

(2)

Starks.

The town of Starks so named in honor of General John Starks of New Hampshire who was a gallant soldier in the defence of his country in the war of the Revolution.

When the settlement on a portion of this territory was first commenced ~~of~~ Sandy river in 1774 on lots No 81 to 87 on Ferringtons plan it was called Norridgewock and when that town was incorporated in 1788, these lots or portions thereof were excluded ~~excluded~~ and when Starks was incorporated it was six miles square as the lines on three sides by Samuel Filcomb and the other side ^{portion} $4\frac{1}{4}$ miles was bounded by the town of Norridgewock and $1\frac{3}{4}$ by the Kennebec.

Three fourths of the territory was on what was called the Plymouth Patent and one fourth was called the $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile strip. The town is situated partly on Sandy river and part on the Kennebec in the county of Somerset. The first settlements

were made on or near the river and for many years were known as Sandy river settlements after the incorporation of Norridgewock as were the settlements far up the river now Farmington Strong and Phillips and hence travellers in exploring the country were sometimes misled.

Sand hills.

The Plymouth Patent was originally granted by James I. the King of England to a number of the nobility of the realm to promote the settlement of New England by letters patent, The grantee being a company duly organized in 1629 granted to William Bradford his heirs associates and assigns a very indefinite extent of territory in Maine and New England and Bradford and his associates on the 24th of October 1661 in consideration of four hundred pounds sterling, sold all the lands on the Penobscot river and on both sides of the river up to the Westward to Antipas Boyd Edward Tjory Thomas Bralle and John Constone the Colony New Plymouth to their heirs and every of their heirs assigns forever.

This company took the name of the Proprietors of the Hermebu Purchase from the late colony of New Plymouth and employed surveyors to survey and designate the boundaries or extent of their grant.

In 1761 Doctor McKeen was employed as surveyor to ascertain and mark the north line of their patent and to survey and lay out twelve lots on the west side of the river fifteen miles long and 300 rods wide called the great lots, with a range way between every alternate lot of six rods. He made the survey and marked a tree about a mile north east from the center of Storks (which I have seen) for the north west corner of the Plymouth Patent.

The Proprietors were not satisfied with this survey put a new construction to their grant and employed Joseph North of Augusta to run and mark anew their limits. He made the north west corner on a basswood tree at the north west corner of what is now Farmington ^{15 miles from Herts} This being an exact survey. After the close of the

18th
over the government of the Commonwealth
being established, the survey made by
North was found to exceed ^{very} much the
tenor of the company's grant and
Samuel Pitcomb a noted Surveyor was
mutually agreed upon to reestablish
the bounds on a basis that State Agent
and Proprietors deemed correct.
He made the north west corner of the
Patent eighty rods east from the north
east corner of Farmington and the
west line to run so as to leave the whole
of Farmington and New Sharon as States
land. The bounds thus established
ever afterwards remained.

The Proprietors, however, succeeded
in obtaining from the State a grant of the
mile and half strip to compensate them
for lands given to early settlers. In the
partition and distribution of these lands
the mile and half strip the north part of
Starks fell to Fyng whose son in law Robert
Brinley as Agent conveyed the same to
the settlers at a high price.

a few ^{early} settlers on the patent obtained
their lands ^{without} compensation as a reward
for settling in the wilderness. But
the major part of the settlers or all
in a manner, except four or five had
to submit to an appraisal made
by Commissioners appointed by the
Governor & Council of Massachusetts.

The appraisal was very high
and oppressive. Seventy years
from the first settlement & since
before all claims of the proprietors
was fully extinguished.

Early Settlers.

James Wauagh a native of Ashby
in Massachusetts was the first
settler in Stark. Soon after he arrived
of age, ^{he} came to Vassalborough where
he worked for wages a year or two when
he formed an acquaintance with Bathsheba
Fairfield a young lady of good parentage
of excellent character, possessing every
qualification necessary for a good wife
whom he in due time married.
He as Chairman assisted in the

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Drummington survey, and in old age when disputes arose, he was able to testify to the identity of the boundaries of lots with accuracy.

When the Norridgewock lots was surveyed Mr Waugh made choice of the or bow lot, of 200 acres containing a tongue of exceeding rich intervale of 100 acres surrounded by the river so that a fence of 80 rods across the base enclosed the whole. This had been cleared by the Indians more than fifty years before and planted by them and required but little labor to fit it for the plough. He built him a camp, and was the first settler in Starkes and the lot he settled is admitted to be the best in the county demonstrating his good ^{judgment} in the selection as Stephen Pitcomb in Drummington did in selecting the best lot in the county of Franklin as determined by a committee of the Franklin Agricultural Society for a productive farm.

