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A

HISTORY OF ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS

A Thesis

Presented to

the Faculty of the Graduate School of Arts

The University of Ottawa

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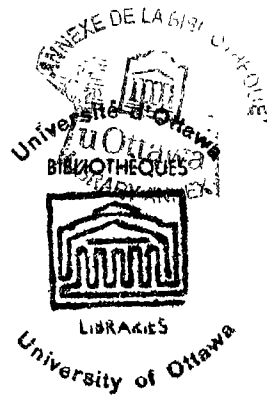
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Doctor of Philosophy

by

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CHAPTER I

DESCRIPTION

Physiography

The town of Adams is located at the base of Mount Greylock in the northern part of Berkshire County, Massachusetts, in $42^{\circ} 37' 30''$ north latitude and $73^{\circ} 07' 15''$ west longitude, and is bounded by the city of North Adams on the north, the town of Savoy and a small part of Florida on the east, the town of Cheshire and a small part of Savoy on the south, and by parts of the towns of Cheshire, New Ashford, and Williamstown on the west. The town now almost resembles a square in appearance, being approximately five miles long and four miles wide.

The surface of Adams is broken and mountainous, being noted for its picturesque scenery, having within its limits Mount Greylock, altitude 3505 feet, the highest point of land in Massachusetts. Adams occupies the summits of Hoosac and Saddle mountains, and the interjacent valley. The town is divided into two nearly equal parts by the south branch of the Hoosic River, flowing a northerly course through the entire length of the township, twisting its serpentine course through a rich valley of great beauty. Of these two parts, the eastern is formed by the western slope of Hoosac mountain, which, in the first two-thirds of its descent, is steep and regular, constituting a lofty wall on the entire eastern border of the town; but in the remaining one-third sinks by broken and irregular depressions. In the

south-eastern quarter, the land towards the bottom of the mountain exhibits a more regular surface; the ridges are flattened and blended together, forming a sufficient space of smooth table land for a number of valuable farms. The western half of the town is composed of the two eastern ridges of Saddle mountain and the valley between them. Towards the west, the hills retire southward, and leave a beautiful tract of meadow land, which, with the sloping pastures on each side, affords some of the better farms in the town. On the south of these farms, the main body of Saddle mountain rises in a majestic and comely form, parting near the summit, and forming an elevated valley of good pasture ground. Along this valley passes the boundary line between Adams and Williamstown. The eastern ridge of the mountain projects a mile further north. The two ridges embraced within the Adams line, converge towards the south, and meet about a mile and a half from the commencement of the shortest ridge. The tapering valley between them, called the "Notch", comprises several valuable dairy farms. By the union of the two eastern ridges and the abrupt termination of the western ridge in Williamstown, the triple summit of Saddle mountain here becomes single, and immediately rises into the peak sometimes called Saddle Ball but more commonly known as Mount Greylock. Its eastern declivity, from its summit to its base, particularly the region about the landslides of 1901, is rugged and steep. Northward towards the junction of the two eastern ridges, the declivity of the mountain is gentler, presenting a surface that may be comfortably tilled.

The mean width of the principal valley in Adams may be half a

mile. In some places it is nearly interrupted by spurs from the adjacent mountains, shooting out to the bed of the Hoosic. The direction of the valley is north-east, till it passes an abrupt projection from the eastern ridge of Saddle mountain, about one mile south of North Adams on the Curran Memorial Highway, it then turns due north, and at North Adams, passes around the end of that ridge, and leads the Hoosic into Williamstown.¹

Geological Description

Adams is underlaid by highly metamorphosed pre-Cambrian, Cambrian, and Ordovician rocks.² In general, the Cambrian dolomite and Ordovician limestone and marble crop out in the valleys, while the Cambrian quartzite, schists, and pre-Cambrian gneisses form the mountains.

The lithologic stratigraphy of Adams can best be ascertained by an examination of the various schists in the Hoosac mountain region on the east and the Mount Greylock region on the west respectively. Dating the formations in Adams is most difficult. Metamorphism has destroyed most of the fossils that may have been present.

The Hoosac schist is a dark graphitic mica schist, in many places highly garnetiferous, especially at the base; in a few places it carries staurolite and kyanite. It is commonly porphyritic with small secondary albite crystals, which so increases in this area that it becomes a gneiss. The albite contains inclusions of muscovite, biotite, chlorite, quartz,

1. Dewey, Charles, History of Berkshire County, Pittsfield, 1829, p. 428.

2. Ray, R. H., Economic Geology of Northern Berkshire. Williams College, 1942. Thesis. MS.

magnetite, rutile, apatite, tourmaline, and some attrelite. The rock is commonly of greasy feel from the hydration of the muscovite. Its estimated thickness is 4,000 feet on Hoosac Mountain.¹

The Stockbridge limestone is a crystalline limestone, in places a dolomite, quartzose or micaceous, more rarely feldspathic, very rarely fossiliferous. Galena and zinc blende rare. Irregular masses of iron ore (limonite) associated sometimes with manganese ore (pyrolusite). Thickness 1,200 to 1,400 feet.² This limestone ranges from a gray mottled limestone to a white, highly crystalline marble, which is at some places very coarse-grained. Chemically, it ranges from a pure calcite to dolomite, but the dolomitic phase is dominant. It is generally crowded with many secondary minerals, especially colorless varieties of the hornblende and pyroxane series--tremolite and canaanite.³

The Bellowspipe limestone is a more or less crystalline limestone, generally micaceous or pyritiferous, passing into a calcareous schist or a feldspathic quartzite, or a fine-grained gneiss with zircon and microcline, in places a noncalcareous schist. The more common minerals are graphite, pyrite, albite, microscopic rutile, and tourmaline; rarely, galena and zinc blende. Thickness, 600 to 700 feet.⁴ This subordinate impure limestone grades into the Berkshire schist and occupies the Central Hollow of Mount Greylock.⁵ It includes the quartzite to which T. N. Dale⁶ in 1894 applied the name "Bellowspipe quartzite". The formation was named

1 Emerson, B. K., U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin, 597, p. 41

2 U.S. Geological Survey, Monograph 23, 1894, p. 128

3 U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin, No. 597, 1917, p. 34

4 U.S. Geological Survey, Monograph No. 23, 1894, p. 127

5 Hobbs, W. H., Journal of Geology, 1893, Vol. 1, p. 717

6 U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin No. 150, 1899, p. 81

for its development at "Bellowspipe", on the northeasterly slope of Mount Greylock.

The Greylock schist is a muscovite (sericite), chlorite, and quartz schist with or without biotite, albite, magnetite, tabular crystals of interleaved ilmenite and chlorite, ottrelite, and tourmaline. Its thickness is 1,500 to 2,000 feet. It formed part of Emmons' pre-Cambrian or Lower Taconic No. 3 (talcose slate) and of Walcott's Hudson (Lower Silurian).¹ The formation was named for its conspicuous development on Mount Greylock.

Throughout the whole Adams region, all the rocks above the pre-Cambrian have been subjected to the action of great lateral pressure, throwing them into folds and along certain lines into compressed and ruptured overfolds, subjecting the constituent particles to crushing or shearing and to movements which are now marked by the crinkling of the original stratified lamintation, and by the predominant cleavage resulting from movement. The physically and more chemically resistant schists form the more elevated portions and the steeper slopes, while the broad valleys and gentler undulations about the mountain correspond to limestone areas.

Resources

The unusually fine motive power offered by the Hoosic river and the several tributary streams, whose utility had been greatly augmented in a number of places by the erection of dams and reservoirs, early called attention to Adams as a most promising manufacturing region. Beginning at the southern boundary of Adams near Cheshire Harbor and extending to

¹ U.S. Geological Survey Monograph No. 23, 1894, p. 127

the Brightwater Paper Company plant near the northern extremity of the town, a series of dams were set up along the Hoosic by every major Adams industry, exploiting this water resource to the full, even to this day.

The extensive limestone deposits in the northwesterly part of the town have been worked for years, and at present two large concerns, the New England Lime and the Hoosac Valley Lime companies, are engaged in capacity production of lime materials.

Numerous kames dotting the western edge of the Hoosic river are providing an excellent grade of silicious sand, used extensively in road and structural building. Several clay beds exist in the town but for many years have remained dormant.

Once boasting the existence of ten saw-mills and three tanneries, the largest employing some fifty hands in turning out 3,000,000 feet of lumber annually, the town is fortunate in still having two small saw-mills engaged in sporadic activity. William Dean operates the more diversified plant on the West Road at Fecks Brook, while the Oparowski mill at East Road and Dry Brook does rough milling. Despite this inactivity in a once flourishing lumber industry, Adams still possesses within its boundary, a wealth of excellent timber, most of which lies within the Greylock State Reservation and therefore is amply protected against the encroachments of the woodsman's axe. The Adams water-shed also displays an excellent stand of timber, principally of the coniferous variety.

Although the land within the town's limits is generally uneven and stony, farmers have been generally successful, due in no small part to their exceptional industry and to a ready market in the immediate vicinity for their produce. Excellent success has been experienced by dairy

farmers, poultrymen, and growers of vegetables.

The climate for farming on the whole is favorable. Although no records are available for Adams, the records taken at the weather bureau at Williams College, six miles away, may be utilized for Adams with a reasonable assurance of conformity. The following data, taken from records between 1852 and 1930, indicate the climatic conditions in Williamstown, Massachusetts, for that period:¹

Average temperature	45.5°
Average minimum temperature	36.3°
Average maximum temperature	54.7°
Highest temperature	97°
Lowest temperature	-26°
Average annual snowfall	59.3 inches
Average annual precipitation	38.34 inches

Frost data over a period of 48 years

Average date of last killing frost in spring	May 4
Average date of first killing frost in autumn	Oct 8
Average length of growing season--last killing frost to first killing frost	157 days
Latest date of killing frost in spring	May 26
Earliest date of killing frost in autumn	Sept 5

Notwithstanding the importance of economic resources, Adams is most fortunate in being blessed by nature with scenic splendor which afforded inspiration for the pens of Longfellow, Bryant, Hawthorne, Melville, Thoreau, Sedgwick, and Holmes. Nowhere in America can the symmetry and sublimity of Mount Greylock be duplicated. The panoramic grandeur from its summit, reaching into three adjoining states, makes a lasting impression on the nature lover. With the erection of a \$200,000 War Memorial tower atop Mount Greylock in 1933, an average of 10,000 persons visit the mountain peak annually.

¹ U.S. Weather Bureau, Climatic Summary of the U.S. Sec. 86

The climate of moderate altitudes, such as that in Adams, is generally dry, cool and stimulating, accelerates the breath and circulation, and gives tone to the nervous system. Information on the beneficial influence of this stimulation has reached many seaboard people between Boston and New York City who have come to Adams in numbers for repair of their health or for a relaxed enjoyment of its natural advantages and attractions.

The development of the Thunderbolt Ski Run in 1935 down the North-easterly slope of Mount Greylock has since brought most of America's best skiiers and thousands of spectators to Adams annually to participate in the Eastern and Massachusetts Downhill Ski Championships held there.

Hydrographic System

There are ten streams in the town of Adams, six of which emanate from various points on Hoosac Mountain and flow in a general westerly direction into the Hoosic River, two whose waters rise in the upper regions of Mount Greylock and flow easterly into the Hoosic, and one unnamed stream rising in the "Notch" section of Adams and flowing, first in a southerly direction, and then easterly into the Hoosic. Five of these streams, the Hoosic River, Pecks, Hoxie, Tophet, and Dry Brooks, had been utilized extensively for their motive power through the years. Today, only the Hoosic River, Pecks and Hoxie Brooks serve any industrial purpose. The Hoosic provides water power for the Adams Brothers Mill, the L. L. Brown Paper Company, the Berkshire Fine Spinning Associates, Inc., the Renfrew Company (Jones Division) and the Brightwater Paper Company. Pecks Brook

provides water power for the operation of the Dean saw and cider mills, as well as providing a reservoir for the L. L. Brown Paper mill. The Hoxie Brook provides the necessary water power for the operation of the Anthony Cider Mill, and near its mouth is dammed to provide a storage for an extra supply of water for fire-fighting purposes.

As to the scenic beauty about these various streams, Pecks Brook unquestionably abounds with the most awe-inspiring terrain, particularly the region between Dean's dam and Pecks Falls, while the Hoxie Brook with its head-waters in the Bellowspipe and Raven Rocks region and the Tophet with its Big Basin, Flat Rock, and "Little Egypt" spots also afford exceptional natural beauty.

For many years, the Tophet, Dry, Pecks, and Hoxie Brooks have been the mecca of local bathers, each stream being endowed with natural pools of sufficient depth to accomodate all who wish to enjoy the invigorating stimulation of these fast-flowing mountain waters.

The Hoosic River, being the main stream in the town, unfortunately is the depository for the bulk of the community's sewage. Efforts of the State Board of Health, over a period of years, have resulted in a promise by the town to erect a modern sewage disposal plant on the east bank of the Hoosic near the North Adams line by the end of 1945, but the current World War has nullified further development of the project.

A general description of the Adams streams follows:¹

Anthony Creek is a small stream two miles long, arising on Hoosac Mountain at an elevation of 1920 feet. It flows in a westerly direction

¹ Topographic Map. U.S. Geological Survey, Mass-Vt. Greylock Sheet, 1885.

and enters the Tophet about one-fourth of a mile above its mouth.

Cheesboro Creek is a stream about one and one-fourth miles long, originating on Hoosac Mountain at an elevation of 1960 feet, and flowing northwesterly into the Hoosic some three miles south of North Adams.

Dry Brook, the longest of the Adams streams, rises two and one-fourth miles north of the town of Windsor, the north tributary at an elevation of 2160 feet and the southern at 1957 feet. After flowing northwesterly for six miles, it enters the Hoosic River at Maple Grove. Due to its expansive water-shed, it is probable that another water supply for Adams, supplementing the Bassett Reservoir in Cheshire, may be developed on this stream in the not too distant future.

The Hoosic River, the town's principal stream, rises about two miles northwest of Dalton, Massachusetts, at an altitude of 1300 feet above sea level. Its general course, after leaving the two reservoirs in Cheshire, lies somewhat east of north through Adams. At North Adams it receives its North Branch, thence northward, passing across the extreme southwestern corner of Vermont into Rensselaer County, N. Y. At the northern border of that county, it turns and flows irregularly westward, joining the Hudson opposite Stillwater. The total length of the river to the head-waters of the South Branch (Hoosic River) or main stream is about 56 miles; its fall is 1,220 feet. The area of the drainage basin is about 730 square miles.¹ Principal tributaries are the Little Hoosic and Walloomsac rivers and Tomhannock Creek, all of which enter in the State of New York. The principal tributaries in Massachusetts are the North Branch of the Hoosic and Green rivers. Most of the other tributaries are short and unimportant.

¹ Tenth Census Report, Vol. 16; Rafter, Hydrology of N.Y. State, Bulletin 85, N. Y. State Museum.

The country drained is to a great extent rugged and mountainous, the summits of the Taghkanick and Petersburg ranges attaining elevations of 1,000 to 2,000 feet above sea level, and the Ragged Mountains, south of North Adams, culminating in Mount Greylock, at 3,505 feet above sea level. The immediate valley of the Hoosic comprises a moderately hilly, open country, which is good farming land, even to the tops of the hills and is well cultivated.

The stream is one of the largest tributaries of the Hudson, and, excepting perhaps the Mohawk, is the most important in point of manufacturing. A large share of the fall has been improved.

The Hoxie Brook rises on the northeast slope of Mount Greylock at an elevation of 2380 feet. It flows southeasterly two and one-half miles to Adams where it enters the Hoosic River below McKinley Square.

Pecks Brook rises on the south slope of Mount Greylock at an elevation of 2900 feet, the highest source of any Adams stream. It flows in a general southeasterly direction for three and one-half miles until it enters the Hoosic River at the River Street bridge.

Reed Brook rises on the western slope of Hoosac Mountain at an elevation of 1750 feet. It flows westerly for about one and one-fourth miles, whereupon it enters the Tophet a short distance northwest of the Susan B. Anthony homestead at Bowen's Corners.

Southwick Creek rises on the western slope of Hoosac Mountain at an elevation of 2040 feet and flows westerly for two miles, entering the Hoosic River just north of Renfrew.

Tophet Brook rises in the town of Savoy, three miles northeast

of Adams, at an elevation of 2290 feet. It flows southwesterly for three miles, then northwesterly for two and one-half miles, where it joins the Hoosic River north of the Mill Street Community House. Anthony Creek and Reed Brook are its tributaries.

Origin of the Name "Adams"

The town of Adams was so named in honor of Samuel Adams, an outstanding Revolutionary patriot, delegate to the Continental Congress, signer of the Declaration of Independence, framer of the Massachusetts State Constitution of 1780, Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts from 1789 to 1794, Governor from 1794 to 1797, and "Man of the Town Meeting".

The Mount Greylock State Reservation

Towering majestically over the town of Adams, lying approximately two and one-half miles to the west of it, stands Mount Greylock, the highest point in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Reaching 3,505 feet above sea level and 2,800 feet above Adams, this grand monarch of the mountains looks proudly upon a heavily wooded domain of 8,660 acres which today comprises the Greylock State Reservation.

Several theories exist as to the origin of the name "Greylock". The first record of the mention of the name "Greylock" for Massachusetts' highest peak came in 1838, when Nathaniel Hawthorne,¹ on his stage ride from Pittsfield to North Adams, inquired of Platt, his driver, the name of the mountain on his left when driving through Adams. Platt, who often had boasted of being the first to drive a yoke of oxen to its peak,

¹ Phillips, W. H., Pathfinder to Greylock Mt., Amherst, Mass. 1910

immediately replied, "Greylock," a name he preferred over that of "Saddleback," which residents of Pittsfield commonly used. From Lake Onota in Pittsfield, Mounts Greylock and Griffin resembled a gigantic horseman's saddleback, thus the old and little known name, "Saddleback." In 1841, Edward Hitchcock, then the noted State geologist, said that Mount Greylock derived its name from its hoary aspect in winter. In 1851, the editor of the "World's Magazine" was visiting in the berkshires and he concluded that the name Greylock was derived from its position as head of the mountain range as well as its appearance in winter. In 1906, a book entitled "The Connecticut River and its Valley," was published and the author intimated that the name "Greylock" came from the old Indian chieftain, "Graylock," who had his hiding place on this mountain to which he retreated after attacking the first white settlers who entered his domain. This theory must be discounted as there is no evidence of any type of aboriginal occupancy of the Adams region. It is most probable that the hoary aspect of the peak, brought prominently into view when its summit has been touched by heavy frosts or early snows, makes for the most plausible origin of the name "Greylock."

An examination of the records at the Registry of Deeds in Adams,¹ which were brought there from Lanesboro, indicate that in 1767, Grand Hoosuck Mountain (Mount Greylock), was owned by Jeremiah Wilbur and Elisha Jones. Jonothan Sweet owned 100 acres on its north side, Simon Sweet owned 400 acres on the northwest side, William Peters owned 352 acres on the south side, and Allen, Elisha Jones, Arnold, William Peters,

¹ Barker, Charles. A Plan of the Township of East Hoosick, Nov. 10, 1767. Map.

and the Isaac Howland Estate owned woodlands on the eastern declivity.

Old documents and surveys preserved by Treasurer V. A. Whitaker of the North Adams Savings Bank, help prove the pioneer ownership of the north side of Greylock Mountain. According to the plan of the Township of East Hoosuc, John Murray was the owner of Lot 31 on the northeast side of the mountain and the rest of the same running up to a short distance below the summit was originally owned by the pioneers John and Jeremiah Wilbur. The property in 1767 consisted of 1600 acres but eventually came into the sole possession of Jeremiah who died intestate in 1813, and was buried in the old graveyard near the Walden homestead in the Notch. His big farm was inventoried at \$15,500., and, after being plotted out, was distributed among his heirs in parcels or strips. The Jeremiah Wilbur homestead was located on both sides of the Notch road between Mount Williams and Mount Pleasant, running north and south, its dimensions being 160 by 200 rods. Later it was owned by Mrs. Rufus G. Walden.

Here Jeremiah raised the largest flock of sheep within many miles; so great a flock that President Fitch of Williams College came up to see it and immortalized Jeremiah and his sheep in the diary that is now preserved in the college library.

Jeremiah Wilbur was born in Rhode Island in 1753, and died June 30, 1813, at the old Notch homestead. His first wife, Patience Haredeen, he took there as a bride in 1770. She died at the age of 48 and Jeremiah again married, this time a widow Russell who had one daughter, Mary Russell.

It is said that Jeremiah erected a wood stockade on the Wilbur Clearing to keep his sheep and cattle in nights to protect them from

wolves, wildcats, and bears which were very numerous. He built a log pen twelve feet square by eight feet deep, on top of which he placed bait mounted on a pivoted platform, and thus trapped and killed many of these animals. One night one of the bears dragged a 100-pound trap a great distance and finally escaped by gnawing off one of his paws. Today, bears and wolves are unknown in the Greylock Reservation area.

President Edward D. Griffin of Williams College built the first tower on Mount Greylock. Platt, the well-known stage driver, was forced to drive his ox-team in a circle about the mountain in order to get the heavy timbers to the summit. The date of the tower is unknown but it is certain that it was before 1833, as President Griffin had a stroke of paralysis that season. When Hawthorne visited through the Hoosac Valley in 1838, the tower had been destroyed a number of years.

In 1841, a second tower was built on Mount Greylock and was known as the Albert Hopkins Meteorological Observatory. Professor Hopkins and tutor James Henry Coffin headed several "Bees" in connection with this project, being assisted by the "Hopper" farmers who aided in building the tower, the timber being sawed at Pettit's saw-mill on Hopper Brook. These two men were then associated with Williams College, and with their own means, supplemented by some outside financial aid, the erection of the first observatory on Mount Greylock was possible. This structure had a solid foundation of logs fastened together with wooden pins. There were two decks to this structure and these platforms were reached by two crudely constructed open stairs, the second story being enclosed by boards with wooden shuttered windows looking out to all points of the compass.

There was but a single entrance at the east base of the observatory. Professor Coffin erected this structure for meteorological experiments and purposes. There was fitted up a whole line of self-registering instruments, many of his own invention, run by a clock-like contrivance which kept the whole machinery in operation for two months.

Just prior to the Civil War, the nature lovers of Adams so repaired the old wood road leading to the spring near the junction of the Notch and Rockwell Roads, about a mile below the summit, that the ascent could be made by single open wagons. Many people participated in these excursions, camping out in tents on the summit overnight, the horses having been led up from the spring with the necessary supplies and provisions. This was the primitive ascent to the mountain until the Greylock Park Association was established.

The Greylock Park Association was incorporated on April 15, 1885, with a capital of \$20,000, held in \$25.00 shares. The directors and associate members were citizens of Adams, North Adams, and Williamstown. The Association purchased 400 acres on the summit, and later expended \$4,425 building the North Adams road from the Walden Farm, through Wilbur Park, to the summit, where a log cottage and barn were built in 1892 to accommodate the superintendent of the reservation, George A. Bauer, and his family. In this cottage was a small reception room, where a visitor could register, a dining room, kitchen, and two small bed-rooms, all on the first floor. On the second floor there were six small bed-rooms for the accommodation of guests. The house was usually open from May until October, and was connected with the Adams Telephone Exchange by telephone.¹

¹ Phillips, W.H. Pathfinder to Greylock Mt., Amherst, Mass. 1910, p. 29.

In 1889, the Greylock Park Association erected a forty foot iron tower on the site of the old wooden tower which Professors Hopkins and Coffin had built in 1841. This sightly observatory had four platforms or landings, with the top landing entirely glass-enclosed for comfortable sightseeing. It was also provided with pointers to identify the several mountains in the distance.

The Association then constructed a turnpike from the Notch to the summit. This turnpike, being a toll road, served to bring this eminence into greater public attention. The Park Association, besides bringing this mountain into public prominence, also materially restrained the flagrant destruction of its woodlands.

In the latter part of 1898, the Association conveyed the Greylock Park property to the General Court of Massachusetts for a State Park Reservation. The Legislature had appropriated \$90,000 in all toward the purchase of the land, which up to that time had amounted to 8,243 acres, extending from the Raven Rocks on Ragged Mountain westward to Mount Bascom, down to the base of the Hopper, and southward to Jones' Nose and Round's Rock,¹ and lying within the city limits of North Adams, and the towns of Adams, Cheshire, New Ashford, and Williamstown. From east to west the Reservation extended four miles and from north to south about seven miles.² The city of North Adams holds for a domestic water supply about eight hundred acres of land which penetrates deep into the Reservation. This area lies on the northeasterly side of the summit in the Notch Brook watershed and will be kept in forest.

¹ Niles, Grace. The Hoosac Valley, Its Legends and History, 1912

² Phillips, W.H. Pathfinder to Greylock Mt., Amherst, 1910, p. 5

The first piece of roadway built after the Reservation was established was the "Cut Off" road built between the Hopper Hills and noted for its exquisite views of Williamstown. It was quite a difficult undertaking at that time. Its location was selected by the then Board of County Commissioners: Colonel Frank S. Richards of North Adams, William P. Wood of Pittsfield, and William C. Dalzell of Egremont, in whose lasting honor it was called the "County Commissioners Road." It was made possible by a general legislative act authorizing a road over the mountain.¹

There are two principal highways leading to the summit of Mount Greylock at the present time, the most widely travelled being the Rockwell Road which begins in the town of Lanesboro and runs northward for nine miles to the summit, passing in its course the site of the old Ash Fort, built by the pioneers as a defense and refuge during the French and Indian Wars. This road was built by the county commissioners under a special legislative act and was named in commemoration of the service of former Congressman Francis W. Rockwell of Pittsfield. The Notch Road, renamed Robinson Road in October, 1943, in honor of the late Judge Arthur M. Robinson of Williamstown, who served 13 years on the Greylock Commission, is only six miles in length but due to its narrowness and rather steep grades is not used extensively, except by those starting out from North Adams. Residents of Williamstown generally use the New Ashford approach to the summit which runs into the Rockwell Road about a mile north of Sperry's Spring.

There is no good road as yet from Adams to the summit, although

¹ Phillips, W.H. Greylock Mt., Berkshire Hills and Historic Bennington, Amherst, Mass. 1910, p. 17.

there are several paths or trails. For a time, the Cheshire Harbor Trail, developed from the Greylock Commission's survey of 1899, permitted wagon traffic, but in recent years this road has been so damaged by water that its further use is impossible, except by hikers. Just prior to 1910, a survey was made to run a trolley line to the summit from Adams but the project failed to materialize.

About the year 1880, a great woodland fire swept over the peak, burning even into the soil itself. Blackened tree trunks only were left standing, a few of which, like gaunt skeletons, remain upright to this day, arising amid a fortunate growth of spruce and balsam fir trees. Because of this fire, and the giant cloudburst of 1901, finding no tree growth to hold the waters back, a deluge rushed unhindered down the face of Mount Greylock, and flowed into the Hoosic River in Adams. Three wide scars upon the eastern slope of the mountain resulted from the cloudburst and are known today as the "Landslides." These "slides" may be called "freaks" of Greylock. The main slide is just about on the middle of the face of Mount Greylock. It is said that this one occurred at the road near the peak where the slide is about 50 feet wide and extends for 1500 feet down the mountain side. It is gradually widened until at the base it is about 200 feet wide. There is a smaller one to the left and a still smaller one to the left of that.¹ It has been said that when the slide occurred, the stream became a torrent of 75 to 100 feet wide, 10 feet deep, and filled with trees. Five or six acres of the Charles Gould farm at the foot of this slide were covered with sand, trees, and boulders, some of

¹ Cleland, H.F. The Landslides on Mt. Greylock and Briggsville, Mass. Chicago University Press, Chicago, 1902. pp 6 and 9.

them 5 feet in diameter.

The Hopper is something no one can forget who has visited Greylock. It is an immense gulf upon the southwestern portion of the mountains. The bottom of it seems to be a mere point although a near approach shows it to be far otherwise. It is a chasm at least 1,000 feet deep, and, as "one approaches to its edge upon the naked summit of Bald Mountain--a portion of Greylock--the sight at once makes him grow dizzy, and he willingly shrinks from so dangerous a precipice."¹ Mr. Wilbur, in 1902, stated that Bald Mountain Bluff was an ideal camping ground since it had a "wide outlook and handiness of water and fuel." This bluff was good land and pasture 180 years ago but is now grown up in bushes and trees. The old cellar and chimney of the Bacon farm can still be seen.²

It is interesting to know that in the dark recesses of the Hopper, sometime between 1765 to 1783, a gang of counterfeiters built their cabin on the north fork of the Hopper Brook, known as Money Brook. Here many Spanish dollars and possibly Pine-Tree shillings were hammered out. A hunter from Williamstown overheard the money makers at their anvil and reported them to Justice Samuel Kellogg but the counterfeiters escaped and the authorities only succeeded in capturing their chest of tools.

Another very interesting fact which is unknown to most Berkshire people is the important part the Greylock Range played in the Civil War. Along the slopes of the gully between Mount Williams and Mount Pleasant at the north end of the range were iron mines. These iron mines supplied

¹ Bowles, S. & Co. History of Western Massachusetts. Springfield, Mass. 1855. p. 379

² Phillips, Col. The Berkshire Hills, Pittsfield, Mass, Jan 1902

the five and eight inch armor-plates which protected the Monitor, the Federal government's first armor-clad vessel, built to defeat the Confederate Merrimac. The iron from these mines was smelted and made into plates at the furnaces formerly located on Main Street, North Adams, on what is still called Furnace Hill. The plates were too heavy for any existing railroad equipment, and were loaded by ox-team to Troy, New York, where they were loaded on barges for New York City where the Monitor was built. The three shafts of the mine are about ten feet in diameter and can still be seen. They are so deep that blazing paper dropped into their depths seems gradually to disappear as it gets beyond eyesight before reaching bottom.¹

Quite a number of runaway slaves once lived in rude log cabins on the eastern slope in the vicinity of Ravenscrag and Bellows Pipe.²

In 1930, while under the superintendency of James Martin of Adams, successor to Patrick Barrett, the residence on Greylock summit burned to the ground. It was then that the State planned to rebuild a modern house and a new beacon on the summit.³ Due principally to the untiring efforts of Senator Theodore R. Plunkett of Adams, the State appropriated \$200,000 in 1931 for the erection of a fitting memorial beacon on Mount Greylock.

This beacon, dedicated on June 30, 1933, is Massachusetts' memorial to her sons and daughters lost in wars. It is made of rugged Quincy granite blocks to harmonize with its surroundings, yet not lacking the reserve and classic austerity required for its purpose as a memorial. It sweeps toward

1 Berkshire Evening Eagle, Pittsfield, Mass.

2 Phillips, W.H. Pathfinder to Greylock Mt., Amherst, 1910, p. 80

3 Mass. Acts and Resolves, 1930, Ch. 411

the heavens to a height of 100 feet to support the ever-burning beacon, that is visible for a radius of 70 miles and in five states.

The monument itself is of a simple yet imposing design. The immediate base is formed by a balustraded terrace. Upon this platform rests the simple circular base of the monument on which are carved the names of the wars in which Massachusetts has taken part. From this point the great curving shaft, which is alone 80 feet in height, sweeps majestically upward. This shaft is crested with a bold design, immediately below which are eight classic freize-framed openings, which not only give a fitting accent to the memorial at this point, but also serve as lookout windows for the observatory, commanding a remarkably extensive and beautiful panorama of the Berkshires.

Within the crown formed by the cresting at the top of the shaft emerges the stem upon which rests the great ball of light, 10 feet in diameter. It is illuminated by twelve 1500-watt searchlights, whose beams are distributed seventy miles in every direction.

Within the base of the memorial is a small, domed, shrine-like chamber of white marble which contains memorial tablets and will hold relics of famous war units in the history of the State. The walls and ceilings of this chamber are decorated with beautiful and appropriate designs in mosaic. Access to the stairway leading to the observatory has been arranged so that the visitors do not have to pass through the chamber unless they so desire. It is a place of such beauty and solitude that the heart and soul are quieted.¹

¹ North Adams Transcript, June 30, 1933.

Work on the memorial project began in 1930 in the administration of Governor Frank G. Allen and was completed in 1932 in the administration of Governor Joseph B. Ely. Members of the Commission were William H. Eaton, Chairman; Claude M. Fuess; William H. Sperry; Wendell D. Howie, Secretary. The architects were Maginis and Walsh of Boston, the builders J. G. Roy and Sons Co. of Springfield and the Superintendent for the Commission, G. Gifford Symes.

The dedication program was opened with a band concert by the 390th Field Artillery Band of Pittsfield; the opening of ceremonies by William H. Eaton, chairman of the Commission; invocation, Rev. M. W. Stockpole; oration, Claude Moore Fuess; band selection; presentation, Colonel W. P. Eaton, chairman; acceptance, Honorable Joseph B. Ely; benediction, Rev. Michael J. O'Connor; and in closing, the Star Spangled Banner.¹

Gov. Ely spoke in part: "From the pinnacle of this monument upon the mountain, you look toward the south and envision the fields of Virginia waving silently now and in peace, once the scene of conflict between brothers, or beyond to the shores of Cuba. You look to the west and envision the lakes where a young country fought to preserve its integrity. You look toward the north and in imagination see the files of the soldiers about Bennington arrayed to resist the onslaughts of the Red Coats. You look to the East and imagine the lands across the sea where the cruel hand of war claimed the youth of America in the great struggle between the nations. It is to glorify the heroic deeds of these men, all of them, that Massachusetts has erected this monument upon the highest peak of

¹ Dedication of Mount Greylock War Memorial--Program. Edited by the State of Massachusetts, June 30, 1933

her highest mountain."¹

This program of the dedication of Massachusetts' Memorial to her soldier dead was a thing of beauty and solemnity. Seven inconspicuous airplanes, circling overhead, made their presence known as they flew in formation in tribute to dead flyers, only by the droning motors as they flew extremely high due to a dense haze and a strong wind. Several speakers carried their listeners over the trials of war to the beauty and eternal rest in this haven of peace they had found high above all seeming earthly fears and trials in the quiet and peacefulness of nature. They for whom the beacon burns nightly shall rest in peace.

George E. O'Hearn of Pittsfield, superintendent of the Greylock Civil Conservation Corps, and his two hundred workers did much valuable work in the program of road reclamation, trail blazing and general conservation during the occupation of the mountain by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Old roads have been opened and dead timber cleaned out, thus reducing the enormous fire hazard always present on the mountain.

Geologists claim that thousands of years ago, there was a range of mountains between the Hoosac Range and the Taconic Range, extending the length of Berkshire; that Greylock was in that range, but twice its present height; that floods, glaciers, foldings, and erosion have done their work; breaking through the chain, dwarfing the mountain heights, cutting out the valleys. It seems hardly possible that the statement is true and that a great semi-circular lake, now referred to as Bascom Lake, once surrounded Greylock on the north, and leaving the present sites of

¹ Springfield Republican, Springfield, Mass. July 1, 1933

Williamstown, North Adams, and Adams six hundred feet more or less under water.¹

There are seventy-two mountain peaks and ranges visible from the summit tower. Near-by, the three ridges of the Greylock range, the Hoosac and Taconic are over-looked. Then comes into view a series of mountains, a few of whose distances have been ascertained, namely: Mount Everett, Egremont--thirty-two miles; Monument Mountain, Great Barrington--thirty miles; Perry's Peak, Richmond--eighteen miles; Peru and Windsor Hills--fifteen miles; sixteen mountain peaks are also to be seen on mountains bordering the Deerfield Valley as also several in the Ragged Mountains in New York and some bordering on the Hudson River.

A glimpse is also given from the summit tower of Williamstown, North Adams, Cheshire, and Pittsfield, and also of the Pontoosuc and Onota Lakes in the latter community. On clear days the Hudson River and Bennington Monument can be seen very distinctly with the naked eye.²

Geographical Co-ordinate of Mount Greylock³

Latitude $42^{\circ} 38' 0''$ North

Longitude $73^{\circ} 9' 5''$ West

Altitude above sea level 3505 feet

The variation of the needle at Greylock, for Jan 1, 1882, is about $10^{\circ} 0' W$.

Distances and Bearings from Greylock

<u>Peak</u>	<u>Distance</u>	<u>Bearing</u>
Ascutney	66 miles	N 33° E
Bald Peak	39	S 22° W
Cardigan	93	N 42° E
Croydon	74.5	N 40° E

¹ Rockwell, Francis W. Glory of Greylock. p. 2

² Phillips, W.H. Greylock Mountains and Berkshire Hills and Historic Bennington, Amherst, Mass. 1910. p. 33

³ Ballard, Harlan H. "Greylock" New England Magazine, p. 604

Equinox	36.5	N 40° E
Helderberg	42	S 89° W
Killington	68.5	N 16° E
Merino	43.5	S 52° W
Monadnock	55	N 70° E
Mountain Dome	64	N 14° W
Prospect	62	N 28° W
Rafinesque	25	N 65° W
Tom	37	S 45° E
Wachusett	65	S 82° E

The Greylock State Reservation continues to be administered by a three-man board of commissioners appointed by the Governor of the Commonwealth, each appointee receiving a three-year term of office. The present commissioners of the Greylock Reservation are James E. Wall of North Adams, Arthur Palme of Pittsfield, and Dr. James Phinney Baxter, 3rd, president of Williams College. Charles Parker, working under direction of the Greylock Commission, is superintendent of the Reservation. The County Commissioners provide, from the annual Berkshire County budget, an appropriation to carry out the function of the Greylock Commission. The 1945 allotment for maintenance of the Reservation amounts to \$8,025.¹

Original and Present Boundaries of Adams

The first boundaries of Adams, those of the Plantation of East Hoosuck, were established in 1749 under a survey ordered by the General Court. It was the intention of this legislative body that East Hoosuck be of the contents of six miles square but for some reason was laid out seven miles long by five miles wide, and was bounded as follows: Beginning at the southwest corner (at) (of) a spruce tree, marked T.D.I.C.O.F. and N.D., 1749, from thence, running north 10° east, 2300 poles, to a white oak tree marked N.D.; thence east 10° south, 1600 poles to a beech tree

¹ North Adams Transcript, Jan. 19, 1945. p. 2

on top of the East mountain, marked N.D.; thence running south 10° west, 2300 poles to a beech tree with stones at the root, marked W.D.; thence running west 10° north 1600 poles to the first mentioned bounds.¹

Under the provisions of Chapter 20, Acts of 1778, the Plantation of East Hoosuck was incorporated as the town of Adams on October 15, 1778.² As incorporated, the act included all of the region within the present city of North Adams and the town of Adams. On April 10, 1780, a tract of land in the southern part of Adams, 1400 rods in width, making up a part of Plot No. 6, plus other incorporated lands and known as the New Providence grant, were annexed, but later became part of the town of Cheshire.

In 1793, that part of Adams called New Providence, and parts of the towns of Lanesboro (New Framingham) and Windsor, and the district of New Ashford, were incorporated as the town of Cheshire.³ On February 26, 1794, a part of this New Providence strip was set off to Windsor and on February 6, 1798, Jacob Cole's farm, later known as the "Follett Lot" was set off from New Ashford and annexed to Cheshire. On May 28, 1912, the greatest part of the "Follett Lot" area was re-annexed to New Ashford and became a part of the Greylock State Reservation.

On April 16, 1878, the northerly part of the town of Adams, north of the "Old Military Line," was incorporated as the town of North Adams.⁴ This town was incorporated as a city on March 23, 1895, the act being accepted by the town, April 8, 1895. No change in the boundary line between Adams and North Adams has been made since 1878.

1 Registry of Deeds, Adams, Massachusetts

2 Mass. Acts and Resolves, 1778, Chap. 20.

3 Mass. Acts and Resolves, 1792-1793, Chap. 56.

4 Mass. Acts and Resolves, 1878, Chap. 143.

The present boundary lines between Adams and its neighboring towns are as follows:

Line between the towns of Adams and Cheshire. Beginning at the corner of Adams, Cheshire, and Savoy, at a common field stone marked C. S., situated about 50 feet west of and about 40 feet higher than Tophet Brook, thence north $86^{\circ} 45'$ west, 24,266 feet to the corner of Adams, Cheshire, and New Ashford to a stone monument marked A.C., situated in the "Follett Lot", so-called, at the southerly edge of the clearing, about 1700 feet south-easterly of the new road to Mount Greylock from Adams.¹

Line between the towns of Adams and Florida. Beginning at the corner of Adams, Florida, and North Adams, at a marble monument marked M.A.F.A. 1895, 1900, 1905, and 1910, cut in the top, situated on the southerly brow of a wooded ridge along a ledge, 1200 feet north of the road leading from Florida to Adams; thence south $3^{\circ} 7'$ west, 1791 feet to the corner of Adams, Florida, and Savoy at a $3/4$ inch pipe about 3 feet high with stones at the base, situated at the westerly edge of the woods, 25 feet east of a small brook and about 415 feet south of the road from Florida to Adams.²

Line between the towns of Adams and North Adams. Beginning at the corner of Adams, Florida, and North Adams, at a marble monument marked N.A.F.A. 1895, 1900, 1905, and 1910 cut in the top, situated on the southeasterly brow of a wooded ledge, about 1200 feet to the corner of Adams, North Adams, and Williamstown at a $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch iron rod, $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet high, imbedded in a crevice of the ledge to the top of which are bolted two iron rod plates with copper-

¹ Mass. Acts and Resolves, 1792-1793, Chap. 56.

² Mass. Acts and Resolves, 1805, Chap. 15; 1878, Chap. 143.

plate faces inscribed "Williamstown, North Adams, and Adams," and situated in the Hopper in tall scattering woods, about 800 feet south of Money Brook, and 2000 feet west of the point where the Adams-North Adams line crosses the regular mountain road from North Adams to Mount Greylock summit.¹

Line between the towns of Adams and New Ashford. Beginning at the corner of Adams, New Ashford, and Williamstown, at a rough, irregular fieldstone marked "C" on the south face, situated on the southeasterly brow of a wooded ledge, about 300 feet south of Peck Bridge, 25 feet easterly from the Cheshire Trail, thence south $3^{\circ} 50'$ west, 11,031 feet to the corner of the Adams, Cheshire, and New Ashford lines at a stone monument marked A.C., situated in the Follett Lot, so-called, at the southerly edge of a clearing about 700 feet southeasterly of the new road to Mount Greylock from Adams.²

Line between the towns of Adams and Savoy. Beginning at the corner of Adams, Florida, and Savoy, at a $3/4$ inch pipe about 3 feet high, with stones at the base, situated at the westerly edge of the woods, 25 feet east of a small brook and about 415 feet south of the road from Adams to Florida; thence south $2^{\circ} 56'$ west, 20,346 feet to corner "I", a very dark slab-shaped field stone with stones piled about it, marked A.S., situated in a woodland about 20 feet north of a point where the land drops abruptly and about 300 feet south of some cultivated land; thence south $86^{\circ} 41'$ west, 4526 feet to the corner of Adams, Cheshire, and Savoy, at a slab of common field stone against the southerly side of a large beech tree with initials and dates cut thereon, marked C.S., situated about 50 feet west of, and 40 feet higher than Tophet Brook.³

1 Mass. Acts and Resolves, 1778, Chap. 20.

2 Ibid.

3 Mass. Acts and Resolves, 1778; 1797, Chap. 13.

Line between the town of Adams and Williamstown. Beginning at the corner of Adams, North Adams, and Williamstown, at a $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch iron rod, $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet high, and imbedded in a crevice of ledge, with two iron plates bolted to the top with the inscription "Williamstown, North Adams, and Adams," situated in the Hopper among scattered woods about 800 feet south of Money Brook, and 2000 feet west of a point where the North Adams line crosses the mountain road to the summit of Mount Greylock; thence south $2^{\circ} 24'$ west, 11,478 feet to the corner of Adams, New Ashford, and Williamstown at a rough, irregularly shaped fieldstone marked "C" on the south face, situated about 300 feet south of Peck Bridge, 25 feet easterly from the Cheshire Trail.¹

Precinct Divisions and Registered Voters

With the establishment of the so-called representative form of town government by limited town meetings, through acceptance of a special Legislative Act of 1935² by Adams voters on March 2, 1936, the town was divided up into five precincts, each precinct having an approximately equal number of registered voters.

The precincts were established as follows:

Precinct No. 1. Agnes place, Brown Street, Burt street, Butler street, Columbia street (from Valley street to town line), Columbia street (from Valley to East Maple street, east side only), Columbia terrace, Coolidge street, Cross street, Depot street (from East Maple to Hoosac street), East Maple street (north side only), Friend street, Grant Street, Harding street, Hastings street, Howland avenue, Hughes street, Kerr avenue, Kipper street, or 104th street, Lincoln street, Newark street, Noonan street, Notch road (east side only), Orcutt street, Parkhurst avenue, Pine street, Russ street, Sayles street, St. Martha street or West Pine street, Thompson street, Upton street, Valley street (north side only), West Burt street, West Pine street or St. Martha street and Zylonite

¹ Mass. Acts and Resolves, 1778, Chap. 20; 1878, Chap. 143

² Mass Acts and Resolves, 1935, Chap. 235, p. 6

Station street.

Precinct No. 2. Albert St., Allen St., Anthony St., Baskin Lane, Burns Lane, Charles St., Cook St., Crotteau St., Davis St., Dubis St., East Hoosac St. (from Meadow St. to East Road), East Hoosac St. (from Summer St. to Meadow St. north side only), East Hoosac St. or Savoy Center Road (from East Road to Savoy line north side only), East Jordan St., East Road (from North Adams line to East Hoosac St.) East Road, (from East Hoosac St. to Meadow St. Extension (west side only), Frederick Lane, Godak St., Haggerty St., Hawk St., Hayer St., Henry Ave., Hoosac St. (between Railroad and Summer St., north side only), John St., Jordan St., Judson St., Kittler Ave., Lime St., Meadow St. (north and east side only), McGrath Road or Spring Road, Mill St., Murray St., North Hoosac St., North Summer St., Powers St., Richmond Lane, Savoy Center or East Hoosac St. (from East Road to Savoy line, north side only), Sparrow St., Staples St., Summit Ave., Tampa St., Turn Verein Ave., Waldron St. and Wren St.

Precinct No. 3. Bedell Lane, Burlingame Road (east side only), Center St. (north side only), Cherry St., Clifford Lane, Conrad St., Dean St., East Road (from Meadow St. Extension to East St), East Road (from East Hoosac St. to Meadow St. Extension, east side only), East Road (from East St. to Burlingame Road (east side only), East St. (from Second St. to East Road, north side only), East Hoosac St. (from Summer St. to Meadow St., south side only), East Hoosac St. or Savoy Center Road (from East Road to Savoy line south side only), First St., Francis Ave., Gavin Ave., George St., Hilbert St., Holden Ave. or Myrtle St. Extension, Hoosac St. (from Railroad to Summer St., south side only), Kearns Lane, Leh Lane, Manners Ave., Meadow St. (entire length, west and south side only), East Mountain Road, Myrtle St., Myrtle St. Extension or Holden St., North St., Pleasant St., Randall St. (north side only), Richmond St., Savoy Center Rd. or East Hoosac St. (from East Rd to Savoy line, south side only), Second St. (from North St. to Randall St.), Second St. (from Randall St. to East St., east side only), Siara St., Smith St., Spring St., Summer St. (from Hoosac St. to Randall St.), Summer St. (from Randall St. to Center St., west side only), Walling Road, Weber St. and Winter St.

Precinct No. 4. Beech St., Bellevue Ave., Bucklin Road, Burlingame Road (west side only), Center St. (south side only), Commercial St., Commonwealth Ave., Crandall St., Daniels Court, East Road (from East St. to Burlingame Road, west side only), East St. (from Orchard St. to Second St.), East St. (from Second St. to East Road south side only), Edmunds St., Elm St. (from Commercial St. to Railroad), Harmon Lane, Harmony St., High St., Jenks St., Leonard St. (from Dry Brook to Orchard St.), Liberty St., Linden St., Marsh Lane, Noble Place, Orchard St., Pearl St., Plunkett Grounds, Plunkett Lane, Prospect St., Randall St., (south side only), Reeves St., Richmond Ave., River St., Second St. (from Randall St. to East St., west side only), South St., Summer St., (from Randall to Canter St., east side only) and Temple St.

Precinst No. 5. "A" street or Melrose street, Alger street, Armory court,

"B" street, Back row, Beecher street, Buena Vista, Country Club avenue, Columbia street (from Valley street to Maple street, west side only), Depot street (from East Maple street to School street), East Maple street (south side only), Elm street (from Railroad to Enterprise street), Enterprise street, Fisk street, Fisk road, Forest Park avenue, Gilead street, Gould road, Greylock avenue, Greylock road or West Mountain road, Grove street, Hathaway street, The Island, Leonard street (from Grove street to Dry Brook), Maple street, Marmon street or Mooney avenue, Marsh street, Melrose street, or "A" street, Miller street, Notch road (west side only), Park street, Philips Hill, Quaker street, Quality street, Ruel street, School street, South Willow street, Thiel road, Valley street, (south side only), Walnut street, Water street, West street, West road, West Mountain road or Greylock road and Willow street.

Beginning in 1927, when reports of the town clerk first appeared in the annual Adams Town Reports, figures of registered voters for 1944 show a 50% increase over the 1927 total. It is a noteworthy development, since the population of Adams for both 1927 and 1944 was approximately the same. It is apparent that the Polish and French populace of the town, now comprising a great majority of the town's population, are taking a greater interest in town affairs, particularly among the younger groups.

The following figures show the number of registered voters in Adams for the respective years indicated:

<u>No. Registered voters</u> ¹	<u>Year</u>
4,401	1927
4,868	1928
4,887	1929
4,744	1930
4,802	1931
5,149	1932
5,145	1933
5,363	1934
5,608	1935
6,148	1936

Starting in 1937, the registered voters of the town were apportioned among their respective precincts as follows:

¹ Adams Town Reports, 1927-1936

	<u>1937</u>		
<u>Precinct</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Total</u>
1	673	518	1191
2	725	503	1228
3	694	581	1275
4	676	600	1276
5	<u>686</u>	<u>581</u>	<u>1267</u>
	<u>3454</u>	<u>2783</u>	<u>6237</u> ¹
	<u>1938</u>		
1	697	518	1215
2	796	539	1335
3	735	589	1324
4	608	625	1233
5	<u>676</u>	<u>593</u>	<u>1269</u>
	<u>3512</u>	<u>2864</u>	<u>6376</u> ²
	<u>1939</u>		
1	676	499	1175
2	778	532	1310
3	721	579	1300
4	608	607	1215
5	<u>667</u>	<u>588</u>	<u>1255</u>
	<u>3450</u>	<u>2805</u>	<u>6255</u> ³
	<u>1940</u>		
1	733	556	1289
2	836	605	1441
3	804	644	1448
4	659	664	1323
5	<u>713</u>	<u>669</u>	<u>1382</u>
	<u>3745</u>	<u>3138</u>	<u>6883</u> ⁴
	<u>1941</u>		
1	718	561	1279
2	852	616	1468
3	781	645	1426
4	659	660	1319
5	<u>733</u>	<u>638</u>	<u>1371</u>
	<u>3743</u>	<u>3120</u>	<u>6863</u> ⁵

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- 1 Adams Town Report, 1937, P. 103
 2 Adams Town Report, 1938, P. 116
 3 Adams Town Report, 1939, P. 92
 4 Adams Town Report, 1940, P. 96
 5 Adams Town Report, 1941, P. 100

1942

1	695	543	1238
2	796	615	1411
3	742	626	1368
4	620	634	1254
5	<u>695</u>	<u>609</u>	<u>1304</u>
	3548	3027	6575 ¹

1943

1	657	525	1182
2	769	613	1382
3	718	588	1306
4	609	618	1227
5	<u>685</u>	<u>584</u>	<u>1269</u>
	3438	2928	6366 ²

1944

1	687	611	1298
2	759	721	1480
3	739	688	1427
4	629	709	1338
5	<u>711</u>	<u>664</u>	<u>1375</u>
	3525	3393	6918 ³

- 1 Adams Town Report, 1942, p. 119
 2 Adams Town Report, 1943, p. 94
 3 Adams Town Report, 1944, p. 94

Vital Statistics¹

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of Births</u>	<u>Number of Deaths</u>	<u>Number of Marriages</u>
1944	247	134	95
1943	312	151	107
1942	282	159	186
1941	231	138	216
1940	170	165	170
1939	195	163	168
1938	221	124	138
1937	221	127	134
1936	189	161	137
1935	230	124	138
1934	192	135	131
1933	202	139	95
1932	231	135	61
1931	205	141	67
1930	225	161	84
1929	238	159	106
1928	280	146	93
1927	<u>255</u>	<u>159</u>	<u>131</u>
	4126	2621	2257

Population of Adams²

<u>Year</u>	<u>Population</u>	
1790	2,040)	
1800	1,688)	
1810	1,763)	
1820	1,836)	
1830	2,649)	Combined population of North and South Adams
1840	3,703)	
1850	6,172)	
1860	6,924)	
1870	12,090)	
1880	5,591*	* North Adams formally separated from Adams,
1885	8,283	April 16, 1878
1890	9,213	
1900	11,134	
1905	12,482	
1910	13,026	
1920	12,967	
1930	12,697	
1935	12,858	
1940	12,608	

¹ Adams Town Reports, 1927-1943, Reports of Town Clerk
² Census of the U.S., Washington, D.C. 1790-1940

CHAPTER II

BEGINNINGS OF ADAMS

Surveys and Grants

In the latter part of the year 1737, a Captain Thomas Wells petitioned the Massachusetts Legislature that the lands lying on the Hoosic River should be surveyed, divided into settling lots, and thrown open to actual settlers. These lands comprised the present towns of Adams, North Adams, and Williamstown. Captain Wells' original petition is missing from the State papers at Boston, but the petition had been referred to an appropriate legislative committee, who reported thereon as follows:

"The committee having considered the memorial of Captain Thomas Wells are humbly of the opinion,

"That two tracts of the unappropriated land of the Province of the contents of six miles square each be surveyed and laid by a surveyor and chain men on oath on Hoosuck River by direction of a committee to be appointed by this Court and Platts returned to this Court for confirmation which committee shall be empowered to admit sixty settlers into each of said townships and to take a bond of each settler for the sum of Twenty pound, for the performance of the conditions hereafter mentioned, that a sixty-third part of each township be reserved for the first settled minister and the like quantity for the ministry and the like quantity for the use of the school and that the remaining part of each of said townships be granted to the settlers admitted as aforesaid (viz) to each settler a sixty-third part of such township whereunto he shall be admitted as a settler on condition that each settler or grantee shall pay B his proportionate part of the charge of the committee and of the survey and that he his Heirs or assigns shall within three years from the confirmation of the platt build and finish a suitable and convenient dwelling house on his respective right and shall likewise within five years from sd. confirmation Plough or bring to English Grass fit for mowing six acres of such land, and that they do within s'd five years build a convenient meeting house for the Publick worship of God and settle a learned orthodox minister in each of s'd towns.

"The committee are further of opinion that a letter be sent from this government to the government of New York, once more to pray them to joyn commissioners with such as shall be appointed by this court for

settling the boundaries between this government and that of New York. ¹
 "In the name and by the order of the committee, "JOHN STODDARD."¹

This report was read in the upper branch of the Legislature; then the Council was sent down to the lower branch which proposed several amendments which were rejected by the Council; the two branches finally came together as follows:

"In Council January 25th, 1738--Read and non-concurred, and ordered that Ephraim Williams, Esq., with such as shall be joined by the Hon'ble House a committee carefully to view the land situate on or near Hoosuck River; and if they find the land accommodable for inhabitants, that they survey and lay out one or more townships of the contents of six miles square and Return a Plat or Plats thereof to this Court at their next May session with an account of the Quantity and Quality of the said land, so that this Court may dispose thereof as they shall think proper.

"J. WILLARD, Sec'y."

"Sent down for concurrence. In the House of Rep'tives January 26th, 1738. Read and concurred and Thomas Wells is joyned in the affair.

"J. QUINCY, Sp'kr.

"Consented to,

"J. BELCHER."²

In May, 1739, this committee appointed by the Legislature reported to the Hoosac River, and with the aid of Timothy Dwight and Nathan Kellogg, surveyors, laid out three townships lying along its banks and submitted to the Legislature, in June of that year, the following report:

"Pursuant to the order of the Great and Supreme Court or Assembly of this Province in Jan'y last we the subscribers have carefully viewed the lands on and near the Hoosuck River and finding the same very accommodable for settlement have by the assistance of Timothy Dwight, Esq., and Mr. Nathan Kellogg, survey's, adjoining and lye on Hoosuck River the other on Mayoosok, being the northern branch thereof about three miles northward of the lowest of the two towns all which will fully appear by the plans herewith humbly presented we have not perfected all the lines occasioned by the Great Opposition we met with from Sundry Gent'n from Albany a particular account of which we are ready to lay before ye Excellency and Honours if thereto required and are your Excellency's and Hon's most obedient and dutiful servants.

"Boston June 6th, 1739.

"EPHRM WILLIAMS) Committee."³
 "THOMAS WELLS)

1 Province Laws, 1738-1739

2 Ibid.

3 Ibid.

The townships laid out were West Hoosuck, afterward Williamstown, East Hoosuck, afterward Adams, and Clarksburg, which originally included part of the territory of Florida. The map which accompanied the report, however, shows only the township of East Hoosuck and part of the township of West Hoosuck, as will be readily seen. This map was made by Nathan Kellogg, surveyor, and it is the first map ever made in the town of Adams.

The report of the committee was read in the lower branch of the Legislature on the 7th of June, 1739, and in the Council on the 8th of June in the same year. The Council ordered "that William Dudley, Jacob Wendell and Joseph Wilson, with such as shall be joined by the Hon'ble House of Representatives, be a committee to take under consideration the above report with the plat therein mentioned and make report as soon as may be what may be proper for the Court to do therein."

On the 16th of June, a few days after, the House of Representatives "joined in this affair" Ebenezer Pomeroy, John Chandler, William Fynchon, and Joseph Dwight. This committee reported in the following words:

"The committee to whom was referred the Report of Captain Williams and Wells and their doings with the platt of the three townships lately surveyed and laid out at or on Hoosuck River &c. Offer as their opinion that for the better securing the undoubted rights this governm't have to those and other lands thereabout lying in this province that the most northerly of the three townships aforesaid of the contents of six miles square adjoining thereto and southward thereof which the said Williams and Wells had not time to take a sruvey of tho' well assured of it and accommodable for a town and whereon some few people have already got and inhabit; Bee granted to such of his Majesty's subjects as will effectually settle the same in the space of two years with fifty or sixty familys on each tract and give sufficient bonds therefor and that there be sequestered a sufficient portion thereof for the ministry in each township and to pay such sum or sums of money for the reimbursement of the Province treasury what has been expended in this affair as also such other sums and according to the terms and conditions as this Court shall order and that a committee be accordingly appointed and as to the other two tracts surveyed and platted as aforesaid that they be disposed of as this Court

shall order and that the government of New York be informed by proper letters of the Resolution of this Court herein and that we are ready to join commissioners with such as shall be appointed by them for the staking and perambulating the bounds between each province according to the prior grant. All which is submitted by order of the committee,

"Dated the 21st June, 1739."

"WILLIAM DUDLEY.¹

This report was accepted by the Legislature, but nothing further was done until the 18th of April, 1749, ten years after, when the Legislature adopted the following order:

"In the House of Rep'ves April 18th, 1749, Ordered that Col. Dwight and Col. Choate with such as the Hon'ble board shall joyn be a committee to Repair to the Province lands near Hoosuck as soon as may be with a skillful surveyor and chainmen under oath and lay out two townships of the contents of six miles square in the best of the land and in as regular form as may be, joyning them together and Return a correct plat of said townships to this Court for their further order thereon. And also that the same committee be directed to Return an account of the course and distance the said townships bear from Fort Massachusetts and as near as they can the quantity of intervale land contained in each township and what the quality of the soil adjoining to the said township is.

"Sent up for concurrence,

"W. THIRLBY,

"In Council April 19th, 1749, Read and concurred and Oliver Partridge, Esq., is joined in the affair.

"J. WILLARD, Sec'y.

"Concurred,

"W. THIRLBY."²

This committee went to work in October, 1749, and what they did may be read in their own language.

"The Committee appointed by the Great and General Court in April last to repair to the province lands near Hoosuck to lay out Two Townships of the contents of six miles square report:

"That on the 26th day of Octo. the Com'tte went from Hatfield and the next day came to Fort Massachusetts (having obtained Mr. Nath'l Dwight a skilled surveyor to survey the Townships) the next day we went out to view the lands. Ordered the surveyor to measure the distance from the fort to the line that is run between this government and New Hampshire (which was run some time since by Mr. Hazzen) and on Monday and Tuesday following we proceeded to view the lands. In the meantime directed the surveyor to take the course and distances of the adjacent mountains and when we had sufficiently satisfied ourselves in what form the townships

¹ Province Laws, 1738-1739

² Province Laws, 1748-1749, Chap. 281.

should be laid out we directed the surveyor to lay them out agreeable to the plan herewith presented (having caused the Surveyor and chainmen to be sworn). On the west side of the west town lays a range of mountains and between the two townships lays another range of mountains over which the dividing line runs. As to the Quantity of Intervale contained in the townships we made no particular measure thereof by the surveyor but carefully viewed the townships and would inform that the Rivers running through the center of the east township for more than four miles northerly and southerly and about half a mile east and west appears rich and good a considerable part thereof is intervale. In the west township there is not so great a quantity of intervale but a very valuable and large tract of land in the middle of the township, insomuch that the Com'tee do esteem the West Township the most valuable. Great part of the Land in both townships is considerably Loaded with timber--as to the Quality of the Lands adjoining to S'd Townships the Com'tee would inform That in the East of s'd Townships lies the Great Hoosuck Mountain (so called) which is about seven miles from side to side on which mountain there is a sufficient quantity of land for a township or Two a great part of it valuable. Between the North line of the East Town and the province line the land is mountainous and broken.

"And the Land on the South of s'd Towns is some very poor Broken and some of it good accommodable for the settlement.

"All which is humbly submitted in the name and by order of the Com'tee.

"O. V. PARTRIDGE.

"November 10th, 1749.

"In Council December 8th, read and sent down."¹

East Hoosuck or Adams was laid out seven miles long from north to south, and five miles broad from east to west; the east and west lines running along the summits of the mountains forming the valley of the south branch of the Hoosac River. It was the only township in the county of perfectly regular form. A plan was prepared by Nathaniel Dwight and on this plan were designated as monuments, marking the corner bounds of the township, trees bearing the initials of the surveyor and of the several members of the committee. The township projected was, in form, a parallelogram, 2,300 poles in length and 1,600 poles in width, allowing "one rod in twenty for stray chain," and contained, therefore, almost precisely the area required by the General Court, which was, "Of the contents of six miles square."

¹ Province Laws, 1748-1749, Chap. 281.

In the year 1750 the State granted 200 acres of land in East Hoosuck to Capt. Ephraim Williams on condition that there should be reserved from it ten acres for a fort and should be built and kept in repair for twenty years a saw and grist mill. This 200 acres was situate about a mile below the union of the two branches of the Hoosac River and comprised the present Harrison farm. Upon the ten acres reserved from it was built Fort Massachusetts.

On the 16th of February, 1762, the House of Representatives voted that the township of East Hoosuck, with several others, be sold to the highest bidder and be "set up at eight hundred Pounds lawful money each." The following conditions were annexed, viz: "that there be reserved for the first settled minister one sixty-third part of each of said townships and one sixty-third part of each of said townships for the use of the ministry and the like quantity for the use and support of a school in each of said Townships forever. That within the space of five years from the time of sale there be sixty settlers residing in each township, who shall each have a dwelling house of the following dimensions, viz: twenty-four feet long, eighteen feet wide and seven feet studd and have seven acres of land well cleared and fenced and brought to English grass or Plowed; and also settle a learned Protestant minister of the Gospel in each of said townships within the term aforesaid."¹

It was voted "that Colonel Partridge and Mr. Tyler, with such as the honorable board shall join, be a committee to make sale of the townships and tracts and that the purchasers of each of said townships shall

¹ Province Laws, 1761-1762, Chap. 347

pay twenty pounds earnest money and the Remaining sums the said lands shall be struck at, the purchasers shall give Bond to pay the same to the Province Treasurer with sufficient sureties within one year from the time of sale without interest." The Council concurred with the House of Representatives and "joined Thomas Flucker in the affair."¹

This committee, after giving public notice of the time and place of sale, attended to their duty, at Boston, on the second day of June, in the same year, at the Royal Exchange Tavern in King street, sold the township of East Hoosuck at public auction to Nathan Jones, of Weston, for £3,200, received of him £20 of earnest money, took bonds of him with Elisha Jones and John Murray for £3,180.² Afterward, on the 11th of November, 1766, the Legislature, upon the petition of Nathan Jones, Elisha Jones, and John Murray, setting forth that they were equally interested in the affair, and that they had admitted many settlers to the land, and could give no sufficient deeds, granted and confirmed the township of East Hoosuck, exclusive of the grant formerly made to Colonel Williams, to the petitioners who were to complete the settlement as originally enjoined. The first meeting of the proprietors of East Hoosuck was begun in this fashion:

"Province of Massachusetts Bay.

"To the Hon. Samuel Danforth, Esq., one of his majesties Justices of the peace through this Province--

"The petition of James Otis, John Murray and Elisha Jones, Esqs. the major part of the owners and proprietors of the township No. one called East Hoosuck in the county of Berkshire of the contents of six miles square (exclusive of grants already laid out by the order of the General Court) that your Honor will be pleased to call a meeting of the aforesaid proprietors to be held at the dwelling house of Mr. Seth Blodgett innholder in Boston on Thursday the sixth day of June next at three of the clock in the afternoon to transact the following business--

¹ General Court Records, Vol. 24

² Province Laws, 1762-1763, Chap. 50

"First. To choose a moderator, clerk and such other officers as are usually chosen by other proprietors--

"2dly. To pass orders for managing, improving or dividing the common lands in said township and admitting settlers in the same township agreeable to the conditions of the grant of the General Court in order for bringing forward the same--

"3dly. To raise money for any other necessary charges for forwarding the same settlement--

"4thly. To appoint such method for calling meetings of the afors'd proprietors for the future as they shall judge most convenient.

"JAMES OTIS,
"JNO. MURRAY,
"ELISHA JONES."

"L. S. Province of Massachusetts Bay.

"Suffolk ss:--

"To the Hon. James Otis Esqr. one of the principal proprietors of the Township aforesaid in greeting--In his Majesties name you are hereby required to give notice in the time and manner as the law directs to the several proprietors of said township that they meet at the time and place named for the purposes mentioned in the foregoing petition.

"Given under my hand and seal this eighth day of February Anno Domini 1765 and in the fifth year of his Majesties Reign.

"S. DANFORTH,

"Justice of the Peace throughout the province aforesaid."

"By virtue of the above warrant I do hereby notify the above said proprietors to meet at time and place as in said warrant is directed for the purposes aforesaid.

"JAMES OTIS."¹

This meeting was held on the sixth day of June, 1765, at the house of Seth Blodgett, in Boston, as according to the above warrant.

"James Otis was chosen moderator, then Elisha Jones was chosen clerk to said propriety, and sworn to the faithful discharge of that trust." The meeting was then adjourned from time to time until the 4th day of June, 1766, when it was voted "that Elisha Jones, of Pittsfield, who was empowered by said proprietors to make sale of settling lots in order to bring forward the settlement of said township, be directed to lay an account of his proceedings before the said proprietors in order for the

¹ Proprietors Records - East Hoosuck, 1765-1773, City Hall, North Adams

settlement of his account as soon as may be--and also to lodge the securities he has taken for lands sold, with said proprietors." It was also voted "that Israel Jones, who being now settled in said township, be appointed and empowered to lay out a further number of lots not exceeding twenty, of a hundred acres each, to accommodate the settlement and also to admit settlers on the lots not yet disposed of so as to complete and make up the number of sixty settlers agreeable to the vote of the General Court and to take security for the proceeds of the sale of said lots and lodge them with the proprietors."

