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250th ANNIVERSARY OF QUABAUG 1660-1910

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Quabaug 1660-1910

An Account of the Two Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration Held at West Brookfield, Mass. September 21, 1910

Compiled and Edited
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Under the Direction
of the
Committee on Publication, of the Joint Executive
Committee Elected by the Towns of
Brookfield, West Brookfield,
North Brookfield and
New Braintree

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Harold A. Foster, North Brookfield.

PREFACE

Since work was first undertaken looking toward the preparation of the following narrative, four members of the Joint Executive Committee in charge of the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary celebration of the settlement of Brookfield have died. To the memory of these gentlemen —Hon. Theodore C. Bates, of North Brookfield, Hon. George K. Tufts, of New Braintree, Rev. Benson M. Frink, of West Brookfield, and Mr. Frank E. Prouty, of Brookfield—the Committee on Publication takes this opportunity to pay its sincere tribute of respect. Three of the deceased—Mr. Bates, Mr. Tufts, and Mr. Frink—were members of the original Committee on Publication. Mr. Frink, it is known, had collected much material for an historical account of the celebration and had even made a beginning toward the writing of it. But the fire that destroyed his home, not long after his death, consumed all this material. It is believed that both Mr. Bates and Mr. Tufts had likewise gathered together a considerable quantity of valuable data. No trace of their collections, if such existed, has, however, as yet been found. The years that have elapsed since the date of the celebration have made it extremely difficult, if not in some particulars impossible, to reassemble all the facts that it would have been desirable to preserve in permanent form for future reference. Under these circumstances, the compiler dares not hope that the following pages will prove to be devoid of errors or re-

grettable omissions. He does, however, most earnestly hope and believe, that they have been reduced to a minimum.

To the reorganized Committee on Publication, under whose guidance he has labored, he is sincerely grateful for the very efficient assistance and uniform kindness they have extended to him. Without their constant aid, it would, indeed, have been impossible to complete the work at all.

In conclusion, may he add that it is to him a genuine pleasure to have had a part, however modest, in perpetuating the honorable history of his native district.

CHARLES J. ADAMS.

WORCESTER, MASS., July 1, 1914.

QUABAUG 1660-1910

An Account of the Two Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration Held at West Brookfield, Mass., September 21, 1910.

THE two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the founding of Brookfield was celebrated on September 21, 1910, at West Brookfield, on and around the site of the first English settlement in the Quabaug territory. Elaborate commemorative exercises were arranged and carried out under the direction of a Joint Executive Committee elected by the towns of Brookfield, West Brookfield, North Brookfield, and New Braintree, the first three of which are included, together with a portion of the fourth, within the limits of the original Quabaug grant.

Among the various sub-committees named by this body was one intrusted with the duty of preparing for publication a complete account of the celebration, from the inception of the idea in the imagination of a few individuals, through all the preliminary stages, to its successful accomplishment on the appointed day. This committee, having completed its labors, offers the following narrative, in the hope not only that it may serve to revive pleasant memories in the minds of those who were present on the occasion, but that future generations inhabiting the Quabaug townships will find it not without permanent interest as an historical document.

I. Preparing the Way.

As the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the original Quabaug settlement approached, the idea of making it

the occasion for some sort of celebration was doubtless more or less vaguely present in the minds of many, especially among the older residents of the Brookfields, who could recall the observance of the two hundredth anniversary, fifty years before. The honor of taking the initiative in efforts looking toward the materialization of the idea, however, belongs to the Quabaug Historical Society, a number of whose members, as early as the spring of 1909, had begun in a quiet way to consider what could be done.

One of the most enthusiastic of these individuals was Rev. Benson M. Frink, of West Brookfield, a vice-president of the society, around whom much of the activity connected with the preliminary movement centered. Another of the vice-presidents, Hon. George K. Tufts, of New Braintree, was also deeply interested from the first. "I like the idea of observing the 250th anniversary of the actual beginning of the Brookfields, very much," he wrote, under date of April 27, 1909, "not merely on account of the material gain suggested, but on account of the sentiment involved in such an observance. Perhaps I am a little old-fashioned, but in these days, when the idea of utility seems to be the prevailing one, a turning aside to a consideration of first principles, in the way of an observance of the kind suggested, always appeals to me. I can conceive of no fitter instrumentality than the Historical Society, which, if I remember aright, has not met since September, 1907. I do not recall the celebration of 1860, as I was in college, but I should be very glad to promote a similar one in 1910."

The president of the society, Robert Batcheller, had removed his residence, a year or two previously, to the city of Washington. When the suggestion was communicated to him, however, his interest was immediately aroused. On June 5, 1909, he wrote: "I approve of the idea as you outline it, and if it is carried out I will make every effort to be present. I will be responsible for a subscription of $100 to a fund to carry out a celebration under a good committee. But

personally, to my regret, I cannot do much, if anything, because I can be so little in or near Massachusetts. For months I have felt most uncomfortable in my mind, because of my continuing to hold the presidency of the Quabaug Historical Society, when I have by so doing blocked the wheels of its progress. I have decided to resign the presidency therefore, and shall write at once to that effect. But my interest will remain, you may be sure, and I will back it up with the amount I have named, and be present if possible."

Although Mr. Batcheller felt impelled to carry out his threat, and did, indeed, place his resignation in the hands of the society's executive committee shortly afterwards, thus modestly stepping aside and permitting others to reap the full glory for successfully launching the most difficult undertaking ever attempted by the Historical Society, too great credit cannot be accorded him for his part in making that success possible. It is but simple justice to him and to the cause of truth to repeat in this connection the tribute paid him on another occasion by Rev. Joseph J. Spencer in the preface which he prepared for the pamphlet containing Mr. Batcheller's sketch of the organization and work of the Quabaug Historical Society during the first five years of its existence:

He speaks all too modestly about his own part in bringing this Quabaug Historical Society up to its present flourishing condition. There are many who realize that the largest credit is due him for his unstinted efforts in behalf of the organization. In heat and cold, in fair weather and in foul, his zeal has been unvarying and his generosity unlimited. Without his liberal contributions of time, money, energy and tact, much that has been of most value to us all could not have been brought about. * * * He was the one person preeminently adapted to lead in the organization of the society. The unflagging interest of the meetings, the absence of tiresome details of business routine, the careful management of all the affairs of the society and the fostering of the spirit of

genial good fellowship between the various branches of the organization, have all been due to the personal oversight of the president.

These are not idle words of courtesy, but express the simple truth. It was with deep regret that the society accepted his resignation, after vainly attempting to persuade him to continue in his office for another year and serve as president of the day on the occasion of the celebration. But while nothing could alter his belief that others were now more fortunately situated to lead in the work which he had begun, the inestimable value of his service through many years should not be forgotten, nor the fact that his pledge of $100 was the first pledge of money received in connection with plans for the anniversary.

After a number of informal conferences had been held, the time seemed ripe for bringing the matter before the attention of the society as a whole. The first formal step was taken by Rev. Benson M. Frink, Carlton D. Richardson and Philander Holmes, three members of the executive committee from West Brookfield, who, on June 7, 1909, issued a call for a meeting of the officers of the various branches of the society, to be held in Grand Army Hall, West Brookfield, on the evening of June 19. Among those present at this meeting were: Rev. Benson M. Frink, Mr. and Mrs. Philander Holmes, and Carlton D. Richardson, of West Brookfield; Emerson H. Stoddard, of Brookfield; Alfred C. Stoddard, of North Brookfield; Hon. George K. Tufts and D. Clarence Wetherell, of New Braintree, and Daniel G. Hitchcock, of Warren. Rev. Benson M. Frink presided, while Mrs. Philander Holmse served as secretary. At this meeting the proposed celebration was thoroughly discussed and the prevailing sentiment was at the moment in favor of extending it over an entire week, with a separate old home day in each of the five towns, and, on the sixth day, an elaborate joint celebration on West Brookfield Common, not far from the site of the original settlement.

Early in August, a second meeting was held at the same place, with seventeen persons attending. The proposition was again gone over, and it was voted as the sense of the meeting "that the Quabaug Historical Society be the instrument or medium of taking charge of the celebration."

During the month of September, the executive committee held several meetings at the home of Rev. Benson M. Frink, in West Brookfield, completing plans to bring the entire matter before the annual meeting of the society, in North Brookfield, on October 14. It was in these sessions of the executive committee that the main features of the celebration, as it was finally carried out, were gradually evolved. Chief among these features were a parade, a dinner, an address, and an historical pageant representing the destruction of the first settlement by the Indians during King Philip's War.

In connection with the historical pageant, it is of interest to note that, twelve or fifteen years previously, such an affair had been discussed with Carlton D. Richardson by the late David F. Lincoln, of West Brookfield. Mr. Lincoln had made a life-long study of the Indian history of the territory, while Mr. Richardson was the owner of the farm on which such a pageant would naturally be held, since the site of the block house in which the settlers fortified themselves during the seige was almost in his dooryard. Mr. Lincoln outlined the general course that the pageant must follow, and arranged many of the details. During his lifetime, no suitable occasion presented itself, but the pageant of 1910 carried out his plans so closely that it may be said to have been the work of his hand and brain.

The whole matter of the proposed celebration was formally presented to the Historical Society through its executive committee at the annual meeting, in North Brookfield, on October 14. The principal result of this meeting was the appointment of a committee to invite the co-operation of the several towns. It was further voted, "that this committee

interest themselves and report at an adjourned meeting, inviting the selectmen of the various towns to this meeting, at North Brookfield, four weeks from to-day, November 11, 1909."

The boards of selectmen cordially responded to the invitation, and at the adjourned meeting gave assurance of their desire to co-operate to the extent of their ability. Already the plans, as outlined, were assuming considerable proportions. The occasion was felt to be worthy of a most elaborate celebration, and the expenses would necessarily be heavy. As these would have to be met, in large part, if not in whole, by appropriations made by the various towns, and as there appeared to be some question as to the legal rights of the towns to appropriate money for a joint celebration of this nature, it was voted at this adjourned meeting of the society to call special town meetings in each of the towns for the purpose of petitioning the Legislature to bestow upon them such rights. Hon. Theodore C. Bates, of North Brookfield, and Arthur F. Butterworth, of Brookfield, were elected a committee to prepare the necessary legal papers.

The special town meetings were held in the spring of 1910. The following extract from the warrant for the meeting in North Brookfield adequately represents them all:

Article 2. To see if the town will vote to petition the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to authorize the town of North Brookfield to raise money by taxation to aid and assist in paying the expenses that may be incurred by the celebration and observance in the year 1910 of the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the founding or settlement of the original town of Brookfield, (formerly called Quabaug), such celebration to be held during the year 1910, and to be participated in by the towns of Brookfield, North Brookfield, West Brookfield, Warren, and New Braintree, the territory now embraced in the five towns having been formerly, in whole or in part, within the original grant of land in the year 1660, by the Bay Colony of Massachusetts, to constitute the town of Brookfield, and act thereon.

On the affirmative action of the towns interested, the petitions were sent to the Legislature, and the desired permission was speedily forthcoming. (Acts and Resolves of 1910, Resolves, Chapters 16, 17, 18, and 122.) At this point in the proceedings, the town of Warren, feeling that its connection with the old Quabaug township was too slight and transitory to warrant participation in the celebration, withdrew. The other towns, however, proceeded at later special town meetings to appropriate money—Brookfield, North Brookfield, and West Brookfield, $300 each, and New Braintree, $75—and to appoint committees, which, combined as a Joint Executive Committee, should have entire charge of the planning for and carrying out of the celebration. These committees were as follows:

Brookfield:
- Frank E. Prouty
- Emerson H. Stoddard
- Arthur F. Butterworth
- William Mulcahy
- Arthur H. Drake

West Brookfield:
- John G. Shackley
- Albert W. Bliss
- Philander Holmes
- Carlton D. Richardson
- Rev. Benson M. Frink

North Brookfield:
- Hon. Theodore C. Bates
- Thomas G. Richards
- Harold A. Foster
- Patrick J. Daniels
- Alfred C. Stoddard

New Braintree:
- Hon. George K. Tufts
- D. Clarence Wetherell
- J. Thomas Webb
- Charles S. Lane
- James E. Barr

On the permanent organization of this committee, somewhat later, Hon. Theodore C. Bates was elected chairman, Harold A. Foster, secretary, and Philander Holmes, treasurer.

To these gentlemen, officers and members of the joint executive committee, is due the warmest gratitude of the towns and the highest credit for the success of the celebration. Their unsparing expenditure of time and energy, their conspicuous ability, and the absolute harmony with which they labored, often under trying circumstances, in the faithful

performance of their arduous duties, have written their names high on the list of our towns' efficient, unselfish, and patriotic public servants.

The first meeting of this committee was held on June 27, 1910, in the Selectmen's Room at the Town House in West Brookfield, which town was selected as the committee's regular place of meeting. In the twelve weeks that intervened between this date and the day of the celebration, September 21, fourteen meetings were held, at least one of them lasting practically all day. The briefest glance at the records of these meetings suffices to indicate the vast variety and multiplicity of the business transacted.

The celebration, as it gradually took shape during the deliberations of these gentlemen, was to consist of a parade in West Brookfield village; an historical pageant on Foster's Hill, representing the Indian attack on the first settlement and its burning in 1675; a dinner on West Brookfield Common, and an oration, with other literary and musical features suitable to the occasion. Each of these features was placed in the hands of a sub-committee, while still other sub-committees were appointed to invite notable guests, attend to their reception, provide an exhibit of historic relics, organize a bureau of information, and arrange for other details in connection with the events of the day. These committees were made up as follows:

Literary Committee:

Hon. George K. Tufts, New Braintree, *Chairman.*
Hon. Theodore C. Bates, North Brookfield.
Rev. Benson M. Frink, West Brookfield.
Rev. William L. Walsh, Brookfield.

Committee on Tents and Dinner:

Carlton D. Richardson, West Brookfield, *Chairman.*
Thomas G. Richards, North Brookfield.
William Mulcahy, Brookfield.
James E. Barr, New Braintree.

Meriam Public Library Town House Wheeler Block Old Meriam Printing Office

West Brookfield Center. Main Street Looking North

Committee on Music:

John G. Shackley, West Brookfield, *Chairman.*
Alfred C. Stoddard, North Brookfield.
Charles S. Lane, New Braintree.
Arthur F. Butterworth, Brookfield.

Committee on Printing Invitations:

Thomas G. Richards, North Brookfield, *Chairman.*
Rev. Benson M. Frink, West Brookfield.
Emerson H. Stoddard, Brookfield.
D. Clarence Wetherell, New Braintree.

Committee on Inviting Notable Guests:

Hon. T. C. Bates, North Brookfield, *Chairman*
Hon. George K. Tufts, New Braintree.
Arthur F. Butterworth, Brookfield.
John G. Shackley, West Brookfield.

Committee on Parade:

J. Thomas Webb, New Braintree, *Chairman.*
Philander Holmes, West Brookfield.
William Mulcahy, Brookfield.
Patrick J. Daniels, North Brookfield.

Committee on Programme:

Hon. T. C. Bates, North Brookfield, *Chairman.*
Rev. Benson M. Frink, West Brookfield.
Arthur F. Butterworth, Brookfield.
James E. Barr, New Braintree.

Committee on Locating Tents on Common:

Carlton D. Richardson, West Brookfield, *Chairman.*
John G. Shackley, West Brookfield.
Albert W. Bliss, West Brookfield.
Philander Holmes, West Brookfield.
Rev. Benson M. Frink, West Brookfield.

Committee on School Children:

Emerson H. Stoddard, Brookfield, *Chairman.*
Alfred C. Stoddard, North Brookfield.
Philander Holmes, West Brookfield.
Hon. George K. Tufts, New Braintree.

Committee on Bagdes:

John G. Shackley, West Brookfield, *Chairman.*
Carlton D. Richardson, West Brookfield.
D. Clarence Wetherell, New Braintree.

Committee on Relics:

Albert W. Bliss, West Brookfield.

Bureau of Information:

Albert W. Bliss, West Brookfield, *Chairman.*
Emerson H. Stoddard, Brookfield.
D. Clarence Wetherell, New Braintree.
Harold A. Foster, North Brookfield.

Reception Committee:

Hon. T. C. Bates, North Brookfield, *Chairman.*
The Reception Committee was made up of a large number of ladies and gentlemen from the four towns whose names will be found in Appendix A.

Committee on Publication of Proceedings of the Day:

Hon. T. C. Bates, North Brookfield, *Chairman.*
Hon. George K. Tufts, New Braintree.
Rev. Benson M. Frink, West Brookfield.
Arthur F. Butterworth, Brookfield.
Harold A. Foster, North Brookfield.

Between the date of the celebration and the actual beginning of the labors of the Committee on Publication, three of its members—Hon. Theodore C. Bates, Hon. George K. Tufts, and Rev. Benson M. Frink—passed away. Mr. Bates was succeeded by Alfred C. Stoddard, of North Brookfield; Mr. Tufts, by D. Clarence Wetherell, of New Braintree, and Mr. Frink, by Carlton D. Richardson, of West Brookfield. On the reorganization of the committee, Mr. Stoddard was elected chariman.

One of the first acts of the Joint Executive Committee was the election of its chairman, Hon. Theodore C. Bates, of North Brookfield, as President of the Day, with the following vice-presidents: Hon. George K. Tufts, of New Brain-

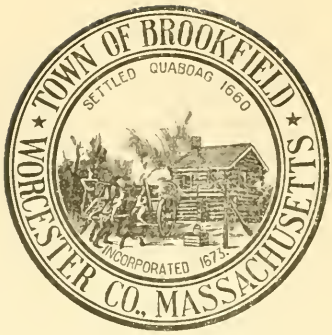
Hon. Theodore C. Bates

tree; Rev. Benson M. Frink, of West Brookfield, and Arthur F. Butterworth, of Brookfield. Hon. Roger Foster, of New York, a descendent of the ancient family from which Foster's Hill takes its name, was secured as the principal orator, while brief addresses were also promised by His Excellency, Governor Eben S. Draper, of Massachusetts; Congressman Frederic H. Gillette, of Springfield; Congressman Charles G. Washburn, of Worcester, and Mayor James Logan, of Worcester. Mme. Tryphosa Bates-Batcheller, the gifted daughter of Hon. Theodore C. Bates, consented to sing, and arrangements were made for a chorus of school-children from the four towns, under the direction of Dana J. Pratt, of Worcester. As chief marshal of the parade, Carlton D. Richardson, of West Brookfield, was elected.

One of the happiest thoughts of the committee was the invitation extended to the Quabaug Tribe of Red Men, of West Brookfield, to participate as Indian warriors in the sham battle on Foster's Hill, and the cordial co-operation of this organization was one of the chief factors in assuring the success of the pageant.

Among the gracious actions of the committee, which should be mentioned as affording a pleasant indication that its members were no less appreciative of the courtesies suitable to the occasion than of such duties as tended merely to efficiency, was the extending of an invitation to Mr. Ezra D. Batcheller, of North Brookfield, the only living member of the executive committee in charge of the two hundredth anniversary celebration, fifty years before, to be the guest of the committee. A similar invitation was extended to Mrs. Lyman Whiting, whose husband, the late Rev. Dr. Lyman Whiting, delivered the oration at the two hundredth anniversary celebration. The invitations were accepted, and both Mr. Batcheller and Mrs. Whiting were present.

The committee also undertook a strenuous campaign of advertising. Frequent articles, historical as well as of a purely advertising nature, appeared in various newspapers



THE UNDERSIGNED, A COMMITTEE ELECTED BY THE TOWNS OF BROOKFIELD, NORTH BROOKFIELD, WEST BROOKFIELD AND NEW BRAINTREE CORDIALLY INVITE YOU WITH YOUR FRIENDS, TO JOIN US ON

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST, 1910

IN CELEBRATING AT

WEST BROOKFIELD

THE

TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

OF THE SETTLEMENT OR FOUNDING OF THE TOWN OF BROOKFIELD, (QUABAUG,) MASS.

1660 — 1910

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

BROOKFIELD

FRANK E. PROUTY
EMERSON H. STODDARD
ARTHUR F. BUTTERWORTH
WILLIAM MULCAHY
ARTHUR H. DRAKE

NORTH BROOKFIELD

HON. THEODORE C. BATES
THOMAS G. RICHARDS
HAROLD A. FOSTER
PATRICK J. DANIELS
ALFRED C. STODDARD

WEST BROOKFIELD

JOHN G. SHACKLEY
ALBERT W. BLISS
PHILANDER HOLMES
CARLTON D. RICHARDSON
REV. BENSON M. FRINK

NEW BRAINTREE

HON. GEORGE K. TUFTS
D. CLARENCE WETHERELL
J. THOMAS WEBB
CHARLES S. LANE
JAMES E. BARR

HON. THEODORE C. BATES
CHAIRMAN

HAROLD A. FOSTER
SECRETARY

of Boston, Springfield, and Worcester, as well as in the local press. In this work the foremost place was taken by Hon. Theodore C. Bates and Frederick M. Ashby, of North Brookfield. In addition, posters were put up in all conspicuous places and otherwise scattered broadcast throughout the region, circulars were issued, and hundreds of letters written.

So, all through the summer of 1910, no effort was spared to pave the way for the biggest and most successful celebration ever held in the Quabaug territory. As the plans matured, public enthusiasm steadily increased. On September 18, the Sunday immediately preceding the anniversary, special services were held, on the invitation of the committee, in most of the churches of the four towns. At these services, the higher lessons of patriotism, civic morality and religious duty were dwelt upon, and the brave story of the past was employed to inspire profound gratitude in the hearts of the hearers, a deeper faith in the divine leadership, and a more vivid consciousness of personal obligation to advance the nobler ends of living. Through the kindness of the superintendents and teachers of the public schools, a day was also set apart for special historical and patriotic exercises in the schools.

Monday and Tuesday were, for the members of the Joint Executive Committee, doubtless, the most strenuous days of their lives. With a thousand last things to be done, there was scarcely time to crowd in a brief meeting, the last held by the committee previous to the long-awaited event. "Members of the General Committee"—so runs the laconic report of the secretary—"announced that the arrangements for the following day were progressing rapidly; and, as the members were busy making final arrangements, it was voted to adjourn to the call of the chairman."

It may be doubted whether the members of the committee went to bed at all that night, or, if they did, whether, with brains still working at fever heat in the vain endeavor to detect a single detail that had been overlooked, they caught

a wink of sleep. But the other residents of the Quabaug townships, knowing full well in whom of their fellow-citizens they had placed their trust, went calmly to their beds, their only anxiety in the world being some apprehension as to the possible antics of the weather-man.

II. The Parade.

If the aforesaid weather-man had been a native of Brookfield and had devoted all his life to practicing the difficult art of producing a perfect day for the celebration of his mother town's quarter-millenium, he could not have compassed a more brilliant success. In the early gray of the morning, a heavy shower of rain cleared the air and laid the dust upon the country roads. No wonder the face of the rising sun beamed with satisfaction, for wherever he looked upon the Quabaug landscape, field and hill, highway and byway, farmstead and village-home, shone clean and fresh from its matutinal ablutions, while his bright rays agreeably tempered the crisp air of autumn.

In every village, too, he found a profusion of gay bunting; for not only the public buildings, but many of the private residences as well, proudly returned his gaze, as though conscious of the brave apparel in which the decorator had adorned them.

From the spires of the four villages, the merry peal of sunrise bells proclaimed the dawning of the gala day. Hardly had they ceased, when from the remotest outposts of the district each house and hamlet began to send out little groups of pilgrims, all wending toward the center of the day's festivities. The scene must have reminded the ghosts of the long-ago dwellers in the land—if any such were lurking in the morning twilight—of that autumn day in 1740, when the roads for miles around were dotted with little knots of folk journeying up to Foster's Hill to hear George Whitefield preach. Here and there, too—in striking contrast with the

School House

Congregational Church

West Brookfield Common, Looking South,
Site of the 200th and 250th Anniversary Celebrations, 1860-1910

sober appearance of the earlier pilgrims—were gaily decorated floats, companies of red-shirted firemen with their shining apparatus, and everywhere bevies of maidens clad in festive raiment that their great-great-grandmothers would have opened wide their eyes to gaze on.

Every means of egress to West Brookfield—highway, trolley road, steam railway—poured in its living stream. By eight o'clock, the Common and the surrounding streets were filled with happy throngs. The village was even braver in bunting than its sister villages. Old Glory waved from countless windows, or was twined in various shapes across the house-fronts, while side by side with emblems carrying the mind back to the infancy of the country were banners bearing the portraits of Washington, Lincoln, and the President of the hour, William H. Taft. So was the past linked visibly with the present, and the patriotism that looks with pride to a famous history joined with the living love and loyalty that are the truest presage of a future no less glorious.

