

*A HISTORICAL SKETCH OF*

# Auburn

MASSACHUSETTS

---

*From the Earliest Period to  
The Present Day with Brief Accounts  
of Early Settlers and Prominent Citizens*

---



---

SPONSORED BY THE AUBURN CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

Written and compiled by the Federal Writers'  
Project of the Works Progress Administration  
for the State of Massachusetts

1937



# Foreword

*To celebrate the One Hundredth Anniversary  
of the Act passed by the  
Great and General Court  
on February 17, 1837  
to change the name of the town from Ward to Auburn  
the townspeople  
at a meeting held February 4, 1937  
elected the following general committee  
who are publishing this brochure:*

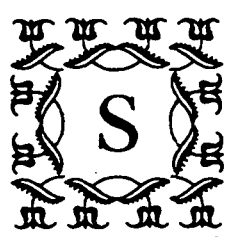
MISS M. ELIZABETH HEWITT, *Chairman*  
MR. JOHN E. RILEY, *Secretary*  
MR. A. ELLSWORTH PROUTY, *Clerk*  
MR. JOSEPH P. FLAVIN, *Treasurer*  
MRS. PERCY E. COLLINS  
MRS. ROBERT C. HOWE  
MR. EUGENE P. ESCOLUS  
MR. D. GORDON PERRY  
MR. HOWARD W. KEMP  
MR. FRANCIS L. MILLER  
"HONORARY CHAIRMEN"  
DR. MANFORD R. SPALDING  
MR. HENRY E. SIBLEY  
MR. FRANK H. ALLEN



---

# Auburn Today

---

ITUATED among softly rolling hills, the town of Auburn has a pleasant New England charm compounded of the atmosphere of the past with the very modern present. The Centre with its green Common, ancient trees and fine old church and homes has the mellowness of age, while Stoneville and the Drury Square sections are distinctly of the present. It is this fusion of the old and the new without loss of harmony or proportion that gives Auburn its special distinction. It is chiefly a residential suburb of Worcester offering to the commuter the quiet peace and serene beauty of a rural community of pleasant homes.

Formed from the contiguous parts of Worcester, Leicester, Sutton and Oxford, the town was incorporated in 1778 and named Ward after the Revolutionary hero, General Artemas Ward of Shrewsbury. Over fifty years later, in 1837, the name was changed to Auburn due to the difficulty encountered by the mail service in distinguishing between Ward and the town of Ware to the west.

In central Worcester County lying south of Worcester with Millbury on the east, Oxford on the south and Leicester on the west, Auburn forms an irregular hexagon covering an area of fifty-two square miles which at its greatest width extends five miles. The surface of the town is hilly with broad plateaus but no very high elevations.

Pakachoag Hill, extending two miles in the easterly section, is the oldest portion of the town and was formerly the site of a village of Nipmuck Indians. Primarily an agricultural community,

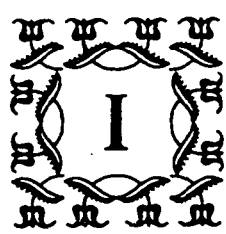
industrial establishments have kept to the outlying sections. Some are in Stoneville, others on Southbridge Street near the Worcester City Line. Chains, textiles and concrete building materials are the products manufactured.

Racially Auburn like many New England towns is made up of a mingling of Irish, French-Canadian, Swedish, Polish, English and the so-called Yankee stock. Next to the Yankee group, which is the largest in the town, come the Swedish-Americans who number about eight hundred. In general there are no sharp distinctions either in residential location, manner of living or occupations. Employment in the factories, stores and business offices of Worcester provides the most general source of livelihood. Some descendants of the earlier settlers as well as members of the Swedish and Polish groups are engaged in farming, which they carry on with considerable success particularly in market gardening, dairy farming and orchardry.

---

# The Story of Auburn

---

T WAS probably not more than fifteen years after the *Mayflower* dropped anchor in Plymouth Harbor, that the first outposts of civilization began to move westward from the Atlantic coast into the heart of the Nipmuck Indian Country, where Auburn is today. Scouts and hunters were in the van, closely followed by Indian missionaries; not far behind were men with materialistic interests, the land proprietors, who enticed land titles from the Indians with brightly colored cloth, gay trinkets and firearms. Last of all came the husbandmen, the farmers who cleared the land, tilled the soil and turned to the erection of church and town.

Who the first white man was to look across the quiet hills and the valleys of Auburn and see the glow of a camp fire at the Indian village on Pakachoag Hill is not known. The earliest record now extant is the account written by Daniel Gookin in the *Historical Collections of the Indians in New England*, of a trip made with the Reverend John Eliot, in 1674, to the Christian Indians who had been converted some time before, and who numbered about twenty families, or "one hundred souls." It was on the "17th of the seventh month" that they arrived at the village on the fertile hill called Pakachoag after the "delicate spring of water that is there."

The sagamore, Horowanninit, also called John, entertained them, together with the sagamore of Tataessit (now Tatnuck) known as Wooanakochu or Solomon. A great meeting was attended by representatives from the nine Christian Indian villages of the Nipmuck Country: Hassanamisitt (Grafton); Manchaug



John Eliot preaching to the Indians on Pakachoag Hill,  
July, 1674



(Oxford); Chabanakongamun (Dudley); Maanexit, Quantisset and Wabquisset in Woodstock; Waentung (Uxbridge); Weshakim (Sterling); and Quaboag (Brookfield). The Towtaids of Leicester were not included as Christian Indians, although a witness to the deed signed during the visit, was Wandwoamog, called the Deacon, and described as being one of "Eliot's praying Indians."

In the dusk Mr. Eliot preached to the large assembly gathered around the blazing camp fire and James Speen, an Indian teacher from Hassanamisitt, read and set the tune of a psalm that was "affectionately" sung by all. After the religious service, court was held by Gookin, assisted by Wattasacompanum, the chief ruler of the Nipmucks, who lived at Hassanamisitt. John and Solomon, the two sagamores at Pakachoag and Tataessit, were invested with authority by the English government to rule; James Speen was appointed minister to care for their spiritual welfare and Matoonus was chosen constable.

Eliot and Gookin wrote the first account of that "most excellent tract of land" that is now Auburn, but at the time they visited Pakachoag there were already four small settlements in what has since become Worcester County. The first settlement was made in 1643 when Symonds and King set up a trading post on the Nashaway River in present Lancaster. Settlements at Brookfield and Mendon (1660) were laid out, and a plantation was established on Lake Quinsigamond (1673). The first land grants in the vicinity of Worcester and Auburn were in 1657, when 3,200 acres of land were given to Mr. Increase Nowell of Sudbury. In 1662, 1,000 acres were granted to the Church in Malden for the use of the ministry "forever". The settlements, however, remained small and weak. The General Court tried to encourage settlement by liberal grants; scouts and missionaries continued to travel over the Indian trails that crossed the region and spoke enthusiastically of the fertility of the Nipmuck Country; but the isolation of the frontier and the constant Indian menace deterred settlers from occupation.

That the fear of the Indians was not unfounded was revealed in 1675, when the bond of friendship and understanding which had been forged by such men as John Eliot and Daniel Gookin was quickly broken at the outbreak of King Philip's War. The English made no distinction between the Christian Indians and the unconverted, and many of the latter joined the revolt

against the whites; Matoonus, the Indian constable at Pakachoag, was hanged on Boston Common for participation in the Mendon Massacre in 1675. Not until the termination of the Indian uprising in the last quarter of the 17th century did the tireless advance of permanent white settlement push its way into the Nipmuck Country.

In 1693, the second Huguenot settlement in Oxford was accepted as an act of incorporation; Sutton was granted town status in 1714 and Worcester and Leicester in 1722. The inhabitants of the four towns who lived near the intersection of the boundaries found their new position inconvenient and difficult. Separated by miles of bad road from the centers of their respective communities, they suffered "great hardship" in their isolation particularly because they were forced to forego regular church services. This consideration and their "compactness within themselves" made them petition the General Court in 1742 for independent status. The petition, copies of which were ordered given to the four mother towns, read: "To see if Town will set of two miles & half on the next Line and so Running down by the River, till it Comes to the line between the Gore and Worcester, excepting Totmans for to Joyn with Sutton & Oxford & Leicester or any of them to Be a parish or preccant for the Below, attending on the Public Worship on Lords Days and other times." This was signed by David Bancroft, Daniel Boyden, John Boyden, Benony Baily, Gershom Rice, Daniel Bigelow, Nathaniel Moore, Jr., Joseph Boyden and Gershom Rice, Jr. A second petition, some months later, was accompanied by a plan showing the desired precinct to be a five mile square.

The four mother towns, thus petitioned, were loath to allow the partition of their territory. Special town meetings were called and agents chosen and instructed to explain to the General Court that such a division would be unwise. Apparently these representatives did their work well for the request was denied. On August 29, 1742, at the special meeting held in Worcester to consider the petition, it was voted "that altho ye bounds on Lands prayed for are very uncertain yet by a Plan Laid by said Boyden (Daniel) before the Town it appears beyond Dispute that on that part of ye Land pray'd for to belong to the new precinct being a part of Worcester there are about Thirty families Included, of which but Eleven whereof are now petitioners of which Six are not voters and one is a single Indian, that ye line will come within about

one mile and half of the present meeting house which has been finished but of Late years and the Town are now erecting at Considerable Cost & Charge a Steeple thereto for hanging a Bell and if a precinct be made and Should come so near to ye House it must of Course be a means of the same being Removed a Considerable Distance to the No Small Cost & Grate Damige of the Town and as they are two to one in the Limits pray'd for against Going of its to be feared they would be a Contentious Society and further that the town have been lately Divided into Two Towns (Holden taken from N. W. section) now to have about fourty poles taken of would Grately weeken us wherefore voted that the Selectmen or the major part of them be a Comitee in the name of the Town to make answer to said Pition and use all proper methods to prevent a precinct being made that Shall Include any part of this Town and to Cause the Same to be prefered to the General Assembly and Inforced and that the Same be prefered by Capt. Flagg, our Representative.

Attest. John Chandler, Modr.  
entered by Jonas Rice, T. Clerk."

In 1757, James Hart, Thomas Baird, James Wallis and Jonathan Stone, who owned land in Leicester, petitioned the town "praying to be sett off with their Lands to ye Town of Worcester in case this Town are willing to receive them." This was authorized by the General Court on June 3, 1758.

No other petitions for a separate precinct were made until 1770, when the four towns again refused to sanction the request. In 1772, another petition was dismissed, but finally on June 19th, 1773, the General Court ordered that the petitioners with their families and estates be "erected into a Precinct with all the powers and privileges which other Precincts in this Province by Law enjoy." A committee was at once appointed to select a location for a meeting-house, and the new precinct of Worcester was named the South Parish. All persons living in the towns of Worcester, Leicester and Oxford, within three miles from the spot designated for the meeting-house, with all others living in Sutton within a mile and one half from the said place who cared to belong were given the privilege provided their names were registered in the Secretary's office within nine months.

Residents of Worcester who joined the new precinct were:

Thomas Baird  
Thomas Baird, Jr.

Daniel Bancroft  
David Bancroft

Phoebe Bancroft  
William Bancroft  
Daniel Boyden  
Darius Boyden  
Elizabeth Boyden  
John Boyden  
Peter Boyden  
Oliver Curtis  
Thomas Drury  
Thomas Drury, Jr.

Henry Gale  
Charles Hart  
James Hart  
James Hart, Jr.  
James Nichols  
Jason Nichols  
Comfort Rice  
Gershom Rice  
Israel Stevens  
Jacob Stevens

Jonathan Stone

#### FROM SUTTON

Gershom Bigelow  
Gershom Bigelow, Jr.  
Rachel Buck  
Benjamin Carter  
Timothy Carter  
Benjamin Carter, Jr.

Daniel Cummings  
Peter Hardy  
Phineas Rice  
Charles Richardson  
Charles Richardson, Jr.  
Daniel Roper

#### FROM OXFORD

Levi Eddy  
Samuel Eddy  
Abraham Fitts  
David Gleason

Peter Jenison  
Alexander Nichols  
Isaac Pratt  
Jesse Stone

Ruth Stone

#### FROM LEICESTER

Andrew Crowl  
John Crowl, Jr.  
John Hart

Jonathan Phillips  
Thomas Scott  
Jonathan Stone

William Yong

The following also became members of the South Parish  
but the towns from which they came were not listed.

Jonas Bancroft  
David Bates  
Gardner Chandler  
(for his land in the town  
limit)  
Jonathan Cutler  
Joseph Gleason  
Thomas Gleason  
John Harwood

Samuel Holman  
Samuel Learned  
Elisha Livermore  
William Parker  
Nathan Patch  
Joseph Phillips  
Israel Phillips  
William Phipps  
Isaac Putnam

David Richards  
Gershom Rice, Jr.  
Nathaniel Scot

David Stone  
Israel Stone  
Jacob Work

The warrant for the first meeting of the new parish was addressed to David Bancroft, Benjamin Carter, John Hart, Samuel Eddy, Thomas Drury, and was signed by John Chandler, Justice of the Peace in Worcester under George III. The freeholders of the new precinct met at the home of Thomas Drury, Innholder, on July 6th, 1773, and elected the following officers: Jacob Stevens, Precinct Clerk; Comfort Rice, Alexander Nichols, Benjamin Carter and John Hart, Precinct Committee and Assessors; Jonathan Stone, Treasurer; and Thomas Baird, Collector. The committee held their first meeting on July 27, and the first parish meeting was called on August 27, when David Bancroft was elected moderator and a vote taken to build a meeting house.

In 1775, the only members of the South Parish who were qualified to vote according to the "Last List of Estates by which the Taxes are made" were William Young, Daniel Boyden, Darius Boyden, David Bancroft, Thomas Baird, Thomas Baird, Jr., Peter Boyden, William Bancroft, Oliver Curtis, James Hart, Jr., Jonas Nichols, Gershom Rice, Jonathan Stone, Jacob Stone, Jacob Stevens, Gershom Rice, Thomas Drury, Thomas Drury, Jr., Gardner Chandler and Nathan Patch.

