

History of Berkshire County

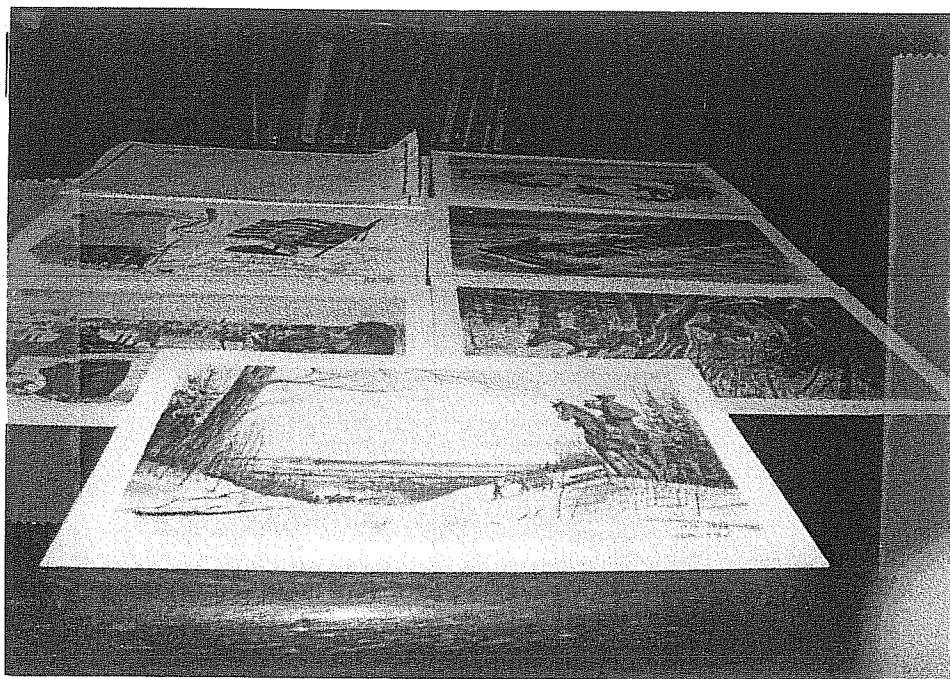
At the distance of about half a mile west of the centre of town, is a rock with an opening or cavity in it, near the surface of the ground, where crystals of quartz and iron pyrites have been found. In the early settlement of Bethlehem, Daniel Sumner, while hunting for deer near this rock, (as is reported,) heard a sudden loud explosion, which greatly surprised and alarmed him. Curiosity leading him to examine from what source it proceeded, he found an unusual appearance of the rock, which was discolored, where a fissure had been made, from which he inferred that the sound had proceeded from that place. It was probably produced by the combustion of hydrogen gas.

At what time the settlement commenced in Loudon is not known. It was probably as early as between 1750 and 60. Some of the earliest inhabitants, whose names can be ascertained, were David Kibbe, Stephen Kibbe, Isaac Kibbe, Dan Gregory, Paul Larkeom, Jeremy Snow, Eldad Bower, Ephraim Pelton, George Troop, Ebenezer Trumbull. Jacob Cook, Timothy Whitney, Jonathan Norton, and Smith Marey.

The Kibbe's and Larkcom were from Enfield Connecticut. E. Pelton from Granville, Mass.; T. Whitney and J. Norton from Suffield, Conn.; and S. Marcy from Woodstock, Conn.

The vote to build the first school-house was passed in 1774. The oldest burying ground in Loudon is in the southeastern section of the town, and the grave-stone, bearing the earliest date, is dated 1774, through doubtless several persons had been interred there years before.

The oldest road in the town was one running from Blanford, through the south part of Loudon, past the old burying ground, and passing through the north part of Sandisfield, through Tyringham to Great Barrington. This was called, "The Great Road" from Boston to Albany.



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