The meeting was then adjourned from time to time until the thirteenth of June, 1767, at three o'clock in the afternoon, when "the proprietors aforesaid being met voted that the lands in East Hoosuck that are not already settled shall be laid out into 200 acre lots in order for a division thereof and that Cap'n Nathan Dwight shall be employed as a surveyor to lott ye said lands if he can be obtained to do it in ye month of October next, and if not then voted that Cap'n Charles Baker shall be employed as surveyor to lott out ye said lands."

The meeting was adjourned again from time to time until Friday, the 5th day of February, 1768, at four o'clock in the afternoon, at the Bunch of Grapes Tavern. At that meeting Captain Charles Baker, who had been employed in the mean time to lay out the township into two hundred acre lots, according to the vote of the proprietors, returned a plan "of the said settling lots laid out by Daniel Jones, Esq., and others and also of his own survey of the said two hundred acre lots, &c." It was voted, "first, that said plan be accepted and recorded and that each

lott shall be marked to the owners as they are now drawn." It was also voted "that the plan of each lott returned by said surveyor amounting to the No. of Seventy-three shall be recorded in the book of records as they are drawn by the several proprietors."

The titles to real estate in North Adams and Adams are still traced back to this plan of settling lots.

Method of Settling Townships

All Berkshire land titles must trace back in unbroken line to either King Charles I or King James of England, who in their day, held all of our lands as personal property, and which they distributed by charter to various colonies in America. Our State system of registering land starts then from the time the charter was granted. It has been stated that the first record books were for the purpose of recording purchases from the Indians. The Indians claimed to be owners of our lands, and deeds were usually taken from them, more to propitiate them, than because of any acknowledgement of their ownership.

Many believe the Indians were swindled out of much property, because their deeds give such trifling sums in repayment, but we have to remember that at the time all lands were cheap, and they seem to have received the prevailing prices. It is probable that there was some dishonesty, but perhaps not more than the pale faces frequently showed toward each other. At any rate, it is possible to find a deed or release from the Indians, with payment therefor, for all the lands they had in this state. The early registries have hundreds of these deeds from the Indians.

After a colony was established, such as the Massachusetts Bay Colony, there was a fairly uniform method of settling the lands covered by the charter. There were several ways in which title was passed on to others.

In early times the present towns of Pittsfield and Charlemont were offered for sale to provide money to finance the school systems of Boston. Savoy, Ashfield and other townships were given to groups of veterans for their services in the wars. Many large tracts called "grants" were given in repayment for a variety of services, or were direct purchases.

This country was well sprinkled with grants which had been made before real settlement commenced, such as the Fort Massachusetts grant to Ephraim William. Stockbridge was set aside as a town to be held by the Indians, and we find their sales of land in our records. Some of these deeds show signatures with a Christian name attached to an Indian surname. When new towns were laid out down East, because of careless descriptions and surveys, it was found that their boundaries overlapped, and so many grants were made in the unsettled part of the state, to recompense towns for lost areas. When the state line on the north was established in 1741, some towns along the border, such as Bernardston, lost large areas. The Bernardston grant, now a large part of Florida, was sold by that town to purchasers. On the east side of the Mohawk trail in Zoar and Charlemont we see large private grants to the Hawks and Rice families, one being as payment for constructing the first road up Hoosac mountain. Soon after another grant was made in 1772 to Joshua Locke so that he might establish a tavern where he could dispense hospitality to

travellers over the old Mohawk trail. History does not say whether he had a hot dog sign or not, but his was the first of the Mohawk trail tourist houses.

The towns of north Berkshire originated in a variety of ways. East and West Hoosuck were sold to groups of settlers or investors called proprietors, who would own the township in common. Lanesboro also came under this head, as well as Windsor. Some of our towns like Cheshire were carved from other towns, because geographical conditions demanded it. Towns lines were frequently altered to accommodate settlers to the best advantage for voting. Usually a town was planned to include a natural valley. Hancock is an exception to this, as it is crossed by a mountain barrier which compels people living in the south part to travel through New York to get to the village of Hancock, to vote.¹

As the Massachusetts Bay Province was anxious to have its territory settled as soon as possible, it gave liberal terms to new settlers. The Province disposed of its unsettled territories in various ways, but East and West Hoosuck only (Adams and Williamstown), will now be considered.

It was usual to consider sixty, as the convenient number of settlers to take up lands in a new township, each of whom would own that proportion of the township. However, three public reservations were made which reduced each holding to one sixty-third. Therefore, each purchase of one of these "rights" in a new settlement, as well as each public reservation, school, ministry and minister, would have title to a sixty-third part of the town as it was surveyed and plotted. However,

¹ Browne, W.B. North Adams Transcript, March 14, 1935

some purchasers took several "rights", and in West Hoosuck, because of this fact, there were but 46 purchasers or Proprietors instead of the expected sixty.

The conditions for giving the township over to these men, were: Each "right" should pay the Government a certain sum, that within two years he would build a regulation house, should bring into cultivation five acres of land, and settle a minister, and if the same were not fulfilled their title would lapse. A Committee having surveyed sixty-three houselots, of about eleven acres each, in what was deemed the most suitable place for a community centre, and the required purchasers having been found, there was a drawing, and each purchaser drew by lot the home place which was to be his. It is probable that before the drawing, the three public lots were selected in a convenient location. Then, as settlement progressed and additional territory was needed, further surveys laid out new divisions of 63 lots each, which were again selected by lot and belonged to the original "right". In Williamstown, there were no less than nine of these subsequent divisions.

Until the town was incorporated, the Proprietors held stated meetings where public business such as road surveys and other matters were settled. The Proprietors Records of East Hoosuck cover the period 1765-1773, and may be seen at the office of the City Clerk in North Adams. The Proprietors Records of West Hoosuck, covering the period 1775-1793, are in fine preservation and are full of interesting material. In the neighborhood town of Pownal, a somewhat similar program was followed by the Rhode Island settlers of that town, and their Proprietors records

are also well kept, and are nearly as old as those of Williamstown. Both towns used the odd word "Pitch" to designate some of the odd mountain lots and areas.

In East Hoosuck, there was a different arrangement. The entire township with nine others was sold to the highest bidder, and was bought by the three land prospectors, Elisha Jones, Nathan Jones and John Murray, to whom all deeds in this township must trace. Those who purchased from them were obligated to accept the same terms of settlement as were the settlers of West Hoosuck. However, no place was selected for a community centre, and there were no house lots. Instead, sixty-three 100-acre farms were laid out. The three Proprietors held a drawing and divided between themselves the ownership of their lots.

Just why 63 seem to have been the general number for "rights" is not clear, but it is supposed that 64 square miles was considered a convenient size for a township and each "right" would have a square mile and a fraction over. When the size of townships was reduced to smaller dimensions, the number of "rights" seems to have remained the same.¹

First Settlers and the Settling Lots

It is rather difficult to state who the first settlers in East Hoosuck were, as the first purchasers of land there were not always settlers. The best information on the matter is the 1770 survey of the old road which succeeded the Indian Trail from the south. In this survey, the corner where the present Howland mansion stands is marked "Esq. Todds." This is where the Rev. Samuel Todd lived. He bought that area in 1765

¹ Browne, W.B. North Adams Transcript, Dec 23, 1937.

while living in Lanesboro. The same survey, after passing through North Adams and along present Massachusetts Avenue, has marked it the Harrison Farm "Israel Jones Gate Post." Israel Jones bought the Fort Massachusetts grant in 1766, which had belonged to his first cousin Ephraim Williams. The same survey notes another station "at Elias Jones." Elias Jones bought of his brother Israel, in 1769, a corner of the grant near the present home of Miss Jarvie. These three seem to have been actual settlers in 1770.

Adams was settled almost 100 per cent by Quakers from Rhode Island, and a few Baptists, while North Adams also had Rhode Island settlers but many were from Connecticut or the eastern part of Massachusetts. In crossing the line into Adams, Quaker ownerships are met at once.

The first child born in East Hoosuck, as shown by the Quaker records, was Charlotte Killey, daughter of Isaac Killey of South Adams, on "the 27th day of the 4th month, 1770." Isaac Killey did not purchase land until 1772. The first male child born in town according to tradition and family record, was John Brown, son of Eleazer Brown of Orchard street, and born August 10, 1771. It is true that Elias Jones has a son recorded, Elias Jr., November 30, 1770, but very certainly not born in this town, as the family was then removing to the new house Elias was building that year. Very often families coming to a new town, and recording their children's births, included those born in other places. The three proprietors or owners of East Hoosuck were Nathan and Elisha Jones and John Murray. In 1771, Murray sold his interests to James Otis of Barnstable, a Revolutionary patriot. Nathan Jones lived in Gouldsboro, Elisha Jones lived in Weston, and John

Murray in Rutland, Mass. Not one of these three men ever lived in Adams, however.¹

As it may be difficult for readers to picture the references to various settling lots, it is suggested that the town plan be consulted when necessary. There were laid out throughout the length of the valley two double rows of 100-acre settling lots which were designed to be home lots for the pioneers. These double rows of lots were numbered alike from 1 to 24 and distinguished from each other by naming them as being in the East or West Range. These lots measured about 95 rods north and south and about 170 east and west. The double set of 48 lots was approximately a mile in width. The west line of this block of lots was the center line of the town and it ran from State street to the town line of Cheshire directly through Park street in Adams.

The division line between the ranges runs down the slope of Hale's Hill in Adams and this line can be plainly seen from almost any point in the valley. It passed directly through the bridge on the Cross Roads, and through North Adams nearly on the east side of Meadow street. The east line of this block of lots began on the Cheshire line, ran along the western slope of Burlingame Hill, then in the exact line of Walling Road and on to North Adams where it ended a little east of the Five Roads, passing on the way directly over the portal of Hoosac Tunnel, and across the east end of Windsor Pond. This East Range of settling lots from Lot 1 on the Cheshire line, north to the town line of North Adams, covered 14 lots. As one drives to Adams from North Adams, the division lines between these lots are plainly to be seen, most of them still remaining as

¹ Browne, W.B. North Adams Transcript, Dec 11, 1937.

the boundary lines of properties.

In tracing the valley lots from the town line south through Lot 7, it is necessary to keep in mind that the west line of this tier of lots is Park street, extended northward, and is the center base line of the township. It is also the east line of Bellevue and Maple street cemeteries. It is surprising to note, that if this line were followed to State street in North Adams, it would for a while be well up on the slope of Ragged Mountain. Each of these lots was a bit over a half mile east and west. The old Indian trail or the West road passed through these lots until in Lot 10 it turned westward. In Lot 7, we find the County Road going to Friend street through Maple. It came down Orchard street under the name of "The Middle Road to Ticonderoga" and passed along through Center and Park streets. Running directly across Maple street cemetery it met Friend street near the old Upton house. Present Columbia street was not opened until later and the south end of it was known merely as the road to Daniel Staple's. Lot 7 ends just south of School street.

Next, we cross the town line into Lot 14. This and Lot 13 in both ranges were the very first lots sold by the proprietors to anyone and comprised 400 acres of some of the best intervale land in the valley, being the Howland farm and the Anthony farm across the river. Elisha Jones sold these four lots to Rev. Mr. Todd in 1765. Doubtless they sold for a nominal sum, in the expectation that the settlement of Rev. Mr. Todd would lead to the more rapid purchase of lots by Todd's parishioners in Connecticut, which was the case, and the membership in the old church on the Cross road was composed almost entirely of families from western Connecticut who

followed their pastor up here. As it was impossible for him to comply with the terms of settlement for the four settling lots, his title was confirmed by later deeds. Todd also owned until 1781 the north part of the present Cook farm and the south half of the city farm. When he left town he must have realized a good profit from his real estate holdings. Just before 1800, Abraham Howland commenced to buy the lots west of the river and built the house now standing, which when built was the finest house in the valley. It is a close duplicate of the President's house at Williams College, but later additions have changed its appearance.

Turning the corner south from this house, it is possible to see the little building, now remodeled into a dwelling, which was the town house and used for many years as the place for town meetings before the township was divided. It was the scene of some stormy meetings.

Lots 13 and 14 remained the home farm of Abraham Howland and were bought in 1796. Howland already owned much of the mountain land west of these meadow lots. The Hoosac Valley Lime Company now owns a great section of this area. Howland also owned Lot 12 and sold the south part of it to Shubael Willmarth in 1797. The Howland homestead remained in possession of that family until a very few years ago. Shubael Willmarth was one of the pioneer settlers of Stafford Hill, having settled there in 1767. About 1795 he removed to Adams and bought in Lot 12, West Range, and also the lands in the East Range adjoining. This family left a great many descendants who were prominent in business in North Adams, as well as in Stamford, Vt. Shubael died in 1809 and his inventory

included about 350 acres of land valued at \$14,000 which was large for those days. His will states that he resided in Lot 12, West Range. Shubael, Jr., was bequeathed the homestead by his father. It was Shubael Willmarth who caused a sensation in Adams by bringing out the first carriage with springs. It was painted a bright yellow, and the body of the carriage was supported by four curved strips of ash, resembling legs of an insect, and which gave it the name of the "grasshopper wagon."

Lots 11 and 10 came next as we go southward and these lots were owned by Daniel MacFarlane, who bought them in 1773. He came here from Rutland, Mass., and was one of the Scotch-Irish settlers of Worcester county. This family lived here until 1817, their homestead still standing at the head of Lime street, a long, low rambling farmhouse of the regulation type. It was for a long time the Follett homestead. Daniel MacFarlane, Jr., owned these lots with his father in later years of their occupation of them. One of the MacFarlane daughters married William Waters of Adams. The MacFarlanes moved out into Ohio where they are now prominent citizens, and occasionally some of them come to Adams to visit the ancestral acres.

The Follett Lime company owned much of these lots. The next lots south, Nos. 9, 8, and 7, were the Lapham lots first bought by Joshua Lapham and his brother, Benjamin, in 1771, and owned for a long period by them and their descendants. They owned the adjoining East Range lots as well. The old homestead of Joshua at the head of Hoosac street, which was so often visited by his great granddaughter, Susan B. Anthony, burned down some years ago. The homestead of Benjamin, on Friend street, is

standing and is now owned by Elmer McCulloch. The Adams Friends society has placed tablets at each of these homestead sites. A descendant of Benjamin is Charles P. Burton of Aurora, Illinois, the author of the "Bobs Hill" stories dealing with Adams scenes. The Laphams came here from Dartmouth, Mass., and were devoted members of the Friends society and are buried in their burial ground near the meeting house. They furnished many substantial citizens for the town of Adams. The homestead of John Lapham was on Maple street and his farm took in 119 acres in Lots 7 and 8, West Range. In 1823, John Lapham sold this farm to David Anthony, Jr., who was the first of a long list of mill operators on this area which now includes the Berkshire Fine Spinning Associates Corporation.

David Anthony's mill was near the north corner of Hoosac and Columbia streets and his raceway crossed the present street, which was then but a short lane off the County Road. Anthony's Mills failed and in 1834 his property was divided among 21 creditors. In 1825, he had sold to Robert Briggs and a company of others the lot where the town hall now stands. Here an academy was built, and this gave School street its name.

Abraham Lapham, after selling his Adams lands, moved out into the Genessee country in New York State. He purchased nearly 3,000 acres in Macadon and Farmington townships, which were settled by many families from Adams. He was a man of stern character and commanding presence. When the Erie Canal was built some of the Friends questioned whether it was right to divert water into other courses than the Lord had designed. Abraham quieted their concern by pointing out to them that the Scriptures record that "Jacob digged a well." David Anthony of Adams, also a Friend,

seemed to have no scruples about building a dam and raceway, but he perhaps reasoned that the water was not permanently diverted from the river. All titles in Lot 7 must trace back to David Anthony, Jr. The parcels taken by his creditors were reassembled under other owners and it became the seat of the largest mill development in Adams. The names of Jenks, Lapham, Plunkett, Phillips, Hathaway, Pollock, Upton, and Richardson appear very often in these mill developments. For a time the Pittsfield and North Adams Railroad owned the site of the present Berkshire Fine Spinning Associates, south of Hoosac street. In 1842, George Rider of Adams, a creditor of Anthony, sold to William Pollock of Nassau, N.Y., and Nathaniel Hathaway of Adams, the old Anthony brick mill with a brick block across the highway. In 1845 Daniel Upton sold to Pollock and Hathaway his saw mill privilege "north of the Dug Way," (Valley Street). On this site was built the stone Broadley Mill, now standing. The very southwest corner of Lot 7 was on the south corner of School and Park Streets and was originally David Anthony's. In 1842, it came into the ownership of Elisha Ingraham and Sanford Stetson.¹

Just as Lot 24 of the west range is the heart of North Adams, so Lot No. 6 in the same range is the heart of Adams. The west line of this lot is Park Street and in the same line southward, passes directly through the Plunkett Junior High School. The east line is well over the top of the hill and crosses Tophet Brook. The north line, if it crossed Park Street would run directly between the Congregational Church and Parish House. The South line runs almost through the intersection of East Street and Orchard Street. In this area the present town of Adams

¹ Browne, W.B. North Adams Transcript, Nov. 13, 1937.

commenced its existence as a village and community center. In 1768, in the division of the lots among the three proprietors, this lot was set aside for John Murray. In 1773, Murray sold the whole lot to Benjamin Read. In 1779, Read sold John Bucklin a strip of land on the south side of the highway near the log bridge, where Bucklin and Read together were to use it "for the building of a mill or mills and other works thereon, with privilege of building a dam on the river near said land and turning the water to the same." In 1792, Benjamin Read sold all the rest of No. 6 to Ozial Sayles, "bounded South on the cross road" (East Street).

Just as the mill lot in North Adams had to add five acres on the west side to include the river, so in Adams the early mill privilege had to take in part of the adjoining lot on the west side of Lot 6 where the river ran, and where the first dam was built, south of the bridge.

In 1780, John Bucklin, "millwright of New Providence", sold his half interest to his son Jeremiah. And in 1784, Jeremiah Bucklin and Benjamin Read sold their half interests to Benjamin Russell. The mill property was called 11 acres in area and included all of Lot 6 south of Center Street.

In 1788, Benjamin Russell sold his mill privilege to Edmond Jenks and his sons George, Samuel, Charles and Thomas. He mentions the "upper dam" which turned water to the mill which is called a Grist Mill. A plan of the town in 1830 shows a grist mill about half way between Liberty and Commercial Streets. Before that time Commercial Street had been extended to Center Street from Liberty Street, which was the original road.

The raceway which now runs across Center Street from this same dam

was probably built by John Bucklin. Benjamin Read lived very near the Center Street bridge. In 1792, Nathaniel Scott owned the lot on the east corner of Liberty and Center Streets. It was described as the lot on the corner of the county road (Center Street) and the road "to the Forge" (Liberty Street). The lot next east, where the Universalist Church stood, was sold by the Jenkses in 1797 to Allen Briggs who immediately sold it to Daniel and Chad Brown. They ran the house there as a tavern, the first so designated in town. They sold it to John Bucklin in 1800. He lived there many years and it was subsequently known as his "home lot".

Just as in North Adams two men owned for a time the entire heart of the town, so in Adams Ozial Sayles and the Jenkses owned the whole of Lot 6. They held that ownership as late as 1802 when Sayles sold the north half of the lot to John Bucklin. At this time Bucklin owned all the east side of Park Street and Sayles all northerly lands on Center Street, and the Jenkses all the south side of Center Street, including Liberty Street.

The census of 1800 names in order the residents along the County Road beginning at the Cheshire line and running through present Orchard, Center, Liberty and Park Street as follows: Edmund Jenks, Eleazer Browne, James Hill, Elihu Parker, George Jenks, Nathaniel Carpenter, Nehemiah Field, Chad Brown, Thomas Jenks, Samuel Jenks, Allen Briggs, Seth Comstock, Josiah Robinson, Ozial Sayles and Seth Luther.

Seth Comstock owned the lot where the High School stands. Early deeds along the west side of Liberty Street mention "the Hoosick River as it now runs" perhaps meaning that most of the river was diverted into

the raceway. Many of these same deeds mention the "rope walk" as near by. Just the meaning of this term is uncertain, but it may refer to a foot bridge over the raceway supported by ropes or with a rope railing.

The sale of houselots along Park and Center Streets did not begin until after 1800. Before 1810, Bucklin had sold off the Park Street lots as follows: Beginning on the line of Ingraham in Lot 7 and running south, the first lot was sold to Zelotus Richmond, the next to Christopher Robinson, then came Ambrose Kasson (later John L. Berker), and finally, nearest the bridge was Arthur Field. Crossing the bridge, Sayles, in 1802, sold the first lot to Kelly Sherman who soon sold it to Nicholas Hall. His widow Cynthia sold it to Dr. Ambrose Brown. The next lot was sold to Simeon Hall, then the west corner of Dean street was sold to Levi and James Mason, and the east corner to Jonathan Richardson, which lot ran as far as the raceway. Crossing the raceway, we come to the 14 acre lot bought by Dr. David Cushing of Stafford Hill in 1812 and long occupied by his widow, Freelove Cushing. This lot took in all east of the raceway and all of Center and East Street to the foot of the hill, and then northward. It included all of the Summer Street area.

In 1803, Ozial Sayles sold to the South Adams School District No. 2, a lot at the corner of East and Center Streets. In 1822, Thomas Jenks thus lists the mill properties on Center Street: "About 12 acres of land with a grist mill, a saw mill, a wool carding factory, with dwelling house and out buildings". This dwelling house has a curious history. It became the company store kept by Russell Brown. It stood east of the present mill office of the Brown Paper Company. When the Congregationalists

commenced to have their own meetings they used to meet in this building. Later it was moved across the river to a corner near the present railroad.

As we continue the settling lots southward, we come to lot 5 which was at an early date acquired by Edmund Jenks and his sons and developed by them. The original home of Samuel Jenks still stands on Crandall Street. Lot 4 was owned by Barnet Hale whose name is given to a high knoll on the east part of the lot. Lot 3, or Orchard Farm of the late E. S. Wood, was originally owned partly by Hale and partly by Eleazer Brown. The original house still stands. Later it was the Parker Farm. Lot 2 was the home of Eleazer Brown, whose homestead still stands. This lot was first owned by Edmund Jenks. Lot No. 1 on the Cheshire line was the Edmund Jenks' home farm and the original house still stands. We have now followed the West Range of settling lots southward from State Street in North Adams, through Park Street in Adams, to the Cheshire line.

The study of Adams will be continued by tracing the East Range of settling lots from the Cheshire line, north to the North Adams line, being 14 lots, and then following through to Lot 24 in North Adams.¹

In a study of the ownership of Adams land, it is easy to see that groups of closely related families settled near each other, this being the case in the region around Burlingame Hill on the East Range settlement. In this area were settled the Cooper-Eaton-Bucklin-Slocum-Burlingame-Mason, and other families which had inter-married.

Jeremiah Bucklin and his father, John, bought Lot 1, East Range, on the Cheshire line in 1775. It remained as the home farm of Jeremiah and his descendants, until recent times. At least three generations of

¹ Browne, W.B. North Adams Transcript, Nov. 27, 1937.

this family lived in the old brick house on the slope of the hill leading down to the East Road. The Eatons and Coopers lived on the slopes of Burlingame Hill, and the Slocums lived where Miss Lucy Burt now lives near the foot of Burlingame Hill.

The Bucklins also owned Lot No. 2, having bought it of John Eaton in 1778. About half way up Burlingame Hill, in the pasture on the left one may see a well, and scattered brick, relics of the Cooper family. Lot No. 3 was bought by Captain Philip Mason in 1772 and his old home-
stead is standing on the west side of the highway, south of Bowens Corners. Lot No. 4 was the home farm of Isaac Hathaway and sold in 1784 to Samuel Salisbury. The old house on this lot is an exact regulation story-and-a-half structure. Capt. Mason owned the south half of this lot after 1800. Lot 5, East Range, is historic because it includes the birthplace of Susan B. Anthony. Thomas Fenner bought the east half of this lot which was later sold to Nathan Sayles, who in 1811, sold it to Daniel Read. In 1836, Read sold it to Thomas A. Bowen, and the Bowen family still reside there. The old Fenner-Read house was torn down, but pictures of it exist. The Read family first settled on the summit of Burlingame Hill in Cheshire. Lucy Read, daughter of Daniel, married Daniel Anthony and they were given the corner lot for a home and there Susan B. Anthony was born Feb. 15, 1820. The first mention in deeds of a store in present Adams is also associated with this lot. It was managed by John and Hezekiah Lippett of Cheshire who, in 1806, bought of Samuel Bowen the lot at the corner of East street and the East road.

Samuel Bowen ran a tavern near the corner opposite the Susan B.

Anthony birthplace, and the old structure is still standing. Daniel Anthony, with his brother, John, built a pump log factory on Tophet Brook near this same corner. In 1822 it was used to manufacture cotton yarns. It was three and a half stories high and the power was derived from a huge overshot water wheel, 26 feet in diameter. In 1831, satinets were made there by Anthony and his brother-in-law, Isaac U. Hoxie. A bit later it was taken down and removed to the Walker farm on the Walling road. This farm was owned by the Charles Walker who objected to the singing of hymns in the Stafford Hill church.

At the corner of the East Road and East Hoosac street, is the old homestead site of Joshua Lapham. This house with its many treasures, burned about 1910. It was at this house, so often visited by Susan B. Anthony, that she received many honors from visitors. She affectionately called it "The Hive." Joshua Lapham was a large land owner. His daughter, Hannah, married Humphrey Anthony, Sr., and they were grandparents of Susan B. Anthony. At this corner, East Hoosac street enters that part of Adams which is called Sevastopol. It acquired this historic name because on the day of the downfall of that fortress in Russia, two of the women of this neighborhood settled their long disagreement by a pitched battle, waged in a neighboring pasture. Casualties were not reported. This second engagement of Sevastopol occurred Sept. 9, 1855. The lot north of the Lapham farm was sold to Stephen Wilbur in 1775 and was owned for a time by the Staples family whose burial lot is to be seen there. Elisha Arnold in 1838 bought that part of this lot which adjoined the Arnold lands further east. At the corner of Lime street, a few scattered

tombstones mark the Arnold family burial ground. The old house on the east side of the road at this point was the home of Edmund Sherman, an early settler in the town, and whose son Daniel was buried on the knoll near the west portal of the Hoosac tunnel. Daniel married Achsah Slocomb, whose people lived on the Walling road south of the Walker farm, in the house now occupied by Miss Lucy Burt, and one of the oldest houses in town.

Continuing north along the east road, we come to the Adams Town Infirmary, formerly known as the Ira Richmond farm, which Richmond bought of Shubael Willmarth, Jr., in 1854, this being a portion of the large Willmarth farm on both sides of the valley. Next we come to the Burnett farm, formerly the Humphrey Anthony, Jr., farm, and which was originally one of the lots owned by the old minister Samuel Todd. It was formerly the Adam Harkness farm and for a time owned by Oliver Cheesbro. When sold by Stephen Harkness to Humphrey Anthony in 1854, it comprised 260 acres. The lot next north, on the town line, was also for a time owned by Oliver Cheesbro and Adam Harkness. The house now on this lot, near the town line, is a very old one and doubtless the Cheesbro house. In 1814, this farm of 114 acres was bought by a committee of the Friends Society, Isaac Upton, Oliver Cheesbro, and Robert Nisbet. The last was the Quaker preacher, who also owned part of the next lot north, across the town line. It is supposed the old home of Robert Nisbet was an old house which used to stand across the road from the Cheesbro house, near the brook.

The census of 1800 lists those living along the East Road, from

the Cheshire line to the present town line, as follows: Jeremiah Bucklin, Philip Mason, Simeon Potter, David Bowen, Samuel Bowen, Humphrey Anthony, Stephen Jenks, David Staples, Elisha Arnold, Asa Southwich, Daniel Sherman, Samuel Wells, Peter Wells, Adam Harkness, and Hannah Nisbet. Between the intervale and the base of the Hoosac range, the whole length of the valley there is a foothill over half a mile wide, most of which was fit for cultivation, or for pasturage. In the south part of the valley, some fine farms were situated on this upland, and on the second division lots which were laid out east of the settling lots. There are some very fine farms today on this area. To accommodate those who took up these lands, a highway was laid out from the top of Burlingame Hill in Adams and running north parallel to the East road, ended in the Walden road near the portal of Hoosac tunnel. The Walling road in Adams is part of this road. The north part of it was abandoned at least a century ago, but its course is easily traced the entire distance through the pastures. This same foothill or upland, composed of loose disorganized rock and clay, was one of the most difficult places in the building of the Hoosac tunnel, because of quicksands and unstable nature. The west side of the valley has no such feature.

The census of 1800 names thus those who lived along the Walling Road: Comfort Arnold, Jeremiah Cooper, James Eddy, James Pierce, Benjamin Slocomb, Charles Walker, Thomas Fenner (now Fred Bowen), Stukeley Arnold (now Lenz), Amasa Slocomb, Benjamin Wilbur, Anna Sprague, and Jonathan Jewell. Comfort Arnold lived on the top of Burlingame Hill and he sold to Elisha Burlingame, who owned a large area on the slopes of this hill, as well as another large farm over the line in Cheshire. When the great barn on this farm was

raised in 1830, Elder John Leland dedicated it and gave an address, followed by a day of festivities, ending with a dance in the evening. This large barn is a landmark to be seen from all parts of the valley. The old Comfort Arnold-Burlingame house was removed but recently, having stood many years in a dismantled condition. Daniel Burlingame, son of Elisha, lived in the house still to be seen at the foot of the hill. In early times, the Walling road extended in a straight line to the summit of the hill. A short section of it on the north slope of the hill was abandoned at an early date.¹

The part of Adams running back toward the foot of Greylock from Park and Columbia Streets was favorable for cultivation and not too hilly, and was the center of the Quaker settlement in the town. Four 100-acre lots were laid out here, together with a half-lot of 50 acres. These lots were Nos. 30, 31, 32, 33, and 34.

The West Road or the old Indian Trail, crossed these lots diagonally as it continued from Columbia street toward the Cheshire line. Leaving Lot 9, where Benjamin Lapham lived, the road runs near the corner of Lot 34. Much of this area was the home farm of Benjamin Russell and later owned by Isaac Upton. In 1791, Isaac Upton sold to Zaccheus Hathaway 44 acres which comprise part of the farm now occupied by that family. The Hathaway house on the Notch road is one of the old houses in town and has seen at least six generations of that family. Isaac Upton owned much of the area north of the cemetery. James Mason owned land south of Valley street and a part of it was laid out for a cemetery in 1848 and given the name of "Mount Vernon". The old County Road used to run directly beside it, near the

¹ Browne, W.B. North Adams Transcript, Dec. 11, 1937.

tomb. The lot where the Quaker Meeting House stands originally comprised about five acres and extended from Valley street to Maple street. Before it was acquired by the Friends Society, they had built the meeting house and had used the land for a cemetery for many years. In 1797 and 1799, deeds were given to the Society by Isaac Killey, John Wells, John Russell, James, John, and Daniel Lapham, all of whom owned parts of the property which extended into two settling lots. In 1859, Daniel Upton deeded the town that portion of the Maple Street Cemetery between the tomb and the Friends' Cemetery. The old road past the tomb was called "The Sand Hill Road."

As we continue along the old West Road of the Pontoosuck Indian Path, from the Quaker Meeting House southward, the census of 1800 names thus those who dwelt on it: Isaac Killey, Caleb Godfrey, Ebenezer Allen, Stephen Hoxsey, Nathaniel Arnold, Ebenezer Pratt, Benjamin Harris, James Cole, Jonathan Mason, and David Anthony. On the West Mountain Road were: Asa Dean, Samuel Staples, Samuel Ingraham, Caleb Shrieve, and Samson Mason. In 1797, the road through Maple Grove was surveyed and that region was called "Fogland Hollow".

The west side of Park Street in Adams was in Lots 30 and 32. Deeds of that side of the street seem to trace very uniformly to the Laphams. Isaac Killey was the original owner of Lot 32 and he owned also the south half of Lot 31 adjoining. The northeast corner of his holdings in Lot 31 cornered almost exactly on the site of the Quaker Meeting House and he was one of those deeding this area to the Friends Society. The Friends' burying ground, between the meeting house and Maple street, must have been

used from a very early date, and scores of the pioneers lie there in their unmarked graves. There is a tradition that one of the Friends did not wish the location of his wife's grave to be lost, so buried a field stone at the head of the grave. When the lot was graded a few years ago, a grave so marked was found. The Anthonys, Aldriches, Hathaways, Reads, Howlands, and many other descendants of the pioneers now have lots near the Meeting House. The Friends Monthly Meeting of Saratoga deeded to Daniel Upton a portion of the meeting house lot in 1850 and the deed states that it is only for the northern and eastern parts of the lots bought from Killey, Lapham and others, in 1797 and 1799. This was included in the 1859 deed of Upton to the town. The transfer of the site of the Meeting House and the cemetery adjoining, seems very obscure. The original title to the area, according to visiting Friends, would have been in the Saratoga Monthly Meeting.¹

Directly west of the main highway, and at the foot of the Gould road, was the 50-acre half lot No. 33. In 1769, John Power of Providence, "Cabinet maker", bought this lot and lived there until his death about 1805. He was a descendant of Roger Williams. His wife, who was Elizabeth Westcott, died in 1814 and was well-known as the "Widow Power", and so appears in numerous records. Their old home stands on the Gould road near its junction with the West road, a long, low farmhouse of the type so common in Adams. Their sons removed to Hudson, N. Y., where they were prosperous citizens. Further west on the Gould road, near the foot of Mount Greylock, was the William Peters Farm, now the Gould

¹ Browne, W.B. North Adams Transcript, Jan. 22, 1938.

Farm. According to his obituary, in the Pittsfield Sun, Peters died Sept. 10, 1807, aged 107. On the road leading north from the Gould road, we find the home farm of the Quaker, Nathan Herrenden. He came to Adams from Smithfield, R. I., and afterward moved out to Farmington, N. Y., where his descendents are very numerous and hold a mammoth reunion yearly. Very often some of them visit Adams and the ancestral farm. North of the Herrenden farm was that of John Fisk of Scituate, R. I., who bought there in 1772. If not a birthright Quaker, he was very closely connected with that Society. His son, Ephraim, settled on the large farm on the south side of the Fisk road, which was named for this family. His very large homestead still stands commanding a magnificent view of the valley. Some of this family settled in Pownal. Jim Fisk, a famous character of Pownal, a traveling peddler, and his son, Col. Jim Fisk, who has been called "America's Financial Buccaneer," were descendants.

The West Road passes through lime country, and several quarries for limestone or building stone are seen along the highway. There is a tradition that the lime soil was one of the attractions of this valley for the early Smithfield, R. I. pioneers. In Smithfield is found the only lime rock in that State, and a lime soil was much esteemed there.

On the south corner of the Fisk Road and the West Road, there was from earliest times a school house. In a deed of the corner by Fisk in 1815, it states, "it is where an old school house formerly stood and where a new brick one now stands." Scattered brick near the brook, still give evidence of its location. On this same Fisk Farm, along the West Road, there are numerous limestone ledges with flat surfaces and on one

of them, Capt. John Brown of Stafford Hill carved an inscription still easily read. Captain John Brown seemed possessed of a mania for leaving inscriptions, and there are several uncompleted ones on the Fisk Farm, as well as a very fine completed one on the Newton Farm in Lanesboro. There are doubtless others. The one near the West Road reads: "Capt. John Brown, born at Stafford Hill, Cheshire, Mass., Oct. the 1, 1809. Inscribed Centennial Year, 1876. If the Red Cloud of War o'er the Nation be Waving, Let Mild Peace Spread her Wings and Sweep it Away. May the Flag of our Nation Always Keep Floating. Let it Float on the Breeze o'er the Land of the Free." It was this same John Brown, who had been present at the moving of the old Church up Stafford Hill in 1821. When an old man, he was invited to relate the story of this event at a meeting of Baptists gathered in the old cemetery at Stafford Hill. After considerable prodding for details, Capt. John caused a mild sensation by volunteering the information that a keg of rum had added to the enjoyment of the occasion.

As we continue along the West Road to the Cheshire line, we pass through several of the second division lots. These 200 and 150-acre lots were usually the mountain or wood lots, but in Adams where the valley was wider, many of the second division lots were good farming land.

The Hoosic river passes through Lot 3 on its course to Maple Grove and the rapid fall here led to the building of several dams and many small textile plants by the Jenks and Brown families. All the lands east of the river were part of the Eleazer Brown Farm, and Isaac Brown sold to Washington Adams the mill site of the Adams Company mill at the Grove. John

Brown and his sons, Lincoln and Stephen, were prominent manufacturers in Adams and North Adams. Another son, Dr. Ambrose Brown, practiced medicine in both villages. Lot 11, a 200-acre lot, was first owned by Jeremiah Smith and later by the Allen and Aldrich families. In 1817, the west half of this lot was sold to Israel Cole sometimes called "King Cole" and it was later the Carpenter Farm. Attached as a wing to the large modern house is the old regulation house of David Aldrich, the Quaker preacher. Lot No. 6, which was another of the 200-acre second division lots, was first owned by the Quaker, Nathan Comstock, who developed it. Next came Lot 3 on the Cheshire line. This was the home farm of the Quaker, David Anthony, bought in 1773, and sold by his heirs in 1832 to David Cole, Jr. David Anthony was the great-grandfather of Susan B. Anthony. He was born in Dartmouth, Mass. in 1747. His wife, Judith Hicks, was born 1744. It is supposed that they are buried in the old Cole family cemetery lot near the West Road, where a stone to their memory was erected by the late Mrs. Radley. David Anthony was descended from four of the Colonial governors of Rhode Island. Nothing appears to indicate the exact location of his house. At this point, the old Pontoosuck Indian Trail enters the town of Cheshire, having been known on its course southward from North Adams as State street, the West Road, and Friend Street.¹

¹ Browne, W.B. North Adams Transcript, Feb. 5, 1938.

Incorporation of Adams, 1778

The act for incorporating the "Plantation called East Hoosuck in the County of Berkshire, into a town by the name of Adams," was passed October 15, 1778.¹

First Town Meetings

The first meeting of the inhabitants of Adams of which there is any record was held on January 23, 1779, for the purpose of accepting the resignation of Rev. Samuel Todd, the first minister. It was voted that Rev. Todd be discharged from the work of the ministry, provided he relinquish all right and title to all ministerial lands, to which his being the first settled minister entitled him. He was dismissed, but retained the land.

The first annual town meeting in Adams was held on March 8, 1779, when Captain Phillip Mason was chosen moderator; Isaac Arnold, town clerk; and Captain Phillip Mason, Captain Israel Jones, and Captain Reuben Hinman, selectmen. (Captains were numerous in those days of war and commotion, and were naturally looked up to as the leading men in civil as well as military affairs.)² Captain Reuben Hinman was also chosen town treasurer, and Luther Rich, David Jewell, and Eleazer Brown were chosen assessors. The meeting was then adjourned until March 20th, when Edmund Jenks, Benjamin Baker, William Smith, Jedediah Hurd, and John Kilburn were chosen a committee of safety. The business of the committee of safety was to see that no harm came to the town or its inhabitants from

¹ Province Laws, 1778-1779, Chap. 20.

² Dewey, Charles. History of the County of Berkshire, 1829, p. 436.

Tories, Indians, British, and other enemies of American liberty. Similar committees existed in nearly all the other towns and kept the patriotic spirit alive. On the same day Lemuel Leavenworth was elected collector of taxes. It was voted to pay him for collecting the taxes nine pence in a pound, not an extravagant percentage when the scarcity of money in those days is considered.

Elias Jones, Gideon Smith, Jonathan Hulse, Stephen Smith, Phillip Mason, Ruluff White, Oliver Parker, and Jonathan Hale were chosen surveyors of highways, and it was voted "to raise One Hundred Pounds to make and repair highways, to be paid in labor at 2s. 6d. per day or Indian corn at 2s. 6d. per bushel." In 1780, the highway tax was £120, and the number of surveyors was increased to 13, in 1781, the tax went up to £200. In 1795, the roads having been built to a convenient extent, the tax for repairing was only £160, and the number of surveyors was 15. Among them was Jeremiah Colegrove, Sr., whose name now for the first time appears in the Town Records, in about a year after his arrival here. He was a most efficient, practical, and thorough road-worker, and possessed the faculty of inspiring other men with his own industry. He undoubtedly got an ample day's work out of the laborers on the road, who loved to "soldier". In 1806, the road-tax had risen to \$1200, or nearly four times as much as the first year; and this sum was all paid in labor and materials. 83 cents per day was allowed (in 1779 it was exactly half as much) for the labor of a man, and the same for a span of horses or a yoke of oxen. The Town Records contain many surveys of the early roads--some in almost every year. On July 1, 1782, a town meeting was held for the special purpose of consid-

ering certain proposed alterations in the roads. In 1785, no less than 21 surveyors of highways were elected, showing that there was either an uncommon amount of road-making, or some of those officials had previously got in the habit of "shirking." In 1786, the Highway Surveyors were snubbed, for the town "Voted that the Selectmen See to the Laying out the money Voted on the roads to the best Advantage."¹ The town now intrusts this business wholly to the Selectmen, with evident benefit. The building and support of roads was then, as now, a heavy burden. A rocky soil, rapid running streams, abundant tree stumps, and steep hillsides made the establishment of good highways almost an impossibility.

The pay of the town officers was not so large as to cause strife for the offices. For the first year, the selectmen's bills were as follows: "Reuben Hinman, £1, 13s., Phillip Mason, 9s., Israel Jones, 18s. at 36 for one," i.e., thirty-six cents of Continental money for one penny of English money. The assessors were each allowed £3 for their services, "at the rate of forty for one."² The practice of the abatement of taxes began the very first year. £19, 12s., due from six different unfortunates, were abated in the collector's bills.

The number of voters at the time of the town's organization is not ascertainable; but we can form an estimate from the vote passed April 19, 1779, in favor of the formation of a new Constitution for the State of Massachusetts. It was "unanimous--44 present," and a delegate (name not given) was empowered to represent the town in a Constitutional Convention. The year before, a new Constitution had been rejected, after a "muss" like that of 1853.

¹ Adams Records, 1778-1832, Book No. 1.

² Ibid.

At a town meeting held Nov. 5, 1779, the question of annexing a part of Adams to New Providence (now Cheshire) was put, and decided in the negative--yeas 24, nays 48. This would show 72 votes cast; and as it was an important question, it would indicate that all of the eligible voters had taken part in the vote. It may be supposed that special efforts were made to bring out the voters, and that their attendance was pretty full.

A town meeting was held May 1, 1780, "for the purpose of Considering of the New Constitution or Frame of Government." Two of the articles were "passed by 60 votes." One relative to the Judiciary was "rejected unanimsly, and that the Judges mentioned be annually elected." One relative to the Executive Power was "voted against unanimously, with this Objection, that Every Person liable to doe duty Ought to have a Voice in choosing his Officers to Command him." Article 2d of Chapter 6th, was "passed with this Addition, that the Justice be Debarred holding a seat in General Court." A committee, consisting of Nathan Comstock, Justus Holt, and John Eaton, were "Appointed to examine and make Amendments." The watchful, independent spirit of the people of that time is seen in these votes in favor of an Elective Judiciary, Elective Militia Officers, and the separation of the Judicial and Legislative departments of the State.

During the two or three years after the town's organization, town meetings were very frequent. They were held every few weeks. In 1779, there were ten. A great deal of work had to be done; the critical events of the Revolutionary War raised new questions continually for the voters to act upon; and it is no disparagement to the early settlers to say that

they were inexperienced in the arts of wire-pulling and sly political scheming, and could not "fix" things so they would "stay fixed" for a whole year. Besides, the feeling of the town was always very democratic, and the voters would not tolerate encroachments or meddlesomeness by their officers. There are frequent proofs of this down to the present day. The votes in regard to the Constitution of 1780 show a wholesome distrust of rulers. The unflinching grit and lofty independence of Samuel Adams seem to have been infused into the atmosphere of the town that bore his honored name.

The patriotism of the early settlers is evidenced by their liberal contributions toward carrying on the Revolution. No community in the State was more deeply imbued with the "spirit of '76", or more free in offering her best blood and her hard won property to the cause--money she had little or none, as is proved by the taxes being paid in produce. Following are the resolves of various town meetings, copied verbatim et literatim from the record:

July 5th, 1779. -- "Voted to give the Nine months men Ten dollars a month to be paid in Grain at the Stipulated price (Viz) Wheat at 6s. Rye at 4s. and Indian corn at three Shillings pr. bushel and One Hundred Continental dollars as a Bounty Before the march."

July 23, 1779. -- "Voted that the Selectmen make provision for the men that are Drafted to the place of Rendezvous."

March 20th, 1780. -- "Made choice of David Smith, John Kilburn, Ambros Parker, Committee of Safety."

May 25th, 1780. -- "Voted to pay William Harrendeen 270 Continental dollars to make good the Depreciation of money due to him as Wages for Service in the Continental Army."

June 20th, 1780. -- "Voted that the Town will Raise Money by a Tax to hire their Quota of Soldiers to Serve in the Continental Army six months."

"Voted to give each man that Shall Engage in the Service for Six months a bounty of Two pounds Ten Shillings for Each month he shall Serve to be paid in Produce at the Stipulated price or in Money Equal thereto."

July 10, 1780. -- "Voted that Capt. Reuben Hinman be Refunded the Sum of Three hundred Dollars which sum he gave a six months man, out of the Town Treasure."

"Voted that the three months men now to be Raised have Fifty Shillings pr. month in Addition to the State Wages to be paid in the same manner and at the same time the Six months men are paid."

December 28, 1780. -- "Voted that a Committee be appointed to Report What Bounty shall be given to the Soldiers now to be Raised for three years."

"Voted that Enos Parker, Levi Brown, and Samuel Law be a Committee for that purpose. Report of the Committee, that Each that Shall Engage in the Continental Army for three years or During the present war shall be entitled to receive the sum of Fifty pounds a year for Every year he shall serve Including the Continental pay and Each Soldier so Engaging shall Receive the sum of Thirteen pounds Previous to his marching if he chooses and thirteen pounds more at the Expiration of the first year and the Remainder of the money Annually.

"Voted that the Town agree to and will comply with the above Report."

12th of Feb., 1781. -- "The question being Put whether the Town will agree to Class its Inhabitants in Order to Raise its Quota of men for the Continental Service, Voted in the Negative."

"Voted to choose a Committee to hire or Raise said men. Voted that Joab Stafford, Solomon Gardner, Giles Barns, Saml. Low, and Saml. Day be a committee for the above purpose."

May 15, 1781. -- "Voted to Lay a Tax on the Town of three hundred pounds hard money for the purpose of Procuring a Stock of Ammunition and Defraying Town Charges Continental Currency to be Received at the Common Exchange."

July 19, 1781. -- "Voted that Each Soldier that shall Engage to serve in the Continental Army three months shall Receive from the Town of Adams the sum of four pounds for Each month he shall serve to be paid in Silver or in Grain, Wheat 6s. Rye at 4s. and Indian corn at 3 shillings Per Bushel the Soldier so Engaging to sign an Order for the Selectmen of Adams to Draw their State Wages and that three pounds of the four to be paid such Soldier Previous to his marching if Required and the Remainder by the fourth day of January 1782.

"Voted to assess a Tax on the Inhabitants of Adams the sum of two Thousand one hundred and Eighty pounds State Money to Purchase 24,000 wt. of Beef and a Quantity of Clothing."

August 17, 1781. -- "The question being put whether the Town will make good the wages of the Six and three months men. Carried in the Negative."

February 21, 1782. -- "The question being put whether the Town will do anything Towards Procuring a man to serve three years in the Continental Army for Capt. Isaac Hathaway's Class. Voted in the Negative."¹

At a town meeting held Jan. 17, 1786, and called for the purpose (no other business being transacted), it was "Voted that it be recommended to the General Court to Pass a Law making Both Real and Personal Estate a Tender. Voted that it also be recommended to the General Court to strike a Paper Currency in this State."

The heavy burden of debt in which most of the towns were involved by their aid to the Revolution, the suspension of industrial enterprises and loss of profit therefrom by drawing off so many of the best men for the army, and especially the lack of a uniform circulating medium in which payments of all kinds could be made, maddened men into violent and lawless demonstrations. Shay's rebellion was mainly kindled by the oppressive load of taxation, and the impossibility of easing off the load through the Courts or Legislature. The State tax imposed on this town was felt to be peculiarly onerous; in one instance it was not paid under four years; for at a town meeting held Jan. 9, 1792, Israel Jones was chosen an "Agent to go to General Court and Obtain an abatement of Tax laid on the Inhabitants of this town in the year 1788." It was easier squeezing blood out of a turnip than paying debts or taxes with neither money nor property.

Oliver Parker, Sr., was ruined pecuniarily, sent to jail, and his

¹ Adams Records, 1778-1832, Book No. 1.

bondsmen mulcted, because he could not perform impossibilities--collecting the taxes in such "hard times" as these described. Town meetings without number were held, on the great question of "How to Raise the Wind." Farmers' produce was accepted for taxes at certain stipulated prices, the town debts were paid in the same way (1781), and all the Highway taxes were worked out by men and oxen for many years. But even with a general barter system, it was "hard sledding." A great many honest, industrious, frugal men were unable to feed their households and satisfy the tax-gatherer, from the produce of their stony, stumpy, rudely-tilled acres.

At a town meeting held Aug. 26, 1786, it was "Voted that the present Assessors of this Town be a Committee to settle with the Collectors and make abatements of such taxes as they shall suppose Necessary." On Oct. 30, 1786, the Selectmen were appointed a Committee for the same purpose; but at the same meeting it was "Voted that the Collectors collect the Town Taxes and Pay them in to the Town Treasurer Immediately, and the Town will support them in so doing."¹

The pressure of poverty was so severe that the town's poor were increasing with undue rapidity; and on March 11, 1791, Ezra Parker was instructed by the Selectmen "to warn and give notice unto 28 persons," whose names were set down in the warrant, the same being "Laborers or Transient Persons, as the Case may be, who had Lately Come into this Town for the purpose of Abiding therein., not having Obtained the Town's Consent thereto, that he or she Depart the Limits thereof, with their Children and Others under their Care, if Such they have, within fifteen days." The Constable made return that the warning was given by him in due form, to the

¹ Adams Records, 1778-1832, Book No. 1.

28 persons named, and such further legal proceedings were threatened as would be requisite to save the town from becoming a paupers' nest. (The crime of being poor and "shiftless" was more severely punished in those days than now. No man was allowed to vote unless he owned a freehold estate of the annual income of £3 or some estate of the value of £60.)¹

The early and long continued scarcity of money necessitated a general system of bartering. The tradesmen and farmers went "swop, swop, swoping" everything. Most of the circulation was silver and copper coin, and an old-fashioned "ninepence"--now so rarely seen, but then one of the most common pieces--looked nearly as large, in the eyes of many persons, as the pewter platter from which they ate their frugal meals. Money was most emphatically a "cash article." No Bank of issue was in operation nearer than Troy or Northampton; the first Bank in Berkshire county (the Agricultural at Pittsfield) not being chartered until 1818, and the Greenfield Bank not until 1822. A man with \$25 in his pocket was looked upon as a citizen gloriously favored by the goddess of Fortune. The usual resort, for many years, of those who were compelled to raise so small a sum as ten dollars for immediate use, was to sell a good promissory note--"accommodation paper" it would now be called--to one of our more wealthy neighbors at Williamstown. There were no capitalists here. Every man was actively conducting business, and making each dollar of his profits earn him another dollar as quickly as possible. Capt. Richmond states that the wages of a farm laborer, for some years of his first residence here, were \$80 to \$100 a year; Mechanics' wages, including board, \$1.00 per day (the ten-hour system was not then in vogue anywhere, and carpenters were obliged to work,

¹ Morris, Hamilton. North Adams Transcript, 1859.

during the long summer days, from as early in the morning as they could see the head of a hammer, until as late at night as they could see the head of a nail). Corn and Rye sold for 42 to 50 cents per bushel; Oats for 20 to 25 cents; Pork \$3.50 to \$4.00 and Beef \$2.50 to \$4.00 per cwt. Prime cows in spring, \$15 to \$20; the best Horses, \$80. Mountain land, adjacent to the village, was not saleable; \$1.00 per acre was the highest price asked. About the year 1828 or '30, the late Wm. Bradford bought 200 acres of valuable woodland on Bald Mountain, northwest of the village, for \$1.00 per acre.¹

On the 24th of July, 1812, it was voted in town meeting "that each soldier now detached from the town of Adams shall receive a sum in addition to what they now receive from the national government, enough to raise their wages to \$11.00 per month while in actual service, and should they die in action or otherwise the sum shall be paid to their legal representatives." It was also voted "to choose a Committee of Public Safety and Correspondence, to consist of these eleven men: John Bucklin, John Waterman, Elisha Wells, Henry Wilmarth, Joseph Howland, Joel Richardson, John Brown, Charles Wells, Isaac Brown, Charles Walker, and Joseph Wadsworth." This committee was directed to correspond with the committees appointed for the same purposes in the different towns of the Commonwealth. On August 12, 1812, the town voted "to give a bounty of \$15.00 to each soldier belonging to either the companies of militia in the town of Adams who shall volunteer their services as soldiers at the present time, and who shall be actually embodied and serve according to the Act of Congress, and shall likewise receive an honorable discharge from said service, shall be

¹ Morris, Hamilton, North Adams Transcript, 1859.

entitled to payment by an order on the treasurer of said town for their term of service."¹

It is not known how many men enlisted, but the quota of the town was evidently filled, as on September 14, 1814, the town voted "to raise \$500.00 for the purpose of defraying the charges already accrued for furnishing our quota of troops detached, and procure our deficiency of camp equipage, including tents and ammunition. Voted to choose a committee of five to draft resolutions expressive of our sentiments of our duty in relation to the present situation of our country, and chose Arthur F. Field, Josiah Q. Robinson, Jeremiah Colegrove, Jr., John Waterman, Jr., and Daniel B. Bush to this committee. Voted also to raise \$400.00 for the purpose of making such soldiers' wages amount to \$15.00 per month with what the Government pays, who is detached and personally served."²

The New Providence Settlement

Between the north line of the towns of Lanesboro and Windsor and the south line of Adams or East Hoosuck was an unappropriated area about two miles in width and four miles in length, reaching from New Ashford to Savoy, and which became the plantation of New Providence. This unappropriated land comprised 4,660 acres. In 1762, 1,162 acres of this land was granted to the town of Hatfield to make up a shortage in the area of that town. The remainder was a part of a grant made to Aaron Willard and associates in 1765 to make up a deficiency in lands they had suffered. About half of their grant was in the present town of Savoy along the Windsor line. In 1765, the Hatfield grant was sold to Nicholas Cooke of Pro-

¹ Adams Records, 1778-1832, Book No. 1.

² Ibid.

vidence and Joseph Bennett of Coventry, Rhode Island, and in 1766, these two men bought the Willard grant section. The combined area of 4,660 acres was surveyed by Joab Stafford and divided into 31 settling lots of various sizes.

In the year 1766 Cook and Bennett disposed of 17 of these lots to pioneers who were mostly a group from the Baptist church of Coventry, headed by their old pastor, Elder Peter Werden. In 1766, Cook and Bennett divided the remaining lots between themselves and before 1770 had sold most of them. The old Hatfield grant was divided into halves, Cook retaining the south half and Bennett the north. The river runs almost through the center of these tracts. On the plateau above the river, on a site commanding a view of the valley from Stamford to Pittsfield, Bennett built his house, still standing and the oldest house in town. Cooke did not settle here.

At first the settlers were unable to vote anywhere, and in 1777, applied to the town of Gageboro for admission to their town. Gageboro was willing if the township might be called Cheshire. The legislature, however, changed the name of Gageboro to Windsor and still left New Providence (which was the name given to Staffords survey) unchanged. Then in 1779 they again petitioned for a new township to be formed by a corner of Windsor, the south part of East Hoosuck and New Providence which would take the name of Providence. This was not granted. A committee was then sent to investigate conditions and it advised that New Providence become a part of Adams if both communities were willing. In spite of a negative vote in Adams, it was decreed in 1780 that New Providence should be an-

nexed to Adams, and it so remained until present Cheshire was formed in 1793.

In the town records of Adams, between these dates, we find the New Providence people held many important town offices. The owners not being under any obligations for settling and supporting a minister, the two proprietors in 1770 voluntarily accepted the obligation and deeded to the Baptist church a quarter of 200-acre lot No. 4 on the south slope of Stafford hill as a Glebe or church farm for the use and support of the minister. In 1779, Bennett deeded for a cemetery 180 rods of land from his own farm in a corner of which the meeting house was then standing. Schools seem to have been established after 1780, in convenient locations.

It will be interesting to take the main highways of New Providence and trace the development of the lots through which they pass. The old Pontoosuck path passed through New Providence and was the road by which all the settlers came. It is the main state road through Cheshire village nearly to the harbor, but avoided that deep ravine by swinging toward the west and entered Adams at the David Anthony farm as the West road. We will begin there and trace this road southward as far as Cheshire village.

The lot adjoining the town line, No. 24, is the northwest corner of New Providence. In 1772, it was deeded to Brooks Mason, who in 1780 sold it to Jeremiah Green, from whom it went in 1783 to Oliver Franklin. The Franklin house still remains, a small structure near Bassett brook. Oliver Franklin was a member of the Franklin family from which President Coolidge descends. The north half of the adjoining lot 30 was sold to Stephen Carpenter in 1769, together with part of the lot on the west,

where Carpenter built his home, still standing. West of the Pontoosuck path and along the foot of the mountain there was a town road, which branched off near Franklin's house and ended opposite the main cemetery in Cheshire village. This road was known as Fork Lane. In 1794, there were five houses on this road, within New Providence.

The south half of No. 30 was sold to Lewis Walker, and in 1785 came into possession of Israel Cole in whose family it remained for many years and whose house is standing back from the road near its junction with the state highway. In the junction of the roads is a cottage, of the regulation style, which was the home of Elisha Bradford. Bradford married Eunice Bennett, daughter of Joseph, and their little farm was taken from the west end of her father's estate. Her father's house was in plain sight, directly opposite, across the river.

Scores of descendants of Elisha and Eunice Bradford live today in Adams and North Adams. One daughter, Susanna, married Isaac Browne and another, Sarah, married Clement Harrison. One son, William, became a large property owner on Main street in North Adams. A granddaughter, Zilpha, was the wife of Henry Shaw or Josh Billings. Israel Cole married Susanna Wood and came to Cheshire with the Wood and Mason families from Swansea. In 1829, he sent a large cheese to President Jackson which was not so famous as the one sent previously to President Jefferson. Israel died in 1830.

Zebedee Dean, the pioneer settler of that family, lived in this same neighborhood on the main highway. He bought in 1810 the lot adjoining Cole, of Ephraim Farrington, his step-father.

The splendid Ormesby Farm was formerly the Rufus Richardson place and first owned by Jonathan Richardson, Jr. and bought in 1792 and being the north parts of Lots 29 and 32.

The south part of these same lots was sold the same year to Edward Martin of Swansea, and his old house of the regulation style and quaint appearance, now on this farm, is familiar to everyone. Until very recently this farm remained in the Martin family. The south line of this farm is the south line of New Providence and the Pontoosuc path. In 1794, there were thirteen houses along the Pontoosuck path in New Providence.

We will retrace our steps and travel Pork Lane as it parallels the road we have just mentioned. This road was laid out in 1773, and the following persons gave the land it covered: Brooks Mason, Stephen Carpenter, Abiezer Phillips, Philemon Lee, John Lee, Nathan Mason, Joseph Cornell, Oliver Perkins and Ichabod Prosser. Stephen Carpenter lived in the house now standing in the turn of Pork Lane as it turns southward. It was for a time the home of Elder Leland.

As we travel southward on this old road, so well settled in old times, we do not now find any other house until we have crossed the New Providence line. The farm next to Carpenter's, first owned by Philemon Lee, was sold in 1775 to Aaron Seamans, who was a deacon in the Stafford Hill church. The farm owned by Joseph Cornell was sold to Nathan Mason in 1778, and in 1784 Levi Mason bought the farm adjoining. In 1777, Caleb Brown bought the Oliver Perkins lands. His old house was standing until recent years.

The greater part of New Providence and the scene of its largest

settlement was east of the river and along the old highway early known as the Middle road to Ticonderoga, which starts in Northampton and at Windsor hill turned northward, running directly over the top of Stafford hill and through Orchard street into present Adams. On Stafford's plan a system of highways is plotted, in what he considered would be the most convenient places. Today only a few short sections of any of these plotted roads are in use. All were roughly graded and all of them are visible as they cross through the pastures, but most of them proved ill-suited to their location.

In all parts of Cheshire there are to be seen evidences of ancient roads which were abandoned for more convenient courses. One section of a Stafford road leading from the memorial tower down the west side of the hill was used as long as the church stood on the hill. The entrance to the memorial is a part of this road, as laid down by him.

We will begin at the Adams line on Orchard street and follow the old Ticonderoga road over Stafford hill. The first lot on Adams line was No. 7, a 237 acre lot which reached half way up Stafford hill where it adjoined the Glebe lands. The road up the hill is its east line. The first owner of this lot, Nathaniel Jacobs of Providence, did not settle here and sold it in 1770 to Jeremiah Smith of Killingly, Ct, who in 1794, sold all the land west of Orchard street and the Hill road to Jesse Jenks, Sr., of Smithfield, R.I., this farm adjoining that of his brother Edmund on the Adams line. The 72 acres east of the road were sold to Jeremiah Brown of Smithfield, whose son, Allen, afterward lived there. The old Brown house, perhaps originally Smith's, and a very ancient house, is

now occupied by Mr. Baillot. The location of the Jesse Jenks house is not definitely known. It perhaps stood where Mr. Choquette now lives. Jesse Jenks is said to have brought his money from Rhode Island concealed in bags of oats. His son, Jesse, Jr., and many of the Jenks family continued to live in this region for many years.

The road from the Hook to the old Wells farm did not exist in early days. Lot No. 8, a 257 acre lot, adjoined No. 7 on the east. The Bucklin road runs through it as well as the present Savoy and River roads. The north end of this lot on the Adams line was settled in 1771 by Jonathan Richardson, Sr., who founded the family so well represented later on in Adams, North Adams, and Cheshire. The south part of the lot was bought in 1767 by John Lippett.

Both the original Richardson and Lippett houses stand on the Bucklin road. Nathan Sayles married Harty Lippett and continued to live in the Lippett house, a large square structure, now considerably changed. Mehit-able, a sister of Harty married Simeon Potter and died at the age of 101. None of the name of Lippett now live here, but many descendants of other names live in Adams and Cheshire. In 1789, Richardson sold the west side of his farm to his son Nehemiah. In 1772, the southeast corner of Lot 8 was sold to Edward Carpenter and in 1779 it was sold to Elder Peter Werden and comprised about 50 acres. Diagonally across the Stafford Hill road was the Glebe or Church farm, being the northeast quarter of Lot No. 4.

Elder Peter Werden, while living there, "improved" the ministerial farm, the use of which he was given for his services. There was no house on the Glebe farm until 1821. Elder Werden's home farm bordered on one

of Stafford's old roads, now long abandoned, but easily seen on the slope of Stafford hill, running eastward. The site of Werden's house is not known but undoubtedly stood beside this old road which was his south line. The Elder and his sons spent much time pulling stumps and clearing the ministerial land, and did so much that in 1794, they made a modest claim for their work which had added so much to the value of the farm. The Elder was finally awarded 100 pounds, with a reduction of 18 pounds because some of the work of felling trees had been accomplished by a "hurricane."

Elder Werden and his son Peter had to accompany a committee to the lot and show what they had done there. Many in the church thought that Werden's added profits from the lot should repay him sufficiently but the Elder "after opening the conference with prayer to Almighty God undertook to inform their minds of their mistaken idea."

Very fortunately there is available a survey of Cheshire dated 1794, which shows every road and the position of every house at that time. The present road follows the lot lines as far as the ministerial house and then swings eastward through lot 5 which was the home farm of Col. Stafford. The rest of Lot 4 was owned by Samuel Low whose house was on the lower road. Lot 5 was also a 200-acre lot and was sold to Stafford in 1766. Most of the pioneers built temporary homes before bringing their families. It is related that Mrs. Stafford had expressed her preference for a home on this spot, before she knew it was a reality. Their house stood on the extreme south end of the farm, near the east side of the main road in line with the memorial. The house was gone long ago, but

the depression and outline of the house is clearly seen, and in the walls near by are many brick and marble fragments of fireplaces. The present Clairmont house has been called by some as the location of the Stafford house, but Stafford never owned that farm.¹

That portion of the New Providence Plantation which was west of Stafford Hill and east of the river had a most interesting history. It is an area of fine farm lands, and the proprietor, Joseph Bennett, selected the choicest part of it for his homestead. The 1794 map of Cheshire shows but two roads across it. One is the road now called the Wells road leading from Cheshire Village to the old Bennett house, and the other a road which enters New Providence in the narrow valley between Mount Amos and Stafford Hill and runs northwesterly to Cheshire Harbor and into the old Pontoosuck Path near the present Basset reservoir. The first farm on this road was the Nicholas Brown farm. In 1806, Brown bought 80 acres of the south end of Lot No. 1 of Darius Bucklin. The large house on this lot is a typical Rhode Island house, with a covered cellar entrance in front, and some especially fine woodwork. Lot No. 1 was sold by Cook and Bennett to John Bucklin in 1766, and in 1780, conveyed to his son Darius. This John Bucklin was the same who developed the early mill privilege in Adams, and is called a wheelwright in his deeds. The site of his house is to be seen on the west side of the road. In 1806, Darius Bucklin sold the north end of the lot to Asabel Potter. The north line of the lot was one of Stafford's plotted highways and runs up the west side of Stafford Hill past the Memorial tower, and remained in use for many years. In early times, those who died of small pox were not buried in the public

¹ Browne, W.B. North Adams Transcript, March 19, 1938.

cemetery and when Jeruſha Eaton Bucklin, wife of John died of this disease in 1776, she was buried on the farm, near the foot of Mt. Amos where her grave may still be seen. The spreading branches of the Bucklin family tree enroll a vast number, some of whom still reside in Cheshire and Adams.

In 1771, a road was surveyed which would run from the Windsor north line to East Hoosuck. It started at the south end of Stafford Hill and is the same course as the Ticonderoga road, as far as the summit of the hill.

At the crossroad, it turned westward and ran down the west side of the hill where Stafford has plotted it, and meeting the road at the north end of the Bucklin farm just mentioned, ran to Cheshire harbor and to the East Hoosuck line as shown in the 1794 map. It first entered Lot 4, originally a 200 acre lot and $\frac{1}{4}$ of it was reserved for the church lot. In 1766, the remaining $\frac{3}{4}$ was sold to Samuel Low, brother-in-law of Stafford. The large house now occupied by Henry Jenks is the Low house, and for those days was a very pretentious building. It, too, has the covered outside cellar entrance. In 1785, Low moved into New York state and sold his farm to Ephraim Fisk who lived there for many years, as did his son Francis. It finally was owned by Martin Jenks in whose family it still remains. Elisha Bradford commenced housekeeping here, before he settled west of the river.

Samuel Low was a captain in the Revolutionary War and was one of the few in this region who owned slaves. He had a long controversy with the church over this matter and many long letters, preserved in the church records, are interesting in their recital of affairs at that time.

In the bend of the road, north of the Low house, we come to the

old New Providence burial ground, and the site of the original church. It is here that the old Elder and most of his flock rest at the end of their pilgrimage. As already stated, Bennett had given this lot to the church, in 1779 for a burial ground as well as to promote "virtue, piety and religion", as the deed expresses it. And it is interesting to note, that while living in Coventry, Bennett had given to the church there land for the use of the meeting house. The bounds of the New Providence cemetery are given in respect to their position from the corners of the meeting house, then standing there, and therefore the position of that building is readily determined today. The church was probably built in 1774, when it is first mentioned on the church records, and perhaps replaced a temporary log structure. We have no definite statement of the size and shape of this building which was moved to the church farm on the summit of the hill and remodeled as a dwelling house for the minister in 1820.

