THE SCHOOL HISTORY

OF

WORCESTER,

BY

C. VAN D. CHENOWETH, A. M.

I heartily join in every tribute to sons of liberty in Worcester, who were by none exceeded in their devotion to the cause of liberty and their country.

—HON. GEORGE BANCROFT.

What they won for us, it is yours to preserve for us.

—HON. GEORGE F. HOAR.

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LANDSCAPE PHOTOGRAPHS
BY J. CHAUNCEY LYFORD

SAGATABSCOT HILL.

TO THE TEACHER.

THE purpose of this little book is to furnish, in the simplest possible manner, certain historical information concerning Worcester, with which every child in Worcester should be familiar.

The wisest educators long since called serious attention to the part which the study of local history should take in the education of the young, and many teachers have already demanded aid in this direction.

Boys and girls should begin early to realize the continuity of History — the living connection between the Past and the Present. The increased importance accorded to Nature studies has been a brilliant step in the right direction, since the history of man is left without its true foundation if considered as a thing apart from Nature; and a pupil who possesses a rudimentary knowledge of the minerals, trees, birds, etc., about his own home, possesses much.

The story of human life in its simplest authentic beginning is closely allied to these.

Some definite knowledge of the aboriginal tribes who lived here before the white men came, some understanding of the growth and development of his native Worcester, from the little frontier settlement, harassed by Indians, through its successive stages of rustic village and busy town, up to its present condition as an opulent and important city, would fit the Worcester school boy, as nothing else perhaps could so well, for an intelligent and enthusiastic study of American History.

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CHAPTER I.

Situation of Worcester.

Worcester, the shire town, or county seat of Worcester County, Massachusetts, is situated 40 miles westward from Boston, which is the capital of the State; and 394 miles from Washington, the national capital.

It is about 30 miles distant from the boundary line of New Hampshire, 70 miles from that of New York, and 20 miles from that of Rhode Island.

From the geographical position of Worcester, so near the centre of the State, has arisen her significant title of The Heart of the Commonwealth, which appears conspicuously upon the city seal.

Boundaries of Worcester.

Worcester is bounded on the north by Holden, touching West Boylston on the northeast, and Paxton on the northwest; on the east by West Boylston and Shrewsbury, and also by Grafton on the southeast corner; south by Millbury and Auburn, and on the west by Leicester, touching upon Auburn on the southwest corner.

The surface of Worcester presents a gently diversified landscape of hills, valleys and water courses.

Elevation above the sea level, 360 to 760 feet.

The elevation above the surface of the sea, therefore, must vary according to the point from which it is estimated.

If we stand upon the edge of Lake Quinsigamond we are about 360 feet above the sea level.

If we climb to the top of the neighboring hill, upon the eastern side of which stands the State Lunatic Hospital; we are some 760 feet above the ocean.

All other localities may be included within these figures. The Common is about 120 feet higher than the lake.

The desirable residential streets are from 500 to 600 feet above the sea.

Streets.

Main Street is the most ancient thoroughfare.

It existed as a road as early as 1674, in which year the settlement of Worcester was first attempted, under the name of the Plantation of Quinsigamond, of which we shall hear further.

Since 1713, Main Street has been the most important passage way through the town, running its entire length north and south, with streets opened upon each side of it, as

the increase of population has rendered necessary. Streets.

Front Street and a part of Summer Street were in use as roads as early perhaps as 1713, and certain roads leading out to adjacent towns, known now as Lincoln, Salisbury, Pleasant, Green, and Grafton streets, came into use at a very early period in the history of Worcester.

The opening of a new street was sometimes made an occasion for great merriment and rejoicing.

The ceremonies attending the opening of Thomas Street, October 6, 1806, are noted in one of the interleaved almanacs of Isaiah Thomas, Esq., who made, and presented to the town, this street which bears his name.

As the circumstances of the early settlers grew less narrow and restricted, they gave some thought to the beauty of the streets, so that in time Worcester streets became reputed for the fine trees with which they were adorned. Trees.

In a town meeting March 2, 1761, it was Town Records.

"Voted, That the selectmen at the charge of the town take proper care for preserving ye growth of ye trees, sett out about the meeting-house for shade, by boxing them, and that the inhabitants be desired not to tye their horses to them."

Town Records.

The town passed an ordinance for their protection April 7, 1783, which reads thus:

"Whereas, a number of persons have manifested a disposition to set out trees for shade, near the meeting-house, and elsewhere about the centre of the town, and the town being very desirous of encouraging such a measure, which will be beneficial as well as ornamental, Voted, that any person being an inhabitant of this town who shall injure or destroy such trees so set out, shall pay a fine not exceeding 20 s. for every offence, to the use of the poor."

See Miss Tucker's "Trees of Worcester."

The trees of Worcester are of sufficient interest to warrant careful study, not only those which are indigenous, but the varieties from other localities which flourish after transplantation here.

CHAPTER II.

Physical Geography.

New England, we are told, is a worn-out mountain range ; and that we are living upon some of the oldest land upon the earth.

Prof. Wm. M. Davis Physical Geography of Southern New England

It is hard to picture mountains of Alpine height rising hereabout, or the surface upon which we live buried thousands of feet beneath the solid rock; and the question at once arises,—What became of the towering mountains, when they had to go?

The consideration of any essential change in the face of nature, as we know it, carries us back far beyond all written history, and all knowledge of man, but it seems to be a perfectly plain and connected story which the rocks have to tell, for the greater part, to those who have made careful study of them.

As for those ancient mountains, they can be accounted for, since they were made of rock, and subject, therefore, to the action of air and ice and water, through unnumbered ages. We must look for them then upon the great floor of the sea,—the mighty deep

which could swallow up all the land upon the face of the earth, and give no sign, were it not for counteracting agencies.

You are taught in your geographies that the surface of the globe is composed of three-fourths water, and one-fourth land; and we know by deep sea soundings, that the ocean, at its greatest depth, could receive the Himalaya Mountains upon its floor, and that their lofty tops would then be some two miles below the surface of the water.

The rock which was formed beneath the sea, can, and continually does, find its way back again.

The salt of the sea is derived from the mineral substances, loosened in this wasted rock.

The sand of the sea shore is but crumbled rock; and the soil of our fields and gardens is crumbled rock, also, mixed with the decayed remains of animals, trees and plants.

There is a constant breaking down of the rocks; a constant renewal of the soil, and a steady deposit on its way to the sea.

Some particular bit of powdered rock, which takes its start from the top of a high mountain, may be thousands of years upon its journey, and yet reach the sea at last.

The geological ages are periods beyond the limit of our calculation.

Mt. Wachusett and Asnebumskit Hill were a part of the great rock mass of the ancient mountains, and bear the marks of having been deeply buried. These summits were points of *least erosion*, as it is called, in the general breaking down by the action of water. To come nearer to existing conditions, if we would reach the rock surface of this locality, we must first, by a vigorous effort of the imagination, strip from the face of nature all the outward beauty that we love; the gardens, meadows, orchards and forests which so cover the rocks, that only here and there are they left exposed, as in ledges and quarries.

See Physical Geography of Worcester, by Joseph H. Perry.

Every green thing, therefore, must be taken away, the soil, and all loose material, in the nature of a deposit, in order to lay bare the stern foundation upon which this beauty rests. We must fancy the water taken from Lake Quinsigamond, and the smaller streams and ponds, as well as their beds of sand and gravel,—from twenty-five to fifty feet in depth, before the floor of rock beneath the lake would be reached.

The billowy hills, and the beautiful dome-like hills—Newton Hill, Green Hill, and all others of that nature, would have to go also, since they do not belong to the

earlier rock foundation; but are made of material brought here from elsewhere, and date only from what is known as the Glacial Period, or the Age of Ice. When, at last, we reach the bare rock, it is to find that Worcester lies in a broad rock valley, a smaller valley upon each side; with a ridge of rock upon the east, and a high border of rock upon the west.

Millstone, Pakachoag upon the east. Leicester and Paxton upon the west.

The broad valley was carved out, in part, by an ancient river, flowing over what was earlier an extended plain, of which the encircling highlands represent the approximate level.

The valley in which Lake Quinsigamond lies was also worn down by an ancient river, and both valleys were broadened, deepened, and rounded, by the great ice currents during the glacial period. The long billowy hills, and the symmetrical dome-like structures, such as Newton Hill, Green Hill and others, do not, as has been said, belong to the rock surface of Worcester, but were transported here by the action of glaciers, when all of New England, was, as is believed, enveloped in a sheet of ice, several thousand feet in thickness.

Drumlins.

The pressure thus brought to bear upon the masses of transported rock fragments,

NEWTON HILL.

was sufficient to thoroughly compact the whole, and render it almost as hard as stone.

These beautiful stranger hills, which so diversify the landscape of Worcester, are called drumlins, from the Gælic "druim," a ridge; and Newton Hill may be studied as the type. They are common elsewhere in New England.

See Physical Geography of Worcester, by Joseph H. Perry.

Lake Quinsigamond, 360 feet above the level of the sea, lies along the eastern border of Worcester, partly within the limits of the town it ornaments.

From many points of view it might be taken for a noble river, moving with a sluggish current, between bold and finely wooded banks.

It is about five and one-half miles long, and from one-eighth to about one mile wide; and is equally beautiful, whether seen from the Worcester or the Shrewsbury side. Its outlet is the Quinsigamond River. North Pond, and Bladder, or Bell Pond, are the only other natural ponds; though numerous artificial ones have been constructed.

The valley of Worcester is drained by the Blackstone River, which has many branches; Kettle Brook, Tatnuck Brook, Beaver Brook, Mill Brook, Weasel Brook, Bear Brook and Lincoln Brook, being among the more important.

CHAPTER III.

The Visit of the Apostle Eliot.

The territory held by the Nipnet, or Nipmuck, tribe of Indians, included the greater part of what is now Worcester County, and a portion of Connecticut.

Upon some very early maps the central part of Massachusetts is called the Nipmuck Country.

Nipmuck Indians paid tribute.

That this tribe had been subjugated by the fiercer and more war-like tribes around about, appears from the fact that they paid tribute, and in the event of any general uprising fought well, as faithful allies, although not lovers of war. The principal encampment or village, of the Nipmuck Indians in Worcester, when the white men came, was upon Pakachoag Hill, near where the College of the Holy Cross now stands.

"Quinsigamond," meaning a fishing place for pickerel.

There was one also upon Wigwam Hill, upon the northwestern shore of Lake Quinsigamond.

"Asnebumskit," a stony place.

Other villages more remote, were upon Asnebumskit Hill, in Paxton; and in Leicester, Grafton, Oxford, Brookfield, and elsewhere.

WIGWAM HILL.

Their chosen pursuits were peaceful.

They liked to hunt and fish, and to raise the Indian corn which served them for food.

They had even planted apple trees, some of which long continued to flourish in Worcester orchards. Indeed they had reached a period in their development corresponding to that of our own ancestors in Northern Europe, some two thousand years earlier.

They were becoming attached to particular localities. The restless love of wandering peculiar to the savage, was giving place to the finer love for home. What might have been the future of the North American Indians had they not been overpowered, and practically cut off, by a stronger race, no one can safely say.

We do know, however, that they were moving toward civilization in the well known ways of other races; and that those white men whose dealings with them were honest and humane, found them just as honest in return; generous with whatever they possessed, and apt, as well as eager, to learn the ways of their European brethren.

While the wrongs which the Indian has suffered at the hands of the white man in America, forms the darkest page, perhaps, in our nation's history, the record is not always a sad one.

See "A Century of Dishonor," by H. H.

The Apostle Eliot on Pakachoag Hill.

It is a matter of especial interest to the children of Worcester, that the saintly John Eliot, known as the Apostle Eliot, met the local Indians, upon Pakachoag Hill in the wigwam of their chief, and instructed them in the Christian religion.

It is most fitting that a Christian institution of learning should stand upon this historic site.

He came September 28, 1674, accompanied by General Daniel Gookin, superintendent of those Indians who sought the protection of the colonial government; a man active in public life, and possessed of more accurate knowledge relating to the Indians than any other man of his time.

The Rev. John Eliot, born in England, 1604. Died in Roxbury, Mass., 1690.

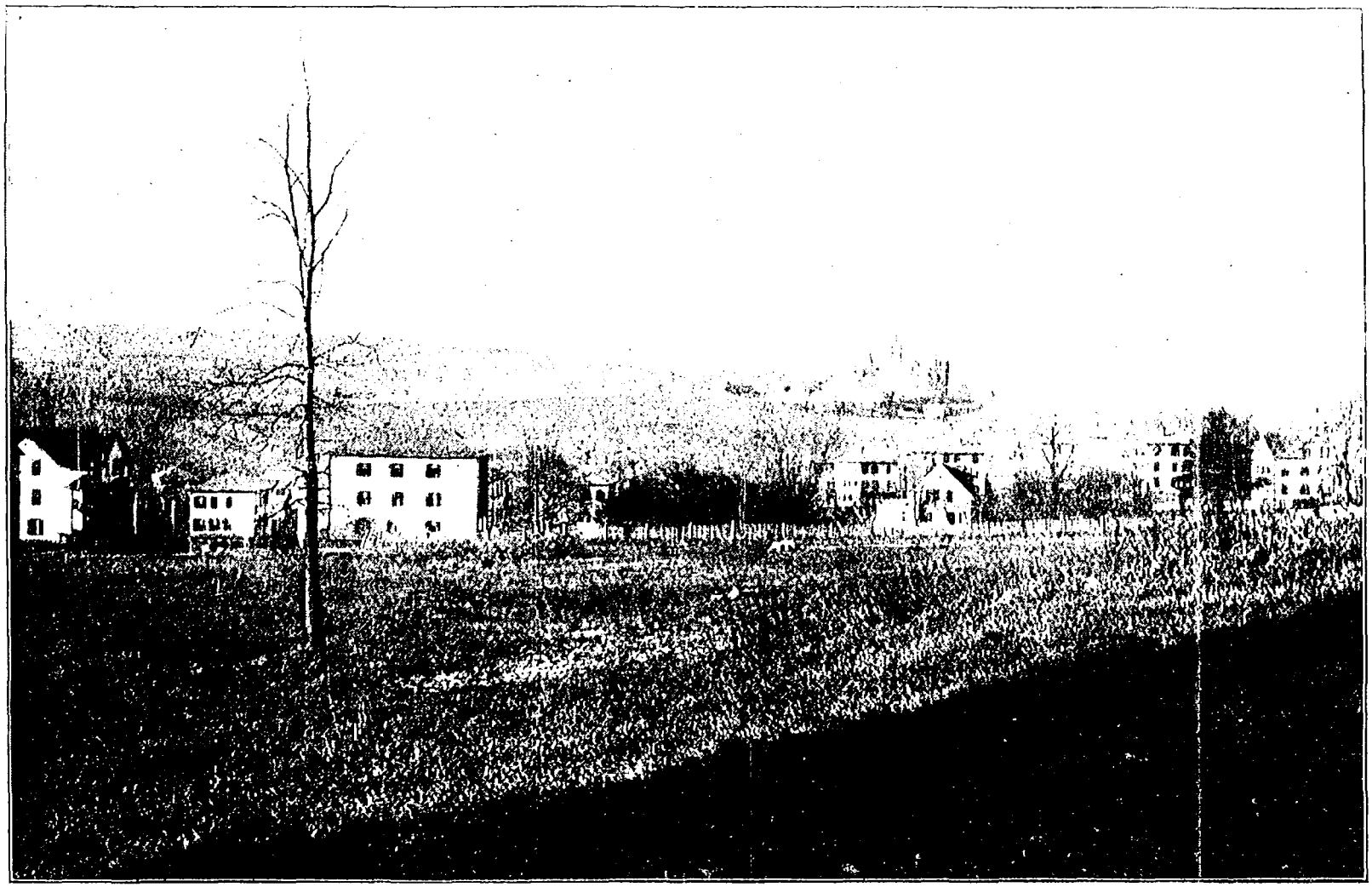
General Daniel Gookin, born in Kent, England, 1612. Died in Cambridge, Mass., 1687.

The names of John Eliot and Daniel Gookin must ever be associated in our best thoughts of the Indians in Massachusetts.

Mr. Eliot's labors were unceasing. With such help as he could obtain, he established free Indian schools, and fitted the promising young red men to go among their own people as teachers and missionaries.

Eliot's Bible. See copy in library of the Antiquarian Society.

He also translated the Bible into the Indian language, that they might use it freely. The first edition of this great work was printed in Cambridge, Mass., in 1661-3,—and a second edition in 1685.



PAKACHOAG HILL, WITH VIEW OF HOLY CROSS COLLEGE.

The Apostle Eliot was materially aided in his undertaking by the skillful assistance of a young native, known as James Printer, one of the praying Indians from Grafton, who had been taught in the schools.

The need of this monumental achievement passed swiftly by; and of the many copies of Eliot's Bible published, but a few remain; carefully treasured in the great libraries of Europe, and in those of our own land.

Perhaps 2,500 were published.

The tribes in Massachusetts, with a rare exception, were broken up and dispersed; their scattered remnants dying of want, disease, and discouragement, and occasionally of old age.

Gay Head Indians.

It may be accounted remarkable that, after a comparatively brief space of time, so few actual traces of the Indians can be discovered in this locality.

An occasional arrow head turned up by the plow, and the rude vessels in which they prepared their food, constitute the chief relics which we can see and handle; the aborigines of New England having made far less progress in the arts than tribes in other sections. But finer, and more enduring, memorials of them are found in the expressive names which they bestowed upon the landscape they loved so well; the

See local Indian relics belonging to the Society of Antiquity.

mountains, hills, rivers, lakes and meadows. We do well to cherish these eloquent reminders of aboriginal life wherever they may be found.

They enrich our language, and are an important feature in our national culture.

CHAPTER IV.

The settlement of Worcester.

The date of the establishment of Boston, 1630, is always easy to remember.

That of Springfield, 1641, is less familiar; but this little western outpost furnishes an excellent landmark to the imagination, which readily pictures the long stretch of 98 miles of Indian country, which lay between the village of Springfield and the seaboard town of Boston.

The rough road thither was through primeval forest, for the greater part, with beautiful sheets of water here and there, and occasionally a few acres of the lightly cultivated, or "broken up" land of the Indians, rich in its season with crops of Indian corn.

Major Gen'l Daniel Gookin may be called the founder of the plantation of Quinsigamond,—later, Worcester.

The region about Lake Quinsigamond was especially fertile and beautiful, and a committee appointed by the General Court, May 15, 1667, to report upon the desirableness of a new plantation or settlement at this spot, duly reported, that: . . . . "We conceive it expedient that the honored court

will be pleased to reserve it for a town, being conveniently situated, and well watered with ponds and brooks, and lying midway between Boston and Springfield. About one day's journey from either."

The plantation of Quinsigamond, as it was first called, embraced a territory some eight miles square, the Indian right to which was purchased of the Nipmuck Indians, for the sum of twelve pounds in lawful money of New England.

Middlesex Registry of Deeds.

The deed was executed July 13, 1764, and two coats and four yards of cloth were received by the Indians to bind the transaction.

