

History and Genealogy of Town of New Durham NH

---EARLY HISTORY OF TOWN OF NEW DURHAM, 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

<http://archive.org/stream/statisticsandga00unkngoog#page/n310/>

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NEW DURHAM , STRAFFORD COUNTY--The surface is uneven and a portion rocky. The soil is moist and well adapted to grazing. Good crops of corn, oats and potatoes are produced.

PONDS AND RIVERS. There are five ponds and the largest of which, Merry Meeting Pond, is about ten miles in circumference. A never failing stream issues from it and discharges into Merry Meeting Bay in Alton. Ellis River flows from Col drain Pond into Farmington, and on it are some fine water privileges. The Cocheco River, also, has its source in this town.

MOUNTAINS. Mount Betty, Cripple-crown and Straw's Mountains are the principal eminences. On the north-easterly side of Straw's Mountain is a remarkable cave, the entrance to which is about three feet wide and ten feet high. The outer room is twenty feet square; the inner apartments become smaller,

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until, at the distance of fifty feet, they are too small to be investigated. The sides of these rooms are solid granite, and bear marks of having been once united. The south side of Rattlesnake hill is one hundred feet high and nearly perpendicular. Several other hills in this town contain precipices and cavities, some of considerable extent.

EMPLOYMENTS. Agriculture is the chief employment of the people, although there are some manufactories of importance. The Union Powder Works annually manufacture 49,000 gallons of acid, and 250 tons of Excelsior, valued at \$10,150. There are annually sawed 4,000 clapboards, 700,000 shingles and 1,500,000 feet of boards and timber, valued at \$22,500. There are several other small manufactories in town. 100,000 pairs of shoes are annually made. There is plenty of good water power un-improved.

RESOURCES. Annual agriculture productions, \$62,233; mechanical labor \$29,300; deposits in savings banks, \$40,013; money at interest \$800; stock in trade, \$14,000

SUMMER TOURISTS. The various natural curiosities in this town have caused some of the summer tourists to visit it. When the town is more fully known, no doubt it will become one of their summer resorts.

CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS. There are two churches, Freewill Baptist and Advents, and thirteen schools; average length of schools for the year, nine weeks.

FIRST SETTLERS. New Durham was granted to Ebenezer Smith and others in 1749. It was incorporated under its present name, Dec. 7, 1762.

FIRST MINISTER. Rev. Nathaniel Porter D.D. ordained in 1773, removed in 1777 (See Conway NH).

BOUNDARIES. North-west by Wolfeborough and Alton, east by Brookfield and Middleton, southeast by Farmington and west and

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south-west by Alton. Area, 23,625 acres.

DISTANCES. About thirty-five miles north-east from Concord, and twenty-two north-west from Dover.

RAILROAD. Dover and Wini pi seogoe Rai l road passes through the town.

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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 658)
<http://archive.org/stream/historyofrocking00hurd#page/658/mode>

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NEW DURHAM--

COL. Thomas TASH was a prominent pioneer of New Durham and erected the first grist- and saw-mill in the town. He served in the French and Indian war as captain and major, and as colonel in the war of the Revolution. He died aged eighty-seven.

ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY. Rev. Nathaniel Porter, a Congregationalist, was ordained in New Durham in 1775 and dismissed in 1777. He was succeeded by Elder Benjamin Randall, the patriarch of the Free-Will Baptist denomination. He organized the first Free-Will Baptist Church in America, in the house of Elder Joseph Boodey; the house is now standing. Elder Randall continued preaching, and traveled more or less, until at least he died of consumption, in 1808, aged sixty years. A plain marble shaft marks his resting-place in the family burying-ground of New Durham Ridge. Elder Joseph Boodey, a contemporary and co-worker with Elder Randall, lived and died in this town. He was born in 1773, commenced preaching in 1797, was ordained by Randall and others in 1799.

He traveled and preached extensively throughout the New

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England and Middle States. He died May 12, 1867 at the advanced age of ninety-four years, beloved and revered by all that knew him. He was an honored member of the Masonic fraternity about sixty years.

Elder Nathaniel Berry was a very worthy man, had charge of the Free-Will Baptist Church in this town nearly forty-years. He died Oct. 19, 1865, aged seventy-seven years.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES [with likenesses - ONLY EXCERPTS here, see original document for entire bio]

F. W. COBURN--Frank W. Coburn was 17 yrs old when he moved in 1851 with his father from Pelham NH to New Durham NH, when he apprenticed himself to his brother-in-law James H. Fletcher who was a manufacturer of edge tools. He later married Susan Willey, daughter of Alfred S. Willey of New Durham NH. He was in the shoe-knife business, creating the "F. W. C." Knife, which he shipped internationally. He had 3 children from his first wife--Charles Coburn, Frank W. Coburn Jr., and Alonzo G. Coburn. When his 1st wife died 28 Nov 1858, a year later he married her sister Mary J., and had additional children, Alma J. Coburn and Susan M. Coburn.