Some account must be made of this church which comprised the entire population at that time. We have noted that a minister was first settled in Adams, with the probable expectation that this would encourage settlement. Something of the same sort happened in New Providence, since the first group of settlers was made up of Elder Peter Werden of Coventry, R.I., and members of his church. The church record says these settlers were Peter Werden, his wife Mercy Werden, Joab Stafford, Samuel Low and his wife Almey, Joseph Bennett and his wife Eunice, John Day, Betty Read, John Lee and his wife Martha, John Bucklin, and Deliverance Nichols. These met August 28, 1769, and organized the Baptist Church of

New Providence. In 1792, this church enrolled 194 members in a parish which numbered probably 500. Elder Werden served this church as pastor until his death, and his life was not always easy. His salary was small and often in arrears, and even his scanty profit from the church lands was sometimes in controversy.

As we enter the old burial ground, almost the first stone is that of Elder Werden, who was buried beside the meeting house. His stone records that he was born June 6th, 1728, converted May 9, 1748, ordained in May 1751 to the ministry in Warwick, R.I. He died February 21, 1808. His tombstone was erected by the church, and his epitaph and the verse following it were composed by the Elder himself when living in Coventry. Among the church records is a letter from Rufus Werden, enclosing the inscription which his father had written and wished to be used.

Continuing on the main road we come to the long low house in the intersection of the Wells road which was the home of Joseph Bennett until 1783. It is probably the oldest house in the valley, north of Pittsfield, and built about 1768.

It is little changed from its original appearance; from this site there is a magnificent view over the Cheshire Valley as well as northward into Vermont. Around it spread the level fertile lands of this originally 500 acre farm. The river divided it into nearly equal parts. It was Lot No. 33 and the north half of the Hatfield grant.

Bennett was the guiding genius of the settlement and held many town offices when the district was part of Adams. On April 10, 1787, John and Frances Wells, then living in the part of Windsor south of

Stafford Hill, deeded to Joseph Bennett their 180-acre home farm "for an equivalent", reserving $\frac{1}{4}$ acre of cemetery. Wells and also Col. Stafford and others were buried in that reserved lot. On April 11, 1787, Joseph and Eunice Bennett, then at Niskayuna, N. Y., deeded to John Wells their New Providence farm of 430 acres "for an equivalent" and it was thereafter known as the Wellsfarm. A succession of John Wells continued to live there.

In 1788, John Wells bought the south part of Lot 6 which adjoined his farm on the north, and in 1803, deeded it to his son Elisha Wells who had already built a house and barn there. This same lot was owned from 1768 until 1771 by Zebadiah Sabin, who settled in Williamstown and was the founder of that family there. The Wells family is still represented by a John Wells in Cheshire and numerous descendants live in North Adams and vicinity.

Leaving the Bennett house, we go down the steep hill to what is called "The Harbor" and which was the Mill lot of that town. Samuel Warren had a saw and grist mill there at an early date, either on the Basset brook or on the south branch. Later, Jesse Jenks, Jr. bought the whole region and in after years in company with Elisha Jenks developed the mill privilege on the river. This region is called "The Harbor" as early as 1831, so probably not associated with harboring slaves.

The origin of the name is not certain, but it may have meant a glen or secluded natural retreat. Or it may be one of those odd names which that generation loved to give certain localities.

Returning to the Bennett house and taking the Wells road toward

Cheshire village we first pass through the old Wells farm and then through Lot 32 which was the south half of Hatfield grant and owned by Gov. Cook. In 1791, Cook sold to Jesse Jenks, Jr., the north part of this lot, where the Jenks family continued to live for a long period. The south part, Cook sold in 1783 to Moses Perkins who afterward moved along to Pownal.

Many of the New Providence people settled in Pownal, among them Ichabod Prosser, Ephraim Fisk Jr., Abiathar Angel, John Ladd and Christopher Mason.¹

Stafford Hill

This lofty hill, at first called New Providence Hill, and later Stafford Hill because Col. Joab Stafford lived on its summit, rises to an elevation of about 1,750 feet, or half as high as Greylock. Its summit is a wide plateau, of fine arable land, and at the time of settlement was probably in greater part, ready for cultivation. It was considered an especially healthful spot, because in early days the swampy conditions along the river were thought to induce malaria.

Col. Stafford was probably given a choice of lots for his home farm, and as conditions were at the time, doubtless had good reason to select this spot. His 200-acre farm ran up the north slope of the hill and its south line was one of his plotted roads, which is the road leading to the Memorial Tower. The eastern extension of this same road from the main highway was long ago discontinued. On the north and south sides of this cross road, and along the main highway, was the site of Stafford Hill village. The casual visitor to this spot today, would see nothing

¹ Browne, W.B. North Adams Transcript, April 18, 1938.

to indicate it ever was the center of a busy community. It has the appearance of a place which has never been occupied. But if one examined the stone walls he would see many old bricks, marble fragments, and cut stones which came from fireplaces and chimneys, and on the tavern site, when freshly plowed, quantities of broken crockery, plaster, and other relics of the building there. If he looked over the walls he would see depressions which were cellar holes, and in the pasture a deep well, half filled with water and covered with flat stones.

Many other wells have been filled or graded over. All the many individual home lots have again reverted to a single ownership, and every structure which stood there has disappeared. The present solitary house on the hill top is not one of the ancient buildings. A deserted village, it is one which had a very interesting history.

It was accommodated by the stage lines which passed over the hill. The 1794 map of Cheshire shows eight houses clustered on the four corners of the cross road, four in the Stafford lot and the others in Lot 2 adjoining on the south.

The west line of these lots is on the ridge a little west of the Memorial and their east line a half mile away well down the east side of the hill. Each lot was 200 rods long, and Lot 2 reached as far as the south line of the plantation. This Lot 2 was bought in 1766 by Jabez Pierce and was afterward owned by John and Shubael Willmarth. In 1785, the west half of the lot was sold to Jonathan Remington who built a tavern on the southwest corner of the cross roads. The east half was owned by John Willmarth who was living there at the time of his death in 1793.

Franklin Lodge of Masons, organized in 1794, used to hold its meetings in this tavern. Attached to the buildings was a store, which was so large that it was patronized by people from distant places. In 1801, Timothy Mason bought the tavern and store property and lived there until 1829 when it was deeded to his son, Dexter, as the "place where I now live". Stafford and Remington both seem to have met with financial reverses. Stafford's property was mostly disposed of in 1785. In that year he sold the northwest corner of his farm to Dr. William Jenks who probably built the house which was standing until recent times, opposite the church or Glebe lot. In 1810, it was occupied by Dr. David Cushing who had married the widow of Dr. Jenks. Dr. Cushing was one of a long line of doctors and surgeons, there being one in each generation down to Dr. Harvey Cushing of Boston, who is but one of many famous men who trace their family to this hill.

Dr. Jenks was a son of Edmund Jenks of Adams and he married Free-love Brown. In her later years, when she had become the widow Cushing, she lived on Center Street in Adams. Her grave in the old Stafford Hill cemetery may be seen between the graves of her husbands. There are several descendants of the Cushings in Adams and Cheshire.

Col. Stafford's home was one of the old-time taverns and a stopping place for travellers over the old Ticonderoga Road. It was here that the Committee of the Independent Company of militia, The Silver Greys, met on August 12, 1777 and among other resolutions declared "We solemnly engage to use our utmost interest and ability in the defense of the American State against the cruel and oppressive power of Britain and to this end

to prepare ourselves to march to the assistance of our brethern on the shortest notice, provided with horses and accoutrements necessary on such an occasion. A further note adds: "Immediately after our thus forming, we were called upon and did distinguish ourselves in the late Battle near Bennington and always have been, and still are, desirous to promote the good cause of our country".

The New Providence people were naturally devoted to the cause of independence, and practically every able-bodied man was enrolled in service. The companies under Col. Stafford and Capt. Samuel Low have numerous recorded services at Saratoga and elsewhere. It is probable that nearly a hundred men served from New Providence alone. The level spaces on the hill top were training grounds and it was from this hill top that the Silver Greys marched to Bennington and to which they returned victorious, carrying their wounded captain on a litter. Exciting events took place here. The Elder was probably too old to serve but his sons, Richmond and Peter Werden, served in Col. Stafford's Company. In 1927, the remains of Col. Stafford were removed from the neglected spot where they had been buried and were reinterred in the Memorial tower, with impressive military honors. It is fitting that he should lie on the hill which bears his name and on a part of his home farm. The Memorial is a replica of the tower in Newport so familiar to him, when a delegate to the Assembly in Newport.

In 1785, Stafford, who seemed to be in financial difficulties, and was living in Albany, sold to Daniel Read (the grandfather of Susan B. Anthony) the southwest corner of his farm, which included the lot

where the Memorial stands. In the same year, Stafford sold to Allen Briggs the rest of his farm. In the Briggs tract was situated his homestead. It was sold in 1793 to John Remington, then subsequently to Benjamin Remington, and in 1805, to Dr. David Cushing. At an early date, Stafford had sold two small house-lots on the corners of the main road. The west corner was sold to Caleb Barton and the east corner, at the side of his own house, to Matthew Cushing.

Read sold his portion in 1793 to Jonathan Remington and in 1800 it had become the property of Ephraim Fisk, who lived in the old Samuel Low house at the foot of the hill. In the meantime, two more small house lots had been sold at the side of the Caleb Barton property, one to Isaac Willmarth and one to John Burton. Timothy Mason owned five acres near them. Almost opposite the homestead of Stafford was reserved a small lot, which, in 1815, is called the Meeting House lot, bought of Francis Fiske. No deed of it is on record, but its ownership by the church is frequently mentioned, and on it was built the church which was dedicated January 1, 1818, and which stood there until about 1855. The earlier church which stood in the corner of the cemetery was dismantled and in 1821 moved up the hill and remodeled as a Glebe or Ministerial House for the church farm. It still stands there, although the church which succeeded it, disappeared so long ago. This church on the hill was 40 by 48 feet in size and had a belfry. There were two front doors and the pulpit was probably between these doors facing the long central aisle. The seating plan for 1821 has been preserved, and the following heads of families owned pews: Daniel Brown, Daniel Coman,

Ichabod Loomis, Alden Werden, Nathan Bowen, Dexter Mason, Allen Brown, Barnard Mason, Anthony Burton, Joseph Burt, Williams Burt, David Bowen, Nicholas Brown, John Brown of Adams, Nathaniel Booth, Timothy Mason, Isaac Manchester, Rufus Westcott, Daniel Smith, Benjamin Bliss, John Hunt, Francis Kiske, Nathan Closson, Nathan Sayles, William Collson, James Brown, Willmarth Dunalds, Benjamin Reed, Jemima Jacques, Daniel Remington, Samuel Bloss, Hezekiah Wheeler, John Wells, Nathan Joslin, Allan Claflin, Charles Converse and Charles Bliss. There were 14 pews in the gallery all owned by downstairs pew holders. \$1800. was paid for these pews.

In 1794, those living on the hill top of Staffords lot were: Matthew Cushing, Caleb Barton, John Burton, Isaac Willmarth and William Jenks. Across the road on the Willmarth lot were Jonathan Remington, who kept the tavern and store on the corner leading to the Memorial, Charles Converse who lived on the main road next the store, Nathan Bowen who lived across the main road from the tavern, and Benjamin Brown, who lived next to Bowen on the main road. In 1821, others were living on the hill. The tavern was then owned by Timothy Mason, who with his son, Dexter, lived there. David Smith had opened a small tavern opposite the old Remington store, and Allen Chaffee lived at the side of the church.

While the main stage route passed over the hill, those living there were as well accommodated as those in the valley. But with the advent of the railroad, the migration to the valley commenced and the hill top was soon deserted and returned to its original condition.

Some of the houses were removed wholly or in part to Liberty street in Adams where they are now being occupied. The large stone in the sidewalk of St. Mark's rectory is the door stone of the Remington tavern.

This old tavern used to have a large sign board in front with a picture of a stage coach, and distances to Boston and Albany painted on it. In 1800, John Remington was living in the old Matthew Cushing house. Home lots changed ownership so rapidly that a detailed account of them is impossible but it seems probable that at no time were there more than a dozen houses clustered about the cross road, near the church and tavern. The census of 1800 gives the names of residents in order as they dwelt along the highways, making it possible to place very closely their actual residence. In this census, those living on the top or slopes of the hill were Peter Werden and his son Peter Werden, Jr., David Cushing, Anthony Burton, Jonathan Farnum, John Remington, Timothy Mason, Nicholas Hall, Isaac Brayton, Daniel Read, Stephen Brayton, Stephen Brayton, Jr., Arnold Brayton, Nathan and Hezekiah Bowen, Allen Claflin. All of these except the Werdens lived on the main road over the hill. Samuel Stafford, son of Col. Stafford was living on the hill in 1785 according to a deed statement. He afterward removed to Brutus, N. Y.

In 1817, James D. Brown owned the lot opposite the Remington tavern on the east side of the main road. In a mortgage to David Smith, he stated that he owned the dwelling house where he then lived, a blacksmith shop, coal house and barn. In considering the size of the village, which perhaps had a dozen dwellings, we must add a church and tavern and

many buildings, such as barns, sheds, and shops which made up a busy community. The village resembled and was probably considerably larger than present Savoy Hollow.

According to the 1794 map, the saw and grist mill which supplied the needs of the village, was situated at the Hook near the bridge. In 1794, there were eight houses in the region of Pumpkin Hook scattered along the main highway and the Bucklin road.

Continuing over Stafford Hill on the southern slope we come to lot No. 3. In 1766, the west half of this lot was bought by Simeon Smith who sold it to Jonathan Richardson, Jr. in 1787, and sold by him in 1792 to Stephen Brayton of Smithfield. Jonathan Richardson, Jr. removed to the Ormsby Farm so called, on the State road. The old homestead still standing is the original house, perhaps built by Simeon Smith, and commands a beautiful view over the Windsor and East Cheshire hills. The east half of the lot was sold to Valentine Bowen who lived at the foot of the hill on the Windsor line, on what was the old Jacques farm. A small outbuilding standing on that farm is pointed out as the original house. Bowen also owned the lot east of this one, referred to on the plan as No. 20. Valentine Bowen and his six sons, Nathan, Hezekiah, Elijah, Benajah, Peleg and Aaron had fine records of service in the Revolutionary War. Valentine was a Lieutenant in Col. Stafford's company at the battle of Bennington. This very large family is now represented in North Berkshire by a multitude of descendants under many different names and scores of others have founded families in the west.

The "River road" so called, east of Stafford Hill, from the Hook,

is not an ancient road. The old highway is the one which swings eastward from the Jacques farm and circles around northerly to the present Savoy road and continues on that course to the Hook. It is not shown on the 1794 plan as it was built shortly after that date.

The road up through the Gulf, so called, the present main road to Savoy, is also a modern highway. In old deeds, the brook which comes down through this "Gulf" is called the "Gulf Stream", giving to Cheshire another marine contact, besides the Harbor.

Following this road from the Jacques or old Bowen farm, we come to the little homestead where lived Benjamin Bliss, who in 1794 bought the place from his brother-in-law, Captain Daniel Smith, who lived on the farm to the north. In 1788, Smith and Bliss bought jointly Lot 17 with house and other buildings, from Thomas Nichols. This lot had been for a time owned by Col. Stafford.

The large house of Capt. Daniel Smith was built in 1805 as a tavern and, having 16 rooms, was the most pretentious house in that part of the plantation. Capt. Daniel bought several adjoining lots and became a prominent citizen. In 1812, he was a member of the Vigilant Committee of Cheshire. This house is so well constructed that it shows no signs of deterioration or change. Capt. Daniel Smith died in 1826, aged 64. His wife, Mary Bliss, died in 1842. Her brother Benjamin Bliss married Amy Bowen, a daughter of Valentine. The family burial lot of the Bliss, Bowen and Smith families is situated a bit back from the highway, on what was originally the road plotted by Stafford to run eastward from the cross road on the hill. This old cemetery was regraded and the

stones reset and brush and trees removed in 1936 by the town of Cheshire through the efforts of Eugene B. Bowen.

The roadway which we have mentioned, on which Elder Werden lived, and which starts about half way up Stafford Hill and runs eastward, now abandoned, had several homes situated on it in the old days. This road met the present Savoy road at the sharp turn at the old William Card place. After passing Elder Werden's farm, it came to the farm of Sylvanus Scott, of Smithfield, R. I., who bought Lot 15 in 1790. The old house built by him was burned a few years ago, and has been replaced by a modern cottage. It is now reached by following the old Stafford road from the old Card place westward, through a lane. This same Stafford road continued eastward up the steep hill where it can be traced in the pasture. A town road branched off a bit north of it and circled up the hill into the Burlingame Hill road, passing on the way through a part of the Capt. Elijah Burt farm and the Jesse Eddy farm. This road is now easily followed, even in its grass grown course. On it is situated the Burt family burial lot, with its many unmarked and unknown graves. In the meadow on the hillside, across the road from the Card place, may be seen a cellar hole which marks the site of the house built by Josiah Blanchard who later moved into Windsor near the Savoy line, and whose son, Josiah, Jr., had a large family in Savoy. Blanchard lived there from 1785 till 1793, coming here from Norton, Mass. His Windsor house stood near the junction of the Jackson road and the main highway. At the junction of the main road with the present Savoy road stands the old home of Capt. Elijah Burt, former home of Nathan Bowen.

The main road to Savoy from Adams was over the top of Burlingame Hill and, until the road through the Gulf was built, East Cheshire people seem to have been compelled to use the Windsor and Jackson roads to get to Savoy. The two lots on Burlingame Hill, next to the town line of Adams, were lots 9 and 10 and were owned first by Joshua Read, who bought them in 1770. The old Read house was later known as the Stuart White house, and stood near the junction of the cross road which led down to the Card place through the Eddy, Jenkins, Burt and Blanchard lands. Joshua Read came from Rehoboth, Mass. and was born in 1728. His wife was Betty Barney and they are buried in the old Stafford Hill cemetery where her stone may be seen. She died in 1815. Their eldest son, Daniel, was the grandfather of Susan B. Anthony. The Read farm comprised 188 acres. Daniel married Susanna Richardson, daughter of Jonathan who lived on the lands west of Read.

Separation of North and South Adams, 1878

For several years prior to 1822, the proposal to build a town house in Adams for the purpose of holding town meetings occasioned a bitter controversy between the inhabitants of the villages of North and South Adams. For many years, the town meetings had been held at private homes. On May 10, 1784, the town voted to pay Joseph Sole "the sum of £3 for the use of his home in the time past in holding town meetings in it." In the town meeting warrant of March 9, 1808, appeared the article "to see if the town will raise money to build a town house, and take measures to carry it into effect." No action was taken on such a measure,

¹ Browne, W.B. North Adams Transcript, April 2, 1938.

however, until March 16, 1811, when Elisha Wells, John Waterman, John Brown, James Mason, and Jesse Whipple, were chosen a committee "to take into consideration the propriety of building a House for the purpose of holding town meetings in, and to agree on the place where it shall stand, and to calculate the size and cost of the house, and report at the Representative meeting in May next." On May 6th, the report of the committee, which favored the building of the house, was not accepted. The War of 1812 diverted the attention of the town from the town house for several years, and it was not until April 1, 1822, that the town "voted to build a town house," and to raise \$500.00 for that purpose. A long debate followed as to where the house should be located. A majority voted that it should be located at the "corner of Doctor Cummings' orchard," but the advocates of the site near the house of Abraham Howland succeeded in reversing this decision, and the meeting finally voted to leave the matter to a committee of disinterested men living out of town.

A building committee, consisting of Elisha Wells, Richmond Brown, and Elisha Kingsley, was then appointed, and the meeting adjourned. At the next meeting, October 19, 1822, there was another hitch, and the matter was postponed, and nothing came of it until May 2, 1825, when William Waterman, Samuel Jenks, Samuel Bowen, Josiah Q. Robinson, and Elisha Kingsley were appointed a committee to report a plan and the probable expense. This committee reported a plan on May 16, 1825, calling for a building 32 x 44 feet, with a hall 8 x 16 feet, at a probable expense of \$500.00, and their report was accepted. This report occasioned a long and acrimonious debate, and so much ill feeling was stirred

up, that on December 24, 1825, a committee which had been appointed to take into consideration the division of the town reported favorably. The town voted in favor of division by a vote of 90 to 76, and it was voted to suspend the building of the town house until March, 1826. Better counsels prevailed, however, and on January 9, 1826, the town voted not to divide by a vote of 158 against division and none in favor. The town house was built midway between North Adams and South Adams, on land of Abraham Howland, and the first town meeting was held in it on November 6, 1826, to vote for a Representative to the General Court of Massachusetts.¹

The inconvenience of holding the town meetings alternately in Adams and North Adams began to be seriously felt as the population of Adams increased. The cost of transporting the voters and the loss of time involved at every election, together with the difficulty of managing a large town meeting, and the diversity of local interests in North Adams, made the division of the two villages not only desirable but inevitable. A petition to this effect was circulated in Adams in the winter of 1877, and presented to the State Legislature at that session. The principal mover in the matter was Isaac Collins of Adams. The town of Adams was at that time the largest town in the State, and many citizens in all parts of the town were opposed to a division, thinking that a division would result in loss of political power and prestige. A remonstrance was circulated, numerous signed, and presented. William C. Plunkett and Edward R. Tinker were outstanding in their opposition. The Committee on Towns in the Legislature decided favorably on the petition and reported a bill setting off the town of North Adams from Adams. This bill was defeated

¹ Adams Records, 1778-1832, Book No. 1

in the Senate at the last moment, and thus the division was postponed for one year.

Early in the winter of 1878, the agitation for division was renewed. Petitions were circulated in favor of the division of the town, and in favor of city government for Adams. A draft of a city charter was drawn up and published in The Transcript. The petition for the division of the town was the more numerously signed, and the people in both Adams and North Adams at length settled down to the feeling that they could not profitably be united by the granting of a city charter and that two compact towns were greatly to be preferred to a double-barreled city. The opposition to the division, however, had not died out. The bill for the division passed the House of Representatives, but was amended in the Senate so that its acceptance by the town was made to depend upon a two-thirds vote of the citizens of Adams. This action of the Senate excited general indignation, and resulted in the following petition, which was signed by nearly all the prominent business men in Adams, and by a majority of the same class in North Adams:

"Whereas, we, citizens of the town of Adams, without regard to the propriety of incorporating the town of North Adams, believe that the provision contained in the bill for that purpose, providing for its acceptance by the legal voters in said town of Adams by a majority of two-thirds of those present and voting thereon, is unrepugnant, unjust and not called for by the importance of the act, and liable to engender strife and discord. We therefore pray that the words 'two-thirds,' wherever they occur in said bill, be stricken out and the words 'a majority' substituted in it."

The remonstrance was carried to Boston and handed to Hon. F. P. Brown of Adams, then senator from the North Berkshire District. This ended all opposition to the passage of the bill, and as the feeling in

its favor then seemed to be almost unanimous in all parts of the town, and at the suggestion of Senator Brown, the bill was passed, to take effect upon its passage, without any submission to the people whatever.

By the language of the bill, the village of North Adams, including all the territory north of the "Old Military Line," was incorporated into a town by the name of North Adams, with all the powers and privileges, and subject to all the duties incumbent upon other towns in the Commonwealth. The proportion of State and county taxes to be paid by the respective towns was to be ascertained and based upon the valuation of Adams in 1877. The towns of Adams and North Adams were to be respectively liable for the support of all present or future paupers, "whose settlements were gained whether by original acquisition or derivation within their respective limits." The town of North Adams was to pay annually to the town of Adams one-third of the cost paid by the last named town for the support or relief of paupers "whose settlements were acquired in said town of Adams as heretofore constituted, or were derived from a settlement acquired therein in consequence of military services in the War of the Rebellion; provided that the person who rendered such military service was not, at the time of his enlistment, an inhabitant¹ of said last named town of Adams."

The corporate property belonging to the town of Adams at the time the act took effect, including unpaid taxes, and the public debts of the town existing at said date, was to be divided between the towns of Adams and North Adams "according to the valuation of the property within their respective limits as assessed on May 1, 1877." The expense of making

¹ Massachusetts Acts and Resolves, 1878.

the survey and establishing the line between Adams and North Adams was to be borne by the towns in the same proportion. The property of the town of Adams was divided as follows: All the real estate and fixtures in the town of Adams as after the division were awarded to the town of Adams, and all the real estate and fixtures in the limits of North Adams were awarded to the town of North Adams. The Town Farm, however, located in the town of North Adams, was awarded to both towns to be owned in common.¹

Thus, on April 16, 1878, the mother township of Adams, formerly East Hoosuck, and previous to that, Township No. 1, ended its corporate life of exactly a century. Her two daughters, really twins in age, commenced their separate history. The mother town (Adams) was severed into two nearly equal parts. The northern daughter retained the name of North Adams which she had always borne. The southern daughter was permitted to adopt the name of the mother township, and dropped the name of South Adams, which she had never liked. Each township at that date commenced its town records as they now continue, but all the papers and records of the mother town, including the town records which had come to an end, as well as the Proprietors' Records and the town plan, were all given into the custody of North Adams, and they are now under the care of the City Clerk in that community.

We sometimes hear the present town of Adams referred to as the mother town of North Adams, which is a mis-statement of fact. The mother town of present Adams and North Adams passed out of existence in 1878. A mother town is one settled at an early date, from which smaller portions

¹ Beers, J.B. History of Berkshire County, p. 505.

settled in later times are separated, such as Northampton and Springfield, which are mother towns of many others. In the case of Adams and North Adams, two settlements of the same age, were given equal portions of an old township. Cutting an apple in the middle does not make either half mother of the other.¹

¹ Browne, W.B. North Adams Transcript, October 30, 1937.

CHAPTER III

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION

Town Meetings

The annual meeting for the election of Town Officers is held on the first Monday in March. This meeting must be opened not later than eight o'clock in the forenoon, and the polls for the election of Town Officers remain open until three o'clock in the afternoon, after which time a vote may be passed to close them in not less than fifteen minutes time after such vote be taken. In all meetings for the election of National, State, County and District Officers, the polls are opened not later than eight o'clock in the forenoon. The annual business meeting of the town is generally held about two weeks following the annual election meeting.

Inhabitants are notified of all town meetings by the constable or other persons to whom the warrant thereof is directed, by posting attested copies of the warrant in two or more public places in the town, and by the publication in one or more daily papers published in Berkshire County, having a general circulation in the town; such notices and publications are to be made at least seven days prior to the date of said meeting.

At the annual town meeting and at any special town meetings, all articles in the warrant involving the raising and expenditure of money, are referred to a committee of fifteen legal voters of the town known as the Finance Committee. Of this Committee, the second-year member (at the time of the annual meeting) of the Board of Selectmen, School Committee,

Board of Health, and Assessors, and the present acting Superintendent of Streets, are ex-officio members. The ten remaining members are appointed by the moderator.

All committees chosen by the town for any purpose, and ordered to report at any time other than at the meeting at which they were chosen, shall report in writing.

No motion, the effect of which would be to dissolve a town meeting, shall be in order until every article in the warrant has been duly considered and acted upon, but this shall not preclude the postponement of action on, or consideration of, any article through an adjournment of the meeting to a stated time. No person shall speak more than twice upon any question, except to answer an inquiry or to give information requested, without first obtaining leave of the meeting, and then, not until others who have not spoken upon the question shall have spoken if they desire. All motions shall be submitted to the meeting in writing when so requested by the moderator or the Town Clerk. No motion shall be reconsidered, unless ordered by more than two-thirds of the voters present and voting thereon.

Representative Town Government by
Limited Town Meetings

On March 30, 1935, by a unanimous vote, the Selectmen were authorized and directed to petition the State Legislature for an act creating a representative town meeting government in Adams.¹ The Legislature, under Chapter 235 of the Acts of 1935, passed "An Act Establishing in the

¹ Adams Town Records, Book 4, p. 343

Town of Adams Representative Town Government by Limited Town Meetings."¹

On March 2, 1936, the voters of Adams, by a vote of 2114 to 738, accepted the Legislative act and representative town government by limited town meetings came into existence.²

Under the provisions of the Act, Adams was divided into five precincts containing an approximately equal number of registered voters, with the stipulation that the Selectmen should revise the precinct districts once every five years if necessary. Each of the five precincts have 30 registered voters as their duly elected representatives. In addition, there are 25 members-at-large, designated as ex officiis, namely: any member of the general court of the commonwealth who is a resident of the town, the moderator, the town clerk, the selectmen, the town treasurer, the town counsel, the chairman of the trustees of the public library, the school committee, the board of assessors, the board of health, the tax collector and the members of the finance committee. Thus, the town is represented by a maximum of 175 registered voters. Regular voters of the town have a voice in government at all town meetings but no right to vote.

Elected town meeting members serve a term of three years and receive no salary. A quorum formerly consisted of 100 members, but as it oftentimes was difficult to get that number in attendance at town meetings, a recent Legislative act reduced the necessary quorum to 75 members.

On March 30, 1940, the town meeting members voted to accept a statute providing for the establishment of a Town Caucus for the nomination of candidates for town offices with the elimination of party labels.³

1 Mass. Acts and Resolves, 1935, Chap. 235, pp. 1-6.

2 Adams Town Records, Book 4, pp. 354 and 363.

3 North Adams Transcript, April 1, 1940.

Board of Selectmen

The Board of Selectmen consists of three members. One selectman is elected each year for a term of three years, thus providing for two experienced office holders at all times. The present members of the Board are: John S. Wilk, Chairman; Thomas F. Russell, and Arthur W. King. The salary of these officers varies. The chairman receives \$531.66 per annum, the second-year member \$421.68, and the first-year member, \$366.66.

These officers have a wide range of duties. They must keep within the budget; they have all the authority for the town. They deal with the State and other towns as community representatives; they cause the survey of roads and sidewalks; they handle welfare; they license auctioneers, hawkers and peddlers; they perambulate the town bounds; they appoint a number of town officers; they listen to minor complaints or defend the town against legal action; and they arrange the warrant for the next Town Meeting.

It is also the duty of the Selectmen, immediately upon notice or knowledge of any accident upon any public way or street, to notify the Town Counsel, who shall at once personally investigate the cause and effect of such accident, procure names of witnesses and do such other things as may be for the interest of the town, in case of suit. Whenever it shall be necessary to execute any deed conveying land, including burial lots and burial rights, the same are executed by the Selectmen in the name and on behalf of the town, unless the town votes otherwise in any special case. All conveyances of or interests in land which are to be authorized by a vote of the town, must be signed by a majority of

the Board of Selectmen unless otherwise provided by law or by vote of the town, and sealed with the town seal.

The Selectmen annually make a full and detailed report of their proceedings, relating to the municipal affairs of the town, and also require reports of the Treasurer, Auditors, Assessors, Tax Collector, School Committee, Board of Health, Library Trustees, Cemetery Committee, Superintendent of Streets, and such other reports of Boards or Committees elected or appointed as they may deem advisable, to be printed in a sufficient number of copies for the use of the voters of the town. All Boards and Committees of the town that make an annual written report to the town of their official doings for the preceding year, must include in such report their recommendations for the work to be done for the ensuing year in their several departments, with an estimate of the cost thereof, such reports to be filed with the Selectmen on or before the tenth day of February in each year.

Town Clerk

Since the incorporation of the town, the term of office of the Town Clerk has been one year, but at the Town Meeting for March, 1945, the term of office was increased to three years. Miss I. Audrey Louison is the present incumbent, and the annual salary for the office is \$400.00.¹

The Town Clerk furnishes all boards, committees, and officers of the town with a copy of all votes affecting them, and, as soon as practicable after any election, in addition to the notices he is directed to give newly-elected officers required to take an oath of office, he

¹ Town By-Laws, p. 34

also issues a written or printed notice to all persons who have been elected to any other office, or chosen to serve on any other committee, stating the office to which such person has been elected, or the duties which such committee was chosen to perform. It is also the duty of the Town Clerk to see that every conveyance to the town of any interest in land is properly recorded in the Registry of Deeds, and to keep a true copy of all deeds or conveyances executed by the Selectmen.

The Town Clerk has stated daily hours for the transaction of such business as issuing dog and sporting licenses, gas station renewals, and keeping records of vital statistics and registered voters of the town.

Moderator

The Moderator is an official of the town, elected annually for a term of one year. Judge Henry L. Harrington is the present incumbent of the office which pays \$25.00 per annum.

The Moderator directs the annual town meetings, appoints members of the Finance and other special committees, and is governed by the general rules of parliamentary law as they may be adapted to town meetings.

The Finance Committee must duly consider all of the articles in the warrant referred to it, and make a report thereon in writing, including its estimates and recommendations.

Town Treasurer

The town Treasurer is an elective official and holds office for a term of three years. Mr. Hilaire Blanchette, Jr., is the present

incumbent, and he receives an annual salary of \$1075.00.

The Treasurer is required to make a detailed report of receipts and expenditures and of all trust funds in his charge, together with a statement of the Town Debt, which must be printed in the annual Town Report. He observes regular hours for the transaction of the business of his office, which hours are published for the information of the general public.

Tax Collector

The office of Tax Collector is elective, and the term runs for three years. The office is held at present by Frank L. Brown, and his salary is \$2150.00 per annum.

The annual report of the Collector of Taxes contains a statement of the amount of taxes and assessments committed to him for collection, the amount collected thereon together with the interest, the amount of abatements and discounts, the amount of uncollected taxes and the amount paid over to the Treasurer. The Collector of Taxes has the same power and can use all means and processes provided by law which Town Treasurers may use when acting as Collectors of Taxes.

The Board of Health

The Board of Health consists of three members, one member being elected each year to serve a term of three years. Members of the present Board are John Kissell, Chairman, Dr. James F. McLaughlin, and Clayton L. Couture. The chairman receives an annual salary of \$242.83, the second-

year member of the Board, \$232.60, and the first-year member \$224.57.

The Board of Health annually makes a report to be printed in the Annual Town Report, showing in detail the statistics of the health and sanitary condition of the town, with recommendations for its improvement, together with a full and comprehensive statement of its work and that of its appointees during the previous year. The report also contains a detailed statement of the amounts expended by the Board during the fiscal year.

Cemetery Committee

The Cemetery Committee consists of three members. Mr. Leo F. Jordan is Chairman, and Melvin Van Demark and Harry E. Davis the other two members. Mr. Van Demark also serves as sexton, having just recently replaced Fred H. Couture, Jr., who resigned. George Clerc is assistant sexton. The salary of the chairman is \$95.91 per annum, that of the second year member, \$77.85, and of the first year member, \$76.24. The sextons' salary appropriation is \$1,814.00 yearly.

At each annual meeting, there is chosen one member of the Cemetery Committee for a three year term; vacancies in this committee are filled at the next annual meeting after such vacancy occurs, and persons chosen to fill such vacancy hold office for the duration of the unexpired term of the person whose place he fills.

This committee meets annually in April and organizes by choosing a Chairman and Secretary. It is the duty of the Secretary to keep a record of the doings, receipts, and expenditures of the Committee, and

render a specific report thereof to the Town annually.

The Cemetery Committee has full charge of all public cemeteries of the town, lays out the same into lots and suitable subdivisions, sells lots and reports the sale thereof in writing to the Selectmen who, in turn, execute and deliver deeds therefor; it erects all necessary signs, fences, buildings and other structures in or about the premises, at an expense not to exceed, in any case, the amount of the funds at their disposal, and to make all necessary regulations relating to cemeteries not contrary to law. The committee directs the expenditure of all general cemetery funds in the Cemetery account, and of all specific appropriations, unless otherwise ordered by the Town, and the income of all trust funds held by the town for cemetery purposes. The Committee also keeps a complete record of all interments in the cemeteries of the town, including the name of the deceased and the location of the grave.

The School Committee

For many years, the Adams School Committee membership consisted of three persons, one member being elected each year for a term of three years. In 1936, however, due to the political abuse of their office by certain school board members, the town voted on March 2nd to increase the School Committee membership to seven, by a vote of 3131 to 1089.¹ The present members of the Committee are Frank Brenner, Chairman, Stanley Cwalinski, John Ballantyne, Clarence Scott, George Voigt, and Thomas J. Harvey. Since 1924, school board members in the State of Massachusetts have received no salary for their services.

¹ Adams Town Records, Book 4, pp. 359 and 363.

The town By-Laws provide that the annual report of the School Committee must contain a statement showing the value of the school property held by the Town in buildings, grounds, furniture, text books and supplies; a statement of the cost of the public day and evening schools, as required by the State Board of Education; a report of the year's work in the schools, with such recommendations and suggestions regarding educational work as the Committee deems fitting; the school calendar for the year; a tabulated statement of membership, attendance, and truancy in the schools; a detailed statement of expenditures during the year; a list of teachers and other appointees of the Board, together with their salaries; and such other information as the Board may deem advisable relative to the conduct and condition of the department, together with such recommendations as may seem proper for the future conduct of the department.¹

Town Counsel

The Selectmen appoint annually, on or before the first day of May, or whenever a vacancy exists, some competent lawyer, residing in the town, to act as Town Counsel, and he is paid a salary of \$1300.00 per year. The term of office of the Counsel begins on the date of his appointment and acceptance, and continues until the appointment and acceptance of his successor. Attorney Andrew J. Dilk is the present Town Counsel.

The Town Counsel drafts all bonds, deeds, leases, obligations, conveyances, and other legal instruments, and does every professional act which may be required of him by vote of the town or any board of town officers. Also, when required by said Boards or any Committee of

¹ Adams Town By-Laws, P. 9

the town, he furnishes a written opinion on any legal question that may be submitted to him in regard to any matter which concerns the board or committee requesting the opinion, and he must at all times furnish legal advice to any officer of the town who may require his opinion upon any subject concerning the duties incumbent upon such officer by virtue of his office. He prosecutes all suits ordered to be brought by the town, and appears before any court in the Commonwealth in defence of all actions or suits brought against the town or its officers in their official capacity. He tries, or causes to be tried, any and all cases to which the town is a party, before a tribunal, whether at law or in equity, in this Commonwealth, or before any board of referees or Commissioners.

Immediately upon being notified by the Chief of Police or Superintendent of Streets, or upon the receipt of notice from any other source, of injury to person or property under circumstances which may give rise to a claim for damages against the town, the Town Counsel makes, or causes to be made, a careful and complete investigation of all the facts relative thereto, and in case of injuries to a person, he must, if it seems practicable, immediately cause a physical examination of the injured person to be made, and such further examinations as he sees fit. Within ten days after the claim for damages for any cause has been received by the Town Counsel he makes a written report to the Selectmen of the nature and circumstances of the claim, together with such recommendations regarding the same as he deems advisable.

The Town Counsel shall prosecute, or cause to be prosecuted, in the local district court, all cases for the violation of the by-laws of

the town, and will make an annual written report to the Selectmen, for publication in the Annual Town Report, concerning the professional services rendered by him during the preceeding year. This report must contain a statement of each case which has been settled, tried, or otherwise disposed of by him during the year; also, a statement of each case which is still pending and the status of the same, together with such other information, and recommendations as he may deem advisable.¹

Police Department

The Police Department consists of a Chief of Police, two captains, ten police officers, five reserve police officers, and a number of special police officers. The present roster of the department lists Edward W. Reid, Chief; Albert P. Baran (recently deceased), night captain; William J. Vincelette, day captain; Stanley J. Zelazo, Ovilla Fillion, Chester W. Dydowicz, Frank Kopec, John P. Coussoule, Joseph O. Cardonnel, Edward W. Anton, and Emil A. Przystas, police officers; Charles E. Schofield, Jr., Raymond W. Guettler, Laurent F. Simard, John A. Tarsa, and George R. Little, reserve police officers. The salary of members of the police department is fixed by the Board of Selectmen. The Chief of Police receives \$2,700.00 per annum, the Captains \$2,214.10, and the police officers \$2,007.00 each.

The Chief of Police is the head of the Police Department and subject to the general supervision and control of the Board of Selectmen. He has control of the department, its officers and members, and of constables and special police officers when in the service of the department. He is responsible for the discipline and efficiency of his department and enforces

¹ Adams Town By-Laws, pp. 12, 13 and 14.

the rules and regulations thereof.

He keeps an account of all duties performed and of all absences from duty, with the causes thereof. He takes notice of all nuisances, defects and obstructions in the streets and other public places in the town and takes all proper measures relative thereto. He shall devote his whole time to the duties of his office and shall have his office at the Police Station. An officer is assigned to duty at the station during the whole of the twenty-four hours of each day.

The Chief of Police also is responsible for the care of the Police Station, the care and custody of all property of the town used by the department, and keeps a full and complete record of the business of the department. He reports monthly to the Board of Selectmen, and at such other times as may be required by said Board, the doings of his department. He annually makes a written report, to be printed in the Annual Town Report, of the organization and condition of the department, with a synopsis of the business and of the expenses of the department for the preceding year, together with such recommendations as he may think advisable for the future conduct of the department.

The Chief of Police has power to temporarily relieve from duty any of his subordinates for neglect or non-performance of duty, for any act contrary to good order and discipline, or for the violation of any of the rules and regulations of the department. In such case, he furnishes the Board of Selectmen, in writing, within 48 hours, a statement of his reasons for relieving such subordinates from duty.

The Chief and each regular member of the department is required to

devote his entire time to the business of the department. All regular members, including the Chief, are allowed fourteen days' vacation each year without loss of pay, with the time of such vacation to be designated by the Chief.

It is the duty of each Police Officer patrolling a regular beat to immediately report all accidents happening on the highways patrolled by him, involving injury to persons or property, and should make a careful investigation, securing the names and addresses of all witnesses thereto and incorporating the same in his report to the Chief of Police, who in turn makes a full written report thereof to the Selectmen. Special officers are subject to the authority of the Chief of Police and must devote as much of their time to the service of the town as he may require. The amount of their compensation is fixed by the Board of Selectmen. They are paid on an hourly basis for services actually rendered.

On April 1, 1939, Chief of Police Edward W. Reid and all other members of the Adams police department automatically were placed under Civil Service without being required to take any examination. They can be discharged only for due cause, and should charges be preferred against them, they are entitled to a hearing. New appointees to the department are required to take mental and physical examinations. Civil Service status of the police does not incur any additional expense to the town of Adams, as far as pensions are concerned, due to the fact that the town already has a pension retirement system to which members of the police department had been making regular contributions for some time past.¹

¹ North Adams Transcript, April 3, 1939.

At a special town meeting held on October 14, 1941, the town voted the establishment of a reserve police force with appointment thereto¹ to be made in accordance with Civil Service regulations.

Sealer of Weights and Measures

The office of Sealer of Weights and Measures was for many years one requiring annual appointment by the Board of Selectmen. In 1942, the position was placed under Civil Service. Mr. Victor DuBois holds this office at present and his annual salary is \$1430.00.

The Sealer of Weights and Measures is required to make an annual written report to the Selectmen, to be printed in the Annual Town Report, containing an account of his work, receipts and expenditures during the preceding year, together with such other information and recommendations as he may deem proper.

Board of Library Trustees

The Board of Library Trustees consists of six members, two members being elected each year for a term of three years. Mrs. Elizabeth B. Ryan is chairman of the Board and the other members are Thomas Wooley, treasurer, Thomas P. Ryan, Josephine W. Romaniak, Edward W. Martin, and Archie L. Alderman. The Board has jurisdiction over the expenditure of the annual library appropriation voted by the town, the appointment of library employees, and the maintenance of the library building, including Memorial Hall, and the library grounds.

¹ North Adams Transcript, October 15, 1941.

Board of Assessors

The Board of Assessors numbers three members, one of which is elected each year for a term of three years. Mr. Henry P. LeGrand is the present chairman, with Arthur C. Hoffman and Fred Dabrowski as the two remaining members. The salary of the full-time member is \$2300.00 per year while that of the other two assessors is placed at \$1000.00 each.

The Assessors annually assess the personal and real property of Adams residents for tax purposes and levy a poll tax on eligible males. In 1943, the valuation of personal property was placed at \$957,750. and real estate at \$8,111,050. Based on a tax rate of \$31.00 per each \$1000. valuation, the total amount raised by this means of taxation was \$281,132.80. In addition, \$8,888.00 was raised by a \$2.00 poll tax levied on 4,444 males, and \$13,884.36 by virtue of a \$36.33 per \$1,000.00 excise tax on 2,571 automobiles valued at \$405,687.00.

Their annual report to the Board of Selectmen, and as printed in the 1943 Town Report, also indicates that 11,230 acres of land were assessed, 1,970 dwelling houses, 100 horses, 711 neat cattle and milch cows, 210 yearlings and bulls, 31 swine, 30 sheep, 1,970 fowl, and 185¹ of all others.

The Planning Board

The Planning Board was brought into existence under a vote of the town on March 21, 1936. It consists of six members, two of which are

¹ Adams Town Report, 1943, pp. 97-99.

elected each year for a term of three years. The members receive no salary but the Board is allowed an annual sum not exceeding \$100.00 for its expenses. The present members of the Board are E. Leon Cadigon, David R. Lennon, Albert A. Duprey, Walter Mularski, Alfred Gulden, and Robert Lawson. The Board chooses annually from its own number, a chairman, secretary, and treasurer.

The function of the Planning Board is to study the resources, possibilities, and needs of the town, particularly with respect to conditions injurious to the public health, or otherwise, in or about rented dwellings, and to make plans for the development of the municipality, with special reference to the proper housing of its inhabitants.

Adams Fire District

The Adams Fire District was organized in 1873, and at the first meeting the following officers were chosen: Levi L. Brown, chief engineer; James Osborne, first assistant; James S. Adams, second assistant; A. B. Mole, third assistant; John J. Marsh, fourth assistant.

The Fire District was authorized soon after its inception, to take water, water rights and land in Bassett's Brook in Cheshire, so as to furnish water for public and domestic purposes. During the year 1873, the dam was built and the pipes were laid to bring water into the village. The dam was built under the superintendency of a committee of the fire district. The pipes were laid by John J. Marsh of North Adams, and the whole work cost about \$100,000. Money was raised by the issue of Adams town bonds, which were loaned the Fire District for that purpose. The

bringing of water into the town was one of the most useful projects ever carried out in regard to the growth and prosperity of Adams. Before that event, the only source of water was from private wells and was very limited in amount, as well as frequently impure and unfit for use. At that time the people hesitated to build on account of the very limited supply of good water, but the completion of the water works solved the problem of water supply.¹

In 1882, another reservoir was built on Dry Brook in the event of accident at the Bassett Reservoir. Despite the availability of two reservoirs, the water ran so low in the summer of 1902 that the Fire District was prompted to erect a pumping station at Cheshire Harbor. The total storage capacity in 1930 was 2,953,213 gallons while the approximate daily consumption is 1,400,000 gallons. The water mains carrying this water to the town vary from 4 to 18 inches in diameter.

The Prudential Committee, which supervises and administers the function of the Adams Fire District, comprises three members, one member being elected each year for a term of three years. Mr. Samuel Goldberg, chairman, A. Millard Daniels, and Wallace E. Stoddard are the current members of the committee. Other elective officers of the Fire District are Martin J. Degen, chief engineer; William A. Sime, first assistant; Herman Klammer, second assistant; Henry H. Sherman, third assistant; and Ronald E. Griswold, fourth assistant engineer. The Prudential Committee appoints a clerk, treasurer, and bookkeeper, a Superintendent of the Fire District, and a Superintendent of Fire Alarms. The chairman of the Prudential Committee receives an annual salary of \$75.00, the other two

¹ Beers, J.B. History of Berkshire County, 1885, Vol. I, p. 501.

members \$50.00 each, the Chief Engineer \$400.00, the Clerk and Treasurer \$200.00, and the Superintendent of Fire Alarms \$250.00.

The receipts and disbursements of the Adams Fire District from March 1, 1873, to March 1, 1944, are as follows:¹

Receipts

From land and buildings	\$	1,174.78
Sale of ice		164.33
Water rents		1,576,781.56
Taxation		459,949.67
Fire District loans		30,000.00
Miscellaneous		35,664.29
		<u>2,103,734.63</u>

Disbursements

Construction	281,970.12
Interest	240,643.34
Maintenance and repairs, including Supt. salary	271,699.45
Fire Department, including Chief's salary . . .	130,781.54
Street Lighting	541,006.18
Miscellaneous	40,110.50
Hydrants	13,870.44
Meters	14,372.66
Freight and Cartage	10,029.00
Salaries	70,958.68
Pumping	129,429.70
Rent	6,185.50
Fire Alarm, including Supt. salary	69,009.78
Office furniture and fixtures	1,395.01
Hose House, not including lot	6,833.94
Alert Hose Company	19,883.56
Committee on Water Supply, 1875	1,170.32
Map of Pipe System	3,439.91
Commissioner of Sinking Fund	25,908.27
Real Estate	17,385.56
Real Estate and Water Rights at Zylonite . . .	30,000.00
Water Rights and land damages	1,220.00
Profits and loss, sale of Bonds	5,537.30
Taxes and Insurance	22,678.09
Ford Auto Truck	4,684.10
Chevrolet Auto Truck	5,545.72
Extension of Water Works, 1902	26,087.67
Extension of 16-inch Maple Grove to Bassett Reservoir	40,033.34
Storage tanks at Morningside and Siggsville . .	4,863.60
Engineer's Services, maps, etc. to improve system	12,915.10
Repairs to Bassett Reservoir, 1934	10,376.31
Cash on hand to balance	18,709.64
	<u>\$ 2,103,734.63</u>

¹ Annual Report, Adams Fire District, 1944,
pp. 20-21.

The Alert Hose Company

The Town Warrant of 1845 contained an article for the establishment of the Triton Fire Engine Company No. 1 in Adams. A committee comprising William C. Wheeler, H. J. Barker, and Andrew A. Richmond was appointed with instructions to draft a constitution and present it for consideration at a meeting of the company at the Lafayette House on April 23, 1845. The constitution was accepted and on May 5, 1845, the following officers were elected: H. J. Barker, foreman; William Burton, secretary-treasurer; Stephen W. Conklin, 1st lieutenant; and Lucius Carpenter, 2nd lieutenant.¹ This Triton Fire Engine Company No. 1 did splendid work as a volunteer fire-fighting organization during the early history of the town and was a worthy predecessor of the Alert Hose Company,

With the establishment of the Adams Fire District in 1873, the need for a responsible fire department soon became evident. On May 20, 1876, a meeting took place at the Greylock House where it was decided to form the Alert Hose Company. Mr. A. B. Mole was chosen foreman and first fire chief; John Whipple, first assistant; James Osborne, second assistant; Franklin H. B. Munson, secretary; and Albert Upton, treasurer. Three hose carts were purchased in 1874, one being placed at Maple Grove, one in the center of town, and the other at the Renfrew Manufacturing Company's store mill.

The Alert Hose Company even to this day continues to be a volunteer fire-fighting organization. The only reimbursement any of its 40 members receive is the remission by the town of their \$2.00 annual poll tax assessment. Membership in the organization is highly desired and the waiting

¹ Minutes, Triton Fire Engine Company No. 1, 1845.

list is lengthy. Numerous festivities keep the morale of the group at a high pitch and as a result, fire losses in the community are at an extreme low point. The present officers are George Depelteau, Foreman; Milton Chittenden, First Assistant; and Ralph Anthony, Second Assistant. The apparatus of the company at the present time consists of a Seagraves Triple Combination Pump, a Seagraves City Service Hook and Ladder Truck, a Mack Triple Combination Pump, a Two-Horse Sleigh, and 5 Hand Hose Reels.¹ The Prudential Committee of the town provides an annual appropriation for the maintenance of the department.

In 1941, an organization known as the Adams Auxiliary Firemen came into existence to assist the Alert Hose Company under the Civil Defense plan during World War II. The auxiliary comprises 30 men who are well trained and have their own equipment. Mr. Arthur H. Charpentier is general chairman of the organization; James B. Woods, foreman; Herbert Gross, first assistant foreman; John Gimalowski, second assistant foreman; Emil R. Langner, secretary-treasurer; and Edward Johndrow, instructor.²

¹ Annual Report, Adams Fire District, 1944, p. 37.

² North Adams Transcript, April 27, 1944.

CHAPTER IV

RELATIONS WITH THE COUNTY, STATE, AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS

Establishment of the Town Hall

The necessity of providing a safe and suitable place for the town office and the records of the Town of Adams, following the setting off and the incorporation of the Town of North Adams in 1878, became apparent. The subject of building a town hall that would furnish a suitable place for holding town meetings and the necessary municipal offices was freely discussed, both in the public newspapers as well as in private. Finally, in the spring of 1880, in town meeting, a committee consisting of William C. Flunkett, Daniel Upton, A. B. Mole, James C. Chalmers, and George W. Adams was appointed "to consider the subject of building a Town Hall and make report, with plans and estimates for the same, at a subsequent meeting." At the annual town meeting of March 26, 1881, the committee made its report recommending the building of a town hall, and Alfred B. Mole, Dallas J. Dean, Daniel Upton, Elisha Burlingame, and Daniel D. Wheeler were appointed a committee to carry into effect the recommendations of the previous committee. The committee conferred with the County Commissioners, and found that they were desirous of joining with the town in the erection of a building sufficiently large to accommodate the Registry of Deeds and the Probate and District Courts. Accordingly, an act was passed in the Legislature empowering the Commissioners to sell the old Registry and Probate Court building, and pay a sum not exceeding \$10,000. for a perpetual lease of room sufficient for that purpose. Nothing was done during

that year except that the committee was authorized to purchase the Howarth and Marsh lots and buildings thereon, situated on the easterly side of Park Street at the corner of Park and School Streets. The interest of Mrs. Lydia Bowen in the "Academy Lot" was also bought.¹ In 1853, a school stood in this location and it is from this fact that School Street was so named.

At the annual meeting of March 28, 1882, the sum of \$10,000. was raised toward the building of the town hall, and it was voted that a sum not exceeding \$35,000.00 be expended for the building including the site. L. L. Brown was added to the committee to replace Daniel D. Wheeler who had died. Subsequently, at a meeting, May 20, 1882, it was voted to authorize an additional expenditure of \$10,000.00 and to spend the required amount needed for stage scenery and furnishing the rooms.

The committee contracted with Bartlett Brothers of Whately, Massachusetts, to erect the building according to the plans submitted by W. C. Brocklesby of Hartford, Connecticut. The following sums were expended on the town hall in accordance with the vote of the citizens in Town Meeting:

Paid for land and buildings thereon	\$ 5,510.00
Paid Bartlett Bros. contract	38,550.00
Paid Bartlett Bros. extra work and material	954.55
Paid Bartlett Bros. for fire escape and doors	500.00
Paid W. C. Brockelsby - supervising architect	1,702.55
Paid grading grounds	133.62
Total cost of building	41,840.72
Paid for moving and foundation for Howarth house	449.60
Paid for repairs on Howarth house and for street lamp	132.37
Paid for building sewer to river	258.60
Paid for stage scenery and furniture	2,123.07
	<u>\$ 50,314.36</u>

¹ Adams Town Report, 1884, p. 25.

Received for house and shed sold	\$	718.50
Received County of Berkshire		10,500.00
Estimated value of Howarth house and lot		<u>1,200.00</u>
Total received		12,418.50
Net cost complete to town	\$	37,895.86

In 1883, the year which saw the completion of the building, a lease was granted by the inhabitants of Adams to the County of Berkshire as follows:

"This Indenture made this first day of September in the year of our Lord, one thousand, eight hundred and eighty-three, by and between the Inhabitants of the County of Berkshire, by the hands of Lyman Payne, John B. Hull and Abiathar W. Preston, Commissioners for said county of the one part and the Inhabitants of the Town of Adams, in their Corporate capacity by the hands of A. B. Mole, D. J. Dean, Daniel Upton, Elisha Burlingame and L. L. Brown, their authorized committee and Agents, of the other part, Witnesseth, That in consideration of Ten Thousand Dollars, paid by the Inhabitants of said Adams in their Corporate capacity do hereby demise, lease and let unto the Inhabitants of said County, in their Corporate capacity, certain rooms in the New Town Hall Building in said Town of Adams, on the first floor, namely, all of the South and East part of said first floor, excepting what is designed and designated as a Town office in the South West corner of said building to wit: A large room on the South side of the Main Hall on said first Floor, designated and prepared for the office of Registry of Deeds, and the large room on the East end of said building designed and prepared for District and Probate Court, with a small room on the South of it called the Judges Room, with the water closets designed for the same together with the free use in common with the Citizens of said town of the Halls leading to said Rooms.

Also the exclusive use and control of the Basement under said Registry Room and reasonable and sufficient room and privilege of ingress and egress to the same.

And also the right at all times to enter said Basement to adjust the Gas and Water pipes and to examine the condition of the Boiler put into said Basement at the expense of the Inhabitants of said County and the Inhabitants of said Town. The Inhabitants of said County paying one-fourth of the expense of said heating apparatus.

And it is mutually agreed between the Inhabitants of said County and the inhabitants of said Town that in case any of said heating apparatus shall by necessity be replaced, that said inhabitants of said County shall bear one-fourth of the expense and the Inhabitants of the Town the balance perpetually. That the fuel and expense of heating said Building during the continuance of said Lease including the care and management of the heating apparatus shall be borne by said County and said Town in proportion to the amount of heat required to heat the rooms leased to said County and the rooms heated for the benefit of said town respectively, and in case the parties cannot agree, the same shall be determined by three

disinterested persons mutually chosen by said parties.

And the Inhabitants of said Town do further covenant agree, that no building shall be erected on said Town lot near said building hereby leased that what is already erected and that said Town Hall Building and no part thereof shall be used for a Lock up.

To have and to hold the same to the Inhabitants of said County and their assigns for the uses and purposes aforesaid as long as Wood grows and Water runs.

But in case, however, the Inhabitants of said County shall not want said rooms and premises or a part thereof for the uses and purposes aforesaid, they may use or rent them for other proper purposes, but in that event the Inhabitants of said Town of Adams, shall have the right at their option, to purchase the rights of the County therein, upon such terms as may be just and reasonable, or if the parties cannot agree upon such terms then three disinterested men to be selected for the purpose shall decide.

It is further covenanted and agreed that said Town Hall Building shall be kept in proper repair by the Inhabitants of said Adams, and at their expense, and if said building shall be destroyed by fire or other casualty, they shall replace the same, or furnish to said County as good accommodations for its wants and purposes aforesaid, as are afforded by the rooms and premises herein demised.

In Witness whereof, the Inhabitants of the County of Berkshire on the day and year first above written have caused their Corporate name and Seal to be hereto affixed by the hands of Lyman Payne, John B. Hull, and Abiathar W. Preston, Commissioners as aforesaid. And the Inhabitants of Adams have caused their Corporate name and Seal to be affixed by the hands of A. B. Mole, D. J. Dean, Daniel Upton, Elisha Burlingame, and L. L. Brown their said Committee."

Berkshire ss. Adams, Mass. October 4th, 1883. "Then personally appeared A. B. Mole and Dallas J. Dean and acknowledged the foregoing instrument to be their free act and deed and the free act and deed of the Inhabitants of Adams."

Nelson H. Bixby, Justice of the Peace

October 9, 1883

"Then the above named Lyman Payne, John B. Hull and Abiathar W. Preston, Commissioners as aforesaid, personally appeared and acknowledged the above instrument to be the free act and deed of the County of Berkshire.

Justin Dewey, Justice of the Peace

Received - October 9, 1883, 6:20 P.M. And Recorded from the Original Attest

E. E. Merchant, Registrar"¹

The Town Hall building was also known as the Adams Opera House. Theatrical productions were witnessed in the auditorium and the first moving pictures in town were shown there. The auditorium was also used

¹ Northern Berkshire Registry of Deeds, Adams

as a basketball court and for prizefights.

James Kelliher, the manager of the Opera House, appointed by the Selectmen in 1902, submitted the following report for the year ending March 1, 1903:

"The hall is in such poor shape and the stage is so small that it is impossible to book first-class attractions now. I am sure that if there should be a sufficient sum of money appropriated for repairing the hall and also putting in electric lights, which are needed very much and also enlarging the stage, which can be done with very little cost, that it would be a benefit to the town, not only socially but financially as well."¹

On the first floor of the Town Hall are located the various municipal offices. The first room on the right, on the south side of the Main Hall, is set apart as an office for the Selectmen. Adjoining this is the large room designated as the Registry of Deeds. The room on the east end, directly opposite the door of entrance, is prepared for the District and Probate Courts, with a small room south of it known as the Judges' Room. Leading from the District Court is the Juvenile Court Room. The Clerk of Courts also has a small office to the left of the Court Room. The Assessors' and Tax Collector's offices are combined and the one office adjoins that of the Adams Fire District.

The auditorium, which was used as a theater, and in which town meetings are held, is on the second floor. It has a seating capacity of approximately six hundred. A flight of narrow, winding stairs leads to a little room in the Tower. This room was formerly used as a sort of workshop by a lessee of the theater.

North and slightly to the rear of the Town Hall is located the Police Station which makes it convenient for the Court.

¹ Adams Town Report, 1903, pp. 81-82.

An addition to the Town Hall had been contemplated for years. In fact, blue prints for this proposed addition were made several years ago and are now on file with the Town Clerk along with other public documents. The purpose is to house all of the town offices in this one building.

Registry of Deeds

From the incorporation of Berkshire County in 1761, to 1790, there was but one registry of deeds serving the needs of the county. This registry was located at Great Barrington with Mark Hopkins serving as registrar from 1761 to 1776 and Moses Hopkins to 1790.

In 1790, the county was divided into three districts, the Southern, Middle, and Northern. The county seat at that time was located at Lenox. Later it was removed to Pittsfield. The towns comprising the Middle District are Lenox, Pittsfield, Richmond, Stockbridge, Tyringham, Lee, Otis, Becket, Washington, Hinsdale, Dalton and Peru. The northern and southern boundaries of this district define the extremities of the other two districts, the county being roughly rectangular in shape.

The Registry of Deeds for the Northern District was at first located in Lanesboro. The small stone building used as the Registry there still stands near the town center. In 1857, the Registry was moved to Adams and established in a brick block at the south end of Park Street. When the Adams town hall was built in 1883, a portion of the building was leased to the County for use as a Registry and Court, as indicated in the preceding section.

The Northern Berkshire Registry of Deeds at Adams now has 454 volumes.

The earliest deed in Book 1, page 1, was recorded April 11, 1789, by Wolcott Hubbell, registrar. Three additional volumes contain transcriptions from the older county registries of all deeds relating to the Northern District, thus making the record complete from 1761. The present annual salary the Northern Berkshire Registrar, William B. Browne, receives is \$2700., that of Mrs. Edna S. Buntin, Assistant Registrar, \$1730., and that of Miss Hectorine A. San Soucie, Clerk, \$738.90. In addition to these salaries, temporary increases were granted to officers and employees of the county under the provisions of Chapter 224, Acts of 1943, ranging from a minimum of \$240. a year for salaries of \$1600. or less, 15% for salaries ranging from \$1600. to \$2400. and a maximum of \$360. for salaries over \$2400., salaries for part time employment being prorated. The above act became effective July 1, 1943 and will end June 30, 1945.

The registrars of the Northern District have been as follows:²

Wolcott Hubbell, Lanesboro	1789 - 1791
James Barker, Lanesboro	1791 - 1796
Timothy Whitney, Lanesboro	1796 - 1806
Samuel Bacon, Lanesboro	1806 - 1811
Luther Washburn, Lanesboro	1811 - 1824
George N. Briggs, Lanesboro	1824 - 1831
Richard Whitney, Lanesboro	1831 - 1869
Silas P. Butler, Lanesboro	1869 - 1870
Herbert A. Fuller, Lanesboro.	1870 - 1877
E. Earl Merchant, Adams	1877 - 1898
Arthur Safford, Adams	1898 - 1928
William Bradford Browne, North Adams.	1928 -

Mr. William B. Browne, the present Registrar, is an outstanding authority on local history. Through his numerous newspaper contributions and lectures, he has done much to perpetuate the historical lore of Western Massachusetts, particularly that of Northern Berkshire.

¹ Report of Berkshire County Commissioners, 1943, pp. 62-63.

² Child, Hamilton. Gazetteer of Berkshire County, 1725-1885, p. 50.

Second Berkshire Representative District

In the first year after the incorporation of the town of Adams, 1779, Rev. Samuel Todd was elected Representative to the General Court, and in 1780, Reuben Hinman was chosen. Captain Enos Parker was elected at the October meeting in 1780, the State Constitution having been adopted on the 16th of June in that year, and two Representatives were required in each year. The expenses of the Representatives were light, and defrayed by the town. The early modes of traveling to Boston by Representatives to the General Court were slow and primitive. The Representatives were in the habit of meeting at a given place, on their way to attend the sessions, all mounted on good steeds, there being no stages and but few private vehicles in use. They would engage pasture during each session for their horses, a few miles west of Boston, and then walk into town. Provisions for the journey were carried in the old-fashioned saddlebags, and bread and cheese were eaten on the steps of the State House.

After 1780, the following men have represented the town of Adams in the General Court: Captain Enos Parker, 1781; Enos Parker, Esq., 1782; Joab Stafford, Esq., Captain Reuben Hinman, 1783; Captain Reuben Hinman, 1784; Captain Israel Jones, 1785-86; Captain Reuben Hinman, 1787-88; Jonathan Remington, 1789; Captain Reuben Hinman, 1790-91; Israel Jones, Esq., 1792-97; Abraham Howland, 1798-1801; Stephen Jencks, 1805-6; Elisha Wells, 1807-8; Elisha Wells, Thomas Farnum, 1809; Thomas Farnum, John Waterman, 1810; Thomas Farnum, James Mason, 1811-12; Daniel Read, John Waterman, 1813; Daniel Read, 1814; John Bucklen, Henry Wilmarth, 1815; Henry Wilmarth, William P. Briggs, 1816; Henry Wilmarth, 1817; Isaac

Brown, 1818-19; Richmond Brown, 1820-21; William E. Brayton, 1822; William E. Brayton, Richmond Brown, 1823; Peter Briggs, William Waterman, 1824; Peter Briggs, 1825; James Mason, 1826; James Mason, Nathan Putnam, 1827; Richmond Brown, Henry Wilmarth, Edward Richmond, 1828; Richmond Brown, Thomas Farnum, Edward Richmond, 1829; William E. Brayton, Edward Richmond, Thomas Farnum, 1830; William E. Brayton, Isaac U. Hoxie, James Wilbur, 1831; Thomas Farnum, Elisha Kingsley, Isaac W. Hoxie, James Wilbur, 1832; David Anthony, Sanford Blackington, James Mason, Alpheus Smith, 1833; Evenal Estes, Daniel Jenks, Elisha Kingsley, George A. Lapham, 1834; Stephen B. Brown, Evenal Estes, Daniel Jenks, George A. Lapham, 1835; Ebenezer Cole, Henry Wilmarth, 1836; Alanson Cady, Isaac Dean, Daniel A. Wells, Henry Wilmarth, 1837; John Hall, Joseph L. White, Shubael Wilmarth, 1838-39; Snell Babbitt, Lorenzo Rice, Ezra D. Whitaker, 1840; Snell Babbitt, Lorenzo Rice, 1841; William Jenks, Edmund Badger, 1842-43; Sylvander Johnson, George Millard, 1847; Henry L. Dawes, Dallas J. Dean, 1848; Henry L. Dawes, Charles Marsh, 1849; Salmon Burlingame, Charles Marsh, 1850; Stephen L. Arnold, John H. Orr, 1851; Stephen L. Arnold, Henry L. Dawes, 1852; Andrew J. Richmond, Henry Tyler, 1853; Andrew J. Richmond, John M. Seeley, 1854; Lansing Adams, Edwin F. Jenks, 1855; Elihu C. Hawkes, Daniel Upton, 1856; Salmon Burlingame, Henry Tyler, 1857.¹

In 1857, Berkshire County was divided into nine Representative districts. Adams, along with Cheshire, Clarksburg, Florida, and Savoy, constituted the Second District. Russell C. Brown of Cheshire and Sylvander Johnson of Adams represented the District in 1858; William H. Tyler and Sylvander Johnson of Adams in 1859; Timothy Baker of Savoy and George W.

¹ Beers, J.B. History of Berkshire County, 1885, p. 305.

