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Part Two of Gazetteer:

DOVER - a considerable township in Strafford county, situated at the head of the tide on Cochecho. It was incorporated in 1633, and in 1810 it contained 2, 228 inhabitants. It is bounded N.E.. by Somersworth, S.E. by Piscataqua river, S.W. by Madbury, and N.W. by Rochester and a corner of Barrington; it comprises 15,112 acres. Cochecho river flows through the whole length of this town, and Bellamy bank through its S.E. extremity. A turnpike road passes from the compact part of this town through Somersworth to Berwick in Maine.

The Indians called this place Winichahanat and Cochecho and the first settlers named it Northam. Its public buildings consist of two houses for public worship, one for Congregationalist and one for Quakers, a court house, printing office, a gaol, and a bank, which was incorporated in 1803. There is a handsome village, containing about 70 houses, 18 stores, several offices, and mechanic shops. A packet boat, while the river is open, passes from this town to Portsmouth, every day except Sundays. Dover contains 3 grain mills, 2 sawmills, 2 mills for dressing cloth, 2 carding machines, an oil mill, and a woolen factory. The Revs. John Reyner, John Pike, Nicholas Seaver, Jonathan Cushing, Jeremiah Belknap have successively been the ministers of this place. The Rev. J.W. Clary is their present pastor.

Edward and William Hilton came over from London and commenced the settlement of this township in 1623. In 1630, they obtained a patent from the council at Plymouth conveying to them that place on the Piscataqua, known by the name of Hilton's point, together with a tract 3 miles wide extending up the S. side of the river as far as Swamscot falls (now Exeter.) Within this tract are now comprised the towns of Dover, Durham, Stratham, a part of Newington and Greenland. In 1633, that beautiful neck of land (now Dover) was surveyed and incorporated. A meeting house was at the same time erected there and surrounded with intrenchments, the traces of which are still visible.

In the year 1675, immediately after the invasion of Durham, a large body of the eastern Indians negotiated a peace with Maj. Waldron at Dover, but, as the war had not ceased in the south, many of the Indians from that quarter mingled with their brethren of the east, and under the false appearances of friendship contrived to sow the seeds of fresh hostilities. In a short time captains Joseph Syll and William Hawthorne were ordered to march eastward in pursuit of these insidious enemies. On their march they arrived at Dover on the 6th of September, 1676, where they found 400 Indians assembled at the house of Maj. Waldron, most of whom were of the peace party and who regarded him as a benefactor and friend. The two captains would have attacked this body immediately, having orders to seize all Indians who had joined in the war. Maj. Waldron dissuaded them from this, and planned the following stratagem. He proposed to the whole Indian party a training and sham fight after the English custom. He then formed another party consisted of his own men and those under Capt. Frost of Kittery. Having diverted the Indians a short time and permitted them to fire the first volley, he made a dexterous movement and before they could understand his intentions surrounded their whole body, seized and disarmed them without shedding blood on either side. They were immediately separated. Wonolancet, with the Penacook tribe who had made peace the preceding winter, were amicably dismissed, but the strange Indians (as they were called,) to the number of 200 were secured and sent to Boston. Seven or eight of them who had been guilty of former murders were hanged and the rest were sold as slaves in foreign parts. The Indians who were discharged by Waldron, regarded his conduct as a breach of faith and swore against him eternal and implacable revenge.

In 1689, after a lapse of 13 years since Waldron's stratagem, during which time the 400 Indians who were dismissed had not suffered their rage

against him to cool, and many of those, who had been sold into slavery, having escaped and returned home with a burning thirst for revenge, entered into a confederacy to surprise the major and his neighbors, with whom the former party had been living on terms of peace and friendship.

In that part of Dover situated near the first falls in the river Cochecho, there were five garrisoned houses, Waldron's, Otis', and Heard's, the two others (Coffin's and his sons) were on the south side of the river. These houses were surrounded with timber walls, the gates of which as well as the doors of the houses were secured with bolts and bars. The Indians, as they passed through the town, trading with the inhabitants, scrutinized with attention those wooden fortifications. Some intimations of mischievous plots had been given by certain squaws, but in such an ambiguous manner as not to be comprehended. Many of Waldron's men had early apprehensions, but he laughed at their fears and told them to "plant their pumpkins and he would take care of the Indians." The very evening before the alarm he was informed by a young man, that the town was full of Indians and the people very uneasy, but he answered, "that the Indians behaved very well and that there was no danger."

