



WALLING HOUSE, 1750.

CHAPTER II.

SOME EARLY SETTLERS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

No certain date can be given for the arrival of the first settlers within the limits of Hardyston. Several cabins were built on the site of the village of Hamburg near 1749. Colonel Isaac Cary had already built his log house on the site of the present North Church, where his son Isaac Cary, Junior, was born, 1742. By 1750 there were enough Presbyterian families in the vicinity to hold religious meetings in their own dwellings.

JOSEPH WALLING, SR., came in very early. He owned a tract of land extending from the Wallkill, and the lands of the Sharps and the Lawrences, for nearly a mile east. He lived at first in a log house, but, about 1750, erected his frame dwelling. Some have called this the first frame house in Hamburg. At any

rate, it was superior to all that had preceded it, and standing on the State road, was for more than a century the central landmark of the village. The house was licensed as an inn, and on ancient maps the place is designated as "Wallings." It was consumed by fire in 1859 and the house of Richard E. Edsall now stands upon its site.

When General Washington, during the Revolutionary War, passed through from Newburg to Easton, he is said to have dined at the stone house of Colonel John Hathorn, this side of Warwick, to have spent the night in the Walling house, and the night following at New Town, where he was entertained by Thomas Anderson, assistant Quartermaster of the Continental army. The room is still shown in the Anderson house where he slept.

The story is rather mythical that Mrs. Washington accompanied him, and after breakfast walked in the garden of the Walling house and brought back a roll of blue carded wool which had blown out of the hall, remarking, "It was worth saving."

JOSEPH WALLING, JR., built what is commonly called the Samuel Riggs house, which is still standing. There he died at the age of twenty-four, leaving three children, Francis, Joseph and Polly. The land passed out of their hands. Francis, when grown, lived at Amity, but returned for one year to Hamburg and worked at the tanner's trade. They were ancestors of the Wallings now living among us.

Francis Inman, second son of Joseph Walling, Sr., removed to Montague, and the daughter went to Western New York.

SAMUEL FITZ RANDOLPH removed from Piscataway, near New Brunswick, and came into possession of the Walling tract. He married Elizabeth Hull and lived in the Walling house for a few years, and there his son Jephtha was born in 1780. Samuel died in his thirty-third year, and his tombstone is in Papakating grave yard. His widow married again and had children by her second husband. His son Jephtha, born in Hamburg, died near Beemer-ville in 1863. Jephtha's son, Samuel Fitz Randolph, owns the farm, formerly Colonel Cary's, at the North Church where he now resides. Reuben, son of Samuel, Sr., was Major of Militia during the late war with England. When a levy of Sussex troops

was sent to Sandy Hook, he was in failing health, and paid quite a sum for exemption money.

HENRY SIMPSON, who had previously removed from Long Island to Baskingridge, came here in 1750. His lands lay east of the Walling tract extending to McAfee Valley. His second wife was the Widow Elizabeth Cross, supposed to have been related to the family of the celebrated Rev. John Cross, of Baskingridge. She was a woman of some cultivation and an ardent Presbyterian. Henry Simpson's son, *Henry 2d*, married her daughter by her first husband. From these ancestors are descended most of the Simpsons of this vicinity. They lived at first in log houses, but after a while Henry 2d built the frame dwelling which was only recently taken down to make room for the new house of Ora Simpson.

Henry Simpson 3d, was born in this house 1757. He died in 1841, on the William Edsall farm below the mountain, where he lived. He married Marcy Pettit, who was born 1757, and died 1831. He was a Revolutionary soldier and is mentioned in N. J. Official Register, page 753. His son John, at the time of his enlistment, was too young to serve in the ranks, and was transferred as teamster to Captain Dunn's Team Brigade.

Mary, daughter of Henry 2d, was born at McAfee Valley 1760, and died at Rudeville, 1851. She married James, commonly called "Coby," Edsall, a Revolutionary soldier and pensioner.

ISAAC CARY, SR., lived in a log house which stood, as nearly as can be ascertained, on the site of the present North Church. At that time most of the region was an unbroken wilderness inhabited mainly by Indians. The date of his arrival is unknown, but his son Isaac was born here in 1742. He came into possession of at least two extensive tracts of land, one in the vicinity of his dwelling and the other above Upper Hamburg, or Hardystonville, as it is now frequently called. He took part, it is supposed, in the French and Indian war in 1757, and was said to have been an officer in the army of the Revolutionary war, although his name does not appear in the Official Register among the New Jersey troops. He was known as "Old Colonel Cary," designating his venerable years and his military rank. Every mention of him is

respectful, and we may regard him as a man of honor and piety. He was a leading man in Colonial times and exerted much influence. He was largely instrumental in the erection of the first North Church, which stood in the grave yard and always bore the name of "Cary's Meeting House."

