

AN ADDRESS

DELIVERED IN WALES, OCTOBER 5, 1862;

BEING

THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

OF THE

Municipal Organization of the Town;

WITH ADDITIONS AND EXTENSIONS UPON SOME MATTERS
NEEDFUL TO BRING THE HISTORY OF THE TOWN
DOWN TO JANUARY 1, 1866.

TO WHICH IS ANNEXED A

“ROLL OF HONOR,”

BEING A CATALOGUE OF THE NAMES, ETC., OF SOLDIERS FROM
THIS TOWN WHO SERVED IN THE ARMIES OF OUR
GOVERNMENT IN THE LATE CIVIL WAR.

BY

ABSALOM GARDNER.

PUBLISHED BY REQUEST.

SPRINGFIELD:
SAMUEL BOWLES AND COMPANY, PRINTERS.
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ANNIVERSARY ADDRESS.

INTRODUCTION.

Fellow Citizens and Townsmen :

It is the custom with many of the towns of our Commonwealth, in some suitable way, to commemorate the centennial anniversaries of their settlement, or of their municipal organization. And this seems very appropriate, as showing in the people of this age a due appreciation of the labors and toils of their ancestors—as manifesting a magnanimous and ennobling sense of gratitude toward the pioneer settlers of our land, and the fathers and founders of our municipal establishments and civil institutions. Our fathers and our mothers, with great assiduity and heroic fortitude, and under many and great privations and discomforts, labored and toiled to transform a wilderness country, inhabited only by wild beasts and savages, into cultivated fields and fruitful lands befitting the abode of civilized man, and to establish institutions worthy the character and conducive to the happiness of man in an enlightened and refined state. Is it not meet, then, that we, who are now reaping a rich harvest of benefits from the life-long toils of our ancestors, should devote an hour in manifesting a grateful recognition of those toils, and in commemorating the virtues of those noble souls who wisely laid the foundations of a very large share of our present civil and social enjoyments?

Since the date of the municipal organization of this town, a century has rolled its hundred years into the abyss of the past, the grave of Time, and long ago carried all the participators in the transactions of that day into

“That undiscovered country, from whose bourn
No traveler returns.”

And we, the descendants and successors of those noble actors, are here at this hour to devote a little time to the consideration of matters pertaining to the history of our town, not only contemporaneous with that event, but prior and posterior, together with some biographical sketches of some of the first settlers, and other principal inhabitants of olden time.

BRIMFIELD, ORIGINALLY

Comprised the territory now included within the lines of the present towns of Brimfield, Monson, Wales and Holland. In 1760 the west half of this domain was set off and incorporated as the “Town of Monson.” Two years later, 1762, by act of the Colonial Legislature, another slice four miles wide, north and south, was dissevered from the parent town, upon the south side, and incorporated into a separate municipality, by name of the “District of South Brimfield.”

MUNICIPAL ORGANIZATION.

On the 5th day of October, 1762, the people of the “District of South Brimfield,” under the aforesaid act of incorporation, organized by the choice of the following municipal officers:

Captain Joseph Blodgett, District Clerk; Mr. Humphrey Needham, Deacon Humphrey Cram, Captain Anthony Needham, Mr. Nehemiah May, Mr. John Moulton, Selectmen; Mr. Daniel Thompson, Constable.

The two sections of this district, for some time after its organization, bore no other distinguishing appellation than the simple designations of “West Part” and “East

Part.” But after a little time these “Parts” lost or changed their substantive names, retaining their designatory adjectives, in becoming organized and known as the “West Parish” and “East Parish” of South Brimfield. These parishes, however, continued as a single municipality for a term of twenty-one years, that was till 1783, when both came to feel that they had become “of age,” and mutually agreed to separate, and their separation was authoritatively consummated by act of the State Legislature of that year. By that act the East Parish was set off and incorporated as the “District of Holland,” leaving the West Parish in area, four miles north and south, and three and one-half miles, very nearly, east and west, thenceforward to constitute the town of South Brimfield.

In those days, it was customary in the division of towns, to incorporate the part set off, sometimes as a town and sometimes as a district. In either case the municipal rights and powers were the same, substantially, excepting only the right of representation in the Legislature; every town could send a representative—no district could do this. South Brimfield was incorporated a district in 1762; in 1775 the Legislature enlarged its powers to those of a town, and that year the town of South Brimfield sent her first representative to the “Great and General Court.”

CHANGE OF NAME.

In 1827 the people of this town became desirous of changing their town’s municipal name. One, and perhaps the principal reason creative of that desire, was the wish for a less prolix, a shorter name. A town meeting was held upon the subject, at which it was voted that the town should be named *Clinton*. This did not give satisfaction. Moreover, it had become whispered around that James L. Wales, Esq., one of our then most prominent citizens, had incorporated, or expressed a purpose to incorporate into his will, a clause making to the town a

generous bequest. Another town meeting was called, at which the action of the previous meeting was annulled, and whereat it was further voted that the name of the town should be WALES. In accordance with this vote, and a petition based thereon, the General Court of 1828, by legislative enactment, changed the town's name, discarding that of South Brimfield, and in substitution giving it that of Wales, which was, and is very palatable to all our people. And it may not be out of place here to add, that the anticipated legacy from the generous individual named was fully realized—the legacy of an estate that, since the town has had it in possession, has yielded the town an income of more than \$4,000 over all expense and trouble.

But we will now retrace our steps backward to what was perhaps our most proper starting point.

THE FIRST SETTLEMENT OF THE TOWN.

And here, anticipating the inquiry which the lover of antiquarian lore will first and most persistently press upon us, we are constrained in all candor and frankness to say, there is no known evidence extant by which it can now be determined precisely *when, where, and by whom* the *very first* settlement in this town was made. Nevertheless, in respect to all these matters, we can, by the aid of recorded facts and traditional sayings, approximate very near the marks of absolute certainty.

The primeval settlers of this town did not keep diaries of their doings and concurrent events; or if they did, the roll of years and the sweep of time long since consigned all their memoranda to that vast receptacle of by-gone occurrences, the pit of oblivion, and we are now none the wiser for them. All histories of first settlements and occurrences of any region, written long subsequent to the times of such settlements and occurrences, are more or less encumbered, or their facts intermixed with romance

and fiction, and no one may be able to separate the true from the false. Tradition, in regard to the outlines and prominent features of events long past, may be measurably reliable; but when tradition stoops to dabble in the minutia of such events, her sayings are not trustworthy.

Though, according to the most approved history, some settlements were effected in the central, and perhaps other parts of the present town of Brimfield prior to 1720, yet there seems a lack of any conclusive evidence that any white settlers were permanently domiciled within the lines now circumscribing this town earlier than 1726, although there were sales, purchases, transfers, and a limited occupation of lands inside of these lines at an earlier day. For instance, the tract now generally known in our local parlance as the "Coburn Meadow," but then called the "South Meadow," was occupied by the settlers in the now central part of Brimfield, very soon after settlement was there effected, by the cutting of the grass there grown, and transporting the same to the place of that settlement, for feeding their beasts and herds. And it may not be inappropriate to say in this connection, that there is strong reason to believe, though not indubitable proof, that the first *way* fixed in this town for the travel of man and beast was upon the line of what we now call the "Old County Road," upon the east border of our town, and leading direct from Brimfield center to the aforesaid "South Meadow."

As to the matter of *time*, then, finding the same enveloped in some obscurity, we rest upon the belief that the first settlement permanently fixed in this town was made in or about 1726. And, connectively with this, we are next to encounter these rugged questions—*where*, and *by whom* was that settlement made? If we could brush away the somber shades of a hundred and thirty years by-gone, undoubtedly we might, with scrupulous exactness, determine these matters. But we cannot now undo the past, nor create facts for retrospective application. The most

we can do is to make the best possible use of the facts of which we now find ourselves in possession.

