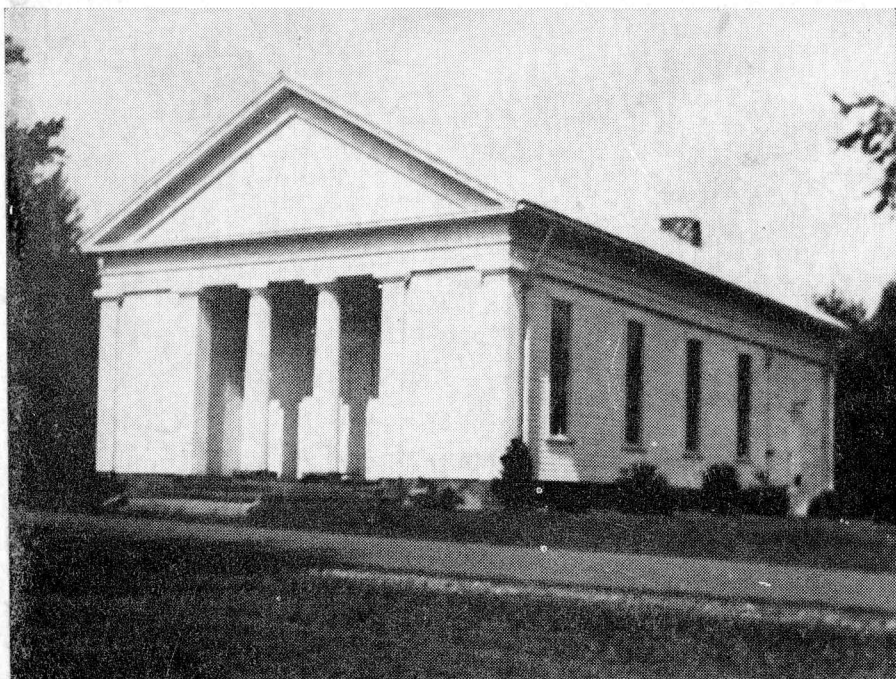


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A Handbook of
Questions and Answers
Relating to the
History of Worthington, Massachusetts



TOWN HALL

Compiled by
Elsie V. Bartlett

FOREWORD

The following questions and answers do not aim to be exhaustive. They merely attempt to give briefly such essential data as to make it a handy reference book, and as an aid when a more ample History of Worthington shall be written.

To all who have helped to build this book I am most grateful.
E. V. B.

Histories and Books I Have Quoted from

History of the Connecticut Valley in Massachusetts

By Louis H. Everts, Philadelphia, Pa.

Published by J. B. Lippincott, Philadelphia, Pa.
1879

History of the Town of Worthington, Massachusetts

By General James Clay Rice

Published by Weed, Parson & Co., Printers
Albany, N. Y., 1853

Secular History of Worthington

By Charles K. Brewster

(This was added to a reprint of the Rice history)

Recollections of My Mother

By Susan I. Leslie

Published by Houghton, Mifflin and Co.
Boston and New York, 1899

The South Worthington Parish

By George R. Moody, 1905

(This book does not give the printer's name)

The Hampshire County Gazetteer, 1654-1887

Published by W. B. Gay and Company
Syracuse, N. Y.

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Question 1: By what name was Worthington first known?

Answer: Plantation No. 3.

Question 2: To whom was the land granted, and by whom?

Answer: A recorded deed shows that Aaron Willard, Jr. of Lancaster on June 2nd, 1762 bought of a committee of the General Assembly of the Province of Massachusetts Bay the new township number 3 for the joint interest of himself and four others, for the sum of 1860 pounds. He represented Selah Barnard of Deerfield who had one-third, Josiah Dwight of Springfield one-sixth, Timothy Dwight of Northampton one-sixth, John Worthington of Springfield one-sixth, and himself one-sixth. Recorded at Springfield, Massachusetts, Book #6, pages 543-545. Colonel John Worthington of Springfield and Major Selah Barnard of Deerfield subsequently became sole proprietors. In honor of the former gentleman, who donated twelve hundred acres of land and early induced the settlers to occupy the land by the erection of a church and a grist mill at his own expense together with a generous assignment of ministerial and school lots for the use of the town the plantation was called Worthington.

Question 3: Where was the purchase made, and what was the date of the first settlement? When was it incorporated?

Answer: It was sold at public auction on Boston Common on June 2nd, 1762. In the spring or early summer of 1764 a company of people who were the first settlers of the town made the journey from Connecticut on horseback. The first night was spent on the hillside east of the present (1952) John Jarvis place. The incorporation of the town followed more closely upon the first settlement than in the case of certain other towns, because the pioneers moved in nearly at the same time. The act of incorporation was passed June 30, 1768.¹

Question 4: Where was the center of the town?

Answer: In the early years of the town West Street was thickly settled and considered the central part of the town. The first parsonage was the house now (1952) owned by Herbert N. Higgins and was built by the first minister, Reverend Jonathan Huntington (June 26, 1771 to March 11, 1781). The first church stood nearby on the site of the Lincoln Stewart place with the first cemetery around it. The first John Watts' place was opposite. This place was torn down by Lyman Granger, and the Watts next lived where now is a part of the center cemetery.

Question 5: What were the early boundaries of the town?

Answer: "The territory of the town when incorporated (June 30, 1768) was considerably greater than at present. It extended from Cummington, on the north, to Chester on the south, and from Peru on the west to the north branch of the Westfield River. This embraced a portion of what is now Chesterfield, and also a portion of Middlefield."

Question 6: Where was the first town meeting, August 1, 1768?

Answer: At the Inn of Alexander Miller, on the corner across from the front of the house now owned by Mrs. Wade — known as the Buffington place. An old well marks the site.

¹ For early settlers see Rice's history of Worthington

Question 7: Who were the first selectmen and town clerk?

Answer: Selectmen—Captain Nathan Leonard, Captain Nathaniel Daniels, Mr. John Kinne. Town Clerk—Nahum Eager.

Question 8: What was the population of the town in 1850 and 1860? In 1940 and 1945?

Answer: In 1850 it was 1,134
1860 1,112
1940 471
1945 363
1950 462 (See Question 131)

Question 9: How many registered voters in 1948?

Answer: Two hundred sixty.

Question 10: How many Congregational churches have we had?

Answer: Four. The first church was on West Street, in 1771. The second was back of what is now Franklyn Hitchcock's, in 1792. The third, the old Colonial Church, stood on the site of the present church from 1825 to 1877. It was burned April 2, 1887. The fourth and present church was built in 1888.

There were two hundred twenty-six members on the roll of the third church in 1853. In 1870 it was thoroughly renovated within, making it more attractive and comfortable.

Its pastors were:

The Reverend Jonathan Pomeroy	1794-1832
The Reverend Henry Adams	1833-1838
The Reverend John Hatch Bisbee	1838-1862
The Reverend David S. Morgan	1867-1869
The Reverend Joseph F. Gaylord	1870-1873
The Reverend Samuel Hopley	1879-1882
The Reverend Frederick S. Huntington ..	1883-1888

(See Question 134)

Question 11: When was the first church at South Worthington completed?

Answer: It was completed and deeded to the Methodist Episcopal Society September 30, 1828. That building is now the upper story of what was later Conwell Academy. The present church was dedicated May 18, 1848.

Question 12: When was the Methodist Episcopal Church erected at West Worthington?

Answer: In 1849.

"The old store at the corner was moved to this spot, a front and belfry added, making the neat church of today." (1904)

"Services were held in this church from April to January. After 1870 preaching was continuous. (See History of the South Worthington Parish, by George R.

Moody). The church was discontinued in 1920.

"The Reverend Steven Wood of Peru preached his last sermon there November 30th, 1919, and the Reverend Mr. Gifford preached last September 26, 1920."

— From records of Mary Yale (Mrs. John Yale)

The old store was the store of Russell Bartlett, which Mrs. John Yale says stood on the site of Willard Jones' barn. She gives the date as 1849.

Question 13: Who gave the land on which the present Town Hall is located?

Answer: William Coit, by deed of December 25, 1854; recorded January 3, 1855, Book 158, Page 19. Consideration of \$25.00. The Town Hall was built in 1855.

Question 14: What stipulation was made?

Answer: That "the town maintain a good fence around the same, 4 feet, 4 inches high."

Question 15: Who built the Lyceum Hall?

Answer: Horace Cole I, about 1860.

Question 16: What stipulation was made in regard to the use of this hall?

Answer: That it should be used for religious or educational purposes.

Question 17: What do we know about early Town halls and the present one?

Answer: The first town meeting was held August 1, 1768 at the home of Alexander Miller (See question 6). Meetings were held here until 1770; after that at the meeting house until 1827, when it was held at Isaiah Kingman's. Mr. Samuel Hill could remember that the first Town Hall (1828) stood between the end of the horse sheds and the Center village. Later it was moved between the homes of Miss Josephine Hewitt and Benjamin Alberts (1952) and used as a blacksmith shop, and was finally destroyed by fire. Mr. Hill remembered when the present Town hall was built, 1855, and that a man named William Coit (See question 13), who lived on what was once the old Tavern of Lieutenant Timothy Meech on the post road (Site of home of Paul B. Fowler, 1952) was instrumental in having the hall located not exactly opposite the old church, but a little to the south, so that he could view the church from his place.

Question 18: Who built the first frame house in town?

Answer: Nathaniel Daniels. It was nearly opposite the site of the Tilson Bartlett place.

Question 19: Who was the sexton of the Third Congregational Church?

Answer: Narcissus Shepard, a shoemaker, who lived near the Hewitts at the Center village.

Question 20: What Seminary was established here?

Answer: Mountain Seminary was established in 1837 on the common at the Corners. It flourished for several years supported by

tuition fees. It had one hundred forty-three pupils drawn from here and surrounding towns. Its first teachers were Alender O. Clapp and Mary Strong. Later, T. A. Hall, E. A. Hubbard and J. H. Temple taught there. Board was \$1.50 to \$2.00 per week. Mrs. Horace S. Cole's father, Dwight Perry, was one of the pupils.

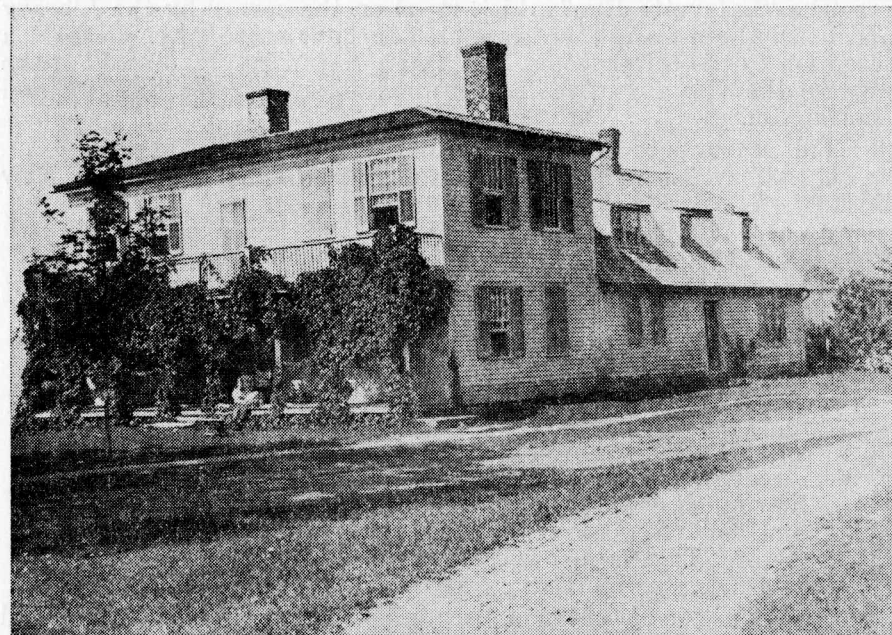


BARTLETT'S HOTEL

Question 21: What were some of the names and locations of the earliest Taverns in Worthington, and later hotels and inns?

Answer: "The taverns of Revolutionary times or earlier were:

- (1) Alexander Miller — Inn-holder
 - (2) Nathaniel Daniels
 - (3) Lieutenant Timothy Meech
- Very early, too, on the same general route was a
- (4) Tavern opposite the present schoolhouse, north of the "Eager" place (Drury district); also,
 - (5) on the town-line at the "Partridge" place;
 - (6) the Isaiah Kingman House (site of Judge Brewster's)
 - (7) the Pearce House at the Corners (site of Library) kept in 1879 by Mr. Winslow, one of the oldest houses in town
 - (8) The Bartlett House at Worthington Corners (Jacob Bartlett) was built soon after his marriage in 1858. A part of it was originally a wool warehouse, used by Horace Cole I. This hotel burned Sunday, March 27, 1898.
 - (9) The Worthington Inn (Alfred W. Trow) was built in 1898 and burned February 27, 1931.
 - (10) Also, early, Lindsey Tavern, the Eugene Cross place at West Worthington.



