

History and Genealogy of Town of Milton NH

---EARLY HISTORY OF TOWN OF MILTON, STRAFFORD COUNTY, NEW HAMPSHIRE---

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VARIOUS SOURCES LISTED BELOW

From: The Statistics & Gazetteer of New Hampshire, compiled by

Alonzo J. Fogg, Concord NH, D. L. Guernsey, 1875
page 259

MILTON, STRAFFORD COUNTY. This is an important town in point of manufactories. The surface is broken and affords general pasturage. The soil is generally good, and, when properly tilled, produces fair crops.

RIVERS. Salmon Falls River waters the eastern section of the town. A branch of this river passes through the northern part, and united with it at the eastern border of the town, near the center of the line. There is some valuable water power, a part of which is improved with valuable manufactories.

PONDS AND MOUNTAINS. Milton Pond lies at the foot of Teneriffe Mountain, a bold and rocky elevation which extends along the eastern part of the town.

EMPLOYMENTS. The employments of the inhabitants are nearly equally divided between farming on the one side and manufacturing and trading on the other. At Milton Mills there is considerable manufacturing--one manufactory annually producing over \$170,000 worth of flannels and blankets. There

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are also produced in other manufactories, 200,000 yards of felt cloth, 150,000 yards of embossing cloth, 20,000 printing or piano and table covers. Also carriages. At the South part there are made over \$100,000 worth of shoes, 15,000 clapboards, 325,000 shingles, 15,000 railroad splICES, 5,000 shooks, 475,000 feet of lumber; besides, there are carriage and other small mechanical shops. The total value of goods, of all kinds, annually manufactured in town is \$520,000.

RESOURCES. Productions of the soil, \$68,192; mechanical labor \$65,000; money at interest, \$5,250; deposits in savings banks, \$67,874; stocks in trade, \$21,193.

CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS. Congregational, Rev. F. Halley, pastor; FreeWill Baptist, Rev. John F. Joy, pastor; Christian, Rev. D. E. Goodwin, Milton Mills, Congregational, Rev. D. B. Scott, pastor; Baptist, Rev. Caleb F. Page, pastor. There are also Rev. J. S. Potter, FreeWill Baptist, and elder I. J. Tebbits, Methodist. There are thirteen schools in town, Average length of schools, for the year, seventeen weeks. Amount of money appropriated for school purposes \$1,645,85.

LITERARY INSTITUTION. Milton Classical Institute, Mr. J. H. Ham, principal.

HOTELS. Franklin House, At Milton Mills, Central House.

FIRST ORGANIZATION. Milton was formerly a part of Rochester, and was incorporated June 11, 1802.

BOUNDARIES. North-west by Middleton and Wakefield, east by Salmon Falls river, which separates it from Lebanon, Maine and south-west by Farmington and New Durham. Area, 25,000 acres; area of improved land, 8,517 acres.

DISTANCES. Forty miles north-east from Concord, and twenty north-west from Dover.

RAILROADS. The Portsmouth, Great Falls and Conway Railroad

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passes through this town, nearly north and south.

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From: History of Rockingham and Strafford counties, New
Hampshire : with biographical sketches of many of its pioneers
and prominent men - Hurd, D. Hamilton, Philadelphia 1882

EXCERPTS ONLY
(page 644)
<http://archive.org/stream/historyofrockingham00hurd#page/644/mode>

/2up
MILTON--This is the northeasterly town in Strafford County,
and is situated upon the Salmon Falls River, which forms its
entire easterly boundary and separates it from Acton and
Lebanon in the State of Maine. It is bounded southerly by
Rochester, westerly by Farmington, and northerly by Middleton
and Wakefield.

The west branch of the Lebanon Falls River also runs through
the town, making a junction with the east branch at the head
of Northeast Pond.

The town has a territorial extent of about eighteen thousand
acres. The surface is somewhat broken, but the soil is
generally good and well adapted to farming purposes. The
Teneriffe Mountain is a bold, rocky elevation, near the centre
of the town, affording excellent pasturage. The town is
abundantly watered, being traversed by numerous streams and
brooks beside those already named.

The three ponds from which the principal village takes its
name are a trio of beautiful ponds spread out at the base of
the mountain affording excellent boating and fishing, and are
a favorite resort of the disciples of the immortal Isaac.

The early history of this town is identified with that of
Rochester, it having formed a part of that town under the name
of the Third or Northeast Parish prior to June 11, 1802, at
which time it was incorporated into a separate town by
legislative enactment.

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On account of the destruction of the records by fire, it has been found somewhat difficult to determine just when, where or by whom the first permanent settlement was made in the town. It is, however, very certain that it was in the southern part of the town, and probably as early as 1760, or very near that time.