There is satisfactory evidence, gleaned from recorded facts, that the elder John Bullen, with his family, was located in 1727, if not a year sooner, upon the premises now owned by the widow of our lately deceased townsman, Mr. Samuel L. Moulton, bordering on the Coburn Meadow; and also, that, at the same time, the elder Anthony Needham, with his family, was domiciled upon the premises now constituting the homestead of our neighbor, Mr. Nathan Green, west of the Pond. That there were then other settlers in those localities, or elsewhere in the town, may be guessed, but not proved. Taking then the criteria which we have, and knowing of no other data warranting adverse conclusions, we feel irresistibly led to believe that John Bullen and Anthony Needham were the first domiciliated in this town, and upon the premises already indicated. Further than this, touching the matters in question, we cannot exhume anything reliable from under the rubbish of uncertainty that encumbers much of what in those early times occurred. Hence we pass on to our

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

The NEEDHAMS were evidently among the very first settlers of this town. Anthony was first here. His wife, whose maiden name was Molly Moulton, was sister of the four Moulton brothers soon to be mentioned as among the first permanent settlers of the place. They reared eleven children, six of whom were sons. The oldest of these was Captain Anthony, who married Rebecca Munger, a sister of the four Munger brothers, also soon to be named as among the earliest of our town's settlers. His homestead comprised the farms in the west part of the town, and which afterward, divided, made the homesteads of our former highly respected townsmen, Alvin Needham and Cyrus Munger. Captain Anthony was a man greatly re-

spected, was the first Representative from South Brimfield in the Massachusetts Legislature, and was the progenitor of some of the most noted and worthy of our town's former inhabitants, among whom may be named Mr. Alvin Needham, already mentioned, and Alfred Needham, Esq. Another of the sons of Anthony, that was Nehemiah, was forefather of our late highly esteemed townsman, Deacon Jonathan Needham, and of several other Needham families, now component parts of our community. A small, moss-covered stone, erected in memory of the eldest Anthony in our old burying-ground, and bearing the date most ancient of any stone there being, tells us that he died July 2, 1763, aged 67.

Humphrey Needham, junior brother of Anthony, senior, came hither direct from Salem, in 1728, as shown by a deed he then took from Nathaniel Munger, of a tract of land here which subsequently became his after-life homestead, and which, at a more modern day, being subdivided, became the homesteads of our late respected townsmen, Danford and Orrin Needham, who were his grandsons. He wedded Dorothy Munger, sister of the Munger brothers alluded to before, and they reared ten children, of whom our former much esteemed townsman, Mr. Stephen Needham, was the youngest. He was a man of high standing and character, and among the public offices he filled was that of Chairman of the Board of Selectmen of South Brimfield for some years next succeeding its organization.

From those two Needham brothers, Anthony and Humphrey, have descended all the Needhams of name and blood that have ever been dwellers in this town; and here we leave them with this superadded statement, that the families and individuals of the name have been more numerous than those of any other name ever of the town.

The BULLENS were here coterminously with the first of our settlers, and during the first sixty years of the town's history were prominent among the people here re-

siding, one of whom, David Bullen, grandson of the elder John, who has been hereinbefore mentioned as the cotemporary of Anthony Needham in settlement here, was the representative from this town in the Legislature of 1780. The first death *recorded* as occurring in this town was that of Mary Bullen, daughter of John, senior, who died July 15, 1735; but it is hardly presumable that this was actually the first occurrence of the kind in the place. The locality of the Bullen settlement here has been before pointed out. John, senior, and John, junior, and their wives, all died here, but all their posterity of the paternal name removed herefrom in 1785.

Four MUNGER brothers, Nathaniel, Elnathan, Samuel and Joseph, settled and reared large families here, and have sent forth their offspring into all sections of our country, yet only a single person, an unmarried female of ninety years, bearing the Munger name is now numbered among our town's population. Of those brothers, Deacon Nathaniel was the senior. He was here in 1727; perchance he came with John Bullen, whose eldest daughter, Elizabeth, he afterwards wedded. He settled, lived, died, and was buried upon what, in colloquial phrase, we now denominate the "Coburn Farm." He reared nine children to adult life, and had a host of more remote descendants; was twice married, the last time in 1788, and died—no record telleth when, but sometime in the last decade of the 18th century. Pity that none of his posterity had the filial regard or gratitude to rear at his grave a simple granite or marble slab to indicate his place of burial, his age, and the date of his demise. His first son was Captain Jehial, a man of some distinguishing qualities, whose first wife was a sister, and his second a cousin, of our former honored inhabitant, Deacon Joel Rogers. He, with his family, emigrated in 1787 to Vermont. His fourth son was Deacon John, for many years a prominent citizen of the place, who succeeded his father in the ownership and occupancy of the paternal homestead whereon he died in the

early part of the present century, but no record or tombstone gives the exact time. Solomon Munger, of whose peculiarities and dire misfortunes some of us have recollections, was reputed the seventh, though shown by the old Brimfield town records to have been the sixth, son of Nathaniel. He died in February, 1829, aged 78.

Elnathan, oldest brother of Nathaniel, settled a mile and a half west of the central village of our town, had eight children, all sons but one, the youngest, who became the consort of our former very respectable townsman, Mr. Paul Stewart. His first son, Joel, perished in the revolutionary war. His second son, Darius Munger, Esq., became in his meridian, perhaps the most distinguished personage then of the town. He represented the town four years in the State Legislature, being one year more than any other man of the town ever served in that office, and served as Chairman of the Selectmen thirteen years. He died November 21, 1815, aged 70. Deacon Daniel Munger, Mr. Cyrus Munger, and Mr. Amasa Munger were all younger sons of Elnathan, and all prominent and highly respected citizens of our town, though Deacon Daniel left here in 1797.

Deacon Samuel, brother of Nathaniel and Elnathan, was here in early life, settled, lived and died upon the premises at this day making the homestead of Mr. Arba Squier. He was the grandfather of the only person of the Munger name now living in our town.

Joseph, the junior of the four Munger brothers aforementioned, settled on the premises now constituting the homestead of Mr. Julius M. Lyon. His second wife, Naomi, was a daughter of the first Anthony Needham. They had a large family, all of whom removed to Vermont in 1780.

The MOULTONS now of this town count but a small number, yet, reckoning from the start to the present, in families and individuals, they number more numerous than any other name except the Needhams.

Rev. Ebenezer Moulton was here in 1728, if not earlier. It is said he was married and had one child when he came here. He made his primal settlement upon what for long time past has borne the distinguishing appellation of the "*Old Wales Tavern Stand*," and it is not an improbable saying of tradition, that he was the first man to erect the rude habitation upon, the first tiller of the soil and cultivator of, the fields of that noted place. The biography of this man is deeply ingrained with the early ecclesiastical history of this town. He was an ardent and somewhat enthusiastic advocate and disseminator of the sentiments of the Baptists; and it was under his auspices, and through the instrumentality of him and his labors, chiefly, that the Baptist Church here was gathered and organized in 1736. He was not then a regularly constituted minister of the denomination; but he officiated as the religious teacher of that infant church till November 4, 1741, when he was formally ordained to the gospel ministry, and set over that church as their pastor.

At that day there was no other church of the Baptist order anywhere in this region, and Mr. Moulton, in his zeal and laboriousness, in addition to his duties here, performed much of a sort of missionary service in the preaching and promulgation of his doctrine in the neighboring towns and regions. And in this service he was sometimes made to feel the rod of persecution. On one occasion, at least, after the conclusion of one of his usually earnest and spirited discourses in the town of Sturbridge, he was abruptly arrested and restrained of his liberty for a brief term, as a heretic or religious fanatic, a disturber of the public tranquility and promoter of sedition. But probably he was guilty of no wrong in the matter, only as his independent, fearless expression of his own religious sentiments was considered such, and that the action of the civil authorities in the case of his arrest was only an outbreak of the persecuting spirit which was not then shorn of all its malign power.

Mr. Moulton's pastorate continued with the church here twenty-two years, or till 1763, at which time he went hence to Nova Scotia. He was absent from here some twenty years, during which time, the saying is, that he rendered some service as a chaplain in the British Navy. If this saying be true, it tends to give a coloring of truthfulness to another legendary story concerning him, which is, that he was a tory during the time of our revolutionary struggle with Great Britain. About 1783 he returned hither, and here soon after died. His family left here with him in 1763, and none of them ever after returned here to tarry.

Samuel Moulton, brother of Ebenezer, was here some years prior to his marriage, which, as says the record, was January 30, 1739, to Molly Haynes, of Brimfield, and became proprietor of a tract of land here, which he in part cleared up, and whereupon he erected a rude dwelling—having thus provided a home for a companion before taking one—a very judicious calculation. The tract he selected comprised the premises, or the lands now constituting the homestead of the widow and heirs of our late respected townsman, Dr. Aaron Shaw. But not long after his marriage, he and his brother Ebenezer traded and exchanged residences, whereupon he became owner and occupant of what we term the "Old Wales Tavern Stand," upon which, as the legend has it, he opened, and for some years kept an inn, or house of public entertainment, the first ever kept in this town. He had eight children, one of whom, Robert, was the father of our present townsman, Mr. Horace Moulton.

John Moulton, brother of Ebenezer and Samuel, was very early settled here, making his stand and after-life home upon the place now being the residence of our neighbor, Mr. Henry Pratt, near the outlet of the Pond. He was a man of some note, was put upon the first Board of Selectmen of the town, and held other offices of honor and trust. He had six children. John Bounds Moulton,

who had the acquaintance of most of us, and who recently died just over our town line in Stafford, was his grandson.