Mammoth tents pitched on the northern portion of the Common added their gay decorations to the swelling symphony of color. The largest of these, two hundred and fifty feet long, was to be used for the literary and musical features of the afternoon, while two more, each one hundred feet in length, were to house the multitudes at dinner. A smaller one nearby served as the headquarters of the caterer and his little army of assistants. Still another was occupied by the Bureau of Information.

If the Man in the Moon had dropped down upon the scene at that early morning hour, he might well have felt some bewilderment as to the precise historical era on which he had lighted. In addition to the spectators, there were, to be sure, hundreds of school children, all excitement in anticipation of the coming parade, whose pretty attire was plainly that of the twentieth century. But there were many others who were to take part in the parade as Colonials, and their quaint garments contrasted strangely with the frills

and gaudy ribbons of the present. The suggestion they afforded of Colonial days was heightened, too, by the presence in the crowd of members of the Quabaug Tribe of Red Men, in full paint and feathers, whose part in the parade was overshadowed by the conspicuous rôle they were to play in the sham battle afterwards. Finally, the era of the Civil War was represented by the blue uniforms of the Grand Army veterans. Altogether it was a motley throng, whose endless variety added much to the charm of the spectacle.

Soon after eight o'clock, the parade began to form, and the masterly way in which orderly arrangement was gradually wrought out of apparent chaos testified to the commanding generalship of the chief marshal, Carlton D. Richardson, and his aides. These were: Alfred C. Stoddard and John P. Ranger, of North Brookfield; Walter A. Putnam and I. Walter Moore, of Warren; Judge Henry E. Cottle and George A. Putney, of Brookfield; Charles S. Lane and Charles M. Daily, of New Braintree, and Robert Converse, John J. Mulvey, Dr. Windsor R. Smith, Martin Walsh and Alfred C. White, of West Brookfield. The parade formed at the north end of the Common, on School and North Main Streets, the line extending the entire length of School street and down North Main street to a point beyond the Town Hall. The following description of the procession, based upon a newspaper account of the celebration, preserves a vivid picture of the spectacle.

The parade was headed by the Chief Marshal and his aides. Then came the Worcester Brass Band, followed by a coach trimmed in purple and white, driven by Leon H. Adams, and bearing the colors of the North Brookfield High School. The coach was followed by seventy-five North Brookfield High School pupils, led by William Mahoney, president of the senior class. Each pupil carried a purple and white banner. Then came two hundred pupils, dressed in white, of grades 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9, North Brookfield public schools. The Brookfield High School Cadets, eighteen members, followed, under the command of Captain R. S. Clough,

and behind them were 150 pupils of the graded schools of Brookfield, West Brookfield and New Braintree.

Following the school children was a float representing the Merriam Public Library, of West Brookfield. It was in the form of a mammoth Webster's Dictionary, which work was originally published in West Brookfield, and on it rode B. S. Beeman and Harold Chesson, trustees of the library.

The Ezra Batcheller Post, G. A. R., of North Brookfield, twenty-two members, followed, under Commander G. T. Webber, and next were the Sons of Veterans, of North Brookfield, under Captain Colby H. Johnson.

Then came a carriage, in which rode Edward Haskins, Charles Allen and Joseph Malloy, selectmen of West Brookfield, and Town Clerk Dwight Fairbanks, of the same town.

They were followed by the Holmes Steamer Company, of North Brookfield, forty-two men in uniform, under Chief Engineer Harold A. Foster, and behind them were two pieces of apparatus, the Holmes steamer, driven by John Mattoon, and the Ezra Batcheller Hook and Ladder truck, decorated in red, white, and blue, and driven by Eugene McCarthy.

The Brookfield Fire Engineers came next, Edward F. Delaney, Albert H. Bellows and Robert G. Livermore, in a carriage, followed by Steamer Company No. 2, of Brookfield, eighteen men, and the steamer. The members of the company wore dark trousers, white shirts, and red, white and blue neckties, and carried canes. The steamer was driven by Eddie Whitney.

After them came the West Brookfield Fire Department, twenty-two men, under command of Foreman John P. Cregan, and Fire Engineers George N. Sanford and George H. Boothby. The hand-tub "American," of West Brookfield, built in 1855, was driven by W. H. Bruce, while Henry W. Bartlett drove the Fullam Hook and Ladder truck, of West Brookfield.

The Quabaug Corset Company's float, of West Brookfield, was driven by Nicholas Dickson. It was decorated in pink and blue, and carried twenty-six young women clad in white.

Next was the float of the Oxford Linen Mills, of North Brookfield, decorated in drab and white. It was drawn by four handsome horses, one pair of which was owned by John J. Brosnihan, while the other was owned by Patrick Delargy, who acted as driver.

This, in turn, was followed by the grocery float of Edson & Woodward, of West Brookfield, driven by Frederick L. Woodward, and bearing on its sides the inscription: "1660-1910. Committee for the Celebration of the 300th Anniversary of the Settlement of Quabaug." The "committee" consisted of a group of school children, dressed in white, pupils of the first and second grades of the public schools of West Brookfield, taught by Miss Alice J. White. (For the names of these children and the unusual record of their teacher, see Appendix G.)

The float of the Sikes Ice Company was driven by Alva Sikes. Behind it came a yoke of small steers drawing a miniature ox-wagon loaded with vegetables and driven by W. S. Lincoln. Mrs. Homer B. Childs followed, driving a butter and tea wagon decorated with the national colors.

Next was the float of the E. M. Converse grocery store, decorated with flags and bunting, and driven by Mr. Converse. The Alonzo Gilbert Grain Company's float was driven by Charles Tyler, and that of the White Sewing Machine Company, decorated in tinsel and white, by Joel Richards.

Then came the floats of the various Granges. That of the Quaboag Pomona Grange was decorated in white and gold, and carried twelve girls dressed in white. It was driven by Arlo P. Parker, of Brimfield.

The float of the North Brookfield Grange was decorated in white and gold, with trimmings made of vegetables and fruits. It was driven by Albert L. Woodis and carried twelve members of the Grange.

The float of the Brookfield Grange, driven by Elbert L. Bemis, carried fourteen members. That of the New Braintree Grange, decorated in white and gold, and driven by J. Arthur Barr, had thirteen passengers.

The Warren Grange had a float driven by Charles E. Rice and Nathan E. Ball. It was trimmed with flags, bunting and evergreen, and carried twelve women dressed in white.

The float of the West Brookfield Grange had upon it a log cabin, in which was seated Keyes Cutler, eighty-eight years old, the oldest male resident of the town. The float was drawn by two yoke of oxen in charge of Asa Walker and Francis S. Beeman. The decorations were of evergreen. The Women's Degree team, of West Brookfield, had a

float decorated in white and driven by Frank Bridges.

A carriage decorated with flowers and containing members of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union came next, and was followed by a wagonette decorated in white, driven by E. D. Allen and containing members of the District Nurses Association: Misses Margaret Blair, Marion Blodgett, Mary Campion, Susan Bill, Annie Fitzgerald, Marguerite Fales, Anna O'Day and Florence Benson. Next was a wagonette trimmed with red, white, and blue, and driven by Charles Simpson. It contained Irving Breed, Mrs. Henry Harper, Elsie Bemis, Evie Carlton and Flora Nelson, members of Friendship Lodge N. E. O. P., of Brookfield.

The float of the Lashawa Tribe, I. O. R. M., of East Brookfield, followed. It was arranged to represent an Indian camp, with wigwam, tripod, kettle and forest scenery, and was driven by Paul Cummings.

Behind it came the float of the Quaboag Tribe, I.O.R.M., of West Brookfield, driven by Arthur Cutler. Forty members of the tribe, in Indian dress and fully painted, accompanied it, and were followed by twenty other members in white duck trousers and black coats and carrying canes.

Next came a pony phaeton, drawn by a Shetland pony, the property of Charles Shepard, of Warren. In the phaeton were Charles Shepard, Ruth Shepard, Lenthal K. Shumway and Margaret N. Shumway, of Warren, dressed as Indian children, while A. E. Shumway, also in Indian costume, marched at the pony's head.

The last float in the line was that of the J. A. White Overall Company, of North Brookfield. It was trimmed with purple and white asters and was driven by Edward Ledger, with thirty young women as passengers.

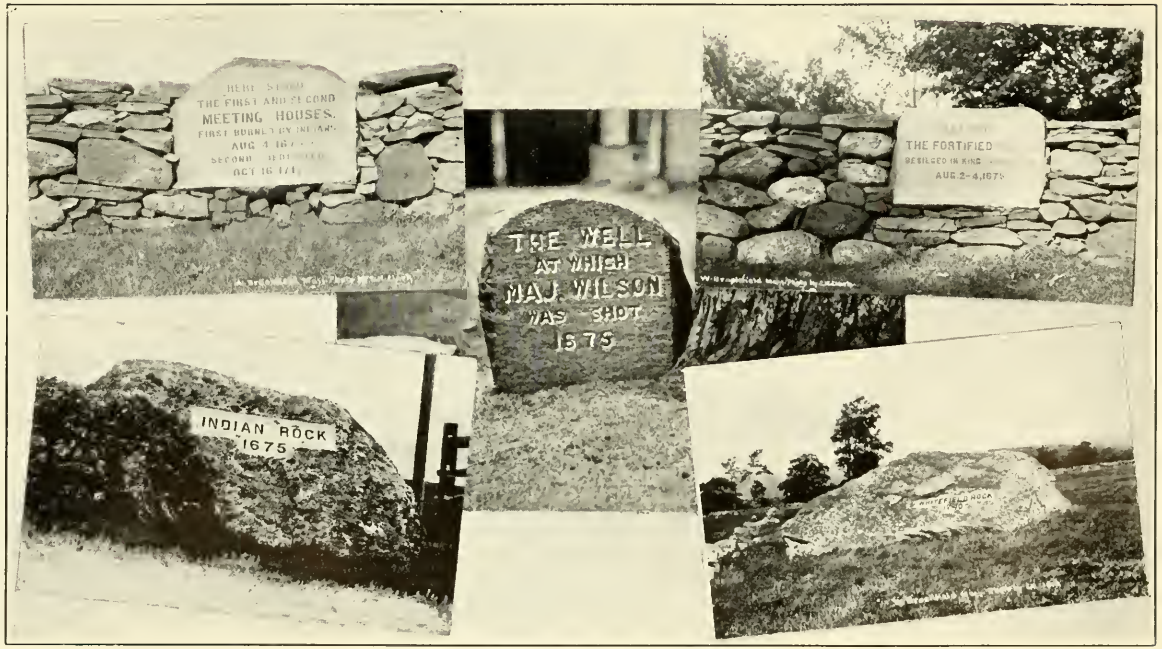
The rear of the parade was brought up by a lumber wagon, containing an old bedstead and mattress, on which reclined J. P. Morgan, E. J. Ducy, and R. L. Gould, while placards attached to the sides of the wagon read: "Board of Trade," "Not Dead but Sleeping," "We Are Hustlers, What?" and "Oh—hum." Fastened behind the wagon was another containing a hogshead surmounted by an old iron pump. On the hogshead was a placard reading, "West Brookfield Water Works. Pulling the Plug." On this wagon rode Frederick Potter.

Nine o'clock had hardly struck when, prompt almost to the advertised minute, the procession moved. The line of march was down Main Street to Cross street, thence to Ware street, on to Central street, and so back to Main street and around the Common. When the command was given to halt, the line extended in a loop from the Town Hall, around the entire circumference of the Common, back to the Town Hall, a distance of nearly a mile. The line countermarched around the small Common, and effected its disbanding with an entire absence of confusion or congestion at any point.

III. The Pageant on Foster's Hill

No sooner was the parade disbanded than the throngs of spectators began to stream across the fields and along the road leading to Foster's Hill, where was made the first settlement of white men in the Quabaug territory. Here the most elaborate spectacle of the day was to take place, namely, a mimic representation of the Indian attack upon the fortified block house, and its stubborn defense by the settlers and Captain Wheeler's soldiers, in 1675. Familiar as is the story of that most tragic chapter in the history of Brookfield, a brief survey of its leading features will help the reader to appreciate the significance of the drama played out there two hundred and thirty-five years later.

It was in the spring of 1675 that the bloody struggle known as King Philip's War broke out. Early in the conflict, the Quabaug Indians assumed a threatening aspect. In order to discover and thwart their plans and, if possible, to conclude with them a new treaty of peace, Captain Hutchinson and Captain Wheeler, with a little body of soldiers and three Brookfield men, proceeded to a rendezvous near the head of Wickaboag Pond. This was on the second day of August. As the Indians, however, did not appear, the white men, in the hope of meeting them, marched two or three miles farther up the valley, toward King Philip's camp, which



Group of Historical Markers on "Foster" Hill

was near the Indian villages. The wily savages, having thus drawn their victims into an ambush, suddenly set upon them. Several of the white men were slain, and the survivors, after a desperate rally, were driven back in disastrous rout.

"Being got to the town," says Captain Wheeler in his famous narrative of the occurence, "we speedily betook ourselves to one of the largest and strongest houses therein, where we fortified ourselves in the best manner we could in such straits of time, and there resolved to keep garrison, though we were but few, and meanly fitted to make resistance against so furious enemies. The news of the Indians' treacherous dealing with us, and the loss of so many of our company thereby, did so amaze the inhabitants of the town, that they being informed thereof by us, presently left their houses, divers of them carrying very little away with them, they being afraid of the Indians sudden coming upon them; and so came to the house we were entered into, very meanly provided of clothing or furnished with provisions." The Indians were, indeed, hard on their heels, burning the deserted houses as they came, slaughtering cattle, and destroying whatever else their hands could find to wreak their fury on. In the siege that followed, several of the defenders were slain. Efforts were made by the Indians to burn the fortified house, and one of these attempts would have succeeded, but for a providential shower of rain.

On the second day of the siege, as Wheeler tells us, many of the Indians "went to the town's meeting-house, (which was within twenty rods of the house in which we were), who mocked saying, come and pray, and sing psalms, and in contempt made an hideous noise somewhat resembling singing." On the third day, "the Indians fortified themselves at the meeting-house, and the barn, belonging to our house." The outcome could not much longer have been in doubt, had not Major Willard, unexpectedly arriving from the eastward with reinforcements, put the savages to flight. Says Captain Wheeler:

When they (the Indians) saw their divers designs unsuccessful and their hopes therein disappointed, they then fired the house and barn (wherein they had before kept to lie in wait to surprise any coming to us) that by the light thereof they might the better direct their shot at us, but no hurt was done thereby, praised be the Lord. And not long after they burnt the meeting-house wherein their fortifications were, as also the barn, which belonged to our house, and so perceiving more strength come to our assistance, they did, as we suppose, despair of effecting any more mischief against us. And therefore the greatest part of them, towards the breaking of the day, August the fifth, went away and left us, and we were quiet from any further molestations by them.

Preparations for the representation of this stirring drama had been most carefully made. Chief Marshal Carlton D. Richardson played the rôle of Captain Hutchinson, while that of Captain Wheeler was taken by Walter A. Putnam, of Warren. The names of those who served as troopers under their command will be found in Appendix B. Alfred C. Stoddard, of North Brookfield, represented Major Willard, and his chief assistant, Judge Henry E. Cottle, of Brookfield, impersonated Captain Parker, of Groton. A list of those who acted as troopers under them is given in Appendix C.

Willard's party was the first to leave West Brookfield village, at the close of the morning's parade, as this party was to ride by the new road to Brookfield, in order to make its historic dash from the eastward, over the summit of Foster's Hill, to the rescue of the besieged settlers.

Then those who were to take part, both men and women, as settlers (see Appendix D) stationed themselves in and around the rude structures that had been erected near the crest of the hill to represent the homes of the first inhabitants. The members of the Quabaug Tribe of Red Men, too, who were to participate in the pageant as Indian warriors, (see Appendix F) prepared for the fray. The main body of braves, on horseback, taking the main road toward Brookfield, turned in to the fields at the farm of Sumner H. Reed,

and proceeded toward the top of the hill, whence, at the proper time, they could dash down upon the fortified house, which was erected on the old highway, close by the home of Carlton D. Richardson. They were under the command of Chiefs John J. Fitzgerald, David H. Robinson and William McCune, while a smaller body, on foot, under Chiefs Henry H. Flagg and Clarence W. S. Allen, made ready to trail the troopers under Captains Hutchinson and Wheeler up the old hill road, by which the whites were supposed to be retreating from the rout above Wickaboag Pond.

When all was in readiness, the horsemen under Carlton D. Richardson and Walter A. Putnam, representing respectively Hutchinson and Wheeler, left the village. At the foot of the hill, however, they encountered an unforeseen obstacle. The roadway and the bordering grass plats, from wall to wall, were crowded with a solid mass of people, afoot and in carriages, slowly climbing to points of vantage higher up. The proposed wild gallop up the hill would have been, under the circumstances, not merely hazardous, but, for the moment, quite impossible. A glance behind revealed the stream of spectators extending backward into the village as far as the eye could reach. To delay until all these people had climbed the hill would be disastrous and have resulted, probably, in the rescuing party under Major Willard reaching the fortified house before the siege had begun. But Captain Hutchinson —that is to say, Chief Marshal Richardson—was equal to the occasion. At an order from him, the leaders of his party wheeled their horses across the road, interrupting the stream of spectators and holding those behind in check until those in front had advanced so far that it would be safe for the horsemen to begin their desperate flight up the hill.

Another word from the commander, and the flight was on. As the troopers swept along, the savages, who were skulking behind trees and walls on either side of the road, fired their muskets. The volley was returned by the flying horsemen, and the battle was begun in earnest. From that

moment until the pageant closed, there was scarcely a moment when the stricken air was silent. Terrified by the firing and the sight of the galloping horsemen, with the Red Men in pursuit, the settlers, hastily leaving their homes, fled with what speed they could, men, women and children, to the shelter of the fortified house and of the church hard by, while the Indians, closing in behind and pressing steadily on, paused in their shooting only long enough to set fire to the abandoned dwellings as they passed. Soon the lurid mass of flame and smoke ascending from the top of the hill must have presented from a distance a spectacle almost precisely similar to that of two hundred and thirty-five years before, while the shrieks of besieged and besiegers, rising above the cracking of musketry, added much to the vividness of the presentation.

By the time the last frightened settler had reached the comparative safety of the church and fort, a new terror was added by the sight of the main body of Indians, who now made their appearance, sweeping down across the field opposite, sheltering themselves behind Indian Rock, and showing unmistakably by their actions that they meant no less a mischief than an attack in force upon the two buildings within which the Quabaug folk had taken refuge. Thereupon, the church was hurriedly abandoned and the defense concentrated within the stouter walls of the block-house.

And now event followed event in swift succession, as within the space of a brief half-hour was played out the drama that history prolonged over the course of three days. The Indians, despairing of taking the fortified house by immediate assault, drew closer the lines of the siege. Soon the whites, shut up within the fort, discovered to their dismay that the last drop of water was gone. To relieve their growing distress from thirst, John P. Ranger, impersonating Major Wilson, crept forth from the house in an effort to reach the well. Chief Macuin, crouching behind Indian Rock, spied him, fired, and, as Wilson fell, cried out exultantly, "Me kill Major Wilson!"

Emboldened by this stroke of fortune, the Indians, who had been constantly drawing closer in around their prey, began a fresh attack from behind the stone wall across the road. Sumner H. Reed, in the role of a savage warrior, attempted to set fire to the house by shooting burning arrows. The effort failed, but it had served to inspire the Indians with a fresh idea. Seizing upon a load of hay that stood in the yard, they fired it, and, pushing the blazing mass against the building, tried in this way to burn the last remaining stronghold of their victims. It was at this point that, as history relates, a sudden shower came to the rescue of the white men. But as history seldom, if ever, repeats itself, it was left, on the day of the pageant, for the settlers themselves to extinguisg the flames through the heroic exertions of Captain Hutchinson and his little band of trusty followers.

And now the last day of the siege was supposed to have arrived. The firing was well nigh incessant and the destruction of the little garrison appeared imminent. Imaginary night drew on, and with its coming the last hopes of the settlers vanished. The Indians, sure now of their prey, grew bolder. But just as they were preparing to make the last fierce rush, that would undoubtedly have carried the fortification, they were startled by the sound of galloping horses. Before they could change their front, the body of rescuers under Major Willard and Captain Parker, impersonated by Alfred C. Stoddard and Judge Henry E. Cottle respectively, dashed in from the east, firing as they came. The main body of savages, perceiving themselves now overmatched in strength, wavered, broke, and fled across the mowing and over the hilltop whence they had descended. This flight of the Red Men afforded one of the most vivid touches in the whole pageant, as Major Willard's horsemen, pursuing with an impetuosity that had not been counted on, all but rode down some of the braves on foot, who scrambled over the last dividing wall with an extraordinary display of agility.

Meanwhile, the smaller body of Indians, cheated of their prey, took what vengeance they could by setting fire to the church. Then, with a few parting shots, they retreated —not toward a wilderness, such as swallowed up their ancestors in the far-off past, but toward the hospitable dinner tents erected in the modern village, whither, the day being saved and many a stomach testifying to the approach of noon, they were speedily followed by the victorious settlers and the vast throng of spectators.

IV. The Dinner.

The Joint Executive Committee in charge of the celebration had done everything within its power to ascertain in advance the number of persons who desire to be served at dinner in the tents. Notices had been enclosed with every invitation, and otherwise distributed, which contained the following paragraph, couched in no uncertain terms: "Every person receiving an invitation to attend this celebration will please *promptly* acknowledge its receipt, *by mail*, to the *Secretary*, or to some other member of the Executive Committee, *plainly writing his or her name and address, in full*, and state how many Dinner Tickets he or she may want reserved for himself or herself and family or friends, so that adequate provision may be made for all." To the failure of hundreds of people to comply with this request, and to this alone, is due the fact that adequate provision was not made. No suspicion of blame can justly attach to the Committee. The provision was ample, indeed, for a considerably greater number than replied to the above notice, but not for so many as expected to be served, when the dinner hour arrived on the gala day.

The records of the Committee show that 834 dinners were served, in addition to the lunches for the school children. The following excellent menu was prepared and served by Keith, of Warren, at $1 a plate:

Canteloupe
Roast Turkey
Cranberry Sauce

Roast Beef — Cold Ham
Mashed Potatoes — Squash
Sliced Tomatoes — Sliced Cucumbers — Celery
Salmon Salad
Salad Rolls — French Rolls
Apple Pie — Squash Pie
Ice Cream
Assorted Cakes
Fruit
Coffee — Quabaug Spring Water

The hotels and restaurants in West Brookfield did a thriving business, while scores of persons journeyed by trolley or automobile to neighboring towns for lunch. The most picturesque feature of the dinner hour, however, was furnished by the numerous family parties that enjoyed a picnic dinner seated on the grass beneath West Brookfield's magnificent shade trees. If not so well served as those within the dining tents, they had, at least, the advantage of being in the fresh air and of watching uninterruptedly the informal pageant afforded by the thousands of merry-makers.

V. The Literary and Musical Programme.

The great audience tent, easily accommodating two thousand persons, was filled to overflowing, when, at 1.30 o'clock, the following literary and musical programme was begun:

Invocation — Rev. William L. Walsh, of Brookfield.
Chorus — "The Heavens Are Telling" ("The Creation") — *Haydn.*
Address of Welcome — Hon. Theodore C. Bates.

Oration		Hon. Roger Foster, of New York.
Songs	a.	"Spring" *Henschel.*
	b.	"Nightingale Aria" *Masse.*
		Mme. Tryphosa Bates-Batcheller.
		Flute obligato, Charles K. North.
		Accompanist, Mme. Maud Paradis-Lane
Address		His Excellency, Governor Eben S. Draper.
Chorus		"Hurrah for Old New England" *Chamberlain.*
Address		Hon. Frederick H. Gillett, M. C.
Chorus		"The Landing of the Pilgrims" *Brown.*
Address		Hon. Charles G. Washburn, M.C.
Address		Hon. James Logan, Mayor of Worcester.
"America."		

The special feature of the afternoon was, naturally, the oration by Hon. Roger Foster, nor did the orator disappoint the high expectations of his audience. "No man"—so runs the brief report of the proceedings, prepared by the Joint Executive Committee—"could have been found in the whole country, who could have better pleased our people, and his being a direct descendant of Judge Jedediah Foster, of Brookfield, made it seem to prominent men all over the State, that it was most fitting and appropriate that Roger Foster, Esq., should be the orator of the day on this occasion."

Hon. Roger Foster

His scholarly and eloquent oration follows.

Hon. Roger Foster

ADDRESS OF ROGER FOSTER OF NEW YORK AT BROOKFIELD ON SEPTEMBER 21, 1910.

Let me thank you for the pleasure, as well as for the honor conferred upon me by your invitation to speak where my father spoke fifty years ago. It is a joy to me to have an opportunity to return to the old Bay State; to Worcester county, the heart of the commonwealth, where I was born; to my old home where I passed my boyhood; to the town of Brookfield, where my forefathers have lived; to Foster's Hill, where the name of my family is still remembered, although two generations have passed since they removed.

