22. 1884. m. March 27, 1910. John Scheepers, of Arnheim, Holland.

Harry Appleton “ . b. Jan 9. 1853. Grafton, Mass. July 31. 1905. Married but left no issue.

Abbot Rodney “ . b. Sept 16. 1855. went West in 1876, and in 1879, settled in Ogden, Utah, where he now lives. m. Corinne, Utah. April 16. 1885. Mary Elizabeth Guthrie, dau. John W. and Mary B. (Gaynor) Guthrie. Issue. John Guthrie Heywood. b. Ogden, Utah, April 22, 1887. He took L.L.B. Degree at the University of Virginia, June 1910. resides in Ogden where he practices law.

RODNEY DENNIS.6.

RODNEY DENNIS. 6. (Rev. Rodney Gove. 5. Arthur. 4. Rev. John. 3. John.2. Thomas. 1.) b. Topsfield, Mass. Jan 14. 1826. d. Hartford, Conn. June 2. 1899. m. Hartford, Conn. June 6, 1854. Clara Strong, dau. William and Naomi (Terry) Strong. b. Hartford, Conn. March 25, 1831. d. Hartford, Conn. June 7 1888.

They lived in Hartford, Conn. with the exception of the first year of their marriage, when they resided in Albany, New York. Mr. Dennis was for many years Secretary of the Travellers Insurance Company.

Children.

[Information in bold is from pages in back of book, apparently written later.]

Grace Dennis. b. Albany, N.Y. April 6. 1855. **d. Hartford, Conn. April 6. 1920.** m. Hartford, Conn. Jan 7. 1880. Ralph William Cutler. s. Eben and Caroline Clark (Holman) Cutler. b. Newton, Mass. Feb 21. 1853. **d. Hartford, Conn. Nov. 7. 1917. Both buried in Cedar Hill Cemetery.** They reside in Hartford, Conn., Mr. Cutler is President of the Hartford Trust Company, **and a director in many of the Hartford Corporations.**

Issue:

Charlotte Elizabeth Cutler. b. Hartford, Conn, March 2. 1882. m. Hartford, Conn, Nov 22. 1905. Joseph Hooker Woodward. s. Joseph Gurley and Mary Williams (Hooker) Woodward. b. Hartford, Conn. March 7. 1882. Mr. Woodward graduated at Yale College in 1903, was appointed State Actuary of Connecticut in 1906, which position he resigned in 1909 to accept the appointment of Auditor of the New York State Insurance Department, with headquarters in New York City. They reside in Brooklyn, N.Y. Their children, all born in Hartford, are, Nancy Hooker Woodward, b. April 30, 1907. Barbara Holman Woodward, b. May 17, 1908. Joseph Cutler Woodward. b. April 25. 1909. May Hooker Woodward. b. Aug.12. 1910.

Ralph Dennis Cutler. b. Hartford, Conn. April 16. 1885. Graduated at Yale College 1907, Member Psi Upsilon. Single. Employed by the Hartford Electric Light Co. **Service in Troop B. National Guard of Connecticut, March 8, 1916 (?) – Mar 8, 1917. Seargent, Mexican Border, June 26, 1916 - Oct 26, 1916. Federal Service, July 19, 1917 - Feb. 3, 1919. Rank, Captain Quarter Master. Foreign Service March 10, 1918-Jan 15, 1919. Officer d'Academie Francaise, Nov. 20, 1919. m. Nov. 20, 1912. Ruth Albertson Brainerd, dau. Mrs. Leverett Brainard. Children all born in Hartford. Ralph Dennis Cutler. b. Aug 16, 1913, Helen Brainard Cutler. b. Feb 17, 1915. Ruth Morgan Cutler. b. Jan 13, 1920.**

