

*The History
of*
MANCHESTER
CONNECTICUT

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HISTORY OF
MANCHESTER
CONNECTICUT

BY

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TOWN OF MANCHESTER

1924



SOLDIERS MONUMENT, CENTER PARK

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INTRODUCTION

One hundred years ago Orford Parish was separated by an act of the Connecticut legislature from the Town of East Hartford and became an independent community with full rights of local self-government. That first town meeting day in June, 1823, was indeed an important political landmark; but it was not the beginning of the history of our community. For more than a century there had been settlements within our boundaries and for at least 50 years there had been organized community life. The Centennial History, therefore, has not been limited in its scope to the events of the past century.

Our history has been divided into four parts: Part I — The Colonial Period — extends from the earliest settlements to the organization of Orford Parish in 1772. The chapters included in this part describe first of all the natural features of the region at the coming of the white men. An account of the native inhabitants follows with particular attention to their life and customs, their lands and villages and their relations with the colonists. The purchase from Chief Joshua in 1672 of the land now included in the Town of Manchester, the Five-Mile Tract, is an event of outstanding importance in the first period. The history of the negotiations and copies of the records of the transactions are reproduced.

For more than a half century after its purchase the Five Miles was held as common pasture and woodland by its owners, the inhabitants of Hartford, and was not open to general settlement. A few individuals whose names have been preserved in the records, were granted farms therein. Others, persons of less importance, whose names have now been forgotten, "squatted" on the land and successfully resisted attempts at dispossession.

The year 1731 marks the first general distribution of land in the Five Miles. In 1753-54 a second final distribution was made. By the aid of the maps reproduced in the text the plan of distribution can be readily understood and some of the early grants can be located.

True to the Puritan tradition the settlers in the Five Miles made provision almost immediately for those community services which they considered most essential, highways, schools and

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of what the war meant to Manchester and how its citizens rose to meet the great emergency. The book concludes with an account of the Centennial celebration.

The authors wish to acknowledge, with thanks, the help received from members of the Historical Committee and others who have supplied data and shown a kindly interest in the book at all stages in its progress. Of especial value has been the assistance rendered by Mrs. Mary Cone Jenney Moeser, Mrs. John M. Williams, Miss Mary Cheney, Judge H. O. Bowers, Messrs. F. A. Verplanck, A. F. Howes, Fred H. Wall, F. H. Anderson and Frank Cheney, Jr.

MATHIAS SPIESS,
PERCY W. BIDWELL.

Note

In the selection of portraits of citizens of the Town who were identified with its history the Committee has felt it necessary to limit the choice to portraits of citizens, no longer living.

churches. After about 20 years of make-shift arrangements and partial control of their own affairs, the settlers were finally incorporated in 1772 into an independent local government body known as Orford Parish, or Orford Ecclesiastical Society. A wealth of historical lore collected by Mr. Spiess in regard to early laws, names of places, roads and taverns, will be found in Part I.

Dr. Bidwell's work of compilation begins with Part II, *The Period of Rural Economy* (1772-1820). In a single chapter the economic and social life of rural communities such as Orford Parish has been outlined. The typical features of the Age of Homespun, its isolation and its self-sufficiency, the ingenuity and frugality of the farmers and their habits of neighborly co-operation are shown to be the results of their economic conditions, and particularly of the lack of a market for farm products. Toward the end of this period rural life in Manchester was showing signs of stagnation and decadence.

The Industrial Revolution in Manchester, 1820-1873, is the subject of Part III. After a brief review of the early manufacturing enterprise, the story of the development of the paper, textile and other industries is taken up with particular attention, of course, to the history of silk manufacturing. The results of the growth of manufactures upon agriculture and upon the social conditions in the community are discussed in this part.

The concluding chapters of the book — Part IV — deal with the changes which have taken place in Manchester in the last half century. Within the memory of many of our older residents the community has been transformed by the introduction of new methods of transportation and communication, the electric street car, the automobile and the telephone. Modern public utilities, such as water, gas and electricity have been provided. Along with the growth of the town in wealth and prosperity the spirit of community service has shown vigorous development. Its fruits are splendid schools, playgrounds, recreation centers and a wonderful hospital, the memorial to those who gave themselves in the World War.

Manchester's participation in the World War in a multitude of varied activities is the subject of one of the final chapters of the history. Written largely from first-hand accounts published in local newspapers this chapter aims to give a vivid impression

Part I
The Colonial Period

THE HISTORY OF MANCHESTER

CHAPTER I.

IN PREHISTORIC TIMES

"Before these fields were shorn and tilled,
Full to the brim our rivers flowed;
The melody of waters filled
The fresh and boundless wood;
And torrents dashed and rivulets played,
And fountains spouted in the shade."

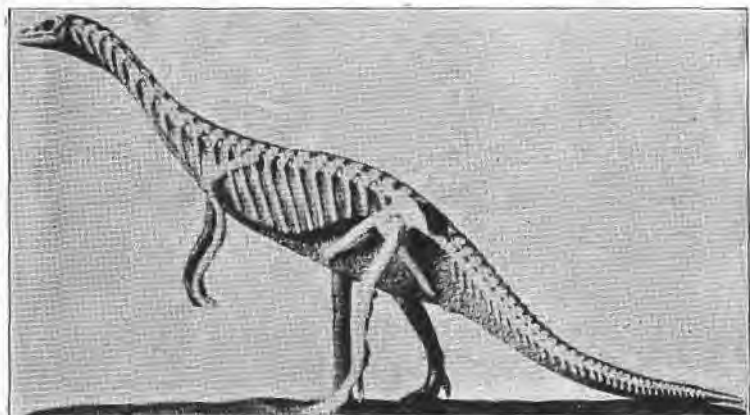
— *William Cullen Bryant.*

The foregoing lines may be taken to describe the appearance of the locality, now known as the Town of Manchester, before the beginning of written history.

When first mentioned in the historical records the area now occupied by our community was known as "the wilderness." But can we not penetrate the dimness of the past and open the great book of nature and form a true picture of what Manchester was before the white man came and centuries before the red man roamed the forests?

Beginning at "Great-Hill," now known as Laurel Park, we may find the place where the Hockanum River has cut and worn its course through the natural dam of a large lake that extended to the northeast as far as Buckland; to Center Springs Park eastward; and southward to Hartford Road. A still larger lake extended from the northeastern part of the town northerly to Ellington, and there were also several smaller lakes within the present boundary lines of Manchester. These lakes in the midst of a dense forest with numerous hills and gullies, became the stage upon which we act today — Manchester.

An interesting chapter could be written regarding the prehistoric denizens of this locality, the only records of whose existence are "footprints on the sands of time." Tracks of huge reptiles, monsters of the order dinosauria preserved in sandstone, have been found in nearly the entire Connecticut Valley. Giant lizards once inhabited this territory, clambered over our hills, and roamed along the muddy shores of lakes long since drained by nature and left as evidence of their existence skeleton remains which have recently been discovered.



Restoration of *Anchisaurus colorus*. Remains found at Buckland quarry.
From "Triassic Life of Connecticut Valley" State Geological
and Natural History Survey—Bulletin No. 24.

"By far the most notable bone locality in the valley is at Manchester, the place of origin of the important type specimens of *Anchisaurus*, *colorus*, *A. solus*, and *Ammosaurus major*, all of which, described by Professor Marsh, are preserved in the Peabody Museum at Yale. From Professor Marsh's notes I extract the following:

"These specimens were found in the quarry of Mr. Charles O. Wolcott about one mile north of Buckland station in a layer about two and one-half feet in thickness, and, as the quarry was then worked, somewhat above the level of the roadway.

"The first specimen, the *Ammosaurus major*, was found in 1884, and before its value was recognized the rock containing the skull and fore quarters was built into the abutments of a bridge over Bigelow Brook, South Manchester. When the block containing the hind quarters was taken out, it was saved by Mr. Charles H. Owen, of Buckland, by whose aid and that of T. A. Bostwick, the specimen was purchased. Subsequent earnest effort failed to secure the anterior portion.

"The second saurian, *Anthisaurus colurus*, was found in the same layer, twenty feet south, in a large block of sandstone. The portion exposed showed the scapula and humerus and this had been the outer surface of the quarry for a long time. There was no record of when the adjoining block had been removed. Part of the large block was split off at New Haven, and this smaller piece contained the head and part of the neck. The rest of the skeleton (except one fore leg, one hind leg, the ends of the ischia, and the tail) was subsequently found in the main block.

"The third saurian, *Anchisaurus solus*, was found at the same time as No. 2, in two small blocks which were subsequently fitted together. It was about two feet higher than, and about fifteen feet southeast of, the previous specimen. This third specimen is nearly entire.

"Saurian No. 4. During a visit to this quarry, September 24, 1894, three and a half years after the other specimens were received at New Haven, Professor Marsh found in essentially the same layer a large rib, quite perfect, and probably pertaining to an animal somewhat larger than any of the above. There is, unfortunately, no record of the receipt of this rib at New Haven."¹

Scientists believe that these creatures lived thousands of years before birds were present and at a time when the rock which contained the bones was red mud.

However it may interest the average reader more to know what was here at the coming of the white man. Benjamin Trumbull wrote² "When the English became first acquainted with that tract comprised within the settled part of Connecticut, it was a vast wilderness. There were no pleasant fields, no gardens, no public roads, no cleared plots. Except in places where the timber had been destroyed, and its growth prevented by frequent fires, the groves were thick and lofty. The Indians so often burned the country, to take deer and other wild game, that in many parts of the plain, dry parts of it, there was but little small timber. Where lands were thus burned there grew bent grass, or some call it thatch, two, three and four feet high, according to the strength of the land. This with other combustible matter, which the fields and groves produced, when dry, in the spring and fall, burned with violence and killed all the small trees. The large ones escaped, and generally grew to a notable height and magnitude. In this manner the natives so thinned the groves, that they were able to plant their corn and obtain a crop. . . .

"It (the land) abounded with the finest oaks of all kinds, with chestnuts, walnut and wild cherry trees, with all kinds of

¹ Lull, Richard Swann, *Triassic Life of the Connecticut Valley* (Hartford, 1915) p. 78.

² *History of Connecticut*, Vol. I, p. 37.

maple, beech, birch, ash and elm. The butternut tree, buttonwood, basswood, poplar and sassafras, were to be found generally upon all tracts in Connecticut. White, yellow and pitch pine, white and red cedar, hemlock and spruce, grew plenteously in many places.

"The country abounded with great variety of wild fruit. In the groves were walnuts, chestnuts, butternuts, hazelnuts and acorns in great abundance. Wild cherries, currants and plums were natural productions. In the lowlands, on banks of the rivers, the brooks, and gutters, there was a variety and plenty of grapes, with an almost endless variety of esculent and medicinal berries, herbs and roots."

Regarding the wild animals of Connecticut Trumbull wrote:¹ "Here were otters, beaver, the black, gray and red fox, the racoon, mink, muskrat, and various other animals of the fur kind. The wolf, wild cat and other animals, common in New England, were equally so in Connecticut. Wolves were numerous in all parts of New England, when the settlements commenced, and did great damage to the planters, killing their sheep, calves and young cattle.

"The country afforded an almost incredible plenty of water fowl. In the bogs, creeks, rivers and ponds were wild geese and ducks of all kinds, pigeons, sheldrakes, broadbills, teals of various sorts and other fowl, which were both wholesome and palatable.

"In the seas, bogs, rivers and ponds, there was a variety and an innumerable multitude of fish. Connecticut River in particular was distinguished for that plenty and variety which it afforded in proper season; especially for those excellent salmon with which its waters were replenished."

There were also many deer, moose, bears and occasionally a panther. As late as 1767 the *New London Gazette* published an account of the killing of a panther at Windsor, Connecticut.

"The country abounded with beaver. The Dutch purchased not less than ten thousand skins annually. Plymouth and Massachusetts people sometimes sent in a single ship, for England, a thousand pounds sterling worth of otter and beaver skins. The extent of the Connecticut River, the numerous Indians upon it, and the easy communication which they had with the lakes, and native of Canada, gave an extensive opening for a trade in furs, skins, corn, hemp and all kinds of commodities which the country afforded."²

Berries that grew wild in great variety: "There were strawberries, dewberries, whortleberries, bilberries, blueberries and mulberries. Cranberries also grew plenteously in the meadows. Juniperberries, barberries and bayberries were found. The

¹ *History of Connecticut*, Vol. I, p. 39.

² Trumbull, *History of Connecticut*, Vol. I, p. 36.

earth produced spontaneously ground nuts, artichokes, wild leeks, onions, garlick, turnips, wild peas, plantin, raddish and other esculent roots and herbs."

William Bradford wrote in the year 1621, "Besides waterfoule there was great store of wild Turkies." Flocks of thousands of geese flew over New England in the spring and fall of the year and were shot in large numbers by the early settlers. Pigeons were so plentiful that they obscured the light of the sun. A dozen dressed pigeons were sold in Boston for three pence, and sometimes for a penny a dozen.

When the white settlers came to Connecticut the country was covered with dense forests. The trees "grew to a notable height and magnitude" and as late as 1846 Emerson tells of trees in New England that were 250 feet in height and six feet in diameter. It is a pity that no woodland with aboriginal trees were preserved so we could more readily form a true picture of prehistoric New England. Yet, with our eyes strengthened by imagination and with the aid of the foregoing reports and descriptions, we are able to see dimly what the locality was before the impact of the white race upon it.

Here lived the Indian — the native American — and it is fitting that a history of the Town of Manchester should include in its introductory part an account of the aboriginal people who have now almost vanished from New England.

CHAPTER II.

THE INDIANS

"But just believe me, onst for all,
To them that treat him fair,
The Injun mostly alluz wuz
And is and will be square."

— *John Logan.*

In the early days of settlement in Connecticut, as elsewhere in New England, the white man did not always extend the olive branch of peace to the Indian, and hostilities sometimes were the results of quarrels among the rival colonies of white settlers. Thus the Pequot war grew out of differences between the Dutch and English settlers at Hartford, and quickly drew into the struggle, not only the colonists of Connecticut, but the Narragansetts and Mohegans as well, who were only too eager to take part in rooting out their tribal foes, the Pequots.

The Podunks.

Originally the section now known as the Town of Manchester was part of the hunting ground of the Indians known as the Podunks. They had two permanent villages, one their winter quarters which was in what is now known to us as East Hartford. It was on the north bank of the Hockanum River, east of the Center Cemetery and extended eastward along the meadow bank. Their summer village was on the north bank of the Podunk River, not far from the Connecticut River. At each village they had a fort, which they made by setting up large trunks of trees in the form of a circle with a narrow opening, so that but one person could pass through at a time. Each fort was built upon a neck of land that extended into the swamp. Their territory was bounded on the north by the land of the Agawam tribe at or near the present north boundary of the town of East Windsor, and southerly it extended to Poutapaug at the mouth of a brook known to us as Pewterpot Brook, where it abutted the land of the Wangunks whose headquarters were at Portland and Wethersfield. On the west, the Podunk territory was bounded by the Connecticut River and extended eastward "one day's journey" to the lands of the Nipmuck and Nehantic tribes.

A few years before the English settlers arrived, a clan of Mohicans from the Hudson River invaded Connecticut and practically subdued all the native tribes. The Mohicans were the American Vandals. They claimed title to the land by conquest and exiled all chiefs in Connecticut who refused to



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pay them tribute. They paced out a hunting ground for themselves which they took from lands belonging to the Nehantics, Waŋgunks, Nipmucks and the Podunks. Their new territory was bounded on the west by a line that extended from the south-west corner of Mushenupsuck (now Snipsic Pond) and ran southerly to Wiaŋquagwumsuck (Bolton Notch) and continued southward to Cedar Swamp. This tribe a few years later was

divided by themselves. The main part of them were called Pequots and those who went out with Chief Uncas were known as Mohegans.

Podunk Villages.

When the English settled in Connecticut the Podunk country was bounded on the east by the ridge of hills at Bolton but their north and south lines were still unchanged. Like all tribes they would "Nqussutam," that is, as Roger Williams explains, "Remove house, which they doe upon these occasions; From thick warme vallies, where they winter, they remove a little nearer to their summer fields, where they plant Corne." They would also, says Williams, "flie and remove on a sudden from one part of their field to a fresh place because of the abundance of Fleas — which the dust of the house breeds. Sometimes they remove to a hunting house in the end of the yeare, and forsake it not until Snow lie thick and then will travell home, men, women and children thorow the snow, thirtie, yea fiftie or sixtie miles."¹

This passage explains the finding of sites of Podunk Indian villages within the Town of Manchester and at other places. In the earliest days of settlement we find Chief Arraramet in Windsor and later in Podunk. Old Windsor then extended across the Connecticut River eastward to the hills, or in other words, through the Podunk country. The Podunks had a summer village on the bank of the Connecticut River near the mouth of the Scantic River and had several winter villages eastward.

A sandy knoll, traditionally known as "Gun's Hill," was the site of an Indian fort and village at East Windsor Hill at the west end of the land of the Theological Institute. At this place Arraramet, the sachem of the Podunks, lived in the early days of settlement. In 1840 students of the Institute found in the knoll a deposit of Indian relics, *viz.*: fragments of large soapstone pots, axes, chisels, gouges, arrowheads, and so forth.² Within the present bounds of Manchester they had at least four villages. One, which is believed to have been the largest, was on land owned by the late Mr. James B. Olcutt, and on land now owned by Mr. Fred Teichert, on Olcutt Street.

The Podunks had also a fort, or large hunting house, on land now owned by Mr. Charles Trebbe on West Center Street, which adjoins the other lands. Within very recent years a circular ridge around a large oak tree could be seen on the Trebbe farm. Whether this was a fort, hunting house, or an Indian dance ground, is not known but the facts could easily be determined

¹ *Key to the American Language*, p. 56.

² *Smithsonian Institute, Report*, 1881, p. 663.

by digging. If pieces of pottery or bits of charcoal are found it may have been a large wigwam. The spring in the gully furnished the tribe with water. The footpaths on both sides of the ravine may not be of great interest to those living today but they are worthy of inspection for they were made by women and children who lived here before the white man came, while carrying water to their wigwams.

A smaller village was that on Hassun-adchu-auk (stony-hill-place) now called Brush Hill, in the southwest part of the town. This village was on the trail that led from Wethersfield to Mohegan, called in the records, "The pathe to Monheag." The many stone hoes and other implements found here give strength to the tradition that the Indians cultivated the hills in preference to the meadows whenever their medicine-men or pow-wows predicted late and early frosts for the ensuing year.

On this same ridge northward was another village but this one can hardly be called a village in the same sense as the other two already mentioned.¹

When Joseph Noyes, the father of Ralph, bought land on Hillstown Road, early in the nineteenth century, the Indian village was still there and was inhabited by several families. They may have been the remnants of the Podunks who lived in a village on the hill near "Sparr-mill Swamp" on land now known as the Ralph Cheney pasture near Love Lane. According to tradition a double murder was committed by the chief of this village, and since, as Roger Williams tells us, "if death fall in amongst them, they (the Indians) presently remove to a fresh place," it is probable that this remnant of the once powerful Podunks removed from Toby Hill to Hillstown Road.

The Murder of Chief Toby's Wife.

We may begin the story of this Indian band with a copy of the minutes of a town meeting when Manchester was Orford Parish and still was part of the Town of East Hartford.

"At a Town Meeting of the Inhabitants of the Town of East Hartford Legally warned and Convened on the 19th Day of December, 1793.

"Voted Elisha Pitkin, Esq., be Moderator of the Meeting.

"Voted that Doct.^r George Griswold's account for Visiting and Dressing the wounds of an Indian Woman at Mr. Ozias Bidwell's be allowed and added to the list of Accounts against this town.

¹ The site of a large Indian village on Spencer Street in East Hartford, just across the Manchester line, was discovered by Mr. Spiess in November, 1923. He has unearthed many camp fire spots paved with stones and has also found many articles such as a mortar, pestles, war clubs, etc.

The village site covers five or six acres and must have contained at least 100 wigwams.

"Voted that Mr. Deodat Woodbridge's account for Articles for Said woman be allowed and added to the List of Debts against this town.

"Voted Ozias Bidwell's account for Services done for Said woman be allowed and added to the List of Debts against this town."

The records give no details of the account of Mr. Deodat Woodbridge, who was selectman and represented Orford Parish during that year, or can anything be found regarding the accounts of Doctor George Griswold's and Mr. Ozias Bidwell's excepting what the minutes of the meeting contain; they were to be allowed to the doctor for dressing the wounds of an Indian woman and to Ozias Bidwell for services.

It appears, however, that after this meeting had taken place there were others who had accounts, for on December 25 of the same year three bills were presented to the town clerk of which the following are true copies of the original manuscript still on file in the town clerk's office in East Hartford.

"Jonathan Bidwell Act.

"december the 25 a d 1792			
the account about the ingons	£	s	d
to going inform the thority	0	1	0
to going for A doctor	0	1	0
to under beds	0	12	0
to two blankets	0	12	0
to two sheats & two toules	0	12	0
to one shift & one piler	0	9	0
to three quarts of rem	0	5	0
to the use of two grat cots	0	6	0
to keping 2 watchers 11 nights	0	16	0
to seding the ingon to berey him	0	1	0
to trobel of my hous & cleaning up	6	0	0
to tending the squay 11 days	6	0	0
to keeping the children 2 weeks	1	0	0
to one sheet to lay her out	0	6	0
to going for rum 3 times	0	3	0
to one pitch fork	0	4	0

17 8 0"

"Eleisha bidwell's account to going for doctor			
moging	0	3	0
to hors & cart to carey the squay to berey			
her	0	3	0
to going to git the grave dug	0	1	6

0 7 6"

"Giles Eason's Account to a cofen

0 10 0

Timothy Deming, of East Hartford, who was five years old at the time of the murder, claimed he could dimly recall the affair and related the story to Mr. Joseph O. Goodwin, town clerk of East Hartford. According to Mr. Deming there was a small band of Podunk Indians living in wigwams on the Hockanum River whose chief, Tobias, was known to everyone as "Toby." The chief, like many before him, begged his white neighbors not to sell rum to his people. There was a law that prohibited the sale of intoxicating liquors to Indians but despite the law, rum was sold to them in many cases. The chief's wife and another member of the band managed to buy a jug of rum, which they drank on their way home and soon felt the effects of the whiteman's firewater. Both crept into Ozias Bidwell's barn and were found there by Tobias. Enraged at the sight, the chief killed the drunken Indian with a pitchfork and mortally wounded his wife. Mrs. Charlotte Henry of Hillstown Road, who was born about in the year 1790, claimed that both of these Indians were buried in the West Cemetery "near the tool house."

It appears that this band removed after the murder to the woodland on Brush Hill Ridge where they lived but a few years. The land was soon bought by Joseph Noyes¹, who, according to his son, Ralph, never trusted them and soon ordered them off. When the sherriff notified them that they must leave the premises they had already received permission to set up their wigwams on land west of Hillstown Road where they lived a short time. They again removed to land near Minne-Adchu-auk (Minnechaug Mt.), south of Manchester (now known as the Addison Hale farm), where they lived for several years, then disappeared. It can truly be said of this band of Indians that they were the last of the Podunks. Here and there an odd Indian man or woman could be found still but as a tribe they were seen no more. It is a sad chapter in the history of the Podunks, homeless and landless wanderers in the country that once belonged exclusively to them, dispossessed by those whom they had invited to come and live with them as neighbors and who had promised them protection and assistance.

Indian Trails Through Manchester.

There are many other Indian village sites near Manchester, and the future may disclose others within our town limits. Leading from one village to another the Indians had foot-paths or trails which they called Ma'yi (pronounced Mah-ye) and the great paths or trails that lead from one place to another they

¹ When the Indian band removed to the ridge, the land was owned by Mathew Cadwell. A parcel of it was sold to Tempy Noyes, February 7, 1799. Joseph Noyes bought the land with the village, April 12, 1814.

called Mishi-maya-gat which is really a corruption of Mishi-great; mayi-path; auk-place; et-at or to. The great trails can be found and traced by descriptions given in old records, when names of hills and brooks are mentioned, etc. They are sometimes mentioned in deeds and surveys. One such trail ran through the town which led from the Indian village on the bank of the Hockanum River to Mushenupsuck (now Snipsic Lake) and still another entered in the southwest corner of our present town boundary and met the great trail at Manchester Green.

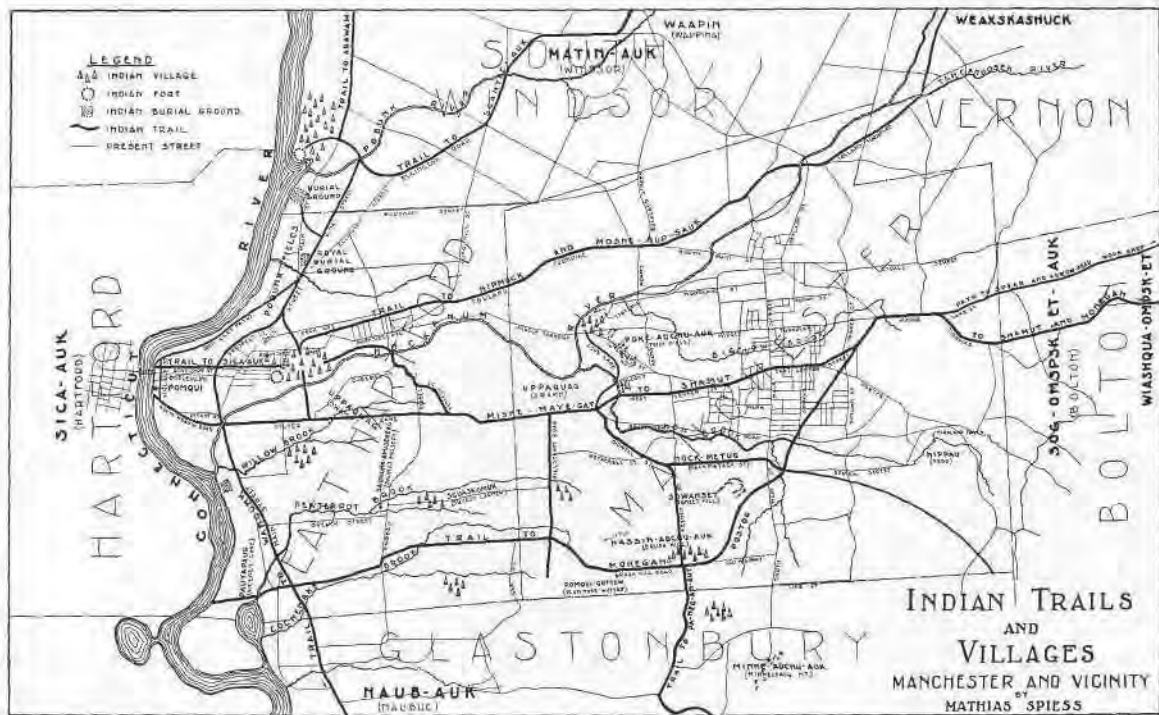
Over one of the great trails¹ we still travel daily. It is now known as East Center, Center and West Center Streets. Beginning at East Hartford Meadows we can trace its course south of what is now called South Meadow Road or Pitkin Street. It crossed the Hockanum River a little west of where the bridge on Main Street is today and followed the bank eastward for several hundred rods, then turned southerly to where Silver Lane is today. At the Frank Roberts farm the great trail was joined by the Podunk trail whose impression in the ground can still be seen today. The latter came across the meadows from the Podunk village. A foot path led off the Podunk trail to "The Falls" (Burnside), a favorite Indian fishing place. This region was called Uppaquog by the Indians, for here grew flags of which they made mats. The great trail continued along what is now called Spencer Street to West Center Street where the Podunks had a winter village. Here, too, is a field that has been pointed out for generations back as "the Indian battle field." There are no records to be found regarding a battle here among Indians and if such a struggle took place it must have been before the days of settlement by the white man. Near the site of the so-called battle field the first settlements were made in Manchester.

Going eastward the great trail passed the second-best fishing place of the Podunks, the falls at Center Spring Park. Here the Indians caught the lamprey eels, and, as at Burnside, divided and dressed them under an oak tree; the oak tree stood about where the Center Church now stands.² From there the trail led to Manchester Green and easterly to Wiasquaquwumsuck, known to us as Bolton Notch. Beyond the Notch the trail forked, the one branch leading due east to Coventry, to Mansfield and Woodstock, and the other to Mohegan.

The trail to Mushenupsuck (Snipsic Pond) began at the Podunk village at East Hartford, along what is now Tolland Turnpike, and led through Buckland, Manchester, Talcottville

¹ It is my belief that the trail here described was the path actually followed by Hooker and his party on their way to Hartford. See Chapter V. (M. Spiess.)

² The Indians called such places where they caught lamprey eels, Oush-aukmaug; the eels called *cunne-amaug*; *cunne*, long; *amaug*, fish.



and Rockville to the Nipmuck country. After leaving Manchester, the trail hemmed the banks of a large swamp that extended from Talcottville to Ellington, known among the Indians as Weaxskashuck and mentioned in old records as "Great Marsh." At Snipsic Pond the boundaries of three Indian territories met. On the north and to the east was the Nipmuck country, on the west that of the Podunks, and to the south the Mohegan country.

Another trail passing through the town is called in the records "Path to Monheag" (Mohegan). It led from the meadows in Hockanum eastward to Hassun-adchu-auk (Brush Hill), over Hocquaunmehtug (Hackmatack), Sowwanset (Sunset Hill), to Manchester Green. There it joined the great trail that led through the "Notch" at Bolton, a place which is mentioned in John Chandler's survey of the Mohegan country, 1705, as "Wiasquagwumsuck, where the Hartford road goes through the notch." The Path to Monheag was the boundary established by an order of the General Court August 3, 1666, between the Podunk territory and land acquired by Chief Uncas, the Mohegan. The order reads: "It is agreed that Aramamat shall not impropriate unto himself any of ye Land yt that is on the south of the path that goes from Thomas Edwards to Monheag." The path followed the bank of Porter's Brook, mentioned in the order of the Court as "the brook which is called by the Indians Cochi-nake, which translated means, the place at the boundary line."

There were no doubt many narrow foot-paths within our present town limits but how many there were and where they were is impossible to ascertain. Tradition is our only guide in the search for these paths, and it is not always safe to depend upon hearsay. It was well known among the older folks that the street we now call Bidwell Street was a foot-path that led from the Great Trail to the hill where the "Hocquan-mehtug" (hackmatack trees) grew, which the Indians used in the construction of canoes. The path led southerly through Pastog (south of Globe Hollow Pond) to Minne-adchu-auk (Minnechaug Mt.).¹

Hillstown Road was a foot-path leading from the Great Trail to the village at Hassun-adchu-auk (Brush Hill). This path which became a cart-path soon after the white settlers came, was always pointed out as the original eastern boundary line of the "Three Mile Tract" (East Hartford). But in the year 1670, in consideration of losses sustained by the layout of Main Street, East Hartford, which was six rods wide and extended through

¹ The path leading from the Podunk headquarters on the Hockanum River, to the Podunk summer village, became King Street and Cotton Road in East Hartford. The latter ran direct north from Burnside Avenue, near Tolland Turnpike, to Podunk. It was abandoned and closed as a highway in 1860.

lands already acquired by settlers, the General Court granted "the several plantations, that their bounds shall extend to the eastward twenty rods farther than their three miles formerly granted." The grant was made previous to the purchase from the Indians of the "Five Mile Tract," now Manchester, and for the loss of six rods of land the owners were given twenty rods. In later years the change of the boundary line caused much trouble and many quarrels between the inhabitants of Orford Parish and of East Hartford.

Love Lane was opened with the ax of John Gilbert, who built and operated a saw mill on the great trail in 1673, to draw timber to "Sawmill Swamp" on the Hockanum River, but tradition has it that it was originally an Indian foot-path leading to an old village site which was later called Toby Hill. Here an Indian woman and her pale-face husband lived for a short time while hiding from what was then called Justice.

Podunk Population.

Much has been said and written regarding the strength of the Podunk tribe; some believing they were not numerous, and others holding that the tribe was a powerful one.

The sagamore Wahginacut is believed to have been a Podunk, but nothing definite can be found to prove it. It was he who journeyed to Plymouth and Boston to ask the colonists to "come and plant in his country." In Winthrop's Journal, 1631, we read: "Wahginacut a sagamore upon the Quonehtacut which lies west of Naragancet, came to the governor at Boston, with John Sagamore, and Jack Straw, (an Indian who had lived in England and had served Sir Walter Raleigh and was now turned Indian again) and divers of their sannops, and brought a letter to the governor from Mr. Endecott to this effect: 'That the said Wahginacut was very desirous to have some English men to come plant in his country, and offered to find them corn, and give them yearly eighty skins of beaver, and that the country was very fruitful, etc., and wished that there might be two men sent with him to see the country. The governor entertained them at dinner, but would send none with him. He discovered afterwards that the said sagamore was a very treacherous man, and at war with the Pekoath (a far greater sagamore). His country is not above five days' journey from us by land.'"

It is strange that the name of this sagamore translated means "welcome to the place," and there is a suspicion that Wahginacut was an assumed name, chosen for the occasion and that he was none other in person than Tantonimoh, who was in later years known as "the one-eyed chief."

Time proved that Wahginacut and his people were not "very treacherous" to the white settlers in Connecticut. In fact the



LOVE LANE A TYPICAL HIGHWAY OF COLONIAL DAYS

River Indians were a peaceable people if we compare them with the Pequots, Mohawks, and other tribes.

An early writer who witnessed an Indian war said: "They would not kill seven Indians in seven years." The Podunks, although offended seriously at times by their new neighbors, never attacked the settlers, but lived peacefully until they gradually disappeared.

In "The Indians of Connecticut," DeForest says that the Podunks were few in number, and that they could only furnish sixty men in King Philip's War. The Reverend Samuel Woodbridge stated, however, that the Podunks had two hundred warriors and Trumbull¹ says "two hundred bowmen." Doctor Stiles² says "the Podunk tribe contained 200-300 men who went off with King Philip's men when at war." A tribe that could muster two to three hundred fighting men, we may fairly assume, mustered altogether about 1,500 men, women and children. It is true, however, that the Indian population decreased rapidly. In his letter to the "Commissioners for Trade and Plantations" in 1756, Governor Thomas Fitch says: "The Indians among us are about 930, considerable part whereof dwell in English Families and the rest in small Tribes in Various parts of the Colony and are generally peaceable and orderly and there are no Indians bordering on the Colony."³

The statement of Governor Fitch that considerable part of them dwelt in English families introduces us to the saddest chapter in the history of the native Americans, to pages stained with the records of the injustice and cruelties of the white men.

Indians Enslaved by Colonists.

The hospitality of the Indians towards the white settlers was unlimited. When the Pilgrims first arrived, their food became scarce. The beef and pork which they had brought with them became tainted, "Their butter and cheese corrupted, their fish rotten." For three years an important part of their food was purchased from the Indians. Who has not read of the Indian Squanto, who taught the colonists various methods of catching the "treasures of the sea." Few, however, realize the fact that this Indian had been kidnapped, brought to England and sold into slavery some years previous.

The Indians gave the Pilgrims corn and taught them how to plant, fertilize, harvest, grind and cook it in many ways, and we read that "in every way it formed a palatable food." Hominy, suppawn, pone, samp, and succatash could soon be found on every

¹ *History of Connecticut*, Vol. I, p. 40.

² *Massachusetts Historical Society Collections*, First Series, Vol. X, p. 105.

³ *Connecticut Historical Society Collections*, Vol. XVIII, p. 211.

table of the white settlers. Jonne-cakes (journey-cakes), "Injun" bread, pumpkins or squashes, Indian beans and yokhegg were enjoyed by rich and poor.

The first settlers in Connecticut were received and assisted in like manner by the Indians, and we shudder when we read the law enacted in the year 1646, which sanctioned the exportation of Indians in exchange for negro slaves.

There is a letter of Emanuel Downing to his brother-in-law, Governor Winthrop, concerning slave labor, in which he explains "that a just war with the Narragansett Indians might be advisable, first because it is possibly a sin to suffer the savages to continue their worship of the devil, and secondly because if the Lord should deliver red-men, women and children into the Englishmen's hands they could be exchanged for 'Moors,' and this would be a very 'gainfull pillage' as it is hard to see how the whites could thrive until they got slaves enough to do all their work." ¹

Joseph Bull, a saw mill owner at Burnside, had an Indian slave, James, who ran away and was caught after "many months' absent." For this the Council "considering the forfeiture he hath made of his liberty, according to proclamation, do see cause to order that the said Indian shall continue in service with his sayd master, for the term of his whole life." In his will, dated at Hartford, October 10, 1732, the Reverend Timothy Woodbridge, gave to his wife, Abigail Woodbridge, an Indian slave, John Wobbin, and his negro girl named Lydia, to his daughter, Susannah Treat, in case his wife did not want her, provided that a "reasonable price for her" be paid by his daughter.

One could continue indefinitely and show how Indians were enslaved, by quoting the old records and early newspaper advertisements of runaway Indian slaves.

The young warriors of the Podunks joined King Philip's War against the whites. Many were killed at Turner's Falls (Mass.) by the English under Captain John Mason and but few, if any, escaped out of the Narragansett stronghold which was burned by Captain Benjamin Church and his men. The members of the tribe who remained at home were soon landless beggars, and if any were caught stealing they were liable to be sold into slavery.

Indian Lands.

In his memoir relating to Connecticut, Roger Wilcott of Windsor wrote (July 12, 1759): "They (the early settlers) kept the Indians at an awful distance, an Englishman would easy fight with and beat an Indian that dare dispute for superior-

¹ Van Rensselaer, *History of the City of New York*, Vol. I, p. 192.

ity. . . . Posterity will hardly believe this thing, scarcely paralleled in any place or age upon the globe that a few men coming into a wilderness full of barbarous Indians, rather as pilgrims than men of power, without the least pretense of right to the land or legal power over their neighbors, should assume to themselves this authority and maintain it and do so much good within so long a time.

"When I say posterity will not believe, I suppose the most sensible of them (early settlers) did not then believe that granting of lands by towns and entering of it in the town-book could make a title."

He further tells us: "The English conquest over the Pequots struck through the Indians with fear and amazement," and that the English set up Uncas, as sachem, for "Uncas was a prudent and valient man and much in the English favor." A little later we read: "The native right was that of the Indians, this was the title of the land, and to make profitable they set up Uncas for a sachem and the proprietary of the country; they got large grants from him and Owaneco his son for little or nothing."¹

The English were settled in Connecticut a few years when Aramet, Chief of the Podunks, complained in the year 1637, "about Lieutenant Holmes denying the planting of his old ground," and the Court ordered "that they (the Indians) should plant the old ground they planted last year for this year only." After that the Podunks had to clear off new land for cultivation.

When the "Three Mile Tract," now East Hartford, was bought of the Podunks, the deed called for "three long miles of land" extending east and west. When Benjamin Franklin became Post Master General of the United States he was authorized by an act of Congress to set up milestones on all post roads, and, strange but true, he had a milestone erected close to the eastern boundary of the Three Mile Tract. The inscription on it read: "Six Miles to Hartford Court House." The three miles bought of the Indians were indeed "long miles."

We have already seen that the Mohegan sachem, Uncas, and his son, Owaneco, granted large tracts of land as Roger Wolcott says, "for little or nothing," but the white settlers did not always wait to purchase Indian lands even at so low a price. Soon after the death of Uncas we find the Mohegans complaining to the General Assembly at Hartford that their lands are held and used by settlers. One sachem claimed that "the English have taken all the Indian land from them and he himself owns none."

¹ *Connecticut Historical Society*, Vol. III, pp. 326, 328.

An argument was popular among the early settlers that the Indian's method of making a living was doomed because he owned too much land, in fact, needed too much to subsist. The early land records, however, show that individual white men owned very large tracts of land which they could not cultivate themselves but held for speculative purposes. For example: The tract now known as East Hartford was practically owned by four men at one time, Ozias Goodwin, John Talcott, William Westwood and John Pantry, who owned one parcel of land containing 2,832 acres and another parcel containing 951 acres. This land abutted on the "Boggy Meadow" on the west (East Hartford Meadows) and extended eastward to what is now Manchester. As early as 1639, Thomas Hosmer owned 14 parcels of land containing 876 acres, of which 722 acres were "on the east side of the Great River."

It seems that there was some truth in what the Podunk chief said when the Reverend John Eliot preached the gospel to the tribe. After his sermon Eliot asked the chief if he and his people were now ready to accept Christianity as their religion. "No," said the sachem, "the Christians have taken away all our land and now they want to make us a race of slaves."

We have already seen that when Main Street in East Hartford was laid out in 1670, the proprietors gave the land for it, which was six rods in width, and for which the General Court granted them the privilege of extending their east boundaries twenty rods into the wilderness. The land thus granted (now within the bounds of Manchester) still belonged to the Indians, for the "Five Mile Tract" was not purchased until two years later and not paid for until the year 1682, when the General Court admitted that some grants of lands were made "to particular persons within the five miles."

A good example of an Indian land purchase is that of our neighboring town of South Windsor. The price paid was: "twenty cloth coats, fifteen fathoms of wampum, of which there being paid in hand eight coats and six fathoms of sewan (wampum), the other twelve coats and six fathoms of sewan to be paid at the coming up of our next Pinnacle." The land sold was the "ground between the two brooks or rivulets," the Podunk and Scantic Rivers, a distance of five miles in width "and so eastward into the country one day's walk."

Thus we can readily understand why the native Americans have disappeared in Connecticut. These sons of the forests and children of Nature could not exist without their hunting grounds. They are gone, and, besides small bits of charcoal, that we find where they had their camp fires, and fragments of their utensils and stone implements, we find but little to aid us in our studies of the tribe that once dwelt where stands our homes today.

Podunks at War.

It is generally conceded, and the records prove that the Podunks, like all other native tribes of Connecticut, were peaceable people. The River Indians especially were friendly with all neighboring tribes. There were a confederation of tribes rather than so many independent "Sachemauunk," or as we should say, kingdoms. They had inter-married and became a people united in every way. When they sold land we find that the sachems of several tribes "signed" the deeds, showing that they lived harmoniously.

After the invasion of their country by the Pequots, however, there were "wars and rumours of wars." The Pequots fought with the Podunks shortly before the white settlers arrived in the Connecticut Valley, so the tradition runs, but we cannot expect to find an account of this battle or battles. This much we find in the records that the River Indians travelled to Plymouth and Boston several times to induce the colonists to emigrate to Connecticut, and that the English had heard that these Indians "were driven out from thence by the potencie of the Pequots which usurped upon them and drove them from thence." Some of the neighboring tribes had submitted to the Mohawks and had agreed to pay the tribute demanded by "Hiawatha's League of Six Nations." The Mohawks came annually to collect the tribute and at Glastonbury, a band of Mohawks were stationed whose presence terrified the native tribes. But it appears that the Podunks refused to pay the tribute but fought the intruders, instead, until their chiefs were compelled to flee. When the first white settlers came, the records tell us that the exiled chiefs were restored to their rightful territories.

It seems probable that an Indian battle may actually have been fought as tradition states, on what is known today as the Bunce Pasture Lot on West Center Street. The Podunks, as we have already seen, had a winter village on land known as the James B. Olcott farm. Situated on the great trail, the only thoroughfare running east and west through the Colony, it was therefore on the direct trail from the Pequot headquarters. The village must have been occupied only in the winter. It was an easy place for an attack, the Indian forts being miles away. The village was on high ground, but the Indians always fled to and hid in swamps in cases of extreme emergencies. The Bunce Pasture Lot was low land and near by was no doubt a swamp in the primeval forest to which the tribe fled and where they were attacked by the Pequots. It may have been on this spot in Manchester that the Podunks fought in defence of their homes.

After the annihilation of the Pequot tribe by Captain Mason and his men, the River tribes rejoiced, for the clan of "wolves" of Hiawatha's League of Six Nations had no longer power in

Connecticut. But Uncas, the Mohegan, a Pequot prince who failed in the election, following the death of Chief Wopigwooit, was becoming ambitious. He being born a Pequot was imbued with the spirit of the "wolves," and soon he found himself entangled in troubles of all kinds with Connecticut tribes, as he had been previously with the Narragansetts. In the year 1656 Uncas passed through what is now Manchester with a war party on his way to fight the Podunks. He had several quarrels with them previously, in regard to alleged encroachments of the Mohegans on Podunk territory. On this occasion, however, he came not to settle boundary lines but rather to insist that the Podunks must give up Weasepono, a Podunk, who, so Uncas claimed, had murdered a sagamore living near Mattabesett (Middletown).

The Podunks were in their fort on the bank of the Hockanum River when the Mohegans arrived. When Uncas saw that the Podunks were equally as strong in number as his party, he was unwilling to hazard a battle. Nevertheless Uncas succeeded in getting the Podunk murderer. The story as related by Dwight in his *Travels* and copied from the Colonial Records of Connecticut, is as follows:¹ A Mohegan crept across the meadows at night, set fire to a wigwam and purposely dropped a Mohawk arrow. The Podunks, upon discovering the Mohawk weapon, thought the Mohegans had called upon their ancient enemies and quickly gave over the culprit. However, this did not satisfy Uncas. The Court at Hartford attempted to pacify both parties but failed. It was left for the two tribes to settle the matter amongst themselves, with the injunction that "they must not fight on this (the west) side of the river."

Uncas and his Mohegan warriors declared war with the Podunks, who sent their families to Deerfield, Massachusetts, where they were under the protection of the Pocomtucks. There they were soon joined by the men of the Podunk tribe. The following year, 1657, the white settlers at Hartford took action to assist the Podunks in returning to Connecticut. The Court appointed Mr. Allyn and John Gilbert to go to Pocomtuck "to declare to the Indians the mind of the Commissioners concerning them." It was ordered that Uncas be required to permit the Podunks "to return to their dwellings and there to abide in peace and safety without molestation from him or his and that the said Indians be encouraged and invited so to do by the Government of Connecticut." The Pocomtuck and Norwootick sachems were asked by the Commissioners "to forbear all hostilities against Uncas till the next meeting of the Commissioners."

Nine years later, in 1666, Uncas became involved again with the Podunks. Both parties agreed to let the white men settle their difficulties and appealed to the General Court. The matter was peaceably adjusted and without bloodshed.

¹ Vol. I, pp. 304-305.

The Podunks then lived quietly for a few years after until the call to arms came from King Philip. "King Philip's War," of course, was not caused over night or by any particular reason. It had its bitter roots in the many wrongs committed by the white men against the natives for many years. When the war-whoop of Philip and his men was heard reverberating through the forests, the Podunks answered by sending their best men, of whom few, if any, ever returned. They had joined Philip in his attempt to save their country by checking the progress of the white men. They fought for their homes, their families and hunting grounds, and failed.

The Indian was not a saint, or a demon; he was just as we are — human. That he had his faults as well as we have ours is true, and that there was right and wrong on both sides is also true, but it must be remembered that whereas all the wrongs committed by the Indians were recorded; much of what the white men did to them is forgotten.

"In the contact of the Indian and the white races an irrepressible conflict was bound to develop. Even had the savage never received any but kind and just treatment from his white neighbor, it is improbable that he could have readjusted his entire life so as to compete with, or to accept, civilization. That test, however, was never made. To say that his lands were bought, and that, therefore, he was justly treated, is a mockery. To have expected sympathy, understanding and justice in the situation as it developed in the seventeenth century, is asking too much, both of human nature and of the period. Indeed, it is questionable whether, in the competition between races of higher and lower civilizations, when the former intrude upon the lands of the latter, justice, in its strictest sense, is ever possible. One cannot believe that the world would have been either better or happier had the land which today supports a hundred million self-governing people been left to the half million barbarians who barely gained a subsistence from it four centuries ago. Man, in the individual treatment of his fellow, is, indeed, bound by the laws of justice and of right; but in the larger processes of history we are confronted by problems that the ethics of the individual fail to solve. The Indian in the American forest, and the Polynesian in his sunny isle, share, in the moral enigma of their passing, the mystery of the vanished races of man and brute, which have gone down in the struggle for existence in geological or historic ages, in what, one would fain believe, is a universe governed by moral law." ¹

¹ Adams, *The Founding of New England*, pp. 24-25.

INDIAN NAMES OF PLACES IN AND NEAR MANCHESTER

"Keep evermore the Indian name
So long ago possessed, that tongue
And time which gave alike are gone,
Their history never told or sung.
I would not change, I love the sound
Associated from infancy,
With home and friends and scenes which grew
Through passing years more dear to me."
— *Ellen S. Mowbray.*

Indian place names as they come down to us are sometimes names in the Mohegan, sometimes in the Narragansett, Niantic, Nipmuck or River Indian dialects. Often the name is a mixture or a sort of compromise between two or more dialects. — *J. H. Trumbull.*

Hockanum (River) — from *hocquaun*; hook-shaped or crooked river.

Wiasquagwumsuck, Bolton Notch — from *wiasqua*, high; *ompsk*, rock; *auk*, place; the high rocky place.

Minnechaug (Mountain) — from *minne*, berry; *adchu*, mountain; *auk*, place; berry mountain place.

Hackmatack — from *hocquaun* — *mehtug*. *Hocquaun*, crooked; *mehtug*, tree; crooked tree.

Sagumpsketuck — from *Sogompsketauk*. *Sog*, hard; *ompsk*, rock; *et*, at or near; *auk*, place; hard rock place.

Podunk — from *Pod-unkauk*; *pod*, low; *unk* or *ungkone*, beyond or further; *auk*, place; the low land beyond.

Nebo (Mount) — from *Nip-pau*. *Nip*, water; *pau*, falls; Waterfall. Probably a name originally given to Highland Park falls.

Tancahoosen (River), a stream in Vernon — from *Wattunkshau-oos'e*. *Wattunkshau* denotes a rapid and winding stream; *oos'e*, towards; towards the fast flowing and winding stream.

Skunks Misery (west of Manchester) — from *Saukunk-ommissak-keag*. *Saukunk*, outlet of a smaller stream into a larger one; *ommissakeag*, a fishing place for alewives or similar fish that come up the brooks in the spring.

Pewterpot Brook (a brook in the southwest part of Manchester) — from *Pautopaug*. *Pau*, falls; *a'upauk*, flooded place; falls at the flooded place.

Uppaquoag (sometimes called *uppergrog*;) referring to the meadows now flooded near Laurel Park and the flat land on

Silver Lane, East Hartford — from the Indian name signifying "the place where flags (cat tails) grow;" a swamp or marshy ground.

Squash-corner (East Hartford) — from *squas-komuk*. *Squas*, woman; *komuk*, house; a woman's house.

Weaxskashuck — the meadows and flat land from Manchester to Ellington, called in the early days "Great Marsh." Derived from the Mohegan *weexcodawasaug*; it extends to the outlet.

Pastog, the section below Globe Hollow Pond; — from *pas-ahleg*, a ditch or pit.

Sunset (Hill) — derived from *Sowwanset*; at or towards the south.

Hatch-hawk, Hillstown. Derived from *Hassun-adchu-auk*. *Hassun*, stony; *adchu*, hill; *auk*, place. *Hassun-adchu-auk* denotes a place by a stony hill.

Cochinake, a brook with its source in Hillstown. Derived from *chacha*, boundary; *auk*, place. This brook was near the south boundary of the Podunk territory.

Wapping — from *waopin*, rising; to go upward; upland or where the land rises.

Poke (Hill) near Hilliardville — an Indian tobacco, used by the New England Indians; yellow helbane. The name signifies "that which is smoked." — *J. H. Trumbull*.

Wungumbaug, the lake at Coventry. Derived from *wongunk*, bend or crooked; *paug*, pond; the pond with the bend.

Sicoag, Hartford — from *sucki*, dark or black; *auk*, place or ground; dark ground.

Plumtree-gutter. A section in Hillstown — from *Pomqui-guttow*. *Pomqui*, fording place; *guttow*, log; a log over a stream or swamp.

Matianuck (Windsor). A corruption of *Mattakomuk-auk*, which described a swamp in the west part of the township. *Matta*, bad; *komuk*, house or home; *auk*, place; an unhealthy place to live.

Pyquiaug (Wethersfield). Derived from *Pohquae*, open; *auk*, place; cleared land.

Mattabesset (Middletown). *J. Hammond Trumbull* defines it as "a resting place."

Connecticut is derived from *Qunne* or *Conne*, long; *tic*, tidal river; *ut* or *et*, by or near; by the long river.

Nameroake (East Windsor). The original name appears to have been the equivalent of *Nameaug* which denotes a fishing place.

Snipsic (Lake) in Rockville. The name is all that is left of *Mishenipset*, *Mishe*, big; *nips*, pool; *et*, at. The Mohegans called it *Moshenups* and the outlet (Hockanum River) they

called *Moshe-nups-sauk*, which translated means big-pool-outlet. The Podunks called the river *Mishenipsaug*. The Nipmucks, *M'shenipsac*.

Kongscut, a range of hills in Glastonbury.

Somersic, derived from *Meshom'asic*, now known as Rattlesnake Mountain, *Mabaulautucksuck*, *Ashanat*, *Wongunkschoak*, *Nameag*, *Nyac*, *Washiack*, *Pegansic* and many other Indian place names are found in the old records of the town of Glastonbury.

Woarokiesquas (a section south of Highland Park) is mentioned in the deed of the copper mine. The word is derived from *Warra*, beautiful; *quesik*, standing upright; *quasses*, virgin.¹

Willimantic, also written in other dialects, *Warramantic*, *Wallamantuck* and *Wewemantic*, denotes a place of beautiful scenery; *Warra*, beautiful; *amannant*, sight, outlook or scenery; *auk*, place.

Skunkamaug (Brook in Andover) is a corruption of *saukunk*, where two brooks join; *amaug*, fishing place.

Nowashe (Windsor). So called by the Indians, according to Adrian Block.

Naubuc (Glastonbury) — from *a'upauk*, "flooded or overflowed" — *J. H. Trumbull*.

Nipmuck, a territory northeast of the Podunk country — from *nipamaug*; a fresh water fishing place.

Skeantocke (Scantic). The name denotes a red place or red earth.

Scitico. Probably a corruption of *squi*, red; *tic*, river; *auk*, place; the red river place.

Nipsic, a pond in Glastonbury. From *nips*, pool; *auk*, place; the pool place.

Podunk Burying Places.

The Podunks had five burying places. The royal cemetery was in East Hartford on Main Street where the Ellington Road branches off, on land now owned by Mr. Frederick Olmstead. When the cellar of Mr. Olmstead's house was being dug, nine skeletons of Indians were found. It is claimed that every one was over six feet long and that the teeth were in wonderful condition. Here is the sacred spot where the Podunks buried their chiefs and their families. During the excavation, relics were found but no observations were made. Barber in his *Historical Collections*² gives an interesting account of earlier excavations in Podunk cemeteries.

¹ *Woarokiesquas* (also written *Mamaucheeskqua*) was the name of a Podunk maiden who, with two other women, *Wunne-neetunah* and *Seutau-brisk*, sold land to Richard Burnham, the son of Thomas, in the year 1673.

² P. 79.

About in the year 1680, a strange funeral passed through "Manchester." A large band of Indians, men and women with blackened faces passed, carrying a dead child. They came from Norwich to bury the child in the royal cemetery of the Podunks. E. W. Ellsworth, of East Windsor, quotes John Warner Barber regarding this Indian burial, in his report to the Smithsonian Institute of Washington, D. C., 1881.¹ No information is given in Ellsworth's report, or in Barber's account, in regard to the identity of these Indians, but by a study of the old records the facts may be deduced. Saugunosc, the daughter of Araramet, the last chief of the Podunk tribe, married Attawahood, also called Nautahon, who was known among the white settlers as Joshua Sachem. After Joshua's marriage to Saugunosc (dark star), Araramet gave to the wedded pair all his land in Podunk which included Manchester. Now Mohegan and Nehantic Indians had burying places near their villages and none of them would have cared to travel many miles with a dead child in order to bury it among the Podunks. There seems little doubt therefore that the dead child must have been the offspring of Saugunosc, the daughter of Araramet by Chief Joshua. The latter sold the "Five Mile Tract," now Manchester, to the white settlers in 1672.

Another burying place of the Podunks was on the south bank of the Podunk River near Main Street, East Hartford. Many graves were opened here until the authority of the town forbade further disturbance of the remains.

The Indian burying place at South Windsor was near the Connecticut River bank and is now partly washed away by the fast flowing current of the river. Here, too, many graves were opened by relic hunters and bones of the Indians buried there can be found today among many Indian relic collections. On the north bank of the Scantic River near where it flows into the Connecticut, is, or rather was, another Podunk burying place. One man is known to have opened over forty graves and we doubt very much whether the remains of a single Podunk lies there undisturbed. The fifth burying place was at Hockanum, west of Main Street near Ensign Street.

Those of the Podunks who had outlived the organized tribe were laid to rest in Christian cemeteries, among the negro slaves in a corner of the graveyard and usually no records were kept regarding their nationality or race. About these unmarked graves, Doctor Henry R. Stiles, in his "History of Windsor," says:² "In every New England village church, the darkies have a corner in the gallery, and another corner in the village graveyard, where ant-hills and tangled vines and weeds struggle for

¹ P. 662.

² Vol. I, p. 488 (edition of 1859.)

the honor of bedecking their humble and unhonored graves."

In the Wapping Cemetery lies Molly Mohawk, an Indian woman. She died December, 1762, aged 28 years. In the West Cemetery there are two unmarked graves, in which lie the wife of "Chief Toby" and an Indian man. At Windsor and South Windsor Cemeteries many are buried. Those whose death and burial are recorded, with one or a few words, we may rest assured, were "servants" — slaves, owned by someone who gave them a Christian burial. The brief records make it impossible to distinguish them from the negroes.

According to the United States census of 1920, there were 159 Indians living in Connecticut, but none trace their ancestry back to the Podunks. A tribe who had the courage to face the Mohegans in battle and who were the only tribe in Connecticut who refused to surrender to the Mohawks, has entirely disappeared.

Their chiefs, Wahginacut, Arraramet, Tantonimoh and Altarbenhoot (also called Netawante and Nattawanute), with their brave warriors, their wives and children, have all entered into the "Happy Hunting Ground" many years ago.

CHAPTER III.

THE FIVE MILE TRACT

Although Manchester has existed as an independent township only since 1823, the history of the tract of land enclosed in its present boundaries goes back one hundred and fifty years beyond that date. The history of the town is embodied in the history of Hartford to the year 1783, and in the history of East Hartford, from that year to 1823, when Orford Parish was incorporated as the Town of Manchester.

The Purchase of the Five Miles. :

Our community was known as "the wilderness" until the year 1672 when Major John Talcott of Hartford bargained with Chief Joshua, the third son of Uncas the Mohegan sachem, for a certain tract of land about five miles square. The record of this begins as follows: "Whereas, Joshua Sachem, some short time before his death, did make a Sale of a Parcel of Land to Major Talcott, of Hartford, and the said Joshua Sachem Deceasing before he had made conveyance of his Will reciteing his said bargain and disposing of the said pay agreed on for the said Lands for the use of his children of him the said Joshua, as more at length is expressed in the said Will, and the child of the said Joshua now needing the purchase for the use of the said child," etc. At a town meeting held in December, 1681, the "town by their vote agreed to pay to the executors or administrators of Joshua's will, as much money as Major Talcott agreed with Joshua for the land within the bounds of the township of Hartford, proportionate to what they receive or lies within the township of Hartford, provided those that receive the money give sufficient deeds to the Town of Hartford for the conveying of the said land to them and holding it firm to them and their heirs and successors forever."

The tract was deeded to Cyprian Nichols, Sergeant Caleb Stanley and John Marsh, selectmen of the Town of Hartford, dated May 13, 1682, by Captain James Fitch of Norwich, and Thomas Buckingham of Saybrook, administrators of the estate of Sachem Joshua.

In the minutes of a town meeting held at Hartford, December 27, 1683, we read "The deede and sale flor ffive myles in Length and all the Bredgth of Hartford Bounds flor Land Bought of Joshua Uncas son: or his administrators or agents Camp James ffitch & Mr. Tho Buckingham: was givne to Camp Allyn to Recorde, and also Mr. Allyn was desired to Recorde the Town Rate in 82 for a rule to distribut the said Tract of Land by according to each mans payment or purchas in sd Rate."

The town rate mentioned was brought up in a town meeting December 28, 1682, when "the Towne granted a rate of Eighty Three pounds and Tenn shillings to defray the Towne Charges this present yeare." It was also voted at a meeting held January 9, 1682, that "the last grant of land to this Town of Hartford made by the General Court on the east side of the great River shall be divided amongst the Inhabitants of the Towne according to what they shall pay to the Indian purchass of this land, & whereas there are some grants made of some lands by the General Court to perticular persons within the five miles of land granted to the Towne on the east side of the River The Towne doe appoynt Major Tallcott, Mr. Nicolls Ens: Standly & Nath willett or any Three of them to be a committee to (view those grants & other lands & to consider the quantity & quality of it those Grants)¹ agree what of rights those grants shall pay to the purchase of the aforesayed Tract of land bought of Joshua's Administrators & the remaynder of the lands is to be divided amongst the Inhabitants as aforesayed. Att the same meeting the Towne by thayr voate Chose Major Hno Tallcott: Capt Jno Allyn Mr. Nicolls Engs Stanly and Mr. Wm Gibbon to be a Committy to Consider of The Best Moddle of that Trakt of Land on the East side the great River above mentioned shall bee divided and make thayr Return unto the Town of thayr Considerations about the said Land."

Nothing was done, however, during the next fifty years, as far as division of land was concerned, although in 1729 it was "voted that two miles next Bolton with highways be laid out at present in two divisions." The rest of the land was to remain undivided for further consideration, but, as in 1682, nothing was done. The vote of 1729 included a highway ten rods wide which was ordered to be laid out "next Bolton line" and twenty rods between two divisions for a highway from Windsor to Glastonbury. It was further ordered that a parcel of land be sold to pay the expenses of the layout.

The First Distribution of Land, 1731.

The matter rested for two years longer but in 1731 activity began and the first distribution of land took place according to

¹ The words enclosed in parentheses are crossed out in the original record.

the town vote of 1729. Four distributions followed and the last of the "teer of lots," as they were called, was laid out and surveyed by William Wells in the year 1753. Of this an old map still exists, a copy of which is reproduced below.

William Wells gave an account of his work as follows: "These may certifie all whom it may concern that I the Subscriber did in Feby 1753, on the desire of Mess Samll Wells, Camp. Ausmore (Hosmer) Josiah Olcott & John Haynes Lord, Gentn appointed by the proprietors of Hartford to measure the whole of the commons & grants Layd out in sd Commons on the East side of the Great River in said Hartford between the Three mile lots so called & the fourth teer of lots in the five miles so called, we began at a Ditch in the Dividing Line between Hartford and Glassonbury at the East End of the Three mile Lots & Run and measured East five hundred and seventy four rods to Thomas Keeney's house at the south west end of the fourth Teer of Lots. Then we run north 1 degree East four miles & a half to a white oak staddle marks in the dividing line between Hartford and Windsor. Then we run west four hundred and ten Rods in Windsor Line to the East end of the three mile Lotts. Then we run south 6 degrees & 20 m. west on the line of ditches on the east end of three mile lotts to the first mentioned bounds and have measured the grants & put the mens names and number of acres in said grants as I have Sayd in this plan. So the whole of the Commons & Grants Contained 4428 acres of Land. The grants contain 1305 acres & 100 rods, which subtracted out there remains 3122 acres & 60 rods of Land to be divided.

"Wm. Wells

"surveyor."

The Use of the Commons.

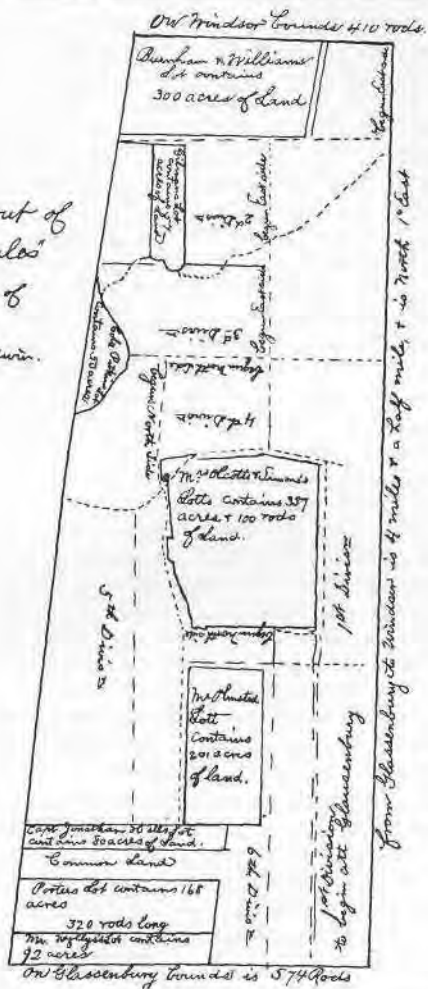
The use of the Commons was regulated by town vote.¹ To some extent pine trees were reserved for the making of turpentine and on April 26, 1709, all persons were prohibited from "boxing" any trees, or drawing any turpentine except from those trees already designated. The townspeople had the privilege of cutting firewood on the Commons, but on December 5, 1702, each householder was restricted to cut and carry away one tree in each week until March 1. White oak and chestnut trees were not to be "touched." Notwithstanding the abundance of timber, its consumption was closely watched. On January 8, 1748, complaint was made that there had been much waste and destruction. For a number of years birch, alder, witch-hazel, boxwood and hard beam were the only kinds allowed to be felled.

Jared Inersoll, "agent for ye Colony of Connecticut," wrote

¹ See Appendix A, pp. 325-329.

Last lay out of
the 'Five Miles'

Drawn 1/2 page of
original by
Geo. O. Goodwin.
June, 1879.



(June 2, 1760) to John Pownall in regard to "the better preservation of ye Kings Pine Timber." "This same general Tract of Pine Woods Extends from the Said Eastern parts of New England, Westward as far as & even beyond the Upper part of the River Connecticut." The eastern part of New England is explained in his letter to be Portsmouth, New Hampshire. What a beautiful forest it must have been and what a pity that our forefathers did not interest themselves more in its preservation.

After realizing the extent of this forest, we do not wonder at the minutes of a "General Meeting," January 10, 1639: "It is ordrd that the Townsmen have liberty to Improve men for the killing of wolfs either by Hunting or shooting or otherwise and to be paid at A publige charge." And again at a meeting September 17, 1640, "It is ordered yt Learance woodward shall spend his Time abowgt killing of wolfes & for his Incoragment he shall have 4 s 6 d a weecke for his bord in casse he kill not a wolfe or a deare in ye weeke: but iff he kill a wolfe or a deare he is To pay for his bord himself & iff he kill a deare we are to have it for 2d a pound. This order is made for amonth after he begins." Besides the wolf, the fox was hunted and bounties paid for the killing of them. As late as the year 1819 the Town of East Hartford voted to pay a bounty of fifty cents for every fox killed within the town limits.

Among the commodities produced in early days we find mentioned in 1680, tar, deal boards and pipe staves besides pork, beef, wool, hemp, flax and cider.

Gold and silver coin was scarce, for the colonists and traders had little which they could exchange for the precious metals. Indian wampum was used as currency as late as 1652 or later, for in that year the town (Hartford) loaned "to Jeremy Adams Twenty pounds to bee pd in Current wampome at or before the 15th of November, 1652." The previous year, it is recorded, the town collected debts "in wompom."

