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TYNGSBOROUGH

Tyngsborough was a part of Dunstable until its incorporation as a town in 1789. The terrible experience of this section of Dunstable during the Indian Wars has already been told with some particularity under the history of that town. The cause of the disintegration of this large township was that the new settlements within its borders needed "greater convenience of public worship." The location of the meeting-house was the cause of the separation of the present town of Dunstable from Tyngsborough. From 1755 to 1789 Tyngsborough was known as the First Parish of Dunstable, and in 1789 it was incorporated as a district by the name of Tyngsborough, from the name of the influential Tyng family. It became an incorporated town in 1809.

Mrs. Sarah Winslow, whose death occurred in 1791, aged seventy-two, was the last surviving child of Colonel Eleazer Tyng (who died in 1782, aged ninety-two). Mrs. Winslow was "the truly benefactress of the Church of Christ and Grammar School in this place, in honor of whose name and family it is called Tyngsborough." Shortly after the death of her husband in 1788 she made a donation to the town upon conditions which, instead of uniting the town in peace, as she intended, only strengthened the spirit of dissention. She gave the income of £1333 to the town to promote learning and piety and to unite "the town in peace." The conditions related to a meeting-house and grammar school house to be erected in the East part of the town, or the First Parish, and they could not be accepted by the Second Parish, and she next tendered the donation to the First Parish, instead of the town. The next move in the case was to incorporate the parish as a district by the name of Tyngsborough, in 1789, which became a town in 1809. A church was formed in 1790, and the first pastorate was remarkable for having continued forty-nine years. In 1815 the town contained two taverns, two stores, one public grammar school, and a library of 140 well selected volumes. The income of Mrs. Winslow's fund was about £80 per year. Population about 704.

One peculiarity of the situation in Tyngsborough was that, when the present town became a parish in 1755, it proceeded to erect a house of worship, but for many years it had no church organization or settled minister. Its first pastor was of the Orthodox order, and its second a Unitarian, of which denomination the church has been since that time.

Authorities: Lawrence, Nathaniel, "Historical Sketch", 1815. Tyngsboro' Young People's League, "Centennial Record", 1876.