

often traveled together while journeying to fulfill their engagements, or attend to their official duties. In 1769 Colonel Elderkin, with Colonel Dyer, was appointed agent of the Susquehanna Land Company, and they went to Philadelphia to open negotiations for the settlement of the controversy respecting the Wyoming lands. Colonel Elderkin took but little part in town affairs, and his name is seldom mentioned in the records until 1767, when he was appointed Chairman of an important committee raised to take into consideration the state of the country and to promote industry, economy, manufactures, etc.; in other words, to consider whether the town would agree to the non-importation scheme started in Boston. The committee was appointed the 7th day of December, 1767, and on the 10th of January, 1768, made their report, drawn, we presume, by Colonel Elderkin, which fully endorsed the scheme, and pledged the members and the people of the town not to buy or sell, or use in their families, a great variety of imported articles, which were enumerated.

Colonel Elderkin was appointed Justice of the Peace in 1756, and continued by annual appointment until 1791, a period of thirty-five years, a length of time almost without a parallel. The office in his day was one of honor and importance. Colonel Elderkin was first chosen a member of the General Assembly from Windham in the Spring of 1751, and was chosen repeatedly afterwards until 1785, when he was elected for the last time. His name appears as a member in seventeen different years, and we find he attended thirty-five different sessions within that time. He was a member in 1774, 1775, 1776, 1779, 1780 and 1783, some of the most eventful years of the Revolution. Our account of the services rendered by Colonel Elderkin during the Revolution will be very meagre, but strictly reliable, as it is derived almost wholly from the State records.

At the March Session of the General Assembly in 1775, Jedediah Elderkin, Esq., was commissioned Colonel of the