Before considering the work of the settlers of Brookfield, let us honor the Puritans from whom they came; let us praise their courage and fortitude in facing danger and discomfort for the sake of founding a commonwealth where they and their children might worship in accordance with their own conscience and not be obliged to observe practices which they considered to savor of idolatry. They left the homes of their fathers and severed the ties of kin and country. They incurred the perils and discomforts of unknown seas, where for two long months they were at the mercy of the winds without the aid of steam: to land upon an unknown and rocky coast unassisted by a chart, to settle upon a soil which they knew from the Plymouth pilgrims to be less fertile than that of their native country, and to undergo the rigors of a climate which, in summer as well as in winter, was far more oppressive than that of England. They risked imprisonment when they sailed. Several of their ships were embargoed, held against their will in the English ports. Some became discouraged and abandoned their enterprise. Even brave spirits then went back, amongst them Oliver Cromwell; but our forefathers persisted. And after the agony of voyages in small sail boats, with no fresh meat—preserved fruit and vegetables being then un-

known—living on salt pork and hardtack, in badly ventilated quarters, suffering the untried tortures of seasickness and the danger of scurvy, at last they landed near Ipswich and founded the State to which we, their descendants, feel that we still belong, even those of us who now live in other parts of the country or of the world. They were a rugged race, strong in mind as well as in body, and their history has been the subject of much criticism as well as praise.

Special objection has been made to their alleged religious intolerance. And it is often said, that they should have given to others the liberty of conscience which they demanded for themselves and have permitted throughout the Commonwealth the free exercise of all religions. It is easy for those who live in a time when the exercise of freedom of thought and speech in religious matters is never the subject of punishment, to condemn, in academic phrases, those who did not then permit religious liberty. It must be remembered, however, that unbridled abuse of those in command can never be permitted in a garrison during a siege nor upon a ship during a storm. The punishments which they imposed because of religious differences were not founded upon nonconformity nor upon free thought kept to itself. They punished those only who publicly attacked the form of worship which the Puritans had emigrated to maintain. They were encompassed by hostile savages aided by the Catholic French. They were threatened in England by the power of the Church that was there established and which for generations afterwards practiced religious persecution. Had they allowed the Church of England to maintain a footing in Massachusetts, inevitably but a short time would have elapsed before a bishop of that diocese would have been created and an ecclesiastical court established. Had they permitted their religious meetings to be disturbed by public attacks upon the doctrines which were promulgated, the consequent dissensions would have enfeebled them in their defense against the attacks daily threatened by their hostile

neighbors. We who have passed laws forbidding the immigration of anarchists and who have excluded from our country Asiatics, should hesitate before we blame them for their endeavors to keep the land for the use of those who were in sympathy with the religious opinions of the first settlers.

The traits of character which they brought here from England and those which were developed upon this soil, can be traced in most of their descendants. The power to resist equal severities of heat and cold, the patience and industry required to wring support out of a rocky soil, have developed in New Englanders a capacity for endurance and hard work which makes them succeed in any climate and under all circumstances, no matter how adverse. The nervous strain of the climate and the necessity for continuous labor in order to earn a living, left them no time for those elaborate courtesies and polish of manners which do so much to soften the asperities of life, which are, almost invariably, the accompaniment of a leisure class in any country and are practiced by all living in a warm climate. Their descendants as well as themselves are consequently justly criticised for coldness of manner and abruptness. And that love of truth, which is inculcated by the traditions of the Anglo-Saxon race, as well as by the Puritan religion, makes these, too, abstain from compliments. Their hatred of the adornment of cathedrals by pictures and statuary, which they considered brought about the worship of idols, and their dislike for the performance of a ritual which tended to obscure the meaning of a prayer, gave them a prejudice against the fine arts and even a contempt for these, which still lingers among their children. Those of us who have reached middle age can still remember the time when a love of music was considered to be effeminate and men boasted of the fact that their acoustic organs were so deformed that they could not recognize a tune. New England has given birth to a few great singers, but they were women and have passed most of their lives in other States and countries. The greatest painter that was born in Mass-

achusetts accomplished all his work in Europe. Architects we have produced, for their work a practical man recognizes as useful, but of what sculptors or musical composers can we justly boast? The life of melancholy, enjoined by their religious precepts ever teaching them to dread the horrors of hell, enhanced by physical troubles due to insufficient knowledge of the laws of health and lack of prophylactics, made them fear lest they were committing wrong whenever they lingered in, or gave expression to, the pleasure derived from the enjoyment of the good things that have been created for this world. This was, moreover, heightened by a spiritual pride which has left even us of this twentieth century often ashamed or afraid to pluck the roses that are by our path. The fact that they were protesters among the Protestants, confident of their own judgment as to right and wrong and deeming it a duty to follow the dictates of their own consciences, has made the children of New England ready to brave public opinion in support of a cause that is unpopular and to sacrifice themselves for an ideal; qualities without which the progress of humanity is impossible, although, alas, too often accompanied by intolerance of the dissent of others.

With the history of Brookfield you are better acquainted than am I. You have heard its traditions at the knees of your grandmothers. You have had the documents and the events explained to you by scholars on previous occasions. Yet now that two centuries and a half have passed since the foundation of the town, it has seemed fitting that you should be briefly reminded of them.

It was founded at a time when the citizens of Massachusetts might well have looked towards the future with a terror that would have discouraged any attempt to extend the colony. In 1660, the republic in England had been destroyed. The monarchy had been restored. Those of the leaders in the Great Rebellion who survived, some of whom had lived in Massachusetts, were about to be punished by

executions, the disgusting horrors of which make the imagination revolt. The King of England was a pensioner of France, which was ruled by the Grand Monarch whose wars strengthened Catholicism and depressed the Protestants throughout the continent of Europe. He was already in possession of that part of Canada now known as Ontario and Quebec and had formed the design to include in his dominions the whole of North America. The diplomacy and self-sacrifice of the Jesuits had given them such a power over the Indians in Canada that these, at any time, could be united in an attack upon Massachusetts. The Mississippi had not been discovered. No European had sailed on the Detroit River or even the Great Lakes beyond it. French explorers soon travelled in that direction, and within a few years Louis XIV again obtained control of Acadia on the northeast of New England, and upon the Island of Cape Britain build the fortress of Louisburg, which seriously threatened our fisheries and commerce. The inhabitants of New England had good cause to fear success in his attempts at conquest over them and their subjection to persecution by the Church of Rome. The Hudson River and Manhattan Island, together with that part of the Atlantic coast including what are now the States of New Jersey and Delaware, were under the control of the Dutch; and when, four years later, New York was acquired by England, Charles II granted it to his brother, who was a Catholic. Pennsylvania and Georgia had not been settled. The Protestants of Germany trembled before Louis and were unable to give any assistance to those of their religion in any other country. Poland was still unpartitioned and independent, a great Catholic power, one of the bulwarks of Christianity against the Turks; disputing with Russia for the ascendency of oriental Europe.

At that time the first settlers in Brookfield came here from Ipswich in order that they might obtain more land for themselves and their children, since the pressure of popula-

tion upon the coast had begunto make it more difficult for them to support their families. The selection of the place was due to reasons of state, as well as to those which lead a farmer to choose a home. There was need of a place of rest for travellers upon the trail between Massachusetts Bay and the Connecticut River, where already was situated the town of Springfield. Foster's Hill afforded a convenient location for such a post. The Indians of that neighborhood were Quaboags, a branch of the Nipmuck tribe, who seem to have been unconnected with any of the powerful leagues. They were consequently often the subjects of attack and oppression by other savages; and for that reason, if not because their minds were so cultivated as easily to appreciate his arguments, they listened to the sermons of the Apostle Eliot and were not indisposed to an alliance with the whites. A "praying town" of Indians had shortly before been established by him in the neighborhood. The adjoining valley seemed to offer good opportunities for agriculture. It had been used by the aborigines to raise their corn and for a meeting-place to celebrate their yearly festivals. The bottoms were good pastures. The primeval forest had been long destroyed by the autumnal fires of the natives. Horseback travel was practicable in all directions. There was plenty of timber in the swamps and on the heights. Deer and turkeys abounded around the hills, whence they could be seen a mile away. Cattle were within sight of the hilltops at a distance of three miles. The Quaboag River was full of shad and salmon at the proper seasons. Trout, hornpout, perch, pickerel and other fish filled the streams and ponds throughout the year.

Yet it required bold hearts to make the move. There was no white settlement within thirty miles. Springfield was the nearest place from which the help, often sorely needed, could be obtained. Lancaster was the next village on the east. Worcester was then a swamp and the woods covered Leicester hills. Wolves and bears lurked around them. Rattlesnakes coiled in the rocks. Tribes of the

pagans often made raids in the neighborhood and the temper of the praying Indians had not long been tested.

About May 20th, 1660, several of the inhabitants of Ipswich presented a petition to the General Court, as is still the official title of the legislature of Massachusetts. This recited:

"Forasmuch as it is found by Dayly experience "that the common Lands of this Towne are overburdened "by the multiplying dwelling houses contrary to the true "intent and meaning of the first Inhabitants in their "granting of house lotts and other lands to such as came "amongst them, to the end such inconvenience may be pre-"vented—" and prayed a land grant. On May 31st, the General Court made the following grant, described in the margin of the public record as "Ipswich New Plantation."

"At a Great and General Court of Election held at "Boston the 20th of May, 1660.

"In Ans^r to the peticon of severall the Inhabitants "of Ipswich, this Court Judgeth it meete to Graunt the "petitioners sixe miles square or so much land as shall be "Contejned in such a Compasse in a place nere Quoboag "ponds, provided they have twenty familyes there resi-"dent within 3 years, & that they have an able minister "settled there within the sajd terme, such as this Court "shall approve, and that they make due provision in "some way or other for the future, either by setting apart "of land, or what else shall be thought meete for the Con-"tinuance of the ministry amongst them: And that "If they shall faile in any of these particulars above men-"tioned, this Graunt of the Court to be voyd & of none "effect."

In the summer of that year John Warner, John Ayres, William Prichard, and perhaps another of the petitioners went to Quabaug to select the place for the new settlement and chose Foster's Hill as the site of the village. A raid by the Moheegans upon the Quabaugs in the spring of 1661

prevented further progress till 1665, when three or four families moved there and steps were taken to acquire peaceably a title from the Indians. A bargain was made on behalf of the settlers by Lieutenant Thomas Cooper of Springfield. He bought Foster's Hill, all the valuable meadow lands within the six mile square and the greater part of the other land there, excepting two Indian villages with their appurtenant fisheries and planting ground, for the sum of 300 fathoms of wampampeage, Indian money composed of beads of white sea-shell, 360 pieces in a fathom, worth five shillings a fathom; the price for the land aggregating £75, about $365. Considering that the whole of Manhattan Island was bought in the year 1626 for only twenty-four dollars, the sum seems not inadequate. The grantor was Shattoockquis, an Indian chief, who subscribed as his mark the sign of a beaver. "Mettawomppe an Indian witness who challenging some "interest in the land above sold received part of ye pay "and consented to the sale of it all," also subscribed a sign resembling in part a rattlesnake. The instrument was acknowledged before John Pynchon, Assistant. Eight years afterwards, another Indian made a claim for part of the land covered by the grant and proceedings were instituted for an amicable settlement with him. The interest acquired by the deed was not formally transferred to the settlers until 1673. The limitation of three years contained in the proviso by the General Court had expired before the Indian's deed, and the few families who had settled there petitioned for the security of their title. On May 15th, 1667, it was resolved: "In Ans^r to the petition of the inhabitants at "Quabaug: This Court, having perused the grant which the "Generall Court made anno 1660 to the first undertakers "for that place, doe finde that 1. By their non observance "of the condition of their grant, the same is altogether "voyd, & that now the ordering & disposing thereof is "wholly in this Court's power. 2. Considering that "there is already at Quabauge about sixe or seven familyes

"& that the place may be capable of receiving many more, "this Court will readily grant them the liberty of a toune-"ship when they shall be in a ffit capacity. 3. In the "meane time this Court appoints Cap. John Pinchon, John "Aires, Wm Prichard, Richard Coy & John Younglow "or any three of them, whereof Capt. Pinchon to be one "of the three, who shall have power to admitt inhabitants, "grant lands, & to order all the prudentiall affayres of the "place in all respects, untill it shall appeare that the place "shall be so farr settled with able men as this Court may "judge meete to give them the full liberty of a touneship "according to lawe. 4. Because the inhabitants of "Ipswich made the first motion for that plantation, & "some of them have binn at charges about it, although "by their remisse prosecution they have now lost all their "right, yet, such of them as shall setle there by midsummer "come twelve moneth, they shall have an interest in the "lands there in proportion with others; but if by that time "they shall not be there setled, they shall then loose their "lands, & all their charges which they have been at upon "ye place. 5. They are to take care for the getting & "mayntayning of a godly minister among them, & that "no evill persons, enemjes to the lawe of this commonweale "in judgment or practise, be receaved as inhabitants. "6. For promoting of the aforesajd plantation, & incou-"ragement thereof, this Court doeth now grant that plan-"tation seven yeares freedom from all publick rates & "taxes to the country, provided those inhabitants of "Ipswich which intend to inhabit at Quabauge by mid-"summer come twelve month doe engage to give security "to the above-sajd committee, within three moneths after "the date hereofe that they will performe accordingly, that "so others that would settle there may not be hindred."

All of the committee thus appointed were residents of the settlement, with the exception of Captain John Pynchon of Springfield, who was usually known by his later titles of

major and colonel. He was the first patron and protector of the town. Without his aid undoubtedly it would have perished. As the leaders of the community in subsequent generations were among his descendants, a few words concerning him and his family seem not to be out of place. He was born in Springfield, England, in 1621, the son of the founder of the city in Massachusetts, the name of which in 1640 was changed from Agawam to Springfield as a compliment to William Pynchon, who in accordance with the wishes of its inhabitants was appointed by the General Court its magistrate with full judicial powers. The latter is famous in the history of Massachusetts, not only for his fairness and diplomacy in negotiations with the Indians, but also for the liberality of his theology. In 1650, he published in London a book entitled "The Meritorious Price of our Redemption," which was so opposed to New England Calvinism that it received the compliment of being burned by the public executioner on Boston Common. He wrote other books in a similar vein, one of which also advocated a liberal observance of Sunday. He had too much influence to be molested by the divines, although it was probably by reason of his antagonism to them that he moved from Boston to the Connecticut River in 1636 and that in 1652 he returned to England, leaving in the colony his son John and his son-in-law Elizur Holyoke. In the following year, they and Samuel Chapin were appointed by the General Court, magistrates in charge of the government of Springfield. Colonel John Pynchon also succeeded his father in the confidence of the Indians, whom he managed with great diplomacy. He was known as "The worshipful Colonel Pynchon," and founded on land bought from the natives Northampton, Hadley, Deerfield, Northfield and Westfield. In 1660, he built the first brick building in Springfield, which was in existence as late as 1831. It was bullet proof, and during King Philip's War saved the inhabitants from massacre by the Indians. He was assistant to the governor of the province and member

of his council for almost thirty years, holding the latter office until his death in 1703.

According to the book kept by Pynchon as recorder, of which a few attested extracts still remain, homesteads were allotted upon Foster's Hill and allotments also made of upland meadow and plain. A large common of undivided land was used for wood and pasturage. A flour mill was built by him on the east branch of the brook entering the head of Weakaug pond. There was some sort of a meeting house where John Younglove preached until the first settlement was destroyed. The most important industry of the new settlement was the tavern kept by Sargeant Ayres for the use of travelers.

On October 10th, 1673, the inhabitants petitioned "that this much Honnord Co^{rte} would be pleased to grant "us the Priviledge & libertyes of a Township whereby we "may be the better inabled to carry on our owne matters "wthout too much distraction. And yor Petition^{rs} shall "ever pray for yor prosperity If Yo^{r} Honno^{rs} please let "ye Name of ye Place be Brookfeild."

Mayor Pynchon also wrote: "I have long desyred to "be discharged from being one of the Committee for "Qvabaug: in regard to my many occasions & remote-"ness having bin little serviceable to y^{m}: I doe vtterly "decline ye worke, & desire their motion for being allowed "a Towne may be accepted & granted by ye Honored "Court, hoping it may p^{r}ve beneficial to them and the "Publike."

"In ans^{r} to ye peticon of the Inhabitants of Quabaug "The Court Judgeth it meet to grant their request i. e. "the liberty and priviledge of a Township and that the "name thereof be Brookfeild Provided they Divide not the "whole land of the Towneship till they be forty or fivety "familyes, in the meane tjme that their Dividings one to "another exceed not two hundred acres apeece to any "present Inhabitant."

The county records show signs of the spread of civilization and increase of prosperity. In 1675, Brookfield was taxed £5-0-6 and upon this was a credit of £5 for killing ten wolves. On March 30th of the same year, "Thomas Wilson "of Brookfield was presented by the grand jury for cursing "Samuel Warner of the same town. And the town of "Brookfield was presented for defect in the bridge over "the swamp at Richard Coy's Son; and for the want of "a common pound."

These indictments were never tried. The work of the first settlers was soon destroyed. In that year began King Philip's war. So friendly had been the relations between the Quabaugs and the inhabitants of Brookfield that the latter believed those Indians would give Philip no assistance. The Quabaugs planted their cornfields as usual and their chief disclaimed in writing any intention to help that king. Two reports, however, made by Ephraim Curtis of Sudbury, showed that there was danger of a disturbance among them, and for that reason Captains Edward Hodgkinson and Thomas Wheeler of Concord and Curtis as guide and interpreter, were sent with a party of about twenty horsemen to demand an account of the Nipmuck Indians of certain grievances: "so desiring the Lord's presence with you & in "prosecution of this affayre if you should meet with any "Indians that stand in opposition to you or declare ym-"selves to be yor enemies then you are ordered to ingage "with them if you see reason for it & endeavr to reduce ym "by force of Arms." The Indians promised to meet the troop for negotiations upon a plain within three miles of Brookfield on August 2nd. Three men of Brookfield accompanied the soldiers to the appointed place, but the Indians did not appear there. By the advice of the Brookfield men, who had such confidence in the peaceful intentions of the Quabaugs that they came unarmed, the colonists proceeded to a swamp where they heard that the Indians were. The place has been identified by antiquarians as a ravine near

Meminimissimet meadow and the line between New Braintree and Brookfield upon the old Pepper farm, not far from the corner of the Boston and Worcester road, which, within the memory of a recent generation, was known as "Death Valley." The way was so bad that the English could only march in single file between a rocky hill on the right and a thick swamp in which there were about two hundred Indians; some in the morass, the rest in the brush upon the hill. The soldiers had not proceeded more than seventy rods when they were surprised by volleys of musketry from both sides of them. More than a third of their number, eight including Sargeant Ayres, Sargeant Pritchard and Corporal Coy, the inhabitants of Brookfield, were killed. Five more were wounded. One of their Indian guides was captured. The escape of the rest was due to the fidelity and sagacity of the other two guides, who took them back to Brookfield on a by-trail avoiding the woods, with the warning that the road by which they came would be lined with sharpshooters, in accordance with the Indian art of war. This was the first victory by the Indians over white soldiers in New England and greatly encouraged them in the war. The refugees, who carried the wounded with them on their horses, and the rest of the inhabitants, gathered in the tavern of Sargeant Ayres. There, in no more than four rooms, protected only by wooden walls fortified with nothing but feather beds and a few logs, eighty-two men, women and children withstood a siege by several hundred Indians for three days. The horrors they underwent, it is impossible adequately to describe, or, in the conditions under which we live, fully to appreciate. It was in the heat of the dog days. They were closely packed together with little ventilation except the holes made by the bullets that were fired through the house. Without medical aid or sanitary conveniences, seven wounded men, two on the point of death, were nursed, and two women delivered from the pangs of labor. Food was scanty. The water needed to slake their thirst had to be used to put out the repeated fires

set in the roof and walls by burning rags soaked with brimstone and shot with arrows, by balls of "wildfire," by stacks of their own flax and hay piled against the house and burned, a fire cart and by two fire wagons with shafts extending fourteen rods in length built by the Indians. A fresh supply could only be obtained from a well in the yard, to reach which exposed a man to more danger than was risked by the three followers of David who brought him water from the well outside the gate of Bethlehem. "Abroad in the yard, one "Thomas Wilson of that town, being sent to fetch water "for our help in further need, (that which we had being "spent in putting out the fire) was shot by the enemy in "the upper jaw and neck, the anguish of which wound was "such at the first that he cried out with a great noise, by "reason whereof the Indians hearing him rejoiced, and "triumphed at it; but his wound was healed in a short time, "praised be God. There was but one man wounded "within the house, viz:—the said Henry Young, who "looking out of the garret window that evening, was mor-"tally wounded by a shot, of which wound he died within "two days after. There was the same day another man "slain, but not in the house; a son of Serjeant Pritchard's "adventuring out of the house wherein we were, to his "father's house not far from it, to fetch more goods out of "it, was caught by these cruel enemies as they were com-"ing towards us, who cut off his head, kicking it about "like a football, and then putting it upon a pole, they set "it up before the door of his father's house in our sight. "The night following the said blow, they did roar against "us like so many wild bulls, sending in their shot amongst "us till towards the moon rising, which was about three of "the clock; at which time they attempted to fire our "house."

The belief, that they were God's chosen people and that He would suspend the laws of nature by special providences in their defense then, as it always has among adherents to

Town House

Brookfield, Central Street Looking East

that faith, gave great courage to the garrison. A summer rain which they believed to be a token of divine favor helped quench the flames. When some were obliged to venture out to stop a fire, Simon Davis, one of three in charge as substitutes for the two wounded captains, encouraged them as well as those firing upon the Indians from within by shouting "'God is with us, and fights for us, and will deliver us "out of the hands of these heathen'; which expressions the "Indians hearing, they shouted and scoffed, saying: 'now "we see how your God delivers you, or will deliver you,' "sending in many shots whilst our men were putting out "the fire. But the Lord of Hosts wrought very graciously "for us, in preserving our bodies both within and without "the house from their shot, and our house from being "consumed by fire, we had but two men wounded in that "attempt of theirs, but we apprehended that we killed "divers of our enemies. The next day being August 3d, "they continued shooting and shouting, and proceeded "in their former wickedness, blaspheming the name of "the Lord and reproaching us, his afflicted servants, scof-"fing at our prayers as they were sending in their shot "upon all quarters of the house and many of them went "to the town's meeting house (which was within twenty "rods of the house in which we were) who mocked saying, "come and pray and sing psalms, and in contempt made "an hideous noise somewhat resembling singing. But "we, to our power, did endeavour our defence, sending our "shot amongst them, the Lord giving us courage to resist "them and preserving us from the destruction they sought "to bring upon us." This reads like a passage from the Book of Samuel. Can it be that, when the pious Captain Wheeler wrote the narrative a few months later, after his recovery from his wound, his memory was affected by his daily reading of the Scriptures?

On August 4th, the Indians were driven off by Major Willard with a troup of forty-seven white men and five

Indians. They, while on a march to repel an attack threatened further west, heard at Marlboro the news of the danger at Brookfield, which had come from travellers who had seen the flames or heard the shots. The rescue arrived an hour after dark while the Indians were engaged upon their fire engines. When Willard forced his way to the house there was danger of a fight between his men and those rescued, since, in the darkness, each thought the other party was composed of Indians, he not knowing that any white men had escaped. And they were on the point of firing upon each other until the major gave a command in English. Captain Wheeler then ordered the trumpet to be sounded and all fired in the direction of the enemy. The cattle had followed Major Willard's horsemen to the house and in the darkness made their number seem much larger. This frightened the savages, who fled after they had set fire to the only remaining houses and barns, except the tavern.

The first settlement was ended. The survivors of the original inhabitants moved with the little property that they had left; mostly back to the towns from which they came; in a few cases to other parts of the colony, where they were for some time the objects of public and private charity.

"The English were not in a capacity to look after Their
"dead but those dead bodies were left as meat to the Fowls
"of heaven, and their flesh unto the Beasts of the earth,
"and there was none to bury them." After this abandonment the tavern was burned by the Indians, of whom some had lurked about the ruins and wounded one of the men looking for horses.

But the outpost was of too great value to be permanently abandoned. The trail between the bay and the great river must be protected. It was also important that travellers should have a resting place where they could obtain refreshment. Although for a short time the garrison was broken up by the recall of Major Willard, a few months later it was re-established in temporary quarters; but only one of the

old families, that of Sergeant Ayres, ever returned. The fields lay waste for nearly ten years. Gradually, however, a few young men from the neighboring towns and soldiers who had seen the advantages of the situation while in garrison or on the march, began to form another settlement.