Freeborn Moulton, brother of the three Moultons that have been mentioned, settled primarily in this town on the farm at this day owned and occupied by Mr. Wm. L. Needham, and was the primeval occupant of those premises. However, he did not stop there many years, but sold that estate and made another purchase of a tract farther west, and there settled and became the forefather of a numerous race in that part of Monson called "Moulton Hill." Several families of his descendants have, at different times, dwelt in this town, and among them that of our formerly very highly esteemed townsman, Mr. Jesse Moulton, who died, deeply lamented, November 28, 1815, in his meridian of life and usefulness.

Contemporaneous with the settlement here of the four brothers afore-named, came Jonathan Moulton, reputed to have been a cousin of those brothers, and made his life-long settlement on what we call the "Hall Place," in the south-west section of the town. He left a numerous posterity, one of whom was our lately deceased townsman, Mr. Needham Moulton, his grandson.

There is a legendary saying that the Needhams, Mungers and Moultons all came hither from Salem. That the elder Humphrey Needham did so is conclusively shown, as has been before remarked; but the elder Anthony Needham resided some years in what is now Brimfield before fixing his permanent abode in this town. As for the four Moulton brothers who settled here, it may be said, there are strong reasons for believing that they were sons of Robert Moulton, senior, then a distinguished inhabitant of Brimfield, and the first Representative from that town in the Colonial Legislature after the town's incorporation in 1730. Nevertheless, all those persons may have come originally, and to the original township of Brimfield, from Salem; and as their descendants all

have ever persistently claimed that derivation, it may not be an unreasonable conclusion that their traditionary claim is based in fact.

The families of JOHNSONS, JORDANS and HOVEYS were among those foremost in making their domiciliary lodgment in this place, and some of these included persons of distinction, especially in the Baptist Church here in its juvenile years. But as none of them have now living descendants here to be interested in a development of their biographies, and as no particular public interest would be thereby subserved, we pass them by without the labor of digging out such facts as might be obtained from underneath the rubbish of uncertainty which enshrouds their histories.

The COLLINS families have never been numerous here, and the name has been extinct in our population for fifty years past, though the blood still courses in the veins of some of our people. Nathaniel Collins and Deborah Morgan were married March 31, 1730, which is the earliest marriage that can be found recorded of any parties resident in this town. They were among the emigrants from Springfield to Brimfield, and fixed their home here immediately upon their marriage, upon the "Old Collins Place," half a mile south-east from the north-west corner of our town. There they lived, reared a family, and died at an advanced age.

The SHAWs were domiciled here at an early period. Two brothers, Joshua and Seth, held the title to a large tract lying upon either side of where now runs the line between this town and Brimfield, three-fourths of a mile east from the north-west corner of this town. Joshua settled on the Brimfield side of this tract, and Seth upon this town's side, in 1731, upon the premises now making the homestead of Mr. Eli Gardner. Seth remained here till 1736, then removed to Palmer. He had other brothers than Joshua, and perhaps parents then resident in Brimfield, and our present townsmen, Messrs. Daniel,

Calvin and Selim C. Shaw are among the descendants of the brothers of Seth.

The other Shaws now of this town are of a different lineage. Most of these trace their origin to one John Shaw, who came hither from Grafton in 1752, and settled upon what is now the homestead of Mr. Sewell Shaw, who is grandson of the said John. He had two sons, John and Samuel; the first of these was father of our former respected townsman, Mr. Sylvanus Shaw, and the second was father of our much esteemed townsmen, Messrs. Aaron and Solomon Shaw, deceased, and Sewell Shaw, now living.

The GARDNERS bear an ancient family name of this town. In 1736 Seth Shaw traded lands with Humphrey Gardner of Palmer, whereupon Seth removed to Palmer, and Humphrey came hither. There is a legend to the following purport touching this trade. Humphrey and his family were so vexed and troubled with *witches* in Palmer that they could not endure their vexations and troubles, therefor was he induced to make the trade he did with Mr. Shaw, and to remove here. Whether he left those vexatious witches in Palmer, or whether they followed him hither, the legend saith not. Humphrey remained and died here, and all the lands he acquired from Mr. Shaw in this town, have been owned and improved by him and his descendants of the Gardner name, from that day to this, a term of about 130 years. A parallel case the records of the town do not afford. He reared three sons, Charles, William, and Humphrey. The two first of these remained, reared families, and died in this town; Humphrey settled in the south part of Monson, there reared a family and died at an advanced age.

A number of DAVIS families have been of this town, and divers their origin, or lines of descent. One or two only of these can be noticed. Captain Trustrum Davis is shown by olden records to have been here as early as 1732, domiciled on what we designate as the "Houghton

Place," toward the north-east corner of the town, and he is reputed to have been the first settler upon that farm. He seems to have been a very active, prominent man of the place, for some thirty or more years, after which we hear no more of him or any of his family, except his daughter Sibyl, who became the first consort of the elder Asa Houghton.

Our late highly esteemed townsman, Deacon Moses Davis, unrelated by any recognized ties of consanguinity to Captain Davis, came to this town from Charlton in 1801; died here September 5, 1854, aged 85. He was Deacon of the Congregational Church organized in this town, and was father of our present townsman, Mr. Moses Davis.

The GREENS of this town have been pretty numerous. They sprung from two sources. Thomas Green, son of one Thomas Green of Brimfield, came hither in 1737, and established his abode upon the lands now of the homestead of Mr. William Nelson, west of the pond. He was in some respects peculiar, and rather eccentric. Our former townsmen, the elder Daniel and Aaron Green were his sons. Daniel was a chip of the old block; his eccentricities were proverbial.

Robert Green came here in 1743 from Tolland, Ct. October 11, 1744, he wedded Sarah Rogers, sister of Ichabod and Deacon Joel Rogers, and fixed his after-life home in almost the extreme north-west corner of this town, his dwelling being but few rods south of that corner, and almost exactly upon ground through which now runs the line between this town and Monson. All the Greens that have dwelt in the western part of this town have descended from him, among whom are to be reckoned our former respected townsmen, Messrs. Joel, Amos and Reuben Green, his sons, with all the other families and persons to be counted as of their posterity.

To one or two of the BROWN families heretofore of this town must we give a passing notice. Among the early

settlers here was one Robert Brown, who came hither from Brimfield, and was the first occupant of the old "Hassett Farm," now the homestead of Mr. Carlton L. Stebbins, upon which he remained and died.

Robert Brown, Jr., son of Robert afore-mentioned, married Mary Needham, daughter of Captain Anthony, and established his abode half a mile west of his father's residence, near Monson line. The closing chapter in his history, as avouched by tradition, makes his case in one particular so remarkable that the annals of the town afford no parallel. Upon a certain day he left his dwelling, giving his family no intimation or reason to suspect that anything new or strange was to occur; his family knew not whither he went, and, though great effort was made to find him, or ascertain what became of him, the sequel was, nothing ever after was seen or heard of him by his family, or any one else, that could be verified as certainty.

The CARPENTERS, though never numerous, were once noted here. William Carpenter came hither about 1740, wedded Hannah Needham, daughter of the first Anthony, reared a large family, abode here till 1782, then removed to Stafford, and there died March 9, 1809. His homestead in this town consisted of what we call the "Walbridge Place," in the south-west quarter of the town, and he is credited with being the primitive occupant of that farm. Our old town records show that he generally officiated as Moderator of the Town Meetings of his day. He represented the town of South Brimfield in the Convention of 1780, for the formation of our State Constitution. It is not known that any of his posterity of name or blood have dwelt in this town for sixty years past.

The ROGERS families have been somewhat noted here, in regard to both numerical and characteristic matters. Two brothers, Ichabod and Joel, were the progenitors of all the Rogers family circles of this town. They came here from Windham, Ct., in 1748, and here remained and

died. Ichabod is shown by olden records to have had thirteen, and to have reared twelve children, eight of whom were sons. All these sons but one married and had families here, and some of them very large families yet there is not now here one of the descendants of Ichabod of the Rogers name, and hardly a dozen of any other name. He settled in the centrally south part of the town, a mile from Stafford line, where he died January 19, 1800, aged 81.

Deacon Joel Rogers, brother of Ichabod, has a long and an honorable record here in many respects. Not only was he honored with official station and trust in the Baptist Church, of which he was a very worthy member, but likewise by his townsmen, in the repeated bestowment of almost every municipal office of responsibility and trust; and among the many tokens they gave him of their confidence and respect was that of selecting him to represent the town in the General Court of 1797. He settled, and was the first settler, upon the place now being the homestead of Mr. Harding G. Back, in the north-western part of our town. Our present somewhat aged and much respected townsman, Mr. Joel Rogers, is his grandson.

