

Thomas Meacham must have arrived at least as early as 1808, as he appears in the proceedings of the board of supervisors of that year as having been paid fifty dollars as bounties for wolves killed. He first settled in Hopkinton, moving afterward into what is now the town of Waverly, and at one time lived in Dickinson on the Port Kent and Hopkinton turnpike. In his old age he returned to Hopkinton, and died there or just across the town line in Waverly in 1849. He was not identified at all conspicuously with public affairs, but was notable as a hunter and trapper. His earnings in bounties for noxious animals in the forty years of his activities must have aggregated thousands of dollars, as his obituary, written by a townsman, states that he kept accurate account of the number of the larger animals trapped or shot by him, and that the totals were: Wolves, 214; bears, 210; catamounts, 77; and deer, 2,550. Bounties were payable for all of these except deer, and if we average the amount at only ten dollars each, his revenue from this source would be over five thousand dollars. Once he trapped or shot three wolves in a single day, for which he received one hundred and eighty dollars - the bounty at that time having been sixty dollars per head. It was he who gave the name to Lake Meacham.