In 1686, James Ford, a soldier, petitioned the General Court "to appoint and impower some prudent and able "persons as a Committee to admit Inhabitants, and order "the Affaires of the place, in forming ye Towne, granting "Lotts, & directing & ordering all matters of a prudential "Nature till such time the Place be settled, and a compe- "tent number of Inhabitants & persons of discretion to "order the affaires thereof." His preamble said: that the ancient inhabitants had wholly deserted Brookfield but that "some are already seated and others would be willing "to settle the said place againe were there some encourage- "ment from the Hon[1] Council, and some to guide & order "the prudential Affaires for such a Plantation." He suggested as members of a committee, the names of four of the former settlers, including Pastor Younglove. But the authorities in Boston did not have confidence in their discretion. On November 9th, the Council appointed Major John Pynchon and five other citizens of Springfield "a Com- "mittee for the settling of the town of Quabaug, & the "Petition of the said Town is granted, and the aforenamed "Gentlemen are to receive the claimes of the old Inhabi- "tants, grant Lotts to others, & give necessary orders for "the more orderly settlement of the said Towne." Under Pynchon's care, the settlement was again placed where it remained until his death in 1703, when his son John, who was also a colonel and a judge, succeeded him. It remained in charge of a committee for twenty-two years. During that time its chief importance was for the purposes of a garrison. The land grants were conditioned upon the settlement and the continuance of the grantees there for specified periods. The inhabitants were in great distress from attacks by the

Indians, the continued terror that these inspired and the difficulty in supporting themselves. In August, 1688, the news of the murder by Indians, some of them Quabaugs, of three men, two women and a girl of fifteen at Northfield, so terrified the Brookfield settlers that they prepared to abandon the place. They were prevented by Major Pynchon, who sent six soldiers "ordering and requiring their continuance, only I sent to fetch off such women as desired "to come away." His account book shows that, at different times, he sent them provisions and guns as well as reinforcements, and that in September of the same year he sent men who were occupied about five days in building a fortification containing barracks sufficient to house all the inhabitants in case of danger and surrounded by a stockade. This saved many lives. In 1693, a band of about forty Indians from Canada or Northern New York lay in ambush for six days at a distance from this fort and then suddenly attacked three of the outlying families. They killed Thomas Lawrence, Joseph Mason with his eldest boy and Joseph Woolcot's wife and two daughters. Woolcot's family had accompanied him to his work, since the women feared to be alone. They found, when they returned for dinner, that the Indians had been in the house and had stolen his gun and other property. Shortly afterwards, they saw, at some distance, a savage approaching. Joseph immediately sent his wife and girls to hide in the bushes. Then taking his little son under one arm and his broad axe in the other, he went out with his dog against the enemy. The dog's attack was so fierce that the Indian was obliged to shoot at him. Woolcot then put the child down and chased the Pagan, who loaded while running, until he heard the bullet roll down the gun. He then turned back, snatched his child and escaped to the swamps, where he was concealed until able to make his way to the fort and warn the garrison which consisted of only five men. His wife lost control of her nerves and shrieked from her hiding place until she was caught, and

with her daughters killed by the same Indian. The Mason family were attacked at dinner. After the man and boy were killed, the woman and an infant, together with Daniel Lawrence, a youth of eighteen, were carried off by the Indians, who, after a journey of about ten miles, found the baby an encumbrance and knocked it on the head. John Lawrence meanwhile had applied to Major Pynchon for help. The major, himself then too old for active service, sent to aid the garrison Captain Colton at the head of a troup of thirty horsemen, which, on its way, was enlarged by volunteers. The Captain left sixteen to protect the town and on July 29th, two days after the attack, at the head of forty-two, started in pursuit. They followed the tracks of the savages through the long grass, finding the body of the baby and horses killed during the flight. On that day the troopers covered about thirty-seven miles and reached the place where the enemy had lodged the second night finding the camp fires still burning. The ground beyond was impassable for horses because of swamps, rocks and brush. Captain Colton with twenty-three picked men, leaving the rest behind,

"lightening themselves of their coats and without Victuals
"hastened away that if possible they might come upon the
"Indians before—or discover them in the—Night;" but

after a march of about eight miles he was forced by the darkness to camp without food or protection against the damp. At dawn, he continued his pursuit about a mile and a half, when, about sunrise, he discovered the enemy in a thick wood, hearing them laughing while not more than three or four rods away. With the ten in his van, he surrounded the enemy, four times their number, hiding his troopers behind bushes which they cut. The ten then fired upon forty armed savages; and the remaining thirteen, hearing the volley, charged and also fired at such as they could see. The Indians ran leaving their two captives with their ammunition, most of their guns, tomahawks and cutlasses. About seven savages were killed. Others were wounded, but escaped.

None of the rescued was injured. What act of heroism has excelled the courage shown by Captain Colton and his followers in this pursuit?

The settlers asked the advice of Major Pynchon whether they should remain or abandon their homes. He persuaded them to stay and obtained a reinforcement by the addition of eight or ten soldiers to the garrison. In the following year, John Lawrence, whose family had suffered in the previous attack, with Samuel Owen, was killed by Indians while in the woods searching for a man who was missing. During Queen Anne's war, in 1708, when John Woolcott, a boy of about twelve, was riding in search of cows, the Indians fired at him and took him prisoner. There were then, besides Gilbert's Fort, several fortified houses in Brookfield: one, known as Jenning's Garrison, on Foster's Hill, near the site of the Ayres Tavern; another, Bannister Garrison, on the old road between what is now the village of South Brookfield and the Woolcott House. Marks' Garrison had also been built near the southwest end of Wickaboag pond on a knoll below the Quabaug River. Goss Garrison stood west of Wickaboag pond near the house once occupied by Isaac Gleason and later by Charles H. Fairbanks. All these seem to have been constructed between 1704 and 1706. They were merely bullet proof houses with heavy wooden frames, linings of logs or planks and occasionally a few bricks, heavy plank doors and window shutters that could be closed from within. When those in Jenning's Garrison heard the shots at the boy, they concluded that Bannister's Garrison was attacked and six men went out for assistance; but were waylaid by the Indians. There was no safety in retreat. Abijah Bartlett, who took to his heels, was shot dead. The other five, strengthened by the current belief that an Indian could not look an Englishman in the face and take a right aim, stood their ground; presenting their pieces, without firing, whenever they saw a heathen. The savages kept shooting and wounded three. They were saved by the approach of

a large dog, attracted by the noise, which he thought indicated a hunt. One, to encourage his friends and frighten the Indians, called out: "Captain Williams is come to help us. See his dog." This frightened away the enemy, who had a wholesome respect for Williams and believed that he had brought reinforcements. The Woolcott boy was carried back with them to Canada, where he remained six or seven years, learned the Indian language and was so satisfied with his treatment that, after the peace, he was for some time unwilling to return. During the same war, in 1706, the widow McIntosh, together with Judah Trumble of Suffield, was shot and killed while she was milking. Thomas Battis was killed near the site of Belcher Town. And in August, 1709, John Clary of Brookfield and Robert Grainger of Suffield were killed by Indians while walking along the Brookfield road.

You are all familiar with the massacre of the six men who were making hay in the meadow on July 22nd, 1710. The story of one of them, John White, whom they had taken prisoner and who was shot while trying to escape, has been described in verse by the graceful pen of Miss Frances Bartlett. This was the last calamity of war that befell the town. The discipline which the inhabitants received during those times that tried their souls and the traditions of the courage which they then displayed, moulded the character of the succeeding generations, so that the men of Brookfield have always been not only willing but able to render their country great service in every later war. Let us honor the men who, during those troublous times, protected the path between the river and the bay.

But let us give greater honor to the women of Brookfield. They underwent severer hardship and did more work than the men. They discharged their household tasks. They attended to the dairy, the weeding and other incidental labors of the farm, which are more fatiguing than the plow; without the excitement of the trap, fishing and the hunt.

For many years, they nursed the sick without the aid of a physician. They had no time for nervous prostration, nor to be troubled by the question whether their characters were thoroughly understood by their husbands. They bore and reared large families of children, whose ministrations were the comfort of their old age. One, who was alive when the haymakers were killed, survived until after the Revolution to the age of ninety-one. She had then two hundred and thirty-two living descendants: children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren and great-great-great-grandchildren, all of whom down to the fifth generation arose and called her blessed. The Brookfield women incurred the same dangers as the men, with equal or greater fortitude. One was killed by Indians while attending to the cows. When the savages threatened the feebly fortified house where the wife of Joseph Marks was alone, she donned her husband's great coat, wig and hat and with his gun patrolled the roof, calling. "All's well, all's well," until she saved the building with the town's ammunition and supplies by frightening them away in the belief that the garrison was there.

During those "August days, whose grim renown,
A hallowed spot this crumbling hill has made;"

when eighty-two were besieged for three days, crowded together in four small rooms; with water scarce and not even the crudest sanitary conveniences; with no medical care; six wounded men to nurse, some of them dying; bullets flying through the walls and the roof often on fire; the head of one of their murdered neighbors on a pole under the windows; their houses burning around them; two wives gave birth each to strong twin boys and in less than a month's time carried them on foot to Boston.

In 1693, savages from Canada killed Joseph Mason and his older boy with others before his wife and carried her away with a babe in her arms, taking also Daniel Lawrence, a youth of about eighteen. After a ten-mile march, finding

the child an encumbrance, they killed it before the mother's eyes, and abandoning its body traveled three days with the two prisoners, nearly fifty miles through the wilderness, until the rescue by the soldiers sent by Colonel Pynchon. These found the young man "tired, amazed and dull," but the woman's spirit was unquenched. She said: "They were "cowardly afraid to meddle with her; that if she had any "weapons she thinks she might have made her escape." The shock of her bereavement and the pains of the journey had not kept her from employing her time in acquiring and memorizing information that could aid her and her friends. And all this she told her rescuers. They reported her as "a trusty and intelligent woman."

Margaret Otis and her mother, when the child was three months old, were carried to Canada by Indians who killed her father and sister in an attack on Dover, where she lived in 1689. She was educated in the Roman Catholic faith and at the age of sixteen married a Frenchman, Le Beau. When she was about twenty, he died, leaving her with three children. In 1714, Captain Thomas Baker came to Canada with a party to redeem the prisoners who had been carried there during the last quarter of a century. He was then the richest citizen of Brookfield, a large land owner, and when the meeting house was built bought the best pew. He was its first representative in the Legislature, its only representative until the election of Joseph Dwight twelve years after Baker's term. When he met her, Captain Baker was about thirty-two and had had a distinguished military career, during which he had been captured; twice recaptured after two escapes; preparations for his burning made by the Indians; ransomed by a Frenchman, who paid five pounds to save him from the fire, and on his third escape, with three others, reached home half starved through the wilderness, after a journey without gun or provisions, fed only by roots, nuts, buds, bark and such small beasts as could be killed with stones and sticks. The priests told the English prisoners

stories, some of them probably not exaggerated, concerning the intolerance of the Protestants and the hardship of life in the New England towns. Most refused to return; but Captain Baker persuaded Margaret Le Beau to come back and marry him. Her mother and her confessor remonstrated; the French authorities insisted that her children should remain in Canada and that she should forfeit all her property there; but she yielded to the call of the blood. She was admitted to a Protestant church in Northampton, was married to Captain Baker and received a small land grant in Brookfield, conditioned upon her marrying and remaining in the province. Repeated attempts by the mother to obtain the possession of her three children failed, although, in 1722, she and her husband made a journey to Canada for that purpose. She bore seven children to her second husband, all but one of whom married and seem to have left descendants. About twelve years after she came to Brookfield, her husband, Captain Baker, quarrelled with one of its leading citizens, sold his land there and left the town. By the insolvency of the principal purchaser before the day of payment, he lost almost all his property. He first moved to Mendon and then to his wife's native town in New Hampshire. Her energy was not weakened by this new misfortune. She had obtained, in the province of Maine, a land grant held in trust for her by Colonel William Pepperell. Within a few months after they had arrived at Dover, she obtained from the General Assembly of New Hampshire, a statute authorizing her to keep a tavern there. She opened this, thus supporting her younger children and her husband until he died, eighteen years afterwards. She survived until the age of eighty-four. Such were a few of the women of Brookfield.

But other anxieties than fear of the savages depressed the citizens. They were unable during the early wars to give such devotion to agriculture as could compel the land to furnish them with support. The colonial records are full

of frequent petitions by them for aid and for fourteen years or more after the second settlement they were treated as soldiers and received rations and pay in that capacity. The following petition is one of a number that might be quoted:

"Brookfield, Dec. 14, 1704.

"To His Excelancy, etc.

"we hues names are underwriten do Humbly beage "your Excelancy's favor and that you wod consider our "weke condishone: the favor we beg is that we all ov us "not that such of us as find that are under such disad- "vantages that they cant subsist there might remove in- "to some other towne where they may worke for there "liveinge. by the deficulty of the times we are reduste "to such p'verty that we cant subsist except your onors "wil plese to grant us wages as solders & pay for our diat "for we raize litle or none of our provision by rezen of "our being drawn so frome our improvements of Lands. "our families are so large and our means are so small that "we cant live without sume other imploye than any we "have at presant. and if the honoured Cort se coaus to "put us in as solders we will as we do account it our duti "conform to the order of authority—but we rather if it "may be granted chuse to remove into other towns. "and we humble intrete that the onors of the Corte "would plese to grant us pay for our diat for the time we "have searve [d] as soldears. no more presant but we "remain youars as followeth."

They were also obliged to petition for spiritual sustenance. The Reverend Younglove after the breaking up of the first settlement and the refusal to appoint him on the committee, did not return. The loss on that account was probably not large, since he was subsequently often directed by the Court to stop preaching. The new settlers could not support a pastor, nor even organize a church. For about twelve years, the annual stipend of £20 was voted by the

General Court for the payment of a chaplain to the garrison at Brookfield. The third chaplain that was appointed also received the grant of a homestead with the accompanying lots both in plain and meadow. On October 30th, 1706:

"The Humble Address of the Inhabitants and Soldiers "of Brookfield.

"Showeth our grateful acknowledgements to your "Honours, in that you did so consider our low condition, "in so much as your Hon^{rs} did the year past grant a "considerable suply of Moneys toward the maintaining "a Minister to preach the Gospel to us in this place. "We now humbly begg the gracious continuance of your "Hon^{rs} goodness and bounty to us for the insuing year, "els we shall starve & pine away for want of that spiritual "food with the which throw your Honours liberality we "were the last year so plentifully fed with."

All of these chaplains were selected by the committee and the inhabitants, the latter sometimes contributing to their support. There was no established church at Brookfield until 1717. Those who wished to become church members were obliged to go to Northampton and a special act of the General Court in 1691 authorized "Mr. Joseph Hawley of Northampton to joine persons in marriage at Brookfield."

The massacre of the haymakers was the last action on the soil of Brookfield that markedly distinguished its history from that of other towns of Massachusetts. Until the Peace of Utrecht, a garrison was kept there, at least while the leaves were on the trees; sentinels were posted to guard workers in the meadows and the worshippers at meeting, and nearly all the men were paid as "standing guards."

Shortly after the close of the War of the Succession in Spain, they organized a church, began the building of a meeting-house and employed a pastor. The meeting-house was forty-five by thirty-five feet with a gallery. Every inhabitant contributed labor or money toward its construc-

tion. They voted the minister "for his salary 52 pounds "yearly for 3 years and to rise 40 shillings a year until it "comes to 70 pounds and there to stay"; besides a land grant fit for orchard and meadow; a house and barn to be built for him, he to provide the glass, nails and iron; twenty-five cords of wood a year and the right to require each man's work for one day yearly for six years. This seigniorial privilege was afterwards commuted. He accepted the town's house, which was already built opposite the place of the siege, allowing a credit of thirty pounds upon his salary, in return for the increased accommodation which this afforded and for six appurtenant acres, and the inhabitants dug and stoned for him a well, in return for a release of his right to have a new dwelling built him and to compel the yearly work from his parishioners. In October, 1717, the church was organized and the Reverend Thomas Cheney was ordained after a day of fasting and prayer, set apart by what is described as "full and clear votes of the town to implore "God's presence with us in this solemn and weighty "matter." The meeting-house was not yet finished. Before its completion, the delicate matter of the distribution of the seats was arranged at a town meeting, held within two months of the creation of the town. The two best pews, each eight feet square, were given to Captain Thomas Baker and Thomas Gilbert; the former paying three pounds, the latter two pounds, for his pew. Pew room was granted subsequently to others, apparently in return for money or labor upon the meeting-house. The pew rent was forty shillings a year. A ministry pew was ordered on the right of the pulpit, and upon its left another "to be for Deacons' "wives, and said wives to sit in the pew during their "natural lives." The occupants usually furnished their own straight backed cane bottomed chairs, many of which are still treasured by their descendants. The rest of the meeting-house was filled "with strong plain seats." And a committee was appointed to assign the same, with instruc-

tions "to have regard to age, where it is honorable, and "to estate; taking the list that Mr. Cheney's Rate was "made by as a rule; having also regard to men's service-"fulness in the town." It was solemnly voted "that the "foreseat in the front gallery shall be equal in dignity "with the third seat in the body; and the fore seat in "the side gallery shall be equal with the fourth seat in the "body of the house." The irreverent may smile at the punctiliousness that our ancestors observed in arranging their stations while they worshipped God together; but many of us still remember when the possession of a pew near the front of the centre aisle was considered to be a sign of quality. The daughters of the Puritans seem to have exercised a disturbing influence upon some of the younger worshippers; for, in 1733, there was a vote of a town meeting "that the "women that set in the front gallery in the meeting-house "be seated in some other convenient place in said house, "the pews only excepted." The men's eyes, like those of Jeremiah, were troubled by the sight of the virgins.

The year after the organization of the church, the following petition was presented to the General Court:

"We undersigned, the Committee for Brookfield, after "many Disappointments by warr and otherwise which "for a long time the people have laboured under, by the "good providence of God are now so increased that they "are now near fifty families in the place, have near finished "a very convenient meeting-house, have settled a church "and ordained an orthodox & learned Minister—We "humbly propose that they be made a Township, to order "all the affairs of a Township, according to the directions "of the Law by themselves, & said Committee released,—"which we submit to the Court's determination."

On November 12th, 1718, it was "Read and *Ordered*, "That the prayers of this Petition be granted: and that "the Inhabitants of the Town of Brookfield be invested "with all the powers, privileges and authorities to direct,

"order and manage all the affairs of the said Township that "other towns are or ought to be invested with; And that "the Committee be dismist from their care of them with "the thanks of this Court for their good & faithful service. "The said Town to lye in the County of Hampshire."

At the first town-meeting, when business of any importance was transacted—that held January 5th, 1719—provision was made by land grant for a school. Liberal provision for education was made from time to time throughout the history of the town; although, up to the close of the Eighteenth Century, children learned to write on birch-bark paper, with quills plucked from the Brookfield birds, in home-made ink of alderbark. The inhabitants of Brookfield were not behind the other citizens of the State in their devotion to the public schools, which are the crowning glory of New England. Yet, when the first school was founded they were still in great poverty. Only, during the first of the twelve years succeeding the town's organization could they afford to send a representative to the legislature and the money for his salary was not collected till more than three years after his term had expired.

During Father Rasle's war, said to have been instigated in 1722 by the Jesuit in Maine whose name it bears, the inhabitants were continually on guard; but they were not molested, although the tracks of Indians were seen near the village and their hunting-guns often heard. The pastor wrote on May 25th, 1725: "I would by these humbly entreat "y^{r} Honour would think of our Poor afflicted Town, and "that you would please to grant our Town some garrison "soldiers. I would beg y^{r} Honour not to be Troubled "that I take upon me to request this favour of you to my "people, for their interest and welfare in a great measure "is mine; and if they can't have some help, by reason of "the danger of the enemy, they will not be able to improve "their lands, and so not to be able to live themselves nor "to pay me my sallary."

He thus secured the detail of a garrison of ten men from the upper county. When the Indians attacked Rutland, Brookfield men marched to its relief. And for thirty years, a citizen of Brookfield boasted that he had taken part in "Lovell's fight," when only half a band of rangers escaped from an Indian ambuscade.

Long after the extension of the frontier relieved the settlers from daily dread of the tomahawk, they were still surrounded by the wilderness and in danger from wild beasts. Bears were killed in the township as late as 1747. In 1734, a bounty of forty shillings was offered for grown wolf heads. And in 1741, it was voted "that whoever "within 20 days shall kill any rattlesnake, and shall bring "the last joint of the tail thereof to the selectmen, and "shall solemnly declare that the said snake was killed in "or near our town shall have 3d. reward."

But they more feared the enemy of souls. The most important event in the half century following the meadow massacre, the one which, of all that subsequently happened in the town, lives most strongly in the recollection of the inhabitants, was the preaching by the great Methodist from the stone on Foster's Hill, which still bears his name. Happy is the village where life contains nothing more dramatic than a sermon! The great preacher was then only twenty-six years old; but his voice and gestures had roused thousands to religious enthusiasm, from Georgia to Massachusetts, as well as in England. The force of his eloquence is proved by the testimony of the most competent judges, including the unconverted sceptics, Bolingbroke and Hume. The following story is told by Franklin concerning Whitefield's charity sermon in support of the endowment of an orphan asylum at Savannah: "I did not disapprove of the design; "but, as Georgia was then destitute of materials and "workmen, and it was proposed to send them from Phila- "delphia at a great expense, I thought it would have been "better to have built the house at Philadelphia and

THESE HISTORICAL MARKERS ARE LOCATED AS FOLLOWS:

On "Old Bay Path" about one mile northwest of East Brookfield.

Near Wenimisset Brook and Indian Pond on road from New Braintree to Ware River R. R. Station.

Near home of Wilder U. Barnes on Rufus Putnam Road, North Brookfield.

At head of North Main St., West Brookfield.

In the Old Cemetery West Brookfield, near Lake Wickaboag.

About one mile west of New Braintree on "old cross road" near Wenimisset Brook.

"brought the children to it. This I advised; but he was "resolute in his first project, rejected my counsel, and I "therefore refused to contribute. I happened soon after "to attend one of his sermons, in the course of which I "perceived he intended to finish with a collection, and I "silently resolved he should get nothing from me. I had "in my pocket a handful of copper money, three or four "silver dollars, and five pistoles in gold. As he proceeded, "I began to soften, and concluded to give the copper. "Another stroke of his oratory made me ashamed of that, "and determined me to give the silver; and he finished so "admirably that I emptied my pocket wholly into the "collector's dish, gold and all. At this sermon there was "also one of our club, who, being of my sentiments re-"specting the building in Georgia, and suspecting a col-"lection might be intended, had by precaution emptied "his pockets before he came from home. Towards the "conclusion of the discourse, however, he felt a strong "inclination to give, and applied to a neighbour, who "stood near him, to lend him some money for the purpose. "The request was fortunately made to perhaps the only "man in the company who had the firmness not to be "affected by the preacher. His answer was, 'At any other "time, friend Hopkinson, I would lend to thee freely; but "not now, for thee seems to be out of thy right senses.'"

In London, men rose at four o'clock on winter mornings to hear him preach in a tabernacle lighted by lanterns carried by thousands. He had a voice so strong that it could be heard by thirty thousand when he spoke in the open, and yet so soft that it was said he could move congregations to tears merely by the pronunciation of the word Mesopotamia. Like the ancient orators, his wholy body was in action. He emphasized by stamping with his feet, as well as by the motion of his arms. The leading actors studied his gestures in the hope of being able to reproduce them on the boards. He was not wont to write his sermons; but he often repeated

them to different congregations. And Garrick said that his art was such that they improved until the fortieth repetition. He would single out individuals and compel them to answer expressing their assent to his doctrines; at the same time keeping control of the whole assembly. His appeals affected scholars and men of the world, as well as those who could neither read nor write. No man of that century prided himself so much as Lord Chesterfield upon the control of his emotions. Yet, when he heard Whitefield's description of an old blind man who had lost his dog, wandering nearer and nearer to a precipice, the earl started to his feet and cried: "Good God, he is gone." When the preacher spoke at the collieries, the tears of the miners made white lines down the coal dust on their cheeks. Such of his sermons as can now be read make it impossible to understand his power. This is usual with oratory that affects the multitude. To make the written word effective requires far different art from that which charms when it is spoken. The repetitions which are usually necessary for a mixed audience, often changing, whose recollections of previous portions of the argument needs frequent jogging; the homely local and timely allusions which a tactful speaker uses with the greatest force fall flat upon the printed page and are usually omitted from the publication. Omissions of much that, to the reader, seems requisite for artistic symmetry, must often be made by a speaker who would avoid suggestions that to some peculiarities in his audience might be offensive. The voice of Whitefield, as it ran the gamut from whispered pleading to thunderous indignation and melting emotion; the play of his features; the emphasis of his gestures dignified by his wig and gown; can be no better reproduced on paper than can be the convulsions he inspired in his hearers. The last were also heightened by his reputation and by the contagion of religious enthusiasm among them. On a day appointed for him to preach, a woman threw herself upon the ground, rolled over and over in the mud, shrieking: "Oh! Lord save

me, save me." When she had recovered her breath, she said to a bystander: "What a great exhorter Mr. Whitefield is." "That is not Mr. Whitefield," said the other; "He has not preached yet. That is the minister who comes before him." "What," said she, "is not that Mr. Whitefield? Then I have dirtied myself for nothing." The Reverend Mr. Cheney resented the attempt of another pastor to feed his flock and at first refused to open the meeting-house for the itinerant preacher. The people, however, were resolved to hear Whitefield, who then said he would speak in the open air. When the force of public opinion compelled Mr. Cheney to offer him the use of the pulpit, a crowd had collected too large to be received in the meeting-house. So the preacher spoke on October 16th, 1740, from the place which has since been known as the Whitefield rock. The tradition of what he said, although distorted, enables us now to ascertain his text, which, curiously enough, has not been discovered by the scholarly speakers who have preceded me. I am so much indebted to their learning that I cannot resist the temptation to claim credit for my sole contribution to the town's religious history. It was from the verse preceding the Biblical story of Paul's discourse upon Mars' Hill; that famous sermon, the authenticity of which divines calling themselves Christian ministers had not then attacked. "And some said, what will this babbler say?"[1] That was the period of the Great Awakening.