As early as 1750, Presbyterians in the vicinity held religious meetings in their own homes. When the matter of building a house of worship was agitated, Colonel Cary insisted that it should be on the hill above his house, and carried his point. This statement was made by the late Judge Richard R. Morris. The date of the erection of the meeting house is unknown, but the oldest date upon the tombstones in the yard is 1774.

Colonel Cary's grave is unmarked by any stone, but is still pointed out by his descendants and is near the old brown headstone of his son.

ISAAC CARY, JR., was born in his father's log house on the site of the present North Church, February, 1742, and lived in the old house which stood on the corner of the road until taken down by J. B. Monnell. He married Eunice Beardslee, who was born in 1751, and who died in 1850, at the age of 98 years, at the house of Captain Goble, of Sparta, her son-in-law. Her recollection was very distinct of many occurrences of her youth. At the time of her birth her parents were living upon Hamburg Mountain. There were rumors of Indian troubles, and for security her father built a log house against the rocks, where a cave behind made a second room, in which she was born. This was near where the Gate House stood in later times.

The North Church lands of Isaac Cary, Jr., passed into the hands of the Beardslee family, and he removed to upper Hamburg and lived upon another tract of land inherited from his father, now constituting the Rude farms in that vicinity, and adjoining the property of Henry W. Couplin. He lived in the log house which stood on the opposite side of the road from Jonathan Dymock's house. He had two sons, John and Mahlon, and six daughters. Maria, married a Rude; Nancy, Captain Isaac Goble; Hannah, William Reeves, who built the Jonathan Dymock house, became a Methodist minister, and removed to Newark;

Polly married Henry Edsall, and, after his death, kept the mountain turnpike gate and was the mother of Benjamin H. Edsall; Phebe married William Osborne, a blacksmith, who changed the log house, after it came into his possession, into a blacksmith shop; Emiline married a Heminover. Isaac Cary, Jr., was a magistrate, and his headstone at the North Church reads, "Sacred to the memory of Isaac Cary, Esquire, who died January 18th, 1791, aged 48 years and 11 months."

CAPTAIN JOHN B. CARY, the eldest son of Isaac, Jr., was born at the North Church and lived for many years in Upper Hamburg, until he removed to Sparta township. He commanded one of the four companies of the Second Sussex Militia that went to Sandy Hook in 1812. After the war he was Captain for a time of the Hamburg Cavalry Company. He married Hannah Hammond, who died in 1888, aged 85 years, and is buried beside him in Sparta church yard.

The Hamburg Cavalry Company was composed of young men who owned their own horses and accoutrements. They wore the Continental uniform with leather helmets and long horse-hair, feathers. Some of their uniforms were in existence until recently and a sword or two is yet shown.

CHARLES BEARDSLEE, SR., was born in 1742 and died March 5th, 1803. He was said to have been a Revolutionary soldier, and was called "Colonel." His parents were living on the Hamburg Mountain in 1751, at the time of the birth of his sister Eunice. He lived with Colonel Cary at the North Church and is supposed to have married his daughter. He was twenty years of age at the time of the birth of his son, Charles, Jr. All the Cary tract of land finally came into the possession of his descendants. Part of the lands came to the Beardslees by inheritance, and through intermarriage, and other portions by purchase. The North Church tract, comprising fifteen hundred or more acres, is now divided into eight good sized farms. Upon it Charles Beardslee built several houses for himself and his sons.

CHARLES BEARDSLEE, JR., was born in 1762 and died in 1818. His wife was a Schofield. *Samuel Beardslee*, their son, was born in 1813, and died in 1863. He married Sarah Kimble, born in

1813, and died in 1877. They were the parents of *Samuel A. Beardslee*, who died in 1881, in his forty-first year.

GEORGE was Captain of a Company of Sussex 2d Regt., and took his company to Sandy Hook during the war of 1812. He lived in the stone house on the Lantz farm, which was commonly called the "Plains farm," and upon which were the Hemp meadow, the Potash works, and a brick kiln. He was a very active business man. He engaged in iron manufacture and ran a forge at Snufftown; but iron making did not prove profitable, and, his estate becoming involved, he sold out and removed in 1837, with all his family, to Michigan.