This large tract of land was subject to several grants; and one to Ensign Noyes, which had been purchased by "Ephraim Curtis, a young man living in Sudbury," was the occasion of much discussion. Lieut. Curtis was a fearless young frontiersman, and soldier, who, to protect his own interests, built him a cabin and lived upon the land in dispute, which included many acres of the most valuable part of the proposed town.

Petition to the General Court, 1669.

The case was settled to the reasonable satisfaction of all, and it won for Lieut. Ephraim Curtis the distinction of being the first white settler of the town.

Ephraim Curtis, the first white settler, who actually lived here.

The rude dwellings of a few new comers were already built upon the lots laid out to them, when a fierce Indian war broke out in the Plymouth Colony. First attempted settlement made in 1674.

King Philip's War, it is called in history, after its really great Indian leader. 1675.

Philip, deeply embittered by a sense of the cruelty and injustice which his people had received at the hands of the white settlers, boldly determined, it is said, to exterminate the English from the former lands of the Indian.

He obtained such aid as he could, in his effort to check the rapidly growing power of the white men in this region; and began that series of surprises and attacks, of burnings and of murder, in the outlying settlements, which filled the whites with terror.

The little settlement of Quinsigamond, being at the very centre of danger, was abandoned.

Mendon was burned, and Brookfield and Lancaster suffered savage attacks, as did other villages. July 14, 1675.

The second settlement of this town was attempted in 1684, when its Indian name of Quinsigamond was dropped, and the English name of Worcester taken instead. Second settlement of Worcester, 1684.

Perhaps no one is able to tell just why

this name was chosen. The names of many Worcester County towns must always be a simple matter of conjecture. It was reasonable, however, that colonial Englishmen should bestow names dear to their English hearts upon their homes in the new world.

Worcester County is somewhat notable for the fine old names by which her towns are known; suggestive of gallant dukes and earls, of history, tradition and romance.

Worcester in England.

As for Worcester in England, perhaps no other town in the kingdom has had such a troubled experience of burning, sieges and captures, from the year 894 down to 1651, when Charles II was defeated there by Cromwell's army. Her little namesake across the water fairly followed her in this respect.

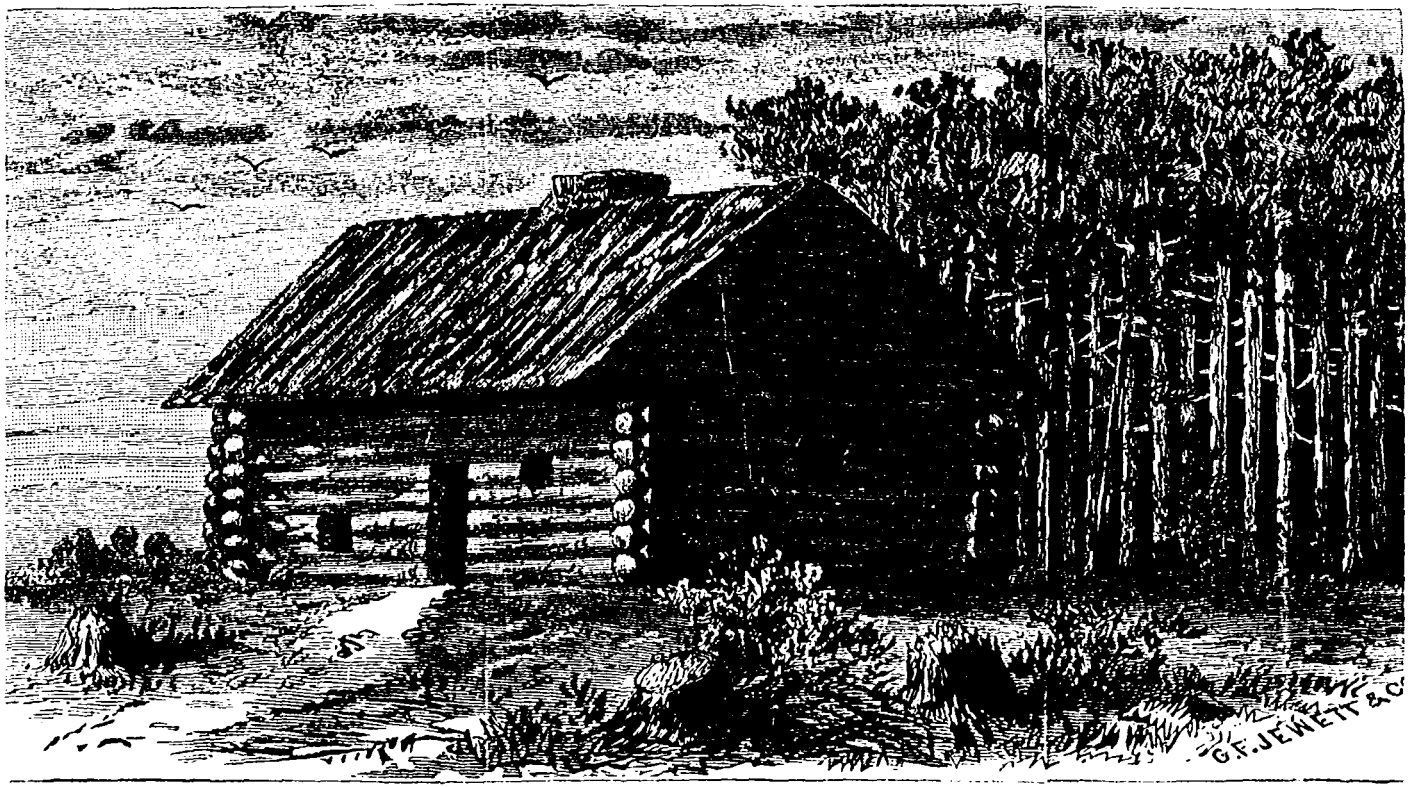
Once more her handful of settlers fled from before the torch and tomahawk of the Indian, and once more almost complete destruction marked the spot where they had erected their humble dwellings.

Queen Anne's War began in 1702.

In 1702 the place was deserted by all save the fearless little family of Digory Sergent, whose story is told elsewhere.

The third, and finally successful attempt to settle the town of Worcester, was made Oct. 21, 1713.

It dates from the day that Jonas Rice



HOME OF AN EARLY SETTLER.

came over from Marlborough, determined to remain here if he could.

He built a house on Sagatabscot Hill, and lived there with his little family, the only man in Worcester, for nearly two years. Now Union Hill.

Then he was joined by his brother, Gershom Rice, and later by their sister Grace and her husband, Nathaniel Moore. 1715.

In the year 1718 Worcester seems to have had fifty-eight dwelling houses and some two hundred inhabitants.

Though the Indians were no longer a constant menace of danger, it was important to guard against possible outbreaks.

The first business of the new comers was to build stout garrison houses, to which they could repair in the event of an alarm. Garrison houses.

These were constructed of logs, and were proof against all common methods of Indian warfare save fire, and with a careful guard, the savages could not easily approach near enough to apply a torch.

One was erected near the site of the present city hall, and the neighboring families gathered beneath its shelter each night, as long as their fears of the Indians lasted.

Another stood upon Main Street, near the corner of Exchange Street.

Still another was placed north of Lincoln

Square, and doubtless there were more where needed.

An old block house which stood north of Adams Square, possessed later an iron cannon, which was used to warn the people of the town upon the approach of danger, or other great tidings.

Coming of the Scots, 1718.

In the year 1718 a large company of Scotch emigrants arrived in Worcester. They were in every respect a desirable addition to the village; frugal, industrious and self-respecting, and possessed of sufficient property to start them in their new venture. But they were not cordially received.

They were Scotch Presbyterians.

Their religious liberty was interfered with, and their lives rendered so unhappy that many of them sought homes in New Hampshire and New York. Those who remained were ancestors of some of Worcester's most valued citizens.

The potato an American product.

It is said that the Scots introduced the cultivation and use of potatoes into this town; returning to us from the old world, this useful vegetable, to which it had been carried from America long before.

CHAPTER V.

The Story of Digory Sergent.

History has called Digory Sergent obstinate.

It has also called him fearless.

He may have been both.

He was one of that little company who attempted the second settlement of Worcester, which was made in 1684, a native of Sudbury, and a carpenter by trade.

As early as 1696 he had made a Will, as appears by the Middlesex records.

His first wife was Constance James, to whom he was married by the Rev. Cotton Mather, in 1693, in Boston.

He had been left, by the death of his wife, alone with one little daughter, Martha Sergent, to whom he bequeathed his house and land; his cow and calf, and horse; and all the simple furnishing of a pioneer's cabin.

In the natural course of events this Will, a document of much interest, was not in the way to be called for in many years, for Digory Sergent was a robust and hearty man, with rare chances of life before him.

He decided in time to marry the sister of his trusted friend, George Parmeter, who went with him to live in his house on Saga-

tabscot Hill, now called Union Hill, and little Martha's right to the pewter pint pot, the washing tub, trunk, sermon book and the rest, seemed destined to be a much divided one; as her little brothers, John, Daniel and Thomas, and her sister Mary, came to make the lonely farm a more cheerful and pleasant place to live upon.

The boy or girl of to-day, who would try to fancy what life in Worcester must have been like to the Sergent children, must not only take into the account the strange loneliness, and the peril from hostile Indians, but the prowling wolves, also, and the rattlesnakes, with which this locality was infested.

No record of Worcester from 1686 to 1713.

It is a serious loss that the town history of this period has not been handed down to us; but we know through other sources that the settlers here had become so thoroughly alarmed over their danger from the Indians, that by 1702 the town was deserted.

Not a man, woman or child remained here, beside the family of Digory Sergent.

As the months passed on, and the excitement resulting from Queen Anne's War made their position a cause for ever increasing anxiety to the people of Marlborough, the authorities there advised them to remove to a safe place.

But Sergent had no intention of moving.

He had lived on his little farm long enough to become attached to it, and hardened to the perils in the midst of which his days and nights were spent.

Moreover, he owned no other home for his wife and children to go to.

Probably 1703 or 1704.

The inhabitants of Marlborough at length felt it their duty to interfere, and sent Captain Howe over to Worcester, with a company of twelve armed men, to enforce their command that he should leave the spot, where he and his family were in constant peril, and return with them.

The early gloom of a winter evening had fallen, and a storm was gathering, when Captain Howe and his men reached the abandoned old garrison house, in the north part of the town, near Lincoln Square.

The march from Marlborough had been bleak and rough, and as they must encamp somewhere for the night, they decided to take shelter in the old log house. They built a fire, and prepared their supper, and soon after lay down to sleep, while one of their number stood guard over the rest.

They did not know until years afterward, that a party of six Indians lay hidden away in the cellar beneath them, through all that night.

The Indians had sought shelter from the threatening storm, as well, and dared not make their presence known to double their number of armed white men.

After breakfast the next morning Captain Howe and his men pushed on to Digory Sergent's home on Sagatabscot Hill, to learn upon their arrival that they were a few hours too late.

The poor dwelling, with its door broken down by infuriated savages, was deserted.

Nothing remained of the family save the lifeless body of Digory Sergent, which showed, by its many wounds, how strongly he had tried to defend himself and family.

They buried him at the foot of one of his own oak trees, in a spot long since forgotten.

See moccasin worn by the great Indian warrior Tecumseh. Collection of the Society of Antiquity.

The print of many Indian moccasins upon the snow showed them that the course of the savages was to the westward, but they indicated too great a number to be pursued by these men from Marlborough, with any hope of success.

So they turned and marched back to tell the story to their shuddering townspeople, who long dreamed of the helpless family that the Indians had carried captive away.

By and by the word came that the children, Martha, John, Daniel, Thomas and Mary, were in Canada, alive and well.

VIEW TOWARDS WACHUSETT FROM SAGATABSCOT HILL.

Martha appears to have been the first one to return, and from her sad recital we have all that is known of this tale;—almost too sorrowful to tell.

Mrs. Sergent soon perished on the march, but the little white children not only survived, but in time became deeply attached to the rude freedom of Indian life, and Daniel and Mary quite refused to return to their kindred to remain.

Martha married Daniel Shattuck, and came again to her old home on Sagatabscot Hill to live; and Thomas went to Boston, and probably John also.

"The Redeemed Captive," by the Rev. John Williams.

When Miss Williams, the daughter of the Rev. John Williams, of Deerfield, returned to her friends from her long captivity, Daniel and Mary Sergent came back with her to visit their kindred.

The life here seems to have offered no attraction to them.

When their visit was ended they took their leave gladly, and went back to the Indians, never to return again.

CHAPTER VI.

Worcester a Town.

In what State is Worcester?

In what county?

In what Senatorial Districts is Worcester?

In what Congressional District?

Who are the present United States Senators from Massachusetts?

Who is the present Congressman from Worcester?

The State Senators?

The Representatives to the General Court?

Worcester was incorporated as a town June 14, 1722.

What is a town?

Ans. A town is (1) a collection of people (2) who occupy a definite portion of territory, and (3) directly govern themselves in so far as they are permitted to do so by the State.

By what name are the laws called which a town makes for its own government?

Ans. By-laws.

How are these laws made?

Ans. These laws are made by the citizens assembled in town meeting.

Where were the town meetings held in earlier days?

Ans. The town meetings were held at the homes of the early settlers, and at the meeting-house; and at last in the town hall.

When was the first town meeting held in Worcester?

Ans. On September 22, 1722, the men of Worcester called their first town meeting, report of which appears upon record.

See early Town Records, pub. by Society of Antiquity.

How often did these meetings occur?

Ans. At least once a year.

What business beside the making of laws came properly before the town meeting?

Ans. Town officers were elected by popular vote; the amount of money to be expended by the town for plainly specified purposes was decided upon, and various matters affecting the welfare of the town were freely discussed.

Who are the most important officers of a Massachusetts town?

Ans. The selectmen. Because the general management of town affairs rests with them.

The Selectmen.

What duty have they in connection with town meetings?

Ans. It is the duty of the selectmen to call the town meetings by means of a warrant.

What is the nature of this warrant?

Warrant.

Ans. The warrant is a document instructing the constable to call together the voters of the town, stating the business for which the meeting is called.

In early days in Worcester, the constable notified the voters of a proposed town meeting, by posting the notice upon the door of the Old South Meeting-house.

An entry upon the town records of Worcester, of date October, 1722, reads thus:

Voted, That a Notification posted upon ye Meeting-house Door, under ye hand of an officer, be a sufficient warning of a Town Meeting in future."

After a lapse of nearly thirteen years a change of custom is indicated.

"At a Town Meeting of ye inhabitants of ye Town of Worcester, Regularly assembled, May 19, 1735, at said meeting ye following articles were voted, ...

Early Town Records.

"*Voted*, That ye selectmen set up a suitable sign-post near ye Meeting-house, and that for ye future all Town Meetings, until other wise ordered, shall be warned as follows:—Viz. by a constable posting up notifications on said sign-post, under hands of ye Selectmen, or major part of them, setting forth ye heads or articles to be transacted at said meeting."

The office of town clerk is an important one, as he is charged with the care of the records of the proceedings of the town meetings.

These records furnish an epitome of the town's history from its very beginning, which render them of great value to posterity.

In early times it was not unusual, in New England towns, for the physician of the town to be called year after year to fill this responsible position.

Other town officers.

Other town officers are the auditor, treasurer, assessors, constables, highway surveyor, school committee, and such additional aid as the size and conditions of the town may render needful.

See Civil Government in the United States, by Dr. John Fiske. P. 34.

The New England town meeting is a primitive institution, conforming to early English models, inherited from remote antiquity.

It corresponds to the ancient *Tun-gemote*, an open meeting in which each free man interested had the right to express his personal opinion regarding the welfare of the entire body, and to offer such suggestions touching its affairs as might occur to him.

It is essentially Democratic, in theory as well as practice, and types within itself the loftiest ideal of popular government.

Thomas Jefferson, third President of the United States, 1801-9.

Thomas Jefferson, in a letter written to the governor of Virginia, under date of May 26, 1810, thus expresses the public indebtedness to the townships and their government:

"We owe to them the vigor given to our Revolution in its Commencement in the Eastern States."

In a letter written July 12, 1816, Mr. Jefferson further says:

"These wards called townships in New England are the vital principle of their government, and have proved themselves the wisest invention ever devised by the wit of man for the perfect exercise of self-government, and for its preservation."

The Town.

A New England township, while a perfectly constructed organization within itself, is bound in its larger relations to the State

The State.

government, from whence it derives its existence, and receives its protection.

The State government, in turn, is bound

The Nation.

in a similar way to the national government, the official head, and protector, of the entire great Union of States.

The township does not depend, for its recognition as such, upon the extent of its population.

It may have only a few farm houses, scattered at greater or less distance from a small central village, the entire population numbering but a few hundred souls, and, in earlier times, far less.

Or it may include within its borders a rich and prosperous town, with a population great enough to entitle it to become a city, yet choosing to retain its original form of government; as is the case with the town of Brookline, Massachusetts. A study of the history of Worcester has to do with a town, and its government as such, from June 14, 1722, until February 29, 1848, when it elected to become a city.

Population of Brookline, above 17,000.

A perfect object lesson in the nature of town government, and the secret of its strength, may be had by attending town meeting in any of the several neighboring towns, in all of which this interesting, and admirable system, is maintained in native purity.

CHAPTER VII.

The County of Worcester, Part I.

In what county do you live?

What is a county?

Ans. A county is a corporation which may include many towns within its limits.

How many towns has Worcester County?

Ans. Fifty-nine.

May the county hold property?

Ans. It may independently hold property, and sue, and be sued.

What is the shire town or county seat of Worcester County?

Ans. The city of Worcester, which contains such county buildings as the court houses and the jail.

Worcester County, which was incorporated April 2, 1731, is a very large county for so small a State.

It is larger than the entire State of Rhode Island, measuring 60 miles in length, from north to south, and 37 miles in width, from east to west.

The soil is well suited to agricultural purposes, with water privileges in abundance,

to tempt the farmers to leave their fields and go into the business of manufacturing.

When the matter of creating a new county in the central portion of Massachusetts had been decided, the question of the shire town, or county seat, became one of absorbing interest.

If the choice of the town were to be determined by population and valuation of property, Worcester stood but a poor chance; since Mendon, Brookfield, Lancaster and Sutton, were all larger and richer than Worcester.

But population and wealth were not the only points to be considered.

It was highly important that the county seat should be easy to reach, and therefore somewhere near the centre of the county, so that citizens, from even the remotest town, should not have an unfair distance to go in order to reach the courts, and other centres of county interest.

After much discussion the choice lay between Lancaster and Worcester; with many citizens in favor of making the two towns *half* shires; the sessions of The Court to be held alternately in each. When this plan was set aside the little town of Worcester was made the county seat.

Province of Massachusetts Bay.

The General Court, which met at Boston, was the supreme judicial authority of the province, subject only to royal jurisdiction.

The first Court of General Sessions of the Peace, of Worcester County, was composed of Hon. John Chandler, judge, and the following justices of the peace, viz.: Benjamin Willard, John Chandler, Jr., Samuel Dudley, Joseph Dwight, Henry Lee, Daniel Taft, Samuel Wright and Nahum Ward, Esquires; and in the capacity of a Court of Probate, held its first session in the meeting-house, July 13, 1731. Thus began the business of the courts of Worcester County.

Old South Church.

First Session of the Court of General Sessions of the Peace, of Worcester Co., was held Aug. 10, 1731.

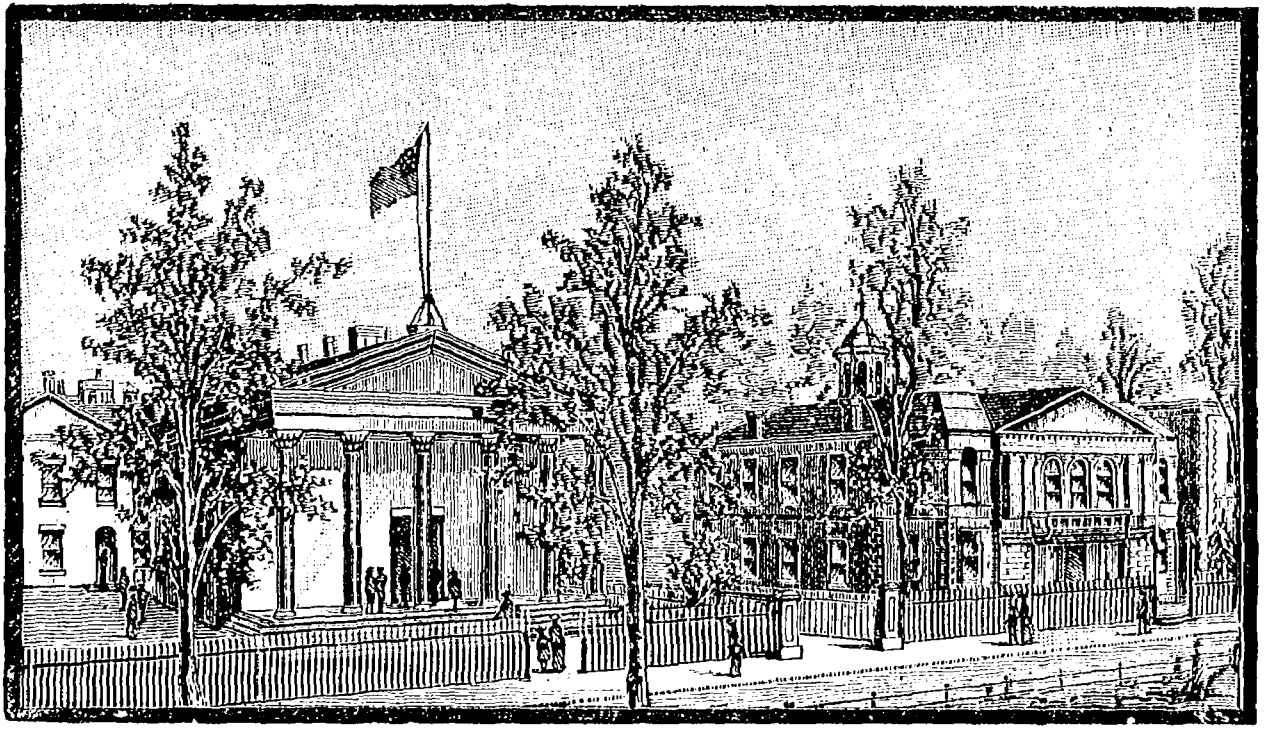
The first court house, a little wooden building, erected upon "Court Hill," was opened for use in 1734.

In 1751 it gave place to a new one, upon the same site, which was thought to be a handsome and commodious edifice.

See Records of the Court of General Sessions of the Peace, Worcester Co., 1731-1737. Edited by Franklin P. Rice.

But the thriving towns of the great county continued to grow, and new towns to be established, thus increasing the business of the courts to such a degree that a new court house was needed.

Accordingly the corner stone of what has been known as "the Brick Court House" was laid October 1, 1801, and the building opened with much ceremony September 27, 1803.



THE COURT HOUSES, COURT HILL.

A fourth court house was called for, and "the Granite Court House," as it has been styled, was completed in 1845.

In common with all the rest, it stands upon Court Hill, on ground once occupied by the residence and garden of Dr. Isaiah Thomas.

The "Brick Court House" has recently been removed to give place to the fifth edifice erected for court purposes; a spacious structure now in process of building.

The terms of The Court, in early times, were seasons of great merry making in Worcester. They were the great holidays of the county, just as they continue to be in many southern localities.

They brought trade to the town, and much of the rapid growth of Worcester, in wealth and population, must be attributed to the fact that here is the county seat.

The bar of Worcester County has been conspicuous for able and learned men. Willard's address, Oct. 2, 1829.

The sessions of The Court have twice been seriously interfered with.

On September 6, 1774, a concourse of some six thousand patriots closed The Court, by authority of the Committee of Correspondence, and no sessions were held for nearly two years. Royal prerogative denied.

During this period the orders of the Committee of Correspondence were obeyed as laws.

Constitutional authority.

In July, 1776, The Court was opened under the new government.

Shay's Rebellion, so called from its leader, Captain Daniel Shay, a Revolutionary officer.

1786

The insurrection, or uprising, known as Shay's Rebellion, was an ineffectual protest upon the part of needy citizens of Massachusetts against the expenditure of public money until their wants should be relieved; and an endeavor to force the stay of legal proceedings against their houses and lands until they could have time to help themselves.

1783.

The close of the War for Independence found nearly all the agricultural population of Massachusetts in a sad state of destitution.

Resources drained by taxation.

The brave soldiers had come home penniless, and worn with hardship, to families, who, having been pressed far beyond their means, to sustain the war, were now in debt and want.

The controlling effect of a common danger being removed, by the successful termination of the war, the services of these fighting men seem to have been forgotten, and their necessities disregarded.

The soldiers unpaid, and in want.

When we contemplate the trials and tragic

death of Worcester's greatest hero in the Revolution, Colonel Timothy Bigelow, it is easy to believe in the woes of those whose identity is lost in the general groan for mercy.

A genuine scarcity of money, local indifference, and a wretchedly administered general government, seem to fairly divide the blame for the deplorable condition of affairs.

Shay's Rebellion culminated in Worcester County, and was as sad and piteous as it was ineffectual.

General and Judge Artemas Ward and Gen. Lincoln.

The really great men in authority show to fine advantage in their temperate measures to suppress the disorder.

CHAPTER VIII.

The County of Worcester, Part II.

As has been stated, the wisdom of creating Worcester County was seriously questioned by the statesmen of Boston.

The region under consideration appealed to them only as a vast and forbidding wilderness; and all account of the beauty and variety of its natural scenery, and productive character of the soil, seemed eclipsed by reports of bears, wolves, wildcats and venomous serpents.

Its earlier experiences with hostile Indians, also, were fresh in the memory of many.

It is quite true that no boy need to depend upon Mr. Cooper, or upon the West, for stories of Indians, if he but chooses to look up those which attach to the towns of Worcester County;—Lancaster, Brookfield, Mendon, Worcester, Oxford, Sterling and Rutland, at least, have thrilling and authentic tales of pioneer life and savage warfare.

The old captains in the Indian wars do not seem to have looked with favor upon the "hill country" hereabout, and even

Governor Belcher gravely doubted its ever making any figure as a county.

Jonathan Belcher, Governor of Massachusetts, 1730 to 1741.

Governor Belcher lived long enough, happily, to correct his own error of judgment. Perhaps his last visit to the town of Worcester was during the missionary journey of the pious Whitefield, in whose preaching he was deeply interested.

1740.

Worcester County originally embraced but thirteen organized towns, besides certain grants, reservations and unsettled territory.

Omitting Woodstock.

Worcester, Lancaster, Westborough, Shrewsbury, Southborough, Leicester, Rutland and Lunenburg, were taken from Middlesex County.

Grant to petitioners of Medfield.

Land laid out to Narragansett soldiers, etc. etc.

Mendon, Woodstock, Oxford, Sutton and Uxbridge, were taken from Suffolk County, while Brookfield was taken from Hampshire County. Of these, Woodstock long since ceased to belong to Worcester County and to Massachusetts, having in 1748 been received into the colony of Connecticut.

Contrary to the general expectation in Boston, the new county proved very attractive to settlers.

They felt themselves abundantly able to cope with the wild animals, and poisonous reptiles; and the danger from Indians was no longer a real one. There was an Indian

The plantation of Hassanamissett.

village at Grafton, it is true, and elsewhere; but the poor red man had been overpowered, his day was upon the wane, and he now lived harmlessly wherever the whites chose to grant him a few acres.

The settlers poured in with astonishing rapidity, coming chiefly from the older seaboard and more remote inland towns, and at once began the work of building up new towns in central Massachusetts.

Dudley was the first one to be incorporated after the erection of Worcester County. It was much larger than it is now, since, in addition to its present area, it included Webster, Douglas, Southbridge and Sturbridge.

The new towns were made chiefly of tracts taken from other adjacent towns.

See Manual of the General Court.

The towns of Harvard, Bolton, Berlin, Clinton, Leominster, Sterling and West Boylston, were taken wholly, or in part, from the great town of Lancaster, which, in the year 1713, embraced a tract of one hundred and ten square miles.

Ward's History of Shrewsbury.

The north part of the town of Shrewsbury yielded the greater portion of Boylston.

Washburn's History of Leicester.

A part of Grafton also was taken from Shrewsbury; while Leicester gave all the land for Spencer, as well as portions of the towns of Paxton and Ward.

Ward, now Auburn.

But the thirteen original old towns did not really miss the land which thus went to make up the rapidly growing settlements around them.

In the majority of cases they held more territory than their titles called for; and the coming in of new settlers enhanced the value of their possessions, and brought a welcome stir of human life into many a stretch of wilderness.

The children of the present age, accustomed to a division of labor in living, find it hard to realize the isolation and independence of the households scattered throughout the length and breadth of this great county.

"Farming," or the business of agriculture, was the chief industry.

It was no part of England's policy to encourage manufacture among her colonies in America. Far more money was to be had in seeking among them a market for the products of British skill and labor.

The New England farmer, therefore, with but very little money, and at long distances from any base of supplies, found his time most profitably employed in obtaining through his own skill and industry all the simple needs and comforts of his life.

The farm was made to furnish food in

abundant variety—flesh, fowls, cereals, vegetables, nuts and fruit. Flax was raised to be converted into linen cloth ; and the sheep were sheared of their coats to provide for woolen cloth.

It was the work of the household to spin and weave, bleach and dye the flax and wool, and then to make them up into the needed clothing. With the occasional added services of an itinerant shoemaker, a family was practically independent of the outside world.

Delightful stories are told of the busy, healthful people who lived in this way ; and perhaps made useful things to sell, in the long winter evenings. They have something of the charm of *Robinson Crusoe* and the *Swiss Family Robinson*.

Still, while this method is engrossing and secure, no one fancies it to be the way eventually to wealth.

Division of labor is one of the necessary steps to progress. The crude manufactures of the household gave place to the better products of the factories, which, from small beginnings, have grown so numerous and important, that a fair history of their work would fill many books.

CHAPTER IX.

Slavery.

It is but a short time in the history of nations since even the most enlightened have ceased to hold slaves.

The prisoners captured in war became the slaves of their captors; and to confine ourselves to instances most nearly related to us in point of time and interest, we may note that England reduced to slavery the Scottish prisoners taken at the battle of Dunbar in 1650.

Battle of Dunbar, Sept. 3, 1650.

Two hundred and seventy-four of these unfortunate Scots were sent to Massachusetts in 1651 and sold to colonial masters.

England responsible for slavery in her colonies.

Slavery existed in Massachusetts as a part of the policy of English law, to which she was subject.

Whites, negroes and Indians might be made slaves.

There were three classes who could be held as slaves without regard to color or nationality:

1st. Those who were captured in war.

2nd. Those who voluntarily sold themselves for a specified time, and 3d, those whom the law adjudged to be slaves as a punishment for wrong doing.

The African slaves would come under the first head.

Theirs was a lifelong bondage, and it is of them alone that we now shall speak.

1775 to 1783. At the beginning of the War for Independence the right to hold negro slaves was recognized alike throughout the thirteen colonies.

Constitutional Convention, 1787. When these thirteen colonies became later the thirteen United States of America, by accepting the constitution which united them under one great general government, each came into the Union as a slave State, with the single exception of Massachusetts.

Slavery abolished in Massachusetts, 1780. Slavery was indirectly abolished in Massachusetts in 1780 by the Declaration of Rights, with which her constitution opens.

SLAVERY. By Hon. Emory Washburn. In order to make sure that the phrase "all men are born free and equal," . . . was in no sense delusive, and that it included black, as well as white, residents of Massachusetts, several cases came before the courts in which the question was involved.

Case of Quork Walker, of Worcester Co., 1781-3. Counsel for plaintiff, Hon. Levi Lincoln, Sr. In every instance it was decided that the black resident came within the intention of the Declaration of Rights, and was as free in Massachusetts as the white man.

Case of "Betty," Berkshire County. Counsel for plaintiff, Hon. Theodore Sedgwick. Slavery has at no time been regarded with favor by the wisest men of this Commonwealth.

Slave labor unpopular in Massachusetts.

Waiving all higher considerations, it was wholly unsuited to the domestic life and industries of New England, and any material increase in the slave population would have rendered them an intolerable burden.

The number of negroes owned by any one person was too small to call for separate family life, or even for houses apart from the house of the master, and they seem to have been treated much as white servants or farm hands are to this day in New England households.

Felt's Statistics.

Probably the first vessel that brought negro slaves to Massachusetts arrived in 1638.

Through many years their number increased very slowly.

Governor Dudley estimated it to be five hundred and fifty in 1708.

There seems to have been no census of slaves prior to 1754.

According to the census of 1754-5 there were 88 African slaves in Worcester County, eight of whom were owned in the town of Worcester.

The census of 1764-5 shows 304 African slaves in Worcester County; twenty-five of whom were owned in the town of Worcester; and the census of 1776 credits the county of Worcester with 432 slaves.

Felt's Statistics.

Upwards of 6,000 negro slaves in Massachusetts.

"The Selling of Joseph," by Judge Sewall, 1710.

The popular sentiment against slavery had grown steadily; the reasonable growth from a vigorous root.

The diary of the great and good Judge Sewall gives every evidence of a conscience deeply troubled over the unrighteous practice of holding unoffending men in bondage.

While always intensely in sympathy with his time, Judge Sewall, at his best, was much in advance of it.

In 1716 he made a strong effort to have negro slaves removed from the list of chattels. This was unsuccessful, and to-day the Worcester boy may examine certain old inventories in the files of the Probate Court, in which the negro slaves are placed, unnamed, upon the inventory of their master's possessions, along with the cows and the horses.

Notwithstanding all this, slavery in Massachusetts assumed from the beginning a peculiarly mild aspect.

There seems to have been no law to prevent the negro children from attending the free schools. And the testimony of the black man was accepted by the courts.

During a period of many years, prior to the Revolution, the General Court repeatedly received petitions from various towns for the

suppression of slavery; and, as the Revolution approached, the tenure of property in slaves appeared to be attended with so much uncertainty, that some masters voluntarily liberated their blacks.

Old files of the *Massachusetts Spy* of the period, however, show that they still continued to be advertised and sold in this community.

The negroes themselves were intelligently active in their own behalf; and in 1775 those of Bristol and Worcester counties petitioned the Committee of Correspondence, of Worcester County, to aid them to obtain their freedom.

At a convention held in Worcester, June 14, 1775, it was resolved:

"That we abhor the enslaving of any of the human race, and particularly of the negroes in this country, and that when ever there shall be a door opened, or opportunity present, for anything to be done towards the emancipation of the negroes, we will use our influence, and endeavor, that such a thing may be brought about."

Lincoln's History of Worcester, page 99.

There is little more of a local character, to be found touching this sad institution, which our Christian nation has at length outgrown.

The statistical records yield us the short

story of the number of slaves owned in Worcester; and tradition still preserves the names of some who were household favorites.

Upon the outlying farms it is probable that the daily tenor of their lives differed too little from that of the frugal, hardworking citizens about them, to have made them remarkable, so long as their condition was not minutely inquired into. Energy and industry were characteristic of even the most prosperous.

As has been stated, the slaves worked in the household and on the farm, and were as comfortably housed, and fed, as white laborers, no doubt.

For many years preceding the Revolution they were exempt from military duty, as were also the Indians.

Slaves as soldiers.

But when the stress of war made the services of every capable man of value, the negroes were enrolled for duty, and did good service as soldiers in the Revolution.

This was not done without objection upon the part of some of the towns of Worcester County; and the blacks of Massachusetts were not formed into separate organizations, as was the case in Rhode Island.

As a class the negroes of New England were apparently possessed of a greater degree

of intelligence than the merry and careless household servants of the South.

It is not too much to say that the political movement which had as its result the freeing of the slaves, began in Worcester.

The movement throughout the Northern States for the abolition of slavery, found able and willing workers in the town of Worcester and neighboring towns, among whom appear the distinguished names of the Rev. Samuel May, the Rev. George Allen, Colonel T. W. Higginson, Abby Kelley Foster, Stephen S. Foster, Thomas W. Ward, Samuel H. Colton, Edward Earle, and many others.

Gen. Rufus Putnam was born in Sutton.

Hon. Eli Thayer and others.

It was chiefly through the unflagging efforts of General Rufus Putnam, of Rutland, that Ohio was made free from the beginning; and Kansas was colonized under the influence of broad-minded men of Worcester and Worcester County.

CHAPTER X.

Story of Col. Timothy Bigelow.

The monument upon the Common, erected in honor of Col. Timothy Bigelow, a hero of the Revolution, is a familiar object to almost every school boy in Worcester.

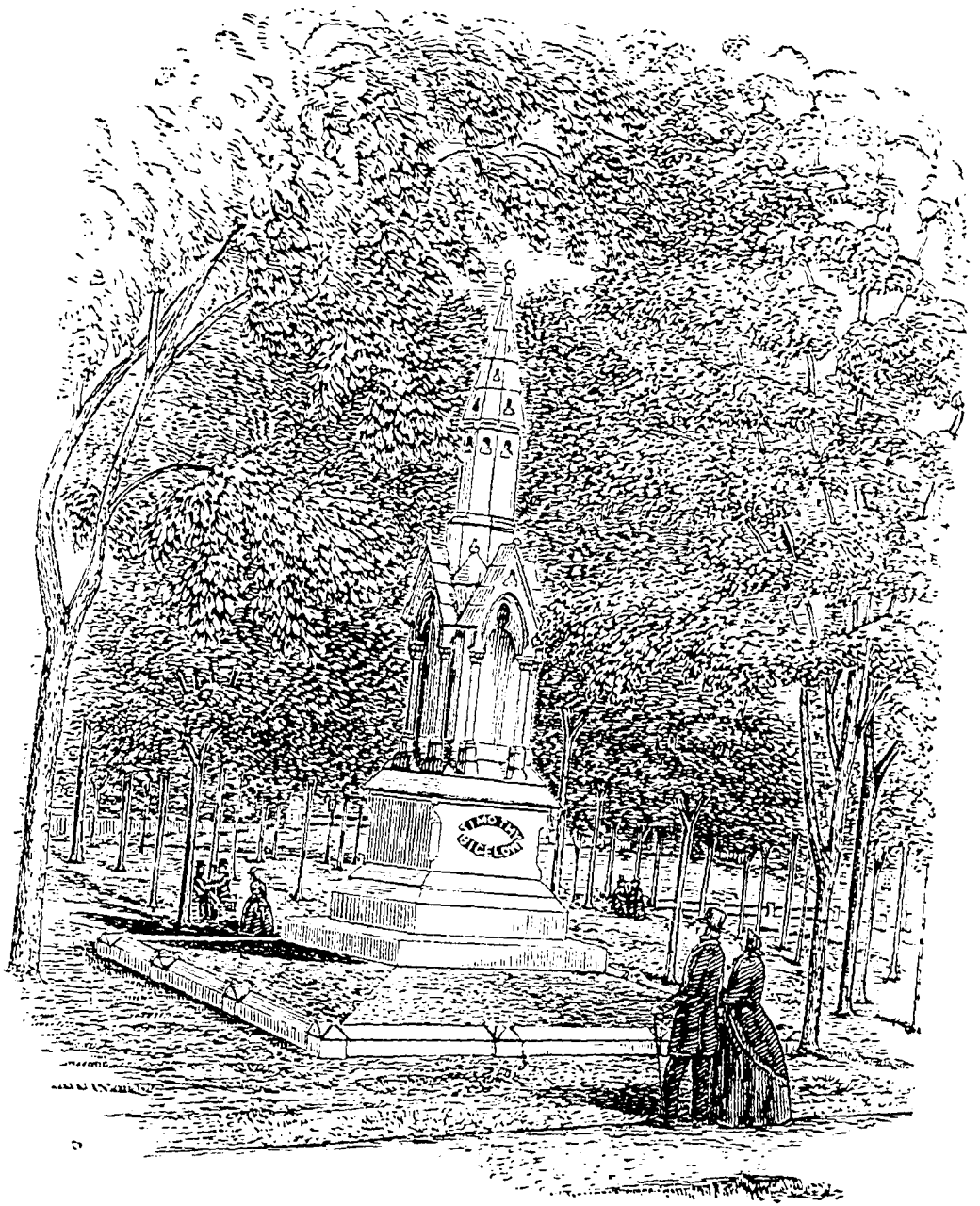
Some of them when crossing the Common have doubtless stopped to read the inscription upon the stone which commemorates this brave and useful citizen, but few perhaps have ever tried to picture him as he walked the streets of Worcester an hundred and twenty or thirty years ago.

Col. Timothy Bigelow, son of Daniel and Elizabeth (Whitney) Bigelow, was born in Worcester, August 12, 1739.

His father, who was a farmer, had been a soldier in the Canadian-French War, and Timothy, his youngest son, grew up tall and strong upon his father's farm.

He learned the trade of a blacksmith, and in time built for himself a forge upon the south side of Lincoln Square.

After his marriage to Miss Anna Andrews, in 1762, Col. Bigelow resided in a pleasant



COL. TIMOTHY BIGELOW MONUMENT.

old house on Main Street, opposite the court house, known later as the Bigelow mansion.

A block of brick dwellings owned by the Hon. Stephen Salisbury now stand upon the spot, which may be justly regarded as one of the historic sites of Worcester.

The prosperous young blacksmith, with his noble figure, handsome face and urbane manner, was a pleasant person to meet, as he passed to and fro among his fellow townsmen.

They must have noted him with somewhat curious and expectant interest, for he was called an ambitious man; and that he had a clear head and indomitable energy, no one for a moment doubted.

His earlier educational advantages were limited to those offered by the common school, and as he became conscious of his deficiencies, he hastened to repair them.

Col. Bigelow was resolutely fitting himself to do some large work in the world; and, although he could not quite know it, the time was fast approaching, just here in Worcester, when some man pre-eminent for strength and courage, would be called to step out from among his fellows, to bear the heaviest public burdens, and encounter the greatest dangers.

The Province of Massachusetts Bay suffered long under a sense of serious grievances against Great Britain before actual rebellion was contemplated; but two distinct parties at length grew up, to one or the other of which, all intelligent citizens of necessity belonged.

Tories.

Many of the wealthiest and most influential men of Worcester were unswerving in their loyalty to the Mother Country, as England was fondly called—partly because they received at her hands the offices and emoluments which they valued, partly because they held themselves her devoted sons whatever her errors of judgment, or however misguided her course toward her dependent colonies in America; and partly because their knowledge of the resources of this new land would not justify them in the belief that open rebellion could result in anything but disaster to the colonists. These were the Tories.

Whigs.

The opposing party declared open and irreconcilable opposition to oppression in every form, and from whatsoever source it might proceed.

They, too, adhered to their allegiance to England with faithful affection, so long as she accorded them their simple *rights and privileges as free born Englishmen.*

More than these they did not ask; but less than these they could not accept; and England loves and honors them the more, for this their manly stand, up to this very day and hour. These were the Whigs.

Party spirit between the Whigs and the Tories ran high in Worcester, during the stormy days which preceded the Revolution, and up and down the sober pages of the history of your town, at this period, appears, again and again, the name of Timothy Bigelow; and, associated with him, Nathan Baldwin, Stephen Salisbury, Edward Crafts, Benjamin Flagg, Samuel Curtis, Josiah Pierce, and many others just as sternly uncompromising, just as ready to hazard their all, whether life or property, in the just cause which they had espoused.

Col. Bigelow was a member of the Committee of Correspondence, organized in this and other towns, for the interchange of sympathy, and the purpose of securing concerted action.

He was also a leading spirit in the American Political Society, a small but powerful secret local organization.

As early as August, 1774, we find him in command of a company of Minute-Men, who met each evening, when the labor of

the day was over, to train themselves in the manual of arms.

In the autumn of this year Col. Bigelow was sent as a delegate to the Provincial Congress, which met at Concord, and was re-elected to this body early in the following year.

Lincoln's History of Worcester.

Then dawned the fateful 19th day of April, 1775, when before noon "an express came into the town, shouting, as he passed through the street, at full speed, 'to arms! to arms! war is begun!'

The Old South Church, upon present site of City Hall.

"His white horse, bloody with spurring, and dripping with sweat fell exhausted by the church. Another one was instantly procured, and the tidings went on.

"The bell rang out the alarm, cannon were fired, and messengers sent to every part of the town to collect the soldiery."

Minute-Men.

The Minute-Men were quick to obey the summons, as their name—*Minute*-Men, would indicate.

They dropped such work as they had in hand, seized their guns and hastened to the Common, where they were met by their captain, Timothy Bigelow.

When all were assembled, and prayer had been offered by the Rev. Mr. Maccarty, the men set out upon their march to Concord.

Capt. Bigelow halted his command to rest at the old Howe tavern in Sudbury.

Howe Tavern, "The Wayside Inn" of Mr. Longfellow's Tales.

They advanced then only as far as Cambridge, the headquarters of the Provincial troops.

The battles of Lexington and Concord had been fought.

The promotion of Col. Bigelow soon followed, and his life through the ensuing years of the Revolution was filled with suffering, struggle and achievement, such as no pen has power to tell.

Colonel of the Fifteenth Regiment of the Continental Line.

Those few words upon the left face of his monument upon the Common recount in part the splendid story, to him who can read them well.

Quebec,	Monmouth,
Saratoga,	Verplank's Point,
Valley Forge,	Yorktown.

But not until you know what those great names stand for:—your Saratoga, where Col. Bigelow commanded the fifteenth Continental regiment; your Valley Forge, your Yorktown, will you begin to take in the deeds of valor which attach to one of the most illustrious names in Worcester history.

Try to picture for yourselves, this brave man, as he moved through camp and field; his wife and children weeping and praying for him in their darkened home down on

Main Street; and the townspeople leaning with confidence upon his wisdom, and courage, in the hour of their great extremity.

Then say as well as you can, what you think the town of Worcester owed to this gallant soldier, who sacrificed so much for her safety and future prosperity; while he gained for himself Poverty, which, while always sad, was intensified in his case to peculiar anguish, ruined health, and a too early grave.

I like that simple monument upon the Common, which was reared to his memory by his descendants from another town, seventy-one years after his death.

Better than this I like that mountain monument, near the head of the Kennebec River in the State of Maine, the steep and rugged side of which he climbed in order to make out his course upon the toilsome march to Quebec, and which fitly bears his name—Mount Bigelow.

But above all I love and honor the history of Col. Bigelow's life, written and unwritten, as Worcester knows it well.

Seen from across the century, he types magnificently the patriot of '76, and the little town of his day looks dim and quaint, as he towers above it in all the immortal freshness and beauty of a hero.

CHAPTER XI.

Worcester in the Revolution.

When the War for Independence began, in 1775, the town of Worcester had but some nineteen hundred inhabitants, and looked not unlike country towns which we have all seen; with its important Main Street, shaded by handsome trees, and bordered by simple, comfortable houses, with deep, grassy door yards.

There were several pleasant houses on Lincoln Street, then known as the Boston road, and the Hancock Arms Tavern, too —a cheerful old place, already with a history of its own, and much frequented by the patriots.

Near by was the jail. The Salisbury homestead, perhaps the finest old landmark in Worcester, stood then just where it stands to-day, upon the north side of Lincoln Square, having been built in 1770.

The blacksmith shop upon the south side of the square belonged to Timothy Bigelow, where great thoughts kept time to mighty blows.

The second court house, built in 1751.

The little Court House, sufficient for the needs of the thinly populated county, stood upon Court Hill, where a larger one now stands; but the pillory and the whipping post, which used to have their place in front of the Court House, in Revolutionary times, have mercifully been destroyed.

The day when punishment was made as public as possible has passed.

Men are slowly learning that the surest way to make strong and useful men and women, is to foster and encourage all that is good in them, rather than to single out and cruelly punish their misdoings.

From the fact that Worcester was the county seat, arose the large number of taverns in the town.

Roads were poor, travelling was slow, and those whose business called them to the Courts had frequently a long way to come, and unavoidable delays while here. So these old inns flourished, and have left an interesting record.

There was the Hancock Arms Tavern, of which mention has been made; the Heywood Tavern, which occupied the land where the Bay State House now stands; the King's Arms Tavern, located upon the site of the Lincoln House; the Sun Tavern,

upon the Main Street, the exact spot a trifle indefinite, and the Jones Tavern, also on Main Street, a short distance beyond the corner of what is now Park Street.

All of these public houses were more or less gathering places for the Whigs and Tories. We seem almost to hear the sound of their eager and determined voices, before the time for action came.

There was much to be talked over.

There was the Stamp Act, and its repeal; the presence of the King's troops in Boston, for the purpose of intimidating the Colonists into submission to the King's authority, and, finally, the Boston massacre.

The Committees of Correspondence, and the local American Political Society, were to be discussed; the Tax on Tea to be violently opposed, and as the days of open rebellion and war drew near, there was a fierce searching of the lives of one another, in order to determine which were friends, and which foes, from the patriot's point of view.

Many of the most respectable citizens of Worcester were Tories, as the royalists were called, but the patriots were very stern in their demand for silence upon the part of such; and stoutly put down all opposition

to Independence, wherever they found it in their midst.

Worcester was an interesting place to live in at that time, where there was so much to be done, with so few men, and so little money. Though the men were indeed few in number, they were a fearless and hardy race, bred to the use of arms, and accustomed to the privations of pioneer life.

The horrors of local Indian warfare were still the favorite stories of their firesides; for the children of Digory Serjent had but just now grown to be old men and women; and many citizens had gone out to the French Wars, which were a thing of yesterday.

Moreover, through fifty years and more, the men of Worcester had come together in town meeting to conduct the affairs of this community, and to unite in sending up their voice to the General Court in the person of some trusted citizen. The idea of self-government had been fostered, and they felt themselves to be far more sufficient for their day of trial than they seem to us, as we look back upon them, from the strong hold of this great and powerful Republic.

The Committee of Safety and the Committee of Supplies of the Provincial Con-

gress of Massachusetts, found it desirable to deposit arms, ammunition, provisions and camp equipage in a few selected towns.

See firearms in use in the Revolution, owned by the Society of Antiquity.

On April 17, 1775, it was "Voted, that all ammunition shall be deposited in nine towns in this Province, viz.: Worcester, Lancaster, Concord, Groton, Stoughton, Stowe, Mendon, Leicester and Sudbury."

On the day following, April 18th, it was "Voted, that the town of Worcester, Concord, Stowe and Lancaster be furnished with two iron three pound cannon each."

"On the 19th of April, 1775, 108 men left Worcester to march to the relief of Lexington and Concord." These were the Minute-Men under the command of Capt. Timothy Bigelow, and a company of thirty-one men commanded by Capt. Benjamin Flagg, which followed Capt. Bigelow and joined him at Sudbury.

As the British invasion had been successfully repelled, and the troops returned to Boston—the Worcester soldiers marched only to Cambridge, where the organization of the army was begun without delay. Then followed the events in the war for Independence, which belong to our national history.

Out of her population of less than 2,000 souls, Worcester sent 400 soldiers to aid in her country's battles.

Worcester in the Revolution, by A. A. Lovell.

They fought at Bunker Hill, at Quebec, Long Island, and at Saratoga; on the Hudson and at Valley Forge, at Monmouth and at Yorktown, filling Worcester's roll of honor with deeds and names ever to be remembered with fervent gratitude.

Down this Main Street of the then pretty village, rode General Washington on his way to Cambridge, to take command of the Continental Army—bearing such a burden of care and responsibility as has seldom been pressed upon the shoulders of mortal man.

On October 23rd, 1789.

It is well to recall that General Washington rode again through Worcester streets, when, as first President of the United States of America, he made a visit to New England. The people of that time read in their Massachusetts *Spy* the following notice of the event:

See file of the Spy for the year 1789.

"Information being received on Thursday evening, that *his Highness* would be in town the next morning, a number of respectable citizens, about forty, paraded before sunrise on horseback, and went as far as Leicester line to welcome him, and escorted him into town. The Worcester Company of Artillery, commanded by Major Treadwell, were already assembled: on notice being given

that *his Highness* was approaching, five cannon were fired for the five New England States; three for the three in the Union; one for Vermont, which will speedily be admitted, and one as a call to Rhode Island to be ready before it was too late.

"When the President General arrived in sight of the meeting-house, eleven cannon were fired; he viewed with attention the Artillery Company as he passed, and expressed to the inhabitants his sense of the honor done him.

"He stopped at the *United States Arms* and breakfasted, and then proceeded on his journey."

Now the Exchange Hotel.

It is related that Washington, with characteristic graciousness, left his travelling carriage, and passed through the streets of Worcester on horseback, after the manner of a general officer, as a kindly tribute to those who knew and loved him first in war.

CHAPTER XII.

The Declaration of Independence.

The glory of the document, which we call the Declaration of Independence, belongs alike to the thirteen Colonies, which were manfully struggling, as with one will, to obtain the liberty that had become their vital need.

The pen of Jefferson but repeated the sentiments familiar to every village and town, from which a patriot had gone out to war.

The people were expecting the Declaration.

They were waiting for it here, in Worcester, with almost breathless anticipation, each in his own way, as the long summer of 1776 wore on. But no one could say just when it would be made.

1776. At last the great paper was written, and signed on the fourth day of July, down in Philadelphia, by President John Hancock, and Secretary Charles Thompson; and later

August 2, 1776. by the strong men who pledged each his own State to well nigh impossible things. The Signers, we like to call them.

The distribution of copies to the various Capitals, to the Committees of Correspondence, and to the headquarters of the Continental Army, followed the Act of July fourth, and then the slow work of having them delivered.

It is a proud reflection for Worcester children that the Declaration of Independence was heard for the first time upon Massachusetts soil, in this their own town.

Lincoln's History of Worcester.

Possibly on Saturday, July 13; and certainly on July 14, 1776, a copy was in Worcester, on its way to Boston.

It is idle for us to try now to picture the fearful joy with which it was received, as Isaiah Thomas read it to the hastily assembled citizens from the west porch of the Old South Church.

Spy, July 17, 1776.

For the benefit of those who had not heard, and for those perhaps who wished to hear it all over again, the Rev. Thaddeus Maccarty went through it with great fervor, at the close of his morning sermon.

No one thought it dull; and by Monday of the following week, the proper arrangements having been made to give it a fitting public reception, it was read again amid great rejoicing.

July 22.

See Centennial Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, Worcester, 1876.

The Arms of King George III, which

had remained upon the Court House up to this time, were burned; and Mrs. Stearns, who kept the King's Arms Tavern, where the Lincoln House now stands, was asked to give her objectionable sign to be burned also—which she cheerfully did.

Spy, July 24, 1776.

This third outburst of joy seems not unlike the more modern fourth of July festivities.

If we, of to-day, have lost the power to listen to it with enthusiasm equal to that of our forefathers, it is not wholly strange.

For Public Celebrations of Independence, 1789 to 1883, see The Worcester Book, by Franklin P. Rice.

To us it is a matter of history; while to them, line by line, the truths which it tells were as familiar as household words; and a sound knowledge of history is far less common, than a familiarity with current events of thrilling interest.

But the Declaration of Independence still means as much for us as it did for them.

It must forever stand to us for the love of liberty; and for our sacred duty of defending and making better this great land which the fathers won for us.

CHAPTER XIII.

A sketch of Isaiah Thomas.

Almost every Worcester school boy is able to furnish some fact with regard to Isaiah Thomas. One perhaps will remember the street called by his name, which he presented to the town.

Removed to Rural Cemetery, June 24, 1878.

Another may have seen in Rural Cemetery the tomb of granite which he caused to be erected for himself, some years before his death, and which stood originally in Mechanic Street burial ground.

Yet another will recall that Mr. Thomas was the first postmaster of Worcester, having been appointed to this office by Benjamin Franklin, in 1775, while many will know that he was the original owner and publisher of the *Worcester Spy*.

See The History of Printing in America, by Isaiah Thomas.

It is a most interesting statement that the first printing ever done in any New England inland town, was done in Worcester, in 1775, upon the printing press of Isaiah Thomas.

The early life of Mr. Thomas was filled with hardship and strange vicissitudes.

He was born in Boston, January 10, 1749, the son of Moses and Fidelity (Grant) Thomas, and was hardly beyond his babyhood when his father died, leaving his family quite unprovided for; one result of which being that little Isaiah was apprenticed to a Boston printer, Mr. Fowle, at the tender age of six years.

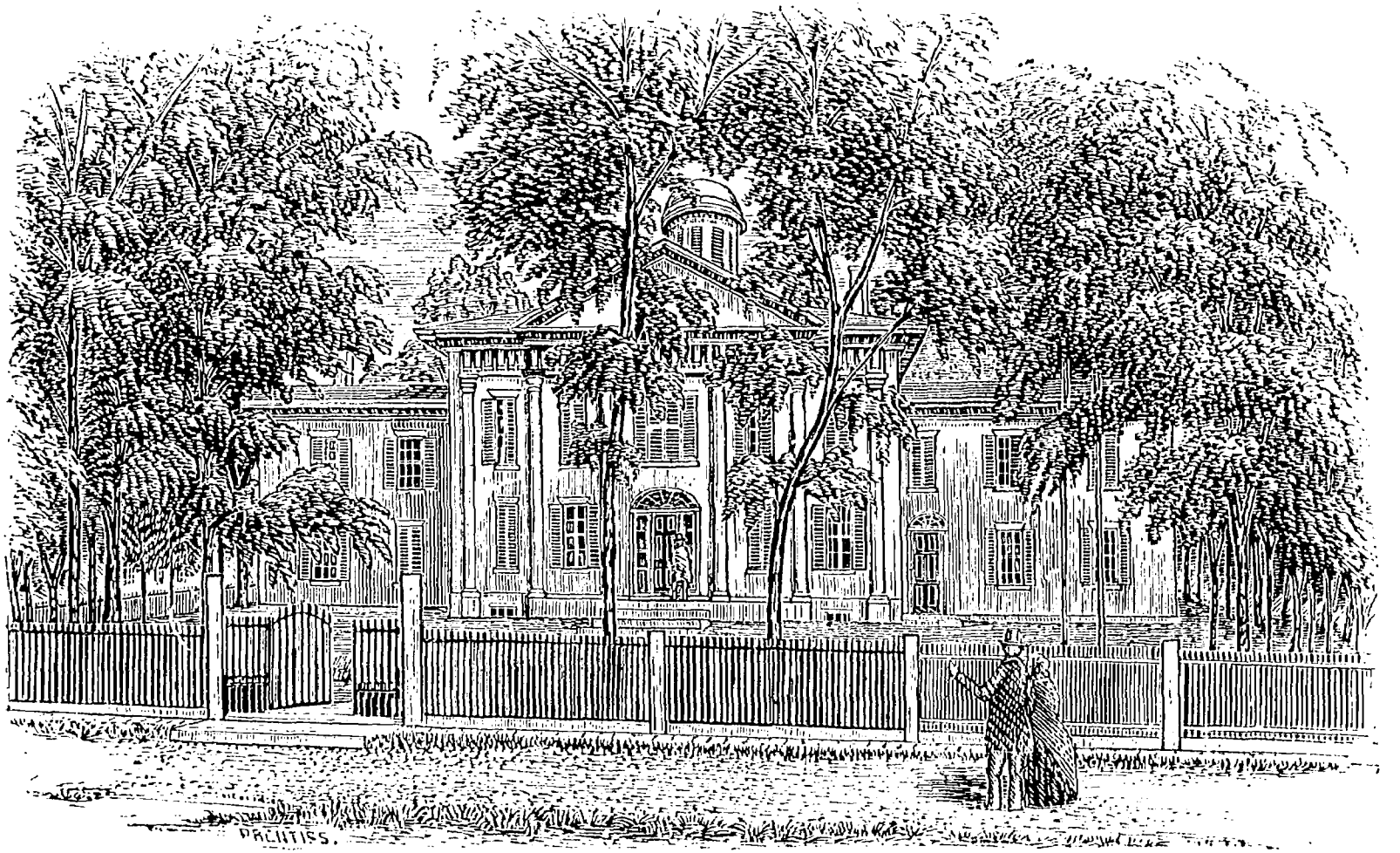
The only books which the office of Mr. Fowle contained, were the Bible, and an old dictionary; but the boy early determined that he would be a scholar, and the necessity for books must be met in some way.

All of the ambition, ingenuity and courage which he possessed, were needed to sustain him through this trying season of privation and unceasing toil.

Much of the business of the printing office was given into his charge while he was but a half grown boy.

At the age of eighteen years Isaiah Thomas was tall and fine looking, with pleasing manners, robust health, and an uncommonly large fund of experience for one so young. Unusual responsibilities, and his habit of self-reliance, had matured him wonderfully.

He had managed also to acquire a good deal that was serviceable in the way of edu-



OLD ANTIQUARIAN HALL, SUMMER STREET.

cation, and saw no reason now why he might not venture into the world alone.

He accordingly left Boston and went to Halifax, carrying with him the ardent love of liberty, and secret desire for independence, which had grown strongly within him under the fostering influences of life in Boston. Young Thomas soon obtained editorial work, as well as printing, upon the Halifax Gazette, but his declared opposition to the Stamp Act gave offence to the government officials in Halifax, and rendered his stay in that town no longer profitable.

After several changes of residence it seemed best to return to Boston, and establish himself in business there. Surely it was a memorable experience when he purchased from his old master, Mr. Fowle, the printing press and types to which he had been accustomed as child and youth, and began the publication of the *Massachusetts Spy*—a paper devoted to the cause of liberty. It seems a small sheet, indeed, compared with the great newspapers of to-day, but it stood for mighty things. March 7, 1771.

"This meant at least a free press," one thinks, as one reads with curious interest.

Mr. Thomas was soon recognized as a new power in the political world, and the

patriots were far too sensible of the value of his services to willingly take the risk of seeing his printing press shut up in Boston, as the condition of affairs there grew daily more serious.

He gave favorable consideration to the suggestion that he should remove to Worcester.

At that safe distance he could print the documents of the Provincial Congress, as well as aid the great cause which he had at heart, by disseminating its principles far and near.

His way to success lay over heavy material losses, in any case, but things were not so bad as they might have been.

Col. Timothy Bigelow assisted in secretly conveying the press and cases of type away from Boston, and so did General Warren, whose gallant life was now so near its end.

Three days before the battle of Lexington the sturdy old printing press, with its humble outfit of type, was safely started on the road to Worcester.

Owned by The American Antiquarian Society.

It is well to step in and look at it, as it stands safely protected in its honorable old age. But the boy who means to be a printer, or a journalist, or a publisher of books, will hardly need this suggestion.

See composing stick used by Mr. Thomas, owned by the Society of Antiquity.

Mr. Thomas remained in Boston until after the stirring events of the 19th day of April, and then set out for Worcester afoot.

In the course of his journey he gratefully accepted the offer of a horse to relieve his fatigue; but he reached his new home footsore and weary, poor in purse, and a stranger.

On the 3d day of May, 1775, the *Spy* began its prosperous career in Worcester, an interval of three weeks only having elapsed since its last issue in Boston.

In addition to the newspaper, Worcester soon became the centre of an important book publishing industry, conducted by Mr. Thomas. A list of the titles of books published here, is, in itself, interesting reading, and many of the volumes are easily accessible.

Library of American Antiquarian Society.

Library of Society of Antiquity.

While these do not in any sense represent the perfection to which the art of book making had attained in the old world at that period, they have for us a dear and peculiar value.

The arts and manufactures were still in their infancy in our own country, and their products were the fruit of poor tools, poor material, and heroic patience and ingenuity.

The juvenile books published by Isaiah 1786.

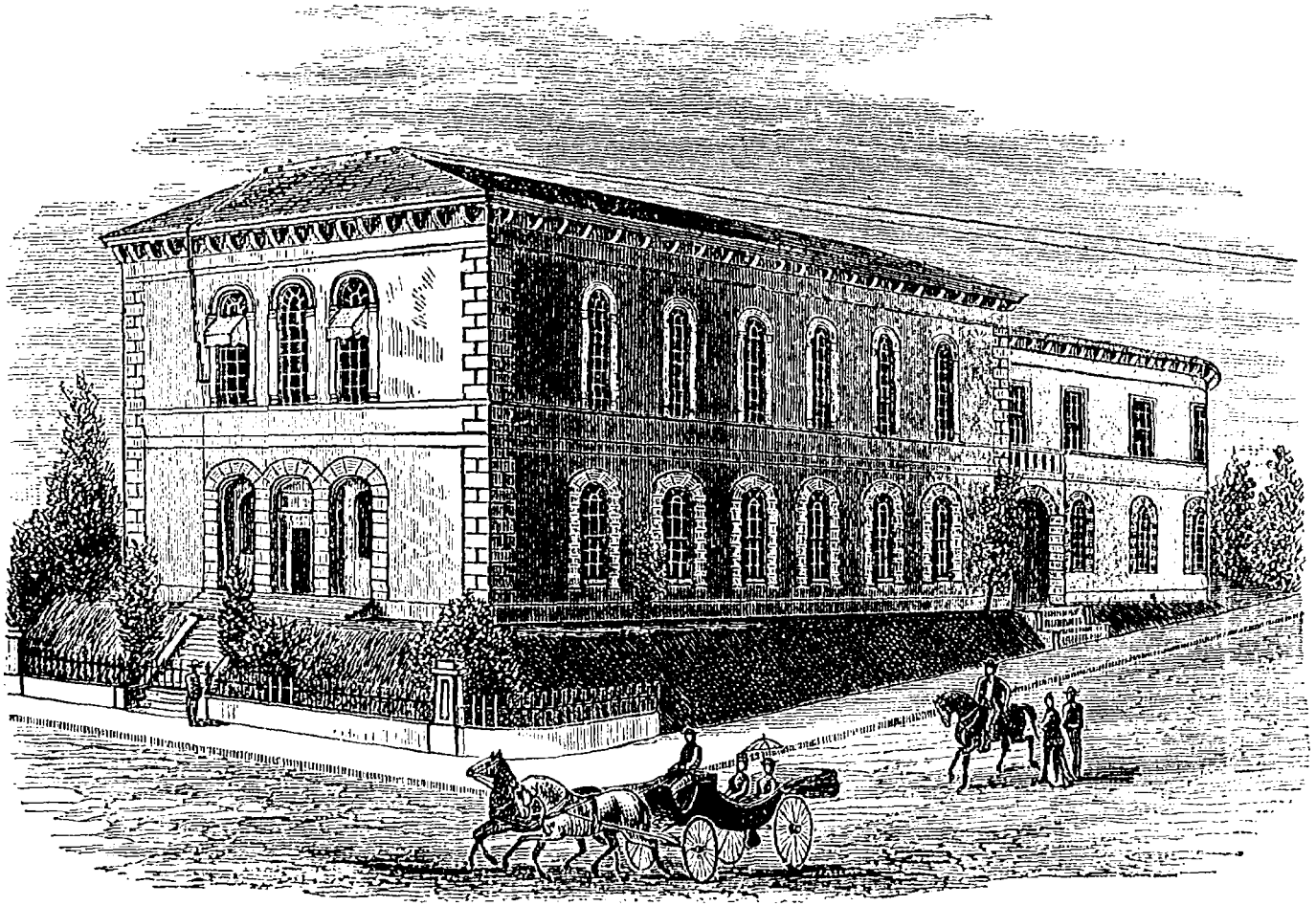
Thomas were modelled upon the English ones of the time, and bear slight resemblance to the beautiful publications for children to which we are accustomed.

They are very quaint and small; from four to five inches tall, and about three inches and a half wide, bound in paper.

These sold for "four federal coppers" apiece.

Exquisite selections from the Mid Summer Night's Dream appear among Mother Goose's Melodies, and the true Mother Goose ditties are furnished each with a maxim at the end. As for example: "Hickory, Dickory Dock," closes with *Time waits for no Man;* and "Pat-a-Cake, Pat-a-Cake," is rather heavily weighted with—*The surest Way to gain our Ends is to moderate our Desires.* The delightful old nonsense, made to be spoken and sung to happy children, looks very wistful and forlorn upon these tiny pages.

Then there were solid little stories beside, which teach the importance of truthfulness, honesty, courage, and diligence, as well as of fine manners;—those simple, hardy virtues, the very flower of which is true politeness. We are told that the little Worcester boys and girls of a century ago, grew into



HALL OF THE AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY, COURT HILL

men and women of notably noble and gracious manners.

From the year 1775 to 1831, the year of his death, Isaiah Thomas was a leading citizen of Worcester; giving freely of the wealth which flowed in upon him, and devoting his ripe years and leisure to the business of her development.

Perhaps the most enduring monument to the memory of Dr. Thomas, is the American Antiquarian Society, of which he was the founder.

Founded in 1812.

The first building occupied by the Society, and the nucleus of its fine library and valuable collection, were his noble gifts.

On Summer Street.

The dwelling of Dr. Thomas stood upon Court Hill, surrounded by a beautiful garden, filled with the trees, and shrubs, and flowers, which he loved the most.

Removed to present location, cor. of Highland Street, 1853.

On the site of the court house.

CHAPTER XIV.

Early Churches of Worcester.

The early history of the Church in the older New England towns is most closely bound up with the history of the town itself.

The General Court exacted the observance of devotional services, and the attendance upon religious teaching, as one of the important conditions of the town's very existence—and made liberal grants of land for church purposes.

Permanent Settlement of Worcester, 1713.

In the days immediately following the permanent settlement of Worcester, while the people were too poor, and too busy securing the barest necessities of life, in the way of food and shelter, and safety from the Indians, to even think of building a house of worship, it was their custom to come together in the humble dwelling of one of their number, for reading of the Scriptures, and praise and prayer.

They chose a house conveniently situated, and when Sunday came, each man started thither with his family, carrying his loaded gun.

It was an ordinance of the old Colony Court that, "every man that comes to meeting on the Lord's day, bring with him his arms, with at least six charges of powder and shot." 1675.

A sufficient guard was placed outside the little cabin before the exercises began; for the Indians, who were ill disposed, were apt to take advantage of the restful quiet of Sunday to pillage and burn, and otherwise distress the white settlers.

Tradition relates that the worshippers were greatly alarmed one Sunday in the midst of their worship by an Indian arrow swiftly flying over the heads of the congregation, and lodging in the wall opposite the little window through which it had entered. Worcester.

Occurrences of this kind were not uncommon elsewhere, and this little story handed down to us, is but a type of many which might be told of the difficulties attending the public worship of God.

It is well for the children of to-day to picture the humble forefathers as they painfully pressed through the rough and pathless woods, to the house perhaps of Jonas Rice on Sagatabscot Hill, or that of his brother, Gershom Rice, on Pakachoag Hill, to meet as a group of friends and neighbors for their simple services.

It was something to merely look into one another's faces, and grow hopeful and strong together, before they all went out again to another week of toil and danger.

The Church, from the first, was the great centre of interest in the town. Church affairs were managed in town meeting, and town meeting was held in the church edifice as soon as one could be erected.

In 1717, a little log house was built near Trumbull Square, which served as a place for public meeting, until a better one was erected in 1719, on the Common, upon the historic site so long occupied by the Meeting House of the First Parish.

Where the City Hall now stands.

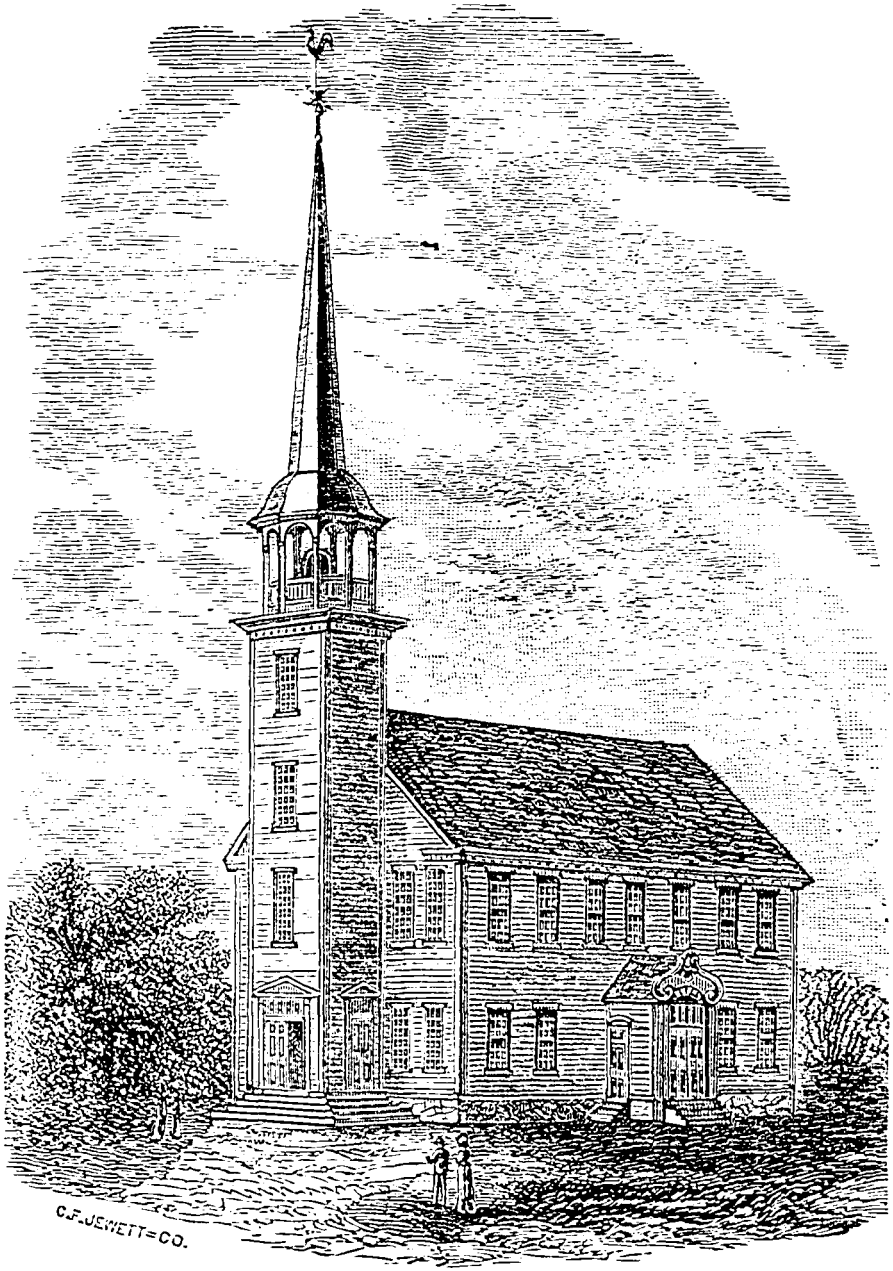
This one also was of the simplest description; but as the people prospered they added to it from year to year.

In 1723 a pulpit was put in, and a gallery. And in 1733 the pulpit and the front of the gallery, as well as other portions of the interior, were colored and varnished.

In 1743 a small tower was added, and a bell. The Rev. Andrew Gardner, of Brookline, was the first minister settled in Worcester.

Lincoln's History of Worcester.

The records are complete only from 1722, but the Church was probably organized as early as 1717, and from this time until 1785,



OLD SOUTH CHURCH.

the First Parish was the only congregation in Worcester, save for the sad struggle made by the Scotch Presbyterians to maintain a religious society of their own.

The Scotch Presbyterians came in 1718.

Public sentiment, however, was in favor of but one church, and the persecuted Scots ultimately had their choice between identifying themselves with the First Parish or leaving the town.

It was this inbred idea of but one church under one minister, who was not only the spiritual head of the community, but who wielded important secular influence as well, which made the suggestion of a divided Church intolerable.

Indeed it was not wholly that the scanty supply of money would be diverted, or that a spirit of dissension and rivalry among the villagers would receive a legal sanction; but it was making a complex thing of that which before was simple, and establishing dangerous latitude in the liberty of individual thought and action.

In 1763 a new meeting house was erected upon the site of the earlier one of 1719—the familiar edifice known as the Old South Church to generations of a church going public.

It was from the west porch of this old

church that the Declaration of Independence was first publicly read in Massachusetts; an historical fact of great importance.

It is an unfortunate circumstance that the earlier buildings of Worcester were of a character to be easily destroyed. Sacred associations constitute much of the true wealth of any community.

The Second Parish.

In 1785, a sufficient number of persons withdrew from the First Parish to form a new Congregational Society.

See Second Parish, Worcester, Mass. Gleanings from its History. By Samuel S. Green.

The increase in population made this movement as wise as it was inevitable, in view of certain changes in doctrinal belief.

The Rev. Aaron Bancroft, the first settled minister of the Second Parish Church.

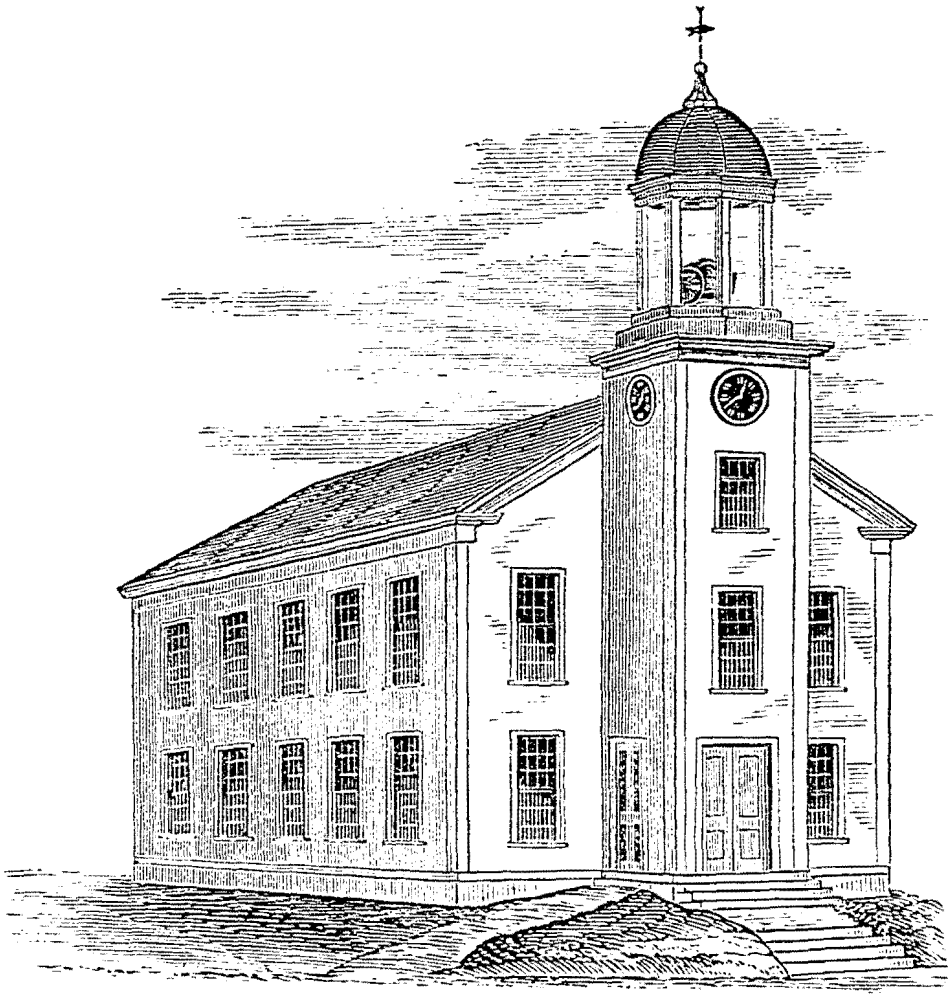
The Second Parish was singularly blest in its chosen leader, the Rev. Aaron Bancroft; a fine, even a sublime figure, upon the pages of Church history.

We find his prototype among the Soldier Saints of the Middle Ages.

The pastorate of Dr. Bancroft extended over a period of fifty-four years.

The Society met in the court house for seven years, until its first church edifice on Summer Street was provided, in 1792.

A parish meeting was held November 27, 1827, Deacon Benjamin Butman, moderator, when it was voted, "expedient to contract for a new and more commodious house of



FIRST CHURCH OF THE SECOND PARISH, ERECTED 1792.

worship, on a new lot on Main Street, between the court house on the north, and the house of Nathaniel Maccarty on the south, the outside walls to be of brick, the whole cost to be not over $15,000."

The building thus planned was completed in 1829, and occupied until 1849, when it was destroyed by fire.

A portion of its most valued furniture was saved, and a new building was erected upon the same site, and dedicated March 26, 1851 — which is the present Unitarian Church edifice on Court Hill.

The Society has had but four settled ministers during the one hundred and fourteen years of its existence, viz.: The Rev. Aaron Bancroft, D. D., the Rev. Alonzo Hill, D. D., the Rev. Edward H. Hall, D. D., and the Rev. Austin S. Garver, D. D., the present pastor.

Dr. Alonzo Hill was minister of this Church for forty years.

Until history carries us over into the Nineteenth Century, there were no new religious societies formed in Worcester; the First and Second Parish Churches proving sufficient for the spiritual needs of the town.

It is true there had long been a little group of the Baptist denomination resident here.

One of the most prominent of these was

the first Dr. John Green, whose father, a physician and minister, founded the Baptist Society in Leicester. Mr. Amos Putnam was of the Baptist faith, as was also the wife of Col. Samuel Flagg.

In the year 1812, their numbers having increased sufficiently, a Baptist Society was organized, and, in 1813, a house of worship erected, on the east side of Salem Square.

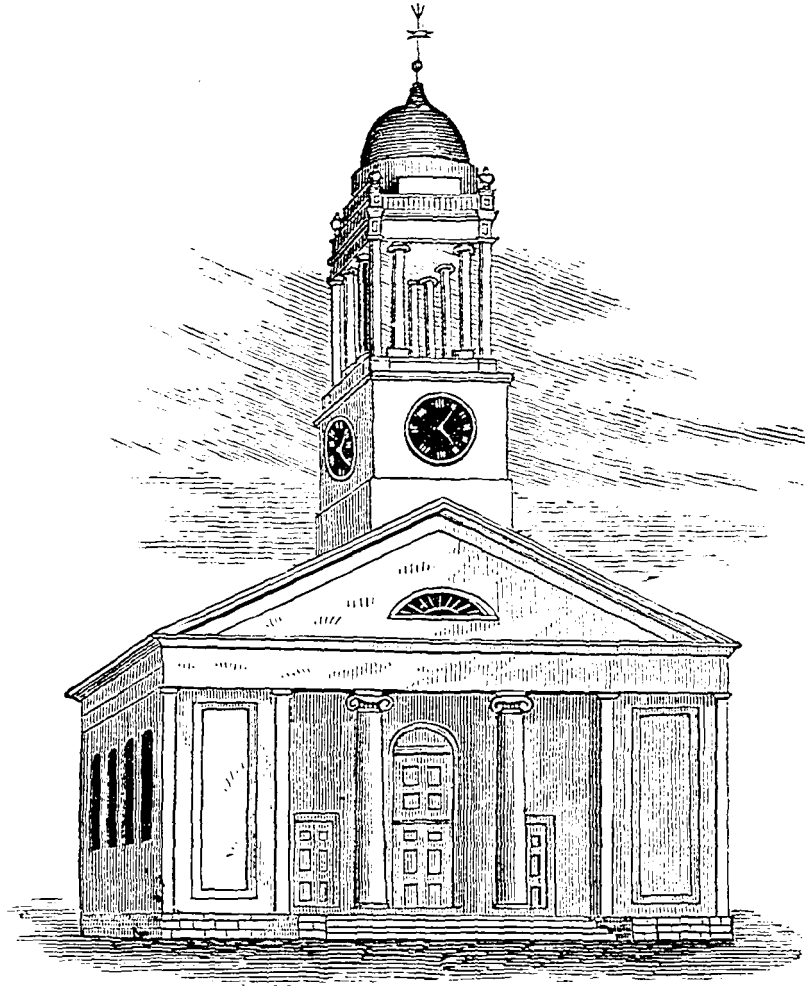
The First Methodist Episcopal Church, Trinity Church, was organized in 1834, and the first Roman Catholic Church, St. John's, in 1834 also.

The day and year of the birth of the late Bishop Brooks.

The first Protestant Episcopal Church of All Saints, held the first meeting December 13, 1835.

The Universalist Society was formed in 1841; and the Society of Friends built their meeting house in 1846, though they had previously held meetings for a period of nine years.

And now, in order to gain some just idea of the number of beautiful church edifices with which the town is blest, it is only necessary to walk to some commanding hill-top and count the many towers and spires, which give assurance to the stranger, and to the children just beginning to be interested in the life around them, that Worcester has a church going people.



SECOND CHURCH OF THE SECOND PARISH, ERECTED 1829.

Many of these can be easily located: Plymouth, Piedmont, Central, and St. Paul's, where Father Power has so long led his parishioners; while the history of each sacred edifice and parish, is easy to obtain, for the reader who desires it.

The Very Rev. John J. Power, Vicar General of the Diocease.

CHAPTER XV.

Early Schools of Worcester.

In their fine ideal of this Commonwealth which the fathers planted in the new world, religion and education went hand in hand.

First the Church; then the School.

We have already observed in our talk upon township government, that it was purely democratic in its character; and that each voter was at liberty to express his opinion in town meeting touching the management of public affairs.

It was of the utmost importance, therefore, that these expressions of opinion should be not only conscientious, but enlightened.

As early as May, 1647, the Great and General Court of the Colony "ordered that every township within the jurisdiction, 'after the Lord hath increased them to the number of fifty householders,' should maintain a common school, and each town of one hundred families should keep a grammar school."

A fine for disobedience of this law was established in 1671, and increased in 1683.

This was a law, and the town that failed to comply with its provisions incurred the penalty of a fine.

Undoubtedly it was asking a great deal of the poor, struggling settlers; and if the towns occasionally failed to do all that was required of them, it cannot be accounted strange.

At the first meeting of the original Committee of Settlement, in 1669, provision was made for the maintenance of a school and schoolmaster, and a tract of land set apart for this purpose.

After the permanent settlement of Worcester was effected, and new surveys were made, forty acres of the public land was devoted to school support.

April 4, 1726, the town took action upon the matter of education, and "the Selectmen agreed with Mr. Jonas Rice to be schoolmaster, and to teach such children and youth as the inhabitants shall send to him, to read and write, as the law directs," until the 15th of December.

So the children and young people went up to the house of Mr. Jonas Rice, upon Sagatabscot Hill, to receive such elementary instruction as he was prepared to give.

How well they read, no one can say; but that the boys of that time in many instances, came to write remarkably well, we have abundant evidence.

Jonas Rice, who was the first settler of permanent settlement of Worcester, lived to old age in his homestead upon Sagatabscot Hill. He was an officer in the military service, Deacon of the Church, and held other positions of trust and honor. He died in 1753.

See Proprietor's Book of Leicester, 1713 to 1739. Also Town Records of Sutton, and others.

Certain of the old town records of Worcester County towns, afford striking examples of fine penmanship. Vertical script is not uncommon among them; and many a page may be found that was written one hundred and seventy or eighty years ago, with a good quill pen, and rich black ink, which looks fresh and unfaded as the work of yesterday.

Upon the expiration of the term of service for which Mr. Rice was engaged, it was voted to discontinue the school. Trouble ensued when it became known in Boston that the little frontier settlement of Worcester was trying to rub along without a school.

It was a sad condition of affairs, not to be tolerated, and the people of Worcester made haste to explain that they would establish a school without further delay, and Benjamin Flagg was accordingly appointed schoolmaster.

See Early Records of the Town of Worcester, Book I. 1792-1739. Published by the Society of Antiquity.

Five school districts were formed in April, 1731, for the convenience of the little children who had too far to go from their homes in order to reach the Centre, "and to the intent that all may have the benefit of education."

One of these districts included the Centre, and the remaining four were in the north, south, east and west quarters of the town.

The selectmen were instructed to obtain a suitable number of "school dames" to teach the five little schools; women of dignity and education, who merited the noble designation of "gentle women."

These neighborhood schools, taught at the home of some favored child, since there was no schoolhouse yet in all the town, did not continue long.

A "moving school," under the charge of Mr. Richard Rogers, was established in August, 1732.

Mr. Rogers remained for eight years the only teacher in Worcester; moving from one quarter of the town to another, as the town meeting ordered, and teaching in the house of one of the citizens all the boys and girls sent thither by their parents.

Indeed Worcester had not outgrown the possibility of a *moving school* until much later, as appears from an entry in the diary of Mr. John Adams, of date February 13, 1756.

"Supped at Major Chandler's, and engaged to keep school at Bristol, provided Worcester people at their ensuing March meeting should change this into a moving school, not otherwise."

The town possessed a little schoolhouse

at this time, but the distance to it was so great for many of the villagers, as to occasion dissatisfaction.

Mr. Adams' school was not changed into a moving school, and he went to Bristol only for a little visit later.

The need for a schoolhouse was the subject of frequent discussion, before the town, in June, 1738, settled upon the spot where it should stand, which is described as "between the Court House and the Bridge, below the Fulling Mill."

This first schoolhouse built in the town of Worcester, was erected upon Lincoln Square, nearly in front of the site occupied by the American Antiquarian Society, at the corner of Court Hill and Highland Street.

It was a humble little house, 24 feet long and 16 feet wide, with posts 7 feet high; much such a schoolhouse as one frequently passes upon a country road, remote from the village or town. It continued to be used until after the close of the Revolutionary War; and must have served for some time as the High School, or Latin Grammar School building; since, in 1740, the town prepared to meet the demand of the law in the matter of a school "for in-

struction in the languages," and this was the only school building until long after that period.

The first Grammar School was established in 1752, by a vote of the town, by which the people of the Centre District, extending one mile and a half around the schoolhouse, were required to keep a Grammar School the whole year.

The outlying districts enjoyed a term of some twelve weeks each, in the course of the year.

The first Latin Grammar School building, which was built by several public spirited gentlemen, stood upon the east side of Main Street, south of Foster Street. It consisted of a single floor of two rooms, and during the Revolutionary War was made into a dwelling house. The date is uncertain. Probably between 1755 and 1760.

Free instruction in the Greek and Latin required for entrance to college, was long considered an unfair burden by a majority of the townspeople.

Twice, at least, they directed their representative to use his influence to have the law repealed which required a Latin Grammar School in every town. 1766. 1767.

They were cheerfully willing to do their best in providing teachers for the English

branches, and a good writing master, at all hazards; but the benefits to be derived through a liberal education did not appeal to them, and it was a matter which needed to be greatly aided and encouraged by private enterprise, and the generosity, of a few broad minded citizens.

But all the while the General Court kept one of its unsleeping eyes fixed firmly upon every little town, willing or reluctant, within its borders; saying in effect: "No State can long exist without wise men. Wherever there is a boy among you ambitious for great things, in him I find a possible councillor in days to come. See to it, therefore, that your boys of promise are carried safely to the college door, free of all charge. It is not a question of poverty or of wealth, but of needed material for the upbuilding of the State."

Thus Massachusetts has always had scholarly men, quite as a matter of course; and, in recent years, scholarly women too, through the just value she has placed upon intellectual excellence and a lofty purpose.

In the year 1800, schoolhouses were built in the several districts; little houses, some twenty-two feet square, put up at an average expenditure of two hundred and fifty dollars each.

These were fitted with the plainest possible benches and desks, poorly heated in winter, and always badly lighted.

Primitive as they were, two were erected at the Centre: one having been placed at the corner of Thomas and Summer streets, and the other near the site of the Summer Street schoolhouse.

The handsome, convenient, and cheerful schoolhouses of to-day, offer a strange contrast to these pathetic little cabins; and the year 1900 will show a well filled century of work, in the cause of education, throughout the length and breadth of Worcester.

It is also thought undesirable to burden this chapter with statistics which are conveniently within the teacher's reach.

As this short chapter treats only of the early public schools, and the infant efforts, which have yielded such splended results, it leaves, of necessity, unmentioned, the many institutions of learning for which Worcester is so widely celebrated.

The office of Superintendent of Schools was created in 1857, to which the Rev. George Bushnell was appointed. At the close of the year it was abolished, and again established a twelvemonth later.

The second appointee was the Rev. J. D. E. Jones, who was succeeded, in the order named, by Col. Bernard Peel Chenoweth, Dr. Albert P. Marble, and Supt. Clarence

F. Carroll, the present incumbent—all men of marked ability, and, with one exception, of New England birth.[1]

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[1] Col. Chenoweth was a Virginian. He received his fitting for college in Washington, D. C., where his father, the Rev. A. G. Chenoweth, had a parish.

Though born of a slave holding family, he espoused the Union side in the Civil War, and entered the army as captain, in May, 1861, at the age of twenty-one years.

In 1866 he was appointed Superintendent of Schools in Worcester, and served less than three years—the climate proving too harsh for a constitution broken by three years of exposure to the hardships of war. Col. Chenoweth died in the service of the government, while U. S. Consul at Canton, China.

CHAPTER XVI.

A Story of John Adams.

"But I have no books, no time, no funds; I must therefore be contented to live and die an ignorant, and obscure, fellow."

John Adams, second President of the United States, 1797-1801.

Thus wrote John Adams, in his diary, under date of April 24, 1756, in an hour of deep discouragement.

He was then Master of the little Latin Grammar School in Worcester, and had been graduated from Harvard College in the Class of 1755, when not twenty years of age.

There was no real cause for discouragement. The only trouble seems to have been that he could not see a hand's breadth ahead of him, and was painfully concerned for his future.

A thoughtful person, older than he, would probably have comforted him by saying: "To judge of your future from your past, Mr. Adams, you are in a very fair way. You have always been diligent, and have fine mental gifts, and have done thus far all that you could justly hope to do. Be patient, and trudge on. You may yet run across

some wonderful combination of circumstances, which will serve both you and the world."

The business of school teaching in Mr. Adams' time, was regarded rather as a stepping stone for college bred youth; the majority of whom taught only until they could discover a way to some profession which would offer a larger field for action, and greater profit.

A friend had endeavored to induce Mr. Adams to become a clergyman, and he gave the matter serious thought.

Then he grew so absorbed in Dr. Willard's medical books, and the busy life of the good country doctor himself, that he very nearly decided to be a physician. This was while he was boarding with Dr. Nahum Willard, who lived on Park Street, between Portland and Main streets.

Studies law in the office of Hon. James Putnam.

But at last all choice centered in the profession of the law, and he went into the study of that with all his heart.

We find ourselves interested in Mr. Adams' teaching, then, after quite his own fashion, and are not disposed to lay great stress upon it.

Had he started out with the determination to be a famous teacher, such an one perhaps

as Dr. Arnold of Rugby was, later, each step toward this end would have been a study.