The first pound for cattle and swine on the East Side was ordered June 9, 1646, as follows: "Att a meting off the holl body it was ordred that thear shall be liberty ffor a pownd or powndes to be Bullt on the East side of the great river and that thear shall be the ssame Liberty to recover damag by Catell or swine in Corne or grase acording to the ordenes mad ffor that side that thear is ffor the south if anie be flownd to have Trespassed."

The school master's salary was indeed a meager one, for on January 18, 1661, it was "Voted that for ye the encorgnt (encouragement) of mr Pipkine to teach scoole this yeare insuing, to pay hime eight pounds, by ye towne rate and ech scoller yt comes to scoole are eyther to send a loode of wood wth in a

month after micallmuss (Michaelmas) or else yt is concluded they shall pay Three shillings for ye pcutting ye wood."

The minister of the gospel fared better, for we see that on February 3, 1668, "the Towne By there Vote chose Robt Sanford & Andrew Benton, to be Colectors for the gathering of the ministers rate this year ensueing. The same Towne meeting the Towne granted to mr whiting & mr Haynes seventy pownds apeice for there worke in the ministry. The same Towne meeting the Towne desired the Deacons to Collect & gather what is due to mr whiting & mr Haynes of the rates granted them formerly of those particuler persons whoe are behind hand In their proportions of those rates formerly granted."

There were poor to be taken care of. Mrs. Kelly and her child were assisted by the town. On February 17, 1664, "The towne by ther Voat apoynted the Townsmen in being: to vues (use) ther best descretion in providing and disposing of goody kely and hur Child either to put out the Child and provid for her or provid for them together as they shall see caus according to ther best descretion." The town, however, did not provide for her very long for in the following year, at a town meeting held September 1, it was "Voted: that the Towne will give tenn pounds to David Phillips of Milford provided that he remove from Hartford wth Bethia Kelly his wife at that time wch The Townsmen shall appoint him."

An early divorce is recorded in 1677 when Mary Murraine, the wife of Patrick Murraine, petitioned "that she might be released from her conjugal tye to him." The Court released her accordingly "with liberty to dispose herselfe in marriage, as God shall grant her oppertunety."

The early settlers did not enjoy the benefit of a free press for in 1668 the Court ordered, "Whereas by a former order, Oct. 1, 1657, hereticall bookes, viz; such bookes or manuscripts as contain the errors of Quakers, Ranters, Adamites or such like Notorious Heretiques, should not be kept under penalty expressed in the sayd law . . . all such bookes as afoarsaid be utterly suppress."

Permanent Settlements in the Five Mile Tract.

In the year 1669, we find in the *Connecticut Colonial Records* (Vol. II, page 123) the following: "This Court grants Corpll John Gilbert the sume of Two Hundred Acres of land, whereof twenty Acres may be meadow, provided that he doe not take it up to the prejudice of any former grant or plantation." From this act of the General Court may be dated the dawn of civilization within the limits of the Town of Manchester.

In 1673, James Steele and Nathaniel Willet were appointed to lay out the land and during the same year John Gilbert built

a sawmill at "Hop Brook," now known as the Sixth School District, where Manchester was first settled. Gilbert's sawmill, however, was not the first within the present limits of the town for on March 19, 1672, the General Court granted to John Allen, 100 acres of land "near his sawmill" and which was further described as "A neck of land abutting on Saw Mill River (now Hockanum) towards the south and towards the east, . . . containing 80 acres and 20 acres on the Saw Mill River on the south and on a brook running into Sparr Mill Swamp towards the west." The words, "near his sawmill," denote that a mill was already there in that year. This mill and land was in what is now called Hilliardville and the brook mentioned is known as Bigelow Brook. There were no doubt huts or shacks erected for the men that worked in this mill and for the timbermen and teamsters. However, no permanent settlement was made here.

At Hop Brook, however, we find that Gilbert had settled, for in 1689 we read that "The Town also by their voate granted Corp'll John Gilbert Liberty to sett a Joyners or Cooper shop in the Highway next to Mr. John allcotts Homlott provide Coll. Allen Liut. wadsworth Seirgy John marsh and Mr John olcott do aproov off the place and quantity off Land to sett sd Bullding uppon provide the Land be not above 18 foote in Length & 16 foote in Bredgth." The words, "next to Mr. John allcotts Homlott" seem to indicate that the latter was living here in that year.

About this time, or to be exact, on October 5, 1694, the early settlers at Hop Brook joined their neighbors in "East Hartford" in petitioning the authority at Hartford for a minister. Those living on the east side of the "Great River" were obliged to attend church at Hartford and complained "because of the trouble and Danger they are Exposed too by Coming over (the river) to the publike worship" etc. The Ecclesiastical Society Records in East Hartford date from 1699, but there is proof that the Society on the east side was established five years earlier.

On February 17, 1708, Joseph Gilbert, the son of John, sold to Thomas Olcott, Jr., 100 acres at Hop Brook; Joseph and his brother Thomas being administrators of their father's estate. On November 13, 1713, Thomas Olcott, Jr., noted in his account book: "My honored Father Thomas Olcott, came to live with me at Hop Brook."

The First Tavern.

At a town meeting held December 15, 1713, it was "Voted that Lt. Thomas Olcott Shall have Liberty to keep a house of publick Entertainment for Travellers;" and at the same meeting

it was further "Voted that Capt. Rogers Pitkin and Mr. William Pitkin be Impowered in behalf of the Town to lease any part of the Lands Lying in the five Miles of Land purchased of Major Fitch and Mr. Thomas Buckingham To Some of their Neighbors who Shall desire it for Such Time as they Shall think may not be a disadvantage to the Town."

That Thomas Olcutt was successful as a proprietor of the first tavern within the limits of Manchester is evident, for we find his son Samuel, who succeeded him as tavern keeper, still "entertaining" at the tavern. In his journal, Joseph Joslin, Jr., of South Killingly, a teamster in the Continental service, under the date of June 5, 1778, wrote: "About Sun Rise I Set out and came to hartford and Crossed the ferry 7 Clock and then we Came to Landlord Alkutts and got Some breakfast I see Wm Moury Came through Bolton Coventry we See Doct Morrisson Murfee that could not help him Self on his horse or off he Came with us to Land Lord Rust got some Drink and then we Came to Simeon forbes and Staid all knight fared well."

The Squatters and Their Rights.

As for the committee that was appointed in the previously mentioned town vote to lease any part of the lands in the "Five Miles" to some of their neighbors, it appears that many of "their neighbors" came to live and stay. Some leased the land in accordance with the vote passed at the town meeting, but many others came as squatters, settled, and claimed the land.

The following pledge, copied from the original, tells the story: "Whereas of a Grant of the General assembly, October the 10th, 1672, there was a tract of Land of 5 miles added to the east bounds of the town of Hartford which lie th east and west from the end of the 3 mile Lots on the east Side of the Great River to Bolton, and north and South from Windsor to Glassonbury and Since that the Native Purchase of sd tract of Land was paid by the Inhabitants of Sd town and a deed taken in the name and for the use of the town and sundry Sums of money within a few years past disbursed by the town for the depending and Settling the bounds thereof and whereas Sundry of our neighbors who Call themselves Proprietors of the Sd 5 miles have had Several meeings (meetings) of late and agreed to come to a division of the Greater Part of Sd Land among themselves, thereby Conuerting it to another use then was designed as we Suppose, We the Subscribers Inhabitants of Sd town looking upon Pretentions here in not to be just and that Sd tract of Land Should be and remain for the use of the town as it now lies and to defend it against Sd Proprietors do oblige Our Selves to pay upon demand the some of money fixed to our names or our equal Part to try the case in the law if need be and jmpower

Capt Thomas Saymore Mr. Zechariah Dickeson Sart Richard Burnham junr, as our Committee to Consult and jmprove some attorney or attorneys as they shall see cause and to hinder Sd Proprietors in laying out and Possessing the whole or any Part thereof by demolishing any monuments, fences &c which they Shall erect thereon hereby oblidgeing our Selves to justify Sd Committee or major Part of them in their legal Proceedings on the account.

"March the 24th 1731.

Let samull makons	Joseph Simonds	Obadiah Wood
Richard Burnham	Jonathan Pratt	Jacob Williams
Richard Gillman	William Worrton	Gabroll Williams
Richard Olmsted	John Hassatine	Gabriel Williamis Juner
Thomas Spencer jaer	Danll Williams	Willm Williams iuner
Jonathan cole	Disbrow Spencer	Timothy Easton
Samll Easton	John makons	William forbs
John Bidwell iuner	Benjamin Cheney	Joseph Roberts
Joseph Bidwell	TimothyWilliams	Samuel Smith
		Thomas trill."

At a meeting held March 3, 1693, it was "voted that the towne should paye to Thomas olcot for the way throw his land one the other side of the grate River." All footpaths or cart-paths were included in original grants. There are many cases like the foregoing where the town was forced to purchase the land for a highway. The records show that a road or cartpath was on this land, but the land was private property until the town bought and paid for it.

At a town meeting held December 28, 1699, "The towne by their Vote do impower Mr. Nath. Stanley, Camp Stanley and Mr Willm Pitkin, to procure a new Charter for the towne that shall Include the whole bounds of the towne." The new charter included the Five Miles within the boundaries of the Town of Hartford.

The War on the "Black Birds."

Under date of December 21, 1692, we find recorded "due to the town ffrom them that did not Kill Black Birds — 005 — 06 — 00. Janr 2d 1692 When all the Birds that were Killed were payed ffor." And again on December 16, 1707, it was "Voted that Every Rate able person in this Town Shall be obliged In the Moneths of March, April and May To Kill one dozen of blackbirds or Else pay one Shilling to the Towns Use and any person that shall Kill more than their dozen In the Said Time shall be allowed one pany pr. head for as many as they Shall Kill and that the Selectmen take care that this Voate be performed." The early settlers must have been troubled considerably by these birds and by their first cousins, the crows. From

time to time action was taken to reduce their numbers and as late as the year 1808 it was "Voted to pay 4 cents for every full-grown crow, killed within the limits of the town."

The bounty was not received unless the crow was full-grown. We wonder why they were lenient with the younger rascals, as they were called by the older farmers. It seems strange if we realize the fact that the curse has actually been taken off the crow, for according to reports of the United States Agricultural Department, the crow is more useful than harmful. It seems the crow family increased despite the bounty paid for their scalps, for the price was increased to six cents per head in 1809.

Schools.

In the year 1718, that section of the Town of Hartford now forming the Towns of East Hartford and Manchester was divided into two school districts, called the North and the South districts. The North district extended from the south boundary line of the Town of Windsor, on the north, to the Hockanum River on the south, and from the Connecticut River on the west, to the end of the "lots" on the east. The South district extended from the Hockanum River on the north, to the north boundary line of the Town of Glastonbury, on the south. The east and the west lines were the same as those of the North district. The distance in these districts from east to west was about twelve miles.¹

At a town meeting held in 1745 it was voted "That those persons living in the Five Miles of Land in this Society have their Ratable List of School Money amongst themselves by direction of the School Committee." This vote established the first school of any kind within the present town limits.

At Hop Brook village, school was held for about six years in a room rented for the purpose. At a Society meeting held on the third Monday in November, 1751, it was voted to allow a school house to be built "to accommodate Lieut. Olcutt, Ensign Olcott, the Simond's and those that live near them; and that a school be kept on Jamb Stone Plain (Buckland); one near Ezekial Webster's (Manchester Green); one between Sajt. Saml. Gains and Alexander Keeney (Keney Street School) and one near Doctor Clarks (now the Ninth District), always provided that the School houses be built without any cost to this Society." In those early days a master was engaged during the winter for six months and "a Dame" for five months during the summer. It can be seen by this vote of the Society that the original school districts, which included the whole of the Five Miles, were divided into five districts.

¹ The Hockanum River, running southwest from what is now Talcottville, shortened the north district by several miles and a "compromise line" was established through the "Center" of the town.

The Hop Brook School is now in the sixth district. This was the first school built within the town limits. The frame and lumber for the school house had been prepared by the Olcutts, Simonds and Marsh's several years before permission was given to erect a school. On Thanksgiving Day, 1751, the frame was erected and the clap boards put on. Captain Daniel Marsh drove on horseback the day after and invited the people of Buckland and Manchester Green to go and see the school house that grew up over night. There was much opposition in East Hartford against building the school; also the people in the Five Miles opposed the building of a school at Hop Brook. All wanted a school near their own homes. Capt. Marsh swore that the Hop Brook School would remain. This school house stood across the road just opposite the present school building. All that is left of the original school is the old well. One of the last masters who taught in the old building was Mr. John Spencer of Spencer Street.

Several schools were necessary on account of the large families of children. The records of births in the following families show that they did not believe in race suicide or in birth control.

Parents	Number of Children	Dates of Births
McKee, Nathaniel and Prudence	12	1750-1780
Cheney, Timothy and Rhoda (Skinner)	7	1787-1801
Olcott, (Rev.) Allen and Cynthia (Hooker)	6	1793-
Cadwell, Mathew and Mary (Nansant)	10	1761-1779
Bunce, Charles and Sarah (Bidwell)	6	1790-1800
Rust, Noah and Anne	7	1788-1801
Hills, Silas and Anna (House)	10	1763-1785
Marsh, Daniel and Anna (Morrison)	7	1752-1765
Peck, Elijah and Mary (White)	8	1778-1795
Keeny, John and Phebe (Sweatland)	12	1762-1790
Hollister, Josiah and Absenath (Swetland)	7	1788-1801
Brown, Benjamin and Sarah (Keeny)	9	1764-1784
Keeny, David and Jerusha (Morley)	10	1782-1802

Early Laws.

A large part of the Mosaic law was enacted into statute in the early days of the Connecticut colony, as well as in Plymouth and in the Massachusetts Bay colony, Capital punishment was providing for fourteen offences including blasphemy, witchcraft, conspiracy and rebellion and continued disobedience to parents. The frequent use of the whipping post and the branding iron is apparent from the early records. Whippings were administered for drunkenness, for stealing and for disrespectful and disorderly conduct. Sometimes lawbreakers were branded with hot irons; others had their ears cut off.

There were laws against wearing gold and silver lace and gold and silver buttons, silk ribbons and scarfs or other superfluous trimmings, if worn by a person known not to be rich. The respective towns were required to "assess such persons so offending, in the list of estates, at one hundred and fifty pound estate and they to pay their rates accordingly to that proportion as such men use to pay to whom such apparell is allowed as suitable to their rank." The early laws were enacted by "the principal planters and gentlemen of quality" who believed in a stern government for the lower classes. According to the law no one of the lower class could dress like those of the rich class; if he did he was assessed as if he were rich.

The Sabbath was kept holy and to enforce the observance of the day the General Court ordered "that noe servill worke shall be done on the Sabbath viz: such as are not workes of piety, charaty or necessity and no prophane discourse or talke, rude or unreverent behaviourse shall be used on the holy day, upon penalty of ten shillings fine for every transgression hereof." It was proclaimed that "the prophanation of the Sabbath is that as pulls downe the judgments of God upon the place or people that suffer the same" and it was further ordered "that if any person shall prophane the Sabbath by unnecessary travell or playing thereon in time of publique worshipec, or after, or shall keep out of the meeting house dureing the publique worship unnecessarily, there being convenient room in the house, he shall pay five shillings for every such offence or sit in the stocks one hower."

At a Hartford town meeting held February 15, 1659, "The towne by there Vote gave power to ye Sentinell of ye Guard to command boyes and men Into ye meeting house that stand without ye dores in time of exercise and If they shall refuse to com in at there Comand they shall yn forwth acquaint ye seargant of ye guard therwth or the Constable, whoe shall comand ym in." In the "good old days" church membership was essential to good social standing in the community, and the stocks, pillory or whipping post were instrumentally responsible for large church attendance.

Among the fourteen capital offenses, the second which was based upon the command of Moses, "Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live," brought upon America stains that will never be blotted out of its history's pages. Later writers have tried to wash out these red stains but the records have come down to us and are too gruesome to be repeated at any great length.

Katherine Harrison had been indicted, tried by jury at the May Court of Assistants, and found guilty of witchcraft. She was sentenced to death but the Special Court reconsidered her

case, dismissed her from imprisonment, . . . "she paying her just fees" and agreeing to remove from town.¹

Nathaniel Greensmith and Rebecca, his wife, were hanged at Hartford, Connecticut, January 25, 1663, for witchcraft,² and five years later the General Court "impowered Mr. Samuel Willys, Captain Tallcott and the secretary to make a deed of sale to Andrew Benton, of Nathaniel Greensmith's house and land which was seized for charge expended on said Greensmith and sold to G. Benton."³

The witchcraft delusion had spread all over New England and not a few innocent men and women paid the death penalty before the legislature of Massachusetts appointed a day for general fast and supplication, "that God would pardon all the errors of His servants and people in a late tragedy raised among us by Satan and his instruments." By this time, however, "Good wife Bassett" had been hanged at Stratford, Connecticut, for witchcraft in 1665, and likewise "Good wife Knapp" at Fairfield, Connecticut.

Abigail Betts, "a school dame," in 1662 was found guilty of blasphemy and sentenced to be hanged at Hartford. Thomas Burnham, one of the foremost of the early settlers on the east side of the "Great River," defended her and protested against the execution, but she was forced to climb a ladder with the noose around her neck. For defending her he was disfranchised for the term of six years.

Early Highways and Roads.

In 1638 the first highway in the colony was ordered constructed "for cart and horse" with bridges over brooks and swamps. It led from Hartford to Windsor. The first highway ordered to be laid out on the east side of the Connecticut River was what is now known as Village Street, East Hartford. Originally it was an Indian footpath that led from Sicaog (Hartford) to Podunk Village. Meadow Hill Road (now Prospect Street, East Hartford) was the first highway on the upland.

The first highway through the present Town of Manchester is now known as Silver Lane, Spencer Street, West Center, Center and East Center Streets. Originally it was an Indian trail of which we shall learn more in later pages.

This footpath crossed the land granted to John Gilbert in 1669 by the General Court and which was later bought by the Olcutts and Simonds. The grant included the footpath which soon became a cartpath used by all the early settlers but since the road was private property legislative action was necessary and we find that "at a town meeting of the inhabitation of this

¹ *Col. Records of Connecticut*, Vol. II, p. 132.

² *Narratives of the Witchcraft*, p. 20.

³ *Col. Records of Connecticut*, Vol. II, p. 91.

town march the 3rd 1693 it was voted that the towne should paye Thomas Olcot for the way throw his land on the other side of the grate River." The highway thus established was known as the Hartford Road and is so called in the records. John Chandler mentions it in his survey of the Mohegan country in 1705, when he describes the west boundary as running south "to Wiashquagwumsuck where the Hartford road runs through the Notch."

It was laid out as a highway in the year 1679 and in 1728 it was ordered by the General Court, to be a highway four rods wide to the end of the "Three Mile Lots," now East Hartford. In 1731, deeds were obtained from the proprietors who claimed ownership of the land within the limits of the Three Mile Tract."

There are numerous records concerning this road; one dated December 27, 1678, shows that alterations were made at different parts, and another in the year 1731 shows that the residents in the "Five Miles" bought land on Silver Lane at the "Blow Hole" to improve the course of the road. It appears that the road lines were re-established in 1784, and alterations made again in 1798.

Another road equally as ancient is the Tolland Turnpike. This, too, was originally an Indian trail leading from the Podunk winter village, in East Hartford, south of Burnside Avenue. The trail led northeasterly to Mishenipset (Snipsic Lake) to the Nipmuck country and was soon turned into a cartpath. The road was included by the committee appointed December 31, 1678, which was "inpowered to take a survey of and lay out some highways on the east side of the great River," etc. Little or nothing was done to improve the road until at a town meeting held December 19, 1721, when the selectmen were empowered to lay out two highways "that may be suitable to accommodate those who live there for passage into the undivided lands.

A branch leading from this road, "from Gillman's east" to meet a road from Bolton line was officially laid out in 1774, but had been used as a highway for many years previous. This is now North Main Street and Woodbridge Street.

Love Lane was first used as a road between John Gilbert's and John Allen's sawmills and is one of Manchester's oldest roads.

Burnside Avenue was laid out in 1725 as far as the "Fulling Mills" at Burnside and the following year extended eastward to Bolton. It must not be understood by this that the road ran directly east to Bolton for the Middle Turnpike was laid out later. The old road ran to Love Lane, then to Olcott's Lane, joining there the "great road" or Hartford Road, and so to Bolton. It was known by several names, viz.: Bidwell's Lane, Bigelow Lane, Poverty Lane, Maiden Lane, Powdermill Road and Woodland Street.

At a town meeting held December 8, 1796, it was "Voted that Elisha Pitkin Esq. be Apnt. for this Town to appose Capt. Alexander McLean in his Petition to the County Court in November Last for a New Highway to be laid Out in this town." Mr. Pitkin was not successful, however, in opposing the layout for in the following year the Middle Turnpike was built by the Boston and Hartford Turnpike Company.

It seems that there was no bridge across the Hockanum River until 1803, for the first mention of a bridge here is in the minutes of a town meeting held on April 11, of the same year, which reads as follows: "Voted that the Selectmen be directed to build a Bridge across Hockanum River on the Road passing Alexander McLeans and that it be done by them on the most reasonable terms to include the Offer made by Mr. McLean." Nothing appears as to what the offer was which Alexander McLean made, but nevertheless it shows that he was anxious to have a bridge on this road.

Olcutt Street, though one of the oldest roads in Manchester, was not a public highway in the year 1791, for at a town meeting held April 11 of that year, it was voted to appoint a committee "to oppose the Petition of Capt. Timothy Cheney and others at the County Court" concerning "a certain Road or highway, Petitioned for by Capt. Timothy Cheney and Others in the five Miles so Called To Begin near the Potash of Nathaniel Olcott & Extend Eastward to Bolton."

We wonder whether land was scarce at this time for at several town meetings it was voted to appoint a committee "to make a mensuration of the Incroachments made on the highways" and "to remove all fences and other nuisances." Such an order was given when Olcott Street was laid out by the General Assembly in 1804, by a town vote. Jonathan Roberts, Aaron Olmsted and George Griswold were appointed a committee to enforce the order.

Turnpikes.

The incorporation of Turnpike Companies, in 1795 and later, put one public highway back into private ownership but they added another road to the list of roads within the present town limits. The Tolland Road was controlled by one company and the Middle Turnpike added by another.¹

¹ At the October session of the General Assembly, 1801, the Hartford and Tolland Turnpike was incorporated and the road was to be improved "from White's monument to the Connecticut River." Many have since searched for this monument, among them Probate Judge Olin Wood, but it has never been found. In his will, dated at Hartford, Nov. 7, 1747, John White says: "I give all my lands in Middletown and all my lands in the Five Miles on the east side of the Connecticut River, in Hartford, to my daughter, Elizabeth Benton, and to my daughter, Ann Rust, to be equally divided between them."

Toll gates were erected everywhere along these turnpikes but not in East Hartford, for the inhabitants of that town so bitterly opposed all toll gates that none were ever set up there. Within the present town limits of Manchester there were two toll gates. One was at Love Lane switch on the Middle Turnpike and another was at Meekville, west of Buckland, on the Tolland Turnpike. Shunpikes, so-called, were well known by all who were opposed to paying toll at the gates and it is said that many teamsters would drive out of their way for miles rather than pay the toll. After the construction of the turnpikes, stage coaches from Hartford to Boston ran through Manchester.

In the accounts of the original distribution of land in the Five Miles we read of highways thirty rods wide, but these were never laid out as was originally planned. It was intended, by those who divided the land, to lay out three highways running north and south, one to the east, one to the west and one through the center of the tract, but only one of these was laid out and that one (Main Street) was never staked out thirty rods wide despite the original plan. In 1729 a highway ten rods wide was ordered "next Boton line" and a space of twenty rods between adjoining divisions was reserved for a highway from Windsor to Glastonbury. But nothing further was done.

Hillstown Road is one of the oldest highways in town. It was generally recognized as the original east boundary of the Three Mile Tract before the year 1670. In that year proprietors of that tract were permitted to extend their lots twenty rods to the east in compensation for the six rods they had given when Main Street (East Hartford) was laid out.

At a town meeting in 1811 it was voted "On the petition of Joseph Pitkin and others that the Selectmen be authorized to open a highway from the south line of East Windsor to the old travelled road leading from Buckland to Deodat Woodbridge's, in such place as they shall deem expedient to cross the Hockanum River near Pitkin's factory . . . provided no expense is made to the town for such highway . . . and the sum of fifty dollars is granted towards building a bridge on such road over the river . . . which money now granted is to be paid whenever said bridge is completed." This road is now called Oakland Street.

Another old highway is Keeney Street. Thomas Keeney lived here in 1753 near Brush Hill Road, which was an Indian path. It is probable that it was intended at the original distribution of land that this road should be the west road of the three that were to be laid out. Parker Street was laid out as the road "between the two divisions," twenty rods wide.

Bidwell Street was an Indian path; it is probable that Hackmatack Street was its continuation.

At a town meeting held April 10, 1809, it was voted "That the selectmen furnish materials for building a bridge near Mr. Bunce's paper mill in this town. This bridge was on what is now known as Hartford Road which led to "Paper Hill" and eastward to the Cheney grist and sawmill.



Inscription on Fire Place in Watkins' House South Main Street.

CHAPTER IV.

THE ORGANIZATION OF ORFORD PARISH

Preaching the Gospel in the Five Miles.

In the early days of settlement and up to the time of the American Revolution, the communities in New England were divided into ecclesiastical societies. The Church was maintained by taxes assessed upon all the inhabitants whether church members or not. It was recognized as the ruling power and was entrusted into a number of local government functions.

The separation of Church and State settled all controversies and differences in opinion in governmental affairs when the colonies declared themselves free and independent in 1776. Five ecclesiastical societies were established before 1776, at and around Hartford, of which all but one eventually became separate towns. The First Society was organized in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and removed to Hartford with the early settlers in the year 1636. The Second Society (often called Hartford South Society) was established in 1669, and is still a part of the city of Hartford. A Third Society was organized in East Hartford in 1694 and a Fourth Society at West Hartford. The Fifth, called Orford Parish, later became the Town of Manchester.

The earliest settlers in the Five Miles were obliged to attend church at Hartford until the Third Society was organized at East Hartford in 1694. During this time they petitioned the General Assembly for the privilege of maintaining a winter parish. As early as the year 1748, the inhabitants petitioned the General Assembly for a "three months winter privilege." Occasionally a minister came and preached at Hop Brook. When the weather permitted, it is said, he preached under an elm tree on Spencer Street east of the cemetery, near the house of Captain Daniel Marsh.

At the October session, 1758, it was "Resolved by this Assembly that the Inhabitants Living within the limits mentioned in said memorial shall have the Privilege of a winter Parish for the Term of five months Viz: in the months of December, January, February, March and April annually during the Pleasure of this assembly — to be computed & reckoned from the first day of December Last and the said Privilege is hereby granted to them

accordingly and they exempted in that Proportion from maintaining & supporting ministerial Charge in the Several Societies to which they belong." Ministers' salaries were to be paid "in wheat at 5 shillings per bushel; Indian Corn at 2 Shillings 6 Pence per bushel; Rye at 3 Shillings per bushel, all good and Merchantable." It was so voted at a Society meeting held at East Hartford, January 17, 1704. (Records of Ye Ecclesiastical Society Ye East Side of Ye Great River in Ye Town of Hartford 1699-1783.)

The five months' winter parish privilege continued until the proprietors again petitioned the General Assembly for the privilege of a seven months' winter parish 1763, when it was again "Resolved by this assembly that the memorialists and all living within the limits of said Five Miles have liberty and Liberty is hereby Granted to them to procure preaching of the Gospel amongst themselves Seven Months in the year Annually with power and privilege to Tax themselves for Paying money for the support of the preaching of the Gospel for the town aforesaid in the same Manner and to that End to Choose all Officers as other Societys in said Colony are by Law Enabled and shall be Eximped from the payment of any taxes for Supporting the Ministry in Said Last Society provided they procure Such preaching Said Seven Months."

Passed in the Lower House,
May, 1763.

The names of those that signed petition follow:

Josiah Olcott	Jonathan Mygatt	Samuel Evens
Andrew MacKee	Elijah Peck	Simmeon Woodruff
John Thacker	William Buckland	Elijah Easton
Natha. Olcott	Timothy Cheney	Moses Evens
Thomas Trill	Mathew Cadwell	Jabez (?) Dart
Joseph Simonds	Samuel Simond	Ashbel Webster
Benjamin Dammam, Jr.	Malaca Corning	Alexander Knee
Benjamin Simonds	Benja. Cheney	(Keeney?)
William Simonds	Richard Pitkin	John Clark
Stephen Cone	Peter Buckland	Daniel Case
Nathaniel Bordman	Benjamin Deaman	Timothy Stedman
Nathaniel Dewey	John Bill	John Cadwell
Joseph McKee	Hezakiah Sanford	Beniman Brown
Noah Rust	Simon Gains	Wm. Corning

Petitions for a Separate Society.

The seven months winter privilege was enjoyed for four years when the inhabitants of Five Miles again petitioned the General Assembly, and this time they asked for a separate society. During the summer months church was attended in

East Hartford, and while some traveled on horseback, others walked. Women and girls often walked barefooted to save their "Sunday shoes." Only when nearing the church would they put on their shoes.

During the May session, 1767, Shaboel Conant of Mansfield, John Chester of Wethersfield (later at East Hartford) and Zebulon West of Tolland were appointed as a committee "to repare to Sd East Society of Hartford . . . and make a report of what they Shall find with their Opinion thereon to the Assembly to be holden in Oct. next." At the next session of the General Assembly (September, 1767) the committee reported "that a society will probably be needed in the future but think inhabitants are not yet able to support one." In the meantime the inhabitants living west of the Five Miles in East Hartford were not asleep, for at a Society meeting held on April 30, 1767, it was "voted that John Pitkin and Jonathan Hills Esqrs. be agents for this Society to appear at the General Assembly to be held in Hartford on the Second Thursday of May next and remonstrate against the petition of the inhabitants to represent said Society of the five miles, to be made into a Society by themselves or that the limits of said Society shall not extend farther than the line of Ditches which separate the three mile lots from the five mile lots so-called."

The proprietors of the Five Miles again petitioned for a separate society three years later. This petition or memorial as it was called, was signed by the following residents and was dated March 15, 1770.

Josiah Olcott	Martin Woodruff	Natha. Olcott
Timothy Cheney	Elizar Webster	William Simonds
Richard Pitkin	Alexander Keney	Benjamin Simonds
Robert McKee	Elijah Keeny	Joseph Benton
John Sparks	Moss Evens	Daniel Hills
Joseph Keney	David Keeny	Jeremiah Hurlburt
Mathias Man	Simon Gains	David Buckland
William Densmore	Silas Cheney	Joseph Case
Richard Keeney, Jr.	Benjamin Cheney	Israel Swetland
Simon Keeney	Benja Cheney	Jonathan Webster
Richard Keeney	Benjamin Daman	Samuel Simonds
Elijah Peck	Thomas Keney	Ebenezer Briant, Jr.
Elijah Peck, Jr.	Benjamin Daman, Jr.	Samuel Briant
Joseph Simonds	Daniel Swetland	John Keeney
Jedidiah Darling	John McKee	William Buckland
Asel Woodruff	Noah Bartlet	Timothy Stedman
Daniel Bruer	Alxr Keeney	Thomas Trill
Mather Cadwell	Theoder Keeney	Stephen Bidwell
Joseph McKee	Ashbel Webster	Samuel Eavens
David Daman	Gideon abl	James Wallas

(worn) Corning	Oliver Risley	Levi Thacker
Stephen Cone	Amasa Thacker	Elisha Buckland
Ephaim Webster	Samuel Benymin	Jonathan Clark
		Jonathan Mygott

Again the petitioners were defeated. They allowed two years to pass, then petitioned again (April 17, 1772) with the following signatures appearing on their petition:

Josiah Olcutt	Joseph Benton	John McKee
Solomon Gilman	Stephen Olmsted, Jr.	Silas Cheeney
Timothy Cheney	Peter Buckland	David Keeney
Richard Keeney	Richard Keeney, Jr.	Samuel Simonds
Joseph Swetland	Simon Keeney	Timothy Stedman
Richard Pitkin	Alexander Keeney	Benjamin Man, Jr.
Robert McKee	Thomas Trill	David Daman
Malachu Corning	Peter Hurlburt	Elish. Buckland
Benjamin Man	Wm Buckland	David Case
Daniel Swetland	Stephen Bidwell	Nathl Olcutt
Isreal Swetland	Daniel Chandler	Benja. Cheney
Ase Woodruff	Daniel Bruer	William Simonds
Martin Woodruff	Jabez Dart, Jr.	Benj. Brown
John Keeney	Alex. Keney	Noah Bartlet
Thomas Keeney	Elijah Peck	Elish Olcutt
Joseph Keeney, Jr.	Thim. Stedman	Samuel Olcutt
Thomas Jassall (?)	Nathan Stedman	Ebenezer Briant, Jr.
Jeremiah Hurlburt	Benjamin Simond	Timothy Briant
Timothy Wood	Joseph McKee	Theodore Keeney
Daniel Hills	Joseph Simond	Epherem Webster
David Buckland	Jonathan Mygott	Mathew Cadwell
Henry Treet, Jr.	Benjamin Daman	Josiah Loomis
Thomas Slate	Joseph Stedman	Aaron Right
Joseph Case	Jedidiah Darling	James Gilbert, Jr.
		John Cadwell

The Petition Granted.

During the May session, 1772, the General Assembly appointed a committee which was ordered "to view the circumstances of the Memorialists and consider whether it be Nesasery there Should be a Society made and constituted on the East part of Do, third Society including five Miles and in case they think a society ought to be made there and in that Case to draw & affix on a line across the Do. Society to be the Western boundary of Do. New proposed Society and to make report . . . to the next General Assembly." The members of this committee were Daniel Sherman of Woodbury, William Hillhouse of New London and Samuel Seldon of Lyme. The report of the committee dated June 3, 1772, says: "We beg Leave to Report to y's Honours, That we have Viewed the Circumstances of Sd

Society & heard all Parties representing a Divission and on the whole Are of Opinion that tis Necessary to make and Constitute a new Ecclesiastical Society on the Easterly Part of Said 3rd Society and the Western boundary of sd New Society ought to be a Line drawn paralel to the western Line of the Town of Bolton & five Miles & an half distant from S. Town, bounded Southerly on Glastonbury Northerly on East Windsor & Partly on Bolton."

During the same (May) session it was "Resolved by this Assembly that the Inhabitants of Do 3d Society of Hartford living east of a line drawn across Do 3d Society five Miles and a half from Do Town of Bolton and parallel with the west line of Do Town (their families and Estates) bounding Northerly on East Windsor Southerly on Glastonbury, Easterly on Bolton and Westerly on a line drawn as affore Do be and they are hereby made and Constituted a Distinct Ecclesiastical Society by the name of Orford and they are hereby Invested with all power, privileges and Immunities which the Ecclesiastical Societies are Invested within the Colony by law."

The First Meeting House — Contest Over the Site.

The proprietors at Hop Brook, living in the western part of Five Miles, were eagerly selecting a location for the new meeting house that would be in their favor. They selected the hill at Pine and Arch Streets but this locality was not satisfactory to those who lived in the eastern part, who petitioned, asking for a committee to be appointed to consider the matter. This petition, signed by Timothy Cheney, Richard Pitkin and Ward Woodbridge complained that the site selected for the new meeting house was "a side hill on the highway in a most Inconvenient Place very disgusting to the principle part of Do Inhabitants, most in favor of the western Brethren."

A committee was appointed in June, 1773, which recommended that the new meeting house should be built "in the center of the highway running from Glastonbury to East Windsor and near center of society."

At the first society meeting in Orford which was held on October 11, 1773, Mr. Joseph Swetland was chosen moderator. It was "voted to build a meeting House over the Stake that was Set by the Committee that was appointed by the assembly in May 1773."

It seems that "the western brethren" put up a good fight to have the meeting house erected on the site they had first selected, for again a new committee was appointed in October, 1773. This committee, however, reported in favor of the place recommended by the previous committee and the site was established during the following May, 1774, when it was "Resolved by the

Assembly that the place wheron to build Do House shall be near the middle of the first Thirty rod highway in sd Society westwardly of the old meeting house where sd Committee have Sett & affixed a Stake which shall be included within the Cells (sills?) of sd House."

It is evident that the name "Orford" was a second choice for the writer of the original manuscript had written first a much longer name and then had partly erased it and partly marked over it and finally the name "Orford" was written. The name Charlotte was used and is mentioned in the early ecclesiastical records. Old papers were found on which appear the name of Charlotteville.

The name Orford was made up from the last syllables of the names Windsor and Hartford.

Boundaries.

When Orford Parish was established, according to the order of the General Assembly, it was bounded "northerly on East Windsor, Southerly on Glastonbury, Easterly on Bolton and westerly on a line drawn parralel to the western line of the town of Bolton and five miles and one half distant from said town." This was well said, but where were the boundary lines?

Let us begin with the oldest established line at Glastonbury. On March 30, 1708, a committee of six men, Samuel Smith, John Hubbard and Ephraim Goodrich, representing the town of Glastonbury, and William Pitkin, Richard Lord, Cyprian Nicols, for the town of Hartford, was appointed to establish this line with Caleb Stanley, surveyor. The committee in its report mentions "a straight line from a stone in the land formerly M. E. Wyllys, near Pewterpot Brook's mouth to a pine stub at about three miles distant eastward . . . by the compass." It goes on describing this line by ditches, heaps of stones, little pond, cedar swamp, etc., and finally ends its bewildering and discouraging description with "this makes the eight miles." At a town meeting held on December 19, 1710, it was voted "that the return of the settlement of the dividing line between the towns of Hartford and Glassenbury be put on record."

The pine stub (or stump) "about three miles distant eastward" was supposed to be at the southwest corner of the Five Miles, but where was this stump sixty-four years later when Orford Parish was searching for its south boundary. A glance at the map today discloses the fact that the line does not run straight or "due east by the Compass." Its northeasterly course has been explained by the variation of the compass since the survey, but if such variations actually occur, then the North Pole in comparatively a few centuries will be in "a straight line running due east by the compass." However, Orford Parish

had to meet the Glastonbury line on the south and the dividing line was established somewhere.

On the north the new parish was bounded on the East Windsor line, now South Windsor. Although Caleb Stanley, country surveyor of Hartford, had been employed to ascertain the bounds of East Windsor in 1702 and again in 1716, including in his survey "Mountain lands within sight of Hartford," yet we find no definite line established.

As early as April 3, 1675, at a town (Hartford) meeting it was voted "that restitution be made to those who sustained loss by the alteration of the Windsor (now South Windsor) boundary," which was altered by order of the General Court.

On February 11, 1683, it was voted that the town (Hartford) appoint "mr william pitkin senyr To Lay out a parsell of Land to Tho Burnam & william williams which a comyty chosen by the Town in 1675 dede apointe as a restytution for what Land thay Lost taken of by the winsor Line by order of the General cort," and again in 1688, Thomas Burnham was to receive a parcel of land and "to make a full agreement with him in reference" to his claim "and to grant what Land they see to be Just, out of the five myels addition to the town bounds on that side to take his claim if they Apprehend it necessary for the town so to do." ¹ In 1711 another committee was appointed but failed to satisfy the proprietors of Windsor, as did all previous committees.

When the General Assembly "appointed Joseph Talcott, Esq. and Mr. Thomas Kimberly in 1716 to survey a tract of land lying between the towns of Windsor and Tolland, and north of the claim of Joshua's legates" the question was, where was Chief Joshua's Five Mile Tract? The fact is that the sachem did not exactly know himself. To him it was located north of Minnechaug Mountain, south of Waapin, east of Hassunadchuauc (Brush Hill) and west of Wiasquagwumsuck (Bolton Notch). He knew little or nothing of lines drawn by the white settlers in this vicinity and in fact, left the matter entirely in the hands of the white men, who were obliged to find the tracts.

¹ A tract of 300 acres designated on the map of the Second Division of lots (see page 31) as "Burnham & Williams Lot" was deeded to the heirs of Thomas Burnham and to the heirs of William Williams in lieu of what "Windsor line had cut off their upland lots." In old deeds this tract is referred to as "Burnham's Equivalent." The following facts regarding Burnham and his land have been supplied by Judge H. O. Bowers.

Thomas Burnham was the original settler from whom all or most of the people named Burnham living in East Hartford, South Windsor and Manchester were descended. He was a real scrapper. His name appears in the Records of practically every session of the Colonial Legislature, with some sort of a complaint, petition or motion of that kind. He was eternally in a quarrel with somebody. He settled in the north part of what is now East Hartford, close to the Windsor line, and cleared a lot of land there, in what is now known as Podunk. After he had cleared this land and got it in tillable

The east or Bolton line was originally a line drawn from Moshennupsuck (Snipsic) southerly to Wiashquagwumsuck (Bolton Notch), to Cedar Swamp at Chattam, and this line was recognized by surveyors as early as 1661. However, here as elsewhere, it was for the proprietors of the several townships to establish a permanent line which was done when the town of Bolton was incorporated in 1720. A committee had been appointed at a town meeting held at East Hartford on September 16, 1716 "Voted that Messrs Josiah Hollister & Benjamin Lyman be a Committee for and in behalf of this Town to meet with such Gentlemen as may be appointed by the town of Bolton to trace out and establish the boundary line between the two Townes."

From this east line, Orford Parish was to extend five and one half miles westward and meet the east boundary of East Hartford. Here we come to a problem that occupied many minds for over a half century. In Mainwaring's "Digest of the Early Connecticut Probate Records," we read:¹ "The following deed (of the Five Miles) was a conveyance of land which is now included in the Town of Manchester. It being all the land in that town except about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile in width taken off the east side of the original 3 miles. This $\frac{1}{2}$ mile given over to Manchester seems to have been an unjust act of the General Assembly of Connecticut."

Mr. Mainwaring refers to the present west boundary of Manchester which was established by the General Assembly after the incorporation of the town, by a line drawn from South Windsor to Glastonbury and about one half mile westward of an older line of ditches that were dug about the year 1716.

We have already seen that the three mile tract (East Hartford) was bought from the Indians as being three full miles in width extending east and west, and that, in time, the United States Post Office Department measured the distance from Hartford eastward and erected a milestone near the "line of ditches"

condition the line between Windsor and Hartford which had long been in dispute, was fixed by the Colonial Legislature. The line as finally determined left a goodly portion of Burnham's land on the Windsor side of the line. That practically legislated him out of his title to the land inasmuch as all of his holdings were confined to Hartford. Naturally Thomas threw a fit. In order to compensate him for the land that he lost, the Legislature made him a grant of three hundred acres in what is now the extreme northwest corner of Manchester and it held the name of Burnham's Equivalent for many years. It was wilderness land and apparently so remained for a long time. Only within a comparatively few years has a large part of it been cleared and tilled. The title is very difficult to trace back because the Burnhams were prolific and this land was divided and again and again among the heirs. Some of it is still owned by Burnham descendants.

¹ Mainwaring's *Digest of the Early Connecticut Probate Records*, p. 68.

which marked the supposed boundary of the three mile tract on the east and the inscription on it read: "Six Miles to Hartford Court House."

The land was bought "from the Bog Wall" in the East Hartford meadows "extending eastward three full miles." The land between the "Bog Wall" and the Connecticut River was claimed but never bought. This was brought up and discussed at length in the controversy of the dividing line between the two towns by the inhabitants of the Five Miles in 1712 when the town voted "that Wm. Whiting, Ens: John Marsh and Mr. Nath: Stanley be a Committee to Settle the Line, from Windsor¹ bounds to Wethersfield² bounds between the propriety Lotts and the Common On the East Side of the great River."

Previously, in deeds, land was described as "bounded on the east by the wilderness" or "running into the country on the east," or "to the end of the three mile lots." Where was the end of the three mile lots? We have seen that the proprietors of East Hartford, as it is now called, were permitted by the General Court "to extend their bounds on the east twenty rods" for the six rods they had given when Main Street was laid out. No one knew exactly where the east boundary was of these lots that were supposed to be three miles long, but which were in reality six miles in length.

At a town meeting held March 3, 1714, Captain Nicolls, Captain Aaron Cook, Mr. Thomas Hosmer, Mr. Nathaniel Standley were chosen a committee "to Run the Line Between the three mile Lotts and the five mile purchase on the East side the Great River in hartford or any two of them And To take with them a surveyer att the Town Charge to see the work done Effectually," and at another town meeting held December 20, 1715, it was voted "that the Committee appointed March 3d Last past to Settle the bounds between the three Mile Lotts and the five Mile of Land on the East Side the great River are hereby Ordered and Impowered to Run a Straight Line from Windsor to Glassenbury bounds between the sd: three Mile Lotts and the Said five Mile of Land." Five miles were measured eastward and the east boundary became the so-called Bolton line. However, the General Assembly had resolved in May, 1772, that Orford Society should extend from the Bolton line westward five and one half miles. There being only five miles between the boundaries on the east and on the west, the matter was discussed for over fifty years before any action was taken by Orford Parish to obtain the half mile granted by the General Assembly. Readiness to end a tiresome quarrel moved the residents of East Hartford to vote, in a town meeting held April 5,

¹ South Windsor originally was part of Windsor.

² Glastonbury originally was part of Wethersfield.

1824, "that Messr Martin Stanley, Martin Hills & Solomon Olmsted be appointed a Committee to enquire of some competent Judges Whether there be any probability of Success in preparing a petition to the Legislature to alter the line between this Town and Manchester and if so Said Committee be Authorized to draw a petition & take the necessary Steps to ensure its Success."

The Methodists on Spencer Street.

Since the Methodists were independent and not members of the state church, it is difficult to obtain the desired information regarding them in the early days of their preaching in this vicinity. In the East Hartford Land Records (Vol. V, page 413), we find Thomas Spencer's deed of a church on a parcel of land, which he sold to the church corporation in 1800. The church, however, was built in 1794 or shortly before. It has been claimed by the older folks living in this section that this church was completed before the Orford Parish church.

The American Revolution delayed the construction of the Center Church, which was not completed till May 20, 1794, but it must not be forgotten that an older meeting house had been provided previously, in which were held the winter services. The privilege of holding such services was obtained in 1758. Thomas Spencer and others had been preaching occasionally on Spencer Street before 1785. During that year he procured the Reverend George Roberts, a Methodist circuit preacher, for preaching the gospel as propounded by John Wesley.

An elm tree which stood until very recently just east of the West Cemetery was known as the "gospel elm," for under it, it is claimed, the gospel of Christ was first preached within the present limits of Manchester. The tradition seems doubtful, but if services were actually held there it must have been in the early days of settlement at Hop Brook, when occasionally a preacher came from Hartford.

The first congregation of Methodists consisted of six members, two men and four women, who met regularly in Thomas Spencer's house before the church was built. The church stood on the north side of Spencer Street, just west of the head of Hillstown Road on land now owned by Mr. Emil Seelert. Mr. Louis Schmidt, who formerly owned the property, often turned up old bricks when plowing over the sacred spot where the church stood. The parsonage stood a little farther west, near the cemetery. A hollow or "dip" in the ground could be seen where the church and the parsonage stood, up to a few years ago. In 1822, a new church was built by the Methodists at the corner of Center and Main Streets and was occupied by them until 1853.

Joseph Olcutt Goodwin, formerly town clerk of East Hartford, had among his collection of historical papers a description of Thomas Spencer. It was said of him that "he was a noisy illiterate person and preached and prayed with a course unction." He once prayed that the "Lion of the Tribe of Judah might be slain," and at another time, when at a camp meeting and was "put aside from preaching" he mounted a stump in the outskirts of the camp and cried: "Fire! Fire! Fire!" until a crowd had gathered. When asked where the fire was, he answered: "Why, my soul is all on fire!" and began preaching. Once, while eating at a table he remarked that he felt as sure of Heaven as he did of eating the piece of meat then on his fork. Whereupon the morsel fell from his fork and a dog gobbled it down.

Charlotte Henry, a negro woman who lived on Hillstown Road and died there, in 1904, at the age of about 115 years, claimed she attended the Spencer Street Church for many years. It was used as a barn until about the year 1830 and was then destroyed by fire.

Orford Parish.

The following is the petition of the Reverend Benajah Phelps, the first pastor at Orford. He had been pastor in Cornwallis, Nova Scotia, but because of his political beliefs he was obliged to leave during the American Revolution, suffering the loss of most of his property. Since settlement at Orford he had not been able to make his house comfortable. He asks for relief. "Whereupon your Memorialist Prays your Honor to take his Pitiable Case into Consideration and Grant him such Relief out of the Confiscated Estates or otherwise as your honor shall see Cause a Charitable Compensation for his losses aforesaid. Or in some way Grant him such Relief as your honor in your Goodness shall Choose and in Duty bound Shall Ever Pray. Dated at Hartford the 26th Day of May 1784." (Signed) Bena. Phelps.

Mr. Phelps petitioned the General Assembly again in October of the same year. He states that he was born in Hebron, Conn., and that he was minister at Cornwallis, N. S., during the American Revolution and that he came over to the United States, leaving about six hundred pounds' worth of property and his family in Nova Scotia. He died in 1793.

Orford Parish a Part of East Hartford.

Orford Parish was within the limits of the town of Hartford until the year 1783, when East Hartford was incorporated as a separate township which included Orford Parish. At a town meeting held on April 12, 1813 it was voted "that the next annual meeting be held at the Meeting House in Orford Society." The first town meeting held at Orford Parish was on November

18, 1813, in the meeting house. Doctor George Griswold was moderator. "Nathan Merrow, Charles Bunce and Benjamin Lyman were selectmen for the town, for the ensuing year." It was voted after stormy debates "that the selectmen for the time being, hereafter cause the annual & Special Town Meeting to be holden in the first & Second Society alternately at the respective Meeting Houses of Said Societies." The records show that the town paid Orford Parish one thousand dollars for the permanent use of the basement for town and electors' meetings. The manner of voting in the town meetings was by a rising vote upon all questions.

At a town meeting held on Monday, November 21, 1819, it was "Voted That this town do relinquish to the Parrish of Orford . . . their right to that part of the Highway lying near the meeting House containing about three acres . . . as Surveyed by the Selectmen Feb. 1819."

At a town meeting held on April 13, 1820, it was voted "That Mess. James Pitkin & Daniel W. Griswold be and they are hereby appointed Agents for and in behalf of this town to oppose the petition of the Hartford Bridge Company, for raising the toll or fare of said Bridge, now depending before the General Assembly."

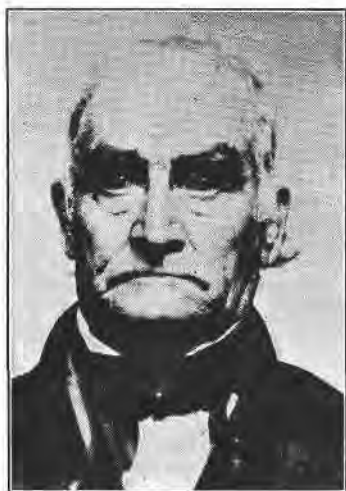
Agitation for Incorporation as Separate Town.

John Olds may rightfully be called "The Father of Manchester," for he was the leader in the movement to incorporate a separate town. At a town meeting held April 9, 1812, Doctor George Griswold, Moderator, "the request of John Olds and others in behalf of the inhabitants of the Society of Orford . . . that the town unite with them in Petitioning the General Assembly to incorporate said Society as a Town, etc. was Read and considered. Whereupon the previous question was taken . . . whether the Town would do anything upon the Subject matter before them, and passed in the Negative." The motion was lost because the voters, in what is now East Hartford, were solidly opposed to the incorporation of a new town, and outnumbered those living in Orford. Though defeated, the voters of Orford were not cast down in their attempt to separate from East Hartford and in establishing a municipality of their own.

It was during the May session in the year 1823, that the General Assembly resolved "that the parrish of Orford, be, and the same is hereby incorporated in a distinct and separate town by the name of Manchester," and that "the first town meeting in said new town shall be holden at the meeting house in the parish of Orford, on the sixteenth day of June next."

On November 17, 1823, at an East Hartford town meeting it was "Voted that Giles Olmsted be & he is hereby appointed an

Agent in behalf of this town to aid and assist the Selectmen to adjust the Town Accounts & divide the Town with the town of Manchester." The last orders of the town of East Hartford concerning Orford Parish were given at a town meeting held on March 24, 1823, when it was voted that the selectmen view the bridge near Mr. Bunce's mill, and at the following meeting held on April 7, of the same year, "the report of the committee relative to the support of the Bridge near Bunce's mills" was accepted and it was further ordered that the said bridge be hereafter maintained by the town. In 1823, a tax of one cent on the dollar on the list of the same year was laid for repairing public highways. Eight cents an hour was allowed for every man who worked on the roads and sixteen cents an hour for every man with team. Three years later wages were raised to ten cents for a man and twenty cents for a man and team.



Charles Bunce

CHAPTER V.

COLONIAL LIFE IN ORFORD PARISH

Taverns.

The first tavern within the present limits of Manchester, was at Hop Brook of which Lieutenant Thomas Olcott, Jr. was the proprietor in 1713. John Olcott, the second "Landlord" succeeded his father as proprietor of the inn. John Rust's tavern at the time of the American Revolution was located on the road to Bolton Notch east of Manchester Green. It is probable that the site of this tavern is now included within the township of Bolton.

Another "house of public entertainment" was the Buckland Tavern located on the Tolland Turnpike at Buckland Street. Among the distinguished guests who stayed here was no less a person than General George Washington, who in March, 1781, passed through the town while on his way to Newport, R. I., to hold a conference with the French commander, Count Rochambeau. Tradition says that he traveled from Hartford by Silver Lane, to Spencer Street where he stopped at the Marsh place, later known as the Griswold farm and also at Olcott's tavern. From here he went to Buckland, then eastward to Manchester Green where he was entertained at the Woodbridge Tavern. The Woodbridge Tavern was then owned by Deodat Woodbridge and later by Dudley Woodbridge, his son. Count Rochambeau and the Marquis de Lafayette, with their French soldiers passed through the town on their way to East Hartford where they were quartered for a long time. They were entertained at the Buckland Tavern.¹

During the American Revolution, a man from Virginia arrived at Manchester Green and later mysteriously disappeared. His horse was found astray in the woods, and children picking berries found his body in the bushes. They told a Mr. Corning "a maker of spinning wheels" who was looking for timber, and he reported the matter to the authorities. After investigation

¹ Lafayette stopped at the Buckland Tavern again while visiting America in 1824.

they found the dead man's sword under the porch of the Woodbridge Tavern. Captain Hills, the proprietor of the Woodbridge Tavern at the time, was suspected of murder. Court records show that one Kelsey was sued by Hills for defamation, for reporting his connection with the crime. Hills barely escaped convicting himself. The lawyers at the trial were S. Williams and Isaac Perkins. It was later shown that the murdered man was a paymaster in the service of the American Army and that he had a large amount of money in his possession.

A "house of public entertainment," in the true sense, was the so-called Elisha Hills house on Spencer Street which dates from Revolutionary days. The entire upper floor was a dance hall with a platform at one end where sat the fiddlers. Dances and social gatherings were held here until as late as 1880. Mr. August Seelert had bought the property shortly after the Civil War, but up to the time he sold the farm, in 1909, the old fashioned dance hall was undisturbed.

In the taverns were celebrated many festive occasions. In them all matters of importance were discussed. They were the scene of political conferences. They were news centers, to which the stage coaches brought tidings from the outer world. Gossip and all matters pertaining to the common interest, national and local, were taken up there and "thrashed out." The Olcott Tavern was an important place in by-gone days. For many years people who traveled from eastern points came there and were accommodated. The colonists drove their cattle over this road to the markets, and families traveling to new homes in the West, found Landlord Olcott ever ready to receive and serve them. There, as at Buckland, the stage coach driver unharnessed his tired horses and hitched up a fresh pair or two.

Industries.

Industrial activities began very early along the Hockanum River. Steam driven machinery was yet unknown and the "old mill wheel" was the only contrivance by which power could be obtained. The Hockanum River and its tributaries were soon utilized in furnishing power for various industries. The first sawmill erected on what was then called the crooked river, and later Sawmill River, was built by William Goodwin, "at the falls," now called Burnside. The earliest record of this mill is found in the year 1654, when William Goodwin received from the General Court "liberty to cut timber near his mill." It is evident that he had built the mill previous to this year. The exact location of that mill was where the "lower mills" are now at Burnside. Ten years later, John Crow built a grist mill on the upper (east) end of the sawmill. In 1669, John Bidwell and Joseph Bull built a sawmill on "Saw Mill River," also at Burnside. In 1690, Josiah Olcott sold to Mr. Pitkin the upper mill

site at Burnside. The boundary on the west was "a white oak tree near the fulling mills of Pitkins."¹

The sawmill built by John Allyn at Hilliardville in 1672 or before, and the sawmill of John Gilbert, at Hop Brook, built in 1673, we have already mentioned in a previous chapter as being the first within the present limits of the Town of Manchester.

In 1747 Colonel Joseph Pitkin was granted the sole privilege of slitting iron in the colony for the term of fourteen years. Soon after, however, the English government prohibited the manufacture of iron in the colonies by an act of Parliament, "To encourage the Importation of Pig and Bar Iron from His Majesty's Colonies in America and to prevent the Erection of any Mill or other Engine for Slitting or Rolling of Iron or any Plateing Forge to work with a Tilt Hammer or any Furnace for making Steel in any of the said Colonies."² The enforcement of this act silenced the machinery in the mill which stood at Woodland where now the paper mill is today. During the American Revolution guns were manufactured here and in smaller mills that stood west of the "Forge," powder was made, to supply the American army. Snuff, too, was manufactured here between the years 1775 and 1784. William Pitkin obtained from the Legislature in 1784, the sole privilege of making snuff in the state for the term of fourteen years. In later years the Pitkins began the manufacture of powder again at this place and under several ownerships the mill continued for many years.

Ebenezer Watson and Austin Ledyard were the owners of one of the first paper mills in Connecticut, which was located at Union Village, now Manchester. It was built before 1775 and was destroyed by fire in 1778. The loss was estimated at five thousand pounds and the widows of these men asked for public assistance to rebuild the mill. In their petition they state that this mill had supplied the press in Hartford with eight thousand papers weekly and that a great part of the writing paper manufactured here was used in the state and large quantities were sent to the Continental Army. The news of Lexington was printed on paper made in this mill.² Permission was given the petitioners to hold a lottery to raise fifteen hundred pounds.

The paper mills at Burnside were built in 1780 and have been operated almost continuously ever since. The "Upper Mill," known as the Walker mill was built in 1784 and is also still in operation.

In 1784 the Butler mills were built at Manchester, and about this time the Bunce's commenced the manufacture of paper at

¹ The aboriginal oak that stood in the middle of the road near the bridge at Burnside until 1901.

² Robbins, in Trumbull, Hartford County.

Hop Brook on the site where John Gilbert's sawmill stood over a century before and where an oil mill had been in operation for some years past.

In 1783, William Pitkin, Elisha Pitkin and Samuel Bishop were granted the sole privilege of making glass in this state for the term of twenty-five years.¹ The glass works were at Manchester Green, where the picturesque ruins still are admired by all who pass that way. In appearance they resemble the ruins of an old English Abbey; hence the name "Pitkin Abbey" which is often heard today. It is a monument that commemorates "The good old days."

The first successful cotton mill in the state was located at Hilliardville. It was built by Samuel Pitkin & Co., in 1794. The firm later manufactured velvet, corduroy and fustian. Fustian was a popular cloth. It was a cotton stuff with a swelled or puffed surface.

Besides these mills there were other manufactures in the vicinity. The first cast iron plows made in Connecticut were manufactured by Benjamin Lyman at his shop at "The Green." He also made the first lightweight pleasure carriages used in the community. Previously heavy ox carts were used by some and pillions by those who owned a horse. Tall wooden clocks with wooden wheels now called "grandfather's clocks" were manufactured by Timothy Cheney. His shop was in the ravine at Center Springs Park, and the old dam can still be seen. It was in this shop, John Fitch, one of the inventors of the steamboat worked as an apprentice. There were several blind and sash shops in various parts of the town and at the "South End" on Hop Brook was the grist mill of Benjamin Cheney.

A copper mine at Highland Park had been in operation previous to the year 1762. Governor Thomas Fitch, in his letter to the Commissioners for Trade and Plantations, dated September 7, of the same year writes: "Some copper mines have been in diverse parts of the colony opened, but after considerable expense and labor, proving unprofitable became wholly neglected."² There was another copper mine at Bolton, owned by the Reverend Timothy Woodbridge, which he mentions in his will. The copper mine at Highland Park and lands adjacent were reserved in the original distribution of land and held as state property for many years.

In those by-gone days, every house was a factory. The housewife worked at her spinning wheel and the hand looms were operated in private homes. Candles, soap, wool and linen cloth were produced in the homes of our grandfathers. The itinerant tailors called annually, traveling from village to village

¹ Act of 8, January, 1783.

² Connecticut Historical Society. *Collections*, Vol. XIV, p. 211.

to make the clothes necessary for the ensuing year. The shoemakers called likewise to make the shoes and boots. The village blacksmith was the maker of carts and wagons, plows and harrows and all other agricultural implements. He also produced all the hardware from nails and hinges to door latches and knockers.

Local Names.

Academy Hill — northeast corner of Main and East Center Street.

Boggy Stow — a marsh on Tolland Turnpike in Oakland.

Brush Hill — in the southwest part of the town. Called Hassunadchu-auk by the Indians.

Bull's Grant — near Hillstown; a line of ditches west of Hillstown Road.

Buckland Green — corner of Middle Turnpike and Adams Street. Here the stage coach and horses were changed.

Bigelow Brook — runs through center of town from Manchester Green to Hockanum River at Hilliardville.

Commonfields — in southwest part of town.

Commons — an early name of the tract now Manchester.

Cheneyville — South Manchester.

Case's Pond — on Bidwell Street.

Cooper Hill — on Hartford Road.

Cooky Hill — Union Street and Tolland Turnpike.

Easton's Orchard — so-called in deeds — on top of hill at Laurel Park.

Four Acre Lot — between Cooper, Cedar, Pleasant and Cooper Hill Streets.

Floss or Flo's Lot — on Middle Turnpike between Main and Adams Street.

Folly Brook — at Keeney Street to Bidwell Street.

Frog Hollow — on Center Street west of Pine Street.

Forge Lot — west of the town line, at Woodland.

Globe Hollow — Pond, South Main Street.

Green Pond — west of Manchester town line on Spencer Street.

Great Hill — Laurel Park.

Great Marsh — from northwest corner of town to Ellington.

Hillstown — originally called Tebtown and later the Britain District.

Hockanum River — formerly called Crooked River, Sawmill River and Solomon's River. The latter name because of Solomon Williams owning much land near it. Called Moshenupsuck or Misenipsaug by the Indians. The name Hockanum was applied to the mouth of the river and land near by.

Hilliard's Pond — at Hilliardville.

- Hop Brook — south branch of Hockanum River.
- Hop Brook Village — now the Sixth School District.
- Jambstone Plain — also called Johnstone Plain, Buckland.
- Jambstone Hill — on Buckland Street.
- Kiln Plain — in Hillstown, mentioned in old deeds.
- Little Pond — south of Hillstown, mentioned in boundary line survey.
- Lookout Mountain — at Highland Park.
- McLean Hill — east of Laurel Park.
- Mount Nebo — Spring Street.
- Meekville — in northwest part of town.
- Neck, The — west of Hillstown Road.
- Nigger Hill — on road to Bolton Notch.
- Old Meeting House Lot — on Spencer Street near Hillstown Road.
- Parker Village — originally called Slapgut which without doubt is a corruption of an Indian name.
- Paper Hill — Hartford Road, west of Bridge Street.
- Pine Swamp Lot — so-called in old deeds; on land now owned by Clarence Wickham near Laurel Park.
- Plum Tree Gutter — at Hillstown; mentioned in old deeds.
- Piper's Brook — now Porter's Brook, rising at Brush Hill.
- Pine Gutter — in northwest part of town and westward on Tolland Turnpike.
- Porter's Brook — see Piper's Brook.
- Porter Reservoir — between Porter and Finley Street.
- Poke Hill — near Hilliardville; mentioned in original distribution of land.
- Powder Mill Hill — near Woodland.
- Sparr Mill Swamp — near Hilliardville.
- Spar Mill Lot — near Adams Street and Woodland Street.
- Spencer Hill — Spencer Street.
- Sunset Hill — west of South Main Street.
- Saulters Pond — Parker Village.
- Staddle Hill — now Wickham's Hill opposite Laurel Park.
- Twin Hills — west of Adams Street on Center Street.
- Tollgate Place — on Center Street near Hockanum River.
- Tar Brook — originally called Hop Brook.
- Toby Hill — a steep hill on the Hockanum River near Hilliardville, now known as the R. O. Cheney pasture.
- Taylorville, Taylortown — south of Globe Hollow Pond.
- Three Mile Tract Ditch — one of the original ditches dug shortly after the settlement of Hartford. From Hillstown Road west to Connecticut River.
- Union Pond — near Union Street.
- Union Village — at Union Street.
- Waverly Mills Pond — Buckland.

Woodland Mill Pond — east of Laurel Park.

Webster's Marsh — south of Manchester Green; mentioned in old deeds.

Tax List of Orford Parish, 1785.

"A TREW LIST OF ALL THE POLLS, FACULTIES
AND OTHER RATEABLE ESTATE GIVEN IN BY
THE INHABITENTS OF THE TOWN OF EAST
HARTFORD FOR ORFORD PARISH,

"Aug. 20th, 1785.

