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4th Generation

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(New England Hist. Gen. Register, Vol. 80, page , for July 1926);

Inscriptions on Meeting House Hill, Rochester, New Hampshire:

(Tablet)

Original site of the First Church Congregational Rochester 1731

Placed by Mary Torr Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution,

1915.

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Family of Capt. Benjamin and Abigail Tibbets
of Lebanon, Maine.

Capt. Benjamin⁴ Tibbets (Henry³ (No.), Jeremiah,² Henry¹), of Lebanon, Maine, was born at Dover Neck, New Hampshire 31 Oct. 1700; died at Lebanon after 30 June 1761 and before 1769. He was the eldest child of Henry³ Tibbets and his first wife Joyce Otis (their surname spelled Tebbets in some old records). He married probably at Dover Neck before 1723, Abigail -----, who survived him and died after 1769. We do not know her surname.

He removed from Dover Neck to Rochester, N.H., about 1791 and settled on the Salmon Falls road. The location of his home was near the old Wingate farm. He and his wife and children were baptized in the First Congregational church in Rochester (See Mc-Duffey's Hist of Rochester, page 599). He resided in Rochester for a period of many years, during the last years of which he was trying to make his settlement at Lebanon, Maine; but the Indian warfare greatly retarded the settlement.

The homestead at Lebanon, in the south part of that town near the Berwick line, was the "sixth lot in Number in the Second Range of Home Lots." (York County Deeds, Book 25, pp. 162, 263). Towow was the old Indian name for Lebanon. It is in York County.

On 6 March 1863/4 he purchased from James Guppy of Berwick an interest of three days a month in a sawmill on the northeast side of Salmon Falls River, at a place called the Lower Stair Falls in Berwick (York County Deeds, Book 25m p. 1620). Repeatedly he returned to his home in Rochester during "war time". After the year 1750 he and his family without doubt resided continuously in Lebanon. About 1754 he built a large garrison house which was the dwelling house and in which he lived until the end of his life. This garrison house stood on Lot No. 6, Second Range.

To the late George Walter Chamberlain, we are indebted for the following information: "That Benjamin Tibbets' garrison house, built about 1754, stood about a quarter of a mile east of the Salmon Falls River, on the westerly side of the road leading from Berwick through said Lebanon, about opposite the Lower Stair Falls where he had his saw mill, (the Guppy mill). That it was probably a large two-story house, with the upper story projecting over the lower. Nothing now remains to mark the spot except a square of green grass growing over what was the original foundation.

Although in the muster rolls of the Province service he has only the rank of Sergeant, yet his name will go down in history of Lebanon bearing the title of Captain. That he was the outstanding figure in the military situation there during these early days and years will be seen when the history of Lebanon is written. He was in command of the garrison during the Indian war at Saco in 1755 as shown by Provincial war records (See Mass. Archives, 95 2A), giving a "Muster Roll of the Twelve of His Majesty's Service under the Command of Benjamin Tibbets."

During the Indian War at Saco, which commenced in the summer of 1755, Capt. William Gerrish of Berwick and his scouting company who were scouting between Lebanon and Saco River, encamped at

this garrison house many times, both going and returning. Capt. Gerrish kept a journal of his proceedings which has been preserved among Massachusetts Archives. Through the courtesy of the late George Walter Chamberlain who had collected material for a history of Lebanon, Maine, we are enabled to quote extracts from the Journal of Capt. William Gerrish, as well as data from Provincial War records, Lebanon, to be found in Massachusetts Archives.

"Berwick June 28th mustered my Company to see that all was well equipped with armes and all things fitting to march the woods.

Wednesday July 5th march^t from Berwick to Lebanon and Encamped at Capt. Tibbetses House where there was an Hundred and Seventy Souls Dwelt under that Roof 118 Inhabitants there.

Thursday July 10th march^t from Captain Tibbetses house at Lebanon on N.W. point to a pond Called Lovells pond and Encamped at the Eastern end of the pond.

Thursday July 31st march^t from Berwick to Lebanon to Capt. Tibbetses and from thence to Little River Falls upon a N.N.E. point and Encamped at the Falls.

Monday August 25th march^t to the Commiserys and Received allowance.

Tuesday August 26th march^t from Berwick to Lebanon to the home of Capt Tibbetses and Encamped."

Capt. Benjamin Tibbets signed Petition, dated 18 August 1737, which was signed by twenty-three of the first settlers of Lebanon (See Mass. Archives, 117: 362-6) (Collections of the Maine Historical Society, Documentary Second Series 13, pp. 103-106). The original document is on file in the State House in Boston.

This first group of settlers consisted of about twenty families in 1757. The Petition states that they have no settled minister: that they have not a school for their children: That they have not been allowed soldiers to guard them in this war.

Let it be remembered that Capt. Benjamin and his family were the only Tibbets family that lived in Lebanon in those first years of settlement. It was not until many years after his death that others of the same name came to reside in Lebanon.

Children (order of births uncertain, the first two born at Dover Neck, the others at Rochester, New Hampshire):

- i. Solomon⁵ Tibbetts (known to be the eldest son), born about 1723 and baptized 20 Dec. 1741 at Rochester. He married Elizabeth Spearing and later lived at Gardiner, Maine.
- ii. William⁵ Tibbetts, born 21 April 1731 at Dover Neck, and baptized 29 Aug. 1742 at Rochester. He married Lurana Young. He inherited his father's home place at Lebanon (South Lebanon), near the Berwick line, which he sold 7 Aug. 1769 and removed to Gouldsborough, Maine. He had Lots No. 17 and 87 as a first settler.

Family of Capt. Benjamin and Abigail Tibbets

- iii. Ebenezer⁵ Tibbets; baptized 13 Sept. 1741 at Rochester. He lived at Shapleigh, Maine (a part of Lebanon). He married 7 April 1757, Olive Dore (sometimes spelled Door), of Lebanon, Maine.
 - iv. Benjamin⁵ Tibbets; baptized 13 Sept. 1741 at Rochester. He moved to Gouldsborough, Maine; was a soldier from Gouldsborough in the Revolution. After the Revolution he settled at Frankfort, Waldo Co., Maine; died there after 1790. The name of his wife has not been ascertained. They had a family.
 - v. Daniel⁵ Tibbets; baptized 13 Sept. 1741 at Rochester. He lived at Shapleigh, Maine; died there after 1790. He married at Berwick, Maine 11 May 1758, Martha Downs, daughter of Thomas and Marcy (Downs) Downs of Berwick. They had children, among whom were:
 1. Thomas⁶ Tibbets.
 2. Lovicey⁶ Tibbets.
 3. Solomon⁶ Tibbets.
 - vi. James⁵ Tibbets; baptized 13 Sept. 1741 at Rochester. No further record.
 - vii. Abigail⁵ Tibbets; baptized 13 Sept. 1741 at Rochester. She married at Rochester 9 Jan. 1755, Henry Bickford of Lebanon, Maine. He was in the Province service as a sentinel from 30 Aug. to 31 Oct. 1757 at Lebanon during the Indian war at Saco (See Mass. Archives, 96: 2a).
 - viii. Patience⁵ Tibbets; married 8 Feb. 1757, Richard Dore (sometimes spelled Door), of Lebanon, Maine. He signed petition of inhabitants of Lebanon 18 Aug. 1757. On 25 Oct. 1755 Richard Door and wife Patience Door convey to Stephen Evans of Dover "Lot No. 4, which Solomon Tebbets late of sd Lebanon settled" (See York County Deeds, Book 39, page 249).
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