Diary begun Nov. 18, 1755, and continued throughout his life.

The diary which he began to keep while living in Worcester, throws much light upon the social conditions of the time. His frank expressions of opinion are those of a sojourner, uncolored by habit, and wholly impartial.

The Rev. Thaddeus Maccarty was then in the midst of his long and useful pastorate at the Old South Church—the church which Mr. Adams attended, and the only one in the village. He went into the courts and listened to the eloquence of Hon. Joseph Hawley and Hon. James Putnam; and was entertained at the houses of Hon. Timothy Paine, Major Chandler and others, who were courteous to the earnest young schoolmaster, who seemed so determined to make the most of his resources.

The diary furnishes us also with the most graphic description we possess of Worcester's earliest Latin Grammar School.

It was ungraded. The children busy with the alphabet, and ambitious boys fitting for college, were all under the charge of this one teacher, and all in the same room.

Those who were still absorbed in their

New England Primers seem to have afforded Mr. Adams the greatest entertainment; although he recalls, delightfully, in after years, the Worcester boys who began their study of Latin under his instruction. It is everywhere evident that he was a wonderful economist of time.

Under date of July 21, 1756, he thus writes: . . . . "I am resolved to rise with the sun, and to study the Scriptures on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday mornings, and to study some Latin author the other three mornings.

"Noons and nights I intend to read English authors"

Thus he disposes of the hours he can call his own.

When Mr. Adams charges himself with waste of time, much allowance must be made for his method of calculating.

But life had certain other aspects of interest for the young man in this inland provincial town, beside the little school, the law, his books, and friendly teas; for there was always the French War, of course, which lasted, with intervals, from 1745 to 1763; creating frequent demand for the services of the militia, and having as its result the conquest of Canada by Great Britain, from the French.

Canada ceded to Great Britian, by the terms of the Treaty of Paris, 1763.

Distinguished British general officers occasionally passed through Worcester, bringing a suggestion of a larger, and different world.

The diary mentions Lord Loudon, and young Lord Howe. After the conquest of Louisburg, General Sir Geoffroy Amherst marched across Massachusetts with some 4,000 men, and halted for several days in Worcester.

The Diary.

See Mr. Adams' Diary.

The troops were encamped on the west side, back of the court house.

There was a great show of tents and Mr. Adams speaks in particular of the excellent music with which the army delighted the villagers. The Scotch soldiers wore their plaids, and seem to have played the bagpipe to perfection.

Such of the residents as were able to do so offered simple entertainment to the officers, invitations to supper chiefly, and General Amherst remained the guest of Col. Chandler, Sr., at his farm, which included Belmont Street and Chandler Hill, and covered some five hundred acres in that neighborhood.

There was the pleasantest possible spirit prevailing then between the British regulars and the colonial citizens.

It was before the days of the Stamp Act; and the New England militia were shedding their blood freely to aid the mother country to the conquest of Canada.

So the presence of the well equipped regiments of General Amherst must have been a welcome diversion, and rather a matter of pride as well. They represented the force with which husbands, brothers and sons went out to fight; for Worcester alone, before the trouble was ended, sent 453 men to aid in the war against the French, at the call of England. The town was made a depot for military supplies, and Col. John Chandler, Jr., was in command of a regiment.

When Fort William Henry was besieged, and there was a fresh demand for help, young John Adams volunteered one evening to be the bearer of military despatches from Col. Chandler to the Governor of Rhode Island. He was then residing, and studying law, with Hon. James Putnam, whose house stood on the southeast corner of Main and Park streets, opposite the present city hall.

Mr. Adams the bearer of military despatches.

The Diary.

And Mr. Adams tells how that Colonel Chandler appeared at his chamber door the following morning, at the break of day, and told him that a horse was standing outside,

saddled and bridled for his departure, and handed him the important papers he was to deliver. With all haste he was soon galloping away through the sweet morning air.

The unaccustomed ride to Providence, and thence to Newport, and back, was somewhat fatiguing to the young law student; whose longest ride previously had been between Worcester and Braintree, once a year, to visit his parents; but it was full of interest.

He met the Governor, most opportunely, on the way between Providence and Newport; and having delivered his dispatches, and learned there was no answer, he felt at liberty to proceed to Newport and admire its beauties, and thence to Bristol, where he lodged at Col. Greene's, whose wife was the sister of his friend Mrs. John Chandler, of Worcester. "The whole (journey) was accomplished in four days," wrote Mr. Adams, "one of which was Sunday. As I was obliged to ride all that day, I had an opportunity of observing the manners of Rhode Island, much more gay and social than our Sundays in Massachusetts."

This, then, was Mr. Adams' first outing of consequence; entered into with boyish zest and interest, and an episode worth recalling in his long and distinguished life.

CHAPTER XVII.

Worcester a City.

When did Worcester lose the official name of town, and become the city of Worcester?

Ans. Worcester was incorporated as a city, February 29, 1848.

The Mayor of the city is the official head of the executive department.

Who is the present mayor of Worcester?

How is the mayor elected?

Ans. The mayor is elected by the voters of the city, for the term of one year.

May he be re-elected?

Ans. He may be, and frequently is, re-elected. The longest term of service was that of the Hon. James B. Blake, who filled the office of mayor for five successive years, until his death in 1870.

The City Council, which consists of two chambers, is a legislative body.

The methods of township government are so beautifully simple and sound, that the change from the direct government of the town meeting, to the indirect government by representation, through the board of aldermen and the common council, is a very great change indeed.

Civil Government in the United States, by Dr. John Fiske.

"It is interesting to observe," says Dr. Fiske, "that the cities which had municipal

government before the Revolution, though they have always had their full share of able and high minded citizens, do not possess even the tradition of good government, and the difficulty, in those colonial times, was plainly want of adequate self-government, want of responsibility on the part of the public servants toward their employers —the people."

Dr. Fiske here has especially in mind the cities of New York and Philadelphia, when he regrets that they do not possess even the tradition of a perfect system of self-government—New York which was made a city soon after it was taken from the Dutch in 1664, and Philadelphia, incorporated a city in 1701; the first two cities organized in the American Colonies.

But the overgrown town has its dangers, as well as its insurmountable obstacles.

Boston reluctantly gave up her town meeting with a population of 40,000, because her body of voters had grown so large that they could neither hear, nor be heard, at the great town meetings.

It was not until after 126 years of existence as a town, that Worcester with, at last, a rapidly increasing population, became ambitious to be a city.

Up to a period within the memory of men still living, the growth of Worcester had been very slow.

The earliest industry of the town was Agriculture, and when Worcester was made the county seat of the extensive County of Worcester, the business of the courts gave it an impetus of growth which ultimately carried it far beyond those neighboring towns with which it long stood abreast, in point of wealth and population.

Lancaster, Mendon, Brookfield, Sutton, Shrewsbury.

However the quality of its citizenship improved, and its desirableness as a place of residence increased, the fact remained that it was only a little inland town; with a weary stretch of travel lying between it and the seaboard, or any of the great seaward bound water courses.

Transportation was too laborious to afford much encouragement for the heavy production of anything—whether of crops or of manufactures.

The Blackstone Canal was opened in 1828, at a cost of $750,000, a large part of which was Rhode Island capital: — this important undertaking being due principally to the enterprise of Rhode Island citizens.

Then came the opening of the Blackstone Canal, in 1828, affording a direct passage to Providence and tide water; suggestive of an abundant growth of industries, and consequent prosperity.

Hardly were the obstacles incident to canals in a rigorous climate fully realized,

when the Boston and Worcester Railroad was incorporated, and in 1835 passengers and freight transported over the single track.

June 23, 1831.

The time from Worcester to Boston for passengers, was from 2½ to 3 hours—regarded as a very triumph of speed. And so it was, all things considered; and a wonderful advance over the travel by stage coach; which, with fine weather, abundant leisure, sound horses, and a good coach, is very luxurious travelling indeed, but not adapted to the needs of a rapidly growing community.

Travel by stage coach.

The Norwich and Worcester Railroad soon followed, and then the Western Railroad; giving the increased facilities for constant and rapid transportation, which were needed to stimulate the manufacturing interests of the town.

From this time the growth of Worcester in wealth and population, has been most satisfactory.

Population of Worcester, State Census, 1895, 78,767.

With a population of 7,500 in 1836, in 1850 it had increased to 17,049.

The Hon. Levi Lincoln was inaugurated first mayor of Worcester April 17, 1848; with a remarkably able board of aldermen and common councilmen.

Ex-Governor Levi Lincoln.

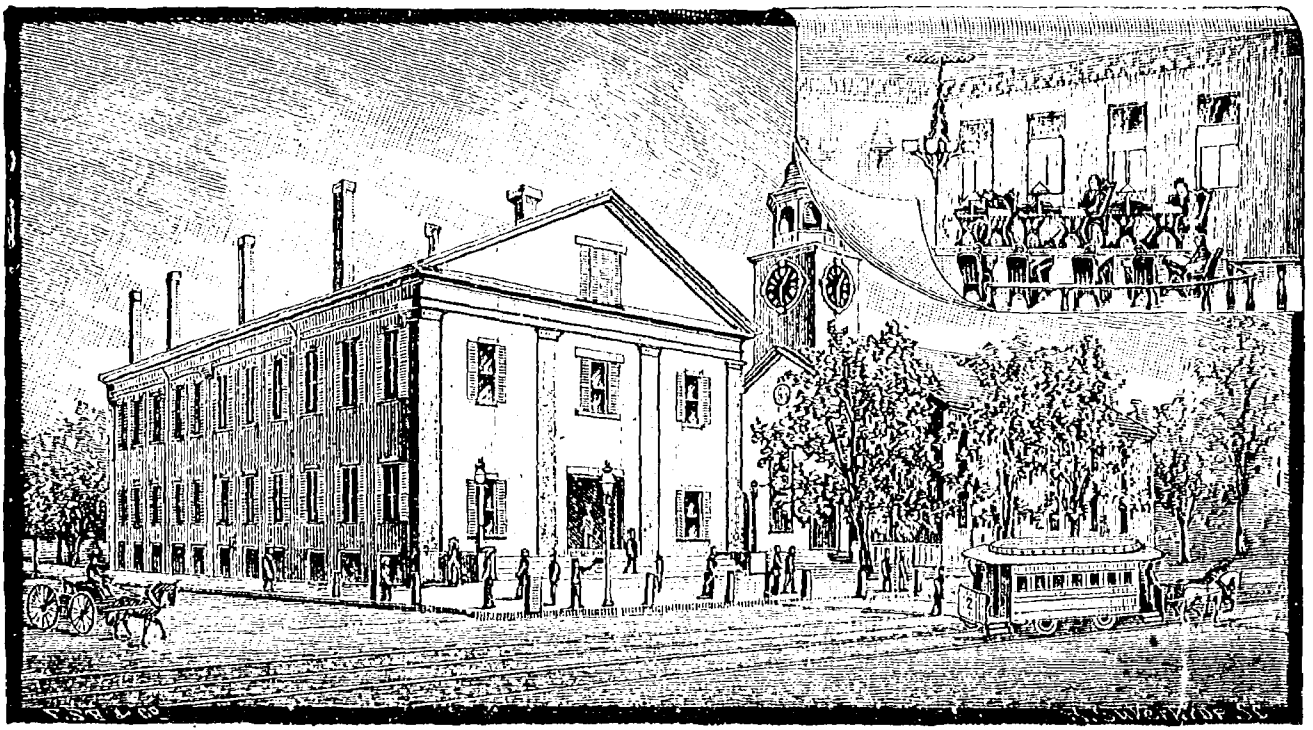
Had those aldermen possessed the power of electing the mayor from their own body, as do the aldermen of London, they could not have chosen amiss from their distinguished company.

But whether we speak of London, and the Lord Mayor, or of this so much smaller city, municipal government is after all much the same in both.

England furnished the model, which we have adapted to our different circumstances.

In the government of the city of Worcester, the executive power is vested in the mayor and nine aldermen, of whom the mayor is the official head.

The mayor and aldermen, together with the common council, constitute the legislative power. Worcester is divided into eight wards. The more important of the city departments include the board of assessors, collector of taxes, treasurer, auditor, city clerk, city solicitor, city marshal, school board, fire department, engineers' department, police department, health department, water commissioner, water registrar, superintendent of sewers, commissioner of highways, park commissioners, superintendent of public buildings, trustees of the city hospital, and overseers of the poor, and this by no means completes the list.



CITY HALL, ERECTED IN 1824.

The public business of a city is not easy to follow. It is full of delicate complications, and elaborate details, and presents more difficulty to the student than the study of the construction and government of the township, the county, the State, and even of the nation.

The old city hall, which was recently demolished, a plain, substantial building, standing a few feet north of the present city hall, was erected in 1824, and served as the town hall until 1848, when the name was properly changed to city hall.

Completed in 1825.

It had grown rich with associations in the process of time, and its walls hallowed by the eloquence of great men. The names of Abraham Lincoln, Daniel Webster, Charles Sumner, Henry Wilson and George F. Hoar, make an immortal roll.

Yet it had listened to all of these, and more.

Indeed there was a time when this simple, honest structure was pointed out, with a feeling akin to pride, as the birthplace of the Free Soil Party. And never was pride more justifiable, in the national significance accorded to an otherwise humble spot.

It may be seriously questioned, whether posterity, of a finer culture than our own,

will condone the irreparable loss sustained in the destruction of buildings such as this.

The story of Worcester as a city, is the story of to-day, and has but little place upon these pages. Material prosperity is everywhere apparent, and abundant educational advantages are freely offered. Clark University, the Worcester Polytechnic Institute, the State Normal School, the College of the Holy Cross, Highland Military Academy, Worcester Academy, several excellent private schools for girls and boys, and a splendid array of buildings actively devoted to public school purposes, are worthily ministered to by the Worcester Public Library; the priceless library of the American Antiquarian Society, and the library of the Society of Antiquity; as well as by that later educational influence,—the Worcester Art Museum.

CHAPTER XVIII.

The Civil War, and other wars.

The military history of Worcester dates from the first hut of the first settler.

That rough cabin of logs was just as truly his castle, to be defended against fierce assault, as though it had been rich with towers and turrets, and built of stone that could weather the storms of centuries.

The Indian was a merciless foe, when at last he understood that his hold upon the land of his fathers was broken, by a power which he must be forever too weak to overcome.

Moreover, he was watchful and alert, and quick to seize upon any slight advantage, as indeed he had great need to be, since his tomahawk and arrows were much less effective than the firearms of the settlers.

Year after year the white men who planted Worcester, lived in fear of the Indians; and from the date of the first attempted settlement here, down to the Treaty of 1763, they could never feel quite secure against some combination of French power and In-

dian cunning, which would destroy them utterly.

But these early settlers were stout hearted Englishmen and their sons; full of English courage, constancy and hope. They were here to obtain the liberty which had been denied them in their own land; and were arrayed against Great Britain's might, even while under her protection.

With the ever encroaching demands of England upon the one hand, and the hardships of the wilderness, and Indian warfare upon the other, there was small opportunity for the cultivation and growth of the gentler virtues.

They needed above all things to be brave, and strong, and steadfast. To be brave in the face of all danger; to be strong in their resistance to all tyranny, and to be steadfast in their belief in the justice of their cause.

These are pre-eminently the virtues of a soldier.

And these they had to such an astonishing degree, that the soundest and wisest of English statesmen were able to foresee, long before it became plain to the world, the birth of a great nation in America.

The military history of Massachusetts forms an important feature of American his-

tory, and so does the military history of Worcester, in its degree.

As well think of the colonial fathers upon this spot without the axe and plow, as to think of them without their guns; or to picture the Worcester of to-day without her schools, her press, and her churches, as to leave unnoted the martial spirit of her people, which still awakens fresh and strong, upon any just cause for alarm.

Minute-men enrolled 1774. Capt. Timothy Bigelow.

Train Band. Capt. Benj. Flagg, 1774.

1776 to 1783.

A Train of Artillery, Capt. Edward Crafts, 1774.

Worcester Artillery, 1783.

Worcester Light Infantry, 1804.

Worcester Rifle Corps, 1823.

Worcester Guards, 1840.

Emmet Guards, 1852.

Jackson Guards, 1858.

State Guard, 1861-74.

Fort Sumter fired upon, April 12, 1861.

In the wars of the 18th century, whether in local Indian troubles, or in the wars in Canada, which may be reckoned from Louisburg in 1745, to the final Treaty of Peace between Great Britain and France in 1763; or the supreme struggle for American Independence, through eight weary years, Worcester did her best and uttermost.

From her little town of 1,400 inhabitants she sent out some 500 citizen soldiers to the aid of Great Britain in Canada, and 400 into the War for Independence.

In the war of 1812, between the United States and Great Britain, and in that of 1845, between the United States and Mexico, she bore with cheerful willingness her full share of the public burden.

Then came the great war for the Union; when the people of this land, both North and

South, demanded that the deep questions which had agitated them for years, should be settled once and for all.

Is this Union of States perpetual?

Is Freedom indeed the right of every man?

The first question includes the second, since slavery was from the beginning of the National Government, a constant menace of disruption.

Worcester had but one answer to these two questions.

Yes; forever yes.

Then she opened wide her gates, and from a population of 25,000, sent out 3,000 of her best and bravest men to carry her solemn assertion down to the field of battle, and there maintain it.

For books upon the Civil War, see Bibliography.

Legislation had proven inadequate, and war was the last appeal.

Only those who passed through it can know the realities of our Civil War.

Men have tried to write its history, but it is not written; and its great poet has not yet perhaps, been born.

The theme can never grow old, and the world can afford to wait for the history and the immortal poem.

The Soldiers' Monument at Worcester, dedicated July 15, 1874.

When the war was ended, and the Union saved, and every slave made free, Worcester did what she could to commemorate the valor of her patriot dead, by placing that tall monument at the very heart of the town.

Men, women, and children pass daily beneath its holy shadow, bent upon the simplest errands and concerns of common life; and sometimes they take in the lessons it is always teaching.

"Greater love hath no man than this," it says to him who will hearken.

The proudest and completest page of Worcester's history, is that which relates to the military record of her eminently peace-loving people.

One generation tells it to another; and the veteran of the war for the Union, now in his ripened middle age, was filled with courage finer than that of his glorious youth, when he blest his son and watched him depart for the war with Spain.

CHAPTER XIX.

Historic Sites and Old Buildings.

Began to be used as a cemetery in 1730.

Mechanic Street Cemetery first used in 1795.

Pine Street burial ground in 1828.

Roman Catholic burial ground in Tatnuck in 1834.

Rural Cemetery opened 1838; St. John's in 1848, and Hope Cemetery in 1854.

Died Dec. 15, 1717.

First burial ground, 1717. Long since obliterated.

Worcester has never known the tender charm of the country church yard.

The acre of ground upon the Common, set apart for burial purposes, was in the neigborhood of the church, it is true, but it was simply one feature of the Common, shared alike by the schoolhouse, the training field, the "gun house," the cattle pound, and the little house for the storage of the "county gallows."

It is a fact of much historical significance, that no spot in Worcester dedicated to the repose of the dead, seems to have been in reality consecrated ground, until we reach the beautiful burial places of the nineteenth century.

