

**THE FOUNDERS OF THE FIRST PARISH,
DOVER, MASSACHUSETTS, WITH
DESCRIPTIONS OF ALL THE HOUSES
NOW STANDING WHICH WERE BUILT
BEFORE THE REVOLUTION**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649010493

The founders of the First parish, Dover, Massachusetts, with descriptions of all the houses now standing which were built before the revolution by Frank Smith

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

FRANK SMITH

**THE FOUNDERS OF THE FIRST PARISH,
DOVER, MASSACHUSETTS, WITH
DESCRIPTIONS OF ALL THE HOUSES
NOW STANDING WHICH WERE BUILT
BEFORE THE REVOLUTION**



GOVERNOR WILLIAM SHIRLEY, UNDER WHOSE ADMINISTRATION THE
FIRST PARISH WAS INCORPORATED.

THE FOUNDERS
of the
THE FIRST PARISH

DOVER, MASSACHUSETTS

With Descriptions of All the Houses Now
Standing which were Built Before
the Revolution

By **FRANK SMITH**
Author of the *History of Dover*

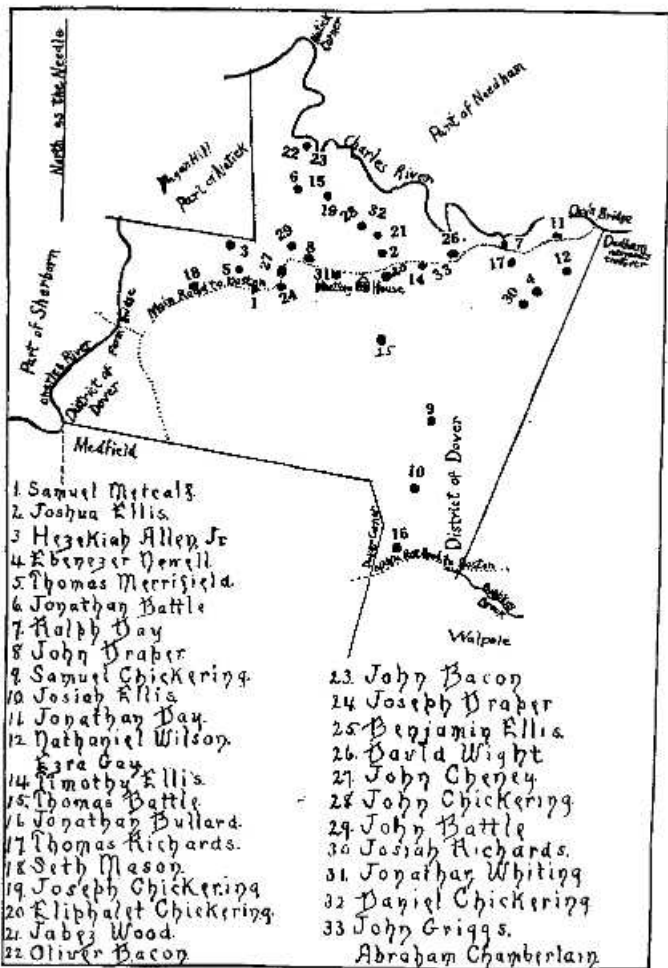
Printed by the First Parish

1908

F
74
D74
565

56*142

13-29265



REPRODUCTION OF THE MAP OF 1794, ON WHICH ARE LOCATED THE HOMES OF THE FOUNDERS OF THE FIRST PARISH.

The Founders of the First Parish

THE founders of the Dover First Parish¹ were a company of men who were descended from those who were identified with the beginnings of American history,² and who resisted what they believed to be tyranny in church and state. For this cause they crossed stormy seas and established a government here in accordance with constitutional liberty. The influence of a church covering more than a century and a half of active service cannot be measured, cannot be weighed. It is a silent influence which has left its imprint on the life of the inhabitants, instructing the children, training the youth, enriching the lives of the people, and withal making the town a better place in which to dwell.

"The task of keeping and preserving our institutions," said the Hon. George F. Hoar, "sometimes seems to me even harder than that of establishing them. What the future may have in store for our children we do not know. What luxury may tempt them, what irreligion or superstition may assail them, what new races may overflow them, we cannot tell. But I believe that the institutions our ancestors planted are to abide. Puritan faith, Saxon reverence for law, New England love of liberty, will leaven the whole lump. The church and the school and the town, which in their simplicity have outlasted so many thrones and kingdoms, will continue."

The history of the church is the early history of the town.

¹This parish was established November 18, 1748, having been previously for nearly twenty years a precinct in Dedham. While a precinct the residents were assigned by the General Court to the churches in Medfield, Natick, and Needham, where they worshipped and paid their ministerial tax. The first meeting-house was raised August 30, 1750, and dedicated in December, 1754, although not fully completed before 1760. The church connected with the parish was organized on Sunday, November 7, 1762.

²While the descent of Jabez Wood and John Griggs has not been traced, for lack of data, yet there is no reason to doubt that they too were of Puritan ancestry.

THE FOUNDERS OF THE FIRST PARISH.

On the earliest plan that has come down to us, that made in 1794, the "meeting house," as the accompanying map shows, was the only building designated. This building was the centre of all activities.

In the years to come many persons will visit this parish to see where their ancestors, the founders of the following American families, set up their homes, namely: Henry Wilson, James Draper, Andrew Dewing, Thomas Battle, and Nathaniel Chickering, all of whom had original settlements within the present bounds of Dover. This little book will enable all such, as well as the descendants of the founders of the parish, to locate the early homes of their ancestors.

SAMUEL METCALF, who headed the petition made to the General Court March 30, 1748, asking for the incorporation of what is now the First Parish of Dover, was born in Medway, Jan. 31, 1714-15. He was a son of Samuel and Mehitable Metcalf, and was descended in the fifth generation from Michael Metcalf, a dornick weaver who fled to this country from persecution, and was admitted to the Dedham settlement in 1637. Samuel Metcalf settled the estate on Farm Street now owned by Benjamin C. Dorr, in 1742. He was a prominent citizen, a member of the first board of precinct officers, and one of the committee appointed in 1749 to build the first meeting-house. He had a wife Sybil. Children: Samuel, Nathan, Lois, Mary, Sybil, Mehitable, Olive, Bulah. The date of his death is unrecorded; administration was granted on his estate in 1772.

JOSHUA ELLIS was born Dec. 31, 1703, on the Ellis homestead on Haven Street, in a house which stood on the north side of the street, (Wotton farm), the site of which can still be seen. He was the son of Eleazer and Mehitable (Thurston) Ellis, and was descended in the fourth generation from Samuel Ellis, who emigrated to America about 1635. Joshua Ellis had land from his father's estate and built a house on the farm of the late Mrs. Cordelia Wotton on Haven Street in 1732. He was a deacon in the Needham First Parish Church, and a prominent man in the Dover parish; being a member of the first precinct committee and moderator and clerk of the first parish meeting. He donated in 1763 land for the First Parish schoolhouse, which was located on the present grounds of the First Parish near the railway station. He was for several winters the master of the Springfield Par-