Nottingham of Adams in 1860; Stoel E. Dean of Adams and Joseph D. Clark of Clarksburg in 1861; Henry Cartwright of Adams and Edmund D. Foster of Cheshire in 1862; George W. Adams of Adams and Sylvester A. Kemp of Florida in 1863; Sylvander Johnson and Abel Wetherbee of Adams in 1864; Benjamin F. Phillips and John F. Arnold of Adams in 1865; Sylvander Johnson and George Millard of Adams in 1866; Jonas A. Champley and Shepard Thayer of Adams in 1867; Shepard Thayer of Adams and Jonas A. Champley of Cheshire in 1868; Shepard Thayer of Adams and Werden R. Brown of Cheshire in 1869; William F. Darby and Henry J. Barker of Adams in 1870; Henry J. Barker and Frederick P. Brown of Adams in 1871; Frederick P. Brown of Adams and S. P. Dresser of Savoy in 1872; William C. Plunkett and William F. Darby of Adams in 1873; S. W. Brayton of Adams and L. J. Cole of Cheshire in 1874; James W. Dwyer and William Martin of Adams in 1875; and Charles H. Reed and Dallas J. Dean of Adams in 1876.

In 1876, an apportionment, based on the census of 1875, was made and Adams became the only town in the Second District. Under this apportionment, the Adams representatives have been as follows: 1877, Job K. Anthony and Charles H. Ingalls; 1878, Job K. Anthony and Charles H. Ingalls; 1879, Horace M. Holmes; 1880, Horace M. Holmes; 1881, Nelson H. Bixby; 1882, Nelson H. Bixby; 1883, Nelson H. Bixby; 1884, John S. Adams; and in 1885, John S. Adams. With the division of the town of Adams into North Adams and Adams in 1878, we find only one Representative serving Adams from¹ 1879 on.

Berkshire County is now divided into five districts from which seven State Representatives are elected to the General Court of Massachusetts

¹ Beers, J.B. History of Berkshire County, 1885, p. 315.

every two years. The town of Adams, along with the towns of Cheshire, Savoy, and Williamstown, constitutes the Second Berkshire District. This District is entitled to one Representative. Elmer L. McCulloch of Adams served as Representative from 1920 to 1938; James P. McAndrews of Adams from 1939 to 1942, after which he served a term in the Massachusetts Senate; Elmer L. McCulloch served from 1943 to 1944, and was re-elected to serve for 1945 and 1946.

Berkshire Senatorial District

The town of Adams, along with the towns of Becket, Cheshire, Clarksburg, Dalton, Florida, Hancock, Hinsdale, Lanesboro, Lenox, New Ashford, North Adams, Peru, Pittsfield, Richmond, Savoy, Stockbridge, Washington, West Stockbridge, Williamstown, and Windsor, constitute the Berkshire Senatorial District for purposes of electing one Senator to the Massachusetts General Court every two years. This District had a population of 105,524 persons and 48,205 legal voters on the basis of the last apportionment under the 1935 State census. The average State ratio at that time for each Senator was 46,184 legal voters and a population of 108,772 persons.¹

Berkshire County has always been represented by two State Senators. The following is a list of Adams residents who have served as State Senators: 1827, Peter Briggs; 1839, Stephen B. Brown; 1841, William C. Plunkett; 1847, Thomas A. Bowen; 1850, Henry L. Dawes; 1852, James T. Robinson; 1855, Andrew A. Richmond; 1859, James T. Robinson; 1864, Edwin F. Jenks; 1871, Shepard Thayer; 1872, Shepard Thayer; 1878, Frederick P. Brown; 1879 Dallas J. Dean; 1931-1938, Theodore R. Plunkett; and in 1943-1944, James

¹ Manual for the General Court, Massachusetts, 1943-4, p. 147.

P. McAndrews.

Massachusetts Congressional District
No. 1

The town of Adams is in Congressional District No. 1 of the State of Massachusetts. The other towns and cities comprising the District, in addition to Adams, are: Alford, Ashfield, Athol, Becket, Belchertown, Bernardston, Blandford, Buckland, Charlemont, Cheshire, Chester, Chesterfield, Clarksburg, Colrain, Conway, Cummington, Dalton, Deerfield, Egremont, Erving, Florida, Gill, Goshen, Granville, Great Barrington, Greenfield, Hancock, Hawley, Heath, Hinsdale, Holyoke, Huntington, Lanesborough, Lee, Lenox, Leverett, Leyden, Middlefield, Monroe, Montague, Monterey, Montgomery, Mount Washington, New Ashford, New Marlborough, New Salem, North Adams, Northfield, Orange, Otis, Pelham, Peru, Petersham, Phillipston, Pittsfield, Plainfield, Richmond, Rowe, Royalston, Russell, Sandisfield, Savoy, Sheffield, Shelburne, Shutesbury, Southampton, Southwick, Stockbridge, Sunderland, Templeton, Tolland, Tyringham, Warwick, Washington, Wendell, Westfield, Westhampton, West Stockbridge, Whately, Williamsburg, Williamstown, Windsor, and Worthington.¹

The District is entitled to one Representative to the Congress of the United States who serves for a term of two years. Allen T. Treadway of Stockbridge had served the District for thirteen terms before retiring in 1944. John W. Heselton of Deerfield was elected Representative in November, 1944, to succeed Mr. Treadway. The annual salary of this office is \$10,000, plus office expenses.

¹ Manual for the General Court, Massachusetts, 1943-1944, p. 360.

The Fourth Berkshire District Court

The Fourth Berkshire District Court is held in the town hall in Adams, and has jurisdiction in Adams, Cheshire, and Savoy, with concurrent jurisdiction in Windsor.¹ Nelson H. Bixby was the first Justice of this court, followed by Fred R. Shaw who was appointed in 1920. Upon the death of Judge Shaw, Henry L. Harrington was appointed Justice by Governor Allen on March 9, 1930.

The first Clerk of the court was Franklin Munson, followed by Edwin K. McPeck. Daniel E. Kiley of Adams, appointed by Gov. James Curley, December 18, 1936, serves as Clerk at the present time. John J. Thompson of Adams was named Probation Officer by Judge Fred R. Shaw and has served continually since in that capacity. The annual salary of the Justice of the Fourth District Court of Northern Berkshire is \$2400; that of the Clerk of the Court, \$1800; and that of the Probation Officer, \$1500.

Like all District Courts in Massachusetts, the Adams Court has both civil and criminal jurisdiction without a jury. In civil matters, all claims may be tried, whether small or running into a million dollar suit. At the trial the questions and facts are heard by the Justice, who rules on points of the law and then makes his decisions. Exceptions may be taken by opposing counsel, but these exceptions, if over-ruled or sustained, may be taken to the Appellate Division of the Court for review by the opposing party. In criminal matters, the Court has jurisdiction to punish by penalty up to two years in the House of Correction, providing that the crime charged is not punishable in State's Prison for more than five years. If that is

¹ Manual for the General Court, Massachusetts, 1943-1944, p. 240.

the case, it has to be held for the Grand Jury upon the finding of probable cause.¹

The first police court was established in Adams on April 13, 1854, with Joel Bacon as Justice. Later, E. H. Foster and others petitioned the State Legislature for its abolition but nothing was done until 1870, when the District Court of Northern Berkshire, including the towns of Adams, Florida, Savoy, and Clarksburg, was established. Jarvis Rockwell was appointed Justice and he held the position until his death on May 14, 1885.²

Adams Postoffice Department

The exact date of the establishment of the Adams postoffice is not known. Ambrose Karrson, the first postmaster of record, rendered his first account as of January 1, 1811, so this would indicate that the office was established in the last half of the calendar year 1810.

The following is a record of postmasters for Adams and their appointment date: Ambrose Karrson, Jan. 1, 1811 (first record); Daniel B. Bush, March 23, 1814; Thomas Robinson, November 9, 1814; William P. Briggs, February 28, 1822; Resolve Wood, March 14, 1839; George A. Lapham, May 18, 1841; Daniel Jenks II, December 27, 1856; William G. Farnsworth, January 28, 1862; John E. Mole, January 16, 1866; Isaac Collins, February 10, 1886; John E. Mole, March 26, 1889; Fred W. Smith, May 18, 1893; Peter P. Smith, June 8, 1897; James E. Cadagan, June 22, 1914; Michael J. Curran (acting), June 29, 1922; James N. Young, December 21, 1922; Frank A. Malley, August 27, 1935; and James F. Clarke (acting), November 6, 1944.

As to the earliest service to the Adams postoffice, the records show

¹ Judge Henry L. Harrington, Letter, January 30, 1945.

² Beers, J.B. History of Berkshire County, 1885, p. 499.

that for the three years beginning January 1, 1815, it received mails once a week on the following routes: from Bridgeport, Connecticut, by way of Trumbull, Ripton, Huntingdon, Newton, New Milford, Union Society, Sharon, Salisbury; Sheffield, Mass., Great Barrington, Stockbridge, Lenox, Pittsfield, Lanesboro, Adams; from Bennington, Vermont, through Pownal, Williamstown, North Adams, Adams. The contractor on the route was a Mr. B. Sherman. The mode of transportation is not shown. The Office also received weekly mails on a route from Northampton by way of Williamsburg, Goshen, Plainfield, and Savoy to Adams.

At the time the postoffice at Adams was established, the following postage rates were in effect: for every letter composed of a single sheet of paper, conveyed not exceeding 40 miles, 8 cents; over 40 miles and not exceeding 90 miles, 10 cents; over 90 miles and not exceeding 150 miles, 12½ cents; over 150 miles and not exceeding 300 miles, 17 cents; over 300 miles and not exceeding 500 miles, 20 cents; over 500 miles, 25 cents; and every double letter, or two pieces of paper, double said rates; every triple letter, or three pieces of paper, triple rates; and for every packet composed of four or more pieces of paper or other thing, and weighing one ounce avoirdupois, quadruple said rates, and in that proportion for any greater weight.

The earliest record of compensation to the postmaster at the Adams office shows that for the fiscal year which ended March 31, 1825, he received \$21.79. The net receipts of the office for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1827, were \$54.37. In 1938, they were \$34,850.00¹

¹ North Adams Transcript, January 8, 1940.

The first postoffice in Adams was located in the Lacy Building on the west side of Park Street, now the site of the C. T. Plunkett mansion. In 1869, the office was moved to the Collins Block, present site of the Greylock National Bank Building. On February 1, 1896, the postoffice was moved to the first floor of the Daniels Block on Park Street where Smith's Studio is now located. With the erection of the new Adams Postoffice in 1939, the office was again moved, this time to its permanent location. Impressive dedication ceremonies took place on January 8, 1940, following which, the postoffice was opened for business on January 29, 1940.¹

During the postmastership of Isaac Collins, the Adams postoffice was rated as a Fourth Class institution, and during that of John E. Mole it became a Third Class postoffice. It became a Second Class postoffice on February 1, 1896, in Fred W. Smith's term, and finally, a First Class postoffice on July 1, 1941, during the postmastership of Frank A. Malley. Postoffices are re-classified annually on the basis of receipts. In order for a postoffice to attain a First Class rating, it must have annual receipts of at least \$40,000. Adams had receipts of \$45,000. in 1941 when designated as a First Class office.

The Money Order business was established on July 1, 1875. Free delivery service in the town came on July 16, 1897, when four carriers, George F. Duggan, Charles Copeland, Arthur Paro, and John Hanlon, with Michael Curran as substitute, were appointed. During the term of Peter P. Smith, the office force was increased to three clerks and six carriers. The salaries of these employees were increased from \$300.00 per year to \$850.00 during this period. Parcel post and postal savings services were

¹ North Adams Transcript, January 29, 1940.

also added. During James Cadagan's postmastership, air mail service was added, and with the appointment of Phillip O'Hagerty as the first regular parcel post carrier, Adams residents received an additional free service.

In 1924, the postal quarters in the Daniels Block were enlarged by the addition of the basement for use as the parcel post quarters. Because of a decrease in the work of the postoffice in 1931, due to the depression, the clerical force was reduced by one, but this situation was short lived, because during the early term of Frank A. Malley, another clerk was added, making a force of seven regular carriers, five clerks, two substitute carriers and a substitute clerk, a parcel post carrier and a rural carrier. During Postmaster Malley's term, the salaries of the employees were increased from \$850. to \$2100. per year, and working hours were decreased to 40 hours per week. The postmaster receives an annual salary of \$3200.

The mail is no longer carried to Adams by train as formerly, but by Government-owned mail trucks. There are three star routes by which mail is received and sent out of the Adams postoffice. One route leaves Adams to the Brier, another from Adams to Savoy and Plainfield, and a third runs through Adams from Pittsfield to North Adams.

The Adams postal force at the present time consists of Acting Postmaster James F. Clarke; clerks, Paul R. Herrmann, Bartholomew McAndrews, John Doyle, James Manley, John Dowd, and Arnold Sime, substitute; carriers, Robert H. Dunn, Philip O'Hagerty, Joseph C. Ferguson, Joseph Lyden, Roy F. Carpenter, Clarence Raschdorf, and Harold Schrieber, with Theodore Uyrus, George Nuttall, and Roy Deyle, substitutes; parcel post carrier, Andrew J. Newlands; and rural carrier, Ralph Anthony; building fireman, William G. Knechel; and laborer, Alfred DeGere.

CHAPTER V

BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS

Early Manufactures

Although the land in and about Adams was not particularly outstanding for agricultural purposes, the great water power potentialities of the Hoosic River undoubtedly attracted the attention of the early settlers to this region. Not only were the early pioneers of Adams skilled blacksmiths, carpenters, leather workers, and textile operators, but they had a fair knowledge of the manufacture of all their necessities as well. Jeremiah Smith, who lived on the north corner of the Fisk Road, had a grist mill on the brook at this point as early as 1772. Isaac Killey, whose old house still stands near the corner of Maple Street, was a tanner and his mill was on the Hoxie Brook near by. Brickmaking was one of the early industries of the vicinity. One, George Thresher, carried on this mode of work on the old Harrison farm. In 1792, these bricks were made in sufficient quantities to cause Jonathan Remington to be chosen "sealer of brick molds for the town of Adams."

After the grist and saw mills were established in Adams, a forge became necessary for working up all the various kinds of ironware needed in the homes of the settlers. Fortunately for the early pioneers, a deposit of iron ore was discovered in the area occupied by the Plunkett and Sons mill on Commercial Street. This area was known as the "Forge Lot," the dam near it the "Forge Dam," and the Fisk Road, the "Forge Path," the use of

which, through "gates and bars," was a privilege of the Forge. A company of Quakers combined to run this forge, each of whom owned his own "fire." The Forge dam furnished power for the trip hammer. Those associated in the manufacture of ironware were Isaac Hathaway, Isaac Killey, Humphrey Tiffany, Nathan Harrenden (later Harrington), Nathan Comstock, and Jeremiah Smith. Philip Mason purchased a share in the enterprise later on. An attachment of Harrenden's share in 1791, states that it was "a fourth part of the northwest fire in the Forge and its privilege thereunto belonging with a small blacksmith shop standing on the northwest corner of the Forge Lot."¹

Several small mills started up along the lane which became Dean Street. The first, in 1813, was started by James Jillson and George Vining and later sold to Cornelius Hoxie. The 1830 map of Adams shows a tannery and currier plant here as well as a "Clothiers Works," which was Hoxie's, and which would mean a fulling mill. About that time Isaac and Benjamin Dean of New Ashford bought these properties and the passage to the Deans' mills became Dean Street. In 1830, there were two tanneries situated near Pecks Falls and a third was located on the West Road. Apparently there were ample supplies of tan bark in Adams in these early days. The D. Anthony Cotton Mill, established in 1826 on the Hoosic River at the north extremity of Adams, was a brick structure 56 x 36 feet, four stories in height, and equipped with 18 looms and 504 spindles. The plant employed 25 persons and produced 130,000 yards of cotton material and coarse sheeting and shirting fabric annually. The J. & A. Anthony factory, located $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile south of the preceding plant, was built in 1827. It was a wooden structure, 50 x 34 feet, three stories in height, equipped with

¹ Browne, W.B. North Adams Transcript, January 22, 1938.

720 spindles, 24 looms, with 33 employees, and produced 144,000 yards of cotton material, coarse sheeting and shirting fabric annually. The Jesse Jenks mill, established in 1828, was located on the Hoosic River, 3/4 of a mile south of the center of Adams and employed 15 persons. It was 50 x 34 feet in size, the first story being made of stone and the next two of wood. It contained 383 spindles, 12 looms, and turned out 80,000 yards of cotton fabric each year.¹ With the introduction of the railroad and the competition of the larger outside industries, the iron and leather manufacture in Adams soon dwindled, but a growing emphasis was shown toward textile manufacture, particularly in cotton and wool. Today, the basic industry of Adams is the manufacture of cotton cloth. The various industries of Adams will now be taken up in the order of their introduction into the town.

The W. C. Plunkett & Sons Cotton Mill

Cotton manufacturing in the town of Adams began in 1814 when the Adams South Village Cotton and Woolen Manufacturing Company, composed of 31 stockholders, erected a brick mill 75 feet long by 32 feet wide and three stories in height, including the attic, the structure being typical of the mill architecture of this early period. The mill was of extraordinary size for its day, having 708 spindles and 26 looms. The power was derived from the rapids in the Hoosic River, at the site of the old ironworks on the "Forge Lot", by means of an undershot wheel which was later replaced by a huge wooden breast wheel requiring a dam, canal, and penstock to utilize the 19 foot fall. Owing to the War of 1812, during

¹ Dewey, Charles. History of the County of Berkshire, 1829, p. 434.

which time importations of cotton goods were practically suspended, quite a number of similar factories were established in Massachusetts; but excepting this mill and one other, all were compelled to close after the Treaty of Ghent in 1815, on account of the flooding of markets in the vicinity of textile establishments by British producers who sold at less than cost to complete the annihilation of such industries.

One of the incorporators of the company became afterward an uncle by marriage of General William C. Plunkett who came to Adams at his solicitation in 1829 to take part in the management of the plant. Born in Lenox, Massachusetts, October 23, 1800, General Plunkett, who acquired his title through militia service, was educated at the famous Lenox Academy, from which he entered upon a temporary occupation as teacher in Lee and Lanesboro, attracting in the latter town the attention of Thomas Durant, a merchant, who afterward attained much prominence in connection with the building and management of the Northern Pacific Railroad. Generously offering a share of the profits in 1826 to his protegee, Mr. Durant had the satisfaction of observing the marked success of the young merchant and his later progress in the field of manufacturing in Adams, where, without large financial means he succeeded, through innate frugality and indomitable perseverance, in accumulating sufficient capital to purchase the entire stock of the corporation before the close of 1831. With the exception of improved machinery which permitted the exact doubling of spindles and looms on the same floor area, there were no enlargements of the 1814 mill until 1844 when the structure now appearing as the front building of the plant was erected.

Up to this date, when the Western railroad connected Boston and Albany, the transportation of goods was carried on by teams to Troy, a distance of fifty miles, thence to New York by river boats returning with cotton and supplies; while in winter the route was via team and New Haven boats or through to New York.

Just previous to the Civil War, the looms were discarded, since there had arisen such an active market for cotton warps in the manufacture of balmoral skirts, satinet blankets, repellants and broadcloths that both white and colored warps for these purposes afforded far greater profits than the cotton sheetings.

Before the blockading of Southern ports during the Civil War period, and while cotton was selling at very low prices, the storehouses, barns and sheds were literally bulging with what was soon found to be a precious staple worth ten-fold its original cost. From a portion of the profits, the rear structure and new dye-house were added in 1865 and constituted the Plunkett & Wheeler mill. Mr. Wheeler, a brother-in-law of General Plunkett, being a partner.

In 1870, W. B. Plunkett commenced his manufacturing career in this excellent set-up, and eight years later the firm of W. C. Plunkett & Sons, which included Charles T. Plunkett, a younger brother, was formed to operate the mill on the present site of No. 1 Mill of the Berkshire Fine Spinning Associates, Inc., on Hoosac Street. Four years later, a second mill was added, occupying the location of Berkshire Mill No. 3 on Depot Street. Upon the death of Daniel Wheeler in 1881, his interest in the original plant was purchased, the mills then being known as Numbers One, Two and Three.

The Hoosac Street mill was destroyed by fire on Christmas day, 1886, which compelled the day and night operation of the No. 2 Mill until the razing of the 1814 mill and completion of the central section of the present main structure and model beaming building in 1888. In the removal of the old mill it was necessary to batter the walls with rams, the binding power of the cement being so great that the bricks could not be separated. Several additions have since been built and the entire plant modernized for the efficient production of the endless variety of plain and fancy weaving yarns for looms or further conversion.

Meantime, the company, organized in 1880 with Theodore Pomeroy of Pittsfield and the Greylock Mills Corporation in North Adams, placed its management in the hands of William B. Plunkett as agent. The success of its early days warranted a series of enlargements, and changes in products from gingham to fine carded plain cottons, and finally to the superior combed fabrics which were made in Mill A in North Adams and Mill C in Pownal, Vermont, purchased and wholly re-equipped in 1911, while yarns for all weaving purposes were made in Mill B in Williamstown, bought and thoroughly remodelled at the same time. The mills contained 100,000 spindles and over 1600 looms. Each unit having well-developed water and steam powers, surrounded by attractive villages and adjacent to railway stations.

The development of Mill A at North Adams doubled the capacity of the plant, increasing the cloth production by the addition of new machinery, to an overall equipment of over 1200 looms and the complementary spinning machinery. Mills A and B were under the general management of William C. Plunkett, as was also the W. C. Plunkett & Sons plant, while the younger son,

Theodore R. Plunkett, acted as agent at the North Pownal mill. Charles T. Plunkett, Jr., Princeton, 1909, and Harvard Law School, 1913, had not as yet entered the manufacturing business.

The company was incorporated in 1921. Its capital was set at \$400,000. and it employed approximately 100 persons. In 1924, Lindsey V. Dodge, who married Lydia F. Plunkett, daughter of William C. Plunkett, entered into the management of the business, followed in 1927 by William C. Plunkett, great-grandson of General William C. Plunkett. In 1933, the Plunkett Mill supplied the Ford Motor Company with a large supply of cloth for the Ford automobiles, this being the last large order of the plant.

The W. C. Plunkett & Sons Mill was forced to close its doors in 1934 due to the country-wide financial depression which began in 1929. In 1935, a New York City concern was induced to use part of the mill as a dressmaking establishment. It operated for one year as the Berkshire Sports Wear Company but was forced to liquidate in 1936. The W.P.A. sewing project in Adams used the mill's Beaming Room until its transfer to the Maple Grove School. With the sale of one part of the plant to a North Adams concern for storage purposes and the remainder to the Sangiunette Roofing Company of Adams, the Plunkett interest in a great manufacturing enterprise ended.¹

The Pump Log Factory

The Pump Log Factory was located on the Tophet Brook about three-fourths of a mile east of the town of Adams. It was erected in 1822 by Jonathan and Daniel Anthony for the purpose of manufacturing cotton yarn. The mill was 40 x 30 feet, $3\frac{1}{2}$ stories in height, and was run by water-power,

¹ Plunkett, W.C. One Hundred Years of Business, 1814-1914.

the water being thrown upon a wheel 26 feet in diameter, on a level with the third story. The families in the neighborhood did all the weaving. In 1829, the factory was leased by Jacob and Cyrus Peck who renovated it and established a machine shop for the manufacture of woolen and cotton machinery. In 1831 it came into the hands of Isaac U. Hoxie, who changed it over to the production of satinets. Hoxie continued operations until 1835 when the factory was closed down.¹

The Adams Brothers Manufacturing Company

This mill, known also as the Maple Grove Warp Mills, was built by Adams & Seeley in 1848. It had 17 cards, 5,000 ring spindles, 2 boilers, and 2 water wheels. The mill produced cotton warps and weaving yarns and employed 125 persons. The company was incorporated in 1891 with a capital of \$40,000. The real estate of the company was worth \$20,625.00 and the machinery \$20,050.00. The officers of the company were as follows: Washington T. Adams, president; George B. Adams, vice-president and treasurer; and John S. Adams, buyer and superintendent. These three men also were members of the board of directors.²

The plant was sold to the Realty Operations Corporation of Providence, Rhode Island, for \$100,000. on February 22, 1940.³

The L. L. Brown Paper Company

The L. L. Brown Paper Company was established in 1849 when L. L. Brown and his uncles, Daniel and William Jenks, formed the partnership known as L. L. Brown & Company. The mill in which the enterprise began

¹ Child, Hamilton. Gazetteer of Berkshire County, 1725-1885, p. 94.

² North Adams Transcript, Romance of Adams Industries, 1926.

³ North Adams Transcript, February 23, 1940.

operations, consisted of a small brick and wooden structure occupying part of the site of the present main plant at the corner of Commercial and Center Streets. The productive capacity, at first, was limited to 1000 pounds of paper per day. However, this parent plant was very well equipped, according to the standards of the day, and, as with the present mill, was geared for quality products primarily.

The quality of the output of this paper enterprise rapidly won widespread recognition, with the inevitable result that expansion of the plant was necessary. In 1857, a stone mill, previously used as a cotton factory, was purchased and remodelled for paper manufacturing. This mill, greatly enlarged and modernly equipped, is known today as the Upper Mill. Mr. Levi L. Brown was a practical papermaker, learning the trade in Dalton, Massachusetts, and then building the local mills according to his judgment, based on his knowledge and experience. He soon won a prominent place in the market for his ledger papers. No mill had a better reputation for the excellence of its products.

Continued growth in the demand for the products of the company made greater output necessary. As a result, the original mill in which Levi L. Brown and his associates began operations, was extensively remodelled and enlarged in 1871. Since that time both mills, now known as the Upper Mill and the Lower Mill, have been steadily augmented to keep pace with market conditions and manufacturing developments.

The firm was incorporated as the L. L. Brown Paper Company in 1873. Levi L. Brown, one of the original founders, became president, and T. A. Mole, who joined the company as bookkeeper in 1866, became treasurer.

The company also owned and operated a paper mill in Cummington, Massachusetts. Mr. Brown also displayed an unusual interest in the Whitney Paper Company of Holyoke, as well as in the Renfrew Manufacturing Company of Adams.¹

For many years, the L. L. Brown Paper Company had the distinction of being the only concern to manufacture genuine, hand-made paper on a commercial basis. The paper was used for deluxe editions, engraved and embossed cards, and for other exclusive uses. The company continues to rank among the best in the country for its ledger, linen, and bond papers. While the company has always specialized in permanent ledger paper for public and commercial records, its products also include other lines such as parchments, onion skins, exchange cap, manuscript covers, typewriter papers, currency paper for foreign countries, bank note, and insurance policy paper.

The L. L. Brown Paper Company is now owned by the Daniels family of Adams. A. Millard Daniels is the president of the concern, Rupert B. Daniels, treasurer, and Arthur Daniels, superintendent.

New England Lime Company

The New England Lime Company was established in 1852 by L. J. Follett and George B. Whipple under the name of Follett and Whipple. In 1865, L. J. Follett purchased the interest of George B. Whipple in the company and, in partnership with his sons, continued the business under the name of L. J. Follett & Sons until 1902, when the business was sold to the New England Lime Company of New York.

¹ Weston, Byron. Berkshire Hist. Soc. Collections, 1894, vol. 2, p. 16.

In 1906, the company had installed in its plant the first rotary kiln in New England for burning lime. Owing to the excellent quality of lime produced by this method of burning, the capacity of the plant was increased from 100 barrels of lime a day in 1906, to 1500 barrels of lime a day in 1920.

The business was sold to the New England Lime Company of Delaware in 1925. The plant continues to be managed by a member of the original Follett family in the person of David Follett, Jr., general superintendent of the company. From 1913 to the present time, the production of lime has continued 24 hours each day, every day in the year, without interruption.¹

Adams Woolen Manufacturing Company

The Adams Woolen Manufacturing Company was established in 1860 by Peter Blackinton and B. F. Phillips and was then known as the Greylock Woolen Mills. It was situated in the Maple Grove section of the town in the building now occupied by the Cole & Carpenter Auto Wrecking Company. During the period when the firm was known as B. F. Phillips & Son, cassimeres, ladies' dress goods, and shawls were manufactured. The mill was operated by both steam and water-power, furnished with seven sets of machinery, and gave employment to 160 operatives.²

In 1890, the Glennon Woolen Company bought the plant from the Phillips interests. In 1900, it was reorganized by Graham and Clark, becoming the Adams Woolen Company in 1905, with a capital of \$100,000. Its stock was distributed at \$50,000 preferred and \$50,000 common. Mr. Henry H. Skerrett was the company president; A. A. Graham, vice-president;

¹ North Adams Transcript, Romance of Adams Industries, 1926.

² Child, Hamilton. Gazetteer of Berkshire County, 1725-1885, p. 94.

David L. Jubb, treasurer; Leo H. Holmes, secretary; John Clement, superintendent; and A. A. Langewald, general buyer and agent.

The mill at this time specialized in making novelty cloakings but it also manufactured cassimeres, chevots, over-coatings, and meltons, in addition to dying and bleaching the cloth. Under Alexander Graham, an excellent business man and woolen manufacturer, the plant progressed and more than doubled its capacity. The machinery at this time consisted of 9 sets of cords, 48 broad looms, 1 narrow loom, 2,808 woolen spindles, and 460 twister spindles. Two boilers were used to run the plant machinery and the mill was equipped with electricity. At one time, 185 persons were employed there. Following the death of Mr. Graham in 1919, ownership of the company changed several times until its dissolution during the depression of 1929.

A financial statement issued by the mill officials on December 31, 1918, reads as follows:

Assets	
Real Estate	\$ 79,690.19
Machinery	37,474.00
Merchandise (manufacturers merchandise, material and stock in process)	92,157.43
Cash and debts receivable	37,040.85
Securities	66,168.40
Total	<u>\$ 312,530.88</u>
Liabilities	
Capital Stock	\$ 100,000.00
Accounts payable	40,422.18
Funded indebtedness	38,500.00
Floating indebtedness	13,866.89
Profit and loss	119,741.81
Total	<u>\$ 312,530.88</u>

The Renfrew Manufacturing Company

The Renfrew Manufacturing Company was organized on May 3, 1867, and incorporated the same year with a capital of \$100,000. The incorporators were James Renfrew, Levi L. Brown, George H. Gilbert, and James C. Chalmers. The mill was named after Renfrew County, Scotland, inasmuch as some of the founders of the company came from there.

The company began operations by purchasing the cotton yarn business conducted by William Pollock & Company, this firm having operated the old spinning establishment known as the Broadley Mill, built in 1845 by William Pollock of Pittsfield. The first officials of the company were William Pollock, president; James C. Chalmers, treasurer; and James Renfrew, agent. The manufacture of cotton warps in the Broadley Mill continued until the erection of the new mill in 1867 at the present site in Renfrew, when the production of colored cotton fabrics and yarns began. When the weave shed was fully equipped, it contained 1000 looms which was considered a fairly large plant in those days. Water from the Hoosic River was the original source of motive power.

In 1868, the capital stock of the company was increased to \$200,000, and in 1875, it was increased to \$500,000. Soon after, the Renfrew Manufacturing Company acquired the property of Birmingham Brothers. In 1881, the manufacture of colored damask was started by the Renfrew Mills Company, a separate corporation composed of Levi L. Brown, James Renfrew, James C. Chalmers, W. B. Wood, and B. E. Kingman. This company built the No. 5 or Jacquard Mill, located on River Street in Adams, and equipped the turkey-red dyehouse on Dean Street. It also purchased the spinning mill known

as No. 6 or Grove Mill. The Renfrew Mills Company was absorbed by the Renfrew Manufacturing Company in 1883 and the capital stock was increased to \$1,400,000. Between 1900 and 1909, the company sold its Dalton Mill property to the Crane Paper Company, besides selling the turkey-red dye-house on Dean Street, and the original Broadley Mill. It retained its three main properties known as Mills No. 2, No. 5 or Jacquard Mill, and the No. 6 or Grove Mill located where the Grove Sales & Service Company was established.

Mr. Ira C. Ball entered the employ of the company as bookkeeper in 1878. In this same year, the boilers blew up, killing many people and caused much damage. A Mr. Mole became agent of the company in 1878.

James Renfrew died in 1901, and Levi L. Brown, who had served as president since 1881, died shortly afterward. Mr. A. Hill of Boston became president. Three years later, the company had three treasurers, E. L. Wood, L. Brown Renfrew, and Emile Kipper. Shortly after, Emile Kipper resigned as treasurer and E. L. Hill replaced him for two years. At the end of this time, Mr. F. U. Stearns became treasurer and manager. Not long after, Ira C. Ball became manager. Upon the death of E. L. Hill, his son was elected president. These officers remained unchanged until 1922, when F. U. Stearns had a shock and was replaced by W. F. Erwin of New York City, who was elected treasurer. He was later followed by A. M. Perkins, who resigned in 1927, with Mr. Ball succeeding him as treasurer. During that year the mill was sold at auction. Part of the machinery and the right to the name of Renfrew Madras Devonshire cloth was sold to Woodard Baldwin and Company of New York who moved it to Greenville, South

Carolina, and built a new mill for its reception. By the auction sale the old Renfrew Manufacturing Company ceased to exist and was in no way connected to any company in the South. All products made by Renfrew Manufacturing Company were guaranteed sunproof and tubproof, as the dyes used in the various colorings were the fastest colors obtainable. The Renfrew Manufacturing Company was the second largest producer of table damask in the country and during the fifty-nine years of its existence built up an excellent reputation in the trade.

Very early in its history, the Renfrew Manufacturing Company built a large number of tenements along Columbia Street which were leased to its employees at a moderate cost.

The old Renfrew Manufacturing Company is now occupied by the Jones Division of the Arnold Print Works of North Adams which had purchased the plant in 1928. Mr. Samuel Jones of North Adams became its president. This mill contained twelve printing machines for printing percales, mohair, linens, glazed chintz, eighty square draperies, etc.¹

The Adams Steam Grist Mills

The Adams Steam Grist Mills, located on Hoosac Street, were built by Butler & Fairchild in 1869. In 1871, the property came into the hands of H. A. Butler & Company, and in 1874, M. C. Richmond of this firm, became sole owner. He conducted the business for a number of years before the plant passed out of existence. The mills had two runs of stones, with a capacity for grinding 600 bushels of grain per day.

¹ Ball, Ira C. Interview. 1935.

The Allen Iron Foundry

The Allen Iron Foundry, which at first was located in the present Community House on Mill Street and now on Dean Street in Adams, was founded by James Allen in 1871. Mr. Allen manufactured grate bars; filters for paper-mills, sugar refineries, bleacheries and dye works; skein spoolers; bobbin winders; chain warpers; dye machines; and chain splitting machines, all of which were his own invention and his specialties in manufacture. He also invented a new steam heating apparatus for heating factories, churches, and dwellings. At one time, Mr. Allen employed 25 hands.

Henry J. Arnold & Sons Steam Saw and Planing Mills

The Henry J. Arnold & Sons Steam Saw and Planing Mills, located on Spring Street, were established in 1878. Mr. Arnold gave employment to 50 hands in the manufacture of lumber, boxes and barrels, turning out about 3,000,000 board feet of lumber per year. The plant ceased to operate some 25 years ago.

The American Zylonite Company

The American Zylonite Company was incorporated in 1881 with a capital of \$750,000.00, the officers of the company being Emil Kipper of Adams, president, and S. W. Ingalls of North Adams, treasurer. The New York office of the company was located at 361-3 Broadway. The company employed 150 persons at that time and the plant was located in Zylonite.

In 1883, the company incorporated as the Zylonite Comb and Brush Company with a capital of \$100,000. The officers were W. L. Brown of North

Adams, president; B. E. Kingman of New York, treasurer; and C. A. Denny of New York, secretary. During this period, the company employed 175 hands in the manufacture of zylonite combs, brushes, and mirrors of all kinds.

In 1884, the Zylonite Novelty Company was incorporated with a capital of \$100,000. The officers were W. L. Brown of North Adams, president, and B. E. Kingman of New York, treasurer. The company manufactured zylonite shoe-horns, glove-stretchers, pen-holders, manicure sets, umbrella handles, desk furniture, pipe bits, surgical instruments, chessmen, knife-handles, martingale rings, etc., giving employment to about 50 hands.

During the latter part of 1884, the Zylonite Collar and Cuff Company was formed. Thousands of collars and cuffs, having a celluloid appearance, were manufactured daily. The demand for this product at this period was ever increasing for zylonite remained white when finished.

Paper, camphor, and alcohol, combined and treated chemically, make zylonite, and from zylonite in turn were made almost numberless kinds of goods, which had heretofore been produced from shell, bone, ivory, hard rubber, celluloid, and metal.¹

The zylonite industry no longer prevails in Adams. The entire manufacturing plant of the American Zylonite Company had been taken over by the Berkshire Hills Paper Company in 1903.

The Berkshire Fine Spinning Associates, Inc.

The Berkshire Cotton Manufacturing Company was incorporated in 1889, having grown out of the seed planted seventy-five years earlier by the Plunketts. It purchased the property on which were the ruins of the Hoosac

¹ Child, Hamilton. Gazetteer of Berkshire County, 1725-1885, p. 91.

Street Mill, and erected there No. 1 Mill having 35,000 spindles and 700 looms, for the production of fine counts of carded cottons. Finding in less than two years that even larger quantities of goods, if made of combed yarns, could be readily marketed, the capital of \$500,000.00 was increased to \$950,000.00, and the No. 2 Mill adjoining on Columbia Street, with 41,000 spindles and 900 looms, was constructed in 1892. This building was dedicated in the presence of over 9,000 people with addresses by President McKinley and Lieutenant Governor Hale of Massachusetts. Believing that the voters in 1896 would restore the advocates of protective duties to full power in Congress, the capital stock was increased to \$1,500,000.00 in 1896, and the Depot Street site was bought of W. C. Plunkett & Sons for the construction and equipment of Mill No. 3, with 80,000 spindles and 2,200 looms, designed for still finer goods.

Cotton was first put into the pickers on the day that President William McKinley was nominated by the national convention in St. Louis, and four years later, when visiting in Adams, he laid the corner-stone of the No. 4 Mill, the largest of the group, and still one of the largest single mills in America, containing 103,000 spindles and 2,600 looms, the capital having been increased to \$2,500,000.00

During the history of the Corporation to this period, Edward M. Gibbs of Norwich, Connecticut, had been president, and with Gardiner Hall, Jr., of South Willington, Connecticut, and the Plunketts of Adams, controlled the stock.

Following the death of Mr. Gibbs, in 1902, he was succeeded in order by Hon. John A. McCall and Stephen A. Jenks, both of whom are now

deceased. Charles T. Plunkett, for many years the vice-president, as well as secretary, became president, and W. B. Plunkett, treasurer, both holding similar positions in the Greylock Mills.

Following the death of C. T. Plunkett, the presidency was given to John McMahon of Fall River, Massachusetts, whose office was in New York City. Silas Rooney became the chief controller of the Berkshire Mills in Adams.

The difficulty of obtaining at all times a sufficient quantity of long staple cotton in desirable grades to supply the mills, led the Corporation to invest in over 11,000 acres of cotton plantations in the Yazoo delta from which the choicest cottons are now had.

During the years 1920-1934, it was realized that steam power was very inefficient, so between 1928-1934 electric motors were installed in the mills to substitute electricity instead of steam for power. This project cost approximately \$175,000.00

The appellation, "Berkshire Fine Spinning Associates, Inc.", came into existence in 1929 when the Plunkett family sold its control of the Berkshire cotton plants to outside interests.

The officers of the Berkshire Fine Spinning Associates Inc., for 1945 are as follows: John H. McMahon of Providence, Rhode Island, president; Malcom G. Chace, Jr., vice-president and treasurer; Wallace E. Stoddard of Adams, Thomas F. Tansey of Providence, George E. Westberg of New York City, and Avery K. White, vice-presidents; Edward H. Arnold of Adams, Linsley V. Dodge of New York, and Henry S. Newcombe of Providence, assistant treasurers; and Gibbs W. Sherrill of Boston, clerk. The net

profit of the concern for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1944, was \$1,602,047.00. The total of all taxes for the year amounted to \$5,136,058.39. During the fiscal year four dividends of \$1.75 a share were paid on the 7 percent convertible preferred stock; four dividends of \$1.25 a share were paid on the \$5.00 dividend cumulative convertible preferred stock and four dividends of 50 cents a share on the common stock. Total assets of the company are listed at \$17,357,667.14 of which \$10,364,986.76 represent current assets with plant assets at \$5,503,875.84. Total current liabilities are \$1,592,081.09 and reserves for contingencies and post-war adjustments are placed at \$1,000,000.00. The total capital is listed at \$14,765,586.05 and the total liabilities and capital amount to \$17,357,667.14.¹

The Berkshire Hills Paper Company

The Berkshire Hills Paper Company was established in 1903. Judge Fred R. Shaw and Attorney Henry L. Harrington of Adams, realizing that Adams was an excellent place for the manufacture of paper, financed the project. High grade linen and ledger papers, along with other types, were produced for approximately 25 years. At one time the value of the company was placed at \$1,330,977.00.

The officers of the company in 1926 were Henry L. Harrington, president and treasurer; Noble Turner of Housatonic, vice-president; Harry Davis of Adams, secretary; and Eugene B. Brown, William C. Benton of Lee, Mr. Turner and Harry Davis of Adams, directors.

The Eaton Paper Company purchased the plant in 1928 and since then the plant has been operating as the Brightwater Paper Company.²

¹ North Adams Transcript, November 9, 1944.

² North Adams Transcript, Romance of Industries, 1926.

The Hoosac Valley Lime Company

The Hoosac Valley Lime Company was incorporated in 1906. Two kilns were started in 1906 with William Flaherty of Adams as general manager; Thomas D. Connors of New York City, president; and J. J. Cavanaugh of New York City, treasurer. In 1916, the company was reorganized with William Flaherty as president and manager; George B. Wood, vice-president and treasurer; and M. K. Shristie, secretary and assistant treasurer.

The plant has been extensively modernized and now operates rotary kilns with oil as the basic fuel.

The Greylock National Bank

During the early history of the town of Adams, banks were unknown. The trading was done by barter or exchange as there was little money in circulation. Each year accounts were balanced and a note was given for amounts due. The pay of ministers, doctors, lawyers or other professional men was largely in the form of goods or labor. Dealings which involved any large amount were done through banks in Troy or Boston. The Massachusetts Hospital Life Insurance Company of Boston also did a great deal of business and a large amount in lending money for mortgages was carried on by the trustees of Williams College.

The Greylock National Bank of Adams received its charter as a national bank from the Federal Government, on May 4, 1891. Plans having been made in advance, the bank opened for business on May 5. The bank's first depositor ledger shows the following names as having opened accounts on the first day: J. K. Anthony, George B. Adams, Anthony & Burlingame, Frances Alger,

Edmund Anthony, Adams Gas Light Company, Berkshire Cotton Manufacturing Company, Timothy Baker, J. M. Fleming, M. J. Holden & Son, A. B. Mole, E. J. Noble, Mrs. E. J. Noble, W. B. Plunkett, C. T. Plunkett, W. C. Plunkett & Sons, W. H. Stedman, R. A. Thompson & Company, R. A. Thompson, Charles A. Waters, F. M. Waters, and George N. Yeaton.

The original capital was \$100,000 with a surplus fund of \$50,000. subscribed and paid in advance by the original stock-holders of the bank. Included among these were practically all of the depositors named above and many other leading citizens of the town.

William B. Plunkett, who became the bank's first president, was primarily responsible for the bank's organization. The first vice-president was J. Kelley Anthony, of the old firm of Anthony and Burlingame, on Grove Street; and Frank Coenen who came to Adams from the Springfield National Bank, was the first cashier. The first board of directors comprised W. B. Plunkett, J. K. Anthony, E. J. Noble, C. T. Plunkett, David Follett, A. B. Mole, W. F. Draper of Hopedale, and Edward N. Gibbs of Norwich, Connecticut.

Under the direction of Mr. Plunkett and the men associated with him, the bank was successful from the very beginning. It paid its stockholders a dividend before the end of the first year and has continued to pay them ever since. Although he was pleased to be able to pay dividends, Mr. Plunkett was much more interested in building up a large surplus fund for the protection of the bank's depositors. Being a keen and farsighted business man, he realized that there would be times in the years to come when this reserve might be needed.

After the death of William B. Plunkett in 1917, George B. Adams was elected president and he served until 1926, when Charles T. Plunkett was chosen as president. He was followed by Arthur B. Daniels who was elected in 1927. Upon him fell the responsibility of guiding the bank's affairs during the years of depression which followed the crash of 1929. When A. B. Daniels died in 1938, Robert E. Noble, the present president, was elected.

The conservative policies initiated and carried out by Mr. Plunkett were continued under the direction of the presidents who followed him and today the reserve fund which appears in the statements of the bank as Capital, Surplus and Undivided Profits, amounts to over \$600,000.00.

Today, The Greylock National Bank is considered one of the strongest banking institutions in Massachusetts. The banking crisis of 1933 revealed the wisdom and farsightedness of the bank's officers. The President of the United States had ordered that all banks be closed and not reopened until authorized by the government. Banks remained closed for about a week during which time there was a general check up as to their soundness and as a result many banks, particularly in the middle west, never opened again. The Greylock National Bank was allowed to reopen on the first day after the "Bank Holiday."

During all the fifty years of the bank's existence its location has been on the corner of Center and Myrtle Streets although it has been greatly enlarged and modernized. Originally the bank occupied less than half the space now used and it was heated by a large stove. The personnel consisted of Mr. Coenen, the cashier and Frank W. Spaulding, as teller and

clerk. After a year, Mr. Spaulding resigned to become treasurer of the Adams Fire District and he was succeeded by Frank Hanlon, recently deceased. Mr. Hanlon entered the bank's employ in June, 1891 and was associated with the bank in various capacities for forty-six years. In 1903 he was appointed cashier and continued to serve the bank in that capacity until 1937 when he retired because of ill health. Guy Crosier, the present cashier, entered the bank's employ in 1897 at the age of fourteen years and has been a member of its staff ever since.

On January 1, 1892, approximately eight months after the bank was opened for business, it had one hundred and twenty-four depositors with total deposits of \$94,750. and its total resources amounted to \$360,064. On January 1, 1941, there were 2,922 depositors with total deposits of \$2,160,815., and resources of \$2,753,173.¹ At the close of the business day, December 30, 1944, both the assets and liabilities of the bank were listed at \$5,666,308.94 each, of which \$674,748.45 was in capital accounts.

The present officers are Robert E. Noble, president, David Follett, vice-president, Guy Crosier, cashier, and Benjamin S. Hurd, assistant cashier. The present directors are Robert E. Noble, David Follett, A. Millard Daniels, Byron E. Howe, and Walter J. Donovan.

The First National Bank

The First National Bank of Adams was incorporated in 1863. Its charter was extended in 1884; the officers were H. J. Bliss, president; H. H. Wellington, cashier; and H. J. Bliss, L. J. Colby, Levi L. Brown, S. W. Bowerman, D. J. Dean, James Renfrew, Jr., and H. H. Wellington,

¹ Greylock National Bank. Historic Adams, 1941, brochure, p. 20.

directors. The following is a statement of the bank's affairs on October 1, 1884: Capital stock paid in, \$150,000; deposits, \$197,000; loans and discounts, \$328,000; undivided profits, \$75,000; premium account, \$10,000; and reserve, \$68,000.

In 1945, the officers of the bank were as follows: Wallace E. Stoddard, president; Edwin K. McPeck, vice-president; Franklin L. Sweeney, cashier; Raymond E. Molloy and Raymond J. Ouellette, assistant cashiers; Robert T. Arnold, clerk of the corporation; Atty. Edwin K. McPeck, William S. Morton, Archie A. Poirier, Wallace E. Stoddard, Robert T. Arnold, John G. Arnold, and Wojiech F. Prejsnar, directors.¹

South Adams Savings Bank

The South Adams Savings Bank was incorporated on May 1, 1869, with the following officers: H. J. Bliss, president; Levi L. Brown, L. J. Cole, and Charles H. Ingalls, vice-presidents; H. H. Wellington, secretary and treasurer; and D. J. Dean, B. F. Phillips, James Renfrew, Jr., Daniel Jenks, Charles F. Sayles, A. J. Bucklin, D. D. Wheeler, George W. Adams, and J. Farnham, trustees. The bank was opened for business on July 1, 1869, with Archie C. Wellington opening the first account. On October 1, 1884, the bank had 1,700 depositors, and its financial statement showed deposits of \$599,672.59, a guaranty fund of \$15,800., an interest account of \$1,287.50, and a profit and loss of \$20,000.

The bank had its first quarters in the old Collins Block. On May 7, 1921, the Tanner Block was purchased with a view of procuring a site for a new bank building. Hoggson Brothers of New York produced architectural

¹ North Adams Transcript, January 8, 1945.

plans for the new structure which were accepted. The new building was erected on January 9, 1924, at a cost of \$175,000.

In 1931, during the depression, the surplus and profits of the bank were \$529,905.85, and the liabilities were \$2,413,474.24. The directors at that time were Arthur B. Daniels, William F. Adams, David Follett, Sr., Robert E. Noble, Theodore R. Plunkett, Peter P. Smith, and Gilbert Thompson.

The condition of the bank on January 23, 1934, showed assets of \$3,588,283.65 with liabilities of the same amount. The officers were: William S. Morton, president; Robert E. Noble and Ira C. Ball, vice-presidents; Richard D. Lee, treasurer; James G. McClement, assistant treasurer; John E. Donovan, secretary; William Roche, William S. Morton, Dennis Murphy, John E. Donovan, William Orr, Frank E. Braman, John C. Dudley, Frank Szetela, Fred E. Smith, and Robert E. Noble, board of investments.

The Adams Co-operative Bank

The Adams Co-operative Bank was organized in July 1895, and received its corporate charter on December 17th of that year. It commenced business on March 10, 1896, with the following officers: A. B. Mole, president; Fred R. Shaw, vice-president; Frank Hanlon, secretary and treasurer; George B. Adams, E. R. Alexander, Theophile Brodeur, A. H. Streeter, William B. Plunkett, Elisha Burlingame, John J. Daly, F. R. Harrington, F. W. Smith, E. E. Merchant, Albert W. Jones, S. L. A. Hall, C. E. Legate, and Arthur E. Green, directors; and Charles T. Plunkett, H. B. Burdick, and Arthur B. Daniels, auditors.

The first meetings of the bank were held in the office of the Adams Gas Light Company as the bank had no quarters of its own. The accumulations from shares enabled it to start making loans to its shareholders, so desk space was hired in the office of Smith Brothers' Real Estate and Insurance Agency on Park Street. Later, quarters were obtained upstairs in the Jones & Daley Block where the Town Clerk's office is now located. This arrangement continued until early in 1902 when the bank took over an upstairs room in the old Collins Block on Center Street. The bank continued in these quarters until the Collins Block burned in 1916. The present building on Center Street, now owned in part by both the Greylock and First National Banks of Adams, was built on the site of the burned building, and the Adams Co-operative Bank took quarters on the second floor over the Greylock National Bank. Now the bank is located on the street floor of the same building, between the Greylock and First National Banks.

The bank's growth has been steady since its organization. The first printed statement issued on October 31, 1896, showed assets of \$4,137.95. The bank had then been operating for less than a year. No salaries were paid during those early months, and the directors, for several years, not only received no fee for attending meetings but were, in fact, fined for being absent. In April, 1900, the bank's assets had grown to \$51,000. and when it first acquired quarters of its own in the old Collins Block in 1902, they had grown to \$110,000. In December, 1937, the bank had assets of \$781,000. Today the bank is considered one of the strongest institutions of its kind in the State.¹

The Adams Co-operative Bank was organized for the sole purpose of

¹ North Adams Transcript, December 29, 1937.

helping people save and is also a plan for home buying which has proved to be so safe and so fair and helpful that there are now 277 Co-operative banks in Massachusetts alone. The bank's shareholders agree to place with the Co-operative Bank a certain amount of money every month, usually as little as \$1.00 and as much as \$40.00. In this way, a person is buying a part-payment on a share and each share is fully paid when it reaches the value of \$200, which takes about 12 years to accomplish. A person can borrow on his or her shares up to 90 per cent and a shareholder may have his money returned at any time, under ordinary circumstances.

The Adams bank is thoroughly supervised by the State Commissioner of Banks, the very same officer who supervises trust companies and savings banks. His examiners make an unexpected visit at least once a year and audit the bank's resources as well as its manner of doing business. The Adams Co-operative Bank's capital is accumulated by the sale of serial shares, these being issued in series in May and November of each year.

The Northern Berkshire Gas Company

The Northern Berkshire Gas Company observed its 80th birthday on February 29, 1944. The Company was incorporated as the Adams Gas Light Company with a capitalization of \$52,000. on February 29, 1864. The incorporators were A. W. Richardson, Sylvander Johnson, H. Clay Bliss, John B. Tyler, W. S. Blackinton, A. E. Richmond and W. H. Gaylord. The first officers of the Company were J. B. Tyler, president; W. W. Freeman, treasurer; H. Clay Bliss, clerk; A. W. Richardson, J. B. Tyler, Sylvander Johnson, S. W. Brayton and W. S. Blackinton, directors.

The erection of a gas plant was begun shortly after the incorporation on land at Brown Street in North Adams, now occupied by the present properties of the Company. The plant was constructed by the Providence Gas Steam Piping Company and when completed consisted of one small holder and two benches of three iron retorts capable of producing about 30,000 cubic feet per day. The distribution system was made up of a 6-inch main which ran as far as the Wilson House on Main Street, a 4-inch main that extended to the village of Blackinton and another 4-inch main which ran north to the Beaver section. Principal users were six manufacturing plants, there being very little consumption in private homes at that time. The price of gas in 1864 was set at \$5 per thousand cubic feet and was gradually reduced until in 1879 it sold for \$3 per thousand feet.

In 1879 A. W. Richardson secured the controlling interest of the Company and through a reorganization became president, a capacity which he held until his death in 1883. His successor was W. L. Brown who held the office until 1892 when the following officers were elected: H. T. Cady, president; Frank S. Richardson, vice president and treasurer, and E. A. Richardson, clerk. Frank S. Richardson was the actual manager and remained in office until the turn of the century.

A general expansion was made in 1884 when a new holder, new purifiers and two new benches of retorts were added to the plant and several new and larger mains were installed. These improvements resulted in doubling the plant's manufacturing capacity. In 1897, another \$20,000. was spent for a telescopic holder, two more retort benches, two condensers, a tar extractor and a washer-scrubber, thereby increasing the capacity to

250,000 cubic feet per day--more than eight times the original output.

In 1879 the Company sent out 5,000,000 cubic feet, in 1884, 10,000,000 cubic feet and in 1897, 36,000,000 cubic feet. The price was gradually reduced from \$3 per thousand feet in 1879 to \$1.40 per thousand feet in 1895. During this period in the life of the Company no charge was made to customers for installing gas services to their cellars while gas stoves and other merchandise were sold at cost.

The entry of the Company into the electric business occurred in 1890 when the North Adams Electric Light and Power Company was purchased. The electric plant was then located in the Rand grist mill on Ashland Street with most of the business coming from the Main Street commercial firms. Shortly after the purchase of this company a new brick powerhouse was erected on Brown Street adjacent to the gas plant. The equipment consisted of two arc machines, one incandescent machine with a capacity of 500 lights and a 150-horsepower engine and boiler.¹

Business expanded rapidly and in 1897 the plant was enlarged to a capacity which could supply current to 6,000 house or store lights and 460 street lights. At that time the Hoosac Tunnel was lighted by 1256 incandescent lamps with current supplied by the Company. A large modern steam plant was erected in 1912 and continued operation until December 20, 1925, when manufacturing was discontinued and the Company became a wholesale customer of the New England Power Company.

The normal expansion had extended both gas and electric lines to Adams and Williamstown so that early in the century three companies were in operation: The North Adams Gas Light Company, the Adams Gas Light

¹ North Adams Transcript. North Adams and Vicinity. Supp., 1898

Company and the Williamstown Gas Company.

The Massachusetts Lighting Companies acquired these three companies in 1908 and operated them until the early 1930's when an affiliation with the New England Power Association took place. A consolidation of the three companies under the name of Williamstown Gas Company occurred in 1934. Later in the same year the name was changed to Northern Berkshire Gas Company.

The Deerfield River Electric Company and the Charlemont Electric Light and Power Company were purchased and became part of the Northern Berkshire Gas Company in 1937.

The city of North Adams and the towns of Adams, Williamstown, Charlemont, Cheshire, Rowe, Heath, Hawley and part of Hancock are now served by the Northern Berkshire Gas Company.

The present gas system is composed of a modern plant equipped with one 9-foot gas-making set and one 8-foot set. There are three storage holders, two in North Adams and one in Adams, with a total capacity of 900,000 cubic feet. The distribution system has 50 miles of street mains ranging in size from two to fourteen inches. Service is supplied to 8700 gas customers who use 4500 ranges, 1285 water heaters and 631 Electrolux refrigerators. In 1943, total sales were 200,000,000 cubic feet.

The electric system contains 1400 circuit miles of wire and 10,800 poles. During 1943 more than 13,000 meters were served with 33,528,855 kilowatt hours of electricity.

There have been four local managers since 1900. The first was

Frank Curtiss who held office until 1909 when he was succeeded by Benjamin K. Cook. Mr. Cook, who is still employed in the Company, was manager from 1909 to 1933. Herbert E. Southworth followed Mr. Cook in office, remaining until October 1, 1936 at which time the present manager, Richard E. Pierce, was transferred to North Adams from a similar capacity in Northampton.¹

The Adams office of the Northern Berkshire Gas Company is located in the Daniels Block on Park Street and is managed by Harold V. McSheen.

The Pittsfield and North Adams Railroad

After the completion of the Boston & Albany Railroad in 1843, the idea of a thoroughfare from North Adams to Pittsfield became prevalent in the minds of the people of Adams. By the opening of the Boston & Albany Railroad, North Adams was only twenty miles distant from Pittsfield. For the first time a feasible route was offered to the merchants and manufacturers of Adams to avail themselves of the Boston market. This new channel of communication was of vital importance to the interests of the town and vicinity. Especially was this true in regard to the heavy freights of manufacturers. They labored under a great disadvantage in this respect in comparison with those in other sections of the country who were nearer to the tide water. The attention of the Boston and Albany Company was called to the importance of securing all the freight and passenger travel from Northern Berkshire. It was very evident from just a casual survey of the line and estimates of the probable business to be done that the route was not only feasible but would be, eventually, quite profitable as a

¹ McSheen, Harold V. Contact, March, 1944, pp. 4-5.

feeder to the main track.

In 1845, a committee consisting of several prominent citizens, was appointed to confer with the directors of the Boston & Albany Railroad Company as to the advantages of an immediate construction of a branch road between North Adams and Pittsfield. After two preliminary meetings, the directors estimated the cost of constructing and equipping the road at \$400,000. They inquired whether the citizens of Adams would subscribe for \$100,000 of the stock in it. Notwithstanding the fact that very few of the merchants and mechanics of the town felt that they were really able to subscribe, about \$90,000 was secured through a very great effort. While the matter was pending, several meetings were held by the different committees appointed to negotiate in behalf of the town of Adams with the Boston & Albany Railroad directors. The latter body finally referred the whole matter to the president of the road, George Bliss, Josiah Quincy, Jr., and William Jackson. They met in Boston on the third of July to consider the matter. After a lengthy discussion they declined to undertake the matter. Mr. J. E. Marshall, being one of the most earnest and efficient laborers for the new road, was informed of this adverse decision when he called upon the directors while they were in session. At a later period, however, upon further consultations with a committee from this town, the directors entered into an agreement which resulted in furnishing this new avenue for travel and traffic. The agreement was as follows: The cost of constructing and equipping the road was estimated at \$400,000., the actual cost being \$443,677.67. The citizens of Adams were to subscribe and pay over at an early date the sum of \$31,000 cash, as a pledge or

guarantee fund. The Boston & Albany Railroad Company, on the other hand was to build, equip, and put into operation the entire line between North Adams and Pittsfield as soon as possible. If, during the first ten years, the road should pay a dividend of 6%, the surplus was to accrue to the contributors of the \$31,000. The Boston & Albany Railroad Company at the same time guaranteed dividends of 6% per annum to the subscribers for stock, with the privilege at the end of thirty years, of paying but 5% or of reimbursing the stockholders at par at the option of the company.

The following were members of the various committees appointed by the citizens of Adams to affect the arrangement: James E. Marshall, \$6000; Sanford Blackington, \$3000; Rice, Bly & Company, \$1500; Ingalls and Tyler, \$3000; W. C. Plunkett, \$1000; George Millard, \$500; Isaac Hodges, \$300; Pollock and Hathaway, \$300; Brown, Harris & Company, \$5000; W. E. Brayton, \$2500; O. Arnold & Company, \$2500; Arnold and Jackson, \$1000; T. A. Brayton, \$800; E. S. Hawks, \$500; Alpheus Smith, \$300; others in sums of \$100 to \$300 amounting to \$2800; total \$31,000. It will be noted that this amount was subscribed by a few public spirited individuals, most of them residents of the north part of the town.

The construction of the Pittsfield and North Adams Railroad was commenced in January, 1846 and completed in October, 1846. The first train of cars was run from Adams to the agricultural fair at Pittsfield. This was a day of general rejoicing. Probably at no previous time, since the settlement of the Hoosac Valley, was there ever congregated such a multitude eager to witness the performances of the "iron horse", and enjoy a ride. To accommodate the masses all the available cars, including

many open freight cars rigged with benches, were used. The consumation of the enterprise was worth all it cost the town in arduous effort and money contributions. It gave the manufacturing establishments - cotton, woolen, iron, and marble - the benefit of competition in freight and enhanced the general prosperity of the inhabitants and the valuation of the town threefold. The population went from 3639 in 1849 to 6050 in 1850.

The first board of directors having charge of the construction of the Pittsfield and North Adams Railroad consisted of George Bliss, Josiah Quincy, Jr., Ellis Gray Loring, James Arnold, and William E. Brayton. The town is indebted to Josiah Quincy, Jr. in a larger degree than to any other for securing the construction of the road.¹

Mr. Harlack was the superintendent and engineer of the road during its construction. A. S. Patten was the first conductor. Daniel Buell, of Pittsfield was the first agent. He was succeeded by William Burton in 1849. Charles W. Marsh became conductor in May, 1854. The first years business up to November, 1847, showed a deficit of \$17,828.04. In 1849, there was an operating loss of \$3,427.52.

Passenger rates in 1863 from Adams to various nearby points were as follows:

	<u>First Class</u>	<u>Second Class</u>
Albany	\$1.75	\$1.75
Brookfield	2.00	1.70
Cheshire2525
Ghent	1.40	1.25
Huntington	1.45	1.30
Indian Orchard	2.40	1.85
Needham	4.45	3.35
North Adams2525
Pittsfield5050
Worcester	3.50	2.90

¹ Beers, J.B. History of Berkshire County, 1885, p. 492.

The railroad was 18.65 miles long with 56 pound rail. The maximum grade was 66 feet in 222 feet. There were 17 road crossings, 4 flag stations, and 2 way stations. A mixed train was in operation. In 1858, 25,040 train miles were covered; 40,375 passengers carried; and 27,368 tons of freight were hauled. The average rate of speed was 20 miles per hour. The company owned one engine, 2 passenger and one baggage car. The engine burned 1,120 cords of wood. The total cost of operating the railroad for the year 1858 was \$24,128.98. The income was \$4,735.16. A 6% dividend on \$27,000. was paid under agreement with the Western Railroad.¹

¹ Crocker, A.E. New England Agent, B. & A. R. R., 1935.

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HISTORY OF ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS



A Thesis
Presented to
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The University of Ottawa

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Doctor of Philosophy

J. K. V. Z. M. D. L.
Reçu L.R. Chabot
1945

by
Joseph Addison Wilk
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CHAPTER VI

CHURCHES AND SOCIAL WELFARE ORGANIZATIONS

By and large, Adams is a very religious community. From the time of the first settlers, the religious sentiments and habits of the townspeople have been an outstanding attribute of community life, particularly among the Catholic groups. Today, Adams has within its bounds ten church institutions. Three of these -- Notre Dame Des Sept Douleurs, St. Thomas Aquinas, and the St. Stanislaus Kostka parishes -- are Roman Catholic institutions and the remaining seven -- Society of Friends, First Baptist, First Congregational, St. Mark's Episcopal, Trinity Methodist, First Church of Christ Scientist, and the New England Evangelistic Center -- are Protestant churches. A brief historical account of the development of these religious institutions will now follow, along with the St. Paul's Universalist Church organization which disbanded several years ago.

The Society of Friends

The Society of Friends in Adams for many years held the only religious services carried out in the town. It was a strong and prosperous society when all the others were struggling for existence. The Society was formed in 1781 by David Anthony, Isaac Killey, Isaac Upton, John and George Lapham and their families. They worshipped in a log dwelling until the year 1784, when they erected the Meeting House which now stands about half a mile northwest of the village. The building lot, together with the adjacent accommodations for a burying ground, the whole comprising about

four and a half acres, was given to the Society by Daniel Lapham.

In 1819, the Society enjoyed its greatest strength. It then embraced about 40 families. Removals from town, and a reluctance of the rising generation to take the places of their fathers, caused a decline of the Society, until in 1830 there were but 25 families remaining, some members of which belonged to the Society. About this time new settlers were coming in rapidly, and it was impossible for the Elders of the Friend's Society to keep the younger generation firm in the belief; and the simple drab was more and more cast aside for the gayer dress of the world's people, until about 1835, the meetings ceased entirely. This result was hastened by a dissension which entered into the Society in 1828, regarding the sentiments of Elias Hicks. A part of the Society assumed the name of Hicksites while the remainder, strongly disapproving of the Hicksite belief, called themselves Orthodox Friends.

For a time the Society had two school houses, with a dwelling house and garden belonging to each, for the use of the teachers. In 1824, when the decrease of the Society made one school sufficient, one of the school establishments was sold, and the proceeds applied as a school fund.

The first recommended speaker was Robert Nesbet, who came into the Society soon after its formation. He was succeeded by Mary Battey, and she in turn by David Aldridge, who officiated until his death. Hannah Hoxie was the next speaker, and the last who acted regularly in that capacity, as the Society became so weak in 1835 that regular meetings were discontinued.¹

¹ Davis, W.F. History of Adams, 1885, p. 1.

In 1914, meetings of the Society of Friends were again revived and have been held at the Quaker Meeting House in Adams on an annual basis ever since. The Society of Friends observed the 150th anniversary of its Meeting House on September 8, 1934, with Joseph E. Pierson of Pittsfield, a trustee of the Berkshire Athenaeum, and William B. Browne of North Adams, giving historical accounts of the institution's growth. Mr. A. Edward Kelsey of North Adams delivered the main address at the religious services held at the Meeting House the following day.¹ Rev. Pliny A. Allen, Jr. of North Adams delivered the address at the September 10, 1939, meeting; Rev. James E. Gregg of Pittsfield spoke on "The Holy Spirit," September 13, 1942; and Rev. Percy E. Thomas of the First Congregational Church of North Adams gave an address, September 10, 1944, on the text, "Be Still, and Know That I Am God."

The First Baptist Church

In the spring and early summer of 1826, a few families residing in what was then known as Adams South Village were desirous of uniting together in order that they might hear the Gospel more often than circumstances then allowed. Aside from the Friend's Meeting House, the only place of worship in Adams at that time was a small brick building that stood on the northeast corner of the lot now occupied by L. L. Brown paper mill. Accordingly, after having several meetings in which fourteen or fifteen persons expressed their desire to organize themselves into a Baptist Church, they appointed Brother J. L. Barker to call a council of neighboring ministers and other delegates. The council, which

¹ North Adams Transcript, September 10, 1934.

met on July 1, 1826, was composed of delegates from the Baptist churches of Savoy, Windsor, Lanesboro, and Cheshire. The pastors present were Benjamin Remington, Elder Trumbull, Augustus Beach, and Noah Bushnell, respectively. Augustus Beach of Lanesboro was chosen Moderator and Elder Sweet of Cheshire, Secretary. The petitioning members of the council presented their Covenant Articles of Faith. The following statements give the essence of the articles: "We take the unadulterated, unexplained, and therefore unperverted Word of God, as revealed in the Bible, as the rule of our faith and practice." They state their belief "in the triune God; in the total depravity of mankind; in salvation by Grace through faith in Christ and the renewing of the Holy Spirit; in justification through Christ's imputed righteousness; in the perseverance of the Saints; in the ordinances of baptism by immersion; and the Lord's supper to be administered to those who have been immersed; in the observances of the first day of the week as a day of worship and rest from all secular amusements and labors; in the resurrection of the dead; and the final and eternal separation of the just and unjust. Two other noticeable articles were also included; one declaring that 'habitual and unnecessary absence from public worship and meetings appointed by the church be a subject of discipline;' the other, 'that in defraying the expenses of the church, the members ought to submit to the rule of equality, according to the ability which God giveth.' To these articles were appended the names of Robert R. Briggs, John L. Baker, Elisha Carpenter, Elisha Ingraham, Susan Jenks, Marian Tisdale, Malissa Bates, Mary Lee, Betsey Carpenter, Susan Burlingame, Abagail Ingraham, Rebecca Lapham, Abagail M. Barker and

Evelina Fisk."¹

The Council, being satisfied with the petitioners and their articles of faith, voted to constitute them into a church to be named the Second Baptist Church of Adams. The First Baptist Church of Adams, formerly situated on Stafford's Hill, had disappeared and the site upon which it stood is now in Cheshire because the town lines have been changed. The same afternoon they proceeded to the public services of recognition. Elder Bushnell of Cheshire made the opening prayer; Elder Beach of Lanesboro preached the sermon; Elder Sweet of Cheshire read the scriptures; Elder Remington of Savoy gave the charge to the church; Elder Trumbull of Windsor gave the hand of fellowship; and Brother Carpenter offered the concluding prayer.

The church, having been constituted on July 1, 1826, with fourteen members, began its proper religious functioning at once. On the next day, since it was the Sabbath, three candidates, Asa Richmond, Charlotte Richmond and Mrs. Polly Vaughn were then received into the church by baptism. Lucendu Sherman became united with it by letter. Communion of the Lord's Supper was held. Two weeks later, the members, or brethren as they were then called, met and elected Brother Elisha Ingraham to serve in the capacity of Deacon and Brother John L. Barker as Clerk.

By 1828, 34 new members had been added to the former 18, 9 of which had been received by baptism, 5 by letter, and 2 by experience. Meanwhile, the church had united with other churches to form the Berkshire Baptist Association which was organized on May 13, 1827. Elder Sweet, the pastor in Cheshire, was engaged to give them his services for half the time, and

¹ Baptist Church Records, Book 1.

the old brick meeting house served as the place of worship. Rev. Henry F. Baldwin, of Bennington, Vermont, replaced Brother Elder Sweet and served as pastor for one year. During his ministry two members were dismissed for what was then termed "misconduct." Today excommunication is seldom practiced. Nine members were added by baptism and two by letter. On his removal Elder Sweet resumed the pastoral service, giving them all his time until 1843.

As early as 1835, the question of better accommodations for the church began to be discussed. The leading families of the church were generous contributors. In 1835, a half acre of ground, on the west side of Commercial Street, south of the mill pond, was purchased from Samuel Jenks for \$250.00, and in the following year, a new, better accommodated building was erected there at a cost of \$2,000.00. Both the lot and building were to be for the exclusive use of the Baptist church. The money was raised by a system of proprietorship, the subscribers becoming the actual owners of the building. Since this system lessened the rental of the pews, it was abandoned in 1852. In December, 1841, a contract was made with the firm of Cain and Champney for a church bell and a town clock to be put in the meeting house. The cost of both was \$350.00.

During the entire ministry of Elder Sweet, 87 members were added to the church; 28 by baptism, 55 by letter, and 4 by experience. The ministry of Elder Sweet, though always acceptable, as is shown by his annual election with entire unanimity during so many years, was marked by some peculiar difficulties. Sharp discipline was the order of the day. The church was kept busy looking after delinquent members and several were

excluded. That Seventh Article of Faith, which they had adopted, declaring that 'habitual and unnecessary absenting from public worship and meetings of church be a subject of discipline', proved to be no dead letter. A large number, too, were dismissed in consequence of removal. Added to this were the distractions of building, almost always injurious to spiritual interests, so that it ought to be no wonder that the records, toward the last, show few baptisms, few added by letters, many dismissions, and a constant appointment of committees to call to account the erring and wayward.

Rev. William M. Young, pastor from 1843 to 1844, succeeded Elder Sweet. He distinguished himself as an efficient preacher and an eager worker in the Sunday school. Seven were baptized by him, two added by experience. Brother Almon Cole was chosen to serve with Deacon Ingraham. At this time, also, Brother Luther Fisher was appointed chorister.

Although it does not appear on the records that there was any settled pastor in the year following, Elder Loomis was serving in that capacity in May, 1845. He continued to fill that office until April, 1846. Rev. George E. Fuller, who succeeded Elder Loomis, likewise served only a short term, ending it in 1849. In May, 1847, it was voted that letters of dismission, which formerly were not limited to the period during which they could be used, should be useless if not used within two years. The custom of taking a collection at the communion was established. A question between the church and the proprietors of the pews, as to the latter's right to legislate matters pertaining to the meeting house was referred to Deacon Cole, because the deed of the property and the original agreement

had been mislaid. The lost papers were located and the matter was settled on the basis of the original agreement which declared that the "proprietors of the said church have a right to vote in making a choice of a settled minister, and are limited expressly to that privilege, and can have no voice in any transactions respecting the occupancy of the house by any other person, or for any other purpose than that of securing the use of the house to the regularly elected minister."¹ This period was marked by serious internal difficulties, which sadly marred the peace and harmony of the church, and resulted somewhat later in disciplinary actions which afterwards were deeply deplored and for which reparation was made so far as it could be, by expunging the transactions from the records.

In 1849, Rev. S. B. Grant became pastor, filling not only that office until 1853, but also served in the capacity of church clerk.

The final settlement concerning the proprietors' ownership took place at a meeting in January, 1852. Several of the proprietors had already surrendered their ownership, and a provision was made for the others by submitting their claims to a committee of disinterested brethren in North Adams, consisting of Deacon Duty Tyler, George Millard and Solomon Burlingame. At the same meeting, provisions were made to prepare the meeting house. The entire building was raised and repaired, extensive alterations were made in the audience room, and a gallery was thrown across the eastern or front end. These improvements were completed at a cost of \$1300. and paid for by subscriptions and assessments. The renovated house was opened with appropriate religious services on August 19, 1852.

¹ Baptist Church Records, Book 1.

In the early part of Brother Grant's ministry, the Baptist Society of South Adams was formed, composed of members of the church and all others who contributed the sum of one dollar a year to the support of the ministry. This Society was entrusted with the following duties: choosing the pastor and providing for his support, taking charge of the church property, and managing and directing all its secular activities. The church became secondary to the Society and for this reason it was finally abolished by its own consent in 1885. Brother Grant resigned in 1853. His devotion to the church and his ability as a preacher had won him many friends. His resignation was greatly regretted. Rev. V. J. Norton became the next pastor. Mr. Norton was a young man and had not yet been ordained. After a council of sister churches in November, 1853, he received his ordination services. He baptized seven and received ten by letter into the church. In 1854, the organ was purchased. This was the first organ that was ever brought into the village. It is of Appleton manufacture, a famous organ building concern in that day.

Upon the resignation of Brother Norton, Rev. Alfred Colburn became pastor. During his ministry, according to the church book, there was a "low state of religion and piety."¹ Nevertheless there was a marked success in the Sunday school and many improvements were added to the meeting house. In 1856, horse-sheds were built to accommodate the parishioners' horses while their owners were attending church services. A vestry was built which cost about \$1200. and necessitated the use of the system of proprietorship again, a position from which it was relieved in 1867.

In September, 1857, Rev. E. T. Hunt, principal of the village high

¹ Baptist Church Records, Book 1.

school, was invited to take charge of the pulpit. He held this position until 1863, when the duties in connection with the school demanded all his consideration. During the first year of his ministry, a revival of spiritual interest took place and many new converts were added to the membership. Twenty-seven were baptized, nine received by letter, one by experience, and two were restored. In 1858, nine were received into the church by baptism and five by letter. During this year the meeting house was repaired and repainted. Gaslight was introduced into the audience room and vestry in 1861. This improvement was made possible by the generous contribution of B. F. Phillips. The church entertained the Sabbath School Convention the same year. At this time there was a noticeable waning of interest and the need of a settled pastor was deeply felt.

Brother William Briggs, of Pittsfield, a licentiate preacher, succeeded Brother Hunt. During his ministry congregations increased, and the spiritual interest deepened. Brother Briggs continued his pastorate for eight years, with the greatest of acceptance and success, during which time the church was steadily growing in numbers and strength.

As soon as the resignation of Rev. Briggs became known, a call was extended to Rev. L. B. Hibbard, of Grafton, Vermont, and later to Rev. Alfred Free. Both were declined. Rev. Whipple, of Lansinburg, N.Y., accepted the pastorate and remained with the church one year. His work was hindered by his residence being in Lansinburg, where he served as school principal. Nevertheless his pastorate was blessed by the accession of 23 souls by baptism. In July 1872 Rev. L. B. Hibbard was again called. He accepted but was forced to resign in 1874 because of ill health.

Rev. Charles H. Ham became the next pastor. Several improvements in the church were made during his ministry. The meeting house was again repaired and repainted, the gallery removed and improvements made in the vestry; these things were accomplished for the sum of \$800. In the winter of 1881-1882, there was a powerful revival which was felt both in the church and community. Sixty-six converts were added. Rev. Ham resigned in 1882, after nine years of noteworthy service. At the time of his resignation which became effective in 1883, there was disharmony in the church.¹ The chief causes for this were the gradual subordination of the church to the influence of the Society, and financial troubles. The pew rents, the sole regular reliance for income, were fixed to meet expenditures which had been necessitated by the growth of the church. The burden of meeting the deficiencies fell upon a few and when an increase in pew rentals was suggested it met disfavor. During the period from 1872 to 1884, no church records had been kept, no church clerk elected, and no officer appointed by the church had anything to show for his appointment. However, the acting church officials of the Society, in entering the alphabetical list of church members, show the changes that took place.

In March, 1883, Rev. C. W. Anable, D.D., of Springfield, Massachusetts, was called to the pastorate and accepted. The practice of electing the pastor annually was discontinued. A parsonage, costing \$4,000. was built on the site of the church lot, the rent of which was paid by the church. Daniel Upton, B. F. Phillips, and William Jenks contributed generously to this expense. The church resumed the management of its own affairs upon the dissolution of the Baptist Society. The rental of pews

¹ Baptist Church Records, Book 1.

was increased to meet the growing expenses of the church. Weekly collections were introduced. The old debt was successfully paid without outside help during this period. Fifteen were baptized and 36 names were dropped upon the revision of the church list.

In 1885, the church voted to change its name from the Second to the First Baptist Church of Adams, because the old First Church had long gone out of existence. It adopted new articles of faith, entitled the "New Hampshire Confession," and also a regular church covenant. A Ladies' Aid Society and a Woman's Missionary Society were connected with the church. The church became legally incorporated as "The First Baptist Church of Adams," on November 28, 1887.¹

In 1887, the practice of discontinuing all church services excepting the first Sunday, was established. In 1888, the parsonage was purchased; this was made possible by a loan of \$3,900. from the North Adams Savings Bank.

By the aid of the Ladies' Aid Society, who had raised about \$1500., the audience room was completely renovated in 1889. E. S. Wilkinson, of North Adams, gave the church a handsome communion table. In August of the same year, the meeting house was struck by lightning and barely escaped disaster. The spire, badly shattered, had to be taken down. Brother Stoel Dean appropriated in his will three hundred dollars to be paid on the debt incurred by the purchase of the parsonage. S. J. Dean volunteered to finish paying this debt.²

Rev. C. W. Anable resigned in 1890. During the months of July and August in 1890, addresses were given by several out-of-town ministers. Rev.

¹ Massachusetts Acts & Resolves, 1887, Chap. 404.

² Anable, Rev. C.W. History of the First Baptist Church of Adams.

R. O. Sherwood was chosen to succeed the Rev. C. W. Anable.

In 1891, a "Young People's Society" was organized under the guidance of Rev. Sherwood. The old library was given to the new Sunday School at Hoosac Tunnel and over 100 new books were purchased for the Sunday school. Rev. Sherwood resigned and was succeeded by H. B. Foskett in 1893. A convention for the pew rentals was abandoned and replaced by the present system of regular weekly offerings. A Junior Union, with a membership of about 30 boys was organized under the supervision of the pastor and a committee of members of the Baptist Young People's Union. This society gave the young men an opportunity to enjoy interesting weekly meetings which provided not only educational advantages in the study of Christian Culture courses but also provided clean, honest fun.

In 1894, the question of erecting a new building of worship arose. The entire cost of the building was estimated to reach the sum of \$22,000. Having obtained \$15,076.78 by pledges from loyal and interested parishioners, plans were made for carrying out the project. A building committee was elected to supervise the matter. Memorial stone services were held on May 88, 1895. Addresses were made by Pastor Rev. Mr. Penny of North Adams, Rev. Mr. Brady Dalton, and local pastors. A new organ was purchased and partly paid for by pledges which reached the high sum of \$1,000.

The following description of the new building was sent to the Berkshire Baptist Association. "Today we are able to report a handsome new structure of brick and stone nearly completed, capable of seating 1,200 people, costing with all the furnishings and the new pipe organ \$28,750. During the year we have raised \$17,000. and hope to secure about \$5,000.

more by the first of January, leaving an indebtedness which we can carry without serious embarrassment."¹ They were unable to secure accommodated rooms and the rooms above W. B. Green's store were used for the few services that were held. The old building was converted into Sunday school rooms and was incorporated into the new building as a reminder of the original structure.

In October of the same year, the Young Men's Brotherhood Society of the church was organized and active work was entered upon at once in East Cheshire and at Maple Grove. A building was secured and fitted up. The Maple Grove Mission was organized November 11, 1895. Most of the baptisms were from the mission.

The new church was formally opened with an organ recital on February 4, 1896. On the next afternoon dedication exercises were held. On February sixth, a mortgage of \$13,000. was placed with the North Adams Savings Bank. The remainder of the pledge on the organ was paid in 1898 by the Woman's Union. The year of 1899 was darkened by the removal of several members for disregarding covenant obligation.

In 1901, Rev. Samuel Knowles was chosen to succeed Rev. H. B. Foskett, following the latter's resignation. Rev. Mr. McLeod became pastor in 1904, succeeding Rev. Foskett.

The year 1905 was marked by the death of Deacon Upton who had served the church faithfully for over 50 years. His passing was deeply mourned. After the resignation of Rev. Mr. McLeod, Rev. Charles S. Pease of Northboro, Massachusetts was chosen to become pastor.

By the will of Mrs. Annie Jenks the church debt was decreased

¹ Baptist Church Records, Book II.

considerably in 1910. Many material improvements were made in 1913. New granolithic walks, furnace, and electric lights at the side entrance have made the church and parsonage more useful and attractive. A system of weekly donations for missions by use of duplex letters was adopted the same year. In 1915, a Woman's Missionary Society was organized and the following year, a Junior Christian Endeavor group.¹

Since 1916, there have been few records of important changes in the operation of the church. The excellent work of the Ladies' Aid and the Woman's Missionary Societies was quite noticeable during these years, however. The parsonage was repaired through financial aid obtained from the Ladies' Aid. The world-wide war trouble of 1917-1918 did not decrease the church membership to any great extent. Much help was given the Red Cross. The months of July and August of 1923 were marked by excellent union services with the Baptist and Methodist churches participating.

Since Rev. Pease's leave, there have been six ministers at the First Baptist Church -- Rev. French, Rev. Breaker, Rev. Hatch, Rev. Dreschler, Rev. Pike, and at present, Rev. Carlos M. Whitlock.

There has been a decrease in church membership during the past several years. In 1935, there were 136 resident members. The main church societies include the Philathea Society, which has the Woman's Missionary Society incorporated within it; the Ladies' Aid; the Men's Fellowship; the Christian Endeavors; the intermediate and senior department; and the Sunday School.

The church holds annual business meetings and an annual church supper after which there is a roll call.

¹ Baptist Church Records, Book II.

At the present time, Rev. Carlos M. Whitlock is working zealously to increase membership in the church and promote the work of the Lord throughout his sphere of influence.¹

The First Congregational Church

A meeting was held in Adams on January 1, 1840, for the building of a Congregational Church. A church was organized with two members and Articles of Faith and a Covenant were adopted. The meetings were held in a vacant store standing on the north bank of the Hoosac River, west of the Park Street bridge, in front of what was the residence of William B. Plunkett. At the end of the first year, four more members had been received, one member was excommunicated, making a total membership of five.

On October 16, 1841, the Ecclesiastical Society was organized. The following was the preamble to the organization:

"Whereas the social, moral and religious interests of the community do in our opinion require the regular and stated administration of the ordinances of the Gospel, we, therefore, being desirous of promoting good order and a due observance of the benign precepts of Christianity as taught in the Sacred Scriptures do form ourselves into a body corporate under the name of the Orthodox Congregational Society of Adams, South Village, to act in concert with the First Congregational Church of the aforesaid Adams, which was organized January 1, 1840, in sustaining the institutions of religion according to the usage and belief of the General Assc. of Mass., and according to the statutes for the organization and regulation of parishes and religious societies of said Commonwealth."²

Signed

Stillman Pratt
F. E. Patrick
Jacob Baker
R. Wood
J. Tanner

B. W. Wright
Snell Babbitt
W. C. Plunkett
N. W. Harrison
Daniel D. Wheeler

On April 25, 1842, the second recorded meeting of the Ecclesiastical

¹ Baptist Church Records, Book III.

² First Congregational Church Records.

Society was held and William C. Plunkett was appointed agent to make request of the Home Missionary Society for aid. The Rev. Mr. Stillman Pratt was invited to become the minister for the ensuing year. During this year, thirteen members were received, mostly on confession. Five children were baptized.

The lot and store building where the meetings had been held were bought for \$500. in 1843, and a contract let to build a church 46 feet long and 32 feet wide for \$650. The Rev. Mr. Pratt was invited to labor with the Society for the ensuing year at a salary of \$400. The church was over three years old when this first house of worship was dedicated. The store building was removed to the corner of School and Depot Streets and converted into a parsonage. During this time the church members worshipped in the brick meeting house, then standing on the corner of Commercial Street, where the office of the L. L. Brown Paper Company now is situated. During this year only one member was received into the church. The Rev. Stillman Pratt was called to the pastorate on April 29, 1845, and was formally installed the following June, Dr. Mark Hopkins of Williams-town preaching the sermon. When the railroad secured the right of way through the town in 1846, the church sold its property to the railroad.

The Congregationalists bought a lot for a church building on the north end of the Mausert Block on Park Street from John L. Barker. The original deed is not on record but in 1850 Barker sold them land adjoining a former purchase. The old house which had been their temporary meeting place is now owned by Francis Morin, and prior to that, by Arthur Greene. When the Congregational Society built on the west side of Park Street

their old building was moved down the street to the place it now occupies as part of the Simmons Store. When first moved it was owned by the Roman Catholic Parish which used it for their church until the St. Thomas Church was built. So by a curious chain of events all three places of Congregational worship are still in existence.¹

The Rev. Mr. Pratt was dismissed by council on June 14, 1849, and the Rev. J. J. Dana was installed at a salary of \$500. The installation sermon was given by the Rev. Dr. Told of Pittsfield. On June 8, 1849, it was moved by Mr. Plunkett and voted unanimously that, "In the opinion of this meeting the circumstances of this Society, the welfare of this community, and the progress of the cause of religion, require that this house should be enlarged, and that it is expedient that measures should be adopted, if possible, to carry this resolution into effect."² Up to 1850, every year recorded the application of the church to the Berkshire and Columbia Missionary Society for aid.

On January 1, 1852, the membership of the church was reported as 77. The membership was reported as 94 on January 1, 1853, while the Sunday school reported the largest attendance for the year as 150, the lowest 37, average 82, the youngest scholar aged 4 and the oldest 49.

On August 29, 1854, it was voted that the Society make such alterations in the gallery as might be necessary to introduce an organ. Up to this time a debt had been carried by the church with a mortgage on its property. It was voted on March 30, 1855, that "for gifts made toward the payment of the debt of the church and Society, the treasurer is authorized to give notes to the individuals thus giving, and for the sums

¹ Browne, W.B. North Adams Transcript, November 27, 1937.

² First Congregational Church Records.

given, to be payable only when the church and Society shall cease to exist as an Orthodox Congregational Church and Society, or shall cease to follow the usages of Orthodox Congregational Churches and Societies."¹ A year later, the Society reported the liquidation of a debt of \$1300.

The Rev. J. J. Dana resigned his pastorate on November 22, 1858. The Rev. John Tatlock was called at a salary of \$650. on September 8, 1859.

On June 2, 1865, a committee was appointed, with William C. Plunkett as chairman, to see if funds enough could be raised for the erection of a new house of worship. During this year, it was voted to increase the pastor's salary to \$1000. Despite this inducement to stay, the Rev. John Tatlock resigned February 2, 1867. The Society voted on March 7, 1867, to take necessary steps to build a church. As a result, the present handsome wooden structure was erected in 1868. The building seats 600 persons quite comfortably, and is valued, including the grounds, at \$30,000., its original cost being \$25,000. On November 27, 1868, it was voted to sell the old meeting house to the Roman Catholic group in the town for \$2500. This building was moved and is now used as a furniture store by Arthur H. Simmons on Park Street.

The Rev. Lewis Jessup was called to the pastorate on August 10, 1867, served until April 1, 1870, and was succeeded by the Rev. Charles E. Stebbins who came on July 24, 1870 at a salary of \$1500. and the use of the parsonage. Rev. Stebbins ended his pastorate on April 4, 1876.

On May 10, 1870, the Society reported a debt of \$15,583. A soliciting committee was appointed, reducing the debt to \$6400. William C. Plunkett offered to liquidate the debt if the Society would raise \$1500. This was

¹ Congregational Church Records.

done. On the same day, the land now occupied by the church buildings was deeded to the Society by Mr. Plunkett.

The Rev. Lewis V. Price began his pastorate on July 28, 1876, and continued in that capacity until his resignation May 8, 1883. The Rev. Edward Hungerford replaced him on June 26, 1883, at a salary of \$2000., and the use of the parsonage. Upon the resignation of Rev. Hungerford, February 1, 1887, the Rev. Mr. Clarence S. Sargent was called March 16, 1887, to begin work May 1st. The church adopted Laudes Domini as its hymnal. On January 1, 1888, the church reported 401 members with 36 absentees. The Rev. Sargent was voted a two month's leave of absence on June 1, 1888, with the Society paying his expenses to Europe and supplying the pulpit during his absence.

In 1889, a committee was appointed to raise funds to enlarge the church building, and on April 17, 1893, it was voted unanimously to build a parish building for the use of the Society; on August 3, 1893, it was voted to build a parsonage in connection with the parish house. The Parish House was dedicated December 27, 1894.

The resignation of Rev. Sargent became effective January 1, 1894, and on February 20, 1894, the Rev. Alford B. Penniman was called. The free pew system was voted on January 15, 1894, to become effective April 1st. It was also voted at this meeting to take steps for the incorporation of the church and the dissolution of the Society. On April 24, 1894, the last meeting of the Orthodox Congregational Society of Adams was held and it voted to convey its property to the First Congregational Church of Adams.

The Rev. Mr. Penniman resigned on January 4, 1903, and on August 27, 1903, the Rev. J. Spencer Voorhees was called, serving until November 3, 1909. The Rev. George Savary began his ministry at the First Congregational Church on December 12, 1909. He resigned November 23, 1916. The Rev. Percival H. Parker succeeded him on February 11, 1917. At the annual meeting, January, 1920, the treasurer reported an indebtedness of \$4000. Mr. Charles T. Plunkett offered to give one-half of this amount providing the other half was raised by the church. Mr. Peter P. Smith took it upon himself to raise the remainder. He managed to get the sum of \$2251.50 which completely liquidated the indebtedness.

The Rev. Percival H. Parker presented a letter of resignation on October 3, 1920, and on January 12, 1921, the Rev. Dr. E. E. Shumaker was sent a letter calling him to the pastorate of the church. On January 11, 1922, the Rev. Phillip A. Job was accepted into the church as assistant pastor.

The Rev. W. S. Holland accepted a call to the pastorate of the church in January, 1926. At the annual meeting of January, 1928, the pastor's salary was increased to \$3500. per year. The total budget for the year amounted to \$10,000. In 1929, it was increased to \$10,625. Mr. Edwin K. McPeck concluded 20 years of service as clerk in January, 1931. The Rev. Holland accepted a call to the First Congregational Church of Braintree, Massachusetts, in June 1931, and the Rev. Leon E. Grubaugh was issued a call, serving until called to Colorado as Superintendent of the Congregational Conference there. The pastor's salary was raised to \$4000. in January, 1932.

The Rev. William Reed Usher succeeded Mr. Grubaugh on September 13, 1942. Rev. Usher was given a leave of absence from his duties at the First Congregational Church and is now serving as an Army Air Force chaplain in the Pacific region. The Rev. Dr. John E. Dobbs of Severance, New York, is currently serving as interim pastor pending the return of Rev. Usher.¹

St. Paul's Universalist Church

The St. Paul's Universalist Church was organized by E. F. Jenks and 32 others on March 28, 1844, with Almond W. Mason being the first pastor. The Society soon built a small brick church, which did service until 1871, when a commodious structure was erected on Center Street, comfortably seating 350 persons. The value of the property, including the grounds, was placed at \$25,000.

The Society disbanded a number of years ago. The church was sold to the Adams Lodge of Elks in 1929, and after settling all financial obligations, a committee headed by Mr. Ira C. Ball, established an educational scholarship fund with the residue. The fund, known as the St. Paul's Universalist Church Scholarship Fund makes possible two \$100 scholarships each year to be awarded to worthy graduates of the Adams High School.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

Previous to the year 1860, a few citizens of Adams who were members of the Protestant Episcopal Church, or sympathized with that form of worship, were re-organized by and united with that Society at North Adams and

¹ First Congregational Church of Adams, Minute Taking Records, 1840-

met with them at worship as members of St. John's Parish. At or about that time, however, occasional and regular service was established in Adams, still continuing as a branch of St. John's Parish and supplied by Rectors from that Society until the year 1876, when a separate parish was organized and incorporated under the name of St. Mark's Parish of South Adams. This action was accomplished mainly through the efforts of Rev. William Tatlock and Rev. Robert Weeks, while Rectors of St. John's Episcopal Church of North Adams, Massachusetts. Rev. Charles D. Allen was then called as minister in charge and during his administration the parish was re-organized, since which time official records have been kept. Mr. Allen remained but a short time, being succeeded by Rev. Dr. Lewis P. Clover, who remained nearly a year. Rev. Francis P. Gillean was then called as Rector and was in charge two years after which time Rev. Frank J. Winckley served about two years. The duties were then assumed by Rev. A. B. Jennings, of Williamstown, who faithfully administered to the wants of the Parish for more than eight years. He was succeeded by Rev. A. P. Wasson. The Society, organized in 1860, had worshipped in a hall in the Dean Block, but had long felt the inconvenience of going up two flights of stairs. In the winter of 1880, Mrs. Levi L. Brown offered to give the parish \$12,000. and a building site, providing the Society would raise \$2500. additional, previous to Easter. The amount was subscribed and, with a fund of \$3000. in the bank besides, the Society was in a condition to build. A site at the junction of Commercial and River Streets was selected and plans by C. W. Brocklesby of Hartford accepted. Bartlett Brothers of East Whately did the stone work.¹

¹ St. Mark's Church Records.

The cornerstone of the St. Mark's Episcopal Church of Adams was laid with appropriate ceremonies on July 14, 1881, with Rev. A. P. Wasson, the Rector at that time, officiating. A copper box was placed under the corner-stone containing the following list of articles: The Churchman, published in New York City; The Parish Visitor, published in New York City; The Adams Transcript published in North Adams, Massachusetts; The Hoosac Valley News published in North Adams, Massachusetts; The Saturday Freeman, published in Adams, Massachusetts; The Berkshire County Eagle, published in Pittsfield, Massachusetts; The Pittsfield Sun, published in Pittsfield, Massachusetts; The Daily Evening Journal, published in Pittsfield, Massachusetts; The Lee Gleaner, published in Lee, Massachusetts; The Berkshire Courier, published in Great Barrington, Massachusetts; The Springfield Republican, published in Springfield, Massachusetts; The Holyoke Transcript, published in Holyoke, Massachusetts; Harper's Special Illustrated Weekly, published in New York City; Frank Leslie's Illustrated Weekly, published in New York City; The Diocese, published in Newton, Massachusetts; The Church Almanac; 1881 Prayer Book (old relic) by James Osborne, presented him in 1850 by Rev. Dr. Morgan; Ladies Early Society Record; Brief History and Portion of Records of the Parish; The Adams Directory; Adams General Political Statistics; Various Autographed Cards; St. Mark's Sunday School List of Officers and Members; Officers of St. Mark's Parish and Church; the building committee; and a list of subscribers.

The church cost about \$25,000. and is one of the handsomest small churches in the State. It is constructed of a local limestone of bluish grey tint, combined with Ohio Sandstone, which is generously employed for

the trimmings. The design is early French Gothic, the building being 100 feet in length by 38 feet wide, including the chancel. A square corner tower, about 60 feet high from the ground, stands out from the front gable, and by an arcade porch, is connected with the buttresses into three bays, and a transept of 9 feet wide breaks out from the main walls on the more prominent side of the church as a Sunday-school room with a capacity for a hundred scholars. Occupying a corresponding position on the opposite side of the church, a recess chancel, apsidal in form, is built at a depth of 23 feet, and is divided from the nave by a pointed arch of Ohio sandstone. The robing room on the left, is connected with the audience by a doorway with jambs of the same stone, and an organ chamber on the right has an arched doorway in stone, opening toward the chancel and is also arched toward the nave. The Sunday school room has a library of ample size connected with it, and particular attention has been paid to ventilation and light. By means of folding doors, forming part of an ornate ash screen, the Sunday school room can be connected with the main building, a novelty of treatment characterizing certain features of the interior of the church. The stone work of the nave, transept and baptistry windows is carried through the outside walls, showing a face upon the inside of the church, the plastering being finished to the jambs, with arched heads, etc., in place of the ordinary wainscot. The sides of the nave and transept are lined up from the floor to the transept with Philadelphia pressed brick surmounted by a foliated cornice of terra cotta, the design being the olive branch and fruit. In the chancel a carved string course, connecting the windows at the spring of the arched

heads, is entirely carried around the walls, the enrichment representing passion flowers, grape leaves and fruit. The credence table, which is built in the wall, is of solid stone supported by a stone corbell richly carved. The steps beneath the chancel are of marble, this stone being also used for the tiling of the chancel, while the floor of the sacra-rium is laid with encaustic tile in special patterns. The interior wood finish of the church is brown ash, used for casings, for pews, for roof-ceiling, as well as for the wainscot of the chancel-rail, etc.

The church has an open truss roof and a clear story, whose windows diffuse a pleasant light. The pews of the nave are built in two lines, giving a broad center aisle, and two side aisles, the seating capacity, not including the use of the Sunday School room, being nearly 300.¹

Rev. A. P. Wasson served in the new church until the coming of Rev. Herbert Henry Smythe. Rev. Smythe was born in Columbus, Ohio, on July 12, 1854. He was graduated from Kenyon College of Ohio, in 1878, being a prominent athlete as well as student. He then entered the Episcopal Theological School in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and graduated in 1881. During this theological career, he also studied with professors at Harvard University. After his ordination he took charge of St. Mark's Church. Beside ministering to the English speaking people of the parish, he held services for the German people of Adams as well.

During Rev. Smythe's sojourn in Adams the parish house was built and it is still regarded as one of the finest in the diocese. The building, which is on River Street to the rear of the church, is constructed of wood and stone. It contains an auditorium that has a seating capacity

¹ The Saturday Freeman, Adams, Mass., July 14, 1881.

of 350, a dining room in which places may be laid for 100, two large rooms that are utilized as reception rooms, and five classrooms. The kitchen is one of spacious proportions and is completely equipped with every facility for the preparation and serving of banquets.

Rev. Mr. Smythe was succeeded by Rev. Dr. Louis Zahner who came to Adams from Omaha, Nebraska. For nearly 23 years Doctor Zahner served as Rector of the church during which time the parish continued to grow, continuing the splendid work accomplished by the Rev. Smythe. Doctor Zahner continued as Rector until his death, at which time the Rev. Mr. Charles O. Rundell, from Akron, Ohio, took up the task laid down by Doctor Zahner.

Among the achievements of Rev. Mr. Rundell's pastorate was the acquisition of the Charles Sayles property on Liberty Street which was purchased by the Parish for use as a Rectory. The acquisition of this property, which was regarded as very valuable, fulfilled a long felt need of the Parish, which up to that time had been without a dwelling that could be used as a Rectory. This purchase was consummated about 25 years ago. The purchase price of the property had been raised by the members of the Parish within a short time and the dwelling became the unencumbered possession of St. Mark's Parish.

From a parish that numbered 30 families, or approximately 100 people during the past fifty years, this number has grown until the Parish now embraces about 1,000 people, and among other things enjoys the reputation of being the wealthiest Episcopal church in the Western Massachusetts Diocese, due in great part to the several benefactions of William T. Adams.

A formal observance of the fiftieth anniversary of the consecration

of St. Mark's Episcopal Church took place Saturday, September 24, 1932.¹

Upon the resignation of Rev. Charles O. Rundell in 1938, the Rev. Frederick W. Cooper, assistant Rector of the Church of the Ascension in New York from 1933 to 1938, came to St. Mark's as Rector. During his rectorship at St. Mark's, the wire screens were removed and the church doors were thrown open for meditation and prayer each day; a fully equipped gymnasium was established in the parish house; a new church organ was installed, a complete new lighting system and a new chancel were installed, the church property was improved by landscaping and the planting of ivy on the building, and a week-day kindergarten was organized for the children of the parish in 1941. During the past four years the school was in charge of Miss Dorothy F. Kruszyna, Mrs. James M. Smith, and, since last fall, Mrs. Hazel Pushee. Rev. Cooper resigned his pastorate on November 1, 1944,² having accepted a call to Christ Church, East Orange, New Jersey.

Notre Dame Des Sept Douleurs Parish

The Notre Dame De Sept Douleurs parish in Adams, probably the most outstanding French-Catholic institution in the Springfield diocese, has been in existence sixty-three years, during which time six pastors have labored zealously for its welfare.

The first Catholic missionaries to Berkshire County prior to 1850, came from Burlington, Vermont, and Chicopee, then Cabotville, Massachusetts. In 1849, a missionary established himself at Pittsfield and was given charge of Catholic activities throughout Berkshire County. Rev. M. La-marque, curate of St. Joseph's Parish in Pittsfield, was the first French

¹ North Adams Transcript, September 26, 1932.

² North Adams Transcript, September 23, 1944.

priest assigned the task of serving the spiritual needs of French Catholics in Berkshire County. In 1867, he became curate of all French people living in the neighboring towns. Rev. Father Derbueil succeeded Father Lamarque as curate of St. Joseph's Parish in 1868.

The first French Canadians came to Adams shortly after 1850. Religiously inclined, they affiliated themselves with the St. Charles Borromeo Church, an Irish institution, then the only Catholic church in Adams, where they heard Mass each Sunday offered by Rev. Father Lynch of North Adams. As most of the French people of that day could not speak English, they experienced much difficulty in understanding, and being understood by, the Irish priests. However, their anxiety was shortlived, for in January, 1871, the Rev. Charles Crevier was appointed pastor of the Notre Dame Church in North Adams and was also assigned to minister to the rapidly growing French-speaking populace in Adams.¹

A memorable date in the history of the Notre Dame Des Sept Douleurs Parish was January 4, 1872, when Father Crevier, gathering all of the French people in Adams into a hall on Park Street, now the Adams Theater, sang Holy Mass and spoke to them in their native tongue for the first time. Religious services under Father Crevier's direction were conducted in this building for several years. The Adams mission developed slowly at first, then more rapidly, until in 1876, Father Crevier judged that it was able to assume the responsibility of contracting a debt. The zealous, hard-working, pioneer pastor borrowed sufficient money with which a chapel seating 500 persons was built on Columbia Street at the present site of the Millette Garage. The chapel was blessed and given to worship in 1877.

¹ Hamelin, Hormidas. Notre Dame Des Sept Douleurs, 1916, p. 71.

To partially meet the resulting chapel debt of \$5,000., Father Crevier established an association named the "Union for Prayer." Under the provisions of the plan, each member gave the modest sum of twenty-five cents for the good of the Church. In return, the member took an active part in the prayers of the association and at his death, received a free service of high order. This association, first established by Father Crevier, is still an active organization today. The contribution, instead of being twenty-five cents per month is now \$1.00 per year.

Father Crevier had a large field to cover. He not only had charge of the Notre Dame Church in North Adams, but also conducted missions in Adams, Williamstown, and Pownal, Vermont. In 1880, Rev. Father Lamy of the North Adams parish assisted Father Crevier in his work at Adams.¹

In March, 1882, the Adams mission, through an enactment of Bishop O'Reilly of the Springfield diocese, was elevated to the dignity of a parish and appointed as first pastor the Rev. John B. Charbonneau, who at that time was curate of the Notre Dame Parish in North Adams, being well-known and loved by the Adams people.

In 1887, five years after his appointment, Father Charbonneau started the construction of the present stately house of worship which remains a monument to his splendid foresight and artistic talent. Bishop O'Reilly is reported as having said that the Notre Dame Church was one of the most beautiful in his diocese. It is of Romanesque architecture, one hundred and fifty feet long by seventy feet wide, and has a seating capacity for fifteen hundred people. Father Charbonneau also saw to the construction of the present Rectory which has been a model for a great many

¹ Hamelin, Hormidas. Notre Dame Des Sept Douleurs, 1916, p. 96.

rectories of the diocese. Like the church, the Rectory was constructed of red brick with a stone foundation. The principal part of the Rectory is approximately square and is two and one-half stories in height. The roof is pyramidal in form and each of its four sides is ornamented with gracious dormer windows. Before taking up his abode in the Rectory, Father Charbonneau had resided on Park Street, on the corner of Maple Street, on Columbia Terrace at the residence of Mrs. Oliver Upton, and on Hoosac Street.

Father Charbonneau made two trips to Europe while pastor of the Notre Dame Church. The first trip, in 1885, ostensibly was for the purpose of studying church architecture in several Catholic countries, particularly Italy and France, but it was in Rome where he was inspired with the real model of the church which he had built in Adams the following year. The European trip lasted from January to July, 1885. During his absence, Father Joseph Charlebois substituted for him, followed by Father Joseph Marchand. Father Charbonneau's second trip to Europe took place in 1892 for the improvement of his health. He took M. A. Fredette along with him as companion. Father J. E. Marcoux, ex-vice-president of the University of Laval in Montreal, took over the work of the parish during Father Charbonneau's absence.¹

Upon his return to Adams, Father Charbonneau found the work ahead of him too heavy for his weakened body, so in December, 1892, he was compelled to ask for assistance. The new Bishop of the Springfield Diocese, His Highness Mgr. Beaven, sent Father A. Langlois, who remained at the Notre Dame Parish until after the death of Father Charbonneau on June 22,

¹ Hamelin, Hormidas. Notre Dame Des Sept Douleurs, 1916, p. 210.

1893. Father Charbonneau was buried in the middle of the west half of the spacious church lawn. Several years later, the remains were removed to the southwest side of the church. Father Langlois ministered to the parish with prudence and wisdom as pastor until the arrival of Rev. L. O. Triganne in September, 1893.

Father Triganne was born in the Province of Quebec in 1860. He studied at Nicolet College and was ordained to the priesthood there in 1884. He served the Diocese of Three Rivers in Canada for two years, then coming to the Springfield Diocese in 1886, where he served as curate at both Holyoke and North Adams before being elevated to the pastorage of the Notre Dame Parish in Pittsfield in 1889. When Father Triganne assumed charge of the Notre Dame Parish in Adams, there was a church debt of \$32,000. still outstanding. By the will of Father Charbonneau, a legacy of \$10,000 was left the parish and which lowered the debt to \$22,000. Father Triganne was active, business-like, and successful. In just four and one-half years after his coming to Adams, he had cleared the whole of the parish indebtedness. Just as soon as he had paid the last mortgage, he began the construction of a parish school and convent whose doors were opened in September 1899. Six sisters of the Holy Cross from St. Lawrence Convent in Montreal took charge of the school and convent on August 23, 1899.¹

In December, 1901, Father Triganne ordered a new organ from Mr. Casavant of St. Hyacinthe, one of the best organ manufacturers of North America, at a cost of \$5,000. Delivery was made in late February. Father Triganne's attention was then turned toward beautifying the church. Two

¹ McCay, Rev. John J. History of Catholic Churches in the Springfield Diocese.

trips to Europe had inspired him no end in this respect. What he wanted most were rich portraits and splendid decorations. Before his plans could materialize, he was transferred to Southbridge in November, 1904. During his eleven years as pastor of the Notre Dame Church in Adams, Father Triganne had as his assistants Fathers G. Laverdiere, Louis F. Gobeil, Stanislaus Guillet, and Louis T. Rodier.¹

Father Joseph Genest, Father Triganne's successor, came to Adams on December 8, 1904. A learned man, well versed in sacred art, he was well fitted to continue the work of the parish. After being in Adams but four months, he purchased three sets of bells for the vestry on March 22, 1905 from M. Emile C. Morissette of Quebec at a cost of \$1,650. These bells originally came from the famous Paccard Foundry at Annecy-le-Vieux, France. The first bell weighs 1,740 pounds, the second, 1,300 pounds, and the third, 950 pounds. The bells were blessed by Bishop Beaven during impressive ceremonies on November 26th, and they were rung for the first time at noon, December 3, 1905. They were baptized and their names are Jesus, Mary, and Joseph.

To Father Genest also belongs the credit of liquidating the parish debt and thereby giving the Notre Dame Church the rare privilege of solemn consecration. This event took place on Sunday, June 6, 1909, with Bishop Beaven of the Springfield Diocese officiating. It was the first time that a French-Catholic church was consecrated in New England.²

Father Genest died on December 6, 1909. His remains now rest alongside those of Rev. John B. Charbonneau on the southwest side of the church. During his administration as pastor of the Notre Dame Parish,

¹ Hamelin, Hormidas. Notre Dame Des Sept Douleurs, 1916, p. 303.
² Hamelin, Hormidas. Notre Dame Des Sept Douleurs, 1916, p. 331

Father Genest was assisted by Father Adelard Landry, Jean-Baptiste LaMothe, and Arthur J. B. Coyer.

Father Hormidas Hamelin came to Adams on December 7, 1909, as successor to Father Genest. Father Hamelin was a pious priest and his sole ambition was to save souls. On December 20, 1915, he celebrated his 25th anniversary as a priest. In 1916, Father Hamelin saw to the beautification of the church grounds and the building of the concrete steps and sidewalks which added much to the appearance of the church site. He also supervised the reconstruction of the parish school which had been partially destroyed by fire during the first World War.

Father Hamelin also is well known as an author, having written a book on marriage, and, in 1916, a "History of Notre Dame Des Sept Douleurs".

While at the Notre Dame parish, Father Hamelin was assisted by Fathers Paul Roy, Guillaume Joseph Morin, Richard Riley, and Joseph Theodore Smith. Father Roy served the parish from 1909 to June, 1910; Father Morin from June, 1910 to January, 1912; and Father Riley from January, 1912 to 1913. Father Joseph T. Smith, who was assigned to the Notre Dame parish as curate on September 13, 1913 by the late Bishop Thomas D. Beaven, ably assisted Father Hamelin until June, 1925, at which time Father Hamelin was forced to relinquish his pastoral duties because of failing health and retired to Florida where he lived several years before his decease. Father Smith replaced Father Hamelin as pastor in 1925 and has continued in that capacity since.

Rev. Father Joseph T. Smith was born in Holyoke, Massachusetts, on March 8, 1888, and was baptized in the Church of the Precious Blood at

Holyoke by Rev. L. O. Triganne, a former pastor of Notre Dame Church in Adams. Father Smith attended Our Lady of Perpetual Help parochial school at Holyoke, following which he completed his classical and philosophical studies at Montreal College and St. Hyacinthe Seminary in Quebec, receiving his Bachelor of Arts degree from the latter institution in 1909. He pursued his theological studies at St. Bernard's Seminary at Rochester, New York. On June 7, 1913, he was ordained to the priesthood at the Rochester Cathedral by Monsignor Charles Colton, Bishop of Buffalo, New York.¹

Under Father Smith's splendid administration, there have been several notable additions and improvements to the parish property. The parishioners have witnessed the repair and modernizing of the Rectory; the enlargement and repair of the Convent, which incidentally is regarded as one of the most beautiful and comfortable in the diocese; while in 1931, four large classrooms and a spacious auditorium were added to the Notre Dame parochial school. Mindful of the gregarious nature of the youth of his parish and their interest in the Boy Scout movement, Father Smith purchased considerable acreage on the south-easterly slope of Mount Greylock and developed it as a Boy Scout camp. The project was named "Camp Hamelin" in memory of Father Hamelin, and in its hey-day contained a large meeting house, chapel, power plant, two cottages, swimming pool, a fine camp fire ground, and an extensive forested area interwoven with inspiring nature trails and a sparkling mountain stream.

On June 10, 1934, the Notre Dame parish celebrated the 50th anniversary of its founding and the 25th anniversary of the consecration of its church. A Solemn High Mass opened the ceremonies with Rev. Father

¹ North Adams Transcript, June 20, 1938.

Sylvio Desautels, who was ordained to the priesthood with Father Smith, giving the sermon. A Mission was held in which all members of the parish participated in two weeks of prayer; one week for the men and the next for the women. The final celebration was held with a great church procession to the Convent where the Benediction of the Holy Sacrament took place. Rev. Father Donat Vezina, a Jesuit missionary from St. Anne de Beaupre, Canada, officiated at this service as well as at several other Jubilee events.¹

Father Smith has had the following assistants during his long and successful pastorage at Notre Dame: Fathers Parisien, Demers, Lambert, Gravelle, Charland, Betourney, and Nadeau. Father Leon C. Nadeau, the present curate, has endeared himself in the hearts of his parishioners, particularly among the younger members, through a constant desire to be of service to them. His Christian Doctrine classes, his interest in the Notre Dame church league basketball team, and his inspiring work as chaplain of the Notre Dame Boy Scout troop, have stamped him as an invaluable assistant to Father Smith in promoting the spiritual welfare of the youth of the parish.

Father Smith, completing 25 years of service in the Roman Catholic priesthood on June 7, 1938, all of which had been spent as curate and pastor of the Notre Dame Church of Adams, was honored on June 19, 1938 with a Silver Jubilee observance of the event by a grateful parish. Representatives of the national, state, county, and town governments were present and from all who had an opportunity to speak came acknowledgement of the place Father Smith had made for himself during his untiring service in

¹ North Adams Transcript, June 11, 1934.

Adams during those first 25 years.

On May 25, 1944, a solicitation campaign was launched among members of the Notre Dame parish in an effort to raise \$50,000. for liquidating the existing parish debt.¹ Despite this tremendous goal, the largest in the history of the parish, Father Smith soon announced that in consideration of the pledges made and funds collected by the various committees, the goal had been attained, a glowing tribute to the esteemed pastor.

The parish and the parish properties have expanded and prospered under Father Smith's guidance during the past 32 years. His parish is the largest and strongest in the town. During his long residence in Adams, he has not only won and held the ever-increasing love of his parishioners, but commands the undivided respect of a grateful community.

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish

In 1848, the Rev. Edward Cavanaugh had established a Mission in North Adams and said Mass in some of the Irish homes there once every three months. It was not until the second generation of Catholicity in Berkshire County that the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass was first celebrated in Adams by the Rev. Bernard O'Cavanaugh. In 1870, Father Lynch, who was the newly appointed pastor of the Irish Catholics in North Adams, developed the Mission in Adams by purchasing, moving, and remodelling the old Congregational Church and dedicated it under the patronage of St. Charles Borromeo.²

The first resident pastor of the St. Charles Borromeo Church of

¹ North Adams Transcript, May 25, 1944.

² McCay, Rev. John J. History of Catholic Churches in the Springfield Diocese.

Adams was Father E. P. McCort who took charge of the parish on September 12, 1875. Soon after his arrival in Adams, Father McCort purchased a tract of land just east of the Maple Street cemetery for \$16,000. and erected thereon the pretentious Rectory which is still in use today. Father McCort died in January, 1880, and was succeeded by Rev. Dennis C. Moran, who continued the work of St. Charles Borromeo parish, being assisted in this regard by Rev. James F. Maher.

The St. Thomas Aquinas Church was planned by and erected under the supervision of Father Moran. He officiated at the laying of the cornerstone of the edifice on November 7, 1885. Father Moran died in September, 1908, and was succeeded by the Rev. Thomas C. O'Connor, who continued as pastor¹ of St. Thomas Church until his death December 31, 1926. Father O'Connor's administration is particularly significant in that he made a concerted effort to establish a parochial school for his parishioners. Upon the completion of the school, at an estimated expense of \$100,000., much of it being from his personal funds, the State building inspectors condemned the structure as being unsafe due to its foundations being built on the side of a sandbank. The building still stands, never having been used. Several large cracks in the masonry bear out the findings of the building inspectors.

Upon the death of Father O'Connor, the Rev. Jeremiah Riordan, the curate at that time, was appointed acting pastor. He continued in this capacity until August 7, 1927, when the Rev. John H. Broderick, who had served as curate under Father O'Connor from 1918 to 1922, was appointed pastor. At the same time that Father Broderick assumed the pastorate of

¹ McCay, Rev. John J. History of Catholic Churches in the Springfield Diocese.

St. Thomas Church, Rev. Francis E. Shannon became curate under him.

Although not faced with an immediate debt burden, Father Broderick soon set upon the task of improving the church's financial condition. Later, he had the Rectory reconstructed and extensive improvements made on the church grounds. A tennis and quoit court, as well as a general playground, were constructed to provide suitable recreation facilities for the youth of the parish. Father Broderick's untimely death was a serious loss to the people of St. Thomas Church.

The Rev. Francis E. Shannon, curate under Father Broderick, became acting pastor, being assisted by Father Lurey. The Rev. Charles F. Foley was soon appointed pastor of St. Thomas Parish. Upon his transfer to St. Joseph's Parish in Pittsfield, he was succeeded by the Rev. John Mongovan. An automobile accident, resulting in the tragic death of Father Mongovan, severed his pastoral duties at St. Thomas. The Rev. John A. Lahey was named pastor of the parish by Bishop O'Leary and continues in that capacity to this date.

St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish

Members of the Polish nationality began to settle in Adams as early as 1870. Among the family names of these staunch and hardy pioneers were the following: Baczynski, Pomoniak, Siara, Skowronski, Stawarski, and Wisnowski.¹ During their first years in Adams, their religious needs were satisfied by attendance at the St. Charles Borromeo Church on Park Street. A few times during each year, particularly at Christmas and Easter, and upon the invitation of Father Moran of the Irish Parish, a Father Halupka

¹ Kolodziej, Rev. Francis. Silver Jubilee of St. Stanislaus Church, p. 12.

from Chicopee, Massachusetts, would come to Adams to hear confessions of the Polish people and conduct services in their native language. As time went on, more and more Polish people came to reside in Adams. With this growth in numbers came a correspondingly increased desire for a Polish church of their own. They petitioned the Bishop of Springfield who finally granted permission for the establishment of a Polish parish in Adams and sent the Rev. M. F. Kopytkiewicz as the first pastor of the Polish group. Father Kopytkiewicz came to Adams on May 20, 1902, and celebrated his first Mass at the Notre Dame Church two days later, the kind generosity of the Notre Dame officials having allowed the Poles use of the church.

Aided by the splendid co-operation of the Polish people, Father Kopytkiewicz immediately set to work building a church. In the meantime, the wooden structure, which had served the needs of the French people prior to the erection of their new church, was leased by the Polish people and used for their church purposes. A lot was purchased from Peter P. and Sara A. Smith of Adams for \$11,200. on August 7, 1902, and bounded as follows:

"The land beginning at the north-east corner of land owned by Harvey Tower on the south side of Hoosac street so called, thence south-westwardly on the easterly line of said Towers land to land now supposed to be owned by Jacob Goldberg, thence easterly on the line of land of said Goldberg to Summer street; thence westerly on the southerly side of said Hoosac street to the place of beginning. Containing three-fourths of an acre of land, being the same more or less. Being all and the same premises this day conveyed to me by the deed of Leonard McCulloch."

August 7, 1902 -- 12:30 P.M. by Arthur W. Taffine, and Justice of the Peace, Henry L. Harrington.¹

Construction of the church began in 1903. Although not completely

¹ Northern Berkshire Registry of Deeds, Book No. 262, pp. 596-597.

finished, the church was blessed on September 4, 1904, by Bishop Thomas D. Beaven and thereafter was open for use by the parish. The church, a beautiful twin-spired, yellow brick structure, cost approximately \$55,000. to build. Liberal donations on the part of the Polish residents of the town reduced the church debt to \$45,000.

Father Kopytkiewicz was transferred to another parish on January 22, 1908, and the Rev. Francis Kolodziej was appointed to assume charge of the St. Stanislaus parish. His first efforts were directed toward the completion of the church, following which a school project was undertaken in 1911. Believing that a Polish school was a necessary foundation for preserving the integrity and language of the Polish race, he exerted all possible efforts to build one. The parochial school, established on a site to the rear of the church, was completed in December, 1912, and on January 2, 1913, 400 Polish students were enrolled in the \$56,000. structure under direction of the Felician Sisters.

On September 7, 1914, an impressive ceremony took place at the St. Stanislaus church during which Bishop Beaven blessed the three bells being installed in the belfry. The bells were made by Menelly & Company of Troy, New York. The largest weighs 2500 pounds, the next 1200 pounds, and the third 800 pounds. Their names are Mary, Stanislaus, and Franciscus respectively. The bells cost \$3,000. and the money was raised by members of the parish.¹ Just previous to the installation of the bells, a splendid organ, costing \$5,500. was purchased. The first organist was Casimer Adamczyk.²

The need for a parish cemetery was felt for some time, so in

¹ North Adams Transcript, September 7, 1914.

² Kurjer Bostonski, September 24, 1914.

December, 1915, Father Kolodziej was authorized by the parishioners to purchase from Lyman Wheelock of Alger Street for \$2,650. the latter's 37 acre farm on Orchard Street. The cemetery was consecrated in September, 1916.

Father Kolodziej left for Poland in September, 1921, on a three-month vacation trip. While there, he visited his mother and sister. Upon his return to Adams, Father kolodziej laid plans for the erection of a Rectory. Construction of the building was begun in the spring of 1922 and completed the same year at a cost of \$20,000. The Rectory was consecrated by Bishop Thomas M. O'Leary on November 22, 1922. The entire parish property is currently valued at over \$300,000.

In observance of the 25th anniversary of the founding of the St. Stanislaus Kostka church, a Silver Jubilee celebration began on May 22nd and ended May 24, 1927.

Father Kolodziej died on March 21, 1929, after months of ill health, and was buried in the St. Stanislaus cemetery on Orchard Street. Rev. Valentine Teclaw, curate under Father Kolodziej, temporarily assumed the duties of pastor. The Rev. Edmund Kempinski was appointed pastor of the St. Stanislaus parish on July 6, 1929 with Rev. John Oszejca as curate. Father Kempinski has continued as pastor of the growing parish to this day. His present assistants are the Rev. Joseph J. Sitkowski and Rev. John P. Skowronski.

The William B. Plunkett Memorial Hospital

Early in the year 1917, a lifelong resident of Adams, the Hon.

William B. Plunkett announced his intention to build a hospital in memory of his wife, Lyda F. Plunkett, and upon completion, to present it to his native town.¹ So, in the year 1917, there appeared in the Town Warrant the following article:

"Article 19. - To see if the town will take land, together with a Hospital erected and fully equipped thereon, known as the W. B. Plunkett Memorial Hospital, the same to be accepted as a gift to the town by the late W. B. Plunkett; subject to the condition that the same shall be used forever as a hospital for the reception of persons who require relief during temporary sickness, and also, subject to the condition that such ordinances, rules and regulations necessary and expedient for the appointment of trustees and their successors and all other officers and agents necessary for the future management of such Hospital shall be made by the present board of Selectmen and shall be approved in writing by the executors of the will of the said W. B. Plunkett. And to raise and appropriate such sum or sums of money as may be necessary for the maintenance and support of such Hospital for the ensuing year."²

The structure, located on an ideally commanding and central site in the Central part of Adams, was unfinished on the date of Mr. Plunkett's decease, October 25, 1917, and the work of completing the hospital was done by his Executors.

The hospital was opened on July 1, 1918, and has since been devoted to the daily relief of physical suffering and the promotion of health.

The management of the hospital is vested in a self-perpetuating board of seven trustees. The original board of trustees, set up in 1917, consisted of Charles T. Plunkett, president; Dennis A. Murphy, secretary; Peter P. Smith, treasurer; Henry L. Harrington, Cyril J. Menard, Francis U. Stearns, and Edwin K. McPeck. The first medical staff consisted of Dr. A. J. Bond, chairman; Dr. Harry B. Holmes, secretary; and Doctors A. K. Boom, Joseph H. Choquette, James F. Crowley, Alfred Desrochers, J. J. Mahady, and W. W. Pascoe. The hospital staff consisted of Miss Imilda

¹ Adams Town Report, 1918, p. 91.

² Adams Town Report, 1917, p. 137.

L. Dowden, R.N., superintendent; Miss Bertha L. Perret, R.N., operating room and head nurse; and Miss E. Lillian Harrington, dietician.

During the first six month's period of the hospital's operation, July 1 to December 21, 1918, 208 patients were admitted, of which 87 were male and 121 were female. There were 175 operations performed in the hospital. There were also 19 births, 12 being male and 7 female, and 24 deaths, 15 of which came in one month when the 1918 influenza epidemic was at its height.¹

From January 1, 1919 to January 1, 1920, there was but one change in the hospital staff when Miss Mary B. Farman succeeded Miss Lillian Harrington as dietician. A new accountant's office was opened with Miss Lillian A. Howland named to take charge. Dr. Byron E. Howe was added to the medical staff in 1920, while Miss A. E. Bradford became dietician, replacing Miss Farman.

With the installation of fluoroscopic plates and radiographic tables in 1921, the Adams hospital was placed among those with the latest and most complete equipment. During the year 1922, a new Maternity Unit was erected, the architecture of which was identical with the original structure and added 50% to the bed capacity of the hospital in addition to the baths and sun-parlors, as well as a nurse's dormitory. The corridors on both floors now extend the entire length of the combined buildings while a central steam plant furnishes the requisite heat and ventilation. The new structure was completed on March 1, 1922, then turned over to the town and accepted on April 1, 1923.

Charles T. Plunkett, president of the board of trustees since its

¹ Adams Town Report, 1918.

inception, died in 1927. His will provided \$75,000. as a gift to the hospital. After careful consideration of the hospital needs, the trustees voted to erect a Nurses Home on the hospital grounds. The home, a very modern structure, was completed in 1931, and consisted of 16 bedrooms, 8 bathrooms, a large laundry room, kitchen, trunk room, a beautifully furnished lounging room, a guest room, and a private suite of rooms for use of the superintendent.

The Adams hospital met the requirements of the American College of Surgeons in 1930 and since then has been on the approved list of accredited Class A hospitals.

On July 1, 1943, the hospital had completed 25 years of continuous service. During that period, 17,660 patients had been admitted. In 1943, there were 1,106 admissions and 292 babies were born in the hospital, 163 boys and 129 girls, the largest number in the history of the institution.¹

The current board of trustees of the hospital is as follows: Cyril J. Menard, chairman; David Follett, secretary and treasurer; A. Millard Daniels, Henry L. Harrington, Frank A. Malley, Edwin K. McPeck, and Theodore R. Plunkett. The medical and surgical staff consists of Dr. Joseph H. Choquette, president; Dr. James M. McLaughlin, secretary; and Doctors A. W. Burckel, Alfred Desrochers, Bernard C. Desrochers, Francis S. Gospodarek, Byron E. Howe, and James J. Macek, while the hospital staff is constituted as follows: Gladys L. Rudisill, R.N., superintendent; Clara M. Wilbur, R.N., assistant superintendent; Dr. Ellis Kellert, pathologist; Rita Fairweather, operating room supervisor; Helena A. Barrett, night supervisor; Shirley Hoyt, technician; Jannice Swail, dietician; and Lillian E. Howland, accountant.

¹ Adams Town Report, 1943, p. 82.

Adams Cemeteries

Adams has three types of cemeteries -- municipal, private, and parish. At the present time, only the municipal and parish cemeteries are being used, the private cemeteries having gone into disuse with the development of the first two types. The cemeteries are all advantageously located, being off the main lines of travel, thus insuring peace and quiet at all times; a necessity during funerals and such religious and patriotic ceremonies as may take place there. Adams has two municipal cemeteries, the Bellevue and Maple Street; one parish cemetery, the St. Stanislaus; and several private cemeteries of which only the ones at Bowen's Corners, Glen street, and West Road will be discussed.

Bellevue Cemetery. The Bellevue cemetery lies in the southern part of the town at the southerly end of Bellevue Avenue. Interment records of this cemetery go back to 1890. It is the newest of the two municipal cemeteries and is the only one in which burial lots may now be purchased. There is no vault in this cemetery, the one at the Maple Street cemetery being used whenever the need for one arises. The Bellevue cemetery is far from being as well developed as the one at Maple Street, but in recent years, particularly under the W. P. A. program, this cemetery has shown extensive improvement. In regard to future development, the potentialities of the Maple Street cemetery have been fully utilized, while the Bellevue cemetery area, with careful planning, can be extended greatly with the requirements of years.

Maple Street Cemetery. The Maple Street cemetery, which is bounded by

Maple Street, West Road, and Valley Street on the south, north, and west respectively, and which extends almost to Columbia Street on the east, is of particular interest because of its antiquity and also because it is one of two municipal burying-grounds of the town and is still in use today.

The Quaker Meeting House, erected in 1784, stands at the western extremity of this cemetery and it was about this venerable, weather-beaten structure that the cemetery first grew. Hitherto, all people were interred in their own private plots.

This cemetery only contains a vault for use in extremely cold weather. The cemetery has an excellent drainage system, its drives are well appointed and curbed, drinking fountains are numerous, and being closer to the center of the town, is more frequently used for military and religious ceremonies of a public nature.

St. Stanislaus Cemetery. The St. Stanislaus cemetery is the only parish burial ground in Adams and lies directly east of the renowned Browne Homestead on Orchard Street.

The history of the St. Stanislaus Kostka cemetery dates back to the autumn and late summer of 1914. Rev. Father Francis Kolodziej, the pastor of the St. Stanislaus church, had for a long time expressed the desire to obtain a cemetery in which the deceased of the parish could have their everlasting rest in peace. The financial condition of the church deemed the act possible and the quest for a location suitable for the purpose was begun. Rev. Kolodziej was assisted in these labors by Frank Szetela and Frank Sitnik who legally acted in the position of agents for the church. The present location on Orchard Street was deemed best

after several other locations had been carefully and diligently surveyed.

The property at the time was owned by Lyman Wheelock, a Civil War veteran and was sold to Mr. Sitnik for \$2650. It soon became the property of the St. Stanislaus parish, as Mr. Sitnik had purchased the property with the purpose of selling it to the parish.

The formal dedication of the cemetery took place in the autumn of 1914 when Bishop Thomas D. Beaven of the Springfield Diocese officiated at the dedication ceremonies. The first person to be interred at the cemetery was the infant son of John Strepek who was buried on the plot reserved for people without the Baptismal rights of the Roman Catholic Church. The first parcel of land was sold to Joseph Szpila at the death of one of the members of their family. Three interments took place in 1914, this being the first year of the cemetery's use. Up to June, 1936,¹ there had been a total of 465 interments.

The sextons of the cemetery in order of their office were: Joseph Rusek, John Strepek, Joseph Nowak, Joseph Paciorek and the present incumbent sexton, Walter Paciorek.

The only two persons interred at the cemetery who were priests during their lifetime are: Rev. Francis Ferren, one of the donors toward the fund for the monument at the cemetery and also a member of the Spiritual staff at the Greylock Rest, and Rev. Francis Kolodziej, the pastor of the St. Stanislaus Church at the time of the purchase of the cemetery, who died on March 21, 1929.

The statue which is located at the cemetery is of bronze composition and was a gift of The St. Stanislaus Kostka Society, a men's organ-

¹ St. Stanislaus Kostka Church, "Registrum Defunctorum."

ization of the church. Rev. Ferren was also one of the prominent donors toward the gift to the parish at the time of the purchase of the cemetery. The statue depicts the stark tragedy enacted at Mount Calvary.

The St. Stanislaus Kostka cemetery is an example of fine landscape engineering. The actual work of surveying the plots was undertaken by Henry C. Neff, an Adams engineer and T. H. Desmond of Northampton, a civil engineer, who specialized in cemetery measurements and lay-out. The upper half of the cemetery is the portion now in use and gradually as time takes its toll, the lower sections will be put to use. The cemetery contains 37 acres and is divided into fourteen sections. The sections contain various numbers of lots. Sections 1, 2, and 3 are already utilized while Sections 5 and 6 are now in use. A site for the chapel and vault has been selected directly in front of the main entrance to the cemetery. If ever a chapel is deemed necessary, it will be built on the space reserved for it.

Sections 1 and 2 contain ground for the interment of persons who died of violence or had not yet received the rites of the Roman Catholic Church. North of the cemetery is situated an area now devoted to parish picnics but it is believed that eventually this area will also be staked out and joined to the cemetery proper.

The property is now bounded on the north by the Wood farm, on the south by Vigeant's farm, on the east by the Hoellerich farm, and on the west by Orchard Street.

The Bowen's Corners Cemetery. The Bowen's Corners cemetery, a private burial ground, is situated fifty yards east of East Road opposite the

Temple Farm and recently occupied by the Schovinig family. The Carpenter family has five of its members interred here. Lewis, the father, died at the age of 66 in the year 1860. Lepha, the mother, died in 1852 at the age of 58. A daughter, Almira, who was only nine when she died in 1829, Nathaniel, 81, who died in 1820, and Edwin, 20, having died in 1850, are the other three. Perhaps the oldest person buried in this cemetery is Mehetable Potter, 101, who died in 1864. Simeon, 62, and Mary Potter, 64, died in 1815 and 1844, respectively.

John Lippeitt, 82, died in 1823 and Mary Lippeitt, his wife, age 78, died in 1820. Mowry Slocum died in 1826 at the age of 27.

One grave that is especially interesting is that of T. J. Randall. This grave is marked by a relatively new stone which bears the name "T. J. Randall" and the inscription "Co. K, 9th Vt. Inf." There are no dates nor is any age given. The inscription probably refers to the Revolution. Many men from this section enrolled in the Vermont Infantry and participated in the battle of Bennington against the British general, Burgoyne, and his harassed troops.

Jeremiah Bucklin, 93, died in 1838. His grave bears the bronze marker of the Sons of the American Revolution, indicating that he served his country in that famous struggle for freedom against England. Hepzibah Bucklin also died in the year 1838 at the age of 60. There is also a broken stone bearing the name John Buckland.

It is interesting to note that ancestors of Mrs. Angie Holmes, a well-known former teacher in Adams, are buried in this cemetery.

Two of the epitaphs found in this old grave-yard are given below.

It is interesting to note the contrast between their lengthy floweryness and the terse inscriptions of today.

"He passed away like early dew,
Like morning clouds so fair to view
Or a fair flower that's scarcely blown
Ere it decays, he's fled, he's gone."

"Lov'd one farewell, the aching heart
The chance the mourner may remove
With thy dear image ne're we'll part
Or cease thy merits to approve."

Glen Street Cemetery. The Glen Street cemetery lies on the brow of the hill just north of Glen Street and directly above the concrete structure known as the L. L. Brown Paper Company's water-house. This cemetery was used whenever the dreaded "white plague" visited the town. People falling victim to the disease were buried in this then isolated spot as a preventive measure against the spread of the disease.