At the outbreak of the Revolution, the response of the South Parish to the call of the colonies was immediate. The news of Lexington and Concord reached the South Parish sometime during the day, April 19, 1775, and at once a company of Minute Men under the command of Captain John Crowl began the march to Lexington with Colonel Ebenezer Learned's company of Oxford. Hearing that the British had retreated, they changed their course and turned toward Cambridge. Other Minute Men from the Parish were Peter Boyden, Jonas Nichols, Jonathan Stone and James Wiser who joined Captain Timothy Bigelow's company from Worcester. David Richards, Jonathan Stone and Samuel Clark served with Captain Benjamin Flagg also of Worcester.

Precinct status did not satisfy the inhabitants of the South Parish, and almost at once they began to ask the General Court that they be set off as a separate town. The request was denied but to assuage the refusal an article was inserted in the town warrant in Worcester on October 21, 1776 on which it was voted "that the inhabitants belonging to the South Parish in Worcester

be exempted from paying the tax for raising a sum of money for augmenting the soldiers' bounty that are gone to New York, that was granted by this Town in July last."

A similar article was voted on April 7, 1777, but this did not lessen the determination of the residents of the South Parish to be independent. Persistently they presented petitions every year until, in 1777, the town fathers of Worcester finally capitulated and replied to the last petition: "If the said Plan Does not include any of those persons nor their estates which belong to the Town of Worcester, and which were Excepted from being set off to said precinct when it was first erected, we have no objections to their being made a Distant Town."

In February, 1778, agents were selected to confer with a committee chosen by the General Court concerning boundary lines and territorial adjustments. At last, on April 10, 1778, the South Parish of Worcester was incorporated. In the Bill for Incorporation the name of the town was Wardborough, but the bill was amended after two readings and the name shortened to Ward, although no reason was given for the change.

Not all of the residents of the area were amenable to the incorporation of the new town, for twenty-eight inhabitants of Sutton whose dwellings and land were included within the boundaries filed a protest at once and the order of the Court provided: "That Samuel Curtis, the widow Mary Biggelow, Daniel Biggelow, William Elder, John Elder, Jonathan Fisk, Benjamin Chapin, Eli Chapin, Joseph Clark, Moses Bancroft, John Savery, Levi Stone, Abel Holeman, Stephen Holeman, Samuel Trask, Jabez Stockwell, Joseph Pratt and the widow x——Watson, residents within the aforementioned town of Ward, although included within the bounds of the said town but not included within the said parish, shall nevertheless be accounted as parts of the towns to which they respectively belonged." This provision remained in effect until 1850 and caused considerable confusion and much discussion, for the people concerned lived within Ward and yet were not residents of the town. At the same time, however, the town gained new members, for the General Court allowed Paul Thurston, Elisha Livermore and Uriah Stone, Jr., who owned land contiguous, to become legal residents of Ward, and it was provided that anyone living adjacent who wished to join Ward could do so by signifying in writing to the town clerk. To complete the establishment of Ward, the Court ordered the clerks of the

four towns to deliver the last valuation list of real and personal property of those inhabitants who had joined the new town, that their voting qualifications might be determined.

As soon as the franchise holders were decided, the call for a town meeting was addressed to Edward Davis, Justice of the Peace in Worcester, who was empowered to issue a warrant directed to "some principle inhabitant", who should in turn give notice to those qualified to vote, to assemble and choose officers. Thomas Drury, the Innkeeper, was selected as the man to call the meeting and from his warning, the first town meeting in Ward was held on May 4, 1778. The only business conducted at the first meeting was the election of officers, who were: *Moderator*, Edward Davis; *Selectmen*, Charles Richardson, Samuel Eddy, Nathan Patch, John Hart, Jonathan Cutler; *Assessors*, Nathaniel Scott, Daniel Griffith, Comfort Rice; *Clerk*, John Prentice; *Treasurer*, Jonathan Stone; *Highway Surveyors*, Jonas Nichols, Israel Phillips, Thomas Scott, Timothy Carter; *Tything Men*, Peter Hardy, John Prentice; *Committee of Correspondence Inspection and Safety*, David Bancroft, William Phipps, Thomas Baird; *Hog-reeves*, Daniel Fitts, Jacob Stevens; *Fence Viewers*, Jonas Bancroft, Darius Boyden; *Field Drivers*, Oliver Curtis, Jonathan Stone, Jr.

John Prentice was chosen clerk at the first town meeting in 1778, but records can not be found telling how long he served. Joseph Stone was clerk in 1786, but at what date he was elected, is not known.

The necessity for such officers as Hog-reeves, Fence Viewers and Field Drivers was paramount at a period when swine ran at large through the streets and the fields, provided they were properly ringed and yoked. Common red deer were so numerous throughout Ward at that time, that at subsequent meetings deer-reeves were also elected.

The tything men were the "sleep banishers", elected as late as 1839, to be general law enforcement officers. They varied in number from two to five and their particular duties were to see that all inhabitants of the town attended public worship; to arrest those who had the temerity to walk or ride unnecessarily on the Sabbath day; to see that members of the church kept awake during services and lastly to keep an "eye out" for bachelors who were looked upon with more or less suspicion.

The Committee of Correspondence, Inspection and Safety was a concomitant of the War period, for its duties were similar to those appointed in other towns at the beginning of the Revolution. They were instructed to keep the town informed of affairs in the Continental and Provincial Congresses and the neighboring towns; to keep a strict watch over those suspected of loyalty to the King and to report the names of the latter to a vigilance committee of the state. After the passage of the Bill of Rights in 1780, it was the duty of this committee to see that no British goods, particularly tea and molasses, were used by the inhabitants of the town. Lastly, they were to devise and execute any measures deemed advisable for the safety of the town.

The second town meeting in Ward was held on May 21, 1778, and the warrant contained this article: "To see what sums of money the Town will grant to support preaching in s'd Town. For reparation of the highways, and defraying other Town charges for the Courant year. Also what money the Town will raise to apply to the purpose of hiring men to serve in the army in behalf of s'd Town." The result was that it was voted to raise 125 pounds for preaching; 100 pounds for repairing the highways, and 500 pounds for the support of the army.

The appropriation for the army was the first such act of the incorporated town. Members of the Minute Men companies, as well as other volunteers from the South Parish, served in the Continental Army during the war. As soon as the town was incorporated, in addition to raising money for supplies, a committee was appointed to hire men for participation in the army. In October, 1779, Captain John Crawl, who was a member of this committee, "exhibited an account for Expenditures in s'd Trust, namely; For 2 men to Rhode Island, 120 pounds; for 3 men for 9 months at 90 bushels of corn each, 972 pounds; for 2 men to Rhode Island, 90 pounds." At this meeting, 1,064 pounds was voted for the purpose of hiring soldiers.

On October 12, 1780, the town again voted to "raise the sum of 4,215 pounds to be assessed and collected forthwith to purchase the Quantity of Beef for ye Army." In December, 8,094 pounds were appropriated for the same purpose. These amounts raised in a town the size of Ward, which had a population of about four hundred, shows the depreciated currency of the time.



That year, forty pounds of paper money was worth one pound of specie.

In the spring of 1781, when the last farthing of public money had been turned over to the state, the General Court called upon Ward to furnish five more men for the army to fill the quota. As an inducement, the town immediately offered "to any man to the number of five, 100 pounds hard money, or 18 calves of middling value, and those calves, kept free of charge to them during the term of three year's service; and 50 silver dollars to each man on his march, to supply him with pocket money; and that at the expiration of such term of service to deliver those calves at what age they may have arrived." Phineas Parsons and Timothy Buxton accepted the cash offer at once, and John Todd that of the calves; later, two other men who were not named were secured, and the quota was filled once again.

In 1779, Captain Samuel Eddy was chosen a delegate to the Cambridge Convention to assist in drawing up the State constitution. In the next year, 1780, a committee reported in town meeting on the adoption of the proposed constitution, suggesting that the towns have legislative representation as towns, rather than on the basis of the number of polls, and emphatically disapproving the proviso that the constitution could not be amended for fifteen years. In 1795, the town voted for revision of the constitution, thirteen to seven. At the first election of State officers in 1780, Ward gave thirty-four votes to John Hancock for Governor and Artemas Ward for Lieutenant-Governor.

The four mother towns did not entirely lose contact with Ward, for on February 27, 1779, the General Court allowed Worcester, Oxford, Leicester and Sutton to tax the inhabitants of Ward "as they were in their respective towns before the incorporation of said town, the acts for incorporation notwithstanding." This order continued until the end of the ensuing year.

A resolution passed by town meeting in 1781, respecting the non-admission of Tories into the United States, is interesting to note as a sidelight on the sentiment of the period. The resolution read: "And therefore resolved that the town doth highly approve of the sentiments contained in those Resolves (passed by the town of Boston) and do expect and enjoin it upon the committee of correspondence and safety of this town and their successors to use the utmost vigilance to detect any of those miscreants who may

presume to re-enter this land of freedom and mingle with the children of Liberty contrary to the laws thereof. Resolved that on every principle—moral, natural, civil and social, the prohibition of their becoming Denizens of these states must and ought to be absolute and perpetual. And even the softer passions of pity and compassion forbid their return to this country since should they be found thereon we have the greatest reason to expect many of the citizens would feel themselves impelled from a remembrance of the wanton cruelty and barbarity which they have experienced immediately at their hands, or by their chicanery and instigation, to retaliate even to the Death of the object of their resentment, so that on the one hand our Land thereby might again become the theatre of bloodshed and on the other, those miserable wretches would make their sudden exit to the world of spirits for which we have reason to fear, they are but illy prepared; therefore avaunt; ye ingrates, we say! Begone, and abide by the consequence of your choosing. Resolved that the town clerk be and hereby is directed to enroll a fair copy of these resolutions with the records of the town, there to abide a standing remembrance of the Sentiments of the town on the Subject.”

Thus, by the end of the Colonial period, Ward was established as a town, not alone in physical status but in outlook and perspective. It made no sudden growth, like “boom towns” of modern times. In 1784, it was still a small agricultural village with a well scattered population of four hundred and seventy-three souls. Yet unmistakably by the end of the 18th century it was a town with a well-developed consciousness of its new duties and responsibilities.

Social life centered for years around the sturdy, weather-beaten meeting-house and the old Tavern with its swinging sign and blazing hearth, one of the earliest buildings in the settlement. In 1773, the first parish meeting was held there under the guidance of the host, Thomas Drury, who had called it. Sunday service was conducted in the “best-room” until the meeting-house was ready for use and town meetings frequently adjourned to the Tavern, awaiting a committee report. While the meeting-house satisfied the more serious needs of the town, the Tavern was the place to find the latest news from Boston, and the world outside. It was here that travelers stopped and neighbors from the out-lying districts tarried to have a chat and exchange gossip.

The erection of the Confederation and new State governments could not mitigate the after-effects of the war, the destitution and uncertainty that prevailed throughout the colonies. In central and western Massachusetts, in particular, the unrest and dissatisfaction were intense. Insolvent and made desperate by debt, the farmers of this region formed companies of self-styled "Regulators" in preparation for possible conflict. While there was no such company in Ward, several residents of the town joined the one in Oxford.

In the meantime, as was natural in New England, town meetings and conventions were called at which long lists of grievances were drawn up and sent to the General Court. During 1785-86, at conventions held in Leicester, Sutton and Paxton, Ward was represented.

Meetings were of no avail, however, and on September 4, 1786, the crisis came when a company of armed men took possession of the Court House in Worcester and prevented Chief Justice Artemas Ward from holding court. The success of this first act of insurrection made the insurgents bolder and in December a force of one thousand "Regulators" stopped the Court of Common Pleas in Worcester from holding its regular session. The victory was not a difficult one due to the reluctance of the militia to turn against the insurgents. At that time, Joseph Dorr, then of Ward, was an associate judge of the court, while Jonah Goulding, Abel Partridge and several others from the same town were on the side of the rebels.

Late that December afternoon a terrific snowstorm began and the insurgents took refuge in private homes and taverns. An amusing story is told of the party in the Hancock Arms. Soon after partaking of liquid refreshment, several of the men became violently ill and the rumor spread that poison had been mixed with the liquor. Dr. Samuel Stearns of Paxton, astrologer and almanac manufacturer, detected a substance in the sediment of the cups that he unhesitatingly pronounced a compound of antimony and arsenic. Immediately the number of the afflicted grew to alarming proportions. Someone remembered that sugar used in the beverage had been purchased from Daniel Waldo, a staunch supporter of the government, and that seemed conclusive proof that the substance was poison. A detachment of soldiers was sent to bring him to the tavern for questioning; fortunately for him,

however, Dr. Thomas Green of Ward, after careful inspection of the suspected substance, declared that to the best of his knowledge it was simply yellow Scotch snuff. Inquiry developed that a clerk in Waldo's store had opened a package of that commodity near an uncovered sugar barrel. The frightened victims quickly recovered and accepted a keg of spirits as balm for their panic.

On Saturday, December 9th, another snowstorm scattered the "Regulators" and the men from Ward departed for home. Jonah Goulding, fearful that he might be imprisoned for the part he had played in the uprising, took refuge in an old cabin built in the woods some distance from his home. Another snowstorm set in and Goulding, perceiving that he did not have enough provisions to withstand a period of isolation, returned to his home to stock up. He stopped to eat dinner with his family and as he sat at the table, three officers from Boston, who had taken a short cut through the woods, came riding over the hill in front of his home. Jonah was promptly arrested and taken to Boston where he was sentenced to "forty days and forty nights in prison" and was threatened with hanging. He petitioned the General Court for a pardon on February 7, 1787, and was released on bail March 23rd. Abel Partridge was ordered "to pay a fine of 100 pounds to the use of the state and recognize in 300 pounds to keep the peace for 5 years."

During December and January 1787, special town meetings were held and several petitions addressed to the General Court, the Governor and Council and Major-General Lincoln of Worcester in behalf of the men convicted by the Supreme Judicial Court for treason. Finally, a full pardon was granted to all those condemned, coming just in time to reprieve Henry Gale, a former resident of Ward, from the gallows.