TAVERN OF NOAH PEARCE.
Later the Lafayette House.
Photo by Sidney J. Smart.

Question 22: What distinguished foreign guest was entertained in Worthington?

Answer: The Marquis de Lafayette spent the night of June 13, 1825 at the tavern of Noah Pearce at Worthington Corners. General Lafayette was en route by stagecoach from Albany to Boston to the laying of the corner stone of Bunker Hill Monument. The following morning he held a reception to the townspeople. Worthington celebrated the centennial of this event June 13, 1925. The tavern was later known as the Lafayette House. It stood on the site of the present library.

In 1901, when the building was about to be torn down, Dr. Harlan Creelman, who owned the house next door, became the possessor of the historic inn and incorporated much of its fine material in the construction of the south wing of his home, Ashmore Lodge.

In all of the rooms of the wing, various parts of the old woodwork have been used. In the dining room, which measures 16 ft. by 20 ft. are to be seen cased overhead and corner beams, mantelpiece, oak flooring and doors of fine paneled design. Many of the same features are to be found in the second story sleeping room of the wing, which measures 20 ft. by 27 ft.

The staircase balustrade on the upper floor is made of the one from the tavern, as well as a very interesting door used for the linen closet. This door is said to have been a part of the old church built in 1792, the second religious edifice built in the town.

In the old tavern, under layers of wall paper in the parlor, was found a Colonial buff plaster. This same color — Colonial buff — has been used on the walls of Ashmore Lodge.

The "Lafayette Elm" which stood on the corner by the Library and near where Lafayette is reputed to have stood when he held a reception to the townspeople, was taken down May 25, 1932 to make way for the widening of the new state road between Worthington and Huntington.

Full accounts of these events are available at the Library.

Question 23: What Worthington man became Mayor of New York City?

Answer: Gideon Lee.

"The life of Gideon Lee has the elements of a romance. Originally a shoemaker in the shop of Clark and Bardwell's tannery, he is said to have one day thrown off his apron and declared he would do such small business no more. His after career in New York as a leather-dealer is simply marvelous. He rose to wealth and municipal honors, being chosen mayor of the city. When he retired from business he met John Jacob Astor in the street. Mr. Astor said, "I hear you have retired, Mr. Lee, how much did you save?" "About three hundred thousand dollars," replied Mr. Lee. "Well! Well!" said Mr. Astor, "That is just as well as if you were rich."

Gideon Lee married Lucy, daughter of Major Buffington.

Question 24: What man, born in Worthington, was instrumental in the development of the Back Bay district of Boston?

Answer: Ralph Huntington, born November 23, 1784, in the first parsonage, now owned by Herbert N. Higgins. He was the child of Simon and Priscilla Benjamin Huntington. Huntington Avenue in Boston and Huntington Hall at M. I. T. are named in his memory. (The story of his life is in a notebook owned by Elsie Bartlett).

Question 25: What noted poet lived for awhile in this town?

Answer: William Cullen Bryant, who studied law under Judge Howe in the "Woodbridge house," now owned by Mr. Jay Gangel.

"In December 1811, William Cullen Bryant was put in charge of Judge Samuel Howe of Worthington to be initiated into the mysteries of Blackstone, Stephens, and Coke."

Of his birth his mother wrote in her diary, "November 4, 1794: Stormy, wind northeast; churned. At seven in the evening a son born."

Question 26: What noted minister, lecturer and philanthropist was born in Worthington?

Answer: Russell H. Conwell was born in South Worthington, Massachusetts, February 15, 1843, the son of Martin Conwell and Miranda Wickham Conwell. He died December 6, 1925, aged eighty-three years.

Line 1 Pastor of Baptist Temple, Philadelphia, Pa., founder of Temple
" 2 University and The Good Samaritan Hospital, noted lecturer and
" 4 This award, founded by Edward W. Bok in 1921 consisted of ten
" 8 philanthropist: recipient of the Philadelphia Award, March 7, 1923.
" 5 thousand dollars, a handsome gold medal in a beautiful casket, and a

parchment scroll stating that the award was given for outstanding service to the good of the city.

The Russell H. Conwell school built in 1941 was named in his honor.

Stories of his life are available at the Library.

Question 27: After the British took possession of the port of Boston in the spring of 1774 what special town meeting was held in Worthington, and at what place?

Answer: At the meetinghouse, Tuesday, June 28, 1774 at two o'clock in the afternoon to see what the town could do "for the relief and encouragement of the town of Boston."

"Worthington and Ashfield raised seventy-one minute men, who marched to Cambridge on the Lexington alarm, under Captain Ebenezer Webber of Worthington, with Samuel Allen and Samuel Bartlett of Ashfield as lieutenants."

(See page 97 in Secular History of Worthington, by C. K. Brewster in Rice's History of Worthington).

Question 28: How many known names of Revolutionary soldiers were from this town?

Answer: Forty-two. (See Rice's History of Worthington, Page 22).

Question 29: Is this number complete?

Answer: "There can be but little doubt that this list falls much below the actual number who joined the army."

Question 30: A small portion of what large British army passed through Worthington in 1777?

Answer: Hessian soldiers from Burgoyne's defeated army. "Oliver Lyman was Captain of a company that went far as Lanesboro when a number of Hessian prisoners were delivered to them, which they guarded to Northampton."

Question 31: How greatly was Worthington depleted of men during the Revolutionary War?

Answer: "So few of the male inhabitants, at this period, did patriotism leave in town, that at no time during the interval between the years of 1778-1782, were there above ten or twelve men, out of over seventy families living in town, who attended church on the Sabbath."

Destitution became so great that on October 10, 1777 a state law was passed obliging town to care for families of soldiers.

Question 32: How many known names of soldiers in the War of 1812?

Answer: Twenty-four, of which William Ward and William Rice were commissioned officers.

Question 33: How many enlisted from Worthington to serve in the Civil War?

Answer: Sixty-two. (See Rice's History, Pages 77-80). The Selectmen's report gives eighty-six. (Page 8).

Question 34: How many went to World War I, 1914-1918?

Answer: Twenty-six.

Question 35: How many men went to World War II, 1941-1945?

Answer: Fifty-two. (See Town Report, 1945).

Question 36: What man, born in Worthington, was appointed a Brigadier-General by Abraham Lincoln, the appointment dating from the Battle of Gettysburg?

Answer: James Clay Rice, born in Worthington in 1828. A boulder at the Rice Homestead (Dr. Mary P. Snook's, 1952) marks his birthplace.

"General Rice fell mortally wounded while leading his troops May 10th, 1864, in the series of battles in Virginia. He was buried at Albany, N. Y., May 16, 1864, with military honors."

Question 37: Where was James Clay Rice educated?

Answer: At Yale College. He graduated in 1854. During his college course he wrote a Secular History of Worthington, which he inscribed to the old people of the town — a work valuable as a matter of record and history.

Question 38: What three houses, built in 1806, are still standing?

Answer: William A. Rice's (Dr. Mary P. Snook's in 1952)
Jonathan Woodbridge (Jay Gangel's in 1952)
Major Samuel Buffington (Mrs. Minta Wade in 1952)

Question 39: What account of the Corners do we have in a letter dated October 31, 1813?

Answer: We have a letter written by the wife of Judge Samuel Howe, who lived where Mr. and Mrs. Jay Gangel now live (1952).

"The house we are to inhabit stands on one corner of two roads which cross each other, but not near enough to either road to be incommoded by it or to look ill; the other corners are occupied by a tavern, a store, and a dwelling house; and this is the most considerable settlement in Worthington, there being a few other houses in the vicinity."

See book in Library, "Recollections of My Mother"

by Susan I. Leslie, Pages 106, 107

Extract from the same book, pages 99, 100: "My Aunt Catherine writes:

'Worthington is a mountain town, much higher above the Connecticut valley than the hills that immediately overlook it. It is approached by the ascent of long hills, over rough roads; and the transit, about twenty miles, with their own horses, as the two families usually made it, took much longer than a journey of one hundred miles now does.'"

"There was no village, or centre of things about it, more than a tavern, a store, and half-a-dozen houses, where were gathered together such conveniences as belonged to the place. In the midst of this year uncle's

house was situated; a large, square house, with an ample yard open to the south, with a very pleasant aspect. It was much the best house in the place — built by the lawyer who preceded Mr. Howe in the town. Opposite was the public house, where the Albany stage stopped each day, going up and returning on alternate days. This coach brought the mail, and such travellers as came there, and afforded the chief interest that they had outside of the house. There were two or three families with whom they kept up a friendly intercourse, and a church a mile distant, which sent forth the hardest and driest kind of doctrine, and was a penance to attend. It was in 1813 that your aunt went to live there, — in the middle of the war of that period. Everybody was poor, and they furnished their house with plainness simplicity, but still comfortably. And here they set up their household gods, and began life on a simple plan which afforded many enjoyments, at the same time that it brought some important privations. Mr Howe usually had a student in his office (adjoining the house), who lived with them; and I think it was in the first year that William Cullen Bryant was with them in this position."

Question 40: What do we know of Mills' Tavern?

Answer: It was the house long owned by Walter C. Powers and now owned by Commander Harold F. MacHugh (1952). William Cullen Bryant in a letter speaks of it as "a comfortable lounging place."

The Mills' orchard was once the upper part of the M. F. Packard mowing. Horace Cole I, bought the lot and cleared it to raise tobacco and built a very long tobacco barn. When it was found that a fine grade of tobacco could not be grown here, he made part of the building into a cow barn, and moved the other half away to become a cheese factory.

(See Question 57). 68

Question 41: Where and when was a court-martial held in Worthington?

Answer: At the home of Sanford Mills on Tuesday, February 12, 1811 at 10:00 A.M. (See scrapbook of Elsie V. Bartlett).

Question 42: Who had the first piano in town?

Answer: Mrs. Elisha Mack, who lived in the house where Mr. Jay Gangel now lives (1952).

Question 43: What do we know of the life of Colonel John Worthington?

Answer: Colonel John Worthington, an outstanding man in the early day of Springfield, Massachusetts, was born in that city November 20, 1719. His father was Lieutenant John Worthington, who came from Hatfield in 1701 and accumulated a fortune. In deeds recorded at the registry office, he is styled in 1729 as "Innholder": in 1736 as "Shop-keeper," and in 1738 as "gentleman." On April 16, 1812 he bought of the widow and heirs of Elizur Holyoke three tracts of land, the second and third lying on the east side of Main Street, between

the present Bridge and Worthington Streets. The first tract, seven and one-half acres, is described as bounded north by John Pynchon, and south by land of the Parson's. This became the Worthington homestead. It was a little south of where (in 1905) is the Springfield National Bank Building. In this rambling, wooden structure he kept the finest tavern in town.

The emigrant ancestor, Nicolas, came from the south part of Lancashire, near Liverpool, England, about 1658 and later from Hatfield, then part of Hadley, to Agawam. His residence was where an old tavern once stood, which was in the south part of the town, on the car line. There is a sign "Worthington Corner" on the spot.

Colonel John Worthington graduated from Yale in 1740, studied law and returned to Springfield in 1774 to begin the practice of his profession. The son and father accumulated large land holdings the number of deeds to both being about two hundred fifty.

Colonel John Worthington remained a bachelor until he was forty years old. On January 10, 1759 he married Hannah Hopkins, a daughter of the Reverend Samuel Hopkins of West Springfield, and Esther Edwards Hopkins, who was a sister of Jonathan Edwards. Mrs. Worthington died November 25, 1766 at the age of thirty-five years, leaving four small children.

On December 7, 1768 he married Mary Stoddard, daughter of Colonel John Stoddard of Northampton, and Prudence Chester. She died July 12, 1812.

In politics he was a Tory. He and Colonel Israel Williams of Hatfield and Major Joseph Hawley of Northampton soon became known as the "River Gods" from the fact that they dominated the military, civic, legal, social and political life of the region. Worthington Street in Springfield is named for him, as is this town. He died April 25, 1800 in the eighty-first year of his age. (See Question 2).

N.B. For further information see scrapbook of Elsie Bartlett.

Question 44: What three books give Worthington history?

Answer: (1) History of the Town of Worthington, by James Clay Rice, 1854, to which has been added Secular History of the town by C. K. Brewster, 1874; and Ecclesiastical History — Reverend J. H. Bisbee, 1854-1874.

(2) The South Worthington Parish, by Reverend George R. Moody, 1905.

(3) History of the Connecticut Valley in Massachusetts, 1879. (See Library for copies)

Question 45: What was the earliest stage coach line through Worthington?

Answer: "The great thoroughfare from Boston to Albany was through this town. There was a constant flow of travel through the place. Stages, private coaches, white-topped emigrant wagons and other vehicles were constantly passing."

See address by Reverend J. H. Bisbee in Secular History of the town of Worthington, by C. K. Brewster, 1874.

Question 46: How many families of Bartletts, Burrs and Brewsters were living in the town February 15, 1833?

Answer: Ten Bartletts, Seven Burrs and eight Brewsters. (Selectmen's list, owned by Clement F. Burr).

Question 47: When the old church was burned (the third meeting house) what was saved?

Answer: Only the bible and hymnbook were saved by George Russell. The bible has been rebound and is still in use (1952).

Question 48: Have we any picture of the third meeting house?

Answer: Yes. Mrs. Nathan Dickson of Albany, a cousin of Miss Susan T. Rice, gave Miss Rice an ambrotype of the church (1825-1887). An enlarged copy now hangs in the present church.

Question 49: Who gave the church clock?

Answer: Frank E. Ladd of Springfield, Massachusetts.

Question 50: Who gave the first furnace of the present church?

Answer: The Hampshire County Conference (1888). It costs upwards of \$200.00.

Question 51: Who gave money to purchase the deacon's chairs?

Answer: Mrs. Coskey, of Michigan. She was formerly Miss Coit of Worthington.

Question 52: Who gave the pulpit lamp?

Answer: C. G. Hine of New York raised money by entertainment and selected and gave the pulpit lamp.

Question 53: Who gave the old communion set?

Answer: Miss Mary G. Rice of Albany, New York. It was pewter, and later silver plated.

Question 54: Who gave the pipe organ? (It cost \$1,000.00).

Answer: Chauncey D. Pease, \$500.00; Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Warner, \$350.00; F. S. Bailey of Springfield, Massachusetts, \$125.00. Other gifts amounted to \$25.00.

Question 55: When was the Corner Stone laid to the present church?

Answer: August 3, 1887.

Question 56: Who gave the granite foundation?

Answer: It came from the Calvin Tower farm (now Miss Vaughan's) and was given by Mrs. Calvin Tower.

Question 57: When was the present church dedicated?

Answer: May 23, 1888.

Question 58: When did its pastor, The Reverend Frederick S. Huntington die?

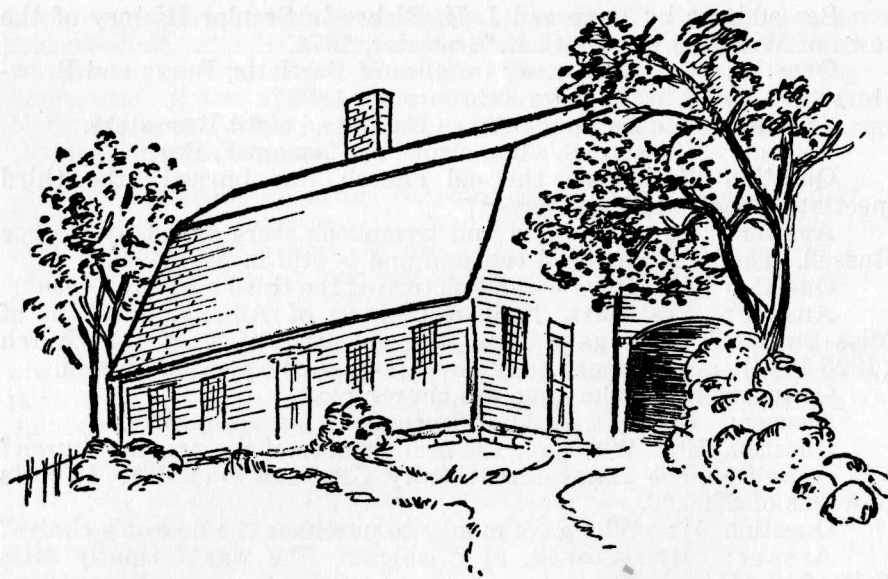
Answer: September 4, 1888.

Question 59: When was the church incorporated?

Answer: July 10, 1930.

Question 60: What is the history of the present church bell in the First Congregational Church?

Answer: The bell was the gift of Arunah Bartlett. It was purchased by Colonel William G. Rice of Albany from the Meneely Bell Company of Troy, N. Y. and cost \$300.00. It was hung in the steeple November 10, 1887. The church was dedicated May 23, 1888.



ARUNAH BARTLETT HOUSE.

Sketch by Mary Burr Hitchcock.

Question 61: What do we know of Arunah Bartlett?

Answer: He was a descendant in the seventh generation of Robert Bartlett of Plymouth, who came over in the good ship Ann in 1623. Arunah was the son of Edward, Jr. (6) and Mary Farr and was born March 30, 1797. He married Amanda Tower May 13, 1824 and he died May 9, 1894, aged ninety-seven years. His house was the Alden Tower place. Amanda Tower was the daughter of Nathaniel Tower.

"Uncle Arunah was a real Yankee genius. Anything they needed he seemed to know how to make."

"Their home was a well kept house with an eastern and southern exposure, situated on a rise of ground not shaded by trees. Adjoining on the north and west were his workshop, water power, and storage for wood and vehicles."

"He was very fond of music and he made several musical instruments. The only one I know for sure was a violin, but there were others."

"Aunt Amanda had a nice melodeon, but I do not think he made it. I recall her telling how she used to dance all around their living room while he played. I wanted to see her dance, and I couldn't understand why if she could do it before she couldn't do it then. He played by ear, which he said was the best way."

"They were early to bed and early to rise. As Elsie Bartlett said, "I can remember his coming to breakfast with us.""

"When he was eight years old he dug and put into the cellar over three hundred bushels of potatoes that fall. He said not so hard as it might seem. The potato piece was quite near the house and he arranged it so he could roll the potatoes in through a cellar window to a bin where his father kept them. His father and brothers were away at the time. I knew not where. It must have been about the time of the War of 1812."

"He was very particular about the spelling of their name, emphasizing the two sets of double "t's." (thus, Bartlett).

"They were cousins, but I do not know how near. Some of Aunt Amanda's relatives lived in Lansing, Michigan, and they decided to see the "West." Uncle Arunah built the carriage and equipped it preparatory to their camping expedition. As soon as the ground was settled one spring they started and returned late in the fall — later than they had hoped to, for Aunt Amanda got sick with a cold on the return trip and they had to delay until she was better. She never recovered from the cough that followed this cold.

"One of the things that they brought home with them was the roots of some rose bushes. It must have been a very hardy kind of rose, because one of these rose bushes is still giving joy to its owner in another location.

"He lived to be past ninety years of age and Aunt Amanda nearly ninety.

"At the time of the blizzard of 1888 Uncle Arunah did not get out to the barn for three days to care for his cow and sheep. Not so bad as it might seem, because the sheep were in a barn that was especially prepared for their healthy existence by having an opening for freedom and fresh air. He filled their rack full of hay and they helped themselves to the snow when they were thirsty. I do not remember so well about the cow, only that she survived.

"A short distance from the house were some graves where I think his father and mother were buried. He visited this spot frequently in his later years. (Arunah Bartlett's father and mother, Edward and Mary Farr Bartlett, are buried in the North Cemetery.)

"A brother of Aunt Amanda's came to live with them, as he was poor and not able to support himself, but their healthful way of living did not appeal to him and he soon made other arrangements.

"Bread and milk was their staple diet in later years, with plenty of baked sweet apples.

"He proposed a wind break for our home which was near by, and helped my father set out several hundred little spruce trees."

From Childhood Memories of Mr. and Mrs. Arunah Bartlett
By Elizabeth Jones Mann

Question 62: When was electricity installed in the present church?

Answer: In the summer of 1929. It was used for the first time Sunday evening, September 1, 1929.

Question 63: For whose death was the new bell first tolled?

Answer: The new bell was hung in the steeple November 10, 1887. It was first tolled for Miss Jennie Robinson of Cold Street, November 23rd, 1887. The last time it was ever tolled was for the passing of William A. Rice, who died June 17, 1906, at the age of eighty-six years. The custom of tolling the bell had been given up some years before then.

Question 64: Whose mother was born in the first frame house in town?

Answer: Mrs. Sidney J. Smart's mother, Mrs. Alfred Kilbourn, (Millie Bartlett Kilbourn) was born in the first frame house (built by Nathaniel Daniels). It was later torn down and some of the timbers used in the Tilson Bartlett house near by. She was Tilson Bartlett's oldest child.

Question 65: When was the first telephone line to Worthington?

Answer: It was from Williamsburg, and was built in 1885 and put in operation by Dr. Munroe Crosier and John H. Bartlett.

Question 66: For how many years has there been a church in this town?

Answer: One hundred eighty one years (1771-1952). For its first one hundred years only seven ministers held pastorates. The longest pastorates have been the Reverend Jonathan Pomeroy — thirty-eight years, and the Reverend John H. Bisbee — twenty-nine years. Its first pastor was the Reverend Jonathan Huntington.

Question 67: Where was church held the day after the 3rd church burned?

Answer: In the Town Hall. Deacon Lafayette Stevens read the sermon. The text was Isaiah, 64th Chapter, 11th verse — "Our holy and beautiful house where our fathers praised Thee is burned up with fire and all our pleasant things are laid waste."

Question 68: What were some of the early industries of the town?

Answer: The principal business was that of agriculture. Grist mills and saw-mills met their immediate needs. Located in Stevensville were the grist-mill, saw-mill and turning works of Aaron and Lafayette Stevens, later conducted by their sons. There were many grist-mills, saw-mills and wood turning shops. Other industries included potash works, brick yards and tanneries, bedstead factory, children's sleds and wagons, penholders, blacksmith shops and basket shops. Wool was a big industry at one time, also cheese making and boots and shoes. Tobacco as a money crop was tried.

Now, in 1952, the principal money crop is potatoes, and only a few families depend upon the farm for a living. Many men work on the roads and many motor to nearby cities and work in plants like General Electric, or in factories. The whole industrial life of the community has changed.

The Hampshire County Gazetteer, 1654-1887, lists the following industries: A. Stevens & Sons saw-mill and hoop factory; about 1836 it burned; rebuilt in 1837; again burned in 1857 and rebuilt in 1858.

Wm. C. Sampson's mill, was built by Fordyce and Philo Sampson in 1841. Fordyce died and Philo carried on the business alone until 1855, when his son, William Sampson, became a partner in the manufacture of lumber, lath and factory supplies.

J. & H. Benton's saw and grist-mill, built in 1840, and came into their possession in 1871. The saw-mill has a circular saw, planer and shingle machine, and the grist-mill one run of stones.

David Jones & Son's bedstead factory was built by Bartlett, Jordan & Company for the manufacture of bench screws in 1846. The factory had two planing machines, five circular saws and turning lathes. They manufactured bedsteads and lumber for agricultural implements.

Oliver B. Parish's factory was built in 1873-74. He does a prosperous business in the manufacture of loom fixtures and factory supplies of wood.

Hayden & Son's sled factory, built in 1858 upon the site of one burned. E. & T. Ring long carried on the business here, hence the name Ringville. Mr. Hayden has been identified with the business since 1878.

George H. Miller's saw-mill does a general woodworking business. Lyman Higgin's saw-mill does custom sawing.

Theron K. Higgin's basket factory, at South Worthington, was established in 1883."

There is an interesting map of Hampshire County, published in 1860 with the following business directory:

Horace & Samuel Cole: Merchants and Boot and Shoe Manf'r's.

E. H. Brewster: County Commissioner.

Sidney Brewster: Merchant

Rev. John H. Bisbee: Congregational Clergyman.

Russell Bartlett: Bedstead Mfg.

D. W. Beals: Saw Handle Mfg.

Charles Smith: Saw Handle Mfg.

Nathan S. and Aaron Stevens: Sieve Rim Mfg. and Grist Mill.

Hersey E. Tower: Basket Manufacturer.

Marcus A. Bates, Mfg. Shafts, Broom Handles, etc.

L. Higgins: Saw Handle and Toy Carriage Mfg.

Philo Sampson: Turning Shop.

William Stevens: Blacksmith.

Lyman Randall: Distiller of Essential Oils.

Question 69: What were some of the yearly events of the 1880's?

Answer: The Gypsy caravans with covered wagons, the dancing bear; Sugar Billy; Comical Brown; Kickapoo Indians! and one year a play "Uncle Tom's Cabin", given in a large tent between the Corners and the Center village.

Question 70: Where was the first schoolhouse?

Answer: The first schoolhouse was a log cabin built in 1773 half-way between the John Adams house (1952, Carl Joslyn's) and the Ames Burr place (1952, Nathaniel F. Gliddens).

Question 71: How many school districts were there?

Answer: In 1857 and 1867 there were 12 schools.
In 1878 the town had 11 school districts.

No. 1	The Corners
No. 2	The Center
No. 3	Pease District
No. 4	Drury District
No. 5	Ringville
No. 6	South Worthington
No. 7	West Street
No. 8	Osgood's
No. 9	West Worthington
No. 10	Cold Street
No. 11	Capen District

There was also a schoolhouse near the Almon Johnson place now owned (1952) by Robert Lane.

Question 72: Where were high schools held?

Answer: In the Town and Lyceum Halls.

Question 73: Where was Conwell Academy?

Answer: In South Worthington. It was founded by Russell H. Conwell, D.D. in 1894 and continued for several years.

Question 74: When was the consolidated school built?

Answer: In 1941, and was named "The Russell H. Conwell School." In 1946 a kitchen was equipped in the basement and a cafeteria lunch room added. The building has three classrooms and cares for children from the first through the eighth grade. High school pupils have tuition and transportation paid to out-of-town schools.

ORGANIZATIONS

Question 75: What are some of the organizations of this town?

Answer: Worthington Grange No. 90; The Friendship Guild; The Women's Benevolent Society; The Rod & Gun; The Parent Teachers Organization; Palettes & Trowels, and the Worthington Historical Society.

Question 76: When was the Grange Organized?

Answer: It was organized March 29, 1875. Reorganized Nov. 11, 1903 as Worthington Grange No. 90 with 75 charter members. Meetings are held the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. "The Old Granite" Grange #49 was organized in David Blair's house and existed for a few years. It was reorganized in 1900 and surrendered its charter in 1915.

Question 77: Who organized the Friendship Guild?

Answer: The Friendship Guild of the Congregational Church was organized by Mrs. James H. Burckes, Miss N. S. Heacock and Mrs. James C. Wightman. Its first meeting was held at the Parsonage November 1928, with 24 charter members. Meetings are held the first Thursday of each month.

Question 78: When was the Women's Benevolent Society incorporated?

Answer: It was incorporated May 8, 1894 with the following officers:

Pres., Mrs. Lucy Gibbs; Vice-Pres., Mrs. Celina B. Eager; Clerk & Treas., Mrs. Ella E. Burr; 1st Director, Mrs. Lida D. Stevens; 2nd Director, Mrs. Eliza C. Randall; 3rd Director, Mrs. Anna A. Cole. Previous to its incorporation it was known as the Ladies Society. It built (1890) and owned the Parsonage and gave the use of it to the Church for its minister.

Question 79: When was the Parsonage turned over to the church?

Answer: At a special meeting of the church which was held at the church October 8, 1945, the church voted to accept a gift of the Parsonage together with a trust fund of \$2,000. The W. B. S. pledged themselves to give continued help in its upkeep.

Question 80: When was the Rod and Gun Club organized?

Answer: A newspaper clipping shows that it was a going concern in August 1942. Earlier records are lost. Meetings are held the first Monday of each month.

Question 81: When was the Parent-Teacher Organization formed?

Answer: The first meeting of the P. T. O. was held at the Town Hall October 14, 1948 with 44 present.

President, Edith Alexander; Vice-President, Franklin G. Burr; Secretary, Eleanor Porter; Treasurer, Joseph Sena.

Meetings are held at the Russell H. Conwell School the second Wednesday of each month, except during July and August.

Question 82: When was the "Palettes and Trowels" organized?

Answer: "Palettes and Trowels" was organized by Mrs. Nathaniel Glidden and Mrs. Dewitt C. Markham and held its first meeting on June 23, 1950 in Mrs. Glidden's studio. Meetings are held the last Wednesday of each month. Members are artists and gardeners. An exhibit of paintings, flower arrangements and photography is held annually.

Question 83: When was the Worthington Historical Society founded?

Answer: The first meeting was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. James H. Burckes (Ransom Scott Place) on Saturday afternoon, August 12th, 1933, with 18 present. Moderator, Walter L. Stevens; Secretary, Lester F. Stevens; Mr. Burckes was appointed to draw up a constitution and by-laws. At a second meeting held at the Town Hall August 23rd, 1933, a Nominating Committee was appointed. At a third meeting held August 29th, 1933 at the Town Hall with 17 members present the following officers were elected:

President, Elisha H. Brewster; Secretary, Lester F. Stevens; Treasurer, Dr. Francis A. Robinson; Editorial Committee, Walter L. Stevens, Edward J. Clark and George Hinckley.

Question 84: When was the Volunteer Fire Department organized?

Answer: The Constitution and By-laws of the Worthington Fire Department were adopted on September 26th, 1946, which marks the formal organization of the Department. However, on August 17th, 1946 a meeting was held at the schoolhouse "for the purpose of organizing a volunteer fire department". 24 men were present. Wells Magargal called the meeting and presided over it, pending the election of a Fire Chief. At this meeting the following were elected as officers:

Chief, C. Kenneth Osgood; Assistant Chief, Leon Palmer; First Lieutenant, C. Raymond Magargal; Second Lieutenant, Lawrence Mason; Secretary and Treasurer, Carl Joslyn.

They were instructed to draw up the by-laws which were adopted at the first regular meeting on September 26th, 1946. In addition to the above, the following signed on as members at the first regular meeting or shortly thereafter:

Horace F. Bartlett, Charles C. Eddy, Fayette R. Stevens, Merwin F. Packard, Harry L. Bates, George E. Torrey, Cullen S. Packard, George H. Bartlett, Arthur J. Durcharme, Eben L. Shaw, Richard Hathaway, Theodore A. Tatro, Warren E. Howe, Malcolm I. Fairman, Emerson J. Davis, Stanley S. Mason, Arthur J. Rolland, Walter H. Tower, Franklin Hitchcock.

The equipment consisted of a 4 wheel drive Chevrolet one-half ton truck with a front mount 500 gallons per minute pump, and equipped with axes, shovels, ladders, hose, etc. In 1951 a G. M. C. two and one-half ton truck with 1500 gallon booster truck was purchased. A fire phone was installed at the home of Mrs. Guy F. Bartlett, who had charge of it. Construction of a firehouse was started during the summer of 1949 and was finished (so far as the Town's share of the work was concerned) by the end of the year. Total cost to the town was \$7,100.00 (See 1949 Town Report). The land on which it stands was donated by Henry H. Snyder. The overhead doors were donated, as were also many hours of labor.

Question 85: When was Worthington Golf Club incorporated?

Answer: September 1st, 1930.

Officers: President, Elisha Brewster; Vice-President, Walter C. Powers; Secretary and Treasurer, George B. Joslyn. Directors: Roy W. McCann and Harris E. Collins.

The following people were present at the meeting of incorporation: Walter C. Powers, Elisha H. Brewster, Leon M. Conwell, George B. Joslyn, Harris E. Collins, Austin M. Pardee, and Arthur G. Caldwell. It is a non-profit sharing organization.

Question 86: Previous to its incorporation, who owned the Golf Club property?

Answer: The Worthington Realty Trust, who leased the property to the Golf Club.

Question 87: Who organized the Worthington Realty Trust, and when?

Answer: October 1, 1923—Harris E. Collins, Elisha H. Brewster, Walter C. Powers, James W. Hubbard, Edward D. Clark, Mary I. Starr,

Frank S. Parsons, Eugene Langdon Parsons, William B. Kirkham, George B. Joslyn, Frank O. Wells, J. Tennyson Seller, Dorothy Wells Seller, Theresa W. Powers.

Question 88: How many years has there been a golf course in Worthington?

Answer: It was made a 9-hole course in 1924.

MEDICAL HISTORY

Question 89: Who was the first physician?

Answer: Dr. Moses Morse, one of the early settlers, whose house stood between N. F. Glidden's and the "Harry Witt place", and near the latter, on the same side of the road, with the barn opposite.

Dr. Morse was educated at the University of Cambridge and practiced as a surgeon in Liverpool and London. He was a notorious Tory. He was elected to the Provincial Congress in 1773 and representative to the general in 1777. He was buried in a little cemetery near the "Guard Place".

Question 90: Who was the next physician?

Answer: Dr. Ezra Starkweather, who came from Stonington, Conn. in 1785 and built the house later owned by Lathrop Drury, and still later by Victor Bernier and in 1952 by Robert Lane. Ezra Starkweather was married in Stonington, Conn to Esther Buroster (or Brewster). He practiced many years and was almost continually in public life. He was a Revolutionary soldier and lost four brothers in the war. He died July 27th, 1834.

Question 91: Who were some of the subsequent doctors?

Answer:

Dr. C. Starkweather	Dr. D. Pierce	Dr. A. G. Pierce
Dr. Marsh	Dr. H. Starkweither	Dr. Erastus C. Coy
Dr. Moses Brewster	Dr. Wheeler	Dr. Barton
Dr. Porter	Dr. Bois	Dr. James D. Seymour
Dr. Richards	Dr. Coit	Dr. Charles Parsons
Dr. Dwight	Dr. Church	Dr. William G. Kimball
Dr. Spear	Dr. Brown	Dr. L. V. Gibbs, 1885
Dr. Rodgers	Dr. Lyman	Dr. William Parmelee
Dr. Case.	Dr. Prevost	Dr. William R. Lyman
Dr. E. Pierce	Dr. Knowlton	Dr. Francis A. Robinson
Dr. Meekins	Dr. Freeland	Dr. Mary Poland Snook
Dr. Holland (two)	Dr. Smith	

Question 92: How many non-resident physicians?

Answer: Four: Dr. Harry L. Crafts
Dr. Walter T. Zimdahl 1949
Dr. Herbert Perkins
Dr. Eaton E. Freeman 1950

Question 93: When was the Worthington Health Association organized?

Answer: A formal opening of the new Health Center was held on December 10th, 1950 at the Lyceum Hall. The east room on the first floor had been converted into a waiting room, doctor's office and consulting room, an examining room, dental room, laboratory and toilet facilities. It is incorporated as a non-profit organization under Massachusetts laws.

Question 94: Who serves it professionally?

Answer: Dr. Eaton E. Freeman, of Florence, Mass.

Dr. Harold Stone — School dental work.
Dr. Frederick Foster — (of North Adams) — adult dental work.
Dr. E. Richard Post, of Amherst, Mass., Optometrist.

Question 95: Who are the officers?

Answer: President, Clarence A. G. Pease; Vice-President, Carl A. Joslyn; Secretary, Fayette R. Stevens; Treasurer, Merwin F. Packard. 2 nurses — Mrs. Florence L. Bates, R.N., Mrs. Barbara Dunleavy, R.N.

Question 96: Who are the Directors?

Answer: Clarence A. G. Pease
Carl Joslyn
Fayette R. Stevens
Merwin F. Packard
Leroy Rida
Mrs. Esther Sena
Mrs. Florence Bates
Dr. Lawrence N. Durgin
Leslie L. Porter

Question 97: What is the purpose of the organization?

Answer: "To create, administer and promote such health facilities for the Town of Worthington and surrounding communities as may be deemed necessary and feasible, and to be ready at all times to conserve or promote the health of the people of this area or of any persons desiring to use its facilities."

Question 98: What two Worthington women have served this town as Red Cross nurses?

Answer: Mrs. Mildred Gurney — January 1924 to March 1926.
Mrs. Florence Berry Bates — Nov. 1930 to Feb. 1932.
There has been Red Cross service from 1920 to 1932.

Question 99: What three houses were built in 1842 by David Jones and Russell Bartlett?

Answer: The present Burr homestead, now owned by Franklin H. Burr; the old parsonage, which was burned, and the home of Miss N. S. Heacock.

Question 100: How many years has the Burr farm been in the family?

Answer: Since 1800. Calvin Burr, who was the first Burr owner, emigrated from Bridgewater to Worthington in 1800. The deed is dated June 20th in the year of our Lord 1800, and signed by Rufus Marsh and his wife, Mary Marsh.

Question 101: Where was the Rev. Jonathan L. Pomeroy's home?

Answer: Near the Burr farm, now owned by Carl Joslyn. The Rev. Jonathan L. Pomeroy, August 6, 1794, was called to settle in the ministry at Worthington. It was later known as the John Adams place, the P. T. Radiker place, George B. Joslyn's and in 1952 the home of Carl S. Joslyn.

Question 102: When was the Frederick Sargent Huntington Library organized?

Answer: "The Library was organized in 1864 by the efforts of the Rev. Frederick S. Huntington, pastor of the First Congregational Church. The library was formally opened in December of that

year in a large room over the store of Mr. Samuel Cole (now M. F. Packard's — 1952) he having offered the room for this purpose. The library started with 256 volumes, of which exactly one half were donated and one half purchased. The library remained in this room for about seven years. In November 1891 the library was moved to a room in the house of Mr. Ames Bartlett (now Arthur Capen's — 1952). Here it remained for a little more than a year, when the town gave the use of a vacant room in a schoolhouse at the Corners. It was moved there January 5, 1893, where it remained until 1914. In the spring of 1914 the room was needed for a school so the books were boxed and stored in the old Casino. For about eight months only a limited library service was available. In 1914 it was decided to build, and in March 1915 the present library was opened to the public."

Question 103: How was the Library financed?