This private cemetery contains 20 graves which have markers and 15 which are now unmarked. Fifteen of the stone markers can be read. The earliest date recorded in this cemetery is 1807. Dennison Robinson, age 27 died at that time. The other members of this family buried here are Dennison Robinson, Esquire, who died in 1827 at the age of 32; Daniel Robinson, 30, who died in 1827; and Lydia Jencks, formerly Lydia Robinson, date unknown. Daniel Robinson was an attorney-at-law. Rhoda Canford, 57, and Oliver Canford, 20, died in 1808 and 1811 respectively. Sarah, 30, and Majson Temple, 3, died in 1843 and 1838 respectively. The Field family is represented by three members; Arthur K., 34, who died in 1816; Nehemiah, 59, who died in 1852; and Anna, 29, who died in 1814. Doctor Ambrose Brown, 30, died in 1837 and Ambrose Brown died in 1830. Lydia Ann Howland

died in 1822, and Philena Wells, 26, died in 1835.

Several graves had been dug up and the remains, consisting of scattered bones and a skull or two, were brought to light. This cemetery is over-run with briars and the ground is considerably trampled due to children playing about the spot.

The West Road Cemetery. The West Road cemetery is a private burial ground located on the West Road, about a quarter of a mile south of what is known as the Carpenter Farm, and almost duly opposite the pond known as Carpenter's ice pond. This burial ground is small, numbering less than ten graves. However, it has much local historic value. One of the old moss-covered stones bears the name of James Cole, who died in the year 1853 at the age of 87. Legend has it that he was a dyed-in-the-wool Quaker, stern and strict. Acquaintances spoke of him as "Old King Cole" (behind his back). The small mountain immediately opposite the grave-yard is known as Cole's Mountain and was named for this old Quaker.

Next to James Cole's marker is that of Experience, his wife, who died in 1826 at the age of 54, and who was outlived by her husband twenty-seven years. There are also the graves of Daniel and Lavina Cole, both 21 years of age when they died, the former in 1820 and the latter in 1835. Whether they were the children of James and Experience Cole could not be ascertained. The markers of these four graves are old, moss-covered, and weather-beaten. There are two unmarked graves also.

At the east side of the plot stands a relatively new marker. This was erected in 1918 by the descendants of Judith Hicks Anthony and David Anthony. These two were among the earliest settlers of this part of Adams

and were devout Quakers, especially the former. Among their many places of residence were Plainfield, New York, Dartmouth, Stockbridge, and Adams, Massachusetts. It is quite probable that these two are relatives of Susan B. Anthony, famous as a women's suffrage champion. The members of the Anthony family now residing in Adams are descendants of these early pioneer Quakers.

This little cemetery, long in disuse, is over-grown with briars and brambles, thick grass and apple trees, and presents a decidedly forlorn appearance.

CHAPTER VII

EDUCATION

The town of Adams is fortunate in the quality of its educational system, both public and parochial. With a population slightly under 13,000 inhabitants, the community now boasts of one public high school, one junior high school, five public and two parochial elementary schools. Three public elementary schools, the Maple Grove, East Renfrew, and Bowen's Corners, have been recently discontinued and the pupils from each of those three districts have affiliated with other nearby schools. The 1943 enrollment at each of the schools was as follows: Adams High School, 380; C. T. Plunkett Junior High School, 458; Liberty Street School, 204; Commercial Street School, 183; Hoosac Street School, 176; Renfrew School, 151; Howland Avenue School, 76; Notre Dame Parochial School, 244; and the St. Stanislaus Parochial School, 293. The total enrollment for all schools was 2201 pupils. The total expenditure for the support of public education in the town amounted to \$162,760.38¹ in 1943.

Public School Education

The earliest record of the action of the town of Adams to raise money for the support of schools is that of a meeting held December 31, 1782, where it was "Voted to Raise the Sum of 3 pds. for Support of a Grammar School for the year Ensuing." Appropriations continued to be made, and an idea of the ways of paying the tax levied may be gained from the quaint wording of the vote of April 4, 1791, taken from the town

¹ Adams Town Report, 1943.

clerk's records: "Voted that the Sum of One Hundred pounds be Raised in this Town for the Support of free Schools and that the Money be Collected and paid in the Articles following, (Viz.) Wheat at 4/6, Rye at 3/ and Indian Corn at 2/6 per bushel, Beef, Pork and Neat Cattle in the Same Proportion."¹

At the town meeting of May 3, 1790, it was "Voted that the Select Men and Committee Appointed in 1789 Immediately Divide the Town into School Districts." It was not until twelve years later, however, in 1802, on May 3, that the town "Voted to Accept the Divisions of School Districts agreeable to a Roll Presented by the Select Men for that Purpose." There seems to be neither record nor tradition regarding the number or location of these first school districts. It is not for nearly fifty years that the town records give any clue to the various districts or the location of the early school houses. It is probable that for a long period most of the schools were kept in private homes and were more "subscription" than public in their nature. Previous to 1803, there was a school house at the northwest corner of Orchard and East streets, and it seems fair to believe this the first district school building in Adams, certainly in the village. Older residents have spoken of school buildings in existence in the extreme southeastern portion of the town before the first Bowen district school house was built, located southeast and farther up on the hill, and of another in the Notch section on the Tinney farm.

Of the early Quaker schools we have trustworthy records. They were unquestionably the first schools established in town and for some years the only schools. As early as the "4th mo. 1782" the Quaker school

¹ Adams Town Records, 1791.

committee reports, "We have erected one school in East Hoosick," without doubt the first school in Adams. As a result of urgent appeals from the quarterly meeting at Nine Partners, N.Y., that "Much Attention for the Promotion of Schools be Given, that there Might be Virtuous Instruction for our Youth," in June, 1791, the School Committee reported and the Meeting voted to build a building 16 x 21, to cost 30 pds. and to be located near the Meeting House. By similar action in July, 1792, a committee was authorized to build a house on land between the Caleb Braley and Robert Nesbit places on the "east side of the river," to cost 24 pds. This lot was on the East Road, a few rods south of Hodge's Crossing. Actual deeds of Aug. 2, 1797, conveying these two parcels of land to the Society of Friends, the one near the Meeting House, and now a part of the farm of Archie Anthony, and the other on the East Road, make it reasonable to assume that by this time, if not for some years previous, these two schools were in existence. The one east of the river was ordered sold in July, 1813, while the one near the West Road was continued in session, more or less regularly, for some years.¹

There were a number of private schools at this period. Family tradition relates that Humphrey Anthony had a school in his front yard for his own children and for such of his neighbor's children "on tuition" as desired to attend. This was at the Anthony Homestead, just north of the intersection of the East Road and East Hoosac street, burned in 1906. Some years later, in the fall of 1825, Daniel Anthony, Humphrey's son, was instrumental in having an Academy built in Adams village. This was a small two story brick building, erected by the subscriptions of prominent

¹ Quaker Records, Adams, Massachusetts.

individuals of the vicinity, and located on land deeded for the purpose by David Anthony, Jr., father of the late George B. Anthony. This piece of land was conveyed by Mr. Anthony to some twenty or more grantees, July 25, 1825, for the sum of \$50.00. The Academy, which enjoyed quite a reputation, was originally known as "Parsons Academy," kept by a man of that name, assisted by his wife, who taught the younger children.

Returning to the action of the town in 1802, when it voted to accept the divisions of the school districts as presented by the selectmen, we note that here begins a peculiar plan of divided authority, which for over sixty years, until the final abolishment of the district school system by vote of the town, October 9, 1866, seemed to have been "ingeniously devised to produce clashing, misunderstanding, and discord." The records of the town meetings are full of measures passed and successively repealed and then passed again, all dealing with this question of whether the town or the districts should have charge of the schools.

The methods of raising and dividing the moneys expended for schools varied from time to time. In 1791, the amount of 100 pounds was apportioned according to the number of children in each district. Forty years later the sum raised was \$130. and divided according to the valuation of each district. In 1838, the town voted to raise as many dollars as there were scholars in town between the ages of 4 and 16, while in 1865 it was \$4.00 for every child between the ages of 5 and 15, and the amount raised was divided one-half equally among the districts and one-half based on the number of children in each district.

The report for the school year 1855-56 showed there were twenty

districts, seven in the South Village and thirteen in the North. There were 28 public schools in these twenty districts, 18 unincorporated academies and private schools. The district schools were maintained about six months in the year, three in the winter and three in the summer, and the education here received was in many cases supplemented by attendance at the various private schools which were in session a much larger part of the year. Among these were the private schools on Park Street kept by Miss Ann Barker and Mrs. F. O. Sayles. The School Committee report of 1855-56, written by the chairman of the Committee, John W. P. Buck, Jr., is unique, containing, as it does, a frank criticism of the shortcomings of each of the teachers employed in all the schools of that year. A few of the teachers were favorably commented on, but most of them and the buildings, too, receive none too gentle handling by a committee-man who evidently believed "the best are none too good."¹

From the time when printed school reports were first available in 1852, it is possible to know more definitely about the district limits and school locations. The town clerk's record of a meeting, October 17, 1857, indicates the accepted limits of the various districts throughout the town, six of them south of the so-called "Old Military Line," the present boundary between Adams and North Adams. These schools and the number of children between 5 and 15 years of age in each district were as follows: Middle 22, South Village North 126, South Village East 73, Bowen 25, Fisk 31, and Maple Grove 101, total 378.

The "Middle" school, located on Columbia Street, where the cooper shop of the New England Lime Company now stands, was afterwards called

¹ Adams Town Report, 1856.

the "Follett" school and used as a school building till the spring of 1874, when its pupils were transferred to the new "Gingham" school at Renfrew. There were in 1855 two schools in this northern portion of the South Village, the "Howland" district and the "Ross" district, but these within a year or two thereafter were merged into the "Follett" school.

The "South Village North School" was the "Academy" of 1825, which by deed of January 26, 1854, for the sum of \$400.00, passed into the hands of the "Inhabitants, South Village, North School District," from the owners of that date, H. N. Dean and two others, to whom the property had been previously conveyed by the subscribers to the original Academy erection. This building, after becoming a two-room district school, was commonly called "The Old Brick School House." Until the opening of the new South Adams Academy on Liberty Street, in January, 1859, this continued to be a school building. From this time until 1862 it was used in part as a lockup, in which year it was torn down that the lot with additions to it might become the location of the present Town Hall, built at a cost to the town of about \$38,000.00.

The "South Village East School," referred to in later years as "The White School House", and located where the present dwelling house stands at the northwest corner of East and Orchard Streets, dates back to at least 1802. On February 16, 1803, for the sum of \$10.00 this corner lot of land, upon which at the time was a school house, was deeded by Oziel Sayles to the "Inhabitants of 2nd School District of Adams." Within the memory of those now living, there stood upon this land a one

story district school house, which, having been destroyed by fire, was replaced about 1849 by a two story white school house and occupied as such until 1869.

Up to 1842 the South Village North and East School districts were one district. On May 21st of that year the town voted to "divide the South Village School District" into two districts according to specified boundaries.

For many years previous to 1866, there was a school building in the "Bowen" district, located just across the road from the present structure. In that year it was replaced by another building still in use, built upon land owned by Elisha Burlingame, the use of which was given to the town free of rent so long as a school was maintained upon it. This school enjoys the distinction of being the only district school in Adams during the past 26 years.

The "Fisk" school, originally of brick, but replaced with a wooden structure in 1852, has always been located at the juncture of the Fisk and West roads. It was used until March, 1878, then shut up for a year or so, to be reopened for parts of two years, and finally closed in the spring of 1882.

The school at Maple Grove was one of the most largely attended schools in town as far back as 1855. It was situated on the east side of Grove Street, on the hill just before one reaches the present overhead railroad crossing. A school building of two rooms for many years, it was repaired at considerable expense in 1868 and occupied for school purposes until the new and more modern Maple Grove brick school building was built

and opened for use, January 27, 1891.

One other of the old district schools remains to be spoken of-- the "Richmond" school. It no doubt existed previously, but the first reference to it which I find is in the report of 1865. There have been two buildings, the first at the corner of the East Road and the road leading to the McGrath farm, the later one on the west side of the East Road, which afterwards was remodelled into a dwelling house and is now occupied by Migael Varno. This school house was closed in January 1893, and from that time the younger pupils from this section went to the Zylonite school on Howland Avenue, the older ones to the Renfrew School.

The selectmen in February, 1864, printed an extended report on school matters, with special arguments in favor of a graded system of schools. Following the recommendation therein contained, at the March meeting that year the town voted to abolish the school districts, appointing a committee "to ascertain the school houses necessary to be built, their location and expense, for the purpose of carrying the graded school system into effect." The committee made certain recommendations as to sites and buildings, so that in March, 1865, the town voted "to build two large, commodious schools, one at each end of the town, to repair those already built where new ones are not necessary, and to build new ones where they are needed." For these purposes a "School House Building Committee" consisting of the following gentlemen was chosen:- Wm. Martin, D. J. Dean, J. B. Jackson, R. H. Wells, A. W. Richardson, A. P. Butler, Peter Blackington, W. C. Plunkett, Harvey Arnold, Daniel Jenks, and L. L. Brown.¹

¹ Adams Town Report, 1864.

The transfer of ownership of the various school properties in town from the districts to the town actually took place in the winter of 1867-1868. In October, 1866, the assessors were directed to appraise the property of the several districts. This appraisal of the South Adams districts, accepted at the town meeting October 22, 1867, was as follows:

South Village North, building and lot	\$ 750
South Village East, building and lot	750
Maple Grove, building	400
Fisk, building	250
Bowen, building	250
Richmond, building	225
Middle (Follett), building	75

At this meeting the necessary tax was levied to pay for the properties thus acquired, and at the April town meeting, 1868, it was voted that "all school houses in Adams be sold by the selectmen except such as the School Committee and Selectmen shall think it advisable to keep and maintain for schools and other purposes." Thus ends an interesting story of divided school ownership and authority, really dating back to January 13, 1789, when the town voted that "the Select Men Divide this Town into Proper Districts for Schools."

The first record of any effort to establish a high school in Adams appears in an article in the warrant for a town meeting, September 30, 1850, "to see whether the town will establish one or more free high schools in said town of Adams."¹ The town by vote referred the matter to a special committee of which Dr. N. T. Babbitt was chairman, which committee reported their recommendation to establish a high school at both the North and South villages, each to be kept 26 weeks each year, in suitable places rented for the purpose. This report the town embodied in a vote, by which in the

¹ Adams Town Report, 1850.

winter of 1850-51 two schools were opened.

The South Adams High School was established in the vestry of the Congregational Church, then located where the Mausert Block now is, with B. F. Phillips as teacher in charge. Successive teachers from 1851 to the opening of the South Adams Academy in the new building in January, 1869, were: John Dowd, G. B. Manley, J. J. Colton, E. T. Hunt, B. W. Cole, A. G. Potter, M. D. Cole, J. D. Hyde, E. T. Hunt, J. C. Lockwood, R. B. Bacon, John Southwick, E. T. Hunt, A. W. Wells, and W. W. Spaulding. From the Congregational vestry the High school moved to the vestry of the Baptist Church, then to the hall over the store of D. J. Dean & Co., (now the store of Groves & Company on Center Street), then to the vestry of the Methodist Church (now St. Jean Baptiste Hall on Commercial Street), and from the latter place to the new Academy building.

This building, referred to in Supt. W. W. Spaulding's report of April 1, 1872, as "one of the finest edifices in the Commonwealth," was called at that time the "South Adams Academy." At first, seven rooms were opened, six for the graded schools and one for the high school. W. W. Spaulding was principal of the High school with supervision of the grade rooms. The first term, the winter of 1869, the High school enrolled 30 pupils, the grades 248, while at the Maple Grove and four district schools 194 pupils attended. Increasing demands of the grades necessitated opening additional rooms, until at last the High school occupied the hall on the south half of the third floor. A continually growing enrollment made evident the fact that ere long the High school must needs have a building of its own. Adjoining land was purchased in 1890 and

between May, 1890 and February, 1891, was erected the first school building in Adams designed purely for high school purposes. The lot, building, and furnishings cost somewhat over \$15,000. On February 6, 1891, the High School students from the adjacent Academy building were transferred, together with the ninth grade pupils from this and the Renfrew buildings, who became the preparatory department of the Adams High School.¹

For fifteen years, until September, 1906, this arrangement of combining the preparatory department with the High School was continued in force, when the increasing attendance of regular high school students made necessary the use of the room previously given up to the ninth grade work and the return of these classes to the Liberty Street and Renfrew schools. But this solved the problem only briefly, and in March, 1909, the town voted an appropriation to remodel the High school building and greatly enlarge it. The reconstruction began in June, 1909, was sufficiently along by October to permit of the temporary use of the remodelled portion, and the building was finished for complete occupancy in February, 1910. The cost of this last High school building, including land, was over \$56,000.

For several years previous to this, the heating, ventilating, and sanitary arrangements of both the Liberty Street and High School buildings had been unsatisfactory. As a result, the town authorized the construction of a boiler house between the two buildings in 1908, to furnish heat and ventilation for both, with a view as well to taking care of heating and ventilating the new High School building which was then already planned. At the same time new sanitary systems were installed in these buildings.

¹ Adams Town Report, 1891.

After the building of the South Adams Academy in 1868-69, there followed in succession, as the increasing population in different portions of the town demanded, the building of the original Renfrew School of four rooms at the "Gingham" in 1873-74, and the second and third story addition in 1880-81; the Commercial Street School in 1882-83; the Hoosac Street School in 1887-88; the Maple Grove and the High schools in 1890-91; the East Renfrew School in 1896-97; the new High School addition in 1909-10; the Howland Avenue School in 1910-11; and the C. T. Plunkett Junior High School in 1922-24. The Howland Avenue School was opened after school quarters in the Zylonite section of the town had been given up for two years. During the interval, the Zylonite children were transported to the Commercial Street School. In 1885, the first Zylonite school began its sessions in rooms of a building owned by Dennis Haskins, and in 1893, the school was transferred to the two stores of the Barrett Block on Howland Avenue, remaining there until July, 1909.¹

During the half century, from January, 1869 to January, 1919, the schools of Adams have been in charge of 26 different school committeemen. The original committee was composed of Jarvis Rockwell, A. H. Crandall, and A. G. Potter. With the exception of the years 1872-78 inclusive, when the committee numbered six members, the membership of the Adams school committee has been three members up to 1936. From that date, the membership of the committee was increased to seven and has continued with that number since.

The successive principals of the Adams High School have been W. W. Spaulding, January to June, 1869; Charles W. Burton, June, 1869 to April,

¹ Adams Town Report, 1918, p. 125.

1871; W. W. Spaulding, April, 1871 to June, 1875; and Arthur G. Lewis, June, 1875 to January, 1878. Up to this time, each of these men combined the duties of principal of the High School and superintendent of the graded schools of the town. With the election of Walter P. Beckwith to succeed Arthur G. Lewis on January 28, 1878, the town of Adams divided this dual responsibility of school management. Mr. Beckwith thus became the first superintendent of schools to give his entire time to the duties of the position. His successful administration extended over a period of 18 years to August 1, 1896, when he was succeeded by John C. Gray. Mr. Gray served as superintendent of schools until August, 1901, when he moved to Chicopee, Massachusetts. Francis A. Bagnall succeeded him immediately and served until August 1, 1924, when he assumed the presidency of the Hyannis State Teachers College and Ralph S. Smith replaced him. Mr. Smith served until his death on July 5, 1932. Henry L. Cecil was appointed to the superintendency in August, 1932 and served until the summer of 1935, when he was replaced by James G. Reardan. Mr. Reardan was appointed Massachusetts State Commissioner of Education by Gov. James Curley in December, 1935, and his successor to the superintendency of the Adams schools was J. Franklin Farrell of Lee, who was appointed on January 2, 1936 and serves in that capacity to this date.

When Arthur G. Lewis relinquished the principalship of the Adams High School in January, 1878, he was succeeded by Eugene Bucklin Bowen of Cheshire who served until 1880. The principals in order since that time have been as follows: William T. Dutton to February, 1882; Edmund W. Wright to June, 1884; William H. Winslow to February, 1888; Charles

H. Howe to June, 1895; John C. Hull to June, 1902; Charles A. Adams to June, 1907; Howard G. Dibble to June, 1911; Herman B. Betts to June, 1918; William J. Nutter to June, 1920; A. O. Christensen to January, 1921; Ralph S. Smith to June, 1924; Carlton D. Howe to June, 1933; Philip S. Sayles to June, 1936; and Edward W. Martin from June, 1936 to the present time.

The first graduates of the Adams High School, Mary L. Dean and Mary L. Sayles, received diplomas in April, 1871. Succeeding classes were graduated in the same month until the class of 1877, numbering eight members, which was the first to have its graduation in June. Up to 1918, there were 712 pupils who had received diplomas from the high school. Since that time, the graduating classes have been progressively larger until today, each graduating class in June numbers well over 100 pupils.

Notre Dame Parochial School

Under the preparatory planning of Rev. John B. Charbonneau and the execution of these plans by the Rev. L. O. Triganne, the Notre Dame parochial school became a reality in August, 1899. The school opened for its first session in September, 1899, with an enrollment of 380 pupils. The direction of the school was placed in the hands of the Sisters of the Holy Cross who had arrived in Adams from St. Lawrence Convent in Montreal on August 23, 1899. Sister Mary of Saint Christina was the first superior and she was assisted by five other Sisters.

The first graduation exercises of the school were held on June 25, 1901, with the following seven graduates receiving diplomas: Regina Desilets, Della Giroux, Wilfred LaFortune, Georgiana Lord, Emile Pheulpin, Grace Rousseau, and Cecile Verronneau. The exercises were held on the

upper of the two floors of the school in a large room used as an assembly hall for school affairs only.

A fire of undetermined origin destroyed the school on August 16, 1916, but it was soon rebuilt. During the period of reconstruction, Superintendent Francis A. Bagnall of the Adams public school system, permitted the use of two classrooms at the Commercial Street School to accommodate Notre Dame's 5th and 6th grades, and two classrooms at the Hoosac Street School to take care of the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grades.¹ Instruction of 1st grade pupils was omitted until the Notre Dame parochial school was rebuilt. When the new school was reopened in September, 1917, provision had been made for eight grades instead of the customary six. In 1931, the Rev. Joseph T. Smith had four modern classrooms and a well appointed auditorium added to the building. The new auditorium, equipped with moveable seats, has a seating capacity of slightly over 500. In view of its extensive use by various parish organizations, Father Smith's foresight in this regard has been particularly noteworthy.

The Notre Dame parochial school has registered annually approximately 300 pupils in recent years. Since 1899, no less than 1000 pupils have graduated from this institution, many of whom have become outstanding citizens in the community and loyal supporters of the parish and its splendid school. All pupils carry on their courses in two languages, French and English, and the core curriculum consists of the following subjects: religion, English, spelling, arithmetic, history, civics, geography, science, health, art, penmanship, and French.²

During the school year 1944-1945, there were 271 pupils enrolled and

¹ Adams Town Report, 1917, p. 102.

² Smith, Rev. Joseph T. Letter, March 9, 1945.

members of the teaching staff, Sisters of the Holy Cross whose Provincial House is located at Manchester, New Hampshire, were: Sister Mary of St. Edward Martyr, mother-superior of Notre Dame convent and principal of Notre Dame school; Sister Mary of St. Raymond, 8th grade; Sister Mary of St. Beatrice, 7th grade; Sister Mary of St. Gerald-Albert and Sister Mary of St. Rosalie, 6th grade; Sister Mary of St. Cyrilla and Sister Mary of St. Nerius, 5th grade; Sister Mary of St. Luc, 4th grade; Sister Mary of St. Denis of France, 3rd Grade; Sister Mary of St. Didier, 2nd grade; Sister Mary of St. Joseph of Grosvenordale, Ct., 1st grade; and Sister Mary of St. Jerome, sub-primary.¹

St. Stanislaus Kostka School

The first meeting of the corporation which proposed the establishment of the St. Stanislaus Kostka parochial school was held at the office of Atty. Edwin K. McPeck on October 12, 1912. The members comprising the corporation were: Rev. Francis Kolodziej, pastor of the St. Stanislaus Kostka church; Rev. Andrew Krzywda, curate; Frank Szetela, secretary; Andrew Pociask, Anthony Sitnik, Rev. Thomas Deavy, and the Rev. J. T. Madden. A decision to erect a school was immediately reached and construction of the building began without delay. Father Kolodziej had obtained the services of four Felician Sisters from Buffalo, New York, and classes were soon started in the basement of the St. Stanislaus church. Instruction continued in this place until December, 1912, at which time the new school was completed. During their stay in Adams throughout this early period, the Sisters occupied premises over Frank Szetela's shoe

¹ North Adams Transcript, August 25, 1944.

store at 83 Summer Street as their first convent. Upon the completion of the new school, the Sisters took over the top floor of the school for their living quarters.

With the opening of the newly constructed St. Stanislaus school on January 2, 1913, approximately 400 pupils were enrolled. So great was the enthusiasm of parents to have their children taught in the parish school that the unprecedented number of pupils enrolled the first week found the teaching staff inadequate. Three classes remained without instructors. The church organist took over one class temporarily while Father Kolodziej succeeded in obtaining the services of three more Sisters, who arrived two weeks later and thus completed the teaching staff of the school. The 8th grade was instituted in 1918. Due to increased annual enrollments, Father Kolodziej was forced to increase the total number of Sisters to ten at one time as the enrollment had reached 645 pupils. Today, however, with more and more of the parish children attending classes at the public elementary schools, we find the 1943 enrollment at only 293 pupils.¹

A normal daily program of instruction in the 8th grade of this school is as follows: Prayer, roll call, religion, mental arithmetic, recess and physical exercises, grammar, reading selections from literature, geography, spelling, penmanship, music, civics, United States history, oral reproduction, etiquette, composition, letter writing, physiology and hygiene, drawing, Polish history, nature study and general science.

The St. Stanislaus school is a three-story brick structure, 50 x 99 feet, and is located on Summer Street, directly behind the St. Stanislaus

¹ Adams Town Report, 1943, p. 17.

Kostka church. Tapestry brick and terra cotta trimmings constitute the building material for the front of the building while red brick is used on the sides and rear. On the first, as on the other two floors, is a long hall extending from east to west throughout the building. Two classrooms are to be found on each side of the hall sufficiently large to seat 40 to 50 pupils. The classrooms are provided with slate blackboards on two sides. At both ends of the hall may be found stairways and supply rooms and spacious wardrobes. Modern drinking fountains are conveniently placed in the halls. The second floor is similar to the first. The third floor serves as the home of the Felician Sisters. On the right of the hall are located a modern pantry and kitchen, a dining room, community room, and bath rooms. An altar and chapel are located in the community room. Eight sleeping rooms are found on the left side of the hall. A large inclosed piazza is located to the rear of this floor. The school was erected at a cost of approximately \$60,000. P. J. Mahoney & Company of Westfield, Massachusetts, were the contractors and John W. Donahue of Springfield, architect.¹

In 1940, further expansion of the St. Stanislaus church property took place when the adjoining George H. Bowe property on Hoosac Street was purchased. Through the acquisition of this property, the now limited school yard facilities will be expanded and a general beautification of the church property made.²

¹ North Adams Transcript, December 30, 1912.

² North Adams Transcript, November 8, 1940.

Adams Free Library

As early as 1805, the residents of Adams recognized the need for adequate reading resources and, as a result, the South Adams Library Association was organized. The Association began with 130 volumes at its command, purchased at a cost of \$150. The Association experienced for some time alternate years of success and ill-fortune, and after several reorganizations, became a permanent society upon a sound financial basis, and by 1880, had a collection of over 1500 volumes.¹

In 1883, the Association presented its collection of books to the town on condition that the town care for and maintain the books as a free library. At the annual town meeting that year, the voters accepted the gift of books from the Association, appropriated \$300. with which to purchase new books, and voted that the Association should choose the first board of library trustees, who were as follows: W. P. Beckwith, chairman; E. E. Merchant, C. F. Sayles, C. W. Burton, W. B. Green, and Dr. William F. Davis. The library occupying a room in the town hall, was first opened to the public on September 6, 1883, being open Tuesdays until 9 o'clock in the evening and from 6 to 9 o'clock in the evening on Thursdays. Dr. William F. Davis was appointed the first librarian. The monthly circulation of books during 1883 exceeded 2,000 volumes. The number of borrowers' cards issued the first year totalled 1,026 of which 119 were surrendered, leaving a total of 907 in force.²

In 1888, the trustees, realizing the need for a separate library building, began plans for raising funds for the project. A fair was held

1 Adams Directory, 1880, p. 8.

2 Adams Town Report, 1884.

in 1889 which netted \$1,411.72. In May, 1890, the library was moved to the M. C. Richmond Block on Center Street. In November, 1895, the trustees leased a room in the Daniels Block on Park Street and moved the library there. For the first time in its history, the library was now kept open on an all-year round basis.

During the fall of 1893, the ladies of the Women's Relief Corps, connected with the George E. Sayles Post of the Grand Army of the Republic, conceived the idea of erecting a building in Adams which would serve as a memorial hall in memory of those who had served in the Civil War, and at the same time, be suitable for a library. After considerable discussion, the library trustees accepted the suggestion which in turn was approved by the Post and its various auxiliary organizations. The trustees stipulated that the memorial hall and library be kept separate, with distinct entrances, the floors deadened, and that the portion allotted to the Grand Army veterans should revert to the use of the library as a historical museum, without impairment of its memorial character in case that organization should become extinct. They also emphasized that such a building should be the finest in town, that portions of the structure be composed of materials produced in this vicinity, that its design should impress the casual observer with the purpose which this community intends it to serve, and that the location should be such as would commend itself to the approval of disinterested observers. In August, 1897, the town voted to borrow \$40,000. for this purpose, and a committee was instructed to purchase a lot and erect a building thereon according to the approved plans. The corner stone for this new Memorial Library, was laid at the

corner of Melrose and Park Streets on September 25, 1897, with President of the United States William McKinley laying the cornerstone and making an eloquent speech. Other speakers were Chaplain E. W. Streeter, Commander F. E. Mole, Dr. C. W. Burton, and Frank W. Spaulding. The following articles were placed in the box under the cornerstone: a history of the Adams Library; a program of the day's proceedings; a sample of goods manufactured by the Berkshire Cotton Company; pictures of public buildings; a town report for 1897; by-laws of Adams; an old coin, 1823; bullets presented by the commonwealth to Berkshire County for defense in the war of 1812; a picture of Corporal Charles Barker, killed at Spottsylvania; a catalogue of the library; Adams directories for 1880 and 1896; a copy of the rules and regulations of the Grand Army; a Grand Army badge and button; a roster of Sayles Post, 1897; rules and regulations of the Woman's Relief Corps; a badge of the Woman's Relief Corps; rules and regulations of the Sons of Veterans; a badge of the Sons of Veterans; a badge of the associate members of the Sayles Post; a cartridge and bullet sent home from the war by Captain Sayles, after whom the post was named; an Indian arrowhead; a copy of the North Adams Transcript, September 22, 1897; a copy of the Adams Freeman dated Saturday, September 25; a Columbian half dollar, 1893; and the Grand Army record.¹ The new Library was opened to the public January 2, 1899, with 8,393 books. It had a circulation of 23,000 that year. Miss Lucy Richmond was librarian at the time, and to her is owed the fine and solid foundation of the present institution. The trustees at that time were Dr. C. W. Burton, chairman, Henry L. Harrington, Charles T. Plunkett, C. G. Sayles, Dr. E. E. Thayer, and John C. Hull.

¹ Adams Town Report, 1897.

In 1910, Columbus N. Miller left to the town of Adams his entire estate, one-half of which was to be used for the erection of an addition to the new library building, provided the town would erect a building to cost not less than \$10,000., while the other half of his estate was to be used for the purpose of buying books and works of art, these purchases to be made only from the income of this second half of the estate. The town of Adams accepted the gift, and on April 13, 1914, the Miller Annex was opened to the public. It contained a well equipped reading room and numerous shelves for magazines and reference volumes. The auditorium below was to be used for lectures and meetings that had a relationship with the library and other similar community interests of the town.

Up to this date, the library was administered by the librarian and one assistant. With the opening of the Miller Annex, a children's department was installed, and a children's librarian was added to the staff. Miss Richmond resigned at this time and Miss Elveretta S. Blake was named librarian. In 1919, Miss Mable Moore replaced Miss Blake as librarian. Various assistants up to this time were Miss Lizzie Purchase, Mrs. Ellen J. Bucklin, Miss Edith Marsh, Eleanor Cole, Blanche Burdick and Mrs. Florence Whalen.

The growth of the library has been remarkable. Beginning with a collection of approximately 1,800 volumes, the total number of books in the library now is over 50,000 volumes. The circulation in 1899, the year of the opening, was 23,745, with a collection of 8,393 books. In 1932, the circulation reached the 141,000 mark with a collection of 41,000 books. The staff had increased to four assistants, and with six to nine

high school clerical assistants. School work started in 1914 with small sets travelling to outlying districts, and continued by Miss Moore in 1917 with instruction being given to children in library methods and development of story telling. Under Mrs. Elizabeth Hardman Furst, librarian from 1922-1930, the program was still more widely developed to embrace library lessons in every school in town on a definite yearly schedule. The work had so increased that every grade in each school had a class room library; weekly branches were established for residents of the Renfrew and Zylonite sections, and at the Hoosac Street school for Americanization classes; the Junior High School Library was formed with the school department furnishing books, materials, and assistants. A new system of charging was established to facilitate handling of increased circulation and crowds, and the library was kept open from 9 A. M. to 9 P. M. six days each week. With the approach of the 1929 depression, it soon became hopelessly impossible to keep all the branches open. The school work, library lessons, and apprentice classes were abandoned.

In 1900, the Massachusetts and Western Massachusetts Library Clubs held a joint meeting at the Adams Free Library. Teachers and the general public were invited. Speakers were present from several large Massachusetts centers and from Rhode Island. The theme of the meeting was the relation of libraries to school children, branch stations, and Inter-Library loans. In 1912, the Berkshire Library Club held its meeting here, and in 1933, the Western Massachusetts Library Club met in Adams.

In 1900, the first foreign books were circulated. At the present time, the library has a large collection of books in different languages.

The Adams Free Library has been the recipient of many gifts, the more important of which are the following: The Lyman Crawford Book Fund, established in 1896 through a \$700. donation by Lyman Crawford; the Miller Book Fund established in 1910 through a gift of one-half of the estate of Columbus N. Miller; the C. T. Plunkett Book Fund established in 1927 through the gift of \$25,000. by Charles T. Plunkett, member of the library's board of trustees since 1893 and for 30 years its treasurer; and the Frank H. Saunders Fund established in 1930 through the gift of \$4,750. by Frank H. Saunders, an interested patron of the library. Although the town annually appropriates a sum of money for the purchase of books, the income from the above funds has served as the basis for book purchases since 1910.

The library contains many treasures and rare books of American history. Its genealogical collection is particularly outstanding and came to the library as gifts. The most famous of these is the complete set of the "New England Historical and Genealogical Register;" the "Mayflower Descendants;" "First Records of the Town of Adams;" "Vital Records of Rhode Island;" "Index to American Genealogies;" "Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England;" "Genealogies of the Families and Descendants of Watertown;" and glass covered cases for them, presented by Mrs. Gersham Clarke in memory of Ransome Bowen Dean. "The Babbitt Genealogy," the "Genealogical History of New England Families," and the "Genealogical and Personal Memoirs of Berkshire County," were the gifts of William B. Browne. A collection of books on the Friends or Quakers, known as the "Quaker Memorial Library" was purchased from funds given by

the Friends' Descendants Society of Adams. Valuable papers and photos of Adams, 1891-1900; 200 masterpieces of painting; and the "Memoirs of the Judiciary and Bar of New England" were given by Mrs. Aaron J. Bond of Adams. A collection of Phillipine curios which she collected while teaching in the Phillipines was donated by Miss Mary J. Thomas, former instructor in Science at the Adams High School. The glass case containing these curios was the gift of her students.

Miss Irene M. Poirier was appointed librarian in March, 1930, to succeed Miss Eleanor H. Furst who had resigned to assume the librarianship at the North Adams public library. Miss Poirier continued as librarian of the Adams Free Library until June, 1938, when she resigned to become librarian of the Lenox Library Association in Lenox, Massachusetts. Miss Catherine St. John of Adams, who had been a member of the Adams library staff since 1934, was named to replace Miss Poirier on August 1, 1938, and has continued as librarian since that time. In addition to Miss St. John, the other members of the Adams Free Library staff are as follows: Mrs. Catherine S. Prince, assistant librarian; Miss Charlotte Walker, children's librarian; and Miss Lucille Welch, general clerk.¹

¹ North Adams Transcript, June 25, 1938.

CHAPTER VIII

MILITARY ACTIVITIES

Early Military History

The first attempt at providing organized military protection along the Western Massachusetts frontier dates back to the year 1745, when Captain William Williams with a detail from the Hampshire Regiment, now the 104th Infantry, Massachusetts National Guard, built Fort Massachusetts in the western part of what is now the city of North Adams. For twenty years this fort continued to be the base of the defenses in this region, and was garrisoned by detachments or drafts from the Hampshire Regiment. After 1748, this support was principally derived from the North Regiment. These garrisons seem to have had but little connection with the later Adams militia companies, but did have a direct connection with those which once existed in Williamstown. At the outbreak of the Revolution, the majority of the Minute Men from the English Hoosucs (Sloan's Company), came from Williamstown or West Hoosuc.

In the early spring of 1776, the settlers of East Hoosuck, now the town of Adams, organized their first militia company. This unit was part of Colonel Benjamin Simond's Second Berkshire Regiment and had as its officers Captain Philip Mason, First Lieutenant William White, and Second Lieutenant Ezra Whipple. A year later, 1777, Captain Enos Parker succeeded Mason as company commander, and under him the East Hoosuck company saw service at Ticonderoga from July 9 to 31; at Bennington from August 14 to 19; and at Saratoga from September 3 to 27, as part of the

Continental Army which finally subdued the British under Burgoyne.

Before the Hoosuck soldiers again experienced combat service, the district was divided into incorporated towns. Under this arrangement, East Hoosuck was incorporated as the Town of Adams in 1778, and at its first town meeting, March 8, 1779, it was voted to divide the militia company of the town. As a result of this vote, William White, who was a lieutenant in Parker's Company in 1777 and First Lieutenant of the Company, May 3, 1778, was elected Captain of the South Company which was numbered the 8th in the 2nd Berkshire Regiment, while Ezra Whipple took command of the newly organized North Company.¹ This latter company eventually became the forerunner of the present Company K, 104th Infantry, Massachusetts National Guard, of North Adams. From July 10 to October 22, 1780, the South Company of Adams under Captain William White, together with other men from Berkshire County, all under the command of Colonel John Brown of Pittsfield, were sent to the Mohawk Valley to quell raiding practices conducted by the Indians and British under Butler and Brandt. Colonel Brown's Berkshire contingent was ambushed at Stone Arabia, New York, where Colonel Brown and about forty of his men were killed. In 1781, the South Adams Company was detached from the Berkshire Militia to re-enforce the Continental Army at West Point, New York (August to December). This tour of duty may be considered the final one for the South Adams Company during the Revolution. As a result of active participation in Shay's Rebellion of 1786-1787, Captain White and Lieutenant Kilbourne of the South Adams Company were forced to resign their commissions. It should be noted that from its beginning, the South Company was

¹ Adjutant General's Department, State House, Boston, Mass.

an "enrolled" or "train band" unit of militia. During the Revolution, there was also in Adams a volunteer company called the "Silver Greys". This unit disbanded after the Revolution, however, and was never reorganized. Continuity of the present Company M could not be established through it.

The South Adams Company continued as a unit of the enrolled militia following the Revolution. It had several changes of designation and was assigned to various Berkshire County Regiments as the militia organization changed. In 1814, pursuant to the General Order of September 6, 1814, the Company, under command of Captain Joseph Howland, marched to Boston for the defense of that city against British raids. As part of Colonel S. K. Chamberlain's Regiment, the Company saw service on this tour of duty from September 10 to October 30, 1814. Following the War of 1812, the old system of enrolled militia which had been in force in Massachusetts since 1642, broke down. The annual musters soon became nothing more than a joke. The South Adams Company continued active, however, until 1834, when Captain Daniel Burlingame resigned and was discharged April 19, 1834. First Lieutenant Almond W. Mason, having moved out of town and, therefore, been long absent from his command, was removed and discharged on the same date. No successors were chosen and the Company remained dormant, without any specific order being published for its disbandment, until the General Order of April 24, 1840, which disbanded all the enrolled militia units and instituted the volunteer system, which, with some modifications, has continued to the present time.

On July 30, 1849, the South Adams Company was reorganized as a

Company of Light Infantry by Captain William C. Plunkett and was designated Company "F", 11th Regiment, Massachusetts Volunteer Militia. It continued under this designation until October 13, 1851, when it was again disbanded--Special Order No. 35--as being under strength. Through the efforts of Captain Plunkett and Francis W. Parker, the Company was reorganized and recruited for war service in the fall of 1862. Parker was commissioned captain on September 17, 1862, and on September 21, 1862, the unit was mustered into the service of the United States as Company "G", 49th Infantry, Massachusetts Volunteer Militia. The early part of 1863 found this regiment joining forces with General Banks in Louisiana. While held in garrison near Baton Rouge, during which period sickness worked such havoc in the ranks that when they were relieved to take part in the Port Hudson, Louisiana, Campaign of May, 1863, not over 450 of the original 1,000 were able to accompany the colors. Nevertheless, the 49th Regiment bore a gallant part in the Siege of Port Hudson, although it suffered severely in the assault which attempted to take the works by storm, occupying the most advanced position of any troops in the First Division, and losing more than one-third of their strength. All the field officers except Major Plunkett were wounded. He became regimental commander, without any increase in rank, and continued to lead these Massachusetts troops until their muster out of the service of the United States on September 1, 1863.¹

¹ Adjutant General's Department, State House, Boston, Mass.

Company M, 104th Infantry, Massachusetts National Guard

The present Adams Company was reconstituted by General Order No. 15, November 12, 1887, as Company M, 2nd Infantry, Massachusetts Volunteer Militia, and was mustered into State service on November 18, 1887, when the State decided to raise the regiments in the service having only eight companies, to the standard of twelve companies.¹ Since that date, the Company has had an almost continuous existence, the only short break coming at the close of the first World War. Colonel B. F. Bridges, then in command of the 2nd Regiment, conducted this muster and accepted 44 men for service. Immediately after the muster proceedings were over, an election of officers took place, and as a result, Reuben A. Whipple became Captain; Ezra N. Jones, First Lieutenant; and Frank W. Roberts, Second Lieutenant. Rooms for headquarters were procured in the Isaac Collins block on Center street, now the Greylock National Bank building, while the Town Hall was used as the Company's drill room. By January 16, 1888, the Company was completely organized. Requisition for arms and equipment was made and then followed an intensive program to have the Company in good shape for its first camp in early June, 1888. Directly after camp, the first rifle team was formed. At the annual State shoot, with 72 teams competing, the Company ranked thirteenth, and a year later, 1889, under the same conditions, the Company ranked seventh. In 1890, the order was changed so that each regiment conducted its own rifle competitions. Under the new arrangement, Company M was extremely successful, taking first place each year from 1890 to 1897. So widespread was the fame of the local unit with the rifle, that Company A, of the 6th (Wakefield) Regiment,

¹ Adjutant General's Department, State House, Boston, Mass.

challenged Company M to a series of three matches for the New England rifle championship. Only one match materialized, however, that taking place on November 7, 1891, with the teams scoring 295 points each, a record score at that time.¹

On July 1, 1890, the Company moved to quarters over the present First National Bank, in what was then known as the Hibernian hall. Drills during the winter season were conducted in this building instead of in the Town Hall, while summer drills were held outdoors in the area now known as Caron Square. Although these quarters were conveniently situated, they were apparently inadequate for maintaining a full strength company, for in May, 1894, the Adams Board of Selectmen received a letter from the Adjutant General informing them of this situation. Rather than forfeit \$5,000. to the State, Chairman E. N. Jones of the Board of Selectmen arranged for a public meeting of all those interested in Company M, to be held in the old Opera House on May 21, 1894, to discuss the matter of adequate quarters for the Company. Superintendent of Schools, W. P. Beckwith was chosen chairman of the meeting. After a lengthy discussion of the situation, a committee comprising Captain Ezra N. Jones, A. B. Mole, and William S. Jenks, was appointed to further plans for a new Armory.

Through the efforts of Captain Jones, who had succeeded the newly elected Major Whipple as commander of Company M on December 18, 1893, the need of a new Armory was extensively publicised after the May, 1894 meeting. As a result, three prominent Adams men, William S. Jenks, Charles E. Legate, and Arthur B. Daniels, erected on Park street in 1895,

¹ Adams Freeman, November 11, 1891.

the structure now known as the Daniels Block. It was the hope of the owners of the new building, that the quarters provided for Company M therein would always continue to be used for that purpose. Captain Ezra Jones, due to poor health, resigned from his command in April, 1895. Lieutenant Herbert O. Hicks then became company commander, when elevated to the rank of captain on June 25, 1895. The Company moved to its new quarters soon after, followed by appropriate dedicatory exercises of the new Armory on November 8, 1895. The first drill in the new Armory took place on November 26, 1895, on the Company's spacious drill floor, located where the Crescent Bowling Alleys are today. The officers' quarters and meeting rooms were located on the floor below where the New England Telephone Company now has its office and exchange.¹

Almost simultaneously with the development of the new Armory, a movement to establish an adequate Rifle Range was in progress. This venture also proved fruitful, for in the spring of 1896, work commenced on a range project on the Andrew Hall farm, now Emil C. Wiesner's, located 600 yards west of the Quaker Meeting House. The old Forest Park range, situated between the Fiske brook and the present eighth hole of the Country Club golf links and which had been used since the inception of rifle practice in the Company, was abandoned because of the imminent danger to people who were building homes in the Forest Park and Siggsville areas.

The range on the Hall farm was further expanded in 1901 to include two more targets, these being of the covered pit type and were in direct line with the range house and the other pit target, but were located on the Mrs. E. J. Tinney farm. This range was used yearly until 1923, when

¹ Adams Freeman, November 13, 1895.

the Company, having changed from a Rifle to a Machine Gun company, in one of its early practice sessions with the newly acquired arms, shot down a cow owned by John Wilk and wounded another, as the cows grazed too near the targets. As a special act of the State Legislature was necessary to compensate for the death of the Wilk cow, it was deemed best to establish the Company range elsewhere in the town to avoid further litigation. Without loss of time, an article was inserted in the Adams town meeting warrant of 1923 which provided for the purchase of the so-called McGrath farm, thereby providing a location for a suitable firing range. The article was well received by the voters, and as a result, \$2,800. was appropriated for the purchase of the McGrath farm from John and Mary Jajko, \$3,002.25 to T. J. Harvey for building the range, \$810. to A. E. Haff for a telephone line, \$186. to Henry C. Neff for engineering services, and \$1.75 to LeGrand's Taxi Service for auto hire, making a total cost of \$6,800. for the range.¹ The Machine Gun range was further extended and enlarged in 1927, when the town of Adams provided an appropriation of \$1,500. necessary to purchase a certain tract of adjoining land from Mary and Katherine McGrath. This range, located to the rear of the Adams Town Infirmary, is open for most of each year, and since its establishment in 1924, has been subject to ever-increasing use.

With the outbreak of the Spanish American War on April 25, 1898, the members of Company M began quietly to prepare themselves in event of a call to the war area, as it was thought by all that the 2nd Regiment would be the first to get the order to move to the front. This preparation was not in vain, for an order soon came for the Company to leave

¹ Adams Town Report, 1923.

Adams for the training camp at Framingham, Massachusetts, at 6:20 A. M., May 3, 1898. This movement was significant in that Company M was the first company in Massachusetts to leave its armory for the front. On May 10, 1898, the Company, with 77 men, was mustered into Federal service at South Framingham as Company M, 2nd Infantry (Mass.) United States Volunteers. Soon after, the Company departed for Newport, Rhode Island, and from there continued to New York City aboard the steamer Plymouth. At the Wall Street dock a transfer was made to the *Vigilancia* for Jersey City, entraining there on May 14th for Tampa, Florida. After arrival in Florida, Company M joined expeditionary forces there, first at Lakeland and then at Tampa Heights. On June 12, 1898, the Company left the United States for Cuba. After 10 days sailing on the crowded *Manteo*, a flat-bottomed river packet, which had done long service in Mexico but was never intended for the open sea, the troops landed at Bauquiri, Cuba, on June 22, 1898, and then marched on to Siboney. In less than one month, Company M saw combat service at Las Guasimas, El Caney, El Poso, and at the Siege of Santiago. While there was little fighting, aside from the hot action at El Caney and the attempted break through of the desperate Spaniards at El Poso Mill, there was plenty of marching along narrow jungle trails, plenty of trench digging under a terrifically hot Cuban sun and amid frequent rains, few rations and those of such poor quality that the canned meat allotted the troops became popularly known as "embalmed beef," and in general, a great lack of proper clothing, medical supplies, tentage, and such other things needful for the health and comfort of troops in a tropical land. Shortly after the surrender of the Spaniards at Santiago

on July 14, 1898, malaria struck the camp and laid the regiment low for a while. At one time Corporal Sidney H. Cliffe, who was later appointed company commander and following the World War served for a time as Chief of Staff of the 26th Division, and Sergeant William Hodecker were the only non-commissioned officers in Company M able to report for duty. It was difficult to cope with the rapid spread of the sickness due to the limited supply of adequate medicines, but with the arrival of the Red Cross boat, "Texas," much needed relief was experienced. On August 10, 1898, the regiment received pay for two months service, and then orders were given for the Company to move to the transport Mobile, on which it departed for the United States the following day, August 11, 1898, arriving at Montauk Point, Long Island on August 19. A week later, August 26, the regiment boarded a boat for New London, Connecticut, and from there entrained for Springfield and then Adams. Normally the Company would have been held in service some time, but so weakened were the men by their hardships of the previous three months, that they were granted a three months' furlough. On November 3, 1898, the regiment was assembled in Springfield where it was mustered out of the Federal service with banquets, receptions, and parades. Captain Herbert O. Hicks, who led the Company throughout the Spanish American War, resigned in January, 1899, having been a member of the Company since its organization in 1887. On January 30, 1899, George J. Crosier took command of the Company. He was succeeded by Captain James A. Campbell on August 5, 1901, who in turn relinquished command of the unit to Sidney H. Cliffe on October 8, 1906.¹ All of these men had seen service with the Company in Cuba in 1898.

¹ Adjutant General's Department, State House, Boston, Mass.

James Tracy Potter, former Colonel of the 419th Infantry, Organized Reserves, was appointed captain of the Company on September 29, 1908. For almost eleven years he guided the fortunes of the Adams Company, during which time they were called into Federal service, June 19, 1916, for duty at Columbus, New Mexico, when the 2nd Regiment was guarding the base of the punitive expedition, which, under General John J. Pershing, was chasing Francisco Villa through the mountains of Old Mexico. The Company left for Framingham on June 21, and after preliminary training, left Framingham for Columbus, New Mexico, on June 26, arriving there on July 1, 1916. When Carranza, de facto president of Mexico, demanded withdrawal of American troops from his country, Company M found itself leaving Columbus for home on October 7, 1916, reaching Springfield on October 14. The Company was mustered out of Federal service on October 31, 1916.

For some time the Commonwealth of Massachusetts was interested in establishing a State Armory in Adams to provide Company M with adequate housing and with proper facilities for the storage and safekeeping of property. The first bids called for were too high and therefore rejected. The principal obstacle in the way of immediate action on acceptance of a bid was the excessive figure placed on the parcel of land on which the Armory was to be situated. The State had appropriated \$5,000. for the land, but the owner of the lot on which the present Armory stands wanted almost three times that amount. The problem was finally solved when the town of Adams borrowed \$8,700. from William B. Plunkett, as a bond issue, on July 1, 1912, and thus paid the difference between what the State appropriated and what the land owner demanded. The contract for the

erection of the Armory went to H. S. Libbey and Company of Boston, with ground for the building being broken on June 2, 1913. With Captain James Tracy Potter in command of the company, and Governor David I. Walsh as chief guest of honor, the State Armory was appropriately dedicated on April 17, 1914. The total cost of the Armory was placed at \$75,700., distributed as follows: By the State: building, \$60,857.75; land, \$5,000.; furnishings, \$1,142.25. Town of Adams: land, \$8,700. William Hodecker became Armorer of the building shortly after its dedication and continued to serve in that capacity until September 30, 1937, when he was pensioned. Thomas McGlynn was immediately appointed to Post Quartermaster Sergeant Hodecker's place and continues as Armorer at the present time.¹

As the World War situation grew more tense, prompted in no small part by Germany's gross breach of the Sussex Pledge and America's consequent severance of diplomatic relations with her on February 3, 1917, Company M again found itself called into the service of the United States, on March 25, 1917, this time to guard public utilities from Pownal, Vermont, along the Boston and Maine Railroad, to Charlemont. The strongest guard being centered about the Hoosac Tunnel. This duty lasted to July 1, 1917, at which time the Company was called back to the Adams armory. After a parade in Adams on July 4, the Company departed for Greenfield the next day for a month's drilling in preparation for potential overseas service. The Company then left for Westfield where it accepted transfers from the 6th and 8th Regiments to bring its membership up to the war strength of 250 men. With the organization of the 26th Division at this time, Company M was discharged from the National Guard and on August 5,

¹ Adjutant General's Department, State House, Boston, Mass.

1917, mustered into Federal service. On August 22, 1917, without losing its letter designation, Company M became a unit of the Regiment reorganized as the 104th U. S. Infantry. Orders soon came for the troops to move for the European front, whereupon Company M entrained at Westfield with other units for Montreal on September 25, 1917; reaching Montreal, the troops went directly to the British ship "Corsican", and after boarding her, left under command of General Charles H. Cole. On September 30, the "Corsican" landed at Halifax Harbor, Nova Scotia, to join a convoy so as to prevent possible attack on the trans-Atlantic voyage. October 6th found Company M under escort of four small torpedo boats, ten ships, and a converted cruiser for protection, all heading northeasterly just outside the Iceland Coast to escape submarine attack. The troops landed at Liverpool, England, on October 16, and from here all entrained immediately for a camp at Borden, England. After a week's stay the Company left for Southampton, where, on October 23, 1917, the Archangel was boarded for Havre, France. Reaching Havre that night, the troops stayed at an English camp throughout the day and entrained at night for the little town of Pompierre, Vosges, France. By the first of November the other units of the Regiment were assembled in this and neighboring towns, where for three months they were trained by French instructors. Company M left Pompierre on November 25 for further training at Gerantcourt. By February 1918, the training of the various units was considered complete, and on February 25, the Regiment was sent into the front lines at the Chemin-des-Dames, north of Soissons. Company M as part of the 3rd Battalion, remained in reserve during the first part of this tour, but on February 28, took

over the Courson sub-sector, occupying the advanced trenches for two weeks, when they were relieved by the 410th French Infantry. Leaving the Chemin des-Dames on March 18, the 3rd Battalion moved by train to Barsur-Aube, marched for four days to Rimaucourt, where they arrived on the 26th, and almost at once were ordered to take over a sector on the Toul front. Company M left Morais in trucks for the trenches on March 30, landing in Vignot the following afternoon. By the 31st the front lines at Bois Brule were reached. This ridge, which fronted Apremont, was the key to the whole defensive system of the area, and some time was spent here. On April 6, the first line trenches at Apremont were reached and the next day Company M was moved from Battalion reserve to relieve Company K on the right of the Battalion sector. Captain James Tracy Potter had been sent to the Infantry school at Langres, and Captain Charles E. Dunn took command of the Company. With the American and German trenches but 40 yards apart, a terrific fight took place at Apremont the night of April 9-10, 1918. A hail of gas and high explosives were hurled throughout most of the night at the Yankee trenches but to no avail. Even the dawn attack launched by the crack shock troops of Hindenburg's Travelling Circus failed to move the Americans. German prisoners taken, stated that the attacking party consisted of 800 picked men from the 25th, 26th, and 65th German Regiments. The Germans lost 600 men while the 3rd Battalion lost between 50 and 60 dead and wounded. Henry F. Caron of Company M was killed in this engagement. The 3rd Battalion was relieved early on the morning of April 11, and then went to Geranville, staying until the 15th, then moving to Aulnois Vertuzey. In

the meantime, on April 12 and 13, the Germans made a more determined effort than before to carry out their mission, but the 104th Infantry held its ground, finally breaking through the German lines on the morning of the 13th and definitely clearing out the enemy. The entire 104th Infantry then went into Divisional Reserve at Aulnois Vertuzey. While here, Captain John H. Holtz took over command of Company M, in June. Though the 3rd Battalion, including Company I, was not actively engaged as a unit after the attack at Apremont, details from it, especially Company M, were constantly engaged in volunteer work, bringing up ammunition, supplies, and in evacuating the wounded. The fortitude and courage of the 104th Infantry in this Bois Brule (Apremont) Campaign won for it the distinction of being the first American regiment whose colors were ever decorated by a foreign power, when General Passaga, Commander of the 32nd French Army Corps, on April 28, 1918, accompanied by General Clarence R. Edwards and other high military officials of the Allied Armies, advanced to the Colors of the Regiment, just outside the little village of Boucq, France, drew from his tunic his own Croix de Guerre and pinned it upon the Regimental Colors.

The next two months found Company M moving about considerably. On April 30, the men left Aulnois Vertuzey for Brussey, on their way to the trenches. After ten days in the "Cheval Mort" sector trenches, they were sent, on May 17, to Roulecourt. May 20 found them departing for Beaumont for two days in quarry trenches, then back to Roulecourt. Leaving Roulecourt on May 25, they headed for Rombucourt to support the position opposite Mont-Sec. On May 31, Company M left Rombucourt for

Xivray, and on June 13 continued from there to Joui-Sous-Les-Cotes, after being relieved by the 103rd Company. Departure for Bruley was ordered on June 24, from Bruley to Saint Germain on the 30th, and for Montree from Saint Germain on July 3. On July 4, 1918, the Regiment relieved the Fifth Marines in Belleau Wood, and two weeks later, July 18, the Aisne-Marne Campaign began, with the 3rd Battalion in the assault wave, with the remainder of the Regiment in support and reserve. Companies I and M led the way. In spite of a heavy barrage and severe machine gun fire, they pushed on. Lieutenant Russel B. Livermore, with the 3rd Platoon of Company M, silenced the guns which were enfilading the right flank, capturing one of them and taking eight prisoners. The remainder of the Adams Company went to the right of the town of Belleau, reorganized along the railroad and then fought their way across a swamp, brook, and through a small wood to the foot of Hill 193, cleaning out the town of Givry on the way. Every objective was taken. A new advance was started on July 20. In this the 3rd Battalion maintained contact with the French units on the left of the 26th Division. By noon of the 21st, the Chateau Thierry-Soissons salient had been so materially reduced, that the resistance provided by large bodies of German troops had now been overcome. The 3rd Battalion took up the pursuit at 7 P. M. under orders to go through Trugny and Epieds to Croix Rouge Farm, a distance of 12 kilometers, before daylight. They ran into strongly entrenched positions around Trugny which held them up and forced them to dig in. Attack after attack was launched during the 22nd and 23rd of July, but the men were too much exhausted by their six days of continuous fighting, to accomplish much.

Units of the 56th Brigade finally arrived on July 25 and relieved the Regiment which was sent back and held in reserve at Chante Merele. When operations were begun on September 12, 1918, by the First Army to reduce the St. Mihiel salient, the 3rd Battalion of the 104th Infantry formed the Brigade reserve. Though they had plenty of hard work, and did well the tasks assigned them, their part in the American victory warrants no special mention. With the reduction of St. Mihiel complete by September 16, the Regiment was ordered to the Meuse-Argonne area for participation in the second phase of that great fight. On October 13, 1918, it was attached to the 18th French Division, operating north of Verdun. Two days later they were selected to accomplish a most difficult mission in the capture of the Bois d'Haumont, which up to then had resisted all efforts to clear it of the enemy. The assault was made suddenly, without artillery, and supported solely by 16 French tanks. After severe fighting in which all of the tanks were put into action, and the Regiment was time after time held up or forced back by fierce counter attacks, Companies B and M succeeded in reaching and holding the objectives under cover of a rifle grenade and machine gun barrage. The 26th Division soon relieved the French units in this area, and began a steady, pounding attack to push the Germans north and east from their positions along the heights of the Meuse river. Heavy fighting continued in this sector up to the last minute of the war. When hostilities ceased upon the signing of the Armistice on November 11, 1918, Company M was engaged in a spirited assault which was rapidly driving the retreating German forces eastward onto the plain which stretched away to the hills along the Rhine.¹

¹ Bailot, Maj. Alfred F. Personal Diary and Memoirs.

While Company M was still in France as a unit of the 104th Infantry, a company known as the Adams Home Guards was organized in 1918, with Sydney H. Cliffe, Captain; John Lawson, Jr., First Lieutenant; and Edward Gravel, Second Lieutenant. Later, a company of the 20th Regiment, Massachusetts State Guard, had been organized in Adams on June 24, 1919, with Sidney H. Cliffe, Captain; James Kerr, First Lieutenant; and John Lawson, Jr., Second Lieutenant. This newly organized unit had on its roster many men who had formerly served in the local National Guard Company, and when Company M was discharged from Federal service at Camp Devens on April 26, 1919, many of its members entered the ranks of this State Guard organization. Under General Order No. 10, AGO., Mass. of May 2, 1919, the unit was reorganized as Company M, 104th Infantry, Massachusetts Volunteer Militia. In the fall of 1919, this company was commanded by Captain Sydney H. Cliffe, while the first lieutenant was Alfred F. Bailot, who had served as a non-commissioned officer of Company M in France, and the second lieutenant was Harry A. Partridge, a veteran of the A. E. F., who had served in the old company almost thirty years.¹

Not long after the Company became a part of the Massachusetts Volunteer Militia, it found itself in the service of the State during the Boston Police Strike. The Boston Police were intent upon establishing a Police Union, and when their efforts proved fruitless, they promptly went out on strike September 9, 1919. On September 10th, Company M was called out and ordered to entrain for Boston at 10:15 P. M. First Lieutenant James Kerr was in command of the Company due to Captain Sydney Cliffe's absence, he being out of the State. Second Lieutenant John Lawson, Jr.

¹ Adjutant General's Department, State House, Boston, Mass.

was next in command, followed by Sergeant Alfred F. Bailot, who was acting as an officer. Upon reaching Boston, the men went to Faneuil Hall to sleep. Police duty and drilling on Boston Common occupied their attention the next two days. After moving into Police Station No. 12 in South Boston on September 13th, the Company began guard duty. This continued, after considerable moving about in the city, until October 8, 1919, at which time the Company departed for home as a new police force was on duty.

With the reorganization of the 104th Infantry on March 24, 1920, the local company was redesignated as Company M, 104th Infantry, Massachusetts National Guard. Captain Sydney Cliffe, in the process of reorganization, became Major of the 3rd Battalion, while on May 17, 1920, Alfred F. Bailot was appointed captain of the Company, and Albert V. Beaudry became first lieutenant. Lieutenant Harry A. Partridge chose to return to the post of Supply Sergeant which he had held prior to and during the war, and continues to hold to this day, thus leaving a vacancy which was filled by Second Lieutenant James R. Rundell on July 14, 1920. It should be noted that for a period during the fall of 1920 and the spring of 1921, the Regiment was designated as the 2nd Infantry, Massachusetts National Guard, in order to establish historic continuity with the pre-war regiment. On September 1, 1920, the Company was Federally recognized as Company M, 104th (2nd) Infantry, Massachusetts National Guard, with no further change in status to the present time.

When Captain Alfred F. Bailot was promoted to the rank of Major of the 3rd Battalion on February 28, 1925, Lieutenant Thomas R. Briggs, who had been an officer in the local State Guard Company, succeeded him as

captain of Company M on March 12, 1925. After more than a year of command service, Captain Briggs resigned his commission, and was succeeded by First Lieutenant Marshall O. Potter, who took command of the Company on May 26, 1926. Lieutenant Potter was commissioned captain on July 5, 1927.

The disastrous flood of March, 1936, which wrought terrific havoc throughout New England, caused Colonel McDonald, commander of the 104th Infantry, to order Company M to report at the University Club, Springfield, at 9 A. M., March 22, 1936, for flood duty in the stricken Connecticut River area. The company, under leadership of Captain Marshall O. Potter, First Lieutenant Joseph H. Wojtaszek, and Second Lieutenant Frederick R. Armstrong, left the Adams Armory with 61 men in five trucks for Pittsfield at 5:15 A. M., March 22nd. Here Company I was picked up and then the convoy of 12 trucks, 141 National Guardsmen, and 7 officers left for Springfield via the Jacobs Ladder route. Both companies were ordered to duty at Chicopee. Headquarters were established at the Polish National Home there. Guard duty and rehabilitation work kept the Company busy until April 5, when half the men returned home. The Company was completely discharged from this duty on April 9, 1936. Previous to this tour of duty, Company M had been precepted by the Adams Board of Selectmen on March 18, 1936 for flood duty in Adams. The flood waters of the Hoosac River had receded sufficiently by ten o'clock the following day, so that the Selectmen ordered a dismissal of the Company at eleven o'clock.

Under the splendid leadership of Captain Marshall O. Potter, First Lieutenant Joseph H. Wojtaszek, and Second Lieutenant Frederick R. Armstrong, Company M continued to perpetuate the high standards of morale and achieve-

ment so characteristic of the organization since its inception in 1887. Not only were the officers building up the personnel through the conduct of classes in theoretical military science and the practicum, but the enlisted men themselves were taking the initiative in such matters as pursuing Army Extension courses, organizing and maintaining successful athletic teams, and providing social activities of an unusually high order for themselves and interested townspeople. The equipment and property of the Company was always in excellent condition. The number of men who qualified each year with the machine gun, pistol, and indoor rifle was always high. The records of the Regimental Machine Gun and Pistol Competitions since 1929 show that Company M won first place honors with the machine gun in 1932, 1933, 1934, 1936, and 1937, while in 1931, first place was taken by the Pistol team. The Company's continued success at training camp each year, its splendid military bearing and natty appearance in local parades and on the drill floor, and its ever-ready attitude to aid in meeting disasters, attests to the fine training and spirit of co-operation that exists within the unit.

Company M was formally inducted into Federal service on January 16, 1941. Eleven days later, January 27th, the Company left its home armory in Adams for active duty at Camp Edwards, Massachusetts. The personnel of the unit at that time consisted of the following men: Captain Joseph H. Wojtaszek, 1st Lieutenant Frederick Armstrong, 2nd Lieutenant Sterling S. Burnette, 2nd Lieutenant Stillman D. Covell, 2nd Lieutenant James G. Royds, 1st Sergeant Anthony J. Kuza, Sergeants Roman J. Armata, Stanley Bator, William L. Battista, Lawrence A. Boivin, Joseph B. Gwozdz,

Adolph F. Les, and Edward Morin; Corporals Albert Choquette, John Cwiok, Joseph A. Dyka, Edmund W. Kowalski, Eugene A. Lic, Russell R. Tremblay, Charles L. Wandrie, and Walter F. Williams; 1st Class Privates John J. Biros, Joseph Cote Jr., Gerard V. Dore, Maurice C. Isenhardt, Thaddeus L. Koperniak, Matthew Krzeminski, Martin F. Krzeminski, John S. Kurpaska, John Y. Ostrowski, Donald H. Reid, Joseph J. Wisniowski, and Wallace K. Yeargin; Privates Leo H. Bedard, Walter Bednarz, Francis E. Belanger, Bruno Bodioch, Russell P. Bissailon, Harvey H. Boulerice, Edward E. Bourdon, Arthur W. Brown, Walter E. Brown, John H. Chamberlain, Lloyd Champigny, Joseph N. DeBlois, Harry A. Derosia, John J. Dobrowolski, George E. Dubois, James D. Duprey, Conrad O. Edwards, William E. Edwards, Samuel Healey, Jozef Jajko, John J. Jette, Stanislaus Kondel, Clarence E. J. La-Casse, Donald F. LaCroix, Ted K. Misiuk, Stanley J. Owczarski, Harold Paradise, John H. Pecor, Walter Fliszka, Joseph A. Scieszka, Felix O. Scieszka, Laurent O. Scott, Albert Singer, Raymond Wade Jr., Kazimierz Wegrzyn, Alphonse Wiater, Chester A. Wiater, Frank Wotkowicz, John Zieminski, and Edward Zoltek.