JOHN lived in the Samuel F. Randolph house, and kept a tavern. He married Susan Cary for his second wife. After his death she kept the public house for many years. His son Beverly lived in the old parsonage, now the sexton's house, built in 1788, and married Ann, daughter of Captain Christopher Longstreet. Beverly was drowned in Lake Grinnell while fishing. Edward, another son, lived on the Darrah place until he removed West. Sibella, a daughter, married Joseph Linn, who kept store at Monroe Corners. The sign painted on the house, "Monroe Store," gave name to the cross roads. Another daughter married one of the Wellings, of Warwick.

MORRISON lived on the farm owned by Judge Haines for many years, and now by Edward Case. He built the house and cleared the fields, which were then thickly covered with timber.

SAMUEL lived on the Peter Wilson farm and built the house. His wife was Hannah, daughter of Major Blain, of Orange county. Their daughter Abbey married Thomas L. Wilson.

JAMES lived in the old house yet standing near the Fowler homestead.

THOMAS was an elder in the North Church, and married Rachel, daughter of Ebenezer Tuttle. They were church members previous to the separation of Sparta and the North Church, in 1819. Their home was on the Demarest farm, east from Tuttle's Corner, in Lafayette township. They removed in 1831.

EBENEZER TUTTLE owned the Mark Congleton farm and lived in a house which was burned, near Monroe Corners. He

united with the church in 1820 and died in 1834. His son *Samuel* married Lydia, daughter of James Hopkins, and lived at the Big Spring on the farm his wife inherited, where he built the stone house. He sold the place to his brother-in-law, Jacob Kimble, and bought the Zebulon Sutton, now Rutherford farm, near Franklin Furnace. He was an Elder of the North Church from 1823 until his death in 1861. His wife died in 1868.

JAMES HAMILTON was born at sea. He was a young man, a carpenter in Philadelphia, during the Revolutionary war. After the capture of the city, in 1777, by the enemy, he was claimed as a British subject and taken forcibly to a man-of-war anchored in the river. One night he tied his clothes together and threw himself, with his bundle, into the water. The current was so swift that he lost his clothes and reached the shore naked, but he went into the town and climbed up by the window of his boarding house and reached his own room. In the morning when the woman, who had charge of the room, entered, she was surprised to find the bed occupied. He asked her to bring him a suit of his clothes and to say nothing about him. He escaped, and came to Orange Co. to a Mrs. Hinchman's house. A troop of tories and British came in pursuit of him. Mrs. Hinchman concealed him in a large barrel over which she spread flax, and then prepared a good dinner for the troopers, with plenty of cider, and they went away without discovering the fugitive prisoner. After the war, Hamilton worked at his trade, and, going to Frankford, met and married Sarah Price, daughter of Francis Price, and granddaughter of Robert, who was captured by the Indians. After the birth of his son Benjamin, he engaged to build a grist mill near the Delaware River. He built a log house in a lonely place which he had selected, but had no materials for window or door. Here he had to leave his wife and child for days while he went away to his work. She closed the entrance at night with her table and a bed quilt. She was frequently awakened in terror by the wolves which came prowling around the cabin, but they never broke the feeble barrier. James Hamilton built the Lawrence mansion, 1794. The eldest son, born in 1781, was named for an uncle, Benjamin, in Philadelphia, who sent money to pay for his school-

ing. He conducted many suits at law in Justices Courts, and became Brigadier General of Militia and had a prominent part at the general trainings, which were formerly held every year. He was a member of the Legislature, and for several years represented Sussex in the State Council. He died in 1864. His wife was Sally Edsall, who died in 1874, in the 95th year of her age. She was a woman of remarkable ability of mind and of attractive character. She retained her memory to the last, and we are indebted to her for much information respecting olden times.

COL. ROBERT HAMILTON, their son, was member of Congress ; and Major Fowler Hamilton, another son, showed great gallantry in the Mexican war, and died soon after in Texas, while on military service. Benjamin Hamilton, Jr., practiced law in Newton, was a member of the Legislature, and died in early manhood.

FRANCIS HAMILTON, another son of James, was named for his mother's father. He married the eldest daughter of Joseph Sharp, Jr., Nancy (or Anne), who was brought up by her grandmother, Grace Sharp, the Quakeress, who gave them a large sum of money to purchase the farm where they lived. This farm was purchased by Dr. Samuel Fowler, sometime previously, for \$8 per acre. Peter Fountain worked it for him for a number of years and never owned a horse during that time, using oxen. Dr. Fowler sold it for \$22 per acre ; and in more recent times it has been valued as high as \$120 per acre.