Answer: During the years up to 1909 a fund of something over \$2,400 was raised by entertainments, by gifts and by an accumulation of interest. When Mr. Huntington died in 1888 he left a sum of money in the care of a self-perpetuating board of trustees to be used in the educational interests of the town for an academy or a library building according to the judgment of the trustees when it had increased to a sufficient amount. This resulted in the erection of the present building. It was dedicated in September of that year.

Question 104: Who gave the land on which the Library stands?

Answer: The descendants of Col. William and Wealthy Cottrell Rice.

Question 105: When was the upper floor to the library finished, staircase made and the children's room added?

Answer: In 1938. The Rice room was finished in the fall of 1937 and was a gift from Miss Katherine McDowell Rice.

Question 106: What considerable gifts has the library received?

Answer: From the town of Enfield, Mass. in July 1938, 728 volumes and \$5,353.08.

From Edward J. Clark, an endowment of \$2,000.

THE BREWSTERS IN WORTHINGTON

Question 107: What early tavern was located at the Center?

Answer: "The Isaiah Kingman House, at the E. H. Brewster place." See "History of the Connecticut Valley in Massachusetts", Vol. I, page 456.

"The home of the Brewsters. Capt. Elisha Brewster bought this place and kept a hotel. About this place was the old training ground where formerly the militia trained three days in each year." See "History of the South Worthington Parish" by George R. Moody.

Question 108: Who lived in the homestead later?

Answer: The Hon. Elisha H. Brewster; his son, Charles K. Brewster, and Judge Elisha H. Brewster, who died April 29, 1946. It is the present home of his family.

Question 109: When was the Brewster store built?

Answer: It was built at the Center in 1842 by Judge Brewster's grandfather, Elisha H. Brewster, in company with his cousin Sidney Brewster. They ran it together for ten years, then E. H. sold to Sidney.

In company with his son Sidney kept the store for fifteen years, when E. H. bought it and in company with his son, Charles K. Brewster

in 1868 ran the store until 1878, when C. K. bought his father's interest and continued business under his own name until 1904, when his son Howard C. Brewster took it over. In 1906 the store was leased to Franklin H. Burr. It is now (1952) the home of Franklyn Hitchcock.

A very early store at the Center was kept by Francis Benjamin on the site of the Elisha H. Brewster home.

Question 110: What is the history of Jonathan Brewster and his family?

Answer: From records left by Judge Elisha H. Brewster we have the following:

"Jonathan Brewster was the first Brewster to settle in Worthington. He was born in Preston, Connecticut, June 8, 1734, the son of Jonathan and Mary (Parish) Brewster. He was the sixth generation of descendants of Elder William Brewster of Mayflower fame, his ancestors being Jonathan, Daniel, Benjamin, Jonathan and Elder William. He came to Worthington in 1777, bringing with him his wife, Zipporah (Smith) Brewster and eight children, two of whom died in the month of September 1777. Their graves are to be found in the Hazen cemetery, so called, located in the southern part of the town just off the Kinney Brook Road.

Jonathan served his town and church as selectman, Representative in the General Court and deacon. Zipporah died January 19, 1794 and Jonathan died April 18, 1800, aged sixty-six years. They were both buried in the Hazen cemetery.

The sons who came to Worthington with Jonathan, and who lived and died there, were Jonathan, Jonah, Moses and Elisha. All were farmers except Moses, who was a physician, and all, with the possible exception of Moses, owned farms in the Kinney Brook section of the town. The house where Jonathan first lived is no longer standing, but is supposed to have been located near the dwelling now owned by Mrs. Honor Paul. There is reason to believe that Dr. Moses Brewster lived in the Center where Harry Mollison now lives."

Question 111: What interesting record did Judge Brewster leave of Capt. Elisha Brewster?

Answer: "Capt. Elisha Brewster was born in Preston, Conn. February 25, 1755 (see Rice's History, pp. 22-23, footnote). On April 24, 1788 Elisha married Sarah Huntington, daughter of Jonathan Huntington, the first pastor of the church in Worthington. Shortly after his marriage Elisha acquired from Nathan Leonard 100 acres of land, being all of lot 51 of the original layout of the town. This lot was in the Kinney Brook section of the town and could very well be where he is supposed to have lived and carried on his vocation of farming. It is believed that his house is still standing, although materially altered. It is the house on the east side of the Kinney Brook Road and the first inhabitable house north of the

road leading to the Dwight Prentice place, so called (Foresters). He had previously acquired — 1784 — sixty acres from Jonathan Brewster, a portion of the grantor's farm, and later his brother Jonah deeded him twenty-five acres.

Capt. Elisha and Sarah had nine children, two of whom died young. They were Minerva and Hannah, and their graves are marked in the Hazen Cemetery. The Brewster Genealogy mentions another daughter Hannah, who died in infancy, but there is no record of this. Three of his daughters, Theodocia, Sally and Zipporah, in that succession, married Eliphalet Parish and lived in Bergen, a small town near Rochester. A daughter Eliza married Benjamin Mills, a lawyer. His widow died in Worthington November 12, 1867, where Com. McHugh now (1952) lives. Another daughter of Elisha was Lucy, who married Elbridge Hazen. Capt. Elisha's only son was Elisha Huntington Brewster, father of C. K. Brewster.

Capt. Elisha Brewster died September 25, 1883, leaving a will, some of the provisions of which would now be regarded as unusual. After devising a dower interest in the real estate and certain bequests of personal property, he gives to his widow outright "one good milch cow, six good sheep and a sufficiency of firewood for one fire delivered to her door of her dwelling house in Worthington so long as she shall continue to be my widow, to be delivered and cut fit for her fire by my son Elisha H. Brewster".

"Capt. Elisha and his widow were buried in the Hazen Cemetery."

Question 112: What record did Judge Brewster leave of his father, Charles K. Brewster?

Answer: Charles Kingman Brewster was born in Worthington Center on June 11, 1843. That he attended the public schools of Worthington is evidenced by letters written by him to his sister in 1853. In one he wrote 'We like our teacher pretty well. He hasn't liked (licked) any of his scholars yet.'

About the 26th of August 1861 he entered Westfield Academy and was there in 1862. Other Worthington boys were there at the same time. Among them were John Kelley and George and John Ring. His roommate was John Ring. They boarded with a Mrs. Ferre. They had to furnish the wood for the stove in their room. There was military training at the Academy and he was promoted 'from high private to head sergeant'.

After two years at Westfield Academy he went to work for Horace Cole and Son in Worthington Corners in 1864. On February 22, 1866 he married Miss Celina S. Baldwin of Windsor, Mass. They began housekeeping in Worthington Corners, occupying a portion of the house in which his aunt Eliza Mills lived. (now — 1952 — Com. McHugh's). On March 21, 1867 they moved to Worthington Center to the 'Cooper Place', so called, (now (1952) Henry Dassatti's) opposite the Center Store. On May 28, 1879 they moved to the Brewster homestead. They had seven children, Sophronia, Grace, Elisha H.,

Sarah Harriet, Charles Huntington, Howard Chauncey and Kingman.

The activities of Charles K. Brewster from the time of his marriage to his death followed rather closely the pattern of those of his father. He was merchant, counsellor in probate matters, conveyancer, town officer, legislator and county commissioner.

In 1886 he was elected Special County Commissioner for the County of Hampshire, which office he held until he was elected County Commissioner in 1898. He served in that office for ten years, or up to the time of his death. In 1888 he was elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives and served during the session of 1889. He died September 30, 1908.

Question 113: What Worthington boy became a Judge?

Answer: Elisha Hume Brewster was appointed a Federal District Court judge by President Warren G. Harding, October 23, 1922 and served until his retirement in 1942.

Judge Brewster was born September 10, 1871, the son of Charles K. and Celina S. (Baldwin) Brewster. A graduate of Williston Seminary in Easthampton in 1893, he received his law degree from Boston University in 1896, in the same year beginning his law practice. He became senior justice in 1933. Serving three years in the Mass. House of Representatives, he was Clerk of the House Committees of Public Service on Banks and Banking, Taxation and Corporation Law Revisions.

He was the author of a treatise on the Mass. inheritance tax which has been regarded as an authoritative work. He died April 29th, 1946.

Question 114: What do we know of the life of William Ward?

Answer: William Ward was born in Cummington, May 18, 1781. He removed to Worthington when he was 14 years old (1795) and became a clerk in Mr. William Gove's store. When he was 17 years old the entire business of the store was entrusted to him (1798). In 1805 he married Miss Elizabeth Gove of Connecticut. Soon after he removed to the Corners and did business in his own name which he continued with little or no intermission until within a few years of his death, December 20, 1851. His pioneer home was the Kilbourne house, now owned by Dr. Lawrence N. Durgin (1952).

Of William Ward's children, Trowbridge and William Ward II settled in Worthington; Levi, a physician, in New York City; Artemus Ward went to Canaan, Vermont; Elizabeth became Mrs. Eben Hollis, of Lynn, Mass. A grandson, Daniel Ward, lived on the Woodbridge place, now owned by Mr. Jay Gangel (1952).

Question 115: What public offices did he hold?

Answer: He was postmaster for 46 years, or through 11 administrations, when Worthington was the only post-office between Northampton and Pittsfield. He served as Colonel in the War of 1812 and representative to the General Court in 1816, 1817, 1831, 1834 and 1851; Senate, 1836, 1837. He also held by the appointment of the State, a prominent place among that body of distinguished men who were called to alter and amend the legislative enactments of the Commonwealth.

Question 116: How many days elapsed between the death of William Ward and Elizabeth Gove Ward?

Answer: Six. Her death occurred December 14th and his on December 20th, 1851.

Question 117: How many houses of first settlers are still standing?

Answer:

	1952
Ebenezer Leonard	Nathaniel F. Glidden
Thomas Clemmons	Fred W. Brown
Thomas Kinne	Leslie G. Hickling
Joseph Marsh	Franklin H. Burr
Jeremiah Kinne	Margaret Vaughan
Gersham Randall	Benjamin Albert
Asa Cotrell	Lawrence Mason
Zephaniah Hatch	Ralph Higgins
Nathan Branch	William Corbett
Daniel Morse	George Hull
Daniel Morse, Jr.	Harry Pease
James Benjamin	Robert Lane
Beriah Curtis	John Kartashevich
Samuel Buck	Roy McCann
Edmund Petingill	Robert J. Lucey
Asa Spaulding	Julian Rice
John Howard	John Jarvis
Nahum Eager	David Tyler
Nehemiah Prougthy	Walter Tower
Samuel, Robert and Amos Day	Robert Lanes
Jonathan Brewster, Jr.	Cecil G. Gaston
James and John Kelley	Donald E. Ergood
John Kinne	Golf Club House
Jonathan Huntington	Herbert N. Higgins

Question 118: What house at the Center has always been in the family?

Answer: Miss Josephine Hewitt's home. Her great-grandfather, Cyprian Parish, owned the land and a house on it. The present house was built by her grandfather, Daniel T. Hewitt, who kept a general store in 1837 in his home and continued in trade for a few years. The store was in what is now (1952) the kitchen and dining room. The place passed to his son, Cyprian Hewitt, who was born and died in the house. His daughter, Miss Josephine Stone Hewitt now (1952) lives there.

Question 119: What do we know of the Nathaniel Glidden homestead?

Answer: It was owned by an early settler, Ebenezer Leonard, before 1800. It was later owned by Ames Burr, Heman Burr, Isaac Thrasher, Harry Pease and Nathaniel F. Glidden (1952). It is one of the fine old houses of the town.

Question 120: When was the house where Roy McCann lives built?

Answer: Rice's "History of Worthington" says — "Samuel Buck, who owned the farm, and erected the house in the year of 1780, now occupied by Mr. Silas Robinson (1854)". Trowbridge Ward about 1815. In 1860 Capt. A. Bates lived there. Later David D. Powers, John H. Bartlett, Calvin T. Bartlett, J. Ross Stevenson, D.D., Irving F. Chapman and Mr. and Mrs. Roy McCann (1952).

Question 121: What three houses, built in 1806, are still standing?

Answer: The homes of William A. Rice, Jonathan Woodbridge and Major Samuel Buffington.

Question 122: What house was first part of a tobacco barn, then became a cheese factory and later a basket shop?

Answer: "The Spruces", home of the late Horace F. Bartlett I. It was part of a tobacco barn in the lot west of the house. In the winter of 1874-1875 Horace S. Cole I moved it to its present location and made it into a cheese factory, having facilities for using the milk of 150 cows or more. About \$3,000 worth of cheese was made annually. A man named Scott Jinks made cheese there for two years, and later Henry Homes and his son William made cheeses (1876-1877). Charles Kilbourne could remember seeing the big vats in what is now the living room, and the platform on the front of the building where the farmers brought and left the milk. On July 23, 1880 the place was deeded to Horace F. Bartlett and baskets were made there and about 16 men employed. John Kinne was in partnership. It was made over into the present house by Horace F. Bartlett I in 1882.

