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Biographical Sketches

LANCASTER BANK

Officers, Directors, *et al.*

Certain dates may be approximate

BURNSIDE, David • [Lancaster Bank • 1847-1849; 1851-1853: Director] • Early in the 19th century David Burnside operated a tannery on Elm St., Lancaster.¹ He also bought and sold real estate and made commercial loans on a private basis. • On August 9, 1824, he was named quartermaster of the Sixth Brigade in the State Militia. • On July 4, 1834, Burnside was named as a fire ward in Lancaster. He remained involved in firefighting for years thereafter. • On December 28, 1844, he was one of 65 signatories to a petition to encourage the building of a railroad through the town, an effort that did not bear fruit at the time. • In 1856 he was listed as a clothing dealer in Lancaster.² • His son, David A. Burnside, was later a merchant (with Sabin C. Woolson) and still later the owner of the Lancaster House.

CARGILL, Guy C. • [Lancaster Bank • 1833: Incorporator • 1833-1835: Director] • In 1828 Guy Cargill came to Lancaster from Bath and with local resident William T. Carlisle opened a general store at the north end of town in the Carlisle building.³ Not long afterward, Cargill left the partnership and moved to the Green Store (the Evans Block was later built on the site and was standing in the late 19th century). • On December 28, 1844, he was one of 65 signatories to a petition to encourage the building of a railroad through the town. • In January 1849 he left Lancaster and headed to California to participate in the Gold Rush. He returned on April 23, 1851, sick and exhausted, and died in Lancaster two days later on the 25th.⁴

CARLISLE, William • [Lancaster Bank • 1833-1835; 1840-1844: Director] • In the early 19th century William T. Carlisle kept a general store at the north end of Main Street in Lancaster.⁵ In 1828 Guy C. Cargill relocated from Bath and became a partner with Carlisle, an arrangement with did not last long. The Carlisle business continued on its own in what was well known as the Red Store. To replenish his stock, Carlisle would travel to Boston and Portland once or twice each year, thus keeping up to date on the latest merchandise popular in the larger cities. • On August 23, 1838, he was appointed quartermaster in the 24th Regiment of the State Militia. • On December 28, 1844, with many other business and professional people he was one of 65 signatories to a petition to encourage the building of a railroad through the town.

COLBY, Joseph • [Lancaster Bank • 1845-1851; 1852-1853 Director] • On September 1, 1863, Joseph Colby was elected to the board of directors of the Coos Mutual Fire Insurance Co., founded in Lancaster.⁶ The company remained in existence until 1879, when it wound up its affairs as it could not compete effectively with larger old-line firms. • In 1864 Colby participated in Lancaster's Centennial Celebration.

COSSITT, George A. • *Cashier* • [Lancaster Bank • 1843-1853: Cashier] • George Ambrose Cossitt

¹ A.N. Somers, *History of Lancaster, New Hampshire*, 1899, pp. 98, 267, 368, 372, 392, 509, 523, 527-529, 545.

² *New England Business Directory*, 1856, p. 508.

³ A.N. Somers, *History of Lancaster, New Hampshire*, 1899, pp. 267, 333, 365.

⁴ *History of Coos County, New Hampshire*, 1888, p. 324, from the journal of Richard P. Kent.

⁵ A.N. Somers, *History of Lancaster, New Hampshire*, 1899, pp. 129, 267, 364, 365, 547.

⁶ A.N. Somers, *History of Lancaster, New Hampshire*, 1899, pp. 399, 594.

