

History proves meaningful

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veterans, a person might muse that peace did come to the Minutemen and the Tory in the end.

Hall's widow lived ten years longer, all their children were "well" married. It was not until the old parson's death that the second pastor was chosen. It was in May, 1770, the Rev. Matthew Scribner (of Yale) was voted in. He served ten years. His "settlement" was somewhat different. He was to get, plus a salary, "a suitable dwelling house, keeping for a horse and two cows, and twenty cords of wood yearly."

FEW INDIANS

It seems that the Indian population in this area was limited and widely scattered. Forge Pond (shared jointly by Westford and Littleton) was the rallying point of the tribes and it was to be regretted that the Indian name (not Malawanakee) was not preserved.

He records that Old Andrew, the Indian, sold his "warre" (weir) at the outlet before 1680. Later, the town paid for nursing and burying an Indian by the name of James Simonds.

Indian artifacts have been picked up in many places. Nabanussuck (Nabussuck) made good fishing as did Forge Pond where shad and alewives came up via Stony Brook to Spawn. After numerous dams were built along the brook, men were assigned to see that sluices were kept open in the spring so these fish could make the yearly trip.

Forge Pond was the northerly boundary of the old Nashoba Plantation, set aside for the Indians by Rev. John Elliot in 1654. There were no more than ten families, numbering perhaps fifty persons.

In a wooded dell, not far from the



AT GRAVESIDE OF REV. WILLARD HALL

... Westford's only Tory, pauses a modern Minuteman in Colonial costume, Allister F. MacDougall. Hall served the community 48 years and is buried among Revolutionary soldiers even though he never refuted his loyalty to King George III.

pond, is a small Indian cemetery. If there were ever any identifying marks or markers, Nature has long since destroyed them. However, the location was carefully identified as late as 1960 by George M. Brown of Littleton, whose grandparents lived in the old Captain Jeremiah Cogswell saltbox on Beaver Brook Road, and where he resided for many years. It is at the angle formed by two stone walls.

An outcropping of granite, on the hillside opposite the Captain Peletiah

Fletcher house, was possibly a camping ground where squaws would build their fires and grind corn in the "grinding mill" which was worn over the years to a depth of thirty inches.

INDUSTRY

THE EARLY Colonists were principally farmers, but gradually some industry appeared. Some types were powered by the waters of Stony Brook and its tributaries. From the headwaters at Forge Pond (first used in 1680) to the mouth

at the Merrimack River in North Chelmsford there were at least seven mill-sites, with a height of fall varying from eight to twenty-two feet.

In 1724, William Chandler established a fulling mill together with a grist mill, at Brookside. On this spot the business of dressing cloth was carried on for 140 years.

There was some brick-making done in Parkerville and Captain Jonathan Minot of Minuteman fame was one of the operators. Clay from the northern slope of Prospect Hill was turned into some pottery.

TOWN MEETINGS

THE town forever was forming committees to care for this or that. There were county as well as town roads to lay out and maintain. Whether they were tightening their belts didn't wish to make an alliance with other towns, in 1730 they voted down a new county road. This was to go from the meetinghouse on Tadmuck Hill "through part of Chelmsford, Billerica, Bedford, Lexington."

Later, they agreed to "Pay Capt. Jonas Prescott, Dea. John Comings and Thomas Read for time and money expended in going to Bedford to meet the Court's Comely."

Birds and squirrels were pests in their crops and a bounty was paid by the province. We read of "An account of the number of squirrels and Blackbirds killed in the town in the year 1741: The number gray and ground (chipmunks) squirrels is 4,762; The number of old blackbirds (crows?) is 403; The number of young blackbirds is 339." Wayne Hanley of the Massachusetts Audubon Society states that the blackbirds supposedly were red-wings and grackles.

The town did all right on this bounty bit. A year later the Province tax of

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