Question 123: In which hamlets of the town are descendants of the first settlers still living?

Answer: Stevensville. Aaron Stevens, great-great grandfather of Fayett Stevens was born in Brookfield in 1790. When Aaron was 14 years of age his parents removed to Chester, and a little later he joined them, making the long journey by foot. In 1811 he married Miss Sarah Spellman of Sandisfield. Soon after the marriage they went to Worthington and the first deed of the Stevens property bears the date of 1812, the year of the second war with Great Britain. Aaron Stevens had four sons and one daughter. Upon his death the mill property and a few acres of land went to Aaron, Jr. and Nathan Spellman Stevens. Later Aaron, Jr. bought out his brother's interests and the latter went to Cummington. Lafayette Stevens built a gristmill in 1818 on the site of the mill owned by Aaron Stevens, his sons Eugene H. and Cullen L. continued to conduct a sawmill and manufactured hardwood banjo and drum hoops. The lower mill of Lafayette and his son, Alfred C. Stevens, was a grist mill and machine shop. The sawmill is said to be the site of the old Col. Worthington gristmill.

Question 124: Which Stevens' descendants are still living in Stevensville? (1952)

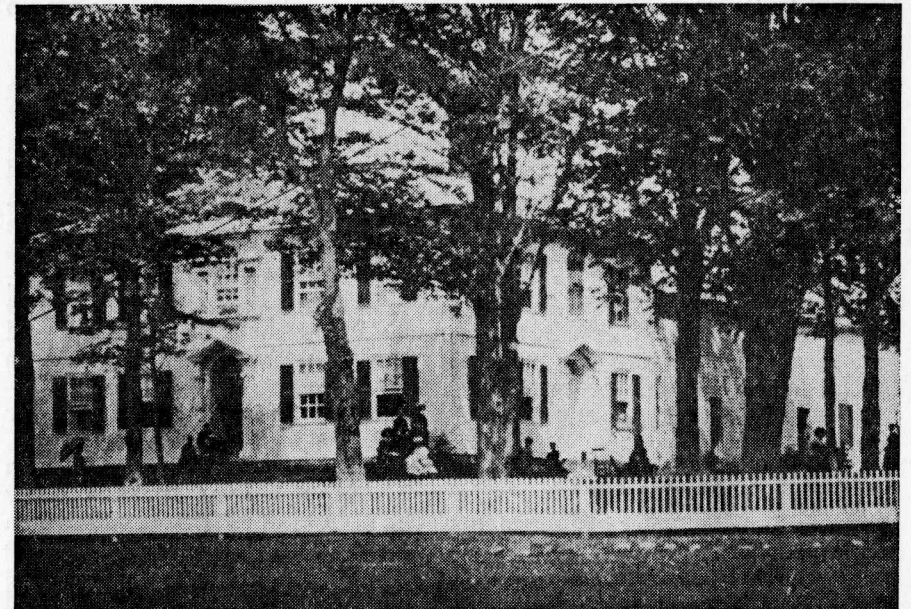
Answer: A. C. Stevens, Jr. on the Lafayette Stevens place, and Fayette Stevens on the Eugene H. Stevens place.

Question 125: What became of the mills?

Answer: The sawmill was torn down, and the gristmill has been converted into a summer cottage.

Question 126: What is the history of the Kilbourne house?

Answer: It was the pioneer home of Col. William Ward. He sold it to E. C. Porter, who sold to Alfred Kilbourne in 1870. In 1947 it was sold to Dr. Lawrence N. Durgin of Amherst, Mass. The house is one of the lovely old houses of the town and was in the Kilbourne family for 77 years.



WOODBIDGE HOUSE

Question 127: What is the history of the Woodbridge Place, now owned by Mr. Jay Gangel? (1952)

Answer: According to the town history, "a log cabin originally stood near the site and was lived in by a man named Samuel Clapp". The present house was built in 1806 by Jonathan Wodbridge, a lawyer. It was next owned by Judge Samuel Howe, and here William Cullen Bryant studied law.

Samuel Howe, by deed dated November 4, 1820, conveyed the homestead to Elisha Mack, a lawyer. From him it passed to Starkweather, Kellogg, to Starkweather, who mortgaged to Mack, who foreclosed, and who conveyed by deed to William Ward on July 28, 1835. On December 12, 1836 the property was deeded to his son-in-law, Chauncey B. Rising, also a lawyer. It was next owned by Alfred P. Stone, and Dwight Stone, later passing to Dwight Stone's daughter, Myra Fay Stone, who deeded to Henry M. Neil. The next occupants were Mr. and Mrs. Alfred H. Chapin. In 1933 it was sold to Clinton F. Read, and is now the home of Mr. Jay Gangel (1952), who bought it in June 1945.

Question 128: What is the history of the house where Harry L. Bates lives?

Answer: It was originally the Ward Store. There is a deed of December 28, 1815 from Judge Samuel Howe to Trowbridge and William Ward of the land on which the store was built and carried on. The store was conveyed to E. C. Porter by William Ward, by deed of March 21, 1850. Porter sold to Samuel Cole in 1859. In 1870 it was a basket shop, owned by Horace F. Bartlett, who about 1877 made it into a dwelling house. In 1893 it was owned by Charles F. Bates, and in 1920 by his son, Harry L. Bates. Samuel Cole at one time had a shoe shop on the second floor. There were outside stairs on the east side

leading to it. Mrs. Horace S. Cole could remember as a girl going up the stairs and getting bits of bright leather.

Question 129: What is the history of the Drury House?

Answer: Rice's History says, "Among the early settlers were three families, Samuel, Amos and Robert Day", who all settled on that farm. There is a deed dated 1793; recorded December 14, 1802, from John Worthington to Jonathan Drury for lot #3, also an earlier deed from Joshua Foster of Peterborough, Mass., under date of October 31, 1766 to Jonathan Drury for lot #10 in the 5th range of lots. The present house was built by Dr. Ezra Starkweather in 1785 (see Question 96). He came from Stonington, Conn. He sold to Elijah Drury. Later it passed to Abel P. Drury, to Lathrop Drury, and in 1921 to Victor Bernier. It is now, in 1952, owned by Robert Lane of Westfield and Worthington, who has named it "Drury Lane". This, also, is one of the fine houses of the town.

Question 130: What is the history of the Walter H. Tower home?

Answer: According to Rice's History, Nehemiah Prougty, a first settler, lived there. One of the first Towers was Joseph Tower who came in 1777 and probably built the log cabin which Mrs. Lawson told Mrs. Henry Tower she could remember. It stood between the present house and the road. The back side of the present house was originally the front side of the house. At that time there was no road between Howard Beebe's and Charles L. Day's (Granville Capen's). The children from Stevensville, going to school, went there by way of the Tower place. The owners were:

Nehemiah Prougty
Joseph Tower
Ezekiel Tower
William Tower
Henry Tower
Walter H. Tower

After William Tower, Ames Bartlett lived there for a short time, but did not own the place.

Question 131: What do we know of the Ernest G. Thayer place?

Answer: Lathrop Reed lived there in 1829 —

Jonas Bennett
Andrew B. Medbury
Calvin Robinson
Dwight Thayer
Alfred Thayer
Ernest G. Thayer
Mabel Thayer Shaw and children and grandchildren.

Six generations have sheltered under its roof. The first road was back of their house.

Question 132: What is the history of the home of Dr. Harold Stone?

Answer: The main part of the house was built by a Mr. Watson, whose home was what is now the ell part of the house. He owned a big tannery near by. Later owners were Andrew B. Medbury, Cephas Thayer, James Leslie, Ernest Thayer, Harry Wilcutt of Westfield and, in 1934, it was bought by Dr. and Mrs. Harold Stone, who have made it into a beautiful estate and named it "Brookstone".

Question 133: What is the history of the Curtis place?

Answer: In 1768 lot 52 was sold to Beriah Curtis by Selah Barnard. From Beriah Curtis it passed to Elisha Curtis; to Alden Benjamin Curtis, who died in 1899 and then to his heirs, Alden and Elmer Curtis and Mary Curtis. Curtis sold to William Gagnon in 1923, who sold to the present owner, John Kartashevich in 1942. The farm consists of 250 acres.

Question 134: What fine old house was standing when Lafayette came?

Answer: The Rice homestead. It was built by Col. William Rice in 1806 and he and his wife Wealthy Cotrell Rice lived there with their twelve children, Lydia, Lucinda, Rebecca, Wealthy, Susan, Emeline, William, Mary and George and three sons who were born later. Nine were living when Lafayette stayed over night at the tavern near by. Col. Rice, with 40 mounted men, met General Lafayette at the Berkshire line and escorted him into town. William A. Rice and his wife, Hannah Seely Rice, had four children, William Gorham, Katherine McDowell, Susan Tracy and Josephine Rice Crœlman.

Upon the death of Miss Katherine McDowell Rice, December 4, 1945, the estate was sold to Maynard L. and Mary Poland Snook, the present (1952) owners.

Question 135: What do we know of the history of the Benjamin homestead?

Answer: John Worthington in 1770 sold to James Benjamin lot #138. James Benjamin married Eunice Bromley. Later owners were Ira Johnson, his son, Almon Johnson. Upon Almon Johnson's death his heir, a Mr. Avery of Pittsfield, Mass., sold the estate to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lane of Westfield, who use it for a summer home. James Benjamin and his wife were Miss Josephine Hewitt's great grandparents. Priscilla Benjamin, James' daughter, married Simon Huntington, and lived in the first parsonage (see Question 4). Ralph Huntington, their son, was instrumental in reclaiming the Back Bay district of Boston (see Question 24).

Life was rugged in the days of the James Benjamin's. So isolated were they in the winter that they kept a pine coffin in the attic in case of need with no help available.

Question 136: What early settler located on the farm long known as the James Pease farm?

Answer: Thomas Kinne, whose house stood a little to the west of the present, house which was built by Jonah Brewster. The farm consists of 260 acres.

Thomas Kinne
Jonah Brewster
Edward Sampson
James Pease
Horace Pease
Robert Lane
Warren Howe
Leslie G. Hickling

Question 137: What old house is still standing at the top of Clark's Hill?

Answer: The old Porter house, now owned by Bertram B. Warren. It was built by Jacob Porter, a descendant of Richard Porter,

who came from England and settled in Weymouth, Mass. in 1635. Jacob Porter was born in Abington, Mass. July 23, 1737, a son of Jacob Porter. The father was a prominent and influential citizen of Abington and Representative of the General Court in 1753 and 1757. Jacob Porter II married Rachel Reed. They had ten children. Seven were born in Abington, Mass., three in Worthington, Mass. One of these three (Jacob) died at the age of sixteen, and a son born later was named Jacob. The house was built by Jacob Porter II soon after the Revolutionary War. He dug the well by the house, which is thirty feet deep, and blasted many feet in solid ledge. It is known as "Jacob's Well". Enory Whiting bought the place in 1860. Later, Waite Smith, Elisha Tower, Charles E. Clark, Dwight Clark and Rachel Boyd.

Question 138: What is the history of the ancestral home of Mrs. James H. Burckes?

Answer: "In the spring or early summer of 1764 Mary Kelly, with her two sons, James and John, aged 19 and 20 years, and twin daughters, Anna and Anstis, came to Worthington with a company of people who were the first settlers of the town. They made the journey from Connecticut on horseback, following the trail by marks on trees, as most of Worthington was then an unbroken forest. The Kelly's took up the lot two miles southwest of the Center where the present house now stands. It is on a gentle slope and well watered. The first house was a log cabin; a few years later a frame house was built and the log cabin was used for a woodshed. John bought and cleared off other lots of land until he had 400 acres. In 1774 he bought 100 acres from Dr. Moses Morse. In what is now our spring lot brick was once manufactured. The farm was said to be one of the three best in town and the field to the east, containing 60 acres, was the largest mowing in town. There were three large barns on the place, one for horses, one for cattle and one for sheep. All travel was on horseback, and all work was done with oxen.

My mother, Ellen Kelly, married Ransom Scott in 1874, and for 49 years the farm was carried on by him. It was named Cold Spring Farm by my mother, because of its abundant springs of pure cold water."

(Condensed from a paper written by Mrs. James H. Burckes, a descendant of the original settler, for the Springfield Sunday Union and Republican, April 29, 1928.)

This place was lately owned by Charles Alexander.

Question 139: What do we know of the history of the Eager farm?

Answer: In an article written for the Springfield Republican, September 30, 1928, Clement F. Burr said —

"In 1763 or 1764 Nahum Eager emigrated from Northboro to Worthington and settled on what has always been known as the Eager farm. His first house there was a log house on the meadow, but in a very few years he built a house near the spot where the present house stands. He had two sons and several daughters.

