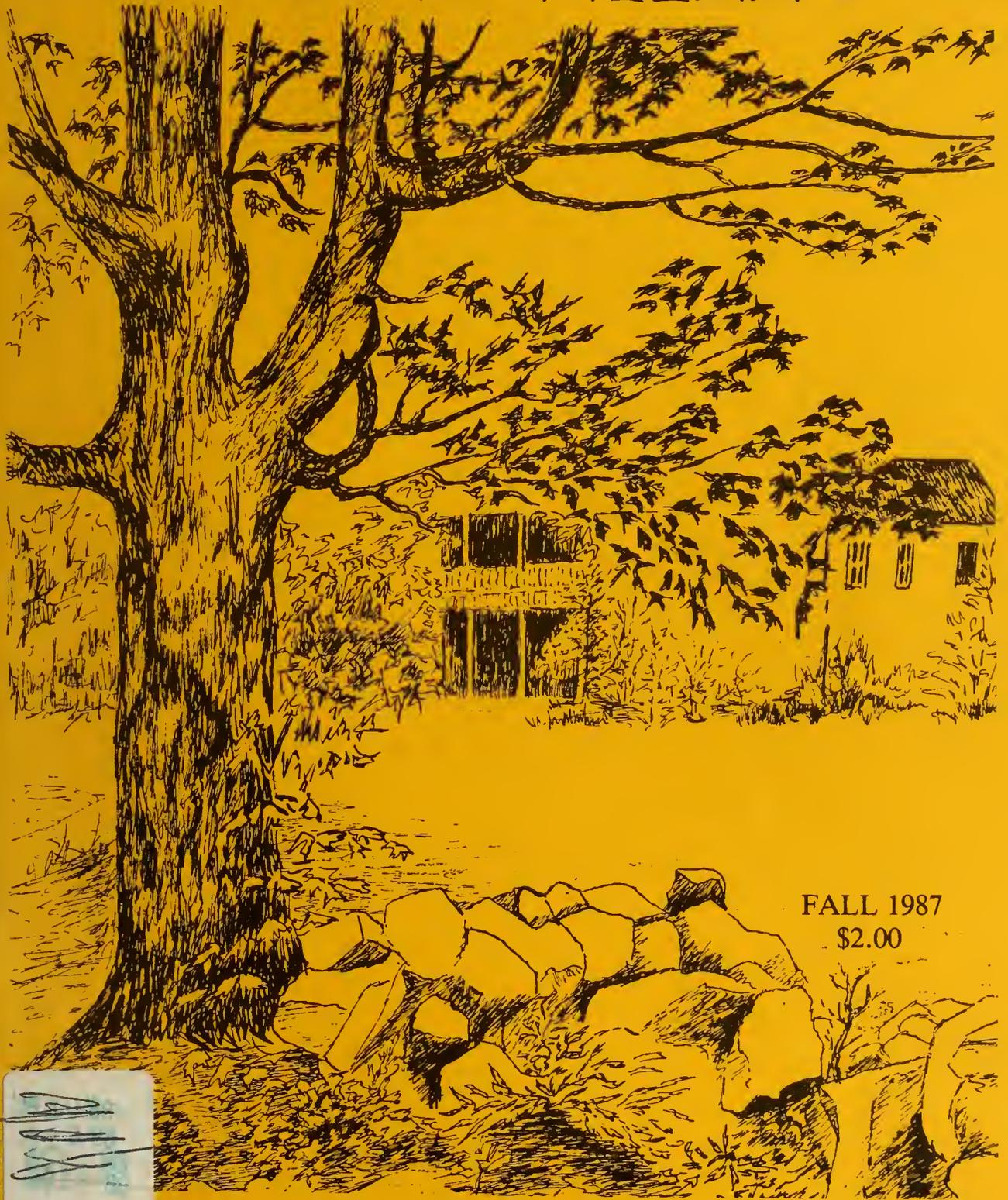


# STONE WALLS



FALL 1987  
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## — Editorial —

Fall in New England is such a glorious time of the year! Tourists come from great distances to view the foliage in early October — the same sights that we can see out of our front windows or admire on the way to the mail box.

Despite the uncertainties of New England weather, fall really is our best season — not just because of the spectacular color of the leaves but because the temperatures are comfortable, the hot humid weather is past, the sun is likely to shine, and there are no bugs. When I was a school girl, I always felt that it was unfair to have to return to school just at the time when the weather was beginning to be at its best. Now I relish the freedom to spend a perfect fall day outdoors, enjoying its beauty while I put the garden to bed and try to catch up on some of the chores that must be done before winter.

Some people think that fall is a sad time because it is the end of summer. True, the trees will soon be leafless and bare, the birds are migrating south, and the length of daylight is rapidly decreasing. But for Nature, it is planting time — the seeds and nuts fall to the ground to lie dormant over the winter ready to grow in the spring.

Some of the local colleges used to celebrate Mountain Day. A lovely fall day was chosen and classes were cancelled so that students could enjoy the outdoors. Is Mountain Day still observed? I don't know, but certainly a lovely fall day is a moment to be enjoyed to its fullest. The celebration of Columbus Day here in Massachusetts is an attempt in this direction, but the weather is not always cooperative. Perfection cannot be scheduled but only can be appreciated whenever it happens. Enjoy!

*Lucy Conant*

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# The Worthington Rice Family

by Elizabeth Payne



## *Rice Homestead*

*A motorist on Route 112 coming from the south will enter Worthington Corners by passing between the library on the left and a fine old house on the right still known as "the Rice House," though no Rices have lived there since the death of Katherine McDowell Rice in 1946, when it was sold.*

*When the house was cleared of Rice possessions, selected treasures were carried across the street to be installed in a room on the upper floor of the library, thereafter called "the Rice Room." There were many books, with the bookcases to shelve them, souvenirs of foreign travel, Rice family portraits and photographs, plays written by Katherine and the desk at which she wrote them. The Civil War uniform and arms of Gen. James Clay Rice was brought, and an elaborate baptismal robe worn by a Rice baby named Susan. In 1986 the board of the library gave permission for the Worthington Historical Society to extend the uses of this museum room. There is no desire to forget the Rices, however, so perhaps this is a suitable time to recall their history.*

The first Rice in Worthington was William A. Rice, who came in 1803, built his house in 1806, and that year married Wealthy Cottrell. Her father was Asa Cottrell, who had settled on Randall Hill on a place now owned by Joan Mendelsohn. It is recorded that she had been a teacher of William Cullen Bryant. This first William Rice was called "Colonel" by virtue of having been named "Ensign of the Northern Frontier" in the militia of the Commonwealth during the War of 1812. Stained glass windows in the very center location on the front of the Worthington church keep the names of this first Rice couple before us.

In 1825 when Lafayette was expected in town enroute to Boston for the dedication of the Bunker Hill monument, Col. Rice led a party on horseback to the town line to escort him. As they returned with his coach to Pearce Tavern, where he was to spend the night, he found a welcoming candle in every window of the Rice home across the road.

Col. Rice and his wife Wealthy had twelve children. Not one lived his entire life in Worthington. A stone on the Rice property can be seen to be a memorial to the son James Clay Rice, who lost his life in the Civil War. After graduating from Yale, he had gone off to New York, so that it was in a New York regiment that he served as a brigadier general. He had already served his home town, however, in a very special way, for when at Yale he wrote a history of Worthington that listed the town's first settlers. Though incomplete, it is a valuable list, a greater treasure than any item brought over to "the Rice Room" at the library.

Another of the twelve children of the second generation was Susan. She married Archibald McClure, who became a druggist in Albany. This gave an opening in that

capital city for her brother William A. Rice II (1820-1906), who went at nineteen to work for his brother-in-law. He stayed on in that city for a career in state civil service. During these years he kept a place in Worthington for summer use. This property, which he called "the Farm," is on Old North Road, now usually known as "Miss Vaughn's Place."

When this second William A. Rice retired in 1883, he came to Worthington to live out his fifteen remaining years before his death at age eighty-six. During these years he took an interest in town matters. He set out twenty-five maple trees along town roads, after which he called his home "The Maples." He helped found a public library, of which his daughter Katherine served as librarian for its first twenty-five years. He served on the building committee for a new church when one had to be built to replace the colonial church destroyed by fire in 1887. It was he who made the speech needed for the ceremonial laying of the cornerstone.

Not everyone felt happy about the Rice influence on the design of the new church. Some preferred a style in keeping with New England tradition. It is said that the Rices, especially William's daughters Susan and Katherine, insisted that it be modeled after a church they had admired in England.

The Rices ruffled other feathers when they donated land for the library, built in 1915. A bronze plaque in the library proclaims it as a gift in memory of that first Rice couple, "Col. William and wife Wealthy. Records show that the Stone family, who owned land on another corner of the same intersection, were eagerly offering a library site, and felt ill-used by the manner in which the Rices insisted on having the honor.

William A. Rice II in his retirement years wrote "Reminiscences" for his de-

scendants. These have been used in "Papers on the History of Worthington" to provide a picture of life in town in the nineteenth century.

The children of William A. Rice and his wife Hannah Seeley were a son, William Gorham Rice, born in 1856, and three daughters—Josephine, Susan and Katherine. The son followed in his father's footsteps in Albany, holding state jobs, including that of aide or private secretary to governors. Josephine married the Rev. Harlan Creelman, a minister in Worthington for a few years. The other daughters never married. They lived on in the Rice homestead until they died, Susan in 1937, Katherine in 1946. There are people in Worthington who remember these sisters. They remember Susan's church work, her eleven years as president of the church women's group. They remember Katherine's plays, written and produced by her in the town hall. A new resident, listening as memories of these two are recalled and reported, gets the impression that they were looked upon as odd characters in their last years, "odd" perhaps, but upheld by their feeling that the Rices were a little superior to their townspeople—and perhaps they were. They had had greater opportunities for education and travel than most of their neighbors.

