

“No cow left behind”

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Harvard, Massachusetts, Friday, June 30, 1732

One Shilling

HEAR NO EVIL



Eliza Hapgood disdains the approach of an out-of-town suitor. (Drawing by William Hogarth)

New Town Encompasses Great Pond

by David Whitney

With the signing into law yesterday of the incorporation of Harvard, the new town takes into its own the brooks and rivers and ponds of its area.

Although the Still River, that sluggish tributary of the Nashua River, is not such a great addition to the town's waters, Great Pond—sometimes called Bare Hill Pond—is a treasure indeed. The outfall from this pond furnishes the chief power supply in the new town, and, according to selectman Zebediah Willard, could be the engine that drives economic growth in the area. Willard said that he can envision mills and forges and all manner of machines that will be used to build more machines and products to be sold in Boston.

Phineas Fairbank, who was standing within earshot, scoffed at Willard and said, “That pond—and it's not so great either—is good for nothing but fish, and they're hardly worth the trouble of putting a worm on a hook.”

Fairbank is well known in these parts as an advocate for Nashua River fishing, where he often takes home shad, alewives, trout, perch, bream, dace, pouts, and the occasional salmon, though that was mostly to feed to his pigs, because few people will eat salmon.

In addition to Great Pond, the town adds Hell and Robbins ponds and Nonacoicus, Cold Spring, Beaver, and Bennet's brooks to its inventory of waterways.

Why the Name 'Harvard'?

by Jonas Prescott

Freeholders were curious at church last week about the selection of the name “Harvard” for the new town. Some thought the town should retain some of its Indian heritage and be called “Makamacheckamuck,” for a large hill with a westward prospect, while others objected that the name was too much a reminder of massacres on both sides as recently as 11 years ago; and that any nickname given the town might not be appropriate for polite company.

One party speculated that the Willards, who are the largest landholders in the area, wanted the name because Major Simon Willard's second and third wives were related to Harvard College's first president. Willard's son, Samuel, who was the father of Josiah Willard, secretary of the college, was acting president from 1701 to 1707. And since Governor Belcher, who graduated from Harvard, was the one who signed the bill, he “may have found some suggestion in these facts which led him to give the new town this honored name,” according to one report.

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

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Village Now a Town: Harvard Governor Belcher signs bill June 29

by Simon Stone

The land area that includes Still River and Shabikin and spreads six miles from north to south and five miles from east to west is now the town of Harvard. Upon the governor's signing of the bill which had previously been approved by the House of Representatives and the Senate, the land separated from Lancaster, Groton, and Stow and became its own town. Although the town was created by this signing, the government attached some strings: “provided that the Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the said Town Settle a learned and Orthodox minister among them within the space of two

years and also erect an House for the publick Worship of God.”

Those who have been following the town's progress remember that the villagers at Bare Hill presented an article at Town Meeting two years ago, asking that the village be separated from Lancaster because villagers had too far to travel to church. Although townspeople voted down the request, another vote last year passed and town officials sent the bill to the legislature. According to the bill, Harvard “is declared to be within the County of Worcester, Any Law Usage or Custom to the contrary notwithstanding.”

Extraordinary Effort Brings News Of Town, Day after Incorporation

by Hiram Joy

News-carrier Silent Wilde set off from Boston before dawn this morning with the news that the legislature approved the bill setting off a town from Lancaster, Groton, and Stow: the name of the town is Harvard. Just after the signing by Governor Belcher, the speaker of the House, John Quincy, assured Wilde and others who had gathered that, “Nought but an Act of God could stop enactment of the bill.”

Wilde galloped from Boston through Concord to Harvard, changing horses

every four hours at prearranged farms to bring the news to the village the day after its incorporation. Having had information that yesterday might be the day, gentry and farm workers alike lined the road and cheered Wilde as he rode to the village center.

When asked what he thought about the new town after his ride, Wilde replied, “I live in Lancaster, so there's no joy in't, and I've never been so sore in my life. It'll be a week before I can ride again.”

Plans Drawn for New Meeting House

by Whitney Robbins

To go along with the village's new status as a town, plans have been drawn for a new meeting house, the like of which have not been seen in this remote hamlet before. Jonathan Whitney said in a casual encounter last night in

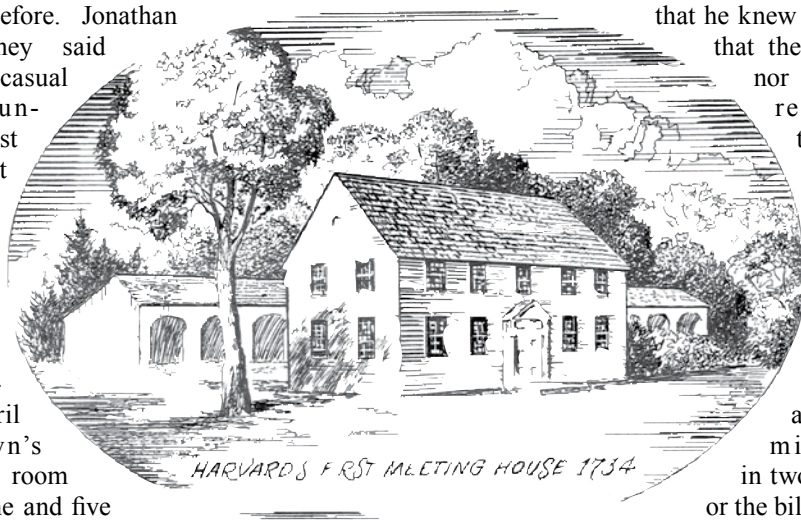
to gather for worship and for public discourse on the direction of our new town,” he said. “It may look too grand for our little village, but we figure we'll grow into it,” he added. Brown also said

farmer Cyril Brown's back room that he and five

other “farseeing” individuals had been planning for this day for months, and displayed a drawing of their plan, which is shown here.

“We need this meeting house for a place

that he knew the bill that the governor signed required that Harvard have a



church and minister in two years, or the bill would become invalid.

Harvard would then return to its Mother Town, Lancaster, and the bits of Groton and Stow given up for the new town would be given back.

My 2 Pence



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Constable's Corner



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Harvard Wins Oxen Pull



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