was born in Claremont, son of Ambrose Cossitt, a bank president and lawyer in that town.⁷ • In 1836 he came to Lancaster from Whitefield, where he had practiced law for about a year. In Lancaster he set up an office, afterward enjoying modest success in his legal practice. From 1837 to 1852 he was register of probate, and from 1860 to 1874 he again served in that post. • On October 2, 1841, Cossitt was made adjutant in the 42nd Regiment of the State Militia. • From 1846 to 1849 and again in 1851 and 1852 he was town moderator. At one time he had law partnerships locally with S.W. Cooper and, separately, B.F. Whidden, but Cossitt was not seen often in court. • Historian Somers noted that “his forte was not in the law practice. He was a man who took life easy and was fond of his comforts. Temperate in habits, ardent of spirit, and of a kindly disposition, he was yet easily aroused and became vehement in manner under excitement or strong feelings.” • In 1852 Cossitt was elected as a state representative. In 1856 he was an advocate of the Free Democrats or Free Soilers. • In 1869 he was a fire ward in Lancaster. • In 1875 he was listed as a local lawyer, but “not in practice.” • It seems that during his long tenure as cashier he worked casually at best, kept incomplete records, and hardly every pressed debtors to pay their loans. • For many years he lived with his daughter, Mrs. O.H. Kimball, in whose home he died on December 14, 1895, at nearly the age of 90.

CROSS, Ephraim • [Lancaster Bank • 1833: Incorporator • 1835-1847: Director] • Ephraim Cross was a prominent citizen of Lancaster and earned his living as a maker of hats. His shop was near the north end of Stockwell’s Bridge crossing Israel’s River and was on a site on which the Colby Block was later built. Cross’ successor in hat trade was Isaac B. Gorham. • In 1827 he built the Coos Hotel on the corner of Main and Canal streets, which he operated into the 1830s. By 1837 it was owned by Joseph C. Cady (later by George C. Williams, cashier of the White Mountain Bank, who moved it to the rear of the lot on April 24, 1864). • In 1833 he was an incorporator of the Lancaster Bank, and for a long time in later years he served as a director. • In 1844 he was elected as a state senator, polling 124 votes to 135 for all of his opponents combined. Ephraim Cross served in many public offices and positions of trust over a period of years, including selectman and moderator. • He lived in the so-called Cross House in Lancaster at the corner of Main and High Streets. • In the mid-19th century husking bees held in his establishment were popular with local residents. • In 1856 Ephraim Cross was listed as an auctioneer in Lancaster.⁸ For a long time he was a local fireman. • On October 20, 1817, Ephraim Cross, then of Derby Vermont, married Lucy Messer in Lancaster, daughter of Lancaster hat maker Frederick Messer.⁹ • Ephraim Cross died of cancer in 1876.

HOVEY, Jonathan • [Lancaster Bank • 1850-1851: Director] • In 1849 and 1850 Jonathan Hovey served as a fire ward in Lancaster.¹⁰ • On March 15, 1849 a Mr. Hovey, presumably a relative, died of smallpox, then a rare disease. “Other members of his family took the disease, but recovered from it.”¹¹ Afterward, everyone in town was vaccinated by Dr. John Dewey, who had traveled to Boston to obtain the vaccine.

HUNKING, Benjamin • [Lancaster Bank • 1847-1849: Director] • Dr. Benjamin Hunking, of Newbury, Vermont, an 1808 graduate of the Medical Department of Dartmouth College, came to Lancaster from Newbury, Vermont, in 1805 to practice medicine.¹² His practice was well acclaimed, and in August

⁷ *History of Coos County, New Hampshire*, 1888, p. 217. • A.N. Somers, *History of Lancaster, New Hampshire*, 1899, pp. 4, 335, 336, 393, 468, 529, 534-536, 538, 550.

⁸ *New England Business Directory*, 1856, p. 485.

⁹ *History of Coos County, New Hampshire*, 1888, p. 363. • A.N. Somers, *History of Lancaster, New Hampshire*, 1899, pp. 95, 192, 228, 333, 348, 358, 379, 392, 406, 486, 515, 523, 527-529, 532, 534, 537, 538, 540, 541, 546, 547, 593.

¹⁰ A.N. Somers, *History of Lancaster, New Hampshire*, 1899, p. 528.

¹¹ A.N. Somers, *History of Lancaster, New Hampshire*, 1899, p. 261.

¹² *History of Coos County, New Hampshire*, 1888, pp. 348, 349, 353. • A.N. Somers, *History of Lancaster, New Hampshire*, 1899, pp. 131, 191, 257, 258, 260, 267, 336, 358, 444, 477, 485, 486, 533, 542, 564, 593. • *Two Hundred Years: A Bicentennial Sketchbook, Lancaster, New Hampshire 1764-1964*, p. 15.

