

JANUARY 1909

H. C. Hodges, Twenty-second United States Infantry (now major, First United States Infantry), with a total enrollment of one company of 57. At the present time, there is a band of 23 pieces, and three companies of infantry of 45 each, an aggregate including cadet major, staff, etc., of 169 in this department.

This college has two of its graduates in the regular army, commis-

sioned direct from here, one of whom has been Commandant for the past three years. It may be of interest to know that the War Department accepts a diploma from this college in the engineering courses in lieu of written examinations in seven of the nine subjects required of a candidate for commission as second lieutenant in the United States Army.

## A Brief History of Durham

The average man who comes to Durham to enter college, has that uppermost in his mind, and regards Durham simply as the college town. After a while, however, the student hears some of the traditions of this old settlement, and finds it as interesting as at the present time.

Originally, Durham was a part of the so-called "infant plantation of Dover," an independent republic until 1641. Sixteen years later, the town was separated from Dover proper, and became known as Oyster River. But it was not until 1732 that it became an incorporated township with its present name.

As a frontier settlement, Durham was naturally exposed to Indian attacks during the French and Indian wars. At one time during these troublesome periods, this settlement was the object of special attack by a band of 250 Maine Indians, under the leadership of Sieur de Villieu. Although so often told, I think this

story will bear repeating. The following is taken from Doctor Belknap's interesting account of the massacre:

"Oyster River is a stream which runs into the western branch of Pascataqua; the settlements were on both sides of it, and the houses chiefly near the water. Here were twelve garrisoned houses, sufficient for the defence of the inhabitants; but apprehending no danger, some families remained at their own unfortified houses, and those who were in garrisons were but indifferently provided for defence, some being even destitute of powder. The enemy approached the place undiscovered, and halted near the falls, on Tuesday evening, the seventeenth of July [1694].

"Here they formed into two divisions, one of which was to go on each side of the river and plant themselves in ambush, in small parties near every house, so as to be ready

for the attack at the rising of the sun; the first gun to be the signal. John Dean, whose house stood by the saw-mill at the falls, intending to go from home very early, arose before the dawn of day, and was shot as he came out of his door. This firing, in part, disconcerted their plan; several parties who had some distance to go, had not then arrived at their stations; the people in general were immediately alarmed, some of them had time to make their escape, and others to prepare for their defence. The signal being given, the attack began in all parts where the enemy was ready.

"Of the twelve garrison houses five were destroyed, viz., Adams's, Drew's, Edgerly's, Medar's and Beard's. They entered Adams's without resistance, where they killed fourteen persons. \* \* \* Drew surrendered his garrison on the promise of security, but was murdered when he fell into their hands; one of his children, a boy of nine years, was made to run through a lane of Indians as a mark for them to throw their hatchets at, till they had dispatched him. Edgerly's was evacuated; the people took to their boat, and one of them was mortally wounded before they got out of reach of the enemy's shot. Beard's and Medar's were also evacuated and the people escaped.

"The other seven garrisons, viz., Burnham's, Bickford's, Smith's, Bunker's, Davis's, Jones, and Woodman's, were resolutely and successfully defended. \* \* \* Thomas

Bickford preserved his house in a singular manner. It was situated near the river, and surrounded with a palisade. Being alarmed before the enemy had reached the house, he sent off his family in a boat, and then shutting his gate, betook himself alone to the defence of his fortress. Despising alike the promises and threats by which the Indians would have persuaded him to surrender, he kept up a constant fire at them, changing his dress as often as he could, showing himself with a different cap, hat or coat, and sometimes without either, and giving directions aloud as if he had a number of men with him. Finding their attempt vain, the enemy withdrew, and left him sole master of the house which he had defended with such admirable address. \* \* \* The Indians finally withdrew; having killed and captivated between ninety and an hundred persons and burned about twenty houses, of which five were garrisons."

The ruins of some of these fortified houses which formed the line of defence along the Oyster River remain today to show us where the early settlers took refuge in those troublesome times.

In considering the history of Durham, no one man stands out more prominently in his service for his town and country than Gen. John Sullivan. At the age of thirty-one he was appointed major in the New Hampshire Provincial Militia. In this capacity he became a leader in

that great struggle, the American Revolution.

Connected with his life there is an interesting tradition about the initial

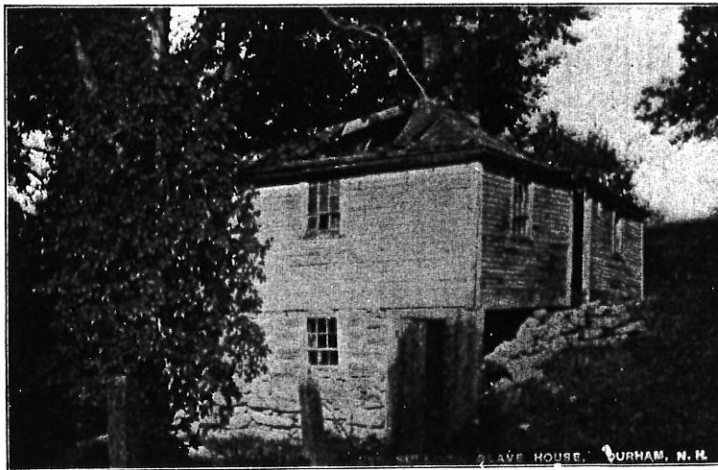


THE SULLIVAN MONUMENT

On this spot was stored the powder taken from Fort William and Mary and used at Bunker Hill

act in this war for independence. To hear that those who dared to strike the first blow against the oppressive power of England were citizens of Durham, gives us great respect for this old New Hampshire town.