The writer is of opinion that Jonathan Twombly is entitled to the honor of making the first settlement near the Twombly Brook, and upon the farm now owned by Hon. Luther Hayes, and sometimes called the Bragdon farm, Samuel Bragdon having purchased the farm from a son of Mr. Twombly in about 1800. Mr. Twombly and his wife and some of their children were, no doubt, buried upon the farm. An ancient headstone records that Hannah Twombly died in February 1769. She was doubtless a daughter of Jonathan, and this is believed to be the oldest grave in Milton.

Richard Walker was also an early settler and a near neighbor of Mr. Twombly; probably there was very little difference in the time of their settlement. Mr. Walker died in 1813 at the age of seventy-seven years and he and his wife are buried very near their old neighbors. The date of Mr. Twombly's settlement is obtained from the birth of his daughter, Betsey, who afterwards married James C. Hayes Sr. She was born June 4, 1762 and is believed to have been the first white child born in town. [NOTE: This probably should be 1762].

John Twombly not supposed to be a near relative of Jonathan, made a settlement in what is now known as the Varney neighborhood in 1771 or 1772 and had for nearest neighbor one Jenkins, who lived upon the Goodwin hill at that time. The Christian name of Mr. Jenkins is not known, and so subsequent knowledge is had of him. Mr. Twombly very soon removed to and

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made a permanent settlement in the Lyman neighborhood, where

he and his good wife died at a ripe old age. Our respected townsman, Theodore C. Lyman, was an adopted son of this worthy couple, and always spoke of them with much affection.

The next settlement is believed to have been made upon Plumer's Ridge in 1772 or 1773 or very near that time and probably by Benjamin Scates. Beard Plumer and his brother Joseph, son of the Hon. John Plumer of Rochester, however were very early settlers and it has been sometimes questioned whether they were not the first in this locality. James C. Hayes, David Wallingford, William Palmer, Elijah Horn, Moses Chamberlain, and others, very soon followed and opened up settlements in this neighborhood. This was soon followed by quite a rush of settlers to the west side of town, Daniel Hayes, Caleb Wakeham, Enoch Varney, Samuel Nute, William Wentworth, William Tuttle, Ichabod Hayes, James Hayes, Ebenezer Coursan, and Stephen Meseron being among the first. Jeremiah Cook, Dudley Burnham, Jotham Nute, Otis Pinkham, Ephraim Plumer, John Twombly, James Varney, John Varney, William Mathes, and others coming soon after.

Early in the summer of 1776 Jonathan Twombly, could have been seen, with a pack well strapped upon his back, wending his way up the side of Teneriffe, to search out a home for his lady love, returning and bringing her to this wild region the next year. Stephen Wentworth very soon became a neighbor of the Twomblys.

It does not appear that any settlement was made east of the West Branch River prior to about 1785 or 1786, and among the earlier settlers there may be named among others, Reuben Jones, Paul Jewett, Amos Witham, the Berrys, the Millers, Ephraim Twombly, Paul Wentworth, Caleb Wingate, David Coursan, John McDuffee, and soon after Hatwell Nutter, Thomas Applabee,

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William Applebee, John Hart, John Remick Jr., Nathaniel Dearborn, Joseph Dearborn, and many others.

Among the first who settled at Three Ponds were Samuel Palmer, Levi Burgen, John Fish, Paul Jewett, Pelatiah Hanscom, Robert McGooch, and others.

Daniel Door and Jonathan Door settled at the head of the Pond quite early. The old tavern-house at Three Ponds burned a few years ago, was built by Robert McGooch in 1786 or 1787 and was perhaps the first tavern on town.

April 9, 1787 the town of Rochester "voted to raise a tax on the supposed first parish, to pay Rev. Joseph Haven his salary, and also voted to raise an equivalent tax on the out parts of the town, to be laid out by them as such time and place as they may agree." This was doubtless the origin of the different parishes which were afterwards established.

[additional information on the laying out of roads, dates and people involved may be found in the original document]

CORPORATE SEAL--Very soon after the organization of the town it was voted to use the letter M as a seal for the town of Milton. The first town meeting in Milton was called by William Palmer Esq. and held at the dwelling-house of Lieut. Elijah Horn (now the dwelling house of Lewis B. Twombly) on the 30th day of August 1802, at which meeting Beard Plumer was chosen moderator; Gilman Jewett town clerk; and William Palmer, John Fish, John Remick Jr. selectmen. [additional information on that first meeting, a list of officers of the town for 80 years is included in the original document]

History of Milton NH schools and library are also included in the original document, along with the history of its churches, including the First Congregational, the "First Christian Church," the Baptist Church, the Free-Will Baptist Church, the

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Methodist Church at Milton Mills, The Union Congregational
Church, the Acton and Milton Free-Will Baptist Church.

