

three weeks, he and his father, subsisted entirely upon potatoes and turnips, seasoned with a little salt, and worked hard all the time, in rebuilding the old, abandoned, Marshall house, built of logs, to make it ready for the reception of the family. April 13, 1784, Gideon Walker was chosen Selectman. March 14, 1785, the town meeting was held at his house, and he was chosen Moderator. At the town meeting held March 20, 1786, it was "voted to build a meeting house, twenty feet square, to be completed by the 20th of May next." Thus as the rude alarm of war had subsided, and given place to the welcome vocations of white-winged peace, the settlers of the new town, in the wilderness, without protracted delay, organized both their civil, and religious institutions. The English idea of local self-government, had the free play of individual energy. One of their first needs was a place for the worship of God. They were laying foundations, upon which rested the pillars of the future state, as firm and solid, as the granite of her Green Mountains.

The location chosen by Gideon Walker, as the future home for himself, and six sons, in Whiting, was a place of attractive scenic beauty, and rich in the promise of its fertile soil. From its higher elevation the eye, looking eastward, fell upon the long high range of the Green Mountains, twenty miles away, and to the north, and the south, for forty miles, the beautiful valley of the Otter Creek was spread out, in magnificent panorama. To the west, the Adirondacks lifted high their serried peaks, just beyond the placid waters of Lake Champlain. Here was the destined home of Gideon Walker, where with intelligent foresight, and a spirit of enterprise that knew no abatement while he lived, he secured a landed estate of 1,200