As a replacement for Company M, so that a form of military protection would be available in the Adams area, an organization of Adams men known as Company M, 22nd Infantry Regiment, Massachusetts State Guard, was inducted in April 1941. It later became known as the 12th Company, Massachusetts State Guard. In December, 1944, this Company was transferred from the 3rd to the 5th Battalion which is under the leadership of Major Samuel Levenson of North Adams. The transfer placed the Adams unit in the same battalion as the North Adams, Williamstown, and

the Clarksburg-Florida units.¹

The present officers of the 12th Company, Massachusetts State Guard, are W. Elwin Dunn, Captain; Raymond C. Parrott and Charles Jepson, first lieutenants; and Frederick Mendel, second lieutenant.

Fort Massachusetts

The history of old Fort Massachusetts is a story of bravery and bloodshed, of victory over almost unsurmountable difficulties and glorious defeat in unequal strife, of unquenchable spirit in the hearts of sturdy pioneers in the face of overwhelming catastrophe. In it there is much of stark drama, such as the picture of a garrison of 22 men, some of them weakened by severe illness, resisting for almost two days the ferocious onslaught of a force of 900 trained French and Indian fighters. In it also are glimpses of fine chivalry and gallantry, such as the instance when several of the defenders of the fort, defeated and being taken to Canada as captives, weakened by wounds, were carried along the trail on the backs of their Indian masters. There is also tragedy and sudden death. All this transpired on the now peaceful spot upon which a replica of Fort Massachusetts was dedicated on August 19, 1933, as a permanent memorial to the defenders of old Adams and the surrounding territory when Massachusetts was a British colony.²

Fort Massachusetts was built in 1745, one of a chain of frontier forts built along the northwestern boundary of the Massachusetts Bay Colony during the third French and English war over the conquest of this continent, best known as King George's War, which raged from 1744 to 1748.

¹ North Adams Transcript, December 13, 1944.

² North Adams Transcript, August 21, 1933.

Fort Massachusetts antedated any settlement of this valley and was designed to guard the approach into Massachusetts Bay Colony from the north and west. It was built directly on the old Indian trail from New York which became, during these French wars, a great highway leading to Canada by way of the lakes. The fort was to serve, as well, to stop the slow but steady encroachment onto English territory of the Dutch settlers from New York.

Built under almost unimaginable difficulties and separated from the nearest settlement, Deerfield, by the towering wall of the Hoosac mountains, Fort Massachusetts was placed in an exceedingly precarious position which was later to cause its downfall. It is stated in Hoyt's "Antiquarian Researches," that Fort Massachusetts was unfavorably situated for defense. It stood in a low meadow, overlooked by heights, from which the enemy might ascertain the strength of the garrison. One of these heights, northwest of the fort, was occupied by Vaudreuil's main force in 1746. A judicious choice of posts, and the principles of fortification, though probably understood by the engineers of the time, seem not to have been regarded in our early wars. Most of the works were built on low grounds, often in the vicinity of commanding heights--generally constructed of single stockades, without ditches or flanking parts, and capable only of a direct fire, and untenable against the lightest artillery. Since the introduction of rifle batteries, works of this kind were often carried with musketry.¹

On June 11, 1745, shortly after the completion of the fort the first blood was shed in this valley when three of the soldiers in the garrison, Elisha Nims, Gershom Hawks and Benjamin Taintor, were surprised by a band of marauding Indians while at work outside the walls of the fort.

¹ Morris, Hamilton. North Adams Transcript, 1859-1860.

Nims and Hawks were wounded and Taintor was taken to Canada as a captive. Nims died the next day and it is a strange coincidence that the only tombstone in the little graveyard attached to the fort which is still preserved is that of Nims, the first man to be killed at Fort Massachusetts. The story of this tombstone, which may now be seen within the enclosure of the replica of the old fort, is of unusual interest itself.

When the land upon which the old fort had stood was bought by Captain Clement Harrison in 1830 this gravestone was still standing. He was in the habit of presenting many of the relics to Williams College which he discovered while placing the land under cultivation. Knowing that the tombstone was there, several of the students at the college requested that Captain Harrison allow them to exhume the body under the tombstone. Upon digging, they found the skeleton of a man and examination showed a leaden bullet embedded in one of the vertebrae of the back, undoubtedly the bullet which had caused his death. That portion of the spinal column was placed in the college museum. Several years later, Professor Perry, authority on the history of this locality, obtained permission from Captain Harrison to remove the headstone itself to the college before the inscription should be obliterated. The headstone rested for many years at the college and a short time ago was presented by the college to the Fort Massachusetts Historical Society. The inscription on the rough stone is still legible and reads as follows:

June 12
1745
ELISHA NIMS
A 26 Y

After the killing of Elisha Nims, life at the fort was uneventful for almost a year, with the exception of severe illnesses, until, in May, 1746, when two of the soldiers of the fort were fired upon and slightly wounded by two Indians who escaped into the woods. All was then quiet until August of that year. On August 19th, the garrison, which at that time was unfortunately depleted in number and ravaged by an epidemic of dysentery, was startled to hear the wild crash of heavy rifle shots break the stillness of the day. General Rigaud de Vaudreuil, town major of Three Rivers, Canada, Lieutenant Demuy, and Lieutenant LaCorne St. Luc, in command of about 700 French soldiers and 200 Abenaki Indians had succeeded in descending upon the fort without alarming the garrison. The assailants spread out to right and left, squatted behind stumps, and opened a distant fire accompanied by savage Indian yells and howls. Inside the fort there were but ten able men, including the chaplain, John Norton. Such of the sick men as were strong enough, aided the defense by casting bullets and buckshot. The garrison was in a discouraging position, and was handicapped by a dearth of ammunition which forced the commander of the fort, Sergeant Hawks, to give the order not to fire except when a sure shot was offered. During the afternoon two of the men were wounded. Then darkness fell. The invading forces did not attack, however, but contented themselves with keeping up the unearthly racket until about 9 o'clock when they posted sentinels and commenced gathering faggots with which to fire the fort. Luckily for the defenders, however, rain made this plan unfeasible. That the French commander should plan to resort to such elaborate strategy as digging trenches to the wall of the

fort in order to fire it was in itself no mean compliment to the spirit of the active force of eight men (for such, due to wounds, was now the strength of the garrison) who were holding the fort against almost 1,000.

Early the next morning, firing was again resumed and one of the defenders, Thomas Knowlton, was shot through the head, reducing those able to fight to the number of seven, including the chaplain, from whose account of the battle most of the facts in this story were obtained. The facts in his version, up to this point, have been substantiated by accounts of the battle made by the commander of the French forces.

But here there is a conflict of evidence. The French commander says that when he was about to carry his plan of attack into execution he saw a white flag flung out and sent two of his officers to hear what Sergeant Hawkes had to say. On the other hand, Chaplain Norton says that at about noon the French "desired to parley", and that the fort defenders agreed to it. Norton's account is substantiated by that of Sergeant Hawks.¹ But whatever the truth of the matter, it would have been no disgrace if the small garrison of sick and wounded men had decided to surrender. But what seems, from all accounts, to be conclusively established is the fact that the French permitted Norton to nail to a post of the fort a short account of its capture in which it plainly stated that the first advances were made by the French commander, who offered honorable terms of capitulation and agreed not to turn his captives over to the Indian forces, a promise which he was forced to go back on later, but which did no harm as the Indians treated their captives considerately. The defenders of the fort were as follows: Sergeant John Hawks, Deerfield;

¹ Norton, Rev. John. Capture and Burning of Fort Massachusetts.

Chaplain John Norton, Bernardston; John Aldrich, Mendon; Jonathan Bridgeman, Sunderland; Nathaniel Eames, Marlborough; Phineas Forbush, Westboro; Samuel Goodman, Hadley; Nathaniel Hitchcock, Brimfield; Thomas Knowlton, Shrewsbury; Samuel Lovett, Mendon; John Perry, Bernardston; Amos Pratt, Shrewsbury; Josiah Reed, Rehoboth; Joseph Scott, Hatfield; Moses Scott, Sunderland; Jacob Shepard, Westboro; Benjamin Simonds, Pioneer in Williamstown; John Smead, Athol; John Smead, Jr., Athol; Daniel Smead, Athol; David Warren, Marlborough; and Mary, wife of John Smead and their children, Elihu, Simon and Mary; Miriam, wife of Moses Scott and their children, Ebenezer and Moses; and Rebecca, wife of John Perry.

After the defenders of the fort had capitulated the French flag was raised for a time over the buildings and then the fort was burned to the ground and the prisoners taken to Canada. They had progressed but a short way when a daughter was born to Mrs. John Smead. This occurred near where Williamstown is now located. The child was christened "Captivity" by the chaplain and it was about this event that Mrs. E. A. McMillan of North Adams wrote the poem "Captivity."¹

Next to the brave fight put up by the crippled garrison the most impressive thing about the affair was the gallantry and consideration of the conquerors. Rarely in these dismal border raids were prisoners treated so humanely. Of course the rigors undergone by the prisoners when they reached Canada were so terrible that few of them lived to be exchanged, but on the trip to Crown Point, the French Headquarters, they were remarkably well treated. Little Captivity Smead and her mother were among those who never lived to return.

¹ Hoosac Valley News, November 23, 1895.

Immediately in the spring of 1747, Governor Shirley ordered another fort of different design built on the same site, garrisoned by about two hundred men, provisioned from Albany; but while in process of construction, Captain Williams and part of his men, enroute from Albany with supplies and three cannon, were attacked by a band of Indians who attempted to intercept the supply train for the fort. Fortunately, the troops and carpenters at the fort, hearing the noise of battle, dropped their tools and catching the Indians between two fires, forced them to flee. The fort was completed and the cannon were mounted on the north and west walls, where attack was most expected.

In 1748, two years after the first fort was taken, a group of three hundred Indians cleverly planned to attack the south and east sides where there were no cannon. Four men, against Captain Williams orders, ventured outside the fort, drawing about fifteen Indians into battle, and requiring Captain Williams' aid with thirty five men risking their lives in unprotected combat. Fifty Indians nearly succeeded in cutting off his retreat. Only with great difficulty did Williams' men reach safety, shutting the gates in the faces of the infuriated savages, who amid the roar of cannon and war-whoops, after two hours, dragged away their dead and wounded. No major skirmishes took place afterward, but until 1760 the fort protected incoming settlers from roving bands of Indians. In 1760, having fulfilled its mission, the fort was abandoned and fell into ruins.

In the meantime, the site of the fort had come into the possession of Israel Jones. About 1751, Ephraim Williams had asked for a grant of land around the fort reservation. In return, he agreed to do some road

construction and erect a grist mill to serve anticipated settlers. There is no evidence procurable that he ever erected the mill after receiving the grant.

After the lamented death of Col. Williams in battle with the French and Indians under Dieskau, near the southern extremity of Lake George, September 8, 1755, the land was finally sold to Jones after much litigation.

The replica of the old fort which now stands on the original site on the State road between North Adams and Williamstown is an exact copy of neither of the forts used during the French and English wars, but in building it, features of both the old forts have been used, so what is now seen is a combination of the two historical buildings.

In size the fort measures about 80 x 100 feet. It consists of a stockade of roughly squared logs, hewn by hand and mortised and dowed together. The stockade has but a single entrance closed by a solid gate of heavy timbers which can be barred from the inside. On the northeast and southwest corners of the stockade are sentry boxes which overhang the sides of the walls, as did the original boxes, in order that two sides of the fort might be covered from the loopholes in the boxes.

Within the stockade stands the long barracks building, of similar construction to the stockade. It is in this building that the valuable and interesting collection of relics which are connected with the history of the old fort and of the surrounding country of that period, and which have been on display at the rooms of the Fort Massachusetts Historical Society in the North Adams Library, were placed on view in the fort's museum.

From the parade ground within the stockade, rises the gracefully spreading Perry Elm, planted in 1859 by Professor Perry of Williams College with a group of his students, to mark the exact spot where the old fort was situated. This tree was the last of three planted by Professor Perry, his two previous efforts at transplanting having been failures. It is thought by some that the Perry elm was planted in the spot where the well of the old fort had been situated, as the students, when digging the hole in which the tree was to be planted, found a quantity of small rocks such as are used to line the walls of a well, and also an iron hook upon which a pail might possibly have once hung. A short time ago a small bronze marker, the gift of the Fort Massachusetts Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, was set at the base of this graceful old tree. Upon the marker is engraved the name of Professor Perry and the date upon which the tree was planted.

That the replica was able to incorporate so many of the authentic details of the two old forts is largely due to the large amount of research made by William B. Browne and Miss Jean Jarvis of North Adams, who offered their services soon after the first plans for the construction of the replica was announced. From the information discovered by them, Harry Pratt, supervisor of drawing in the local schools made not only a number of detailed drawings and sketches to work from, but also with the aid of his son, constructed a model of the fort in 1931, complete and authentic in every detail, including the Perry elm, the bucket on the well sweep and the little axe on the chopping block.

CHAPTER IX

MISCELLANEOUS

Quaker Meeting House

The Quaker Meeting House is the town of Adams' most historic public structure and for the lover of the antique, or the student of architecture, is a place of extreme interest. The Quaker Meeting House was erected by the East Hoosuck Society of Friends. This old building, so closely associated with the settlement of the town of Adams, reflects in its sturdy construction and simplicity the character of its builders. Only a professional architect could point out many interesting details which are not observed by the casual visitor. It is probably the only unrestored building of the sort in Massachusetts, if not in New England, and remains exactly as it was when built in 1784. A tablet in the chimney, which is not original, gives the date incorrectly as 1786.

The present town of Adams was settled soon after 1770, by a group of Quakers, most of them from Smithfield, Rhode Island, and the nearby town of Dartmouth, Massachusetts. They were neighbors of the settlers of nearby New Providence, on Stafford mill, who were staunch Baptists. The Friends soon settled and owned nearly all the farms in the valley. They worshipped for a time in their homes, usually that of Isaac Killey. After the erection of the Meeting House, it was used continuously by them for over sixty years. In their transaction of business, the men and women held separate meetings and kept separate records.

For this reason the Meeting House was constructed in the manner observed today, with the outer doors, and movable partitions to provide privacy during the separate meetings.

In the religious service the partitions were raised. The women sat on the left side, where they received the benefit of the fireplace. Mr. Albert Anthony said that when it was proposed to install a stove, there was considerable objection, but the stove was voted. One Sunday, when the meeting opened, the stove was seen in position and the opposition commenced to show great discomfort from the excessive heat, until it was pointed out that there was no stove pipe attached and no fire. The original pine paneling is noteworthy. Along the north side are two elevated benches or "high seats" reserved for those of unusual prominence, such as preachers, or leaders. Hannah Hoxie, a talented preacher, occupied the high seat on the women's side for many years. Since there were no evening meetings, there was no provision for lighting the building. Once a year the descendants of the pioneers meet here for a service to commemorate those sturdy, honest folk who laid the foundation of their community. If there were two Sunday services, those driving from a distance brought their lunch and stayed to both exercises.

The highway past the Meeting House was originally an Indian trail, the Pontoosuck Path, so-called, which connected with the Mohawk Trail in the northern part of the valley. It is now appropriately called Friend Street. One of the early settlers on this road was David Anthony, whose family was destined to occupy a prominent place in the town and whose great-granddaughter, Susan B. Anthony, became a world-wide figure.

This Meeting House is now under the care of the Adams Society of Friends Descendants, but is owned by the town. The Society owns the birthplace of Susan B. Anthony, and her birth room is kept open to visitors, who are urged to visit it. The Society also cares for the burial ground in front of the Meeting House, where the pioneer Friends rest in their unknown and unmarked graves. This cemetery was used by the Friends for a considerable period before the Meeting House was built, and not until 1797 was the land formally deeded by Isaac Killey, John and Patience Lapham, John Russell and James Lapham to David Lapham and John Wells who held it for a brief period before turning it over to the Society of Friends. The Friends were keenly interested in the education of their children, and erected schools at an early period. They have left a tradition of honest and right-living people, whose impress on the town's life will long endure.¹

The following description of the Quaker Meeting House is compiled from the survey of Edwin T. Barlow, architect: The meeting house was built between 1781-1784 according to record. It measures $28\frac{1}{2}$ feet north and south, and $36\frac{1}{2}$ feet east and west. The foundation is of field stone. The exterior appears to have been renewed with a slate roof, clapboards, and the usual finish in 1908. The floor is divided into two sections, one for the men and the other for women, the men's part being slightly larger. There is a dividing wall or partition between these two sections on the second floor consisting of one-inch pine boards, set with bevel edges allowing no place for cracks. On the first floor, the division consists of eight feet of fixed partition with a door near the main en-

¹ East Hoosuck Society of Friends. The Quaker Meeting House, Adams, Mass. 1934. Pamphlet, 4 pages.

trance, the rest of the division being made up of movable paneled sections, one hinged at the top and the others sliding. Beneath these is a stationary wainscot. This arrangement, by which the men's and women's sides could be shut off from each other, was due to the custom of the Friends whereby each sex conducted its own business; during the service the partitions were opened. Both the men's and women's meetings are recorded in separate books.

The second floor has an opening of 180 square feet at the center of the north side enclosed by a railing. It is rough hewn, mostly of oak, and is well preserved. There are two end bays. The large beams are about eight inches square, with 3 x 5 joists and 3 x 5 and 4 x 6 rafters. The whole frame is enclosed with $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch vertical planking, lathed and plastered above the wainscoting. The ceiling and fireplace are also plastered. The first floor chimney breast is ceiled by mortises to be seen at the sides of the beams around the opening to the second floor which do not have any apparent use, and were possibly due to a change of plan. The second story is eight feet high and the first nine. The entrance doors are certainly original, as shown by their construction and the use of hand wrought nails. On the women's side, the door is a cleated door with double boarding. The door to the men's side is three-ply, the center layer at right angles to the faces. The latch on this door is of simple design and of original wrought iron work. The hinges on these doors are not original, and the window frames and glass appear to be modern. The flooring is of one-inch pine of various widths from twelve to eighteen inches, laid in long lengths with hand wrought nails.

The stairs are on the south side, those for the women being a board wider and with more risers than those of the men; each had a guard rail. The wainscoting around the building is of white pine and the boards are of unusual width, some being thirteen inches wide; the boards run horizontally and are three feet in height. The benches on the first floor face the north with the exception of two rows and a wall seat on the north side which are set on steps and face the south. On the second floor, there is but one row of benches on the floor level, the rest being set on steps rising toward the outer walls. The fireplaces and chimney, located on the women's side, are of brick, of a size somewhat smaller than that used today. Each fireplace has a brick hearth, but the one on the first floor is covered with cement. There is no indication of paint ever having been used anywhere.¹

The Quaker Meeting House was the subject of a study, and a complete report was submitted to Washington. Detailed measurements and a study of its architectural peculiarities brought out new and hitherto unnoticed facts. The known method of construction of other buildings, supplies the knowledge which the Friends' records omit.

First we must review the circumstances which led to the erection of this building. For more than 10 years the Friends had been holding services in private homes. A memorandum of David Anthony says the meetings were held in a log house. Many of the first homes were log houses which were occupied until the permanent house was built.

The spot selected for the erection of the Meeting House was both conveniently and centrally located, and in the custom of the Quakers,

¹ Browne, William B. North Adams Transcript, September 8, 1934.

located near the burial ground.

Before its erection, it is certain that there was a study of similar buildings. When the time came for work on the structure, everything had been thoroughly planned and the builders knew just what was to be done.

It is interesting to note that in general outline the building is very similar to the old church first erected in North Adams and now standing near the Baptist church. The interior was, of course, entirely different.

Many have asked about the cost of this building and how it was paid for. There was little or no monetary cost involved. It was a labor of love by the Friends. They gave the material and furnished the labor; all had a part, and so this building remains as a memorial of their personal work and is therefore more prized than if it had been erected by the generosity of a single person, or had been built by hired laborers from outside the town. We can believe that every board and beam and every bit of masonry and iron work was the gift of one of these devoted Friends toward the meeting house which they desired. The lumber was all drawn from neighboring wood lots, carefully selected for quality after which it was squared and hewed by those who understood that work. When the site had been selected and a foundation wall laid, the massive sills were placed. The frame was then carefully laid out on the ground and every brace and joint marked, mortises and tenons were cut for the beams and joined, and all work possible done before the frame was erected. Each beam and joist was carefully marked for its intended place. Then came the time for the frame, and this work called for the help of all

the men in the community. The first section, always the most difficult to raise, having been carefully dowelled together with wooden pins and dragged to the side where it belonged, was then raised by sheer man power and pinned into the sill. Dozens of men with long poles held it erect until it was safely pinned and braced, until the next section could be placed and pinned to it. So proceeded the work until all four side sections had been raised and the frame entirely placed. Other sections were not so difficult because, as work progressed, there was the finished portion to tie to and sustain the strain. The pitch of the roof had been carefully considered and the roof timbers sawed and leveled for the desired slant. In many of the old buildings in the Hoosac valley, a layer of birch bark was laid over the roof boards under the shingles. With the frame erected, the heavy planks for the sides were quickly spiked into place and then this covering was applied to the massive beams of the frame. We can understand why the building has resisted all the shocks and storms of over a century and a half without apparent difficulty. In the application of the clapboards, it may well have been done in the manner seen in buildings of that date in Adams where the clapboards lap on the ends as well as in the sides.

Into the building went all the sincerity of the Friends' belief. There were no knotty or imperfect beams or planks--there was no slackness in the carpentry or mason work, there was no false construction or veneer anywhere, and the hardware was made to last. Every part of the building reflected the honesty and sincerity of a united people and exemplified some of the soundest of their precepts.

When the building had been covered, sides and roof, work commenced on the interior fittings. The fireplace and chimney had been built and the window openings either fitted with windows or carefully covered for protection from the weather. The inside of the planks had been covered with split lath and plaster applied.

There was no shortage here of material for plaster and mortar. Now came into play the part of the iron workers and blacksmiths. On the old forge lot on Commercial Street, now the site of the Plunkett mill, there was a forge, where the iron ore found on the lot was melted and worked by local blacksmiths, who owned and worked the place as a joint company, each owner having a fire of his own in the forge. Water power for a trip hammer was secured from the river, where a dam was erected. Here all the hardware for the old Adams buildings was made. David Anthony and Isaac Killey and others had fires in the forge. The massive iron work, nails and other metal fittings were all the work of their hands. It is claimed that David Anthony himself made all the nails and spikes.¹

On May 24, 1908, the Meeting House was re-dedicated by an all-day meeting which served to celebrate the completion of extensive repairs. Charles Anthony, who had seen the old Meeting House rapidly falling into ruin collected a considerable sum for the purpose, and the building was thoroughly over-hauled.

The interior remains substantially as when built, but at the time mentioned the exterior received new clapboards, new window frames, the roof was slated, and a tablet set in the chimney, which unfortunately is dated two years later than it should be.

¹ Browne, William B. *Erection of Quaker Meeting House and Manner of its Construction*, 1934.

It is undoubtedly due to Charles Anthony that the town of Adams still has this building today. It is hoped that public spirit and public appreciation of the value of the Meeting House will insure its preservation and protection in the years to come. In countless communities it would be the most prized structure.

The Stafford Hill Memorial

At a meeting of the Berkshire Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution on November 13, 1919, William Bradford Browne of North Adams, Massachusetts, gave a talk on the old Stafford Hill Community. He said that only recently had he learned that the name of the company of soldiers led by Joab Stafford from New Providence was known as the "Silver Greys," a name which may possibly relate to some of their forebears who served in the French and Indian Wars. Mr. Browne also told about visiting an old man by the name of Asa Harrington, whose active mind dwelt on the long ago. Mr. Harrington lived in the old home of John Burton, one of the settlers of New Providence, which had been moved piece by piece from the hill top to Liberty street in Adams. Among the many things which he told Mr. Browne was that in the sidewalk of Charles Sayles, would be found the step of the old tavern from Stafford Hill. He remembered going, when a boy, with his father to haul the stone to Adams. This stone is a large rectangular marble slab about seven feet in length, a yard wide and five inches thick. Mr. Browne suggested this as a marker upon which a bronze tablet bearing the names of the Silver Greys could be placed. It was this idea that culminated in the erecting of the beautiful memorial that

now stands on Stafford Hill.

Work from than on progressed towards erecting some sort of memorial. At the annual field day of the Berkshire Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, June, 1923, Henry Jenks and his brother Jabez, who owned the summit of Stafford Hill and its western slopes, offered to the society any amount of land that they might need for erecting a suitable memorial.

It was first decided to build a replica of the Old Stone Mill at Newport, Rhode Island, but somewhat reduced in size. Mr. Browne selected the design of the tower because the original was so entirely a Rhode Island affair and blended with the landscape so well. It was also a tower which Stafford had seen many times when he was a Deputy to the Assembly at Newport, Rhode Island. The original Stone Mill in Newport stands on a ledge of slate rock that runs lengthwise like a backbone through Rhode Island. It is a circular tower, constructed of cobble stone and supported by groups of columns which are separated by arches. The tower is approximately 19 feet in diameter and 26 feet high. Some believe it the work of the Norsemen, which they used as a baptistry. Six hundred years later it was remodeled into a mill by the founders of Rhode Island. Its style is Norman and of early colonial period. Others believe that Governor Benedict Arnold designed, built, and owned it. The old tower at Newport was very certainly a building erected for habitation because we see on its interior remains of several fireplaces. Governor Benedict Arnold in his will called it "my stone built wind-mill" and one must conclude he knew more about it than we do.¹

¹ The Evening Bulletin, Providence, R. I., January 26, 1925.

The cost of erecting a small replica 16 feet in diameter and 25 feet high was set at \$3,000.00. The remains of Colonel Stafford were to be placed in a vault constructed beneath the floor of the Memorial. The idea of placing Colonel Stafford's remains in a vault in the tower, however, was an afterthought and not advanced until the tower was partly erected. Above this vault would be placed the headstone that formerly stood over his grave. This slab was to be raised above the floor of the Memorial and bears the inscription "In Memory of Col. Joab Stafford who fought and bled in his Country's cause at the Battle of Bennington, August 16, 1777, who departed this life Nov. 22, 1801, age 72 years."

Eugene B. Bowen, Chairman of the Committee in charge, was in Pittsfield on the occasion of the dedication of the Soldiers and Sailors War Memorial, and at the Maplewood Hotel came in contact with Augustus Lukeman who designed that Memorial. Mr. Bowen told Mr. Lukeman of the plans in Cheshire and the latter expressed his opinion that it would be better to have no Memorial at all than to have a small copy of the original. This matter was taken up at a meeting of the committee and it was decided to raise the necessary funds for Mr. Lukeman's proposal. Mr. Bowen, who was in charge of raising the extra money, obtained in all about \$4,500.00, and the town of Cheshire appropriated an additional \$300.00 for the expenses of the dedication on July 4th. The Masonic Lodges, the Baptist Churches, and all people interested, contributed towards the proposed Memorial during the drive for funds which was launched May 10, 1924.¹

The members of the Berkshire Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution selected committees in preparation for the erection of the

¹ Pittsfield Eagle, May 10, 1924.

Memorial. Mr. William B. Browne, president of the Society, was in charge of the preliminary work. The committee to select a suitable design and superintend construction comprised George B. Waterman of Williamstown, chairman; Archer Barber, Newton Bond, Melvin Whitney, N. B. Flood, and William B. Browne. This committee was to see that the original tower was copied as closely as possible. Members of the committee to secure and oversee the preparation of the site were Ezra D. Whitaker, A. J. Witherell, C. K. Millard, W. L. Root, F. B. Walker and William B. Browne. Designs for the Memorial were submitted by Newton Bond of North Adams and J. P. Barnes of Pittsfield. Mr. Bond's plans were accepted and the McGrath Company, under the direction of Hubert W. Flaherty, was given the contract to build the Memorial. The contract price was \$4,150.00.

Hundreds of people gathered for the ceremonies that took place on Stafford Hill, May 30, 1927, when the cornerstone was laid. Colonel Stafford's remains were carried on a gun caisson and placed in the crypt beneath the floor of the Memorial. Representatives from the three Chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution in Berkshire County took part in the services. The President of the local Chapter was Master of Ceremonies. The newly organized Farnum band furnished music for the event. Mr. William B. Browne gave the introductory address and the Rev. Charles O. Rundell, Rector of St. Marks Episcopal Church of Adams and chaplain of the Chapter, led the responsive ritual. Rev. H. H. Larkin, Pastor of the Baptist Church of Cheshire, deposited in a receptacle a roll bearing the names of the first members of the Stafford Hill Church. Eugene B. Bowen also deposited a roll of the patriots. Both men gave brief addresses

befitting the occasion. Clinton Q. Richmond deposited a roll containing the names of the pioneers of New Providence. Herbert W. Dean deposited a roll containing the names of the members of Frankling Lodge of Masons, A. F. & A. M. He spoke briefly on the history of Freemasonry in Berkshire County and told how they held their meetings just before the full moon so that travelers going long distances could see. A roll of the Chapter members was deposited by William L. Root. Eugene H. Wells of North Adams deposited a roll of subscribers to the fund which made possible the erection of the Memorial. J. L. Iverson, Selectman of Cheshire, deposited a copy of the records of the town of Cheshire. Silk flags were also placed in the box by members of each Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution represented.

Chaplain Rundell then conducted the services of setting apart the cornerstone. The cornerstone box is behind the Vermont State tablet. President Browne then gave an address after which wreaths were placed on the casket by George B. Waterman. Following this, Mortimer W. Thomas of North Adams, delivered the address of the day, at the conclusion of which the casket was brought into the Memorial and the committal service was read by the chaplain. A firing squad, consisting of members of Company M of Adams fired a volley and the program was brought to a fitting close with the playing of the "Star Spangled Banner."

Meanwhile, plans were in progress for the formal dedication of the Memorial on July fourth of that same year. The day of the dedicatory program was cold and windy but did not detract from the warmth of patriotism displayed on that auspicious occasion. The ceremonies started in the

morning with a military parade in Cheshire consisting of companies from the various military organizations in Northern Berkshire and Bennington. The parade ended before noon. At two o'clock, a large crowd had assembled on Stafford Hill for the regular dedication. The president of the local Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, opened the exercises and Rev. C. O. Rundell gave a prayer and led the responsive reading. William L. Root then read the inscription on the Monument which bears the words:

1 7 7 7
Erected in
Memory of the
Pioneers and Patriots of
New Providence
1 9 2 7

An incident which was not anticipated was the presence of Colonel B. L. Stafford of New York who was of the same general family as Colonel Joab Stafford. He was introduced by Eugene B. Bowen and spoke briefly.

Among the group of distinguished speakers present was John C. Hull, who appeared for Governor Alvan T. Fuller who was unable to come because of the Sacco-Vanzetti investigation. Mr. Hull was very well known by the people of Northern Berkshire having been at one time principal of Adams High School. Governor John E. Weeks of Vermont spoke on behalf of the people of Vermont State and commemorated the Battle of Bennington. Frederick W. Gillette of Springfield gave the dedicatory address in which he told of the history of the New Providence Plantation. Among the others who took part in the formal dedication were William L. Root, treasurer and secretary of the Berkshire Sons of the American Revolution, who asked, "What mean these stones?" Replies were made by Colonel James T. Potter for the Militia, Rev. Daniel H. Clare for the Baptist churches, Clinton

Q. Richmond for the pioneers, Jay P. Barnes for the Masons, Mrs. Harry M. Akley of Pittsfield for the Daughters of the American Revolution, and Augustus Iverson for the Selectmen of Cheshire. Benjamin H. Johnson, president of the State Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution presented the national insignia to Newton C. Bond and William B. Browne, both of North Adams, and Eugene B. Bowen of Cheshire. As the flag on the tower was lowered and the band played the National anthem the exercises were concluded with an evening parade.

On Friday, July 4, 1930, at 5:30 o'clock, three years after the dedication of the Memorial, two bronze tablets were dedicated. One from the State of Massachusetts and the other from the State of New York. The tablets were unveiled by Miss Grace Perry of Williamstown who is a descendant of Colonel Benjamin Simonds whose name appears on one of the tablets. Mr. Harry D. Sisson of Pittsfield represented Governor Frank G. Allen and Dr. Alexander C. Flick, State Historian of New York, represented Franklin D. Roosevelt in the presentation of the tablets. Clinton Q. Richmond, vice president of the Sons of the American Revolution, and Eugene B. Bowen, on behalf of the town of Cheshire, accepted the tablets. The principal address was rendered by John Spargo of Bennington, whose topic was "The Contributions of Berkshire County to the Victorious Battle of Bennington." Music was furnished by the Adams Young Men's Band.

Eugene B. Bowen, dressed as a Colonial soldier, raised a replica of the flag used at the Battle of Bennington. Mr. Bowen took the place of Mrs. Stewart Stone, a descendant of Colonel Stafford, who was unable to be present. An outstanding feature of the event was a float of the

B. Sloman Company of Pittsfield. It was a bell representing the Liberty bell which was taken from the Baptist Church in Lee ten years before and, following the main address, it was tolled several minutes. Two attractive young women were seated on the float. This program was closed with a display of fireworks that night which lasted about two hours.

On October 10, 1931, a bronze tablet contributed by the State of Vermont was dedicated. The exercises opened with a salute to the Flag, following which the presentation of the tablet was made by John Spargo, president of the Vermont Historical Society. The purpose of the dedication was outlined by C. Q. Richmond, vice president of Berkshire County Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. The prayer was given by Chaplain Charles O. Rundell. Willis Doane, president of the Massachusetts Society, Sons of the American Revolution, accepted the tablet on behalf of the Society. The president of Berkshire County Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution responded on behalf of the Chapter and the exercises closed with the benediction.¹

The last two tablets to be dedicated at the Stafford Hill Memorial are those placed there by the Berkshire County Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution on Saturday, October 7, 1933. One tablet commemorates the founding of Franklin Lodge of Masons, A. F. & A. M. at Stafford Hill. The other is erected in the memory of the Volunteer Independent Company called the Silver Greys. It was an ideal autumn day as a color guard composed of members of the Massachusetts Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, dressed as Colonial soldiers stood at attention at the base of the Monument while the bugle sounded the "Call to Colors." Eugene B.

¹ "Sons of the American Revolution Bulletin", November, 1931.

Bowen, wearing a costume of the Colonial soldiers, gave an address which was followed by formal presentation of the tablets by President William B. Browne. The speech of acceptance was given by William J. Holbrook of Weymouth, president of the Massachusetts Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution. A message from the Commonwealth was delivered by De Witt C. De Wolf, who appeared for Governor Joseph B. Ely. Three little girls, Elizabeth Bowen, Barbara Jean and Catherine Ann Delaney, granddaughters of Eugene B. Bowen, pulled cords that unveiled the tablets. The dedicatory service was conducted by Rev. Charles O. Rundell after which wreaths were placed under the tablets by Mrs. Murray M. Sanford, representing the Fort Massachusetts Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Mrs. Clara Whitney, Regent of Peace Party Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Mr. Holbrook on behalf of the Massachusetts Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, and Mr. Bowen representing the Berkshire County Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. An historical address was given by John Spargo at the conclusion of which the benediction was given by Rev. Charles O. Rundell and the sounding of taps closed the ceremonies.¹

On September 12, 1937, at the dedication of a tablet on Stafford Hill in commemoration of the first Baptist church founded in Massachusetts west of Worcester, a formal change in the name of the Stafford Hill Memorial took place. Mr. William B. Browne of North Adams, on behalf of the Berkshire County Chapter and the Massachusetts State Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, declared that henceforth the memorial tower on Stafford Hill would be known as the "Berkshire County Revolutionary

¹ North Adams Transcript, October 7, 1933.

War Shrine" and dedicated to the pioneers and patriots of New Providence.¹

McKinley Square Monument

The McKinley Square Monument stands at the junction of Park, Maple, and Columbia Streets on a site given to the town of Adams through Bishop Beavan of the Springfield Diocese by the Rev. L. O. Triganne, a former pastor of the Notre Dame church, and was dedicated on October 10, 1903 in honor of President William McKinley, a distinguished visitor of the town on three different occasions.

The unveiling of the statue was an occasion of remarkable impressiveness, a tribute of the populace of Adams to one who had been their friend and who had with them seen the dedication of its growing industries and of the Adams Free Library.

A great civic and military parade and speeches by the State's most prominent men were the features that attended the unveiling, while the feeling of the town itself was fittingly and beautifully expressed by William B. Plunkett as chairman of the memorial committee, and Charles T. Plunkett, who received the statue for the town. In the size of the crowd which thronged the streets for the parade and surrounded the statue in front of the Memorial library was seen the popular nature of the tribute, as well as in the fact that the statue is the gift of the people of the town. Chief Marshall Major R. A. Whipple, veteran of the Civil, Cuban, and Philippine wars, with his aides, Captains Herbert O. Hicks, George Crosier, and Lieutenant William O'Brien, veterans of the Cuban war, C. A. Waters of George I. Sayles Post, Grand Army of the Republic, and W. S.

¹ North Adams Transcript, September 13, 1937.

Jenks, representing the citizens, formed the procession near the statue on Park Street.

It was made up as follows: Second Regiment Band; battalion of militia; platoon of police; Germania Band, guests in carriages, Red Men's Band, George E. Sayles Post, Grand Army of the Republic of Adams; C. D. Sanford Post, Grand Army of the Republic, of North Adams; E. P. Hopkins Post, Grand Army of the Republic, of Williamstown; Berkshire Post, Grand Army of the Republic, of Pittsfield; and the Grand Army of the Republic Post of North Egremont. These veterans, comrades of the late President, were followed by the Deutsch Kreuger, a German military society of Adams; the St. Michael Polish Guards, also of Adams; the Continental Drum Corps and Lafayette Guards of North Adams; the St. Jean Baptiste; Lawton Camp, Sons of Veterans of Adams; Robert Emmet and A. O. H. societies of Adams; the Alert Hose Company, the latter with its parade cart; the F. W. Manning Garrison, A. and N. U. of Pittsfield; the Thomas O. Bates garrison of North Adams; the David C. Ferguson garrison of Adams; the Sons of Veterans of Pittsfield; and German Catholic societies of Adams. These organizations were all ready to move, and when the special train from Pittsfield, bringing Governor John L. Bates and Lieutenant-Governor Curtis Guild, Jr., and staff arrived, the State officials were met at the station by the Committee of Arrangements, comprising Hon. William B. Plunkett, Fred R. Shaw, F. E. Mole, Dr. C. W. Burton, and George Shand, and the selectmen of Adams, C. T. Plunkett, chairman; Godfrey Sanderson, Jr., and Horace C. Fifield. Major Frederick Pierce of Greenfield with the third battalion, Companies L of Greenfield, I of Northampton, E of Orange, and M of Adams, with F of

Pittsfield, acted as escort for the governor. Major Pierce's staff consisted of Captains Parsons and Williams and Lieutenant Parkhurst of Springfield.

Carriages were provided for the gubernatorial party, ex-Secretary Long, Rev. Dr. Thompson, the Committee of Arrangements, selectmen, and distinguished guests, and all were formed in line and marched from the station to Park Street and joined the procession, which was in waiting, taking their places at the head of the line, preceded by the Germania Band. Chief Marshall Major Whipple gave the order to march shortly after two o'clock and the procession moved over Columbia Street to Hoosac, to Summer, to Centre, to Commercial, to Liberty, back to Centre, and then returned to Park Street, to the monument.

On the right of a beautifully decorated platform which covered the terraces in front of the splendid Public Library were raised seats for about 125 singers, with an orchestra of 18 pieces, which played the accompaniments, under the directorship of Thomas Holloway of Adams. On the floor were the Committee of Arrangements and platform reception committee. The latter were J. C. Chalmers, A. B. Daniels, Z. D. Hall, and George B. Adams. In the centre, facing the plaza, were those who took part in the exercises. On the south of the platform were tables for the press, and adjoining were seated prominent men from all parts of the State. Arriving at the rendezvous, where the reviewing stand was located, Governor Bates, Lieutenant-Governor Guild, ex-Governor W. Murray Crane, ex-Secretary Long, and their party left their carriages and mounted the stand, with the parade passing in review before them.

The statue which was unveiled on October 10, 1903, was the first erected to the memory of the martyr President. It was after the town had held a memorial service in honor of him, that the citizens held a meeting, formed a committee, and prepared plans for a fitting memorial. Funds for the erection of the statue were raised largely through popular subscription while the balance was met by the Hon. William B. Plunkett.¹

The heroic statue of President McKinley is of bronze and is eight feet high. It stands with uplifted left arm and head slightly thrown back, a characteristic pose of the late President while delivering an address. The right hand rests on a standard conically enveloped by Old Glory. The statue stands on a solid granite pedestal which is six feet high and beautifully carved at the top and bottom, while the four sides are panelled with bronze plates or tablets. All the granite is highly polished. The pedestal rests on two heavy squares of granite, and the base of the monument is laid on a foundation of crushed stone and cement. Surrounding the monument is a circular plot of greensward, raised from the street and curbed with heavy granite, unpolished, but of the same kind as the pedestal.

The four bronze plates on the stone pedestal have been most appropriately selected and significantly inscribed. Each plate is twenty by thirty inches in size. On the front is a plate showing the President in the halls of Congress and inscribed: "William McKinley Addressing the House of Representatives on the Measure which became Famous under his Name." and refers to the McKinley tariff bill. Beneath this tablet is inscribed in bronze letters the name of him in whose honor the memorial

¹ Roe, Alfred S. Massachusetts Monuments, 1910.

was erected, "William McKinley." The tablet on the west side of the pedestal is inscribed: "William McKinley, Commissary Sergeant at the Battle of Antietam, MDCCCLXII." It pictures a scene of war, with the late President as a young man driving a commissary wagon, and refers to an incident during his Civil War service. The tablet on the north face is inscribed: "Let us remember that our interest is in Concord, not Conflict, and that our real eminence is in the Victories of Peace, not those of War." These words are taken from his speech at Buffalo, and at the bottom of the tablet is inscribed: "From President McKinley's Address at Buffalo, September VI, MDCCCCI." On the east side of the pedestal is inscribed: "William McKinley Delivering his address at his first Inauguration as President of the United States, March IV, MDCCCXCVII." It represents him as standing in a balcony over the steps leading to the Capitol in Washington.

The Hon. William B. Plunkett; chairman of the committee which saw to the erection of the McKinley statue, spoke as follows in presenting the monument to the town of Adams:

"As chairman of the committee under whose direction this statue is erected, it is my most pleasant and agreeable duty to present to the town of Adams through you, its official head, this statue of our beloved late President, William McKinley. It perpetuates, in the town and among these hills and valleys he loved so well, the memory of the greatest leader of men in our nation's history. During his many visitations to our town, he had become personally known to this people, and was deeply interested in our welfare. This interest, it may be said, dated from his first visit in 1892, when as Governor of Ohio he dedicated the second Berkshire mill to the principles of protection and prosperity. His visit to us as President in 1897, the laying of the cornerstone of yonder memorial library building, and again visiting us in 1899, and laying the cornerstone of Berkshire mill No. 4 are all events fresh in our memory, and endeared President McKinley to the hearts of our people.

He walked among us, frank, free, trusting, unguarded, honesty written in his very lineament, and manly assurance of friendship in the cordial handclasp that was irresistible. I esteem it a precious privilege

that I may stand here today and speak of these things, of one, who though of great and exalted position and character, was lovable beyond compare. I love to recall the spirit of the man, his courage, his patriotism, his tenderness, his Christian faith, and his grand fidelity to his ideal of nobility. The cares of state were never so exacting that he could not listen to the cry of the humblest, and his mind was never so troubled that his heart was not full of mercy.

Let this monument be a plea to his countrymen to mark the steps of his career and walk therein--a plea for moral earnestness, for industry, for high mindedness, for good habits, for intellectual courage, for purity of conduct, for faith, for goodness, for nobility, and trust in God. One has truly said: 'William McKinley died with one hand closed in ours and the other in the hand of God.' There was for him no shadow, no valley of death; he died on the summit of the mountain, as a grand day dies, beyond him the radiant gates of heaven, around him the friendly stars."¹

At the conclusion of these eloquent words, Old Glory, which covered the statue, was withdrawn and the statue was unveiled, while the band played the "Star Spangled Banner," and the gathered thousands cheered.

Mr. Charles T. Plunkett accepted the statue for the town in the following words:

"Mr. Chairman: On behalf of the town of Adams, and with very great pleasure, I accept this noble monument. I assure you, sir, that the gratitude of the people of Adams is commensurate with the generosity of the honors whom you represent. This statue stands on a spot made historic by the participation in the dedicatory exercises of the public library, by him of whom the figure is such a lifelike portraiture. Were a memorial building erected today, in addition to, but in harmony with the imperishable bronze, there would be chiselled upon the entablature of that classical structure a name which would evoke our admiration and reverence as completely as do those of the immortal trio inscribed thereon--Washington, Lincoln, Grant--McKinley.

You have most eloquently expressed, sir, the affectionate sentiments of this community and of the friends who have gathered with us to celebrate the unveiling of a monumental tribute which was inspired by the deep-rooted love of thousands of our townspeople for the lamented chief magistrate. I am confident, fellow-citizens, that I voice your first impressions of the unveiled statue when I say that the natural pose, identical figure, and accurate facial resemblance represent a marvelous artistic conception. I felicitate the artist whose consummate skill has produced a masterpiece. I congratulate the town upon the possession of it; and I congratulate the committee whose labors are crowned with such abundant success. Most heartily in the name of the town of Adams, do I thank the munificent bestowers of this welcome gift."²

¹ Knickerbocker Press. Unveiling of the McKinley Statue, 1903.

² Ibid.

Adams Floods

The town of Adams has been the victim of three disastrous floods during its corporate existence. Although occasional storms visit the community, as elsewhere in New England, their severity by no means measure up to the floods of August, 1901; November, 1927; and March, 1936. The disaster of 1901 was by far the most severe, with material damages estimated at \$250,000., while damages in the 1927 and 1936 floods were estimated at \$50,000. and \$150,000. respectively. Due to the excellent reconstruction and rehabilitation programs which were immediately set up after each flood, the unfortunate citizens of the community suffered a minimum of personal inconvenience.

The great flood of 1901 resulted in extensive damage to the industries of the town as well as to most of the public and private property of the area. Rain began to fall about four o'clock on the afternoon of August 20th.¹ Although the shower was a very heavy one, no unusual damage resulted. Shortly after five o'clock, the second shower began when a storm from the north met one from the south, resulting in a very heavy fall of rain which lasted for about two hours. The result of this last shower wrought havoc on all sides. The dam at Bassett Brook was partly carried away, as was that at James B. Dean's farm on the West Road. Mr. Dean estimated his damages at \$3,000.00. The water came down the roads on the side hills like rivers, washing everything before it, and as a result there was hardly a road in town safe to travel on. The manufacturing establishments were flooded and suffered great damage. A careful

¹ Adams Freeman, August 22, 1901.

estimate placed all losses at \$250,000., which included the loss to mills from being obliged to shut down, the railroad loss, loss to the town because of damages to highways, sewers, and water supply, as well as the individual loss and expense sustained by almost every family in town through flooded cellars, etc. The one fortunate circumstance in the whole disaster was the fact that no lives were lost although there were several very narrow escapes from death.

The dam at the Bassett reservoir gave way entirely shortly after 6 o'clock. The water first washed out the earth around the southwest wing and this weakened the structure, allowing it to be carried away to the extent of about 30 feet. The water rushed down the Bassett Brook into the Hoosic River and in doing this, cut away considerably from the steep bank of the roadway there. Following the river down, the first damage was the lifting of a shed owned by John Rider which was carried down to the gatehouse across the river, back of the Greylock mill, where it lodged. Considerable of the State Road was washed away and the road from this mill to the Maple Grove station was practically ruined.

At the Graham, Clark and Company mill, the flood entered the stock room and, although the help was called in to save the goods stored there, the water rose too fast and the men were obliged to leave the shed. The east foundation was washed out and the floor fell. Heavy loss of materials ensued. The water so flooded the flumes that they burst and the engine-room and machine shop were flooded. The planking which covered the raceway from this mill to the crossing was carried away.

No particular damage was done at the Adams Brothers and W. C. Plunkett

and Sons mills or the Maple Grove mill of the Renfrew Manufacturing Company, although at the latter place it was thought that the large supply of coal would be washed away by the stream that forced its way across and under the road into the mill yard to the river. By quick and well-directed efforts, however, a dam was erected so that the coal was saved.

Above the double stone-arch bridge and below the residence of Capt. E. N. Jones, the road was so washed out that there was no semblance of a highway there. On Bellevue Avenue, there were three bad washouts but the one near the residence of Celestin Filliere was by all odds the worst. The gap in the roadway was about 30 feet wide and 15 feet deep. The electric light poles were down and a house owned by Mr. Filliere had toppled over, being held up by heavy props. The foundation was washed away but it was thought that the house could be jacked up and saved without any great damage, although it was badly twisted and the household goods were considerably damaged. All semblance of Glenn Street had been washed away and nothing was left but gully and rock, a broken sewer, and gas and water pipes. At the foot of the street, where James E. Noon had a nice garden of corn, potatoes and garden truck, not a thing remained in the morning, as his land was covered with a foot of gravel, stone, sewer pipe, etc. He estimated his loss at \$500.00. The water pipe which carried the water from the water shed of the L. L. Brown Paper Company to its mills was broken, necessitating the closing down of the mill until repairs could be made.

Orchard Street was terribly washed out, and it was impossible to get a team through there with any degree of safety, while on its continua-

tion, Center Street, the sidewalk had to be used by teams going from East to Summer Streets. Both sides of the Center Street hill were badly gullied and the concrete gutter was ruined. Mud and sand to the depth of a foot had washed up in front of the stores. East Street was made impassable, deep gullies being formed throughout the hill. The house owned by A. G. Thayer on Richmond Avenue was left with but a portion of its underpinning. Here the water rushed down from the pasture and into the cellar of the house. A passage-way was forced through the cellar wall on the opposite side of the house. The lawn was washed out and the roadway was gullied its entire width.

Commercial Street escaped with but little damage but havoc was wrought on Harmony Street. The culvert at the railroad was washed out and it is probable that portions of that structure hit the houses owned by Fred Duffy. They were torn from their foundations and carried down stream a distance of 50 feet and landed on the other side of the stream where a large tree held them. In some unaccountable manner, the wrecked houses changed positions on their trip. These tenements were occupied by Messrs. Guyott, Joreau and Willett. The occupants had just left them before they went down stream. Mr. Guyott was in Canada enjoying his vacation. The household goods within these homes were almost a total wreck and a portion of them went down stream. Previous to the houses going down stream, a shed was taken, which in its passage, struck the corner of the Kenyon house, knocking out the foundation at the northwest corner, thus allowing the cellar to flood, and all that was of value therein was carried away.

The Boston and Albany railroad suffered considerable damage at this point in addition to the loss of the culvert. For a distance of about 1,000 feet, the track was either undermined or covered with sand and debris. Below the Maple Grove depot, there were some portions of the track undermined slightly but not at all seriously. The trains through Adams on the evening of August 20th were held over at Maple Grove. The 6:19 train ran into a washout at Zylonite and the engine toppled to one side so that there were no trains through to North Adams for several days.

At Elm Street, the sewer in front of Boorn and Morgan's Store broke and washed away the entire road, almost to the steps of the store. The hole was about 25 feet deep and it was estimated that it would take 1,200 loads of gravel to fill the excavation. At the L. L. Brown Paper Company's Upper Mill it is thought that the new retaining wall saved the mill. As it was, the water filled the boiler room, but as the fires had been drawn, no damage resulted. Hill Street was badly washed out and the lower portion of Elm Street suffered some but not badly. Commercial and Crandall Streets did not seem to suffer as badly as the other streets, but on each of these there were some bad washouts and the concrete sidewalks were ruined at several different points.

The worst damage was suffered by the mountain roads, all being very badly washed and filled with logs, stumps and other debris. All the bridges between Adams and Savoy, via Bowen Corners, were carried away and there was practically no travel by way of these roads for a time.

There were no serious washouts on Park Street but the water poured down into the street, flooding the stores of W. B. Green and Jenks and

Mooney to a depth of 6 inches, the water carrying with it mud in generous quantities. School Street was washed out a little but was left in good passable condition. Forest Park Avenue suffered badly. Most of the damage resulted at the gully where the water flows down through the culvert under the road from the dam above. The culvert washed away, carrying with it about 20 feet of the road. An immense quantity of water rushed down through the raceway which was overloaded, the surplus water finding a pathway down back of Charles T. Plunkett's barn, across the lawn back of Dr. Alfred Desroscher's property and into Maple Street. The stream carried havoc in its pathway, destroying the sewer, cutting out the edgestone and concrete work at the corner in front of Notre Dame church, where it crossed the street and either buried the electric car tracks or under-mined them from Maple to Hoosac Street. On the east side of Columbia Street, the greater portion of the new concrete sidewalk was undermined and ruined, a gully four feet deep having been formed. The water turned into Hoosac Street where it found its way to the river or into No. 1 mill of the Berkshire Cotton Manufacturing Company which was filled with water and mud to the top of the looms. No part of the great plant was in operation the next day, the day being utilized in caring for the machinery and saving the warps in the weave room, wherever possible. The mud was shovelled out of the room, which presented a very sorry appearance. In No. 4 Mill, the water poured through the basement under the weave shed in floods. Many of the belts were ruined, but the greater portion of the smaller ones were saved and all of the large ones. Hoosac Street was a teeming river and dams were put in to keep the water in the roads and out of the mills.

On Myrtle Street all of the cellars were flooded as the river overflowed at the Pleasant Street bridge. All the debris landed against the bridge and the overflow divided, one half going down through Holden's lumber yard and the other in back of Williams' blacksmith shop and the New Barrett hotel. Driftwood of all description was left in the middle of the road. The new concrete sidewalk on Pleasant Street was partially destroyed. The cellar of the Barrett Hotel was flooded, causing considerable damage, while at the Berkshire Inn, the planking over the raceway in front of the house was carried away and the cellar was flooded, all the piping and goods to a considerable value being destroyed.

Spring Street was a river of water, the road was badly damaged and the concrete sidewalk ruined in a great many places. Cellars were flooded and considerable damage done. At the lumber yards of George H. Holden and H. J. Arnold and Sons, the lumber floated out of the yards and considerable of it was lost in addition to all of it being thoroughly soaked. Summer Street was badly washed its entire length. The water flowed down over the side hill all along the length of the street, carrying with it all manner of debris. A portion of the underpinning was washed away from E. W. Streeter's barn and Joshua Sherman's shed was swept off its foundations, a tree saving it from going down the river. At the corner of Spring Street, a very deep hole was washed out which required 200 loads of gravel to refill. Randall Avenue was practically all washed out and the lawns on the south side of the street were washed away badly. The Tulley place required several hundred loads of gravel to put it back in repair and the Lafey place was in about the same predicament. The water overflowed

the street and came out into Summer Street between the residences of John C. Gray and Frank A. Malley, plowing a ditch ten feet wide and about four feet deep. Smith Street was also washed out badly, a portion of the stone gutter being washed away. On Summer Street, from Spring to Hoosac, there was a general havoc. The Richmond House, occupied by Mrs. Kelley had a narrow escape from being taken away. The earth all around it was washed away and the foundation evidently settled a little. The driveway that led to Winter Street was wiped out of existence and the fence and concrete walk along this fill were carried away. Practically every store along this street was flooded and some idea of the magnitude of the flood at this point may be gained from the fact that a great log 25 feet long and 18 inches in diameter was carried through one of the store windows. Stores five feet above the level of the highway were flooded and when the waters had lowered, the mud had to be shovelled out with coal scoops. The floods here came from Tophet Brook which overflowed its banks.

The worst sufferers were those on East Hoosac Street, Hoosac Street, and the lowlands in the vicinity of Mill, Murray, Jordan, Crotteau, and Cook Streets. Tophet Brook was early in overflowing its banks, and to add to the trouble, a wood shed was washed down to the culvert or bridge at the corner of Hoosac and Summer Streets, blocking up the channel. To this was added other debris which acted as a dam and in a very few minutes, the water was running over the bridge into the channel, and down Hoosac and North Summer Streets. The channel never could have taken care of the volume of water in any event, as Hoosac Street was a regular river and there were hundreds of people on each side waiting to cross

the streets in order to reach their homes. At about 8 o'clock a line was passed across the road and made secure on both sides and the more daring of the men went across with the aid of the rope, every man being taken off his feet by the current and getting drenched. In attempting to carry a little girl home, Richard Herold's baker cart tried to cross the street with the result that the cart tipped over, the horse was thrown, and the little girl, a daughter of Hugo Welz, nearly drowned. Shortly after 8 o'clock, the firemen arrived and, in conjunction with the police, made a temporary bridge across the stream with the aid of ladders.

On Hilbert Street, the two story frame house occupied by Herman Guettler, in which were three women and a child, was turned around and carried down stream, being stopped by a tree. The occupants were rescued, having suffered no injury other than a bad fright. There was considerable damage done in this immediate vicinity. The barn and rear portion of the house owned by Edward Harrington toppled over and the buildings and a portion of his furniture became a total wreck. In the barn was stored the furniture of a man named Coope which went down stream, also a total loss. John O'Brien's house on Richmond Lane was carried away from its foundations as was that of the Joseph Jette Estate at the corner of Mill and Jordan Streets. All the streets in the vicinity mentioned above were ruined, as were the sidewalks. The mass of debris that had been swept into the streets at this point was a curiosity to behold.

At Sevastopol, several of the smaller buildings were destroyed and the highway there bore no resemblance to a road. It took a considerable amount of money to put this section in repair. George Shand's icehouses

were also wrecked. At the Broadley Mill, a portion of the dam gave way and the lower floor of the mill was flooded.

Columbia Street escaped serious damage, although the new sidewalk was damaged some. The footbridge at Murray Street was carried away during the evening. At the Gingham Mill, the storeroom was flooded and all of the cloth damaged more or less. East Renfrew was badly flooded, while Lime Street was washed beyond imagination.

On the afternoon of August 21, 1901, there was evidently another severe storm, coming from the mountains east of the town, for at 4:30 o'clock the scenes of the previous evening were re-enacted in the Tophet Brook area, and it was reported the water was higher but no additional damage had resulted.

Charles O. Gould, street superintendent, lost the dam on his West Road farm, a hen house, and his cow barn was ruined. In addition, thousands of tons of debris were deposited on his farm as a result of the three great landslides which occurred on Mount Greylock and are quite visible to this day.¹

The flood of November 4, 1927, although in no way comparable to the flood of 1901, did adversely affect the town of Adams. The Hoosic River, overflowing at the Pleasant Street bridge at 6 o'clock caused the worst damage. It flowed into the Barrett Hotel and the barber shop and Carpenter's Store located on the first floor. Tearing through Pleasant Street to Myrtle and then over to Dean Street, the river at this point washed out Butler's Livery Stable, Holden's lumber yard, D. A. Murphy's storehouse on Holden Avenue, and Allen's foundry on Dean Street. The

¹ Adams Freeman, August 22, 1901.

families living in homes on Holden Avenue owned by Abraham Stein were ordered out about 8 o'clock, when the water had risen to the first floor. Policemen carried out the members of the three families.

Three bridges, the foot bridge connecting North Summer Street and the eastern entrance of the Renfrew Mill, a wooden bridge at Bowen's Corners, and the one at Tobins in Maple Grove were washed out. A huge barn owned by Mrs. Bernat of Cook Street was washed out and struck the Cook Street bridge, ripping the southern girders and south sidewalk. The Lime Street bridge overflowed and the road adjoining was washed away.

Water entered the boiler room of the L. L. Brown Paper Company and put out the fires. The plant was closed for the remainder of the week. Belts in the cellar of the No. 4 mill weave room were cut to keep them dry when it was evident the water would reach there. This mill did not operate the next day.

The O'Hearn home on Lime Street was surrounded by water from the overflow of the Hoosic River and at 6 o'clock the three occupants and a woman visitor were carried to safety by the police.

The Berkshire Hills Paper Company was saved from considerable damage when the water opened a hole in the bank of the raceway diverting the swollen stream to Follett's Meadow. The water was flowing over the dam which was reinforced by sand and cement bags and had entered the cellar to the depth of an inch. The employees were starting for the raceway bank to cut a hole when the water turned the trick.

The main road to Pittsfield was blocked at the Woolen mill in Adams. The East Road to Adams was blocked by water and huge holes devel-

oped in the road at Burnett's farm.

The Hoosic River overflowed into the Renfrew mill, and had that mill been operating, it would have been forced to close. The water reached the floor of the machine shop and filled cellars all over the mill. A gang of workmen was rounded up to save belting and valuable machinery resting in the machine shop.

Twelve horses and a number of pigs at Butler's Livery Stable were moved to safety about 6 o'clock when it was seen that the river was rising steadily, the stables being on the south bank.

Caron Square was turned into a lake about 8 o'clock when the Hoosic River, steadily rising, overflowed its east bank at Center Street and also went over the Center Street bridge for a short time. Fear that the Center Street bridge would give away forced the police to keep people off it.

Mill, Murray and Crotteau Streets were filled with water and considerable property damage was done to this section. Another bad point was at the corner of East Hoosac and Summer Streets, where the Tophet Brook overflowed its banks and filled cellars of a dwelling block at the corner. It also entered Gajda's store at that corner and did considerable damage to stock stored in the cellar.

About \$400. worth of flour stored in the basement of Hammond's Bakery was destroyed by the water. Three car loads of cement, plaster and fertilizer stored in the Murphy storehouse on Holden Avenue, in addition to other material, were destroyed. Foodstuff stored in the cellar of Kiley's restaurant on Myrtle Street also suffered from the storm.

Two barns, on both sides of the Cook Street bridge were carried

away. The barn on the south side was destroyed when it struck the bridge, but caused damage to the bridge. The yard at the town sheds on Cook Street was covered with water. Barrels, tools and other articles were carried away.

Traffic was stopped on Lime, Hoosac, Pleasant, Myrtle and Dean Streets by order of the police, so that it was impossible to cross from the west side of the town to the east side except by way of Center Street.

When the Berkshire Hills Paper Company's raceway bank broke, water rushed clear across the meadows to the trolley line of the Berkshire Street Railway, where it marooned a north bound car full of passengers, just south of the Town Infirmary. After a time, the car was able to proceed as far as Carey's Corners in North Adams, where the passengers alighted. No trolley cars were run in Cheshire or to North Adams for a time. Service was maintained between the car barns in Zylonite and Adams center, with a fairly good schedule being kept. Two cars were marooned just south of the Woolen Mill and the occupants had to be transferred to wrecking cars. The cars could not be moved. Automobiles could not pass through the center of the town for about an hour until the water receded.

Although the repair men of the Adams Gas Light Company and the Alerts were in readiness, no calls were received by them. The electric lights went out for about five minutes at 11 o'clock and service was soon restored. But one slight accident was reported during the storm. That was a collision between a truck and touring car with no material damage to either. Local troops of Boy Scouts were out early in the evening assisting the police in traffic and rescue work. About 77 scouts were

out and performed commendably under the supervision of Assistant Scout Executive Robert Chilson.

The mountain streams became swollen rapidly and as they tore down the hillsides, carried much debris and dirt with them and caused much damage. Fortunately for the farmers, their crops had been gathered. Most of the side hills were badly gutted and torn, and most of the side roads were badly damaged.

Both Renfrew athletic fields were inundated early in the afternoon and resembled huge lakes instead of football or baseball fields. The meadows north of Lime Street were one sheet of water with an occasional telephone post or barn rising above the surface. All bridges erected by the town within the past few years stood up well under the heavy assault. All, with the exception of the Pleasant Street bridge, were able to hold the water. The water line on this structure was far from being high enough and at 5:30 o'clock the water was pouring over the top at a rapid pace. It soon covered Pleasant and surrounding streets. Planks were laid across the doors of the Barrett Hotel barber shop and the Economy Fabric Shop located in the same building. The water entered Lacy's Barber Shop and the La Mode Millinery Shop just south of the bridge on Pleasant Street.

Frank Weithauper, superintendent of streets, had a force of men out all day and night keeping the man holes and catch basins open in order to absorb as much water as possible. Leaves and brush were constantly cluttering them up and a constant vigil was necessary. Huge stumps, trees, chicken coops, etc., were carried in the streams until

they struck a bridge or the opening of spillways and then refused to budge until workmen cleared them out. Keeping the stumps and other debris away from the openings so as to allow the water freedom proved hard work for the town employees.

Representatives of the Samuel T. Freeman and Company auctioneers, who were selling the Renfrew Mill, were assisted from the west side of Pleasant Street to the Barrett Hotel where they were staying. The men were caught in the storm and could not reach the hotel as Pleasant Street was a raging torrent.¹

Adams Town Clocks

The town of Adams has two large, highly elevated clocks which provide the greater part of the municipality with a visible as well as audible means of knowing the time of day, these being the Berkshire Mill Clock and the First Baptist Church Clock. Prior to 1841, with no municipal time-piece available, the inhabitants of the town had to set their clocks and watches according to information received from their neighbors or by guess.

In December, 1841, the officials of the First Baptist church arranged a contract with the firm of Cain and Champney for the purchase of a church bell, weighing not less than 600 pounds, and a town clock, both to be put up complete in the belfry of the church for the sum of \$350.00.² This clock served the town exclusively until 1896. In that year, the Berkshire Cotton Manufacturing Company built its No. 3 Mill, having in its tower the clock which was gradually to take the place of the Baptist

¹ North Adams Transcript, November 5, 1927.

² Records of the Baptist Church of South Adams.

church clock, due to its more central location, its much larger face, and the greater reach of the sound of its bell.

The year 1896 also saw a change in the Baptist bell. Largely through the efforts of John L. Barker, a member of the Baptist church, subscriptions were taken up among the townspeople for a newer and larger bell. This new bell, and incidentally the present bell, was made by the Meneely Bell Company of Troy, New York. It weighed 2500 pounds and cost \$650.00, the firm having taken the old bell for \$100.00.¹ The clock machinery was not replaced that year but continued to serve the new bell until 1903, at which time the machinery was replaced by a Seth Thomas clock with illuminated faces, a gift of John L. Barker. The bell has three hammers, one for tolling, one for ringing, and one for striking. The first two are rung by ropes extending to the lower floors. The third, before being disconnected, was connected to the clock on the floor above. The hammer for ringing is inside the bell. The rope for ringing it encircles a huge, grooved wheel. The clock has to be wound once a week. The "key" winds a cable which in turn pulls up the huge weight. One time this weight dropped down through all of the floors.²

The pitch of the bell is E, and on the outside of the bell in raised letters is the statement: "Memorial Town Clock Bell, Adams, Massachusetts, by the citizens through the efforts of John L. Barker, A.D. 1895. 'Let him that heareth come.' Father, mother, and sister Betsey, S. Jenks and family, A. Richmond and family, Deacon A. Jones and family, Deacon B. F. Phillips and family, S. C. Dean and family, G. Potter and family, Mrs. F. M. Bowker, J. M. Seeley, S. Lincoln, Miss Carrie E. Carnes,

¹ Adams Freeman, January 4, 1896.

² Anthony, Merton. Interview, 1936.

Gov. G. N. Briggs, Elders Leland and Sweet, E. T. Hunt, C. Ham, W. C. Plunkett and family, Rev. E. Judson, Dr. C. W. Anable, and Gov. F. Greenhalge." The father, mother, and sister Betsey alluded to are the parents and sister of Mr. Barker. Mr. E. T. Hunt, C. Ham, and Dr. C. W. Anable are former pastors of the Baptist church.

Following the dedication of the bell in 1896, it was stated by John L. Barker that the bell was part and parcel of the town clock and shall always remain as such, being the initial purpose represented to the subscribers who were men of all denominations of the town. Mr. Barker said that the town clock and the old bell were the property of town subscribers, and in placing the new bell he had in no way conflicted with church interests or infringed on the rights of the Baptist Society. The bell was to be used by the Society as was the old bell, and the new bell and clock were to be regarded in the same manner as under the old arrangement before the new church was built.¹

The clock is reached by climbing two flights of stairs and three ladders. The bell is hung on raised beams at the top of the second ladder. The clock has three faces with provision for a fourth. The faces are of glass, four feet in diameter, with the numerals painted thereon. In regard to the "illuminated dials," it may be said that there was an agreement with the Electric Company, whereby the church should furnish the bulbs and the Company the electricity. This arrangement went along satisfactorily until recent years when the Company changed management. The new manager declined to observe the old arrangement unless a written agreement could be found. It had been a verbal agreement apparently, so the church,

¹ Adams Freeman, January 4, 1896.

unable to meet the expense entailed, decided to do without the convenience of illumination.¹

It no longer "speaks to the community", as the people in adjacent homes objected to the noise, so the striking mechanism has been disconnected.