1811, during an epidemic of smallpox, the town authorized Dr. Hunking to inoculate people against smallpox, at that time an epidemic, and to attend to victims in one or more “pest houses” proposed to be erected in the jail yard. • In the War of 1812 he was commissioned as an assistant surgeon in the Navy. Throughout the war he was at sea and at various naval stations. • In 1829 Dr. Hunking was appointed postmaster, succeeding Samuel A. Pearson. Hunking was a staunch Democrat and supporter of Jackson and served in the position until 1842. The Post Office was kept in his house on the river road in a building known decades later as Elm Cottage, a popular stopping place for tourists. • In November 1832, Hunking desired to be appointed to the position of the surveyor of the port of Eastport, Maine, and sought help from John Wingate Weeks, Lancaster member of the U.S. Congress, for help.¹³ • From 1829 to 1852 he was judge of probate. • On December 28, 1844, Dr. Hunking was among 65 men signing a proposal to have a rail line connect through the town. • In 1856 he was one of six Lancaster physicians listed in a directory. In 1864 he participated in the town’s centennial celebration. • On May 16, 1814, in Lancaster, he married Drusilla S. Everett, daughter of Judge Everett. • Dr. Benjamin Hunking died in Lancaster in 1868 at the age of 86.

JOYSLIN, Royal • President • [Lancaster Bank • 1833: Incorporator • 1833-1853: Director • 1836-1853: President] • From about 1808 to 1812, Royal Joyslin had lived with his uncle, William T. Carlisle, in Lancaster and had clerked in his small store.¹⁴ He then moved to Bath, where the same uncle was an owner of Carlisle, Bellows & Dewey, where he was a clerk for a decade. Next he formed a mercantile business in Bath with Hosea Edson, continuing it until 1825, when he sold his interest and moved back to Lancaster, bringing an acquaintance, Richard P. Kent (see listing) with him. Apparently, general stores and other small businesses in the district typically involved a great deal of work, a modest amount of capital, and little worthwhile in the way of financial return. • In Lancaster he set up business in the already established Carlisle Store, with Kent serving as his clerk.¹⁵ He opened another business in the former Sampson Store on Elm St., also known as the Red Store, opposite the American House stable, paying \$40 per year in rent. These two stores had no competition for a year or so and seemingly prospered. At the time most trade was done by barter and promissory notes, and “very little money was in use in trade.”¹⁶ • In 1828 Guy C. Cargill came to Lancaster from Bath and set up a store in the Carlisle Building, later moving to the Green Store (which in 1835 became the home of the Lancaster Bank). About the same time, William Sampson came to town from Northumberland and opened a store where Cargill had first located in 1828. • In 1828 Royal Joyslin formed a partnership with his clerk, Kent, in Joyslin & Kent, which lasted for about four years, with each principal then going into his own business. Kent bought out the Cargill inventory in the Green Store, and conducted trade there. Joyslin eventually bought the Red Store and moved it down Main Street, to a site on which the Lancaster National Bank was later built. As did other merchants in the district, Joyslin went to Boston and Portland once or twice each year to secure new merchandise. • In 1838 Joyslin was a partner with John Willson, Richard P. Kent, and Apollos Perkins in the founding of the *White Mountain Aegis*, the town’s first newspaper. • Joyslin stayed in the Red Store until 1845, when he relocated into the Town Hall, which had been moved from Sand Hill to the main business district of town. This new-old building, built in 1794, was added to on the top, with the resulting structure having Joyslin’s store across the front of the ground floor, town offices and an opera hall on the second floor, and premises for the Odd Fellows in the attic. TOWN HALL was lettered prominently across the front, just above an equally prominent ROYAL JOYSLIN sign. The American House hotel was across the street. • In 1848 Joyslin was an incorporator of the White Mountain Railroad Co. In 1853 he was a state representative. In 1855 Joyslin was a founder of the Lancaster Manufacturing Co., whose charter was unused for many years, then sold. • In 1861 he was appointed postmaster by Abraham Lincoln, and remained in that post until 1866, when he was succeeded by John W. Spaulding. • Joyslin remained in the mercantile trade until 1867, when he

¹³ *A Guide to the Paper of the Weeks Family of Lancaster, New Hampshire*, 1969, p. 51.

