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History of the [Take our survey](#) **New!** **Town of Exeter, New Hampshire**

By Charles Henry Bell

CHAPTER XVIII.

JUDGES AND LAWYERS.

JOHN GILMAN, the second son of Edward Gilman, Sr., born in England January 10, 1624, came to Exeter before 1650, and immediately became a prominent citizen. From the first he was concerned with his brother Edward in mills and lumber. After Edward was lost at sea in 1653, he inherited much of the latter's property, and took his place in developing the resources of the town. He was chosen selectman more than one-half the years between 1650 and 1680; was repeatedly elected commissioner to end small causes; and appointed upon committees to care for the town's interests. He had several handsome grants of land from the town, and a special right of a grist-mill. In the two years before New Hampshire was emancipated from the Massachusetts government he held the office of associate (judge) of the old Norfolk county court.

In 1680 Mr. Gilman was made a councillor of the newly erected province of New Hampshire, and in 1682 a judge of the Court of Pleas; but in 1683 he was by Governor Cranfield relieved of both offices. It is needless to say that his reputation in the province did not suffer by reason of his removal. In 1693 he was chosen by his townsmen a delegate to the Assembly, and was made Speaker of the House, and again chosen in 1697.

He married, June 30, 1657, Elizabeth, daughter of James Treworgy (from which came the popular Christian name of Trueworthy), and had six sons and ten daughters, and very numerous descendants. He built the "log house" opposite the Great bridge, which is still standing. He died July 24, 1708.

Robert Wadleigh was accepted as an inhabitant of Exeter September 26, 1676, at which time he probably removed there with his family. He was then a man of mature years, and had five sons, some of them tending towards manhood. He had lived in Wells, Maine, more than twenty years before, and in 1666 pur-

chased a considerable tract of land at a place since known as Wadleigh's falls on Lamprey river in the present town of Lee, one-half of which he conveyed to Nicholas Listen. There Mr. Wadleigh lived until he came to Exeter. He soon became known to the people of Exeter, and was chosen to responsible positions. In 1680 he was a deputy to the General Assembly, of which he acted as clerk. In 1681 the inhabitants made him a grant of two hundred acres of land, and the next year his tax was the highest in the town.

A year afterwards he was sued by an agent of Mason, probably for the possession of some of his lands, and by exceptional good fortune won the verdict of the jury. His antagonist took an appeal to the king, upon which Wadleigh determined to go himself to England to look after his interests. He had a further reason for so doing, in the fact that his three sons were at that time under condemnation for taking part in "Gove's rebellion" against Governor Cranfield's tyrannical administration. The impression which Wadleigh made upon the Privy Council must have been favorable, for he was, after his return, appointed a justice of the peace and councillor of the province, doubtless on their recommendation.

Mr. Wadleigh continued to receive marks of the confidence of his townsmen, and of the provincial authorities. In 1692 he was appointed one of the justices of the Court of Common Pleas, and, a year afterwards, a judge of the Superior Court. This position he continued to fill until 1697. He died in Exeter not far from the year 1700. His descendants are somewhat numerous, and the name is still kept up in the town and vicinity.