

It has been contemplated by the Inhabitants of the Second Parish in Kittery, for nearly a century past, to Petition the Legislature to be incorporated with the privileges of a Town, and some attempts have been made for that purpose within about half a century, but was not carried into effect.

The town of Kittery is about fourteen miles in length from North to South, and contains three Congregational Parishes, and the second Parish is considered to be one half of the Territory thereof, and pay nearly one half of the taxes assessed on said Town.

The Town meetings are held in the third (or middle Parish) which renders it a great inconvenience for the Inhabitants of North and northwesterly parts of the second Parish to attend, many of whom have to travel more than seven miles to the meeting house in the third Parish where the meetings are held.

The second Parish lost their worthy Minister, the Rev'd Mr. Spring, in June, 1791, when a small party, Inhabitants of the Parish, set up their wills to rule us, and attempted to impose a Minister upon us of an unfair character. But the Parish not willing to be ruled by a faction, saw fit to reject him by a large majority. The Parish then called the present and worthy minister, the Rev'd Mr. Chandler, and settled him in the year 1792, notwithstanding the most violent opposition from the opposite party; whose enmity towards our minister in particular and the Parish in General has remained unreconciled.

In the year 1808, there was six hundred and twenty five Polls taxed in the State, Town, and county tax lists, of which the first Parish taxed 194 Polls, the second Parish 307 Polls, and the third Parish 124 Polls. Of the 625 Polls which is the whole number taxed in the whole town, the second Parish contains 307 polls, which is nearly one half.

Some of the opposition party petitioned the Legislature in the year 1796 to be set off to the third Parish, which was accordingly done, and some of them left the Parish, became Baptists, but their enmity does not end here; for although it is out of their power to injure us as a Parish, or in our Parish affairs, they are determined not only to injure, but to impose on us in electing our town officers.

It has been usual practice of the Town for a great number of years to elect five Selectmen to transact the business and attend to the internal police of the Town. One year, the second Parish being considered as one half of the town, has three Selectmen, and the first and third Parishes two Selectmen. The next year the first and third Parishes has three and the second Parish two. But in the year 1809, the first and third Parishes joined together with a few party men that live within the limits of the second Parish, to wrest from us our Constitutional rights and privileges, by electing men of their own party, and men who are the most inveterate enemies to the interests of the second Parish, to rule over us and transact our business, men whom we do not want for our Selectmen, and one of whom is not a Parishioner of the second Parish.

Before the spring elections, a few designing men who are seeking their own emolument, at the expence of the second Parish, meet in Caucus and nominate the town officers of the Town, all friends to them and of their party, who of course must be our enemies as a Parish. They then communicate their designs to their party in the First and third Parishes, where they are sure to obtain aid, and at their Town

meetings put their nominations of Town officers in execution. The second Parish cannot have a single town officer who is friendly to the interests of the Parish.

Last May they chose three Representatives to represent the town in the General Court, one of which belongs to the first Parish, and the other two are parishioners of the third Parish.

The second Parish although they pay nearly one half of the taxes that is Assessed on the whole town; have not the privilege of choosing one Representative that is Friendly to them, or belongs to their Parish.

The inhabitants of the first and third Parishes are Farmers, Mechanics, Traders, Seafaring men & Fishermen. The second parish are principally Farmers, with a few Mechanics, and are a civil industrious set of people.

The town has been in debt for more than thirty three years, and there has been no means devised and carried into effect to pay that debt; though many attempts have been judiciously made for that purpose. The farmers do not wish to pay interest for public debts, and advocate the raising more money than would defray the annual expence of the town, that in a few years they might raise a fund to sink the debt. But all attempts have proved fruitless.

The manners and habits of the first and third Parishes are so different, being principally seafaring men and Fishermen, from the second Parish being principally Farmers, that they cannot agree to do town's business together, & therefore pray for a separation.

The foregoing reasons are sufficient in the minds of the Petitioners for an Incorporation; and abundant more can be offered to support it.

Yet if the Honorable Court of which we have the highest Confidence, should not think proper to grant us an Incorporation, appears to be but one alternative, that is to set down under the loss of our Constitutional rights & privileges in silent dismay, and bewail our misfortunes. And see our political rights wrested from us by a party.

A list of the Baptist in the North Parish in the Town of Kttery: viz

Daniel Goodwin	Eliot Frost
John Raitt	Jacob Nuter
Israel Emery	Uriah Hanscom
Nathum Emery	John Neal
Nathan Libbey	Elisha Goodwin
Nathan Bartlett	Timothy Richardson
Amos Chick	William Odiorne

James Emery

Kittery, May 24, 1809 A true Cobby, Attest, Nathaniel Rogers, Parish Clerk.