

which New-Hampshire was required to raise, consisted of men from Exeter and neighboring towns, and was put in command of Capt. Nathaniel Folsom of Exeter, who proceeded through the woods to Albany, and thence to Fort Edward, where the New-Hampshire Rangers were posted. On the 8th of September, the enemy attacked the Americans in camp at Fort George, but were repulsed, and their commander, Baron Dieskau, was mortally wounded and taken prisoner. In the course of the day Capt. Folsom with his company of 80 men was despatched in the direction of Lake George, who having met the retreating forces of the French, Canadians, and Indians about 4 o'clock in the afternoon, posted his men behind the trees, and kept up a brisk firing of musketry until night, with great loss to the enemy, while of the Americans only six fell, and their commander brought off safely all his wounded, with several prisoners and a large quantity of baggage. The engagements of the day, thus closed by Capt. Folsom, "served more than anything else," it is said, "to revive the spirit of the colonies." He became Major in 1767, and soon Colonel; was for several years a member of the N. H. House of Representatives and a prominent member of the liberal party. He was chosen, together with Major Gen. John Sullivan, to represent New-Hampshire in the first General Congress, which met at Philadelphia, Sept. 5, 1774; was appointed delegate from New-Hampshire to meet other New-England delegates at Providence, R. I., in respect to sending supplies to the army; served as Brigadier General during the siege of Boston, until relieved by Sullivan. In 1775 he was commissioned Major General; in 1776 was appointed one of the four Justices of the Court of Common Pleas for Rockingham County; in 1777 and 1779 was again chosen member of Congress. In the first year of his return to Washington, he writes to his friend Hon. Meshach Weare, President of the Council of New-Hampshire, that "the 8th Article of the Confederation gave him great uneasiness," as the South obtained by it an exemption from taxation for its negroes, who in reality constituted one third of its wealth, and thus caused the free States to bear a larger share of the burden of the charges of the war than was equitable. In 1778 he was chosen Councillor, and was temporary President of the Convention that framed the Constitution of New-Hampshire in 1783.\*

\* In the "Gilman Genealogy" (pp. 87-92) it is stated that on the 19th of October, 1761, a co-partnership was formed between Nathaniel Folsom, Joseph Gilman (who had been in business in Boston up to 1760), and Josiah Gilman, then living in Exeter, under the name of "Folsom, Gilman and Gilman," and was limited to seven years; that it had for its objects (1) to keep a general store in Exeter for English and W. I. goods and hard-ware, such as is common in country towns, only on a larger scale; (2) to build ships and carry on foreign commerce; these ventures at sea afterwards extending to St. Martin's, Antigua, Anguilla, St. Thomas, St. Kitts, Barbadoes, Bristol and London, and reaching to thousands of pounds sterling. The two Gilmans, it is certain, were sons of Rev. Nicholas, but no clue is given in respect to identifying the "Nathaniel Folsom." The same firm is mentioned in "Exeter in 1776," with the Christian name of "Joseph Gilman" only, and the surname of "Folsom" alone. But certainly this Nathaniel could be no other than Capt. Nathaniel, the hero of Lake George, who, just before the expiration of the firm, was appointed Major, and seven years afterwards Major-General. For (1) He was at that time thirty-five years of age ("Exeter in 1776" is incorrect in saying that he was "nineteen" when he commanded at Lake George—he was *twenty-nine*), and properly the senior member of the firm; while Joseph Gilman was twenty-three and Josiah just twenty-one. (2) They were relatives—being all three great-grandsons of Hon. John Gilman; Capt. Folsom, so, by his mother, Anna Ladd F., granddaur. of Hon. John. (3) All three had afterwards almost in common the same high civil trusts. (4) There was no other Nathaniel then in existence at Exeter, or anywhere near, who could have stood in that relation to the firm. The son Nathaniel was a minor at the time, and afterwards entered into business in Portsmouth. On the Portsmouth list of signers to the famous Declaration, issued by the Committee of Safety, early in the Spring of 1776, and circulated so successfully as to gain 8199 signatures among the New Hampshire towns,—“We will to the utmost of our power at the risk of