Ruth Holman Cutler. b. Hartford, Conn. Oct 2. 1886. m. Hartford, Conn. Dec 1. 1909. Charles Delancy Alton, Jr. s. Dr. Charles D. Alton and Jane Grey Austin (Skinner). b. Hartford, Conn. Feb 26. 1881. They reside at [Glastonbury, Conn.] **Hartford. Mr. Alton [is connected with] has charge of the credit department of the J. B. Williams Co., of Glastonbury, Conn. has served as Alderman, also on**

**Finance Board and other positions in Hartford. Children all born in Hartford.
Jane Gray Alton. b. May 11, 1915. Rodney Dennis Alton. b. July 10, 1921.**

William Strong Dennis. b. Hartford, Conn. Dec 25.1857. Died Jan 11. 1858.

Charlotte Wolcott Dennis. b. Hartford, Conn, May 7. 1860. m. Hartford, Conn. Jan 7 1891. Thomas Little. s. Arthur K. and Martha Jane (Agnew) Little. b. Philadelphia, Pa. Dec 4, 1849. They resided in Philadelphia, Pa. until 1900, when they moved to New York, N.Y., coming to Hartford, Conn. where they now reside in 1905. Issue. Thomas Wolcott Little. b. Philadelphia. Pa. May 21. 1892. Graduated from the Hartford Public High School in 1910, entering Trinity College that year. Drummond Williamson Little. b. Philadelphia. Pa. Jan 21. 1895.

Bertha Parker Dennis. b. Hartford, Conn. Jan. 10. 1867. Single. Residence, Hartford, Conn.

Rodney Strong Dennis. b. Hartford, Conn. Dec 17. 1868. d. New York City. N.Y. March 7. 1904. m. New York. May 9. 1890. Cecile Miellez. dau. Adolph and Barbara (Dix) Miellez. of Springfield, Mass. Issue. Dorothy Dennis. d. New York. April 25. 1896. Faith Dennis. b. New York City. Aug 5. 1892. Rodney Gove Dennis. b. New York City. Sept 15. 1896. **Graduated at Yale College, June 1920. Degree B. A. Fraternity. Delta Kappa Epsilon. Served in Troop B. National guard of Conn. June 12, 1917- Aug 5, 1917. Federal Service July 25, 1917 – April 29, 1919. Rank. Corporal Aug 23, 1917. Sergeant Aug 1, 1918. Battalion Sergeant Major Oct. 17, 1918. Foreign Service, Oct 9, 1917 - April 8, 1919. First date in Action, Feb 5, 1918. Engagements. Chemin des Dames, Toul Sector, Champagne, Marne, Aisne-Marne, St. Mihiel, Meuse-Argonne. Employed by Patterson, Teale & Dennis, Certified Public Accountants, New York, a firm founded by Mr. A. W. Teele and his father.**

Mrs. [Rodney Strong] Dennis with her family continued to reside in New York City, until June 1911, when they removed to Hartford, Conn.

RODNEY STRONG DENNIS. 7.

Rodney Strong Dennis was educated in Hartford, graduated at The Hartford Public High School in 1886, he came to New York City and was employed by the firm of Tranholm & Co., Expert Accountants, where he learned his profession and was admitted as a partner, later established the firm of Patterson Teele & Dennis of which he was a member at the time of his death. Engaged as they were from time to time in audits and installation of new systems of accounts for some of the largest corporations, he numbered among his friends leading financiers and business men whose names are household words throughout the States.

He was among the first recipients of the C.P.A. certificate and helped to pass the law under which they were granted, was subsequently appointed by the Regents of the University of New York one of the three examiners to pass on the candidates for C.P.A. degrees. He was Commissioner of Accounts for the City of New York under Mayor Strong and made an enviable record for himself in that position. The New York State Society of Public Accountants claimed him as a member, as did also the Institute of Accountants.