It may have been due to the early influence of the Pynchons that the records of Brookfield are free from illustrations of the ill effects of religious bigotry. The Half Way Covenant, which afforded certain privileges to those who had conscientious scruples against professing all the

[1] The address of Dr. Lyman Whiting on the Two Hundredth Anniversary of the Town Settlement contains the following passage: "The wonderful preacher began, kindly saluting them. He was glad to see them; and then passed to enquire for the motives drawing them there. 'Some of you come to hear what the babbler will say,' is a sentence remembered by a hearer who went to her rest during the ministry of Rev. Dr. Phelps." See Acts. XVII. 18.

tenets of the dominant religion, was early permitted and allowed, at least in the church of West Brookfield, until the Nineteenth Century. It was the usual practice in the Congregational churches of Massachusetts to decide all important matters by the "silentius vote."[2] No question could be considered without the consent of the minister. He presided at all meetings and put the motion in a form which required only a silent assent. No count of those for or against the motion was usually made. This gave the divines powers over matters of doctrine, discipline, the admission and exclusion of members whose share in the civil government was then usually dependent upon their right to communion, in comparison with which the powers of the speaker in a legislative house of our era seem infinitesimal. On January 30th, 1753, at a meeting of the Second Church of Christ at Brookfield, "The Question being asked whether any thing "short of a hand vote should be looked upon as valid in "said church—it passed in the negative." The leaders of Brookfield were men of affairs, not ecclesiastics. And it is to the credit of the ministry there that its incumbents seem, in most cases, to have cheerfully acquiesced in that situation. As to others of the Puritans, the rites and symbols—even the words—that had been used in the exercise of Christianity for centuries, were repugnant to them as savoring of Romanism and the Church of England. The place of worship was a meeting-house, not a church. A church consisted only of the organized body of believers. A crucifix, or even a cross, would have been no more suffered there than in a mosque of the Mohammedans. Many even refused to kneel during prayer; genuflexion was an attitude

[2] The silentius vote was exercised in Worcester County as late as 1771 by Mr. Goss, pastor of the Church of Bolton, in an unsuccessful attempt to prevent his dismissal for drunkenness; and by Mellen, pastor of the Second Parish in Sterling, who thus prevented members of the church which had dismissed Goss, from taking of communion at his meeting-house. (See a sermon by Dr. Aaron Bancroft, delivered in Worcester on January 31st, 1836, published at Worcester by Clarendon Harris in 1836, pp. 7, 10; and an unpublished article entitled "Illustrations of Ecclesiastical Usages in Massachusetts," by Samuel Swett Green.)

that seemed inconsistent with the character of a free Protestant. He stood when speaking to the Almighty. The ancient appellations of ecclesiastics were so eschewed that by long disuse they became incomprehensible to the inhabitants. At the end of the Eighteenth Century, Captain John Potter of the Lower Village was the watch-maker and the only skilled mechanic. A traveller asked the landlady of the tavern: "Who is your clergyman?" She did not know the meaning of the word; but as the watchmaker was the jack of all trades, she thought he must be the clergyman if they had any, and answered: "Captain Potter." The franchise was not confined to members of the church. Within eight years after the organization of the town, it was voted "that all persons that are freeholders and of age to "act for themselves shall or may be voters in the town "meeting." Although as late as the early part of the Nineteenth Century, there was a reputed witch in Brookfield, no prosecutions for witchcraft disgrace our annals. They are free also from punishment for heresy or blasphemy. The only two attempts in that direction were inspired by the warmth of politics rather than religious bigotry. Such were the indictment of Thomas Wilson "for cursing Samuel Warner," which was never tried, and that which caused Captain Baker to leave the community. In September, 1727, he was tried at the Court of Assizes in Springfield upon the following charge: "There being a discourse of God's "having in his Providence, put in Joseph Jennings, Esq., "of Brookfield, a Justice of the Peace, Captain Baker "used the following words—'If I had been with the Al-"mighty, I would have taught him better.'" Jennings, who was a deacon, during the previous spring, procured an accusation against Baker of blasphemy and compelled him to give bail to the amount of £200. The accused petitioned the governor, saying "however the evidences might strain "and misconstrue his words, yet in conscience he really "had no design to reproach the Deity"; and prayed that

"he might be 'discharged from his recognizance, or ad-
"mitted to a trial." The jury found a verdict of not guilty.

Only one case of religious cruelty is recorded. From the beginning of the settlement, it was the custom of the inhabitants to begin the weekly day of rest at sun-down. They followed the Hebraic custom, as well as the words of Holy Writ, which say that the evening and the morning were the first day. All work of man and beast upon the farm ceased Saturday afternoon, an hour before sunset. The men then shaved and made the other necessary preparations for the sacred time and the women finished making ready the Sunday food before the sun went down. No other work, except that of absolute necessity and indispensable mercy—not even bed-making or sweeping—was permitted. The resource of a hired Gentile from without the house, which the later Rabbis allow to the Jews for the supply of ordinary comforts upon the day sacred to the Creator of the good things of this life, was denied them. Until 1818, there was no stove in the meeting-house. A few hot stones brought in by the more luxurious pewholders were the sole means of artificial warmth. The winter temperature of the meeting-house at North Brookfield in 1798 is well described by the Reverend Thomas Snell, who preached there for more than fifty years, to the great satisfaction of the parish:

"The age and infirmities and consequent coldness of your
"former house of worship, without any means of warming
"it in severe weather, together with the distance of dwell-
"ing houses (except two or three) rendered the condition
"of the people on a cold Sabbath, every thing but toler-
"able; and the labors of the minister wholly useless, unless
"to afflict his hearers with a long discourse for not pro-
"viding a warmer house. When almost every one was
"anxiously looking for the close of service that he might
"thaw out from his morning's freeze, and that desire was
"to be read in the countenance without danger of mistake,

"you may well imagine that the feelings of the speaker "could not be of the most pleasant sort, especially when "he had spent half the week, day and night, in preparing "his discourse." Yet men in the saddle and women on the pillion rode miles to attend the two Sunday services, allowing themselves an intermission of not more than an hour in winter and in the summer months an hour and a half. As the Lord's Day in their opinion, based upon the language of the Bible, ceased with sunset, they thought it not wrong to have a little mild social recreation during the ensuing evening. On October 23rd, 1816, the Reverend Eliakin Phelps was ordained as associate pastor of the church in West Brookfield. He thus describes what he inflicted upon his parishoners: "The people of Brookfield when I went "among them, were in the habit of observing Saturday "evening as holy time, or rather *not* observing Sabbath "evening. Their custom was, as they were dressed in their "go-to-meeting suit, to spend Sabbath evening in social "chat among the neighbors. It was easy to see that what-"ever of seriousness might have been impressed on their "minds by the services of the day, was almost sure to be "banished and destroyed by the gossip of the evening. "To meet this state of things, I determined to try the "effect of a third service for the evening. It worked well. "It finally grew into a custom, and for the greater portion "of my ministry I had three services on each Sabbath."

The congregation submitted; but within a few years stoves were put in the meeting-house and the pastorate of Mr. Phelps lasted a single decade, when he became a schoolmaster at the head of what was then known as a female seminary. Let us rejoice that in this Twentieth Century, it is understood that religion can exist apart from melancholy.

Upon the unfortunate dispute which resulted in the formation of the third parish; the riotous destruction of the old meeting-house; the remonstrance and appeals to the

General Court, which ordered a stay of proceedings in the construction of the new house of worship on Seth Banister's Hill, and the retirement of the Reverend Elisha Harding, the benefit of whose services each of two parishes sought to surrender to the other; we need not dwell. It is more refreshing to quote the Reverend Daniel Foster for seventeen years pastor at New Braintree. Some of the older members of his congregation objected to his preaching, because he avoided subtle points of technical theology; approved cheerfulness, rather than spiritual penance by ordinary sinners, and was believed to be too liberal in his doctrinal views. Having failed in their attempt at his removal, they left his congregation, and some of them requested a recommendation to another church. He said at the church meeting: "Brethren, two of us desire to go to Heaven by way of North Brookfield. Is there any objection?" It is not surprising that when he died, after a pastorate of seventeen years, he was buried at the expense of the town and the younger men wore badges of mourning for thirty days. His successor was the Reverend John Fiske. It was thought not indecorous to close the services upon his installation with a ball. It is possible that this aided the church quite as much as a fast would have done.

Those who believed that the sacrament of baptism should be administered in the form in which it was received by Christ and in accordance with the practice of the original apostolic churches and of that sect whose other rites most closely conform to those of the primitive Christians, had the benefit of the ministrations of travelling ministers as early as 1748; but it was not until November 14th, 1786, that the first Baptist Society was formed in Brookfield. They worshipped in barns and private dwellings for nine years. In 1795, a meeting-house was erected by them.

In spite of the impression made by Whitefield, the first mention of a regular Methodist exhorter that I can find in Brookfield concerns the Reverend Elijah Bachelor, who

High School

Merrick Public Library
Banister Memorial Hall

BANISTER COMMON, BROOKFIELD

preached on circuit in the house of the Widow Crowell on Ragged Hill. He converted her son Joshua, who preached Methodism for fifty-seven years, but not in Brookfield. In 1829, Erastus Otis was appointed to the Brookfield Circuit by the Conference. In May, 1830, Nathaniel Smith, formerly a free-will Baptist, obtained a license and exhorted a class gathered in his own house. Other preachers were later appointed to the Circuit and at first held services during the summer at five o'clock on Sunday afternoons at the old Congregational Meeting-House, which they had bought.

Those whose intellects refused to accept the doctrine that a benevolent Almighty could condemn his creatures to everlasting punishment for yielding to the temptations that he had placed about them were incorporated in a Universalist Church in 1812. Upon the schism that was caused by the converts to the Unitarian doctrines and the bitterness that it occasioned, this is not the time to dwell. It is not our function to compose such quarrels. It seems, however, proper to refer to the fact that the right of the Unitarians to use the old meeting-house and church property when they constituted a majority of the parish was adjudicated in a case that arose in the year 1827 in the Third Church of Brookfield. Samuel M. Burnside of Worcester was one of the counsel for the successful Unitarians. His wife was born in Brookfield. It is pleasant to remember that, although her brother, Alfred Dwight Foster, was strongly opposed to the new doctrines, no *odium theologicum* disturbed the harmony of that family.

The oldest and the most powerful of all Christian churches, which has since founded an institution of learning that is one of the ornaments of Worcester County, held no service in North Brookfield until June, 1851. The sacraments were at first administered to the Catholics here in a mission by priests from Webster and afterwards by those attached to the church at Ware. St. Joseph's Church was not finished until July, 1867.

But Brookfield acquired more renown in military affairs than in those which were ecclesiastical. It was always known as the fighting town of Massachusetts. And whenever their country was in danger, Brookfield men and Brookfield boys shouldered the musket. Great service to the colony and to England was rendered by its citizens during the war with France, declared in 1744. Although the town was no longer on the frontier and not attacked by the enemy, there were many Indians in its neighborhood, and at least one new fort was built for its protection. This was afterwards known as the "old French fort," standing at the top of Coy's Hill on the "Rich Land" north of Power's place. It was connected with Rich's Tavern and was what was then called a mount; a heavily timbered building about twenty feet square, two stories high, with a covered lookout on the roof surrounded by a balustrade.

The leading citizen of the community, to whom all looked for the protection and assertion of their rights, was then Colonel Joseph Dwight. He was a son of Captain Henry Dwight of Hatfield and Dedham; a judge of the Common Pleas in Hampshire County, and a member of the committee that ruled Brookfield before it was incorporated as a town, who had bought 1400 acres there. He was graduated from Harvard in 1722 at the age of nineteen, and four years later married Mary Pynchon, the granddaughter of the former patron of the town. In order to protect the land belonging to the two families, he moved from Springfield to Brookfield in 1722 and settled on Foster's Hill, where, in 1735, he built the old Foster House, destroyed by fire November 11th, 1901, a landmark in this county for more than a century. Within two years of his settlement, he was placed on one of the important committees in charge of the town's lands. A year later, when twenty-eight, he was elected representative in the General Court and thus served the town for eleven years, during one of which he was speaker of the house. He was admitted to the bar when thirty and

six years later was made Judge of the Court of Common Pleas.

The only triumph of the British cause in the War of the Austrian Succession was the capture of Louisburg by the New Englanders. The recommendation of Governor Shirley to attempt the siege was disapproved at a secret session of the House. But one of the representatives at his family prayers beseeched divine guidance as to his vote and the secret leaked out through a servant or member of his family present at his devotions. Since the commerce and fisheries seemed to be at the mercy of the fortress, public opinion strongly sustained the governor and petitions sent to the legislators from the coast towns obtained a reconsideration and the approval of this recommendation by a majority of one. There was great enthusiasm in support of the expedition. Whitefield furnished a legend for the regimental colors, "*Nil desperandum, Christo duce.*" At least one of his disciples among the soldiers carried a hatchet, in order that he might have the pious pleasure of using it in destroying the works of art in the churches of Cape Breton. William Pepperell, who received a baronetcy for his services, was commander-in-chief. The success was largely due, however, to two citizens of Worcester County, one of them from Brookfield. Joseph Dwight volunteered and was commissioned colonel of the Ninth Regiment. Several citizens of Brookfield were officers as well as privates. They and the other soldiers were thus described by a contemporary, who is corroborated by the diary of a soldier, which has been preserved:

"They were not the scum of the land, idle, worthless crea-
"tures, given to profaneness and intemperance, and de-
"bauched in their manners, but, for the generality, they
"were men who had upon their minds an awe of God, and
"who feared an oath; they were men industrious in their
"callings, and well able to provide for themselves and
"families; in a word, they were men of life and spirit,
"animated with love to their King and country, and will-

"ing to venture their lives, not so much to serve themselves "as to promote the public good. 'T is a rare thing for so "many men of such a character to be employed in such an "enterprise." This describes the soldiers of New England in every war.

Before the siege began, Colonel Dwight[3] was promoted to the office of Brigadier-General and placed in command of the artillery.[4] To the successful management of this the capture of the fort was due. In order to bring the cannon of the New Englanders within range, they had to be dragged, in plain view and within gunshot of the walls of the fortress, over a swamp where oxen and horses could not be used. He led his men across, by night and in fogs, harnessed to their guns with straps across their hearts, sinking up to their knees in the mud. The ancient and honorable artillery of Boston then did yeomen's service. During the siege, which lasted forty-nine days, fifteen hundred shot and shell were thrown into the town, leaving not a single house uninjured and not

[3] Brigadier Joseph Dwight was described by a contemporary as "a man of commanding, dignified deportment and of singular veracity. All who knew him speak of this virtue with enthusiasm."

[4] "Brigadier Dwight here stands in Honour high,
Col'nel o're Train of the Artillery.
Expert in use of Arms, and martial skill,
Directs each hostile Posture to Fulfill.
Col'nel also Commissioner is, and stands,
Ready to Act, in Regimental Bands.
He with's Lieutenant Thomas, grace the Plain,
In hostile Fields, the Gallic's do disdain:
With Courage Bold, undauntedly Pursue,
The Conquest great, which then was had in View.
With them, their Major Gardner acts his part,
From warlike mind and Country's good at heart."

A brief and Plain Essay on God's Wonder-working Providence For New England, In the Reduction of Louisburg, and Fortress thereto belonging on Cape Breton. With a short hint in the Beginning on the French Taking and plundering the People of Canso, which led the several Governments to unite and Pursue that Expedition. With the names of the Leading Officers in the Army and the Several Regiments to which they belonged. By Samuel Niles. "*Non Magis est quaerere, quam Tueri.*" If ye forsake the Lord, then he will turn and do you hurt, and consume you, after that he hath done you good. Josh. XXIV 20. The victory that day was turned into Mourning, unto all the People. 2 Sam. XIX 2. N. London. Printed and sold by T. Green, 1747.

more than three or four fit for habitation. The service of Brigadier Dwight received special commendation from General Pepperell, who three days after the surrender of the town appointed him Judge of the Court of Admiralty. During the war, a number of cannon had been deserted by the French, who spiked them in the belief that they would thus be rendered useless; but the besieged were circumvented by the Yankee ingenuity. Lieutenant Edmund Bemis of Spencer, one of the armorers, built wood-fires around the breeches of the guns, so dilating the metal about the touch holes that the spikes could be driven in without injury and the cannon used with telling effect against their former owners. For this he received a bounty.

Later service was performed by the citizens of Brookfield upon the frontier of Massachusetts. This is illustrated by the following letter from General Dwight, written July 16th, 1748: "We have constant accounts of the enemy "their lying upon our borders in great numbers, killing "and captivating our people; and we suffer ourselves to be "a prey to them and through cowardice or covetousness, "or I know not what bad spirit in officers and men we can't "so much as bury the slain. It appears to me high time "for the Government to exert its Power and give more "effectual directions to officers posted on our frontiers; "and if need be to raise half the militia of the Province: "But I beg we may have 1000 men to drive the woods and "pursue the enemy even to Crown Point. If it be worth "while to send parties into the enemy's country, and give "at the rate of £1000 per scalp—Why when they are so "numerous on our borders should we lie intirely still and "do nothing—Can't some troops of horse be sent and many "riot commissions be given to such as will inlist a number "of Volunteers and by one way or other so many men "raised as will a little discourage our enemy—I doubt not "I can find many who would undertake (even without "pay) for the Honor of the Country and do good service."

He thus procured orders that a sufficient guard be raised to protect the exposed garrison. The brigadier himself raised one hundred men, at the head of which he marched against the Indians. Forty-eight Brookfield men, headed by Captain Thomas Buckminister, were placed in Fort Dummer, above Northfield, which had previously been under the command of Captain Joseph Kellog, also of this town. The treaty of Aix-La-Chapelle providing for peace was signed October 7th of that year, but the news did not reach Boston for sixth months.

In the last French and Indian War, which began six years later, Brookfield again furnished soldiers and supplies. In their marches through the wilderness, nine of them ate nothing for many days but berries, beech buds and beech nuts; some were obliged to boil their belts, powder horns and ball pouches for food; others, like Jonathan, appeased the pangs of hunger by sucking the end of a rod dipped in honey, and when that was exhausted ate the flesh of their only dog. General Dwight, then more than fifty-three, raised a regiment and took part in an expedition against Crown Point. Captain Jeduthan Baldwin, who was later a member of the Provincial Congress and colonel in the Continental Army, served throughout this war. General Rufus Putnam served as a private; part of the time with a company of rangers, who wore Indian dress, with bare thighs, defenseless against the insects of the woods. He has left a journal containing an intersting account of his experiences. In that war also fought five of the seven famous Waite brothers, sons of the tavern-keeper, all of whom later served in the Revolution, when four of them were officers and two, Joseph and Thomas, were killed. They sprang from a race of Indian fighters. Some were at Bunker Hill; others at Bennington. Waite's River in Vermont is named after Joseph, who was an ensign and later a captain in this last French and Indian War; because after his company had fed upon a deer which he had killed, they hung the remains upon a tree, carving his name

upon the bark, for the relief of their starving friends who followed. Three of them were at "Rogers's Slide." Benjamin enlisted when he was only eighteen. He was taken prisoner two years later and was made to run the gauntlet; but he snatched a gun from the nearest Indian and laid about right and left with such force that he opened the lines of the savages and escaped without injury, applauded by the old men, who enjoyed the confusion of those who were younger, and at the end of the race he was invited to her house by a French woman who protected him until his escape.[5] Before he was twenty-four, he had engaged in forty battles without a serious wound. He boasted that when he was twenty-three, in a winter's march, when other men were so exhausted by the cold that they begged to be shot for relief, he revived them by flogging, and at icy fords he would shoulder a couple of the little fellows and carry them across. When colonel of the Vermont Militia, he received a wound in the suppression of Shay's rebellion. From him Waitefield is named. Richard enlisted in 1762, when he was only seventeen, with the consent of his guardian, Jedediah Foster. He and two others were Green Mountain boys. The experience the men of Brookfield thus acquired was of great value to their country during the Revolutionary War.

Brookfield soldiers took part in the capture of Quebec, and at least one of them there lost his life. Preparations to take that city had long before been made here and snowshoes, gathered for that purpose, were stored in the old Foster House then occupied by General Dwight, whence some years after the fort was captured they were borrowed for use at a funeral. Eighteen of the unhappy Acadians were quartered in Brookfield for support. They belonged to two families, which were not divided.

After the conquest of Canada, General Dwight moved to Stockbridge, in 1752. He was there, for several years,

[5] His story is reminiscent of the tale of Captain John Smith and Pocohontas. It is not impossible that he was as skillful with the long bow as with the Queen Anne musket.

trustee of Indian schools, and from 1753 to 1761 was Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas for Hampshire County. He moved to Great Barrington in 1758; and on the formation of the new County of Berkshire, in 1761, he became Judge of Probate and Judge of the Berkshire County Court, holding these offices until his death there in 1765.

As he had succeeded to the influence held by his father-in-law, Pynchon, so did the leadership of the town pass from him to his own son-in-law. Jedediah Foster was born October 10th, 1726 at Andover, the son of Ephraim, a blacksmith; the descendant of Reginald Foster, who emigrated from Exeter, England, in 1636, upon one of the embargoed ships. He was graduated at Harvard in 1744, at the age of seventeen; and he then removed to Brookfield in order to assist General Dwight, and married Dorothy Dwight in 1749. From him Foster's Hill was named and he occupied during the greater part of his life the house built there by Brigadier Dwight, which was known to posterity by his name. Fifty years ago, the Reverend Doctor Whiting said of him:

"The perusal of records will show that no man has ever "dwelt among us, who held so many local trusts,—lived "in such intimate sympathy with the people, cared for "and served them so abundantly and excellently,—and "yet so far excelled them in station and character. He "projected and carried through more that is to be prized "in our town life, than could be recounted. * * * "We esteem that to be the highest style of citizen man-"hood which gains and holds the affectionate confidence "of the worthiest of the common people through all the "tests of every-day life; and at the same time finds high "position given to it among eminent statesmen, jurists "and scholars of the times. Few men more completely "unite these conditions than Judge Foster." And the Reverend Samuel Dunham, a lamented pastor of the First Church: "Through his life, he enjoyed the confidence of the "inhabitants of this Town and County, perhaps beyond

First Congregational Church and Park — Christ Memorial Church — Haston Public Library — Adams Block

North Brookfield, Corner School and Main Streets, Looking South

"any man who ever lived here, unless it be his own son,
"the Honorable Dwight Foster."

He held military offices from the position of captain and major, to which latter position he was appointed by Governor Shirley September 20th, 1756, during the last French and Indian War, to that of colonel during the Revolution. He was appointed Justice of the Peace by the same Governor in 1754, holding that place until 1775, when he was appointed Judge of Probate for Worcester County. And on March 20th, 1776, he was appointed Judge of the highest Judicial Court of the State, the Superior Court of Judicature. Ten years after his father-in-law closed his legislative career as speaker of the House, he was elected representative from Brookfield to the General Court, held 1761. He was re-elected for fourteen successive years, until 1776, when he accepted his position on the highest bench. And he was again elected for the year 1779. In 1774, he was one of two members chosen to represent the province at large upon the Governor's Council. But he and twelve others were complimented by rejection by Governor Gage, for the reason, as has been said by a contemporary: that "he had been one
"of the memorable ninety-two, so greatly celebrated, who
"refused to rescind the Vote for the circular Letter, and
"had always in the General Assembly, and their Com-
"mittees of which he was often a member, opposed the
"measures of Bernard and Hutchinson for abridging
"the Liberties of the Country."

