

then begun for the purpose of attracting settlers. He was the first resident of that region to receive commission as a Justice of his Majesty's Court of Common Pleas, and, as such, was often called to solemnize marriages. July 27, 1769, he was made colonel of the 2d Lincoln County regiment. Nearly the whole period of Thomas Goldthwaite's command of Fort Pownal was that of the growing discontent of the colonists with their treatment by the British government, culminating, in 1774, in preparations throughout the country for war. As one of the first steps in that direction, each side endeavored to get control of all the arms and ammunition possible, and to take into its possession, or render defenseless, such posts as could be held by the enemy. With such an object in view, in April, 1775, vessels of the British fleet, under the command of Capt. Mowatt, who afterwards burned Portland, but acting under orders from General Gage, then commander-in-chief of the British forces in North America and Governor of Massachusetts, anchored before Fort Pownal, and, a letter containing the governor's orders to that effect having been delivered to Col. Goldthwaite, carried away the cannon belonging to the Fort. The attitude taken by its commander in allowing the Fort to be thus disarmed by the British was never forgiven by the patriots, and he lay ever after under suspicion as a loyalist. His own explanation of his conduct on that occasion is in existence, and may be allowed to speak for him. It should be added in support of what he says regarding the impossibility of resisting the governor's order, that the garrison then numbered but fifteen, all told, whom the needs of the colony for extending and strengthening its defenses elsewhere had left scantily supplied with arms and ammunition, while the opposing force was well armed and equipped to enforce its demands. This explanation is found in a letter* written by Col. Goldthwaite, for a purpose there appearing, to the select-

* This letter may be found printed in "Eaton's Annals of Warren," Me., pp. 162 and 163.