





# HOLDERNESS

AN ACCOUNT OF THE BEGINNINGS  
OF A NEW HAMPSHIRE TOWN

BY  
GEORGE HODGES



BOSTON AND NEW YORK  
HOUGHTON, MIFFLIN AND COMPANY  
*The Riverside Press, Cambridge*

1907

**COPYRIGHT 1907 BY GEORGE HODGES**

**ALL RIGHTS RESERVED**

***Published May 1907***

TO  
MY NEIGHBOR  
*The Reverend Frederick Baylies Allen*  
TO WHOM I OWE MY FIRST ACQUAINTANCE  
WITH HOLDERNESS



“I trust

That some, who sigh, while wandering in thought,  
Pilgrims of Romance o’er the olden world,  
That our broad land, — our sea-like lakes and moun-  
tains  
Piled to the clouds, our rivers overhung  
By forests which have known no other change  
For ages than the budding and the fall  
Of leaves, our valleys lovelier than those  
Which the old poets sang of, — should but figure  
On the apocryphal chart of speculation  
As pastures, wood-lots, mill-sites, with the privileges,  
Rights, and appurtenances, which make up  
A Yankee Paradise, unsung, unknown,  
To beautiful tradition, . . . will look kindly  
Upon this effort to call up the ghost  
Of the dim Past.”

WHITTIER: *The Bridal of Pennacook.*





## CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION . . . . .	xi
I. THE ENDICOTT ROCK . . . . .	1
II. THE INDIAN TRAIL . . . . .	9
III. THE CHARTER . . . . .	21
IV. THE NAME . . . . .	29
V. THE SETTLEMENT . . . . .	35
VI. SAMUEL LIVERMORE, THE SQUIRE	60
VII. ROBERT FOWLE, THE PARSON .	67
VIII. THE COUNTRY TOWN . . . . .	76
APPENDIX: WALKS AND DRIVES . .	83
INDEX . . . . .	101





THE LIVERMORE HOUSE . . . . .	64
<i>From a photograph loaned by the Rev. Arthur Browne Livermore.</i>	
THE REV. ROBERT FOWLE . . . . .	70
THE OLD CHURCH: EXTERIOR AND INTERIOR . . . . .	72
THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF HOLDERNESS	86
<i>By permission of the Scarborough Co.</i>	













it touched the life of the time at two points: it was in the near neighborhood of the Endicott Rock, by which the Puritans calculated their claims to New Hampshire; and it was beside the Indian Trail, between New France, as Canada was then called, and New England. Our first business, therefore, in the study of the beginnings of Holderness, is with the Endicott Rock and with the Indian Trail.













































































































































































## VI

### SAMUEL LIVERMORE, THE SQUIRE

**S**AMUEL LIVERMORE,<sup>1</sup> who presently became the largest owner and the man of most importance in the community, was one of the nine children of Deacon Samuel Livermore of Waltham, Mass. In 1751, being then of the age of nineteen years, he entered Nassau Hall, now Princeton University, having previously taught school for a year in Chelsea. One of his letters of recommendation said that he intended to study for the ministry.

His diary at that time gives several interesting glimpses of the manners of the middle of the eighteenth century. He left Boston on the sloop *Lydia*, having provided for his voyage five quarts of West India rum, a quarter of a pound of tea, a dozen fowls, two pounds of loaf sugar, twenty

<sup>1</sup> For Squire Livermore see *Bench and Bar of N. H.*; Bradley in *N. H. Hist. Soc. Coll.* iii, 221; the diary is quoted in *Putnam's Magazine*, June, 1857.



















































revival at New Hampton, and established a preaching station in 1800. They believed in the free payment of ministers as opposed to the collection of the minister's salary by taxation. There is no record of any such open contention at Holderness between their minister and the town minister as divided society in New Hampton and in Wolfeborough; but they quietly succeeded, and Mr. Fowle, ill and aged, as quietly failed. He preached against "enthusiasm," meaning the emotional presentation of religion, but the enthusiasts prevailed.

















# **APPENDIX**

**WALKS AND DRIVES IN THE NEIGHBOR-  
HOOD OF HOLDERNESS**

**BY**

**FREDERICK LEWIS ALLEN**































these is Lovell's Mountain in Washington, while just to the right of Kearsarge is Mt. Sunapee, about the same distance away. In the southwest is the great mass of the Squam Range, with Mt. Morgan farthest to the right, over which is the comparatively level top of Mt. Prospect, almost as near.

Farther away rises Mt. Cardigan, on whose right, and extending some distance, are a number of distant Vermont peaks, including Mt. Ascutney. On the right of the Beebe River valley, nearer at hand, is Mt. Stinson, fairly sharp, and then comes the dark level ridge of Mt. Carr. Between these two, and only a few miles away, are the low Campton Mountains, separated from Sandwich Dome by the gorge of Sandwich Notch, over which are Mt. Kineo, sharply cut, and the high ridge of Moosilauke.

### LEAVITT HILL

This little-known hill, about 1300 feet in height, covers the large area between Little Squam Lake and White Oak Pond. The western slope is largely cleared and from the top commands a fine panorama of distant mountains.