The sons were Nathaniel and William. Nahum divided his farm between his two sons and built a house for William on what is known as the old Scott place. Nahum Eager, a Mr. Leonard and one other man were the very first settlers of Worthington. The farm, until within a few years, has always been kept in the Eager family. The present house and barn, which are magnificent farm buildings, were built by the late Jonathan H. Eager, and the farm was named by his wife, Celina Buck Eager, 'Meadow Brook Farm.' Jonathan H. Eager, son of Nathaniel, was born in 1822."

The farm is now owned (1952) by David Tyler.

In 1764 John Worthington sold to Nahum Eager lots 93 and 100. In 1763 Selah Barnard sold to Nathan Eager lots 96 and 99, and in 1764 lots 111 and 76. 1774 Timothy Dwight sold to Nathan Eager lot 13. In 1793 Nahum Eager bought lot 97.

Question 140: Who was the early settler on the place now owned by Miss Margaret I. Vaughan?

Answer: "Jeremiah Kinne, who resided where Mr. Calvin Tower now lives." (See Rice's "History of Worthington").

5-13-1771 John Worthington deeded to Jeremy Kinne 100 acres
4-13-1779 Jeremiah Kinne of Voluntown, Connecticut, to his son, Daniel Kinne of Preston, Connecticut, "the farm on which my son Jeremy Kinne lived (100 acres with buildings) and of which he died possessed."

I have no record after this until:

2- 5-1833 Calvin Bartlett to Calvin Tower
11- 4-1885 Calvin Tower to wife Amanda and daughters Elvira M. and Grace I.
2-18-1890 Trustee of Calvin Tower for benefit of wards Elvira M. and Grace I. to Benjamin Ayres
11- 9-1891 Benjamin Ayres to Selden Blackman
12- 4-1896 Selden Blackman to William G. Rice
9- 5-1927 William G. Rice to Jennie Laura Zimmerman Vaughan
8-19-1931 Jennie Laura Zimmerman Vaughan to Margaret I. Vaughan

It is thought that Jeremiah built the kitchen ell and that the main part of the house was built by his son Daniel. There is a built-in plaque in the chimney of the main part of the house which reads "Daniel Kinne, 1789."

In 1833 Calvin Bartlett sold to Calvin B. Tower, who lived there fifty-two years or until he died, ~~May 28, 1895~~. His family lived there until 1890.

OCTOBER 13, 1885
MEMORIAL BOULDERS

Question 141: What four memorial boulders have been erected in town, and for whom?

Answer: On October 12, 1925 the Lafayette Boulder on the Library grounds was dedicated. The program was in charge of the George Washington Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. The bronze tablet bears this inscription: "General Lafayette, friend of America in its struggle for freedom. Visited Worthington June 13, 1825, and stayed overnight at the tavern then located on this site. Erected by the George Washington Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, and by the Town of Worthington, 1925".

On September 7, 1930, at the home of Dr. Russell H. Conwell, a granite boulder was unveiled. The tablet was marked simply as follows:

"Birthplace of Russell H. Conwell
February 15, 1842
Minister of the Gospel
Founder of Temple University
Patriot, orator, author and educator."

On August 7, 1923 a memorial, consisting of a bronze tablet, mounted on a yellow quartz boulder, was dedicated to Brig. Gen. James Clay Rice at the Rice Homestead. The inscription reads:

"In This Homestead Built In 1806
James Clay Rice
Was born Dec. 27th, 1828
Graduated from Yale College 1854
Admitted to the New York Bar 1857
He entered the Union Army 1861
Became Col. of the 44th New York Vol. Inf. 1862
Married Josephine Thorp Dec. 10, 1862
Was appointed Brig. Gen'l. 1863
An ardent Christian, an Able and Brave Commander
He was killed in action at Spotsylvania
May 10, 1864

His Kinfolk placed This Tablet Here In 1923

In the summer of 1946 a boulder bearing a bronze tablet inscribed with the names of the soldiers of World War I and World War II was placed on the common in front of the First Congregational Church. It reads:

Town of Worthington
Honor Roll
World War I

John T. Ames
Frank W. Bates
Irving R. Briggs
William E. Brown
Walter H. Buxton
Leland P. Cole
Charles L. Cudworth
Stillman S. Cudworth
Elisha P. Cutler
Homer D. Dodge
Malcolm I. Fairman
Orson W. Gurney
Albert E. Haskell

Wallace C. Higgins
John Jarvis
Merwin H. Jones
Emery M. Knapp
Dudley H. Mason
Jeremiah J. Robinson
Guy H. Russell
Leon Russell
William E. Sanderson
Ebenezer L. Shaw
Russell B. Shaw
Michael B. Tobin
William Zack

World War II

Philip F. Arcouette
Philip B. Anderson
George Bartlett
H. Franklin Bartlett
Eugene Bernier
Howard Beebee
George Brown
Harold E. Brown

Frank Hathaway
Ralph Higgins
Cortland Higgins
Stanley Higgins
John Kartashevich
James Knapp
Rene A. Lefebvre
Peter A. McEwan, Jr.

Rev. Arthur W. Childs
Robert E. Coddling
James R. Coffey
Donald Coffey
*William Coffey
Leland P. Cole, Jr.
Frank R. Curran
Warren R. Dalton
Frederick I. Drake, Jr.
Ashley O. Dodge
George T. Dodge, Jr.
Charles G. Eddy
Earl H. Eddy
*Norman C. Eddy
Albert E. Edwards
Arthur P. Fitzgerald
Arthur G. Haskell
Herbert Haskell

C. Raymond Magargal
Donald Mason
Glendon Mason
*Donald W. Mollison
Stanley J. Neil
Chester H. Nichols
George H. Packard
Orin A. Parish
Kenneth Paul
Kenneth B. Pease, Jr.
F. Donald Pomeroy
George Rhoads
Ernest Robinson
Gurney W. Skelton
Harold B. Smith
Richard Smith
Guy Thrasher
Raymond C. Wisner, Jr.

In Memoriam

William J. Coffey
Norman C. Eddy
Donald W. Mollison

Question 142: When were the maple trees set out on the church common?

Answer: During the pastorate of the Rev. F. S. Huntington (1883-1888). A newspaper clipping, a few days after his death, says:

"Many a landmark has he left behind him. The Library, the trees on the church common, the Village Improvement Society — will serve to endear his memory in the hearts of all".

Mr. Huntington solicited the trees from all over the town. Some of them came from Mr. Fordyce Knapp, who helped set them out after the new church was built, it seems probable in April 1888 or in early May. In Mrs. Horace F. Bartlett's diary is the following: "May 5, 1888: Set Mr. Huntington's trees".

Question 143: When were the group of evergreens set out near the church?

Answer: In Lafayette Stevens' diary it says: "June 3rd, 1884. Set out evergreens at the church".

Question 144: When was the sidewalk built between the Corners and the Center village?

Answer: Lafayette Stevens' diary says: "June 9th, 1887. Fred and Eugene worked on walk from Corners to Center".

This walk extended from the Library corner to Lewis Zarr's as a built walk with a stone foundation much of the way. The walk, from there on to the Center, was across the north and south commons near the church. It was made by the Village Improvement Society and during the Rev. Frederick S. Huntington's pastorate. A newspaper clipping says, "He was a prime mover in many of the improvements that have rendered the village so attractive."

THE BEAR HUNT

Question 145: When was the bear killed?

Answer: Sunday, September 20th, 1885, by George Dodge in George Jones' woods. The bear supper was held in the Town Hall,

Wednesday evening, September 23rd. The bear skin was stuffed by Davis Bartlett and eventually placed in the Library, where it remained until 1914, when, it having become moth-eaten, it was discarded.

Mrs. Flora Ring Cooney said, "The Sunday the bear was killed the Elisha Hayden family came to church (South Worthington church) and told about the bear climbing the wall and eating apples under the apple trees across the road from their house". (Where Mrs. Donald Thompson lives now — 1952). Judge Brewster: "I didn't go to church that morning. A lot of people started for church but they never got there. A bear had gone down back of the Town Hall through here and people who started for church started in search. I didn't participate until the afternoon. We went down the road and the party were down nearly to Ringville. We were waiting for the party to come up, and there, a little, not a great ways from us, just north of the road was the bear, and he was heading our way. We didn't stay. We came home. They got him. The bear was shot back of the Town Hall. He went down and came back. They headed him off. Mr. Huntington, the minister, didn't feel peeved because the people didn't come to church. He said we would have a good time and a bear supper. They brought the bear (they shot him down in the woods) up in front of the church."

Mr. Alfred C. Stevens: "My recollection about that bear day. I was in the hunt and my dog was one of the dogs they used. Mrs. Witt gave the alarm. She saw it first. It was crossing the road down below what was the old blacksmith shop then, (between Josephine Hewitt's and Benjamin Alberts). She came up here and was telling about it, and someone from over at Mr. Wright's (John Wright's), I don't remember the name, agreed to go home and get his dog if I would go home and get mine, and we would chase him. Well, we did. We came back and when we took the dogs down to where the tracks were first they would neither of them follow it. They were both frightened of it. We knew where the bear went and we followed it along ourselves, and finally one of the dogs did begin to take up the trail, and then the other one joined, and they chased it down across and back up through the woods almost up to Eager's, and there it took a turn and headed back down again through the hollow between that and the Drury place. We followed down there and on down towards Ringville. George Dodge was the man who shot the bear finally. And then it was a great question of whose it was? He claimed it because he had shot it, and this other man and I claimed it because our dogs had been chasing it all the forenoon, and we had quite a set-to about it, but finally it was decided that we should have it for a supper here in the Town Hall, and we did. Then there was a great question about who should have the skin. I have forgotten just how it was decided. Davis Bartlett down here, who used to mount animals and birds, agreed to mount the skin, and it should be kept in the Town Hall, and it was there for awhile." (It was later kept in the Library.)

From Worthington Historical Society meeting August 21, 1934.

Question 146: Where were the old tanneries and potash works?

Answer: East of Benton's mills in West Worthington was the extensive tannery of Clark & Bardwell — 1820-1830. Later, Clark established another on or near the site of the mills of Jones & Son. There was also the Andrew B. Medberry tannery at an early date. There was a tannery at the Corners at the foot of Rice's hill on the

west side of the road and across the brook where the Leonards had homes. Extensive potash works were carried on near that point by Col. Ward. These were between the Creelman house and brook. Mr. William A. Rice, in a letter of olden days, wrote, "Tanning also was a formidable industry. The original forests here were largely of hemlock, and the making of leather a very important trade. Down through to my youth there were as many as six or eight flourishing tanneries in the township, giving employment to scores of men and support to many households. In addition to the native skins which all found their way to the tan vats, the main supply was from South American hides that were sent here by New York importers and leather dealers to be tanned and returned to them, the Hudson River being available to Albany for transportation."

Question 147: What does Mr. William A. Rice say of the wool industry?

Answer: "In those days the farms of these hills were devoted almost entirely to sheep. Just enough only of grain and cows to supply family needs. Every farmer had his flock up to its capacity, varying from 300 to 400 down to 50 or less. The sheep were of a fine grade known as Merino, yielding fleeces of 5 or 6 pounds, and bringing about 60 cents per pound. There were always plenty of buyers."

Question 148: What two farms were paid for in wool?

Answer: The Lucius Bartlett farm (now Dr. Huzzar's on the Ridge Road), and the farm of his brother, Tilson Bartlett (house now gone). It stood where the north cemetery road joins the Ridge Road and the old road to Cold Street.

The Tilson Bartlett deed is of April 17, 1832 and from Horace and Charles Burr. The payment in wool was without interest, so many pounds yearly.

THE BLIZZARD OF '88

Question 149: What do we know of Worthington during the blizzard of 1888?

Answer: The diary of Lafayette Stevens says:

"March 11th, Sunday: Old Mr. Streeter" (Oren Streeter — home on site of Howard Beebe's house) — "died this morning, aged 74 years.

March 12th, Monday: Snowed great guns all day. Came 2 ft. deep and drifted badly. Stage went with one horse and did not come back. The hardest getting up from the mill I ever had at night.

"March 13th, Tuesday: Snowed and blew hard all last night and all day. No one passed to-day. Carried our dinners to the mill. Could hardly get there. Could only get out at the front door without shoveling.

March 14th, Wednesday: No team passed to-day. Fred, Cullen, Eugene and Otis and oxen got up to Mr. Streeter's, but the oxen could not draw the sled home. No one could get to Mr. Streeter's funeral to-day.

March 15th, Thursday: Four men and span of horses got up through from the Hollow. No team passed to-day. No mail since Saturday. Thawing some.

March 16th, Friday: John Burr made out to get through home to-day horseback. First team passed since Monday. Saturday, March 17th: Got three mails to-day. Sunday, March 18th: Went up and officiated at Mr. Streeter's funeral. Eight days dead. No woman there except the widow."

