

settlers to enter, and as early as Dec. 13, 1732, William Thomas had erected a house and was living in the town.

In Dec., 1733, the proprietors and first settlers made a division among themselves by lot of certain tracts into which a portion of the town had been divided, William Thomas drawing 104 acres, located between the present villages of Gilbertville and Furnace. On this farm he lived until his death, in May, 1747.

The town thus formed was first known as Lambstown, from Joshua Lamb, one of the original purchasers from the Indians. Upon its incorporation, in 1738, the name was changed to Hardwick, in compliment to Lord Hardwick, an English nobleman.*

William Thomas was at this time elected one of the first Board of Selectmen.

The first church in Hardwick was organized in 1736; but previous to that time, there being no public place of worship, the house of William Thomas was used for that purpose. On his farm, also, was located the first place of burial.† As this was only a private burial place for the family and probably a few of the earlier settlers, after the sale of the farm in 1749 and its passing out of the possession of the Thomas family, all trace of graves became gradually effaced and all knowledge of the matter became mere tradition. However, in 1871, during the construction of the Ware River Railroad, which passed through this farm, the original site of the grounds was discovered by the exposure of a number of skeletons, of both children and adults. The coffins of some of these were sufficiently preserved to show that

* Philip York Hardwick was born at Dover, England, Dec. 1, 1690. He was an eminent lawyer, and made Attorney-General in 1724. In 1733 he was made Chief Justice of the King's Bench, and Lord Chancellor in 1736.

† This place of burial was on a gravelly knoll, but a few rods to the southeast of the buildings, and was largely cut away in the excavations for the railroad.