Extending this report of Rices into one more generation will, perhaps, add evidence of this superiority. William Gorham Rice, Jr. (1892-1979) the descendant who had to attend to the sale of the house in 1946, had a career of forty-one years as a professor of law at the University of Wisconsin. He is credited with having developed some of the first courses in Labor Law and International Law. It is interesting to read also of the unusual things he found to do as a younger man. When a student at Harvard he went with Dr. Grenfell on his

famous trip to Labrador. During World War I, even before the United States entered, he was in France in an ambulance corps. There he was three times cited for bravery, and received the Croix de Guerre. In 1921-22 he was secretary to Judge Brandeis of the Supreme Court. Throughout his career he was known as a defender of civil liberties, a man who stood firmly against discrimination in all its forms.

He married Rosamond Eliot, a granddaughter of that Charles Eliot who was a president of Harvard. They had three sons, who now have children to carry on the Rice name. One son, Andrew, of Cabin John, Maryland, writes that he remembers spending summers in Worthington as long as his great aunts were alive—and once worked for two months for Huntington Burr. This must be the last Rice connection with Worthington, now five generations down from "Col." Rice and his wife Wealthy.



# A Woman Ahead of Her Time?

*Submitted by  
Doris Hayden*

Mrs. Jane C. Robinson, 75, a resident of Blandford for over 40 years, but for the last two years living in Columbus, Ohio at the home of her brother, H. M. Sessions, died at Columbus Friday morning. (July 31, 1896)

She was born in Hampden and received her education at Wesleyan Academy. After graduation, she was a teacher at the Academy for some time and afterwards, a teacher at an Academy in western N.Y. While there, she met and married David Parmalee Robinson and removed with him to Blandford about 47 years ago. (Married Sept. 20, 1848)

Mr. Robinson was a leader in the Methodist Episcopal Church in Blandford and it was largely through his aid the church

was able to exist. He also kept a store and was postmaster for several years. Mr. Robinson died (Dec. 25, 1865) not long after removing to Blandford and his wife took his place as postmaster and supporter of the church.

For many years she was postmaster, resigning the office only when she left the town a year ago last fall. So well did she fill the office, and so much were the people attached to her, that at one time when a man attempted to get the office during a change of administration, the people were practically unanimous in successful support of Mrs. Robinson.

It was through Mrs. Robinson's aid the Methodist Episcopal Church survived a



*General Store & House of Jane  
Robinson. Burned — 1900*

long struggle and became as firmly established as it is today. (1896) She was very generous in her gifts and a constant attendant at the several services. Many poor of the parish and town were aided by her, and she was the last to give anyone up as utterly bad.

She interested herself in the schools of the town and was superintendent of schools for several years.

In addition to her other duties, she was in charge of the state wards and orphans for whom homes were found in and about Blandford.

Her activity was remarkable and no one ever went to her without receiving comfort and help. She was discreet, as well as generous, and gained considerable wealth, but

she spent most of it in aid of the church and worthy charities.

For many years, Mrs. Robinson sent Blandford news to "The Republican." Her house on Main Street was a popular resort during the summer and she had a faculty of making her guests feel at home. All respected and honored her and her action was deeply regretted by the town when she sold her property there in the fall of 1894 and moved to Columbus to live with her brother.

Mrs. Robinson was a frequent and welcome visitor in this city (Springfield), where she had many friends and her death will be mourned, not only in Blandford, but by all who ever had the pleasure of meeting her.



*Old Methodist Church — Blandford*

The funeral was held from the Methodist Church Sunday morning. (Aug. 2, 1896) Rev. E. G. Smith, formerly of Chester, preached the sermon, assisted by Rev. A. C. Ferrin. The large number of friends and the many floral tributes attested to Mrs. Robinson's many friends. Bearers were C. B. Hayden, William Bates, George Emmons and Roscoe Ripley.

(Source: Taken from an obituary (undated) in a scrapbook in the Blandford Historical Society—probably from the Springfield Republican. The last paragraph was taken from the Westfield Times & Newsletter, Aug. 5, 1896.)

*A tribute written by an unknown person and printed in the Westfield Times & Newsletter, Aug. 26, 1896.*

The death of Mrs. Jane C. Robinson at Columbus, Ohio deserves more than the "passing tribute of a sigh," for she was a notable woman — well known and highly educated, both for the little community in which she lived and far outside it. Few women have touched life in more points than she did.

For many years, she taught the young and moulded character; she was an artist of taste and skill; she opened her large and hospitable house summer after summer to the reception of a cultivated class of people who sought recreation and health on the

Blandford heights; she served the town as superintendent of schools; the state as a visitor in connection with the Board of Charities; and the nation as postmistress of Blandford for years; she was the mainstay of the little Methodist Episcopal Church in Blandford and taught the little children in its Sunday School for a score of years.

She was abundant in labours of divers sorts and carried to them all the spirit of an intelligent, sacrificing, devoted Christian. Nobody met her without being impressed by the strength and the dignity of her bearing, and the wonder of those who knew her intimately was, that she could do so many different things so well.

Two years ago, failing health compelled her to sell her estate in Blandford and she went to Columbus, Ohio to live with her brother, Horace Sessions and her nieces.

Her memory gradually failed and for the last few months of her life she was again almost a child. But her religious nature knew no variableness, nor shadow of a turning — steadfast, keen, undoubting, triumphant — that remained even down to the end.

Her last sickness was typhoid malarial fever of two weeks duration, and in all the wanderings of her mind, she was beseeching young people to lay well the foundations of a Christian character.

So has lived and died a good woman — herself an exemplification of what she believed and taught.





*Fall flowers from watercolor by Jane C. Robinson*

*Courtesy of Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin Bragg*

# Bygone Diseases

by Pamela G. Donovan-Hall

## CONSUMPTION

This disease was diagnosed in 1819, now known as Tuberculosis. The white people have lived with this disease throughout much of their history. However, Africans, American Indians, and Eskimos have had contact with it over a much shorter period. Over 80% of the population was infected before the age of 20. It was always life threatening with no cure — only life prolonged. The life expectancy in a person with consumption was 18 months.

### *Causes in 1887: (General)*

Thought to be hereditary. Getting personal gratification in ways that were not socially acceptable. "The sins of the father may be visited upon the children into the third and fourth generation." Abuses of civilization, neglect of self. Not enough pure fresh air.

### *Causes in Women:*

Excessive novel reading. Tight dressing. Late hours. Eating sugar. Too-early marriages. Scores of other errors arising from fashion, vanity, ignorance that leads to weakened lungs.

### *Causes in Men:*

Men wear themselves out very fast in this country by: liquors, inordinate mental labor, ambition to make money, over-eating.

### *Signs and Symptoms:*

Dry, hoarse cough gradually increases and continues for months. Cough raises mucous streaked with blood; fever in the morning leaves by noon, returns again in the evening. Chills, then hot, thirsty, restless. Sometimes remission occurs, but when illness returns, the symptoms are worse. Severe pressure in chest; pulse rapid with palpitations. Flesh begins to waste away and patient becomes emaciated, dwindling away to a mere skeleton.

### *Treatment in 1887:*

Take a sea voyage. Move to another location and climate. Cod liver oil. Bathe body in Oak Bark and vinegar. Fresh air prevents disease. Cough from disease is strictly *voluntary*.

### *In 1987:*

It is known as a contagious bacterial infection, having nothing to do with heredity. It is spread in droplets from the respiratory tract by the coughing, speaking, or sneezing of a TB patient. The lungs are most commonly affected although lesions may occur in the kidneys, bones, lymph nodes and the lining of the brain. Death due to this disease declined by 1900. It further declined with the placing of patients in isolation at hospitals. It dramatically declined in 1944 with the discovery of the antibiotic, Streptomycin. Other medications were discovered

from 1947-1971 and today, therapy has become excellent and easy to administer.

## **ERYSIPELAS**

This very contagious disease caused the death of many adults and especially children in 1844 as epidemics swept through our hilltowns. There were two types: Erysipelas and Black Tongue Erysipelas, the latter was always fatal. It bore the nicknames 'The Rose,' from its red-colored rash and as 'St. Anthony's Fire' partly from its burning heat and partly because the Saint whose name it bore was supposed to have the power of curing it with a touch.

### ***Causes in 1887:***

Bad quality of food. Lack of cleanliness. Morbid secretions being retained in the body. Suppressed perspiration. People who had had frostbite more apt to be troubled.

### ***Signs and Symptoms:***

Shivering, headache, furred tongue. Nausea, diarrhea, shining red inflammation of skin with swelling, burning, itching. The skin irritation so great that it can almost set the patient crazy. Rash disappears after a few hours, leaving the patient nauseated, and then reappears for a few days. In Black Tongue Erysipelas: swelling of tongue and neck. Tongue turns black; neck becomes purple in spots, then turns to dark green or black, suffocation results.

### ***Treatment in 1887:***

Mix cranberries with wheat bran to cover skin. Sweet oil and turpentine to paint over skin surface. Salt mixed with vinegar and water. Take a wine-glass full every ½ hour. Steaming vapor bath.

### ***In 1987:***

We know that this was an acute strep infection of the skin and mucous membranes.

The patient usually had a prior cold. The fever rose to over 105°. Although few cases are reported today, it is treated with penicillin or other antibiotics and the results are seen within 24-48 hours.

## **SCARLET FEVER**

This disease occurred most often in children ages 3-4. It rarely attacked adults over 30. If it did, only mild cases resulted. It was known to be contagious and claimed the lives of more than one child in a family, usually within two weeks. No other disease was so simple and yet so often fatal as Scarlet Fever.

### ***Causes in 1887:***

Not known. Likely to appear more frequent in cold, wet or damp weather.

### ***Signs and Symptoms:***

Red skin eruptions, sore throat, fever, headache. Heat of skin, nosebleed, diarrhea, vomiting. Difficulty breathing, delirium, gangrene of throat.

### ***Treatment in 1887:***

Confine patient to room. Catnip tea to help drive rash to surface and produce perspiration. Soda water soaks to skin. Raw cranberries to skin. Apply uncooked bacon fat over whole body. Belladonna.

### ***In 1987:***

This strep infection is usually treated with antibiotics before it develops into Scarlet Fever. Temperature can run as high as 106°. Recovery occurs within 24-48 hours after treatment is begun.

## **TYPHOID FEVER**

This disease was the cause of death in many children, adults and soldiers during the Civil War. Depending on the severity of the illness, death was usually the result within three weeks time.

### ***Causes in 1887:***

An animal substance in the act of decomposition inhaled by humans into lungs.

### ***Signs and Symptoms:***

Depression, weakness, loss of appetite. Soreness and stiffness and pain in the back, legs and hands. After 2-3 days, chills, coated tongue, thirst. In 5-8 days, delirium, diarrhea, abdominal pain. 10-12 days: abdomen distended, tongue coated black, rose-colored eruptions on breast and neck.

### ***Treatment in 1887:***

Local applications of turpentine to control septic condition of the blood. Quinine.

### ***In 1987:***

We now know that the bacteria (*salmonella typhi*) caused this disease as the bacteria reached the small intestines and multiplied within hours after ingestion. They invaded the bowels and were carried to the bloodstream. It took 2-4 days for the symptoms to appear. The bowels perforated and hemorrhage occurred. The liver and spleen became grossly enlarged about the third week of the illness and death resulted.

The bacteria gained access to the body through the mouth from contaminated food, water, or a person who had the disease. Flies or other insects carried the organisms from human excrement to food or drink. There was a sharp decline in this disease with pure water supplies, effective sewage disposal, and pasteurization of milk. Man was the only true reservoir of this disease. Although this disease is not seen too often in the United States, it is treated with antibiotics, prednisone, and immunizations.

## **SMALLPOX**

Although a lot was known about this disease 100 years ago, it was still one of the most contagious and dreaded diseases of its time. Illness depended upon the severity of the disease, usually lasting or ending in death in 2 weeks. Vaccination against smallpox was already discovered and used.

### ***Causes in 1887:***

A viral poison.

### ***Signs and Symptoms:***

Chills, vomiting, small eruptions in throat, mouth, face, neck, trunk and extremities (first appearing red, then filling with matter). Headache, fever, swelling of eyelids, blindness occurring temporarily. Delirium, diarrhea. After 10 days, the spots scab over the skin, causing a sickening odor.

### ***Treatment in 1887:***

Vaccination. Lye water or mustard plasters to bathe feet. Spearmint or Peppermint tea for nausea. Vinegar and water to bathe head for headaches. Sage with honey and Borax for sore throat. Powdered charcoal and salt peter for diarrhea.

### ***In 1987:***

This disease was a severe, contagious virus, gaining entry by way of the respiratory tract. Face-to-face contact was necessary to transmit it. Clothing, bedding, and even dust could retain the infection for months. Smallpox has declined in the United States since the 1940's. Since people had severe reactions to the vaccine and the disease had literally disappeared here, routine vaccinations against this disease have been discontinued.

# Six Common Pins Trip Up Arson Ring Operating in New England

## PART II

*Follow-up of newspaper reprint  
which appeared in winter 1986-1987 Stone Walls*

*by Louise Mason*

*According to The Westfield Valley Herald,  
Wednesday April 18, 1934:*

### **"DESTRUCTION OF SUMMER HOME REMOVES LANDMARK"**

The destruction by fire of the summer home of Charles C. McElwain on Morse Hill removes an old landmark from town. The buildings were burned to the ground at an early hour Thursday morning, the property being outside of the town fire district. The origin of the fire is not known.

Mr. McElwain of 46 Federal Street, Springfield, bought the place of Dexter R. Parks about 20 years ago, and remodeled and remodernized it in every way. For a number of years, the family spent the summer here, but in recent years, it has only been occupied a part of the season.

\* \* \*

When the suspicion of arson arose, townspeople living nearby were questioned. The robbers had apparently stopped at the Harold Marcotte residence on lower Moss Hill Road and Mrs. Lena Marcotte remembers the following: "Shortly after lunch, two men came walking up our road. One stood at the end of our walk and the other came to my door. He asked me where the McElwains lived, and I supposed he was a friend of theirs. He asked directions, how to get there, and I told him there were two

ways. I think they walked up the back way."

"I had a strange feeling that something was wrong. My neighbor, Mildred Cole, who was here at the time, and I were very nervous about them and couldn't stop thinking about them. Our suspicions proved true later that night when the fire alarm blew and the McElwain house was seen to be on fire."

"Sometime later, the State Police brought a suspect for me to identify, but he definitely was not the one I talked to."

Alice Britton writes: "Lena Frisbie and I were walking to school after lunch, but this was several days before the fire. We were on Blandford Stage Road just where the State Police Barracks is now, when a young man stopped us and asked some questions about where the roads went and seemed interested in the area. We both reported this at home and somehow the information became known to the police. Some time later, while we were in class at school, Mrs. George Wager, our principal, was called out of class by a State Police officer. Then a few minutes later, Lena and I were called out and taken to her office. The officer had a suspect with him and we were asked to identify him as the man we had talked to, but he was not. We were told that the fellow we saw was probably sent ahead

as a decoy.”

“Amazing as it may seem, I slept right through the whole fire episode, fire engines going by the house and half the town, either by car or on foot. My mother, Ann Pierce, slept in the back bedroom of our old house at the junction of Moss Hill Road and Blandford Stage Road (since torn down and replaced). She sat up in bed and looking out her window saw the McElwain house in full blaze. In those days, the whole area around there was much more open and pretty well cleared of trees. The back pasture on the McElwain place was very open, where cattle kept it well cleared of brush. You could see the house through the trees from downtown, and when you were up there on the hill you could look right down into the town.”

“As I remember, the next day we walked up after school and most of the town folks had been up also. Earlier in the day, my mother and Mrs. Wehrly and other neighbors had walked up the back way. About at the top of the hill just below the house, in the grass along the edge of the road, the women found pins, paper clips and buttons which they passed on to the State Police Officer on duty there, and showed the trooper where they had found them. These were later shown to have been in the drawers of stolen antiques and proved to be an important clue that robbery and arson had occurred.”

Townpeople do remember that the fire occurred during mud season and the steep, narrow road up the back of Morse or Moss Hill was notoriously wet. The truck carrying the stolen antiques is supposed to have gotten stuck on its way out from the scene of the crime and the fire truck was delayed in getting to the fire because the road up the hill was impassable and they had to go around, break the chains and enter by McElwain's Private Way. Unfortunately,

none of those firemen are still living and there is no official record of the fire. The state did not require such records until 1949.

\* \* \*

*In the Springfield Union, Saturday July 14, 1934, we find large headlines on page one:*

**\$100,000 ARSON RING BELIEVED BROKEN BY ARREST OF PAIR HERE. GANG IS ACCUSED OF LOOTING HOMES, BURNING EVIDENCE. FIRES COVER UP ANTIQUES THEFT. C.C. McELWAIN'S PLACE AT RUSSELL AND CONGRESSMAN TREADWAY'S SAID TO HAVE BEEN ENTERED.**

The article states that two men had been taken into custody in Springfield and charged with operating an arson ring in three counties of Western Massachusetts. Also two men were under arrest in other cities whose confessions had been taken. “The gang's method of operating was to ransack the buildings for any valuable objects, preferably antiques, which they later disposed of in New York and other cities, and then set fire to the dwellings to obliterate all trace of the thefts. According to the confessions, mattresses, bed clothes and other fabrics were placed in closets and a long candle deposited atop the tinder pile, which was soaked in gasoline. About two hours after the mob had made its getaway, the flame from the candle would burn down to the cloth and the conflagration would start. In each instance, the arson ring left the closet doors partly open to insure good draft.

“The McElwain house in Russell was (one) object of attack. On the night of April 11, the gang broke in through a rear window, loaded a large car with saleable an-

tiques and set the delayed fire. The house was burned with a loss of \$20,000 including \$4000 worth of antiques and other furnishings which the thieves could not carry away."

"Sometime during the week of April 16, Congressman Treadway's home was entered and a quantity of goods stolen, but no fire was started. The same night, Mrs. Moon's place in Stockbridge was entered, the richest loot of the series being obtained there, and the house was burned to the ground. — The robbers realized over \$1000 when they sold the loot in New York."

"The Tripp summer residence in Heath proved the stumbling block in the vicious program of arson that the gang plotted, as neighbors in the small town noticed a strange car passing down the road, and as such a sight was unusual at that time of year, they noted the registration plates of the automobile and the information was later relayed to State Fire Inspector Ira C. Taylor of Northampton."

"The incendiary fires took place in three different counties, Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin, and newspaper clippings of the conflagrations led (police and fire inspectors) to the conclusion there might be a suspicion of arson in the cases, in as much as the fires all occurred about the same time. The investigation then started."

"(Local police) were called into the case when the clue of the number plates was discovered and it was found that the registration was issued to a Springfield man."

"Such was the speed with which the ultimate solution was found and the arrests made that the extent of the loss has not yet been determined. Some of the stolen articles were recovered when the inspectors and (local police) descended on Sturtevant's home last night, and when Mr. and Mrs. McElwain were called to police headquarters they positively identified some of

the articles as theirs."

"Police would not divulge the names of the two others known to be in the gang, but stated that they were already serving time on other charges and had confessed to their parts in the incendiary crimes. It was said last night that other arrests may be expected in the near future."

"The arson ring is evidently one of many contacts and branches, as the confessions stated that some of the stolen property was disposed of in Washington, D.C., although the bulk of it was handled through New York. The state inspectors and local police also hold the conviction that part of the loot was sold in Springfield, and an intensive survey of antique markets and second-hand stores will be conducted in an effort to recover more valuables."

"Objects taken from the Sturtevant home last night included several objects of antique pewter, an old-fashioned music box, coffee urn, some colonial chairs and other articles of intrinsic worth."

The Springfield Union, October 18, 1934, stated that an eighteen-year-old youth had been arrested in Springfield in connection with the theft of antiques—. The arrest was the eighth made by fire inspectors and police at various times since last spring. This youth acted as chauffeur for members of the gang, driving them to the scene of the robberies and carting loot around to dealers to be sold. Those previously arrested were William Hogue, George C. Sturtevant, Mrs. Anna Eaton, Louis Richmond, Frank Langille, and Patsy Tarantino of Springfield, and Israel Josephson of Holyoke. Mrs. Eaton and Richmond are antique dealers and are alleged to have accepted many of the stolen antiques. Most of the robberies and fires took place during the spring. Summer residences in Princeton, Goshen, Heath, Russell, Stockbridge, Charlemont and Worth-

ington were looted and damaged.

The trial took place at Superior Court in Greenfield in late November of 1934, but the cases in the three counties were all related. The Springfield Union of November 22, 1934, has interesting headlines on page one:

**YOUTHS PLEAD OWN CASE IN ANTIQUE RAIDS. THREE SPRINGFIELD MEN TELL DRAMATIC STORY OF THEFTS AND FIRES. LANGILLE RECOUNTS SERIES OF ESCAPADES, SAYS KNOWLEDGE OF OLD FURNITURE HAS KEPT HIM IN TROUBLE IN RECENT YEARS.**

Parts of this article are quoted as it makes good reading: "One of the most dramatic accounts ever enacted in a western Massachusetts courtroom took place in Superior Court this afternoon when three Springfield young men, charged with antique thefts at various summer cottages last spring, pleaded their own cases before a Franklin County jury—. Financially unable to afford legal counsel to conduct their cases for them, Frank Langille, Patsy Tarantino and James Dutton played strange parts in today's courtroom drama. Each told his own story and each cross examined fellow defendants and the witnesses presented by District Atty. Bartlett. To climax the afternoon, each of the men then pleaded his own brief before the jury.

"Frank Langille, self-appointed head of the group—was the center of attention as he queried the officers who testified against him. He then took the witness stand in his own defense and told of his misdemeanors in a manner which savored slightly of boastfulness. He told of gaining knowledge of antiques (working at Wiggins Tavern), but his hobby has kept him in trouble continually for the past few years, as he has had pre-

vious convictions for breaking into homes and stealing valuable old articles. He told of planning the trip to Sharon, Vermont, where he planned to take a pair of old lamps from the Baptist church of that town. The trip was unsuccessful, he said, (but the church was burned!) and the trio stopped at Greenfield on the way home, then headed for Heath (bent on more robbery) but were stopped by snowdrifts and forced to turn back. As they passed through East Charle-mont after midnight, they stopped at the Adams summer home which Langille mis-took for the home of Judge Healey.— They broke into the house and collected a few articles."

This time, there seems to have been an argument over torching the house, which ended in a stabbing threat and ill feelings. In court, the men denied setting fires deliberately. In fact, when Langille addressed the jurors, he sounded rather proud. "I robbed about 50 places," he argued, "and not one of the others was destroyed by fire. How do you know these fires were caused by me? The houses might have caught fire in some other way."

At any rate, the jury believed them guilty as charged and sentenced them, as the reprinted newspaper article of July 1937 stated in our recent winter *Stone Walls*.

*Late in December of 1934, more antiques stolen by the gang were found in three antique shops on Beacon Hill in Boston.*

*Russell townspeople who remember the case say that an episode of the radio program, "Gang Busters," was based on this crime spree and its resulting investigation and sensational trial.*

# Hilltown Happenings

(Items taken from the *Springfield Daily Republican*)

Compiled by *Grace M. Wheeler*

**May 8, 1881**— Salmon Thomas, 74, a much-esteemed citizen of Huntington, died Sunday. He left a family consisting of his wife and 4 children: Albert, the eldest, being a manufacturer in Westfield; Oscar, a Baptist clergyman in Brockton; Fred, a merchant in Boston; and one daughter, Margery, wife of John Sloan of Hartford, Conn.

**May 9, 1881**— A large barn belonging to H. I Woodruff of Huntington containing some seven tons of hay, was burned on Monday night. It was insured for \$275.00.

**May 1, 1881**— N. H. Daniels of Huntington has removed his family to Boston where he is now engaged as Treasurer of Quincy Copper Mining Company. Upon his return from Boston the other evening, about 70 of the leading citizens and their wives gave him a supper at the Park House, with speeches and afterward a serenade by the local brass band.

**Sept. 26, 1882**— Enos Smith of Chester, a respected citizen and well-to-do farmer, stubbed his toe on the railroad track Sunday while on his way to church, fell across the rail and died instantly. He was known to be troubled with heart disease. He leaves a wife and several married children.

**Oct. 4, 1882**— An old Becket man named Cadwell, age 82, has been missing for some days, and 50 people have been searching for him. It is feared that he has either perished in the swamps or has been murdered, as he is very well-to-do.

**Oct. 9, 1882**— Dwight Cadwell of Becket, the old man who left home about 10 days ago, was found dead Saturday in the woods, some three miles from where he was last seen. About 250 men helped search for him Saturday.

**April 2, 1890**— Mamie Forsyth of Huntington, age four, was drowned Monday evening when she fell into the raceway of the paper mill of the Chester Paper Company. The body was found next morning at the lower railroad bridge, just below the village.

**April 7, 1890**— William Gillette's popular play, "*Held by the Enemy*," will be the attraction at the Huntington Opera House on Friday evening. A special train will run from Chester to Huntington.

**April 15, 1890**— Two small children of Edmond Goreau of Blandford St., Huntington Village have small-pox. No fears are entertained of a spread of the disease.

**April 26, 1890**— James Buguey, 77, a resident of Huntington for the past 17 years, died Weds. Mr. Buguey has been in feeble health for the past few years. But, previous to that, was active in business, and political matters and one of the strong men of the church. He leaves a family of sons and daughters all well-known and respected in their various walks of life.

**May 28, 1890**— William H. Plummer has bought the Fred L. Fisk property on Main St. for the sum of \$200.00 and will repair it at once.

Mrs. Jane L. Knight has sold her double tenement on Crescent St. to John Connors for \$600.00.

**May 29, 1890**— Arthur P. Axtell has bought the old Axtell homestead of Welcome Nye of Blandford and has sold the wood on the Leanard Wood lot to Jason H. Fisk, who has three years in which to remove the wood.

**May 31, 1890**— Edward F. Little of Huntington has sold his meat business to Samuel T. Parrit who has opened a market at the last end of the bridge. Mr. Little has been in business a long time, but will now devote his time to his fine farm near the village and to building a new house on Laurel Hill.

**June 26, 1890**— Edward M. Taylor of Chicago, is visiting his old house in Huntington after being away for 18 years. He will spend a day roaming over the hundreds of acres of the old homestead in Montgomery, which has been in the possession of the Taylor family from the settlement of that town until the farm was sold a quarter of a century ago.

**July 14, 1892**— Rattlesnakes are not a plenty hereabout, but Hartley Gooch cut one in two with his mowing machine the other day. It was about three and one half feet long.

**July 23, 1892**— The small house of James Knightly on Crescent St. was burned about 2 a.m. Friday morning. The family lost nearly everything in the home, including clothing and \$15.00 in money. The cause of the fire is under investigation.



# Hannah Gibbs' Diary

## *North Blandford, 1907*

### PART IV

Oct. 7 Pleasant Coz Allie called here in the evening also Ella

Oct. 8 A very rainy a.m. Cleared up in the p.m.

Oct. 9 - Wed. Pleasant Had a Automobile ride in the a.m. Ella & I came home in the p.m. I was gone just three weeks

Oct. 10 Mr. & Mrs. Morey, Abbie & her two children came here yesterday p.m. Pleasant but rather cool & windy

Oct. 11 Cloudy Rainy in the evening

Oct. 12 - Sat. A nice day Mari went down to Chester & had some teeth filled

Oct. 13 Pleasant Miss Searl died at John Sennells at 10 a.m.

Oct. 1 - Tues. Pleasant Went to call on Bertha Bartlett found they had moved to Feeding Hills. Called on Lucy

Oct. 2 Pleasant Went to see Doct Rhoades & then went to 41 Spring St.

Oct. 3 Pleasant and some warmer Ella got my glasses today & we came to E.P.'s & went to hear a Syrian talk

Oct. 4 Rainy in the morning cleared off in the p.m. Grace called here Just two years since Joseph & Grace were married

Oct. 5 Pleasant

Oct. 6 - Sun. Pleasant E.P. & myself called on Worthy's wife had a very pleasant call Miss Fisk & Ella after we were gone

Oct. 14 Pleasant Maria Sennett & Mrs. Spaulding called here this p.m.

Oct. 15 - Tues. Hattie & Kenneth here. Mari went to Westfield Abbie's babe had a convulsion this eve Had Doct Shepardson J & Grace came to Bert's had bad luck on the way

Oct. 16 Abbie's babe had another convulsion this morning. Joseph came over to see the babe Mr. & Mrs. Morey started for home this a.m. Gordon went with them

Oct. 17 J. came over to see baby this a.m. Grace rode over & they took dinner here. Baby much better

Oct. 18 - Fri. Cloudy & some colder

Oct. 19 Ground froze last night Joseph & Grace came this p.m. Mr. Harlow came here tonight

Oct. 20 Snowed most all day had some rain. Donald went after Mrs. Aldrich to Pauldins Frank took her down to the Meadow just at night

Oct. 21 - Mon. Cold & windy snow blowing off from the trees Abbie started for her home this afternoon

Oct. 22 Cold & quite a little snow still on the ground at noon

Oct. 23 Cloudy all the a.m. had a little sprinkle. Sun came out in the p.m. Joseph & Grace started for Suffield at 20 minutes before 2 o'clock

Oct. 24 - Thurs. Pleasant  
 Oct. 25 Cold raw day, froze last night  
 Frank finished his potatoes today  
 Oct. 26 Pleasant but cold. Frank & Amy went to Westfield  
 Oct. 27 - Sun. A cloudy cold a.m. Frank, Ruth & Elsie went to church Com-  
 menced to rain about 3 o'clock  
 Oct. 28 Rained all night and all day  
 Oct. 29 Still raining this a.m. cleared off just at night & is cold & windy  
 Oct. 30 - Wed. Bert & Hattie called here on their way home from Westfield Frank moved (not finished)  
 Oct. 31 Has been a beautiful day Frank carried some beef to Huntington  
 Nov. 1 Ella started for Springfield this a.m. It is a beautiful day  
 Nov. 2 - Sat. It has rained all day &

fairly poured all the evening

Nov. 3 It was quite nice this morning sun shone out fine but clouded up in the p.m. Frank & all the girls went to church

Nov. 4 Windy & colder. Frank dug potatoes for Mr. Dunn in the p.m.

Nov. 5 - Tues. Cloudy & windy Frank dug potatoes for Mr. Dunn in the p.m.

Nov. 6 Rained hard all day

Nov. 7 Some rain in the a.m. did not rain in the p.m.

Nov. 8 - Fri. Rather cold & windy

Nov. 9 A very pleasant day. Olive went over to Hattie's a little while took dinner there

Nov. 10 Frank & the little girls went to church. Wrote a letter to Will today

9 Colonial Blvd.  
 West Haven, CT 06516  
 August 7, 1987

Dear Ladies,

Toward the end of April, an aunt who grew up in Huntington village passed a copy of *Stone Walls* on to me. I read it cover to cover that night and passed it on to my mother, who came from a farm on Norwich Hill, which her family had lived on for four generations. It was an older issue that dealt in large part with Huntington. (She reads it over and over.)

On April 29, I sent a check for \$7 to subscribe to *Stone Walls*. In June, I received the spring issue. I've been watching ever since for the summer one. Just read Louise Mason's editorial on how it is produced and wonder now if there was one. It's a great contribution you are making and I do hope you are able to continue.

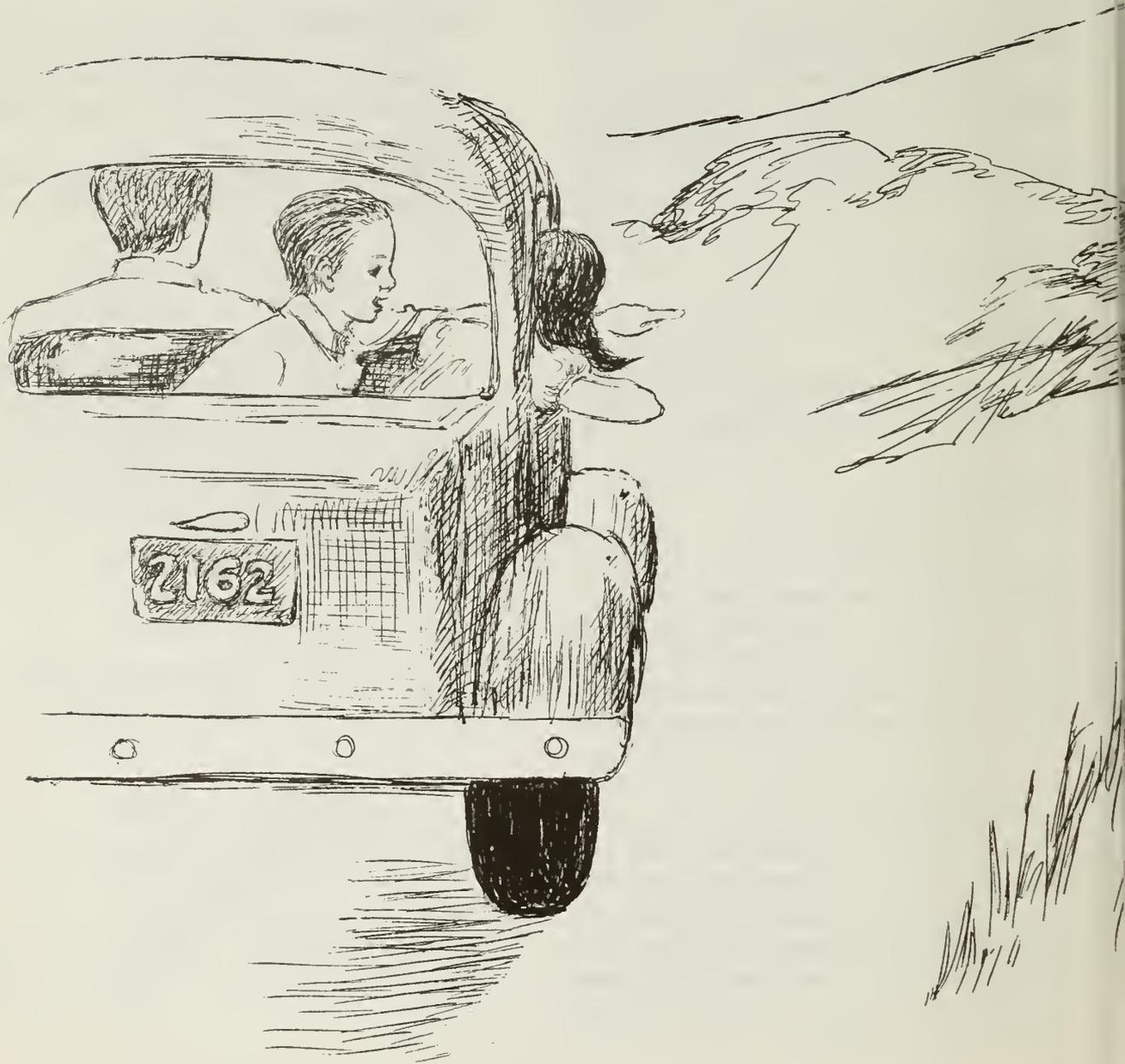
My husband recently called on Olive Lindsey LaDoux, a blind 91-year-old lady from our church, and mentioned the Huntington fire of 1923. She wanted your address but I thought I'd wait until I had received another issue. These older people hunger for what you offer.

Sincerely,

*Muriel Chapin Shine*  
 (Mrs. D. Robert)



You have to be on the shady side of 50 to remember the road-side signs that dotted the highways and byways from 1935 to 1950. The following examples of Burma Shave signs may still haunt your memory.



At intersections  
Look each way  
A harp sounds nice  
But its hard to play

Brother speeders  
Lets Rehearse  
All together—  
Good morning Nurse.

Violets are blue  
Roses are pink  
On Graves  
Of those  
Who drive and drink.

Sleep in a chair  
Nothing to lose  
But a nap  
At the wheel  
Is a permanent snooze.

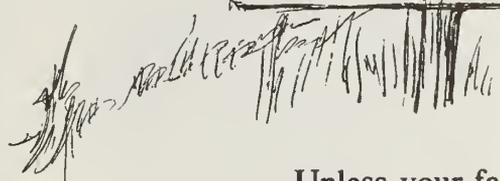
No matter the price  
No matter how new  
The best safety device  
In your car—is YOU.

When Frisky  
With Whiskey  
Don't drive  
Cause its  
Risky.

The Wolf  
Who longs  
to prowl and howl  
Should start before  
He starts to prowl.



Violets are blue



Unless your face is  
Stinger free  
You'd better let  
Your honey Be.

Thirty days hath  
September  
April, June and  
The speed offender.

Although insured  
Remember Kiddo  
They don't pay you  
They pay your widow.

# Chester's Biggest Landowner:

## JOHN CHANDLER

*by Lucy Conant*

As the French and Indian Wars came to an end in the early 1760's, the hilltown area of Western Massachusetts was opened for development. Some towns such as Blandford, originally called Glasgow, had been settled earlier, but most of the land was still unsettled except for a few venturesome "squatters." Township No. 9, which included what is now Chester, much of Huntington and some of Middlefield and Montgomery, contained about 24,700 acres and was bounded on the north by New Hingham (now Chesterfield) and by township No. 3 (now Worthington), on the west by township No. 4 (now Becket), on the south by Blandford and, in part, by Westfield, and on the east by Southampton and Northampton.

On June 2, 1762, township No. 9 was sold by public auction at Boston to William Williams of Hatfield for £1500. However, he then relinquished the purchase to John Chandler and Timothy Paine of Worcester, John Murray of Rutland, and Abijah Willard of Lancaster, all from Worcester County. Later, Chandler, Murray, and Paine sold one fifth of this ownership to James Otis of Barnstable. Otis gave Murray power of attorney to act for him and evidently never was present at any of the proprietors' meetings.

These landowners were called proprietors. Today they would be termed devel-

opers. They were men of wealth and prominence in Worcester County. During the fall of 1762, they had Edward Taylor and Charles Baker survey and lay out 119 lots between the Middle and West branches of the Westfield River. These lots of the first division were squares of one hundred acres with an allowance for a road of two acres and eighty rods of land. No roads were laid out and the lots were divided into squares regardless of terrain. This would have been fine in Iowa but not in Chester, as these lots were sold for settlement without a system of roads and with no consideration being given to the nature of the land. (The town with its steep rocky hillsides has had problems with roads ever since.) A smaller lot containing eight acres was designed for a meeting house, training field, and cemetery. This is where the church, cemetery, and old schoolhouse are presently located in Chester Center.

At this first meeting held on January 5, 1763 in Northampton, John Chandler was chosen moderator. Fifty-one settlers drew lots and the settlement of township No. 9 began. The proprietors held a second meeting on September 29, 1763 at the home of Thomas Kennedy who lived on Lot 68, near the Middle Branch of the Westfield River. They distributed among themselves the sixty unallocated lots and a committee was appointed "to lay out and stake the

highways . . .” The need for establishing mills was also discussed. Subsequently, on either Lot 13 or 14 where John Chandler owned a farm managed by a Robert Smith, he had a sawmill built. None of the proprietors ever lived in the town though they owned much land and even had pews assigned to them in the newly built Chester church.

Two more divisions of land were made. The land along the West Branch of the Westfield River was divided up and allocated in the third division. These were called interval lands and designated by letters instead of numbers. Otis drew C and F; Paine drew A, B, and N; Murray drew G, H, and I; Willard drew K, L, and M; and Chandler drew O, P, and Q. Chandler’s lands now include the village of Chester, formerly known as Chester Factories. The proprietors also reserved the right to lay out a road through these interval lots along the West Branch.

On October 31, 1765, the township was incorporated under the name of Murrayfield, named for the proprietor, John Murray. For the first time, the settlers in the township had some opportunity for local government and organization.

Of the approximately 25,000 acres in township No. 9, John Chandler owned or had claim to approximately 4,000 acres. In the valuation list of 1777, he was the wealthiest non-resident of Murrayfield with an assessed valuation of property at £5000. By comparison, Abner Smith, the richest resident, was worth £1273. By this time, however, John Chandler had fled the country and was living in England. He was a Tory, and six months before the battles of Lexington and Concord, he had left his Worcester home and sought safety with the British in Boston.

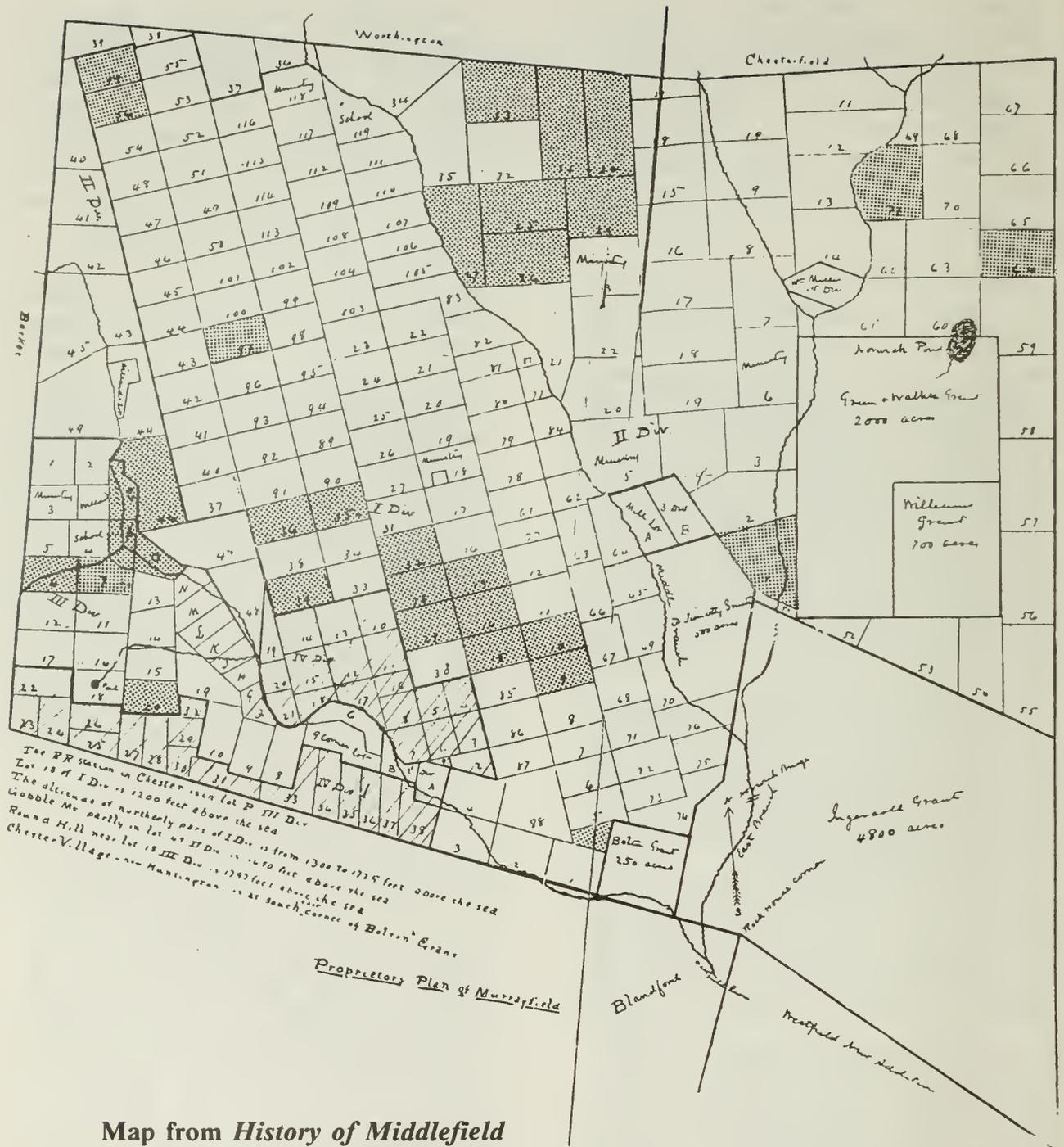
Who was this man who walked away from so much wealth and property because

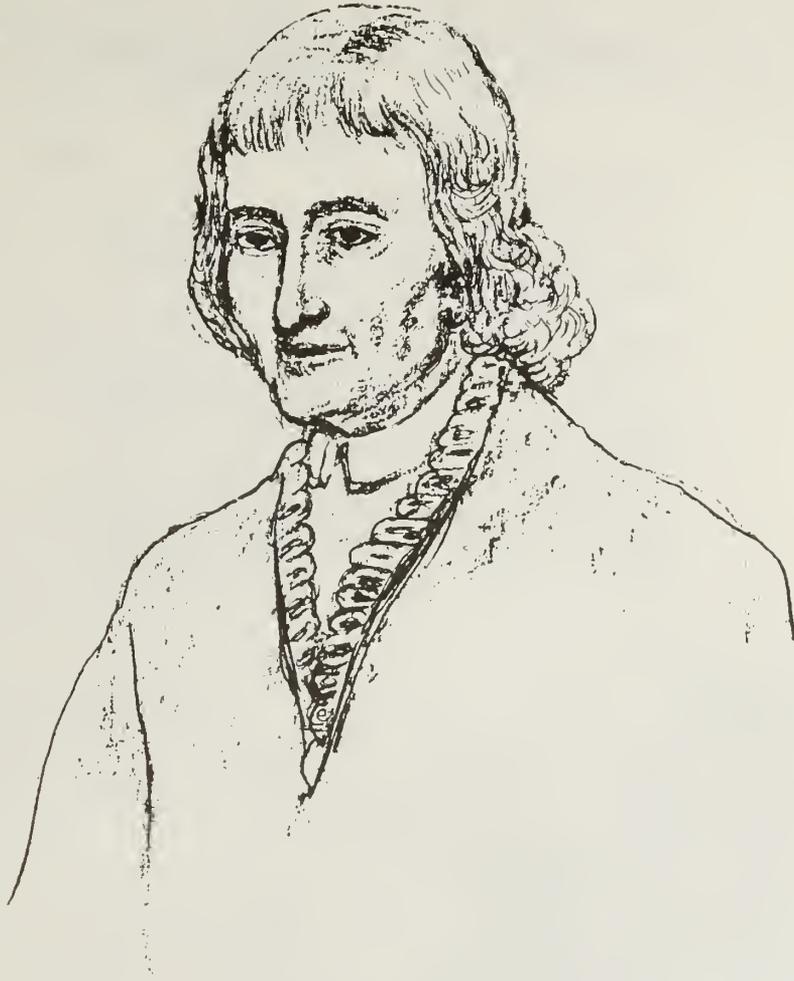
of his political views? Like his father, also named John Chandler, he was “Mr. Worcester”—town treasurer, town clerk, county treasurer, sheriff of Worcester County, and Judge of Probate during the 1750’s, 60’s, and early 70’s. He was also a representative to the General Court and Colonel of the Worcester Regiment.

