

us, they were once familiar. Upon the boulders in the adjoining fields and in the water of the passing stream they had often played. From the well in the yard they had quenched their thirst, and their hands had often grasped the same iron door-handle that we were now permitted to touch. But their voices and footsteps are heard no more. They have acted their parts and passed off the stage. Others now fill their places, and the drama of life still moves on.

Upon a naturally terraced portion of the hillside east of the house is the burying-ground, where were found not only the graves of our grandparents, but those of several members of the family. Upon the headstone of Amos, the Patriarch, in addition to the usual inscription, were found the following lines:—

“Here in the ground my body lies,  
Till Christ the Lord shall bid it rise;  
Then shall it leave this mortal dust,  
And sing in Glory with the just.”

Amos Thomas was an earnest and active member of the Baptist Church of New Salem. The church was organized in 1771, three years before he settled in the place, and for more than half a century was large and prosperous, being the only church in the town.\* After the organization of the Methodist and Congregational Churches, however, the Baptist Church gradually declined, and has now for some years been extinct.

During the visit above referred to, Judge Thomas secured the records of the old church, an examination of which brought to light many interesting facts. It would appear from these that this church, like many others in those early days, was not exempt from difficulties grow-

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\* At a sale of church-pews, held Feb. 15, 1786, pew No. 1 was sold to Amos Thomas for £8 6s, being nearly £2 more than was paid for any other pew.—Church Records.