

erson, Franklin, and Livingston, in the responsible duty of preparing the declaration of independence. Mr. Sherman was highly esteemed in Connecticut; he belonged to the governor's council of safety, and from 1784 till his death, he was mayor of the city of New Haven. In 1783, he was appointed, with the Hon. Richard Law, to revise and digest the statutes of the state, which was a laborious task. In that assemblage of patriots who formed the federal constitution, in 1787, Mr. Sherman was conspicuous, and he contributed much to the perfection of that instrument, under which the people of the United States have thus far enjoyed unexampled civil liberty and political prosperity. For the four last years of his life, he was a member of the United States senate. He died July 23d, 1793, aged 73.

The ancestor of the other mentioned signer of the declaration, who was from Milford, was Mr. Thomas Clark, son of Thomas, and grandson of George Clark, Sen. He was educated at Harvard College, and graduated about 1670. A number of people from Milford about this time settling in New Jersey, he went with others, and located himself in Elizabethtown. Abraham Clark, Esq., was his grandson, and the only son of Thomas Clark, Jun. He was born February 15th, 1726. He was often a member of the state legislature, and frequently represented New Jersey in the national councils. In whatever capacity he acted, he obtained the respect and admiration of the community, by his punctuality, integrity, and perseverance. He died in the autumn of 1794, (by a stroke of the sun, which ended his life in two hours,) aged 89. He was buried in the church-yard in Rahway.

Capt. Samuel Eells, Esq., and his son, Col: Samuel Eells, were men of importance in the colony. Samuel Eells, Sen., was an attorney, and a justice of the quorum, in 1687, and an assistant in 1709. He died in 1725. His eldest son, Col. Samuel Eells, was born September 2d, 1676. He was educated a lawyer. It appears by the records, that he was a justice of the peace, in 1705, chief judge of the county court, from 1730 to '37, and an assistant from 1733 till near the time he died. He was a distinguished military officer, and took an active part in all the colonial wars of the day. He died in 1743, and left a number of children.

Col. Roger Newton was a very eminent man in Milford. He was son of Capt. Samuel Newton, and grandson of the



minister. He was born in 1684, and educated at Harvard College. He distinguished himself as a military officer in "Queen Ann's war," in the expeditions of 1709 and '10. He was then a captain. At the capture of Louisburg, Nova Scotia, he performed important services, and had the command of the Connecticut troops. For many years he was colonel of the second regiment of militia,—was a judge of the County court in 1730, and chief judge from 1737 till his death. In 1736, he was chosen an assistant, and was continued in the office during life. He married Susannah Bryan, April 10th, 1712, by whom he had three children, viz.: Roger, Susannah, and Mary. He died January 15th, 1771, aged 87.

Gideon Buckingham, Esq., was another useful man in the town and colony. He was born June 22d, 1744. He graduated at Yale College in 1665. He was many times chosen representative to the assembly, was thirty-four years town clerk, and twenty-five years one of the justices of quorum for New Haven county. He died December 8th, 1809.

Besides these, the town has produced many other useful and eminent men, of whom the limits of this work will not admit a notice. About a hundred persons of the town have received collegiate educations, ten of whom, before 1700, were graduates of Harvard College, the others of Yale. More than thirty of these have been preachers most of whom settled in New England. (A list of these may be found in Book of Extracts, page 72.)

The regicides, Whalley and Goffe, lived in the town from the 20th of August, 1661, for more than two years, till they went to Hadley. They were secreted by Mr. Tomkins, in the basement story of a shop standing near his dwelling, on house lot No. 15. (*See map.*) It is related, that Tomkins' daughters often spun in the shop, and sometimes would sing some poetry, which was composed about that time, concerning the martyrdom of King Charles I., (in which they were mentioned,) which much amused the judges. The girls were unacquainted with their concealment.

The geological features of Milford are not very bold or striking. The township is principally of the secondary formation, and the soil is generally good and productive, and might be made much more so—there being no mountains, or very high hills, or much broken land, in the town.

There is a quarry of beautiful serpentine marble in the east