Born on February 26, 1720 or 1721, he was the fourth John Chandler in the family. Married twice, he was the father of sixteen children. His first wife died after several years of marriage, and he then married Mary Church who had thirteen of the sixteen children. John Chandler owned about five hundred acres of land in downtown Worcester as well as other land in Worcester County, but his only holdings outside of the County were evidently in township No. 9 in then Hampshire County. The Chandlers were a well-known, prominent family in Massachusetts. When President John Adams studied law in Worcester as a young man, he lived for a time with the Chandler family. John Chandler was an extremely busy, wealthy, and successful man.

When he took refuge in Boston in 1774, several sons accompanied him, but his wife and the rest of the family stayed behind in Worcester. Their youngest child was eleven years old. In order to obtain her share of the Chandler estate to support and raise the younger children, Mrs. Chandler evidently had to remain in Massachusetts. (Ultimately she received one third of her husband’s confiscated estate.) Chandler with two of his sons were among the six inhabitants of Worcester included by name in the Act of Banishment forbidding their return to this country.

Chandler went with the British troops to Halifax when they evacuated Boston. He then went to London, England where he lived for the rest of his life. With his son, Rufus, he went to Nova Scotia for awhile in





*Drawing of John Chandler  
from his portrait at the American Antiquarian Society*

1787 but later returned to England. There he died in 1800 and his burial inscription read: "*Here lies the body of John Chandler, Esq., formerly of Worcester, Massachusetts Bay, North America, who died the 26th of September AD 1800 in the 80th year of his age.*" Until his death, Chandler refused to recognize the existence of the United States of America. Called the "Honest Refugee" in England, he was always known as "Tory John" to Worcester Whig neighbors.

If John Chandler had made a different political decision in the tumultuous period of 1774-1775, there is little doubt but that he would have recognized the water power possibilities of Walker Brook and the feasibility of roads to Becket and Middlefield through Chester Factories. Certainly he had been careful to obtain ownership of the land along Walker Brook where it flowed into the West Branch of the Westfield River. It was here that factories began to be built and the Eighth Massachusetts

Turnpike followed this route in 1800. Given John Chandler's energy, leadership, and wealth, instead of Murrayfield becoming Chester in 1783, it might well have become Chandlerville!\*

\*"Early Days in township No. 9," excerpts from Copeland's *History of Murrayfield*, Stone Walls, Winter 1982-1983, 22-27

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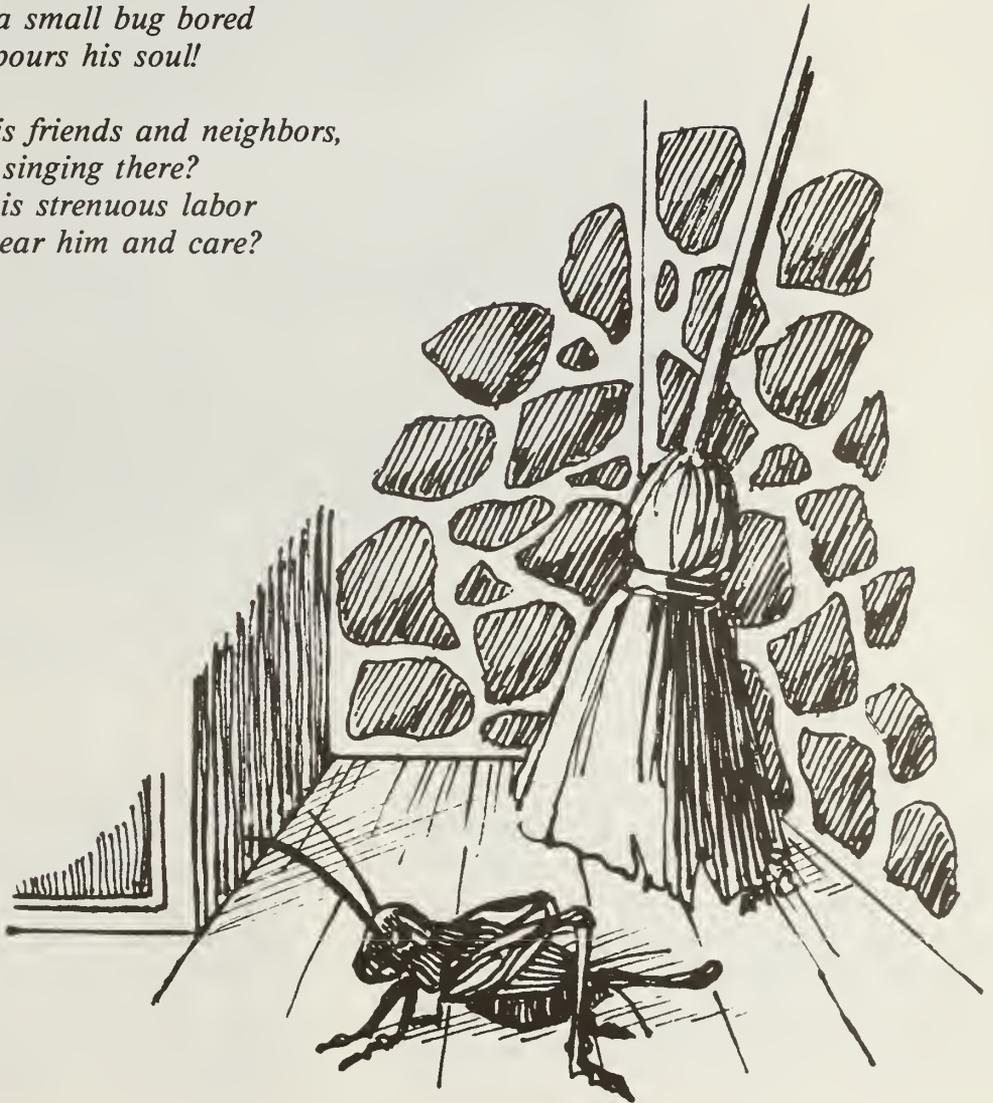
# The Cricket in the Corner

by Ruth E. Beckwith

*What's that I hear, a chirping  
over in the corner by the stove?  
Sounding like a tiny burping,  
Beside a spider web he wove?*

*Just behind a loosened floorboard  
in a little darkened hole,  
Where one day a small bug bored  
There a cricket pours his soul!*

*Where are all his friends and neighbors,  
While he's busy singing there?  
Going through his strenuous labor  
Does his mate hear him and care?*



# Ann Rausch, *Artist*

*By Elizabeth Payne*



*Ann Rausch*

Ann Rausch celebrated her eighty-fifth birthday this year (1987). In June the Worthington Arts Council sponsored an exhibit of her paintings in the Worthington Library. This clear evidence of her skill has inspired a review of her career as an artist involved in many types of painting through the years.

Born into a home where education was valued (her father was a Congregational minister), she was sent off to college. 1925 found her graduating from Mt. Holyoke with a major in Fine Art. She says that her interest there was in sculpture, and that she had no thought of a career in art.

In Boston during the twenty years following, she earned her living by more



mundane work, but kept herself happy with art activity. This had been her interest even as a child. When six years old she won first prize in a school art contest. While still a youth at home she sketched whatever she saw that interested her. Friends and family members, realizing her ability to "catch a likeness" often urged her to try sketches of them. It was only a hobby until her Boston

years. She remembers that one day when she was at work in the Jordan Marsh store, a faculty member from Mt. Holyoke stopped to visit with her. Finding that Ann was not taking her art skill seriously, she urged her with such emotional concern to do so that Ann hunted up an art school where she could attend classes in the evenings. Later she was able to go full time for



**Greta Garbo**

*By Ann Rausch*

two years to the Scott-Carbe School of Art. She took advantage also of special courses available in Boston art centers.

In the meantime she did some commercial work. She painted the murals in the Hunt Room of the Hotel Victoria. A child's head of hers was used for many years by the Whitney Baby Carriage Company. It could be seen on their stationery, even on their trucks.

When she began doing portraits, she soon had a reputation as a portrait painter, especially after she began working with pastels. She never looked upon her work as a profession. She never solicited commissions. Word was passed from one satisfied customer to another. She did many portraits of children. During the World War period of the '40's she painted a number of young men about to go off to war. She remembers that she did one young man, later his wife, and eventually all their four children.

She kept no records, but as she has recently tried to recall her subjects, she realizes that she must have painted at least four hundred, possibly more. Since they had to be left with the people who posed for them—or with the grandmothers who often ordered them—she has few portraits to show in her exhibits today. Some can be found in Worthington homes, for she continued to do such painting after she came to Worthington. Two that can be easily viewed are in public places. That of Jane Tuttle, granddaughter of Russell Conwell, hangs in the Sevenars concert building, and one of Arthur Capen, long-time librarian and church organist in Worthington, hangs in the parlor of the church.

The natural beauty in the hill towns of western Massachusetts inspired Ann to paint landscapes. She studied with Steven Manatti of Deerfield and Leo Blake of Lanesboro. These artists took an interest in

the painters of the Palette and Trowel Club, that Ann helped found in 1950. It was active for eight years, with local artists working together, and each year sponsoring an art show that attracted exhibitors from surrounding towns. Ann showed in other exhibits in the western Massachusetts area also after qualifying for the Springfield Academic Artists Association.

Ann has a surprising number of her paintings still in her possession. Some she hasn't finished to the point where she is willing to attach her signature.

### THE FIRST WAGON

Capt. David Eames, who resided just over the line in Hinsdale, but attended church in Washington, had the honor of owning the first wagon that was driven to the church door. The very first time he drove to church he had an amusing but deplorable accident with it. After the second sermon was over the captain went to get his brand new wagon which was left surrounded by the horses with their saddles and pillions. When he drove up to the door of the church his good wife came out to get in. The good-byes were rather long in being said, and the old family mare, being hungry and cross, became very restive. The captain in standing up gallantly to assist his wife to the seat, gave the old mare a tremendous jerk, whereupon she suddenly backed and threw him against the wooden dashboard which broke under his weight and let him fall on her hips, much to his discomfiture and chagrin. He meekly took up the broken dash, put it in the wagon box behind, and drove homeward, while broad smiles wreathed the faces of his kind and genial neighbors.