The plot which was concerted was, that two squaws should go to each of the garrisoned houses and ask leave to lodge by the fire, and that in the night, when all the men were asleep, they should open the doors and gates and give the signal by a whistle, upon which the strange Indians, who were within hearing were to rush in and gratify their long mediated revenge.

The plan having been thus arranged, on the evening of the 27th of June two squaws applied to each of the garrisons for lodging, as was not unusual in time of peace, and they were admitted to all but young Coffin's house. They were taught by their own request how to open the doors in case they should wish to go out during the night. Mesandowit was then in Waldron's garrison and hospitably entertained there as he had often been before. The squaws told the major that a number of Indians were coming to trade with him the next day; and Mesandowit, while at supper, in his usual familiar manner said, "Brother Waldron what should you do, if the strange Indians should come." The major carelessly replied that he would assemble one hundred men by the motion of his hand. In this unsuspecting confidence the family retired to rest.

In the stillness of midnight the gates were opened and the signal was given. The Indians immediately entered, stationed a guard at Waldron's door and rushed into his apartment, which was one of the inner rooms. Awakened by the tumult the major sprang from his bed, and though now burdened with the weight of 80 years he retained so much of his youthful vigor as to drive them with his sword through two or three doors. But as he was returning for his other arms, they leveled him with a blow from behind which left him senseless. Having dragged him into his hall, they placed him in an elbow chair upon a long table, and insultingly asked him, "who shall be the judge of Indians now." They then compelled the people in the house to provide them food, and when they had finished their repast they cruelly inflicted gashes on different parts of Waldron's body, saying, "we thus cross out our account;" till at last exhausted with loss of blood he was falling from the table, when one of the Indians, holding his own sword under him, in this manner relieved him from his sufferings.

They also put to death his son in law Abraham Lee, but made captive his daughter and several others, and then having plundered the house set it on fire. Otis' Garrison, which was next to Waldron's, met the same fate. Otis himself with several others were put to death, and his wife and children were taken prisoners. Heard's garrison was saved by the barking of a dog at the moment the Indians were entering. Elder Wentworth was awakened by the noise. He repelled those who first entered, and falling upon his back, he kept the door closed with his feet, till he had given the alarm. Two balls were fired through the door, but missed him. Coffin's house was also attacked, but as the Indians had no particular enmity against him they spared him and his family and contented themselves with pillage. Having found a bag of money they compelled him to throw it in handfuls on the floor, while they amused themselves in a scramble for it. They then proceeded to the house of his son who had refused to admit the squaws, and promising him quarter they summoned him to surrender. He withstood their offers and

resolved to defend his house, but the Indians brought forward his father and threatened to put him to death. Filial affection overwhelmed his courage and he surrendered. They put both families into a deserted house, intending to make prisoners of them, but they all escaped while the Indians were engaged in their work of plunder.

In this affair 23 people were killed and 29 made captive. Five or six dwelling houses together with the mills were burned, and so rapid were the Indians in their operations, that they escaped with their prisoners and booty before the people could collect from the town to oppose them; as they passed by Heard's garrison in their retreat, they fired upon it, but the people within having resolved to defend it, and the enemy being in haste it was saved. The preservation of its owner was still more remarkable. Elizabeth Heard with her three sons and a daughter and several other persons were returning in the night from Portsmouth. They passed up the river in their boats unperceived by the Indians who then had possession of the garrisons. Apprehending danger from some noise, which they heard, they landed and bent their steps to Waldron's garrison, where they observed lights, which they supposed were held out to those who were seeking refuge. They knocked and entreated admission, but no answer being given, one of the party ascended the wall, and to his astonishment and alarm, saw an Indian stationed with his gun at the door of the house. Mrs. Heard in the agony of fright lost all power to escape, but she implored her children to fly and save themselves, they left her with heavy hearts. She soon recovered herself and crept into some bushes and there lay concealed till day light, at which time she perceived an Indian approaching toward her with a pistol in his hand, who looked in her face and went away. He immediately returned and looked at her again. She then spoke to him, but without making any answer, he went off and she saw no more of him. She continued in her concealment till the conflagration was over and the Indians were gone. She then went to her house and found it safe. This wonderful preservation of Mrs. Heard was remarkable display of the power of gratitude in an Indian. At the time of Waldron's stratagem in 1675, a young Indian escaped and took refuge in her house. In return for her kindness in concealing him he promised that he would never in any future war, injure her or any of her family. This Indian was known to be the one who found her concealed on this eventful night.

