A HISTORY *of* WILLIAMSBURG IN MASSACHUSETTS

Compiled by
PHYLLIS BAKER DEMING

175th Anniversary

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by

The Town of Williamsburg, Massachusetts

TO MY FATHER,
HOWARD F. BAKER,

Without whose interest, encouragement,
and guidance my part of the work in this
book would never have been accomplished.

A SHORT INTRODUCTION TO THE DIGITAL DEMING

Many people who take an interest in the history of Williamsburg would like to own a copy of Phyllis Baker Deming's *A History of Williamsburg in Massachusetts*, but it has been out of print for many years. Some of those people may enjoy having a digital copy of the book instead of, or in addition to, a paper one (which can be printed from this digital file, but will differ in some respects from the original; more about that below). My motivation for creating the digital version was a desire to be able to search the book's text quickly and exhaustively for mentions of any individual, event, date, or other word or number that may appear in it. Years ago, someone went to a great deal of trouble to create the index that the original book lacked — but I don't have my own copy of the book, nor of that index. The typescript index isn't bound into the book, either, so it's apt to get separated and lost, and like any other index, it doesn't include every word in the book. Since I had the hardware and software to digitize the whole text without retyping it, I've gone ahead and done so.

When the book was published in 1946, the copyright was held by the Town of Williamsburg. I understand that it has since passed into the public domain, so the text can be copied and distributed freely. It is far faster, easier, and less expensive to distribute the text this way than on paper, and it may also reach a wider and younger audience this way. To make your own copy, check the CD out from the library and copy the DDEMING.PDF file onto your own computer's hard drive. Then (please!) return the CD to the library.

The Adobe Acrobat Portable Document Format has been used to make accidental alterations of the text impossible and intentional alterations relatively difficult. There is no way to absolutely prevent anyone from changing the text: that's the only serious drawback of electronic distribution. If you are interested enough to want to make notes or corrections of your own in the text and you know how to do so, no one can stop you. But please don't give other people copies of anything but the original text.

Of course the reason for preserving the original text is not that it was perfect. Like every book of its kind, this one contains mistakes. A few may have been introduced by Ms. Deming, but more were probably presented to her as fact by others and merely repeated in print. She couldn't very well treat any of the material given to her with overt suspicion, even if that was what some of it deserved, and she didn't have the resources to check all of it for accuracy. No one knew better than she did (as her Foreword makes plain) that her book wasn't a definitive,

scholarly work. It was a community-building project: something for townspeople to rally around, contribute to, and own and read with pride. It has continued to serve the town in some of those ways ever since. In consideration of that long service, it deserves to be reproduced faithfully, warts and all.

The pages in this file are not numbered, because the numbering wouldn't match the numbering in the book. The book has over 400 pages. This file has 264, including this introduction. Therefore, the Table of Contents in this file (which gives the page numbers used in the book) is useful only to give an overview of what is covered, not to locate anything by page number. Use Acrobat Reader's "Find" function to search for each occurrence of any name, word, phrase, or number: hold down the Control key (the Command key on a Mac) while typing "F". A box will appear in which you can type whatever you're looking for. Click the "Find" button, and the program will find and display the next occurrence of what you typed. Click "Find" again or type Control-G (Command-G on a Mac), and it will move to the next occurrence, and so on until all occurrences have been found. For further assistance with Acrobat Reader's features, go to its Help menu.

The illustrations in the book are not reproduced here. Some of them look as if they were already reproductions of reproductions by the time they were used in the book in 1946. Scanning and reproducing those gray and yellowing pages yet again would further degrade their image quality. Moreover, there is no way to make sure they would look the same — or even as good as they do in the book — on differently-calibrated computer monitors. To see the illustrations, borrow a copy of the book from a library. The illustration list included here tells what you will find in the book.

Despite repeated checking and proofreading after the automatic conversion of the scanned pages into digital text, I have probably overlooked some mistakes. Where a word is misspelled or a numeral is missing or garbled, it is probably my fault. I beg indulgence for these errors.

Eric Weber
Williamsburg
September 2001

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FOREWORD

IT SEEMS to me that the foreword of a book is all too often that section at the beginning which is completely ignored. I hope I am wrong, particularly in this case, because, when one is not even a potential author and yet writes a book, explanations are in order. And those explanations really should be read prior to the reading of the book itself.

Let me explain why I ever undertook the task of writing the history of Williamsburg. I had two reasons. First, I like history and I love my home town, and I felt the combination of the two should be an interesting one. This has certainly proved to be so. Second, and by far the more potent reason was my father's wish that I undertake the work. Not wanting to disappoint him, I decided to try it.

When I say that I have written this history, I am making an erroneous statement. In no sense of the word am I its author. I have merely compiled the material which has been available, and tried to give it some semblance of continuity. The author of the book is the townsfolk who have contributed whole chapters, or certain sections, or various sketches. In this respect, the book is, indeed, a town history. Such an arrangement has many advantages. The finished product is not the result of the labors of one person alone, but of many people, each vitally interested in his own community and in its history. The points of view and interpretations of incidents are in many instances diversified and stimulating because they do not represent the ideas of just one individual.

This arrangement was the only way I felt I could do the work. Obviously, it has some disadvantages, too. What it gains by the writings of various citizens, it loses in unity and consistency of prose style. That matter will have to wait to be rectified until another history of Williamsburg is written—this time by a real scholar.

Old families, more than perhaps anything else, deserve a place in the book, and these I have made every effort to include. If their descendants still live in town, the lineage is traced whenever possible. Sometimes I have written about persons whose link with the town may seem weak. My reasons for doing this may be one of two; perhaps the individual's life has been interesting enough to make it good reading; or he may be included for the sake of completion, as in the case of a family history. For over a year the history has been circulating among members of the Historical Society and various other townsfolk who have offered helpful criticisms and added more material. The slides for the pictures are in Forbes Library. Notices in the local paper have given the opportunity for all who wished to do so, to hand in to specified citizens of the town anything they felt should be included. The deadline for those additions has passed, so I have reason to hope that this is the book, in some degree at least, as you townsfolk want it.

I wish to thank all those who contributed in any way to "A History of Williamsburg in Massachusetts." Mr. Louis H. Cranson, Chairman, and members of the Historical Society have been most helpful.

Reverend Richard Manwell, at the time when he was doing research on the history, saw the parallel development of our town and our nation, and I took the liberty of developing his very good idea in compiling the material.

To my sister-in-law, Edith, who did all my share of the typing of the book; to my husband, for all his patient listening and helpful suggestions; and to my mother, for her untiring assistance in collecting material, I am most grateful.

It is with definite reason that this book is called "*A* History of Williamsburg." Here are fascinating facts and a most worthwhile project waiting for someone who will blend the very best of everything in writing into a book which can rightly be called "*The* History of Williamsburg."

P. B. D.
Kensington, Connecticut, 1946

ODE TO WILLIAMSBURG

O Williamsburg, fair Williamsburg!
How dear this name has grown,
How much it means to those of us
Who claim you for our own.

Your happy homes, your winding roads,
Your churches, schools, and mills,
And pleasant farms have all imbibed
The spirit of your hills.

Where to north and south, east and west,
These eternal hills serene
Stand like guardian angels, while
Mill River winds between.

Companion in our younger days,
We know its pleasures still,
And love it for the years it's been
Subservient to our will.

It's hard to believe this river,
Which sings along today,
Had made the terrible, raging flood
That washed your heart away.

Not since that great disaster came
With horror, death, and fright,
Have you sustained a harder blow
Than strangling Chestnut-Blight.

Grim skeletons alone are left
Of all your chestnut trees;
Their pleasures and their profits gone
Like mists before the breeze.

O Williamsburg, brave Williamsburg!
How nobly thou hast borne
And gathered up the threads of life
That were so badly torn.

Today, as we look backward, down
The isle of hopes and fears,
We can trace with pride and pleasure
All record of your years.

See where manhood's faith and courage
With woman's sterling worth,
Combined against the wilderness
To give our township birth.

See when'er the war clouds threaten'd
To obscure "Old Glory's" light,
You have given men to die, for
The cause you thought was right.

This love and sacrifice for home
Helps pay the pioneer,
Who braved the Indian massacre,
To build his cabin here.

In shadows of old Unquomonk;
Where, from his very brink,
He pours his sparkling waters out
That all of us may drink.

And battle fires, and water lawns,
His watchword is to save;
Then when your loved ones pass away,
His tears keep green their graves.

O Williamsburg, our Williamsburg!
What priceless gifts are these
That God so freely gave to you
The water, hills, and trees.

The stranger, coming to our midst,
Let's try to understand,
Let's view with tolerance his creed
And take him by the hand;

For in this wondrous universe
Wherever one may go
We are—all of us—God's children,
Let's treat each other so.

And to your sons and daughters fair
Wherever they may roam
Your arms are always open wide
To give them welcome home.

Where father, mother wait, beside
Hearthstone's embers glowing—
With love for you and love for home
Their hearts are over-flowing.

And so, in answer to your call,
To this your old home day,
We've come like children out of school
Who've thrown their books away.

Those voices of the long ago
Still echo in the gale,
But the Algonquin warriors
Have gone the silent trail.

O Williamsburg, dear Williamsburg,
How truly they are blest
Who, mingling with your soil again,
Lie peacefully at rest.

JOHN MILTON BLACK

PART I

BEGINNINGS

CHAPTER I
THE TOWN IN EMBRYO

IMAGINATION is the first requisite in reading history. Without it, the colorful panorama of human life and experience fades into a dull parade of words. Look from the window of your home and see the landscape as a deep trackless forest teeming with game and threaded with streams alive with trout. Imagine the excitement on a peaceful Sabbath when a messenger broke in upon the sermon with news of Burgoyne's advancing forces. Fancy the satisfaction with which the hard-working business men viewed new factories and stores in the prosperous days of the nineteenth century. Sympathize with those who were left to bear the horrible tragedy of the Great Flood. Think of the historical events as if they were being shown before you in a motion picture. But such a theatrical performance would be more thrilling than any you have ever witnessed, for it pictures the birth and growth of your own town.

Perhaps the second most important requirement in reading history is historical perspective. Williamsburg is an old town, we say, but how old is old? A bold hunter braved its wilds in the early eighteenth century. Indians roamed there long before his arrival. And what was happening even before that? A few years ago, a beloved citizen[1] of the town pricked the imagination and broadened the sense of perspective when he wrote:

"When Abraham took his family and his goods, his flocks out of the city of Ur of the Chaldees and wandered up the Euphrates Valley, settling at Padan Aram 4000 years ago, the sun shone on High Ridge pasture and woodland very much as it did this fall. One thousand years later, when David, king of Israel, buckled on his armor to subdue his enemies, or sang to the harp in his palace the glories of his God and King, these brooks and streams were flowing, turbulent torrents in spring floods, or silver ripples and placid pools in summer. One thousand years later when our Lord was born in Bethlehem of Judea, the winter snows were drifting over woods and ledges on Unquomonk, White's and Cooper's hills. One thousand years later when William the Conqueror landed on Britain's inhospitable shores, the deer were feeding in the meadow off South Street, the bear and lynx made their home in the sugar bush, the beavers built their dams on every stream and underneath the pines the partridge drummed. Five hundred years later when Columbus landed on the West Indian Islands, all this region west of the Connecticut River was the rich hunting ground of the Iroquois Indians, whose nation was composed of tribes ranging from the Hudson River to the Great Lakes. One hundred fifty years later, down to 1650, that nation sent Mohawk chiefs from the Genesee Valley across the Hudson River, up the Housatonic and down the Westfield, Agawam and Deerfield Rivers to collect tribute of the scattered Algonquin tribes paid in wampum, year by year. In 1620 the first settlement of Pilgrims was made on Massachusetts Bay and with them began the never-ceasing, resistless flow of the white race toward the setting sun."

1 Wilbur Purrington.

However true this may or may not be, it serves our purpose admirably. The changes that occur in land surfaces during the long centuries are not our concern here. From the trackless forests that greeted the first hunters and trappers in this region was to emerge a community, the significance of which is not confined to the affection of loving children for their mother town. This village has been a miniature of the development of the nation itself, mirroring the historical development of the entire United States. We read its history and see there the reflection of our great country's growth and maturity. We must read with our imaginations alert then; our sense of historical perspective must be awake. There is no need to summon loving interest to season the pages, but we must not narrow our minds to one town, but remember rather the relationship it bears to the history of the United States as a whole.

In 1695, the General Court granted to Hatfield a tract of land comprising 15,092 acres, six miles long and three miles wide. This was called the "Hatfield Addition," "Hatfield Three-Mile Grant," or "Hatfield Woods."

In the year 1735, the present site of the village of Williamsburg was low, swampy ground, covered with hemlocks and alder bushes. The village itself was settled later than other parts of the town. Between the site of the first settlement in what is now Haydenville and "Meetinghouse" Hill was a distance of three miles traversed in early times by only a bridle path marked by blazed trees. In point of place, Haydenville was settled first, but the growth of the actual village as we think of it took place much later. The hills surrounding the marsh where Williamsburg Village would later develop were heavily wooded and abounded in game. Deer, bears, wolves, catamounts, wild turkeys, and all the smaller species of animals roamed the land in great abundance. As late as 1771 bears annoyed the early settlers, coming into the yards and sheep folds for swine, calves, and sheep. Wolves still attacked flocks as late as 1786. The hardships of such a wilderness proved an incentive to the adventurous spirit of one hardy trapper who came in 1735 to build his log cabin on the hill northwest of the present village of Haydenville. This man John Miller, lived very near the site of the little red house on Walpole's Hill. The orchard in back of it, until a few years ago, belonged to descendants of this pioneer. He had become acquainted with this country in the hunting excursions for which he was famous. He had trapped beaver along the creek that bears that name. For one dollar an acre he purchased a tract of 900 acres extending south to the Northampton line, north to Skinnerville, west to South Street, and east far enough to embrace nearly the entire present village of Haydenville.

Actually, the mighty hunter had built his home in the town of Hatfield. Previous to this time, settlements had sprung up along that great wilderness highway, the Connecticut River. The towns of Northfield, Deerfield, Hadley, and Hatfield were already in existence. The 15,000 acres known as "Hatfield Woods" comprised very nearly the lines of the present town of Williamsburg. This land was laid off in plots, many of them straight west from the Connecticut River, and some of the walls and fences now running over White's Hill are along the original lines. This land was divided among the people of Hatfield who obtained title by purchase from the town. Sometimes grants of land were made to soldiers who had fought against the Indians of that region. There is a tradition that one of these grants included territory from the foot of Unquomonk

along the Northampton line to the ridge at Horse Mountain, including part or all of the present village of Haydenville. Miller's purchase may possibly have been from that soldier.

Between 1745 and 1750, perhaps earlier, Hatfield Woods was crossed by a road, leading from Northampton to Pittsfield. This road was the stage route of later years. In 1752, one Samuel Fairfield moved to the neighborhood of Mr. Miller and opened a tavern to accommodate the wayfarers who were beginning to travel over this route. Fairfield was a nephew of his predecessor and later became very prominent in community affairs. The tavern,[2] Fairfield Shelter, was located upon what was known as the Delevan Place. Near the tavern grew the great oak which was to assume such an historic significance in the near future of the little town.

Naturally, the general settlement of the town of Williamsburg was made from the mother town of Hatfield. Pioneers eagerly acquired land in the new addition. Daily, men and boys crossed the wilderness through the section now called Mountain Street to clear the forest and build log cabins. They worked their chosen sites until the homes were ready for their families to move in permanently. But, of course, early settlers came to Williamsburg from other places, too. The following statement gives the names and origin of those first families:

"From Hatfield came the Williams family, the Hubbards, the Bodmans, the Warners, the Graves, the Hills; from Northampton were the Pomeroys, Dwights, Fairfields, Millers, Clevelands, and Clarks; from Belchertown, the Hannums; from Martha's Vineyard, the Cleghorns, the Mayhews, Stewards, Bartletts, and many others; from Braintree and the old Plymouth colony, the Haydens, the Thayers and Bradfords; from southeastern and eastern Massachusetts, the Hydes, the Coffins, the Allens, the Butlers, the Washburns; from London, or Lancaster, the Nash family; from Sunderland, a portion of the Hubbards; from Simsbury, Connecticut, the Littles, and Joseph Strong; from Rehoboth, the Luddens and Simon Strong; from New Hampshire, the Starks; from Wellington, Connecticut, the Johnson family. The general period of settlement was from 1760 to 1771, the danger from Indian attack having passed with the close of the French and Indian Wars in 1759."

2 This tavern was discontinued at the death of Fairfield in 1803 and the famous oak was blown down in 1853.

CHAPTER II
THE TOWN IS BORN
Incorporation and Some Old Town Records

BY THE year 1770, the population[3] of what is now Williamsburg[4] had increased to such an extent that the community began to acquire a feeling of individuality. This new-found independence could find expression only in a government of its own. Surely this was an age of growing up. As a country had acquired enough maturity to resent the shackles of the mother country, so a tiny settlement no longer enjoyed being just an annex to a mother town. But our mother town offered no objections to a separation. A petition was presented to the General Court, and in 1770 the people of Hatfield voted their consent. On April 30, 1771[5], an act granted this permission and directed William Williams to issue a warrant calling for a meeting to elect officers.

"Hampshire ss,

"To John Nash of Williamsburg in the county of Hampshire, Yeoman, Greeting.

"Whereas by an act made and passed by the great and general court held at Cambridge in April current entitled an act for the evicting of the Westerly part of the Town of Hatfield in the County of Hampshire into a district by the name of Williamsburg, I am empowered and directed to issue my warrant to some principal inhabitant in said district requiring him to warn all the inhabitants thereof qualified as in the said act expressed, and those persons annexed thereto by the same act who are in like manner qualified, to meet at such time and place in said District as I shall think proper, to choose all such officers as found in their province are by law empowered and required to choose annually.

"You are therefore in His Majesty's name hereby required without delay to warn all the inhabitants of the said District qualified as in the said act mentioned (that is to say those who in the last tax in the town of Hatfield were rated one half part so much for their estate and faculties as for one single poll), and those persons also qualified as aforesaid who by the same act are annexed to the said District to meet together at the dwelling house of Josiah Dwight in the same village of Williamsburg Inn-holder on Monday the sixth of May next, at nine of the clock in the morning, then and there to choose in the first place a moderator and then to proceed to choose all such officers as towns in this province are by law empowered and required to choose annually. You are also hereby required to make return of this warrant with certificate thereon under your hand that the warning hereby required has been given under the said meeting that the same may be lodged with the clerk of the said District, agreeable to the directions of the said act. Given under my hand and seal at Hatfield, the thirteenth day of April in the Eleventh of his Majesty's reign, anno domini 1771.

William Williams.

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3 In 1771 there was a population of 600.

4 Williamsburg was named for a prominent Hatfield Citizen.

5 One source says April 24, 1771.

"Pursuant to within written warrant I have warned all the inhabitants of this district to attend district meeting, according to and as within described.

John Nash."

The meeting was called at the home of Josiah Dwight as the warrant demands. Dwight's Tavern was located on Village Hill about where Hillcote now stands. The meeting was adjourned to the schoolhouse where the following officers were elected:

Moderator, Samuel Fairfield; Clerk and Treasurer, John Nash; Selectmen, Josiah Dwight, John Nash, and Joshua Warner; Constables, Amasa Forrest and Thomas Warren; Wardens, Joshua Thayer and Jonathan Warner; Surveyers, Abil Thayer, Abijah Hunt, Mather Warren, and Elisha Nash; Tithing men, Richard Church, Joseph Kellogg; Fence Viewers, Jesse Wilde and Joseph Cary; Deer Viewers, Andrew Gates and Downing Warner; Hog Reeves, Joshua Thayer and Joseph Torrey; Field Drivers, Josiah Hayden and Amasa Graves; Surveyer of Clapboards and Shingles, Levi Ludden.

Among the names of these early officials it is interesting to notice many which are familiar to our town today.

There were ninety-five taxpayers and seven who were exempt. Residents of Mountain Street and of certain parts of the present town of Haydenville continued to vote and be taxed in Hatfield until after 1800. They were eventually annexed to Williamsburg by an act of the legislature.

The strange spelling and quaint turn of phrase in the first town reports make the reading of them an entertaining task. What an eloquent lesson in democracy these old records are! They tell the story of a new settlement from its earliest beginnings to the time when it could rightfully consider itself a well-established community. Those pioneers had planned for themselves the kind of lives they would lead. By their high resolve and courage they had helped lay the foundations of a free and mighty nation.

"Second town meeting. Held May 13, 1771, and Simeon White was the moderator. Voted that the selectmen be assessors. Steps were taken at this meeting to establish public religious worship. Voted to raise twenty pounds to be laid out in preaching before the next March meeting. Voted that Samuel Fairfield, Josiah Dwight and John Nash be a committee to Lay out the money Voted for preaching according to their best Discretion. Voted to Give the proprietors of the School house two thirds of the Cost that they was at for the building thereof and that Each proprietors bill of Cost be accepted by a Committee Chosen by the District for that Purpose. Voted that Amasa Frost, Joshua Warren, Jonathan Warner be a Committee to Repair the Schoolhouse in Such a manner that it shall be fit to meet in for publick worship according to their best Discretion. Voted that Jonathan Warner, Josiah Dwight and John Nash be a Committee to Petition for a Land tax said affair to be Conducted according to the Discretion of said Community. Voted that the Selectmen Lay town ways where they are Needed. Voted that the Selectmen Purchis a town book. Voted that Amasa Frost, Josiah Hayden and Abil Thayer be a Comm (to) Erect a Pound. Voted that highway work to the first of Oct be 2 shillings and Eight Pence Per day after that 1 Shilling and 9 pence and that a team (at highways) to the first of Oct be 3 Shillings Per Day after

that one Shilling and 10 pence and that Surveyors shall if any men or teams fall Short of full Days Works Return their work as much short of the above mentioned price as in their Judgement they fall short of full Days Works. Voted to Raise twenty and five Pounds for the Repair of Highways. Voted that Each of the Constables be paid by the District twenty Shillings for their Services this year. Voted that publick worship on Lords Day from the first of May to the first of Oct. begin at ten of the Clock in the morning and at two of the Clock in the after Noon and from the first of Oct to the first of May to begin half an hour after ten in the morning and at one in the afternoon. Voted that the Selectmen Provide a Signal to Notify the time when to begin Publick Worship. Voted that Joshua Thayer have fifteen shillings for Blowing the Conkshell and keeping the School house fit for publick Worship this year. Voted to Raise 10 Pounds to Repair the Schoolhouse.

"May 29, 1771 at a Legal District Meeting. John Nash, moderator. Voted that Amasa Frost, Joseph Cary and John Nash Be a Committee to Settle our Proposition of the Province tax with the towns of Hatfield and Whately. Voted that Every man Keep his Swine in his own inclosure.

"Oct. 1771. Samuel Fairfield, moderator. Voted that Dea Amasa Frost, Dea Joseph Cary, Samuel Fairfield, Josiah Dwight and John Nash Be a Committee to wait on Mr. Elijah Parsons and give him a Call to Come and Preach here Six Sabbaths on Probation in order to his Settling in the ministry in this Place. Voted that Simeon White, Samuel Fairfield and John Nash be a Committee to Lay out the Land for a burying place.

"Feb. 1772 on account of District Debts Passed by the Selectmen agreeable to the vote of the District to Josiah Dwight for boarding Mr. Parsons o-18-o.

"to John Nash for boarding Mr. Parsons o-18-o. to Mr. Elijah Parsons for preaching 26 Sabbaths 26 pounds. Voted that Dea Amasa Frost, Dea Joseph Cary, Josiah Dwight, Samuel Fairfield and John Nash be a Committee to wait on Mr. Elijah Parsons and give him a Call to Come and Settil in the ministry in this place.

"Mar. 23, 1772. Whereas the Destrict of Williamsburgh have discontinued Several Town Ways laid oute for the Use of Said Destrict Which it appears Unesesery for Privit or Town ways and have Agreed to maike a Sale of the Same. Voted that the Mones that may arrise by the Sale of the Said Ways Shall be appropriated to incorridge a Minister of the Gospel to Settele in Williamsburgh and to no other purpose whatsumever unles uppon the Sale of said ways it appear a grator sum is (received?) then shall be necessarey for that purpurs and in that Case the remander shall be applyed as the Destrict shall order. John Nash, Moderator."

Following this are many grants of "heyways" to individuals—more roads had been planned for than it was thought best to build.

"Mar. 30, 1772. Voted that Deacon Joseph Cary, John Miller, Samuel Fairfield, John Nash and Josiah Dwight be a commity to (seek?) the advice of sum of the nebouring ministers, informing them of the temper of the Peopel towards Mr. Elijah Parsons and that if they shalt think Best as things stand to make application to him that said committee...shall ask Mr. Parsons to settle as a minister of the gospel in this town.

"June 9, 1773. Voted to find Mr. Amos Butler his wood as Much as he Wants to consume in his Familey in the rome of the six pounds that was Voted to him.

"Voted that the forteenth Day of July be the day for the ordination to Settel Mr. Butler here in the ministre. Voted that Mr. Amos Butler have the settlement and salary that was voted to Mr. Parsons and that was one hundred and fifty pounds settlements the one half to be paid in six months after he settels here in the ministre and the other half at the end of twelve months.

"At a meeting held by Journment on 25th Day of August Voted that William Boadman be a County Delegate to consult what was Best to be Done to Recover our Liberties.

"October 3, 1774. Voted to send Russel Kelogg to go Delegate to the Provincial Congress att Concord. Voted that Samuel Fairfield, James Bangs, Jonathan Warner, Josiah Haton[6], and William Boadman Bee a Committee to Draw a plan for ye meetinghouse, Voted to sell the pues to Defray ye Charges of Building as far as it will Goe.

"October 8. Voted by Reconsideration that Russil Kelogg Should not be Sent to ye Provincial Congress att Concord.

"Monday, March 13, 1775. Voted to send Russel Kelogg as delegate to Provincial Congress att Concord, he to find horse and give in his time by agreement, the town to Bear his charges or expense. Voted to give ye minute men 8, per Day and ye oficers 1s 9d a Day and a Serjant to have 1s per Day for Exerciseing them in traning till ye 13th Day of March, 1775, and after that till ye middle of May a soldier is to have 9d per day and an oficer 1s, 6d per day.

"At a legal town meeting held att Williamsburg on Tuesday ye July 1st, 1776, Elijah Paine chosen moderator voted to declare independence from Gt Britain if ye Continental Congress (shall approve?). 2—Voted to repair ye Schoolhouse and Left it with ye Selectmen to doe it.

"July 15. Voted to raise money out of ye town to give the Nine soldiers an Incoridgement to goe to Join ye Continental army in Canada Viz Six pound each.

"December 1776. Voted that Decon Frost, Elijah Paine, and Josiah Dwight be a committee to wait on Amos Butler to settle a time to begin publick worship — they agreed to begin meeting at half an hour after ten o'clock from 1st of November to 1st of April and the Intermission to be one hour from April 1 to November 1 to begin at 10 and intermission to be 1 hour and 1/2.

"March 8, 1777. Voted that the townmeetings be warned by notification At two publick houses and at the liberty pole—Except on a sudden emergencies. Voted that there be five women's schools kept from the first of May till the first of October. Voted to have two mens schools three months in the winter season. Voted to raise a sufficient sum of money to defray the whole charges of the above mentioned schools. Voted that James Bangs, Joshua Warner, Elisha Allis, Abijah Hunt, Elisha Nash be a committee for the schools to provide the tutors and apoint the places for them to be kept.

"May 16, 1777.—List of fines paid to Capt. Samuel Fairfield in consequence of said persons being draughted for 8 months for the Continental service. Amasa Frost etc whole amount 170 pounds.

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6 Hayden.

"August 27. Voted to raise money enough to hire 7 continental soldiers for 3 years or during the war—to raise 300 pounds for said purpose.

"Sept. 15. Voted to divide the money which was raised by a rate to hire continental soldiers to those persons that paid it.

"Jan. 27, 1778. Voted to pay Mrs. Butler for what preaching we have had since the Rev. Mr. Butler's decease—a Comm. appointed to find out how many Sabbaths we have had preaching also to see wheither the town were obligated to pay the Rev. Mr. Butlers sallery in the time of his Sickness when there was no preaching provided.

"June 5, 1778. Voted to be in readiness for building a meetinghouse next spring.

"August 29, 1778. Voted to rais money by a rate enough to pay the 3 soldiers which the selectmen hired which was 14 pounds per man also 30 pounds for another soldier. Voted to rais money enough to hire 3 months preaching and 50 pounds overplush of what is mentioned above.

"August 31, 1778. Voted to hire preaching this winter one month. Voted to send to Norwich after Mr. Nathaniel Niles to preach a month.

"November 10, 1778. Voted to hire a preacher on probetion. Voted that the comm. which were chosen to provide materials for the meetinghous provide nails, glass or anything else that shall be needful in order to finish the outside of the house and that they fix the spot to set the house within 3/4 of an acre which the town purchased for that purpose.

"December 21, '78. Voted to rekon Rye at Six dollars per bushel.

"Voted to raise 700 pounds in money towards procuring materials for the meetinghouse.

"Voted to hire a school four months in the winter season in the center of the town.

"Voted to have a woman school four months in the summer season in the center of the town & as many more women's schools in the Remote Parts of the town as shall be needful to accommodate the whole.

"May 18, 1779. Voted to have a New Constitution or form of Government.

"July 22, 1779. Voted to hire Mr. Noah Andrust preach with us on probation.

"Voted to raise 500 pounds to hire preaching.

"August 30, 1779. Voted that William Bodman should goe to the Convention that is to be held at Cambridge Sep. 1 for the purpose of forming a new constitution.

"July 3, 1780. Voted that the militia have the same security from the town treasurer that the Continentals have viz. three pounds per month each upon their returning their wages to the town that are allowed them by the state and 500 dollars bounty each.

"July 31, 1780. Voted that the committee try to hire Mr. Allen Olcott (?) to preach with us with a view to settle in the ministry.

"Sep. 4, 1780. for purpose of chusing a governor, lieut gov. cong. and senators.

"John Hancock for gov. 19 votes.

"Oct. 13/80. Josiah Dwight was chosen representative.

"Oct. 31, Voted to hire Mr. Hulburt to preach with us for 2 months.

"September 24, 1781. Voted to give the Rev. Joseph Strong a call to settle with us in the ministry in this town.

"October 15, 1781. Voted to give Mr. Strong 70 pounds sallery 1/2 to be paid in silver money and the other half in the produce of the earth and to find him in firewood as long as he is our minister.

"Nov. 19, 1781. Voted to give Mr. Strong annually 25 bu. of wheat at 2/ per Bu., 20 bu. of Rye at 3/ per Bushel, 33 of Indian Corn at 2/5 per bu., pork 5 lbs. at /3 etc.

"Mar. 19, 1783. Voted to keep a school for one year and a committy be chosen to divide town into districts, town to be divided into 5 parts—school to keep 2 months at the mountain—then 2 months at Elisha Nash's then 2 mos at Josiah Hadlocks then 2 mos. at William Guilfords then 4 mos in center of town.

"March meeting 1784. Voted to git Joshua Thayer to take care of the meeting house.

"Mar. 6, 1786. Voted to build a pound 36 ft square.

"May 1786. Voted to sell the pews in the Meetinghouse. 15 of the 1st pues to be set up at 6 pounds ea and the remainder to be set up at 3 pounds ea. Voted that any person that bids of a pue may have a right to procure the materials or pay a joiner for finishing the meeting house in proportion to what he gives for his Pue—careful rules set down to provide that pews shall be finished at a certain time. Voted that...the money be used to finish glazing the meeting house and what is left if any to be used to finish the inside, and that the pue next the pulpit stairs be kept for the use of the town.

"August 13, 1787. Voted to build a Bellfray and Steple the overplus money to be granted the subscribers for the purpose.

"Aug. 1790. Voted to paint the body of the meetinghouse. "Mar. 5, 1792. Voted to hang the bell in the belfre in the proper place where bels are hung.

"Nov. 2, 1792. Voted that the bell be rung on Sundays at nine and at half after ten o'clock A. M.

"May 7, 1793. Voted to raise four pounds for the expense of singing the winter past.

"Dec. 2, 1793. Voted to build a stone pound 32 feet square wall 4 ft. thick at the bottom and 2 ft. thick at the top. Voted to procure sheet lead enough to complete top of building.

"Nov. 1, 1799. Voted to raise $50 for a singing Master. "Dec. 1800. Voted that a bounty of $10 be given for a Wolf's Head killed by an inhabitant and within the limits of the town.

"Dec. 6, 1802. Voted the comm. be directed to apply to Mr. Lane to supply the pulpit untill May next. 400 raised each year for schools.

"Dec. 5, 1803. Voted to concur with the church respecting giving Mr. Lord a call to settle with us in the ministry.

"May 17, 1805. Voted that the bell be run over that is broke. Voted the money to be raised for casting the bell be left with the assessors to be assessed so much as to pay the whole expense.

SCHOOLS

"Mar. 6, 1786. At town meeting it was voted—town to be divided into 5 districts.

"Mountain district to extend from Mather Warren's to Aaron Kingsleys also to include Samuel Day.

“Northeast district to include Simeon White’s farm and all north of William Bodman’s.

“North district— to include Dea’n Allises farm and all north of that—also Elisha Wellses farm and all from their to Goshen line.

“South district to include all south of the brook by Lucius Graveses as far as the foot of Pomeroy’s Hill — also to take in James Ludden and Cornelius T—? and the remainder to be in one district and to draw double the sum of either of the other districts. Voted to raise 33 pounds for schooling.

“Voted to raise 96 pounds to build 5 school houses.

“March 3, 1794. Voted to raise 90 pounds for schooling to be proportional upon the number of scholars from the age of 3-16.

“Mar. 6, 1797. Voted to raise 120 dollars for repairing school houses—$20 to each district.”

CHAPTER III
EARLY SETTLERS
Taken from sketches by Prescott Williams

NUMEROUS individuals have already crossed the pages of our history. Many of these early settlers and their families invite closer scrutiny.

When Thomas Nash with his family, consisting of two sons and one daughter, first came to Williamsburg from Hatfield in 1766, he already had an illustrious heritage. His father, Thomas Nash, Sr., who had spent his life in Hatfield, was the third son (in a family of twenty children) of Timothy Nash and Rebekah Stone. Timothy Nash had first settled in New Haven but had later moved to Hadley. His wife's father had been one of the original colonists who, with Thomas Hooker, had emigrated from Cambridge to found the settlement of Hartford, Connecticut. Thomas Nash, Jr., was married to Martha Smith, the daughter of Joseph Smith and Canada[7] Waite. The two sons were the John and Elisha Nash who took such an active part in community affairs during the infancy of the town. John had received the first warrant to organize Williamsburg and always gave lively support to the church and the school. Elisha Nash was a pillar of the church from the very beginning and highly respected in the community. He was blessed with tolerance and foresight. His opinion concerning the welfare of the girls in his family is particularly interesting to us. "Daughters," he said (since mothers are the natural teachers of their children) "should be as well educated as sons; and where no special reason exists for the contrary should receive as much of the family property." Two of his ten children lived in Williamsburg. Sally married Joseph Meekins, and they later moved to Ohio. Elisha, Jr., settled here, married Experience Cleghorn, and reared a family of eleven children.

The ancestors of Captain Jonathan Warner came from Ipswich, Massachusetts. One of their number moved to Brookfield and thence, when that town was destroyed by Indians, to Hadley. One of the descendants, Captain Jonathan Warner, married Eliza Sheldon and moved to Williamsburg. It was, perhaps, one of the most singular matches ever made. His was a giant will; she was all meekness and submission. There was no want of family government. Despotisms sometimes may be the best governments when the head is a wise and good man. It was so here. The government was absolute, but it was kind. The wife was about as much a subject of it as the children. Yet perhaps two human beings never loved each other more stably. Captain Warner was a man of high intelligence and more than common knowledge. With reading and observation he overcame a meagre three months of formal schooling. He was an energetic man and accomplished much. His trade was that of a house carpenter, but he also farmed extensively. As a leader in his chosen occupation, he was the builder of the first church in Williamsburg as well as churches in the neighboring towns of Goshen, Chesterfield, Ashfield, and others. These churches he never built for profit. He charged only what the materials had cost him. He was, what we would call today, a scientific farmer. He treated all propositions for improvement candidly and

7 So named because she was born in Canada while her mother was a captive of the Indians.

did not despise a proposed method because it was new. Rather, he experimented cautiously and was always a little ahead of his neighbors. Regarding this matter he said, “Farming pays, if properly attended to and nothing else pays but on that condition.”

Each of his large family of children received a good education and generous provision from his hand.

Many descendants have lived in Williamsburg and have contributed to its history. Captain Warner was an officer during the war of the Revolution. He was wounded in the shoulder at the battle of Saratoga. His final commission, appointing him to the rank of second lieutenant, was dated at Watertown, April 8, 1776, and signed by such men as James Otis, Caleb Cushing, and James Prescott. Later, in 1781, when he became captain, his commission was signed by Governor John Hancock. After the Revolution when orders for men to join the Continental Army were issued, it was to Captain Warner that the orders were dispatched. One of these orders was to answer the crisis of Shay’s Rebellion. Warner was later captured by some of Shay’s men, and held prisoner for several days. Reimbursement for his horse and sundry articles which he lost because of this incident was collected in due time at Warner’s insistent demand. He refused to apply for a pension which he might have obtained, because he thought himself well enough off without it and the country too poor to pay it.

No account of his life would be complete without the prayer which he composed and which he offered night and morning for more than three score years. He would stand at the back of his elbow chair pausing emphatically at each change of subject, as uttered by him full of life and meaning.

CAPTAIN JONATHAN WARNER’S PRAYER

“0, Thou, who inhabitest Eternity—may we be assisted on the evening of this Thy day in the solemn duty of family religion. It is both our privilege and happiness that we may come before Thee, may spread our request before and make known our wants to Thee by prayer and supplication, together with thanksgiving. Thou art the heaven of prayer and God of all grace. We are the creatures of Thy power— Thy hand formed us at first, Thy goodness has always supported us, ever since we have had a being in the world, and Thy bounty has constantly supplied our returning wants, and it is our indispensable duty to acknowledge Thee in all our ways. Thou hast made us rational creatures, moral agents, and accountable to Thee for all our conduct, exercises of heart, and actions of life. We are made capable of knowing, loving, fearing, and serving Thee. And it is infinitely fit, that we should honour and glorify Thee with all the power and capacity of our soul, and health and strength of our bodies. We are made capable of worshipping and serving Thee in the condition of a family, the blessing of the Lord is on the Habitation of the just. Thou lovest the gates of Zion, but still dost dwell on the tents of Jacob. We ascribe glory and praise to Thy name, O Thou fountain of being, and blessedness for Thy goodness to us through our whole lives, but especially through another holy Sabbath. We have enjoyed the blessings and salvation of another of the days of the Son of man, have been favored with another precious opportunity of

public worship, how amiable are Thy tabernacles, O Lord of Hosts, How delightful to go to the place of public worship. Sanctify to us the instructions of Thine house, and word, accept the prayer and praises of Thy people. We have enjoyed another holy Sabbath. Our land enjoys her Sabbaths. We live in a land of gospel light, where the means of grace, Thy word and ordinances, are enjoyed. We have good scriptural privileges. Glory to Thy name, that we were not born in countries of pagan darkness and idolatry, Mohammedan imposture, Popish superstition, or Jewish blindness. We hear the glorious gospel, may read Thy holy word, may worship Thee according to what our consciences dictate without fear of molestation. Persecution is unknown in our land. May we feel how necessary it is for us to improve aright all our religious advantages, the day of life, the means of grace, seasons and opportunities of salvation. Sabbath and sanctuary enjoyments and divine ordinances may we have an increasing sense of the infinite importance of all divine institutions and be more and more attached to Thy word, Thy house, Thy worship, and Thine ordinances, however much they may be opposed, or neglected by an ungodly world. May we so improve all our Sabbaths that we may at last spend an eternal Sabbath of rest, in glory. May we hate and abhor all the ways of sin, repent, believe, and follow the example of Christ, rest on his merits for pardon, justification, and happiness; take the care of us this night, raise us to the light of another day, take the care of us all our days. Bless this family, pity the afflicted, bless our land, our nation, Thy churches and all Thy people. Bless all the nations of the world, and fill the earth with Thy praise. We commit ourselves, O God, and all for whom we ought to pray, to Thine infinite mercy in Christ Jesus, to whom with the Father and Spirit of truth, be all praise through everlasting ages."

His library consisted of the Bible, Watt's hymns and Pilgrim's Progress. He took the Hampshire Gazette from its first issue, a little brown sheet as large as foolscap paper. This paper advertised "Cash paid for rags at this office."

When he died after a wedded life of more than sixty years, his wife also lay down and died for no apparent reason unless she felt there was nothing to detain her.

Obadiah Warner[8] resided on the "Mountain Road" half a mile from Cleveland's hotel. He and his father were originally from Hatfield. Obadiah married a daughter of Captain Coffin, one of the Nantucket Coffins who came to Williamsburg soon after the Revolutionary War. Mrs. Warner was a lady of distinguished appearance and many accomplishments. She was particularly interested in church work and led a Sunday School and a Bible Class of men and women as long as she could ride to church. He became one of the most finished horsemen in Hampshire County.

He finally went into the business of buying and training horses for the Boston, New York, and Hartford markets. Perhaps he possessed and sold more elegant horses than any other individual of his day. His oldest son, a man of exceptional ability, was a lawyer in the South.[9]

The Bodman family came originally from England and settled in Boston. There are recorded the births of the children of John and Sarah Bodman. Her name also appears as one of the

8 Not same family.

9 See Chapter XI.

members of the Old South Church. One of their sons, Joseph, moved to Hatfield in the late seventeenth century. His grandson, Joseph, married Esther Field of Sunderland and came to Williamsburg to reside in the year 1775. Deacon Joseph Bodman, their son, born in 1772, was a man of much prominence in the town during the whole period of his life. He was an extremely active church member and a very prudent business man. He was for a long time engaged in the business of tanning. For many years he held a commission as Justice of the Peace, and for a long period presided as magistrate at the trials of civil and criminal cases. Samuel Bodman, the son of the first Joseph who had lived in Hatfield, married Martha Warner. His son, Samuel, Jr., came to this town about 1774 with his bride, Susannah Allen. They had no children. His younger brother, William, married to Annie Smith, had settled here four years before, and he also became one of the prominent men of the town. They had eleven children. He was a member of the convention of 1788 that formed the present state constitution, and participated to some extent in the debates of that body. For fourteen years he represented the town in the state legislature, and for some time he served as Justice of the Peace. He possessed talents of a high order and was distinguished for his eloquence. The nomination for one of the four senators from the old county of Hampshire[10] was offered him, but he was forced to decline it because of ill health. He died in 1825 at the age of eighty-four. Many of these early Bodmans settled permanently in Williamsburg. Manoah, the son of Joseph Bodman and Esther Field, practiced law in this place. He was a man of great eccentricity, but had strong native talent. He published a number of addresses which he had delivered in different towns under the title of "Bodman's Orations." These are marked by a decided originality. Martha, his sister, also lived here until the death of her first husband, John Hillman, after which time she moved to Hatfield as Mrs. Nathaniel Frary. Two of her daughters, Esther and Martha, married and made their homes here. Artemas Bodman, the son of William, married Hannah Waite and lived and died in Williamsburg.

One of the most respected families was that of John Graves who resided one and a half miles east of the old meeting-house on the road to Hatfield. He was born in Hatfield in 1772 and married Eunice Porter of that village. Mr. Graves and his wife were persons of high ideals and great industry. Their family consisted of five children.[11]

The Wells family deserves an especial place in this history, for it was regarded with esteem by the community. The grandfather of the Wells brothers, who settled in Williamsburg, fought in the French and Indian Wars. An account of some of his experiences has come down to us. Of the three Wells brothers, John, Elisha, and William, the first two made their home in Williamsburg; the other in Rutland, Vermont. Their father was Jonathan Wells of Hatfield. The grandfather of the three brothers was one of the party that attacked King Philip at Turner's Falls in 1676. In the autumn of 1675 had occurred the trouble and slaughter at Bloody Brook. In the following year, Philip, with a thousand warriors had reached Turner's Falls and was threatening the destruction of the neighboring settlements. On the seventeenth of May, 160 men comprising four mounted

10 Included present boundaries of Hampshire, Franklin, and Hampden.

11 Samuel Dwight, Deacon Erastus, Mary Graves Montague, Martha Graves Miller, Eunice, wife of Deacon Elam Graves of Haydenville.

companies of forty men each, mostly from Hatfield and Hadley, started out to attack him. At two o'clock on the morning of the eighteenth, the attack was started. After an obstinate battle in which one-fourth of the Indians fell, the remaining Reds retreated and the Whites, supposing their work was done, commenced their return to Hatfield. They had not proceeded far, when Philip, reinforced by new arrivals, interrupted their march by a most violent assault. Jonathan Wells, who was one of the rear guards, was shot in the thigh. Though disabled, he still kept his seat upon his horse, but retired from the fight. It was a cloudy day, and he, having no compass, soon became lost in the woods. He wandered aimlessly until dark, when he fell exhausted, leaving his horse to escape. Being too weak to do anything else, he lay down and slept until the morning of the nineteenth when he wandered up the Green River, using his gun as a crutch. At the close of the day, he again lay down and slept. The sun had not shone for two previous days, but the next morning it rose clear. Wells immediately changed his course, taking a southern route down the river still using his gun for a crutch. At night he had reached the Deerfield River, opposite the village of Deerfield, a few months before it was burned by the Indians. The next day during his weary travels, he saw an Indian, armed with a rifle, coming toward him across the river in a canoe. He had no ammunition. The barrel of his gun was filled with sand. He pointed it at the Indian. Leaving his canoe with the rifle in it, the Indian leaped into the water and swam away. Wells crawled under some drift wood in a marsh near by. Several Indians came to the place and passed over the wood, but did not find him. After they had gone, he crossed the river, kept on in a southerly course, travelled all day and all the following night, and the next morning reached Bloody Brook. Here, faint and despairing, he lay down to die. But later, making further effort, he found a dead horse, tore off some of the animal's flesh and ate it. He also found and ate some birds' eggs. Strengthened by the food, he struggled on until Sunday when at noon, he reached home. He evidently suffered no permanent harm from his experience. for he lived to be one of the oldest men in the place.

Captain John Wells, his grandson, was born in Hatfield in 1764. He married Sarah, daughter of Captain Jonathan Warner, and came to Williamsburg to live. He was a quiet and reserved individual, deeply meditative and philosophical. Soon after his settlement in the north of Williamsburg, he conceived the plan of travelling among the Northwestern Indians in the vast wilderness of western New York, Ohio, Michigan and western Canada. Having put his affairs in order and provided for his young wife and children, he took leave of them with but few words explanatory of his purpose. He was absent many years, engaged in the fur trade among the French and Indians. Not many years after his return, his brother, William, who had settled in Rutland, Vermont, died and left the bulk of a considerable estate to him and his brother, Elisha. Captain Wells and his family then moved to Rutland and lived there about ten years. They then returned to Williamsburg where they remained until their death.

Among the early prominent businessmen of Williamsburg, the name of Asa White must not be omitted. He was the fifth generation in descent from Elder John White, one of the first settlers

of Cambridge, Massachusetts; of Hartford, Connecticut; and Hadley, Massachusetts.[12] Three of his descendants, of whom Asa was one, lived all, or part, of their lives in Williamsburg. Simeon White was born in 1745 in Hatfield. He settled in this town near the Whately line. He was town clerk in 1773, and held various other town offices. About 1812, he went to live in New York State. Jerusha was born in 1751, and she married Arnold Mayhew of Williamsburg. Asa moved here about 1781 and resided here for the most part until his death in 1829. He married Zilpah Hayes of Granby, Connecticut. Asa White opened the first store on the hill, near the center of the town, a few rods south of the old meeting-house. His goods were of necessity brought from the cities in teams. The usual time spent in going to Boston and back was about ten days. As stores were scarce, many of his customers came from the surrounding towns. He continued in business at the same stand until 1812. Meanwhile, he opened branch stores in Sunderland, Chesterfield, and Cummington. At this time he moved to Chesterfield where he continued the same business for four years. He then returned to his old homestead where he spent the remainder of his life. During this long period, he trained several young men to the same business. Among them may be mentioned Thomas Mayhew, a postmaster at Williamsburg, and William Mayhew, a prominent merchant of Baltimore who there acquired a large fortune. In the first years of his business there was but little money in circulation. Mr. White received in payment for his wares such products as flaxseed and home-made clothing. He also traded largely in furs that were brought from the northern wilderness. Mr. White held many public offices during his lifetime. It was often said at that time that three men—Asa White, William Bodman, and Deacon Nash—were for many years the ruling men of the town. They were much consulted by the people and gave direction to all matters of public concern. In town meetings, their opinions when expressed were conclusive. On one occasion, a man ventured to oppose the views they had presented and was severely reprimanded by one of the trio of rulers. This had the effect of silencing the dissenter's voice for a long time afterwards. He did not think it prudent to repeat the hazardous experiment. Asa White had eight children, three of whom received a college education; John, at Williams, and Chester and Addison, at Yale.

Doctor Elijah Paine was one of the most distinguished men in the early history of the town. He came to Williamsburg from Hatfield where he had been a physician for many years. He was born at Woodstock, Connecticut, and had married a Miss Lyons there at an early age. Doctor Paine came to Williamsburg as early as 1772, and practiced medicine in the town for twenty-five years. He first occupied the house on the hill, afterward known as "Skiff's Tavern." He then moved to his farm of 250 acres one mile north of the old church on the road to Goshen. He died there in 1817. His family consisted of four children, three sons and one daughter. The daughter's name was Electa. She married a Mr. Frost and afterward settled in Genesee, New York. Elijah, the oldest son of Dr. Paine, was educated at Yale in 1796 and later became a distinguished member of the bar. He settled in Ashfield where he died about 1836, leaving a large family. Seth Paine was the second son of Dr. Paine. He married Hannah Nash, daughter of Deacon Elisha

12 He later returned to Hartford where he spent his last years. His dwelling was in the shade of the famous charter Oak.

Nash. Seth first occupied one-half of his father's farm, and after some time bought the mercantile business of Abner Williams which he carried on for several years. In 1800, he moved to Brockville, Ohio, where he died in 1812. John, the third son, resided on the south half of his father's farm until in 1820 he moved to Pembroke, New York, where he died.

James Cleghorn was one of the earliest settlers of the town. His birthplace was Martha's Vineyard, and he was married to Saloma Cotele of the same place. They came to Williamsburg in 1772. The brothers of James, George and William, were shipwrights and settled at New Bedford. They worked with the master workmen and architects who laid down and built the United States frigate "Constitution." The celebrated ship, "Rebecca," was also built by the Cleghorns. She was the first ship that ever doubled Cape Horn and brought home a cargo of sperm oil from the Pacific. She was launched March 17, 1785. James Cleghorn's family was scattered around the country. One of his daughters, Experience,[13] became the wife of Elisha Nash, Jr. In his early life Mr. Cleghorn was occupied in the fishing trade. He made voyages to the North seas and to the coast of Greenland. The perils of the maelstrom on the northwest coast of Norway he knew from personal experience. On a fishing trip to Newfoundland, his ship was caught by water spouts. It was only by the greatest possible exertion that the vessel was saved from being engulfed in the boiling sea. The peace and quiet of his later life in Williamsburg must have been a welcome change from these voyages of his youth. Mr. Cleghorn died in Cummington in 1815.

Benjamin Pomeroy, a native of Northampton, moved to Williamsburg in 1780, and built a barn on the present Pomeroy homestead in the southerly part of the town. Previously, Benjamin and Asahel worked on the farm during two summers, and occupied a cabin located east of the present house. The father of Benjamin and Asahel purchased 220 acres of land here, which was divided between them about the time of Benjamin's settlement upon it. Asahel married Esther, daughter of Josiah Clark of Northampton. They had eight children, four[14] of whom made their homes in their native town.

Noah Washburn from Bridgewater, Massachusetts, settled in Williamsburg in 1765 and erected a log house in the southern part of the village. His wife was Sally Faxon of Bridgewater, and they reared a family of seven children, five of whom lived to maturity. Stephen married Rebecca Paine, but he died in Cummington soon after his marriage; Amos married Amanda, daughter of Orlando Root of Northampton; Polly married Gross Williams; Sally married Eleazer Hillman, and afterward Seth Johnson of Dana; Ruth married Rev. Hosea Ballou of Richmond, New Hampshire. Many of the Washburns were noted hunters, and numerous are the marvelous stories of encounters with the wild animals which abounded in the forests of this region. On one occasion, two bear-traps which had been set were found missing. Following the trail, one of the Washburn boys found a trap attached to the leg of a cub. The hunters followed the other trail a long distance, passing around the mountain south of Mr. Washburn's house. Finally he was forced to return home to obtain assistance. Accompanied by dogs, he and his brother pursued he

13 Mother of Alanson and Hiram Nash, Jr.

14 Lydia married Elnathan Graves; Selah married Hannah, daughter of captain Abel Thayer; Josiah married Ruth, daughter of Lieut. Joshua Thayer; William married Rachel, daughter of Capt. Oliver Edwards of Chesterfield.

trail for several hours and at night came upon the beast. The animal was lying beside a large log and appeared weary. Mr. Washburn mounted the log and, leaning over the bear, made passes at him as if to stab him. The animal turned its head towards him each time and growled in no agreeable manner. The hunter became so excited that he thrust the knife into the bear's neck. It nearly cost him his life. Infuriated by the wound, the beast sprang upon the hunter and caught him by the trousers below the knee, tearing out a large piece of cloth. To the astonishment of everyone, even himself perhaps, he escaped. The bear was so severely wounded that it died.

Sometime between 1780 and 1790, Ebenezer Hill came to Williamsburg from Petersham. He located on the Conway road, about two and one-half miles from the present village. He died at West Whately where his son Joseph lived. His wife had died before he moved to this town. Sampson Hill, son of Ebenezer, resided at the original location where he and his wife reared their five children. These children[15] and their descendants[16] contributed a great deal to the later life of the community.

Jesse Wilde, one of the pioneer settlers of Williamsburg, resided at the top of Village Hill. He died about the year 1807. His wife was a woman of great physical endurance. There is a story which relates that on one occasion she carried a half bushel of corn on her back to Hatfield, had it ground, and carried it home in the same manner.

[17]Between May, 1741 and October, 1765, a certain William Warren bought 287 acres of land, a tract extending from the top of Horse Mountain to Beaver Brook. Indian attacks made the working of his land a dangerous chore, but the bold pioneer managed to build a dwelling there. His family occupied this home, or their Hatfield farm alternately, depending on the pleasure of the Indians. Later he erected a larger house below the mountain road where he and his wife, Susannah Mather, and six children lived. In March, 1768, William Warren died, but his wife lived to see the town incorporated in 1771. Two sons, Thomas and Mather, became prominent citizens. Later, a third house was built which was occupied by Mather, his wife, Esther Hart, and their ten children. This dwelling also became the home of two of Mather's sons, Cotton Mather and Orange Hart. The Warren brothers married sisters, Lois and Sally White respectively, and these two families chose to remain in Williamsburg although many of Mather's children later left their native town.

This family was deeply religious. Mather, 3rd, became a devout follower of the teachings of John Wesley. As a result of the efforts of the group to which he belonged, the Methodist Church was founded in 1832.[18]

Mather Warren married Anne Miller Fairfield, granddaughter of Captain Samuel Fairfield, in 1823. The Warren homestead by the year 1845 was greatly expanded. Its size was doubled, and it included on its premises a blacksmith shop, a carpenter shop, two sawmills on Beaver Brook, and one in Hatfield. Charles Lyman, eldest son of Mather and Anne, helped his father on

15 The five children of Sampson: Tabitha, Ephraim, Sarah, Joseph, Lucinda.

16 Ephraim's ten children: Calvin, Russell, Electa, Cynthia, Wealthy, Ansel, Willard, Hiram, Sarah, and Otis G.

17 The rest of the chapter not included in Williams' sketches.

18 See chapter XIV.

the farm until 1865 when he moved to Florence. The place passed out of the hands of the family in the early ’70’s.

Surely one of the best-known and most influential men of his day was Captain Samuel Fairfield whose name has already appeared several times in this Williamsburg history. Having come to Haydenville in 1752, he became the town’s first moderator when the town was incorporated in 1771. His son, Samuel, married Elizabeth Miller, the Aunt Betsey of Haydenville, who lived to the ripe old age of 102. Captain Fairfield’s contributions to the development of the community by no means stopped with his being chosen moderator at the town’s birth. New settlers sought his advice concerning many matters and he held many responsible public offices. It is interesting to note that his farm was part of the original Miller tract. Descendants of both families—the Fairfields and Millers—lived for many years upon this land which their ancestors had owned and worked.

In 1774 Samuel Fairfield became a member of the Committee of Correspondence, Inspection, and Safety for Williamsburg. He was Captain of the following: Company B, 2nd Hampshire County, Massachusetts Regiment, March 22, 1777; Colonel May’s Regiment, 1777; Colonel Israel Chapin’s Regiment, 2nd Hampshire County, Massachusetts. He was commissioned July 6, 1778. In September of the same year he served as Captain in Colonel Nathan Sparhawk’s Regiment. His first wife, Susannah Northaway of Weatogue, Connecticut died in 1776. He then married Martha Clark of Northampton. He died at the age of seventy.

This chapter does not give a complete account of all the early settlers. Such an account would be impossible. Many distinguished and hard-working persons appear elsewhere in this history in some other phase of the town’s development.

CHAPTER IV
OCCUPATIONS

FROM the days of ancient Rome down through the centuries to recent years, countless towns and cities have originated on the hills surrounding their present sites. Early Williamsburg was no exception. The first settlers built their homes on Petticoat and Meeting-house[19] Hills.

Where Petticoat Hill got its name has never been definitely ascertained. Many traditions and rumors have attempted an explanation. Wherever it came from, the inhabitants of the Hill were very fond of it, and protested violently to any suggestion that it be changed. Mr. Ludden used to say that the Hill was so named because the women dominated and predominated. Another story tells about a family with seven daughters, all of whom wore five petticoats apiece. On Monday when the wash was hung out, all one could see on the Hill were thirty-five petticoats billowing in the breeze.

A strong rivalry existed between the two hamlets. When plans were being made to build a meeting-house, the settlers on Petticoat outnumbered the others, and, for a time, the town considered the erection of the building there. For the most part, the inhabitants were friendly, living as brothers, and too occupied with the serious business of daily existence to mind anybody's affairs but their own. But when trouble occurred or there was a difficult job to be done about the farm, they were never too busy to give their services willingly. We wonder if the reputation of the typical New Englander's cold spirit has not been exaggerated. In any case, people slept in perfect safety without ever barring or locking their doors at night.

The early farmers of Williamsburg made their living in the ways which have become familiar to us from the stories of American settlements everywhere. Fish and game abounded in such measure as to arouse the jealousy of every potential fisher and hunter today. After the land was cleared of some of its heavy timber, the pioneers were faced with the task of persuading rocky New England soil to give forth a living. The first crops to be raised were usually rye and wheat; the next, clover and grass for dairying. Fine quality butter and cheese were made in large quantities, for live stock thrived on the excellent pastures, and housewives were expert dairymaids. Deacon Elisha Nash, in the twenty-five years during which he followed the business, would oftentimes produce from a ton to a ton and a half of cheese and 1000 pounds of butter in one season. His son continued the dairy business. The products were usually sent to Boston for sale. Matthew Coffin, too, who came here from Nantucket with his family during the Revolutionary War, made his living by collecting the choicest butter and cheese from our dairies and shipping it to the vicinity of Nantucket, Martha's Vineyard, and other settlements of southern and eastern Massachusetts.

For many years before the pasturage was exhausted, farmers found it profitable to buy stock in the spring, fatten it and sell it for beef in the fall. Flocks of sheep whitened the hillsides, and the wool they produced was long and fine. Indeed, domestic animals of all kinds flourished on

19 Village Hill.

those first homesteads. Many fat swine, cattle, and oxen appearing in American markets of the day, were raised on Williamsburg farms. A man by the name of Oliver Thayer came from Braintree and settled in the town in 1783. Four years later he began a business of buying and slaughtering animals for the fresh meat market. For many years during the summer months he carried the meat to Northampton in large baskets hung on either side of his horse. Veal, lamb, and mutton brought two pence, or two pence half penny per pound. He did not deal in beef. Butter sold for six pence per pound.

After the land had been used for clover, it was cultivated for Indian corn, potatoes, spring grains, and flax. The land gave generously of other garden produce of all kinds, including delicious fruits and berries. Broom corn was cultivated on Grass Hill. Flax and teasels[20] were raised on the Joseph Graves place and on many other farms in town. Tobacco was a product of the Clary farm. Stephen Meekins and his brother raised teasels and kept sheep. Mr. Meekins often said that he did not make his money by raising sheep but by hard labor. He arose at four o'clock in the morning and by five was over on Grass Hill diligently at work. Of course, farm products were the usual medium of exchange.

One of America's most valuable gifts to those early settlers—and probably the one least appreciated—was her abundance of magnificent forests. Williamsburg's hills and valleys were covered with chestnut, hickory, oak, pine, and rock maple. Its hemlock, beech, cherry, and sycamore were interlaced with grape vines and berry bushes of every description. After the inevitable log cabins were constructed, much of this timber found its way into the huge fire-places which were the nucleus of every home. These often would take back-logs three and one-half to four feet thick and three to seven feet long. But the timber had uses other than building material and fuel. Prescott Williams, a native of the town, has explained its importance. "The hemlock and oak by being cut down in June were easily stripped of their bark for the tanneries. The pine and the hemlock and oak were then cut into sawmill logs and converted into lumber. The chestnut worked easily into posts and rails for fencing, and furnished the very best of timber for frames of barns and other outdoor buildings. The sugar maple was preserved for sugar orchards, while the other timber was cut down in immense quantities, and drawn, after being cut into logs, to the ashpits, for making potash. These ashpits were cellars dug ten to twenty feet wide, twenty to forty feet in length, and four to six feet in depth, and stoned up around the sides. In these a fire was built, and the logs were drawn and kept piled on, many times for weeks together until the whole pile was reduced to ashes. The ashes were then shovelled into large vats, with a mixture of quick lime and straw; water was then poured on after which a strong, dark-colored lye came off. This lye was put into large kettles, oftentimes holding several hogsheads, which were previously set over a furnace, producing a heat sufficient to effect a change in the lye, which made it appear like a black salt. This was what was called 'salts of potash.' The next step was to take this salt, put it into another large kettle, placed over a still hotter furnace and the heat continued for several hours, according to the degree of heat obtained, until the salts were melted into a liquid, red

20 A prickly herb, the flower head of which, when dried, was used to raise a nap on cloth.

and glowing. When in this state it required continuous stirring with a long iron poker. After from three to four hours fermentation, this liquor was again drawn off into large troughs prepared for that purpose, where it was allowed to cool, and then dipped into stout barrels. This was called 'crude potash.' It was then ready for use and transportation, and in this shape it was exported to Europe.

"The potashes were shipped to Boston and thence to Europe where they were converted into pearlash[21] and saleratus by roasting, first being liquefied and refined and evaporated in an oven made for this purpose. The potash business takes away many of the fertile ingredients of the soil, and the trade is carried on at the expense of robbing the land of its fertility."

Simple occupations branched out into new industries. The heavy timber required sawmills, of course. As early as 1785, Samuel Fairfield and John Miller had built one where the Brass Company now stands. At the turn of the century a grist mill was erected and operated in Skinnerville, but was later destroyed by high water. On Beaver Brook there stood a sawmill as early as 1770.

No early community could get along without a blacksmith. Rufus Hyde, a native of Norwich, Connecticut, had moved to Williamsburg in the spring of 1774 and continued his trade as a blacksmith until about 1795. Then he erected another shop, better equipped, with a trip-hammer near the factory of Nathaniel Sears[22] where he and his sons, Rufus, Jr., and Stephen, carried on the business until Stephen's death in 1834. Rufus' wife was Mary Wolcott of Mansfield, Connecticut. At his death he was well-known as a manufacturer of scythes and axes. Two of his grandsons, John and Sumner, lived on the old homestead, the Clary Farm. Another grandson, Rufus, was also a manufacturer of scythes and axes in Williamsburg.

Many of the industries can be recorded only under men's names, but much of the actual industry was carried out by their wives. Williams' notes refers to them as a "noble band of Christian women—women who endured hardness." To one of these women belongs the credit for the origin of the covered button business in this country. Mrs. Elnathan Graves noticed that a button on her husband's coat was worn through. She covered the button and sewed it back on again—a new plan in the back of her mind. Shepard and Pomeroy of Northampton, who employed a relative of hers, were pleased with the samples she showed to them and offered to help her. From time to time she sold many gross to them who in turn supplied a New York market. The difficulty in securing molds retarded progress somewhat, and finally with the advent of the flexible shank button, the covered button business died altogether. Incidentally, Mrs. Graves was also the inventor of the circular chisel for cutting out the button covers, a procedure which proved to be a tremendous saving of material. This chisel has ever since been in general use.

This account of occupations in Williamsburg from 1774 to the turn of the century serves as an example of the diligence, ingenuity, and initiative which characterized eighteenth century America everywhere. Despite the labor which each day exacted, the pioneers found time for a

21 Purified potash.

22 Searsville was named for him.

life which included education, worship, and social pursuits. Williamsburg has proved to be no exception to the type of early settlements of Colonial Days.

CHAPTER V
EARLY WORSHIP

PREVIOUS to the incorporation of the town, religious gatherings were held in the schoolhouse and probably, if circumstances demanded, in private dwellings. With the establishment of an independent town government a meeting was held on May 13, 1771, to make arrangements for formal public worship. At this time it was voted to raise twenty pounds "to lay out in preaching" before the next meeting in March. Sunday services were to begin at ten o'clock in the morning and at two o'clock in the afternoon. Joshua Thayer was to be paid fifteen shillings a year for blowing the conch shell to call the people together and for keeping the schoolroom in readiness for public worship. John Nash, one of the first and most efficient members of the church, obtained as preacher a man from Northampton who then resided there in the capacity of a licentiate. This man, Timothy Dwight, was afterward president of Yale University. He spent a Sabbath with the Williamsburg congregation and was finally hired for five Sabbaths more. This was the first preaching in this town of a minister of the gospel. The first members of the church whose signatures were attached to the covenant were Thomas Nash, Thomas Warren, John Nash, Jonathan Warner and wife, Richard Church, Elisha Nash and wife, Joshua Warner and wife, Hezekiah Reed, Amasa Frost and wife, Joseph Cary and wife, Jesse Wilde and wife, Samuel Fairfield and wife, and Josiah Dwight and wife. Amasa Frost and Joseph Cary were chosen to the office of deacon.

Several attempts accompanied by attractive offers of goods and services were made to persuade a Reverend Elijah Parsons of Amherst to settle in the town, but none were successful. So on July 14, 1773, Reverend Amos Butler became the first pastor of the church. Calvinistic in faith, he was described by one of his successors in this manner.[23]

"Though he was not a man of great powers, his piety seems to have been unaffected and sincere, and his manners prepossessing and kind."

His ministry lasted only four years, however, for he died October 18, 1777, when he was only thirty years of age. In June, 1778, before another minister was "settled," the town voted to build a meeting-house. The furnishing of the material was apportioned to each inhabitant of the town. Some of the expense was to be met by a sale of the pews, which became the absolute property of the owner to be handed down in his will as part of his estate. In paying for the pews, wheat was to be counted at four shillings a bushel, rye at three, and corn at two. In March, 1780, 1500 pounds was appropriated for preaching. This amount, incidentally, was paid in Continental Currency and was not as great as it seemed.

The meeting-house was erected by Captain Jonathan Warner on the summit of Village Hill and was dedicated in October, 1787. The site is marked by a boulder just west of the home of Preston Otis. In her account of the churches of Williamsburg, Mrs. Ada Hamlin describes the building and some of the attitudes and customs of the parishioners.

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23 From a discourse delivered at Williamsburg, January 24, 1836, by Reverend William Lusk the Sunday after his installation.

"The building extended about sixty feet along the road and forty-five feet to the rear. There were vestibules at the north and south ends. A graceful spire on the steeple rose from the north vestibule to the height of 119 feet. When the tones of the grand old bell rang out for the first time from its belfry across those beautiful hills toward Petticoat Hill and Nash Street, and over the primeval forest and the swamp of hemlocks at its base, there was great rejoicing, for the dream of years had been fulfilled. This meeting-house was the center of the religious life of the community for many years. Over the pulpit was a large sounding board after the fashion of those days. The pews in the church were square with railings around them through which children and young people peered at each other when the sermons became too boring and doctrinal to hold their attention. Deacon Sylvanus Hubbard had a beautiful daughter who became the wife of Nathaniel Sears. He first saw her through this railing.

"The pulpit was very high, and so near as to be almost under it was the deacon's seat. Two seats on either side of the broad aisle directly in front of the pulpit were reserved for the old men and women of the congregation. The seating of the congregation in those days was according to dignity. Dignity meant weight of years, official position, or wealth. As one person has observed, 'A man would have to be as old as Methuselah to have as much dignity as a man worth $10,000.'

"The people of that day may have supposed that they were very democratic, but some of their customs contradict this. In later years, after the Methodist Church was built, Ludo Thayer, who was of the aristocracy, used to be driven to church in a large yellow coach, and the people would remain outside the church to see them drive up. After the Thayers had entered, they would go in."

For four years after Mr. Butler's death the Congregational Church was without a pastor. Several attempts which were made to fill the vacancy were unsuccessful. Finally in September, 1781, Reverend Joseph Strong was asked to settle as minister in Williamsburg at a salary of seventy pounds a year, one-half paid in silver, one-half in produce. He was to furnish his own firewood. The goods which Mr. Strong received each year included twenty bushels of rye, twenty-five of wheat, thirty-three of corn, fifty-five pounds of butter,500 pounds of pork, 100 pounds of flax, and fifty pounds of sheep's wool. Mr. Strong, a man rather advanced in life when he came to the town, came from Simsbury, Connecticut. He had graduated from Yale in 1749, and had served as chaplain in the Revolutionary War. Reverend Lusk gives an interpretation of him, too, which is noteworthy, not only for its description of Mr. Strong, but also for the solemnity and dignity of its prose.

"With respect to theological sentiment, he was, like his predecessor, truly Calvinistic; was a man of strong mind, of large comprehension, deep spirituality, discreet carriage, engaging address, obliging and amiable in his deportment; he was also a man, wise in counsel and in this respect, enjoyed the distinguished confidence of his brethren abroad. Under his care the church was highly blessed. Some evil was mixed in their cup; but the glory of the Lord abode in his tabernacle. A work of grace in the year 1789 added above seventy souls to the church. This was called, by way of eminence, the Great Reformation. It was marked by a solemnity and deep convictions of sin, almost universal; though nothing peculiar about the means of grace that were em-

ployed. It is said, indeed, that two or three brethren especially, had prayed for such a work for nearly twenty years."

Mr. Strong's sermons showed his ability as a preacher. One of them, entitled "The Divine Origin of the Bible," was included in a collection of "Discourses by American Clergymen." Evidently he was able to rebuke his parishioners for their misdeeds by his eloquence. When some young boys of the community were accused of robbing beehives and fruit orchards, they protested that they were innocent. The next Sunday Reverend Strong's sermon was on the wickedness of stealing and false swearing; text, Zachariah, 5:1-4. The culprits were not only surprised, but repentant.

Mr. Strong died in January, 1803 at the age of seventy-four after a very successful pastorate of twenty-one years. During that time the membership of the church had increased to about 300. South of the church on the same side of the road stood the parsonage, the former dwelling of Preston Otis. It was a one story house when Reverend Strong and his large family moved there, but he, in time, added a second story. It was never used as a parsonage after his death in 1803, but his family continued to occupy the house for many years.[24]

About a year and a half later, in June 1804, Reverend Henry Lord, a young Yale graduate, was ordained pastor of the church. Everyone for miles around attended the ordination, for it was considered an affair of the greatest importance. It was prepared for by a solemn fast, but food and drink were furnished in abundance during the memorable occasion itself. Mr. Lord married Fidelia, daughter of Elnathan Graves. He earned the affection and respect of his followers during his pastorate of more than thirty years. His death from typhus fever occurred in 1834. Two hundred and forty-three persons had joined the church during his stay in the town. Of him it was said, "He was a good man, a faithful pastor and lived the sermons that he preached. He lived at peace with his people, and died honored and lamented."

Mr. Lord ran a prosperous farm, a project which was probably necessary to supplement his $366.67 a year. It is known that the congregation was interested in church music, for there is a notice about this time which states that "A concert of sacred music will be attended at the Meetinghouse in Williamsburg, on Wednesday, the 18th of December, at twelve o'clock." May 6, 1805 instrumental music was introduced into public worship. The town voted to purchase a hautboy and bassoon to be used in the congregation. A committee was appointed to take care of the instruments.

Mr. Lord was much distressed by the coming of Methodism to Williamsburg. Prior to 1832, Methodist meetings had been held in the Haydenville Button Shop. The name of Orrin Munyan is given as a licensed Methodist exhorter, and Thomas Musgrave and Josiah Hayden were very interested in the movement. Neighborhood gatherings were held in the school houses and in the homes of Mrs. Hannum and Prescott Williams. In 1832 the Methodist church was erected. It was dedicated December 5th of that year. Some of the names connected with this new church group

24 In 1910 a boulder, marking the site of the first church, was erected on Village Hill. Reverend Strong's great granddaughter, Mrs. Eliza Strong Merritt, was present at the dedication.

were Thayer, Williams, Nash, Warren, Gere, Bradford, Miller, Fairfield, and Little. Joel and Josiah Hayden were among its most ardent supporters.

In the Congregational Church, arrangements for the first Sunday School were made in April, 1820, when a committee was appointed to organize and superintend it. Previously, children had been called on once a month to stand in the aisles and recite the Assembly's Catechism. Only children could attend the first Sunday School and their work consisted of learning verses from the Bible, the questions from the Catechism, and hymns.

Mr. Lord's successor, Reverend William Lusk, a graduate of Union College, came to Williamsburg from Chenango, New York. A man of great ability and untiring energy, he was installed January 20, 1836. About this time it became evident that the trend of the town's activities was changing from Petticoat and Meeting-house Hills to the present village. This was due, in part, to the streams in the valley which were being utilized for business purposes. Under the guidance of Mr. Lusk, the present site was purchased in 1835 for $700.00. The next year the building was erected at the cost of $4,500. This included the expense of draining the land. The next year saw an enthusiastic revival.

Adults began to evince an interest in the Sunday School, the membership of which now totalled over 300. Mr. Lusk asked to be dismissed from his duties, giving as a reason the lack of a parsonage. He left Williamsburg in February, 1840 after a pastorate of about four years.

In those early days on the Hill, ministers preached two long sermons every Sunday, year in and year out. Neither they nor their parishioners ever thought of taking a vacation. Sunday to them lasted from sundown Saturday until sundown Sunday. Saturday evening was spent in teaching the Catechism, reading "Pilgrim's Progress" and Watts hymns. Sunday morning always began with prayer. After the church service those who lived near enough went home to dinner. Those who had to bring their lunch sat around in groups to eat it. Nearby friends often extended their hospitality to the elderly members of the congregation. Many people gathered in the tavern at noon where they would sit around and talk politics and religion. During the week, prayer meetings were held in the various school houses. After the people returned home on Sunday, they devoted the rest of the day to the reading of religious books. The Bible was their book of morals, history, information, poetry, and precept. Every family had copies of Noah Webster's spelling book, Morse's geography, and the Westminster catechism. When the new church in the valley was built, the old one was dismantled.

No phase of the development of young America is more inspiring than the struggle to establish its churches. It cannot help but remind us of the glorious heritage of religious freedom which is ours through the efforts of those pioneers.

CHAPTER VI
THE REVOLUTION

THE town was still in its infancy when the differences between the Colonies and the Mother Country began to take the form of organized resistance. As early as the fall of 1774, the citizens of Williamsburg had voted to send Russell Kellogg as a delegate to the Provincial Congress at Concord. Here such patriots as John Adams, Samuel Adams, and John Hancock were struggling to establish the rights and grievances of the American people. On March 13, 1775, it was voted to raise and provide for the payment of Minute Men, who should be ready to march at the tap of the drum, without further notice, for the defense of the colony. The battle of Lexington soon sounded the call to arms, and out of the town's small population there were thirty-one who joined the Continental Army. The first to go from Williamsburg were ten men under Captain Abel Thayer, too impatient for the twenty-one more who soon followed after them. At this time the towns in New England were appointing "Committees of Correspondence, Safety, and Inspection." Williamsburg's committee, chosen at a public meeting, consisted of the following persons: Dr. Elijah Paine, Elisha Nash, Amasa Frost, Richard Church, and Josiah Hayden. By the early spring of 1776, preparations for gaining independence began in earnest. Soldiers were being recruited all over New England. Captain Samuel Fairfield of Williamsburg was sent to Cambridge with a load of provisions for the soldiers. The town passed a resolution favoring national independence some weeks before the official declaration was pronounced at all. The record of this resolution reads as follows:

"May 6, 1776—The town, at a public meeting, voted to advise the Continental Congress at Philadelphia, to make a Declaration of Independence from Great Britain whenever he Congress might think proper to do it."

For its size the town was rich in officers. There was Captain Abel Thayer, already mentioned, who led the first detachment of men sent to the army near Boston. There was Captain Jonathan Warner of Mountain Street, builder of he old meeting-house on Village Hill. Captain Warner received a shoulder wound which troubled him all through us life. There was Captain Samuel Fairfield who led a company assembled quickly at the news of Burgoyne's capture of Ticonderoga. Fairfield had a part in the defeat of Burgoyne and in the capture of his army.

