

A HISTORY
OF THE
TOWN OF SAVOY.

BY REV. DAVID D. FIELD.

IN 1770 or 71, the General Court granted to Col. William Bullock of Rehoboth, agent for the heirs of Capt. Samuel Gallop and Company, a township of land six miles square, in consideration of the services and sufferings of said Gallup and company in an expedition into Canada, about the year 1690, in what was called King William's war. It appears that a previous resolve for rewarding them, had not been carried into execution. Col. Bullock was authorized to locate this township in any unappropriated lands then belonging to Massachusetts. Bernardston's grant, comprising the western and greater part of Florida, had been before located. Col. Bullock located his grant to the south-east, and north of Bernardston's grant. The largest portion lies within the limits of Savoy; other portions lie in Florida, Munroe and Clarksburg. The portion in Savoy, with some other lands, was incorporated, with the inhabitants thereon, as a town, Feb. 20, 1797.

In the act of incorporation, the boundary is described as follows, viz. "Beginning in the south-west corner of Hawley [in the county of Franklin.] and running north 18 deg. east 2050 rods to *Cold river*, (so called); thence [westward] on the line of the channel of the said river 1245 rods, to the line of *Bernardston's grant*; thence on said line north 32 deg. west 730 rods to the line of *Adams*; thence on the said line south 10 deg. west 1060 rods, thence north 50 deg. west 240 rods

to the line of *Cheshire*; thence on said line south 3 deg. east 446 rods to a staddle and stones; thence south 47 deg. west 330 rods to the line of *Windsor*; thence south 72 deg. east 1723 rods to the first mentioned boundary.

It is a mountain township, and very considerable portions of it are too broken for cultivation. The best lands are said to be in the east and north parts. The inhabitants are very generally farmers, who raise stock and keep considerable dairies.

The first family settled in this town in Sept. 1777; and within the compass of ten years from that time, 35 families settled in it, viz. the families of Lemuel Hatheway, Daniel Wetherel, William Wilbore, Joseph Williams, Joseph Williams, Jun., William Williams, Thomas Williams, Loved Eddy, and Zechariah Padelford, from Taunton; of John Bourn, Joseph Bishop, Comfort Bates, Abial Dunham, Michael Sweet, and David Matthews, from Attleborough; of Simeon Hodges and Snellem Babbit, from Norton; Peleg Hatheway, Nathan Shearman, and William Reed, from Middleborough; of Peter Bennet and Eliezur Edson, immediately from Pelham, but previously from Middleborough; of William Ingraham from Rehoboth; of Joshua Felt from Easton; of James Nelson from Brimfield; of Nathan Haskins from Shutesbury, previously from Berkley; of Samuel Rogers and William Tolman from Sharon; of William Bowen from Warren, R. I.; of Samuel Read, Shubael Fuller, Azariah Heath, Joseph Putney, a man by the name of Murphy, and another by the name of Hamlin, from some part of Connecticut.

There are now 160 families in the town, and 145 dwelling-houses; 2 stores, 2 taverns, 1 grist-mill and 6 saw-mills, 1 clothier's works, and a triphammer.

The most compact settlement is in the south part, on the road leading from Cheshire and Adams to Plainfield, &c., at the confluence of the two streams which constitute the head waters of Westfield river. This is sometimes called Savoy Village, but more commonly Savoy Hollow.

Public worship was early established. Most of the people are Baptists, though there are some Methodists and some Congregationalists. The present mem-

bers of the Congregational society, called the First Congregational Society of Savoy, live almost wholly within the bounds of Windsor.

The Baptist church was organized June 21, 1787, consisting of 10 members. It had in May last, 101.

The Baptists built their meeting-house, half a mile north of the Hollow, in 1804.

The first minister settled over the church was Elder Nathan Haskins. He was ordained in 1789, and died in 1802, aged 53, having sustained the reputation of a pious and good man. He was a native of Shutesbury.

Elder Philip Pierce, a native of Rehoboth, succeeded Mr. Haskins in 1807, and was dismissed in 1817. He now lives in Dighton.

Elder David Woodbury succeeded Mr. Pierce in March, 1821, and left town in July, 1824. He is a native of Templeton, and now resides in Pomfret, N. Y.

Elder Benjamin F. Remington, the present pastor, was ordained, Feb. 9, 1825.

In the grant to Col. Bullock, it was ordered by the Legislature that three rights should be reserved in the township, containing 330 acres each, for the following uses, viz: one as a donation to the first settled minister, one for the use of the ministry forever, and one for the use of schools. The first right was given to Elder Haskins. The right reserved for schools was sold in June, 1821, agreeably to an act of the Legislature passed the preceding February, for \$697, leaving after deducting the expense of sale, &c., \$655 26; which was divided out to the towns, comprising part of Bullock's grant, in the following manner, viz: to Savoy, \$404 93; to Florida, \$70 83; to Munroe, \$71 14; and to Clarksburg, \$103 31. The ministerial right, by an act of the Legislature passed in 1826, was also sold for \$1131, leaving after deducting expenses, \$1079 39; which was divided out to these towns on the same scale, viz: to Savoy, \$667 03; to Florida, \$116 75; to Munroe, \$117 19; and to Clarksburg, \$173 41. The Legislature gave permission that also this might be applied for the use of schools. The school fund, therefore, now belonging to this town is \$1671 96. There are 8 schools, and about \$264, including the interest on the fund, is annually granted for the instruction of children.