With the restoration of peace, Ward began to resume its normally serene and busy life. In 1787, Captain Samuel Eddy was elected representative to the General Court and given a long and detailed document of instructions from his constituents. Among other things, they demanded the abolition of the Court of Common Pleas and suggested that innkeepers be licensed by the selectmen of the town. At that period, the towns had to pay all expenses of their representatives and at times Ward voted not to send any.

Representatives from Auburn in the General Court with the years they served:

Capt. John Prentice	1782-1785	Nathaniel Stone, Jr.	1842
Capt. Samuel Eddy	1787	Hervey Bancroft	1843
Joseph Stone, Esq.	1806	Thomas Merriam	1844
Col. Jonah Goulding	1810-1811	Almerin Lorenzo Ackley	1850-1851
Recompense Cary	1814-1816	Marcus Barrett	1853
John Clark	1820	John Warren	1854
Samuel Boyden	1829	Emory Stone	1855
Zebulon Cary	1830-1832	Marcus Barrett	1859
Dr. Daniel Green	1833-1834	Elbridge G. Warren	1863
Rev. Miner G. Pratt	1835	Ezra Rice	1869
Edward Rice	1836	Warren Sibley	1874
Isaac Stone	1837	Thomas S. Eaton	1884
Israel Stone, Jr.	1838	John J. Allen	1888
William Craig	1838	Richard H. Warren	1890
Samuel Eddy	1839	Abel S. Wolfe	1914-1915-1916
William Emerson	1841	L. Adelard Breault	1919
		Ignatius Cleary	1935

Until 1857, the House of Representatives of the General Court consisted of about 600 members, as each town had the right to elect one representative to every one hundred and fifty ratable polls. The 21st article of amendment, ratified May 1, 1857, provided that the House of Representatives should consist of 240 members to be apportioned every ten years after the return of the state census, according to the number of legal voters. Under this provision, Auburn was placed in the 26th Worcester district with the 6th ward of Worcester. In 1867 it was included in a double district with Leicester, Spencer, Charlton and Southbridge.

Ten years later Auburn was placed in a single district with Millbury and Sutton. In 1887, the 8th district was created including Webster, Oxford and Auburn, but in 1897 the 8th district was made up of Millbury, Douglas and Auburn.

From 1907 to 1917, Auburn, Leicester, Paxton and Spencer formed the 6th district. In 1918, the sixty-fourth article of amendment provided that State elections be held biennially. The last change was made in 1927, a double district, the 5th was created, made up of Leicester, Auburn, Oxford, Webster and Dudley. No further change will be made until 1939 as provided by the seventy-first article of amendment adopted in 1930. In 1935, Ignatius Cleary was elected to a two-year term, but resigned to accept the office of postmaster of Auburn.

In 1794, Joseph Stone, surveyor, was asked to make a map of the town "agreeable to the resolve of the Legislature." This map is now in the State archives in Boston.

In 1795, the town was somewhat disturbed over the claim of a Loyalist to certain property belonging to Joseph Stone and voted unanimously, "that alarmed by the reports current, that ye treaty lately concluded between the United States of America and the Government of Great Britain, and duly ratified by the constituted authorities, meets with impediments and delays in carrying into effect, on the part of these States by the Majority of the Hon. House of Representatives of the Federal Congress; it is the wish and desire of this town, that the said treaty be fully carried into effect without further delay."

During Jefferson's administration, Auburn, unlike any of its neighboring towns, sustained the policies of the federal government by approving the embargo so unpopular elsewhere throughout New England.

In May, 1825, Ward was made a post town. The first post office was in the Centre in the store of Zebulon Cary, who was appointed postmaster. In 1842, the office was moved to the railroad station and later to Drury Square where it is today.

Postmasters following Mr. Cary have been:

Lyman Gale	Nov. 2, 1833
Miner G. Pratt	Sept. 23, 1834
(Name of Town changed to Auburn)	
Miner G. Pratt	April, 1837
Elisha M. Knowles	Mar. 15, 1842
Elisha S. Knowles	Jan. 22 1862
Elisha M. Knowles	July 6, 1869
William Bunce	Aug. 10, 1870
Alvin Howe	Dec. 3, 1872
Annie M. Howe	July 17, 1884
Miss Ruth M. Grovenor	Oct. 17, 1912
(Name changed by marriage)	
Mrs. Ruth G. Davis	Oct. 25, 1919
Pearl M. Lovejoy (acting)	Jan. 1, 1926
Fred S. Black (acting)	Aug. 16, 1926
Fred S. Black (appointed)	Dec. 21, 1926
Ignatius B. Cleary	Aug. 27, 1935

Before the post office was established, mail was brought from Worcester by a post rider who announced his arrival by the blast of a horn. From 1831 to 1840, stages from Worcester to Norwich stopped at the Tavern with the mail. At this time letters did not carry stamps; the amount charged was marked at the corner and collected by the postmaster on delivery. Thus mail was often held for weeks before being claimed. Almost as soon as the mail route was established, Ward began to experience difficulty in the delivery of mail. The similarity of the names of Ward and the more western town of Ware was so marked that the mail of the two towns was constantly getting mixed. A town meeting was held on November 14, 1836, to see what steps should be taken to insure more prompt delivery of business letters, to say nothing of personal mail and love letters.

Joseph Stone was elected chairman with Thomas Merriam, Alvah Drury, Israel Stone, Jr., and Hervey Bancroft. The committee reported at the adjourned meeting on November 28, 1836, and "recommended to the town (though not literally within the commission) to choose a Committee to prepare or cause to be prepared, a petition to the General Court, for the purpose aforesaid; and also to procure a deposition from the Post Master in Ward, setting forth the inconvenience arising in the Post Office, on account of the similarity of the name of the town of Ware and the town of Ward." The petition was prepared and signed and sent with the letter from the Reverend Miner G. Pratt, Post Master, addressed to Joseph Stone, Esq: "Gentlemen: In answer to your inquiries respecting the difficulties which occur at this Post Office arising from a similarity of its name with that of Ware. I would state that there are insufferable difficulties continually arising in the Post Office on account of the similarity of the names of the town of Ward and the town of Ware. There being the same number of letters in both the same except the last. The letter *e* in Ware by many writers is turned up in such a manner as so nearly to resemble one method of making the letter *d*, the last letter in Ward, that it is impossible for postmasters to determine in many instances which office is intended. The consequence is letters designed for this office are sent to Ware. When letters superscribed in the above manner come to this office, if no one appears to claim them in the course of a few weeks, I remail them and send them to Ware. And as letters frequently come here that have been remailed at Ware, I conclude that the same is the practice of the Post Master at that office that

are sent to the Post Office Department in Washington, this accounts for the complaints of the loss of so many letters designed for this office.

"You will readily perceive that such inconveniences to the Post Master is occasioned by the similarity of the names of the two Post Offices. But a much greater inconvenience is occasioned to those whose letters are retarded or lost and as manufacturing is to be carried on extensively another season in this town, the inconvenience is likely to be greatly increased & those engaged in extensive business will be liable to suffer serious damage by the delay or loss of important letters. Your obedient servant.

M. G. Pratt, *Post Master*  
Ward, Dec. 7, 1836"

The petition was granted and reads as follows:

Ch. 14

### COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

*In the year One thousand eight hundred and thirty seven.  
An Act to change the name of the Town of Ward.*

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows: The name of the town of Ward in the County of Worcester is hereby changed to the name of Auburn, and said town shall henceforth be known and called by the said last mentioned name, anything in the Act whereby the said town was incorporated to the contrary notwithstanding.*

*House of Representatives February 15, 1837*

*Passed to be enacted*

*Julius Rockwell, Speaker*

*In Senate February 16, 1837*

*Passed to be enacted*

*Horace Mann, President*

*February 17th, 1837.*

*Approved,*

*Edward Everett.*

There has been considerable speculation as to why the name of Auburn was selected. The most commonly accepted explanation is that the name was suggested by Oliver Goldsmith's poem, *The Deserted Village*. The poetic phrase, "Auburn, Sweet Village of the Plain" does not, however, describe Auburn, Massachusetts,



with its rolling hills and valleys, and it seems safe to assume that the name was derived from another source. Joseph Stone, chairman of the naming committee is said to have been the one to propose "Auburn". Stone was the great-great-grandson of Simon Stone, who in 1636, settled on the banks of the Charles River in Watertown. The land remained in the Stone family until 1825, when a section of it, called Stone's Woods was sold by David Stone, and the heirs of C. Stone to George W. Brimmer who was attracted by its natural beauty. The tract was a favorite spot of the Harvard College students, who called it "Sweet Auburn." Mr. Jacob Bigelow, secretary of the newly incorporated Horticultural Society of Boston happened to visit the land with Mr. Brimmer, and proposed that the whole lot be purchased for a cemetery under the auspices of the Society. Accordingly, in 1831, the land was sold and Mount Auburn Cemetery established. A religious ceremony was held on Saturday, September 24, 1831, at which several members of the Stone family were present. Thus, it is probable that Auburn received its name from this lovely tract of land.

In the century that has passed since Auburn was renamed, many changes have been wrought in the town. In 1850, those residents who had been paying taxes in the original mother towns were ordered by special act of the legislature to pay them to Auburn in the future. The next year, a section of Auburn was annexed to Millbury and in 1908, the boundary between Auburn and Oxford was readjusted.

More important than these territorial changes has been the population increase, particularly during the past thirty years. In 1840, Auburn had 649 inhabitants; in 1900, the population had risen to 1,621 and by 1935, to 6,600. Work in the industrial plants of the town, and available farm land, but more particularly, the easy access to Worcester have been the prime factors in this development.

With the growth in numbers, has come a subtle but very definite social change. New racial strains have been woven into the pattern of community life with the arrival of Irish, Swedish, French, Polish and English residents. At first the Irish and English settled almost exclusively in the Stoneville section, while the Polish and Swedish people turned to the farms. Racial segregation, however, has been gradually broken down, until today,

the various segments of Auburn population have fused into a fairly homogeneous whole in which both industry and agriculture occupy places of importance.

Town clerks of Auburn have been:

John Prentice	1778— ?
Joseph Stone	? —1810
Daniel Green	Mar. 5, 1810—Mar. 1, 1819
Zebulon Cary	Mar. 1, 1819—Feb. 11, 1830
Elijah Bond	Feb. 11, 1830—Moved away in a few months
Alvah Drury	Nov. 1, 1830—May 27, 1839
John Mellish	May 27, 1839—Mar. 1, 1841
Israel Stone, Jr.	Mar. 1, 1841—Mar. 3, 1845
Alvah A. Stone	Mar. 3, 1845—Mar. 4, 1850
Isaac Merriam	Mar. 4, 1850—1854
Deacon William Emerson	1855—1855
Elisha M. Knowles	1854—1856
Emory Stone	1856—1898
Charles E. Prouty	1898—1906
Eugene H. Newton	1906—1917
Arthur W. Warren	1917—1918
G. Emil Lindgren	1918—1922
John E. Riley	1922—

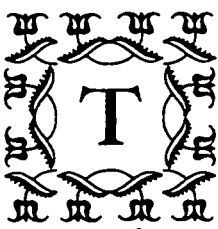
---



---

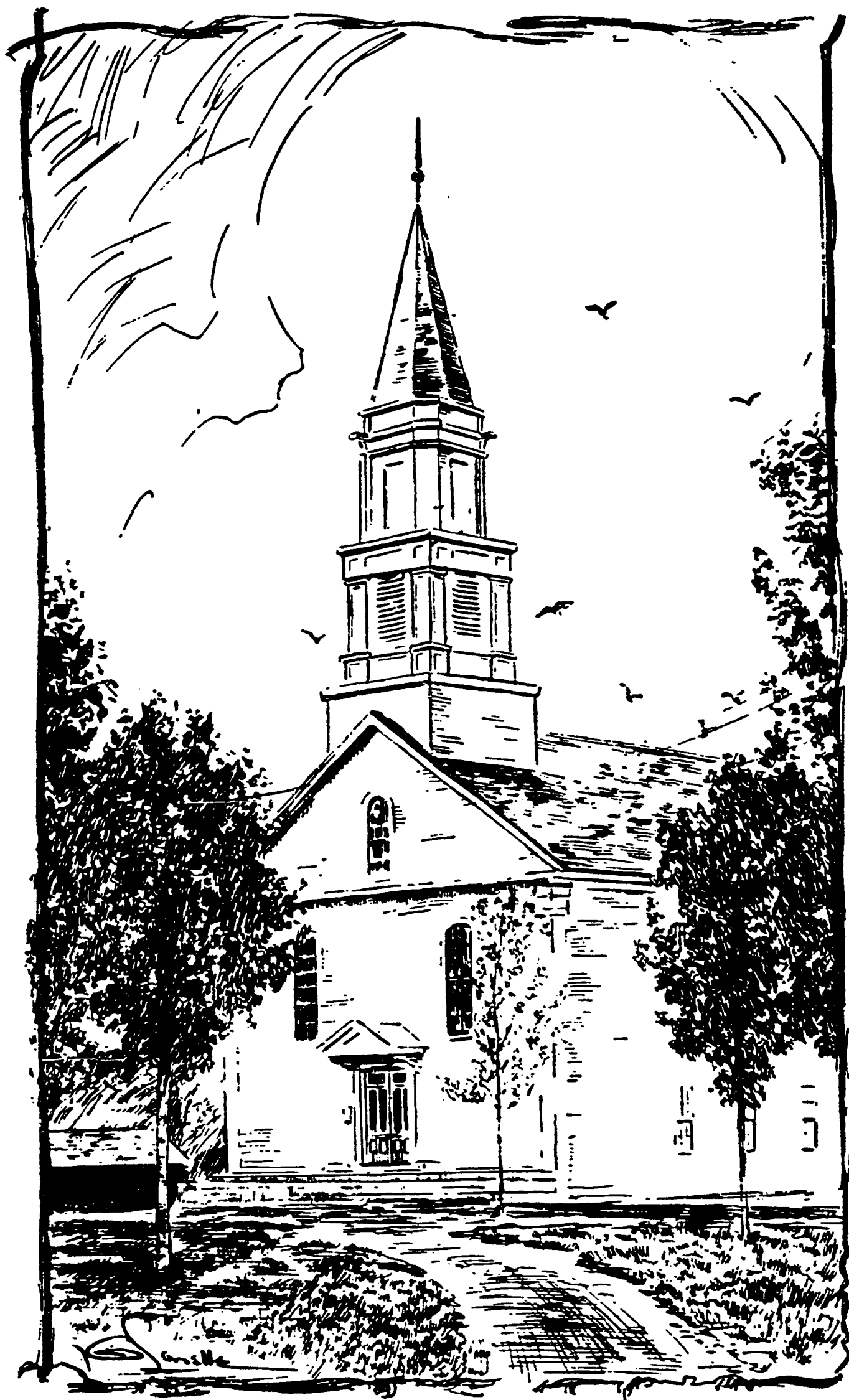
## Churches and Congregations

---

 HE NUCLEUS of the New England town of the seventeenth century was the meeting-house, where the monotony of the weekly routine was lightened and the demand for spiritual satisfaction gratified. As in the case of many New England towns, the inception of Auburn was due to the desire of a group of settlers to have a church near enough to attend regularly, a difficult matter, especially in the winter and spring when the rude paths through the woods were drifted high with snow or filled with mud.

In 1773, when the area became the South Parish of Worcester, the first act of the new precinct was to vote "to begin Preaching as soon as maybe" and make plans for the erection of the meeting-house. Building was begun at once, but though in use in 1776, the church was still not completed ten years later, owing undoubtedly to the "unfurnished condition" of the Treasury.

*Congregational:* On January 25, 1776, the parish was organized and a committee appointed to secure a gospel minister. Mr. Josiah Allen declined the call, and so did Mr. James Reed, although the latter was offered one thousand bushels of corn and thirty cords of wood annually for his support during his continuance in pastoral office. There was no settled pastor until October 11, 1784 when the town concurred with the church in ordaining Mr. Isaac Bailey. He received "60 pounds in settlement and 60 pounds annually, including 25 cords of wood" which was put up at public vendue at the town meeting. Mr. Bailey remained the beloved pastor of the church until his death in 1814.



The Congregational Church at Auburn Center in 1837

His successors have been:

Enoch Pond	1815-1825	Newell A. Prince	1879-1882
Miner G. Pratt	1828-1848	Samuel D. Hosmer	1883-1890
Charles Chamberlain	1851-1853	Charles M. Pierce	1890-1903
L. Ives Hoadley	1854-1858	J. Lewis Evans	1903-1907
Darwin Adams	1858-1860	W. J. Muttart	1907-1911
(Supplied)		Richard C. Jacobs	1912-1914
Charles Kendall	1860-1866	Bernard L. Chase	1916-1920
D. W. Richardson	1866-1868	George A. Crosby	1920-1921
George French	1868-1869	Albert H. Wheelock	1922-1935
Elnathan Davis	1869-1879	Raymond E. Walker	1935-

The first deacons were Jonathan Stone and Jesse Stone and listed to date they are:

Jonathan Stone	Hosea Marcy
Jesse Stone	John A. R. Curtis
Isaac Stone	Marcus B. Ward
Israel Jacobs	Henry H. Whitney
Jonathan Rice	Joel H. Prouty
Capt. Israel Stone	Albion P. Howe
Nathan Muzzy	William F. Stone
Thomas Eaton	Wilbur F. Prescott
Swan Knowlton	Samuel W. Gallotte
William Emerson	Denton Smith
Stephen Sibley	Arthur Dexter
George Bancroft	Eugene Parsons
Samuel A. Newton	Dr. Manford Spalding
Horace Hobbs	Everett C. Larrabee
Thomas Eaton	Everett W. Stone
Benjamin F. Larned	Edgar Leonard
Thomas S. Eaton	Henry E. Sibley
Enoch L. Bancroft	Albert F. Jacobs

When completed, the first meeting-house was an adequate structure for the worshipping assembly. It was fifty by forty feet, and made with twenty-four foot posts. There were galleries on three sides; the pulpit on the fourth side was built so high that it had to be reached by a flight of stairs. Fifty-seven square pews ranging in price from sixty pounds to ten pounds, forty shillings, occupied three sides of the church. Six long benches in front of the pulpit served as free seats.

Pew holders, according to a list of 1778, where Jonah Goulding, Israel Phillips, Samuel Eddy, James Hart, Jr., John Prentice,

Thomas Baird, John Campbell, William Parker, Isaac Putnam, Isaac Pratt, Nathaniel Scott, Joseph Stone, Thomas Scot and Gershom Bigelow. The list was signed and receipted by the committee—Thomas Baird, John Prentice and Charles Richardson.

In 1778, when the South Parish was incorporated as the town of Ward, one of the initial acts of the town government was to grant money for religious purposes. Many of the town warrants contained articles regarding the completion of the building. On December 30, 1782, however, the first steps were taken by the town in the separation of church and state, when it was voted "to have a Weekly Contribution on each Lord's Day we shall have public worship for the purpose of Supplying the pulpit; and that said committee collect and apply the same accordingly. And that such money as may be enclosed in the paper and marked with ye sum and Contributor's name be allowed and discounted to the amount thereof on the ministerial tax of such Contributor."

In 1837, the meeting-house was moved back, turned around and ten feet added in the length to provide a belfry and steeple. Improvements were made inside and out. The separation of town and church was not complete, however, for in the basement of the church a hall forty feet square was fitted up for a Town Hall, the town paying four hundred dollars toward the expense.

The Merriam Library in Auburn has in its possession a plan of the pews in the lower part and galleries in "The New Centre Meeting House in Auburn, according as it has been recently New Built by the ingenious Messrs. J. & T. Lewis," together with a list of pew holders as of 1837 and of the price they paid over the appraisal, which varied from twenty dollars to one hundred dollars. At auction on July 30th, 1837, forty-two pews were sold and seven more the second day. The pews were appraised for \$2,938 and the auction netted \$3,223.85.

A list of the pew holders who purchased at that auction follows:

Edward Rice	Smiley Bancroft
H. Bancroft	William Young
John Stone	Isaac Stone
Leonard Rice	Elijah Bond
Samuel Eddy	David Scott
Nathaniel Stone, Jr.	Joseph Forbush
Stephen Sibley	Abijah A. Craig, Jr.
Alvah Drury	William Emerson

Nathaniel Stone  
Samuel Austin Newton  
Thomas Eaton  
Ezra Rice  
Deacon Israel Stone  
Nathan Muzzy  
Smiley Bancroft  
Timothy Bancroft  
A. G. Stone  
Jonas Eaton  
Edward Knowlton  
Timothy Bancroft  
Thomas Eaton  
Elijah Stone  
Daniel Hewitt

John Clark, Jr.  
Kendall Bancroft  
Asapel Knowlton  
Nathaniel Clark  
Thomas Merriam  
Lewis Eddy  
Hester Sibley  
Daniel Green  
Benjamin Wiser  
Loami Stone  
John Clark  
David Livermore  
Elijah Prentice  
W. Betsy Hart  
Charles Green

James Eddy

Some were sold in the gallery to—

Timothy Bancroft  
Nathaniel Stone, Jr.  
John Stone

Timothy Bancroft  
Elijah Stone  
Leonard Rice

Abijah A. Craig, Jr.

In 1871, further improvements were made on the church at an expense of \$4,500.00. The galleries were removed and the organ was moved down front from the rear balcony. Two years later, the town enlarged and refitted the Town Hall in the basement at an expenditure of \$1,700.00. The building was burned February 4, 1896, but a new structure,—the present one,—was designed by Edward T. Chapin and begun immediately. It was dedicated on March 2, 1897. Shortly after, a Town Hall was built completing the separation of town and church.

The hundredth anniversary of the formation of the church was celebrated on January 26, 1876. Thomas W Davis, then principal of the Belmont High School and a son of Elnathan Davis, who was minister at the time, wrote the following hymn for the occasion:

“To Thee, O God, whose constant aid  
Our fathers sought to know,  
We now renew the vows they paid  
A hundred years ago!

“Where they the firm foundation planned,  
Help us to build today:  
And bid the superstructure stand  
To speak thy praise for aye.

“So may our children’s children teach  
The same old story here,  
When Time, in rapid flight shall reach  
The next centennial year.

“O grant, O Father, that we meet  
When Time for us is o’er,  
With those who gathered at thy feet  
A hundred years before!”

*Baptist:* As early as 1779, persons of the Baptist persuasion in Ward joined in fellowship and asked to be exempted from the customary ministerial tax imposed on all resident church members at that time.

Jonah Goulding, who had attended a baptism at the Baptist Church in Sutton in 1804, became converted and for ten years attended the church at West Sutton. It was a distance of ten miles which he rode on horseback every Sunday with his wife behind him on a pillion. Through his efforts, a council of Elders and delegates was called by the Sutton church which met, April 9, 1815, and constituted the First Baptist Church of Ward with eleven men and seventeen women members. They included:

Boxa Booley	Elizabeth Holman
Aquilla Cheney	Mary Jennerson
Hannah Cheney	Daniel Jennison
Anna Cudworth	Elisha Livermore
Anna Desner	Salley Livermore
Davie Gleason	Jeremiah Pratt
Lydia Gleason	Mary Pratt
Silas Gleason	Jonathan Rice
Grace Goulding	David Scott
Jonah Goulding	Polley Scott
Salley Goulding	Miriam Severy
Mary Hart	Persis Warren
Relief Henshaw	Sally Warren
David Holman	Samuel Warren

A building was erected on land contributed by Jonah Goulding and Samuel Warren in the western part of the town known



as Warrenville. There Elder Pearson Crosby of Thompson preached the first sermon and Elder Thomas L. Leonard of Sturbridge gave the right hand of fellowship to the newly established church. Elder Dwinell appears to have been the first pastor, followed by Elias McGregory and the Reverend John Paine who served the society until it disbanded in 1837.

On April 13, 1837, the society authorized and directed the clerk "to give letters of dismission to any who may ask for them to form a new church to the North part of Oxford," and, on April 27th, it was voted to present to the new church the communion service and the books belonging to the Society. This communion service was the gift of Jonah Goulding. At his death in 1825, the church had received a legacy of \$158.47, his will stipulating that all "neat stock, sheep and swine" be sold and the proceeds paid the Church and placed on interest. The larger part of the parish, numbering one hundred members, was thus transferred in 1839 to become the Baptist Church in North Oxford, where the congregation is still composed mainly of Auburn families. The Auburn Baptist meeting-house was purchased by the Warren brothers, moved to the site of their tannery a few rods north and used for business purposes until it burned about 1863.

*Catholic:* In 1867, Mass was said for the first time in the town by Father William Griffin of Worcester at the schoolhouse in Stoneville. In 1869, Father Griffin built a church near the same site, which was maintained as a mission of St. Peter's Church of Worcester. The frame edifice was named St. Joseph's Church and consecrated on Thanksgiving Day, November 25, 1869. After some years, St. Joseph's Mission was transferred to the care of St. John's Church of Worcester, and later it came under the supervision of the parish of St. Ann. In 1885, Sacred Heart was the mother church, but a short time later St. Joseph's became a charge of the Oxford parish. From February 8, 1891, until January 28, 1907, it was again in the care of St. Peter's. At that time the Right Reverend John P. Phelan was installed as resident pastor, remaining until September 1910, when the Reverend James P. Moore took his place. From October 1, 1926, to July 23, 1928, the Reverend John J. Keating was in charge of the parish. He was followed by the Reverend William Smith, who is pastor today. Under Father Smith's supervision the catechism is taught in different districts covering the fifty-two square miles of the town; the entire church property has been improved and the Holy

Name Society and Blessed Virgin Sodality established, welding all parishioners in one harmonious Catholic unit.

During the influenza epidemic of 1918, the Reverend James P. Moore, then pastor of St. Joseph's Church, made visits to the afflicted without distinction of race or creed. He directed the isolation of incipient cases, provided nursing assistance, established a canteen service at the church, and furnished householders afflicted by the epidemic with sickroom nourishment and food. When Dr. William H. Follner of Williamsport, Pennsylvania, a member of the National Medical Reserve accepted an assignment to the town of Auburn, he resided at St. Joseph's parsonage. He averaged one hundred visits a day, treated three hundred and twenty-eight cases, issued five hundred and twenty-eight prescriptions and covered five hundred and four miles. During his stay of eight days not a death ensued and less than twenty cases out of the total thousand proved fatal. The Board of Health that year in its report gave "grateful recognition" to Father Moore for "his splendid initiative which contributed so largely and effectively to the suppression of the plague".

*Episcopal:* About 1906, St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Worcester opened St. George's Mission for the benefit of a small group of English people living in Stoneville. Services were at first held in the Stoneville school house, but soon the parish moved into a tenement on Main Street, where a pipeless furnace was installed, and three upstairs rooms were used for a kitchen, a library and a guild room. The ladies of St. Mark's took care of the mission and conducted a sewing school and the rector of St. Mark's, now the Very Reverend Henry B. Washburn, dean of the Episcopal Theological School at Cambridge, held Sunday afternoon services from 1906 to 1908. The Reverend Kinsley Blodgett followed, and theological students used to assist at these services, among them the Reverend R. Carmichael, curate at Grace Church, Providence, Rhode Island. The exact date when the mission was closed is not definitely established, but it was probably about 1916.

While Episcopalian residents were scattered in various sections of the town, no census of them was made until 1928. On November seventh of that year an informal meeting was held at the home of A. V. Derosier, 32 Rockland Road, Auburn. Fourteen persons were present; Henry J. Conroy was appointed chairman, with the Reverend Stanley C. S. Shirt, vicar of Christ Church,

Rochdale, Frederick C. Evans and Henry Roussel as a committee to rent a hall for services. At first these were held in what is now the Insurance Office on Auburn Street. The church was organized as St. George's Mission in 1930, and admitted into union with the diocese the same year. The Reverend Mr. Shirt was succeeded by the Reverend John C. W. Linsley, who stayed one year, and latterly by the Reverend George Stockwell, the present incumbent.

At that time there was a good church property in Cherry Valley which had been closed due to the small membership in the parish. The diocese gave this church to the parish at Auburn on condition that it retain the name of St. Thomas. The edifice was taken down in sections and rebuilt on land on Auburn Street. The first service was conducted in the new church the first Sunday in Lent, March 5, 1933. While the church is known as St. Thomas, the parish room retains the name St. George. Organizations include the Ladies' Aid, St. Thomas Guild, the Altar Guild, Servers Guild, the Mens' Club and two Boys' clubs, St. Thomas and St. George.

The membership in 1937 was two hundred and thirty-nine. Up to January, 1930, records were kept in Rochdale, but on that date a register was started in Auburn.

*Lutheran:* A Lutheran mission for Stoneville and the adjoining territory was formally established in October, 1920, by the Reverend C. William Carlson, who later became pastor. In the early summer of 1922, land was given by Robert C. Howe for a church site at the corner of Bryn Mawr and Homestead Avenues, and a campaign for funds was immediately conducted by the Reverend Mr. Carlson, assisted by Eskil G. Englund, a student at Upsala College. The building was finished at a cost of \$12,000.00 and the Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church was organized into a formal parish February 22, 1924, under the direction of the Reverend Gilbert J. Laurell of the Emanuel Lutheran Church at Quinsigamond, who succeeded the Reverend Mr. Carlson. The Reverend Fritz Soderberg became the first resident pastor the following year, serving until 1929. He was succeeded by the Reverend Bror Olson who remained from 1930 to 1932. In 1933, Reverend C. William Carlson, the present pastor, who for several years had charge of the Lutheran Scandinavian Seamen's Mission in Boston, once more took up the work of the church in whose organization he had been instrumental.

The oldest organization within the church is the Ruth Society Ladies' Aid. The Sunday School was organized by Martin B. Olson. In 1926, the Luther League, a young people's society, and the Woman's Missionary Society were organized. The active membership of the church is two hundred and fifty, although the working groups include a much larger number.

In 1934, the Trinity Mission was established to serve the Lutheran population in the Hadwen Park and Boyce Street sections of Auburn and the adjoining part of Worcester as far as Webster Square. Thirteen different nationalities are represented in this parish, including Scotch, Irish, American, English and Albanian, as well as Swedish. While the latter form the largest part of the congregation, Swedish services are held but once a month.

*Pakachoag Chapel:* On Sunday, June 23, 1929, a group of eighteen people attended Sunday School service in the old Pakachoag schoolhouse under the leadership of the Reverend Ray E. Butterfield, superintendent of the Worcester Missionary Society. Since then, meetings have been conducted every Sunday afternoon, when not conflicting with services in other local churches. The attendance has grown and preaching service has been added. The building, which had been abandoned after sixty years of use as a schoolhouse, was purchased from the town of Auburn for fifty dollars, and the land immediately surrounding it was purchased for one hundred dollars.

In February, 1932, Pakachoag Chapel Association was organized. Howard W. Kemp was elected its first president and a Woman's Circle and Christian Endeavor Society were formed. Furniture, hymn books, and other supplies were bought from time to time and an addition was built for a kitchen and an extra class room.

In the early morning of June 7, 1934, the building was burned to the ground. Regular services were conducted in a log cabin on the nearby Knowles estate, and in less than two months after the fire a new building was begun to replace the old one on the same site. With the insurance money, a loan from the City Missionary Society, and other financial assistance from friends and neighbors, the present larger and more modern church building was erected, and is in constant use for religious and social purposes. The dedication was held in November, 1934, only five months after the original building was destroyed. Winthrop G. Hall of Worcester is the present Lay Reader and conducts all the services.

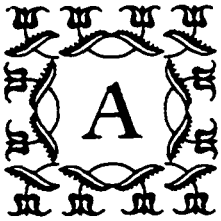
---

---

# EDUCATION

---

---

LMOST as soon as the town of Ward was established in 1778, plans were made for the organization of a school system. On March 29, 1779, the town was divided into five school districts or "squadrons" and two hundred pounds appropriated for education. The first school committee, chosen in 1780, was composed of Jonathan Stone, Darius Boyden, Jesse Stone, John Prentice and Andrew Crowl. Two years later the committee numbered seven: James Hart, Jr., Joseph Dorr, Esq., Lieutenant Thomas Drury, Jonah Goulding, Levi Eddy, Deacon Ezra Cary and Abel Holman.

Although the amount appropriated for the schools would seem adequate for a town the size of Auburn, it really represented very little in the depreciated Continental currency of that year. But in spite of the depreciation and other setbacks, the school system survived the difficult years following the Revolution. In 1789, the squadrons listed were six; the Sutton, Leicester, North and South squadrons on Prospect Hill, and the Bogachoag and Deacon Stone's squadrons. In November, 1790, Lieutenant Thomas Drury asked for the establishment of a southeast squadron, provided the schoolhouse be erected "on the height of land south of Messrs. Cary & Green's Potash." The new squadron was formed, and the families of Abel Holman, Richard Bartlett, Eliphalet Holman and Paul Thurston were set off for the southeast district.

The West Auburn schoolhouse stands where the first schoolhouse in that section was built while this part of town was still a part of Oxford. Tradition avers that the original school was

kept by a schoolmaster in his own log dwelling before the French and Indian Wars. Indians are said to have burned the house and murdered the schoolmaster. The present building is the third one erected on the same spot within one hundred years, and occupies the site where Jonah Goulding cleared the land and built a log cabin when the town was young. On December 6, 1825, the lease of School District No. 4 and the schoolhouse was conveyed to Jonah and all other inhabitants in the district for their heirs and assigns "as long as they shall keep a school house on the same for the purpose of instructing the youth and no longer."

During the first half of the past century, the school year was usually twenty-two weeks, the first term of ten weeks beginning the first Monday in May, and the winter term of twelve weeks commencing the Monday after Thanksgiving. A man teacher taught during the winter term, while a woman teacher was engaged for the summer.

In outlying sections of the town social life centered around the district school, often attended by pupils older than the teacher. Spelling schools conducted in the evenings throughout the year attracted both young and old, everybody participating in the program of recitations and song which rounded out the evening's entertainment.

A written report of the school committee was accepted by the town in 1843, but the first printed report was published by vote of the town in 1851. That year the total number of enrolled pupils in Auburn was two hundred and seventy-eight.

By 1862, there were seven school districts in the town: Center, Pakachoag, Union, Prospect, Stoneville, Sibley's and West. The appropriation for education at this time, during the Civil War, was a modest \$595.43. Six years later, in 1868, the school committee voted in favor of a more liberal appropriation for the schools the ensuing year, and as a result the amount was raised to \$1,383.56. At the same time the school year was increased to three terms, eight weeks in the summer, nine in the fall and twelve weeks in the winter.

Higher education was introduced in Auburn nearly a century ago. For those who were unable to attend higher institutions of learning at out-of-town academies an opportunity for educational advancement was offered by several select schools. Miss Hannah Green, daughter of Dr. Daniel Green, conducted such a

school for a time after her graduation from Mount Holyoke Seminary, about 1846, as did Miss Maria Eddy, also a graduate of Mount Holyoke, and known as a brilliant teacher. Miss Lydia S. Hoadley, daughter of the Reverend S. Ives Hoadley and later daughter-in-law of the Reverend Enoch Pond, taught English subjects, while her father taught Latin. In 1861, Miss Mary Cary taught in the house known as Cary's Tavern, later the home of Benjamin Wiser, who owned the store opposite. Jonathan Dana of Oxford had a school in the vestry of the Congregational Church then located in the corner of the old burying ground opposite the one-time tavern.

In 1875, John W. Hicks, a resident graduate of Yale College, taught in the Town Hall under the old church, and the Reverend Enoch Pond arranged a classroom in his home, where thirty or forty students received instruction. Some of his pupils had been "rusticated" from college for misdemeanors, but many became valued teachers, preachers, or members of other professions. Mr. Pond taught seven years. He reconstructed *Murray's Grammer*, which was then given the name of *Pond's Murray's Grammer*.

The last fifty years have seen many improvements in the town's educational system. The increasing population and development of residential districts have called for wide expansion and up-to-date methods. In addition to the usual curriculum, a Practical Arts department was introduced in 1919, featuring manual training and kindred subjects, and in 1921, the department offered girl students instruction in domestic arts, cooking and sewing classes being held twice a week. A school nurse was engaged, and hot lunches served in the Julia Bancroft, Stoneville, Mary D. Stone, Pakachoag and West Auburn schools. The following year a dental clinic was sponsored by the District Nursing Association. The school appropriation in 1921 was \$33,146.22, the children attending twelve schools: the Town Hall school, Stoneville, Boyce Street, North, Crowl Hill, West Auburn, Southbridge Street, Maywood, Center Primary, Pondville, Pakachoag and Elm Hill schools.

Boom times in the early 1920's made possible the replacing of old school buildings by new ones. In 1924, the West Auburn school was replaced by a new building, and in 1926 an eight-room schoolhouse was erected in Stoneville. The Julia Bancroft school at Bryn Mawr was built in 1927, and the Elm Hill district received a new school building in 1928. After the Mary D. Stone school

was finished in the Centre, in 1930, the Mary D. Stone Fund of two thousand dollars was accepted as a gift from William F. Stone, Arthur W. Stone, Everett W. Stone and Frederick N. Stone, to be held in trust, the interest to be expended at the judgment of the school committee to aid education in the Mary D. Stone school. In 1930, the total enrollment in elementary schools in the town was 1,230 pupils, two hundred and seventy attending the Worcester high schools.

For the past two decades, the increasing cost of tuition and transportation of pupils to Worcester caused agitation for an Auburn high school, and while land had been acquired on the Dunn property on Auburn Street in 1926 for such a school, it was not until a special town meeting held August 29, 1933, that \$250,000 was appropriated. Federal aid was sought under the provisions of the Public Works Administration and on March 5, 1935, the plans drawn by Lucius W. Briggs, Worcester architect, were accepted. Work on the building was begun the following month, classes were held there on Monday, December 16, 1935, and the building was formally dedicated January 16, 1936.

In the new high school building provision has been made for four hundred pupils, while three hundred and twenty-nine students were enrolled in 1937. It is fully equipped with the most modern facilities including laboratories, a library, manual training room, and kitchen. An auditorium and gymnasium which seats six hundred has a large stage, commodious dressing rooms, ticket office, check room and fireproof projection booth. The most up-to-date thermostatic heating and ventilation systems add to the comfort of the attractive brick building. The athletic field beside the school was constructed by the Works Progress Administration.

Although there were several residents of Auburn who possessed libraries of their own at the time of the Revolution, it was not until 1830 that a social library was established for the benefit of the town. Joseph Stone, who had an extensive library of his own, much of which is now incorporated in the town library, devised the system of loaning his books to his neighbors. He was joined in this enterprise by Abijah Craig, Oliver Baker and others whose names are unknown and each member of the group became a share-holder in the new library system. Joseph Stone had a record of the persons who borrowed books from him in a diary which he kept for the purpose between bound copies of the



*Christian Almanac*. The titles of the books most frequently loaned indicate the popular taste of the readers at that time. Among these volumes were *Heaven Taken by Storm*, by Watson; *Washington's Book of Faith*; *Putnam and the Wolfe, or the Monster Destroyed*, and Pond's *Grammer*.

A church library was purchased from Miner G. Pratt in March, 1838. Hours for taking out books were from two to four on Monday afternoons. Several of the school districts were in possession of good libraries prior to 1860, and these collections were later turned over to the Free Public Library. This library was established by a bequest of one thousand dollars from William Craig, with the stipulation that the town should raise a like amount for the maintenance thereof. The money was raised by taxation and placed in the treasury, but when wanted for use, it was found that the amount had been spent for current expenses of the town, without authority.


A committee of five was appointed in 1872, to establish the library, space for which was provided in the town hall. A legacy of two hundred dollars from William H. Emerson provided for the purchase of more books in 1886. This was a substantial addition to the collection, which in 1865 had less than four hundred books in the adult department and about 80 in the juvenile department according to a catalogue of the books in the "Library of the Auburn Sabbath School." In March, 1894, the library was moved from the town hall to the Mellish House.

On June 27th, 1911, the Merriam Library building was dedicated, the gift of Leander S. Merriam to the memory of his father, Ebenezer Merriam, his mother, Clarissa Cummings and his sister, Lucy Merriam Hunt. The lot upon which this library stands was for many years the site of the Mellish homestead. After the death of Herbert G. Mellish in New York, his wife gave the library one hundred dollars for the purchase of new books.

Miss Abbie B. Shute, who died May 13, 1933, at the age of 73, was librarian from 1907 to 1927. She was succeeded by Miss Mona Adshead, the present librarian. According to the report of 1936, the total circulation of books for that year was 30,516 in the Merriam library and the Stoneville branch, which was established in June, 1908, Mrs. William Barrows assisting at this branch for fifteen years.

Auburn not only cherishes its own educational institutions, but has on more than one occasion responded to the needs and requests of other communities. During the World War in 1917, when Camp Library Week was observed, the town raised \$257.08 to aid in the million dollar drive for camp libraries. Two boxes of books and magazines were also sent to Camp Devens. Again in 1928, when floods wiped out libraries in Vermont towns, recent books by standard authors were sent from Auburn to help fill the empty library shelves of these communities.

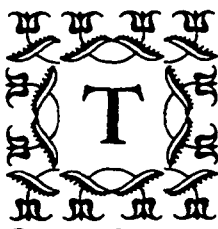
---



---

## Manufacturing and Agriculture

---

 HE ECONOMIC history of Auburn began with clearing the land, tilling of the soil and the establishment of saw and grist mills. The latter were a particularly important part of the life of the community, for Joseph Stone's map drawn in 1794, shows a grist and saw mill owned by Charles Richardson on the French River, Young's saw mill on Young's Brook, Drury's saw and grist mill, one mile north of the Centre, and Prentice's saw mill on Dark Brook. Peter Whitney in the *History of Worcester County*, printed in 1793, mentions a clothier's works and a windmill on Prospect Hill. Grinding stones for this wind-driven grist mill were brought in 1812 by Jesse Eddy from Cape Cod; later they were taken by J. Stone to his mill on the French River in Oxford.