"NATHAN STEDMAN LISTER.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
"Allen Andrews	18	—	—	Mathew Cadwell	52	5	—
Aden Andrews	18	—	—	Silas Cheney	23	4	—
David Ames	18	—	—	Allen Corning	12	—	—
Oliver Burnham	26	—	—	Ebenezer Carver	9	5	—
Daniel D. Bryant	11	—	—	John Cadwell	81	9	—
Zebulon Bidwell	41	13	6	Capt. Simeon Drake	12	19	—
Stephen Bidwell	67	7	6	Nathaniel Dewey, Jr.	24	16	—
Joseph Benton	45	9	6	Thomas Dewey	31	18	—
Stephen Bidwell	37	2	—	David Damon	30	10	—
Timothy Bryant	47	16	—	Levi Dart	25	3	—
Ebenezer Bryant, Jr.	31	15	6	Joseph Dart	36	1	—
Ozias Bidwell	20	—	—	William Densmore	9	—	—
Leut. Elisha Buckland	68	10	—	Jonathan Densmore	3	12	—
Ens. Peter Buckland	45	17	—	William Dart	69	7	—
Cpt. Ozias Bissell	46	—	—	Nathaniel Dewey	32	17	6
Leut. Tim. Brainard	31	—	—	Jedidiah Darling	21	—	—
Benjamin Brown	56	10	—	Roswell Elmer	3	—	—
Russel Bissell	53	6	6	Jushin Easton	18	—	—
Ozias Bissell, Jr.	41	14	—	Moses Evens	18	—	—
Leveret Bissell	28	—	—	Benjamin S. Evens	9	—	—
Daniel Brewer	27	—	—	Daniel Elmer	25	—	—
Aaron Buckland	49	4	—	Timothy Elmer	3	—	—
Samuel Benjamin	37	18	—	Samuel Evens, Jr.	29	5	6
David Burnham	29	11	—	David Evens	33	3	—
George Buck	28	9	—	Samuel Evens	8	9	—
Heirs Noaha Cook	2	—	—	Rosswell Fox	18	—	—
Benjamin Cheney	27	13	6	Noah Foot	12	8	—
Joseph Case	53	14	—	Augustus Fitch	4	—	—
Capt. Tim. Cheney	100	16	—	Doct. Sam. Flagg & Co.	45	—	—
Stephen Cone	111	13	—	Jeremiah Ferguson	33	16	—
Malicha Corning	18	—	—	Joshua Flint, Jr.	28	7	6
Daniel Chandler	64	2	6	Samuel Fox	1	—	—
Abijah Chendler	23	—	—	John Flint	20	8	—

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Timothy Case	62	4	—	Hosea Fox	4	18	—
David Case	48	10	6	Solomon Gilman, Jr.	30	10	—
Uriah Case	18	—	—	Luthar Gilman	21	—	—
Stephen Couch	20	9	—	Doctor Geo. Griswold	48	3	6
John Couch	22	13	6	Moses Gleason	23	—	—
Heirs Ozias Goodwin	—	12	—	David Landfire	34	4	—
George Griswold	26	—	—	Josiah Loomis	23	7	6
Ebenezer Gilbert	48	4	6	Joseph Lyman	67	9	—
Calvin Gilbert	38	6	—	David Loveland	19	10	—
Benony House	5	6	—	Est.—Jnthn. Mygott	35	5	—
Barzilah Hudson&Co.	28	7	6	Abithar Man	20	17	6
John House	6	8	—	John McAndy	3	—	—
Samuel House	2	7	—	Nathaniel McKee	62	—	—
Heirs Henry Howard	5	—	—	Allen McKee	20	—	—
Capt. Stephen Hills	92	—	—	Joseph McKee	46	13	—
Joshua Hills	9	—	—	Elijah McKee	42	14	6
Elezar Hubard	29	11	6	Robert McKee, Jr.	15	18	—
Silas Hills	42	6	—	John McKee	44	2	6
Amos Hills	38	18	—	Ezekiel Morley	32	3	—
Ptr.Hurlut (Hurlburt?)	35	4	—	Allen Marsh	21	—	—
Jeremiah Hurlbut	30	6	—	Cpt. Daniel Marsh	151	15	—
Jonathan House	7	10	—	Appleton McKee	21	—	—
Josiah Holister	37	3	6	Nathaniel McKee, Jr.	32	14	6
Russel Hills	31	4	—	Andrew Millard	26	—	—
Fraray Hale	4	4	—	Anderson Minor	6	8	—
Isaac Hale	9	10	—	Robert McKee	68	5	—
John Holister	32	7	—	Ashel Newton, Jr.	48	—	—
Nathan Hills	20	17	—	Ashel Newton	7	11	—
Rubin Hills	21	8	—	Wdo. Jane Olmsted	4	1	—
Loui Hills	22	5	—	Samuel Olcutt	14	—	—
Isaac Hale, Jr.	29	15	—	Capt. Josiah Olcutt	58	11	6
George Keeney	18	5	—	Lent. Nath. Olcutt	114	19	—
John Keeney	34	12	6	Daniel Peek	23	15	—
Joseph Keeney	31	6	—	Richard Pitkin Esq.	111	4	—
David Kenney	24	4	—	Daniel Pratt	11	14	6
David Keeney	27	3	—	Stephen Pratt	5	7	—
Isaac Keeney	36	4	6	Samuel Peek	18	—	—
Ens. Thomas Keeney	115	2	—	Elijah Peek	46	12	—
Benjamin Keeney	47	6	—	William Pitkin, Esq.	44	5	—
Elizar Keeney	69	13	—	Estate Joshua Pitkin	15	15	—
Richard Keeney	45	14	6	Richard Pitkin	44	9	—
Ruben Keeney	24	9	—	James Porter	53	10	—
Symon Keeney	55	—	—	Ruben Risley	4	11	—
Alexander Keeney	10	15	6	Samuel Risley	18	—	—
Elijah Keeney	3	11	6	Sylvester Rider	32	2	—
James Keeney	18	—	—	Timothy Robart	18	—	—

	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Thodore Keeney	18 - -	Sam. Risley, Glstnby.	12 12 -
Abner Landfire	20 - -	Wdo. Hannah Smith	2 6 -
David Little	6 12 -	Silas Spencer	21 3 -
Hart Leffingwell	1 10 -	Thomas Slate	45 10 -
Benjah Loomis	2 - -	Timothy Stedman	47 17 6
John Lucus	26 6 -	Joseph Stedman	20 15 -
Nathan Stedman	39 6 -	Elizar Talcott, Esq.	5 10 -
Ashbel Seymore	23 - -	Henry Treet	43 11 6
Israel Symonds	20 17 6	David Vibbert	21 - -
Thomas Spencer	68 7 -	James Vibbert	27 1 6
Joseph Symonds, Jr.	18 - -	Elezar Webster	22 - -
Samuel Symonds, Jr.	23 4 -	George Wyllys, Esq.	1 4 -
John Sparks	19 - -	Heirs John White	1 - -
John Symonds	35 19 -	Samuel Wadsworth	2 - -
Wdo. Eliz. Symonds	9 - -	Joseph Wadsworth	3 2 -
Daniel Sweetland	61 - -	Aaron Wright	18 - -
Benjamin Smith	1 14 -	Ephriam Webster	46 4 6
Ithamar Smith	23 - -	Gurdin Woodruff	25 16 6
Joseph Sessions	5 16 6	John Willis	41 10 -
Silas Spencer, Jr.	20 3 -	William Wilson	3 - -
Ashua Symonds	12 13 -	Samuel Webster	20 - -
Elias Skinner	34 11 6	Timothy Wood	2 - -
Daniel Skinner, Jr.	2 8 -	Abijah Webster	18 - -
Jonathan Skinner, Jr.	19 8 -	William Wallas	57 9 -
Enas Stebbins	53 10 -	Daniel Wadsworth	1 4 -
Elish Tucker	1 13 -		
"Sum Total		£ 5972-0-6	
"Faculties		201	

"6173-0-6

"Nathan Stedman }
 Stephen Treet } - Listers for the Town of East Hartford."
 Ashbel Pitkin }

Under "faculties" were listed all trades and professions, etc. There was a tax on tin plates, among other things, which in the year 1786, amounted to £107, including 70 ounces of silver plates. Silver watches in the same year were taxed to the amount of £12; brass clocks, £2; and wooden clocks, d28. There was also a tax on "Smokes," sometimes written "Smoaks," by which was meant open fireplaces.

Old Flo's Lot.

Located somewhere within the town limits of Manchester are two hundred acres of land (probably on Middle Turnpike

between Main and Adams Streets) which were "set off for the support of old Flo," a female negro slave owned by Elisha O. Pitkin until his death August 1, 1819.

Flora was born in the year 1752 and lived to be so old that Doctor P. Edward Pitkin, who also lived to a great age, forgot or neglected to support her. On October 30, 1830, Samuel Pitkin, P. Edward Pitkin and Joseph Pitkin, executors of the Elisha P. Pitkin estate were summoned to answer to Lemuel White and other inhabitants of the town for the support of this aged negro woman who had received assistance from the town.

The law obliged the Pitkins to care for old Flo during her lifetime, and it was agreed that the income of the two hundred acres of land be used to cover the expenses of her board, clothes and so forth. She spent her last years "at Warren's house" near Silver Lane. The records show that old Flo had five children that were born in slavery and owned by the Pitkins, and that Elisha P. Pitkin owned another female slave named "Gin," who had a daughter named Dinah.

It may be added here that according to the Census of 1790 there were thirty-one negro slaves in the town of East Hartford which at that time included Manchester, and that slavery was not entirely abolished in Connecticut until the year 1848.

Small Pox and Inoculation.

Doctor George Griswold seems to have been one of the leading citizens in Orford Parish, and one of the first physicians mentioned in the records. In 1751 a Doctor Clark is mentioned. At an East Hartford town meeting held April 9, 1792, it was voted "Upon the Request of Doct. George Griswold for Liberty to set up and Carry on Inoculation in the Parrish of Orford in Such place as Shall be Approved of by the Civil Authority and Select Men, Under the Same Rule and Regulations as the Hospital Carried on by Messr. Doctor Flagg and Hall in this town under the Directions of sd Authority & Select Men, and for the Same term of time as Granted to said Flagg and Hall." Small pox raged throughout the state for many years. In 1783, Doctor Flagg and Doctor Hall petitioned "for Liberty to Set up Inoculation for Small Pox," but their petition was denied. They received the privilege, however, in the year 1791, "to Set up and carry on Inoculation in a hospital for the term of four years, provided that the doctors shall allow 'the Town the Benefit of Said Hospital Gratis for the poor of the Town that may have Taken the Small Pox the Natural Way.'"

The inhabitants of East Hartford were suspicious of this new discovery known as "Inoculation," as is shown by their action in a town meeting held on September 17, 1792, when it was "put to Vote Wether Doctor Samuel Flagg and Timothy

Hall," also Doctor George Griswold "shall be allowed to proceed to Inoculate any more with the Small Pox in this town." The meeting voted in the negative.

In the minutes of a previous town meeting we read: "Whereas Jonathan Stanley, Elisha Pitkin, Jr., Silah Norton, Jonathan Benjamin, Thomas Case, Saml. Hurlburt, Stephen Abby, Jr., James Benjamin, being Desirous of Obtaining Liberty of this Safe and Easy Method Discovered and pointed out by Divine Providence for Carrying their Families through that Dreadfull Disease the Small Pox, by Inoculation," etc., it was voted that they should have the liberty according to their request to inoculate their families. In the following meeting the matter was reconsidered whether these men be allowed to have their families inoculated, and the meeting voted in the negative. The "safe and easy method discovered and pointed out by Divine Providence for carrying their families through that dreadful disease, the small pox, by inoculation" was now "Set a Side" as a dangerous method, for many who were inoculated died soon after with the disease. During the pestilence there were two hospitals, one on "Pock House Hill" at the foot of Cow Lane (now Latimer Street), on the bank of the Hockanum River at East Hartford, and the other at Highland Park within the limits of Orford Parish.

"The Olde Connecticut Path."

In a previous chapter we have seen that the Connecticut Path may have crossed through the center of what is now Manchester. In this case Bolton Notch must have been the "pass" through which came all those who, previous to the year 1648, settled at Hartford, Windsor and Wethersfield, excepting only those who came by ships up the river.

When the "Notch" was reached, after traveling through the wilderness from Plymouth, Boston, Dorchester and Newtown, the emigrants were within sight of the "Great River" and who can doubt that all strained their eyes (like Moses) to get a glimpse of the "promised land." This trail, if our history is correct, was the only path leading to Connecticut, known to the colonists during the first thirteen years of their settlement. Many writers have held that early settlers like Thomas Hooker and his party "travelled westward through what is now Massachusetts, to the Chicopee River, then turned south and followed the east bank of the Connecticut River to Saukiag, now Hartford." But the Hooker party arrived at Hartford in 1636 and twelve years later, John Winthrop wrote in his Journal "This year (1648) a new way was found out to Connecticut by Nashoway, which avoided much of the hilly way." This path, later called the "Bay Path," led entirely through Massachusetts.

Its route is practically the same as that of the Boston and Albany Railroad. It branched off the Connecticut Path at Wayland and led to Worcester, then to Brookfield, Belchertown and points westward.¹

For the benefit of the doubting Thomases, let us take them on an imaginary trip from Boston to Hartford previous to the time when "a new way was found to Connecticut" in the year 1648. We leave Boston and travel through Cambridge, Ashland, Hopkinton, Grafton and then to Woodstock, Connecticut. So far we all agree as to the route taken by the Hooker party. The chronicles, (brief as they are) tell us that the party had only their compass to guide them besides what local information they had received. We are now at Woodstock, Connecticut, where several Indian paths intersect and our destination is Hartford, which is forty miles distant. Shall we now turn back to the northwest and travel forty miles to the Chicopee River and from there travel south "on the east bank of the Connecticut River" for another thirty-five miles, with the compass before us and a path leading direct to Ashford, Mansfield, Coventry, Bolton, Manchester and Hartford? The "Olde Connecticut Path" was known by the Hooker party, for others had traveled over it before and in fact, it was the only path over which the early colonists traveled until the "new way was found" in the year 1648.

Bolton Notch the Final Resting Place of Miantonomah.

In his "History of Connecticut" ² Benjamin Trumbull tells us that Miantonomah was brought to the Great Plain of Norwich, the place where he was captured by Uncas and his men and there executed. Charles Frederick Chapin, in his report to the Society of Colonial Wars, March 17, 1896, says: "For many years the dramatic completeness of this story was sustained by the belief that the final act took place on the scene of Miantonomah's defeat and capture, the Great Plains of Norwich. Up to recent times a pile of stones there marked the supposed spot, and Narragansett Indians going by would contribute to the pile and cry out in lamentation. But it is now generally conceded that Miantonomah was killed near Windsor, the boundary of Uncas' dominion, almost as soon as the line was crossed, and that the resting place of the Narragansett is not known." Speaking of Miantonomah's monument Chapin continues: "It is

¹ A description of various paths from Boston to the Connecticut River will be found in Adams' *Founding of New England*, p. 20, and note. This author shares the traditional view that Hooker's party came to Hartford by way of Springfield.

² Vol. I, p. 135.

³ *Papers and Addresses*, Vol. I, p. 35.

called the Sachem's monument, and the place marks the scene of his capture, not of his death."

Reference to the sources of our information on this point would seem to show that both Trumbull and Chapin are in error. John Winthrop, in his Journal, 1643, wrote: "The court ordered . . . that Miantonomah should be delivered to him (Uncas) again and he should put him to death so soon as he came within his own jurisdiction, and that two English should go along with him to see the execution. . . . According to this agreement the commissioners at their return to Connecticut, sent for Onkus, and acquainted him therewith, who readily undertook the execution, and taking Miantonomah along with him, in the way between Hartford and Windsor (where Onkus hath some men dwell), Onkus' brother, following after Miantonomah, clave his head with an hatchet, some English being present."

This narrative might readily give the impression that Miantonomah was executed near Windsor, if we picture Windsor as it is today instead of considering the ancient survey of that town in the time of Uncas and Miantonomah. Ancient Windsor as is well known extended "east of the Great River." The south boundary "on ye east side" was Podunk River where the Podunks had a village. This village was as Winthrop describes "in the way between Hartford and Windsor where Onkus hath some men dwell."

There was but one through "way" or trail running east and west in the Colony at that time, the path known among the Indians as the Mishimmayagat, (great trail); over which the early settlers traveled as well. This was probably the trail known throughout the early colonies as the "Olde Connecticut Path," leading from Hartford, through East Hartford, eastward through Manchester and Bolton Notch where it branched off into two directions: one towards the east, the other towards Willimantic which was known as the Mohegan Trail. Since Uncas went by land he traveled over this trail on his way homeward with Miantonomah, his prisoner, and Winthrop knew "the way."

The Court had ordered Uncas to "put Miantonomah to death so soon as he came within his own jurisdiction" and the records inform us that both the white settlers and Mohegans, feared the Narragansetts would seek vengeance for the loss of their chief. Uncas knew that the Narragansett warriors outnumbered his men by several hundred and that he had gained a victory in his fight against them by wit and strategy and not by force. Would he then risk the loss of his prisoner and most-hated enemy by taking him to Sachem's Plain near Norwich, or would he disobey the order of the Court "to put Miantonomah to death so soon as he came within his own jurisdiction" while

two Englishmen, who were sent by the Court to see that the sentence was duly executed were with him?

Assuming that "Miantonomah was killed near Windsor, the boundary of Uncas' dominion, almost as soon as the line was crossed," as Chapin states. Would Uncas travel north when the trail homeward led to the east? Was Windsor the boundary of Uncas' dominion? According to Chandler's Survey of the Mohegan Country, 1705, the west line commenced "at Moshenup-suck (the south end of Snipsic Pond) and ran to Wiashquagwum-suck, where the Hartford Road goes through the Notch in the mountain, southerly to Cedar Swamp." In other words, Bolton mountains were the natural bounds and landmarks of the Mohegan country on the west, and the Indian name "Wiashquagwum-suck" means "high rocky place," signifying that the Mohegan line was at Bolton Notch over which the Old Connecticut Path led and which was joined by a smaller path at Manchester Green known in the records as "the path to Monheag" (Mohegan).

The belief that Miantonomah was killed "near Windsor" can hardly be substantiated since Windsor was within the jurisdiction of the white settlers and extended to Kettle Brook on the north. Uncas could hardly have taken his prisoner past the north boundary of Windsor, because there the Mohegan was outside his jurisdiction and dominion, and many miles away from the path that led eastward to his country. The great trail over which everyone traveled at that time was the only direct path to the Mohegan country, and Bolton Notch was the nearest point. After crossing this place, Uncas "came within his jurisdiction" and "so soon as he came" to his country "the final act and the dramatic completeness of this story took place." It seems, therefore, very probable that the last resting place of the noble Narragansett chieftain is at Bolton Notch.

Cemeteries.

In the "Five Miles" two small grave yards were laid out by the earliest settlers, one at Hop Brook, the other at the "Center," (East Cemetery). Tradition says that only hired men and women were buried in the West Cemetery for many years in unmarked graves and it appears that these cemeteries were on private property. Many of the earliest settlers are buried at East Hartford and Hartford, and we find in the Hop Brook (West) cemetery the grave stone of "Rebecca Beckwith widow of Jonah of Lyme died July 11th 1743, age 70 years" and several other grave stones are still standing that bear witness to the fact that this cemetery existed many years before it became public property.

At a town meeting held April 9, 1778, it was "Voted that Capt. Daniel Marsh be Intitled to Receive Six Dollars from

this Town Treasurer provided he Makes a Deed of forty Rods of Ground Adjoining the Burying yard Near his Dwelling house for the purpose of Burying Ground Sd. Addition to be Six Rods in Width at the Highway & to Extend So far North that Width as the Sd Burying Extend." This new addition was added on the west side of the yard. Eleven years later it was again enlarged, this time on the north side.

At a town meeting held April 10, 1789, it was "Voted that Mr. Samuel Kennedy be Desired to make Inquiry how and on What Terms the Burying Yard Near the Dwelling house of Thomas Spencer may be Enlarged and Make Report to this Town at some future Town Meeting.

The first cemetery "on the east side of the Great River" was laid out in January, 1710 (1711 new style) when one acre of land was deeded to the town of Hartford by John Pantry for a burying ground.

The oldest grave stone is that of Obadiah Wood, who died in the year 1712. This cemetery is now known as the Center Cemetery in East Hartford.

Much time has been spent in searching the early records regarding the East Cemetery, but nothing could be found. The oldest stones show, however, that interments were made here as early as 1751.

The Buckland Cemetery became public property December 2, 1811 when the following vote was passed at a town meeting. "Voted . . . That the Acd. of Aaron Buckland relating to the Burying Grounds near his House be referred to the Selectmen who are authorized to adjust the same and to take a deed of the Land etc. As they may judge proper." The oldest stone here dates back to year 1777. At another town meeting held December 8, 1816 it was "Voted . . . That the Selectmen be directed to cause all Burying Lots in this town to be suitably fenced (so far as may be proper to be done by the town) and that they rent out said lots to pasture Sheep & Calves only in the most advantageous manner for the benefit of the Town."

Again, at a town meeting held December (no date) 1818, it was "Voted . . . That the Selectmen see the Burying yards are suitably fenced, also to view the yard at A. Bucklands & purchase land for it if they see it necessary."

Here in the Buckland Cemetery lies John Olds "The Father of Manchester" who was the leader in the movement to incorporate a separate town by the name of Manchester, on April 9, 1812.

Part II

The Period of Rural Economy

1772-1820

CHAPTER VI.

FARM AND VILLAGE LIFE

In the half century between the organization of Orford Parish and its incorporation as the Town of Manchester, there occurred political changes, full of significance for the country, which were also not without effect on the development of our community. The colonies declared themselves independent, earned that independence in a protracted struggle, The Revolutionary War, and finally after six years of practical anarchy succeeded in establishing a national government. In this period of stress the men of Orford Parish acquitted themselves well. The enlistment of a company of twenty-five men and boys from a community of not over one hundred voters¹ was a good showing.

The names follow:

Timothy Cheney, Capt.	James Bellows
Richard Pitkin, Lieut.	David Buckland
Ozias Bissell, Lieut.	Ephraim Webster
Simon Gaines, Serjeant	Joseph Stedman
Elisha Buckland, Serjeant	Theodore Keeney
Joseph McKee, Serjeant	Robert McKee
Samuel Evans, Junr.	Solomon Gilman, Junr.
Matthew Cadwell	Josiah Loomis
Nathaniel Dewey	Samuel Bryant
Josiah Olcott, Junr.	Jedediah Darling, Junr.
Alexander Keeney, Junr.	Timothy Bryant
Abiathar Evans	David Goodrich
Ozias Bidwell	

We have no record of the later enlistments nor of the terms of service. After a careful search Miss Alice B. Cheney compiled the following list, duplicating some of the names given above, which shows the names of Revolutionary Soldiers buried in Manchester cemeteries:

Captain Ozias Bissell	Private Joshua Flint
Captain Timothy Cheney	Private White Griswold

¹ In 1773, the list of voters numbered ninety-four. See Cheney, *Orford Parish* in Connecticut Daughters of the American Revolution *Chapter Sketches*, p. 469.



Old Glass Works



Bottles made in Old Glass Works

Captain Richard Pitkin
 Lieutenant Simon Gains
 Lieutenant Nathaniel Olcott
 Sergeant Elisha Buckland
 Sergeant Elihu Geer
 Sergeant Joseph McKee
 Ensign Russell Bissell
 Private Ebnezer Bryant
 Private George Buckland
 Private Moses Evans

Private Josiah Hollister
 Private Ashel Keeney
 Private Richard Keeney
 Private Allen Marsh
 Private Robert McKee;
 Private Andrus Millard
 Private Nehemiah Risley
 Private Ashna Symonds
 Private William Wilson

By manufacturing powder for the Continental armies the settlers of Orford Parish who stayed at home did their part in the struggle for independence. The Pitkins owned and operated a number of powder mills and supplied the powder to the new State Government on long credit. Captain Timothy Cheney was detailed home from active service in the field in order to superintend the manufacture of powder sieves.

Effects of the Revolution on Life in Orford Parish

The absence for several years of some of its most active men undoubtedly tended to check the growth and prosperity of Orford Parish. Some of them never came back; some of those who came back had been rendered unfit, either physically or mentally, to resume in full measure peace-time occupations.

The Revolutionary War, however, brought some compensating advantages. Our community did not suffer from invasion. Owing to the weakness of the Continental Congress and the unwillingness of the State Governments to impose taxes, the burden of taxation was not heavy. The floods of paper money issued to finance the war proved for a while stimulating to business in rural communities where money had been notoriously scarce. The chief advantage which the war brought to Orford Parish, however, was the encouragement which it gave to the establishment of a variety of manufactures. Until 1775, the colonies had been dependent on England for manufactured goods, but when trade with Europe was cut off a number of small factories were established at home to supply our armies with clothing and munitions and to satisfy the essential wants of the civilian population.

Beginnings of Manufacturing.

In Orford Parish as in all rural communities in Southern New England there were, before 1775, a few village industries such as saw mills, grist mills and blacksmiths' shops for the satisfaction of the local market. The only industrial enterprise which was producing goods for outside consumption was Watson and

Ledyard's paper mill, one of the first in the colonies.¹ Within the next twenty-five years a half-dozen or more factories producing a variety of goods for a wide market had been established within our boundries. In the age before the steam engine had been adopted for industrial use, water power was an important factor in determining the location of manufactures. The Hockanum River and its tributaries, Bigelow Brook and Hop Brook, traversing respectively the northern, central and southern parts of the town, offered numerous excellent mill sites. In addition the community benefitted by its nearness to Hartford. It is probable that a considerable part of the capital which financed our early factories was originally acquired by Hartford merchants in the West India trade. The products of the early factories were probably taken to Hartford for transportation down the river to markets in the coast towns or in the South.

A final factor of importance in determining the location and success of manufacturing in any community is the inventive ingenuity and business skill of its inhabitants. Among the farmers of Orford Parish there were probably a fair share of the Yankee geniuses whose versatility had been developed by the struggle for a living on their self-sufficient farms. The unusual business skill of one of the earliest families, that of Timothy Cheney, is a heritage in which we all have shared.

The earliest manufactures in Orford Parish were paper, glass, gunpowder and woolen and cotton goods. We have already mentioned the paper mill of Watson and Ledyard. A second paper mill, the property of Richard T. Jones, was erected in 1780, on the site now well known to older residents as that of the Peter Adams paper mill. At this site Jones utilized the water power for a number of industrial purposes; for grinding grain, and gun powder, for crushing flaxseed and for drawing wire. A third paper mill on the Hockanum was that of Butler and Hudson, erected in 1784. Paper mills were first set up on Hop Brook about the year 1800 by Charles Bunce, who, with his six sons, carried on an extensive business for over sixty years in the western part of the town.

The manufacture of woolen cloth on hand looms was undertaken by Aaron Buckland in 1780, on the site now occupied by the mills of the E. E. Hilliard Company. In this mill, blankets were woven for our soldiers in the War of 1812.

A monopoly of the manufacture of glass in the State of Connecticut for twenty-five years was granted in 1783 to William and Elisha Pitkin and Samuel Bishop. The patent of monopoly was in lieu of compensation for powder supplied during the Revolution. The principal product of the factory was bottles. On account of high freights these were more expensive than other

¹ On the Hockanum River, below Union Village, near the site of Cheney Brothers hydro-electric power station. See p. above.



Woodbridge Tavern Manchester Green



Deodatus Woodbridge



Esther Wells Woodbridge

forms of glass. Bottles were in great demand for the exportation of cider to the West Indies. The sand which was one of the chief raw materials was brought at great expense from New Jersey, being transported up the Connecticut River in barges, and from Hartford to Manchester Green by ox-cart. When exposed to competition of other factories at the expiration of its twenty-five year monopoly the Pitkin factory proved unprofitable but operations were continued for a number of years thereafter.¹ The ruins of this factory are still standing on the Pitkin farm at the corner of Porter and Parker Streets.

One of the first successful cotton mills in New England was built on the Hockanum near the present site of Union Village, in 1794. Samuel Pitkin was the principal owner of this mill, but the machinery was designed and operated by John Warburton, an Englishman. The tradition runs that Warburton, in defiance of the English laws, smuggled important designs out of the country which were of great importance to the success of the new enterprise. The products of the mill were velvets, corduroys and fustians.²

A few years later a second cotton mill was built by Richard Pitkin on Bigelow Brook at what is now Manchester Green. Further northwest on another stream was the site of the powder mill, built in 1808, by John Mather, who was the proprietor of a small glass factory, also. He employed altogether twelve men in the two enterprises, and yet, so small was the scale of manufacturing operations in those days that he was regarded as a man of great importance, or as we would say now, a captain of industry. The powder was ground in hand mortars at the rate of fifty pounds a day. About once a month the product was transported by carts or wagons overland and sold in Boston.

The early manufacturing enterprises established between 1775 and 1810 were premature and seem to have had but little relation to the later industrial development of the community. The first factories would seem nowadays insignificant little shops and they enjoyed but a short and precarious existence. Probably most of them ceased operations during the commercial depression which came at the end of the War of 1812. Before 1810 or 1820, therefore, manufacturing could have had practically no influence on the economic or the social life of Orford Parish.

Social and Economic Stagnation.

At the beginning of the Nineteenth Century the economic life of our community was based on agriculture, an industry which was then in a static condition. The process of pioneering

¹ See Barber, *Historical Collections of Connecticut* (1836) p. 98.

² *Manchester Herald*, July 15, 1920.

was finished. Practically all the land which then was considered available had been brought under cultivation and the Parish, to use a phrase of the times, was "fully settled." There was a single village, including perhaps twelve or fifteen houses, built rather close together, at Manchester Green, in which centered the business and social life of the community. Here was the tavern, kept by Deodat Woodbridge, the country store, and the post office, established in 1808, the first within the present limits of Manchester.

Lying on the Boston and Hartford Turnpike, opened in 1794 the growth of the village was largely dependent on the stage coach route which was opened soon after. The tavern was a stopping place for many travellers of importance including soldiers, judges, statesmen, and even Washington, himself. One of the older residents of the town, Mrs. Mary Cone Jenney Moeser, of Manchester Green, has furnished the following vivid description of the arrival of the stage coach in the old days:

"My mother was about twelve years old when her father moved from the Rich place, where nearly all of his twelve children were born, to the tavern, which remained her home until her marriage to my father, Mr. Ralph Cone, in 1840. It was always a delight to me to have her tell me of the wonderful doings of the tavern. Of the rush and excitement as the time drew near for the arrival of the stage. Everything must be in readiness. A fresh log rolled upon the blazing open fire in each room, spotless caps and aprons donned by the serving maids, the last touches given the loaded tables, bits of dust flicked off here and there, glasses set out in the bar room, a last look at the flip-dog, to see if it is hot for the flip, the mixing of wonderful concoctions for the hasty drinker, and a general stir, inside and out, all over the Green.

"At the sound of the bugle persons might be seen coming from every house, belated ones running up the street, loud voices and directions issuing from the barn, where twenty-four horses were kept, men trooping from the store, while a curious group gathered on the outskirts, ready for their sly jokes and comments on the occupants of the four-in-hand and cumbersome stage, as they swung themselves down from its top, or crawled from its depths, to stretch themselves after their cramped position during the ten mile ride from their last stopping place.

"Soon the tired horses are taken out, to be rubbed down and made comfortable, fresh ones take their places for their hard climb over the hills; the call for the start is made, passengers hurry out and store themselves inside and on top of the stage, the goodbyes are said, the driver flings his last joke to the one or two characters of the Green standing near, and gets a witty response in return, and with a crack of the whip, blowing of horns and shouting of youngsters, away they go, up over the hill and are out of sight, while the men return to the barn, to the tavern, and to the store for their mail, and to talk over the news just brought them by this, nearly the only medium from the outside world and to exchange theories of the passengers who have continued their journey. Inside the tavern, those who take the journey by easy stages, are resting quietly before the fires, in anticipation of the delicious viands waiting for them, and the comfortable rest later on, when the afternoon stage shall have come and gone (for there was a stage going in each direction every day) and possibly a merry dance in the evening."

A description of the kind of life found in Orford Parish at this period forms an interesting contrast to present conditions. Its outstanding characteristics were its isolation, its self-sufficiency

and its homogeneity. Hartford, with a population of 6,000, was only nine miles distant, but those nine miles of country road, even when dignified by the name of turnpike, made communication and transportation more difficult and more expensive than fifty miles today. The lack of a market for farm products was the condition which determined many other characteristics of the life of the community. The lack of industrial life in the community meant that there was no group of consumers of agricultural commodities who were not also producers.

Farming and Farm Life.

Agriculture was the chief occupation of the village people, as well as of those on the outlying farms. There were, indeed, in the community representatives of our modern business and professional class, the blacksmith and the wheelwright, the miller, the inn keeper, the country trader, the doctor, the lawyer, and the minister. But all of these occupations, with the possible exception of the last, were usually combined with farming. The doctor and the lawyer, as well as the miller and the smith, lived on farms which they cultivated when free from professional duties, and from which they drew a substantial part of their living.

On the typical farm of one hundred fifty acres, fifty acres were in woodland, another fifty acres in pasture, and the remainder divided between mowing land and cultivated fields. The land under tillage rarely exceeded ten or twelve acres. Indian corn was the staple grain, providing food for man and beast. With rye it made the "Rye and Injun" bread which was found on every farmer's table. Oats and barley and buckwheat were regularly sown in small amounts. Wheat proved so unsuccessful that its cultivation had been abandoned throughout almost all of New England. Farm labor was scarce and hence but few farmers cultivated root crops or paid much attention to kitchen gardens. Potatoes were raised in small amounts chiefly for cattle food. Little fruit was grown except apples, which were in great demand for cider making. Flax was a crop requiring intensive cultivation and hence not well adapted to the prevailing extensive system, yet some flax was necessary for the production of homespun linen. A small patch was found on every farm.

A scientific rotation of crops was unknown, and grain alternated with grass and fallow in much the same way as under the three-field system of the Middle Ages. But little care was given to maintain soil fertility by manures. Under these conditions the yield of the various crops was miserably small. The farmer's live stock consisted of ten or fifteen head of cattle including young animals, a yoke of oxen, one or two horses, a flock of ten or twelve sheep, and about as many swine as cows. Lack of adequate shelter, under-nourishment and lack of attention to breeding had

caused, since their original importation from Europe, a degeneration in all kinds of farm animals.

The farms of the early Nineteenth Century were in a great degree self-sufficient and the farm communities were largely independent of the outside world. Beyond small quantities of cheese, salt pork and homespun yarn, the farmers were able to sell practically nothing. Hence they were unable to buy, and



DOROTHY PITKIN

Landlady of Pitkin Tavern near Manchester Green.

were forced to produce on the farm a great variety of goods now made in shops and factories. Not only food supplies such as bread, butter and cheese, salt beef and pork, were "homemade" but also clothing, shoes, furniture, household and bed linen, soap, candles, brooms, farm implements and a great variety of wooden household utensils.

Virtues and Defects of the Age of Homespun.

A great deal has been written and said in rather indiscriminate

praise of the virtues and beauties of the good old times, or the Age of Homespun. Its virtues were indeed important. No child could grow up in the self-sufficient household without being thoroughly trained in habits of frugality and economy. "They knew too exactly what everything cost, even small things, not to husband them carefully."¹ In inculcating habits of self-reliance and ability to bear responsibility, the self-sufficient household achieved educative results which modern schools with their more formal training find difficult to approximate. In the community life the frequent occasions for neighborly co-operation gave rise to an admirable spirit of mutual helpfulness. In the lack of such specialized professions as trained nurses and funeral directors, their work was performed voluntarily by neighbors. In addition, the farmers as a community combined their efforts in many of the more extraordinary tasks such as in clearing land, raising buildings and at harvest time. Such services were rarely if ever, paid for in money or in goods. It was turn and turn about; the person or family receiving the service stood ready to make repayment by rendering a similar service whenever occasion should arise.

One should beware, however, of the tendency to look at the past through rose-colored spectacles, as do some modern pessimists, and to believe that everything was better in the olden time. In the first place it should be recognized that the conditions of daily life were hard, in some cases almost unbearably so. Farm work in the fields and in the farm house was for most a dull and uninspiring round of monotonous toil. With their clumsy implements and ineffective household appliances the farm family worked hard for a rather poor living. Their houses, warmed only by fireplaces in the winter, and at night lighted only by candles, were cold, drafty and entirely lacking in modern sanitary arrangements. Their food, although usually abundant, was coarse and unvaried. Heavy brown bread, bean porridge and salt pork were the staple articles of diet. Fruits and vegetables, except apples and pumpkins, were but rarely found on farmer's tables. Tea and coffee were coming into rather general use, but cider remained the common beverage of all the inhabitants, rich and poor, young and old.

The desire to introduce variety into their fare and to relieve, at least temporarily, the dreary monotony of village life explains the liberal consumption of cider, and stronger liquors, and the prevalence of intemperance among all classes in the community. Every important occasion in home and in church life, every rural festivity was utilized as an opportunity for generous indulgence in intoxicants. Neither the haying nor the hog-killing could be managed without liberal potations of "black strap" and "stone wall." Husking bees, house raisings, training days, christenings,

¹ Bushnell, *Work and Play*, p. 395.

weddings, burials and even ordinations were often disgraced by the drunkenness of the participants.

In general the moral tone of rural communities at this time was low. A general spirit of lawlessness was noticeable after The Revolutionary War, as after all wars. Petty crimes, such as thefts, assaults and minor disturbances were of frequent occurrence. The influence of the Church was decadent. Practically all the inhabitants of Orford Parish were nominally at least, members of a single religious body — the Congregational Church. But between 1790 and 1815 this body was in an enfeebled condition. It had no settled pastors between 1793 and 1800, nor again in the years 1808-1814. The authority of the church in matters of doctrine was declining, and in spite of an inquisitorial censorship of the private life of its members, it was unable to prevent frequent lapses from the code of morals.



Cheney Homestead Hartford Road



George Cheney



Electa Woodbridge Cheney

Part III

The Industrial Revolution in Manchester
1820-1870

CHAPTER VII.

PROGRESS IN MANUFACTURING, 1820-1870

A new period in the history of our community may be conveniently dated, without attributing causal importance to the event, from its incorporation as a township in 1823. Within the next fifty years we were transformed from a quiet farming hamlet to a thriving industrial center. The railroad had replaced the stagecoach, breaking down our isolation and our economic self-sufficiency. Household industries had been given up and farmers and artisans alike had discarded homespun for "store clothes." Homogeneity had given place to diversity. Farming was no longer the sole occupation. The enlarged community offered many and varied ways of earning a living, thus affording opportunities for the employment of diverse talents.

While neighboring rural communities were decreasing, our population, which in 1823 had been about 1,400 had grown to over 4,200 in 1870. Its composition, too, had altered. At the date of our incorporation the inhabitants of Manchester were almost exclusively native born, and of native parents. In 1870 the admixture of other racial elements was already noticeable. We were no longer of a single religious faith. The church at the Center still flourished but in addition four other denominations had organized and had built churches.

The explanation of the revolutionary changes in the social and economic life of Manchester in the first half-century after incorporation is to be found in the growth of manufactures and in the introduction of railroad transportation. After the collapse of the premature industries of Revolutionary days there seems to have been little manufacturing activity until the decade 1830-1840. At about that time we know that many of the older properties, which had probably been idle for some time, changed hands. Butler's paper mill in Union Village was bought by a group of local men and started on a new career of prosperity. The cotton mills in the same village which had been revived and enlarged in 1819 by David Watkinson and his brothers, and incorporated as the Union Manufacturing Company, were doing a business of rather exceptional proportions for those days. In the company's four mills, one hundred seventy-nine persons were employed; fifty-nine men, one hundred seventeen women and three children of under twelve years of age. The mills, which contained 3,500 spindles and ninety looms, had a capital value of \$140,000. Their yearly output was 600,000 yards of cloth be-

sides 30,000 pounds of yarn.¹ Elisha E. Hilliard in 1824 began his career in woolen manufacturing at the Buckland mill.

Paper mills were established in 1832 by Henry Hudson at Oakland and by Peter Rogers at the corner of Hartford Road and Prospect Street. The powder mills of John Mather changed hands and were rebuilt in 1830. A partial census of manufactures taken in 1832 showed that there were then three woolen factories in Manchester, two of which produced satinet and the third flannel. The small scale of their operations is shown by the following facts. Their combined capital was \$21,500 and the value of their combined output was \$32,800. The largest mill employed only eighteen hands; four men, twelve women and two children. Altogether they gave employment to thirty-five persons.

Manufactures in Manchester, 1845.

A fairly complete view of the progress in manufacturing which had been made in Manchester up to 1845 is obtainable from the statistics compiled by the assessors in that year.² Altogether there were employed in shops and factories 400 persons out of the town's population of about 2,000. The total capital invested amounted to \$250,000 and the annual product was valued at \$400,000. Of the twenty-five or thirty industrial establishments, only sixteen produced goods on a scale large enough to deserve the name of factories. Of these, seven were paper mills; five, woolen mills, two, cotton mills and two silk mills. The principal facts concerning these establishments are presented in the following table:

TABLE I
MANUFACTURES IN MANCHESTER, 1845

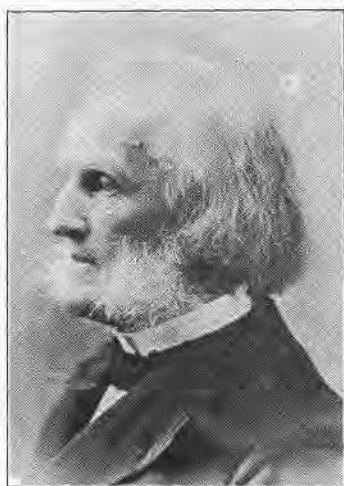
	Paper	Cottons	Woolens	Silk
No. of Factories	7	2	5	2
Capital Invested	\$106,000	\$112,300	.....	\$15,000
Quantity of Product	61,000 reams 95 tons coarse paper 700 gross press paper	966,000 yds.cloth lbs.yarn	.....	13,300 lbs. sewing silk
Value of Product	\$175,000	\$85,000	\$104,850	\$85,000
Persons Employed	133	134		69
Men	...	58	...	12
Women	...	76	...	57
Women	...	76	...	57

¹ U. S. 22 Cong. 1st. Sess. Ex. Doc. 308, *Documents Relative to Manufactures in the U. S. Vol. I.*

² Connecticut, *Statistics of Industry*, 1845.



Lyman Blacksmith Shop Manchester Green



Prof. Chester A. Lyman
Son of Benjamin Lyman

In addition to the factories, there were a dozen or more shops conducted often by a single proprietor with the aid of his family or a few neighbors. In them was produced a wide variety of commodities, principally for local consumption. Among the wares thus produced were ploughs, tacks and brads, musical instruments, leather goods, coaches and wagons, tinware, cigars, building stone, blacking, essences, shaving soap and ink.

The smaller enterprises were not without interest and significance in the history of the town. The manufacture of ploughs conducted by Benjamin Lyman at the Green was characterized in an exceptional degree by inventiveness, or Yankee ingenuity. The cast-iron moldboard for ploughs had been invented by Charles Newbold of New Jersey in 1797 and later improved by a number of designers, principally by Jethro Wood of Scipio, N. Y. Lyman, therefore, did not originate the idea of using iron ploughs. He was successful, however, in designing moldboards, which he patterned in wood and had cast in a foundry at Hartford. Lyman also designed and manufactured at the Green, cast-iron hubs for carts and wagons to replace the wooden hubs used since time immemorial.

Cone and Wadsworth in their shop under the big oak trees at the corner of East Center and Pitkin Streets for many years made carriages of enviable reputation.

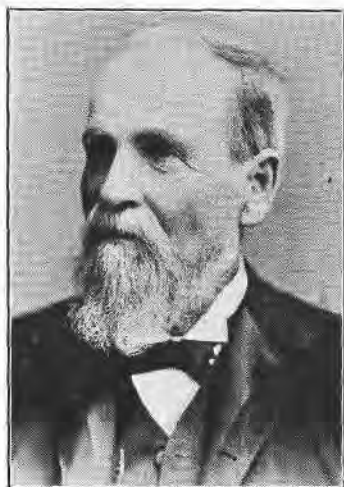
The Beginning of the Silk Industry.

It was during the decade of 1830-1840, also, that the industry was first begun which has been chiefly responsible for the town's growth and prosperity, — the manufacture of silk. Attempts had been made in Connecticut to raise cocoons, and to wind silk from them as early as 1732, and projects had been encouraged by bounties offered by the colonial legislature. Mansfield, a township to the east of Manchester, was the earliest center of silk winding in the country, producing 200 pounds of silk in 1788. In 1810 attempts were made to utilize water power in the winding of sewing silk but success was not attained until after 1820. In 1825 it was reported that three-fourths of the families in the Town of Windham were engaged in raising cocoons, and in reeling and winding silk. The work was done chiefly by women in their own homes, using the common foot power spinning wheels. The "sewings," as their product was called, was marketed principally by barter at the country stores.

The beginning of silk winding as a factory industry in the United States dates from 1830-1835 when mills began operation in Hartford and in Northampton. In South Manchester the silk industry began with attempts to produce raw silk by several of the sons of George Cheney, grandsons of Timothy Cheney, the original



Marvin Cone Cart



Ralph Cone



Marvin Cone

settler in Manchester. It was about the year 1835 that they established in this community a nursery for the propagation of mulberry trees, which were essential to supply food for silk worms. Practically all of the silk mills of that day combined with their manufacturing operations the production of raw silk from cocoons. In no other way, so they believed, could they obtain reliable supplies of raw material. Consequently they established coconeries and planted large tracts with mulberry trees.

The Multicaulis Speculation.

It was in connection with the propagation and marketing of a particular variety of these trees, the *morus multicaulis*, that a most unusual and disastrous wave of speculation spread over the eastern states. Farmers, everywhere along the Atlantic Coast, encouraged by extravagant articles in newspapers, farm journals, and even in government publications, became convinced that they could make large profits by planting a few acres with mulberry trees and then selling them to silk growers. Some of the newly organized companies gave up manufacturing for a time and invested all their capital in mulberry orchards. There were not nearly enough trees to supply the demand, and prices rose to extravagant heights. In 1834 mulberry trees sold at the nurseries for about \$4 a hundred, in 1835 for \$10, and at the beginning of 1836 for \$30. In November, 1836, three of the Cheney Brothers, Ward, Frank and Rush, leased for \$400 a year a tract of 117 acres at Burlington, New Jersey, and established there a nursery and a cocoonery. Within less than a year the sales from the Burlington nursery had amounted to about \$14,000.

Early in 1839 the multicaulis fever reached its climax. In January of that year trees sold at from one to two dollars each; in some cases sales were made at \$300 and \$500 a hundred. All of this speculation had been going on in spite of the panic of 1837, but during 1839, the hard times which had already affected other fields, spread to the nurserymen and the silk culture. At almost the same instant came the realization that the *morus multicaulis* was not hardy enough to be raised without difficulty in the North, and that even if that handicap could be overcome, American labor was too expensive for profitable use in the tedious hand operations required for the successful culture of silkworms.

By 1840 the crash was complete. The silk growers had wasted their money. The nurserymen were left with great quantities of the trees on hand, trees which had cost them heavily and were now worth next to nothing. Importers could not even pay the freight on their shipments from abroad. The trees were sold for such humble uses as pea brush, or unceremoniously uprooted and burned. Practically everyone in the business bore his share of the loss.

THE CHENEY BROTHERS



Charles Cheney
Seth W. Cheney

John Cheney
Ward Cheney
Rush Cheney

Ralph Cheney
Frank Cheney

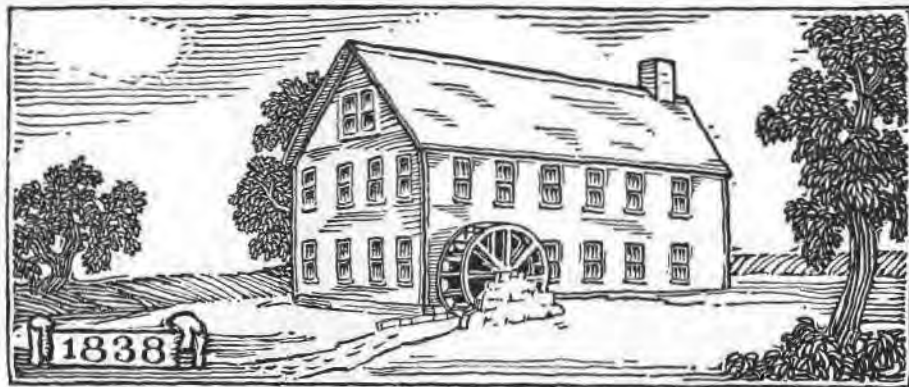
NOTE—There is no available portrait of George Wells Cheney the oldest of the brothers.

In 1844 a fatal blight affected almost all of the mulberry trees in the country. This caused the loss of all the multitudes of silkworms, and practically drove the growers out of business. Even at Mansfield, Connecticut, where silk culture had been most prosperous, the industry was finally abandoned. Many of the new silk winding mills which had put their capital into trees were ruined, and it looked as if the silk industry in the United States had achieved a complete failure.

The Hop Brook Mill.

It was in 1838, while the multicaulis speculation was at its height that the Cheney brothers began the manufacture of sewing silk on Hop Brook in Manchester. On January second of that year, Ralph, Ward, Rush and Frank Cheney, with Edward Arnold, organized the Mount Nebo Silk Manufacturing Company with a capital stock of \$50,000. A small factory, thirty-two by forty-five feet, two stories high, was built below the site of Timothy Cheney's grist mill and saw mill on Hop Brook, directly in the rear of the building which now houses the main offices of Cheney Brothers. The timber for the mill was hewn out at four cents a foot, and the contract price for the joiners' work was \$262. The frame was put in position on March 31, 1838, all the able-bodied men of the neighborhood lending their aid at the "raising." The new mill was not an impressive edifice. One of the earliest operatives described it as "a barn built on the edge of the brook in the huckleberry pasture." Waterpower was supplied by the tail race of the grist and saw mills. A little undershot wheel turned busily when it had water, that is, when the mills above were in operation. But when the upper gates were closed, silk manufacturing was suspended.

In 1839 the multicaulis speculation seems to have diverted the attention, and probably much of the capital, too, of the Cheney Brothers, from their new manufacturing enterprise, but after the collapse of the nursery business they returned to South Manchester. In 1841 the Mount Nebo mill, which had been idle for a number of months was reopened. There followed a period of ten or fifteen years of hard work and of ceaseless experimentation when the fate of the business often hung in the balance. The new venture was a family enterprise from the beginning, and its eventual success was owing in no small degree to the loyal co-operation of the family group. An old diary shows, for example, how Frank Cheney and his brother Rush lived together and had things in common. In one of the early years their share of the profits amounted to \$600. Of this sum, one-half was set aside for their living expenses and the remainder was reinvested in the business. Altogether there were eight brothers in the family and of these all but the eldest, George Wells, were at one



CHENEY BROTHERS FIRST MILL

time or another interested in the silk mill and devoted their talents, each in his own way, toward making it a success. The mechanical genius of Frank Cheney and the business acumen of his brother Ward, seem to have been largely responsible for the survival of the business through its first difficult years. At critical times, also, two of the brothers, John and Seth, who were artists, came to the rescue with funds from their earnings.

An Early Payroll.

The earliest payroll information in possession of the company is an extract from a time book used in 1843, which contains the wages of Cheney Brothers' employees in December of that year. This record contains the following list of eighteen names together with the wages received by each employee.

	Per Month		Per Week
Geo. W. Cheney	\$16.00	Horace Wetherell	\$1.92
John S. Cheney	12.00	Wells Wetherell	1.92
Charles Rogers	14.36	Mary Simons	2.50
Wm. Brockbank	22.36	Sarah Simons	2.75
Dwight Searl	18.00	House	2.25
Ralph Bailey	20.36	M. Keeney	2.50
Henry Gardner	14.36	H. Forbes	2.50
Rockwell Keeney	16.36	S. Brumby	2.75
Clemson	14.36	Geo. W. Ault	2.25

This shows that wages in 1843 ranged from \$1.92 to \$5.16 per week. The weekly working schedule was based on a twelve hour day, beginning at six o'clock in the morning and ending at seven o'clock in the evening, with one hour at noon allowed for lunch, or seventy-two hours per week. The average earnings of male employees was \$.0466 per hour and \$3.35 per week; of female employees, \$.0353 per hour and \$2.54 per week.

The mill "hands" of those days, as the names on the list indicate, were mostly sons and daughters of the farmers of the neighborhood, but they included also an occasional village artisan or mechanic. Workers and proprietors were both of native Yankee stock, well acquainted with each other if not actually related by blood or by marriage. While the business was in its infancy, the members of the firm often worked side by side with their employees. It is related of Frank Cheney that he did not shirk his turn at standing guard over the mill property at night, and that when repairs were needed on the water wheel it was he who went down into the pit to attend to the job. Under such conditions it is obvious that "labor problems" as we know them could not have existed.

The hurry and rush of the modern factory seem to have been pleasantly absent. At Thanksgiving, a much more important

holiday in those days than Christmas, the mill was regularly closed for three full days in order that the employees who came from neighboring towns might go home to visit their families. In the mill many of the operations were performed by hand. In skeining the silk a number of girls were employed in the same room. Finding their task monotonous, they brought in books and engaged a reader, thus combining work with pleasure. And it is recorded that as a result the girls did more work and better work. Later the books thus used were collected into a circulating library which formed the nucleus of the South Manchester Public Library. The bringing together of even so small a group in daily



Timothy Cheney House, East Center Street

contact stimulated social life in the community, and the mill itself, often afforded a gathering place after hours. One of the work rooms was occasionally used for dances. The machines were taken up and moved aside to provide floor space. The work benches provided a resting place for the children while their parents enjoyed themselves.

Sewing silk was the only product of the Mt. Nebo mill for the first ten or fifteen years of its existence. During these years, however, important improvements were made in manufacturing methods. One of the earliest improvements was the Rixford Roller which utilized a friction drive in doubling and twisting the fibre. In 1847 Frank Cheney patented a machine somewhat like

the cotton spinning "mule" which combined the operations of doubling, twisting and winding. A demand was created for a new type of sewing silk, by the invention and increasing popularity of the sewing machine between 1840 and 1850.

Machine sewing demanded a stronger and more even thread than had been used in hand sewing. Hence, a product known as "machine twist" was devised, and its manufacture was begun by Cheney Brothers about 1850.

Cheney Brothers in 1855.

In 1855 after years of experimentation the Cheney Brothers made a practical success of spinning waste silk. Heretofore all the raw silk used in American factories was that which had been reeled by an expensive hand process from perfect, i. e., unpierced cocoons. The attempts which had been made, both in this country and in Europe, to utilize the large quantities of pierced cocoons and also masses of silk fibre which had become too tangled to be reeled, had proven unsuccessful. By the adaptation of machinery from cotton and woolen mills, and by the use of special machines invented by them or imported from Europe, the Cheneys were able economically to card and spin into yarn the silk waste, thereby introducing a new development in the American industry.

A period of rapid expansion now began. The company was incorporated as The Cheney Brothers Silk Manufacturing Company and its capital was increased to \$1,000,000. The Manchester plant was enlarged and mills were built in Hartford, also, where a larger labor force was available. Papers which were recently found in the cornerstone of the old office building, erected in 1857, show that the buildings were still of wood. The machinery was driven by water power, although steam for dyeing was supplied by two locomotive boilers.

The weaving of silk ribbons and of dress goods at the Cheney mills was first begun during the Civil War, largely as a result of the high protective duties which were then placed on imported silks. In the years immediately following the close of the war, the expansion of the firm was exceptionally rapid. In 1871 four new factory units, known as "the spinning mills," were built on Elm Street. The number of employees increased from 135 in 1860 to 551 in 1870. Out of a total population of 4,223 about fifteen per cent. were employed in 1870 in the silk mills.

The events of the years 1850-1870 had made the silk mills the leading industrial enterprise in the town but progress was not lacking in other and older branches of manufacture.

PROGRESS IN OTHER BRANCHES OF MANUFACTURE

The Coming of the Railroad.

The opening of the Hartford, Providence and Fishkill Railroad in 1850 gave Manchester its first railroad connection with the outside world.

A group of Manchester men had had very early the vision of a railroad through Manchester. In 1833 John Mather, Royal S. White, Samuel Kellogg, Solomon Porter and Henry Hudson had incorporated the Manchester Railway Company. Their charter gave the right to construct, equip, and operate a railroad between Hartford and Bolton Notch. Not being able to secure capital to construct the road, the incorporators revived the charter from time to time until it was taken over in 1849 by the Hartford, Providence and Fishkill Railroad. This company began at once the construction of the road.

The cheapening of transportation charges was responsible for a marked acceleration in the growth of manufactures. It stimulated the life of the whole community but particularly the village, then known as North Manchester. In 1850 the Pacific Manufacturing Company built a stockinet mill at the site later occupied by the Lydall & Foulds Paper Mill. A year later a second mill was erected by the same company at Manchester Green. A new cotton mill was put into operation by the Union Manufacturing Company in 1854.

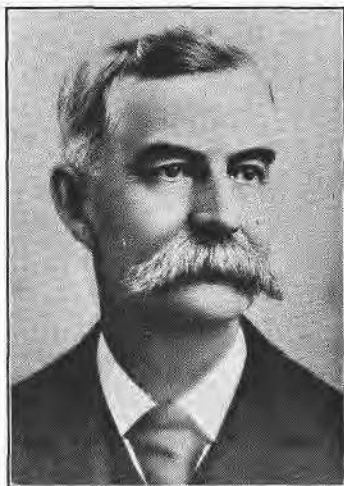
Paper making, one of the town's earliest industries, showed vigorous growth after 1840. Henry Rogers, who succeeded to the control of his father's paper factory in 1841, erected a new mill in 1849, a second in 1852, and a third in 1860.

Below the Rogers' mill on Hop Brook, there were a series of paper mills owned and operated by various members of the Bunce family. About the year 1800 Charles Bunce, Sr., having learned the business of paper making in mills at New Haven and at Hartford, came to Manchester and was employed at the Butler Mill on Hockanum River. The elder Bunce had six sons, Charles Jr., George, Heman, Lewis, Walter and Edwin, who became his associates, and later his successors in paper making. In the year 1849 two paper mills and a woolen mill were operated by members of the Bunce family on Hop Brook in the western part of town. These mills were swept away by the disastrous flood of 1869 and were never rebuilt.

The Flood of 1869.

The historic freshet of October 9, 1869, acquired a very considerable local notoriety, and for a long time people in Manchester referred to events as taking place before or after "the flood," just as people in certain parts of Ireland have been known to date

events by the "day of the big wind." The paper mills and textile mills in Manchester in those days depended for this motive power, principally upon falling water, and so in the valley of each of several brooks and rivers there was a chain of mill ponds. On October 9, 1869, after an unusually severe rain storm, the ponds at the heads of the valleys were suddenly filled to overflowing and their dams gave way. The volume of water thus released tore its way down the water courses, leaving wreckage in its wake.



A. Wells Case



A. Willard Case

On Hop Brook and its tributaries alone, eighteen mill dams were washed away, one after the other, in a single afternoon. That night found the town with all of its ponds empty and all of its bridges gone. Most of the bridges were of flimsy construction consisting simply of log emplacements connected by stringers across which loose planks were thrown. Hence their replacement did not impose a serious financial burden on the community. But for the manufacturers the flood was more disastrous. Most of them faced the situation bravely and began repairs at once. The Bunce paper mills lying below a large dam (now Bridge Street) felt the whole force of the deluge and were completely wrecked.

It was in one of the Bunce mills, that owned by Walter and Edwin Bunce, that three brothers, C. Frank Case, A. Wells Case and A. Willard Case, founders of the present firm of Case Brothers, Inc., learned the trade of paper making. After less than two

years of apprenticeship A. Willard Case, then twenty-one years of age, with his brother Frederick, hired an old mill on the Hockanum River near the present site of St. James' Cemetery and began paper making. His original capital was \$135.

The first venture of the Case Brothers in the southeastern part of town, now known as Highland Park, was made in 1862, when a mill was set up for washing cotton waste. Later paper mills were built there and album boards, binder boards and card middles were manufactured. One of the Case brothers, Henry F., who had learned the machinists trade, displayed unusual inventive ability. He and C. Frank Case set up a shop in 1869 at Highland Park for the manufacture of paper machinery.¹

¹ The later history of the Case Brothers Mills will be found in Chapter X

CHAPTER VIII.

THE EFFECT OF THE GROWTH OF MANUFACTURES ON ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL LIFE

The development of manufactures in Manchester in the first fifty years of our municipal history, although it had not attained large proportions, had brought about significant changes in the social and economic life of the community. Around each factory there grew up a village of workingmen's houses, at the Green, at Buckland, at Union Village, at Oakland, at the Bunce mills on Hartford Road, at the Cheney mills in South Manchester and finally at the Case Brothers' mills at Highland Park. The factory people were consumers and not producers of farm products and for the first time the farmers had a market at home for their grain, meat, milk and butter, fruit and vegetables. The effects which the home market produced were not revolutionary. Rural folk are always conservative. It is harder for them to get out of the rut of the good old ways and consequently changes in farming are always slower than in other industries. But gradually a new spirit was evident among the farmers. They began to take an interest in the newly formed agricultural societies. They overcame their prejudices against new innovations and adopted the cast-iron ploughs in place of their clumsy, ineffective, wooden implements.

CHANGES IN AGRICULTURE AND IN FARM LIFE

With the increasing demand for foodstuffs, the farmers began to raise larger crops and to keep more live stock. But they soon found that they couldn't compete with the newer farms to the westward, in New York State and in Ohio, in wheat, in wool and in beef and pork. After a long and trying period of discouragement and doubt, new lines of farming were adopted, chiefly the production of market milk and of garden truck, in which the nearness to markets gave them a decisive advantage.

Meanwhile a most important change had taken place in the rural households. Now that the farmer for the first time had ready money, he was able to buy in the stores such things as clothes, house furnishings and farm tools, which previously he had made for himself. An official report from Connecticut in 1830 stated that individual and household manufactures were so far abandoned as to be comparatively negligible.

The farm women gladly gave up their homespun industries and many of those who were unmarried went to work in the factories. The graceful spinning wheels and clumsy hand looms were relegated to the attics of the farmhouses, there to accumulate dust and cobwebs until rescued and restored to posts of honor by the antique collectors of our own generation.

The transfer of the textile industries from the farmhouses to factories had a significance which can scarcely be exaggerated. Rev. Horace Bushnell, of Hartford, who probably had observed the changes in progress in our community, said in 1851: "This transition from mother and daughter power to water and steam power is a great one, greater by far than many have as yet begun to conceive, one that is to carry with it a complete revolution in domestic life and social manners." When we contrast the varied and complex life of our community today with the simplicity of earlier times we can appreciate how true was this prophecy.

Growth of Population.

The growth of population in Manchester in the first half-century after its incorporation is attributable directly to the growth of manufacturing. As a rural community dependent entirely upon agriculture, Orford Parish had probably attained in 1820 its maximum growth. Had no other industries been established, the population of Manchester, following the trend of neighboring rural communities, instead of growing would soon have shown a tendency to decline.

The result of the establishment of manufactures in Manchester is shown in the following table:

TABLE II
GROWTH OF POPULATION IN MANCHESTER
1820-1870

Census Year	Number of Inhabitants	Per Cent. of Increase
1820	1400	—
1830	1576	12.4
1840	1695	7.6
1850	2546	50.0
1860	3294	29.4
1870	4223	28.0

The surprising gain in numbers from 1840 to 1850 was owing only in part to the demand for labor in the mills and shops. A part of the increase resulted from the annexation of a tract of land containing about two square miles from the Town of East Windsor.

Immigration also accounted for a part of the increase. Between 1845 and 1860 the first waves of the great movement of



OLD CENTER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Manchester Center

Later used as as a Town Hall. Built in 1826. Sold to Town in 1889.

peoples from northern and western Europe reached Manchester. The Irish came first, and then the English, the Germans and the Swedes. According to the Census of 1870 there were at that date in our community 1,202 persons of foreign birth, or about thirty per cent. of the total population. Owing to religious as well as racial differences, the presence of the new elements in the community which had been so long homogeneous gave rise to a new set of social problems. Between the Irish and the Yankee farmers there was at first much misunderstanding and not a little hostility.



Manchester Center showing Center Congregational and
Methodist Churches. Date 1855.
This M. E. Church (in foreground) was built 1822-1836

Churches in Manchester, 1820-1870 — The First Society.

The growing prosperity of the town and the increasing complexity of its social life was reflected in the growth of the older church societies, the erection of new church edifices and in the establishment of new religious bodies. The First Society, now known as the Center Congregational Church, had passed through a trying period during the years 1790-1815. There had been a succession of short pastorates, and for a number of years the society had been without a settled minister. The recovery from this bad condition was brought about during the pastorate of Rev. Elisha B. Cook (1814-1823) who by the force of his personality brought about a reorganization of the parish and infused into its life a new spirit.

In 1826, during the pastorate of Rev. Enoch Burt, Mr. Cook's successor, a new church building was erected. In this building the society worshipped for fifty-three years. Deprived of its lofty steeple and with its exterior painted brown instead of white, this building, now standing several hundred feet west of its original location, is utilized as our Town Hall.

Between 1824 and 1870 the Center Church had four pastors; Rev. Enoch Burt, 1824-1828; Rev. B. F. Northrop, 1829-1850; Rev. Frederick T. Perkins, 1851-1856; Rev. S. B. Forbes, 1857-1859; and Rev. L. M. Dorman, 1860-1870. The membership varied greatly from time to time, but on the whole showed healthy growth. In 1824 there were one hundred ninety-eight members enrolled; in 1847 the high point for the half-century was reached with a total membership of three hundred twenty-four. The formation of the Second Congregational Church at the North End in 1851 caused a loss of sixty-seven members; in 1871 the membership was given as two hundred thirty-five, but this included not less than fifty absent members whose residence in some cases it was impossible to trace.¹

Second Congregational Church.

The discussion of the formation of a separate church society at the North Village began as early as 1840. Deacon Wilbur Hill, in an address delivered many years later² described the hardships experienced by residents of outlying sections of the town in attending the Sunday services at the Center. He said: "The churchgoing people formed a long line of vehicles, going to and coming from Church. From Buckland . . . from Oakland, and from the East (what is now Lydallville) came teams well loaded with people who attended the two Churches at the Center. There was also a large number whose only means of transportation was by measuring the distance on foot, a walk of two or two and a half miles in boiling sun or biting cold, with a sermon in the morning, Sunday School at intermission, and another sermon in the afternoon. . . . Our trips to the Center, usually made in cowhide boots and heavy clothing, summer and winter the same, were a condition not to be endured in these days."

In October, 1850, an ecclesiastical society of nineteen members was organized in the North Village, a building committee was appointed, subscriptions were raised, and a meeting house 60 x 40 feet was erected at a cost of \$3,100.00. In January, 1851, at a council composed of pastors and delegates from Congregational Churches at Wethersfield, East Hartford, Bolton and Vernon, the Second Congregational Church in Manchester was formally organized with ninety-two members, sixty-seven of whom were formerly members of the First Society. On the same day the new church building was dedicated. About six months later the first pastor, Rev. George E. Hill, (1851-1853) was ordained and installed. His salary was \$600 a year. Within the next twenty

¹ The facts in this paragraph are taken from the *Historical Addresses of Rev. S. W. Robbins and Deacon R. R. Dimock*, 1879.

² Address at dedication of Second Congregational Church, 1900.



Old Methodist Episcopal Church. So. Manchester



North Methodist Episcopal Church. Manchester

years the church had five pastors: Rev. Francis F. Williams, 1853-1856; Rev. Hiram Day, 1857-1859; Rev. W. E. Bassett, 1861-1863; Rev. Henry Loomis, 1864-1867; Rev. E. A. Adams, 1868-1872.

The Methodist Churches.

Methodism in Manchester had its beginnings as early as 1790 with the organization of a church of six members at the home of Thomas Spencer of Spencer Street. Meetings were held at Mr. Spencer's home until the erection of a church building in 1794.

Of the history of the Methodists in Orford Parish in the first two decades of the Nineteenth Century but little is known. By the adherents of the 'established' Congregational Church, the Methodists were regarded as unorthodox and as radicals. The members of the new sect undoubtedly suffered much from the prejudice and bigotry of those days. The Records of the First Parish (Congregational) contain a number of references to the defection of its members to the Methodists. The language used seems to indicate that the departing brethren were regarded as apostate, and that they were abandoned to their misguided ways.¹

Among the members of the new church, however, there were a number of steadfast, patient souls who regularly travelled long distances over wretched roads to attend the Sunday services on Spencer Street.

By 1820 the Methodists seem to have made a definite place for themselves in the community. Under the pastorate of Rev. Ebenezer Blake, in 1821, about one hundred persons were admitted to their membership, and in the following year the cornerstone was laid of a new meeting house, known as the East Methodist Meeting House. It was situated a few hundred feet east of the Congregational Church at the Center. The frame of the church was boarded over and rude furniture was installed, so as to make it available for use, but the building was not completed and dedicated until 1836, or fourteen years after the laying of the cornerstone.

