

In May, 1651, as there was a present necessity that some care be taken of Springfield, they being destitute of a Magistrate, or other, to put issue to difference, our Mr. Henry Smith was appointed by the General Court for the year ensuing, or until further order, to "have full power and authority to govern the inhabitants of Springfield, and to hear and determine all cases and offenses, both civil and criminal, that reach not life, limb or banishment." The next entry is a dismissal to him, he having "urgent occasions to return home." He was quite prominent as long as he remained in Springfield; and says Mr. Morris, in his "Early History of Springfield," a gentleman of capacity and culture.

In Volume 51, Massachusetts Historical Collections, page 310, is a very business-like letter from him, November 2, 1640, to John Winthrop, relating to a power of attorney from the two sisters of John Alline, (perhaps Allen, of Springfield, 1639,) to John Porter, of Hingham, to receive their brother's estate. He says: "Now I was made executor by his will in my father's absence." As the debts had to be paid to this estate in corn, he proposes to pay what money is paid, and send the corn to Boston. His "father" means his father-in-law.

In the proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society for 1869-70, page 309-311, is a letter from Henry Smith to his brother-in-law, John Pynchon, announcing the death of the father: