

Centennial Celebration

HUNTINGTON
MASSACHUSETTS

1855—1955



HISTORICAL PROGRAM

JULY 1 - 4, 1955



Huntington Common

I've traveled far and traveled fast,
And of the sights I've seen,
There's nothing tops New England
And a shady village green.

And of such shaded village greens,
When all is said and done;
There's not one takes my heart as much
As this at Huntington.

—John Kieran

CLASS OF SERVICE

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WESTERN UNION

W. F. MARSHALL, PRESIDENT

1201

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MRS J W COOPER, GENERAL CHAIRMAN=
HUNTINGTON CENTENNIAL HUNTINGTON MASS=

THROUGH CONGRESSMAN JOHN HESELTON I HAVE LEARNED THAT ON JULY FIRST THE CITIZENS OF HUNTINGTON WILL BEGIN THEIR CELEBRATION OF ITS ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY. TO ALL OF YOU, MY CONGRATULATIONS. YOU HAVE MY BEST WISHES FOR A SUCCESSFUL AND HAPPY OBSERVANCE OF THIS EVENT OF SIGNIFICANCE IN THE HISTORY OF YOUR TOWN AND OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS=

DWIGHT D EISENHOWER.

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE.

To Our Fellow Citizens
and
Visiting Friends

The Selectmen of Huntington extend a cordial welcome to our Centennial Celebration. A program has been prepared from which we hope you will have full measure of enjoyment. To those who will meet and greet old friends and visit old scenes, as well as to those who may be seeing us for the first time, we would say won't you "come again"?

ALFRED BELISLE, *Chairman*

ALOYSIUS LAFLAMME, *Secretary*

HANS SCHOTT

God give us a little home
To come back to, when we roam.
Homely flowers in brown sod
Overhead, thy stars, O God.

Bless,
When winds blow
Our home, and all we know.

The occasion for which we have been planning since early Fall is now upon us and we are ready to present the program of our best efforts. As meetings progressed and details multiplied amazingly, we realized the challenge we had been asked to meet. The enthusiastic co-operation of our townspeople in accepting responsibility for different events was rewarding beyond measure.

For the courteous consideration shown me I am most humbly grateful.

(MRS. J. W.) SADIE G. COOPER
General Chairman



CHRISTIAN A. HERTER
GOVERNOR

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON

June 10, 1955

Mrs. Sadie G. Cooper
Huntington,
Massachusetts

Dear Mrs. Cooper:

I would be very happy if you could convey my sincere appreciation and official greetings to the Huntington community for the celebration of the 100th Anniversary of your town during the weekend of July 1-4. It is gratifying to learn that this auspicious occasion will be highlighted by the dedication of your new Town Hall, and I am certain that this new official structure will serve as a constructive and suitable monument of the occasion.

Please express to your entire community, the town officials and the citizens of Huntington my renewed appreciation and congratulations. The first century of Huntington, I know, will be followed by many more happy years in a free and prosperous America.

Sincerely yours,

Christian A. Herter

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty-Five.

RESOLUTIONS CONGRATULATING THE TOWN
OF HUNTINGTON UPON THE CELEBRATION
OF ITS ONE HUNDRETH ANNIVERSARY.

Whereas, The town of Huntington, formerly known as the town of Norwich, was established as a town in the year seventeen hundred and seventy-five; and

Whereas, By an act of the legislature, chapter thirty-five of the acts of eighteen hundred and fifty-five approved on March ninth, eighteen hundred and fifty-five, the name of the town of Norwich was changed to the town of Huntington; and

Whereas, The year nineteen hundred and fifty-five marks the one hundredth anniversary as the town of Huntington; and

Whereas, The town of Huntington is proud of its contribution to this great country by its service in maintaining in past years many industries, including a textile mill which during the First and Second World Wars furnished great quantities of material to clothe members of the armed forces and the Red Cross; and

Whereas, The town of Huntington has within its borders Norwich Lake, a popular vacation spot which offers to young and old an area for relaxation and comfort; and

Whereas, The people of Huntington from early times have given of their helm and toil to the intellectual and spiritual development of this commonwealth; therefore be it

Resolved, That the General Court of Massachusetts extends to the town of Huntington its congratulations upon the celebration of its one hundredth anniversary, and its wishes for continued success and prosperity; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of these resolutions be forwarded by the the state secretary to the town clerk of the town of Huntington to be filed with the records in the archives of the town.

House of Representatives, May 4, 1955.

Adopted.

LAWRENCE R. GROVE, Clerk.

Senate, May 9, 1955.

Adopted, in concurrence.

IRVING N. HAYDEN, Clerk.



A true copy. Attest:

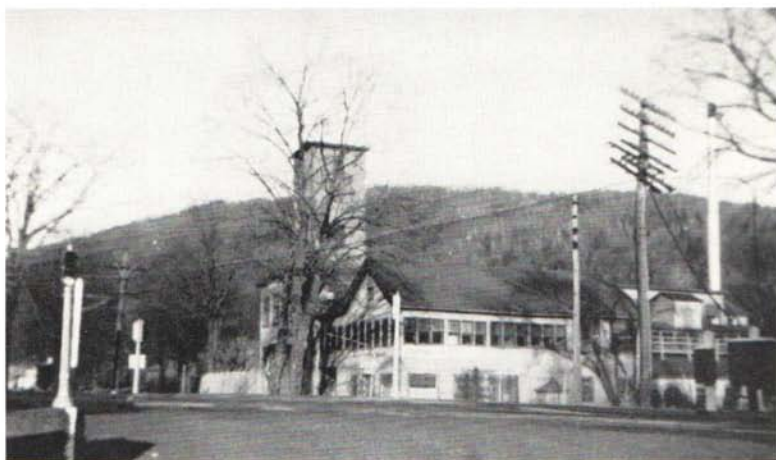
Edward J. Cronin

EDWARD J. CRONIN
Secretary of the Commonwealth.

Leo W. Harlow
Deputy Secretary.



Main Street in 1910 — Showing old Town Bridge. Note watering trough in right foreground and hitching post in front of hotel. This Parks House Hotel was destroyed by fire in 1920.



Huntington Textile Mill which ceased operations in 1952.