Innovations introduced at this time were box stoves and whale oil lamps. A choir was organized which was accompanied by violins played by Henry E. Rogers and Oliver P. Wilkes, and a bass viol played by John Wyllys.

The relations of the Methodists with the older denomination, the Congregationalists, improved steadily as each grew older and stronger. In place of the early prejudices there arose between them a spirit of harmony, confidence and co-operation. A pioneer in the movement toward a better understanding was Rev. E. B.

¹ See particularly the cases of Brother Jabez Keney and Sister, Josiah Hollister, pp. 59 and 62 of the manuscript copy of the Parish Records now in the possession of Miss Mary Cheney.

Cook whose spirit was remarkably unsectarian. A son of his wrote: "I remember standing on the timbers of the Methodist Church just about to be erected only a few rods from his own, and that he held my hand within his while offering a fervent prayer for the success of the enterprise."¹

"For many years the two houses of worship stood side by side on this pleasant elevation, thus affording facility for the exercise of the spirit of comity and co-operation; a convenience, likewise, for those hearers who are specially fond of variety, consulting their own preference if not always that of their minister in their place of worship — a class that might be called the pendulum class, save that they have not the pendulum's regularity in their vibrations."²

The Temperance and Anti-Slavery Movements.

In the two great reform movements which swept through New England between 1830 and 1860, temperance reform and the anti-slavery movement, the Congregational and Methodist Churches showed active leadership. Rev. Mr. Cook was a pioneer in the temperance movement. "He began his ministry at the time when deacons and other friends visiting the parsonage on Sabbath-noon were refreshed from generous decanters; when for the pastor to take his morning dram and give the children the sugar at the bottom was not an unusual thing; when the entertainment of ministerial gatherings was not complete without the provision of strong drink, with the inevitable liability to the embarrassment arising, in some cases, from over indulgence. It is related that on one occasion at a ministers' meeting in Hartford, Mr. Cook, with some others, became so impressed with the evil tendency of the drinking practice that then and there they came together and pledged themselves to each other to abandon entirely the use of ardent spirits. This was, doubtless, the first decided movement on the side of total abstinence in Hartford and vicinity. The interest of this church in this cause is seen from the record of a meeting held September 26, 1833, at which it was voted: "That hereafter no person shall be admitted to the communion of this church, either upon confession or by letter, who does not recognize the principle of total abstinence from spirituous liquors, and practice accordingly."³

Anti-slavery meetings were frequently held at the Methodist Church and slavery was the topic of many sermons. In 1843 an abolition convention was held in the church and was addressed by Frederick Douglass and other noted speakers. Abolitionists

¹ Quoted in Robbins' *Historical Address*, p. 24.

² Ibid p. 42

³ Robbins, *Historical Address* p. 38.

were not particularly popular in Manchester in those days and several of the Methodist pastors fell into disfavor with members of their congregation because of their straightforward denunciation of slavery.

In 1851 a group of seventy-seven members of the Methodist body withdrew, following the example of the Congregationalists, to form a Methodist Church at the North Village. A few years later, in 1854, the Methodist Meeting House at the Center was abandoned and a new church building was erected at the corner of Main Street and Hartford Road. The site, now one of the most valuable in the town, was purchased from Chauncy B. Knox for \$425. The cost of the building was \$9,741. A bell weighing 1,600 pounds which had been purchased by popular subscription was unfortunately cracked while ringing the call for the dedicatory services.

Baptists.¹

A congregation of the Baptist denomination worshipped in Manchester for a period of approximately fifteen years, from 1826 and 1842. It is described in the records of the Connecticut Baptist Convention, organized 1823, as the Manchester-Vernon Church. The house of worship was at Highland Park and occupied part of the triangle formed by Charter Oak Street and the continuation of Porter Street, and the narrow passway starting near the top of the old town house hill.

Iraenus Brown was one of the foremost of the attendants, and probably one of the founders. He was deacon of the church throughout the period of which there is record. With Rev. Isaac Dwinnell, accredited in the state register as pastor here in 1826 he was delegate to the convention in 1827 when, with four other churches, it was admitted to membership in the convention.

Financial help was asked but the convention "found themselves unable to do so." Home missionary aid from time to time, amounting to not over \$25 in any one year, was given by conventions and a historian of the Baptist Church in Connecticut records that help to the amount of "\$302 was given in 1834 and thereafter the church was marked disbanded."

The statement however, disagrees with original convention reports, which, in the first statistics printed in 1830 disclose that the membership of the "Manchester-Vernon Church" was 123, two members having died during the year and two being excluded. The ratio of membership to population for the church in general in the state that year was one to thirty-two, and on such a basis the church here had a strength more than double according to prevailing ratio.

¹ This account has been taken from the Hartford Courant, September 30, 1923

In 1835 the membership had dwindled to seventy-six, to seventy in 1840, and in the last report presented in 1842, the number was given as sixty-three.

Rev. Silas Wright Robbins wrote that the church at Highland Park was torn down, part being used for a dwelling and part for the construction of a new church in Buckland.¹

Error in judgment in the location of the church probably accounts for the fact that the seed once healthfully planted did not continue to flourish.

St. Mary's Protestant Episcopal Church.

Episcopal services were first held at Manchester, the north end, in 1839 and continued until 1842 under the direction of Rev. Mr. Burgess, afterwards bishop of Maine and also by Rev. Mr. Totten. In 1844, Rev. Wm. C. Corbyn was chosen rector of St. Mary's and services were held at Manchester Green in the old brick school, but in 1846 Cheney Brothers built a little church opposite the Center Church. This building was at length moved to North Manchester and for a period after the resignation of the Rev. Mr. Corbyn, services lapsed, but were resumed in 1851 by Professor Jackson of Trinity College until 1855, when Rev. Enoch Huntington, a retired clergyman, resumed the work. The old church at North Manchester had been sold, but the title was again acquired. Services were intermittent and at length the church closed again.

St. Bridget's Roman Catholic Church.

The Roman Catholic form of worship was first brought to Manchester by arrivals from the South of Ireland. The building of the railroad from Hartford to Providence and the increasing demand for labor in the factories had caused the addition of a considerable number of Irish families to our population before 1850. The earliest services were held in the houses of some of the pioneer Catholics, John Kennedy, James Duffy and Mrs. Patrick Gill. The attitude of some of the native stock toward the newcomers and their church was characterized by a degree of intolerance which we, in these more liberal days find difficult to understand. It is related for example of John Kennedy, that he was summarily warned out of his dwelling by his landlord, a Mr. Stone, because he had permitted mass to be celebrated there. But a swift vengeance overtook the uncharitable landlord, for when the employer of both, the proprietor of the Union Mill, a Mr. Buell, heard the story he discharged Stone and put Kennedy in his place.

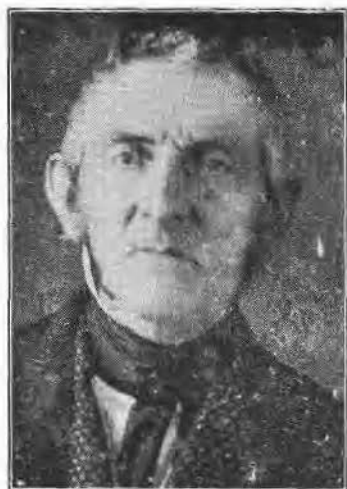
¹ Building was moved to Buckland and is now a dwelling on west side of Adams Street.

In the early fifties Rev. Father James Smythe of Hartford visited Manchester at regular intervals and conducted services there in private houses. Later in 1854, Rev. Peter Egan, the first resident pastor at Rockville, assumed charge of the Mission of Manchester.

The site for the first Roman Catholic Church in Manchester was a half-acre on North School Street which was purchased from Erastus Weaver in 1855. A condition of the sale was that a fence must be erected and maintained for all time between the church property and the residence of Mr. Weaver. The building of the church began in 1858 when Father Tully was in charge of the mission. On October 18 of that year, the day when the frame building was raised, Cheney Brothers closed their mills in order that none of their Catholic employees might be kept away from the ceremony.

The church at Manchester remained a mission of the Rockville church until 1869 when the first resident pastor, Rev. James F. Campbell was appointed.

Schools and Education, 1772-1870.



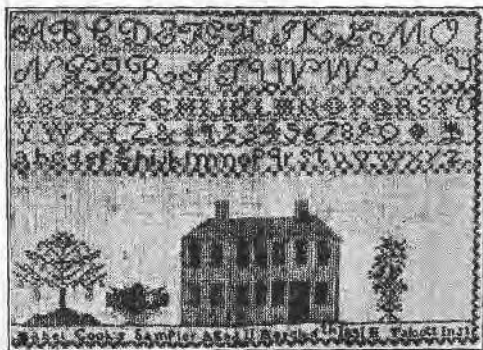
Eli Bissell

When Orford Society was organized it divided into six school districts, numbered and named as follows: First, or Middle; Second, or West; Third, or Southwest; Fourth, or South; Fifth, or East; and Sixth, or North. No map is available to show the boundary lines of these districts but their names indicate in general their location. The map of Manchester prepared in 1849 by Eli Bissell and published by Cheney Brothers shows eight school districts. The Middle District had disappeared, having been divided presumably among several of the other districts. The West and South Districts had been subdivided to make the Northwest and the Southeast Districts, and the Oak-

land District had been formed from the territory annexed from South Windsor in 1842. In 1859 the lines of the school districts were relaid, making nine instead of eight, and the boundaries then established now remain substantially unchanged.

School houses were erected in the Bunce District and the Southwest District (Keeney Street) soon after 1751. In the four remaining original districts, buildings were provided probably before 1800.

The growth of the community in the years 1820-1870 made necessary among other things, an enlargement of school facilities. Manchester Green was the earliest center of village life in the first half of the Nineteenth Century, the most prosperous and populous section of the town. We are not surprised to learn, therefore, that the best schoolhouse in town, in fact the first improvement over the original one-room frame structures, was erected in 1816 at the Green. The new building was of brick, two stories in height, containing two rooms on the first floor with a public hall on the second floor. The upper floor served as a convenient meeting place for various social gatherings. It was the first lodge room of Manchester Lodge of Masons. This was perhaps the first instance of the use in Manchester of a school building for community purposes. The original contract dated February 29, 1816, called for a building of only one story, but a later agreement signed a week afterward enlarged the plans.



First Manchester Green School. From an old Sampler.

Description of Schoolhouse of 1816.

The quaint documents¹ reprinted below give to anyone familiar with building construction a rather vivid picture of the kind of school building in which the grandparents of the children of today studied the three R's.

"Agreement made Between Chauncey Bryant, on the first part, and Benjamin Lyman, Calvin Cheney and Israel Carrier, appointed by the Inhabitants of the East District in the 2d School District in East Hartford, a committee to control and build a school house in sd District agreeable to the vote of sd District, the above mentioned House to be made of brick, the walls to be the length of a brick thick, the length of sd House to be thirty two feet & the breadth twenty two feet, the foundation

¹ Now in the possession of Mr. Aaron Cook of Manchester Green.

to be Dug 18 inches into the Earth and Carried up twelve inches above the Surfis of the Earth, with good Common stone laid in the best and most substantial manner, at least two feet at the bottom and upon sd above mentioned wall to be a tear of hewed stone laid in lime mortar and then a brick wall to be carried up Eight feet before the plate & roof is put on, the Ends to be of brick, the roof to be according to the Draft of sd committee Except their is to be two feet added in width. their is to be twelve windows, 4 in front & 4 in rear with two, windows in Each End sd windows contain 24 lights Each with a door in front according to the plan before mentioned with two other Doors according to sd plan, the thrash hold to the Door to be of stone & the stools to the windows to be of stone well worked and good stone the floors to be according to the plan of the Committee unles other ways agreed. the Jut and Cornish to be according to the plan of the committee. the inside of sd hous to be as follows. the floor to be oak split in the hart and lined. the stuff to be thourroughly seasoned and laid in the best manner to be Divided into two rooms. the East one to be twelve feet East and west and fifteen the other way. to be a space or Entry way in front of the small room with two Doors well made and hung in the best manner, the partition to be made of plank matched to geather in the best manner. the Cross (setts) to be supported with 3 pillars under Each — and the west room to be finished of with a riting bench or table round the room made substantial to the wall, of a wedth, say the slant 20 inches and six inches the back part to be level, the walls to be plastered, overhead to be lathed and plastered, the benches to be of plank at least one & half inch thick of sutible wedth for convenience to be one seting bench round the room for the riters and in this and the other room to be two tear of seting benches with backs, to be one fireplace in Each end of the house with large harths of Drakes stone or the Bolton grind stone quarry, at least the harths to be two feet and a half from the front of the jams. to be a floor laid ovehead of one thickness of boards, the work all to be Done in a workmanlike manner of the best of materials according to agreement to the Excepance of the District by their committee for which the sd Chauncey Bryant shall Receive three Hundred and forty Dollars together with the old School House now standing in sd Destrict the consideration for which the sd Chauncey Bryant agrees to build sd school House and have it compleated by the first of October next to the turning of the Key and the committee agree on their part that the Destrict or proprietors shall pay the sum of three Hundred and forty Dollars by and before the sd House is finished, provided that it is Done according to agreement.

"in witness whereof we have set out hands this Day of February 1816.

"East Hartford

"February 29th 1816.

"Chauncey Bryant.	} Committee
Benjamin Lyman	
Calvin Cheney	
Israel Carrier	

* * * * *

"East Hartford, March 6, 1816.

"This agreement Between Chauncey Briant on the first part and Benjamin Lyman and Calvin Cheney and Israel Carrier, a comitee to Contract and Build a house for the Proprietors of the Publick hall, so called, to be erected in the East Destrict in the East Society in East Hartford to be added upon the school house which the Destrict has Contracted with sd Bryant to Build. sd Bryant agrees to add a story of Brick. the wall to Be Seven feet high, sd Bryant agrees to finish sd House the out side compleat and also to furnish Eight stone window caps for the Lower Story and one stone Door Cap. the window stools at the Ends and front to be stone, the Cornish in front and at the end to Be a Medillion Cornish to be a Cording to the Vote of the Proprietors. the windows to be twenty Lights Each, to be twelve windows. sd Bryant agrees to finish the out side Compleat and to Lay the floor which is to be White or Yellow pine Plained and Case the windows and also to make the frame to the arch acording to the plan drawn by the Comitee and also to Build a fireplace at the West end of house. Lay a Hearth, the work to be done in a workmanlike maner to the acceptance of the Comitee for which sd Bryant is to receive two hundred Dollars Provided he do the work acording to agreement and finish it By the first of October next. sd above mentioned Comitee agree sd proprietors shall or their Clerk Pay to sd Chauncey Bryant two Hundred Dollars for the above mentioned Contract, Provided that he finish it.

"Particular reference to be had to the vote and Draft.

"Israel Carrier	} Comitee.
Benjamin Lyman	

* * * * *

New school buildings were provided in every district in town indicating not only that enlarged facilities were needed but that the taxpayers were able and willing to appropriate money for educational purposes.

The increasing importance of the North Village resulting from manufacturing growth we have seen already reflected in the building of three churches in that section between 1850 and 1860. At this time also the "North End" erected new school buildings

which were probably at that time the largest and best equipped in the town. At least three school houses had been erected in different locations in this district at various dates before 1860. The first was situated where Main Street crosses the railroad tracks, the second and third near the corner of North Main and North School Streets. The third building of two rooms is referred to in the earliest record of the Eighth District now extant, that of a meeting in October, 1853. At a meeting September 13, 1860 it was voted to add a wing on the north side of the school house. Three rooms were then available and three teachers were employed.

The Ninth School District, now the most populous in the town, was the last to be organized. It was formed in 1859 out of portions of several other districts. At that time most of the children attended school in the old Academy building at the Center, later known as the Masonic Hall. Others were housed in a small building on Center Street. The building in 1871 of a four-room school on Main Street between School and Wells Streets was the first step in the location of the present educational center of the town.



East Academy, Parker St.

Private or Select Schools.

There being no public high schools in the early days, the boys and girls who wished to pursue the "higher branches," i. e., the subjects beyond the grammar grades, had to depend upon private or "select" schools, paying tuition charges for their instruction.

The East Academy.

Between 1850 and 1860 there were two select schools in Manchester known as the Center Academy and the East Academy.¹ The existence of two such institutions situated within a mile of each other, the one just east of the Center Church, and the other near the site of the Old Glass Works is indicative of the divided state of society in the town.

¹ A vote of the town meeting of 1847 granted permission to construct the Center Academy in the highway at the Center.

Each academy had its own group of promoters and supporters, and no common plan of co-operation could be worked out. The promoters of the Manchester High School, or the East Academy, included some of the most prosperous and influential citizens of the town. Most of them lived at Manchester Green. In 1846 they organized the Manchester Academic Association pledging conditionally the sum of \$2,000 for the founding of a select school.

The original subscribers were:

Salmon Lyman	E. A. Bliss
Holt and Chapman	Aaron Cook
John Rathbone	Deodatus Woodbridge
Mary Menone	Columbus Parker
Marvin Cone	Hart Porter
Horace Pitkin	Ralph Wyllys
George G. Griswold	Experience Stearns
M. & R. Cone	Francis Woodbridge
Wells Woodbridge	Williams & Brother
Benjamin Lyman	Edward Griswold
Ch. Pitkin	Wm. Scott
N. W. Spencer	C. A. Woodbridge
M. Keeney and Sons	H. & M. Landfear
Nathaniel Hubbard	Wm. C. Williams
John Wyllys	

The following prospectus issued in 1856 presents the aims of the school and its methods:

"This *Institution*, located in the pleasant Town of Manchester, nine miles east from Hartford, Conn., *via* Hartford, Providence and Fishkill Railroad, is open for pupils of both sexes. The plan of its proprietors, contemplates an ample corps of *Teachers*, a *wide* range of *studies* and a thorough and systematic course of mental and moral discipline.

"Arrangements have been made for the formation of a Normal Class of those designing to teach during the winter, commencing on the last Wednesday in August, annually.

"The year is divided into *four* sessions of eleven weeks each.

"Young Ladies applying for admission to the school, or for board, will please address the Preceptress. Young Gents, the Principal at Manchester.

NORMAN W. SPENCER, Principal.

Miss ELECTA H. BUCKLAND, Preceptress."

Instruction at the East Academy was discontinued during the Civil War. The building stood vacant for a number of years and was then torn down and the material used for a dwelling house.



Depot Square in 1877.



First Manchester Post Office.

CHAPTER IX.

MANCHESTER'S SERVICE IN THE CIVIL WAR

The records of Manchester's service in the Civil War afford notable examples of patriotic self-sacrifice on the part of individual soldiers and also show prompt and effective action by the community in the face of a national emergency. Out of a total voting population of 658 Manchester sent 268 men to the war,¹ 241 volunteers and 27 drafted men. Forty-eight lost their lives in the struggle, seven of whom were killed in action, the remainder dying from wounds and disease. Seventeen were captured and confined in Confederate prisons.

The record is not without its dark spots. Out of the Manchester quota, thirty-three are entered on the list of the Adjutant General's office as deserters.¹ More than one-half of the renegades were drafted men.

Manchester men distinguished themselves by notable exploits, seven attaining the rank of commissioned officers. John Otis left Manchester in 1861 as first lieutenant of Company B, (10th Regiment, Connecticut Volunteers) which he had assisted in recruiting. His bravery and ability won him quick promotion. When wounded at Newbern, North Carolina, he was captain. In 1863 he was raised to a colonelcy and two years later in recognition of his services in the battles around Richmond he was made brigadier general by brevet.

Frank W. Cheney was lieutenant-colonel of the Sixteenth Volunteer Infantry which was organized in the fall of 1862. Almost immediately upon the arrival of the regiment in the South it went into action at Antietam. Colonel Cheney who was in command of the regiment received a wound in the right arm which unfitted him for further service. It was during the same engagement that Captain F. M. Barber received fatal wounds. His body was brought to Manchester at the town's expense and was buried with military honors.

The Civil War on the Union Side differed greatly from the World War in the methods of raising troops. Reliance was

¹ Not including forty-six non-residents who, attracted by the town's bounties, enlisted from Manchester.

² The names of the deserters have not been included in the list given on pp.

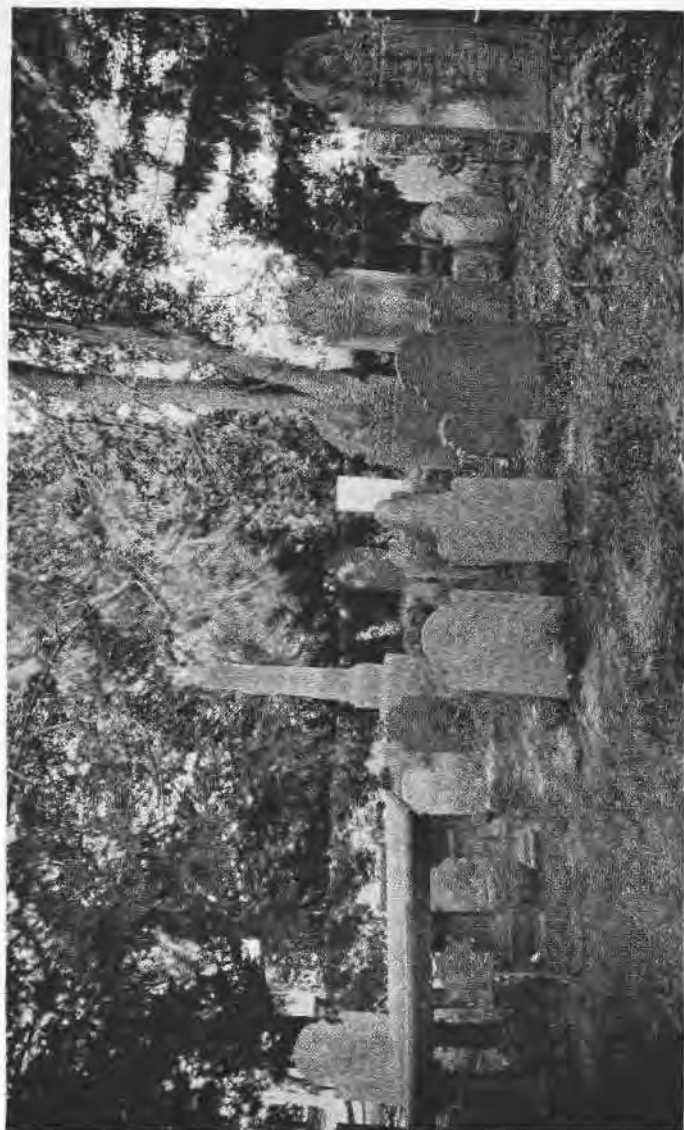
placed almost entirely upon volunteering. The draft was not resorted to until relatively late in the struggle and even then it was not universal in its application, but was used only in those communities which had not filled up their assigned quotas of volunteers. The State and town governments vied with each other in their liberal expenditures for bounties, premiums, etc., to stimulate volunteering in order to avoid the stigma, for so it was considered, of conscription. The Manchester Town records during the war years are concerned principally with votes of money to stimulate volunteering and to provide for soldiers' families.

On April 15, 1861, President Lincoln issued a call for 75,000 volunteers for three months' service. The response throughout the North was immediate and enthusiastic. Young men in every community hastened to offer themselves in numbers far in excess of the assigned quotas. The Connecticut quota was one regiment. Within two weeks, three regiments were ready. In Manchester a town meeting was held, April 30, to appropriate funds for fitting out volunteers and to aid their families. The meeting voted to guarantee all unmarried volunteers \$12 a month in addition to their pay, and \$18 a month to married men. An appropriation of \$700 was made for the purchase of revolvers, blankets, shirts, and other equipment.

The war wasn't over in three months, however. In July 1861, Congress authorized 500,000 volunteers and a year later the President issued a call for 300,000 more soldiers. In response to this call a special town meeting in Manchester appointed a committee to take charge of raising a company of volunteers for three years' service. Payments of \$6 a month were authorized to wives of volunteers with \$2 a month additional for all children under fourteen years. Each volunteer was offered a bounty of \$25. As a result of the activities of the town's committee, Company H, Sixteenth Volunteer Infantry, was organized, which included forty-five residents of Manchester.

In October of the same year the organization of a company of nine months' volunteers was undertaken, and the town meeting voted \$200 each to the first fourteen men presenting themselves.

In the summer of 1863 it became apparent that sufficient forces couldn't be raised for the Union armies by voluntary enlistments and very reluctantly the President made use of the powers granted by Congress and put in force a policy of conscription not as a substitute for, but a supplement to volunteering. With stated exceptions all able-bodied male citizens between the ages of twenty and thirty-five (the upper limit was forty-five years for unmarried men) were declared liable to military duty. Enrollment lists were prepared from which a draft might be ordered at the President's discretion. Conscription was not



CORNER OF EAST CEMETERY, EAST CENTER STREET

therefore nation wide, as in our day, but was applied locally when necessary to fill up quotas which could not be filled by volunteer enlistments.

In another feature there was an astonishing difference between the Civil War drafts and those of the World War. In those days a drafted man could escape service, either by furnishing a substitute or by paying \$300 for his "commutation" to the government. The commutation money was spent in bounties to stimulate volunteering. On the face of it this seemed rank injustice, since the rich man could buy himself free while the poorer members of the community would be forced to go to the front. The town governments, however, made every effort to alleviate this injustice by appropriating money to provide substitutes or pay the commutation of drafted men. Thus a Manchester Town meeting of 1863 voted to pay not to exceed \$300 each to its drafted men "who may be actually needy and require pecuniary assistance for themselves or their families." The attitude of the community toward the draft is indicated in the call for the meeting which refers to "those who have been so unfortunate as to have been drafted."

The procuring of substitutes seems to have been a fairly easy matter so that it is probable that none of the twenty-seven men drafted in Manchester actually served, except by proxy, and the proxies generally didn't serve very long. For the lavish payments of bounties and premiums for volunteers and the purchase of substitutes gave rise to a class of professional "bounty-jumpers," as they were called. They were a promiscuous lot of renegades who joined the ranks only to get the money offered and promptly deserted at the first opportunity. Out of Manchester's 268 soldiers, thirty-three or one in eight are recorded as deserters. Of these eighteen or over one-half were substitutes for drafted men.¹ The record for the draft in the state shows of a total of 1,303 called, 913 were exempted. Of the 309 accepted for duty in the field, 184 never reported at camp and eighty-one deserted after arriving at camp.²

The dark disgrace of the deserters throws into even sharper relief the noble action of those who marched, and fought, and endured the tortures of wounds and disease in their devotion to the cause of Union and freedom. Their names are found in the following roster. Stars are prefixed to the names of those who died in the service.

Albiston, John B.³
 Allen, Henry B.³
 Allshaw, Thomas

Bidwell, Warren W.
 Bingham, John F.³
 Bingham, Orsemus³

¹ Trumbull, *History of Hartford County, Connecticut*, 1 103.

² Crofut and Morris, *Military and Civil History of Connecticut*, 204 et seq.

³ Not a resident of Manchester.

- Annis, Henry B.
 Annis, William
 Avery, Alfred¹
 Avery, Charles
 Bagain, Thomas
 *Barber, Frederick M.
 Barrett, George G.
 Barrows, Dwight¹
 Barrows, Henry W.
 Battersby, J. C.
 Belknap, LeRoy W.
 Berry, William
 Bidwell, Delos S.
 *Bidwell, Salmon H.
 Buckland, Ralph¹
 Buell, George F.
 Bugbee, George H.¹
 Burke, Michael
 Burke, William
 Burnham, Edward¹
 Burnham, George
 Burns, John
 Burton, John
 *Callaghan, Thomas
 Campbell, Otho H.
 Carter, Johnson
 Chadwick, George C.
 *Chadwick, William H.
 Chapin, Loan A.
 Chapman, Fred T.
 *Chapman, James B.
 Chapman, Maro S.
 Cheney, Frank W.
 Cheney, George W.¹
 Chism, Charles D.¹
 Cole, Alvin¹
 Cole, Hiram S.
 Coleman, Emulous
 Conner, Dennis
 *Conner, Thomas
 Cook, Aaron
 Cooley, Frederic P.¹
 *Couch, John H.
 Covell, William C.¹
 Cowan, Frank
 Crane, Curtis L.¹
 Bingham, Wells A.¹
 *Bishop, Hobert D.
 Blish, Hiram
 Bowen, Charles F.
 Bragg, Frank¹
 Bragg, John¹
 Bragg, Syril¹
 Bronson, James H.
 *Brookman, George
 *Brookman, James H.
 Brown, Edwin H.
 Brown, William E.¹
 Brown, William W.¹
 Bryan, John
 Fagan, John
 Farrell, Thomas
 Fielding, John W.¹
 Foley, Patrick
 Forbes, Horace H.
 Fox, Bruce E.
 Fox, Charles W.
 Fox, Michael
 Fuller, Alfred R.
 Gates, Herbert M.¹
 Gates, Waldo J.
 Geer, Thomas
 Gigger, Josiah
 Gleason, Andrew J.
 Gleason, Henry B.
 Golden, Charles H.
 Granville, Edward S. C.
 Gray, Dennison
 *Gray, Henry T.
 Grey, Samuel W.
 Green, Charles I.
 Greges, Conrad
 Griswold, Dennis K.
 Hale, Allen S.¹
 Hannah, Thomas
 Hatch, Charles A.
 *Haverty, Daniel
 *Hayden, Henry¹
 Hill, Henry C.
 Hodge, Chauncey
 Hodge, Evander
 *Hodge, Nelson¹

¹ Not a resident of Manchester.

- Crippen, George¹
 Cullumns, George¹
 Cullumns, William N.
 *Curley, John¹
 *Cushman, Orrin J.
 *Davrix, Patrick¹
 Deming, Charles F.
 Derby, William¹
 Dow, Johnson S.
 Durand, Adolph
 Dutton, Charles H.
 *Dynes, George
 Ebell, Frederick
 *Eynstrom, Charles
 Keeney, Almon N.
 *Keeney, Amandor C.
 Keeney, Charles W.
 Keeney, George M.
 *Keeney, James R.
 Keeney, Maranthon H.
 Keeney, Valette
 *Keith, Bela M.
 Keith, George D.
 *Keith, James M.
 Kennedy, John
 Kies, Harris L.¹
 King, James P.
 King, John
 *King, Samuel W.
 King, Winfield
 *Knox, George F.
 Lathrop, Edwin H.
 Lay, Amos
 Lee, George E.
 Loomis, Chauncey S.
 Loomis, Chester H.
 Loveland, David A.
 *Lyman, Levi F.
 McCann, James
 McCormack, Thomas
 McGee, William J.
 McGrath, James
 McGuire, Addison
 McKee, Charles H.
 McLean, William S.
 McManus, Henry¹
 Hollister, Bridgman J.
 Hollister, Henry H.
 Holmes, Norman L.¹
 Horsley, John
 House, Henry D.
 *Hubbard, Rufus N.
 Hudson, Philip W.
 Hughes, William
 *Ingersoll, Clarence L.
 Ingram, Edward T.
 Irish, Joseph
 Isham, John W.¹
 Johnson, Hugh
 *Johnson, Peter
 Johnson, Rufus
 Keeney, Albert W.
 O'Brien, Patrick¹
 *O'Conner, Patrick
 Olcott, James H.¹
 Orr, James
 Otis, John L.
 Parsons, Joseph
 Perkins, Alvin
 *Perkins, David B.
 Perry, James M.
 Pickering, William
 Porter, John T.¹
 Porter, William W.¹
 *Post, Ezekiel L.
 Potter, Henry
 Prella, Lewis¹
 Price, James M.
 Putnam, George
 Quinn, Isaac M.
 Rich, George F.
 *Risley, Charles W.¹
 Risley, Elisha¹
 Risley, George R.
 Risely, Russell A.
 Robertson, Henry W.
 *Robinson, Charles
 Robinson, William H.¹
 Roe, George O.
 Rose, Daniel
 Ross, David
 Roth, Joseph M.

¹ Not a resident of Manchester.

McNall, George	Rummell, Andrew J. ¹
McNary, William	Russell, William C.
McNary, William G.	Safford, Pascal R.
*Mahoney, Dennis	*Salter, Watson C.
*Marble, George	Saunders, Gilbert
Marble, William S.	Schildge, George
Massey, William ¹	Schofield, Thomas
Millard, Frederick	*Shaw, John W.
Miller, Frank	Shepard, Theron
Muller, Joshua	Sherman, Robert
Monarch, John	Skinner, Charles B. ¹
Morris, George	Slate, Arthur F.
*Munsell, Frederick	Slate, William H.
Murphy, Patrick	*Smith, John
Norton, Gilbert B.	Smith, Richard H.
Norton, William L.	Spencer, Andrew M.
Stone, Frank	Spencer, George M.
Stoughton, Sanford ¹	*Stanbrook, Thomas
Strong, Edgar E.	West, William H.
Strong, Harrison A.	Wetherell, Joseph A.
Sullivan, Charles C.	Wetmore, Samuel ¹
Sullivan, Eugene	Wheeler, Anson J.
Sullivan, John	Wheeler, Edgar C.
Sullivan, John	*Wheeler, Lucius
*Sweetland, Julius	White, Henry T.
Sweetland, Ransom	White, Thomas
*Talcott, Lucius	*Whitney, William
Taylor, Frederick	Wilder, Elihu
Taylor, Lester M.	Williams, Elijah
Taylor, Nathaniel	Williams, William A.
Thompson, Elisha A.	Williamson, Fred B.
Touhy, James	*Wilsey, Julius C.
Tufts, William H.	Wilson, John W. ¹
Vail, Henry W. ¹	Winchester, Frank M.
*Walbridge, George B.	Winchester, Jr., John
Waldo, Frederick	Wood, Loyd A. ¹
Warburton, John B.	Woodbridge, Edward A.
Warner, Dwight D. ¹	*Wright, Francis H.
Welton, Frederick J.	Wright, George

A contribution from Manchester towards the arming of the Civil War was the Spencer repeating rifle. The inventor, Christopher Miner Spencer, was a native of Manchester, being the son of Ogden Spencer, a wool dealer. In 1849 at the age of sixteen, the boy went to work in Cheney Brothers' mill. He had then completed an apprenticeship as a machinist in the shop of Samuel Loomis and had also studied at Wilbraham Academy. Between

¹ Not a resident of Manchester.

1849 and 1856 the young machinist worked in a number of shops in New England and New York. In 1856 he became Superintendent of Cheney Brothers' machine shop and it was at about this time that his repeating rifle was invented. A patent was secured in March, 1860. Soon after the outbreak of the war the manufacture of the rifles was begun in Boston by the Spencer Repeating Rifle Company, a concern which was largely financed by Cheney Brothers. The arm having been tested and proved successful in actual warfare, contracts were secured for quantities up to the capacity of the plant. By the end of the war, about 200,000 of the new rifles had been delivered to the government.

There is a tradition that President Lincoln himself took an interest in Spencer's rifles and that he tested one of them on the grounds behind the White House.

Spencer's fame as a mechanical genius does not depend alone on the repeating rifle. During the early years of his service with Cheney Brothers he invented a silk spooling machine which later proved of great importance in the manufacture of cotton and linen thread. He was interested in steam engines and during the war he built a steam automobile in which he drove to and from his work. The automatic screw machine, Spencer's greatest invention, was manufactured in Hartford by Billings and Spencer and other firms. Mr. Spencer was actively interested in many developments in the field of machinery and mechanics until the very end of his life. He died in 1922 at Hartford, in his eighty-ninth year.



Christopher W. Spencer

Part IV

The Development of a Modern Community

CHAPTER X

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Progress in Silk Manufacturing.

Every one of the five brothers, Charles, Ralph, Ward, Rush and Frank Cheney, who were the original active members of the firm of Cheney Brothers, is now dead. But the business has been carried on continuously by their descendants. For seventy years it has been controlled and conducted by a single family, to whom must be given the credit, not only for the foundation, but for much of the later development of the silk industry in America. Since they began, in 1838, many other silk manufactories have been established in America. But these have started in later years, most of them full fledged, profiting by the experience of Cheney Brothers, the pioneers, and of foreign factories. Furthermore, those who later entered the business confined themselves to one branch of it, such as spinning, weaving or dyeing, or to one class of silk products, thread, ribbons, dress goods or velvets.

Today Cheney Brothers produce every variety of silk thread and fabric demanded by the market and conduct every process of manufacture, from the raw silk to the finished product, on their own premises. This is done by no other firm in America, or in the entire world.

It is remarkable that one family has been able for so long a period to continue the ownership of such a rapidly growing business without the introduction of new blood into the firm. While Cheney Brothers have from time to time availed themselves of the best talent available in this and foreign countries in the development of new lines in their industry, they have retained the corporate ownership and administration in the hands of their own family. This has been possible through the number and character of the offspring of the original brothers. Large families have been the rule, and the young men of these several families have generally remained at home to bear their share of the increasing burdens of the management. As a result no less than fifteen male members of the Cheney family are now daily employed as the heads of the different departments. The majority

SECOND GENERATION OF CHENEY BROTHERS



John S. Cheney
James W. Cheney
George W. Cheney

Knight D. Cheney
Frank W. Cheney
Charles S. Cheney

Harry G. Cheney
Richard O. Cheney
William H. Cheney

are graduates of colleges or technical schools and have served an apprenticeship in the actual work of the mills.

In an earlier chapter we have traced the growth of Cheney Brothers' business from that small beginning in 1838 until 1870. In 1871, the group of mills known as the spinning mills was erected and the firm began to manufacture on a large scale spun silks from pierced cocoons for their own use and for sale to other manufacturers. In the eighties a group of weaving mills was erected and the assortment of woven fabrics was greatly enlarged. Then followed the great block of velvet mills for the manufacture of a line of goods which in 1880 the firm had just begun to produce. In 1907 and 1908 another fine block of mills was built to take the place of the Hartford mills and to be known as the Ribbon Mills.

During the last twenty years the older buildings have been almost entirely rebuilt, modernized and enlarged. Extensive additions have been made to the dyeing department, including a large two-story concrete dyehouse. The firm's factory buildings and storehouses now include over twenty-four acres of floor space. The number of persons on the payroll has increased to 4,400. The firm pays taxes in Manchester on a valuation of nearly \$15,000,000.

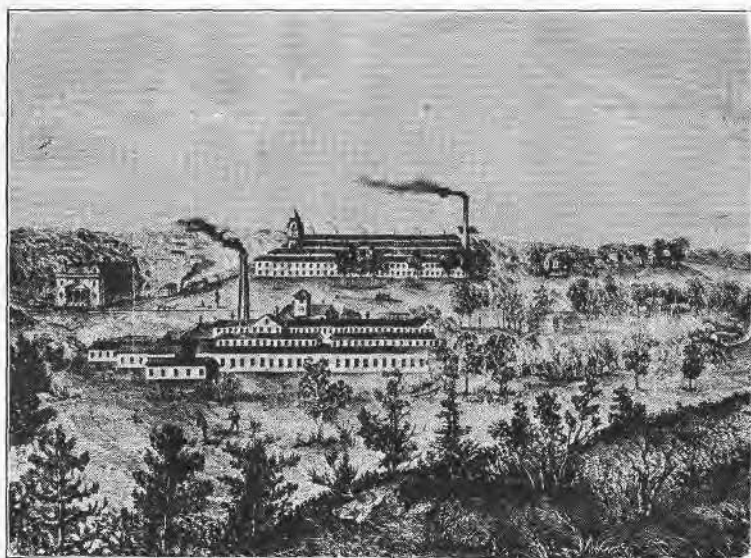
The increase in the number of employees at successive census periods is shown in the following table:

TABLE III
EMPLOYEES OF CHENEY BROTHERS

Date	Number of Employees	Increase Number	Increase Per Cent.
1838	30	.....	.....
1848	86	56	186.6
1860	135	49	57.0
1870	551	416	308.2
1880	1,165	614	111.4
1890	1,786	621	53.3
1900	2,675	889	49.8
1910	3,965	1,290	48.2
1920	4,670	705	17.8
1923	4,414	256*	

*Decrease.

The establishment of this great industry in Manchester was not due to the natural advantages of the place, to its shipping facilities, nor to its superior opportunities for securing employees — considerations which often determine the location of large manufacturing plants. Because Timothy Cheney, in the early



Cheney Brothers Mill in 1876



Cheney Brothers Old Office

days of the republic, built a dam and a grist mill on Hop Brook, his grandsons thought it advisable to utilize this small water privilege for their first silk mill. The water power was soon outgrown and was succeeded by a steam power plant. As the enterprise expanded and its power requirements became larger and more varied the firm was forced to levy upon the resources the town afforded. To the fullest development of these resources it has devoted large capital, and skill and ingenuity comparable to that employed in its manufacturing operations. It has built large reservoirs and has bought and closed many smaller manufacturing plants in order that it might obtain the water needed for manufacturing and domestic purposes. It built and equipped and for many years has operated a steam railroad, two miles long, connecting with the main line between New York and Boston. It has bought hundreds of acres of land, some of which it has used for the private residences of members of the firm, some of which it has sold to employees at a low price that they might build their own homes, and much of which it still holds to protect the watersheds of its reservoirs.

Although the firm has encouraged its operatives to build homes of their own, it has, nevertheless, been obliged to erect hundreds of dwellings to be occupied by employees. It has built and macadamized the roads in the vicinity of its plant and has bordered them with fine sidewalks. It has erected school buildings, with capacity for 1,700 pupils and a boarding house for 100 teachers. It has established gas and electric light plants for the use of the community and has supplemented its water supply with a complete sewer system.

All its work in the development of the physical features of the place has been on the most generous scale. The land surrounding the mills and the Cheney residences for a radius of half a mile is laid out and maintained as a park in which the best ideas in landscape gardening and forestry are exemplified. Its large reservoirs are models of substantial construction. Its railroad yard is as neat and orderly as a boulevard. The effect of Cheney Brothers' example is seen in the private dwellings of the place. Most of them are of a much better grade than those usually found in manufacturing communities and many are surrounded by well-kept and prettily decorated lawns.

In addition to problems of a physical nature there was the help problem to be solved. To perform the many operations of manufacturing the beautiful fabrics produced in later years, to say nothing of the outside construction work, many skilled artisans were necessary. In 1860 the entire population of Manchester was less than the number of persons now employed by Cheney Brothers alone. At that time most of the residents were native farmers. Many of the women took work from the silk mills to their homes and so helped out the husband's earnings. But the

expansion of the business soon outstripped the local labor supply and its growth would have been seriously impeded had it not been for the tide of immigration of the years 1860-1880. Since then the growing demands of the firm have been mainly supplied by foreign born help. Irish, Swedes, Germans, Frenchmen, Italians and Russians may now be found in large numbers on the payroll. The Irish were the first to come and many of them have risen to places of responsibility. The Germans brought the scientific skill for which their native land is noted; the French brought their taste for color and design, and the firm owes much of its recent progress to the skill and ability of its assistants from the Old World.

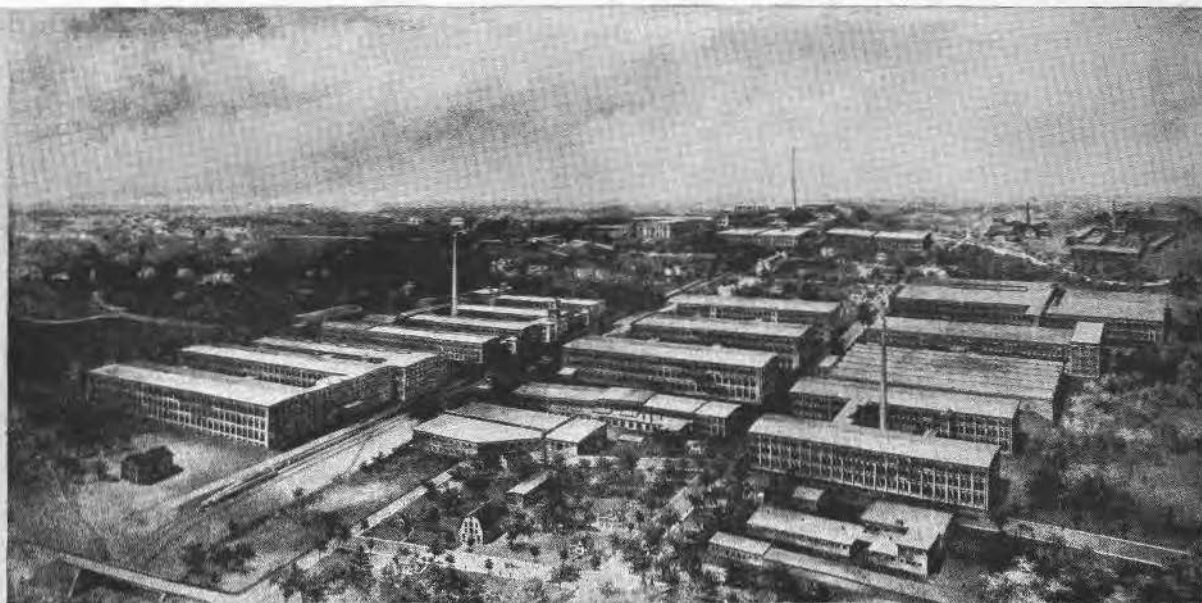
The representation of various nationalities as shown by the most recent factory census was as follows: Americans, 1,879; Irish, 759; English, 718; Scotch, 57; Italians, 418; Austrians, 193; Swedes, 174; Germans, 137; Poles, 132; Russians, 81; Lithuanians, 71; French, 60; Swiss, 27.

For the rank and file of the employees the firm has done everything in its power to make them good citizens and good workmen. It has given them good wages and steady employment and so encouraged them to remain here and develop their skill. The upward trend in average weekly wages notwithstanding the reduction of one-third in the weekly working period is shown in the following table:

TABLE IV
AVERAGE WAGES PAID BY CHENEY BROTHERS
TO ALL EMPLOYEES
1843-1923

Year	Weekly Working Period	Average Earnings Per Hour	Average Earnings Per Week
1843	72 hours	\$.0428	\$3.08
1848	72 "	.072	5.18
1856	72 "	.078	5.62
1860	72 "	.081	5.80
1863	60 "	.107	6.42
1870	60 "	.149	8.94
1880	60 "	.132	7.92
1890	60 "	.151	9.06
1900	60 "	.156	9.36
1910	60 "	.179	10.74
1914	55 "	.204	11.22
1920	48 "	** .608	**21.15
1923 (July)	48 "	.608	29.18

** (Note — The peak of hourly earnings was reached in the last quarter of 1920, but owing to the plant being operated on 34.8 hours per week, full time weekly earnings were not obtained by the employees.)



YORKSHIRE LITHOGRAPHY AND PRESS GROUP WEAVING MILLS
LENGTH 330 FT.

SPINNING MILLS LENGTH 330 FT.
STONE HOUSE

MACHINE SHOP

WEAVING MILLS LENGTH 330 FT.

TOTAL AREA OF FLOOR SPACE 2512,000 SQ. FT.

SPINNING MILLS LENGTH 330 FT.
WASH DYE HOUSE LENGTH 330 FT.
VELVET WEAVING MILLS LENGTH 330 FT.
RIBBON MILLS LENGTH 330 FT.

THE MILLS OF
CHENEY BROTHERS
MANUFACTURERS
SOUTH MANCHESTER, CONN.

CHENEY BROTHERS MILLS 1923

Cheney Brothers has provided a large public library for the free use of all and has paid close attention to the education of children. They have built and maintained a hall for the free use of employees and the public in their amusements. The health and comfort of the employees has been fostered by the provision of the finest mills in the world, well heated, lighted and ventilated, by free baths, and by sanitary provisions throughout the entire community. As a result there is not a better-dressed, better-housed or more intelligent set of operatives in any textile mill in America.

A list of the presidents and directors of the company since its incorporation is given below:

PRESIDENTS

Ward Cheney	1855-1876	Frank W. Cheney	1893-1894
Rush Cheney	1876-1882	Knight D. Cheney	1894-1907
Frank Cheney	1882-1893	Frank Cheney, Jr.	1907-

DIRECTORS

Ward Cheney	1855-1876	John S. Cheney	1885-1910
Charles Cheney	1855-1874	Richard O. Cheney	1893-1912
Rush Cheney	1855-1882	Frank Cheney, Jr.	1893-
Frank Cheney	1855-1893	K. D. Cheney, Jr.	1907-1909
Frank W. Cheney	1855-1909	Charles Cheney	1909-
Ralph Cheney	1861-1893	Robert Cheney	1910-
John Cheney	1865-1885	Clifford D. Cheney	1910-
Knight D. Cheney	1886-1907	Horace B. Cheney	1912-
Arthur Cheney	1876-1878	William C. Cheney	1912-
Harry G. Cheney	1882-1918	Philip Cheney	1918-
James W. Cheney	1883-1912		

Industrial insurance for the employees in the Cheney mills is provided by the Benefit Association established in 1910. A fund has been created by weekly assessments deducted from wages of the members to which the Company adds a contribution equal to twenty-five per cent. of the total. Out of the fund is paid accident and health insurance, old age pensions and death benefits. Membership in the association is not compulsory. At present there are about 3,300 members, or seventy-five per cent. of the total number of employees.

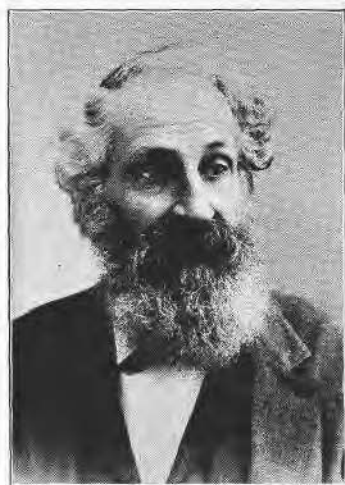
An employment bureau was installed in 1908 in order to ensure a better adaptation of workers to their jobs and to prevent excessive labor turnover. Its effectiveness and the exceptional conditions of employment in the Cheney factories have produced an unusual stability in the labor force. A recent canvass of 4,130 employees showed that 2,607, or over sixty per cent., had been on the payroll for five years or longer. The following table shows in full the distribution of the employees by terms of service.

TABLE V

EMPLOYEES OF CHENEY BROTHERS
GROUPED ACCORDING TO LENGTH OF EMPLOYMENT

Length of Employment	Males	Females	Total
0-5 years	804	719	1,523
5-10 "	641	354	995
10-15 "	423	180	603
15-20 "	249	93	342
20-25 "	169	69	238
25-30 "	102	45	147
30-35 "	98	41	139
35-40 "	63	16	79
40-45 "	34	4	38
45-50 "	17	3	20
50-55 "	8	...	8
	2,608	1,522	4,132

The Rogers Paper Manufacturing Company.



Henry E. Rogers

The manufacture of paper, one of the town's earliest industries, still continues a thriving business. The oldest local firm in this branch of manufacturing is that founded by Peter Rogers in 1832. Under the ownership of Henry E. Rogers, son of the founder, mills were operated on Hartford Road and on Charter Oak Street. In 1893, Mr. Rogers discovered a process for bleaching printed paper, which greatly added to the material available for paper stock. In 1901 the firm was incorporated as The Rogers Paper Manufacturing Company. Additions to the plant were constructed in 1900 and in 1916. The mills manufacture press board and specialties.

The Case Brothers at Highland Park.

In an earlier chapter we have told of the early experiences of the Case Brothers as paper makers. About 1870 they were

operating mills at Highland Park which produced album boards, binder boards and card middles. They had also a machine shop in which they designed and manufactured paper-mill machinery. In 1875 their mill, a three-story structure, was burned, but the machinery was not badly damaged and by hard work the plant was again put in operation within forty days. In 1881 and again in 1890 important additions were made, brick substituted for wood as a building material. In 1915 another disastrous fire occurred, causing a loss estimated at over \$100,000. The mills were once more rebuilt and activities were soon resumed.

Case Brothers, Incorporated, now employ at their mill at Highland Park about 100 men. Their output, consisting chiefly of press papers, is now twelve tons per day. In addition to the mill at Highland Park, the Case family has interests in the mills of the A. Williard Case Company at Manchester, of The Case Manufacturing Company at Unionville, and of Case and Marshall in Burnside.

In 1903 A. Wells Case, one of the original Case Brothers, began the construction of a park on the mountain at Highland Park. The project has been completed by his son, Lawrence Case, and is now open to the public under suitable restrictions. By preserving the natural beauty of this tract and making it accessible to the townspeople, the Cases have performed a notable public service.

The Lydall and Foulds Mills.

The Lydall and Foulds families have been interested in manufacturing in Manchester since 1869. In that year Henry Lydall, who had a needle factory in New Britain, came to Manchester and began the manufacture of knitting machine needles and wire specialties. Associated with him was his nephew, William Foulds, who had been engaged in the same business in England. At one time their output was 50,000 needles daily and forty persons were employed. Mr. Foulds has now withdrawn from the partnership. The plant has been removed from Lydallville to North Main Street.

William Foulds, Senior, is now the active head of three paper manufacturing companies, The Lydall & Foulds Paper Company, (1899); The William Foulds Company, (1902); and The Colonial Board Company, (1913). Associated with him are, William Foulds, Jr., E. A. Lydall, Arthur J. Straw and Boston capitalists. The three mills are in Parker Village, where about fifty years ago a mill was operated by Salter & Strong. The products manufactured are paperbox board, leather board and binder board. The total number of employees in the three mills when in full operation is 175. The combined daily capacity (twenty-four hours) is forty-one tons.

The Oakland Paper Company.

The manufacture of paper which had been established by Henry Hudson at Oakland in 1832 was continued at his death by his son, Melancthon and grandsons William and Phillip. Under their management the business was not successful. In 1864 Cheney Brothers took an interest in the factory which was re-organized as the Hudson-Cheney Paper Company. The work at that time utilized but little machinery, so that the thirty-eight employees produced but little more than a ton of finished paper every twenty-four hours. The present working force of sixty-five



Oakland Paper Mill, Oakland

persons has a daily output of over six tons. For a number of years the Hudson & Cheney Paper Company, made all the Post card paper for the U. S. Government.

In 1879 Cheney Brothers took over the entire business and conducted it for a few months under their own firm name. But December 31, 1879 the mill was bought by Mr. Hurlbut, a paper maker from Lee, Massachusetts. He renamed the mill and traded under the title of The Hurlbut Manufacturing Company. The mill underwent another change in ownership and name, when in 1881, N. T. Pulsifer, purchased it and called it The Oakland Paper Company.

In 1899, the Oakland Paper Company became one of the charter mills of the American Writing Paper Company, organized during that year. Robert Campbell, of Lee, Mass., became manager, and Harry Goodhind, of the same place, was made superintendent, in which capacity he acted until 1914. The latter took the place of J. D. Henderson, who had been superintendent since 1881. At present Morris Housen and Andrew T. Barnett, both of Holyoke, Mass., hold the respective positions of Manager and Superintendent.

The Oakland mill has developed considerably during the many years of its history, and improvements have steadily kept pace with paper making progress. It has a large modern brick building and exceptionally good water power. The purity of the water for paper-making purposes is especially notable. Following the tendency of most of the smaller mills situated in country districts, the Oakland mill has confined itself to high-grade specialized products. From its earliest days the mill has manufactured the finest class of papers, including bank-note paper.

The E. E. Hilliard Company.

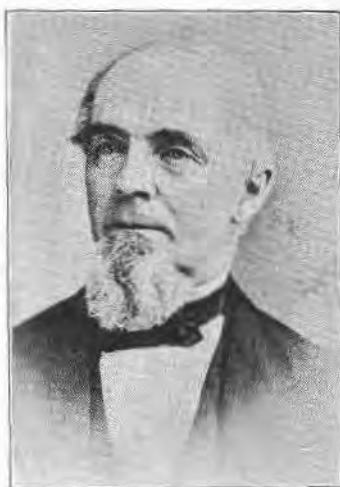
The Hilliard woolen goods factory at Hilliardville has a record of continuous operation in a single line of production since 1794, and probably before 1790, which no doubt exceeds that of any other woolen manufacturing plant in the country. Founded by Aaron Buckland, it was later acquired by Sidney Pitkin. In 1824 Elisha E. Hilliard (1806-1881) went to work there as an apprentice. Eight years later, he became a partner with Mr. Pitkin, afterwards acquiring the entire interest. About 1840 Ralph G. Spencer was admitted to the partnership under the firm name of Hilliard & Spencer and they manufactured goods for the government during the Civil War. In 1871, Mr. Hilliard bought out Mr. Spencer's interest and Elisha C. Hilliard, a son, (1852-1916), was admitted. The company incorporated in 1893 as The E. E. Hilliard Company with E. C. Hilliard as president. Upon his death several years ago the direction of the business was assumed by E. E. Hilliard, the grandson of the founder of the business.

For a number of years besides operating the Hilliardville plant, the concern conducted a mill on Charter Oak Street in South Manchester. This was finally acquired by Cheney Brothers. The mill originally depended entirely upon water for its source of power, being located on the Hockanum River and Bigelow Brook, but at length steam was utilized to ensure a steady flow of power.

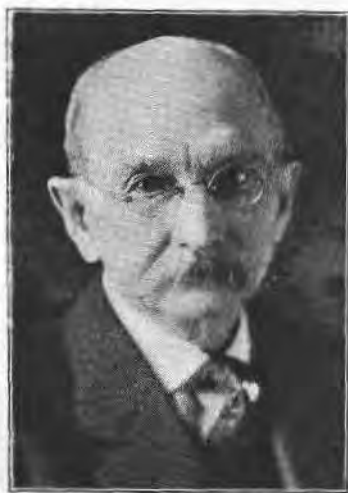
In 1901 the company acquired additional water power by the purchase of the property of the old Peter Adams Paper company, situated on the same stream nearer Buckland. The waters of the Hockanum are there impounded in a large pond and at the dam



E. E. Hilliard Co., Woolen Mill, Buckland



E. E. Hilliard



Elisha C. Hilliard

an electric generating plant was installed and the power thus developed is conducted to the Hilliard mills, ensuring an auxiliary force of 400 horsepower.

The Hilliard property includes a large acreage stretching from Adams Street in Hilliardville to the east along Hilliard Street and Middle Turnpike to the tracks of the South Manchester railroad. Much of this is wooded and borders several ponds, which add a picturesque quality to the landscape. West of the mills the land rises sharply and much of it is clothed with fir, so that the plant lies in a sheltered nook in a locality beautified by nature as well as man.

In the winter of 1909 heavy rains caused a flood, which swept away several dams and bridges in the neighborhood of the mills as well as damaging the lower rooms of the factory. The Hilliard Company rebuilt the dam east of Adams Street and the town replaced the bridges which had been swept away.

The company today employs over 200 hands and manufactures men's and women's wear, woolens and overcoatings.

The Glastonbury Knitting Company.

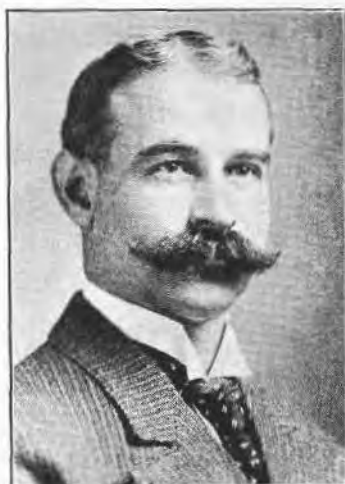
The original knitting mill at Manchester Green was built by the Pacific Company in 1851, occupying the site of a cotton mill erected by Richard Pitkin in the late years of the Eighteenth Century. Lucius Parker was the manager of the Pacific Company and Wells Woodbridge and other local residents were stockholders. After a few years the company failed and was reorganized with Squire Aaron Cook as one of the principal owners. The mill was destroyed by fire in 1861, but it was rebuilt and the company was again reorganized with Chauncey and Milton Keeney, also a local capitalist, in control. A few years later Mr. Keeney sold out to Addison L. Clark who, although a resident of the Green, was then President of the Glastonbury Knitting Company with mills at Glastonbury, Conn. In 1890 the ownership of the mill at Manchester Green was transferred to the Glastonbury Company. Since 1896 Hewitt Coburn, Jr., has been president of the company. Walter S. Coburn, vice-president of the company, has resided at the Green since 1909.

The products of the mill at the Green are confined to men's flat-knit, spring-needle, woolen underwear, of which about 250,000 garments are made each year.

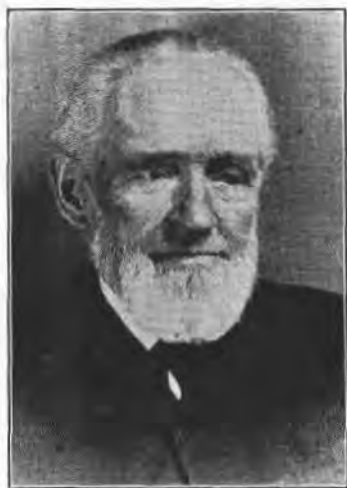
The knitting mill has been for many years the sole manufacturing enterprise at the Green and the mainstay of the community. Among its 100 employees are at least six who have been on the payroll for more than thirty years. They are J. J. Buckley, superintendent; John Young, T. J. Young, Frank Paxson, Julia Gleeson and Nellie Sheridan. Since 1902 the mill office has been in charge of Lillian C. Young.



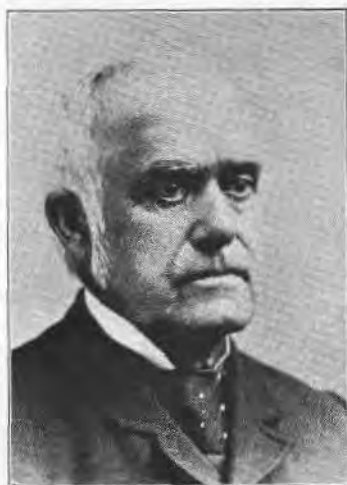
Addison L. Clark



Hewitt Coburn



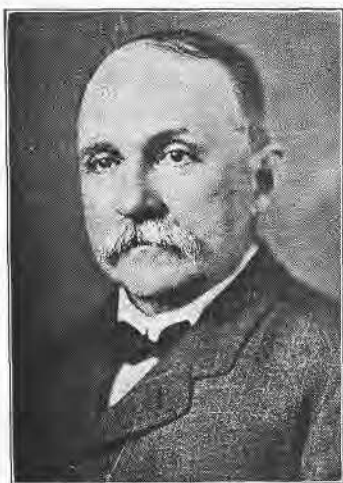
Chauncy B. Keeney



Aaron Cook

The Orford Soap Company.

The most widely known of Manchester's products, with the exception of the Cheney silks, is Bon Ami, the cleanser manufactured by the Orford Soap Company. The founder of the business was the late J. T. Robertson, who invented and began the manufacture of a "mineral soap" in Glastonbury in 1885. In order to obtain additional capital Mr. Robertson formed the J. T. Robertson Company and moved to Manchester in 1891. He made his products, which included shaving and toilet soaps, in an old grist mill owned by W. H. Childs near the corner of Oakland and North Main Streets. Only three or four helpers were employed.



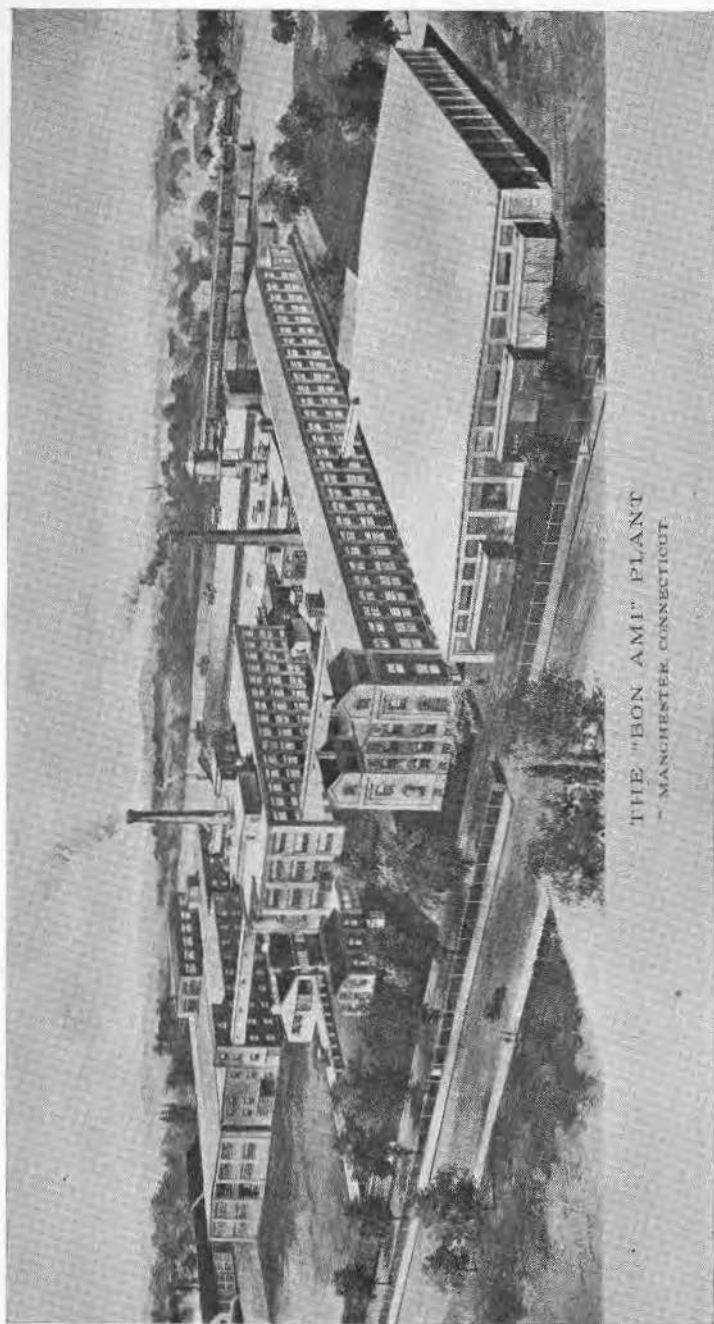
John T. Robertson

The expansion of the business in the past thirty years has been largely the result of an aggressive advertising campaign. In 1893 William H. Childs, a resident of the north end who had become interested in the new product, undertook to market it, forming for the purpose a partnership with W. H. Childs of New York. The J. T. Robertson Company gave to Childs & Childs, the selling agency, a five-year option to purchase the manufacturing rights. The policy of consistent advertising having proved successful, the option was taken up and the Bon Ami Company was organized as the distributing agency and holding company, and the Orford Soap Company was formed

as the manufacturing concern.

In 1899 the original factory on Oakland Street was destroyed by fire, and shortly thereafter the business was transferred to the factory on Hilliard Street formerly occupied by the Mather Company. In 1903 the entire Mather plant was occupied and since that time several additions to the plant have been constructed. Its present assessed value is \$622,000. There are now 150 persons employed.

The Bon Ami Company, a holding corporation and the marketing agency, is capitalized at \$3,500,000. It operates factories in the United States and in Canada. Eversly Childs of New York is the president of the Orford Soap Company, and William H. Childs, formerly a resident of Manchester, is vice-president. It



THE "BON AMI" PLANT
- MANCHESTER, CONNECTICUT

is largely owing to the latter's vision of the possibilities of the product and his courage in carrying on the advertising campaign that the business became a success. William W. Robertson has been factory superintendent since the death of his father, the late J. T. Robertson, in 1922.

The Carlyle Johnson Machine Company.

The transfer in 1909 of the business of The Carlyle Johnson Machine Company from Hartford to Manchester marks a new departure in our industrial history. Practically all of our factories before this time had been either financed or managed, or both, by residents of the town. The Carlyle Johnson Company, which began business in Hartford in 1902, selected Manchester as its permanent home because of good transportation facilities combined with cheap rentals.

The principal product of the company is a small, compact, light-powered friction clutch, which was originally designed and patented by Moses Carlyle Johnson in 1884. Other products are marine reverse gears and gasoline marine engines. Since moving to Manchester the employees of the company have increased from twenty-five to forty. The value of the plant is now estimated at \$150,000 and the annual product is valued at \$125,000.

The capital stock is held chiefly by Messrs. Stambaugh and Steese of Youngstown, Ohio, who financed the inventor, Mr. Johnson, in his original venture in Hartford, and by Scott H. Simon, the treasurer and general manager of the company, who is also a native of Youngstown.

In a recent issue of *The American Machinist* was printed the following description of the factory.

"The shops of the Carlyle Johnson Machine Co. present an excellent example of the modern self-contained machinery-building plant which, isolated to a certain extent from a base of supplies, must become to a considerable degree independent of it. Located in a growing town about ten miles distant from the capital city of Connecticut but connected therewith by three lines of electric railway, the plant possesses practically all the advantages of urban location without restriction of space, lack of natural light, etc., usually associated with the city shop, and what is of even greater importance, it enjoys more freedom from labor disturbances and a lower rate of labor turnover than is usually the fortune of the latter.

"As might be expected, the main factory is light, clean and well ventilated. There is plenty of space for handling the work, and the machinery is so placed that the operations go forward in regular sequence with a minimum of rehandling. On the lower floor adjacent to the castings storage is a battery of Cleveland automatics supplemented by Jones & Lamson flat turrets, upon



Cheney Hall, So. Manchester



Interior of Cheney Hall

which most of the round parts of the product is machined by means of special tools which are the product of the company's designing and tool departments."

The Gammons-Holman Company.

The newest addition to the list of Manchester's industries is The Gammons-Holman Company, organized in 1920 for the manufacture of machine tools. In June, 1919, William B. Gammons of Manchester designed an improved taper-pin reamer, and began its manufacture. About a year later Charles W. Holman and Judge Herbert O. Bowers associated themselves with Mr. Gammons in a corporation. Their factory is housed in one of the buildings on Adams Street formerly occupied by the Peter Adams Paper Company. It is the site which was occupied by one of the first paper mills in town.

The operations of the company have proved unusually successful. The taper-pin reamer, because of the saving which it effects in the cost of reaming, has been adopted by nearly all of the large machine shops in the United States and is also exported to foreign countries. In addition the company makes Gammons Helical End Mills and Gammons Helical Chucking Reamers, as well as many special reamers to customers' specifications. The latest addition to their line of products is the Parob Expansion Hand Reamer. This reamer was designed primarily for reaming holes for wrist pins in automobile engine pistons, but is applicable also to many other uses where accuracy is essential. Although they have but recently commenced the manufacture of these reamers, several of the largest automobile manufacturers are now using them. The capital of the company is \$29,000. It now employs fifteen persons and the value of its annual product is \$75,000.

Present Condition of Manufacturing in Manchester.

The following table shows the assessed valuation and number of employees of the principal manufacturing establishments of Manchester:

TABLE VI
MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES IN MANCHESTER, 1923

Name of Firm	Product	Assessed Value of Plant	No. of Em- ploy- ees
Cheney Brothers	Silk	\$15,119,947	4,400
The Rogers Paper Mfg. Co.,	Paper	71,525	
Case Brothers, Inc.	Paper	233,082	100
The A. Willard Case Co.	Paper	61,850	
The Lydall & Foulds Paper Co.	Paper	43,600	175
The Wm. Foulds Paper Co.	Paper	44,575	
The Colonial Board Co.	Paper	44,900	

The Oakland Paper Co.	Paper		65
The E. E. Hilliard Co.	Woolen Goods	376,450	200
The Glastonbury Knitting Co.	Knit Underwear	78,425	100
The Orford Soap Co.	Bon Ami	622,356	150
Lydall & Foulds	Knitting Needles	5,000	25
The Carlyle Johnson Machine	Friction Clutches		
	Reverse Gears	148,866	40
	Marine Engines		
	Taper Pin		
The Gammons-Holman Co.	Reamers and	12,000	15
	Other Tools		
The Norton Electrical Instrument Co.	Electrical Instruments		

Agricultural Enterprises. C. R. Burr & Company.

There are two branches of agriculture which have been recently developed on a commercial scale in Manchester, the growing of trees and shrubs in nurseries, and the growing of tobacco. The home office of C. R. Burr & Co., Inc., the largest nurserymen in New England, is on Oakland Street in Manchester, and one of their four nurseries is on land immediately adjoining. Others are in Durham, Ellington and South Windsor. The company has also a nursery in France. The Burr products are sold in almost every state in the Union.

The Burr nursery in Manchester occupies 300 acres. It now gives employment to 150 persons.

C. E. Wilson & Co.

C. E. Wilson, of C. E. Wilson & Co., has been a resident of Manchester since 1909, coming here to become superintendent of the C. R. Burr nurseries. He remained with that company until 1916 when he decided to enter business for himself. He had but four acres of ground when he started, but now has over seventy-five acres under cultivation and is employing fifteen to fifty men, women and boys, as the season demands. Today the company is growing more barberry *thunbergii* hedging than any other firm in the world, furnishing one-year seedlings to most of the large nurserymen throughout the United States and Canada. A large percentage of all barberry hedges originate with the Wilson Company. In addition to this the company is also a large grower of seedlings, fruit, ornamental and evergreen plants. Practically all mechanical work is now done by tractors and special machinery.

The company is also fortunate in its shipping facilities. In 1921 a modern storage plant was built west of the Manchester railroad station and north of the tracks of the "New Haven" road with a spur track running to the loading platform, and already there are plans under way to build another plant next year.

During the past summer a landscape department was added to the business, which operates not alone in this section, but throughout New England. In the fall of 1922 and the spring of 1923 this company sold 4,000,000 barberry plants. They now have over 5,000,000 plants growing at the nursery. The company also grows many other varieties of nursery stock.

Tobacco Growing in Manchester.

The acreage in tobacco in Manchester has grown from less than fifty acres in 1823 to nearly 1,000 acres in 1923. The annual product is now about 300,000 pounds. Of the 4,500 acres of farm land within the town limits, almost one-fourth is devoted to tobacco. Shade-grown tobacco made its appearance about twenty years ago. At present about 500 acres are grown under shade, principally in the vicinity of Buckland. The largest plantations in that section are owned by Hackett Brothers and by The Connecticut Sumatra Tobacco Company. Hundreds of persons are employed in the tobacco fields and in the packing houses. The workers are of course particularly numerous at harvest time. Tobacco land has become so valuable in the Buckland section that woodland has been uprooted by explosives, and areas which have long been considered as waste are now being brought under cultivation.

One of the most successful tobacco growers in Hillstown is Arthur Manning, whose experience covers more than forty years. In 1913 he organized the firm of Manning & Kahn, Inc., in which are associated Gustave Kahn of Hartford and Robert V. Treat of South Manchester. This company has plantations near Laurel Park, in Wapping, and elsewhere in the Connecticut Valley. In 1923 it raised 120 acres of shade-grown tobacco and 275 acres of broadleaf.

CHAPTER XI.

BANKS, STORES, NEWSPAPERS AND PUBLIC UTILITIES

The Building and Loan Association.

The oldest banking institution in Manchester is the Building and Loan Association, organized in 1891.¹ In its thirty-two years of existence it has been devoted to the task of helping Manchester people own their own homes. From \$11,000 at the close of the first year of business, its assets have now grown to over \$1,300,000, invested almost entirely in real estate loans. The Association has always paid six per cent. compounded semi-annually, to all maturing shareholders. It has never lost a dollar on any loan. The directors include some of the best known citizens of the town. Frank Cheney, Jr., has acted as president since 1892, and Charles E. House has been secretary for more than twenty years.

The Manchester Trust Company.

The Manchester Trust Company now occupies such an essential position in the business life of the town that it is hard to understand how people until 1905 could have managed to get along without it. Manchester stores and factories in earlier days depended on Hartford banks for capital financing and for short-time loans and were subject to many inconveniences, such as the transfer of cash to and from the city on trains and trolley cars.

The charter of the trust company dates from 1895, showing that the project for a local bank was under consideration for at least ten years before its organization was actually accomplished. The original incorporators were Walter B. Cheney, Clarence G. Watkins, Sanford M. Benton, Richard O. Cheney, Nathan T. Pulsifer, Charles H. Rose, Maro S. Chapman, Clinton W. Cowles, Austin H. Skinner, Julian N. Parker, Addison L. Clark, Charles E. House, William C. Cheney and Jasper A. Fitch. The capital

¹ A predecessor bearing the same title was organized in 1853 with Moses Scott as secretary and treasurer. In 1861 it was re-organized as the Manchester Savings Bank. Deposits never exceeded \$15,000. The bank went out of existence in 1871.

stock was fixed at \$100,000, of which fifty per cent. was to be paid in. In 1899 the list of incorporators was revised and in 1901 the life of the charter was extended.

Refusing, in 1904, the offer of outside capitalists to "promote" a bank in Manchester, the holders of the charter decided to wait until sufficient local capital was available. It required a great deal of argument to persuade business men and investors that Manchester needed a bank, but the waiting policy proved wise, for the loyalty and pride of its stockholders have proven a valuable asset to the institution. At last, in February, 1905, the necessary \$50,000 having been subscribed, the bank opened for business in a corner of Watkins Brothers' furniture store. Clarence G. Watkins was the first president and the original directors were, Fred T. Blish, William C. Cheney, William E. Hibbard, John T. Robertson, Clarence G. Watkins, Herbert O. Bowers, Charles E. House, Justis W. Hale and Frank G. Vibberts. Mr. Vibberts was employed as treasurer but was succeeded a year later by R. LaMotte Russell, who served until 1915, when he was elected president. Robert V. Treat, now a member of the board of directors, was employed in the bank from 1905 until 1919 as clerk, assistant treasurer, and finally as treasurer. Harold C. Alvord, who now holds the position of treasurer, entered the bank's employ in 1907 and served his apprenticeship in all its departments. In 1906 the bank moved to more permanent quarters in the Bowers Block. The rapidly expanding business of the bank soon showed the need of more spacious quarters. After the armistice the directors purchased a site upon which they constructed a building which in architecture and equipment is second to none in New England. The new building was occupied in March, 1921.

The first bank statement, dated August 25, 1905, showed assets of \$179,357. In less than twenty years the assets have increased to over \$2,500,000. The capital and surplus now amount to over \$300,000. Since 1908 the bank has regularly paid semi-annual dividends to its shareholders. The checking accounts now number more than 3,000. In handling the payroll needs of Manchester's stores and factories, the trust company puts into circulation over \$200,000 each week.

The Savings Bank of Manchester.

Manchester's only mutual savings bank, The Savings Bank of Manchester, also incorporated in 1905, is housed in The Manchester Trust Company's building. This bank is a sound institution, which has shown steady growth from its organization, and today has assets totalling nearly \$5,000,000. As is indicated by its name, this bank is operated solely for the best interests of its 10,600 depositors and has accumulated a large surplus for their

protection. With nearly \$2,000,000 invested in first mortgages on real estate in Manchester, the bank has at all times shown its willingness to assist in the development of homes privately owned, until today Manchester is unique in having an unusually large percentage of its citizens their own landlords. From the first the bank has received the well deserved support of Manchester's business men and citizens and has numbered among its directors those who have the welfare of the earner and saver at heart. Frank Cheney, Jr., has served as president since its incorporation, and R. LaMotte Russell is its treasurer.

The Home Bank and Trust Company.

A second bank, The Home Bank and Trust Company, was organized in 1920 with a capital of \$50,000.00. Its assets, as shown by the most recent statement dated June 30, 1924, are \$565,871.66.

The Home Bank had for its first president, H. A. Allen, formerly vice-president of the City Bank and Trust Company. He was succeeded in 1922 by John Spillane of Manchester. The directors are Alexander Arnott, Arthur Cook, Albert T. Dewey, Edwin S. Goodwin, Carl E. Johnson, Geo. W. Kuhney, Luigi Pola, Thomas J. Rogers, Lewis H. Sipe, John Spillane, John F. Sullivan, Geo. W. Strant, Geo. H. Waddell, and Thos. H. Weldon.

Mercantile Enterprises. Watkins Brothers.

Among Manchester's many attractive shops and stores there are two or three deserving of special mention because they illustrate so well the progressive spirit which has characterized its business men in the last half-century. In 1874 two brothers, Clarence G. and F. Ernest Watkins, set up in business as undertakers at South Manchester. A few years later they branched out and bought the stock of furniture carried by William H. Cheney in his general store. In 1890 they built a large wooden structure at Main and School Streets to house their steadily growing business.

Watkins Brothers made a bold venture into the field of musical instruments in 1905 by buying out a Hartford firm, later merging with it two other music stores in that city. Some years later a branch store was opened at Bristol, Connecticut. The rapid expansion of the business of the firm led to the construction, in 1920, of a modern, brick, fireproof store building, 71 by 225 feet, on Main Street in Manchester. Their sales are widely distributed over the state. In a recent nation-wide poll of travelling men and retail furniture stores, Watkins Brothers was selected by ninety per cent. of all voting as the finest retail furniture store in any town of less than 20,000 population in the United States.

Clarence G. Watkins, the senior member of the firm, who died in 1915, was one of the best known and most respected of Manchester's business men. He was for a number of years first selectman, served as representative in the General Assembly, was the first president of the Chamber of Commerce and the first president of the Manchester Trust Company. F. Ernest Watkins, the partner of Clarence G. Watkins, has been likewise interested in town affairs. He was a prime mover in the establishment of the South Manchester fire department and was its secretary for twenty-five years. He has represented Manchester in the legislature, and for two terms was a county commissioner. He was one of the original corporators and directors of the Savings Bank of Manchester.



Clarence G. Watkins



Justus W. Hale

The J. W. Hale Company.

The J. W. Hale Company is the successor of a dry goods store originally opened in 1875 by Justus W. Hale. In 1897, Mr. Hale joined with Charles E. House in the construction of a modern business block, the Oak Hall Building. After the destruction of this building by the fire of 1909, temporary quarters were utilized for a year until the completion of the present House and Hale building. In 1910 the business was incorporated and Frank H. Anderson, who for a number of years had been employed by Mr. Hale, was admitted to an interest in the concern. Upon the

retirement of Mr. Hale in 1914, Mr. Anderson became the controlling manager. As a result of his progressive spirit and business acumen the J. W. Hale Company now has a department store thoroughly up-to-date in organization and equipment and in the variety of its stock.

A Self-Service Grocery opened in 1920 and is perhaps, the most unique of the twenty-seven departments into which the store is divided. In the same year Mr. Anderson organized the Mutual Heating Company which supplies from a central plant heat to a number of adjacent stores. The J. W. Hale Company is now capitalized at \$150,000. It occupies 25,900 feet of floor space and employs regularly about 100 persons. In 1923 over 500,000 individual sales were made.

C. E. House & Son, Inc.

The retail store which can boast the longest continuous history is that of C. E. House & Son, Inc. Founded in 1853 by Edwin M. House, the business originally included a retail grocery as well as merchant tailoring. From 1853 until his death in 1885 the founder of the business conducted a tailor shop. Charles E. House inherited the shop and soon expanded it by the inclusion of ready made clothing, men's furnishings, and shoes. In 1909 Herbert B. House was admitted to partnership and four years later the firm was incorporated. At that time Frank G. Balkner and Thomas A. Brennan, employees of several years service, were taken in as stockholders.

Charles E. House is associated with many of the town's institutions.

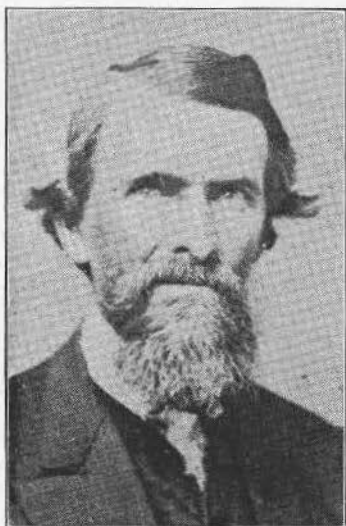
In 1893 he represented the town in the legislature. For thirty-five years he has been clerk and treasurer of the First Congregational Church. He is president of the J. W. Hale Company, secretary of the Manchester Building & Loan Association, and a director of the Manchester Trust Company.

Newspapers — The Evening Herald.

Manchester's first newspaper was the *Manchester Weekly News Times*, published by Nathaniel Kingsbury of North Coventry about 1870. Its life was brief and it was not until 1881 that a newspaper that lived was first published. That was the *Manchester Herald*. Elwood S. Ela, publisher of the *Herald*, got his first taste of newspaper work on the *Hartford Courant*. The first issue of the *Manchester Herald* came from the press on December 15, 1881, and despite two damaging fires that wiped out its plant, the *Herald* has never missed an issue.

The paper began as a partnership, Mr. Ela and Thomas S. Pratt of Rockville being those financially concerned. Mr. Ela

did the reportorial and editorial work in town and the paper was printed in Rockville. After four years Mr. Ela bought out Mr. Pratt's interest. The forms were made up in Manchester and then sent to Hartford to be put through the presses. This was inconvenient and uneconomical and Mr. Ela secured a press and



Edwin M. House



Elwood S. Ela

other necessary equipment and a plant was set up at North Manchester. Fire cleaned out this plant in 1889 but another was temporarily organized. In 1893 a substantial plant on Hilliard Street was built.

As the town grew the *Herald* kept apace. It was the first semi-weekly newspaper established in Connecticut and was a four-page paper, representing practically a cut in two of the eight-page weekly. It was only a short time until the semi-weekly became an eight-page paper. The example set by the *Herald* as a semi-weekly was adopted by other papers throughout the state.

The *Herald* entered the daily field October 1, 1914, and now has a declared circulation of 4,168. The fire in 1922, totally destroying the plant on Hilliard Street, while handicapping publication for the time, did not prevent issues appearing regularly. The plant of the *Hartford Courant* was put at the *Herald's* disposal. The present plant equipment of the *Herald* is among the finest to be found in any city or town of the same population in the country.

Later, other members were admitted to the corporation, namely, Thomas Ferguson, E. Hugh Crosby, C. Dennison Talcott, Carrol W. Hutchison and Leon A. Thorpe. Mr. Ela was president and treasurer until his death in August, 1924. Mr. Ferguson is secretary and plant superintendent and Mr. Crosby, advertising manager.

The Manchester News.

The Manchester News, the successor of the *South Manchester News*, established by William J. Flood in 1893, until April, 1922, was issued as an eight-page weekly, and from then until May, 1923, as a semi-weekly. At the latter date it was converted into a daily and its title was changed. In 1922 under the management of Joseph W. Flood, son of the founder, the *News* moved to new quarters on Cottage Street. As a daily, the *News* was not successful and publication was suspended in July, 1924.

Public Utilities.

The provision of the public utilities in Manchester, water, gas, electricity, sewage disposal, telephone service and rapid transportation are important incidents in the development since 1870 of a modern community.

The South Manchester Railroad¹ Company, chartered in 1866, was the town's first public service corporation. It is an unique concern, being the only line in the United States owned by a single family. It is also one of the shortest roads in the country, its total main track being only 1.94 miles. The incorporators were Charles, John, Ralph, Ward, Rush, and Frank Cheney. Two miles of single track were laid in 1869 and trains were put into operation in the summer of that year. The cost of the road with its equipment, as reported to the State railroad commission in 1871, was \$67,000.

Since the original purpose of the road was the transportation of freight exclusively, construction was of the cheapest sort. Light rails were used of Belgian iron. Ten years later, in 1879, the entire track was relaid with steel rails under the superintendence of Richard O. Cheney.

"The construction of the road was an event of great local interest. It consumed more time than would be needed for such a job today. The cut where the Park Street bridge crosses the track was excavated by hand shovelers and the earth was carted north and was used on the fill across Bigelow Brook. Both the cut and the fill, or culvert, as the latter was called, were for some

¹ The following account is taken mainly from the *Manchester Herald* of March 2, 1906.

time objects of local interest. Mr. Frank Cheney superintended part if not all of the work and was particular to have it ornamental as well as useful. The men who worked on the construction were mostly rugged, active Irishmen who earned good money and spent it in the land of their adoption. The Italian and Polish laborers were unknown at that period.

Primitive Railroading.

"When completed the road was leased to the Hartford, Providence & Fishkill Railroad Company which then controlled the main line, a single track running from Waterbury to Providence. A word about this line, which was afterward incorporated by the New England railroad, may be of interest. The passenger cars were about the size of our cross town car No. 50. Some of them were painted yellow and a few dark russet brown. It was considered quite a treat by the youngsters to ride in one of the brown cars. The freight cars had a capacity of ten tons each and were not permitted to carry more. Ten or fifteen of these cars made up what was considered a long train. Air brakes, patent couplers and buffers were unknown. The freight cars were veritable man killers and many a brakeman lost an arm or was crushed to death between the 'deadwoods' or bumpers.

"The locomotives were wood burners about the size of No. 3 on the South Manchester road and of about two-thirds of its pulling capacity. An engine of twenty or thirty tons was considered something big. Freight engines had only four drivers, and moguls were unknown. The smokestacks on the engines were narrow at the bottom and flared out at the top like the letter V. These were known as 'lily pad stacks.' Back of the stack rose a bell mouthed funnel for the escape of steam, next came the bell, then the sand box, then another funnel and then the steam dome and whistle. The safety valve had not come into general use although the engine 'Baltic,' which exploded its boiler on the Rockville branch at about that period, was provided with one. Instead of running oil into the cylinders through a tube from the cab as at present, oil cups were attached to the cylinders and were filled four times during the trip from Hartford to Providence by the fireman. It was a spectacular feat when the firemen on trains coming into Manchester from Hartford climbed out of the cab window, ran along the running board, oiled a cylinder, crossed the cow catcher, oiled the other cylinder and passed along the running board back into the cab.

"Railroad switches were of imperfect mechanism and trains ran through them frequently. It was considered heroic on such occasions for the engineer to stick to his post and go to death with his engine. Years ago a resident of the west end of this town who was tarred and feathered by the rum element for his antagonism

to the liquor trade, met his death in this manner. Later on engineers learned the sensible trick of plugging their engines and jumping for their lives. The locomotives had brass bands around the boiler, the drivers were painted red and the cylinders, steam chest and other brass work were kept bright. Gilt paint was used in profusion in the ornamentation of the engine, cab and tender, and they were objects of beauty. Section men on the main line received \$45 or \$47 per month with a day off with pay and a pass allowing them to take their families to Hartford once a month."

The present investment in road and equipment, as shown by the annual report for 1923, is \$99,582. The capital stock is \$40,000, the amount of the original issue. The gross operating revenue in 1923 was \$50,630 and the net operating revenue was \$17,629. After deduction of taxes the net income was \$6,765. During the year, 136,789 passengers were carried and 83,397 tons of freight. The railroad's equipment consists of two locomotives and five passenger cars.

William Hyde, who has been on the line for fifty-two years, probably has the distinction of combining more offices than any other railroad employee in this country. His chief duties are those of yardmaster and conductor.

Public Utilities in South Manchester. The Water Supply.

One of the first experiments in supplying from a central source water for domestic consumption in Manchester was made by Benjamin Lyman about 1830 at Manchester Green. The source of supply was the spring now known as Lyman Spring, from which the water was conveyed to a number of houses by wooden pipes. A few years later Enoch Burt, a mechanical genius who was pastor of the First Congregational Church from 1824 to 1828, rigged up pumping machinery at Center Springs which raised the spring water to the houses on the brow of the hill.

After 1860 a number of small storage reservoirs were constructed in various parts of town for the supply of groups of families. The first large reservoir in town was the so-called Taylor Reservoir which was constructed by Cheney Brothers in 1872. Its capacity, 9,000,000 gallons, was then adequate to provide water for manufacturing purposes in the Cheney mills, and for fire protection, as well as for domestic use in the immediate vicinity of the factory.

By 1889 the demand for "city water" in South Manchester had increased to such an extent that Cheney Brothers organized the South Manchester Water Company, and in the following year it constructed the Porter Reservoir with a capacity of 35,000,000 gallons. The Howard Reservoir, 124,000,000 gallons, was completed in 1905.

The plant of the company now includes two reservoirs,

thirty-two and one-half miles of main pipe, and nineteen and three-fourths miles of pipe less than four inches in diameter. The average consumption is 7,000,000 gallons weekly. The reservoirs supply 300 fire hydrants. The present sources of water supply are now proving inadequate and a new development will soon be completed which will bring water from Roaring Brook in East Glastonbury.¹

The Highland Park Water Company is a close corporation owned and controlled by members of the Case family and intended primarily for their private advantage. The service, however, has been extended for the use of others in the Highland Park section.

This company, which was organized in 1910, is capitalized at \$10,000. The source of supply is springs from which the water is pumped. Forty-two families are supplied and five fire hydrants. The water pressure is fifty pounds at the hydrant. The mains are six inches in diameter and there are two and one-half miles of four inches and less.

In 1889 The South Manchester Sanitary and Sewer District was incorporated by ten members of the Cheney family. It was given authority to construct a sewer system through the streets of the village of South Manchester and to empty sewage into Hop Brook and the Hockanum River. The construction of the drainage system was undertaken at once. In 1905 a series of filter beds was constructed in the Bunce district for the purification of the sewage before emptying into the river. The operation of the filter beds has not been successful and the problem of sewage purification remains to be solved.

Electric Light and Power.

Electricity became available for lighting purposes in Manchester in the late eighties. Like gas, the supply was originally derived from a plant operated by Cheney Brothers. The original franchise to supply electricity north of the center was held by the Manchester Light and Power Company, incorporated in 1883. This was absorbed by the South Manchester Light and Power Company, also organized in 1893. A part of the capital of each of these concerns was supplied by members of the Cheney family. The present holder of the franchise is the Manchester Electric Company, organized in 1917, which is a merger of the companies above mentioned with the South Manchester Light, Power and Tramway Company.

For a time electric current was supplied to Manchester consumers from the Glastonbury Light and Power Company.

¹ In 1906-7 Cheney Brothers constructed the Globe Hollow Reservoir, 170,000,000 gallons, to supply their manufacturing needs.

Later the power plant of the Connecticut Company at Edgewood was the source. At present the current comes over a high-tension line from the Hartford Electric Light Company. The new transformer station on New Street, which was built in 1923, embodies the most recent developments in equipment for safe and economical distribution of electric current.

The Manchester Gas Company.

Until 1918 the only gas available for domestic purposes in Manchester was that furnished from the plant of Cheney Brothers. They had installed a gas oven for the lighting of their mills and for use in manufacturing operations. A small surplus was available for domestic use which for many years was supplied only to homes south of Center Street. The extension of the service to the North End in 1916 was followed by such a rapid increase in consumption that Cheney Brothers, realizing that their plant was not adequate, decided to relinquish the charter rights¹ to the Hartford City Gas Company. The Manchester Gas Company is a subsidiary of the Hartford concern.

At the time of the surrender of the franchise, in January, 1918, there were about 500 consumers of gas supplied by 35,000 feet of main pipe. The total annual consumption was 18,000,000 feet. In the past four years 94,000 additional feet of mains have been laid. The consumers now number 2,300 and in 1923 they used 65,000,000 cubic feet of gas.

Public Utilities in the Eighth District.

"City Water" in the Eighth District for fire protection and for domestic use is provided by the Manchester Water Company, incorporated in 1889. The franchise of this company and the terms of its agreements with the District have been the subject of bitter and protracted controversy. The disastrous fire of 1889 which destroyed the Post Office building in the business centre at the North End called attention to the lack of hydrant service for fire protection. Under the leadership of W. H. Childs, now of New York, who was then beginning his business career in Manchester as a dealer in grain and feed, the owners of water rights on White's Brook were organized as The Manchester Water Company. A charter was secured from the State Legislature, notwithstanding the opposition of the local representative, which gave exclusive water supply rights in the Eighth School District.

The next step, — an agreement with the voters of the Eighth School District regarding the price to be paid for fire protection, was hotly contested. The stockholders of the Water Company

¹ Held by the South Manchester Light, Power and Tramway Company.

offered to construct a reservoir at the head of White's Brook and to furnish the District with adequate water supply for fire protection and domestic use, reserving for themselves whatever surplus remained for power and other manufacturing uses. The District was asked to agree to pay \$625 yearly for twenty years for the use of twenty-five hydrants.

The proposal met with bitter opposition on the part of the older and more conservative leaders in the community who were supported by many of the small tax payers. On the side of the Water Company were a number of progressive and able business men. Before the meeting of the District at which the proposal was to be acted upon, every voter in the district was canvassed. After an exciting meeting the agreement was adopted by a small majority.

Echoes of this conflict were aroused in 1907 when the approaching expiration of the twenty year contract caused a renewal of interest in the subject. The renewal of the charter was opposed by a group which believed that the District should buy and operate the water system. In anticipation of such action a charter was secured in 1907 from the State legislature incorporating the Manchester Water District and authorizing it to acquire by purchase or by condemnation the charter and rights of the Manchester Water Company.

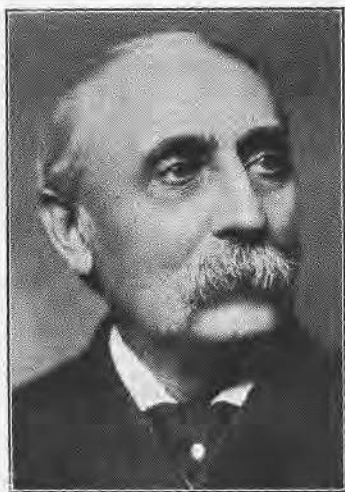
The Water Company then offered to sell its property to the District for \$100,000. After extended debate the District decided not to purchase nor did it institute condemnation proceedings. Unsatisfactory mains and the fact that the Water Company did not own the watershed of its reservoir were determining considerations in this decision.

A new contract for fire protection was made with the company in 1909 in which the hydrant rate was reduced. At present the Manchester Water Company supplies 3,500 homes at the north end of the town. It has a single reservoir of 38,000,000 gallons capacity, supplemented by a reserve tank furnishing an additional supply of 3,000,000 gallons. William Foulds, Sr., is president of the company. Dividends are usually paid at the rate of five per cent. on the capital stock of \$50,000.

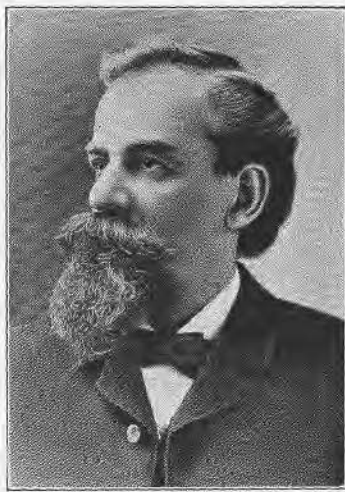
For ten years after the installation of the water system the Eighth District was without modern methods of sewage disposal. The only sewer in the district was that built and maintained by Clinton W. Cowles. With it were connected the Cowles Hotel, the Eighth District School house and a few houses on North School Street. The Town Health Officer, in the Annual Report of the Selectmen for 1900 (p. 35) described conditions in the Eighth District as follows: "Nearly every house has a cesspool. A large part of them are poorly constructed and rarely cleaned out. The manufacturers using large amounts of water find it

impossible to make even a series of cesspools anything but a nuisance. The smaller cesspools are constantly becoming objectionable. It would seem that the time has certainly arrived when the Eighth School District should put in a sewer system. Nothing is as badly needed at the North End."

In order to remedy this situation, the Manchester Sanitary and Sewer District was incorporated with power to construct a sewer system and to issue sanitary regulations. In 1904 the laying of sewer mains was begun and several extensions have since been made. A septic tank was constructed in order to avoid pollution of the Hockanum River.



Maro S. Chapman



Horace J. Wickham

The Tramway Company.

The connection by electric railway of Manchester with Hartford, in 1895, was an event of as great significance as the opening of the steam railroad forty-five years earlier. It was Maro S. Chapman, one of the leading figures in Manchester's business and political life in the past generation, who was largely responsible for the building and successful development of the "trolley line." In 1894 he organized The Hartford, Manchester and Rockville Tramway Company, associating with himself as directors in the company, Richard O. Cheney, and Horace J. Wickham of Manchester, and Hartford and Springfield capitalists. Construction of the line from Burnside (the eastern terminus of the Hartford

lines) to Manchester Center was begun without delay and completed in May, 1895.

Soon afterwards the crosstown line from South Manchester to the North End was opened. In July, 1896, the northern branch of the line from Love Lane to Talcottville was completed, and eighteen months later the line reached Rockville. The company then had seventeen miles of single track line. The total construction cost of the line was \$369,950, or \$21,762 per mile. The equipment cost was \$65,824, making the total investment \$435,774. The undertaking was financed by the issue of \$200,000 in bonds and the sale of \$300,000 of stock.

In 1896 the number of passengers carried was 631,836; in 1900 this number had increased to 1,237,846. The net earnings in that year, after the payment of \$24,399 to the general officers, were \$24,480. The number of employees had increased from forty-five to seventy-five.

In 1906 the road came into the possession of the Consolidated Railway Company, by whom it was later transferred to The Connecticut Company. The price paid by the Consolidated Railway was \$895,603, a sum equal to more than double the original investment. The extension, in 1908, of a branch line to Manchester Green was the occasion for a great public rejoicing in that community. Since its acquisition by the Connecticut Company the business of the local lines has shown a significant increase. Notwithstanding severe competition from jitneys in the years 1919-1920 and increase of use of automobiles, the service on the Manchester lines has been steadily improved. Better cars have been provided and more frequent service is given.

Fire Protection.

The organization in 1897 of the South Manchester Fire Department began the development at the south end of town of a remarkably effective volunteer fire protection service. At first the equipment was primitive — horse-reels drawn by the running firemen. They were replaced after a few years by horse-drawn hose and ladder trucks, and finally the entire equipment was motorized. At present the district owns five pieces of motorized apparatus and three buildings. An up-to-date fire alarm system has been installed and is maintained at a high pitch of efficiency by Superintendent Louis N. Heebner.

Hook and Ladder Company No. 1, whose territory includes the Cheney mills and the residences of the Cheney family, has been equipped and is maintained at the expense of Cheney Brothers. Company No. 1, nevertheless, is under the command of the Fire Chief and is subject to the control of the Fire Commissioners of the District.



H. & L. Co. No. 1, So. Manchester Fire Dept.



Hose Co. No. 2, So. Manchester Fire Dept.



Hose Co. No. 3, So. Manchester Fire Dept.

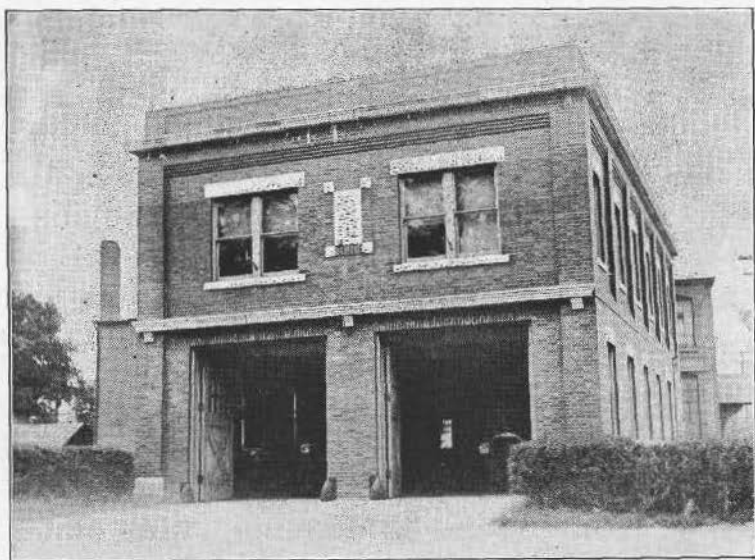


H. & L. Co. No. 4, So. Manchester Fire Dept.

The personnel of the South Manchester Fire District includes 153 volunteer firemen and three commissioners.

Following is the list of fire commissioners with their terms of office:

Frank Cheney, Jr.,	1897-
Justus W. Hale	1897-1913
F. Ernest Watkins	1897-1918
E. L. G. Hohenthal	1913-
Oliver F. Toop	1918-1923
William J. Crockett	1923-



Fire Dept. Building, 8th School District

The District in 1921 contracted for the insurance of its entire personnel against accident or death incurred while engaged in fire fighting. This action was taken in consequence of the fatal injury received by Edward W. Post, foreman of Hose Company No. 3, who was struck by an automobile while responding to an alarm. The District has levied taxes varying from one to two and one-half mills on seven occasions in the past twenty-six years. Its property is now valued at \$130,000 and its indebtedness is \$36,000.

CHAPTER XII.

SOCIAL ORGANIZATION — CHURCHES, LODGES AND OTHER ASSOCIATIONS

Manchester, in 1920, had a population of 18,370, or about four and one-half times the population reported in 1870. The growth has been steady from one census period to the next but was particularly rapid in the last decade. Of equal significance with the change in total numbers has been the decrease in the proportion of native stock (i.e., native white of native parentage). The following table shows that this element, which made up three-fourths of the total inhabitants in 1870, was only one-fourth of the total in 1920.

TABLE VII
POPULATION OF MANCHESTER BY COLOR AND
NATIVITY

1870 to 1920					
Year	Total	Native White- Native Parentage	Native White- Foreign or Mixed Parentage	Foreign- born White	Colored
		Native born	Foreign born		
1870	4,223	3,021	1,202		
1880	6,462	4,395	2,067		
1890	8,222	2,573	2,490	3,128	31
1900	10,601	2,789	3,998	3,765	49
1910	13,641	3,242	5,367	5,006	26
1920	18,370	4,830	7,608	5,915	17

The growth of the foreign element in Manchester's population is reflected in the rapid development of new church organizations. There are now thirteen religious bodies in the town with a total membership of over 5,000. In the last half-century thirteen new

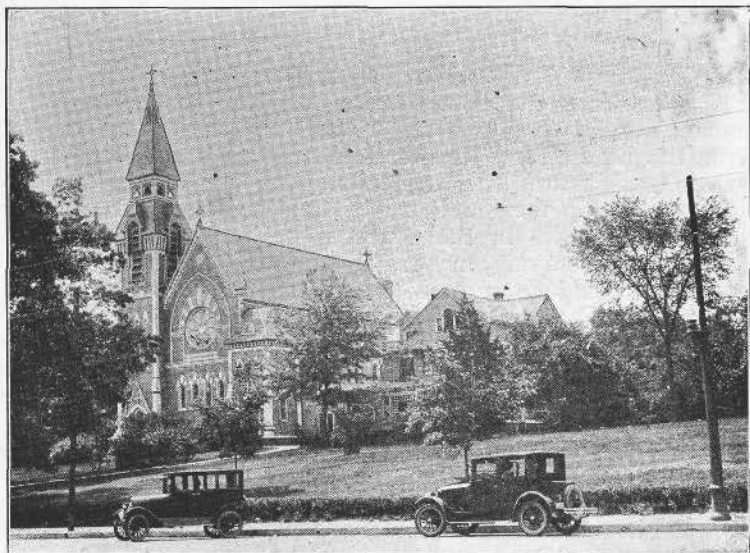
church buildings have been erected and two are now in process of construction.

Church Histories — The Roman Catholic Churches.

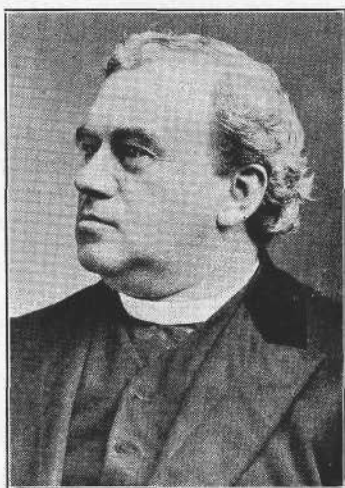
In a previous chapter we have outlined the beginnings of Roman Catholic worship in St. Bridget's Parish at the north end of the town. In 1869 Reverend James Campbell became the first resident pastor of St. Bridget's and under his able and inspiring leadership the church made rapid progress. For twenty years the Catholics in the southern part of town journeyed regularly every Sunday, most of them on foot, winter and summer, to St. Bridget's, a good two miles. Finally, in 1874, the building of a Catholic church in South Manchester was made possible by the gift by Cheney Brothers of an acre of ground on Main Street for a church site. Thus a generous precedent was established, which has been followed by similar gifts from the same source to a number of other denominations of widely differing creeds. A new parish was set aside, with Reverend James Campbell as its first pastor and St. James as its patron. In the summer of 1875 the male members of the parish assembled with axes and shovels and other tools, and with the aid of many of their townsmen cleared away the trees and brush and made the site ready for building. The corner stone was laid in August with impressive ceremonies. A full attendance of all Catholic residents was made possible by the closing of the silk factory. When the new church was nearing completion there occurred an act of vandalism, which was evidence of hostility toward Roman Catholics, notwithstanding the liberal attitude of leading citizens. During the night of May 4-5, 1876, the church was broken into, thirty-five stained glass windows were smashed, altar ornaments were stolen and an attempt was made to set fire to the structure. The town authorities immediately offered a reward of \$200 for the apprehension of the offenders, and an additional offer of \$300 was made by members of the congregation. The church was completed at a total cost of \$40,000 and was dedicated August 20, 1876.

Father Campbell, assisted by curates, continued to minister to both parishes until his death in 1890. In his pastorate of twenty-one years he had become respected and beloved by all who knew him, of whatever faith, and he was sincerely mourned by the entire community. The parishes were divided after Father Campbell's death and Father Haggarty, who had been an assistant, became pastor of St. James, continuing in that position until his death in 1898.

Under Father McGurk (1898-1923) the parish grew rapidly and extensive developments were made. The rectory, which had been built in 1892, was renovated. A tract of twenty-five



St. James Roman Catholic Church, So. Manchester



Rev. James F. Campbell



St. Bridget's Roman Catholic Church
Manchester

acres was purchased at Edgewood and laid out as a cemetery, and extensive alterations and improvements were made in the church itself. The most striking accomplishment of Father McGurk's pastorate was the founding of the convent and parish school, which was opened in September, 1922. The school, which has accommodations for 300 children, will eventually provide instruction in eight grades. Both the convent and the school are brick structures. Their combined cost was about \$150,000.

The parochial census of 1921 showed a total of 3,938 souls in the parish distributed by nationalities as follows:

	Families	Souls
English speaking	510	2,068
Italian	196	896
Polish	63	287
French	44	193
German	40	182
Canadian	37	172
Lithuanian	27	112
Slavic	8	36
Bohemian	5	19

Upon the appointment of Father McGurk to a church in Waterbury he was succeeded by Reverend W. J. Reidy, who is the present pastor. Assistant pastors of St. James Church have been as follows:

Rev. Ignatius Kost	1903-1905
Rev. A. J. Plunkett	1905-1907
Rev. James O'Meara	1907-1910
Rev. James Healy	1910-1916
Rev. James Timmins	1916-

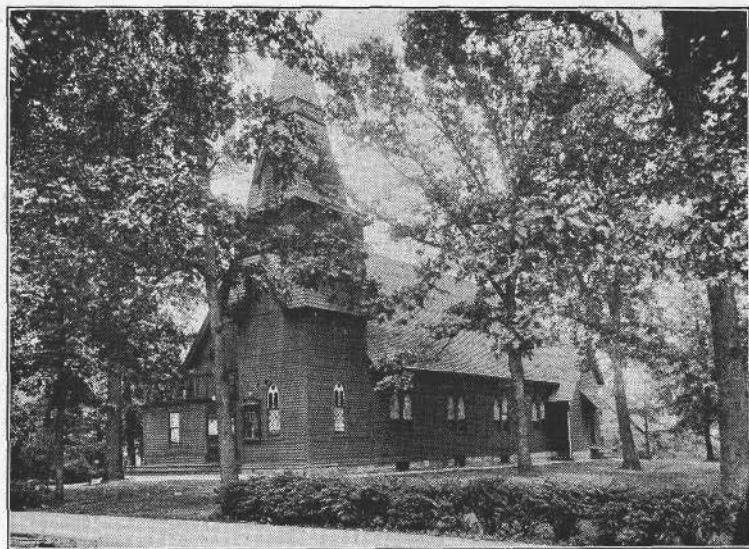
The pastors of St. Bridget's Church since 1890 have been:

Rev. W. J. Doolan	1890-1894
Rev. Richard Gragan	1894-1897
Rev. F. J. Murphy	1897-1913
Rev. C. T. McCann	1913-

This church now has 1,000 communicants including 600 Irish, 200 Polish, 125 Lithuanians, 40 Italians, and 30 of French extraction.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church.

St. Mary's Parish has now had a continuous history of forty-five years. In 1839 and, with heroic efforts at regularity, until 1847 services were held in North Manchester by the following men: Rev. Mr. Burgess, afterwards Bishop of Maine; Rev. Arthur C. Coxe, afterwards Bishop of Buffalo, a giant in the



St. Mary's Episcopal Church. So. Manchester



Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church. So. Manchester

life of the Episcopal Church in his day and at that time Rector of St. John's Church, Hartford; Rev. Professor Totten, President of Trinity College.

In 1844 Rev. William C. Corbyn was elected rector. It was thought expedient to move to Manchester Green. In 1846 Cheney Brothers built a church at the Center; this building, afterwards moved to North Manchester, still stands, used as a tenement house, opposite the North Congregational Church.

From 1851 to 1855 services were intermittent; then Rev. Professor Jackson, President of Trinity College, took charge. After a lapse of several years Rev. Enoch Huntington, a retired clergyman, started work again. The church had been sold. Title was re-secured but the church did not prosper, although Rev. Mr. Huntington continued his faithful services.

In his reminiscences Mr. Huntington tells of a meeting on March 26, 1874, at the Central Academy Hall. "In a room hired and fitted up by the 'Protestant Foreigners' about 60 were present, mostly young men in the silk factory. It was voted to commence public worship on Easter, April 5. At this service 100 were present. . . . 'were not seats enough.' 'On May 3, voted to purchase chairs to put in the aisles. In the fall \$100 was spent for shutters, painting and papering. The Academy building was then about twenty years old. Speculators would like to buy it (the hall) but it is doubtful whether they can. It is a time of great speculation and growth in the neighborhood and town. This room is in the right place equi-distant from each village and easy of access to each village. Congregationalists have sent to beg their rights in the upper room. A Mr. Hunniford offered to buy and pay for the whole building, intending probably to let the lower room to the church and the upper room to the Protestant Lodge (March 9, 1875)."

In 1875 he tells of the great commercial panic, how it begins to affect South Manchester. Silk mills reduce wages twenty-five per cent.; building will probably stop for the present. Mr. Barrett and family have left and gone to New Britain, a large family. Mr. Huggard has gone to California, a communicant and exemplary man. For ten years there has been much moving out and moving in. April 18, put up in hall the old Chancel Railing which used to be in the old St. Mary's at North Manchester. The old marble altar slab was enclosed by it.

At the New Year 1876 we read, "Commenced plan of taking up penny collections for the rent of the church hall in the Academy. It is \$40.00 a year, that is about 80 cents a Sunday. Collection amounted to \$2.90. Went into hands of W. Hunniford treasurer." ¹

¹ The foregoing paragraphs are taken, with some modification, from an historical sermon preached by Rev. James S. Neill, published in *The Evening Herald* of October 6, 1923.

In 1878 Rev. Beverly Warner was appointed rector at Manchester. The number of communicants was then only thirteen. Today the parish contains 2,600 persons, of whom 1,000 are communicants. A new church was built in 1883, to which a parish house was added fifteen years later. The growth of the parish has made the present church accommodations inadequate and a new building of stone is now in process of erection which will cost approximately \$100,000.

The St. Mary's Young Men's Club, an athletic and social organization, was founded in 1890 during the pastorate of Reverend Edward H. Coley. It built a clubhouse in 1895 on land donated by Cheney Brothers at the corner of Linden and Myrtle Streets.

The pastors of St. Mary's Church since its permanent organization have been as follows:

Rev. Beverly Warner	1878-1884
Rev. James H. LaRoche	1884-1889
Rev. Edward H. Coley	1889-1893
Rev. Jacob A. Biddle	1893-1903
Rev. Manning B. Bennett	1903-1917
Rev. James S. McNeil	1918-

Swedish Lutheran Church.

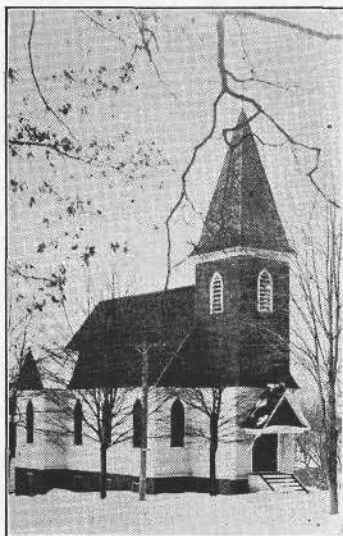
The new Gothic brick edifice erected in 1923 by this church is a monument to the diligence and devotion of the Swedish element in Manchester's population. Forty-three years ago, in 1881, a group of fifty-seven residents of Swedish birth founded a church society and requested admission to the Augustana Synod. The request was granted and a pastor, Reverend J. Mellander, was assigned to hold services here once a month. Lacking a church building, the members of the new society met in private homes and in the Masonic Hall. After five years it was decided to build a church upon the tract of land at the corner of Church and Chestnut Streets which Cheney Brothers had given. The building fund of \$5,000, subscribed principally by Swedish people in Manchester and surrounding towns, included also contributions from many residents not of Swedish nationality nor of the Lutheran faith. The building, a frame structure 60 x 36 x 16 feet, was completed in 1887 at a cost of \$6,500.

After a number of short pastorates, Reverend W. P. Anderson was installed in 1895. Under his leadership for a period of sixteen years the church showed vigorous growth. His resignation in 1911 marked the close of the first thirty years of the society's history. The membership was then 839 of whom 524 were communicants.

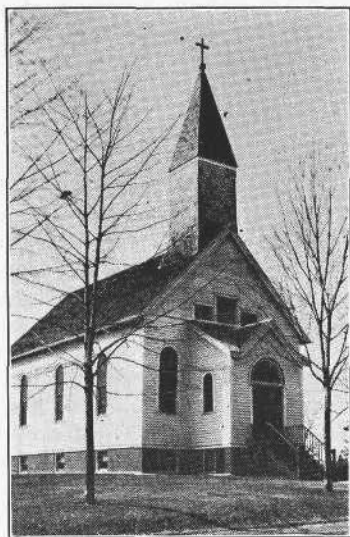
The construction of the new building in which the Swedish



Swedish Congregational Church
So. Manchester



Ev. Lutheran Concordia Church
So. Manchester



Evangelical Lutheran Zion Church
So. Manchester

Lutherans now worship was a task undertaken by the present pastor, Reverend P. J. O. Cornell, soon after his installation. Work was begun in May, 1914, and the corner stone was laid in July, 1916. Owing to the disturbance which the war occasioned, and the high cost of materials and labor, the progress of the building was suspended for several years and it was not finally completed until March, 1923. In the construction of the new church, which is of gray manganese brick, 106 feet long, 44 feet wide and 34 feet high, with a tower 122 feet in height, a large amount of the work was done by the church members themselves. Reverend Mr. Cornell drew the plans with the assistance of his daughter, Miss Hildur Cornell. The latter designed the interior decorations. The excavation for the foundations was done by men of the congregation working Saturday afternoons through an entire summer. It is estimated that the equivalent of 1,000 man-days was thus contributed. The contractor for the wood work, S. Emil Johnson, is a member of the congregation, as are also the painters. The total cash expenditures amounted to \$61,000.

The congregation now numbers 889, of whom 646 are communicants and 243 are children.

A list of the pastors of the church follows:

Rev. J. Mellander	1881-1882
Rev. C. O. Landell	1882-1883
Ludwig Holmes	1883-1884
J. Wickberg	1885-1886
G. E. Youngdahl	1886-1887
F. Jacobson	1887-1889
Rev. A. Olson	1889-1895
Rev. W. P. Anderson	1895-1911
Rev. P. J. O. Cornell	1911-

Swedish Congregational Church.

The Swedish Evangelical Congregational Church was organized in 1892, largely through the efforts of Reverend L. W. Bjorkman of Hartford. It had no regular meeting place until about a year later, when a building was erected on Spruce Street on a lot donated by William H. Childs. For a number of years the church was supplied with temporary pastors, some of them home missionaries. For a time services were suspended altogether. The church was revived in 1909, when Reverend Ernest Ander was installed as pastor. Under the pastorate of Reverend A. L. Anderson, the present incumbent, the church has shown promising growth. The mortgage indebtedness has been paid off and in addition substantial improvements have been made. The present membership is sixty-four.

The German Lutheran Churches.

The first German Lutheran Church in Manchester (Zion Church) was organized in 1890. For several years before that date monthly services had been held in Cheney Hall, and in the Swedish Lutheran Church, under the leadership of Rev. O. Hanser pastor of Trinity Church of Rockville. Rev. John Horst became the first settled pastor. In 1892-3 a church was built on a site donated by Cheney Brothers on Cooper Street and a parsonage in 1910.

In March, 1893, only four months before the dedication of the new church, a serious division took place in the congregation on the question of fraternal organizations. The pastor, upholding the attitude of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and other States, condemned all secret oath-bound societies, lodges, and fraternal organizations having religious tendencies and refused church membership as a voting member to such as were also members of secret organizations.

As a result of the action a number of families withdrew from Zion Church and founded the Concordia congregation. The new group being few in number, and lacking funds for building, worshipped for a number of years in private houses. Later they held their services on Sunday in St. Mary's Church. Courtesies of this kind are not infrequent in the history of Manchester's churches, testifying to the kindly spirit which has characterized interdenominational relations.

In 1896 a church was built by the Concordia congregation on land given by Cheney Brothers at the corner of Garden and Winter streets. In 1910 a parsonage was erected.

Zion Church now has 190 members, including persons of American, Austrian, Hungarian and Russian as well as of German birth and parentage. The Concordia Church has 250 communicants.

The pastors of Zion Church have been as follows:

Rev. John Horst	1891-1894
Rev. F. Ottman	1894-1900
Rev. H. C. Boeckmann	1900-1914
Rev. W. C. Schmidt	1914-1920
Rev. H. F. R. Stechholz	1920-

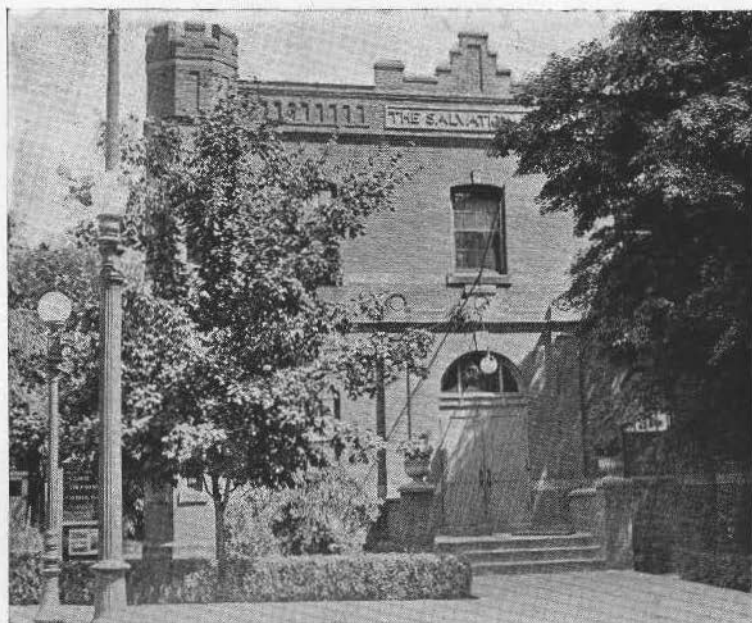
The following have been pastors of the Concordia Church:

Rev. Hugo Erdmann	1893-1896
Rev. Paul Lemke	1896-1898
Rev. Lothar Brunke	1898-1906
Rev. G. A. von Nicelli	1906-1908

Rev. Gustav Gille	1908-1909
Rev. Otto Rapport	1909-1914
Rev. Herman Stippich	1914-1924
Rev. Weber	1924-

The Salvation Army.

From very small beginnings the Salvation Army has become in the course of less than forty years one of our strongest and best-known religious organizations. The local corps was founded



Salvation Army Citadel. So. Manchester

in 1886 by the two Salvationists recently arrived from Scotland, John Thompson and James Benson. To begin with cottage meetings were held, often at the home of Thomas Rogers. They proved so successful that permanent quarters were sought. Lumber was purchased and a barracks was constructed on Spruce Street. Much of the work was done by the new recruits. The building was of the crudest sort, sheathed with rough boards and with plank benches for seats.

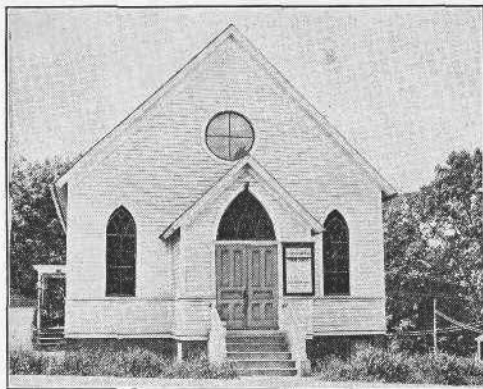
Captain Miss Estess was the first officer to be put in charge of the local corps. After two months she was succeeded by

Captain Libby McAbee. In the early years of its work in Manchester the Salvation Army suffered bitter persecution. Attempts were made by hoodlum gangs to break up the meetings both on the streets and in the barracks. Fist fights and small riots sometimes resulted. All kinds of missiles were thrown at the marchers, so that some of them were seriously injured.

It was not many years, however, before there was a marked change in the attitude of the public. The Salvation Army now has the respect and good wishes of the entire community. In 1906 the corps had 135 members and a band of twenty players. In 1908 the citadel on Main Street was erected. It is of brick 40 x 72 feet, with an auditorium seating 400 as well as quarters for the commanding officers. The local corps, which now has 201 members, is regarded as one of the strongest Salvation Army units in this country.

Church of the Nazarene.

On November 18, 1897, ten persons organized in the Town Hall the John Wesley Pentecostal Society. About a year later



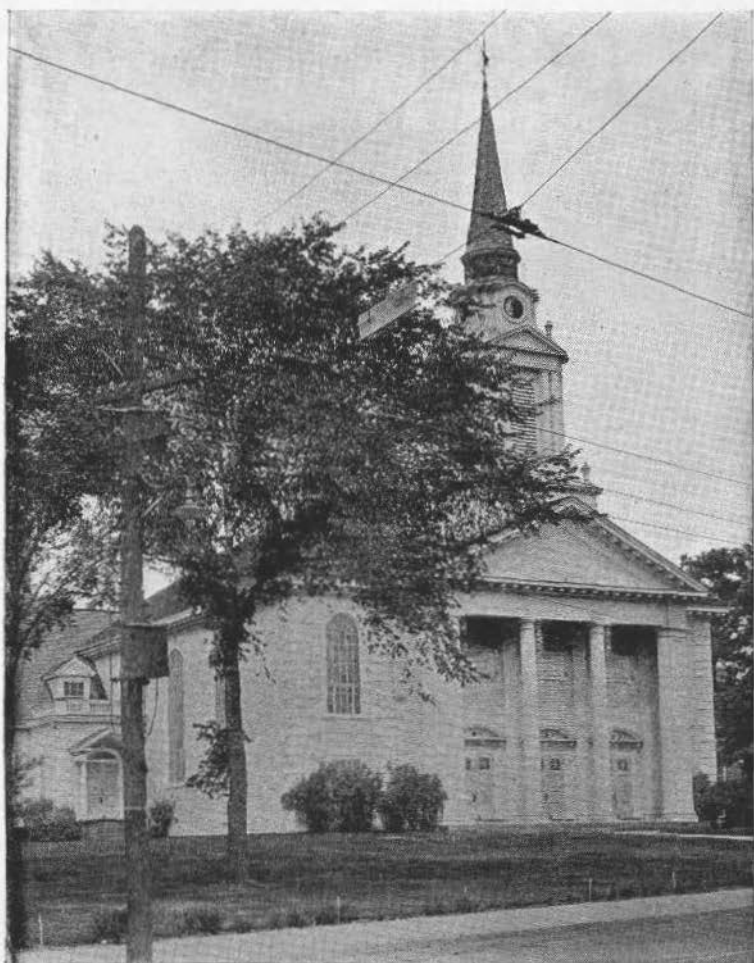
Church of the Nazarene

they erected a church building on land donated by Cheney, Brothers on Main Street. The church, which is now known as the Church of the Nazarene, has a membership of eighty-five, including representatives of the following racial groups: English, Irish, Scotch, Danes, Swedes, Germans and Austrians. The following have been its pastors: Reverend A. H. Howland, F. W. Weed, A. E. Fitkin, C. Goldberg, Charles

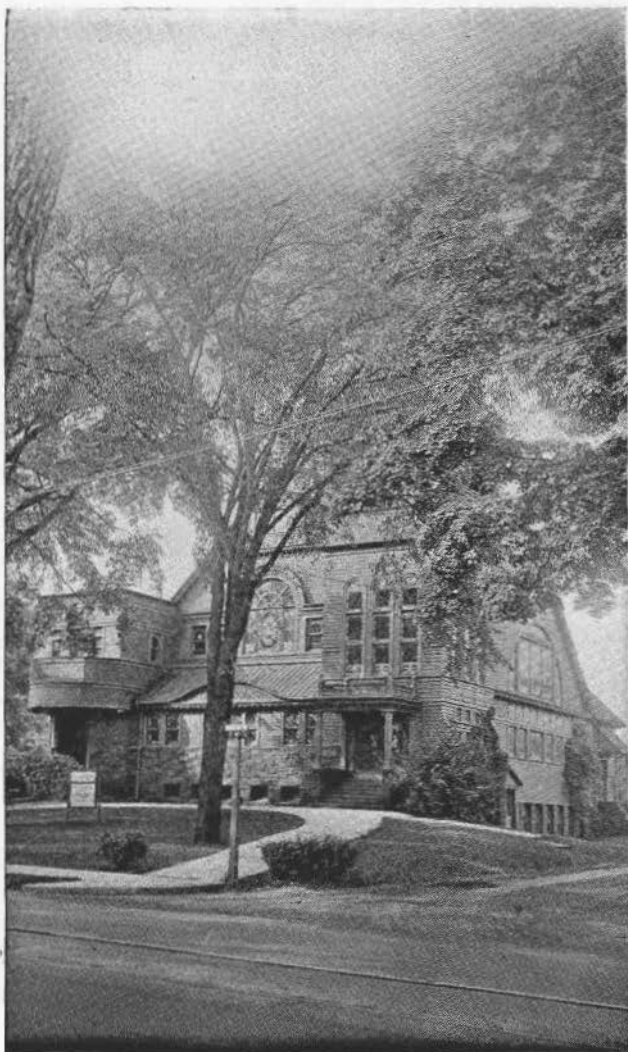
P. O. Ramsdall, L. A. Harriman, A. Washburn and C. F. Austin.

Adventists.

Adventist services have been held at irregular intervals since 1884, when a small congregation was gathered by Elder J. N. Pile. No church has been organized, however, and local Adventists have worshipped in nearby cities.



CENTER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



SECOND (NORTH) CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
MANCHESTER

Progress of the Older Churches, 1870-1923.

The older church bodies have made rapid progress with the growth of the town. The First Church (Center Congregational) now has 560 members. It occupies its fifth church building, which was dedicated in 1904. Among the racial groups represented in its membership are English, Scotch, Irish, Swedes, Danes, Poles, Germans and Armenians. The present pastor is Rev. Watson Woodruff. His predecessors since 1870 were:

Rev. Charles E. Hesselgrave	1915-1920
Rev. George W. Reynolds	1901-1914
Rev. Thomas Simms	1891-1900
Rev. Silas W. Robbins	1871-1891

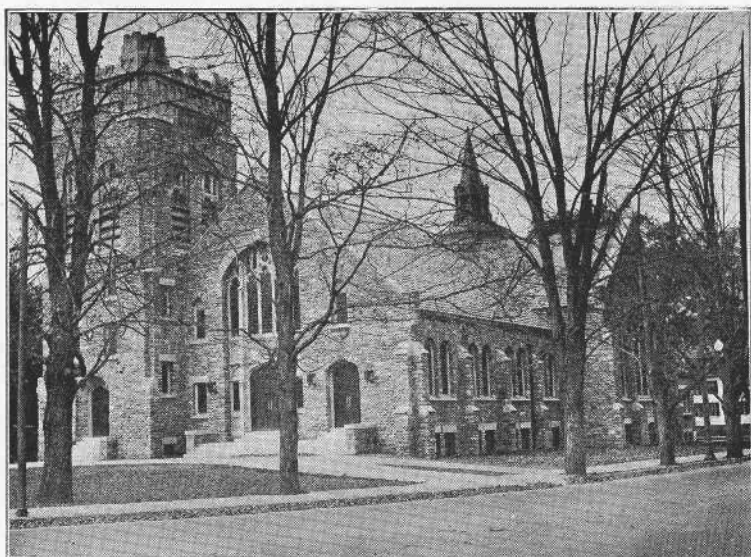
The Second Congregational Church now has a membership of 398, almost entirely of native birth and parentage. It occupies its second building, which was erected in 1888. The list of pastors follows:

Rev. Geo. E. Hill	1851-1853
Rev. Francis F. Williams	1853-1856
Rev. Hiram Day	1857-1859
Rev. Wm. E. Bassett	1861-1863
Rev. Henry Loomis	1864-1867
Rev. Edwin A. Adams	1868-1872
Rev. Norman J. Squires	1873-1880
Rev. Howard W. Pope	1881-1886
Rev. Clarence H. Barber	1886-1905
Rev. Charles N. Lovell	1905-1910
Rev. Charles M. Calderwood	1911-1917
Rev. Richard Peters	1918-1921
Rev. Raymond A. Beardslee	1922-

The South Methodist Church has had the following pastors since 1860:

Rev. S. M. Benton	1860-1861
Rev. J. M. Worcester	1862-
Rev. E. S. Stanley	1863-1864
Rev. E. B. Bradford	1865-1867
Rev. A. W. Kingsley	1868-1870
Rev. H. H. Martin	1871-1872
Rev. John Gray	1873-
Rev. Walter Ela	1874-1876
Rev. H. D. Robinson	1877-1879
Rev. J. C. Gowan	1880-1882
Rev. Eben Tirrell	1883-1885

Rev. D. P. Leavitt	1886-1890
Rev. James M. Taber	1891-1893
Rev. Julian S. Wadsworth	1894-1898
Rev. J. S. Bartholomew	1899-1900
Rev. T. J. Everett	1901-1902
Rev. Wm. F. Davis	1903-1910
Rev. S. E. Ellis	1911-1914
Rev. W. H. Bath	1914-1919
Rev. G. S. Scrivener	1919-1922
Rev. Joseph Cooper	1922-



New South Methodist Episcopal Church

The present membership is 700, of whom about two-thirds are Ulster Protestants and the remainder native New England stock.