Along the valleys and hills the growth of timber was thick and lumbering from the early days of the settlement was a leading occupation. The types of wood were varied, for Whitney writes: "The general growth of wood is oak in the various sorts . . . chestnut and walnut are found in the high lands, and in the lower lands, pine, cedar, maple . . . ." Even after the clearing of the land had progressed to a considerable degree, many of the town's residents were engaged in this industry. In 1845, 292,000 feet of lumber was cut within the bounds of the town; in 1855, 191,000 feet and in 1865, 800,000 feet.

Despite the rolling character of the land the earliest references to the area speak of the excellent quality of the farm land especially in the Pakachoag Hill district. Peter Whitney writing in 1793 describes the soil of Ward as being, "in general fertile, rich

and strong, suitable for orcharding and all kinds of fruit; well adapted to pasturage and mowing, and produces large crops of rye, oats, wheat, barley, Indian corn and flax. It is not level but rather uneven, abounding in hills and valleys. The hills are not high, but the land is good . . . .” Rich farms were cultivated throughout the town and especially on Pakachoag Hill where the list of produce was both long and varied. One outstanding crop seems to have been strawberries, noted for sweetness and size.

With the beginning of the nineteenth century, the economic complexion of Ward began to change. Agriculture no longer remained the principle enterprise of the townspeople. The industrial development that was gradually gaining ground throughout the young nation had its repercussion in this little New England community. Small mills were built along the swiftly running brooks and streams of the town, and men and women began to supplement their labors in the field and kitchen with work at the loom and forge. Production, which heretofore had been limited to family consumption, was expanded to include production for the community. Cotton and woolen textiles, sheeting, paper, boots and shoes were produced in increasing quantities.

One of the earliest industrial concerns in the town was the tannery established by that outstanding citizen Jonah Goulding in 1777. In 1807 Goulding sold the business to his son-in-law Samuel Warren, and for three generations Goulding’s descendants, the Warrens, carried on the tannery on the same site until it was discontinued in 1893 after fire had destroyed the building. Waterman Warren was the last of the family to engage in the business.

In 1820 a shop was opened at the Sibley Place where wooden rakes, hammer and chisel handles and other small tools were turned out by hand and foot power from wood cut on the place. The business never reached large proportions, but was sufficient to supply the local market.

Probably the first textile mill in the town was established by Samuel Clark about two miles north of the Centre on Kettle Brook in Stoneville, where cloth woven on the hand looms in the neighboring farmhouses was dressed and finished for market. Charles Richardson built a saw mill in what is now Pondville and in 1812 he sold it to Leonard Rice, who in turn sold it to Otis Pond a few years later. Pond began the manufacture of yarn but within a short time, in partnership with his brother, Philander

Pond, he changed the property into a satinet mill. In 1862 B. F. Larned purchased an interest in the business and continued it with several partners until, in 1879, he became the sole owner. At that time the mill employed sixty-nine workers, most of whom lived in the mill village and with four sets of machinery produced 35,000 yards of satinet and union cassimeres a month. Although the business prospered and continued to expand, disaster beset its development, for three times, in 1865, 1870 and 1880, the building was destroyed by fire, though in each case it was rebuilt at once with added improvements. At the completion of the new building in 1881, a celebration was held in which the people of the town joined. In 1883, the mill passed into the hands of L. J. Knowles and Brother and a few years later was purchased by Kirk, Hutchins and Stoddard who operated it under the name of the Auburn Woolen Mill. Today the Pondville Woolen Mills occupy this site.

About 1835, Jeremy Stone "Began to improve the water power on Young's Brook by erecting a brick mill and houses for the operatives." This new mill was not far from the old fulling mill established by Samuel Clark. It was first used for the manufacture of woolen cloth but in 1850 changed to the production of cottons. At the death of Jeremy Stone in 1839, the property was sold to Loring F. Perry and during the next twenty years it was known as the Stoneville Manufacturing Company. In 1859, it was purchased by John Smith of Barre and operated by his sons, C. W. and J. E. Smith of Worcester. During the Civil War period, the business was greatly expanded and by 1879, 120,000 yards of cotton sheeting a month was produced on 4,800 spindles by seventy-five operatives. At the same time there was a worsted mill in Stoneville which produced 150,000 yards of tape and trimming a day, using 2,500 warps operated by 75 workers. Today this concern is known as the Auburn Textile Company.

A grist and saw mill was built by the Drury family at the outlet of the pond near the Southbridge and Sturbridge roads, and for three generations operated by members of the same family. Later this became the site of Dunn's Shoddy Mill. In 1877, while owned by B. F. Larned, it was destroyed by fire but immediately rebuilt. Ten years later it was again swept by fire but rebuilt and enlarged at once by its new owner, James Hilton.

During the first quarter of the century, the production of boots and shoes was introduced into the town. No factories were

erected, for the business was carried on in the homes where the cobbler's bench for generations had been as integral a part of the household furnishings as the spinning wheel and the loom. Boots and shoes were brought from the factories in Worcester and neighboring towns and apportioned out to the farmers who finished the product for sale. In 1837 seventeen men and seventeen women were employed in this business in Auburn and the annual production was valued at \$13,000.

In the same year, 1837, a four-story paper mill was established in Stoneville by Daniel Heywood, but in 1856 flood waters carried the structure away and it was never rebuilt. In 1837 there were three shingle mills, a lath mill and a sash and blind factory in the town. Though these concerns are now defunct, the lumbering industry is carried on by the L. O. Irish and the H. C. Pond Lumber Companies which deal in the same type of commodity.

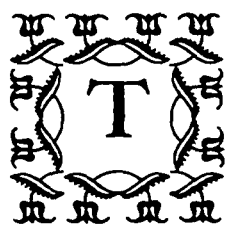
As the century progressed, however, manufacturing in Auburn decreased. Overshadowed by the rapidly expanding industrial life of the city of Worcester, competition became too keen; one by one the older concerns were abandoned, and the residents of Auburn turned to Worcester enterprises for employment. At present, the active business establishments in the town are: the Baldwin Duckworth Corporation which employs two hundred men; the Worcester Rendering Company dealing in tallow, grease, poultry feed, fertilizer, hides, wool and raw furs, employing fifty men; the Shrewsbury Concrete Block Company manufacturing cement blocks and bricks, and the Worcester Transit Concrete Company, all located on Southbridge Street; the Auburn Textile Company of Stoneville and The Pondville Woolen Mills.

Although eclipsed by industry, agriculture has always held an important place in the economic makeup of the town. In 1865, farm produce in Auburn was valued at \$115,045, including hay, \$32,000, Indian corn, \$7,815, rye, \$728, wheat, \$112, barley, \$321 and oats, \$3,044. Ten years later the total had dropped to \$107,669 but in 1885 reached a new high of \$132,032. Today agriculture is represented by several large market gardens, dairy farms and orchards. Orchardry has gained in importance in the town and at present large crops of the finest peaches and apples are produced. There are four producing dairies in Auburn: the Worcester Milk and Cream Company; Hillcrest Dairy Farms; the H. P. Hood and Sons, Inc., Worcester County distributors and Mapleside Farm, the two latter on Pakachoag Hill.

---

# Military Affairs

---

 HE NUMBER of residents of Auburn who have answered the call of their country in war time has always been large. During the colonial wars, even before the South Parish was erected as a separate unit, men from the settlement served against the French and Indians. Lieutenant Comfort Rice, Samuel Eddy, Jr., and Alexander Nichols were with Colonel John Chandler's regiment which marched to the relief of Fort William Henry, August 10, 1757.

Although the settlement was engaged at the time of the outbreak of the Revolution in winning its independent status, the response to the news from Lexington and Concord was immediate. On April 19, 1775, a company of Minute Men from the South Parish under the command of Captain John Crawl joined Colonel Ebenezer Learned's company from Oxford and started on the march for Lexington. Learning that the British had retreated they changed their course and marched on to Cambridge to join the forces from which the Continental Army was created. The commander-in-chief was General Artemas Ward of Shrewsbury, until he was succeeded by George Washington. The men who served in Captain Crawl's company included:

John Crawl, *Captain*  
Israel Phillips, *1st Lieutenant*  
Samuel Larned, *1st Lieutenant*  
Andrew Crawl, *2nd Lieutenant*  
Peter Hardy, *1st Sergeant*  
Benjamin Carter, *2nd Sergeant*

James Bancroft, *4th Sergeant*  
Jacob Work, *Corporal*  
William Bancroft, *Corporal*  
David Stone, *Corporal*  
Samuel Holman, *Corporal*  
Levi Eddy, *Private*

Henry Gale, *Private*  
Robert Fitts, *Private*  
Daniel Jenison, *Private*  
Peter Jenison, *Private*  
Isaac Pratt, *Private*  
Gershom Rice, *Private*

Israel Stone, *Private*  
Joseph Streeter, *Private*  
Daniel Comens, *Private*  
Nathan Cutler, *Private*  
Darius Boyden, *Private*  
Rahan Bancroft, *Private*

William Kenny, *Private*

These twenty-six Minute Men were paid for one hundred miles travel and for six to twelve days service. The total amount received by the company and receipted by their commanding officer in January 24, 1776, was twenty-eight pounds, two shillings and seven pence, ha'penny.

Other Minute Men from the South Parish were Peter Boyden, Jonas Nicholas, Jonathan Stone and James Wiser who joined Captain Timothy Bigelow's company from Worcester. David Richards, Jonathan Stone, III, and Samuel Clark served with Captain Benjamin Flagg, also of Worcester.

The need for organization of the volunteer forces which had gathered at Cambridge after the Battle of Lexington and Concord was immediate and on April 20th, the work of welding the diverse units into a fighting force was begun. Men were asked to enlist for a definite period of time, preferably until the end of the year, but most of the enlistments were for a much shorter time. On April 21st, the Provincial Congress made plans to raise an army of eight thousand out of the Massachusetts forces, with nine companies to a regiment, each company to have a captain, lieutenant, ensign, four sergeants, a fife, a drummer and fifty men. Most of the men from the South Parish enlisted on April 24th in the company of which Jonas Hubbard, who had been 1st lieutenant in Bigelow's company of Minute Men, was captain. The others joined the regiment of which Jonathan Ward was colonel and Timothy Bigelow major. A few were in Captain Ephraim Doolittle's regiment and in the artillery under Colonel Thomas Craft.

Enlistments for service in the Continental Army, however, were slow and in June, 1776, the Continental Congress devised the method of enlisting militia with a bounty of ten dollars and on September 16, voted that eighty-eight battalions be enlisted to serve during the duration of the war, fifteen of these to be from Massachusetts. Non-commissioned officers and privates were to receive a bounty of twenty dollars and one hundred acres of land, the expense to be borne by the State. They were also furnished



with arms, clothing and necessities, the cost of the clothing to be deducted from their pay. Even the inducements of bounties and land did not produce the desired result in Massachusetts, and it was necessary for the province to grant another bounty of \$33.33 and to increase the monthly pay by twenty shillings. Enlistments were usually for three to six month periods and each draft drew four to six men from Ward. Penalties were exacted from towns that failed to supply their quota of men or equipment and in June, 1778, Ward was fined for a deficiency of two men.

In July, 1777, a company of men from Worcester under the command of Jesse Stone from the South Parish were ordered to northern New York State to augment the forces in that region. On their arrival in Bennington they were joined by Captain Job Cushing's regiment and proceeded to Ticonderoga. There they received orders to turn back and reinforce General Stark's command at Bennington. They arrived too late to participate in the battle, but performed the duty of guarding British prisoners of war. On the 29th of August, they were dismissed and began the return journey to Worcester, where they arrived on September 2nd, having been absent within two days of two months.

Undoubtedly there was a home company in Ward during the war, for its officers were associated with the local Committee of Correspondence in 1780. In all, there were eighty men from the town who served in the Continental Army, some for short periods, others for months at a time.

In addition to man power, Auburn met the calls for food, clothing, equipment and money freely and willingly. Special town meetings were repeatedly called to vote appropriations for the army.

While there is little in the records to give details of what each did, the following are definitely listed from Ward or the South Parish as taking part in the Revolution:

<i>Colonel—</i>	Drury, Thomas
Goulding, Jonah	Larned, Samuel
<i>Captains—</i>	Phillips, Israel
Crowl, John	Stone, Jonathan
Stone, Jesse	<i>Sergeants—</i>
<i>Lieutenants—</i>	Bancroft, James
Crowl, Andrew	Bancroft, Jonas

Carter, Benjamin  
Hardy, Peter  
Pratt, Isaac

*Corporals—*

Bancroft, William  
Fitts, Robert  
Holman, Samuel  
Knights, John  
Stone, David  
Stone, Jonathan  
Work, Jacob

*Privates*

Alexander, William  
Bancroft, Jonas, Jr.  
Bancroft, Rahan  
Bancroft, William  
Bennett, Benjamin  
Bennett, Joseph  
Bennett, Joseph  
Bigelow, Gershom, Jr.  
Boston, negro  
Boyden, Darius  
Boyden, Peter  
Burnap, Ebenezer, Jr.  
Buxton, Timothy  
Chaplin, Joseph  
Clark, Joseph  
Clark, Samuel  
Comens, Daniel  
Craig, Abijah  
Cutler, Nathan  
Cuttin, Jonah  
Eddy, Levi  
Gale, Henry  
Gleason, David  
Gleason, Thomas

Harwood, Daniel  
Holman, Samuel  
Jennison, Daniel  
Jennison, Peter  
Jordan, Edmund  
Jordan, William  
Kenney, William  
Lamphear, Shubal  
Nichols, Jonas  
Parks, Cuffe, negro  
Parsons, Andrew  
Parsons, Phineas  
Patch, Nathan  
Patridge, Abel  
Persons, Amos  
Persons, Andrew  
Pratt, Isaac, Jr.  
Putnam Isaac  
Rice, Gershom  
Rice, Jonathan  
Richards, David  
Richardson, Charles, Jr.  
Richardson, Zachariah  
Roper, Daniel  
Savage, Francis  
Smith, David  
Stone, Israel  
Stone, Jonathan  
Stone, Joseph  
Stone, William  
Streeter, Joseph  
Thompson, William  
Thurston, Abijah  
Todd, John  
Todd, Thomas  
Wiser, James

There is no record that any residents of Ward were engaged in the War of 1812, but in the town records the people of the community expressed themselves in favor of the policies of the Administration by approving the embargo. Neither this war nor the Mexican War appear to have interested the town in any direct way.

The news from Fort Sumter reached Worcester on April 14, 1861. Less than a month later, in May, the first legal meeting was held in Auburn to consider matters relating to the war. It was voted to raise one thousand dollars to be appropriated "for the benefit of such volunteers as shall be or are now employed in the military service of the government and to the wants of their families while absent". Apparently volunteers had already joined the Union cause, for in June five dollars was voted to each of the two three-month volunteers then in service.

The next year Auburn's quota under the new draft requirements was for nine men and the town voted a bounty of one hundred and fifty dollars to induce enlistment. This sum was raised to one hundred and seventy-five dollars by popular subscription and in each school district a leading resident was appointed to "encourage men to enlist." Special town meetings were held at regular intervals until the fall of 1864, at which bounties ranging from one hundred to one hundred and twenty-five dollars were voted for each soldier who would help to fill the town's quota. By the end of the war, ninety-seven Auburn men had served in the army, five more than required by the state.

Not only did the town send men to the War but large sums of money were raised for the cause. The total amount expended for war purposes was \$4,535.00 and in addition \$3,680.00 was given by popular subscription.

The John A. Logan Post No. 97, G. A. R., was organized in July, 1869, with thirty-six members. It was named after General Logan, who as the third commander-in-chief of the G. A. R. at headquarters of the Grand Army of the Republic Encampment at Washington, D. C., May 5, 1868, designated the 30th day of May as Memorial Day in memory of those who sacrificed their lives in the Civil War. In 1870 the Auburn Post erected a granite shaft in the lower cemetery to the memory of those men from Auburn who had lost their lives in service of the United States. The monument bears the names of: B. B. Jennison, Rhodes Stafford, William Hart, William H. Legg, E. D. Stowell, George F. Newton, George S. Williams, George D. Rice, Henry G. Newton, James Delaney, John G. Bean, M. Lovering, Daniel L. Hewitt and Edward Stowell.

## CIVIL WAR

### 15TH REGIMENT

Barnard, Charles E.  
Emerson, William H.  
Hart, William  
Jennison, Daniel A.  
Kinney, Patrick A.  
McCann, Owen  
McCowan, Peter  
Newton, George F.  
Smith, Bernard, 2nd  
Williams, George S.

### 21ST REGIMENT

Dellahan, James  
Hammell, Owen  
Lovering, M. M.  
McDermott, Felix  
McGuinniss, Horatio  
Owens, Mason  
Stowell, Edward B.  
Williams, George

### 25TH REGIMENT

Delaney, Joseph  
Doherty, Patrick  
Eaton, Daniel T.  
Eaton, Joseph P.  
Frost, Orrin D.  
Gifford, Morton D.  
Hewitt, Edward S.  
Howe, Sereno N.  
Johnson, Jerome  
Keef, William R.  
Knowles, Benjamin C.  
Knowles, Granville A.  
Mayers, Charles A.  
McDermott, John  
Newton, Henry G.  
Sibley, Francis S.  
Tiffany, Nelson  
Tole, Patrick  
Williams, Charles C.

### 31ST REGIMENT

Adams, Daniel H.  
Campbell, Francis  
Doherty, Peter

### 33RD REGIMENT

Marsh, James M.

### 34TH REGIMENT

Adams, Oscar E.  
Collins, John  
Hill, James

### 36TH REGIMENT

Fuller, Horace  
Jennison, B. R.  
Richardson, Aaron

### 37TH REGIMENT

Bean, John G.  
Hannaford, Charles H.

### 42ND REGIMENT

Cummings, D. F.  
Hewitt, Daniel L.

### 51ST REGIMENT

Arnold, Oscar C.  
Knights, Estus  
Lincoln, A. A.  
Nye, Franklin  
Rice, George D.  
Rice, Henry S.

### 57TH REGIMENT

Bryan, J. B.  
Dayton, Benjamin F.  
Hentselman, J. W. G.  
Neaylon, John

### 1ST CAVALRY

Bowers, Walter C.  
Legg, Charles A.

### 4TH CAVALRY

Stafford, Rhodes

### 2ND HEAVY ARTILLERY

Doolan, Patrick

### UNATTACHED HEAVY ARTILLERY

Burley, O. L.

Collins, Henry A.  
 Davis, H. W.  
 Hewitt, Daniel L.  
 Needham, Charles D.  
 Race, Eugene C.  
 Reynolds, John  
 Rice, Henry S.  
 Stratton, Walter E.  
 White, George C.  
 Williams, Jackson

## NAVY

Chapin, B. T.  
 Doherty, Peter  
 Southgate, James. S.

## ENLISTED FOR 3 YEARS

Clapp, John A.  
 Maloney, William

2 Colored Volunteers were  
 furnished by the state

In 1916, when the United States became involved in trouble on the Mexican border, nine young men from Auburn answered the call for volunteers. They were Edward Legasse, Fred Larose, William Wilkinson, William Campbell, Clarence Kellerby, Joseph Blake, Walter McNiminee, Lester Carpenter and Eli H. Contois.

When the call for service in the World War came, one hundred and seventy-five residents of Auburn responded. They served in all branches of the army and navy, and of those who participated in the war, all but two returned to their homes.

Chester P. Tuttle, wounded at the Meuse-Argonne Sector on September 1, 1918, died three hours later en route to the hospital. Tuttle Square at the corner of School and South Streets was named in his honor.

Ernest P. Carlson entered the flying service and was sent to Brooks Field, San Antonio, Texas in the 67th Aero Squadron. He died of typhoid fever in the United States Base Hospital in Fort Sam Houston, July 28, 1918.

As in all wars in which the United States has participated, the men and women of Auburn, during the terrifying days of 1917 and 1918, performed the tasks devolving on them unhesitatingly and with selfless and untiring devotion.

## WORLD WAR

Abelson, Samuel  
 Abbott, Fred  
 Allen, Clifford M.  
 Anderson, Anders  
 Anderson, Carl G.  
 Anarta, Hector H.  
 Audette, Ernest O. P.

Audette, Eugene  
 Audette, Hector  
 Audette, Louis E.  
 Auger, George E.  
 Auger, Melvin  
 Balcom, Charles  
 Benoit, Harold J.

Benoit, Napoleon J.	Dugard, Fred G.
Berg, Carl C.	Dupuis, Alexander
Berthieume, Joseph	Dwyer, Clarence R. J.
Blake, Joseph E.	Eaton, Herbert N.
Blanchard, P. J.	Ellis, George C.
Bombard, Arthur E.	Eno, Albert J.
Bombard, Kennison H.	Eno, Wilfred J.
Boudreau, Wilfred	Fleury, Roger
Broman, Ragnar	Fogwell, Robert
Brown, Ralph J.	Foster, Robert H.
Cameron, John R.	Fournier, Albert J.
Cambell, William	Fox, William
Campbell, John P.	Frobisher, Alvin H.
Carlson, David	Friberg, Harry J.
Carlson, Edwin T.	Frosberg, Theodore
Carlson, Eric W.	Gamache, Henry C.
Carlson, Frederick	Gamache, Herminglide J.
Carlson, Harold	Gamache, Reney
Carney, Harold P.	Gerard, Frank P.
Carpenter, Frederick	Geroux, Alexander
Carpenter, Lester	Ghize, Davis N.
Champagne, Joseph	Gleich, Charles
Christiansen, Frank	Gleich, Joseph
Christiansen, Nils	Gonyea, Joseph
Cole, Walter E.	Gonyea, Oscar
Collette, Emory	Gorman, Benjamin
Contois, Eli	Grosvenor, Chester K.
Cooke, Leo	Grosvenor, Raymond P.
Cooper, Benjamin	Granger, Edward D.
Courville, George	Grove, Fred L.
Courville, Louis H.	Guillotte, Dona
Courville, Louis N., Jr.	Guillotte, Wilfred
Cronin, Walter	Hargraves, Alfred
Croteau, Albert	Healey, William W.
Croteau, Henry E.	Hinchley, Fred
Davis, Alfred G.	Hultgran, Oscar L.
Daigneau, Ernest N.	Ingram, William P.
Delage, Alexander	Jennison, David
Delage, Arthur	Jenson, Magnus B.
Delage, Fred W.	Johnson, Iver
Delage, Louis J.	Kenneway, Henry
Devio, Joseph	Kenneway, Philip

Kennon, Harold  
Killerby, Clarence  
King, John  
Konisky, James  
Lantz, Charles I.  
Laprade, Felix  
Laprade, Mitchell  
Largesse, Ernest N.  
Largesse, Frank L.  
Largesse, Leo  
Larose, Alfred P.  
Larose, Ernest G.  
Larson, Herbert  
Lausier, Moise  
Legassey, Edward L.  
Legassey, George  
Legassey, William  
Lind, Ernest G.  
Lind, Harry  
Lindgren, Lawrence E.  
Marley, John E.  
McClellan, Leslie  
McDermott, John F.  
McMenemy, Walter J.  
McMenemy, William D.  
Miller, Harry E.  
Mitchell, Vincent  
Moore, Frank C.  
Moore, Raymond  
Morgan, Oscar  
Morrow, Richard  
Naumnik, Frank  
Nelson, Harry  
O'Brien, George W.  
Orman, Edward A.  
Perry, D. Gordon  
Pricard, Phillip J.  
Pullen, Harold D.  
Racicot, Edmond

Racicot, Felix J.  
Rambo, Samuel E.  
Raymond, Ernest L.  
Robinson, Christopher  
Rock, Philip J.  
Sandberg, Henry J.  
Schunke, Oscar  
Schwager, Herman C.  
Seery, Eugene E.  
Semon, Carl F.  
Semon, Raymond A.  
Sibley, Ralph W.  
Sivret, Harold F.  
Sjogren, Gustaf E.  
Snickars, Charles A.  
Soderlund, Rudolph  
Stone, Arthur W.  
Stone, Clifton C.  
Stone, Fred M.  
Svedberg, Henry F.  
Sullivan, John J.  
Thayer, Harold C.  
Townsend, Fred  
Trotter, Cecil  
Tuttle, Chester P.  
Walker, William  
Walsh, Joseph A.  
Walsh, Paul B.  
Ward, Asa H.  
Warren, Elbridge G.  
Warren, John A., Jr.  
Warren, Sherman A.  
Westlund, Edwin  
Weston, Frank E.  
White, Ernest J.  
Wilkinson, William J.  
Wilson, Everett W.  
Wilson, George R.  
Wilson, W. E. R.

*United States Army Nurses*

Helen Maynard

Anna G. Mullins

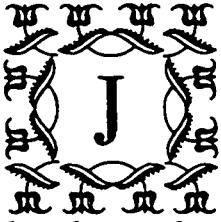




---

# Biographical Notes

---

ACOB WHITMAN BAILEY, son of the first pastor of Auburn, became an eminent naturalist and was the inventor of Bailey's Indicator and of improvements in the microscope. A graduate of West Point in 1838, he later became president of the American Association of Science. He died at West Point, where he was a professor, in February, 1857.

DANIEL BIGELOW, with his wife, Elizabeth Whitney, came from Watertown and settled on Pakachoag Hill on land adjoining part of Ephraim Curtis' original grant. At one time he was surveyor of highways for the town of Worcester. His home stood about fifty rods north of Gershom Rice. Five children were born to the couple, the fourth being Timothy Bigelow, born August 12, 1739, who distinguished himself as a soldier in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. The doorstep of the original Bigelow house is used today at the Love homestead which occupies part of the original property.

JOHN BOYDEN, a lieutenant in the French and Indian War, lived on Pakachoag Hill about 1740, on the estate later occupied by Judge Joseph Dorr, William Emerson and Hosea Marcy. He had five sons, Peter, John, Samuel, Joseph and Darius. Samuel built a home between the original Daniel Bigelow homestead and the house erected by Ephraim Curtis on the eastern slope of the hill.

EPHRAIM CURTIS, JR., son of the first white settler of Worcester, was deeded a tract of land on the border of Worcester, Auburn and Millbury, in 1734, where he built a home. He had

two sons, Oliver and Samuel. Oliver lived on the William Goss and John Elder place, and Samuel built a house about fifty rods northeast of the original Gershom Rice home. The latter held the offices of selectman, and representative in Worcester, and was the father of two sons, Samuel, Jr., and Ephraim. He died October 18, 1814, aged eighty-four.

JOSEPH DORR, born May 24, 1730, was the son of Reverend Joseph Dorr of Mendon. He was graduated from Harvard in 1752 and studied divinity, but although he preached occasionally, he never held a settled pastorate. He was active and devoted to the cause of the Colonies and while living in Mendon he was a magistrate, a member of the Committee of Safety, a member of the Legislature, and part of the time Judge of Probate and of the Court of Common Pleas. In 1780, he was elected one of the first senators to the State Legislature from Worcester County. He lived in Ward from 1784 to 1797, when he removed to Leicester. The next year he made his home in Brookfield, where he died in 1808.

JAMES EATON came from South Reading about 1785 and settled on Pakachoag Hill on the estate previously owned by Thomas Nichols, a little south of the Gershom Rice place. The original house was on the east side of the road, and the main part was later used by Thomas S. Eaton.

JONAH GOULDING, son of John Goulding of Grafton, in 1777 moved to the town of Ward with his wife, Grace Knowlton of Shrewsbury. He bought a house, a tannery and three acres of land from Nathaniel Southworth. The original house is still standing and the land now includes sixty acres. Jonah Goulding carried on the tannery business until 1807, when he sold it to his son-in-law, Samuel Warren. For three generations, Goulding's descendants, the Warrens, carried on the tannery business on the same spot, Waterman Warren being the last one to engage in the business. During the Revolution, Jonah served from Grafton and received a commission. Later he became a colonel in the militia.