PROGRAM OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, JULY 1

8 P.M. Dedication of New Town Hall

SATURDAY, JULY 2

10 A.M. - 7 P.M.	Registration	Town Hall
10 A.M.	Field Day Events for Children	A. P. Pettis Field
10 A.M. - 7 P.M.	Old Items of Interest Exhibit	Town Hall
10 A.M. - 7 P.M.	Early American Primitives, Hickerson Home, Norwich Bridge	
12 Noon - 8 P.M.	Flower Show	Grange Hall
1 P.M. - 5 P.M.	New York Central R. R. Train Exhibit	R. R. Siding
2 P.M.	Little League Game	A. P. Pettis Field
8 P.M.	Block Dance	

SUNDAY, JULY 3

Church Services:

10:45 A.M.	Federated (Baptist-Congregational) Rev. Harold A. Bardsley, Pastor
10:45 A.M.	First Congregational, Norwich Hill, Alva J. Rhines, Pastor
8 and 10 A.M.	St. Thomas Roman Catholic, Rev. Edward P. McGuire, Pastor
10 A.M. - 2 P.M.	Registration, Norwich Hill Church
12 Noon	Social Hour — Light Refreshments available
12 Noon - 2:30	Old Items of Interest North Hall
1 P.M.	Y.M.C.A. Skit
1:30 P.M.	Old Timers' Get-To-Gether at Church
2:30 P.M.	Pageant
4:30 P.M.	Organ Recital, Rene Bonnevie at the organ
5 P.M.	Chicken Barbecue on lawn of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Keeney home

MONDAY, JULY 4

10 A.M. - 1 P.M.	Registration	Town Hall
10 A.M.	Soft Ball Game	A. P. Pettis Field
10 A.M. - 1 P.M.	Old Items of Interest Exhibit	Town Hall
4 P.M. - 6 P.M. }	Early American Primitives, Hickerson Home, Norwich Bridge	
10 A.M. - 2 P.M.	New York Central R. R. Train Exhibit, R. R. Siding	
2 P.M.	Parade — followed by Fife and Drum Corps Contest, A. P. Pettis Field	
6 P.M.	Old Timers Game	A. P. Pettis Field
9 P.M.	Fireworks	A. P. Pettis Field



DEDICATION OF NEW TOWN HALL

JOHN J. KENNEDY, *Master of Ceremonies*

Friday, July 1
8 P.M.

Invocation — REV. EDWARD P. MCGUIRE

Dedication of New Town Hall

Address — GOVERNOR CHRISTIAN A. HERTER

Crowning of Centennial Queen by Governor

Introduction of Visiting Dignitaries

Speaker — PUBLIC RELATIONS REPRESENTATIVE
NEW YORK CENTRAL RAILROAD

Benediction — REV. HAROLD BARDSLEY



Old Town Hall—1863-1954

PAGEANT PROGRAM

HUNTINGTON - HILL & DALE

Sunday, July 3, 1955

2:30 p.m.

Norwich Hill, Huntington

Pageant Author — MRS. RUTH RUDOLPH

Pageant Music — MRS. ALICE POMEROY

Pageant Research — MRS. KATHLEEN GAITENBY

Prompter — MRS. JOAN SMITH

Stage Managers — BERT WOOD AND ROLAND DENIS

NARRATORS

MRS. NORMA MCKINNEY, RICHARD CARMEL, ROBERT PRATT

PROLOGUE

INTRODUCTION — Chester McKinney

MEMORY ALBUM

Grandmother — Mrs. Effie Lyman

Granddaughter — Suzanne Denis

Charles P. Huntington — Charles Hamblin

Alphonse Percival Pettis — Bernard Gaudette

Henry Ellsworth Stanton — Hollis McCready

Emory E. Stanton — Kyle Pero

Leonard Hardy — Arthur Lessieur

Dr. W. G. Kimball — Robert Gibbs

Myron Fiske — Orel Manley

Frank Cole — Joseph Beatty, Sr.

Schuyler Clark — Gerald Hays

Cross Brothers — Ralph and Everett Griffin

Charles M. Gardner — Arthur Frederick

EPISODE I

Scene 1—First settler, John Kirkland treed by wolves

Indians fail to spot him.

John Kirkland — Robert Huff.

Wolves—Fred and Gordon Richardson, and Leonard and Ernest Bean.

Indians—Neil Keeney, Roland Dennis, Joan Smith, Jean Gaitenby, and Abner Thibault.

EPISODE II

Scene 1—Four large households, courting scene, marriages.

Scene 2—Spinsters remain at home spinning . . . Arrival of Mormon.
Departure of jubilant spinsters with pleased Mormon.

Kirkland family—Mr. and Mrs. Robert Huff, Bonnie Huff, Gary and Dana Huff; Mrs. Almon Knox, Beverly Hays, Mrs. Aloysius Laflamme, Joseph Burr, Mrs. Frederick Merritt, and John King.

Second family—Mr. and Mrs. Roland Frigon, Robert, Bonnie, Margery, Linda, Edward and Deborah Frigon; Mrs. Ralph Cole, Mary Sarafin, Paul Barr, Ray Lesieur, Mr. and Mrs. Karl Cadwell and Catherine Zeminsky.

Third family—Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Frappier, Rosalie, Jacqueline, Carol and Anthony Frappier; Miss Margaret Powers, Isabelle Dahill, Paula Moquin.

Fourth family—Mr. and Mrs. Walter Steins, Janet, Sandra, Martha and Barbara Steins; Mrs. Elmer Johnson, Myrtie Wood, George Barr, and Phyllis Hagstrom.

Minister — William Gaitenby

Soloist — Karen King

Mormon — Floyd Anderson

EPISODE III

Scene 1—Townfolk arrive in Northampton to hear Jenny Lind.
Jenny Lind sings.

Jenny Lind — Phyllis Thibault Sheaffer

Audience—Clifton and Lois Gamble, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Cole, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Forare, Mr. and Mrs. James Rude, Helen and Peter Forare, Mr. and Mrs. Archibald McLintock, Jean, Nan, Ruth, McLintock, Mrs. Alva Rhines, Mrs. Chester McKinney.

EPISODE IV

Scene 1—Train comes to town.

Narrator—New York Central Railroad official.

Quartette—Joseph Kelly, Jr., George Barr, Robert Barr, Robert Heath.

EPISODE V

Scene 1—Recruiting Sergeant, at attention, board wagon.

Scene 2—Women work in fields—then men return, rejoicing women and children.

Sergeant — Edwin Griffin

Civil war soldiers — Donald Hays and others.

Bugler — Robert Barr, Jr.

Wife — Mrs. Donald Hays

Seven daughters—Jeanette Richardson, Marcia Hessink, Jean Rudolph, Donna Sarafin, Shelly Granger, Lyndora Blakely, and Cherie Smith.

EPISODE VI

Scene 1—Yankee Peddler—wagon loaded with all kinds of wares of early industry.

Yankee Peddler—Louis Barry

Family—Rev. and Mrs. George Barr, Paul and Lena.

EPISODE VII

Scene 1—Gay Nineties.

Scene 2—Norwich Lake scene.

Gay Nineties scene

Selectmen of 1900—

George Stanton — Aloysius Laflamme

Coddington Palmer — Alfred Belisle

Leonard Hardy — Hans Schott

Judge—Royce Granger

Policeman—Carl Rudolph

Bathing Beauties—Barbara Granger, Marilyn Knox, Irene Keeney,
Millicent Sarafin, Rosalie Sarafin, and Ruth Steins.

Tandem riders—Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hessink

Carriage riders—Clifton and Lois Gamble and Mr. and Mrs.
James Rude.

Picnickers—Mrs. Franklin Blakely, Doretta, Dorlyn and Milton
Blakely; Forrest, Jean and Donald Hagstrom; Mrs. Harold
Aldrich, Darlene Aldrich; Mrs. George Barr; Bruce Mc-
Kinney; Katherine Hessink.

Norwich Lake scene

Campers in Norwich Lake scene will be represented by campers
from the Y.M.C.A., Birchwood and Girl Scout camps.

Family—

EPISODE VIII

Scene 1—Church scene — Old time churches

Scene 2—Old Time schools — Frederick Merritt

Scene 3—Up to date suppers, card games and square dances.

Church scene

Minister — Alva J. Rhines

Choir—Marnette Blakely, Lillian Merritt, Paige Pomeroy, Kenneth
Sherman, David Rudolph, and Thomas Bean.

Parishioners—Carolyn Laflamme, Diana Dahill, Kathleen Mc-
Kinney, Dale Gamache, Eloise Anderson, Shirley Dazelle,
Shirley Bartlett, Michael Zeminsky, Dennis Zeminsky, Erick
Granger, Gordon and Philip Smith, Dennis Bean, William
Waldo.

Old Time schools

Teacher—Mrs. Royce Granger

Students—Beatrice Merritt Thibault, Blanch Merritt Richardson,
Malcolm McKinney, Gertrude Granger Lahm, Charles
Granger.

Up to date suppers, card games and square dancers.

Card players—Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Churchill and Mr. and Mrs.
Frank Braman.

Square dancers—Mary Bartlett, Lorraine McKinney, Sandra Bean,
Janice Anderson, Paul Richardson, Raymond Forare, Jr.,
Eugene Schock, and William Sarafin.

GRAND FINALE

Review of groups and introduction of Miss Huntington and entourage.

Everyone sing,

AULD LANG SYNE

HISTORICAL REVIEW

Written by Mrs. Edward W. Caron

Beginnings

The town of Huntington, as we know it, was originally only a part of a larger area called "Murrayfield Plantation". We still cherish the name of "Murrayfield", as is shown by the fact that each of our succession of three elementary schools has retained this name.

Incorporated in 1765 the town of Murrayfield included the greater part of what is now Chester and smaller portions of Blandford and Montgomery. In 1773 the eastern portion was set off and incorporated as a district and later as a town called "Norwich" because many of the settlers in that area came here from Norwich, Conn., and naturally wanted a reminder of their native town. Some Historians relate that the first family to settle here was of the Indian race and was named Rhoades. If this is so the family did not remain here. It is positively known that a William Miller was among the first permanent settlers and is said to have spent his first night here on an island in the Knightville section, thus hoping to escape harm from wolves. The settlers from Norwich seem to have come in groups of families, and soon established their own meeting house, their school and their places of industry, as well as farms.

In May 1841 the railroad wound its way through the valley and as a natural consequence a thriving village grew up around the railroad station which point was called "Chester Village", to distinguish it from the part called "Chester Factories", now Chester.

Sometime just previous to 1800 two brothers, Daniel and Richard Falley settled in the western part of the town opening a tavern and store and as this point was a stopping place for a stage route between Boston and Albany, it became known as "Falley's Crossroads" and the post-office was also so named. Another stage route ran from this point over the hill to Northampton.

As the settlement grew, so confusion increased. The post-office was known by one name while the railroad station, a few hundred feet away was known by another. The whole village had grown up on the border line of several towns and two counties. Legal difficulties arose. Law enforcement was a problem because residents had only to cross a street, or in some instances enter another room in the same house, to be in another town and even in another county. School problems increased, with school children who lived almost on the door step of a school house, having to go to the extreme boundary of another town to attend school because their homes happened to be just over the town line. To do away with all this confusion the village petitioned to be allowed to be annexed to Norwich.

This petition was granted and meetings were held to choose a name for the new district. By this time, too, the name of the post-office had been changed to Chester to correspond with that of the railroad station. Probably because there was already a growing town

by the name of Chester Factories a little to the west, the name of Chester was not considered for the new district. Both Murrayfield and Norwich were considered and Huntington was mentioned but met with little enthusiasm. The meeting adjourned without making a decision, and when it again convened, a Mr. Copeland, active in town affairs, announced that the legislature had approved the name of Huntington. He then produced a letter from Charles P. Huntington, a Northampton lawyer, expressing his regret that he was not able to be present in person, but offering the sum of \$100 for the establishment of a library in his "namesake town", and requesting that the town also appropriate money both toward its establishment and for its maintenance. This the voters agreed to do and appropriated the sum of \$100 to add to Mr. Huntington's donation and levied a tax of 15¢ annually for each poll for maintenance. Thus in 1855 the town of Huntington came into being and began its long preparation for its centennial celebration in this Year of Our Lord 1955.

CHURCHES

In the early days church services were usually conducted in the homes of committee members who had charge of such affairs. A preacher who divided his time between several small settlements came at stated intervals and the congregation gathered at the place decided upon by the committee.

The first church edifice was built on Norwich Hill near the school house, as was the usual procedure at that time. In 1780 work began and the building was finished the following year. This was a one story building described as "rudely constructed, unsightly in exterior and uncomfortable within" but answering the purpose of devotion. In 1790 this building was replaced by a two story structure, the second floor being a balcony where the singers and young people were seated. The pews were box like and no one was a pew owner. The congregation was seated by the selectmen with regard to their importance to the church. The only heat provided was by foot stoves brought by elderly ladies, and sometimes passed up and down the aisles for the comfort of others. In 1841 the present Congregational Church on Norwich Hill was built — this time with a steeple and suitable heating arrangements, although it was, in the main, kept simple. As one Historian says the "people preferred to do without many modern fixings, including a mortgage". This church is still in use and while it has been modernized and beautified, it keeps its colonial design and is appropriately called the "White Meeting House on the Hill". The latest acquisition is a beautiful organ which will be dedicated at special ceremonies this summer.

During the early 1800's the down town section, known as "Falley's Cross Roads" is said not to have had a single professor of religion. In 1818 three women, one a Methodist, one a Baptist and one a Congregationalist, unwilling to live in a community with no religious observances, enlisted the help of others and themselves conducted services in the school house. These services were well attended. In 1821 a woman revivalist from Boston conducted a revival here, stay-



St. Thomas Roman Catholic Church



The Federated Church



First Congregational Church

ing all winter. For the next year or two Methodist circuit riders served the community. In 1826 a meeting house was built which was intended to be the property of the people of Falley's Cross Roads, but which actually extended over the Blandford line. At first each denomination contributing to the buliding was allotted a proportionate share of time, but by 1852 the Baptist persuasion was most numerous. In 1855, when this territory became Huntington, the site of the church, as well as land part way up Blandford Hill, and then in the town of Blandford, was included in the annexation. The church then became the Huntington Baptist Church and so remained until its federation with the Second Congregational Church across the road, when it became the Huntington Federated Church of to-day.

In 1840 the members of the Congregational persuasion who had been sharing the use of the church on the Blandford line, began to feel a desire for a meeting place of their own. In 1849 the Second Congregational Church in this community was dedicated and was in use until it and the adjacent town hall and school house were destroyed by fire in 1862. Twelve days later it was voted to rebuild and this was accomplished at a cost of \$7000. At the same time a Miss Julia Taylor donated the sum of \$1500 for a chapel to which sum the congregation added \$500. This chapel is still in use for church activities and has recently been redecorated.

When the Baptist and Congregational denominations federated in 1920 it was voted to use the Baptist Church for services and the Congregational Church was subsequently sold to the Huntington Lodge of Masons. In the early 1940's the Lodge sold to Highland Grange. As the property of the Grange the interior of the building has been greatly changed but the exterior construction remains as it was designed by the builders.

In 1846 the first Catholic, a John Roach came here to live. During the next four years others came and once a year journeyed to Chester Factories, now Chester, for Mass said by a visiting priest. In 1850 and for three years thereafter a Pittsfield priest offered Mass at the home of Patrick Nugent in Russell. Then began the custom of using local homes and later the town hall. After this building burned in 1862 the Basket factory on Basket St. was used and a Westfield priest said Mass here three or four times a month. Late in the 1860's the urge to build a church seized the Catholic people and a tract of land near Cold Spring was purchased for that purpose. After the expenditure of \$500 in grading and building a bank wall it was declared to be unsuitable and the project was abandoned. In 1881 the Whipple estate, the present site, which also included the house and land in the rear, was purchased for the sum of \$1000 and in 1882 the St. Thomas Aquinas Church of today was built at a cost of \$5000. The house directly back of the church was used as a rectory until 1893 when the present one at the corner of East Main and Pleasant St. was purchased. In 1882 the congregation numbered 450. To-day two Masses each Sunday accommodate the worshippers who crowd the edifice.

Sometime in the early 1900's, Mr. and Mrs. E. Harry Allen had a small building constructed in the rear of their home on Russell St. which was used as an Episcopal Chapel. The Allens arranged for services to be conducted by a minister of that faith from Westfield. As this was a private arrangement for the Allen family, and the few others of that denomination then living here, it was discontinued when the Allens moved away. The building was moved nearer the street and for a time was used as the public library. It is now a part of the Kyle Pero block.

INDUSTRIAL

In common with all early settlers the residents of Murrayfield were self reliant. Food consisted of native products: beef, pork, mutton, animals from the forest and fish from the streams. Maple trees were tapped and provided the only sugar used. To these were added vegetables from the gardens and fruits from the woods and fields. Wool and flax were woven and spun into garments. As the population increased, industry developed. Saw and grist mills, whet stone works, a tannery, wheel wright and whip stock shops were among the business ventures. On Norwich Hill a factory for the manufacture of axes and edge tools operated. A shoe makers shop stood where the Grange Hall is now. A shop for dressing cloth was established where the Hickersons now live and a similar one plus a carding machine was situated on the opposite side of Norwich Bridge. Parley Hutchins manufactured wooden bowls in a shop beside the middle branch of the Westfield River. Having accumulated savings amounting to thousands of dollars which he kept with him, he was robbed and murdered one night and the crime remains unsolved. Collins and Wade was a firm making cotton sheeting in the village. Although an obscure town, Huntington was among the first in the county to be favored with railroad service and then began its real industrial growth. The Western Railroad, as it was called, operated its first train from Springfield through to Chester Factories in May 1841 and by 1929 sixty trains were passing through Huntington daily.

In 1868 flannel and Marseilles bedspreads were being produced where Collins and Wade factory had been. In this enterprise the firm of Little and Stanton was aided by German operatives, especially a family named Steiger who had been trained in this work in their native country. One of these sons, Albert, became known as a leading Springfield merchant. This factory burned and was replaced by a cotton yarn mill which also burned. In 1870 the Highland Mills was built by a stock company. This mill was twice burned. Then came the woolen mill, predecessor to Huntington Textile Company. During the depression this mill closed and was reopened through the efforts and contributions of local people. It proudly boasted "Owned and operated by Huntington people." First came a long period of prosperity. The fine grade of cloth produced here was justly famous and used by high class tailors, and was shipped all

over our own country and into South America. During the First World War Huntington Textile manufactured army cloth exclusively and during the Second World War manufactured for the army, navy and Red Cross, and later for European Lend Lease. Eventually the textile industry in New England began to be affected by adverse conditions. The local mill put up a long and valiant fight and endured long after larger companies gave up the struggle. The battle was finally lost and in 1952 the Huntington Textile Company closed its doors and its employees sadly sought work out of town. The buildings stand empty, awaiting the day when some enterprising firm will see the advantages of their central location in a pleasant town on the main thoroughfare.

The manufacture of paper commenced here in 1853. First making paper for all printing purposes, it later produced only a fine grade of writing paper. In 1924 the Company transferred operations to Holyoke, leaving the buildings empty. A disastrous fire in May of 1942 destroyed, not only the mill buildings, but several houses near by, and fanned by high winds, burning embers traveled far, starting numerous grass fires. Other industries that have ceased to exist here include a birch mill, a shop for the manufacture of iron pans and tin ware, a cigar shop on Crescent Street, and a basket shop from which Basket Street got its name. The Goodreau Smithy was the last of its kind to survive the invasion of the automobile.

At the present time Huntington's only industry is Smith's saw mill, employing only a small number of operatives, but working steadily.

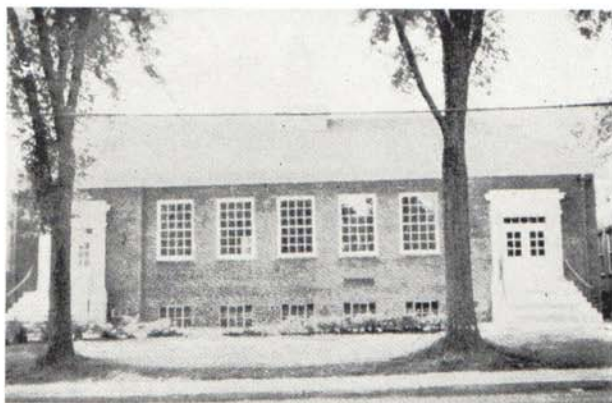
SCHOOLS

Murrayfield settlers in common with all of our New England ancestors were conscious of the need for education, and wherever a group of families made their homes, there soon appeared a school house. A prudential committee hired the teacher and acted as overseers of the building and curriculum. The teacher "boarded round" as a part of her salary. In 1857, two years after the incorporation of Huntington there were nine such schools. In 1869 it was thought to be more expedient to have the management of these schools under a special committee chosen for this purpose. In 1873 the school committee so chosen voted to hire a superintendent and selected a Dr. Josiah Goddard. About five years later it was discovered that about twenty pupils were anxious enough to continue their education to pay for their own expenses at evening school. Because of this, the committee began to give serious thought to provide the means for keeping school for children over twelve years of age. There were, apparently, a sufficient number of citizens who felt that it was advisable to increase educational opportunities, for in 1888 the sum of \$500 was appropriated to establish a high school. Twenty-six pupils applied for admission and were accepted. A vacant store was used as a class room and one teacher was employed. He taught all of the subjects offered, which included — Latin, Algebra, English, Book-



First Murrayfield School — High School before Library extension burned 1940

Second Murrayfield with town's first gym-auditorium. Burned 1946,



To-day's Murrayfield School

keeping, Natural Philosophy, Hygenic Physiology, Civil Government, Geography, History and Arithmetic. Appropriate exercises were held for the first graduate, daughter of a minister. The school term was twenty-two weeks.

The next forward step was the formation of the school union in 1901, making it possible through the united efforts of several towns to offer a broader education and better facilities. The graduating class of 1905 was notable for the fact that 100% of the class immediately showed that they intended to put their high school education to work. One member took a teaching position, while another entered Albany Business College, and the third went to Smith College. By this time the first Murrayfield school, built in 1892 was in use and the high school classes were allotted space on the second floor. Only one of these rooms was of suitable size, the others being small and inconvenient. In 1907 the present high school was built and in 1930 was enlarged and room provided for the public library. One by one the rural schools closed, the North School on Norwich Hill being the last to survive. Electricity was installed there in 1929 and two years later its use as a school was discontinued and the pupils transferred to the center school.

In this year, also, the local unit of the P.T.A. was formed. Enrollment in the high school had reached 186. This was partly due to the depression making it difficult for young people to obtain employment. Because of the desperate financial situation, the school personnel voluntarily returned to the town treasury 10% of their salaries, thereby reducing the tax rate by \$3. During this time grades 7 and 8 were shifted from building to building according to which had available room. Seven years later enrollment had shrunk to 110. In 1940 the Murrayfield school burned completely. The people immediately voted to rebuild and until the new school was ready, to use double sessions in the high school. The second Murrayfield was a modern brick building with four classrooms and Huntington's first gym-auditorium. Until this time school functions as well as those otherwise sponsored, were held in the "Opera House". This building, first a roller skating rink, was famous throughout the valley for its excellent dance floor. When social life here had a period of depression it was used as a grain storage building. Later it was restored to its use as a community hall and was again the scene of dances, basketball games and dinners. Standing across the street from the school buildings it was a valuable asset to the extra curricular program.

In 1945 the new Murrayfield was overcrowded and the largest grades, 5 and 6, were transferred to a large room in the high school. A year later the unbelievable happened and the fine new building followed the fate of its predecessor. With admiral courage the townspeople again voted to build and the present building with six classrooms and a gym-auditorium opened in 1949. A school lunch room had been started in the second Murrayfield and this was continued in the new building with added facilities. In the interval, awaiting

building, the double sessions were again held in the high school and social functions and basketball returned to the "Opera House". Spurred by imminent overcrowding and a desire for a broader program, in 1950 the towns in the Huntington and Chester Unions decided to investigate the possibilities of a Regional School. Committees were formed and the results of their studies brought to the citizens. When the proposal was brought to a vote the cause was lost although Huntington voted strongly in favor. Since the same conditions exist to-day and are daily becoming intensified, Huntington, at the last annual town meeting again voted to create a committee to assemble information on the subject of a Regional School District to present to the voters. The final outcome must be left to the future. Whatever Huntington desires, the consent of some other towns must be gained before such a district can be formed. At the present time we have a faculty of six in our high school and seven in the elementary. In addition, we have music and drawing supervisors, a school nurse and office clerk, whose services we share with the other towns in the school union, under the direction of Mr. Dana Webber, our superintendent of schools.

MILITARY

REVOLUTION:

The people here declared themselves in sympathy with the movement to revolt against England and in town meeting voted to form a local military organization for which they pledged themselves to procure 50 lbs. of powder, 100 lbs. of lead, 25 dozen flints and a drum. A meeting was held at Isaac Mixer's tavern and it was voted to send a delegate to Provincial Congress at Concord. Officers chosen were: Captain John Kirkland, Lieutenant David Scott, and Ensign Ebenezer King. It was agreed to treat these locally elected officers with the same respect and obedience as would have been accorded any chosen by military authority.

WAR OF 1812:

The people were aroused to angry protest at what they considered danger to their recently won independence and drew up a number of strongly worded resolutions expressing their disapproval of this entanglement. Nevertheless they bore their share of the country's struggle.

CIVIL WAR:

Although some recruits were drawn outside the township the quota was rapidly filled and exceeded the call by 8 men — 137 in all. Huntington lost 24 men in this conflict.

WORLD WAR I:

As soon as our country declared war against Germany, the people of Huntington began to do everything in their power to further the war effort. A considerable amount of cash was raised for the



Memorial to Veterans of all Wars

Red Cross and garments and supplies were contributed to that and other societies aiding the boys in the service. Over \$81,000 worth of war bonds were purchased here. The names of three women appear on the Honor Roll. Trained nurses who went overseas to the aid and comfort of our boys were — Miss Anna Connors, Miss Gertrude Eastman and Miss Mary O'Neil. Two lives were lost and they are commemorated by the Robert P. Cross Memorial Bridge and the Augustus LaForge Memorial window in St. Thomas' Church.