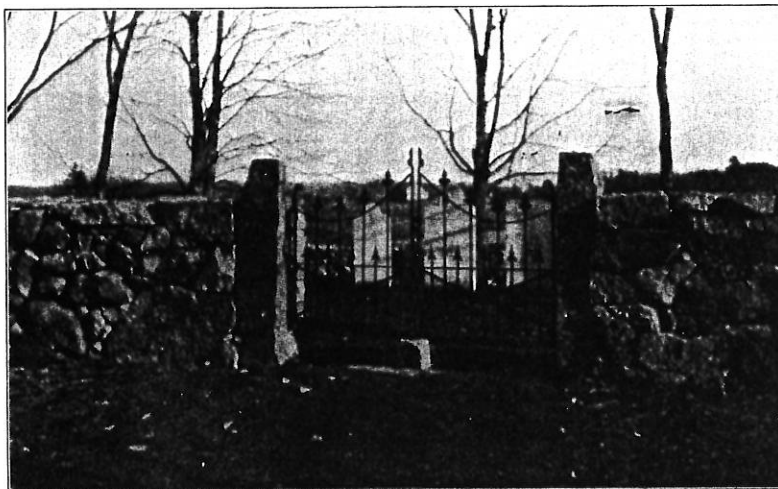
Late in the fall of 1774, the noted patriot, Paul Revere, came to Durham to notify Sullivan that the fort in Portsmouth harbor was soon to be occupied by some British regiments, in order to prevent the importation of arms and ammunition into the colony. Being naturally quick to act, Sullivan immediately planned an expedition for the purpose of seizing all ammunition then held in the fort. The picked men for this undertaking rowed down the river one moonlight night, and bringing their large craft as near the fort as possible, they waded ashore. The garrison was surprised and overpowered. From the old fort they then carried away over one hundred casks of powder, which was of great value at that time. They brought this back to Durham and stored it in the meeting-house until, some time later, Major DeMerritt, an ancestor of the present citizen, carried it to Boston, where it arrived in time to be of service at the battle of Bunker Hill.





THE SULLIVAN HOUSE

The house of General Sullivan stands on the right bank of Oyster River, just below the falls. It is a quaint, old-fashioned homestead, which is pointed out by the citizens with great pride, as one of the old landmarks. Immediately in its rear is a small, square building with a four-sided roof. This structure was the slave house. A monument dedicated to General Sullivan now stands a short distance in front of the house



THE SULLIVAN CEMETERY

Large stone in center of picture marks grave of General Sullivan

on the site of the old church where, it is said, the powder from Portsmouth was stored.

Another feature of interest in considering Durham's development is the old Concord-Portsmouth turnpike road, a portion of which we see every day as we go to college exercises. This portion, with which we are all familiar, is that which runs past the church, — the "Block,"

Besides this portion of the old turnpike, the road to Portsmouth was of great benefit to Durham. Its building necessitated the construction of a long bridge over the Pascataqua River. In its day this structure was a masterpiece, for in connecting Meader's Neck, in Durham, with Fox Point, on the Newington shore, a long half mile of planked surface was built. It was made in



IN DURHAM

Thompson Hall and the "Gym." This old road was the first to be incorporated by the state and for many years toll was taken for its maintenance. It was the custom of the people of the interior to bring their farm produce along this road to the wharves, which were at the head of tide-water on the Oyster River. Here they exchanged for imported goods brought up by boats from Portsmouth.

three sections, one of which had a draw for vessels. The stage line down the old turnpike road from Concord to Portsmouth passed over this bridge, adding much to the prosperity of the town. Since its destruction by ice in 1855, the action of ice and tide have left only the abutments to show where the structure once stood.

As this old bridge went, so went much of the prosperity of Durham,

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for on the advent of the railroad, the importance of the turnpike and the shipping wharves diminished to practically nothing. Instead of a comparatively important commercial center, the town became a quiet little farming settlement, and so continued for nearly half a century.

In 1893, owing to the beneficence of the late Benjamin Thompson, the New Hampshire College of Agricul-

ture and Mechanic Arts was moved from Hanover to Durham. Since that time the construction of several college buildings has done much to improve the town. It now appears that we shall always find closely allied with the welfare of New Hampshire College the development of Durham.

C. F. WHITEMORE, '11.



THE MILL POND

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