On the 25th of January, 1691, a young man in the woods near Dover was fired upon by a party of Indians. Lieut. Wilson immediately assembled a body of 18 men and went in pursuit of the aggressors. He succeeded in his search and killed or wounded the whole party except one. This caused a temporary terror among the Indians, but its effects soon ceased. On the 26th of July, 1696, the people of Dover were attacked as they were returning from public worship. Three of them were killed and three carried to Penobscot, who afterwards escaped and returned home. In August 1704, a man by the name of Giles was killed, and the people were again waylaid on their return from meeting. In 1706 William Pearl and Nathaniel Tibbets were killed, and in 1710, Jacob Garland met the same fate.

In the spring of 1711, this town was again attacked by the Indians, and several people as they were returning from meeting fell into an ambush. John Horn was wounded and Humphrey Fass was taken prisoner; but by the resolute courage of Lieut. Heard he was recovered from the hands of the enemy. In April, 1712, ensign Tuttle was killed, and in the July following an ambush was discovered, but the enemy escaped. While the people were absent in pursuit of them, two children of John Waldron's were taken and were cruelly put to death. Although there was no man at the time in Heard's garrison, a woman who was stationed as guard called for help with such a resolute and commanding voice that the Indians supposed the men were near and they therefore departed without doing farther mischief.

On the 29th of August, 1723, the Indians again made their appearance at Dover, where they surprised the house of Joseph Ham, whom they put to death and three of whose children they carried off.

In May, 1724, a party of 13 Mohawks marked the house of a Quaker by the name of Hanson for plunder, and they lay several days in ambush waiting for the favorable moment of attack. Wile Hanson with his eldest daughter were absent at a Quaker meeting and his two eldest sons were working in a distant field, the Indians entered his house, killed and scalped two small

children, and made captive his wife, her infant and its nurse, two daughters and a son. The next spring Hanson redeemed his wife, the three young children and the nurse, but could not obtain his daughter, although he was permitted to visit her. He made a second attempt in 1727, but died at Crown Point on his journey to Canada. The girl afterwards married a Frenchman and never returned.

In September, 1725, while the people were absent at work in a neighboring field, a party of Indians concealed themselves in a barn in preparation for an attack. Two women passed by the barn at that moment, and had just arrived at the garrison, when the Indians commenced firing. They killed two men of the name of Evans and wounded another slightly in his breast. The Indians, supposing from the copiousness of his bleeding that he was dead, proceeded to strip and scalp him. He bore this operation without betraying any signs of life, and thus he continued the appearance of death while they struck him many blows with their guns and departed, supposing that they had dispatched him. He then arose and walked back naked and bleeding to the garrison. Fainting with his wounds, he dropped at the feet of one of his friends who met him and who carried him to his house. He recovered and lived fifty years afterwards. The Indians also at that time carried off to Canada a lad of the name of Evans, who was afterwards redeemed.

A female of the name of Christina, who was born at Dover in the year 1688, was carried captive with her mother to Canada soon after the destruction of Dover by the Indians. In Canada she was educated in the Roman Catholic faith, and she was there married. Upon the death of her husband she became very anxious to revisit the land of her nativity, and an exchange of prisoners taking place in 1714, she returned and married Capt. Thomas Baker, then of Northampton. She renounced the Catholic religion and removed to Dover, where she lived a bright example of Piety, and died on the 23d of February 1773. The number of her posterity of three generations was 72, of whom 57 survived her.

On the 25th of June, 1773, died the Hon. George Guage in the 72d year of his age. Having distinguished himself as a philanthropist and patriot in the most important public stations, he received the highest honors in the gift of his country. He was several times a member of the general assembly of the province, and a colonel of the 2d regiment of militia, which was particularly exposed during the war. On the establishment of the county of Strafford, he was appointed the first judge of probate a few months before his death.

In May, 1770 died friend Joseph Estes in the 74th year of his age, who for a period of 40 years was a public speaker in the Quaker meetings at Dover and elsewhere. He was universally respected and lamented.

In 1772, died Howard Henderson at the advanced age of more than 100 years. He was present at the capture of Gibraltar from the Spaniards in 1704. The annual average number of deaths in this town from 1767 to 1815, has been 19. The largest number was 50 and the smallest 8. During the above period thirty died between the ages of 70 and 80, six between the ages of 90 and 100, and one over 100.

Submitted by T.C. Parziale 5/30/00

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