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Innkeeper, Derryfield, New Hampshire, 17489 - c. 1793

John Hall was born c. 1720 in Northern Ireland and died at Derryfield (now Manchester, N.H.) before 2 July 1794. He married Elizabeth Dickey at Londonderry, on 4 January 1741. She was also born in Northern Ireland. She died c. 1797 in Derryfield.

John Hall came to this country with his parents, Thomas and Mercy (-) Hall and a Presbyterian Scotch-Irish colony from Northern Ireland. They settled in Londonderry, N.H. about 1730. Tradition states that Elizabeth Dickey and her parents came on the same ship with the Hall family.

After John and Elizabeth married they continued to live in Londonderry where the first three or four of their ten children were born. They removed to Derryfield in 1748/9 where John and Elizabeth opened an inn or tavern for the accommodation of travelers. They continued to keep a public house during John's life. Their first building was a log house. Later John built a frame house which was added to over the years. The building stood until 1852 when it was destroyed by fire. It had always been kept as a public house, generally by someone of the name of Hall, for over one hundred years.

John Hall was the agent for obtaining a charter for Derryfield in 1751, was the first town clerk, was elected to that office fifteen years, was Moderator, First Selectman and Town Clerk. The spelling and grammar of his records are called a Curiosity.

In the winter of 1755 John was Clerk in the expedition against the French Forts DuRocher, Niagara and Crown Point. He was also a patriot of the American Revolution. He subscribed to the resolution of the Continental Congress to oppose the hostile proceedings of the British fleets and armies on 1 June 1775 at Derryfield, N.H. He served on the Committee of Safety and also served on a committee of seven representing Derryfield to consider the plan of government for New Hampshire in September 1783.

-by Elisabeth Lovell Bowman
#79-02

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