The Berkshire Mill Clock, installed in the tower of Mill No. 3 in 1896, is one of the better type of municipal clocks in America today. The clock was made by the E. Howard Clock Company of Boston, Massachusetts, while the bell was the product of the Blake Bell Company, another Boston concern. The original plans indicate that a cupola was to have been built over the top of the clock but this phase of the plans never materialized.² A flagpole was erected above the clock during the early days of the first World War period with lights trained on the flag, but with its destruction during a heavy storm several years ago, the pole was never replaced.

This clock is not operated electrically but must be wound every week. For many years, it was set daily according to Washington time, consequently its accuracy was the source of much satisfaction. In many respects, the Berkshire Mill Clock is similar to the Baptist Clock. The one outstanding difference is that the four faces of the Berkshire clock are controlled by separate shafts, whereas in the Baptist clock the faces are controlled from the one shaft. This difference accounts for the time indicated on the Berkshire clock being at variance on occasion, particularly after sleet storms.

The Berkshire Mill clock is made of bronze, about five feet in diameter and five feet in height, and can be rung in an emergency by a wooden, grooved wheel $7\frac{1}{2}$ feet in diameter. It weighs about two tons and came from

¹ Dreschler, Rev. Interview, 1936.

² Adams Freeman, June 22, 1895.

the Hooper Foundry. Ordinarily, it is rung by a hammer connected to the clock on the floor above by a stout wire. This enables the bell to sound without the bell actually moving. When it is time for it to strike, "flippers" attached to the clock keep it from striking too fast. Unlike the Baptist bell, there are no names on it, other than the date 1896. It, too, has a hammer in its center which does not move unless rung by hand or by means of the huge wooden wheel. Both bells are on floors below the clock and lie open to the weather.

The clock is reached by climbing five flights of stairs. After this come two flights of narrower stairs before one reaches the clock. At the top of this first flight is the bell. A shed, reached by five steps, houses the clock. The sides of this shed are scarred with the names of the various people who have ever been there. The vibration of the mill machinery seven stories below can be felt here.

The clock, too, has a cable that, when wound, raises the huge weight, weighing almost a ton. It is not uncommon for these weights to drop off and fall through all the floors. Fortunately, at no time was extensive damage caused.

This clock is mounted on a four-legged "table" and has many wheels and ratchets. A huge, wooden pendulum, extending down through the floor and having a weight upon its end, ticks away the seconds - one swing to a second, similar to the Baptist clock. The four dials are connected to the clock by separate rods. These dials, although appearing small from a distance, are in reality more than six feet in diameter. In each one is a small square opening by which the hands may be moved. These are

usually kept closed and are indiscernable at a distance. The hands are wooden, gilded to protect them from the weather and to be more easily discernable. The hour hand is about two feet long and the minute hand about three feet long. Nailed to the outside of the shed, in a glass-encased oblong, are directions for the care of a town clock.

Susan Brownell Anthony

Susan B. Anthony was the most famous of the sons and daughters of the town of Adams who had gone forth and attained nation-wide prominence. She was born on February 15, 1820, in the Anthony homestead at Bowen's Corners in Adams, the second of the seven children of Daniel and Lucy (Reed) Anthony. On her father's side, she was a descendent of the Quakers and from them she probably acquired her belief in the equality of women. Her mother was a descendent of the Baptist settlers of Stafford Hill, a people noted for their independence of thought and action. The combination of these two traits in herself, gave her the strong character always evident in her life. She was destined to gain fame as a tireless and ardent advocate of equality for women and her efforts played a great part in eventually gaining for the women of America the right of having a share in the conduct of government.

Susan B. Anthony was a precocious child. At the age of three, while on a visit to her grandmother, she learned to read and write. Her memory was phenominal. One of her childish delights was to stand in the yard of her home on East Road in Adams and watch the sun set behind the summit of Greylock mountain.¹

¹ North Adams Transcript, February 16, 1929.

In 1826, the Anthony family moved to Battenville, N. Y., where Mr. Anthony operated a cotton factory. He was an important member of the Quaker society there and in her early youth Susan joined the society. Among her early teachers was Sarah Anthony, a cousin and a graduate of Rennselaer Quaker boarding school. Mary Perkins, a graduate of Miss Grant's Seminary at Ipswich and a pupil of Mary Lyon, founder of Mt. Holyoke college, was an important teacher of Susan's in her early life. She taught her and her sisters many subjects not in public school systems and introduced first the idea of calisthenics.

When 15, Susan taught young pupils in the summer. In those days women worked only when the necessity of wages demanded and her father was much rebuked for allowing Susan and her older sister Gualma to teach. But he believed in self-support for both women and men. At that time, she earned \$1 a week and later \$1.50. Her teaching was so satisfactory that she was offered a position in Philadelphia and she left Battenville for that city. At that time, she learned the letter writing habit which clung to her throughout life.

At 18 her family suffered reverses. She ended her school career in 1839 and remained at home to help her mother. Later she accepted a school at New Rochelle and Central Falls, N. Y. and from 1846 to 1849, was head of the Female Department of Canajoharie Academy.

Her early letters reveal a straight laced, prudish young woman, serious minded, with very rigid moral standards, and prone to criticize her elders with more than the ordinary assurance of conceited youth. She was not without admirers of the other sex in those days, but there is no

evidence that her passions were ever stirred. She never felt it her mission to be a home-maker. When nearing thirty, she was in the family of a cousin who was married. Susan wrote home rather disgustedly that in her opinion there were some drawbacks to marriage which made a woman quite content to remain single. Later her views of amusements and life in general broadened, and she lost much of her priggishness.

In addition to being a pioneer in woman suffrage, Miss Anthony was one of the first women of this country to advocate and encourage education for women.

Susan B. Anthony began her career in politics and world affairs soon after the famous Seneca Falls convention of July, 1848. This was the first attempt to organize women as a social group to obtain equal rights with men. The leaders in the attempt were Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Mrs. Lucretia Mott. Susan watched their progress with interest and found her views to be in common with theirs. Susan was greatly interested in the slavery abolition movement at that time and next to that was her interest in temperance. A woman's society was formed as an auxiliary to the Sons of Temperance organization and Susan worked enthusiastically with the woman's group. She visited nearby towns and cities helping to form branch societies and devoted much of her time in the work. About this time, she met Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Mrs. Mott who pressed her into service in their political organization. After that her temperance speeches included equal rights for women. It was after the failure of her Temperance Society that Miss Anthony became entirely converted to the women's rights cause.

In 1854, when the state convention met in Albany, N. Y., Susan was named chairman of the committee on petitions and addressed the assembly. This was her first appearance in higher politics but not her last. She went to Baltimore in that year and after seeing the slavery conditions in the South began an energetic campaign favoring abolition of slavery. In 1856 she came to Adams to a woman's rights meeting held in the Baptist church. She gave a stirring address and among those to congratulate her was her grandfather, Humphrey Anthony who was born in 1770. He realized that Susan was a personage and told her so.

In 1872, she made a test case of her right to vote by insisting on voting in the city of Rochester, where she then resided. Although technically guilty of breaking a law, it was shown that she had not committed any moral wrong. She was fined \$100 and Miss Anthony replied: "May it please your Honor, I shall never pay a dollar of your unjust penalty", and she never did.¹

She travelled all through the states speaking for abolition and women's rights and coupled her energy with that of Mrs. Stanton and Mrs. Mott for their beloved causes. Her life was filled with adventure and hardships and she suffered as many failures as successes for many years.

In 1890, two women destined to become nationally famous, Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt and Rev. Anna Shaw, joined Miss Anthony's party and with the other leaders accomplished much.

At the age of 80 Miss Anthony was still speaking for her cause and one newspaper wrote that "her voice still had the best carrying qualities of any of the voices heard in the meetings." In 1901 she wrote two

¹ Adams Town Report, 1941.

volumes on "History of Woman's Suffrage" and the task was successful.

Miss Anthony's health failed in the year of 1906 but she would not relinquish her task. It was in Baltimore at a convention that she was stricken with bronchitis and died within a month. She was 86 years old at the time of her death on March 14, 1906. Her body was taken to Rochester, N. Y., for burial in Mount Hope cemetery beside her father and mother. All the flags in the city of Rochester were at half mast on the day of the funeral.

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APPENDIX

ADAMS TOWN WARRANT

1945

Town of Adams
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Berkshire, ss.

To either of the Constables of the Town of Adams:

GREETING:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the Inhabitants of the Town of Adams, qualified to vote in elections, to meet at the polling places designated for the several precincts in said town, in the State Armory on Park Street, on Monday, the fifth day of March, 1945, at 6:00 A. M., for the following purposes, to wit:

To choose by ballot the following officers:

One Moderator for a term of one year
 One Town Clerk for a term of three years
 One Assessor for a term of three years
 Two School Committee members for a term of three years
 One School Committee member for a term of one year
 One Member of the Board of Health for a term of three years
 One Cemetery Commissioner for a term of three years
 Two Members of the Library Trustees for a term of three years
 One Member of the Library Trustees for a term of two years
 Two Members of the Planning Board for a term of three years
 Three Constables for a term of one year

Town Meeting Members:

Precinct I

10 Town Meeting Members for a term of three years

Precinct II

10 Town Meeting Members for a term of three years

2 Town Meeting Members for a term of two years

2 Town Meeting Members for a term of one year

Precinct III

10 Town Meeting Members for a term of three years

3 Town Meeting Members for a term of two years

Precinct IV

10 Town Meeting Members for a term of three years

1 Town Meeting Member for a term of two years

2 Town Meeting Members for a term of one year

Precinct V

- 10 Town Meeting Members for a term of three years
- 3 Town Meeting Members for a term of two years
- 2 Town Meeting Members for a term of one year

For these purposes the polls shall be opened at 6:00 A. M. and shall be closed at 6:00 P. M.

And in the name of said Commonwealth, you are further directed to notify and warn the said inhabitants qualified to vote in town affairs, to meet at the Town Hall on Monday, the 19th day of March, 1945 at 7:30 P. M., then and there to act on the following articles, to wit:

Article 1. To choose all other town officers.

Article 2. To hear the report of the selectmen and other officers and act thereon.

Article 3. To raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, such sum or sums of money as may be necessary to defray the ordinary expenses of the town for the ensuing year and to pay loans maturing during the year.

Article 4. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money for the care and decoration of soldiers' graves, any such appropriation to be expended by a special committee to be appointed by the Moderator.

Article 5. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money for the purpose of paying to the Alert Hose Company an amount equal to the poll taxes of the members of said Company.

Article 6. To hear the reports of any committees and act thereon.

Article 7. To see if the town will vote to authorize the treasurer with the approval of the selectmen, to refund any or all of the revenue notes issued in anticipation of revenue of the year 1944, in accordance with the provisions of G. L. (Ter. Ed.) c. 44, s. 17, any debt so incurred to be paid from the revenue of the year 1944.

Article 8. To see if the town will vote to authorize the town treasurer, with the approval of the selectmen, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of the revenue of the financial year beginning January 1, 1945 and to issue a note or notes therefor, payable within one year, and to renew any note or notes as may be given for a period of less than one year in accordance with Section 17, Chapter 44, General Laws.

Article 9. To see if the town will vote, in accordance with Acts of 1938, Chapter 25, and any act amendatory thereof or supplementary thereto, to authorize its treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, and, if

necessary, with the approval of the Board referred to in that act, to extend for a period or periods not exceeding in the aggregate six months beyond the maximum term provided by law for an original revenue loan, any outstanding loan issued in anticipation of the revenue of 1944 and to issue renewal notes for the period or periods so approved.

Article 10. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from the Excess and Deficiency Fund, a sum of money to provide for extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures, to be known as the Reserve Fund, transfers from which may be made, from time to time, only by vote of the Finance Committee.

Article 11. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money to make an adjustment of certain land damage, personal injury and/or other claims against the town.

Article 12. To see if the town will vote to authorize the use of the free cash available at the time of the computation of the tax levy to reduce the tax levy for the current year.

Article 13. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money for the improvement or maintenance of any of its public ways, said money to be used in conjunction with any money which may be allotted by the State or County, or both, for this purpose.

Article 14. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money for the pruning of dead wood from the elms, and for the removal of any dead or dying elms on the public street.

Article 15. To see if the town will vote to appropriate a sum of money not exceeding one hundred (100) dollars to defray the expenses of the Planning Board.

Article 16. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money for the purpose of operating the town Retirement System and making the payment required thereby during the year 1945.

Article 17. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money for the maintenance of parks and playgrounds, or take any action in relation thereto.

Article 18. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money for the purpose of planting and/or care of shade trees upon public streets.

Article 19. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money for the destruction of gypsy, brown-tail and leopard moths, tent caterpillars and beetles under G. L. c 132.

Article 20. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money for the purpose of constructing sidewalks on certain of its public streets.

Article 21. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money for the purpose of removing debris from town aqueducts, or take any action in relation thereto.

Article 22. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money for the purchase of new equipment for the Highway Department.

Article 23. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money for the purpose of making necessary repairs to the Quaker Meeting House, in accordance with the terms of a deed to the town from the Easton Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, granting to the town the interest of the society in the westerly section of the Maple Street Cemetery, or take any action in relation thereto.

Article 24. To see if the town will vote to deed to the Dewey and Almy Chemical Company, for such price as the town shall fix, a parcel of land located westerly of the Jacquard Mill, so-called, bounded northwesterly, northerly and northeasterly by land of the Adams Forest Park Corporation and of W. C. Plunkett & Sons Company; southeasterly by the location of the Pittsfield & North Adams Railroad Corporation, and southwesterly by land of the Inhabitants of Adams, known as Fisk Street Playground, the last aforesaid boundary to be on a line parallel to and sixty-three and seventy-five hundredths (63.75) feet south of the southwest line of said Jacquard Mill building projected northwesterly; together with a right of way from Harmony Street at some convenient location either along the railroad location or on the line of the Adams Forest Park Corporation land; said conveyance to be subject to the rights of the L. L. Brown Paper Company to forever maintain its pipe lines in the premises to be conveyed.

Article 25. To see if the town will vote to accept the provisions of Chapter 44 of the General Laws providing for the installation of an accounting system for the town and raise and appropriate a sum of money to install the system.

Article 26. To see if the town will vote to revise the salaries of any of its public officers, or take action with reference to the salaries in any of the town departments, or take any action in relation thereto.

Article 27. To see if the town will vote to accept Burns Lane, so-called, as a town way, running easterly, approximately three hundred nineteen (319) feet off Meadow Street in accordance with layout and plan thereof on file at the Town Clerk's office.

Article 28. To see if the town will vote to accept Grant St., so-called,

running westerly from Lincoln St. to Cross St., in accordance with layout and plan thereof on file at the Town Clerk's office.

Article 29. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money for the reconstruction of North Summer St., or any part thereof, or take any action in relation thereto.

Article 30. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money to remove the embankment on the westerly side of West Road adjoining the premises of one Cora A. Anthony, or take any action in relation thereto, all land damages having been waived.

Article 31. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money to construct a wall along the northerly side of Fisk St., where this street adjoins a body of water known as the L. L. Brown Paper Co. dam, or take any action in relation thereto.

Article 32. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money to erect a curbing on both sides of Crandall St., extending between the property of Howard Kaiser and the north side of Edmund St., or take any action in relation thereto.

Article 33. To see if the town will vote to accept the provisions of sections 132 to 136 inclusive of Chapter 140 of the General Laws, pertaining to smoke nuisance.

Article 34. To see whether the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of four hundred dollars and purchase from Henry L. Harrington, Esq., for the use and benefit of the W. B. Plunkett Memorial Hospital that certain piece or parcel of land lying immediately west of the hospital land. Said piece or parcel of land being bounded and described as follows:

A certain piece or parcel of land situated in the South Village in Adams, Berkshire County, Mass., and described and bounded as follows, to wit:

"Beginning at the northeast corner of land conveyed by deed from Allen Field to William C. Plunkett and running thence on the east line of said Plunkett's land, southerly, thirty-one links to a stone set in the ground; thence north $8\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ east, two chains and twenty-four links to a stake and stones; thence westerly, in a straight line, to the northeast corner of the lot of land owned by Henry T. Williams; thence southerly on the east line of said Williams land and on the east line of land of Horace Harrington, and on the east line of the house-lot formerly owned by Parthena Hannum, now deceased, to the place of beginning, containing three-tenths of an acre, more or less." Being the same premises and subject to the reservations of the said deed of the said Joseph Edmunds to Francis R. Harrington dated as above.

Article 35. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate a

sum of money for the purchase of the Chickery Zarzour property lying on the westerly side of Mill street and more particularly described as follows:

"Beginning at an iron pin in the west line of Mill Street at a point distant forty-five (45) feet northerly from a chisel mark on the southwest angle of the northerly abutment of the bridge across the river known as Tophet brook, also distant twelve (12) feet from the northeast corner of a building standing on the premises herein conveyed; thence running in a right angle with said Mill Street westerly one hundred twenty-five and five-tenths (125.5) feet to a pin driven into the ground in the easterly margin of Tophet brook; thence turning to the left at an angle of $160^{\circ} 16'$ and running one hundred thirty-three and three-tenths (133.3) feet to the chisel mark on the bridge abutment above described; thence turning to the left at an angle of $109^{\circ} 03'$ and running forty-five (45) feet to the place of beginning."

Article 36. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds in the treasury, a sum of money for the purchase of war bonds or other bonds that are legal investments for savings banks, for a post-war rehabilitation fund, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 5, Acts of 1943.

Article 37. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds in the treasury a sum of money for the purpose of placing in the town treasury amounts equal in the aggregate to the proceeds of bequests for maintaining cemetery lots which were paid to the cemetery commissioners or sexton and not accounted for, as shown in a report of an audit of cemetery accounts of the town by the director of accounts in the department of corporations and taxation. The power to raise and appropriate this money is given to the town by virtue of Chapter 16 of the Acts of 1945. Acceptance of its provisions must occur in the current year.

Article 38. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money for the purpose of reconstructing Haggerty Street, a public way, or take any action in relation thereto.

Article 39. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money for the purpose of reconstructing Daniels Court, a public way, or to take any action in relation thereto.

Article 40. To see if the town will vote to ratify, confirm and approve the action of the Selectmen in appointing an advisory committee on rehabilitation and re-employment of the veterans of the World War II as recommended by His Excellency, the Governor on December 15, 1943, and constitute the committee to be a town committee and also authorize the Selectmen to fill any vacancy on said committee or appoint additional members as they deem necessary.

Article 41. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money for the town's committee on rehabilitation and re-employment.

Article 42. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money for the purpose of obtaining information and data regarding post-war public works projects, or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 43. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money for the purpose of maintaining the rifle range and expenses in connection with the use thereof by the State Guard.

Article 44. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the rationing boards of the Town of Adams.

Article 45. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money for the purpose of making further necessary repairs to the town infirmary.

Article 46. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money for the purpose of defraying expenses in connection with civilian defense and observation posts.

Article 47. To see if the town will vote to transfer from existing funds or vote to borrow any sum or sums of money which may be appropriated under any of the foregoing articles.

Article 48. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum or sums of money for further expenses in connection with the Adams Honor Roll, or to take any action thereon.

Article 49. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money for a guard rail to be erected on the easterly side of Commercial Street, or take any action in relation thereto.

Article 50. To see if the town will vote to accept certain perpetual care funds amounting to sixteen hundred thirty-seven dollars and forty cents (\$1637.40) received from March 1944 to February 1, 1945 for the care and maintenance of cemetery lots of twenty-five individuals, which funds are in the custody of the town treasurer.

Article 51. To see if the town will vote to have its constables appointed by the Board of Selectmen in place of being elected, in accordance with Chapter 41 of the General Laws, the appointments to take effect upon acceptance in 1946.

Article 52. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money for the purchase of a new police automobile, or take any action thereon.

Article 53. To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum of money for the purchase of town informary equipment, or take any action thereon.

Article 54. To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

You are to serve this warrant by posting in two or more public places in said Adams, true and attested copies thereof seven days at least before the time of holding said meeting, and by publishing a copy of the same in the North Adams Transcript, a newspaper published in North Adams, in the County of Berkshire, and having general circulation in said Adams, seven days at least before the time of said meeting.

Hereof fail not, and make due return to the Town Clerk at the time and place of said meeting.

Given under our hands this 19th day of February, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and forty-five.

John S. Wilk
Thomas F. Russell
Arthur W. King,

Selectmen of the Town of Adams.

A true copy

Attest:

Romain O. Cardonnel, ¹
Constable of Adams.

¹ Adams Town Report, 1944. Pp. 185-196.

TOWN OFFICERS
1944

TOWN CLERK

I. Audrey Louison Term expires 1945

SELECTMEN

John S. Wilk Term expires 1945
 Thomas F. Russell " " 1946
 Arthur W. King " " 1947

TREASURER

Hilaire Blanchette, Jr. Term expires 1947

TAX COLLECTOR

Frank L. Brown Term expires 1947

ASSESSORS

Henry P. LeGrand Term expires 1945
 Arthur J. Hoffmann " " 1946
 Fred Dabrowski " " 1947

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Frank M. Brenner Term expires 1945
 Stanley Cwalinski " " 1945
 Thomas J. Harvey (Appointed for
 Evelina Harvey) " " 1945
 John Ballantyne " " 1946
 Philip C. Bashara (In Military Service) " " 1946
 Evelina Harvey (Died December 4, 1944) " " 1946
 Clarence R. Scott (Military Sub.
 for Philip Bashara) " " 1946
 John Miles " " 1947
 George Voigt " " 1947

BOARD OF HEALTH

John Kissel Term expires 1945
 Dr. James F. McLaughlin " " 1946
 Clayton L. Couture " " 1947

LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Elizabeth Ryan Term expires 1945
 Thomas Wooley " " 1945
 Edward H. Martin (Appointed for
 Frederick H. Cooper) " " 1945

Josephine W. Romaniak	Term expires 1946
Thomas P. Ryan	" " 1946
Archie L. Alderman	" " 1947
Frederick W. Cooper (Resigned Sept. 25, 1944)	" " 1947

CONSTABLES

Romain V. Cardonnel	Raymond Bruffee
Harry Derosia	

CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS

Fred H. Couture, Jr. (Resigned October 31, 1944)	Term expires 1945
Harry E. Davis (Appointed for Fred H. Couture, Jr.)	" " 1945
Leo F. Jordan	" " 1946
Melvin VanDemark	" " 1947

REGISTRARS OF VOTERS
(Appointed by Selectmen)

Alfred J. Hebert	Term expires 1945
Francis J. Czubryt	" " 1946
Frederick Boisvert	" " 1947

FIELD DRIVERS
(Appointed by Selectmen)

Lawrence Bienik	Herbert Lenz
Arthur H. Hathaway	

POUND KEEPER
(Appointed by Selectmen)

Arthur H. Hathaway

INSPECTOR OF VINEGAR AND OIL
(Appointed by Selectmen)

Joseph B. Dean

FENCE VIEWERS

Joseph Dean	Clifton Burnett	Stanley Ziembra
-------------	-----------------	-----------------

MEASURERS OF WOOD AND BARK

J. G. Arnold
D. Bashevkin, Butler Coal and Grain Co.
Daniel Burnett
George Degenkolb and Frank Kruszyna
Ethel Haytree
George Depelteau, Adams Coal Association, Inc.
J. B. A. Patenaude

WEIGHERS OF ALL COMMODITIES
(Appointed by Selectmen)

J. D. Haytree Coal Co., Inc.

Gerald L. Bessette	26 Prospect St.
Gerald H. Carey	21 Alger St.
Ethel L. Haytree	21 Alger St.

Hoosac Valley Coal and Grain Co.

Stanley Bernat	8 Hilbert St.
Frank Kruszyna	6 Harding Ave.
Henry Ramer	3 Cook St.
Theodore S. Sworzen	31 Valley St.

Adams Coal Association, Inc.

Martin Degen	49 North Summer St.
George Depelteau	3 West Pine St.
Herbert Gross	75 North Summer St.

Butler Coal and Grain Co.

Albert Bashevkin	33 Hudson St., North Adams
Lillian Hancock	14 Harding Ave.
Samuel Kronick	Country Club Ave.

J. E. Arnold

John G. Arnold	Edmund St.
Francis Couture	103 North Summer St.
Helen Lahey	7 Orchard St.

Stanley's

Aurella G. Beaupre	45 Valley St.
E. Paul Caron	1 Marsh Lane
Frederick Jzyk	51½ North Summer St.

Hoosac Valley Lime Company

Stewart M. Micklejohn	West Road
-----------------------	-----------

A. J. Maxymillian, Inc.

Anthony J. Maxymillian	505 West Main St., No. Adams
Noel Bechard	41 Eagle St., No. Adams
John Hayes	Hooker St., No. Adams

POLICE OFFICERS
(Civil Service)

Edward W. Reid, Chief
 Albert P. Baran, Night Captain (Died June 26, 1944)
 William J. Vincelette, Day Captain
 Stanley J. Zelazo
 Ovilla Fillion

Chester W. Dydowicz*
 Frank Kopec*
 John P. Coussoule
 Fred A. Major
 Lawrence E. Clarkson*
 Joseph O. Cardonnel*
 Edward W. Anton*
 Emil A. Przystas*
 Charles E. Schofield, Jr.
 Laurent F. Simard**
 Raymond W. Guettler**
 William H. Volkmer**
 Victor A. Rancourt** (Resigned April 7, 1944)
 Walter B. Bend** (Resigned October 7, 1944)
 Thomas McCuminsky**
 *In Military Service, on Military Leave of Absence
 **Military Substitutes

RESERVE POLICE OFFICERS
 (Civil Service)

Laurent F. Simard* John Tarsa**
 Raymond W. Guettler* George R. Little
 *Serving as Military Substitute Patrolmen
 **In Military Service, on Military Leave of Absence

KEEPER OF LOCKUP
 Edward W. Reid

MATRON OF POLICE STATION

Mrs. Sadie E. McPeck Appointed by Selectmen

JANITOR OF TOWN HALL AND POLICE STATION

Fred Carpenter Appointed by Selectmen

SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES
 (Civil Service)

Victor DuBois Appointed by Selectmen

SEXTON

Fred H. Couture, Jr. Appointed by Cemetery Commission
 (Resigned October 31, 1944)
 George P. Clerc (Appointed Temporary Sexton Nov. 8, '44)

FOREST WARDEN

Ralph E. Anthony Appointed by Selectmen

FINANCE COMMITTEE
(Ex-Officio)

John S. Wilk
Henry P. LeGrand
Frank M. Brenner
John Kissel
Alec J. Strzepek

Chairman, Board of Selectmen
Chairman, Board of Assessors
Chairman, School Committee
Chairman, Board of Health
Superintendent of Streets

TOWN MEETING MEMBERS

Precinct 1

(Term expires 1945)

Andrew G. Chalmers*
Albert E. Cliffe
John F. Decker
J. Lucien Freeman
Barth. B. McAndrews
John R. McShane
Leo M. Rowley
David Sands
Herbert A. Suessman
Ralph C. Tower

(Term expires 1946)

William Baker
Stanislaw F. Bator
Charles L. Carlow
Florence S. Gross
A. Pauline Ham
Robert C. Lawson
Joseph Richardello
Annie R. Sheridan
James E. Sullivan
Alfred P. Thiel

(Term expires 1947)

Margery S. Barrett
Lena C. Benvenuti
Lucille R. Grew
James F. Kernahan
Frank Kruszyna
Earle MacIntyre
Joseph C. Merlini
James Pieri
Harold Rice
William Young

Precinct 2

(Term expires 1945)

Chester Alibozek
Max F. Benz
Constant Boillot
Frank R. Dubis
George Hodecker
Max Hoffmann
James Sands
Rena Schmidt

(Term expires 1946)

Frank Brenner
John J. Grosz**
Edward Jette
Adam Lang*
Arthur Lockwenz
Dennis McGrath, Jr.
Arthur Ouimette
Henry Perra
Stanley J. Wilk

(Term expires 1947)

Edward Jamros
Harold W. McLaren
Peter Paciorek
Marek Rzonca
Karl R. Scholz
John B. Sobon
Charles Stoeber*
Florence A. Struzik
John Zarek

Precinct 3

(Term expires 1945)

Felicia Gwozdz
Daniel E. Kiley, Sr.
Elwin L. McCulloch
Mabel R. Pascoe
Joseph Prejsnar
Andrew M. Romaniak
John J. Romaniak
John Rysz
Jacob Wineberg

(Term expires 1946)

John Bejgrowicz
Oscar Choquette**
Francis J. Czubryt
Stanley F. Gwozdz
Felix Jette
Walter Kleiner
George McConnell
Albert A. Odell
William Roche
Theodore M. Salisz

(Term expires 1947)

Mary K. Bloniarz
E. Leon Cadigon
Antoni Frye
Daniel E. Kiley, Jr.
Henry E. Pero
Josephine Romaniak
Joseph Soja
Walter Zepka

Precinct 4

(Term expires 1945)

John G. Arnold
 Harry Davis
 Arthur Fox
 Emmanuel Getty
 Harold Grange
 Donald A. Linscott
 Cyril L. Menard
 Robert E. Noble
 Charles F. Reid

(Term expires 1946)

Henry J. Arnold*
 Frederick N. Boisvert
 Arthur W. Daniels
 Rupert B. Daniels
 William Eichorn
 Delphine M. Godbout
 Theodore R. Plunkett
 Archie A. Poirier
 Donald R. Provencher
 Merton E. Richmond

(Term expires 1947)

Nelson Bond
 Armine Heinz
 Albert W. Hiser
 Edwin K. McPeck
 Francis A. Morin
 Henry C. Neff
 Douglas R. Plunkett
 Isidore C. Reeves
 Gilbert Schoelzel

Precinct 5

(Term expires 1945)

Drury W. Breed
 Victor DuBois***
 Henry A. Duby
 F. Anthony Hanlon
 William Lucier
 William O. Morton
 James E. Nowell
 Richard Phelps
 Anna Powers
 Peter J. Vrabel

* Deceased

(Term expires 1946)

John B. Cardonnell
 John Lawson, Jr.
 Rene F. Louison
 Clarence Martin
 Louis SanSoucie
 Harry J. Sheldon
 Arthur C. Simmons
 Lawrence Weston

** In Military Service

(Term expires 1947)

Eugene Brassard
 Fred Carpenter
 Franklin E. Crandall
 David Follett
 George Foster
 Samuel Gamache
 Walter Kaczowski

*** Resigned

EX-OFFICIO TOWN MEETING MEMBERS

John Ballantyne
 Philip Bashara*
 Hilaire Blanchette, Jr.
 Frank Brenner
 Frank L. Brown
 Clayton L. Couture
 Fred H. Couture, Jr.,
 (Resigned Oct. 31, 1944)
 Stanley F. Cwalinski
 Fred Dabrowski
 Andrew J. Dilk
 Henry L. Harrington
 Evelina Harvey**
 Thomas J. Harvey,
 (Appointed for Evelina Harvey)
 Arthur J. Hoffmann
 Leo F. Jordan
 Arthur W. King
 John Kissel

School Committee
 School Committee
 Treasurer
 School Committee
 Tax Collector
 Board of Health
 Chairman, Cemetery Commission
 School Committee
 Assessor
 Town Counsel
 Moderator
 School Committee
 School Committee
 Assessor
 Chairman, Cemetery Commission
 Selectman
 Board of Health

I. Audrey Louison	Town Clerk
Henry P. LeGrand	Assessor
Elmer L. McCulloch	Representative in Gen. Court
James F. McLaughlin	Board of Health
John Miles	School Committee
Thomas F. Russell	Selectman
Josephine Ryan	Chairman, Library Trustees
Clarence R. Scott***	School Committee
George Voigt	School Committee
John S. Wilk	Selectman
* In Military Service	** Deceased
*** Military Substitute for Philip Bashara	¹

JURY LIST

Revised: February 1945

Abair, Frank	9 Columbia Terrace	Operative
Adam, Alfred	Country Club Ave.	Machinist
Arnold, John G.	Edmund	Coal Dealer
Ashworth, Joseph	10 Crotteau	Retired
Ault, Frank E.	West Road	Farmer
Ballantyne, John	162 Columbia	Machinist
Banas, Edward	44 East Hoosac	Operative
Baran, James P.	55 North Summer	Operative
Baran, Stanley L.	79 Summer	Operative
Bednarz, Stanley	30 Winter	Operative
Bigda, Henry F.	9 Richmond Lane	Operative
Bond, Nelson H.	8 Crandall	Test Man
Bourdon, Ernest	15 Columbia Terrace	Operative
Boyer, Archie J.	43 East	Store Manager
Braman, Frank E.	15 Melrose	Merchant
Brandon, Joseph A.	Bowen's Corners	Farmer
Brodeur, Alphonse S.	9 Elm	Operative
Brooks, Arthur J.	2 Noble Place	Operative
Bryda, Stanislaw	5 North Summer	Operative
Burnett, Clifton H.	East Road	Farmer
Burnett, Stanley	East Road	Electrician
Burns, Oscar D.	18 Meadow Lane	Carpenter
Caccavo, Sabato	18 Orchard	Shoemaker
Carlow, Bernard F.	11 Randall	Operative
Carpenter, Leo	24 Liberty	Barber
Charon, Wilfred A.	3 Gilead	Custodian
Charpentier, Arthur H.	8 Depot	Dentist Ass't.
Chittenden, Milton H.	22 Gilead	Welder
Clermont, Harvey	52 Valley	Grocer
Cliffe, Albert E.	99 Columbia	Retired
Connally, Michael C.	48 Summer	Mail Carrier
Coope, Charles E.	13 Meadow	Operative
Coope, Wm. J., Jr.	200 North Summer	Foreman
Couture, Clayton L.	2 Forest Park Ave.	Carpenter
Couture, Fred H., Jr.	13 Country Club Ave.	Operative
Cowles, Goodwin	Country Club Ave.	Clerk
Crawford, Melville H.	183 North Summer	Machinist
Crosier, Brainard D.	73 Park	Chauffeur
Cwalinski, Stanley F.	11 West	Operative
Dabrowski, Fred	7 Pine	Wholesaler
Daniels, Rupert B.	65 Orchard	Ass't Superintendent
Davenport, Earl H.	12 Crandall	Operative

Dean, Joseph B.	West Road	Farmer
Depelteau, Arsene W.	11 Harmony	Operative
Desautels, Laurio W.	109 Columbia	Operative
Dubis, Frank R.	2 Dubis	Operative
DuBois, Victor	12 Depot	Sealer of Weights
Duda, Frank R.	13 Richmond	Operative
Duguay, Joseph A.	21 Beecher	Loomfixer
Duprey, Albert A.	Water	Painter
Dziok, Theodore	56 Summer	Foreman
Ferguson, T. Craig	197 North Summer	Machinist
Ford, G. Harry	163 Howland Ave.	Clerk
Freeman, Joseph L.	11 Sayles	Insurance Agent
Garno, Frank R.	3 Enterprise	Salesman
Gawron, Wladyslaw	7 East Hoosac	Plumber
Goldberg, Carl	59 Summer	Merchant
Goldberg, Samuel	61 Melrose	Store Manager
Gould, Claude W.	Gould Road	Farmer
Grant, George, Jr.	9 Melrose	Electrician
Gravel, Charles A.	35 Gilead	Fireman
Grew, Burt	14 Harding Ave.	Taxi
Gulden, Alfred M.	20 Harding Ave.	Machinist
Haggerty, John J. 2nd	47 East Hoosac	Operative
Haggerty, Thomas F.	41 Temple	Taxi
Haskell, Clarence B.	24 Winter	Operative
Hathaway, Stewart C.	Notch Road	Operative
Hiser, Albert M.	9 Summer	Plumber
Horton, Alexander C.	143 Bellevue Ave.	Ass't Superintendent
Jamros, Joseph T.	69 North Summer	Operative
Janik, Frank 2nd	5 Weber	Operative
Jette, Edward E.	17 Mill	Sales Manager
Kellar, Peter P.	105 Summer	Welder
King, Arthur W.	39 Meadow	Carpenter
Kissel, John	35 John	Merchant
Kotry, Stanley	18 Meadow Lane	Merchant
Kozik, Peter J.	55 Richmond Lane	Operative
Kronick, Samuel	Country Club Ave.	Merchant
Kruszyna, Frank	6 Harding Ave.	Manager
LaBatt, Francis A.	114 Commercial	Foreman
Lacy, Guy O.	21 Temple	Clerk
Lang, Adam F.	16 Hoosac	Foreman
Langner, Emil R.	38 Crandall	Clerk
Lawson, Robert C.	1 Howland Ave.	Operative
LeGrand, Henry P.	5 West	Loomfixer
Levesque, Henry	42 Columbia	Clerk

McCulloch, Elwin L.	9 Richmond	Caretaker
McLaren, Robert	3 Melrose	Operative
Meier, Leon W.	12 Columbia Terrace	Operative
Mellilo, John	10 Kearns Lane	Foreman
Meyette, Cyril P.	20 Orchard	Insurance Agent
Micek, Stanley R.	East Hoosac	Operative
Mikuszewski, Stanley D.	10 Allen	Operative
Molloy, Raymond E.	21 B	Ass't Cashier
Niebling, Henry	57 Friend	Operative
Nowak, Stanislaw J.	125 Columbia	Restaurant
Ouellette, Lucien H.	50 Valley	Plumber
Paciorek, Peter	3 Haggerty	Operative
Paciorek, Stanley C.	2 Meadow	Operative
Partridge, Harry A.	5 Park	Retired
Pieri, James	22 Harding Ave.	Automobile Dealer
Pietrzyk, Eustace	5 North	Clerk
Prejsnar, Wojciech F.	26 East Hoosac	Garage Proprietor
Przeniczny, Joseph S.	54 Lime	Operative
Ramer, Frank	23 Pleasant	Merchant
Rarick, Eli A.	59 Summer	Welder
Reeves, Isador C.	2 Bellevue Ave.	Insurance
Reid, Albert S.	16 Melrose	Pharmacist
Reid, Charles F.	52 Crandall	Insurance
Remillard, Elphege	17 Summer	Merchant
Rysz, Alojzy F.	20 Victory	Operative
Ryziewicz, Marion	22 Leonard	Painter
Satko, Joseph T.	17 Friend	Clerk
Schoelzel, Gilbert	21 Randall	Merchant
Sobon, John B.	East Hoosac	Operative
Steuer, Frank C.	10 First	Plater
Steuer, Martin T.	3 First	Operative
Strzepak, Alex J.	15 Victory	Supt. of Streets
Swann, William	35 Summer	Insurance Agent
Szpila, Joseph W.	6 Forest Park Ave.	Operative
Thiel, Alfred P.	31 Harding Ave.	Operative
Thiel, Harold G.	Upper Maple	Carpenter
Trudeau, Henry A.	58 Valley	Restaurant
Uryniak, Peter S.	12 Hoosac	Operative
Van Demark, Melvin	24 Willow	Operative
Volpi, Victor V.	384 Columbia	Operative

Wandrei, Frank	32 Richmond	Operative
Wilk, Stanley J.	Summit Ave.	Carpenter
Wilk, Theodore J.	5 Siara	Operative
Winslow, Roger	45 Mill	Foreman
Wojtusiak, Edward C.	31 Willow	Gas Station Manager
Wol, Peter J.	34 Maple	Loomfixer
Wooley, Thomas	17 Mill	Operative
Zabek, Peter	3 Grant	Operative
Zajac, John W.	74 Center	Foreman
Zawislak, Theodore S.	Off East Hoosac	Operative
Zdon, Anthony E.	East Road	Operative
Zieba, Stanley J.	92 Summer	Operative
Zieba, Walter H.	34 $\frac{1}{2}$ North Summer	Operative
Zimmer, Nicholas	14 Forest Park Ave.	Operative
Zoltek, Albert A.	13 Hoosac	Burner
Zoltek, Anthony	7 Winter	Operative ¹

¹ Adams Town Report, 1944 pp. 197-200.

ROSTER OF CHARTER MEMBERS

Company M, 2nd Regiment, Infantry,
Massachusetts Volunteer Militia

Mustered into Service of State, at Adams, November 18th, 1887 *

Captain Reuben A. Whipple First Lieutenant Ezra N. Jones

Second Lieutenant Frank W. Roberts

First Sergeant William F. Davis

Sergeants John A. O'Connor	Corporals Albert H. Bates
Edwin G. Ingraham	James A. Carroll
Gerald Howatt, Jr.	Arthur A. Hall
Herbert O. Hicks	Henry A. Jones

Musicians William Heeney
George E. Whipple

Privates

John S. Adams	James M. Fleming	Benjamin F. Phillips, Jr.
Francis A. Alderman	Calvin P. Hall	Calvin M. Potter
John H. Allen	George S. Hatch	Edwin B. Richmond
William Baird	Patrick Hennessy	Frank A. Richmond
Charles N. Barnum	Germain Hoag	Chauncey D. Rifenburg
David Brown	William S. Jenks	Godfrey Sanderson, Jr.
Erastus Boorn	Ernest J. Laferriere	George F. Sayles
James C. Cadigon	Clarence B. Loud	George E. Simmons
Patrick Carey	Charles Lowell	William Staple
Frank A. Carroll	William B. McNulty	Benjamin G. Stillman
Edward Cassidy	Frank L. Morse	John W. Taylor
Edward A. Deyette	Richard Neagle	Robert A. Thompson
John Edward Deyo	William O'Brien	Albert G. Whipple
Frank I. Embree	William B. Orr	Henry Whitney
Willis A. Fairfield	James A. Osborne	

* Residents of Adams with exception of Embree who resided in Cheshire,
Massachusetts.

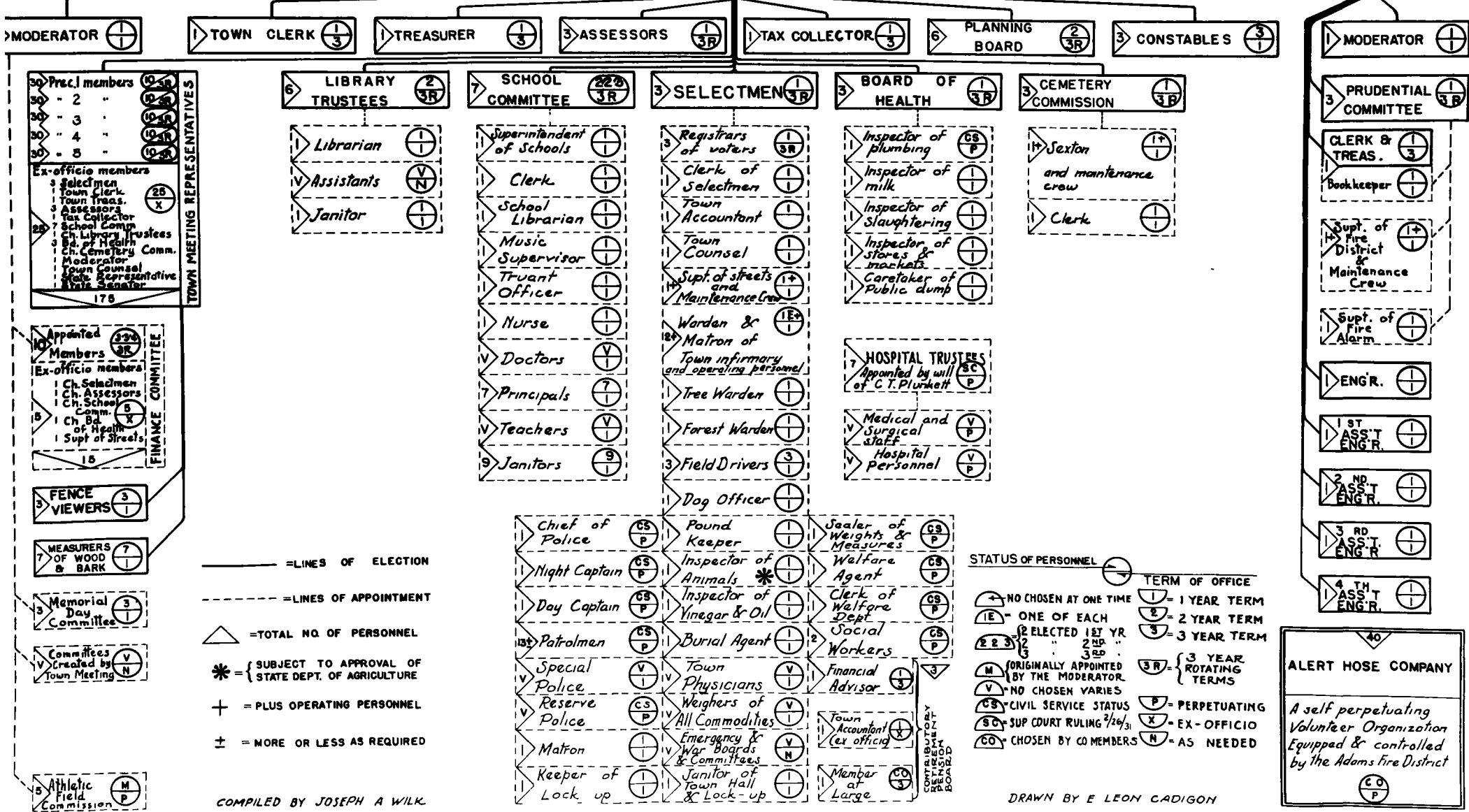
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
ADOPTION FOR WARRANT BY 175 REPRESENTATIVES

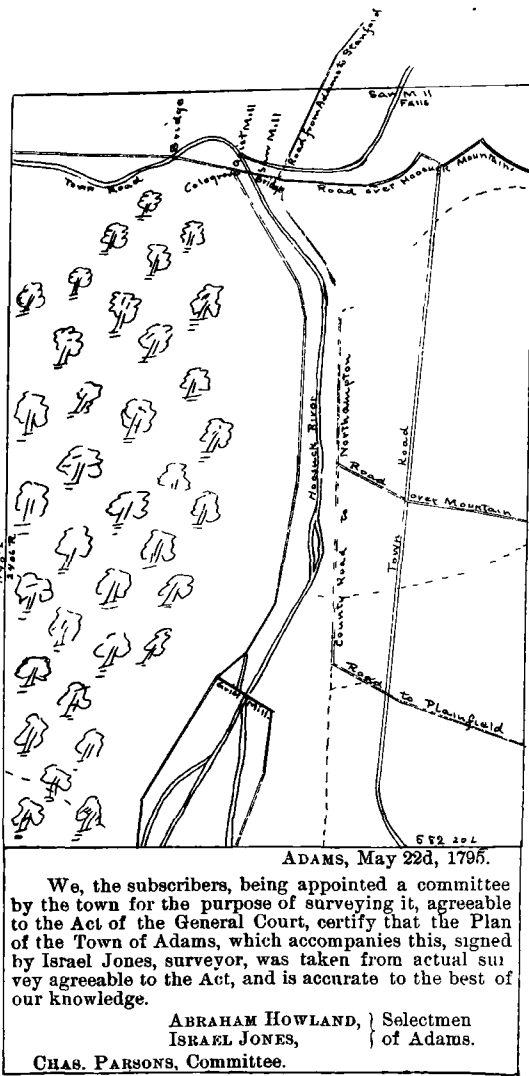
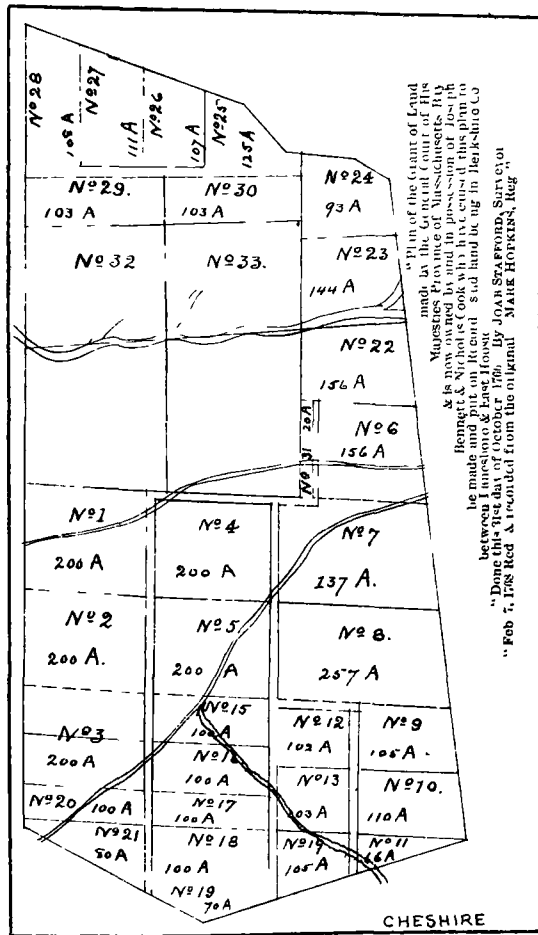
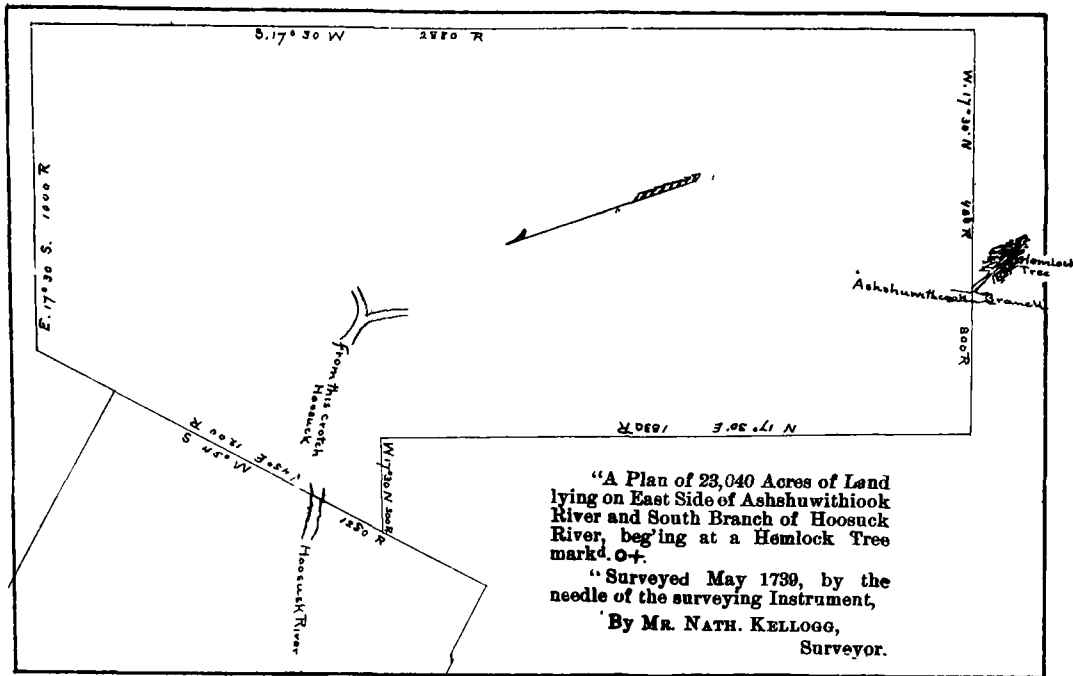
TOWN OF ADAMS MASSACHUSETTS

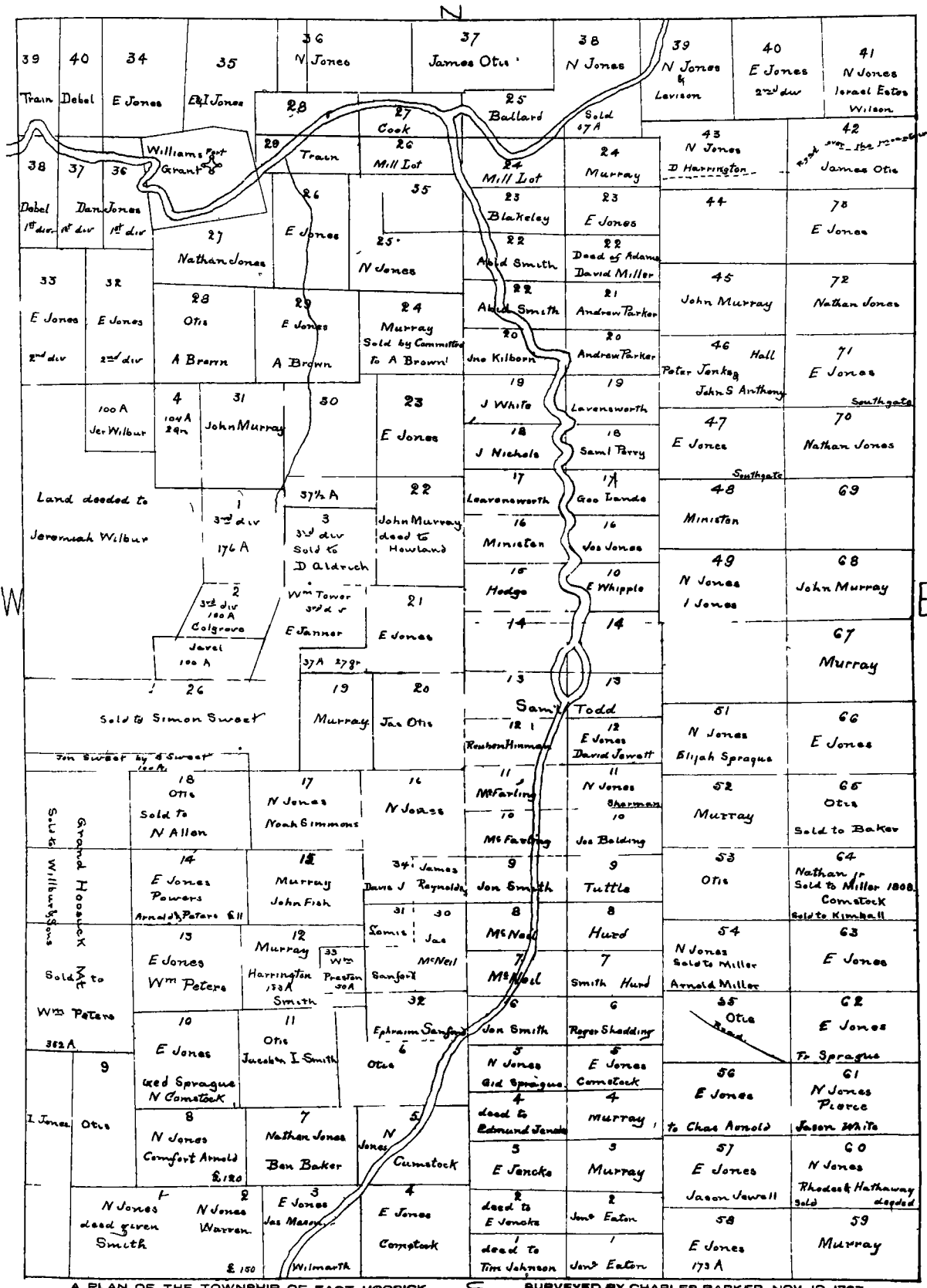
6916 VOTERS (AS OF JANUARY 1, 1945)	
1298	IN PRECINCT 1
1480	IN PRECINCT 2
1427	IN PRECINCT 3
1338	IN PRECINCT 4
1375	IN PRECINCT 5

ORGANIZATION CHART

ADAMS FIRE DISTRICT
CONTROLLED BY THE VOTERS
RESIDING IN THE DISTRICT
APPROXIMATELY 90% OF TOWN
= 6500 ±







A PLAN OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST HOOSICK SURVEYED BY CHARLES BARKER, NOV 10, 1787.

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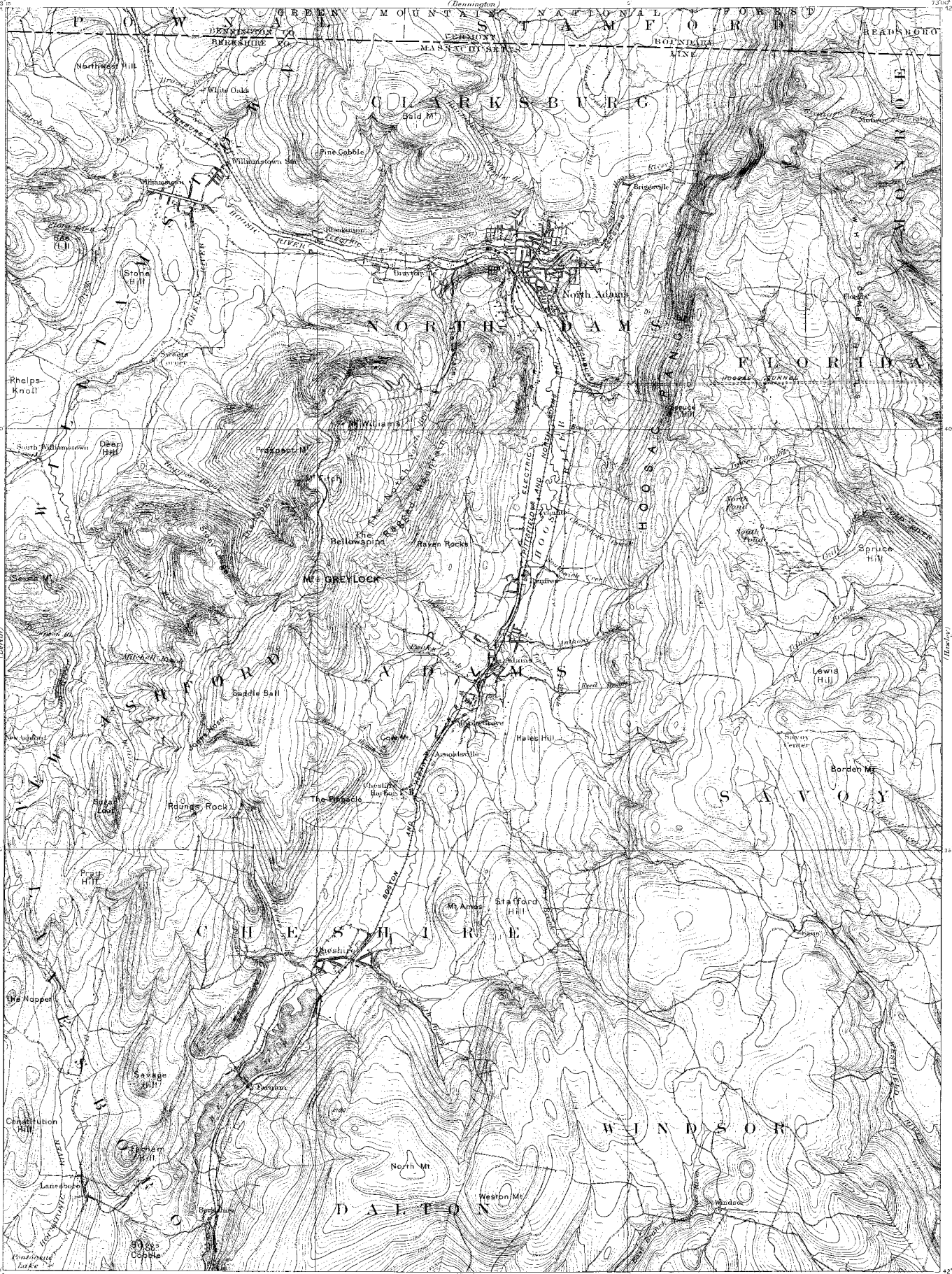
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Henry Gannett, Chief Geographer
Triangulation by the U. S. Coast and
Geodetic and Borden Surveys
Topography by W. D. Johnson
H. O. Cummins and W. H. Lovell
Surveyed in 1885 in cooperation with the state of Mass.



Edison of Nov. 1898, reprinted 1961
Polyconic projection.
Surveyed by reconnaissance methods
GREYLOCK, MASS.-VT.
N4230-W7300/15

Contour interval 20 feet
Datum is mean sea level.

THE TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS OF THE UNITED STATES

The United States Geological Survey is making a series of standard topographic maps to cover the United States. This work has been in progress since 1882 and the published maps cover in all 47 percent of the country exclusive of outlying possessions.

The maps are published on sheets that measure about 7 1/2 by 20 inches. Under the general plan adopted the country is divided into quadrangles bounded by parallel of latitude and meridian of longitude. The quadrangles are mapped on different scales, the scale of each map being that which is best adapted to general use in the development of the country. In common with the standard maps of nearly uniform scale the scales that they represent are of different size. On the low mountains the map scale is printed in feet, while on the high mountains it is printed in miles and kilometers. In addition, the scale of the map is always printed expressing a fixed ratio between linear measurement on the map and corresponding distance on the ground. For example, the scale means that 1 inch on the map (which is 1 inch = 1 foot or 1 meter) represents 62,500 of the mountains in the outline.

Although the maps are made and some maps are compiled and published on special scales for special purposes, the standard topographic surveys and the outline maps have for many years been of three types, differentiated as follows:

1. Survey of areas in which there are problems of great public importance—relating, for example, to mineral development or irrigation or reclamation of swamp areas—made with sufficient detail to be used in the publication of maps on a scale of 1 inch = one-half mile or 1 inch = 2,000 feet with a contour interval of 1 to 100 feet according to the relief of the particular area mapped.

2. Survey of areas which are peculiarly valuable for military or naval purposes. The Mississippi navigation is made with sufficient detail to be used in the publication of maps on a scale of 1 inch = one-half mile with a contour interval of 10 to 100 feet.

3. Survey of areas in which the problem are of minor public importance such as much of the mountain district of the Rocky Mountains and the mountain areas of the West. These maps are made with sufficient detail to be used in the publication of maps on a scale of 1 inch = nearly 2 miles with a contour interval of 100 to 200 feet.

It should be noted, however, in mapping. From the nature of the work on the geologic and planimetric maps which are being made in the United States, it is necessary to have a special plotting apparatus and special methods in the making of the contour topographic maps which show relief as well as the planimetric features.

A topographic survey of Alaska has been in progress since 1898 and nearly 44 percent of its area has now been mapped. About 15 percent of the Territory has been covered by maps on a scale of 1 inch = nearly 5 miles. For most of the area of the Territory covered the maps published are on a scale of 1 inch = nearly 4 miles. In some parts of particular importance it is necessary to have about 4,000 square miles of maps published on a scale of 1 inch = nearly 1 mile of length. In this part the area covered by topographic maps is about 100,000 square miles as in Alaska has been covered by planimetric maps on a scale of 1 inch = 10 miles.

The Hawaiian Islands have been surveyed, and the resulting maps are published on a scale of 1 inch = 10 miles.

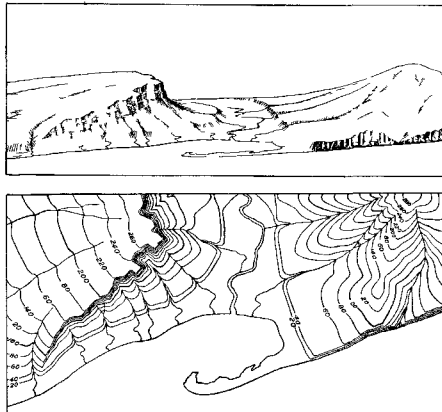
A survey of Puerto Rico is now in progress. The scale of the published maps is 1 inch = 10 miles.

The features shown on topographic maps may be arranged in three groups—(1) water, including sea, lake, river, canal, swamps, and other bodies of water; (2) relief, including mountains, hills, valleys, and other features of the land surface (culture) (work of man) such as roads, railroads, and boundaries. The symbols used to represent these features are here explained below. A mention appears on some earlier maps and additional features are represented on some special maps.

All the water features are represented in blue, the smaller streams and canals by single blue lines and the larger streams by double lines. The larger streams, lakes, and the sea are indicated by blue water lines or blue tint. Intermittent streams—those whose bed is dry for a large part of the year—are shown by lines of blue dots and dashes.

Relief is shown by contour lines in brown, which on a few maps are supplemented by shading showing the effect of light thrown from the northwest across the area represented for the purpose of giving the appearance of relief and thus aiding in the interpretation of the contour lines. A contour line represents an imaginary line on the ground (a contour) every part of which is at the same altitude above or below sea level. Such a line could be drawn at any altitude, but in practice only the contours at certain regular intervals of altitude are shown. The datum or zero of altitude of the Geological Survey maps is mean sea level. The 20-foot contour would be the shore line if the contour were 20 feet above mean sea level. Contour lines show the shape of the hills, mountains, and valleys, as well as their altitude. Successive contour lines that are far apart on the map indicate a gentle slope, lines that are close together indicate a steep slope, and lines that run together indicate a cliff.

The manner in which contour lines express altitude, form, and grade is shown in the figure below.



The sketch represents a river valley that lies between two hills. In the foreground is the sea, with a bay that is partly enclosed by a hooked sand bar. On each side of the valley is a terrace into which small streams have cut narrow gullies. The hill on the right has a rounded summit and gently sloping spur, separated by a ridge. The hill on the left tapers abruptly at the valley, and a steep cup-bay which is partly gradually excavated from the hillside is indicated by a valley eroded by a few shallow gullies. On the top of the hill the feature is represented by closely spaced V-shaped contour lines sketched by contour lines.

The contour interval is the vertical distance between any one contour and the next adjacent contour. This interval differs according to the topography of the area mapped. In flat country it may be as small as 1 foot in a mountainous region it may be as great as 200 feet. In detail the contour may be indicated by closely spaced contours every fourth or fifth one made, but that a others are accompanied by figures showing altitude. The heights of any point—and a road intersection, summit, or other points and benchmarks—are also given on the map in figures which show altitude to the nearest foot. Many points are also marked for the altitudes of benchmarks, as the mean sea level, and the sea level is indicated by a line of small circles.

Each quadrangle is designated by the number of any one prominent natural feature within it and by the name of the map as printed the names of adjoining quadrangles, which maps have been published. More than 4,100 quadrangles in the United States have been surveyed and mapped, or them similar to the one on the other side of the sheet have been published.

Geologic maps of some of the areas shown on the topographic maps have been published in the form of folios. Each includes maps showing the topography, geologic structure, and mineral deposits of the area mapped, and several pages of descriptive text. The text explains the map and describes the topographic and geologic features of the country and its mineral products. Two hundred twenty-five folios have been published.

Index maps of each State and of Alaska and Hawaii, showing the areas covered by topographic maps and geologic folios published by the United States Geological Survey may be obtained free. Copies of the standard topographic maps may be obtained for 10 cents each, some special maps are sold at different prices. A discount of 40 percent is allowed on orders amounting to \$5 or more at the retail price. The discount is allowed on orders for maps alone either of one kind or in any variety or for maps together with geologic folios. The geologic folios are sold for 25 cents or more each, the price depending on the size of the folio. A circular describing the folios will be sent on request.

Applications for maps or folios should be accompanied by cash or money order, not postage stamps, and should be addressed to:

THE DIRECTOR

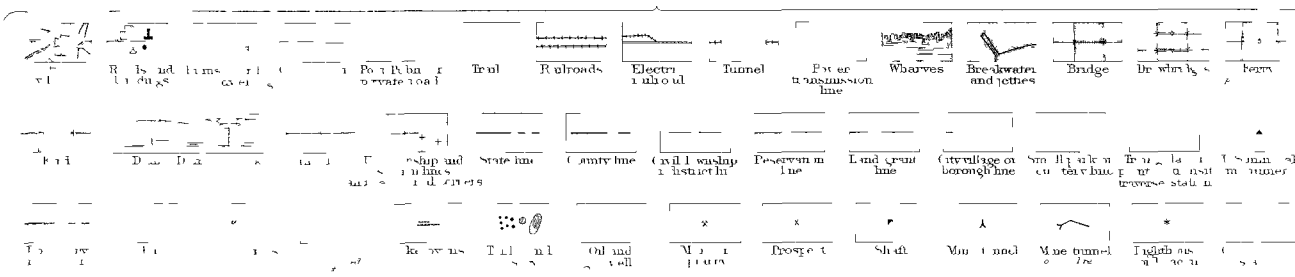
United States Geological Survey,

Washington, D. C.

November 1937

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RELIEF (printed in brown)



WOODS (when shown, printed in green)