¹⁴ *History of Coos County, New Hampshire*, 1888, p. 363. • A.N. Somers, *History of Lancaster, New Hampshire*, 1899, pp. 113, 129, 131, 225, 227, 234, 258, 267, 269, 331, 335, 365, 366, 370, 385, 393, 452, 487, 509, 523, 527, 528, 536, 542, 593.

¹⁵ *History of Coos County, New Hampshire*, pp. 365, 366, reproduces historical and personal notes from Joyslin’s ledger for the years 1825-1828. The entries were made by Richard P. Kent, clerk for Joyslin.

¹⁶ A.N. Somers, *History of Lancaster, New Hampshire*, 1899, p. 331.

retired due to the infirmities of old age, having been in business in town for 42 years. By this time his trade had dwindled, and he had relatively little in the way of assets. • Royal Joyslin died on July 16, 1880, at the age of 85, leaving behind the respect of his fellow citizens.

KENT, Richard Peabody • Cashier • [Lancaster Bank • 1835-1840: Cashier • 1835-1853: Director] • Richard Peabody Kent kept a daily record from June 1, 1825, this being the year he arrived in Lancaster, to March 11, 1885, by which time he became bedridden, of “all events of interest transpiring in Lancaster and largely in the region about.”¹⁷ • Early in his business career in Lancaster he was a clerk in the store of Royal Joyslin, then for four years he was a partner in Joyslin & Kent. Afterward he bought the Cargill inventory in the Green Store, which he operated for three years, until 1837. He then moved into another building, and in April took Lewis C. Porter as a partner, which arrangement lasted for three years. From 1840 to 1844 Kent traded on his own, then for another three years operated as R.P. Kent & Co. with his brother Nelson. Richard P. Kent then was on his own again until 1862, when Nelson came back into the business as did his son, Edward R., now under the name of R.P. Kent, Son & Co. Seven years later Nelson left to become a partner with John W. Spaulding, and the name was altered to R.P. Kent & Son. Kent owned his building which he enlarged in 1853 and rebuilt in 1890, and which was known as the Kent Building. For over 30 years Kent went twice yearly to Boston to visit wholesalers to secure merchandise. • From 1865 to 1882 he operated the firm of Kent & Cobleigh as a separate enterprise with Erastus V. Cobleigh, the company dealing in stoves and related item and doing tinsmithing. • In 1838 he was one of the founders of the town’s first newspaper, the *White Mountain Aegis*. • For more than 40 years Richard P. Kent was secretary of the Lancaster Bridge Co., a crossing which enabled citizens of Vermont to do business easily in Lancaster, without the necessity of a ferry crossing. He was interested in and for more than 50 years was a trustee of the Lancaster Academy. He also was one of several investors who secured a charter for the Portland & Connecticut River Railroad, with exclusive rights to Coos County, a franchise which the Atlantic & St. Lawrence Railroad had to buy out before they could commence business. In 1848 he was an incorporator of the White Mountain Railroad Co. • Kent was an original trustee of the Savings Bank of the County of Coos, organized July 29, 1868, and located in the Kent Building in Lancaster.¹⁸ • “In 1872 the rumor gained credence in the village that an organized gang of thieves from New York were planning to visit the village and operate here. This called the citizens out, in a meeting held at the counting room of R.P. Kent, to take steps to have the streets properly lighted and patrolled for a term of six months from November of that year. This was taken, however, as more of a scare, and nothing was done in either direction more than to make the people a little more vigilant in the matter of looking after their own property and rights. The street lights were kept trimmed and burning with a little more than ordinary care, but the thieves did not come.”¹⁹ • On June 5, 1832, in Littleton, he married Emily Mann Oakes, a union which endured. In 1872 Mr. and Mrs. Kent celebrated their 50th anniversary. • Richard P. Kent died on March 30, 1885. • In 1892 a public memorial fountain to the Kent family was erected.