He was a leading member of the Provincial Congress during 1774 and 1775. In July of the latter year, he was elected a member of the Council; but he resigned this position when he was appointed to the Superior Court, his letter saying: "It has for many years been a prevailing opinion that
"a seat at the Honorable Council, and on the Superior
"Court Bench ought not to be held by the same Person
"at one and the same time: An opinion I think founded
"on the Highest Reason, and should be supported in a

"free Constitution." During the darkest hours of the Revolution he never expressed a doubt of his Country's success. Upon the dispersion of the Congress at Philadelphia, General Washington inquired upon what men in Massachusetts he could rely. He was told that Mr. Foster of Brookfield was the one in the centre of the State, in whom he could place implicit confidence, and from whom he could expect unwavering patriotism and fidelity. He died during the early part of the Revolutionary War from a disease contracted in military service, while he was also discharging the duties of important civic offices. Had he survived to the age allotted to men by the Psalmist, he would undoubtedly have left a national reputation. Two of his sons were at the same time in the Senate of the United States, sent there by different States.

His first conspicuous action in the town affairs took place in 1753, during the dispute that resulted in the division of the First parish into two. He drew the petitions and remonstrance and other papers, which set forth the arguments in the support of the position then taken by his neighbors. In 1759, he was elected Deacon of the Second Church, now the First Church in North Brookfield. The records state: "Suspended his answer till ye church consented to intro-
"duce Tate and Brady's Psalms upon trial; then gave it
"in the affirmative." It was part of the diaconal duties to line out and tune the psalms sung by the congregation. The ravages of small pox were checked by his example and that of William Ranger. Not long before the Revolution, they were inoculated at a hospital in Esopus, New York, where they had the disease and returned in good health. The practice of inoculation was then introduced into the town and hospitals were established for that purpose. Patients came from the neighboring villages, even from Worcester. In fair weather, when convalescent, they were allowed to visit the cave and ledges on Slate Hill and even, it is said, although they were descendants of the Puritans,

to play cards there. House parties were formed by young men and women for that purpose and courtships were conducted during the incubation of the microbe. Sweethearts were forced to meet among sad surroundings in those serious times. Lovers' Lane was in the burying-ground. Matches were often made while a pair were watching the dead.

But the town was soon obliged to attend to diseases of the body politic. In May, 1773, Jedediah Foster was moderator of a meeting which approved "a Letter of thanks "to the town of Boston for their care in Stating a list "of the Infringements and Violations, of Rights * * "made by the Court and Parliament of Great Britain, "and to show that the town fully concur with the "Town "of Boston in Sentiment." The letter was written by him, although he did not serve upon the committee that reported it. It declared: "This Town will be ever ready "to assist, and in every legal and proper way maintain "those Rights and Liberties for our children, which with "so much Labor, Blood and Treasure were purchased "by our ancestors, whose memory is and ought to be "esteemed by us." On December 27th, a town meeting considered two letters from the Boston Committee of Correspondence and a committee of five. Judge Foster and Captain Baldwin were chosen to report resolutions concerning the importation of tea "and such other matters as are "proper for this town to do at this difficult time." In about an hour, the committee reported resolutions, drafted by Judge Foster, the chairman. These were adopted as follows: "We think it our indispensable duty in the most "public manner to let the world know our utter abhorrence "of the last and most detestable scheme, in the introduc- "tion of Tea from Great Britain, to be peddled out a- "mongst us, by which means we were to be made to swal- "low a poison more fatal in its effects to the national and "political Rights and Privileges of the People of this

"country, than ratsbane would be to the natural body." In the following May, covenants providing for a boycott of obnoxious imports from Great Britain were voluntarily signed by many. A committee of six was chosen "to inspect "the Traders of this Town and see that they do comply "with the covenants and to see that every person has the "offer of signing the covenant and also to take care that "pedlars do not sell any goods in this Town."

In August of that year, a convention of the committees of correspondence and delegates of the several towns in Worcester County was held at the tavern held by Mrs. Mary Stearns in Worcester. There were present from Brookfield, Judge Foster, Captain Baldwin and Captain Upham, the moderator, clerk and treasurer of the town. After several adjournments in order to obtain representation from some towns in the county which had elected no committees of correspondence nor delegates, on the 10th the convention passed a number of resolutions, amongst others the following:

"*Resolved*, That an attempt to vacate said charter, by "either party, without the consent of the other, has a "tendency to dissolve the union between Great Britain "and this province, to destroy the allegiance we owe to the "king, and to set aside the sacred obligations he is under "to his subjects here.

"*Resolved*, That it is the indisputable duty of every "American, and more especially in this province, to unite "in every virtuous opposition that can be devised, in order "to save ourselves and posterity from inevitable ruin. "And, in the first place, we greatly approve of the agree-"ment entered and entering into through this and the "neighboring provinces, for the non-consumption of British "goods. This, we apprehend, will have a tendency to "convince our brethren in Britain, that more is to be gained "in the way of justice, from our friendship and affection, "than by extortion and arbitrary power. We apprehend "that the balance of our trade with Britain has been

B. & R. Rubber Factory

North Brookfield, School Street Looking East

"greatly in their favor; that we can do much better with-
"out it than they can; and that the increase of such trade
"heretofore, was greatly occasioned by the regard and
"affection borne by the Americans to their brethren in
"Britain. Such an agreement, if strictly adhered to, will
"greatly prevent extravagance, save our money, encour-
"age our own manufactures, and reform our manners.

"*Resolved*, That those justices of the court of general
"sessions, and common pleas, for this county, who, in a
"late address to his excellency Governor Gage, aspersed
"the good people of this county, have thereby discovered
"that they were destitute of that tender regard which we
"might justly expect in our present distressed situation.

"*Voted.* That we most earnestly recommend it to
"the several towns in this county, (and if it should not be
"thought too arrogant,) to every town in the province,
"to meet and adopt some wise, prudent, and spirited
"measures, in order to prevent the execution of those
"most alarming acts of parliament respecting our consti-
"tution."

On August 26th, delegates from the counties of Worcester, Middlesex and Essex, met at Boston the committee of correspondence of that city and resolved: "That all such
"officers or private persons as have given sufficient proof
"of their enmity to the people and constitution of this
"country, should be held in contempt, and that those who
"are connected with them ought to separate from them:
"laborers to shun vineyards; merchants, husbandmen, and
"others, to withhold their commerce and supplies."

Our ancestors did not shrink from enforcing obedience to public opinion by these methods, which their descendants condemn when practiced by trade-unions.

On August 31st, the convention resolved at the Worcester County Court House:

"Whereas, the charter of this province, as well as laws
"enacted by virtue of the same and confirmed by royal

"assent, have been, by the parliament of Great Britain, "without the least color of right or justice, declared in "part null and void; and in conformity to an act of said "parliament, persons are appointed to fill certain offices "of government, in ways and under influences, wholly "unknown before in this province, incompatible with its "charter, and forming a complete system of tyranny: and "whereas, no power on earth hath a right, without the "consent of this province, to alter the minutest title of "its charter, or abrogate any act whatsoever, made in "pursuance of it, and confirmed by royal assent, or to "constitute officers of government in ways not directed "by charter, and as we are assured that some officers of the "executive courts in this county, have officially conducted "in compliance with and in conformity to the late acts of "parliament altering our free constitution; and as the "sittings of such courts may have a tendency to affect "the good people of this county, in such manner as may "insensibly lead them to submit to the chains of slavery "forged by our enemies; therefore,

"1. *Resolved*, That it is the indispensable duty of the "inhabitants of this county, by the best ways and means, "to prevent the sitting of the respective courts under "such regulations as are set forth in a late act of parlia-"ment, entitled, an act for regulating the civil government "of the Massachusetts Bay.

"2. *Resolved*, That in order to prevent the execution "of the late act of parliament, respecting the courts, that "it be recommended to the inhabitants of this county, "to attend, in person, the next inferior court of common "pleas and general sessions, to be holden at Worcester, "in and for said county, on the sixth day of September next.

"3. *Resolved*, That it be recommended to the several "towns, that they choose proper and suitable officers, and "a sufficient number, to regulate the movements of each "town, and prevent any disorder which might otherwise

"happen; and that it be enjoined in the inhabitants of each "respective town, that they adhere strictly to the orders "and directions of such officers.

"4. And whereas, the courts of justice will necessarily "be impeded by the opposition to the said acts of parlia- "ment, therefore, *Resolved*, that it be recommended to the "inhabitants of this province in general, and to those of "this county in particular, that they depute fit persons "to represent them in one general provincial convention, "to be convened at Concord, on the second Tuesday of "October next, to devise proper ways and means to resume "our original mode of government, whereby the most "dignified servants were, as they ever ought to be, de- "pendent on the people for their existence as such; or "some other which may appear to them best calculated "to regain and secure our violated rights. The justice "of our complaints and the modes of redress, we submit "to the determination of our sister colonies, being, in our "opinion, the only just tribunal we can appeal to on earth.

"5. *Resolved*, That it be recommended, that such "innholders and retailers, who shall be approbated by the "selectmen in their respective towns, continue and exercise "their respective functions; provided, they strictly adhere "to the law of this province respecting innholders and "retailers.

"6. *Resolved*. That it be recommended to the several "towns, that they indemnify their constables for neglecting "to return lists of persons qualified to serve as jurors.

"7. *Resolved*, That as the ordinary course of justice "must be stayed, in consequence of the late arbitrary and "oppressive acts of the British parliament, we would "earnestly recommend to every inhabitant of this county, "to pay his just debts as soon as may be possible, without "any disputes or litigation.

"8. *Resolved*, That as the dark and gloomy aspect of "our public affairs has thrown this province into great

"convulsions, and the minds of the people are greatly "agitated with the near view of impending ruin; we "earnestly recommend to every one, and we engage our-"selves, to use the utmost influence in suppressing all "riotous and disorderly proceedings in our respective "towns."

It was also "*Voted*, That if there is an invasion, or "danger of an invasion, in any town in this county, then "such town as is invaded, or being in danger thereof, shall, "by their committees of correspondence, or some other "proper persons, send letters, by express posts, imme-"diately, to the committees of the adjoining towns, who "shall send to other committees in the towns adjoining "them, that they all come properly armed and accoutred "to protect and defend the place invaded.

"*Voted*, That it be recommended to the towns in this "county, to pay no regard to the late act of parliament, "respecting the calling town meetings, but, to proceed "in their usual manner; and also, that they pay no sub-"mission to any acts altering our free constitution.

"*Voted*, That it be recommended to each town of the "county, to retain in their own hands, what moneys may "be due from them severally to the province treasury, "till public tranquility be restored, and more confidence "can be reposed in the first magistrate and his council.

"*Voted*, To postpone the consideration of the petition of "Doct. William Paine, respecting the establishment of "a hospital for the small pox, to the adjournment of this "meeting.

"*Voted*, That each member will purchase at least two "pounds of powder in addition to any he may have on "hand, and will use all his exertions to supply his neighbors "fully.

"*Voted*, That the members and delegates endeavor to "ascertain what number of guns are deficient to arm the "people in case of invasion."

Town House

North Brookfield, Main Street Looking North

On September 6th, a convention met at the house of Mr. Timothy Bigelow. It was "*Voted*, As the opinion of this "convention, that the court should not sit on any terms.

"*Voted*, That the several committees inform the people "of their respective towns, of this vote of the convention, "and, that they choose one man from each company, as a "committee to wait on the judges to inform them of the "resolution to stop the courts sitting, if the people concur "therein.

"*Voted*, That the body of the people in this county "now in town, assemble on the common.

"*Voted*, To choose a committee of three persons to "inquire of the committees of the towns, how long it will "be before they make the determination of the body of the "people respecting the courts, known to the judges, and "to inform the convention thereof.

"*Voted*, To adjourn to the green beyond Mr. Salisbury's, "where the convention proceeded.

"*Voted*, That a committee of three, viz.: Capt. Man-"dell, Deacon Rawson, and Mr. Samuel Jennison, be a "committee to inform the grand jurors of the determina-"tion of the county as to the courts being held.

"*Voted*, to adjourn to the court house at two o'clock, "P. M.

"Afternoon.

"Met according to adjournment, and again adjourned "to the green, to attend the body of the people.

"*Voted*, To choose a committee of three persons to "proceed to wait on the committees of the towns, to inquire "the occasion of the delay of the judges in making their "appearance before the body of the people.

"*Voted*, That three persons be chosen a committee, to "acquaint John Chandler, Esq., and the other protesters, "that they must follow after the judges through the ranges "of the body of the people; that they go immediately "after the judges, and read their recantations."

At that time, the people from Brookfield, New Braintree and other towns of the county, to the number of about six thousand, had assembled on the green. The town companies were under officers of their own election and marched in military order. The people then formed in two lines and the royalists, justices and other officers were forced to pass between them, stopping at intervals to read the following declaration:

"Worcester, Sept. 6, 1774.

"Worcester, ss. The justices of the inferior court, and "justices of the court of general sesssions of the peace, "for the county of Worcester, to the people of the county, "now assembled at Worcester:

"Gentlemen:—You having desired, and even insisted "upon it, that all judicial proceedings be stayed by the "justices of the court appointed this day, by law, to be "held at Worcester, within and for the county of Worces-"ter, on account of the unconstitutional act of the British "parliament, respecting the administration of justice in "this province, which, if effected, will reduce the inhabi-"tants thereof to mere arbitrary power; we do assure you, "that we will stay all such judicial proceedings of said courts, "and will not endeavor to put said act into execution."

The protestors, who were forty-three royalists of Worcester, had persuaded the town clerk to enter on its records their protests to some of the previous resolutions. At a subsequent meeting, the clerk was obliged to obliterate this entry. After he had drawn his pen through the line and it was found that they could still be read, his fingers were dipped in the ink-pot and rubbed over the page until it became absolutely illegible. At the meeting on the green, the convention further "*Voted*, That it be recommended to "the military officers in this county, that they resign their "commissions to the colonels of the respective regiments.

"*Voted*, That the field officers resign their offices, and "publish resignations in all the Boston newspapers.

"*Voted*, That it be recommended to the several towns of "the county, to choose proper officers for the military of "the town, and a sufficient number.

"*Voted*, That it be recommended to the several towns "and districts of this county, that they provide themselves, "immediately, with one or more field pieces, mounted "and fitted for use; and also a sufficient quantity of ammu- "nition for the same; and that the officers appoint a "suitable number of men, out of their respective com- "panies, to manage said field pieces.

"*Voted*, To take notice of those justices of the inferior "court of common pleas and general sessions of the peace "of this county, who aspersed the people in a late address "to Gov. Gage."

* * * * * * * * * *

"*Voted*, That it be recommended to the officers of each "company of the people assembled, to keep good order; "enjoin it on their men not to do the least damage to any "persons' property; but to march quietly home: and "that the convention have nothing further to lay before "them.

"*Voted*, That Deacon Rawson, Mr. Asa Whitcomb, and "Doct. Crosby, be a committee to wait on a number of "justices, to give them an opportunity to sign the decla- "ration, which has been signed by the justices and officers "of the inferior court."

On September 7th, a number of judges were brought before the convention and made to sign the following declaration: "Whereas the committees in convention have ex- "pressed their uneasiness to a number of the justices of "the common pleas and general sessions, now present in "the convention, who, in an address to Governor Gage, "at their session in June last, aspersed the people of this "county; those justices, in the presence of the convention, "frankly declare that they precipitately entered into the "measure; they are sorry for it; and they disclaim an

"intention to injure the character of any; and were the "same measure again proposed they should reject it."

On September 8th, a meeting of the blacksmiths of the county, to the number of forty-three, was held. They formed and subscribed resolutions, saying that they "sol- "emnly covenant, agree and engage to and with each "other, that from and after the first day of December, "1774, we will not, according to the best of our knowledge, "any or either of us, nor any person by our directions, "order or approbation, for or under any or either of us, "do or perform, any blacksmith's work, or business of any "kind whatever, for any person or persons whom we esteem "enemies to this country, commonly known by the name "of tories, viz.: all councillors in this province appointed "by mandamus, who have not publicly resigned said office, "also every person who addressed Governor Hutchinson "on his departure from this province, who has not publicly "recanted; also every officer exercising authority by virtue "of any commission tending to carry any of the late op- "pressive acts of parliament into execution in America: "and, in particular, we will not do any work for Timothy "Ruggles of Hardwick, John Murray of Rutland, and "James Putnam of Worcester, Esquires: nor for any person "or persons cultivating, tilling, improving, dressing, hiring, "or occupying any of their lands or tenements. Also, we "agree to refuse our work of every kind, as aforesaid, to "all and every person or persons who shall not have signed "the non-consumption agreement, or have entered into a "similar contract or engagement, or that shall not strictly "conform to the association or covenant agreed upon and "signed by the *Continental Congress* lately convened at "Philadelphia."

The first pastor of the Second Precinct of Brookfield, Eli Forbes, whose former name was Forbush, was, to say the least, too lukewarm in his patriotism. Some of his parishioners hooted him as a tory, threw stones at his chair and one

night, left a pot of tar and a bag of feathers upon his door-steps. He took the hint and resigned.

On September 21st, the county convention "*Resolved*, "That as the ordinary courts of justice will be stayed, in "consequence of the late arbitrary and oppressive acts "of the British parliament, we would earnestly recommend "to every inhabitant of this county, to pay his just debts, "as soon as possible, without any dispute or litigation, "'and if any disputes concerning debts or trespasses should "arise, which cannot be settled by the parties, we recom-"mend it to them to submit all such causes to arbitration; "and if the parties, or either of them, shall refuse to do so, "they ought to be considered as co-operating with the "enemies of the country."

"*Voted*, That it be recommended to the several towns "in this county, to choose proper military officers, and "a sufficient number for each town, and that the captains, "lieutenants, and ensigns, who are chosen by the people "in each regiment, do convene, on or before the tenth day "of October next, at some convenient place in each regi-"ment, and choose their field officers to command the "militia until they be constitutionally appointed, and "that it be recommended to the officers in each town of the "county, to enlist one third of the men of their respective "towns, between sixteen and sixty years of age, to be "ready to act at a minute's warning; and that it be recom-"mended to each town in the county, to choose a sufficient "number of men as a committee to supply and support "those troops that shall move on any emergency."

"*Voted*, That it be recommended to the company officers "of the minute men, to meet at Worcester, on the 17th "of October next, at ten o'clock of the forenoon, to propor-"tion their own regiments, and choose as many field officers "as they shall think necessary.

"*Voted*, That it be recommended to the justices of the "county, that they liberate any persons confined in jail

"for debt, who are entitled to such liberation by the laws "of the province."

And a remonstrance to General Gage was prepared and sent on December 6th: "*Voted*, To recommend to the sev- "eral towns in this county, to give it in charge to their "constables and collectors, on their peril, not to pay any "public moneys to Harrison Gray, Esq., late treasurer of "this province, and to indemnify them for paying it where "the towns shall order them to pay.

"*Voted*, That the inhabitants of each town in this "county, order their assessors not to return any certificates "of the lists of assessments made by them, to Harrison "Gray, Esq., late treasurer of the province, and that "they indemnify them therefor."

* * * * * * * * * *

"*Voted*, To choose a committee of nine persons, any "two of whom to go to the field officers of the county of Worcester, to know the reason why they have not resigned "their commissions to the governor, and published such "resignation in the Boston newspapers, agreeably to a "vote of this convention at a former meeting, and demand "a categorical answer, whether they will comply or not "with said requisition, and make report to this body at "their next meeting."

On January 27th, the following: "Whereas, Isaac "Jones of Weston, in the county of Middlesex, innholder "and trader, has, by his conduct of late years, in various "instances, manifested a disposition inimical to the rights "and privileges of his countrymen: therefore,

"*Resolved*, That it be earnestly recommended to all the "inhabitants of this county, not to have any commercial "connections with said Isaac Jones, but to shun his house "and person, and treat him with that contempt he deserves. "and should any persons in this county be so lost to a sense "of their duty, after this recommendation, as to have any "commercial connection or dealings with said Jones, we

"do advise the inhabitants of this county to treat such "persons with the utmost neglect."

On May 31st, 1775, when Captain Baldwin of Brookfield was clerk *pro tempore:* "*Resolved,* That a committee be "appointed, to take into consideration the subject of allow- "ing those who are inimical to the country, to exercise the "right of voting in town meetings."

In September, 1774, Captain Baldwin and Captain Phinehas Upham were elected delegates to the Provincial Congress, to be held at Concord in October, and Judge Foster to represent the town at the General Court at Salem in the same month, which, upon the proclamation by Governor Gage revoking his call of this assembly, resolved itself, with the delegates specially elected for that purpose, into the First Provincial Congress. They with others were also chosen a committee of correspondence. In December, Judge Foster was elected delegate to the Provincial Congress, to be held at Cambridge the next February. At the same meeting, it was "Voted unanimously that this town do fully approve "of the association of the Continental Congress, and that "they will strictly adhere to the same in all respects."

"Minute or Picquit-men" were organized. Brookfield soldiers marched to Lexington, fought at Bunker Hill and served their country throughout the Revolutionary War; some at Valley Forge. Two of the most distinguished engineers in the Continental Army were General Rufus Putnam and Colonel Jeudethan Baldwin, who had acquired their education in the last French and Indian War. New Braintree and the other towns of Worcester County then also rendered great services to the country.

Brookfield had great influence in the Provincial Congress of Massachusetts. Jedediah Foster served on the committees appointed by the First and Second Congress to "take into consideration the state of the province"; upon the committee "to consider what is necessary to be done for the defence and the safety of the province"; upon that to receive

returns from the town committees of correspondence of Worcester County; upon the one that provided a method for the collection and payment of outstanding taxes, the payment of which to the former Treasurer had been forbidden because that officer was in sympathy with the Crown; upon one to take into consideration the expediency of establishing post offices and riders; and upon others to prepare a form for the currency and to supervise the engraving, with authority given him to countersign the larger notes. His experience in preparing resolutions and reports of Brookfield meetings and in the General Court, caused his constant selection to prepare and revise resolutions, reports and other documents, including an appeal to the Continental Congress; to prepare, for the use of the delegation to the Continental Congress, statistics of the population of the province and of the amount of its exports and imports; to select such resolves and orders of the Provincial Congress as were proper for publication; and to prepare for publication, a narrative of the excursion of the King's troops, which occasioned the fight at Lexington and Concord, together with depositions in support of the same. His reputation for diplomacy was the cause of his appointment as one of the two delegates to repair to Connecticut, to inform that colony "that we are contemplating "upon, and are determined to take effectual measures for "that purpose," security and defense, "and for the more "effectual security of the New England colonies and the "continent, to request them to co-operate with us, by "furnishing their respective quotas for general defence." The fact, that he was from Brookfield and his experience there in equipping the troops for the French and Indian War, secured his appointment upon all of the important committees concerning military affairs, including the organization of the artillery and the recommendation of a form of military exercise. A resolution drawn by him was adopted, recommending "to the inhabitants of this province, that in order "to their perfecting themselves in the military art, they

New Braintree Church

Built 1800. Destroyed by fire April 1, 1911

"proceed in the method ordered by his majesty in the year "1764, it being, in the opinion of this Congress, best cal- "culated for appearance and defence." He was also a member of committees to prepare the oath of office to administer to generals, and the commission for General Artemas Ward, and during the recess of the First and Second Provincial Congress, to prepare a plan for the regulation and discipline of the militia. He brought to the Third Congress some mineral earth, discovered in large quantities in Brookfield, which contained matter useful for the production of nitre, and an officer was sent to the town to make experiments there. On June 12th, 1775, he and two others were appointed "to repair to the "fortresses of Ticonderoga and Crown Point, on Lake "Champlain, to inquire into the importance of holding "those posts, and also into the method by which they are "maintained; to establish there, in the pay of said colony, "so many men to defend the same posts as they should "judge necessary, not exceeding four hundred; and the "said committee were also, by said Congress directed, "when they should have made themselves fully acquainted "with the situation and importance of said posts, respec- "tively to signify their thoughts thereon." Ticonderoga had, a short time before, been surrendered to Ethan Allen, upon his demand "in the name of the great Jehovah and the Continental Congress." A serious difficulty had arisen between him and Benedict Arnold, in which Arnold claimed the right to command under orders of Massachusetts and Allen under the authority of Connecticut. The Continental Congress had recommended that the stores at Ticonderoga be removed to the southern end of Lake George. The colony of New York was in favor of this. But in New England, it was considered of vital importance that the command of Lake Champlain should be retained. A delicate and difficult situation consequently met the committee, which was heightened when they reached the ground by the refusal of

Benedict Arnold to serve under a Connecticut officer as directed by the Massachusetts Committee of Safety, his resignation, his order for the disbandonment of the men whom he had raised; and by their threatened mutiny. The committee guaranteed these men their pay and enlisted four hundred to defend the lake. They reported accordingly to the Provincial Congress, with a schedule of the military stores which they had found.

