

CANTERBURY SHAKERS

East Canterbury, N. H.

*About the Sodus Bay*

**Mr. William Bruce Gordon  
45 Itendale Street  
Springfield  
Massachusetts**

13,393  
(9754)

March 1. 1826. Due to Anne  
Nicholas for 1300 Acres of Land,  
Lying in Portbay and Ladus. 12600.00

2 Cows & 1 Yoke Oxen given  
in with the Land worth about 80.00.

Forwards the Payment of this Debt  
the following persons agreed to pay  
the sums they subscribed, with the  
Interest which should accrue thereon  
till they made the Payments:

[ ]

Procter Sampson subscribed	1000.00
Samuel Southwick	2000.00
Joseph Pelham	1000.00
William Reed	1600.00
Daniel Dwyer	150.00
Malcha Sanford	450.00
Amount Subscribed	<u>6200.00</u>

The following sums have been paid by the aboves named, at the different times stated:

Procter Sampson April 21. 1826	1000.00
May 2. 1828. Interest on 1000.00 from 2 March 1. 1826 - to April 21. 1826	9.75
Interest on 9.75 from March 1. 1827 to May 2. 1828	0.79
	<u>1010.54</u>

Which cancels his Subscription,  
according to Agreement.

William Reed paid April 21. 1826	600.00
May 2. 1828	24.71
	<u>624.71</u>

Joseph Pelham paid July 6. 1826	-	500.00
January 1. 1827	-	140.00
May 2. 1828	-	200.00
		<hr/>
		840.00
		<hr/>

If I have cast the Interest right  
on Joseph Pelham's Subscription, there  
remains due from him to make up  
his Subscription Oct. 20. 1828 - 313.78.

Malibu Sanford paid May 2. 1828 - 156.00

The Indorsements on Nicholas'  
Bond have been as follows:

April 21. 1826	-----	1600.00
July 6. 1826	-----	500.00
January 1. 1827	-----	6170.00
May 2. 1828	-----	400.00
October 20, 1828	-----	5216.45
		<hr/>
		13886.45
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When the Bond was cancelled  
and the Mortgage Discharged.

The following Sums have been  
lent by the Believers at the East;  
which were paid in the 1st of Jan<sup>y</sup>.  
1824 - and the 20th of October, 1828.

Trustees of the Society at Canterbury,  
N. H. which was paid in January 1. 1824. 3000.00  
Note. This was all in American Gold.

Same Trustees, re<sup>d</sup>. at Portney, which  
was paid in the 20th. October, 1828 - - - 1750.00

Amount lent by Canterbury Trustees 4750.00

Trustees of the Society at Enfield, ~~■~~  
N. H. which was paid in Jan<sup>y</sup>. 1. 1824 - 1000.00

Same Trustees, delivered at Portney  
by Dr. Francis Winkley & J. W. Heath,  
which was paid in Oct<sup>r</sup>. 20. 1828 - 1750.00

Amount lent by Enfield Trustees - 2750.00

Trustees of the Society at Shirley  
Mas. which was paid in Jan. 1. 1824 - 1000.00

Same Trustees, delivered at Portney, by F.  
Winkley & J. Heath - P. in Oct<sup>r</sup>. 20. 1828 - 1000.00

Amount lent by Shirley Trustees - 2000.00 (1)

Trustees at Hancock, Mas. 900.00  
which with 100.00 lent previous by to the  
Society at Portney made ——— 1000.00

900.00 of which was paid in the  
1st of January, 1827  
Trustees of Society at Hancock Mas. paid in Oct<sup>r</sup> 20.<sup>2</sup> 500.00  
1828)

The 3000 Dollars in American Gold  
received of the Trustees at Canterbury,  
was exchanged for bills in Albany, at a  
premium of 4 pr. it. ——— 120.00

Certificate of Deposit on Albany bank  
sold at Geneva for a premium of 10c. ——— 10.00

130.00

Which was paid in with the  
other money, January 1. 1827.