Mr Waugh succeeded in raising corn and potatoes sufficient for his own ~~use the first year~~

(9th Nov 1711)
use the first year, and during the
season cut out and opened a road six
miles to New Ridgewick.

He was followed by five or six
other settlers that season, John Heald from
New Ipswich settled on the lot at the mouth
of the river but after a few years sold the
same to Oliver Wilson who lived on it till
he died and his sons sold to Eleazer Coburn
and he to William Allen both in trust for
James Johnson a foreigner from New Brun-
swick; when he died, Allen conveyed the
farm to Johnson's widow and heirs, she
married Robert Atkern for second husband
who bought out the heirs of Johnson who
went to California and became rich; He
died some years since and left the farm
to his widow and children who man-
aged it prudently and recently one of
Atkern's sons bought out the other and
sisters and owns the farm subject to the
mother's interest in the same and is
a successful farmer.

James Bickford it is said went
on the other lot at the mouth of the river
in 1714 after some time sold to Keywood

he sold to James ¹⁰ L. Wood, ^{and} died on the farm
his ^{also} wife also a good lady from Connecticut
woods adm^r sold to Seth Crowell, he to
Dr Holmes who for several years was
voted for for Governor by the Free soil party
Dr Holmes did not prosper as a farmer
and sold to Hilton. Good lands and
good farms were thus transferred
from one to another, by early settlers.

Robert Crosby settled on the lot
now occupied by Josiah Butler and
Benjamin Witham on the lot where
B. F. Benson now lives in the summer of 1774.

Robert Nichols Elijah Dutton The
Waugh Luke Sawyer Joseph Greene
Abraham Steward Peter Holbrook
and Stephen Williamson settled in
the place. 1775. 6 & 7 In 1778 John
Greenleaf Jos Greenleaf Eber
Greenleaf William Young Benje
Young Joshua Young and four
others came from Wiscasset and
settled along by the river and soon
after Benjamin Hilton settled on the mill
lot and built mills, the mills were
after many years rebuilt by Edgar Hilton
Jonathan Williamson Saml Williamson

Samuel & Abner George Sawyer John
Chapman Isaac Young James Elliot
Sampson Sheaf Henry Pickers and John
Gott were early settlers.

In 1790 it is supposed that there
by the ³⁰⁰ ~~300~~ ^{inhabited} ~~inhabited~~ were forty families in the town
and settlements began to be made
near the middle and back part of
the ^{town} ~~town~~ Lander built a grist mill on
Lemen stream and Ephraim Brown
Leobas Lovell Jonathan Lovell Elisha
Fish Samuel Fish, Gov. Frederick
and Jedidiah Preble settled in that
vicinity prior to 1800 and George Gray
David Dickson Joseph Rolfe Daniel
McLaughlin & others on the Brinley tract,
First Settler.

James Waugh married and
moved his wife to his camp early
in the winter of 1774, 5. He had a yoke
of Oxen and two cows. His cleared land
was easily ploughed and he raised good
crops so as to furnish a limited supply
to new settlers many years even to some
in Norridgewock six or eight miles distant

(12)
When Mrs Scadding came to Norridgewock
in the spring of 1778 she could not get a
potatoe in the place to plant and had to go
up the river with a log canoe to Mr
Coan's where he got 12 bushels
to plant. He did not grow rich by
selling to those who were able to pay but
dealt out sparingly so as to let the poor
share equally with others, and in
numerous cases never received any
pay, except the good will of all.

In the fall of 1775 he went with
his oxen and assisted in hauling the
army stores across the falls for Gen
Arnold in the ill fated expedition agt
Quebec. On the failure of that ex-
pedition and capture by the enemy
the frontier settlers became alarmed
for fear that the enemy would let loose
the Indians upon them. They fortified
the house of Mr Fitch in Norridgewock
and all the women and children within
three miles resorted there every night for
protection; this though was a great
distance and suffered much from fear
of Indians. The men assured her that
Indians would not come till the snow was
gone, not until the leaves came out

so that they could ride in the baskets. The snow went off early and she thought the leaves never grew so fast before as they did then and early in June she prevailed on her husband to take her and their child to her fathers at Casselborough, and also in 1747 when she had two children.

