

SOME BURLINGTON, CONNECTICUT ARTICLES OF THE PAST GATHERED TOGETHER Volume 1

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BURLINGTON, CONNECTICUT

ARTICLES OF THE PAST

GATHERED TOGETHER

Volume 1

by Leonard Alderman  
September, 1991

Some History of Burlington gathered here was found in old scrapbooks of old newspapers, histories, etc. Some of these items may not be too significant, but perhaps a help to see how our ancestors used to live. A few errors are probably also included.

If anyone has further information on Burlington, I'd be anxious to see it.

Lois Humphrey, who is a charter member of the Burlington Historical Society, was of great help in gathering some of this material. September 1991

### **INTRODUCTION**

After I retired for a short while and because our family had saved many scrapbooks and news clippings, I thought it would be a good idea to copy those of interest.

When I first began I used my father's old Underwood to copy this information. But I began running across names that were hard to read and I did not know how to spell them, so decided first to copy all the names of people buried in Burlington cemeteries as a reference to proper spelling.

Soon I found that Dad's old Underwood just was not up to the task, poor print quality etc. So in 1988 I bought a new Smith Corona typewriter for \$251. It really printed fine, had a small spellchecker and could even remember about 3 pages before printing them out.

When I started to brag to a friend of mine about what a fine typewriter I had. He replied, "You are working in the stone age"! It wasn't long, in 1989 that he convinced me to get a computer so I bought a 286 computer 12 mhz with printer from DAK, for about \$2400. (My present one is 1000 mhz, and cost less) During this time I received much help from my friend who had told me "I was working in the stone age".

The trouble with the DAK, it would lose material that I had put on the hard drive, but would never tell me about it.

Finally in 1993 I bought a new Gateway 4S x 33, with 8 ram, 2.50 rom for \$1765.

In the meantime I had collected much material on Burlington, so started to think of putting it in book form. I had many offers on how to go about this process, but none of them materialized. So finally I decided to break this book into chapters and call it.

"Some Burlington Articles of the Past" and have regretted this name ever since. It is altogether too long!!

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Farmington, Connecticut Land Records, Vol. 1, page 2-3.

A. Discovery in righting of such agreements as mentioned by the magistrates with the Indians of Tunekses tribes concerning the land & such things in reference thereunto as tend to settle; peace; In a way truth of & righteousness betwixt the English & them.  
In; Prime taken for granted that the magistrates bought the whole country to the Mohawk country of Sequasen; the chief Sachem.

Item; That notwithstanding their interests by that means yet that the magistrates; did; in a friendly manner come to terms with the Tunekses Indians; that some English; might come & live amongst them; which terms were these; That the Indians should yield up all the ground that they had under improvement at that time when the bargain was first made; & reserve ground in place together compassed; about with a creek & trees & now also to be staked out only in that piece; the English were to have the use of the grass for their cows which now to avoid contention the English are willing; to let all save one little slice which is also to be staked out to prevent contention;

Item; That what ground they deliver up to the English in these places; that was in the first bargain; making, under improvement of the Indians; a like proportion; it shall be broke up for them in that place which is appointed (apportioned) them & the Indians to hold that they have in present possession till that be broke up in that place.

Item; That this being done, the Indians have no (spriety?) in any other ground anywhere, else within the bounds of the plantation; & yet they shall have; liberty to fell woods for fuel or other necessary uses so they do it not injure home lots or to spoiling of grass or crops of the English nor shall they be hindered of fishing, fowling & hunting so it be not done to the breach of any orders. In the country to hurt cattle except fishing, fowling & hunting, being left equally free to English & Indians.

Item; About it is clear that all the lands the English have is little worth till the wisdom labor & estates of the English be improved upon it & the magistrates when they have lands in a place give it away to English men to labor upon & take nothing for it.

Item; That the peace & plenty that they have had & enjoyed by the presence of the English in regard of protecting of them & trade with them makes more to the advantages & comfort of the Indians though they hire some land then ever they enjoyed before the coming of the English when all the land was in their own disposal. And although they do hire in regard of the increase of their company yet. Now corn and skins will give a good price which will counter bayle much more than the hire of their land & therefore the Indians have reason to live lovingly among the English by whom their lives are preserved & their estates and comforts advantaged & this we the chief Indians in the name of all the rest acknowledge & so engage ourselves to make no quarrels about this matter.

Signed in the presence of Jo Haynes, Pethus (his mark), Ahamo (his mark), Steven Hart, Thomas Judd, Thomas Thomson, Isaac Moore, Thomas Stanton, Roger Newton. April 9, 1650.

Recorded by me; William Lewis, Register by the towns order; January the 18th, 1667.

7 years later Roger Newton, Stephen Hart & Thomas Judd signed the land agreement, evidently to authenticate it for the registration of the document in the town files. (Another individual listed the names in 1650 of all the colonists).

## BURLINGTON

by the Hon. Roland Hitchcock.

(Ex-judge of the Superior Court of Connecticut.--from; "The Memorial History of Hartford County, Connecticut-Vol. 2, dated 1886.)

The territory of which this town and Bristol were formed, belonged, many years ago, to Farmington, and was called Farmington West Woods. It was part of the land purchased of the Tunxis Indians by the original proprietors of that town, and was by them surveyed, and divided into tiers of lots; the interest of each proprietor therein being determined by the amount of his interest in the whole purchase.

For many years after the "reserved lands" of Farmington were settled, this territory remained a wild, unbroken forest. Hartford and Windsor, by colonial grant in the time of Sir Edmund Andros's attempted usurpation, were the proprietors of Litchfield and Harwinton, which were settled earlier than Farmington West Woods. Credible tradition relates that the path of such Proprietors to those towns was through West Woods, and it is possible (as some have claimed) that along this wild path settlers might have been found as early as 1740; but they were very few and widely scattered. It is certain, however, that several permanent settlers were in this territory between 1740 and 1755. Among these were, in the western part, Enos Lewis, Asa Yale, Seth Wiard, Joseph Bacon and Joseph Lankton Sr., though the last named afterward lived at the Centre; Abraham and Theodore Pettibone, extensive landholders, and men of much influence, in the northern part; Nathaniel Bunnell and one Brooks in the southern part; and John and Simeon Strong in the eastern part. (The grave markers of Seth Wiard, Joseph Bacon, Theodore and Abraham Pettibone can still be seen at Milford Street Cemetery. Brooks, probably Chauncey marker is at Lamson Corner Cemetery. L.R.A.) But the settlement was slow; and land was infested by Indians as they retired westward from the settlement of the white man along the natural meadows of the Farmington valley, and it was not until about 1750 that the permanent settlement to any considerable extent began. In 1774 the General Court, by separate enactments, established in Farmington West Woods the ecclesiastical societies of West Britain and New Cambridge, each having well-defined limits. In 1775 these were incorporated as the town of Bristol, and thereupon ceased to belong to Farmington. In 1806 Bristol was divided; the part of it within the limits of West Britain was incorporated as the town of Burlington, and the part of it embraced in the limits of New Cambridge remained, and was constituted the town of Bristol.

Pursuant to the act of incorporation, the first town meeting of Burlington was held June 16, 1806. Abraham Pettibone was moderator, and the town was duly organized by the election of the ordinary town officers. Since its incorporation part of the township has been annexed to Canton and part to Avon; its population, as well as its assessment list, has thereby been much reduced, and it is believed that its eastern boundary has been thrown back to the Farmington River. (true, L.R.A.)

The first religious society organized in what is now Burlington was a society of Seventh-Day Baptists; the Ecclesiastical Society of West Britain was established (as has been remarked) in 1774, but no religious society was formed under it till 1783, when the Congregational Church was formed. (These dates, when the Seventh Day Baptist and Congregational Churches were formed, are ambiguous according to actual church records. L.R.A.) It appears from "Clark's History of the Seventh Day Baptists Church in America," that "a church of that denomination was organized on the 18th of September, 1780, at Farmington West Woods, [afterwards (1785) called West Britain; afterwards still (1806) incorporated into the town of Burlington], by the Rev. Jonathan Burdick and Deacon Elisha Stillman, consisting of nineteen members." They came, about twenty families, from the town of Westerly, (Hopkinton, L.R.A.) Rhode Island, and their settlement and meeting house were about two miles north of the village now called Burlington Centre. They were exemplary and industrious people, ardently attached to their faith, and had much influence in the affairs of the town in its early history; many of its influential members ultimately removed with their families to the State of New York, and there joined a church of their faith. This weakened the old pioneer church to its ruin, and after a precarious existence of forty or

fifty years it became extinct. Many of the dwellings built by these people are still standing, though none of the well-remembered builders, none of their descendants, none of the faith so dear to them, and for which they endured so much, remain to care for the graves of the many they left in the silent city of their dead.

The Congregational Church was formed July 3, 1783, with twenty-six members, and still worships harmoniously in the faith of the fathers. The Rev. Jonathan Miller, from Torrington, the first minister, was ordained Nov. 26, 1783, and continued his ministrations until a few years prior to his death (7- 21-1831). The first meeting house was located at the foot of what is called Meeting House Hill, on the northern slope of a hill nearly opposite the corner of the roads where stood the old tavern of Zebulon Cole, and about twenty rods across the road, in a southeasterly direction from it; the locality is now overgrown with wood. The second meeting house was located about thirty rods northeast from the first one; the heavy bank wall which constituted its northern foundation still stands, a lasting monument to the sturdy, earnest men who more than seventy years ago erected it. (Corner of George Washington Turnpike and Belden road, the foundation can still be seen, 1991-L.R.A.) This meeting house was dedicated 12-25-1808, and stood, with its long row of horse sheds on either side of the road and its steeple high among the clouds, until 1836, when it was removed to where it now stands, remodeled, and on the 14th of September of that year rededicated.

The Methodist meeting house was built in 1814; it was located in the southerly part of the town, on the elevated ground a few rods northeasterly from the south cemetery, (actually in Lamson corner cemetery.-L.R.A.)and was removed to its present location in 1835. Nathan Bangs (afterward president of Wesleyan University,) Laban Clark, and Daniel Coe (pioneers of Methodism in the State) were among the early pastors of the church of that faith in the town.

The township is eighteen miles west from Hartford, is bounded on the north by New Hartford, east by Farmington River, south by Bristol, and west by Harwinton, and is about six miles long and five miles in breadth. In most parts it is well supplied with streams and springs of excellent water; it has hills and valleys, and in many parts is rugged with stones and rocks. The soil is not unlike that of the other granitic parts of the State, produces substantially the same kinds of fruits and cereals, and with proper cultivation yields to the farmer a good return for his industry. The natural growth of timber is walnut, oak, birch, maple, and chestnut, which were quite evenly mingled in the primitive forests.

The inhabitants are generally engaged in agricultural pursuits, and are intelligent, industrious, thriving, and happy, in their quite homes. The affairs of the town have been managed generally with ability and good judgment, and it is now free from debt, after having paid all its expenses and met all its burdens growing out of the late Civil War and the depreciation of property consequent upon it.

Convenient access to the town is furnished by a branch of the New Haven and Northampton Railroad, which runs through its eastern part. At the census of 1880 its population was 1224. West Britain from its small and sparse population furnished several soldiers for the country in the War of the Revolution. After its incorporation as Burlington the town furnished many in the War of 1812; and through the pensioners of those wars who belonged to the town have passed, with their honorable scars upon them, to "the undiscovered country," they are held in respectful remembrance by all who knew them. In the late Civil War the town furnished its full quota of soldiers, many of who will return no more.

"The leaf to the tree, the flower to the plain,  
But the young and the brave they come not again."

The narrow limits to which this sketch must be confined forbid extended reference to the noble men and women who were the early inhabitants of the town. Much of pleasant reminiscence and merited respect might properly be said of them. Their personal appearance, their characteristics, and their many virtues awaken in one who knew many of them feelings of mingled pleasure and sadness as they return in memory. The names Alderman, Barnes, Beach, Beckwith, Belden, Bronson, Brooks, Brown, Bull, Bunnel, Butler, Cleaveland, Cornwall, Covey, Crandal, Culver, Curtis, Elton, French, Frisbie, Fuller, Gillett, Griswold, Hale, Hart, Hitchcock, Hotchkiss,

Humphrey, Lowry, Marks, Mathews, Moses, Norton, Palmiter, Peck, Pettibone, Phelps, Pond, Richards, Roberts, Session, Smith, Webster, West, Wiard, Woodruff and many others not less worthy belonged to inhabitants honorably identified with the early history of the town, and whose energy in their respective spheres contributed much to its first prosperity.

**DR. PERES MANN**, the first physician of the town, was a native of Shrewsbury, Mass. He acquired his profession in Boston, and settled in West Britain about 1780. Dr. Aaron Hitchcock was his professional successor; he settled in his profession in Burlington about 1806. (Dr. Peres Mann's son-in-law was Dr. Aaron Hitchcock. His son was Roland Hitchcock, the writer of this account)

**REV. ROMEO ELTON, D.D.**, was a native of the town, and received his rudimental education in its common schools. He graduated at Brown University, in Providence, Rhode Island, in the class of 1813. Much might be said of him to encourage young men in their struggle against repelling circumstances, did the space permit. He was a modest, retiring man. His chief delight was the study of the ancient and modern languages, to which his unobtrusive life was unremittingly devoted, both in this and foreign countries. It is believed the country has produced few if any more thorough linguists, few of purer literary taste. His fine personal appearance, cultivated diction, and musical voice placed him among the most agreeable of public speakers. He died at Boston, Feb. 5, 1870, at the age of eighty years. His published works, besides occasional sermons, are an edition of C. Callender's "Historical Discourses" (On the early history of Rhode Island) with a memoir of the author, notes, and a valuable appendix; the "Literary Remains of the Rev. Jonathan Maxcy, D.D., with a memoir of his life; and a "Life of Roger Williams", printed in London in 1852.  
(Not to be confused with a later Romeo Elton.L.R.A.)

**SIMEON HART**, for many years principle of the celebrated Farmington Academy, was a native of Burlington, and received his common school education there. He graduated at Yale College in the class of 1823, and soon after became principle of the academy above referred to, in which he gave much celebrity, and in the management of which he gained for himself high reputation as a teacher. His useful life closed at Farmington, where for the most part it had been spent, and where his students have erected a fitting monument to his memory. (There are 2 Simeon Hart's buried in Burlington.L.R.A.)

**DR. WILLIAM ELTON**, a native of the town, has been for several years the resident physician. He is a gentleman of good literary taste and well qualified in his profession. END

**FARMINGTON, 1695**; "The river furnished to the English and the natives its overflowing abundance of shad and salmon, and the west woods abounded in deer, wolves and panthers".

"The Indians were still here by the hundreds. Within the slip of land reserved for them near the village their canoes might be seen every day filling the little creek that put in from the river".

(Pequabuck River?)

## **TIERS AND LOTS**

In 1672, the Farmington proprietors, then eighty-four in number, took formal possession of the territory which had just been assigned to them by the General Assembly. They laid out a parallelogram a little over eight miles long, and four wide, for the home settlement, and called it "Reserved Land". (In 1672 the Assembly fixed the length of Farmington at fifteen miles, and its width at eleven miles, extending west from the Hartford line. The western boundary thus fixed is now the western line of Bristol.) The remaining land they divided among themselves in proportion to their assessment lists, giving to Mr. Hooker, the minister, a double portion. The actual survey of the western land was not made until 1721. Six tiers of lots were laid out, each three hundred and five rods wide, and about eleven miles long, with reservations between for twenty, thirty, and forty rod highways; so that each "division", with its adjacent highway, was a little over a mile wide. The first two of these tiers were each divided into twenty-one lots, and each lot assigned to four proprietors; the last, or westerly, four were each divided into eighty-four lots, and assigned to individual owners; so that each Farmington proprietor had a lot, or an undivided quarter-lot in each division. The widest of these lots were one hundred and thirty-one rods, four feet wide, and the narrowest nine rods, ten and a half feet; each one, of course, being three hundred and five rods long. These allotments were made to the men, and in the proportions, which had been fixed by the vote of 1672, and most of them were actually taken by the heirs of the men in whose names they were allotted. Narrower highways were reserved, running across the divisions, and a reservation of about one hundred and ninety acres was made to the Indians, Bohemia and Poland. The westerly five of these divisions now constitute the towns of Burlington and Bristol. (Bristol Conn. "In Olden Times, 1907")

## **FULLING MILL**

Mr. Hart (In the "Hart Manuscript") referred to a FULLING MILL in Burlington. This is a description of one taken from "Bakerville, CT, 1975".

A Fulling mill was prosperous in Maple Hollow where native flax, cotton and wool was processed and woven into cloth. To raise the nap on material, teasels were used. A teasel is a flower, when dried the seed pod head is covered with stiff, spiny, hooked bract's and grown only by permission of the Government. They were called "Fullers Teasels". They were shipped to many places where material was processed and manufactured which brought the name Bakerville, Connecticut to many people.

Teasels were raised on the Thomas Watson farm, which is west from Bakerville, known as the Ramstein farm.

## **ANCIENT OAK TREE IS SUBJECT FOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY CALENDAR**

by Dorothy Manchester

It is most appropriate to have the sketch of the Old Peaceable Oak pictured for May on the 1973 Historical Calendars being sold by the Greater Bristol Historical Society. Come each spring many of us look to see if the ancient tree on Burlington Avenue is budding forth once again as it has for perhaps hundreds of years. It is the only Bristol scene other than an old house that artist Glo Sessions choose to sketch and is probably the oldest living thing in our city.

The battered remnant of this famous tree is located just south of the Burlington-Bristol town line on Burlington Avenue, once named Peaceable Street. The story of the old oak has been told many times, handed down from generations, the legends not always correct. George W. Bartholomew Jr. writing as an old, man in 1926, was perhaps the best authority as his ancestors for many years operated a tavern across the road from the big oak.

Young George enjoyed a rather intimacy with his grandfather, Asa Bartholomew, who had been born in the tavern in 1775 and through him learned the many stories associated with the tree. The tale of how bullets of the Revolutionary War happened to be shot into the tree always fascinated young George. Old Asa recalled how his big brother Lemuel coming home from the New London campaign in 1781 with his musket loaded with ammunition intended for the British, let his little brother empty the shot into the nearby oak tree. When 90 years old, Asa still remembered the incident well.

During the years prior to 1785 when New Cambridge (Bristol) and West Britain (Burlington) were negotiating on the matter of uniting into one influential town, many meetings were held in the Bartholomew Tavern, a convenient place to conduct business about half way between the two settlements. In good weather, the men would often gather in shade of the nearby oak tree to settle their problems.

Finally, after years of indecision, a petition of incorporation was decided upon in May 1785 sent to the General Assembly who bestowed the name Bristol on the new town. The two settlements remained united for two decades until West Britain withdrew to become the town of Burlington. During those intervening years, the tavern and the attractive shade of the old oak remained favorite places to conduct town business. It has been mistakenly stated the first Bristol town meeting in June, 1785 was held under the tree but rather records tell us it was held in the second meeting house of the Bristol Congregational Church, a customary place for such meetings in those days.

Beneath the spreading branches of the tree, Indians once gathered to trade their wares with those of the white men who congregated at the tavern. By the time of the Revolution, most of the Indians had disappeared but there remained a few of the Tunxis tribe who had always been on friendly terms with the white man.

Those noting the scraggly old oak tree for the first time can scarcely believe the stories of its antiquity. Apparently it was never a huge tree at least not in the memory of those who have written about it. Grown on top of a sandy, windswept hill it is a wonder it has survived. It grew slowly because of poor soil and was an old tree in Revolutionary times. Estimates to its age have extended to 600 years or more. At one time in the last century there was a sign nailed to its trunk telling passersby of its importance in town history. Perhaps another should be placed by the old oak to designate to the present generation the place it holds in Bristol's (and Burlington's) colorful past.

(Bristol Press, December 8, 1972)

(A plaque near the tree reads "Peaceable St. [Oak] Town meetings held here when Burlington was part of Bristol 1785-1806".L.R.A.)

### **BURLINGTON, A FEW "MILESTONES".**

by Arthur R.Alderman-1975.

At the time of the incorporation of the Town of Burlington in 1906, Burlington's northeast corner was east of the Farmington River. The east boundary line crossed the river about where the New Britain Y.M.C.A. (Holiday Ridge) is now located and then extended northerly to the Canton town line.

Not until sometime after 1830 was there any public highway leading to Collinsville or Unionville on the westerly side of the Farmington River. At a point nearly opposite the residence of James and Helen Mullen there was a bridge that spanned the river. It was known as "THE GREAT BRIDGE" or "FULLER'S BRIDGE" and some of its abutments can still be seen, (unfortunately they are gone now) especially on the easterly side of the river, and traces of the highway leading to it.

Anyone who has seen the Farmington River at early springtime with its swiftly running flood waters full of huge cakes of ice, cannot help but wonder how anyone, especially in those times, could build and maintain a bridge at that point. Little wonder that they called it, "THE GREAT BRIDGE". Surely the builders of that bridge were as much entitled to take pride in their handiwork, as were those who much later built the Brooklyn Bridge.

Why was it also called "Fuller's Bridge"? It is interesting at this point to refer to "Hart's Manuscript" history of Burlington for this area. We are coming down route 4 near the home of the late Merton R. Hodge (corner Route 4 & Vineyard Road) and referring to it, "Hart's Manuscript" says, "Near the brook lived Abel Frisbie, brother to Zebulon. He was a shoemaker and tanner. Next, was the school house (4th) on the NORTH side of the road near where the present house now stands. Next was Billy Gaylord (now Mrs. Nellie Pavlik) and afterwards Wm. lived, Dimoc Fuller, afterward Isaac Morris. They were Clothiers. Next on the north side of the road near the sawmill lived Jeremiah Cone. Next, down by the river lived JOHN FULLER. He was kind of a carpenter and millwright. He ran the sawmill mentioned above. South of Mr. Fuller, there were two families by the name of Mills, Noah and --. They were farmers". (The Mills house was near where the above named Holiday Ridge is now located).

From the above I believe that John Fuller lived in what was the oldest part of what much later became the Burlington Inn. (Corner of route 4 & 179) The rest of the building was built later. The main part was very old. It will be interesting to learn more about John Fuller of "Fuller's Bridge" and "Fuller's Mill". What follows is taken from a National Archives file of John Fuller.

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT, HARTFORD COUNTY, BURLINGTON, JANUARY 24, 1838.**

On this 24th day of January 1838 personally appeared in open court before the Court of Probate for the District of Burlington in said County of Hartford now sitting, John Fuller a resident of said Burlington aged eighty-eight years who being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832, that he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated;

In the month of December, 1775 I enlisted into the army of the United States into the Company commanded by Capt. Noadiah Hooker of Farmington. The company was attached to a Regiment commanded by Colonel Erastus Woolcott of East Windsor in this state. From the time I enlisted to the time I started which was two weeks I enlisted six men. I started from home on the first day of January 1776 from my residence in the western part of the town of Farmington in this state to join the army at Boston in the State of Massachusetts. On the first day after I started from home in attempting to cross a brook called "Quabuck" I slipped on the ice and fell and lamed my knee and wounded the lower part of my belly and in consequence of these wounds I was not able to keep up with my comrades and arrived two days after my company. I was at the battle of Dorchester and was on guard at the time of the terrible storm. I helped build the forts and helped fill one hundred hogsheads of stone on Dorchester Hill. I was on duty to the best of my recollection until the 19th day of March 1776. I received no written discharge but received a Sergeant Warrant on the day I was discharged from the above named Colonel. I paid my own expenses going and coming and well remember I served three months at this time. Again in August 1776 I volunteered and entered the service in a company of Militia commanded by Capt. Abraham Pettibone. I went by way of New Haven to New York, was in scouting parties in that vicinity, at the time of the first fire in New York was near harbor, a part of the time, was near King's Bridge. Here I had orders from my Capt. to go to Eastchester to attend my sick brother David Fuller. I attended him and buried him in Eastchester near the cove, was in no battle except a skirmish near King's Bridge. I recollect I did not arrive until in October but I know I served six weeks. (John's brother, Asaph, was killed at the battle of Long Island).

Again I volunteered in the Army of the United States in the Militia at the time of the alarm when Danbury in the State of Connecticut was burnt. I immediately marched from Farmington where I then resided to Danbury in this state, was there when it was yet burning, was in no battle at this time. To the best of my recollection Asa Yale was my Captain.

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In April, 1777 the British raided Danbury, supply center for the Continental Army, and burned it down in a drunken yelling orgy of plunder, sparing only Tory houses marked with white lime crosses. Four patriots were burned alive in Captain Ezra Starr's house, and when the meat

houses burned, melted fat ran ankle deep in the streets. From, page 69, "The Making of Bristol-- 1954). also--

"Then destruction of the military supplies in Danbury began. These were stored in a variety of buildings, including the Episcopal Church and local barns. Supplies in the church and in Tory properties were taken out and burned in the street with the buildings being saved. One building holding grain was burned together with its contents. Then 120 puncheons of rum (approx. 50 gal. each) and 30 pipes (large casts) of wine were discovered. These the British troops promptly consumed. \*\*Altogether 19 houses were burned. The supplies destroyed included ordinance stores, 4,000 barrels of beef and pork, 100 tierces (about 42 gal. each) of biscuits, 89 barrels of rice, 50 barrels of molasses, 20 cases of coffee, 100 hogsheads of sugar, 15 casts of medicines, 10 barrels of salt petre, 1,020 tents, and hospital bedding.

(Lure of Litchfield Hills, Winter 1973.)

Again I entered the service of the United States under Captain Tuttle and furnished my team and paid my expense. I started from Farmington, went to Hartford in this state. There I loaded with powder called Cap Manley's powder, copper hoops with the King's broad "Re" on the hoops, transported the same to red "Contanyntal" Store in Fishkill in the state of New York, a distance of one hundred miles. Also from Hartford as above two hogsheads of loaf sugar to the Red Store in said Fishkill. Again from Hartford two hogsheads of rum to the said Red Store in said Fishkill. While returning from Fishkill was detained by the Wagon master General, which made my extra expense four dollars. Also in the same service as above I transported a load of rice from Harwinton, Litchfield County, State of Connecticut to Greenbush near Albany, State of New York. In this tour while descending a hill called Nobletown Mountain, being slippery one of my oxen fell and nearly ruined him and was compelled to have him -- at my own expense. I was in the service six weeks at this time.

Again, September 1777, I volunteered and served in a company of militia commanded by James Hebor. I was in scouting parties and -- was at a place called Still Water and Saratoga and was in the skirmishes at Still Water and was present at the surrender of Burgoine's Army to the Americans and recollect well the circumstances. At this tour I served six weeks. I received no written discharge and have no documentary evidence of this service nor do I know of any person living by which I can prove the same. From age and consequent loss of memory I cannot recollect the precise time when I entered or left the service. I have a Sergeant's warrant and Ensign's and a Lieutenant's commission in the hands of ---

Again during the war I was drafted three times at which times I procured a substitute. My family circumstances, etc. were such I could not leave, at which I paid forty bushels of wheat and twenty dollars in money.

I was born in Berlin in the State of Connecticut 1750 to the best of my knowledge. I have no record whereby I may know the particular day of my birth. I moved from Berlin to the town of Farmington when I was ten years old in that part called Northing Society. When I was twenty-four years old I removed to that part of Farmington called the West Woods in 1783. To the best of my recollection a new town was set off from said Farmington called Bristol in the year 1806. That part of Bristol in which I live was set off from said Bristol, a new Town called Burlington. I now reside in the Town of Burlington in the County of Hartford, State of Connecticut near Fuller's Bridge so called, where I have resided sixty-four years.

I am known to Erastus Scranton, a clergyman, and William Elton residing in said Burlington who can testify to my character and veracity and their belief of my services as a Revolutionary soldier-- Signed John Fuller.

We, Erastus Scranton a clergyman residing in Burlington etc., and William Elton residing in the same town, etc., do hereby certify that we are well acquainted with John Fuller --- that we believe him to be eighty-eight years of age, that he is respected and believed in the neighborhood where he resides, to have been a soldier of the Revolution and that we concur in that opinion. Signed--- Erastus Scranton & William Elton.

And the Court do hereby declare their opinion after the investigation and after putting the interrogatory prescribed by the War Department that the above applicant was a Revolutionary soldier and served as he stated -- Burlington Probate. Vol. 1, page 201;

John Fuller had his declaration and certificates made out to obtain a pension before the Court of Probate for the District of Burlington and sworn to in due form of law & while said papers were at Washington before acted upon said Fuller deceased. Certified by William Marks, Judge. Not dated. About June, 1838. (John Fuller Jr. died 1838, age 90.)

### **CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BURLINGTON RECORD.**

When John Fuller buried his younger brother, David, at Eastchester, (East of Yonkers, N.Y.) he did not know that another brother, Asaph, had been killed at the battle of Long Island. Another brother, Jesse, also served in the Revolutionary War. He lived where Mr. & Mrs. Washer now live on Punch Brook Road, and he was Burlington's first selectman.

It should be noted that John Fuller's affidavit was made nearly sixty years after the war. It is likely a typical account of the activities and experiences of all those from this area who served in the Militia and the regular Army during the Revolutionary War.

How appropriate it is that we of 1976 should consider the doings of John Fuller in 1776--he and his brothers--his oxen too.

"He paid his own expenses & received no pay and asked for none".

105-4 Case Cemetery;

Fuller, Jesse, died Dec. 2, 1813, age 60.

Fuller, Obedience, wife of Jesse, died Mar. 7, 1815, age 60.

Fuller, Jesse, son of Jesse & Obedience, died May 5, 1808, age 26.

The Rev. Erastus Scranton, one of John Fuller's witnesses, was Pastor of The Congregational Church of Burlington from Jan. 1830 to May 1840. After retiring from the pulpit he operated his farm on Scranton Mountain, now Savarese Lane, and was Town Treasurer for a number of years. His hearing became quite impaired, the Congregation voted that he should sit beside the minister so that he could hear the service. He lived in the Barton House, (Later the Farmington Savings Bank) in the Center. He died Oct. 5, 1861, aged 84 years and is buried in Center Cemetery, up on the right as one goes through the main gate.

William Elton, the other subscribing witness, was a Revolutionary War Veteran, appropriately, and is buried in Center Cemetery.

**JOHN FULLER** (6) was probably the oldest son born to John (5) and Penelope. He appears first of record July 31, 1757 when his son David, was baptized by the minister of Kensington Parish; this Parish then extended eastwards to the bounds of Wethersfield and included some families in that town.

Before June 9, 1762 he had acquired land in what is now the town of Burlington but then the northwestern part of Farmington. It was a heavily wooded region, rich in game, with very few white inhabitants, known as West Woods. The Parish of West Woods, called West Britain was organized in 1774. Politically the territory was part of Farmington until 1785, then part of Bristol until 1806, when it became Burlington.

Farmington Deeds give a few items of information regarding John;

Roger Hooker of Farmington, conveys to John Fuller of Farmington 52 acres more or less, part of the 59th lot in number, in the division of land lying north of the reserved land, on the west side of the river drawn on the right of Capt. Lewis, formerly of Farmington, deceased, butted south on land of said John Fuller, it being all the land in said lot that I purchased from Matthew Judd. Dated June 9, 1762.

The next year Thomas Brooks of Newbury, Fairfield County, clerk, conveyed to John Fuller the 78th lot in the same division. (Farm. deeds, Bk. 13:131: Bk. 14:47-8). John Fuller later bought other land. One deed dated March 15, 1783 (Farm. Deeds Bk24:283) proves that his son John

was then of age, John Fuller Jr. to my father, John Fuller of Farmington, land in the Parish of West Britain.

The WILL of John Fuller of Burlington dated Oct. 1, 1807; probated June 30, 1814 is on file at the State Library. Witnessed by Simeon Hart, Eli Alderman (son in Law), and Oren Fuller (son of Jesse)

1. Left his well-loved wife Hannah, 1/2 of the household furniture, 1 cow and the use of 1/3 part of his real estate for life.
2. Left his well-loved son John Jr., all the lands lying in Burlington southward of his dwelling and east of a road running from house of George Beckwith-- 12 acres.
3. Left to 2nd son Jesse, the whole of the remaining property lying in Burlington together with buildings standing thereon--Jesse to pay 3rd son, Daniel, \$30.00 at the end of one year after John's decease.
4. Left to 4th son Josiah, 1 acre of land lying in town of Farmington east of Munson Hart, north on Reuben Hawley and west and south on land herein given to grandsons Asaph and Chauncey.
5. Left to aforesaid Asaph and Chauncey the remainder of property in Farmington.

Inventory shows total of 65 acres.

The WILL of Jesse Fuller written 1813 (he died Dec. 1813, before his father John) shows him living on farm now owned by his father, containing 20 acres being willed to him by his father. He owned land adjoining this with barn standing and a new dwelling house a part of which is under the encumbrance of a lease to the said Jesse and his wife for the rest of their lives.

### "THE GREAT BRIDGE"

Bristol Town Records; May 21st, 1804. Voted that Col. Abraham Pettibone, John Fuller, Jeremiah Griswold, Jesse Fuller, Giles Humphrey, and Job Mills be a committee to Draw the Remains of the New bridge, so called back to the place where it was Carried from by the late flood Either by a Spell or any other way they think best.

Town Meetings;

**1809**, Jeremiah Griswold, Giles Humphrey and A.Hart were delegated to repair the bridge.

**1810 & 1811**, each year the town voted to inspect for condemnation the bridge near John Fuller's. They reported that it could be repaired for \$45.00. Wages at that time were .08 cents per hour or \$1.00 per day. \$2.00 per day if you used a team of oxen. They also met with the Town of Farmington to adopt measures for building a new bridge but that apparently failed.

**1812**, Voted to build a bridge across the Farmington River where the bridge now stands with three piers similar to those of the Center Bridge with three sets of needle or gallows work and a single trestle, and a roof.

**1822**, The town voted not to join the Northampton Canal project.

**1826**, Fuller's Bridge not worth repairing.

**1826**, Dec. Selectmen empowered to lay out a road with the Selectmen of Farmington from Fuller's Bridge to Perry's Bridge.

**1827**, It was voted to reconsider the deal with Farmington to build a road from Fuller's Bridge to the Farmington line if they would build up to it, and it was voted to build another bridge where Fuller's stood. On March 19th Sherman Barnes was to head the committee to build the bridge. Samuel Gridley built the abutment on the east side of the river.

**1829**, The town disapproved a petition by Samuel Collins to set off a part of Burlington to Canton so that his factory would be in one town. Also the town voted to lay a road from Fuller's bridge to Amzi Barnes.

**1831**, Voted to lay a road from Simon Woodruff's sawmill to Canton. (probably the New Road on east side of river.)

**1832**, Dec. Voted that the Selectmen be directed to settle with Messrs Hotchkiss Vs Langdon their claims of damages sustained by falling off Fuller's Bridge.

**1832**, Dec. That the Selectmen be directed to lay out a road from Fuller's Bridge to Farmington Line on west side of the river in the best place.

**1834**, Fuller's Bridge and all roads leading to it from east discontinued as public highways.

**1837**, Voted to open road from south line of Canton to Fuller's Bridge according to Committee from the County Court.

**1846**, Dec. Resolved, considering the circumstances which probably occasioned the late upsetting of the wagon loaded with axes belonging to Messrs Woodford and Leary of Collinsville the Selectmen decline paying them any sum, as matter of damage done thereto.

### **THE RAILROAD**

In 1850 the New Haven & Northampton Railroad, afterwards The New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad, had secured a Right of Way for its Branch Line from Farmington to New Hartford. In Burlington the right of way ran along the westerly side of the Farmington River between the highway and the river and in some places, especially on the way to Unionville, leaving very little space for the highway, scarcely room enough for two teams to pass. Anyone driving to Unionville with a young and frisky horse, or any old horse for that matter, usually took great care to negotiate that section at a time when no trains were due. In the early 1900s there were eight passenger trains daily, four north and four south, and four freight trains daily, two going south and two north.

The building and maintenance of the railroad created an entirely new demand for a product from the forests, namely railroad ties by the thousands. The ties were mostly of chestnut, six by eight inches square and eight feet long, 32 board feet each, good solid timbers to load and unload, 25 to 35 and sometimes 40 per load. Bridge ties were even larger and heavier, seven by nine inches square and more than eight feet long. The ties were usually gotten out in the winter time, when little else could be done, and hauled to the railroad station and piled high on both sides of the road and there was hardly enough room for all of them. In the spring they were inspected by the railroad's inspectors and then the "tie train", cars for the ties and a coach for the laborers, would arrive and in a few days take them all away, accepting the few "rejects". The ties were shouldered and carried, two men per tie, to the cars. And there was a by-product, cordwood cut from the tops and the branches and from trees unfit for ties. Hundreds of cords of wood went by freight car and by team to the brickyards, brass mills and other industry. Much of the cordwood was turned into charcoal and hauled away for heat-treating purposes.

With the coming of the automobile and good roads business for the railroads gradually diminished and in 1968 the steel rails and ties were taken up and removed after a little over one hundred years of use.

### **INDIAN HUNTING GROUNDS**

Burlington Hills were Popular with Red Skin Hunters

Mr. Chester R. Bunnell of Bristol, (who died 1871) a native of Burlington, and a descendent of Hezekiah Bunnell who came from Cheshire and who settled in the southern portion of the town when the country was raw, recalls having heard his father tell of the visit of Indians to his grandfather's house at the foot of Johnny Cake Mountain. The Indian history of the old town of Bristol is not attractive for the reason that the hills were not more than hunting grounds with perhaps a narrow trail or two through the forests to the large settlements. Mr. Bunnell has never heard of any trouble with the Indians in Burlington. Indeed there were friendships between the settlers and the red skins. It was not an unusual thing for an Indian to sit at table with the pioneers.

There was plenty of game in this vicinity. Deer were more easily shot in the woods than almost any game to be found there now. Whenever fresh meat was wanted by the householder it was only the work of an hour or two at most to visit the drinking places of the deer and bring home meat enough to last for days. Wolves gave the earliest settlers considerable trouble, but their vigilance in getting rid of the pest, supplemented subsequently by legislature providing a liberal bounty finally annihilated the destructive creatures from the section. The same was true with bears, except that they never were plenty in this part of New England and no bounty was necessary to rid the forests of them.

(Bristol Press, June 14, 1906)

## BURLINGTON OBSERVES CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

(Excerpts, Bristol Press, 6-21-1906)

The one hundredth anniversary of the incorporation of the town of Burlington was celebrated in that town last week with an OLD HOME WEEK beginning on Thursday morning and closing Sunday afternoon. Several hundred invitations were sent out to former residents and natives by the Flag Day association. Many responded, some coming from a distance and others from nearby towns. A number were in attendance who had not seen the town since they were boys and girls, fifteen, twenty, twenty-five or thirty years ago. The program outlined by the committee was interesting, and successfully executed, notwithstanding the hard rain of Saturday made it impossible for several of the principal features to be carried out.

The celebration began Thursday morning with the graduation exercises of the Center school children. Because of uncompleted improvements in the church, the exercises were held this year at the green. The children were in holiday attire. The exercises were in charge of John B. McLean of Simsbury, superintendent of the Burlington schools. An address was given by Charles D. Hine, Secretary of the State Board of Education. \*\*An exhibit of the work of the pupils of the ninth or Sandbank District at the town hall interested many.

The dinner served at noon by a Hartford caterer in a tent on the lawn nearly opposite the town hall was a disappointment, so much so that it was the object of punning by the afternoon speakers. Several of the people of the town declared that the reputation of the town should be upheld and visitors be entertained in "the good old Burlington way". They proceeded to put up a tent on the grounds of "General" Booth opposite the speakers stand and served an excellent dinner to the people on Saturday.

The houses in the vicinity of the green were attractively decorated with flags and bunting. Indeed throughout the town the display of the natural colors was frequent. In some cases an arch or other special decoration was improvised in front of the house with the date of its building spelled out in decorative effect. From the tall pole in the center of the green floated the mammoth flag that was presented to the town some years ago. Under the maples a temporary, capacious and substantial platform had been erected. Seats had been provided on all sides of it, shaded by the trees. With bunting as a background, the sides of the stand were made beautiful with masses of mountain ivy or laurel, which grows nowhere in greater profusion or beauty than on the hills of this picturesque town.

The celebration of Flag Day has been an annual custom in Burlington, in distinction from any other town in the state. The Flag Day Association is an established and esteemed institution in the town, and the day is the holiday that attracts hundreds of people from the country round. This year was an exception, for less than 500 people were gathered in front of the stand when President John Reeve rapped for order. It was then nearly 3 o'clock, the committee having been in prolonged session considering the catering flunk. Evidently the people were waiting for Saturday, "Governor's Day", and the big day of the week.

The first speaker of the afternoon was Rev. E. G. Stone pastor of the Burlington Congregational Church\*\*.

Building and Loan Commissioner Morris C. Webster of New Britain was next presented\*\*. Attorney William J. Malone of Bristol was next introduced and his address proved to be the most eloquent of the afternoon\*\*.

Rev. Dr. Goodenough was the next speaker. \*\*\*"The custom of celebrating Flag Day had given the town a distinction among the towns of the state. The town is celebrating also for the great men it has given to the world. Leonidas Hamlin, a most valued bishop of the great Methodist Episcopal church, romped in these hills and valleys as a boy and learned his lessons in the little red school house yonder. John Humphrey Sessions was born in the little cottage under the brow of the hill, and going over the mother town of Bristol, established manufacturing enterprises which at this day give employment to 1,200 people and a livelihood to several thousands".

George A. Beers of Bristol was next.\*\* He believed that the outlook for old Burlington was bright and that the prospects were good that she would rise again to the position she held fifty years

ago, that all of her farms would be occupied and prosperity of the good sort would come to her people.

Rev. John B. McLean of Simsbury, Superintendent of the Burlington schools was next\*\*. Charles L. Wooding, superintendent of the Bristol schools was next\*\*.

Rev. Calvin B. Moody, D.D.\*\* and finally--- Attorney Augustine Lonergan of Hartford\*\*.

The exercises were brought to a close by singing the Centennial Flag Day song composed by G.L. Gillette and sung to the tune of America, the Bristol Military band leading\*\*.

The poem was dedicated by the author to his mother, Rosanna Brown Gillette, now in her 85th year. Her portrait was upon the slips that had been distributed among the people and from which they sung.

Following the exercises pretty nearly everyone shook hands with everyone else, many meeting for the first time in years. The Bristol Military band occupied a temporary stand under the shade of the trees in a yard east end of the green and rendered concert selections until dark.

Friday dawned bright. The day was devoted to visiting according to the program, and was quiet at the Center. Some out of town people had the idea that visiting meant gathering on the green for a sort of reunion and were disappointed when they found the Center deserted. A number of people came into town by teams and trains however and spent the day at homes about the town.

The event of the day was the centennial ball at the town hall in the evening, and was a thorough success. The hall was decorated with bunting and flags in attractive arrangement.

The Bristol Military orchestra furnished music. The grand march comprised seventy couples most of who were from out of town. The march was led by Howard Spencer of Burlington and Mrs. Florence Fenn Leigh of Bristol. Dancing continued until nearly daylight. The floor committees were L.F. Turner, K.H. Wollmann and A.H. Bradley. Refreshments were served by the caterers.

The Bristol musicians remained over night for the exercises on Saturday. Only four could be accommodated at the Bunnell home nearby and the remaining five put up at what Mr. Thorpe is pleased to call the "Hotel Burlington", a comfortable barn across the road, with hay for beds. The men who enjoyed this novelty were up betimes and played the strains of the "Star Spangled Banner", as the flag was raised to the pole on the green while a drizzling rain fell at dawn.

Saturday was the big day of the celebration. Notwithstanding gray and threatening skies the people began to flock to the Center, some in decorated carriages and all in holiday attire. The mist that had fallen had not yet affected the bunting and the old town presented a gay aspect. The streets about the green were filled with galloping horsemen, some of them mere boys who sat their mounts with ease that made their elders envious. The band took its place on the stand at the end of the green and with martial music brightened up the spirits of the crowd. The speaker's stand on the green was resplendent with a hay cart load of the new laurel cut the night before. The earliest train brought a "fakir" or two with canes and souvenirs. In fact, all was ready for the biggest day Burlington had experienced, but the weather, that was bad and growing worse.

By 10 o'clock the floats had come in from the several school districts, each filled with happy children in their best apparel, and with wagons and horses, decorated beautifully with laurel, roses, daisies, evergreens and the omnipresent bunting. Every child carried a flag and a joyous day was anticipated.

Burlington has a most worthy and active branch of the Sunshine Society. It is composed of the young ladies of the town and is the popular organization, never weary in well doing, and commended on all sides for its record as well as its ambition. This society had a handsome float out ready for the parade. The sides and ends of this float were festooned in yellow and white draperies embellished with daisies. The surface of the float was artistically draped in the same colors, and seats were arranged at right angles upon which were seated the following members of the branch; Miss Sadie Scoville, President; Miss Maida Green, Secretary; Misses Gertrude Wollmann, Edna Butler, Florence Smith, Sarah Jones, Addie Henry, Effie Dowd, Julia Webster and Elvira Webster, each costumed in white with yellow sashes across the shoulders and yellow bands about the hats. Miss Clara Schwarzmann, Vice-president and Miss Lila Turner, Treasurer, were aids to Marshall D.E. Mills, and were mounted. The drivers of the four horses drawing the float were Louis Webster and Ernest Hinman, each wearing a silk hat with a yellow band. The

wheels of the vehicle were hidden behind an arrangement of running pine. From the center of the float rose a staff which floated a large flag, and a yellow and white banner occupied a conspicuous place. The entire conception was a most happy one, and much regret was expressed that after so much work had been put in decorating the float the rain should spoil it all.

As the morning wore on the drizzle became a fine rain, and the people sought shelter on the steps of the store, or the church or under the big trees. The band left the stand and took up position on the steps of the church, where it could better welcome the Governor.

About this time Mr. Warren Bunnell, 88 years old but bright and active, came into view down the road wearing a military coat brilliant with red, a red sash and a black leather hat topped with a black plume tipped with red feathers, all relics of the past, worn by his father-captain eighty years previous at "training days" held on this very green. Furthermore the aged son of Captain Bunnell now rode in an old two wheeled chaise dating before the Revolution and owned at one time by Governor Jonathan Trumbull. (Governor Trumbull held office 14 years, 1769-84.) Mr. Bunnell's grandson drove the horse. While the youngster wore no splendid trappings he was quite as proud as his grandfather, particularly when after dinner, the Governor, with some difficulty, mounted the ancient vehicle beside Mr. Bunnell and was driven in the rain through the street to the church, the boy sitting the while in His excellency's lap. It was nearly 11 o'clock before the Governor arrived in a downpour of rain. He had been met at Unionville by First Selectman Elliott Alderman, and the drive of several miles in the rain was made in a hack. Well down the road about fifty of the horsemen including several lady riders, met the Governor and acted as escort to the church. As he appeared in the Center a salute of canon was fired, the church bell rung, and handkerchiefs waved and cheers arose, the Governor bowing his acknowledgement of the hearty welcome accorded. The rain slackened a bit and an attempt was made at a parade, the battalion of horsemen and the floats circling the green several times.

A change was made in the program and at 12 o'clock the welcome of Governor Roberts was spoken in the church. Selectman Alderman presided. Sixty children from the Ninth or Sandbank district occupied front seats and sang a welcome song excellently.

Rev. L.E. Clarke of Unionville was introduced to deliver the address of welcome. Mr. Clark regretted the inclement weather but the welcome of Burlington to the Governor of the state was none the less hearty. There is not a more beautiful town in the state than Burlington. The people who inhabit it are worthy, caring more to live content with small means for wealth rather than riches. We have no city charter but have great men among the sons of the town. We have no city council, but here are men capable of occupying places on the councils of the nation. He referred to the birthplace of John Humphrey Sessions, who found his home under a hill yonder and built a name that is known throughout the world for industry and success. After speaking of the respect of Burlington people for Governor Roberts, the speaker referred to the kaleidoscopic changes that had taken place in the northwest corner of the town, where some years ago a people came who had no country and no flag. In the school there, the largest in the town, there is not now the name of a Yankee or a son of Erin on the registers. The children of the Polish settlers are being educated as Americans there. Their voices you have just heard in sweet notes of welcome. Not more than a few days ago a flag was raised at the school and the voices of the 125 children were in a sincere salute of the national colors; "I give my head, my heart, my hand to God and my country; one country, one language, one flag". Long line of American ancestry does not always mean sincere loyalty to American institutions. And now Governor Robert's on behalf of the officers of the town and the people of the town I extend to you a liberty to go where you please, do what you please and have what you please in the old town. No matter how well the brooks are posted, we extend to you the liberty of our fields and woods whenever you choose to come. You will never be a trespasser in Burlington.

Governor Roberts in responding said that he had enjoyed his visit to the town. This was the first time he had been in it and he had been impressed as he rode up the hills of beauty of the country and the evident thrift of the people. The Governor said that Burlington reminded him of Brooklyn, a town he had visited several times and regarded as one of the most beautiful spots on

earth. The Governor spoke at some length of the influence of early New England character on the history of the nation and the building of national prosperity.

The school children were then called upon to furnish another song and they responded with "March on, March on".

An informal reception was then held many coming forward to meet the Governor.

Dinner was served to the Governor and invited guests in the town hall, the Governor rode as previously noted in the old Trumbull Chaise to the church where the exercises were continued at 2 o'clock. Judge John Reeve presided at the afternoon exercises.

The address of the day was delivered by Judge Epaphroditus Peck of Bristol in which he traced the history of the town from its earliest settlement to the present. The address was complete and comprehensive. It had been carefully compiled from many authentic sources and was very much appreciated by the present and former residents of the town. (To print the address would fill twenty newspaper columns. It has been published in full in pamphlet form and can be obtained at the Bristol new stores, the store of L.F. Turner at Burlington or at this office. Twenty-five cents)(10-28-1938; Judge Epaphroditus Peck, one of Bristol's most prominent citizens, died today at the Bristol Hospital. A native of Bristol, he began practicing law here in 1882 and has been actively engaged in law ever since. He represented Bristol in the state legislature for five terms but is equally well known for his research on local history and the book he wrote in 1932. He was active in many civic affairs and was an ardent member of the Congregational Church.)

Thornton Brooks of Unionville was introduced as a native of the town and spoke of personal reminiscences of men prominent in the early days of the town. His address was most interesting. Milo Leon Norton followed with the centennial poem written by him. The poem appears in another column of today's Press.

Burdette Peck of Bristol then spoke interestingly of early times in Burlington, particularly in the southern part of the town where his ancestry resided.

At this point Judge Reeve read a paper written by Constant R. Marks of Sioux City and forwarded to Mrs. Sara Bradley of Whigville. The paper was an interesting reminiscence of the writer's father, "Squire Marks". Mr. Reeve then called for remarks by any present who desired to speak. None responded and Mr. Lewis of Collinsville was introduced to deliver the closing address.

At intervals during the program the Bristol Military Band rendered concert selections from the gallery in the rear.

A meeting of the committee was held late in the afternoon. The rain was falling outside and there was no sign that it would let up. It was decided that rather than spoil the fine display of fireworks by setting them off in the rain it would be better to postpone the display until the evening of the Fourth of July and this was done.

The Old Home Week exercises were brought to a close Sunday with special services at the church. At the morning service the church was rededicated. The sermon was preached by Rev. Joel S. Ives of Hartford, secretary of the state association of Congregational churches.

At the afternoon service the church was filled, many coming from out of town. Rev. Mr. Stone pastor of the church presided and Mrs. W.P. Spellman, organist at the Prospect church rendered several selections during the service, under the direction of Mr. Spellman. The speakers at this service were Rev. Duane N. Griffin, D.D. of Hartford, Rev. P.R. Day of Hartford, Rev. George Allen of Unionville, Rev. Charles Dixon of Winsted, Rev. Lyman B. Warner of Salisbury and Rev. F.A. Holden of Shelton.

A notable feature of the celebration was the loan exhibit in the chapel of the church. Nearly 500 articles were exhibited, including a number that were shown at the time of Bristol's centennial. The exhibit was open from 9 o'clock in the morning until 5 o'clock in the evening and at all times there were people inspecting the articles. Governor Roberts was particularly interested, spending all of his spare time in the room.

## **HISTORICAL SOCIETY SEEKS TO PURCHASE RARE MUSKET**

Bristol Press, 8-10-1977, by James Klaneski

BURLINGTON: The Burlington Historical Society has organized a special drive to raise money for the purchase of a rare flintlock musket manufactured here between 1808 and 1812.

Members of the Society and community are being asked for their support in the purchase of the musket manufactured by Ethan Stillman. Stillman was one of the seventeen children, he came to Burlington in 1803 belonging to the Seventh Day Baptists community which settled in the vicinity of Covey and Lyon Road.

(He came to Farmington first with his brother Amos and had a contract for guns before 1803) Society President Lois Humphrey first became acquainted with the Stillman Musket manufacturing firm through Surveyor Merton Hodge of Unionville. According to Hodge, she said, the shop was located along the Old Turnpike Road (Route 4) just west of Lyons Road. The shop was built on the south side of the road, she said, near Bunnell Brook, and the Stillman house across the road to the north.

Burlington land records show, Mrs. Humphrey said, that Stillman owned 25 acres and a house on the north side of the road, with nine acres and a shop on the south. The old timers of Burlington, she added, remember that as recently as 50 or 60 years ago the remains of the Stillman dam were visible on Bunnell Brook where the shop once stood.

Proof that Ethan and his brother Amos belonged to the seventh Day Baptist church came from an old record book of that church dated 1796 and now in the possession of a Burlington resident. According to those records, she added, both brothers helped with the building of the Baptist church on Covey Road which was the first church ever to be organized within the Burlington town lines.

Additional proof, Mrs. Humphrey added, came from the Stillman descendants, with whom she has corresponded seeking additional information. According to family genealogical records, Mrs. Humphrey said, the Stillman's were born in and came to Burlington from Westerly Rhode Island as did the rest of the Baptist community. Ironically, however, Humphrey noted, the Stillman family was unaware that Ethan and Amos had been gun manufacturers until she told them.

During his life Ethan was married three times and had nine children. His first wife was Polly Lewis of Burlington. They were married in 1794 and had six children. Polly died in 1813 and is buried in the Seventh Day Baptist cemetery on Upson Road. In 1814 Stillman married Mehitable Teft who was born in Rhode Island. She bore him three children before her death in 1821.

### **BUILT GUN SHOP**

In 1803 Ethan built a gun shop in Burlington for the making and repairing of muskets. His first contract with the federal government had already been in 1798. Through her own research in the National Archives, Mrs. Humphrey learned that Ethan and Amos had contracted to provide arms for the militia, and that the contract was completed with the Stillman's delivering 525 Charlesville pattern muskets at a cost of \$13.75 each.

A second contract with the federal government was made by Ethan alone on September 14, 1808 following the death of his brother. At this time a new government program provided for contracts leading to the manufacture of 74,000 muskets in all.

Under this second contract Stillman agreed to supply 2,500 muskets, to be delivered to the receiver of public arms in New Haven at the rate of 500 per year for five years. Some 825 muskets are recorded to have been delivered by October 7, 1812. Mrs. Humphrey said, at a price of \$10.75 each. Those muskets were all marked on the lock plate "E.STILLMAN."

By the time of the second contract, the federal government had begun requiring all private contractors of the musket to stamp their identification mark on the lock plate in an attempt to eliminate possible manufacturing problems. According to gun expert Arcadi Gluckman, Mrs. Humphrey said, some of the muskets made under the 1798 contracts were of poor workmanship and quality. The government took steps, she added, to insure identification of the manufacturer and to also standardize the muskets for general use.

While working to complete the second contract, Stillman encountered financial difficulty and was forced to mortgage everything he owned, Mrs. Humphrey said, including his tools and materials.

All records show that Stillman only delivered 825 muskets of the 2500 for which he had contracted. (The first delivery) But Mrs. Humphrey believes that the entire contract may have eventually been filled since in 1812 Ethan was able to pay off his entire mortgage. (Later information from Mr. Stillman's diary, "I completed my contract and discharged my debts but it took my farm to do it.")

Very few of the Stillman muskets are known to have survived in their original condition, Mrs. Humphrey said. The musket on which the Historical Society now has an option is the property of a gun dealer in Cornwall, Connecticut. It has been inspected by members of the Society and was found to be in very good condition. Unlike many muskets, it has never been converted from a flintlock to percussion firing and, according to the Society president, only the ramrod and a single screw appear to have been replaced making the gun a particularly valuable piece.

The Society first learned of the musket through a gun collector in Harwinton. Robert Dailey approached Mrs. Humphrey recently inquiring about the Stillman gun shop and Mrs. Humphrey reportedly told him what she knew of the Stillman brothers and of their operations before casually mentioning that the Historical Society would be very interested in acquiring one of the muskets that had been manufactured in Burlington.

If purchased, Mrs. Humphrey said, the Stillman musket will be placed on permanent display at the Brown Elton Tavern as part of the tavern acquisition program. (The musket was purchased, and is now in the town vault, cost \$750.00.L.R.A.)

### **THE NUTMEG STATE**

Connecticut long ago was dubbed "the Nutmeg State. "But as most know, nutmeg is grown in the West Indies. So how did Connecticut, thousands of miles away, come to be known as the Nutmeg State? The link was forged by the Connecticut peddlers who sold tin ware manufactured in Connecticut and imported spices to southern homemakers. Among his goods, the Yankee peddler carried rare nutmegs imported by Connecticut merchants from the Tropics.

The southerners who purchased the nutmegs were puzzled as how to use them and tried to crack them with a hammer not realizing that the nutmegs had to be grated to get the pungent powder used in making cakes and pies. The hammer only made the nut bounce so the buyers concluded that they were made of wood. This misunderstanding led them to view the Yankee peddler as a shrewd trickster and eventually gave Connecticut the name "The Nutmeg State."

### **WOODEN NUTMEGS**

Connecticut was once known throughout the length and breadth of the land as the place where wooden nutmegs and wooden hams were made. The ham story survives only in the reminiscent moods of the elderly people. Not so with wooden nutmegs. Connecticut is now and probably ever will be the "Nutmeg State", because of the proverbial smartness of the Yankees in making wooden nutmegs and flouring them over so successfully as to deceive the people in every other portion of the globe.

It has been said that Burlington had a share in the wooden nutmeg business, and that the things were made here as successfully as anywhere, and probably in as large quantities. Certain is it that there were several turning shops in the vicinity, whose proprietors were shrewd and quick to catch an idea.

### **THE GREEN LADY CEMETERY**

In a recent issue of a monthly magazine, a story appeared in which the writer interviewed Ed and Lorraine Warren, two long time ghost hunters and investigators of reported supernatural occurrences. The story listed a number of places in Connecticut which the Warrens have investigated at one time or another. Much to the disappointment of the Warrens, the story appeared as a "where to go on Halloween" story. One of these sites listed was the Seventh Day Baptist Cemetery on Upson Road in Burlington.

In the past 30 years the cemetery has been the scene of vandalism and drinking parties which resulted in the destruction and disappearance of nearly every stone there. And all of the

vandalism seems to be the result of the very colorful and widely known legend of "The Green Lady".

According to Frank Schade, former director of the nearby New Britain Fresh Air Camp, the legend was well established as long ago as 1933, when he first joined the camp's staff. Schade remembers that during the first summer in Burlington several children asked him to tell the story of the Green Lady.

According to the Warrens, ghosts represent earthbound spirits that refuse, for a variety of reasons, to pass over to the next world. Often these spirits are the victims of violent crime or accidental death which occurred so suddenly and unexpectedly that they remain in limbo, unable to accept the turn of events.

But as far as the Green Lady legend is concerned, there is no story to tell, and no individual tragedy to which one could attribute any earth bound spirit, and the Warrens are the first to admit it. Ed doesn't believe there is any basis to the legend, and explained that if there have been actual haunting at the cemetery, they are the result of necromancy, or conjuring of spirits, by individuals interested in witchcraft. The Warrens added that on at least one of their visits to the site, they found what they consider definite indications that someone has been holding black masses in the Baptist cemetery.

Everyone who knows the legend knows that Green Lady is supposed to appear as a greenish mist of fog-like substance either rising from a grave or floating down out of the surrounding woods. And although she is usually portrayed as gentle and quiet, the story varies with the teller so that it has even been claimed that she carries a hatchet and screams at intruders.

Frank Schade attributes the popularity of the spot not only to the sensationalism of the legend but also to the loneliness of the area, to the lack of nearby houses, to the dirt road on which it stands and to the row of ancient trees which overhang the cemetery walls. The Baptist cemetery is one of the oldest in Burlington and was opened during the late 18th century, with the last burial dating back to the mid 1800's.

Several years ago when Ed and Lorraine Warren had a television show on channel 18 they began receiving numerous letters from what they consider to be reliable individuals, all claiming to have seen the Green Lady. The Warrens subsequently became interested in the site and investigated on their own. They visited the location several times and never saw or experienced anything to substantiate the claims. Lorraine Warren is widely recognized as clairvoyant. When the Warrens conduct an investigation it is Lorraine who tries to establish a contact with the spirit. In Burlington she has had no communication whatsoever and says that no other clairvoyant has either.

"It's just a story," Schade says. "This Green Lady business has been all over the state. I squelched it as much as I could. "Once when Schade visited a Boy Scout camp in Eastford he heard one boy telling another to "watch out for the Green Lady. "Katherine Gilchrist has lived on Upson Road for 32 years and in that time neither she nor her children have ever seen or heard anything which would have indicated that the cemetery was haunted. But she distinctly remembers as a girl, reading a long poem in the Cyr reader for the fourth grade about a Revolutionary War period girl who was dressed in a green ball gown and ready to attend a ball. Then word came that her lover had been killed in fighting and she died of a broken heart, according to the poet, ever after she was known to haunt the cemetery in Suffern, New York, dressed in the green gown.

Katherine is a member of the Burlington Cemetery Association, and said that the Association had at one time voted to remove the stones from the Baptist cemetery and simply store them until the 'craze' had passed. But unfortunately, someone went through one night with a sledge hammer and smashed them all before they could be removed.

So as a result, all the stones are gone including a ten foot monument. (There are three stones left-L.R.A.) Probably the only one which has survived in one piece was saved by Frank Schade, who saw some youths loading it into the back end of their station wagon one summer night. This stone, dated 1802, has recently been made a gift of the Burlington Historical Society, and will probably be replaced to its original location lying down, and set in a protective slab of cement.

Bristol Press Trader, October 27, 1976

(In 2001 L.Alderman went over to the New Britain Fresh Air Camp and requested that the stone be returned to the town. The N.B.F.A.C. were happy to oblige; is now in the basement of the library)

(Mr. Gaylord L.Paine, age 75 told me that his father told him the "Green Lady" story when he was a boy. He said that probably the story came from Ed. Spencer or his sons, Herman, Harry or Howard, all of whom lived on the Burlington, New Hartford town line. 8-6-90-L.R.A.)

(See, "Legendary CT. Traditional Tales from the Nutmeg State" by David Philips, page 253 for a fairy tale about this cemetery. "The presence of a benign and beautiful ghost haunting this cemetery in Burlington has been verified, not only by many area residents who have sighted her, but also by Ed and Lorraine Warren" -[see above] an example of how these myths attempt to change the facts!)

## **BURLINGTON POST CARDS**

June 16, 1906

The Bristol Press has issued a series of fifteen post card views for the Burlington Old Home Week celebration. The series comprises the following views of Burlington scenery.

1. The Center, the Green and the Store.
2. The Little Red School House. (Burlington Center)
3. The Rising Generation. (Scholars in front of Center School)
4. Barnes Hill. (Foot of Barnes Hill Road)
5. The Old Stone House. (East Chippins Hill Road)
6. The Simeon Hart House. (Miller Road)
7. The Jonathan Miller House. (Miller Road)
8. The Oldest House in Burlington. (Milford Street, near Hinman Lumber Yard)
9. The Katherine Gaylord Monument. (Milford Street Cemetery)
10. Johnny Cake Mountain.
11. The Calvin Sessions House. (Former house at main Fish Hatchery)
12. The Congregational Church.
13. Twilight on the River. (Route 179, near route 4)
14. The Wilkinsonville Dam. (Former dam on Clear Brook, near 179)
15. "The Man with the Hoe." (Barnes Hill Road, near Burlington Brook)

The price of the complete series is 30 cents. The post cards are on sale at Evan, Brown's or Dodge's news rooms or at Muzzy Bros. store, also at Turner's store in Burlington.

Original photographs of most of these views mounted on 8x10 card may be obtained of Gale Studio. Price 35 cents each. (I have never seen an 8x10 card.L.R.A.)

## **APPLE CIDER DISTILLERY ONCE THRIVED IN BURLINGTON**

(Bristol Press 6-29-1977)

The burnt remains of the Alderman Cider Mill and Distillery located at the intersection of Barnes Hill Road and Route 4 were recently pulled apart and carted off to make room for the building of a new home. (never built) And with the remains disappeared the last visage of a family business that flourished for 126 years.

The Alderman's started distilling sometime between 1816 and 1820 and continued doing so until 1942 with only a few years interruption. Arthur Alderman of Punch Brook Road still has in his possession a letter written by his great-grandfather, written in 1816 stating, "I built myself a cider mill." At that time, Art said, "Cider always meant hard cider".

The family's first distillery was located on Punch Brook Road from which Art says the road may have gotten its name. It was common, he added, for a portion of the cider and brandy to be spilt and enter the brook. (Clarification; after distilling brandy, the remainder was called "leaves" of no value and was drained into the brook)

Prior to the Alderman purchase of the plant on Barnes Hill Road, the buildings there were owned and operated by J.Broadbent and Sons as a textile mill, where they processed wool and cotton. The storehouse, which is now the only remaining structure of the original complex, was full of baled cotton even after the Alderman's purchased it in 1906.

The Broadbents started there in 1888 according to Alderman and operated there until 1906 when the textile mill burned down. They intended to rebuild he said but wanted the Town to give

them some sort of tax break which the Town refused to do. So the Broadbents moved to Unionville where they started anew, later to become the Myrtle Knitting Mills. The Alderman's rebuilt a mill on the old foundation where the textile mill had stood, and dug another foundation in front of it for the erection of their cider mill.

Power for the cider mill was provided by a wheelhouse that was attached to the end of the distillery building according to Art. The distillery itself, he said, didn't require power and power to the mill above was transmitted by a single endless rope.

The two ends of the endless rope were spliced together by a "long splice" and the Alderman's hired a man to make the splice whenever a new rope was purchased. (The rope had to be the right length after it was spliced) Each rope was four strands thick with a central cord. They were normally used for as long as four years before needing replacement. Once inside the cider mill the power was distributed and carried by the use of belts and shafts.

The water wheel itself, Alderman described as being "the latest thing in turbines." It was invented by C.P. Bradway of Connecticut and was installed by him and his son. "It was a very efficient little thing," Art said.

The distilling process began with horses and wagons driving to the upper door of the cider mill where their loads of apples were weighed. The wagons were weighed full and then again when empty to determine the weight of apples delivered. The apples were then dumped into a large bin where a shaft carried them up into the mill to another large bin with a capacity to store as many as eight or nine thousand bushels.

Although apples were brought in continually from area farmers, Alderman said, their quality didn't amount to much. Instead the Alderman's contracted to have apples shipped in by train from Virginia, New York, and Maine in carloads.

Each train car, Art noted, held on the average 1,200 bushels. At the peak of the season he said, the sidetracks of Burlington and Unionville stations would be full of cars of apples and the Alderman's had to work day and night making cider before the fruit had a chance to spoil.

In the mill were two presses, which worked simultaneously, both, pressing while another "cheese" was being made. As the 100-ton presses went to work, Art said, the ground apples, piled in layers called "cheeses", were compressed from a height of four feet to about 18 inches.

A pump would then carry the cider through various hoses into any tub or storage vat in the mill. The Alderman's had five tubs upstairs in the cider mill, some outside and others below in the distillery or "still house".

Cider couldn't be distilled until it had a chance to ferment in late fall. As the fermentation began, Alderman said, you could actually see it moving and turning almost violently in the tubs. The strength and degree of fermentation was measured by hydrometer and when ready the hard cider would be at an alcohol level slightly higher than beer.

The still had a capacity to hold ten barrels of cider (500 gallons) that could be "run off" in about four hours. With preparation time included, Alderman said, the actual distilling time required more like six hours. The Alderman's, by working a twenty-four hour day were able to run off two batches during the day and another two at night. (The firebox below the still took wood 4 feet long)

Once the heated cider got to boiling, the steam would rise and be channeled through a series of pipes in which it would condense. Alderman's still contained two such condensation chambers, meaning that when it finally came out, the cider which went in exited as fully processed apple brandy. (When the brandy first started running it was classified as "high wines" at nearly 200 proof, than gradually dropping to "low proof" till all the alcohol were removed from the cider)

A gauger from the Internal Revenue Service had to inspect the finished product before it could be barreled. (About 50 Gallons) The brandy had to be at a certain proof, which was measured again with the hydrometer. If the gauger found it to be either too high or too low, the Alderman's would have to make adjustments, relying on formulas kept in a book, which Art's father carried with him like "the family Bible". (If the proof was too high, over 100, than it was cut with pure water to bring the proof down. The brandy was, at that stage clear as water. Art's father would add "burnt sugar" to each barrel to make the amber color.)

When prohibition hit, Art said, they had to stop making the brandy and get rid of what they had stored. The first laws regarding prohibition, he added, didn't make mention specifically the production of cider. Consequently, the cider business became more profitable than ever. Hard cider has an alcohol content slightly higher than beer, and taverns across the state were, for a time, pumping it at their bars like beer.

The laws only restricted malted vinous, and distilled liquors, Alderman said, and although it couldn't be classified as any of the above, hard cider did contain from five to seven per cent alcohol. "If you put sweet cider in the cellar, kept it cool to ferment slowly and drew from it in April," Art said, "you had the nicest tasting cider imaginable". "But boy would that be strong." "You wouldn't want to drink more than a glass."

One year during prohibition, Art said, an apple shortage arose, "It seemed like there were no apples around at all," he added. A man from Harwinton was hired by the family to drive through Massachusetts and Connecticut in his Packard truck just to seek out and buy every apple he could find. "It got to be very discouraging to just get done for the day and hear that damned old Packard grinding up the hill piled high with apples", Art said.

When prohibition ended the Alderman's returned to the making of brandy. But by that time Art's father was getting old and the last batch of distilled cider was produced in 1942. When his father died Art sold the buildings to Denning Peasley, the present owner, who also intended to produce brandy but dropped the idea after learning of government restrictions, Art said.

### **CYDER**

We think of cider today and conjure up in our minds the picture of apples by the truckloads being brought to the mill which turns out gallons of the autumn drink. Cider is associated with fairs, suppers, Halloween and Thanksgiving in our modern times.

In the olden days cider was a stately drink. Trumbull's "Memorial History of Hartford County" says apples were once among the leading products of the soil of Hartford County and at the time of their greatest abundance cider brandy distilleries were astonishingly plentiful. Between 1819 and 1828 the number of distilleries were doubled. In 1828 only four towns in the county were without at least one and Burlington had eight.

As late as 1845 the county produced 75,000 gallons of cider brandy and nearly 300,000 gallons of gin.

The earliest record of cider making appears in the town records of Nov. 12, 1810 when it was voted "that John Griffiths have the privilege of creating a cider mill house in part on the highway north of his barn east of the road. (An early form of licensing and zoning.)

From the records of the State of Connecticut, Vol. 1, 1776-1778, it seems that the General Assembly found it necessary to take action on cider making. Whereas it is justly apprehended that the distilling of brandy from cyder will occasion a scarcity of that drink, so comfortable and useful in this state, and in a great measure deprive the inhabitants, especially of the poorer sort, of the benefit and use of cyder

Be it enacted by the Governor, Council and Representative, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, That no person or persons whatsoever within this State, shall distill any brandy or spirituous liquor of any kind from cyder at any time before the rising of the assembly in May next (On May next it was apparently necessary to confirm this action for yet another year.) on penalty that the person or persons who shall be guilty of the breach of this act and duly convicted before any court proper to try the same, forfeit fourfold the value of such cyder so distilled: one half to the treasurer of the town wherein the offense shall be committed, and the other half to the person, if a common informer, who shall prosecute the same to effect, and all informing officers are hereby directed to make due presentment of all breaches of this act, in which case the whole forfeiture shall be paid to the town treasury.

Provided nevertheless, that it shall be lawful for the civil authorities and selectmen of the several towns, to grant license in writing under their hands to the inhabitants to distill or procure to be distilled small quantities of cyder to supply their own families with such spirits only as are in their opinion absolutely necessary for their own use and consumption, taking care that no

engrosser or monopolist or other person that shall offer or give any extravagant price for such cyder, have permission for that purpose.

Further proof of the importance of cyder to the early inhabitants is the care they took in disposing of cyder casks. An early will, dated October 15, 1821 says in part, "Second, I give and bequeath unto my well beloved wife Susannah two hundred dollars in notes of hand that are collectible, the whole of my household furniture one third part of my neat cattle, horses and sheep and one third part of my cyder casks to be hers forever.

"Completing this bequest is the willing of my Scotts family Bible during her life and the use of the whole on my dwelling house and store adjoining and the use and improvement of one third of my other real estate during her life, and avails of two of my shares in the Stock of the Phoenix Bank in Hartford and the use of my chaise cutter and harness during her life.

The remaining two thirds of the cyder were left to his son.

Early diaries kept by a resident of Burlington over a period of 15-18 years, have continued reference in the fall of the year to making cyder. "The following three days were spent picking up apples then making cider again". So it seems that in most of the homes of the early residents one of the fall chores involved picking up and making cider. Not all of the apples were put into cider however, barrels of apples were put into the cellar for the winter's use.

### **HOGAN'S CIDER MILL: MAKING CIDER SINCE 1912**

Bristol Press; 9-8-1976, by James Klaneski

BURLINGTON; Apple cider, the word and the smell both bring to mind the season of fall in New England. Cider is as traditional in the Northeast as are pumpkins, county fairs and colored leaves at this time of year.

In fact, cider making was one of the earliest industries in Connecticut. It was so important in 1776-1778 that the General Assembly passed an act that no brandy or spirituous liquor of any sort be distilled from cider except in small quantities meant for home use. The act was initiated to ensure there would be a plentiful supply of the favorite drink. By 1828 there were 213 mills in Hartford County, eight of which were in Burlington. Today Burlington has but one, Hogan's.

In 1909 Patrick Hogan and his family moved to Burlington from Harwinton. He started out with 25 acres and a cow for which he had to buy hay. Then in 1912 he and his sons Morris and Richard started their cider mill, Hogan's Cider Mill, which is still owned by the Hogan's and is still turning out good cider on Johnny Cake Mountain.

In 1917 Patrick died and the two brothers took over at the farm. Originally the press was operated manually with two large screws which were turned to compress and squeeze the cider from the apples. They used 18 foot poles to get leverage enough for the pressing, and had a steam engine for grinding the apples. Later they adopted a "one lunger" as they call it or a single cycle gas engine. Then around 1930 they switched to an electric motor for grinding and hydraulics for the press.

### **PROCESS REMAINS THE SAME**

But, the basic process of cider making remains the same as it always has. Hogan's mill was built into the side of a hill. Apples are unloaded on an upper level into a large storage area, with refrigeration facilities. When it's time to press a batch of cider, crates are lined up along side an open chute. One man slowly rolls the apples down this chute where loose leaves and stems fall out and where he can inspect them visually to remove any apple with rot.

The apples then fall into another chute with the grinder inside. The grinder itself acts like a wringer on a washing machine and pulls the apples downward into its many revolving blades.

On the floor below are two workers, one on either side of the press. One worker opens the chute from upstairs allowing the ground apples to pour into a kind of mold, lined with heavy cloth. Then the cloth is folded over to completely enclose about four inches of apple and a wooden rack is laid on top. Next the mold is raised up, and another four inch layer of apples is poured.

When ten layers are poured and covered the hydraulic unit is turned on and the actual pressing begins. The cider runs out of the cloth and is collected in a tank below. In a normal press 25

bushels of apples are used to make 75 gallons of cider. The entire process takes about a half hour.

### **APPLES EARLY THIS YEAR**

The Hogan's have never had orchards of their own; they buy their apples. Some they get locally, and some they transport from as far away as Hudson, New York and western Massachusetts. As a rule their season begins around Labor Day. "We usually have to search for apples for Labor Day," Morris said. But this year the apples were early and on August 26, Hogan's delivered their first 22 cases of cider of the season. "The season is all fouled up this year," Morris said. "Ripe apples make cider that's a little bit sticky on your lips, the cider we're getting now is like the cider we usually get in late September."

With last year's apples, the Hogan's were able to continue pressing cider until June 30, 1976. So there was actually only one month this year when the mill wasn't in operation. In an average season the brothers can turn out nearly 200 gallons per hour or 50,000 gallons a year.

After the cider is pressed it's run through a filter and into refrigerated storage tanks. Wooden barrels aren't used any more because bacteria get into the wood and ferments the cider quickly. In stainless steel, which is now used, the cider can be stored for as long as a week before bottling.

According to Morris, the popularity of their cider has again been growing over the past few years. "A lot of parents would rather have their children drinking cider than soda," he said. The Hogan's sell their product by the cup at the Terryville, Bethlehem & Goshen fairs. They also sell wholesale to distributors, and by the jug right from the mill. During the fall especially, people out for Sunday drives stop in continually for gallons and half gallons to take home.

Contrary to the current trend, since 1909 the Hogan Farm has continually grown, and now includes over 500 acres. According to Morris "the only way to farm is to be diversified." During the spring the Hogan's sell strawberries which this year amounted to over 20,000 quarts. They also cut and sell firewood, and have a 65 cow dairy herd. Besides the three full time hired hands, Hogan's each year employ a number of high school age boys and girls from Harwinton, Burlington and Bristol. "Now we're hiring the grandchildren of kids who once worked for us", Morris said.

"And we are the original recyclers." Morris added proudly. "We can use drop apples so they don't go to waste, we squeeze the juice for cider so that doesn't go to waste, we feed the pulp from the apples to the cows, then we put the cow manure on the fields to grow grass, and then we feed the grass to the cows." Apple pulp is about the same as silage. It comes out of the press in flat sheets, looking like pressboard. Similarly commercial feed producers sell citrus pulp which is made from oranges and grapefruit.

"As far as I know I'm the only farmer who has to watch out for airplanes while spreading manure," Morris said. He was referring to the fact that the runway of Johnny Cake Airport is on Hogan property. Fields of corn, squash, pumpkins and alfalfa are planted all around the eastern, southern and western sides of the runway.

"I like to work," said 75 year old Morris, "I think I'd go crazy if I didn't work for two months." The same apparently goes for Richard who now is 83 still actively farms and drives for a lot of the deliveries of cider. Morris left school when he was 12 and got a job driving wagons for a charcoal burner. He was Burlington's first selectman from 1951-1955. For 41 years he served as Burlington's Republican town chairman. He served 11 terms in the House of Representatives of the State of Connecticut, eight terms representing the town and three terms representing the district. At present Morris is serving as Republican State Committeeman from the 8th district.

The Post Office at Burlington, Hartford County will be discontinued Jan. 31. After that date mail will go to Unionville. (1906) Mr. Seth Keeney Cheshire, Ct.

Burlington Post Office opened 2-1-1968. Last postman to deliver mail from Unionville was John Green. Last Burlington P.O. closed between 1907-1909.

If sunlight had to be paid for, there are people who would declare that candlelight could beat it.  
(Old newspaper clipping)

### ANNUAL REPORT 1885

Of the Selectmen and Treasurer of the Town of Burlington, for the year ending October 1st, 1885. (Excerpts)

#### OCTOBER

M.H.Sanford, support of poor in Tariffville.	\$52.00
Town of Canton, for school purposes, 17 scholars, \$5.75 per Scholar,	97.75
B.Scheidel, use of watering trough for one year,	3.00
Ellen J.Alderman, damage to sheep by dogs,	5.00

#### NOVEMBER

Alfred R.Goodrich, State Treasurer, state tax,	474.80
Alfred R.Goodrich " " commutation tax,	250.00
Johnson & Prentice, for attorney's services and fees on Schwarzmann's suit,	188.10
Arthur F.Eggleston, County Treasurer, county tax,	94.00
Turner Bros. hall rent,	20.00
Burdette A.Peck, service as box tender,	2.00
Michael Moore, irons for railing beside road,	6.50
A.N.Barnes, support of J.Millhouse 26 weeks,	52.00

#### DECEMBER

Adaline A.Bunnell, money borrowed,	500.00
A.M.Shew, support of Susan M.Gaylord to Dec. 1st. 1884,	30.88
Isaac Barnes, damage to sheep by dogs,	48.00
Geo. Schwarzmann, use of watering trough one year,	3.00
Manna Alderman, damage to sheep by dogs,	6.00
Mary Walsh, house rent, three months to Dec. 15th, 1884, for Mrs. O.Loughlin,	9.00
Jerome S.Edwards, board of Maria Thorpe & Sally Buck, 13 weeks to Dec. 20th, 1884,	52.00

#### JANUARY

M.H.Sanford, support of two paupers 13 weeks to Jan. 1, 1885,	52.00
John Nulty, 490 ft. poles at 2½cents per running ft. and work on highway,	42.34

#### APRIL

Apollos Markham, surveying Burlington and Harwinton town line,	5.75
Samuel Russell, 1,000 feet of plank,	17.00

#### JUNE

Jerome S.Edwards board of Mrs. Buck & Mrs. Thorpe, 13 weeks to June 20th, 1885,	52.00
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#### JULY

Treas. 1st school dist. support of summer school,	73.00
Treas. 9th school dist. support of summer school,	136.00
C.Bluhm, blasting rock,	5.50
Treas. school dist. No. 6, support of summer school,	97.25
" " " " 2, " " " "	105.33
Treas. 8th school dist. support of summer school,	95.55

#### AUGUST

(Support of district no. 3 & 7 summer school)

#### SEPTEMBER

Isaac Barnes, damage to sheep by dogs,	33.00
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(It was claimed that Mr. Barnes lost the same ram to dogs, every year.)

## RECAPITULATION

For schools,	2,338.81
Money borrowed, 500.00 for roads & bridges,	1,877.89
Paupers,	1,794.65
Miscellaneous,	<u>3,230.67</u>
	\$9,742.02

Selectmen; Isaac T.Rowe, Gilbert H.Holcomb, E.M.Gillard.  
Auditor; George Hinman

## ROADWORK

At one time citizens would bid to take care of a section of roads in Burlington for a year or more. Below is the copy of the agreement. (1889)

**THIS AGREEMENT**, made by and between the Town of Burlington, party of the first part, by the hands of its Selectmen, and Wilbur D. Stone as principal and as surety, party of the second part, Charles D.Scoville, Witnesseth:

That the said party of the second part agrees to make, maintain, and keep in good and sufficient repair all the Highways in said Burlington, within the limits of the 8th Highway District, and the sluices thereon which have usually been built and repaired in said Highway District, and to cut all the brush within ten (10) feet of the traveled road, for the period of three years from the date of this agreement, to the satisfaction of the Road Inspector of said Town of Burlington.

And the party of the first part, in consideration thereof, agrees to pay to the said party of the second part the sum of \$100.00 dollars annually, one-half to be paid on or before the first day of July 1889 and the remaining one-half to be paid on or before the first day of January 1890.

But no payments are to be made unless the party of the second part shall have fulfilled his part of this agreement, and unless the first Selectman shall have first certified on the back of this agreement that said Highways have been kept in repair according to its terms.

Said Highways shall be inspected by the Road Inspector appointed by the Town, between the fifteenth day of June and the first day of July, and at any other time at the request of any responsible citizen of the Town of Burlington.

If, on any such inspection, said Inspector shall find said Highways are not in sufficient repair, he shall notify the party of the second part to put them in repair within a time which he shall designate in said notice.

If the party of the second part shall not comply with the terms of the notice, the Selectmen shall cause said Highways to be put in repair, and the expense of such repairs shall be paid by the party of the second part.

The expense of the ordinary annual inspection shall be paid by the Town. If, upon complaint, the Inspector shall find that the said Highways are in sufficient repair, the cost of the inspection shall be paid by the complainant.

The expense of all other inspections made necessary by the defaults of the party of the second part, shall be borne by the party of the second part.

Wilbur D.Stone

Charles J.Scoville of Burlington signs this contract as surety for the said party of the second part, and hereby in consideration of the premises agrees to be responsible to the Town of Burlington for all default of said party of the second part, and for all dues and damages for which he may be liable to said Town of Burlington, under this contract.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the parties have hereunto set their hands in duplicate, his 6th day of April 1889. Wilbur Stone, Principal,  
Charles B.Hotchkiss, John Unity, Charles T.Scoville, Surety.

## NO DOCTORS IN BURLINGTON TO FIGHT EPIDEMIC

Hartford Courant, Feb. 5, 1920?

Burlington has an epidemic of influenza, grip and pneumonia, but there are no doctors in town. Doctors from Collinsville and Unionville have had difficulty in traveling over the six miles or more of snowbound roads, and today they were not able to reach the town at all, the drifts were so high. The town has become practically isolated. The heavy snowstorm here today is blocking the roads more and is causing alarm in the homes of the sick.

The schools are closed. The mail carrier is unable to make his rounds.

### **A CHANGE THAT WILL SAVE MANY LIVES**

Collins Company

Since coming to Burlington this correspondent has often been appalled at hearing of the many cases of "Grinder's consumption" that in past years have caused death among the residents of the Collinsville section of Burlington. Since the one product Collinsville is noted for is axes and similar products a great many of the inhabitants are grinders.

In recent years it has been noted that the cases of Grinder's consumption came under the compensating law and this decision has beyond doubt cost the Collins Company a great deal of money.

The correspondent was greatly pleased to hear recently that the Collins Company had established a new system of dry grinding which means emery wheel grinding. While the official with whom the correspondent was conversing was careful in his claims stating that the new system had not been tried long enough to state that it would entirely abolish grinders consumption it looked as if this happy result would be brought about. The United States Bureau of Standards has conducted atmosphere tests in the grinding rooms since the new system had been in operation and has stated that the atmosphere was perfectly pure and that there was not the slightest danger.

Without a doubt this desirable change was greatly hastened by the passage of the compensation law. Corporations like individuals are apt to get into ruts and need something sufficiently dynamic to arouse them. Beyond doubt any change like this benefits employer as well as employee for an experienced workman of many years is of great value to any corporation and more and more our industrial corporations realize the cost of rapid labor turnover.  
Bristol Press, Mar. 3, 1924.

### **SKETCH OF PREVAILING DISEASES IN FARMINGTON**

(Burlington?)

(From manuscripts of Gov. Treadwell)

About the year 1729, a pleurisy of a very malignant type prevailed. It selected for its victims generally, stout athletic men, in middle life; not more than a third of those attacked, recovered. This was soon after followed by a fever, often attended with putrid symptoms and delirium, called "the long fever", which was protracted from twenty to sixty days before it formed a crisis. It prevailed three successive autumns; many fell as its victims, and those who recovered, held their lives long in suspense, and recovered very slowly. This was followed by sore throat, which attacked children and young people generally and carried off some whole families of children, and among others that of Asahel Strong, Esq. This disease occurred in the autumn of 1736. This was followed by distressing and fatal attacks "of worms," of which many children died. In the spring of 1751, a malignant pleurisy, similar to that of 1729, again prevailed, and seized upon men in middle life, and of a vigorous constitution. Asahel Strong, Esq. died much lamented. In the autumn of the same year many died of the dysentery, and among them Rev. Samuel Whitman.

In 1776, the dysentery prevailed; in the course of the year there died in the first society sixty-one persons, and in 1777, forty-one persons, most of them of the dysentery.

In 1798, the dysentery again prevailed, and proved fatal to many youths and some aged people. The only variation in the diseases of the last century that is remarkable is the diminution of those that are highly inflammatory, and the increase of those occasioned by a disordered state of the bile.

In March 1808, a new and most fatal disorder appeared in this town, called "the spotted fever", and in its progress proved a terrible scourge to its people. It raged till June 1809, with a slight intermission towards the close of 1808. Within that period there were about seven hundred cases, which required medical aid, and most of the population were slightly affected; scarcely a neighborhood escaped, whatever its locality or situation. The fever attacked old and young, male and female, healthy and feeble, through most victims were young women and children. In 1808, after the month of March, there died in the first society, fifty-two, twenty-seven of whom died of the fever. In 1809 previous to the month of June, thirty-seven died, most or all of the fever. The scene was awful; no tongue can tell the distress of the inhabitants; the well were hardly sufficient to take care of the sick, who from the nature of the disease required unremitted attendance. No help could be obtained from abroad. The panic was so widely extended that for many months the roads were unoccupied; but here and there a solitary traveler was seen, flying for his life to avoid contagion. The funeral knell was silenced for fear of alarming the sick; meager funeral processions were almost daily passing silent and slow to the grave. Every one yet well apprehended hourly the attack of disease and the arrest of death.

The symptoms which attended the disease were such as indicated the decay of the vital functions and the most successful mode of practice was by the employment of stimulants, in order to sustain the action of the system till it should recover its natural tone.

The faithfulness of the people of all conditions, and especially of the young in abiding by the sick, and in cheerfully exposing themselves through fatigue and a bad air to the fatal disease, is to be mentioned with honor. The attending physicians, particularly Dr. Eli Todd and Dr. Solomon Everest, are worthy of much honor for their humane, painful and skillful services, during the whole scene of distress, and received the satisfaction of an approving conscience, and the approbation of a grateful people. The hand of God in sending the disease is to be acknowledged with profound reverence, and in removing it with lively gratitude.

This is the famous Note N. p74, Noah Porter's Historical Discourse  
(Facts Furnished by William Marks, Esq.)

It is computed that one in seven or eight deaths in Burlington are of consumption. The spotted and typhus fevers prevailed to a considerable extent thirty years since. The "canker-rash" with fever has formerly raged to an alarming extent, sweeping away whole families.

From Nov. 26, 1783 to Jan. 1809, the whole number of deaths was 470; the annual number varied from eighteen to thirty-six. From 1809 to 1836, the whole number was 530.

Elizabeth Hitchcock died in 1807, aged one hundred years and eleven months. The whole number of sudden or untimely deaths has been unusually great, sixty-six in all. Of this number forty were men, and many of them the most active in the town.

### **TREES**

Some of Cornwall's trees are reported to have been unusually large. Ezra Stiles noted in his travel journal in 1762 that Hezekiah Gold had measured a white pine "21 feet girt or 7 feet Diameter & by a quadrant the angle was taken & found 70 feet to the first timber & judged 11 Rods High. (115.5 feet) Mr. Gold had a Pine fell in his land which measured 11 Rod in length." Writing in about 1840 of Cornwall valley, Timothy Stone stated, "Short of a hundred years since this great...(basin) was covered with enormous and lofty pine trees; many of them were five feet in diameter. To clear the ground for pasture, so heavy was the forest and so dense, that woodsmen were employed to climb the tops of the trees and cut the boughs down toward the bottom, the trunks being so enormous and so thick that to level the forest any way other was to Herculean a task." (Ezra Stiles, Itineraries, manuscript vault, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale U. Vol. 1, p 608.)

### **BURLINGTON FISH HATCHERY**

Like the canal boat rides, the trolley ride was a pleasant excursion for people seeking some relaxation. One of the offerings on the trolley line was a trip to Electric Park, located where Professional Park is today, and situated on the trolley line. Declining attendance was blamed on the arrival of the automobile. In 1924, the Park closed, its pavilion building sold to the state, which moved it to Burlington for the state fish hatchery quarters.

(From "The Heritage Trail Guidebook", Farmington, Conn.-1975)

### AN ACROSTIC

Composed by the late William Henry Sr. for Old Home Week and Centennial Celebration 6-1-1906 at the age of 92 years 7 months and 11 days--the day before his death.

Beneath the Blue Canopy and twinkling stars  
Undisturbed by trains of railroad cars,  
Resting in shadows of her rocks and hills,  
Lie fertile meadows, springs, brooks and rills,  
Important for health through her domain to range.  
No trolley cars there to pick up her loose change.  
Green are her woods, her pastures fair,  
Together with berries delicious and rare,  
Oh Burlington proud of her tonic air,  
Not a doctor resides there for sick folks to care.

They Seemed to have more Lightning Storms Back Then!

### LIGHTNING STRIKES BARNES HILL.

There has been a saying in vogue for many years, that lightning does not strike in the same place, but Mrs. I. Stanley Barnes who lives near Burlington station, knows better. Lightning entered her kitchen some months ago and followed the lead pipe towards the spring house some distance and caused trouble at the time and last Friday it came in at the same place, and this time the electric discharge seemed to be heavier, as it followed the pipe all of the way to the spring 750 feet distant and melted it all the way, so that it will have to be relaid. (No date)

During the very hard thundershower which visited this town (West Avon) the 28th of June, 1900, the families of Charles I. Moses and wife, Delmore Hadsell, Mrs. Hadsell, and their two daughters, Grace & Mary were seated in a pleasant family circle. The storm raged furiously and lightning struck the west side of the sitting room, tearing off the clapboards outside, and splintering window shade, and seemed to burst like a ball of fire over their heads, filling the room with sparks of light. Part of the fluid passed across and struck the opposite side of the room at the southeast corner, tearing off the wall paper and plastering inside and clapboards outside and thence passed into the ground. The other part encircled the upper portion of the room following the border of the wall paper, knocking down pictures, blackening the gilt frames and throwing some things clear across the room. Mrs. Mary Hadsell was shocked for half an hour and Mrs. Moses hearing was much impaired. Many people have visited the house to see the lightning's ravages, and it seems almost a miracle that any of them escaped alive.

The old **Deacon Ard Hart** house is being torn down by Adrian Moses and a new one will be erected on the same grounds, which will be occupied by his hired man, Emery Frink. (About 1897)

**Adrian Moses** new house on the site of the old Buck house is now completed and Emery Frink moved into it last Friday. (1-1898)

**William More**, his daughter and son have been spending a few days with Mrs. Ulysses Brocket. They drove from Aneram lead mines, a distance of about 70 miles with a pair of four

year old colts, starting Friday morning at 7 o'clock; they arrived here at 5 o'clock the same day. (1898)

A Cobweb social was held at Mrs. Sarah Upson's last Monday evening. (1897)

Miss Rose Brockett caught a fox one day last week in a trap which she had set. She will stuff and mount it, as she is a very able taxidermist of birds and animals. (11-1887),

### **BIG WILDCAT**

1914

Oliver C. Adams of Canton, went to Hartford Monday carrying a wildcat that weighed 24 pounds. Then story that was told in the office of a newspaper in that city was that he had a trap set for woodchucks on the farm of his uncle, Charles Vining in Canton, and on Sunday morning when they went to look for the trap it was gone. A trail where it had been dragged along the ground was followed until they came to a tree and looking up into the tree they saw the trap dangling from the leg of a big wildcat. One of the party had a shotgun and the other a revolver and they opened fire on the animal and soon had it on the ground dead. The animal was taken to the market of John Pilgard and put on exhibition and arrangements were made to have it stuffed.

### **CAMP SITES**

(Bristol Press, January 28, 1924)

The current issue of the "Bristolite," the organ of the Bristol Chamber of Commerce has this to say in part: "The growing tendency of many motorists to take auto trips and use camping sites has caused this chamber to study the matter."

It is to be regretted that there is no organization in Burlington corresponding in any way to a Chamber of Commerce that can push such things in this town. It is probable that the State will do something of this sort at its new fishing preserve east of Burlington Center where it has abundant room for the purpose but there are two other sites in town that would be ideal for camping purposes and while their growth might be slow they would in time become very popular. One of these sites should be situated on an elevation near the state road running from Unionville to Collinsville and passing Burlington Station. Here is some of the finest scenery in the state overlooking a wide expanse of the Farmington River and with the new state highway completed between Collinsville and Torrington by way of Nepaug; tourists will use this route more and more.

The other site that should be developed for this purpose is Johnnycake Mountain, which is one of the two highest points in the state of Connecticut. At the right point on this mountain a tremendous sweep of vision can be obtained and with the new highway completed on the eastern side of the mountain it will be much more accessible for automobiles. If some of our sleepy New England towns had a fraction of the push of some little communities in Southern Florida or out West they could do wonders in the way of self development.

### **CHESTNUT BLIGHT IN COLLINSVILLE.**

(Hartford Courant, Aug. 6, 1913).

The chestnut blight is doing considerable damage to the trees in this vicinity this year. The dead tops of the trees affected by the blight can be seen in the woods on the hill west of the village, and they appear to be more numerous than last summer. Lumbermen in this section, especially in Nepaug, report that there are many trees dying.

The worst thing about this blight is that so far, those who have carefully it have not been able to discover any way to check its spread. The cutting and burning of the trees affected is recommended, but when this is done more trees seem to die the following year. The blight seems to be the worst in a dry season.

### **BURLINGTON MAN SERIOUSLY INJURED**

Thrown from Wagon by Trolley Car In Farmington

C.H.Johnson, a fish peddler of Burlington, was seriously injured late this afternoon when a Unionville car struck his wagon as he was crossing the track near Cedar street corner. The car struck the rear of the wagon and smashed into smithereens, throwing Johnson through the air for several feet. The shafts were forced off the wagon but the horse was uninjured. Dr. Richard Blackmore in his automobile took the injured man to the office of Dr. Stuart Phelps, where it was found that Johnson had two ribs and two fingers broken and had abrasions about his face. Johnson later was taken to his home and did not fully recover consciousness for several hours. Selectman Connelly had the wreckage removed at once. The accident was at the same place where "Spot" Kileraine was run over by a truck recently. (Hartford Courant, 11-20-?)

### **SNAKE STORY**

(1-12-1902)

A few days ago Delmore A.Hadsell, who owns and lives at the residence of the late Charles Moses, located in West Avon, noticed that the water, which came from his spring, was roily. (How did it taste?) He went to the spring and upon lifting up one of the planks which covered it saw the head of a small water snake. Saying to himself, "you are the little sinner that makes all the trouble," he lifted up another plank and saw the back of a larger one curled up out of the water. He made a dive for him with the pitchfork which he had with him, but failed to get him. Then giving a deeper sweep with his fork he threw out three good sized water snakes. Having killed these he forked for more and again brought three out. He continued the process until he had thirteen lying on the ice beside the spring. He then went to his neighbor's, Silas Daniels and borrowed a fish spear. They returned to the spring, and Mr. Daniels said: "You've got them all out of there; you won't find any more." Mr. Hadsell with a dexterous sweep of his fork brought out four more. Thus they continued with spear and fork until twenty-six water snakes were lying in a heap beside the spring. Eight of them were between three and four and a quarter feet in length, and the other eighteen were upwards of a foot long. The spring from which they came was not so large as a four bushel basket.

No one knows how so many snakes came there unless they migrated from Lilly Pond to spend the winter where the water would not freeze.

The truth of the facts here related will be gladly attested by a dozen of Mr. Hadsell's neighbors.

**Luther S.Norton**, who lives just northeast of the copper mines, while mowing in the large meadow near his house, came in contact with as large a snake as is often met about here. Mr. Norton thought it either a black snake nor adder. It measured forty-three inches in length, and six and one-half inches in circumference. An hour after it was killed he noticed life in its body which upon opening was found to contain forty-seven live snakes of equal size, and measuring nine inches in length. (1891)

Burlington Conn, Feb. 18, 1893.

Dear Editor:

We keep six cows and a horse. I must tell you what our Sunday school did at Christmas. Instead of having a Christmas tree we had a large arch covered with evergreens, and we put the presents on that. It looked very nice, and I thought it was better than a Christmas tree. I got a nice knife. I live in the country where I can slide and skate. I have a new pair of skates, and I am learning to skate on them. It has been snowing all day, and I think by tomorrow it will be good sleighing. We have all kinds of fruit, such as apples, pears, peaches, plums, cherries and berries. In summer it is nice to go fishing in the brooks and ponds. I have three sisters and no brother. I live near what is called Wild Cat Mountain. Signed Albert Case, 13 years old.

The faithfulness of a dumb brute for his master, even though the latter lay dead, was never more forcibly demonstrated than in the almost instantaneous accidental death of JEREMIAH SULLIVAN in Burlington on Saturday evening, February 27, 1909. Mr. Sullivan had been pitched

out of his carriage, sustaining a broken neck, but his large Boston bull dog guarded his body until shot down.

Mr. Sullivan lived alone on his small farm not far from Burlington Center, having only his faithful dog for a companion. Saturday evening about 6:30 o'clock he drove to the home of Michael Bank, about a mile away, and drove part way into the latter's yard. Here the two men were conversing over the sale of poultry to Sullivan, but it is understood that no satisfactory price was agreed upon and Sullivan whipped up his horse to depart. The horse started suddenly and quickly ran the front wheel into a small tree in the yard. This brought the rig to a sudden stop, and threw Sullivan a distance of ten feet. He struck his head and lay motionless.

Bank tried to get near the still form, but the bulldog had commenced his self-appointed task of guarding his aged master's body. Bank's clothing was torn and he was slightly bitten by the animal. Others soon appeared, and the dog was stoned, but this did no good. Two or three other men were slightly bitten, and the clothing of one of them torn to shreds. The dog had won temporarily and the crowd of would-be rescuers beat a retreat. A gun was finally procured and the faithful bulldog shot down close to his dead master.

Mr. Sullivan is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Eugene Curname, and a sister, Mrs. Mary Giblin, both of Unionville. The deceased was about 78 years old, and buried in Collinsville.

### **HORSE KICKED MAN**

**Michael Shamill** of Burlington, a cigar maker in that village, who is well known in the towns and villages of the Farmington Valley, where he has been in the habit of selling cigars that he makes, was driving a horse for a neighbor, that he had just had shod at Wollmann's blacksmith shop, (probably in the Center-L.R.A.) and he was not aware that the animal was a kicker. As he was going down the hill from the shop the horse kicked him but strange to say Shamill did not feel the blow, but when he attempted to get down out of the wagon the leg gave way and he found that he was in trouble. Dr. Campbell was called and found that the leg was broken just below the knee. Mr. Shamill will be confined to the house for a number of weeks. (1910)

### **TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS OF A RURAL MAIL CARRIER**

(by one of them-1904)

In giving a description of this new species of animal, I will say that, as in all other cases, there are exceptions to the rule; but I am going to deal with exceptions in this article. The rural mail carrier has neither the horns of a demon nor the wings of an angel. In many ways he resembles the people he comes in contact with on his daily rounds; that is, he likes to be accommodating, tries hard to do his duty, is anxious to please his patrons, is careful not to make mistakes and dislikes to be imposed upon. He has to invest from \$500 to \$1,000 in an outfit and work every day in the year except Sundays. He receives a salary of \$600 per annum and is governed by a set of rules formulated by some high-salaried official who in some cases has no more knowledge of how those rules can be applied to actual conditions than he has of the domestic life of Adam's mother in-law. The mail carrier strives to treat everybody right, and everybody alike, but finds it very difficult to do so.

Some people seem to think that the duty of the mail carrier is to look after their wants and to do so cheerfully and free of charge. They ask him, as a great favor, to find what Jones is paying for a cord of wood and let them know tomorrow without fail.

They expect him to find out who has pigs for sale and if Smith wouldn't loan them his gobbler. They want him to find out what the butcher is paying for calves and if the storekeeper has any medicine that he would recommend for a sick baby, and to "step" down to the express office and see if there is a package there for them, and if there is to please bring it out for them. They place letters and packages in the mail box, without stamps, with written requests upon them to deliver to parties living along the route.

Now if these people wanted to send a letter to some other town they would not expect the postmaster or clerk on the train to forward it without postage. They would not ask the express

company to carry their package free of charge, nor would they ask the telegraph companies to convey their messages without compensation; but they seem to think the rural carrier should do all this and much more without remuneration. Please do not think because he gets a salary of \$600 a year he is rolling in wealth--he is more often rolling in mud. If he is charging a few cents for his trouble and your accommodation you must not imagine that he is growing rich out of the people; because he does not receive enough pay for keeping his toe nails pared (provided he could afford such a luxury). While the mail carrier needs and appreciates all the money you give him, you should bear in mind that he has two distinct objects in charging for his service: First he wants to give thoughtful and fair-minded people a chance to have articles brought to them for one-tenth of what it would practically cost them to go after them; and, also, because he wants to keep unfair and thoughtless people from imposing upon him. If he did not charge for carrying packages, he would not have time to deliver the mails, as it would take all of his time to deliver merchandise. He would meet men coming from town with an empty wagon who would want him to bring them out a barrel of salt tomorrow.

No doubt some people think a mail carrier is "very small" if he charges them for doing them a favor. The fact of the matter is, that he is trying to keep from being mean by treating everybody alike.

In conclusion I will say that the average mail carrier takes pleasure in accommodating his patrons and only wants fair treatment in return. He certainly earns every cent of his salary, and if he had not other means of support he would be in his grave in less than a year and on his tombstone might be inscribed, "Died of starvation while in the employment of the government."

The big copper mine boiler was hauled up to the mines Thursday morning and it took six horses to get it going. It took eight horses in all. The boiler weighs eight tons and has a capacity of 100 horsepower. 12-12-1889

### **BURLINGTON**

(By E.A. Matthews, who lives just over the Burlington town line in Bristol, no date)

There's the good old town of Burlington,  
That is set among the hills.  
Whence the streams are ever flowing,  
Fed by many little rills.  
And as these streams flow outward,  
Taking water from their sources,  
To join with other waters,  
As they onward take their courses.  
So the young folks of the township  
Are very apt to roam.  
And go to other places,  
To make them selves a home.  
Now, if we take the names of those  
Who lived here long ago,  
And search the present records,  
How many of them would show.  
There were Webster's and the Soby's  
The Gillett's and the Stones,  
The Scoville's and the Hotchkiss's,  
But they nearly all are gone,  
There were Bunnell's and the Lampson's  
And Hull and Curtiss too.  
With Beach and Green and Hinman  
And of Henry's not a few.  
Now the Matthew's and the Lowrey's

And Mills and Smith and Hart,  
With Yale and Barnes and Barker,  
All surely did their part.  
Now with Norton, Pond and Moses,  
Elton and Campbell too,  
We will surely let the matter rest,  
Until you look the records through.

**WINSTED CT; Zera J.Hinman**, rural mail carrier, of Collinsville, met with an accident yesterday which nearly cost him his life. In lowering a sleigh from a loft he lost his balance and plunged head first into a section of stovepipe that was propped up in the shed.

The sharp edges of the pipe closed over his head and cut his scalp nearly half way around. It took twenty-five stitches to close the wound. (About 1915)

The flag pole on Burlington green has been spliced and repaired and last Saturday it was rededicated with suitable ceremonies. The Bristol Band was present to furnish music for the occasion and the crowd was the usual Large one. The speaker of the day was Mr. Speaker Webster of the Connecticut House of representatives. Others were Seth G.Haley, principal of the high school in Collinsville. Rev. William P.Kennedy rector of St. Patrick's church, L.S.Mills and Rev. Mr. Keeler. 1913

## **20 HOMES LOST, OTHERS DAMAGED IN BURLINGTON**

(9-1-1955)

15 houses were swept away by the Farmington River in the recent flood, Arthur J.Reeve, town clerk, reported Wednesday. 5 other homes were damaged beyond repair and a number of other structures were lost or damaged. No lives were lost, however, and no serious injuries were reported.

The most severely damaged area was along Arch Street in Collinsville, where about 14 homes were washed away, and where the railroad arch was undetermined. The upper end of the street was completely cut away, said Reeve, but repairs are being made to the lower end.

All of the residents of homes along Arch Street were warned in time to escape the rising waters which swept the houses away. This was also true down the river in the Wilkinsonville section, where two homes were washed away and three others damaged beyond repair. In this section several garages were also swept away.

The Burlington Inn was damaged beyond repair, as was the Sattler and Blum Mfg. Co. a machine shop, (Just north of the Inn on Route 179) and the Valley View Restaurant suffered some damage. (On Route 179 just south of Sand Bank Hill Road)

The day of the flood from 35 to 40 persons took refuge in the Burlington School, and for several days they and many other persons who were housed by private families were fed at the school, reported Reeve. Relatives, friends & neighbors then offered shelter to those who lost their homes.

Reeve praised the work done by the Red Cross, which has offered many relief services were under the direction of Mrs. Gunnar Persson. Miss Jewel Graves, Red Cross disaster worker, stationed in Unionville, has given advice and assistance.

Town roads and bridges were heavily damaged by washouts. Reeve said that 10 bridges were washed out or damaged beyond repair. Temporary road repairs have made nearly all roads passable again, one bridge has been replaced at Lake Garda and a state highway bridge over Bunnell Brook on Route 116 (now Route 4) west of the center will be rebuilt soon.

The route 4 bridge over the Farmington River in Unionville is now being replaced, and the approaches to the destroyed bridge in Collinsville have been filled in as preparation for the placing there of a Bailey Bridge.

The restoration of these bridges will restore easy communication with Hartford, via Unionville and Collinsville. Detours are now necessary.

(The first two bridges below the Whigville Reservoir were washed out, but not the bridges on Prospect St.)

At the request of the **Visiting Nurse Association**, a tooth brush drill has been introduced to the South Side School kindergarten class. Each morning during the play period each child will get in line with his own numbered toothbrush and go through the figures of a training drill. Many children have never seen a toothbrush and teachers hope the new cleanliness will obviate the condition causing toothache. Bristol Press, 3-1916

### **BRISTOL BRASS GIVES 35 ACRES TO BARC**

(About 1979)

The Bristol Brass Corp. has donated approximately 35 acres land on Greer Road in Burlington to the Bristol Association for Retarded Citizens.

Dr. Michael Fieri, BARC vice president, said today the association is looking to use the land for recreational and vocational purposes, such as gardening, tree farming and year-round camping.

"It is our intention," he said, "to maintain the rural aspects of the property and to be always conscious of the environment and land preservation."

He continued, "For several years our organization has envisioned developing a tract of land that would have a multi-purpose use for all handicapped people."

The property transfer was made official today and will be reviewed at BARC's next meeting.

The track was originally purchased in the 1800s by Bristol Brass. The company used the trees on the property for wood to run its furnaces, according to Fieri.

The property is still heavily wooded and Fieri said the association will have it surveyed to determine its best use. He believes part of the track could be used to produce firewood. The great demand for firewood makes it an ideal commodity to sell to public, he pointed out.

### **SESSIONS WOODS**

6-13-1980

The New York Conference of the United Methodist Church authorized its trustees to sell the 455 acre site off Route 69. The site was bought in 1957 for about \$40,000 from the James Sessions family, had been used for overnight religious retreats for various denominations and for day-camping, skiing and other activities. Valued at about one million in 1980.

1981; Last Saturday, the conference, which has owned the land for decades, voted to sell Sessions Woods to the state Department of Environmental Protection for a sum of \$646,000. Under DEP management, the land will be used as an environmental training center for conservation and forest management. It will continue to be used by church, youth and scouting groups. The Blue Trails system will continue to traverse part of the property.

By deciding to sell Sessions Woods to the DEP, the conference turned away from an offer of \$1 million initially submitted by developer John Norton, who reportedly hoped to build homes there.

The Sessions family sold Sessions Woods to the conference at a price which was well below market value. The family had only one request in making its charitable act: That the property should remain as open space. By agreeing to sell the land to DEP, the conference has ensured that the wishes of the family will continue to be heeded. That is just and proper.

### **BURLINGTON AND THE KING PHILIP WAR CONNECTION**

Carl J. Sieracki

In 1675 an Indian leader by the name of King Philip began an Indian uprising in New England when he led the Wampanoags on a raid against the town of Swansea, Rhode Island. He spread death and destruction throughout the frontier of New England. The Connecticut General Court placed the colony on alert and troops were recruited to stem the uprising. They enlisted help from

friendly Indians to be used as scouts, some were from the Tunxis tribe. For their help that lasted for a year, the Indians were each given a cloth coat. Six Tunis Indians accompanied the troops on October 6, 1675 when they went on a relief expedition to Springfield. Four of these Indians were later remembered in Connecticut. In Unionville, in the River Glenn section, there are two streets named after the scouts: Wanamesse and Woewassa. In Avon, Sepous Road was named for another (Sepoose). The fourth Indian's name is honored in Burlington. His name was Nesehegan (Nassahegan State Forest).

(Farmington in Connecticut - Christopher Bickford)

### **BURLINGTON, 1921**

(Water Supply Paper 466, United States Geological Survey)

The town has an area of 31 square miles, of which three-fourths is wooded. There are settlements at Burlington, Whigville, and Burlington Station. At Burlington there is a church and general store. The New Hartford branch of the Northampton division (Canal Road) of the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad follows the Burlington shore of Farmington River and has a station at Burlington Station. There are about 55 miles of road in the town, all of dirt construction. Many of the grades are high, and southeast of Burlington village the roads are very sandy, but elsewhere they are fairly good. The road from Burlington Station to Harwinton by way of Burlington is particularly well cared for.

The territory of Burlington was taken from Bristol in 1806 and made a new town. Burlington has suffered less loss of population than many of the towns of Connecticut highlands towns. The population in 1910 was 1,319, which is equivalent to a population density of 43 per square mile. The maximum population, 1,467, was recorded in 1810, when the town was first counted separately. The population has been held by the factories at Collinsville and Unionville, which have given employment to the people.

The principle industry of Burlington is agriculture, though many of the inhabitants work in the factories at Collinsville and Unionville.

### **POPULATION OF BURLINGTON, 1810-1990**

(Conn. State Manual)

1810 - 1,467	1850 - 1,161	1890 - 1,302	1930 - 1,082	1970 - 4,070
1820 - 1,360	1860 - 1,031	1900 - 1,218	1940 - 1,246	1980 - 5,660
1830 - 1,301	1870 - 1,319	1910 - 1,319	1950 - 1,741	1990 - 7,026
1840 - 1,201	1880 - 1,224	1920 - 1,109	1960 - 2,790	2000 - 8,190

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **Rev. Lewis Gunn**

Desiring relaxation from a strained condition, and having a curiosity to see far-famed Burlington, and to visit Rev. Lewis Gunn of that town, (formerly of this village) we started on a pilgrimage Monday, the 10th instant. Bristol Press 11-20-1873

The Societies meeting that was adjourned from the first of March until 15th of the present month meet according to adjournment. Rev. Lewis Gunn in the Chair. Voted to adjourn this meeting two weeks. March 24. Attest. John Crandal, Clerk. Burlington, March 15th, 1873.

From Methodist Record Book.L.R.A.)

We reached Barnes Station at 7:50 P.M., by our "Infallible". We learned on our arrival that the Needle Company, near the station would soon suspend business indefinitely. From thence, in a mail coach, we rode two miles over an immense acclivity, reaching the parsonage about 8:30. Unfortunately we did not see the pastor, as he was visiting some of his parishioners, and it would be impossible to find him in that sparsely settled region. We called upon his neighbor, but could elicit no tidings of his whereabouts. We brooked our disappointment with good grace, and without

a murmur. The gleam of a light from a large, antiquated house opposite the store and post-office, attracted us thither ward. We announced our approach by tapping at the back door, and were cordially invited enter by Mr. Elton. (Elton's Tavern) We made known our disappointment in not seeing Rev. Mr. Gunn, and asked for lodging, which was cheerfully granted. From Mr. and Mrs. Elton, we learned much of the history of the town, which for want of space, we cannot chronicle. This house was formerly owned by Ira Mason, (see Shaver letter) and occupied by travelers; but we heard no sign creaking on its hinges to indicate where once they flourished and are forgot.

We parted with our genial, new-made friends in the morning. They told us in parting, that if perchance we should ever again visit that place, we would always find their door open to receive us.

After thanking them for their hospitality in kindly ministering to our wants, we resumed our pilgrimage. Passing the Congregational Church, we noticed that the turret clock on the spire had ceased vibrations, no longer marked the computation of the time's flying moments. Pausing (?) lot near an ancient grave-yard we entered the resting place of the sleepers. The moss covered stones denoted great antiquity. Some were buried here in 1734. The grass-grown ground seemed to have been neglected -- on route. Some stately farms that had never" bowed beneath the woodsman's sturdy stroke". We noticed coal mounds burning, (charcoal) which reveled the necessity of using the wood for that purpose, as the inhabitants live far from markets. There are many things we note on our home route that for want of space we cannot describe. We reached this village at 3:30 P.M., after having enjoyed a brief, but delightful pilgrimage.

### **BRISTOL PRESS**

Burlington, Nov. 24, 1873

Mr. Editor:

Dear Sir; I noticed in your Forestville letter last week, the statement that the Union Needle Co., would soon suspend business indefinitely. Such is not the case. The company has not discharged any hands, nor will they, but will continue to manufacture sixty thousand needles per month, though the coming winter and spring.

The company is working on orders, nor have they been entirely filled the past year. Through the fall the company ran night and day, up to the middle of the present month, when they stopped night work.

The company is in a flourishing condition, and never was stronger than it is today. A. W. Barnum

### **THE UNION NEEDLE COMPANY**

Burlington Land Records, Vol. 12, page 469, 4-22-1854.

#### **JERRY BARNES to ABIJAH FENN & GAYLORD**

"For the purpose of erecting a mechanic shop at such place as will admit of an overshot wheel 18 feet in diameter as follows: Starting at a heap of stones at northeasterly corner of land of Rail Road Company thence go westerly to stone wall on east side of orchard, thence southerly as wall runs to heap of stones, thence easterly to land of Rail Road Company, thence northwardly to place of beginning. With privilege of keeping and building a dam across Tike Brook, or Burlington Brook, so called, a little below Punch Brook Bridge with also the privilege of making a ditch for carrying water to said premises."

(See 1855 map: "Fenn & Gaylord, Children's Fancy Carriage Factory.") This property was acquired 5-1-1873 by the Union Needle Co.

Vol. 17, page 263, 5-1-1873. George J. Hinman, of Alling & Co., to Union Needle Co. (same as above)

Vol. 17, page 315, 10-1-1874. Cromwell Barnes, as President, and S. T. Chamberlain as Secretary, of the Union Needle Company, for \$4,300 to William R. Hartigan of Barkhamsted. Now being operated as William R. Hartigan & Son by Carl Hartigan on Route 4, not far from the original sight. (1950)

### **Collector of District No. 1 Burlington.**

Tax 8½cents on list 1858.

To Ira Foote, Collector of the highway tax in District No. 1 Burlington in the County of Hartford, Greetings: By authority of the State of Connecticut you are hereby commanded to levy and collect of the persons named in the annexed (?)list herewith committed to you such are his several proportion of the sum total of such list as their is set down, it being an tax or assessment granted and agreed upon of 8½cents on list 1858 by the inhabitants of said town, to be paid in labor for the purpose of repairing the public highways therein for the year 1859. And if any person or persons shall neglect or refuse to make payment of the sum or sums whereas he or they are respectfully assessed and set in said list you are to distrain the goods or chattels of such person or persons and the same dispose of as the law direct. And for want of goods or chattels whereon to make distress, you are to take the body or bodies of such person or persons so neglecting and refusing and him or them commit unto the keeper of the goal in the County aforesaid within the said prison-who is likewise hereby commanded to receive and safely keep him or them until he or they pay and satisfy the sum or sums assessed, and also to satisfy your fees. Dated at Burlington, April 20th 1859.

Simeon Beach, Justice of the Peace.

### **FLAG DAY-1900**

Newspaper Clipping

The Flag Day exercises which were to have been held on Thursday of last week was postponed until Friday. At 1 o'clock all the schools with their teachers assembled in front of the church where a procession was formed, the scholars and teachers marching by districts. District No. 1 taking the lead and so on until all were in line. The march was then taken up headed by Rev. Mr. Seil, J. J. Hinman playing the drum. The possession then marched to the green and formed around the Liberty pole from the top of which floats one of the most magnificent flags we have seen and donated to the town by Prof. Charles F. Olney of Cleveland, Ohio. Here the children recited a poem together after which a flag drill was given by District No. 5 with Miss Annie Hinman as teacher which was well rendered and reflected much credit on their teacher. The march was then taken up to the town hall where the remainder of the exercises were held. The "Star Spangled Banner" was sung followed by an address written by Mr. Olney and read by Town Clerk, J. A. Reeve in Mr. Olney's absence. It was much regretted that he was unable to be present to take part in the exercises which he alone suggested take place. Each school then gave a separate program which showed much careful thought and patriotism on the part of the various teachers who had drilled the scholars. Short talks by Rev. Mr. Seil, Warren Bunnell, Mrs. Sarah Bradley and Mrs. James Webster of the school board followed. The singing of America and the benediction by Rev. Seil closed the exercises which will long be remembered in the history of our town as a tribute to the patriotism of Old Burlington.

### **FLAG DAY CELEBRATION**

6-14-1920

Monday morning opened with the air cool, the dust laid after the rain of Sunday, the sun shining warmly but not too warm, and a perfect day for a triple celebration on the hills of old Burlington. In November, 1899, Charles F. Olney of Cleveland, Ohio, whose wife was a Burlington woman caused to be erected on the Burlington green a flag pole and a fine flag was thrown to the breeze. June 14, 1900, the first Flag Day celebration was held on the historic old green and every year since all of the people of the town and many from surrounding towns have gathered on the hill to honor Old Glory and it can be said that Burlington seems to be the only town in the state which makes a general holiday of Flag Day.

A few years ago it was decided to have the graduation day for all the public schools of the town held in the Congregational Church during the morning hours of June 14 and it has been the custom ever since. Yesterday had an additional feature in the fact that the Memorial tablet to the

soldiers who went to the Great War from Burlington which had been ordered by vote of the citizens some time ago, was ready to be dedicated.

The people began to gather on the hill early in the day and by 9 o'clock standard time, Burlington not having adopted daylight saving time, more than a half thousand people had gathered. The New Departure Band of Bristol reached the village about 10 o'clock and the children from all of the schools of the town except Whigville where whooping cough prevails among the children, and they were not allowed to come, had assembled in front of the Congregational Church and were ready for the parade. The schools of the town as represented were Center, Miss Lucy Williams, teacher, 20 in line; Holcomb School, Miss Josephine Austin, teacher, 12 in line; Riverside District, teachers, Herbert Wilmot, Mary O'Loughlin, Ruby Hohbein, Beatrice Coe, 110 in line; No. 4 Alderman District, Miss Lessie Zimmerman, teacher, 23 in line. The parade was formed in front of the church and headed by the New Departure band marched down the west and south side of the green and back on the other side.

A prettier scene cannot be conceived of than was made by the 200 or more bright young faces as they passed in review. The girls were all dressed in white and they made a beautiful picture as they passed, each pupil bearing a small American flag. The body of the church was reserved for the children and each teacher had her flock gathered around her and the exercises called out to the platform every pupil in each school in the town and all had something to do. The exercises started off shortly after 11:30 standard time and every seat in the galleries of the old church was filled with interested friends and relatives of the pupils. L. S. Mills, supervisor of schools in Burlington, Avon, and Farmington, made a very brief address of welcome.

The second number was a flower drill by the pupils of the Alderman District. There was singing and recitations with various flowers represented and it was very pretty. The next number was "Growth of Our Flag" by Holcomb School with each pupil reciting a part which showed the growth of the flag and what it represents, from the days when it was first adopted as the national emblem. The next four numbers brought to the platform all of the members of Riverside school, 110 of them, and was very fine.

When you read of the doings of the children from Riverside School, you should remember that more than 100 of the 110 come from homes in which the English language is not spoken, and where the pupils all have to do their work without help in the home and in the school room by the assistance of teachers alone. This thought was brought out in fine form by one of the essayists in an essay which will be published next week.

In the numbers that follow, it can be said that the essay of Joseph Winalski, on school agriculture, was very practical, as he told of what he had learned and how he had applied his knowledge on garden and orchard belonging to his own home. There were four more essays, every one good and in three cases, Jennie Sawa, Susie Kozlak and Jennie Plosiewicz, not only was the subject matter of high grade, showing minds that had been well trained to think and draw deductions from what they had read, but the delivery could not have been improved on. In clear voices, well modulated, that could be heard easily in every part of the church they declaimed their essays. The last named read on "Americanization" and the subject matter was treated in better form than it has been by two thirds who have written in regard to it. Miss Ploskiewicz was given the first prize in a contest for the best essay in a Burlington school and was one of ten who competed at Wethersfield in a Hartford County contest. Her essay is to be published in the Press and Herald next week.

The numbers were: -

Concert Recitations with motions, "O See My Flag," by Center School.

"The Blue and the Gray," Lucy M. Reynolds.

"Ye Mariners of England," by Arthur B. Ceder.

Gettysburg Address by Lloyd E. Witham.

Patriotic Song by Center School.

Song-"Rainbow Fairies," by seven little girls, No. 9, 1st Primary.

Essay-"School Agriculture," by Joseph Winalski.

Flag Exercise by Riverside Second Primary.

Essay- "Olden Days and Men," by Henrietta Uliasz.  
 Song-Flag of the Free," all schools.  
 A Drill of Bright Examples, Riverside Intermediate.  
 Essay-Our School," by Jennie Sawa.  
 Song-"The Oarsmen," by Riverside Grammar.  
 Essay-"Theodore Roosevelt," by Susie Kozlak.  
 Essay-"Americanization," by Jennie Ploskiewicz.  
 Concert Recitation - "Flanders Fields," by Riverside School.  
 Concert Recitation - "Flanders Fields," by Center School - Answer.  
 Remarks by L. S. Mills, Superintendent of schools.  
 Awarding of Diplomas by A. H. Bradley.  
 Flag Salute - All Schools.  
 "Star Spangled Banner," by schools and audience.

**GRADUATES;** Center School: Arthur Ceder, Lucy Reynolds, Lloyd Witham, Holcomb School: Fiske Ventres, Riverside: Alex Gotaski, Joseph Winalski, Jennie Sawa, Henrietta Uliasz, Jennie Ploskiewicz, Susie Kozlak, John Lewandowski.

The graduating exercises were over at 12:15 and the invited guests were taken into the dining room of the church where they were given one of those dinners for which Burlington women are famous. There were at the table, Elliott Alderman, Supervisor, L.S.Mills, Comptroller, Morris C.Webster, Judge John A.Reeve, Rev. John P.Keeler, John P.Lewis of Farmington, S.B.Russell, William Hohbein, G.A.Beers and one or two others.

The school children were given ice cream and cake at the town hall and all had something to eat. There was an hour for visiting before Elliott Alderman, acting as chairman, called the assemblage to order again and from a platform erected under the spreading boughs of a big maple tree the speaking took place. Rev. William P.Kennedy, pastor of St. Patrick's Church, Collinsville, had been selected to speak on the unveiling and dedication of the beautiful memorial tablet that had been erected at the east end of the green, on which had been placed a bronze marker containing the names of forty-three young men who had gone out from Burlington to the Great War. Five of these young men laid down their lives.\*\*

### **TOWN HALL SUCCUMBS TO PROGRESS AFTER 140 YEAR EXISTENCE** (7-1958)

The old Town Hall in Burlington Center, for many years a landmark, has finally been wrecked in the path of progress. The building was originally erected on Milford Street near the Cemetery as a Methodist Church about 1816, and in the 1830's moved to the Center of the Town. When the Methodist Church membership declined to the point that the Church itself was disbanded, the building was turned over to the town for a town hall.

For many years it served as a Town Hall, for meetings, as a polling place at elections and for community affairs. It was also used as a library until the little red schoolhouse in the Center was discontinued for educational purposes. When the Consolidated School was built in 1948, the Center School was kept for a library and also as a memento of the past - a one room school.

Removal of the Old Town Hall will provide room for additional facilities in the center, such as additional parking, etc.

### **CHAPTER 3**

#### **SERMON AT CHURCH DEDICATION by**

Jonathan Miller-Jan. 25, 1809

(Below is a copy from a PAGE of Mr. Millers Dedication of church that stood at corner of G.W.T. & Belden Rd. L.R.A.)

---"place. For now I chosen & sanctified this house, that my name may be there forever, & mine eyes & my heart shall be there perpetually.

When Solomon had completed the temple, according to the directions which God commanded, he assembled the elders of Israel and the heads of the tribe, and a great congregation, & they brought up the ark of the covenant, & the tabernacle, & all the holy vessels. And at the dedication of this temple, Solomon kneeled in the presence of all the congregation upon a bronzen scaffold & made an appropriate dedicatory prayer, implored God to enter into the temple, as his resting place, & hearken unto all the prayers -- should be made with humility in that house; or which his people should make towards that house, when they were in there cities, or in captivity. And the Lord filled -- house with his glory. Afterwards he appeared to Solomon by night, & spake unto him, as in our text, excepted the house, & assured him, if from that place he wanted hear all the humble prayers & supplications that should be made unto him according to the prayer to the king.

On this joyful solemnity, when we are assembled to implore the presence of God with such as may henceforth meet together in this house for divine service, it is thought, that there is no passage of scripture more encouraging or appropriate than this text, it contains precious promises, made on an occasion somewhat similar to the present. Yet I would by no means insinuate, that this house is to hold the same place, under the Christian dispensation, as the temple of Solomon, & before that the tabernacle of Moses, held under ancient dispensation of religion.

This building is now to be solemnly dedicated to God, & consecrated for the purpose of the public religious worship of the lord our God, as its principal end. It may therefore with propriety be called a sanctuary, and an holy place. But it is not holy in that high & peculiar sense"

(End of page)

## **REVOLUTIONARY TRIALS**

Bristol Press, June 14, 1906

Portion of Dedication Sermon Delivered Nearly 100 Years Ago.

The manuscript of the dedication sermon preached by Rev. Jonathan Miller, the first pastor settled in Burlington, is still in existence on the desk before the writer, its covers brown and its pages yellow with the years of the century that is passed. (This manuscript can still be seen at the Bristol Library, but is no longer allowed to be copied; 1989-L.R.A.) Its fifty-five pages are crudely but firmly bound, the pages being about 6 1/2 X 3 1/2 inches in size. The handwriting is well preserved and can easily be read, allowing for the peculiarities of the chirography of the time.

The dedication occurred on January 25th, 1809. The subject of the sermon was "The exercises, importance and obligation of public worship," and the text was taken from II Chronicles, seventh chapter and twelfth to sixteenth verses. After his firstly, secondly, fifthly, Rev. Miller made interesting observations regarding the town under a heading appearing as "Reflections and Remarks" in the manuscript, introducing his historical survey with the words;

"But before this House shall be sanctified by prayer, let us thankfully notice the good hand of God toward us for years past in his dealings with us since we were incorporated as an Ecclesiastical Society."

Rev. Miller thus speaks of the outbreak of the Revolutionary War;

"In the year 1775 there were a small number of inhabitants scattered about in almost every quarter of the town, and being at a great distance from any place of public warship, they wished to be incorporated as an Ecclesiastical Society, that they might be accommodated among themselves; and they received a charter from the legislature for that purpose thirty-four years ago.

"Immediately, on the very next year the distressing Revolutionary War of the present United States of America, commenced. We were attacked by the fleets and armies of Great Britain and the war continued nearly eight years. This was particularly distressing to our infant settlement on account of their particular circumstances. No exemption from public taxation could be obtained in our favor; the exigencies of the country admitted of no such immunities. The inhabitants were very generally poor, and became necessarily involved in debt; and the support of their families, the clearing of their land, the erection of dwellings, fences and shelter for there cattle, demanded more than all their time and strength. Those who know the hardships of beginning a new

settlement in a wilderness, have, however, no adequate idea of the distresses of this society, for they were subject according to their poles to the same military drafts and impressments as the older settlements where houses and barns were already built, their families comfortable and their lands in good state of cultivation.

"Young men and the fathers of young families were warned by alarms and called to frequent tours of military duty, while the remainder of the families to which they belonged suffered extreme hardship, in addition to their anxiety for the safety of those who were gone to the war. The improvement of their lands on which their lives and the lives of their families depended was at a stand, and the public taxes were high. It is impossible even for our elderly people to retrace all their extremities much less can I impress an adequate idea of them upon the generations which have since arisen."

### **THE FIRST EDIFICE**

The first meeting house in Burlington was occupied in the autumn of 1783. It stood northwest of the present structure and had old fashioned pews and gallery slips, running the whole length. There was a sounding board over the pulpit, in keeping with the notions of the clergy of that period. The meeting house was used as a place of public worship twenty six years. Colonel Abraham Pettibone and Deacon Simeon Hart were on the original building committee for the church that was dedicated in 1808. The carpenters were Samuel Murray, who was a Methodist preacher in the town, (we have no record of Mr. Murray as a Burlington Methodist preacher. L.R.A.) and Elias Perkins of Bristol. The joiners who covered the house were Captain Wells and Colonel Mills of Plymouth.

### **HELPED BY THE LOTTERY**

The erection of this meeting house was begun in 1803, depending upon a lottery authorized by the legislature for assistance. The singing at the dedication was by 100 voices, under the leadership of Martin Strong of New Hartford.

### **IRON CAGE FOR MINISTER**

From January 1, 1823. until July 21, 1831, the pastorate of Mr. Miller was discontinued on account of mental wreckage. At times it was necessary to confine him in an iron cage, which was made for him expressly. The Rev. Erastus Clapp was settled as Mr. Miller's colleague January 1, 1823, and was dismissed December 10, 1828, two years before the death of his superior. Mr. Clapp died at Easthampton, Mass. March 29, 1869, at the age of 77. While Mr. Miller was still suffering from hopeless insanity the Rev. Erastus Scranton was in stalled, January 14, 1830. (Mr. Miller refused to resign, after many months of negotiation the church finally refused to pay him, but agreed to let him sit in, with an "associate" minister, Mr. Scranton.L.R.A.)

### **THE SECOND PASTOR**

The Rev. Erastus Scranton was born in Madison, August 1, 1777, and graduated from Yale in the class of 1802. His classmates included David Dudley Field, Governor Charles H.Pond of Milford and Governor Gideon Tomlinson of Fairfield. Governor Pond was elected Lieutenant governor in April 1853, and became governor on the resignation of Governor Thomas H. Seymour, who was made minister to Russia by President Pierce.

Mr. Scranton studied divinity under the Rev. Dr. John Elliott, who was his pastor and was settled at Burlington, January 2, 1830. His pastorate lasted till May 27, 1840. He became an agent of the Connecticut Bible Society and was the author of the Scranton genealogy. His wife was Mary Elizabeth Prudden of Milford. He died, October 6, 1861, at the age of 84 years.

### **MOVED THE BUILDING**

The church having diminished in numbers in 1836 the place of worship was taken down and removed to its present location. Its dimensions were made smaller than at first, but original outlines were preserved.

### **RELIGIOUS REVIVALS**

Revivals of much interest have visited the church in Burlington. In 1799, under the pastorate of the Rev. Jonathan Miller, thirty-two were added to the church and in 1800 there were twenty-three additions. Under the ministry of Dr. Miller's Colleague, the Rev. Erastus Clapp, 100 members

were added in 1824. The beginning of Mr. Scranton's ministry was signaled in 1832 by the addition of thirty-four members. The first Deacons of the old church were Simeon Hart and Joseph Osborne.

### **SOME OF THE MINISTERS**

The Rev. Calvin Butler succeeded Dr. Scranton in the pastorate and remained two years. The Rev. Samuel Moseley was the successor of Mr. Butler, being called August 23, 1843 He remained until 1847 when the Rev. William Goodwin was installed.

The Rev. J.L.Wright was settled May 7, 1848, and continued in the pastorate of the church until March 25, 1855. The Rev. Asa M.Train was installed January 7, 1856 and was succeeded by the Rev. Henry Clark, who remained until November 29, 1859. On that date the Rev. George A.Miller was ordained and assumed the duties of the pastoral office. He was dismissed, September 1, 1862, and was succeeded, October 19, of that year by the Rev. J.Morgan Smith. The Rev. H.B.Smith was called in 1863 and dismissed May 6, 1867. The Rev. Brown Emerson was occupant of the pulpit from July 1, 1867, until July 1, 1869, and the Rev. Charles Chamberlain took charge, September 1, 1871, and was dismissed December 31, 1873. The Rev. P.R.Day began the supply of the church, January 1, 1874 and discontinued his pulpit ministrations, December 31, 1878. The Rev. George Alpha Miller was born in Andover, March 3, 1831, and graduated from Wesleyan university in 1855. His settlement at Burlington was in Nov. 1859. His wife was Helen S.Wood of Syracuse, N.Y. The Rev. J.Morgan Smith, who succeeded him, was the son of the Rev. James A.Smith, and was born in Great Falls, N.H., April 26, 1833. He studied in the Hartford High School and at Andover Theological seminary. He was licensed by the Hartford Central Association. His class at Yale was that of 1854. He was a brother of James A.Smith of Hartford and nephew of Bank Commissioner S.L.Porter of Farmington, who, died a year ago.

### **AN HONOR TO THE TOWN**

The Congregational church in Burlington has furnished a number of prominent clergymen, natives of the town for the most part and reflecting great honor upon it. The Rev. Heman Humphrey, who became president of Amherst College, and the Rev. Luther Humphrey, sons of Solomon Humphrey, were both converted in the Burlington church.

In his younger days Heman Humphrey was Governor Treadwell's hired man in Farmington and had access to the governor's library. There he laid the foundations for the scholarship which he attained in subsequent life. He graduated from Yale in the class of 1805, being a classmate of the Rev. Allen McLean who was pastor of the Congregational church in Simsbury fifty years, dying at the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861. He was the father of Governor George P.McLean. Dr. Gardiner Spring, the noted New York divine who died in 1873, and Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet were also members of the class of 1805. Dr. Humphrey married Sophia Porter of Farmington, sister to President Porter, April 20, 1803. His life work was in connection with Amherst College of which he was president a number of years. He died in Pittsfield, Mass., April 3, 1861, not far from the time that the death of his classmate, Dr. McLean, occurred in Simsbury.

### **DEATH OF YOUNG PREACHER**

The Rev. Lucas Hart, son of Deacon Simeon Hart, was born in Burlington and become pastor of the church of Wolcott. He died at the age of 29. Lucas Hart was born June 5, 1784, and was educated at Morris academy. He died in East Haven October 16, 1813. His Father, Deacon Simeon, was a founder of the church and the first representative of the town of Burlington in the general assembly.

The Rev. Dr. Romeo Elton, a noted professor in Brown University, was the son of William Elton of Burlington. He held the chair of Greek and Latin languages for sixteen years and was considered one of the most educated men in New England. He died in Boston, February 5, 1870, aged 80 years. His death occurred three days after delivering an address before the New England Historical Society in Boston.

The Rev. Luther Humphrey was an able preacher in his time and was highly respected in Burlington.

## **CHURCH BELL**

"The first church bell in 1797, to the buying of which Gideon Roberts and other citizens subscribed, was cast by Isaac Doolittle and weighed about 600 pounds. It broke in 1804 and another bell, bought in Massachusetts, broke in 1808. The third bell, though not well liked, proved more sturdy. By town vote November 3, 1809, it was ordered tolled for all funerals at town expense. In 1831 it was sold to the Burlington meeting house".

(The making of Bristol, p.131)

## **OLD TOWER CLOCK STARTS STRIKING AGAIN**

The old tower clock in the Congregational Church is striking the hours once more after a lapse of several years.

The old clock was made by Elisha Hotchkiss for the Ecclesiastical Society, now the Congregational Church.

Since Hotchkiss made clocks in Burlington until the firm failed in 1837 it is safe to assume that the clock was installed prior to the time the church was moved to its present location. The building was finished for dedication purposes on the old site in 1809, and not moved to the Center until 1836, one year before Hotchkiss failed.

The clock was taken apart and restored in 1956 at the time of the Sesquicentennial by Rudolph Bodamer, Carlon Reimer and Leslie Ingram. The large wooden gears were made of wild cherry wood and originally were attached to a large block of granite for a weight to supply the power to run the clock.

This year S.E.Burr renovated the clock so that once again it operates as it was in its original state.

It is of interest to note that Elisha Hotchkiss was one of the early clock makers of Connecticut, starting about the same time that New England tin peddlers with their sales organization made possible the opportunity of disposing clocks in volume.

Hotchkiss had a factory here which was perhaps the largest manufacturing business ever carried on in town, employing 40 to 50 men manufacturing clocks, both cases and movements.

The business failed in 1837 perhaps due to a depression, but more likely due to the fact that methods off clock-making changed from a handcrafted item to a mass production process. The new process made possible clocks which could be made more easily and sold more cheaply.

## **From; BULLETIN of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WATCH and CLOCK COLLECTORS**

April 1972, page 336.

It would be reasonable to state that the number of examples of wood movement clocks with alarm features outside the plates is in short supply today, and that this indicates that originally not many were manufactured. A cursory examination of this unit used by Elisha Hotchkiss indicates a high- cost piece of equipment which could not have been produced competitively with other alarms.

## **BURLINGTON FAIR (1897)**

A Quaint Custom originated by Rev. C.H.Smith, Now of Plymouth.

The Burlington Sunday School held their annual fair in the Town hall in that town Saturday. The weather could not have been better, and a large crowd from the surrounding country gathered to enjoy the event. There were about three hundred who sat down to the tables for dinner. This dinner is a feature of the fair. The tables are spread with productions from the kitchens of comfortable Burlington homes, donated for the dinner, the proceeds of which go to the Sunday school. The originator of the fairs, the first of which was held eleven years ago, was Rev. C.H.Smith, of Plymouth, who was present Saturday. Everything exhibited was for sale, and as the premiums are small, a large sum is regularly netted for the school.

The display of vegetables was outside the hall on tables beside of the road. About two o'clock J.D.Horsfall and Rev. T.R.Day mounted the tables and auctioned off the exhibits. The scene was one of unusual interest. The tables were surrounded by groups of sturdy Burlington farmers with

their wives, and intermingling were others whose actions and dress proclaimed that they were strangers. Across the road were seated a row of young men and maidens, who seemed to take more interest in themselves than in the fair. The auction was not particularly spirited, and while everyone knew that the proceeds were for the church, not a word was spoken by the auctioneers, urging a sale on that account.

The roadway was lined on each side with teams hitched to the fences for a considerable distance and some were continually coming and going. The music was a curiosity by those who had never been to a Burlington fair before. The outside music was in charge of J.J.Hinman, a typical Yankee, and consisted solely of three drums. There were two snare drums, played by Mr. Hinman and Henry Smith of Nepaug, and one bass drum played by Ed. Spencer and several others in turn. It is surprising how much variety an artistic drummer can get out of a drum. The music is certainly not lacking in volume. Inside the hall there was a new symphony, furnished by the Wilcox & White Organ Company of Meridan, and operated by Mr. Wheatley. In the hall the different compartments were in charge of the following: Eating tables, Mrs. J.M.Webster; fancy work, Miss Annie Broadbent; candy, Mrs. F.J.Broadbent; cake, Mrs. Isaac Barnes, flowers, Mrs. C.G.Wilcox; vegetables, N.W.Bunnell

The most important event of the day was the awarding of the prizes for the handsomest babies. There were quite a number of mothers who occupied seats where each little one, the prettiest in the world to them, could meet the approving eyes of the judges. The award was made by Judge Burdette A.Peck of Bristol, as follows: First, Clarabel Case, fourteen months old daughter of Mr. & Mrs. William Case, of Collinsville; second, Edgar Kahlstrom; third, Raymond Alderman. The judges were B.A.Peck, Mrs. William Gaylord, Miss Inez Beckwith, Bristol, Jarvis Harrington and Mrs. Garrett, Collinsville.

### **ONLY NINE CHERUBS AT THE BABY SHOW**

'Twas held at Burlington up in the Hills.

Sept. 29, 1907

Sunday School fair was also an attraction. The Chicken pies were the kind that Mother made-- cart load of good things left over and these were auctioned off.

Burlington is a small town among the Hills ten miles north of Bristol and about the only things of importance beside the regular Sunday services that occur each year are the annual Flag Day exercises June 14 and the Sunday School Fair in September. The inhabitants of this old fashioned hill town look forward to these events of sociability and importance each season.

The annual Sunday school fair was held Saturday and was a howling success. A big delegation went up from Bristol and all the surrounding towns. There is a genuine hospitality in the town that is hard to beat anywhere, even in the far West, and anybody who has been "up against" one of their Flag Day dinners or Sunday School Fair chicken dinners will never forget the pleasure of the occasion. The weather was threatening Saturday but the good women of Burlington went ahead with the preparation of their chicken pies just the same. The crowd began to arrive early. One would never dream that an ordinary Sunday school fair would draw out the crowd that assembled on the Burlington Green and afterwards lined up in the town hall for dinner. The fair was started some years ago for the purpose of raising funds for the church and Sunday school and under the pastorate of Rev. Mr. Stone, a most estimable gentleman, the affairs of the society have grown to be strong and prosperous. The plan in vogue each year is for the good housewives of Burlington to contribute vast quantities of chicken pies and the people from surrounding towns drive to the little town, get their dinner in the town hall, pay the pretty waiters 25 cents and then stand around and talk about it the rest of the afternoon. Saturday there were upwards of 1,000 people who visited the town to get a taste of the chicken pies. How many were fed nobody knows, but those that attended do know that there was a steady eating contest carried on in the town hall from 12 o'clock until after 3. As fast as one installment would get their appetite appeased, another would come in, and outside the town hall the scene was much like the one obtaining in front of a Hartford theater when the sale is on for a big New York attraction. By the time the end of the line was reached and the 3 o'clock shift went on duty, there were some of the finest appetites on hand that

anybody will ever be able to witness. They all got their fill, however, and a careful inventory of the crowd showed that nobody went away hungry. The result was that the women had been so bountiful in their supply of food and other things for the entertainment of the crowd that there was nearly a cartload left. What to do with it nobody knew at the time but some of the active minds in the crowd of spectators devolved a scheme that worked out an additional sum of money for the Sunday school managers.

There were plenty in the audience who wanted to take home some of the good things left over, so Williams H. Carpenter, superintendent of the Bristol Brass Company, was selected as auctioneer and the bunch of stuff was sold in this manner. "Billy" Carpenter put the same voice in operation that he does at the rolling mill of the Bristol Brass Company, when he tries to talk above the roar of the machinery, and he made a glowing success of the job. He sold all the articles of food at a good profit and Bristol people brought home a load of good things.

The prize pumpkin, the pride of all Burlington, was bid off to assistant Manager Samuel B. Harper of the Bristol Brass Company. It was so big it took up the whole space in the front part of Mr. Harper's carriage on the trip home, and that gentleman had to hang his legs out over one side of the wagon to get himself and the pumpkin to Bristol. He also loaded up liberally with everything that was bid off and was one of the best customers of the auction. By the two methods, that of selling dinners and auctioning off the remains the Sunday school cleared several hundred dollars.

After the dinner was over the annual baby show was held in the town hall. As Burlington is a town of less than 1,000 inhabitants, the crop of babies each year is correspondingly small. The town was able to produce Saturday for the show nine smiling babies that made the best of the excitement of Burlington's big day, and muffled their cries until after the show. The babies were lined up in the town hall. The committee of judges as made up for the exhibition was as follows: T.R. Taylor of New York and Bristol, Samuel B. Harper, William H. Carpenter, Mrs. George T. Alpress, Mrs. A.F. Lincoln and Mrs. Daggett, all of Bristol. The nine that were entered each received prizes, but the winners were as follows: The prettiest baby in Burlington was Sylvia Pearl Hart; the second prettiest, Marion Webster, and the third, Mildred Tefft. Everybody seemed perfectly satisfied with the work of the committee. (Bristol Press?)

Another press release: The twenty-first annual fair of the Burlington Sunday School. Mrs. O.G. Wilcox had charge of the fancy work in a tent on the park, and Mrs. Isaac Barnes found ready sale for cakes and rye bread in the same tent. Mrs. S.K. Henry sold ice cream and Misses Anna and Harriet Hinman presided over the candy counter. The auction of fruit and vegetables was conducted by William Carpenter of Forestville. A ball game in a nearby field attracted those who were to sports inclined. It is estimated that over 400 ate dinner, many coming from surrounding towns, as well as from places many miles distant.

### **OLD HOME SUNDAY, 8-25-1912.**

"Old Home Sunday" has taken its place in the annals of old Burlington as one of the memorable events in its history. The day was all that the most sanguine anticipated and the Congregational church was taxed to its limit for seating and standing capacity. A considerable proportion of Connecticut was represented and some were present from as far away as South Dakota and Nebraska. Music, splendid music, was a leading feature of the exercises, a number of musicians of much ability taking a part. The singing of hymns by the congregation and the selections by quartet, solos, organ and cornet were all of high order and gave much pleasure and satisfaction to all.

The program illustrated and arranged under the direction of William E. Sessions, was a very artistic one and there were enough of them to give each visitor one to take home as a souvenir of the unusual occasion.

The morning service was largely attended, the sermon being preached by the Rev. C.H. Smith of Barre, Mass. His subject was "An old time virtue." Sunday school service was at 12:30, Superintendent B.B. Hinman presiding. There were recitations by the children and a pretty flag drill and songs by twelve girls that was admirably and effectively given.

For the visitors, of whom there were many, the afternoon service was one of chief interest. It is doubtful if Burlington ever before had so many teams and automobiles gathered about the church on a Sunday in its entire history. William E. Sessions of Bristol presided. On the platform with him were the pastor, Rev. J.W. Keeler, Rev. A.H. Goodenough of Stanford, Rev. W.F. White, of Norwich, Rev. Mr. Capshaw of Harwinton, Rev. Quincy Blakeley, Farmington, Rev. E.G. Richardson, Bristol, Rev. H.S. Still, Forestville, Rev. Philemon Day, West Hartford, Rev. Charles Smith, Barre, Mass., Rev. E.T. Lonnsbury of Unionville.

W.E. Sessions in opening the service said in part:-- "Ever since the "Old Home Sunday" has been planned I have looked forward to it with much interest and pleasure. Many of you know how this celebration had its birth. The people of this church with devoted effort had raised several hundred dollars as a fund to procure a much needed new organ. It became my privilege to assist in selecting and securing this very excellent and sweet-toned instrument, last winter.

Then there was a call for an organ opening or dedication day which fell on an extremely cold and wintry day in February, yet a large number were present and a delightful service enjoyed. The only regret was that so many who desired were unable to be present. I then suggested an Old Home Sunday this summer when many former residents and friends could attend. This day is the result, a union service with Mt. Hope.

We said, let the day be one of helpfulness and inspiration to the people of this church; a day when the dear ones of the other days should be remembered and honored; a day of encouragement and inspiration of those who should attend this service; a day when the two grand institutions, the church and the Sabbath should be exalted.

My interest in Burlington centers around my beloved father and mother who have gone on to the larger and fuller life, and who were born and spent their childhood in this dear old town. My father with all his brothers and sisters, attended church and Sunday school in this house, as also did my mother's brother, Charles R. Bunnell who is now here. My father would never have been a Methodist except for the seed sown here.

My Grandfather Sessions died when I was less than four years of age. He was leader of the choir for many years and also was captain of the militia. My uncle Willard Sessions was a teacher in the Sunday school for many years. My Grandmother Sessions who was a woman of good works lived until I was 13 years of age. I, with my brother and my sister who is present, spent many happy days and hours at her home, and sometimes were permitted to attend service in this church. We thought it a grand church, and it was and is. My Great Grandfather Beckwith lived to be nearly a hundred years of age. I well remember it was the joy of his life that he once said, with his naked eye, saw George Washington who spent a night in Burlington.

I was happy the other day to meet Mrs. Baldwin, the mother of your Senior Deacon, (who lives with her son on the top of Johnny Cake Mountain--a place near to heaven) who is present today, and who remembers all of my father's people.

This is not a historical day and there seemed to be no opportunity for historical addresses or papers. Judge Epaphroditus Peck of Bristol prepared a most excellent historical address at the time of Burlington's Centennial six years ago, which I have read and re-read with much interest. I have been told, however, that in some way at least two families who formerly were prominent were overlooked in making up history. One was a family by the name of Mason who were prominent in this town for many years and one the Bull family. I am sorry I have not any other facts regarding the Mason family.

Daniel Bull, Revolutionary Soldier, fifth in line from Governor Henry Bull of Rhode Island, bought his mother, Ann Bull's place in 1785. He was deacon in this church as long as he lived and his two sons were also deacons. At one time twenty two of his children and grandchildren composed the choir.

What a wonderful band of men have sprung from these hillsides. Parson Miller, pastor of this church for forty-eight years from 1783 to 1831, was a great leader and educator, and encouraged many young men to prepare for places of usefulness, and one of the great

President's of Amherest College was among them. Also from Burlington came Bishop Hamline of the Methodist Episcopal church. There also have been many business men, manufacturers and others, whose names I have not time to mention.

All of the speakers brought hearty greetings, words of appreciation and of encouragement for the future. Among the speakers were the two sons of the pastor, Rev. Mr. Keeler, one a clergyman in Nebraska and the other pastor of a church in South Dakota. Both spoke earnestly and effectively.

Quite a number of laymen also made brief addresses and spoke words of appreciation for the old town, the church and the people.

Judge Epaphroditus Peck of Bristol, who has written an excellent history of Burlington, gave an historical address. The closing remarks of a most appropriate nature were by the Rev. Dr. Goodenough.

Much credit is due to all who took part and especially to those who planned and carried to a successful consummation the varied and completed program of exercises and who did so much hard work to make it the success it was.

The prevailing note of all the addresses was that of inspiration and hope. All felt that the occasion meant much to the church and its congregation as well as to the people of the entire town, for it brought from the outside world practical assurances to them of remembrance, of good will, of appreciation and a desire and determination to lend a helpful hand as opportunity offered.

Attention was called to the magnificent manhood and womanhood that has had its birth in old Burlington and of the wide and helpful influence that has gone out from there and from the church. The spiritual exaltation was pronounced and significant and will remain with the people there for many a day.

A large bouquet of American beauty roses that graced the communion table was the gift of Charles H. Sessions of Los Angeles, Cal., and Fannie Sessions Case of Cleveland, Ohio, in memory of their father, the late Samuel Washburn Sessions of Cleveland, O., a son of Calvin and Lydia Sessions of Burlington.

The pleasing decorations of the church and the chapel were the work of the ladies of Burlington and spoke eloquently of their good taste.

Following this service Rev. and Mrs. Keeler held a reception, it being their golden wedding anniversary.

Mr. and Mrs. Keeler were the recipients of congratulations, good wishes and more material gifts from a large number of people. The church was prettily decorated for the occasion, which was also a home family reunion, their three sons, Rev. Ernest M. Keeler of Butte, Nebraska, Rev. Azra Keeler of Watertown, South Dakota, and Edward Keeler of Indianapolis, Indiana, and a daughter, Miss Alice Keeler, all being present.

Eight young ladies acted as ushers and led the wedding march processional of Mr. and Mrs. Keeler and their families to the bar of green and gold in the ladies parlor, to the strains of Lohengren's wedding march on the organ by Professor Chandler.

A handsome gold loving cup was presented to the Rev. and Mrs. John W. Keeler, the presentation being made at the bequest and in behalf of the church by Mr. William E. Sessions with appropriate and cordial remarks. The cup contained fifty dollars in gold and the inscription read:

REV. MR. AND MRS. JOHN W. KEELER  
FROM A LOVING  
CONGREGATION  
BURLINGTON, CONNECTICUT.  
AUGUST 25  
1862-----1912.

Mr. and Mrs. John W. Keeler were married fifty years ago in Ridgefield, this State. Her maiden name was Mary C. Brush. Nearly all of their life has been spent in beneficent pastoral work in many places and they have exerted a wide and helpful influence through their Christian earnestness and activity.

They went to Burlington in 1910 expecting to retire from active work, but Mr. Keeler was persuaded to become the pastor. During their residence there Mr. and Mrs. Keeler have endeared themselves to the people of the entire community. (Hartford Courant, 8-3-1926)

**A BOOK OF RECORDS FOR THE SEVENTH DAY BAPTIST SOCIETY BRISTOL;  
COUNTY OF HARTFORD CONNECTICUT 1796**

At a meeting of the Seventh Day Baptist Society and others holden at the house of Jared Covey on the 12th day of Oct. 1796, Made choice of Dea. Amos Burdick, Moderator and Silas Covey, Clerk; Voted that the meeting be adjourned to the 9 day of November at 6 o' clock P.M. at the same place.

Having met agreeable to adjournment the Moderator being absent made choice of Elisha Covey to lead in said meeting and whereas Jared Covey presented to the meeting a deed of a piece or parcel of land laying at the south east corner of the ninth lot in the fourth division in Bristol containing about half an acre for the purpose of a public burying ground with this consideration of said Society, fencing said land and giving him the privilege of pasturing sheep on the same upon which consideration said meeting as a Society accepted the present whereas it is necessary to have a Committee to superintend the fencing said land.

Voted--that Elias Willcox be a Committee to superintend said business.

Voted--that Elisha Covey take charge of said deed and the records of said meeting.

Voted--to adjourn to the fourth Monday in Oct. Next at 6 o'clock P.M. at the house of Jared Covey.

Bristol Oct. 12th 1796

Whereas Jared Covey proposes giving half an acre of land for the purpose of a public burying place (Upson Road.L.R.A.)for the consideration of a fence being made and supported round it and the privilege of pasturing sheep on the same. We therefore whose name are undersigned do promise and agree to pass the sums annexed to our names for the purpose of fencing said land which we engage. To complete by the first day of Oct. next in witness whereof we here unto set our hand.

Elisha Covey--	0"12"0	to be pd in work	Hezekiah West-	0"12"0	do
Elias Willcox--	0"12"0	do	Silas Covey-	0" 8"0	do
Jonathan Davis--	0"12"0	do	Amos Burdick Jr.-	0" 8"0	do
Amos Stillman--	0" 8"0	do	Stephen Willcox-	0" 9"0	do
Jonathan Burdick-	0" 6"0	do	Amos Burdick-	0" 9"0	do
Asa Clark--	0" 8"	do	and timbers and rails		
Matthew Newton-	0" 8"0	do	John Crandal-	0"16"0	in rails
Benjamin Palmiter-	0" 8:0	do	Ethan Stillman-	0" 8"0	pd in work
John Lewis-	0" 8"0	do	Benjamin Lewis-	0" 8"0	do
Joshua Burdick	0" 4"0	in work	Robert Burdick-	<u>0" 4"0</u>	do
John Willcox-	0" 8"0	do	total-	L. 8" 3"0	

At a meeting of the Seventh Day Baptist Society and others holden at the house of Jared Covey on the 16th of Sept. 1797--for the purpose of appointing a Committee to superintend the business of fencing the burying ground.

Voted--that Elisha Covey preside in said meeting as moderator.

Voted--to release Elias Willcox & that Jonathan Davis be a Committee in his stead to superintend the business of fencing said burying ground.

Voted--to attend to said business on forth day(?) the 27th instant.

Voted--to have a gate of six feet wide by which to enter said burying ground. Voted--to dissolve the meeting. Silas Covey, S.C.

At a meeting of the Seventh Day Baptist Society on the 5th day of April, 1799, Bristol--For the purpose of building a Meeting House proceeded to business.

Voted--that Dea. Amos Burdick be Moderator and Jared Covey, Clerk.

Voted--to build a Meeting House the completion of which is as follows; (viz)

First--agreed to build it by a free contribution for the use of said Society.

Second--it is agreed that the Church shall have the use and prerogative of the house on the Sabbath and Church meeting day.

Third--It is agreed that any one of said Society have a right to invite anyone to preach occasionally(?) on any other day. To be built in the following manner, Viz: We whose names are underwritten, do agree to do or cause to be done that part that is annexed to our name by the time provided(?) to the part which we subscribe--

The House to be built not far from the northeast corner of Jared Coveys land, the House to be 30 feet by 24, one story high 12 feet loft?(?) (Located in triangle where Smith Road joins Covey Road.L.R.A.) Jared Covey will set up the frame by the first of May 1800. Jonathan Davis covers the roof by the first of June 1800. Dea. Amos Burdick and family will cover the (?) outside except windows and door, by the 10th of June 1800. Ethan Stillman will find the (?) window frames the first of May 1800. Amos Stillman finish the rafters by the 20th of June 1800. Asa Clark finds and sets the glass by the first of July 1800.--Benjamin Palmiter makes the door and paints the (?), 25th June, 1800.--Matthew Stillman finds nails to nail on the window frames by the first May, 1800.--Amos & Ethan Stillman finds the iron work except the nails 1st June, 1800.--Elisha Covey lays the floor by the 10th of July, 1800.

Voted--to adjourn the meeting to the 3rd Thursday of Oct. next at one o'clock P.M. at the house of Mr. Jonathan Davises. Jared Covey. S. Clerk

### **CHURCH RECORD of the METHODIST E. CHURCH, BURLINGTON.**

by the Honorable William Marks

This Church was first formed in the southwest part of the town of Burlington, (then Bristol) at or near the place known by the name of Chippins Hill some time about the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred, the writer having no dates before him to know the exact time previous to the year 1800, there had been preaching by ministers of the Methodist Episcopal Church in different neighborhoods at stated times for several years previous to this time.

From the 1800 to 1809 there was preaching by Methodist Circuit or Local Preachers as often as once in two weeks on the Sabbath, at the schoolhouse in the Southwest School District or at some dwelling house or barn or as it frequently happened in the summer season, for the want of a convenient place sufficiently large for the congregation assembled, the public preaching was in the open air in some shady grove beneath the branches of the tall oaks.

About the year 1809 a large dwelling house (called the Bunnel house) standing in the southwest school district, was by the Methodist Society fitted up for a more convenient place of public worship by shingling said dwelling and removing the partitions in the lower story between the front room, kitchen, bedroom etc. and erecting pulpit, seats & purchasing the use of the house which was done by subscription at the expense of several hundred dollars. In the dwelling house the Methodist Society enjoyed the worship of God unmolested about seven years, generally having Circuit Preachers on the Sabbath, every two weeks and Local Preachers on Prayer Meeting the remaining Sabbath with occasional Qr meeting held by the P. Elder of Rine Beck District, this Station then being on Litchfield Circuit. At this place Methodist people and those desirous of hearing Methodist Preaching came from the adjoining towns and the place of worship became too small for the accommodation of those who attended & here they sometimes had to resort to the shady orchard for Public Preaching.

In the year 1816 a New Methodist Church was erected in the same School District about one mile east of the former place of worship in the (Bunnel house) on the ground lying east of the cemetery (now part of the burying ground.L.R.A.) or burying ground on land owned by Capt. Chauncey Brooks with the privilege of occupying the ground as long as used for a Church. At the time this new church was erected near the grave yard & school house in the southwest School District in Burlington the Circuit appointments were at--Burlington, Litchfield, Middlebury,

Woodbury, Washington, Bethlehem, Waterbury, Bull's Bridge, New Preston, Kent Mountain. 1816, Nathan Bangs, Presiding Elder. Phinehas Cook, Aaron Pierce, C. Preachers.

This year a committee was appointed to consult the wishes of the Society about removing the Meeting House from its present location to near the Center of Burlington. The committee appointed at the Qr meeting Conference for that purpose were as follows: William Marks, Smith Tuttle, Billy Gaylord, Elisha Hotchkiss Jun. Jairus Thompson, Timothy Sperry Jun. Elber Smith, Jacob C. Catlin.

1835. The Methodist Episcopal Church had now stood twenty years in the location near the burying ground in the Southwest School District in the Town of Burlington and had been the only Methodist Episcopal Church where regular preaching was had on the Sabbath for some 10 or 15 miles distance, and Methodist assembled at this Church from Bristol, Plymouth, Harwinton, New Hartford and Farmington etc. with the Congregation from the North part of Burlington that used to meet in the Seventh Day Baptist Church.

Within a short time previous to the year 1835 Methodist Churches had been formed in Bristol, Farmington and Plymouth and a Church erected in Bristol which took a large share of the members living southerly from the location of the M. E. Church at the present location in the said Burlington and the Committee, before appointed called a Special Society meeting and arrangements were made as may more fully appear from Society Records and the Methodist Meeting House was taken down, removed, and rebuilt with an enlargement of projections, pillars, steeple and basement, near the Center of Burlington where it now stands in 1850, having stood in the present location about 14 years at this time, since it was removed from the location where it was first erected. The members belonging to the Methodist Episcopal Church in Burlington at the time the Church was removed from its former location in 1836 to the present location in the Center of Burlington according to the best information of the writer of these short sketches of the history of the M.E.Church and Society. (The Burlington Congregational Church was also taken down, at corner of Belden Road & George Washington Turnpike, and moved to Burlington Center in 1836, dedicated 12-14-1836. L.R.A.) Since 1800 will be found on the following pages taken from Class Books and other sources by William Marks who was requested by the Society to enter a sketch as nearly correct as could be ascertained as may more fully appear from the Society Record.

### NOTICE

The members of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Burlington and the vicinity thereof are hereby warned to attend a special Society meeting at their Meeting House in sd Town on Thursday the 19th day of March at 12 o'clock at noon for the purpose of transacting any business necessary or expedient for removing sd House near the Centre of sd Town or Society and erecting a basement story or repairing the House where it now stands or any other business proper for sd meeting. Warned at the request & by the direction of the last Quarterly Meeting Conference. Burlington, March 9th, AD 1835.

William Marks, Jairus Thompson, Society Committee.

Burlington, March 19th, 1835. Agreeable to the above notice a number of the members of the Society convened at the time and place specified in the above notice and the meeting was organized by appointing William Marks Esq. Chairman & Truman Smith, Clerk. Voted unanimously that we deem it for the benefit of the Society to remove sd Meeting House and locate it in some suitable place near the Centre of sd Town. Voted that we appoint three Trustees for the benefit of the Methodist Episcopal Society in Burlington. Voted that William Marks, Jairus Thompson & Billy Gaylord serve as those Trustees. Voted that a Committee of five be appointed to superintend the removing or contracting for removing & erecting again the above mentioned House. The men whose names follow were appointed that Committee Viz; William Marks, Jairus Thompson, Edward Fields, Billy Gaylord, William Palmiter. Voted that this meeting be adjourned until the 26th instant at 1 o'clock P. M.

Burlington 26th March AD 1835. Adjourned meeting opened according to adjournment. Voted Jairus Thompson, Clerk Pro Tem. Voted that the Building Committee contract for the removing of the House in pursuance of the vote taken on the nineteenth of March inst. At a Societys meeting of the Methodist Episcopal Church held at their Meeting House in sd Burlington. Voted Jairus Thompson, Treasurer. Voted to adjourn this meeting to the second Monday of May next at this place at one o'clock P.M.

### **EPAPHRODITUS PECK (1906)**

"The history of other churches deserves more space than we can well give to them, especially that of the Methodist church. Itinerant preachers of the Methodist church visited the town as early as 1787, and in 1788 a "class" was formed, of which Abraham Brooks was the first member. After 1800, services were held every other Sunday, at first in the south west schoolhouse, and afterward when the weather permitted out-of-doors, the schoolhouse being too small to accommodate the worshippers. "The first camp-meeting held in Burlington was held a little west of the Stone house."

In 1809, the church rented a large dwelling house near the school, called the Bunnell house, tore out the partitions so as to throw the entire first story together, and finished it with pulpit and seats. This accommodated the people till 1816, when still more room was needed, and the building now standing at the center and used as a town hall was built. It was placed east of the south cemetery; but the cemetery, which never ceases to grow though the community of the living may, has now, extended over its former site. It is said that Smith Tuttle, who used to act as a local preacher, was buried as nearly as possible under the place where the pulpit stood at the north end of this church, and that the grave of William Marks is exactly at the southern entrance; and I may add that the length indicated by these two grave-stones agrees with the actual dimensions of the building."

### **HISTORY OF ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH. BURLINGTON CONNECTICUT**

by Katherine Gilchrist (1956)

When we consider that there were two Catholic signers of the Declaration of Independence, Daniel Carroll of Maryland, and Thomas FitzSimmons of Philadelphia, it seems strange that the first Catholic Church to serve the people of Burlington was erected as late as 1852.

That some of the early settlers were of Irish descent and therefore probably Catholic, seems evident. In the region of the old copper mines, we find Skiboreen (Skibberon) Road. Skiboreen is a town in southern Ireland. An early history of Burlington contains a reference to an Irishman found frozen to death. It is probable, however, that the number of Catholics in the community was very small.

It is well known that, in its early religious history, the colony of Connecticut was Protestant in origin, sentiment, and persuasion. It is not so well known that Congregationalism was organized in town and state as an established church. Puritan membership in the established church was almost a prerequisite for the exercise of civic privileges. From the opening of the colony until 1818 there was some degree of union of church and state.

In Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, Louisiana, Florida, California, and New Mexico the earliest settlers were Catholic, but the situation in Connecticut was vastly different. Although the English settlers in Connecticut had been victims of persecution themselves, they had a very human feeling that they had found a place for themselves, and they did not welcome other religious groups.

Burlington, however, was unique in that a dissenting and irregular form of worship had been established in advance of the established Congregationalism. A colony of Seventh Day Baptists from Rhode Island came into the northern part of the town.

A petition dated 1774 states that there were about seventy-five families here, about fifty being Congregationalists a few Episcopalians and "Saturday Men", or Seventh Day Baptists.

Groups of Catholics arrived here in strange ways. One hundred years after the unsuccessful attempt, in 1651, of Reverend Gabriel Druillettes, S.J., to establish trade agreements between

Connecticut and New France, the British evacuated Nova Scotia, and a certain proportion of these French inhabitants, about four hundred in number, were distributed among fifty towns of Connecticut.

Following the Cromwellian settlement of Ireland, boatloads of Catholic Irish were deported to the colonies as indentured servants, and even in some cases, as slaves. In 1764 the Connecticut Gazette contained the following advertisement: "Just imported in the Brig Derby, a parcel of Irish servants, both men and women, to be sold cheap, by Israel Boardman of Stanford".

Irish Catholics began to migrate voluntarily to America in 1762. A look at the names of Revolutionary soldiers reveals many Irish names, many of whom were undoubtedly Catholics. The Revolution did much to make Catholicism more acceptable to the colonists. The arrival of Rochambeau's army, well disciplined, magnificent in appearance did much more. The first mass said in Connecticut was for these troops. It was held in the South Meadows, now within the region of Colt Park, by Abbe Robin, who was chaplain for these troops.

The year 1818 brought a new state constitution to Connecticut. It contained the following passage: "No preference shall be given by law to any Christian sect or mode of worship". At that time there was no Catholic church in Connecticut.

The Reverend John Carroll, Bishop of Baltimore, was at first, Bishop of the United States. Later John Louis Lefebre Cheverus served as bishop of Boston from 1810 to 1823. He was followed by Bishop Benedict Joseph Fenwick, a descendant of the Catholic founders of Maryland.

In 1828 Bishop Fenwick appointed the Reverend Robert D. Woodley to serve Connecticut and Rhode Island. The first Catholic Church in Connecticut was purchased from an Episcopalian congregation which had outgrown it. It was moved, remodeled and became Holy Trinity Church. On August 26, 1829 Bishop Fenwick appointed the Reverend Bernard Cavanaugh as first pastor. In 1835 a census taken by Bishop Fenwick accredited to Connecticut seven hundred twenty Catholics. In 1840 there were three priests, in 1850 there were nine.

Father Brady, of Hartford, found himself snowbound on a winter night in 1841, in Collinsville. In the morning he celebrated mass for the Catholics residing there. After that he visited Collinsville often, until the Reverend Luke Daly of New Britain was appointed pastor on May 9, 1849. Father Daly administered the affairs of the congregation until December 10, 1856. During his pastorate the first church was erected. It was consecrated by Bishop O'Reilly on August 12, 1852, this being the first Catholic Church in the whole Farmington Valley.

The lot for the first church was given by Peter Myers, Father Daly thought this gift very large for a man of Mr. Myers' means, but Mr. Myers replied that he came here poor, and God had blessed him with health and the capitol which enabled him to make the gift, and he wished to make it. Prominent among the first parishioners were: Peter Myers, Michael Sinott, Stephen McMahon, James Furlong, Patrick Moore, Patrick Kane, Patrick O'Loughlin, Patrick Tinnian, Walter Lambert. We are told that at the time of the celebration of the first mass in Collinsville, the population was twelve, at the dedication of the church, it was one hundred forty. The church was dedicated on August 22, 1852, by Bishop O'Reilly. On December 10, 1856 Collinsville became a parish, with Tariffville and New Hartford as dependencies.

St. Patrick's church was given its name because most of the parishioners were Irish at that time, and St. Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland.

By 1856 the church population was eleven hundred, about five hundred being of Irish descent, four hundred Canadian, one hundred German and one hundred Poles.

The first resident pastor was the Reverend Patrick O'Dwyer. He remained until 1861. After Father O'Dwyer the pastors were as follows: Reverend John Fagan from 1861 to 1868, Reverend Lawrence Walsh from 1868 to 1870, Reverend Bernard Sheridan from 1870 to 1885, Reverend Maurice Crowley from 1885 to 1889, Reverend John Quinn from 1889 to 1901, Reverend Clark from 1901 to 1912, Reverend Kennedy from 1912 to 1921, Reverend Smith from 1921 to 1938, and the Reverend John Sullivan from that time to the present.

The first church was partially destroyed by fire on March 21, 1925 and the present church built in the new location. This church has been called one of the most beautiful country churches in America. The rock was quarried in Glastonbury, Connecticut.

History of any kind is a record of People. No history of St. Patrick's church would be complete without some mention of the outstanding parishioners. One of them was Mr. John Reeve of Burlington. He came here in 1872, and was engaged in farming and the lumber business. He served his town as judge of probate for forty years, as town auditor for thirty years, in the legislature from 1887 to 1929. He also served as a member of the school board and as tax collector for many years. He was a trustee of St. Patrick's Church, and a very devout Catholic. When, in winter storms the roads were impassable, he often held services in his home. One of his daughters became a member of the Order of the Sisters of Mercy.

The Schwarzmans family was also well known, and they were also very devout Catholics. Mr. William Schwarzmans served Burlington as first selectman for twenty-five years. Over the years, the growth of the parish has been due to the work of many people, so many that there is not space to tell of them.

At present Burlington has many Catholic families, and the relationship between all religious groups is excellent. We need to remember how much of this good feeling is due to the fine example of the Catholics who preceded us.

We have celebrated one hundred years, working, worshipping together. The mass celebrating our one hundredth anniversary was an experience not soon to be forgotten.

Let us hope that the historian who continues this history, in the year 2056, will have a yet finer record of church history to make known.

(Other notes.) The windows were imported from Germany. Wood carving by J.Gregory Wiggins of Pomfort.

After the fire it was decided to move the rectory to the spot where the church stood, and the new church to be built where the rectory was, for that lot was much larger. (The Burlington, Collinsville line goes between the two buildings, so that means that now the rectory would be in Collinsville, and the church in Burlington.)

105-1 Center Cemetery Catholic Section.

October 29, 1900. St. Patrick's Church Corporation bought the following real estate from Adaline A.Bunnell of Burlington for \$20.00. North of and adjoining the Town Cemetery at Burlington Center, said piece of land is twelve rods (198 feet) in length from north to south and about eight rods (128 feet) wide from east to west containing about 96 rods (6/10th acre) of land & is bounded north, east, and west on land of the grantor and on the south by the Town Cemetery.

(Vol. 22 P. 157, Burlington Land Records)

### **THE OLD BELL (1907)**

Just up out of the village street,  
Stands the old Town Hall  
Where the Methodists used to meet  
At the sound of the old bell's call.

The Methodists built this years ago  
For a church to worship in,  
But many of them we used to know  
Have been called from this world of sin.

Some have removed and few remain  
Who remember the old bell's chime,  
As it rang throughout the whole domain  
And tolled 'twas meeting time.

But changes came to this old church,  
As they come to one and all--  
Good people left it in the lurch,

And then 'twas our "Town Hall."

And then of all the many sights  
That this Town Hall has seen,  
From shows, fairs, down to fights--  
Would frighten king and queen.

Yet, this old bell has stood it all  
With many a hard old rap;  
Telling the "Fourth" or a fire call,  
Rung by some sturdy chap.

The old Town Hall, it now must go,  
With its sorrow and its joy,  
For it's been bought as we all know  
By once a Collinsville boy.

We can't regret what he has done,  
Yet, what of this old bell?  
Must we all say, "Its race is run,"  
To go where none can tell?

It watched the laborers to and fro,  
The children going to school;  
Our loved ones pass to their beds so low,  
So lonely, dark and cool.

It won a place in many a heart,  
Too deep to ever heal  
If they should know that they must part  
From the echo of its peal.

So please, kind friends, just keep in mind,  
The sweetness of its tone,  
Tho' with dust and cobweb lined,  
Of sadness 'twould ne'er own.

### **BURLINGTON GRANITE**

Unionville, June 8, 1900. The first Congregational Church at Unionville today held a jubilee in celebration of clearing the mortgage indebtedness upon the church property.

The church building itself is Gothic architecture, built of gray granite cut out of a hill within five miles of where the church now stands, just over the town line in Burlington. (Taine Mountain, north of Woodcreek Road.L.R.A.) It is surmounted by a granite spire 105 feet in height. It was begun in 1885, the corner stone laid in August of that year. Its cost was nearly \$47,000.

### **THE BAPTIST CHURCH**

(Old Newspaper Clipping)

The first church, which was a Seventh Day Baptist, was built about two Miles north of Burlington Center the first service being held in it September 18, 1780. It was formed of nineteen members from twenty families, from Westerly, R.I., with Rev. Jonathan Burdick as pastor and Deacon, Elisha Stillman, Elisha and Jared Covey and others as coworkers.

The church, which was of generous proportions was of the old Puritanic style with large pillars in front, low steeple and was painted white. Over the minister's head was fastened a wooden

sounding board. The pews were the "fox pew" with little doors. The church was situated about an eighth of a mile north of the old Seventh Day Baptist cemetery, in the triangular plot opposite the pond, which was used for the baptisms. Probably the only person now living who remembers the old church is Miss Adaline A. Bunnell who gave information.

(See page 63) (Adaline Bunnell died 7-8-1921.L.R.A.)

#### CHAPTER 4

COPY: David F. Ransom, Architectural Historian, 33 Sunrise Hill Drive  
West Hartford, CT 16107. 203 521-2518

December 3, 1980

Mrs. Katherine C. Gilchrist  
Harwinton Road. Burlington, Ct. 06010

Dear Mrs. Gilchrist:

Thank you very much for your thoughtful letter of October 29 regarding the "Barton House." The restoration certainly demonstrates the validity of your judgment that it was worth saving.

The land records information that you kindly shared with me has been most useful. I have spent several hours in the land records and have made up a postulate sequence of ownership per copy enclosed. The entries at the bottom of page 2 are the most interesting.

You will note that under this postulate the house was built by John P. Treadwell between 1805 and 1816. Such date is consistent with the Greek Revival architectural style of the structure, and is consistent with your citation from the Jehiel Hart manuscript that "Treadwell built the house."

One aspect of the house that I find to be fascinating is its long history of relationship with community service through long ownership by two ministers and two town clerks followed by use as town offices and now as the community's bank. The house has indeed played an important role in the history of Burlington. Sincerely yours, David Ransom

#### SEQUENCE OF OWNERSHIP

##### Burlington Land Records

- 77/931 Town of Burlington to Bristol Savings Bank.
- 77/575 Town of Burlington to Bristol Savings Bank.
- 54/262 May 26, 1970. Aline W. Barton to Town of Burlington.
- 41/427 June 12, 1957. Henri M. David to Aline W. Barton.
- 41/366 February 1, 1957. Edward F. Trapp to Henri M. David.
- 38/566 June 22, 1954. Edward I. Burr and Helen B. Burr to Edward F. Trapp and Barbara B. Trapp.
- 38/382 June 2, 1952. Keith L. Thompson and Helen T. Thompson to Edward I. and Helen B. Burr.
- 38/231 April 17, 1951. Arthur J. Reeve to Keith L. and Helen T. Thompson.
- 38/123 April 5, 1944. Grace R. Carlson to Arthur J. Reeve. (Sister to brother.)
- 32/202 May 2, 1936. Certificate of Distribution per Probate Court May 2, 1936. Estate of John A. Reeve to Grace E. (Reeve) Carlson. (Father to daughter)
- 24/449 February 26, 1920. Margaret E. Trimble, Unionville, to John A. Reeve.
- 24/346 May 7, 1917. Henry E. Higgins, Bloomfield, to Margaret E. and Joseph B. Trimble, Hartford.
- 24/254 June 11, 1915. O. R. Lamphier, Canton, to Henry E. Higgins, Bloomfield.
- 24/214 October 27, 1914. Wilbur H. Hoyt to O. R. Lamphier.
- 24/152 October 10, 1913. Decatur A. Sperry and Sarah E. Sperry, Deep River, to Wilbur H. Hoyt, Canton.
- 24/145 September 5, 1913. Herbert A. Smith, Canton, to Decatur A. and Sarah E. Sperry, Deep River.
- 22/393 March 14, 1906. Franklin J. Smith to Herby A. Smith, Canton.

- 22/351 May 5, 1905. F. J. Smith sold to the town of Burlington, for \$25.00 a piece of land 18 feet by 32 feet for the purpose of a record building.
- 22/45 November 23, 1890. Flora Smith to Franklin J. Smith. ("This deed is given upon condition that the said Franklin J. Smith shall support the said Flora Smith in a comfortable and reasonable manner during her life time and to pay all funeral expense at her decease, and to pay \$60 towards a head stone for said Flora Smith and her husband Joseph Smith.")
- 19/91 November 30, 1883. Joseph Smith to Flora Smith, wife. (Land now owned in common.) ("The grantor reserves the privilege of residing on the premises during his life time. This deed is also given upon condition that the said Flora Smith is to bear one-half the expenses of the house during the life of said Joseph Smith.)
- 14/486 September 20, 1847. Isaac Barnes to Flora Smith. ("Now owned in common with Joseph Smith.)
- 17/204 May 25, 1872. Isaac Barnes for \$750 to Joseph Smith. (One-half land and one-half buildings, to be owned in common.)
- 17/196 April 16, 1872. Philemon A. Scranton and Mary (Elizabeth Prudden) Scranton, his wife, Augusta, Georgia, for \$1500 to Isaac Barnes.
- 14/286 January 13, 1866. Richard E. Rice, New Haven, for \$900 to Mary E. (T. or P.) Scranton, wife of Philemon A. Scranton of Augusta, Georgia.
- 15/278 June 19, 1863. Mary E.P. Scranton, Burlington, and Philemon A. Scranton, her husband, of Atlanta, Georgia, for \$900 to Richard A. Rice, Stanford. Burlington
- Probate Records 3/71. Distribution September 8, 1862. Mary Elizabeth Scranton (mother and widow, died March 2, 1862) to (adopted) daughter, Mary Elizabeth Scranton "all the rest and residue including piano and library." (Inference is that Mary Elizabeth Scranton, adopted daughter, married a relative, Philemon A. Scranton.)
- BPR 3/27-28 Inventory of estate of Erastus Scranton, died October 5, 1861, including "homestead." (Distribution not indexed.)
- 8/88 February 12, 1830. Erastus Clapp, New Marlborough, Berkshire County, Massachusetts, for \$900 to Erastus Scranton.
- 5-266 December 23, 1824. Sylvester Norton, Southington for \$1,200 to Erastus Clapp. (Dwelling house and barn, reserving to myself the building standing on the premises formerly occupied as a store.")
- 2/227 March 13, 1816. John Treadwell, Farmington, for \$1,400 to Sylvester Norton and Wait Lowrey. (One-half acre bounded on south by Turnpike road, Hartford to Litchfield, on the north by Litchfield Road, on east partly by Elisha Hale and partly by Norton and Lowrey [consistent with the present irregular eastern boundary], on west terminating in the angle, with dwelling house and other buildings standing thereon.)
- Bristol Land Records 9/163 April 22, 1805. Erastus Gay, Farmington, for \$750 to John P. Treadwell, Bristol. (one miduerdis mority[?]) of my store in sd Bristol being about one-half acre of land with all the buildings thereon standing which piece of land is in the form of a triangle and is bounded easterly on Lyman Richards and northerly and southerly on high ways.")
- (Abraham Pettibone, born 1751, died 11-27-1834. 1855 map of Burlington shows Mr. Pettibone living in the Burlington Center, it is not clear where.)
- Excerpt in Hart Manuscript referred to in letter concerning the Scranton house.

### MERCHANTS

**WM. RICHARDS**--He was the only Merchant in Burlington for a number of years. I believe he failed & Gay & Treadwell took the place & for a number of years they were the only Merchants in town. Treadwell built the Scranton House.

### BROWN-ELTON TAVERN

Brief History and Description, Burlington Historical Society.  
by Lois Humphrey.

On March 10, 1972 a letter came to the Burlington Historical Society from the Connecticut Historical Commission regarding the structure known as the Brown or Elton Tavern. In the WPA survey of the 1930's and again in the Connecticut Historical Commission's Historical Structures and Landmarks Survey begun in 1966 this building was included.

The house has been attributed to David Hoadley of Waterbury of Hoadley Clockmakers, the self-taught but well known architect of several churches in northeast Connecticut and New Haven. This, if documented, would give much importance to the house.

**DAVID HOADLEY** was born 4-29-1774 at Naugatuck, Ct. At age 21 in 1795 Mr. Hoadley's career was limited to general carpentry and joinery in the shop of Lemuel & James Harrison. He built the Congregational Church in Norfolk in 1813, and the Bethany Church in New Haven in 1815, the Avon Congregational Church in 1818. (from "History of Waterbury, Hoadley Genealogy". Self taught, worked 1795-1830. Became an alcoholic, returned to Waterbury where he died. Family records have little to say about David.)

**"NORTH CHURCH**, New Haven steeple designed by David Hoadley, might qualify finest in America". News Clipping.

Architecturally it is a very fine and somewhat unusual example of a transition building on the Federal style of the late 18th or early 19th century. While the gable end faces the street, the front entry is centered and the chimneys are placed symmetrically on opposite roof slopes. The large window above the entryway, with pilasters, frieze and keystone arch is an interesting example of country style modification of the Palladian style window.

Acquired by the town in 1974 from the estate of Leone Johnson for \$32,000 and leased to the Burlington Historical Society. Funds for the initial phase of restoration came from HUD, Connecticut Historical Commission grant, Howard and Bush Foundation grant, John G. Martin, house to house campaign and volunteer labor.

Farmington Land Records indicate Hotchkiss may have purchased property in 1785 but there is no mention of a house. It was around the turn of the century when it was thought to be the property of Stephen Hotchkiss who died in 1806 and left it to his widow Mary. Both held tavern licenses from the late 18th century. On Oct. 6th, 1826 an administrator's deed from Waite Lowrey and Laura Hotchkiss, widow of Julius Hotchkiss who inherited the property, transferred the property to Ira Mason for \$970.00. Mason reportedly ran the place as a temperance tavern according to a descendant. Mason was foreclosed and Jan. 1, 1852 James F. Henderson acquired it. About 1854 Henderson sold to Romeo Elton for \$600.00 "one piece contains one acre more or less with a dwelling house, old store and other buildings thereon it". In 1858 Martha and Dennis Upson sold to Romeo Elton for \$5.00 a parcel five rods of land for the purpose of building a barn and enlarging his yard.

Oct. 4, 1890 the estate of Romeo Elton by order of the court of Probate sold to Philander Booth for \$1,000 three parcels with all the buildings thereon.

In 1921 the distribution of the estate of Philander Booth went to heirs Elizabeth Booth children, Flora Alderman, (wife of JC.) who released all rights and Inez Webster (Alderman). Mrs. Leone Johnson was the daughter of Inez Webster (Alderman) and the Society purchased the property from her estate in 1974.

A company was chartered in 1801 to lay a road from the end of Litchfield- Harwinton Turnpike, in what is now Burlington, to Hartford.

From "Farmington Town Clerk's and Their Times" comes the statement, "Famous taverns were soon established along the turnpikes. One of these was the Brownson Tavern in Burlington, 1813, with the vaulted ballroom on the second floor.

From "Old Inns of Connecticut" comes the statement, "The Turnpike from Farmington met the Litchfield-Harwinton road at Burlington, once known as West Britain". The Elton or Old Brown Inn opposite the church had it's gable front with Palladian window towards the street. The ballroom lighted by the Palladian window occupies the entire front of the second story. On the ground floor a closet with shelves and a cash drawer may have been used as a bar.

The house is a fine example of a pure Federal period building, the long center hallway, offset stairway, Palladian window, arches and one on the features of the entire building is the hand carved moldings in most of the rooms.

Seven working fireplaces enhance the structure. The kitchen fireplace is complete to beehive oven and in good working order.

## **HOUSE WAS HERE WHEN INDIAN TRAILS CROSSED TOWN**

by James Klaneski

On the corner of Upson Road and Route 4 sits a house that was built at a time when the only roads in the area were Indian trails. It may be the oldest house here, and is certainly one of the oldest, dating back to the early 1720s.

The Wyard - Gilchrist House, now owned by Katherine Gilchrist has survived for over 250 years, is now fully restored, insulated and comfortable, and is ready by all appearance to weather another 250. ("The Webster house probably is the oldest house in Burlington, before 1770". Peck Address, page 8.L.R.A.)

Burlington was a part of Farmington when in 1721 the area was first surveyed. Apparently, Mrs. Gilchrist said, there was a rush for land and John Wyard, a tax collector of Wethersfield, purchased 200 acres along with his wife Phoebe.

John died at the age of 41 and, although he left no will, the invoice of his estate shows that he left a house and 200 acres. Specifically, Mrs. Gilchrist said, the inventory listed "the buildings thereon and the labor done thereon." This she believes indicates that work on the house may not have been complete at the time.

Wyard was a wealthy man, Mrs. Gilchrist said. Records show that he once borrowed 10,000 pounds, a very significant amount for the time.

When John Wyard died, his wife Phoebe and his son John moved to Farmington where Mrs. Wyard wrote that she bought "a manshun". The son John, Mrs. Gilchrist said, wrote that he moved back to the Burlington home at the age of nine.

Still later, Seth, grandson of the original owner took over the farm. He had served in the American Revolution as a quartermaster, and returned home to teach school during the winter and farm during the summer. Seth left the home to his son's widow who in turn sold it in 1840. Since then it has passed through many hands Mrs. Gilchrist said.

Structurally, the house is similar to many homes built in the area of Essex, England. The Wyard family came from Essex, first to the Plymouth colony, and from there to Connecticut. The second floor overhangs the lower level slightly a style typical of England where on narrow streets the upper level was extended to allow for more living area.

Three fireplaces connect to a central chimney which measures 15 by 25 feet at its base. The paneling throughout is typical of old New England paneling and is not elaborate. All of the hardware in the house is original, Mrs. Gilchrist says, except for two missing pieces which they had reproduced. Most of the floors are of hard pine as is the paneling. All of the floors are original and the nails are handmade.

What was once the kitchen and now serves as a family room is interesting as it contains no less than seven doors. At the time the house was built, people absolutely believed in witches, Mrs. Gilchrist said. They also believed that a witch would not stay in a house which contained a room with seven doors.

The Gilchrist's, David and Catherine purchased the home in 1945 from a younger couple that had intended to restore it and had run out of money. The Gilchrist's moved in with two of their five children who were at the time in high school. The house had no plumbing or wiring and every wall, ceiling and floor in the place needed scraping and refinishing.

The Gilchrist's had just sold a home in North Canton and had more money to work with than did the young couple. Old homes weren't very expensive at the time Mrs. Gilchrist recalls, there were just a few people buying them up. "We were regarded as harmless but not quite straight in the head," she said.

Soon after they purchased the house, Mrs. Gilchrist enrolled in classes in restoration and decoration of old houses offered by the Connecticut State Historical Society. The classes were taught by "absolute purists" she said who were however helpful in directing the Gilchrist's through their restoration project.

All woodwork and paneling was scraped, stripped and refinished with a mixture of boiled linseed oil and turpentine. After 30 years, she said the woodwork looks as good as the day it was refinished and has required very little upkeep.

The floor's are in remarkably good condition, probably due to the fact that they have always been painted. On some of the oak boards upstairs, Mrs. Gilchrist says, the family uncovered Roman numerals used by carpenters for measuring the number of board feet.

Today the house walls are insulated and the windows covered by storm windows but the heating bill like everyone else's is going up. Mrs. Gilchrist lights a fire every evening during the fall and winter to help keep heating costs down. She says she has never regretted living in the old home, adding that she has "really enjoyed the house very much."

(Burlington Trader, 6-15-1977)

### **RENOVATION OF OLD FARM HOUSE PROVES UTILITY OF DESIGN**

(Trader, 9-22-1976)

What appears to be one of Burlington's oldest homes has been receiving a face lift for the past year or so. The house, which until recently was part of the Schuster Farm on Lyon Road, was purchased by Fiske Ventres in 1973. Originally built for Elijah Pond, the Works Project Research Program estimates the home was built in 1760.

Ironically, however, the house appears to have been prefabricated or built by numbers. According to Dick Lawton of Sturbridge, Mass., who's doing the renovation work, every beam and board in the original structure bears a stamped or carved Roman numeral which designated where it was to go.

The main carrier beams on which the house was built had a series of numbered notches in which the floor joists were set. Each joist bore a number corresponding to one on the beam. The first siding was cut one and a quarter inches thick and in varying widths. Each one of these also bore a number. Lawton feels that there was probably one master carpenter who did all the laying out of materials while others cut and assembled.

Lawton is very interested in restoring colonial homes and says he enjoys trying to figure out what the originals looked like and how they were used. He and Ventres both agree that the second floor of the Pond house was used as a hayloft.

On the opposite or north side of the house was a shed about 14 feet long and 12 feet high where livestock was kept during the winter. A door on the north allowed the hay to be dropped down into the shed. This not only made it easier to care for the animals during the winter but also helped to break the north wind and keep the house warm.

Surprisingly, the entire house including the large central chimney was built pitched one and one half inches toward the northwest. "It was no accident," he said, "although I don't know why it was built that way." He thinks that it must have had something to do with the wind, which blows from that direction. It's apparent that the house was built with a great deal of consideration and planning. It was more than a place to sleep in, and its primary purpose was functional, not decorative. The beauty of the structure lies in its simplicity.

### **ENORMOUS CENTRAL CHIMNEY**

As one enters the front entrance one is met by an enormous central chimney built with field stone hauled in from nearby pastures. The entire chimney was held together by a clay mixture which is still intact. Apparently mortar wasn't available then and the clay was dug from a nearby bank. Lawton and Ventres coated the clay with a urethane floor sealer which provides a clear flat finish, and prevents it from flaking and dropping dust about the house. The chimney is exposed on both the first and second floors. A built-in smoke house between the two floors is clearly visible.

Self sufficiency was essential for the family and led to the invention of some "conveniences" we don't even understand today. In the cellar at the base of the huge chimney is a small opening,

just big enough for someone to squeeze through. It opens to a room in which three or four people could sit comfortably. There are open shafts leading up to each of the three fireplaces above. The purpose of this room remains a mystery. Lawton thinks it may have been a hiding place for which the shafts provided air. Ventres feels that it is somehow related to the smoke house.

They have also discovered a large stone sink which was used in the kitchen and had a trough on one side that passed through the wall of the house and emptied the water outside. Ventres is considering using the sink as part of a fountain in a formal garden arrangement.

Renovation work has been going on for a year and completion is still a long way off. Ventres says he's tried to preserve the look and feel of the original house without reverting to primitivism. "I'm not interested in creating a museum of the way people lived 200 years ago. I'm doing the restoration as if the same people who built the house were still living there and had been making constant improvements. I'm sure they would have installed plumbing and electricity, for instance. I'm trying to create a rather elegant home," said Ventres.

All wires leading to the house have been run underground and a garage being added to that will resemble a carriage house. The paneling used by the original builder was very badly damaged over the years so Lawton and Ventres had to replace it all. Agathis, a rare type of pinewood, was used throughout the house for paneling, fireplace mantles and for the wide floorboards. Lawton said that agathis was the only wood they could use which had the graining and width of paneling approximate to what was originally there. He said that the wood comes from Samoa and belongs to the royal family. It is cut only once in 20 years or so. "It's a pretty wood," Lawton said, "and a nice wood to work with." The wood was left its natural color and sealed with a clear finish, followed by lemon oil which was put on by hand. Lawton says this helps to keep in natural oils and heighten the natural luster.

### **RESTORATION HAS BEEN EXPENSIVE**

According to Ventres the biggest problem so far has been "paying for it". He's spent \$60,000 for the restoration so far, which doesn't include price or his own labor. He expects to spend another \$10,000 - \$12,000 before the work is finished. He still has to put in a kitchen and bathroom and build the garage. Besides that, the whole house had to be cut away from the sills which had rotted away, and jacked up so that new sills could be set in place.

Ventres grew up in the house next door and knew from childhood that there was supposed to be a large fireplace behind the stove in the kitchen. He had also heard that there was a large central chimney, although the chimney and all three fireplaces were covered and closed up for years. The fireplace where the dining area is being built was completely bricked up. He remembers that back in 1916 it was the only house around to have a telephone and it received calls for people in the area. One day, he said, news came from the government that two brothers from a nearby farm had died of influenza at Fort Devens. He had to deliver the message to the parents. (Novotny brothers, died 9-1918. L.R.A.)

Ventres says he's not sure what will become of the house when it's finished. He says he may keep it for himself and his wife or he may sell it. Ventres, who is a developer, says he "just has too much land now" and has got to sell some of it. He owns 85 acres which surround the Pond house that are currently leased for farming. In addition he owns 300 acres and has reached a purchase agreement on 400 more on Taine Mountain.

"All I have is for sale," Ventres said, "if anyone wants to buy it and is willing to pay the price I guess the house is for sale too."

Lawton is a former resident of Unionville. He and his wife now live in Sturbridge Mass. He says he enjoys restoring old homes and has done considerable reading on the subject.

### **HART'S CORNERS HISTORIC DISTRICT**

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places effective July 8, 1987

The Hart's Corners Historic District is located at the junction of Monce and Stafford Roads in the southeast corner of Burlington. It contains approximately 70 acres on which are three farmhouses and a number of outbuildings, including two well-preserved 19th century barns, which

illustrate the development of rural historic architecture from 1794 to 1873. All three farmhouses were either occupied or built by members of the Norton and Hart families.

On the west side of Monce and Stafford Roads is the oldest farming complex in the district, the Hart Place, or Hollow Oak Farm, nearly hidden from view by mature trees and shrubbery. Because of its long association with the Hart and Norton families (nearly 180 years), the entire 66 acres including the Ernest & Ruth Hart Nature Reserve, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It includes a 1 1/2 story Colonial Cape (ca. 1794) with an extended ell. The main block and the kitchen ell, which rest on a rubble stone foundation, have plank walls sided with clapboard. A Colonial Revival-style porch was added to the south and east sides in 1911. The interior displays plain board trim and casings on the corner posts. A working farm of 66 acres until about 1960, the Hart Place also includes an attached woodshed and grain room (to the rear of the ell), two barns, a garage, and a combination chicken house and incubator cellar. The buildings of the Hart Place are surrounded by open land. Open meadows, swamp, and second growth timberland are located to the south and west.

Across the road to the northeast of the sharp intersection of Stafford Road with Monce Road, is the Franklin Norton House, a Greek Revival-style farmhouse (ca. 1850). To the south, across Stafford Road, is the 1873 George W. Hart House, a typical late 19th century farmhouse influenced by the Italianate style. The Franklin Norton House, although aluminum-sided, has retained its original 1 1/2 story ell with a porch on the west side of the gable-to- street main block. The full pediment contains a segmental-arch fixed sash common in the late Greek Revival period.

The later George W. Hart House was built in a cross-gable configuration. The projecting pavilion on the facade (west elevation) with a bay window at the first story, is flanked by open porches elaborated with brackets and foliated spandrels.

The Hart's Corners Historic District, a microcosm of Connecticut agrarian history, provides a well-preserved tangible record of the life and fortunes of the Hart family, Burlington farmers for five generations.

The oldest farm complex, the Hart Place, was built on 170 acres of land amassed by the Reverend Samuel Newell, who served briefly as a minister to New Cambridge, later Bristol. Following his death, his daughters sold his property in the historic district to Israel Barnes over a 5-year period (1790-1795). In 1794 Barnes mortgaged 56 acres with a dwelling house, establishing that the Colonial Cape-style house was built in that brief period.

David Norton (1779-1847), the great-great-grandfather of the present owner, purchased the property from Israel Barnes in 1807. Before Norton died, he willed his property to his second wife, Dolly Botsford and his children, having sold his property across the street in 1846 to his eldest son, Franklin, the great-great uncle of the present owner of the Hart Place. Franklin, also a farmer, was responsible for building the 1850 Greek Revival- style house now known as the Franklin Norton House. Approximately 54 acres west of Stafford and Monce Roads was sold to Sylvester C. Hart, (1820-1877) several years after he married Peninah Norton, David Norton's youngest daughter and only child by his second wife.

Sylvester and Peninah had five children, three of whom survived to adulthood. George W. Hart was their only son. In 1854 Sylvester purchased from Franklin Norton land described as "south of the new highway." Sylvester and his son George built the Italianate house (now called the George W. Hart House) in 1873 on three acres of that land, shortly before George's marriage to Jennie Webster. Not long after, George purchased 54 acres and cow barn west of Stafford Road from Sylvester and Peninah. This was the same 54 acres that Sylvester had bought from David Norton.

Sylvester carried on a successful farming and meat business with his son George, under the name of S. C. Hart & Son. After his death in 1877, George continued the business but met with financial reverses. The Bristol Savings Bank foreclosed his mortgage on the Italianate-style house and 54 acres, and he was forced to move back to the 1794 house.

Peninah, who had retained ownership of 40 acres east and south of Stafford Road her dower right in the old homestead and barns on six acres west of Stafford Road (where she lived with George and Jennie), had sold the properties to her daughter-in-law by 1895, who in turn conveyed them to her son Ernest in 1914. Ernest W. Hart (1878-1970) married Ruth G. Atwater (1881-

1945), a school teacher from Cheshire. By 1917 they had purchased the 1873 house, three surrounding acres, and the 54 acres west of Stafford Road. They sold the George W. Hart house in the mid-1920s but retained the 54 acres west of Stafford Road. Ernest sold the 40 acres in 1938, but retained the original homestead, where he and his wife Ruth continued to live, building up a successful poultry and baby chick hatching business. Their daughter Faye inherited the farm.  
(Summarized by Faye L. Hart, from National Register of Historic Places)

### **BRISTOL'S CENTENNIAL PROCESSION6; 17-1885**

(Excerpt) A strange object appeared in the midst of this brilliant throng, which more than the boom of guns told what all this meant, and gave to the children a revelation of their fathers. It was the two-wheeled chaise owned by Jonathan Trumbull, governor of Connecticut in 1776, and a horse forty years old last May, owned by Adna Barnes and wearing a harness of the same age, sustained the equilibrium of this masterpiece, in which rode Ralph Humphrey and Warren G. Bunnell of Burlington. The occupants of the chaise wore tall hats 100 years old, of the old white bell-crowned style. The old leather boot was fastened up, betraying in common with the top and straw-stuffed arms, the undisputed signs of age. The wheels, though clumsy and large, had been cut down to the size of the rim, and new rims, much lighter, put in place of the first.  
(From Bristol's Centennial Celebration-compiled by John Jennings)

### **SCHWARZMANN MILL**

March 12, 1807 Jacob Foot purchased  $\frac{3}{4}$  part of a piece of land together with  $\frac{3}{4}$  part of a grist mill thereon, known as Hitchcock's Mill and  $\frac{3}{4}$  of all utensils belonging to said mill. A Roger Woodford owned  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the land, mill and privileges.

Jacob Foot died insolvent June 1, 1846 and Ira Foot purchased 4 acres with gristmill for \$430. Upon Ira Foot's death his son, Shubeal Foot received the dwelling house, the mill, mill yard, tools & fixtures in said mill, race dam and water privileges belonging to said mill.

A will inventory of April 15, 1862 lists mill and mill fixtures in grist mill, saw mill, carpenter shop and water privileges. Shingle machine & fixtures, turning lathe for turning iron, planing machine, boring machine, saws, wood tenon hand splitting back augurs, planes, square ax. Mention is made of a Burkhood Saw. October 10, 1868 N.W. Millard bought from Shubeal Foot for \$3500. He was appointed attorney for Perlee Webster N.Y. to sell and convey by mortgage deed all real estate in Burlington, the farm and grist mill and saw mill formerly owned by Ira Foot April 2, 1872.

The mill then entered a confused period of mortgages and quit claim deeds. In 1884 the Schwarzmänn family entered the picture, first the father then son, the late William E. from whom the property was purchased in the estate settlement. The property has since been listed in the National Historic Registry, and has been awarded a grant towards restoration from the Connecticut Department of Tourism. The Burlington Historical Society leases the property from the town of Burlington and will oversee the restoration project. The grant from the state will cover about a third of the costs involved.

The land for Schwarzmänn Mill was purchased by Daniel Tyler in 1774. He sold it to his brother in 1781. Vol. 23, page 418-May 28, 1781. (Farm. Land Records-Katherine Gilchrist.)

### **THE ELISHA COVEY HOUSE**

That the people of this society (Seventh Day Baptists) and their direct descendants were an intelligent, well-to-do as well as religious people is shown by the fine and well-preserved buildings built by them and also the stones erected to their memory in the old cemetery. Among these buildings are the Warren Bunnell place, the first of these places to be bought by the New Britain Water Company; the Bull place, the Elisha Covey place, the Captain Upson place, the Weird place and the Crandall place. The Elisha Covey place, which is now occupied by George W. Merrill and family, and the Warren Bunnell place are two of the finest houses in this locality, the Covey house being built by Elisha Covey in 1789. In the house is a rectangular stone which was removed

from the wall above the fireplace when the chimney was built over by Mr. Merrill bearing this inscription:-- Elisha Covey, Oct. AD. 1789.

(Newspaper clipping, no date)

The Dr. Mann house, nearly opposite the Jonathan Miller house, and the one between that and the Simeon Hart house, built by Marcus Hart, were both, erected before 1800.

(Historical Address, 1906--Epaphroditus Peck)

## CHAPTER 5

### French Indian War, 1755-1757

#### **American Revolution, 1775-1783; American dead: 4,435**

The United States of America is born when it declares itself no longer to be under British rule. The war that followed ended with a British surrender and independence for the new country. The general overseeing U.S. troops, George Washington, became the nation's first president.

#### **War of 1812, 1812-1815; American dead: 2,260**

This is sometimes called "the second American Revolution." The U.S. declared war on England, upset with how the English navy was treating U.S. ships and its sailors. England also still controlled a lot of desirable North American land outside of the 13 U.S. colonies. When the war ended, however, both sides agreed to return to the way things were before, meaning thousands died for nothing. (No plaque)

#### **Mexican War, 1846-1848; American dead: 13,283**

This was a war about land: Mexico had it, and the U.S. wanted it. The U.S. made offers to buy parts of northern Mexico, but the country refused.

Eventually war was declared. When it was over, the United States had captured the territory that eventually became the states of California, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico and Utah.

#### **Spanish American War, 1898; American dead: 2,446**

In a war that lasted only a couple months, the U.S. drove Spain out of Cuba and set up an independent government in Cuba, which was overseen by the United States. The United States was given Puerto Rico and Guam, and also got the opportunity to purchase the Philippines for \$20 million.

### **A COPY OF THE WAR MEMORIALS, CENTER GREEN, BURLINGTON;**

#### **Civil War, 1861-1865; American dead: 558,052**

When several southern states withdrew from the union over grievances such as tariffs and slavery, President Lincoln vowed to keep the union intact. This led to one of America's darkest moments, when brother fought against brother and more than half a million men were killed.

#### **The Plaque reads;**

#### **The Town of Burlington Has Not Forgotten Her Beloved Brothers Who Offered Their Lives To Preserve The Union 1861-1865**

SOLOMON A. ADKINS	*JAMES CURTIS	LEWIS W. POND
*ELIJAH W. BACON	THOMAS CURTIS	William C. POTTER
*ERASTUS S. BACON	CHARLES DE GROAT	FRANCIS J. RATHBUN
SAMUEL M. BAILEY	*HUGH M. DONNELLY	BURTON C. RICHARDSON
ELIAS H. BALDWIN	MARSHALL W. DOWD	*EDMOND RODGERS
*GIDEON S. BARNES	JAMES ELTON	GEORGE H. ROWLEY
SYLVESTER T. BASSETT	*WILLIAM C. ELTON	FRANK SCHALL
*JOB BEMAN	GEORGE H. FULLER	CHARLES B. SCOVILLE
*ROLAND D. BENHAM	MARVIN L. GAYLORD	WILLARD R. SESSIONS
EDGAR B. BENNETT	HENRY H. HARRIS	JOHN SIMPSON

DWIGHT R. BENTON	HURON D. HENRY	CHARLES SMITH
EDWARD J. BOLIN	VIETTE D. HILL	JULIUS B. SMITH
*HOYT H. BRADLEY	THEODORE HOTCHKISS	ROLLAND G. SMITH
JAMES W. BRADLEY	CHARLES H. HOWE	WASHINGTON SMITH
SAMUEL G. BRADLEY	*FRANKLIN W. HUBBARD	WILLIAM SMITH
GEORGE E. BUCK	HENRY C. IRELAND	*EDSON W. SPENCER
AUGUSTUS R. BULL	*LEWIS H. JOHNSON	*PHILIP STINO
PETER BUNN	HARVEY W. JUDD	IRA TAFT
ALMERON A. BUNNELL	LUCIUS D. LEONARD	RICHARD E. TAYLOR
CHARLES R. BUNNELL	ELLIS MAY	LOUREN J. THORP
STERLING BUNNELL	FRANK METZGER	LAURISTON THORP
THOMAS BUNNELL	*ALBERT J. MINER	LINUS E. WEBSTER
ROBERT BURNETT	SAMUEL G. MONCE	*OTIS R. WILCOX
GEORGE BUTLER	*MARTIN MURPHY	*GEORGE S. WILKINSON
EDMUND CARRIER	DANIEL NEWPORT	THOMAS T. WILSDON
NEANVIN W. CLARK	ALBERT W. OCKERY	HENRY J. WINCHESTER
*JAMES E. COE	THOMAS PARKER	JOSEPH G. WITHAM
WILLIAM COLE	EDWARD R. PETTIBONE	HORACE W. WRIGHT
HIRAM CURTIS	JOSEPH E. PLANT	JOHN S. WRIGHT
		WELLS A. WRIGHT

AND THOSE KNOWN BUT TO GOD

**World War I, 1914-1918, American dead: 116,516**

Also known as "The Great War," the United States entered in 1917, after Germany said it would begin unrestricted submarine warfare. The influx of U.S. supplies and manpower bolstered the spirits of the Allies (including France and England). Because the United States entered the war late, its losses were relatively low. It is estimated that, overall, 10 million were killed and 20 million wounded.

**LET US HOLD IN HONORED MEMORY THOSE WHO SERVED THEIR COUNTRY IN THE**

Arthur R. Alderman	Robert E. Luby
George C. Alender	John Mackiewicz
Stanislaw Blaskiewicz	Julius H. Minery
Antoni Bobinski	*Louis Novotny
Michael Bogacs	*William Novotny
Stanley Dzadowicz	Dominic Oresti
Bennie W. Erickson	Arthur J. Reeve
*Stanley Erickson	Henry F. Reeve
Stanley L. Goembeski	Willard Reynolds
Richard A. Grabinski	Frank W. Schanil
*Dewey S. Green	Harry Scheidel
Daniel Green	Joseph Scheidel
John F. Hagan	Charles Scoville
John Hnot	Moxie J. Seiffert
Clayton E. Hodge	*Anton Smialowicz
Patrick J. Hogan	Stanislaw Uliasz
Thomas W. Hogan	Benedykt Wicha
Anton Kaminsky	Bobislaw Wojtulik
Frank Kornacki	Ernest Wollmann
Stanislaw Legowski	Emerson Zeitler
Wladislaw Legowski	Andrew Zemantcik
	Joseph Zemantcik

**World War II, 1939-1945; American dead: 405,399**

When the Japanese bombed U.S. ships in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, in 1941, the country was cast into a war that truly spanned the world and involved every major world power. The United States joined England, Russia and at least 30 other countries to fight Germany and Italy in Europe and Japan in the Pacific. The war eventually ended with the first use of atomic weapons, when the United States bombed Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan. It is estimated that there were 55 million casualties from the war.

**DEDICATED TO THE VETERANS OF BURLINGTON WHO SERVED IN THE ARMED FORCES AND DIED FOR OUR FREEDOM**

Alderman Ernest E.	Cswercko, Stephen
Alderman Leonard R.	Darosz, John N. *
Backes, Joseph W. 3rd	Dlubac, Joseph A.
Battistoni, Alvin H.	Dlubac, Paul
Bendza, John W.	Douyard, Arthur
Benson, John H.	Drew-Bear, Robert H.
Bierut, Adolph, J.	Durham, Richard Q.
Bierut, Edward J.	Feyk, Frank W.
Blanchette, Ligourie J.	Fialkiewicz, Alexander
Bryck, Felix A.	Foster, John G. *
Bunn, Robert L.	Gastka, Alexander W.
Burningham Elaine Douyard	Gastka, Walter A.
Cayer, Lionel A.	Gezelman, Ralph L.
Cayer, Maurice L.	Gezelman, Ralph L. Jr.
Ceder, David M.	Gexelman, Roger B.
Charette, Fred	Golarz, Carl E.
Charette, Joseph F. *	Golarz, John M.
Charette, Louis	Goodwin, Wilbur G.
Clifford, Albert E. Jr.	Gotasky, Michael F.
Clifford, William B.	Gotasky, John A.

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Grundwalski, Adam J.	Kucia, Adam A.
Grundwalski, Henry	Kucia, Joseph A.
Grundwalski, James	Kucia, Mitchell
Grundwalski, Rudolph	Kucia, Walter J.
Guerin, Joseph A. *	Kuharski, Henry J.
Guerin, Richard E.	Lyon Frances T.
Hartigan, Carl T.	McCallum, Donald H.
Hartigan, William R.	Malaskiewicz, John
Hatala, Joseph A.	Merriman, Alexander H.
Hinman, John D.	Merriman, Robert S.
Horton, Frank E. *	Michel, Gerard J.
Huffield Herbert A..	Mikosz, Walter J.
Hutchinson, David	Morin, Alfred W.
Hutchinson, Jonathan	Morin, Richard J.
Jabs, William A.	Moyers, Carl N.
Johnson, Arthur E.	Moyers, Clyde J.
Johnson, William R.	Nicksa, Theodore J.
Kaminsky, Michael	Nicksa, Walter C.
Kawecki, Edward A.	Nuzenski, Anton J.
Kilduff, John F. Jr.	Parylak, Walter E.
Kinski, Millard W.	Petroski, Frank E.
Kobza, Paul J.	Pomaski, Leonard, R.
Konapas, Waldemar D.	Przybysz, Henry

Konopka, Charles  
Konopka, Florence J.  
Konopka, John  
Kostrisak, John A.  
Kozlak, Charles J.  
Kozlak, Joseph F. Jr.  
Krish, Emory  
Krulik, Joseph F.

Robinson, William R. Jr.  
Romaniec, Carl J.  
Royko, John Jr.  
Royko, Louis  
Russell, Allen D.  
Rzonca, Joseph T.  
Sawyer, Louis  
Scheidel, Anthony J.  
Scheidel, Harold W.  
Scheidel, Richard F.  
Scheidel, Robert L.  
Schwarzmann, Henry  
Schwarzmann, John F.  
Shattuck, Luther M.  
Sikorsky, Stephen F. Jr.  
Siennicki, Louise H.  
Skowronski, Anthony

Total 125

## SECOND SIDE

Przybysz, Stanley T.  
Reeve, Arthur J. Jr.  
Reeve, Henry F. Jr.  
Reeve, John A.  
Reuber, Edward F.  
Reynolds, Carlton  
Reynolds, Raymond E.  
Reynolds, Willard R.

Stetz, Louis J.  
Szydlo, Tadeusz B.  
Szydlo, Stanislaw M.  
Tibbetts, John L.  
Tricarico, Leonard  
Turner, Carroll R. Jr.  
Twining, David J.  
Vernesoni, Julius  
Waters, Archibald E.  
Watt, George C.  
Withe, Stanley F. Jr.  
Yarzab, Francis W.  
Zionce, Edward  
Zionce, John  
Zionce, Stanley \*  
Zionce, Walter

Killed in action--6

Women 4

## **Korean War, 1950-1953; American dead: 36,568**

When North Korea invaded South Korea, the United Nations asked members to help South Korea. President Truman sent U.S. troops to fight a war that saw neither side gain much of an advantage before a truce was reached. In the end, more than half a million Chinese and Korean soldiers were killed.

Adams, Donald J.  
Adams, Norman E.  
Allyn, Duane  
Amelotte, Maurice R.  
Bigwood, Joseph W.  
Bodamer, Reinhardt E.  
Bodamer, Rudolph  
Brooks, Frederick E.  
Cayer, Bernard  
Cayer, George  
Chard, Frederick J. Jr.  
Demishack, Walter J.  
Dlugokinski, Raymond S.  
Douyard Lawrence E.  
Gezelman, Ralph L.  
Gezelman, Ralph L. Jr.  
Gezelman, Robert B.  
Guerin, Rowland E.  
Gilchrist, David W. Jr.  
Hartigan, Carl T.

King, Thomas A. Jr.  
Kost, Bernard F.  
Kost, James E.  
Kozlak, August P.  
Kucia, Alex  
Kucia, Benjamin J.  
Kucia, Frank T.  
Lamoureaux, George  
Legowski, Edward S.  
Lomnicki, Joseph P. Jr.  
Mathewson, Kenneth H.  
Murdock, Erwin D.  
Murdock, James L.  
Perry, John I. Jr.  
Reeve, Howard  
Reynolds, Donald E.  
Royko, Carl  
Rulf, Walter O.  
Vincent, Robert L.  
Wollmann, Frederick K.

Kaminsky, John P.  
King Richard P.

Zima, Walter H.

**Vietnam War, 1961-1955; American dead: 58,204**

After Vietnam was split into South Vietnam and North Vietnam, a civil war broke out. In the 1960's the United States began providing aid and troops to help the South. The war became very unpopular in the United States, which eventually withdrew in 1973. The war continued until 1975, when North Vietnam overtook the South and unified the country.

Qualifying date for the Vietnam War changed from 12-1961 to 11-1955.

(Hartford Courant, 11-13-1998.)

Armington, Walter L.  
Austin, Jefferson P.  
Barber, John C.  
Barnes, Karl H.  
Barnes, Paul E.  
Benson, Gary H.  
Benson, John W.  
Blanchard, Dennis R.  
\*Blanchard, Thomas J.  
Bombara, James R.  
Brown, Carl R.  
Brown, Raymond  
Bryda, David C.  
Buchanan, James G. Jr.  
Buxton, Cecil Jr.  
Carroll, Stuart G.  
Cassidy, Brian L.  
Chambers, Walter Jr.  
Cochran, Donald P.  
Cowdrey, Bruce C.  
Crowe, William  
Cswercko, Raymond  
Cutter, Robert  
Dulude, Phillip Jr.  
Dutil, George A. III  
Ellsworth, David  
Everett, Richard  
Fetzer, George E. Jr.  
Fields, Stephen B.  
Forsberg, Thomas E.  
Fowler, David A.  
Fox, Arnold  
Fridland, Clifford  
Griswold, Daniel G.  
Griswold, Ernie C.  
Guiel, John L.  
Gurski, Stephen W.  
Hadsell, Luther D.  
Hamernick, Jerald N.  
Hinman, Paul L.  
Hulten, Thomas  
Humphrey, Neal  
Jehnings, Gary J.  
Jones, Edward E. Jr.

Madey, Robert  
Malsheske, Reinhardt A.  
Masse, Michael J.  
McLaughlin, Peter  
Middleton, Andrew  
Middleton, David C.  
Middleton, Robert J.  
Nedorostek, Mark A.  
Nielson, Charles G.  
Papapietro, John J.  
Peck, Harland K. II  
Persson, John  
Peterson, John N.  
Phelps, Jerry M.  
Pilon, Edward F. Jr.  
Posa, Steven A.  
\*Preira, Dominic J. Jr.  
Preira, Joseph  
Preira, Wayne J.  
Quirk, Earl B.  
Reeve Howard  
Reichler, Eugene R. Jr.  
Revber James A.  
Richardson, Frank  
Roehm, Jeffrey R.  
Royko, Louis Jr.  
Rulf, Richard W.  
Shaffer, David  
Scheidel, Paul F.  
Scheidel, Peter F.  
Scheidel, Theodore C. Jr.  
Shea, Paul D.  
Skinner, Richard  
Smith, Wayne  
Spielman, Clarence G. Jr.  
Steele, Wallace Jr.  
Strelau, Richard W.  
Swan, Edwin B.  
Szydlo, David C.  
Szydlo, Gregory M.  
Szydlo, Jon H.  
Terranova, Donato  
Thibodeau, Dwain G.  
Truskoski, Mark L.

Kablick, Alan M.  
Kaczypenski, Richard  
Kellerstedt, Gary  
Kellerstedt, Daniel  
Kelley, George M.  
Kelley, Thomas G.  
Kilduff, Kenneth  
Kinnarney, Robert E.  
Konopka, Bruce J.  
Krawiec, Andrew  
Labbe, Edward J.  
Lackey, Anne Marie  
Lackey, Arthur A.  
Lackey, Donald E.  
Lakovitch, Charles A.  
Lawrence, Dennis J.  
Lewis, Paul K.  
Lewis, William R.  
Madey, John J.

Vernesoni, Peter J.  
Vernesoni, Phillip R.  
Vincent, Robert  
Wacker, Walter  
Warner, Steven  
Waugh, Thomas  
Wark, Glen L.  
Whisher, Ronald J.  
Wilusz, Albert S.  
Wilusz, Robert P.  
Zaniewski, Benedict M.

### **Gulf War, 1991; American dead: 382**

When Iraq's Saddam Hussein refused to remove his troops after an invasion of Kuwait, the United States and 36 other nations joined together to drive them out. After an intense period of bombing, ground troops put on the finishing touches in a war that lasted a little more than a month.

### **WHERE IS WAS IT?**

ALLEN PECK HILL-- Stone Road.

ARCH STREET--Road through railroad arch under railroad trestle west of Farmington River, Burlington, near Collinsville.

BALD HEADED ROCK--On Blue Trail, Wildcat Mountain.

BALANCING ROCK--Near Blue Trail, north of George Washington Turnpike, about 300 yards from road.

BARNES HILL ROAD--Named for the Barnes family.

BARNES STATION--One name the RR Station near former Burlington Inn was called.

BRADLEY BROOK-- Flowing from the main Fish Hatchery.

BRADLEY ROAD--Named for the Bradley's.

BUNNELL BROOK--Brook that crosses Upson Road.

BUNNELL FALLS--Falls, corner of Foote & Hotchkiss roads.

BURLINGTON BROOK--Flows into the river, corner of route 4 & 179.

BURLINGTON STATION--BARNES STATION--Opposite Route 4, near river where Railroad Station used to stand.

CANDLELIGHT INN--Now Burlington Inn, a little west of the Center prior to 1965.

CANTON ROAD--Now Route 179, formerly Route 4, Burlington Ave. & Collinsville Road.

CHIPPENS HILL--The Tories sought refuge in this area during the Revolutionary War. The section is named after the Tunxis Indian Chief Cochipianee.

CLAIRE HILL--Formerly Bailey Hill. Irish came from County Clare (McAleer). Bailey and crippled son lived in Szydlo house, last house northeast end of Claire hill.

CLARK CITY or CLARK CORNERS--Area near George Washington Turnpike and Stone Road. At one time well populated.

CLEAR BROOK-- Flows into Nepaug Reservoir, south side.

COLONEL ROWE POND--Now under upper Lake Garda.

COPPER MINE BROOK--North branch Pequabuck River, near Copper Mines.

CORNWALL ROAD--A man by the name of "Cornwall" lived there, and evidence shows

that he was wealthy.

COVEYS BRIDGE--

COVEY, CORNERS, or TOWN--Covey road across from Upson Road. A Seventh Day Baptist family named Covey lived there. In Nov. 15, 1811 the Town Meeting voted to "lay out a road from Covey's Bridge across Elisha Covey land".  
(Town records, 11-11-1811.)

DEVIL'S KITCHEN-- A gorge about 35 feet deep, about a mile long. Take dirt road at Lamson Corner towards Whigville, than left, where Blue Trail crosses.

DOG CORNERS--Famous poem by Leon Norton told why it was named.

DUGOUT THE--The steep hill opposite the "Falls" when still a dirt road.

EMBASSY ROOM—Restaurant on Monce Pond

FALLS BROOK--Above Dog Corner, names after "falls" in Sessions Woods.  
(Also Negro Hill Brook.)

FARMINGBURY--Wolcott.

FARMINGTON WEST WOODS--What Burlington was first called.

FINKENZELLAR HILL--South of Punch Brook, on Punch Brook Road. The Finkenzellar's lived there.

FOOTE ROAD--Named for Foote's who owned the mill.

FORD ROAD--Named after Omri Ford.

FULLER'S BRIDGE--THE GREAT BRIDGE--Once crossed the river a little south of corner of route 4 and route 179.

GALLOPING HOLLOW--Is no more, but was just east of "Agway's", Route 4. Fill was brought in to level the highway, but the hollow can still be seen. It was said that when the stagecoach reached the top of the hill near what in now Agway's the horses started to gallop, down the hill across the hollow and up the other side for they sensed that they where near "Elton Tavern" and rest.

GEORGE WASHINGTON TURNPIKE--Was the main route from Farmington to Litchfield, through Burlington. One reference says, "Susannah, daughter of Stephen Hotchkiss, married to Zebulon Frisbie and entertained General George Washington as he rode through Burlington. (Biographical Sketches of Hartford County-1901). George Washington is reliably reported to have traveled this road on several occasions.

HARTFORD PIKE--Route 4 through Burlington/Harwinton---

HARTIGAN'S POND--Just west of the "Old" Burlington Inn, gone after the 55' flood.

HOLCOMB ROAD--Now Covey Road.

HEATHENVILLE--Near Hotchkiss and Covey Road. Named after the Baptists left the area, and a lower class of people moved in to work in the clock factories.

HOLLOWAY BLOCK--Now Cliffside package store.

HULL ROAD--Named for the Hulls.

JEFFERSON FLOOD--Occurred in March 1801, and was probably the worst flood recorded in this section. An unusually heavy body of snow on the ground, a heavy rain and some very warm days combined to cause the flood.

JEROME AVENUE--Named for the Jerome's. Once called East Road.

JOHNNY CAKE ROAD--During the early days there was an extraordinary cold year and the result was very poor crops. (1816) Consequently the residents of the area were said to have lived on corn meal bread commonly known as "Johnny Cake". Another story concerns "Journey Cake", a cold bread of corn meal that travelers passing through the area from Litchfield or other places carried with them for lunch at midday. "Journey Cake" was shortened to "Johnny Cake".

LARSON'S GROVE--North of Miller Road, sometimes the American Legion, Men's Club and others gathered there for picnics.

LEDGES, THE--South west corner of Burlington, where 4 towns meet, near Tory Den.

LITTLE WILDCAT BROOK--Crosses Rock Road, just below the big hill.

LITCHFIELD ROAD-- Route 4, through Burlington.

LOOKOUT TOWER--Top of Johnny Cake Mt. built in 1929, 50 feet high, was used to spot

forest fires.

LOUSE HILL--Whigville, mentioned in Poem of "Dog Corner".

LYON ROAD--Named for Clifford & Myra Lyon.

MAJOR CURTISS BOG--Northeast of Lamson Corner Cemetery. The Major once lived across the road from that bog.

MAIN STREET--In Whigville, from South Main, once all the way to Lamson Corner Cemetery, via Stony Hill Road, crossing Cornwall Road.

MAN EATING ROCK--On George Washington Turnpike, south side, where Blue Trail crosses Wildcat Trail. A "Hobo" was seen sitting there one time. Shortly later he disappeared, thus the name. Much of the rock has since been blasted in improving the road.

MEETING HOUSE HILL--The hill on George Washington Turnpike opposite Cornwall Road. The foot of that hill was where the first two Congregational Churches stood.

MERRILL'S POND--off Upson Road.

MILFORD STREET--Was early known as "CAMBRIDGE ROAD", the road from "WEST BRITAIN to NEW CAMBRIDGE--Later known as "MILFORD STREET", for the early settlers who came from New Milford via New Haven. Abraham Brooks came from Milford prior to 1773. On January 17, 1773 he deeded to Justus Webster of Middletown 112 acres of land with a barn thereon. This is the present Hinman place.

MILL DAM ROAD--Now part of Metropolitan Water District.

MINE MOUNTAIN--East of Jerome Ave.

MONCE ROAD--Named for Samuel & Anna Monce, who lived near Monce Pond.

NASSAHEGAN STATE FORREST-- Named for one of six Tunxis Indian scouts who helped to track down King Philip.

NEGRO HILL BROOK--Flows into Mine Brook. Crosses road near Bradley Road and Milford Street. (Also called Falls Mountain Brook.)

NEGRO or NIGGER HILL--Above brook flows from its slopes; south of Johnnycake Mountain.

NELSON SMITH ROAD--

NEPASH--Indian name given to river that flows into Nepaug Reservoir, in memory of Indian who drowned there.

NEPAUG VILLAGE--On Tunxis Trail in Nassahegan State Forest. "The buildings of the former Federal Transient Camp later used by the National Youth Administration. Walk Book, 1953, page 18.

NEW CAMBRIDGE—now called Bristol.

NEWFIELD--Part of Torrington, north of city, a mile south of Winchester town line.

NEW HIGHWAY--Stafford Road.

NIGGER BRIDGE--Bridge over brook, Milford Street, Whigville.

NORTH BURLINGTON--Near Collinsville.

NORTHBURY--Plymouth.

NORTH FARMINGTON ROAD--Route 4 from Burlington Station.

NORTHAMPTON RAILROAD -- Went along the river in Burlington.

NORTH and SOUTH HIGHWAY--Jerome Avenue.

NORTHINGTON--Avon, incorporated about 1745

OLD SMITH ROAD-- From George Washington Turnpike on Jerome Avenue, where the road takes a sharp right, west and then all the way to Stone Road.

OLD ROAD--? "Hart Manuscript".

OLD SPRINGFIELD ROAD--Nepaug Road-"Hart Manuscript"

PEACEABLE STREET--Now called Burlington Avenue, Bristol.

PEAT BOGS--Northwest of Lake Como. (About the Bristol Copper Mines) "A large peat bog in the neighborhood suggested a cheap fuel supply, but to be available, it must be dried. Ovens were built and the peat dried by fires. It burned well enough, but cost several times as much to dry as an equal amount of other fuels." (Conn. Quarterly, 1887)

PERRY LOOKOUT--Long ledge with view, southwest, Taine Mountain.

PHELPS BROOK--Flows into Nepaug Reservoir between the Nepash and Clear Brook.  
 PHELPS DAM--Nepaug Reservoir opposite Ford Road.  
 PHELPS ROAD--In Metropolitan Water District.  
 PINE HILL--Near Whigville Grange, because of a stand of pines on the summit. It was referred to as "Pine Hill" as early as Revolutionary War days. It was thought to be either an Indian hunting ground or a battlefield.  
 PINE LEDGE--South end of Taine Mountain Blue Trail, frequently lightning struck the pine trees.  
 POLKVILLE--District 9 in Bristol, about 2 miles south of Burlington Line, both sides of Jerome Avenue.  
 POLAND BROOK--Brook from "Old Marsh Pond".  
 POLLY DAN ROAD--A family by the name of Bunnell lived on this road, with the first names of "Polly and "Dan", they worked together so the story goes; consequently the road they used was commonly known as the "Polly Dan Road".  
 POVERTY HOLLOW or just THE HOLLOW--As Whigville used to be referred to.  
 PUNCH BROOK ROAD--"A hogshead of rum & hogshead of molasses being stove & the contents running into the brook" from "Hart Manuscript."  
 ROCK STREET--Between Burlington Ave. and Arch St. Sikorski Block, Cook's Tavern, Frank Kucia's house. (Frank Kucia had seven sons in U.S. Military Service)  
 SAND BANK--District for many years after 1814 so named, until 1912, when it was changed to Riverside because of its location. Corner of Claire Hill & Sand Bank Hill Road.  
 SAND HILL ROAD--Reservoir Hill, Whigville.  
 SCHLOSSER'S POND--On Hillside west of Donald Szydlo house, formerly McAleer House, last property in Burlington on NW side of Claire Hill.  
 SCHOOL HOUSE HILL--Between Lyons & Covey Road.  
 SCRANTON MOUNTAIN--Savarese Lane, land that the Rev. Erastus Scranton once owned.  
 SHERMAN BARNES ROAD--Bradley Street, Whigville.  
 SHIN HOLLOW--The area around where the first two Congregation churches stood, and some of Miller Road. ("Louis Webster, formerly an old-time Burlington resident, informs me that Shin Hollow was located where the fish hatchery in now operated". Musings of the sage of Whigville-Bristol Press, 7-20-1957.)  
 SHINGLE GUTTER HILL--Route 4, east of town offices. A wagon load of shingles was being transported, (could be from Schwarzmann mill) and the load tipped and the shingles slid into the gutter.  
 SILVER MINE--Eagle Mining in 1863. Mine on south side of road between Ford Road and Canton Road on north side of Clear Brook just east of Omri Ford's gun factory.  
 SKIBBERON ROAD or VILLAGE (Skibbereen)--Mines Road Near Bristol Copper Mines. (see page 139-"The Making of Bristol"). Named for the southern part of Skibberon County, Cork, Ireland. Many Irish laborers emigrated to America and twelve families found their way to the Copper mine. "Mass" was offered at the mines once a month, children were educated in Bristol where there was room for them-else they went the long distance to Whigville. (Red Book-History of Bristol.) "Nondescript village of low white cottages following the lane". (Conn. Place Names-1976)  
 SKUNK ROCK ROAD--Entering at the Ellsworth driveway, (Punch Brook Road) and coming out on route 4, Mountain Spring Road. Supposedly heavily populated with skunks along the ledges, and possibly a rock shaped like a skunk.  
 SMITH ROAD--A road in the Metropolitan Water District.  
 SOUTH POND BROOK--Now "Falls Brook".  
 STRAWBERRY RIDGE--Early development, Punch Brook Road, west of Taine Road.  
 SWEETHEART MOUNTAIN--East of Nepaug Reservoir.  
 TIKE BROOK--Lower Burlington Brook.  
 TORIES DEN--A cave where the Tories hid out during the Revolution, also a stop over for the "Leather Man", southwest corner of Burlington. A monument to "Tories Den"

stands at the South Chippanee School area that reads--  
 TURNER HALL-- Upstairs at Reubers.  
 SIMSBURY-- Once called Massaco.  
 SOUTH CHIPPINS HILL SCHOOL 1755-1936: In memory of those sturdy pioneers who cleared the fields, built their homes and the first schoolhouse 1755. And those who have followed and continued to support a school in the district.  
 The early settlers were Episcopalian's, supported the King during the Revolutionary War and were known as Tories. Moses Dunbar who was hanged for treason, Isaac Shelton and other Tories lived near this school. (Hill Street, Bristol-L.R.A.)  
 SWAMP MEADOW-- Near Monce pond.  
 TAHAN MOUNTAIN-- Off Punch Brook Rd. named because a Tahan lived there.  
 TOWN LINE ROAD-- A road running between Harwinton and Burlington. 2 rods from Harwinton, 1/2 rods from Burlington. (Nov. 1806, Burlington town records).  
 TURNPIKE ROAD--(Hartford to Litchfield) George Washington Turnpike.  
 TUNXIS RIVER--Farmington River, so called in late 1700's  
 TWIN OAKS--2 huge oak trees several feet apart, joined together with a 10 to 14 inch limb that people could sit on, near Stony Road, Whigville. Vandals burned it.  
 TWO BUCK RING--Two sets of antlers were found locked together on mountain, near Burlington Village.  
 UNIONVILLE--Known as "Landon's Quarter" then "West Farmington".  
 UPSON ROAD--Named for a Family.  
 VALENTINE ROAD--Part of Metropolitan Water District.  
 VINEYARD FALLS--Burlington Brook off Vineyard Road.  
 WEST BRITAIN--Name of Burlington before 1806.  
 WEST WOODS--Early name of Bristol & Burlington.  
 WHIGVILLE--Named for a political party of that time. In 1844 a political rally was held to help the fortunes of Henry Clay, himself a Whig, thereafter the section was known as Whigville. All but one family living there were Whigs.  
 WHIGVILLE BROOK--Flows SE through Whigville into Copper Mine Brook.  
 WHIGVILLE CHAPEL--Left side of Jerome Avenue traveling north, used but a short time.  
 WILDCAT BROOK-- Flows south from Wildcat Mountain into Whigville Brook.  
 WILDCAT BROOK BRIDGE--On Prospect Street, Whigville.  
 WILDCAT MOUNTAIN--A mile north of Whigville. D.Viering says it is a wild section, and mountain contains small dens once probably inhabited by wildcats.  
 WILKINSONVILLE--Along the river from corner of Route 4 to Sand Bank Hill Road. The Wilkinson family had a scissors factory on lower Clear Brook.  
 WINTONBURY--Bloomfield  
 WOLCOTTVILLE--Name of Torrington between 1813 and 1881.  
 WOODLAND HOTEL--Afterward, Burlington Inn, corner of Route 4 & 179.  
 WOODRUFF HILL--Just west of Burlington Inn, was named for Asa Woodruff (see Hart Manuscript page ) who lived near the top of the hill.  
 ZACK'S BROOK--Afterwards, "Moses Brook", flows from Lake Garda.  
 ZACK'S MOUNTAIN--Mine Mountain, named from an Indian who hunted there.  
 ZWICK POINT--On the east shore of Nepaug Reservoir. Name is Polish, Cwik pronounced Chveek.

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**NAMES TAKEN FROM 1855 & 1869 MAPS OF BURLINGTON**

S.M. = Saw Mill; B.S.S. = Black Smith Shop; S.M. = Shingle Mill;  
 1855 1869

**BARNES HILL ROAD**

I. Barnes  
 Amzi Barnes

Isaac Barnes  
 Cromwell Barnes

Cromwell Barnes	Mrs. James Nulty
Ephraim B.Hill	P. Finnin
Wm. Hale	A. E.Alderman Res.
Israel Dibble	Saw Mill
School	School
Warren Aldrich	W. Aldrich
G. Frisbie	P. Finnin
M.G.Rease	Daniel H. Carpenter
Peter Myers	
J. Reynolds	
Jas. Frisbie	
M. Bailey	
S. Wilmot	
S. L. Hart	
O. Busham	
Calvin Cornwall	
Billy Gaylord & sons woolen (?)	

#### BELDEN ROAD

Sylvester Taylor	T. A. Alderman
George Belden	Geo. Belden
E. S. Bacon	Mrs. E. Bacon
Wm. Palmiter	Mrs. Wright
Scribner (?)	Ariel Belden

#### BLACK WALNUT LANE

N.P.Mathews	N.P. Mathews
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#### BRADLEY ROAD

S. Barnes	Monroe Barnes
Barnes Machine Shop	Machine Shop
Clover Mill	C. N. Mathews

#### BURLINGTON AVE.

Henry Douglas	Jas Luby
Elias Benham	Mrs. Elias Benham
Justus Webster(2)	Webster
Simeon Beach	Simeon Beach
Henry Curtiss	Henry Curtis
Betsy Beach	
Sam Gillett	Mrs. Samuel Gillette
N. Gillette	John N. Gillette
S. Curtiss	Sylvester Curtiss
P. Butler	P. Butler
Major Curtiss	Major Curtis
Smith Tuttle	Dr. T. Tuttle
Andrew Hull	Andrew Hull
Cemetery	Cemetery
Chester Bunnell	Chester Bunnell
Mary Pratt	Geo. Pratt
Henry Elton	
A. Pratt	
Seth Peck	

S. Mill  
Henry H. Roberts  
Thadeus S. Baldwin  
N. Matthews shop

Henry H. Roberts  
L. Bradley

#### CASE ROAD

Chauncey Taft  
Calvin Case  
Cemetery

Mrs. Calvin Case  
Cemetery

#### CORNWALL RD.

Dd Bennet  
Austin Brooks  
Hezekiah Basset  
William Graham  
Capt. E. Cornwell  
M.M. Marks

Geo Case  
Geo Bunn  
Mrs. L. Bassett  
  
Mrs. Enoch Cornwell  
Saw Mill (2)  
Sam Pratt  
John Porch

#### COVEY ROAD

Blackman  
Dr. Wm. Elton  
Rev. H. Burton  
J. Bunnell & sons  
Fletcher  
J. Smith  
D.E. Butler  
Amos Smith  
Hezekiah Bunnell  
Asa Clad?  
Old Baptist Church  
Favel Butter  
Luman Spencer  
W.H. Upson

Daniel Howry  
N. Chinis  
Geo. Swartzman  
Duel Holcomb  
Distillery  
  
Geo. Butler  
Ralph Humphrey  
Hezekiah Bunnell  
Myron Butler

Luman Spencer

#### DAVIS ROAD

William Crane

Wm. Crane

#### EAST CHIPPINS HILL

Geo. Roberts  
Nancy Curtiss  
Maria Belden  
  
Jairus Thomson

Geo. Roberts  
Mrs. N. Curtis  
Mrs. M. Belden  
Thomas Root  
Thompson

#### FOOTE ROAD

Fred Lewis  
Ira Foot  
S.M.  
C.B. Scoville  
Asa Palmiter  
Wm. Palmiter  
Manly Palmiter  
D. Butter Clock Factory  
Sherman Smith

Geo. Hart  
S. D. Foot  
SM GM & Shingle Mill  
Chas. B. Scoville  
Andrew Hadsell  
Wm. Palmiter  
Willard Brooks  
E. Ingraham  
Samuel Rogers

Hules Aldrich

BSS

J. S. Potter

### FORD ROAD

Ford Machine Shop

J & J Hardware Man.

O. C. Ford

Omri C. Ford

W. Wilkinson Screw Driver

Cemetery

& Mincing Knife Fac.

T. McCarthy.

### GEO. WASHINGTON TURNPIKE

Joshua Moses

Pond & Moses

Betsy Hadsell

L. D. Pond

Joseph Lewis

J. Cross

Major Hadsell

Major Hadsell

John Wright

M. Gregory

Henry Clark

C. Alderman

Geo. Case

Geo. Case

Selah Bradley

Sam. Bradley

Jas Elton

Jas Elton

M. Upson

A. Brackett

A. Fenn

Geo. Mills

Rev. Ja L. Wright

Orson Morse

Cong. Parsonage

Cong. Parsonage

R. Elton

Romeo Elton

Col. Pettibone

Sol. Morse

Oliver Hitchcock

Mr. H. Pettibone

Pliny Slater

Town Clerk

Mary Scranton

### HOTCHKISS ROAD

M. H. Porter

W. G. Bunnell

Darins Butter

Single Mill

### HULL ROAD

Elisaph Hull

E. Hull

Allen Gaylord

John L. Stone

John Mansfield

John Mansfield

Wm. Stone

Wm. Stone

### JEROME AVENUE

Truman Smith

J. Thompson

Amos Smith

Sylvester Hart

John Hart

D. Degan

John Peck (2)

Homer J. Norton

D. Mills

School

Thomas Gillaran

Billy S. Hart

Adon Superent

### JOHNNY CAKE MT. ROAD

Sam Rogers

J. Sullivan

Justus Webster

H. Doolittle

B.S.S

B. S.

Carlo Hotchkiss

W. S. Baldwin

School

School

Joel Bunnell & sons  
Erastus Fenn  
Samuel Phelps (2)  
Tin Shop  
U. Bradley  
Simeon Kilby  
L. Marsh

Joel Bunnell (2)  
S.S.  
E. Edwards & Son  
L. Marsh  
C. S. Recor  
Simeon Kirby

#### LYON ROAD

John Potter  
Aseph Taylor  
Mrs. C.Pond  
School

John Potter  
Mrs. E. Tyler  
Wm Henry  
School

#### MAIN STREET

A. Curtis  
S. L. Curtis  
Paynes Clock Face Fac.  
J.R.Pond  
Seth Peck  
David Lowrey  
Lowrey's Clock Factory  
A. Bunnell  
A. Y. Culver  
Thomas Lowrey  
Alfred Lowrey  
Sylvester Pond  
Edward K. Jones  
Childrens Carriage &  
Fancy Wagon Shop.  
D. E. Peck  
Barker  
Capt. Joseph S. Peck

H. Curtis  
Julius Smith  
A. Peck  
Chas. R. Bunnell  
Seth Peck  
David Lowrey  
School  
Bunnel & Smith's Turning Shop  
A.Y. Culver  
Don E. Peck  
Alfred Lowrey  
Turning shop  
E. K. Jones  
Mrs. Nancy Gaylord  
Hoyt Smith  
Darius Peck  
R. E. Barker  
Capt. Jos. Peck

#### MILLER ROAD

Oliver Hitchcock  
Francis Pettibone  
Alonzo Elton

L. Lamson  
F. Pettibone  
Alonzo Elton

#### MONCE ROAD

Hubbard Gladding  
Franklin Norton  
Sylvester Hart  
Homer J. Norton  
George Degan  
H. Norton

School  
J. Thompson  
Sylvester Hart  
Homer J. Norton  
D. Degan

#### NEPAUG ROAD

Julius Hinman  
Ruel Palmiter  
Frank Hendersen  
John Spencer  
Mrs. C.Pettibone

S. Stino  
A. Pohlman  
G. Meisner  
John Spencer  
Mrs. C. Perkins

### **PUNCH BROOK ROAD**

Mrs. Alderman	J. Alderman
M. Alderman	M. Alderman
Orin Hodges	Distillery Alderman
Eli Alderman	Eli Alderman
John Alderman	John Alderman
Isaac Belden	Isaac Belden
Sam Russell	Samuel Russell
Bowers French	Bowers French
School	School
Brockett	Mrs. Brackett
Alonson Brockett	

### **RIVER ROAD**

Fenn & Gaylord Childrens	Jos Allen
Fancy Carriage Fact.	Adam Henna
Samuel Johnson	O. Neil
Jerome B. Thomson	

### **ROCK ROAD**

H.G. Hotchkiss, shoe shop	Cider Mill
Rev. E. Scranton	
Joel Bunnell & sons	Joel Bunnell
O. L. Booth	

### **ROUTE 4**

Billy Gaylord	Jas Alderman
Jerry Barnes	Mrs. J. Barnes
William Gaylord	O'Neil
School	School
Billy Gaylord & sons	Burlington Station
Almon Case	C. B.
Cem.	Cromwell Barnes Saw mills & Distillery
Meth. Parsonage	Meth. Parsonage
Dea. F. Bull	Geo. Burnett
Charles Stone	John Marshall
BSS	J. Zeidler
Aurelius Pond Esq.	Mrs. Aurelious Pond
Stephen Hotchkiss	O. Upson
Jas Crandall	J. Crandall
Joseph Pond	H. Hotchkiss
? Hinman	Geo. J. Hinman (2)
Roswell Smith	Roswell Smith
Chester Pond	Joel Bunnell
Hinman	Store, R. Palmer
	Cong. Church
	Jos. Smith
	John O. Judd
	Jos. Stoddard
	Mrs. David Scribner
	Dr. William Elton
	Sam Winchester

Meth. Church  
Chester Dowd  
B. Scoville

**SCOVILLE RD**

Thomas Brooks Austin Brooks

**SMITH STREET**

M.H.Porter John Howry

**STONY HILL RD**

Wm. Marks Esq. R. E. Barker  
K.C.Seymour Mrs. K. C. Seymour  
Nelson Smith Nelson Smith  
Thomas Lowrey V. D. Hills  
Mrs. Enoch Cornwell  
School

none **STONE ROAD** none

**TAINÉ MT. ROAD**

L. Belden John Flynn  
Orrin Moses J. Tahan  
Sam Payne

**TOWN LINE ROAD**

Luke Ryan D. Buckman  
Nathan Culver Nathan Culver

**UPSON ROAD**

D. Cotton Washington Upson  
Sam Bull Sam Bull

**VINEYARD ROAD**

Jerry Barnes H. S. Barber  
Timothy Buckley B. Shidell  
Isaac Benham Chas. Finnin  
Ira Foot

**WEST CHIPPINS HILL RD.**

Mrs. Richards L. Tuttle  
N. Roberts Mrs. N. R. Roberts  
D. W. Roberts D. W. Roberts  
Syvanus Hull Sylvanus Hull  
E. Barnes Austin Barnes  
Willis L. Stone Mrs. Willis L. Stone  
L.J.Wooding  
Newton Wooding  
Timothy Sperry T. Sperry About 215 names

**BURLINGTON VOTERS LIST-1806**

Names of those who were admitted to the privilege of electors of this state in the original town of Bristol, and there recorded, then residing in that part of the town, now called Burlington, before it

was incorporated as a town, transcribed from the original records of Bristol.  
(Copied and listed alphabetically 9-1990)

Adams, Samuel	Butler, Ezra	Gaylord, Chauncey
Alderman, Eli	Carrington, Riverus	Gaylord, Joseph
Alderman, Eli Jun.	Case, Ozias	Gillett, Jeremiah
Alderman, John	Clark, Asa	Gillett, John
Andrus, Daniel	Clark, David	Gillett, John Jun.
Andrus, Hun(?)	Clark, Eliphalet	Gillett, William
Andrus, Samuel	Clark, Jude	Goodsell, Daniel
Andrus, Timothy	Cleaveland, Elihu	Gridley, Thomas
Bacon, Abijah	Cleaveland, Ezra	Griffis, John
Bacon, Daniel	Cornwell, Calvin	Griswold, Elisha
Bacon, James Y.	Cornwell, Chauncy	Griswold, Giles
Bacon, Joseph, Jun.	Cornwell, Cornelius	Griswold, Jeremiah
Bacon, Moses	Cornwell, Eli	Griswold, Jeremiah Jun.
Bacon, Roswell	Covil, Ebenezer	Hall, David
Baird, Ephraim	Covey, Elisha	Hall, Samuel
Barns, Anson	Covey, Elisha Jun.	Hamblin, Ebenezer
Barns, Joel	Covey, Jared	Hart, Ambrose
Barns, Wise	Crandal, John	Hart, Ard
Beach, Oliver	Crandal, Paul	Hart, Bliss
Beach, Thomas	Crumbe, Samuel	Hart, Calvin
Beckwith, Abner	Crumbe, Samuel Jun.	Hart, Gilbert
Beckwith, Flavil	Culver, Enoch	Hart, Ira
Beckwith, George	Culver, Samuel	Hart, Lucas
Beckwith, Joel	Culver, Shalor	Hart, Marcus
Beckwith, John	Curtis, Aaron	Hart, Martin
Beckwith, John 2nd	Curtis, Ethan	Hart, Simeon
Beckwith, Thomas	Curtis, Joshua	Harrison, Jabez
Belden, Isaac	Curtis, Simeon	Hill, John
Benham, Ebenezer	Dailey, Jonathan	Hitchcock, Calvin
Benham, Lyman	Dailey, Thadeus	Hitchcock, Joel
Benham, Nathan	Davis, Clark	Hitchcock, Oliver
Bottsford, Daniel	Davis, John	Hotchkiss, Elisha
Brockway, Luri(?)	Davis, Jonathan	Hotchkiss Isaac
Brockway, Samuel	Dorman, Israel	Hotchkiss, Samuel
Brockway, William	Dowd, Jesse	Humphrey, Giles
Bronson, Amasa	Elton, Calvin	Humphrey, Norman
Bronson, Ira	Elton, William	Humphrey, Luther
Bronson, Joel	Elton, William Jun.	Humphrey, Solomon
Bronson, Stephen	Frisbie, Gad	Huxford, William
Brooks, Chauncy	Frisbie, Zebulon	Jerome, Elgad B.
Brooks, Thomas	Fuller, David	Johnson, Enoch
Brooks, Thomas Jun.	Fuller, Jesse	Lankton, Joseph
Brownson, Silas	Fuller, Jesse Jun.	Lankton, Joseph Jun.
Brownson, Stephen Jun.	Fuller, John	Lewis, Benjamin, Jun.
Bull, Daniel	Fuller, John Jun.	Lewis, Clark
Bunnel, Daniel	Fuller, John 3rd.	Lewis, Enos
Burdick, Daniel	Fuller, John 4th.	Lewis, John
	XXXXXXXXXXXX	
Lewis, Stephen	Peck, Seth	Taylor, Stephen
Lowrey, Thomas	Peck, Seth Jun.	Taylor, Waite

Mann, Peres	Perkins, Thomas	Thompson, Jairus
Mathews, Caleb Jun.	Pettibone, Abraham	Treadway, John P.
Marks, David	Pettibone, Abraham Jun.	Tubbs, Amon
Marks, Edward	Pettibone, Theodore	Pecks, Dan
Marks, William	Phelps, Joshua	Pond, Josiah
Marks, Zachariah	Phelps, Lynde	Roberts, David Jun.
Miller, Jonathan	Pond, Roswell	Roberts, Lamberton
Mills, Job	Roberts, David	Upton, Seth
Mills, John Jun.	Roberts, John	Upton, Timothy
Mills, Noah	Saxton, Judah	Warner, John
Moses, Chauncy	Sedgwick, Samuel	Way, Ezra
Moses, Joshua	Sedgwick, Samuel Jun.	Way, Jabez
Moses, Othniel Jun.	Smith, Amos	Webster, Jesse
Newton, Hezekiah	Smith, Eber	Webster, Jesse Jun.
Newton, Mathew	Smith, Gideon	Webster, Samuel
Newton, Mathew Jun.	Smith, John 2nd	West, Elisha
Palmiter, Benjamin	Smith, Joseph	Wiard, John
Palmiter, David	Smith, Minor	Wiard, Seth
Palmiter, Paul	Spencer, Joseph	Willcox, Elias
Palmiter, Silas	Spencer, Joseph Jun.	Willcox, John
Parks, Joel	Squires, Jason	Willcox, Stephen
Parsons, Moses	Stillman, Ethan	Willmot, Joel
Payne, John	Stone, Christopher	Willmot, Joel 2nd
Payne, Rufus	Stone, Joseph	Woodford, Asa
Peck, Allen	Stone, Joseph Jun.	Woodford, Giles
Peck, Henry	Stone, William Jun(?)	Woodford, Josiah
Peck, John	Taylor, Elizer	Woodin, Elias
		Yale, Asa

(Total 234)

There were 4 duplicates, Stephen Willcox, Joseph Bacon Jun. Samuel Brockway & Jude Clark, now a total of 231. (End of the register of the Electors taken from Bristol records.)

Commencement of the record of the Electors in the Town of Burlington who were admitted since it was incorporated as a Town, all of which are respectively inserted in the alphabet, in alphabetical order:

September 15th, 1806

The following persons took the oath of Freeman.

Curtis Joshua	Hart Orenus	Hotchkiss, Ira
Elton, James	Hotchkiss, Alva	Merrill, Russell

Manna Root was regularly admitted, sworn, and enrolled as a Freeman of this state, in the Town of Farmington at their meeting in April 1802.

Test. John Mix, Town Clerk.

September 25st. 1807

The following persons took the oath of Freeman.

Andrus, James	Covil, Ebenezer Jun.	Hitchcock, Aaron
Barns, Josiah	Curtis, Chauncey	Hotchkiss, Lenas
Brown, James	Gillet, Arnold	Lankton, Arba
Burdick, Joshua	Hickok, Reubin	Martin, William
Covey, Jesse		

In 1801 Major Seth Wetmore proposed that all men over 21 should have suffrage. He was taken to court for malicious slander against the General Assembly and fined \$100.00.

To become a Freeman one had to be 21, have a stated amount of property, land & 50 shillings and obtain approval of the majority of the Board of Selectmen. Suffrage was considered not an inherent right, but a gift. (-L.H.-)

## **CHAPTER 6**

### **LOUIS BARNES: AN AWARD WINNING CATTLE BREEDER**

by James Klaneski

Burlington: In 1959 the "Brown Swiss Bulletin" identified Louis Barnes of Barnes Hill Road as the oldest breeder of Brown Swiss cattle in the United States. At the time Barnes was 71. Born during the March blizzard of 1888, Barnes maintained his cattle herd until 1969.

Lou was born into his business. His father Adna started their herd back in 1881. At that time he purchased three heifers from a farmer named Maxfield in New Hartford. The first Brown Swiss cattle arrived in the United States during the 1870's. According to Lou, his father was impressed with the "strength and stature" of the breed and felt that they would be the best suited for his high and rocky pastures. Barnes Hill Farm is situated on steeply rolling hills and has apple trees and mowing land interspersed among its pastures.

At one time Adna owned a cow which was registered as number 37. She was called "Katie" and was calved on April 7, 1876. Today there are several hundred thousand registered Swiss in the U.S. alone. In 1891 Adna purchased his first two Swiss which were imported from Switzerland. They came from a man named Harris in Wethersfield and were 12 years old at the time. Harris was a charter member of the Brown Swiss Cattle Breeders Association.

The first Barnes Hill calf was calved in 1882. It was a heifer named "Allie" and was registered as number 164 cut from "Clover" number 75, according to the registration records of the Brown Swiss Cattle Club. When Lou finally sold the herd in 1969, he sold the 14th generation of the first Barnes Hill cows.

Lou has always enjoyed showing his cattle, and was an ardent exhibitor in all of the area fairs for years. He exhibited at the Danbury State Fair for 36 years. At one time he says there were fairs in Plymouth, Terryville, Simsbury, Bristol, Harwinton, Berlin, Avon and Meriden. He used to drive his herd to all of them. From 1903 to 1912 he drove his herd to the Berlin Fair on Public roads with several animals wearing their Swiss cowbells. Barnes drove a wagon pulled by his bulls and oxen, and carried his small calves and clothing in the back.

He also exhibited yearly at the week long Danbury Fair. He would drive his cattle to the Burlington Station on Saturday and ride with the herd in a freight car to the fair. They would then return by train on the following Sunday. He sold milk at the Danbury Fair to those who were exhibiting pets and to those exhibitors who would stay and eat on the grounds. Lou would simply ask his customers to "settle up at the end of the week."

In 1917 when he was returning from Danbury his barn was struck by lightning and burned to the ground. Some animals were out in the pasture, but most of the herd was with Barnes. Consequently only one calf and a horse were lost. Lou had to keep his herd in the pastures until shelter could be provided in a large shed.

The apples presented a problem to the grazing cows so he kept them all in a small pasture with only a few trees in it and had to get those apples picked. An ox and bull were kept yoked together until he had the shed ready. In the spring of 1918 Lou built his new barn. He bought trees from his nearby neighbors and hauled them to a sawmill. When his lumber was ready Lou hauled it home again and hired someone to do the building.

Bulls have always played an important role on the Barnes Hill Farm. Because of the steep layout of the farm Barnes never used much machinery. For years he yoked and worked his breeding bulls. They shouldered the heavy workload about the farm while his horses were used only for driving and mowing hay. "It was hard to use a tractor on these side hills" Lou said, "With the bulls working I didn't care how steep it was". The work may have been slower with oxen and bulls than it would have been with horses, but Lou felt that the bulls were surer of foot. "At least they always landed right side up", he said.

The bulls were hitched in teams or spikes and were used for plowing, hauling wood and harrowing the fields. They were shod in the winter in Collinsville, with sharp shoes so they could get a good grip and haul manure, ice and wood. The smith, Lou said had to use a special frame in order to do the shoeing. While inside the frame the ox or bull had a rope tied around its neck to keep the head up and chains around its legs to keep it from kicking. In addition a strap was run around the animal's belly to keep it from lying down, and a stanchion prevented it from going forward. The smith then walked around the outside of the frame reaching in to do his work.

Lou was on the Burlington Board of Selectmen for a number of years and used his oxen while working on the roads. He began training his bulls when they were still quite young and before they were so strong that he couldn't hold them. In this way they were trained to follow the directions of his calls, "haw" meant turn left and "gee" turn right. Lou didn't think that many people today would believe it but said that he had his bulls so well trained that he rarely ever had to use a whip. He told how he would sometimes be up in his hayloft while the bulls were down in the yard hitched to a wagon. From the loft he could call down to them to "come around gee" or "get along" and the team would follow his calls as well as if he were standing by their side.

Lou usually preferred to use his bulls for the ox drawing events at local fairs. The bulls he said had "more guts" and "wouldn't give up pulling when an ox might". Also because he continually was working his bulls, their necks were toughened unlike those on animals only used for show. "Animals which aren't used for work" he said, "and only for show have a tendency after one fair to have sore necks and can't be used well in the next fair".

Barnes has a large collection of ribbons, photographs, news clippings and recordings which he just loves to bring out and show. He says at one time he had a cow that could talk. Whenever it saw its calf, it would very clearly say "Mama". But it had to be her own calf. "You couldn't fool her," Lou said. "I'd get her calf and walk it by her a couple of times and she'd say it". Any time someone came to see his talking cow, Lou was able to oblige them. "She'd never let me down," he said. The recording was made by WTIC for Bob Atwood who played it on the air.

Lou's oldest ribbon won at a fair is dated 1889. It was won by his father at Danbury. "I guess I have about a half bushel of ribbons up in the attic, or maybe you should call it a peck". Lou brought out the very first edition of the "Brown Swiss Record" dated 1880 which contained the constitution of the organization and listed its original charter members. His uncle Isaac was one of the men listed. Then he brought out nearly every edition of the Brown Swiss Breeder's Bulletin beginning in 1924. "I'm the only one in Connecticut who has this" he said proudly. The bulletins along with a series of mounted photographs and ribbons were set out on a table waiting for someone from the Brown Swiss Breeders Club who was to pick them up and take them to the Eastern States Exposition. "My most Prized ribbon" Lou said, "is a special ribbon from the Danbury Fair for the best herd". The herd had to contain a bull and his four daughters or sons. Lou's herd won over all other herds and breeds.

Barnes was elected to the Board of Selectmen in Burlington for the first time in 1920, and served for 11 one year terms, the last one being in 1936. He also served the town as District Fire Warden for 42 years. Until 1922 he went to fires by horse and buggy and kept whatever fire fighting equipment he had in his barn. He recalls that many of the fires he saw were started by the seven or eight trains traveling by each day on the railroad. It was part of his job to report any engine that had a defective spark arrester to the main railroad yard.

(Bristol Press, 10-6-1976). [Trader]

### **JOEL BUNNELL'S WILL**

1793-1876

Joel's will probated in Burlington reads as follows:

I, Joel Bunnell, will that suitable gravestones be erected to my memory of myself and my wife. (Joel lived in the Wollmann house on Rock Road. He is buried in Burlington Center Cemetery, called the "Bunnell Pie Lot")

As I have heretofore given my son Warren G. a large amount of property, real and personal, I do not give him any more, except a share as one of the residuary legatees, herein after named. (Warren lived on Hotchkiss Road; the cellar hole can still be seen.)

To my son Lemuel I give one share as one of the residuary legatees, having heretofore made payments and gifts to him.

I give to my son Norris W. Bunnell, in addition to what I have already given him, all stock of every kind on his farm and in his possession all wood, oxhalls, the new sleigh at the Cider Mill, all lumber in and about the Fenn house, except the Oak boards, the Grind stone and hangings on Norris place. Also all the cellar furniture, and contents of the cellar at his house. I also give him the horses and harness, wagons and sleighs and outfit for a two horse teams in summer and winter, the shingles and loose lumber, about the premises owned by Norris. Also all wood in his possession, the old clock in the kitchen, desk in the bedroom and the new cooking stove.

I give to my grandson Otis G. Bunnell, my gun, drum, military equipment, coats, also one silver watch, and my old fashioned armchair.

I give to my son Sheldon L. Bunnell, in addition to what I have already given him, all stock of every kind on his farm, all wood, oxhalls, the oak boards at the Fenn house, the cellar furniture and contents of the cellar at the White house, the grind stone and hangings on Sheldon's place, also the shingles loose lumber and wood on his place.

I give to my daughter Adaline A. Bunnell, in addition to the place in Burlington Center, (Adaline never married. The house mentioned was formerly the Burlington Post Office, Marjorie Lewis Post Mistress.) already deeded to her, the following notes and property: one Note against Horace Dolittle for \$1,000; one note against George Hart for \$200; one note against Carl Tiffenback for \$600; one note against John Gamm for \$200; one note against William Henry for \$400; two notes against George Hinman for \$1,000; and two notes against James Alling & Co. for \$350. The household furniture and housekeeping goods above the first floor valued at the sum of \$900 excepting the old clock in the kitchen, desk in my bed room and the new cooking stove, the amount and value of all is \$7,200, which makes her equal with the amounts give to Warren, Norris and Sheldon.

I also give to her, one cider barrel, one vinegar cask, one soup barrel, one lard tub, one pickle barrel, one small wine cask, one butter tub, one pork barrel, two half hopsbread tubs, ten pairs of shoes, one glass lantern, reserving the use of all furniture and housekeeping goods to myself and my wife during our lives, or the life of either of us. Also reserving to myself during my life, the annual interest on all the notes given Adaline and in the event of my decease before the decease of my wife, I will that she shall have during her life the income of one half the amount of said notes.

I give to my wife Fanny Bunnell, one gold watch, one silver watch, her gold beads, one gold thimble, my golden wedding tea set, the annual interest or income of one half the amount of the notes given to my daughter Adaline, in lieu of Dower and all claims on my estate.

I give to my sons Norris W. and Sheldon L. Bunnell, all farming tools, utensils and implements not disposed of, to be owned by and used by them equally, or to be equally divided between them as they may choose.

All the rest and residue of my estate, goods and chattels, I will to be divided into seven equal parts or shares, and give one share to Norris W. Bunnell; two shares to Adaline A. Bunnell; two shares to Warren G. Bunnell and one share each to Sheldon L. and Lemuel Bunnell.

I have intended to, and believe I have made in this will with what I have already deeded, and given my children, a just and equal distribution of all my estate and made such provisions and reservations, as that no claims now exist or will or can accrue hereafter in favor of any legatees in this will, for past or future case or support of myself, or my wife, and it is my earnest wish and desire that my wife and children all acquiesce in this disposition of the remainder of my estate, and should any claim be presented to my estate, by either or any legatees in this will, or should any legatees herein try to break or destroy this will, or try to have any property disposed of, otherwise than as I have directed or shall enter into any lawsuit directly or indirectly with the others or with my estate such person or persons shall forfeit, thereby, all right to any part of my estate, and such share or shares so forfeited shall go to those who do acquiesce in its provisions.

Samuel P. Newell of Bristol, Conn., Executor. 29 July 1875. Signed: Joel Bunnell. Witnesses: Simeon Beach, Jerome L. Edwards and Samuel P. Newell.  
(Fanny died 4-30-1887)

**DR. ROMEO ELTON (1790-1869)**

Son of William-(Hart Manuscript)

Dr. Romeo Elton was the son of Mr. Wm. Elton. (He also had a brother James.) Dr. Elton showed, in early boyhood that he was possessed of an uncommon mind & memory. In the (Center) district school none went before him in the branches there taught. He used to, when engaged on the farm, have a book with him & when he found it necessary to stop the team for a short time, would give attention to his book. When 16 or 17 years of age he was employed to teach the school where he had got what education he could get in the common school of those days and succeeded far beyond any one anticipated. It was found by Rev. Jonathan Miller & Mr. Lucius Hart (afterwards Rev.) that Elton was resolved upon getting an education, they kindly offered to hear him recite, lend him what assistance they could free of charge.

Wallingford Academy was in those days in high repute. Elton got together what funds he could & attended one term. He was then appointed a tutor. He attended to his duties as tutor to the satisfaction of all concerned & kept up with his class. A gentleman who was a student at the time in the Academy remarked that he thought that he was a pretty good scholar, but he said Elton by running over his lesson once, could get it better than he could by hard study. I regret it very much that I cannot give dates. He fitted for college & entered Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island. (Graduated from Brown University in 1813, age 23.)

Short of funds, it was one continual struggle with him till he got through. At one time when about to leave his friends in Burlington to return to College his brother Wm. inquired how he was provided with funds. His reply was "I have one cent." His brother gave him \$10.00 and sent his team to help him on a bit beyond Hartford.

About Commencement of his last collegiate year, he was taken sick, destitute, alone among strangers, one of the rich Browns hearing he was sick visited him. He inquired of the physician if Elton could be moved without injury. The Dr. said he thought he could. Brown proposed that he should be removed to his house. Elton remonstrated, said he was poor and destitute and in all probability would never be able to repay him. Brown overruled all his objections, sent his carriage & removed him to his house, where he remained until he graduated. He soon after married & he & his wife took charge of the Wallingford Academy on a salary of \$1200 a year. He left Wallingford after a while & went to Amboy, N.J. I think as a teacher. While in New Jersey, he spent some time at Princeton studying Theology. From New Jersey he went to Newport, Rhode Island & was settled as a Paster over a Baptist Congregation in that place.

Afterward previous to his appointment as Professor in Brown University, he was settled over a Congregation in Vermont. Mr. Elton died suddenly in Boston, Nov. 1869, aged about 80 years.

Romeo was rather a celebrated character. He could speak and write as many as 12 different languages. He finished his education at Brown University, Rhode Island, was afterward a professor in that Institution. He spent two years in some of the most celebrated schools in the Old Country previous to his taking the Professor's Chair. He was twice a settled minister in this country. He resigned his Professorship & went to England sometime between 1842 & 1848 & settled in Exeter. He was married there the second time having lost his first wife. He was settled over a church in Exeter & continued there until his wife died.

He then went to Bath, (England,) & was there until he came to the United States in the fall of 1869. He visited his friends in Burlington then went to Boston & soon after married the 3rd time. He died suddenly a few weeks after he was married. For purity of language in his Pulpit Ministrations Mr. Elton had few equals. Mr. Elton was an author. He wrote the "Life of Williams" of Rhode Island, a very prominent man among the Baptists. He held the title of D.D. Mr. Elton's father was by trade a Tailor & was in rather low circumstances.

**COPY OF THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF ROMEO ELTON (1817-1889)**

Son of James-dated May 6, 1889  
(Romeo owned in the Elton Tavern. L.R.A.)

To all people to whom these presents shall come, Greeting.  
Know ye that I Romeo Elton of the town of Burlington County of Hartford, State of Connecticut, being of sound mind and memory, do make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following; That is to say

**FIRST.** All my debts and funeral expenses must be paid by my executor herein after named.

**SECOND.** Being desirous that my two grand children E.Elton Ripley and Herbert J.Ripley should receive and education I give to each of them the sum of six hundred dollars for that purpose, but if they do not wish to acquire an education, but wish to follow some other occupation which is honorable and just, and are saving and temperate, then my executor is to pay over to them the said sum of six hundred dollars each after they arrive at the age of twenty one.

**THIRD.** My library I give and bequeath to Dr. E.M.Ripley to be to him and to his heirs forever.

**FOURTH.** The house and lot in Unionville, I give devise and bequeath to my daughter Helen to be to her and to her heirs forever.

**FIFTH.** My request is that my executor procure a burial lot, and erect thereon a suitable monument not to exceed the sum of three hundred dollars, with the names of all my family thereon.

**SIXTH.** The remainder of all my estate both real and personal I give and bequeath to my wife, absolutely to use the income or principle thereof the whole or in part as she may deem best, for her own personal use and comfort without any restriction whatever during her natural life.

**SEVENTH.** As I have no debts outstanding against me for many years past, and probably no bills will be presented against my estate with the exception of my funeral expenses, no inventory of my estate need be taken by my executor.

**EIGHT.** I hereby constitute and appoint Dr. Edwin M.Ripley executor of this my last will and testament. And trusting to his honesty, integrity and uprightness in seeing that my wishes are complied with in all respects in carrying out the provisions of the above, no bond need be given and none shall be required of him for the faithful performance of his duty.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this sixth day of  
May 1889. Romeo Elton L.S.

Signed sealed and declared to be his last will and testament by the above named testator Romeo Elton, in the presence of us, who in his presence and at his request, and in the presence of each other have hereunto subscribed our names as witnesses.

Frank M.Butler    Noble Foot    L.F.Turner.  
(Mr. Elton died on 5-24-1889, age 72.-L-R-A)

Collinsville Conn. May 25, 1889

Mr. Romeo Elton, Estate

O.Z.Hugins, Undertaker, and dealer in all kinds of cabinet furniture Rosewood, black walnut and whitewood. Caskets and coffins, of all sizes, trimmed in good style and at short notice. Burial clothing, constantly on hand and at lowest possible prices. HEARSE FURNISHED.

Laying out embalming, shaving etc.	\$ 7.00
B. cloth, casket & box etc.	65.00
Funeral atd. (paid man)	2.00
use 1 sheaf wheat	.50
necktie & collar	<u>.35</u>
Sept. 19, 1889 Recd payment	\$74.85

Please accept many thanks for the above  
("sheaf wheat"; "speak of the divine harvest of souls".)

Bridgeport, Ct. Dec. 3, 1889

Mr. E.M.Ripley, Executor

Unionville, Conn.

Bought of THE MONUMENTAL BRONZE CO.

(Organized under the Statue Laws of the State of Connecticut)

Manufacturers of the PATENT WHITE BRONZE MONUMENTS, Statuary, Portrait Busts, Medallion, etc.

Elton ----- \$125.00

Dec. 6, 1889, Rec'd check & cash in full payment

Signed -- Mr. Harris

### **KATHERINE GAYLORD**

(Bridgeport, Conn.: The Standard Association, Printers. 1879).

History and Pedigree of a branch of the Gaylord Family together with an incident of the Wyoming Massacre and some account of the descendants of Aaron and Katherine Gaylord.

The Centennial Anniversary of the Massacre of Wyoming which was celebrated on the 3rd and 4th of July, 1878, brings to mind the sad story which I learned when a child, as I stood at my grandmother's side and listened with tearful eyes, to her recital of the events of that terrible day, when her husband, Lieut. Aaron Gaylord was killed by the Indians, and she with her three children, obliged to flee for life to her friends in Connecticut.

### **HISTORY AND PEDIGREE**

(The introductory history and pedigree of the Gaylord Family was taken from a book published by one William Gaylord, or Gaillaird, of Cincinnati, Ohio.)

Aaron Gaylord was a descendant of William Gaylord, native of Devonshire, England, who descended from the Gaillairds of Normandy in north of France, and from the houses of York and Lancaster. The family coat of arms was "the roses". Chateau Gaillaird, the ruins of which are still standing, was a stronghold built by Richard Coeur-de-Loin for the defense of the frontier of Normandy. It was considered impregnable except by starvation, and in the reign of Richard's successor, Philip Augustus, the garrison after a siege of six months, were obliged to surrender on this account.

In the winter 1629-30 William Gaylord joined a company of colonists under the lead of Rev. John Maverick and Rev. John Wareham and came to New England, arriving at Nantucket, Boston Bay, in the spring of 1630, and settling in Dorchester. In 1638 or 1639 he removed to Windsor, Conn., then an infant settlement, and was a delegate to the first "General Court" at Hartford in 1639, which formed the "Commonwealth of Connecticut". He was elected to the Connecticut Legislature for forty-one sessions, (semi-annual) and at the time of his death, in 1673, was still a member of that body.

He had four sons, known in all Gaylord tradition as the "four brothers" (all born in England), from whom descended the Gaylords of this country. Their names were William, Samuel, Walter and John. Walter, the third son, was the father of our branch. His Eldest son, Joseph was born in 1649 and married Sarah Stanley in 1670. He lived in Waterbury, Conn., and afterward in Durham, Conn. His sons were Joseph, John, William and Benjamin. John, the second son of Joseph, (born in 1677) had a large family. He lived for many years in Wallingford, Conn. His sons were Moses, Aaron, Reuben, Jesse, Edward and Eleazer. (This is misleading John Gaylord was not the father of Aaron Gaylord of Wyoming. Aaron was the son of Joseph Gaylord and Elizabeth Rich. The preceding part not in original manuscript.)

Aaron, of Wyoming, (the second son of Joseph) was my grandfather. He was born in Bristol, Conn., in 1745, and married Katherine Cole, of the same place. They removed to Pennsylvania about the year 1775. Their journey which was made on horseback with their three children (Lemuel, Phoebe, and Lorena) and all their worldly effects occupied about three weeks. They rode many a weary mile through the wilds of Pennsylvania where there were no roads, and nothing to mark their way but the blazed trees, and settled themselves in the fertile valley of the Wyoming, on the Susquehannah River.

### **WYOMING**

This valley had been a bone of contention from its earliest history. First, between the "Six Nations" and the "Delaware Indians" and afterwards between Pennsylvania and the Plymouth Colony. It seemed that as far back as 1620, King James granted to the "Plymouth Company" the land lying between the 40 degree and 46 degree North Latitude, and extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean. Afterward, about 1670, the crown gave a grant to Pennsylvania which covered a part of the original grant to the Plymouth Company. The valley of the Wyoming was thus given to both, and both claimed it and made settlements there.

At the time Aaron Gaylord, my grandfather, settled in Wyoming, the population was small. They were surrounded by Indians, but apprehended little danger from them, as they always appeared friendly. It was however deemed expedient to build a fort for better protection and safety, and several families lived within it. Among these was my grandfather's family, and he was chosen commander of the Fort. They had been at the new settlement about three years before the Indians began to show signs of hostility. They had made clearings, had raised horses and cattle, had planted and sowed, and the waving wheat was ready to harvest, giving promise of plenty for the future, when the war cloud broke upon them.

### **THE STORY OF THE MASSACRE**

At the commencement of the Revolutionary War, the population of Wyoming was about 2,500, among whom were a considerable number of Loyalists, or Tories as they were called, because they favored the British cause, and could not be trusted at such a time. In 1778 when all the able-bodied men had gone to war, except a little company who had been left to guard the women and children, the Indians began to make warlike demonstrations. They would land from their canoes in squads in front of Forty Fort, covered with war paint, and making the most angry gesticulations. It soon became evident that they meant war, and it was ascertained they were massing themselves a few miles away preparing for an attack.

Col. Butler, an officer of the regular army, who was stopping in the Fort called a council and proposed to go out to meet the Indians and give them battle. This measure was opposed by my grandfather with all the arguments he could command. He said it would be imprudent to attack with their small force when they knew nothing of the strength of the enemy, who it was evident were instigated and led on by the Tories. My grandfather's advice was not taken, he was overruled in the council and yielded his judgment saying: "I will go, for I had rather die than be called a coward in such a time as this". He went and died like a brave man.

They were to start early the following morning. He spent the night without sleep, in conversation with his wife as though he knew it were his last. At early dawn he mounted his horse and rallied his company. He then rode to his own door, handed his purse containing a few dollars to his wife, saying: "Take this if I never return it may be of some use to you", and then started with the rest to meet their wily foe.

When they arrived at the place where they expected to meet the enemy, there were no Indians to be seen, so they incautiously moved on until they reached a place where the river was on one side of them and a high hill on the other. Here their foes sprang from their ambush before and behind, and they found themselves surrounded by a force double that of their own, and composed of Indians, and whites disguised as Red Men.

Finding they had fallen into a trap, out of which they could not retreat, and greatly outnumbered, there was nothing left for them but for each to defend his own life as best he could. They fought desperately and the slaughter was terrible, but their numbers gradually diminished until nearly all had fallen victims to the tomahawk and scalping knife.

Later in the afternoon, my grandfather and a neighbor who had fought by his side all day, finding themselves hard pressed by an Indian with tomahawk in hand, jumped into the river and swam to a little island covered with trees and bushes, the Indians closely following them. The neighbor, who was running ahead, discovered an uprooted tree surrounded by bushes and secreted himself in the cavity. Hardly had the bushes ceased swaying when the savage passed in pursuit of my grandfather, whom he soon overtook. He was gone about long enough to scalp a man when he returned past the uprooted tree peering this way and that in search of the other, but did not discover him.

He kept quiet until the dusk of evening, hearing my grandfather's groans until about the time the sun went down, when they ceased, and all was still. As the evening drew on he crept cautiously from his hiding place. As he did so he hit his foot against something, and stooped down and picked up my grandfather's hat, which he took with him back to the Fort where he arrived about 9 o'clock to tell the sad news of the day's disaster to the waiting, anxious women and children, and to hasten their flight to a place of safety.

**SEE BELOW** (A historian described the battle thusly: "Early in the summer Colonel Butler and Brant, the Indian Chief, led a party of about sixteen hundred savages and Tories against the flourishing settlements of Wyoming Valley, Pennsylvania. One of the most terrible massacres in the whole history of America ensued. The garrison of the fort was lured out to hold a parley, and nearly all slain. Many were scalped. On surrender, the women and children were shut up in the houses and barracks and consumed in the general conflagration. The settlements were ravaged with fire and sword, with the most cold-blooded cruelty.")

### **THE FLIGHT**

They well knew the Indians would be upon them in the morning, and they immediately set about making hurried preparations for leaving their homes. My grandmother collected a bag of provisions and a bag of clothing which she put upon one horse, while another horse was provided upon which she and her children, Lemuel, Phoebe and Lorena were to ride alternately. Lorena, the youngest child, afterward my mother, was then only seven years old.

As soon as the first dawn of daylight appeared, they started on their weary, perilous journey. Early as it was, they were none too hasty in their flight, for before the sun arose they looked back and saw the smoke of their burning homes, and expected to be pursued by their savage foes.

They slept their first night in a house which had been deserted by its former occupants for fear of the Indians, but the three successive nights were passed in the woods without shelter. The tired children feeling secure with their heads upon their Mother's lap slept soundly, while she watched the live long nights, listening to the howling of the wolves, and to the rustle of the leaves which to her excited imagination was the stealthy tread of an Indian.

After the second day's journey, one of their horses became so lame they were obliged to abandon it. They reached the river and put their little store of clothing and provisions upon a raft to go down the stream some miles, to a ford where they intended crossing so as to have the full benefit of their one horse. After doing so they heard the Indians were in that direction and were afraid to go farther down the river, so crossing in another place, and never saw or heard anything more of their baggage.

After this they were obliged to subsist as best they could, as they pursued their difficult pilgrimage through that then sparsely settled country. At one time they went from Thursday to Sunday afternoon without food, and then met a party of friendly Indians returning from a hunting tour, who gave them what provisions they had to relieve them of their present hunger.

They were several weeks on this wearisome journey to her father's home in Bristol, Connecticut. Meanwhile, her father, hearing of the massacre of the Wyoming settlers, and learning that his daughter started for home, sent her brother to meet her. The latter not knowing the route she had taken missed her on the way and she reached home before him. Her father saw her approaching the house with her three children, and as he went out to meet her, she fell into his arms and burst into tears; the first tears she had shed since that fatal night when the stunning news was brought to her that her husband was massacred and she must seek safety for herself and children in speedy flight.

No wonder that the scenes of that eventful period of her life were indelibly impressed upon her mind, and that she retained a vivid recollection of all the circumstances connected therewith, and could relate them accurately, even down to extreme old age, when more recent events had entirely faded from her memory.

On one occasion she was visiting at the house of a friend, when her attention was attracted by a picture hanging on the wall, representing an Indian scalping a man, and so vividly did it bring back to her mind events of the past in her experience, that she fell to the floor. My grandfather's

hat which was brought back to the Fort after the massacre, she kept for many years, and her grandchildren remember to have seen it, but it became lost during the latter portion of her life.

After her return from Wyoming she lived with her father. Her children grew up, left her, and were married. When her father had become aged and infirm, past 90 years old, and had lost his hearing, he used to sit in his armchair before the fire and doze away the time. One day she left him thus for a short time, and during her absence the house took fire from the roof. The wind was high, and when the fire was discovered it was too late to save the house, and it was with difficulty that her father was saved from the flames. Thus she was again left houseless and homeless.

Her father lived but a short time after that, when she went to live with her youngest daughter (our mother), who had married Lynde Phelps of Burlington, Connecticut. My grandmother assisted my mother in raising a family of seven daughters, in whom she always took the most lively interest, and who have always remembered with gratitude her kind motherly care, and the quiet patient Christian character she always maintained. She died in 1840, in the 95th year of her age, having been an inmate of my father's family for nearly 40 years.\*\*\*

The writer, one of the daughters of Lynde and Lorena Phelps, and grand-daughter of Aaron and Katherine Gaylord, now a grandmother herself, aged 73 years, has been induced at the request of her children and grandchildren, to write out this simple narrative of facts respecting the massacre of Wyoming, as she learned them from the lips of her grandmother, that they might be remembered and seem more real, and less like fiction.

**Added note:** The anniversary of the Battle of Bunker Hill, 6-17, was selected by the Katherine Gaylord Chapter, D.A.R. as an appropriate date on which to dedicate the monument recently erected to their heroine in the old Burlington cemetery. About 40 people from Bristol came to exercises, many of them members of the Chapter. Some relatives of the Gaylord family attended, many coming from a distance.

## **WHEN CONNECTICUT FOUGHT TO DEFEND PENNSYLVANIA**

By Arthur G. Sharp (Hartford Courant, late 1980's)

In July 1778, a formidable force of English soldiers and their Indian allies attacked a large community near Wilkes-Barre, Conn.

Wilkes-Barre, Conn.? That's correct. The Wyoming Valley, in present-day eastern Pennsylvania, was once part of Connecticut--and the people living there had to fight often to protect their home.

Connecticut claimed the Wyoming Valley in 1762. Neither the residents of Pennsylvania nor the Indians living nearby appreciated the "Connecticut Yankees" who settled the land. They become even more antagonistic as the more than 2,000 Connecticut settlers carved flourishing towns and farms out of the pristine wilderness.

More than once, Pennsylvanians or Indians attacked the stout Nutmeggers only to be rebuffed. In fact, as late as 1775, Pennsylvania militiamen invaded the valley, but were driven out. The Connecticut settlers proved to be as tough at soldiering as they were at farming. Their fighting strength, along with their allegiance to Connecticut and the fledgling United States, led in part to the 1778 Wyoming Massacre.

Early in the Revolutionary War, the majority of the able-bodied males living in the Wyoming Valley enlisted in the Connecticut Line to protect their homeland against the British. They left the valley to join their Connecticut brethren where the fighting was most active. Their departure left the Wyoming settlements practically defenseless against their enemies. The British and the Indians combined to take advantage of this situation.

In early July 1778, 1,200 British rangers and their Indian allies, commanded by Col. John Rogers, attacked the valley. They concentrated on three forts: Wyoming, Jenkins and Forty. They expected little opposition. That's what they got.

The British offered the defenders a chance to surrender without a battle. The defenders of Wyoming and Jenkins did so. Those at Forty would not. That meant the British did not have to split their forces, which made the Americans' position Forty Fort a bit untenable. Richard McGinnis, a carpenter who fought there with the British, explained the surrender offer in his journal.

One of Forty's defenders, a Mr. Steward, told the British that "he never would give it over to Tories (British sympathizers) and savages but stand it out to the last and defend it to the last extremity." That is exactly what he and his comrades did. They paid a heavy price for their bravery.

There were anywhere from 300 to 582 old men and boys available to defend the fort. Not only was this ragtag force considerably outnumbered, but it was poorly led. Incredibly, their leader, Col. Zeb. Butler, a veteran of Connecticut's "war" against Pennsylvania, ordered his ill-prepared troops out of the fort to fight the enemy in the open. This proved to be a gross mistake.

At about 5 p.m. on July 3, the short battle began. The British and Indians surrounded the Americans and cut them to shreds. As McGinnis described it, "we immediately treed ourselves and secured every spot that was any way advantageous to our designs". The surrounding defenders fought staunchly, but they were no match for the British and Indians. For them, it was either kill or be killed.

The Americans could not surrender. No sooner did they try, than the Indians pursued and killed them. Eyewitnesses reported that "those who were made prisoners were tied to small trees and burnt the evening of the same day."

According to McGinnis, only 45 of the Connecticut men survived the battle. The British casualties amounted to one Indian and one soldier killed, and a second soldier injured. Of course McGinnis's statistics may be in doubt, since he also estimated that the Americans had 450 soldiers in the field. Regardless of the accuracy of the numbers, one thing is certain: July 3, 1778, was a sad day in Connecticut's history.

Just how sad the day was is described by the famous American farmer/historian Hector St. John de Crevecoeur in his "Sketches of 18th Century America".

"Thus perished in one day most of the buildings, improvements, mills, bridges, etc. which had been erected there with so much cost and industry."

In order to make their victory complete, the British and Indians burned houses, barns, mills, grain, everything that was combustible. They gathered all the livestock and kept it for themselves. In sort, they devastated the valley and for all intents and purposes put to an end Connecticut's involvement in Pennsylvania.

Many of the inhabitants of the valley began their slow, painful return to Connecticut. They left behind their hopes, their dreams, and, in many cases, their loved ones whose bodies lay unburied on the Pennsylvania battlefield.

These men had paid the supreme sacrifice for the plots of ground they had nurtured over the years. They paid dearly to become part of that Pennsylvania ground--and of Connecticut's history.

### **THE "FAMOUS" SHAVER LETTER.**

(Some words were underlined)

Frankfurt, N.Y.

Jan. 1st. 1908.

Mr. & Mrs. Turner;

Dear Friends;

Ever since my return home from the "Centennial" & old Burlington where you so kindly entertained me & gave me a welcome to the home of my girlhood days I have been trying to write you but I wanted to give you as much of a history as I could of the house you now occupy & waited for more time.

Until last spring we were busy building, furnishing & moving into our new house & store. The summer went nobody knows where. I hardly think we had any. It was summer a few days, then cold fall days, alternately & frost before we knew it. Estelle wrote me of the escapade in Bristol. It was too bad after you had anticipated that visit with Florence for so long, but I'm glad it was no worse, you had a very fortunate escape. I hope both of you are entirely recovered from the effects. What a splendid time I did have at your house. You were all so kind & good to me. Every room is filled with memory pictures of the long ago & now whenever I recall them your faces are mingled with the dear ones gone. And you all seem very dear to me, there is the same family

father, mother, son & daughter filling the same places. And I can fully sympathize with Lila for she has to "stand in the limelight" as I used to & receive the criticisms.

Once when they were rather severe "Rev. Jas. D.Wright" who was our Pastor there (from 3-7-1849 to 3-21-1855.L.R.A.)said, "Never mind Lizzy it is only the trees that bear good fruit that get pelted". That was lots of comfort to me & I pass it on to her. Now for the history of the place. I do not know who built the store part, but somewhere between 1825 & 1829 Martin Hale & Frederick Bull (my father) formed a partnership and bought it of Samuel Webster. (died 1851-L.R.A.) They occupied it till 1841 when Mr. Hale sold out to father and moved to Marlins, N.Y. (there is no Marlins N.Y. Martin Hale was discharged from the Church to New Britain on 7-1833.L.R.A.) Father continued the business until after the death of my mother. We moved to New Haven in 1855. Cousin Edward Bull kept the store for a while then Ruel Palmiter bought the place. When Mr. Webster sold the store to "Hale & Bull" he promised not to go in business again in the town. So he built another store between Adaline's (Warren Bunnell's sister.-L.R.A.) house & the Methodist Church & established his nephew, Hiram Webster in business there. He built the brick house which is now the parsonage for a hotel, but it embarrassed him financially & he failed in business.

Father bought the store, moved it beside his own & in 1845 made it the house you now occupy. Your kitchen, or east wing was the barroom of Webster's Store. The bar room of the Brick Hotel is the ministers bedroom & the barroom of the old Colonial Inn is a part of Frank Butler's house. (Died 1908-L.R.A) I well remember when they were all doing good business & I also remember when a Temperance Lecturer at one of our 4th of July picnics made mention of the fact that the three barrooms of the town were turned into dwelling houses.

My father married Mary Mason, a sister of Ira Mason who owned the house now occupied by Mr. Booth with the exception of the widows "dower", which was the east half. My father bought that & lived there until 1839 when he built the house west of the church, which was sold Centennial week to a man for a winter home. I have been wondering how he enjoyed it last winter, if it was as cold there as here. How I would like to hear from you & know what is going on in the dear old town. You have made fine improvements & I hope new comers will do the same. There are grand possibilities for City people who are looking for suburban homes & if there might be enough of them to support a trolley, wouldn't it be fine, a trolley to Bristol or Unionville would "set the town up in business".

I have been looking up facts, dates etc. since I came home & have found that, that Old Mansion that stands an object lesson of honest builders of olden time & is now doing its duty as "Colonial Inn" was built before the Revolutionary War, and during the war was often filled with soldiers sleeping while the women sat up nights to cook for them, and George Washington stopped there on his way to & from Hartford & Albany. I knew I couldn't be mistaken for I was often told in my childhood that George Washington slept in that bedroom over the foot of the stairs next to the attic stairs.

I also found that Daniel Bull came from Milford in 1785 (he was about 24 years old. L.R.A.) and bought of his mother "Widow Ann Bull" the house now occupied by Mr. Green (& used as the town poor farm). He had 3 sons & 5 daughters all born in that house. His oldest son Samuel, built the white house west of Ralph Humphrey's, lived & died there. (Burlington map 1869, shows Ralph Humphrey lived on corner of Covey Road opposite Upson Road & Samuel Bull lived in a house between there and the Baptist Cemetery.L.R.A.) He was a Deacon in the Church & his 3 daughter's, Eliza Ann, Emily & Martha were prominent singers in the choir. (Church record shows that Daniel & Frederick Bull were Deacons, but not Samuel.L.R.A.) His second son was Frederick who built & lived in your house. He also was a Deacon in the church & sang in the choir until he left town. William the youngest occupied the homestead & his 3 sons, Henry, Edward & Samuel & two daughters, Mary & Maria also sang in the choir. (Mary was the mother of Estelle Spencer, Florence Leigh & Frank and Will Fenn). Mary, the oldest daughter married Amos Hamblin, of Southington. Her daughter Julia is still living there. Sara, her youngest daughter was the first wife of the late C.D.Barnes of Southington & mother of Frank H.Barnes. Eliza, the second daughter married Lemuel Crane & both sang in the choir in their younger days. Their older girls, Maria,

Elizabeth, Harriet & Julia sang in the choir until they moved to Collinsville in 1852. (They lived in the house in the picture of "The man with the hoe". The picture number 15 taken in front of the "Crane House", Barnes Hill Road.L.R.A.)

Maria married Erastus Hamblin a brother of Amos. Julia married Dr. Warren Crane of Hartford. Bessie & Anna died young. All were born in that house & I think it must be well built for it is one of the oldest in town, as Daniel Bull bought it in 1785. I don't know how long before that it was built. This is sort of a family history & will not interest you but none of the names were mentioned in the Centennial Histories or speeches I thought I would say that these people lived & did their full share in building up the town & church.

There was another store where Adaline's garden is which was moved across the street opposite yours & run by a Mr. Lowrey.

But the first I can remember my uncle Ira Mason owned it & he and his son Rush Mason run a large general store. When we left Burlington, Romeo Elton was occupying it & afterwards it was moved back of Mr. Booth's house & made into a shed or barn. Those were the three stores that once flourished there & yours alone remains.

Charles Pettibone of Chicago who visited Burlington last July remembered many of the old people & landmarks and a talk with him refreshed my memory on many points. A letter from one of my mother's old friends 92 years old gave me lots of facts and dates. And I am still looking for more. I only wish I had known there was to be a Centennial & I would have had a paper ready. One would think the central & northern part of the town were never settled. Hales, Ponds, Blackman, Benham, Johnson, Palmiter, Hitchcock, Case, Mason & Bull were once prominent names in Burlington but no mention made of most of them & I guess you wish by this time I hadn't mentioned so many. Well I'll "ring off" and give you a much needed rest.

I shall be very happy to hear from you & know of the prosperity of Burlington. Do you still have to listen to the preaching of Mr. Stone? (Pastor 1905-1910.L.R.A.) Hard by name, by nature & action, beg pardon - that was a slip of the pen.

Will you kindly ask Warren Bunnell for the address of that Mr. Woodruff who wrote to him. Adaline told me he had it, Mr. Pettibone would like it. Please give my love to the Spencer's when you see them. They owe me a letter & remember me to any of the people who know me. Is Mrs. Flora Smith still living? (She died 1908.L.R.A.) Much love to her if she is & to Adaline. And will you please give me the address of Mrs. Otis Bunnell?

And now with best wishes for you a "Happy New Year" & hoping this will find you all well & happy. I will say good night with a wealth of love & gratitude for all your kindness to.

Mrs. L.A.Shaver

(Below are comments on above letter.L.R.A.)

"Burlington, Dec. 18th, 1848. Annual meeting opened agreeable to adjournment. Mr. Carlos Hotchkiss, Moderator. Voted to direct Wm. Bull to ascertain on what terms he can rent the dwelling house of Mr. Hiram Webster or the one Alonsa S.Neul lives in, also on what terms they can be bought for. Voted to adjourn this meeting to the 25th Instant at 3 o'clock, P.M.

M.H.Upson, Clerk." (Church record)

Old Colonial Inn was Elton Tavern.

Frank Butler's house. (East of Texaco gas Station, 2000)

Daniel Bull (d.1845) came from Milford in 1785, and bought from his mother Ann Bull, (d.1816) Mr. Green's house. (Corner of Foot & Covey Road) He had 3 sons & 5 daughters.

### **SILAS BROOKS, BALLOON ENTHUSIAST.**

More than a century ago another Burlington resident, air enthusiast Silas Brooks, took to the skies in a small gas balloon. (New England Air Museum in Windsor Locks has located his balloon basket, complete with small seat, original ropes, net and wooden gas valve, and is exhibiting it this summer. It's the oldest aviation artifact known to exist in the country). Despite a life filled with adventure, which included touring with Bridgeport's P.T.Barnum and over 160 flights in 40 years of

flying, Silas Brooks died a pauper in the Burlington Poorhouse in 1906. (Connecticut Mag. August 1989-L.R.A.)

(From Lois Humphrey research.)

Silas Brooks was born in Plymouth, Connecticut and moved to Burlington as a young child. He was educated in a one room school having no more than eight grades. But he was a practical genius and shrewd, and a showman.

In 1848 he made some crude musical instruments and trained a "Druid Band" then presented them to the public as descendants of the original Druids! Brooks toured with his "Druids" and made considerable money. He is said to have traveled with a large circus, P.T. Barnum. He was in the museum business, then into the circus where he traveled with 100 horses and 80 people.

One of the highlights of his circus was balloon ascension. He hired Aeronaut William Paulin of Philadelphia, the best aeronaut of the day, to make daily ascensions as a feature of the show.

At Memphis, Paulin was taken ill, a large crowd clamored for the ascension, so Brooks volunteered. After that, he became an aeronaut and in all made 187 ascensions. He often boasted that he was the first man of the day of hot air balloons that ever went up in the state of Michigan and lived to tell the story.

Then he fell in love with one of his circus riders, married and retired from show business but continued to make balloon ascensions. A child born to the couple died, his wife deserted him and he plunged into dissipation that made him a physical wreck.

For the last few years he lived at the Burlington poor house completely shut away from the world. (Corner of Covey and Foote Road) He is buried in Potter's Field in Center Cemetery in 1906 at the age of 83.

A sister of Benjamin Scheidel's went up with him a few times. (Mr. Scheidel had three sisters, Frances Warnecke, Minnie Horne, and Levi--) At the time of his death it was said his only known relative was a sister. Note; Balloon poster names a brother, G. W. Brooks.

### **COPY OF POSTER**

Grand, Sublime and Novel. BROOKS' AERIAL VIEWS, the only PAINTING of the kind in the World. It covers an area of over TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND feet of canvas, And has been pronounced by connoisseurs to be the "Ne Plus Ultra" as a work of Art. The celebrated English Artist Mr. Hylliard, was occupied over three years in transferring the views to Canvass, and the whole thing was gotten up at an Expense of over Eight Thousand Dollars. The views were collected, selected and arranged by the AERIAL BROTHERS, S. M. & G. W. BROOKS, who jointly have made One Hundred and Fifty-seven Ascensions; some of the views were sketched by them, some were photographed from the cars of Balloons, others were sketched by the most celebrated foreign Aeronauts, making altogether a subject of the most thrilling interest. This Splendid Exhibition will be given at the CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH in Burlington on Wednesday and Thursday evenings, February 13th and 14th, 1861.

The public can rest assured that this is no humbug, and that the promises we make in the bills will be faithfully carried out. Probably not one person in a Million will ever have an opportunity to go UP in a balloon, but here you can see all the realities, without incurring the dangers of an ascension. It costs from Two Hundred to Two Thousand Dollars to make a Balloon Ascension, while here you see it all for FIFTEEN CENTS. Do you wish to see all the different machines for flying through the air? If you do, THEN GO. Do you wish to see how the Earth looks from the car of a Balloon when three miles high? THEN GO. Do you wish to pass through the Clouds and behold the Grandest scene in nature? THEN GO. Do you wish to get caught in a terrific storm in the Heavens, see the flash of the lightning, hear the roaring of the thunder, the rattling of the hail and rain on the balloon? THEN GO. Do you wish to look into the Crater of a Volcano, as Mr. Wm. Paulin, of Philadelphia, did in South America? DON'T FAIL TO GO. Do you wish to see ludicrous scenes--Balloon landing in a cotton field among the Negroes--Joe and Sal's first view of a Balloon, Prof. Boozy, &c.? THEN GO. Do you wish to see the cities of New York, Philadelphia, St.

Louis, Paris, London, Liverpool, and others, as seen from the car of a Balloon? THEN BE SURE TO VISIT Brooks' Aerial Views.

There has been upwards of TEN THOUSAND ASCENSIONS made, since the first invention of Balloons, by the Brothers Montgolfier, in the year Seventeen Hundred and Eighty-Three, during which time sixteen persons have lost their lives by Balloons. All of the most thrilling incidents that have occurred in the practice of the art of Ballooning, are here faithfully depicted. Each view is FIFTEEN FEET LONG BY TEN FEET HIGH. As it passes along in silent grandeur, the beholder seems to be transported from things of Earth to realms above. Scenes of celestial beauty appear in rapid succession, and every one is led involuntarily to exclaim, "How grand," "How beautiful."

It is impossible, in the limits of this bill, to give full Programme of the different scenes. Everything will be explained in the LECTURE by

PROFESSOR S. M. BROOKS,  
THE CELEBRATED AMERICAN AERONAUT.

The prices of Admission have been put down to suit the times.

TICKETS, 15 CTS. CHILDREN 10 CTS.

Doors open at 6 1/2 O'CLOCK. Exhibition Commences 7 1/2 O'CLOCK

Johnson, Proprietor. G. W. BROOKS, Manager.

(ripped) rner, 152 Asylum Street, Hartford, Conn.

### REVEREND JOHN W. KEELER

1841-1926

Tuesday night at ten-thirty death came to the Rev. John W. Keeler, pastor of the Burlington Congregational Church, and the oldest Congregational pastor in the United States holding an active pastorate. In his 84th year Mr. Keeler until a few months ago regularly occupied his pulpit and performed active duties of his pastorate.

Born of old New England stock, near Ridgefield, Conn. he was an ideal example of the old time New Englander. Frugal in disposition, tall and thin in build, yet up to a year ago possessing a physique many younger men might have envied, he was an ideal specimen of what clean living and clean thinking can do when given a chance. Until a year ago he carried on the active duties of his farm and when one watched him at farm work and realized that he was over eighty one could not help but marvel at the stamina displayed for it was absolutely true that very few of the younger men in Burlington could keep up with him in a days work.

If there was any one thing that Mr. Keeler disliked it was idleness. When not at pastoral work he could invariably be found at farm work, tilling the fields in summer or in the woods with his axe in winter. Beyond doubt this was the reason that he retained the wonderful physique that was his and the brilliant mind that always reflected itself in everything he might say.

His health began to fail noticeably about a year ago and last winter on a cold and windy night he received a shock that his friends feared might be his end. One night he found his home ablaze and waking his daughter he was obliged to flee to the nearest home over a quarter-a-mile away with only a blanket as extra protection over his night clothes. The shock of such an experience was a trial to his constitution and the loss of his home with so many personal possessions was a tremendous blow to him and beyond doubt hastened his end. Yet at the time he rallied in marvelous manner coming back to the Burlington Congregational parsonage (the large brick house on the Green) which he had never before occupied and where he made his home until his death.

For when Mr. Keeler retired from the Congregational pastorate at Roscoe, New York and came to Burlington, 16 years ago he had made up his mind to retire from the active ministry and purchased a farm to spend his declining years in the country which he dearly loved. But three years later when the pastorate of the Burlington church was vacant he consented to act as supply and that supply period lengthened into a pastorate of some 13 years.

When Mr. Keeler took the pastorate of the Burlington Church he brought to it an experience and equipment that is given to few country churches for in his earlier years he had held several important pastorates and was ranked as one of the leading pulpit orators of the Congregational

denomination. To the very last he kept his keen mind which could handle homiletic questions to wonderful advantage and a power of oratory that made effective whatever he said.

Some men are born to be pastors of souls, others are pulpit orators, John Keeler was both born pastor and born preacher. As a pastor he had a sympathy that like his Christ was boundless, he loved both good and erring humanity and in return everyone in Burlington regardless of creed, loved him. He truly fathomed that the most difficult of all theological sciences, moral theology and knew how to deal with everyone according to his needs and necessities. Many who claimed no allegiance to the Congregational faith brought their children to him for the sacrament of baptism, confessed to him their sins and troubles and on their death bed received from him that consolation that only a true pastor of Christ can give.

In his pulpit he truly proclaimed Christ crucified as the only hope of the World, the modern theology that so greatly affected his denomination left him absolutely untouched and from his pulpit he poured scorn upon those who had deserted the fundamental tenets of the Christian faith.

Perhaps quite as effective as his sermons were his prayers, they brought into his services an element of devotion and worship quite frequently lacking in Protestant churches. When John Keeler prayed everyone knew that here was not a man talking to some subjective spirit of his better self, but rather a man who was praying to God as an objective presence, whose soul in prayer touched the living fires of the spirit of God and everything was hushed as the spirit of a deeply spiritual soul reached out to its Maker.

But perhaps the most sacred hour in the life of the Burlington Church was when Mr. Keeler celebrated the Holy Communion. This, the only service which our Lord directly commanded his disciples to observe, he celebrated with the utmost feeling and devotion. He always made it plain that this was "The Lord's Table" and that everyone who loved the Lord Jesus Christ was welcome to partake. As he blessed the sacred elements one could not help but feel that in some way, some manner, Christ was really present with his people as he was at no other time in the old colonial church.

Firmly believing his own faith, the same faith he had received from his mother, he was absolutely without a trace of bigotry and loved all Christians as long as they held to the fundamentals of the Christian faith. He was a man of giant courage and the years he held the Burlington pastorate were years that needed courage and would have tried the soul of many a younger man.

When he came the Church was vastly stronger but forces were setting in that were bound to weaken it. Soon after that time the New Britain Water Department purchased farm after farm on its watershed to satisfy the needs of fifty years to come. Many of these farms were owned by Mr. Keeler's leading parishioners who on selling their farms moved away. Their loss was a bitter blow to pastor and the church alike. Not only this, but many other American families sold their farms and moved away while the newcomers were in many cases good Christians they were as a rule affiliated with either the Catholic or Lutheran communions and therefore so far as the Burlington Church went did not make up for the loss of those who had gone.

And the bitterest of all to Mr. Keeler was the feeling that many of the families who were left seemed indifferent to their duties to the Christian Church. While in many cases they would have been deeply offended if anyone should not have considered them Christians they did very little to support the church either by attendance or contributions. Mr. Keeler frequently spoke with feeling to those who knew him best regarding this condition and he felt such examples were going to be a serious factor in the religious training of the children. He felt in a way that he might be at fault for the prevalence of such a condition and thought often of resigning but his keen reasoning told him that similar conditions prevailed throughout rural Connecticut and that even the best of pastors face discouraging conditions in an age where Faith is far from being the prevailing quality of life.

Children were his greatest joy. Always humble like his Master nothing gave him greater joy than his ministry to children and when in summer the children from the New Britain Fresh Air Camp came to church in numbers it always gladdened his soul and with rare skill he adapted his scholarly sermons so that they might be of interest to the youngsters. This takes the rarest kind of

pulpit skill and Mr. Keeler at his advanced age showed that he was young in spirit and knew what children needed to hear.

His marriage to Miss Mary C. Bush, who died in Burlington 4-2-1923, was blessed with four children, three sons and a daughter. Two of his sons followed him into the Christian ministry which gave him perhaps the greatest satisfaction of his life. All the children were deeply devoted to their father. They are the Rev. Azra Keeler of New York City, The Rev. Ernest Keeler of Seattle, Washington, Edward Keeler who is in the insurance business in Indianapolis, Ind. and Miss Alice Keeler who kept house for her father until recently when her health broke down.

The funeral will take place in the Burlington Congregational Church Thursday afternoon at two-thirty o'clock, the Rev. Sherrod Soule of Hartford, officiating. Burial will be in the family lot in the Burlington Center Cemetery.

### **JOHN ROYKO OF BURLINGTON**

(1884-1964)

John Royko came to America in 1910 from Czechoslovakia. From his wages in a sugar factory, he and his young wife (1887-1957) managed to make the first payment on a stony farm in Connecticut, not far from the village of Burlington. In his homeland Mr. Royko's father used to make woodenware utensils for family use and for the people of the countryside, and there John learned this practical supplementary trade, which helped him pay for his house in America and rear his family. He soon rigged up a little sawmill and workshop across the road from the farmhouse, using the engine of a discarded Ford car to run his circular saw. With this he cuts the blanks, which he works up into farm and household utensils of various kinds--about thirty-five different articles. He said that in Czechoslovakia woodenware was usually not so well finished as that which he makes for people here, who are willing to pay for nicely shaped and finished articles. Preferably he uses hard maple but sometimes other local woods. Many of his things are made from stumps and large sections of trees, which he shapes with ax, adz, and handsaw. These he later finishes with special cutting tools he has made himself from old files, old saw blades, and other pieces of good steel.

When the Royko children, three girls and four boys, were little, they would help their mother smooth and polish the woodenware, and Mr. Royko, alone or with one of the children, would peddle it around the countryside. This enterprise, together with careful farming of the land, increased the year's cash income, and made it possible to meet payments on the farm during the depression years. Mr. Royko also makes straw seats for his chairs, binds his fence pickets together with wild grapevines, makes his own beehives of straw, and perpetuates many other rural practices of the Old World.

(Handicrafts of New England, by Allen H. Eaton that includes a picture of Mr. Royko)

(Some older Burlington maps mark Mr. Royko's "wood shop" a "spoon factory" on Covey Road.-L.R.A.)

### **A BURLINGTON WOMAN REACHES 100 YEARS OLD**

Hartford Courant, May 16, 1901.

Mrs. Delight Beecher Upson of Burlington, about three miles from here, will be 100 years old tomorrow and proper notice of the event is to be taken by the people hereabouts. The Burlington church last Sunday appointed a committee to secure presents and a reception has been arranged to be held at her house tomorrow afternoon from 2 to 4 o'clock. It will all be informal and, more than that, it will be a big surprise to Mrs. Upson, for in spite of the preparations she has been kept in complete ignorance of what is coming.

Mrs. Upson, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Beecher, was born in Wolcott, this state, May 17, 1801. She is the only survivor of the family of eight children, five boys and three girls. The late Henry Ward Beecher was a third cousin and Mrs. Upson delights in talking of him. A Beecher characteristic, Mrs. Upson at an early age manifested a great desire to attain knowledge further than that afforded by the country schools. Books were eagerly sought, with the result that she had achieved in her youth an education far in excess of the times. For a number of years she taught

school in the vicinity of her native town. At the age of 28 years she married Marcus H. Upson. A year later they moved to Burlington, where Mrs. Upson has since made her home. Mr. Upson died in 1864. No children were ever born to them.

Family history shows that Mrs. Upson was a belle in her younger days, and that she took great pride in her physical as well as intellectual condition. She possessed an exceedingly fine set of teeth until about two years ago, when they began to drop out. She prides herself on never having had a tooth ache, a decayed tooth, or ever employing a dentist. She also relates of a superstition which existed years ago and which she asserts she complied with. It was said that if a person bit a snake from head to tail he or she would always have sound teeth.

Consequently a brother captured a snake and held it by head and tail while she did the rest. Her general health is excellent for a person who has reached the 100 years mark. Aside from deafness her faculties are only slightly impaired. While things distant try her eyesight, objects about the room are plainly visible. Her physical endurance is remarkable. Only one day last week she walked to and from a neighbor's home, a distance of half a mile. Her mind is also very clear and she tells with precision of many important events which happened years ago, among them a severe ice storm which occurred in 1825, breaking down trees and doing an immense amount of damage, and as she says, much more severe than a similar storm in the winter of 1898.

When the first steamboat came into New Haven harbor a party, of which she was a member, was made up from her town, going to New Haven on horseback and in wagons, where they all took their first steamboat ride.

Her family has been well represented in the country's wars. A grandfather served in the Revolutionary War, an uncle and cousin in the War of 1812, and nephews in the Civil War. Her early training in religion has never been forgotten. She has been a member of the Congregational Church of Burlington ever since its origin, and has for the past seventy years made regular donations for the support of the gospel and its administrators.

(Mrs. Upson was born 5-17-1801 and died 1904, age 103. She is buried in Burlington Center Cemetery. Her husband Marcus, died in 12-15-1863, age 64, a suicide. He was active in the church and was Clerk in that society for 28 years. The Upson house was located on the right of Upson road shortly after crossing the bridge. The foundation can still be seen. (L.R.A.)

### **COPY OF DISTRIBUTION OF DOWER TO JULIA ALDERMAN**

We the subscribers, having been appointed by the Court of Probate for the District of Burlington, to set out to Julia Alderman, widow of Truman Alderman, lately deceased, of Burlington, one third part of the real estate of her husband, so deceased, for her use & improvement during her natural life, & after a full view & examination of the sd estate, we have in compliance with the order of said Court & do hereby set off to the said widow, as her lawful right of Dower in said Estate the following property, to wit; First, in the dwelling house, the front room, the south room, the bedroom & the buttry, all four of which are on the lower floor of the upright part of the house, & the closets or clothes presses annexed thereto, & also the lodging-chamber over the bedroom above named, with the privilege of the joint use of space, of that part of the garret which is north of the chimney, the smoke house, the cellar west of the stairs, the oven, the well & the woodhouse in common with other heirs of the deceased & the liberty of passing & repassing to & from the chamber, the garret, the smoke house, the cellar, the oven, the well & woodhouse, up & down the several stairs & ways thereto without let or hindrance. Also the following pieces of land or lots. (i.e.) The land north & west of the house, beginning at the highway, running westerly parallel with north side of the house & along the fence as it now is, the distance of thirty six rods to a heap of stones, then southerly, nineteen rods by the present fence to a heap of stones, thus westerly thirty six rods to a heap of stones near a black oak tree, then northerly twenty two rods to the fence & bounds between the deceased & Billy Gaylord, than easterly by present fence between them to the highway, then by highway to first bounds, twenty four rods & a few links, containing about nine acres, sd limits includes about three fourths of an acre of wheat, was appraised with the house, reserving the use of the south hog pen thereon, to the other heirs of the deceased.

Also a piece of woodland on the mountain called the Taylor land containing six acres, more or less, also a piece of land westerly of the road to the Stone place or farm, so called & southerly of the Turnpike containing about five acres more or less, also the land where stood the house that A. Robinson once occupied, containing about an acre & half & a separate piece once owned by him or heirs of about three fourths acre be the same two pieces, more or less.

Also the Beckwith land, so called, on the mountain being the North part containing twenty five acres, more or less. Also that part of the land southwesterly of David Clark which land is to include the meadow by the fence northerly of sd meadow & all the land south of that meadow containing fifteen acres, more or less.

Also the north half of the west bay in the barn opposite the house & the south half of the east bay or stable & the scaffolding in the said barn, and the use of barn floor in common with the other heirs of the deceased & half an acre of land easterly of sd barn commencing at northeast corner thereof & running easterly to the fence, then by said fence southerly five rods to the fence of the line of its south side & by sd fence to the center of the barnyard & half of sd barn yard & half of old cider mill, the heirs of the deceased having the right to use sd lane in winter season in order to water cattle at the brook east of said barn.

Also the pasture lot or land east of the barn bounded by the fence around the same as it now runs & also the two acres of sprouts at the east end thereof containing in all about eighteen acres be the same, more or less. Also about one & half acre of ground north & west of the above eighteen acre piece beginning at northeast corner & running by the fence between the deceased & Billy Gaylord, eighteen rods to heap of stones thence southerly in the line direct to the northeast corner of the half acre east of the barn. Also the wildcat land, so called, east of the brook & also the land bought of Erastus Bacon not far east of the Center of Burlington, containing seven acres, more or less.

The foregoing property set out to the widow of the said deceased Truman Alderman as her dower, amounts to, by estimation to one thousand four hundred & ninety eight dollars or thereabouts.

Dated at Burlington, May 21st, 1847; Erastus Scranton, Billy Gaylord & Samuel Payne, Distributors of the Dower under oath. A true copy of the original distribution.

Attest. Frederick Bull, Judge of Probate for Burlington District.

### **DIRECTOR OF FRESH AIR CAMP REMINISCES**

Bristol Press 5-25-1977 by James Klaneski

**BURLINGTON:** The New Britain Fresh Air Camp on Covey Road, now in its 57th year, was established in Burlington 55 years ago according to Frank Schade, (pronounced "Shady") director of the camp for more than forty years. It started with a group of New Britain women who began driving children into the country. The Camp itself began when they found the Covey house and property owned by the New Britain Water Department.

Originally intended as a Tuberculosis program, campers were fed five times a day as they still are, took long sun baths and lots of rest. That was prior to finding a cure, Schade said. Today, he added, the camp is a welfare camp which works with children with disciplinary problems.

Schade became director in 1933. In his first year, there were 65 campers and no salaries for staff members including himself.

"All we had when we began," Schade said, "was the house and shed. We cooked in the house and ate in the shed. And if it rained, we had a problem." The campers slept in the cow barn--the toilet was a cowshed. To this day, Schade maintains; the stanchions still hang in the cellar and a bale of hay sits in the corner.

The house was in ruins, when the camp took it over, Schade said, the clapboards were nailed directly to the joists and all of the windows were smashed. Schade picked up replacements wherever he could.

By profession the director is a mechanical engineer, but says that he is also quite good with electrical and plumbing work. He told The Press that he is responsible for building up most of the camp facilities himself.

One of the things he built was "the Major's Chapel." This is an outdoor chapel, of which Schade told campers, they would never be closer to God than that God built for himself." Schade told The Press, "the floor is the earth, the walls the trees, and the ceiling the sky." "Just the thought of it really struck them," he said. As an ex-marine Schade is also referred to as "the Major."

"In those first years," Schade said, "the camp was entirely lit by lanterns."

It would have meant paying for the placement of ten utility poles for the camp to get electricity, and they just couldn't afford it, he said. Finally a line was run to the camp--but was brought in from New Hartford rather than from Burlington Center. They ran the line all that way, Schade said, and the camp was its only user.

### **NO WATER**

One summer the camp ran out of water. "We always had a hand dug well but didn't have a drilled one for a number of years," he said. "The year the water ran out, Schade said, he went to town, filled a barrel, and dragged it back to camp behind his car on a stone boat.

"The biggest problem we had," Schade said, "was the thunder storms." The camp is about 1,000 feet above sea level. Its buildings were struck twice that he can remember. One bolt of lightning hit a cabin and knocked a hole in the wall some 12 or 14 feet in diameter. There was a boy sleeping in an iron bed directly below the hole, Schade said. The only thing that saved him was the fact that he was a bed wetter and was sleeping on a rubber sheet.

"It was the most economically run camp in the state," Schade said. "I never ran it as a camp. I was always Papa and the nurse, Mama." He believes the campers liked him and said he never had a disciplinary problem.

For years, Schade ran the operations alone, which meant doing his own bookkeeping. Whenever he purchased a new item for the camp, he would take out a paintbrush and paint onto its underside the date on which it was purchased and how much it cost.

For forty years Frank Schade served as director of the camp and in 1976 spent his last summer there. Now he lives alone on Arch Street in New Britain occupying one room of his eleven room house. His stories of the years at camp are closely interwoven with anecdotes about the town's history.

For instance, he remembers when Covey Road was called Holcomb Road. "I came back one summer and found the name had been changed," he said. He guesses that the change was made as the result of a sign he'd nailed to a tree on the corner across from the Covey House, identifying the area as Covey Corners.

### **FIRE TRUCK**

Somewhat later in about 1948, he said, "he chiseled a fire engine from the City of New Britain" and brought it to Burlington. It was a 750 gallon American LaFrance, he recalls, and had solid rubber tires. That truck, he said, was the beginning of the Burlington Fire Department. "I was made an honorary fire chief," Schade said, "and guess I still am."

Before there was a fire department, Schade said, "whoever found a fire used to drive around shouting fire, and rounding people up." sometimes, he added, the church bell would be rung. Schade also said that during the summers he helped in fighting the Burlington fires.

On one night, not so long ago, Schade was awakened at camp to the sound of a "woman screaming bloody murder. It sounded to me as if someone were being abused," he said.

So in his pajamas, he got up and walked down Upson Road following the sound. When he got to the Baptist Cemetery he realize the sound was still far off and walked through the woods till he came to what he calls "the frog pond." There, Schade said, he found three young couples "nude bathing".

"Being a human being," Schade admits he sat on the edge of the woods to watch for a while. They were having the times of their life, he said. Later he walked to the edge of the water in his white pajamas and said, "For the love of Pete, I'm a corpse in the cemetery. You woke us all up and they've asked me to tell you to be quiet."

"One girl screamed and yelled, "Ghost", Schade said chuckling," and they all come out of the water and ran naked to their car."

Schade told the reporter he thinks the camp has always had a good relationship with the town. "I never let the children go to town," he said, "the locals hardly knew the camp was there--we never bothered anyone".

Last summer was Schade's last at the Fresh Air Camp. Although he retired three years ago, he went back for the next two summers to help the new directors. Now he says he lives "like a hermit." He doesn't know yet what he'll do with all of his free time but added that he still reads the papers each day and tries to keep tabs on what is happening in Burlington.

### **BURLINGTON HONORS ALDERMAN FOR SERVICE**

The Farmington Valley Herald, 4-1966, by Lois Humphrey

Arthur Alderman, for many years a public servant in Burlington, was honored at a testimonial dinner April 28, 1966, attended by about 100 people who, over the years, had occasion to benefit from his kindness and courtesy.

Since 1923 Mr. Alderman has been involved in town affairs in jobs ranging from representative, assessor, tax collector, justice of the peace, grand juror and since 1929 as judge of probate.

In commenting on his appreciation for the dinner, Mr. Alderman said that lengthy terms of service were as tradition in the town and mentioned retired Town Clerk Arthur J. Reeve and the late Horton Hartigan for 42 years tax collector.

Mr. Alderman was the recipient of two gifts presented by Morris B. Hogan, a book, "How To Avoid Probate" and a Navy clock. He also received an unexpected gift from Col. Ralph Gezelman, Civil Defense Director.

It seems that some time ago, when the old record building was turned over for Civil Defense use, it had to be cleaned out. The Colonel said that one box of material was left once the town crew had finished clearing away. In this box which he looked over to make sure nothing of value was thrown away, an unopened bottle of 1937 whiskey was discovered. Since the Colonel is a farsighted man, he knew he would find a use for it some day and kept it, and Mr. Alderman was presented with that bottle.

It seems that back in the 1940's Mr. Alderman and Arthur Reeve were working one night in the office and by chance a man dropped in who was having some difficulty in determining just what he owned in the town. Both men helped him with straightening out his ownership and as he was ready to leave he asked how much it would cost. Neither of these two town officials would accept anything so the man left.

Shortly he returned, slapped a bottle down on the table between them and left. Mr. Alderman recalls that he heard Mr. Reeve say, "Get that bottle out of here". (At night, people driving Route 4 could look in the window of the Record Building and plainly see the bottle of liquor. L.R.A.)

He recalled that he hurriedly grabbed the bottle and stuffed it in a box way in back, in the vault. Occasionally, through the years, he would reach in back, feel the bottle and go away satisfied that it was still there; he seemed to think that Mr., Reeve had no recollection of what had happened to the evidence.

As a postscript to the story Mr. Alderman said that he too, checked the record building and finding the bottle missing, thought, "Darn the Civil Defense!"

But looking at his unexpected gift he said he plans to open it when Mr. Reeve returns from Florida soon.

### **OMRI C. FORD AND HIS INDIAN WIFE CAROLINE.**

Beside Ford Road in the northeastern part of Burlington there is a little unkempt cemetery. One marble monument, about 12 feet high, is now the lone marker of the spot.

The inscriptions on this monument read as follows:

"Omri C. Ford, Died Feb. 1, 1888, age 78. Caroline, wife of Omri C. Ford, died Mar. 23, 1901, age 92. Caroline M., daughter of O. C. Ford, died April 18, 1855, age 18."

The traveler reads these inscriptions, and looking around finds, diagonally across the road, a cellar hole, a few lilac bushes and an abandoned well. Then, at a house not far away, a traveler

finds Mrs. William Ryan and Mrs. Josephine Havernak who have always lived nearby. They recall the old, red salt-box house that stood near the little cemetery until it mysteriously burned on one dark night in 1921. It had wide clapboards, two ells, one on the south side and one at the rear. The one in the rear was used as a pantry with an entrance from the kitchen and one from the dining room. There were five rooms on the first floor and a fireplace in four of them. The one in the kitchen was a huge, stone fireplace with swinging kettle for cooking and a brick bake oven. The floorboards of white pine were wide, as were the pantry shelves. Upstairs was not done off. There was a good cellar.

This home was furnished in accord with the style of 100 years ago. The only heat was from the fireplaces. The well was on the south side of the house with a great well-sweep painted red. Milk and butter were kept cool in summer by lowering them in the well.

Large apple trees grew in front of the house. The window panes were small, as was the custom in these salt box houses of long ago.

When and by whom this house was built no one knows, but Ford was an honored name among the early settlers and the ancestors of Omri Ford were, doubtless among the early settlers of Burlington and may have built this house as early as 1760.

On an 1856 map the name of Omri C. Ford is listed as residing here in his ancestral house. His barn was in a lot across the road. Mr. Gus Fischer of Unionville recalls that Omri Ford was a skilled mechanic and that he had a gun shop down the road to the north where he made gun barrels. This shop was a little off the road. He recalls too, that Mr. Ford wore a cape whenever he went away from home.

The Ford family lived in comfortable circumstances. On the five acre farm most of their food was raised. They kept a horse and a few cows.

Omri C. Ford's wife said she was an Indian woman, probably a Tunxis Indian. She was always very friendly with the Indians who lived at the Tunxis Reservation down the river a bit and on the east side where summer cottages are now located. Tunxis Indians often visited the Ford home and Mrs. Ford was delighted to feed them. Indians frequented the Farmington River Valley as late as 1875.

Diagonally across the road from the cemetery is the cellar hole showing where the home of Omri Ford stood. The location is a pleasant one with the view across the valley to the hill to the east. The Ford farm is now covered with large bushes and trees and the lonely graveyard is sadly neglected.

Mrs. Ford believed in spirits and always kept a chair and place set at the table for her beloved daughter, Caroline who died in 1855 at age 18.

Mrs. Ford was very solicitous in the care of the little graveyard where Caroline was buried. Caroline's marker contained her picture. In the graveyard Mrs. Ford planted and cared for double daffodils, white crocus, lilacs and perennial bridal wreath, also, phlox. There was a stonewall on the front side of the cemetery and a gate which matched the iron fence on the other three sides of the little cemetery.

The site of the house and cemetery is now owned by the Water Board. (Now MDC)The Water Board has taken down the iron fence and put it up in front of the caretaker's home. All the bodies were removed from the cemetery by relatives before the Water Board purchased the land.

When Mrs. William Ryan was a little girl she often visited the Ford's and Mrs. Ford always had candy for visiting children.

Mr. Ford enjoyed talking with visiting boys and they enjoyed his company. However, they were afraid of Mrs. Ford. They thought she was "queer" because she always kept a chair and plate at the table for her daughter, Caroline.

Miss Holcomb, grand-daughter of the Wilkinson family who had the scissors factory at what is now "Wilkinsonville", lives at the Valley House in Collinsville. She recalls that Mr. and Mrs. Ford had in addition to a daughter, Caroline, two sons, Jeremy and Jerome. She does not know what became of them. It is supposed they went away and established families of their own.

Mrs. Ford seldom mentioned her sons, but always talked of her daughter, Caroline. After the death of Mr. Ford in 1888, a relative came to live with Mrs. Ford for a time. After that Mrs. Ford lived alone until her death in 1901 at the age of 92.

After Mrs. Ford died a Clayton family occupied the place until the house burned in 1921.

Note: I am very grateful to the good people, as mentioned in the article, which so kindly helped me. Lewis S. Mills. The Lure of the Litchfield Hills, Dec. 1954.

After writing the above article, Miss Myrtle M. Jillison of Waterbury very kindly sent in more data. Miss Jillison is a trained genealogist and spent some time hunting the records for data about Omri C. Ford. She finds there were two children not mentioned above, James and Melissa. Jerome Ford married Mary J. Barclay of Farmington on June 17, 1866.

The railroad came through to Collinsville in 1850. Miss Jillison finds that Omri C. Ford, Cromwell Barnes and Noah Barnes of Burlington sold land beside the Farmington River to the New Haven and Northampton Railroad for right of way for track on Aug. 10, 1849.

Letter from Sarah S. Holcomb, Collinsville Conn. in the "Lure", June 1955. Mrs. Ford always kept a loaded musket in the sitting room. One day, after her husband, Omri was dead, we sat there talking and she spoke of marrying Omri's nephew. Then she looked out the window towards the little family cemetery. Then she said to me, "The other day I saw Omri coming up the road from the cemetery. I took the shot gun, cocked it, went to the door, aimed it at him and told him to go back where he come from or I would shoot him. He went back, but he may come again".

#### **L.F. Turner Retires**

(Bristol Press, 3-3-1924)

L.F. Turner has sold his general store at Burlington Center to C.D. Peck Company who has taken possession. Mr. Turner has conducted this store in the same building for forty-four consecutive years and there were several previous owners of the store in this building before Mr. Turner's taking possession.

During these years Mr. Turner has built up a sterling reputation as a business man and everyone in town will be sorry to see him and Mrs. Turner retire from business although all will admit that they are well entitled to a period of rest. Fortunately they will still reside in Burlington having purchased some months ago the home just west of the Burlington Town Hall owned for many years by the late Adaline Bunnell.

Mr. Turner has seen many changes in Burlington during the last forty four years. At that time one of his customers was a grandmother of the Whigville correspondent who then resided in Burlington. The population was then almost wholly the old Yankee stock which is now only a minority of the town's population. Despite the changes, Mr. Turner has always had the good will of all whether old timers or new comers who knew him as a businessman whose word could be depended upon in every instance. For many years prior to the establishment of the rural delivery Mr. Turner's store served as the Burlington post office. It never lost its character as the Burlington public forum and here nightly the residents have gathered to discuss all the questions of the day, local, state or national.

The new proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. Peck are people whom the residents will enjoy doing business with and it is hoped that their business experience will be as successful as Mr. Turner's in which case they will have no cause to complain.

**ROSANNA BROWN GILLETTE** celebrated her 80th birthday. The oldest lady present was Mrs. Joseph Smith of Burlington Center, being over 90. The oldest gentleman was Mr. Manna Alderman of East Burlington, he being 83 years old. Mr. W.L. Gillette, of Yalesville Conn. wrote this poem for the occasion: (circa 1907 LRA)

Once when the air was full of spring  
And bird songs, mate to mate,  
As I returned from wandering

Mother waited at the gate.

Long years have come and gone since then  
Yet kindly dealt by time and fate,  
Returning homeward yet again,  
My mother meets me at the gate.

No dream of golden crown have I  
Which on death's summons some await,  
What e'er may be will satisfy,  
If mother meets me at the gate.

### **MR.AND MRS. JAMES WEBSTER**

Fiftieth anniversary (1-4-1926)

Today is a notable day in Burlington, due to the fact that Mr. & Mrs. James Webster are keeping "open house" for their friends, as a reminder that fifty years ago Miss Eva Hodge became the bride of James Webster. And all these fifty years they have lived contentedly and happily on Milford street, Burlington. They have gave generous support, especially in Flag Day observation, Mrs. Webster for many years having charge of the speakers and quests dining table, and anyone who has been fortunate to enjoy this meal will remember it as long as they live.

It was in 1773; one hundred and fifty three years ago that Justus Webster came to Burlington and settled on Milford Street receiving a deed to one hundred and twelve acres of land. The farm that Mr. and Mrs. James Webster have occupied during the half century of their married lives is a part of the original Justus Webster purchase of 1773 and has been in continuous possession of six generations of the Webster family throughout the entire period. During this time, the Webster's have had a large share in molding for good the public life of Burlington.

There is one saddening incident to recall in contemplating all that six generations of Webster's have done for Burlington, Mr. & Mrs. James Webster will probably be the last of this historic family in this town. Their son, Duane, a highly successful lumber operator, moving from this town to Bristol several years ago.

### **FRED J. BROADBENT**

Fred J.Broadbent, who for many years had been one of the leading manufacturers and citizens of Unionville, died in his home on Main Street shortly after midnight, Tuesday morning, 3-25-1924. Mr. Broadbent was born in Warehouse Point 11-17-1855 and was a son of Jesse & Isabella Broadbent. In 1875 with his father he went into the manufacturing business in what was known as a Custom Picking mill and in making cotton batting in Burrville. In 1877 they moved the business to Tariffville and were there 2 years and the business was continued in Tariffville for one year longer by a brother of Fred J.Broadbent. The latter and his father had established a manufacturing plant in Burlington on the stream that enters the Farmington River (Bottom of Barnes hill- L.R.A.) near where the Burlington Inn stands. This mill was burned down and in 1888. (Probably nearer 1907, the property was then bought by Elliot Alderman to be used to make apple brandy, much to Mr. Broadbent's sorrow, for he was a prohibitionist. L.R.A.)They commenced manufacturing in a small mill in Unionville. The family continued to live for many years in Burlington after the mill had been started in Unionville and Mr. Broadbent never lost interest in the old town of Burlington and its inhabitants.

He was married in Tariffville to Miss Mary J.Watson in 1886 and two children were born of this marriage, Charles E. who survives him and Elizabeth, who died a few months ago very suddenly. Mrs. Broadbent also survives him and one sister, Miss Annie C.Broadbent, who has been at his right hand as a helper in his office work all of his life.

Mr. Broadbent found himself several months ago in a condition that called for an operation that was performed in the Hartford hospital. He rallied but was not able to resume his work in the office

and later went to a hospital in Philadelphia, but as nothing could be done for him, he came to his home in Unionville and awaited death.

Four things occupied all of his time and to them he gave the best that was in him. He was devoted to his family, his church, the Methodist of which he was a leading member all his life and in which he was treasurer, superintendent to Sunday School and a member of the choir, his business to which he gave closest attention and which he saw grow from a single wooden building, corner of Main and Mill Streets to three fine brick factory buildings extending along the banks of the Farmington River to the plant of the Bourer-Fuller Company, better known in Unionville as the Upton Nut Company, and a factory building of considerable dimensions opposite Unionville station.

He was an original member of the Fire District Commission that governed Unionville for more than twenty years and turned over its affairs to the newly created borough of Unionville a little more than 2 years ago without a dollar of indebtedness and with money in the treasury. Burial in Burlington Center Cemetery.

### **ADRIAN MOSES**

(Hartford Courant, 5-5-1913)

In the old house in which he was born 75 years ago, Adrian Moses celebrated with his wife their 50th wedding anniversary. The house has been in the Moses family for considerably over a century. Mr. Moses is an expert on timber, and his farm is considered best in the vicinity. They were married at Nepaug 5-5-1863. Adrian was born 3-21-1838, the son of Richard Moses & Rachel Norton. He has for a long time bought large tracts of land and cut off the timber, working it into ties for railroad purposes, and he supplies the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad Company with probably more ties than anybody else in Connecticut. During last winter he has furnished this company over 14,000 ties, and he is at present cutting off a tract of land that he cut 47 years ago. His wife was Clarinda Beckwith, daughter of Isaac Beckwith of Nepaug, where she was born 7-2-1841. They have two children, A.A. Moses who lives with his parents, and Mrs. (Henrietta) Edwin Matthews of Whigville.

### **LAKE GARDA DEVELOPER, AGE 90, STILL READY TO TAKE THE WORLD**

Diane Levick, Hartford Courant

(Probably Burlington's first developer, and who indirectly caused Lake Garda's present pollution problem.-L.R.A.)

Gazing across the swampy fields and woodland straddling the Burlington- Farmington line in the late 1920s, a short young man with piercing eyes proclaimed his dream of a man-made lake surrounded by summer cottages.

The bankers with him laughed.

But developer Harry Battistoni, now 90, has had the last laugh. Piece by piece, year by year, he built on his dream until it grew into a year-round lake community of more than 500 families, extending west of Route 177 into Burlington. He named it Lake Garda, after the lake of his boyhood home in Italy.

These days, the immigrant with sun-baked skin walks, or drives his Buick Regal, through his "Paradise in the Pines," still hatching development plans for the remaining 400 acres he owns. A 300-room health clinic with 100 doctors and nurses is his latest dream.

"He's ready to take on the world," marvels one of his lawyers, William Wollenberg of Farmington.

"I'm not as active as I used to be," concedes gravel voiced Battistoni, whose hair, once wavy and brown, is now a shock of white. "My eyes are not the eyes of a 20 year-old, but I know what I'm doing."

He still offers \$5,000 to \$10,000 to "any girl who can keep up with me on the dance floor," though those who know him say he hasn't done much dancing recently.

In the '30s and '40s, dances and parties were the rule at the redbrick and white-concrete clubhouse he built on Lake Garda's shore. New Britain and Bristol officials swirled their partners around the patio, and Battistoni himself was "quite a party boy," one lake-area dweller recalls.

Battistoni has become a legend in the Farmington-Burlington area for doing exactly what he wants--sometimes without the proper permit, and sometimes against other people's wishes.

"Stubborn," "the last of their breed," "shrewd" and "visionary" are some of the words used to describe the aggressive developer.

Battistoni, who started building his Lake Garda empire in 1928, was visionary for planning the layout of subdivisions at a time when areas usually were developed haphazardly and piecemeal, Wollenberg said. The narrow roads in the Lake Garda area that residents complain about today were actually improvements over the dirt roads common then.

To charges that Lake Garda lots are too small and the homes too close to each other, Battistoni responds, "People are never satisfied." The homes, few of which he built himself, range from tiny wooden cottages with screened porches to more expensive split-levels and two-story modern homes on sloping hills and lush lawns.

Battistoni himself lives part of the year in a humble, white stucco house near, but not in view of his beloved lake. When he is not tending the vegetable garden behind his home, he has been known to carry a white flag to lead bulldozers to Monce Pond, just down the road. He hopes to develop it into a reservoir because "water is gold" in this age of water shortages and pollution.

Near the pond, just south of Lake Garda, is where Battistoni envisions the clinic. Pointing to a stand of tall pines he would preserve, Battistoni says he wants to sell the land with the stipulation that the buyer build the clinic. He wants to be remembered for his concern for the public's welfare.

The idea has been long in the works, and Battistoni claims to have several prospective buyers, but no contracts. "I'm still negotiating," he said. "I'm not in a hurry."

His life has quieted down in recent years after decades of a cold war he waged with residents and their Lake Garda Improvement Association. He and the association have taken each other to court several times, mostly over issues of who owns what. They do not even agree on how large the lake is. Battistoni claims it is 60 acres; the association says it is 35.

Some residents remember Battistoni for exercising what they angrily call "bulldozer diplomacy." Everyone has a Harry Battistoni story to tell.

Lake Garda resident Stephen Fields recalls a tense standoff 20 years ago between Eric Fridlind--then association president--and Battistoni's son and a contractor.

Battistoni, claiming he owned Children's Beach, had placed boulders around it, which the association promptly buried. One day Fridlind stood in the road to the beach, arms folded, refusing to move his 1960 Valiant so the contractor could uncover the boulders.

"The contractor and Battistoni's son tried unsuccessfully to lift the Valiant out of the way, and police summoned to the scene persuaded them to leave", Fields said.

The developer reportedly got into a shoving match in a 1964 dispute over ownership of the Lake Garda beach known as Battistoni Park. Insisting he owned the property, Battistoni had trees and stumps bulldozed there, making access to the beach difficult. The Lake Garda Improvement Association hired its own bulldozer to clear an access to the beach, sparking a confrontation when Battistoni got wind of the association's plan.

A state trooper had to intervene to allow the association to finish clearing the area.

Burlington town officials, too have known Battistoni's ire. The developer has undertaken projects without the required permits and has resented orders to obtain them.

Another Burlington developer, Fiske Ventres of Farmington, who bought some Lake Garda land from Battistoni, once witnessed Battistoni storming at Burlington commissioners about their "running things like Russia" because they told him he needed a permit to perform some work, although Ventres didn't recall specifically what the work was.

"He rather resents any supervisory bodies because he began developing before restrictive laws were passed", explains Ventres, who is involved in litigation with Farmington and Burlington over his own Taine Mountain development site.

Battistoni sought a permit for the Monce Pond expansion work after he had started the project, but another of his lawyers, Edward Scully, believes his client has never knowingly violated the law.

"I honestly think he believed he didn't need a permit. He's used to doing it the old way," said Scully, acknowledging many people wouldn't agree with his assessment of the developer. "He resists all the regulations that now faces everyone."

Battistoni was never poor, but even his detractors marvel at the way he came to the United States at the age of 14 and built his fortune on the equivalent of a third-grade education.

It must have been a surprise, too, to his mother in Verona, Italy, who expected her son to become a priest. Battistoni had other ideas. Settling in New Britain, he became an apprentice to a major contractor, claiming he was "A first-class carpenter when I came here from Italy. You start to work in Italy when you're born, not like here," says Battistoni.

The first construction job he did on his own was a \$26 retaining wall for a New Britain home. He built apartments on East and Jubilee streets, an Arch Street movie theater (no longer standing) and the Holy Trinity Greek Catholic Church on Beaver Street, all in New Britain, and some in partnership with the late Mario Baretta, a New Britain builder.

When he wasn't building, Battistoni was socializing with New Britain's politicians and other influential men around his dining room table. He served as New Britain public works chairman in the 1920s.

Life was already too hectic--"I didn't have time to eat"--so Battistoni decided to build his family a house, and a "little lake so I could get away from the telephone and the public. I wanted to get away from the misery of the city."

Battistoni bought what is now the Lake Garda area, piece by piece, 3,500 acres in all, and dug out the lake from a former swampy cow pasture. The work was done in several phases, completed in 1929. He later created Lake Como in Burlington, near the Bristol line.

Battistoni built some of the Lake Garda homes himself, but mostly bought up land and sold it to builders. A millionaire at the age of 38, he lost much of his money in the 1929 stock market crash but eventually rebuilt his loses.

His financial cushion now allows him to spend winters at his home in Delray Beach, Fla., which friends say isn't much more elaborate than his Burlington residence, though more lushly landscaped with palms and citrus trees.

Battistoni, who owns some Florida a shopping center property, is an inveterate gardener. His Lake Garda lawn is dotted with painstakingly planted mini-gardens, each with a small evergreen surrounded by flowers or shrubs. "You know who I am by this," says Battistoni, looking into the sun as it sets over his grapevine trellises and rows of tomato plants.

### **WILLIAM R. HARTIGAN**

May 25, 1923.

William R. Hartigan died in his home at Burlington early Friday morning following a long illness. Mr. Hartigan was born in Burlington March 10, 1852 and was a son of Thomas and Mary (Mills) Hartigan. He was educated in the schools of Burlington and the Unionville High School now known as Farmington High School.

Mr. Hartigan while he was a schoolboy showed his bent to use tools and was a wood turner of considerable ability when he was 14 years of age. He was only 17 years of age when he began woodturning as a business on his own account, something that he followed with success all his life. He lived in Riverton for a time when he was a young man but returned to Burlington after a short time only in Riverton, so that it can be said that practically all his life of over seventy years was spent in the town of his birth. He was married in 1879 to Annie S. Barnes who survives him, also one son William Horton Hartigan and two grandchildren William Robert Hartigan and Helen S. Hartigan.

While Mr. Hartigan was engaged all his life in wood turning he was also busy in other directions. He was a young man only when he came into possession of what is known as the Woodland Hotel at Burlington Station and at periods during all of the years he ran this hotel, at other times leasing it to others but always owning it. When the trolley line was built from Hartford to Unionville Mr. Hartigan feeling that there was a chance to develop a place on the line where people would like to go to spend an afternoon and evening he developed Electric Park about two

miles east of Farmington on the line of the trolley. He felt that he never had any support from the trolley company and this venture was not a business success although it was a costly affair for Mr. Hartigan. He was a reader who kept in touch with current events and he was always ready to talk intelligently in regard to matters that were going on in the world. He was an agreeable companion and was one who made friends among all classes and that readily. He was a member of Hartford Lodge of Elks, a charter member of Agenda Lodge K. of P. of Unionville.

The funeral was very largely attended in his late home at Burlington Station, Sunday afternoon at 1:30 o'clock. The service was conducted by Rev. John S. Keeler. The burial was in Burlington Center cemetery.

There was present at the funeral Sunday afternoon a large delegation from Hartford Lodge of Elks and another from Agenda Lodge Knights of Pythias of Unionville of which the deceased was a member. It was estimated that fully 75 automobiles were gathered at Burlington Station that afternoon and the number of automobiles to follow the funeral cortege to the hills of Burlington numbered 31. The pallbearers were from Agenda Lodge, K. of P. and were Edward P. Coles, Herbert J. Ripley and William Hart. There were three men from Hartford Lodge of Elks whose names could not be learned.

The ritual of the Knights of Pythias was used at the grave in Burlington Cemetery.

### **Samuel G. Monce**

He made celluloid products, ping pong balls, etc. Shop burned, he felt he was pursued by evil spirits. When he moved to Burlington he had the head of his bed sheathed in lead to keep spirits away. Probate Records, Vol. 8. Vol. 9, pp 231-236. (d.5-4-1930)

(S.G.Monce operated a fish hatchery on Monce Road in early 1900's)

Administers account; amount of inventory and appraisal of estate filed in court totaled \$175,118.93, a sizable estate for that day.

Bristol Press, 7-18-1871, 5-23-1873, 2-3-1876, 2-6-1876, 1-11-1877, 3-4- 1880, 11-11-1887, 7-23-1896, 5-5-1930, 2-17-1937.

Anna N. Monce died 1-5-1948. At her husband's death, supposedly did not know how much money he had, as they had lived very frugally. When he died she checked a safe deposit box in Hartford, filled with stocks, and another key, found a second box also filled with stocks, and another key to a box in New York, also filled with stocks.

Wife lived a little more liberally after his death, in her will left her property mostly to the Methodist Conference.

To the New York East Annual Conference of the Methodist Church at New York all land, including all buildings and all appurtenances thereto in Burlington to be it's so long as, and only so long as, it uses said land as a site for a permanent home to be known as The Monce Foundation for retired ministers in good standing of the Methodist Church and their wives, which shall be permitted to occupy as long as their conduct, in the judgment of said Conference is exemplary, during the balance of their lives, that they may end their days in peace and quite with no rental or other charges to be made to them for the privilege of such occupancy. Those to be chosen shall be selected by said Conference in its own best judgment. To include members of ministers families. Nothing shall preclude Conference from erecting and maintaining additions to homes other buildings as necessary, provided such buildings are not inconsistent with the charitable objective.

"I envision a community of some 50 dwelling units or more, together with perhaps a chapel, library, assembly hall, rectory, facilities for both indoor and outdoor recreation, also appropriate landscaping. Erect units at the rate of 5 per year, commencing within one year at the latest from the time of receiving title."

If said devise is not acceptable - the land etc. to become part of my residuary estate - not permissible for Conference or successor in title to divert said property to any other purpose or use.

All the rest, residue and remainder of my estate I give, devise, bequeath to said New York East Annual Conference of the Methodist Church with the request that real estate or income be devoted to the objectives.

Beal's History of Bristol, p 564

Codicil - in court action June 21, 1949 found not valid, but will dated 7-13-1942 is valid.  
Land value, \$29,745.00 Cash \$20,470.79

Declination to accept devise at meeting of Board of Trustees of the New York East Annual Conference of the Methodist Church, 5-9-1949, the following resolution was passed: Be it resolved that the New York East Annual Conference of the Methodist Church through its Trustees does hereby decline to accept the devise of real property made in pp 20 of the will of Anna M.Monce dated 7-13- 1942, with codicil dated 10-17-1944.

Heirs contested the will in a court case in Hartford and attempted to prove Mrs. Monce not competent because she said there were clams in the lake. Will not broken.

### **HARRY W. REYNOLDS**

(New England Homestead, 8-6-1927)

We need more men like H.W.Reynolds of Burlington, CT a corner of whose market garden farm of 35 acres was part of "Gallop Hollow". When he bought the place three years ago it was a sorry looking sight with all kinds of buildings in all kinds of shape, land full of stone, and soil none too productive, but Mr. Reynolds had vision. (Mr. Reynolds owned both sides of Route 4, north of the church, in the hollow & also the corner of Route 4 & Route 69.) He pictured the place covered with fruit and vegetable crops, a lot of the old out-buildings torn down, the house remodeled inside and out, with the property soon on a good hard surface road leading to Torrington, which is a good market. He also visioned a roadside stand at junction of roads.

Most of these things have come true already and all are inevitable within the next two years. The farm has increased much in value and promises to progressively increase for years to come. Peach and apple trees started each year and a new vineyard will later give good account of themselves under his management. Meantime strawberries, raspberries and vegetable crops are paying the bills. There were 90 bushels of Howard 17 strawberries this year that averaged around \$5 a bushel in the market. The day of the editorial visit Mr. Reynolds picked 10 bushel of peas from one small tract. His four acres of potatoes were a handsome sight though the present season has not been any too encouraging, especially at the start. He usually makes good money on sweet corn but the chances look slim this year although he has not given up hope and was busy cultivating when the editor called--or rather his son was, for he has an able helper in the one boy remaining at home. The other children have left the home nest to start careers of their own.

Mr. Reynolds does not believe in making all the improvements outside and has fixed the house to lighten the labors of the good wife and make a more cheerful home. (The first house across the road from the church, west) A pneumatic water system was installed and connected with an artesian well. Electricity passing the door was put to work. A furnace keeps the home comfortable through the winter. Other improvements are contemplated. A truck is used for making deliveries of produce to Torrington, boys' camp and New Britain. For \$50 he picked up a lot of hotbed sash and made a lean-to greenhouse in which he grows a lot of tomato and cabbage plants, selling those not desired for home use. This gives him tomatoes 10 days earlier for the market and other vegetables in proportion.

Only one horse is kept, for the tractor makes light work of regular tillage. Mr. Reynolds says he does not know how farmers used to get along without a tractor and big double action disc harrow. More than \$300 worth of custom work has already been done this season with the tractor. The question is often asked what is a fair price to charge for tractor work? He says \$2.50 an hour with operator and tractor owner furnishing gas and oil. While this is fair to the man having the work done, it gives a reasonable return to the owner on his investment. The success of the Reynolds family is the reward of work and vision.

**"SQUIRE MARKS."**

Leader in Town Affairs of Long Ago.  
(Bristol Press, June 14, 1906)

Sixty years ago among the leading citizens of Burlington, then of somewhat larger population than at present, were "Squire Marks" and Captain Joseph G. Peck, grandfather of Selectman Burdette A. Peck of Bristol. Both lived in the southern part of the town. Marks was a democrat of the hard shell kind and Peck was equally impervious in his devotion to the Whig party. Both were at times members of the state senate, although the party of the former was in the ascendancy in the town most of the time for many years. Marks held control of the town affairs with a firm and constant grip. Captain Peck was the recognized leader of the Whigs, and never failed to oppose the squire. The feeling between them intensified as the agitation of the slavery question developed. Captain Peck was a very outspoken in his condemnation of the attitude of the squire on this question.

Prayer meetings were held in the village schoolhouse in Whigville. It is related that on one such occasion Captain Peck and Squire Marks were both in attendance, the captain sitting well up in the front seats. The leader called upon Squire Marks to offer a prayer. The stalwart Whig immediately arose, and the stamp, stamp, stamp of his heavy cowhide boots was heard above the voice of the supplicating democrat, as he walked down the aisle remarking that "no man with his pockets stuffed full of the lying Times can pray for me." The captain's strong point against the squire was that his religion and his politics were not consistent.

**Mr. C.R. Bunnell** recalls attending a trial in Burlington in which the Squire was badly worsted and made considerable fun of. It seems that the Squire was a popular harbor of the people whenever the protection of the law was desired in the town.

One day in the fall a little more than a half-century ago, the employers and employees at Winston's turning shop in Edgewood, took a day's outing in the woods hunting squirrels. The late J.H. Sessions was employed at the shop at the time, and because of his acquaintance with the Burlington woods he was made Captain of the expedition. The party had shot several squirrels and were in Hezekiah Bunnell's woods when the third was brought low. The animal landed in the crotch of a tree, high above the ground, however, and all attempts to dislodge it failed. The tree was old and hollow, scarcely worth the trouble of cutting up for fuel. Finally a delegation from the party went to see Mr. Bunnell to secure his consent to chopping down the tree. That gentleman not only refused the request but would not sell it for twice what it was worth. The boys were determined to have the squirrel. They left Mr. Bunnell and several days afterward he found that the tree had been felled.

Angered at what he concluded was the boldness of the young men in defying him, Mr. Bunnell sought Squire Marks and directed him to bring suit against the several fellows who had visited him.

The trial was one of the biggest things ever happened in the town. The accused men secured as counsel, Judge Graves of Plymouth, a lawyer of quick wit and sharp tongue, who hated Squire Marks into the bargain. The trial was held in the kitchen of Justice, also Colonel Pettibone. Nobody in the vicinity, among the men folks, worked that day. By the time for the opening of the court, not only the kitchen but every other spot in the house from which the proceedings could be either viewed or heard, was occupied. Judge Graves made all manner of fun for the crowd, by his bully-ragging of Squire Marks, whose temper was in a constant state of eruption. Every sally was cheered by the friends of the accused, until it seemed as though the roof would be raised. Whenever the Squire would attempt to speak, or the owner of the tree, the jibes and jeers of the crowd, drowned their voices. The people seemed to enjoy the discomfiture of the court and its several functionaries. The limit of the fun was reached when the Plymouth lawyer insinuated that the staid and pious Marks had stolen sheep in the dark of nights.

After spending more than half a day in attempting to fasten the destruction of the worthless tree onto one or more of the men, the court dismissed the case, the prosecution having failed to prove anything more than the tree had been cut down. In those days, under similar circumstances, the victors would have finished off their fun by hiring a band and burning red fire. But as it was they gave a shout or two, paid Judge Graves his fee and joined the crowd going home. Doubtless Captain Peck enjoyed the incident.

Squire Marks, so far as we can learn, was a native of this town. (William Marks father, David was born in Milford 5-18-1754 and married there. L.R.A.) Deeds signed by Zachary Marks, one of his ancestors are held by families in the town. The Squire was generally regarded as especially well informed and his judgment was sought in all important matters. He was eccentric in some things.

He possessed a dressing gown of which he was very proud. It was a gift to him and a brilliant affair, long in the skirts and of the texture and design of a Paisley shawl. On a dark background, large figures stood forth in bright colors. He wore this coat to church every Sunday morning, attending services in the Center. Coat and waistcoat were discarded for the time being, that there might be nothing to detract from the beauty of the gown.

Speaking of the church-going of the Squire brings to mind another possession of his--the wonderful mare "Kate". It was her pleasure and constant practice to fly over the ground like mad whenever the Squire was behind her.

According to the stories of her speed at such times the fastest pieces of horse-flesh that have made Charter Oak famous, were hardly beyond her class. As for automobiles, they never caused half the anxiety to Burlington mothers whose offspring are wont to make mud pies in the road, as did this demon-footed beast. Her speed was not her only remarkable characteristic. She would not allow any man to hitch her, but would stand for hours without a tie line. She could never be driven under a shed. Whenever the Squire came to church he had to back her under the sheltered roof. There she would stand with her nose toward the street, until the strains of the Doxology. She recognized the first notes of "Old Hundred" whether proceeded from the melodeon or the voices of the choir, and straightaway started for the front of the church where she waited until her master appeared. Once feeling he was safely in the vehicle she would put out for home as though a regiment were in pursuit. These stories are strange enough to be regarded as romancing, but we are assured by good people that they are a fragment of the truth that might be told of the wonderful mare Kate.

There were no undertakers in Burlington in Squire Mark's time. He assumed charge of all funerals. The coffins were made by one, Scribner. After the minister had spoken over the dead, Squire Marks invariably offered remarks regarding the deceased; sometimes more like orations and eulogies than anything else, completely eclipsing the eloquence of the officiating clergy.

Squire Marks reached good old age in the early seventies was laid away in the village cemetery, having lived a life of active service in which he held honestly to correct principles and carefully conceived policies.

1906 Historical Address, Peck, page 16. "It is said that Smith Tuttle, who used to act as a local preacher, was buried as nearly as possible under the place where the pulpit stood at the north end of this church, (Methodist, Lamson's Corner) and that the grave of William Marks is exactly at the southern entrance". (About 60 feet)

Epitaph on Mr. Marks gravestone; Marks, Hon. William, husband to Polly, born Nov. 20, 1783 died Mar. 22, 1867, age 83 yrs. 4 months. (His Marker can still be seen)

The following poem was written by Roland Phelps Marks, a great-grandson of Katherine Gaylord, and is furnished the Press for publication by Edward Spencer of Burlington. Dated, Chicago, 1903.

(The "cellar walls and chimney piece" alluded to here are all that is left of the old "Squire Marks" place about two miles south of Burlington Center.) Later (Only the foundation remains, Cornwall Road.L.R.A.)

#### **THE OLD CONNECTICUT HOMESTEAD.**

"Twas here I spent my boyhood days, from eight until fourteen,  
And after two score years have passed, return to view the scene.  
There's nothing left but cellar walls and chimney piece to show  
Where stood the house grandfather built one hundred years ago.

The weeds are high, the fence is gone, the shop and woodshed too;  
Across the road a barn remains, but nothing else in view.  
Upon a stone, with brush surrounding my retreat,  
With reminiscent thoughts employed, I found a quiet seat.

From out this tangled underbrush, familiar buildings grew,  
With memory for my architect, I build this house anew.  
The old red house with shingled roof, and clapboard sides I reared  
The yard and fence, with swinging gate, and flagstone paths appeared.

The vegetable garden, here and there a flower bed  
The spring beneath the apple tree behind the kitchen shed.  
T'was here I'd eat my ginger-cake, then throwing off my hat  
I'd quench my thirst at this old spring by simply sprawling flat.

And 'neath my mirrored face, I'd watch the wiggling polliwog,  
While down the outlet of this spring I'd hear the croaking frog.  
Grandpa with axe or scythe the grindstone makes me turn  
While dear old grandma calls me in to help work the churn.

The woodshed, I can see it now and seems as if I should  
Go out, as then, reluctantly, and split the kindling Wood;  
It's just as real now as then, the axe and saw below, While hung on  
pegs from beams o'erhead, was scythe and rake and hoe.

The oven wood across one end, in even piles I'd lay  
Angry because I could not leave and with my sister play.  
Then next to this the carriage shed where often 'twas my fate  
In rain or shine to help grandpa in "hitching up old Kate."

To church on Sundays, two miles off, we'd drive o'er stony hills  
And coming home she'd go like mad, old Kate, between the thrills,  
Across the road, the barn and shed, where plows and harrow lay,  
The oxcart, with the rack in place to use in loading hay.

Next came the pen with sow and pigs, and further toward the hill  
Adjoining an old orchard stood grandfather's cider mill.  
One mile from here the district school, white birches lined the way  
And furnished us amusement when we climbed and made them sway.

'Twas there I learned to read and write, arithmetic as well,  
Geography and grammar too, and also learned to spell.  
On Saturdays behind the barn we'd hide just out of sight  
And with a schoolboy friend or two, we'd have a chicken fight.

With sled and tippet, mittens too, of coasting I was fond  
And with my old topped boots and skates, have fun upon the pond.  
In summer time I hoed the corn, and also teded hay,  
Drank sweetened water from a pail while in the shade I'd lay.

I picked up stones, and briars cut, and carried drinking jugs,  
Rode the barrow and hay rake, and picked potato bugs;

And then to tangled pastures go, where cattle used to browse,  
Through briars and in thunder-storm, bare-footed bring the cows.

Of all the work a farmer boy does in or out of doors  
And hopes some time he will outgrow, the worst is doing chores;  
We'd rather, plow or mow the hay, or stack the rye and maize  
Or even sprout potatoes, in the cellar rainy days.

Inside the house, when chores are done and supper cleared away,  
Around the back log fire we'd sit, and with my jewsharp play  
Mother sewing, grandma knitting, sister reciting rhymes,  
Grandpa tilted with his candle reading the "Hartford Times".

Pop-corn, and apples, nuts and cider, story old or riddle,  
A little music now and then upon a neighbor's fiddle,  
And then to bed, and rise at dawn, begin another day.  
(there were only three lines)

And now I sit in pensive mood, recall this early scene,  
Amid this ruined solitude, with two score years between  
There's nothing left but cellar walls and chimney piece to show  
Where stood the house grandfather built one hundred years ago.

## CHAPTER 7, SCHOOLS

### VETERAN RURAL EDUCATION OFFICIALS SUPERVISED SCHOOLS THEY ATTENDED

Elliott Alderman and H. W. Treat, sons of Teachers, Honored.

Nine civic-spirited men were cited this month by the state board of education for their long time devotion to public education in their rural communities.

All of them have served 40 years or more, starting as members of the old boards of school visitors which examined teachers for positions and helped the selectman in making the appropriations for the districts,

Later, by act of legislature, these school visitor groups were succeeded by boards of education.

Topping the list is Harmon W. Treat of Bridgewater, who has been a member of his town school board for 52 years. Next in rank is Elliot A. Alderman of Burlington, who served 42 years.

Both men attended the district schools, over which they later had supervision, as did their children. Both men had school teacher parents who "boarded round" in the early days when taxpayers had to feed the teacher according to the number of children they had in school. They are proud of the certificates they and their seven colleagues received from Alonzo Grace, state commissioner of education.

Mr. Treat said the board consisted of three members, a chairman, a secretary and an acting school visitor. \*\*\*In the capacity of school visitor he had to visit each school twice during each of the three terms and for this he was paid \$1 a half day. He also had to hold examinations for the teachers.

Asked if the school visitors had set rules for conducting the examinations, he said that there were no rules. Visitors could use their own judgment. Usually, however, they conducted an oral and written test.

"But when I examined for my first job," he said. "The school visitor for Southville didn't ask me to write a thing. He talked to me for less than 15 minutes and then gave it to me. I used to ask teachers to write a paper and also gave them some oral questions".

\*\*\*Elliot Alderman of Burlington whose term of service is 42 years, making him second in rank to Mr. Treat, told the same story of the conduct of the board of school visitors, which had more or

less uniform duties in every town, and added information about some of the headaches of such boards. The principle one, he said, was the question "who'll board the teacher?" The school committee paid board ranging from \$2. a week to 50 cents a day to feed the teacher. The farm folks were all anxious to get the job and add that much cash to their weekly earnings so there were always lively discussions about which families should be privileged.

"Going back further than my time," said Mr. Alderman, "the teacher was boarded around with different families, the length of time she was kept depending on the number of children the family was sending to school. My mother, who was Maria Howe of Plainville, taught once in one of the Burlington districts for 20 weeks for \$20 with board thrown in. She had to board around. As you can imagine, this wasn't always satisfactory".

Mr. Alderman was born in Burlington in the Fourth school district where he still lives. (1860-1942) He can look out his window today and see the little yellow Fourth District School where he learned his first lessons and where children of Burlington still attend school. Burlington did not consolidate its schools and maintains separate districts with small school buildings. These are supervised by a board of education, consisting of six members, who hire the teachers and keep the buildings in repair. This, as in other towns, succeeded the old board of school visitors. Mr. Alderman has also held several other offices in other town and was a member of the finance board last year.

(Newspaper clipping, no date)

### **LEWIS SPRAGUE MILLS, SR.**

Just who was he? How did he become important enough to have a school named after him? These are just a few of the questions that have often entered the minds of students as well as faculty at Lewis S. Mills Regional High School. This report will try to answer some of these questions and tell a little more about the man, Lewis S. Mills, Sr. for whom our school is named.

Lewis S. Mills was born the son of a frugal farmer, Deacon Archibald Mills, in Canton Center, Connecticut, on September 5, 1874. Due to an injury at age three, his left leg became impaired and he wore a heavy steel brace for the rest of his life. However, he was able to go to school as well as help out on his family's farm. He attended a one-room school in Canton Center and then graduated from Collinsville High School. Deciding to further his education, he attended and graduated from Willimantic Normal School. His first job was teaching at the one-room Quasset School, built in 1748, in Woodstock, Connecticut. There he had 40 pupils, ages 3 through 18.

Using his photography skills, he was later able to put himself through Columbia University in New York City, where in 1908 he was awarded a bachelor's degree in education. His master's degree in school administration was confirmed in 1912.

Mr. Mills married May Edith Wilder from Canton on October 4, 1908. They had three children; Charles the oldest, was born on October 12, 1910, Lewis Jr. on January 18, 1916, and Louise on November 1, 1919.

During his administrative years, he first served as rural supervisor with the State Department of Education from 1908 until 1939. He also was a Justice of the Peace from 1914 until 1928 in Plainville and was a director of the Plainville Chamber of Commerce during the same time. Mr. Mills moved on to become a rural supervisor of schools in Burlington from 1916 until 1928 and also served as rural supervisor of Harwinton from 1927 until he retired in 1939. During the years 1933 to 1935, he served as State Education Chairman of the George Washington Bicentennial Committee for which he received the George Washington Bicentennial Medal.

Mr. Mills exerted a lot of influence on the school programs. For instance, in 1919, he asked the townspeople for free textbooks for the students, and urged that students be required to complete the 7th grade or reach the age of 16 before leaving school. He was opposed to having students drop out of school. In 1921, he asked for students to be examined by a school nurse, a practice that was to be continued until 1923. He also managed to introduce some art and music into the programs.

"He loved children, especially younger ones, and they loved him. In the schools that he visited regularly, he always seemed to know them by name. He was soft spoken, and a gentleman who seemed to command respect. He was also a disciplinarian, but fair to all. He had a keen sense of

humor, a dry wit and enjoyed a chuckle especially if he could outsmart a politician." these were the words of his daughter-in-law, Mrs. Dorothy Mills.

Following his retirement at age 65 from public services, he became an editor and publisher of a magazine called The Lure of the Litchfield Hills. He also authored many books, including "The Story of Connecticut (a history), Citizenship and Government in Connecticut, Citizenship and Government in the United States, and Legends of Barkhamstead Lighthouse and Satan's Kingdom in New England (an epic poem).

Mr. Mills was an avid photographer throughout his life. He was especially known for capturing Connecticut rural scenes, railroad pictures, one-room schoolhouses, and also pictures of historical interest. His files contain more than 16,000 negatives accumulated over some 60 years of amateur and professional activity in this field. The Mills Collection of one-room schoolhouses contains over 500 pictures and is displayed in the Connecticut State Library in Hartford, Connecticut. It is nationally famous.

Mr. Mills was quite in demand as a lecturer with his own illustrated "Magic Lantern" slides. He was able to keep an audience completely spellbound. He was also a lay preacher in country churches which were without a pastor in such towns as Burlington, Canton, and Barkhamsted.

On November 1, 1960, the District No. 10 School Board announced an intensive search to find a name for the new high school that was under construction. Several names had been considered involving syllable combinations such as "Burlwin", "Har-Bur", "Burwin", "Burlin", "Harburton" and "Barburl". All the students in grades seven through twelve were asked to submit name suggestions as well as their preference for school colors. Then, finally, on November 23, 1960, Lewis S. Mills Regional High School was selected as the name of the new school. Spokesman David Cheney, Vice-Chairman of Regional District No. 10 Board, said, "It seems most appropriate to honor one who has been closely identified with the school systems of both towns and is warmly remembered as being a dedicated educator". A few weeks later on a Sunday afternoon, about 600 people attended the dedication ceremonies at the new school. Mr. Mills, although confined to a wheelchair, expressed his "great delight to be present". He also said:

"I feel that this honor which has been bestowed on me by the towns of Harwinton and Burlington should be shared with the thousands of people including pupils and parents, who have worked with me through the years".

Mr. Mills also commended the committee which provided incentive to students through the establishment of the Lewis S. Mills Scholarship Fund.

After leading a full and dedicated life in education and editorial works, Mr. Mills passed away at age 90, on March 7, 1965. A ceramic plaque showing his face and two one-room schoolhouses, the work of Adrian Matthews, who was a member of the school board at the time, was unveiled. The plaque is now displayed near the main office at the Lewis S. Mills Regional High School.

### **BURLINGTON, FAIR BURLINGTON**

Composed by L.S.Mills, Supt. of Schools for Flag Day, 1924.

Tune: Maryland, My Maryland.

Home of my heart, I sing of thee, Burlington, Fair Burlington.  
Thy tree clad hills are fair to see, Burlington, Fair Burlington.  
From Riverside's soft whispering pines, to Whigville and the Copper Mines,  
Dear in the light of memory shines, Burlington, Fair Burlington.

Sweet dreamland of my childhood days: Burlington, Fair Burlington.  
With joy I tread thy mountain ways, Burlington, Fair Burlington.  
From Holcomb down to Number Four. From Oak to Center and the store,  
Thy winding roads I wander o'er, Burlington, Fair Burlington.

A cheer for Burlington so dear, Burlington, Fair Burlington.

Our grand old town without a peer, Burlington, Fair Burlington.  
Where highways drift with winter snow, where summer breezes softly blow  
On lofty hill and valley low, Burlington, Fair Burlington.

What e'er betide, where e'er I roam, Burlington, Fair Burlington.  
My thoughts return to you and home, Burlington, Fair Burlington.  
To thee I pledge with honor bright, throughout the years to bravely fight,  
For truth and justice and the right, Burlington, Fair Burlington.

In composing the above Mr. Mills has rendered the town a distinct service. What Burlington has lacked more than anything else is a Burlington spirit and if all our people can learn this song by heart it may do a great deal to create it.

### **A BURLINGTON TEACHER**

Bristol Press--June 14, 1906.

Thomas Brooks, uncle of Thornton Brooks of Unionville, taught school at one time in the little school house at Lamson's Corner. Mr. Brooks was a married man and one of his pupils was Joseph his son. He must have been a very conscientious man, jealous of the good will of his fellow men, for he pursued an extreme course to show that he was not partial to his offspring.

In the early days, for all this happened about seventy-five years ago, the use of the rod was a daily factor in schoolroom government. It is related of the pupils of Thomas that a number of them deserved and usually received a switching every day the school was in session. To Joseph this was a hard experience, and must have developed an abhorrence of school and a longing for the time when his father should loose his job. Every time a pupil was brought under the harsh discipline of the birches, Joseph was also made to feel the sting of the switch or cudgel, whichever had been used on the miscreant. This was the price the son paid for the privilege of saving his father from criticism for partiality.

Burlington Conn. Nov. 9, 1903.

To the Teachers of the Burlington Schools;

In order that there may be no misunderstanding in regard to the requirements of the law concerning the attendance of scholars I am instructed by our School Board to call your attention to the following extract from a letter from Agent C.N.Hall.

"Neither teacher, principal, superintendent or school board can accept such excuses unless same are based on legal grounds. The only legal excuses are sickness and lack of suitable clothing. Any request that a child be excused from attendance, based on grounds other than the foregoing, cannot legally be granted. Parents or guardians who permit children to be absent from school without legal excuse must themselves assume the risk of incurring the penalty provided by the statutes. Yours truly, C.N.Hall.

The penalty above referred to is a "fine not exceeding five dollars for each week of failure to comply with the statute".

Your attention is also called to the statute which requires that every child once registered, whether under or over 14 years of age must attend regularly until the end of the term. The same penalty as above may be incurred by failure to observe this.

As the state appropriation on which we are depending depends on the average attendance you are urged to report promptly to Mr. Hall any violation of the law.

It is probable that the School Board will vote at its next meeting that before any child of 14 yrs. or more will be allowed to leave school he will be required to pass an examination on all the work of at least the seventh grade. If any of your scholars are counting on leaving it will be well to call their attention to this.

Very truly yours

Henry J.Coudit  
Secretary, Board of Visitors.

## SANDBANK SCHOOL

Farmington Valley Herald - May 3, 1990 by Jean P. Hatch

The recent death of a former schoolteacher of mine brought back many memories. Who could forget Ruby Hohbein? She was so pretty, and lived right around the bend from us.

My family and many others like Ruby's lived in a part of Burlington now generally unknown called Sandbank. It is a small area located between Wilkinsonville and Collinsville.

In order to get to our house from Collinsville, the shortest way for us was to walk up Church Street, turn left, and proceed up Claire Hill. About two miles down the road, our house still stands. It was the last house on the right before Sandbank School.

Sandbank School is where Ruby taught in one of the lower grades. Some of the other teachers who come to mind are Miss Samuelson, Miss O'Loughlin, Miss Hortense Case and Mr. Wilmont.

The sixth, seventh and eighth grades were all in one room. My teacher was Mr. Wilmont. I'll never forget Mr. Wilmont trudging from Collinsville in all kinds of weather up the hill to Sandbank School.

Actually, the correct name for the school was the Riverside Grammar School. Of course, there were no cars in those days. On hot days, my mother would invite him in for a cool drink and give him all the fruit and vegetables he could carry.

Mr. Wilmont had great difficulty walking, as he was a victim of polio while a young boy. I was his pet because I would walk with him as far as I could and would help him carry his books.

The people who lived in this section of Burlington were of various nationalities. There were the Irish, Polish, Czechs, Germans and many others.

On Claire Hill lived the Szydlos, Mickels, Slussers, Pelczars, Trackis, Burnets, Dobricks, Kozlaks and my family, the Ploskis.

Some of the families who lived on what we called the lower road were the Gotaskis, Bricks, Klattes, Jakubiaks, Dlubacs, Swierczynskis and others that I have forgotten.

On the road to Wilkinsonville were the Tharau, Toth, Jasinski, Zima, Scheidel, Grabinsky and Winalski families.

I often wonder how many people are still alive and remember the old Sandbank School. We had to go to the center of Burlington every June 14, Flag Day, to graduate. There, we would have a picnic on the grounds of the Congregational Church.

This was a big day for us. We went by horse and wagon. We trimmed the wagon and sat in the hay. At my graduation, I was chosen to give a speech that I had written. The title was "Americanization." I wish I had a copy of that speech. I used to love to orate and I participated in all the spelling bees.

It was a great place to grow up. There were no roller skates, no cars, no TV's, radio or telephone. There was one sled for the five of us.

However, we had all kinds of animals, lots of land, fruit trees and large gardens. We had the Farmington River, which provided us with swimming and ice skating. We had the Sandbank for sports, especially baseball, where my brothers excelled.

It was a way of life that has gone forever, except in the minds of those of us who still remember.

A large number of the men who lived near us in the Sandbank section of Burlington worked in the Collins Co. On their way home, they would stop at "Rybers" and take home some beer in their tin pails, or stop and visit with their friends.

The company had built duplexes for workers on what we called the lower road. Much of the lower road was wiped out by the great flash flood many years ago.

My grandmother lived in one of the houses, and I loved to visit her. The families who lived here brought up large families and always had gardens and pretty flower beds. It was a lovely spot in those days. The Farmington River flowed gently in their back yards.

The men who worked in the "grind shop" of the Collins Co. all died very young. In those days there was no protection from the dust of the grinding wheel. Consequently, the men contracted

silicosis, which is a fibrosis of the lungs caused by inhaling silica dust, which results in a shortness of breath.

Most of the men died in their 40's, including my father, who died at 48. In those days there was no such thing as workmen's compensation. This left the widows and children to fend for themselves.

The women deserve medals for the courage they displayed. The children worked hard and turned out very well, many of whom became very successful.

Susie Kozlak and I were the only ones from my class who went on to Collinsville High School. The children who lived in the Wilkinsonville area went to Farmington High. Susie dropped out after the first year, however I stayed on.

I loved school and made many friends by joining the basketball team. CHS belonged to the Farmington Valley League. I was happy when I was made captain one year.

Whenever we played out of town, Sarah Cox insisted I stay at her house. Her parents would not allow me to walk home in the dark by myself. It is a fond memory which I will always treasure.

The Cox home was centrally heated and was very warm. My home was heated by stoves, which made it necessary to sleep under and on top of feather beds.

It was fun having breakfast with Dr. Cox and his wife. He would tease me about bringing me into the world. Mother told me that I was born during one of the worst snowstorms of the year. At the time, we lived on what was called the "New Road." How Dr. Cox ever got to our house I will never know.

Our basketball team was coached by Mrs. Marshall. Some of the team players that come to mind are Ruth Wheeler, Adelaide and Jane Soby, Sarah Cox, Alice McNamara, Hattie Johnson and Doris Mills.

The men's team consisted of Robert Reeve, Arthur Tarling, James Lowell, Sam Richardson, Alfred Dumas, Norman Wheeler, Ray Wilder and Charlie Radomski. What a wonderful group we had.

I became deeply saddened in my junior year when my widowed mother sold our small farm and bought a house in Hartford. I entered Hartford Public High School in my junior year and became very lonesome and unhappy.

The classes were large, the subjects very difficult. The students had their cliques; I felt totally lost. My mother insisted that I stay, which I did. I graduated with the class of 1924.

As all my friends were in Collinsville, I did not go to the junior prom. I still feel I missed a great part of my school life. I joined the basketball team at HPHS, however, my heart remained with my old friends at CHS.

Every Memorial Day I make a visit to Calvary Cemetery where many of my family lie buried. Occasionally I meet someone with whom I can reminisce about the area of Burlington called "Sandbank."

Editor's note: This reminiscence by former Burlington resident Jean Hatch, maiden name Ploski. Mrs. Hatch, who now lives in Wethersfield, is 83.

### **BURLINGTON, MILLS SCHOOL (no date)**

Our present school, the Mills School, is situated on the southeastern border of the town, not far from the original location of the old school, which we know as the Moses' District.

The present building was planned and designed by Lewis S.Mills, our former supervisor, who also acted as supervisor of the building. Incidentally, the school was named the Mills School, through a vote of the pupils attending it, in honor of Mr. Mills.

It might be interesting to compare the new school with the old, which was torn down about fifteen years ago. The biggest contrasts lie chiefly in desks, lighting, and water supply. The desks today are movable units in place of the old fashioned double desks, fastened to the floor; this modern improvement being more suitable for group work. The lighting in the old building came in from three sides, with insufficient lighting space, and no electricity for supplementary lighting. In the new building the large windows, mostly on one side, give ample light, while electricity is a great aid on dark days. At the old school the water had to be carried from neighboring homes, and the common

tin dipper served all; while today the well and pump are under the same roof in an adjoining, well-lighted cloak room, with paper cups supplanting the common drinking vessel.

Another outstanding feature of the new school is a large playground adaptable to various outdoor activities, which play an important part in the school program.

The heating system has remained about the same, wood still used in both schools for fuel. The jacketed stove, however is an improvement over the old stove, which was placed in the center of the room, while the stove is now found in one corner, affording more space.

The building meets all the physical requirements of the modern conception of a rural school.

Perhaps some may not be familiar with the reasons which prompted the building of a new school in this vicinity. Until the fall of 1928, the pupils had attended the Unionville schools, being transported to the village by bus. The number increased to twenty pupils, and with this increase came a decided increase in tuition and transportation costs. Thus, after a careful study of the situation, it was estimated that the erection of a new school would be to a better advantage than transporting the pupils to the near-by town.

Since the school has been in existence only three years, there have been only two teachers during this period, nevertheless both have been Normal School Graduates, while on the other hand the teachers in the old school were high school graduates, that being the necessary qualification for a teaching position in times past.

In conclusion, therefore, it may be stated that these contrasts reflect the town's effort in aspiring to keep up with modern educational practices.

Musings, **George Hull**, ("The Sage of Bristol")  
Bristol Press, 4-2-1955

I mentioned our changing climate. As a matter of fact, I have positive proof that it has changed right here in Burlington during the last 30 years. A recent article on "felt boots" made me realize that during the first 15 years I resided in this town, most everyone owned a pair of felt boots. In our house there were assorted sizes from my boots down to the smaller boots used by the twins in walking to the Whigville School. During the severe winters we had at that time, felt boots were a Godsend to country people. They came in two parts, the felt, shaped to the foot and leg, and a rubber three, or four- buckle boot that fitted over the felt to give it protective covering. (This outer part was taken off upon entering the house,-L.R.A.) We used to purchase the felt boots at Turner's Store, in more recent years operated by Mr. and Mrs. Peck in Burlington Center.

However during the last 15 years, felt boots have almost entirely disappeared from this town. It has been many years since I have seen anyone wearing a pair. One thing is certain, if we were to have a repetition of the Blizzard of 1888, people would be far less prepared to meet the emergency and one reason lies in the fact that practically nobody owns a pair of felt boots.