DR. THOMAS GREEN, a former resident of Leicester, settled in Ward just after the Revolutionary War, where he had served as surgeon's assistant. He was town clerk in 1784-5. Like many other medical men in the early settlements, who from necessity followed other occupations, Dr. Green was a farmer and manufacturer of potash. Tradition has it that at one time the doctor,

after making six professional calls on a patient in West Millbury, received thirty-seven cents for his services, including the cost of medicine. Dr. Green died in Ward in 1812, after twenty-five years of service. He was succeeded by his half-brother, DR. DANIEL GREEN, also of Leicester, who practised for over fifty years. The latter was one of the early workers in the anti-slavery cause and an advocate of temperance. He married Elizabeth Emerson of Hollis, New Hampshire, and died in 1861, at the age of eighty-three years.

ASA MIXER, born in the town of Shrewsbury on April 5, 1746, was the descendant of a family who had settled in Watertown in 1634. When only nineteen years of age he married Mercy Newton, and by this union had eleven children, including two sets of twins. In 1798, the family moved to Oxford, thence to Auburn, and in 1824, when seventy-eight years of age, Asa joined the Congregational Church. He was a Revolutionary soldier, enlisting from Shrewsbury. He died May 12, 1849, at the age of 103 years, one month and seven days, and is buried in Hillside Cemetery.

The REVEREND ENOCH POND, D.D., was installed as pastor of the Congregational Church in March 1st, 1815. At the time, balls and small dancing parties were of frequent occurrence, and his sermons deploring such festivities had "a degree of point and pungency not to say personality" which provoked the young men of the parish, (who stayed away from church service). This difference of opinion was soon healed and at a revival meeting held later in the year more than one hundred were converted. The Reverend Mr. Pond resided in Ward for thirteen years, and to eke out his income tutored college preparatory students in a schoolroom in his house. He edited *Murray's English Grammer*, which was used for a textbook in all schools at the time, and wrote much for the newspapers. In addition he compiled at least twenty manuscript hymn books for use in the church.

GERSHOM RICE, the ancestor of a family noted for longevity, was born in Marlborough in 1659. He was one of the early members of the South Parish and with his wife, Elizabeth Haynes of Sudbury, built a house on Pakachoag Hill, midway between Worcester and Auburn Centre on the old road. This house, until it was torn down in 1821, was the residence of five generations, including the ten children of Edward Rice. Gershom Rice, Sr., died December 19, 1761, at the age of 102. GERSHOM RICE,

JR., who married Esther Haynes of Sudbury, was a lieutenant in the Revolutionary Army. He died at the age of eight-five, September 24, 1781. COMFORT RICE, son of Gershom Rice, Jr., married Martha Morris. He served in the French and Indian Wars as first lieutenant in the third company of Foot. EDWARD RICE, son of Comfort, married Miriam, daughter of Deacon David Gleason of Auburn, and he died at the age of ninety, August 27, 1863. A new Rice house was built in 1832, a few rods north of the site of the first one, and Ezra, son of Edward, lived in 1877 on a portion of the old estate.

PETER SLATER was one of the most colorful figures among old Ward settlers. As a boy of ten he took part in the Boston Massacre, furnishing "way-sticks" to the men. Three years later he was one of the party who threw overboard chests of tea in Boston Harbor. Several years later he removed to Worcester with his widowed mother. During the Revolution, Slater was in Captain William Gates' Company, Colonel Jonathan Holman's Regiment, Chelsea Camp, N. Y. He married Zilpah Chapin, the daughter of Benjamin Chapin, who lived just over the border of Auburn. In 1785, Slater purchased a farm of Eleazar Bradshaw on Pakachoag Hill opposite the farm of William and John Elder, later owned by Asa W. Ward and others. He manufactured cordage and kept a small general store for a number of years. In 1806, he sold his farm to William Goss and removed to Worcester. A monument was erected to the memory of Captain Slater and others in Hope Cemetery, Worcester, where exercises were held on July 4th, 1870.

JONATHAN STONE, born in Watertown, November 17, 1725, was the third of that name and a great-grandson of Simon Stone who had settled on the banks of the Charles River in 1635. His grandfather, Jonathan Stone, was one of the proprietors of Worcester, as well as selectman in 1724 and 1727, and ensign of the military company in 1730. The third Jonathan married Ruth Livermore of Watertown in 1747, and purchased in 1752 from Gamaliel Wallis of Boston a house and ten acres of land in Worcester, bounding on Leicester line and 130 acres in Leicester, which was annexed to Worcester in 1757.

He was a selectman in both Worcester and Ward, one of the members of the American Political Society and one of the original members of the church in Ward, of which he was the first deacon. Although fifty years old at the time of the Revo-

lution, he marched as a Minute Man in Timothy Bigelow's Company. LIEUTENANT JONATHAN STONE, the fourth of the name, was born in Watertown in 1750. He also marched as a Minute Man, and enlisted April 24, 1775 for eight months, serving as a corporal in Captain Jonas Hubbard's Company. Commissioned April 5, 1776, he served as lieutenant with Captain Jesse Stone at Bennington, Vt. In 1777, he married Mary Harrington, and another Jonathan Stone was born April 4, 1793. Jonathan, the fifth, was commissioned as major in 1823, lieutenant colonel in 1825, and was colonel in 1827 of the First Regiment, First Brigade of the 6th Massachusetts Militia. He was lost at sea, April, 1845.

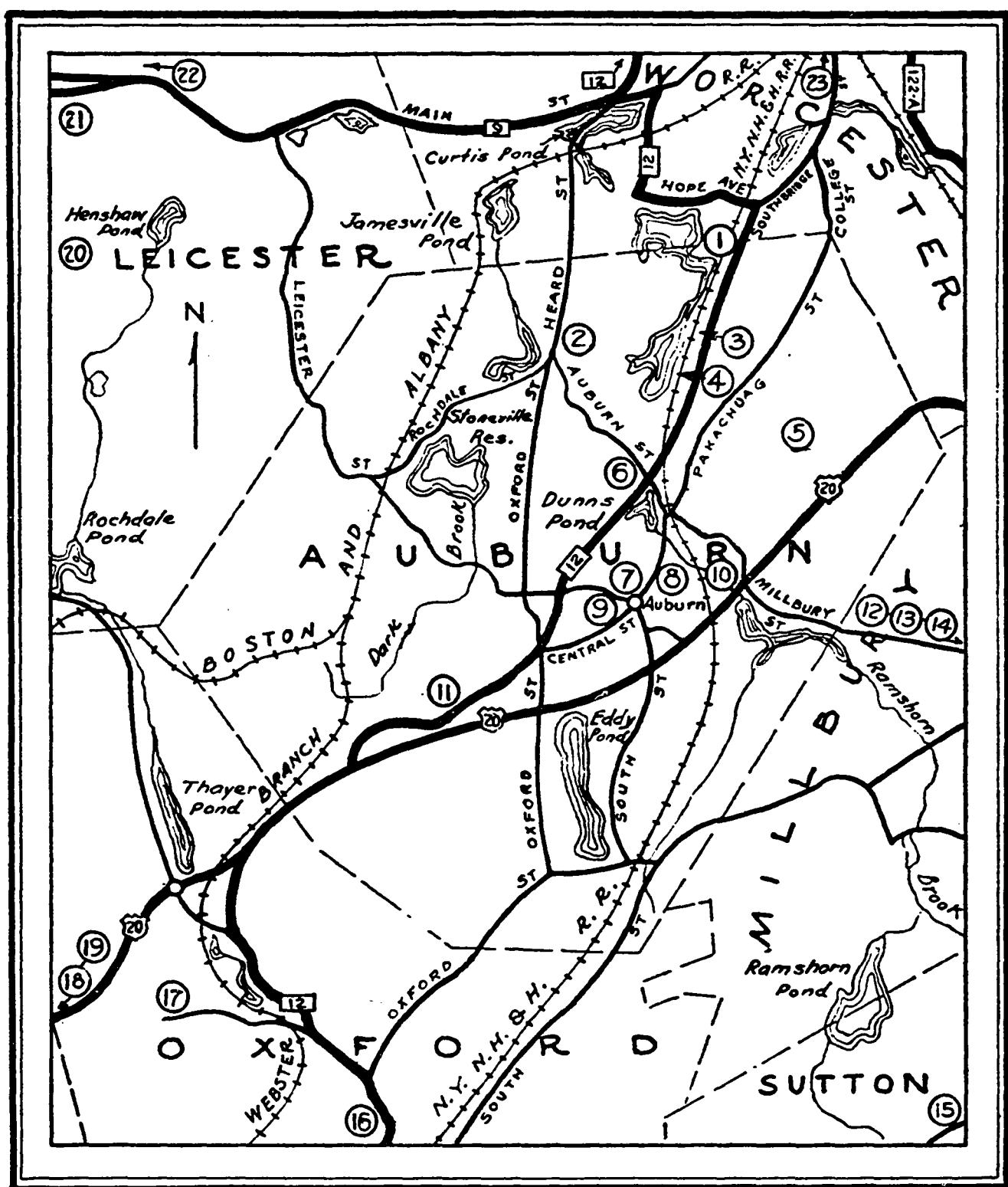
JOSEPH STONE, son of Jonathan the third, and Ruth, was born March 20, 1758. He married widow Hannah Boyden and lived and died in Auburn. During the Revolution he served as a private in Captain Benjamin Richardson's Company. He possessed literary talent, conducted a law business, was a land surveyor, and book-binder. As a writer of poetry he acquired some renown, and was called Squire Stone. At his death, February 2, 1837, he bequeathed to Bangor Theological Seminary the bulk of his manuscripts of poetry and music. With a small legacy, the Seminary published in 1838 a book of Memoirs together with some of his hymns and poetry. Much of his library, a few of his manuscripts and copies of the Memoirs are to be found in the Merriam Library.

JONAH GOULDING WARREN, was born in Auburn on September 11, 1812 and was graduated from Brown University in 1835 and from Newton Theological Seminary in 1838. He was pastor of the Central Baptist Church in Chicago, Ill., until 1849; pastor of the Fifth Street Baptist Church of Troy, N. Y., until 1855, when he became corresponding secretary of the American Baptist Union holding that position until 1872. In 1857, the honorary degree of D.D., was conferred upon him by Rochester University.

ICHABOD WASHBURN, founder of the American Steel and Wire Company, lived in Auburn between 1816 and 1818. Of that time he wrote in his autobiography: "I let myself to Mr. Nathan Muzzey (in Leicester) for two years on condition that he would give me \$50.00 and 12 weeks schooling with board and clothing. This arrangement secured to me the last year of my apprenticeship by paying \$25.00. And although

the demand against me was not a legal one, I have never regretted my adherence to the agreement in paying it. Mr. Muzzey left Leicester and I went with him to Auburn, where I came under the faithful instruction of the Reverend Enoch Pond. In this quiet town, I finished my apprenticeship with Mr. Muzzey. I had nothing to do but to work from sunrise to sunset in the summer, and from sunrise to nine o'clock in the winter. With little or no society, I sought my happiness in the solitude of the garrett of the old house where I had my lodgings. I often recur to that period and place, where I had quite as much profitable reflection as during any part of my apprenticeship. Never could anyone anticipate the time of his freedom with more interest than I did, counting the days as they passed. That eleventh of August, 1818, my twentieth birthday, when my time with Mr. Muzzey expired, was a sunny day never to be forgotten. Conforming to the customs of those times, I invited three or four young men of my own age to take part with me in a game of ball, to celebrate my freedom-day with the usual fixings, on the grass-plot behind the shop."

JAMES WISER, an early settler in the South Parish, was part Indian, the son of Benjamin (1) and Sarah Wiser. He served as a Minute Man with Captain Timothy Bigelow. He had a brother Benjamin, who married Dorothy Bright of Leicester in 1777. This Benjamin (2) had a son James, whose daughter Mary Ann married Reuben Tatman of Worcester in 1825. Another son was Deacon Benjamin Wiser (3) a bachelor, who died in 1858 at the age of seventy-eight.



## POINTS of INTEREST in AUBURN and ENVIRONS

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 Baldwin-Duckworth Chain Co.,<br>Southbridge St.                         | 10 Pondville Woolen Mills.                   |
| 2 Auburn Textile Co. in Stoneville  | 11 West Auburn Burying Ground.               |
| 3 Worcester Transit Concrete, Inc.  | 12 Asa Waters Mansion, Millbury.             |
| 4 Worcester Rendering Co.,<br>Southbridge St.                             | 13 Torrey Mansion, Millbury.                 |
| 5 Pakachoag Hill, oldest settled part<br>of town, site of Indian Village. | 14 Underground Railway Station,<br>Millbury. |
| 6 Auburn High School<br>(Recreation Field)                                | 15 State Fish Hatchery.                      |
| 7 World War Memorial, Merriam<br>Library, Boulder                         | 16 Clara Barton's Grave, Oxford.             |
| 8 Hillside Cemetery.  | 17 Clara Barton's Birthplace, Oxford.        |
| 9 Common, Congregational Church,<br>Old Burying Ground.                   | 18 Charlton (village)                        |
|   | 19 Masonic Home, Charlton                    |
|   | 20 Peter Salem's Shack, Leicester.           |
|   | 21 Leicester Common.                         |
|   | 22 Site of first house, Leicester.           |
|   | 23 Worcester Common and City Hall.           |

# *Program*

●

SUNDAY—JUNE 20, 1937

Church services to open Centennial Celebration.

MONDAY—JUNE 21, 1937,—8 to 12 P. M.

Dance at the High School Auditorium.

TUESDAY, JUNE 22, 1937—6:30 P. M.

Tablet unveiled at the Granger Cliffs; auspices of Auburn Woman's Club.

WEDNESDAY—JUNE 23, 1937

Pageants at the Mary D. Stone School (morning), Julia Bancroft School (afternoon). Program, High School Auditorium, 8 P. M., by graduating class, combining observance of the Horace Mann Anniversary and Auburn Centennial.

THURSDAY—JUNE 24, 1937

Grange Evening at Town Hall. Dean Zelotes W. Coombs of Worcester Polytechnic Institute, guest speaker.

FRIDAY—JUNE 25, 1937—8 P. M.

"House Party", lantern slides of Auburn homes; High School Auditorium; reception.

SATURDAY—JUNE 26, 1937—8:30 P. M.

Historical Pageant on the Athletic Field; produced by the John B. Rogers Company under the direction of Mr. and Mrs. Walter J. Reger.