Fond of outdoor sports he was a member of the Country Cycle Club and of the Crescent Athletic Club, and also of the following organizations, The Calumet Club, the Brooklyn, the American Historical, American Geographical and New England Societies, the Society of Mayflower Descendants, Sons of the American Revolution, Sons of the Revolution, Society of Colonial Wars, Veteran Artillery Corps of the Washington Continental Guards, Settlers and Defenders of America, Founders and Patriots of America, America's Founders & Defenders, also a Noble of the Mystic Shrine, Washington Lodge, No 21. F and A.M.

Few men have ever established themselves so firmly in the affections of their professional associates as had this unassuming but brilliant student of accounts and no man enjoyed more the confidence of the business community than he. He was a man tried in many difficult places and never found wanting in any.

It is regrettable that a man who had accomplished so much, and of whom so much more was promised, should be taken away in the flush of his manhood, he died in his thirty-sixth year, but in that time he had acquired such a prestige as many men have struggled for and never lived to grasp.

(From the New York Financial Record. March 9, 1904.)

RODNEY DENNIS. 6.

Rodney Dennis like so many capable boys from the swarming families of old New England, saw no more school days after the age of 14, becoming the stay of the household and farm, after receiving a rudimentary education and one term in the High School, he was compelled to seek his own support, and give aid to his younger brothers and sisters, he was largely the means of giving two of these a liberal education.

At the age of 16 he came to Hartford, and was employed by the firm of Fox & Porter at the grocery on Central Row; and for five years did a mans work at a boys pay, delivering goods by hand, barrow or team, grooming horses, and whatever else was required.

To his remembrance of the experiences of a young man in the city away from home his devotion to the Young Men's Christian Association was partly due. On coming of age in 1847, he chose to set out for himself in spite of liberal offers to remain, and in partnership with A. C. Ives, as Dennis & Ives, established a grocery business on South Main Street.

He was the first in Hartford to introduce the modern "specialties," such as canned and bottled goods, which have entirely transformed the old grocery trade. The business flourished well, but in 1849 Mr. Ives was attacked with bleeding from the lungs, went away for his health, and never returned to work; Mr. Dennis carried it on alone till the winter of 1850-51, when he sprained his knee so severely as to disable him for several months. On resuming his management, he found the business so disorganized that the re-making it was too great a struggle, and discontinuing it, subsequently discharged all the firms obligations.

He went to Augusta, Ga., entering the employ of the well known firm of Hand, Williams & Wilcox. (The head of the firm was a Connecticut man, the well known Daniel Hand, who was driven out for loyalty at the outbreak of Secession; receiving after the War his full share of the property – over a million – from the lofty honor of his southern and Secession partner, Mr. Williams, and has lately given a million to the American Missionary Society.)

After two years stay, he came north to Albany, where he remained two years longer, and was married in the latter of the two years, 1855., in that year he returned to Hartford and took a position in the Phoenix Bank which he held till 1864, on the starting of business by The Travellers Insurance Company. Mr. Dennis well known ability and integrity, the latter standing especially high from his having streightened himself for years to discharge obligations not legally his, and which no one but himself considered even moral ones, made it natural to solicit his services and the weight of his name to establish the new enterprise.

He embarked his fortunes in it, and devoted his life to it, straining every faculty of his body and mind to insure its success: and here the reward of early discipline, self sacrifice and the resources developed by business training with no one to rely on but himself, became manifest, his labor and economy of management were prime factors in the Company's permanence, for sometime he was himself the entire force of employees, sole cashier, clerk, and office boy; and for many years he worked double the hours of any clerk, doing detail work early and late, often into the small hours of the morning when

others were asleep. His severe labor broke down his health at last, and rendered him for a short time unfit for office business; but after a short and successful business trip to California he at once resumed his desk.

Through the Company's first months of comparative neglect and public incredulity, its short burst of unshared prosperity, its succeeding years of fierce competition and slow mastery and sole survival, its later ones of unapproached eminence, and its still later ones when, though it remains greatest and grows greater, the field is once more thick with rivals, he has remained its watchful guardian and laborious servant, his first thought its success and good repute, anxious that it should prosper as the just reward of done equity.