Small Donations made by different  
Believers towards the Payment, which  
was paid in by P. Sampson, May 2. 1828 8.75

In making the Payment of Oct<sup>r</sup>  
20. 1828 - 100 Dollars that Samuel  
Peach of Water-vliet had lent for the  
purpose; 56.45 it was paid by J. W.  
Heath, and 60.00 paid by Protrus Sampson  
which made, with the 3000. rec<sup>d</sup>. from East 5216.45

J. W. Heath also paid \$ 41 for 2 prct. on last payment, in consequence of our not giving notice of anticipating the Payment.

Note. This \$ 56.45. and \$ 41 too was repaid J. W. Heath, by Dr. Ebenezer Munson of Lebanon.

## Recapitulation.

Paid by Subscribers	2631.25
Premium on Gold & Certificate	130.00
Donations from Individuals sent by Eastern Sanities &c.	8.75

deducting 100 doll. from Hancock, which went against the 100 dollars term.

Paid paid for 3 lots bought of Kellogg which were resumed in Nicholas deed	10900.00
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Sent by Samuel Pease	100.00
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Paid by J. W. Heath	56.45
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Paid by P. Sampson	60.00
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Amount paid in	13886.45
Original Debt	12600.00

Amount of Interest paid on the whole	1286.45
Principals 2 prct on last payment for 1 month	8.41

	1294.86
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Note. There were 4 Village lots, of which other people held the Titles that were reserved in Nicholas' Deed. Three of these lots William Reed purchased of Ambrose Kellogg for 100 dollars and paid him. These lots were included in the Deed given to the Trustees at New Lebanon. One lot  $3/4$  Acre with a shell of a house on it, belongs to one <sup>Arms</sup> Adams, who asks 50 dollars for it, which Believers think is too much to give.



This Certifies That the Subscribers, Deacons & acting Trustees of the Church in New Lebanon, county of Columbia & state of New York, hold themselves responsible to Nathan Willard & Oliver Burt, Deacons & acting Trustees of the Church in Shirley, county of Middlesex & state of Massachusetts for the sum of One thousand Dollars received by ~~the~~ Proctor Sampson, December 4<sup>th</sup> 1826; also for the sum of One thousand Dollars received by John Jewett, October 6<sup>th</sup> 1826, amounting to 2000 Dollars in the whole, which sums of money have been delivered in part payment of a tract of land lying in the Towns of Port Bay & Sodus, containing thirteen hundred acres, which was purchased of the Widow Ann Nicholas of Seneca, for the sum of 13000 Dollars, including the interest which had accrued thereon, and of which land the Subscribers hold the fee, as agents in trust; and as this land has been paid for with the monies advanced by different Societies of Believers, for the benefit of the gospel, the Subscribers hereby agree, for themselves and their successors <sup>in office &</sup> in trust, that in case it shall at any time be judged expedient by the Church, to sell said land, or any part thereof, the monies arising from the sale & profits thereof, shall be appropriated towards the redemption of the monies advanced in the purchase of the same, in such a manner that all who have advanced money, may receive an equal share, according to the proportion of money which they have so advanced, and that the said Deacons of Shirley, or their successors in office & trust, shall receive, without interest, such portion of the sum or sums so raised as shall be equal to the proportion which the sums advanced by the said Deacons of Shirley bear to the whole cost of said land: provided nevertheless, that in case it shall be judged necessary to retain the whole of said land for the increase & benefit of the gospel, and for the final establishment of a Society thereon; then the said sums of money advanced as aforesaid, shall be & remain in the right of the land till such times as it can be conveniently raised from the produce and profits thereof; and when so raised, it shall be apportioned as aforesaid.

In witness whereof the Subscribers do hereunto set their hands and seals. Done at New Lebanon the sixth day of November in the year 1828.

\$2000.

Attest. Seth V. Wells.

Stephen Munson  
Israel Hammond

J. Munson & J. Hammond

To

N. Willard & O. Burt.

Obligation for \$2000,00.