General Arnold had been unable to resist the British fleet under Burgoyne on Lake Champlain. General Schuyler commanded the nucleus of the Northern army. After the British had driven Generals St. Clair and Arnold from Lake Champlain, and Ticonderoga had been evacuated, a messenger was dispatched down the country to rally recruits and troops. The man came through Williamsburg on a Sunday morning. He reined up at the church door during sermon time and made his business known by proclamation. The church service was immediately adjourned, and the church was converted into a recruiting station at once. Captain Fairfield promptly called for soldiers and arms and over fifty men[25] were drafted and enlisted before four

25 Some of the names were: Thomas Vinton, Eleazer Hill, Amasa Frost, John Miller, John Waite, Jonathan Wolcott, Sampson Hill, Jacob Robinson, Thomas Thatcher, Thomas Howe, Downing Warner, Samuel French, Andrew

o'clock that afternoon. Captain Warner raised a troop that went west to join the American forces coming up from New York to repel Burgoyne's army. Williamsburg men also took part in the battle of Saratoga where Burgoyne's army was finally defeated. John Allen was at Bunker Hill and John Starks was in the campaign of '76 with rangers along the frontier of Lake Champlain.

An interesting incident of Burgoyne's retreat is worthy of note.

"The British John Burgoyne was one of Williamsburg's most distinguished guests of the eighteenth century. He had gained possession of Fort Ticonderoga but was hemmed in at Saratoga. Finally, on October 17, 1777 his 6000 troops laid down their arms. On his way back to Boston he and a few straggling soldiers took shelter in a cave on the Clary farm. In the morning this unwelcome company entered the kitchen of the farmhouse, then owned by Samuel Barber, and snatched the milk jars from the shelves. In their eagerness, they spilled all of it, making it necessary to go on to Haydenville for breakfast under the old oak at Fairfield's tavern.

"One British soldier, worn out and tired of fighting for what seemed a lost cause, dropped out from the irregular line of march at Springfield and returned to Williamsburg. There on an old road, leading from Williamsburg to Goshen, he built a log cabin. Later this man, Daniel Prince, married a Miss Packard of the neighborhood and reared a family. Among them were twin sons, James and Daniel, born in 1785. A great-great-grandson of one of the twins, William F. Miller, living in Searsville, erected a boulder, roughly but painstakingly carved, to mark the site of his great-great-grandfather's home."[26]

Preoccupied as they must have been with the politics and problems of their nation as a whole, these busy people yet found the time and the will in their lively town meetings to look to the welfare of their own local government. In May, 1780, it was voted that Elisha Nash, Josiah Dwight, William Johnson, Elisha Allis, Abel Thayer, Elijah Paine, and Samuel Day be a committee to revise the constitution and make such alterations as they might think sound. Later the town voted to accept the constitution with such alterations as were suggested by the committee. The little town felt the first repercussions of state politics when, in 1780, John Hancock received nineteen votes for governor of the state and James Bowdoin received four votes. The selectmen of the town in 1778 issued a warrant in the name of "The State or Commonwealth of Massachusetts" directed to the constables of the town, commanding them to warn Jedediah Smith, a person liable to become a town charge as a vagrant and pauper, to remove out of the town forthwith, under pain of arrest and imprisonment. The constable, Elijah Waite, reported that he had "executed the within warrant by warning the said Smith forthwith to depart and leave said town."

Gates, Josiah Dwight, Samuel Bradford, Elisha Nash, Jesse Wilde, Bethuel Smith, Isaac Phinney, Daniel Fuller, John Bagley, Ezra Strong, John Williams, Amasa Graves, Simeon Barrows, Rufus Hyde, Richard church, Ichabod Hemenway, Samuel Graves, and Nehemiah Washburn.

26 From a historical paper prepared by Mrs. Marie Church.

CHAPTER VII
SOCIAL LIFE IN COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG

A LIFE of such hard work and pressing responsibilities as experienced by the early settlers might lead to the deduction that there was little time for relaxation and social life. And that was certainly true. But our forebears had the ability to find fun and happy social companionship in situations where we would never find it today. When a neighbor needed friends to assist him in the erection of a new building, all the town turned out to help and everyone had a wonderful time. One of their town meetings, made more exciting by the many heated arguments, would seem like a joyous "old home day" to us if we could look back upon them. Much of the social life of any community revolved about the village tavern, and the discussions, friendly or otherwise, before the cheery fire must have been stimulating indeed.

An incident from Judd's "History of Hadley" tells something of how these first settlers found time for gaiety. "There were occasionally second-day weddings, or wedding festivities kept up the second day, with much eating, drinking, and dancing. February 2, 1769, Josiah Dwight of Hatfield was married and had a two-days' wedding in Hatfield Addition, now Williamsburg. About eighteen couples attended the wedding from Hatfield, and had a good dinner, and spent most of the succeeding night in dancing and frolicking." The next morning "We greeted the rising sun with fiddling and dancing," says one of the party in his diary.

Many people have always looked forward to Sunday morning services as an opportune time to greet neighbors and friends. Remembering the descriptions of hard, upright pews and lengthy sermons within chilly church walls, we may doubt that the Sabbath could hold much anticipation for us. But to our hardy forebears, Sunday was the one day of change, rest, and relaxation in an arduous, tiring week. Although speaking of a period a little later, Mrs. Charlotte E. Mills was still telling of the original church on Meeting-house Hill when she wrote:

"As a child, I looked forward to Sabbath as the best of all the happy days. When I had been dressed in my Sunday linsey-woolsey in winter or in my light calico in summer, I would watch with great pleasure the carriages and vehicles of all sorts coming from every direction to the large, fine church, which had cost so much time to build and which represented so much self-denial on the part of the worshippers."

The very brevity of this chapter emphasizes how little time early Williamsburg inhabitants found for actual relaxation. Perhaps this very fact made the recreation which they were able to enjoy doubly appreciated.

CHAPTER VIII
RECOLLECTIONS OF OLIVE CLEVELAND CLARK

I THINK one of the reasons why history is so often dull and empty to many persons, particularly school children, is that the links which bind us to that historical past are weak. A mere text book is inadequate. Often unexciting in appearance and poorly illustrated, it does little to stimulate the imagination of its reader. A much better union with History is a visit to the site of some interesting happening. Then the Past begins to come to life. But the best bond of all is an individual who was there. In this chapter we have the account of such a person, coming to you in a mere book, it is true, but first-hand, nevertheless. Many of the author's memories are about places other than Williamsburg proper and her thoughts may often seem disjointed. But all her account concerns this vicinity in the days of early New England.

The seventeenth century saw the frenzy of Salem witchcraft under the influence of Cotton Mather. By the middle of the eighteenth century, the belief in such evil powers had abated both here 'and in Europe. Mrs. Clark's reference to the repercussions of such primitive thinking in this vicinity is particularly interesting.

Mrs. Ada Hamlin wrote an introduction to Mrs. Clark. It is below:

"Olive Cleveland was born in Williamsburg on the easterly slope of Petticoat Hill. At her marriage she left this town for Chesterfield. Her descriptions of life in her day are so vivid and so true of life in Williamsburg that it seems excusable to republish them as part of this history.

"Mrs. Clark died at the home of her son, Reverend Edward Clark, at the age of 101 years, four months, and twenty-one days. She was a woman of fine intellect and great strength. She was a distant relative of Grover Cleveland and a lifelong friend of William Cullen Bryant."

THINGS THAT I REMEMBER AT NINETY-FIVE
by
Mrs. Olive Cleveland Clark— 1881

Chesterfield, Oct. 3, 1879.

I was born September 6, 1785 in the town of Williamsburg. My father, Nehemiah Cleveland, was born in Mansfield, Connecticut. His father moved with his family to Williamsburg in 1769. There were four sons and one daughter who was married to Asaph Wales. He died in the Revolutionary War. She was twice married afterwards and brought up two families of children but never had any of her own. One son never married, the other three married and had large families.

My father married Hannah, daughter of Jacob and Beulah Parsons of Northampton, who had eleven children, four sons and seven daughters. My grandmother had triplets, one son and two daughters. They were baptized in church. The son died in infancy, one daughter at the age of seventeen; one lived to the age of eighty-six and had a large family of children.

My grandfather had but one son who lived to mature age. At that time there were public schools in Northampton for boys, but none for females; girls were not much esteemed in those days. My grandfather had to educate his seven daughters and help to educate other people's sons. There were no school-houses for girls. Some female in the neighborhood was hired as teacher and she provided a room for the school, sometimes the parlor, sometimes a chamber. Such things have taken place since my remembrance. A cousin of mine came from Northampton to attend a district school because there was none in Northampton. She boarded at my father's. I think that must have been eighty-three or eighty-four years ago.

My grandfather's son and six daughters were married and had families.

People in Northampton lived very economically in those days. They ate bread and milk for breakfast and supper, boiled Indian pudding with meat and vegetables for dinner. Those who were poor and could not have milk ate bean porridge. It was considered a sin to drink tea in war time, as some said it occasioned the war.

There were but very few time-pieces in the town. I remember when my grandmother used to look at the sun-dial which was nailed on the well-curb, to see about getting dinner. When the sun did not shine, she guessed at the time.

Northampton people were an independent people, mostly farmers. They raised all their produce, made almost all their cloth and did all their own work.

My grandfather gave each of his daughters $300 when they were married to fit them for housekeeping. My mother was married during the Revolutionary War. I have heard her say that she did not have more than half as much as her sister had, who was married before the war came on, on account of everything's being so much dearer. This made it very unfortunate for her.

The day my mother was married, after the ceremony, the wedding party went to my father's home in Williamsburg. My mother rode on a pillion with the groom. They had to ride through Mill River without a bridge.

My mother carried a letter of recommendation from the church in Northampton to the church in Williamsburg. Some members of the church were unwilling to receive her, because they thought the church in Northampton not a pure church, but I think they received her.

My parents had twelve children, ten daughters and two sons. One daughter died in infancy, one at the age of ten years, one at eight. Seven daughters and two sons lived to marry and have families.

We used to have good schools summer and winter. I used to attend through thick and thin.

My father always provided means for his family to attend church. When they became so numerous that they could not be accommodated, he got a two-horse carriage, which could take eight of us. Most people rode on horseback, two on a horse; generally a man and wife rode together and carried the baby if they had one. In winter we went in a sleigh. We hardly ever failed to go. When the weather was tedious and we rode two miles and a half to church and then sat in a cold house, without fire, cushions, or carpets, we suffered very much. It is a wonder we lived through it.

Reverend Joseph Strong was the minister in Williamsburg in my youthful days. He was very aged and rather a dull preacher. His wife was brought up a lady, and did not know how to spin! Mr. Strong taught his daughters that art. Mrs. Strong had two dozen pewter platters when she was married. Parson Strong died of starvation. His throat grew up so that he could take nothing but liquids for a long time before his death.

While there was no settled pastor in Williamsburg, Dr. Lyman of Hatfield came to administer the sacrament, and he baptized six children—all boys. My youngest brother was one of them. Reverend Henry Lord was ordained pastor of the church in Williamsburg in June, 1804.

I taught school in the Nash District in 1805 and in Northampton in 1807 and 1808. There was but one church in Northampton at that time. The schoolhouse where I taught stood about where the Court House now is.

His Excellency Caleb Strong was then governor of the state. A gentleman from Boston told me that he was surprised to see that the Governor had neither cushions nor carpets in his pew in church. The Governor used to go to Boston often on his official business. He went with his own carriage and it took two or three days to perform the journey. He had particular places to stop over night, but at one time night overtook him before he reached his usual stopping place, so he put up where he could find a place of entertainment. He took supper with the family. A large dish of bread and milk was set in the center of the table and each had a spoon and dipped from the same dish. The Governor told the matron he would prefer a dish by himself as he might get more than his share, but she thought there was no danger and did not gratify him.

The first time I saw my husband was in 1808. We went up Mt. Holyoke with some others. We went up on the north side, in a little foot path, and pulled ourselves up by the bushes.

I was married to Mr. Richard Clark of Northampton, May 25, 1809. There were a goodly number at the wedding. I think none of those who were there are now living except my brother and two sisters. We came to Chesterfield the same day and a cold day it was. We found the house full when we arrived; the neighbors had been invited and had come to welcome us. We soon formed an acquaintance and found the people kind and friendly.

There were many large families here on the mount at that time, numbering from ten to fourteen each. The schools were large. The teacher was required to teach six whole days in a week.

Reverend Isaiah Waters was pastor of the church we attended. Reverend Asa Todd was minister of the Baptist church.

To go to Northampton or to Worthington, we had to pass through a turnpike gate and pay toll.

When we first came to Chesterfield, we kept two horses and rode on horseback, but soon after my husband got a one-horse wagon which was the first in town.

Dr. Robert Starkweather was the physician in this town many years. He died at the age of ninety-three years.

There have been six or eight suicides in this place since I lived here and as many deaths by accident. Twelve dwelling houses have been burned besides other buildings. There were formerly four taverns in this town.

About the year 1827 a new road was laid out from Worthington to Chesterfield, which was a great improvement. A number of stages passed through the town daily, as it was the main road from Boston to Albany.

The people had great training days to prepare for war and to get drunk. One of our neighbors had a bullet shot through his hat on his head in a sham fight.

Deacon Hallett lived in the west part of the town many years since. He sent his boy with a goose to a poor woman for cooking. She asked where the salt was to cook it with. He said he had brought none. She said that he was a pretty deacon to send a goose without salt.

When people rode on horseback it was necessary for every family to have a horseblock. A large one stood at the end of the church in Chesterfield. It was ten or twelve feet in length, made from a tree hewed square with steps at each end. It would accommodate a number at a time. Reverend Mr. Allen who was pastor of the church one century since, used to ride to church on horseback with his wife on a pillion behind him. One day he rode up to the horseblock and she could not get on. He tried again and again and she did not succeed. He rode home and left her to walk.

A neighbor of mine told me that when her children were young, she used to go on horseback to make visits, taking one child in her lap and two behind her and go with all safety. At one time I was on horseback alone, with my babe in my arms, when to my astonishment the bit in the mouth of the horse broke and dropped down. I was in a sad predicament. I spoke to the horse to stop, which he did. I then called aloud for help and was heard by the neighbors and was soon relieved.

In 1809, a family from this town started in June for a home in the northern part of the state of New York. There were a gentleman and his wife more than eighty years old, with their son and his family. They went with an ox team and were six weeks on the road, but they all lived to see the promised land which they had owned many years.

Many families have gone from this town to the far west since I lived here. The inhabitants have diminished some hundreds in seventy years. Many houses have been demolished and farms left uncultivated. The people here do not give up their religious privileges. They have a good church and regular preaching of the gospel. There was a flourishing Baptist church when I first came here.

April 14, 1880.

I have lived long in the world, and am now in the ninety-fifth year of my age; great changes have taken place since my childhood days. One generation after another has passed away and another has risen up to take its place.

All kinds of labor were then done in the hardest way. Cooking was done by a fireplace and baking in a brick oven. Spinning and weaving were done by hand, as was knitting stockings and

mittens. Carding wool was done by hand until about 18oo when machines were brought into use for it. There were no factories in the country for making cloth. Common people could not afford to have many calico dresses at a time, as they were very expensive. People generally lived on rye and Indian corn. They had but little wheat. There were no people at the west to raise it for them and no conveyance to bring it if there had been.

It was a great undertaking to move 300 miles into the state of New York, to go through swamps where teams would get so deep in mud that it was difficult to get out.

About the year 1795 an uncle and aunt of mine went out to Genesee County in a sleigh to visit relatives. It was said they were the first people that ever went out there to visit friends.

In 1817, my father moved to Skaneateles, about 200 miles west. In 1820, my husband and I started one Monday in September to visit my parents. We travelled six days before we reached the place of our destination. I cannot tell how warmly we were welcomed by our friends. I had two married sisters living in Skaneateles at that time. Our Friends carried us to Auburn. We went into the state prison and saw some of the prisoners. We saw the foundation wall of the Theological seminary which was going up at that time, where my brother said they would manufacture ministers.

Our friends went with us about seven miles distance to see the canal. It was not completed but boats had begun to run a part of the way. A boat was expected soon at the place where we were, so we went some distance to meet it and came back on the boat, an experience which was something worth telling.

My father died in 1843, aged ninety years and six months. My mother died in 1861. She was 104 years and seven months old. We had a family gathering to celebrate my mother's 100th birthday. Seven daughters and one son were present, besides many grandchildren and other relatives. My mother attended church the next Sabbath with her eight children. She had remarkably good health never having any ails about her. One of her sisters lived to the age of ninety-nine years and one month, another lived to the age of ninety-eight.

I have heard my mother say that when she was young, the law was that a person who committed suicide should be buried in a crotch of the road without a coffin and have a stake driven through the body.

Carpets were not in use about here in my childhood. When I was married, in 1809, I think there was not a carpet in the town of Williamsburg or Chesterfield and there were not many carpets in Northampton. I never saw a carpet until I was more than eighteen years old.

Some years since, a little girl in this town went to church for the first time. When she reached home, some one asked her whom she saw there. She said she saw God, thinking the minister was God. When I was young I did not think the minister was God but next to Him.

When I was young there was but one piano in Northampton and an organ was an unheard-of thing. Some years ago I heard an old lady say that she in her younger days went to see the city of Boston, and as she rode through the street, she was accosted many times by women who came out of their houses and asked, "Have you butter, ma'am? Have you butter, ma'am?"

My father and brother have taken the Hampshire Gazette ever since it was first published in 1785, the year I was born.

In 1859 we celebrated our golden wedding. A large number of our relatives came, some from the state of New York, some from Deerfield, Plainfield, and other places. A party from Northampton came with an old stage coach, which had been used many years on the road from Boston to Albany, which brought many recollections of old times. Our house was filled with guests. We received many nice presents from our friends.

I had six sisters and two brothers married; none of them lived with their companions long enough to have a golden wedding.

We celebrated the sixtieth anniversary of our marriage, May 25th, 1869. Many friends came to congratulate us and we had many presents. Brother John Clark sent two five dollar gold pieces of the first coinage of gold in this country. They had been in the family many years.

On my ninetieth birthday, a few friends came in and among the rest, Mr. William Cullen Bryant and daughter. They made me a present of a Shetland shawl.

I saw at a neighbor's a few years since a Bible which was in the bosom of a soldier in a battle of the last war. It had a bullet hole through it which came from the enemy's gun. It penetrated but little way through it.

In 1802 there was a snowstorm which continued five days and nights without intermission. The snow was six feet deep and there was not a fence to be seen. People who rode out in a sleigh carried shovels to break a track when they met a team. In 1804 there was another great snowstorm and wind which drifted it so that it was six feet above the top of the lower room windows in my father's house.

I have heard my father say many times, when he thought a thing impossible, that it was as much impossible as it would be to build a bridge across the Connecticut River.

My grandmother once told me that when she was young and lived in Connecticut, there was on one Sabbath a contribution in church. Each one put into the box what he had to give. One old man went up and said, "Silver and gold have I none, but such as I have give I thee," and took off his old wig and put it in the box.

I will write something about my ancestors. Joseph Parsons married Mary Bliss in 1646. They lived in Northampton. She was accused of being a witch. Mary Bartlett died and Mrs. Parsons was accused of having caused her death by witchcraft. The County Court sat in Springfield and Samuel Bartlett produced some testimony on oath against Mary Parsons. She, knowing what was being done, did not wait for a summons, but voluntarily appeared before the court and spoke for herself, saying that the righteous God knew her conscience, and with Him she left her cause.

The Court appointed a committee of chaste women to examine her person for marks of witchcraft. They then sent all the testimony to Boston and Mary was summoned to appear there. The grand jury found an indictment against her and she was imprisoned until the trial, which was about ten weeks later. She was accused of entering into familiarity with the devil. She pleaded not guilty and was discharged. She was a proud, high-spirited woman and her husband was one of the wealthy men of Northampton.

In 1806 there was a total eclipse of the sun. It was in June at about 11 o'clock. The day was clear and free from clouds. The sun was hidden from our view, the air was chilly and damp like evening, stars were to be seen, fowls were affrighted and hurried to their roosts. There seemed to be a great change in the weather after the eclipse; it was cool through the season.

In my youthful days there were but two or three stores in Northampton. These stood in shop row as it was called. The buildings were small, one story high. I remember seeing the moss that grew on the roofs of the stores. My mother went to one of these stores to purchase calico for a dress. The merchant did not take down his goods and exhibit them as is done now. My mother pointed to a piece on the shelf that she would like to look at. The merchant wished her to promise she would purchase it if he took it down.

Mr. Hallock, who was the minister of Plainfield many years ago, used to take boys to educate and fit them for college. He charged one dollar a week for board, tuition and washing. His salary for preaching was two or three hundred dollars a year. He laid up money enough to carry two of his sons through college. Mr. Hallock used to smoke. One day, two or three of his pupils went to the store and returned with a long pipe for each of them and sat down to smoke. This looked so disgusting to Mr. Hallock that he told them if they would all give up smoking, he would, which they all agreed to do. Mr. Hallock once made an exchange with Mr. Waters of Chesterfield. He came Saturday. He said in the pulpit next day that he saw boys playing ball after sunset on that wicked hill.

September 29, 1880.

We celebrated my birthday on the 26th of this month with a few friends from abroad. It was a very interesting time to me. It brought to my mind many scenes which I had passed through during my long life and the great changes that have taken place since my childhood days. I have outlived my generation and feel like a stranger here.

Our house was built in 1828 on the same place where the old house stood. We lived in the schoolhouse near while it was in building. The desks and seats were taken down and we got along as we could. The day we moved out of the old house, while the workmen were tearing it down I was cooking dinner by the fireplace. A neighbor came in and said he had heard of people having the house torn down on their heads but never saw it done before. The workmen slept in the cornhouse. We had a cooking stove out of doors. The district put off the school two weeks to accommodate us.

When I was an infant a few months old, my parents went to Amherst to attend an ordination, and carried me. In descending a hill the harness broke. My father saw that they were in danger and reined his horse against a tree and turned over his load to save them from a worse fate. No one was hurt much. One of my mother's ear rings was found in my clothing. Babies used to attend ordinations and all public gatherings when I was young. The saying is "Every generation grows wiser." In many things there is a great improvement.

When I commenced attending school, Miss Esther Ludden was teacher. She taught seven summers in succession. We hardly knew we could have any other. She was a very good woman

and taught us many good things. She would go through the Catechism every Saturday forenoon, but I think we did not understand it much. She used to take her Testament and go out into the Woods at noon and eat her dinner. She tamed a squirrel so that it would come and take dinner with her. At the close of school at night she would count the scholars and tell the number. Sometimes she would say, “Forty and two, just as many as the bears tore to pieces for mocking Elisha.”

I well remember hearing the bell toll for the death of General Washington, who died in 1799. It commenced tolling about eleven o’clock in the morning and continued tolling a long, long time.

My husband died June 29, 1876, aged ninety years and six months. We had lived together sixty-seven years “in hope of eternal life.”

CHAPTER IX
TAVERNS

ROUGH wilderness highways were the only prerequisite of the early taverns. Of these inns, Williamsburg certainly had her quota. In those days, taverns were a good source of income, oftentimes the center of the town's social life, and the melting pot of prevailing opinions. As such they present at once a valuable and picturesque side of colonial New England.

One of the first of these taverns has already been mentioned. It was the one opened in 1752 by Captain Samuel Fairfield. This tavern was located on the high bank east of the Haydenville Company dam. Fairfield Shelter, as it was called, became a famous resort for neighbors and travellers. It was the first frame house erected in the town, and for a time was the only tavern on the road between Northampton and Pittsfield. Tables were often set out under the large oak tree that stood near the house. At one time this tree served as a target for a company of Indians, practicing throwing the tomahawk. At another time its wide spreading branches sheltered a company of Continental soldiers, enjoying a feast of venison before joining other companies—companies who later were to defeat and capture Burgoyne's army. Indeed, this very army, while on its way as prisoners to Boston in 1777, is said to have stopped here. The old oak survived the tavern by many years.

Another well-known tavern was the one owned by Josiah Dwight at the Four Corners in Searsville.[27] Mr. Dwight was one of the leading men of his day. He took an active part in town affairs, serving as selectman and town clerk. For four years he was a member of the Legislature. Evidently he was not without a sense of humor. One day a wayfarer called at his establishment for a lunch of cold victuals. Mrs. Dwight, who was an economical woman, set upon the table what was left from a former meal. While the traveller was at the table, Mr. Dwight came in, went through to the barroom, and mixed a glass of toddy. Soon the stranger came and asked for his bill. Mr. Dwight invited him to have a drink. After a little hesitation, he accepted.

"Say nothing about your lunch," Mr. Dwight said to him. "You are welcome."

After he left, Mr. Dwight asked his wife, "How much was it worth to pick those bones?"

"Why ninepence," answer Mrs. Dwight.

"Well, then," smiled her husband, "I made a good bargain for I got it done for six cents."

In 1772, Joshua Warner managed a tavern on Mountain Street where Jonathan Dickinson later lived. Mr. Warner was an active, intelligent man, but his political opinions were not in accordance with the spirit of the times. He finally discontinued his occupation as tavern proprietor, probably about 1784, but kept the place as his home until his death.

Deacon Elijah Paine in 1779 kept a tavern in the house recently occupied by Ed Clary; John Frost and later Simeon Bartlett operated a hostel where Francis Porter lived.[28]

The tavern on Meeting-house Hill, just across from the old church, must have been the scene of many Sunday gatherings. It was opened in 1781 by Joshua Thayer, a native of Brain-

27 Later known as the McCalman place.

28 Near the residence of C. N. Rhoades.

tree. Business flourished and Mr. Thayer soon built an addition to his original structure. This tavern which stood opposite the parsonage deserves more than passing notice. It was a fine example of taverns of that period. Standing broadside to the street, it seemed very long and narrow, but it was roomy and had a large barroom the whole length of the house. At the south end of the house were many old lilac bushes which were a great delight in season. In later years the inn was operated successively by Nathan Phinney, Josiah Hannum, Obed Smith, Deacon Partridge, Obadiah Skiff, A. W. Fox, and Jeremiah Hubbard. Mr. Hubbard gave up the business in 1831. For a period of fifty years, this tavern was the center of the social life of the hamlet.

In 1783, Ezra Clark opened a tavern on the site of the Tower Farm, near the Northampton line. It became a noted resort for soldiers in the War of 1812. The building was burned in 1866.

Elijah Wait, a native of Hatfield, operated a tavern on the Hatfield Road. He kept it a few years and then sold it to Amasa Cleveland who was succeeded by his son, Waldo. This house was in operation for fifty years. The site is now under the waters of the Mountain Street Reservoir.

In the late eighteenth century, Elisha Hubbard came from Hatfield and settled on the place which now belongs to the Loud family. He sold his place soon, however, and moved to the village or "city," as it was then called, where he opened a store, and in 1800, a hotel on the site of the present W.C.T.U. building. Across the road from this inn, operated by the Hubbard family for fifty years, was the Williams House, belonging to Gross Williams. The present building was not opened until 1873.

If any interpretation of the attitude of the early settlers toward taverns is needed, the following should furnish it:

"No phase of early New England life is more romantic than that associated with the old taverns. Strange to our modern eyes is the custom of having the church too near an inn. The ideas of religion and liquor are foreign to one another. But in those times churches were unheated, sermons were long and often pessimistic in doctrine. The warmth and hospitality of an inn were a welcome recess at noon. After a sermon on the horrors of hell, it is no wonder that a little liquor was needed as a tonic. And it certainly flowed freely enough—cider, brandy, rum, gin, and a curious product called pupalo. The landlord and his sons acted as hosts for the guests, for in all hotels of that time the women did very nearly all of the actual work. The long morning church service was followed by equally long devotions in the afternoon. The hours s intermission which broke the monotony was filled with relaxation and sociability around the big fireplace. Nor did the activity surrounding Thayer's tavern always have its source in church functions. Near-by was the parade ground where military drill was held. Military enthusiasm often seemed to require the stimulant of strong drink."[29]

The importance of the colonial tavern in the development of these United States should not be underestimated. There free speech and interest in the progress of a new government were

29 Mrs. Ada Hamlin.

nurtured. Many times the agitation which later led to change and reform had its origin in these interesting old structures.

CHAPTER X
ROADS

IN GENERAL, except when some turn of events dictated a contrary policy, Part I of this book has covered the eighteenth century in Williamsburg. In discussing the roads of the town, our thoughts go back to the earliest foot and bridle paths. But the story of some of those old highways and the houses along them contain references to much more recent times. So this chapter, which, to be complete, must include mention of both trails of the eighteenth century and busy roads of the nineteenth, appears at the end of Part I as the chapter of transition.

Even when the town was very young, the early trails became travelled enough to be considered roads. Beautiful, hilly, and winding, they threaded the virgin New England landscape in every direction. They were the arteries through which flowed the lifeblood of news and ideas throughout the region of the frontier. Of these roads, one of the most travelled was Mountain Street, leading by the farms of Myron Adams, Joseph Graves, and John O'Neil to Bullard Bridge and up to Village Hill.

In the early days most of the population of the hill towns to the west and north had to pass through Searsville to reach the shire town of the county. At the corner of the roads leading west to Chesterfield and north to Goshen was a fulling mill and dye house. They were the property of Nathaniel Sears. A few rods to the east, just beyond Mr. Sears' house at the top of the hill, was the earlier road to Goshen, along which Burgoyne's army marched after his defeat and surrender at Saratoga in November, 1777. The road that carried the main part of the travel from the west and north as originally laid by the town passed over Village Hill, where the meeting-house stood until 1836. There was no other road from Williamsburg to Chesterfield than that which ascended the steep hill past the Benjamin Ludden and Hyde farms, later owned by Edson Ross and Dwight Clary. At that time there was no road from Searsville to the center village except that which passed the meetinghouse.

On the northeastern slope of Gere Hill stood the residence of Edward Gere who had bought the Thayer farm in 1825. The Gere's nearest neighbors were Stephen and Christopher Meekins, then young men who lived with their father and mother a short distance to the west. The next neighbor to the Meekins home going southwest was William Wales, who lived on the crest of the hill on the west side of the road. The third neighbor was Joseph Meekins, brother of Stephen Meekins, Senior, on the south side of the road, and still further west stood for a time the home of Benjamin Ludden. Christopher Meekins, brother of Stephen, built a house opposite the home of Joseph Meekins and lived there until his death in 1879. Later Frederick Guilford occupied the Joseph Meekins farm, and Thomas Meekins, son of Christopher, the last member of his family in the town, lived alone on his father's homestead by the side of Meekins brook.

At the foot of the hill where the road began to run south over Gere Hill lived William Jones. Joshua Crosby, the long-time leader of the Congregational church choir, was one of the successive owners of this farm. Across the road, on the west side, lived Gene Thayer, the butcher, who used to kill his calves, sheep, and other animals and travel to Northampton to find his market.

This is now the Albert Lawton place. Nearly across the road from this place, near the little stream that runs down from the Clary farm, stood the small factory of Father Holmes. He was an old man about 1836 and not much of a manufacturer, but he made boys' sleds and various other goods and had a small water-power. Then came the house of Moses Hannum, axe-maker, who afterward moved to Huntington. The house[30] that stands close to the little brook was moved from Gere Hill down to this site by Stephen Hyde. The next house was that of John White, who had purchased the homestead from Mr. Hyde. He built the present dwelling sometime during the Civil War. At one time there was a house at the foot of the hill between Cranson's and Black's where one Truesdale lived many years ago. Later a brother of John White lived there, and still later, Dr. Hillman, who married a White for his first wife. The house where Lewis Black now lives, opposite the former Ross and Meekins place, was owned by John Day Curtis back in the days of Rufus Hyde. At his decease, his grandson, Josiah White, built the house now standing. The house in 1885 was owned by the George Lawton Estate, George Lawton having moved here from Chesterfield. A year later in 1886 the place was sold to Harlan Cranson, who raised a family of six children, and owned it at the time of his death in 1944. The Stephen Meekins place was for a long time owned and occupied by Benjamin Ludden, Senior. Mr. Ludden bought this place of Zachariah Mayhew and his wife, Desire Mayhew, September 8, 1827, and lived here until he died. The farm passed into the possession of his sons and was sold by them to Stephen Meekins, November 24, 1849. Mr. Meekins on November 4, 1856, bought of Samuel French and Lyman Hyde, who owned the land in common, 115 additional acres for $250. Mr. Ross bought the 190 acres at auction in April, 1895, the year after Mr. Meekins' decease. This house Mr. Ludden built soon after he bought the place. His sons, Dr. Benjamin M. Ludden and Prof. William Ludden, became distinguished in their respective callings. Unfortunately in May, 1915, the house was totally destroyed by fire. It stood in a beautiful location, sloping to the south and east and protected in winter by a lofty hill on the west.

The next homestead on this road is one of the famous farms of the town. It is beautifully situated a few rods back from the old road to Chesterfield. Overlooking a fine stretch of country, it is protected from wintry winds by the hills which rise rather abruptly on the west and north. The house stands close to the small stream that flows down to Mill River. There Mr. Clary built a dam and made a pond to afford a harvest of ice for the summer's use.

The present brick house was built about 1812 by Eleazer Hyde and his young sons, John, Lyman, Sumner, and Rufus. All the bricks were made, and the stone quarried and cut on the farm by the Hydes. The old original house, now the ell part, was built by Samuel Barber, the original grantee, a few years previous to 1735 probably, for that was the year the farm was sold and deeded to Rufus Hyde, father of Eleazer, for the sum of 400 pounds. It remained in the Hyde family from that time until 1894, when it was sold to Dwight E. Clary. It was thus in the possession of the Hydes 159 years.

30 The Waite place.

The original deed of the Hyde farm from Samuel Barber, grantee, was hanging on the wall when the house came into the possession of the Clarys, and Mr. Clary begged that it might remain in the house. But Mrs. Hyde said she had promised to send it to a Hyde in California. Later she learned that it never reached its destination and the valuable relic was undoubtedly lost.

Ascending the hill on the road to Chesterfield, we come to the site on the left about three-quarters of the way to the top where once stood the house of Isaac French. He had a family of four sons and two daughters, Chauncey, Samuel, Seth, Joseph, Climena, who became Mrs. Merritt, and Mrs. Willis Guilford, mother of Jennie Guilford. Chauncey's son, John, a cripple, was a familiar sight of the village streets.

At the top of the hill before the roads diverge to the left for Chesterfield and to the right for Goshen, there lived on the north side of the road, Elijah Walcott. After him, John Burke lived in the house and worked for Christopher Meekins for many years. The house was finally abandoned and its site added to the long list of empty cellar holes.

Returning to the center of Searsville we would find the dwelling of Versel Abell somewhere near the present course of the state road on the south side. He was a wool carder and had a small factory on the road that led to the home of Minot Thayer, near the reservoir. This factory stood near the bridge and has been gone for many years. Mr. Abell had a peculiar habit of walking; that is, his left side was always ahead of his right side.

On the side hill opposite the school house, Franklin Crosby, brother of Joshua erected a home somewhat later than the nearby houses, but he was not there many years.

Down the river road below the axe-factories, was located the house of Andrew J. Hitchcock, just below that of his father, Levi. Heman, brother of Andrew, made his home just below on the west side of the road. Across the way, Henry C. Thayer, called Keg Thayer, the eldest son of Minot, erected a house about 1845.

The next house and last on this road was the home of Moses Beals, a stone-cutter and builder of stone walls. This brings us to the woolen mill of Isaac Gere. This mill was afterwards owned by Reverend David Mason, then the Hill brothers, John W. and Henry W., and in more recent times by A. J. Polmatier and Charles Tiley.

Returning again to the center of Searsville, we will proceed to the south and east. Of course, the state road was not yet built nor was the short cut which connects the highway with the road from the Four Corners past the meeting-house on the hill. As previously stated, the first house on the hill belonged to Nathaniel Sears. It stood on the left side of the road going south. The next house on the left was owned and occupied by Deacon Gershom Rogers. He was long remembered as the leading opponent of the minister, Reverend William Lusk, in 1836.

One house on the road leading from Searsville to the meeting-house, about opposite the Deacon Rogers dwelling, was for a time occupied by Franklin Gere. On the southerly corner of the old road to Goshen there stood a small one-story house, where lived Jake French, the fisherman, who used to come up the hill past the house of Stephen Meekins, Senior, and fish in the two streams that came together in Christopher Meekins' meadow. Uncle Jake usually caught a good-sized string of fish which he would take to the "city" and sell to Dr. Daniel Collins.

Going up the only road to Goshen that was laid when the town was first settled, we approach the house occupied in recent years by Edward Clary. In those early days it was owned by Spencer Bartlett and later by Stephen Meekins, who soon afterward moved to the Benjamin Ludden place on the old road to Chesterfield.

Continuing along the Old Goshen Road, the first house on the right was owned in 1860 by J. W. Nash, and later by Henry C. Nash until about 1910. The next house on the right was owned by Gideon Jordan, a seafaring man. A few rods farther along on the same side of the road lived Alec Alexander, a carpenter of great renown, noted for his skill in framing large barns. Across the brook and on the right lived Richard Farnsworth. Across the road was the house of George Thayer and later owned by Alfred Nichols, who raised a family of six children, all of whom had a prominent part in the making of the town. The next house on the left was owned by T. Warner, later by Henry Leonard, one of the selectmen. At the next bend in the road lived Joe Thayer. In 1860 there was no road from this point to the west branch of Mill River, but continued up the west side of the ridge, where many old cellar holes and an old cemetery can still be located. At that time there was a road from Goshen from where Charles Brooks now lives to the west branch of Mill River, passing the Devil's Den where there are many old cellar holes and mill wheels, where corn was ground and a printing press was established. About seventeen acres of rugged land is now owned by the Williamsburg Boy Scouts.

Returning to the fork of the Old Goshen and Ashfield roads and near the summit of the hill, John or Reuben Wells settled, and later this was occupied by Benjamin Munson. It has passed through several hands since. The third is the Everett home on the east side of the road, far removed from the highway. The names of Jacob Thayer, Addison Thayer, and Jeremiah Ward were connected with the farm before it came into the possession of Edwin Everett, who passed it on to his son and grandson.

Ichabod Hemenway came from Framingham early in the history of Williamsburg. He made a clearing, erected his log house, and married Lucretia Southard of Lyme, Connecticut in 1771. The log cabin was on the east side of the road just south of the barn of the present Elijah Hemenway farm. Within a few years he had bought land on the west side of the road and had moved into a substantial house owned by a certain Mr. Hillman. Mr. Hemenway gave each of his sons a house and a piece of land near the old homestead. Ichabod died in 1817, and his son James carried on his farm and business, his son Elijah succeeding him.

About an eighth of a mile from Hemenway bridge on the east side, north from the bridge, was the Sim Bartlett house. Sim Bartlett had two sons, Ashbel and Simeon. The former committed suicide because his father objected to his marrying Lucretia Jones. Later young Simeon married her.

The Henry Little place stood a quarter of a mile from the fork of the Ashfield road and the Conway road on the east side of the latter. The buildings are now gone. Henry Little, Senior, died when his son was fourteen, leaving him to carry on the farm. In old age, Henry, Junior, moved to South Street and sold to Samuel Bartlett, who lived on Meeting-house Hill.

Very early Zach Davis settled across the road and northeast of the Hillman house. He must have been quite a character, as many stories remain concerning him. In those early days a large boulder stood on the top of High Ridge. Some young men from the east side of the hill decided to roll it down on the west side. Zach and his sons were working on their land which extended to the foot of the hill. In describing the sound which the boulder made, Zach said, "At first I thought 'twas a chipping squirrel. Then I thought twas a fife and drum. Then I thought that Judgment Day had come. Then I run."

After the Davis family, the place was occupied successively by William Bradford, James Whitcomb, Ben Ayers, Sam Knight, and Theo Pomeroy.

The next place north was settled by Warner Norton from Martha's Vineyard. After a time he sold to David Crittenden. The home was later owned by John Stockwell and Fred Lawley.

The last house in town on the Conway road was the Jerome Hill place. The place was cleared and the house erected by Ebenezer Hill, who came from Billerica between 1780 and 1800. His son Sampson succeeded him on the farm.

On the Ashfield road, one-half mile from the fork, was the place settled very early by Dr. Sam Bradford. His son Pardon carried on a distillery, and his son Levi remained on the farm for a time until he sold it to Sears Luce. After many years he sold to Fred Shumway, who built the present house.

Several families located on Walnut Hill, and about 1800 there were nine families living in that neighborhood. All of these homes were log cabins. The last was destroyed by fire in 1823. A road leading over the hill to the Conway line was laid by the commissioners but never accepted.

A fulling mill and probably a dye house was situated in Searsville at the corner of the roads leading west to Chesterfield and north to Goshen. They were the property of Nathaniel Sears. A few rods to the east, just beyond Mr. Sears' house, at the top of the hill, was the earlier road to Goshen. Along this road Burgoyne's army marched after his defeat and surrender in November 1777.

For the greater part of the nineteenth century most of the population of the hill towns to the west and north had to pass through Searsville.

About two miles above the village is a fork in the old Ashfield Road. The west fork continues up the hill and is known as the Briar Hill Road. Once there were nearly a dozen houses south of the Wing Brook Road, but now all but two have been abandoned.

The first house is occupied by James Loud. The first settlement here was made by Elisha Hubbard before 1795. Then came Elkani Thayer from Edgartown, Martha's Vineyard. Mr. Thayer, and later his daughters, occupied the house for many years. At their death the place was sold to Sylvester Hall. After about fifteen years the house was sold again, this time to Robert Loud. Mr. Loud was a soldier in the Civil War. At the time of the Mill River flood he saw from his hilltop farm the flood as it left the dam. He ran all the way to the village to warn his fellow townsmen of the danger. It is said that he never recovered from the effects of this run.

Next is the Merritt place. It was settled by Zack Mayhew from New Bedford. He arrived in Williamsburg with a pair of cattle, a cart well loaded, and a Negro helper named "Pomp." The

road leading from the highway down to the Merritt farm was so steep that Mr. Mayhew thought the cattle couldn't hold the load. He took them off and told Pomp to grasp the neap while he held the wheel. They started, but it was no use. Zach shouted desperately to Pomp to "Hold on!", but the load was scattered and a tierce of salt landed in the brook. But the cry, "Hold on, Pomp," survived for many generations. Henry Merritt succeeded Mayhew as owner of the place and it remained for many years in the possession of the same family.

The old Whitcomb place was part of Mr. Merritt's farm. The house stood on the west side of the road and was occupied first by Bijah Hunt. It is said the "Young Bijah" was caught in a counterfeiting fraud and had to leave town. Whitcomb, who had married Hunt's daughter, took possession. The last person who occupied the place was Spencer Hunt, who lived there alone. The house, an attractive two-story building, finally burned.

Two other houses were located on this road. One was called the Holmes place and was later the home of Charles Patch. The other was the home of Elijah Luce. The building was burned.

During the period of early settlement in Williamsburg, the Searsville Four Corners was a very busy place. All travel to Goshen, Ashfield, and Chesterfield went that way. Several hostelries were located in the vicinity and on one of the corners was a jewelry shop operated by "Gold" Hyde. Not far up the road toward Ashfield was a blacksmith shop, owned and operated by Josiah Hannum who did a thriving business from 1811 to 1836 in making scythes. A mile from the shop on the Ashfield road, on land between the Loud and Hemenway farms, was a distillery, owned and operated by Ichabod Hemenway and later by his son James. Here was made not only cider brandy but also hemlock, tansy, wintergreen, and peppermint oils. This was discontinued in 1841. On the farm there was also a turning lathe where many domestic utensils were manufactured. At the foot of Hemenway Hill by the bridge was a sawmill kept first by Calvin Hill and later by Butler Merritt. A mile from the sawmill on the present Shumway place was another distillery, while on the Conway road at the old Pillinger place was a cider mill, and half a mile north on the Calvin Hill place was another one.

Two school houses stood in this section one on the Briar Hill road and another on the Ashfield road, not far from the fork that leads to Conway. Three other houses were located along the Ashfield Road. One was settled by Mack Wade, and the family of his grandson still run the farm. To the east on the plot of land at the top of the hill lived Leonard Dwight. A prominent man in town affairs, he served as selectman in 1835 and was elected to that office for five successive years. On the east side of this road was a small house where lived an elderly lady alone. She had not much wood to burn, and what she had was so large that she could not use it. So small boys of eight or nine years were sent to get it into better shape.

The next house was the mansion of Ludo Thayer. It stood on the east side of the road with several large poplar trees in front. Farther along lived Elkanah Thayer, brother of Caleb, who seems to have been associated more with Whately and Northampton than with Williamsburg.

The settlers on Petticoat Hill were scattered and the farms were large. It is probable that the first houses here were erected where the Frank Clapp and Cotton Hayden houses stood. These were near together, at the corner on the highest point of land. Cotton Hayden was succeeded,

among others, by Robert Damon, who said that he never enjoyed better health or was more contented than during the years that he lived on this place. He was followed by Alvin M. Shaw, who sold the farm to Joseph Martin of Florence. Mr. Martin erected his summer home just below the Hayden house at a cost of about $6,000. He died soon afterward. The farm and the two houses were owned later by Dr. Lyman and a Mr. Thompson of New York. This establishment was sold for a tuberculosis sanatorium. The Board of Health interfered and wanted to prohibit such use of it. The Board directed that the town purchase the farm because of its situation near the town water supply. This, however, the town did not do. The place was known as Longview Sanatorium.

Just across the road to the north, Bela Clapp made his home. His son, John F. Clapp, succeeded him, but he later moved to Florence. The farm was purchased many years ago by William E. Cooney of Northampton. Mr. Cooney took a great interest in the farm. He set several hundred apples trees and cleared and improved the general appearance of the surroundings.

From the top of the hill to the village, about a mile and a half, there was but one house. It was occupied by William Strong. He had many successors to this property.

South from the Cotton Hayden house there was a two story house that stood on this farm close to the road. It was occupied by Nelson Hayden.

Across the road from the Martin house was the dwelling of Ebenezer Warner. Both of these houses, the Warner house and the Hayden house, long ago were deserted and are now gone.

Below the site of the Warner house and near Unquomonk brook was the house of George Davenport. It was long occupied by his son, Joseph Davenport, who lived alone. Mr. Davenport died in West Chesterfield in 1916.

On the other side of the brook, about midway to the turn in the road, stood the schoolhouse, where it was said that there were once about seventy-five scholars. The schoolhouse was afterward moved.

Going easterly on Petticoat Hill road, we come to the site of the residence of Deacon Sylvanus Hubbard. He was a deacon of the Congregational church, then the only church in town. Now only the well and the empty cellar hole tell of the occupants long ago.

The next house on the right coming down the hill, was the home of Deacon Nehemiah Cleveland, another official of the church. His daughter, Mrs. Olive Cleveland Clark,[31] was the mother of Reverend Edward Clark, for many years the minister in Chesterfield.

The next house, down the road, was one of the first settlements in Williamsburg. It was Noah Washburn who built it, and his son Stephen succeeded him. Afterward came Amos, then Lauriston, and then Fowler—five generations on the same farm. The buildings were destroyed by fire a number of years ago, while Fowler was in charge. He, being unable to rebuild, erected a small shelter for himself and lived in it. Another house was erected by Jacob Staab on the site of the one destroyed by fire. Few locations in town can rival this one in beauty

Further down the road, about half way between the Washburn place and the foot of Unquomonk Hill, there was once a house occupied by Hermann Smith. It has long since gone.

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31 See Chapter VIII.

West from the summit of Petticoat Hill about half a mile was the house where the Benjamin Ludden family were born. His family consisted of his sons, Benjamin M. Ludden and William Ludden, and one daughter. The place was later known as the Dolan farm.

Down on the Chesterfield road we come to what has been called the Culver place. The house was built by Parmenus Hubbard, brother of Benjamin, and he occupied it a number of years. Further down on the Chesterfield road, near the short road that unites Petticoat Hill with the road to Williamsburg and Chesterfield, we find on the right and on the west corner, an empty cellar, where once lived Seth Hayden, brother of Cotton and Nelson Hayden.

These houses that stood so firmly a hundred years ago are now nearly all gone. Some were destroyed by fire, and the rest were deserted. Now there is scarcely a board or stick of timber to remind one of their former existence.

MOUNTAIN STREET

In the Mountain Street region, over Grass Hill, runs an old road which has cellar holes along it. Still a town road, this has recently been used for trucking lumber. In the old days the road divided, one branch going to the Nash Hill road and the other going toward Clifford Waite's in Whately. Alpha Waite lived near the fork where this road joined Nash Hill near the Whately reservoir. About once a year he and his wife (Alpha and Omega they were called by their neighbors) used to drive over this road on their way to Northampton. This was over eighty years ago. Another old road went from the Lewis Bradford place on Mountain Street to Clifford Waite's in Whately. The Hatfield road and the site of Pomeroy Tavern, a large two-story, colonial house, are now under the waters of the Northampton reservoir. A road led from the Hatfield road over Belmont Mountain, joining the main road near Smith Munson's in Whately. A road near the La-Course place went over Horse Mountain and came out near the old Methodist Camp Meeting grounds in Hatfield. A blacksmith shop stood on the road near the H. N. Loomis residence. Later a bachelor, Fred Waite, lived there.

Coming south into Haydenville on Mountain Street, near Adams road, one passed first the home of Lyman Dickinson. This property was bought by White, George Drabble, then by Widello, and has since been destroyed by fire. Next stood the house of William Warner, the father of Allen and Luther. Across the road lived Francis Warner, and George, son of Francis, later lived there. Beyond the William Warner place and on the same side of the road, near the brook, lived Lorenzo Warner, brother of William and father of Charles and William. Across the brook and past the school house, and on the westerly side of the road, was the Edward Warner place, once owned by the Fullers. It is now the property of Fred Miller. Both the Clesson Bradley place and the Carlton place, the present site of the Erwin Allen residence, were destroyed long ago. Beyond the Allen home on the left, lived Charles Gillett. Now the Ingellis family occupy this property. On the right side of the road, the site of the Fred Dewey place, was the house occupied by Reverend Rivard. The Christy Noble residence on the corner has changed hands many times; its owners included Mather Warren, John Main, Christy Noble, Mr. Rivard, Sr., and the La-

Courses. Keeping to the left at LaCourse's corner and on the North Farms road, we pass the old Hatfield road on the left, now discontinued. The Pat Fahey farm was later owned by Reuben Dewey, and now by his son, Marshall. The next house on the right was occupied by John Codding and later by a Costello family and known as the haunted house. The dwelling on Mountain Street near the brook, as one is coming up the hill, has been occupied successively by Archie Hughes, Jess Peronto, and the Kolosewitz family. The house where Cecil Loomis and his family reside, belonged to his grandfather, Francis Loomis. His sons, William, George, Henry, and Clarence, all made their home there, but the farm was finally operated by Clarence, who in turn passed it on to his son Cecil. Across the road lived Joseph Morrell. The property is still owned by the Morrell family.

Another very early road led from Leeds up past the sanatorium to South Main Street in Haydenville. Where the Engine House now stands, this road crossed through a ford. It then led to the Delevan House, or Fairfield Shelter. From :here a road led past the house of George Dansereau to Mountain Street and over the hill to Hatfield. The Leeds road divided at the ford, winding west to John Miller's Farm, on to South Street, past Jacob Staab's to Petticoat Hill, continuing west from there to Kidd's Lookout and the Pittsinger place on Bofat Hill.

The road which had resulted in the erection of Fairfield's tavern was part of the stage route from Boston to Albany via Northampton. This old road ran over Village Hill past Thayer's Tavern, and no doubt the coaches often stopped there for rest and food.

Nash Street was named after one Thomas Nash, who came to Williamsburg about 1766 with two sons, John and Elisha, and a daughter, Martha. They proved to be an illustrious family. John purchased 250 acres and there built his home on the site later occupied by William A. Nash in that part of the town ever since known as Nash Hill. Afterward, Elisha located on a tract of land later occupied by Oliver Nash. His house and John's were first log cabins. Afterward they built quite elegant mansions for that day—about 1771. When John and Moses, the two oldest sons of John, Senior, came of age, they divided their father's land and homestead into equal portions; John taking the north half and Moses the south half of the original farm. This was about 1787. The descendants of this Nash family proved to be worthy citizens of the community Thomas adopted so long ago.

About three-quarters of a mile northeasterly from the summit of Nash Hill, and on the West Whately road, is the Hen Hawk Trail, an old road leading to the Conway Poor Farm and to the Crickett Hill section. In 1860 the first house on the right was owned by S. C. Nash, later by Levi Nash. Beyond and on the west side of the road lived N. and H. Graves, ancestors of F. N. Graves and Son. Still farther lived D. and J. Scott. About one-half mile to the west of this road and nearly to the Conway line and on one of the highest points of High Ridge is a bronze tablet erected in 1926 by the High Street Walking Club of Northampton, to the memory of Edward C. Gere, for many years editor of the Hampshire Gazette.

Between the years 1780 and 1783, four brothers, Samuel, Elisha, Perez, and Jonathan, sons of Captain Perez and Martha Graves of Hatfield, chose what is now South Street as their home in Williamsburg. The region of their choice was beautifully located at the foot of Petticoat and Un-

quomonk Hills and the newcomers all settled within a mile of each other in the southeast part of the town. Perez located on the mountain a little south of Unquomonk Ridge.[32] The others settled at the foot of the mountain. With the exception of one or two small clearings the whole region was a dense and unbroken forest. Their father had purchased the tract and divided it equally. They began clearing at once, but delayed building because they did not know where the public road might be located. At this time only a bridle path crossed the woods to John Miller's farm in Haydenville. They soon marked for themselves a convenient path to the village beginning near the old Edgarton Place and running west across Miller's swamp, by the Almond Warner house, close to the base of the mountain terminating at the village road. This they hoped would be the highway but the commissioners that year laid the course as it now runs. The brothers proceeded to raise their houses which were among the first frame dwellings in the village. These men contributed much to the early history of Williamsburg. Some of the descendants still live on South Street although a large part of the original claim has passed into the hands of others.

We have seen a sturdy group of pioneers create a new town and establish homes there. The network of bumpy wagon roads which wound through woodlands and clearings united Williamsburg into a vigorous community, eagerly awaiting the opportunities of the nineteenth century in a young land.

32 Later known as Guilford Farm.

PART II

GENERAL HISTORY

TO WILLIAMSBURG

Earth of thy earth, we love thee for thy beauty,
Pastures fern-bordered, woodlands brown and still,
Rivers that foam through waterfalls, or widen
Pool-like, to mirror house and tree and hill,
Ever with beauty changeful, evanescent,
Haunt us, enthrall us, till our hearts confess
Faith in a Beauty changeless, eternal,
Fashioning forever a perfect loveliness.

Earth of thy earth, we followed thee; and swiftly
Thou in thy wisdom placed within our hands
Ax and scythe and sickle and pruning-knife to sharpen,
Opened before us thy green and sun-lit lands,
Who can forget thee, seen amid thy orchards,
Rose spray above thee, and bluebird's flash of blue?
Sweet the bloom above thee and sweet thy dream of fruitage;
Sweet thy sons' labor to make thy dreams come true.

Mother of our spirits, thou dost share our sorrows,
Healing with comfort when our hearts have bled;
Safely we confide to thee our secret, living anguish;
Safe in thy keeping is the dear dust of our dead.
Daily thou thyself hast consecrated sorrow,
Making it a sacrament, Love's unmeasured wine;
Costly, glowing, it gleams within thy chalice,
Mystic their communion who drink this cup of thine.

Joys, too, thou givest; happy play for children,
Dance for merry maidens and keenest sports for boys,
Love for radiant maidens, the sacred flower of friendship,
Home secured by service that asks no richer joys,
More thou givest; of thyself thou givest;
Unassuming dignity thou lendest to thine own;
Factory and kitchen are fairer for thy presence;
None within thy borders hath need to walk alone.

To the world thou givest; thy hands are ever open;
East and west thy charity like eager sunlight runs;

Softly like sunlight, it blesses earth wherever
Thy daughters bear thy bounty or thou sendest forth thy sons,
Unto life thou givest of humble, quiet virtue
Civic honor dear to Peace; and when war threateneth,
Loyal to honor, as God to thee has given,
Valiantly, faithfully thou givest unto death.

Earth of thy earth and spirit of thy spirit,
Proudly we praise thee whose strength has made us strong;
Deep beneath our laughter, deep beneath our singing,
Runs a deeper music, echo of thy song.
Sunset shall find us by its crimson splendor
Far on the highway that fares through light to thee;
God guard the highway; God keep our feet from falling;
God satisfy our love at last in thy felicity.

EVA AUGUSTA PORTER.

Williamsburg, September, 1921

CHAPTER XI
INDIVIDUALS AND OLD FAMILIES

THE object of this chapter is to tell about the interesting people and "first" families that have made our town rich with their personalities in the Past. In addition, the chapter aims to give an account of every family who has lived here long enough to have "roots" in this place; to feel that it is really home. There is not exact uniformity in telling about every family—each one is different from its neighbor, and the material which was submitted varied according to the sender. But perhaps this section of the book will prove more interesting than any other, for it is the chapter which gives the account of Williamsburg folk, for whom and by whom this book has been written.

[33]"Honorable Hiram Warner, the son of Obadiah and Jane Warner, was born October 29, 1802. When seventeen years of age, he went to Georgia and taught in the Academy of Sparta in Hancock County. He studied law, and in 1825 was admitted to practice in the courts of Georgia. He held many high offices in that state. In succeeding years he was a representative in Congress as well as a member of the convention which decided the secession of the state from the Union. Judge Warner resided upon his plantation in Meriwether County, near Greenville, Georgia, until his death in 1880. It has been said of him that nothing but the fact that he was a Northern man prevented his becoming governor. Other sons and daughters of this couple—there were ten children in the family—became respected citizens in the communities where they settled.

"Three of the sons of the illustrious Asa White are particularly worthy of note. Chester graduated from Yale in 1825, studied law and practiced in Tennessee. In 1889, he moved to Racine, Wisconsin, where he was for a time mayor of the city.

"Honorable John White, having been tutored for college by such men as Dr. Daniel Collins and Reverend Henry Lord, then pastor of the Williamsburg church, entered Williams in 1806. After his graduation in 1810, he went South and studied law, finally opening a law office in Gallatin, Tennessee. His legal career was a brilliant one. A publication of the time[34] in reporting on a question of great judicial interest and importance has this to say:

"'Mr. White, the member from Sumner County, was a giant in this debate. He is a native of the good old Bay State, and was born in Williamsburg, a few miles west of Northampton. He has not only made a fortune, but has won a fame as amiable and pure as it is brilliant. His legal attainments are of no common order. In answer to my question, whose mind was under the best training and had acquired the most varied and effective stores of information of any in the convention, Governor Carroll, without hesitation, referred me to Mr. White.'

"An extended account of his life appeared in Livingston's *Memoirs of Eminent Americans.*[35]

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33 By Prescott Williams.

34 New York Journal of Commerce, July 22, 1834.

35 Volume IV.

"Addison also studied for college under Dr. Daniel Collins and Reverend Moses Hallock of Plainfield. He graduated from Yale with high honor in the class of 1823. He studied law and practiced several years in Covington, Tennessee, where he later became mayor. In 1839, being in delicate health, he returned to the old homestead, where he lived the rest of his life, devoting his time principally to rural pursuits. His untiring efforts were also directed in the cause of general education. The State Board of Education noted several suggestions made by him in his published school reports and later adopted them. Mr. White lived to enjoy the fruits of an ample fortune, devoting himself zealously to every measure that promised to advance the interests of sound learning and religion in the place of his birth.

"Dr. Thomas Meekins was born in 1796, and in 1819 went South to teach school in North Carolina. He returned to Williamsburg in 1824, and immediately commenced the study of medicine with Dr. Daniel Collins. In 1827, Dr. Meekins graduated from Berkshire Medical College. Shortly after he settled in Worthington, where he remained until invited back to the place of his birth by the influence of his old preceptor and life-long friend, Dr. Collins. In the years 1834, '35, and '36, Dr. Meekins represented the town in the State Legislature. The remainder of his life he spent in Williamsburg, and he was considered a very successful practitioner. For many years he took a warm interest in the common schools of the town, and was often chosen one of the general school committee. His son, Thomas W. Meekins, was educated at the Easthampton Seminary, and afterward studied dentistry with Dr. J. W. Smith of Northampton. After having become thoroughly acquainted with this profession, he began the study of medicine at Berkshire Medical College where he obtained his degree in 1852. Northampton became his permanent home soon afterwards."

Stephen Meekins, son of Thomas Meekins, gave the library to Williamsburg village. Grasping, egotistical, odd, to say the least, he was certainly one of the "characters" of the town. But the gift he left behind has atoned, certainly, for his peculiarities. His monument, in Village Hill Cemetery, looks impressive indeed, and this is as he wished it. He believed that when people saw the library, they would travel immediately to the burying ground to see the resting place of its donor. He wanted that memorial to be the largest in the cemetery. Posterity has considered the library itself a better memorial, and whether anyone, after seeing it, has travelled immediately to Village Hill to see the Meekins Monument, is doubtful.

Mr. Meekins paid storage for years on a phaeton which he had bought before his wife's death. He prized it too much to use it during her lifetime, but he couldn't be persuaded to ride in it after her death.

During his last illness he asked his nurse, Charles Norton, if he knew anything about phrenology. Norton answered that he had made some study of the subject. Meekins then asked, "Do you find my bump of acquisitiveness too large?"

When Mr. Louis Cranson was a small boy, he worked for Mr. Meekins all one day in the hot sun, treading hay. At the end of the day, Mr. Meekins came to him and handed him a penny. "Take good care of this," he said. "It only takes 100 of them to make a dollar."

Prescott Williams' manuscript on his memories of early Williamsburg has proved to be one of the most valuable contributions to this history, so the account of Mr. Williams' life deserves special mention here.

[36]"Prescott Williams was in the fifth generation of descent from Richard Williams, a pioneer settler of Taunton, Massachusetts. His grandfather, John Williams, moved from Middleboro, Massachusetts to Williamsburg in 1773, and his father, Joseph Williams, was born in Williamsburg. Prescott Williams was born in Williamsburg on October 19, 1819, the fourth son in a family of seven children born to Joseph and Submit (Gray) Williams. He lived his entire life on the farm where he was born, on Nash Street, about one and one-half miles north of Williamsburg village. He married Susan (Davis) Richards, a widow with a son, Frank Charles Richards. No children were born of this marriage.

"Frank C. Richards married Emma L. Tilton on March 21, 1878, and lived with his stepfather on the Williams homestead. They had nine children, Prescott Williams, Mattie Elizabeth, Emma Lovina, Henry Tilton, Susan Davis, Ruby Elma, George Frank, Florence Julia, and Edward Ames Richards.

"Mr. Williams and his stepson devoted their lives to the development and operation of apple, peach, and pear orchards, and had one of the largest orchards in the county, consisting of sixty acres and 2,000 trees. Baldwin apples were the principal crop. Other varieties grown were Greening, Hubbardston, King, Russett, Porter, Astrakhan, and Early Harvest.

"Mr. Williams took an active interest in current events, local, state, national, and worldwide, and although blind during the last ten years of his life, kept abreast of the times and maintained a keen interest in the operation of his orchards and in all that was taking place during those years. He sent apples to the Paris Exposition in 1899 and received a medal from the Exposition for the excellence of the display.

"The house in which Mr. Williams was born and in which he died was destroyed by fire in 1913. He died on October 3, 1910, in his ninety-first year."

Mr. Williams particularly liked a good story. He enjoyed the listening, and he delighted in the telling. Old tales of village characters he told often, embellishing fact with fiction as he saw fit. One of these stories concerned a local dandy, the Beau Brummel of the town, who was keeping steady company with the storekeeper's daughter. She lived over the store now owned by R. F. Burke, and, as the youth called there often, the townsfolk expected soon to hear news of their approaching wedding. One spring evening this young lady had been invited to a dance by her beau. But Williamsburg Main Street in the spring was a gutter of mud, hub-deep, and the young man called for her on horse-back. He had planned to transport her to the party on the pillion, but getting her and her wide hoop skirts onto the horse presented a serious problem. They tried this way and that, but without success. Finally it was decided that he should rein his horse as near the porch as possible, and she should step from the near-by molasses hogshead to the pillion. But just as she had both feet planted firmly on the hogshead, the cover fell through, and she

36 By his step-granddaughter, Miss Susan D. Richards, of Washington, D. C.

sank deep into the sticky stuff. The hoops of her dress fell around the hogshead, completely covering it. Her swain took one look at the sad state of affairs, cried "giddap" to his horse, and galloped away.

Needless to say, this was the end of a beautiful friendship. The young lady was eventually rescued, but in her anger she made the statement that she would marry the next man who asked her. The story goes that a one-eyed cobbler from Boston, who made his living by travelling from town to town repairing shoes, heard this and took her at her word. Nor was he disappointed. His proposal was accepted and as Mr. Williams used to say, "She went to 'Bosting' as his wife, and died there."

Prescott W. Richards married Bessie Langdon, daughter of Minnie Keplinger and Deacon Henry A. Langdon. They have two children, Priscilla and Langdon. Mattie died in early womanhood. Emma (deceased) was the wife of William Elliot of Florence. Henry married Florence, daughter of Frank A. Brooks. Susan, a lawyer, now lives, in Washington, D. C. George is a landscape artist and lives in Wallingford, Vermont. Edward studied at Oxford, England, and received his Ph.D. from Columbia. He is in the Red Cross organization. Florence (deceased), married Everet W. Skilton.

Henry Langdon came here in 1887 and worked for H. G. Hill in the grist mill for thirty years, and during that time was a deacon of the Congregational church. He married Minnie Keplinger. They had two children, Howard (deceased) and Bessie, wife of Prescott Richards.

Christian Keplinger and his family came to Skinnerville in 1843. They survived the flood although their house was split and overturned by the force of the water. A granddaughter, Zaida Weeks Nightingale, a teacher retired from New York schools, and her husband, Garrard, have recently bought the George Luce place on Village Hill. Mr. Nightingale was a lieutenant on the George Washington transport in World War I.

[37]"Dr. J. Dunham Green, a native of Vermont, settled in Williamsburg in 1857. He was a nephew of the celebrated Dr. Horace Green of New York City and had enjoyed excellent advantages under the guidance of his famous uncle. He remained in this town two years, devoting much attention to the study of diseases of the throat and lungs. After his short but valuable sojourn here, he changed his residence to Rutland, Vermont.

"Dr. Harvey E. Brown, a graduate of Princeton and N. Y. U. Medical School, settled in this village in 1860 and enjoyed a considerable practice.

"Elisha Hubbard, son of Elisha Hubbard, Esq., was born in 1789. In 1811, he graduated from Williams College and took up the study of law in the office of Mills and Howe in Northampton. In 1815, he commenced practice in Williamsburg where he resided until the time of his death in 1853. Mr. Hubbard possessed talents of a high order. He took an active interest in politics and was ever a zealous advocate of the principles of the Federalist and Whig parties. In the State Legislature he represented the town with ability and enjoyed, to a remarkable degree, the confidence of his fellow citizens.

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37 By Prescott Williams.

"Honorable Clement Coffin, an old resident of the town, was a lawyer, and later a distinguished judge in Illinois.

"Salmon H. Clapp, Esq., was born in Southampton, October 31, 1790. In 1812-13, he taught school in the town and in 1815, settled here permanently. In 1844, he received from Governor Briggs the appointment of Justice of the Peace, and in 1853, the same appointment from Governor Clifford. He also served as constable, school committee member, and selectman. Although never formally trained for the legal profession, Esquire Clapp by years of study and familiarity with the business of the courts, rendered himself a self-made lawyer. He was also for many years a liberal contributor to the American Tract Society and the American Bible Society."

Thomas W. Meekins, son of Doctor Meekins, wrote an account of one of Williamsburg's most picturesque characters, his father's intimate friend, Dr. Daniel Q. Collins. The account appears below:

"The conditions of life in the old days were much more favorable to the development of marked individual character than at present. Each community was a little world by itself with scarcely a thought for, or interest in, anything outside its own borders. Literature there was none or next to it. There was usually a Bible and Farmers' Almanac and perhaps Baxter's 'Saint's Rest,' 'Edwards on the Affections,' or 'Pilgrim's Progress.' Add to these two sermons on Sunday with a mug of flip at the tavern sandwiched between and we have about all the literary food in the average community. For want of something better, men sharpened their wits on each other at the tavern or store and the purchase of an axe helve was often attended with as great a display of wisdom and deliberation by the committee of the whole then present, as the United States Senate bestows on an important public question. The great men were the minister, lawyer, doctor, and the deacon, and one or more of these were liable to be political bosses as well, though not then called by that name.

"'How are you going to vote?'

"'Don't know, haven't seen Deacon Mayhew yet.'

"The doctor stood nearest the people. Called at all times, and in all weather, he was entitled to the gratitude of the whole community and he got it, but too often it was about all he did get. A peculiar hardship was that there was something akin to pride in having a case of sickness so severe that the doctor had to be sent for in the night. It gave the family a sort of distinction.

"Among such surroundings in Williamsburg, Dr. Daniel Q. Collins passed most of his life. He was born in Lanesboro, October 2, 1780, was graduated from Williams College in 1800 and settled in Williamsburg in 1804 for the practice of medicine. He was the son of Reverend Daniel Collins, a Congregational minister of some note. The circumstances of his early years had a curious influence on his later life. The minister's house was considered a free hotel for missionaries, colporteurs, and religious travellers of all descriptions, and to such an extent did they abuse the hospitality of the doctor's father that, to use his own words, they 'kept the old gentleman poor' and he wanted 'nothing to do with a religion that would give countenance to any such sponging.' But he very willingly paid his taxes for the support of the church in Williamsburg and when he was no longer obliged by the law, he requested the privilege of paying the same amount he had

done before ‘because,’ he said, ‘it was a ____ good thing.’ Think of anyone now asking to be taxed! But that was Dr. Collins.

“As a physician he must be ranked as more than ordinary. He was especially eminent in diagnosis. He seemed to locate the disease by intuition, and his judgments, though quickly formed, were rarely at fault. He was a good botanist and in the treatment of his cases he depended very largely on vegetable remedies. But his strong common sense was at the foundation of his success in medicine, as well as in other things.

“It is not easy to describe Dr. Collins, the man, as he really was. He was never married and probably his living alone in his office for more than fifty years had a great deal to do with the formation of his character. Though a most generous and kind-hearted man, he did not ‘wear his heart upon his sleeve’ and he was regarded with a mild kind of awe, especially by children. He was very moderate, and at the same time very quick in his motions and abrupt in his speech. He made very little conversation. His sentences were short and crisp and to the point and he made short work of any attempt at long talks by others. One patient began a long story of her ‘aches and pains’ and was cut short with ‘Woman, leave off tea and coffee.’

“‘Why, doctor, I haven’t drank any for years.’

“‘____ it, go to drinking it, then.’

“For another, not noted for neatness, he prescribed as follows:

“‘Take some soap and towels and go down to the spring back of your house and use them.’

“‘That’s about the same as taking a bath, isn’t it, doctor?’

“‘It looks like it.’

“In visiting his patients, he always rode horseback. His tall, slightly stooping figure, enveloped in a camlet cloak or cape overcoat, with well-filled saddle bags behind, jogging along on his horse, was a picturesque sight. He never hurried, no matter how urgent the call. One day his horse happened to shy at something and the doctor in his wrath began to ‘lay on the braid’ pretty vigorously. A friend driving by shouted, ‘Doctor, it don’t do your horse any good to lick him that way.’

“‘Don’t care, ____ him, it does me good.’

“He was very active in politics, and probably controlled more votes than any man in Williamsburg before or since his time. He was no speaker in the town meetings but he was on hand early and late, distributing ballots and seeing that they were cast for his side, though he never sought political preference for himself. He was a staunch Democrat, and greatly added to his party’s growth in the town.

“The high esteem in which Dr. Collins was held, in spite of his non-attendance at church at a time when everybody went to meeting’ was a strong testimonial to his worth as a man and a citizen. There was no sham or humbug about him. What he said could be depended upon. He was not a companionable or a lovable man and his manners were often forbidding, but old and young knew that beneath the apparent roughness there beat the heart of an honest, true, and good man, and they respected him accordingly. His peculiarities, and they were many, were never the subject of ill-natured remarks but were rather set down to his credit. The only thing that savored of

disrespect and that was not intended, was the bestowal of the cognomen 'Old Squint,' owing to the Butlerian cast of one eye.

"He had two amusements, buying lottery tickets and shooting. He continued the former through life. He drew only one or two small prizes, but he liked the mild excitement of buying the ticket and watching for the drawing. He was very fond of a gun and could always be found with his rifle at the Thanksgiving 'turkey shoots.' The following shows an amusing contrast between the doctor and a fellow townsman, 'Master White,' as he was called. The latter had a violin shop and his fear of a gun and the doctor's hatred of a fiddle were about equally matched. Driving by the shop one day, the sound of the everlasting fiddle came to the doctor's ears. Reining up to the door he roared out, 'White, what in the Old Harry are you always fiddling for; if you want some fun, why don't you take a gun and go into the woods?' and drove on. The idea of firing a gun would have made White's hair stand on end.

"Dr. Collins saved his money and accumulated quite a property for those days. But he was no miser, and was always generous to himself as well as others. In common with most of the Democrats he hated the 'niggers' as he called them, and thought their native land the best place for them. For the purpose of sending them there he left by will $9,000 to the Colonization Society, which, however, had then become a mere name, and the money went to pay the officers' salaries. A much better bequest was the same sum for the support of the schools in Williamsburg. This fund has been carefully looked after and now amounts to about $15,000.

"Dr. Collins died in November, 1857, at the home of his lifelong friend, Dr. Thomas Meekins, who probably knew the real man better than anyone in Williamsburg. Shortly before his death he wrote the following inscription to be placed on his monument:

'The brittle thread of life is broken,
The body lies in its kindred dust,
The spirit dwells with God.'

No unbeliever in a divine Creator could have written that.

"His character may be summed up in a few words. He possessed an individuality amounting almost to eccentricity, was thoroughly honorable, exact in his dealings with men, generous, as many a poor sufferer could testify, impatient of wrong and loving the right because it was right."[38]

Wilbur M. Purrington also contributed some amusing anecdotes of this kindly personage which, with Mr. Purrington's own wit, become too amusing to omit.

"Dr. Daniel Collins, 1780-1857, was a man of considerable dignity, scrupulous in honesty. He was noted for his grammatical speech as became a graduate of Williams College. Dr. Collins was not a religious man, no, not exactly; in fact, he swore like a pirate, and John W. Belden, the auctioneer, says that it was beautiful to hear him when he was riled a little, for then his profanity took on a cultured New England flavor of originality which was fine indeed. It is curious to note that in this year of grace, 1909, all those persons who remember him at all remember his profan-

38 The exact date of the writing of this article is not known, but may be judged with partial accuracy from the sketch of Thomas W. Meekins' life in this chapter.

ity. Thus do our peculiarities outlive our virtues. George Loomis recalls that at the age of about eight or ten years he had the typhus fever and Dr. Collins was called to treat him. The picture of Dr. Collins coming in to see him is still vivid in his mind. A great tall, dark man entered, took a chair from the side of the room, and with it held to his back walked over to the bed and sat down. Pushing back his spectacles, he said 'G_____, I guess the little cuss will die.'

"Dr. Collins used to ride horseback to make his calls and had his barn just below Carter's store. One day he rode up to the barn and dismounting, stopped to talk a moment with someone, when Henry W. Hill, our town clerk, then a boy, passing, cocked up one ear to hear what was said, and the old doctor snapped out, 'Get along home, you little devil.'

"The doctor was much troubled by certain cronies who used to sit around in his office and sample his spirits, so much so that he used to smear his corks with coal oil and bitter herbs, for Washburn of Unquomonk and French from on top the hill beyond Dwight Clary's place well knew the way up the outside stairway to the office of the doctor in the building which was removed to make way for the Meekins Library. Luther Loomis used to tell that at the birth of Byron Loomis on Mountain Street his mother was so ill that the doctor stayed the biggest part of a week and ate most of a pig they had killed for the winter's supply. Mr. John Belcher tells of applying to him for some cough medicine made largely of gin. The old doctor said, 'I suppose you want the gin in a separate bottle.'

"When he came to die, his will began, 'In the name of God, Amen, I, Daniel Collins, being of sound mind and memory, do give $12,000 to town of Williamsburg for the benefit of the schools.' And the income from this generous legacy spent year by year for our youth is a better monument to Daniel Collins than the marble shaft which marks the spot in the cemetery on the hill where lies his mortal dust."

The achievements of the two Warren brothers,[39] Henry White and William Fairfield, are both interesting and noteworthy. The former was born in Williamsburg on January 4, 1831. Graduating from Wesleyan University, he taught natural sciences until 1855 after which he became minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He filled important pastorates in the Boston area and later in Philadelphia, where he was made a bishop. In Atlanta, Georgia, he was able through the generosity of a Mr. Gammon to superintend the building of the Gammon Theological School for Negroes. In 1884 he was transferred to the Denver area and while there he became a trustee of Denver University. Through his influence the Iliff School of Theology was donated. His hobby was athletics and he was president of the Rocky Mountain Club. He had ascended the Matterhorn in Switzerland, Popocatapetl in Mexico, as well as lower peaks in other countries. In the capacity of bishop he travelled widely, going around the world at a time when it was a great adventure. Fine preacher, administrator, and educator, Bishop Warren was also well-known as a lecturer and author. His death occurred on July 23, 1912, at the age of eighty-one years.

William Warren was born in Williamsburg on March 13, 1833. He, too, graduated from Wesleyan University and became a Methodist Episcopal Minister in the New England Confer-

39 Information on the Warren family was taken from notes by Elizabeth Allen.

ence in 1855. Further studies in theology took him to Andover, Halle, and Berlin. He was delegate to the Evangelical Alliance Convention at Berlin and professor of Systematic Theology in the Methodist Episcopal Mission Theological Institute in Bremen. At Boston Theological Seminary, which later was aggregated to Boston University, he held a similar professorship. In 1873, he was chosen president of that university. He also conducted courses in comparative religions, the philosophy of religion, and the like. He retired as president in 1903 and acted as Dean of the Theological School until 1917. Like his brother, he was author of several books. He died December 6, 1929, at the age of ninety-six.

