## THE FIRST **AMERICAN**

Some Interesting Records of the Old, independent Colony of Guilford and the Rights Granted to It By King George-Supported the Colonies in the Revolution, and Was Captured by Ethan Allen

Lexington, and the monument there by the King by Thomas Bennington. tells how a young boy was shot down his deputy in America. by the redcoats in 1762 for being a

A Law Unto Themeselves.

They had no government and they governed somewhat by tribal law. in this little "province" the ancestors of the writer lived, and that, perhaps, is why Old Gildford seems different to him from any other locality on earth, and why he goes there as often as he can and visits the old homestead, climbs over the hills and, by the traditions of the family, repeoples these hills and conjures up the scenes of long ago. when his forbears were mountaineers on these rocky ridges, and lived in the primitive way that they must have lived in those strenuous days. it was after one of these day dreaming tramps over the hills and at the evening hour, at the home of a kinsman who still represents the blood of those early days, that we fell to bringing up history and traditions of the family, when my host said: Do you know that part of this house was built from the famous old Liberty Pole tavern kept by John Gale, and that barn across the road is the very same structure in which he housed his horses when he subjugated the little Republic of Guilford and by force of arms made it

Vermont?" An Independent Republic. Gilford, once an independent republic, governing itself, and forced y arms to give up its charter? Charter from whom?" "Why. King George himself, and in 1755."

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(John Gould in New York Tribune | "Prove it to me. Why did not my side, and New Hampshire on the grandfather and father tell me of other. Vermont became a sort of What a delightful old colony Ver- this?" "Well, the charter is in exist- cross-over ground between the mont is to go back to, and in the ence, and the records of the republic armies. It was just west of Guilford summer months, when the modern are in good preservation and can be that General John Stark, with New vacation days are upon you, stroll seen at the town clerk's office at Hampshire troops, won the battle over those old green hills, wander Guilford Centre, and a duplicate map of Bennington, in which many Green up and own its picturesque valleys, of the assignments of the public do- Mountain boys fought. There was visit the often quaint villages, half main of Guilford Republic to its sev- divided opinion in the town, and colonial and half modern, spy out eral inhabitants. We went across to there was somewhat serious disputes the farmhouses, so many of them the barn. This was the long stable, between the inhabitats, so that after reaching back to the Revolution, those the stalls, and it is supposed the war the Liberty Pole Inn se ms with their curious architecture of that Ethan Allen's horse by right to have been the real capitol of the low walls and long, sloping roofs, had this stall, and from these very government. Demands were made that almost come to the ground, mows the herd's grass hay was raked by then government of Vermont for and, better than all, come in contact down to feed it. Then we found an the surrender of the charter under with and feel the warm friendship old early history of the town, in which the republic had existed. The of these people, who have long lived which the history of the republic town was then surrounded by other there, and who, as genealogies run, was told and a new mine of curious towns loyal to Vermont, and as a represent pioneers who came to the facts was revealed. Then to the last resort General Ethan Allen was state, then even unnamed, long be- clerk's office, held now by Charles sent with one hundred troopers to fore the French and Indian war of Barney, curiously enough a descend- Guilford to "persuade" the people 1756; for even then what is now ant of the keeper of the seals one to unite with the County of Wind-Vermont had settlements scattered hundred and forty-nine years ago. ham and the State of Vermont. It here and there, and it was at West The old custodian of the records seems that the Council was in s.s-Minister that the first blood was shed opened the great iron safe and put sion at the Liberty Pole Inn when that later fruited into Concord and into my hands the old charter signed Allen and his troops arrived.

Country Six Miles Square.

A great sheet of parchment on tract of his majesty's domain, six miles square, in territory north of were a law unto themselves, being the colony of Massachusetts, is set apart for these loyal subjects, in tracts of one hundred acres to each family, and that "from henceforth they are to be frecand independent from all other colonies, to make their own laws and elect their own officers, to whom the inhabitants shall pay due respect; shall pay taxes, maintain schools, support the crown church and that the colony shall be governed by a select council of three men, elected by the legal voters each March, and such other officers as may be deemed necessary by the council." On looking to the records I found that the full board, from top to bottom, consisted of about twenty-four men. Then, after recounting much authority extended to them, the charter goes on to say that the only tribute, or tithing, to be exacted by his royal majesty is the right for the King's officers to cut and transport, without compensation or hindrance, such timber on the mountains as may be deemed necessary for masts and spars for the royal navy. There had been a seal attached, but it has disappeared The republic was immediately give up its charter and become part organized, and continued as such unof the County of Windham and give til after the Revolution, and in 1788 its allegiance to the new state of became a township of Vermont, under the gentle persuasion of Ethan Allen and a force of one hundred state militia.