Here we propose to digress a little from our wonted course, and briefly touch upon the matter of *longevity*, as relating comparatively to some individuals heretofore of our town.

Samuel Shaw died here September 15, 1841, aged 92 years. *James Walker* died here March 8, 1847, aged 94 years, nearly. Deacon JOEL ROGERS died here June 1823, (no grave-stone or other record gives the day,) aged 94 years and 8 months, being, as is believed, the oldest *man* that ever yet died in this town.

Widow *Marcilva Needham*, relict of Captain David Needham, died here May 20, 1853, aged 94 years. Widow *Rebecca Bond* died here July 22, 1845, aged 94½ years. Widow RACHEL TRASK died here August 9, 1845, aged 99 years, 1 month, 12 days, being, as is believed, the oldest *person* that ever died in this town.

JOSHUA MELLEN, son of Rev. James Mellen, pastor of the Baptist Church here one hundred years ago, was born here September 14, 1765, and died in Westborough in this State, February 22, 1858, aged 93⁺ years, 5 months, 8 days, an age greater than any other *man* born in this town is known to have gained.

ANNAH NEEDHAM, daughter of Captain Anthony Needham, was born here March 2, 1742, and died in Union, Ct., in the year 1844, at an age of over 102 years, and she is believed to have attained to a greater age than any other *person* ever born in this town.

The FENTON families of this town have been few, but to some extent distinguished. William Fenton, of Irish birth, settled here in 1750, in the north-west part of our town, on land now making the homestead of Mr. Anson Baker, where he died November 14, 1804, aged 88. He married Anne Shaw, niece of Seth Shaw, of whom notice has been taken. They raised a family of two sons and seven daughters.

John Fenton, first son of William, married Marcia Moulton, daughter of John Moulton, of whom some account has before been given. He removed to Brimfield in 1792, where he reared a large family, and died September 7, 1826, aged 66.

Timothy Fenton, second son of William, remained upon the paternal homestead, married Sally Wales, daughter of Oliver Wales, senior, and died in this town October 23, 1834, aged 70. He had no offspring. He was a man of considerable distinction in town; held many of the most important town offices, and was the town's representative to the Legislature in 1819.

The NELSONS have been quite numerous here in times past, though not so at this day. Our former much esteemed townsman, Mr. George Nelson, lived here nearly all his days, and died here October 13, 1841, aged 79. He descended from John Nelson, in early life a resident of Brimfield. "Uncle George," as we familiarly called him,

was all Nelson, for his mother's maiden name was Elizabeth Nelson, as shown by the olden record of the connubial connection of herself and husband. His consort was Susan Fenton, daughter of William Fenton, of whom some account has been given. Of their eight children, all but one have either departed for the spirit land or become scattered about our country elsewhere than here.

Most of the other Nelsons hitherto of this town, not of the posterity of George, were, or are descended from William Nelson, who settled here about 1740, upon the place where his son, our late respected townsman, Mr. Timothy Nelson, lived and died. He reared ten children, nine of whom were sons. Our former townsman, Mr. Hezekiah Nelson, was, and our present townsman, Mr. William Nelson, is, grandson of William.

Of the DIMMICKS here, Shubal was the first, and progenitor of all the others. Shubal Dimmick came here from Mansfield, Ct., about 1750, and first settled upon what we call the "Royce Place," east of the pond. Afterwards he erected and run a grist-mill, which stood nearly upon the site of Mr. Eden D. Shaw's newly erected factory building. From the erection of his mill, the brook whereon it stood, acquired, and for a half century thereafter retained, the designated appellation of "Mill Brook," as is evinced by old records and deeds wherein mention thereof is made. He died in February, 1797, aged 82. He had two children—a son and a daughter.

Gideon Dimmick, son of Shubal, was a respectable citizen of our town, and died here June 23, 1820, aged 69. He reared a large family, of whom Mr. James Dimmick, who recently died in this town, was one, and another is Mrs. Anson Soule, now living here at an age of nearly ninety years.

The WINCHESTERS must not be herein omitted, though none of the name or blood have lived here for the last fifty years. Captain Daniel Winchester came hither from Roxbury about 1758, and died here October 4, 1797, aged

64. He succeeded Mr. Dimmick in the ownership and occupancy of the "Royce Place," where he many years kept a store, such as small country towns in those days afforded. He had no children. He was an active, influential man; was sent Delegate from South Brimfield to the Provincial Congress that convened in Salem October 7, 1774; and twice represented the town in the State Legislature.

Benjamin Winchester, nephew of Captain Daniel, was once a prominent inhabitant of this place, resided here about twenty-five years, then connected himself with the society of Shakers of Harvard, Mass., and removed thither with his family in 1815.

Numerous Fisk families have abode in this town, all from one progenitor, Captain Asa Fisk, senior, who was an immigrant from Hampton, Ct., in 1762. His first lodgment here was upon the place which subsequently became noted as the "Wales Tavern Stand," where for a time he pursued the vocations of inn-holder and farmer. After that he purchased a large tract upon the elevated ground in the south part of the town, which has not inappropriately been called "Fisk Hill," and there made his after-life home upon the premises now being the homestead of Mr. Moses Davis. He was a man of much energy and decision of character, and in midlife exerted a largely controlling influence in the affairs of the town. He had eleven children, most of whom became heads of families here, and some of whom, particularly his sons, Captain Hezekiah and Captain Asa, became distinguished among the town's inhabitants. He died February 8, 1812; no record gives his age.

Few have been the ANDREWS families of our town, but we give them a brief notice. Robert Andrews, the first of the name here, as conclusively proved by the old town records, came hither from Coventry, Ct., in 1761. He was domiciled on the "Farrington Place," contiguous to the northern extremity of the pond. In 1789 he emigra-

ted hence to the State of New York; and about the same time all his sons and their families, excepting his son Robert, removed from this place. Robert Andrews, junior, continued through life here, and died February 14, 1838, aged 79. He married Eunice, daughter of Nehemiah Needham, and made his residence in the central part of the south border of the town, upon a naturally uneven, rough, rocky farm, which, by judicious calculations, unwearied and laborious industry, he made very fertile and productive. This farm, at his decease, became the homestead of his son Alvin, who died thereon, April 4, 1862, aged 73, deeply lamented in his death, as he had been greatly honored and respected in life for his many virtues.

The WALES families here seem next to command attention. Oliver Wales, senior, came to this town from Union, Ct., in 1766, and here married Elizabeth, daughter of Dr. James Lawrence; staid here till 1778, when he swapped farms with his brother Elijah Wales, and returned to Union, and Elijah came hither. In 1787 these brothers again traded farms and exchanged residences, after which Oliver continued and died here March 23, 1816, at the age of 72. His residence here was upon the premises repeatedly hereinbefore mentioned as the "Wales Tavern Stand," whereupon he abode and followed the double vocation of farmer and inn-holder to the day of his demise. He was twice married and reared ten children to adult life. He was twice, 1800, 1801, chosen to represent his town in the State Legislature.

James Lawrence Wales, Esq., first son of Oliver, has already been honorably named as the donor of a liberal bequest to the town which bears his name. His many virtues, aside from the matter of his legacy, will long hold him in the honoring recollections of his townsmen. He died July 3, 1840, aged 70, leaving no posterity.

Our late highly esteemed townsman, Royal Wales, Esq., was the second son of Oliver. Several of his first adult

years he abode here, then dwelt several years in Coventry, Ct., next lived some years in Brimfield, whence he returned hither in 1838, and died here August 30, 1857, aged 84. In his will he left a legacy of \$500 to the Baptist Society of this place. He was thrice chosen representative from this town to the Legislature, that was in 1810—11—13.

Captain Oliver Wales, third son of Oliver, senior, was an honored resident here till his removal hence to the West in 1838. He died in Indiana, September 26, 1855, at the age of 76 years.

REV. JAMES MELLEN, second pastor of the Baptist Church of this town, came hither from Framingham in 1765, and officiated in his pastoral and ministerial duties till 1769, when his health failing, he left the place for the seashore, hoping for a recuperation, or, at least, a check of the wasting malady then preying upon his vitals. But he survived his departure from here but a few weeks, and died very suddenly while on a visit to his friends in Dover in this State, aged 37. He had one son born here, an account of whose death and longevity has already been given.