His enthusiasm exerted an influence over other employees, until the severance of his connection in 1896, he was prominently identified with its success.

Aside from this crowning business place, he has had a life as a man and citizen which has been full of still richer honors and compensations. Public place he never sought, feeling that he could not give the time and labor needed to discharge its duties properly.

In the course of his long business career he held many positions of trust. He was often called upon, on account of his unselfish devotion, conscientious faithfulness, and absolute integrity in the management of public and private affairs. It is known that in assisting friends who had trusted him with their investments he has on occasions given them the profits and sustained the losses himself.

A list of his directorships, trusteeships, and guardianships would create surprise from its number and variety, yet that would not furnish a living impression of his real place in the public esteem.

Hardly any business venture has been started that seemed likely to benefit the city but he has invested in it, with small reference to personal profit; not from visionary cloudiness of Judgment, but wish to share the duty of citizens in running some risk for public service.

In purely business directorships, those of the Hartford Trust Company, Connecticut Fire Insurance Company, Overman Wheel Company, The Hartford Electric Light Company, Hartford City Gas Light Company, and Farmington Power Company may be mentioned; but his energies have been fully as much given to charitable and humane work.

For forty years no enterprise, small or great, has been undertaken in Hartford for the amelioration of humanity, in which he has not been foremost with purse and time. He founded in 1842, in connection with "Father" Hawly, the Morgan Street Mission School, the first attempt in Connecticut at organized care for and visitation of the poorest classes in the cities, and rescue, protection, and instruction of their children; it was the parent or forerunner of all the systematic charities of the State.

While in Augusta, Ga., he founded a similar institution there; and after his return to Hartford he was for twelve years superintendent and teacher of the Morgan Street School and for some years taught an evening school twice a week. He was President of the Hartford Charitable Society, the oldest of its kind in the State. Was one of the incorporators of the Connecticut Humane Society, and its President from the first, also Vice-President of the American Humane Society and of the American Anti-Vivisection Society and of the Hartford Young Mens Christian Association; Chairman of the Board

of Managers of the famed Insane Retreat, a Trustee of the Connecticut Industrial School for girls, a Trustee of the Society for Savings, Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Connecticut Bible Society, and director of the Tract Society and the American Missionary Society, Trustee and Chairman of the Prudential Committee of the Hartford Theological Seminary and President of the University Extension Society.

Of his trusteeships of private estates of widows and orphans, his guardianships, and his private benefactions we will not dwell.

The early church life of Mr. Dennis was in connection with first Church of Christ, Hartford, in 1851., he was one of the youngest men to unite in the formation of the Pearl Street Ecclesiastical Society, of which church he was a member from 1855 to 1871., when he joined the Park Congregational Church. After the death of his friend, the Rev. Nathaniel Burton, D.D., he returned to the First Church, where he was an honored member at his death, a memorial tablet has been placed on the wall of this edifice.

JOSEPH DENNIS. 6.

JOSEPH DENNIS. 6. (Rev. Rodney Gove. 5. Arthur.4. Rev. John. 3. John. 2. Thomas. 1) b. Topsfield, Mass. Feb 14. 1828. d. of Cholera, while a resident physician of the Charity Hospital at Wards Island, New York. July 13. 1854. Single.

Joseph Dennis was 3 years old when he came to Somers, Tolland Co, Conn., in 1831. , with his parents removed to West Brookfield, Worcester Co, Mass., in 1840, to Grafton, Mass. In 1841, to a farm that his father had bought for his two younger sons. After finishing his Academic course, his father consented to his accepting a position as assistant teacher in his eldest brothers School, at Middletown, Monmouth Co., N.J. and afterward at Holmdel, Monmouth Co, N.J. meanwhile studying Latin and higher Mathematics with his brother, until the latter removed to Johnstown, Fulton Co, New York. to take a Classical School for boys, when Joseph succeeded him in the Academy at Holmdel.