William E. Thayer was born in Peru, Massachusetts, October 11, 1816. He came to this town at the age of twelve and worked as a clerk in the grocery store owned by his brothers, Ezra and Williston Thayer. He became a successful merchant and manufacturer, one of the most prominent citizens of his time. In politics he was a staunch Republican. He gave his sincere support to the Congregational Church, and also served the community as selectman. In 1840, he married Maria Dickinson of Saybrook, Connecticut. Three of the five children born to them grew to maturity; Fred W., Alice M., and George D. After the death of his wife in 1859, he married Harriet Dickinson of Saybrook. Their children were Walter H., Edith E., and H. Winifred. Mr. Thayer died in 1893.

Walter H. Thayer served the town as auditor, selectman, and school committeeman. In 1902, he married Alice Marsh of Hatfield, and he died in 1937.

Lyman D. James, a life-long resident of the town and one of its foremost citizens was born in Williamsburg January 1, 1836, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Enoch James. He attended the Nash private school at Amherst and Williston Seminary. Before settling in Williamsburg, he was engaged in business in the West for a short time. He and his brother, Henry, inherited the general store where their father had been in business. This store Lyman operated successfully nearly all his life. He also added a store in Haydenville. For many years, he was postmaster in Williamsburg. His wife was Helen F. Field of Conway, whom he married in 1857. His death occurred May 29, 1902. He is described as "a stalwart Republican, active in municipal and county politics, being frequently on the various lists of delegates, and a forceful member of the conventions. He represented his town in the Legislature in 1886."[40]

At the death of Henry James in 1896, the following account was written:

"Henry L. James, the Williamsburg manufacturer, merchant, politician, and writer, died at his home in that town yesterday. Mr. James was a very versatile man and in his long life he attained considerable prominence in the social, business, and political affairs of western Hampshire. His was a nature which won for him a wide circle of friends and acquaintances. Readers of Connecticut valley papers have often enjoyed the witty, sarcastic, or critical letters from his pen, written under the nom de plume, 'Peter,' upon all sorts of subjects.

"The career of Henry L. James in industries and politics is inseparable from the industrial and political history of western Hampshire for the past forty years. He formed one of that circle

40 From a typewritten paper in the history material, probably copied from a Gazette of that time.

of solid, energetic business men which included William Skinner, Horatio G. Knight, Samuel Williston, Samuel Hill, and Joel Hayden, whose superior business push and financial shrewdness had much to do in building up the thriving communities where their names are now a memory.

"Mr. James was born in Williamsburg, February 13, 1829. He was the son of Enoch and Arminilla James. He was educated at Hopkins Academy in Hadley, at Williston Seminary and at the New Haven Grammar School, and he also received a business training under his father, who was a merchant and woolen manufacturer in Whately and Williamsburg. Later his father moved to Ann Arbor, Michigan, and left the business in Henry's hands. He took his brother into partnership with him in the mercantile business in 1866, and afterward the latter bought the entire interest. For several years Mr. James conducted a prosperous woolen industry in Whately and also bought and managed a carpenters' tool manufactory located in Williamsburg on the present Meekins' Library site. In the '50's, a cyclone destroyed part of the mill property in Whately and the rest was burned soon afterward. Then the tool manufactory went up in flames and both were abandoned. Mr. James then bought of Lewis Bodman the woolen manufactory in Williamsburg and managed it very successfully until the fatal blow caused by the big flood of 1874. His was the only mill not destroyed, but he suffered loss from which he never recovered, and after struggling for about seventeen years, he gave up the business.

"Always active in town affairs he was instrumental in bringing many benefits to his native place. He was a Republican and figured prominently in politics, particularly aiding in securing the first nomination and election of Senator Henry L. Dawes to Congress. He served as postmaster of the town for a quarter of a century, receiving his first appointment from President Lincoln. Though not a church member he liberally supported the Congregational society, and was active in good works. He was a lover of good horseflesh and had a fine stable. He was fond of travel and his last trip abroad was taken in company with his old friend, the late H. C. Knight.

"Mr. James married May 31, 1860, Miss Maria Louise Simpson, daughter of Dr. Elbridge Simpson of Hudson."

Thomas M. Carter was another distinguished name in the history of nineteenth century Williamsburg. His birthplace was Hawley, but he moved here in 1855 to work in one of the stores as a clerk. In a few years his foresight, hard work, and frugal habits had earned him a general store of his own. He was always energetic in behalf of the community. Between 1861 and 1891, he served as town clerk. Twice, in 1872 and 1891, he was elected to the Legislature. He gave his loyal support to the Congregational Church. For his first wife, he married Miss Lemira Hill, daughter of Otis G. Hill. They had a daughter, Mary, who inherited her father's business zeal and interest in village life. For years she operated the Mary T. Carter Drug Store, now owned by Carroll Jenkins. She served as the first woman town treasurer and acted as the only woman postmistress thus far in the town's history. His second wife, Flora Vincent of Hawley, survived his death.

Deacon Elnathan Graves was born in Williamsburg in 1813. During his lifetime here he held many public offices, among them those of selectman and assessor. He was elected to the Legislature for one year, and for two years acted as president of the Hampshire, Franklin, and

Hampden Agricultural Society. He was chosen special county commissioner in 1868, and again in 1871. He served as county commissioner in 1874 and was re-elected to the post in 1877. A member of the Congregational Church of Williamsburg, he acted for many years as deacon of that body. He served the Haydenville Savings Bank as both trustee and president.

Deacon Graves made his living as a farmer. By his first marriage, he had three children, all of whom lived in this town. A son, Collins, warned the vicinity of the approaching flood at the time of the Mill River disaster. Two children were born of a second marriage, but neither lived to maturity.

Collins and Ellen Graves had two children, Mary and Frank. Mary married Frank Main of Florence (both deceased). Frank married Elizabeth Cadden of Haydenville. Mrs. Main was very interested in the community, particularly the Williamsburg Congregational Church. She gave her active support to the Ladies' Benevolent Society, later the Woman's Union. In her will she left a sum of money to the church to be used for musical purposes. With this money a new organ has been purchased. Her will also provided money for the worthy poor of the town.

A son, Nathan, drove the hack from the village to the depot. He had three children, Nellie Graves (Sanderson), Carrie Torrey Damon, and Maude.

[41]"The village of Searsville in the north part of the town derives its name from that of Nathaniel Sears whose contributions to the industrial life of Williamsburg are noted elsewhere. Mr. Sears' ancestors were of Pilgrim families, living along the north shore of Cape Cod, when his father removed to West Hawley. Mr. Sears was born in 1796, the oldest child of Rufus and Priscilla. He received the usual schooling of the village and later taught in the neighborhood. When of age, he went to Cambridgeport to learn the dyer's trade, and in 1819, with a capital of $50, he set up a fulling mill and dye house in Searsville.

"Diagonally across the corner, anyone of those days would remember the red factory, the drowsy clatter of the looms on a summer afternoon mingled with the quiver of the water-fall of the dam just behind it. This was the mill where its prosperous owner manufactured broadcloth first, then cassimeres, satinets, and finally an all wool flannel, the repute of which went far and wide and brought fair returns to the manufacturer. All his goods were types of the honesty and integrity of their maker and were always in demand in city markets and in all the countryside. They passed in exchange as readily as coin for whatever any man had to sell. His blue satinets almost clothed the neighborhood in uniform. The mistake of his life and of those who advised him was that he retired from the manufacture of these last goods when they were becoming the famous blue of the army. He was only sixty-six, vigorous and active, with a quarter of a century before him, but the anxieties of a mill-owner are many—he had lost one factory by an incendiary and numerous dams of the west branch of that treacherous stream, the east branch of which swept the lower villages in 1874. Exposure at such times was his peril; but a life full of energy and activity has its dreary hours when thrown back upon itself. He moved to Northampton in 1862 after selling his property to Thomas Nash, who had been in the same business in West

41 From a chapter in Mrs. Ada Hamlin's history, written for her by Mr. Gere. The first section, however, on Nathaniel Sears was written by his son, Lorenzo.

Whately. After his removal to the city, he lived on Gothic Street opposite the site of the Carnegie Building of the People's Institute, where he died on the fourth of December, 1886, at the age of ninety years and four months. Fourteen years later the mill was burned on the night of the Fourth of July, 1890.

Mr. Sears was a man of retiring but genial and friendly disposition, accommodating to his friends, cordial to his neighbors, diligent in business, of unimpeachable integrity. After he moved to Northampton, his house was for many years owned and occupied by his wife's brother, Sylvanus Hubbard. It is related that Mr. Sears' horse, a faithful animal, that had served his master many years and had never failed to perform his duty punctually, was on a Sunday afternoon turned loose on the highway near Mr. Sears' house for a bite from the roadside. He was accustomed to go to meeting on the Sabbath day and he knew what the ringing of a church bell three-quarters of a mile distant meant. So when the bell began to ring for the afternoon service, and Mr. Sears and his family were not ready, the horse started for the meeting-house on his own hook. He travelled along at his usual gait, went into his regular shed in the rear of the church, backed out in form when the meeting closed, and went home, having done his duty as he was accustomed to do it. He was not in harness and had only himself to look after.

"Mr. Sears was twice married; first, to Eliza Hubbard, daughter of Deacon Sylvanus Hubbard of Petticoat Hill. Their daughter, Harriet Eliza, married Captain Enos Parsons, a prominent lawyer and public-spirited citizen of Northampton. By the second marriage, to Cordelia Morton, daughter of Dexter Morton of Whately, a son, Lorenzo, succeeded to the name. He was graduated from Yale in 1861, and the General Theological Seminary in New York. After various pastorates in New England, he became professor of rhetoric in Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island. He was the distinguished author of many volumes of history, biography, and literature. He married Adeline Harris of Wyoming, Rhode Island.

"In 1825, Edward Gere bought of Captain Abel Thayer his farm on the northeasterly slope of what has since been called Gere Hill. He had been married the year before to Miss Arabella Williams of Williamsburg, daughter of Gross Williams and Mary Washburn Williams. They were married October 14, 1824, and began housekeeping in the house in the center village, afterward occupied by Lewis Bodman, the store-keeper and Emeline Nash Bodman, his wife. Mr. Gere was a rising man in the town. He was a selectman two years and died while holding office September 24, 1832. He left three children, all boys, Edward, Henry, and Collins. He was not a farmer by profession, but when he died, he was said to have owned about 500 sheep. The raising of sheep for wool was at this time a leading industry with the farmers of Hampshire County. His wife remained on the farm until 1838 and then moved to the center village, where her father had built a house for her on what is now called Williams Street, the first house erected on that highway. This was not a through street for several years. It went no farther than the house built for Mrs. Gere, which was at the north boundary of Mr. Williams' farm. There was much opposition in the town to the laying of this street and it was not carried in town meeting until Mr. Williams had given a bond to the town to maintain the bridge for ten years. During the years that Mrs.

Gere remained at the farm after the death of her husband it was rented on shares to Stephen Meekins and a Mr. Thayer who kept the town's poor and one or two others."

Mr. Ludden had two sons, Dr. Benjamin and Prof. William, both of whom became distinguished in their respective callings. The former[42] sent a most interesting letter telling of his early experiences in Williamsburg to the *Daily Hampshire Gazette."*[43]He wrote in part:

"My grandfather bought a farm of about 400 acres on what was known as 'Petticoat Hill,' a part of the farm extending into 'Battlecock Hill.' The first of these euphonious and classical names had its origin, it is said, from the fact that the women ruled all the households on that hill, and on Battlecock Hill it was said that the wild turkeys were so numerous they were frequently seen fighting each other and hence the origin of that name. Be that as it may, my grandfather, assisted by my father, managed to clear up about 300 acres of the farm, surrounded as they were with wolves and bears, the former being somewhat dangerous to encounter at night, and the latter sometimes making fearful havoc with the cornfields. However, they struggled on and built houses and barns, planted orchards, and after a while, made butter and cheese for the Boston market, hauling their cheese to Boston with ox teams, making the trip (110 miles) in about three weeks.

"My father finally settled on an adjoining farm, and numerous other families made homes for themselves in that vicinity; so at that time the Petticoat Hill district numbered more children under twenty-one years of age than any other district in town.

"Mr. Salmon Wait owned a small farm and cooper-shop, where he worked at his trade. Uncle Sall's cooper-shop was quite a place of resort for the people in that neighborhood. He died, however, almost before my remembrance, but his widow, 'Aunt Darkess Wait,' taught the district school for a long time. She was very popular as a teacher and very much beloved by her scholars, leading them along the pathway of science four and one-half days in the week and every Friday afternoon requiring us to recite the old Westminster Catechism. This course was highly satisfactory to all the parents in the district, and fully approved by the Reverend Henry Lord, who was then the settled pastor of the Congregational Church in Williamsburg, and made his stated semi-annual visits to all the schools in town.

"While I was yet a young lad, my father purchased another farm of Deacon Mayhew, situated in what was then known as the Hyde district. Our family were then all removed there, and lived there until after the death of my father, which occurred in 1834. He was then in the forty-ninth year of his age. The school house was the same as now stands in Searsville, and for several succeeding winters I was numbered among the scholars who assembled there. During one of those winters I lived with the widow of Mr. Edward Gere, and 'did the chores for my board,' and every night saw three little boys put to sleep in the trundlebed near the fire, and one of those little boys is now an editor of the *Hampshire Gazette*. Truly, 'Tall oaks from little acorns grow.' When I was seventeen years of age, I ventured to assume the responsibility of a teacher in one of

42 In later life he made his home in Illinois.

43 About 1876.

the rural districts of my native town; for this service I received eleven dollars per month and 'boarded round.'

"During all these years of my early childhood, till I was eighteen years of age, it was the universal custom of nearly all the people of the township to meet at the old Congregational Church on the hill every Sabbath for public worship. Reverend Henry Lord was the pastor; Theophilus Bodman conducted the singing; Master White played the fiddle; William Guilford, the flute; and Ambrose Stone, the bass-viol. Among the male singers were Captain William Pomeroy, Zene Thayer, William Jones, Theodore Bartlett, James Mayhew, Captain Jenkins, and Henry Taylor, who also played the bass-viol. Tythingmen were appointed to look after the boys during service. Mr. Oliver Nash frequently officiated in that capacity. I remember, one Sunday afternoon, just as Mr. Lord had commenced on the ninthly part of his discourse, Mr. Nash stood up in his pew, rapped most vehemently on the side railing, and pointing his finger towards the culprits who were seated in the gallery, cried out in a loud voice, 'Boys in the rear of the singers, cease your play immediately.'

"The ministers in those days thought it necessary to elucidate the doctrines of the Bible, and I have been told that Mr. Lord preached one sermon every Sabbath for forty successive Sabbaths, upon the 'Doctrine of Election.'

"I cannot perhaps better illustrate the profound reverence entertained for ministers in those days than by quoting a remark made by my mother when I brought home the old yellow sleigh.[44] When she first saw it as I drove up to the house, she looked disappointed, but when I told her that it was Mr. Lord's old sleigh, her countenance brightened, and she said, with a sanctimonious look on her countenance, 'Ah, it was good enough for my minister to ride in, and it is good enough for me.' But this letter is getting too long, and I will stop right here."

Sometime later Dr. Benjamin Ludden again visited his native town and again wrote to the *Gazette* of his impressions.

"We called at the old homestead, now owned and occupied by Stephen Meekins. The old farm, under his energetic and careful management, is much improved. The little quince bushes planted thirty-five years ago, were loaded with fruit. The small evergreen shrubs are now tall and stately trees. The old rocks on the meadow and in the garden have been removed, and utilized in the shape of a stone wall on the boundary line of the farm. In looking about, I noticed a flock of 100 fine thoroughbred sheep, just driven in from Vermont, the best flock of that size that I ever saw in Massachusetts or anywhere else.

"We walked over to the residence of Lyman Hyde, and found him busy with half a dozen assistants securing his fall and winter apples, of which he had some three or four hundred barrels. Among those running up and down the long ladders and picking the apples from the tall trees was Mr. Nelson Hayden, a man between seventy and seventy-five years of age. We said to him that we were surprised to see a man of his age so active and youthful in appearance, and that old age did not seem to affect him much. 'Old,' said he, 'old! What is the use in a man's getting old?

44 Dr. Ludden had purchased it from the minister for $3.50.

These years flying over a man's head don't amount to anything. I just keep a clear conscience and go right along. I never tumble down. There is a sort of instinct about my feet; if they do happen to hit any obstacle or slip on the ice, they whip right round and whiz (jumping up about two feet) they come right into line and I go straight along. I never tumble down or think of being old.'

"We also called at the residence of Joshua Crosby, where we were cordially welcomed and pleasantly entertained. Mrs. Crosby is a genial sunbeam in that household, and her aged mother, Mrs. Bodman, who is living with them, is passing into the sere and yellow leaf of life, with a calmness and security which are truly pleasing. She retains her mental faculties in full vigor, and while she takes an intelligent and kindly interest in the present, she seems to look forward to the future with a perfect trust in God, which not only casts out all fear, but seems to beget almost an impatience to pass over into the life beyond the river.

"We also spent an hour at the house of Hiram Hill. His good lady was at home, and greeted us with a warmth and kindliness of manner which was just like her former self. She is one whose mission seems to be to make others happy.

"After spending the night with my old friend and schoolmate, William E. Thayer, we went with him and his interesting family to the old Congregational Church. We found the church altered, and looked around for old familiar faces, and recognized only a few. Hiram Hill, Elnathan Graves, Lewis Bodman, Henry Taylor, and a few others, were there, but we looked in vain for a score of others, whose seats were vacant or occupied by strangers, while they have passed over the river, where they are just waiting a little and we shall be with them again."

William Ludden, born in Williamsburg in 1825, died in Brooklyn, N. Y. in 1912. The Ludden homestead, not William's birthplace, was the Stephen Meekins' farm on Hyde Hill Road in Searsville. Mr. Ludden was a Yale graduate earning his way through college. While there he majored in music. Possessor of a fine baritone voice, he was organist and choir master at Grace Church, New Haven, for a number of years. He married Mary Blatchley of New Haven, and they had an adopted daughter. As long as health permitted, Mr. Ludden returned to Williamsburg frequently to visit his birthplace, a cellar hole in Meekins' woods. He was a friend of Stephen Meekins and was helpful in persuading Mr. Meekins to leave money for a library in Williamsburg.

In remembering, with affection and pride, the individuals who have distinguished themselves in the recent years of Williamsburg, our thoughts first turn to Helen E. James.

[45]"Born in Conway, Massachusetts, on February 3, 1837, she spent a very happy childhood there, going to the district school which was near the large and well-kept farm of her father, John Field. An old resident used to say, 'Helen's father's wonderful common sense and keen judgment of men and affairs, combined with her mother's love of study and refinement made a good cross in their children.'

45 By Estella D. Warner.

"Mrs. James was a graduate of Conway Academy. She taught at one time in the Nash Street district in Williamsburg for the large sum of $1.50 a week! Later she attended Maplewood, a girls' finishing school in Pittsfield, and while there, her brother Marshall, who had gone out into the world to start his life work, sent her his first gift of money, a $5.00 bill. The fact that this was all the spending money she had for that year at school, shows how times have changed.

"Lyman James, whose family was very prominent in Williamsburg, met and came to love Miss Field, and they were married at the Field Homestead in Conway on September 10, 1857, when she was twenty years old. At first Mr. and Mrs. James lived next to the Congregational Church in the James house. Their married life was very interesting, for they had many happy trips to strange lands, as well as many enjoyable experiences as the leading citizens of their town.

"As a young married woman, Mrs. James was always doing kindly deeds to those in trouble, and many are the stories told of her modest acts of friendliness, when she gave not only money, but that which money could not buy, her time and sympathy. She had always been loved for her sweet simplicity and her democratic spirit.

"She had four children. Henry Dwight James was educated at Quincy Academy and became a merchant but has now retired from business. John Howard James was educated at Williams College, and became one of the leading officials of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad in which his uncle, Marshall Field, had an interest. He died November 24, 1912. Grace Fidelia James was educated at Smith College and married John W. Gillette, a graduate of Williams College. They lived on a beautiful estate in Hudson-on-the-Hudson until Mr. Gillette's death in 1921. In 1926 Mrs. Gillette married George Mirick, a lecturer at Harvard College. Mrs. James spent her winters at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Mirick in Brookline. Philip Lyman James was educated at Williams College and became the head of the New York branch of Marshall Field's store. This position he still holds. Mrs. James' husband died May 30, 1902.

"Although Mrs. James always gave freely, her greatest gifts were made possible by the large fund left in trust to her by her brother, Marshall Field, who was known as the 'Merchant Prince of Chicago.' With the income from this fund Mrs. James was able to do much for Williamsburg. Among her gifts for the village improvement were a bond to the Cemetery Association; the concrete walk from Main Street to the cemetery; and the watering trough near the school. Her largest gifts were for public buildings and include the chapel and spire of the Congregational Church the fire engine house; and the beautiful school building, which architects tell us would cost at least $120,000 to build today. She also gave a trust fund, the interest of which will pay for all major repairs on the building, for, Mrs. James said, 'Anyone who gives their town a better building than it could afford to build for itself should also give something towards its upkeep.

"Every year she gave hundreds of dollars to worthy projects to help Williamsburg's quota; such as, the Red Cross, the Visiting Nurse Association, the Congregational Church, Home and Foreign Missions, the Children's Home, and Cooley Dickinson Hospital. One of her gifts was a $3,000 room in this hospital with a $500 fund, the income of which provides for its perpetual upkeep.

“During the 1927 hospital drive, the citizens of the village of Williamsburg raised enough money to endow a room in that hospital in her honor, and she was made very happy by this token of their appreciation.

“At the time of our 150th anniversary, Mrs. James very graciously opened her house to Vice-President and Mrs. Calvin Coolidge and their two sons, and entertained them at dinner on the day that Mr. Coolidge gave his address. Many other famous men and women have been entertained by Mrs. James, and have come to know Williamsburg through her courtesy.

“Mrs. James realized that the future of this town, which she loved and for which she gave so much, lies with its young people. Whenever a young man or young woman who went out from this school made good, she rejoiced that her town had had a part in that success. Her first inquiries each spring when she returned were about the school and the church.

“For over seventy years her sweet, refining influence and loving generosity blessed our town. She was one of the finest examples of a generous Christian gentlewoman. She died November 14, 1930. At the time of her funeral the schools of the town were closed, and the pupils attended in a body to do her honor.

“In loving appreciation of her many years of service and her loyal devotion to the welfare of our town, we would change Longfellow’s poem slightly and say:

‘Where’er a noble deed is wrought,
Where’er is spoken a noble thought,
Our hearts in glad surprise
To higher levels rise;
Honor to her whose words and deeds
Have helped us in our daily needs,
And by their overflow
Raised us from what is low.
This lady with a lamp did stand
In the great history of our land,
A noble type of good —
Heroic womanhood.’”

To H. E. J. AT NINETY

That one should live to ninety years
  Is not perhaps so great a feat.
Methuselah, one always hears
  In long life has the whole world beat,
  No modern could with him compete!

Not just the multitude of days

That you, thus far, have lived, dear friend,
Has brought us here with love and praise
Our birthday greetings to extend
And wish you blessing without end.

But that those days, years, decades past
With loving deeds have fruited been,
That ev'n when Grief black shadows cast
Your lamp of faith still burned within
Your soul, with radiance serene.

We come, rejoicing that your life
Has been so sunny, sweet and kind;
Yet full of earnest noble strife
The better and the best to find,
And take them into heart and mind.

One thing for which our thanks we give,
Tho' many more our mem'ries hold,
Is that you've shown us how to live
To be beloved when we are old.
This secret your whole life has told.

O lady dear, what can we bring
To serve as birthday offering?
Here's love and love, —our heart's full store,
And with our love this one thing more, —
A prayer that as you travel on
Along the road of Ninety-One
Your happiness may but increase
Sealed with the blessings of God's peace.

Emilie Poulsson,
friend of Helen E. James.

Mrs. George Mirick, the daughter of Mrs. James, resided in Williamsburg only during her girlhood, but her gentle charm and graciousness endeared her to everyone on her subsequent visits to her native town. It was here she met and married John W. Gillette of Hudson, New York. In Hudson she lived for many years, contributing actively to the community affairs. Like her

mother, she was always interested in the cause of better education, serving as a prominent member of the Hudson Board of Education.

After Mr. Gillette's death, she married Mr. George Mirick, a professor at Harvard, and moved to Boston to live. Socially prominent abroad as well as at home, she had the honor of being presented at the Court of St. James. She had two children, John W. Gillette, Jr., and Mrs. Marcus Richards.

She died in Boston in September, 1936.

While Mrs. James' generosity made possible the Williamsburg School, it was the gift of Miss Elizabeth Spelman that enabled the much-needed addition to be constructed.

APPRECIATION OF ELIZABETH SPELMAN[46]

"It is most appropriate on this occasion that some tribute should be paid to Miss Spelman, whose generous gift to the schools of the town has made the dream of a much-needed addition to the Helen E. James School come true. A life-long resident of Williamsburg, she always had its best interests at heart. Hampered by deafness, which increased with the years, she was never very active in social or public affairs. It seems hard to find any definite facts to relate about her.

"Miss Spelman was born in 1850 and received her education in Williamsburg and at a private school in Greenfield. Never much interested in reform movements, she was much opposed to woman's suffrage. Someone, when asked about her, said she led a rather circumscribed life. Perhaps, but she had many interests which must have kept the days from becoming monotonous. She was fond of music and enjoyed her old square piano and also public concerts, until increasing deafness prevented. She was fond of children and some—long past girlhood—still remember visits to her home to see a big china doll, which she had. To one of them she said, 'Your face is so clean and your hair brushed so smooth, you can't wink.' Others, older and younger, remember gifts she made to them. She was very generous in helping with the Sabbath school Christmas tree.

"She was fond of animals, especially cats. One of her cats was a very handsome yellow one, named Ginger. The story is told that when Howard James' funeral was being held at the James home, Ginger wandered across the street and in through the open door. 'Miss Lizzie,' as she was always called, had to go over and bring him home. She also had, at one time, a carriage drawn by an old black horse, in which she used to drive about the country, sometimes accompanied by a friend, often in search of wild flowers. Not only flowers, but all natural beauty, especially the autumn foliage, appealed to her. She enjoyed travel and went, in 1893, to the World's Fair in Chicago. Later, she spent a winter in California and one in Florida. In California she wrote a friend that she had been sick and all she could think of was 'what a long way I am from Village Hill Cemetery and how far they will have to carry me.'

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46 Written by Miss Myra Hill and read by Miss M. Genevra Hill at the dedication of the addition to the Helen E. James School.

"Her love of reading must have been a great source of enjoyment to her. One of those interested in the early Williamsburg Library Association, she was also much interested in the Meekins' Library as her gift of $20,000 to it shows. She spent a great deal of time reading there and used to come many evenings, sometimes stormy ones, at nine o'clock, to get the latest magazines and she was also prompt to return them when the library was next open. As I remember, *Harper's, Century,* and the *Atlantic* were her favorites.

"Miss Spelman is reported to have said that she liked cats better than people. However that may have been, I think all those who knew her remember her as always having a pleasant, cheery word for those whom she met. She had a sense of humor, which enlivened her conversation and must have helped her over hard places.

"She realized the difficulty of talking with her and, to friends with whom she often spent Sunday afternoon, she said: 'I have a lot of questions to ask you that you can answer by a nod or shake of the head.' After finishing these, she would say, 'Now can't you use your voice a little while?'

"She must have had a fine capacity for friendship, as she had a number of life-long friends, Mrs. Annette Wright, always a near neighbor, being perhaps the most intimate. Some of the friends she remembered in her will with sums varying from one to some $5,000. Speaking recently to a clerk in a Northampton store, she said that Miss Spelman used often to wait there for a car in the days of the trolleys and she enjoyed her and missed so much her coming. 'She was such a worth-while person,' was her comment.

"It was in 1924 that Miss Spelman passed on, leaving the bulk of her property to the town and its institutions.

"Besides the bequests already mentioned, $5,000 was left to the Congregational Church, the income to be used for music and the fund to be in memory of her mother, Mrs. Harriet Sears Spelman, a native of Goshen. Miss Spelman always retained an interest in her mother's birthplace on Cape Street and the family who lived there. Some can remember Mrs. Spelman's stately and aristocratic appearance as she came into church — always dressed in the extreme of fashion—wearing a little larger bustle than the others in bustle days.

"The school fund was given in memory of Onslow G. Spelman. Were Miss Spelman listening to this, I think she would like a few words said of the father, to whom she was devoted. His father died from the effects of an accident when the son was but seven years old. At the age of ten, he was bound out to a man in Westfield to work for board, clothing and education until he was sixteen. Six months before his time was up, he purchased his remaining time and went to work on a farm. After a course in Buckland Academy, among other things, he worked in a store as a clerk, for a salary of $25 a year and board.

"It was in 1843 that he came to Williamsburg, where he soon went into the button business, first renting a factory, then purchasing it. It was in 1864 that he built the house on Main Street known as the Spelman house. The Mill River flood must have been a trying time for the family, for not only did Mr. Spelman see his factory swept away, but there was so much feeling against him, as head of the Reservoir company, that it was feared he might be in danger of bodily harm,

and a guard was placed about the house. He rebuilt the factory after the flood and was interested in other business ventures for a while. After a few years, he retired from business life. It is said of him: 'His life is a liberal education in pluck and perseverance.' Miss Spelman is quoted as saying that she got her first lessons in thrift from her father, who told her, when she had a new pin for her shawl, to run it several times through the cloth, then it would always be on hand when she wanted it. Though considered somewhat penurious by his fellow-citizens, even when economy was thought to be more of a virtue than it is now, still his success was due to his own unaided efforts and it was his qualities of thrift—often seeming to be rather unpopular today—industry and perseverance, that made it possible for his daughter to make so generous a gift to the schools of Williamsburg, a gift which, though it is to finance this addition, will be kept intact and will go on for generations, providing improvements and new equipment for the school, which it could otherwise ill afford."

[47]"Born in Ashfield on March 10, 1857, the youngest of nine children, Fannie J. Guilford did not have an easy childhood. Her father, Manly Guilford, who had been a successful farmer, teacher, and state legislator, died when she was only one year old. Her mother, Louise Amsden Guilford, valiantly struggled on while her two oldest sons went to war.

"After graduating from Sanderson Academy, at the age of fourteen, Miss Guilford began teaching district school in Ashfield. Some of the boys were, of course, older and much larger than she. Like all such teachers, she 'boarded around' in the homes of her pupils, sometimes sharing her bed, and almost always her room, with girls of the family. Her 'salary' was $2.00 a week! The children loved her and looked forward to the weeks when it would be their 'turn' to have 'teacher' with them.

"In her school days she had been a fine student, especially in mathematics, a subject shunned by most girls at that time. She loved sports — riding bareback, playing ball, and being generally active in games then supposed to be 'for boys only.'

"On December 28, 1876, Fannie J. Guilford married Dwight F. Clary, Ashfield miller. After their marriage they moved to Cummington, and here their first child, Ward Clary, was born in 1877. After two years they moved to Williamsburg, where Mr. Clary was miller for Hill and Warner when that mill ground most of the grist from all the neighboring towns.

"While living on North Street in the house now owned by Mrs. Sidney Packard, their little four-year-old son fell victim to an epidemic of malignant diphtheria, and, in spite of the best care, he died. In later years she has often said that his death came to be the 'guiding influence of her life.'

"It was at this time that her husband's belief in the finer phases of spiritualism came to mean so much to her. Be fore their marriage, they had talked over their views of life, and found in Mr. Clary's firm belief in spiritualism their only major point of difference. But, in her grief, his faith strengthened and comforted her. Later she discovered that she had psychic powers and

47 By Estella Damon Warner.

was able to comfort and strengthen others by acting as a medium of communication between them and their loved ones.

"In 1884 a daughter, Frances Ward Clary, was born.

"During the next ten years, Mrs. Clary taught school for some time in Searsville. During this time Mr. Clary had bought the Woodward place which he later sold to Frebun White. He had built also the house now owned by Mrs. Walter Thayer, which he sold to Mrs. Hyde in partial payment for 'Hyde Farm' when he bought that place in 1894.

"It is, however, the Fannie J. Clary of Clary Farm—as Hyde Farm soon came to be called — whom we knew best and who made the most lasting impression upon her towns people.

"Above all else, Mrs. Clary loved people—loved both to serve and to lead them. She became an ardent worker in the local W.C.T.U., which at that time bought the big saloon of the town and made of it a place of homes and a lodge room for its own members and, later, for the Williams burg Grange. Mrs. Clary was also State Chaplain of the Sons of Temperance. Nevertheless, much of her most effective work in her crusade for temperance was done on the lecture platform. In her desire to better the lot of her fellow-man, she firmly believed that the ballot in the hands of women would right many wrongs and especially blot out the liquor evil.

"With this attitude it was but logical that she should be a leader in the cause of Woman Suffrage. She was County Superintendent of Franchise and President of The Connecticut Valley Equal Suffrage League. In 1902, the Prohibition party nominated her for Representative to the General Court from this district and she received 500 votes, whereas her predecessors on that ticket had received only seventy-five. Again in 1904, she was nominated on the Prohibition ticket for Secretary of State—the first woman in Massachusetts to receive a state-wide nomination for a state office. Of course, she was too far ahead of her time to be elected, but she lived to be one of the first women to cast her vote, after woman suffrage was a national law. She rejoiced in national prohibition and died before its repeal — with a prophesy of evil days ahead for the young people of America should Repeal ever come.

"In this period of her life, her genius for extemporaneous speech, convincing argument, and emotional appeal was at its height. Today it seems perfectly natural for women to be platform speakers, but fifty years ago when Mrs. Clary began to preside at meetings, speak in public, and interest herself in affairs of government, she was so much the 'pioneer' that many of her contemporaries who were satisfied to sit at home or visit with their neighbors thought her 'a little queer.' But, so eager was she to do her bit for the cause, that neither 'loving friend nor foe could hurt her.'

"She was the first woman to serve on the Williamsburg School Committee, a position which she held for nine years.

"Next to her interest in prohibition and suffrage, Fannie J. Clary's greatest outside interest was the Grange. She and Mr. Clary joined Ashfield Grange as charter members in 1875. Later when Williamsburg Grange was organized, they became charter members of this Grange and she, its first lecturer. The standard of service and programs set by Mrs. Clary at that time has never been excelled in the thirty-eight years of that organization's existence, and seldom

equalled. The responsibility which she felt as Lecturer ‘to develop a better manhood and womanhood among our selves’ — to ‘elevate and educate the American farmer — and to impress upon Grange young people that ‘all honest labor is honorable’ was never slighted, and the fruits of her labors in that office are recognizable in the outstanding quality of Williamsburg Grange membership today.

“All through these years when outside interests were claiming her time and effort, Fannie J. Clary never allowed them to shunt into the background the greatest interest of all — her home.

“Clary Farm, to which she came in 1894 as a young married woman is one of the historic spots of Williamsburg. The dining room was part of the original house built in 1735 by Samuel Barber and is the oldest room in town. In 1777, American troops bringing General Burgoyne’s men from Saratoga as prisoners of war encamped on the hills back of the house. In 1821, the main part of the house was built.

“On this farm were 150 acres of apple trees, peach trees, and a maple sugar bush which attracted many from surrounding towns. Indeed, unexpected guests who stayed for meals, for sugaring-off, or for an evening game of cards, were the rule rather than the exception.

“Always a helpmate to her husband, she did much work out-of-doors, finished boiling down the maple sap into the famous Clary syrup and sugar cakes on her kitchen range; was foster mother to four children; and devoted her summers to the family’s most satisfactory source of income, their summer boarders.

“Many distinguished people met at Clary Farm. Among such guests were Dr. John Cushing, educator; Lyman Abbot, editor of *Outlook;* Professor L. B. Morse, author; Dr. Joel Boone, White House physician; Lincoln Steffens, Socialist leader; Edward Filene, Boston merchant and philanthropist; Henry S. Gere, editor; Gerald Stanley Lee and Mrs. Lee, authors; G. Stanley Hall, noted psychologist; William Lloyd Garrison, Jr., son of the Abolitionist; and, of course, Presidents Seelye, Burton, and Neilson of Smith College; and countless college girls who, after college, be came famous or married famous men. At one time, seated at Mrs. Clary’s table, were the daughter of Henry Van Dyke, the granddaughters of Henry Ward Beecher, William Lloyd Garrison, and Ralph Waldo Emerson, and the grandniece of Oliver Wendell Holmes.

“One charming characteristic of Mrs. Clary, as hostess, was her ability to relax. A family diary shows a not unusual day at Clary Farm—when eleven guests had been given their dinner at noon and would be ready for supper at six—and when, in between meals, Mrs. Clary had spent two hours playing cards in the village with her dear friend, Mrs. Flora Carter.

“Most of Mrs. Clary’s years as hostess at Clary Farm were spent without electric conveniences. She washed by hand, ironed yards and yards of starched ruffles with heavy irons, filled wood-burning stoves, swept heavy carpets with brooms, and filled and cleaned a never-ending procession of kerosene lamps.

“To claim that all the allure of Clary Farm was Mrs. Clary’s would be unfair. To Mr. Clary—who so heartily approved of her outside interests, believed in woman suffrage and prohibition as earnestly as she, and helped in her literary, forensic, and hospitable activities—much praise should also be given. Without his perfect companionship, sympathetic tolerance, and

strong cooperation, Fannie J. Clary's life would have lost much of its inspiration and helpfulness. Indeed, after his death, life was never the same for her again."

Dwight E. Clary's name always produces a smile and pleasant memories when it is mentioned in a group of per sons who knew him. What a tribute to the personality of the one who possessed that name! Living for over fifty years in Williamsburg, he was born in Montague on February 6, 1851, the son of Elijah Ward and Lusylvia Clary. In his early manhood, his family moved to a farm in Searsville. In 1876, he took Fannie J. Guilford of Ashfield as his wife. They lived in Cummington for a year, and then, in 1878, came to Williamsburg to make their home. Mr. Clary was employed for twenty years at the mill of H. G. Hill, but poor health caused him to buy the Hyde farm, where he lived the last thirty years of his life.

The Clary Farm, as it was known, was beautiful and famous. But it was this genial gentleman and his wife, with their great-hearted hospitality, keen interest in current happenings, and rare humor, who gave it its personality.

Dwight Clary was always extremely active in all community affairs. He organized the Williamsburg Cemetery Association and framed its by-laws. A charter member of the local Grange, he was also a member of the Hampshire County Pomona Grange. Whenever and wherever he spoke, his audience always listened to him with great relish, for he was an entertaining and convincing talker. No town meeting would have been complete without an expression of his views illustrated by a pointed story.

His death occurred August 29, 1922. The *Gazette,* in describing this Williamsburg citizen who had passed away, spoke of him in this way:

"With only a district school education, he was a thinker of depth and originality, especially on economic issues. His delightful stories of countryside characters and his flashes of uncommon wit were keenly appreciated. A fine type of New England progressive in his ideals for his country, he was a fearless advocate of prohibition and equal suffrage. Besides his absolute integrity, his sense of high moral values, his humor and gentleness, there was also his poetic love of the beauty of his farm acres, his unworldliness, his purity, and peace of spirit."

To D.E.C.
by
Mary B. Fuller, a friend.

I seem to see them now
Those deep blue eyes, all crinkled round with fun
And yet far-seeing, brooding on his hills.
The love of hills and woods and fields
Had molded and had made him full of peace.
Quick-echoing back in sympathy all notes in men
Of common human doings day by day
True husband, father, neighbor, friend

And sought when men would merry be
For trenchant quip and jest.
Back of his sympathy lay active thought
And fruitful wrestle with big problems of mankind
And yet, his soul apart brooded on Nature's mysteries.

Silas Snow came to Williamsburg from Boston fifty-two years ago, residing on the Dwight Clary Farm. In 1909, he married. Frances Clary. They have three children, Dwight Clary (born 1910), Davis W. (born 1913), and Austin D. (born 1915). Dwight Clary lives in town. He is married to Jean Johnston of New York City, and they have two children, Judith (born 1937), and Elizabeth (born 1943). Austin D. lives on the Clary Farm. His wife is Albina Demerski, and they have three children, Margaret (born 1940), Esther (born 1941), and Katharine (born 1945). Lt. Davis Snow served in the war and is now in the National Housing Agency in Washington, D. C. Mr. Silas Snow has held several town offices, among them selectman and assessor.

Ed Clary (1858-1931), son of Elijah and Lusylvia Taylor Clary and brother of Dwight, came to this place ninety years ago and settled on the Bartlett place, now occupied by R. A. MacLeod. He married Sarah Meekins, niece of Stephen Meekins. They had one son, Wendell, who married Gertrude Wade. Their children are Wellington, Forrest, Sylvia, Doris (deceased), and Arthur. Forrest married Lena Sofinowski, and they have one child, Nona Gale, and Sylvia is the wife of Julius Sofinowski. All but Sylvia live in town. Mr. Clary was familiarly known as "Uncle Ed." He was an excellent conversationalist and a good story-teller.

[48]"Another distinguished citizen of the town was Frank A. Brooks, who moved here about 1887, a year after his marriage in Pittsfield. For some time he was express agent for the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad and the Boston & Albany line. Between 1894-1916 he owned an express business called the Brooks Express, running between Williamsburg and Northampton. Mr. Brooks and Mr. C. R. Damon co-owned the Damon & Brooks lumber business. In 1910, Mr. Brooks was elected County Commissioner during which time the Tubercular Hospital was built under his supervision. He was chairman of the Water Commissioners at the time when a lawsuit concerning the reservoir was brought against the town. The case was won for the town.

"About this time Mr. Brooks' activities were extremely numerous. He held the office of vice-president of the Hampshire, Franklin, and Hampden Agricultural Society, president of the Williamsburg Men's Club, when kerosene lamps were dispensed with in the Congregational Church, a member of the Knight Templar Mystic Shrine and the Northampton Club, town moderator, auctioneer, and Master of the Grange.

"In 1916, Mr. Brooks was appointed chairman of the Board of Parole by ex-Governor McCall and reappointed by many governors, holding the office seventeen years. In 1918, Mr. and Mrs. Brooks sold their home and moved to Boston, where Mrs. Brooks died in 1931. Two

48 From information given by his daughter, Ruth Brooks Gill of West Concord, Mass.

years later, Mr. Brooks was elected to Governor's Council, in which position he served for two years, being the senior member during that time.

"All through the married life of Mr. and Mrs. Brooks, it was she, 'Mother Brooks' to her friends, who encouraged and helped him. Without her loving influence, his success might not have been so far-reaching.

"Mr. Brooks' membership in both the Masons and the Grange continued in this town until his death in 1945.

"Their older daughter is Florence, who married Henry T. Richards. Mr. and Mrs. Richards had three children, Franklin, Ruth (born in Williamsburg), and Florence, who died. More than many others, Mr. and Mrs. Richards have retained their interest in Williamsburg and return each year to visit old friends. The younger daughter, Ruth, married Fred Gill. They have two children."

To many sons and daughters of Williamsburg, there was "in the old days" no more familiar nor beloved sight than that of Dr. Hayes.

[49]"Born October 31, 1849, in Farmington, New Hampshire, Dr. Justin G. Hayes died in this town June 18, 1936.

His wife was Elizabeth Gordon Hills whom he married in 1875, in Lynn, Massachusetts. Her death occurred in 1927.

"Dr. Hayes graduated from Dartmouth College in 1873, and from the Medical Department of the University of New York in 1881. He came to Williamsburg in November of the year 1892, and was very active in the community until his death. His practice at one time included, not only Williamsburg, but also most of the surrounding hill towns. In those days it was pretty slow, getting around with horse and buggy. Dr. Hayes was devoted to the highest standards of his profession. In his passing, the townsfolk knew that they had lost, not only a fine physician, but also a neighbor and friend.

"A son, Dr. Justin E. Hayes, practices in Northampton."

OUR DOCTOR

I wish that in these lines of greeting
I could write in fitting praise
Of our loved and skilled physician,
Friend and neighbor, Dr. Hayes.

But I know that I can never,
Never write the magic line,
Or can tell one tenth that's due him
In this halting verse of mine.

49 By Mrs. Carrie Sanderson.

’Most forty years he’s dwelt among us,
In our little village here,
And with sympathetic kindness
Eased our pain and calmed our fear.

‘Most forty years he’s dwelt among us,
Summer, winter, spring, and fall,
With no thought but just to aid us,
Answered every beck and call.

Faced his cares and borne his sorrow
In a calm and quiet way,
That has been to us a lesson
As we’ve watched him day by day.

And as the twilight shadows
Steal softly o’er his face,
We come more and more to realize
Just how well he fills his place.

Just how great the debt we owe him—
Debt that money ne’er can pay—
That only love and gratitude
Can hope to wipe away.

But not so much to skilled physician
I this humble tribute send,
As to one long years we’ve counted
Just a neighbor and a friend.

John M. Black
Williamsburg, Mass., August 26, 1928

[50]“Jessie Tarbox Beals, until recently[51] one of the foremost women photographers in this country, taught school for a while in Williamsburg. Here, in a one-room school house with seven pupils, she worked for $7 a week, boarding for two-week intervals in the homes of her students. It was during this time that Mrs. Beals noticed a prize offer in the *Youth’s Companion—a* free

50 Information from material published in the Christian Science Monitor, March 6, 1937.
51 Her death occurred in 1943.

camera would be sent to any one who sent in an order for one subscription. After shop ping around, she found a subscriber, and, in due time, received the reward. A small, square, tin box, this became the teacher's first camera.

"After a bit of experimenting, Mrs. Beals discovered that photography could be fun. Williamsburg and vicinity abounded in subject matter. The next summer she attended a Chautauqua assembly at Laurel Park where she not only snapped pictures, but also sold them—four for $1.00. On this venture she realized $10.00. Her first camera had long since been replaced by a better one. Mrs. Beals left Williamsburg and gave up the teaching profession after her marriage.

"Chance offered Mrs. Beals her first professional opportunity. She and her husband were in Florida when a large fire broke out. Although she had with her no equipment adequate for the job, the pictures she took proved her capabilities conclusively. Mrs. Beals followed this career for the rest of her life.

"In the extensive travels which the calling offered, she met such people as Sir Thomas Lipton, John Burroughs, and some Presidents. She accompanied President Taft, as photographer, on his trip to the Philippines. Once, back in Williamsburg, when she was telling an old lady about her experiences, the lady said, 'Yes, it is all very interesting, but it sounds very venturesome and somehow, not genteel. Don't you ever miss the contact with lovely, simple people such as you knew here?'

"Mrs. Beals laughed when she answered, 'Bless you! Some of the people I've met who are the most famous, and are called the greatest, are easier to approach than you are yourself!'

"The story goes that her companion was unconvinced.

"Mrs. Beals had a studio in New York where she was under 'contract to photograph the work of numerous artists for the American Art News. She particularly liked photo graphing people and gardens."

Many citizens of Williamsburg deserve attention for their consistent interest and participation in town affairs. Charles R. Damon has held membership in numerous organizations, and has contributed much to many community projects. Soon after his marriage, he owned the prosperous Damon farm, but health dictated that he give up this strenuous work, and he bought the general store now owned by R. F. Burke. At the same time he operated a lumber business in partnership with Frank A. Brooks. In 1915, he be came manager of a chain of restaurants in Springfield, Worcester, Brockton, and Washington, D. C. This was the only time that Mr. and Mrs. Damon lived out of town. Since their return in 1927, Mr. Damon has carried on an insurance business. His wife, for a time, was the hostess of Damon Lodge on South Street. Mrs. Damon died in 1945. Mr. Damon resides now on North Main Street.

Mr. Damon used his influence in securing the present location of the Helen E. James School, and in establishing a town water system. The first full-time Master of the Grange, he has also been the Master of the Hampshire County Pomona, Worthy Deputy of Massachusetts State Grange, and for twelve years a member of the executive committee of Pomona. He was also the first president of what is now known as the Farm Bureau. From time to time he has filled many town offices, including membership in the Republican Town Committee, assessor, and modera-

tor. Director of the Cemetery Association for many years, he has been patron of Joel Hayden Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, member of the Knights of Pythias, Men's Club, and Masons.

Mr. Damon was twice elected as representative to the General Court, and during the two-year term, 1930-31, obtained substantial reductions in the electric rates in Williamsburg and Goshen.

Mary Annette Wright, wife of Henry E. Wright, lived most of her life in this town. The daughter of Sesostris Warner and Dolly (Hannum) Warner, she always possessed a great amount of spirit. She was the first woman here to own and ride a bicycle when those vehicles had high front wheels and small rear ones. She cycled to Northampton often. At Smith College she studied art, and painting remained the hobby of her life. She married Henry Wright, the step-brother of John, Henry and Hiram Hill. She contributed generously to all projects for civic improvement, and gave her active support to many local organizations. Her death occurred in 1936.

James Russell Trumbull was born in Haydenville in 1825. His father was associated with Joel Hayden in manufacturing. One sister, Julia, married E. L. Miller. His father died in Haydenville in 1828. Although this family was not identified with the town very long, Mr. Trumbull achieved much renown as the author, in two volumes, of the "History of Northampton," where he spent most of his life. A third volume was never published.

John Nash (1736-1773), one of the early settlers of the town, was the husband of Martha Graves. Of their eight children, Moses, John, Samuel, and Thomas settled in Williamsburg. Thomas took for his wife, Naomi Warner, daughter of Captain Jonathan Warner, May 3, 1844. Their son, Jonathan Warner, married Surloma Hill Thayer. It was the son of this couple, Henry Clay Nash, a Civil War veteran, who married Emma C. Johnson of West Virginia and became the father of Walter and Warner Nash. Walter (1867-1938) married Marian White. Many remember him as an expert sawyer and cabinet maker. The work that demonstrates his skill especially is the panelling and wainscoting in his home, made of beautiful wood of native and foreign growth. He was a member of the Republican Town Committee for years.

Their children are Marian Evelyn (born 1897), Walter Briceland (born 1898), Kenneth White (born 1899), Donald Parsons (born 1901), Helen Emma (born 1903), Harold Clay (born 1904), Robert Franklin (born 1906), Alice Marguerite (born 1909), Gordon Johnson (born 1912), Neva Arlene (born 1913), and Justine Webster and Carlton James who died in infancy. Helen, Robert, Alice, Gordon and Neva reside in town at present. Helen is the wife of Richard Watling of Haydenville, and they have one daughter, Jeanette Marion. Alice married Leslie Packard, son of Sidney and Harriet Forsyth Packard. They have two small children, Constance Marguerite and Ronald Leslie. Robert, Neva and Gordon, recently discharged from the service, occupy the family home on South Street. Evelyn married J. Charles Crump. They live in Payette, Idaho, and have one daughter, Joyce. Briceland married Lillian Ennis, and they have a daughter, Justine Lillian. He works for Brown, Stevens & Fifield, Northampton. Kenneth married "Billie" Bertram, and they have three sons. He is owner of a Diesel Repair business in Portland, Oregon. Harold married Elizabeth Duncan. He is Assistant Superintendent of the Lane Construction Company, of Meriden, Connecticut. Donald married Katherine Dixon, and they have one son,

Donald. Donald served twenty-one years in the U. S. Navy, and since 1940 has worked as a Naval Inspector in Long Beach, California. Gordon spent four years in the service, two and one-half years over-seas, and prior to that was employed in the Prophylactic Brush Company. Robert worked for three years for an Insurance Company of Hartford, in our local post office ten years, and for the past four years in the Prophylactic Brush Company, of Florence.

Marian White's parents, Frebun White of Williamsburg and Julia Webster of Goshen, had four children. Besides Marian, Alice, her sister, has also been a lifelong resident of Williamsburg. Her husband, Arthur Tilton, died in 1928.

Warner Nash and his wife, Mary Miller, had three children, Wallace, Bruce, and Grace. Grace, the wife of Robert Wells, lives on lower South Street. Mr. and Mrs. Wells have one daughter.

Moses Nash and his wife, Sarah Little, had eight children, one of whom remained in town. William Augustus (1811-1897) lived on the home place until 1896. William Wallace, son of William A. Nash, settled in Williamsburg, marrying Anna Elizabeth Forsyth. Their three daughters, Mrs. Grace Bardwell, Mrs. Gertrude Locke, and Mrs. Ethel Beverly, were born here, but have since moved away.

Thomas, another son of Thomas Nash and Naomi Warner, married Lucinda King. Four of their children lived to maturity; Edward, Harriet, Frank, and Helen (Mrs. Arthur Hinds). This Thomas (there was a Thomas Nash in every generation) was a manufacturer of woolen cloth, woolen blankets and the like, owning mills in West Whately, Williamsburg and Searsville. He served three terms in the Massachusetts House of Representatives. A selectman and assessor of the town for many years, he also served as financial manager of the church and member of the Parish Committee. He was a liberal in politics, forceful, independent, but good-humored and tolerant. He died at the age of eighty.

His wife, Lucinda, was born and brought up in Chester field. The "angel of Williamsburg" she was called at the time of the flood disaster, when she and her daughter, Harriet, housed and nursed many survivors. During the Civil War, she worked industriously for the soldiers, making wool shirts out of the wool from her husband's mill. A capable housewife, she was noted for her hospitality. Her death occurred at the age of eighty-five.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Hinds had two sons and a daughter. The daughter, Dorothy, married Edwards Pierpont, son of Reverend and Mrs. John Pierpont. Mr. Pierpont was pastor of the Congregational Church. Although residents of New Haven, Mrs. Edwards Pierpont and her family spent their summers in town for years before the Hinds homestead was finally sold.

A gentle, gracious lady, as well as a philanthropist, Mrs. Hinds was beloved by all who knew her. Among her numerous gifts to the town were the land on lower Main Street as an athletic field, and the sidewalk up South Street hill.

Mr. Hinds, following his retirement, edited, at the age of seventy, the "Complete Sayings of Jesus." This book was published in 1927. A current issue of "Who's Who" gave an account of the author, and many nationally-known figures praised the book highly.

Mr. Hinds at present resides with his daughter, Mrs. Edwards Pierpont, in New Haven. The Hinds' residence is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. MacDonald Smith and family.

Dr. Sumner Nash, another son of Thomas and Naomi Nash, having been an invalid since childhood, was induced to visit the then famous Dr. Samuel Thompson. He adopted Dr. Thompson's peculiar ideas of medical practice and devoted his attention to the study of the "Thompsonian System." Returning to Williamsburg, he commenced its practice with good success, curing one or two patients who had been doomed by regular doctors. Dr. Nash died July 9, 1834, at the early age of twenty-one, having just entered upon a large practice.

William A. Nash was born in Williamsburg on April 15, 1811, and he spent his long life here. He was a prosperous farmer, progressive and interested in public affairs. A public-spirited man, he took a deep interest in his native town. For several years he was selectman, and his voice was always heard at the town meetings. The Congregational Church received his consistent support and cooperation. He was one of the incorporators of the Hampshire Savings Bank of Northampton and had long been a trustee. He was also a trustee of the Haydenville Savings Bank. During the latter years of his life he had taken a great interest in the early history of the village and no one was more familiar with the town's old records. The clock in the tower of the Congregational Church is a gift of his to the town.

Mr. Nash was twice married. His first wife was Miss Sophronia Graves of Williamsburg, his second wife, Jeanette Bardwell of Whately. She, with three sons, survived his death in 1897. They were James S. of North Hatfield, W. W. of this town, and Charles S. of Chicopee. A daughter, Mrs. Lewis Hill, by his first wife, had died a few years before. His son, W. W. Nash, an ardent Prohibitionist, acted as moderator of town meeting for several years. Mr. Nash was an excellent speaker. He married Annie Forsythe. They had three daughters: Grace married Fred Bardwell and she lives in California with her one son; Gertrude married John Locke, and they have five children; Ethel, wife of Ralph Beverly, lives in Keene, N. H.

Deacon Elisha Nash, an original settler, and brother of John, married four times, first Elizabeth Locke, then Naomi Sheldon, Sarah (nee Howe) Clark, and Mary Johnson. Of ten children, a daughter Sally became the wife of Joseph Meekins and lived here. Elisha married Experience Cleghorn of Cummington and settled in Williamsburg, as did Oliver and his wife, Clarissa May. The Honorable Hiram Nash was the son of the younger Elisha Nash and Experience Cleghorn. He spent his entire life in Williamsburg. Prescott Williams gives this information concerning him:

"In his younger days, Mr. Nash applied himself faith fully to his studies, and received a good common school education. Settling on Nash Hill near the old family home stead, he engaged in scientific farming. He was always a man of much influence in the town, serving twelve years as one of the selectmen. He represented the town in the House of Representatives at Boston during the years 1848 and 1849, and was a member of the Constitutional Convention which met in Boston in 1853. Mr. Nash was elected to the State Senate in 1859 from this senatorial district, and was reelected in 1860. He was appointed chairman of the celebrated committee on 'pleuropneumonia,' or cattle disease. He was also chairman of the joint standing committee on agricul-

ture. As a legislative officer, Mr. Nash always gave excellent satisfaction to his constituents by the judicious discharge of his duties, and by his genial temperament and courteous address. He was a member of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, and was for a long time zealously engaged in promoting the interest of that body."

He married Lucinda Hitchcock, and they were the parents of two daughters. Both girls, Eleanor and Sophia, married Lester Carr, the carriage maker. Eleanor bore Mr. Carr a daughter and a son. Jennie married Reuben Dewey. Their children, Fred, George, Edith, Victor, Ethel, Marshall, and Raymond were born in Williamsburg. Fred married May Wenzel and they have four children, David, Irene, Doris, and Arlene. Sophia Carr also had a son and daughter, Fred and Lena. Lena married William Damon of this town. Their daughter, Sophia, married Harry Eaton of Springfield, and teaches primary grades in town.

Hiram's brother, Elisha, 2nd, and Almira Bradford, his wife, settled in town. Their children were Levi and Mary. Hiram's sister, Emily, also lived here, the spouse of Lewis Bodman. Oliver, another brother, and his wife, Julia Strong, settled on the Elisha Nash homestead on Nash Hill. Three children lived to maturity, Alanson, Ellen, and Emily. Ellen taught the Nash Street school for a number of years. Alanson's wife was Ellen Baker of Chesterfield. Their children were all born in Williamsburg on the farm Stanley now occupies on Mountain Street. These children are Oliver, Emma, Julia, Rozella, Anna, Stanley, Robert, and Marion. Stanley married Alice Stripp. They have two daughters, Alice, the wife of Elmer Atherton, and Barbara. Marion married Robert Damon of Thompsonville, Connecticut, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Damon.

The children of the well-known Captain Jonathan Warner deserve special mention here. They were Sarah, Nathan, Paulina, Naomi, Ebenezer, Silas, and Jonathan, Jr. Paulina married Elijah Nash and their daughter, later Mrs. Fidelia Field, was the mother of Marshall Field and Helen Field James. Naomi married Thomas Nash, and their descendants who remained in town have already been named. A son of Jonathan, Jr., Job by name, was great grandfather of Harry Warner, living at the present time on Job's old Mountain Street home. A sister of Harry, Mrs. Elinor Kellogg, and until lately an uncle, Mr. William Warner of Haydenville, also live in the community. Harry's father, Charles, a man in his nineties, is living now in West Whately. Job's son, William, was grandfather to Raymond Warner of South Street and Robert Warner of Florence.

The children of Charles W. and Eliza (Sylvester) Warner included three who have resided here. Elinor married Walter E. Kellogg in 1908. Helen, now deceased, was the wife of Raymond Bradford. They had an adopted son, Raymond, who married Viola Mason of Goshen. Harry married Louise Dahmke.

Helen Kellogg married LeRoy Leonard of Williamsburg in 1933, and they have two children, Russell Roy (born 1938), and Elinor Louise (born 1941). Louise married Dr. Frederick Goodhue, son of the late Elbridge and Mrs. Goodhue of Haydenville, in 1939, and they have one daughter, Avis Louise (born 1945). Alice married Charles M. Damon, Jr., in 1938. They have two children, Diana Wells (born 1942) and Kent Murray (born 1945). Walter E., Jr., married Helen Smith in 1934. They have four children, Walter Edward, 3rd (born '935), Sandra Jane

(born 1937), Marcia Louise (born 1938), and Elinor Ann (born 1940). Herbert and his wife, Norma Parsons, were married in 1943, and they have one son, Jeffrey Warner (born 1944). Olive married Alan Damon, brother of Charles M., and Charles married Mary McKay.

Harry Warner married Louise Dahmke, and they have seven children, Henry, Charles, Allen, John, Harry, Ernest, and Cora. Mr. Warner has served the town as selectman for four years, two of which he was chairman. He has also acted as assessor. He was a charter member of the Grange, and Master for three years.

The children of William H. and Charlotte (Cadden) Warner include Alton, Waldo, Ruth and Maude. Ruth, Mrs. Raymond Sisco, was for many years supervisor of music in the local schools before she moved away. Maude is Leon Sanderson's wife, and they have one daughter, Linda Ruth.

Raymond A. Warner and Estella Damon were married in 1910, and they have two sons. Roger married Dorothy Cook of Hadley, and they have two children. Charles married Ruth Seaver of Springfield, and they have three children. Roger is now a teacher of mathematics in Arlington High School, Arlington, Massachusetts, and Charles is headmaster at McGaw Institute in Reed's Ferry, New Hampshire. Mr. Warner's activities include his being a Director of the Congregational Church from 1926-29; President of Men's Club; clerk of the church since 1930 deacon since 1945; Worthy Master of Williamsburg Grange 1909-10 Worthy Master, Hampshire County Pomona 1913-1914; Sub. Deputy, Mass. State Grange 1928-1941; Pomona Deputy Massachusetts State Grange '46- ; assessor, 1926-31; town clerk, 1932-38; Chairman Republican Town Committee twelve years; Hampshire County Registrar of Deeds since 1939; Director Hampshire Health Association, 1944-46.

Mrs. Warner's church activities included being president of the "Friendly Class" when it gave the playground swings and slide; at present she is secretary of the Hampshire District Women's Work. She has been Lecturer of Williams burg Grange; Chairman of the Community Service Committee that beaver-boarded and painted the Town Hall for basketball, and established the annual Grange Mathematics Prizes at Williamsburg High School; Lecturer and Secretary, Hampshire County Pomona; Worthy Ceres, Massachusetts State Grange, 1923-30; author, Golden Jubilee History and Pageant of Massachusetts State Grange in 1922; and Pomona in 1944. She taught grammar school 1924-5; taught in Williamsburg High School in 1910 and 1925-41. She was coach, public speaking W. H. 5., 1927-37; state organizer, National Forensic League Speech Tournaments, 1936; first woman in U. S. awarded N. F. L. distinguished service key. She was District Chairman, Department of Legislation, Massachusetts State Federation of Women's Club, 1941-44; Vice-Chairman of the State Department, in the same organization since 1944. She was Worthy Matron, Joel Hayden Chapter, O. E. S., 1943-4; Director, Hampshire County S. P. C. C. since 1940; Massachusetts D. A. R. District Chairman of the "Good-Citizenship Pilgrims," and also served in the same capacity in the Betty Allen Chapter D. A. R.; first secretary of Williamsburg Visiting Nurse Association; co-director, 150th Anniversary Pageant, Williamsburg, 1921; Member 175th Anniversary Town History Committee; Williamsburg *Gazette* correspondent for ten years.

Mrs. Ada Chandler Hamlin accomplished much in collecting data for a town history. Many quotations written by her appear in this book. She is a native of Williamsburg. After graduating from Smith College, she worked as a librarian in Meekins' Library, and then as a cataloger at Forbes Library in Northampton. She held the same position at the Springfield Library and then at the State College Library in Amherst. In 1916, she married Reverend William R. Hamlin. They have two children, John Rodman and Ruth Chandler Flich. The Hamlins have lived in Amherst since 1928.

Henry S. Leonard, born in Halifax, Vermont, in 1837, died in 1920. He married Lucy E. Long who was born in Chesterfield in 1840 and died in 1918. They settled in Williamsburg eighty years ago and their children were born here. Henrietta Rose Leonard was born on September 24, 1867, and Walter Henry Leonard was born on October 29, 1871.

In Florence on June 4, 1898, Walter Henry Leonard married Etta May Longfellow, who was born in Canada on December 15, 1871. Their children, Iva May and Walter Leroy, were born in Williamsburg. Iva May Leonard married Henry Hermon Baldwin in 1923. Their children, all in Williamsburg, are Robert Hermon, Walter Leroy, Helen May, and Jean Frances. In Williamsburg on June 1, 1933, Walter Leroy Leonard married Helen Louise Kellogg. Their children are Russell Roy and Elinor Louise.

Henrietta Rose Leonard married William Henry Godfrey of Goshen in Williamsburg on May 4, 1888. Their children are Carrie Viola and Leland Henry. On November 13, 1920, Carrie Godfrey married Charles Sabo. Their children were all born in Williamsburg, Doris Marie (born 1922), Robert Francis (born 1923), and Florence May (born 1930). Doris married Orman Elmes, Jr., and their children are Donna May and Linda.

Stearns Patterson Smiley (1869-1936) was born in Strandsburg, Pennsylvania. He married Lizzie B. Nyce, born in 1872 in Analomink, Pennsylvania. In 1907 they came here from Southampton. Mr. Smiley was employed as Freight and Express Agent for the N. Y., N. H., & H. R.R.

Their children are Edward, Fred (deceased), Harold, Mary, Robert, and Helen. Edward, a train dispatcher on the Boston & Maine R. R., married Sylvia Jean Ricker of St. Johnsbury, Vermont. They reside in Greenfield, and have three children. Harold, living in New Haven, is a locomotive engineer on the N. Y., N. H., & H. R. R. Mary is the wife of Willett B. Newcomb, and resides in New York City. Robert, a lieutenant in the Army, married Dorothy M. Ford of Texas. Helen is the wife of Donald G. Gould of Collingswood, N. J.

Lucius A. Merritt was born in Windsor, Connecticut. He taught ten years before coming to Williamsburg as Superintendent of Schools in 1920. He has been active in church and community, serving as church clerk, director and deacon, and Sunday School Superintendent. He was president of Hampshire County Teachers Association, and is a Past Master of the Hampshire Lodge of Masons. He married Sarah Hyde of Windsor, Connecticut. Some of her activities include being secretary of the Women's Club 1944-46, president of Woman's Union 1944-45, and chairman of Program Committee 1945-46.

Mr. and Mrs. Merritt have eight children. Richard Hyde married Pauline Webb. They have one son, Richard, Jr. Mr. Merritt is manager of Pharos Farms, Simsbury, Conn. Helen Elizabeth

married Robert Sten, and they have one daughter, Barbara. Robert Cairns married Catherine Otis, and they have two sons, John and Philip. They live in Williamsburg. G. William was in service with Navy Sea-bees in Pacific area for twenty-three months. He is now in business in Fairbanks, Alaska. His wife is Esther Reed. Jean Louise married Walter Corbiere and they have two children, Amy and Walter, Jr. Ruth Frances is now a lieutenant in the Navy (Waves), and is stationed at Corpus Christi, Texas. Edith married Albert Andersen; they have three children, Albert, Karen, and Laura. Lucius was commissioned a naval aviator in World War II. He is married to Mildred Blair and they have one daughter, Donna. At present he is attending the University of Georgia.

Frederick A. Noble, the son of Christopher and Catherine (Scott) Noble, was born in Haydenville and spent a great many years of his life in this town. He married Lillie Anderson. Besides acting as selectman and assessor, he also served as library trustee, and was a member of the Masons for fifty years until his death in 1943.

William R. Damon was born August 3, 1859, in South Wardsboro, Vermont, the son of Abner and Clarissa (Willcutt) Damon. He came to Williamsburg in 1871, was employed in Northampton from 1875 to 1890 and then returned to Williamsburg, where he worked for Hill Brothers Button Company, becoming a member of the firm in 1905. Later he was employed by the Wells Corporation and the Corticelli Silk Company. Mr. Damon served as deacon of the Congregational Church for about forty years, and is now an honorary deacon. He has been one of the trustees of church funds for about forty years, and sexton—with the exception of five years—since 1903. On May 24, 1894, he married Lena Sophia Carr, daughter of Lester W. and Sophia (Nash) Carr. She was born in Williamsburg, January 19, 1867 and died March 25, 1940. She was a teacher in the schools of Ludlow and Williamsburg. Their one daughter, Sophia Eaton, was born in Williamsburg, October 7, 1896. She married Harry Eaton of Springfield on October 12, 1920. He died December 6, 1925.

In September, 1925, Mr. and Mrs. Homer L. Lloyd of Northampton came to Williamsburg and purchased the house on North Street known as the old Bartlett home, one of the oldest houses in town and one of those which stood during the Mill River flood of 1874. Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd came to Williamsburg to educate their two daughters, Barbara E. and Anne L., in a rural school, to give them what they felt were advantages over city education.

Mr. Lloyd was connected with the Northampton Electric Lighting Company, as well as the Mill River Electric Light Company, which served the town of Williamsburg at that time. Later these two companies consolidated. Mr. Lloyd was one of the first commuters from this town, going to business in Northampton each day.

Both Barbara and Anne graduated from the Williamsburg High School and then travelled daily to Northampton to extend their educational training at the Northampton Commercial College. Barbara now has a secretarial position in the college text book division of the Harper & Brothers Publishing House in New York. Anne, after completing three years of war work in the offices of Pratt & Whitney in East Hartford, was married in October, 1945, and is now Mrs. James J. O'Brien, living in East Orange, N.J.

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd have been members of the Williamsburg Grange. Mrs. Lloyd has been active in Extension work, the Women's Club, and the American Legion Auxiliary, besides being a member of the recently formed Village Planning Board. Mr. Lloyd is one of the directors of the Williamsburg Cemetery Association, a member of the Men's Club, and the American Legion. He, with other men of the town, helped to form the Williamsburg Post, and is a charter member. He is one of the committee who recommended the purchase of the Haydenville Club House, which has been turned into a recreation hall.

In 1943, before the girls left home, their great-aunt, Miss Emily Lloyd, sister of Mr. Lloyd's father, came to live in the family. She is known as "Aunt Emily," not only to her own family, but to her many friends. She is now eighty-four years old and still keeping her position as proof-reader for the *Northampton Daily Gazette*, where she has been employed for more than fifty years.

William G. Wells was born in Williamsburg, June 14, 1825. In 1849, he married Man Willcutt of Chesterfield. They lived on what is now known as Village Hill Nursery, and had six children. By trade Mr. Wells was a stone mason and farmer. He died in 1876 and his wife, in 1905. All the children were born in this town.

John A. (1850-1934) married Lydia Baker of Charlemont. He was a merchant there. They had two children, Frank and Mae. Martin G. (1855-1892) remained unmarried. He lived with his mother after the father died and carried on the farm. Lizzie, born 1864, married Harry S. Packard, a merchant in Plainfield. They had two daughters, Man and Dorothy. Man married Leon Stevens of Cummington, and they have five children. Dorothy is the wife of Charles Bowker, and their children are June, Mary, Ruth, and Samuel. They all reside in Williamsburg. Fred W. (1867-1942) worked as a clerk in Charlemont. He married Alice Lee of that place, and they have two children living. Frank W. (1867-1910) married Effie Cranson of this town. He was a farmer. Their children were Mildred (deceased), Martin, and Robert of Williamsburg. Jesse (born 1869) married Maude M. DeMartin of Williamsburg. She was the daughter of Sidney and Kathryn (Farnham) DeMartin, who had two other children, Bessie and Richard. Jesse Wells has the reputation of an excellent carpenter and builder. They have four children.

Mabel K. married Joseph J. Kelley, U.S.N., and they have had eleven children, Joseph J., Norman E. (deceased), Gordon W., Janice I., Willard J., Carleton C., Richard G., Norma J., Phillip R., Neil A., and David W. This family lived in town until a few years ago when they moved to Leeds. Lester M., a machinist, married Helen Little of Florence. They reside in this town, and have two children, Ruth M. and Nancy K. Alice M. married Luby C. Lee of North Carolina. They have three children and live in Pottsville, Pennsylvania. Man lives in Northampton, and is a clerk and a buyer at Todd's store.

William G. Wells' father, John Wells, was born in Williamsburg, and also his grandfather, Captain John Wells, of Revolutionary War fame.

Captain Jonathan Wells was born in 1765 and died in 1835. He married Sarah Warner, daughter of Captain Jonathan Warner. She died in 1837. They lived in a house that stood where William Culver now lives on South Street. There Sarah Esther Bisbee was born and lived for six

years until her father bought the house where Nellie Kingsley now lives. They had six children, John, Lucinda, Panthea, Rowena, Sarah, and Cerintha. John married Eliza Graves. Lucinda died young. Panthea was the wife of Samuel Graves. Rowena married Ebenezer Graves. Sarah became the wife of Downing Warner Graves, and Cerintha married Lewis James. Most of these children moved away, but John's children settled around here. They were Alms Wells Baker, William Graves Wells, Mary (died in infancy), Alexis, Janette, Mary Ann, and Sarah Esther. Sarah Esther Wells Bisbee, on her mother's side, was a direct descendant of Captain Perez Graves of Revolutionary War fame.

Henry Albert Bisbee was born in Chesterfield, Massachusetts, September ~, 1837, the son of Asahel and Eliza Stebbins Bisbee. He came to Williamsburg in 1860, when he married Sarah Esther, daughter of John and Eliza Graves Wells.

He enlisted in the Civil War October 11, 1862, 52nd M.V.M., Co. I, and was discharged August 14, 1863. He served as town constable for many years, besides holding several minor offices. He was Deputy Sheriff for this district of Hampshire County for over fifty years. His grandfather served in the Revolutionary War and his great grandfather was killed in the French and Indian Wars.

Mr. and Mrs. Bisbee had seven children, Ida Eliza (died in infancy), Mary Wells (Munsell), George Henry, Frank Lester, Maria Jane (Walters), Nettie Eliza, and Wells Graves. Mr. Bisbee died August 8, 1917.

George H. Bisbee married Inez Tileston. Their children were Merrill, Evelyn, Inez, and Lois. Merrill married Louise Nehring, and they have six children, Ruth, Henry, Jr., twins Robert and Richard, Frederick, and Roger. They live on South Street near the old Bisbee home. Evelyn married James Evans, and their children are Ruth (Mrs. Oscar Lawton), Dorothy (Mrs. Louis Morengo), and James, still in school. Inez married Walter Evans. Their son, Walter Evans, Jr., is in the service and they have two daughters, Patricia and Priscilla, in school. Lois and her husband, Kenneth Gillman of Northampton, live with Mr. George Bisbee in the family home on South Street. The Gillmans have five children, Kenneth, Donald, Alan, Linda, and Stephen.

Frank L. Bisbee married first Jennie Braman, and had twin daughters, Lula and Laura. His second wife was Martha Stukey. Laura married Lyndell Deane (deceased). She is now principal of the Worthington school. One of her daughters, Charlotte, is the wife of George Judd of Goshen, and they have one little girl. The other daughter, Martha, is employed in the Accounting Department of the Federal Land Bank in Springfield. Lula is the wife of Frederick Smith of Haydenville, and they have a son, Frank Austin.

Wells (deceased) married Lizzie Pollard of Florence, and they have one daughter, Barbara Bisbee Swanda, a nurse. Mrs. Wells Bisbee is librarian at Meekins' Library, and secretary of the Cemetery Association.

Clayton N. Rhoades and his wife, Ida (Torrey) Rhoades, came to Williamsburg from Chesterfield in 1912 and bought the Francis Porter farm on Village Hill. Mr. Rhoades became interested in agriculture, running a milk route for several years. Later with Mrs. Rhoades he established a successful poultry business and the place became known as "Hillcrest Poultry Farm."

They have four daughters living. Norma died in 1908. Dorothy married Oscar Colburn of Chesterfield, New Hampshire, and has two daughters, Roberta, a lieutenant (j.g.) in the Navy (Waves), and June. Maxine married Elmer E. Clapp of Westhampton, and their five children are Elmer, Jr., Faith, Donald Rhoades, James Russell, and Richard Emerson. Olive is the wife of Warren McAvoy, and they have three children, Warren Oliver, Ruth Anne, and William Clayton. The youngest daughter, Shirley, married Albert Meisse of Florence, a lieutenant in the Army.

Charles Preston Otis (1884-1945) was born in Florence. In 1906 he came to this town, settling on the site of the first parsonage on Village Hill. He was always active in musical circles, being a member of the Hampshire Male Quartet. He served on the Board of Registrars, and on the Board of Directors of the Congregational Church. His wife, Carrie (Bennett) Otis, born in 1887, acted as secretary to Frank Newhall Look of Florence before her marriage. She has served as secretary of the Visiting Nurse Association, and is on the executive board of the Woman's Union. The Otises have five children. Marjorie is a Sister at the Mercy Hospital in Springfield. Catherine, after graduating from Smith College, was a member of the staff of the Library of Congress in Washington, D. C. She married Robert C. Merritt of Williamsburg, and they have two sons, John Otis and Philip Cairns. Robert Bennett served in World War II as a naval aviation machinist's mate. He is married to Virginia Adams Ladd, of Belfast, Maine. Donald Worth, a poultryman, married Marguerite Hamilton Thayer, and they have a daughter, Kathleen Bennett Otis. Charlotte Preston was a student in the United States Cadet Nurse Corps during World War II.

Miss Berenice Otis, sister of C. Preston Otis, has spent many summers on Village Hill, and has recently built a home opposite the Otis farm. For many years she has been a teacher of art in Classical High School in Springfield.

The Fitches, Mary, Elizabeth, Katharine, and Lucy, came to Williamsburg from Cleveland, Ohio, more than thirty years ago, purchasing the Lawyer White place on Village Hill. Miss Elizabeth was a trustee of the Meekins' Library for some years, and for twenty years selected the books that were purchased. Miss Lucy was most active in Red Cross work in World War I. Miss Katharine, a former nurse at Johns Hopkins Hospital, was an officer of the Visiting Nurse Association. All were interested in the life and interests of the town and church. Recently, the Misses Elizabeth, Katharine, and Lucy Fitch have moved to Northampton.

Dorcas Brigham bought the William and Man Wells place in 1929 from N. K. Lincoln. Miss Brigham is a teacher at Smith College, as Associate Professor, more commonly known as the "dirt gardener" of the Botany Department. She runs a nursery which she hopes gives people a closer familiarity with the beautiful things available for gardens. Since she has made Williamsburg her home, she has tried to show her interest through activities of the Planning Committee, Finance Committee, and the Town History Committee.

William Guilford married Filinda Brown, and their children are Willis, Harris, who married Mary Snow, and Chauncey, who married Emily Stebbins.

Lewis Guilford married Lucretia Fisk of Worthington, and their children are Fred, who married Harriet Frost, Mabel, Ernest, and Nellie, who married Thomas Culver of Lee, Massachu-

setts. Their children are Gertrude, Lora (deceased), Linwood, who married Jane Chadwick, and Roger, who married Eleanor Stearns.

Willis Guilford was born in Williamsburg October 27, 1835. He married Algene French, who was born in Williamsburg September 26, 1834. Their daughter, Jennie, born March 10, 1861, married Walter Forsyth, and later Alvin Kinney. Myra Forsyth was born March 4, 1888. For thirty years Myra and her mother have cared for state wards, averaging five continuously during these years.

James Stevens came from Gloucestershire, England, in as did Harriet Lewis whom he married in Williamsburg. They had six children. Alfred married Annie Gillis, and they had five children. A second wife was Margaret Wilson, and they had one child. Emma married Dwight Heacox. Nellie died at twenty years of age. Lewis and Gertrude were unmarried. James Stevens was drowned in the flood.

Mr. and Mrs. Fordyce Jenkins came to Williamsburg in 1897 from Cummington. Their children are Lucius, who married Josephine Migliora, and later Ann Flynn; Maurice and Carroll who are unmarried; and Dorothy, who married Leon Tiley. They have two children, Norman and Jean.

Reverend John Miller married Mary Ann Philips, and their children are Howard, Henry, Louis, and Arthur who married Alice Gage.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur P. Miller are Frederick, who married Ella Sentiner; Annie, who married William Watson; Fannie and Debbie, who died when small; Blanche, who married Walter Loomis; Helen, who married George Bean; Sherwood, who married Margaret McDermott; Howard, who married Frieda Knapp; Ethel, unmarried; Marjory, who married Leon Sanderson; Olive, who married Byron Merrill.

Mr. and Mrs. Holland D. Sylvester came to Williamsburg from Easthampton in 1905. Their children are Helen, who married William Schrader; Rose, who married William Hannum; and Eugene R., who married Marion Damon. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene R. Sylvester are Mildred, who married Paul Hannigan; Ruth, who married Noel Scagel; Carl, Eugene R., Jr., Marion, Helen, and Alan. Mrs. Sylvester has been church organist for several years.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Little had three children, Charles and Henry, both of whom settled in Illinois, and Ellen, who married Henry G. Curtiss, of Connecticut. They had one daughter, May J., who married Theodore Ring.

Elihu Graves, son of Caleb, married Rhoda Thayer of Charlemont, Massachusetts, in 1839. Their daughter, Josephine, married Edward M. Kingsley of Westhampton, Massachusetts, and had a child Carrie, who married James Wells. She died in 1942. Their two children are Kenneth and Edith. Ellen Kingsley, unmarried, still lives in town. Charles S. married Emeline L. Currier, and their children are Fred, Harris, Mary L., who married Edward Warren, and Harriet E., who married James Church.

Albert Hayden, with his wife and son, William, came to Williamsburg from Chesterfield, Massachusetts, in 1911, and purchased the Robert Damon home on South Street. One son, Sterling William, married Dorothy Jillson of Turners Falls, Massachusetts. They have three sons.

Cheney Kelly Hathaway was born in Ashfield in 1886. He married Ethel Alice Willcutt of Goshen, and their children are Hazel Andrea, born in Chesterfield on December 15, 1910, and Elson Willcutt, born in Chesterfield on June 21, 1915.

Hazel Hathaway married William B. Culver of Ashfield n 1932. Their children are Joan Patricia (born 1935) and Andrea Jean (born 1941). Elson Hathaway married Barbara Ledia Roberge of Williamsburg. Their children are Elson Willcutt Hathaway, Jr. (born 1934), and Alice Imogene (born 1940).

Cheney K. Hathaway was appointed Fire Chief and Forest Warden in 1929 and has held those offices until the present time. Mr. and Mrs. Hathaway have been members of the Grange for thirty-eight years. He is a Director of the Western Massachusetts Fire Chief's Club, a member of the New England Association of Fire Chiefs, and also the National Association of Fire Chiefs. He has also served as Director of Western Massachusetts Forest Wardens' Association.

William Culver first came to Williamsburg in March, 1918. He has lived here ever since with the exception of a few intervening years when he worked elsewhere. In 1943, Cheney K. Hathaway, Elson Hathaway, and William B. Culver formed a partnership and went into the lumber business, known as the firm of Hathaway & Culver, which s still operating. Mr. Culver is Past Master of Williamsburg Grange, and has been State Grange Deputy since 1941.

Sidney Frebun Packard was the son of Hannah Holman and Frebun White Packard, born at Goshen, Massachusetts, August 24, 1867. He married Harriet E. Forsyth, daughter of Aurelia Upton and Andrew Forsyth of Williamsburg, at Florence, Massachusetts, on December 6, 1887. Harriet E. Packard was born at Williamsburg, Massachusetts, February 24, 1868, at the Morton House on Chesterfield Road. They moved from the farm at East Street, Goshen, to Williamsburg on February 24, 1921, when he purchased the meat market on Main Street, formerly owned by Frank L. Taylor. He conducted the meat business there until June, 1925, when he sold the business to Arthur J. Polmatier of Williamsburg, and moved to the Fred Thayer house on North Street. They had six children. Sidney Earle married Grace Divoll, and they have two children. They now reside in Westfield, Massachusetts, where he is chief engineer at the Foster Machine Co. Harold Kingsley, born at Goshen, Massachusetts, April 10, 1896, married Hazel Vivian Mason of Westboro, Massachusetts, June 20, 1920. They had one son, Arthur Mason (born 1922). After being divorced, Harold married Bessie Kaye, of Boston, Massachusetts, June 2, 1934, and they now reside on the old Breckenridge farm on Nash Street. Merwin Forsyth, born at Goshen, September 30, 1897, married Arlene T. Cranson of Conway, December 19, 1922. Their children are Phyllis Arlene (born 1924) in Williamsburg, Shirley Harriet (born 1926) in Worthington, Cullen Sidney (born 1929) in Worthington, and Warren Cranson (born 1934) in Worthington. Merwin was associated with his father in the meat business at Williamsburg from 1921 to 1925, when he purchased the General Store and became postmaster at Worthington, Massachusetts, where he is at present. Ethel Harriet, born at Goshen, October 29, 1902, married Murray Sheldon Graves of Williamsburg on June II, 1923. Their children are Murray Wellington (born 1924), Frostine Adella (born 1926), and Murilyn Ethel (born 1934), at Williamsburg. Leslie Holman, born at Goshen, August 22, 1910, married Alice Marguerite Nash of Williamsburg on July 21,

1934. Their children are Constance Marguerite (born 1936) and Ronald Leslie (born 1940) at Williamsburg. Roy Harvey, born at Goshen, September 20, 1907, married Wanda Elizabeth Pennington, daughter of Myrtie and J. G. Pennington, of Williamsburg, on September 19, 1929. They have two children and now reside in Westfield, Massachusetts.

The activities of Ethel P. Graves include her being a leader of the 4-H Club; member of the Hampshire County Extension Service Advisory Council; chairman of the Red Cross and Dickinson Hospital sewing; secretary of the Board of Directors, Williamsburg Congregational Church; member of the Music Committee; superintendent of the Sunday School; and the first president of the Woman's Union. She has been president of the Mothers' Club, member of the Republican Town Committee, Matron of the Joel Hayden Chapter O. E. S., and Deputy Grand Marshal, Grand Chapter O. E. S. of Massachusetts.

Leslie H. Packard collected taxes for the Town of Williamsburg from 1934 to 1939, the youngest tax collector ever elected in the state. He served the Congregational Church as clerk of the Board of Directors, and now is deacon. He is president of the Meekins Library Association; trustee and chairman, Auditing Committee, Haydenville Savings Bank; and Past Master of the Hampshire Lodge A. F. & A. M. He was assistant manager of the M. A. C. Plan, Inc., of Northampton, from 1929 to 1937, and is now owner of Packard's Soda Shoppe, Williamsburg. In March, 1945, he was made office manager at Smith College, Northampton, Mass.

Charles Roberge and Grace Denno Roberge moved to Williamsburg in 1907 with the Springfield Level and Tool Company, at which time the name was changed to The Williamsburg Manufacturing Company. Mr. Roberge was foreman eighteen years for Mr. Arthur Polmatier. In 1925, Mr. Roberge took employment as pattern maker for the Haydenville Company, and has worked there ever since. There are six children, Charles N. (born 1905) in Springfield, Helen Mary (born 1909) in Williamsburg, Mildred Esther (born 1911), Grace Blanche (born 1913), Barbara Ledia (born 1915), and Adelbert J. (born 1923).

Mr. Roberge is a member of Hampshire Lodge of Masons and was Worthy Master of that lodge in 1927 and 1928. He also served as Worthy Patron of the Joel Hayden Chapter O. E. S. in 1929, and Mrs. Roberge was Worthy Matron that same year. Both are members of the Williamsburg Congregational Church.

Charles N. Roberge married Josephine Rhoades June 1, 1926. Mildred Esther Roberge married Lester S. Damon February 26, 1930. They are now living in Northampton, Massachusetts. Helen Mary Roberge married Luther C. Bridges September 8, 1930, and has lived in Ware, Massachusetts since then. Grace Blanche married Charles W. Heath December 24, 1933 and they live in Williamsburg. Barbara Ledia married Elson Hathaway June 9, 1934, and they live in Williamsburg. Adelbert J., storekeeper 2/c, enlisted in the U. S. Navy November 16, 1942, where he is still serving. There are twelve grandchildren as follows:

Irene Roberge, Blanche Roberge, Charles W. Roberge, Richard Roberge, Vernon Damon, Donald Damon, Clayton Bridges, Arlene Bridges, C. David Heath, W. Malcolm Heath, Elson Hathaway, Jr., and Alice Hathaway.

In 1912, Mr. and Mrs. Leon Damon came to Williamsburg, taking up residence on South Street, where they remained for eighteen years. Mr. Damon was born in Chesterfield, son of Sylvanus C. and Elizabeth (Burt) Damon. He was employed first in the Bradford Lumber Company, later at Taylor & Mellon's wood working mill, serving as master mechanic. In 1933, the Damons purchased the home on Main Street, known as the Staab house. Mrs. Damon was born in 1871 at St. Albans, Vermont, the daughter of Joseph N. and Annie (Bruleigh) Hamel. She was on her father's side the grand-niece of the late Countess De Gravelle of Rouen, France. Mrs. Damon is a member of the First Congregational Church, the Women's Club, and the Hampshire Hills Handicraft Association.

Two children were born to the Leon Damons, Maude Evangeline, wife of Roger W. Wells, and Kenneth Leslie, who lost his life by drowning at Norwich Pond in 1919 while serving as assistant Scout Master. There are also two grandchildren, Janice Lucille and Norma Lorraine Wells.

Mr. Damon is in business for himself in the manufacture of lawn furniture and saw filing. He is president of the Williamsburg Cemetery Association.

Grace E. Williams has lived in this town seventy-three years. She is the daughter of John W. Williams, a tinsmith, and his wife, Sarah A. Hines Brown. Mrs. Williams had three children, Charles, Jennie, and James, by a former marriage.

Patrick H. McAvoy married Edith M. Stevens in 1907, and came to Williamsburg in 1917. Here Mr. McAvoy operated the blacksmith shop on Main Street. Three children were born to them, Warren Everett, Bernard Stevens, and Edith Pearl (deceased).

Warren married Olive Rhoades, and their three children are given elsewhere. Bernard married Hazel Torrey of Peru, and they have three sons, James Alden, Robert William, and Donald Stevens.

Both sons are associated with the Baltzer Tree Surgery and Landscaping Company. Warren is chairman of the School Committee, and president of the Men's Club. He is deacon and treasurer of the Congregational Church, and has served on the Board of Directors. He is also Past Master of the Masons.

Mr. Stephen J. Burke was born in Haydenville in 1878, son of the late John and Catherine (Kiely) Burke. He married Mabel E. Mahoney of Boston in 1905. They had five children, three of whom are still living. Mr. Burke was first employed as an inspector for the Haydenville Brass Company. He later moved to Williamsburg where he has worked for his brother, Richard F. Burke. He has always taken a great interest in town affairs. At present he is serving his twenty-ninth year as a member of the Board of Registrars. He served as chairman of the Democratic Town Committee for ten years. He also served as an elector under the Oliver Smith Will for seven years, and as trustee for two years. For the past fifteen years he has been sexton at St. Mary's Church in Haydenville. Mr. and Mrs. Burke have three children, Mary, Elizabeth, and James.

John Staab, a native of Germany, settled in Williamsburg, and in 1851 married Sophie Keitz, also a German. He conducted a tailoring business in his home on Williams Street, later

moving to a new location on Main Street where he continued at his trade until his death in 1892. Of the five children, three of the sons, Henry, William, and Jacob, followed their father's occupation. Henry went to California as a young man; William settled in Northampton; and Jacob remained in Williamsburg. John was employed at the Haydenville Brass Shop until he moved to Illinois. A daughter, Sophie, died in young womanhood. Mrs. Staab lived to the age of ninety-four, dying in 1922. She was blessed with a happy disposition, and, though handicapped by deafness and blindness in her later years, she bore her infirmities with fortitude. Although she had only a limited knowledge of English, she had many friends and enjoyed knitting endless bath mitts which she liked to give to them.

The Hill family came first to the eastern part of the state, then to Hatfield and about 1771, Samson came to Williamsburg. Here in the north part of the town, he cleared a piece of wild land for a home, thus becoming the first settler in that region. He was in the Revolutionary War for a short time. He married Prudence Ruggles and five children were born to them. His burial place is the old cemetery.

After Samson's death, his son Ephraim carried on the farm. He married Sarah Bradford, a direct descendant of Governor Bradford, and they were the parents of ten children. When his youngest son, Otis, was five years old, in 1813, Ephraim bought a grist mill that stood on the site of the later mill built by Mr. H. G. Hill, and moved his family to a nearby site, which was destined to be the home of the Hill family for over a hundred years.

Of Ephraim's sons, the two youngest, Hiram and Otis, were the ones most active in Williamsburg affairs. They were in business together for a number of years until in 1853, Hiram withdrew. Otis also withdrew two years later on account of ill health. His son, Hiram, took over the button and wood turning business. Though the two brothers were closely associated in business for so many years, they were strikingly different in their personalities. Reverend C. O. Day spoke of this difference in a few well-chosen words:

"There were the two brothers, Hiram and Otis, noble in aspect and strong in character, yet so unlike each other: one so impetuous, emphatic, firm, ready to take hold with enthusiasm on every great patriotic and religious work; the other so cautious, reflective, so deeply conscious of the intellectual difficulties which beset faith."

One illustration of this is that while Hiram joined the Free Soil Party and became an ardent anti-slavery man, his brother remained in the conservative Whig Party and when Hiram was elected representative in the State Legislature in 1850, his brother was his defeated opponent. This was the year in which Charles Sumner was elected senator. Mr. Hill was one of those who voted for him and his letters tell of marching around the streets of Boston to celebrate the victory. He was interested in the effort to open up Kansas as a free state, so he bought land in Lawrence, Kansas, and erected the first frame house in that city. He also made other investments in other Kansas towns and while he met with some losses in connection with those investments, they proved profitable in the end.

The temperance reform movement was another cause to enlist his interest and activity and he was very active in church work. The *Gazette* quotes his pastor, Reverend Henry Snyder, as saying of him:

"He was a man who would be singled out in a crowd as one who stood mentally and morally above the average. His fine physique, his benignant face, his moderation of speech and action made him a man of mark. His judgment of men and matters were superior and he was universally esteemed."

He married Roena Thayer but had no children except an adopted son who died in young manhood. In his will he left $8,000 to the Congregational Church, $2,000 to the Williamsburg Library Association, some $2,000 to missions and the rest he gave in small amounts to numerous relatives.

Otis married Philena Packard of Ashfield and five children were born to them. The eldest son died of tuberculosis in young manhood. The daughter married T. M. Carter and they had one daughter, Mary. She graduated at Westfield Normal and taught for many years in the primary school. After her father was incapacitated, about 1902, she carried on his drug store on Main Street, North Street corner, now occupied by C. F. Jenkins.

The three younger sons of Otis, like their father, spent all their lives in Williamsburg and like their father, were prominent in the affairs of the town. The father was town clerk and treasurer for about twenty years, and representative in the Legislature one year. He was a member of the Congregational Church and was careful and conscientious in all his duties. His wife died in 1865, and later he married Mrs. H. E. Wright of Southampton. He cared for his father and mother in his home where they lived to more than eighty years of age.

His eldest son, Hiram, was born in 1840 and was educated in the Williamsburg schools and in an academy for boys in Amherst. He was associated with his brothers in the button and wood turning business for some years. Then, in 1883, he sold out his shares to Abner Damon and Henry Wright, and erected a solid, substantial wooden building for a grist mill on the site of the one washed away in the flood of 1874. He continued a successful business here until the end of his life. After this time, his daughters carried it on for some years. His wife was Miss Charlotte Thayer, a daughter of Mr. Williston Thayer. They had four children, two of whom, a boy and a girl, died in infancy and two other daughters, Genevra and Evalena. Mr. Hill was a man who had a great gift for making friends, having many in this and the neighboring towns. He was much interested in the Williamsburg Library Association. It is said that Williamsburg would not have had the Meekins Library and its endowment if it had not been for him. At one time Mr. Meekins became very angry at some action of the town and determined to destroy his will. He sent for Mr. Hill to tell him of his purpose. The latter, after a long argument, persuaded him to leave the will unchanged.

Mr. Hill was interested in the Masonic order and became a Knight Templar. He had a fine baritone voice and sang in the Congregational Church choir for many years. His daughter, Genevra, attended the Dana Hall School in Wellesley and received the degree of Bachelor of Music from Smith College. She has given piano lessons to many young people and has always

been a help in the musical affairs of the town and church, where she sang in the choir and later played the organ.

His other daughter, Evalena, was also a student at Dana Hall School and a graduate of Emerson School of Oratory in Boston. While in Boston, she met Mr. Albert H. Holton, a native of Maine. After spending a few years teaching her chosen subject, she was married to Mr. Holton. They lived for many years in a house in Dorchester and later in apartments in Boston. In one of these, Mrs. Holton passed away on November 1, 1935, after a life filled with many acts of kindness and thoughtfulness for those about her. Mr. Holton followed her a few years later, when he was visiting at the home of his only son in Syracuse, N. Y

This son, John Hill Holton, married Miss Sarah Pierpont, the daughter of a minister who preached in the Williamsburg Church for over twenty years. They have four children, a son who graduated from the engineering course at Yale, and a daughter who graduated at Mt. Holyoke and who was married shortly after her graduation to Mr. Doderberg, also a Yale graduate. The son is also married. There are also a pair of twins, a boy and a girl now ten years old.

Henry W. Hill was born June 16, 1844. He received his education in the Williamsburg schools and used to tell of assisting in Latin at the munificent sum of $2.00 a week. This shows that though it wasn't a full fledged high school, high school studies were taught there and his brother also tells of taking algebra and geometry there. After clerking in stores in Cummington and New Bedford, in 1870 Mr. Hill ran the express route between Northampton and Williamsburg. Later he went into partnership with his brothers in the firm known as Hill Brothers. It was about 1865 that the Congregational Church purchased their pipe organ and Mr. Hill was its first organist, a position which he held for over thirty years. He had a social, friendly disposition and belonged to a number of fraternal organizations such as the Good Templars, popular here in his young manhood, United Workmen, Grange, and Masons. He was a member of the Congregational Church and held a number of church offices including that of deacon. He held the office of town clerk and treasurer for a number of years and was secretary of the Creamery Association while it lasted. In short, he was always glad to help in any way possible in town or church. He married Mary S. Morton, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Nehemiah May Morton. It was Mr. Morton who built the last three houses on the right-hand side of Williams Street. Mr. and Mrs. Hill had two children, a son who died in infancy, and a daughter, Miss Myra Hill, a graduate of Mt. Holyoke. Mrs. Hill died in 1899 and Mr. Hill in 1920, after a long illness.

The third son of Otis Hill, John Wesley, lived quietly all his life on the homestead to which Samson Hill came in 1813, remaining a member of the firm of Hill Brothers until it ceased to exist, and keeping up the farm. He represented the town in the Legislature one year about 1898. With his other brothers, he was much interested in the Williamsburg Library Association and fond of good reading. He also loved to take long walks out over the country roads. He was a man whom the title of ''gentleman" really fitted.

Francis E. Sanderson (1864-1937) was the son of Edward E. and Nancy (Waite) Sanderson. He married Jennie Johnson, granddaughter of Squire Benjamin S. Johnson. They had six chil-

dren, Alton Lewis, Leon Benjamin, William Edward, Evalena Gertrude, Frederick Willis, and Donald Everett.

Alton L. Sanderson (1888-1934) married Ethel Crafts, daughter of Carlton and Cora Crafts of Whately, and they had one son, Alton Lewis, Jr., and two daughters, Jean and Nancy.

Leon B. Sanderson (born 1889) married Marjorie Miller (deceased 1928), daughter of Arthur P. and Alice (Gage) Miller. Their daughter, Doris Ethel (born 1914) married A. Leland Smith. In 1931 Leon married Maude E. Warner, daughter of William H. and Charlotte (Cadden) Warner, and they have a daughter, Linda Ruth (born 1937).

William E. Sanderson (born 1891) married Madeline Gifford of Whately in 1925, and they have three children. Evalena G. Sanderson (born 1893) married Ernest C. Robbins, son of Leroy T. Robbins, in 1915, and they now live in Pittsfield. They have one son, Donald Arthur (born 1920).

Frederick W. Sanderson (born 1895) married Hazel Warner, daughter of George and Elizabeth (Patterson) Warner. They had two children, Howard Robert (born 1921) and Francis Lewis (died in infancy).

Donald E. Sanderson (born 1901) married Lois Childs, daughter of Charles and Rose Childs, in 1923. They have four children, Burt Carl (born 1924), Ruth Lois (born 1925), Eva Jane (born 1927), and May Louise (born 1930).

In 1935 Francis E. Sanderson married Carrie (Nichols) Graves for his second wife.

John Alexander Breguet and his wife, Helena (Hageman) Breguet came from South Hadley to Williamsburg in June, 1914. Their children are John Henry (born 1904) and Helena Margaret (born 1906). Mrs. Breguet died in 1943.

John Henry Breguet at present is proprietor of the service station in Florence. He has served for many years as town moderator and elector under the Oliver Smith Will. He is Past Master of the Williamsburg Grange and has many times directed or acted in local plays, notably as “Uncle Josh” in “The Old Homestead.” He is married to Mary Margaret Costello of Springfield and is the father of three children, David Lawrence, Judith Ann, and Mary-Jean.

Helena Margaret Breguet has for several years been bookkeeper for Mr. Charles A. Tiley, and has served as town tax collector for the past few years.

Postmaster Winfield Smith is a native of the town, tracing his ancestry directly from John Williams, for whom Williamsburg was named. Mrs. Smith, the former Anna McCarty, is active in Catholic circles, and president of the Williamsburg Women’s Club. Their children are Robert Jane, and David.

Mr. and Mrs. Adelbert Bailey spent their lives in the home on Main Street now owned by Professor Sherk. He was for several years the last Civil War veteran in Williamsburg. For many years he worked in the Haydenville Brass Shop, then was janitor at the Helen E. James School. He was a great reader, prominent man, and a familiar figure in Williamsburg. Their daughter, Mae, married Leigh Perkins, of the Perkins Gear Company in Springfield.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert R. Crone bought the Fitch place on Village Hill in March, 1943. They came from Tarrytown, N. Y. Mr. Crone was a book trade periodical publisher in New York City.

He has assisted locally in Hospital and National War Fund drives. Mrs. Crone, a graduate of Smith College, is a member of the Women's Club, and one of the Gray Ladies at the Veterans' Hospital. They have one son, Peter, a student at Williston Academy.

Frank L. Taylor married first Angela Damon. Their children are Mabel, who married Alexander Cook, and they have three children and live in Thompsonville; Max, who married Mary Hart, and they have six children, Leslie who married Evelyn Atherton, Wallace who married Minnie Richardson (they have two children and live in Goshen), Man, who married Charles Barks (they live in Providence), Doris, who married Andrew Subocz (they have two children, Andrea and Donn, and live here), Frank, who married Hazel Packard (they have two children, Bonnie and Bruce, and live here), and Kenneth, who married Doris Mathers (they have one daughter, Linda, and live here).

Frank L. Taylor married for his second wife Mrs. Mary Mellon, who had one son, Robert. He married Ruth Hall, and they have two children and live in Wethersfield. Mrs. Taylor died in 1946.

In the fall of 1885, William Watson, a locomotive engineer, brought his family from New Haven, Connecticut, to make his home in Williamsburg. At that time he was making one trip daily to New Haven, leaving Williamsburg about six o'clock in the morning and returning about nine in the evening. Obviously, Mr. Watson could not take an active part in the affairs of the town, but he was a public-spirited citizen, interested in all that made for the betterment of the town and contributing generously to all such causes. His wife was Anna Steele McMillen of Hartford, Connecticut, a modest, retiring, but nevertheless very capable lady, devoted to her home and the care of her family.

Shortly after coming to Williamsburg, Mr. Watson bought the house now occupied by Miss Alma Bridgman and her sister on Valley View Avenue. There the family lived very happily until December, 1889, when Mrs. Watson died. Mr. Watson maintained the home there until 1899, when he sold the place to Mr. L. A. Alexander, and moved to Westfield, Massachusetts, the Williamsburg train service having been reduced by the coming of the trolley service in 1894.

After completing more than fifty years in the service of the N. Y., N. H., & H. R. R., Mr. Watson retired. Together with his three younger daughters, he purchased the home on East Main Street and on September 1, 1915, they went there to live. Here he spent his declining years. On March 14, 1924, he passed away, a man of sterling character, honored and respected by all who knew him.

Mr. Watson had five children, Mary, William, Fannie, Anna, and Ruth. The oldest daughter, Mary, married Mr. Michael H. Smart, and later returned to the farm on Nash Hill now owned by her son, Harold C. Smart. Here they raised a family of six children, four daughters and two sons.

Edith, now Mrs. W. J. Boisseau, is the wife of a prosperous dairy farmer of Westfield, Massachusetts. They have five sons and three daughters. Elsie, the second daughter, and her sister, Mrs. Anna Tower, have for some time been in the employ of the Prophylactic Brush Company in Florence, Massachusetts. Their youngest daughter, Ruth, married Mr. Harvey Cranston of Leeds

and with their four boys are now living in their own home on the Goshen Road. Mrs. Smart's older son, William Watson Smart, died in 1910 at the age of fourteen. Harold, the second son, helped with the management of the farm and the care of his invalid father, who died in 1925. In 1927 he married Miss Barbara Cranston, of Leeds. They have two sons and a daughter. At the present time Mrs. Mary Smart is in Northampton, where for several years she has been housekeeper for Miss Alice C. Rice.

William Steele Watson, following in his father's footsteps, became a locomotive engineer, continuing in the service until recently, when he retired and bought a home in Westfield. In 1898, he married Miss Annie P. Miller of Williamsburg, and they have two children, Alice, now Mrs. C. F. White, and a son, William Miller Watson, also employed by the N. Y., N. H., & H. R. R. Both are now living in West Springfield. William has two daughters.

Fannie, the second daughter, was graduated from the Westfield State College and became a successful teacher. She began her teaching career in the "Little Red Schoolhouse" in Searsville but most of her work was in Connecticut. Forced to give up her work in 1936 on account of ill health, she returned to Williamsburg and after several years of patient suffering, passed away on August 29, 1942.

The two younger daughters, Anna and Ruth, entered the business world after training at the Northampton Commercial College. Both became bookkeepers and served in various positions. At present they are living at their home on East Main Street. Ruth has served as treasurer of the Williamsburg Visiting Nurse Association since 1928. Anna was elected town treasurer in 1924 and is still holding that office.

Caroline A. Hill, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Russel Hill of Williamsburg, was born in 1838, in the house where the Misses Anna and Ruth Watson now live. At the age of twenty, in the house where she was born, she married Alfred Nichols of Charlemont. Mr. and Mrs. Nichols had six children, three boys and three girls. Halleck, a selectman for many years, later had charge of the town roads. Clarence served as chauffeur for Mrs. Helen James, and he owned what is now called "Hillcote." Howard owned a grocery store on Bridge Street, opposite the Driving Park, in Northampton. Jennie and Carrie were teachers. Clara worked in various ways to help the townsfolk. Several times she decorated the church for weddings, working at least three weeks previous to the event, collecting greens and huge festoons to go the length of the two galleries. This is only one example of how repeatedly and untiringly she gave her time and efforts for others.

All of the Nichols children began their education at the Little Red Schoolhouse in Searsville, built in 1844 on land given for school purposes by Nathaniel Sears. The schoolhouse hasn't been used for educational purposes since 1921. In 1929 the building was bought by Mrs. Carrie (Nichols) Sanderson as a summer home. Mrs. Sanderson's children by her first husband, Harry Graves, are Wilfred, Superintendent of Schools in Weehauken, N. J.; Alice, who married Harold Streeter of Shelburne Falls; and Alma, a nurse in Smith College Infirmary.

Alfred Spencer Nichols married Elizabeth Abbott of North Hadley, Massachusetts. Their children are Shirley May (born 1930), Janet Elinor (born 1933), Sidney Alfred (born 1935),

Kenneth Irving (born 1937). Alfred, son of Clarence Alfred and Sabra (Packard) Nichols, was born February 10, 1898. He is a precision tool grinder.

Edith Nichols married Vernon Stiles, a school teacher and principal for twenty-four years in Hadley. He is now employed as salesman for the Old Deerfield Fertilizer Company. They have three children.

William Avery Hawks was born in Charlemont, Massachusetts, on January 1, 1834, the son of Silas and Rebecca Avery Hawks. He moved from Charlemont to Williamsburg about 1861, probably influenced to do this by the fact that his older half-sister, Philena Nims Hawks, had married Luther Bodman of Williamsburg and was living there. He was never robust in health and after the sale of the farm in Charlemont, had no regular occupation. On June 27, 1860, he married Linda M. Eagley, who died September 13, 1881. On April 22, 1886, he married as his second wife, Mrs. Annie Juliet (Jones) Burkett, a native of England, who survived him by many years, dying in 1921. Soon after moving to Williamsburg (probably in 1862), Mr. Hawks built the house two doors above the Congregational Church, and lived in it for the rest of his life.

He was from boyhood a great reader, and used his abundant leisure time largely for this and for work for the Williamsburg Congregational Church, to which he was devoted and of which he was a deacon and treasurer for many years. His love of books naturally led to interest in establishing a town library, and he was perhaps the person most interested in starting such a library. Mr. Hawks took a great interest in the plans of Stephen Meekins to leave money for the building and endowment of a public library, but did not live to see this accomplished. His widow, Mrs. Annie Juliet Hawks, however, was the first librarian of the new library and held this position until she moved from Williamsburg in 1903, since which time none of the family has lived there. Mrs. Hawks was a zealous worker in the Women's Christian Temperance Union, as well as in the church.

Mr. Hawks died in 1893. His children by his first wife are listed below. William Cushman, a graduate of Amherst, was assistant librarian of the Hartford Theological Seminary. He died in 1905. Walter Gilmore has been in religious work for many years in connection with the Gospel Missionary Union, Kansas City, Missouri. Another son, Whitney Bodman, died in infancy. Ernest Alfred, who died in 1945, also devoted his life to religious pursuits, first with the Christian Crusaders, later with the Church of God. Emma Beatrice[52], a graduate of Smith College, studied at the New York State Library School, and worked for forty-five years in the Library of the United States Department of Agriculture. Addie Philena, who died in 1906, attended Northfield Seminary, Westfield Normal School, and taught for a short time.

Mr. Hawks' only child by his second wife is Clara B. Hawks, a graduate of Mt. Holyoke College and a teacher in the Springfield High Schools—formerly in the Technical High School, now recently in Classical High.

Gilbert M. Bradford, a life-long resident of Williamsburg and for years one of the town's leading business men, was born in 1853, the son of Levi and Sarah (Mann) Bradford. His birth-

52 Material submitted by Miss Emma B. Hawks of Northampton.

place, now known as the Leon Shumway farm in the north part of the town, was the ancestral home of the family, his great-great-grandfather having settled there about 1750. A son, John Bradford, succeeded this pioneer, to be followed by Pardon, then Levi, and Gilbert who was the eighth in line, directly descended from the Colonial Governor, William Bradford. In 1868, the family moved into the "city" and in 1870, Levi purchased a grain mill of Salmon K. Waite in Searsville. There Levi and his three sons operated a grain and lumber business successfully for many years.

Gilbert M. Bradford, a young man at the time of the Mill River disaster went into business for himself, obtaining a team of horses and working for the state two years in reconstruction of the devastated area. In 1876, he commenced a lumber business. During the next sixty years this business gave employment to more local men than any town industry except the Haydenville Brass Works. Mr. Bradford had much more than just business ability; he had perseverance. Three times his mill was destroyed by fire, and three times he was faced with the necessity of beginning anew. This business was called the Bradford Lumber Company, Inc., and was located on the site of the Henry James Woolen Mill. Mr. Bradford acted as treasurer and manager of the company. A few years after the last fire, he sold out and returned to Searsville.

His activities were by no means confined to business pursuits alone. He held the office of selectman two different times and acted as director of the Cemetery Association. He belonged to the Congregational Church and the Men's Club, and was a member of the High Ridge Lodge A.O.U.W. and the Nonotuck Lodge Odd Fellows.

Mr. Bradford and his wife, Jennie S. Bailey, celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary February 23, 1931. His death occurred April 8, 1932. Two children, a son, Raymond G., and a daughter, Ethel B. Leuscher, reside in this town.

The children of Fred and Geneva (Richards) Graves are Arthur, Philip, and Ralph. Arthur married Harriet Bartlett; Philip, Mary E. Parr. They are no longer Williamsburg residents. Ralph's wife is Isabel McFarland, and they have three children, Norman, Richard, and Geneva. Norman married Mary E. Wilcox, and they have a daughter, Suzanne, and a son, Frederick Norman. Richard who served in the Army in World War II, married Marcia Hobbs, and they have one son, Ralph Richard, Jr. The history of Graves Garage is traced in the section on industries of the town.

William Dwight Adams came to Williamsburg about 1850. He married first Josephine Washburn, and they had five children. Mr. Adams lost his wife and a child in the flood. He then married Agnes M. Tobin of Northampton. Three children were born to them, Cora B. who died when she was only two, Eva B., and Wistella D. Mr. Adams was employed as foreman in the carding room at the James Woolen Mill. For many years he sang in the Methodist Church choir. He served in the Civil War as a member of the Grand Army, 52nd Regiment.

Eva B. Adams married Carl O. Carlson of Florence. For many years she was bookkeeper at the Haydenville Company, after which she worked for the Northampton Street Railway Company. She was very active in the Christian Endeavor Society, and served as treasurer of the Vis-

iting Nurse Association. In 1923 Mr. and Mrs. Carlson bought the Goshen General Store and moved to that town. Mrs. Carlson died in 1941.

Wistella married Howard F. Baker of Leeds, and they have one daughter, Phyllis. She married John Deming of Kensington, Connecticut, and they have two little girls. Mrs. Baker was superintendent of the Sunday School for twelve years and was very instrumental in starting the first Vacation Bible School in this town. She served as the first secretary of the O. E. S., holding that office five years. She was also Matron. For two years she acted as president of the Women's Club.

Howard F. Baker acted as selectman four years, three of which he was chairman. In 1931 he was appointed town accountant and he is still holding that office. For twenty years Mr. Baker was Scout Master in Williamsburg. He has served on the Board of Directors of the church, has been Sunday School superintendent and also deacon for six years. He is deacon at present. He has held the office of Past Master of the Masons, and was treasurer of the committee for the 150th anniversary celebration.

Herbert W. Nye and his wife, Charlotte, came to Williamsburg in 1921. Both are members of the Congregational Church. Mr. Nye also belongs to the American Legion and Fire Department, while his wife has membership in the Legion Auxiliary, the Grange, and the Woman's Union. They have six children. Floyd has been recently discharged after five years in the Armed Forces. For a time he served as an aerial photographer in the Army Air Corps in the Pacific Theater. Corporal T/5 Harlan W. Nye is stationed in Germany as a supply clerk. Irene is living in Louisiana, and Rowena, Herbert M., and Sylvia still attend the local schools.

Although natives of Stamford, Connecticut, the J. Clark Fosters first came to Williamsburg in 1909, spending the summers at the farm on the Old Goshen Road, later purchased by Louis Cranson. In 1916 they established permanent residence here, living for many years in the James house in Haydenville. The two sons of J. Clark Foster and Antoinette (Jensen) Foster are Edward C. (born 1907) and Malcolm E. (born 1910). Edward married Edith Derosia of Adams, Massachusetts, and they have two sons, Edward Halsey and Roy Malcolm. Mr. Foster, present town clerk, teaches in Williamsburg High School. Malcolm married Lucy Haughwout of Montclair, N. J., and they have two small sons.

The Nietsche family came originally from Grossenhain in the Province of Saxony, Germany. Herman and Theresa Nietsche bought the former Elnathan Graves place on South Street in June, 1908. They had three children, Eugene, Hans, and Elizabeth. Eugene married Catherine Hammumn of Florence, and they are now living in Kinderhook, N. Y. They have three boys.

W. Hans Nietsche married Lena Catherine Nehring on September 2, 1912, and they have always lived in the old homestead. Their five children are Magdalena T., Captain Hans L. Nietsche, whose wife is Muriel Parent Nietsche, Lena M., Norma E., and Lorena B. There is one granddaughter, Mary Anne Nietsche. Elizabeth married August Spitzer, and they have five children.

W. Hans was a tailor and worked for William K. Staab, Merritt Clark & Company, and George Luce. In 1916 he went to work for the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, and after

six years became their Assistant Manager, which position he held for ten years. He established the nursery business at his home in 1930. He was president of Men's Club for two years, and served on the School Committee. He has been a member of the Congregational Church for thirty-seven years, and was first tenor in the Hampshire Male Quartet for fourteen years. He was very interested in dramatics and coached as well as performed in many plays in Northampton and Williamsburg. Mrs. Nietsche attended Northampton High School and Commercial College, also taught at Commercial College. She taught school in Simsbury, Connecticut, was bookkeeper at McCallum's Hosiery in Northampton, and was secretary to the principal of Hampton Institute in Virginia. She was president of Williamsburg World's Service Society and missionary superintendent of the Sunday School for several years.

George H. Ames was born in Troy, in 1839. He began work as a peddler at the age of fourteen. Later he kept a store, hardware and tin shop in Haydenville. He married Elizabeth Elmer Dwight, who was a fine woman, a town leader in temperance and woman's suffrage. Their children were George, Roderick, Elizabeth, Rose, who married Charles Clark, and died in 1945, and Dwight, who died in 1917.

Roderick Dwight Ames, born in Colerain in 1863, married Clara A. Hillman, born in 1866 in Williamsburg. Their daughter, Emily, born 1899, married Ludolph Nehring of Florence, and they have one son. The son of R. D. and Clara Ames is Wesley Hillman (1887-1923). He married Mary Jane Richardson (born 1884). Their children are Clara Frances (born 1910), Wesley Jerome (born 1916), Richard Merrill (born 1918), and Emily Martha (born 1920).

Frances Jane Ames Sharpe, a sister of George H. Ames, had a son Howard, who lives with his daughter, Edith O'Brien, and works in the Brass Shop.

Oakley Northrop Ames (born 1842) married three times. The children by his first marriage were Maine Ames Connell and George Ames. The children of the third marriage are Rose, William, and Oakley, who has served the town as selectman for years, and holds the office at present.

George Henry Warner was born in Williamsburg in 1869. He married Elizabeth Patterson who died in 1923. Mr. Warner worked for E. T. Barrus and C. R. Damon. He was chairman of the school committee several years. Mr. and Mrs. Warner had three children, George Vernon, Morris, and Hazel. George Vernon Warner, lieutenant in World War I, tax collector, deputy sheriff and, at present, janitor at Helen E. James School, married Hazel Damon, daughter of C. S. Damon. Their children are George, Jr., who served in World War II; Jean, who married Philip Norris of Westhampton; Marion, who married Frank Montague of Westhampton; Marshall; Russell; and Evelyn.

George H. Warner's second son, Morris, married Gladys, daughter of Herbert and Minnie House Richardson. His daughter, Hazel, married Fred Sanderson, and they have one son, Howard.

Henry L. Graves married Eliza W. Kingsley on April , 1858, and moved to Southampton where they lived until 1865. Then they moved back to Williamsburg into the louse which they had purchased from Ephraim Wright, situated under the range known as Petticoat Hill. In 1871,

he house was moved to its present location on South Street. [hey had one son, Henry W. Graves, who, with his father, engaged in farming on this land. Henry W. Graves married Grace Sheldon of Southampton in April, 1892. He served as vice-president of the Haydenville Savings Bank, and was president for three years. He was a member of the Board of Trustees and also served on the Investment Board. He served on the town Sinking Fund and Board of Trustees of the town, and also as assessor. He was a member and Trustee of the Congregational Church. They have two sons, HI. Murray, who is employed at Graves Garage, and Ernest, employed at Prophylactic Brush Company.

Murray Graves married Ethel Packard and they have three children, Wellington, who served in the Navy in World War II, Frostine, and Murilyn. Ernest married Ruth Tetro and they have two daughters; Clarice, the wife of Leo Dymerski of Haydenville, and Doris, a student in ugh school.

Walter F. Tetro and Carlotta Rustemeyer Tetro moved from Illion, N. Y. in October, 1919, and purchased the house on North Street from Frank L. Brooks. They managed the Williamsburg telephone exchange which was located in the house until the local system changed to dial. Mr. Tetro worked at his profession as a watch maker with in office in his home. They have three children. Helen married Carlton Carroll of Bristol, Connecticut, in October, 1933, and they have one daughter. Robert C. married Alice Bright of Washington, D. C., in 1941, and they have one son. Ruth married Ernest Graves.

Robert Tetro served three years in the Supply Division of the Naval Yard in Washington. He is now Senior Agricultural Economist of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, which position he held before going into the service. In 1943 he wrote a book entitled “War and Farm Work, ” dealing with agricultural economics in this country.

George A. Thresher came to our town from Enfield, Connecticut, in 1880 and settled on a farm on South Street. He married Sarah L. Miller, and they had three daughters, Mrs. Bertha Moore of Brockton, Massachusetts; Mrs. Ruby MacNaughton of Bedford, Massachusetts; and Mrs. Vera Bell of Clifton, Massachusetts. Mr. Thresher served as caretaker of the Williamsburg reservoirs for thirty-five years and as a member of the Water Commissioners for twenty-four. After his retirement, the commissioners designated a block of 15,000 red pine trees on the east side of the old Boston and Albany stage coach road on the water shed as the “George A. Thresher Forest.” Mr. Thresher was custodian of the Petticoat Hill Park Reservation for thirty-five years, and deacon of the Williamsburg Congregational Church for over a quarter of a century.

Samuel A. Clark, a native of Hawley, Massachusetts, came to Williamsburg in 1871, where he married Caroline Clapp, daughter of William and Nancy (Pomeroy) Clapp. He took over the management of the Clapp farm on South Street. Their children were five in number, Gilbert of Hartford, Connecticut, married Lillian Metcalf; Edith married Charles Putney of Leverett, Massachusetts; Ellis (deceased) during his lifetime managed the South Bend Poultry farm, also on South Street; Lucena married Joseph Bean of Florence; and Sereno now owns the ancestral home. Mr. Clark farmed extensively. He remembers that, while busy shearing sheep, he was

called to Skinnerville to help rebuild a bridge at the time of the Mill River flood. He served as deacon of the First Congregational Church for forty years, some of this period as a member of the Parish Committee as well. He was one of the original trustees of the W.C.T.U. property, resigning in 1944 at the age of ninety-seven.

Ellis Clark married first Lora Graves and second Mabel Patterson. Both sons by the second marriage, Lawson and Paul, were born here. The Clark farm was sold after Mrs. Clark's death. Lawson married Laurel Fairbanks, formerly a resident, and they and their daughter, Cynthia, now live in Claremont, New Hampshire. Paul, recently discharged from service overseas, married Sylvia Thayer.

The children of Sereno and Hattie (Del Camp) Clark are Carol, Helen, Russell, and Merwin. Carol is Mrs. Harry W. Tower of Northampton, the mother of four children. Helen and her husband, Manley Bourne, have three daughters. Russell married Arlene Holmes, and they make their home in Claremont, New Hampshire. Merwin is a corporal in the Army of Occupation in Casablanca.

Two Miller brothers, Ebenezer and Jason, settled on South Street, the former on the present Raymond Sylvester farm. He had five children, Lewis, Edwin, Juliette, John, and Irving. Jason married Rebecca Hunt and they lived on the farm now owned by Philip Hall. Six children were born to them, John, Hannah, Hervey Martha, Cornelia, and Jason. Hervey continued to run the farm. He was thrice married, his first wife being Sarah Wright. A son was born to them but the child died in infancy. His second wife, Delia Hooker, bore him two children, Delia and Jason. Four children were born to Sarah Cooley, his third spouse. Louise married George A. Thresher. Hattie is the second wife of Samuel Clark. Mary married Warner Nash, and a son died in infancy.

Opposite the lower reservoir in George Thresher's south pasture is an old cellar hole, marking the spot where the Charles Smith residence once stood. Mr. Smith came from Hatfield and made his living by tending a large herd of cows and by making cheese. His property at one time extended to, and included, the Washburn place. This tract Mr. Smith sold to Ebenezer Phillips of Peru, who sold or gave it to his two children who, in turn, sold it to others. Mr. Thresher has in his possession eleven deeds of the purchase of this land. The Charles Smith house was moved by Captain Tileston's father-in-law to Searsville. This old home stood near the ice pond, and he resided there until the building was destroyed by fire.

The Porters came to Williamsburg from Cummington about 1870. Henry married Elizabeth Tileston of this town and, with Lewis, his oldest brother, owned and operated a general store in the center of the village. After several years, Lewis and his family moved to South Hadley where he assumed the duties of steward at Mt. Holyoke Seminary. His children were Francis, married to Annie Sherwood; Lucius; and Theodore, married to Minnie Damon.

Edwin Porter married Sarah J. Warner, oldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Almon Warner of the south part of town. They had four children, Charles, Howard, Helen, and Louise. A farmer and produce dealer, Mr. Porter lived for fourteen years in the old Congregational Church parson-

age on Village Hill, then moved to the Almon Warner place on South Street. He interested himself actively in the religious and civic affairs of the community.

Francis married Anna Cole of Worthington, and operated a farm on Village Hill. Deacon of the Congregational Church for some time, he took an eager interest in all worthwhile enterprises. Their children were Mrs. John Pierpont of Northampton; Ruth (deceased) ; and Mrs. Robert Armstrong of Concord, New Hampshire. Eva Porter Pierpont taught for many years in college preparatory schools: St. Gabriels at Peekskill, N. Y., Emma Willard at Troy, N. Y., Capen at Northampton.

Abigail married Oliver Everett of Williamsburg. Their son, Almon, was the husband first of Nellie Trask, now deceased, and then Stella Trask, also deceased. A daughter, Jean, and a son, Edwin, were born to Almon and Stella Everett. Jean is Carl Hemenway's wife.

Mr. Edwin Everett was greatly interested in fruit raising and for many years his orchards yielded quantities of apples, pears, and grapes. He grew the first Concord grapes in the valley and used to take them to Northampton. He also had sizeable strawberry beds. All the fruit was lost in the flood, and they had to begin again. Henry, Edwin's son, taught school in the north district school.

Arthur Miller, son of Reverend John Miller, lived on the Lyman Graves place on South Street, now owned by Edward Beattie. He left farming after a bit to become a mail clerk on the N. Y., N. H., & H. R. R. He married Alice Gage and eleven children were born to them two dying when small. The others were Fred, now deceased; Mrs. Annie Watson; Mrs. Blanche Loomis; Mrs. Helen Bean; Ethel; Mrs. Marjorie Sanderson, deceased; Mrs. Byron Merritt; Sherwood; and Howard. He moved his family to the Martin place on Petticoat Hill but returned to South Street after a few years' stay.

Ebenezer Warner, son of Captain Jonathan Warner, married Sarah Graves, daughter of Samuel Graves of Williamsburg, and settled on Petticoat Hill. Later he purchased the present home of the Porters on South Street at the foot of the hill. leading to the town reservoirs. Here he built a saw mill. He had five children. After his death, his son Almon continued to carry on the work of the farm and saw mill. He married Sarah Codding of Plainfield, and they had six children. Charles, a lieutenant in the Civil War, died in Williamsburg at the age of twenty-four as a result of the rigors suffered in the war. Sarah, who taught for ten years in the schools of Williamsburg and Haydenville, married Edwin A. Porter. Lewis, for a time the partner of Hiram Hill in the Grist Mill business, served one term as representative in the State Legislature. He married Esther Haywood of Hadley. Their children are Elizabeth, widow of Arthur Warner, now living in Northampton; Lewis, a lawyer, secretary to Senator Weeks, and legislator from Northampton district; Emily, who married Elbert L. Clark of Southampton; Fidelia who trained as a nurse in New York City and continued in her profession until her death; and Mary who died in infancy.

Robert Pratt Loud, son of James and Lydia (Alden) Loud, was born February 4, 1837, and died September 25, 1907. He served in the Civil War three years, enlisting from the town of Plainfield where he lived at that time. He married March 8, 1871, Jane Ann Courtright who was born March 6, 1845, and died in 1882. They had four children.

James H. Loud was born February 21, 1872, and married in 1906 to Lydia Trask, who died in 1944. They had five children, four of whom are living, Viola May, Robert Jesse, Gilbert Edward, and Elizabeth Jennie. Mr. Loud has remained on the farm where he was born.

Charles G. Loud was born April 28, 1874, and lives in Westhampton, where he married in 1899 Harriet F. Montague, who died in 1904. They had two children, of whom one is living, Frances Priscilla. He has a large dairy farm.

Helena B. Loud was born February 25, 1876, and married Charles Heath. They have six children, Mildred Elizabeth, Margaret Lucy, Robert Mansfield, Raymond Francis, and Gertrude. Mrs. Heath died in 1937.

Edward Robert Loud was born February 6, 1879. He married twice and lived for many years in Worcester, but now resides in Glastonbury, Connecticut, where he operates a poultry farm.

At the time of the Mill River flood, Mr. Loud, who lived within sight of the reservoir, saw the dam give away and ‘an two and a half miles to the village to warn the people. The Wade family, long residents of this town, first came here when Amasa and his wife Hannah settled on the tract of land which has since been known as the Wade farm. This is located about two miles from Williamsburg center. In those days, the old county road ran between the house and barn. Part of this farm is now owned by Mrs. John Wade, wife of Amasa’s great-great-grandson. Amasa Wade and Hannah had six children, Amasa, Mary, Abigail, Abner, Thomas, Sarah, and Hannah. One son, Thomas, was very fond of oxen. In 1825, at the age of twenty, he drove two yokes of oxen to New York City. He walked all the way, and the journey took him a week. Thomas married Mary Peck and settled on the old homestead where he engaged himself in farming and carpentry.

His family consisted of five children, John, Mary, Daniel, Collins, Orrin, and Charles Wesley. Daniel followed the carpenter’s trade. Among the buildings he helped construct vas the old Goshen hotel. His wife, Susan Cook of Plainfield, bore him six children, Ellen, John Ellington, Arthur, Minnie, Mary, and Henry Collins.

John E., a teamster and farmer, moved with his parents back to Williamsburg the day after the Mill River flood, when he was four years old. To him and his wife, Gertrude Miner of Windsor, were born six children, Gertrude; Charles, who served in the First World War; Hazel (recently deceased); Lydia; Harold; and Ruby, who married Ralph Lawton.

Gertrude married Wendell Clary and they had five children (mentioned in the Clary line). Wellington and Forrest both served in the war so recently concluded.

Four children were born to Hazel and her husband, Charles H. Stone. Raymond is listed as missing in action in World War II. Winthrop also served overseas. Margaret married Douglas Fox, and Norman is still in school.

Lydia became the wife of Charles W. Merritt, and they have one daughter, Adeline, who married Horace LePalm.

Minnie Wade, daughter of Daniel Wade, married Albert E. Lawton, and eight children were born to them, Earl, Marion, Myron, Herbert, Ralph, Bessie, Carl, and Raymond. Of these, Earl and Marion married into the Miller family.

Arthur. Wade, son of Daniel Wade, has worked at the Clary Farm for many years. Most of this time he has owned a yoke of oxen of which he was very proud. At his shop he shoes his own oxen and those of his friends. A familiar sight at the ox-drawing contests at the neighboring fairs, he also does fine carpentry work, constructing his own house and shop located near the Clary Farm.

Charles Wesley Wade, son of Thomas and Mary, was widely known in his younger days for his violin playing at local parties and dances. He and his wife lived for many years on a small farm adjoining John Wade's and part of the old Wade homestead.

[53]"Ichabod, the first Hemenway to come to Williamsburg, was born in 1706 in Framingham. In 1758 he sold his home there to his brother and moved with his wife to Williamsburg where he built a log cabin on what is now the south lot of the present Hemenway farm. He was a strong man — it was said that once he caught a wolf and held it down with one hand while he chopped its head off with the other! This couple had four children, Elizabeth, Jason, Daniel, and Ichabod.

"There is in the attic of the Hemenway home on the farm a wooden box put together with wooden pins which was always known as Aunt Betty's tobacco box. Jason went West and was the ancestor of Senator Hemenway of Indiana. Nothing is known of Daniel.

"Ichabod carried on his father's farm. He married Lucretia Southard from Connecticut and had four sons and five daughters. We know of only three daughters, Lucretia, Lovinna, and Elizabeth. His sons were Asa, Elijah, Aaron, and James.

"Lucretia married Aaron Warner and their son Quartus was the grandfather of George Warner whose children were Vernon, Hazel, and Morris. Lovinna married Aaron's brother, Seth. They had no children. Elizabeth married a Hitchcock. Asa and Elijah went west to Illinois where the former soon died. The latter had two sons, Henry and Charles. Aaron married Lois Carey and had at least six children. One of the six was Seth Hemenway who settled in Elmira, New York.

"In August, 1777, during the church service in the meeting-house on Village Hill, army officers broke up the service to ask for volunteers. The British were threatening Bennington and troops were to be sent at once. Ichabod was one of those who enlisted August 17, 1777, in Captain Russel Kellogg's company, Colonel Ruggles Woodbridge's regiment. In October he went on a thirty-day expedition to Stillwater and Saratoga.

"Ichabod, the third, died in 1823 and son James took over the farm. He married Naomi Hitchcock, a black-eyed girl with high spirits who sometimes played pranks on her staid household. James was a thrifty farmer and bought up surrounding pieces of land until the farm was increased to almost 200 acres. He brought his bride into the large, fine home which stood at the top of the hill very close to the site of the present house. He took Naomi all through the house and

53 By Dr. Ruth Hemenway.

down to the cellar where he pointed out the barrels of meat filled for the coming winter. The young bride said she did not like bear meat. The astute James mixed up the barrels so that Naomi thoroughly enjoyed what she thought was pork through the ensuing winter, but later learned it was her detested bear meat! James increased and improved his farm. He set up a turning lathe for making butter implements and other wooden tools. Also, he set up and carried on a distillery for the benefit of his neighbors and himself. Their children were Phoebe, Jane, Samuel, James, and Obed.

"Phoebe married a Dickinson in Hatfield. Jane married a Newell and for her second husband, a Richardson. Her children were William, Julia, and Sarah Newell, and Herbert Richardson. She lived to be 100 years old. Samuel ran a grocery store in Florence; James settled in Robert's Meadow; Obed carried on the farm.

"Obed was born in 1819, married Amoret Morton, and died in 1890. He had a great predilection for hunting and fishing. He left three children, Ellen, Henry, and Elijah.

"Ellen and Henry settled in other towns. Elijah carried on the farm. He was born March 17, 1853; married Ella Shumway in 1887; and had three sons and two daughters. He was an industrious, hard-working farmer, scrupulously honest in all his dealings, full of common sense with frequent flashes of humour, a real lover of his home and his farm. He built the present house in 1902. He died on his farm in September, 1937.

"Fred, his oldest son, was born March 24, 1890, ran a milk route for a few years, and is now working in the Springfield Armory.

"Ruth, born February 10, 1894, graduated from Tufts Medical School in 1921; interned in the Woman's College Hospital 1921-1922; worked at the Allentown Hospital, Allentown, Pennsylvania, 1922-1923. In December, 1923 she went to China as a medical missionary where she worked until her return in 1941. At present she is in private practice in Williamsburg.

"Justin, born March 9, 1896, graduated from M. A. C. 1916, and later obtained his Ph.D. there. He joined the Army in 1917 and was immediately appointed second lieutenant. Soon after he was made a first lieutenant. Before the end of the war he was a captain and did some relief work in France after its close. Later he became a major but withdrew from the Army for the sake of his family. He taught chemistry in Houston and Laredo, Texas, for several years and then joined the border patrol service to which he is still attached. He married Dorothy Davies of Laredo, Texas, in 1920. He has had three sons and two daughters. The oldest son, Stanley Hemenway, born November, 1921, is now in the Air Corps.

"Carl, born January 22, 1898, left M. A. C. before graduation to join the Army and saw service along the Mexican Border before going to France where he served until the end of the war. After returning home he was engaged in various enterprises, one of which was a chicken farm. In 1941 he returned to Williamsburg to carry on the Hemenway farm. He married Jeanne Everitt in 1940 and they have one daughter, Bethany Rose, born October 10, 1941.

"Rachel, born September 8, 1899, taught school in Searsville, Whately, Westhampton, and Wilmington, Vermont. She married Louis Adams of the latter place and had two children, Bertram and Sally Adams. She died of pneumonia in December, 1936."

The Shumways of Williamsburg were descendants of one Peter Shumway of French Huguenot descent. They came to this country between 1660 and 1675 and settled in Oxford, Massachusetts. Jonathan Almond Shumway of Readsboro, Vermont, and Victoria S. Rice, of the same town, were married. To this union were born three children, Ella F., who married Elijah Hemenway of Williamsburg; Emma A., who married Myron Jackson of Fulton, New York; and Fred Almond. The family then moved to Holyoke, Massachusetts, where Fred Almond was born in March, 1867. In 1875 Jonathan died and a few years afterward Victoria married Walter E. Pillinger of Bristol, England. They lived in Northampton. In 1884 the family bought the Alanzo Pomeroy place in the north part of Williamsburg, now known as the Fred Webber summer home.

In August, 1865, Fred A. went to live with a family in Goshen where he attended school thirteen weeks, or the short winter term. At seventeen he went back to work for his mother and Mr. Pillinger. At twenty-one he left home and worked in Northampton and Boston for about five years. In 1891 he bought the Sears Luce place, now the home of Leon M. Shumway. On November 20, 1895, Fred A. was married to Annie F. Mollison of Goshen and they had one son, Leon M., born June 14, 1897. Both Mr. and Mrs. Shumway were charter members of the local Grange. Fred A. was road superintendent of the north part of the town for a number of years, also milk inspector. Later they moved to the village where they lived until Mrs. Shumway's death on July II, 1937. On June 19th, 1939, Fred A. was married to Mrs. Virginia (Leedy) Smith at Belleville, Ohio. They spent the summer of 1939 at the home of her son in Yuma, Colorado. In May, 1940, they took a trip to the west coast by automobile and returned to Massachusetts in July of the same year. They now live about half way between the original farm and the village on what is known as the Charles Wade place.

Leon M. Shumway married Mabel G. Bartlett of St. Andrews, New Brunswick, Canada, November 20, 1929. They have five children, Shirley Jane, Doris Ann, Peter Bartlett, Donna Joyce, and Leona Gail.

Lester Cross with his wife, Helen Cook Cross, came to Williamsburg after retiring as a Boston & Albany Railroad conductor. He bought the old Upton farm on the Hemenway road in 1897. In his ledger of this date we find that the tax rate in Williamsburg was $14.50 per $1,000. They had ten children.

Mary J. Cross taught in the Searsville School for two years, from 1898 to 1900, when she married Burton T. Sornborger of Williamsburg on September 12; they are now living in Springfield. Mrs. Sornborger was a charter member of the Williamsburg Grange.

Annie B. V. Cross taught in the north district school in 1898.

Jenny Lind Cross came to Williamsburg with her parents in 1897, and in 1906 she married Edgar James Knox of Blandford. In 1907 they bought the Upton farm from her father, Mr. L. B. Cross, where Mrs. Jenny L. Knox has made her home ever since. They had two children, Rhea and Arabelle.

Rhea V. Knox was born August 23, 1911, and married Edward J. Crotty of Conway, January 30, 1935. They have one son, Edward Joseph Crotty, Jr., born June 2, 1937. Mrs. Crotty belongs to Williamsburg and Pomona Granges.

Arabelle V. Knox was born September 7, 1918, and married John Fogg, May 29, 1934.

Lester B. Cross spent the last of his years with his daughter, Jenny L. Knox, and died at the age of ninety-six.

Lyle and Leentine (Tiffany) Wales came to Williamsburg in 1918. Mr. Wales has been a farmer, carpenter, superintendent of bridges for the town, and, more recently, has been employed in sawmills. They have three sons. Richard married Margaret Guyette and has one son and two daughters. Irwin served in the Army in World War II. Sherwood served in the Marine Corps.

Charles Austin Merritt (usually known as Austin) was born in Conway, Massachusetts, November 23, 1806. He was a descendant of Henry Merritt, the earliest American ancestor who was one of the first settlers of Scituate, Massachusetts, in 1626. He married Louisa Stanton of Becket, Massachusetts, January 23, 1833. In April, 1834, he moved from Conway to Williamsburg, where he purchased a farm on what was known as "the old road to Ashfield"—about three miles north of the village. To them were born eight children, seven daughters and one son, all but one of whom were born in Williamsburg. They were Nancy A., born in Conway, November 3, 1833, died April 30, 1913; Susan A., born in Williamsburg, April 23, 1835; Maria C., born April 8, 1837, married Frank L. Patch; Fanny R., born April 16, 1839; Leroy W., born October 9, 1841; Luanne F., born July 10, 1844, married Reverend Theodore Beach; Ella F., born February 12, 1849, died December 13, 1875; Louise, born May 14, 1855.

Every small town is expected to have a "town character." For many years no one held more claim to such a "title" than Charlie Patch. As he made his living by walking to Northampton to sell all sorts of wild flowers and greens, he was perhaps better known to outsiders generally than any other one person from Williamsburg. One would see him trudging along the road, a wooden yoke on his shoulders carrying his buckets of wares. As a car approached, he would turn his round, ruddy face to watch it pass, hoping he would get a ride. If the driver felt so inclined and took him in, all need for conversation vanished, for Charlie Patch talked incessantly from the vast storehouse of his amazing memory. This prodigious memory held accurate dates of every conceivable happening which had ever been called to his attention. It was a common occurrence for him to recall a large family of the town and to go through every date of birth and death in it without ever making an error. When the Women's Club wished to send a Christmas card to overseas servicemen which would remind them of home, it was a picture of Charlie Patch which was sent. The journeys to Northampton became more and more difficult, and Mr. Patch died a few years ago.

At the death of Charles Austin Merritt, May 23, 1873, the farm on which he had lived for nearly forty years was taken over by his son, Leroy. He married Ida L. Hastings of West Farms, Massachusetts. To them were born six children, as follows: Arthur Hastings, Cecil Adelbert, Herbert Leroy, Ella Louise, Flora Belle, and Fannie Rebecca.

In 1886 the Leroy Merritt family removed to Northampton and the place on which two generations of Merritts had been born became an "abandoned New England farm."

Leroy's son, Arthur, has achieved much renown in his chosen profession of dentistry. In 1895 he graduated with honors from the New York College of Dentistry. He earned his own way

through college and, although starting out as an unknown dentist in a city of strangers (New York), he developed a flourishing practice there. His integrity and great skill earned for him the highest position in his field, President of the American Dental Association. Serving as president of numerous organizations for the advancement of dentistry or science both in this country and in England, Mr. Merritt has also received the Fauchard Gold Medal for outstanding contributions to preventive dentistry and has an honorary degree of Master of Science from the University of Michigan. He married Annie Taylor White at New York City October 15, 1896. They had two sons. After her death in 1912, he married Ione Reynolds in 1918.

Henry Merritt, born in 1793, married Vashti Hunt and about 1830, moved to a farm situated between the Ashfield and Briar Hill Roads. Their children were eight in number, Lyman, Cordelia, Gerusha, Samuel, Edward, Whitney, Phoebe, and Jerome. Of these children, Samuel remained on his father's farm and married Sophia Tilton. They had two sons, William and Charles. William married Flora Willcutt; Charles and his wife, Lydia Bernard, remained on the old homestead. The children of Charles and his wife were Ethel, Frank W., Charles W., and Edith M. Charles married Lydia Wade and they have one daughter, Adeline, now Mrs. H. Lionel LaPalm. Ethel Merritt married Allison Cross. Of their six children (Charles, Arline, Helen, Ruth, Harry, and Melvin) Charles, Helen (Smith), and Harry are still in town. Melvin, a sergeant in World War II, has been awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. Edith Merritt married William Heath and had two children, Blanche and Freeman.

Walter R. Thayer married Alice Richardson in 1909. They came to Williamsburg thirty-six years ago. Mr. Thayer has been R. F. D. carrier for twenty-six years. Their children are Robert, who married Jessie Clark, and with their three children live in North Hatfield; Elmer (deceased) who married Marguerite Hamilton, and their two children are Willard and Steven; Carroll, who married Eva Grover, has two children, and is principal of the Central Avenue School, Ocean City, New Jersey; Edna, who married Anthony Cehura, has three children; Doris (deceased) ; Clifford, who married Inez Chapman, is now in the Coast Guard.

S. K. Waite, a well-known merchant, was in the grocery business for many years. He left no descendants. His sister, Mrs. Ludden, had one daughter, Luthera, who never married. Besides the sister he had a brother, O. D. Waite, who was the father of three sons, Salmon, who died of a disease contracted in the Army; Lyman, who married Grace Warner, lived to the age of ninety years and had a son, Joseph, by adoption; and Ezra, who died at thirty-eight. The last named married Jennett Bartlett. To them a son, Adelbert, was born, who married Belle Shaw. They were the parents of three daughters, all of whom are married, Eldora Hathaway, Daisy Powers, and Ruth Jorgensen. Eldora and Daisy have three children each. Eldora's children are Shirley, Raymond, and Elizabeth. Alvin Shaw, father of Belle Shaw, came to Williamsburg from Westhampton in 1876 and purchased a farm on Petticoat Hill from Robert Damon. This family consisted of himself, his wife, Susan Converse, and five children, Belle, Gilbert, Jesse, Melvin, and Nora. Jesse, the only one now living, has a responsible position with the Springfield Gas Company. There are but three descendants of the above who have not been named. Jesse has a son, and Mrs. Melvin

Shaw, a son and daughter. Alvin Shaw married the second time and was living in Florida when he died, leaving a son and daughter by this marriage.

Susan Converse was one of four children born to Samuel and Sarah Converse of Worthington. The others were Anna, Lillian, Mina, and Fred. Anna and Lillian remained single, while Mina married Clifford Luce. They were residents of Williamsburg where three children were born to them, George Luce, for years a tailor in Northampton, now living in town; Mary Luce Bartlett; and Emma Luce Belden.

Jennett Bartlett had a brother, Lyman, who was killed in the Civil War, and two sisters. Juliet married William Leonard, and they had two children, Ellsworth and Minnie. The son was the victim of a tragic automobile accident causing his death. The second sister, Anna, wife of Louis Alexander, had a daughter, Hazel, now Mrs. Ernest Damon. She has had a long experience as librarian in our own and other states, and is now in the Northampton Forbes Library.

Descendants of the Miller family, one of the oldest in town, still reside in Searsville. One of their ancestors was James Prince, twin son of Daniel and Mary (Packard) Prince who was born here in 1784 and died in the neighboring village of Goshen at the ripe old age of ninety-three. He was twice married. His second wife, Sarah Ellis Dailey, bore him seven children. One of them, a daughter Elizabeth, married Josiah Miller. They were the grandparents of William F. Miller,[54] a present resident. Another daughter of Sarah and James Prince, named Lovina, married Thomas Buck of Chesterfield. Their children were George, Lucia, Alvin, and Flora, who was Mrs. Emil Miller.

Mr. William F. Miller married Sylvia Willcutt of Plainfield in 1894. Both Mr. and Mrs. Miller spent a great deal of effort in writing genealogies of townsfolks, and both of them had a great deal of skill in drawing, copying, and coloring coats of arms. They had six children, Nellie, Raymond, Vivian, William, Beatrice, and John. Two of these children married neighbors. Nellie became the wife of Earl Lawton, and they had two sons, Oscar and Francis. The latter, a bachelor, lives at home, but Oscar married Ruth Evans, daughter of James and Evelyn (Bisbee) Evans. Raymond married Marion Lawton. They have one daughter, Bernice. Vivian married Alfred Thayer of Springfield. Their daughter, Sylvia, is the wife of Paul Clark, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Clark of South Street. The youngest son, John, and his wife live at the old home in Searsville. This house was supposedly part of the old Gere homestead that was moved by Stephen Hyde with oxen from Gere Hill. It was standing on Gere Hill when Burgoyne marched past there on his way to Boston after his defeat at Saratoga.

What determines an individual's right to space in town history? There are various requisites, the most common, probably, that one has been a well-to-do citizen—rich man of the town—endowed with generous impulses and a desire to leave money for church, school, library, or a fund for hospital care for the needy, a scholarship for deserving students, or a special gift for the worthy poor. Such a one has had talents, the ability of making money or the good fortune of inheriting it, or both, that others may enjoy. We have as notable examples: Helen E. James

54 Material submitted by William F. Miller of Williamsburg.

School, Meekins' Library, Funds left by Dr. Collins, Messrs. Hyde and Sanders, C. J. Hills, also the legacies of Henry Warner and Mary Main.

Then there are those citizens without pecuniary wealth who contribute largely to a town's welfare. They are imbued with public spirit and civic pride. They are organizers, serve on committees and work zealously to raise money for town projects and community service. They feel duty-driven to improve their town.

Then there is a third group that would include all good citizens except that a small minority of this group is endowed with keener sensibilities than the rest: He is a lover of the finer arts and natural beauty. He really dwells in close communion with Nature. He loves the very soil of Williamsburg and respects his townspeople while he moves quietly and unobtrusively among them, apparently indifferent to any honor or recognition of his own abilities. Such a man was John Black. By nature a poet, he early earned the name of Searsville bard. Born and reared in Williamsburg, he lived here his sixty-four years. He attended the public schools, worked his small farm, married and became the father of a stalwart son and three capable daughters. And his contribution to a town history? Much. By his thoughtfulness of his neighbors and friends he remembered a birthday by a verse. Silver wedding and especially golden wedding anniversaries never passed without recognition by him. Any observance in the town, church, or Grange would be hailed by the townsfolks as an occasion for a poem from the pen of John Black. Springtime, a storm, deer hunting, the chestnut blight, autumn foliage were themes for his inspiration. An exceptionally fine dancer in his youth, he could feel rhythm for a wide variety of subjects. His poetry was always simple, pleasing, and kindly. We make no claim that it was profound or greatly imaginative but William Lyon Phelps recognized John's kind of philosophy and Thornton Burgess read a few lines of John's poetry over the radio, and we are certain that no one born in Williamsburg has ever written so much verse and so well. Probably John is best known—he and his wife, Alta, who survives him— for their love, appreciation, and knowledge of the birds in this section. They could identify more than 100 birds and their collection of fifty birds' nests is probably the largest in western Massachusetts. They were both members of the Audubon Society and have been asked often by its secretary to check migrations of various birds such as the indigo bunting, goshawk, and evening grosbeak. Early in the morning and early evening these two strolled the back pasture to meet the hermit thrush, or to the Big Dam where the Great Blue Heron built her nest. They inspired their neighbors and townspeople with an interest in birds never before entertained, by conducting bird walks in the spring, and recently by encouraging young people to build bird houses, also to draw posters for the protection of birds and for the conservation of our forests and wild life. Recognizing John Black's considerable information about birds, the Grange has established the John Black Memorial for creating and preserving interest in them. Williamsburg, and more particularly his portion of it, Searsville, has been especially favored by having John Black their neighbor and friend.

It takes many types of men to make the ideal community. Some must soar high, some must blaze trails, and some must make the daily level fine and true. His daily living, his personal standards, his fair attitude towards all other men make John Black a noteworthy citizen.

Milton Black, born in West Springfield in 1797, and his wife, Elizabeth Train of Whately, were the parents of six children, all but one of whom were born in this town. They were Ruth, Levi, Lewis T., Elizabeth, Edward, and Orson. Levi, Lewis, and Edward all served in the Civil War. Lewis Train married Egesta White in 1864 and their children were four in number. Edward Orson, born in 1866, remained unmarried and died in 1914. Nellie, married to Edward Morse, died in 1944. Gettie was the wife of Wilson E. Cowing. John Milton married Alta E. Bates in 1904. His death occurred in 1943.

Their children—Mary, Juvenelia, Ruth, and Lewis— have moved from town with the exception of Lewis. Mary married Reverend W. Raymond Ward of Brookline, Massachusetts; Juvenelia is the wife of Grant Harding of Hughesville, Pennsylvania; and Ruth served in the armed forces as a lieutenant (j.g.) in the Waves, enlisting in 1943. Lewis and his wife, Vivian Williams of Keene, New Hampshire, live with their four children, Marilyn, Sondra, Ralmon, and Dan, on the former Harlan Cranson farm.

Harlan and Frances Cranson lived on their sunny hillside farm on the old Chesterfield road for sixty years. Mr. Cranson descended from Captain Elisha Cranson, a first settler of Ashfield, and Mrs. Cranson from a long line of doctors, called the "Bone-Setter Sweets" of Stephentown, New York. They brought four small children with them when they came to this farm. They were George Delno, who later married Abbie Beals of Leeds; Effie, who married Frank Wells of Williamsburg, and later Roy Holdridge of Williamsburg; Louis, who married Ada Manning of Goshen; and Pearl, who married H. Clayton Smith of West Springfield. Several years later they had two more children. They were Ethel, who married Raymond Smith of South Hadley, and Susie, who married Frank J. Mullaly of Haydenville.

Living until the age of ninety-two, Mr. Cranson often repeated, "I've had a good life. God gave me the finest wife a man ever had, a good family, and the best little team of Morgan mares you ever saw." Mrs. Cranson, who died in her home eight months before her husband, was a gracious lady and a loving mother. Music provided much happiness in their home life and family gatherings were many. As they watched three generations grow, they were often reminded of what Stephen Meekins said when he lived across the road. Plans were being discussed for the big monument which was to be erected for him at the cemetery.

Mr. Cranson said, "Well, Mr. Meekins, I never expect to have a stone like that for myself."

Said the rich, but childless old man in his usual gruff voice, "You will leave a far greater monument than I can build, Mr. Cranson. Yours will be a living one."

Their son, Louis Cranson, has held several town offices, among them chairman of the Board of Selectmen, road superintendent, and chairman of the Town History Committee.

He has recently presented to the Boy Scouts a seventeen acre tract of land known as "Devil's Den." In a tour of inspection to the troop, Mr. Cranson pointed out old cellar holes and millstones evidently once used for a grist mill, but now forgotten by even the oldest residents. Springs, trout streams, many varieties of timber and wild life add to the interest and beauty of the spot. The deep gorge which gives the place its name was once surveyed as a possible location for a hydro-electric plant for the town, but the plan was abandoned as being too expensive. The

Devil's Den property has been deeded to the Boy Scouts of Williamsburg by Mr. Cranson, his wife, Ada, and his daughter, Lyndal Denison. A tablet bearing this information will be located on the site. The transaction stipulates that no lumber shall be taken from the spot except for purposes of beautification. In case the Scouts disband, this place goes to the town as a free picnic ground with no signs there forbidding trespass.

George B. Lawton came to Williamsburg ninety years ago. His first wife was Melissa Bisbee; his second, Hattie Cooley. One son, Albert, was born to Mr. Lawton by his first wife. Albert married Minnie Wade, and they reared a family of seven children. Earl married Nellie Miller. Their sons, Oscar and Francis, are already noted in the account of the Miller family. This is also true of Marion, the wife of Raymond Miller. Myron is the next son. Herbert married Annie Bates as his first wife, and Josephine Weeks as his second wife. Ralph is the husband of Ruby Wade. Bessie died in 1918. Carl and Raymond are unmarried. The Lawtons have worked diligently improving the land, and have succeeded in making a good business of farming.

Rufus Hyde, son of John and Sarah (Haskins) Hyde, who came to Williamsburg about 1774, was born in Norwich, Connecticut, June 20, 1744. He was great-great-grandson of William Hyde, who is supposed to have come over in 1633 with Reverend Thomas Hooker, first minister of Hartford. William Hyde's daughter, Elizabeth, the oldest of eight children, born in August, 1660, was the first white child born in Norwich. Rufus, a blacksmith by trade, married Mary Walcott of Mansfield, Connecticut, April 3, 1771, and they settled in Williamsburg, purchasing from one Samuel Barber the farm in the northwest corner of the town, known as the Hyde Farm for 150 years. They had five children, Eleazer, born December 27, 1772 at Norwich, and Rufus, Stephen, Mary, Josiah, all born here. In 1795 he opened a shop in Searsville with a trip hammer, the first in town, where axes, scythes, and other tools were made and sold far and wide throughout the country. This business was carried on about forty years by him and his sons, who were skilled in all manner of iron works.

Eleazer, eldest son, married Keziah Howes, daughter of Thomas Howes of Ashfield, Massachusetts, November, 1802, and continued on the farm. Their children were John Walcott, Lyman, Sumner, Ansel, Rufus, Sarah, and Samantha. Bricks were made here on the farm to build the upright part of the present Silas Snow house, which was added in 1800 to the ell built in 1735. Bricks were also made there for the Searsville school built in 1844, the William Thayer house now owned by C. A. Tiley, and for one of the Hayden houses in Haydenville. John, Lyman, and Sumner stayed on the farm, Sumner doing carpentry work outside also. John, born January, 1804, married Mary Rogers of Hawley, in May, 1832. He was considered one of the best parliamentarians around, and family tradition said he would eat nothing with salt in it.

Sumner, born August, 1813, married Susan Field of Plainfield. He died in Williamsburg about 1890. The story goes that Sumner sold stoves, round ones presumably, one advantage of them being that "it was as far from the center to the outside as it was from the outside to the center."

Ansel, born January, 1811, died in Williamsburg, February, 1833, unmarried.

Rufus, born November, 1819, married Catherine Emely Olds of Middlefield, and they settled in Chesterfield. They had four sons, Elwin, Clarence, and Oscar, partners of the Safety Emery Wheel Company in Bridgeport and St. Louis, and a son, David, a farmer in California.

Samantha, another daughter, born April, 1816, married Charles Coats, a farmer at Middlefield, and moved to Washington, Massachusetts, in 1845. One of their daughters, Alice, was a missionary in Japan for many years.

Lyman Hyde, second son of Eleazer, was born May 26, 1808, and married Lucinda Baker of Chesterfield, January 27, 1842. Their children were Flora Adelaide, born January 27, 1845, who married Ebenezer Rogers and they lived in Conway. She died in December, 1897. Edward Foster, born August 5, 1840, became an expert penman and conducted a writing school one night each week in the brick school house in Searsville. He died December 28, 1879, in Leadville, Colorado. Charles Lyman, born October 9, 1853, married Matilda Taylor of South Worthington, December 25, 1882. He was a carpenter by trade and worked on many of the older houses in town. He died in Williamsburg, February 25, 1923, and she died in Mt. Vernon, New York, January 2, 1939. They had five children, Edward Lucius, Clara Lucinda, Leila Elnora, and twins, Evelyn Elizabeth and Elwyn Eugene.

For his second wife, Lyman Hyde married Sarah Tryphena Thayer of Hadley, July, 1856. They had two sons, Eugene, born January 16, 1858, a travelling salesman, who died about 1902 in New York, and Francis E., born in 1859, who stayed on the farm. He married Mrs. Jennie E. Parker. He died in December, 1893, at the age of thirty-four and his wife died in August, 1896, leaving twin daughters, Effie and Elsie, age fourteen. After the death of Francis Hyde, the farm was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Dwight E. Clary and passed out of the Hyde name.

A story is told that Lyman once sawed off the limb on which he was sitting. And he was so busy on his wedding day that he had to be reminded to take time off to get married!

Edward Lucius, oldest of the children of Charles Hyde, was born August 14, 1884. He became a draftsman and married Bessie Montgomery of Williamstown, August 4, 1915. Clara L., a daughter of Charles, born February 23, 1887, married Carl Rustemeyer August II, 1915. They have lived in Williamsburg and he is assistant treasurer of the Haydenville Savings Bank. They have three children, George Karl, born August 13, 1916, now of Mt. Vernon, New York; Evelyn Louise, born March 22, 1918, who married Chester Kmit of Haydenville August 31, 1940; and Ashton Hyde. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Kmit are Sandra Joan, and Chester Jon.

Other children of Charles Hyde are Leila E. Hyde, born November 5, 1890, now a teacher of music in public schools in Mt. Vernon, New York; Elwyn E. Hyde, born May 7, 1894, a draftsman. He married Gertrude Montgomery of Williamstown, October 22, 1918. They have two daughters and live in Fairfield, Connecticut. Evelyn Elizabeth, born May 7, 1894, married Ward Shumway September 23, 1919, and lived on their farm on Mountain Street. He conducted a plumbing business in Northampton until July, 1943, when they moved to Glendale, California, to make their home. They have two children, Evelyn Virginia, who married Douglas Scott Ward of Glendale, and Wilbur E.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hathaway came to Williamsburg twenty-four years ago. Mr. Hathaway was the constable for twelve years, and died five years ago, leaving three children, Millard and Norman, both of whom are in the Navy, and Jean, at home. Mrs. Hathaway was recently married to George Munson of Chesterfield.

Henry and Lillian Goodwin came to the Thomas Culver place on the Chesterfield road in 1911. They are both deceased. Their daughter, Gertrude, and her husband, Thomas Bates, bought the place in 1932. Their children are Norman, Leland, Donald, Dorrance, Dean, and Douglas.

Philip Burdeau, his wife, Lena Andrews, and their five children moved to Williamsburg in the year 1909. One daughter, Elizabeth, married Adelbert Morin of Winchendon, Massachusetts. They have lived in Williamsburg for twenty-three years, and have one daughter, Joyce. Eva married Adelbert Roberge; and had five children, Lena, Clyde, Kenneth, Beatrice, and Beryl. After Mr. Roberge's death, she married Elwyn Miner of Cummington. They had two children, Lida and Phyllis. Philbert married Pearl Lagoy of Altona, New York. He had six children, and moved to New York state. Philip, Jr., married Exilda Lavally of Canada. They have six children and are living in Northampton. A son, Leo, lives with his father in Williamsburg.

Mr. and Mrs. John Graham came to Williamsburg March 5, 1913, having bought the coal business from Mr. T. I. Breckenridge and the ice business from George R. Rhood. At a later date oil was added to the commodities sold. Mrs. Graham was Amy Lacey of Northampton. They have three children, James A., Marion E., and Herbert A. James married Mildred Rhoades and they have five children, Donald, James, Robert, Sandra, and Dianne. Marion married Thomas O. Armstrong of Indian Orchard. They live in Springfield and have two children. Herbert has been in the U. S. Army for four years.

Mr. Graham was in business here until his death in February, 1939. Mrs. Graham then sold the business to Donald Outhuse in May, 1944. Mr. Graham was a member of the Hampshire Lodge of Masons of Haydenville, Royal Arch Chapter and Knight Templars of Northampton, and Williamsburg Grange.

Victor and Elva Bickford and their two sons, Spencer and Merton, came to this town from Vermont in 1910. A year later the Bickfords bought the place where Spencer now lives. Spencer married Alta Dobbs, and they have one daughter, Jane, the wife of Lawrence Montgomery of Cummington. Mr. Bickford is vice-commander of the American Legion, and both his wife and daughter are members of the Women's Auxiliary. Merton Bickford married Tressa Dobbs. Their children are Bernice (deceased), Donald, and Nancy. Bernice was married to Leslie Hathaway of Ashfield. Donald served in World War II. He married Delia Lamarche and they have a daughter, Donna Lucille. Nancy is still in school. Both Mr. and Mrs. Bickford are Grange members, Mrs. Bickford holding the office of lecturer at present. He served that body ten years as an officer, two of which he acted as Master. In addition, Mr. Bickford is a member of the Recreation Committee and the Village Planning Committee. He belonged to the Williamsburg State Guard from the time it was established until it was disbanded. The Bickfords make their home on the Dan Wade place on the old Goshen road.

Burton Dobbs and his wife, Isabel, came to Williamsburg in 1913. Their three daughters were Alta, Tressa, and Gertrude. The latter married Milton Day of Northampton, and they have two sons. Burton Dobbs acted as town constable many years. He had membership in the Masons, and both he and his wife were active in the O.E.S. and the Grange. Mr. Dobbs married as his second wife, Lida Childs. By her first husband, Stanley Childs, she had five children, Stanley, Dorothy, Helen, James, and Laura. Her two sons have been in the service five years.

John Mathers came to Williamsburg in 1906 with his wife, Lily Mary Pritchard, and children. They are John, Jr., who married Ruby Miller and lives in Northampton; Elizabeth, who married Joseph Holloran, a Roslindale State Trooper; Robert, who married Arolyn Winona Prouty, and works in the Haydenville Brass Shop. Their children are Robert, Jr.; Elizabeth; Esther, who is married and lives in Attleboro; Winona, who is married and lives in Baltimore; Ann; Lily; John; Lucy; and Charles.

John Ice, an orchardist, who died in 1934, came to Williamsburg fifty-one years ago. He and his wife, Lizzie Waltz, had five children, Grace, William, Ferdinand, Rozella, and Godfrey. Grace, the wife of Paul Maroneey, lives in Northampton. William and his family reside in town at present. He married Mary Torrey of Peru, and his daughters are Rosalie, Harriet, Rita, and Ann. Ferdinand died in 1944, leaving his widow, Helen Galpin, and a child, Christine. Rozella, Mrs. Harry Rhoades, lives in Florence. She has a daughter, Irene. Godfrey and his wife, Lora Richardson, reside in Ashfield. Mr. John Ice for a number of years acted as interpreter at the Court House in Northampton.

Myron Nixon Adams, son of Joseph Baxter Adams and Silence (Hall) Adams, came to Grass Hill Road, Williamsburg, in 1859, at the age of ten, with his parents and two sisters, Harriet and Lizzie. Marie was born in Williamsburg, June 10, 1860. Myron's father was a cripple for many years, so Myron started at a very early age to clear the thirty acres of land and to support the family. On April ~8, 1877, he married Clara Allen of Florence. They had three children, Millie, born in 1881, who died eight years later; Anna Belle, born in 1885; and Allen Baxter, born in 1891, who is now carrying on the farm. Myron Adams died at the age of ninety-five on December 8, 1944, after a long and useful life. He built up the farm to 150 acres and cleared most of it of stones. He was always interested in town affairs. He served as treasurer of the Grange for twenty years.

Anna Belle married Walter Henry Lee in 1910 and has one son, Raymond Adams, recently discharged after three years and nine months in the South Pacific.

John G. Miller (1845-1917) came to Williamsburg in 1849 with his father, David. They settled on the Miller farm on Mountain Street, Haydenville. John took Fannie A. Byard as his wife. Two sons were born to them, Fred, one of the very successful farmers of the town, and David. Fred married Mary J. Bezanson from Nova Scotia; David, Stella E. Goddard. David, his wife, and two sons, John and Richard, now make their home in Greenfield. Fred's daughter, Ethel, married Erwin Allen of Westfield, and they have three children, Fred, married to Pauline Secord; Edith; and June. Fred and his wife have a daughter, Mary Louise.

Erastus Graves was the son of John Graves and Eunice Porter. In 1830, his father had moved from Hatfield to what is now known as the Joe Graves farm on Mountain Street. Erastus married Elizabeth Strong of Granby, Connecticut, and three children were born to them, John, who died when young; Joseph Strong; and Eunice.

Mr. Graves served his community as deacon of the church, selectman, and representative to the General Court in 1855. He made his living by cutting timber, raising sheep, and dealing in cattle which he brought here from New York state for fattening. Mrs. Graves taught school on South Street before her marriage.

His son, Joseph Strong Graves, was one of the most progressive farmers of his day. He kept a large herd of purebred Holstein-Friesian cattle. He was one of the first farmers in town to have a modern, well-equipped barn. The farm is one of the most attractive in our town. Mr. Graves raised pure-bred bulls and several cows that took prizes at state fairs for their large milk production. While Mr. Graves' chief interest was dairying, in his younger days he cut lumber, cord wood, hemlock bark for tanneries, chestnut railroad ties, and chestnut stringers for bridges in the town. Mr. Graves was the sturdy and thrifty New England type of farmer—a man of few words.

He married May 8, 1891, Matilda E. Reece, of Williamsburg, born May 15, 1869, daughter of Reuben G. and Anna Matilda (Warner) Reece. Reuben Reece was a mechanic of some ability. At the age of fourteen he made a steam engine still in good working order and in possession of the Graves Brothers.

The children of Joseph and Matilda Graves are Joseph Edwin, born 1892; Charles Erastus, born 1894; Ruth Elizabeth, born 1896; Rachel Matilda, born 1898; Dwight Lincoln, born 1902; John Porter, born 1906. All the children were born on the Graves farm; four of them have remained at home and take an active interest in farm operations. J. Edwin, who is mechanically skilled, invented an ice-cutting saw operated by a gas engine thereby saving the labor of several men. He married Nettie Shumway of Whitingham, Vermont, October 1, 1930. Their three children are J. Edwin (1932-1942); Mary (born 1935); and Roger (born 1936).

Rachel married Raymond Hill of Conway, November 22, 1930. They have two children.

The younger sons are interested readers of history and have made intensive study of the birds of this section. They have built many bird houses and have become authorities on bird migrations.

Miss Eunice Graves, who died in 1938, was interested in music, but is perhaps best remembered as correspondent to the Daily Hampshire Gazette, a position which she held for over fifty years.

John Burke, son of Richard Burke (who came to America in 1851, went to the south, fought in the Civil War, and was never heard from again) and Johanna Stokes, was born in Clonmel, County Tipperary, Ireland, and came to the United States in 1868, having married Catherine Kiely just previously in Ireland. They lived first in New Brunswick, New Jersey, where he was employed in building a canal. They came to Haydenville in 1874 for the funeral of Mrs. Burke's parents, Stephen and Mary Kiely, who were drowned in the Mill River flood. The family remained in Haydenville.

Stephen and Mary (Hickey) Kiely came to Haydenville in 1872 with their daughter, Anna, and their son, John, from Kilsheelan, County Tipperary, Ireland. They had been preceded by their daughters, Mary, Bridget, and Ellen, who settled in Haydenville in 1869 and worked in the cotton mill. The family lived in a house below the Silk Mill dam. At the alarm of the flood the family went to a place of safety, but the parents, not realizing how great a flood it was to be, went back to their house to rescue some of their possessions. Their bodies were found on the flats near the present Country Club in Leeds. In some histories of the flood their names are incorrectly given as Stephen and Mary Riely. It was this tragedy that brought the family of John and Catherine (Kiely) Burke to Haydenville to the funeral of her parents.

John Burke worked for many years for the Haydenville Brass Company. There were ten children, Mary, who married Philip Mansfield of Haydenville and with their two children, James and Catherine, live in Florence; Johanna, who married Charles Phillips of Haydenville and has lived in Trenton, New Jersey, for many years, with their four children, Margaret, John, Catherine, and Charles; Richard F., now a resident of Williamsburg. He worked for the Mill River Button Company and was foreman of the core room of the Haydenville Brass Company for a time. He also worked for the Mill River Electric Light Company as repairman and meter reader; was construction manager for the Citizen's Independent Telephone Company; installed the poles, wires and telephones and was in charge of maintenance until the company was absorbed by the New England Company. In 1893, he bought the shoe store in Haydenville formerly owned by Michael Mahar. There he also repaired watches and clocks until 1909, when he bought the store he now owns in Williamsburg from Charles R. Damon.

The activities of Richard F. Burke include tax collector (1899-1910), school committeeman (1931-1940), chairman of School Committee (1932-1940), during which time the Haydenville grammar school was renovated and the Spelman addition to the Williamsburg school made. He was a member of St. Mary's church since coming to Haydenville. He was postmaster (1913-1921) and (1934-1942), and was a member of the National Association of Postmasters.

In 1901, he married Elizabeth B. Trainor. Mrs. Burke has been active in the affairs of St. Mary's Church. For several years she was the chairman of the supper committee for St. Mary's Lawn Party. At present she is the clerk in the Williamsburg Post Office. They have four children, Raymond S., Assistant Pastor of St. Mary's Church, Westfield, Massachusetts; Margaret, bookkeeper at the store (1927-1931), married Malcolm A. MacLeod of Needham, and they have one child; Catherine, who married Walter S. Peeney of East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, and they have three children; Richard F., Jr., served in World War II in the U.S.N.R. as a lieutenant-commander. He married Louise McNamee of Worcester, and they have two children, and live in Fitchburg, where he is employed by the Dolan Refrigeration & Air-conditioning Corporation.

John Burke's other children are, Margaret (deceased); Catherine (deceased) ; Stephen J., whose account is given elsewhere; Helen, who lived in the Burke homestead on Main Street, Haydenville, which was built for the family in 1891; Rose, who died in 1930; Catherine, who died in infancy; Elizabeth who married Thomas Hayes of Florence and lives there at present.

John Kiely, son of Stephen and Mary (Hickey) Kiely, came to Haydenville with his parents in 1872. A deaf mute, he had been educated by the Christian Brothers in Dublin, Ireland. He was a shoemaker by trade and practiced his trade in Haydenville and Williamsburg. He married Jane Reidy of Newburyport and they had one daughter, Jane Kiely, who taught in Williamsburg for a number of years. She married William Scully of Florence and now teaches in the Prospect Street school in Northampton.

Robert Trainor, son of Robert and Elizabeth Ritchie, was born in Armagh, County Ulster, Ireland. After serving in the British Army in Africa and Prince Edward Island, he came to Haydenville during the building of the railroad from Northampton to Williamsburg. He worked as a boss stone mason on the culverts and underpasses, among them Cook's underpass in Leeds and the bridge over Beaver Brook. From the old quarry in Haydenville, he took the stone that was used in building the piers of the Massachusetts Central Railroad bridge over the Connecticut River at Northampton. He built the vault in the Williamsburg cemetery and for many years was the repair man for the many stone dams owned by the Nonotuck Silk Company. He rebuilt the Cook dam at Leeds and replaced the old dam with the fine cut-stone dam that is there today.

In 1867, Robert Trainor married Bridget Mahoney, who was born in Clonmel, County Tipperary, Ireland, and came to Haydenville in 1862. She worked in the Haydenville Cotton Mill, and after working hours was a seamstress. In 1866, her parents, John and Bridget (Fennessey) Mahoney and her brothers, James, William, and John, and her sister Margaret came to Haydenville. John and Bridget Mahoney and their son John spent the rest of their lives in Haydenville.

Robert and Bridget (Mahoney) Trainor lived at first in Haydenville. At the time of the flood, they were living in Williamsburg in a house next to the Hill Button Shop. They had nine children. Catherine, married to Benjamin Hannon, lives in West Haven and has eleven children. William died in 1875. Thomas has worked many years for the Haydenville Brass Company as foreman of the iron foundry. He is a member of St. Mary's Parish. He married Anna Mullaley of Haydenville and had two children, James and Margaret. James died in 1945, and Margaret is at present principal of the Haydenville Grammar School. Elizabeth married Richard F. Burke of Williamsburg. Anna married Philip P. Larkin of Haydenville, and for the past few years has lived in Springfield. Margaret died in 1894. Mary Ellen married Eugene J. Bisaillon of Northampton, and moved to Springfield. They had one son, Gordon, who died in 1918. She died in 1940. Alice married Edward Kearney of Haydenville and lives in Northampton. They have three children, Teresa, Mary, and Alice Rose, who died in 1942. John, for many years the constable in Haydenville, married Elizabeth Bartley of Florence and they have two children, Robert and John. At present he is the chief-of-police in Amherst.

Daniel Sheehan married Anna Coogan, to whom ten children were born. Mary Jane at an early age joined the order of the Good Shepherd Convent and was later known as Sister Mary Josine. Margaret Ellen married Patrick Butler and had one daughter, Elizabeth, who married Matthew M. Dolan. They had five children, Margaret, Dorothy, William, Mary, and Barbara. Daniel, Jr., John, and Catherine are deceased. Cornelius G. married Josephine Mullaly of Hay-

denville, and died February 11, 1946. Edward L. married Mary Kennedy of Franklin, Vermont, and they have two children. Edward L., Jr., married Pauline Brissett, of Holyoke. They have one son, Edward L., 3rd. Captain Edward L. Sheehan, Jr., served with the Army Air Corps in World War II. His sister Nancy married Lieutenant-Colonel Lewis Walt, of the Marine Corps. They have one son, Lewis Walt, Jr. Nancy was a 2nd lieutenant and served with the Army Nurse Corps in World War II. William J. Sheehan married Margaret F. Smith of Hartford, Connecticut, and they had one son, Franklin. Frank married Julia Lacey of Florence.

[55]"The professions were not fully represented in the village of Haydenville. There does not even seem to have been a lawyer's office. A resident dentist, Dr. Davenport, began to practice there in April, 1855, but after some years he moved to Northampton. The first physician in the village was Isaac Johnson, who studied with Dr. Collins of Williamsburg. He was succeeded by Washington Shaw, a native of Plainfield. William M. Trow of Windsor practiced there from 1854 to 1877 when he, too, moved to Northampton. Russell S. Hillman, a botanic physician a native of Williamsburg, had a large clientele. Since then, the doctors serving the community have been numerous. They include Drs. Fay, Jackson, Hill, Loveland, Merritt, and the present Dr. Wheeler who came to Haydenville in 1909."

Although Haydenville was not, as has been previously stated, represented in many professions, it was outstanding in its roster of gifted, far-sighted, and versatile industrialists.

Of these, the Haydens were certainly the most noteworthy. Recognized by their fellow townsmen as leaders in every industrial enterprise, they also exerted their energies in behalf of nearly every worthwhile community project.

Joel Hayden was born April 8, 1798, the son of poor parents. Few educational advantages came his way, and from 1816 to 1821, he served as apprentice to Lemuel Pomeroy, a gunsmith, in Pittsfield. After that he worked as a journeyman machinist in Middletown, Connecticut, for a short time. Then, in 1822, with a cash capital of $1500 he commenced business in Haydenville. His efforts and interests were not confined to industry.

"The greatest feature of his life and the one for which he will longest be remembered, and for which he will be most sincerely mourned, lies in the early and never-failing regard which he ever entertained and manifested for the intelligent, social, moral, and religious welfare of the people of his village."[56]

Joel Hayden was one of the original band of anti-slavery men, and a member of the "Liberty Party Men." Several times he ran as candidate of that party for Congress and the State Senate. He allied himself also with the cause of temperance. For three years he acted as selectman for the town. Openly an "Abolitionist," he was elected representative in the Legislature during 1843-44. Other positions of note included a six-year term as County Commissioner, member of the Board of Overseers at Harvard, and director of the Holyoke and Northampton First National Banks. As director of the N. Y., N. H., & H. R. R., he was instrumental in extending this line through his village.

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55 Ada Hamlin's material.

56 Gazette, November 11, 1873.

Mr. Hayden served as a member of Governor Andrew's Council in 1861 and 1862. From 1863 to 1866 he had the honor of holding the office of Lieutenant-Governor to Governor Andrew.

Three times married, he was the father of nine children, eight by his first wife and one by his third. His first wife, Isabella Weir, a native of Scotland, was born November 22, 1799, and died in New York State August 4, 1852. A daughter married the Honorable Thomas Talbot, Lieutenant-Governor of the state at the time of her father's death. Another became the wife of Stephen M. Crosby, one-time resident of Williamsburg and state senator in 1870. The Honorable Joel Hayden died in New York November 11, 1873, in his seventy-sixth year.

Josiah Hayden, the brother of Joel and the grandfather of Helen Hayden, was the first postmaster in Haydenville, and the man for whom that village was named. A very pious young man, he was the first Methodist in Williamsburg. He used to hold meetings in the school house, and the other church became fearful that he might attract members from its ranks. The story goes that a delegation called upon Parson Lord, asking him what should be done in regard to young Hayden.

"He will pull down the walls of our Zion !" was their complaint.

Parson Lord replied, "I am afraid the walls of your Zion are not as strong as they should be if young Hayden can pull them down."

Mr. Hayden was finally offered $100 to leave town. He always remained loyal to the cause of Methodism. His daughter, Anna, continued her loyalty to that church on her father's account.

A. D. Sanders, a native of Whately, clerked in J. P. Williston's store in Northampton as a young man, coming to Haydenville in January, 1838. It was that year that the J. & J. Hayden store was opened, and Mr. Sanders took charge of their mercantile business. This store was burned in 1865, but he continued to be associated with the Haydens in many of their business undertakings.

John O'Neil, for years the only Democrat on the Board of Selectmen, was born in Utica, New York, in 1843. With his father, Michael, he came to the farm in the Nash Hill district April 15, 1865. This place has ever since been known as the O'Neil Farm. He married Elizabeth Walpole and eight children were born to them. Michael, now deceased, had a livery stable in Holyoke and was well known to townsfolk here. John married Anna Lynch of Haydenville, and is now a farmer in Easthampton. Mary and Lucy are deceased. Frank married Elizabeth Connors of Chicopee. They carry on a market garden in West Springfield. Margaret married Robert McGrath, a tobacco grower of Hadley. Edward runs the O'Neil farm. James married Mary Flynn and is employed at the Ludlow Savings Bank. John O'Neil was selectman for twenty-eight years.

The first representative of the Dunphy[57] family, John Dunphy, came to Haydenville from County Kilkenny, Ireland, in 1856. One of the pioneer Irish residents in town, he married Mary Cody in 1861, and they spent the rest of their lives in Haydenville. Mr. Dunphy became a leader among the early Irish settlers who came here to work in the Brass Company. For forty-five years

57 Material submitted by Miss Anne T. Dunphy.

he was employed at the Brass Works as an old-time contractor before the style of subletting machinist's work was discontinued. A pioneer in the church, he was influential in starting St. Mary's Church in the late '6o's. He died October 8, 1903, and his wife, four years later. They had twelve children, two girls and ten boys. The girls died in infancy and one son, John, in 1885, at the age of twenty-one. From that time until 1931, no break occurred in the lives of the remaining nine brothers, often referred to as "the Dunphy Nine."

Ellen, a sister of John, came from Ireland with her brother and worked at the woolen mill in Williamsburg for a time. Later she was employed by the Edwards family in Northampton before going to Dewey House at Smith College where she worked as cook for many years.

The "Dunphy Nine" were Patrick P., Thomas F., Reverend Edward P., William C., Richard D., Reverend James A., Lawrence G., Dr. Michael M., and Dr. Henry A.

Patrick, born in 1861, married Julia Riley of Haydenville in 1884. Most of his life he worked at the Brass Shop, retiring five years before his death (1935) because of poor health. A member of the Democratic Town Committee, he served as chairman of it for many years. He acted as president of the Haydenville Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians and as president of the Haydenville Club, as well as director of the Haydenville Savings Bank. Four children lived to maturity, Katherine, Mary, John, and Martin. Katherine worked as stenographer at the Haydenville Brass Company for fifteen years. She is now employed in Holyoke. Mary remained at home after her mother's death in 1914 until 1942 when she went to North Adams for her uncle, Reverend Edward Dunphy. John, a veteran of World War I, graduated from Georgetown University Dental School in 1920 and is now practicing in Florence. His wife is the former Julia Hickey of Northampton, and they have two daughters and a son. Martin also served in the first World War. Chairman of the Water Board at present and a member of it for the past seven years, Mr. Dunphy has also served on the Town Defense Committee as well as on the Democratic Town Committee for twelve years, acting as its chairman for five years of that period. He and his wife, the former Nora Sheehan of Lowell, have one daughter.

At the age of eleven, Thomas F. Dunphy (born 1863) went to work at the Leeds Button Shop when he witnessed the Mill River flood. Four years later he began working for his father at the Haydenville Brass Company. With the exception of two years spent at the Springfield Armory, he continued to work there until the year before his death when he retired because of an accident and poor health. In 1902, he succeeded his father as foreman, a position which he held until 1941, the year of his retirement. Thus the position of foreman was in the family for a period of eighty-five years. Always a staunch Democrat, he was a member of the Town Committee for twenty years. He served on the School Board six years, was a member of the Finance Committee from the time of its organization, and chairman of it over ten years. The Haydenville Club also enjoyed his membership, and he acted as its president for a time. For several years he was president of the Holy Name Society of St. Mary's Church. He died September 30, 1942. His wife, Margaret Kennedy, was born in Bridgeport, Connecticut, but came to Haydenville at an early age. Her death occurred June 29, 1941. Of their six children, two, Anne and Elizabeth, are still living. One died in infancy. Ellen, born 1888, managed a news store for fifteen years. She died in

1928. Loretta died on her own sixth birthday. Marguerite, born in 1895, was preparing to enter Smith College at the time of her death in 1914. Anne Dunphy, the principal of Williamsburg High School since 1918, first taught there from 1914-18 after her graduation from Smith College the year before. Always interested in the welfare of the pupils in her charge, she has helped many students with her guidance and understanding. At present she is president of the Williamsburg-Chesterfield-Worthington Teachers' Association organized in 1942, and a member of the Educational Division of the Town Rehabilitation Committee. Elizabeth, after her graduation from North Adams State Teachers College, taught in the Northampton schools until her marriage in 1933 to Earl J. Gusetti of Westfield and Haydenville. Mr. Gusetti died July 24, 1945.

Reverend Edward P. Dunphy, born in 1868, attended the public schools when William Grace, later Reverend William Grace, was principal. After graduating from St. Lawrence College at St. Lawrence, Canada, he entered Grand Seminary in Montreal, P. Q. He was ordained to the priesthood in Springfield, Massachusetts, after which he went to Rome for further study. Receiving the degree of Doctor of Divinity in 1898, he returned to the United States and served as curate at a few parishes in the state. In 1907, he was sent to North Adams as acting pastor and the following August he was appointed Permanent Rector of that parish where he is still serving.

William C. spent all his life in Haydenville, working in the Brass Shop for thirty-five years. Richard D. also worked in the Haydenville Company many years. William died in 1931 and Richard four years later.

Reverend James A. Dunphy was born in 1874, and he, too worked in the Brass Shop a short time. Between 1892 and 1903, when he was ordained to the priesthood, he pursued his studies at St. Charles College in Baltimore, St. Hyacinth College at St. Hyacinth, Canada, the House of Philosophy at Montreal, St. Sulpice College at Paris, France, and the North American College at Rome. It was here that he was ordained. Upon returning to this country he served as a curate at various parishes in New Jersey. and Massachusetts, and as pastor at Belchertown, Brookfield, and Indian Orchard, where he is located at present.

Born in 1876, Lawrence G. Dunphy, after attending the local schools, worked on a farm in Whately and later for over ten years in the Brass Shop. After that his interests took him to New Haven, New York, and finally to Washington, D. C., where he was employed at the People's Insurance Company until ill health forced him to leave in 1928. Married to Irene Graves of Luray, Virginia, he has one son, James P.

Dr. Michael M. Dunphy was born in 1878. He worked a short while in the Haydenville Brass Shop and the West Chesterfield Button Shop. While working at the Williamsburg Button Shop, he studied with the principal of the school, and later entered St. Jerome's College at Berlin (later Kitchener), Ontario. He then attended the College of Dentistry at the University of Pennsylvania, graduating in 1903. Since that time he has practiced in Northampton. His wife, Katherine C. Duggan of Haydenville, died in 1935. Their children are John E., Edwin P., Donal L., and Margaret Mary.

Dr. Henry A. Dunphy, born in 1880, prepared for his medical career at the University of New York, the University of Maryland, and Baltimore Medical School where he graduated in

1908. After his internship he did post-graduate work at Carney Hospital in Boston and at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. Specializing in Orthopedic Surgery, he practiced at Thorndike, where he lives at present. Helena B. Santos, of Ellenburg, N. Y., is his wife, and their family consists of six children.

Morris Purrington came to Haydenville from Colerain. He married Mary Munyan of Haydenville and they had seven children. Wilbur married Eleanor Luce of Haydenville. Thomas married Mattie Upton of Haydenville. Edward married Myrtle Blight. Elizabeth, unmarried, was a successful teacher in the Haydenville Schools for many years. Leroy married Hazel Gordon. Jessie married Harry Allen. Robert married Ethel Spencer.

[58]Wilbur M. Purrington was born in Haydenville, February 17, 1864, the eldest son of Morris Parker and Mary (Munyan) Purrington. He attended schools in Haydenville, Northampton, and Turners Falls Academy. At the age of eighteen he went to work at the Haydenville Brass Company as a clerk. Here he learned the trade of brass worker and finisher. At the time of his marriage he was employed as bookkeeper in the Haydenville Savings Bank, and two years later he was elected treasurer. This position he held for the rest of his life.

Mr. Purrington's diverse interests reveal his many-sided personality and the extent to which his abilities enriched and improved the community of which he was a part. For fifteen years he served as a member of the School Committee, for over ten years of that period acting as chairman. During this time he was instrumental in having two schools constructed for which he made the drawings. His duties included that of town auditor, treasurer of the Sinking Fund Commissioners, and Conveyor of Deeds. He was a trustee of Meekins' Library in Williamsburg and a director of the Haydenville Cemetery Association. In addition to his regular position, he conducted a real estate and insurance business, and had extensive experience in probate work and the settlement of estates. A member and organizer of the Haydenville Fire Department, he also served at one time on the Republican Town Committee. He was a member of the Haydenville Congregational Church, supporting it as deacon and as a worker in the Sunday School and Christian Endeavor Society.

Mr. Purrington's activities were not confined to this town. He was a director of the Hampshire County Trust Company in Northampton, and during World War I he acted as Hampshire County Food Administrator, doing much to conserve the county's food supply. A month before his death, he was nominated on stickers as Republican candidate for Associate County Commissioner.

Interested and well-informed on the history of his country and his town, Mr. Purrington wrote on historical subjects. As a fluent and entertaining speaker, he was well known in this vicinity. He was an ardent supporter of the cause of temperance.

The beautiful garden—the "Garden of Delight" he called it—on the grounds of his Haydenville home was his favorite hobby, although he was also an expert on the care of honey bees. The flowers raised on his estate, particularly the dahlias, were prize-winners.

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58 From the resume of Mr. Purrington's life printed in the Daily Hampshire Gazette at the time of his death in 1926.

Everyone, young and old, loved to talk to him, for his was a rare and delightful wit. Once two very small girls, just learning to dance, attended a Saturday night Masonic party with their parents. Eager not to miss one bar of the precious music, they were listening to the lively jazz and wondering whether it was a waltz or fox trot. It made a great difference whether they should count, "one, two, three," or "one, two, three, four." Finally one of them ventured to ask the gentleman with the kindly, handsome face who was sitting beside her, "Is that a waltz or a fox trot?" Mr. Purrington listened seriously and answered, "It sounds to me like a thunder storm, but I suppose it isn't."

A man of deep concern in the welfare of his native town, he gave to his community during his lifetime that quality of service and inspiration which only patriotism, high character, and strong personality can give. In return he certainly received the affection and respect of his fellow-townsmen. At his death besides his wife he left six sons and one daughter. They are Franklin, who married Ruth Stedman; Donald, who married Florence Montgomery; Alden, who married Marjory Davis; Helen (deceased); Rollo, who married Marion Herter, is principal of Hill Institute in Florence, and they have three children, Barry Jay, Bruce Rollo, and Richard William; Esther, who married Chester Jorgensen; Philip, who married Anna Locker; and Wilbur, who married Patricia Hall.

Edward F. Miller was born May 3, 1837, the fourth and last successive generation to occupy the farm where John Miller had made his historic settlement in 1835. He attended Haydenville schools and Wesleyan Academy. In 1861 he married Ellen M. Woodburn of West Springfield. After their marriage they lived on the old homestead, but later built the house farther down the street where he lived until his death. A farmer all his life, "Neighbor" Miller was an enterprising and tireless worker. He owned property in Minnesota, dealt extensively in cattle, and was one of the pioneer apple growers in this region. He began Hillside Orchards, later developed so successfully by himself and his son, E. Cyrus.

Mr. Miller served as selectman, trustee of the Hayden-Sanders Fund, and for twenty-five years acted as clerk and treasurer of the Cemetery Association. In length of service he was the oldest member of the Haydenville Congregational Church, giving his time and money generously to promote the good work of that body. These activities included superintendent of the Sunday School and teacher of a very popular Men's Class. As the years went by, Mr. Miller turned to the Bible more and more for inspiration, for he was a great student of the Scriptures. A cordial host, he knew much local history and old stories of the town. After Mrs. Miller's death in 1920, Mr. and Mrs. E. Cyrus Miller made their home with him. He died in 1923 at the age of eighty-six.

E. Cyrus Miller married Edith Childs, and their children are Gladys, a teacher at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, and Charlotte who married Alfred Dimes.

E. W. Goodhue came from Bradford, Vermont. He was appointed Superintendent of Schools fifty-five years ago. Except for a short time when Louis A. Pratt from Danvers held the position, Mr. Goodhue served the town ably until his death in 1920. He married Carrie Stebbins, daughter of Alvin and Mary (Wells) Stebbins, lifelong residents of the town. They had five chil-

dren. Elbridge, who is Professor of Mathematics in the University of Miners, Rolla, Missouri, married Ruth Demo, and they have three children. Myra married Harry Shedd of Pittsfield and they have one child. Joseph teaches mechanical engineering in Washington University, St. Louis, and he has one child. Amy married Frank Dickinson of Florence and they have two children. Frederick, a doctor at the Westfield Sanitarium, married Louise Kellogg and they have one child.

Alvin and Mary Stebbins lived on Williams Street in the house now occupied by Martin Wells. They had three children. Fred married Grace Reece and lives in St. Louis. Amy was a teacher here, and married Arthur Cutter (deceased). Arthur lives in St. Louis.

Dr. Charles Holmes Wheeler was born in South Burlington, Vermont, November ~, 1879, son of Herman H. and Alice C. (Smith) Wheeler. He was married June 16, 1909, at Burlington to Susan Bosterick Hadley. He graduated from the University of Vermont in 1903 and from Medical College there in 1907. He has practiced medicine in Haydenville since 1909, is past president of the Massachusetts Medical Society, and member of the Hampshire Lodge A. F. & A. M. His hobbies are genealogies and records of Haydenville. They had three children. Charles Hadley (born 1910) married Gwendolyn Noseworthy and they have two children. He is employed in the U. S. Rubber Company in Chicopee. Frederick died in 1915. Eleanor (born 1918) married Harold Edward Ballway of Schenectady, New York, and they have a daughter, Susan C. Lieutenant Ballway died in Belgium January I, 1945.

William Loomis and family moved from Whately to the farm on Mountain Street now owned by Cecil C. Loomis when Francis Loomis was four years old. William was a carpenter and helped build the Congregational Church in Haydenville. Francis married Sarah Hillman who was born in Hawley but spent most of her younger days in Charlemont. To them were born six children, Henry V., Hattie, Clarence D., Wilbur, George F., and William G. Hattie and Wilbur died in childhood. Clarence married Fannie Rhood of Robert's Meadow, and to them were born five children, Ethel, Charles, Cecil, Catherine, and Ruth. Of these, Cecil, Catherine, and Ruth are now living and have families. George married Helen Rivard of Springfield, and they had five children, Edward, Gertrude, Helen, Ralph, and Alice. All are married and have families. William G. married Orril B. Hitchcock of Swift River and they have one son, Prof. Clifford C. Loomis, Director of Music at Sullins College, Bristol, Virginia. Henry V. assisted his father on the farm. Clarence D. was a pattern maker employed by the Haydenville Company for many years. George F. worked as a boot and shoe salesman, travelling most of the time for McIntosh & Company of Springfield. William G. has been employed for the past fifty-one years as clerk in the office of the Haydenville Company. In earlier years he was a musician and also held public offices in the town. He was a town auditor for fifteen years, school committeeman for nine years, four of which included the chairmanship, and Trust Fund commissioner.

Cecil, son of Clarence Loomis, married Doris Rublee. Their children are Gordon, who died in World War II; Robert; Russell; Marjorie (deceased) ; Esther; Cecil, Jr.; and Wilbur.

Thomas P. Larkin, the son of Pierce and Hanora (Shea) Larkin, was born in Haydenville, February 6, 1862. He attended the local schools and Yale Business School in New Haven. A staunch Democrat, he served Haydenville as postmaster for eight years during Cleveland's ad-

ministration. In 1902 and 1903 he was elected state representative from the second Hampshire district. His community activities were numerous. He served on the School Board, as town auditor, and as elector under the Oliver Smith Will. He also acted as vice-president of the Haydenville Savings Bank, and as a member of the Board of Investors.

He and his brother, Edward, conducted a grocery and general store for twenty-five years. Following the death of his brother in 1916, Mr. Larkin continued to carry on the business assisted by his son, Thomas, Jr. He retired in 1934.

He married Margaret Grace of Haydenville, who died in 1895. They had five children. Grace, deceased, the wife of Thomas Lenihan, was Supervisor of Music in the Williamsburg schools for fourteen years. They had one daughter, Margaret. William and Thomas, Jr., are deceased. Edward is married and lives in Springfield. May is the wife of Dr. Frank Foran.

John and Sarah (Crandall) Phinney and their daughter, Luella, were born in Connecticut. In 1875 they came to live in Haydenville, where a second daughter, Lora, was born. Sarah Phinney died in 1887, and in 1892 John Phinney married Mary Clark of Leeds. In 1901 they adopted a daughter, Edna. Mr. Phinney was a veteran of the 18th Connecticut Regiment in the Civil War. For many years he conducted a coal business in Haydenville and later served as the rural mail carrier. He died in 1924 and his wife died in 1944.

The daughter, Luella, married John Breckenridge of Haydenville. They had three children, Andrew, who now lives in Delanson, N. Y.; Isabel, who died in 1921; and Edwin, who now lives in Williamsburg. John died in 1930 and his widow now lives in Haydenville.

The daughter, Lora, has retired after teaching in Hartford, Connecticut, and is now living in Haydenville.

The daughter, Edna, married Russell L. Whitaker, of Washington, D. C. They now live in Dayton, Ohio, and their son Clark was a sergeant in the Timberwolf Division during World War II.

Andrew and Mary (Irwin) Breckenridge came to Haydenville from Hadley about the year 1858. At the beginning of the Civil War Mr. Breckenridge enlisted and served in the southern states as a member of the 52nd Massachusetts Regiment. Later he was employed by the Haydenville Brass Company, was a member of the Hampshire Lodge of Masons, and a member of the G. A. R. Their home, which stood where the Jones' greenhouse now stands in Skinnerville, was swept away in the Mill River flood of 1874. They rebuilt on higher ground above the railroad track. They had four children, Isabel, Thomas, John, and Frances.

Their older daughter, Isabel, married John Long, who was a station agent in Williamsburg and later in Westfield. There were two children, Florence, who married Leigh Sanford, treasurer of the U. S. Whip Company of Westfield, and Arthur, now mayor of Westfield, who married Sarah Damon of Wayland, Massachusetts. Mr. Long died in 1914 and Mrs. Long in 1935.

Their older son, Thomas I., was employed by the N. Y., N. H., & H. R. R. for many years and later was a coal dealer in Haydenville. He married Marion Smith of Haydenville. There were two children, Mary, who married Riel Calderwood of Vinal Haven, Maine, and Richard, connected with the General Electric Company of Schenectady, New York, who married Winifred

Myers of Schenectady. They have one daughter, Marcia. Thomas died in 1927 and his widow now lives in Haydenville.

Their second son, John A., married Luella Phinney of Haydenville. He worked for twenty years for the N. Y., N. H., & H. R. R. and later purchased the Bodman farm in Williamsburg where he lived for the next twenty years. They had three children, Andrew, an inspector for the U. S. Navy at Schenectady, New York, who married Ruth Codding of Williamsburg, has five children; Isabel (deceased) ; Edwin, an accountant for the U. S. Treasury Department, who married Margaret MacCourt of Paisley, Scotland, lives on the old Goshen road in Williamsburg. John died in 1930 and his widow now lives in Haydenville.

The younger daughter, Frances, married Herbert Leonard, manager of the Boston office of the American Express Company, and was later connected with the Agricultural Bank in Pittsfield. They have one son, Stephen, a scientist with the General Electric Company of Pittsfield, who married Lois Cooke of Pittsfield. The Leonards now live in Cheshire, Massachusetts.

Andrew Breckenridge died in 1890 and his wife, Mary, in 1898.

Thomas M. Wells, son of Alexius and Lydia Willcut Wells, was born in Williamsburg December 22, 1857. At the age of five years he moved with his parents to Cummington, where he lived until 1873, when he returned to Williamsburg and took employment in the general store of

L. D. James. There he worked for several years before going to Haydenville to manage the store there for Mr. James. He later worked at Northampton for Mr. J. A. Ross, after which he returned to Williamsburg and purchased the store in which he originally started to work. In 1883 he married Mary E. Porter, daughter of Lewis and Mary Watkins Porter, who moved to Williamsburg from New York in 1870. Mr. Porter operated the Williams House for some years before going to Ashfield in 1882 where he built and operated the Ashfield House. Ten children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Wells, nine of whom are living. Harry, of Haydenville, has one child and two grandchildren; Howard, of Richmond, Virginia, has three children and four grandchildren; John, of Springfield, has two children and one grandchild; Perley, of Barrington, Rhode Island, has two children and three grandchildren; Roger, of Williamsburg, has two children; Gladys lives in Springfield; Thomas lives in Hartford; Charles is married and lives in Haydenville; Mary lives in Haydenville. The tenth child died at the age of two years. Both Thomas and Charles served in World War II, and Charles was town clerk for two years. Mr. Wells died October 21, 1943. Harry married Mabel Damon, and their daughter Helen is the wife of Mervin Clark. They have two children. Roger married Maude, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leon Damon, and their two daughters are Janice Lucille and Norma Lorraine.

Charles S. Damon was born October 5, 1861, in Whately. In 1882 he came to Haydenville and learned the iron moulders trade at the Haydenville Brass Works, which he followed until about 1892. Then he took up farming and trucking. He served on the Board of Selectmen and on the Board of Assessors for several years. As highway superintendent for the town he started, about 1909, building macadam roads on town ways. About 1916 he took the State Highway maintenance foreman’s job, and he continued this work until his retirement in 1931. Since that time he has occupied himself with farming on a small scale. His children are six in number.

Edith Bell, born 1884, married Percy Thatcher and is living in Rochester, N. Y.

Mabel R., born in 1887, married Harry Wells and they have one daughter, mentioned elsewhere.

Charles Murray, born in 1889, married Eva Wells and they live in Haydenville. They have nine children. Charles M. and Alan W. are noted elsewhere. Marjorie E. is the wife of David B. Thoms of Winchester. Phyllis Ruth married David M. Campbell, U. S. Army, and at present they reside in Yuma, Arizona. Glenn married Geneva Roberts and lives in Northampton. Philip W., U. S. N., married Patricia Hall, and is now stationed at Pearl Harbor. Elizabeth Ann, at home, attends Northampton Commercial College. Neil F., U. S. N., married Donna Hobbs and they live in Weston, Massachusetts. Joan May is still in the local grade school.

Maud Esther, born 1891, married Raymond Brown and lives with her family of four in West Hartford.

Grace Lillian, born 1894, married Louis Schlichting and lives in Brooklyn, N. Y.

Hazel May, born 1897, married Vernon Warner. They make their home in Haydenville, and their children are George, Jean, Marion, Marshall, Russell, and Evelyn.

Matthew Dolan, a resident of Williamsburg since 1869, was born in County Kilkenny, Ireland on May 12, 1849, son of Matthew and Margaret (O'Brien) Dolan. He was employed by the Haydenville Company until the year previous to his death on December 26, 1926. On May 20, 1880, he married Miss Hannah E. Calnan, daughter of William and Mary (Coleman) Calnan of Westfield, Massachusetts. Mrs. Dolan passed away on May 27, 1942, at the age of eighty-seven years. Their family consisted of eight children.

William Dolan, graduate of the local high school and of Bay Path Institute of Springfield, has been a building contractor for many years in Paterson, New Jersey. On March 24, 1913, he married Miss Mechtildes Fitzpatrick of Paterson.

Matthew, graduate of the local high school and of Northampton Commercial College, is employed in the office of the Selected Risks Insurance Company of Branchville, New Jersey. He also conducts an antique business. On September 29, 1909, he married Miss Elizabeth Butler of Haydenville.

Mary Dolan, graduate of Northampton High School and Northampton Commercial College, formerly worked as a secretary.

Nelle Dolan, graduate of Northampton High School and Westfield State Teachers' College, has been a teacher in the Williamsburg schools since 1908.

George, graduate of Northampton High School, did clerical work until World War I. He was in the Heavy Field Artillery and participated in several major offenses.

James, graduate of Williamsburg High School, worked as superintendent of construction for his brother, and later as a salesman. He was a member of the Coast Artillery Corps in World War I.

Estella Dolan, graduate of Williamsburg High School, and of Northampton Commercial College, was formerly a secretary at the office of the Haydenville Company until her marriage to

Howard A. McConville of Florence on June 9, 1928. They are now residing in Schenectady, New York.

Edward, graduate of Williamsburg High School and Holy Cross College, worked in insurance and later as a salesman until entering the service in the Navy on June 10, 1942.

John 0. Jones was born in Taunton, England, and came to Haydenville in 1922 to work in the Haydenville Button Company as a pearl carver. He married Louise Mandigo of Taunton, Massachusetts in 1924. He has conducted a florist's business since 1930, located in Skinnerville. Mr. Jones has been a member of the Board of Assessors from 1930 to the present time. Mrs. Jones was Public Health Nurse from 1932 to 1944. Their daughters are Audrey (Mrs. Mason E. Marvel, Jr.) and Lorraine.

Lionel Burnett Lawrence came to Haydenville sixty-five years ago. Mr. Lawrence has been married twice. His first wife was Fannie C. Graves; the second, Carrie Morgan. He is deacon of the Congregational Church and trustee of the Cemetery Association. He makes his home with his sister, Hattie Lawrence Metcalf. Mrs. Metcalf has been a teacher in both Williamsburg and Haydenville schools. She has always been very active on committees, being a member of the Finance Board, a trustee of the Haydenville Library, president of the Ladies' Aid, and secretary and treasurer of the Missionary Society of that village.

Hubert Austin Smith (1870-1939), son of Reuben Scott and Mary (Williams) Smith, married Emma Stanton, daughter of Dwight I. and Ada (Adams) Stanton, in 1896. They had five children.

Cressa Dwight Smith, R. N., was born in 1897, and married John Campbell (deceased) in 1920. They had three children. Shirley Louise married Louis Hathaway, who served in the Army in World War II, and they have a daughter, Ann Lucille. Myla Alice married Richard Gload and both were Marines in World War II. Donald E., a staff sergeant in the Army Air Corps in World War II, married Dorothy Pringle. Mrs. Campbell is now Mrs. William McDonald.

Frederick Lewis Smith was born in 1898, and married Lula Bisbee in 1929. They have one son, Frank Austin.

Meverette Rose was born in 1900. She is a welfare worker for N. E. F. and U. N. R. R. A., Greece Mission. She has been in Albania and Greece since 1929 except for two years when the Germans occupied Greece in World War II.

Richard Stanton Smith, Attorney, was born in 1903 and married Margaret Hibbard in 1929. They have one son, Richard Hibbard.

Lucy Anita Smith was born in 1907, and married Edward J. Foley in 1929. They have one son, Edward J. Foley.

Marcellus Tucker Cook was born in Conway, Massachusetts. He came to Haydenville in 1910 and entered the employ of the Haydenville Company, where for the past thirty years he has been superintendent. He is a member of the Haydenville Congregational Church, where he also serves as deacon and treasurer. He is a member and Past Master of the Hampshire Lodge of Masons, and is clerk and treasurer of the Haydenville Cemetery Association. He married Minnie A. Darby, formerly of North Adams and Conway. They have two sons, Marcellus Darby and Philip

Richard, both of Potsdam, New York, where they own and conduct a grocery and meat business. M. Darby married first Geraldine Rock (deceased) and is now married to Margaret Wilson of Potsdam, New York, and they have four children. Philip R. married Dorothy D. Morse of Haydenville and they have two children. At present Philip is a sergeant in the 350th Infantry Division of the U. S. Army and is now stationed in Northern Italy with the Army of Occupation.

George Marks was born in Richmond, Massachusetts, April 17, 1825, the son of Hezekiah and Anna Pratt (Law) Marks, and grandson of Samuel Marks, who was born in Lebanon, Connecticut, October 11, 1757 and enlisted in 1774, serving in the Revolution and becoming one of Washington's bodyguards.

George Marks spent much of his childhood in Canaan, New York and came from Pittsfield, Massachusetts to Haydenville in 1854, where he lived until his death in 1918. In December, 1852 he married Ann Rebecca Read of Pittsfield, Massachusetts, who died in 1860. In 1861 he married Mary Ellen Waite of Whately, sister of Charles D. Waite, who owned a grocery store in Haydenville. She died in 1899. He worked for a time in the Brass Shop, and later went into the meat business. He owned a slaughter house about a quarter of a mile off the Mountain Street road, just outside the village, and at his market on Main Street he cured the hams, and made the sausage and lard which he sold there.

He was long an active member of the Haydenville Congregational Church, and in the later years of his life he attended the Methodist Church in Williamsburg, where he sang in the choir until he was eighty years of age. He joined the Jerusalem Lodge of Masons in 1869, and became a charter member of the Hampshire Lodge when that was organized in Haydenville.

His son, George Franklin, married Anne Hortense Macomber of Haydenville, who was born in Conway in 1860, youngest daughter of Charles and Martha (Squier) Macomber. Their children were Frank Macomber, who died at the age of nine, and Althea Hortense and Martha Rebecca, who are now living in Haydenville. George Franklin died in 1934, and his wife in 1941, after spending all their married life in Haydenville.

Lilla Cordelia Marks, sister of George F., lived at home until her death in 1901.

George Marks was a very active member of the Prohibition Party, voting its ticket for seventy-one successive years, from his first vote at twenty-one years, until his last at ninety-two.

Daniel Emrick with his wife, Elizabeth Spear Emrick, and most of his ten children came to Haydenville from Canada in 1880. In 1888 he purchased the Fairfield farm now occupied by the Jablonski family on Main Street. They had ten children. Ida married Seaborn Burt of Newport, Vermont and their children were Maude, Elizabeth, and an adopted son, Harold. Cora married William Blinn, a widower who had two children, Orin and Flora. Ella married George Pelton and had four children, Arthur, Guy, Leo, and Ruth. George married Carrie Pelton and had four children, Myrtle, Elmer, Howard, and Elsie. Oscar married Sophie Hosford and they had six children, Robert, Lillian, Louise, Marion, Helen, and Calvin. Ami married Flora Blinn and had one son, Daniel. Bertha married George Hartmann, Emma married Fred Emrick of Canada and they had one daughter, Ethel. Jane married George Tennyson, and they had four children, Clarence, Leslie, Maxwell, and an adopted daughter, Mary. Melvin married Margaret Dakin and had two

children, Donna and Ronald. The children of Mrs. Gertrude King, of Haydenville, are Gertrude, who married Melvin Ramstrom, and they have one daughter; Chester, who married Susan Decker; Holland, who married Helen Rosemarynoski, and they have one child; Frederick, who was killed in Italy; and Roger, who is in the U. S. N. R.

The first Johndrow to come to Haydenville was Joseph J., born in St. Albans, Vermont May 18, 1868, son of Sophie (Busher) and Peter Johndrow. He came here from Rockville, Connecticut, where he had married Anna Dansereau in 1892. Anna Dansereau was born in Haydenville, September 17, 1872, and had moved to Rockville about 1890. He was first employed by Charles Clark of Leeds, as a farmer. Later he worked in the Button Shop in Williamsburg. From there in 1898 he went to Amsterdam, New York where he remained about a year, helping Mr. Chalmers of the Williamsburg Button Shop install machinery in a button shop there. He returned to Haydenville in 1899, and has lived here ever since. He returned to the employ of Mr. Clark for a short time, and then was employed as a fireman at the Bradford Sawmill in Williamsburg, then as fireman at the Haydenville Button Shop, and at the Haydenville mill of the Corticelli Silk Company until the mill closed. Then he went back to the Haydenville Button Shop as fireman until his retirement about 1936. They had eight children.

John Wilfred Johndrow married Blanche Lampron of Leeds. He has been constable since 1929, and is at present employed by the Noble Manufacturing Company of Haydenville. They have one son, Raymond, who served as an electrician's mate in the Navy in World War II. He married Doris Henderson of Richmond, Virginia in 1944. They and their son, Raymond Francis, live in Northampton, and he is employed in Haydenville as a clerk in the store of Reardon Brothers.

Eve Nolia married John M. Ryan of Haydenville, who died in 1934. She then married Eugene Tacy of Leeds where she now lives. Two children of the first marriage were William J., who served in the Navy in World War II, and Margaret Ellen, who is employed in the office of the Rudy Machine Company in Leeds.

Lillian Rozella married Frederick C. Blanchard of Leeds, who died in 1943. Their daughter, Lillian M., was married to Edward F. Bren of Granby, Massachusetts and they are now living in Haydenville. Their son, Edward R., served in the Navy in World War II.

Esther May married William Caouette of Leeds, where they now live. Their two children are Theresa Ann and Marilyn Frances.

Edward Russell married Jennie Kearney of Haydenville. He had a meat and grocery store at their home on lower Main Street for five years until he entered the U. S. Army in 1943, and plans to reopen his Store in 1946.

Frederick Joseph and Emma Josephine were twins. Frederick married Amelia Stingle of Dalton, Massachusetts, where they live. Emma married Amos LeDuc of Haydenville, and they are now living on Fairfield Avenue in a house built in 1945, the first new house built in Haydenville in approximately forty years. Amos LeDuc is employed at the Noble Manufacturing Company.

Francis Octave married Marguerite Racicot of Florence, and they live in Haydenville. He is now employed at the Hampden Specialty Company in Easthampton. Their children are Margaret Ann, Phyllis Mae, Frances Estella, Mary Louise, and Carol Jean.

Anna Dansereau was the daughter of Octave and Hattie (Babineau) Dansereau. Octave was employed by Mr. Edwin Miller, and he set out the first 500 apple trees of the Hillside Orchards. The "little red house" at the end of Walpole Road was built for him by Mr. Miller. Mrs. Anna Dansereau Johndrow was born there. From there her parents saw the flood of 1874 and the collapse of the Hayden Gere Company mill.

The first member of the Walpole family to come to Haydenville was Frank, who moved here from Leeds about 1885. He was born in County Kilkenny, Ireland. on September 2, 1846. He came to this country when nine years old and lived in Cummington, Chesterfield, and Leeds before moving to Haydenville. He spent his entire Haydenville life on the old John Miller farm on the top of the hill back of the Haydenville Brass Works, now known as Walpole's Hill. He was married on November 12, 1879 to Catherine Lawler of Williamsburg. She was born on Valley View Avenue next to the old creamery. He conducted the farm and had a milk route in Haydenville for many years. She was the first child born in Williamsburg of Irish parents (August 31, 1856). She was a survivor of the Mill River flood, having been at work in the old woolen mill in Williamsburg. She raced ahead of the coming flood to her home, which was at that time the house back of the Williamsburg Railroad Station. Mr. Walpole died in 1917 and she, in 1945. They had eleven children.

Mary Theresa Walpole married Frederick Shaw of Babylon, Long Island and they had two children, Francis William and John Frederick. Francis married Hazel Bell of Northampton and with their two children, Frederick and Edward, live in Florence. John married Marian Bachand of Leeds. They have four children, David, Marilyn, John, Jr., and Patricia, and they also live in Florence.

Rose died when she was two or three years old.

Mark Andrew now lives on the home farm and conducts a dairy farm with his brother Charles.

John Joseph married Amy Smith of Northampton. He was a conductor on the Northampton Street Railway for thirty-five years, and died in 1944. His wife is employed at the Florence Savings Bank.

William Michael is employed by the Town Highway Department and resides at home with his brothers.

Margaret Cecilia married Edward J. Larkin and lived in Haydenville until her death in 1926. They had two children, Gerald Edward and David. Gerald was the first boy in this town to give his life in World War II. He was with the 36th Infantry Division of the 5th Army and was killed in the Battle of Casino, Italy. For him is named the local American Legion Post, The Gerald E. Larkin Post. David died August 28, 1940 at the age of fifteen. Edward J. has married again, and lives in Haydenville.

Thomas Francis is employed at the Hamilton Propeller Division of the United Aircraft Company in East Hartford, Connecticut.

Charles Vincent lives at home and assists in the business of the dairy farm.

Edward James served with the American Expeditionary Forces in France in World War I, and now lives in Northampton.

Robert Raymond died in 1910 at the age of fourteen.

Leonard Leo served in the Army in World War II. He now lives at home and is the Rural Free Delivery carrier from the Haydenville Post Office.

The John Walshe home on High Street, Haydenville, was bought from Josiah Hayden May 4, 1869 and comprised the house and one acre of land. This house was built by Joel and Josiah Hayden, the founders of the village. Its site at that time was about where the Haydenville Company office is now. All their children were born there. It was moved to its present location about the time the Haydens built their new homes on Main Street, and opened up the present High Street.

Mr. Walshe was a railroad man and came here from New York City to help build the Williamsburg branch road. He then purchased land from Anna Hayden and Galusha F. and Edwin L. Miller. Since the death of Mr. Walshe in 1919 the farm has been conducted by his son, John, the present owner. He also had two daughters, Maria, who died in 1923, and Margaret, who is still living.

John Walshe, 2nd, resigned as a foreman for the Haydenville Company to accept the position of Rural Mail Carrier from the Haydenville Post Office and did that work from 1917 to 1937, when he retired. He has devoted considerable time to fruit growing and his orchard has produced some excellent crops. He has one son, John, 3rd, who served with the 101st Airborne Division in World War II.

Louis Welch came from Ireland with his children probably about 1840. His son, Louis Welch, married Mary Wall, both having been born in Ireland. They had five children. James E., born in Williamsburg in 1858, married Mary A. Casey of Norwich, Connecticut, and they had four children, Mary W., who married Thomas J. Coogan, Anna V., who married Fred C. Folkins, Louis J., who married Mary A. Guidon, and William J. William J. was born in Williamsburg in 1860 and died in 1901. John L. married Helen Donovan of New Hampshire. Mary A. married Earl Guilford of Williamsburg. Margaret A. married James Montgomery of Williamsburg and had two sons, William and Louis J.

Laurence Coogan and his wife, Margaret Grace, came to Haydenville from Ireland about 1840 with their children: Edmund L., who married Mary Donaghue; Anastacia, who married Daniel Sheehan; and Katherine, who married Thomas Ahern. Edmund L. had four children, Laurence E., who married Margaret P. Driscoll of Boston; Thomas J., who married Mary W. Welch; Helen G., who married Edward L. Keefe; and Katherine R., who died in 1943. The children of Thomas and Mary W. Coogan are Laurence E., who married Anna Hogan, and has one son, Laurence E., Jr.; James F., who served as a captain in the U. S. Army in World War II; Mary

R.; and Thomas J., Jr., who is staff sergeant in the famous 4th Marine Division, now at Bainbridge, Maryland, N. T. C.

Mrs. Clara Morin (widow), is the mother of Joseph Morin (town barber), who married Eugenia Joslyn of Haydenville and they have five children. Robert served in the Navy in World War II, and married Joan Plant who came from England on the Argentina in February, 1946. Norma married Arthur Blanchet of Florence and they have a daughter, Claudia Jean. Their other Sons are Philip, Donald, and William. Joseph Morin had four brothers and a sister; Fred is married and has three children, Raymond, Gerald, and Beverly; Lillian is married to William Muir and they have two children; William married Ethel Scully of Leeds; Louis married Ella Tirrel of Cummington and they have four children; Arthur married Helen Demerski of Haydenville and they have four children, Jaqueline, James, Katherine, and Mary.

Thomas J. Demetrious was born in Pavianne, Greece. He came to this town in May, 1907. His wife, Olga, was born in Egion, Greece. Mr. Demetrious has been employed by the Haydenville Company ever since he came to Haydenville and is now foreman of the foundry. They have two sons, John and George. Both reside in Saginaw, Michigan. John is married and has two children, Thomas and William.

Mr. and Mrs. William Ozzolek came to live in Haydenville in the year 1900. He died in 1938, and his wife is now seventy-five years old. Their children are Joseph, William, and Nicholas of Haydenville; Aleck of New Britain, Connecticut; Tofield of Poughkeepsie, New York; Anna Wojack of New Britain; Bessie Butkewicz of South Deerfield; and Rose LaMarr of Boston. Joseph married Catherine Holen of Haydenville. Anna is the wife of Walter Wojack and they have a daughter Helen. Rose is the wife of Gerald LaMarr and they have two daughters, Rose Marie and Catherine (LaMarr) McDonald of New Haven, Connecticut. Tofield married Stella Kalonoski of Suffield, Connecticut. Aleck married Mary Hogan of Holyoke. Nicholas married Anna Radziewicz of Northampton and their children are Rose Ann and Carl. Bessie is the wife of Anthony Butkewicz of South Deerfield and they have a son, Robert.

Joseph Kulash was born in Poland in 1872 and came to Haydenville in 1903. His wife, who was born in Poland in 1871, came to Haydenville in 1905. He became a naturalized citizen in 1932. They had seven children, two of whom were born in Poland and five in Haydenville. Joseph married Mary Ruckley, and their children are Anna, Rita, and Betty. Bessie married Clarence Conger and they have three children. She served as secretary to Calvin Coolidge at one time when he was in Northampton. She later worked in the War Department in Washington and lives there with her family at present. Josie married Donald Donnis. Mamie married John Kwoka and they have two children, Frances and John. Walter received his Ph.D. in Entomology and is at present teaching at the University of North Carolina, Raleigh, N. C. He married Mary Gobush and they have three children. Esther married Joseph Dymerski and they have five children, Leo, who married Clarice Graves; Doris, who married John Szarkowski of Virginia; Barbara; John; and Michael.

Bronislaw (Benjamin) Kmit was born in September, 1876 and came to this country in 1896. He was married in Pittsfield in 1902 to Katherine Pawtewsko, and settled in Haydenville in

1903. He became a naturalized citizen in 1924. They were the third Polish couple to settle in Haydenville, the first couple being Walenty Ozzolek and the second, Joseph Kulas. They had nine children, Jacob (1903-1903); Bronislaw, Jr. (1905-1910); Joseph (1906-1906); Helens (1907-1908); Henry (1909-1910); Leocadia (born 1910) who married George Adler of Bay State and has two children, George Dickinson, Jr., and Patricia; Anastacia (1912-1926); Theresa (born 1914) who married Willard Senecal and has a daughter, Susan; and Chester (born 1917) who married Evelyn Rustemeyer and has two children, Sandra Joan and Chester Jon.

Zygmont Carol Batura was born in 1892 at Patusaryna, Poland. He came to the United States in 191 and in 1914 in Haydenville married Toefelia Czerieska, who was born in 1892 in Lawonowicz, Poland. She came to the United States in 1913. They have seven children. Joseph John (born 1915) married Blanche Frances Gromelski (born 1914), the daughter of William and Frances (Ponus) Gromelski of Haydenville. They have a son, Peter Michael. Joseph served as corporal in the Air Corps in World War II. Stanley John was born in 1916 and died in 1917. Zygmont John (born 1918) served in World War II. Helen Ann (born 1921) married Staff Sergeant John A. Yeskie of Northampton. Frank John (born 1922) and Michael Peter (born 1924) also served in World War II. Elizabeth Mary was born in Haydenville in 1927.

Frank Schultzki was born in 1859 at Postarzin, Poland, and was married there on November 4, 1890 to Victoria Kokarko. Three children had died in Postarzin when they came to the United States in 1906 with three other small children. The next four children were born in Haydenville. Adam, born in 1898, died in 1935 in New York City. He married Emily Blinn of Bristol, Connecticut, and his children were Catherine, Mary, and Edward of the U. S. Army. Anastasia (born 1900) married Bronislaw Czerpowicz in 1920. Their children, born in Haydenville, are John, who served in World War II; Edward, who died young; Joseph (born 1924) who taught in the High School at Somers, Connecticut; Joseph and Francis who are in school. William (born 1903) married Mary Sickop. Harry (born 1909) served in World War II. Joseph (born 1911) lives in North Adams. John is in the Merchant Marine Service. Edward (born 1914) is not married.

A History of Williamsburg through 1945 would be incomplete without comment upon the newcomers, many of whom have purchased houses here and taken an active part in the civic and social life of the community.

Roderick A. MacLeod, selectman for the third term, a nurseryman and tree surgeon of considerable reputation, purchased and repaired the Edward Clary house, making it one of the attractive places in Searsville. Mr. and Mrs. MacLeod have two children, Margaret and Roderick, Jr. Margaret married Virgil Rogers and they have a son, Stephen. Roderick, Jr., is a student at Williston Academy.

Lauri Ronka, teacher at Smith's Agricultural School, is a member of the School Committee, and active in church affairs and town improvement. Mr. Ronka is chairman of the Board of Directors of the Congregational Church. Mr. and Mrs. Ronka have two daughters, Karyl and Henrietta.

Fortunately Williamsburg has attracted the families of several Smith College professors and it welcomes those who have already contributed much to its intellectual atmosphere. One of the

first was Professor Robert Collins of the Smith College Geology Department. He has made a most attractive home of his place on North Street. He and his family have affiliated themselves with the church and social life of the town. Professor Collins has given generously of his time and talent in presenting his subject of geology to various local groups. Mr. and Mrs. Collins have three sons, Frank, Robert, and James.

Professor Kenneth W. Sherk of the Smith College Chemistry Department has served on many committees for town improvement. He and his wife keep open house on Christmas Eve. The parents of four children, they are particularly interested in the welfare of the school. Mrs. Sherk's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Blacking, have mingled with the townspeople as familiarly as old-timers.

Neal B. DeNood was born in Holland and in childhood came to this country. He and his wife, Hilda Donahue DeNood, purchased the Josiah Hayden house in Haydenville seven years ago. By untiring efforts they have restored the place to its former attractiveness. Professor De-Nood takes interest in civic affairs and as a member of the Finance Board tries to curb appropriations. He is a frequent guest-speaker of organizations in the town and county.

Professor George Durham and Mrs. Durham have bought the old Loomer house on Village Hill. This is one of the oldest houses in town, dating back 200 years. They have remodeled it on the old lines, installing every modern convenience. The house was painted with the clump of lilacs in front by the artist, Woodward, and the picture is now in the possession of Mt. Holyoke College.

Professor Robeson Bailey and Mrs. Bailey have purchased the Lyman and Helen E. James house built by Mrs. James' brother, Marshall Field. The Baileys have five children and they have already entertained the children of the town at a Hallowe'en party.

Stanley Ross is Professor of Economics at Smith College. He has addressed several meetings here. Mrs. Ross is a violin player. They have a son, David.

Arthur Showalter of Northampton bought and modernized attractively the Lyman Waite house.

Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Hobbs came to Williamsburg in 1933. Dr. Hobbs was town physician and opened an office in Northampton also. Having entered the Army two years ago, Major Hobbs has not yet received his discharge but he expects to return to his practice soon. Mrs. Hobbs is in the Zoology Department at Smith College. They have two children, Carolyn and Joseph.

Dr. and Mrs. Lazelle Brainard bought Dr. Hayes' house on Main Street. He is a chiropodist with offices in Northampton and Williamsburg. Mrs. Brainard has been active in the town clubs and has been an interesting speaker at functions here and in neighboring towns.

Ralph Harlow, employed in the Northampton Institution for Savings, bought the Thomas Dillon place three years ago. He is the Congregational Church treasurer. Mr. and Mrs. Harlow have four children.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Redvers Sharpe and Mr. and Mrs. Donald Outhuse came to live in Williamsburg when the bottle-cap business was established in Haydenville. Since, Mr. Sharpe has

joined the Noble Manufacturing Company in Haydenville. The Sharpes have two children, Robert and Alison. Mr. Outhuse purchased the Graham ice and fuel business. The Outhuses have four children, Barbara, Elaine, Nancy, and James. They are continually active in church and social affairs. The Sharpes bought the L. H. Cranson house on Chesterfield Road and the Outhuses bought the Walter Tetro house on North Street.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Buck came from his father's farm in West Chesterfield to Williamsburg in 1920. They bought the George Warner house on Valley View Avenue. For a while he carried on his father's farm and engaged in the produce business. Mr. and Mrs. Buck were active in the affairs of the town. Mr. Buck died in 193 1. Mrs. Buck and daughter, Nancy, have recently sold their home.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Davis Turner and her sister, Miss Alma J. Bridgman, came to Williamsburg in 1937 and purchased the Richardson house on Valley View Avenue. Mr. Turner died soon after coming to town. Mrs. Turner is a nurse; Miss Bridgman is interested in church and other philanthropic work, and is musically gifted.

Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Warriner live on Stephen Meekins' farm which has passed through several hands: Edson and John Ross, Walter VanSlike, Charles Bisbee, Silas Snow, and Edna Morse in the last fifty years.

O. E. Brainerd, civil engineer, and his wife, Marie Brainerd, bought the Lyle Wales farm. Their residence is in Northampton where he is Superintendent of the Sewer Department, but their son Edward, his wife and two children, Elizabeth and Louise, live on the farm. Mrs. Marie Brainerd has been on the faculty of Smith College in the Psychology Department.

Messrs. Allord and Folmsbee bought and repaired the former Waite place in Searsville. Harry Hamilton, a teacher at Smith's Agricultural School, has made extensive repairs at the Miner farm.

Alfred and Bertha Luce bought the Grace Rising house, known for years as the Henry Hitchcock place. Mr. Luce is a member of the Board of Directors of the Congregational Church. Mrs. Luce is an active member of the Women's Club and church societies.

The first town meeting was held in the Hullgate house, a tavern in the old days. Fifty years ago it was owned by John McCalman. It is now the property of W. J. Senecal, who is engaged in the chicken business.

Mr. and Mrs. Norman Maggs live on the Joe Thompson farm. They have two children, John and Margaret. Among the former owners after Mr. Thompson were J. G. Pennington and Warren McAvoy. Mr. and Mrs. Maggs are both active in church affairs.

The Dosties, Washburns, and Starks have recently bought the Drake, Browe, and Effie Miner places respectively. Ernest and Rose Barker are the proprietors of Candle Light Den. Aside from a well-kept roadhouse, they make beautiful floral pieces and Christmas wreaths.

Gordon and Mabel Marston came from Northampton and bought the Carolyn Galbraith house on Village Hill built by Henry Wright. Mrs. Marston is active in church and town affairs, being at present secretary of the Board of Directors of the Congregational Church.

Mr. and Mrs. Milton Rice were married here twelve years ago. Mr. Rice trucks lumber from sawmills to market. They are members of the Adventist Church. Both are active in the Grange. Mrs. Rice is interested in Extension work, the Women's Club, Women's Union, and is one of the Den Mothers of the organization of Cub Scouts, recently formed in the town. They have two sons, Raymond and John.

Charles Tiley's business has been noted in another chapter. He married Ethel Harlow, a school teacher here. They bought the W. E. Thayer house on Main Street formerly occupied by Miss Jennie Baker. Their children are Howard, David, and a daughter Linda, deceased.

There have been changes in property owners on South Street. Mrs. Annie Hall, her son Philip, and daughter Olive bought the Roderick Ames farm and are now living there. They have been active in many of the organizations of the town.

Edward Beattie, a prosperous farmer, and water commissioner for the town, bought the Arthur Miller farm.

Frank Crone, representing the Ralston-Purina Company, bought the Curtis place in 1937, from John P. Clancy. Mrs. Crone has been active in Red Cross and 4-H work. She was quite instrumental in establishing a chlorinating system at Unquomonk reservoir. The Crones have two daughters, Jean and Suzanne.

Irving Fisher, retired from the Telephone Company in Springfield, bought the Charles Church house. Mr. and Mrs. Fisher have made extensive repairs and have contributed greatly to the church and social life of the town.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Williston of Northampton purchased Damon Lodge three years ago. They have made extensive repairs. Mr. Williston is employed in the Prophylactic Brush Company. They have two children, Harry, 3rd, and Donald.

Mr. and Mrs. MacDonald Smith and family are now living in the Thomas Nash house, formerly occupied by Mr. Nash's son-in-law, Arthur Hinds. The Smiths have three children, Mandell, Terry, and Dorothy.

Reverend C. E. Holmes, retired minister from Hadley church, bought the Joel Hayden house in Haydenville. Mrs. Holmes died in 1940. Dr. Holmes then married Mrs. Bertha Hubble. Max Holmes, son of Reverend C. E. and Jessie B. Holmes, and his wife now reside in Haydenville. They have two sons, Donald E. and Douglas A., both lieutenants in the U. S. N. R.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Gray came to Haydenville twenty-two years ago. They live in the house owned by Mrs. Stella Hill Brown. Mr. Gray served ably on the Water Board twelve years. They have one son, Barry, in the Northampton National Bank. He married Edith Sargent and they have one child.

Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Janes came to Haydenville in 1940 from South Deerfield, where he was superintendent of the Deerfield Union. He was chairman of the Rationing Board and is serving as Water Commissioner the second term. They have two daughters.

Mr. and Mrs. Victor Symons bought the Mary Emily Blanchard house three years ago. They are active in the O.E.S. and Grange. They have one daughter.

During the course of the town's history numerous persons have left sums of money for worthy community projects. One of the earliest of these was the Dr. Collins School Fund. The Whiting Street Fund was left by Mr. Street for the needy of this and surrounding towns. Lyman Waite and Electa Waite left a fund for the worthy poor of Williamsburg; and C. J. Hills and A. S. Hills provided in a similar manner for the worthy poor of Haydenville. The Dr. Henry M. Hills Fund cares for maternity cases of both villages. Williamsburg enjoys the benefits of the O. G. Spelman School Fund; the Byron Loomis and Ethel Curry School Funds help provide for the schools of Haydenville. Other funds are Warren-Warner, Baker-Graves, Frederick W. Main, Warner W. Bradley, and Mary Main. These funds amount to $90,000.

CHAPTER XII
INDUSTRIES[59]

TO REITERATE the importance of such basic industries as the raising of stock and the raising of crops is unnecessary because it is obvious. The soil was productive and yielded good returns for the labor of the townsfolk. Many of the early families were practically self-sufficient.

Williamsburg abounded in saw mills. The thick forests which covered the land easily explain this. As has already been stated in Chapter IV, the earliest saw mill was erected on Beaver Brook in 1770. This was burned by the Indians. The lumber for the old meetinghouse in Hatfield is said to have come from this mill. In 1837, a saw mill was operated nearly opposite the old silk mill in Haydenville. This mill was burned in 1847. Another one, known as the Mather Warren Mill, was built just below the Beaver Brook establishment in 1822. On Joe Wright's brook stood an early saw mill dating back to the first settlement of the town. Long after it had been destroyed, a factory where gimlets, screws, and buttons were made was erected on the same site. This stood on what was known as the Skiff Farm.[60] Near the present home of Charles Porter on Unquomonk Brook was a saw mill built by his great-grandfather, Ebenezer Warner. The main stream of the Mill River boasted a saw mill so old that many citizens had forgotten it when the flood of 1874 uncovered some of its timbers. Merritt's mill was located on the northwestern branch of the same river. The first such mill in Searsville was constructed by Eleazer Hyde. Later, in 1870, Levi Bradford bought some property in that hamlet where, three years later, he built a saw mill on the site of the present one. There has been one there ever since. After the flood, Albert Morton and Fred Crosby built a saw mill and turning mill on the site of the O. G. Spelman button shop which had been washed away. J. T. Thayer operated a grist mill and saw mill in Williamsburg about 1860.

To nineteenth century New England communities, the existence of grist mills was as logical and necessary as that of the saw mills. A grist mill was in operation in Haydenville by 1800. This was probably the same one that was built near the Cornelius Tileston place in the approximate vicinity of the John Jones home and greenhouse. Meekins Brook, near the Thomas Meekins place, boasted a grist mill, constructed as early as 1770. A grist mill stood on the location of the Benjamin Baker Tool Maker Shop years after this business had ceased to operate. From 1820 to 1830 Edmund Taylor had a similar mill on the site of Hill's Button Shop. Edmund Taylor, an enterprising man, came to Williamsburg as early as 1790. Besides his grist mill he ran a carding and picking machine for wool as well as a shingle machine where shingles were sawed out from blocks. Around 1860 S. K. Waite owned a grist mill and sold grain and flour in Searsville. The Hill grist mill had been in the family for several generations when the flood completely obliterated it. Hiram G. Hill, in 1880, sold his interest in the button business to Damon and Wright, and set out to construct a new mill and dam on this site, using the water right which he still owned.

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59 Material for this chapter is from accounts written by Wilbur Purrington, Prescott Williams, Mrs. Marie Church, Mrs. Ada Hamlin, and Mr. Gere (about 1860) for old Gazettes.

60 The Edwin Graves place.

The structure was begun January 1, 1881, and when finished was equipped with three runs of stones, a bolt for flouring rye and wheat, and a mill for cracking corn. This business was discontinued in 1925.

There were several wood-turning shops in the town. One, sometimes called the Fiddle Shop, was situated near the place where Cecil Loomis now lives. On the west side of the town on Mill Brook, near the town line, were the wood-turning shops of Asa White. This business must have been located near Devil's Den. Norman Graves did a large business in his wagon shop where Graves' Garage is now located. A rake factory was started in the building west of Miss M. Genevra Hill's home. Wheelbarrows and other wooden articles were made there.

Elihu Graves was born in Williamsburg and married a native daughter, Mercy Carey. They made their home on Nash Street as did his son, Caleb. Caleb and his wife, Sally Wilcox of Conway, had eleven children, four dying in infancy. Sophronia married William A. Nash; Maria, Augustus Alexander; Cynthia, Leonard Porter Graves; Orrin, Fidelia Pittsinger; Hiram, Henrietta Bardwell of Whately; and Norman, Harriet Ryder of Guilford, Vermont. All of them settled in Williamsburg except Cynthia who lived on Horse Mountain. Hiram and Norman lived on, or near, the parental home.

Norman had four children, Willis, Bertha, Fred, and Julia who died in infancy. Although a farmer, Norman in spare moments turned his attention to making pen holders and hand rakes. In 1870 he moved to the center of the village where he opened a carriage shop. Here, with his two sons, he made and repaired wagons. They proved to be skilled and reliable workmen and after Mr. Graves' death, his sons, Willis and Fred, had a prosperous business to carry

on. In 1917, seeing the radical changes the automobile was making in their business, they built a garage where they did repair work and sold cars. At the present time the business is conducted by Fred's son, Ralph, and Ralph's son, Norman.

Ax factories, as well as saw mills, can be accounted for by the generously wooded landscape. Levi Hitchcock built an ax factory in 1831, and B. K. Baker built a similar one in 1835. Both establishments were about a quarter of a mile below Nathaniel Sears' place of business. Mr. Hitchcock carried on the business until 1846. His sons, Heman and Andrew J., worked with their father part of the time. The manufacture of chisels and cutlery was added to that of ax-making. This shop was later used by Marcus Way and Son for the manufacture of button molds. Mr. Baker carried on the business until 1852, when he sold out to D. W. Graves and moved to Lafayette, New York.

Josiah Hannum was one of the most successful and industrious mechanics in Williamsburg. For thirty-five years he followed the business of manufacturing axes. He came to Williamsburg about the year 1795. For fifteen years he occupied the house opposite the old meeting-house, afterward owned by Thomas Mayhew and family. Until 1811, Mr. Hannum worked at ax-making at his old shop. Then he sold his house and bought the house and farm formerly occupied by Seth Paine. Mr. Hannum constructed his new mill west of the road leading to Ashfield and Goshen opposite his dwelling, which was one mile north of the old meeting-house. This was a very fine location. During the war with Great Britain in 1812, the price of steel rose to a high figure in

Massachusetts—nearly $1.00 a pound. Mr. Hannum went to Montreal and purchased a large quantity of steel and iron. Blistered steel cost him about $12.00 a hundred there. He transported it to Williamsburg during the winter on sleighs. His axes sold for $1.50 each, and supplied many a Western market. For several years he manufactured as many as 110 axes a week. These were excellent tools, sharply ground and ready for use. He and Rufus and Stephen Hyde carried on the business for many years with great success. A dam was constructed across the stream near their factory. This afforded abundant waterpower for the trip-hammer and the grindstone which ground their axes and scythes. Many times the inhabitants living within a radius of a few miles would hear the trip-hammer start at four o'clock in the morning and run till ten o'clock at night when orders were numerous and pressing. Mr. Hannum at times manufactured scythes, but the Hydes carried on the business of scythe-making to much greater extent. Hannum's and Hyde's axes and scythes were used widely throughout the eastern part of the United States. Mr. Hannum died about the year 1836, having reared a family of five children.

In 1831 three Thayer brothers, Ezra, Williston, and Sears purchased the valuable piece of property including the Edmund Taylor grist mill and land down the river. This was located on the site of the former Hill Brothers' Button Shop. The old mill was turned into a manufacturing establishment of considerable reputation. In one of the buildings clocks were made, the works being brought from Connecticut. The company sent out six or eight peddlers, or salesmen, as we would call them, who went into all parts of the country with these clocks. This business was very profitable, and when, in April 1839, the company was dissolved and the property divided, each of the partners had a handsome estate. Ezra continued in the mercantile business. Williston Thayer continued the clock business several years, manufacturing various other articles, including hardware and furniture. At one time the products of this establishment included wooden buttons, the first made in this country, button molds, tassel molds, and other wood work. In 1848 he erected a three-story factory of granite, brick, and wood at a cost of $5,000. This building was later used by the Hill Brothers. The granite was quarried from the ledge on Williams' Hill west of the village. His brother, William E. Thayer, became associated with him in the business.

As a young man William had travelled, selling clocks for his brothers. He and Williston manufactured furniture and steel pens, the firm name of W. & W. E. Thayer being stamped on each pen. In 1856 the brothers separated, and William took the business of hardware manufacture to the old stand that had been used to make buttons and buckles. This mill with its waterpower he had purchased from D. W. Graves. Five years later he replaced this structure with a new mill which stood until it was destroyed by fire in January, 1907. The factory employed about twenty-five men, and its products had a reputation for high quality throughout New England and the West. Mr. Thayer also operated a large general store.

In former times the manufacture of buttons and button-molds gave occupation to many workers. Hiram G. Hill purchased this business and machinery from Marcus Way and Son of Williamsburg. In 1861 he enlarged his business, moving into the mill used by W. & W. E. Thayer. Later his brother, John W., entered the partnership and still later, a third brother, Henry W., joined the concern. This company, known as the Hill Brothers, continued until 1880 when

Hiram withdrew from the group. John and Henry continued the manufacture of tassel-molds and other varieties of woodwork. They were succeeded by Abner Damon and Henry Wright, the last owners of the old mill which stood idle many years before it was finally torn down.

The pearl button business, first carried, on in Hill's Button Shop in Williamsburg, was later transferred to Haydenville. There it became a thriving business. The manufacturing was carried out in a shop built by Mr. Stephen Jorgensen and Mr. Hubert Smith. Mr. Jorgensen died in 1918 after which Mr. William Metcalf was taken into the firm. After his death the mill was owned and operated by Mr. Smith. Mr. Frederick Smith succeeded his father after his death. Although closed at this writing because of lack of materials, the firm employed about twelve men before the shut-down became necessary and will reopen when circumstances permit.

After W. E. Thayer's death in 1893, the W. E. Thayer Manufacturing Company was carried on by his youngest son, Walter, until 1902. It was then bought by Arthur J. Polmatier of Florence, and the name was changed to the Thayer Manufacturing Company. The next year William Polmatier purchased half interest, and the firm was carried on as a partnership. In January, 1907, the main building was completely destroyed by fire and during the summer of that year a larger, two-story building was erected, the Thayer Manufacturing Company occupying the first floor. The Polmatier men purchased an interest in the Springfield Level and Tool Company, incorporated the business under the Massachusetts state laws, changed the name to the Williamsburg Manufacturing Company, and moved it to the second floor of the mill. Two years later the Polmatiers bought the entire Springfield concern, and operated both businesses until 1923. Their product was small hardware. At that time they merged with the Threadwell Manufacturing Company of Greenfield, makers of butcher cutlery, taps and dies. Two years later the company failed, and the plant was vacant about a year until bought by Charles A. Tiley of Essex, Connecticut.

The present owner of the mill on the site of the Thayer, and later the Polmatier factory, is Charles Tiley. Commencing business in Saybrook, Connecticut, in 1924, he came to this town two years later. About eight persons are now employed there. The product manufactured is colonial hardware.

In 1839, Josiah Hayden began the manufacture of steel pens, but in 1845 he sold this particular enterprise to Williston and William E. Thayer, who moved the business to Williamsburg. That same year Mr. Hayden and Mr. Dawson began to make gold pens. Three years later the business again changed hands. Fine jewelry was added to the articles manufactured.

The principal industry of Haydenville has long been the Brass Works. In order to follow the history of that industry it is necessary to go back to the year 1809 when the first mill for manufacturing purposes was erected on the site of the present Brass Company. It was of wood, two stories high and was used for making yarn. The establishment was constructed under the auspices of Daniel and David Hayden, the uncles of Joel and Josiah. After 1818, as the building was unused, Joel Hayden and James Congdon bought it, rebuilt the dam, made a new canal, repaired the building, and began the manufacture of power-looms for weaving broadcloth. By 1831, Joel and Josiah constituted the firm and made various kinds of machinery, japanned buttons, button-molds, and metal-shanked lasting buttons; also door locks and harness trimmings. On November

4, 1832, it was entirely destroyed by fire, but in the spring of 1833 it was rebuilt. Manufacture of machinery was discontinued.

The Haydenville Company originated in July, 1845, when the business was organized by Lieutenant-Governor Joel Hayden. A few years subsequently Mr. Albert D. Sanders was admitted as a partner and the business was continued until 1861 as Hayden & Sanders. Mr. Sanders died in 1861, at which time Mr. Hayden, his son Joel Hayden, Jr., and Mr. Collins Gere of Northampton organized the business as Hayden, Gere & Company. This concern operated until 1878, although Mr. Hayden died in 1873 and in the spring of 1874 the entire works were destroyed by the Mill River flood. The present factory was built and completed in 1876. Soon thereafter the property was purchased by The Hayden Company, a group of Boston people headed by Mr. Whiting and Mr. Gillis. The Hayden Company carried on the business for seven years, and in 1885 a new company was organized under the name of The Haydenville Manufacturing Company with Mr. A. T. Foster of New York as president. In 1899 the plant was purchased by The Haydenville Company which was organized in March of that year with the following officers:

Christian J. Hills, President; Albert S. Hills, Treasurer; Chester B. Hosford, Superintendent. On January 17, 1920, Albert S. Hills died and on January 22, 1932, Christian J. Hills died. The officers of The Haydenville Company at the present time are: President, R. B. Hills; Secretary and Treasurer, John H. Hills; Assistant Treasurer, F. A. Pelton; Superintendent, M. T. Cook.

In the early years of the nineteenth century the business of cloth-dressing was very common in almost every farming town, as many farmers made their own cloth, ready for fulling and dressing. For several years after 1806, Sylvester, Artimus, and Theophilus Bodman, sons of William Bodman, Esquire, operated a small mill for fulling, dyeing, and dressing woolen goods. Their water power was obtained by means of a pen stock from the pond at Stearns' mill. The cloth, dressed and colored, was made mostly by hand-looms in private families. In 1813, the three Bodman brothers purchased of David Porter and Samuel Bodman the water privilege of the Unquomonk Mills about half a mile south of the village. There they erected a mill for carrying out the business they had started at the mill near the bridge. They continued at the Unquomonk Mills for three or four years. The successors of this business were numerous and prosperous. In 1847-8 when the old factory was supplanted by a new and more substantial structure, about thirty employees found work there. Over 110,000 yards of satinet goods were turned out yearly

In 1832, Lewis and Goodell built a small factory on the site of the old grist mill near the Cornelius Tileston place. Stocks and bits were made there. The business changed hands many times. Finally, in 1853, the man for whom that particular hamlet of the town would henceforth be called, William Skinner, bought the property and began the manufacture of sewing silk. Four years later he erected a larger factory, three stories high, eighty by thirty feet. It was one of the leading industrial enterprises of western Massachusetts. A neat village clustered around the factory and many hands were employed. The business, called the Unquomonk Silk Mills, flourished until the flood of 1874. Mr. Skinner decided to rebuild in Holyoke on a site offering better power facilities. He made the Skinner satin noted for its fine quality.

Edmund Taylor, Jonathan Warner, Jr., and Washington A. Fox started a cotton factory in the upper village, and ran it by the surplus water power from Taylor's mills. Fulling mills were operated in Searsville by Stephen Graves, William Wing, and Versel Abell previous to 1850.

During the War of 1812 two cotton factories were erected and put into operation. One was located on Mill Brook at the site of Tiley's shop. It was built and operated by Prince and Phineas Williams. This building was later moved across the street and was known as the "Boarding-house." The Messrs. Williams ran their cotton mill until the reestablishment of peace when the business collapsed and they sustained a heavy loss. The building remained unoccupied for two or three years. It was finally used as a grocery store by Joseph and Captain Southworth Jenkins. They remained here in business about two years. Isaac Gere then purchased the property and manufactured broadcloths for a time.

Mr. Gere, son of Isaac Gere of Northampton, had moved to Williamsburg after the decease of his father about 1825. Later he moved to Oxford, Ohio, where he devoted himself to the education of his interesting family and to the enjoyment of the blessings which he knew so well how to appreciate. He died about 1850. His brother, Edward, also settled in Williamsburg. Ill health had compelled him to retire before the completion of his course at Yale. He was for some time connected with Isaac Gere in the mercantile business at the Bodman stand. Later, to seek restoration of health in the cultivation of the soil, he settled on a farm in the north part of the town near what was known as Gere's Hill. His hopes in this respect failed and he died in 1832. The second cotton mill stood on the bank of the river directly in back of Mr. Warner's blacksmith shop. It was erected and run by Erastus Hubbard and Edmund Taylor. This mill also operated only during the war.

In 1819, Nathaniel Sears came to Williamsburg with a capital of only $50. He purchased part of the water privilege belonging to Stephen Hyde, put up a building there, and began the cloth dressing business. He continued this enterprise until 1835. In 1828, he enlarged his building and put in machinery for the manufacture of fulled cloth and flannel. Before it was completed, the old building burned with all its contents. Because of this disaster, Mr. Sears sustained a loss of about $1,000, for there was no insurance on the property. But he proceeded with the new building, put in new machinery and began again. His business continued without interruption until ready-made clothing became popular. In 1853, he gave up custom work and began manufacturing flannel for market. He employed six or seven hands, working up about 1,000 pounds of wool per month running but one set of machinery.

Ambrose Stone from Goshen came to Williamsburg and established a woolen factory. Eventually it passed to E. L. James, then to Henry L. James. A large business was carried on until the flood. Mr. James continued in business after the disaster until about 1893 or 1894, when he finally sold out to Mr. Cook of New York who made blankets there for a time. The plant was then sold to G. M. Bradford who conducted a lumber business on the site for a number of years. He was succeeded by Taylor and Mellon. The business was bought from them in 1944 by Morris Clark.

The old Hayden Mill where the Noble Manufacturing Company now operates was built in 1846 by Joel Hayden and A. D. Sanders for the manufacture of cotton cloth. It was equipped with 4,000 spindles and had a capacity equal to 18,000 to 20,000 yards of sheeting per week. Later it was sold to a manufacturer by the name of Briggs, but the production of cotton cloth continued. The stone dam, built at the same time as the mill, was destroyed by the flood, but the buildings stood. In 1884 the plant was sold to the Corticelli Silk Company. The kitten toying with a spool of silk which was pictured on the front of the mill was a familiar sight. Mr. Samuel Ewing of Haydenville acted as superintendent of the mill from 1884 until his death in 1920, when Mr. Howard F. Baker of Williamsburg succeeded him. About forty hands were employed. In 1931 the business failed and the building was leased to the College Weavers for the manufacture of rayon. This proved unsuccessful and the mill stood idle for several years. Finally in 1941 it was sold to the Purity Bottle Cap Company, then used by the Grant Greeting Card Company, and at present is the home of the Noble Manufacturing Company. About twenty workers find employment here, manufacturing brooders. The mill superintendent is H. Redvers Sharpe, of Williamsburg.

In 1844 the saw mill erected by Hayden and Sanders was converted into a factory for the manufacture of glazed thread. This was discontinued after a few years and the building used for the manufacture of tobacco products.

While places of manufacture were springing up in the town, many merchants were also developing active businesses. Abner Williams began trading about 1802 in the building located southwest of the bridge and nearly opposite the present hotel. He was a blacksmith by trade and first kept merchandise in a room adjoining his shop. His customers became so numerous that he soon gave up his shop and devoted his whole time to his store. He continued in business until about 1810 when he sold to his son, Phineas Williams, and Southworth Jenkins. After a few years they, in turn, sold the business to Gross Williams, brother of Abner. Mr. Gross Williams had been in the mercantile business several years before this purchase. Mr. Williams remained in the business he had purchased from his brother until 1840. A capable business man, Mr. Williams enjoyed a profitable trade. He was also an extensive farmer, his tract of land comprising about 400 acres and including some of the best tillage and mowing land in the town. This section included all the territory west of the central highway from the town hall to Thayer's factory, running back over the hill about one mile. The cross road from the tavern stand to Thayer's factory was built by Mr. Williams and after much opposition was accepted by the town on condition that the bridge across Mill River should be built by him and kept in repair for the term of ten years. In the southeastern section of the town, Mr. Williams owned large tracts of land on Davis Hill and Shingle Hill. Not content with farming and trading, he engaged also in manufacturing, and was proprietor of an inn. This latter occupation engaged his attention from 1812 to 1826. He owned and conducted a large potash factory, located near the river about sixty rods back of the hotel buildings. Connected with this was a distillery and cider mill, worked by water power. Mr. Williams had commenced with no capital except a stout arm and shrewd business sense. These

qualities earned for him a large estate. He married Polly, daughter of Stephen Washburn, and both lived to an advanced age. They had twelve children, seven of whom lived to maturity.

Thomas Mayhew, a man of note in the village, served an apprenticeship in the mercantile business with Asa White in Chesterfield. He opened a store in Williamsburg where he continued in business for many years. He was the first postmaster of the town and held that office a long time.

Enoch James was a prominent merchant in the town for twenty-eight years. He began business April 1, 1825, as the successor of Russell Hill and Clement Coffin, who had previously opened a store on the site of Deacon Henry Stearns' residence. His brother, Lewis L. James, was a clerk for him seven years, and afterward became a partner. The partnership of E. and L. L. James was dissolved in 1846 when Lewis moved to New York and became a partner in a wholesale house. Enoch James then continued the business alone until 1853, when he retired and was succeeded by his son, Henry L. James. L. L. James also manufactured large quantities of joiners' tools. Twelve to twenty men were employed in this work.

Prescott Williams' recollections give some of the prices of articles sold by Enoch James in 1825. Flour retailed at $7.00 per barrel; brown sugar, at fifteen cents per pound; molasses, at fifty cents a gallon; eggs, at ten cents a dozen. Some idea of the manner in which Independence Day was celebrated may be obtained from the following list of articles furnished by Mr. James for a party held July 4, 1825:

3 gallons Cognac Brandy, fourth proof
4 gallons Malaga Wine
2 gallons Madeira
4 loaves
19 pounds sugar
4 pounds Old Hyson tea
2 1/2 dozen lemons.

Another interesting item from Mr. Williams' records is the following:

"I, Walker Rice, agree to find E. James in boots and shoes such as he may choose to wear, which are to be made of good calf skin and in good modern style, one year from June 6, 1825, for the sum of ten dollars to be paid at the expiration of said time; and it is not expected that the said James is to wear any patched boots or shoes."

Many merchants are worthy of note in the more recent years of Williamsburg. Fred Thayer's store, in the building where Charles Bowker now runs his business, was for years a landmark in the town. A merchant for fifty years, Mr. Thayer died in 1932 at the age of 88. The building where L. D. James had carried on his business was sold to H. A. Bisbee. The following merchants succeeded one another at this stand: Merrick and Hawlett; Bisbee Brothers; John Ross, E. Robbins, Manager; Thomas Wells; and Harry Wells. After that the store was vacant. Mrs. Lizzie Bisbee has very recently sold the building to Andrew Subocz. The store now owned and operated by R. F. Burke has changed hands many times. Kingsley Waite, E. T. Barrus, C. R.

Damon, R. F. Burke, Burke and Burdeau, Cramer, and again R. F. Burke have been proprietors. Mary Carter's business was sold to Carroll Jenkins, who is its present owner.

In Haydenville, the names of such merchants as Thomas Larkin, William Sheehan, H. C. Smith, and A. G. Cone, were long familiar to residents there. The present Sheehan store building was built after the flood by Eben Sharpe and George Ames. There they sold hardware, stoves, grain, and operated a tin shop. George Ames drove around the outlying districts of the town, selling their wares. About 1884, Sharpe left the business, but George Ames and his brother, Oakley, continued until 1902. George ran the establishment alone until 1910. The building was vacant until William Sheehan purchased it in 1915. Previous to 1874, Sharpe & Ames had occupied the building which stood on the site of the present Masonic building.

Josiah and Joel Hayden built a store in Haydenville in 1838 and did a thriving business for five years. The store changed hands many times, but was not rebuilt after it burned in 1865. D. G. Littlefield and D. F. Morton established a store in 1853 which they sold to C. D. Wait in 1865. That building was located on the site of the Haydenville Savings Bank. Shaw and Gardner, merchants, commenced business in 1850, selling out to Smith and Fay in 1868. H. C. Smith of this partnership, an ardent prohibitionist, and one of the town's "Ten Men, " served as selectman many years.[61] The business was conducted in the building now used as a store by William Devlin. Boland and Graves manufactured stoves and tin ware in Haydenville about 1860. Morton and Wait, also Tileston and Smith, operated dry goods and grocery stores. Another contemporary grocer of that village was J. W. Pittsinger. C. C. Hosford worked as a draper and tailor.

Pierce Larkin maintained an extensive trade in crockery and glassware. After his death, his sons, Thomas and Edward, continued the business as a grocery and general store. Edward's death occurred in 1916, after which Thomas, with his son, Thomas, Jr., carried on until his retirement in 1934.

The Post Office of Williamsburg was established about the year 1814 or 1815. Previous to this time, the inhabitants were accommodated at the office in Northampton. Thomas Mayhew was the first postmaster, 1824-1839; Lewis Bodman, 1839; Mr. Metcalf, 1848; Lewis Bodman, 1852; H. L. James; Lyman James; Moses Beals; T. M. Carter; Mary Carter; Arthur Polmatier; R. F. Burke; and Winfield Smith.

In 1819, a mail coach left Boston for Albany three times a week. The arrival of the stage from the East was at two o'clock in the morning and from the West in the evening about sunset. The approach of the coaches to town was heralded by the spirited notes of the bugle. This stage route was one of the most profitable in this section, and days when three, four, and five coaches passed through the village were not infrequent. After 1840, daily mails were received.

The Haydenville Post Office was established in 1839 with mails daily except Sundays to and from Northampton and Williamsburg. With the opening of the railroad, the service was increased to twice daily, and later, of course, gradually to the system to which we are accustomed today. The first postmaster was Josiah Hayden, and the office was kept for many years in the

61 See chapter XIX.

store of J. & J. Hayden and their successors. Succeeding postmasters were Ellsworth H. Hyde, Major Lewis Warner, Stephen W. White, Spencer Root, Frederick L. Hayden, Joel Hayden, Jr., Henry C. Smith, Thomas P. Larkin, Alfred G. Cone, James R. Mansfield, Frederick Smith, James R. Mansfield, and Teresa K. Larkin.

The Haydenville Gas Works was wholly a private enterprise and belonged to the Hayden Manufacturing Company. A few private houses were lighted and also the streets and mills. The business was not rebuilt after the flood. In the 1880's Williamsburg had a newspaper, the Williamsburg News printed in the house now occupied by Mr. Kenneth Sherk and family. It contained not only local news and advertisements, but those of neighboring towns as well. In it appeared ads for places of business as far away as Springfield and Westfield. Poems and stories were printed; one serial was entitled "Carlie, or At Whose Door Shall the Sin be Laid." Women readers enjoyed a column called "Women's World." Editorials included accounts of happenings in foreign countries or covered phases of life in the United States. One article discussed "Religious Life in Washington." Rates of the paper were three cents a copy or $1.00 a year.

The Hillside Orchards were set out by Mr. Edwin Miller and his son, Cyrus Miller. Upon the death of Mr. Cyrus Miller, the orchards were sold to Mr. Charles Gould. This took place in March, 1924. When the business was in its most productive state, it necessitated a foundation crew for the entire year of four or five men, but at the height of the season from fifty to sixty men were employed. The annual yield of apples was from ten to 30,000 bushels. There was approximately 3,300 trees of early and winter apples. The orchard was used for experimental purposes, operating with the Massachusetts State College in the classes of pomology.

[62]"The Haydenville Savings Bank, started by Joel Hayden, for whom Haydenville was named and a former lieutenant-governor of Massachusetts, was granted its charter March 17, 1869. In accordance with the rules for forming savings banks in this state, three men, Joel Hayden, Dr. William Trow, and Joel Hayden, Jr., appeared before the Legislature to be allowed to organize this bank and on December 25, 1870, an article appeared in the Free Press.

"It said in part: 'A savings bank has been incorporated in Haydenville, and the first annual meeting of the corporators was held on Tuesday, the 13th inst. At this meeting the following board of officers were chosen for the ensuing year, and they have signified their acceptance of the trust conferred: president, Hon. Joel Hayden; vice-presidents, Richmond Kingman of Cummington, William Skinner, Dr. William M. Trow, Joel Hayden, Jr., of Haydenville, and Henry L. James of Williamsburg; secretary, S. M. Crosby, of Haydenville; treasurer, B. S. Johnson, of Northampton. About forty trustees were chosen, Josiah Hayden, of Haydenville, heading the list, which includes the names of many of the leading men in Western Hampshire. B. S. Johnson, the treasurer, although a resident of Northampton, lives so near the Williamsburg line that all his social and business connections center to a great extent in Haydenville, and the new corporation could hardly have selected a more reliable and trustworthy man for that position.

62 From Springfield Union, March 13, 1944, commemorating the seventy-fifth anniversary of the bank.

"From that beginning the bank now has opened about 13,000 accounts and has $1,427,833.16 deposits, according to the last quarterly statement, and now has 12 trustees, the officers being included in the twelve instead of forty trustees besides the officers. The bank first did business in the offices of the Haydenville Brass Company, owned by Joel Hayden, and in those early years he materially assisted in getting it started, but this building was destroyed by the flood with no apparent harm to the records, as all are still intact. The bank operated upstairs in the new Brass Company building until about November 1, 1900, when they rented quarters from Charles D. Wait, then president, who conducted a general store. When he retired in 1910, they purchased the building. Since then, considerable remodeling has been done and a directors' room and treasurer's office made from one upstairs tenement, and a portion of the first floor was fixed to house the post office in 1922.

"The list of presidents have been Joel Hayden, 1870-1873; Joel Hayden, Jr., 1873-1878, both of Haydenville; Elnathan Graves of Williamsburg, 1878-1892; Charles D. Wait, 1892-1906; Byron Loomis, 1906-1918; Charles E. Clark of Northampton, 1918-1933; Henry W. Graves of Williamsburg, 1933-1936; Clinton B. Tower of Northampton, 1936-1938; and Homer R. Bisbee of Chesterfield, 1938 to the present. Treasurers have been Benjamin S. Johnson, 1870-1892; Wilbur M. Purrington, 1892-1926; Roswell S. Jorgensen to the present time.

"Other officers now include: vice-president, Franklin King, Jr.; clerk of the corporation, William G. Loomis; assistant treasurer, Carl P. Rustemeyer; trustees, Homer R. Bisbee, Charles S. Damon, Neal B. DeNood, Murray S. Graves, Kenneth H. Hemenway, Franklin King, Jr., Thomas F. Lenihan, William G. Loomis, Francis A. Loud, James R. Mansfield, Leslie H. Packard, Arthur J. Polmatier."

In former times, tanning, currying, and finishing hides for leather contributed much to the prosperity of the village.

A tannery was operated near the place where Max Taylor's house is located. Quite early in the history of our town there was a building opposite the old Deacon Bodman homestead, which is now owned by Harold Packard. This building was used as a tannery by Joseph Bodman and Stephen Hopkins. Horse power was used for grinding the bark. An incident connected with the Bodman and Hopkins tannery is worth relating. A man named John Putnam drew sixty-three hides from the vats in one night and cut them badly. Then he set the building on fire. He was arrested and sent to the jail in Northampton, but he died before the expiration of the term for which he was sentenced. Later this was the site of a printing office, and still later boots and shoes were made there. It was in the printing establishment mentioned above that the unique book known as "Bodman's Orations" was printed. The work was sold by subscription and the people subscribed freely. In connection with the tannery of Bodman & Hopkins, a large business was transacted in the manufacture of boots and shoes. From six to ten hands were employed in this branch. In this undertaking Deacon Bodman was first engaged, but he finally relinquished it to Luther and Walker Rice, who employed several men and continued the business many years.

Other industries of the town come under miscellaneous categories. Stebbins and Williams did an extensive tinning business in the house now owned by Martin Wells. Staab's tailor shop

was carried on for many years by father and son in the house now owned by Leon Damon. Leonard Winch had a tailor shop in a building above the engine house. Henry Stearns' harness shop was in the dwelling where Charles R. Damon now lives. Moses Beals had a harness shop, using it for the post office during Cleveland administrations. Nearly opposite Jenkins' store on the south side of the bridge stood Alfred Bodman's clothier establishment. The Williamsburg Creamery was built on Valley View, across the pond from the Hill Grist Mill, in 1892. A thriving business in the manufacture of high-grade butter was carried on there until 1909. William E. Bardwell was a carriage maker in town about 1860. John Butler and also Royall Rice were manufacturers of boots and shoes.

J. W. Belcher and Charles A. Williams both operated feeding and livery stables. Graves and Lamb were tanners and curriers.

Silas Hannum was one of the earliest mechanics in Williamsburg. He was first a millwright. Then for a while he was engaged with his sons in making machinery for factories. Most of the machinery for the spinning department at the woolen mills in Leeds was made by him. Mr. Hannum is described as a man of very superior genius, as were his sons who worked with him. They kept their shop busy for twenty-five years with constant orders for factory machinery. At one time they built carding mills and furnished the machinery for Bodman's factory.

Many residents in town still remember J. B. Gleason, the butcher, whose slaughter house was located where William Ice now lives. Mr. Gleason's market, a separate building, stood near the present site of Meekins' Library. Meat markets have been operated by Samuel Guilford, Frank L. Taylor, Sidney Packard, Arthur Polmatier, Joseph Rhoades. The "Atlas of the State of Massachusetts" published by Stedman, Brown and Lyon in 1871 lists Rob Cartier as a carriage smith and jobber in Williamsburg. William H. Adams sold flour and meal in the Hill Grist Mill. Chauncey Rice, dealer in boots and shoes on the site of Soltys' store, had two daughters, one of whom taught the Maple Street school in Haydenville. The other, a missionary to China, was killed by the Boxers in the Rebellion of 1900.[63] The Bisbee Brothers, although residents of Chesterfield, have operated a successful business near the Williamsburg depot since 1889. Grain, farm implements, and agricultural supplies are sold there.

Taverns and hotels of both Williamsburg and Haydenville continued to prosper in the new century. But in some respects their historical importance had diminished. As the years went by, they became less and less the only meeting place where people might gather for a social hour. New interests, new activities, and countless organizations were appearing on the horizon of the town's attention. Several of the old taverns, so typically products of the last century, operated for a time. In 1844, Spencer Root built the Haydenville House which was first kept by E. G. Brown, followed by Hiram Bagg for one year, and then Shaw and Belcher. They were succeeded in 1852 by Luther Loomis and Son, who also had a feeding and livery stable. The Haydenville Hotel was bought from Mr. Loomis by Mr. Joseph Gusetti. Later R. B. Hills purchased it from Mr. Gusetti, and then Earl, Mr. Gusetti's son, bought it from Mr. Hills, razed it and erected a gas station there.

63 See chapter XIV.

The first proprietors of the Williams House were the Williams Brothers. Smith Munson bought it from them, but Sidney DeMartin leased it for ten years in 1881. The next owners, the Warren Brothers, Alonzo and Frank, were succeeded by Brewster[64] and Bartlett. Mr. Brewster did a thriving livery stable business for a number of years before the advent of the automobile. Across the road, George Damon, kept a livery stable. Although blind, he could choose a good horse more accurately than many seeing persons. Then Harry Drake owned the Williams House for a time. Mr. Drake's mother, Josephine Drake, is one of the town's oldest residents. Of his three children—Helen, Henry, and Mary—Helen still resides in town. After Mr. Drake's ownership, Charles M. Brewster came back as proprietor, and his name is probably the one most often associated with the establishment. After Mr. Brewster, the business again changed hands, Miss Brennan, Stanley Pogodzinski, and finally Steve Kloc, the present owner.

The horse created the need for blacksmith shops. There was a blacksmith shop opposite Charles Sabo's, owned by a Nat Thompson. Sesostris Warner had one on the site of the Spelman house. George Bartlett was a blacksmith about 1860. Then followed Herbert Russ, John Handfield, Guy Tupper, William Chadwick, and Patrick McAvoy. Mr. John Handfield bought the blacksmith shop in 1890 from a Gilbert Leite and sold it to William Chadwick in May, 1911. In 1920 Patrick McAvoy bought it from Mr. Chadwick. At one time they ran three forges and employed five men. Mr. and Mrs. McAvoy now use the second floor as their residence.

Williamsburg's industrial development represented a true cross-section of the young nation of which she was a part. The preceding record of her varied and enterprising activities shows us how quickly and completely her countenance was changed by the Mill River disaster.

64 The fine quality of Mrs. Brewster's home cooking was known for miles around.

CHAPTER XIII
THE GREAT FLOOD

ON MAY 16, 1874, Williamsburg was struck by one of the most disastrous floods that New England had ever known. Scarcely an hour and a quarter in duration, the flood stripped the town of property, roads, stock, and much precious human life. One hundred and forty-five lives were lost. Although relief work and reconstruction were carried out with unbelievable efficiency and rapidity, our village had undergone in that short time a permanent change. Many business and manufacturing concerns have flourished since 1874, but the general character of the town has remained primarily residential, while previously it had been primarily industrial.

An eye-witness[65] of the disaster has described the Mill River Valley as it was before that May morning.

"Shops and mills lined its course — Spelman's button shop and sawmill; Adams' flouring mill; Skinner's silk mill, a growing and prosperous concern; the Hayden and Gere Brass Works, one of the largest producers of brass plumbing fixtures in the country; and others. These buildings extended about 600 feet along the river. The office at the lower end contained also the Haydenville Savings Bank and the Masonic Lodge rooms and was considered a very elegant and unusual building."

The Mill River and Williamsburg Reservoir Company was organized because, with the growth of industry in both villages, the manufacturers had felt the need of a more extensive water supply. In 1865 this company built a reservoir in the north part of town. When finished, the next year, it covered 111 acres to an average depth of twenty-four feet.

[66]"Emory B. Wells of Northampton and Joel Bassett of Easthampton were the contractors, and the cost was $35,000. A stone wall was first built, which was stipulated to rise from a width of eight feet at the hardpan to two feet at the top. This was forty-two feet above the bed of the stream. This wall was contracted to be laid in the best-known cement, and the projectors claimed, would be as strong as a single shaft of granite. Enveloping this stone wall on each side was a mass of earth, which sloped down on the water side at an angle of thirty degrees, and on the lower side at an angle of forty-five degrees. A lateral section of this earthen support, the greater mass of which was on the water side, measured about 120 feet at the base. At the center of the stream, enclosed in a stone wall running at right angles to the main wall of the reservoir, ran an iron tube of two feet diameter for controlling the flow of the water, extending, of course, a few feet beyond this earthen wall at both extremities of its base. This wall of earth, 120 feet wide at the bottom was sixteen feet across at the top, covering the crest of the stone wall a depth of two feet, in order to prevent danger from frost, and along the top furnished a good driveway. The water never rose quite to the crest of the dam, being kept about two feet below that line by means of a waste-way at the western side. Serious doubts as to the safety of the structure had been en-

65 Eugene E. Davis at a Kiwanis club meeting at the Hotel Northampton in 1934.

66 From a paper on the Mill River Flood which bears no name but acknowledges its sources as current publications of the time.

tertained even by the proprietors. In the spring following its completion fears were felt that it would go off at the very first trial, but it withstood the strain. At various times subsequently it was strengthened. Not long before the dam broke, it was made more secure by ‘rip-rapping’; that is, the laying of cobblestones along the earth bank to diminish the force of the water upon the earth.

“The winter and spring of 1873-74 were unusually trying to an earth dam on account of heavy rains and melting snow, accompanied by a constant succession of freezing and thawing. But the direct cause of the disaster, aside from the general weakness of the dam, must remain a subject of speculation. The gate-keeper detected no sign of danger when he examined the situation at early dawn. What the last straw was that broke the great back of the reservoir can never be definitely known. The gate-keeper had always feared trouble from the fact that a stream of water flowed constantly through the bottom, just east of the gate-way, while there were always a number of smaller streams, some of them quite minute, along the bottom on each side of the center. It was said, however, that it was quite impossible to construct such a dam so that there would be absolutely no show of water on the lower side, and some experts felt that there was no reason for alarm because of the small streams that trickled through.

“The gate-keeper was George Cheney, a man of about thirty-five, who had held the position for three years. On Saturday morning, the sixteenth of May he went out as usual at six o’clock to look things over. All appeared as usual. At half past seven, while at breakfast, he noticed what appeared to be about forty feet in length of the bottom of the reservoir shooting down stream. He rushed to the gate, opened it to relieve the pressure, then jumped on his horse and rode bare-back to the village to warn people of the impending disaster. He went first to the house of Mr. Spelman who had general charge of the dam. After convincing him of the coming danger, he rushed on to the livery stable for a fresh horse. The church bell was rung, but there seems to have been no general alarm in the village of Williamsburg. In the meantime, Robert Loud upon his farm overlooking the reservoir and stream had seen the break, and ran the mile and a half to the grist mill near where the John Hill house stands. Unable to speak, he gave the alarm by pointing to the rising stream. Cheney rode his exhausted horse to Belcher’s stable and while there, Collins Graves, who was delivering milk around the village, saw the haste and drove up. On being told that the reservoir had burst, Mr. Graves started off with his milk-wagon on the famous ride for Haydenville which was the means of saving the lives of 300 people working in James’ mill, Skinner’s mill, and the Brass Works. So close was the water behind Graves that when Cheney mounted to follow to Haydenville, the water was up across the road so that he was obliged to turn back. Jerome Hillman was another hero who took an active and important part in warning Haydenville of the approaching flood. After riding through the street, shouting to all whom he saw, he dashed up to the village church, ran in, and rang the bell. One person, James Ryan, was a young boy who happened to be up in the village with an old horse. He overheard the talk of Mr. Cheney with Mr. Belcher, and drove out at once to his home. His mother sent him along to Haydenville to warn his father who was working there. He succeeded not only saving his father’s life

but also the lives of others who heard his warning. He was just ahead of the flood, and rushed into Haydenville crying, 'It's right here! Get up, get up! To the hills!'

"From Haydenville the news was carried by Myron Day. He warned the hands at the cotton mill, raced for two miles with the flood just behind him, and succeeded in gaining sufficiently upon the waters to save many lives at Leeds."

[67]"The flood came tearing down the Ashfield road and the first house in its path was a cottage at the Bullard bridge, occupied by one Collier. It was lifted as one would lift a feather. The wife and daughter were drowned, Mrs. Collier being thrown upon the bank along Valley View Avenue. The saw mill, which was where the old grist mill now stands, was overwhelmed in a moment. The flood tore its way across the open lot to the house of Gilbert Bradford, making a channel straight past the Edward Miller place and the mill bridge, sweeping away the houses that lined both sides of the road. At the turn of the river by the station there stood some woods, and this for a moment stayed the oncoming flood which flowed up the Joe Wright brook, carrying with it the iron bridge at the Bradford[68] Mill. As the waters piled up behind this temporary dam, it broke away, taking with it the Skinner mill of solid brick and all the little village which he had there built. Down to Haydenville the oncoming flood rolled. A floating house struck the corner of the foundry building nearest the water. It began to crumble and as the water entered, the foundry collapsed like a house of cards. One portion after another crumbled away. The heating boiler was tossed up on the Hayden lawn. The debris, catching on the row of maples along the sidewalk, held the current to the center where the houses, one after another, were borne away and down through the channel."

One wonders what impressions this horrible inundation brought to the minds of its eyewitnesses. A newspaper of the time gives these descriptions:

"Of course, the onslaught of the waters was terrible and grand beyond description; one can only give its results as depicting best its appalling accompaniments. To one, the thick, on-coming mass of waters seemed like the heaviest ocean waves; to another the sound was like the tearing of shingles from many buildings; while a third heard it as the heavy, sullen thunder which comes before the summer storm. It was preceded and surrounded by a dense spray or fog, dark and thick as the heaviest smoke, while even as far away as the Hill, there was an odor like that emitted from stagnant pools. The wave was generally described as twenty feet high, though in one spot the spray washed the branches of a tree forty feet from the ground. It would be interesting to follow the front of the flood as it thrust itself upon different eyes along the valley; but we have taken only a representative view from the village as given by Reverend John F. Gleason. Mr. Gleason got up from his breakfast table to see the Adams' flouring mill sailing by his window, while his neighbors' houses in the valley below were taken up by the water as chips, to crumble as salt; the trees were mown down like grass; huge boulders were tossed about by the resistless current; the waves would savagely play a while with the barns and shops to grind them to chips and splinters.

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67 By Mrs. Ada Chandler Hamlin.

68 Taylor and Mellon.

“In nearly a quarter of an hour the accumulated water had passed so that its path could be traced. The valley was obliterated, and its face was the jagged, scarred bed of the destroying stream. A mile down from the village nothing had escaped unscathed; no green or whole thing was to be seen; only one or two houses were left on the street; upon the hillsides were strewn all sorts of household articles, not one of them intact; while perhaps, near by, would be the beaten and bruised bodies of the drowned.”

Eugene E. Davis, witnessing the disaster as a small boy in Florence, told what it looked like to him when he first saw its approach. “A great mass of brush, trees, and trash was rolling rapidly toward me. I have tried many times to describe how this appeared; perhaps the best simile is that of hay rolling over and over as a hayrake moves along the field, only this roll seemed twenty feet high, and the spears of grass in the hayrake enlarged to limbs and trunks of trees mixed with boards and timbers; at this time I saw no water.

“Imagine, if possible, a mass of trees, brush, logs, cord-wood, hay, broken machinery, parts of houses, furniture, carpets, clothing, blankets, wool and silk from the ruined mills, horses, cattle, swine and sheep, timbers from ruined factories, dams and bridges, tons and tons of sand, gravel, and rocks, all piled in intricate confusion over an area half a mile long, quarter of a mile wide and ten, fifteen, and twenty feet deep, and somewhere, in this mass were hidden the bodies of the drowned.”

As soon as the waters had subsided, the dazed people began to search among the rubbish. By noon a group was organized to make a systematic canvass for the names of the lost and to hunt for their bodies. As fast as found, these were placed in a long gruesome row in the chapel of the Haydenville Church and in the Town Hall in Williamsburg. The scenes there were heart-rending. One account tells of the way in which the townsfolk as a whole reacted.

“The blow came upon the village with such abruptness that even the very participants in the terrible struggle with the waters scarce realized its import. They turned out to relieve the saved or to recover the dead with no intense demonstrations of sorrow, quietly and with studied method. Saturday evening a relief meeting was held at the church, and necessary committees were appointed for burying the dead, relieving the needy, and soliciting funds. All this was done without the slightest display of sorrow with the single intent of doing all that could be accomplished to alleviate the situation. The damage to the town—mills, dwellings, roads, fields—was estimated at more than one-third of the valuation of a million and a half. Still more appalling was the loss of life. One hundred and forty-five people perished in the flood; sixty in Williamsburg, thirty-four in Skinnerville and Haydenville, and fifty-one in Leeds.”

Mr. Davis added to this estimate. “Our village of Williamsburg lost forty-five buildings, and Skinnerville and Haydenville forty-one. Every bridge (ten iron and as many more of wood) in the path of the waters was destroyed, and every dam on the river either destroyed or seriously damaged. The little red house in Williamsburg just above the Shell filling station is the only one left of the original fifteen houses between the telephone building and the new concrete bridge. Frank Bisbee’s house was washed back against the bank and a woman drowned in the house. Later it was brought back to its original site. At Williamsburg. a new channel was cut by the

river, crossing the present state highway just below the telephone building, and continuing down the southwesterly side of the road to, or below, the railroad depot. Practically all the highway from Williamsburg down through Haydenville and along Mill River, to and through Leeds, was made impassable, and, in many places, deeply eroded. So thorough had been the destruction that many of the boundaries of real estate were obliterated, and many of the survivors were unable to locate the sites of their former habitations. In a letter to the New York Tribune, a correspondent of the time described the reaction of William Skinner. He wrote, 'William Skinner, the wealthy silk manufacturer, who had seen his mill and fortune lost in a few minutes, said, pointing to a man who had lost wife and children and all the property he had, "In comparison I have lost nothing and have reason to be glad it is no worse."

"At the time of the coroner's inquest relative to the cause of this disaster, William Skinner said to the builders of the dam, 'You ought to have a rope around your necks, and something ought to be done to the rope, too.' At this time O. G. Spelman, the personal representative in Williamsburg of the owners, testified that the work suited Engineer Fenn, and that he accepted it. Little seems to be known about Fenn, but that he should design such a structure and accept such fraudulent work has classified him in the minds of the townsfolk clearly enough."

Relief work was immediately begun. All the surrounding towns contributed money and clothing, and a committee was appointed for the distribution of the funds. The state made an appropriation of $100,000 for the rebuilding of roads and bridges. By the end of the year, the work on the highways was very satisfactorily completed; but all the intervening years have not restored to the town its former industrial prosperity, nor led it to forget the sorrows nor the heroism that marked the spring of 1874.

In March, 1875, at the annual town meeting, the following resolutions were offered by Reverend John F. Gleason and were unanimously adopted:

"Whereas, The town of Williamsburg has received the hearty sympathy and generous aid of the communities in consequence of the disastrous flood of May 16, 1874, which swept away one-third of our property, including many of our manufacturing industries, thereby rendering many of our families penniless.

"Resolved, that we tender our thanks to the state of Connecticut, which by her legislature sprang so promptly to our relief, 'They who give quickly, give thrice.'

"Resolved, that our thanks are due our own Commonwealth for reaching down to us in our hour of need a helping hand, loaded with an appropriation sufficient to restore our highways and bridges.

"Resolved, that we express our gratitude to all others who by their sympathy and substantial aid have contributed to our comfort and relief."

THE RIDE OF COLLINS GRAVES

By

John Boyle O'Reilly

No song of a soldier riding down
To the raging fight of Winchester town;
No song of a time that shook the earth
With the nation' s throes at a nation's birth;
But the song of a brave man, free from fear
As Sheridan's self, or Paul Revere;
Who risked what they risked — free from strife
And its promise of glorious pay—his life.

The peaceful valley has waked and stirred,
And the answering echoes of life are heard;
The dew still clings to the trees and grass,
And the earlier toilers smiling pass,
As they glance aside at the white-walled homes,
Or up the valley where merrily comes
The brook that sparkles in diamond rills
As the sun comes over the Hampshire Hills.

What was it that passed like an ominous breath?
Like the shiver of fear or the touch of death?
What was it? The valley is peaceful still,
And the leaves are afire on the top of the hill;
It was not a sound, nor a thing of sense
But a pain like a pant in the short suspense
That wraps the being of those who see
At their feet the gulf of eternity.

The air of the valley has felt the chill;
The workers pause at the door of the mill;
The housewife, keen to the shivering air,
Arrests her foot on the cottage stair,
Instinctive taught by the mother-love,
And thinks of the sleeping ones above.

Why start the listeners? Why does the course
Of the mill stream widen? Is it a horse—

“Hark to the sound of his hoofs, ” they say—
That gallops so wildly Williamsburg way?
God! What was that, like a human shriek,
From the winding valley? Will nobody speak;
Will nobody answer those women who cry
As the awful warnings thunder by?
Whence come they? Listen! And now they hear
The sound of the galloping horse-hoofs near;
They watch the trend of the vale, and see
The rider, who thunders so menacingly,
With waving arms and warning scream,
He draws no rein, but he makes the street
With a shout and the ring of the galloping feet,
And this the cry that he flings to the wind:
“To the hills for your lives! The flood is behind !“

He cries and is gone; but they know the worst—
The treacherous Williamsburg dam has burst!
The basin that nourished their happy homes
Is changed to a demon — It comes! It comes!
A monster in aspect, with shaggy front
Of shattered dwellings they shatter—white-maned and hoarse,
The merciless terror fills the course
Of the narrow valley, and rushing raves
With death on the first of its, hissing waves,
Till the cottage and street and crowded mill
Are crumbled and crushed. But onward still,
In front of the roaring flood is heard
The galloping horse and the warning word.
Thank God that the brave man’s life is spared!
From Williamsburg town he nobly dared
To race with the flood and to take the road
In front of the terrible swath it mowed,
For miles it thundered and crashed behind,
But he looked ahead with a steadfast mind;
“They must be warned!” was all he said,
As away on his terrible ride he sped.

When heroes are called for, bring the crown
To this Yankee rider; send him down

On the stream of time with the Curtius old;
His deed, as the Roman’s, was brave and bold,
And the tale can as noble a thrill awake,
For he offered his life for the people’s sake.

CHAPTER XIV
CHURCHES

PART I of this history gave an account of the Williamsburg Congregational Church from the time of its origin to the establishment of a new building in the village proper in 1836. In this chapter, the record of that church is continued until the present day. New churches representing other denominations appeared in the nineteenth century. Methodists and Catholics, as well as the Haydenville Congregationalists, established places of worship in the town.

The new meeting-house of 1836 in the "city" was the present church, but in those days it had no vestry.

[69]"The church discipline of the old days as revealed by the old records is very interesting, and one cannot wonder that trouble arose. If one of the members of the church was found lying, swearing, selling liquor, getting drunk, slandering his neighbor, absenting himself from Communion, or committing any other sin or fault, the case could be brought before the church committee. At this meeting another committee was appointed to confer with the offending brother to get him to confess his sin publicly. If he refused, he was suspended and as a last resort, excommunicated, 'cut off from the visible church of Christ, ' they expressed it. Even as late as 1875, a case of excommunication is recorded. Evidently the trouble in Mr. Lusk's day arose from these charges and counter-charges against erring brothers.

"Mr. Lusk's successor was a young man named Goodwin. He was very devoted, but died after a few months' work. He is buried in the old cemetery with the first three pastors. Two short pastorates followed. Then came Rev. E. W. Root. Some letters written by Mrs. Hiram Hill to her husband, when he was in the State Legislature from January to May, 1851, give vivid pictures of church life at that time. One tells of the sewing society of her day:

"'A very excellent report was given by the secretary. She related all the principal events of the society since it was organized. There had been thirty-one deaths, three presidents; Mrs. Lusk, Mrs. Wheeler, and Mrs. Meekins. She spoke of their spirits being present not that we could converse with them as the believers in spirit rapping think. We raised $160 this year.'

"Another letter gives a long account of the exercises at the ordination of Mr. Sweet as pastor of the new church in Haydenville, organized by seventeen members of this church with five others. 'Mr. Root, ' she says, 'gave the fellowship of the churches. It was very solemn, particularly so, as they had been a part of his own charge. He said what affected one church would affect both.' This letter also mentions Mr. Flagg, pastor of the Methodist Church. It is a peculiar coincidence that the names of the three ministers in town at that time, put together, read 'sweet flag root.'

"Another letter says, 'I like to hear Mr. Root preach, but we don't agree at all on politics. I don't find many warmhearted, true Free-Soilers.' Slavery was the burning question of the day. Mrs. Hill's husband was an ardent Free-Soiler, but most of the prominent people in town were

69 By Miss Myra Hill.

Whigs. There was talk of a new parsonage, and a new organ, and more money must be raised for singing. She writes, 'They seem to think that no good cause can go forward without you. There has been no one to say or do anything. The truth is that no one is willing to take any responsibility but wishes to put it upon someone else.' The parsonage was built before the close of Mr. Root's pastorate.

"Rev. F. J. Perkins was the next minister. It was at this time that the church was raised and a vestry built under it.

Mr. Swift became pastor in 1862 and remained six and a half years. He raised $1500 for the long-talked-of organ. Henry W. Hill became the first organist and served in that capacity for thirty-five years. Mr. Swift's daughter sang in the choir, and the names of Mary Bodman and Anna Swift are often coupled as remembered for their high spirits and beautiful voices. It must have been while Mr. Swift was here that, after the news of Lincoln's assassination was received, a man who did not like him rose in prayer meeting and said, 'Where was our President at the time of the assassination? In a theatre!' My uncle, then a young man, was so indignant that he rose and threw a hymn book at the man. Miss Lizzie Spelman said she was present at the time and remembered how startled she was.

"The next to occupy the pulpit was Rev. W. W. Parker. He was a man of beautiful Christian character and was greatly beloved by his people. Unfortunately, he was unable to remain long because of ill health. His widow, a very superior woman, died some time ago at the age of 100 years.

"The pastorate of Mr. Gleason is remembered as the one in which the church suffered such a severe blow in the Mill River flood. Thirty members of the church were drowned. One of these was Dr. Johnson, not only a loved physician, but deacon of the church and a devoted Christian, who, as well as giving medical aid, could pray with and comfort the sick and suffering. With him perished his entire family. The leading soprano singer, Mrs. Roberts, was also drowned with all her family except one son. The disaster occurred on Saturday morning. Mr. Gleason writes, 'On Sunday afternoon a general funeral service was held on the green in front of the church, while a score or more of hearses in the street held the dear dead of our congregation.' Mr. Gleason also wrote, 'We said the last sad rites over the new graves until eight o'clock this Monday morning.' The next Sunday, May 24th, was preached the sermon which was read by Mr. Manwell on the sixtieth anniversary of the flood. A newspaper of the time says, 'The church was draped with black and white, hanging from the galleries and around the vacant pews and the seat of Mrs. Roberts in the choir.' This told the sad story in a way that, with the heartfelt words of the pastor, drew tears from all eyes, though many a one may have seemed dead to feeling during the stern duties of the past week. This is a tribute paid to Mr. Gleason at the time. 'He has been everywhere among the wounded and the mourning and the dead, comforting everybody and doing everything.' Mr. Gleason passed his last years as pastor of the church in South Amherst resigning at the age of eighty-two, after twenty-two years of service there. It was during his stay in Williamsburg that the custom of having an afternoon service on Sunday was given up.

"Mr. Kendall was the next pastor. He was an exceptionally able preacher and had a men's Bible class which was attended and greatly enjoyed by many business men of the town.

"For seventeen months the church was without a pastor, then Rev. C. O. Day was installed. A young man with a most attractive personality, he won the love of the people in an unusual degree. He had a lovely wife and two beautiful children, Charles and Rose Ann, the former later became a prominent physician in Boston. After five years, Mr. Day was obliged to resign on account of his wife's death. After leaving here, he preached thirteen years in Brattleboro, was a chaplain in the Spanish War and later, for seven years, president of the Andover Theological Seminary.

"The choice of Rev. Irving L. Beman as the next minister was an unfortunate one, and he remained only about eight months. His wife taught the South Street school for some years and the son, Guy Beman, is remembered by many for his beautiful baritone voice which was heard here occasionally.

"Rev. T. M. Price was minister for about two years, coming in 1886. The Christian Endeavor Society was organized at this time. After leaving here, Mr. Price went to Minnesota where he was very successful as a home missionary. After many years of service he and his wife died within a few days of each other in California.

"Rev. H. S. Snyder was the next pastor. During his term of service the Christian Endeavor Society was very active and had many earnest and faithful members. A Junior Endeavor Society was started with Miss Genevra Hill as superintendent. Many of those who attended it, grown older in years, have testified to the help received from it. It was near the close of Mr. Snyder's pastorate that work began on remodelling the church in its present form. Mrs. Helen James' generosity provided the addition in front and the new belfry with its golden dome, which adds so much to the landscape when viewed from the hills around the town. The parish, including the Ladies' Benevolent Society, raised funds for redecorating the church and remodelling the vestry. The clock was given by the William Nash family; the bell by the children of Thomas Nash; and the windows by the children of Luther Bodman. The architects were the Gardners of Springfield. In remodelling the church they went back to the colonial type of architecture and it was said at the time to be one of the three finest examples of a remodelled colonial church."

The church now has nearly $30,000 in invested funds, the largest being the Hiram Hill fund of $8,000, the Spelman fund of $5,000, and the Emily Williston fund of $5,000.

Rev. John Pierpont became the minister before these repairs were completed, remaining twenty-three years. He was followed by Rev. John Manwell, who served fifteen years. The Manwell family consisted of six children — Dorothy (died here), Reginald, Everett, Edward, Francis, Flora, and Richard. Their vigor, ambition, and interest in every good thing contributed much to community life during Mr. Manwell's pastorate. Rev Ned McKenney came in 1936, and Rev. William Ford followed him in 1940, serving as pastor until 1944, when he entered the service of his country. The present minister is Rev. John P. Webster, Jr. The faithful service of these men is too recent and too well-known to dwell upon, but it will not soon be forgotten by the members of the church.

In a talk by Mr. Day at the rededication of the church in 1897, he made this statement:

"There have been and there are larger churches than this church, but never one where there have been more loyal friends, or more faithful helpers, or where the children enter into a richer spiritual legacy of faith, of prayer, and of example."

[70]"Religious services were held in Haydenville as early as 1817. With the growth of the village, plans were made for the formation of a village church in 1849. The first pastor, Rev. Edward Sweet, was called in 1850, although the church building was not completed. The building was dedicated the fourth of March, 1851. The parsonage was built in 1857. In 1860 a church organ was presented by Mr. Joel Hayden; a piano, by Mr. Sanders. In 1867 the church spire of 150 feet needed to be made more secure. At that time forty feet was taken from the top and the spire changed to its present graceful form.

"In 1873 it was decided to build the chapel, consisting of two large rooms downstairs and two parlors and a kitchen upstairs. One year later, March 4, 1874, the annual meeting was held in the new vestry. The use of the furnished rooms in the basement was discontinued. Soon after this work was completed, came the great disaster of the Mill River flood, May 16, 1874, which marked a crisis in the village and the life of the church. Business was largely destroyed; money was suddenly scarce. Mr. Hayden had recently passed away—he had always supplied a very large part of the financial strength of the church. Although the village never regained its former prosperity, both village and church gradually adapted themselves to the changed condition.

"One minister has gone out from the church—Rev. N. Fay Smith. In 1899 he became pastor of the Congregational Church in Northfield and Bible Instructor in the Moody Schools.

"One member of the church was a martyr to the cause of missions in China. Miss Hattie J. Rice was massacred July 14, 1900, by the Boxers in the Province of Shansi.

"During the years from 1851 to 1941, sixteen ministers have been called as pastors. It is fitting to record the pastorate of Rev. Robert H. Life who served the church for thirty years, from 1904 to 1934. Mr. Life left a trust fund for the young people of the church. Any graduate of the Williamsburg High School or the Smith Vocational School, who is a member of, or has one parent a member of the Haydenville Congregational Church, may apply for a scholarship. The income of this fund is to be divided equally among the eligible, no one to receive more than $250 a year. The church was without a minister for some time. Then came the pastorates of Rev. Martin Ball from 1936 to 1937, and Rev. Clarence Fuller from 1937 to 1941. His successors were Rev. Ralph H. Winn and the present pastor, Rev. Walter Rounds, who came to Haydenville in 1945.

"Each Sabbath Day, the church bell, contributed by the three daughters of the Honorable Joel Hayden in honor of their father, calls the people to worship in the same building that a group of twenty-four men so earnestly petitioned for and established ninety years ago."

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70 By Mrs. Hattie Metcalf, from excerpts from the book A Half Century of Church Life by Rev. Sanford Martyn, published in 1901, and a sermon preached by Rev. Robert H. Life in 1910.

[71]"The Methodist Episcopal Church of Williamsburg was built in 1832 on land purchased from Gross Williams and Joseph Bodman. There it has stood against wind, fire, and flood for a century and more.

"It would be interesting to know the early history of the church, but as the first records have been lost, we must leave to the imagination much that concerns its life and growth from 1832[72] until 1858.

"During this year (1858) there was a secession from the Methodist Episcopal Church under the leadership of Rev. Eastman, a Wesleyan preacher who drew away a part of the membership. As this occurred during the hectic days before the Great Secession of 1861, possibly the Wesleyans caught the spirit of the times. At any rate the Wesleyans continued to occupy the church for four years when they returned to the fold in 1862.

"The case reminds one of the prodigal son in reverse. They did not leave their father's house, but, by sufferance of the Episcopal members, continued to use the church while the Episcopal membership conducted services in the homes of its people or in the Congregational Church.

"We are glad to note the tolerance and good will shown by the older church for the Wesleyans. It seems like going the second mile, which reminds one of the man who will not break another's head for not believing as he does, knowing that he himself may not think ten years from now as he thinks today. We would not have the reader suppose from this that the Methodist Church is so liberal that it accepts the teachings of those who would turn the church into a club house. It does not and in so far as is known, never has stood for that ultra-modernism that can only sap the foundations of the Christian faith.

"Let us pass over the years to another chapter in the history of the church. It was in the year 1874, the morning of May 16. The Furies had a frightful dream the night before, and they said, 'We will paint a picture so that others may see.'

"So they dipped their brushes in the dark waters of the great lake above Williamsburg village and they worked fast, and they worked with speed, so that in one short hour they had drawn scenes of death and devastation the length of the valley below, which will linger in the memory of those who saw it until memory shall be no more. And this was no dream!

"The society suffered through the loss of several members who were drowned, besides extensive property damage, and the disruption of business which caused many to remove from town. This was notably the case when Mr. William Skinner, a member of the church and owner of the silk mill which was destroyed, decided to rebuild in Holyoke. In view of what had happened it isn't surprising that the attendance at Sunday School should drop from an average of ninety to seventy members. After the great disaster, many churches in the surrounding towns donated money for relief. This could not fail to bring expressions of gratitude. It was during this year that the vestry was built at the expense of $1800. This was the gift of Mrs. Josiah Hayden,

71 By Mr. Adelbert Waite.

72 Year founded; minister, Rev. D. Leslie.

the mother of Miss Anna Hayden, who had made provision in her will for the building of a chapel. Besides the new addition, $2400 was raised for extensive repairs on the church.

"A few years later in 1878, during Rev. Henry Matthews' pastorate, a large bell was placed in the tower where its iron tongue has been sending out its invitation to all to come and hear the words of Him who spake as never man spake.

"It is the Methodist plan to move preachers often from one charge to another. Possibly we Methodists are anxious that others should have the best talent, so we change often (though I doubt it!). However that plan may be, our preachers are continually moving. It may be that the plan is a left-over from the itinerant days of our great high priest, Wesley, and of Asbury, Cartwright, and others who carried the gospel to the early settlers through trackless forest in spite of poverty, sickness, and danger from a hostile people.

"It was in the year 1880 that a building was erected at Laurel Park for the use of the society. We pass over the uneventful days from 1880, noting only the fact that for several years our pastor held services at Whately where a chapel had been built by the Methodists of that place. We come to the year 1906 when we no longer had a local preacher. Our church became associated with the Florence Methodist Society, so we were annexed to that church, the pastor living in Florence. In 1938 another change was made. This time the Williamsburg church was supplied from Easthampton. The words 'annex' and 'supply' suggest the thought that the church was small, which was true.

"The church as a building has held its place as a landmark on Main Street for many a decade. We trust that the thousands of worshippers who have passed through the doors of our church have gone out into the world better men and women because they have been a part of the greatest institution the world has ever seen—the Christian Church.

"As we close these records, we cannot help but look ahead to the time when we shall also close the doors of our church. It is hoped that at that time some good angel may whisper the words spoken by Him when His work was done: 'Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord.'"

Following is a list of the pastors who served the church from the year 1879 to the present time:

Rev. B. J. Johnston	1879
F. T. George	1880-1881
George W. Coon	1882
A. C. Manson	1883-1884
W. G. Leonard	1885
A. W. Baird	1886
H. A. Jones	1887-1888
A. S. Bragg	1889-1890
N. H. Martin	1891
S. K. Lidstone	1892-1893
George W. Clark	1894

J. Von Bast	1895
J. A. Belcher	1896
H. H. Weyant	1897-1900
W. D. Hull	1901-1902
H. F. Forrest	1903-1905
James Sutherland	1906-1908
Arthur Bonner	1909-1911
J. P. West	1912-1914
W. A. Kilmer	1915-1916
John Wriston	1917-1921
W. F. Koonson	1922-1923
R. A. Munn and B. White	1924
William Roberts	1925-1928
R. M. Standish	1929
C. J. Washburn	1930-1932
John Olds	1933
Ernest Lowe	1934
Noel LeRoque	1935
Clarence Morrill	1936-1937
John Rex Shepler	1938
Louis Whitchurch	1939-1940
Gordon Capen	1941

Reverend Capen was the last minister. The local Methodists disbanded in May, 1944.

[73]"Before the erection of St. Mary's Church on Main Street in Haydenville, people of the Catholic faith attended Mass in Northampton. In the fall of 1867, Rev. P. V. Moyce, then pastor of St. Mary's Church in Northampton, began the building of St. Mary's Church in Haydenville, which was dedicated in the spring of 1868 by Bishop Williams of Boston. Before the building of the church, Mass was said in the home of Philip Hamilton, and later in the homes of either Pierce Larkin or John Moakler. In the year 1878, Rev. C. Foley was appointed pastor of the Church of the Annunciation in Florence, and Haydenville was given as a mission to his care. It continued so attached to this church during the pastorates of Rev. Father P. F. Callery and Rev. J. J. McMahon.

"In April, 1889, Rev. W. J. Long, who then was an assistant at St. Mary's Church in Northampton, was appointed by the bishop of the diocese. This was the first resident pastor, and his parishioners were the Catholics of Leeds, Haydenville, Williamsburg, and Goshen. Three months after his appointment, Father Long died, and on August 12th of the same year, Rev. George E. Fitzgerald, who had been an assistant at St. Jerome's Church in Holyoke, was appointed to suc-

73 By Mrs. Cornelius Sheehan, taken from the History of the Catholic Church in the New England States, published in 1899.

ceed him. Father Fitzgerald was pastor for twenty years. During the first year of his pastorate, he purchased property adjacent to the church from William Keating, and built the present rectory.

"Later he bought ten acres of land from Timothy Meehan, which was used as a cemetery for the parishioners of St. Mary's Church. When Fr. Fitzgerald was transferred to St. Mary's parish in Westfield in the year 1908, he was succeeded by Rev. Joseph Gordon Daley, who served as pastor for sixteen years. In 1910, he purchased property in Leeds for a Mission Church for the Catholics of Leeds, and he took charge until 1916, when Leeds became a separate parish. The same year Father Daley was made pastor of Ascension Church in Worcester and Reverend John J. Roberts of Worcester became pastor of St. Mary's in Haydenville. He died here in 1930. He was succeeded by Rev. John J. Kenny. This was Father Kenny's first pastorate. He carried on the work until 1936 when he was made pastor of St. Mary's Church in Ware. His successor was Rev. John J. Mongovan, who after two years as pastor, was transferred to Williamstown. Rev. Jeremiah Murphy, the next pastor, had charge of St. Mary's parish until 1945, when he was succeeded by Rev. Father Richard Hoey.

"Six young men of St. Mary's parish have been ordained to the priesthood:

Rev. William F. Grace, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Grace.

Rev. Patrick Morrissey, son of Mr. and Mrs. Laurence Morrissey.

Rev. Edward Hickey, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Hickey.

Rev. Edward P. Dunphy, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Dunphy.

Rev. James Dunphy, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Dunphy.

Rev. Raymond S. Burke, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Burke."

The account of the growth of the various churches in the town is an inspiring one. Here, as in other communities of this young, free nation, people were enjoying the God-given right to worship as they pleased.

Naturally as the communities grew, it became necessary to establish burial grounds; one on Mountain Street, one north of High Ridge, another near Merritt's Hill, and another on Village Hill. Later, one was established in Haydenville, and still later, as has just been noted, one on the Northampton road for St. Mary's parish.

The cemetery in the village of Haydenville was first used in 1847 for the burial of Josiah Hayden, father of Joel and Josiah, who died July 26th of that year. This land was conveyed to the town of Williamsburg by Joel and Josiah Hayden six years later, May 2, 1853, to be used as a burying ground. A portion of the ground was graded under the direction of a committee of the town in 1856. On November 3, 1858, the Haydenville Cemetery Association was formed, and the land was transferred to this association by the selectmen on March 22, 1859. The first directors were Joel Hayden, Sereno Kingsley, and B. S. Johnson; clerk and treasurer, Albert D. Sanders.

The present Village Hill Cemetery was first used in 1874 because of the flood.

The Williamsburg Cemetery Association was organized in 1885. After the original business of preparing suitable burying grounds was taken care of, the activities of the group were limited

to maintenance and are, of course, uneventful. Some of the early records may prove interesting particularly because of the mention of old, familiar names.

[74]"On April 27, 1885 said meeting was held, and after the reading of the warrant, Thomas M. Carter was elected moderator and Dwight E. Clary, clerk. 'The meeting then moved to form itself into a corporation to be called the Williamsburg Cemetery Association' and a set of by-laws was adopted. The first of these was as follows: 'Article I, The object of this association shall be to improve, beautify, and keep in good order the Williamsburg Village cemeteries.'

"At this meeting the following officers were elected: President, J. W. Hill; Vice-president, Lyman D. James; Secretary, Dwight E. Clary; and Treasurer, Lewis H. Porter. Hiram G. Hill, Henry L. Graves, and Henry C. Nash were chosen to serve as a Board of Directors. At this meeting also the president and the treasurer were appointed a committee to receive from the selectmen a deed of the Williamsburg Cemeteries as voted by the town at their meeting held April 6, 1885. This deed was later received and duly recorded at the Registry of Deeds, Northampton, Massachusetts.

"At a directors' meeting May 1, 1885, Lewis H. Porter was chosen superintendent and instructed 'to remove whatever trees necessary and to lay a walk parallel with the fence by the highway, also to erect posts suitable for hitching purposes.'

"At the annual meeting in 1886, a motion was made and adopted 'to extend to Hiram Hill a vote of thanks for the generous gift of $100 to the Association.' At a directors' meeting held on May 3rd of the same year, it was decided 'to invite as soon as possible all persons interested to give a day's work' to help the cause.

"Mr. J. W. Hill served the Association as its president for ten years. In 1895, Dwight E. Clary became president, after having served as secretary for ten years. Mr. George H. Warner was elected secretary to succeed him, and Mr. Paul W. Tarbox was chosen treasurer in 1894 to succeed Moses H. Beals who had served in that capacity from 1886 to 1894. L. D. James continued to serve the Association as vice-president till 1903, a period of eighteen years.

"In 1896, it was voted 'in consideration of the sum of $150, the Association deed to the Executors of the Stephen Meekins' Estate, a lot thirty-five feet square, for burial purposes.'

"At a directors' meeting held April 17, 1897, it was voted 'to have J. N. Tarbox superintend the grounds at fifteen cents an hour.'

"In 1899, the first board of trustees was chosen, three in number, to serve one for three years, one for two, and one for one year. The members chosen were J. W. Hill, H. G. Hill, and H. W. Hill. Mr. C. R. Damon served as treasurer in 1900 and 1901. Miss Jennie L. Baker became treasurer in 1902 and served the Association till her death in 1925, part of the time in the double capacity of secretary and treasurer.

"In 1905, Mr. John Hill again accepted the presidency of the Association with G. M. Bradford acting as vice- president, George H. Warner as secretary, and Mr. Abraham Tanner as superintendent.

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74 By Miss Anna Watson.

“In 1910 it was voted to erect a toolhouse, and a committee of three—Miss Jennie L. Baker, Mr. J. W. Hill, and Mr. George H. Warner—had charge of same.

“In 1917, it was voted to invest in Liberty Bonds to the extent of $250.

“Miss Baker resigned as secretary in 1923, and Mr. Wells G. Bisbee was elected to that office. He served in that capacity until his death in 1931 when Mrs. Lizzie Bisbee, the present incumbent, was elected to that office.

“At the death of Miss Baker in 1925, Miss Anna E. Watson became treasurer.”

CHAPTER XV
THE OLD FOLKS' GATHERING[75]

IF ANYTHING more was needed to make the old folks' gathering last Thursday a success, it was the splendid weather of that day. A more pleasant and agreeable September day is rarely seen. It was all that could be desired. The old folks were astir at an early hour, and at eleven o'clock they began to assemble at the Congregational Church, where the gathering was to be held. Tables were set in the vestry and *175* persons sat down to dinner. The tables could not accommodate all, and some were served outside the room. There were about 200 old people present. At first the people gathered in the audience room of the church and spent the time until dinner was ready in social conversation. There was the heartiest kind of hand-shaking, and the countenances of everyone indicated that their inner natures were in harmony with the bright skies and balmy air of the day.

All were seated at the tables at about half past twelve o'clock. Then Deacon Elnathan Graves, in behalf of the committee of arrangements, proposed that H. S. Gere of Northampton, a native of this town, should act as chairman of the day, and it was so voted. The chairman then called for the appointment of a scribe, to record the doings of the occasion, and Deacon William A. Hawks was chosen. Then all arose and stood while Mr. Hiram Hill, now in his eighty- fifth year, offered a feeling prayer and invoked the divine blessing. The dinner was provided by each family bringing provisions, and there was a great abundance for all. The tables were decorated with abundance of flowers and presented a very beautiful sight. At the close of dinner, in accordance with the old-time custom, all again arose and stood while Deacon Elnathan Graves returned thanks for the refreshments served. Then the chairman delivered the following:

ADDRESS OF WELCOME
for the
Old Folks' Gathering, Williamsburg, Sept. 27, 1888.

This gathering is the outcome of a meeting of some of the old people of the town last winter, who had such a good time in telling each other what they knew about old times, that they determined to have another meeting, on a larger scale, where all the older people of the town could come together and make a day of it at jogging each other's youthful memories.

So we are assembled here, a company of old people, to look each other in the face to take each other by the hand, and congratulate each other upon our good looks and the well-preserved condition of our health, and above all, to have a right down royal good time. It is said that we are once men and women and twice children. Let us today, throwing aside the cares and troubles of life, for a time, be boys and girls again, and laugh and be joyful.

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75 This entire chapter is from an old Gazette dated Oct. 2, 1888. The contents explain themselves. It was submitted by Mrs. Sydney Packard.

And why should not we be gay and happy? Why should not the aged men and women of the town, standing upon the height of four-score years, and looking back upon the long period of time that is past, and recounting the manifold blessings that they have received and enjoyed, and looking forward to the promised land, —why should they not be in a frame of mind, on this rare and to be, I trust, eventful day, to say to themselves, "Let the memories of the past be unlocked, let youth and early manhood and womanhood come to the front once more, let joy be unconfined . .

And now, as we are here, a goodly company, I bid you a hearty, cordial and unstinted welcome. In behalf of the committee of arrangements, I welcome you to all the joys and pleasures of this occasion. I welcome you to the kindly greetings of one another—to the hearty handshaking— to the expressions of good will and friendly interest—to an abundant outpouring of good cheer, good feeling, and generous hospitality. I welcome you to this charming, delightful, beautiful, glorious day—to this rich autumnal weather

— to these exhilarating mountain breezes — to this invigorating atmosphere—to these grand old hills—and to this ancient town, with all its wealth of prosperity, its peaceful and happy homes, and the hallowed associations that cluster around its history of more than a hundred years.

Some of you have passed beyond the line of fourscore years; many more have reached the allotted lifetime of threescore and ten years, while a still greater number have passed into that period where the Great Decorator has adorned them with that sure sign of advancing and honorable years, gray and silvery hairs.

Some of you date back almost to the close of the seventeenth century, when the echoes of the War of the Revolution had scarcely ceased to reverberate throughout the land. The great and good General Washington was still living, and a great number of the men who fought with him and won the battles of that war were also still in active life. The military spirit was at a high pitch. The country was then in its infancy. Exhausted by the long war, its resources crippled, its population depleted, yet young and hopeful, it entered the nineteenth century with high hopes and unbounded enthusiasm. Behold today its marvelous growth! From 5,319,762 population in 1800, when the oldest person here was born, it has grown to be a nation of more than sixty millions of people. The Western territory was then an unknown and almost unexplored country. The tide of emigration had sought the bleak hills of New England, rather than the fertile prairies of the West, not so much from choice as from necessity. The Hudson River was then in the "Far West," on the frontier. No steam railway spanned the country, or existed anywhere. Even the later stage-coach had not come. The route westward over the hills of Chesterfield, Worthington, and Peru was by a turnpike built by private enterprise. No telegraph was here to give speedy communication. No post office was nearer than Northampton, and there it arrived and departed only once a week. The telephone was unheard of. The daily press, with its millions of sheets, filled with news from all the ends of the earth, up to the hour of printing, as we have it now, was unknown. Not a daily paper was then taken in this town and but few weeklies. No dreamer had thought or dreamed of the since wonderful achievements of these great inventions. Not even the

crankiest of cranks had foretold the wonders that we have since beheld, and which now dominate the world. The people of that early time were plain and simple in their habits. Their wants were few. They had no means to gratify any demand of fashion, and fortunately for them, they had no taste for the things that were beyond their reach. They were literally children of toil. They lived upon the soil, and what they could obtain from it. The food they ate and the clothes they wore came from the soil through the toil of their own hands. They were honest. Defalcations, embezzlements, betrayals of trusts, forgeries, in fact every species of crime, such as now cease to startle us because of their enormous extent and frequent occurrence, were far less known then than they are now. The farmer never locked his doors at night, though he kept his money in his desk.

It has fallen to the lot of the older people here assembled to witness the greatest Civil War the world has ever seen. We have passed through all its trials, felt all its horrors, and tasted liberally of its bitter hardships. The results of that tremendous struggle no human mind has yet accurately measured, nor can fully measure, until they shall be developed by the progress of events. What a mighty revolution it created! It overturned and destroyed the most monstrous system of slavery that ever existed and liberated four million human beings. When it began, men, women, and children were held as property in all the Southern states and were sold at auction, as we sell horses and cattle. Even in the capital city of the nation the slave pen and the auction block from which slaves were bought and sold found a congenial home. Soon after the war closed, the men who thus had been made merchandise of, were elevated to the rights of citizenship. In no other way could this monster evil be wiped out. Men had labored for it through long years, but no way was opened for its consummation, until the slave- owners, emboldened by their long lease of power, grappled the throat of the nation and attempted to destroy it. Then it was that we beheld that mighty uprising of the people— that great exhibition of patriotism—which swept over the country and brought the attempted assassins to humiliation. The war and its results were the majestic culmination of the workings of God's laws for centuries. And we have lived to see it all, and to participate in its grand events.

It is indeed an enviable privilege to have lived in such a period of time. The world has been rapidly educated during these memorable years. These grand and inspiring events have taught the people great principles of government. They have taught them to love, honor, respect, and protect their country. They will stand as a solemn lesson for coming generations that the hand of violence cannot with impunity be raised against the government of this country. They have established the great underlying principle of republican government, that man is not only entitled to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, but that he shall have it on every foot of American soil.

What an educator have the last fifty years been to this country and the world! To have lived during that great campaign against American slavery—to have been with it in its early struggles, in its days of odium, and again in its hour of glory and triumph, when the quickened conscience of the nation had carried it on to unlooked-for success, — that indeed was a grand and heroic experience. To have lived in the days of Abraham Lincoln and General Grant— names now famous throughout the world, and destined to still greater prominence as the years roll on—to have lived

when these men lived — to have participated in the mighty events which they were so conspicuous in directing and controlling—to have been inspired and uplifted by their noble and heroic deeds—surely that is enough to fill the measure of one's lifetime to the brim. I cannot think of Abraham Lincoln without a feeling of admiration for his wonderful wisdom, and of thankfulness that, in such a crisis of the country's history, such a remarkable man — so plain and simple—so honest and true—so wise and noble—so prudent and far-seeing—should have been raised up by an over-ruling Power to guide and direct the people.

Yet all his wisdom and all his grand achievements would have been unavailing, had it not been for the mighty aid given him by the greatest warrior of modern times. General Grant rendered to his country on the field of battle services not less brilliant nor less patriotic and effective than those rendered by the great statesman, Lincoln. The one led the loyal people; the other led the Union Armies. The one directed; the other executed. The two together made an irresistible force, the like of which the country may never again behold. We are yet too near to the times of these great men

—too near to the mighty events in which they were the central figures — to comprehend fully the value of their services or the greatness of their work. By and by, as the years roll on, they and their labors will grow in size and in magnitude. We stand sometimes at the base of a great mountain and attempt to comprehend its size. We see its rocks and trees, its ravines and its ill-proportioned sides, but fail to see either beauty or comeliness about it. But when we view it from a greater distance, how grand and beautiful it appears! What had seemed to be defects at nearer view, are now brought out in their full proportions, and the huge monster, rising majestically from the vale, is crowned with wondrous beauty of symmetrical form, color, and proportion. So it will be with our great leaders in the Civil War. Coming generations will read their history with fascinated interest and wish that they could have lived and participated in the tragic scenes and mighty achievements of those eventful times.

What marvels of progress have been made in every department of life since the present century came in! — in postal communication — in the means of disseminating knowledge—in the means of spreading and developing education—in dress, in fashions, in wealth, in arts, and sciences. Everything has advanced at a tremendous pace. The people of a hundred years ago, were they to reenter the world now, would stand amazed at the wonderful changes' that have been wrought. The old doctor, who bled his patients almost to death in his scientific efforts to save their lives, would laugh at the little pills and powders now dealt out by our homeopathists and allopaths. The ancient divine would stand aghast at some of the pulpit oratory of modern times, and our great musical organs would appear to him as machines contrived by the evil one to destroy the staunchest orthodox theology of olden times. The full parade dress of our modern ladies would indeed fill the old-time dames with consternation. But enough would remain to be seen to excite their astonishment and admiration. The railway, the steamboat, the telegraph, the telephone, the college, the high school, the comfort in traveling, the luxurious household appointments — all these could not fail to meet their approbation. The rights of woman, too, how wonderfully have they progressed! Look at the avenues now open to her for education—the nu-

merous schools, seminaries, and colleges. Where formerly she was debarred, college presidents and professors now hail her coming, and send her forth decorated with diplomas and degrees.

What a country we have! Thirty-eight states where 100 years ago there were only thirteen. A hundred and forty or fifty thousand miles of steam railway! The country crossed from ocean to ocean in less than a week, where once it required several months over a circuitous route by the slow and tedious sailing vessel! The corn crop of a single year amounting to two thousand million bushels, grown on land that, when the oldest person here present was born was only wild prairie, which the foot of man had scarcely touched! Look at the incoming thousands from the old countries, a mighty stream, destined to work out results on American soil which no human mind can foretell!

But it is not for us to worry about results. Our duty is to apply proper means to proper ends from day to day—to build upon sound and enduring principles—to disseminate education and enlighten the people — and in God's good time, though the days and years of waiting may seem long and ceaseless, the sure and abundant harvest will come.

What great changes have been witnessed in this town! Its population has about doubled since the year 1800. A large and enterprising manufacturing village has sprung up, larger in itself than some of the adjoining towns. The railroad, the telegraph, and the telephone have come. The old central village on the hill has been deserted and another built on less elevated ground, to meet the demand for more convenient traveling facilities. The old meeting-house, erected by the early settlers and patterned after the then only meeting-house in Northampton, the one in which Jonathan Edwards preached, has gone, and a new one has appeared, and with it have come three other houses of worship; one in the old village and two in Haydenville. Your schools would astonish the old-time settlers. Some of your residences, also, with their comfortable and luxurious appointments would open wide the eyes of the economical men and women who ruled the town four-score years ago.

It would be pleasant, and I doubt not profitable to all of us, had we the time and ability, to lift the curtain and take a look at the people of this town as they appeared from about the period of 1780 to 1800. How we should like to stand at the door of the old meeting-house on Meeting-house Hill and view the people as they came up the great hill to that old temple of worship of a Sunday morning. What strange faces! What curious hats and bonnets, what singular fitting coats and pants, what boots, and female apparel! The boys and girls, how odd they seem! Who is that coming down the hill—that man of solemn step and ecclesiastical demeanor? Why, that is Reverend Joseph Strong, the pastor of the church for twenty-two years. And here comes Deacon Joseph Carey from "Walnut Hill," and Deacon Nehemiah Cleveland from Unquomonk Mountain, and Deacon Elisha Nash from "Nash Hill,". and Deacon Asa Ludden from "Petticoat Hill." Fine looking men they are, fit to be deacons. What are they marching up the broad aisle to the pulpit for? Why don't they sit in the pews? Why, don't you know that the deacons sit in front of, and just beneath, the pulpit? What is that curious thing up there over the pulpit? It looks queer and useless. O bless you, that is the sounding board! Don't you know that the gospel must be sounded aloud throughout the land and the whole world? Ah, who are these people in the pews?

Sure enough, here are Samuel Graves and Zachariah Mayhew, and Sylvanus Hubbard, and Joseph Bodman, and Elnathan Graves, and Stephen Washburn and his son Amos, and John Wells, and Abel Thayer, and Moses Nash, and Josiah Dwight, and Thomas Mayhew, and Elisha Hubbard, and William Bodman, and John Graves, and Perez Graves, and Joseph and Stephen Meekins, and Elisha Allis, and Caleb Johnson, and Rufus Hyde, and Benjamin Pomeroy, and Captain Jonathan Warner, a goodly set of men, certainly; but they don't look like the men we see going in and out of the churches here now-a-days. You see that, with the aid of the tailor, the boot and shoe maker, the barber, the milliner, the dressmaker, and the candlestick maker, we have "advanced" into a higher state of civilization!

Here, here!—what is that little box you have? O, that is a foot-stove. You see we have no fire in the meeting-house and we bring these stoves and fill them with fresh coals over at Mr. Mayhew's and down at Parson Strong's at noon, which helps us keep warm during the four or five hours of the service.

What wagons we see! No springs, no cushions, no paint! Some come on horseback, but more come on foot. And those monster horse-sheds in the rear of the meeting-house, used for the shelter of the faithful beast during the long sermon- time and for sheltering both man and beast during noon- times!

What would be given now for a picture of this old congregation, and of this old meeting-house, and of its high, square box pews? And what price for a minute, detailed description of them all, with all the little particulars that would help us to see the house and the people as they appeared? The people of that time took little pains to record and preserve these items, which would be of so much interest and value to us and to those who shall come after us. But the lack of them should teach us a useful lesson. We should do what they failed to do—gather every historical fact of interest, record present doings, accumulate details of every description relating to the town and its people, and have them preserved for the generations that are coming. Keep them in your public library—that institution which is to live here from generation to generation, for the education and pleasure of all the people, and which, we all hope, shall bear the honored name of one of your old and highly respected citizens, and be known for all time as the Meekins Library.

While there is an overflowing measure to be thankful for and to be proud of, the history of the town is marred by a disaster most appalling in its nature and extent. The accumulated waters of a great reservoir sweeping down the valley and doing its destructive work through villages and towns have left an impression which can never be effaced from the memory of witnesses or from the records of the times; and years hence, when this generation shall have passed away, and no witness of its terrible work shall be among the living, the tragic story of this fearful disaster will read like some horrible dream, and scarcely will be believed.

It is a wise dispensation of Providence that the mind retains longest and brightest the impressions made in early. years. We recall with distinctness the events of our youth, while the memories of recent events are indistinct. Happy indeed it is that this is so. Youth is the season of pleasure. Then we chase the butterfly and our fancies take wing as the birds mount the air. We see none of life's trouble, nor feel any of its burdens. It is one season of pleasure, hope, joy, an-

ticipation. These impressions endure. They go with us to the end, brightening and cheering the years when the real struggles of life come—when the clouds are over us, when the storms beat upon us, when sore afflictions surround us. The eye may grow dim, the heart may beat feebly, the hand may be weak and refuse to perform its accustomed duty, but the scenes of childhood abide with us to the end, fresh every morning and green every evening. Without these early memories, life would be dull and dreary, void of its choicest flowers.

Now, let us not think of the hardships of the past, or of the "good time coming," but of the "good time" that is now here. Let us all, with one accord, address ourselves to the work in hand, of showing how well-behaved old people can be, and how much pleasure they can extract from a few hours' intercourse with one another at an old folks' gathering.

Old people — one and all — you of seventy, and you of seventy-five, eighty and eight-five years, permit me, in behalf of many others present, from an eminence of sixty years, to salute you, and bid you be of firm step and good cheer. You will soon pass on and cross the river of life to the other shore. But you are only a little way ahead of us in the great procession. We shall soon overtake and be with you.

———————

At the close of the address, Henry L. James offered the following vote, which was unanimously adopted:

"That the hearty thanks of this assembly be tendered to Henry S. Gere for his able and interesting address, and that he be requested to prepare and publish in the *Hampshire Gazette* a full, detailed account of this day's proceedings, including his address in full."

Joshua Crosby read the following letter from Benjamin M. Ludden, a native of Williamsburg, born in the house where Stephen Meekins now lives. The reading of the letter created much merriment, and all said it sounded "just like Ben."

LETTER FROM "BEN LUDDEN"

Rosedew, Sept. 23, 1888.

To Joshua Crosby and Other Friends of Auld Lang Syne,

Greeting:

I thank you for your kind invitation to be present at this Old People's meeting. I can scarcely imagine anything that would give me greater pleasure than to meet you once more and listen to the old familiar voices as they called to mind incidents of the olden time. I should recognize Hiram Hill's voice if I should hear it on the planet Jupiter, or the mountains of the moon. Hope I shall hear it again somewhere on this side of Jordan. The old meeting-house on the hill has a place in my early recollections. The early comers on Sunday morning were accustomed to assemble on the sunny side of the house, and watch the procession as they came up the hill. Reverend Henry Lord, with his old bobtailed Orthodoxy horse and one-horse chaise, was always just on time, Deacon Pomeroy, with his two-horse wagon laden with his family, including his palsied old father, was also in the procession, while Lawyer Bodman and Walker Rice and others would

climb the hill on foot. One day the Lawyer made a misstep and stumbled forward just as the bell gave its first sound. “I declare, Lawyer,” said Rice, “I did not think your head would reach that bell.” “Hush your nonsense and give your mind to better thoughts.” I used to listen to the Lawyer as he taught his class in Sabbath School, and although I understood very little of what he was teaching, I thought he talked wonderfully about Gog and Magog and some of the wonderful things recorded in Revelations. He was truly a character, and always hung his broad-brimmed hat on the highest nail driven in the post which stood in the center of his pew. Amos Saddler (a deaf mute) used to come regularly to church, both summer and winter, and seat himself on the south end of the front seat in the gallery. Reverend Mr. Lord would generally wind up his sermons at about tenthly or twelfthly, but sometimes would stretch it out to the sixteenthly. Oliver Nash was one of the characters who came regularly to church. He generally came in on tip-toe with squeaky boots about the time Mr. Lord was reading his fourthly or fifthly, and as he was tithingman, he kept a sharp lookout for the bad boys, and sometimes made more disturbance reproving them than the boys would make if let alone. Nearly all the young people who attended church were connected with the Sabbath School during the summer months and were requested to commit to memory passages of scripture, and sometimes a reward was offered to the one who could repeat the most verses. Some of the scholars were in this way incited to learn nearly all of the New Testament.

Well, I think I have written about nonsense enough, and now, Josh, if you will sing “New England” we will hear from others. I will only add that my address is B. M. Ludden, Savannah, Georgia, but am living at our residence ten miles south, and call our place Rosedew. Come and see us.

After reading the letter, to comply with Mr. Ludden’s request, Mr. Crosby sat at the organ and sang the song “New England,” with splendid effect, and greatly to the enjoyment of the audience. Mr. Crosby is always an inspiring singer, but on this occasion he fairly outdid himself.

The following letter, received by Deacon Graves, from Lyman Washburn, son of Amos Washburn, was also read:

Charlotte, N. C., Sept. 15, 1888.

Elnathan Graves, Esq. —

My Dear Friend:

In the *Hampshire Gazette* I notice a call for an Old Folks’ gathering in the town hall, Williamsburg, on Thursday, the 27th inst. It being impossible for me to be present, I desire through you to offer my best wishes to those there assembled, and express my sincere regrets that I am unable to join in the festivities of the occasion. Although in my seventy-ninth year, and at present a long way from Unquomonk, I still live in hopes that on some future like occasion I may experience the extreme pleasure of meeting with you and once more chat of the days of old lang syne. With my best and kindest wishes to all, I remain with brotherly love

Yours fraternally,

Wm. Lyman Washburn.

The following letter from William Ludden, brother of Benjamin M. Ludden, was received a day too late to be read at this gathering

Brooklyn, N. Y., Sept. 26, 1888.

Mr. Joshua Crosby— My Dear Sir:

I received your invitation to attend the Old Folks' gathering in Williamsburg on the 27th inst. and up to the last moment indulged the hope that I might be with you on that occasion, but late events render it impracticable. My heart will be with you and the dear old friends from whom I have been so long separated. Would that I could take them all by the hand and give them a hearty greeting once more before we pass along to the next stage of our existence. My creed is a short one. It embraces the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man, with all that those terms imply. The word that I would speak to all, both old and young, is, "Act up to your highest convictions of manhood and you will not get far astray."

Very truly yours,

W. Ludden.

Lyman D. James wished to know who the oldest person present was, and called for those over eighty-five to rise, when three arose. Mr. Nelson Hayden, eighty-seven last May, proved to be the oldest person. Miss Ruby Strong of Montgomery came next, being eighty-seven next month. Mrs. Prudence Barnard Smith of Colrain, present, was also eighty-seven years of age.

Then came remarks of an appropriate and interesting character from Reverend Edward Clarke of Springfield (whose mother, lately deceased at the age of 101 years, was the daughter of Deacon Nehemiah Cleveland of Williamsburg, who lived just south of Unquomonk mountain), Deacon Erastus Graves, Stephen Meekins, Benjamin S. Johnson, Honorable Hiram Nash, Hiram Hill, Oliver Nash, and Captain Enos Parsons. Mr. Clarke spoke more at length than the others and exhibited a written sermon preached by Reverend Joseph Strong in the old meetinghouse 119 years ago. Its pages are small in size, being no larger than an ordinary envelope, showing the scarcity of paper in those days. He gave many interesting reminiscences of olden times. All the speakers touched upon matter of great interest and each one had something to say which awakened old-time memories.

Not the least interesting part of the day's exercises was the singing of several old-time psalm tunes by Mr. Crosby, Jerome Chapman, Mrs. William E. Thayer, Mrs. Henry L. Graves, and Mrs. E. M. Chandler. The tunes were "New Jerusalem," "Sherborn," "Turner," "Russia," and "Amsterdam." The latter tune was sung by special request of Mr. Hiram Hill.

The elderly people, including those of eighty years and upwards, were seated together at one table, and presented a rare sight of venerable and dignified character. Indeed, the entire party was a fine looking collection of men and women, of whom the town may well feel proud.

It was voted to effect an organization, so that, if it should be thought best, another old folks' gathering may be held next year, and the following officers were appointed: President, Deacon

Elnathan Graves; scribe, Deacon William A. Hawks; executive committee, Stephen Meekins, Benjamin S. Johnson, Oliver Nash.

At the close of the meeting, Mrs. Vining, who is in her eighty-fourth year, sang a song, entitled "The Bank of Heaven," and surprised every one by the clearness of her voice and animation of her spirits.

An attempt was made to have every person present write his name and date of birth in a book purchased for the occasion and to be kept in the public library. About half of those present recorded their names, and it is hoped that those who failed to do so will comply with the wishes of the committee and place their names in the book at the first opportunity. The book will be kept for this purpose for awhile at the store of L. D. James.

On motion of Hiram Hill, seconded by Elnathan Graves, it was unanimously voted that as complete a report as possible of the day's doings should be prepared by the scribe, and recorded in the book which contains the names of those present, and kept forever in the public library of the town.

The following list of persons in town who are about eighty years old and over was read by Mr. Crosby:

Persons in Williamsburg Eighty Years of Age and Over
Mr. & Mrs. William Adams
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Wade
Mr. & Mrs. Hiram Nash
Mr. & Mrs. William Navens
Hiram Hill
Sesostris Warner
Theron Warner
Nelson Hayden
J. H. Metcalf
Heman Hitchcock
Phineas Morton
William A. Nash
Deacon Erastus Graves
John Miller
Samuel House
Captain Sereno Kingsley
William Elder
Martin Shaw
Henry Taylor
Mrs. Arabella Gere Vining
Mrs. Lucretia B. Hannum
Mrs. Edwin Everett

Mrs. Maria Thayer
Mrs. Emily Ludden
Mrs. Mellen
Mrs. Margaret O'Neil
Mrs. John Williams
Miss Irene Meekins
Mrs. Mary Upton
Mrs. Hannah Kingsley
Mrs. Philip Hamilton
Mrs. Mary Lundergan

The chairman, in behalf of those present from out of town, tendered thanks to the committee of arrangements and the citizens of Williamsburg for their very efficient efforts in providing so liberally for this entertainment, and for the admirable manner in which everything had been done to make the gathering pleasant and successful.

The citizens of Williamsburg did themselves great credit by the liberality with which they provided for the dinner and by the efficiency which they displayed in all the arrangements. Everything was done for the comfort and success of the gathering that it was possible to do, and when the assembly broke up, every one felt that the day had been one of great pleasure. It was expected by those who originated and arranged for the meeting that it would prove to be an occasion of much enjoyment, but the realization was more than the expectation.

The first suggestion of an old folks' gathering in Williamsburg was made in the *Gazette* more than a year and a half ago. Last January, at the birthday celebration of Mrs. Vining at H. M. Porter's, where as many old people were assembled as could be accommodated in a private residence, it was decided to hold a general meeting of the old people of the town, including those in other towns who were connected with this town by former residence or marriage. At that meeting, Deacon Elnathan Graves, Joshua Crosby, and Lyman D. James were appointed a committee of arrangements for this gathering, and its success was in a good measure due to their active and efficient labors.

At about four o'clock the exercises were closed with prayer by Reverend Mr. Snyder, pastor of the Congregational Church. A number of other speakers were prepared to make remarks, but it was thought best not to prolong the meeting to the point of weariness. These left-over speeches will come in all right next year.

CHAPTER XVI
WILLIAMSBURG SCHOOLS[76]

A SUBSTANTIAL structure of hewn logs"— the first school house of the pioneers was not only their center of learning but also their center for religious services until a meeting-house was built some twenty rods south of it.[77] To this school house the first town meeting was adjourned as soon as their moderator had been chosen and here subsequent town meetings were held for a number of years. At this first meeting it was voted:

"to give the proprietors of the school house two-thirds of the cost that they were at for the building thereof"—"to raise ten pounds to repair the school house in such a manner that it will be fit to meet in for public worship"—and "that Joshua Thayer have fifteen shillings for blowing the conk shell and keeping the school house fit for public worship."

Thus for many years School, Church, and Town — the three symbols of a democratic people—were found in this one humble structure, the first public building in Williamsburg.

The first meeting-house was dedicated in 1787 but not completed until 1790. This, of course, became the center of religious worship on Sundays. For many years, however, as they were built in various parts of the town, the district school houses were actually the religious and social, as well as the educational, centers for the inhabitants of those districts. In these school houses, prayer meetings were held, as well as singing schools and Lyceums. They were, indeed, the "heart" of these communities.

So far as could be learned, there has never been but one Town House—the present Town Hall. In 1836 it was voted to build a two-story structure in the "city," as the present center of town was then half-scornfully called. This was to be a Town House and school house combined. The next year the vote was rescinded. In March, 1840, it was voted that the selectmen should stake out a site on Potato Hill,[78] and buy it if the price were reasonable. Mr. Hubbard, the owner, asked "$200 for the site or $300 for the whole hill." Evidently this was not considered reasonable for on April 6th, they voted to buy of Deacon Bodman the site on which the present one-story Town Hall stands. Within a year it was completed, for on April 5, 1841, it was voted:

"that the Town House be opened for either Society (Congregational or Methodist) or for any individual purpose by the occupants paying for lighting and warming the same." This vote was modified on April 1, 1850 as follows:

"that the key to the Town House shall be entrusted to the Selectmen for safe keeping and that the said house be used for town and religious purposes and also for other suitable purposes, except that *it shall not be used for balls, shows, or amusements."*[79]

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76 By Estella Damon Warner.

77 A boulder on Village Hill now marks the site of this first church.

78 The hill on North Street back of the present Jenkins' store.

79 Rescinded Dec. 15, 1852 and left entirely to the discretion of the selectmen.

An even greater controversy evidently raged over the site for a new school house. Committees were instructed and selectmen charged with staking out sites from 1841 on. May 13, 1850 they voted:

"to disapprove of the doings of the Selectmen in laying out a school house lot for District No. from land owned by Widow Martha Strong"— and "to revoke and rescind all votes heretofore taken pertaining to such school house."

While no record was found by the town clerk of the final vote, the Registry of Deeds has a deed dated January 4, 1854 for land "to be used for a school house lot"— this land is the site of the two-story school building erected soon after and now known as "Grange Hall."

The school house in the center, which preceded the house just noted, had been on the site of the present Helen E. James School. It was described in one of Mr. Edward Gere's reminiscences[80] as follows:

''a two-room structure at the junction of Main and South Streets opposite the watering trough. The smaller children were in one room and the larger ones in the other. Boys were on one side and girls on the other with Schoolmaster Ambrose Stone—stern and terrible (on a raised platform) at the head." Evidently this was also used for religious services for he adds that the master used a rawhide whip 'left by one of the prayer meeting attendants' most effectively. Another calls this school 'a famous temple for education, floggings, and prayer meetings.'

DISTRICTS

Early settlements were on the hills, and Petticoat Hill, at one time being the most thickly populated district of the town, was a rival of Meeting-house Hill for the site of the first church. As each part of the town was settled, there developed a community spirit—scarcely understandable in these days of automobiles and airplanes. As far as the schools were concerned, it was almost as if these districts were little towns within the Town. As early as 1777, there were five such districts, for at the annual town meeting that year it was voted that :[81]

"there be five women's schools kept up from the first of May till the first of October"—"to have two men's schools three months in the winter season"—"to raise a sufficient sum to defray the whole charges of the above mentioned schools"— there "be a committee to provide the tutors and appoint the places for them to be kept."

Each district had its "tutor" who was "kept" or boarded around among the families of the district in turn.

In 1778, fifty pounds—the first stated amount to be raised and appropriated for "schooling"—was voted to be divided equally among the five districts. This year also a "special appropriation" of eight pounds per month for three winter months was voted to Nehemiah Cleveland, evidently for a so-called "men's school."

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80 Daily Hampshire Gazette, Sept. 3, 1910. Evidently his memories were of the school in the last decade of its existence.

81 Town clerk's Record Book (1771-1819), page 71.

At the November 6 meeting in 1785, the town voted £96 to be used to build five school-houses — one in each of these districts. As each new district was set off from the original ones, a "little red school house" became the center of its activities.

For twelve years the money raised for schools continued to be divided equally among the districts. But in 1790 it was voted that:

''each district shall have the proportion of the money that the town has raised for *schooling—according to the number of 'schoolers'* they send and reckoning the 'schoolers' from three years to twenty-one.

The next year the age limits were from three to sixteen.

Evidently there was a difference of opinion as to whether schooling was more important for "men" or "women" as it was voted,[82]

"it be left with the Selectmen how the £90 school money be laid out if the committee cannot agree whether it shall be laid out for a man's school or a woman's school or part to each."

In March, 1836 it was voted that "the children between the ages of *four* and sixteen who *work in factories/—and* who do not regularly attend school, shall *not* be counted as scholars who draw money."

The evils that might, and apparently did, arise from this distribution of school funds by districts are exposed in a printed report of the general school committee of 1856.[83] They said:

"From the time that Williamsburg became a corporate town to the present year, the money raised for the support of schools has been paid over to the prudential committees of the several districts to be expended by them at their discretion—small sums left in their hands after their terms have expired are presumed to have been lost by neglect or other causes—or might be transferred as a surplus from one to another until it might become an object to increase this surplus by hiring cheap teachers—and so defeat the object of the Town in raising the money."

This committee "pioneered" by adopting a plan similar to that in use today—except that the money, while accounted for to the town, was still spent by the districts. They allotted the money by districts according to their own best judgment of each district's needs and gave the treasurer a copy of their allotments. He opened an account with each district, giving credit and also making charges for sums expended for teachers' salaries, board, fuel, etc., as ordered by the committee.

An itemized division of school money for that year as budgeted by the general committee and found on the last page of their report seemed of especial interest. It was as follows:

[School curriculum chart goes here — EWW]

When we noted that these prudential committeemen had come to be elected on recommendation of the same nominating committee as recommended fence viewers and hog drivers, instead of by ballot as the general school board, selectmen, etc. were, it was easy to imagine the inefficiency, if not actual dishonesty, that might result. An example of this was found in Article 3

82 Town Records, March 2, 1795.

83 The first printed report was that of 1852.

of the Warrant of 1836 finally tabled, but reading "to see what measures the town will take, if any, to obtain the money in the hands of ____, prudential school committeeman for the ___ District for the year 1834, not yet refunded."[84] Furthermore, it would appear that the citizens recognized other inefficiencies for in 1855 they voted that prudential committees "do *not* hire the teachers." And as early as 1835, districts might lose their money if their prudential committee did not supply selectmen with lists of scholars before May i.

Individuals were evidently allowed town money according to the number of scholars in their families, if they preferred to tutor them at home, as numerous petitions to this effect were granted.[85]

The school districts were used by the town as divisions for representation in many ways. The methods of districting were varied, but the story of District No. 9, later known as South Street, is especially interesting. On January 5, 1826, fifteen men in the families of "Scrub Street," so-called, petitioned the selectmen as follows:

"We, the subscribers, feeling dissatisfied with the location of the new school house, voted at the village school district meeting that a building be erected, and with the principle of holding two schools under the same roof, request that you issue your warrant to notify and warn the inhabitants of said town to attend a town meeting for the purpose of setting off the inhabitants of Scrub Street, so-called, from the Village District to which they (now) belong, and that we be a separate district to enjoy the same privileges that other districts do."

At the town meeting it was voted after much debate "not to divide the district."

Brought up again as Article 12 at the May meeting, it was voted to "postpone indefinitely." The inhabitants of that section of town, then as now, were a very determined group. At one time an article appeared:

"to see if the Town would choose a disinterested committee from neighboring towns for the purpose of examining the situation of the inhabitants of Scrub Street, so-called, with respect to their school privileges and judge the propriety of their being set off as a separate school district."

Finally April 5, 1841 it was voted to "grant the petition of Oliver Nash and nine others (the next generation from those of 1826!) praying to be set off from the Village District and formed into a district designated as the South Street School District."

The problem of consolidation with its abandonment of the "little red school houses," although advocated by some, was nevertheless stubbornly resisted by others — perhaps nowhere more so than in Hyde District No. 2 now known as Searsville.[86] Doubtlessly one reason was the exceptionally fine group of teachers that District No. 2 was able to attract from earliest pioneer days. As the other district schools were closed one by one, attempts were made to close this school and transport the children to the village, but each attempt was so vigorously protested that it was not until 1922 that the final closing was accomplished. In Haydenville, complete consoli-

84 Names purposely omitted.

85 Spencer Bardwell, March, 1830, and others.

86 1896 protests were especially bitter.

dation came with the closing of Mountain Street District No. 4 when the center school was remodeled in 1934.

Pupils from School District No. 7, called the Northeast District, were few—through the years the parents seemed to prefer to transport their children so that they might enjoy the advantages of the center school. Other districts varied, as committees, or the town by vote, added or withdrew families from one to the other. The records show many petitions granted and many refused for such changes, as well as many arbitrary transfers made.

Much space has been devoted to these early "district" divisions and the town's relation to them. It could not well be otherwise, since for the first hundred years they were, indeed, the parts without which the body as a whole did not function.

Now let us turn to the "double districts," or center schools, which eventually have become the only two in the town.

Haydenville School District No. 3 was established by vote December 3, 1810.

"to set off from the City School District the following persons—*providing* they will build their own school house at their own expense and not to request any of the money for this year's schooling."

In compliance with this vote, the petitioners—(comprising all that section except Samuel Fairfield and Elias Root, who remained in the City District)—built a school house the next year in the southern end of the Dugway near Samuel Fairfield's house, in which a school room had been equipped as early as 1790. Thirty years later a brick school house was erected on that site. In 1859 a very fine Haydenville Center School and Village Hall was built at a cost of $5,500 — $3,000 raised by subscription and the rest paid by District No. 3. Really two buildings in one, and more than half privately owned, it had presented some legal difficulties. In 1934 after an authorization act of The General Court (H-R 1616), $24,000 was voted to remodel this building into a well-lighted and well-ventilated modern school building. The Public Hall was also remodeled, and a fine auditorium with a stage now serves the people of that village.

The two-story center school of District No. 1 on the corner of Main and "Scrub" Streets in Williamsburg has already been noted. The school erected in the 1850's housed all the pupils from grade one through three years of high school. The primary grades were in a room where the Grange kitchen and ell of the dining-room are now, with the present porch on the north side their only entrance; the intermediate grades (5-7) were in the present Grange dining-room; and grades eight and above were housed upstairs. Other physical aspects of this school and the new buildings will be taken up under the high school history.

MUSIC

Now in later years, we think of music as one of the regular school subjects, but Williamsburg citizens have always been interested in singing.

In the early days singing schools were thought so important that singing masters were paid $60 (1812)—much more than regular male school teachers were receiving. Music as a part of the

curriculum was first taught in Haydenville schools in 1896 by Mrs. George H. Buck. The money for this was taken from the income of the Hyde and Sanders Funds left definitely for some special benefits for Haydenville pupils. Drawing was also begun at this time through the use of these funds. Other benefits include the first acres of the recreation field, a teacher for backward children, and money for oculists and dentists for Haydenville children. Three years later, instruction in vocal music was given to all pupils in the town by Miss Jessie Purrington. Since then, for forty years, a music supervisor, usually with the enthusiastic cooperation of individual teachers, has "added to the pleasure of life and cultivated that which is best and sweetest in human nature" for those who have been willing to benefit by the study of music. Preparation for cantatas for the grade children and operettas and musical comedies for the high school students have nearly every year lent zest and incentive to the music periods.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS

There have been few private schools in Williamsburg. Mrs. Ellen Curtis' Boarding School for Girls (present Frank Crone house on South Street) in the nineties was the most successful.

Early in the nineteenth century there were "Select Schools," so-called, in session on an average of three months. They prepared for college and taught such subjects as Latin, Greek, mathematics, and "Higher English." Reverend Henry Lord also had students for many years in one of these Select Schools.

There was mention of a free "evening school" in 1878, taught by the Misses Minnie Bodman and Jennie Kendall, which "reached young men who needed and appreciated the blessing."[87]

In 1855 the town's appropriation for schools included $900 to be divided by pupils, $200 among the districts, and $100 for a "Select School." This was really the first $100 for high school work and thereafter money appropriated for high school subjects was so designated. Mr. E. W. Good- hue, superintendent for nearly thirty years, did not favor "select" schools. In his first report (1890) he said "public schools should be made so good that no reason can exist for any private school of like grade." The fine system that he and his successor, Mr. L. A. Merritt, have built up with the aid of teachers and committees and taxpayers is doubtless the reason why no private schools have been established in Williamsburg since.

TRUANCY

Truancy was a serious problem in the early days of ungraded schools, especially in the 80s. In 1880 the town voted to adopt a "code of bylaws" which provided that "habitual truant children be detained in the Haydenville Lock-up" (a room with cells and barred windows now unused in the basement of the Haydenville Fire Engine House.) Two years later after the Judge of Probate

87 School Committee's Report, 1878.

had disapproved of this place of detention, they voted that truants "be confined in the station house (police station) in Northampton." In 1884, after conferring with the *County Commissioners* about truant schools[88] they amended those bylaws of 1882 so that the "Truant School of Springfield should be the place of detention for habitual offenders." Later still they quoted a state truancy law by which parents were fined $20 for every 5-day absence, unexcused by the principal. Perhaps this might not be such a bad idea, even today!

HEALTH

In Williamsburg as elsewhere, the health of the children has been a matter of ever-deepening concern. In pioneer days everywhere it was more or less a case of "survival of the fittest." But as time went on the comfort of the children was considered. Jacketed stoves with ventilators were installed, then hot air furnaces, and more recently steam heat with univents for proper ventilation.

Since the turn of the century the school boards have taken advantage of every health project for which the state reimburses in part, as well as others for which the town pays the whole. School physicians have given physical examinations since 1907. The services of a school nurse were made available in 1921, when a Visiting Nurse Association, maintained at first by voluntary contributions of the citizens, made this possible. In later years the town has appropriated $500 annually for this service. For a few years about this time, hot lunches were served by the women of the town under the direction of a Nutrition Expert from Massachusetts State College.

In 1922, with the cooperation of the selectmen as Board of Health, a Diphtheria Clinic was held, and 150 children were given the toxin anti-toxin by Dr. Miner of the State Department of Public Health. Since 1929, this preventive measure has been assumed by the local school physicians and $100 appropriated by the town biennially. The serum is still furnished by the State.

A Dental Clinic—where students pay a small sum and the dentist is reimbursed for the rest by donations from the Red Cross, Grange, Women's Club, and other civic organizations—has been in operation since 1930.

It was in 1930, also, that the audiometer to test the pupils' hearing was first used. This is loaned by the 'Red Cross. If defective hearing is found, the parents are notified and given the privilege of free diagnosis at the Ear Clinic of Dr. Joseph Collins in Northampton. Later treatment is under the direction of the family physician.

There is also an eye test given by the school physician. If defective vision is found, the parents are notified by the school nurse, and (it is hoped) they get glasses to remedy this.

Every child is also weighed and measured and parents advised as to diet and rest habits if it seems best.

The health of the entire community has been safeguarded since 1932 from the dread disease of tuberculosis. That year the Chadwick Clinic for detection of tuberculosis was held, and all

88 Town Records, 1884 (March 3 and April 7).

high school students, and such grade school students as the school physicians recommended, were given the tuberculin test by doctors from the State Department of Health. Any who reacted were given an X-ray and advised as to rest, diet, and general health measures by nurses from that department. More recently state funds for this clinic having been expended, the Hampshire County Tuberculosis Sanatorium officials have taken over this work. Any young person having reacted to these tests in high school is privileged to have Chest X-rays periodically until the trouble has completely cleared.

CURRICULUM

Although text books for these pupils of Revolutionary days in Williamsburg were few, their very scarcity seems to have enhanced their value. They were bound in leather (for hides were cheaper than paper), but the printing was small and very poor. The youngest had the New England Primer for their reader. The King James' version of the Bible was the common "reading book" for the older pupils. Later Murray's Grammar and Reader, then Monroe's Readers, Appleton's Readers, and the series of Franklin Readers[89] were forerunners of the systems of reading in vogue today. There have been three changes in reading methods in the last twenty years from Ward's to Winston's to Elson's, and our educators are still searching for an even more effective method of teaching that greatest of arts.

Noah Webster's Spelling Book, first used by Williamsburg pupils in the 8o's was the favorite speller for almost a hundred years, although a Dillworth Speller was in use for part of that time.

Williamsburg replaced the early arithmetics, such as Dayball's and Root's, with the Greenleaf series which were in use during the middle and the latter half of the nineteenth century. Morse's Geography is mentioned, and various books on "Analysis," better known as parsing and grammar, were used by the older pupils.

A course of study printed in the 1886 School Committee's Report seems vital enough for printing here:

"GRADE I — Reading, chart and First Readers; Numbers combinations to 20; Writing, words and sentences from reading lessons.

GRADE II— Reading, Complete First Reader and review same. Also Monroe's New First Reader; Numbers, to 50; Writing, sentences from reading and Tracing Book No. 1.

GRADE Ill—Second Readers (2) ; Numbers, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division to 12's; Tracing Books No. 2 and 3.

GRADE IV—Third Readers (2) ; Notation to 12 places; Introductory Geography, North and South America; Writing.

GRADE V— Colburn's Arithmetic, Reading, Spelling, Language, Writing, Harper's Geography.

89 1881 School Committee's Report, p. 4—(Miss Louise Porter has a copy).

GRADE VI— Raub's Language, Arithmetic, Geography, Reading, Spelling, Writing, "Physiology and Hygiene as required by law."

GRADE VII— Same subjects as VI but later pages in books.

GRADE VIII—United States History, English Analysis (parsing and grammar), Arithmetic, Reading, Spelling, Writing, Physiology and Hygiene.

HIGH SCHOOL (Junior Year) GRADE IX—Latin, Algebra, Grammar and Reader (Murray's), Physics, Physical Geography.

HIGH SCHOOL (Middle Year) GRADE X—Latin (Caesar), Geometry, Physics, Physiology and Hygiene, Chemistry or Botany, Studies in English.

HIGH SCHOOL (Senior Year) GRADE XI—Latin (Virgil), Chemistry or Botany, Geology, Astronomy, Natural History, Civil Government, American Authors, Commercial Science (most of these one term each)."

In the next sixteen years changes in the curricula were great and the School Report of 1902 presented a course of study quite like a modern course for a small high school. It was as follows:

District	*Am't by Scholars*		*Am't by District*	*Total*
1. Village (Williamsburg Cen.)	$289.18	98	$10.00	$299.18
2. Hyde's (Searsville)	64.92	22	25.00	89.92
3. Hayden's (Haydenville Cen.)	321.64	109	0.00	321.64
4. Mountain	50.16	17	35.00	85.16
5. Nash (St.)	67.87.	23	20.00	87.87
6. North (Village Hill)	53.11	18	37.00	90.11
7. North East (Hemenway)				
8. Hill (Petticoat)	11.80	4	33.00	44.80
9. South (St.)	41.32	14	40.00	81.32
Total	$900.00	305	$200.00	$1100.00

[9] The first *printed* report was that of 1852.

GENERAL MANAGEMENT

As early as 1827 the town appointed a school committee to examine teachers and visit the schools. This procedure was evidently continued more or less effectively for many years. In 1837 an especially conscientious school board gave such a good account of their stewardship that their report was voted spread on the town clerk's records.[90] Evils mentioned included cold rooms, lack of uniformity in school books, and the "Dictionary, in which some portion of the scholars ought to be exercised daily, is not used at all !" It is interesting to note that the town voted its ap-

90 In records of March meeting.

proval and agreed to "sustain the committee in exercising the powers vested in them by 'statute' to remove these evils."

Twenty copies of "The Common School Assistant," upon recommendation of this general committee, were distributed to prudential committees and others.

School money, first mentioned as received from the state fund in 1840, was used for books and better teachers.

Fifty years ago (1890) Superintendent Goodhue in his first report tells of ungraded schools still being kept, and of the improvement in teaching after he had given those schools' teachers each a copy of a special course of study, prepared by the State Board of Education for such schools. (In this report he states these teachers received as low as $5.00 a week, $3.00 of which had to be paid for board!)

The physical evolution of the schools of Williamsburg from that small log cabin of 170 years ago to the beautiful consolidated school buildings of today—one in Haydenville center and one in the center of Williamsburg—is striking indeed. Even more so is the evolution in the curriculum, in methods of teaching, and in the attitude of the school children, parents, and taxpayers.

We have sketched the grade schools' history in both villages. It is, however, in the high school where the most ambitious students of both Haydenville and Williamsburg take advantage of the privilege of education the town offers them. Here they come to lay firmer foundations for their life work, and here the real test of a successful system of education can most easily be found. Here, as in all high schools, the leaders of tomorrow are in the making. And so it seems fitting to devote the rest of this chapter to the history of the high schools of the town.

WILLIAMSBURG HIGH SCHOOL
"The Gem of Massachusetts"

Many who have been privileged to work and study in the beautiful Helen E. James School building and Spelman Annex find it hard to realize that twenty-five years ago Williamsburg High School was housed on the second floor of the present Grange Hall with three rooms—one where the stage now is, another the present cloak room, and the third, which was the home room for all students from the eighth grade through the eleventh, the present lodge room of the Grange.

Great as are these changes in the housing and physical aspects of our young people's education, the changes in their curriculum and the educational advantages offered them have been even greater.

We can more readily appreciate the progress of the last twenty-five years if we take a backward glance over the years preceding that time. The early school committees' reports have many interesting items about those days. The first money ever spent for high school work was the sum of $100 appropriated for the fall and winter term of 1853.

Although Massachusetts laws of 1882 allowed school committees to charge parents for their children's books and to add the cost to their individual tax bills, our committee in 1884 rec-

ommended, and the town voted “to raise and appropriate $500 for the purpose of procuring free text books for our public schools and to furnish suitable places for keeping the same.’’

In 1886, the committee urged that more money be spent for schools, since Williamsburg at that time was paying only $7.14 per pupil against an average throughout the state of $13.87. This year the committee also caused a new high school course of study to be drawn up which included three years of Latin, algebra, physical geography, physics, geometry, physiology, chemistry, botany, geology, civil government, American literature, and general science.” The fact that such a schedule, with one teacher and less than twenty[91] minute periods, was impossible to carry out does not detract from the fact that the committee at least knew what a high school course should contain.

In 1890, Williamsburg took advantage of the Union District system and hired a superintendent. The other towns in the district at this time were Whately, Conway, and Sunder- land. Later the district was changed, and we are now with Worthington and Chesterfield. 1890 was also the first year in which graduation exercises were held, the Williamsburg Congregational Church being the place of graduation.

As early as 1895, Superintendent Goodhue recommended the combining of the Williamsburg and Haydenville high schools for the sake of efficiency and economy. That year the registers showed 149 visitors and eighty-one pupils in the high schools alone. The next year Principal Rowell instituted wand drills as a form of physical culture and gave public exhibitions. The town also appropriated $200 for the transportation of high school pupils, for the first time. It was in this period also that a drawing teacher and a music teacher were first hired.

These changes were followed in 1898 by the addition of another year of high school with one full time assistant to the principal. Subjects were then taught such as would be expected in any regular high school’s first two years. But progress in one direction was checked by retrogression in another, for the school year was shortened to thirty-two weeks “for lack of funds,” and “the opening of Williamsburg Button Shop withdrew many pupils who should have been in high school.”

The 1900 class was “graduated,” as previous classes had been, at the close of their two years of high school work. Then, since the authorities had seen fit during the summer to add another year to the curriculum, most of the class returned for another year of schooling. Needless to say, there was no graduation in 1901! Students still had to go to Northampton High or some other high school for the fourth year, and many went for the last two years. Williamsburg, of course, paid the tuition for the fourth year, according to state requirements. With this added year, the Haydenville students, ten in number, came to Williamsburg also. The next year a number of tuition pupils from neighboring towns that had no high school came to Williamsburg—the state reimbursing those towns to a large extent. The tuition was then only $28. This was the beginning of the mutual benefits which out-of-town pupils have always brought.

91 See earlier paragraph.

In 1904, Superintendent Goodhue first recommended a new school building — a recommendation repeated annually until it bore fruit in Mrs. James' generous gift just ten years later.

Not until 1905 did the schools have running water. One graduate[92] says of the water system of those earlier years, "In summer a pail of water was brought from the parsonage near-by and left in the dressing-room. Thither the thirsty resorted to drink from the tin dipper that went with the pail." The next year, upon the order of the State Inspector of Buildings, this wooden structure which housed some 200 pupils was equipped with a fire escape. The school committee reported apologetically that "this seemed to some to be an unnecessary expense!" Modern plumbing and furnaces were installed about this time also.

In 1909, the opening of Smith Agricultural School attracted a number from our high school. In 1912, sewing classes for the girls and penmanship and drawing for the boys, were added to the curriculum with an exhibit in the spring. These courses were not kept up very long, for in 1913 the curriculum was revised so that four years of high school work were completed here. This year a third teacher, our present principal, Miss Anne T. Dunphy, was added to the faculty.

The place which Williamsburg High School has earned as one of the leading high schools of its size in the state, both as to its building facilities and, particularly, as to its scholastic attainment and prestige as an educational institution, is due—more than to any other one cause—to Miss Dunphy's ideals, executive ability, and determination that the taxpayers' money shall be used to give Williamsburg students the best that money can buy.

Following the dedication of the new Helen E. James School on September 4, 1914, the real development of Williamsburg High School began. Since 1915, it has been a grade A state-aided high school, and it has been continuously granted certification privileges by the New England College Entrance Board. To Mr. E. P. Larkin, principal for the first four years, should be given the credit for starting Williamsburg High School in the right direction, both in athletic and scholastic fields. It was during his principalship that Pro Merito was organized (1912), and the first interscholastic baseball game was played (with Easthampton High School). Soccer and outdoor basketball also began this year.

The story of Williamsburg High School, from an institution graduating five students in 1914 to one with five times that number a quarter of a century later, has much of interest.

The development in courses of study offered has been steady and notable. Every high school, to acquire distinction, must have an individuality—a purpose and character that differentiates it from its contemporaries. The purpose of Williamsburg High School has always been to offer a broad cultural background which would help all graduates to be better citizens, whether or not they continued in higher institutions of learning.

Up to 1914, twenty-minute recitation periods were the maximum. With the addition of a third teacher, these periods were lengthened, and a better grasp of the subject matter was noted. Scanty laboratory equipment had made the teaching of science almost an impossibility. In 1910 Superintendent Goodhue had begged for a laboratory, saying, "without it a modern high school is

92 Emma L. Warner of Northampton.

as much of an anomaly as a farm without tools." With the new building a real science program was begun.

In 1916 the notorious Eighth Grade "Strike" against compulsory Latin for freshmen was staged. This resulted in general science being offered as a substitute. For some time Superintendent Goodhue had been advocating a two-year course—a forerunner of our modern Junior High School. This "strike" gave him just the right opportunity, and for three years there were two schools within the one. There were two complete sets of graduates as well. The plan, however, proved impracticable for a small school. In 1918 students, parents, and teachers all welcomed Miss Dunphy's suggestion that the two-year course be dropped. This was also the year in which French was substituted for German because of the war sentiment. Influenza disrupted the classes, and many older students left, "lured by the high wages paid in the shops."

Two years later, Mr. E. W. Goodhue, a scholar and a gentleman who had charted the course of the Williamsburg schools for many years, died, and Mr. L. A. Merritt became superintendent.

In 1922, a fourth teacher was added to the staff, making possible a broader course in mathematics and science. Trigonometry and solid geometry were offered for seniors. Physics was added to alternate with chemistry.

Friday assembly programs were begun in 1923, and the first debating society was organized. With the careful coaching of Miss Toole, the teacher in charge, and the keen interest which she aroused in the students in forensic performance, began that phase of school activity for which our school has since gained much prestige. This year also marked the first time that the S. A. R. medal for excellence in American History was awarded. The foreign language requirement for graduation was removed in 1925. Two years later, one of our students took the College Entrance Board Comprehensive Examinations. Since then many have done so, and our school has practically a 100 per cent acceptance record from these examinations. In 1929, Williamsburg High School was honored with its first four-year certification privilege, an honor coveted by all schools, but held by few.

In 1931, a fifth teacher was added, taken away in 1933, and added again in 1935, on a part-time basis. In 1936, five full-time teachers again made possible a well-rounded program of studies.

In 1937, the school committee with Mr. R. F. Burke as chairman, proposed that an annex to the Helen E. James School be made to care for the greatly increased enrollment. Their proposal was adopted, and building began. The fall of 1938 found students and teachers cheerfully working to the tune of resounding hammers and falling bricks. However, this period was soon over, and the Spelman Annex, made possible by the generous gift left the school by Miss Elizabeth Spelman, was dedicated with fitting ceremonies. A sixth teacher and a commercial course have since been added to meet the demands of many of the citizens.

Today, Williamsburg High School courses of study and extra-curricular activities are attracting more and more tuition pupils and keeping our own young people longer in school. From such beginnings do civic pride and good citizenship grow.

Any school history, however brief, without the story of the development of its extra-curricular activities would be incomplete—ours, particularly so.

Activities, both athletic and forensic, have ebbed and flowed with the enthusiasm of various faculty leaders. Athletic contests have given Williamsburg High School league basketball championships several times with their attendant privilege of participation in the Massachusetts State College Small High School Tournaments. The Massachusetts Song Contest at Haverhill was won by our Girls' Glee Club in 1936. Prestige and statewide recognition have been ours since the organization of the first Massachusetts Speech Tournament in Williamsburg in 1936 by the speech coach. In 1931, Williamsburg High School's orator on the Constitution reached the national semi-finals. In 1934 and 1938, we also had orators in the western Massachusetts finals of that same type of contest. From large groups of orators and debaters (intramural), eliminations have formerly been held which have given especially trained speakers. These young men and women have competed with others in National Forensic League Tournaments—six district, six state, five New England, and four national. From these we have had more than a score of winners, besides an earlier record of twenty-one undefeated debate teams in a series of nine years. In 1938, the Distinguished Service Plaque was awarded our high school by the National Forensic League at Wooster, Ohio, for "earning over fifty citations for service in promoting speech activities among the public high schools of Massachusetts." Moreover, this honor, which had been earned by only twenty schools out of 824 chartered by the National Forensic League, was won in the record time of two years. Literary efforts and news examinations conducted by "The Scholastic" have brought national and state prizes to those students who have a talent for writing. Several years our school has been an honor school in the statewide Student Forum on Peace.

Williamsburg High School has also been very fortunate in the interest which its citizens have taken in it—an interest which has culminated in many gifts, both large and small. In addition to the Helen E. James School and Elizabeth Spelman Annex, there has been the income from the Dr. Daniel Q. Collins Fund of $12,000 since 1858. The gift of the playground equipment from the Congregational Friendly Class, and of the seniors' Washington trips from individuals and citizens as groups, have meant much to the school. Probably the largest single organization gift came in 1920, when the Williamsburg Grange beaver-boarded and painted the interior of the Town Hall so that the high school could use it for basketball — a privilege formerly denied by the selectmen because the game had caused the plastering to crumble. Occasional money gifts for special essays, trips, and other projects from the Grange, the Women's Club, the Ladies' Benevolent Society, the Men's Club, the Eastern Star, and other organizations have been much appreciated.

Special incentives toward greater scholastic achievement have been offered for a number of years. Among these are such annual prizes as the Alumni Association's Anne T. Dunphy Latin prizes; the Wives' Club's four-year English prize; the Williamsburg Grange's mathematic prizes; and the Alumni Association's presentation of the Pro-Merito pins. Extra-curricular activities have been rewarded by the Alumni Association's contribution to athletics and speech contests, and by its gifts of National Forensic League keys for excellence in debate and oratory.

With school committees that have realized that they were selected to give the sons and daughters of Williamsburg the best equipment and the best teachers that the taxpayers' money could procure; with progressive superintendents; with a principal "whose high ideals of scholarship and conduct, whose wise counsel, and whose unselfish devotion have been the inspiration of all students of Williamsburg High School"; with teachers happy to give of their time and strength far beyond the requirements of their contracts; with students, many of them ambitious to make the most of the opportunities which this school could offer; and finally, with parents and townspeople sacrificing much that their young people might have the best in education and self- improvement—with these combined influences, all of which are seldom found in any one institution of learning, it is not so strange that Williamsburg High School has been called "The Gem of the Small High Schools of Massachusetts."

CHAPTER XVII
LIBRARIES

AT THE corner of Main and Williams Streets stands a building so familiar to townsfolk that perhaps they seldom stop to consider its value or beauty. This library was made possible by the generous bequest of Stephen Meekins. It was dedicated on February 1, 1897 in the Williamsburg Congregational Church. The account of that dedication appeared the following Friday in the *Hampshire Gazette.*

The program for that dedication reveals much information concerning the persons who were responsible for the successful launching of the project. William Ludden, reporting for the trustees, stated that $15,000 had been spent on the building and $5,000 on books. Dr. B. M. Ludden gave a short sketch of the life of Stephen Meekins.

The son of Thomas Meekins, Stephen lived a life of hard work and determination of purpose. He is described by one of the town historians[93] in the following manner:

"He was a very economical, careful man who invested all his money in savings banks. I have heard him say that he saved every lamb and every lock of wool to provide a princely gift for the people of Williamsburg. He used to ride down to the village in an old wagon with wooden axles. When he was disturbed by the assessment of taxes upon his farm, he would threaten to abandon the farm and leave his money to the Mohawk Indians. At such times, Mr. Hiram G. Hill would go up and persuade him that the assessors of taxes had no choice but to apportion him his share, that it was done by law and as justly as possible."

He married Miss Bradford, who died in 1877. They had no children. Their home was on the old Chesterfield Road near the Clary Farm. The library he gave to his native town was the hobby and dream of his life. His estate, at his death, amounted to $42,000.

At the dedication, Superintendent Goodhue spoke on the relationship between the school and the library. Reverend H. S. Snyder delivered one of the principal addresses of the evening. Another was given by Miss Sarah J. Morse.

Williamsburg had had a library long before the present building was erected. Stephen Meekins made his gift because he saw a need for it. At a meeting in December, 1876, a few citizens of the community met to discuss their desire for books and what could be done about it. The following is the result of that gathering.

[94]"The undersigned propose to form a society to be called the Williamsburg Library Association for the purpose of promoting the intelligence of this community, furnishing its members with books for study, and with instructive and entertaining reading and also to collect material for the history of Williamsburg and vicinity.

"It is proposed that each member pay an initiation fee and an annual tax of $1.00 after the first year, $10.00 at once making a life member.

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93 Mrs. Ada Hamlin.

94 Gazette, February 5 1897.

"If twenty-five names are obtained to this paper, the person whose name is first subscribed shall call a meeting of all the subscribers to effect a permanent organization."

More than seventy names were signed to the paper. At the next meeting a committee was formed to draft the constitution and by-laws. The first slate of officers was chosen. They were as follows: President, Reverend S. C. Kendall; librarian and treasurer, W. A. Hawks; directors, J. W. Hill, Mrs. S. C. Kendall, Miss Minnie Bodman. A committee to obtain subscriptions consisted of L. D. James, L. H. Porter, and Lewis Bodman. Gifts of money for the new plan included $100 from Mrs. Emily Williston of Easthampton and $250 from C. E. Bodman of New York City. The books were located at the librarian's house, and in a room over James' store, which Mr. James had offered for that purpose. In January, 1888, a constitution and by-laws were adopted, and a new slate of officers elected. T. M. Carter served as president; H. XV'. Hill, as vice-president; H. A. Bisbee, as treasurer; and W. A. Hawks, as librarian. Miss Mary L. Carter, Mrs. Helen James, and J. W. Hill were directors. In 1890, the large number of books made it necessary to change the library room to the room over the Engine House. The next year the will of Hiram Hill left the library corporation $2,000, the income to be used for books. In 1893, the faithful librarian, Deacon William Hawks, died. His interest in the library project had been keen and steadfast. He had urged that every available dollar be used for books. Until 1890, he himself furnished light and heat for the library. The widow of Deacon Hawks became the first librarian in the new building.

The portion of Stephen Meekins' will pertaining to the library reads as follows:

"Feeling a deep interest in the moral, intellectual, and religious improvement of this my native town of Williamsburg, and wishing to give that interest a practical form by founding a town library, to be known as the Meekins' Library, I give, bequeath, and devise in trust of William Ludden, a native of said Williamsburg, now residing in Savannah, Georgia; Hiram G. Hill; Henry C. Smith; and George Ames of Williamsburg aforesaid, the sum of $15,000."

Other parts of the library clause are explained in the copy of the *Gazette*[95] which carried the description of the dedication.

"He does not name the site of the building, and bequeaths money for the books, not naming the sum, making Mr. Ludden the purchaser. The remainder of his estate is to be invested by the trustees, the interest, together with such sums as may be received from other sources (if any) to be applied from time to time to the purchase of new books for the library, for its repair, for the care of his burial lot and monument and also in paying the librarian and said trustees a suitable compensation for their services."

After William Ludden's death or refusal to act as trustee, the board shall consist of three. The vacancy left by H. G. Hill shall be filled from the members of the Williamsburg Congregational Society; Mr. Smith's successor shall come from the Haydenville Congregational Church; and Mr. Ames' place shall be filled from the Methodist Society of Williamsburg. The trustees elected to the board, these churches must be represented, and if there is no trustee qualified to

95 February 5, 1897.

act, they may elect directly from the church membership when only the male members thereof shall be entitled to vote.[96]

The library shall not be opened "for business or the distribution of books on the Sabbath."

Much of the will conforms with what might be expected of such a document. This is not so true of its closing which reads,

"I give to my horse his time, and for his services a good dose of chloroform, and a suitable burial on the farm on which he so faithfully served his master."

The date of the will is June 12, 1893.

The successors of Mrs. Hawks were Ada Chandler Hamlin, Myra Hill, Jennie Baker, and Mrs. Wells Bisbee. For all those who have enjoyed its privileges, its convenience, and its simple architectural beauty, there is no need to reiterate its contribution to the town.

The present library houses 11,000 volumes.

The Haydenville Library Association was organized in 1884. Sixteen members—the number quickly grew—followed a plan similar to that of Williamsburg whereby each member contributed periodically for the purchase of books. No compensation was given the librarian or any other official of the group. The first library opened in the Center School. Two volumes, which had been donated, and other books costing in all $100, comprised the reading room. The present building was a gift of Miss Anna Hayden about 1900 in memory of her brother, Charles Hayden. It cost $1,000 and was to be non-taxable. In September, 1889, the association was dissolved and a corporation replaced it.

The library is now supported by town appropriation and consists of 3,246 volumes.

96 Two members of a Board of Trustees are empowered to appoint a third. The present board consists of Mr. Leslie Packard, Mr. William Loomis, and Mr. Walter Hathaway. Although the Methodist church is no longer in existence, Mr. Hathaway is from the former membership of that church.

CHAPTER XVIII
WARS

[97]"FEW towns in the Commonwealth, and perhaps none in the western counties, had been more prompt and efficient in responding to the demand for soldiers during the country's struggle for independence. For seventy years afterward this spirit found an outlet through two military organizations in the town, one of infantry and one of cavalry. The first company, after the actual service of the Revolution, was the infantry. At first and until about the year 1816, the uniform of this company consisted. of a blue coat with red lacing, and the common beaver hat. Afterward, as the military spirit gradually subsided, the uniform was dropped entirely by the privates and only the officers appeared in military dress. This company numbered about sixty men.

"People here in Williamsburg, as well as throughout the manufacturing districts generally, were opposed to the War of 1812. Although the cotton mills which sprang up during that time profited by it, there seems to have been no particular enthusiasm shown. However, the military spirit of the town was somewhat revived, and when the militia was called out for the defense of the city of Boston, this town furnished its quota of men. Among them were Jonathan Gillett, William Hemenway, Captain Jenkins, Jonathan Dickinson, Jason and James Hemenway, Benjamin Cleghorn and Benjamin Dole. As a result of this war a third company—this one of riflemen—was organized in the town. This company wore gray coats and pants and was composed of about thirty men from Williamsburg and Whately, about an equal number from each town. The cavalry company numbered about fifty men and was made up of citizens of Williamsburg, Whately, and Hatfield. They wore bearskin caps with red plumes, and dark military coats with a red sash. For three years or four years prior to 1817 these three companies were in existence at the same time. The rifle company, however, was continued only three or four years. The infantry company existed until 1840 and the cavalry until 1845.

"When these organizations were in their prime, the interest in them was universal. The best men were enrolled in the ranks and promotion was deemed worthy of any man's ambition. One peculiarity of the cavalry was the large number of men in the ranks who stood nearly six feet in height. These men were formed in divisions and placed in front, and gave to the company in parade a very imposing appearance. There were three 'trainings' during the year, previous to the general regimental muster and review in the autumn. The parade ground was near the meeting-house on the hill, and afterwards near the hotels in the village. The crowd gathered in front of the soldiers, and occupied every available spot. The captain now made his appearance and was received with all military honors. Then, mounted on his prancing horse, he gave his orders, which were obeyed as if by magic. After performing various maneuvers the whole troop galloped away down the street, passing around the school house, and soon disappearing from view. After the lapse of a weary hour or two, the notes of the bugle were again heard, and the horsemen having demonstrated their skills before the people of Haydenville, returned to town. Some townsfolk

97 By Prescott Williams

were regularly found among the spectators. Prominent among them was Dr. Collins, who, peering from half-closed eyelids, made his inspection. Lawyer Hubbard, cane in hand, was always there. 'Uncle Jerry,' too, never failed to pass judgment upon the company. Captain Ayres and old Father French, to say nothing of many others, appeared with clocklike regularity."

By the outbreak of the Mexican War in 1846, the abolitionist sentiment in the North was already riding high. All New England felt that the annexation of Texas, which caused the war was just the addition of another slave state to the Union. On these grounds the military activities of 1846-1848 met with general disfavor. But here again, as in all other struggles, Williamsburg was represented. A citizen of the town, Charles Hopkins, was lost.

[98]"In the Civil War of 1861, the first town meeting for the consideration of the situation was held on May 2, 1861. A committee on resolutions reported that 'whereas a crisis had arrived, every man was called upon to speak his sentiments, and use prompt action to sustain the government.' It was voted 'to tender to the government all men and means here possessed to the extent of our ability, that $2,000 be raised for the benefit of those who volunteered for service and that it is the duty of the general government to enforce this law in every state of the Union. In September '62, it was voted to raise $6100 to pay bounties to volunteers. Schouler's *History of Massachusetts in the War* states that Williamsburg furnished 250 men, twenty-nine above its quota, and that the whole amount paid for aid by the town alone was not less than $20,000 dollars. The village of Haydenville and its immediate vicinity furnished 100 of its own citizens. It is to be noted that the number of soldiers furnished by Williamsburg in the Civil War including those obtained by offering bounties was one-eighth of the whole population, and that the whole expense equalled $9.50 to each man woman, and child. Such records need no comment."

A few notes from old *Gazettes* describing the town meetings of those crucial days reveal the high enthusiasm of the times.

"May 7, 1861. Town voted $2,000 for equipping soldiers and providing for their families, paying the soldiers $10 a month during their service. The selectmen, with Lewis Bodman and D. F. Morton, were made the disbursers of the money.

"April 23, 1861. A meeting of the citizens of this place, loyal to the Union, numbering 300 strong was held at the Town Hall, on Saturday evening last. The strongest Union sentiments prevailed. Eloquent, soul-stirring speeches were made by Doctors Brown and Meekins, L. K. Baker, and others. A unanimous vote was passed, appointing a committee of five to request the selectmen to call a town meeting for the purpose of voting money for the support of the families of those who wished to enroll their names and march to the support of their country's call. At the close of the meeting the audience rallied around the Stars and Stripes, which had been thrown to the breeze during the afternoon, and gave three hearty cheers, after which they marched to the residence of E. M. Wright, who appeared with encouraging and cheering words, requesting the young men in town to do their duty. Williamsburg has a Revolutionary fame of which it may

98 By Mrs. Ada Hamlin.

justly be proud, and we doubt not her loyal citizens will respond heartily to the call of the constituted authorities for aid in preserving order and repressing treason.

"*Haydenville.* The people of this village are much excited over the war news. There is but one opinion here— the Union, the Constitution, to stand by the Government, and death to all traitors and rebels wherever found. Last Saturday the Stars and Stripes were hoisted over the Brass Shop, Cotton Mill, and Post Office amid the roar of cannon, the cheers of the multitude and stirring music from the band."

Williamsburg was too far north and too "New England" in sentiment to have room for any disunity over the slavery question and the Civil War. All citizens were against slavery and for the Union, as is proved by the support the town put forth in the conflict. Lincoln, however, was the target of much criticism, here and everywhere, as great men are wont to be in their own time. Northerners were supporting a moral issue, the freedom of the slaves. The great underlying cause, the inevitable conflict between their own industrial North and the agrarian South, was at that time lost to them.

Williamsburg citizens have always been keenly aware of the nation s political scene, and we can imagine some of the heated discussions which must have taken place in the difficult days of the reconstruction after the Civil War.

Material concerning the Spanish-American War in 1898 is lacking. This is hardly surprising considering the fact it lasted only from April to July. This conflict, unnecessary, but fortunately short-lived, took only three men from the town. The war showed the change which had taken place in America's foreign policy. The period of isolationism was virtually over, and the United States had entered upon a new era as a world power. Few were far-sighted enough to realize this fact then, however, either in the nation or in our own community. Everywhere the longer point of view was over-shadowed by the white heat of public opinion, intensified by such incidents as the sinking of the "Maine" and by the Hearst publications. Such a development in our nation's attitude toward the family of nations was not, however, too remote a thing to affect even a small village such as Williamsburg in the near future.

CHAPTER XIX
COMMUNITY LIFE

DURING the nineteenth century, the social activities of Williamsburg crystallized more and more into definite organizations with definite purposes. All these groups contributed immeasurably to community life, both in themselves and through the affairs which they promoted to raise funds.

The growth of the various churches was paralleled by the formation of allied church societies. Catholic or Protestant, all the groups had several characteristics in common. Men, women, and sometimes adolescents organized for the enjoyment they could derive from such fellowship, and for the support that their hard work was able to tender their respective churches. Such a society of the Haydenville Congregational Church is the Ladies' Benevolent Society, until recently called the Ladies' Aid. The Women's Union in Williamsburg was, until the pastorate of Reverend Ned B. McKenney, two separate groups, the Missionary Society and the Ladies' Benevolent Society. The Williamsburg Congregational Church has an unusually active Men's Club, and both churches have included in their activities a youth organization and a choir. The Catholics, through committees appointed from the general parish, have held fairs, entertainments, suppers, and lawn parties very successfully for the support of their church.

Perhaps there is somewhere in these United States another town whose women and men, too, serve such delicious "church suppers" at such a reasonable price. If so, I have never found it, nor heard of it. Remembering some of these meals and recalling the numerous and diversified entertainments, we understand well the good fellowship and enjoyment which have grown from the efforts of these church groups.

[99]"The Mothers' Club was formed on October 3, 1935, when twelve mothers of Cradle Roll members met at the home of Mrs. Phebe Collins. The group was organized by Miss Louise Porter, then superintendent of the Cradle Roll, with Mrs. Collins as president. The object of this club was better acquaintance among the mothers and the opportunity of discussing their mutual problems in the guidance of their children. While primarily organized for mothers of pre-school age children, it now includes those of the school grades. Meetings are held once a month from October through June except on special occasions; such as, Fathers' Night or Grandmothers' Banquet when they are entertained at the church. The programs usually include an out-of-town speaker except when some member leads a discussion. Now in its eleventh year it continues to be well attended with a membership of sixty."

Other Presidents—

Mrs. Ethel Graves

Mrs. Dorothy Tiley

Mrs. Elizabeth Nichols

Mrs. Marguerite Thayer

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99 By Miss Louise Porter.

Mrs. Margery Ronka

Mrs. Barbara Hathaway

There were also organizations growing from the development of the schools. The most active of these is the Alumni Association. Few schools the size of Williamsburg High School can boast an Alumni Association as loyal and active as this one. This is largely due to the efforts and personality of Miss Anne T. Dunphy, who has been the inspiration and guiding star of the organization for many years. The organizations within the school, including organized sports, Forensic League, and musical societies, have been a source of education and enjoyment, not only to the students, but to the townsfolk as well.

One of the most important groups of men to unite was the Fire Department. The Hope Engine Company, No. 1, was organized in Haydenville as early as 1848. Fire equipment was purchased at the cost of $500. Samuel S. Wells was the first foreman. The Ladies of the Cotton Mill presented the company with a silver trumpet. Some of the names inscribed thereon were:

S. S. Wells—Foreman

John H. Root—Ass't Foreman

H. L. Tileston—Clerk

Luther Loomis

Deacon T. H. Ives

A. D. Sanders

and others.[100] The records continue to 1863.

The first engine house in Williamsburg was located behind the Town Hall. In 1878 it was moved, and Mrs. Helen James bought land from Henry Bisbee for the new location. A building, a story and a half structure was erected, but it burned in 1906. In those days, of course, a hand pump was used. In 1907 Mrs. James had the present engine house built and gave it to the town. Mr. Joseph Ball was one of the first fire chiefs. A hose wagon was used until the Reo truck was bought in the early 1920's. Mr. Arthur Polmatier, and later his son, Earl, succeeded Mr. Ball. In 1931, a pump was purchased and attached to the Reo truck. The same year the siren was bought and installed on the Town Hall with a call box at the Engine House. A separate telephone to handle fire calls was installed at the residence of the chief. In 1937, the old engine was replaced by the new truck, the cost being $3,800. Mr. Cheney Hathaway has served the town as fire chief since 1929.

A temperance group, the Washingtonian Society, flourished for a time during the middle nineteenth century. Mr. Wilbur Purrington wrote a record of that organization.

"I have in my possession the clerk's book of a Washingtonian Society, organized in Haydenville in 1833. The society was organized to pledge its members to total abstinence from the use of intoxicating liquors, in a period when their use was common to everybody. It was a branch of an organization quite widespread at the time. The records show a considerable membership, with monthly meetings and addresses and entertainments for its members. It lasted some three

100 This list is from a paper in Mr. Purrington's handwriting and includes no more names.

years. Then dissension arose and the society went down, apparently overwhelmed by the tide of common usage."

In the late seventies and early eighties there was considerable legal and illegal selling of liquor in this town. Drunkenness and consequent rowdyism were so prevalent, it was unsafe for women to walk in the streets in the evening. Bridges were obstructed by ropes to trip the pedestrian. Horses' harnesses of farmers who came to the village to trade evenings were frequently cut to pieces. The hotels were filled with loafers and drunken revellers. Citizens were knocked down in the streets. There were drunken fights and debauchery ending in murder in one instance. These serious conditions awakened a few townspeople to a determination to arrest, and, if possible, to eliminate the liquor menace. At the time the town was voting license, and temperance people were alarmed and tried to create sentiment for a no- license vote. Disgusted with the lack of law enforcement because of an indifferent or liquor-sympathetic board of selectmen, a volunteer company of ten men met in secret and pledged themselves to bring evidence against liquor sellers. They agreed to share equally the cost of prosecution. The old brick tavern, rendezvous of drinking people, far and near, was one of the places raided by this company of ten. The hotel proprietor skipped the bail of his generous friends and was never heard from again. Five places were put out of business, but the owners soon found respectable and more lucrative employment. Here began a regular warfare for no license. Henry C. Smith was the leader, aided ably by Sesostris Warner, L. D. James, Reverend Charles O. Day, Samuel Clark, George Marks, George Ames, Henry Sampson, W. W. Nash, and Dwight Clary. By the strenuous efforts of the ten men, H. C. Smith was finally elected selectman. He secured that office by a narrow margin each year. Although his barn was burned because of his courageous stand against liquor, he never faltered in his course. Mr. Smith proved himself of great value as a town official and kept the liquor business in subjection. In the last quarter of the nineteenth century total abstinence societies were organized throughout New England. Williamsburg was not slow to realize the need of continuous influence against the liquor traffic.

The Woman's Christian Temperance Union was organized with fifty-three charter members March 6, 1877, four years after the first local W. C. T. U. was founded in Fredonia, N. Y., and two years before Frances Willard became national president. Total abstinence for the individual, total prohibition for the state, were the chief aims of the organization. Its motto is "For God and home and every land." The first officers were: President, Mrs. S. C. Kendall; Vice- Presidents, Mrs. Lyman D. James and Mrs. J. B. Gleason; Treasurer, Mrs. Abner Damon; Recording Secretary, Mrs. George Ames; Corresponding Secretary, Miss Helen Nash (Mrs. Arthur Hinds); Executive Committee, Mrs. L. C. Morgan, Mrs. Charlotte Hill, and Mrs. Dewey Williams. In April, 1877, a juvenile organization was formed. Mrs. Mary Livermore was the most distinguished guest speaker the first year. To raise funds, in 1882, dinners were served by the ladies on Town Meeting days. This practice was continued for several years. The annual suppers were largely attended at which good speakers were secured. In 1883 Mrs. Charlotte Mills organized a Band of Hope with twenty-four members. March 31, 1891, it was voted to buy the old brick tavern or Hampshire House. The committee appointed was Mrs. William Hawks, Mrs. Dwight Clary, Mrs.

George Ames, Miss Luthera Ludden, and Mrs. Emily Guilford. After the purchase of the old brick tavern from Mrs. Fannie Winchell, these women worked day after day, papering, painting, repairing, assisted by their men folks whenever they could spare time, all to save expense. The trustees of this property were: Mrs. George Ames, Miss Luthera Ludden, Mr. Samuel Clark, and Mr. W. W. Nash. This committee has been self-perpetuating to the present time. The present trustees are Mr. Samuel Clark and Mrs. Alice Tilton, present treasurer. The W. C. T. U. building was sold to Mrs. Etta Richardson in 1921. For twenty-five years the organization prospered. The society has decreased markedly in membership, meetings are held irregularly, and it is less active in promulgating temperance principles; but it still functions as an organization in town, due somewhat to the fact that the principal of its holdings in the Fannie Winchell estate of 1891 reverts to the town when the society disbands. W. A. Hawks, an honorary member of the organization, once suggested that when the W. C. T. U. disbanded, the building would revert to the town. It has used its interest money to good advantage. It contributes generously to the county organization. Many Christmas boxes have been given to shut-ins and to the aged. Prize medal contests arid varied entertainments dealing with the subject of temperance have been held. Through the enthusiastic efforts and generosity of Miss Elizabeth Ames, drinking fountains were placed in both villages. To stimulate interest in the "Cause," prizes have been offered to High School students for the best essays on the ill effects of alcohol and cigarettes. Past presidents and leaders, in addition to those names already mentioned as serving on special committees, are Mrs. Julia Tilton, Mrs. Samuel A. Clark, 1st, Mrs. Charles R. Damon, Mrs. Lyman Waite, Mrs. Susan Barrus, Mrs. Rodney Ames, Mrs. George Warner, and Mrs. Etta Richardson. Among the more recent leaders are Miss Elizabeth Ames, Mrs. Adelbert Waite, Miss Genevra Hill, Miss Louise Porter, Mrs. William Hayden, Miss Nettie Bisbee, and Mrs. Alice Tilton.

In 1881 the Sons of Temperance was organized with over 100 members, both men and women. The pledge used: "I, without reserve, solemnly pledge my honor as a man (or woman) that I will neither make, buy, sell, nor use as a beverage any spirituous or malt liquors, wine or cider." The motto of the Order was Love, Purity and Fidelity. Although short-lived, less than ten years in this town, the work accomplished was an incalculable blessing. Among the workers were W. W. Nash, the Purrington brothers, Fred and Arthur Stebbins, Dwight and Fannie Clary, and the Caddens.