No Ports and No Tariff.

ed. Away back in those days the Barneys, Aldriches and a number of dwellers of old Gilfrd. others, still familiar town names. It appears that schools were organized through out the town, and a sort of semi-academy at the Centre, or rather "capital" was established. A society of the "Established Church" was formed, and between the lines one may catch a glimpse that there was something like an untitled aristocracy in existence at that time. Then one gains the impression that the town became somewhat tribal its make-up. There was the population that centered about the seat of government, the Green River settlement, the settlement of Giulford Hollow and that of Algiers, a little villages at the falls of Broad Brook, nearest to Fort Dummer, now Bratgreat gathering place for the clans St. Paul and return, Omaha, Council ed rapidly, and in three weeks I was in their pilgrimages up and down Bluffs, Stoux City, St. Joe, Kansas able to go to work." Guaranteed the Connecticut river. These old

remarkable transactions, seems to have been no tariff, or import laws. Boston, one hundred miles away, seems to have been the great point of commerce with the colony, and many a bill was brought in for transporting town "stuff" from that

After the beginning of the Revolution there seems to have been a great desire to help the colonies. In August of 1776 is an entry to the effect that the selectmen voted to supply three soldiers to the Continental army during the war, and, in ald of such, they were to be paid an annual bounty of £3 each. John Sheperdson seems to have been the first volutneer under the act, and, so far as the records show, this army of three was kept in the field throughout the war.

During the Revolution the town seems to have become somewhat divided in regard to its government. New York was claiming the unnamed territory of Vermont on one

Ethan Persuaded Them. Allen sought admittance to the hotel, or rather tavern. The door was closed. Allen thundered on the door with his fist and demanded ad- the scratch of a pin has been known ships settled long before 1750, and even then had a population of someeven then had a population of somedays to make up your minds, and if you refuse I'll make Giulford as desolate as Sodom and Gomorrah." He thereupon proceeded to make himself at home and ordered his troops to make themselves comfortable. "This," said my host, "is the old plaints. front door of the tavern on which Allen thumped"-a great solid, panelled door, kept as a historical relic in the Gale family. The Council considered, the will of the town was sought, and Allen waited, and roomed with Gale. They met to fix terms, but there was to be no terms, only surrender. What would Allen do? No one knew, but all guessed. Fin-

> other terms. Terms of Surrender.

ally, if they complied with his terms,

records in the possession of the

The town capitulated, the Council signed for the town and adjourned sine die, and the little republic of Guilford passed out of existence and had a letter from her, I see,-Rose- Salem Iron Works,-Founders, ma 118 years later was almost out of leaf. recollectin and tradition.

We folded up the old, time stained charter and it was put into its wrapping. The old records of the colony were gain consigned to the great iron safe, and we went back to our friends with a satisfaction that no duties. One box of Chamberlain's sightseeing, fishing or camera tour-1st can ever feel. We had found a buried republic, and this little sketch in this community .- M. H. Rodney is only a fragment of a story of the & Co., Almond, Ala. Chamberlain's Then we looked over the records times before and during the Revolu- medicines are for sale by Dr. Stone's of the town board. The records tion that if fully uncovered would show that the town was well govern- reveal a story of human activity that would prove of intense interest to names appear of the Wards, Shep- the lover of his country's history erdsons' Bullocks, Martins, Baktrs, and the descendants of the once

> Izon't! ! ! ! Don't let your child suffer with that cough when you cure it with

> Ballard's Horehound Syrup, a sure cure for Coughs, Bronchitis, Influen-Buy a bottle and try it.

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Mr. Bacon-I don't believe any rolling pin harmless if used as a missile.—Yonkers Statesman.

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Chamberlain's Salve for diseases of the skin. would be leave the old charter and !

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