

Casco House on Middle Street (the same spot in the rear now occupied by the Casco Bank) at the breaking out of the Revolution and kept boarders. President John Adams boarded with him when he attended court here, which he was in the habit of doing before the War. He died soon after the war commenced. He is not known to have been connected with any other person of the name in this vicinity.

The land described in the above mentioned conveyance was one of the grants laid down which was noticed in Chapter 8, and according to the scale given upon the same the starting point was on the northerly bank of the Presumpscot River about 70 rods above the mouth of Mill Brook, or "Proctor's Mill Stream" as it was formerly called, near the residence of the late Nathan W. Boody. Beginning at the mouth of Mill Brook and extending about 60 rods down the northerly bank of the Presumpscot, was a grant of 43 acres which Joseph Conant conveyed in 1761 to John Webb, the tailor. No highways or town ways are indicated upon the plan in question, and probably at the time when it was made December 25, 1753, none had been formally laid out in its vicinity. The last named grant is now, and has been for many years, crossed diagonally by the County Road from Portland to Bridgton; while the same and the grants above it bordering on the river are traversed by an old road, now called West Bridge Street. The heirs of Ebenezer Cobb, to whom the 60-acre grant was made which formed the westerly boundary of Conant's 47 acres, I assume, for the want of better information, were the progenitors of a part, if not all, of the Cobbs now resident in Westbrook, Deering and Windham. The westerly boundary of the Conant and Cobb grants, as was noticed, is upon the 100 acres laid out to Joseph Pride and 30 acres laid out to Haskell.

The Joseph Pride to whom this tract of 100 acres was granted, was most likely the first person of the name in the old town. He is noticed by William Willis in the history of Portland as follows: "Isaac Savage and Joseph Pride, the first immigrants of the name, also came with their families." This was in 1726. Pride is said to have lived at Back Cove. On April 12, 1728, Joseph and Sarah Pride had a son, Joseph, born in Falmouth and it was probably their daughter, Amy, born before they came here, was married Benjamin Larrabee, whose daughter Elizabeth, born in 1732, married John Webb. There is no

evidence that the elder Joseph Pride ever occupied the grant of 100 acres, but on or near it persons of that name still reside, having acquired their homes by inheritance from ancestors who had long been domiciled with our present town limits. The elder Joseph Pride was probably in middle life when he "emigrated" to this vicinity, and it was no doubt his death which was noticed in 1747 among those of the persons who had died that year, by Parson Smith as that "old Mr. Pride."

Another ancient document of interest, now in my possession, bears the autograph of Moses Pearson, a man who held numerous high positions during a long and useful life, among which were those of high sheriff of the County of Cumberland and judge of the Court of Common Pleas. It is a deed from Pearson to Joseph Conant, Sr. under date of March 5, 1754, and conveys land near the Duck Pond, in Falmouth, probably the same premises which Conant conveyed shortly before his death in November, 1764, to his sons, Joseph, Jr. and Bartholomew. The deed is in the handwriting of the maker, except the certificate of acknowledgment, which was written by the magistrate as appears from their customary phraseology "Coram Enoch Freeman, Jus. Pacis." The land which the deed conveyed is now the property of the Gowen family. The subscribing witnesses are Jesse Stephenson and Benjamin Titcomb.

Of the first name witness, Jesse Stephenson, nothing further is known. Benjamin Titcomb was the ancestor of most of the persons of the name in this vicinity. He was doubtless connected with Pearson, being at once his son-in-law and the nephew of his wife. Moses Pearson never lived in Westbrook, but many of his descendants have resided and still reside here, and some of them have been among our most enterprising and useful citizens. No history of the town, therefore, can be complete that does not give a sketch of his long and eventful life, at least in an abbreviated form. He was born in Newbury in 1797 and emigrated to Falmouth Neck in 1728, which ever afterwards remained his home. He as by trade a Joiner, but being a man of intelligence and great capacity for business, he was soon elected to positions of responsibility and trust in the young town, serving as clerk, selectman and treasurer in the first years after settling here. In 1737, '40 and '49 he was representative in the General Court. In 1745, having raised a company in this vicinity,