The Independent Order Good Templars formed a local lodge here in 1887. The foundation principle of the Order was the entire prohibition of the traffic of alcoholic liquors as a beverage and opposition to license in any form. One object of the Good Templars was to bring the old and young together in a sort of temperance family circle. All men, women, and youth stand on an equality. The pledge was similar to the pledge of all temperance societies. No person could be admitted into the Order who did not avow his full belief in the existence of Almighty God, the Ruler and the Governor of all things. The Good Templars was the first society to do full justice to women. Reverend H. A. Jones, Paul Tarbox, and Henry Hill were Good Templar leaders in this town. Both the "Sons of Temperance" and "Good Templars" were ritualistic. The temperance organizations sponsored and financed the coming of many speakers to Williamsburg.

Among them were Neal Dow, Prohibition candidate for President of the United States in 1880, and John P. St. John, Prohibition candidate for President of the United States in 1884. There was not a hall large enough in Williamsburg to accommodate the people who wished to hear a man denounce the saloon.

The Equal Suffrage League was organized September 25, 1913, with Miss Elizabeth Fitch acting as president. Its object was to further interest in suffrage for women and to prepare the town's women for an intelligent use of the ballot. For four years regular meetings were held when town, city, and federal governments with the various departments of each were carefully studied. Parliamentary law, the U. S. Constitution, the Judiciary, political parties, taxation, vocational and industrial schools were essential topics which held the interest of citizens who were awake to civic needs.

The history of the Williamsburg Grange has been contributed by Mrs. Marie Church.

"In the year 1900 our town became interested in starting a Grange. Through the influence of I. N. Day, of Amherst, and W. N. Howard, of North Easton, deputies of the Massachusetts State Grange, who canvassed the town, a preliminary meeting was held October 20. So many were interested that on November 1 our Grange was organized with fifty-eight members. After forty-five years, twenty of that number are still living and nine are members of the Grange.

"The list of charter members is as follows:

R. D. Ames
Anna B. Adams
John Black
Mr. & Mrs. E. H. Chapin
Mr. & Mrs. Charles S. Damon
Harry Drake
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Graves
Mr. & Mrs. John Handfield
Mr. & Mrs. Elijah Hemenway
Ethel Loomis
Anna McCalman
Mr. & Mrs. Alanson Nash
Frank Richards
Silas Snow
Mr. & Mrs. Clinton Tower
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Warner
Elinor Warner
Mr. & Mrs. Hollis Cole
Frances Clary
Mr. & Mrs. M. N. Adams
Mr. & Mrs. E. T. Barrus
Dwight Clark

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Church
Mr. & Mrs. Walter Pillinger
Mr. & Mrs. Charles R. Damon
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Shumway
Mrs. Josephine Drake
Mr. & Mrs. Burton Sornborger
Henry Hill
George Tower
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Hosford
Harry Warner
Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Loomis
Frank Wells
Mr. & Mrs. John McCalman
Mr. & Mrs. Dwight Clary
Mr. & Mrs. Emil Miller

"The first officers chosen were:
Master—John McCalman
Overseer — Walter Pillinger
Lecturer—Mrs. Fannie Clary
Steward — Fred Shumway
Assistant Steward—Charles Church
Chaplain—E. G. Chapin
Treasurer— Dwight Clary
Secretary—Mrs. Ella Hemenway
Gate Keeper—Silas Snow
Pomona—Mrs. Clara Adams
Flora—Mrs. Victoria Pillinger
Ceres—Mrs. Lizzie Damon
Lady Assistant Steward — Mrs. Marie Church
Executive Committee — Emil Miller,
Charles R. Damon, Henry Hill.

"The officers of the Northampton Grange were invited to fill the chairs at the next meeting, and Mr. Howard installed the newly elected officers.

"Our first meetings were held in the A. O. U. W. Hall, but we soon outgrew that, and in February we moved to Temperance Hall. The A. O. U. W. Hall was in the tenement building now owned by Miss Genevra Hill, opposite the Congregational Church. Temperance Hall was in the old brick structure, now an apartment house on Main Street, owned by Leslie Packard.

"In 1903, Mr. Henry Hill offered to lend us $200 to buy a piano. We were to pay him back in penny collections. The loan was repaid on November 19, 1904. After that we began our relief fund.

"As we were outgrowing our place of meeting, we began, in 1903, to talk of buying or building a hall. Four years later we held our first fair, and it was voted to use the proceeds, $225, to start a building fund. It was this same year that the expenses of the lecturer to the State Grange were paid by the local Grange. In March, 1915, we talked of renting the school building, and on April 7 we voted to lease it for ten years, for $35 a year. We were to make the necessary repairs inside the building, which cost us over $1,000. On June 5, we held our first meeting in the new hall. When the lease expired in 1925, we purchased the building, and it was dedicated on our twenty-fifth anniversary, October 31, 1925.

"In 1901, we had our first Ladies' Degree Team, and they gave their first drill in 1927. Now it is indeed hard to tell which team does the best work, or gives the best drill. Our first tableaux were given in 1913.

"It was voted in 1910, that one evening each year be set aside as a memorial evening, and that was kept up for several years. In September, 1926, our first flower show was put on under the direction of Wilbur M. Purrington, just a few weeks before his death. It has been held annually in his honor ever since.

"Mr. and Mrs. McQuestion and their daughters, Mrs. Russell and Mrs. Johnson, of Hadley, were of great help to us in the first years of our existence, always ready with their help and advice. We have always called Mr. and Mrs. McQuestion the father and mother of this Grange.

"From our charter membership of fifty-eight we have grown, until now we number 202 members. In forty-five years our order has taken into membership about 870 people. Nineteen members of Williamsburg Grange took the seventh degree when the National Grange met in Hartford during Frank Brooks' term as Master; forty-two took it in 1934 when the National Grange again met in Hartford."

[101]"The Williamsburg Grange has always been active in community service work. Some of the causes to which they have contributed money are the Children's Aid, the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, the Salvation Army, the Red Cross, the Boys' and Girls' Clubs, the Boy and Girl Scouts, the Vacation Bible School, the Dickinson Hospital, the Three County Fair Association and the Hampshire County Health Association. They gave to Armenian and Near East Relief, and during World War II, to British Relief. A collection was taken for the people of Japan following the earthquake of 1923. The Grange was instrumental in establishing the Visiting Nurse Association in 1918 and the Dental Clinic in 1922 and raised money for both.

"The use of the Grange Hall has been given for many community affairs, including Extension Service classes and demonstrations. Its use has been given on many occasions to the church and school and to other town organizations. During World War I it was used for Red Cross work. When the basement of the Congregational Church was flooded in 1936, the Grange Hall was used for church services.

"Grange property, including silver, dishes, tables, scenery and lights, has been loaned to many organizations.

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101 By Miss Helen Drake.

"The Grange has always been interested in encouraging the young people of the town, and it has given money For prizes to the School Industrial Club, the Home Economics Club, and the 4-H Club. At one time when a local Girl Scout earned an Eagle badge, they bought this badge for her. Programs and exhibits by the young people's clubs have been sponsored by the Grange. 4-H Club members have at various times been sent to Camp Howe. Grange members have supervised 4-H garden club contests and acted as judges for the same. At one time they sent a boy to the Poultry Club convention in New York and at other times they have sent boys and girls to poultry and vegetable judging contests. In 1935 they gave money to send the High School students to an oratorical contest in Ohio, in 1937 to send them to a speech tournament in Illinois, and in 1938 to send two students to a speech tournament in Ohio. In 1924 the Grange established a fund to be known as the Grange Mathematics Fund, the proceeds from which are used each year for prizes for the students doing the best work in mathematics in the Williamsburg High School.

"Committees have been appointed at various times to consider what could be done to improve the appearance of the town. Flower beds have been planted and flower boxes placed in front of Grange Hall. Trees and shrubs have been planted at various times. The Grange worked for a community swimming pool, and was instrumental in having conditions at the town dump improved. In 1920 money was given to help in the improvement of High Street, in Haydenville, and about the same time, when the selectmen were opposed to the playing of basketball in the town hall, they contributed a good deal of time and about $600 to fixing the inside of the building, covering it with beaver-board and painting it. They have cooperated with the Village Planning Committee since that committee was started.

"Many Grange programs which were of an educational nature have been opened to the public, and at one time lecture courses were sponsored. In 1921 $25 was given to Meekins Library for new books. A demonstration of the dial telephone was sponsored by the Grange before that system was installed in town. In 1933 the Community Service Committee urged the preparation of a town history and money was given toward the establishment of a town history fund.

"During World War II a committee was appointed to interest Grange members in having Victory gardens and to offer them advice. Fuel oil, wood, and farm labor surveys were conducted. The town was canvassed to see how many were willing to serve as blood donors and to go to Dickinson Hospital to have their blood typed, Dr. Hobbs cooperating in this project by examining the volunteers. The Grange dues of all members in service have been paid by the Community Service Committee, and this will be continued until one year after discharge. Since July, 1944, a monthly news-letter has been sent to all members in service.

"In 1912 the State Grange established an educational aid fund for the purpose of aiding the young people of the Grange in obtaining higher education. At the beginning the fund amounted to $3,927, and in 1945 it was $139,641. An average of ninety loans have been made each year. Since 1912, 2,290 loans have been made amounting to $304,441.

"Williamsburg Grange has contributed to the Educational Aid Fund yearly, giving a total of nearly $350 since the fund was established. Twenty-two different members of the Williamsburg

Grange have had a total of forty-three loans from this fund amounting to *$5,775.* Only one other Grange in the state has had more loans.

"Some features which are more or less traditional with the Grange are the Family Supper held in the spring, the Harvest Supper in the fall, for members and their families, the annual picnic, the annual children's night, the Grange fairs, and neighbors' nights. It is interesting to note that in the early days of the Grange, members from Williamsburg went by team and by trolley car to neighboring Granges, having as many as fifty and seventy participating on some occasions.

"The Ladies' and Men's Degree Teams have been continued through the years. They have often exchanged with degree teams from other Granges, and in 1935 both teams from Williamsburg participated in a contest held at Amherst and won two first prizes.

"Exhibits have been arranged at the Three County Fair, the Cummington Fair, and in 1924 at the Eastern States Exposition, when a first prize of $75 was won.

"In 1908 Williamsburg Grangers were invited to help organize Westhampton Grange and in 1924, when that Grange was obliged to give up its charter, its members were invited to affiliate with Williamsburg.

"Many interesting debates and discussions on timely topics have been held, and at times debates have been arranged with other Granges. Mock trials and mock town meetings have been popular and instructive. In 1933 a mock inauguration was held with Raymond Warner taking the part of Herbert Hoover; Arthur Polmatier, Franklin Roosevelt; and Charles R. Damon, Chief Justice Hughes. Many interesting speakers have talked to the Grangers on a variety of subjects.

"Some programs which have been especially pleasing are 'Aunt Dinah's Quilting Party,' planned and written by Mrs. Silas Snow, an old-fashioned concert in charge of Mrs. Roger Wells, a wedding gown pageant, directed by Mrs. John Breguet, a program which brought news of people of the town who were in service, in charge of Mrs. Carl Rustemeyer, a children's minstrel show, planned by Mrs. Elson Hathaway, and oratorical programs by the high school students.

"In 1925 the Grange celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary and dedicated the Grange Hall which it had just bought from the town. A supper was served by the twenty-three charter members and 250 were present. The State Master was present and dedicated the hall, assisted by Charles R. Damon, Wilbur Purrington, John Breckenridge, and Harry Warner, all Past Masters. A feature of the evening was an original poem by Mrs. Dwight Clary.

"In 1935 when the thirty-fifth anniversary was celebrated, moving pictures were shown of three Grange picnics held at the home of Aaron Bagg, on the Conway road. An original poem written by John Black was read.

"The forty-fifth anniversary was celebrated on December I, 1945, and at that time the mortgage on the hall was burned, and remarks were made by Charles R. Damon. Charles Brown, of Pittsfield, the Overseer of the State Grange, was the speaker of the evening. Only five of the charter members were present.

"The Grange has always taken an interest in current affairs, and it has often written to Congressmen regarding bills under consideration. They urged prohibition in 1917, and favored a bill for state prohibition in 1922. They favored the physical training and school nurses' bills in 192 i. They urged biennial sessions of the State Legislature in 1937. They sent a resolution to the newspapers concerning the threatened strikes in the coal and railroad industries in 1922. They wrote the Commissioner of Education and urged the continuance of the normal school at North Adams in 1923 and again in 1939. In 1941 they sent a resolution to the National Committee urging the sending of food to the small democracies. In 1917 the Grange opposed old age pensions; in 1923, daylight saving; betting on races in 1932; an increase in the gasoline tax and the lottery bill in 1945. In 1927 they sent a letter of commendation to Governor Fuller for his action in the famous Sacco-Vanzetti case.

"The Williamsburg Grange has always been held in high esteem by the Granges of the state. Charles R. Damon was appointed a deputy of the State Grange and held this office for twelve years. The same office was held by Raymond Warner for fourteen years, and at the present time William Culver is a State Grange deputy, having been appointed in 1942. Mrs. Raymond Warner was for several years Ceres in the State Grange. She was also the author and co-director of the pageant used at the Golden Jubilee celebration of the State Grange held in 1916, and author of the one used by the Hampshire County Pomona Grange in 1945 in celebrating their fiftieth anniversary, and directed by William and Hazel Culver. The Grange has received many prizes for community service work from the State Grange and at one time won the achievement trophy given by the Hampshire County Pomona Grange for excellence of Grange work."

Following is a list of Past Masters of Williamsburg Grange No. 225:

John McCalman	1900
Charles R. Damon	1901-02
Clinton B. Tower	1903-04
Luther H. Warner	1905-06
Frank A. Brooks	1907-08
Raymond A. Warner	1909-10
John A. Breckenridge	1911-12
Leon B. Sanderson	1913-14
Wilbur M. Purrington	1915-16
Harry W. Warner	1917-18-19
Ward Shumway	1920-21
S. Ellis Clark	1922-23
Robert Mellen	1924-25
Charles Powers	1926-27
Harry Tower	1928-29-30
W. Leroy Leonard	1931-32
John Breguet	1933-34
Cecil C. Loomis	1935

G. Lawson Clark	1936-37
William B. Culver	1938-39
Russell S. Clark	1940-41
Wellington Clary	1942-1/2 of ’43
Merton Bickford	1/2 of ’43-1944
Chas. M. Damon, Jr.	1945-46

The Know-nothings, that secret political party which flourished in this country between 1852 and 1860, had a chapter in Williamsburg. This group, jealous and fearful of the growing tide of immigrants who were coming to our shores, particularly after the Irish potato famine of 1850, were opposed to all foreigners and to the Catholic Church. Misguided and shortsighted, the Know-nothings were dissolved by both major political parties when the threat of a civil war became imminent.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians, with a branch of the Women’s Auxiliary, had for many years a useful society in the town. There was also a chapter of the Knights of Pythias which was very active for several years. They held meetings in the “Stearns Building” across from the church, and later in Temperance Hall. The Charter was finally moved to Northampton.

In 1860 a Young Men’s Institute was organized in Haydenville with Albert D. Sanders as president. Its purpose was the intellectual and cultural stimulation of its members, and it flourished for many years with a membership sometimes as high as fifty.

The Haydenville Club was incorporated on November 30, 1903, and has, through the years, enjoyed wide popularity and support. The purpose of the organization is stated in its constitution.

“The object of the Club shall be to maintain reading and assembly rooms; to encourage athletic exercises; to promote social intercourse among the members; and for the establishment and maintenance of a place for social meetings.”

In 1905 the group erected the building (on Bridge Street) which has since been used as its home. Through the years, the club has continued to serve the youth of the community in the ways designated in its constitution. On August 7, 1944, the town purchased the Haydenville Club Building as a recreation center. The management of the center was placed in the hands of a Recreation Commission, to be elected by the town.

Haydenville has been for over a century the home of a Masonic Lodge. Its history, by Dr. Charles H. Wheeler, appears below:

“In a list of ‘Subordinate Lodges’ of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts (Webb, 1812), we find *Jerusalem, Williamsburg.* This lodge was moved from Northampton in 1807 and continued to meet in Williamsburg for ten years, holding the first meeting at Brother Hubbard’s. This is the same lodge chartered at Northampton in 1797.

“Hampshire Lodge, with rooms in Haydenville, was organized in 1871 by the following men as charter members:

William Skinner	Edwin H. Miller
Albert C. Morton	Joseph Forsyth
Chester B. Hosford	Thomas M. Carter

George Marks
Joseph Courtright
Hiram G. Hill
Alonzo S. King
Morris P. Purrington
Edward I. Miller
John W. Woodward
Joel Hayden
John W. Lyman
Edward C. Houghton
Esborn Sharp
Robert Cartier
Benson Munyan
Frederick Crossley
John N. Stickland
Elbridge D. Kingsley
Elijah H. Luce
Henry M. Brewster
Andrew Forsyth
Samuel C. Wentworth
Finley L. Smith
Charles Short
Warner S. Smith

"The Masonic Hall, which was finished in 1871, was in the second story of the office building of Hayden, Gere and Company. [102]This was one of the most elegant of buildings, finished without regard to cost, with marble inlaid floors, the finest cabinet work of rosewood and mahogany, and probably unexcelled anywhere for a building of such uses.' These beautiful rooms were a total loss in the flood of 1874 after being occupied about three years. The apron of the Master of Hampshire Lodge was found in Leeds after the disaster. A boy was using it as a blanket for his dog.

"After the flood of 1874 (in which it is believed no Mason lost his life) meetings were held in the parlors of the Haydenville Congregational Church. Later, Cyrus Miller erected the 'Miller Block,' now owned and occupied by Hampshire Lodge, with special provision for lodge rooms on the second floor, the first being occupied by a barber's shop and store. These quarters were rented by the lodge from August 1, 1876 until November 8, 1890 when Galusha F. Miller and Edwin F. Miller, executors of the will of Cyrus Miller, conveyed the building to a committee, in trust, for the benefit and use of Hampshire Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Haydenville.

"About 1920 the first floor of our Masonic Block, lately occupied by William J. Sheehan & Company, was remodeled and furnished for a club room. Thus the lodge today occupies large and well-furnished quarters for work and entertainment of visitors. The present membership of the lodge is about 115.

"Past Masters of the Masons:

Joel Hayden
Benson Munyan
John W. Lyman
Eldridge D. Kingsley
Albert C. Morton
Joseph Courtright
Wilmot L. Clark
Clarence D. Loomis
Samuel A. Ewing
John W. Hill
Thomas J. Curry
John O. Belcher
Henry W. Hill
George E. Emrick

102 Wood, Mill River Disaster, p. 11, Springfield, 1874.

Emil H. Miller
Chauncey W. Fay
William Noble
Leon D. Drake
George E. Tennyson
Melvin L. Emrick
Howard F. Baker
Marcellus T. Cook
Hubert A. Smith
Charles Roberge
Robert M. Mathers
Cecil C. Loomis
Harry W. Tower
Frederick L. Smith
Charles N. Roberge
George M. Page
Franklin E. Main
Walter H. Thayer
Earl F. Brewer
Leon B. Sanderson
Charles L. Jourdian
David P. West
Charles M. Damon
Leslie H. Packard
C. Hugo Stomberg
Robert C. Pielke
Warren E. McAvoy
Lucius A. Merritt
James Adam

[103]"The local chapter of the Eastern Star was instituted April 15, 1921. The ceremonies took place in Masonic Hall, Northampton, conducted by Grand Patron Charles W. James, assisted by Grand Secretary Carrie A. Cushing, Grand Marshal Catherine M. Hoffman, and Grand Chaplain H. Alberta Dearbon. The petition for a chapter was signed by forty-two residents of Haydenville and Williamsburg. Mrs. Rose E. Polmatier, as Worthy Matron, and other officers were appointed by the Grand Patron.

"The adoption of the Constitution and installation of the officers of Joel Hayden Chapter number 171 O. E. S. were held in Grange Hall, Williamsburg, October 29, 1921. The Worthy Grand Matron Alice E. Wallace presented the charter, assisted by Grand Patron Albert E. Thomas.

"The meetings of the chapter were held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. On December i8, 1934, an amendment to the by-laws was adopted to hold one meeting a month on the second Tuesday."

Since its birth, this organization has flourished, enlarging its membership to 14 persons, and continuing to be a source of inspiration to its members. The matrons and patrons of the organization are listed below:

O. E. S. Matrons.
Mrs. Rose Polmatier
Mrs. Hattie Metcalf
Mrs. Mary May
Mrs. Anna Sawin
Mrs. Jane Tennyson

O. E. S. Patrons:
Clinton Fitch
Emil H. Miller
Arthur J. Polmatier
Harry G. Nelson
George E. Tennyson

103 By Mrs. Hattie Metcalf.

Mrs. Wistella Baker	Hubert Smith
Miss Ethel Emrick	Cecil C. Loomis
Mrs. Grace Roberge	Charles Roberge
Mrs. Maude Sanderson	Leon B. Sanderson
Mrs. Ethel Graves	Charles R. Damon
Mrs. Lizzie Damon	Ernest B. Stark
Mrs. Florence Jourdian	Charles L. Jourdian
Mrs. Grace West	David P. West
Mrs. Louise Gould	Charles H. Gould
Mrs. Carrol Tower	Harry W. Tower
Mrs. Estella Powers	Charles A. Bowker
Miss Helen Drake	Ward E. Shumway
Mrs. Mary Hawksley	George H. Hawksley
Mrs. Elinor Symons	(2 years)
Mrs. M. Louise Rudy	Charles M. Damon, Sr.
Mrs. Maude Bowers	(2 years)
Mrs. Estella Warner	Charles R. Damon
Mrs. Doris Loomis	George H. Hawksley
Mrs. Helen Bourne	Victor Symons

The Cornet Band of Haydenville held a very prominent place in village life. A. V. Shannon, organist for the Haydenville Church, was also a band master and formed a band from church members. His successor, E. D. Ingraham, came from South Hadley to become its leader. The war interrupted its progress, but after the war, under the leadership of H. C. Smith, the band resumed its activities and attained great renown. Mr. William Loomis, a former member, has written its history.

“Up to a few years ago our little town of Williamsburg was very fortunate in being able to maintain many musical organizations, particularly brass bands.

“In the year 1890 the writer of this article became a member of the Haydenville Brass Band, an organization which had been in existence for a great many years. This band was very well-known and considered one of the best in western Massachusetts. The engagements of the band took it to Boston, Worcester, Springfield, and many other cities in Massachusetts, as well as places in Connecticut and New York State.

“The leader of the band was the well-known Henry C. Smith who played E-flat cornet in a band in the Civil War. It has been told by more than one of Mr. Smith’s comrades that during a critical period, his band played continually for two hours, during which time Mr. Smith never took the instrument from his lips.

“Previous to 1890 the following men were members of the Haydenville Brass Band:

James Laws	Elijah Luce
George Fisher	Otis Lawrence
Calvin Hosford	Thomas Moakler

Alvin Lawrence
Chester Hosford
Charles Hosford
Theron Metcalf
Byron Loomis
Henry Hitchcock

"Joseph Courtright acted as drum major of the band for several years and was succeeded by Lawrence Molloy. In 1895 ill health prevented Mr. Smith from continuing as leader of the band, and William Noble was engaged to fill the vacancy which he did very successfully and efficiently.

"Since 1890, the following men have been members of the band:

Oscar Emrick
George Hartmann
Samuel Edwards
Clarence D. Loomis
William G. Loomis
Charles C. Connell
Frederick Noble
Eugene Edwards
Thomas Moakler
Arthur Holmes
Melvin Emrick
Robert Cadden
George Tennyson
W. H. Hosford
Fred Emrick
Orrin J. Blinn
Joseph St. Laurent
Joseph Novack
Gideon Moran
Herbert Edwards
Philip Moran
Stenis LeMadlin
E. W. Dimes
Axarie Mongeau
Albert Noble

This band ceased to function in March, 1903.

"In October, 1905, a Mr. W. Fish, who was employed by the Haydenville Company became interested in organizing a band. Some of the older members and many new men met and had several rehearsals and played a few concerts, but this band broke up in February, 1907. Since 1907, several bands have been organized but none lasted very long.

"At one time Williamsburg had a band, and Haydenville had two bands and a drum corps. Many times the Haydenville Band and the Drum Corps were engaged for the same occasion, and always friendly rivalry existed when the two met in a counter-march. As the drum corps was supposed to be the stronger, it always tried to drown out the band, but within the writer's memory this was never accomplished.

"On one occasion many years ago the band was engaged to play in a big parade in Springfield, Massachusetts. It was a beautiful day, and many bands were in the line of march. As usual there was much delay in getting started and also during the parade, with the result that darkness overtook us long before the march was ended. As our unit was one of the last in line, we were obliged to play in the dark without torches. Many bands were at the depot waiting for their trains, and when our little band came up the stairs and onto the platform, playing that stirring march, 'Salute to Burlington,' the applause was tremendous and someone shouted, 'The only band that can play in the dark.'

"We all hope the day will come again when Haydenville will have a brass band, and the people may listen to outdoor concerts during the summer evenings."

Williamsburg boasted a band in 1885. Its members included Hallock Nichols, Frank Bisbee, Fred Crosby, D. Leonard, Henry Kelly, Walter Thayer, Emil Miller, Mr. Shicks, and Mr. Fuller. Mr. Bisbee played the big drum. This band played at the twenty-fifth wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Bisbee.

The Young Wives' Club was organized by Mrs. Estella Warner and Mrs. Frances Snow November 13, 1912. The purpose of this organization was to bring young mothers together that they might discuss problems of the home and children, also to help each other with the sewing and mending, and, as occasion often required, to assist an overburdened housewife. At each meeting one member was prepared to read a paper or lead a discussion upon a subject of her own selection. As was natural, for a time, topics dealt chiefly with domestic affairs, as The Ideal Home, How to Entertain, Home Garden, Around the Evening Lamp, Nursing, Common Sense about Babies, Systematic Housekeeping, Flies the Carriers of Disease, Training of Children, Hygiene and Sanitation, and Short Cuts in Dressmaking. Later, the young women broadened their horizon and gave consideration to civic topics. They argued woman's suffrage, license, or no-license, widows' pensions, and child labor. Since most of the group had never travelled, they longed to learn of other countries. As a result, each member took turns in studying about the geography of some distant land, and the agricultural or mineral products and industry of that country

To finance their philanthropies, the women presented creditably two plays: "Cranford Dames" and "Thompkins' Hired Man." They prepared a vaudeville supper and sponsored numerous whist parties. After five or six years, when the young wives were no longer young, the name became a misnomer and inasmuch as older wives wished to join, it was voted to change the title to "The Wives' Club." The Wives' Club flourished for another five years when it was deemed advisable to disband and merge its efforts with the newly-organized federated Williamsburg Women's Club. The latter, admitting all women of the town was broader in its scope. From the funds in the Wives' Club treasury a lectern was purchased for the Helen E. James School auditorium and a fund was established, the annual income from which would provide $5.00 each year for the high school senior excelling in English.

About forty young people under the leadership of William Dolan organized the Keep Koming Klub in 1898. This club brought together young people of ages from fifteen to thirty-five on Friday evenings of each week. It was an age group that enjoyed debates and discussions above any other form of entertainment. The War with Spain, Imperialism and Anti-imperialism, Government Ownership of Public Utilities, the Value of a College Education vs. the Value of Travel, that the Editor Wields More Influence than the Orator, were favorite topics. Following the example set by young people of a former generation, an occasional play was given. Financially, the most successful plays were "Bread upon the Waters" and "The Spy of Gettysburg." The proceeds from these plays were sufficient to buy a stage curtain for the Town Hall. Miss Mary Carter was always the willing and efficient coach. With Miss Genevra Hill as pianist, the

songs of the gay nineties were known and sung by all the members. In winter, sleighrides to an eating place where oyster stew was served, and picnics in summer were the K. K. K.'s special occasions. When the Grange was organized in 1900 that ritualistic Order attracted several members from the Keep Koming Klub, which was a less conventional organization. Other members carried on as the Progressive Club for two years with the same high standard of entertainment as characterized the K. K. K.

To Estella Damon Warner belongs the credit of organizing the Williamsburg Women's Club in October, 1923. By her energy, persuasion and enthusiasm she secured the names of 103 women, as charter members, who were accepted by the State Federation of Women's Clubs in March, 1924. Through Mrs. Warner's persistent efforts as organizer, and the conscientious, loyal service of the fourteen presidents, the Club has attained a vigorous growth manifested by the quality of its varied programs. The Club has strictly adhered to its original aim: to stimulate intellectual improvement, civic interest, and social service. To stimulate intellectual improvement we note those travel-talks by persons from nearby towns and colleges, who have first-hand information concerning New England, the Western and Southern States of our own country, Alaska, Hawaii, Canada, Labrador, Iceland, Mexico, South America, England, France, Greece, Spain, Switzerland, Japan, the Philippines, China, Africa, Australia, New Zealand, India, and The Holy Land. Visitors to nearly every country have come to tell their story to the Williamsburg Women's Club.

We were the first Federated Club to join the National Economy League in 1933. The May annual banquets have been gala occasions with toast-mistress and toasts on several occasions, skits, readings, and music.

Further, for intellectual improvement, there have been several current events programs when all or portions of meetings have been devoted to timely topics. A well-known speaker of the Connecticut Valley, Mrs. William G. Dwight, editor and owner of the *Ho/yoke Transcript,* and an able news analyst, has been a welcome guest of the Club several times. She was present at the first meeting, at the fifteenth anniversary of the Club, and only illness kept her from observing the Club's twentieth anniversary.

For the past ten years Mrs. Leon Damon, an invalid, has served as chairman of Legislation or of World Affairs. She has sent to the Club a monthly letter dealing with topics of the day in an instructive, humorous, and friendly spirit. Twice she surprised the Club with greetings from Governor Saltonstall and Wendell Willkie. The desire for reading the best books has been stimulated often. Mary Ellen Chase addressed the Club on the subject "The Author and His Reader." We have had at least twelve afternoons spent in book reviews captioned as "An Afternoon with Books," "Friendship of Books," or "Books and Authors." These reviews have been given by the proprietors of the well-known Hampshire Bookshop in Northampton, by officers of the State Federation and by well-read members of our own organization. More than 200 books have thus been reviewed. The Club has purchased a number of these books, distributing them among the members to be read and then sold to members for a small sum. The Club has given several books to the town libraries. It was voted recently to buy books for the Meekins Library in

memory of deceased members. In 1934, as a project for raising money, a roadside book stall was established. A goodly sum was realized by the sale of old books and knick-knacks. The proceeds of this sale were donated to the cancer clinic in Springfield. The members have listened to lectures on almost every conceivable subject: Old Glass, Old China, Old Shawls, Home Decoration, Nature topics, Birds, Flowers, Taxes, How to Make a Will, Law Enforcement, Good Roads, Schools for the Feeble-minded, Pests of the Garden, Germs of the Body, Nutrition, Care of Children, Economics of War, Peace. At the annual banquet May 23, 1928, we were honored by having Dr. Mary Woolley, then president of Mt. Holyoke College, as our guest. She spoke informally on the "Institute of Pacific Relations." Poems and short plays have frequently been read. Vocal and instrumental music has been furnished at a majority of meetings. In the early years, the Dramatics and Music Committees provided excellent public entertainments, netting neat sums for the Club's treasury. Among the plays presented were "The Old Homestead," the revival of which drew packed houses two nights; ''Man of the Hour'' was twice given , ''Man on the Box'' "Little Women"; "Quarantined." The "Bells of Beaujolais," given in 1924, was the first musical comedy to be held in the town for twenty-five years. A minstrel show, fashion show, garden parties, street fairs, and card parties, held in a hall or at the homes of members, helped to finance many projects.

In 1934 the Women's Club raised and appropriated $150 to rebuild the dam which controls the flume and waterfall on the Berkshire Trail near the Chesterfield Road. The Club appropriated $10 to purchase 100 flowering dogwood. Charles Tiley gave $100. Miss Marion Dodd of the Hampshire Bookshop contributed dogwood trees; the Cemetery Association, chestnut trees; and Louis Cranson, plank. Adverse conditions followed this public-spirited undertaking. Muskrats burrowed in the dam; high water and the hurricane demolished a one-time attractive waterfall. The efforts of the Club and its friends were none the less arduous and sincere.

In memory of a beloved citizen, Wilbur M. Purrington, an acre of land was purchased for the State Reforestation project.

Through repeated demands by the Women's Club the town dump was cleaned up. The Club sponsored a cleanup day for the removal of tin cans and garbage.

In 1928 the Club bought a community Christmas tree which was planted on the library lawn and lighted during the holiday season. Numerous Christmas baskets have been filled and given to the ill and the aged. In 1925 a member was appointed to serve as Friendship Lady, carrying cheer and comfort to members and neighbors in trouble. Contributions have been made to the Red Cross—$100 at one time, to assist in the town's quota—to the Home for Crippled Children, Children's Aid, Perkins Institute for the Blind, dental clinics and cancer clinics. There has been close cooperation with the Visiting Nurse. Much attention has been paid to Public Health. An all-day Public Health Conference was held April 30, 1938. The following lectures were given: Public Health Problems in a Rural Community, Modern Public Health Program, Health from a Standpoint of Insurance, Syphilis Education, and Mental Diseases.

The school has been aided by gifts to the Athletic Association, to the construction of a tennis court, and to the dental clinic. Unsuccessful efforts were made to find a suitable place for a

swimming pool. A temporary skating rink was provided. The twentieth anniversary gift to the school is $100, the income from which will be used to make a gift of $5 annually to the girl in the senior class who, in the opinion of the faculty, has made the most of the opportunities offered at high school and done the most with these opportunities for her school.

Our War Veterans committee has co-operated with the War Veterans Hospital in Northampton by sending cookies, cakes, books, magazines, silk pieces, and old silk stockings to be made into rugs. We provided several entertainments for the Veterans Hospital and for the Tuberculosis Sanatorium in Leeds. Recently, cards, candy, and cookies were sent to all of the town's service men. Boxes have been filled for Russian and Navy relief. Money was contributed to the Sun Room at Fort Devens. Boxes of books and games were sent to the soldier camps, Devens and Edwards, in this state. The Club has purchased war bonds.

The First President's Day meeting was held November 17, 1937. Affiliation with neighboring clubs and the annual trips by our president to Swampscott, the State Conference, have been well worthwhile. The district directors of the state have contributed constructive advice and the presidents have received inspiration and very tangible results by attendance at the state conferences. Four of our members now serve on state committees: Mrs. Raymond Warner, Legislation; Mrs. Lucius Merritt, Conservation; Mrs. Ruth Outhuse, American Home; and Mrs. Lazell Brainard, Division of Public Health. In 1945, there were seventy-one members, eighteen charter members, thirteen of whom have had continuous membership the twenty-two years.

Honorary Presidents have included Mrs. Helen E. James, a benefactress of the town and a charter member of the Club to which she contributed money generously. After Mrs. James' death in 1930, Mrs. Helen Hinds was chosen honorary president. Because of extreme deafness and advancing years Mrs. Hinds was unable to attend meetings, but she had a great interest in the Club's activities and seat a liberal donation each year. Mrs. Hinds died in 1941.

Presidents:

1923—1924	Mrs. Leon Higgins
1924—1925	Mrs. Alvah Shumway
1925—1926	Mrs. Fannie Clary
1926—1927	Mrs. Charles Church
1927—1929	Mrs. Carl Rustemeyer
1929-1930	Mrs. Hazel Packard
1930-1932	Mrs. Howard Baker
1932—1933	Miss Dorothea Ward
1933—1935	Mrs. Charles Powers
1935—1938	Mrs. Charles Tiley
1938—1939	Mrs. Janet Buck
1939-1941	Mrs. Lazell Brainard
1941—1943	Mrs. Lucius Merritt
1943—1944	Mrs. Raymond Warner
1944—1945	Mrs. Charles Powers

1945-. Mrs. Winfield Smith

These thirteen charter members have had continuous membership:

Mrs. Howard Baker
Mrs. Charles Church
Mrs. Leon Damon
Miss Genevra Hill
Miss Myra Hill
Mrs. Eleanor Jenkins
Miss Louise Porter
Mrs. Clayton Rhoades
Mrs. Carl Rustemeyer
Mrs. Hubert Smith
Mrs. Raymond Warner
Miss Ruth Watson
Mrs. Silas Snow

[104]"The Haydenville Women's Club celebrated its fortieth anniversary in 1944. The purpose of the group, 'helpfulness in the community and the mutual improvement of its members,' as stated in the constitution has certainly met fulfillment in the busy years since 1904. The worthy projects which received regular contributions from the club included the Visiting Nurse Association, the school, and the Dickinson Hospital in Northampton. One year the group raised $140 for the hospital at a booth on the Northampton Fair Grounds. By their hands, much help has gone out to the needy, and the sick and absent have been consistently remembered with flowers and messages.

"The meetings were held every two weeks, and early programs consisted of a study of problems and trends in American history. For a period of about ten years a program committee decided upon a certain topic which was given to a leader to be presented by her to the club in the most interesting and informative way possible. After that, for an equal period of time, the leader read from any author or led a discussion on any subject she chose. Since then, the programs have been varied, at the discretion of the leader, and the members have continued to derive much inspiration and enjoyment from them.

"The club was organized by Mrs. V. Merritt, who served as its president the first two years of its existence."

The following is a list of past presidents:

1904-6 Mrs. Victor Merritt
1906-7 Mrs. T. I. Breckenridge
1907-8 Mrs. George Page
1908-17 No record
1917-20 Mrs. C. B. Tower
1920-22 Mrs. Charles Wheeler
1922-24 Miss Eleanor Hayden
1924-25 Mrs. W. M. Purrington
1925-27 Mrs. L. B. Lawrence
1927-30 Mrs. W. J. Sheehan
1930-34 Mrs. Frederick Smith

104 By Mrs. Marion Breckenridge.

1934-36 Miss Elizabeth Purrington
1936-37 Mrs. Charles Wheeler
1937-39 Mrs. Roswell Jorgensen
1939-41 Miss Helen Mosher
1941-42 Mrs. Frederick Smith
1942-44 Mrs. John Jones
1944-45 Mrs. Edward McColgan
1945-46 Mrs. Rollo Purrington

[105]"The Williamsburg Visiting Nurse Association was organized in November, 1919, as a direct result of a discussion on the nursing problems in small towns heard by Mrs. William J. Sheehan at a meeting in Northampton. She talked the matter over with Mr. Wilbur M. Purrington who in turn presented the idea at a meeting of the business men of the town which he had called together for that purpose at the Williams House. A visiting nurse for Williamsburg met with immediate approval, and Mr. A. S. Hills volunteered $200 toward support of such a nurse, who might also be called to care for any emergency at the Brass Shop. The following account is taken from the *Hampshire Gazette* for November 13, 1919:

"'A large and enthusiastic meeting was held in the High School last evening to make final plans for the Visiting Nurse Association. W. M. Purrington was appointed chairman for the evening and Mrs. R. A. Warner, secretary pro tem. A set of by-laws was adopted and officers for the coming year were elected. Mrs. W. A. Sheldon of the Northampton Nurses' Association was present and gave some valuable information in the way Northampton and other places manage their societies. The following officers were elected: President, Mrs. W. J. Sheehan; Vice-presidents, Mrs. L. D. James, Mrs. John Pierpont, Mrs. R. F. Burke, Miss Lucy Fitch, Mrs. Thomas Dunphy, Mrs. C. J. Hills, Mrs. Howard Pomeroy; Secretary, Mrs. R. A. Warner; Treasurer, Mr. H. A. Smith; Executive Committee, Mrs. R. F. Burke, Mrs. Frank Main, Mrs. George Dolan, Mrs. Frank Taylor, Mrs. C. G. Sheehan, Mrs. Ward Shumway, Miss Katherine Riley, Miss Anne Dunphy, Miss Katherine Fitch; Finance Committee from Haydenville, Mrs. J. C. Foster, Mrs. T. F. Dunphy, Mrs. Jane Waite, Mrs. P. J. Murphy, Mrs. E. C. Miller, Mrs. Alfreda Jorgensen, Mrs. F. Walpole, Mrs. William Loomis, Mrs. William Devlin, Mrs. William Warner, Mrs. Alex Stemkowski, Mrs. B. Kmit, Mrs. J. Mansfield, Mrs. J. F. Best, Mrs. E. Schuler, Mrs. James Ryan, Mrs. Philip Larkins, Mrs. Andrew Antoz, Mrs. George Hartmann, Mrs. George Tennyson, Miss Stella Hill, Miss Mary Dunphy, Miss Nelle Dolan, Miss Rose Brown, Miss M. E. Blanchard, Miss Alice Larkin, Miss Nellie O'Brien, Miss M. Lenihan, Miss K. Hickey; Finance Committee from Williamsburg, Miss M. G. Hill, Mrs. Louis Cranson, Mrs. Fred Shumway, Mrs. A. Waite, Mrs. Hal Nichols, Mrs. James Dunn, Mrs. Warner Nash, Mrs. A. Polmatier, Mrs. Preston Otis, Mrs. L. Higgins, Mrs. F. LaValley, Mrs. P. Handfield, Mrs. Pennington, Mrs. R. Bradford, Mrs. A. Tilton, Mrs. E. Clark, Mrs. W. Bisbee, Mrs. J. Mathers, Miss Marion Traver, Miss Hazel Warner, Miss Evelyn Nash, Miss Vera Thresher.

105 By Mrs. Lula Smith.

"'The Finance Committee is requested to meet at the home of Mrs. W. J. Sheehan Friday evening of this week at 7:45.'

"Until 1925 the money to carry on the organization was raised annually by the finance committees by means of house- to-house canvassing, card parties, dances, etc., plus a substantial amount from the Brass Shop. Since 1925 the School Committee has appropriated $500 annually and the nurse thereby has taken on the added duties of a school nurse. The first annual solicitation for funds showed the substantial amount of $771.83 collected, but as time went on it became harder and harder to raise sufficient funds. In 1932 the town for the first time appropriated $500 for the support of the nurse, thus relieving the finance committee from its responsibilities to a great extent. The *Gazette* for January 24, 1920, states that 'the Williamsburg Visiting Nurse Association is very fortunate, at last, in securing the services of Miss Allen of Deerfield.' Following are the names of the nurses who have served the needs of townspeople and school children so well since our first visiting nurse in 1920: Miss Boland, Miss Mary Lenihan, Miss Fabiola Plourde, Miss Long, Miss Guimond, Mrs. Dwyer, Mrs. John Campbell, Mrs. John Jones, Mrs. Thomas Lenihan, and Mrs. Martin Dunphy. Since the Visiting Nurse Association was organized, Mrs. William J. Sheehan, who resigned from its staff in November, 1945, has been its true and loyal supporter and the guiding influence in forming its policies."

The Extension Service program in Hampshire County started in 1914 as the Farm Bureau. In their original organization the following Williamsburg men were active:

Charles R. Damon, Sidney F. Packard, Wilbur M. Purrington, E. W. Goodhue, Leon Sanderson, and John Ice.. Although the Extension Service focuses its activities on the county rather than on any one particular town, the rural aspects of our village rendered the organization valuable to many townsfolk. County agents aid the farmers in an advisory capacity, and other branches of the Extension Service include women and young people in its plan for a better rural life. Mr. Silas Snow has acted as trustee from Williamsburg for the last twenty-five years.

Some of the best early work here was accomplished with fruit growers, as Williamsburg was the center for marketing Hampshire County apples. The old stable in the center of town was taken over as a storage shed, and apples were sold to such distant points as Providence, Philadelphia, and Chicago. During the first World War, Williamsburg, along with other towns in the county, received its quota of seed potatoes which were grown throughout this area.

Home demonstration work began in Williamsburg in 1916 or 1917. Home demonstration agents advise local housewives in all phases of home-making, cooking, food preservation, home furnishing, clothing, and nutrition. This continues to be a useful and worth-while service with well- attended meetings and interested members. Present officers include Mrs. Murray Graves, Advisory Council member; Mrs. LeRoy Leonard, Town Chairman; Mrs. Walter Hathaway, Vice-chairman; and Mrs. Milton Rice, Secretary.

'Organizations for young people became increasingly numerous in the twentieth century. One of the earliest of these, founded soon after its origin in this country, was the Boy Scouts. Thus Troop I of the Williamsburg Boy Scouts became one of the first troops to be established in the United States. Its founder, Howard F. Baker, continued his leadership of this troop for twenty

years. Originated at a time when scouting was not as widespread as it is at present, and in a day when young boys did not have such diverse opportunities for entertainment as are afforded now, the Williamsburg Scout Troop offered to many boys a new and exciting experience. Mr. Baker possessed a knowledge both of the out-of-doors and of the old historical legends of the surrounding vicinity This knowledge, and the contact with his personality, gave to many a boy, by his own testimony, an experience far richer and more lasting than any that could be found from just a scout manual.

[106]"Formally organized on April 5, 1918, the Scouts met every Tuesday night for years, much of the time at the home of Mr. Howard Baker on South Street. The usual merit badges were earned, the Scout handbooks carefully studied, and the boys passed through the regular stages of tenderfoot, second class and first class Scouting.

"Through these twenty years, one of the greatest joys of being a Scout has been the summer encampments with their leader, their director, teacher, and pal. The first camp was for four days at the Westhampton reservoir, where Mr. Baker taught his first patrol of eight boys the arts of outdoor cooking, woodcraft, and the sights and sounds of nature which always meant much to him. It was in the second year of his Scoutmastership that Mr. Baker and his Scouts were saddened by the tragic drowning of Kenneth Damon, assistant Scoutmaster, and one of the finest young men in the town. Knowing that it would be the wish of his assistant, Mr. Baker, later in the summer, 'carried on' with a week's encampment in West Cummington. Every year after that the Scout camp, later known as Camp Baker, was in West Cummington, most of the time near the site of the old paper mill, but once at Tirrell's farm, and six years ago near the Rivulet in the Streeter Meadows.

"The first year they ate and cooked in the open, borrowing two tents at first and three later for sleeping quarters. They were always the only troop in the country to sleep 'roughing it,' without cots. Through the efforts of Mr. Baker and his Scouts, considerable equipment has been acquired by this troop. The first uniforms were bought with money raised by dances and worn with great pride by the boys in a Memorial Day parade in 1919. Since then, boys who could afford to do so have bought their own. In 1920 the boys, under Mr. Baker's direction, built a trek-wagon. This same year they bought three new tents with money earned selling Larkin orders and the proceeds of a play. The next year they bought two more new tents and a second-hand mess tent was given them by the Hampshire County Christian Endeavor Society. It was in 1921 also that an associate member organization was formed, a group which assumed the responsibility of buying the library lot, which was later exchanged for a more desirable site on the Petticoat Hill road. In 1920, the old Nat Thompson blacksmith shop was bought by this organization, taken apart by Mr. Baker and the boys during the winter and then reassembled on this site. In that year the troop was presented with a Chevrolet engine and bought a generator with funds donated by a friend of the troop. This gave the camp electricity. Another feat of that year was the building of a suspension bridge over the Westfield River near the camp. This practical work was supervised

106 December 6, 1937, Daily Hampshire Gazette. Written upon the occasion of Mr. Baker's resignation after twenty years of service. Submitted by Mr. Robert F. Nash.

by Mr. Baker, and added much to the boys' enjoyment. The Scout House on the Hill was first used as a meeting place on June 16, 1925, when the boys proudly took possession of this building which they had done so much to make possible. In 1926, a new tarpaulin was bought for the kitchen and two more second-hand tents, nine x twelve. This year also a hot water system for washing dishes was installed at camp. In 1928, a Ford chassis was bought, upon which the lighting equipment was placed. The following year the associate members raised money for a new twenty by thirty-foot mess tent, which was used as a living room for evenings and rainy days at camp. This year a new stove was acquired and sanitary fixtures installed. In 1932, a hot air furnace was put in the Scout House. The last new equipment to be installed was a new pump for pumping water from the brook to the camp at Paper Mill village.

"Another of the joys of Scouting under the leadership of Mr. Baker was the interesting hiking trips he planned. One of the earliest was a two-day trip with the trek-wagon up to Mt. Greylock and back.

"Other hikes included overnight trips to Windsor Jams, the talc mines, Clary Farm, Lake Damon, Richmond Lake in Pittsfield, Stafford Hill, and Martin's Knob.

"Some of the outstanding events of the Scout troop through the years include: that first Memorial Day parade; Associate Member Sundays, when the boys cooked the dinner and served it to their guests; Boy Scout Church Sundays, when all Scouts went to church in uniform; the woodworking classes of '22; the fife and drum corps of '27; that 'Old Home Week' float and the floats for which the troop received prizes at the Three County fairs; the hunt for the Smith College senior, Frances Smith; the big Hampshire County meet in Williamsburg in 1928; and the thrill of setting up and owning the first Community Christmas tree in that same year; Scout plays, minstrels, food sales, suppers, and dances have always been enjoyed by townspeople and the boys also.

"Since 1927, the Scouts have had an exhibit and demonstration of Scouting nearly every year at the Congregational Church. These have been much enjoyed by the townspeople, who have come to have a deep appreciation of what Mr. Baker and the boys have been doing. The Scouts have often attended, and in some years have participated in, the Scout meet at Smith's School. For several years, a two-months' membership for the Scouts was had at the Y. M. C. A. in Northampton."

After the resignation of Mr. Baker, the leadership of the Scouts changed many times. At present the Williamsburg Troop continues its valuable work under the capable guidance of Mr. Lewis Black. Twenty-three boys are now registered. During the war they aided greatly in the scrap drive and tin salvage drive. They had full charge of the campaign for waste paper, collecting six tons in all. By acting as messengers in blackouts, they helped in civilian defense work. The troop has bought the Fred Hemenway milk house for their meeting-place.

For a time the pastor of the Williamsburg Congregational Church, Reverend John P. Manwell, had a troop of Boy Rangers. This was for boys too young for Scouting.

[107]"One of the first organized groups for girls was the troop of Campfire Girls under the leadership of Mrs. Sara Hathaway. Other leaders were Rachel Hemenway Adams, now deceased; Dorothy Bosworth O'Donnell of Marshfield, Massachusetts; and Leila E. Hyde of Mt. Vernon, New York.

"The first leader of a Girl Scout troop was Grace Bresley Medbury of White Plains, New York. She started the troop in the spring of 1919, and in June the troop was taken over by Mrs. G. Vernon Warner, assisted by Mrs. Fred Sanderson (1919-1920). This troop camped at the old Breckenridge cottage on the farm now owned by Harold Packard.

"In the fall of 1921, Dorothy Manwell assumed leadership, aided by Isabel Breckenridge (until her death). This year the troop went to Camp Baker, the Boy Scout camp in West Cummington for two weeks following the Boy Scout camping trip. Dorothy Manwell died in 1922. This was the end of Girl Scouting in Williamsburg until it was revived by Linda Howlett in 1925. In the fall of 1927 her place was taken by Mrs. Vivian Black, who was assisted by Mrs. Ruth Graves. The following year Miss June Flanders took over the troop (1928-29).

"In the fall of 1929, Miss Mae Meehan of Leeds, herself a Golden Eaglet, became leader of the troop. She possessed outstanding qualities of leadership, and her personality had a profound influence on the girls. In 1933, under her direction and guidance, the first First Class badges to be awarded were presented to Mrs. Marjorie Damon Thoms (now of Bellows Falls, Vermont), Mrs. Mildred Sylvester Hannigan (of Hadley), 2nd Lieutenant Nancy Sheehan Walt, an Army nurse who served overseas in the Pacific Theater, and Mrs. Evelyn Rustemeyer Kmit. The troop camped at Ash- field Lake in the summers of 1931, 1932, and 1933.

"When Miss Meehan found how much Mrs. James had done for the Girl Scouts, the troop presented her with a Thanks badge.

"In the fall of 1933 Mrs. Phebe Collins, assisted by Miss Carolyn Galbraith, came to the aid of the Scouts. When Miss Galbraith was forced to discontinue her work because of ill health, her place was taken by Mrs. Ruth Graves, and again Miss Meehan returned to lend invaluable aid. In March of 1934, the twenty-first birthday of the Girl Scouts was celebrated in Boston and about twenty girls and leaders attended. Also in 1934 the troop had its first camping trip at Camp Ashmere in Hinsdale. Miss Meehan was camp director.

"In the fall of 1936, Miss Bertha Antes became leader, soon followed by Mrs. Alta Bickford whose work was taken over in December by Mrs. Ruth Graves. During this year several girls received their First Class badges and three Scouts achieved the highest award offered by the organization, the Golden Eaglet. They were Mrs. Mildred Hannigan, 2nd Lieutenant Nancy Walt, and Mrs. Evelyn Kmit.

"In December, 1936, the Girl Scouts accepted the resignation of Mrs. Carl P. Rustemeyer who had been chairman of the troop committee since 1929. It was through her tireless efforts that the troop weathered many a financial crisis, had such successful camping trips, and were blessed with such talented leaders.

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107 By Mrs. Evelyn Rustemeyer Kmit.

"At this time Mrs. Phyllis Baker Deming took over the duties of Scout leader, and the following summer the troop camped at West Cummington. When Mrs. Deming left for Connecticut the following fall, the troop disbanded because of lack of leadership.

"In the fall of 1942, Mrs. Ruth Graves, assisted by Mrs. Grace Wells and Mrs. Evelyn Kmit, again revived the troop. Mrs. Shirley Rhoades Meisse is the present Senior Scout leader, and Mrs. Lauri Ronka has charge of the Intermediate Scouts.

"Throughout the life of the Williamsburg Girl Scouts, the troop often suffered rather hard going, or complete disorganization, because of lack of continuous leadership. But during those periods when the girls had guidance, they made up for the enforced inactivity by the scope of their achievements. Besides the high awards which many received, they always marched Memorial Day, filled Christmas baskets, and contributed their services to many community projects. Some of the girls, 'alumnae' of the Williamsburg troop, have resumed work in scouting in other communities where they have made their homes. Mrs. Kmit, an 'alumna' and the present leader of the Brownies, received in 1938 the gold stripe for ten years of continuous service."

For a short time, about 1929, a group of Girl Reserves flourished in the town.

For almost half a century boys and girls of Williamsburg have been participating in 4-H activities. Even before there was a national organization by that name, Prof. William R. Hart of Massachusetts State College had started Boys and Girls Club Work. This was initiated in 1908. In the beginning this work was limited to Hampshire County and there were active participants in Williamsburg. The first project was a potato club with members raising them in competition for cash prizes on the basis of yield and quality.

Before 1920 records of activities are rather incomplete, but there is evidence that the young people continued to be active in the projects which were expanded to include Home, School, and Market Garden projects as well as Corn, Hay, Pig, Poultry, Canning, and Breadmaking. During this period the work was sponsored by the State Department of Agriculture and actively supported by the State Department of Education and agricultural societies. A few facts that indicate Williamsburg's activity at this time are:

In 1914 the County Farm Bureau was first formed. Its first president was Charles R. Damon of Williamsburg. One of its main purposes was to sponsor an educational program in agriculture and home economics through what we know now as the Extension Service. This service was first extended to the young people on a county basis in the years 1915-16. Previous to this, all of the work had been on a state-wide basis. In the fall of 1916 Williamsburg was one of five towns in Hampshire County to have a 4-H garden exhibit. Many club members also exhibited at the Three County Fair that fall. In the war years the greatest emphasis was placed on food production projects, such as Garden, Pig, Poultry, and Canning.

During the war the passage of the Federal Smith Lever Act gave great impetus to 4-H work all over the country. In 1920 there was project work in Williamsburg in Canning, Corn, and Poultry. By 1921 there were projects in Canning, Clothing, Calf, Pig, and Sow and Litter. In this year the local club members had a float at the Three County Fair.

All through the years the Grange has been actively interested in this work. During the early ’20’s they had a club member department which included canning, clothing, and agricultural projects. At about this time greater emphasis began to be placed upon organized 4-H Clubs. Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Clark served as leaders.

Williamsburg has always been outstanding for the quality of the work done by individual club members who were not members of any local club, but it has also had some outstanding clubs. One of these was the Live Wire Poultry Club which was started in 1929 and continued for several years. About this time there were also some excellent clubs in the home economics field. There were several girls clubs that were well known all over the county for their work.

Over a period of many years the public schools were most co-operative. The superintendent, Mr. L. A. Merritt, was always an active booster for the work. It was through his co-operation that an experiment which received statewide attention was tried. Every boy and girl in the schools was given the opportunity to indicate in what type of 4-H activity he would be interested. The newly-formed town 4-H Committee then attempted to see that leaders and club programs were provided to satisfy these interests. Several excellent clubs resulted from this. This procedure was copied by several other towns.

During the years that 4-H work has existed in Hampshire County nearly every family in Williamsburg has been touched in some way by the work. Many of its boys and girls have made outstanding records as individual club members, working without leadership other than that of the county workers. Some have been chosen to represent the county at state camps in Massachusetts State College. However, there have been some outstanding clubs, too. Some of the family names that appear in one group or the other through the years are: Clark, Warner, Damon, Snow, Outhuse, Wells, Cook, Otis, Waite, Van Slike, Pennington, Robbins, Golash, Nietsche, Derosia, Foster, Merritt, Beebe, Wales, Thayer, and Nash. There were, of course, many others interested and active.

PART III

RECENT YEARS

CHAPTER XX
THE LAST FORTY-FIVE YEARS

OUT OF the reconstruction which followed the flood emerged the town more or less as we know it. The population of the town at this writing, as obtained from the town clerk, Mr. Edward Foster, is 1,875. The years of the twentieth century bring us up-to-date in its history. Beautiful, energetic, largely residential with the exception of the few industries familiar to us, Williamsburg still reflects the trends and progress of a great nation. And this being true, let us note some of the new developments which took place in the town between the last days of the Gay Nineties and the present.

New modes of transportation appeared to replace the old. The Northampton Street Railway Company operated a trolley service to Williamsburg from 1894 to 1926. Many dramas concerning those old trolleys can be recalled by those who depended upon them for transportation to work and for enjoyment. The blizzards of winter brought forth a car with a huge revolving brush to clear the track, while the first appearance of the open cars was a sure sign of spring.

The trolley cars did not start running from Northampton to Williamsburg until 1894. According to a newspaper account of the time, the trip of the first trolley to town was an event which caused great celebration. The account reads :[108]

"Fifty years ago today, on Friday, June 16, 1894, a celebration which attracted thousands, according to a newspaper account at the time, was held here for the opening of the electric railroad and the trip of the first trolley car into town. The account further says: 'From Leeds to Williamsburg, business places and houses were decorated with flags and bunting. At Leeds, fireworks greeted its arrival and from Haydenville the brass band led the way. As invited guests reached Williamsburg in a special car, the bells were rung and cannons roared a joyous welcome.' Selectman C. C. Hosford had directed the building of a platform under the trees and arranged a program of speeches while Lyman D. James acted as master of ceremonies. William W. Nash, in his address of welcome, said a new era was about to dawn for the hill towns. The item further states that speakers included J. C. Hammond, father of Judge Thomas Hammond of Northampton; Prof. H. M. Tyler of Smith College; former Lieutenant-Governor H. C. Knight; Mayor Kimball; also William Skinner of Holyoke.

"All invited guests were served supper at Temperance Hall by women of the town. In the evening the celebration continued with a lawn party and dance. For twenty-five years, until the coming of the automobile in numbers, the trolley line did a flourishing and efficient business, the fare being only ten cents each way to Northampton. They also carried the mail and brought the newspapers. Smith College girls, sightseers, traveling men and summer boarders arrived here on the trolley cars and hired carriages from Charles M. Brewster or George L. Damon, owners of the two flourishing livery stables, one on each side of the road at the end of the carline."

They continued until 1926 when they were succeeded by buses.

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108 From an account in the Springfield Union, June 15, 1944, describing the arrival in town of the first trolley fifty years ago.

A hard road was petitioned by the town and county to the state on May 11, 1896. The petition was granted, and on September 28, 1896, grading and drainage was begun about a mile east from the Goshen line. Between 1897-1906 a little was accomplished annually until the road reached the Thayer Manufacturing Company, now Tiley's shop. In 1927 the road was put through the town. The Taylor and Mellon Bridge was constructed in 1933 by the town, county, and state.

The great western railroad boom of the last half of the nineteenth century may have little to do in our minds with the poor track over which freight trains now occasionally labor to reach the Williamsburg station. But railroad service, both passenger and freight, was commenced to Williamsburg as early as 1866. In the 1890's there existed a regular hack service to transport passengers from the village to the station. Drivers of the hack were Henry Hill and Nathan Graves. This convenience and the railroad passenger service were discontinued in the early 1900's.

The Post Office increased its efficiency by establishing the Rural Free Delivery service in 1902. Mr. Emil Miller and Mr. Charles Hyde, and Mr. John Walshe served as mail carriers for years. Harry T. Drake, Leonard Walpole, and Walter R. Thayer are the present carriers.

One of the most important services to the town was a town water supply located at Unquomonk Reservoir off South Street. The reservoir was constructed in 1903 at the cost of $50,000. .The contractor was Jehiel Vaughn, and the first water commissioners of the town were Albert Hills, Frank Brooks, and John Hill.

The first telephone service in town was established on June 1, 1902, by lines out of Northampton. This new service required four employees, and ninety-nine subscribers took advantage of it. Later Williamsburg enjoyed an exchange of her own with the switchboard in the residence of Mr. Walter Tetro on North Street. On February 28, 1931, the dial system was installed.

[109]Under the laws of Massachusetts, the Mill River Electric Light Company was chartered on June 26, 1902, with the authorized capital of $15,000. On September 25 of the same year the company purchased the Skinner property, chosen as the best location to serve both villages equally well.

The Board of Gas and Electric Light Commissioners granted the issue of $15,000 in stock and $12,000 in bonds March 6, 1903. E. F. Delabarre of Conway acted as its first manager and A. P. Delabarre of the same town as its treasurer.

After the construction of lines and buildings, the lights were first turned on in June, 1903, to a small number of users. On the first of January, in 1933, the Mill River Electric Light Company was merged with the Northampton Electric Lighting Company which now serves the town.

Let us note present places of business in town, the history of which has not been traced in the chapter on "Industries." Leslie Packard runs a drug store across from Grange Hall. A First National Store beside old "Temperance Hall," until 1945 operated by Mr. Clifton E. Witt of Belchertown, is now managed by Francis Shea. Joseph Rhoades runs a grocery store and meat market on the north side of the W. C. T. U. building. Jenkins' store and Bowker's have already

109 Information by courtesy of Mr. Homer L. Lloyd.

been mentioned. In November, 1945, Sheehan's store in Haydenville was sold to Reardon Brothers. Mr. Antoni Soltys and Mrs. Bertha Golash own grocery stores in Haydenville. Mr. William Devlin operates a meat market.

Four nurseries are carried on in town. Miss Dorcas Brigham operates the Village Hill Nursery at the late William Wells farm on Village Hill. John Jones, the Florist greenhouses are located at the Thomas Breckenridge place in Skinnerville. Mr. Hans Nietsche runs a nursery at his home on South Street. And Mr. Roderick MacLeod has one at his home in Searsville.

Besides the Graves Garage already mentioned, Luce operates one near the Northampton line.

Cheney K. Hathaway came to Williamsburg in May, 1923, and purchased the property where he now lives on South Main Street from James G. Purrington. That same year he remodelled the old barn, formerly used by Mr. John Belcher as a livery stable, into a public garage. In 1924 he formed a partnership with Howard Rhoades of Chesterfield and built the gasoline station on the lot north of the house. He operated the station, selling Gulf Oil products until 1926. In 1930 they dissolved the partnership, and he sold the filling station to the Standard Oil Company of New York, which is being operated at the present time by Mr. Leon Tiley, a new station having been built. He then added a store and canopy to his dwelling and moved the Gulf Oil product there, and is still operating the station.

The filling station built by Earl Gusetti is now run by James McAllister.

In 1906, Mr. Edward Nash presented to Williamsburg the Petticoat Hill Reservation. Near the entrance of the reservation a stone bears this inscription:

Given into the keeping of the trustees
of public reservation by
MARTHA WINSLOW NASH
in memory of her husband
EDWARD WORTHINGTON NASH
A lover of nature
1906

In the garb of each succeeding season, this spot, in beauty and serenity, overlooks Williamsburg village.

In 1921, Williamsburg staged a most successful celebration commemorating the 150th anniversary of the founding of the village. Sports, dancing, floats, and appropriate services highlighted the week-end. By far the outstanding event was the beautiful pageant depicting the birth and growth of the town, which was held on the meadow opposite the Sabo residence. Calvin Coolidge, then Vice-President of the United States, was one of the many distinguished guests of the day. On Sunday a special service was held at the First Congregational Church. Professor Irving Wood of Smith College delivered the sermon, "The Message of the Puritans," with the appropriate text from John 4, 38— "Other men have labored and ye have entered into their la-

bors." The success of all events and the stimulating experience of renewing old friendships made those few days of celebration long to be remembered.

A Village Planning Board has been organized, the membership of which consists of a representative from each society in town. Through its efforts, the town in February, 1945, bought the Methodist Church with the idea of making it and the Town Hall into a community center. The Board has secured an architect's plans for such a building. Officers of the Board are: President, Mr. Lauri Ronka; Secretary, Mrs. Gordon Marston; Treasurer, Miss Dorcas Brigham.

New Englanders, in alluding to the history of their land, like to refer with pride to the "old stock" of rugged pioneers who built the country. As time goes on, and we look back upon our past, however, we see that some of the more recent "builders" of our land did not spring from the stony hills of New England, but from much more distant places. Williamsburg was by no means exempt, fortunately, from the tide of immigration which so vitally affected America as a whole. The Irish, as this history testifies, had already become an integral part of our community life by the time other races began to settle here.

The French came to Haydenville after the cotton mill was built when that industry was beginning to flourish, about 100 years ago. They quickly became thrifty, worthwhile citizens. Of these families, one of the first to come whose descendants have remained, is the Brown family now residing on Main Street.

The Polish began to settle in Haydenville about 1902-1903. Some remained; others settled in towns adjacent to Williamsburg. They came primarily because of the Brass Works. Proud of their homes and families, they were anxious to become citizens and to educate their children. The Kulas, Ozzolek, and Kmit families were among the first to settle in town and remain.

The Greeks came in 1907, also to work in the Brass factory. They remained a number of years but few established homes. Mr. Thomas Demetrio was one of the original Greek settlers, and he and his family still make their home here.

Both the Poles and the Greeks established schools soon after arriving because they were eager to learn English and to obtain their naturalization papers. The Haydenville Library at that time contained Polish and Greek books, loaned from an inter-loan library in New York.

When the next history of the town is written, there will be much to record of the achievements and contributions to the community of these more recent citizens.

Williamsburg felt keenly the repercussions of the hectic twentieth century. Even now, one need only mention the subject to discover those who were once admirers of Teddy Roosevelt or members of the Progressive Party. The very fact that so many biographical sketches concern women shows the strength of the feminist movement. Several allusions to woman suffrage reveal the support which many townsfolk accorded the ardent crusade.

Always predominantly a "dry" town, Williamsburg supported the passage of the Prohibition Amendment. We, as did the nation, rode on the crest of the post-war boom wave and suffered through the depression years after 1929. New England communities do not rear children (praise be!) that are seen and not heard. The New Deal, to use a bit of under-statement, has been thoroughly discussed pro and con since its advent in 1932.

The first Great War took the lives of five men killed in battle, and another who died in the service. Over 100 from the town were in the service of their country. They are as follows:

Allaire, Adelard
Alyward, Harold
Ames, Oakley
Bickford, Spencer
*Brown, Carl
Burdette, Alfred
Burdeau, Philbert
Cone, Burrill
Culver, Linwould
Culver, Roger L. Dansereau, Robert
*Demerski, Alexander
*Demerski, Joseph
Demetrious, Costas
Dolan, Francis
Dolan, George
Dolan, James
Dunham, Harold
Dunphy, John
Dunphy, Martin
Duplin, Raymond
Emrick, Daniel
*Gambien, Raymond
Garrett, Miles
Gillaspie, Joseph
Goodhue, Elbridge
Goodhue, Joseph
Guyette, William
Hambipes, Demetrios
*Hamilton, George
Hemenway, Carl
Hemenway, Justin
Hills, Albert
Hyde, Evelyn E.
Ingellis, Victor
James, Lyman
Janiec, Aloysius
Jenkins, Lucius
Johnson, Lawrence

Joslyn, William
Jorgensen, Chester
Jorgensen, Roswell
Karp, Francis
Kearney, Anna
Kearney, Edward
Kearney, John
Keene, Bertram E.
Kelly, Joseph
*Kocienski, John
LaMagdelaine, Arthur
Larkin, Clarence
Lenihan, Mary
Leonard, Joseph
Lewis, Francis
Loomis, Edward
Mansfield, James
Mayotte, Alcide
McAllister, James
McSweeney, Dennis R.
Merritt, Charles W.
Merritt, Frank
Mosher, George
Mullaly, Frank J.
Murray, Francis A.
Nash, Wallace
Nichols, Clyde
Nichols, Raymond
O'Brien, Charles
O'Brien, Michael
O'Donnell, Joseph
O'Neil, Frank J.
O'Neil, William H.
Ozzolek, Joseph
Packard, Ralph
Patterson, Leland D.
Paul, John
Perry, Charles E.
Pierpont, Edwards
Polmatier, Earl

Purrington, Alden C.
Purrington, Donald
Purrington, Philip
Purrington, Rollo
Ryan, John M.
Sanderson, Frederick
Smiley, Edward
Smiley, Frederick
Smiley, Harold
Smith, Frederick L.
St. Lawrent, Edward
Talbot, Leo G.
Tower, Bertram
Tsiatires, John G.
Tyler, Warren
Wade, Charles
Walpole, Edward J.
Warner, George V.
Waski, John
Watling, John
Weeks, Charles
Welch, Henry
Whitehouse, Joseph
Wierstate, Vincent
Young, George J.
Zebrowski, Stephen

From Ada Chandler Hamlin's history there is this paragraph:

"In France, not far from the city of Bonne, there was erected a large hospital for the care of American soldiers, and just around the brow of a hill there was set apart a burial ground for those who lost their lives in the service. A man whom I well knew visited this place and saw the crosses there, row on row, for it appears to be an unwritten rule that no monument shall be erected. In a far corner there was a granite block, on one side of which was engraved upon the stone the fact that this monument was erected by the commune in which the grounds lay, to mark the grave of the first American soldier to be laid there. On another side there was the name of the soldier, and on another side this inscription:

"'He ventured far to preserve the liberties of mankind.'

"That truly tells the story of America's part, and Williamsburg's part in that world conflict."

And again so recently the sons of Williamsburg have had to venture even farther to "preserve the liberties of mankind." For horrible as the last war was, it failed to open our eyes, and the eyes of the nation, to certain truths which we must learn if we hope to survive.

Following is a list of servicemen and women from Williamsburg and Haydenville:

Algustoski, J. Robert
Algustoski, Thomas P.
Algustoski, Walter
Allaire, Albert J.
Ames, Edward J.
Ames, Richard M.
Atherton, Elmer
Baldwin, Robert H.
Bates, Norman
Bates, Donald
Bates, Ralph E.
Bates, Leland
Bates, Richard H.
Batura, Francis J.
Batura, Joseph J.
Batura, Michael P.
Batura, Zygmont J., Jr.
Beattie, M. Robert
Beattie, William, Jr.
Beebe, Charles
Beebe, Howard
Beebe, Robert
Bickford, Donald L.
Black, Ruth E.
Blanchard, Edward
Bradford, Raymond
Brady, Eugene
Brady, Joseph
Brady, William
Brazil, Francis
Burke, Richard F., Jr.
Campbell, Donald E.
Cheverette, Damon
Childs, James A.
Childs, Stanley
Clark, Merwin S.

Clark, Paul E.
Clary, Forrest F.
Clary, Wellington
Colburn, Roberta
Cone, Alfred
Connell, Maurice
Connell, Raymond
Connell, William G.
Coogan, James F.
Coogan, Thomas J.
Cook, Philip
Corbett, James J.
Corbett, Lawrence
Crafts, George
Cross, Melvin A.
Damon, Glenn
Damon, Neil
Damon, Philip
Demerski, Francis
Dewey, David
*Dewey, Fred
*Dolan, Edward P.
Doyle, Leo M.
Driscoll, Robert
Dymerski, Leo J.
Edwards, Robert
Emerson, Catherine
Emerson, Lawrence W
Emrick, Ronald
Evans, Walter G., Jr.
Ferron, Albert A., Jr.
Ferron, Raymond
Field, Carlton
Field, Richard
Filkins, Edward C.
Fisher, Harrison
Fontaine, Donald
Fontaine, Edward C.
Ford, Rev. William C.
Forrest, Thomas

Foster, Malcolm E.
Gagne, Albert
Gardner, Harold
Gload, Myla Campbell
Golash, Adam E.
Golash, Benjamin
Golash, Edward
Golash, John
Golash, Stephen A.
Golash, Vardic E.
Golash, Walter F.
Gould, Kenneth A.
Gould, Warren J.
Graham, Herbert A.
Graves, M. Wellington
Graves, R. Richard
Gromelski, Peter
Gromelski, Stanley J.
Guzik, John
Guzik, Julian
Guzik, Stanley
Haigh, Joseph W.
Harlow, Betty Lou
Hathaway, Millard H.
Hathaway, Norman
Hayden, Robert H.
Heath, Charles
Hill, Willard
Hillenbrand, Carl
Hillenbrand, George, Jr.
Hillenbrand, Harold F.
Hillenbrand, Richard'
Hobbs, Dr. Joseph R.
Hurteau, Maurice W.
Hurteau, Norman
Jablonski, Walter S.
Jarvis, Wallace
Jenkins, Arthur F.
Jenkins, Lucius E., Jr.
Jenkins, Maurice R.

Johndrow, Edward R.
Johndrow, Frederick J.
Johndrow, Raymond
Jones, Arnold D.
Kearney, James
Kellogg, Charles
King, Chester
*King, Frederick
King, Roger
King, Rowland
*Kolosewicz, Edwin
Kolosewicz, Maxie
Kolosewicz, Waldemar
Kopka, Albert
Kopka, Chester
Kopka, Henry J.
Kopka, Walter
Kostek, Joseph
Kulas, Frank J.
Kulas, John F.
Kulas, Joseph E.
Kulas, Walenty P.
Kulas, Walter
LaCourse, Arthur
La Course, Ernest J.
LaCourse, Raymond
LaMagdelaine, Robert
Landry, Donald
*Larkin, Gerald E.
Larkin, John J.
Lastowski, Frank
Lawton, Oscar
Leavitt, Edward C.
Lee, Raymond
Lentner, Chester
Lentner, John J.
Lentner, Walter E.
*Lezynski, Felix
Lezynski, Victor
Lezynski, Walter

Lezynski, Edward
*Litchfield, Arthur
*Loomis, Gordon
Loomis, Robert
Loud, Gilbert
Lupien, Charles
Lupien, Ludger
Lynch, William E., Jr.
Magdalenski, Benjamin
Magdalenski, Stanley
Mansfield, Bernard J.
Mathers, Robert M.
Mayotte, Alcide
Menard, Wilfred
Merritt, G. William
Merritt, Lucius A., Jr.
Merritt, Ruth
Metz, Irene
Michalowski, Mary
Molloy, Edward
Molloy, Francis J.
Molloy, George
Molloy, James F.
Molloy, William
Morin, George Louis
Morin, Robert
Muraski, Bessie
*Murphy, Bernard J.
Murphy, Edward J.
McAllister, James
McAllister, Robert
McColgan, Edward
Nash, Gordon J.
Nietsche, Hans L.
Nurczyk, John
Nye, Floyd W.
Nye, Harlan W.
*O’Brien, Francis
O’Brien, Howard M.
O’Brien, John J.

Otis, Charlotte P.
Otis, Robert B.
Parrow, Wallace
Parrow, William J.
Paul, Catherine
Paul, John
Pavelczyk, John
Pavelszyk, Stanley
Payne, Forrest V.
Pogodinski, Theodore
Roberge, Adelbert J.
Roberge, Clyde E.
Rogers, Margaret MacLeod
Rosmarynoski, Chester C.
Roth, Frederick
Rustemeyer, Ashton H.
Rustemeyer, George K.
Ryan, William
Sabo, Robert F.
Sanderson, Clyde C.
Sanderson, Howard R.
Schultski, John J.
Shay, Edward C.
Shumway, Wilbur
Sincage, Edward
Smart, Clifton
Smiley, Robert
Snow, Davis W.
Soltys, Frank W.
Soltys, Henry
Soltys, Joseph
Soltys, Stanley A.
Stimson, Newell
*Stone, James
Stone, Leo J. N.
Stone, Thomas J.
Swinnington, John
Sylvester, Carl H.
Sylvester, Eugene R.
Taradena, Stephen

Tennyson, Chester
Tennyson, George
Tetro, Robert C.
Vayda, Raymond
Vayda, Stanley
Wales, Irwin
Wales, Sherwood
Walpole, Leonard
Walshe, John E.
Waniski, Stanley
Waniski, Tony
Warner, Ernest H.
Warner, George V.
Warner, Harry W.
Warner, Herbert L.
Washburn, Howard
Watling, H. Richard
Weeks, David Henry
Weeks, Leroy
Weeks, Richard F. Jr.
West, Vernon
Willcutt, Benjamin
Willcutt, Clifford
Zisk, Frances
Zisk, Joseph
Wells, Charles
Wells, Robert C.
Wells, Thomas
West, David E.
West, Kenneth
West, Phyllis L.

Cheverette, Doyle, and Fisher came here and married Haydenville girls; Filkins and Shay came here after the war started. The parents of Ernest Emerson, Paul Emerson, Ralph Emerson, William Emerson, Clement Hurley and Frederick Hurley have moved here within the past two years.

In the conclusion to any history written in these times there certainly can be but one thing to say. Neither our town, nor any town, can fulfill a glorious heritage, or build for the Future with high hope unless we win the peace. So now, as in the Past, Williamsburg must continue to be a representative cross-section of a mighty and united nation, dedicated to international co-operation, tolerance, and lasting peace.