He boarded at Dr. Robert W. Cooke's, studied medicine with him, in connection with a friend William H. Van Mater, had charge of his office, at the same time faithful to his school. He resigned this position at the close of the school year, in 1852, and entered the College of Physicians & Surgeons. New York City, N.Y. in October 1852.

In the summer of 1853, he, and his friend, took a summer course of lectures at Woodstock, Vermont. and in 1854, graduated from his course in New York.

He immediately received an appointment at the Wards Island Hospital, New York and entered upon his duties on the Staff of Physicians and Surgeons, and there he died July 13. 1854.

EDWARD PARKER DENNIS. 6.

EDWARD PARKER DENNIS. 6. (Rev. Rodney Gove. 5. Arthur. 4. Rev. John. 3. John. 2. Thomas. 1.) b. Topsfield, Mass. Dec 1. 1829. d. Grafton, Mass. May 22. 1867. m. Grafton, Mass. Dec 16. 1856. Jessie Nichols Moore. dau. Josiah and Lavisia (Nichols) Moore. (The Moores settled in Sudbury, Mass., came originally from Yorkshire, England. The Nichols family settled in Oxford, Mass., several members of this family were in the Indian and Revolutionary Wars.) b. Oxford, Mass. Jan 11. 1828. d. Grafton, Mass. June 9. 1860.

m. 2nd, at Westboro, Mass. Oct 31. 1861. Martha Elizabeth Read. dau. Thaddeus & Abigail (Sibley) Read. b. Grafton, Mass. Sept 5. 1832. D. Apoplexy. Augusta, Ga. Dec 18. 1876.

The only issue was by first wife. David Nichols Dennis.

Edward Parker Dennis, resided a number of years in Darian, Georgia, where he assisted his brothers-in-law, Daniel Van Mater and Holland N. Batcheller in their mercantile enterprise. He afterwards returned to Grafton, Mass., where bought the old homestead in which his father the Rev. Rodney G. Dennis resided; he removing to Southboro, Mass., where he passed the remainder of his life.

Child.

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David Nichols Dennis. b. Grafton, Mass. Dec 26. 1858. m. Philadelphia, Pa. June 20. 1882. Mary Camilla Loder. dau. Alexander White and Mary (Yeager) Loder, of Philadelphia, Pa.

[Forebears of Mary Camilla Loder:]

Alexander White Loder. b. in Essex, now Warren Co. New Jersey. Mar 30. 1805. d. Philadelphia, Pa. Sept 19. 1875. m. Nov 20. 1842. Mary Ann Yeager. dau. George Yeager and Susanna Rohn. b. Feb 10. 1820. d. Dec 9. 1898.

Isaac Loder. b. Oxford, N.J. Jan 31. 1772. m. April 22, 1794. Sarah Hummer. b. Jan 1. 1774.

William Loder. b. England. July 27. 1740. m. Jan 10. 1764. Catherine Loder. b. Jan 10. 1745.

David Nichols Dennis attended preparatory school at Worcester Academy, and entered Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, Pa. in 1878, graduating in 1881. He served in various hospitals and as hospital assistant to Professor Thomson.

In 1885, he removed to Erie, Pa. where he now (1899) still resides with his family. Has been attending Ophthalmic Surgeon to Hamot Hospital; later Manager, and recently elected President of the Board of Managers.

Issue. Edward Parker Dennis. b. Philadelphia, Pa. Sept 23. 1884. He prepared at St. Johns Military Academy, Syracuse, N.Y. and the Phillips Exeter Academy. Entered Amherst College class of 1907, member of the Alpha Delta Phi fraternity, now an employee of the Mercantile Trust Co., St. Louis, Mo.

Dorothy Moore Dennis. b. Erie, Pa. July 30. 1889. Entered Bradford Academy, Bradford, Mass. in 1905. -- Her grandmother the wife of Rev. Rodney G. Dennis, attended this school. -- Graduated at Bristol School, Washington.

