

Rev. Benjamin Doolittle from Wallingford, Ct., was invited to supply the pulpit in Northfield, Mass., in Nov. 1717, his preaching proving acceptable a call to settle there was extended to him which was accepted, and he was ordained over the newly organized church, probably Sept. 2, 1718. His settlement included a dwelling house, sixty acres of land and £100 in money, to be paid in installments in three years. His salary was fixed at £65 per annum for six years, and £75 thereafter, together with an ample supply of fire wood. Subsequently himself and widow received grants of land aggregating 855 acres. He came to Northfield when there were but thirty families in town, and when the community were often harassed by the French and Indian incursions. In 1724 his house and buildings were surrounded by a line of pickets as a defense. In 1744 a mount was raised as an additional defense for him at an expense of £18, 7s, 6d. This shows in what perilous times his lot was cast. From Temple and Sheldon's Hist. of Northfield, p. 163 we learn that "Rev. Mr. Doolittle combined the two professions of theology and medicine. He was a regularly educated physician and surgeon, and was furnished with books and instruments, and kept a supply of drugs. His own townsmen and the inhabitants of the new settlements as they were made, above Northfield, and the garrisons at Fort Dummer, and the Ashuelots, and No. 4, depended on his services, and in the battles and skirmishes of the old French war, the wounded were brought to him for treatment. In

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the privilege of that class of society, calculated to increase it. My impression, from what I have heard through those who were well acquainted with her is that her moral and religious character were fully equal to her other attainments. She had been a school teacher before marriage, and in her old age, she devoted much of her time to the instruction of her numerous grandchildren, retaining her faculties to the last. Her death in her 92d year, was occasioned by a fall, while taking one of these children from a table upon which it had climbed."

After the death of Mr. Chapin, his widow returned to Northfield, where she was always known as "Madam Doolittle," and the notice of her death, June 19, 1790, on the church records is that of "Madam Doolittle."