A large section of the original document is devoted to the
Temperance movement in Milton NH.

MILLS, MANUFACTURES. The first saw-mill was built by Samuel
Palmer at the Three Ponds village, and near where the present
dam is located. This was very early, probably about 1775 to
1780. Mr. Palmer subsequently built another saw-mill and a
grist-mill farther down stream, where the Varney mill was
afterwards located. This part of the town was known for many
years as "Palmer's Mill." very soon after this a saw-mill was
built at Milton Mills by a Mr. Nock. This mill soon went into
the hands of Paul Jewett, and was subsequently known as the
Jewett mill. This place was known for a long time as Shapleigh
Mills. Mills rapidly increased, so that in 1813 there were
not less than twelve mills of various kinds in town, viz.:
Lyman's saw- and grist-mills, owned by Theodore C. Layman and
others. Thomas Layton's wood-carding mill, Ira Fish's
fulling-mill, Isaac Wooster's grist-mill, owned by Isaac
Wooster and others. Paul Jewett's saw- and grist-mills,
Nathaniel Jewett's saw-mill, owned by Nathaniel Jewett and
others; Stephen Watson's saw-mill owned by Stephen Watson and
others, the lower saw-mill with various owners; Horn's saw-
and grist-mills, owned by Benjamin Horn. The last-named mills
were situated at the upper end of the town, on a narrow point
of land which has since been annexed to Wakefield. This
number was soon increased by the erection of Berry's mill,
Hayes' mill and others. Thomas Layton's factory was erected
in 1816 and was used as a woolen-mill until 1837, after which
Francis Looney used it for the manufacture of cotton for
fourteen years. It was subsequently burned.

The Milton Mills manufacturing company was organized in 1837,

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and in that and the following year built their mill, and after running it a few years transferred the business to Durgin & Co. In 1845-46 the whole property was bought by John Townsend, and was run successfully by him for several years. The mill was burned and rebuilt by Mr. Townsend, being considerable enlarged. It was soon after sold to Mudge, Sawyer & Co., and subsequently to the Waumbeck Company and has continued to do a very successful business. This company has a capital stock of \$100,000 and the mill has ten sets of woolen machinery. They employ 175 operatives, with a monthly pay roll of \$3200. They use about 240,000 pounds of wool and 160,000 pounds of cotton, 725 cords of wood and 500 tons of coal annually, and produce 396,000 yards of cloth and 27,550 pairs of blankets. The officers are J. D. Sturtevant, president Brookline, Mass; Francis Cabot, treasurer, Brookline, Mass; B. G. Adams, agent, Milton Mills, N. H.; F. H. Lowd, paymaster, Milton Mills, NH.

In 1844 a cotton factory was built at Three Ponds, and after running it a few months was burned in September 1845, the watchman, Mr. Caleb Varney perishing in the flames. This mill was soon rebuilt, but was never put in operation; it being subsequently taken down and carried away.

William Sargent succeeded Ira Fish in the fulling mill business in 1820 and carried on the business until 1825 when he was succeeded by John H. Varney, who, after some twenty-two years of successful business, sold out to Joshua Holland in 1847. Mr. Holland went into the manufacture of woolen goods, which business he carried on with success for some ten or twelve years. The mill was subsequently burned.

Edward Brierly established a block printing business at Milton Mills in 1850, and after a few years of successful business

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purchased a saw-mill and privilege on the site of the present
Brierly mill, where he soon began the manufacture of felt
goods. The rapid increase of his business soon compelled him
to make extensive additions, and in a short time he had
extensive mills upon both sides of the river, doing a very
remunerative business. In the summer of 1873 these mills were
entirely destroyed by fire, thus sweeping away in an hour the
accumulations of years of hard labor. Mr. Brierly soon began
the erection of the present mill but losing largely by the
insolvency of insurance companies, he became somewhat
embarrassed and was obliged to compromise with his creditors.
His health soon afterwards failing, he was unable to recover
his former position, and at his death, the property went into
other hands, and has never since been operated to its full
capacity.

In 1873 Henry H. Townsend & Co., erected a mill at the village
for the manufacture of felt goods and still continue the
business successfully. [additional history of this mill can
be found in the original document].