A singular honor came to Huntington shortly after the close of this war, when General John J. Pershing visited our town. General Pershing was the first to be put in allied command, and he graciously gave of his brief time here to meet, and be greeted by Huntington people. Mrs. H. E. Stanton, prominently associated with her husband in the forming of the Huntington Electric Light Co., was related to Mrs. Pershing

WORLD WAR II:

The Second World War saw three more of our young women answering the call to the service Miss Leona Billyson (Mrs. Raymond Reagan) and Miss Margaret Joyce Gibbs (Mrs. William Harrington) enlisted in the W.A.A.C. and Miss Esther Allard (Mrs. William Plankey, Jr.) as a W.A.V.E. Again the townspeople did their bit to contribute to the welfare and morale of those who left home to enter the conflict Dinners, parties and gifts sent them on their way knowing that they were remembered by those at home. Seven gold stars were sorrowfully affixed to our Honor Roll in memory of, Constantine Diamant, Donald Manley, William Fitz-

simmons, Bernard Wellspeak, William Barnes, Arthur Hunt and Gerald Buckwheat.

After the war, Selective Service continued to draw our young men into military service, sending them to many foreign countries. Many now follow the policy of enlisting for their term of service without waiting for the call.

We hope with all our hearts that theirs will be a peace time service.

Huntington 1855 - 1955

One hundred years must bring with it many changes.

Beginning at the village center we see that Main St. no longer begins at the foot of Blandford Hill and travels in an almost straight line over the "Town Bridge" across the railroad tracks and over "Cole's Hill". The construction of the Robert Cross Memorial Bridge completed in 1938, connecting Russell St. and Main St., cut Main St. proper almost in half, doing away with a big wooden building at each side of the former bridge.

The building on the west side was Huntington's first restaurant and ice cream parlor, featuring the new style "college ice" and serving "hot chocolate" to the shoppers, and operated by the late Theoharis Diamant. This place of business was on the street level and below it Besaw's Meat Market and a Chinese Laundry. On the East end the main attraction was Crowther's Bakery, the Mecca of the Crowther children and their playmates who gladly sampled the pastries. The rest of the building housed at various times a meat market, a cobblers shop and a plumbing shop. Upstairs the Grange and Daughters of Isabella held their meetings. Also sacrificed to the splendid new bridge were several houses and Griswold's General Store. This new bridge put an end to the dangerous grade crossing by providing an overpass.

Railroad St., a narrow dead end road became Route 20 in 1922 and the previous road to Chester and points west became the "Old Chester Road". In 1905 Huntington declared a holiday and young



First trolley car arriving in Huntington
September 30, 1905

and old accepted the Springfield St. Railways' invitation to enjoy a free ride to Crescent Mills to celebrate the coming of the trolley cars to our town.

Outmoded by busses the line was eventually discontinued. In the mean time another track was laid beginning a few feet from the end of the Huntington trolley line at Regas' Store and travelling to Lee. Winding through the woods, the chief attraction of this ride was the scenery, since it went through no other settlements en route. It made only a few trips, one being to take draftees to the induction center in Lee during the first World War. Operations were discontinued and after several years the rusty tracks were removed. A roadway of sorts still exists and is referred to as the "Old Lee Trolley Road".

The railroad station, once the reason for the growth of a busy settlement is now enjoying a temporary revival because of the shipment of heavy machinery to be used in building a new East-West Toll Road. Other than that, it seems likely that our passenger station, like some of its neighbors will soon close its doors.

The iron drinking fountain in the park and the hitching posts along the side walks have given way to "No Parking" signs. Heath and Pease Dry Goods and Groceries" with a side line of boots and shoes has passed through the hands of other owners and is now being used as a post-office. Edward Pease, furniture and clothing, and an enticing place to buy penny candy, also changed owners several times over the years, but is still in operation with the newer version of its original line of goods. Cross Pharmacy, having been started and carried on for many years by that family, retains its famous name, but our ancestors would be amazed to learn that its present proprietor is a woman. Axtell's Meat Market is a hardware store which also takes in the part of the building which was once Wall's Haberdashery with Ladies' Milinery in the rear.

The telephone exchange where girls fresh out of high school could get a job tending switch board and where the night bell clanged to awaken the sleeping night operator who occupied a folding bed neatly closed against the wall in the day time, has been replaced by the Telephone Building on East Main St., housing the apparatus for the dial system.

This modern invention was brought to Huntington long before it reached neighboring towns and cities. Moore Farm has become an up to date Pasteurization Plant. District schools are no more. The last one to close and send its pupils to the village school was the one on Norwich Hill. The high school which started in a vacant store and then moved to the Murrayfield School, acquired its own building in 1907.

Another major change in the general appearance of our town was the construction of the Knightville Dam in 1941. Huntington had several times suffered from flood waters. In 1879 it is recorded that a Spring "fresher" swept through, washing away everything in its path. One life was lost in the person of Maggie Rock who was standing on a bridge which was carried down the river. In more

recent years we have twice experienced floods with no loss of life but disastrous property damage. For the purpose of constructing the dam, several houses in Knightville were torn down. Among those remaining is one originally used as a boarding house. Besides the 18 accomodated here it is said that every home in Knightville had at least one boarder. These people were employees of Elkana King who ownd a variety of businesses including saw and grist mills, shops to manufacture sleds, carts and baby carriages and other articles. Knightville long ago ceased to be a manufacturing center. The construction of the dam removed all fear of the threat of flood damage. Brooks and rivers furnished the first settlers' water supply. Then came the well with its wooden bucket. About 1883 Charles F. Cole moved here from Worthington. Shortly after his arrival, he and two other prominent citizens, Dr. William G. Kimball and Myron R. Fisk formed a partnership and developed a system of springs furnishing a water supply for about 60 families. In 1898 a "Fire District" was formed and in 1942 this group had made sufficient progress to justify putting up its own building on Russell St., with quarters for the Fire Department equipment and offices for administration. Very recently a fire company has been organized on Norwich Hill for the better protection of that part of the town and this organization also has its own new building.

Norwich Hill, once an industrial center, has now become entirely residential. The good country air and active social life have attracted many who are employed in the cities. Pretty new homes have been built and older places modernized and renovated. Norwich Lake, an ideal summer vacation spot, has increased in popularity over the years, so that to-day there are two camps for boys and a girl scout camp, as well as innumerable cottages and summer homes, surrounding the lake and adjacent territory, and are filled to capacity throughout the season.