# Captain Sylvester Squier

*Edited and Transcribed by Pamela G. Donovan-Hall*

*Sylvester Squier was born in Norwich, CT on Jan. 29, 1754, son of Abiel and Lydia (Lathrop) Squier. The family moved to Montgomery, Mass. about 1764 and was among the early settlers. After serving in the Revolutionary War, he married Mary Bundy and they had eight children, four of whom died young. He served as selectman of Montgomery for fifteen years. He died on Feb. 13, 1836 at age 84 and is buried beside his wife at the Pitcher Street Cemetery.*

*His direct descendants still residing in Montgomery are: William Squier Hall, the Spencers, Rathays, and Tinneys; Peg Stone of Blandford, and my husband, William R. Hall of Huntington.*

*The following is an affidavit of his experiences during the Revolutionary War, as remembered and told by him, 55 years after his service, in order to receive his pension.*

## *Commonwealth of Massachusetts County of Hampden*

On this eighth day of August in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and thirty-two, personally appeared in open court before the Hon. Oliver B. Morris, Esq., Judge of the court of Probate for said county of Hampden now sitting, Sylvester Squier of Montgomery in the county of Hampden and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, aged seventy-nine years who, being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain that this benefit of the act of Congress proposed June 7, 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as heresies stated viz:

That in April 1775, the particular day of the month he does not recollect, but after the Battle of Lexington, he enlisted into a company of State troops commanded by

Capt. Warham Parks. That the Regiment to which the company belonged was commanded by Col. Danielsons. That William Shepard was Lt. Col., that the Major belonged in W. Springfield but that he does not recollect his name. That he left the service in Dec. of the same year when his term of enlistment had expired, which was for eight months, and that he served that length of time under that enlistment. That the Company was formed in Westfield and marched from there to Roxbury by Springfield and Worcester. That the Company joined the Regiment at Roxbury and while there we were engaged some considerable time in creating fortifications. That when the command first commenced building the breast work, the British fired upon the Americans with shot and shells from morning thro night. On one occasion, the Americans gave the British one gun and they gave them the ammunition 101 guns in reply, none of which took effect, they firing over.

That while stationed at Roxbury he went with a body of volunteers from different Regiments commanded by Maj. Tatcher, who was, he thinks, from Chesterfield, to a place called Long Island near Boston. And that they took some British prisoners who were stationed there as a guard. That the other officers' who he recollects were John Shepard, First, and Richard Falley, Second Lieutenant, in the company to which he belonged—Col. Brewster's Regiment had one Captain by the name of Michael Fleury and Lt. by the name of David Sacket. It seems to him that Ward was General but it is not certain. Recollects Generals Washington and Putnam was in the camp while he was there.

That sometime in the month of July 1776, the particular day of the week or month he is unable to recollect, he enlisted at Westfield enlisted in a company of State Troops, the officers of which consisted of one Gray who was Captain Silas Fowler, who held a Captain's commission in the militia, when not in service in Southwick and who he believes acted as first Lt., one Littlefield, Lt., and one Gates, Ensign. The field officers whom he recollects were General Horatio Gates who was accustomed to wear a white cap in the morning and Col. Wayne from Jersey.

That he thinks there was a Col. by the name of Fellows, belonging to the army at this time, who was afterwards promoted to the rank of General. That the Company consisted of 120 men and were raised in the towns of Westfield, Southwick, Chesterfield, Norwich and Worthington. That the Company assembled at Worthington and marched through Bennington to Skeensborough where they took boats and papers to Ticonderoga. That his service during the whole term of his enlistment was for four months, except about one week. That he was discharged in consequence of his be-

coming disabled for present duty by sickness, and that he was so discharged in November of the same year, but the particular day of the month he is unable to give.

That neither he nor any of the other men, to his knowledge, had any written discharge at the time their term of service was completed. The officers notified them of that fact and they were verbally discharged. Peter Brundy had a discharge on account of the death of his father from Head Quarters while he was at Roxbury, but his time of enlistment had not expired. That he had no written discharge at the time of his completing the term of service under his first enlistment, though he was never issued one, as he understood to be usual, which was merely verbal. That he has no documentary evidence in relation to this matter.

That sometime in the month of July 1777, he volunteered in the service of the country in a company commanded by Capt. David Mosely of Westfield. That the Company was formed in Westfield, marched to Pittsfield, thence to New Lebanon, thence to what is now called Troy, thence to Saratoga where they lay in the barracks one night, thence to Fort Edward. Here the officers, having generally become dissatisfied with the conduct of General Schuyler, in suffering the troops to be scattered along the river in Regiments and companies—they dispersed to their homes— After they had heard that General Gates was in command of the Northern army, the same company reformed in the month of August 1777, the particular day of the week or month he is not able to recollect, and marched from Westfield to Worthington, thence to Pittsfield, thence to Williamstown, then to Bennington and to a place, Falls Mills, where the Regiment was formed under the command of Colonel John Mosely— The Regiment remained

there a few days, say three or four, and then marched to a place called Battenkill—east of Saratoga— After lying there a few days, the battle below took place— He supposed they were kept out of the action and, at that point, for the purpose of cutting off the retreat of the British— The Company was discharged immediately after the surrender of Burgoyne which was, he thinks, the 17th of Oct. 1777, up to which time he faithfully served as a volunteer in the State Troops from August to that time. While Burgoyne's Army lay at Saratoga, he was engaged in taking five prisoners and some horses in a select detachment, commanded by Col. Brown of Pittsfield— He officiated as clerk to Brigade Major Walbridge a few days, and while at Battenkill, and recollects the name of the adjutant of the Regiment was Aaron Wing— He is unable to recollect any other field officers except General Fellows. He enlisted at each time in Westfield, and that part of the town in which he then and ever since has resided, has been incorporated by the name of Montgomery. His father has told him there was a record of his birth at Norwich in the state of Con-

necticut, and there was a family record which was taken away some years since by a brother of his residing the County of Oneida and state of New York. That he enlisted and served at each time as a private soldier.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity, except the present, and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of any state.

*Sylvester Squier (Signed)*

Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

The Samuel Moore and Lysander Barrett residing in the town of Montgomery do hereby certify that we are well acquainted with Sylvester Squier who has subscribed and will be sworn to the above declaration. That we believe him to be seventy-nine years of age. That he is so (acknowledged) and believed in the neighborhood where he resided to have been a soldier in the Revolution and that we consent in that opinion.

*Samuel Moore  
Lysander Barrett  
(Signed)*



# Genealogical Queries

*Compiled by Grace Wheeler*

Seeking any information on Eugene & Irene ("Queenie") Carey, who moved throughout the hill towns from 1920-1965. They were in Huntington area early 1920's, in Windsor/West Cummington 1935-45, and in Dalton/Hinsdale area 1955-60. Believe Becket, Worthington and Middlefield also involved. While in their 40's, they had several births 1920-35. "Gene" lost an arm in sawmill (?) accident during these decades. Gene died Pittsfield, Oct. 1965; "Queenie" died Dalton, Dec. 1965. Can you help pinpoint when they lived in your area, or provide any other information on this couple?

*Joan Kibbe  
RD 1, Box 394  
Keene, NH 03431*

Seek information on Isaac Phelps who married widow Sarah Palmer in Westfield in 1729. She died there Jan. 1741. I have three dates for Isaac's death—1753, 1777, and 1778. Does anyone know which is correct? Were there three Isaacs during this time frame?

*Ms. Nancy Pennington  
6204 Halifax Avenue South  
Edina, Minnesota 55424*

Huntington Historical Society is looking for information on Zebulon Fuller, father of Dr. Rhoda Rhodes. She was born

in 1745 to Zebulon, a pioneer white man and his Indian wife. Rhoda lived in Indian Hollow and died at the age of ninety-six years. Would like anything on Rhoda, her father Zebulon or her husband, Zebulon Rhodes, "a Mulatto Man." It is said he was a cross between an Indian and a Negro.

*Huntington Historical Society  
430 Worthington Rd.  
Huntington, Mass. 01050*

Looking for information on Jay C. Searle born 1858, married Lydia Rathburn. Died May 22, 1943, buried Hill Cemetery, Blandford, Mass. Where was he born and where did he die? Would like to hear from any living descendants of this man or his wife.

*Mrs. Thelma Wells  
Frost Rd.  
Washington, Mass. 01223*

Looking for information on Daniel Stannard and his wife Phebe (Higgins) Stannard. She was born where? Was he born in New Marlborough, Mass.? They had a daughter Phebe born there Aug. 9th, 1866. She married Oct. 28, 1866 in Bridgeman, Mich. She married Clarence Howe.

*Mrs. Phebe Smith  
302 East Copeland  
Kingman, Kansas 67068*



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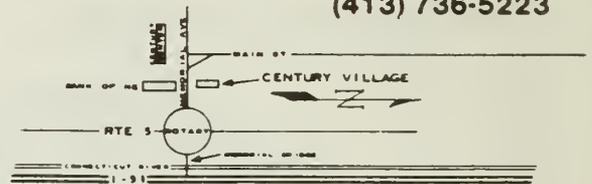
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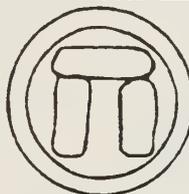
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