Camelia Elizabeth Dennis. b. Erie, Pa. March 11. 1898.

ISABELLA HOLMES DENNIS. 6.

ISABELLA HOLMES DENNIS. 6. (Rev. Rodney Gove. 5. Arthur. 4. Rev. John 3. John. 2. Thomas. 1) b. Somers. Tolland Co, Conn. May 8. 1833. removed to West Brookfield, Worcester Co, Mass, 1840, to Grafton, Mass. 1841, to Southboro, Mass, 1864, returned to Grafton, Mass, in 1866, where she remained until 1908, when she removed to Freehold, Monmouth Co., New Jersey, where she now resides. Single.

FRANCIS LOUISA DENNIS. 6.

FRANCES LOUISA DENNIS.6. (Rev. Rodney Gove. 5. Arthur. 4. Rev. John. 3. John. 2. Thomas. 1.) b. Somers. Tolland Co, Conn. Aug 25. 1834. d. Freehold. N.J. Sept 23. 1911. m. Feb 19, 1852. Daniel R. Van Mater, (son of Holmes Van Mater & Micah his wife), b. Middletown Point, now Mattawan, Monmouth Co, N.J. Feb 25. 1824. d. at Freehold, N.J. March 5. 1908.

Children.

Mary Van Mater. b. Eatontown, Ga. May 6, 1854. d. Aug 25. 1909. m. Marlboro, N.J. June 13. 1877. Garrett S. Jones of Matawan, N.J. son of Samuel & Letitia Jones of Holmdel. N.J. One child, Charles Wardell Jones. b. Aug 26. 1878.

Joseph Appleton Van Mater . b. Marlboro, Monmouth Co., N.J. May 25. 1860. m. New York City, Oct 29. 1884. Josephine Emma Duclos. b. Jan 4. 1862. Issue. Daniel D. Van Mater. b. Hamburg, Sussex Co, N.J. Nov 2. 1885. Joseph Holmes Van Mater. b. Peekskill, West-Chester Co, N.Y. Aug 20. 1887. d. Jan 18. 1895. Rossiter Le Roy Van Mater, b. Hamburg, Sussex Co, N.J. Mar 2. 1891. d. July 24. 1891. Annette Marie Van Mater. b. Hamburg, Sussex Co. N.J. May 3. 1894. Pierre Duclos Van Mater. b. Hamburg, Sussex Co, N. J. May 24. 1896. Joseph Appleton Van Mater, Jr. b. Hamburg, Sussex Co. N.J. Feb 28. 1898. Laurance Fontenay Van Mater. b. Pulaski Co, Va. May 3. 1904.

Fanny Louisa Van Mater. b. Marlboro, Monmouth Co, N. J. Sept 23. 1863.

Huldah Van Mater. b. Marlboro, Monmouth Co, N.J. Dec 6. 1868. m. Oct 21. 1896. William V. Spader. s. Krozen Ten Broeck & Mary Elizabeth (Franken) Spader,

of New Brunswick, N.J. They reside at New Brunswick, N.J. Issue. William Van Mater Spader, b. New Brunswick. N.J. July 17. 1897. and Mary Louisa Spader. b. New Brunswick. N.J. July 26. 1900.

Francis Louisa – Dennis-Van Mater. in May 1851. went to Holmdel, Monmouth Co, N.J. to study with and assist her brother Joseph, in his school until a bronchial trouble developed and she was advised to accept an invitation to go to Georgia for the winter.

Resided at Milledgeville and Eatontown, Putman Co, Georgia until June 1856, removed to Marlboro, New Jersey, April 1858, and to Freehold, Monmouth Co, N.J., October 1907.

HENRIETTA PEASE DENNIS. 6.