In the village, too, new homes are appearing. Organizations are active and schools are reaching the point of overcrowding. A church on Norwich Hill and two in the center with their allied societies minister to the spiritual needs of the community. Pettis Field offers unusual opportunity for athletic events. The Pettis Fund and the Stanton Fund finance many projects for town improvement. A playground operates in summer for the safe entertainment of children. Theatres and other attractions are within easy reach in nearby cities. Our industrial activity at this time is at a low ebb but we are confident that some far seeing manufacturer will soon see the advantages of our geographical location and our pleasant living conditions and will again let us hear the hum of busy machinery. Our financial condition is sound and our present valuation is over a million dollars.

We are proud to include as a part of our Centennial celebration the dedication of our new Town Hall.



Birdseye view of Huntington village, showing West Branch of Westfield River winding thru the valley.

MOUNT PISGAH

By City Clerk Clifford F. Smith of Springfield

The northeastern part of the present Town of Huntington was originally the Town of Norwich, the center of the Town being on what is now known as Norwich Hill. It is not too thickly populated to-day, but has had an interesting and busy past and supported many and prosperous industries of a varied nature, all depending, for power, on fast flowing mountain streams. There were Grist Mills, Saw Mills, a Chair Factory, a Tannery and Cider Mill and at the brow of Pond Brook Road was situated the Hannum Axe Factory, whose products were famous throughout the country.

Many of the old roads of Norwich, which to-day are only passable to hikers are very interesting because of the stories of the past that can be read by exploring old cellar holes with their huge chimney bases, by following the pasture walls and by peering down the deep, cool wells, dug and stoned up dry by hand.

One of the most interesting of these old roads is the Pisgah Road, a stage road turning off present route 66 to the northwest and winding along the ridge of Mt. Pisgah toward Chesterfield and on to Pittsfield and Albany. About forty families are supposed to have come down this road, in the old days to attend services at the old church on Norwich Hill, which stands near the site of the Kirkland Homestead built by one of the first settlers of Norwich.

There are stone walls along this road, built up as the fields were

cleared, along the top of which, it is said, a yoke of oxen could be driven.

Here and there in the woods one finds immense piles of stones indicating that at one time the land surrounding them was an open mowing and testifying to the perservance and industriousness of the early settlers. One elderly lady said, when some one commented on the great amount of hard work it took to build the walls, "Well that hard work kept many a farmer out of mischief in the off season." As one gets nearer the Chesterfield line he will find a cellar hole of what is supposed to have been a road house or tavern which is surrounded by stone walled corrals where the herds of cattle and sheep being driven over the road could be penned up at night. Near here on what is called the pinnacle, lost in the woods, is the remains of an old apple orchard of generous size, the apples from which, legend tells us were used to make champagne cider for sale to the always thirsty traveler.

One is led to ask as to what became of all the families on this once populous and well traveled road. Some historians say that the exodus started during the California Gold Rush of 1849. Others left when the Western Railroad went through where Huntington Center of to-day is located. Still others left to defend their country during the Civil War and never returned and perhaps the rest, like Moses, who, from another Mt. Pisgah viewed the promised land, saw greener pastures in the valleys, and to-day we find not one farm or year round residence extant. The mowings and the pastures have gone back to a wilderness and have been cut over and grown up again and in fact many large old trees are found growing in some of the cellar holes.

Sometimes a touch of sadness comes over one, as a lily, a blush rose or lilac is found still surviving near one of the old cellar holes testifying to the pleasant days and happy hours enjoyed by the families living along this now deserted old farm road.



The Robert Packer Cross Bridge built in 1938 eliminated grade crossing hazard. This view shows approach from Route 20.



View from Federal Street showing span across Westfield River.

GENERAL COMMITTEE

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Mrs. Gordon Smith

TREASURER

Mrs. W. T. Moore

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Mr. Aloysius LaFlamme

Mr. Hans Schott

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Mr. Paul Caron

PRINCIPAL OF HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. Francis Crane

HISTORIAN

Mrs. Edward W. Caron

REGISTRATION

Miss Harriet Wightman

Mrs. W. T. Moore, co-ordinator

DEDICATION

Alfred Belisle, Aloysius LaFlamme, Hans Schott

CENTENNIAL QUEEN

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Pratt

Mr. Francis Crane, co-ordinator

ENTERTAINMENT — CENTENNIAL SPEAKER

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hamblin

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Alfred Belisle

CONCESSIONS

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Mr. Francis Crane, *Co-ordinator*

CENTENNIAL CAKE

Mr. Robert Smith

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Raymond E. Fisk, Edward Hayden

Hans Schott co-ordinator

BLOCK DANCE

Mr. and Mrs. Hollis McCready
Alfred Belisle, co-ordinator

SPORTS

Mr. Joseph Kelly, Sr.
Paul Caron, co-ordinator

OLD ITEMS OF INTEREST

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Mrs. J. W. Cooper, co-ordinator

DATES FOR OLD HOUSES AND SITES

Mr. Osmond Coburn, Mr. Kyle Pero, Mrs. William Gaitenby
Paul Caron, co-ordinator

FLOWER SHOW

Mrs. Abner Gibbs

PICTURES

Mr. Homer Newell

EARLY AMERICAN PRIMITIVES

Mr. and Mrs. George Hickerson

PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM

Everett Dwyer, A. Laflamme, co-ordinator

MUSIC AND FIREWORKS

William Burns, Hans Schott, co-ordinator

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Mr. Roland Denis, Mr. Bert Wood
Mrs. Gordon A. Smith, co-ordinator

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ORGAN RECITAL

Rene Bonnevie, Mrs. Edward Keeney, Sr., co-ordinator

OLD HOMES and PRESENT OCCUPANTS

Route 66	
First Congregational Church	1842
Bert Wood	1775
Theodore Sarafin	1825
Warren Rude	1825

Church Rd.	
George Barr	1775
Walter Steins	1800
Abner Thibault	1800
Harry Rapp	1800
The Parsonage	1800

County Rd.	
Paul Richardson (First Sch. House Site)	1825
Arthur Crockwell	1780
Bertha Dakin	1780
Jacob Petrovsky	1825
Gladys Simpson	1790
Brewer	1825
Clifton Gamble	1800

Cullen Rd.	
Gerald Hays	1840

Gorham Rd.	
Arthur Frappier	1825

Norwich Lake Rd.	
Ernest Florence	1825
Chester McKinney	1799
Royce Granger	1825
Forrest Hagstrom	1825
Former Post-Office Building	1825

