

of money and the general depression of business which is measurably true; but what do we know, by our own experience, about hard times, in comparison with what I have briefly related? That question can be answered by one word, and that is nothing. But I have digressed, somewhat, from a biographical sketch of the first town officers, and will now continue it. When Samuel Miller arrived at mature manhood, he settles on the place where Mr. Shepard Harvill now lives. When he was first elected as one of the board of selectmen he was 33 years of age. The first board of selectmen in the town were re-elected five years in succession. Miller was on the board many years, and town clerk a number of years. He was also elected representative of the town in the Legislature of Massachusetts several sessions. He died about 62 years ago, leaving a family of 11 children.

Hesekiah French, chosen the first town Treasurer, was born in Billerica, Mass., Jan. 17th, 1773. He was 21 years old when elected Treasurer. He settled at the place called French's Beach, which took its name from him. He came into the place near the close of the last century or the first of the present. Esq. French was a man of liberal hospitality, good social qualities, but rather slack and tardy in his business affairs. But he would generally get his penny if he came in at the eleventh hour. He used to have some good jokes played on him, it is said, for always being behind time. Daniels Brooks a jovial joker, was a neighbor to Esq. French. It was said the Esquire called on Brooks one morning about the first of July and wanted to get some old potatoes to plant. Brooks told him he had no old potatoes, but if he would wait till the first of the next week he would let him have some new ones. Again, it was said that French called into the store of Esq. Whitney one evening and wanted to buy an almanac. Whitney got one and laid it on the counter for French who took it up and looked at it, and said, "Esq. Whitney you have made a mistake; this is a last year's almanac." Whitney said, "No, there is no mistake, it is just right for you, you are always a year behindhand." The