

Newbury

Brookfield

Early 18th century

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Historical sketch of the First Con



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# BROOKS

*Arms.* Or, a Cross, engrailed per pale gules and sable—Crest—A brock, or badger, proper.

History of the

HISTORICAL SKETCH

OF THE

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

OF

BROOKFIELD, CONNECTICUT

AND OF

THE TOWN OF BROOKFIELD



WRITTEN FOR THE  
ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE CHURCH

“ Often I think of the beautiful town ;  
Often in thought go up and down  
The pleasant streets of that dear old town,  
And my youth comes back to me.”

—*Longfellow.*

## INTRODUCTION

When invited by the anniversary committee to prepare and deliver the historical address on the occasion of the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the Congregational Church at Brookfield, Connecticut, it was understood that the address should present not only the history of the local church, but also a general view of the early conditions, both civil and religious which obtained in Connecticut during the first period of its existence.

I have devoted considerable space to a historical sketch of the town of Brookfield, with which the life of the church was closely identified from its beginning; for thirty years this ecclesiastical society was the only one in existence in this community.

The Addendum has been prepared chiefly that a record of church and town officials might be quickly available for future reference.

In arranging the souvenir I have introduced such features, in the nature of photographs and views, as would make the book more valuable.

EMILY C. HAWLEY.

*Brookfield Center, Conn., August 17, 1907.*

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## CHAPTER I

### CONNECTICUT

#### Early Settlements—Character of the Founders

It has been said that love of native land is a universal passion.

To us, the sons and daughters of New England, our native soil is hallowed soil. We can never forget, should never forget, that it was the pursuit of liberty, civil and religious, that brought our Pilgrim ancestors to these shores in 1620. We, of Connecticut, live too near to Plymouth Rock ever to forget that struggle; it quickens our pulses and nerves us to endeavor whenever we recall the past.

But a few weeks since some of us stood on the site of historic Jamestown, Virginia, and looking out upon the Hampton Roads, saw that splendid naval pageant, which had gathered from every land, to honor the three hundredth anniversary of the first permanent English settlement in the New World (1607).

We felt it to be an occasion for national congratulation, as we realized that within three centuries a nation has arisen here the most progressive on the globe—a nation having the greatest continuous empire ever established by man.

Connecticut has a history of peculiar interest, of course to us it would be of deep significance.

The beautiful valley of the Connecticut River, and our splendid coast line on Long Island Sound, appealed to the early settlers of the Massachusetts colony and within ten or twelve years after the landing at Plymouth Rock the exodus into the great wilderness of our present state had commenced.

Consider for a moment the character and equipment of the men and women who, two hundred and seventy years ago, and more, laid the foundations of our commonwealth.

They were not adventurers, on pleasure bent, many of them were ministers educated at the universities of England, men of culture and high standing. A considerable number were persons of liberal means. They were, moreover, led by high ideals. They had come hither that they might plant in the virgin soil of this New World the seeds of progress, which, germinating, should bear fruit to bless the whole civilized and uncivilized world.

In 1635 the famous English preacher, REV. THOMAS HOOKER, who had settled in Cambridge, Massachusetts, three years previous, started with one hundred persons for the Connecticut valley in search of larger liberties. Their journey through the untried wilderness, without shelter by day or night, showed them to be persons of

no mean purpose. This party of Pilgrims laid the foundations of our capital city, Hartford, and the adjoining towns, Windsor and Wethersfield; the influence of Thomas Hooker impressed itself upon the Connecticut colony for generations, and is recognized to this day.

In 1639 all the "free planters" of this colony met at Hartford and adopted a written constitution; Thomas Hooker had preached his famous sermon declaring the right of the people to choose and limit the power of the people and this constitution was the outcome.

In 1638, three years after the settlement at Hartford, REV. JOHN DAVENPORT, with a distinguished company of men of means from England, attracted by the beauties of the Long Island shore, settled at New Haven, founding there a Puritan colony, known as the New Haven Colony.

In 1639 they adopted the Bible as their constitution, and granted the rights of citizenship to church members only. Their government was known as the House of Wisdom.

The churches of New Haven, Milford, and Guilford were formed first by the choice of seven persons from among the brethren who were called "pillars"; the others joined themselves to these seven pillars by covenant.

This plan of founding a church seems to have been peculiar to these towns; from this, came the phrase, "A pillar of the church."

The Saybrook Colony, antedating the others, was merged into the Connecticut Colony.

For a period of about thirty years the Connecticut and New Haven Colonies maintained distinct governments, until the days of the Royal Charter in 1662 which united all the Connecticut colonies under one government, and included some fifteen towns, with a population of eighteen thousand souls.

The Royal Charter was the most liberal ever granted by a monarch to his subjects.

Charles II. signed the document through the appeals of the diplomatic Winthrop, one of the truest friends Connecticut ever had.

The united colonies of Connecticut lived under this charter for over one hundred and fifty years, or until the adoption of the Constitution in 1818.

In 1686, when this precious charter was in danger at the hands of a royal governor, its concealment in the oak occurred.

Our Connecticut officials on their visit to Jamestown, Virginia, this summer, May, 1907, carried with them a scion of the Charter Oak, which they planted in the soil of Virginia, the tribute of the Puritan to the Cavalier.

From these unusual antecedents came our great commonwealth; and who shall deny to us, their descendants, the just pride which we take in our historic state, and the fact that the ideals of the Pilgrim and Puritans have become the realities of to-day in our self-government and personal liberty?

## CHAPTER II

### SETTLEMENT OF NEWBURY-BROOKFIELD, AND ABORIGINAL DWELLERS

The early settlers here were from the Puritan Colony of New Haven, as it was known before the union.

They came from Milford and called the settlement Newbury.

Inasmuch as the first settlers here did not purchase their territory of the Indians, as did the early settlers of Danbury in 1684, Newtown in 1705, and New Milford in 1707, we can secure no exact date when a settlement was made, but believe it to have closely followed that of the neighboring towns, namely, soon after the year 1700.

All early records having been lost, or destroyed, I find myself obliged to be confined to the records now in the hands of the clerk of this church, which begin in the year 1755, with the exception of certain valuable items of interest found among the records at Newtown and New Milford, which give light upon very early events connected with the settlement at Newbury.

Newbury embraced three (3) parcels of territory be-

longing respectively to New Milford, Newtown, and Danbury.

The ancient boundary line between the towns of New Milford and Newtown crossed our present village street near the Congregational parsonage, and just south of the present Episcopal Church. The northern half of Newbury therefore lay within the town of New Milford; that portion of Newbury on the south of the boundary was within the town of Newtown; while the western part of Newbury was included in the town of Danbury.

The male inhabitants of Newbury were, until some time after the Revolutionary War, regarded as legal residents of one of these three towns above mentioned, and so enrolled for military and town affairs; namely, a man residing near this church was a legal resident of Newtown, until the date of our incorporation as a town. When Newbury organized for ecclesiastical, school and society affairs, it became known as The Society and Parish of Newbury.

#### **The Parish of Newbury, Incorporated in 1754**

In 1743 a memorial was sent to the General Assembly from Newbury, praying that they be set off as a distinct society, and their bounds as a parish be fixed. But this was not to be secured without opposition, as it would

seem, for I find in the records at Newtown in the year 1743 that Rev. Thomas Toucey (pastor of the Congregational church at Newtown from 1715-1724 and a resident of that town in 1743) was appointed by that church "to oppose the formation of a new ecclesiastical society in Newbury," now Brookfield. In 1752 the bounds were agreed upon and Newbury was permitted to have church privileges for five months each year, from September to March. In 1754 the Assembly granted the petition of the memorialists, and the Society of Newbury was incorporated, and the bounds remained as fixed two years previous. Newbury managed its own affairs, and was known as the Society of Newbury for about thirty-five years. In 1759 the Society of Newbury petitioned the General Assembly to have the New Milford part of Newbury annexed to Fairfield County. About the year 1768 the inhabitants of the Society of Newbury took action in regard to securing town privileges, and for a period of nearly twenty years regularly petitioned the General Assembly to grant them such privileges. That opposition arose from the three towns in whose borders they lived there is no doubt.

The Society at Newbury annually appointed committees for several years to wait on the inhabitants of New Milford, Danbury and Newtown "to secure their consent for town privileges."



In March, 1788, at a lawful meeting of the inhabitants of Newbury, being lawfully warned, it was voted that "this Society will make application to the next General Assembly for town privileges," and it was also voted that "Amos Wheeler, Esq., be an agent to present our memorial and secure the act of incorporation." The Society was successful, and the town was incorporated in May, 1788, and received the name of Brookfield in honor of its first and then-time pastor, Rev. Thomas Brooks. The first town meeting was held June 9, 1788, the moderator being Col. Samuel Canfield, appointed by the General Assembly; people were present from surrounding towns.

In December, 1794, it was voted to build a town house, building to be 34 feet long by 24 feet wide, two stories high, and built "convenient for hanging a bell upon." It was voted that the town house be near the meeting house. The building was completed in 1796, and seated, and a bell placed in the tower. This bell was replaced in 1829 by a new one, which is in use at the present time. A second town house was built in 1875-76, which is the building in which town business is transacted to-day.

The original survey of the land which constitutes the town of Brookfield was about eighteen square miles; of this survey, New Milford contributed  $8\frac{1}{2}$  square miles, Newtown 6 square miles, and Danbury  $3\frac{3}{4}$

square miles. This represents about 11,380 acres of land.

#### **Town Limits as Fixed by the General Assembly in 1752**

The north boundary line of Brookfield begins on the east at the Housatonic River, at the northeast corner of the John Warner farm, and running westerly to the Gallows Hill Cemetery, passes through it and continues west until it intersects the New Fairfield line; thence running southwardly on the New Fairfield line to a certain stone marker at the lower end of Beaver Brook Mountain; thence running easterly to the south end of Bound Swamp, and continuing easterly to a point below Abel S. Taylor's house on Whisconier Hill and to the mouth of Pond Brook where it empties into the Housatonic; thence northerly on the Housatonic River to point of beginning.

#### **Aboriginal Dwellers**

The oldest inhabitants of Brookfield recall the last of the Indians who frequented this vicinity; they came at certain seasons with their baskets; a pathetic remnant of the once powerful Red man. DeForrest, in his history of Connecticut, relates that "the Indians were accustomed to pass down the Housatonic, and up the Still River during the summer season and plant in

the valleys." Indian arrowheads and implements have frequently been plowed up by the farmers in the meadows adjoining the Still River at Brookfield. Newbury was, in reality, in the midst of several peaceful Indian tribes. On the south and east the Pootatuck tribe built their wigwams and gained their living from the waters of the Housatonic. On the north, at the "Great Falls" at Lanesville, lived for long that powerful "tribe, one thousand strong, whose sachem was the wise Wehononague (Waramaug)," of whom Rev. Daniel Boardman of New Milford wrote, "This sachem is distinguished for his abilities and virtues, and his name should be recorded by the faithful historian." The Pootatucks at Newtown at last joined themselves to the tribe at the Great Falls, and later a considerable number joined the Scaticooks tribe at Kent.

In 1743 the Moravian missionaries visited the Great Falls and the sachem and many of his followers embraced Christianity. It may be added here that in March last (1907) the Moravian Church celebrated its four hundred and fiftieth anniversary (450) all over the world. The sect did pioneer work in this country and has been recognized as "an ancient Episcopal Church" by the British Parliament.

The Indian names which still abide with us are Pokono and Whisconier.

## CHAPTER III

### BUILDING THE FIRST MEETING HOUSE

In old New England days ecclesiastical and town affairs commingled. It is sometimes difficult to determine whether the church was running the town or the town controlling the church. Civil and religious meetings convened at the "meeting house." In Connecticut all persons were required by law to contribute to the support of the churches, and to attend a place of worship on the Sabbath and on fast days.

In January, 1755, the county court, sitting at Fairfield, in and for the county of Fairfield, passed the following vote: Whereas, the inhabitants of the established Religious Society of Newbury, Fairfield County, at their lawful meeting January 21, 1755, by a vote wherein more than two thirds of the inhabitants of said Society were present and qualified by law to vote, declare it necessary to build a meeting house in said Society, and now make application to this court to appoint and fix the place whereon their meeting house should be erected and built as by their memorial on file.

This court does thereupon appoint Samuel Olmstead of Ridgefield, Stephen Burr and Joseph Sand-

ford of Fairfield, all of the county of Fairfield, a committee to fix the place whereon said meeting house shall be erected and built, and make return of their doings to the county court to be held in Fairfield in April next.

Signed by THADEUS BURR, ESQ.,  
*Clerk of the Court.*

The committee appointed by the court to select a site for the Newbury meeting house performed its task; but the same was not acceptable to the court, and this body appointed a second committee, namely, Increase Mosely, Benjamin Stiles and Gideon Walker, all of Woodbury, to select the site, and return report to the court at its next sitting. In October, 1755, the Society "approved of the findings of the committee appointed by the court" and accepted the site selected by said committee for a church building. The site was the one on which our present church stands.

December 10, 1755, at a meeting of the parish of Newbury, a building committee, having in charge the construction of the first meeting house, was appointed; namely, Joseph Murry, Benjamin Dunning and Robert Bostwick representing the three sections of Newbury.

The first meeting house was forty-six (46) feet in length, by thirty-six (36) feet in width, and the posts were twenty (20) feet long.

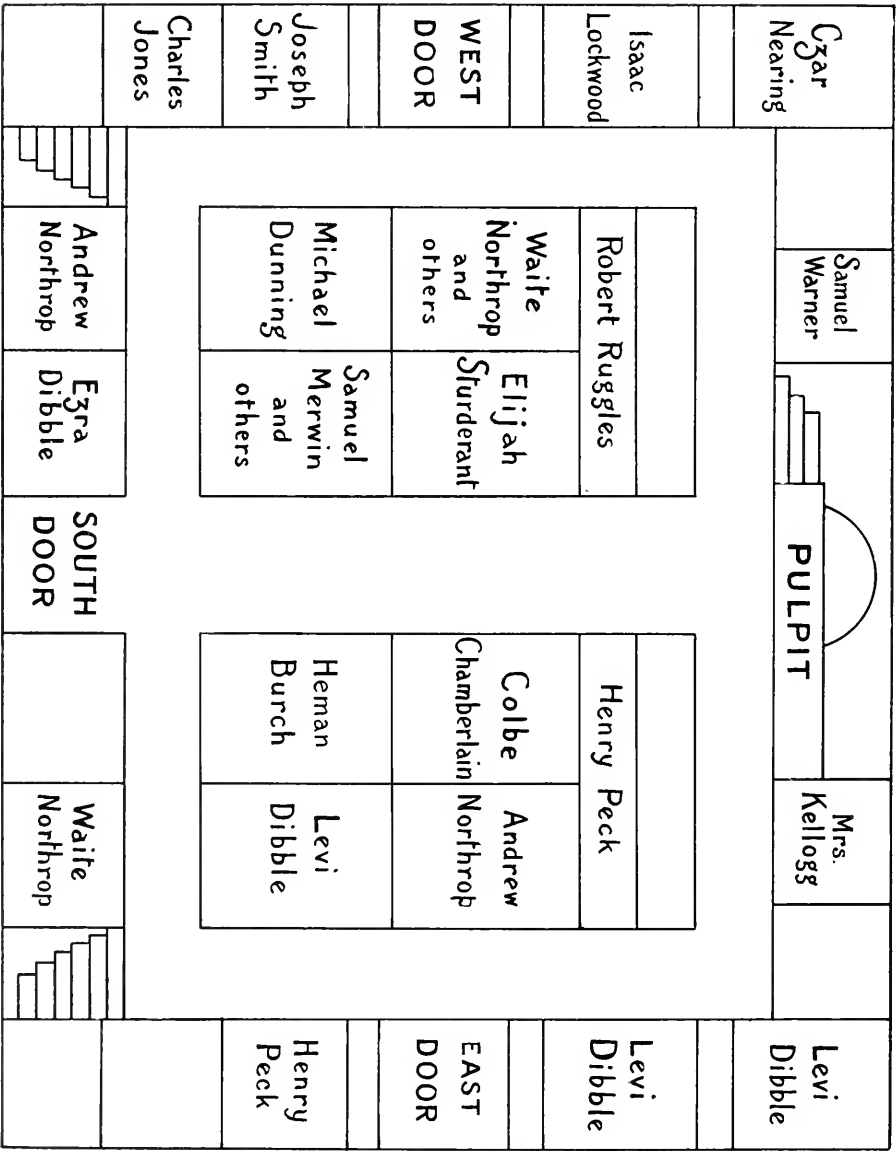
The Society voted to cover the front side of the

roof of the meeting house with cedar shingles and the back side of the roof with chestnut shingles. Also voted to cover the upright of the house with oak clapboards. To secure means to build, a tax of four (4) pence on the pound was laid on the whole list of the inhabitants of Newbury. In June, 1756, the Society voted to lay a tax, to cover the meeting house, and Amos Northrop, Esq., collected the same.

In November, 1756, it was voted to purchase half a box of glass for glazing the meeting house. Although there were no pews placed in the edifice for some little time (benches being used), and the interior was not plastered, yet the meeting house was ready for occupancy in the summer of 1757, and the Society of Newbury approached the great events which make September 28, 1757, memorable in its history; namely, that on this date the church was formally organized; the church building or meeting house was dedicated, and the first settled pastor, Rev. Thomas Brooks, was ordained and installed over the church.

At a General Assembly, holden at New Haven in October, 1757, a memorial was presented by Joseph Murry, Joseph Smith and others, a committee for building and finishing the meeting house in Newbury, stating that said house was built and covered by taxing the inhabitants; the committee prayed the Assembly to grant a land tax of one penny per acre on all the





PLAN OF THE FIRST MEETING HOUSE, BETHEL IN 1796 AND AS "SEATED" IN 1812



uninclosed land in the parish for four years to enable the Society to complete the house of worship. This was granted, and the interior was gradually completed. Pews were placed in the meeting house in 1759; they were of the square box type, seating a considerable number each. Galleries were added later, and the interior of the building was plastered in 1790. There was a sounding board beneath the pulpit, also. I have learned that the pulpit was a gift from the New Milford Society, being one formerly used by them in the old Congregational Church. It is a pleasure to chronicle the fact that New Milford was always favorably disposed toward the new enterprise at Newbury, and inclined to assist the settlers here toward securing a church.

In 1760 the meeting house was seated. The Society voted that "all persons upwards of fifty (50) years of age shall be seated in the first rank," and all under fifty years shall be seated "by the first three years' building list," and the "last year's list." Society also voted that the Rev. Thomas Brooks have a pew at the left of the pulpit.

In 1815, when the pews were sold at auction, the proceeds to be applied to the salary, provision was made for "seating the poor," as the introduction of the "sale of pews" did away with the custom of "seating the meeting house." For some years the "tithing

man" was regularly appointed to "care for those in this Society who on the Sabbath day are disorderly."

Provision was made for sweeping the meeting house at regular times. I am told by Elmer H. Northrop, Esq., that as a lad he performed this task and that of ringing the bell for three dollars a year. It was even intimated to him by a church official that he ought to contribute something to the support of the gospel from his salary.

This meeting house was occupied by the First Ecclesiastical Society of Newbury-Brookfield for about one hundred (100) years. For sixty-seven (67) years the church building was without a steeple. In the year 1824 the steeple was added; this has caused some people to believe that a second edifice was built in 1824, which is not the case.

The bell which called the people to worship was the bell in the town house hard by, which was placed there in 1795; what method was used previous to 1795 is not stated. It is sorrowful to relate that a bell never graced the steeple of the old First Church at Newbury.

### Salary

In Connecticut all persons were required by law to contribute to the support of the church. Rate bills were issued for the raising of the salary of the minister, and these "rates" were made and collected in same

manner as rates of respective towns. This system prevailed for a long period, but came at last to an end with the selling of the pews.

### SABBATH-DAY HOUSES

Sabbath-day houses, or "Sabba-day houses," as they were called, stood south of the meeting house on land owned by John Peck, Esq., but now by the family of Arza Peck. These little houses occupied a position about opposite Mr. Peck's residence on the south side of the road. Their purpose was to afford a place for those who lived at a distance to congregate during the intermission between the Sabbath-day services, and warm themselves at the open fireplaces, which were a feature of these houses; the meeting house being without a fire for years. The Sabbath-day houses also gave opportunity for social intercourse between friends and neighbors. Permission to erect such houses was usually secured from the town meeting by those persons desiring to build them.

## CHAPTER IV

### HISTORY OF THE SECOND CHURCH EDIFICE

In December, 1852, the First Ecclesiastical Society of Brookfield appointed a special committee of eight persons to take action in regard to building a new church edifice. In April, 1853, this committee reported to the Society that they had raised a given amount of money, and the Society thereupon appointed a building committee; namely, Messrs. Hiram Fairchild, Beers Foote, Charles Hawley, Abel Taylor, and Roswell Parker. The plans and specifications were furnished by Mr. Nash, an architect of Bridgeport.

The new edifice was planned to be fifty-four (54) feet in length by thirty-eight (38) feet in width. The dimensions were subsequently somewhat altered.

In March, 1854, the bell was purchased and on April 12, 1854, the second church edifice was dedicated with great joy; neighboring churches participating in the dedicatory services, Rev. Mr. Churchill of Woodbury preaching the sermon. This event occurred during the pastorate of Rev. Dan C. Curtiss. This church stands on nearly the same site as the first meeting house, with entrance from the east instead of south as in case of first building. The seats occupied the center of the house and the two sides, with aisles



SECOND CHURCH BUILDING, CONSTRUCTED IN 1854



separating the three sections of seats; "observation pews" were located on the right and left of the pulpit which was rather ornate in design with tall side lamps. The choir occupied the rear gallery; there were no side galleries. Stoves to the right and left of the east entrance with pipes extending to the chimneys on the extreme west side of the building furnished heat and smoke. In 1880 the choir gallery was constructed at the west end of the auditorium, at the rear of the pulpit.

In the year 1887 the church edifice was extensively repaired; this included a reseating of the auditorium with solid oak pews, arranged semi-circular with center aisle and side aisles. The pulpit was replaced by an oak desk and furnishings. The walls were also frescoed, and a small room arranged for the Sabbath-school library. All at a cost of sixteen hundred dollars.

The remodeled church was reconsecrated November, 1888, the Rev. Dr. Maxwell of Danbury, Rev. Henry L. Slack of Bethel, and Rev. James P. Hoyt of Newtown participating.

In 1864 the sheds for horses were constructed. In 1891 the pews were made free sittings.

### Church Parsonages

The first parsonage was built about the year 1842. The Society did not at first own this building, as it

was erected by a few of the male members of the Society at their own expense. The architect and builder was Harry Sherman, Esq., son-in-law of Col. Isaac Hawley. This building is the one now occupied by Prof. H. W. Greene as his residence. The first minister who occupied it was Rev. Dan C. Curtiss. This house was sold in 1869 to R. H. Parker, Esq.

The present church parsonage was constructed and ready for occupancy in the summer of 1870. The building committee appointed in October, 1869, were Beers Foote, R. H. Parker, John Stewart, Harvey Roe. This committee was empowered to select a site and receive proposals for building a parsonage. Henry S. Peck and Benjamin Starr were a committee to receive funds for building.

The site selected, just south of the Episcopal Church, was on land belonging, in part, to Hiram Fairchild and Henry S. Peck.

In 1881 a barn was built for the new parsonage property, E. W. Ford and Emmon Hawley being the committee to secure the land and superintend the erection of the building. In 1904-05 the parsonage was extensively repaired and remodeled.

### **The Church Choir**

There was good musical talent in the old church at Brookfield, and the singers' seats in the gallery were



well filled. The musical instruments in use for many years were the bass viol played by Arza Peck, the violin by Benjamin Starr, and the flute played by Edwin Smith. The tuning fork was in evidence. Mr. Charles Hawley was the chorister for forty years, possessing a musical voice of great compass and power. The stringed instruments were in time superseded by a small organ which was introduced after the second church was built; this organ was played by Miss Harriet Peck for some time. Later a larger instrument was in use for a considerable number of years, the organists being Mr. Henry Smith and Miss Eliza G. Fairchild.

In November, 1880, the present pipe organ was built and installed in the church. An organ concert was given by the makers on the 12th of that month. The instrument cost about a thousand dollars, a considerable amount of which was contributed by Mr. Samuel E. Merwin of New Haven, a former resident. Mr. Almon H. Taylor was organist from 1880 to 1897, Miss Minnie Somers succeeding him in this position, and for ten years has rendered most acceptable service to the church.

Prof. Herbert Wilbur Greene has been the choir director since 1900.

### **Church Benevolences**

This church makes annual offerings to the Church Relief Fund, the Congregational Church Building Society, Congregational Home Missionary Society, American Missionary Association, American Board for Foreign Missions, Congregational Education Society, Ministers' Relief Fund, Congregational Sunday School and Publishing Society.

### **Trust Funds of the Society**

Permanent funds have been left by former members to this church, the income to be devoted to the preaching of the gospel in connection with the Congregational Church at Brookfield. The funds were largely bequests; the names of the individuals who left such funds, with the dates when they were received by the Society, are as follows: Hubbell Smith in 1874; Hannah Merwin, 1884; Beman Fairchild Memorial, 1885; "Unknown donors," 1886; Samuel E. Merwin and wife, 1886; Harriet Smith, 1891; Permelia Foote, 1892; Henrietta P. Starr, 1891; Eliza Peck, 1893; Isaac Lockwood, 1894.

### **Faith and Covenant—Constitution**

Creeds are formulated theories, or confessions, concerning Divine facts. The early church at Newbury-

Brookfield presents in her first "Articles of Faith and Covenant" most astonishing creedal elaboration, the same being twenty-five lengthy articles. As mankind advances we observe that creeds become more simple. In 1827 these articles and the covenant were materially abbreviated. A constitution was likewise adopted in 1827.

In March, 1827, "The Constitution and Articles of Faith and Covenant" were by vote of the church printed in form of a church manual.

In 1885 the articles and covenant were recast and adopted in April, 1886.

In December 28, 1905, the church again appointed a Committee of Revision and adopted the following in 1906:—

### **Confession of Faith**

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Author of all things visible and invisible, Who has made the natural world beautiful and good, and is working to make the life of man holy and happy.

I believe in Jesus Christ as the Supreme Revelation of that life of love which is the will of God and the salvation of man.

I believe in the Spirit of Christ in the hearts of His followers, as the present Divine power for the redemp-

tion of the world from sin, and the establishment of the Kingdom of God.

### Church Covenant

Dearly Beloved: You have come hither to confess your allegiance to Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church, and to enter into covenant with His people. You confess your past sins with full repentance, and trust in God's forgiving grace; and you promise to seek, through prayer and the study of His Word, to be guided by His Spirit into all truth, to be cleansed from all evil, to be fitted for every good work. You desire to be (a true disciple) and (a faithful follower) of Jesus Christ; you consecrate (yourself) and your possessions to His service. The Lord hath shewed thee what is good; and what doth He require of thee, but to do justly, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with thy God? You therefore profess before Him and this body that this is the life which, by His grace, you mean to live: to speak the truth lovingly, to follow the right loyally, to be honest and upright in your dealings with men, to be steadfast in your service of God.

With this church you now covenant to join in work and worship, seeking not to be ministered unto, but to minister; doing good to all men as you have opportunity; helping us as we shall seek to serve and save

and bless our fellow men ; keeping with us the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Is this your purpose and your promise ?

*[Here baptism should be administered to those who have not been baptized. To those who received the ordinance in infancy the minister should say] :*

You were baptized in infancy into the name and household of Christ. Do you now accept and ratify that act of consecration ?

*[Here those should rise who are to be received by letter, to whom the minister should say] :*

You have come from other communions to join us at these altars in confessing our common Lord and in seeking to build up His kingdom.

*[Here the members of the church should rise.]*

Joyfully then do we, the members of this church, receive you to our communion. We remember the new commandment that we love one another, and will strive to obey it.

The Lord hath shown us our loving duty. This then is our purpose and our promise: to help you, as we can, in bearing your burdens ; to give you, as you need, Christian counsel and sympathy ; to walk with you, if

we may, in the ways of loving service; to be patient with you, and faithful to you, if you go astray; to be jealous of your good name; to hold your peace and welfare as our own; to fulfill to you, as far as in us lies, the law of Christ our Lord. And we humbly ask for grace divine to keep this promise.

In token of our hearty fellowship and earnest purpose I now give you this right hand.

*[Here the minister should take each candidate by the right hand, repeating to each an appropriate verse of Scripture.]*

Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God, our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

December 28, 1906, a committee was appointed to revise the standing rules.

### **Church Incorporated**

In accordance with the laws of Connecticut, Chapter XLIV. of the Public Acts of 1893, this church, upon application, became a legal body under the corporate name of the "Congregational Church of Brookfield," the certificate bearing date of February 18, 1901.

The church and society, under the Congregational

system, act independently. In calling a pastor the church extends the call, and the society must concur in the same; both bodies agreeing, call the council to settle him. Each body has its separate officers. This rather complicated system has caused a large number of Congregational churches to merge the two bodies. A law now on the statutes of this state provides for the transfer of all properties and trust funds from the society to the church or corporation. The statute is No. 3963, and is as follows:—

#### **Society to Transfer to Corporation**

When any church of Christ has been duly incorporated under the laws of this state, any ecclesiastical society connected with such church may, by a four-fifths vote of its members present and voting at a meeting duly warned and held for that purpose, transfer and convey to such church all the property and estate of such society and all trust funds held by it, to be held by such church corporation under and upon the same uses and trusts upon which the same had previously been held by such society. The committee of any society passing such a vote shall make any and all conveyances necessary to complete such transfer; but before the same shall be effectual a certificate of the fact of such transfer shall be filed in the office of the secretary of state by the clerk of such society. The

corporation accepting such transfer shall thereupon become primarily liable for all the then existing debts and obligations of the transferring society, and such debts and obligations shall be a first lien upon the property so transferred, except such of it as has been held in trust.



## CHAPTER V

### PASTORS OF THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH AT NEWBURY-BROOKFIELD FROM 1757-1907

#### Pastorate of Rev. Thomas Brooks, 1757-1799

Mr. Brooks, who had "preached on probation" for the First Ecclesiastical Society of Newbury, was invited in June, 1757, to become the settled pastor, the church uniting in the call three months later, at which date, September 28, 1757, it was legally organized as a church.

Mr. Brooks was ordained and installed pastor of this church on September 28, 1757. The church was organized and the first edifice dedicated on the same date, September 28, 1757. A day of fasting and prayer preceded these important events. The neighboring pastors who participated in these services were: Rev. Ebenezer White of Danbury, who preached the sermon; Rev. David Judson of Newtown, who gave the charge; Rev. James Taylor of New Fairfield, right hand of fellowship; Rev. Jedediah Mills of Huntington, prayer of ordination; Rev. James Beebe of Trumbull and Rev. Elisha Kent also participated. Mr. Brooks was born in England in 1719, and was thirty-eight years of age when he was installed. His ministry here

extended over a period of forty-two years. Only one pastorate in this vicinity was longer, namely, that of Rev. Mr. Mills of Huntington, who preached there fifty-two years.

Mr. Brooks lived in his own house, which was located about 200 feet north of the church and just at the rear of the residence of Mr. Henry Griffen. After his death Mrs. Brooks continued to live there, cared for by a daughter. This house was in the town of Newtown until 1788 (the date of our incorporation as a town), the Newtown line extending as far north as the present Congregational parsonage until that date. In signing all legal documents Mr. Brooks gave Newtown as his place of residence. The salary of Mr. Brooks was fixed in 1757 at forty-five pounds per annum for three years; after that date it was to be raised to fifty pounds per annum. In addition a settlement of one hundred pounds was made him in 1757 to be paid within three years. In 1784 his salary became fifty-five pounds and so remained.

During his ministry here the church at Bethel was organized in 1760, and the church at Ridgebury in 1769. In all ecclesiastical matters in neighboring towns Mr. Brooks participated.

He was pastor of this church during the entire period of the Revolutionary War and witnessed the great triumph in behalf of constitutional liberty. In 1788,



CAPTAIN GARY BROOK

GRANDSON OF REVEREND THOMAS BROOKS, FROM WHOM THE "TOWN" GOT ITS NAME



when the parish of Newbury was incorporated with town privileges, it received the name of Brookfield in honor of its first and then-time pastor.

Mr. Brooks died September 12, 1799, in his eightieth year, and was interred in the Hawleyville cemetery (one hundred and eight years ago).

#### **Pastorate of Rev. Thomas Robbins, 1799**

November, 1799, Rev. Thomas Robbins became a temporary supply for the Brookfield Church, but removed to Danbury early in 1800, where he became a teacher of considerable reputation, and preacher. His chief contribution to the local history of the period is his "Century Sermon," delivered in Danbury January, 1801, the same being a record of Danbury during its first one hundred years.

#### **Pastorate of Rev. Erastus Ripley, 1800-1801**

Mr. Ripley received a call March, 1800, and was ordained the following April. One year later, owing to some misunderstandings, it was deemed advisable to retire Mr. Ripley, and the consociation met in October, 1801, for that purpose, his pastorate being a little less than one year and eight months.

The church was without a pastor for six years. During the interregnum, Rev. Josiah Haws and Rev. Joseph Mills were among the supplies.

**Pastorate of Rev. Richard Williams, 1807-1811**

Mr. Williams received three calls from the church and society to become pastor in 1807 at a salary of four hundred dollars. He was installed June 2, 1807. The Rev. Daniel Huntington of Litchfield preached the sermon, Rev. Samuel Stebbins of Stratford gave the charge to the people, Rev. John Clark of Newtown gave the right hand of fellowship.

Thirty-eight persons were added to the church during his pastorate. The church records were commenced at his suggestion and with his assistance (previous to this time no separate records of church and society had been kept). After a little more than three years he requested that the consociation be called to dismiss him from the Brookfield church, giving as his reasons lack of coöperation, growing out of want of unanimity at time of his call; also poor financial support, which had embarrassed him to the extent that he was obliged to sell his house at a considerable sacrifice in order to maintain himself. Mr. Williams' house was the one now standing opposite the residence of Mrs. Esther M. Hawley.

Mr. Williams was therefore dismissed by consociation April 23, 1811. Mr. Williams was married while pastor over this church to Miss Electa White of Coventry; marriage performed by Rev. Mr. Tylor May 18, 1808.

**Pastorate of Rev. Bela Kellogg, 1813-1816**

The church and society extended a call to the Rev. Bela Kellogg, who, in a fine letter of acceptance dated December, 1812, signified his wish to be ordained and settled as their minister; which was done in January, 1813. His salary was four hundred dollars.

The following years, 1814-15, witnessed many cases of discipline in the Brookfield Church, indeed the records show but little else. These offences were breaking of church covenant, intemperance, and other causes. It must indeed have been a period of unrest and sorrow. Many of the members thus disciplined were reclaimed and given standing again in the church; some were excommunicated altogether. Mr. Kellogg was dismissed by consociation October 23, 1816. Mr. Kellogg stated that his salary was inadequate for his support; it seemed to be the only reason on which he desired to sever his connections with the church. The consociation expressed sympathy with him and the church. Twenty-four persons united with the church during his pastorate.

A period of over four years followed in which the church was without a pastor.

**Pastorate of Rev. Abner Brundage, 1821-1839**

Rev. Abner Brundage received a call to the church in April, 1821, at a salary of four hundred dollars an-

nually. In accepting the call Mr. Brundage stipulated that he be allowed to supply the church in Bethel one half of the time during the spring of 1821, the Bethel church paying their proportion of the salary during that time. Mr. Brundage also stipulated that as he was a member of the Westchester Presbytery their approval of his call be secured. The Brookfield Church therefore appointed Deacon Michael Dunning and Rev. William Andrews of Danbury a committee to meet the Westchester Presbytery at North Salem and secure their consent. Mr. Brundage's installation followed May 15, 1821, Rev. William Andrews preaching the sermon on this occasion, Rev. M. Rogers offering the prayer, Rev. Punderson giving right hand of fellowship, Rev. Daniel Crodner the charge to the pastor.

The ministry of Mr. Brundage extended over eighteen years and is a period of great interest. Large accessions to the membership are recorded.

A series of revival meetings was conducted in September, 1831, and morning prayer meetings were daily held in the town house for some little time.

There were many cases of discipline which were somewhat complicated; but we see the purpose, namely, to keep the church pure, and we of to-day respect that purpose, remembering that a case of discipline is all but unknown at the present time in any church.

Mr. Brundage was willing to make an annual con-



tribution to church expenses of twenty-five dollars, provided his salary was not allowed to fall in arrears; he also made other concessions of like nature. In October, 1839, his pastorate ceased at his own request, because of failing health. He retired respected and loved by his people. Mr. Brundage lived at the corner of the main street and the obtuse road, the present residence of Mr. H. Allen Smith, which Mr. Brundage owned.

During the next four years pulpit supplies were Rev. Philo Canfield, Rev. Mr. Day, Rev. A. B. Hull.

#### **Pastorate of Rev. Dan C. Curtiss, 1843-1855**

Mr. Curtiss came to Brookfield October, 1843, at which time he was installed. There were large accessions to the church in 1851, forty-five persons uniting at one time on confession of faith, and others by letters. Many persons were also dismissed to sister churches during his ministry.

The second communion service owned by this church was purchased in 1846.

The present church building (the second) was constructed during Mr. Brundage's pastorate and dedicated April 12, 1854. At his own request Mr. Brundage's pastoral relations were dissolved by consociation, sitting in Stratford October, 1855, to the regret of the church which he had served for twelve

years. Mr. Curtiss was the first pastor to occupy the parsonage built by several of the members of the Congregational Church about 1842.

#### **Pastorate of Rev. Thomas Benedict, 1859-1862**

Mr. Benedict became pastor April, 1859, at a salary of six hundred dollars and donation. Twenty-nine persons were admitted to the church during his ministry. He remained pastor for more than three years, resigning September 22, 1862. The society commended him for faithful service.

#### **Pastorate of Rev. P. H. Hollister, 1862-1864**

Mr. Hollister was ordained and settled by council December, 1862; sermon by Rev. Mr. Charpiot of Trumbull; charge, Rev. Herrick of Redding; fellowship, Rev. E. C. Baldwin, Bethel; prayer, Rev. W. H. Moore, Newtown.

Mr. Hollister's salary was the same as his predecessor's. Twenty-four persons joined the church during the two years of his pastorate. Mr. Hollister resigned December, 1864, and council dismissed him June 6, 1865. The church and parsonage were quite extensively repaired during his time here. Mr. Hollister's pastorate and that of Mr. Benedict extended through the stirring period of the Civil War.

**Pastorate of Rev. Frederick Munson, 1865-1870**

Mr. Munson became pastor April, 1865, at a salary of eight hundred and fifty dollars and parsonage; he remained with the church about five years. A revival of considerable extent under Rev. Mr. Doolittle, an evangelist, occurred during his pastorate, with a large ingathering to the church November, 1867.

Mr. Munson resided in Brooklyn, N. Y., during the later years of his life, being connected with the Central Congregational Church during the pastorate of Rev. S. Parks Cadman, D. D. Mr. Munson died in Brooklyn a few years since.

**Pastorate of Rev. A. C. Pierce, 1870-1888**

Mr. Pierce was called to the Brookfield Church in July, 1870, at a salary of one thousand dollars and use of parsonage.

He was installed October 19, 1870; sermon by Rev. D. Gale of Lee, Mass.; charge to pastor, Rev. Bonar, of New Milford; right hand of fellowship, Rev. Smith of Newtown; charge to people, Rev. Frisbie of Danbury.

Mr. Pierce and family were the first occupants of the new parsonage built in 1870. The pastorate of Mr. Pierce, extending over eighteen years, is remembered to-day with deep gratitude; both pastor and family

endeared themselves to this community in an unusual degree. Mr. Pierce became a strong factor in the County Association and Consociation. July 16, 1876, Mr. Pierce prepared and delivered an "Historical Discourse," which was printed and widely circulated in this town. During his pastorate the present organ was purchased in 1880, and the church extensively repaired in 1888. A revision of the rules was made in 1884.

Mr. Pierce died quite suddenly at the parsonage Sabbath morning, December 2, 1888, in the sixty-ninth years of his age. Mrs. Pierce survived him eight weeks, falling asleep January 27, 1889. Their mortal bodies were interred at Central Cemetery.

#### **Pastorate of Rev. Henry B. Mead, 1889-1892**

Mr. Mead accepted the pastorate in the spring of 1889, and was installed June 11, 1889. The sermon was delivered by Rev. J. A. Maxwell of Danbury, charge to pastor by Rev. D. Eddy, charge to people Rev. J. S. Ives.

The Christian Endeavor Society was organized by Mr. Mead; and a little book, entitled "The Recorded Words of Jesus," was compiled by him for use of Christian Endeavor societies. Mr. Mead is also remembered as a lover of music. His pastorate terminated in the summer of 1892, after a faithful service

of three years. Mr. Mead died in Scotland, Conn., after a successful ministry of several years.

**Pastorate of Rev. George W. Lawrence, 1893-1895**

Mr. Lawrence commenced his pastorate October, 1893, and resigned December, 1894, the resignation taking effect in March, 1895. Although his ministry was short, he endeared himself to many in this community. For several years after his pastorate here, Mr. Lawrence suffered from ill health and died at Newfane, Vt., in 1906.

**Pastorate of Rev. Cyrus W. Francis, 1895-1904**

Mr. Francis was called to the church May 12, 1895, and installed November 12, 1895. The following ministers participated in the service of installation: Sermon by the Rev. Henry L. Slack of Bethel; charge to pastor, Rev. Joel S. Ives; charge to people, Rev. A. J. Park; right hand of fellowship, Rev. G. W. Banks; prayer of installation, Rev. A. F. Pierce.

During Mr. Francis' pastorate forty-three persons were added to the church, twenty-six of this number by profession.

The "church wagon" was developed by Mr. Francis in October, 1900, and is now an established fact and necessity.

The Sabbath school, under Mrs. Francis' superintendence, was greatly enlarged in numbers and efficiency.

In 1901 the church secured incorporation as a legal body. In 1903 the individual communion cup was introduced.

Mr. Francis resigned and was dismissed by council June 22, 1904, after a pastorate of nine years of faithful service.

Mr. Francis is the only living ex-pastor of this church at this date.

#### **Pastorate of Rev. Marion L. Burton, 1904-1907**

September 25, 1904, Marion Leroy Burton, a student in Yale Theological Seminary, supplied the pulpit of the Congregational Church, and October 17 received a call to become pastor of the church.

On June 27, 1905, Mr. Burton was ordained to the ministry. On this occasion the order of service was as follows: Reading of the minutes of the council by the scribe; invocation by Rev. G. H. Beard, Ph. D.; sermon by Rev. George B. Stevens, D. D., of Yale University; prayer of ordination by Rev. W. J. Mutch, Ph. D.; right hand of fellowship by Rev. Otis W. Barker; charge to the pastor by Rev. E. N. Packard, D. D.; address to the people by Rev. C. B. Moody, D. D.



REV. MARION L. BURTON, PH. D.  
PASTOR OF THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH





Mr. Burton is an alumnus of Carleton College, Minnesota, class of 1900, as is also Mrs. Burton. For three years thereafter he was principal of Windom Institute.

Mr. Burton entered Yale Theological Seminary in 1903, from which he was graduated in the spring of 1906; he was a member of the Yale University debating team; he also received the "Fogg scholarship" six times.

After graduating from the seminary, Mr. Burton continued his special graduate course in philosophy during the year 1906-07, and in April presented to the faculty of the Graduating School of Yale University, in candidacy for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, a thesis on "The Philosophical Basis of Augustine's Doctrine of Sin."

In February, 1907, Mr. Burton was invited to the Chair of Systematic Theology in Yale University, as assistant professor. It was indeed an honor for so young a man to be called to a chair which in former years was occupied by ex-President Dwight, Samuel B. Harris and Prof. George B. Stevens. Mr. Burton handed his resignation to the clerk of the church February 24, 1907, and at a meeting held to take action on the same March 19, 1907, the resignation was accepted with regret. Mr. Burton will enter on his duties at Yale University in October, 1907. The degree

of Doctor of Philosophy was conferred on him June 26, 1907.

Mr. Burton's pastorate might be called the "student pastorate" to differentiate it from those which have gone before. His sermons have been doctrinal, spiritual, illuminating. His Sabbath morning congregations have been large, attesting thereby the interest of the people in his sermons. There have been added to the church during his pastorate many persons on confession of faith, and by letter.

Mr. Burton's pastorate, which terminates in a few weeks, will be a very pleasant memory in the recent history of our church. Of the two children of Rev. and Mrs. Burton, the younger, Paul L. Burton, was born here November 1, 1905.

### CHURCH EXTENDS CALL

A call was extended to Mr. Harry S. Martin of Bangor Theological Seminary to become the successor of Rev. M. L. Burton in the pastorate of this church, said call bearing date of May 19, 1907. Mr. Martin has accepted the call, and will assume the duties of pastor to the Brookfield Church September 22, 1907.

## CHAPTER VI

### DEACONS OF THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH AT NEWBURY-BROOKFIELD

In early days the office of deacon was held to be second only to that of pastor; he was in reality an assistant to the pastor, presiding at church meetings in his absence, and conducting Sabbath worship when the church was without settled minister. The deacons likewise had charge of distributing alms to the needy, and in other ways attended to the charities of the church. Deacons are appointed by the church and regularly ordained. Their place in the church is certainly one of dignity and real importance.

Owing to the lack of early church records, it is impossible to name all of those who probably served as deacons in the first church at Newbury.

DEACON JOSEPH RUGGLES, known as Captain Joseph Ruggles, senior, was born in 1701; he came from New Haven, Conn., and settled at the Half-Way Falls of the Still River (iron works) in 1733. He was a man of deeds and influence, was deacon at the New Milford Church at the first, and later became deacon of the new church at Newbury. He was the grandfather of Samuel Ruggles, missionary to the Sandwich Is-

lands. Deacon Ruggles died in 1791, aged ninety years.

DEACON JOHN DUNNING, born in 1713, was one of the first deacons in this church. He died at the age of eighty-one, in the year 1794. Deacon Dunning was the great-grandfather of Harmon Lockwood, Esq.

DEACON JOSEPH SMITH was also elected quite early in the history of the church. He lived on Whisconier Hill and was a prominent man not only in the parish of Newbury, but as a citizen of Newtown until 1788. He represented Brookfield in the legislature in 1789, and died in 1829, aged seventy-seven years. Deacon Smith was the great-grandfather of Miss Lucy Smith.

DEACON HENRY PECK was deacon for many years. He came from Milford, Conn., and was a prominent man in the church here. He was justice of the peace many years and represented the town in the General Assembly; in fact was the first representative. He died in 1808. Deacon Peck was the great-grandfather of Miss Mae F. Peck.

DEACON ABRAHAM CAMP was elected deacon of the Newbury Church and served during the Revolutionary period. He lived in the New Milford portion of the town and was quite prominent in military affairs. He is mentioned in the records in 1787.

DEACON SAMUEL MERWIN, one of the early residents here, was next ordained deacon. He lived where Mrs. Georgiana Williams now has a residence. Deacon Merwin came from Milford and was great-grandfather of Gen. S. E. Merwin of New Haven. He served until his death in 1828.

DEACON MATTHEW BALDWIN, whose home was on Whisconier Hill, south of the residence of Edwin Smith, was associated with Deacon Merwin in the office. He died in 1836, being in his eighty-eighth year.

DEACON MICHAEL DUNNING, who lived at Pokono, in the house south of Henry L. Foote's residence, was elected to the office in 1819 and served until enfeebled by age. He was the grandfather of Rev. Albert E. Dunning, editor of *The Congregationalist*.

DEACON LEVI DIBBLE was elected to the office in 1819. He lived in the Bound Swamp District, and I regret that I cannot give additional information concerning him.

DEACON ASHBEL DUNNING, appointed in 1827, served the church twenty-eight years. His residence was at the first in Pokono; later he lived in the residence now owned by John Thornhill, and for a time lived in the house occupied by S. B. Terrill. Deacon Dunning's last years were spent in the home of his daughter, Mrs. Isaac Lockwood. He died in 1855.

DEACON ABEL S. TAYLOR, born in 1792, was elected deacon in 1834, and served forty years. He lived on Whisconier Hill, very near the Newtown line. His son was Thomas Taylor; his grandson, Almon H. Taylor. Deacon Taylor was very prominently connected with the history of this church, and died in 1875.

DEACON LUTHER SMITH was elected to the office in 1849. He built and occupied the house in Brookfield Center, now the residence of Mrs. Esther M. Hawley. Deacon Smith was a great lover of trees, and planted all the pines and shade trees now surrounding this residence. He did much to improve the walks through the village and had an eye for the beautiful. He died in 1862, being seventy-eight years of age.

DEACON ALFRED SOMERS was chosen to the office in 1858. Deacon Somers has served this church as deacon for a longer period than any other person. In a few months he will have completed fifty years of service in the office of deacon. I desire to mention the fact that Mrs. Alfred Somers has for about forty years prepared the emblems for the communion table.

DEACON WILLIAM H. SKIDMORE was elected to the office in 1863 to succeed Deacon Luther Smith. In 1866 Deacon Skidmore removed to Sing Sing, N. Y.,



DEACON ALFRED SOMERS





and was not again a resident of this town for some years. He died at Brookfield Center in 1875.

DEACON ENOCH W. FORD was elected to the office in 1880. He died in 1885.

DEACON ORSON J. TAYLOR of the Reformed Church succeeded Deacon Ford in 1886 and held the office until his death.

DEACON FREDERICK S. CURTIS was appointed acting deacon in 1892.

The two deacons of the Congregational Church at Brookfield at this date are therefore Deacon Alfred Somers and Deacon Frederick S. Curtis.

## CHAPTER VII

### ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN THE CHURCH

#### Foreign Missionary Societies

The American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, incorporated in 1810, gained an active auxiliary in Fairfield County in 1825.

The Brookfield Church organized a society that year, and in 1825, I find that the society contributed about fifty dollars to foreign missions. There were two societies in the church working together for a common cause, namely, the Ladies' Association, whose president was Mrs. Abner Brundage; secretary, Mrs. Thomas Burch, and treasurer, Mrs. Hiram Fairchild; and the Dorcas Society, whose president was Mrs. John Northrop, and treasurer, Mrs. Urania Merwin. These two female societies annually made liberal contributions of money and clothing to the cause of missions. The Gentlemen's Society was organized a little later, and Mr. Hiram Fairchild was its secretary from 1835 to 1860; the treasurer was Deacon Taylor, from 1844 to 1854. The president of this society from 1843 to 1855 was Rev. Dan C. Curtiss.

Solititors were annually appointed by the Gentlemen's Society to collect funds for missions. I find that from 1844 to 1858 the contributions were eight hun-

dred dollars from the Brookfield Church. In 1834 the societies at Brookfield Church contributed over seventy-eight dollars.

It may be of present-day interest to learn that the American Board at this time represented not only Congregational churches, but the Presbyterian and Reformed Dutch churches, sustaining official relations with each and receiving candidates for the foreign field from each of these denominations. The corporate members of the board in 1834 were from these three bodies.

Among the solicitors were Captain Jones, Edwin Merwin, Elijah Sturdevant, Noah Taylor, Beers Foote, Benjamin Hawley.

In 1882 the Women's Foreign Missionary Society was organized, auxiliary to the New Haven branch of the Woman's Board.

Mrs. A. C. Pierce was the first president and Mrs. Julia W. Skidmore was appointed the first secretary and treasurer of the society. After the death of Mrs. Pierce in 1889 Mrs. Skidmore was acting president. In 1895 Mrs. Cyrus W. Francis was elected president and served until 1904. In 1904 Mrs. William Geddes became the president, serving three years, or until 1907. Monthly meetings have been conducted during the twenty-five years since organization. For the last five years a systematic study of foreign mission fields

and their needs has been entered into by the society. Between five and six hundred dollars have been contributed by this society to the cause of foreign missions.

The faithful and efficient secretary and treasurer, Mrs. Julia W. Skidmore, after serving this society for twenty-five years, resigned in April, 1907.

In October, 1906, on the occasion of the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of the foreign missionary movement in this country, three members of the society attended the exercises at Williamstown, Mass.

#### Home Missionary Department

In 1840 a Young Ladies' Benevolent Society was organized with a constitution written for it by the Rev. Mr. Day. The society numbered about thirty-five members, meeting at stated times. The last record preserved of this society is August, 1849. In 1848 they record meeting at the town house three successive weeks to quilt for home missionaries.

The Ladies' Industrial Society of the Congregational Church was organized in 1882, the purpose of the society being to assist in the pecuniary and benevolent work of the church. Mrs. Sarah Roe Hawley was for some years the secretary and treasurer.

In 1897 the Ladies' Industrial Society became auxiliary to the Connecticut Woman's Congregational

Home Missionary Union. The society has contributed yearly to home missions in the form of cash gifts, and boxes of clothing sent to deserving institutions; besides assisting families in the parish. This society has made liberal donations to the church society at various times to assist them to build and repair church property.

Since 1890 the Ladies' Industrial Society has earned and expended in this way more than two thousand dollars. We cannot speak too highly of their endeavors.

Mrs. Frederick S. Curtis has been the president of the society since 1892. Miss Amelia I. Northrop, the secretary and treasurer since 1891.

The present membership is twenty-one. The officers elected January, 1907, are: President, Mrs. F. S. Curtis; vice president, Mrs. W. B. Roe; secretary and treasurer, Miss A. I. Northrop; directresses, Mrs. E. G. Peck, Mrs. Austin Smith, Mrs. W. C. Geddes.

The Junior Sewing Society, organized in 1902, has been successful, and in 1906 purchased the fine, new piano for the chapel, with money earned by the society. Miss Peck, Miss Curtis, Miss Skidmore, Miss Somers, and Mrs. Roe have been patronesses.

### **The Sabbath School**

I am unable to ascertain the date of organization. The first mention of the school occurs in the church

records in the year 1833; it was then in operation. Sabbath schools were quite generally organized in Fairfield County, east district, in 1821. We are warranted in assuming that this school was gathered as early as 1821, my opinion being that it was much earlier. It has been a strong factor in the life of this church for more than three quarters of a century. Hundreds of children and young people have come under its uplifting influences, some going forth to assume larger work in other fields.

Modern text-books for Bible study, music, and good literature have combined to hold the attention of the young. Within the last ten years, the largest total enrolment occurred in 1901, at which time the membership of the school was 140. The enrolment of this school as given last December (1906) was 130 pupils and officers.

A "Home Department," organized in 1890, has brought into affiliation with the school those who are unable to attend its sessions; its members take up a course of Bible study.

### **Sunday School Library**

The Sabbath school library, numbering more than five hundred volumes, has for the past twelve years, or since 1895, been in charge of the efficient librarian, Miss Amelia I. Northrop.

The annual benevolences of the school include contributions to the State Sunday School Association, Mission and Publishing societies, Fresh-air fund of New York City, Lincoln Memorial Association, Morning Star Mission, Library fund.

About two hundred dollars annually pass through the hands of the treasurer of the school.

### **The Christian Endeavor Society**

This organization, known as the "First Young Peoples' Society of Christian Endeavor of Brookfield," was organized October 6, 1889, under the direction of the pastor, Rev. Henry B. Mead. The first officers of this society were: President, Mr. H. E. Tuttle; vice president, Miss Theodora Skidmore; treasurer, Miss Somers.

This society has conducted a Sabbath evening meeting weekly for eighteen years, the first Sabbath of each month being a consecration meeting. Its work is conducted through the following four committees, namely, prayer meeting, lookout, social and music, missionary and calling.

The present officers of the society are: President, William Blackman; vice president, Dr. Ryder; treasurer, Mrs. C. A. Ryder; recording secretary, Mary Bowdy; corresponding secretary, W. Blackman.

**Temperance Societies in Newbury-Brookfield  
Connected with this Church and Town**

Our Pilgrim ancestors were not all abstainers from the intoxicating cup. The sale of liquors had not then become a distinct business under a license system, but were sold with other commodities at the village stores. Science had not investigated the nature of alcoholic drinks and reported to the world its findings.

In 1750 the churches of Fairfield County were advised to hold a fast on account of abounding intemperance. After the Revolutionary War, it was observed that intemperance had become alarmingly on the increase. Liquors were freely used on all public occasions, including funerals, both by the clergy and laity. Temperance agitation commenced early in 1800. In 1812 the General Assembly of Connecticut recommended the churches "not to introduce ardent spirits at association meetings."

Rev. Lyman Beecher, the pastor at Litchfield, preached from his famous pulpit some remarkable sermons on the evils of intemperance which attracted wide attention through New England. The American Temperance Society was organized in 1828, and within four years three thousand total abstinence societies were in operation with a membership of more than three hundred thousand.



The Brookfield Temperance Society was organized in July, 1830, auxiliary to the county society. The first officers were: President Heman Birch, Esq.; vice presidents, Isaac Gray and Alva Smith, Esq.; secretary, Dr. Chauncey Stuart. In 1833 Mr. Hiram Fairchild was elected president, and Capt. Sidney Hawley was secretary.

The men officially connected with the Brookfield Temperance Society for the following years were: Peter Hubbell, Burr Northrop, Luther Smith, Wolcott Northrop, Joel Baldwin, Abel Taylor, Horace Northrop, and Nelson Osborne. The records of this society show the names of one hundred and eighty signers, names still familiar to the older people here.

The Washingtonian movement was inaugurated here in Brookfield in 1843, the purpose being to carry on the reformation so happily begun, to reform the drunkard and aid in forming a correct public sentiment with regard to the use and traffic in intoxicating drinks.

Washingtonian societies were formed rapidly, and within a year or two nearly every town in Connecticut organized a society. A feature of this movement was the "Cold Water Army," the children's society. The records of the Connecticut Washingtonian Temperance Association show that in 1844 the society at Brookfield numbered six hundred members who had

taken the pledge (238 men and 232 women signers). The Cold Water Army numbered one hundred and fifty children. A temperance choir was formed, which did good service in visiting neighboring towns and school districts where meetings were held, and temperance interest awakened by means of good singing and addresses.

The Sons of Temperance organized in Brookfield about the year 1852, and at the same time the young people perfected an organization known as the "Cadets," which became a popular auxiliary. The temperance movement, known as the "Murphy Campaign," did not reach Brookfield, although large meetings were held at Danbury and New Milford in 1877 and later.

A local branch of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union was organized in Brookfield in 1903, and conducts monthly meetings, the membership being thirty women. The present officers are: President, Miss Emily C. Hawley; secretary, Mrs. Emma J. Smith; treasurer, Mrs. Ellen D. Vroman.

We do not forget that Hon. Neal Dow, "father of prohibitory law," was a New Englander; also the greatest orator the temperance reform ever had, John B. Gough.

It is encouraging to reflect upon the fact that in this year of grace (1907) more than one half of the terri-

tory in these United States is under prohibitory liquor laws. Total abstinence has become a fundamental requirement in every important business and profession.

## CHAPTER VIII

### ANNIVERSARY DAYS IN NEW ENGLAND

#### The Sesqui-Centennial of First Congregational Church, Brookfield, Conn.

A century and a half, or two centuries, of struggle and hard work having passed, our New England towns and villages are taking time to celebrate their achievements, and review the past. The sons and daughters of the early families who went out from these towns are being invited to return and renew their old associations. Probate and town records are searched for facts, and we look with keen appreciation on the efforts of the early settlers to preserve the events of their time for future generations. That they were men of resources and capacity there is no doubt; notwithstanding their limited conditions they did a work that abides. We are beginning to feel a tender appreciation for the men and the time just behind us.

In August, 1905, Newtown, our neighbor on the south, celebrated in an appropriate and delightful manner her bi-centennial.

In June, 1907, New Milford invited us to participate in her splendid bi-centennial exercises, which were so

greatly enjoyed by all who attended the celebration. Also occurred in June, 1907, at Stratford, an ecclesiastical anniversary, namely, the bi-centennial of the establishing of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut, which anniversary was participated in by a large number of persons from the towns of the state.

We must not forget, either, the anniversaries of our poets and literary men, of whom New England is so justly proud.

In February, 1907, occurred the centenary of Longfellow's birth, the first of all our poets to catch the ear of the people and hold their hearts. Longfellow has rendered an abiding service to history in giving us "Hiawatha," which preserves the life and habits of the Indian race; and in the "Courtship of Miles Standish" has made immortal the Pilgrims at Plymouth; in "Evangeline" he has rendered a similar service.

In May, 1907, we commemorated the one hundredth anniversary of Emerson's birth; a man who had eight generations of clergymen behind him, whose teachings have influenced thousands, and whose genius can hardly be measured.

In connection with these events should be recorded the fact that this summer tablets have been placed in the Hall of Fame in New York City to three eminent New England women who were teachers of wide influence, namely: To Mrs. Emma Willard, founder of

the Troy Female Seminary in 1821. Mrs. Willard was a native of Connecticut. To Mary Lyon, founder of Mt. Holyoke Seminary, now College, in 1837, who left an abiding impression on the religious and educational life of America. To Maria Mitchell, the astronomer of Nantucket, who received international fame.

Would space permit we might mention many other New England anniversaries and events in which a deep interest has been taken, but must turn to our own—the Sesqui-Centennial Celebration of the First Congregational Church of Brookfield, Conn.

At the annual meeting of the church in January, 1906, the initial steps were taken, and an anniversary committee was appointed to take the matter into consideration. Definite plans for a celebration were not made, however, until early in the spring of 1907, at which time the general committee met, and appointed their subcommittees. These committees as finally appointed were as follows:—

#### THE GENERAL ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

Mr. Clarence E. Vroman, *chairman*; Rev. Marion L. Burton, Mrs. Marion L. Burton, Mr. Frederick S. Curtis, Miss Emily C. Hawley, Mr. Sidney E. Hawley, Miss Amelia I. Northrop.

## SUBCOMMITTEES

*Music*:—Mr. Herbert W. Greene.

*Finance*:—Mr. William H. Blackman, Mr. William S. Geddes, Mr. Clarence W. Keeler, Miss Minnie S. Somers.

*Publicity*:—Rev. Marion L. Burton, Mr. Frederick S. Curtis, Dr. Charles A. Ryder.