This Certifies, That the Subscribers, Deacons & acting Trustees of the Church in New Lebanon, County of Columbia State of New York, hold themselves accountable to Phiny Blanchard & Nathaniel Robbins, Deacons & acting trustees of the Church in Harvard, Worcester County, State of Massachusetts, for the sum of five hundred dollars received October the sixth in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred & twenty eight, which sum has been delivered in part payment of a tract of land lying in the towns of Port Bay & Sodus, containing 1300 acres of Land, which was purchased of the widow Ann Nicholas, of Seneca, for the sum of 13986 Dollars, including the interest which had accrued thereon, and of which the subscribers hold the fee as agents in trust: And as this land has been paid for with monies advanced by different Societies of Believers, for the benefit of the Gospel; the Subscribers hereby agree, for themselves & their ~~heir~~ successors in office & trust, that in case it shall at any time be judged expedient by the Church, to sell said land, or any part thereof, the monies arising from the sale thereof shall be appropriated towards the redemption of the monies advanced in the purchase of the same, in such a manner that all who have advanced money may receive an equal share, according to their proportion of money so advanced; and that the said Deacons of Harvard, or their successors in office & trust, shall receive, without interest, such portion of the sum or sums so raised as shall be equal to the proportion which the sums advanced by the said Deacons of Harvard bear to the whole cost of said land. provided Nevertheless, that in case it shall be judged necessary to retain the whole of said land for the increase & benefit of the Gospel, and for the final establishment of a Society thereon; then the said sums of money, advanced as aforesaid, shall be & remain in the right of the land, till such times as it can conveniently be raised from the produce & profits thereof; and when so raised, it shall be apportioned as aforesaid. In witness whereof the subscribers hereunto set their hands & seals: Done at New Lebanon the Sixth day of November, in the Year 1828.

\$500.

Stephen Munson

Israel Hammond

Attest.

Seth G. Wells.

~~Received \$ 500.00~~

June 24<sup>th</sup> AD 1841

This certifies that we the Trustees ~~have received~~  
Have received of the within Instrument  
\$ 230, 84<sup>cts</sup> This sum received at three different times  
Seth Blanchard

J. Munson & J. Hammond  
To  
S. Blanchard & N. Robbins  
Obligation for \$ 500.00.

13,394  
(9784)

Canterbury October 9<sup>th</sup> 1836.

Beloved Elders,

The following is extracted from a letter received by the trustees here - from Justice Harwood; he states that Jonathan Wood and Daniel Hawkin have returned from Sodus bay, they saw the agent, and he offered them one hundred thousand Dollars for their place or situation and they asked him one hundred Dollars per acre which being more than he was authorized to give ~~and~~ wanted a limited time to give them an answer have not heard the result yet, but he expected to hear soon - the time expires first of October when they are to have an answer - but there is not ~~no~~ much doubt but it will be sold if the Canall comes in at that place which will be the case if there is no mistake in the survey - which they are surveying over again. - perhaps the trustees will be glad to hear the above - But we feel careful about making it publick lest it get out to the world and make a great sound - This I have written confidentially to the Elders. - accept with this my best Love and good will - When this you see remember me, Benjamin.

I hope you will be able to read my scribbling although it is not written in the French stile.

Note. The trustees here have 7 Men and 6 Oxen daily working on a dam or dams to flow the Muffet Swamp, so called. Jason can inform you as he has seen the place &c.

1836.

Canterbury Oct 9. <sup>th</sup>/<sub>11</sub>  
From Elder Benj. W.  
About Sodus Bay property.

53  
1600  
33000  
53  
33000

John Beck  
Enfield  
N.H.

To the Ministry, Elders and Trustees at Canterbury & Enfield N.H.  
 Dearly beloved Friends,

By the direction & in behalf of the Ministry, Elders & Trustees of the Church, I now write to give you some intelligence concerning the movement of affairs at Sodus. Probably you have had notice that a large Steam Boat Canal is about to be made from Cayuga Lake to Sodus Bay.

This canal, it appears, is to be cut directly thro' the premises of the Society at Sodus; and the Commissioners have determined to make that place a commercial depot for the Lake trade, and wish to build a city on it.