History of Strafford County, New Hampshire, and representative citizens (1914), page 449
<http://archive.org/stream/historyofstraffo00lcscl/page/434/mode/2up>

HISTORY OF NEW DURHAM

NEW DURHAM was granted by the Masonian Proprietors May 5, 1749 to Jonathan Chesley, Ebenezer Smith and other citizens of Durham, at first it was called Cochecho Township; later the proprietors named it New Durham, for their old town, as so many of their people went there to settle they preferred the home name, and by the name it was incorporated by the

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Provincial Assembly, Dec. 7, 1762.

On a document dated 11 April 1749 the following residents requested petitioned for a tract of land. Numbered from one to eighty: Jonathan Chesley, Ebenezer Smith, James Drisco, Joseph Duda Jr., Joseph Wheeler, Benjamin Jackson, William Bruce, Thomas Young (of Newmarket), John Cromel, Benjamin Methes, Thomas Tush, Samuel Wille(y), Samuel Stevens, James Thompson, Jeremiah Drisco, Peter Moo, Job Runels Jr., Walter Bryent, Jonathan Durgin, Abednego Lethers, Jeremiah Barnum Jr., Joseph Hall (of Newmarket) Joseph smith (of Newmarket), Philip Cromet, John Andras, Benjamin Smith, Simon Rendel, Robert Burman, Robert Kent, John Beckford, Joseph Barnum, Samuel Adams, John Edgerly, Abraham Bennick Jr., Thomas Langley, Ebenezer Jones, Eliphel et Daniels, John Footman, Thomas Stevens Jr., Valentine Mathes, Ichabod Chesley, Thomas Chesley, Jonathan Chesley Jr., Abraham Stevenson, Francis Drew, John Johnson, Nathaniel Frost, Joseph Smith Jr., Abraham Mathes, Eleazer Bickford, Benjamin Bennick, John Mason, William Weeks (of Greenland) Lemuel Chesley, Joseph Si as, Samuel Chesley, thomas Wille Jr., Miles Randel, Samuel Si as, Solomon Seas, Treworthy Durgin, John Burman, Joseph Chesley, Daniel Rogers, Samuel Smith Jr., John Bennick, John Elliot, Benj. Jenkins, David Davis, Winthrop Burnum, Ichabod Denbo, John Wille Jr., James Smith, Jeremiah Barnum, Joseph Thomas, Stephen Jones Jr., Wm. Jackson Jr., Philip Chesley, John Durgin, Francis Durgin, Benmore Duda, Nicholas Duda, Joseph Jones, Thomas Chesley Jr., Joseph Drew, John Drew, John Adams, Minister Thomas York, William Durgin, Theodore Wille, John Beckford Jr., Valentine Hill, Richard Denbo, Caleb Wakham Hr., Joseph Weeks (of Greenland) and Joseph Bickford.

Description of census of 1790 and information about some of the families mentioned in the original document.

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In 1770 Timothy Murray and Shadrach Allard made an inventory of the families, houses, improved grounds and fell trees in New Durham; following are the heads of families: Ebenezer Dow, Edward and Wm. Peavey, John Bennick, Rob Boody, Nick Glidden, Benj. Bickford, John Glidden, Zeb Glidden, Nathaniel Kenniston, Jonathan Buzzell, Zach Boody, Jeremy Dow, Joseph Libbey, Eben Bickford, James Berry, David Allard, Benj. Mathes, Joseph Doe, John Collome, John Doe, Marriam Berry, Benj. Mooney, James Palmer, Jeremiah Taylor, Henry Allard, James Stillson, Timo Murray, Sidney Allard, Enj. Berry, John Rogers, Theo. Atkinson, Timo Davis, John Allard, Paul March. They reported 37 houses in the town; 302 acres of improved ground. They stated that the meeting house was enclosed, shingled and under floor laid. It was underpinned and the window frames in "and no more finished towards it." There were two small saw mills in running order, one had recently been burnt down. A sworn statement was made Jan. 4, 1770 before John Plummer, justice of the peace that the report was correct.... [more info in original document].

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