

Sept.," but no record of marriage appears; and this, as is well known, is not conclusive evidence of marriage, for numerous instances have been found where persons did not marry those to whom they were published. From other sources I have been informed that his wife was Elizabeth Wiggin, a lineal descendant of Thomas Wiggin, the first governor (or leader) of the Colony that settled at Dover in 1623.

Stephen Boardman was made a deacon of the Congregational church in Stratham, 4 July, 1765,¹ at which date his friend and neighbor, Samuel Lane, was also made a deacon of the same church. They occupied pews near together in the new meeting-house, and both paid the same price for them, viz: £23, 13s. 8d. He occupied a prominent position in public affairs as is shown by the records of the town, having been constable in 1765; one of the committee to see about building a new meeting-house in 1767; selectman in 1759, 1760, 1761, 1762, 1763, 1764; moderator in 1773, 1774, 1775, and also moderator of an extra town meeting called 13 Jan. 1776; representative to the General Assembly

¹ Stratham was chartered in 1716, and at the first legal meeting held 10 April, after the election of officers, the first vote was to appoint a committee to "take care to build a meeting house for the public worship of God." It was built in 1718, and was of the old fashioned style, the pews being made in "winscot worke and all of a kind." Each man was obliged to build his own pew, keep it in repair, maintain all the glass against it, and build on the spot assigned him. There was one exception, however, for the town solemnly voted "that Mr. Andrew Wiggin shall have Liberty to set in

what seat he pleaseth in the meeting house." Another vote concerning the seating of persons in the house is as follows: "When the comety have seatid the meeting house every person that is Seatid shall Set in those Seats or pay five shillings Pir day for every day they set out of these Seates in a disorderly manner to advance themselves higher in the meeting house." These were trying times! The second meeting house was built on the same spot as the original one, in 1768; and the third, the one now standing, in 1837.—*Laurence's History of New Hampshire Churches, 1856, p. 138.*