The Government to quiet the alarm authorized Mr Wough to enlist a pocket guard of eight men including him self. He enlisted Oliver Wilson Luke Sawyer and Benjamin Thompson and these four scouted and patrolled up the river as far as the carrying place ^{for six months} one a fortnight but saw no Indians and the settlers were not molested. Mr Wough was designated as Captain of the guard and called Captain afterwards till 1795 when he was appointed a Justice of the Peace, there being then no other Justice except Oliver Wood Esq of Donagwah nearer than Winslow. He then divided the honor if not the emoluments of the office with Esq Wood; But if all business

That were brought before him were like the
 one which came to my knowledge the fees
 were less than nothing. A townsman who
 had no good reputation was brought before
 him on a warrant for petty larceny the fact
 was clearly proved and Justice Waugh
 as the law required sentenced the man
 to pay a fine of one dollar and costs and
 in default of payment to be committed to
 Jail the poor man had no money and
 no friend to help him. The Officer of
 course was on the point of taking the
 prisoner to Jail. Esq. Waugh as he said
 putted the culprit and told him if he
 would promise him that he would never
 steal again he would pay the fine and
 costs for him. The promise was made
 and the Justice paid the fine and costs
 and afterwards rejoiced that he did as
 the man reformed from his bad habits
 and sustained a fair reputation as long
 as he lived. This is a specimen of the
 character of Esq. Waugh.

In 1795 the town was incorporated
 with about ³⁰⁰ inhabitants. In 1810 by the
 census return ^{including men} there were 502 in 1810 - 828

In 1788 the town of Norridgewock was incorporated; the inhabitants petitioned to have the Sandy river form its western boundary as far as the Gimre brook and chose Oliver Wood Esq. their agent to attend the General Court at Boston to urge their claim.

The settlers on the Sandy river lots opposed the petition and chose Capt. Waugh their agent to go to Boston and oppose their being included in the new town. He contended with signal ability with Esq. Wood and defeated his plan before the committee of the Legislature, discovered so much good sense and ability that he was appointed a Justice of the Peace and thereafter shared with Esq. Wood the honors of the office if not the emoluments, which till that time Wood enjoyed alone, there being no other Justice in this part of the county.

When Stark's was incorporated James Braugh Esq. was chosen Town Clerk Selectman and Assessor and re-elected from year to year for a quarter of a century during which time the affairs of the town were managed more skillfully by his efforts and description and the records were kept better than in most of other new towns. He was chosen and served as delegate to the famous Brunswick convention on the

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question of separation from Massachusetts
in 1816 and again to the Portland Convention in 1819.
for preparing the Constitution for the State.

When a post route was established through
the town in 1814 Esq Wraugh was appointed Post
master and continued in the office to old age;
He was often Arbitrator or Referee to adjust
disputes, acted often as appraiser, commissioner
on insolvency, and for making partition of real
estate among heirs: He was a surveyor and knew
more about the boundaries of the lots in the town
than any other man and often called upon
to renew lines; Every one had confidence
in his good judgment and integrity, in short
he was the factotum of the town and plan for
half a century and died in good old age in 1826.

In 1794 Mr Schier an aged gentle
man belonging to Boston, came on horse back
to Maine, in order to explore the lands on the
Sandy river in and near Farmington, but
took a wrong course at Hallowell in a road
by Augusta and Belgrade and a blind path
which lead to Withams mill at East Pond near
Smithfield and found himself at the end
of the road, stop at John White houses
late in a September afternoon fatigued and un-
well, seven miles from Sandy river or from
the mill to Benjamin Withams, where there
was only a logging road in which they passed

They could pass with sleds in the winter but obstructed with logs and stumps which could not be passed with safety at that time. He took some refreshment and made the attempt to pass through the woods seven miles in that blind path but perished on the way on the westerly border of Norridgewock about two miles from Withams some distance from the path and no trace of him or horse was discovered until the next August, when his body was found by hunters and his horse at some distance had been caught by a root with the bridle and starved to death after eating all the bushes and roots within his reach.

His friends after some time became alarmed for his safety came in search of him traced him to Whitehouses and no further. It was then suspected that he was murdered and the small pond near Whitehouses was drained by canal by a large party which volunteered to try to find as they expected the body of the man and horse. But nothing was found during the search.

When the body was found Esq. Wraugh had the remains decently buried and notified the widow that his watch and thirty dollars in money found with the body (being all that he had with him by the estimation of his friends) was at her disposal.