Esther Hamilton, daughter of James, married Colonel Joseph E. Edsall.

Thomas Hamilton, another son, lived in Hamburg and married Elizabeth Hoffman, (familiarily called Aunt Betsy), a woman noted for her kindness of heart and earnest piety.

MICHAEL RORICK was of Dutch descent. He was born April 10th, 1749, in Bergen County, and came to Franklin Furnace about 1765, in the employ of the men who built and ran the earliest forge there. He was then but seventeen years old, and drove an ox team for carting around the forge. By careful saving he gathered a little property, and some years later secured a tract of wild land, embracing several hundred acres, on the west bank of the Wallkill, above the forge. He lived at first in a log house, but

afterwards built the frame dwelling which stood an hundred years, and was burned after the construction of the N. Y., Susquehanna & Western Railroad, which ran beside it. The house was at that time occupied by his grandson, Samuel Losey, who inherits that portion of the homestead farm.

Michael Rorick, in 1774, married Lucretia Hardin, who was born in Massachusetts, February 21st, 1752. The region around their home was a vast forest, with the exception of the little clearing where there had been a small Indian settlement, and within which their house was erected. An old Indian trail crossed the Kill at what is still called "The Ford," where the water is shallow and runs with nearly a uniform depth over a pebbly bottom. It then passed along up the stream on the edge of the meadow and upland, very near where the road was formerly located. The trails were very narrow foot-paths, where the Indians walked in single file, one behind another; for it is said they never went two abreast, and so disturbed as little as possible the foliage along their foot-paths. Traces of the Indian occupation may still be seen in the fruit trees, some of which, planted by them, are yet, after all these years, standing and bearing in their season blossoms and fruit. The apples are of peculiar variety, the plums of the common red sort, while the cherries are of three kinds—red, yellow and black.

It was with difficulty Rorick could preserve his sheep from the attack of wolves which abounded in the country. To save his flock, he constructed caves in the side hill into which they were driven at night. One morning, at break of day, the cry of the wolves was heard just opposite the house, and one of the men ran out and fired at them. They fled to the kill and passed over it in two or three jumps, making the water fly and shaking themselves from the wet as soon as they were over, when they started for the mountain on the east side. A hunt was organized by several men, who saw nothing that day of the wolves, but killed a bear and several wild cats in Bear Swamp, then an almost impenetrable jungle on the mountain near the Losey pond. The passage way for wild beasts from the Wild Cat Mountain to the Munson mountain seemed to run very near the house, and frequently the cry of

the panther, as well as the howl of the wolf, was heard at night.

The Indians were occasional visitors for years after the settlement. A rock on the Wild Cat Mountain, whose top overhangs its base, was occasionally the halting place at night for their warriors and hunters. One day a warrior, decorated with red paint and naked to the waist, presented himself at the door with a demand for food. He said he would tell them where there was a lead mine if they would feed him. When his hunger was appeased, he said the mine was under a clump of trees in the bend of the river. No searching has ever yet been able to verify the saying of the Indian.

Michael and his wife were very exemplary in their lives and firm in their religious belief. Their four sons and six daughters, who survived childhood, were trained in the knowledge of the Scriptures and to follow their godly example. The parents were among the ten corporate members who formed the Franklin Baptist Church at its organization, December 11th, 1823.

When Michael died, October 28th, 1832, at the age of eighty-four years, and Lucretia, September 12th, 1834, aged eighty-two, they were buried in the grave yard of the Franklin Church. In March, 1832, Michael put all his property into the hands of two trustees, who were to furnish him and his wife a good, comfortable and ample support, and divide the remainder of the income among his heirs apparent, while he and his wife survived, and after their death, make equal division of all his estate among his children.

GARRET KEMBLE's grandfather came from Devonshire, England, with his wife and four sons. Three of the sons entered the Revolutionary army, two of them losing their lives during the war, and the survivor afterwards settling in Virginia. William, the youngest son, studied medicine and practiced in that part of Bergen County which is now Northern Passaic. He married Elizabeth Cole, of Holland descent, and lived at Oak Ridge. He had a large family of hardy children, but died himself in middle life.

Garret was born near Oak Ridge, September 4th, 1793. He came to Sussex County in 1812, in his nineteenth year, and enter-