In 1880 The Great Falls Manufacturing Company built a large
mill at Three Ponds John E. Goodwin & Co. at West
Milton H. V. & Eli Wentworth carried on a large business
at South Milton [more on all of these in original document].
Lewis Plumer & Sons (lumber business)... Luther & C. H. Hayes
are doing a large milling, lumber and box business. Other
mills .. Eben Jones built a saw and grist mill... In 1863
George W. Wentworth built a large and expensive mill on the
Middleton River, at the foot of Teneriffe Mountain [more
in original document]

MILITARY RECORDS of Milton NH -- Enlistments for the war of
1812 [names only shown here but enlistment dates are in the

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original] Ephraim Wentworth, Thomas Backer, Samuel Nute,
Daniel Wentworth, John C. Varney, Ichabod Dodge, James
Bragdon, Ezekiel Nute, George Dow, Daniel Hayes Jr., James
Twombly, Henry Miller, James Goodwin, William Downs, John
Foss, Hapley Varney, Thomas Chapman, Amos Gerri sh, Webster
Miller, James Varney Jr., Ebenezer Adams, John I. Varney,
William Gerri sh, William Foss, William Burroughs, John D.
Remick, Norton Scates, James hayes, Dodi vah Dow, Richard
Plumer, Ambrose Tuttl er, Nathaniel Prukhem Jr., Isaac Hayes,
Aaron Twombly, John Mills, William Drew, James Merrow Jr.,
Phineas Wentworth, Bard Plumer, Andrew Dow, Dodi vah Plumer,
John Boice, Sergt. Pel atiah Hanscome, Corp. Joshua Jones,
Charles Ricker, Lieut. Hanson Hayes. Ephraim Wentworth

WAR OF THE REBELLION

A history of the Civil War and Milton NH along with those who
served in various regiments can be found in the original

document

<http://archive.org/stream/historyofrockingham00hurd#page/654/mode/2up>

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES [excerpts ONLY ... more can be found in
the original document]

<http://archive.org/stream/historyofrockingham00hurd#page/n1071/mode/2up>

LEWIS WORSTER NUTE, born in Milton NH Feb 17, 1820. His
grandfather was Samuel Nute of Dover NH, his father was
Ezekiel Nute, born at Milton NH Nov 30, 1794, who married
Dorcas Worster and had four children, Cyrus W. Nute, Lewis W.
Nute, Isaac F. Nute and Samuel F. Nute. Lewis Worster Nute
married 1 Aug 1845 to Priscilla Farrow of Cohasset MA.
Business man.

JOSEPH PLUMER, a descendant of Francis Plumer of England. Son
of Bard Plumer, b 1754 d 1816 who married -- Ham, she died in
1803. Their children were Jonathan Plumer, Enoch Plumer,

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Joseph Plumer, Betsey Plumer who m. Joshua G. Hall of
Wakefield, and Susan Plumer who m. Adam Brown of Wolfborough
NH. After his 1st wife's death, Bard Plumer m2) -- Page of
Dunbarton NH. Joseph Plumer, son of Bard Plumer was b. in
Rochester, now Milton NH 1786, a farmer on the original Plumer
homestead. He m. Sally brown of Hampton Falls, dau of Nathan
Brown. She was b. March 26, 1785. Their children were
Jonathan, Caroline (who m. David P. Wentworth of Ossipee),
Enoch W., Bard, Joseph and Sarah (wife of George A. Neal of
Wakefield). Joseph died 3 Jan 1826, his wife Sally died July
1877. JOSEPH PLUMER, son of Joseph and Sally (Brown) Plumer
was born in Milton NH on the homestead 11 March 1820; attended
Phillips Exeter Academy. He was one of the original
corporators of the Norway Plains Savings Bank. He m1) Adaline
F. Barker; m2) Hannah D. Clark. Some of their children, Moses
B. Plumer [remove to Colorado], and Joseph Jr who m. Carrie
Fall. // Enoch W. Plumer was b. Milton NH April 4, 1815, m.
Orianda Ayers. Children included John T, John E., Mary B. and
Bard B. [more Plumer genealogy in original document]

History of Strafford County, New Hampshire, and representative
citizens (1914), page 449
<http://archive.org/stream/historyofstraft00lcsal/page/508/mode/2up>

HISTORY OF MILTON [much of the history in this source is
similar to that of the previous source]

THE NUTE HIGH SCHOOL. Milton has had good schools from the
beginning, more than a century, but the best of its good
fortune was one of its loyal sons, Lewis Worster Nute, made
provision in his will for a first class high school and money
enough to make a handsome annual income to support first class
teachers to run it. Mr. Nute was born in Milton Feb 17, 1820.

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He was the son of Ezekiel and Dorcas (Worster) Nute, natives of Milton and grandson of Samuel Nute a native of Back River, Dover who settled in what is now Milton soon after the close of the Revolution. [more of his bio in original document].

Mr. Nute and his wife had no children. He died in 1888 and in his will gave to the town \$123,000 to establish a high school and an additional \$25,000 left in trust to a relative as long as she lived. She died a few years [later] and the school now has it. From the fund a first class school house was constructed and the remainder invested, the income used for support of the school.

(end)