The widow gave direction for the watch to be sent to her and requested Esq. Wraugh to keep

the money to reward him for his humanity and kindness in causing the remains of the deceased to be decently buried and for notifying her of the facts in the case removing all suspicion of any wrong done by any one. After defraying the expense of the burial Esq Waugh made a present of balance of the money to the town to pay for a good set of blank books for records.

By finding the body of Mr Schier the mystery of his disappearance which had caused much excitement and suspicion of foul play was fully explained. As Mr S. complained of disentry when at Whitehouse it was thought that he dismounted to lead his horse over a bad place or for some necessary purpose and that his horse got away and went into the woods, and that on following the horse he got lost. He wore a large old fashioned cocked hat which when nearly exhausted he hung on a bush some four feet from the ground which could be seen some distance and laid down dead

Parts of the town set off

The town at first was of a neat angular form but it has been despoiled of its fair form by having three valuable portions set off at different times for the accommodation of the settlers on those parts without regard to the interest of the town or the remonstrances

and now as industrious and prosperous as in any other farming towns: Mechanics of various kinds are established in the town Trade and milling have never been confined within the limits of the town, but distributed to all the adjoining towns; some now go to Northwicks to mill some to Madison Bridge some to West mills and some to Mercer, although James Wood has for some time kept his mills on Lemon stream in good repair. William Sylvester Jr formerly had a store for retailing goods at the centre of the town which was the principal place of trade as long as he and his father lived and was kept up many years by John W. Smith, but during some twenty years trade has centered at Sawyer's (now) Woods mills and the meeting house removed to that place and fitted up in good style, occupied mostly by Methodists. There was a small society of Congregationalists in town at an early day but nearly all died or moved away Jonathan Gilmore an early settler was an educated but not a talented man and had but little influence as a preacher. The Free Baptists have out numbered all others and have a convenient meeting house in the town and are interested in one in Mercer and several preachers of that order have been raised up in the town: Stephen Williamson Jr a man of talents has long been regarded as one of the first in the State and has gone to the south. Obed Wilson a native of the town a man of superior talents was a methodist preacher highly

esteemed removed to Bingham was promoted to office, became a politician, was a delegate and Representative of the town and then Scribe of the county had more influence in the Legislature as a Democrat than any other man in the county while he was in office and secured the friendship of Gov. Davis and enjoyed his confidence, but he did not live to old age. John Williamson became a Methodist preacher of good reputation and moved to Ohio. A few individuals of the medical faculty settled in the town at different times. Dr. Briggs remained a short time a good physician and moved to Cornville. Dr. Ingalls twenty years or more and then, when ruin disturbed his peace he left his wife to provide for herself and took a new name and went to parts unknown. He never had the confidence of the community as a physician.

Dr. Barnum came soon after Maine became a State recommended as good Democrat and was soon promoted to office in town and has for near fifty years practiced physic with success in a prudent manner, was Post Master a short time once a Representative and one year county Treasurer when the majority of the town were his political opponents.

No Lawyer has ever lived in town except William Tolson a very short time; He is now County Attorney and resides in Hartland.

There were several worthy men among

The early settlers, besides Esq. Waugh or who were raised up by them who in after times became Town Officers Representatives and good citizens.

James Waugh, Jr son of James & Bathsheba Waugh born in 1745 was the first male child of english parents born in the county. He in early life discovered talents worthy of his excellent parentage: although there were no schools in the place when he was young and ^{he} never went to any school but four weeks, and that was taught by a woman, from this and the teaching of his mother and good common sense, he acquired a good knowledge of the english language and could read and write with propriety and could detect the impropriety of any article in a political lecture or communication as readily as any one, as he was known to when the bodily infirmity or lameness was alluded to in a political discussion.

He could express himself on any subject with correctness and perspicacity; or in a manner suitable for publication in political tracts. He learned the trade of blacksmith and was a skillfull workman as long as he lived. He went through the different grades of military office from a subaltern to Colonel was an officer that understood the duty of his office and performed it well.

He married in early life a good wife established himself at the centre of the town where

he lived till he was forty years old, having
 been Representative of Starks for 1809 the first year
 chosen in town and in 1812-13 and then in 1814
 moved to Ferrisburgh, was chosen Chief Justice
 of the Court of Sessions, built the large house
 lately owned by Judge Dimney, occupied it as a
 tavern for some time, then sold it and bought
 a small house in which he died Aug. 31. 1818
 aged 43. His remains were followed to the grave
 in Starks by a procession of military officers
 and magistrates of the county and others.

