

CHAPTER XI.

This chapter will present the descendants, in one line, so far as they are known, of Bela Elderkin, second son of Col. Jedediah Elderkin.

Bela Elderkin was born December 10, 1751, at Windham, Connecticut. He graduated at Yale College 1767, and was for a time, it is said, engaged in trade in Windham. Previous to this, however, and soon after the breaking out of the Revolutionary war, he was appointed lieutenant of marines on board the ship of war then owned by the State of Connecticut. What service he rendered in this capacity, if any, we are unable to say. It was probably soon after his father purchased the mill privilege there that he removed to Willimantic, and lived in a dwelling, now gone, known to the last generation as the "How House," which stood directly across the street from the old grist mill. Here he lived a number of years, and for a time kept a hotel. It is probable, too, that he had charge of his father's business, including the mills in this part of the town. He was living here, it seems, according to his father's will, in 1702. Here, it is probable, most of his children were born. At the time that Wm. L. Weaver wrote this biographical sketch, there were living aged people who remembered when he lived in Willimantic and kept his inn in that village. At what time he left Windham is not known, but probably about the year 1800. It is said he first went to join his father-in-law, Col. Eleazer Fitch, who went from Windham some years before, and who had a large tract of land, granted to him by the British Government, near Lake Memphremagog. Of his history after leaving Windham little is known. Though a man of fine talents and education, he did not accumulate