REV. ELIJAH CODDINGTON, fourth pastor of the Baptist Church here, now claims our special consideration, because of his extraordinarily long term of pastoral service, and the strongly inwoven connection of his biography with the town's history. He came to this town from Middleborough in 1773, and continued and died here, May 7, 1830, at the ripe age of 88 years. He was married in Wrentham, November 4, 1773, to Miss Sarah Heaton; just one week after, November 11, he was ordained and installed pastor of the church here; and on the 8th of December following he removed hither his wife and effects. He filled the pastorate here fifty-three years; served as Town Clerk two years; as Chaplain of a regiment of our State militia ten years; and, as shown by his own private record, officiated at three hundred and fifteen marriages. He was not, certainly not in his latter years, overborne

with bigotry; was possessed of rather liberal Christian sentiments and feelings; was bland and affable in social circles, and everybody liked him. For his ministerial services he was compensated by and in the way of voluntary contributions, made up of such donations and presents as the people saw fit to bestow. Anything of value, provisions for support of himself and family, labor upon his land, or aught beside, were always and very thankfully accepted. His practice was to keep an exact account of all his donations and presents, with the estimated value of the same, and at the close of each year read from his pulpit a synopsis of his account, so that all might know how much he received, and from whom the same was received. Everybody in town almost felt it a bounden duty to contribute to him something reasonable, annually. He had two children, daughters, one of whom was the first consort of Royal Wales, Esq., the other the wife of our late respected townsman, Mr. James Babcock. His old gambrel-roofed dwelling still may be seen upon the high ground at the northern extremity of the main street in the central village of our town. There may it long stand monumentally of its former reverend and venerable occupant.

The HOUGHTONS, though few, claim our consideration. The first of these was Asa Houghton, senior, who came to this town from Union, Ct., in 1779. His homestead was what we have called the "Houghton Place," then aforetime having been the place of residence of his father-in-law, Captain Trustrum Davis. Upon this farm he lived, died, April 17, 1829, aged 87, and his remains were interred agreeably to his own wishes. He was one of the sound, substantial yeomanry of the town, and much respected. He was the third representative from here in the Legislature of the State, 1784. He was followed in the ownership and occupancy of the old homestead by his son, Captain Asa Houghton, who, like his father, abode, died, April 2, 1855, aged 61, and was buried thereon.

Numerically large have been the WALKER families of this town, and they nearly all sprung from Benjamin Walker, who came here from Bridgewater in 1777, and purchased a tract of land in the south-west quarter of the town, whereon he seated some of his sons, and at a later day, himself; for he was a ship-carpenter by trade and remained away, laboring at that employment till 1788, at which date he fixed his home here, continuing and dying here in 1816. His descendants that have dwelt here have nearly all and always resided in the immediate vicinity of his location. All his sons, James, Marshal, Joseph, Benjamin, and Linus, resided here more or less with their families, some of which were quite large.

The WALBRIDGE families here have not been many, nor very much distinguished. William Walbridge was progenitor of all the others of the name here living. Time of his first coming is not ascertained. Esther Shaw, said to have been a niece of Seth Shaw, made his first companion. They had several children—quarreled—separated—he went to Stafford and there staid some years—there he and his wife are said to have been divorced—after that he returned hither with another wife and family of children, remained and died here in May, 1807, aged 76. His second wife was Rebecca Moulton, daughter of Jonathan Moulton, whose settlement here has been briefly noticed. He abode and died upon what herein-before designated as the “Walbridge Place,” in the south-west part of the town.

Ames Walbridge, son of William by his second wife, succeeded his father as owner and occupant of the paternal homestead, whereon he died, July 27, 1851, aged 69. In midlife he was reckoned among the most prominent and substantial of our town's farming population.

The PERRY families here have always resided in the extreme south-east part of the town. Manasseh Perry came here from Douglas about 1770, and settled within a furlong's length of the south-east corner of the town, where

he remained through his residue of life. His sons, Abner, Josiah, Isaac, and Micah, all married and abode here with their families for a while, but subsequently scattered off, excepting Abner, who dwelt upon the premises now making the homestead of Mr. Oliver A. Perry, and who died here December 11, 1820, aged 60. He was the father of our late respectable townsman, Mr. Silas Perry.

Captain Joseph Perry, between whom and Manasseh no ties of consanguinity were recognized, came hither from Sturbridge in 1795, staid here till 1802, then emigrated to the then District, now State of Maine. His son, our late very worthy townsman, Mr. John Perry, remained here upon the premises now being the homestead of his son, Mr. Samuel B. Perry, and died here at the age of 64, September 8, 1844.

The TIFFANY families next command attention. James Tiffany, senior, came to this place from Douglas in or about 1780, continued here till 1795, then left. James Tiffany, junior, son of the first James, came here with his father, was here married in 1781, to Mary Howe, succeeded Captain Winchester as owner and occupant of the "Royce Place," and also in merchandising or store-keeping upon a small scale thereon, and died here March 25, 1823, aged 62. His sons, Dexter, Lyman, Bela and Loring, all became noted here and elsewhere in the world of business and trade, manufacturing, merchandising, and otherwise.

Bela Tiffany, Esq., son of James, junior, was here in childhood and youth, and till 1808; was then off elsewhere in business till 1825, at which time he returned hither with his family, and here tarried till 1830, when he left again. He died in August, 1851, aged 66—his death being the result of an injury in being thrown from his wagon as he was returning from Palmer to his home in Southbridge. Though he was not faultless more than others, yet, as the originator of the first manufacturing establishment in this town, he is entitled to the honored

and grateful remembrance of all desirers of our town's prosperity. We have now no right to say there would be at this time any cloth manufactories in this town, had it not been for the start and impetus given by him to that branch of industry; and he must be a dolt indeed who does not understand in some good degree the benefits by our town derived from the manufacturing business done in this place.

The first of the STEWARTS, that was James Stewart, came hither in 1780 from New Braintree. He remained and died here. Among his descendants are to be numbered some very good men that were counted with our town's inhabitants in days past. Of these may be named his son, Mr. Paul Stewart, who died February 22, 1851, aged 87, and his grandson, Captain Joseph Stewart, who died May 2, 1857, aged 69, both of whom were highly esteemed by their neighbors and townsmen, for their moral rectitude and excellence of character.

The WIGHTS bear not a name known here at a very early day. The first here was Mr. Daniel Wight, who came in 1791, from Wrentham, and who continued and died here, January 20, 1800, aged 46. He run a grist-mill here which stood upon the south side of the highway, and nearly opposite the dwelling-house of Mr. Warren Shaw. Captain Nathan Wight, a distant relative of Daniel, came hither from Bellingham in 1797; staid here till 1820, then removed to Attica in Western New York, where he died in 1832, aged 75. His employment when here was in the agricultural line, in the cultivation and management of his farm situated a mile and more west of the central village of our town. During a term of some years of his stay here he exerted much of a controlling influence in the affairs of the town; but this influence was nearly, if not entirely, lost before he left the place. From him descends the ancestral line of all bearing the Wight name who have been dwellers in this town for the last fifty years.

The SMITHS, THOMPSONS and ROYCES, all of whom lat-

terly have been pretty numerous here, are modern comers, and of whom, for that reason, but few words will be said. Of most of the *Smiths* that have been or are here, the progenitor was our former respected townsman, Mr. James Smith, who came hither in 1800 from Brookfield, and died here September 3, 1834, aged 84.—Of most of the *Thompsons* resident here, the lineage goes back to our former esteemed inhabitant, Mr. Abner Thompson, who came to this place from Smithfield, Rhode Island, in 1807, and died here March 7, 1839, aged 78.—The *Royces* here all came from our late respectable townsman, Mr. Joseph C. Royce, who came hither in 1815 from Mansfield, Ct., and here died December 1, 1845, at the age of 77 years.

OTHER SUBJECTS.

Having already in our biographical sketches exceeded what may perhaps be deemed our reasonable limits, we will here break off that subject, and briefly notice some other matters appertaining to our town's history.

PRACTICING PHYSICIANS.

First we will give a list of the names of all the duly constituted members of the Medical Fraternity that have ever been located in this town in the practice of their professional vocation, with the times of their being here superadded, which list is as follows:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Dr. James Lawrence, | here from 1746 to 1778, | 32 years. |
| 2. Dr. Dudley Wade, | “ 1779 “ 1783, | 4 “ |
| 3. Dr. Abel Sherman, | “ 1783 “ 1786, | 3 “ |
| 4. Dr. Jeremiah Round, | “ 1787 “ 1789, | 2 “ |
| 5. Dr. David Young, | “ 1790 “ 1802, | 12 “ |
| 6. Dr. Ferdinand Lethbridge, | “ 1805 “ 1811, | 6 “ |
| 7. Dr. Thadeus Fairbanks, | “ 1811 “ 1815, | 4 “ |
| 8. Dr. Daniel Tiffany, | “ 1812 “ 1822, | 10 “ |
| 9. Dr. Aaron Shaw, | “ 1813 “ 1845, | 32 “ |
| 10. Dr. John Smith, | “ 1815 “ 1866, | 51 “ |
| 11. Dr. Cornelius M. Stewart, | “ 1846 “ 1848, | 2 “ |

A brief memorandum, biographically given of each of the individuals named in the foregoing catalogue, would not be out of place here; but neither our limits nor our information in regard to some of the men will allow this to be done fully; yet a few historic facts shall be given of some of them.