It was therefore found necessary for the Society to sell out, and seek a residence elsewhere. The Elders wrote to us last June, and informed us of these circumstances. Our Trustees went up last Summer to see what could be done, and to give such counsel as circumstances required.

The result is, they have contracted to sell the place, with all its improvements, at \$100. pr. acre. 1400 acres, (the estimated amt. of land,) will of course produce 140,000 dollars. They have also, after exploring the country round, made a contract for a place in the town of Groveland, Livingston Co. containing upwards of 1600 acres at \$55 pr. acre, including all the improvements thereon. This is more land than they had calculated to purchase; but found that, all circumstances considered, they could not obtain so suitable a location for the Society otherwise than by making this purchase. The owner, Dr. Daniel Fitzhugh<sup>th</sup>, was about moving to Michigan, and must sell out; and even reduced his price from \$62,50. to \$55 pr. acre. The cost of the place is upwards of 90,000 dollars, which the canal commissioners have contracted to pay, and have already advanced \$10,000 to Fitzhugh towards the payment. The Elders and a number of the leading brethren at Sodus have been & examined the place, & think it well worth the money, and the cheapest land that can be obtained in that part of the country, of equal value. The occasion of being obliged to quit Sodus, with all the improvements, they have been at the expence of making, and seeking a new place of retreat, has been a source of much labor & tribulation to that Society, as well as to the Church here - and to pay ninety one or two thousand dollars for a farm, seemed like an extravagant price.

But valuable land in that part of the country is continually rising; and taking all circumstances into consideration, it is believed that they have done the best that could be done for the future protection & support of the society. They must however go to considerable expence & labor to build

and prepare for their future accommodation. They are to take possession the first of April next; but will still hold possession at Sodus till April 1838; which will not only afford them time to make suitable preparation for their movement, but also to raise & secure their crops of grain, garden seeds &c. at Sodus and to get in the necessary crops at Groveland the coming season.

They however feel encouraged at the prospect they have of being able to refund the money borrowed of the eastern Societies for the purchase of the Sodus place as soon as they can after receiving their payments of the Canal Commissioners

The money which will be due to them over & above paying for their new place, is to be paid in six annual installments, to commence when they give possession, in April 1838. But should they need any of the ~~money~~ money sooner, for the purpose of building, they are at liberty to draw to the amount of 5000 dollars. Elder Jeremiah & Joseph Pelham have been here, and have just returned to Waterliet, and expect to start for Sodus next Monday.

The following acct. given by them, will afford you some general idea of the place. It is a farm that was taken up about 30 years ago by the father of Dr. F. - the present proprietor, who has improved it about 20 years. The title is indisputable. There are on the premises, about 300 acres of what is called bottom land or Genesee flats, and about the same quantity of upland, all under improvement - about 800 acres of forest, principally white oak, intermixed with hickory and about 200 acres of very valuable white pine timber, which has not been culled, and is judged to be worth in that country 100 dollars per acre, standing. There is also a valuable millstream running through the premises, on which is an excellent flowering mill, with 3 run of Burr stones. Also a sawmill; but that is run down, & the dam carried away. The brethren however calculate to rebuild it lower down the stream, as they do not like its present location. There is also a well finished brick house, 60 by 80 feet 2 stories high, built only 15 years ago - also 3 pretty good barns, one of which is nearly new, besides several small moveable ones on the flats - also a Blacksmith's Shop, a Cooper's Shop, and about a dozen smallish sized dwelling houses, about half of them frame buildings, the rest log houses, these are scattered over the place & occupied by tenants. But F. has agreed to clear these all out, except such as the brethren are willing to retain in their employ - The miller will doubtless be needed, and probably the Blacksmith, if not the cooper, (who is employed in making flour barrels for the mill,) as their business may be useful to the society, and their residence is at a distance from the principal dwelling house. There are also about 80 acres of