Preparations are now under way for a new church building, which will contain in addition to an auditorium seating 600, Sunday school rooms and social and recreational facilities. The building fund, originally estimated at \$100,000, has been generously oversubscribed. By raising this sum the church secured the gift of \$30,000 offered by one of its members, Mr. A. Williard Case. There were in all about 700 contributors to the fund.

LODGES, SOCIETIES, CLUBS AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Lodges, Societies, Clubs and Other Organizations.

The organization within the past half-century of forty-five or fifty societies, clubs and associations with a wide variety of interests and purposes is one of the most striking characteristics of the social development of our community. It illustrates perhaps better than any other fact the wide difference between the simple life of a rural town and the complexity of interests in a modern civic unit.

Here follows the table:

TABLE VIII
 LODGES, CLUBS AND OTHER ASSOCIATIONS

Name	Date of Organ- ization	No. of Charter Members	Present Mem- bership
Manchester Lodge, A. F. and A. M.	1826	7	574
So. Manchester Division, Sons of Temperance	¹ 1848	38	30
Washington, Loyal Orange Lodge, No. 117	1875	6	165
Manchester Division, Ancient Order of Hiber- nians	1877	13	200
Women's Christian Temperance Union	1880	17	55
Manchester Grange, Patrons of Husbandry	1885	27	187
Manchester Tent, The Maccabees	1888	17	95
Society Seger	1889	18	155
King David Lodge, I. O. O. F.	1890	10	578
Froshinn Lodge, Sons of Hermann	1891	35	57
Woman's Benefit Association of the Maccabees	1893	17	216
Sunset Rebekah Lodge	1894	24	320
Court Manchester, Foresters of America	1896	34	250
Scandia Lodge, Order of Vasa	1900	98	400
Campbell Council, Knights of Columbus	1901	51	350
Memorial Lodge, Knights of Pythias	1901	29	89
So. Manchester Camp, Modern Woodmen of America	1901	35	240
Manchester Chamber of Commerce	² 1901	100	310
Temple Chapter, Order of Eastern Star	1902	31	318
Daughters of Liberty, L. O. L.	1903	27	90
Cosmopolitan Club	1904	17	40
American Insurance Union	³ 1904	35	300
Camp 2640, Royal Neighbors	1906	20	...
Linne Lodge, Knights of Pythias	1907	18	152
Educational Club	1909	...	150
Manchester Loyal Orange Lodge, No. 99	1911	42	...
Miantonomah Tribe, Red Men	1912	45	150

¹ Reorganized 1855 and 1888.

² Originally Manchester Business Men's Association.

³ Originally known as Fraternal Benefit League.

Name	Date of Organiza- tion	No. of Charter Members	Present Mem- bership
Sub-Alpine Athletic Club	1912	7	100
So. Manchester Lodge, Loyal Order of Moose	1914	...	265
Franco American Club	1914	20	40
Sons of St. George	1915	25	56
Polish American Club	1916	20	38
Manchester Country Club	1917	200	467
Mothers' Club	1920	29	110
Daughters of Scotia	1920	29	56
Clan McLean, Order of Scottish Clans	1921	18	40
Zipser Club	1921	30	60
Court 8843, Royal Neighbors	1921	50	...
League of Women Voters	1921	200	150
Lady Roberts Lodge, Order of Daughters of St. George	1921	45	49
Women of Mooseheart Legion	1922	25	...
Chapman Court, Order of Amaranth	1922	80	88

In Table VIII the more important local associations have been listed in order according to the dates of organization. Only one society, the Masons, can boast of a continuous existence going back before 1870. Manchester Lodge No. 73 was chartered in 1826, only three years after the incorporation of the town. Like the town, it was an offshoot of East Hartford, its seven charter members having been members of Orient Lodge of that town. The Sons of Temperance, although first organized in 1848, was not permanently established until 1886. The Orangemen, organized in 1875, and the Hibernians, organized in 1877, both came into existence during the industrial depression which followed the business crisis of 1873. During the seventies, also, the Irish immigration was particularly strong. The local Grange came into existence in 1885, at a time when the Patrons of Husbandry were at the height of their power.

Orford Parish Chapter — Daughters of the American Revolution.

"Home and Country"



Orford Parish Chapter, a patriotic society, was organized in May, 1895 by Mrs. Marietta Stanley Case and in August, 1895, on receipt of the charter from the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, Mrs. Case was chosen its first Regent.

There were twelve charter members and from this small beginning the chapter has slowly but steadily grown to a membership of eighty-two whose object it is "To perpetuate the memory and spirit of the men and women who achieved American Independence, to cherish, maintain and extend this institutions of American freedom, to foster true patriotism and love

of country, and to aid in securing for mankind all the blessings of liberty."



D. A. R. Fountain, Manchester Center

The years 1888-1893 marked the beginnings of non-sectarian fraternal benefit organization in Manchester, with the establishment of the Maccabees, the Odd Fellows, the Swedish Society Seger and the Sons of Hermann. It is notable that two of these earliest benefit societies were organized along racial lines, an indication of the wave of German and Swedish immigration which was contributing to Manchester's population in the eighties.

The "hard times" of 1893-1896 temporarily interrupted the growth of all kinds of associations and no new lodges were founded. A similar period of interruption is observable after the Crisis of 1907. The World War absorbed all the energies of Manchester's people and diverted to war work much of the funds which otherwise might have flowed into miscellaneous social organizations. Consequently but few lodges or other associations were formed in the years 1915-1919. A new wave of organization came in 1920, resulting in the founding within three years of no less than eight new societies.

Referring again to Table VIII we find that twelve of the organizations there listed are racial groups having as a primary purpose the union of persons of common birth and descent.

Some of the racial groups are purely social organizations, others have benefit and insurance features, while still others, such as Clan McLean and the Zipser Club, combine with these purposes the aim to assist in the Americanization of their members.

The Chamber of Commerce and Civic Improvement.

The past quarter-century has witnessed the formation of a number of organizations whose interests reach out beyond their own membership and embrace the welfare of the entire community. In the new work of civic betterment the Manchester Chamber of Commerce takes a prominent place. Organized in 1901 as the Manchester Business Men's Association, under the leadership of the late Clarence G. Watkins, its interests were at first confined to the improvement and standardization of business conditions. But in the past ten or twelve years there have been many indications of a widening of its field. In 1923 a salaried executive, Mr. George Rix, was installed as secretary of the Chamber. With its large membership and abundant financial resources we may expect the Chamber of Commerce to become one of the most powerful influences for social and economic betterment in the community.

Women's Clubs.

The Cosmopolitan Club, organized in 1904 with seventeen members, was a pioneer in the field of women's clubs. It is purely a literary and social club. Since 1907 it has been affiliated with the Connecticut Federation of Women's Clubs.

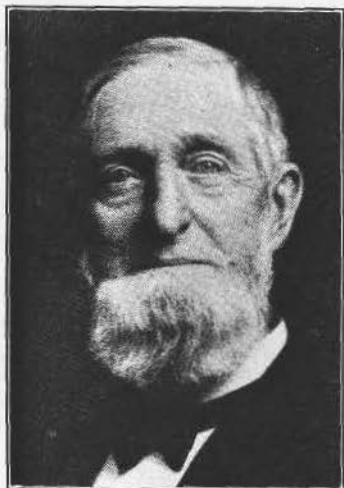
One of the most progressive and valuable organizations in Manchester is the Educational Club, which was established in 1909 with eighty-four charter members. Its chief purpose is to promote co-operation between the home and the school, and it has furthered many projects for the mental and physical welfare of the school children. Its most important work has been the establishment and maintenance of the Open Air School in the Ninth District and it has assisted the recently formed open air school in the Eighth District. Among its other activities have been supper clubs, lectures, lecture courses, picture exhibits and social gatherings. The club also lends financial aid in serving milk in the schools to under-nourished children, and last year it contributed \$200 to be used in physical corrective work among children. The club has a membership of 150 women. It takes the place of the Parent-Teachers' organization and is much broader in scope. It handles the Red Cross seals for Manchester.

Good work along somewhat similar lines is being accomplished by the Mothers' Club of Manchester, with an active membership of 110. It is a generous supporter of the Memorial Hospital, of

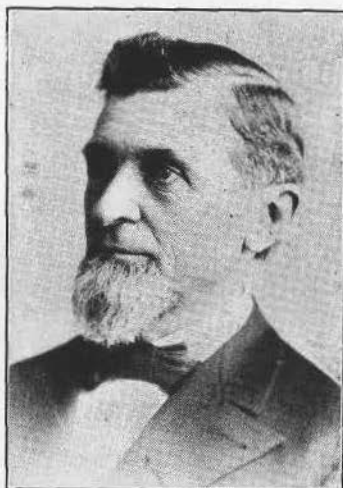
the Visiting Nurse Association, and of similar welfare organizations.

The most recent of the women's clubs is the League of Women Voters, organized in 1921. It has been active in the political education of new voters and has already made itself felt as a force in local politics.

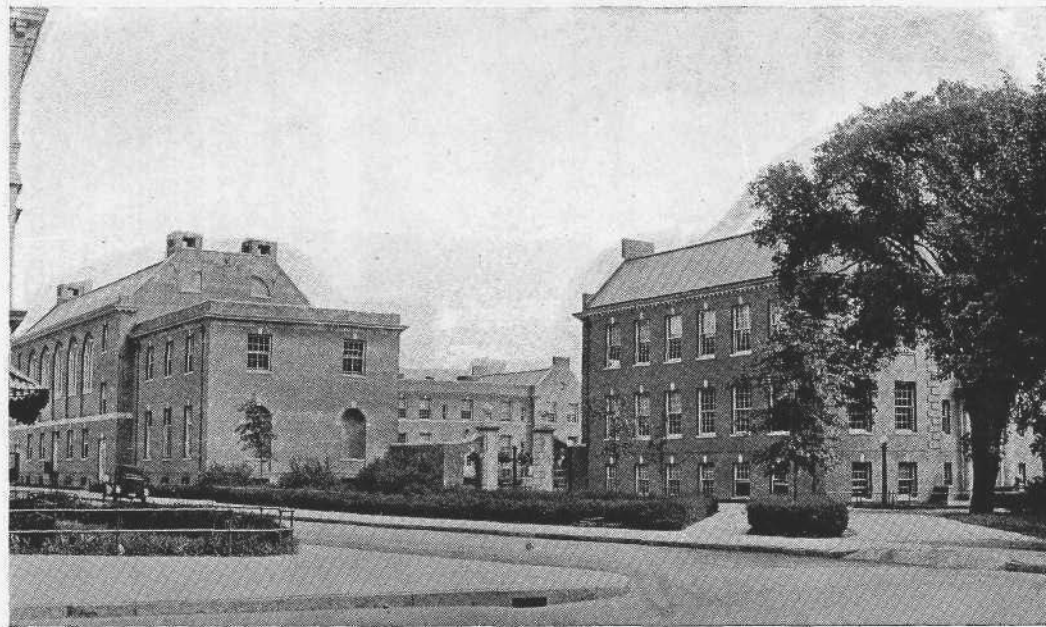
The Manchester Country Club is an institution whose history belongs to post-war days, although it was incorporated in 1917. During the war a nine-hole golf course and tennis courts were laid out, but Manchester young people were too busy with war interests and the club showed little growth until within the past year or two. A new clubhouse was formally opened in May, 1924, and a second nine holes will soon be ready for use. From an original membership of 200, the club has now grown to 467.



Dr. O. B. Taylor



Rev. Silas W. Robbins



EDUCATIONAL SQUARE, DISTRICT NO. 9
RECREATION BLDG. BARNARD SCHOOL FRANKLIN SCHOOL

CHAPTER XIII.

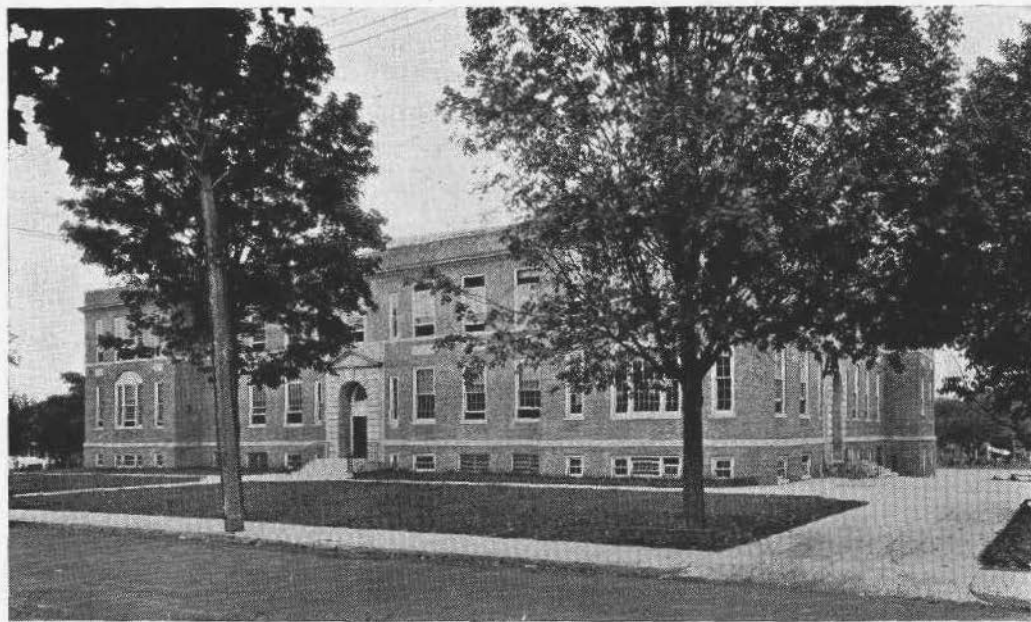
EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS IN MANCHESTER

Of all the achievements which have marked the history of Manchester in the last fifty years, the most outstanding in permanent value is the development of its schools. The schools of Manchester as they stand today, thoroughly modern in system and in equipment, are the product not only of a wisely generous policy on the part of the town fathers, aided by private subsidies from Cheney Brothers; they are also the fruit of self-sacrificing endeavor on the part of many public spirited men and women. Some of them, as school visitors and trustees, without compensation devoted much time and high intelligence to their task, others as teachers gave the best years of their lives to the instruction of the growing generation, setting forth in their own lives an example for better living.

Progress in the Ninth District.

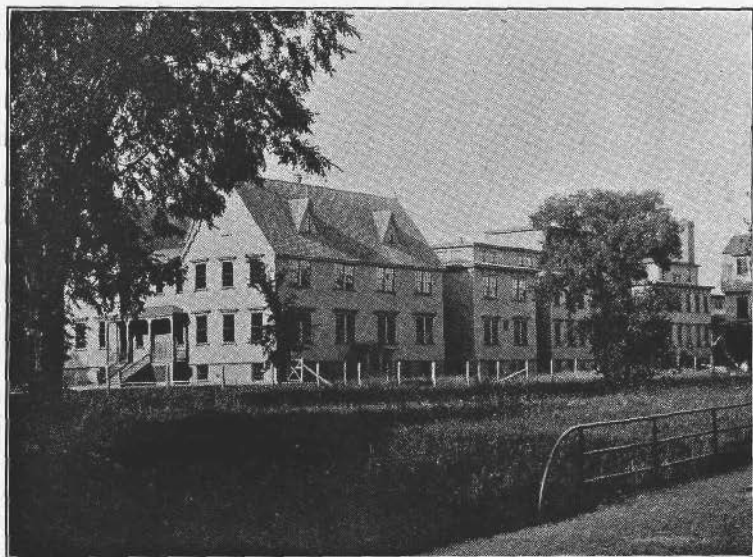
The leading district in the educational development of Manchester since 1870 has been the Ninth. Although not organized until 1859, a full century later than many of the other districts, the concentration of population in the south-central part of the town around the flourishing silk factory of Cheney Brothers soon gave the newcomer an importance greater than any of the older districts. In the year 1871 the district was enlarged by the inclusion of parts of the Fourth and Fifth districts. In the same year a new schoolhouse was provided by Cheney Brothers, who thus inaugurated a policy of assistance to our educational institutions which has been in great part responsible for their present advanced condition.

An excerpt from the report of Doctor O. B. Taylor for 1872 reads as follows: "In the 9th District, including Cheneyville, the number of children has been increasing from year to year, until more ample accommodations for the school became an absolute necessity. To meet this want, and to accommodate the greatest number, in October of last year the district lines were altered so as to include portions of the 4th and 5th Districts, and preparations were made for building a new schoolhouse nearer



NATHAN HALE SCHOOL, DISTRICT NO. 9

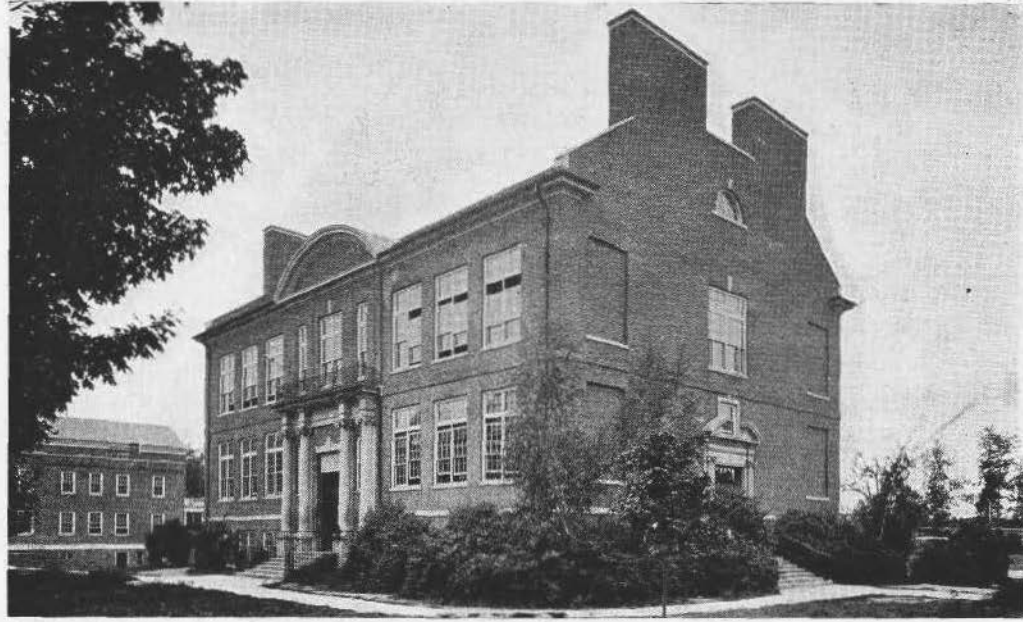
the center of population. During the discussion in reference to the location, plan, and cost of the structure, it seemed to be generally conceded that the interests of society demanded that we have good and efficient schools, and that every child in the community receive his or her due proportion of the advantages to be derived therefrom. Consequently, to build and furnish a house sufficiently large and commodious for the growing wants of the village, would involve the district in an expense of several thousands of dollars. After acting upon several plans and propositions, none of which seemed satisfactory, Messrs. Cheney Brothers, regarding the universal education of the people as vital to the best interests of our commonwealth, in the generous and



Schoolhouse and Library, Ninth District. Burned Oct. 23, 1913

liberal spirit which characterizes them, offered to build and furnish a schoolhouse at an estimated expense of not less than fifteen thousand dollars, and give the free use of it, to be under the control of and occupied by the district for a public school, which offer was readily accepted by the district, and the house is now nearly completed."

In 1881 this building was raised and four rooms were constructed under it, making an eight-room building. In 1887 another addition of four rooms was constructed, which was followed in 1893 by a third of still larger proportions. For twenty



WASHINGTON SCHOOL, DISTRICT NO. 9

years, until its destruction by the fire of October 23, 1913, the building thus enlarged, housed a much wider variety of educational activities than are usually found under one roof. Besides the usual eight grades there was a kindergarten, a training school for the undergraduates of the New Britain State Normal School, rooms for manual training, including woodwork, cooking and sewing, and also a gymnasium and baths. The South Manchester High School was also housed in the Ninth District School Building until the construction of the new high school in 1904.

Decentralization of School Facilities, 1915-1923.

The need for a decentralization of school facilities in the Ninth District was apparent as early as 1899, when a primary school was opened in the Cooper Hill Schoolhouse in the western part of the district. In 1915 a modern building, the Washington School, was constructed to care for the needs of this section. Meanwhile, in 1906, a primary school had been opened at the Center in Orange Hall, which was succeeded in 1911 by the Lincoln School. The Barnard School on School Street was first occupied in 1915, the East Side Recreation Building in 1917, the Nathan Hale School on Spruce Street in 1921, and in the same year the West Side Recreation Building was completed. At the end of the half century we find, therefore, nine buildings with accommodation for 3,500 pupils, in the district where in 1871 was one schoolhouse with four rooms.

The Normal Training School.

For twenty-three years, 1891-1914, the instruction in the kindergarten, and in Grades I to VI inclusive, was given under competent supervisors by undergraduates of the New Britain State Normal School. The young women, 1,400 in all, who thus received their training as teachers have in many instances had successful careers in the public schools of neighboring states, such as Massachusetts and New Jersey, as well as in Connecticut.

The South Manchester High School.

The South Manchester High School furnishes tuition free of charge to young men and women of all parts of town but has always been under the direction and control of the committee of the Ninth School District. After the closing of the Center and the East Academies about the year 1870, there was no private institution in town which provided instruction in high school subjects. In the Ninth District, Dwight Bidwell, who was principal of the Grammar School in the years 1871-1882, gave instruction to small groups of pupils in such subjects as Latin and Algebra, which are now recognized as belonging to the high school curriculum.

SO. MANCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL, DISTRICT NO. 9



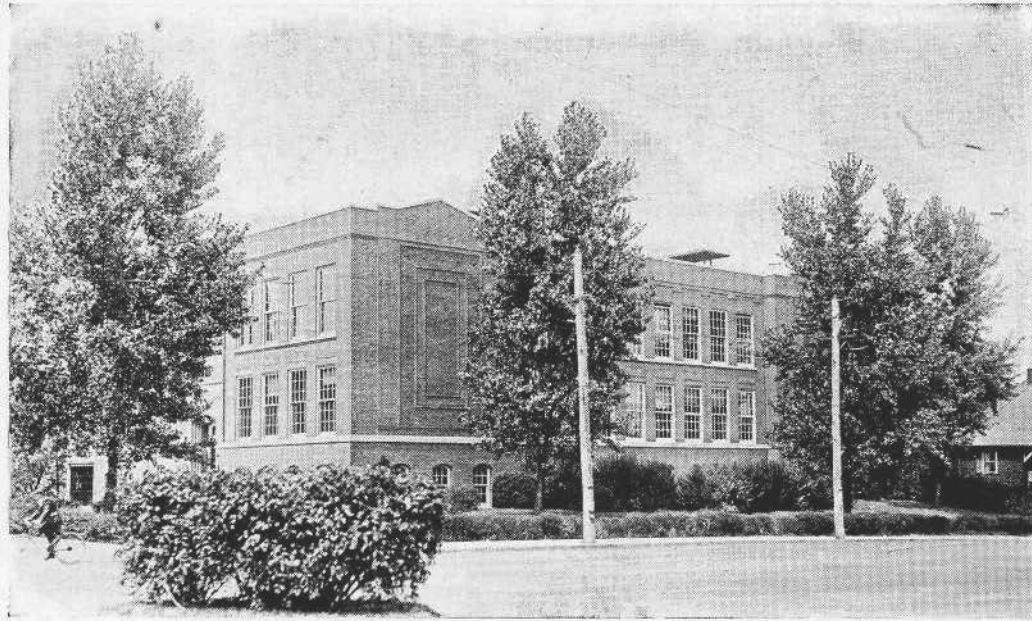
For a number of years Manchester students attended the Hartford High School under an arrangement by which a fee of \$100 per year per pupil was paid by the town. In 1887 the establishment of a local high school was debated in town meetings and a committee was appointed to report on the subject. The committee's report was unfavorable and the subject was dropped. In 1893 the Committee of the Ninth District authorized the teaching of high school subjects. F. A. Verplanck was the first principal. A year later A. E. Peterson was appointed principal with one assistant. There were two courses of study, the classical, or college preparatory, and the general course. The first class, graduated in 1894, had six members: They were, Gertrude L. Albiston, Mary H. Gray, Mary J. Johnson, Alice M. Belcher, Agnes S. Henderson and Reuben F. Gray. The class of 1924 has ninety-two members. Today the school offers two college preparatory courses, a normal course, a general course, two commercial courses and a trade school course. In the latter are included shop work in textiles, machinery, electricity, carpentry and mechanical drawing.

The graduates of the South Manchester High School now number 945. Among them are alumni of almost every college and university in the East. The principals of the high school with their years of service are listed below:

F. A. Verplanck	1893-1894
Arthur E. Peterson	1894-1900
Harry C. Folsom	1900-1907
Austin Savage	1907-1915
John Backus	1915-1917
Leland P. Knapp	1917-1923
Clarence P. Quimby	1923-

The State Trade School.

The State Trade Education Shop, established in South Manchester in 1915, was an outgrowth from a textile apprentice school which had been set up a few years previously in Cheney Brothers Mills. The trade school combines practical shop work with instruction in fundamentals of theory. It affords opportunity for grammar school and high school students to learn a trade while carrying on their regular studies. Courses are given in machine work, including tool making; mechanical and architectural drafting; carpentry and cabinet making; electrical work; and textile manufacturing. In the Textile Course, which is open to girls as well as boys, students who show proficiency spend one-half day each week in the silk factory receiving an hourly wage for all productive time. Their wages are graduated according to the length of their training and the marks received on school



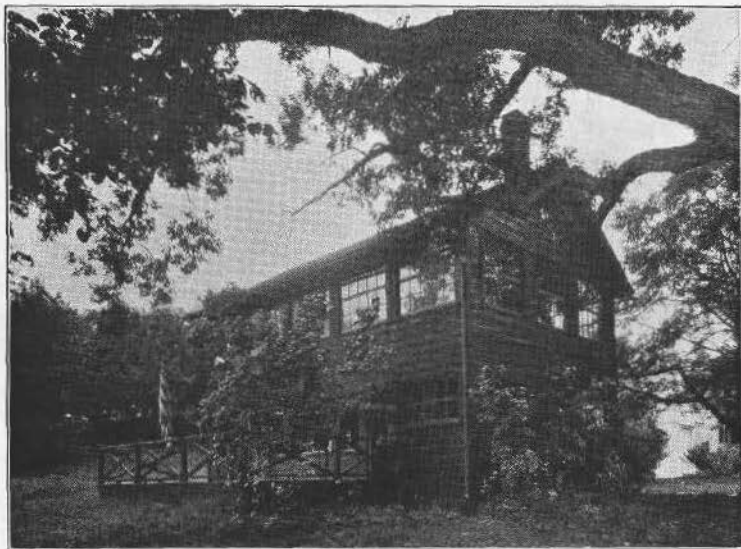
LINCOLN SCHOOL, DISTRICT NO. 9

work. During the twenty-eight months of the textile course an average student may earn about \$850 from his factory work.

The enrollment at the Trade School in 1923 was 351. Its equipment is thoroughly modern and compares favorably with that of any of the nine other trade shops under the direction of the Connecticut State Board of Education. The faculty of the school, including Mr. Alexander A. Warren, the director, now numbers thirteen men and women.

Trade School graduates have had no difficulty in securing good positions and a recent survey shows that ninety-five per cent. of them are now working at their trades.

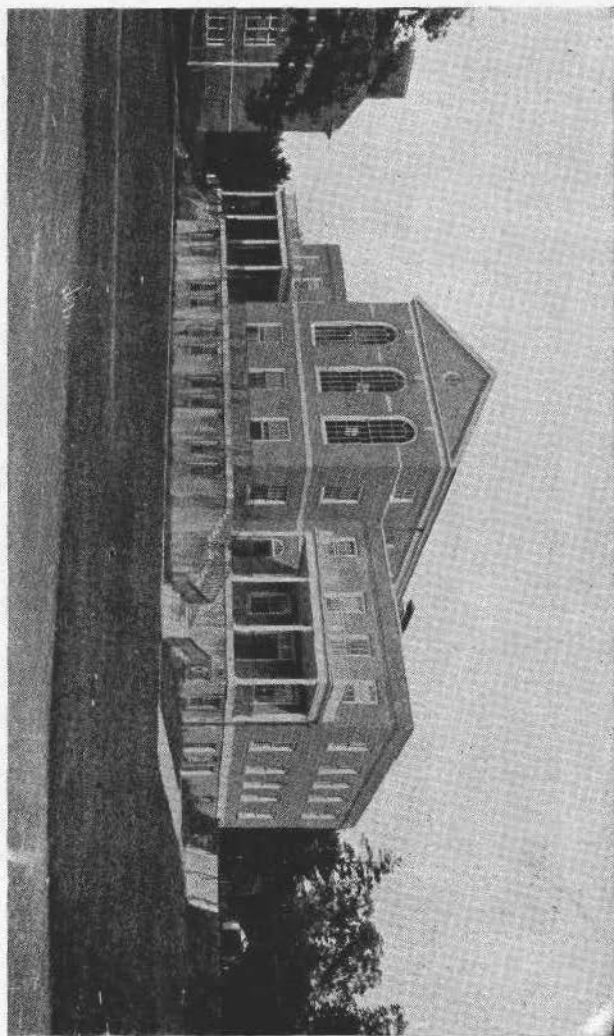
The following chronological table indicates how consistently the authorities of the Ninth School District have kept abreast of new ideas in education.

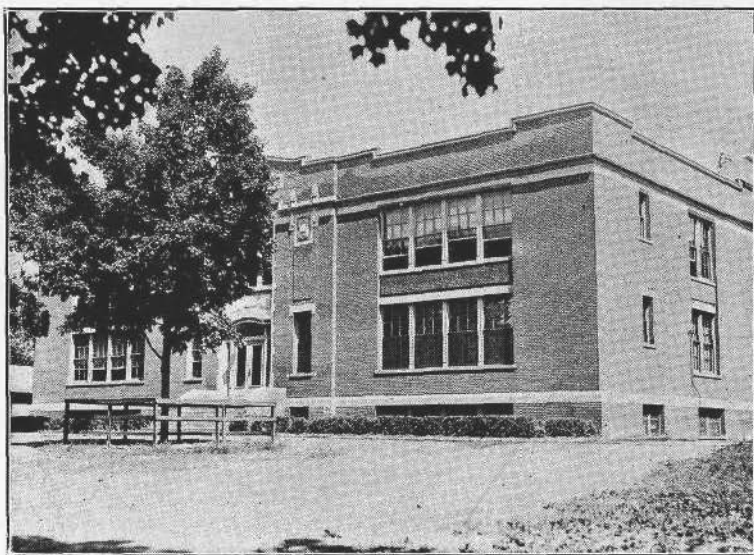


OPEN AIR SCHOOL, DISTRICT NO. 9

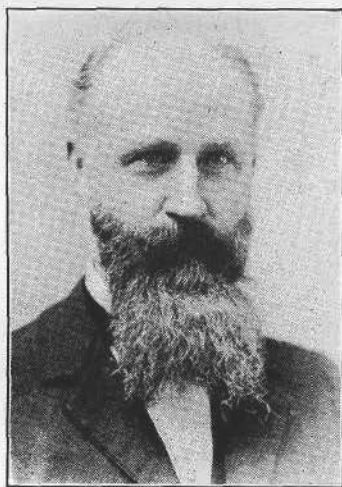
- 1890 — Kindergarten opened
- 1890 — Full-time instructor in music employed
- 1891 — Instruction provided in woodwork, cooking and sewing
- 1893 — Gymnasium opened and regular training in physical culture begun
- 1893 — Examination of eyes and ears of pupils begun
- 1899 — Full-time teacher of drawing employed
- 1902 — Evening schools opened

WEST RECREATION BUILDING, DISTRICT NO. 9



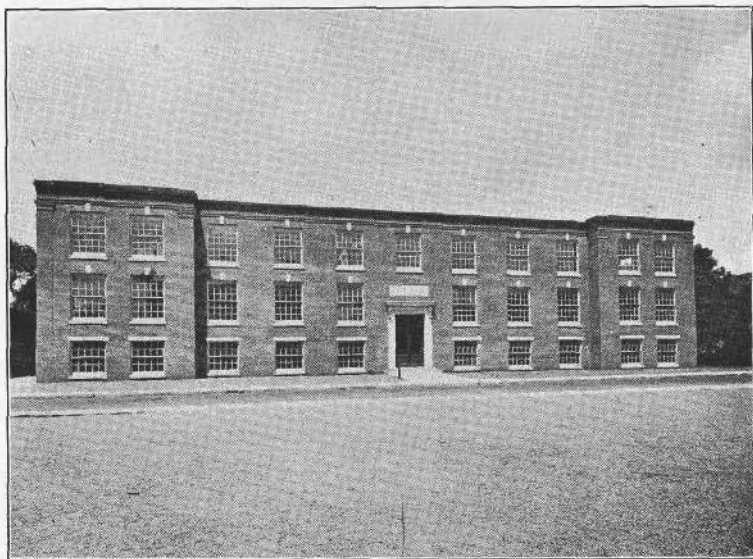


Manchester Free Library, North School St.



Dr. F. H. Whiton

- 1905 — Free text books provided
- 1906 — Medical inspection with daily visits of school physician
- 1907 — School nurse employed
- 1907 — Educationally exceptional children segregated
- 1911 — Open air school opened with instruction in household arts
- 1912 — Textile school established
- 1915 — Textile school merged in State Trade School
- 1916 — Dental hygienist employed
- 1918 — Director of Americanization and of Evening Schools employed
- 1919 — Management of Teachers' Hall placed under direction of the District School Committee
- 1923 — South Manchester Free Public Library placed under the management of the District School Committee



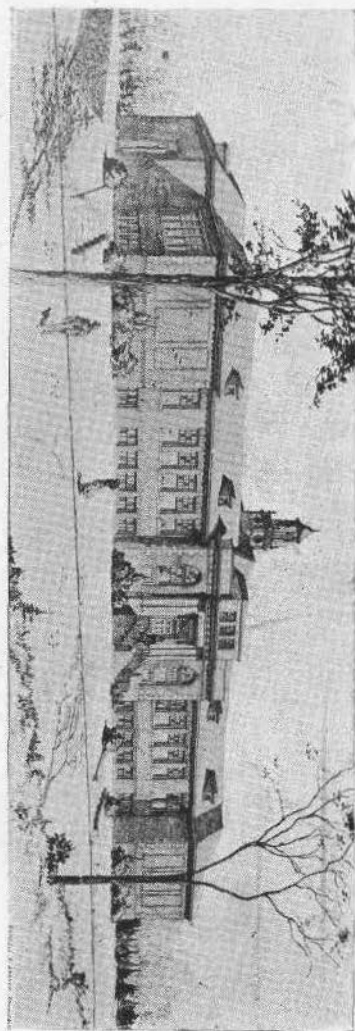
State Trade School, School Street
(Building belongs to Town of Manchester)

The Eighth District.

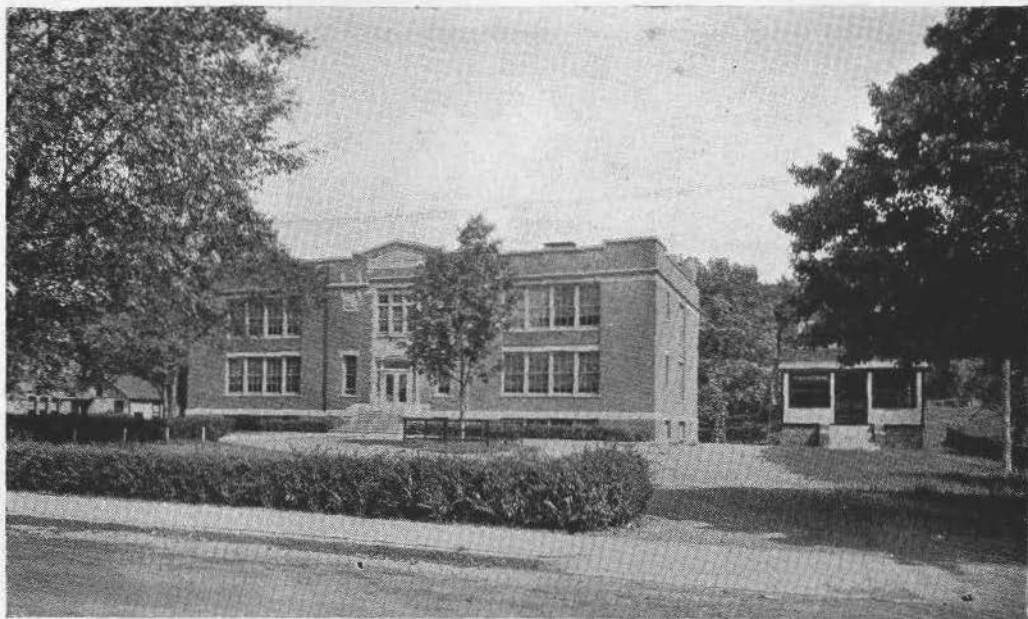
Because of the early development of manufacturing at "the north village," the Eighth District in the years 1850 to 1870 was the largest and best equipped in the town. In 1860 it had a three-room schoolhouse and three teachers were employed. In 1874



NORTH SCHOOL ST., SCHOOL. DISTRICT NO. 8



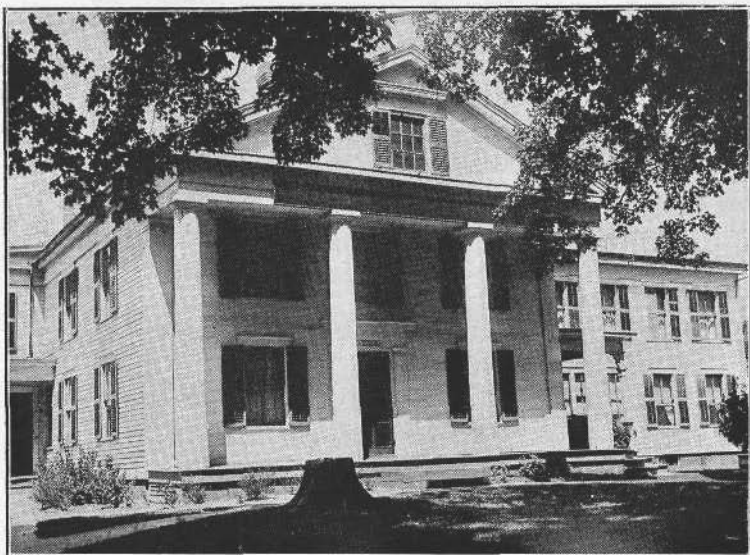
HARDING SCHOOL, DISTRICT NO. 8



ROBERTSON SCHOOL, DISTRICT NO. 8

the growth of the school population made it necessary to provide more room, and after prolonged discussion and several school meetings it was voted to erect a new two-room building "on the present site,¹ north of it and disconnected from the present schoolhouse." In May, 1880, both of these schoolhouses, which were of wood, were burned, probably by an incendiary.

For two years following the fire the school children were housed in makeshift fashion, for the provision of new quarters was long delayed by the inability of the voters of the district to agree upon a site. Finally the Board of School Visitors of the



Manchester Community Club

Town of Vernon was summoned to act with the Manchester Board and the joint body chose the site on North School Street now occupied by the main building of the Eighth District. The new school was completed in the spring of 1882 at a cost of \$13,500.

After an interval of eight years the school building question again agitated the north village. In June, 1891, a school meeting voted to add a four-room addition to the building then in use. This vote was rescinded and other votes were passed only to be rescinded in their turn. The eventual decision was not reached

¹ I.e., on the site later occupied by the residence of Clinton Cowles on North School Street.

until January 11, 1894. After two and a half years of wrangling and delay, the site selected was that chosen in the original meeting of June 18, 1891.

The modern plant of the Eighth District consists of a six-room building, constructed in 1913 on the North School Street campus at a cost of \$39,000, and a nine-room building on Hollister Street, completed in 1924, which has cost about \$100,000. Each of these buildings has a large assembly hall.

A kindergarten was opened in the Eighth District in 1912. Courses in manual training and domestic science were offered in 1914. A room for subnormal children was organized in 1916, and in 1920 an open-air school was added. A school nurse and a dental hygienist have offices in the Eighth District but devote part of their time to the outlying schools. All of the town schools are now given regular medical inspection.

The only original school house in Manchester still standing. It was the original Keeney St. school moved. It was built nearly where the present Keeney St. building stands and was moved to its present location on the farm of Mr. Henry McConville, Keeney St. in 1848.

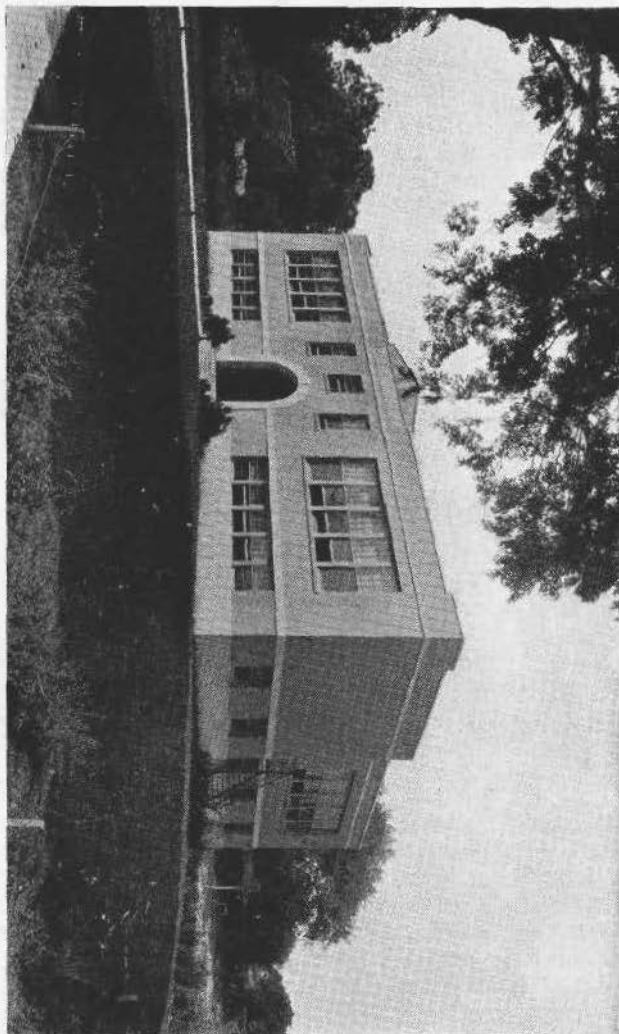


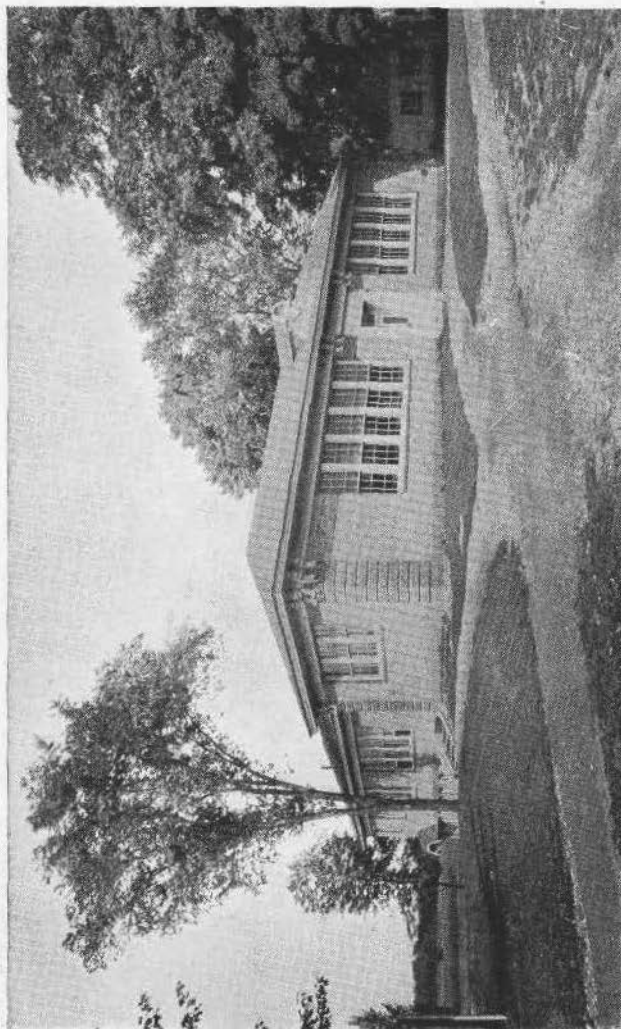
Old Keeney Street School

The Outlying Districts.

The growth of population in Manchester in the years 1830 to 1900 was concentrated almost entirely in and around the factory villages of North and South Manchester. Consequently, while their school population grew and was supplied with more and better equipment, the schools of the outlying districts remained in 1900 about as they had been when the town was incorporated. Many of the readers of this book can remember the one-room wooden schoolhouse which they attended, painted white, standing bleak and bare at the crest of a hill. No attempt was made to soften its outlines by trees or shrubbery, and even the grass had but little chance of survival under the promiscuous trampling of the pupils' feet. These one-room schools were ungraded; children of all ages from four to twenty were not infre-

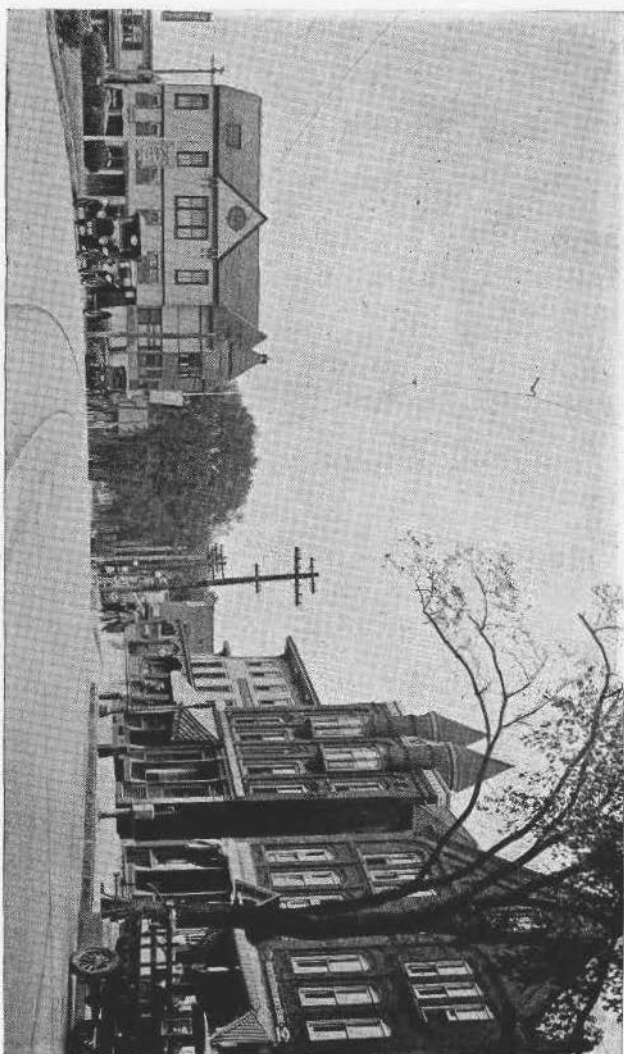
DISTRICT NO. 7 SCHOOL, BUCKLAND





DISTRICT NO. 2 SCHOOL, MANCHESTER GREEN.

DEPOT SQUARE, MANCHESTER, 1924



quently sheltered in the same room, receiving instruction in alternate classes from the single teacher. Sanitary conveniences were abominable and medical inspection was unknown.

When the village's began to spread out with the introduction of bicycles, trolley cars and cheap automobiles, the school attendance in outlying districts increased and better facilities were demanded. Between 1890 and 1900 additions were made to the buildings in the Bunce District (No. 6), the Keeney Street Dis-



Keeney Street School, District No. 5

trict (No. 5), and Porter Street District (No. 3). Beginning in 1919 a campaign for the provision of adequate and modern school buildings in the outlying districts was begun. The results are given below:

1919 — Third room added to Porter Street School

1920 — Enlargement at Bunce School

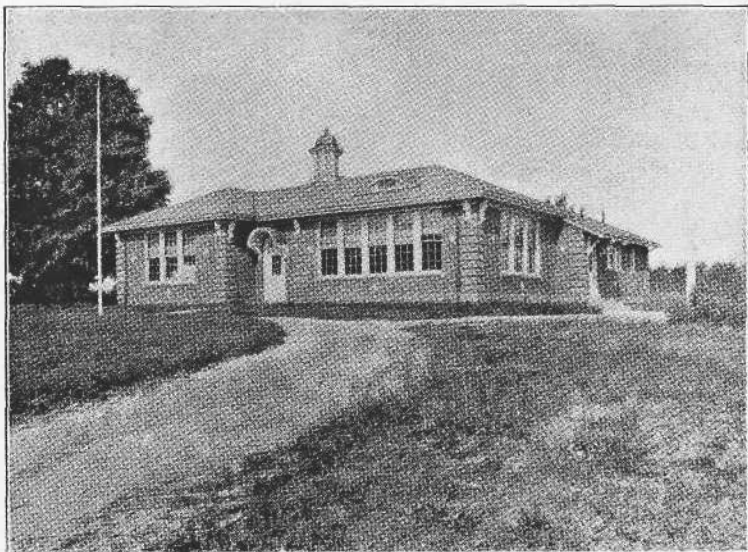
1921 — Modern brick building with four rooms and assembly hall replaced wooden building at Manchester Green

1922 — Four-room building with basement and auditorium built at Buckland

1922 — Modern building with three rooms and assembly hall at South School

1923 — Additional room (third) with new heating equipment for southwest district

At present there exists in Manchester only a single survivor of the old fashioned one-room schoolhouse, that at Oakland. The schools at Manchester Green and Buckland now give instruction in all grades, including the eighth, in their own buildings. Other districts carry instruction only up to the sixth grade but their pupils are permitted to attend the Eighth or Ninth District Schools for work in the higher grades.



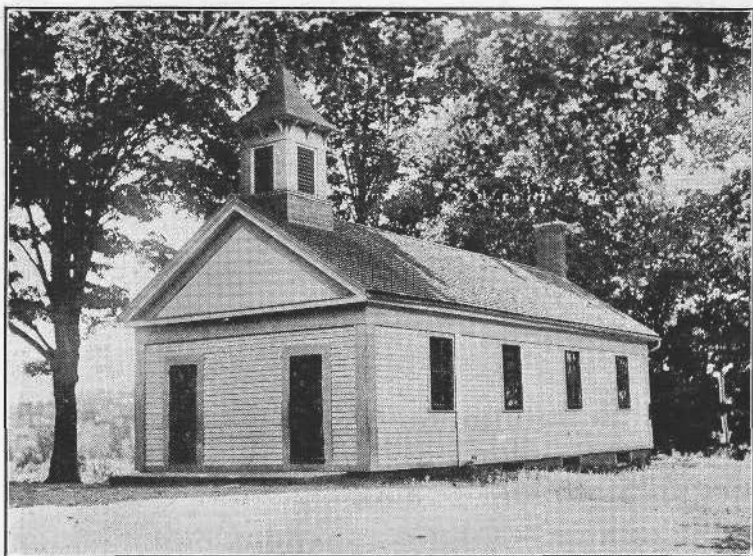
School House, 4th School District

Teachers and Officials Who Have Served Manchester's Schools.

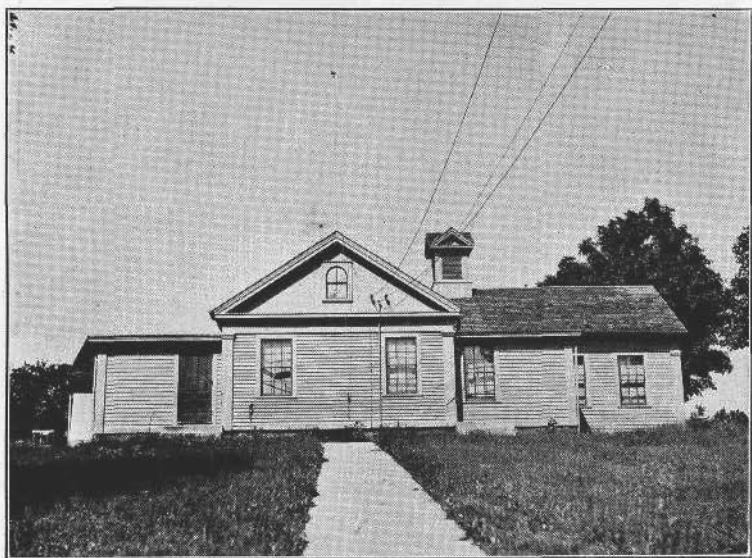
"School progress is not in large measure a matter of growth of population, nor of expanding courses of study. The vital element in school progress is the life of the teacher built into the lives of the boys and girls that are placed in his charge."¹ It is obviously impossible here to record the names of all the faithful teachers and officers in the schools of Manchester whose influence has been marked in the development of the community, but in the following paragraphs will be mentioned a few of those who are best remembered.

At Manchester Green, Eliza Merrill taught not only the three R's, but also Latin and French to those who were prepared. Mabel Cook, Dwight Bidwell, Frank Holland and Lavinia Albiston each

¹ Quoted from Mr. Howes' manuscript.

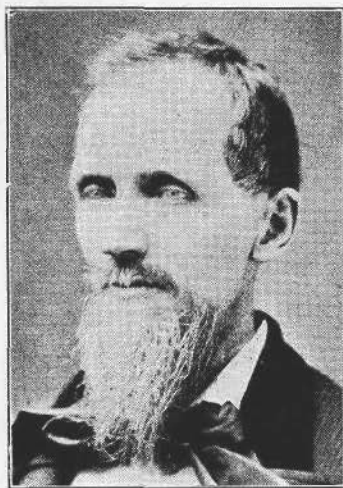


Oakland School, District No. 1



Porter Street School, District No. 3

taught there for a number of years. Katharine Wolcott, Emma Williams and Belle Goodrich were skillful teachers who are well remembered by former pupils of the Buckland School. Nathaniel Keeney, known at one time as "the richest man east of the Great River," was one of the earliest schoolmasters in the Southwest District. Others who followed him were: Henry Bunce, Jane Bunce, Mrs. C. E. Watkins, Theodore Bidwell, Annie House, Jane Coville, Clara Keeney, and Mary (Mrs. Ethan) Strong. Mrs. Strong afterward taught in the South School continuously for twenty-five years, dying in the service December 2, 1916. Mrs. Ida Griswold Bissell taught for many years in the Porter Street School.



Dwight Bidwell



Jane Cheney

Prominent in the long list of Eighth District teachers were Jasper A. Fitch, Elizabeth Golway, Robert P. Bissell, Clara Sweet and Electa Smith. Four principals of this school are well remembered, Messrs. Strong, Andrews, Lillie and Bushnell.

Ashbel Wesley Case, born in Manchester in 1806, was well known in his day both as a farmer and as a teacher. In the summer he tilled the soil, and in the winter he taught school. As a temperance advocate he attained a considerable reputation. Jane Cheney, a member of the first class graduated from the New Britain State Normal School, taught in private schools in Manchester and elsewhere for twenty years, 1850-1870.

Among the many effective teachers who have served in the Ninth District Schools there are a few who stand out promi-

nently. We have already mentioned the work of Dwight Bidwell as principal of the Grammar School, 1871-1882. A skillful teacher and a strong personality, he made a lasting impression upon the youth of his generation. S. Annie Starkweather in 1918 completed a career of thirty-five years of successful teaching in the public schools of Manchester, of which five years were spent in the Eighth District, and thirty years in the Ninth District. She holds the affection and respect of the hundreds of children who in those years came under her instruction. In the High School, the first principal, A. E. Peterson, and his successor, Harry C. Folsom, are cordially remembered. Their services in the formative period



Jasper A. Fitch



Robert P. Bissell

in the school's history in establishing high standards of scholarship and traditions of clean sportsmanship can hardly be overestimated.

The services of the school visitors, the members of school committees and other officials, although of a character different from those of the teachers, were hardly of less importance. Foremost among those who were responsible for shaping the development of the school system of Manchester should stand Dr. Oliver B. Taylor, who was many years a member of the Board of School Visitors. Although a physician in active practice, he found time to study school affairs in detail and was thoroughly progressive in the policies he advocated. Reverend S. W. Robbins, a pastor of the First Congregational Church, was an active

member of the Board in the years 1873-1891. Robert P. Bissell, an outspoken and forceful personality, made his influence felt on the Board in the years during which he served.

The limitations of space prevent the mention by name of the many officials of the outlying districts who in their narrower fields have rendered faithful service.

The Ninth School District was incorporated by an Act of the General Assembly approved June 11, 1895. Its first committee was composed as follows: John S. Cheney, Reverend Thomas Simms, Reverend D. A. Haggarty, Charles S. Cheney and Anna



Bunce School, District No. 6

Biddle. The following persons have since served on this committee: Howell Cheney, Reverend James Bartholomew, Reverend George W. Reynolds, R. LaMotte Russell, Reverend William J. McGurk, Mary Cheney, Charles R. Hathaway, Reverend P. J. O. Cornell, Robert J. Smith and John Hyde.

John S. Cheney was active in school affairs for twenty-seven years. Upon the death of Charles S. Cheney, who for many years was secretary of the Committee of the Ninth District, a tablet was erected in the vestibule of the high school by contributions from the school children. It carries the following inscription:

"In Memory of Charles S. Cheney

1836-1907

Erected by the children of the Ninth School District in grateful recognition of his thirty-five years of fruitful and devoted service in the advancement of their education."

To three men, each active in a separate field of educational work, belongs pre-eminently the credit for the splendid progress of Manchester's schools in the present generation. Howell Cheney during his nineteen years of office as chairman of the Ninth District Committee has given the community the advantage of keen study of educational problems. Judge Herbert O. Bowers, Secretary of the Board of School Visitors since 1898, has aided in the intelligent direction of school affairs. Frederick A. Verplanck has now completed thirty years as teacher and superintendent of the Ninth District Schools. He assisted in the organization of the High School, and has signed the diplomas of nearly a thousand graduates. Combining clear vision with executive ability of a high order, he has been largely responsible for the position of leadership in newer educational activities which is now held by the Ninth District Schools. In daily contact with pupils, as well as with teachers, he has afforded inspiration to hundreds of children who have passed through the schools under his charge.

The South Manchester Free Public Library.

In an earlier chapter,¹ we have told how a group of young women, employees of Cheney Brothers, gave the initiative about the year 1850 for the founding of a circulating library. Their work being of a monotonous variety, involving no machinery, it was found that by having one of their number read aloud while the others worked, more was accomplished, and the tedium of the labor was forgotten. Their petition for the establishment of a library was favorably received and a set of Harper's Family Library, in 225 volumes was purchased for a beginning. The books were housed at first in the office of Cheney Brothers and then in the basement of Cheney Hall. From 1880 until the fire of 1913, the library was situated in comfortable and attractive quarters in a converted dwelling house on Wells Street. During these years a reading room with periodicals was added and the books were made available generally to the townspeople. After the fire, the books, which fortunately were saved by prompt action, were installed in the Eldridge homestead on Main Street. In this more central location the use of the library has greatly

¹Chapter VII page 101.

increased. The circulation is now about 70,000 volumes annually. The total number of books is 13,347.

A fee system was established in 1871 with a nominal charge of \$1 for the privileges of the library. From this source and from liberal donations from Cheney Brothers, the library has received for its uses in the past half-century approximately \$135,000.



So. Manchester Library

The registration of the library is now 1,100 adults and 1,300 children. In 1921, a branch library was opened in the West Side Recreation Building.

The Manchester Free Public Library.

The nucleus of the public library at the north end of town was supplied by the books collected by a library association organized in 1866. In 1895 the Kings Daughters of the North Congregational Church revived this institution, which had become practically defunct, and installed it in a private house on North Main Street. Twenty years later the books were transferred to the main school building of the Eighth District where, under the energetic direction of Miss S. Annie Starkweather, its usefulness was much broadened. At present this library has over 6,000 volumes.

Dr. Francis H. Whiton was greatly interested in this library and did much to make it a success.

CHAPTER XIV.

TOWN GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Early Problems and Their Solution.

Before describing the nature of the changes which recently have taken place in town government in Manchester, it may be worth while to review earlier phases of its history. The problem of town government in the first half-century of our corporate existence was relatively simple. There were roads and bridges to be kept in repair, schools¹ to be maintained, and the poor to be cared for. Practically all of the taxes were spent for these purposes.

Three selectmen and a clerk, elected annually at the town meeting, were the principal executive officers. They were assisted by a multitude of minor officials, the duties of some of which, such as tithingmen and haywards, have now become obscure. All officials (thirty-one were chosen at the first town meeting) were elected by *viva voce* vote in a mass meeting of all "freemen" — i.e., qualified voters. It must have been a long-drawn-out session, but time was not so valuable in those days and town meeting was a sort of holiday. Farmers, scattered as they were over the township, welcomed an opportunity to get together and they weren't in a hurry to leave early.

Following is a list of the officials chosen at the first town meeting:

Dudley Woodbridge, clerk, and George Cheney, Martin Keeney and Joseph Noyes, selectmen.

Norman Buckland and Wells Cheney, constables.

Eleazur S. Pitkin and Joseph Case, grand jurors.

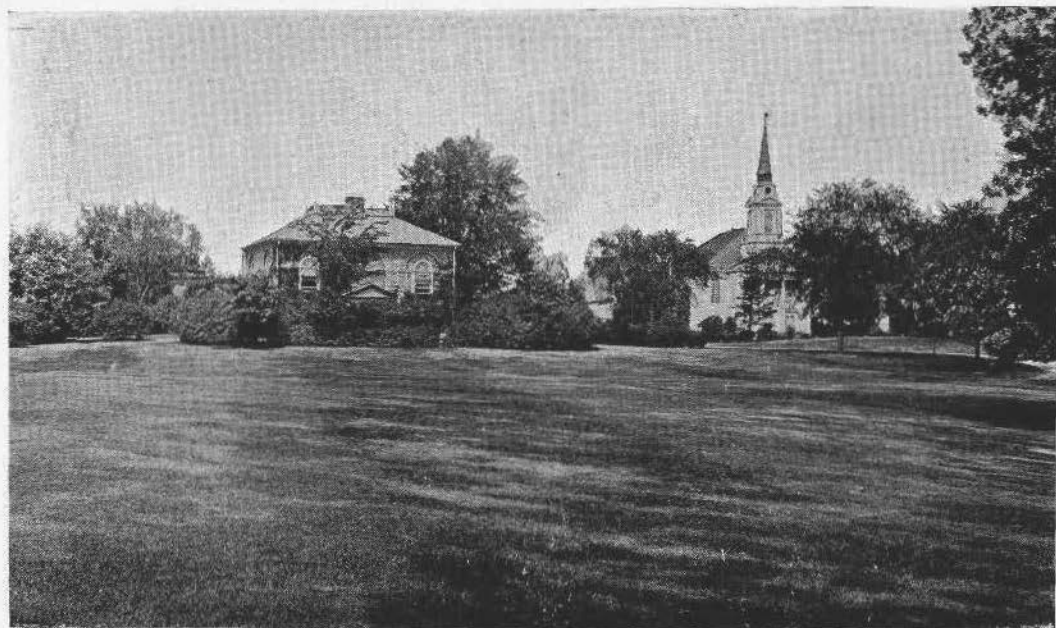
Ichabod Perry, Daniel Marsh, Eli Bissell, Russell Cone and Elisha Andrus, tithingmen.

Alexander McLean and Calvin Cheney, fence viewers.

Ephraim Wyllys, Watson Keeney, Matthew C. Cadwell, James Brown and Deodatus Woodbridge, surveyors of highways.

Simeon Birge, Ralph R. Phelps, Russell Cone, William Cooley, John Couch, Ashna Simonds, Elijah McKee, George W. Griswold, haywards.

¹ The history of the schools has been told in Chapters VIII and XIII.



CENTER PARK LOOKING NORTH TOWARD HALL OF RECORDS AND
CENTER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Calvin Cheney, Amos Buckland, Sidney Olcott, pound keepers.

Eli Porter was tax collector. He received \$8.50 for collecting the town tax, and an equal amount for the state tax. The first tax levy, four cents on the dollar, seems extraordinarily high, but the assessment was probably proportionately low. On the original grand list of \$19,000.00 the tax, if collected in full, would have yielded \$760.00.

The Town Poor.

A curious insight into the methods of social reform of the time is given by a vote of the annual meeting in 1824, which provided for the building of a workhouse, or house of correction, including in its equipment, shackles and a dungeon. The selectmen were given authority to use prisoners to work on the roads.

For some unknown reason the building voted in 1824 was not erected. Probably the town fathers repented their rash action, for in 1827 we find that they voted to hire some suitable building for a workhouse. In 1829, the town meeting again took up the problem, but reaching no decision it shifted the responsibility to the selectmen, directing them to provide for the support of the poor "as they deem expedient." The idea of a workhouse as the best method of caring for paupers still persisted, however, for in 1833 a proposal was made to join with East Hartford in supporting such an institution. Evidently an agreement between the towns was impossible, for in 1835 the workhouse scheme was abandoned, the town meeting voting to "hire out" the paupers. Under the "hiring out" system, which was in general use in New England towns until about 1830, the poor were auctioned off periodically, each year or every few years, to the lowest bidder. The contractor got what labor he could out of his unfortunate charges and made what he could from his bargain. The system was open to obvious abuses. But few of the towns, however, had enough paupers to justify the establishment of a workhouse and local jealousies prevented co-operation for this purpose among groups of towns.

For a full generation, from 1835 to 1870, the town pursued a zig-zag policy of poor relief. For a while the paupers were hired out. Then conditions under this obnoxious system evidently became so intolerable that the hiring or building of a townhouse was proposed as a remedy. But the simple machinery of town government did not prove adequate to undertake such a complex function as institutional poor relief. We suspect, also, that the hiring-out system was strongly advocated by persons who hoped to make money for themselves out of the necessities of others. The record of town votes regarding the poor from 1847 to 1870 is as follows:

- 1847 — Selectmen directed to hire a poorhouse
- 1851 — Selectmen authorized "to dispose of the poor as they may think best"
- 1854 — Committee appointed to purchase a Town Farm, not to exceed fifty acres, with good buildings. Suitable strong rooms to be erected in which to confine the vicious and rebellious
- 1854 — Special town meeting called to see if selectmen shall sell the Town Farm. No action taken
- 1856 — Committee appointed to investigate condition of Town Farm
- 1856 — Town meeting voted to dispose of Town Farm
- 1859 — Special town meeting voted to authorize selectmen to purchase a suitable farm for the town poor. This vote was rescinded at a later meeting in the same year
- 1861 — Hiring-out system readopted. Special town meeting voted: "That the Selectmen be authorized to contract with some judicious competent person for the keeping of the poor of this town for the term of five years so that they shall have a good comfortable support"
- 1866 — Hiring-out system continued for three years

At the expiration of the three-year contract of 1866, the advocates of the Town Farm regained the ascendancy and succeeded in carrying through the purchase of a farm and building of a Town House at a total cost of \$8,725. The Town House, erected in 1870, was replaced in 1912 by the present building on Middle Turnpike.