Dr. James Lawrence came to this place from Killingly, Ct., in or about 1746, but before making a stand anywhere, he went to the now central part of Brimfield, and made a survey of the situation and prospective condition of matters there, and considered these in comparison with the same in this place, and finally came to the conclusion that this was a "smarter place" than that, and consequently determined to, and did, here establish himself in his professional vocation, continuing here to the time of his demise, which was caused by small pox, May 14, 1778, at the age of 58 years. In his day and generation, he seems to have been a very prominent and highly respectable inhabitant of the place.

Dr. David Young came here from Worcester in 1790, and here located as a practicing physician. He afterwards opened a store and followed the business of a merchant. In progress of his vocations he became pecuniarily embarrassed, which led him, in connection with Aaron Winchester as an accomplice, to concoct a scheme of gross fraud and cheating, whereby to save his estate from his honest creditors, and for his own benefit. But this plot was blasted in its inceptive stage, or thwarted in its development, and the two conspirators in the fraud drew down upon their heads a storm of just indignation from their townsmen here; and a part of the sequel was, that Dr. Young hastily removed to Brimfield, declaring that he would never more live in this town. He died in Brimfield a few months after going thither, but his remains were brought here for interment by the side of his first consort, who was the daughter and only child of Darius Munger, Esq. Undoubtedly both he and Winchester,

from that transaction, learned that there was wisdom in the old commandatory adage—"Let mischief alone before it is meddled with."

Dr. Ferdinand Lethbridge came to this town in 1805 from Medway, and continued here to the time of his decease in 1811. His remains were taken to Medway for burial. He was a bachelor.

Dr. Daniel Tiffany was not of the family, but a relative of the other Tiffanys that have been herein-before named; had his residence here two years, 1792-3, then left; returned in 1812, claiming to be of the medical brotherhood, continued here till 1822, then removed to Webster. When here he abode in different localities, but mostly in the outskirts of the town, and when not professionally engaged gave his attention to agricultural pursuits. He was not regarded as superlatively smart or skillful, and did not have an extensive practice.

Dr. Aaron Shaw first studied with Dr. Lethbridge; after that studied and practiced some elsewhere; then, 1813, established himself in the vocation of his profession in this town, in which he continued with fair success to the time of his decease, July 17, 1845, at the age of 62 years. He was son of Samuel, and grandson of John Shaw, senior, of whose settlement here an account has before been given.

Dr. John Smith, though now living here at the age of 80 years, but not in much professional service, shall not for that or any cause be passed by without a succinct but respectful notice. He is son of James Smith whose coming and residence here have been before herein considered. He commenced his professional labors in Maine, but came hither in 1815, and has been since then to this time, January 1, 1866, a resident and medical practitioner in this town. His practice has been pretty extensive for a small place like this, and it is believed that most of our people have been quite well satisfied with his services.

ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY.

THE BAPTISTS.

We have no historic or traditional account of any movement here, by way of an association for religious purposes, earlier than the organization of the Baptist Church here, October 4, 1736. This church, at the start, consisted of *twenty-six* members. The first deacons were Joseph Hovey and Benjamin Johnson. During several years after their first pastor, Mr. Moulton, left them, in 1763, the church had many troubles, the members were divided in feeling if not in sentiment, some seceded, or perhaps had done so at a day earlier than that here indicated, and the church, for a time, became almost extinct. A reorganization of the church was effected in 1771, under the influence and labors of Mr. Ewing, their third pastor, after which they had more of peace and prosperity. The following is a list of pastors of this church to the present time:

1. Rev. Ebenezer Moulton,	from	1741	to	1763,	22	years.
2. Rev. James Mellen,	"	1765	"	1769,	4	"
3. Rev. William Ewing,	"	1770	"	1772,	2	"
4. Rev. Elijah Coddington,	"	1773	"	1826,	53	"
5. Rev. Joshua Eveleth,	"	1826	"	1829,	3	"
6. Rev. John M. Hunt,	"	1829	"	1830,	1	"
7. Rev. Tubal Wakefield,	"	1834	"	1836,	2	"
8. Rev. George Mixter,	"	1836	"	1842,	6	"
9. Rev. Warren Cooper,	"	1842	"	1843,	1	"
10. Rev. Volney Church,	"	1843	"	1848,	5	"
11. Rev. Samuel R. Allard,	"	1848	"	1850,	2	"
12. Rev. Henry H. Hazleton,	"	1850	"	1851,	1	"
13. Rev. Sylvester Barrows,	"	1851	"	1852,	1	"
14. Rev. Asa A. Robinson,	"	1852	"	1856,	4	"
15. Rev. William S. Phillips,	"	1856	"	1860,	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	"
16. Rev. Moses Curtis,	"	1861	"	1862,	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	"

The seventeenth and present pastor of the church is Rev. Justus Aldrich, who commenced his services in August, 1862. The present number of members of the

church is one hundred and fourteen, as shown by the official report made to the Sturbridge Association, to which it belongs, at its last session. These then are all the facts had in contemplation to be given concerning this church, excepting such as are inwoven in the biographical sketches before given of Rev. Messrs. Moulton, Mellen and Coddington, and also such as may come in what shall be said upon the subject of meeting-houses soon to be considered.

CONGREGATIONALISTS.

Though it is not now possible to brush away all the cobwebs of uncertainty that hang around the early ecclesiastical history of this town, yet it is not too much, nor unreasonable to believe that, from our earliest history, there have existed here those who have held the sentiments, and considered themselves of the denomination usually in latter times styled "Orthodox Congregationalists." Indeed, it is a well ascertained fact that in the middle and latter part of the last century, a portion of the people here were of that order, and were connected with a church of their order then existing in the East Parish of the then town or district of South Brimfield, now Holland. But we have no data for determining the numbers or strength of this denomination here till about the close of the last, and commencement of the present century, when the Union Meeting-house was here built. Nor do we now know of the existence of any proof that this sect ever here had any organized religious associational connection prior to 1819, at which time they here organized a church of *twelve* members. This church never grew much, but lingered out a fragile existence of a few years, and then became extinct. This denomination never here had constant or regular preaching, but only that, and but little of that, which was occasional.

UNIVERSALISTS.

In the latter years of the last century, say from and after 1780, a goodly number of the people of this town

became believers in the doctrine of Universal Restoration. Rev. Elhanan Winchester, once a Baptist, afterwards a distinguished Restorationist divine, was occasionally here. He was a son of Deacon Elhanan Winchester who lived here a short term; and he also had three brothers and one sister then residing here; besides, Captain Daniel Winchester, long a prominent and honored citizen here, was his uncle, consequently it seems reasonable to conclude that he was first attracted hither to make visits to his relatives; and as his custom was, when visiting here, he here preached more or less. His writings also, which were somewhat voluminous and interesting, were hereabout quite extensively circulated and read. Under the influence of his preaching and writings, his doctrine was here planted, and here grew and spread considerably. At two or three different times heretofore, the Universalists, or, as they were formerly called here, Restorationists, have had societies here organized, each of which endured for a few years, and then expired. They never had anything more than occasional preaching here, and not very much of that.

The relative strength of the three denominations that have been mentioned, at the commencement of the present century, may be judged of with some approximation to accuracy by the shares each took in the Union Meeting-house by them then here built, whereof we shall very soon speak. There is now in this town no society or other organization of those holding the sentiments of the Universalist denomination.

METHODISTS.

The primitive establishment of a Methodist Society and Church here occurred in 1830. The Rev. Horace Moulton was the first preacher of the order that ever regularly officiated in this town; and it was through the instrumentality of him, by his labors and efforts, chiefly, that such organizations were effected. He was a son of our

former highly esteemed townsman, Mr. Jesse Moulton, and a great-grandson of Freeborn Moulton, one of the pioneer settlers of our town, and of whom a concise account has before been given.