"Your committee are of opinion, that the maintaining "of those ports is of the utmost importance to the security "of the colony of New York and the New England colonies, "which was a sufficient inducement to the committee to "continue in the pay of this colony the number of men "before mentioned. The fortresses not being at present "tenable, then there must be a sufficient number of men "to command the lake, and prevent the enemy from land-"ing. Your committee are of opinion, that the best "security of those posts in their present state, is by armed "vessels of various construction, to be kept constantly "cruising on the lake, and small boats with swivel guns to "act as scouts, which will effectually prevent the army "from sudden surprise. Your committee have, agreeably "to their instructions, advised the Hon. American Con-"gress, the Hon. Convention of the Colony of New York, "and the Governor of Connecticut, by respectfully signify-"ing to them, their opinion of the importance of the main-"taining those posts, and the measures for effecting the "same." The report was unanimously adopted and the committee received the thanks of the Congress for their services. Their work resulted in preserving the control of Lake Champlain for two years.

In a town meeting May 22nd, 1776, the question was passed in the words of a resolve of the General Court:

"That this Town would support the Honorable Con-"gress in the measure, if they for our liberty should see "fit to declare the colonies Independent of Great Britain."

In March, 1777, a town meeting established the price of articles and labor. Amongst other items, "Farming "labour from the 20th day of June to the 20th day of "August, shall not exceed 3 shillings per day, and from the "20th day of Nov'r to the 20th day of Jan'y, shall not "exceed *1s. 6d.* per day. Indian corn meal shall not "exceed *3s.* per B'., good grass-fed beef 2½ pence per lb., "stall-fed do., 3d. Good butter, 9¼ pence per lb., firkin "do., 8¼ per lb. Good yard wide Tow cloth *2s.* per yard. "Striped y'd wide flannel 3*s.* 4*d.* * * * A good meal "of meat victuals of the common sort shall not exceed "9d. * * * For making men's shoes shall not exceed "2s. 8d. per pair. * * * A Doctor shall not exceed "6d. (six pence) per mile in his charge in travel to visit "his Patience. * * * For men's common boarding "by the week shall not exceed 7s." In April, 1777, it was voted: "that the inhabitants of this town will not only "strictly adhere to and observe the act of the General "Court called the Regulating Act, But also use our ut-"most endeavors to detect and bring to punishment those "unfriendly selfish persons who at this important crisis "shall have the effrontery to counteract the good and "wholesome laws in this State." By that time, the revenue was so exhausted in the enlistment and equipment of soldiers and care for their families, that the town was obliged to vote "to raise no money for schooling." Four years later, the citizens were unable to collect money to pay the thirty-three soldiers which the town had been directed to supply. The men were allowed to select any citizens, whom they might choose, as security for the performance of its promise by the Second Precinct. And the greater part of their pay was given in cattle; twenty three year olds "of middling bigness," to be the equivalent of £90. One-seventh of the ablebodied men in North Brookfield had volunteered or been drafted for military service. Such were some of the sacrifices which our ancestors of that generation

suffered for the freedom and prosperity we now enjoy.

Notwithstanding the overthrow of the established government, order was generally observed. But the two crimes which most disgrace the memory of Brookfield were committed during those troublous years. On the evening of March 11th, 1778, Joshua Spooner, while returning from Cooley's Tavern, was killed and his body thrown into his own well by three former soldiers, living in the house, who were hired to commit the crime by his wife Bathsheba. The four were tried and found guilty at the April term of the Superior Court of Judicature in Worcester before a jury and a full bench consisting of Chief Justice Cushing and his associates, Foster, Sargent, Sewell and Sullivan. The only report is printed from the notes of Judge Foster. The criminals were hung at Worcester on July 2nd of the same year, in the presence of thousands of people. The condition of the woman made her execution the subject of monstrous horror. In the following year, Robert Young, a Brookfield laborer, was convicted and hung at Worcester for a crime in this village, of such a character as is now usually punished by Lynch Law in the South.

On May 25th, 1778, a town meeting voted "to accept "of the Confederacy of the Continental Congress and to "enjoin it to our Representatives that they consent to the "same." The same meeting, by a vote of eighty-four to twenty, concurred with a majority of the towns in this commonwealth by rejecting the State constitution proposed by the legislature. The chief cause of dissatisfaction with that proposition by the legislature was the apportionment of the members of the two houses; but there were other objections, many of which were formulated in proceedings of the Essex County Convention, held at Ipswich, April 29th, 1778; the report of which, although now little read, deserves careful study by all who would understand our system of constitutional law.

In the following year, Brookfield approved a State

convention, for the sole purpose of forming a new constitution and elected Jedediah Foster delegate to the same. He was appointed by the convention upon the committee to draft the instrument, subsequently adopted by the people.

The town tradition, handed down from generation to generation, seems to establish the fact that although valuable assistance may have been given by John Adams, the draft of that great State paper in the form nearest that finally ordained, was written by Judge Foster's hand in the Foster House on Foster's Hill.[6] That State constitution, more than any other, was copied by the Federal Convention in framing the Constitution of the United States. The doc-

[6] The grandson of John Adams with commendable filial piety has inserted in the former's works the first draft of that Constitution, together with the claim that it was entirely written by John Adams. There is no mention of this in the diary or autobiography of Adams, nor in any contemporaneous publication. No manuscript draft or copy by the second President has been found. The sole authority for the statement is an unpublished letter by him to W. D. Williamson, dated February 5th, 1812, and not included in his works, nor ever published, so far as the writer can ascertain, This was written when the Ex-President was seventy-seven; when his memory as to what occurred in the Convention was impaired, as is admitted by Charles Francis Adams in another connection. (John Adams' Works, IV, p. 216); and when, as is often the case at that period of life, he was not inclined to excessive modesty concerning his earlier achievements. John Adams himself complains of the inaccuracy of his memory in several instances. (See, for example, his letters to Mrs. Mercy Warren of June 10th, 1813 and July 15th, 1814; *Ibid.* X, pp. 41, 99.) Moreover, in a contemporaneous letter, written to Benjamin Rush November 6th, 1779 (*Ibid.* IX, p. 617), John Adams expresses regret that the committee did not adopt his wishes as to the composition of the legislature. He is undoubtedly entitled to full credit for the insertion in the draft of an extraordinary clause giving to the governor the right to an absolute veto, the power which had long since become obsolete in England. (See Defense of the Constitution of the Government of the United States of America, Vol. I, Ch. III.)

On the other hand, the tradition of Brookfield that the draft of the instrument was written by Jedediah Foster is corroborated by the statement in the Boston *Gazette* of November 9th, 1779: that his death was hastened by his labors upon that instrument.

Both John Adams and Jedediah Foster were members of the Committee of Thirty selected by the Convention to draft the Constitution. There is no record of the proceedings of that committee, except the draft contained in their report, which was first published in 1832 and was afterwards reprinted as part of the Works of John Adams. Judge Foster died October 17th, 1779, eleven days before the report was presented to the Convention. John Adams sailed for Europe November 13th, 1779, two weeks after the presentation of the report, while it was still under discussion.

It is believed that to any dispassionate mind acquainted with the writings of both, the style of the document will appear to resemble that of the older more nearly than that of the younger statesman. It is smoother than the authentic writings of John Adams.

trine of the separation of the three powers, the Judicial, Legislative and Executive; the modification of the royal veto, so as to authorize it when exercised by the governor, to be overruled by two-thirds of each legislative house; the express ordinance that revenue bills should originate in the lower house with power in the Senate to amend the same; that concerning the suspension of the writ of *habeas corpus* and other provisions, were there before they appeared in any other written constitution of the world. The declaration "to the end that this may be a government of laws not of man," which was borrowed from Harrington, has become an imperishable maxim of constitutional jurisprudence. This is said to have been Brookfield's contribution to the constitutional history of the world.

Jedediah Foster did not live to see his final work ratified by the people. While engaged upon his mission on behalf of Massachusetts to Fort Ticonderoga, he had crossed Lake Champlain in an open boat during a storm and received a chill, resulting in an illness from the effects of which he never recovered. His illness was increased by the confinement, necessitated by his labor upon the constitution. And he died October 17th, 1779, at the age of fifty-five.

His leadership passed to his third son, Dwight, then only twenty-two years of age, who was graduated at Brown University five years before and after teaching school at New Braintree and elsewhere and military service in the defence of New England was then practicing law at Providence. Immediately upon his father's death, he returned to Brookfield. He presided at the town meeting in the following May to consider the new constitution. He was elected to succeed his father as delegate to the Constitutional Convention, and in the State Legislature. He was a member of the Lower House of Congress for seven years, 1793-1800, during the second administration of Washington and the administration of John Adams. He was in the Senate of the United States during four succeeding years,

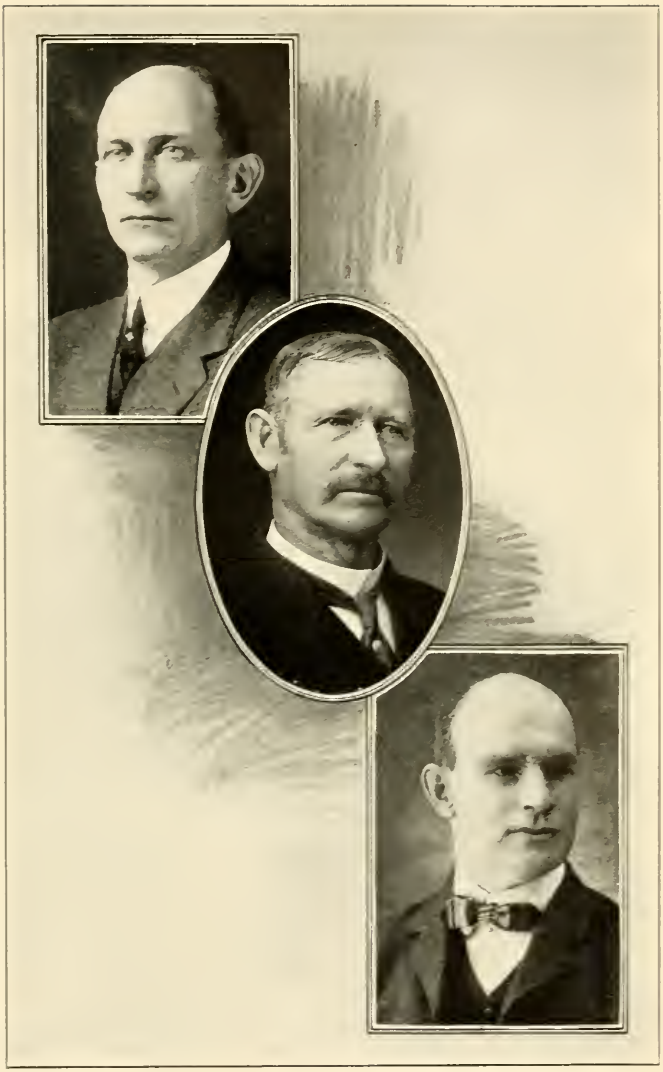
1800 to 1803 inclusive, at the end of which he resigned because of his ill health. He was high in the councils of the Federalist party; but on friendly terms with Thomas Jefferson; who, however, in his *Ana*, says that they became estranged because of a conversation in 1801, during the Presidential election by the House, when Judge Foster, who was then a Senator, inquired as to Jefferson's intentions as to the navy, the public debt and the removal of Federal officeholders. While he represented Massachusetts in the Senate, his brother Theodore sat in the same body as Senator from Rhode Island. The latter became a Democrat. One of them was known by his colleagues as "Foster the Wise"; the other as "Foster the Foolish." The tradition of Brookfield is that the former term was applied to the Senator from Massachusetts. What is the tradition of Rhode Island on this subject, my researches have not enabled me to ascertain. No other citizen of Brookfield has been a member of the Senate of the United States. Jabez Upham, a son of Captain Upham of the French Wars, who later served in the House of Representatives, is the only other that has been a member of Congress. After Dwight Foster's return from the Senate, he served for ten years as Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas. He was also a member of the governor's council and held other State and local offices. He died April 29th, 1823, aged sixty-six. During his youth, he kept a journal; and later while in Congress, it was his custom by every mail, in a letter to his wife, to describe what he had done and seen. These manuscripts have been preserved, but have not been printed, although they afford much valuable information concerning the manners of his time. Such of the records as remain show his constant interest in the affairs of the town. He usually acted as moderator at its meetings. He was also the source from which his neighbors drew advice, practical as well as juridical. Tradition says that during the latter part of his life, whenever he was strong enough to see his neighbors in the ell added to

the old house by his father, for an office, Foster's Hill was black with carriages.

In May, 1780, by a vote of one hundred and forty-three against eleven, the town ratified the new constitution, upon which he and his father had labored. At the following election in September, only one vote was cast against the Federalist, John Hancock for governor, although there was a tie between the candidates for the State Senate.

Brookfield has been always a believer also in a strong national government. In 1784, its representative in the General Court was instructed "if we mean to support our "dignity as a nation every effort ought to be used to "strengthen the union and render the bonds indissolu- "able." During the same year, Brookfield celebrated the Fourth of July for the first time. There was a barbecue of an ox, roasted with hoofs and horns, on West Brookfield plain. It was served with bread and plenty of rum and water, accompanied by the successive explosions of thirteen large chestnut logs.

But the town's sacrifices to secure independence left the citizens in a condition of great poverty after the success of the Revolution. Money was so scarce that cattle were used for currency, as was the custom in prehistoric times. Beef was rarely eaten, and when cooked was boiled, since the waste of its juice on the spit or gridiron was considered a ruinous extravagance. A dish of hash at an evening party was a great luxury. Bean porridge was the usual food and white bread was rarely seen. In one family, it did not appear on the table during ten years. In 1798, there was but one brick house in Brookfield. No vehicle was driven from Boston to Springfield until the end of the Eighteenth Century. Till then, no more than four two-wheeled chaises were owned there; an increase of but one in fifty years. And before 1812, no wagon here had springs. It is therefore not unnatural that Shay's Rebellion, which opposed the collection of debts, had some supporters here and in the



Thomas G. Richards Patrick J. Daniels
Alfred C. Stoddard

adjacent towns. Daniel Shays, after whom the movement was named, was once a hired man of Daniel Gilbert in North Brookfield and is said to have there married Abigail Gilbert. Captain Francis Stone, whose father was killed at the siege of Quebec under General Wolfe, and who himself acquired a reputation in the War of the Revolution, furnished most of the brains and wrote the proclamations. A large company of Brookfield volunteers, including Dwight Foster, under Colonel Jeduthan Baldwin, transported on sleighs, aided in the suppression of the revolt. Jonathan, the brother of Francis Stone, also took arms in support of the government. In December, 1786, while this war was on, a town meeting sent to the governor a prayer for an act of indemnity. During the next month, ninety-six of the inhabitants sent him a protest against this vote. When the decree of amnesty was finally signed by Governor Hancock, Captain Stone returned from Vermont and enjoyed the respect of his neighbors, although he never expressed regret. His controversial spirit passed to one of his descendants, Lucy Stone, his grandaughter born in West Brookfield, in 1848, who was well known as an advocate of abolition and of woman's rights.

During their financial distress, the investments of the town funds were not always such as would be approved by modern financiers. In March, 1791, the Second Precinct voted that the proceeds of the continental money in the hands of the treasurer be invested in tickets in the Massachusetts Monthly State Lottery. What practices that we now pursue without the slightest scruple will be condemned as immoral by succeeding generations? What acts that we now condemn as immoral will they consider not only permissible but commendable?

While the inhabitants of Brookfield were in the condition of poverty that has been described, no one was poorer or less respected or with less apparent education, than a girl of seventeen, who lived there in the year 1794. She

afterwards became one of the richest women in New York. She is said to have been the cause of the death of Alexander Hamilton. She married a man who had been Vice-President of the United States and she died in 1865 well known as Madame Jumel.

During the first twelve years of the Nineteenth Century, little happened here that is worthy of note. North Brookfield, which comprises the northeast corner and about one-third of the original town, was incorporated into a separate township by the act of February 28th, 1812. Public opinion was divided as to the expediency of the new corporation; but, after two years agitation, the petition for separation succeeded through the support of a political party, which hoped to increase its strength by the separate representation of this district. They were defeated, however, at the first town election. Although the population of the town was largely Federalist and opposed to the War of 1812, the Brookfield Light Infantry Company marched to the defense of Boston and camped in the Rope Walk at South Boston for nearly two months in 1814.

On March 3rd, 1848, the western part of the old town, consisting substantially of the first parish and including the original settlement on Foster's Hill, received a second incorporation under the name of West Brookfield. The third or south parish in the southeast of the old town, including East Brookfield village, retained the original name of Brookfield. The original square of six miles had, by the act of December 3rd, 1719, been increased to an area of about eight miles square with an addition of 300 acres to the south side, which forms the rectangular piece jutting into Sturbridge. Subtractions had been made of the territory transferred to Warren, formerly called Western New Braintree and Ware, in 1742, 1751 and 1823 respectively.

In the long struggle that resulted in the emancipation of the slaves, Brookfield, true to its traditions, early took a position in support of freedom. Through the influence

of the Reverend Moses Chase, pastor of the First Church, Deacon Josiah Henshaw on January 26th, 1843, was excommunicated because of his advocacy of abolition. This was a not unusual practice in New England churches at that time. Like most ecclesiastical organizations, they were conservative. But as was said by an eminent and scholarly pastor, who later occupied the same pulpit: "It is unneces-
"sary to say that the cause of religion languished here;
"the heart of this people 'waxed gross'; their ear grew
"'dull of hearing'; and the Lord's chosen became 'an
"astonishment and a hissing,' in the community—until,
"at length the state of things became so intolerable that
"the church, failing to secure the concurrence of the pastor
"in the calling of a Mutual Council, was obliged to resort
"to the extraordinary measure of an *Ex-parte* Council,
"by whose advice Mr. Chase was dismissed October 28,
"1843, after a dreary pastorate of twenty-one and a half
"tempestuous months." He organized a secession and for a short time expounded in Mr. Lampson's hall the doctrine that the the slavery of the descendants of Ham was an essential element of Christianity, basing his argument upon the words of Noah: "Cursed be Canaan, a servant
"of servants shall he be unto his brethren." But the town was rid of him before December of the following year, when his followers returned to the original flock under the new pastor, Leonard S. Parker. Within a month of the latter's installation, on January 16th, 1845, the church adopted resolutions condemning slavery as "a flagrant sin in the sight "of God, and an enormous injury to man."

The organization of the Union Congregational Church at North Brookfield in 1854 was principally due to the sympathy that most of its members felt with the advocacy of abolition.

Although mention is made of a few bigots and time-servers who were a disgrace to the cloth, let there be no suggestion that may reflect upon the ministry of Brookfield.

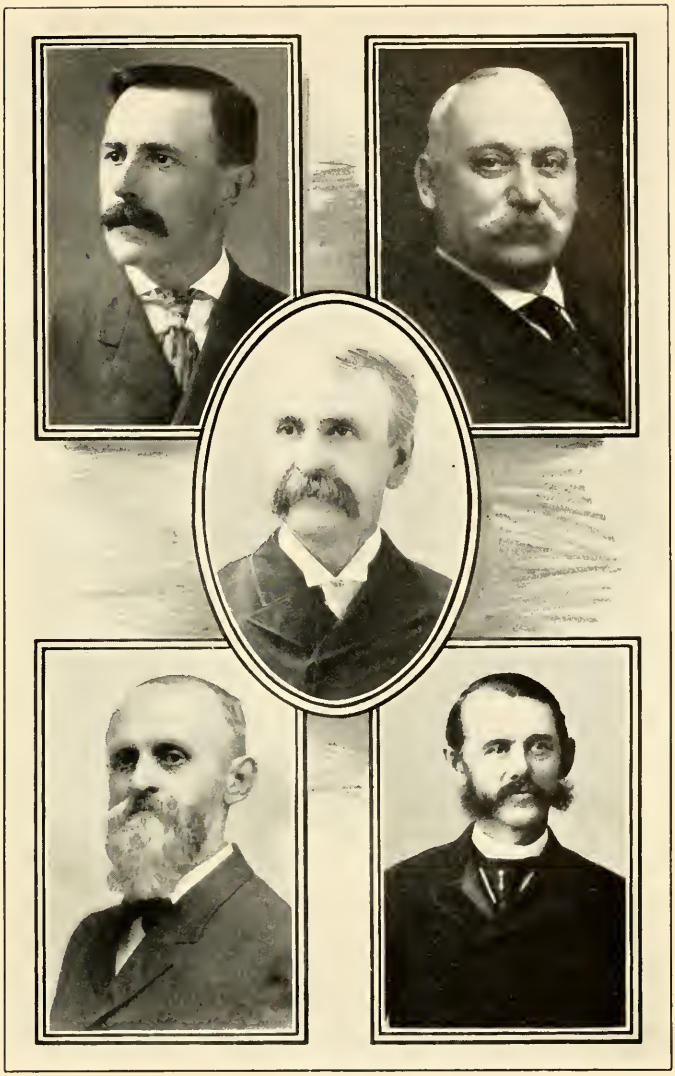
Some of them were scholars, to whose industry we owe the preservation of much of the town's history. And if the traditions of their congregations are to be believed, of nearly all can it be truly said:

"For Christes lawe and his Apostles twelve
"He taught but firste he followed it himselfe."

Throughout our Civil War, the citizens of the Brookfields proved that they had inherited from their forefathers devotion to the cause of liberty and union. In the war for the liberation of Cuba, they again made sacrifices to give others that independence which they themselves enjoyed.

To describe the rise and fall of the industries upon which the prosperity of these towns have depended, to enumerate the leaders in business, politics, religion, war, and social life, whose presence has been an honor to their fellow citizens, during the last hundred years, would trespass too much upon the time of this patient audience. It would be invidious to make selections from so many who deserve honorable mention, some of whom I see before me. To make such selections adequately and judiciously would be beyond the powers of a speaker whose family left Brookfield nearly a century ago. Still you, who were his neighbors in his boyhood and his old age, must join with me in the regret that this address is not delivered by him who was the most distinguished citizen of Brookfield during the last fifty years, Daniel H. Chamberlain, lieutenant and captain during the Civil War; Attorney General and Governor of South Carolina; who displayed all the virtues of the Puritan. He was a soldier, a lawyer, a scholar, a statesman and, above all, a patriot.

The sons of Brookfield are not confined to the town limits. They are found throughout the nation. As its empire has extended from a narrow fringe on the North Atlantic, to the Gulf, across the Great River, to the coast of the ocean discovered by Balboa, even to the islands of Asia, of which no Englishman had heard when this town was



Carlton D. Richardson John G. Shackley
Rev. Benson M. Frink
Albert W. Bliss Philander Holmes

founded, they and the other children of New England have led the way. The problems which they face, where the west meets the east, are in some respects not dissimilar to those with which their forefathers grappled. The Puritan, however, has learned sympathy and religious tolerance through the lapse of generations. And the most savage of the natives of that archipelago have received and will receive more humane treatment—however strong the provocation to cruelty—than was afforded to the Indians of Massachusetts. The problems upon this continent which must soon be solved are far different from those that confronted the Puritans. The divine right of kings is dead. The struggle for representative institutions is over. They have spread as far as the empires of the Sublime Porte and the Shah. The Church can no longer persecute. Its weapons are no more than sufficient for the defense of its temporal estate throughout the world. The persecution that is suffered in the Twentieth Century is exercised by corporations which are not ecclesiastical. Oppression by an aristocracy has ceased, but democracy has a more powerful enemy in plutocracy. Aristocracy was controlled by the traditions of the past, which established a code of honor that, although in many respects false, still recognized some obligations to magnanimity and generosity. A plutocracy which is ignorant of the names of its grandfathers and is ashamed of the fact that its fathers used a pick and shovel, does not understand the meaning of the word tradition, respects no code except that enforced by the criminal law and does not have the right to be called democratic, because it is vulgar. The time has passed when a duke had the power to force a man out of an English county. A Captain of Industry who, by unfair trade and legislative corruption, has usurped the control of a branch of manufacture, can now drive an obnoxious competitor out of business in the United States. He can destroy the prosperity of a city by the removal of a factory or by a discrimination in the price of carriage. He

can compel the subservience of its citizens by the threat of his displeasure. Monopolies are no longer granted to the flatterers of kings. They exist, however, in this republic, built up by statutes procured from the people's representatives by corruption and drafted in deceptive and fraudulent language by counsellors of high repute. The highwayman no longer infests our roads and the robber baron does not exist to levy toll upon passing merchandise. Those who withhold cars from the manufacturer, keeping him from fulfilling his contracts and forcing him toward bankruptcy, until he gives them a share in his profits, reap a richer harvest The stories told in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries of the extortions and extravagances of the farmers of public revenues, are insignificant beside those of the controllers of public utilities that we daily read in the financial reports and the society columns of our newspapers. The rules of our criminal law, which developed in the struggle by the judges to protect the weak from oppression and to save the innocent, are now obstacles against the conviction of the powerful who are guilty and the strong who are oppressors. To remedy these evils; to prevent violence and fraud from continuing to amass huge bulks of riches, which exceed the dreams of the avarice of former generations; to check the oppressive use of wealth after its acquisition; without at the same time destroying property itself, or removing the incentives that alone preserve most of mankind from indolence and improvidence, without weakening the foundations of society, upon which civilization has grown from barbarism: this is a task that will require all the intelligence, courage and devotion of the descendants of the Puritans. Their hereditary obedience to conscience, regardless of a public opinion that they deem to be perverted, should make them face unperturbed the storm of sneers, obloquy and abuse from hired advocates and a subsidized press. The patience and courage that enabled their ancestors to conquer the wilderness and refound this town after its destruction;

to endure the miseries and discouragement of Valley Forge; to brave uncrushed the enormous weight of public disapprobation, in the exercise of which the respectable class of the community even denied the hope of religious salvation to some of the abolitionists; should prevent their sinking in the slough of despond, after the repeated failure of their earlier efforts. For the encouragement of traits of character like these, not because of vainglorious living in the past, it is right that the deeds and virtues of our forefathers should be honored at stated anniversaries. The descendants of the citizens of Brookfield may fitly say: "One generation "shall praise thy works to another and shall declare thy "mighty acts."