It is most easily reached by the road which ascends northeasterly from the outlet of Little Squam Lake, and, passing the clearing at the summit, then descends southerly by the Holmes Farm. This road is unsafe for a vehicle.

A charming walk to this hill follows the route of an obsolete road beginning in a lane, leaving the main road a little south of Bruce Piper's and H. S. Buzzel's on White Oak Pond. Follow this road through pastures, wood, and pastures again till you come out on an eminence, commanding a view of Little Squam Lake below. Descend to the left, cross the brook, and then ascend the pastures to the top of the clearing first mentioned.

*The View.* Beginning at the left is the flat ridge of Tenney Hill. Next Mt. Piermont, Church Hill near at hand, and then Mt. Stinson, with Mt. Carr directly behind. After Stinson comes Kineo, falling off sharply to the left, and over Kineo's right shoulder the conspicuous mass of Mt. Moosilauke. Mt. Prospect with its high fields comes next, and over a hollow on its right, distant Cannon Mountain. On a clear day the Franconia group stands out finely, with the two peaks of Lincoln and Lafayette, and the sharp pyramid of Flume to the right.

Then comes the long ridge of Campton and Weetamoo, with Mts. Fisher and Tecumseh and a bit of Osceola over its right end. Mt. Morgan, with Mt. Livermore first beneath it, shuts out the distant view. The Rattlesnakes appear below the Squam Range and the great mass of Sandwich Dome rises above. Last in turn appear Mts. Whiteface, Passaconaway, Israel, Paugus, and Chocorua.











# INDEX

ADAMS, the innholder, 35.  
Adams, the parson, 38.

Baker, Capt. Thomas, 15.  
Baptists, Free Will, 74.  
Bass, Rev. Edward, his election protested, 53; visits Holderness, 68.  
Belknap, Mt., 99.  
Books, advertised, 77.

Charter, of 1751, 21; of 1761, xi, 25.

Chocorua, 17; Mt., 99.

Church, plans for erection of, 67, 69; property of Livermores, 72; services, 72; decline, 73, 74.

Church Hill, 24.

Cohoss, 22.

Constitution of U. S., Livermore moves adoption of, 64.

Cox, James, 65.

Curry, Samuel, 55.

Cusumpy, 23.

Diamond Ledge, 98.

Domes, the, view from, 86.

Endicott Rock, 1-8.

Endicott tree, 4.

Fowle, Rev. Robert, his coming to Holderness, 69; ordination, 70; marriage, 70; lot, 71; membership in Diocesan Convention, 73; long ministry, 73, 74; death, 74.

Gorges and Mason, 1, 2.  
Grantees, list of, 59.

Harvard College, 49.

High Haight, 98.

Holderness, in Yorkshire, 29; in poetry and fiction, 30.

Holderness, Earl of, 31-34.

Ince, Jonathan, 4.

Indian Trail, 12, 13.

Indians of New Hampshire, 10, 11.

Israel, Mt., view from, 93-95.

Johnson, Capt. Edward, 4.

Lane, Samuel, 22, 24.

Leavitt Hill, 95-97.

Liquor licenses, 79.

Livermore, Arthur, 66, 77.

Livermore, Ed. St. Loe, 66.

Livermore, Samuel, journey to Nassau, 60; studies, 61; marriage, 61; attorney general, 62; land in Holderness, 62; in Congress, 63; his neighborliness, 65; death, 66.

Livermore, Mt., view from, 90.

Lone Pine Hill, 98.

Lots, plan of, 35.

Lovewell, Capt., 17.

Mails in 1795, 76.

Massachusetts, boundary of, 37.

McCrillis Hill, 98.

Mooney, Hercules, 44, 45.

- Moosilauke, Mt., 99.  
 Morgan, Mt., view from, 87-89.  
 Oak Hill, 98.  
 Ossipee Park, 99.  
 Passaconaway, 14.  
 Paugus, 17.  
 Peaked Hill, 99.  
 Peavey Hill, 98.  
 Pinnacle, 99.  
 Piper, William, 50.  
 Prices, 80.  
 Prospect, Mt., view from, 91-93.  
 Rattlesnake Mt., 97.  
 Red Hill, 97.  
 Road, the College, 46-50; the  
     Province, 43.  
 Rogers, Robert, 18.  
 School, Holderness, 63.  
 Shepard, John, 51.  
 Shepard, Samuel, 41-43.  
 Shepard, Thomas, 21, 40.  
 Shepard Hill, view from, 85.  
 Sherman, John, 5.  
 Smythe, Andrew, 53.  
 Squam Lake, 22-24.  
 Squam Range, view from, 87.  
 Squaw Cove, 98.  
 Sweeney, Bryan, 54.  
 Thompson, Nathaniel, 52.  
 Town meeting, the first, 52,  
     57.  
 Wages, 57, 58, 80.  
 Weirs, 5.  
 Wentworth, Benning, 21, 25.  
 Wentworth, John, 47-50.

**The Riverside Press**

**PRINTED BY H. O. HOUGHTON & CO.**

**CAMBRIDGE, MASS.**

**U. S. A.**