The Methodist Society here is of so recent origin, and everything of its history is so generally and so well known in our community, that it seems a work of supererogation, if not inappropriate, to elaborate any detailed statement of matters and things concerning the same. We will, therefore, only add to what has thus far been said upon the subject, a catalogue of the circuit preachers of the denomination, that have hitherto officiated here, in connection with the dates and times of their here being. The list is as follows:

1. Rev. Horace Moulton, here from 1830 to 1832,	2 years.
2. Rev. Enoch Bradley,	" 1832 " 1833, 1 "
3. Rev. Amasa Taylor,	" 1833 " 1835, 2 "
4. Rev. Horace Moulton,	" 1835 " 1836, 1 "
5. Rev. Otis Wilder,	" 1836 " 1837, 1 "
6. Rev. Joseph Lewis,	" 1837 " 1839, 2 "
7. Rev. Charles Virgin,	" 1839 " 1840, 1 "
8. Rev. William Gordon,	" 1840 " 1842, 2 "
9. Rev. Thomas W. Gile,	" 1842 " 1843, 1 "
10. Rev. Henry S. Shedd,	" 1843 " 1844, 1 "
11. Rev. Rufus P. Buffington,	" 1844 " 1845, 1 "
12. Rev. Spencer Tileston,	" 1845 " 1846, 1 "
13. Rev. William A. Clapp,	" 1846 " 1848, 2 "
14. Rev. Jarvis Wilson,	" 1848 " 1849, 1 "
15. Rev. John Ricketts,	" 1849 " 1851, 2 "
16. Rev. Daniel Atkins,	" 1851 " 1853, 2 "
17. Rev. David Culver,	" in 1853, $\frac{1}{2}$ "
18. Rev. Andrew Baylies,	" 1857 " 1858, 1 "
19. Rev. Silas Piper,	" 1858 " 1861, 3 "
20. Rev. John Goodwin,	" 1861 " 1862, 1 "
21. Rev. Moses P. Webster,	" 1862 " 1864, 2 "
22. Rev. John Noon,	" 1864

It may be proper here to remark, that, of the half dozen first named preachers in the foregoing list, no one but

Mr. Moulton preached here steadily. Their labors were divided between the societies of this town and Monson, a portion of their time being given to each.

MEETING-HOUSES.

The erection and maintenance of meeting-houses claims attention, as a branch of the ecclesiastical history of the town. And, first, we will speak of what we will call the *Central House*, or the house that was intended to have been, but was not. During the four or five years next after the district of South Brimfield was severed from the parent town, which was in 1762, many district meetings were held to devise and execute means and measures for building a meeting-house for the use of the whole district, and which should be centrally located, so as best to answer the purpose intended. And indeed that project was so far carried into execution, that the frame of such house was reared upon the west side of the old road that fringes the line that now divides this town and Holland, and about midway between the present north-east and south-east corners of this town. But the self-evident fact quickly burst upon the minds of the people, and yet not so quickly as seemingly it might have done, that a house there, in lieu of accommodating both sections of the district, in reality would accommodate neither. Hence the work was abruptly abandoned, and the frame that had been erected was never *there* inclosed, but was taken down, sold, and removed to Willington, Ct., and there appropriated to its originally intended use. This house was designed, as is understood, to have been for the use and benefit of the "Standing Order," as the Congregationalists then were called, of which there were many in the "East Part," and some in the "West Part" of the district.

The first *Baptist House*, and in fact the first of any order in this town erected, seems to have been built somewhere about 1760—for no records can be found, nor other evidence written or oral, fixing the exact time. That house

stood very near the ~~sight~~ of the present Baptist House. The occupancy of that house by the Baptists was continued till 1802, when its proprietors sold it to the town, and in October, 1803, by direction of the town, it was sub-divided into fourteen separate lots or parcels, all of which were sold at vendue for the gross sum of \$105.80, after which each vendee took, removed, and disposed of, his purchased parcel of the old house.

While the last mentioned house was being disposed of and removed as aforesaid, a new one was in process of construction, close by the side of the old one. This we shall denominate the *Union House*. It was built by the town, but upon an arrangement that the pews should be sold at public auction, and the proceeds be applied in liquidation of the cost of building, the town reserving the right of use of the house for town meetings and other municipal purposes. Another condition in the adjustment of the plan upon which the house was built, was, that the Sabbath-day use of it, from year to year, should be apportioned among the several different Christian denominations that should purchase or hold pews therein, each denomination to have the right to occupy the house with preaching of its own order a number of Sabbaths in each year, proportionate to the value in pews that the members of each might, for the time being, possess or hold in the house, with this proviso superadded, that at any and all times when neither of the other denominations occupied the house upon the days assigned for such occupancy, the Baptists might rightfully occupy the same. The first apportionment among the denominational pew-holders was made in April, 1803, at which time the house was not finished, though the pews were previously sold; and by that apportionment, for the first year's use of the house, thirty-two Sabbaths were assigned to the Baptists, twelve to the Universalists, and eight to the Congregationalists. This Union House, in 1846, in accordance with the provisions of a statute of our Commonwealth,

was appraised, and the pews of the other denominational owners were purchased or taken at their appraised values by the Baptists, who repaired, remodeled, and put the same into its present form and condition, whereby it became wholly, and to this time so continues, a *Baptist House*, being the second house of that order that has existed in our town.

The *Methodist House* in this place was erected in 1832 by voluntary contributions. In the outset it was very cheaply, and rather roughly done, but since then it has been made the subject of important renovations and improvements, all of which matters are of so recent date as to supersede the necessity of any extended remarks upon the subject at this time.

MANUFACTURES.

BOOTS AND SHOES.

No great amount of manufacturing has ever been done in this town, excepting the manufacture of boots and shoes and woolen cloths, and excepting also such manufactures as have been done in private families for home consumption. The boot and shoe manufacture here was never very extensive, there being at no time more than a half dozen small shops, in each of which were employed from three or four to eight or ten hands, and a little work done by individuals outside the shops. At no time, perhaps, has more of this work been done in town than was done in 1836-7, at which time, within the space of a year, the amount done, as ascertained by the Assessors of the town, in compliance with a statutory requirement for obtaining statistical information concerning certain branches of industry, was:—

Boots manufactured,	6,230 pairs.
Shoes	“	9,053 “
Total,		<hr/> 15,283 “

The cash value of these, upon the Assessor's estimate, was set down in the gross sum of \$27,743. At the present time very little is being done in town in this branch of manufactures.

MANUFACTURE OF WOOLEN CLOTHS.

In 1828-9 buildings were erected, and other preparations made for the manufacture of this description of goods. The moving spirits in this enterprise were Bela Tiffany, Esq., and Captain Oliver Wales. In 1830, before any work of manufacturing was done in the then newly erected mill, Tiffany sold out his estate in this town, and moved away. Soon after this, work was commenced and continued to a small extent, by Captain Wales and others, till 1835, when Messrs. R. P. Wales and J. W. Bliss of Brimfield bought the establishment, enlarged its capacities by putting therein more machinery, and made other improvements in and about the same, and run it till February, 1837, when the mill caught fire and was nearly all destroyed by the consuming element, except the stone walls. After this occurrence, nothing was done with the concern till 1839, when John W. Bliss, as half owner of the property, with Messrs. James L. Wales and Royal Wales, each owning a moiety of the other half, rebuilt the mill, and restocked it with machinery. In 1840 James L. Wales died, and Leonard B. Wight, as legatee of the deceased part-owner, became possessed of six shares of the company's stock, and in February, 1841, the three chief owners of the concern procured an act of incorporation by name of the "WALES MANUFACTURING COMPANY." And again in 1841 the business of the manufacture of satinet cloths was here commenced, and has been steadily continued to the present day. But there has recently been an entire change in the ownership of the establishment. In the autumn of 1865, the old company sold the property to the three Rogers brothers, Joel H., Lafayette, and Clinton, who now own and run the mill, and trans-

act their business under the name and firm of "J. H. ROGERS & Co."

Under "An Act to obtain the Industrial Statistics of the Commonwealth," of 1865, the Selectmen of the town officially ascertained and reported the amount and value of business done at this manufactory, in the year next preceding May 1, 1865, to have been as follows:—

Pounds of scoured wool used,	. . .	50,000
Gross value of stock used,	. . .	\$77,000
Yards of satinet cloth made,	. . .	115,756
Value of the cloths made,	. . .	\$115,756
Number of hands employed: Males,	. . .	17
	Females,	14
Capital invested,	. . .	\$14,240

In 1847 another manufacturing establishment for satinet goods was started in this town. The building first erected was small, sufficient only to receive one set of machines, which were put into it in 1848, and the work of manufacturing therein commenced. The stockholders, at the start, were Esek Luther, Warren Shaw, Elijah Shaw, Eden D. Shaw, Dwight W. Ellis, Alvin Andrews, and a Mr. Woods of Stafford, Ct. Number of shares, 18. Capital invested, \$9,000. This company was incorporated April 17, 1848, by name of the "SHAW MANUFACTURING COMPANY." In 1851 this company enlarged their mill by an addition thereto large enough to capacitate it to receive a second set of machines, which were immediately put therein. In 1856 the then existing company made a still further enlargement of their mill, making it sufficiently capacious to hold a third set of machines, which were soon therein set up. About 1860 the owners changed or altered their machinery so as to fit it for the manufacture of a sort of goods called "doeskins," in place of satinets, which since then they have continued to make. The Selectmen's ascertainment and report of the amount and value of business done in this mill, within the year named

in reference to the work done in the mill first mentioned, are to the following purport:—

Pounds of scoured wool used,	82,000
Gross value of stock used,	\$141,480
Yards of doeskins made,	139,800
Value of the cloths made,	\$209,700
Number of hands employed: Males, . .	27
Females,	25
Capital invested,	\$18,000

In 1860–61 Messrs. Elijah and Aaron Shaw erected and put in operation another small establishment for the manufacture of woollen goods. This mill was made, and still is, only of sufficient capacity to accommodate a single set of machines. These were put into it, and the work of cloth-making therein commenced in 1862. The article made is doeskins. Elijah Shaw is now sole owner of the concern. At this mill, the amount and value of the work done during the year named in reference to the other mills, and ascertained in manner as in the other cases, was the following:—

Pounds of scoured wool used,	33,000
Gross value of stock used,	\$57,000
Yards of doeskins made,	52,750
Value of cloths made,	\$79,125
Number of hands employed: Males, . .	11
Females,	9
Capital invested,	\$9,000

This establishment is designated by name of the “DELL MILL.”