of wheat in the ground, which Fr has agreed to give up on condition that the brethren will pay the tenant 2 dollars an acre for putting it in. There is also an excellent spring of water near by, which can be conveyed into any of their buildings by aqueducts. The Elders & brethren, while viewing the premises & exploring the vicinity, took some pains to ascertain the general character of the inhabitants, the healthiness of the town &c. and learned from the testimony of respectable men, that the place was considered as healthy as any part of the western country; and that the inhabitants sustained the character of an honest, kind, industrious & moral people - and their general deportment, the appearance of their farms, and every thing around them seem to confirm it. Their purchase lies about 4 miles east of the Genesee River. The town of Genesee, which will be their nearest market town, lies on the River about 10 miles north of them. The town of Groveland is agricultural, being mostly settled by farmers. The only Village in the town is Williamsbury in the N.W. corner of the town, about 7 miles from them, on the Genesee River. Their place is near the South end of the town. The nearest Village is in the town of Mount Morris 4 miles off. Such is the information given by Elder Jeremiah & Joseph Pelham, who with the rest of the Elders & Deacons at Sodus have, it appears, spared no pains to get the best information they could; and we hope for a prosperous result, and feel inclined to bless them in this great undertaking. The Society at present numbers about 150, including children; and if they can all be protected in their new settlement, and find an increase of the gospel, we shall feel satisfied. But it feels like a great undertaking to move and settle so large a number of people & their goods without more or less loss, and will doubtless bring considerable <sup>tribulation</sup> on their Elders & leaving members. The distance in a direct line is not more than 50 miles, but the course they must take will be about 80 - 40 by canal to Rochester & 40 by land along the Genesee Valley, which they say is a good road. Their heaviest articles will probably be taken up Genesee River by Steam-boat, which is much further as the River is very crooked. E. Jeremiah & Br. Joseph have requested me to convey to you their kind love, with their thankful acknowledgements for the seasonable & kind assistance of the people at Canterbury and Enfield, in advancing money to discharge the debt contracted for the Sodus place, without which they are sensible they could not have paid the debt & retained the place. They feel that the Society must forever cherish the remembrance of this timely assistance which has afford<sup>ed</sup>

afforded them the means of making the present large purchase for their future residence, and which they hope will in the end prove an honor to the gospel, and a lasting blessing to the society. They expressed their sense of their dependance on the Church with much feeling.

The Ministry started for Waterlot last Monday - They enjoined it upon me to write this week, and wished me to convey their kind love & gospel remembrance to the Ministry & all concerned. Our Elders & Deacons also wish me to communicate their love & kind remembrance. The Church & Society in general enjoy their usual good health - Mr. Garret is still declining - He probably will not survive another season.

The measles have got in among the children, but they seem to make slow progress & operate quite favorably. I must now close this long letter with my kind love to all who feel interested in the growing prosperity of Zion and the general increase of the gospel; and that it may increase within each soul is the prayer of Seth.

A Lebanon Janr. 12<sup>th</sup> 1837.

A Copy.

1837  
New Lebanon Jan 12<sup>th</sup>  
From the Ministry.  
About Sodus property

13,396  
(9784)

Sodus Bay/the Shaker Tract. Fowler's Hotel,  
On the east side of Big Sodus Bay, and  
in full view of the window of this hotel, lies what is known  
as the Shaker Tract.

It consists of thirteen hundred acres of excellent land  
under a good state of cultivation, and is worthy of notice  
as a point where one of the isms of the day flourished  
successfully and another collapsed slightly.

In 1822 a party of Shakers from Lebanon purchased  
this land for the sum of 5,000, dollars. They remained and  
cultivated it until 1837, when they sold out to the  
Sodus Canal Company for the stipulated sum of 100,000  
dollars per acre! and moved up the Genesee Valley, where  
they have since resided. In 1844 the Canal Company  
sold the land to a community of Fourierites, who, it will  
be recollected, were induced by Horace Greeley and others  
to try the virtue of the soil of Western New York.  
The Papers.

Copies in Minn. Record Book 2  
then send to W. R. H. S.