#### **THE COTTON GIN**

Called "Composition No. 2" and dated Burlington, Jan. 7th, 1866, signed J. R. B.

The cotton gin was invented in the year 1793 by Mr. Whitney of New Haven. It has been of great importance to the people of the south and is destined to be of still more importance in time to come. It is a very simple machine consisting of a gang of circular saws. It was made for the purpose of separating the seed from the cotton. The seeds of cotton are in the middle of the bolls and the cotton grows to the seeds. Before the cotton gin came into use not more than one thousand bales of cotton were annually shipped to England.

In the year 1858 the product exceeded two millions of bales. The cotton gin made slavery of great importance to the south and they felt so important that they thought they could rule the western continent, so they went to war with the north and you know the result.

The south arose in arms against the mighty north and the mighty northern armies marched against the south. And they marched but to conquer. For the right must always conquer. They freed the sorrowing bondsmen from their oppressive yoke, and henceforth the cotton gin by Yankees must be worked.

## CHAPTER 8, WHIGVILLE

### DEBATING SOCIETY, WHIGVILLE.

(Excerpts-Nov. 4, 1852)

Met by a call of the young men of Whigville; called to order by D.E.Peck. C.H.Matthews was chosen chairman of the meeting and D.E.Peck, Secretary. Voted that we form ourselves into a Debating Club for our mutual benefit. Voted that we appoint Officers for one month. S.L.Curtis was chosen President, C.H.Matthews, Vice-President, D.E.Peck, Secretary & George Goodale, Treasurer. Voted that we appoint a committee to draft a Constitution and bye-laws, also to procure a suitable room. (The Whigville school was chosen) C.H.Matthews, J.H.Spencer & D.E.Peck were chosen to that office. Voted that we appoint a committee of two to draft and circulate a request for members. B.E.Barker & I.Frisbie were appointed to that office. Voted that we will discuss the following question next meeting. "WHICH EXCITES THE GREATEST CURIOSITY, THE WORKS OF NATURE OR THE WORKS OF ART"? George Goodale, B.E.Barker, D.E.Peck were chosen disputants in the affirmative and I.Frisbie, S.L.Curtis & J.H.Spencer in the negative. Voted to adjourn to Monday the 8th at 6½'clock.

#### PREAMBLE

We, the undersigned being impressed with the many advantages which would result to the community and especially to the rising generation from a well organized Lyceum do agree to the following Constitution and Bye-laws.

ARTICLE 1st. This association shall be constituted by at least seven members, and shall be entitled "THE WHIGVILLE DEBATING CLUB", who shall have full power to admit or expel its members.

ARTICLE 2nd. The elective Officers of this Club shall consist of a President, Vice-president, Secretary & Treasurer; to serve for the term of one month.

ARTICLE 3rd. No person shall be admitted into this Club unless he possesses a good moral character and receives a vote of a majority of the members voting, and shall be required to take part in either speaking, or in some official capacity, unless a reasonable excuse is given.

ARTICLE 4th. The presiding Officer shall on all occasions enforce the due observance of order and decorum and shall pronounce the decision of the Club on all subjects and shall decide all questions of order without debate.

ARTICLE 5th. No motion shall be open for consideration or debate unless moved by two and be stated by the chair and when any question is before the Club no motion shall be received unless to adjourn or to lay on the table the previous question.

ARTICLE 6th. All questions proposed for discussion shall be reduced to writing before they are laid before the Club for action and shall lie over at least one week before the time of discussion.

ARTICLE 7th. Each member while speaking shall be standing and shall respectfully address his remarks to the chair and shall confine himself to the question and avoid all personalities.

ARTICLE 8th. No person shall be interrupted while speaking except it to be to call him to order or for the purpose of explanation.

ARTICLE 9th. No disputant shall be allowed to speak more than ten minutes at a time the first time speaking and not more than (?) minutes the second time which shall end his remarks unless permission is given by the President or for the purpose of explanation.

ARTICLE 10th. ~~The President at the close of each debate shall appoint three judges and two disputants for the next debate the first appointed being in the affirmative and shall have the first choice in the speakers.~~

ARTICLE 11th. All members belonging to this Club shall pay the sum of 25 cents at the close of the Club term and 12¢ per month after, ~~as long as they continue members.~~

ARTICLE 12th. The judges shall decide all questions strictly by the weight of argument and the merits of the question shall be decided by the Club by a rising vote.

#### BYE-LAWS

ARTICLE 1st. The President shall preside at every meeting when present; and in his absence the Vice-president shall take the chair and call the Club to order at the appointed hour of meeting.

ARTICLE 2nd. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep an accurate record of all the proceedings of the Club and do all other business appertaining to his office.

ARTICLE 3rd. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive all moneys belonging to the Club and to pay all orders drawn on him by the Club and shall at the close of each term report to the Club the amount of receipts and expenditures during his term of office and the amount of funds on hand.

ARTICLE 4th. This Club shall hold its regular meetings for discussion on Monday evening of each week and for the purpose of transacting any other business proper to be brought before the Club.

#### **ROLL OF MEMBERS OF THE WHIGVILLE DEBATING CLUB**

B.E.Barker	J.R.Pond	David Lowrey
S.L.Curtis	Russel Andrews	Lewis M.Jones
Ichobod Frisbie	Allen Bunnel	Sherman Barnes
C.H.Matthews	<del>Erastus Fenn</del>	L.D.Mills
<del>John Morris</del>	<del>J.H.Spencer</del>	Edgar Norton
H.H.Barker	D.E.Peck	S.Morse
A.Y.Culver	<del>George Goodale</del>	J.B.Payne
J.W.Bradley		

#### **WHIGVILLE, NOV. 8TH, 1852**

The Club met pursuant to adjournment called to order by the President. Secretary's report read and accepted. Committees report on drafting Constitution and bye-laws called for. Voted to give the committee two weeks more time to prepare it. Report of the committee on solicitation of members called for. No action taken upon it. The question for discussion was read and debated upon and after a warm discussion of 1½ hours, was decided in the affirmative by the judges, also by the Club. The following question was then proposed for discussion at the next meeting. "WHICH HAS RECEIVED THE GREATEST INJUSTICE FROM THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES, THE NEGRO OR THE INDIAN"? Allen Bunnel, D.E.Peck, negative who choose the following assistants. Allen Bunnel, S.Barnes, B.E.Barker, E.Fenn, negative. J.H.Spencer, George Goodale, H.H.Barker, Lewis Jones, I.Frisbie, affirmative. Voted to adjourn till Monday the 15th at 6½ o'clock.

The records of the Whigville Debating Club show that the last meeting was 11-20-1871. Below are some of the subjects discussed.

"OUGHT CAPITOL PUNISHMENT TO BE ABOLISHED"?

"WHICH WILL MAN EXERT HIMSELF THE MOST TO OBTAIN AND DEFEND, RICHES OR WOMEN"?

"WHICH IS ENTITLED TO THE GREATEST HONOR, COLUMBUS FOR DISCOVERING AMERICA OR WASHINGTON FOR DEFENDING IT"?

"WHICH HAS DONE THE MOST TO GAIN OUR INDEPENDENCE, WASHINGTON OR FRANKLIN"?

"DOES A MAN RECEIVE GREATER ENJOYMENT FROM REALIZATION THAN ANTICIPATION"?

"DID THE WELFARE OF THE COUNTRY REQUIRE THE SUFFRAGE(?) OF THE FUGITIVE SLAVE LAW"?

"WHICH HAS PROVED THE GREATEST EVIL, WAR OR INTEMPERANCE"?

"WHICH HAS PROVED THE GREATEST EVIL, WAR OR THE USE OF INTOXICATING LIQUOR"?

"WOULD A SEPARATE PARTY BE EXPEDIENT OR NECESSARY FOR THE ENACTMENT OF THE MAINE LAW IN THE COMING ELECTION"?

"IS CALIFORNIA & NEW MEXICO A BLESSING OR A CURSE TO THE UNITED STATES"?

"WHICH IS THE MOST INDEPENDENT, THE FARMER OR MECHANIC"?

"DOES THE PRESENT STATE OF THINGS INDICATE THE PASSAGE OF THE MAINE LAW BY OUR NEXT LEGISLATURE?"

"WHICH WOULD BE THE GREATER EVIL, IMMEDIATE EMANCIPATION, OR SLAVERY AS IT IS"?

"WHICH ENJOYS LIFE THE BEST, THE MARRIED MAN OR THE BACHELOR"?

"IS IT THE DUTY OF TEMPERANCE MEN IN THIS STATE TO VOTE THE FREE SOIL TICKET PROVIDED THE CANDIDATES OF THE OTHER PARTIES DO NOT ANSWER QUESTIONS PUT TO THEM BY THE STATE TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE?"

"DOES THE PRESENT ABOLITION PARTY AT THE NORTH EXERT A RIGHT INFLUENCE"?

"WHICH IS THE MOST DESERVING OF PUNISHMENT, THE RETAILER OR THE DRINKER OF SPIRITUOUS LIQUORS"?

"IS PARTY POLITICS ANY ADVANTAGE TO OUR COUNTRY"?

"WOULD IT BE EXPEDIENT TO ESTABLISH A LIBRARY IN CONNECTION WITH THE LYCEUM?"

"OUGHT THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTH TO OPPOSE THE SO CALLED NEBRASKA BILL AT ALL HAZARDS"?

"IS OUR COUNTRY IN DANGER OF ("ROMAN added later by vote) CATHOLICISM"?

"HAS AMBITION BEEN PRODUCTIVE OF MORE GOOD THAN EVIL TO THE WORLD"?

"IS THE MAINE LAW THE MOST FEASIBLE PLAN FOR ABOLISHING INTEMPERANCE IN THIS STATE"?

"OUGHT WOMEN TO HAVE RIGHTS EQUAL WITH MEN IN THE WORLD"?

"OUGHT THE CIRCUS AND THEATERS TO BE PROHIBITED BY THE PRESENT LEGISLATURE OF THIS STATE"?

"IS THE ANNEXATION OF CUBA NECESSARY TO THE PROSPERITY OF THE UNITED STATES"?

"OUGHT OUR CONSTITUTION TO BE SO AMENDED AS TO EXPUNGE THE WORD WHITE"?

"IS THE USE OF TOBACCO MORE INJURIOUS TO THE HUMAN SYSTEM THAN SPIRITED LIQUORS"?

"ARE SECRET SOCIETIES BENEFICIAL TO THE COMMUNITY"?

"WHICH HAS BEEN OF THE MOST BENEFIT TO THE SLAVE, THE COLONIZATION SOCIETY OR THE ABOLITION PARTY"?

"ARE THE PRINCIPLES OF THE SO CALLED KNOW-NOTHINGS AS ADVOCATED BY THEIR LEADING ORGANS CALCULATED TO BENEFIT OUR COUNTRY"?

"WHICH POSSESS THE GREATEST INTELLECTUAL POWERS, THE MALE OR THE FEMALE"?

"RESOLVED THAT IT IS NOT JUSTIFIABLE TO TAKE HUMAN LIFE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES"?

"ARE THE PAPISTS THAT EMIGRATE TO THIS COUNTRY WILLING TO ACCEDE TO OUR FREE INSTITUTIONS"?

"OUGHT THE CLERGY TO INTERFERE WITH THE PARTY POLITIC"?

"WOULD THE ANNEXATION OF MORE TERRITORY BE BENEFICIAL TO THE UNITED STATES"?

"WHICH ENJOYS LIFE THE BEST, THE INDIAN OR THE WHITE MAN"?

"OUGHT THE FUGITIVE SLAVE LAW TO BE ENFORCED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE FREE STATES"?

"DO EXISTING CIRCUMSTANCES WARRANT A DIVISION OF THE UNION"?

"OUGHT OUR GOVERNMENT TO CHECK FOREIGN IMMIGRATION"?

"DO THE WORKS OF NATURE EXCITE MORE ADMIRATION THAN THE WORKS OF ART"?

"THAT THE PEN HAS BEEN OF GREATER BENEFIT TO MANKIND THAN THE NEEDLE"?

"WHICH HAS THE GREATER INFLUENCE ON MANKIND, TRUTH OR FICTION"?  
 "RESOLVED THAT MAN EXERTS A GREATER INFLUENCE IN THE WORLD THAN WOMAN"?  
 "WHICH IS THE MOST BENEFIT TO THE WORLD, ELECTRICITY OR STEAM"?  
 "IS THE AFRICAN MIND WITH EDUCATION & MORAL CULTURE CAPABLE OF SELF GOVERNMENT"?  
 "WHICH IS THE GREATER MOTIVE TO ACTION, HOPE OR FEAR"?  
 "RESOLVED THAT SLAVERY IS A MORAL INSTITUTION & CAN WITH PROPRIETY BE SUSTAINED BY A CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY"?  
 "RESOLVED THAT PHYSICAL POWER HAS GREATER INFLUENCE IN THE WORLD THAN MORAL---(?)"  
 "WHICH HAS BEEN OF THE GREATEST BENEFIT TO MANKIND, COMMERCE OR CHEMISTRY"?

May 22nd, 1854: Voted that the Club furnish spit boxes for the use of the members.

June 6th, 1854: Voted that each member should pay a fine of 5 cents that was not there at 7 o'clock without a reasonable excuse.

Sept. 9th, 1857: Voted that the young ladies be invited to write essays and also to the young gentlemen to give exercises in declamation at the meetings of the Club.

Sept. 23rd, 1857: Song by the ladies.

Dec. 23rd, 1857: A committee from the Burlington Lyceum was present with an invitation to this society to meet them in Public debate at some time during the present winter.

Some names that appear in this Journal

Adams; Andrew, George, Russell	Hart, Albert, Y.
Barnes; G.S., Sherman	Hughs, James
Barker; Havila, R.E. Wallace,	Jones; Lewis M. E. K. Ellen
Beach; Charles, Theodore	Lowrey; Augustus, David, E.N.
Bennet, F.	Matthews; Bryon, Charles, Fenelon, Norman,
Bradley; James, Urial B.	Marks, Constant
Brown, Andrew	Miller, Horace, L. D.
Bull, Edward	Morse; John, Solomon
Bunnell; Wales, Allen, Charles, Comodore Esq. Thomas	
Byington; Heney, Nevel,	Norton; Alford, Edgar
Case; George, Alvina	Payne, J. B.
Cartright, Mr.	Peck; Aurelius, Burdette, Cerrantes,
Chidney; Daniel, James	Darius, Saba, Seth
Culver; Abel, Mary	Perry; Albert, Comodore
Curtis; Ira, S. L. & M. H.	Pond; Almeron, J. R.
Cyrus, Thomas	Robert, G. S.
Daniels, D.	Sheil, Peter
Diefendorf, A. D.	Smith; Hoyt, Nelson, Stiles, Watson,
Dowd, M. H.	Julius
Eddy, Henry	Spencer, J. H.
Fenn, Erastus	Stone, M.
Frisbie, Ichabod	William, Jesse
Goodale; David, Francis, Juther	Wooden, Orrin
	Wright, Wells

**HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE VILLAGE OF WHIGVILLE IN THE TOWN OF BURLINGTON.**

Prepared By Don E. Peck In 1875.

The town in which we live, was formerly a part of a society called West Britain, belonging to the old township of Farmington. The Society was divided into the towns of Burlington and Bristol in the year 1806.

Burlington was settled chiefly by people from Farmington and New Haven, Connecticut. As an inducement to settlers they offered large tracts of land in this new territory. Capt. Strong owned a large tract in that part called the Moses District.

A Mr. Aaron Pettibone owned a piece one mile in width on the north end of the town. Zac. Marks a tract on Johnny Cake mountain, and Ephram Boarman (sic) a portion in the south part of the town.

The country was wild, and game plenty. It is said that the great grandfather of Deacon Ives, (who hunted over all these hills, and was called the Nimrod of the age,) killed in his lifetime between four and five hundred deer, and about eighty bears. Wolves and wildcats were plenty. He also shot an Indian in one of his hunting excursions. While hunting with one Jesse Gaylord, he became aware that an Indian was following them, seemingly bent on mischief. After a short consultation, they agreed to part company, and if the Indian should follow one, his companion should turn and defend him if necessary. He followed Gaylord, and Ives soon found himself obliged to kill the Red Skin. The Indian was in the act of shooting Gaylord. They buried him and his rifle near that place called Morgan Swamp named after the Indian. This occurrence remained a secret for a long time.

Gaylord afterward said that he knew why the Indian wished to kill him-but his knowledge has not descended to us.

The last bear was killed in the ledges at a place called Bears Den. A man living near Nigger Hill Bridge went out to chop a hollow tree to make a tub with. As he was chopping, he heard a scratching above his head, and on looking up, he saw a large bear coming down the tree. He ran to his home, and rallying his neighbors, set out in pursuit of the animal. There being a stiff crust of snow, they were able to track him, by his bloody foot-prints. They followed him to the Bears Den, where he was killed. The last deer seen in this part of the country, was killed on the hill back of N. Foote's house.

Wild turkeys were also plenty. I have heard it related that my grandmother killed two while coming from Meeting on foot. She came suddenly upon a flock- she threw a club and killed one, another in his flight got caught in a tree top and was also captured.

The first house built in Burlington stood a few rods west of Darius Peck's barn. It is supposed that the Indians made this part of the country a hunting ground, rather than a permanent home.

Pine Hill is thought to have been a favorite hunting ground, or battlefield, as axes and arrowheads have been found there by farmers while plowing. The late Capt. Manross while searching for mineral specimens among the rocks up Wild Cat Ledge came upon two Indian skeletons. It was supposed they sought refuge there in some of their hunting excursions and perished.

The first death occurred in 1743. The man died of smallpox and was buried on Pine Hill, and wary has been the tread of many a school child as he has gathered Mayflowers, or picked berries near the spot.

The people were requested to go to Meeting in some place. Some went to New Cambridge now Bristol. Six families had leave to attend Meeting in Harwinton. The first services in town were held in a barn belonging to Seth Wiard (?) better known as the Old Stephen Hotchkiss place. They organized a society about this time consisting of thirty or forty members. The Sabbatarians commenced holding meetings prior to this in the north part of the town.

Hymn books were scarce, and it was the custom of the chorister to line off two lines, after these were sung, he would line two more, and this comprised the singing. They soon reared a frame for a church, but dissensions arose then as well as at the present day, and the work stopped and in time the frame rotted down. At a later period a new frame was reared with better success in 1783. People came to the raising from all the towns about, both Jew and Gentile. It was the custom to sing on such occasions. Having no hymn book, the chorister adopted the usual practice of lining off the hymn. It ran as follows:

"Unless the Lord doth build the house,  
The workmen toil in vain".

This was sung with great enthusiasm, but all were filled with amazement when the remaining lines were given-

"Unless the Lord doth shingle it,  
Twill tumble down again".

There were people known as "roughs" in that day as well as now. The next morning, a cowbell was found suspended in the belfry by walnut bark, with the following note attached-

"This is the rope to ring the bell  
To send poor sinners down to Hell".

Tradition says the committee appointed to set the stakes for the old church could not agree for a time the place. A Tavern being nigh they agreed that two should order a mug of flip the third to go and set the stake and get back in time to drink or loose his flip. He ran and set the stake on the side of the hill about fifteen rods west of Samuel Bradley's house opposite the road running north, and was back in time to get his flip.

The frame was covered with rough boards and many a pilgrim received consolation within its protecting walls. The deacons occupied the front side seats, and proud was the wife who could furnish the whitest linen cap of homespun make for her good man to wear during service. The house was never finished over head so the swallows had free sittings and chattered their lays on the rafters while the people worshiped below.

In those days people rode to church on horseback. The "Gude man" and his wife and two children often forming the burden of one horse. Jared Covey was threatened with prosecution for carrying his family to Meeting in a Wagon. The noisy clatter of the wheels disturbed the quietness of their Sundays. The offense seemed worthy of punishment. The Rev. Jonathan Miller was the first minister settled in that parish.

The measures taken to keep the peace differ with those of the present day. A whipping post, and stocks were placed on the corner opposite the meeting house. By means of these, they were able to restrain refractory fellows on training days and on other occasions, when flip and other drinks were circulated too freely among the crowd of people.

Among the many anecdotes related of the early days of the town are some told by Dr. Humphrey while on a visit in the place a year or two before his death. In conversation with him, old Miss Marks described her manner of dress in her early days. Her outfit was of homespun make. Clad in petticoat and short gown, with bare feet, she used to walk three miles to church and considered herself as well dressed as any one of her companions. As there were no stoves in the church, except occasionally a foot-stove, she was often benumbed and nearly frozen at the close of the service in the winter season.

Sherman Barnes had his feet frozen at the dedication of the new church, although it was filled to its utmost capacity. In later days another church was built and dedicated January 25th, 1809. In the year 1824, one hundred new members were added. The church was built in good style for the times, with square pews, and a canopy suspended over the pulpit. Stoves were also introduced. In 1825 it was taken down and diminished in size, and rebuilt in 1836 in the center.

The North District was called Covey Town, and was settled by a colony from Rhode Island composed of Sabbatarians or Seventh-day Baptists. They were descendants of Roger Williams colony. There is a record of their church dating back to the time of Roger Williams arrival in Rhode Island, in the possession of Andrew Hadsell. The Rev. Joshua Clark first preached to them in 1771 and stayed 9 years.

After settling in Burlington they prospered for a time, but after a while a part of them went to Armenia, New York, and the remainder dwindled in importance and are now gone. Their once cozy little church, which used to stand on the corner near Hezekiah Bunnell's is now used for a barn.

The Methodists first formed a class on Chippens Hill in the year 1787. They held their meetings in a house now occupied by Charles Scoville. In 1814, a church was built in what is now the eastern part of the burying ground near the Dr. Tuttle place. In 1837 it was removed to the center of the town.

The people of those early days were of the homespun order in the highest sense of the word, as this slip of account will show, but they reared a noble posterity. "Collinsville:-In clearing away the rubbish in the garret of an old house, about a mile south of Burlington Center, which was occupied for many years by the Elder David Bennett, a quaint old ledger, which had been soaked by rains and nibbled by rats until its contents were almost illegible, was found and our Collinsville correspondent sends us extracts from it. The owner of the book was a country blacksmith named Hills, who seems from the charges to have done a little of all sorts of business. He mended guns, dealt in charcoal and lumber, sold rum, brandy, tobacco and loaf sugar, officiated as constable, and upon occasions as attorney, and his charges in all these trades and professions, with his quaint orthography, made a strange mixture. The accounts date from 1750 to 1795. Under the head of "Luke Hill deter to me" is the charge of nine pence for a "peck of teaters"-two shillings for "mending a goonlock"-the same for "stratin a goon"-two shillings for a team to Wethersfield, and one and nine pence for "horse and shay to Cheshire." (Horse hire was low in 1750.) James Hill is "deter to me" for 2 days cuten brush, four shillings; "1 mug flip," sixpence; "1 yard tobacco," two pence; "Raken oats one day," two shillings. Benjamin Covert is charged with 1 galon rume," "112 galons sider," "mendin pare of fliers," and "tung to a bell." Joseph Roe is "deter to me for servin writ on you," three shillings-for "my oxen one day," one and sixpence-for "Ben one day hoing," one and three pence-"pare of niten needles," three pence, and "mending a cuil-whele," sixpence. Asa Hill is charged one and nine pence for a "wescot for Jonah." Daniel Clark is charged three and sixpence for "servin a writ on Roe and yourself for atacken you wife," and four and sixpence for "pleadin against Hotchkis." Joseph Gaylord stands charged with "one rit," "2 bushel taters," and "rume 8 times."

Mr. Hills sold goods, mended "goons", and served "rits," and "pieded" cases in court, and let horses, and worked at "cuten brush," a great deal cheaper than they do any of these things now-a-days, and no doubt was happy in doing it.

President Humphrey of Amherst College, Prof. Elton of Brown University, able to speak twelve different languages, Bishop Hamlin of great renown in Methodist church-these were natives of Burlington.

Although reared in obscurity among the hills, they rose to as great a distinction as any one of their day. There were many others in the middle walks of life who filled their places with much credit and honor and were no inferior men.

There were two public libraries in town, one in the center, the other at the South End. The reading was plain and substantial, no books of fiction being allowed. It is said that dramatic entertainments were given in which Shakespeare was rendered with good effect.

At this time there were two military companies in Burlington, each numbering seventy or eighty men. These were fostered with a great deal of pride, and Training Day was regarded as a great holiday. The most vigorous wrestlers tried strength with their companions. This was thought to be a rare pastime.

Corn, wheat, and other grains were raised and shipped to the West Indies where they were exchanged for molasses and rum. Flax was raised and used instead of cotton.

The first grist mill was a Gig mill, stood a rod or two from the place where the shop of the late Monroe Barnes now stands, and was owned by a minister named Blakesley. Tradition says that he used to put his grist in the hopper on Sunday in dry weather, set his mill running, and then go and preach his sermons. The next mill was built in a place commonly called Colla- Den, about one mile below Foot's mill. Not far from here an oil mill was erected.

The first saw-mill stood about ten rods North of the Clover Mill Bridge. It is not known who built it, but it was a very old mill when Capt. Joseph Peck's father settled here one hundred years ago next February. A man by the name of Foot once owned it. In later times another saw-mill was built by Deacon Seth Peck near Mr. Barkers. (Seth Peck-32 years a Deacon-1799-1831- Church Records-L.R.A.) It was washed away and rebuilt as a grist mill. The latter was built by Peck Clarke. The old mill was then converted into a clover mill by Gideon Smith. Afterwards it was moved to where it now stands. The Smith before alluded to was a blacksmith and made steel yards, traps, etc.

While Sherman Barnes was enlarging the race to his shop he came upon mason work of brick and stone. Upon inquiry of the oldest inhabitant it was found to be an old clothing works. Prior to the Revolution there was also an old tannery about 100 rods north in the swamp.

Homespun cloth was afterwards dressed by Jerrod Spencer near David Lowreys. The filling was done by means of the water privilege now owned by Bunnell & Smith. The carding and dressing was done in the old shop lately torn down. This shop passed into the hands of Thomas Lowrey, and was afterwards owned by Lowrey, Peck & Co. At this time the Jones shop was built for the manufacture of satinet. Afterwards the owners, Lowrey & Sons (of whom Jones & Longdon bought) made wood clocks.

Bunnell & Smith's factory was first used by Edwin Bunnell for the manufacture of clock-cases. He also built a shop near Mr. Barker's which was burned. The house occupied by Seth Peck was used for a brandy distillery, built by Lowrey and Norton in the year 1812. Amos Smith, Sr. also had a distillery a few rods east of the old Smith home.

Whigville was formerly called Poverty Hollow. It is said to have obtained its name from the character of the people living here in the early settlement. Its present name was given in political derision by the late Luther Tuttle. Its acceptance was first recognized by the carrying of a banner with Whigville, and a resolution to accept and sustain the name upon it, to a Whig convention in Hartford.

In early times the hills were thought to be a desirable place for settling. There were ten houses north of Widow Lowrey's and the turnpike. Five between Widow Roberts and "Nigger Hill". The road formerly extended across the meadows from Darius Peck's to D.C. Peck's. According to all accounts, Whigville was settled some years earlier than any other part of the town. (It has been claimed differently by others.)

The town was divided by property owners into tiers of lots running north and south, one mile in width, and fifteen rod highways, making five tiers. Each man's share was determined according to his property rates in the grand list of Farmington.

John North owned the thirty eighth lot in the second tier in the year 1721, 155 years ago. We are on the south west corner of that lot tonight. It was one mile in length, 70 rods in breadth. In 1776, ninety-nine years ago, when the father of Capt. Samuel Peck came to this place, this lot contained three houses.

The oldest house was owned by a man named Palmer. His wife was a supposed witch, and the house was said to be haunted for many years. It was next owned by Dan Peck, a blacksmith. He had a trip hammer go by water, made ploughs, axes, etc., and was considered a good mechanic in his day. Esquire Simeon Hart lived near the old mansion on this lot and was raising a barn when the news of the battle of Lexington came. The excitement was so great, that it was unfinished, and workmen could hardly be obtained the next day. Deacon Seth Peck's house stood about two rods north west of this hall.

The first well in Burlington was near this house, about ten feet from the fence. Caleb Matthews was the first town clerk. He lived where Cyrus Barnes now lives. A tavern and store was kept on the hill below Charles Matthews. The officers of the two societies used to meet at Landlord Bartholomew's, the tavern keeper, to do the societies business.

There are many other interesting incidents clustering around the olden time of Burlington, but your patience is already tired. I will close this narrative hoping that it has given you some definite idea of the history of Burlington.

NOTES: **D.E. Peck** of Whigville who has an acre of celery under cultivation has purchased a machine for banking up the celery. He goes in for modern improvements never using a hoe.

Bristol Press 6-5-1890;

Burlington Ct.

5 cents

July 17

November 17, 1897. On Wednesday the young men of Whigville gave a squirrel hunt. Sides of 11 each were chosen by **Arthur Hannah** and **Charles Peck**. Hannah's side won with a score

of 1225 points, while Peck had only 1000. The side that lost had to pay for the supper which was gotten up by **Herbert Elton**.

**A.W.Barker** found a turtle last week that had the initials of **Charles R.Bunnell** dated 1865, also of **L.L.Lowrey**, 1875; then of **L.L.Lowrey** again in 1877, of **William Lowrey** in 1879, of **Lena Peck** in 1881, of **L.L.Lowrey** in 1895 and **L.L.Lowrey** cut his initials on it again 1898, and sent it on its way rejoicing. The place it was found last was about 15 or 20 rods from where it was found 33 years before. It had a short tail and one foot gone but was lively and would bite as well as ever.

### UNIQUE GENIUS

Bristol Press, June 14, 1906

#### Interesting Career of **Marshall Dowd**--Expert Marksman

Marshall Dowd, a native of Burlington was a genius in some respects. His habits were against the success of which he was capable, but his exploits are remembered by the older residents, as those of an unusual man. Mr. Charles R. Bunnell of Divinity street speaking of him said he was first and last a man of action.

He was learning the trade of rulemaking at the Chapin shop in Pine Meadow when he was eighteen years old. Nearly all of his shopmates were "Copper Head" democrats. One day the news came into the shop that president Lincoln had called for troops,--three months men. Dowd, in his characteristic way, immediately laid down his tools, took up his hat, and without a word to his employer or companions, started for Hartford where he was one of the first men in the state to enlist.

Dowd was an expert marksman. Mr. Bunnell remembers how time and time again he would drive a tack with a bullet from rifle or pistol at a distance of seventy feet. His comrades say that he was always anxious to get into the thickest of the fight, selecting some point where he could see the enemy. Sometimes he would find a point of vantage behind a stone wall, a tree a dead horse or even a fallen soldier. He tried to have more than one gun available at such times, picking up those that had been dropped by the killed and wounded. He never fired, it is said without aiming at some of the enemy. It is also said that his aim was always true. Mr. Bunnell, himself an old soldier, said he did not always believe there was another man in the Connecticut troops at least, who killed so many rebels as did Dowd. He would shoot, shoot, shoot, until the muzzle of his rifle was hot, then take a second gun and in a steady engagement keep banging away until his cartridges were gone.

Returning home after the war, (he was wounded twice) Dowd went to the Chapin shop. His former shop mates either would not or did not recognize him. He asked for his tools, and all who should have known something about them professed they had not seen them.

He applied for work in the woodturning shop of the Bunnell's in Whigville. He had been in the same company with Sterling Bunnell who knew of the value of his service, and although the man was a stranger to the lathe, he was taken on. He remained for several years, and was an excellent workman.

Leaving the shop he went peddling on the road. When he could not sell a gun or pistol he would try to interest his prospective customer in a pair of suspenders or similar article. He was ever ready to demonstrate the excellence of his shooting irons, and came to be known throughout a considerable section of the east. He first peddled from a trunk carried on his back. As his business prospered however, he secured a horse and outfit.

The man delighted to shoot. He always peppered away at something. He would meet a young man by the road side or in the field, and stopping, try to sell him a gun. Perhaps the young man refused to become interested.

"Don't you think this gun can shoot well"? Asked Dowd. He would then ask for the fellow's hat and getting out of the wagon, place it on a post or rock, putting a rock in the hat. When he fired he aimed at the rock, with the result that the hat was torn to shreds. He would allow the young man to marvel a little or sputter a little and then pay for the hat. This he did repeatedly, and while his

marksmanship sometimes made a sale, he did it simply for the sport of doing something with a gun.

Somewhat less than thirty years ago, Dowd fitted out the old Jones shop in Whigville for printing visiting cards. The fad was general throughout the country at the time. He employed about twenty young men and women residing in Whigville and vicinity. The business grew rapidly, until there was more mail for the establishment than for all the business houses in Bristol put together. There was no post office in Whigville then, and Dowd employed one man to do nothing else but drive between the shop and the Bristol post office and carry the mail. Mr. Bunnell said that Dowd was all day and half the night opening the letters that came in during the day.

Dowd tried his best to get a post office at Whigville to save the expense of receiving and dispatching mail. He finally interested the officials at Washington and an inspector was sent here. Silas Norton was postmaster at the time and he convinced the inspector that the great volume of business for the Whigville card printer was only temporary. The request was turned down. This angered Dowd, and he removed to Winsted where he established the Dowd Printing company, still in existence.

The last thing Dowd did to attract attention was at the national encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic at Boston three years ago, when he bought up every nutmeg he could find in the city, and made them into Connecticut souvenirs. He sold out and made a neat bit of money. He died about a year ago. ("The Town of New Hartford", printed in December, 1975 was printed by The Dowd Printing Company of Winsted. L.R.A.)

Civil War Experiences of Marshall W. Dowd by Tom Turick: Marshall Dowd was a native of New Hartford when he enlisted in the Second Regiment, Connecticut Volunteers. The regiment was a three month regiment raised under President Lincoln's first call for troops in 4-1861.

Dowd enlisted as a private on 4-23-1861 and was assigned to service with Company H. The regiment saw limited action, but did take part in the Battle of Bull Run in 7-1861, the first major engagement of the Civil War. Dowd was mustered out on 8-7-1861 with the rest of the regiment, 798 men strong.

Dowd reenlisted on 8-26-in the Sixth Regiment Connecticut Volunteers. He was a private in Company G. which was comprised mostly of New Britain men.

With this regiment, Dowd saw much action and was wounded twice - the first time on 10-22-1862 at Pocotaligo, South Carolina and again on 7-18-1863 in the abortive assault on Fort Wagner which was located on Morris Island, South Carolina. He reenlisted as a veteran in the sixth Connecticut on 1-4-1864. Dowd was promoted to the rank of corporal on 6-10-1865, two months after the surrender at Appomattox. He was mustered out of the United States service on 8-21-1865 in New Haven with the rest of the 600 men of the sixth Connecticut

### **WHIGVILLE GRANGE DEDICATION.**

(Newspaper clipping-1894)

The dedication of the new hall by Whigville grange Wednesday evening was a notable event among the Patrons of Husbandry throughout the state and the grange were largely represented from every quarter.

Teams began to arrive with visitors two hours before the appointed time. The distinguished members of the order came by train at 5:30 and proceeded by team to Whigville. Besides masters and large delegations from nearly every grange in the state, there were present prominent men, Dr. Austin Bowen, state master; ex-State Masters Hale and Kimberly; B.C.Patterson, chairman of the executive committee of the state grange; Deputies Dunham of Middletown, Beckwith of Canton, J.C.Kirkham and wife of Newington, E.Hough and E.Cooly of Berlin; also lecturer of Pomona grange, Miss Mary Woodward of Sharon. Bristol grange was represented by Worthy Master Robert A.Potter and sixty members of the grange to participate in the housewarming of the parent organization.

When the meeting was called to order there were seated in the hall 300 people. The opening services and formal dedication were conducted according to the ritual and were very impressive

and interesting, being almost entirely new since this is among the first halls built and dedicated by the patrons in this state.

The report of the building committee, presented by E.F.Gaylord, showed that the new hall cost \$1,200, and was paid for. The land on which it stands was donated by L.L.Lowrey. A.Cote of Bristol was the builder.

Speeches were made by many distinguished visitors, among whom the more prominent speakers were Messrs. Bowen, Hale and Kirkham.

The lecturer's hour was full of interest, conducted by Mrs. Sarah Bradley, whose fame in that field has made her well known during the past seven years, in which she has filled the office so ably. The program consisted of a grange history by B.A.Peck of Bristol grange, but a charter member of the Whigville organization. Mr. Peck's paper is of too much importance to be crowded into a brief mention, but deserves publication in full. A solo by Miss Etta Moses, accompanied by the flute, was received with appreciation. A recitation by Miss Mary Clark of Hartford received an encore and she responded with "The Absence of Little Wesley."

A solo by Mrs. E.Stevens of Bristol, accompanied by A.H.Bradley on the flute was greeted with applause.

A call for all the charter members<sup>1</sup> of Whigville grange was responded to by the rising of all but five of the thirty eight original Whigville patrons, one only having deceased. An original grange poem was read by Worthy Master L.B.Pond, which was heartily enjoyed for its literary merit, as well as the practical side of farm life presented. Solo and chorus by Mrs. J.B.Smith, entitled "Dear Old Farm," was well received. Mr. Peck of Northfield recited an original production to the edification of his audience and the exercises were closed for the banquet which was prepared in the banquet rooms on the lower floor. The occasion marks an important period in the growth and prosperity of Whigville grange and it was agreed by all that this is not excelled by any grange hall owned by orders in the state.

<sup>1</sup> Mr. & Mrs. B.Emory Barker, **Mr.** & Mrs. Edwin Gillard, Mr. & Mrs. Edwin H.Gillette, Mr. & Mrs. Augustus A.Lowrey, Mr. & Mrs. Hiram P.Lowrey, Mr. & Mrs. Lester L.Lowrey, Mr. & Mrs. Charles H.Matthews, Mr. & Mrs. Dwight E.Mills, Mr. & Mrs. Charles E.Morris, Mr. Byron Matthews, Mr. George W.Atwood, Mr. & Mrs. Burdette A.Peck, Mr. & Mrs. Don C.Peck, Mr. & Mrs. George W.Hart, Mr. & Mrs. W.S.Saunders, Mr. & Mrs. Mark B.Stone, Mr. & Mrs. Frank Thompson, Mr. & Mrs. Ira Taft, Mr. & Mrs. James Webster, Mrs. Maria Thompson, Mrs. Sarah Bradley, Mrs. Celia Wilcox, Mr. Samuel D.Newell.(Olden Times, New Cambridge)

## WHIGVILLE

Up in the Devil's Kitchen-Bristol Press, Jan. 28, 1924.

It would be interesting to know how some localities get their names. Occasionally as in the case of Dog Corner's in Whigville there is a story. The Dog Corner story is that a soldier returning from the Civil War died exhausted on reaching the corner and was found by his dog. (wrong-L.R.A.) Whether there is any truth in this story the writer does not know but it is the only explanation he ever heard.

But he has never heard a story regarding the naming of the Devil's Kitchen. If the name was recent one might have suspected that this region so wild and remote was used for moonshining and hence the name. But the name goes back into the years when moonshining was unheard of, for distilling was quite a respectable occupation and instead of hiding in remote sections like the Devil's Kitchen there was a whiskey distillery right in the center of Whigville nearly opposite the house where the correspondent now lives. It was conducted by leading citizens of the town whose descendants are still honorable descendants amongst us and therefore the writer will not mention the name. However there is nothing in the fact for their descendants to blush at for the distillery was running full blast in the same days when Lyman Beecher tells us how many barrels of whiskey and rum were purchased for the ordination of a minister in the Congregational Church in Plymouth and how all but two of the clergymen became intoxicated before the affair was over. In those days the Whigville distillery had as good a reputation as the clock shop or the toy shop or other industries of this then thriving community and Volstead Acts were still unheard of. Still some refer

to those as the "good old days" and think things have now gone to the dogs. A little study of the "good old days" convinces any student that the idea is a myth which still preserves in the minds of many.

But to come back to the Devil's Kitchen, to find it you take the Stony Hill Road until you reach the famous "Twin Oaks" about half way to the summit of the mountain that separates Burlington Center from Whigville. As a crow flies the distances between these two communities is not very great but it is a good five mile trip by the highway around Lamson's Corners. Reaching the "Twin Oaks" you turn to the right and if you go about a mile through the woods you come to a narrow gorge about thirty-five feet deep extending for about a mile in either direction. It is only a short distance across the gorge and the drop is very sharp on either side. In some places it is a sheer drop over granite ledges and it looks as if it would be a bad place to go hunting on a dark night unless one were acquainted with the section. Wild grapes grow in abundance through the section and climbing straight up some of the sharp drops they afford a foothold to adventurous boys of the section who desire a real stunt in climbing.

The writer knows of no locality in this section so full of caves and holes in the rocks affording a certain refuge to wild life and the region abounds with coons, skunks and foxes. On the other side of the ravine are many hemlocks adding greatly to the natural scenery. One would expect to find a brook in the ravine of this sort but there is nothing of the kind now although it is hard to account for a sharp ravine of this size unless in former days some mountain torrent cut its way through. And cut it would have to do to cleave the granite as it has done. Perhaps it is some freak of the glacial age, the writer is not a geologist enough to tell. But whatever its cause, it is one of the many interesting places to visit in this section which so freely abounds in natural charm.

It might be remarked in closing that the greater part of the "Devil's Kitchen" is now owned by a Bristol undertaker.

### **FOUNDED ON LEGENDS OF WHIGVILLE IN BURLINGTON**

by Milo Leon Norton

'Twas in the troublous times of Washington;  
Our national career had just begun;  
While Burlington West Britain yet was named,  
Long ere sovrans township's rights were claimed.  
The place, a lonely spot where two roads meet;  
Straight o'er Louse Hill one leads to Milford Street;  
While serpentine the other down the hill,  
Down by Falls Brook, where stood the clover mill.  
The unpoetic settlers of that day  
Dog Corner 'clept it in their homely way;  
But, round this spot, as we shall shortly see,  
There lingers yet a gruesome mystery;  
For on this corner, near the finger post,  
To nocturn travelers appeared a ghost!  
A ghost of man or women not so queer,  
But this a canine ghost did there appear!

'Tis said no tourist from the land of shade  
Has e'er to mortal yet appearance made,  
Unless it were by virtue of some clause  
Contained within the Hadean code of laws,  
Which dooms to wander shades who by some crime  
Have crossed the Stygian flood before their time.  
Else they may come as angels from above  
To bring sweet messages of light and love.

But such Plutonian laws as these apply  
To shades of men and not to dogs, so I  
Am still at loss to solve the mystery,  
Unless I find in canine love the key.

Strong is the love of human kin or friend,  
And yet the dearest love may have an end.  
The wife, estranged by cruelty or hate,  
May feel the love within her heart abate;  
A mother may disown her wayward child;  
A father hate and ne'er be reconciled.  
Not so a dog. No hatred will he show,  
Though stricken by a cruel master's blow.  
So, if 'tis love that will admit us there,  
The blest abode where deathless spirits are  
Surely a canine's love, unswerving, true,  
In very justice should admit him too.

But not upon the canine's future state  
Is it my purpose now to speculate,  
But only that mayhap it is the key  
That will unlock Dog Corner's mystery.

There came unto that lonely spot one day,  
A weary soldier on his homeward way,  
Who sat him down upon a fallen log,  
While at his feet reclined his faithful dog.

Save for some filthy rags his feet were bare;  
His military coat was worse for wear;  
Upon his battered hat no gay cockade;  
His elbows bare were through his sleeve displayed.  
For three long years he'd fought for country dear,  
Ill fed, ill clad, he longed again to hear  
The dear familiar voices in his home,  
And from his fireside ne'er again to roam.

Thus far he'd tramped for many a weary day,  
Begging his food and lodging on the way,  
But now he could but little farther go;  
Where'er he trod upon the yielding snow,  
His feet, frost-bitten, lacerated, sore,  
Would stain the spotless snow path with his gore.  
Sadly he sat and thought upon the day  
When he a gay young soldier marched away;  
His young wife kissed good-bye, who bravely kept  
A cheerful visage, though she fain had wept.  
Scarce had he marched from home a single mile,  
When, following slyly through the wood the while,  
His dog bounced forth and would not turn him back  
But followed gladly in his master's track.  
Where'er they were, in battlefield or camp,  
Or on the weary, long fatiguing tramp,

Master and dog together shared their crust,  
Or made their bed together where they must.

The soldier sat, his aching head bent low,  
Another weary step he could not go,  
When from the roadway came a word of cheer,  
"Aha! My friend, what are you doing here?  
A soldier, I'll be bound, and plain to see  
You must have been here long awaiting me."  
And so the farmer helped him to his sled,  
And took him home and put him in his bed,  
But on the morrow it was very clear  
Smallpox had found another victim here;  
And, weakened by his many hardships, these  
Helped him to fall before the dread disease.  
And so, ere many suns had passed away,  
Stricken with death the poor, brave soldier lay.

They bore him out and laid his form to rest  
Within a grave on Pine Hill's rounded crest,  
Beneath the whispering pines. In time the trees,  
Whose rosined odor floated on the breeze,  
Before the woodsman's ax had fallen; then  
The axe was followed by the husbandmen,  
Until at length the unresponsive soil  
Scarce paid the plowman's and the reaper's toil.  
Untilled, a birchen forest quickly grew,  
And with its verdure clad the hill anew,  
And few who know where the brave soldier sleeps,  
Only an unhewn stone his memory keeps,  
And no bright flowers of the sweet May bloom,  
Are ever strewn upon the hero's tomb.

His faithful dog, though unobtrusive, lay  
About the hearthstone in the housewife's way,  
And so she drove him out with birchen broom,  
Whene'er he ventured in the clean swept room.  
At last the poor brute came to understand  
He nevermore would lick his master's hand;  
And nevermore with wagging tail rejoice  
To hear the cadence of his master's voice.  
And soon they missed him. On one star-lit night,  
While slept the earth wrapt in its robe of white,  
Wrapt in its stainless, ice-wove winding sheet,  
Someone passed by the spot where two roads meet.

There lay outstretched upon the snowy bed  
The poor old soldier's faithful dog, stark dead!  
And, underneath him, stained with human gore,  
A bit of foot rag that his master wore!

In after years who passed that way at night,  
Would see a spectral dog in ghostly white,

Which, though he scarcely seemed to touch the ground,  
A juniper would thrice encircle round.  
No sound he made, but in his canine way,  
With vibratory tail would seem to say:  
"My master I have lost, and surely he  
Will come again this way to look for me;  
I wait here till my master calls my name."  
Who knows but that at last the master came?  
Who knows but that these friends at last, somewhere,  
These reunited friends, companions are?

And so, Dog Corner does not sound so tame,  
Now I have come to know from whence the name.  
Within that lonely spot where two roads meet,  
I see a soldier with his bleeding feet,  
Disconsolate he sits upon a log,  
While at his feet reclines his faithful dog.  
Later I see beside the finger post  
The shadowy outlines of the canine ghost.  
To me henceforth it is a sacred spot,  
Whose legend nevermore shall be forgot.

Copied from "The Connecticut Quarterly", Vol. 111, 1897.

**Milo Norton** was born in 1849, was raised and educated in Bristol and like his father developed an interest in the early history of the area. His writings on topics of local interest appeared in such publications as the New England Farmer, the Bristol Monthly, the Connecticut Quarterly and the Connecticut Magazine. In actuality Dog Corner is the intersection where South Main Street joins with Milford Street.

### **WHIGVILLE RESERVOIR**

(Bristol Press, 8-2-1906)

Work has begun on the Burlington reservoir of the water works of the city of New Britain. A gang of a dozen men are busy clearing away the underbrush from a spot 200 feet by 400 feet, where the dam is to be located on the Gilbert Patch property. Bids for the actual work will be issued in August and the dam will be begun in September. The reservoir will cover about forty acres and contain about 140 million gallons. (Nepaug reservoir construction started in 1911, took 32 months, covers about 850 acres and holds over 9,000,000,000 gallons)

(Other notes) The Whigville Reservoir was constructed in 1908 and piped with a 24 inch cast iron pipe. A 24 inch pipe was laid between Nepaug and Whigville in 1960. The elevation of the Whigville Reservoir is 567 feet. Nepaug Reservoir elevation is 482.5 feet.

The city of New Britain purchased acreage in Burlington from 1903 to 1938. The water company owns about 11 square miles, mostly woods.

### **ELECTRICITY IN BURLINGTON**

Bristol Press 2-5-1924

Nearly a year and a half ago when the agitation for electric lights commenced in Whigville a similar agitation was going on in Burlington Center. At that time the Union Power & Light Company submitted a plan of coming from the end of its line at the Terry place in the Moses district and coming to Burlington Center and thence to Whigville. Whigville at that time raised its quota but the people at the Center were unable to subscribe to theirs so this plan was abandoned. Later the Union Power & Light Company relinquished its franchise rights in the Whigville district to the Bristol & Plainville Electric who took care of the Whigville proposition.

Since that time things have radically changed at the Center. The State Board of Fisheries & Game have established a trout hatchery east of the Center and desire electric current. They have therefore offered to underwrite one quarter of the total guarantee necessary to get the line to Burlington Center and residents of the Center are busily subscribing the rest. The success of the venture is assured if the Town will do its part regarding lighting the Town Hall, street lights for the Center, and the Center School.

It is hard to see how the school Board can decline to guarantee their part towards the Center school as the Board only a few months ago placed electric lights in the Riverside School at Collinsville and the Whigville School. It is also equally difficult to see how street lights can be declined for the Center when new lights were voted for Collinsville and Whigville at the annual town meeting.

Further the whole town should be interested in electric lights for the Town Hall.

The writer predicted when the state established the trout hatchery in Burlington that it would be one of the best things that ever happened to Burlington and he is more than ever convinced of this fact. It is now up to the voters of the town to co-operate with the state in securing electric lights for the Center. Although widely separated, every section of the town should realize that in the long run any improvement that helps any part of Burlington helps the entire community. This new electric lighting project is one of the finest moves toward betterment that we have had in a long time and when the matter comes up for action at the adjourned town meeting in March all good and progressive citizens should be behind the move.

### **ANOTHER IMPROVEMENT THE HATCHERY MAY BRING**

(Bristol Press 2-5-1924.)

Another improvement the Hatchery may bring is a change in the route of the road from Burlington station to Burlington Center so as to eliminate the worst grade on the road. When the state aid road is undertaken the State Board of Fisheries and Game desire to have it pass the hatchery. In doing this the route of the road would be changed to the south just above the Hodge home and join the present road near the residence of John Cedar. By this change there would be but a very slight grade the entire route and the bad hill entirely eliminate.

It is very much to the advantage of the town in this matter for it will greatly hasten the building of a good road all the way from Burlington Station to the Center if the powerful State Board of Fisheries and Game is behind the move.

Since the town has voted the state aid money it is hoped that the local selectmen will do everything in their power to urge the State Highway Commission to commence operations very early this spring. In a town like Burlington transportation is a vital element to its growth with good roads and easy transportation.

### **NOTES**

**March 25, 1880, Bristol Press**

A freight train through here yesterday consisted of 51 cars.

**1899**

Quite a number from Whigville, as well as the north part of Burlington attended the fair at Cherry Park last week and made quite a number of exhibits. H.P.Lowrey displayed 25 varieties of potatoes and L.L.Lowrey 10, which was about two thirds of all the potatoes shown.

**March 23, 1905, Bristol Press**

A team of oxen belonging to I. E. Pierce became frightened on North Main Street by a passing freight train at 3:30 o'clock and ran away. After turning the corner of Main Street the heavy ox wagon crashed into the Concord owned by Laurence Fitzpatrick which was hitched in front of Weldon's store. The Concord was completely wrecked by the compact, and the horse was thrown to the ground but uninjured. The oxen ran wildly down Main Street. They were brought under control by the driver at Muzzy's Corner. He proceeded down Riverside Avenue without any effort to ascertain what damage had been done. (Note--A clear case of evasion of responsibility.)

### **APRIL 6, 1905, Bristol Press**

Despite the raw wind of Saturday many of the sportsmen tried their luck on the first day that the trout law was "off". Byron P. Webler landed eleven beauties in a few hours. Frederick B. Michael and Ross Culver whipped several brooks and were rewarded with a string of twenty-four trout. Charles C. Michael and George B. Michael were also successful in landing a string of thirty-one of the coveted fish. Raymond Hills and Ernest Crouch brought home a string of thirty-two beauties. George W. Mitchell and John Churchill went out Saturday morning and came home before noon with a string of twenty-seven which were exhibited in the window of Mitchell's store during the afternoon.

### **28 BURLINGTONS by Tom Hebert**

Burlington, Alabama	Burlington, North Carolina
Burlington, Arkansas	Burlington, North Dakota
Burlington, Colorado	Burlington, Ohio
Burlington, Connecticut	Burlington, Ohio
Burlington, Illinois	Burlington, Oklahoma
Burlington, Indiana	Burlington, Oregon
Burlington, Iowa	Burlington, Pennsylvania
Burlington, Kansas	Burlington, Tennessee
Burlington, Kentucky	Burlington, Texas
Burlington, Maine	Burlington, Vermont
Burlington, Massachusetts	Burlington, Washington
Burlington, Michigan	Burlington, West Virginia
Burlington, New Jersey	Burlington, Wisconsin
Burlington, New York	Burlington, Wyoming

That's not an error; there are two Burlington's in Ohio. There is also a Burlington Heights in Cleveland, Burlington Square in Colorado, a Burlington Beach in Indiana, a Burlington Mall in Massachusetts, Burlington Junction in Missouri, a Burlington Flats in New York and a Burlington Mills in North Carolina.

Sixty years ago among the leading citizens of Burlington, then of somewhat larger population than at present, were "Squire Marks" and Captain Joseph G. Peck, grandfather of Selectman Burdette A. Peck of Bristol. Both lived in the southern part of the town. Marks was a democrat of the hard shell kind and Peck was equally impervious in his devotion to the Whig party. Both were at times members of the state senate, although the party of the former was in the ascendancy in the town most of the time for many years. Marks held control of the town affairs with a firm and constant grip. Captain Peck was the recognized leader of the Whigs, and never failed to oppose the squire. The feeling between them intensified as the agitation of the slavery question developed. Captain Peck was a very outspoken in his condemnation of the attitude of the squire on this question.

Prayer meetings were held in the village school house in Whigville. It is related that on one such occasion Captain Peck and Squire Marks were both in attendance, the captain sitting well up in the front seats. The leader called upon Squire Marks to offer a prayer. The stalwart Whig immediately arose, and the stamp, stamp, stamp of his heavy cowhide boots was heard above the voice of the supplicating democrat, as he walked down the aisle remarking that "no man with his pockets stuffed full of the lying Times can pray for me." The captain's strong point against the squire was that his religion and his politics were not consistent. Mr. C.R. Bunnell---