MC INTIRE, John • [Lancaster Bank • 1833: Incorporator] • John McIntire was born in York, Maine, January 1, 1765.²⁰ His education was slight at best, and at age 16 he began his career by enlisting as a soldier in the Revolutionary War, then near its conclusion, in which he served as a private. • At about age 25 he came to Lancaster, it is said “with a yoke of oxen, an axe, and a bushel of salt as his entire capital of worldly goods.”²¹ A tireless worker, he settled on the north slope of Mt. Pleasant and laid out a farm, which became very productive. For a time he also operated a mill on Israel’s River. • On March 19, 1792, John McIntire married Sally Stockwell, second daughter of Emmons and Ruth (Page) Stockwell. The couple had

¹⁷ *History of Coos County, New Hampshire*, 1888, Lancaster chapter with biographical notes, extracts from diary, and engraved portrait. • A.N. Somers, *History of Lancaster, New Hampshire*, 1899, pp. 113, 127, 129, 131, 159, 160, 234, 248, 255, 267, 269, 275, 327, 328, 331, 333, 335-337, 365-367, 370, 372, 393, 394, 397, 452, 524, 528, 529, 593.

¹⁸ Name changed in 1883 to the Lancaster Savings Bank; not studied here as it did not issue currency.

¹⁹ A.N. Somers *History of Lancaster, New Hampshire*, 1899, p. 151.

²⁰ A.N. Somers, *History of Lancaster, New Hampshire*, 1899, pp. 92, 93, 181, 189, 191, 194, 383, 553.

²¹ A.N. Somers, *History of Lancaster, New Hampshire*, 1899, p. 92.

11 children. Sally died on September 19, 1812. Not long afterward, on November 4 of the same year, he married Susanna Bucknam, a cousin of his first wife. The union produced five children. All 16 children from both marriages were reared on the McIntire farm. Susanna died on July 23, 1832. • John McIntire died in Lancaster on April 5, 1850.

MESSER, Frederick G. • [Lancaster Bank • 1833: Incorporator] • By 1849 Frederick G. Messer operated a dry goods and variety store in Colebrook. Later, he moved to Lancaster, where he became prominent as a hat maker, producing his own felt from lamb's wool or fur, and creating finished hats ready for sale.²² His shop was close to Main St. in front of James McCarten's blacksmith shop, at what later was known as the corner of Main and Mechanic streets. "Here at the foot of the steep hill, up with ran the wooden stairs to the plain upon which the old meeting house stood, he made hats for many years."²³ He also offered a limited selection of other goods for sale. • His daughter Lucy married Ephraim Cross, then of Vermont, who subsequently moved to Lancaster to engage in the hat trade. • On August 8, 1824, he was made a lieutenant in the State Militia. • Frederick G. Messer died in 1843 at age 70.

MONTGOMERY, Thomas • [Lancaster Bank • 1847-1853: Director] • z

PENDEXTER, John, Jr. • [Lancaster Bank • 1833: Incorporator] • z

PORTER, Warren • [Lancaster Bank • 1833: Incorporator • 1836: Director] • Warren Porter came to Lancaster in 1809 and lived there for the rest of his life.²⁴ • In 1828 Porter was a blacksmith in town, by that time having succeeded Sylvanus Chessman in the business. In 1856 a directory listed him in the same occupation.²⁵ His specialty was making edge tools. His shop was on Main Street, about opposite his house, and in front was a sign of his trade, a broad axe. • He was a fire fighter in Lancaster for a long time. • In Lancaster on October 14, 1813, Warren Porter married Celinda Cram. • Warren Porter died on April 4, 1878, at age 84.

SAMPSON, William • [Lancaster Bank • 1833: Incorporator] • Circa the late 1820s William Sampson came to Lancaster from Northumberland and opened a store in the Carlisle building.²⁶ On December 28, 1844, William Sampson was one of 65 men who signed notice encouraging a railroad connection to Lancaster.