County Officers chosen from this town

1 James C. Wauugh son of Edw. Wauugh
 Judge of Probate. term expired 1868,

2 County Commissioners,

Asa Chapman and James C. Wauugh.

3 Senator.

Henry Williamson, twice.

Representatives.

James Wauugh 1809 & 12

James Wauugh Esq. 1816 & 19

Joseph Beard 1820

John M. Facker 1822

Benjamin Holbrook

John Elliot

Syrman Grealou

Deleg. Bradford

John H. Smith 1841

Edgar Helton

James Varnum 1846

Saul Holbrook

Simon Poper 1852

William Falter

Sydney G. Smith

Jacob G. Fredericks

Census, Votes &c

In 1790 Census including Mercor was 306
 " 1800 402 In 1810 820 In 1820 1043
 " 1830 1559 " 1840 1446 " 1850 1344
 " 1860 1194 more probably less than 1300

Votes for Governor.

In 1806 Strong 19 Sullivan 26 In 1807 Same 24 - 28
 " 1809 Gore 57 Lincoln 33 " 1810 Gore 48 Gerry 37
 " 1813 Strong 59 Varnum 49 " 1815 Strong 61 Dexter 49
 " 1854 A.P. Merrill 71 Paris 34 Reed 59
 " 1856 Same 142 Wells 103 Patten 112
 " 1857 Hamlin 141 Smith 134 1858 L. Merrill 158
 " 1860 Washburn 165 Smith 149
 " 1861 Washburn 141 Dana 92 Jamison 34
 " 1862 Leaburn 93 Bradbury 94 Jamison 12
 " 1863 Corey 136 Bradbury 126 In 1864 Stewart 112
 " 1865 Corey 118 Pillsbury 100
 " 1866 Chamberlain 119 Pillsbury 107
 " 1867 Same 120 Same 110
 " 1868 Same 128 Same 134
 " 1869 Same 82 Smith 107 Holbrook 16
 Pills State Valuation & State Tax

1831 308
 1840 308 valuation 211276 Tax 425 63
 1850 308 " 261430 329,95
 1860 317 " 291000 1755,45
 1869 315

In 1820 Starks was the fourth town in Somerset by the census and valuation in 1860 it was the eleventh on the list. The town has been diminished in its contents

and during the thirty or forty last years
has graded as low as the eighth town in
the county in the census and in the State
tax which prior to the late war has been
but little over \$400 yearly. It is now

After stating the good qualities
of sense and of many of the inhabitants
of Stark and the success that has attend-
ed them, it must be admitted that all
who have lived in the town especially at
or near the time of its incorporation and
afterwards were of little benefit to the place
& Intemperance raged with all its attendant
evils by which many were impoverished
and contracted disorderly habits and ex-
posed themselves to costs which impoverished
and ruined them; some moved away
and some died poor. Commendable efforts
have been made by all good citizens to
suppress the evil and with evident success
It is believed now that as a community
the town is now as free from intemperance
as any town in the county, and efforts are
~~now~~ made to prohibit the sale and use of
all intoxicating liquors by men who are
zealous in the good cause and the only
question relates to the way by which it can
be best accomplished. It is to be hoped
that Providence will overrule and lead those
engaged to the best results.

A single case or two may be stated to show the ruinous effects of rian and loose suits. Two men in moderate circumstances at a military training forty years ago when it was customary to treat liberally having become excited by the time the rations were exhausted, used abusive language to each other which they would not have done in more sober moments. During a short recess G. & H. when the crowd was excited and gattered around in violent language called each other the worst names they could think of. H. called G. a liar. G. replied "You are a thief and I can prove it."

As soon as the company was dismissed H. hastened to Norridgewock and got a Lawyer to make a court suit against G. demanding \$200 for being called a thief and would settle for nothing less. The suit was prosecuted from court to court and two Jury trials were had. Both had spent all their available property by the time judgment was obtained.