About two years since, Messrs. Eden D. and Aaron Shaw commenced to build a fourth mill in town, and they have so far succeeded as to get up the main buildings, large enough to contain four sets of machines, and to get in one set now, January 1, 1866, just about being put in operation. This is also designed for the doeskin manufacture.

In August, 1865, Mr. Elijah Shaw started to build a fifth factory here in our town, and he has already got up the walls, constructed of brick and stone, of the principal building, and when completed it will apparently be the largest and best mill in town.

It may be proper here to say, that the stream upon which our mills are built is so small as to render necessary the use of steam, as a propelling force, in the drier parts of every season.

ROLL OF HONOR:

Being a catalogue of the names, with the terms of service, Regiments in which the service was rendered, and how and why the same was terminated, of soldiers from this town who served, or entered to serve not less than nine months, in the United States Army engaged in the late war against the Southern Rebellion:

- Jacob Barker**, 2 years 9 months, 21st Connecticut, taken prisoner, was sick, discharged upon close of the war.
- Ezra P. Bowen**, 2 years 11 months, 18th Connecticut, discharged after the cessation of hostilities.
- Hiram Bradway**, 10 months, 46th Massachusetts, discharged at the close of his term.
- John C. Burley**, 10 months, 51st Massachusetts, discharged at the close of his term.
- Elmer W. Carder**, 1 year 10 months, 27th Massachusetts, wounded, discharged July 25, 1863, pensioned.
- Marcus M. Chaffee**, 4 months, 46th Massachusetts, died of sickness, in the service, January 30, 1863, aged 20 years.
- Daniel W. Cole**, 2 years 10 months, 34th Massachusetts, served to the end of the war, discharged.
- Horace Converse**, 3 years 10 months, 21st Massachusetts and in Hospital, discharged after termination of the war.
- Harvey H. Converse**, 3 years one month, 27th Massachusetts, discharged after the rage of war had ceased.
- Edwin L. Crouch**, 5 months, 34th Massachusetts, wounded, died in consequence, May 21, 1864, aged 26 years.
- George H. Dillaber**, 10 months, 46th Massachusetts, discharged at the expiration of his term.

- Charles Dimmick**, 2 years, 16th and 11th Massachusetts, drafted, discharged upon termination of the war.
- Warren W. Eager**, 10 months, 46th Massachusetts, discharged at the expiration of his term.
- William W. Earl**, 3 years, 10th Massachusetts, first volunteer from this town, discharged at close of his term.
- Henry F. Felton**, 6 months, 61st Massachusetts, discharged after a peace had been conquered.
- John T. Gale**, 2 years 4 months, 46th Massachusetts and 1st Massachusetts Cavalry, discharged after the war closed.
- Ell J. Gardner**, 2 years 10 months, 34th Massachusetts, wounded, recovered, discharged at the end of the war.
- Michael Harrington**, 2 years 10 months, 34th Massachusetts, deserted, joined a Pennsylvania Cavalry Regiment, discharged at close of the war.
- Amos Hobbs**, 3 years, 21st Massachusetts, discharged upon expiration of his term.
- Edwin Hobbs**, 2 years 10 months, 34th Massachusetts, discharged after the war had ended.
- George Holdsworth**, 9 months, 22d Connecticut, went as a substitute, discharged at the end of his term.
- Edwin H. Johnson**, 2 years 2 months, 2d Massachusetts Heavy Artillery, discharged after the termination of the war.
- James A. Johnson**, 1 year 9 months, 1st Connecticut Artillery, discharged after the war had terminated.
- Julius M. Lyon**, Lieutenant, 1 year 2 months, 46th and 42d Massachusetts, each time discharged at close of his term.
- Lindorf W. Miller**, 1 year 6 months, 1st Massachusetts Cavalry, discharged after the war had ceased.
- Peter W. Moore**, 8 months, 46th Massachusetts, discharged May 30, 1863, because of sickness.
- Frank Moore**, 10 months, 46th Massachusetts, discharged at the close of his term.
- Lauriston L. Moulton**, 10 months, 51st Massachusetts, discharged upon the expiration of his term.
- John A. Needham**, 2 years 2 months, 34th Massachusetts, killed in battle October 13, 1864, aged nearly 23 years.
- W. Eugene Needham**, 1 year 9 months, 1st Connecticut Artillery, discharged after the ending of the war.
- Watson W. Needham**, 10 months, 46th Massachusetts, discharged after his term of service expired.
- Carlos D. Needham**, 11 months, 4th Massachusetts, discharged after the termination of the war.
- Willard B. Needham**, 6 months, 34th Massachusetts, wounded May 15, 1864, taken prisoner, died soon after.
- Henry O. Nelson**, 1 year 2 months, 21st Massachusetts, disabled by sickness, discharged September 20, 1862.
- Royal A. Nelson**, 10 months, 46th Massachusetts, wounded, recovered, discharged at end of his term.

- William A. Phetteplace**, 2 years 3 months, 34th Massachusetts, wounded, died two days after, October 21, 1864, aged 36 years.
- Austin Pratt**, 8 months, 34th Massachusetts, wounded, died next day, September 20, 1864, aged 48 years.
- Austin G. Pratt**, 3 months, 16th Massachusetts, wounded, fell into the enemy's hands, no after report.
- Waterman Penry**, 4 years, 21st Massachusetts, re-enlisted, discharged after the war ended.
- William J. Ricketts**, 3 years, 21st Massachusetts, discharged upon the expiration of his term.
- Gilbert Roath**, 3 years, 21st Massachusetts, discharged after his term had expired.
- George H. Shaw**, 3 years, 3d New Hampshire, discharged at the end of his term.
- James Smith**, 9 months, 46th Massachusetts, left the service a little before his Regiment was discharged.
- George M. Stewart**, Captain, 1 year 2 months, 46th and 42d Massachusetts, discharged each time at the close of his term.
- Henry H. Stewart**, 2 years, 21st Massachusetts, taken prisoner, paroled, discharged for reason of sickness.
- Albert Stewart**, 1 year 10 months, 34th Massachusetts, killed in battle, May 14, 1864.
- John Taylor**, 10 months, 46th Massachusetts, discharged at the end of his term.
- Charles F. Thompson**, 10 months, 46th Massachusetts, discharged upon the expiration of his term.
- James M. Thompson**, 2 years 11 months, 18th New York, discharged after the war had ceased to rage.
- Eli H. Thompson**, 6 months, 46th Massachusetts, discharged in March, 1863, because of sickness.
- Merritt Towne**, 3 years, 15th Massachusetts, wounded, discharged upon termination of the war.
- William J. Vizard**, 3 years, 5th New York and in Hospital, discharged upon close of the war.
- Porter Walbridge**, 11 months, 15th Massachusetts, wounded, discharged, pensioned.
- George H. Walls**, 3 years 2 months, 27th Massachusetts, re-enlisted, died in the service of sickness, November 25, 1864.
- Emerson O. Webber**, 10 months, 46th Massachusetts, discharged after the expiration of his term.
- George G. Williams**, 2 years 10 months, 34th Massachusetts, wounded, recovered, discharged after the war ended.
- Martin V. B. Williams**, 3 years 11 months, 11th Connecticut, discharged after the war was over, viz. October 19, 1865.
- Charles J. Woods**, 2 years 3 months, 34th Massachusetts, killed in battle, October 14, 1864, had both legs shot off.
- Franklin T. Wright**, 1 year, 34th Massachusetts, discharged because of sickness, August 12, 1863.