HENRIETTA PEASE DENNIS. 6. (Rev. Rodney Gove. 5. Arthur. 4. Rev. John. 3. John. 2. Thomas. 1) b. Somers, Tolland Co, Conn. Oct 26. 1838. *d.* **1911**. m. Olivet, Mich. April 10. 1874. Rev. Abram Barker Allen. *b.* **1834**. *d.* **1914**. s. Lewis & Eliza (Marvin) Allen., a widower with two young sons.

Child.

Benjamin Farwell Allen. b. Alpena, Mich. Sept 26. 1877. Student at Oberlin Academy and College six years, has since been reporting for newspapers. For the past eight years has been connected with the Cleveland Plain Dealer. Is at present, 1911, Washington correspondent of same.

Henrietta Pease – Dennis- Allen was graduated from the Horace Mann State Normal School, Framingham, Mass., in 1858, later taught school in Framingham Public Schools 1859-60, and at Romeo, Michigan, 1860-63.

Was elected Dean of Ladies Department, Olivet College, Mich. 1864, on her marriage in 1874, went to Alpena, Mich., left there in 1874, spent three years in Allegan, Mich., and one in Flint. Spent four years in Detroit, Mich., and removed to Hannibal, Missouri.

In 1893 removed to Oberlin, Ohio, where in 1894 she was appointed Superintendent of the Tank Missionary Home, which position she resigned on June 1. 1908, and is now, 1911, living with Mr. Allen's son at Columbus, Ohio.

ILLUSTRATIONS IN ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT

IPSWICH. MASS.

Gravestone of Thomas Dennis.
“ “ Grace Dennis.
“ “ Lydia Dennis.
A Dennis Chair. Mrs. Willis Augur.
“ “ “ . Dr. Russell.
“ “ “ . Thomas Little. .
The Dennis House. Cor, County & Summer St. 1899.
Rear Do. Snow Scene. Feb. 1899.
County St. North from Summer St. 1908.
Dennis-Searle House. 1908.
Dennis Homestead. 1908.
Rear of Do. 1908.
Dennis Barn & Tool House 1908.
A Parker Chair. Mrs. Thomas Little.

HARWICH, MASS.

Congregational Church. 1882.

DENNIS. MASS.

The Manse. .
Church & School House.

GRAFTON, MASS.

Homestead of Rev. R. G. Dennis.

EAST FREEHOLD, N.J.

The Homestead of H.V.M. Dennis. Sr.

TOPSFIELD, MASS.

The Common.

Meeting House of 1769.

“ “ “ 1842.

Jacob Towne House. High St. Erected 1815.

“ “ “ “ “ “ “ .

Billy Emerson House.

“ “ “ .

The Academy. 80.

The Tannery, Boston St. Salem, Mass.

SOMERS, CONN.

Village Center.

Kibbe's Hotel.

Center looking North.

Mill Pond.

Collins Homestead.

Congregational Parsonage.

Parsonage Door Knocker.

Site of the 2nd Congregational Church, 1787.

Weather Vane of “ “ “ .

Vane on Barn of H. N. Wardwell.

The 3rd Congregational Church. 1842.

The South Windsor Congregational Church. 1761.

SOUTH WINDSOR, CONN.

Theological Institute of Connecticut. The Chapel.

“ “ “ “ . Dormitory & Class Rooms.

“ “ “ “ . Residence President Tyler.

PORTRAITS.

Rev. Rodney Gove Dennis.
Mary Parker.

Holland Newton Batcheller.
Mary Dennis.

Rev. Harry Finch.
Theodosia Dennis.

Jesse Appleton Dennis.
Catherine Van Mater.

Benjamin Heywood, Jr.
Jane Abigail Dennis.

Rodney Dennis.
Clara Strong.

Joseph Dennis.

Edward Parker Dennis..
Jessie Nichols Moore.

Isabella Holmes Dennis.

Daniel H. Van Mater.
Frances Louisa Dennis.

Rev. Abram Barker Allen.
Henrietta Pease Dennis.

Holmes V. M. Dennis, Sr.

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