The case was finally tried before Chief Justice Mellen who remarked to the Jury that Rian was the cause of the trouble that a case of extortion had been made out, that they would be justified in considering the provocation given by H. in utterance of the damages estimated by the difference between being called a thief and being called a liar "strike the balance and

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give the same to the ~~off~~. The Jury in a
short time returned a verdict of one dollar
for H. and the law gave him twenty five
cents and no more for costs, as he should
have commenced his suit before a Justice
He had embarrassed himself by
the prosecution and G. by the defence that
neither were ever worth any thing after

One other case of assault and
battery happened about the same time
C. had a trial in Court when another G.
was a witness who testified against C.
On returning home C. to punish G. for
testifying against ^{him} G. all driven King to
some excess attacked G. in the road, in sight
of the Court House and house where he lived
G. the next day attacked B. with an axe
and accidentally intended to kill him and would
have killed him if B. had not with superior
skill warded the blow from his head and
wrested the axe from him; Whereupon each
had the other arrested and brought before
a Justice for trial. C. being the first in
order was tried first and fined a dollar
and cost which he paid and G. consented
to be tried on the spot by the same Justice
It appeared to the Justice that this was
more aggravated offence than the other and he
convinced the prisoner over to the Court at
Chester. The offence being fully proved
the Judge on passing sentence said
to the prisoner. I understand that you had

The complainant arrested on a warrant for absconding you and that the Justice found him a dollar and costs, and served him right: The Justice ^{Allen} ought to have served you in the same manner and not sent you here to trouble thus but

"The Court order that you pay a fine of one dollar and costs". That Justice was very careful afterwards not to send any one to the S. J. Court for a rum quarrel.

Other cases might be described but the above may serve as a specimen.

Pensioners.

Joseph Burr John Greene of Eden Granting Jonathan Hubbard, Sabel Bowen Nathl Chapman William Quint and Robert Arnold were soldiers in the Revolution and received full pensions Luke Sawyer and several others and their widows received small pensions for six months service in the war Jos Fredericks was a Boatswain under Paul Jones in the severe battle with the English frigate Serapis which was sunk in the fight Fredericks was a pensioner until full pay when he died and his widow succeeded in getting a pension of 106 a year from the time of her death till she died she also obtained her share of the prize money granted Jones & his men. Adin Briggs was a boy when he enlisted

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and received a full pension several years
as long as he lived: His widow some
years after his death obtained £600 a year
pension and £96 a year as long as she
lived in Somerset, when over 90 years old
she moved with her daughter to Dorset.

County roads.

Sturke has been harassed more
than any other town ever was by the
location alteration and discontinuance
of county roads: County Commissioners
or county committees have explored the town
for the purpose of locating or altering the
roads, which has occasioned much
cost and trouble and their designs
except in two or three cases have all
been set aside and one ancient road
leading to the shire town after being used
more than fifty years has been discontinued
east of Sawyers and the two substituted
for it first by Peters then by the French roads
have recently been recently been discov-
-ered and were provided for from the
centre of the town except in a roundabout
circuit of more than six miles to get
three miles ahead, where nothing prevents
a straight course.

In 1834 the inhabitants of New Portland petitioned for a county road to be located in a straight line from their village through New Vineyard corner of Anson Starks and Merer in Somerset through by Rome ~~and~~ Belgrade and Sidney to the Capital at Augusta. The joint board of Commissioners of Vermont and Somerset. Judge Ridington of Augusta was chairman of the Vermont board and was in favor of an air line route and Asa Wymen of Skowhegan was chairman of the Somerset board and adopted Judge Ridingtons plan to lay out the road straight from New Portland to the Capital without regard to the cost of building the road or bridge across Sandy river and with out regard to any travelled way or the accommodation of the intervening inhabitants and the other Commissioners concurred and after exploring the route and ascertaining the course, started on a route entirely new till they arrived at New Village passing several miles in New Vineyard and two miles across the corner of Anson and near two miles in Starks of uninhabited territory five miles together in

Wineyard and Anson along a ravine in a swamp with an abrupt ledge on one side and a high hill on the other side and then across a large bog flowed with water and crossing Sandy river where the estimated cost of a bridge was more than the cost of any free bridge then in the State.

No measures were taken to open any part of this road in this county and to avoid prosecutions the towns petitioned in 1838 for alterations and an extension of time New Wineyard being then included in Franklin county, a joint board of Com^{rs} from that county and Somerset examined the route and made alterations as prayed for.

Afterwards when the town of Starks was called on from year to year to open the road alterations were projected and commissioners came on at three different times and made essential alterations diverging at right angles at last from the original course and one set changed the route from Sandy river to go by Smithfield, instead of Mercer.

In 1854 the original object of the petition for the road having been defeated, the towns most interested by application to the U. S. Court attended with much delay and cost and hearing before an intelligent Com^{rs} desisted all north of Merut. Some that time a road in two places had been laid out from the centre of the town across Sandy river and after much cost discontinued and the inhabitants have now no direct road to the shore town. Dec 1869 Wm Allen.