Institutional care for a part at least of the town poor was permanently established over fifty years ago. But the action then taken did not solve the problem of poor relief in Manchester. Persons without families and without any means of support could be taken to the Poor House, but how about those who were partially self-supporting? The administration of outside alms became a vexing problem. How Manchester has worked toward the solution of this problem is a subject beyond the scope of this book. It is evident from an examination of the appended table, however, that the expense of outside alms has increased much faster than the cost of operating the Almshouse.

TABLE IX.

COST OF CHARITIES IN MANCHESTER

1863-1923

Year	Total Charities	Outside Alms ¹	Almshouse
1863	\$2,048	.....	.....
1870	2,393	.....	.....
1875	4,828	\$2,708	\$2,120
1880	4,246	2,790	1,456
1885	5,349	4,051	1,298
1890	8,131	6,016	2,115
1895	11,383	8,262	3,121
1900	11,096	8,543	2,553
1905	18,551	15,183	3,368
1910	13,220	10,534	2,686
1915	12,282	8,419	3,763
1920	14,242	10,590	3,652
1923	20,917	14,819	6,098

The provision of proper medical attention for the poor at the town's expense, avoiding improper charges to the town's account is a subject which has recently been under discussion in Manchester. It is interesting to find a town vote over forty years ago which indicates that even then, certain abuses had to be checked. In 1881 the town meeting voted: "That the physicians of the Town of Manchester be allowed to pay for one visit to a town pauper and no more, unless the matter be investigated and ordered by the Selectmen and in no case shall two physicians be called in the same case."

Working Out The Road Tax.

The roads figure frequently in the early town meetings. In 1826 two-thirds of the entire tax levy of three cents on the dollar was expended on highways. The wasteful method of allowing taxpayers to "work out" their road taxes probably explains much of this seeming liberality in highway improvements. A certain amount was allowed per hour for men and teams to those who wished to work out their taxes. (In 1829 the rates were eight cents for men, and ten cents for teams.) A day was appointed when all gathered, a motley collection of boys and old men, with implements as varied and ineffective as the labor force. The occasion was treated as a sort of holiday and no one did enough work to hurt himself. A practice which did not increase

¹ After 1900 the cost of maintaining town poor in state institutions is included in Outside Alms.

efficiency was the custom (abolished in 1829) of supplying spirituous liquors at the town's expense to workers on the roads.

In 1847 a new and rather elaborate method of caring for the highways was instituted. For purposes of road repairs the town was divided into fifty sections. The repairs of the highways in each section were to be let out on contract. A road agent was appointed to supervise the letting of the contracts but the inspection of the repairs was to be entrusted to a non-resident. The analogy of this system to the hiring-out of the poor is obvious. The new and rather feeble town government did not feel competent at the beginning to undertake on its own account



New Town Administration Building

either poor relief or highway repairs. But as the community grew in wealth and in experience, the road contract system was gradually revised and finally abolished. Between 1847 and 1862 the road contract system was modified and simplified. The vote of 1865, however, marks a new departure. Dissatisfied evidently with the condition of the highways, the town voted to buy a road scraper, and two yoke of oxen and to hire men to do the work. The language of the vote indicates that the citizens had had enough of half-way measures. It reads: "Voted that the Selectmen be and hereby are directed to put the roads in this town in good repair and keep them so regardless of expense, and

the town hereby holds said Selectmen responsible for the faithful performance of the foregoing direction."

This action seems to have marked the end of the contract system. Numerous changes were later made in the methods of supervising road work. At times a road commission or the selectmen, or a road surveyor was put in charge, but the town never went back to the system of private contractors. Table X on this page shows the growth of the expenditures for roads (including bridges, sidewalks, etc.) since 1863. If we except the years in which, on account of new construction, the expenses were extraordinarily large, it appears that fifty years ago from one-fourth to one-third of the total tax receipts were expended on roads and bridges. In 1920 the proportion was about one-seventh, and in 1923, if the Main Street improvement is deducted, about one-tenth.

TABLE X.
TAX RECEIPTS AND PRINCIPAL ITEMS OF EXPENSE
1863-1923

Year	Total Tax Receipts ¹	Roads and Bridges ²	Schools ³	Expenditures		
				Charities	Police	Street Lighting
1863	\$16,485	\$ 476	\$2,045	\$2,048	.....	.....
1870	25,240	17,270	4,721	42,393	.....	.....
1875	21,942	7,051	5,889	4,828	.....	.....
1880	24,293	6,074	8,393	4,246	.....	.....
1885	22,085	8,149	11,778	5,349	.....	.....
1890	38,437	6,664	15,350	8,131	.....	.....
1895	45,545	8,966	29,121	11,383	.....	.....
1900	63,421	11,539	31,924	11,096	\$2,720	\$5,914
1905	85,309	22,550	42,140	18,551	3,695	6,695
1910	123,757	17,833	57,433	13,220	3,797	7,149
1915	193,913	77,019	81,713	12,282	6,363	11,016
1920	358,657	49,563	210,908	14,242	13,410	13,141
1923	504,687	57,555	280,185	20,917	21,022	13,746

¹ Receipts on list of preceding year. Includes county and state as well as town taxes but not taxes levied by school districts nor by fire or sanitary districts.

² Including expenditures for curbs and sidewalks.

³ Net cost to Town of Manchester, not including sums expended from district taxes.

⁴ Not including \$8,725 paid for Town Farm.

⁵ Not including expenditures for new buildings.

⁶ Not including \$59,000 expended on improvement of Main Street.

Civil War Stimulated Effectiveness.

The storm and stress of the Civil War seems to have infused a new spirit into our town government. It then became necessary

for an institution which had been doing very little to do a great many things, and to do them promptly. There were volunteers to be fitted out, bounties to be offered, and bonds to be issued.¹ The results of the war-time activity are to be seen in the years immediately afterward. The war-time expenditures had called attention to the need for re-assessment of real estate. This was undertaken in 1863. The erection of a high school was discussed in 1865 but without action. A town jail or "lockup" was erected in 1867, and the voters considered building a town hall, but as the Center Congregational Church was then discussing a new building, the town authorities decided to wait, and in 1879 purchased the old church for \$700.

Increasing Urbanization

The increasing urbanization of the community is evident from a series of votes taken between 1875 and 1890. Ordinances were adopted relating to the use of sidewalks; provision was made for coroners' juries, petitions were made for the protection of grade crossings, a committee was appointed to name streets and to place signs at street corners, and the first appropriation (\$800) was made for street lighting.

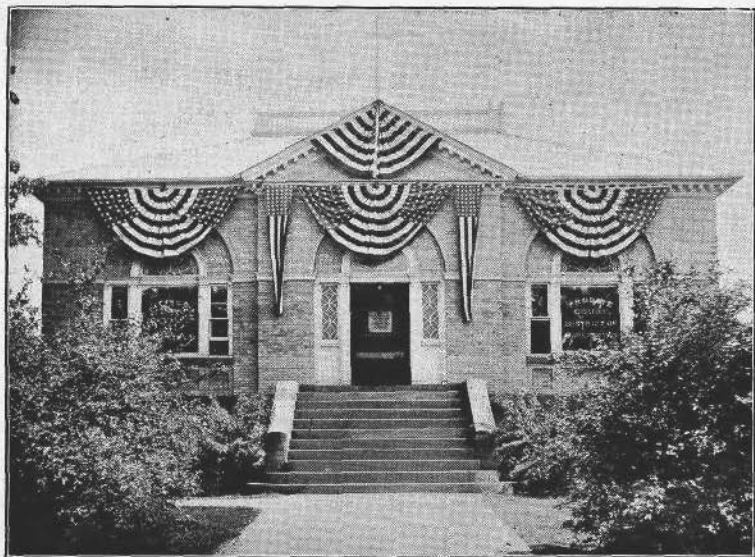
Reform of Machinery of Town Government.

With the widening of the field of the activities of the town government, and the increasing complexity of the problems with which it had to deal, the need became pressing for more effective governmental machinery. At first the tendency had been to care for new functions by increasing the number of elected officers. In 1855, forty-three officials were elected and a few years later the number had increased to almost sixty. A very moderate reform proposed in 1860, viz., to reduce the number of elected officials to fifty-three met with much opposition and was adopted only after prolonged debate.

A renewed interest in the better management of town affairs is evident from the records of the meetings of 1876-1882. The Board of Selectmen was increased in numbers from two to three, in 1876, and representation of the minority party was provided. A year later the town meeting instructed the selectmen to hold monthly meetings and to keep records of the same. The payment of town officials had always been a disputed matter. The fee system was in general use and many officers such as justices of the peace, pound keepers, etc., were thus compensated. Others received a *per diem* and many served without pay. The tax collector usually received a percentage of the tax receipts. The

¹ See Chapter IX for acts of town meeting 1861-1865.

first recorded instance of the payment of a yearly salary was that of \$100 voted to the town treasurer in 1877. A few years later (1881) selectmen were put on a salary basis with yearly compensations of \$500 for the first selectman, \$200 for the second, and \$75 for the third. A year later this plan was abandoned and it was voted to pay the selectmen by the day for their services. Salaries were reestablished in 1897.



Hall of Records, Center Park

Care of The Town Records.

The movement for better care of the town records and the introduction of more systematic methods in town affairs began in 1830, when it was ordered that all reports and accounts should be filed with the town clerk. The printing of the annual reports of the selectmen and the school visitors was authorized in 1861. The desirability of housing the town records in a place where they would be protected from fire and at the same time be readily accessible was pointed out as early as 1889, when a committee was appointed to draw up plans for a town office building. Discussion ensued regarding the proper location of such a building and the matter was indefinitely postponed. A second committee, appointed in 1893, had better success, for its report was adopted and

the result was the construction, in 1895, of the present Hall of Records at the Center. The site was the gift of Frank Cheney. The new quarters made possible more orderly management of town business, and the indexing of the town records was undertaken in 1896.

Charter Revision of 1907.

In 1905 the movement for a better system of local government crystalized in the appointment of a Charter Revision Committee of fifteen members to study the subject and report to the town meeting. The committee included leading citizens from all sections of the town. Its members were R. G. Campbell, John S. Risley, A. Willard Case, F. Ernest Watkins, Richard Manning, C. E. Bunce, E. C. Hilliard, H. O. Bowers, J. J. Strickland, John T. Robertson, M. S. Chapman, Frank Cheney, Harry M. Burke, J. W. Hale and Charles O. Treat. After the death of Mr. Chapman, Horace B. Cheney was appointed to the committee.

The new charter which was framed by the Committee of Fifteen, and was adopted by a popular referendum, October 28, 1907, introduced important modifications in the old style of town government. For the former board of three selectmen, which had functioned chiefly through the "first selectman," it substituted a board of seven which were to be nominated by a direct primary. Representation of a minority party on the board was assured by the provision that no elector should vote for more than five selectmen. This provision was later repealed.

The selectmen are elected on a general ticket and not by districts. Their term of office is one year and their annual compensation is \$100. The chairman and the secretary of the board receive \$200 each. The meetings of the board are open to the public and are often largely attended.

The administration of town business was radically improved by the new charter. The new board of selectmen do not attempt to interfere in the technical details of such matters as highway engineering or poor relief. The charter provided for the appointment by the board of salaried officials, a superintendent of roads and bridges, a superintendent of charities and a superintendent of parks. The police were originally to be under the direct superintendence of the selectmen, but by a later amendment, a police commission was created. The parks are now also under a park commission. The state legislature has amended the charter, enlarging the powers of the selectmen, and granting them the powers and responsibilities usually vested in wardens and burgesses in boroughs, and in mayors and common councils in cities. Important among the new powers were the rights to establish building lines and to assess for betterments and damages.

Perhaps the most important duty of the board of selectmen,

aside from the appointment of administrative officers, is the preparation of the budget which forms the basis for the appropriations voted in the annual town meeting.

The town meeting, which all qualified voters are privileged to attend, was not abolished. Manchester still has a legislative assembly which, in theory at least, includes all qualified electors. This vestigial remnant of direct democracy, however, retains only the shadow of its former importance and attracts but a small attendance. In the interim between town meetings, the selectmen are the town government. They are limited in expenditures, no outlay of over \$1,000 being legal without authorization in town meeting.

Results of Charter Revision.

In the seventeen years of its operation the new charter has not brought about ideal conditions in town government, but it has proved, nevertheless, an important forward step. The first election, in 1907, resulted in the choice of seven men of recognized ability and of considerable experience in town affairs. They were Horace B. Cheney, William E. Alvord, Arthur B. Keeney, Clarence G. Watkins, John M. Williams, Clinton W. Cowles and George H. Allen. The monthly public meetings of the Board are an educational influence, and they tend to make the town government more responsive than before to public opinion. The most significant improvements are to be found in the work of the administrative departments.

As regards the usefulness of direct primaries, there is much difference of opinion. Inasmuch as the town is solidly Republican in politics, the sole contest in the election of town officers is in the primary. On this account there seems to be good reason for affording in the primaries the widest possible opportunity for the selection by the party members of their nominees. If, as seems true, the direct primaries have not resulted in the selection of as high a type of public official as the old style nominating caucus, nevertheless they have chosen the men whom the active members of the party want as their selectmen.

Town Finances.

The financial policy of the town has always been conservative. Although favored with a constantly mounting grand list, it has paid for permanent improvements largely out of current revenues and so has avoided the accumulation of a large funded debt. It may be that the pay-as-you-go policy has been pushed to an unwise extreme, burdening present-day taxpayers with the entire cost of improvements whose benefits will extend to future generations. The absence of a considerable funded debt is to be ex-

plained in part, also, by the generosity of Cheney Brothers in paying for the construction of a number of public utilities in South Manchester. In order to arrive at the total public indebtedness of the community, the amounts of bonds issued by the school, fire and sanitary districts should be added to the debt of the town.

The following table shows the grand list, the tax rate, total expenditures and indebtedness at five-year intervals since 1860.

TABLE XI.
GRAND LIST, TAX RECEIPTS AND INDEBTEDNESS
1860-1923

Year	Grand List ¹	Tax Receipts	Indebtedness
1860	\$1,463,808	.....	.....
1865	1,687,683	\$16,485 ²	.....
1870	1,941,700	25,240	\$26,177
1875	2,407,055	21,942	.....³
1880	2,563,626	24,293	1,913
1885	2,765,440	22,085	3,132
1890	3,644,675	38,437	31,025
1895	6,377,759	45,545	66,446
1900	7,221,605	63,421	97,966
1905	11,252,191	85,309	131,402
1910	16,255,302	123,757	115,180
1915	21,472,134	193,913	123,164
1920	32,542,739	358,657	100,892
1923	35,099,011	504,687	216,575

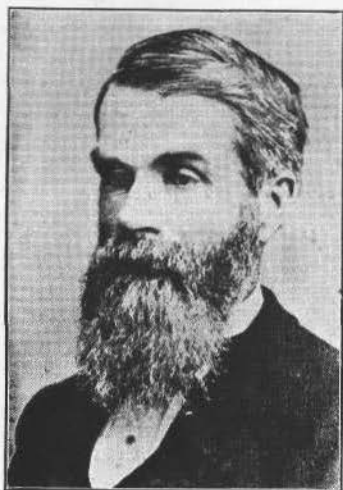
Manchester's Public Servants.

It would be impracticable to attempt to estimate here the value of the services rendered to the Town of Manchester by its many public officers. As in all communities, they were not all high-minded nor disinterested, but on the whole the lists which follow contain in large majority, men who, in the faithful conduct of the public business, showed that they deserved the confidence of the community. Two instances are found in the town records of formal appreciation of the services of town officials. The first relates to Columbus Parker, selectman in the years 1859-1868. It reads: "Whereas Columbus Parker Esq., our first selectman has filled the office for the last eight years to the acceptance of all concerned and while his services to the town in the rebellion between the north and south were invaluable and although he did not with arms march to the battle field, yet his services at home

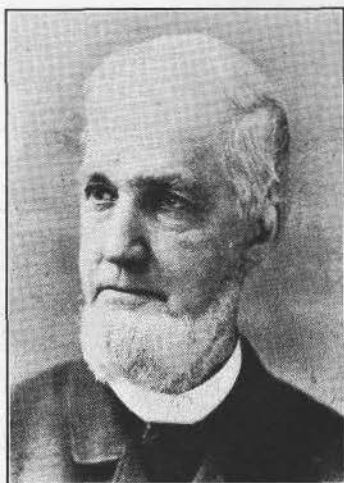
¹ Reassessments were made in 1863, 1870, 1900 and every fifth year thereafter.

² Receipts for 1863.

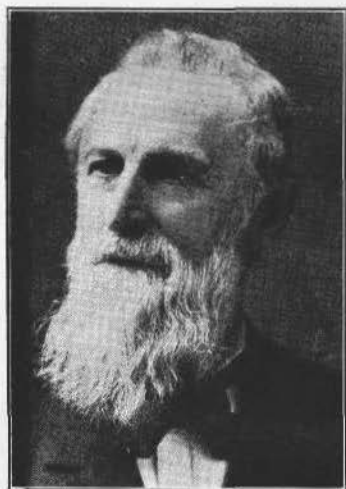
³ Surplus of \$4,000 in town treasury



Charles D. Parsons



Rufus R. Dimock



Daniel Wadsworth



E. A. Bliss

in filling out quota, caring for the families, etc., of those who were ready to sacrifice their lives in defence of our Country and often times at his own expense. Now therefore in view of the correctness in which his accounts with the town have been presented and the services rendered by him for which we feel that he has been poorly paid, *Resolved*: That the Town of Manchester through the chairman of this meeting for the valuable services of Capt. Parker as first selectman of said town tender to him our sincere thanks and that the town appropriate the sum of three hundred dollars to be presented to Capt. Parker as an appreciation of the services rendered the town by Capt. Parker for which he has not been well paid."

Upon the death of Charles D. Parsons, selectman in the years 1879-1885 and 1887-1890, the following vote was passed: "*Resolved*: That in the death of Charles D. Parsons, this town has lost an able, efficient and upright official, and the community a kind and generous neighbour, a sincere friend, and willing helper in every good cause.

"Called by his fellow citizens to fill the position of first selectman, for many years, he brought to the discharge of the duties of that office, a sense of personal responsibility, with a conscientious, careful attention, and prudent management won the confidence of his fellow townsmen.

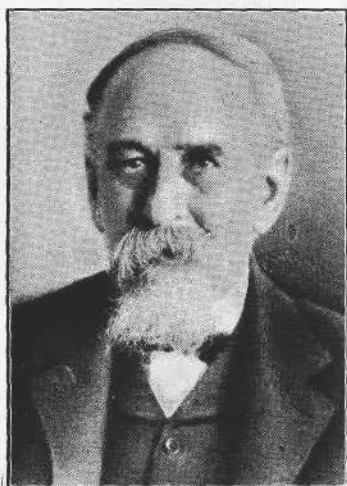
"We desire hereby to place upon record, our appreciation and gratitude for the long and faithful service which he rendered this town.

"*Resolved*: That this resolution be entered upon the town records and a copy of the same be sent to his family."

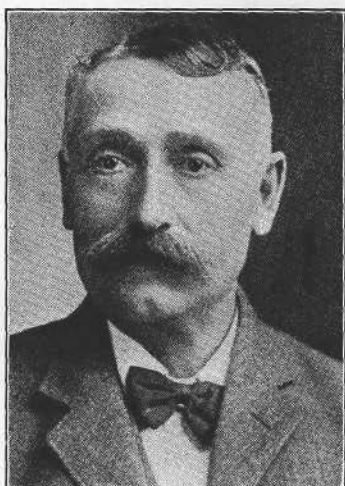
The repeated re-election of certain individuals testifies to the satisfaction which the voters felt in their work. In the list of eighty-seven selectmen who held office in the one hundred years 1823-1923, there are twenty-six who served for five years or more.

The complete list of selectmen with their terms of office follows:

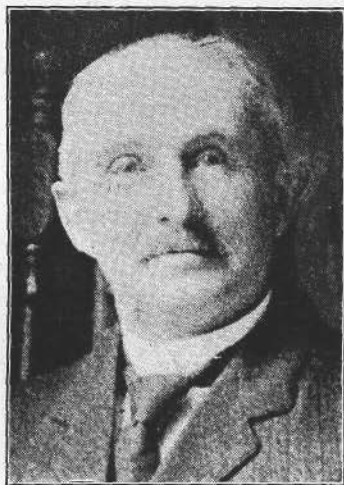
George Cheney, 1823	Ralph Cheney, 1833-35
Martin Keeney, 1823, 25, 29, 30, 34-38, 47-49	Wolcott Dart, 1833
Joseph Noyes, 1823-24, 26, 31- 32	Russell Eldridge, 1839
William Wilson, 1824, 27-28	Edward Griswold, 1840
Norman Buckland, 1827-28, 39-43	Frary Bidwell, 1844-46
Norman Hills, 1827-28	Martin H. Keeney, 1846
Miner White, 1829-30, 34-38, 41-44, 53	Salmon Millard, 1845
Ephraim Wyllys, 1831-32	Lewis Bunce, 1847
	G. G. Griswold, 1848-49
	Ashbel W. Case, 1850-51
	Elisha Andrews, 1850-51
	Eleazure H. Hollister, 1854



George W. Bidwell



Arthur B. Keeney



Clinton W. Cowles

- Artemus Strong, 1853
 William White, 1853, 65
 Hart Porter, 1854-56, 60, 70, 72-74
 Aaron Cook, 1854-69
 William McNall, 1855-58, 70-72
 Chester Knox, 1857-58
 Columbus Parker, 1859-68, 71
 Francis Cowles, 1861
 Melancthon Hudson, 1863-64
 William G. Bidwell, 1866-69
 Henry A. Griswold, 1871, 78
 Lewis Bissell, 1873, 75-77
 Horace White, 1875
 George Bidwell, 1876-77, 97
 William H. Cheney, 1878
 E. Perry, 1879
 C. W. Cowles, 1876-78, 82-85, 87, 99-00, 1909-12
 C. D. Parsons, 1879-85, 87-90
 Giles M. Hills, 1881
 Joseph B. Latham, 1880
 Elisha Williams, 1879-85, 87-88
 Charles O. Treat, 1884-85
 John S. Cheney, 1885
 John S. Risley, 1888-89, 93-95, 1901-03
 George H. Hall, 1888-92
 John Johnson, 1890-91
 Richard Pitkin, 1891-93, 96
 Rollin M. Reed, 1892
 G. H. Allen, 1893, 1909
 C. G. Watkins, 1894-1902, 1909
 J. M. Williams, 1894-95, 1909-1910
 James Lyon, 1896
 Charles Rattenberg, 1897-98
 Henry W. Barrows, 1898-1902, 1905
 Thomas H. Weldon, 1903-04, 11, 18-23
 J. Arthur Corbin, 1903
 James Trotter, 1904-05
 Robert P. Bissell, 1904
 Arthur B. Keeney, 1905-08, 10, 12, 16-17
 William E. Alvord, 1905-12
 James Burns, 1906-07
 Horace B. Cheney, 1908-12
 Austin Cheney, 1913
 Samuel Dart, 1910-11
 Thomas F. Harrington, 1910
 Robert M. Reid, 1911
 George H. Howe, 1912
 William H. Schieldge, 1912-13, 15
 Arthur Cook, 1912
 Gilbert E. Willis, 1913-14
 W. B. Rogers, 1913-16, 18-21
 H. I. Taylor, 1913-19
 L. W. Case, 1913
 J. F. Sheridan, 1913
 A. E. Bowers, 1914, 16-22
 James Aitken, 1920-22
 J. Cairns, 1914-15
 J. Davenport Cheney, 1914-18
 William C. Cheney, 1918-23
 Clerence M. Ely, 1916
 Elwood S. Ela, 1917
 E. L. G. Hohenthal, 1913-14
 Patrick O'Leary, 1915
 Aaron Johnson, 1917-22
 James H. Johnson, 1917-19
 Earl G. Seaman, 1920
 William J. Crockett, 1921
 John W. Hyde, 1922-23
 Robert V. Treat, 1922

The list of town clerks follows:

- Dudley Woodbridge, 1823-25
 George Cheney, 1825-40
 William Jones, 1840-44
 Ralph R. Phelps, 1846
 Ralph Cheney, 1847-55
 Rufus R. Dimock (temporary)
 Daniel Wadsworth, 1855-98
 Sanford M. Benton, 1898-

The terms of office of Mr. Wadsworth and Mr. Benton, forty-three and twenty-five years respectively, are noteworthy.

The officers of the town court, established 1895, have been as follows:

Judges

Herbert O. Bowers, 1895-1909
Alexander Arnott, 1909-21
Raymond Johnson, 1921-

Prosecuting Attorneys

Charles R. Hathaway, 1895-
1909; 1915-
Harry M. Burke, 1909-12
William S. Hyde, 1912-15
Assistant

Deputy Judges

Fred W. Mills, 1895-1912
Edward J. Holl, 1912-15
Robert E. Carney, 1915-23
Thomas Ferguson, 1923-

Prosecuting Attorneys

John M. Shewry, 1895-1903;
1909-1919
Alexander Arnott, 1903-09
George H. Waddell, 1921-

Manchester Probate Court.

The Manchester Probate District was established in 1850. Ralph Cheney was the first judge. His successors have been David S. Calhoun, Rufus R. Dimock, John S. Cheney, Olin R. Wood and William S. Hyde. Judge Wood, who held the office for thirty years, retired in 1918, when attaining the age limit of seventy years. He now serves as Clerk of the Court.

CHAPTER XV.

WAR WITH SPAIN

The United States and Spain engaged in a War brought on by Spain's oppression of Cuba. The cruel treatment of the people of the little island off our southern shores was long condemned by the United States. For three years our Presidents had sought to get relief for the Cubans.

On February 15, 1898, one of our battleships, the "Maine" was blown up by mines in the harbour of Havana, Cuba, sinking instantly; 266 men were killed, and many more wounded.

War began with Spain on April 21, 1898. President McKinley called for 125,000 volunteers, eighty-four men of Manchester who were members of the famous Co. G Connecticut National Guard which had been formed soon after the Civil War, answered their country's call and volunteered. On May 4, 1898, they left their comfortable homes to do duty where duty called them.

All business was at a stand still, stores decorated with flags, bands playing, and as the Co. G. boys marched by the High School, 1,100 of the Ninth District school children sang patriotic songs, cheers were given for the two high school boys in the ranks, William Madden and James Veitch. The Company was mustered into the United States service with 1st Regiment Connecticut Volunteer Infantry, at Camp Haven, Niantic, May 17, A month later, the Company was recruited to war strength and twenty more of our men of Manchester enlisted to join Co. G at Niantic.

Following are the names of the men in service from Manchester from April 21, 1898 to July 4, 1904, during Spanish-American War, Philippine Insurrection and China Relief Expedition.

Roster of Co. G 1st Connecticut Volunteer Infantry in War with Spain.

Roster of Co. G, 1st Connecticut Volunteer Infantry in War
With Spain

Major, 1st Regiment, Connecticut Volunteer Infantry:
John Hickey; Captain: Joel M. Nichols; First Lieutenant: J. Davenport Cheney; Second Lieutenant: Lewis J. Doolittle; First Sergeant: Charles O. Lord; Quartermaster: Alfred C. House.

Sergeants: Philip Fraher, Edmond M. Ogden, Gustave H. Leidholt, Charles B. Warren.

Corporals: James E. Sherman, Thomas J. Scott, Harry Nelson, Seth L. Cheney, John Connelly, Jr., William F. Madden, Patrick Conners, Charles H. Grabowski, George Johnson, William J. Nichols, Peter L. Norquist, Harry E. Olcott.

Musicians: William Crawford, Jr., Michael Spillane. Artificer: Gordon W. Dunn. Wagoner: John J. O'Neill.

Privates: James C. Aitken, Albert Anderson, Alfred Aveson, Michael F. Barry, Joseph J. Behrend, Alexander Berggren, Gustave Birath, Charles J. Carlson, John F. Carney, Austin H. Chamberlain, Ward Cheney, Louis E. Clark, Archie W. Colton, Charles A. Cranick, Edward C. Cuff, Patrick F. Donahue, Frank P. Donnellan, John J. Doolan, Robert B. Dougan, Charles C. Dougherty, Fred Dux, John B. Ethridge, Clark T. Falknor, John Finley, Fred C. Flint, William A. Flory, Andrew J. Fox, Daniel Fraher, Daniel L. Garland, Conrad H. Grabbe, Edward Grogan, William J. Hall, Thomas Harrison, Edward Holmquist, Charles J. Hultman, Arthur E. Keating, Newton C. Keeney, John J. Kerrigan, John V. Lahey, Samuel F. Lee, Uno Lindell, George Lombard, Richard L. Malkin, William J. Mallon, Frank E. Y. Maxwell, John J. McCann, Mark C. McCrea, John E. McDonald, Patrick F. McVeigh, Charles M. Mienk, Cornelius Moynihan, John Mulligan, Julius Mullinette, Carl F. Nelson, Henry C. Newbury, William Park, Fritz Pohl, Thomas W. Popple, William J. Prentice, Leon Raineault, David Ritchie, William Robinson, Ernest Seastrand, Frederick W. Scherwitzsky, David Shields, Hugh Shields, Samuel Shields, Walfrid Silow, Edward Sinnamon, George J. Smith, Richard Smith, Daniel J. Sullivan, Timothy Sullivan, Frank Sweeney, Fred B. Taylor, Joseph Thompson, Adelbert Tripp, Richard Twarz, John Waddle, Alfred Westland, Thomas Wolski.

Co. F, 1st Regiment, Edward L. and Thomas H. Montgomery.

Co. B 3rd Regiment, Andrew W. Doran; 1st Regiment Artillery, Austin Cheney, Battery A.

Although the Company did not see active service, they were located at the following Camps: Camp Haven, Conn., May 4 to June 9; Fort Knox, Maine, June 10 to July 13; Camp Haven, Conn., July 14 to July 18; Camp Alger, Virginia, July 19 to September 7; Camp Haven, Conn., September 8 to September 22.

Regiment left Camp, officers on leave, and men on furlough to report at Hartford, Conn., October 21, to muster out of Regiment October 31, 1898.

Our boys returned home, but their ranks were broken, death had taken one, Frank P. Donnellan, who died at the Hartford Hospital with typhoid fever contracted at Camp Alger, Virginia,

October 20, 1898. Twenty-three others of the Company were brought home from Virginia with the same disease but survived after months of suffering.

Many of the Co. G men had enlisted in the Regular Army and gone to Cuba and the Philippines, where the Insurrection was at its worst, even though a peace protocol had been signed and fighting kept up until April 11, 1899 when peace was declared with Spain.

One member of Co. G, Thomas Popple, who had joined the United States Army, and in service in Cuba, died there May 17, 1899, was brought home later.

Ward Cheney who went out with Co. G, was commissioned a lieutenant in the United States Army. He was killed while on active duty near Imus, Cavite, Province Philippine Island, January 7, 1900, and his body was brought home and laid to rest February 16, 1900.

In May, 1908, a camp of united Spanish War Veterans was organized here and named in memory of their comrade Ward Cheney, who lost his life in the service of his Country in the war with Spain.

As a consequence of the outcome of this war, the strife of 1861-1865 was forgotten and no North, no South, we are a united people.

The people of Cuba were free by this "War for Humanity."

The following men served in the United States Army: Sherwood A. Cheney, First Lieutenant, Corps of Engineers, June 15, 1893; John Hickey, commissioned Captain, 26th United States Volunteer Infantry, stationed at Philippines, July 5, 1899; Ward Cheney, commissioned July 9, 1898, First Lieutenant 4th Infantry, United States Army, died of wounds received in action January 7, 1900, at Imus, Philippine Islands; Frank L. Pinney, commissioned April 4, 1900, Ensign, United States Navy; Charles C. Dougherty, enlisted in Regular Army, November 8, 1898, Co. D, 9th Infantry, stationed at Philippines and China until November 13, 1901 (Volunteer with Co. G.); William M. Nichols, 3rd Cavalry, United States Army, June 13, 1899, Second Lieutenant (Volunteer with Co. G.)

CHAPTER XVI.

MANCHESTER'S PART IN THE WORLD WAR

The Military Census.

Manchester's participation as a community in the World War may be said to date from a special meeting of the board of selectmen held early in February of 1917. In accordance with an act of General Assembly approved February 7, 1917, 100 citizens were then appointed to take a military census of the town. This action did not mark, of course, the beginning of the interest and activity of our people in war affairs. In Manchester's population there were about 6,000 persons of foreign birth and over 7,500 of foreign or mixed parentage, many of them owing allegiance either to the Allied Governments or to the Central Empires. More than fifty Manchester men enlisted in foreign service before we entered the war. The census, however, was the first opportunity for the people of the town to act as a group in war work, and in this first task they set a standard for energetic and whole-hearted co-operation which was maintained throughout the war and which still persists as a stimulating tradition.

The purpose of the census was to make an inventory of the man-power of the State. All males over sixteen were to be enumerated and information obtained from each regarding his vocational and military experience, physical condition, etc. The work in Manchester was thoroughly planned; the town was divided into fifty districts with two workers assigned to each. At the Hall of Records a card index system was built up, where the records were filed as they were returned. The enumeration began February 17, and in ten days the task was practically completed, with 5,000 blanks filled. The final results, which were available about March 15, showed that there were 6,000 adult males in town, of whom 1,600 were not American citizens.

A number of incidents connected with the census show the temper of Manchester people on the eve of the war.

"A clergyman objected to the canvassers working on Sunday. He was told that the selectmen had nothing to do with this. It was explained to him that one hundred men had volunteered to do this work, and since Sunday was the best day in the week to find the residents

of Manchester at home, they worked on the Sabbath. After this explanation the clergyman withdrew his objection. The canvassers found only two men who would not answer the questions and they were not normal mentally. The canvassers found several women who were anxious to be included in the census. They were experienced in hospital work or were telegraph operators who would be valuable in case of an emergency. One man greeted the canvasser with: 'I will fight against any nation but Germany, so you need not come in here to get me in the army.' Another old man who had fought in two wars thought, also, that it was an enlistment, and he was very pleased to again fight for his country. Still another, a man who had been a paralytic for years, smiled when the canvasser asked him if he could swim or drive a team. The man could not lift a hand. One German woman told the census taker rather roughly that he would have to step over her dead body before he could drag her husband off to war."¹

The Home Guard.

As relations with Germany became more and more critical it was anticipated that the Connecticut National Guard would be mobilized, and in order to provide a uniformed and armed constabulary the legislature authorized the recruiting of a Home Guard under the direction of a Military Emergency Board. W. C. Cheney, J. D. Cheney, J. P. Cheney, Philip Cheney and Richard Rich were appointed recruiting officers for Manchester. A station was opened March 19, where enlistments were received of all men between the ages of seventeen and sixty who were not physically fit, or who for other reasons were not liable for service in the National Guard or in the United States Army. Physically fit unmarried men between the ages of eighteen and forty-five were not eligible for the Home Guard. In the first week forty recruits were obtained, and by the end of the month the new organization had seventy members. Ward Cheney Camp of Spanish War Veterans, twenty-three in all, enlisted in a body. When mustered into state service April 29, the Manchester unit of the Home Guard had 134 members.

War Gardens.

As the spring advanced Manchester's attention was turned to a less warlike but equally important activity, the increase in

¹ The above quotation, as well as all others in this chapter, is from a collection of newspaper clippings from *The Evening Herald* compiled by Fred H. Wall.

the food supply by the cultivation of war gardens. Stimulated by a series of articles prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture and printed in *The Evening Herald*, men, women and children began to utilize spare time and spare land in growing vegetables.

"The first indication of what hundreds of Manchester residents were contemplating, came when the real estate agents began to receive applications for spring rents. Nine out of ten persons seeking new quarters this spring stipulate that there should be a place for a garden near the house."

"Next came the stores on Main Street where seeds are sold. The Blish Hardware Company reported that more orders were received this month than the whole of last season. The lumber dealers say that cold frames are being sold out as fast as they can have them made. Farmers and teamsters in the neighborhood say that they have enough orders already to keep their teams busy until way into the summer.

"Business has been unusually brisk so far this season for garden tools and seeds. In years past people were satisfied to buy tomato, lettuce, celery, pepper and cabbage plants ready for transplanting. This year they are buying the seed and raising the plants in hot houses and cold frames. Rakes, spades and other garden implements are selling fast in every hardware store in town. Fertilizers also are being ordered by hundreds."

The Chamber of Commerce gave active assistance to the war-gardeners. It appointed a committee to aid all persons who wished to raise vegetables to secure as much land as they could cultivate. At a meeting early in May of nearly 300 amateur gardeners of all nationalities, 200 garden plots were assigned. The Chamber's committee supplied fertilizer and seeds at cost, and also arranged for plowing and harrowing. The good fruits of the gardening enterprise were duly harvested. Late in October prizes were awarded for home gardens cultivated by school children. Seventy-one children participated in the competition. Awards were made on the basis of inspections, written reports and exhibition of samples of products. The winner of the first prize was Edward Bergeron, of Buckland, who cultivated without help a plot of miscellaneous vegetables measuring 640 square feet, and in addition raised thirteen bushels of potatoes.

Mobilization of Company G.

While this peaceful activity was flourishing, war with Germany had been declared (April 17, 1917), Company G, the local

National Guard unit, had been mobilized and had left for training, and the great machinery of the Selective Service Act had been set in motion. The mobilization of the state militia was ordered March 25. All Manchester was aroused when the news arrived.

"Main Street was almost deserted last evening around eight o'clock when twelve blasts from Cheney Brothers' siren alarmed the town. At once pandemonium reigned. In the three moving picture theatres capacity houses was the rule. The first intimation of the trouble was given when the girl at the Central Telephone Exchange called the three theatres and asked that it be announced from the stage that all of the operators of the local exchange be asked to report at once to the local exchange. It appears that as soon as the twelve whistles were sounded every person owning a telephone in Manchester immediately asked Central what was the trouble. As a result the few girls that were on duty at the local exchange found hundreds of lights flashing that they could not answer. About the same time, the managers of the different theatres were asked to announce that Company G had been called out. As soon as this announcement had been made from the stage the audience left, almost in a body. In one of the theatres three-quarters of the audience left."

"Wells Street was soon the scene of a struggling mass of humanity. From homes and churches and from the theatres, hundreds started for the armory. It was not known what it was all about, but the mere mention that Company G had been called out, directed everybody to the armory. At the armory, hundreds crowded into the hall. Within a few minutes the boys of the company began to arrive. The most of them rushed to the armory dressed just as they were when the whistle sounded, but here and there a man had waited until he had donned his uniform. Captain Bissell was one of the first to arrive. He started to look up the roll and as the men arrived, he checked them off. Before nine o'clock all of those who were in town had reported. All hands were told to report at the armory at seven o'clock in the morning.

"Promptly at seven o'clock next morning all of the members of Company G, with the exception of the two members who were out of the state, reported to Captain Bissell. All were in uniform. Not alone were the members present, but there were hundreds of women and children, the wives, parents and children of members of the guard. The excitement that marked the

call to the Mexican border last year was conspicuous by its absence this year. The guardsmen took it more as a regular order. There was little excitement. The members reported to Captain Bissell and were told to station themselves within calling distance of the armory until he received word from headquarters in Hartford."

When mobilized, Company G numbered ninety-one officers and men. Recruiting began immediately to bring it to war time strength. Eighteen new recruits were added the first day the lists were open, and many more would have been added if orders had not arrived to cease recruiting. At this time the local company was the largest in the state. A week of tense expectancy ensued. The air was full of rumors. New uniforms and equipment arrived. New quarters in the Barnard School were opened, which provided opportunity for games. Daily drills at Mt. Nebo and hikes in the neighborhood helped to ease the strain. On March 30, the company was mustered into the Federal service.

Finally, on April 4, the call came. This time there was no shrieking siren, nor terror nor confusion.

"Today when the call came, although the guardsmen were scattered several miles around the armory, swift messengers summoned them hastily. While they formed in line, auto trucks were loaded with the equipment, special cars came rolling along on time, farewells were said with smiling faces, and the boys swung from Wells Street into Main as if on parade. At the Center they boarded cars and between 2:30 and 3:00 o'clock they started for Hartford. Where they will go from there is not known."

"Just the immediate friends and relatives of the guardsmen were present when they left the armory. The alarm whistle was not sounded. The majority of the residents of the town did not know that the company had been called. Among those who bid the guardsmen farewell was the wife of Private Frank Gardner, a bride of a week."

"During the noon hour the wives, sisters and sweet-hearts of the boys rushed from the mill to the armory and said goodbye. There was none of the confusion which marked the parting last June when the boys started for Niantic. The soldiers smiled and joked as they said their farewells."

For three months the Company was with the First Regiment in Hartford. While there its members were increased to 150

through a recruiting campaign in Manchester, in which the Home Guard was active. In the June evenings the town gave the impression of being under martial law. Uniformed pickets, stationed on the principal street corners, buttonholed every young man who passed. They greeted every prospect good-naturedly and tried to interest him in the army or in the national Guard. As a result of the campaign sixty-seven young men volunteered.

Activities of Non-Combatants.

Early in May organized efforts began to make available to the government the services and money of non-combatants. The First Liberty Loan made no great stir to begin with. Subscriptions were received at the Trust Company, but for several months no concerted effort was made to sell bonds. On May 8 a branch of the Hartford Chapter of the Red Cross was organized, under the leadership of C. Elmore Watkins. One hundred members were secured at the first meeting. Headquarters were opened in the Recreation Building and work began on hospital needs. An active canvass for members was set in motion at the end of the month, resulting in the addition within a week of 2,800 new members. In June began the task of soliciting \$35,000, the quota assigned to Manchester of the \$100,000,000 national fund. Encouraged by subscriptions of over \$30,000 on the first day of the drive, the executive committee voluntarily raised the quota to \$50,000. The energy and systematic direction which had characterized Manchester's military census, was again in evidence. Speakers were engaged and mass meetings arranged in order to stimulate and educate the people to the importance of the Red Cross work. Then the field was divided among teams of voluntary canvassers who went to work with a will. Money poured in so rapidly that within a few days the goal was advanced again to \$70,000.

The Draft.

During the summer of 1917 the work of the Red Cross went ahead, with training of first aid classes and making of hospital supplies. The War Gardens were cultivated, and under the leadership of the Educational Club, food conservation was preached and practiced. But the great event which held the foreground of the community's attention was the draft. Registration Day was a unique event. By the quiet earnestness of those who participated, the occasion inspired the whole community.

"Never within the recollection of anyone, except

those who remember the days of the Civil War, has there been any such exhibition of military spirit as has stirred the town today. The activity focussed at the Center where tents and soldiers in uniform occupied the lawn in front of the Town Hall and where a constant stream of young men has been pouring through the old building and emerging with little blue tickets showing that they had registered for the draft into army service. Up at the belfry of the Center Church, the Red Cross clock registered the new recruits to the home army of relief. Conspicuous posters told of the Liberty Loan meeting at High School hall tonight.

"For the first hour the men arrived faster than they could be handled, but this caused no confusion. They stood patiently in line outside of the hall until those ahead had registered. No one had to wait long, and after the rush the registrars were able to keep the line in motion. Still there was little spare time and few of the registrars had even time to glance at their morning papers.

"Before noon 1,100 names had been recorded. There was a lull during the noon hour but in the afternoon the crowd began to form and a steady stream of men going in and out of the town hall kept up until the last man had registered at nine o'clock. There was no confusion and no objections. Few claims for exemption were made. One man said he objected to war on general principles, and one man belonged to a religious sect that was against war. Men employed in munitions factories wrote that they were doing work for the Government. Austrians, Hungarians and Russians were in the majority of those who had not taken out citizenship papers and the Italians, on the other hand, were in the majority of those foreign born who had taken out first papers.

"The interior of the Town Hall resembled a school room all day yesterday. The settees had been removed from the floor, and the long tables around the room made a hollow square. Behind the tables sat the registrars, and opposite each registrar sat a candidate for registration. The two had their heads together consulting earnestly but quietly. One of the late comers was a husky looking young fellow who was anxious to be registered but had not reached his twenty-first birthday. As the law made no provision for him, the registrars were obliged to refuse his fervent appeal that he be admitted to the draft. He was advised to go down stairs and enlist in Company G. Then it came out that he had been

rejected from the National Guard. With tears in his voice, he declared that he had tried to enlist in almost every branch of the service, but had been turned down everywhere because, forsooth, he was minus one toe! He went away sorrowing to seek another interview with Captain Bissell."

The local exemption board then became the center of interest. For draft purposes Manchester was in a district which included East Hartford, Marlborough and South Windsor. The exemption board was composed of E. L. G. Hohenthal, a well-know local resident, chairman; Clayton W. Wells and Dr. F. H. Mayberry. The total number of registrants in the district was 4,274 of whom 1,954 were Manchester men.¹

For a month or more after registration the center of interest was shifted to Washington, where the serial numbers of the first men to be called were selected by lot. A list of 500 numbers was published in Manchester about August 1, and on August 9 the first examinations were held. Fifty-eight men appeared before the physicians at the Barnard School. Of these, ten were accepted and filed no claims for exemption. The first man accepted was Paolo Toscano, twenty-seven years old, a spinner employed by Cheney Brothers. He waived the exemption which, as an Italian alien, he might have claimed.

"The Barnard School building was a busy place this morning. In half a dozen of the school rooms doctors in their shirt sleeves were putting draft candidates through their paces, the candidates themselves being stripped to the skin. The doctors examined eyes, ears and throat, lungs, heart and muscles, and carefully inspected all symptoms of disease. The work began at eight o'clock and from that time on, Vine Street was filled with automobiles and the corridors of the big school building were thronged with young men awaiting their turn with the examiners. Practically every doctor in town was engaged in the work of examination. Two or three of them together worked in one room, and each group had a clerk to fill out the blanks.

"It took about an hour to get things organized and to make the different officials familiar with their duties, but by nine o'clock the mill was running smoothly and was grinding out its product at a steady pace. The candidates were, of course, greatly interested in the proceedings. They did not say much, but they realized

¹ These figures refer to the registration of June 5, 1917. Altogether 10,264 men were registered by Local Board No. 1 of whom 4,294 were Manchester men.

that upon the result of their examinations depended the whole future course of their lives. Those individuals who were found to have disqualifying infirmities, such as defective eyesight or hearing, brightened up perceptibly when they were assured that they would be exempt."

The draft had now begun to assume a much more serious aspect. Selection was no longer a matter of chance. Within a few hours the whole course of a man's career might be changed by the decision of the examining board. At intervals of a few days the examinations continued all through the stifling heat of August. Physical fatigue and the burden of responsibility bore heavily on the examining physicians and on the members of the board.

"The men on the exemption board are not to be envied. Their task is hard and trying. It entails infinite attention to detail through long hours. Exact justice to every man in the draft requires that no process be overlooked. When it comes to passing upon exemption claims, they are compelled to break up many happy homes and divorce many a man from a good job. It goes without saying that they don't like to do this. Some of those upon whom they pass sentence are their personal friends, perhaps their relatives; but they must put out of their minds all personal sentiments and act solely upon cold judgment. Even then they will be criticised and perhaps make life-long enemies. The work is telling upon the men. They all say it is the hardest job they ever tackled."

On August 24 the Exemption Board completed its work on the first group of 494 candidates. Seventeen of the group failed to appear when called, and these included a number of transient workers in the tobacco field, and aliens. Of the remaining 477, 150 were certified. Claims for exemption were denied in fifty-four cases, and ninety-six claimed no exemption. At once plans were undertaken to dispatch the drafted men to Camp Devens, at Ayer, Mass. A few picked men went first in small groups at intervals of a few days, but the large delegation, 100 men, left on September 19. In honor of this event, and as a mark of respect and encouragement to all the men called from Manchester to the National Army, it was planned to hold a great celebration. Meanwhile, those who were to depart early were not forgotten. A farewell reception and dinner was given to them, at which many words of good cheer were spoken, and each was given a Red Cross comfort kit, a safety razor and a plentiful supply of

tobacco. The Red Cross kit contained a pack of cards, two handkerchiefs, scissors, writing materials, a "housewife," candles, shoestrings, soap, shaving powder, combination tooth paste and tooth brush, absorbent cotton and gauze bandage.

Departure of First Quota of Drafted Men.

Saturday, the fifteenth, was a great day in Manchester. For a whole week committees composed of the town's most prominent men and women had been working to arrange the celebration to the most minute detail. The contemporary account reads:

"The tang of patriotism permeates the very atmosphere of the town this afternoon. The blare of brass, the shrill of fifes, the reverberations of the drums, the swirl of the pipes. The marching men in khaki. The veterans of the Civil War and the young men soon to bear their share of the burden that will make the world safe for democracy. The streets packed five deep with men, women and children. Residences and stores covered with bunting of the national colors, and Old Glory and the flags of the Allied nations everywhere. Cheers for the marchers and especially for the boys who are to leave next Thursday. Every band and nearly every civil organization in line. Such are the scenes this afternoon in what will go down in history as Manchester's greatest patriotic demonstration.

"As the men chosen for the National Army arrived, they were each given a small flag, which was their mark of distinction in the parade. As they formed into line their fair friends of the gentler sex crowded near them and hardly a man but had a woman with him, a sister, mother or sweetheart. This part of the parade naturally was the center of attraction, for it was because of these men that the town arranged this monster demonstration. There was more or less confusion as the various contingents arrived, but soon everything was in readiness and the word was given promptly at the hour scheduled. . . .

"Then came the selected men for the National Army. These were the cynosure of all eyes and as they marched up Main Street a steady hum of hurrahs marked their progress. The boys for the first time realized that they were Manchester men and that Manchester was behind them. Before, to many of them, it was somewhat like a dream but now they came to

a full realization of the fact that they were about to take up the nation's burden, the state's burden and the town's burden; the job of making the world safe for democracy. Unconsciously their shoulders were thrown back and they looked more like soldiers than they did any other time in their lives. As they passed the crowds cheered and remarks were heard on all sides what a splendid body of men Manchester would have in the National Army. All young, stalwart men. There is something in the sound of fife and drum that always reminds one of the Revolutionary War, possibly that famous picture, 'The Spirit of '76,' and as the fifes sounded, and the spectators realized that these young men were soon to go to war, a patriotic thrill swept over the throngs. Scientists call this thrill mob psychology and if ever thousands of hearts beat in unison with patriotism as the theme, this afternoon's demonstration was an example."

In the evening a dinner was given to the drafted men in the parish hall of the Center Church, where they were served bountifully and cheered with many hearty words of Godspeed. In particular, they were assured that the community would care for those whom they had left behind.

The real parting came early in the morning several days later, when sixty-five young men said good-bye to several hundred relatives and friends who had gathered at the South Manchester Post Office to see them off.

"There was little ceremony
But it was a genuine farewell, the crowd being made up largely of relatives, sweethearts and intimate friends of the departing men. While the men left with smiling faces, showing their determination to be brave and do their best, there were tear-stained faces among them, as well as among those who were left behind. One of the most touching scenes as the men were leaving was the embracing and kissing of two brothers. Both were big husky fellows, but no one thought the less of them for this demonstration of brotherly love."

Company G in Camp at New Haven.

While all these affairs were happening in Manchester, Company G had been spending the summer in camp at Pratt Field, New Haven. A letter of July 31, reads:

"The camp itself is rapidly improving. Sanitary conditions are of the best, with the exception of showers,

which are on the way. Just now we are taking advantage of the Second Regiment shower. The New Haven Y. M. C. A. has the welcome sign all renovated, and at times a dip is enjoyed by the boys. Eats? Oh, yes! We are faring well. No cake, no pie and the like, but good wholesome food prepared by an efficient corps of old timers.

"About the work in the field. There's plenty of it and when a man finishes his day's drill he realizes that the main army offers no joy course. The men are standing up under it fine, especially the fellows who went down to Arizona last summer. Their training has stood them in good stead and their names are seldom seen on the daily sick report.

"The discipline is of the best. This may be attributed to the painstaking efforts of our officers and the responsibility each man takes upon himself to uphold the name of 'G' and while a man may fall down on some minor infraction, the regiment's quota of prisoners is not made up of a single 'G' man.

"To see the prisoners marching under an armed guard doing the disagreeable jobs around camp such as chopping wood, digging trenches and other jobs too numerous to mention, makes a lasting impression on the observer."

In September the orders to sail came, and Company G, now a part of the Second Battalion, 102nd Infantry, embarked on the transport *Lenape*. When only three days out from New York the ship sprang a leak and was forced to return to port. On October 27, the battalion again embarked on the S. S. *Adriatic*. Early in November the Manchester boys landed in France, and the first winter was spent in training around the town of Rouvres-la-Chetive in the Vosges Mountains. It was at this place that Corporal James Strange died.

Liberty Loans and Other Drives.

The Second Liberty Loan Campaign began early in October, 1917. The First Loan had made but little stir, although \$460,000 of the bonds were sold in Manchester. For the Second Loan a quota of \$677,000 was set for Manchester. This meant a more intensive campaign and a more direct appeal to small savers. A stirring two weeks' campaign ensued. The Chamber of Commerce subscribed for \$1,000, the Foresters, the Masons and the Knights of Columbus for \$5,000 each. Boy Scouts and newsboys bought baby bonds. At a monster rally held in High

School Hall over \$25,000 was subscribed. One man bought ten \$50 bonds, one for each of his ten children. High School students bought bonds on the installment plan. In the Cheney mills 1,941 employees purchased \$130,000 of bonds. A great parade with over 3,500 marchers aroused great enthusiasm during the last days of the drive. When the books were finally closed it was found that the loan had been handsomely oversubscribed. Over 3,500 individual subscriptions had been received, totaling \$1,130,000.

After that drives came thick and fast. The Knights of Columbus and the Y. M. C. A. co-operated in lending assistance in their respective efforts; the Salvation Army was successful in its modest appeal. Then came a Third and Fourth Liberty Loan¹ campaign, a second Red Cross appeal, and finally a United War Work Fund.

One of the memorable war activities in which the town distinguished itself was in the organization and development of the War Savings Campaign. This was entrusted to Mr. C. E. House, as chairman of the committee, and he was indefatigable in its development. As a result \$351,794.88 face value, or about \$425,000.00 maturity value, was subscribed to in War Savings securities by citizens of the Town of Manchester. Through various and interesting devices that diverted the small rather than large savings in goods and services away from non-essentials, this purchasing power was converted into producing war essentials.

Mrs. A. L. Crowell of Highland Park was also very successful in the organization of a Taft War Savings Club, through which nearly \$100,000 was included in the above by those who subscribed to \$1,000 or over.

One of the interesting activities was a Universal Registration Day upon which all of the inhabitants of Connecticut were summoned by a proclamation of the Governor to assemble in their several school houses and pledge themselves both by sacrifices and by contributions to the making of economies effective in order that war production might be pushed.

The State Campaign was under the leadership of Mr. Howell Cheney, federal director of War Savings. The Manchester activities were illustrative of a type of war campaign that enlisted the interest of every community in Connecticut, and through which the value of something over \$17,000,000 was drawn from non-essentials to war supplies, besides putting the government in immediate possession of this money to be loaned to our Allies or used for other war purposes.

¹ To the Third Liberty Loan there were 1,929 subscriptions amounting in all to \$973,250. Subscriptions to the Fourth loan totalled \$1,204,600 and the number of subscriptions was 2,180.

Other Forms of War Work.

Although the "drives" held the center of the stage, other vital, if less spectacular, forms of war work were not neglected. The Food Conservation Campaign was pushed until over 2,300 housewives had signed Hoover pledge cards. A welfare committee of the Chamber of Commerce undertook the care of dependents of soldiers. The War Bureau was organized in December, 1917, to co-ordinate and assist in all war activities and to censor all subscription lists and methods of raising money for war work. From this time the Bureau became the central agency and focus of Manchester's war-time activities. Among these varied undertakings, there were two which held promise of becoming permanent sources of benefit to the community. One was the work of Americanization, and the other the Child Welfare Movement. Under the leadership of Mrs. C. W. Cheney and Mrs. H. O. Bowers, Cradle Roll parties were held in many of the local churches, at which over 1,000 babies were weighed and measured. A health center was opened during the summer at the open air school, which gave instruction to mothers in the care of children.

The Red Cross at Work.

The Red Cross was working at high speed. A contemporary description of the daily scene at the Recreation Building follows:

"Today at the Recreation Building offered a good example of the local Red Cross ladies at their regular work. Three large rooms were filled with women, all seated at large tables, busily occupied before various piles of fabrics, each worker with fingers fairly flying over her appointed task. Let no one make the mistake of thinking that these ladies did not mean business. The determined manner with which they went at their work, their diligent application, the absence of more than occasional courteous conversation, and their prompt and agreeable acquiescence in complying with such directions as were given them, proved positively that they were there for serious work and for no other purpose.

"For the past nine months the local Red Cross has been constantly engaged upon its work for the soldiers. A complete report of the work of the local chapter for this period would astonish the townspeople. Space will not permit such a report here, but a few facts will be set forth as an example of what the chapter is doing. For instance, during the past six weeks eighty-six sets

of knitted articles were completed. There were fifty-nine comfort kits sent to individual soldiers who are already away, and to enlisted and drafted men. In the meantime, there were shipped to the Atlantic Division headquarters, New York, forty sweaters, ten helmets, sixty pairs of wristlets, fifty pairs of socks, forty-five surgical shirts, fifteen pajamas, eighty wash cloths, nine eye bandages, four pair bed socks and ten towels. In addition to the above, during the last six weeks the local chapter of the Red Cross has sent to the headquarters in New York no less than 4,700 surgical dressings in two shipments."

A membership campaign in December succeeded in enrolling 10,282 persons of all ages from eight hours to ninety-five years. In a population of 16,800 there were, on an average, three memberships for each family in town. In the two years June 1917-June 1919, the Manchester chapter raised funds amounting to \$197,000. The bulk of this was used for soldiers and sailors and their families.

The Red Cross proved its value as a local institution during the influenza epidemic of October, 1918. Cheney Hall was promptly converted into an emergency hospital and a community kitchen was set up in the Barnard School. High School girls, working under the direction of Miss Burbank, the instructor in domestic science, prepared hot noon-day meals which they sent out to families in which there was sickness. Over 300 families were thus supplied.

"One of the most important and far reaching phases of local Red Cross work the last two years was the work of the home service section. Over 1,200 Manchester men were in the service and over 1,000 of them were discharged during the past year. Practically every one of the thousand discharged men registered in the roll of the home service section of Manchester chapter of the Red Cross at the War Bureau. And perhaps ninety percent. of the thousand had matters which required expert attention and much letter writing. Overdue allotments, checks, war risk insurance complications, vocational training matters and dozens of other subjects perplexed the soldier, and he would have had to take recourse in legal aid in countless cases unless the home service section had stepped in and acted for him." ¹

Dr. Hesselgraves' Work in France.

Communication with the boys in France was unsatisfactory. It was not until August, 1918, that a few of the G men, who came back to assist in training the drafted men, visited friends in town and brought news and messages from Manchester boys. Letters not infrequently were long delayed in transit and were, of course, strictly censored. It was on this account that the townspeople took a keen interest in the decision of Dr. C. E. Hesselgrave, the pastor of the Center Church, to go to France as a Y. M. C. A. worker. Although he still retained his connection with the Center Church, he soon came to be recognized as in a special sense an emissary from the entire community to its men in the trenches. In the following May, Dr. Hesselgrave wrote back to friends in Manchester of his work at the front:

"I have been at . . . for five or six weeks. It is on the western front and we are stationed in the midst of a wild, desolate district where for miles there stretches a great belt of hills and valleys, where the orchards have all been cut down, the trees almost entirely destroyed, by shell fire or by bombing, or sometimes by wanton destruction. The soil is very productive when it is productive, but after its siege of war great stretches of it are almost seas of mud. Our so-called hut is in a deserted building in a deserted village some five miles from any human habitation, although there are many other similar villages all around us, and is some few miles from the firing line. Our American soldiers are scattered in dug-outs and in caves which hold anywhere from 50 to 5,000 men, some of them a dozen, some of them 500: some of them 750. They are dug into this chalk-like stone, which is very easily chipped out, and held up with great props, beams, etc., sometimes high, sometimes low; sometimes having several entrances, now and then not more than one. The fields all about are full of shell-holes and scarred with trenches and wire entanglements and all the debris and destitute remnants of civilization and industry. There are factories torn to pieces, sometimes only the foundations left. Hardly a house within miles that has even half a roof. Most of the buildings have been of stone. I, myself, live in a dug-out which is an excavation in the earth, and which is approached by a series of steps, covered with corrugated steel, and covered over with dirt, sand-bags and all sorts of debris, including parts of stone buildings.

"Our Y. M. C. A. hut is of stone, with a fireplace

badly shot to pieces on one side, which we have mended with corrugated iron, and in which during the cold, stormy and rainy weather we kept a fine fire burning. Around the walls our boys have made tables from the boards and we have covered them with such material as we could get and supplied them all with writing materials for carrying messages to friends in the homeland. Here on one side, also, we have our canteen, in which chocolate, candy, oranges, toilet articles and such things are sold in such quantities as we can secure through the Supply Department via the Supply Depots. A part of my duty is to carry materials from this post up to boys in the front line trenches, where from time to time we were treated to showers of shells from the German guns. It is only comparatively safe in the daytime to pass through the long trenches with great care and with proper attention to facilities for dodging under cover when the whirring shells give warning of their approach.

"We have a splendid group of boys to work with — from Hartford, Manchester and surrounding towns — and our life has been one of sympathy and mutual understanding, as well as happy friendships.

"Every Sunday morning in our cave we hold church worship, sometimes by the dim light of candles, and sometimes practically no light at all. Part of the time we have hymn books to assist in our worship and part of the time only such hymns and Scripture as the boys could recall, under the leadership of the Y. M. C. A. Secretary (Dr. Hesselgrave) were used."

"Catholics and Protestants alike have attended these services, which are of a religious rather than a sectarian character. I have taken special pains to help the Catholic boys by securing the Priest to come and hear confessions in my dug-outs, securing rosaries for those who had lost their prayer chains, and attending to such other matters as especially concerned the Catholic boys."¹

Returning soldiers were enthusiastic in their praise of Dr. Hesselgrave. Said one of them:

" 'Pop,' 'Father' and any name which shows appreciation of his work is called out to Dr. Charles E. Hesselgrave when he comes to the G boys in the trenches.

¹ Rev. Father McGurk of St. James' Church spoke appreciatively of this phase of Dr. Hesselgrave's work at a dinner held in the interest of the United War Work Fund.

The local fellows think the world of Dr. Hesselgrave. He is the only Y. M. C. A. man who dared to go into the first line trenches where G was to serve them. He goes to the G men and all the Manchester fellows as often as he possibly can. Whenever they cannot pay for their chocolate and other good things, Dr. Hesselgrave manages to get them the money or gives it to them free, paying for it himself. Every G man looks up to Dr. Hesselgrave as a wonderful man, and they are looking forward to the time when he will come back home with them and enjoy a real reunion in town."

Another link between home and "over there" was furnished by the Salvation Army girls. Early in the war seven Manchester young women from the local Corps volunteered for foreign service. Two of them, the Misses Martha and Esther Turkington, were sent over and were found by the boys of Company G serving coffee and doughnuts at a canteen station under fire.

The Summer of 1918.

The summer of 1918 was an anxious time. The American troops had gone into action on the battlefields of France and one by one the reports of casualties brought sorrow to Manchester families. It was at Chemin de Dames that Company G was first engaged, and there Corporal Walter Balch and Private Thomas Morrison were wounded.¹ Not long afterward Private Ernest G. Anderson died of gas poisoning. Sergeant Adolph Cornell, the son of Rev. P. J. O. Cornell, the pastor of the Swedish Lutheran Church, was killed in an engagement near Chateau Thierry. His brother died of pneumonia a few months later in a camp on this side.

The work of the draft board continued and all through the summer groups of Manchester boys were sent off to the training camps with a dinner and cordial farewells.

Toward the end of the summer news of long-awaited Allied victories began to arrive. On November 5 the announcement of a great Italian victory and Austria's surrender aroused great enthusiasm among Manchester's residents of Italian birth.

"Out of the fogginess of Oak Street into the glare of Manchester's White Way, with a fanfare of martial music, came a throng of Italian patriots, braving the rain to give to Manchester a demonstration of their

¹ The first Manchester man to be killed in the war was Sergeant Robert Glenny, who was wounded at Ypres, dying September 23, 1917. He was a graduate of the South Manchester High School, who had later settled in South Africa, and had there enlisted in the British Army.

joy and thankfulness. Preceded by the Italian band and marching to the tune of 'We'll Rally Round the Flag, Boys,' the marchers swept up Main Street and many of the townspeople, catching the spirit, soon joined in, and there were about three hundred in the line of march when the procession reached the Center. Even the 'billy cop' gave the paraders the right of way as the marchers swept around the circle back down Main Street again. All along the line of march the residents cheered the Italians and the windows of the buildings along Main Street were filled with people who wondered what on earth was happening. Many thought it was a political turnout."

A few days later, seizing upon an unconfirmed rumor that peace had been declared, the pent-up longing of the community burst all bounds. The silk mills were closed, the school children dismissed, and soon the streets were thronged with happy-faced men, women and children. Flags blossomed out everywhere. Automobiles rushed through the streets carrying flags and sounding horns. Impromptu parades were held, some with drums and some with boys beating tin pans. The more the newspapers denied the rumors, the more the people insisted the news was true. Parade followed parade. Staid citizens, catching the infection, seized instruments from the bandsmen and released their spirits in an orgy of sound.

Armistice Day.

At last, at three o'clock in the morning of November 11, the real glad news was received. According to pre-arrangement the signal was given by factory whistles and church bells. People poured into the streets, awaking the echoes and their neighbors with whatever noise-making device was handiest. In the forenoon a monster parade was set in motion.

"Manchester has had many parades during the last year but none which equalled that of this forenoon. There have been more elaborate and more spectacular parades but never one in which enthusiasm and rejoicing approached the level of today's. There was nothing forced or mechanical about it. It was the natural outburst of long-pent emotions. Joy was on every face and in every heart. The crisp November air was electrified with it. There was only the roughest pretense of order in the formation. It looked as if everybody had seized a flag or some noise-making device, donned whatever fantastic or decorative garb was handy

and sailed in to celebrate. Fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters, wives and sweethearts of men in the service showed their joy in different ways, but all shared in the feeling of relief that the specter of death, which had haunted their loved ones had been banished for all time."

The dramatic moment of the celebration, and perhaps of the whole war-time, came at daybreak, when thousands of Manchester's people stood in Center Park as the sun rising over the Bolton hills ushered in a new day, and with bared heads sang "The Star Spangled Banner" and "America."

Manchester's Honor Roll.