SPAULDING, Edward C., Jr. • [Lancaster Bank • 1851-1852: Director] • Edward C. Spaulding was born in Lancaster, son of Edward C. and Martha (Weeks) Spaulding.²⁷ In later life the son did not use the "Jr." • He grew up as one of six children on the family farm in Lancaster on the northern slope of Mt. Pleasant, a neighbor of John McIntire and his family. • In 1854 he was a founder of the reorganized First Congregational Society of Lancaster. • Spaulding was reelected a director in the Lancaster Bank. July 1, 1852, but is not known to have served past this date. Later, he was a director of the White Mountain Bank of Lancaster.

STEPHENSON, Benjamin • [Lancaster Bank • 1833: Incorporator • 1836-1843: Director] • In the War of 1812, Benjamin Stephenson served as a lieutenant in the 11th U.S. Infantry.²⁸ • For a number of

²² *New-England Mercantile Business Directory*, Part 2, 1849, p. 61. • A.N. Somers, *History of Lancaster, New Hampshire*, 1899, pp. 131, 194, 348, 378, 379, 547.

²³ A.N. Somers *History of Lancaster, New Hampshire*, 1899, p. 379.

²⁴ *History of Coos County, New Hampshire*, 1888, p. 330, from the journal of Richard P. Kent.

²⁵ A.N. Somers, *History of Lancaster, New Hampshire*, 1899, pp. 131, 191, 334, 335, 375, 392, 523, 527, 528, 593.

²⁶ A.N. Somers, *History of Lancaster, New Hampshire*, 1899, pp. 267, 365.

²⁷ A.N. Somers, *History of Lancaster, New Hampshire*, 1899, pp. 93, 94, 393, 444. • Edward C. Spaulding, Sr., died in 1845 at the age of 79; Martha died in 1871.

²⁸ A.N. Somers, *History of Lancaster, New Hampshire*, 1899, pp. 121, 131, 192, 392, 523, 527, 528, 537, 540, 553, 569.

years he was a fire ward and otherwise served in fire fighting in the town. In 1828, 1840, and 1843 he was county coroner, and in 1834 he was a deputy sheriff. • In Lancaster on October 24, 1819, Benjamin Stephenson married Mary Wilson.

STEPHENSON, John G. • [Lancaster Bank • 1850-????: Director] • John G. Stephenson was a son of Reuben Stephenson of Lancaster.²⁹ • He was a student participant in “Richelieu” and “College Life” in a pageant staged by the Lancaster Academy on November 26, 1844. • He left Lancaster and moved to Indiana. • In 1861, in company with Senator H.S. Land, he traveled with Abraham Lincoln to his inauguration in Washington, D.C. • Stephenson was later named as the librarian of the Library of Congress. • Stephenson died in the late 1880s.

STEPHENSON, Reuben • [Lancaster Bank • 1844 intermittently to 1853: Director]³⁰ In 1811 Reuben Stephenson was a constable in town and helped marshal local citizens to attend a meeting regarding the smallpox epidemic. • In 1828 the Stephenson family lived on the corner of Main and Middle streets. • Stephenson was involved in several different enterprises, including running a mill on Israel’s River and was generally known as a trader. For a time he made pearlsh, a popular commodity manufactured by several others in Lancaster as well. He participated in fighting fires including as a fireward. • In 1828 Reuben Stephenson was a founding trustee of the Lancaster Academy. • In 1828, 1836, and 1841 he was county coroner, and in 1814, 1825, 1840, and 1847 he was a deputy sheriff. He served multiple terms as a selectman. • On December 28, 1844, he was among 65 people signing a document expressing a desire to establish a rail connection to Lancaster. • In Lancaster on February 24, 1810, Reuben Stephenson married Mary Baker.