Pisgah Rd.	
Raymond Bartlett	1800

Porter Rd.	
Arthur Forare	1775
Clifford Smith	1825
J. Russell Cardona	1800

Tucker Rd.	
Roland Denis	1800

Norwich Bridge	
Moorefarm — Old Stage Coach Tavern	1760

Goss Hill Rd. Across Stanton Bridge	
Harvie Carrington	1839

Montgomery Rd.	
Orel Manley	1840

Knightville Area	
U. S. Engineers office	
Old Knightville	
Boarding House	1835
Seaver Strong	1830
Henry Hessink	1840
Archibald McLintock	1840
(Charles M. Gardner Home)	

Maple St.	
Haskins	1846
Viva Bates	1825
Gordon Bostock	1852

Route 20 toward Russell	
S. Ira Lindsey	1818
Michael Donohue	1815
Sadie Cooper	1847

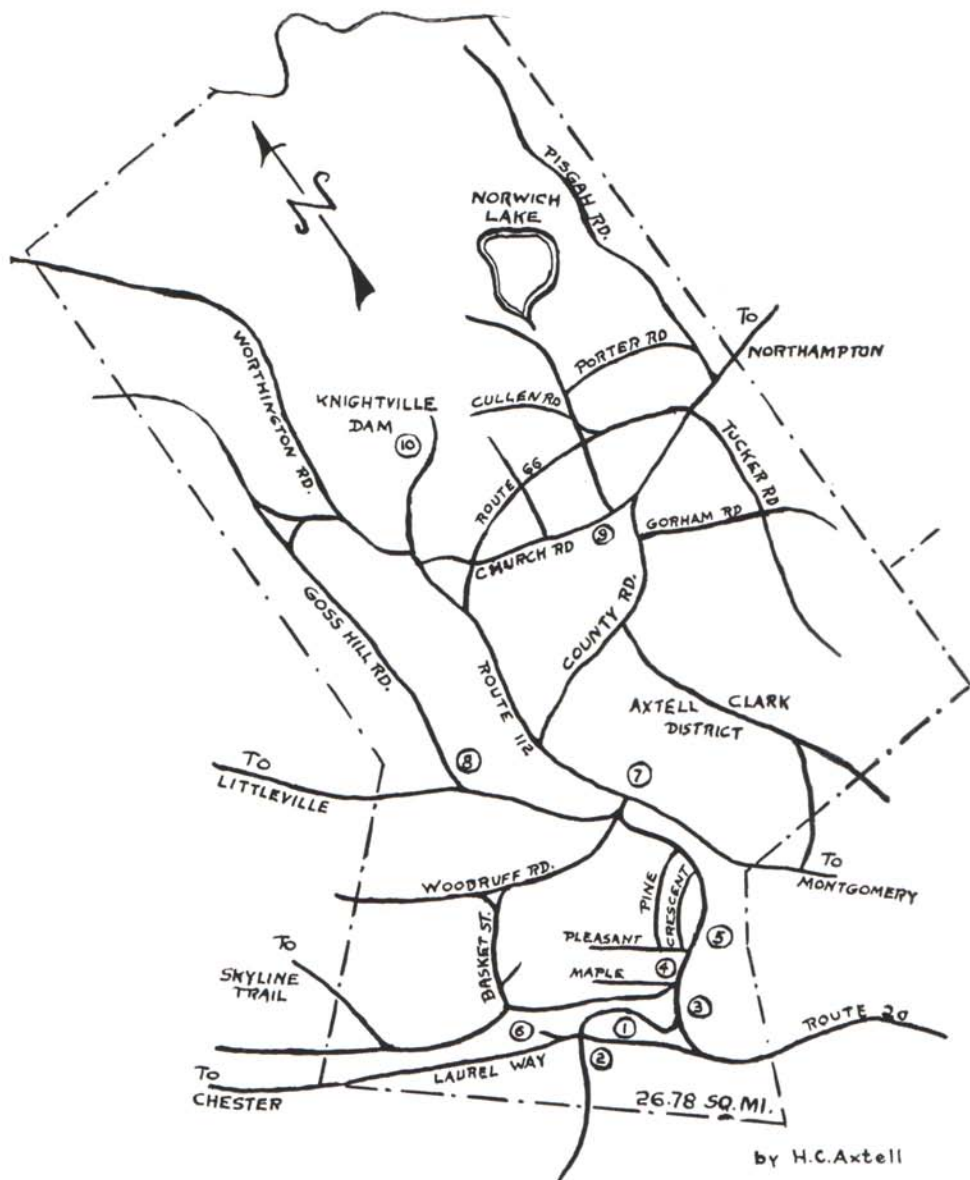
Route 20 toward Laurel Way	
Federated Church	1836
Simeon Pero	1800
Robert Gibbs	1840
Angelo Leone	1810
Mrs. Nellie Goodwin	1810

Blandford	
Site of Elias Howe home (Inventor of Sewing Machine)	
Edward Hayden	1843

Basket Street	
Howard Dingmond	1850
Site of Basket Shop	
Home where first Mass was said	

Opposite Catholic Church	
Charles Hamblin	1809

Worthington Rd.	
John J. Kennedy	1820
Clayton H. Kyle	1825
Hans Gaidies	1825



HUNTINGTON MASS. INC. 1855.

LEGEND

- | | | |
|--------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 Town Hall | (Rest Rooms) | 6 Culver Bridge |
| 2 Federated Church | (Rest Rooms) | 7 Norwich Bridge |
| 3 RR Station | (Rest Rooms) | 8 Stanton Bridge |
| 4 Catholic Church | (Rest Rooms) | 9 First Congregational Church |
| 5 Schools | (Rest Rooms) | 10 Knightville |

FOR YOUR EATING CONVENIENCE

BORDERING THE COMMON

Regas Restaurant

Huntington Inn

The Diamant

The Chapel

Grange Hall

Route 20 — Toward Russell Cold Springs

Route 20 — Toward Chester The Cedars

Main Street Cross Pharmacy

East Main Street Bridge Store

A. P. Pettis Field Federated Church Men's Club Booth

Worthington Road The Rapids, Knightville Diner

Sunday — Norwich Hill Day

Booths near church

Chicken Barbecue on lawn at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Keeney, Sr.

We are grateful to William Mc Veigh, William Plankey and Arthur Frederick for the pictures taken for our Centennial Program. The Common, which is featured on the frontispiece, was taken by Mr. Mc Veigh.