Mme. Tryphosa Bates-Batcheller

Mme. Tryphosa Bates-Batcheller received an ovation, as, at the close of Mr. Foster's oration, she rose to sing. Her highly cultivated voice and the artistic perfection of her singing made her appearance one of the most delightful features of the afternoon. She graciously responded to an encore with a charming rendering of "The Last Rose of Summer."

Governor Eben S. Draper

When His Excellency, Governor Eben S. Draper, appeared upon the platform, the audience rose to its feet with a cheer that could have left him no doubt of their hearty support. He said:

"What a great relief it is to stand up once in a while at a ball game. The same, I suppose, applies to the recent courtesy you extended me, and on that account I am glad you showed me that mark of respect.

"Coming here today, I am not expected to give a talk concerning historic Brookfield. That has been done by the

previous orator far better than I could possibly do. The history of your town for 250 years is the history of the Commonwealth. Any town that has been incorporated this length of time has been through experiences well illustrating the story of the Commonwealth and its growth.

"Your town went through the Indian wars; massacres were abroad in the land; women, men and children were ruthlessly destroyed with frequency, and existence was a continual battle. This warfare developed one great principle, that of depending on each other. No family could hope to withstand the onslaughts of the savage foe, or contend successfully with the Indians by itself.

"Later the people, as a result of their combinations against their foes, came into a closer union. When the colonies found they had grievances against their lord and king, they discovered that they must combine to get their rights. These independent States, which found they had no interdependence, combined for the common foe. The colonies, as they then were, fought to a successful issue the War of Independence, and finally a union in embryo was born.

"From the first, State rights were considered most important. Each State was jealous of giving up any rights, and it was long a mooted question whether the union was a nation or a confederation of sovereign States. The Civil War settled the question of whether this is a nation or not, in the affirmative, once and for all.

"The War of 1812 found us a homogeneous people. The citizens came at that time from European countries having common traditions and language, and with the same aims.

"The question of slavery later arose and was settled. When I go to a gathering of this sort and see so many men wearing the button of the Grand Army, living veterans of that notable struggle, the greatest war in all history, I realize that I stand in the presence of men connected with the grandest event in American annals. I revere all of them.

Frank E. Prouty — Emerson H. Stoddard

Arthur F. Butterworth

Arthur H. Drake — William Mulcahy

"Today we have no war, but the questions before us as a nation are all the more important on that account. You are a New England people. You know the problems of today which you will have to settle are vastly different from those of our forefathers. Now all our immigrants come from a world-wide sweep, they speak all tongues, are of all religions and all degrees of intelligence. Many of them do not know what freedom means. They think liberty is license, not having learned the lesson that all liberty must be founded in a respect for law.

"I agree with the previous speaker on the dangers of plutocracy, and in my opinion it must be settled by the proper training of the youth of our land, as the citizens of the future.

"This mass of humanity being dumped upon our shores must be made to imbibe the true spirit of liberty, before we can teach them to be intelligent American citizens. I am an optimist, not a pessimist. There are no terrors of mind to be called up by the conditions we have before us, but we must face the issue, just the same. We may have a little trouble in settling our difficulties, but a people which has been through as much trouble as we have need not fear some more of the same sort.

"You must settle this question through your children and their training. See that they are brought up to know the pride of being an American citizen. You have a duty to see that they are worthy of you and your fathers.

"Then Massachusetts will stand, as she does today, in the lead of the greatest procession of States on God's green earth."

Congressman Frederick H. Gillett

Congressman Frederick H. Gillett commenced his remarks by quoting Oliver Wendell Holmes on the transitoriness of most things after the lapse of a hundred years. Brookfield, he said, appeared to be one great exception to

the old adage that aged things run slowly and finally decay. He continued:

"I cannot help contrasting the condition of our ancestors, as pictured by the orator of the afternoon, and our condition of life today. There are certain traits of the Pilgrim Fathers from which we are glad to escape. They were crusty, and no doubt the Pilgrim mothers had much to endure from them, in addition to the rigors and privations of the New England settlement.

"The Pilgrims and the Puritans would be amazed and bewildered at the changes which the years have wrought. Much as we are disposed to grumble at the high cost of living, and other modern conditions, yet, looking back, we have much to be thankful for. Compare the conditions in England at the time the Colonists came from that country with the conditions that surround the humblest workingman and cottager today. The greatest nobleman of two hundred and fifty years ago would stand in envy before the cottage comforts we now possess throughout our land.

"We live better now than we did in those days. We have our hot and cold water, and the countless little things that go to make up the comforts of the modern house, and little thought is given to the progress that has been made. The Puritans would say that this age gives to the humblest laborer a better living than they ever received or than ever was given the wealthiest plutocrat of ancient times. Let us be thankful.

"The Pilgrims might consider us frivolous, but they would decide that we had maintained their fundamentals of public schools and education, which in every State are the cornerstones of civil and religious liberty."

Hon. Charles G. Washburn

Hon. Charles G. Washburn of Worcester spoke without notes; the following brief abstract will indicate the trend of his remarks:

He spoke humorously of his regret in not being permitted to represent West Brookfield in the revised Congressional districting. He dwelt upon the austere and somber qualities of the Pilgrims and the Puritans, in whom were to be found the incarnation of conscience, an influence that had leavened the whole lump of our National life. He spoke of the vast scale upon which we are demonstrating in this country the success of a democratic form of government, and in this connection referred to the Oriental method—conquest *without* incorporation; the Roman method—conquest *with* incorporation but without representation; the Teutonic, or English method, which was based upon the principle of representation, the only form of government which can achieve national unity on a large scale without weakening or destroying the sense of local independence. He said that while he had no quarrel with a broad federal spirit, we should, with our enormous foreign immigration, insist upon independence in local affairs so essential if the fundamental principles of a democratic form of government are not to be subverted.

Mayor James Logan

Mayor James Logan, of Worcester, was the last speaker. He said:

"The towns that surround the city of Worcester have contributed their full share to the wonderful material growth of the city. They have sent and are still sending their brightest and best, the young men and women of sterling worth, on whom the world can lean, and lean hard, the product of the godly home and the hill-town Christian church. It is from such springs of virtue, integrity, and ambition, rising far up in the hill-towns of the country, that the great reservoir of city life has been fed.

"It is because of the new blood which has been poured into the cities from the country towns during all these years, that the body politic has been kept strong and healthy.

"So I say it is fitting and proper, on an occasion like this, that the chief executive of the city of Worcester should be given an opportunity to look into the faces of the men and women, fathers and mothers, many of whom have given to the great city their sons and daughters, who have helped to make a city over which any man might thank God and be reasonably proud that it was his privilege to preside and serve.

"So I come to you today, not alone to extend the greetings of the city of Worcester, but to return thanks for the services rendered by the men and women who have done their part to create the Worcester that now is, thus laying deep and broad the strong foundations of the Worcester that is yet to be.

"In the language of some countries there is no word that corresponds with our word 'home'; that word, with all its sacred, tender memories, is ours. Some languages have no word that corresponds with our word 'citizen.' The word that they must use corresponds with our word 'subject,' and there is a vast difference between being a subject and being a citizen.

"In like manner, no nation on the face of the globe has a word, with perhaps the exception of 'Christmas,' around which there cluster so many sad, sweet and joyous memories as cluster around the word 'Thanksgiving,' and today in the Brookfields we are having an Old Home Week and Thanksgiving combined in one.

"Those days come to us who have been reared in New England, with the sweet fragrance of the piney woods of our dear old New England hills. They come to us laden with the best traditions of the noblest section of this land we love.

"On this day the fire burns brightly upon the old hearthstone and the thoughts of sons and daughters far away over land and seas turn lovingly and longingly toward the old fireside in Brookfield.

"Those who have been permitted to return to this good

old town have been living over again the days of long ago. We have been meeting old-time friends and acquaintances, and though our hair has been whitened by the years, once again we are boys and girls together.

"In imagination we have visited the old swimming-hole, where we learned to swim; we have stood on the rocks where as boys we used to sit to dry off, and untie the knots which the other fellows had tied in our shirts.

"We have recalled the promises made to fathers and mothers to come straight home from school, and not go into the water; and we remember the nights when we were being put to bed and our dear mothers discovered that our shirts were on inside out, or wrong side on, and yet, unmindful of the awful fate which befell Ananias and Sapphira, we would not own up that we had even been near the water.

"In imagination we have crawled under the fence and secured the material for a corn roast in the woods. What wouldn't we give today for corn that would taste as that did!

"We have visited the old cider mill and have sucked the cider through a straw, but we remember no more the aches and pains we had after the visit in days of yore.

"We have once more in imagination smoked that first cigar. We did not in those days have those nasty little cigarets to lead us up to the cigar. Those were heroic days and we started in on what they called a 'long nine,' and it cured some of us, so that that one smoke in forty years has been all we wanted.

"We have wandered down the road to Drake's melon patch, and after innocently looking around to see that the coast was clear, we have inspected the melons, simply to determine whether Drake was maintaining the standard.

"We have been out skating on the pond, and through the forty-odd years of memory there comes to us the thrill that went through us as we skimmed over the ice holding those dear little hands in Mollie's muff.

"We have in imagination been out riding on the West Brookfield road. Oh, those delightful rides down to the Kissing Grove on those beautiful country roads where the branches of the trees formed an arch over the road just wide enough for one team, and in those days the horses were well trained. They did not need to be driven, they just went; not too fast, but fast enough. That was before the day of State highways, and on those beautiful roads there was absolutely no danger that anyone would drive past and look back into the carriage, and we were never disturbed by the 'honk, honk' of the modern Juggernaut which notifies us in these days to get off the earth.

"Why shouldn't we love dear old Brookfield? What memories cluster about her! When we think of her, we can appropriate and make our own the words from our National hymn:

I love thy rocks and rills,
Thy woods and templed hills,
My heart with rapture thrills,
Like that above.

"This occasion is great, because of the purpose for which we have come together. Two hundred and fifty years of eventful and honorable history lie behind us today, and two hundred and fifty years is a long time, as men count time, even in the life of a nation.

"In 1660, some of the men and women who landed at Plymouth Rock were still living. This takes us back to the time when the Indians roamed over these beautiful hills and valleys, back to the beginning of things in this country, for we need to remember that that was long before the day of the United States.

"The seed from which was to grow the mightiest Republic on earth had but just been planted in the New World. In the Providence of God this virgin soil had been kept until the time was ripe for planting the tree of liberty.

"During all these two hundred and fifty years, by a

devious path God has led this nation, sometimes through the dark valley of defeat, but having passed through the valley, we have come out into the open beyond, where with a vision clarified by suffering and sacrifice we have been enabled to behold the larger truth. And thus, in His own way and in His own good time, there has been wrought out for us a truer victory and a larger truth.

"Only 168 years before the founding of this town, Columbus and his motley crews, seeking to find a sea route westward to India, sailed away over the uncharted seas; but, as often happens in our search for one thing, we find another; and so, as these men searched the wide waste of waters, they found, not the route they sought, but they found the new land which must needs arise to offer an unstained abode for the new ideals of human progress.

"The powers of the middle ages were intolerant; at the same time they quite unconsciously permitted the discovery of a new land destined to be used, under God, for the creation of a new order of society that was to put an end to intolerance, and which was to dedicate this new continent to a modern democracy which had not yet been born.

"The crews of Columbus were typical of the history of migration to the new world that lay unseen before the great discoverer. His crews were prophetic of the cosmopolitan character of the population of our country, for among his one hundred and twenty men were Italians, Spaniards, Portuguese, Frenchmen, Englishmen, Irishmen, Swedes, Moors, and Jews.

"On that October morning, only one hundred and sixty-eight years before the founding of this town, the men with Columbus saw upon the shore the light which told them that a new continent had been found, and four hundred years later, on this same continent, two great Republics, then unborn, united in rearing a colossal figure of the Goddess of Liberty in bronze, to symbolize an idea of which, in 1492, men did not even dare to dream,

'The idea of human liberty.'

And so there stands in the harbor of New York, the gateway of this great nation, this colossal figure symbolizing liberty, holding aloft in her hand a torch, to light from sunset to sunrise the great channel through which flows the stream of human life, which, blended into one, makes the American people.

"From all quarters of the world we have gathered here to make our homes; the blood of all the families of mankind mingles here in a National life-giving stream, which flows forth into the civic life of America, and while the great Father of us all ordained that among the nations of the earth the language of the lips should be different, he also ordained that the language of the heart should be the same.

"God has implanted in the breast of the entire human family a love for the land that gave them birth, and the nearer we get to the common people, the stronger that love seems to be. It matters not how wild, poor, desolate or downtrodden, the flame of divine love of country burns brightly in the hearts of her sons and daughters.

"Someone has said that the only purpose of such a gathering as this is that it gives some people an opportunity to boast of their native land or of their ancestors, and there may be just a grain of truth in the criticism; but if it serves no better purpose than to create in each of us a stronger love for the country of our birth or of our adoption, and if it lift up in our estimation the ancestral name, so that there may be created in us the determination that no act of ours shall ever tarnish the good name of country or of kin, it will be time wisely spent, for we need that kind of a tonic in this day and generation.

"The true purpose of such a gathering as this will be altogether lost, if it shall fail to impress us with a deeper and purer love for those eternal principles represented by the flag for which our brothers died; and if other men were willing, yes, if need be, glad to die for those colors, ought not we

James E. Barr — J. Thomas Webb

Hon. George K. Tufts

Charles S. Lane — D. Clarence Wetherell

to be willing to live for them, and so to live that we will do our part to make a country worth dying for.

"Some years ago, Henry Van Dyke was homesick in London, and longing for the land he loved, he gave expression to this sentiment which we Americans ought to cultivate:

'Oh, London is a man's town; there's power in the air,
And Paris is a woman's town, with flowers in her hair,
And it's sweet to dream in Venice, and it's great to study Rome,
But when it comes to living, there's no place like home.

Oh, it's home again, and home again, America for me,
I want a ship that's westward bound to plow the rolling sea,
To the blessed land of room enough, beyond the ocean bars,
Where the air is full of sunlight, and the flag is full of stars.' "

VI. Conclusion.

After the exercises in the main tent were over, a concert was given on the Common by the Worcester Brass Band. An hour later, the throngs that all day long had crowded West Brookfield as the little village had never been crowded before in the whole course of her existence, had melted away, and when the ringing of sunset bells in the four Quabaug townships announced the close of the great celebration, the mother district had resumed her customary calm.

It is estimated that no less than 12,000 persons were present in West Brookfield during some portion of the day, and that at least 7,000 witnessed the battle on the hill, while the great audience tent was filled to the limit of its capacity during the exercises of the afternoon. The way in which the crowds were handled, so as to avoid the slightest semblance of disorder, was the subject of much favorable comment. The local police force was augmented by a squad of four policemen from Worcester, while a number of the State force mingled in plain clothes among the throngs. But

there was little for them to do. The thousands of visitors were easily handled, while, if any crooks were present—as almost invariably is the case on such occasions—the precautions taken to guard against their operations proved ample.

There was a total absence, too, of disorder due to liquor, and the fact that not a single intoxicated person was seen upon the streets reflects the highest credit upon all in authority. Nor did the slightest accident occur to mar the day's celebration. The Joint Executive Committee has every reason to congratulate itself upon the perfection of its arrangements and the complete success with which they were carried out.

In the evening, the Worcester Brass Band gave a second concert, upon the grounds of the Merriam Library; but, with few exceptions, only the villagers themselves and their own private guests were there to hear. At an early hour the music ceased; one by one the lights in the houses were extinguished, and, with the breath of the night air through the deserted streets, came a mysterious rustling sound, as though old Father Time were folding down another leaf in the ancient tome of Quabaug history.

APPENDIX A

List of the ladies and gentlemen who served as a Reception Committee under the chairmanship of Hon. Theodore C. Bates:

Brookfield.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry V. Crosby
Mrs. John L. Mulcahy
Edward F. Delaney
Mr. and Mrs. Edwin D. Goodell
Mr. and Mrs. William B. Hastings
Mr. and Mrs. Warren E. Tarbell
Mr. and Mrs. William F. Hayward

West Brookfield.

Mrs. Susan F. Fullam
Mrs. George H. Fales
Miss Alice J. White
Mrs. John G. Shackley
Mrs. Sumner H. Reed
Mrs. Nellie J. L. Canterbury
Mrs. James D. Farley
Mrs. Benson M. Frink
Mrs. Philander Holmes
Mrs. Charles H. Clarke
Mrs. Arvilla Makepeace
Mrs. Nellie D. Makepeace
Mrs. Eli M. Converse
Mrs. Chauncey L. Olmstead
Mrs. Nellie Coffin
Miss Mary Lynde
Mrs. Elisha Webb
Mrs. Allen Jones
Mrs. Harold Chesson
Mrs. Charlton D. Richardson
Miss Marianna Blair
Charles O'M. Edson
Dr. Charles A. Blake
Dr. Frederick W. Coles
Dr. Clifford J. Huyck
Dr. Clement E. Bill
George H. Coolidge
John A. Conway
Dwight Fairbanks
John J. Mulvey

North Brookfield.

Hon. and Mrs. Theodore C. Bates
Mr. and Mrs. Alfred C. Stoddard
Mr. and Mrs. Harold A. Foster
Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Batcheller
Mr. and Mrs. Herbert T. Maynard
Mrs. George R. Doane
Miss Bertha Collins
Miss Katherine Doyle
Mrs. George A. Whiting
Horace J. Lawrence
Ward A. Smith

New Braintree.

Hon. and Mrs. George K. Tufts
Mr. and Mrs. J. Thomas Webb
Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Barlow
Mr. and Mrs. Charles S. Lane
Mrs. James P. Utley
Mrs. Edward L. Havens
John Bowen
Charles H. Barr

APPENDIX B

Troopers who rode in the Pageant under Carlton D. Richardson, who represented Captain Edward Hutchinson:

Walter A. Putnam of Warren, representing Captain Wheeler.
John P. Ranger, of North Brookfield, representing Major Wilson.
Alfred C. White, of West Brookfield.
Bowman S. Beaman, of West Brookfield.
Lewis K. Bruce, of West Brookfield.
Elmer Perry, of West Brookfield.
Martin Walsh, of West Brookfield.
Francis McReavy, of West Brookfield.
I. Walter Moore, of Warren.
George Freeman, of Warren.
Myron Rice, of Warren.

APPENDIX C

Troopers who rode in the Pageant with Alfred C. Stoddard, who represented Major Simon Willard:

Henry E. Cottle, of Brookfield representing Captain Parker.
George A. Putney, of Brookfield.
Windsor R. Smith, of West Brookfield.
Philander Holmes, of West Brookfield.
Ralph M. Buffington, of West Brookfield.
Fred B. Walls, of West Brookfield.
Howard Foster, of West Brookfield.
Lewis Richardson, of West Brookfield
William M. Richardson, of West Brookfield.
Harold Risley, of West Brookfield.
Daniel McReavy, of West Brookfield.
Edmond Smith, of West Brookfield.
John J. Mulvey, of West Brookfield.
Robert Converse, of West Brookfield.
G. Lincoln Smith, of North Brookfield.
H. Stanley Smith, of North Brookfield.
Milo D. Childs, of North Brookfield.
Harry K. Woodis, of North Brookfield.
George O'Brien, of North Brookfield.
Maxey C. Converse, of North Brookfield.
Archibald D. Melvin, of North Brookfield
Charles S. Lane, of New Braintree.
Charles M. Dailey, of New Braintree.

Fred O'Brien, of New Braintree.
Charles H. Fales, of New Braintree.
Charles W. Ross, of New Braintree.
A. W. Bliss, of Warren.
Milton H. Lathe, of Warren.
George E. Rice, of Warren.
Harry O. Rice, of Warren.

APPENDIX D

Individuals who represented settlers in the Pageant:

Lindsey Smith
Miss Dorothy Smith
Carlton P. Tyler
Miss Emma B. Tyler
Miss Stella Tyler
Miss Myrle E. Dodge
Miss Alice E. Babbitt
Miss Charlotte Thurston
Miss Margaret Blair
Miss Grace Whiting
Miss Dorothy Makepeace
Stanton Furguson
Miss Eleanor G. Bill
Miss Susan Bill
Miss Marjory Cutler
Miss Esther Mulvey
Miss Nellie Mulvey
Miss Hazel A. Anderson
Miss Dora M. Allen
Miss Gladys E. McKerley
Alfred R. Allen
Miss Jennie Hocum
Miss Ruth Green
Miss Louise Hazen
Miss Maud Beauregard
Miss Martha Canterbury
Miss Marguerita Fales
Edward J. O'Day
Miss Theresa O'Day
Miss Catharine B. O'Day
Miss Anna O'Day
George A. Whiting
David B. McKerley
Miss Nettie Allen
Miss Edna Allen
George Boothby
Alfred Mundell
Miss Jennie Mundell
Miss Angie Mundell
Miss Carrie Allen
Miss Marion Allen
Miss Grace Allen
John J. Mulvey, Jr.
Miss Mary Gilmore
Arthur Brigham
Miss Ruth Warfield

APPENDIX E

Gunmen in the Pageant:

Alva Sikes, of West Brookfield.
Warren Davis, of West Brookfield.
George E. Allen, of West Brookfield.
Frank W. Baker, of West Brookfield.

Henry W. Ayres, of North Brookfield, a descendant of Sergeant John Ayres, killed in the fight with the Indians at Wenimesset, and of Joseph, 4, the only son of Sergeant John to return at the re-settlement of Brookfield, was to have acted as one of the gunmen. But, although present throughout the day, he was prevented by the condition of his health from taking an active part in the proceedings.

APPENDIX F

Members of the Quabaug Tribe of Red Men who represented Indian Warriors in the Pageant:

CHIEFS.

John J. Fitzgerald
Clarence W. S. Allen
David H. Robinson
William Macuin
Henry H. Flagg
William Letendre
Frank A. Brown
Frank E. Brown
Frank Macuin
Otto Olmstead
Edward M. Houghton

SCOUTS.

Arthur R. Stone
Arthur H. Bates

WARRIORS.

Sumner H. Reed
Levi Flagg
Louis Brown
Louis Baily
Charles Stone
Charles Wine
William Dane
John Nelson
B. A. Conway
Edward Davis
R. T. Allis
R. D. Olmstead
Alfred Brigham
Richard Young
George Canterbury
Arthur Bell
Harold Babbitt
Ralph Clark
A. E. Shumway
Robert Walker
William Foster
Frank Mahoney
Joseph Clark
Paul Grondine
Bert Shepherd
John Morgan
W. Potter
Roy Haskins
Frank Griffin
Charles Brigham

APPENDIX G

Members of the first and second grades of the West Brookfield Public Schools who rode in the parade as the "Committee in Charge of the 300th Anniversary Celebration":

Alberta Delpech	Philip Tolman
Eleanor Morgan	Donald Duggan
Harriet Boothby	Francis Flagg
Mary Mulvey	Alonzo Gilbert
Helen Flagg	Norman Smith
Gladys Pratt	Burton Smith
Millie Wright	Elliot Guertin
Helen Canterbury	Milan Lynch
Edith Greene	Ralph Chapin
Winifred Woodward	Milton Richardson
Lena Sankosky	Richard Kent
Mary Begley	Edward Morgan
Earl Smith	Walter Gould

Francis Barrett

Miss Alice J. White has taught these grades in the West Brookfield schools for thirty-three years. She is a descendant of Peregrine White, and also of John White, who was killed in the Brookfield meadows, during the early years of Brookfield history.

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