STEPHENSON, Turner • [Lancaster Bank • 1835-1849 1852-1853: Director] • Turner Stephenson was born in Lyme on April 8, 1798, son of Capt. Briant and Deborah (Turner) Stephenson.³¹ As a youth he came to Lancaster. • Stephenson studied for a time at Dartmouth College, but did not graduate. • Afterward he studied law with William Farrar in Lancaster and with William C. Bradley in Westminster County, Vermont. He was admitted to the bar in Essex County, Vermont, in 1824 and commenced practice in Lunenburg in that state. Three years later he moved to Lancaster, and there he remained for the rest of his life. He achieved great success and wealth in this profession. • In 1840 his house on Main Street was destroyed by fire. • On December 28, 1844, he was among 65 signatories on a plea to establish a railroad connection to Lancaster. • In the 1850s he was among townsmen who embraced the Independent Democratic or Free Soil Party. For a long time he was active in local firefighting. • In 1855 he was a founder of the Lancaster Manufacturing Co., an enterprise that did not go into business. • From 1855 to 1868 he was judge of the Probate Court. • Stephen was married twice—in 1830 to Eluthera Porter of Charlestown, and in 1841 to Phebe Hough Oakes of Lancaster. He had no children. • Stephenson Turner died on January 26, 1872, and was survived by his widow Phebe.

SUMNER, James B. • [Lancaster Bank • 1833: Incorporator • 1833-1835; 1845-1847: Director] • At one time he lived in Lunenburg, Vermont.³² In the 1850s he lived in Dalton, N.H.³³ • In the early 1850s he was founding president of the White Mountain Bank of Lancaster.

WHITE, John H. • *President* • [Lancaster Bank • 1833: Incorporator • 1833-1836: Director • 1833-

²⁹ A.N. Somers, *History of Lancaster, New Hampshire*, 1899, pp. 418, 419.

³⁰ *History of Coos County, New Hampshire*, 1888, p. 365. • A.N. Somers, *History of Lancaster, New Hampshire*, 1899, pp. 131, 167, 191, 260, 267, 334, 370, 383, 416, 528, 534, 537, 540.

³¹ *History of Coos County, New Hampshire*, 1888, p. 242. • Charles H. Bell, *The Bench and Bar of New Hampshire*, 1894, pp. 662, 663. • A.N. Somers, *History of Lancaster, New Hampshire*, 1899, pp. 131, 234, 267, 334, 335, 385, 392, 464, 509, 523, 527, 528, 534, 539, 545, 593.

³² James R. Jackson, *History of Littleton, New Hampshire*, Vol. II, 1905, p. 123.

³³ A.N. Somers, *History of Lancaster, New Hampshire*, 1899, pp. 336, 393, these being mentions of his bank connection.

1836: President] • Beginning in 1829, John H. White served several intermittent terms as selectman.³⁴ In 1838 John H. White was among the founders of the *Coos County Democrat*, the second newspaper to be established in Lancaster. At the time he was high sheriff of the county (which position he occupied 1839-1839). In 1839 he served on the Governor's Council. In 1840, 1841, and 1845 he was town moderator. • In 1842 John H. White was the candidate for governor on the Democratic ticket, and in 1844 he was in the contest as an Independent Democrat. In 1856 he was among local residents who took action against the Democratic party for its passive attitude toward slavery. • On December 28, 1844, White was among 65 who signed a request to build a railroad connection to Lancaster. • In the 1850s he was among townsmen who embraced the Independent Democratic or Free Soil Party. In 1856 his daughter Ellen wrote the music to a song, *Fremont*, words by Henry O. Kent of Lancaster, that was popular with the advocates of John Fremont in the presidential election of that year. In the same year John H. White was among those who proposed the building of a new hotel, which became the Lancaster House.

WHITE, Moses • [Lancaster Bank • 1833: Incorporator] • In the Revolutionary War, Moses White of Rutland, Massachusetts, was an aide to his uncle, Major General Moses Hazen.³⁵ After the war the government, under the will of Hazen, granted White a tract of land in Lancaster, but the matter was complicated by years of title problems. Moses White moved to Lancaster and spent the rest of his life in the town, where he worked industriously and succeeded as a merchant.