On Manchester's honor roll for service in the World War there are 1,242 names,¹ distributed among various branches of service as follows:

United States Army	932
United States Navy and Marines	182
In Allied Armies	58
Y.M.C.A., Salvation Army and Red Cross Work	17
Nurses in Allied Armies	1
Yeomanettes	12
Miscellaneous Activities;	40
<hr/>	
Total;	1,242

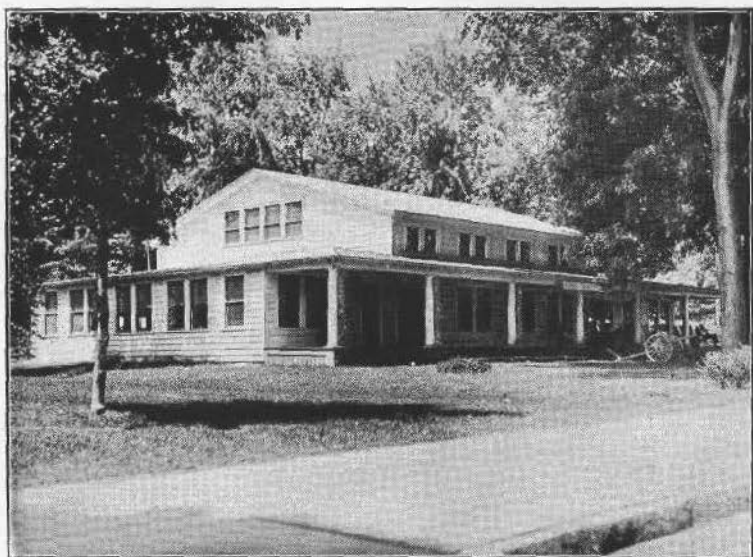
Heroes of the World War.

Three Manchester men received Distinguished Service Crosses. A posthumous award was made to Private Joseph Dilworth, Company A, 39th Infantry, 4th Division — "for extraordinary heroism in action near Montfaucon Hill, France, September 26, 1918. After his squad leader had become a casualty, he assumed command and led his men against a machine gun nest, materially assisting in the capture of two guns and prisoners. He was killed in the performance of duty."

Sergeant Ratenburg of the sanitary detachment, 101st Machine Gun Battalion, received his award "for extraordinary heroism in action north of Chateau Thierry, France, July 22, 1918. Although wounded in three places by machine gun bullets, he followed the attack and continued his duty, thereby inspiring his comrades."

Sergeant James H. Roberts, Company K, 39th Infantry, 4th Division, a regimental fellow of Dilworth, received his award in

¹ A full list, a duplicate of that on the tablets at the Memorial Hospital, will be found in Appendix B, page 292-306.



Army and Navy Club



State Armory, Main Street

the same action "for extraordinary heroism in action near Mont-faucon, France, September 26 to 28, 1918. Sergeant Roberts displayed marked courage and self-sacrifice, when, after being wounded in the arm, he refused to leave the battlefield and continued to perform his duties as platoon sergeant until he was wounded in the knees two days later and had to be carried from the field.

Captain Thomas Ward, who was a student at Yale College when the war broke out, received a Croix de Guerre for his daring services as an aviator. He was a member of a squadron which defended Paris from aerial attacks.

Forty-three Manchester men lost their lives from wounds and disease. Their names follow:

Name	Date of Death	Cause
Priv. Orazio Alesci	Aug. 7, 1918	Killed in action
Corp. Ernest G. Anderson	Mar. 20, 1918	Killed in trench raid
Priv. Prescott F. Bigelow		
Corp. Llewellyn Bissell	June 25, 1917	Died of spinal meningitis
Priv. Edward J. Brown	June 11, 1918	Drowned while doing guard duty
Priv. James A. Campbell	Oct. 4, 1918	Died of pneumonia
Priv. Edward Cavnaro	Sept. 27, 1918	Died of pneumonia
Priv. Joseph W. Chamberlain		
Serg. Adolph Cornell	June 19, 1918	Killed in action
Priv. John Cornell	Sept. 23, 1918	Died of pneumonia
Priv. Joseph F. Dilsworth	Oct. 1918	Killed in action
Seaman Moses Dougan	Feb. 18, 1918	Died of pneumonia
M.M. 1st Thomas S. Finnegan	Sept. 2, 1918	Died of severe burns
Priv. William Finnegan	Oct. 21, 1918	Died of pneumonia
Serg. Harry Frost	Oct. 14, 1918	Died of pneumonia
Priv. Giovanni Gillardi	Sept. 30, 1918	Died of pneumonia
Serg. Robert Glenney	Sept. 23, 1917	Died of wounds received in action
Priv. John Glode	Mar. 25, 1918	Died as result of motorcycle accident
Jr. Lieut. James F. O'Gorman	Dec. 28, 1918	Died of pneumonia
Priv. William J. Hampton	Sept. 11, 1918	Died of disease
Serg. Thomas Hickey, Jr.	Oct. 26, 1918	Died of wounds received in action
Machinist Harold Irish	Sept. 26, 1918	Lost when <i>Tampa</i> was sunk
Priv. David Johnson	Oct. 4, 1918	Killed in action
Chemist H. Ethan Johnson	Oct. 6, 1918	Died of pneumonia
Priv. John T. Kennedy		Died of wounds received in action
Priv. Stanislaw Kuchewski	Nov. 1918	Killed in action
Priv. Henry Landry	Oct. 10, 1918	Killed in action
Priv. Joseph Lutkus	Sept. 26, 1918	Died of pneumonia
Private Fred Machie	Oct. 27, 1918	Killed in action
Wagoner John J. McCann	Dec. 11, 1918	Died of bronchial pneumonia
Priv. Thomas J. McCann	Sept. 27, 1918	Killed in action
Priv. William B. McGuire	Sept. 30, 1918	Died of pneumonia
Corp. Henry B. Meisterling	Oct. 13, 1918	Died of pneumonia
Priv. Charles Merkel	Sept. 25, 1918	Died of pneumonia
Serg. Michael Moynihan	July 29, 1918	Died of disease

Name	Date of Death	Cause
Priv. Clair T. Newell	May 5, 1918	Died of disease
Serg Henry T. Newman	July 21, 1918	Died in action
Priv. William Preston	Sept. 14, 1918	Died of wounds received in action
Priv. Alfred D. Reymander	Sept. 26, 1918	Died of pneumonia
Cook Emanuel J. Reymander	Nov. 22, 1918	Died of wounds
Seaman Paul E. Segerdahl	Feb. 5, 1918	Died of meningitis
Priv. William L. Shea	Oct. 23, 1918	Killed in action
Corp. James F. Strange	Feb. 7, 1918	Died of disease
Serg. George N. Thompson	July 23, 1918	Killed in action
Priv. Walter Thompson	Aug. 2, 1918	Killed in air raid

The town turned out en masse on May 17, 1919, to welcome home its veterans. A great parade was held, in which over 600 returned soldiers and sailors took part. As a concrete expression of thankfulness and appreciation, a Soldiers and Sailors' Club-house was opened and formally presented to the ex-service men.

*Manchester Memorial Hospital.*¹

Soon after the armistice a memorable meeting was held at the Hebron Club to discuss the erection of a suitable memorial to the men and women of Manchester who served their country during the World War. Among those who attended were, the entire War Bureau, the Board of Selectmen, and other prominent citizens. When after prolonged discussion, one of the group suggested a hospital, the idea was seized upon at once. A committee was appointed consisting of C. Elmore Watkins, the director of the local Red Cross, chairman; Horace Cheney, Miss Mary Cheney, Mrs. M. C. Crowell and Dr. D. C. Y. Moore.

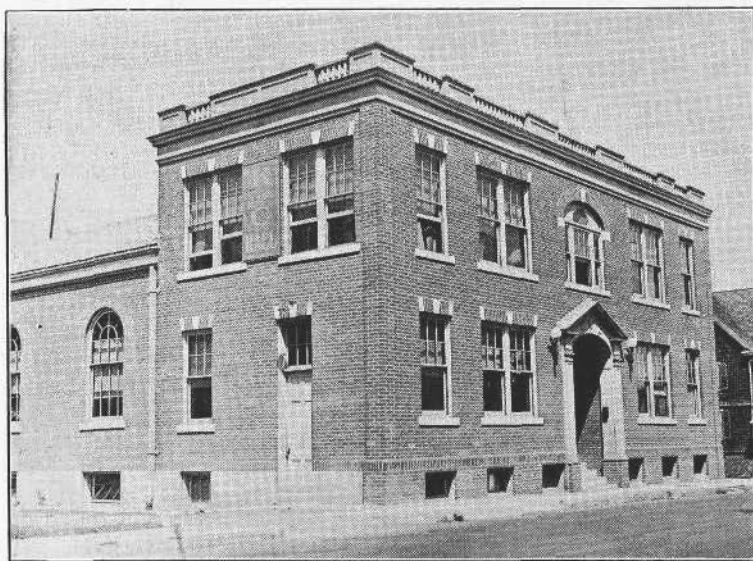
After inspecting a number of hospitals the committee recommended that a hospital be erected and that a fund of \$150,000 be raised for the purpose.

When it was announced in May, 1919, that this would be Manchester's final tribute to her heroic sons and daughters, there was a veritable outpouring of money. In the short space of one week \$195,000 was contributed by over 5,000 of the people of Manchester in sums of from fifty cents to several thousand dollars. The hospital was formally opened on Armistice Day, November 11, 1920. From 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon until 11:00 in the evening, the new building, which had been dedicated by appropriate exercises, was thronged with visitors. An impressive feature of the ceremonies was the planting of forty-three trees, each in memory of a man who had lost his life in the service. The crowds who attended and their expressions of appreciation

¹ The following paragraphs are adapted from an article written by C. Elmore Watkins for *The Modern Hospital*.



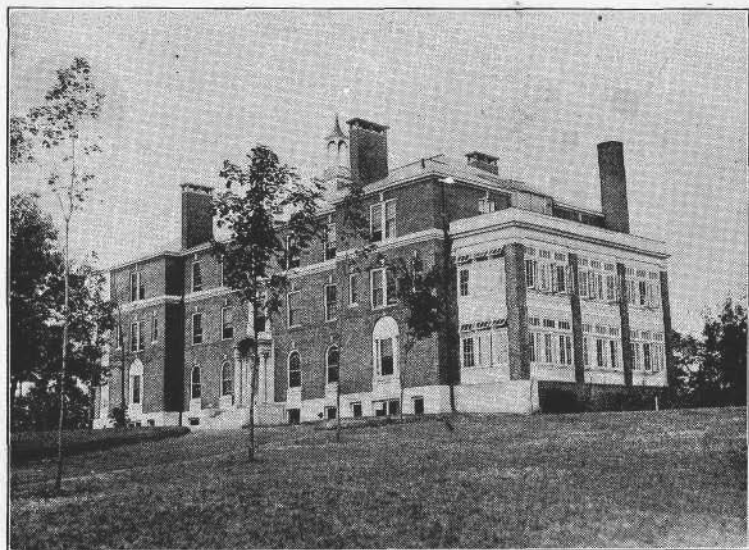
Odd Fellows Building, Main and Center Sts.



K. of C. Hall

made it apparent that Manchester's new hospital was to hold an affectionate place in the minds of its citizens from the first.

In the vestibule of the building on either side are two great tablets containing a roster of Manchester's soldiers and sailors of the great war. The dedication inscription reads as follows: "The hospital is dedicated to the men and women of Manchester who served the town, state and country in the great war of 1914-1918."



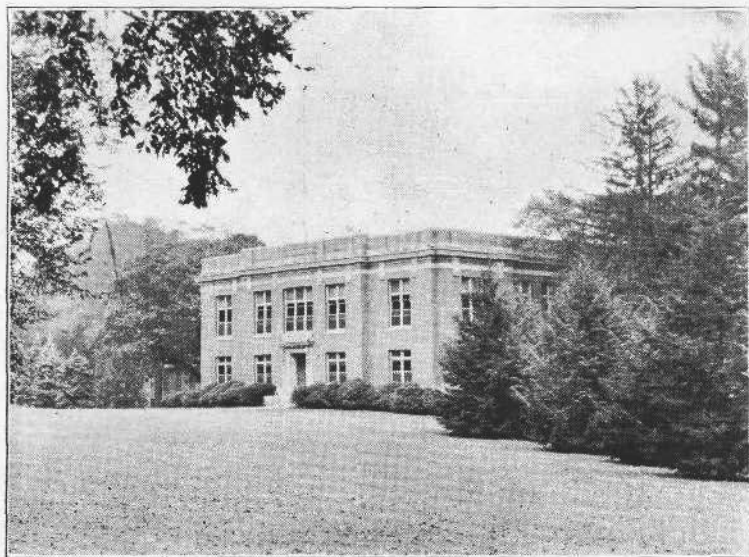
Manchester Memorial Hospital

The hospital is in the Georgian style of architecture, of brick and limestone construction with white trimmings, and has a capacity of fifty-five patients. The plan is the result of careful study on the part of experts, assisted by the local physicians. Dr. Alexander Lambert, and Dr. Walter Gray Crump, of New York, very kindly offered valuable suggestions. Among the distinctive features of the building are its unusual furnishings. A reception room and consulting room on the left of the entrance are furnished with old-fashioned colonial pieces or reproductions of the Colonial period. Each of the private rooms is distinctively furnished in a different color scheme.

The public wards accommodate twenty-four to thirty-six people, the maternity ward, six to twelve, the enclosed sun-porches making it possible to use the maximum number of beds.



MAIN STREET, SO. MANCHESTER

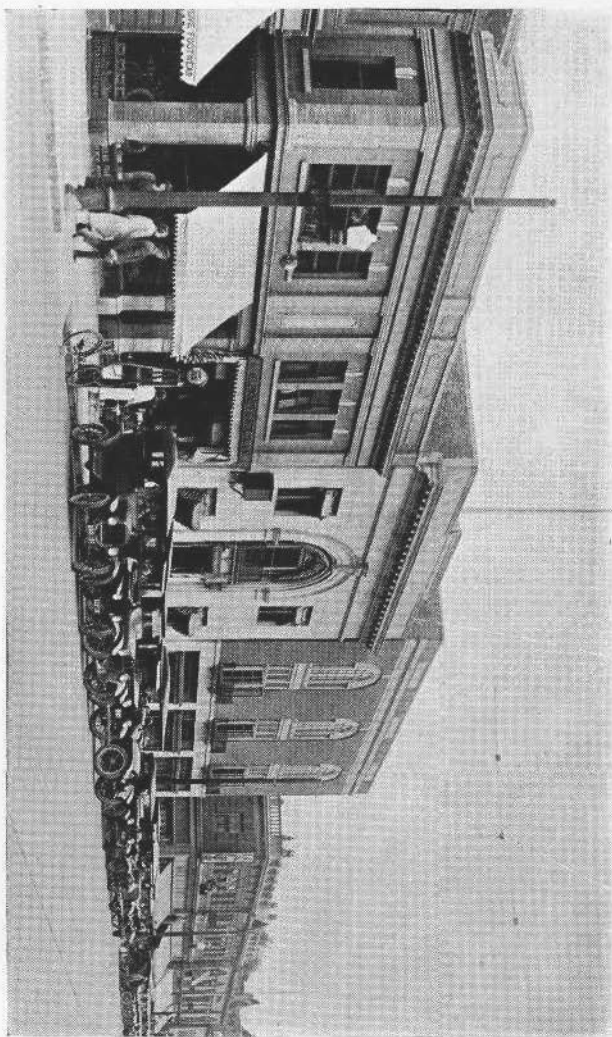


Cheney Brothers' New Office



Main Street, So. Manchester, 1923

MAIN STREET, SO. MANCHESTER



The operating room, delivery room, X-Ray and plaster cast room are on the top floor, where also the Superintendent and House Officer have their quarters. On this floor are also several rooms which are used as semi-private wards.

The charge for services in the wards is very much lower than that made in most of the other hospitals in this locality. Patients accepting the ward service are cared for by the local physicians who form the attending staff. These men give their services in rotating order in three months' periods. At their discretion they may call upon the consulting staff, which is composed of the best surgeons and specialists in Hartford. Ward patients are cared for by graduate men and consultants of the highest type, and also have the services of graduate nurses exclusively. There are no pupil nurses in the hospital. The food in the wards is the same as that furnished the private patients and the wards, being comparatively small, give one almost the seclusion of a private room.

The hospital is very fortunate in its Superintendent, Miss Hannah Malmgren, who is a graduate of the New York Hospital for Women and Children, and for a number of years had charge of Fordham Hospital in New York City. The newest addition to the personnel of the hospital is Dr. Joseph Imbleau, the House Officer, graduate of McGill University, who is on hand at all times for emergency cases. The trustees of the hospital are: C. Elmore Watkins, Horace B. Cheney, Elwood S. Ela, Miss Mary Cheney, Philip Cheney, Mrs. Walter S. Coburn, Rev. Dr. J. P. O. Cornell, Mrs. M. C. Crowell, William S. Hyde, Rev. William P. Reidy, W. W. Robertson, Fred A. Verplanck.

In the calendar year 1922, the hospital treated 1,010 cases, having an average daily census of thirty-six. The total number of days of care was 13,412. One hundred and thirty-seven major operations were performed in the hospital, and 318 minor operations.

CENTENNIAL PARADE. INDIANS



CHAPTER XVII.

THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

During the week of October 1-7, 1923, the citizens of Manchester devoted themselves wholeheartedly to the celebration of the centennial anniversary of the incorporation of the town. The occasion will be long remembered. As a result of months of careful planning, a varied program of elaborate features had been worked out, including athletic events, school and lodge reunions, industrial and historical exhibits, concerts, a historical parade, and a pageant. With the enthusiastic co-operation of the whole community the plans were effectively carried through and the centennial proved a huge success.

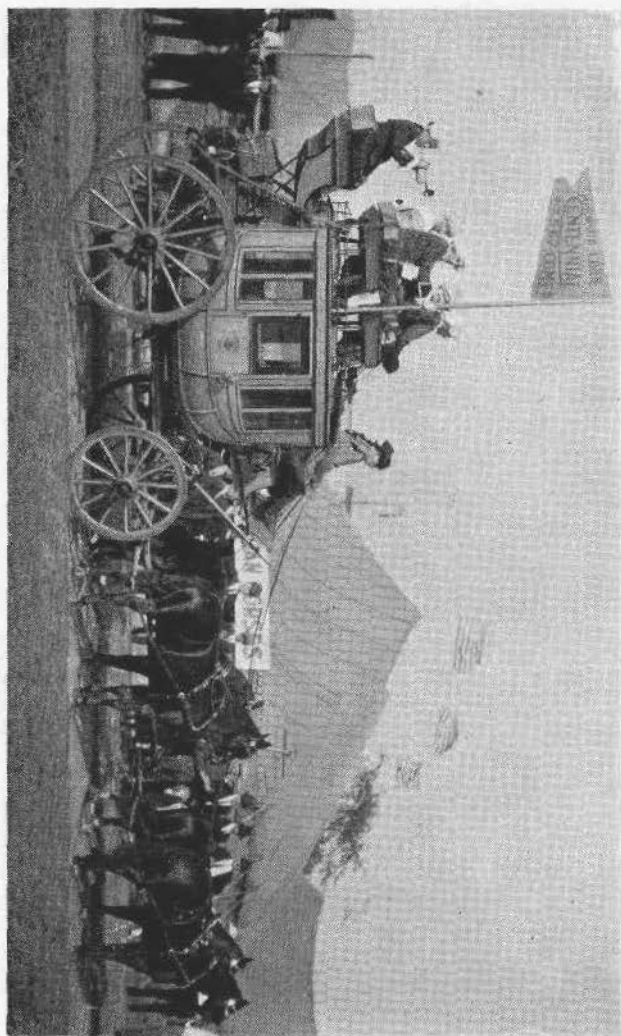
The idea of a centennial was in the minds of a few far-sighted citizens as early as the summer of 1921. It was the Manchester Chamber of Commerce that brought the more or less desultory discussion of the subject to a focus by requesting the selectmen to have the matter brought before the annual town meeting in September, 1922.

Organization for the Centennial.

The town meeting voted in favor of holding a centennial celebration and appointed William C. Cheney, a member of the Board of Selectmen, as a committee of one on organization. At a mass meeting in High School Hall, the project was formally launched and a general committee of twenty-five members was named. The community responded enthusiastically to the appeals for funds and for workers, and the habits of group action which had been developed during the war greatly facilitated the work. The members of the general committee were:

Frank Cheney, Jr., Chairman	L. N. Heebner
G. H. Waddell, Secretary	A. F. Howes
Mrs. R. K. Anderson	W. A. Knofla
F. H. Anderson	G. H. Miller
Mrs. F. T. Blish	Rev. C. T. McCann
F. J. Bendall	Dr. D. C. Y. Moore
Charles I. Balch	Mrs. M. J. Moriarty
H. O. Bowers	Rev. J. S. Neill
Angelo Bosco	Mrs. Emma L. Nettleton

CENTENNIAL PARADE. OLD STAGE COACH



Miss Mary Cheney
Miss Emily Cheney
W. C. Cheney
Austin Cheney
H. B. Cheney
L. W. Case
E. S. Ela
W. E. Hill
C. E. House
P. J. Hutchinson

P. J. O'Leary
Walter Olson
N. B. Richards
R. LaMotte Russell
W. W. Robertson
Mathias Spiess
R. V. Treat
C. E. Watkins
F. H. Wall
G. E. Willis

The plans for the celebration which were at first relatively modest grew with the enthusiasm of the committee members. Eventually the original organization was found unwieldy and a small executive composed of four members, F. H. Anderson, F. J. Bendall, Austin Cheney and F. H. Wall, was given entire authority to see the centennial plans carried through.

The Historical Pageant.

The most impressive feature of the centennial was the Pageant which was presented Friday evening, October 5, on the old golf links between East Center Street and Middle Turnpike. Staged in a natural ampitheatre, the historical spectacle thrilled and delighted more than fifteen thousand spectators. In a series of dramatic episodes the pageant epitomized the progress of the community from its rude beginnings among the Indians to the present day. Under the effective direction of Miss Leila Church, who also wrote the text, over one thousand of the townspeople, men, women and children, participated as actors.

The prologue of the pageant pictured a scene in Manchester, England, about the year 1550. The Earl of Manchester is told by a beggar boy of his dreams of a new city of Manchester across the sea.

In the first episode the Podunk Indians, the aboriginal inhabitants, are shown. They are depicted as a friendly tribe, desiring to win the good will of the white men and their protection against the Mohawks and Pequods. The white men enter the story in the last scene in the second episode, which shows John Gilbert, the first settler, receiving in 1672 his grant of 200 acres. There follows the arrival of the first settlers, (1673) a scene marked by religious solemnity. Prefacing the arrival of the settlers on the stage, the Dance of the Guiding Spirits was given in classical style by 110 girls.

The part taken by Orford Parish in the Revolutionary War is the subject of Episode III. The colonists are shown protesting against the Stamp Duties and receiving the news of the Battle of Lexington, brought by horsemen from East Hartford. In



Centennial Parade. Indians



Centennial Parade. Log Cabin

Episode IV was shown the beginnings of the silk industry. The Dance of the Butterflies and the Skeins was a colorful background for this episode.

The war wedding illustrating the Civil War was full of beauty and roses and pathos. Hardly was the ceremony finished when a detachment of recruits passed, bound for the front. The groom said good bye, and joined them. The dancing of the Virginia Reel by the wedding guests brought hearty applause from the spectators.

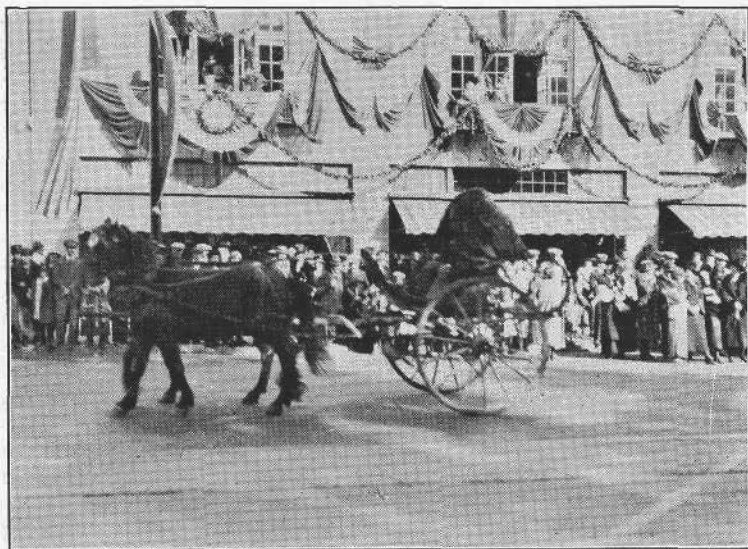
In a final episode Manchester's part in the World War was symbolized in a dialogue between the Spirit of Manchester, Justice and History. Six groups of men and women dressed in national costumes signified the contribution of various racial groups to the progress of the community. At the conclusion of this scene the entire cast gathered on the stage with the horsemen in array at the top of the hillside and the other actors in various colorful groups scattered down the slope. While the cast held this picture, flowers were presented to Miss Church in recognition of her unusual services.¹

The Historical Parade of Friday afternoon, the first big event of the celebration, was a fitting prelude to the Pageant. The following contemporary account is reprinted from the columns of the *Manchester Evening Herald*.

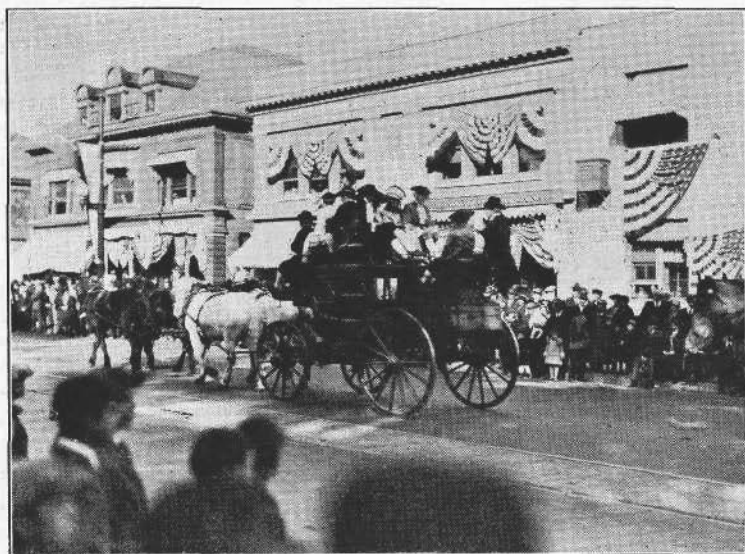
"Manchester — past and present — passed in review yesterday afternoon before an estimated crowd of 42,000 persons that came from all sections of the country to help celebrate the 100th birthday of the Silk city. The weather was perfect. The details of the parade had been worked out with amazing accuracy. Not a single accident marred the afternoon's festivities and the police details, under Chief of Police Gordon did not experience a single difficulty in handling the monster crowd. Police from Hartford and Willimantic handled the crowd, parade and automobile traffic admirably.

"An estimate of the crowd was placed at 42,000. The reviewing stand and grandstand were packed. Promptly at 1:55 the salutes at the Center Park were fired and Marshall Clifford Cheney followed by his aides swung out of Forest street to Main street taking their places at the head of the column. At 1:57 the command 'Forward' was given and Manchester's biggest parade was under way. The military aspect of the parade, set off by the mounted troops, representing the cavalry unit of the Connecticut National Guard, Troop C, was soon lost in the historical splendor of the scene that slowly unfolded itself to the spectators that lined Main street from Charter Oak street to the Center, three and four deep.

¹ The text of the pageant with the names of the principal actors appears in an appendix.



Centennial Parade. Gig



Centennial Parade. Coach

"The historical features of the parade were more vividly presented than was anticipated. Two tribes of full blooded Indians, the Mohegans and the Passamoquoddies walked yesterday over asphalt and concrete, instead of over the trails of their ancestors.

"Directly after came the Civil War and Spanish War veterans. The G. A. R. ranks are thinning, and the veterans were warmly wrapped in blankets. The veterans of '98 marched along with vigor.

"The YD and World War veterans made an impressive showing with a float that represented a war scene. The old days in front and the recent veterans in the rear, soldiers, sailors and marines, made good and drew much applause along the line of march.

The History of Middle Turnpike.

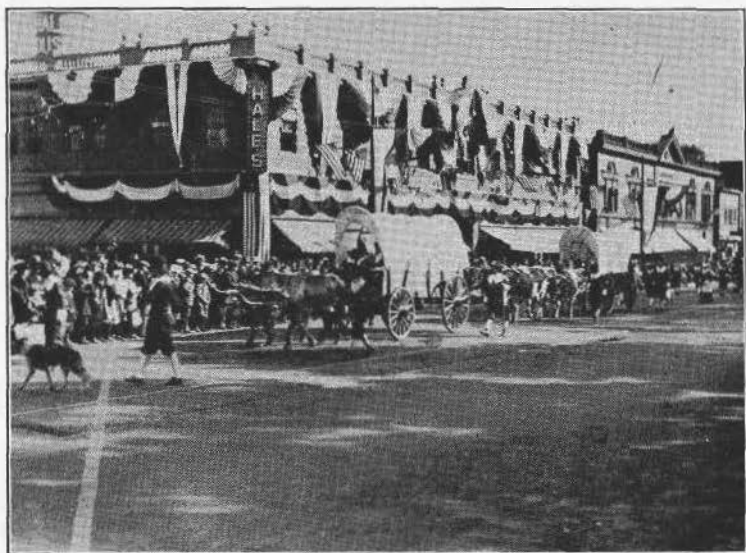
"Middle Turnpike in its old days, those days when this road was the main highway from Boston to New York, was portrayed in entirety by Manchester fraternal organizations and clubs. The vicissitudes of the road, its rise as a highway and post road and its fall into near oblivion, were shown with wonderful accuracy.

"On the first float, the YD affair, were a number of children, each in a different compartment of a great rookery representing a liberty bell and each bearing the name of one of the forty-eight states. Behind this float came the members of the YD wearing blue paper vests, yellow belts and white caps, the division colors.

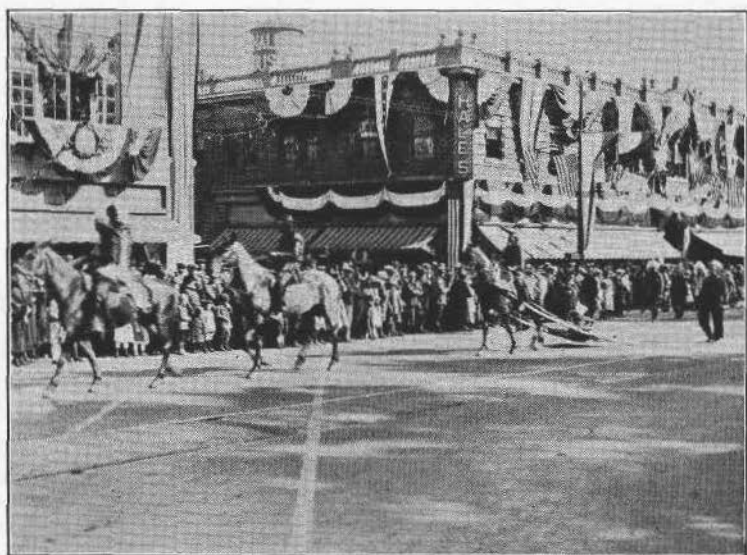
"Two bands of Indians, real ones, and still another band of Indians not so real, 'red men,' in fact, made up the next stage of the history. This was called 'The Last of the Mohegans' and the last of the tribe looked every bit as ferocious as they were reputed to be. An Indian village was next shown, wigwam and all, and a little Indian boy rode on a primitive conveyance, two poles behind a horse. Major Treat and his men, looking for skulking redskins seemed to have found them in this picture. The major and his men were dressed in the colonial fashion and rode gallant steeds.

Emigrant Train.

"Emigrants passed through the Turnpike from Rhode Island in a prairie schooner with guards on each side, armed with rifles. In the next episode the pillion, one of the early means of conveyance, was shown. This was just the expedient of putting a pillow on a horse and the women rode behind the men who were in the saddle. It was rather rough going, however.



Centennial Parade. Ox Wagon



Centennial Parade. Indians

"The old school house of 1745 was next shown and it was seen that the teacher of that day was having a hard time to get her pupils into the building, meaning, of course, that the pupils of that day were just the same as they are now. The building was constructed of logs.

"Houses along the Turnpike, with gardens and everything necessary to a Colonial homestead were next shown by the Swedish lodges. An old fashioned garden with the blossoms that were popular in bygone days, was shown.

Washington Passes Through.

"General Washington, his staff and a troop of Colonial soldiers then passed along the Turnpike. Benjamin Cheney's clock and the workshop in which it was made, was seen on the next float. The workmen in the picture were busily engaged in doing something all the way along the route.

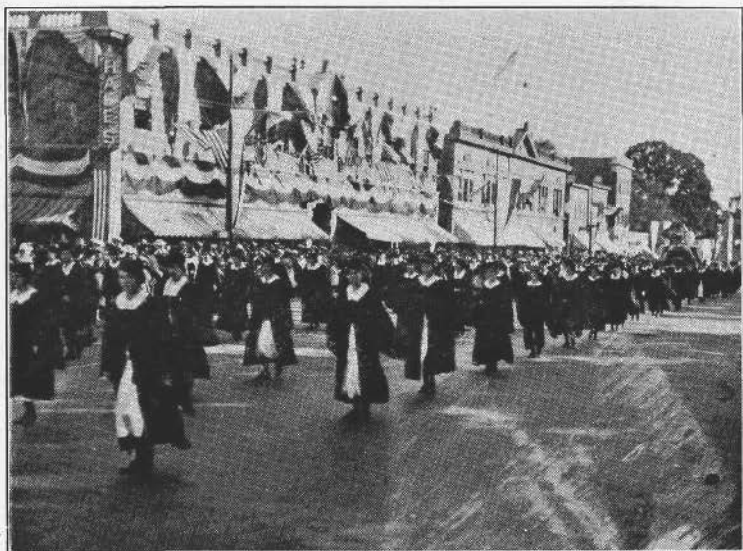
The Stage Coach.

"William Lewin, who drove the Manchester to South Manchester stage coach fifty years ago, was on the box of the Centennial coach which was filled with occupants dressed in colonial costumes. Mr. Lewin showed that he has not yet lost the knack of handling four horses, for he went up and down Main street as in the days of yore. Another coach followed labeled Newgate, then another, and the fourth was the Boston Mail Coach, part of the Foresters' float.

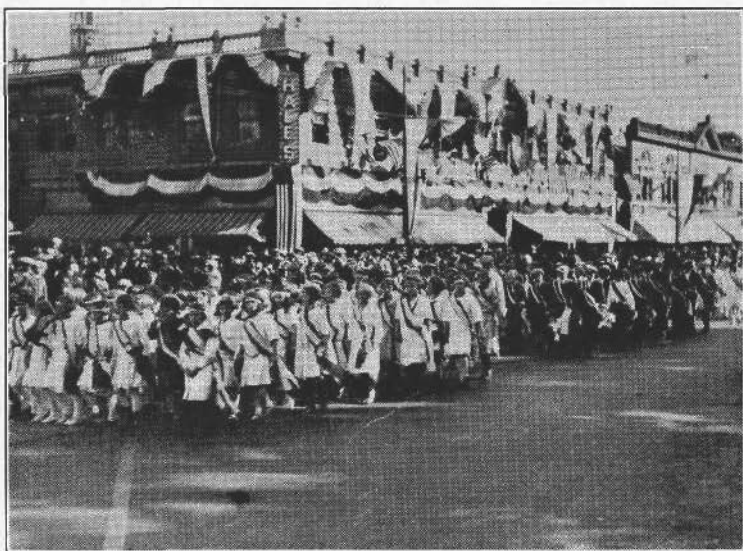
"The original press on which the *Hartford Courant* was printed came along on a float, with some specimens of its work along the sides of the truck. Children made up the red, white and blue flag in the next demonstration and following them came soldiers dressed in the uniforms of the United States Army at the time of the Mexican war. A mammoth stocking came riding along on a coach. This display was to emphasize the fact that silk seamless hosiery was made in Manchester first in 1861. The same year, the mothers and sweethearts were seen bidding goodbye to the boys who went out to fight for the Union. An old-fashioned blacksmith shop, with everything clanging merrily, passed at this point. The smith and his helper, one an old amn and the other a younger gentleman, were evidently real smiths from the way they slammed the iron on the anvil.

Early Transportation.

"The whole family out in a four wheeled wagon was shown next and following this came two old fashioned conveyances, all crowded to capacity. A group of nurses and soldiers and a war



Centennial Parade, School Teachers



Centennial Parade, School Children

scene, with a pyramid of colonial soldiers surmounted by a nurse, followed.

"A group of children made up a flag and another group of boys dressed in blue and gray, carried a mammoth banner.

Education Portrayed.

"Education was depicted in the High school float. Girls and boys wore old fashioned costumes. The Eighth District schools came next and these were followed by the children of the Ninth District. The High school pupils, with the male faculty and the principals of both the High and Trade schools passed in review behind the Ninth District.

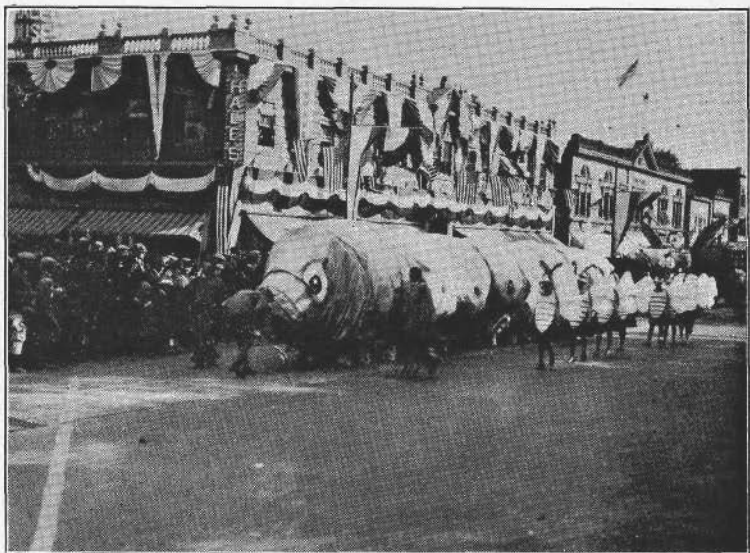
"The exhibit of the Trade School showed a complete machine and carpenter shop, with all the machinery going at full blast, manned by Trade school pupils. A miniature power plant supplied current for the lathes, shapers and various other machines which were operated."

The Silk Industry Illustrated.

After the demonstration of Educational progress there followed a section in which the industries of the town were vividly symbolized. Paper and lumber and soap all had their floats.

As their contribution to the Industrial section, Cheney Brothers depicted the manufacturing progress of silk from the cocoon to the finished dress, decorative and upholstery goods. The first float showed a large papier mache moth and cocoon 240 times life size. It was mounted on a bed of mulberry leaves. From the cocoon were strands of silk to indicate the progress of extracting the fibre from the cocoon for spinning. Girls from the Spinning and Throwing departments attractively dressed in silken costumes were scattered about the float and eighteen butterfly girls danced along the line of march following the moth and cocoon. The onlookers were reminded of prehistoric creatures when they saw approaching a wriggling, squirming silk worm fifty-one feet long and six feet high moving forward by its own volition and it was not hard for them to think that the antediluvian days were here once more. As the monster worm wriggled along through the streets of the town with great jaws dropping open and clapping shut, coolie attendants in native Chinese garb fed mulberry leaves into the cavernous mouth. The worm was true to life in coloring and movement. Following the silk worm was a silk moth and cocoon, two hundred and forty times the normal size drawn by horses. It was mounted on a bed of mulberry leaves.

A silk reeling machine occupied the next float and on it were



Centennial Parade, Silk Worm



Centennial Parade, Fire Department

workers of the Yarn department dressed to represent the Italian, Chinese and Japanese silk reelers.

Then followed an automobile bearing the Cheney fifty year service employees. Those men who have served Cheney Brothers fifty years are, William Barrett, George W. Ferris, Walter Saunders, Frank Saunders, John G. Trotter, and William R. Dunn.

An exact reproduction of the first mill to house the manufacturing of the first silks was the next float. This mill was a two story and a half affair with a water wheel in operation at its side.

Historical and Other Exhibits.

Although the Pageant and the Historical Parade did not take place until Friday, several notable features of the celebration occurred earlier in the week. On Monday the historical, industrial, educational, and agricultural exhibits were formally opened at the Recreation Building. Horace B. Cheney, the chairman of the Committee on Industries, made an address in which he sketched briefly the industrial progress of the community.

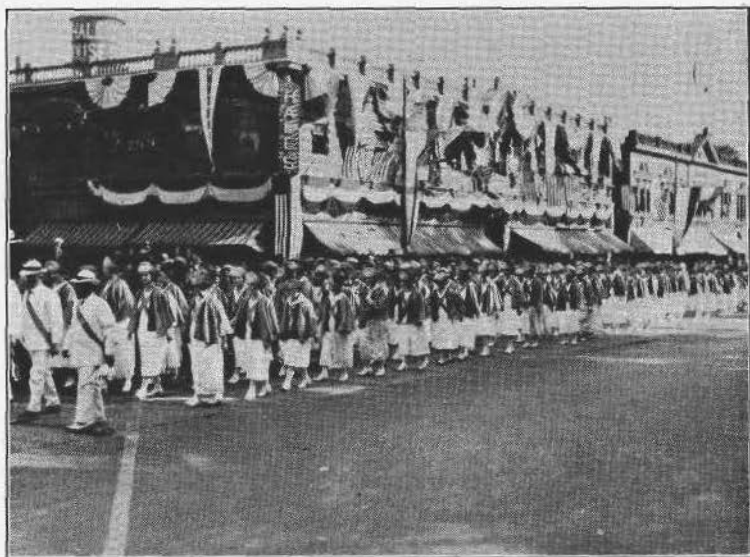
The industrial exhibits displayed the work of twenty factories and shops in Manchester. They gave the visitors an unusual opportunity to become acquainted with what Manchester makes and how. In the agricultural exhibit were shown fresh and canned vegetables and fruits, tobacco, nursery and greenhouse products, bees, poultry, pigeons, dogs and cats.

Athletic events including tennis and golf matches, bicycle races and a baseball game furnished diversion on Saturday. A midway was in full blast with 100 attractions from noon until midnight every day. One of its chief attractions was an Indian village where a group of the Passamaquoddy tribe from Point Pleasant, Maine, were encamped. The Mohegans, a band of twenty-two persons, quartered at Oakland.

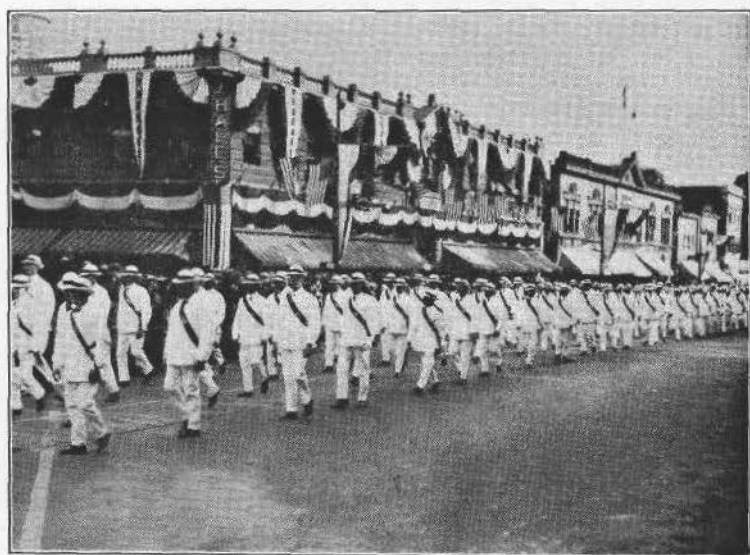
The High School Alumni Reunion.

The return of Manchester's sons and daughters from the four corners of the earth for the celebration of the Centennial, gave an opportunity for many formal and informal reunions. That which attracted most attention was the reunion of the alumni of the South Manchester High School. Out of a total graduate body of 965 almost one-third (285 to be exact) came together Thursday evening for a turkey dinner. Later in the evening invited guests arrived for an old fashioned Boethia, songs and speeches.

It is of course impossible in the space of a single chapter to do justice to all the events of the week. Many are the small boys who will never forget the Mammoth Band of 600 pieces, which

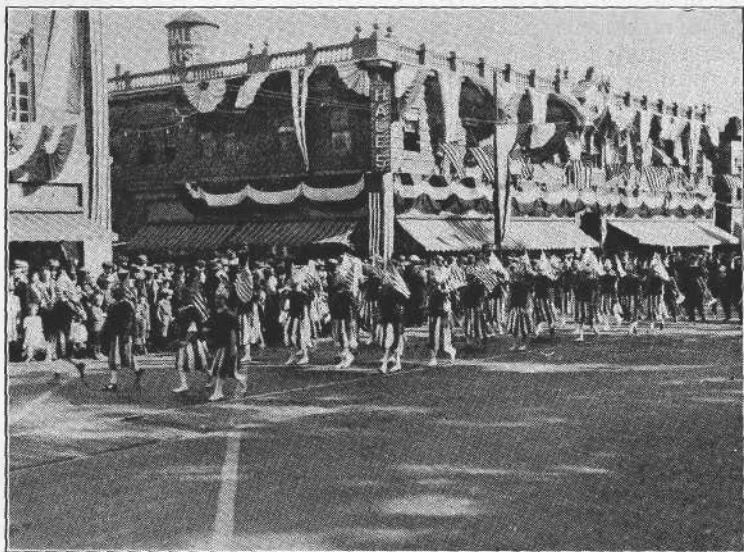


Centennial Parade



Centennial Parade

under the leadership of the veteran bandmaster, Charles P. Hatch, gave vent to a soul-satisfying orgy of sound. There were bands everywhere, twenty-five or thirty of them, and their aggregation was but the climax of a week of martial music. The Mardi Gras on Saturday night gave full opportunity for those whose high spirits had become uncontrollable to "let off steam." There was another parade, of course, with many antique and



Centennial Parade

horrible features, including a hearse and jazz band. Portions of Main Street were roped off where bands furnished dance music until midnight. Young and old were infected with the carnival spirit. It was as if the last hundred years had been a terrific bore and the lid had blown off at last.

On Sunday morning the town awoke to its normal sobriety with streets marvellously cleaned over night. People went to church where historical sermons were delivered. In the evening a wonderful concert at High School Hall brought the week of festivity to a fitting close. The concert showed that in Manchester's material progress the cult of the fine arts has not been neglected. The singing of the Manchester Community Chorus of 200 voices under the leadership of Mrs. R. K. Anderson, was inspiring. Among the home folks who participated as soloists were Fred Patton, baritone; Robert Doellner, violinist; Mrs. M. C. Crowell, organist; and Dr. George Dwyer, tenor.

The Spirit and Significance of the Centennial.

The following editorial from *The Rockville Leader* summarizes the spirit and the significance of Manchester's Centennial Celebration:

"Congratulations to Manchester which recently celebrated its 100th anniversary of its incorporation as a town. The congratulations are not on the fact that it reached the century mark, but upon the splendid Centennial celebration that was held to commemorate the close of the first century of that splendid community as an incorporated town.

"Manchester did herself proud in the entire celebration. The affair was advertised for months as going to be one of the best ever given in this section of the country and Manchester lived up to its promises by giving a program that was worthy of the occasion.

"There was nothing cheap, loud or sensational in the whole proceeding for every event was marked with the same earnest, sincere and dignified manner that marked the founding of the community or the incorporation of the town.

"The parade was a mighty pageant, delightful to the eye, pleasing to the ear, and rich in history and instruction. The floats and sketches that showed the progress of the community from the days when the Rhode Island Immigrants passed through the town and the other incidents since, ending with floats of the Manchester of today were mighty lessons in history to the school children; the carriages that showed the progress of the city in transportation and manufacturing methods, the change in the school system and fire departments and many other remarkable changes were a splendid inspiration to the young men just entering the battle of life; and the other floats that showed things done, battles fought, victories won and things recently accomplished and now history were like a pat on the back to the older people who helped make those things a reality. The parade gave inspiration to the youth and comfort to the aged. Manchester is moving on.

"The pageant was a living picture of Manchester. The pageant book could only be written by one whose heart was full of the glories of her past. It could be enacted only by those who loved her now and who hoped for better things ahead, and the pageant could only be understood by those who were in sympathy with the thought portrayed. And those who were in sympathy were swept off their feet as episode after episode was unfolded before their eyes. It was a mighty, gripping, living presentation of history that called upon the best young manhood and womanhood of the present Manchester to make the future Manchester a better place to live in."

APPENDIX A.

COMMON LANDS

(P. W. Bidwell)

For about fifty years after its purchase the Five Miles was held as a Commons. During this period the land was not distributed to individuals and divided into farms but was held in common and, under certain restrictions, was open to the use of all its owners, the inhabitants of Hartford.

The "Commons" in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, were an important feature of the New England land system. The land policy of the early New England settlements was democratic and far-sighted. Its guiding motive was not financial profit for a small group of speculative investors, but rather it was planned to get the land quickly into the hands of actual settlers and to develop the resources of the new country for the benefit of the whole community. It also aimed to prevent wide dispersion of the settlers. When they laid out a new town they allotted to each original settler, or proprietor, a small tract of only one or two acres for his house and garden near the center of the township. These home lots, as they were called, were usually grouped about the village green and the meeting house. The community settlement thus formed not only afforded protection from Indian attacks, but it also made easier attendance at church meetings, town meetings and schools, and facilitated all kinds of social intercourse.

In addition to his home lot each settler in Hartford had a share in several large fields of arable and meadow land which were laid out convenient to the settlement. Not all the land was allotted at the first distribution, however. Land was cheap and each settler received all that he could use to advantage. But with canny foresight the original settlers, or proprietors, as they were often called, made provision for the future growth of the community. The more inaccessible portions of their purchase, or grant, they held as undivided commons, for the joint use of all the inhabitants until the increase of population should make a new distribution advisable. Meanwhile cattle were pastured on the Commons, and earth and stone, fuel and timber might be

taken therefrom. In the management of the common land the forefathers showed sagacity and a commendable desire to protect from abuse and deterioration the heritage of future generations. In many ways they foreshadowed in the seventeenth century the conservation policies of the twentieth century. For example, we find in the Hartford town records a vote of 1,720 which provided that in the contemplated division of land in the Five Miles, the place where copper mines were supposed to be should remain undivided "to be for the general benefit of the proprietors."

In the first division a vacant lot, known as the mine lot, was reserved between lots 101 and 102 in the second tier. Another vote, or 1731, provided that in cutting certain timber on the Commons only trees above eighteen inches in diameter should be cut.¹

Not all the inhabitants, however, were willing to abide by the restrictions on the use of the Commons. In every settlement there were always a few venturesome or discontented persons who in defiance of the town ordinances moved out into the wilderness, cleared land for farms and built houses. The town authorities made periodic efforts to oust the squatters from the Commons; as often as not, however, their efforts were unsuccessful. In course of time the rights of the intruders were formally recognized.

Some of the first residents of Manchester were squatters. In the early records of Hartford we find that it was voted in 1707 that a committee be chosen to eject by law such persons as had illegally entered the Five Miles. The action of the committee, if it acted at all, was evidently not effective, for in 1713 we find another committee appointed for the same object.

The distribution of common lands of a New England township was something like the declaration by a modern business corporation of a stock dividend. It was what we should call "cutting a melon" and of course it became of great importance to determine what persons in the community were entitled to a share, and how large should be the share of each. In general, in New England townships there was a group known as "the original proprietors" who occupied the position of stockholders, preferred stockholders, we might say. It was they who had contributed the funds for the original survey and purchase of the land and other expenses of the settlement. A certain amount of land they distributed among themselves; they voted tracts to other approved persons who wished to settle, and retained for themselves the ownership of the Commons.

But in the case of the Five Miles the situation seems to have been different and was more democratic. Our land was pur-

¹ Goodwin, *History of East Hartford*, page 149.

chased, not by the select group of original proprietors, but by the "inhabitants." "The money to pay for this tract was raised by a rate assessed on the town's grand list of that year. The grantees were not the ancient proprietors but the selectmen of the town. Hence it was divided among the 'Inhabitants of the Town' according to what each paid for the purchase, and the rate of 1,682 was recorded as the rule of division."¹

There was evidently an attempt on the part of the original proprietors to disregard the rights of the remainder of the inhabitants and to keep the land for themselves. They voted that the Undivided Five Miles should be divided "to the Original Proprietors of their Heirs."²

Their scheme met with instant and vigorous opposition. Thirty of the inhabitants (not proprietors) met and drew up a protest in which they threatened to hinder to the utmost the contemplated unjust distribution. The protest was evidently effective, for we find in the list of grantees of 1731 a number of names of those who were not among Hartford's original proprietors.

The apportionment was according to the rate of 1682, that is, the land was distributed among those who had paid taxes in 1682, or their heirs, and the shares were proportionate to the taxes paid. The four tiers were divided into parallel strips, each 240 rods deep, and varying in width according to the share of each grantee. The largest lot was three-eighths of a mile wide, containing 180 acres. The smallest was only 4 rods wide, containing 6 acres. It would have been ridiculous to think of farming a tract 4 rods wide and 240 rods deep. A glance at the diagram will show the artificial character of the division. And so there began immediately a great buying, selling and exchanging of lots in order to get areas of workable dimensions and with proper proportions of meadow and upland. Relatively few of the grantees actually went out into the Five Miles to settle.³ However, the following are names which, from other evidence, are recognizable as among the earliest settlers in our community:

William Williams
Samuel Olcott
Serg't Buckland
Thomas Bunce
William Pitkin

Richard Risley
Thomas Wadsworth
John Bidwell
Thomas Olcott

The remainder of the Five Miles was divided in 1754, but no records are extant to show the names of the grantees or the amounts received.

¹ Love, *Colonial History of Hartford*, page 128.

² Vol. V, *Hartford Land Records*, quoted in Mainwaring, *Early Connecticut Probate Records*, I page 70.

³ A complete list of grantees will be found in Mainwaring, *Early Connecticut Probate Records*, I, 70 et seq.

APPENDIX B

MANCHESTER HONOR ROLL IN WORLD WAR

GOLD STAR LIST

Orazio Alesci
Ernest G. Anderson
Llewellyn J. Bissell
Edward J. Brown
James A. Campbell
Edward Cavagnaro
Adolph Cornell
John A. Cornell
Joseph F. Dilworth
Moses E. Dougan
James M. Finley
William Finnegan
Thomas S. Finnegan
Giovanni Gillardi
Robert Glenney
John Glode
James F. O' Gorman
William J. Hampton
Thomas Hickey, Jr.
Harold B. Irish
David H. Johnson
H. Ethan Johnson
Stanislaw Kechewski

Henry E. Landry
Joseph Lutkus
Fred Machie
John J. McCann
Thomas J. McCann
William B. McGuire
Henry J. Meisterling
Charles Merkel
Michael Moynihan
Claur T. Newell
Henry T. Newman
Theodore Pappas
William H. Preston
Alfred D. Reymander
Emanuel J. Reymander
Paul E. Segerdahl
William L. Shea
Henry Shields
James F. Strange
George N. Thompson
Walter G. Thompson
Joshua Woods

A

Albino Accornero
Dominico Aceto
Jack W. Adamy
Michael Adamy
David Addy
Harold Agard
Paul A. Agard

Elis A. Anderson
Elmer C. Anderson
Ernest P. Anderson
Frank J. Anderson
Howard A. Anderson
James Anderson
Paul J. Anderson

Albert Agostinelli
William Agnostinelli
Herbert Ahlgrim
Arthur D. Aitken
Ralph Akunowicz
John W. Aliansky
Edward B. Allen
James Allen
William A. Allen
Harold C. Alvord
Albin N. Anderson
Bessie E. Anderson
Carl A. Anderson
Carl H. Anderson
Carl O. Anderson
Clarence A. Anderson
Clarence O. Anderson
Edgar H. Anderson

Theodore C. Anderson
Verner S. Anderson
Camillo Andisio
Emil A. Andren
William Andrew
George H. Andrews
Nelson F. Andrews
Giulio Annulli
Primo Ansaldi
Everett R. Anthony
William F. Apel
Alfred Armstrong
Ernest J. Armstrong
Richard Armstrong
Ward J. Atwood
Oscar G. Anderson
Domenico Andreć

B

Allen I. Balch
Arthur S. Balch
Walter F. Balch
Earl M. Ballsieper
Alfred V. Barbeau
Munroe O. Barlow
John E. Barnsbee
Charles P. Barrett
Fred S. Barrett
Raymond Barrett
William A. Barron
John F. Barry
Edward F. Ballsieper, Jr.
Adolph Barissa
Arthur W. Bartley
William J. Bartley
Jacob Bartz
John Battaglia
Louis J. Bertotti
Alphonse E. Beruby
Joel H. Best
Guisseppi Bianconi
Ernest A. Bickford
Herbert A. Bidwell
Raymond L. Bidwell
Carl G. Birath
Harold E. Birge

Arnold Baumberger
John F. Bausola
Alfred Bean
Charles Bean
Thomas Beattie
Clifford M. Beebe
Harold C. Belcher
Raymond R. Belnap
Franklin B. Bendeson
Frank Benes
Max A. Bengs
John A. Benson
Joseph Benson
Paul L. Benson
Stanislaw Berg
Antonio Bertotti
David W. Bertotti
Joseph Bertotti
James H. Brehant
Thomas Brennan
John E. Bronke
Reuben W. Bronke
Victor W. Bronke
Raymond H. Brookman
Barton I. Brown
Edmund G. Brown
Elwood A. Brown

Clarence E. Bissell
 Clinton T. Bissell
 Harry B. Bissell
 Herbert H. Bissell
 William D. Black
 Frank J. Blanchard
 Nicholas F. Blanchard
 Peter Boninio
 Herman L. Borowski
 William C. Bose
 Sherwood G. Bowers
 John Boyle
 Michael Boyle
 Norman N. Brace
 William H. Brainard
 Albert F. Bray
 Francis E. Bray
 John H. Breen
 Louis T. Breen

Ernest F. Brown
 Estey V. Brown
 Ralph C. Brown
 Robert Brown
 Thomas Brown
 Oliver E. Brusie
 George M. Buck
 Nelson R. Buck
 John H. Buckley
 Louis C. Bunce
 William T. Burgess
 Allie C. Burke
 George W. Burke
 Clarence C. Burlingame
 Ralph P. Burns
 Edward W. Burrell
 Hibbard S. Busby
 Arthur Butler
 George C. Butler

C

Hubert A. Cadle
 Charles M. Calderwood
 Alexander J. Callins
 Aloysius R. Campbell
 John F. Campbell
 Joseph S. Campbell
 Robert J. Campbell, Jr.
 William A. Campbell
 Wilson Campbell
 Oscar Cappucio
 William R. Cargo
 C. A. Edwin Carlson
 Frank O. Carlson
 F. Howard Carrier
 Raymond C. Carrier
 Earl B. Carter
 George E. Carter
 George H. Carter
 John C. Carter
 Paul G. Carter
 Paul J. Carter
 Walter A. Carter
 Conrad S. Casperson
 John L. Cavagnaro
 Frank Cervini
 Robert A. Chace

John T. Clarey
 Thomas K. Clarke
 Leo J. Cleary
 Paul D. Cleary
 Harry Clegg
 Robert L. Cleveland
 James H. Clifford
 Harry A. Clintsman
 Paul E. Clune
 Edward G. Cobb
 Antonio Colella
 Edward J. Coleman
 Henry T. Coleman
 David Collins
 Raymond H. Cone
 John Conlon
 Patrick H. Conlon
 Thomas F. Conran
 Harold A. Coogan
 Edward Copeland
 John Copeland
 Frederick H. Corbett
 Martin Corcoran
 William J. Cordner
 William P. Cotter
 James F. Coughlin

William Chadwick, Jr.
 Frank Chamberlain
 Joseph Chamberlain
 Robert W. Chambers
 Thomas H. Chambers
 William E. Chambers
 Jaconde Champretavy
 Carroll J. Chartier
 G. W. Sylvester Chartier
 Austin Cheney
 Clifford D. Cheney
 Dorothy Cheney
 Emily G. Cheney
 George W. Cheney
 H. Bushnell Cheney, Jr.
 Lilian B. Cheney
 Marjory Cheney
 Philip Cheney
 Sherwood A. Cheney
 Ward Cheney
 Daniel Civiello

Ephraim H. Cowles
 Ernest C. Cowles
 George W. Coles
 Harry H. Cowles
 James B. Cowles, Jr.
 Lyman S. Cowles
 Walter W. Cowles
 William L. Cramer
 Robert H. Crawford
 Frank B. Crocker
 George D. Crockett
 John H. Crockett
 Thomas W. Crockett
 Lincoln L. Crosby
 James A. Curran
 Robert S. Curran
 Thomas J. Curran
 Eric E. Curtis
 Edward S. Custer
 Otto E. Custer

D

Frank Dakillo
 Frank D'Amico
 Richard D'Amico
 John H. Darling
 Noah L. Dauplaise
 Clyde H. Davis
 George I. Dawson
 Charles I. Dean
 Henry V. DeBacker
 Bert Deere
 Peter Degorio
 Henry J. Demeusey
 Louis J. Denys
 Edward F. Devlin
 Felix J. Devlin
 Albert T. Dewey
 Robert J. Dewey
 Allan L. Dexter
 William Diana
 Thomas Dickson
 Frederick Diekow
 Paul Diekow
 John F. Dietz
 John V. Dilworth

Andy Domenico
 Kenneth T. Donahue
 Armand J. Donze
 Marcel J. Donze
 Paul F. Donze
 Stuart L. Dorsey
 Harold J. Dougan
 Robert Douglas
 John J. Dowd
 Robert J. Dowd
 Albert Downing
 John W. Downing
 William J. Downing
 James W. Drake
 William Drysdake
 Ward E. Duffy
 Victor E. Duke
 William J. Dumas
 Samuel J. Dunlop
 Gordon W. Dunn
 John W. Dunn
 Arthur S. Dwyer
 George L. Dwyer
 John E. Dwyer

Paul Dilworth
Angelo Dipont

Adam Dysko

F

Ralph E. Earle
Francois J. Edgar
Robert W. Edgar
Jesse C. Edwards
Leo M. Egan
Thomas Egan
Walter J. Egan
Gordon B. Elliot
John R. Ellison
Walter J. Ellison
Gad Elman
Cecil R. Emley
Hans N. Engel
Charles T. Evans
James W. Fahey
James W. Farr
Joseph J. Farr
John J. Fay
Leo J. Fay
Ronald H. Ferguson
John W. Ferrell
Louis G. Filiere
James Findlay
Stuart W. Finlay
Harvey L. Finlay

Herbert B. Finnegan
William Finnegan
Oswald Fisher
Francis Fitzgerald
John Fitzgerald
Louis Fitzgerald
Paul Fitzgerald
William Fitzgerald
William J. Flavell
John R. Fogarty
John S. Fogarty
Edward J. Foley
Stephen P. Foley
Samuel Ford
Leon R. Foster
Walter E. Fox
Lee Foy
Herbert Fraser
Edward G. Frazier
William Freeborn
Arthur Freeburg
Peter Frey
Edward H. Frink
David O. Fuller

G

Clarence C. Galinat
Fred W. Galinat
William H. Galinat
Frank A. Gardner
John Gardner
Raymond A. Gardner
Edward F. Gaskell
Harold E. Gates
Leverett F. Gates
James J. Geehan
Lari Genovese
Henry K. Gerrish
Felix H. Gieser
Harold E. Gilbert
Samuel Gilkinson

A. Clifford Gorman
Frederick Gorman
Michael G. Gorman
Walter P. Gorman
William B. Gorman
Sherwood Goslee
Eric C. Gotberg
Charles H. Grabowski
George F. Graham
Thomas W. Graham
Howard L. Grant
Richard G. Grant
Louis Grasso
Christopher Gray
William D. Gray

Ernest J. Gillis
Howard S. Gilman
Joseph A. Ginsberg
John L. Gleason
Thomas Gleason
John G. Glenney
W. George Glenney
Joseph C. Glode
Charles Goldo
Robert J. Gordon

Patrick Griffin
Stanley Grigas
James Grimason
Richard J. Grimley
Celia Fryer Grimm
Charles Gubbels
G. Hilding Gustafson
Gustaf S. Gustafson
Paul Gustafson
Richard W. Gutzmer

H

Joseph P. Hackett
Archie Hadden
David J. Hadden
Samuel Hadden
Joseph Haefs
John M. Haggart
George A. Hahn
Charlie J. Hall
James W. Hall
Leonard R. Hall
Walter R. Hall
William P. Hall
Robert M. Hamilton
Robert W. Hampton
Francis Handley
Clarence E. Hanna
Carl L. W. Hansen
Arthur J. Hanson
Lance H. Harding
Edward Harrington
Benjamin Harrison
Henry W. Harrison
James A. Harrison
Clarence M. Harvey
Thomas Harvey
William C. Hascall
Howard R. Hastings
Robert E. Hathaway
Russell B. Hathaway
Ronatus C. Haun
Rudolph Haupt
John J. Hayden
Frederick A. Hayes
William J. Heffron
Frederick H. Heine

Thomas J. Hewitt
Edward J. Hickey
Joseph A. Higgins
John T. Hildebrand
Herman C. Hill
William E. Hill
Joseph Hille
Frank M. Hillery
Paul A. Hillery
Charles A. Hoffner
Louis L. Hohenthal
David Holland
Almeron L. Hollister
Charles W. Hollister
James W. Holloran
William D. Holman
C. Emfred Holmberg
Arthur E. Holmes
Harry Holmes
John J. Holmes
LeVerne Holmes
Mark Holmes
Mark N. Holmes
Frank Hood
Fred Hope
Harold Hoffner
Williard J. Horton
Harold J. House
Harold S. House
Harold G. Howe
Robert C. Howes
Frederick E. Hughes
John F. Hughes
Joseph E. Hughes
Robert P. Hughes

Otto Heller
 William J. Helm
 Donald Hemingway
 Samuel J. Herron
 Edward Hess
 Charles E. Hesselgraves
 James Hewitt
 Richard D. Hewitt

David Hultgren
 Patrick Humphrey
 Edith Hunter
 Wallace M. Hutchinson
 Margaret Hyde
 Robert Hyde
 Samuel Hynds

I

Joseph W. Irons
 Frank Irwin

Herbert J. Irwin

J

Alexander Jacobson
 Ong Hung Jaing
 Clarence J. Jeffers
 Frank Jeffers
 John C. Jeffers
 John L. Jenney
 Felix J. Jesanis
 Arthur H. Jobert
 Maurice J. Jobert
 A. Amandus Johnson
 Arthur W. Johnson
 Charles Johnson
 Charles H. Johnson
 Elof J. Johnson
 Ernest R. Johnson
 Fred A. Johnson

Fred Z. Johnson
 Helen A. Johnson
 James A. Johnson
 Jarle E. Johnson
 John V. Johnson
 Karl E. R. Johnson
 N. Arthur W. Johnson
 Rudolph Johnson
 Sven O. Johnson
 Joseph H. Johnston
 William A. Johnston
 Samuel J. Jones
 W. Wallace Jones
 Raymond W. Joyner
 Clara M. Juul

K

Frank Kaczmarczyk
 John Kaczmarczyk
 Joseph Kardus
 Michael R. Kasmer
 Lawrence J. Kearns
 James J. Keating
 Thomas F. Keating
 William M. Keating
 William Keefe
 Arthur H. Keeney
 Edward H. Keeney
 Eugene W. Keeney
 Jesse M. Keeney

Ralph F. King
 Frank O. Kingbaum
 Antoni Kinta
 Konstantia Kirenje
 Herman J. Kissman
 Cecil E. Kittle
 Ernest L. Kjellson
 Michael Kleinschmidt
 William A. Knoffa
 Charles H. Knoll
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