From diary of Mrs. Horace F. Bartlett:

"March 11th, Sunday: Deacon Lafayette Stevens preached. It is a stormy day. Mr. Streeter died to-day.

March 12th, Monday: Largest snowstorm of the season and it drifts as it comes. A dreadful night and the snow is piled mountain high.

March 13th, Tuesday: Snowed and blew all day, the snow piled up to the roof of the piazza and runs to the north end of the shop.

March 14th, Wednesday: No mail since Saturday. Cleared off this P.M. and the men are trying to break out roads. Snow clear up to the limbs of the elm tree, nearly. Horace worked on road 1/2 day.

March 15th, Thursday: Huntington stage got up to-night. No mail. Horace worked on the road all day.

March 16th, Friday: Williamsburg and Hinsdale stages got home at noon. Horace worked on the road all day. Irving went down to see Lida.

March 17th, Saturday: All the mails went out and came back. Hinsdale mail was carried on foot from West Worthington. No such storm known for years. Snow 5 ft. to 5 1/2 ft. deep on a level."

Question 150: When was a cattle show held in Worthington?

Answer: "The Sixth Annual Cattle Show and Fair of the Green Mountain Agricultural Society was holden at Worthington on Wednesday, September 30, 1857. The weather was very favorable and a larger collection of people were present than ever before. The show of cattle and stock was held on the spacious common north of the church. There were nearly 350 head of cattle on the grounds and 46 yoke of working oxen. Chesterfield farmers were there with 67 yoke, drawing a colossal car 36 ft. long. The string reached a full quarter of a mile in length. The car contained Bryant's Band of Music and 100 persons, with a flag waving high over their heads. The exhibition in the Town Hall was in almost every respect superior to the former exhibitions. At 12:30 P.M. a procession was formed near the Town Hall and, escorted by the marshals and the music of the day, marched to the hotel of A. J. Tinker at "The Corners" where about fifty persons sat down to an excellent dinner". There were addresses and music in the church in the afternoon. (For full account see Worthington Scrap Books, Vol. I in Library.

Question 151: What Worthington woman knit a pair of mittens for a Royal baby?

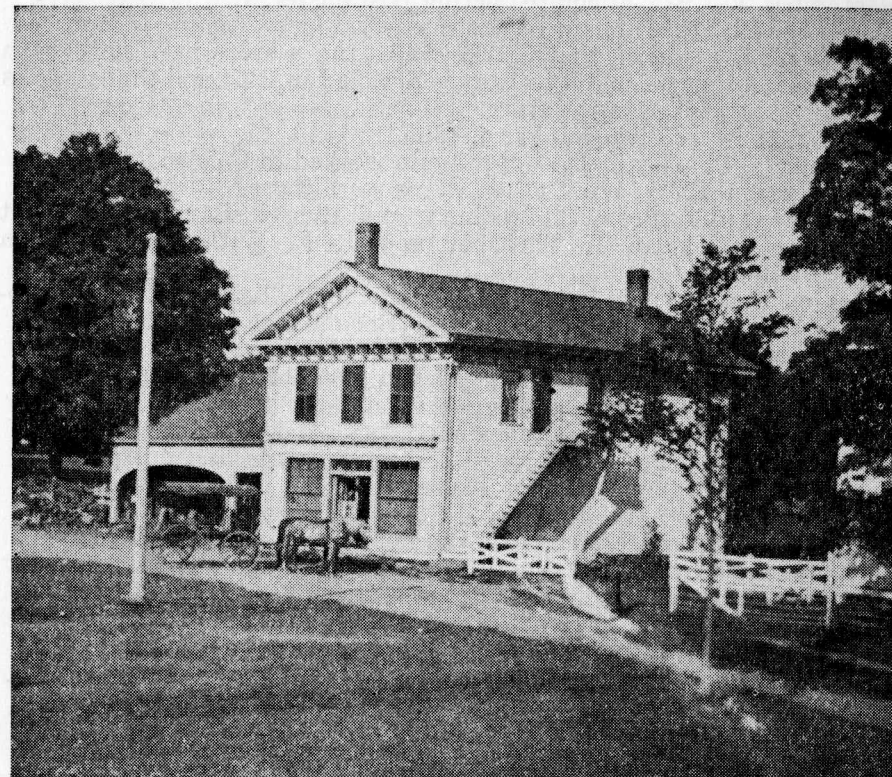
Answer: Mrs. Horace S. Cole, for the little Prince Charles of England, and received the following letter:

"Buckington Palace
1st Dec., 1948

Dear Madam:

Princess Elizabeth has received, with great pleasure, the charming little baby's mittens which you were good enough to make and send Her Royal Highness, and the Princess has ask me to thank you warmly for your kind thoughts and for the good wishes which accompanied your present.

Yours truly,
Margaret Hay,
Lady-in-Waiting"



COLE'S STORE

Question 152: When was the store of Merwin F. Packard built and what stores preceded it?

Answer: It is thought to be the site of the old Gove Store, and later, William Ward's. History says that "White and Daniels were proprietors, before 1820, of the old Gove Store on the stageroad."

Mr. Samuel Hill could remember when Bagg and Parish had a store there. In 1845 Horace S. Cole I and Simeon Clapp had a store there and ran it for four years.

1849, Horace Cole I and C. C. Parish, 6 1/2 years.

1857, Horace Cole I and son, Samuel Cole.

In 1859 the store burned and was promptly rebuilt.

1860, Horace Cole I and son.

1875, Samuel Cole and son, Horace S. Cole II.

On November 20, 1883, Charles K. Brewster leased the store of Samuel Cole and ran it for five years. During the period he was postmaster at the Corners, being appointed by President Arthur. Fayette Sturtevant was put in charge of the store.

(Samuel Cole died November 19, 1906)

1906, Horace S. Cole II.

Walter Shaw leased the store from Horace S. Cole II and ran it for awhile.

November 1, 1914, Edward J. Bligh.

September 1, 1925, Merwin F. Packard, the present (1952) owner.

September 30, 1925, appointed acting postmaster.

December 12, 1925, appointed postmaster.

There is evidence that Clarke Bates ran a store in Worthington Corners and that he sold it to Horace S. Cole I in 1864 and that Charles K. Brewster worked in the store.

Clarke Bates died October 4, 1865.

In 1866 Charles K. Brewster again worked in Cole's store.

Question 153: What other stores were there?

Answer: Andrew B. Medbury and Russell Bartlett, at West Worthington. Isaac T. Thrasher and J. E. Witherell, at South Worthington.

Question 154: What were some of Mr. William A. Rice's memories of Worthington in his boyhood? (Born March 18, 1820).

Answer: He wrote, "In my boyhood Worthington had become a thriving place. It had over 1400 population. All farmers implements were hammered out by hand blows, axes, shovels, hoes, pitchforks and plows were all made by the village smith. Wagons, sleds and cutters were all home made. There were but three covered town."

VEHICLES IN

"A tailoress came to the home and made the families clothes out of homespun, and a village shoemaker made their shoes in the kitchen. The skins of the animals that supplied the family beef, veal, mutton and lamb went to the tanning and after some weeks' treatment came back shining leather. Open fires were the only means of making the house habitable, and the only means of cooking. There were very few books and only a weekly newspaper."

Question 155: At whose funeral did the corpse have to be drawn from the Corners to the tomb by hand?

Answer: In Lafayette Stevens' diary is the following:

"April 10, 1873: Lester and I went up and dug out gravestones. Snow five feet on top of them".

"April 12: Mrs. Burton died this morning at five o'clock. Laura watched with Mrs. Burton last night."

"April 14: Went to Mrs. Burton's funeral. Drew the corpse from the Corners to the tomb by hand."

Question 156: What did Mr. William A. Rice say about trees?

Answer: "My memory goes back to the days when there

was not a single shade tree in this village (The Corners) except the two elms in front of the old Trowbridge Ward place (now Roy McCann's), and four poplars in front of our own house. About the spring of 1825 fifty maples were put out upon the different roadways. My father's quota was the 25 on each side of this road eastward of the four corners. In a few more years we cut down our poplars and set out the maples in our yard". (Set out by W. A. Rice in 1839).

Question 157: What did the interior of the old Colonial church look like?

Answer: The late Mrs. Henry Tower remembered the old church in the 1860's, before it was remodeled. The pews were high, with doors and numbers. The two stoves were box stoves, inside, with long stovepipes going into one chimney at the back. The high pulpit was at the front end, and it seemed to her as a child a magnificent affair, with draperies and tassels. It was entered by a door at the left at the foot of the pulpit stairs. At the right was another door which opened into a little library in a space under the stairs. The ceiling had an oval design and the round wooden decorations around the edge looked to her like cookies. There were only two aisles and the pews next the walls were known as "wall slips". In each back corner there was an enclosure something like a box seat, with seats on three sides. Mrs. Tower used to sit on a little corner seat at the inside end of the pew. The first organ had to be pumped, and Charles F. Bates, as a boy, used to pump it. It was played by Sarah Brewster, sister of C. K. Brewster. The second organ was played by Fannie Bartlett, and Charles Starkweather sang tenor with Sylvester Bartlett. People stood during the long prayer. The choir sat in the gallery at the back of the church and the congregation when they rose for the hymns turned and faced them.

According to the late Horace F. Bartlett, the choir at that time boasted 20 singers and a stringed orchestra, with Abel Drury playing the double bass viol; Clark Bates the single bass viol; John Campbell, first violin; Osmond Watts, second violin; Major Pierce the flute and Aaron Stevens the clarinet.

Question 158: Was there ever a house on the site of the present parsonage?

Answer: Yes. It was owned by William Starkweather. Dr. Charles Parsons, who married Helen True, also lived there and a family by the name of Humphrey at the time it burned (previous to 1890).

Question 159: Was there an "underground railway" in this town during the Civil War?

Answer: Yes. Martin Conwell (Dr. Russell H. Conwell's father) used to take produce to Springfield and brought back slaves. They were shipped out via Ireland Street (now Highland Street).

Question 160: Who made the pulpit in the South Worthington church?

Answer: Lewis Higgins (Hiram Higgins' father) and Lyman Ring in the old sawmill at Hiram Higgins. It was built out of chestnut with black walnut trimmings cut from logs around South Worthington. The church had a high pulpit in those days with a double seat for the minister and old pedestal lamps each side of the pulpit.

Question 161: What was the minister's salary at South Worthington?

Answer: \$500 and donations, and a chance to preach in West Worthington. Mrs. Flora Ring Cooney said she remembered a donation party in the old church when her father laid a floor over the tops of the pews, and steps leading up to it, and the tables for the supper were set on this floor.

Question 162: When was the first parsonage of the Congregational Church built?

Answer: It was built in 1771 by the pastor, the Rev. Jonathan Huntington, and is still standing. (Present home of Herbert N. Higgins).

Question 163: Which is the oldest house in town?

Answer: The Nathan Branch house where Edwin Fitzroy lived, now owned by William Corbett (1952). Nathan Branch was a first settler in 1768.

Question 164: What is the Pastoral register?

Answer: Jonathan Huntington, June 26, 1771 to March 11, 1771
Josiah Spalding, August 21, 1788 to March 1794
Jonathan Pomeroy, November 26, 1784 to November 23, 1832
Henry Adams, December 25, 1833 to October 23, 1838
John H. Bisbee, December 19, 1838 to March 13, 1862
David S. Morgan, June 26, 1867 to May 26, 1869
Joseph T. Gaylord, August 3, 1870 to April 1, 1873
Samuel W. Hopley, August 20, 1879 to March 15, 1882
Frederick S. Huntington, 1883 to September 4, 1888
Harlan Creelman, September 17, 1889 to September 1893
Edward C. Camp, October 10, 1894 to December 18, 1898
Melvin J. Allen, January 1900 to August 1, 1905
William F. Markwick, July 1, 1906 to October 1, 1909
John D. Willard, May 1, 1910 to January 1, 1913
Stephen Williams, September 14, 1913 to April 1915
Elisha P. Cutler, November 7, 1915 to June 8, 1919
Newton I. Jones, April 11, 1920 to August 27, 1922
James W. Moulton, October 9, 1922 to December 1, 1925
James H. Burckes, May 1, 1926 to July 10, 1931
Herebrt J. Owen, January 24, 1932 to June 15, 1942
Arthur W. Childs, November 15, 1942 to July 15, 1945
William P. Barton, September 1, 1946 . . .

Question 165: What water systems serve the town?

Answer: The Town reservoir, made in 1911, to which was added an artesian well in 1950. The town reservoir was the project of the late Rev. John D. Willard and was accomplished during his pastorate in Worthington (May 1, 1910 to January 1, 1913).

Water Commissioners, appointed April 28, 1911 were:

Alfred W. Trow, for 3 years
Horace S. Cole, for 2 years
John D. Willard, for 1 year

The artesian well is one hundred feet deep, with a six-inch casing and yields 75 gallons per minute. It is needed only in times of extreme drought.