WILLIAMS, George C. • [Lancaster Bank • 1850-1852: Director] • George Canning Williams was born in Lancaster on August 7, 1827, the oldest son of Jared W. and Sarah H. (Bacon). Williams.³⁶ He attended local schools and the Lancaster Academy, after which he went to Dartmouth College and graduated Phi Beta Kappa with the Class of 1844. • He then read law in the office of his father, a prominent local attorney, and in 1848 was admitted to the bar. In 1850 he was elected a director of the Lancaster Bank, but remained in the position only for a short time. In 1853-1854 he was clerk of the State Senate. From 1853 to 1856 he was Coos County solicitor. As a man of good reputation and from a fine family, he was eagerly sought for public office, and during the decade he occupied several positions. Beginning in 1856 George C. Williams served as a fire ward in town intermittently for several years. In the excitement surrounding the presidential election of 1856, Williams was among the local Democrats. • In 1859 as a Democrat he went to the State Legislature where he served through 1860. In 1859 he was elected captain general in the newly formed North Star Commandery, No. 3, of New Hampshire, of the Royal Arch Masons (in 1862 he was grand junior warden). In the meantime he maintained his law practice in town and was cashier of the White Mountain Bank, of which his father was president. • In 1861 and 1862 he was town moderator. • He bought the old Coos Hotel, no longer popular with tourists, and on April 24, 1864, he moved it to the back of the lot on which it was situated. Later, others used it as a livery stable. • George C. Williams died in Lancaster on December 10, 1865. He never married. • For additional information see biographical sketch under the introductory narrative for the *White Mountain Bank of Lancaster*.

WILLSON, John • Cashier • [Lancaster Bank • 1833: Incorporator • 1836-1843: Director • 1833-1835; 1840-1843: Cashier] • Spelled Wilson in Somers' *History of Lancaster*, his signature on bank documents is clearly Willson.³⁷ • In the early 19th century Francis and John Willson kept a general store and tavern, the ardent mixture "flip" being especially popular with patrons. Among other notices, on

³⁴ *History of Coos County, New Hampshire*, 1888, p. 363. • A.N. Somers, *History of Lancaster, New Hampshire*, 1899, pp. 131, 227, 228, 230, 233, 234, 247, 267, 275, 358, 392, 444, 454, 531-533, 535, 538, 540, 541, 546, 593.

³⁵ *History of Coos County, New Hampshire*, 1888, p. 362. • A.N. Somers, *History of Lancaster, New Hampshire*, 1899, pp. 131, 552, 568.

³⁶ *History of Coos County, New Hampshire*, 1888, p. 221. • Charles H. Bell, *The Bench and Bar of New Hampshire*, 1894, p. 750 • A.N. Somers, *History of Lancaster, New Hampshire*, 1899, pp. 234, 235, 335, 336, 393, 471, 489, 493, 515, 528, 533-536, 538, 545. • Other sources.

³⁷ Documents preserved by the NHSL. Willson signed bank reports as a director and, separately in some instances, as justice of the peace. Spelled correctly as Willson in *History of Coos County, New Hampshire*, 1888.

December 28, 1815, John Willson was licensed “to sell foreign and domestic spirits at his store,” while in the meantime Francis Willson was conducting a tavern. On October 25, 1819, Col. John Willson was licensed to keep a tavern.³⁸ • Early in the War of 1812, John Willson with the rank of private was among 146 regional men who joined Capt. John W. Weeks’ 11th U.S. Infantry company organized locally and then went off to the scenes of war. In 1818 he was a colonel in the 24th Regiment. On June 29, 1822, Willson was made a brigadier general in the regional artillery company. In 1823 an artillery company was organized in Lancaster with John Willson as captain. In the same year he was elected as a state representative. He served to 1825. • In 1831 he helped with the brickwork on the new courthouse. • In 1833 when the Lancaster Bank commenced business, Willson was named as cashier and the office was kept in his residence, in which he also operated a small store. • In 1834 he was one of the first firewards named by the town. • In 1838 Willson was a partner in the formation of the *White Mountain Aegis*. • On December 28, 1844, Willson was among 65 men who signed a notice encouraging a rail connection to Lancaster.

³⁸ *History of Coos County, New Hampshire*, 1888, p. 289.