The most ancient grave on record, that of little Rachel Kellogg, who was laid near the north corner of Thomas and Summer streets, during the temporary use of a bit of ground there as a place of interment, cannot be accounted very old.

The early cemeteries of Concord, Ply-

mouth, Portsmouth, Salem and Boston, with their quaint, gray tombs, and inscriptions of inestimable historic value, are much older.

A reverential and filial care for ancestral graves, precedes the veneration and tender preservation of those places which our ancestors have known and loved—old homes, old lands, old churches, and other old buildings of peculiar interest.

The burial place of many of Worcester's eminent citizens, from 1730 to 1824.

Worcester has no ancient tombs; unless the buried cemetery upon the Common, where, a foot beneath the surface, each headstone lies prone upon the grave it marks, may be reckoned such.

Epitaphs from the cemetery on Worcester Common. By Wm. S. Barton.

And while her books and her records have been guarded sacredly and well, all architectural connection between her past and present has well nigh disappeared.

Inscriptions from Old Burial Grounds, 1727 to 1859. Pub. by Worcester Society of Antiquity.

Here and there private sentiment, or filial regard, has spared that which they value; but to the casual stranger, this flourishing city is almost as devoid of historical perspective, as a new and thriving city of the West—so little does it contain to indicate the successive stages of development, or to inspire reverend thought, or devout pilgrimage in those descendants of earlier citizens who reside elsewhere.

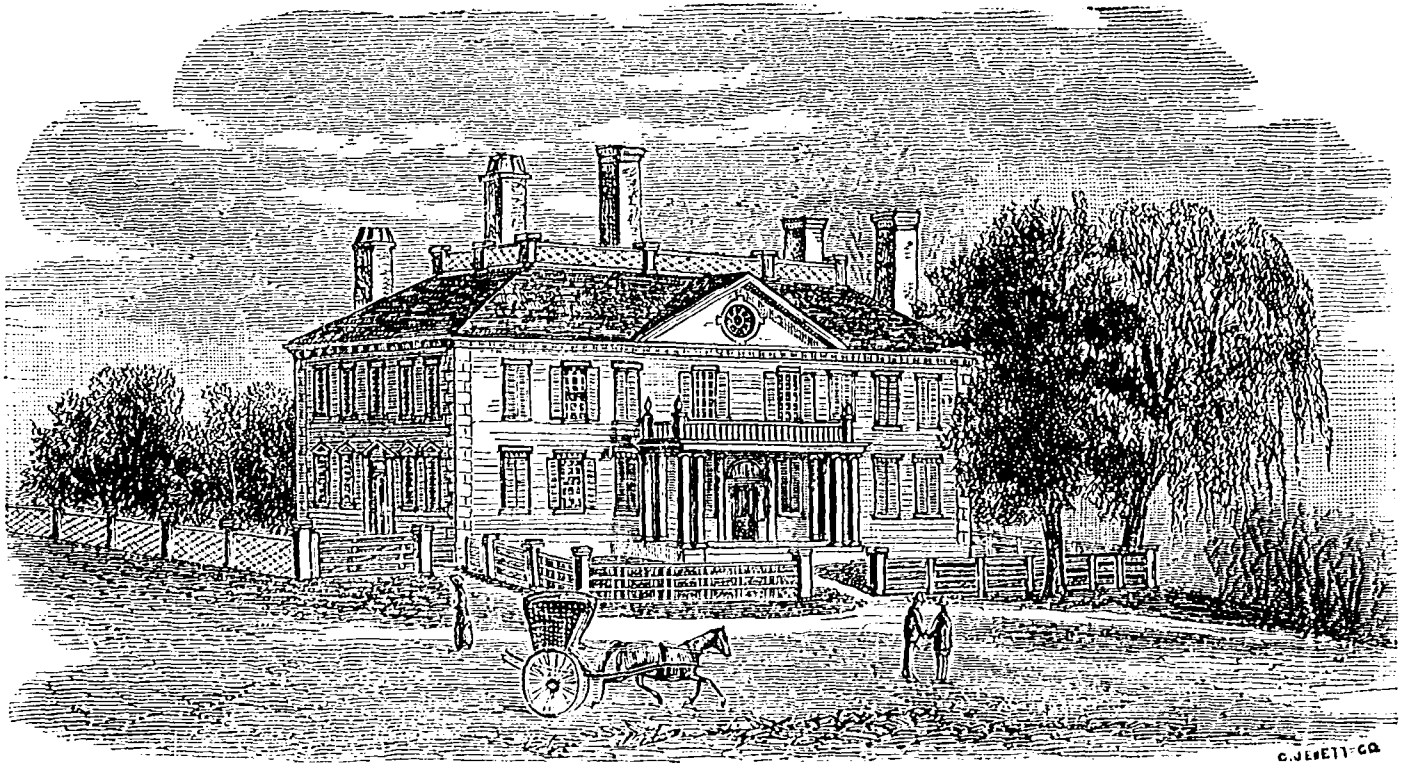
The finest, and most carefully preserved

specimen of colonial architecture in Worcester, is the Salisbury mansion. An ample house of serene aspect and most beautiful proportions, which stands upon the north side of Lincoln Square, where it was erected by Stephen Salisbury, Esq., in 1770, soon after he left his home in Boston to become a citizen of the little inland town of Worcester. Some reference to this building has been already made.

Hardly less interesting, though smaller and less fortunate, is the Hancock-Lincoln mansion, which stood originally upon the west side of Lincoln Street, upon the site now occupied by the residence of the late Philip L. Moen, Esq., from whence it was removed in 1846, to its present location upon the south corner of Grove and Lexington Streets.

This property was once the homestead of Thomas Hancock, Esq., who married Lydia Henchman, granddaughter of Capt. Daniel Henchman, one of that committee appointed by the General Court in 1668, "for settling the New Plantation of Quinsigamond."

Thomas Hancock was uncle to Governor John Hancock, who became heir to his house and lands in Worcester in 1764. And a lovely old homestead it must have been in



THE SALISBURY MANSION, ERECTED IN 1770.

those days, with its splendid trees and broad acres—but not greatly frequented by Governor Hancock, who valued it sufficiently, however, to retain possession of it for many years. It was purchased by Governor Levi Lincoln, Sr., in 1781, and continued to be his residence until his death in 1820.

A simple and substantial relic of colonial days, it presents many features of curious interest. The carving upon the handsome mantel and arched doorways, in the room at the right of the front entrance, is notably beautiful in design and finish.

The old Nathan Baldwin homestead, on the north corner of Main and George streets, now owned and occupied by Doctor Barnard, was the residence of Mr. Baldwin as early as 1760.

One likes to fancy him as he went in and out, during the madly exciting days which heralded the Revolution; and it is cause for gratitude that his threshold has been preserved.

Mr. Baldwin was perhaps the most fluent writer of his party in the town, and many political papers framed by him, are to be found among the local annals of the Revolution.

He succeeded the Hon. Timothy Paine

as Register of Deeds in 1775, and died in 1784.

Certain other old buildings removed from the original sites, may still be found. See Reminiscences of Worcester, by Caleb A. Wall.

There is but little in the outward appearance of the Exchange Hotel upon Main Street to arrest attention, beyond the suggestion that it belongs to a somewhat early period in the town's history.

Built in 1784.

Not so upon a certain October morning, one hundred and ten years ago, when the tall and stately figure of Gen. Washington might have been seen passing through the doorway of the United States Arms, as the hotel was then called.

Oct. 23, 1789.

True, he tarried only for an hour, while he breakfasted. But what an hour for any house to cherish!

June 15, 1825.

Gen. Lafayette, accompanied by his son, George Washington Lafayette, breakfasted here also, many years later, when he was hastening to Boston, to assist in laying the corner stone of the Bunker Hill Monument.

The former residence of the Rev. Aaron Bancroft, upon Salisbury Street, where his distinguished son, the Hon. George Bancroft was born, is a building of much local interest.

A tablet in the city hall commemorates that earlier site of the Old South Church, and fosters the hope that other historic sites may thus be kept in grateful memory.

CHAPTER XX.

The Literary Life of Worcester.

There are so many persons of greater or less distinction in the world of books, whose lives have mingled for a time with the current of life in Worcester, that a volume of many pages would be needed to give even a brief account of them.

This little chapter can only glance here and there; take in a few well known names, and express a general recognition of Worcester's singular good fortune in the influences which have aided in her finer growth.

American colonial literature was devoted chiefly to religion and statesmanship.

Aside from an occasional historical discourse, we do not go up to Antiquarian Hall to ask for sermons of the colonial period, since those of to-day meet far better our tastes and needs. But we do still seek with delight for the works which relate to the beginning of our national history.

We have not outgrown the forceful and splendid English style of our early statesmen, nor their inspired visions of this Republic as they sought to build it.

Chapter XVI.

The first writer of national renown, associated with Worcester's history, was the Hon. John Adams, second president of the United States.

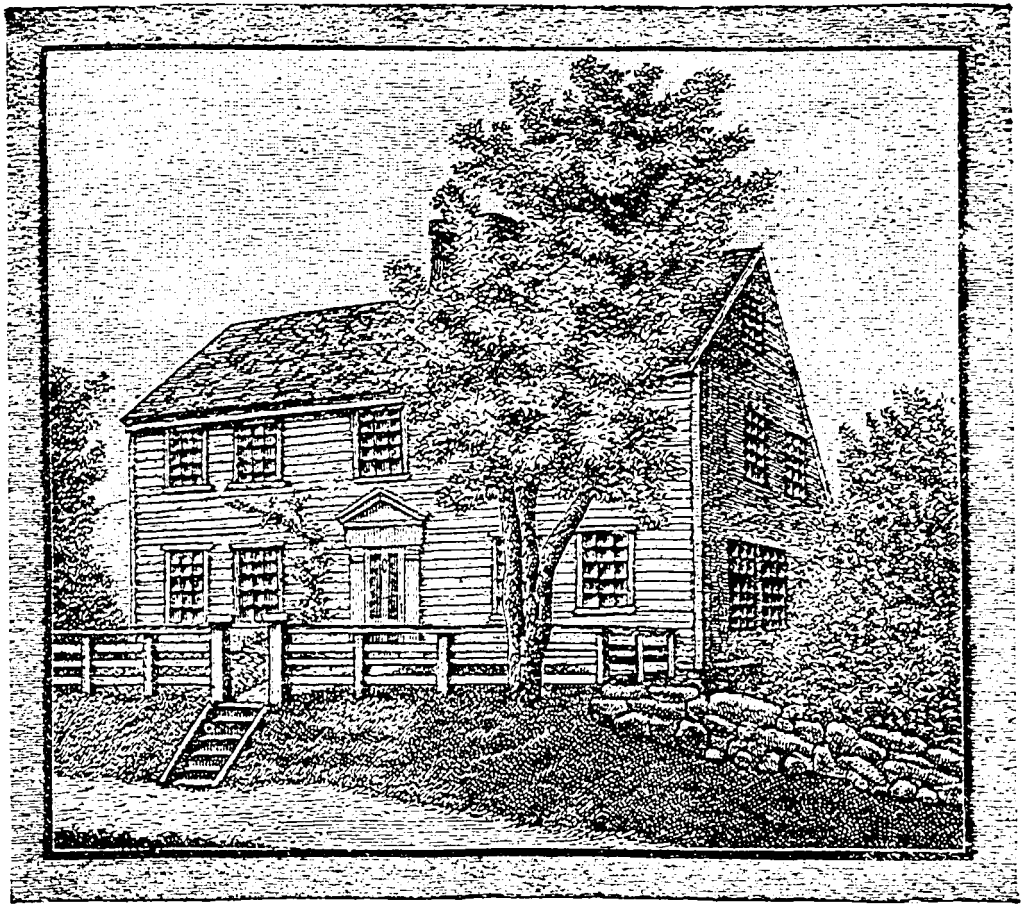
Dr. Thaddeus Maccarty's published sermons have a value of their own; as have those of his successor, the Rev. Samuel Austin, who also edited the complete theological works of the great and good Dr. Edwards, under whose tuition he was fitted for the ministry.

As early as 1791, a large folio edition of the Bible was published in Worcester by Dr. Isaiah Thomas. And the History of Printing, published in 1810, was Dr. Thomas' greatest personal contribution to literature.

Dr. Aaron Bancroft's Life of Washington, received with enthusiasm in 1807, was reprinted in England in the year following its appearance in America.

Born in Worcester, Oct. 3, 1800.

The Hon. George Bancroft, son of the Rev. Dr. Aaron Bancroft, began life in an atmosphere singularly favorable to the work he was to accomplish later. He must have listened with a child's deep delight to his father's stories of his own student days, and of the Revolution, when he dropped his books, seized a gun, and went out with the Minute-Men to Lexington.



BIRTHPLACE OF HON. GEORGE BANCROFT.

And the Life of Washington, from his father's pen, may well have been one among the first books that he tried to read for himself; for much was expected from a boy of seven years in those days, in a household as active, intellectual and earnest as his.

Little of Mr. Bancroft's subsequent life was spent in his native town, but they brought him back when his long and honorable career was ended, and gently placed him among his kindred in the beautiful Rural Cemetery.

The first volume of Mr. Bancroft's History of the United States, a work of recognized authority throughout the world, was published in 1834.

Elihu Burritt, whose thirst for knowledge overrode all obstacles, was attracted to Worcester by reason of her excellent library.

Of the American Antiquarian Society.

There are a score of authors as we near the middle of the century. Among these Col. T. W. Higginson is ever remembered.

Dr. Edward Everett Hale has enriched this community inexpressibly with ten years of his distinguished life, and it is a matter of interest to every boy and girl to know that "The Man Without a Country" was written in Worcester one summer, while Dr. Hale was living in Oak Street.

Pastor of the Church of the Unity, 1846 to 1856.

But our school book is history. And we may not even speak of the fruit of ripened scholarship for which Clark University is noted across the sea, as well as throughout our own land; nor make mention of the valuable works which proceed from other institutions.

Yet we may be deeply thankful that the soul of the city is rich and strong in all that makes for an honorable present.

CHAPTER XXI.

BIBLIOGRAPHY.

Bibliography Appendix for the convenience of the teacher.

A partial list of books which may be consulted, to aid in a better understanding of Local History.

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CHAPTER XXII.

CHRONOLOGY.

1657, May 6. The first grant of land within the present limits of Worcester.

1667, May 15. A Committee appointed by the General Court to take an exact view of "a place about 10 miles westward of Marlborrow, called Quandsicamond ponds, and to make report whether it be capable to make a village," etc. This was the site of Worcester.

1668. Land granted to Maj. Gen'l Daniel Gookin and others, and a committee appointed to lay out a town.

1673-4. First attempt at settlement of Quinsigamond.

1674. First Indian deed of the Plantation of Quinsigamond (or Worcester) signed.

1675. Settlement abandoned, through fear of the Indians.

1684. Second attempt at settlement. The name Worcester fixed by the General Court, October 15.

1702. Settlement again abandoned through fear of the Indians.

1703 or 4. Digory Sergent killed by the Indians, and his family carried into captivity.

1713. Permanent settlement of Worcester.

1714, Nov. 7. Birth of Adonijah Rice. First white male child born in the town.

1717. First meeting house erected.
1719. First minister settled. The Rev. Andrew Gardner.
1722, June 14. Worcester incorporated a town.
1722, Sept. 28. First town meeting held.
1726. First schoolmaster hired—Mr. Jonas Rice.
1731. Worcester County established. First Probate Court in Worcester, July 12.
1735, Aug. 21. Gov. Belcher and his Council passed through Worcester, going from Boston to Albany.
1740. First schoolhouse built. Visit of the Rev. George Whitefield.
1763. Old South Meeting House erected.
1770. Massachusetts Spy founded.
1774, March 7. Resolution not to use Tea. *Worcester Town Records.*
1774, Sept. 6. The Courts adjourned by a force of 6,000 patriots.
1775, April 19. 110 men marched from Worcester at the Lexington alarm.
1775, July 1. Gen. Washington passed through Worcester on his way to Cambridge.
1775, Nov. 16. Post Office established in Worcester. Isaiah Thomas, Postmaster.
1776, July 14. Public reading of the Declaration of Independence.
1776, July 17. The Declaration of Independence first appeared in print in New England, in the Massachusetts Spy.
1783, Oct. 22. First stage from Hartford to Boston passed through Worcester.
1785. Second Congregational Society (Unitarian) formed.

1788. Last meeting of the Proprietors.
The Stone Jail at Lincoln Square completed.
1793. Morning Star Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons Consecrated.
1798. Mechanic Street burial ground laid out.
1800, Oct. 3. Birth of Hon. George Bancroft.
1801. Brick Court House built.
National Ægis founded.
1804. Worcester Bank chartered.
1811. Worcester Light Infantry organized.
1819. First Cattle Show.
1820. Dedication of Antiquarian Hall, Summer Street.
1820. Death of Hon. Levi Lincoln, Sr.
1824. Burials on the Common prohibited.
1824, Aug. 2. Corner Stone of Town Hall laid.
Sept. 3. Lafayette visits Worcester.
1828. First Directory of Worcester published.
1828. Blackstone Canal opened.
1834. Worcester Academy opened.
1835. Boston and Worcester Railroad opened.
1835. Fire Department established.
1836. State Lunatic Hospital opened.
1838. Rural Cemetery dedicated.
1843. College of the Holy Cross, Corner Stone laid June 21.
1846. Church of the Unity dedicated.
1848. Worcester incorporated a city.
1848, June 21. Free Soil Meeting in the city hall.
1852. Hope Cemetery dedicated.
1854, June 2. Business suspended in Worcester on account of the rendition of Anthony Burns.
Worcester Theatre built.

1856. Highland Military Academy founded.
1861, April 16. First War Meetings of the Civil War.
April 17. Departure of the Worcester Light Infantry for the War.
April 18. Departure of the Sixth Regiment.
April 20. Departure of the Third Battalion of Rifles, made up of the City Guards, Emmet Guards, and Holden Rifles.
Aug. 8. Departure of the Fifteenth Regiment.
Aug. 23. Departure of the Twenty-first Regiment.
Oct. 31. Departure of the Twenty-fifth Regiment.
1862, Aug. 15. Departure of the Thirty-fourth Regiment.
Sept. 3. Departure of the Thirty-sixth Regiment.
Nov. 24. Departure of the Fifty-first Regiment.
1864, April 18. Departure of the Fifty-seventh Regiment.
1861. Opening of the Free Public Library Building, Elm Street.
1863. First Street Railroad in Worcester.
1868. Memorial Day first observed.
1868. Worcester Polytechnic Institute opened.
1871. First City Hospital Opened.
High School Building on Walnut Street dedicated.
1874, July 15. Soldiers' Monument dedicated.
1874. State Normal School dedicated.
1876. Centennial Celebration of the Fourth of July.

1883. Streets first lighted by electric light.
1884-6. The Sunday and Daily Telegram founded.
1884. Celebration of the Two Hundredth Anniversary of the naming of Worcester.
1887. Clark University incorporated and corner stone laid.