*Invitation*:—Miss Wilhelmine Skidmore, Miss Mary A. Bateman, Miss Mae F. Peck, Miss Jessie M. Roe.

*Decoration*:—Miss Amelia I. Northrop, Mr. Lawrence Curtis, Miss Gertrude A. Elsenboss, Mrs. Henry L. Foote, Mrs. Austin Smith, Miss Theodate Sprague, Mr. Samuel Thornhill, Miss Jennie Wildenrath, Miss Irene Worden.

*Town Decoration*:—Mr. Sidney E. Hawley, Mr. Lucius S. Hawley.

*Conveyance*:—Mr. Frederick S. Frisbie, Mr. Axel F. Gustafson, Mr. Henry B. Hawley, Mr. Hamilton Hendrickson, Mr. Frederick Johnson, Mr. William B. Roe.

*Collation*:—Mrs. Frederick S. Curtis, Mrs. Andrew G. Anderson, Mrs. William S. Geddes, Mrs. Eliza G. Peck, Mrs. William B. Roe, Miss Florence M. Vroman.

*Reception and Entertainment*:—Mr. Frederick S.

Curtis, Mrs. Marion L. Burton, Miss Emily C. Hawley, Mr. Sidney E. Hawley, Miss Theodora Skidmore.

*Loan Exhibit:*—Miss Amelia I. Northrop.

### THE CHAPEL

December 28, 1906, it was voted that we as a church desire a chapel, and purpose to raise \$5,000 for the erection of the same and for the redecorating of our present house of worship.

The following committee were appointed: Mr. and Mrs. F. S. Curtis, Mr. Vroman, Miss Amelia I. Northrop, Mr. F. S. Frisbie, Dr. Junius F. Smith, Mrs. Burton.

May 12, 1907, it was further voted to enlarge the privileges of this committee, and to call the same "The Chapel and Church Improvement Committee."

Some five thousand dollars and more were subscribed for this purpose, generous sums being contributed by friends outside of the town as well as within the home church.

The plans and specifications were prepared by E. W. Peck, Esq., architect, from Bridgeport, Conn., and called for a chapel 40 feet by 34½ feet, the same to be on the south side of the church and connected thereto. Specifications also called for redecorating the exterior and interior of the church; a heating



plant; recarpeting of the church floor, etc. The chapel was constructed by the S. W. Hubbell Building Company of Bridgeport, Conn. Laying of the corner stone August 18, 1907.

## CHAPTER IX

### CONGREGATIONALISM

#### Origin, System and Principles

To the student of church history, the Congregational system is of great interest, and why should it not be, when we consider that for one hundred years following the first settlements it was the only religious faith, or nearly so, in the land. In Connecticut the Congregational churches were established seventy years previous to any others.

Mr. Frank S. Child, in an address before the Daughters of the American Revolution of Fairfield County, said: "The emigrants from Massachusetts who settled in Connecticut represented three ecclesiastical tendencies, the Independents or Pilgrims of Plymouth, the men of Presbyterian preference, and the Puritans; circumstances wrought the three classes into the Congregational form of life."

The early settlers of New England were therefore of one faith, and worshiped in a common sanctuary. In the society records of this church I find as late as 1810 the following entry: "Being an inhabitant of Brookfield, state of Connecticut, where every man is considered as born a Congregationalist, who does not

certify to the contrary. I hereby declare my intention," etc.

The church at Leyden, which was organized in 1602 under the pastorate of Rev. John Robinson, and which removed to Plymouth, New England, in 1620, is regarded as the parent of all the Congregational churches.

The Pilgrims came by the way of Holland, whither they had been driven by persecution, and while there imbibed something of that broader spirit of freedom and good will of which that country was the center, and is to-day.

"I am confident," said John Robinson, "that God has more truth yet to break out of His holy Word."

The first pastors over the New England churches were ordained in England; they had, however, left behind them old traditions and accepted the Bible as their ultimate authority; they were strictly Calvinistic in theology. As we are approaching the four hundredth anniversary of Calvin's birth, it may not be amiss to quote the opinion of John Fiske, who wrote, "The promulgation of Calvin's theology was one of the longest steps that mankind has taken toward personal freedom, for he insisted that the world must have an educated ministry and laity."

In the year 1648 occurred the famous Synod at Cambridge, Mass., to which the ministers from all the

colonies responded; and then and there agreed upon a platform of church discipline which they recommended to the churches of the New World. It was known as the Cambridge Platform, and was the religious constitution of the Connecticut churches for about sixty years. The Westminster Confession of Faith was adopted.

The Cambridge Platform made no provision for the meeting of ministers or churches either in a social or advisory manner, and in 1708 the General Assembly of Connecticut passed a vote requiring that the churches of Connecticut appoint delegates to meet at Saybrook that year to draw up an ecclesiastical constitution, which was done in September, 1708, and met with acceptance. This platform, known as the Saybrook Platform of Church Discipline, made provision for associations and consociations, which have given the Congregational churches of Connecticut a unique history. The Savoy confession of faith was adopted at this time.

### Consociation of Churches

Consociations are in reality standing councils, that is, permanent bodies with rules and records. They act as advisory agents only, though it has been affirmed that they, at least in the past, exercised judiciary power. A consociation of churches when sitting is

known as the council; its officers are moderator, scribe and registrar. Its membership embraces the pastors of the churches in the consociation and one delegate from each church. The duties of the council are: To organize, unite, and discipline churches; to ordain, install, dismiss, and discipline ministers, and to advise the churches when in difficulty.

The churches of Fairfield County united in consociation in 1709; they met at Stratfield (Bridgeport) for that purpose. Twenty-seven years later, in June, 1736, this body met at the town of Fairfield and resolved itself into two bodies, namely, Fairfield East and Fairfield West Consociation. The Fairfield East Consociation now includes twenty churches.

There are but four consociations in Connecticut today; two in our own county, and one each in Litchfield and New Haven counties; and thirteen conferences. The annual meeting of the general conference takes place in the fall.

### **Association of Ministers**

The Fairfield County Association of Ministers was organized in 1709. The purpose was to safeguard the high calling to which they were appointed, to examine candidates for the ministry and license the same, and to see that none preached heresy among them. The

spirit and purpose of the association was of the best, standing as it did for purity of doctrine and character. In 1734 the Association of Ministers in Fairfield County resolved themselves into eastern and western districts, and in 1848 the eastern district became known as Fairfield East Association.

Yearly meetings were held, the officers being a moderator and scribe. During the period in which the council failed to hold annual meetings (from 1752 to 1818), the association did so, and preserved records. It may be of interest to cite two or three cases of discipline which involved the association and consociation of our county in deep trouble. In 1763 the Rev. Ebenezer White of Danbury and Rev. James Taylor of New Fairfield were accused of preaching Sandemanianism; the association of Fairfield East presented them for trial before the council, which sat five days. The church at Danbury objected to the interference of the council, but the objection was not sustained. Messrs. White and Taylor were put on probation three months, when a joint council of Fairfield East and West consociations was called in January, 1764. The Danbury Church denied the jurisdiction of the joint council; but Mr. White was dismissed under censure by this body, and declared guilty of Sandemanianism. Five pastors and their delegates protested against the decision, as being too severe, among the dissenters

being Rev. Thomas Brooks of Newbury. The council recognized the minority in Mr. White's church as constituting the First Church of Danbury. The majority who had stood by Mr. White became later the Sandemanian Church of Danbury. A little later the united councils dismissed Rev. James Taylor of New Fairfield.

Congregational churches are independent bodies, each church framing its own confession of faith and covenant. Congregational churches have always stood for higher education, and most of the New England colleges were founded by them, or those affiliated with them.

### **Tri-Church Union**

The most important movement undertaken by the Congregational churches in this country for a century is the movement toward organic union with the United Brethren and Methodist Protestants, now under consideration. A tri-church council, meeting at Dayton, Ohio, in 1906, appointed three committees, namely, on doctrine, polity, and vested interests. Later the Chicago council, a "historic gathering," considered these and other essentials, and arranged the plan of the proposed union of the denominations in readiness for the final action thereon. The corporate

name proposed is "The United Churches, comprising the Congregational Churches, the Church of the United Brethren in Christ, and the Methodist Protestant Church." The organic union of these three churches becomes effective in the National Council, in which the annual conference will be represented; this occurs once in four years. No limitation is put on local anatomy, while fellowship is provided for. If the union is effected a new era not only of expansion but of coöperation will open before the churches.







THE MILL DAM—THE HALF-WAY FALLS OF THE STILL RIVER

## CHAPTER X

### BROOKFIELD

#### Iron Works

This section of our town is located on both sides of the Still River at the Half-Way Falls. The Half-Way Falls are the natural falls, or dam, south of the stone-arch bridge; the water here drops into a gorge, and flowing north, passes over three or four artificial dams, emerging at last into the meadow lands above.

This portion of our town, as is well known, formerly belonged to New Milford. In 1732 the records there show that iron works were set up at the Half-Way Falls of the Still River at the place afterward known as Brookfield. The facts as shown by the records are these:—

John Noble, Jr., who removed from New Milford and settled south of Gallows Hill in 1730, and who was one of those persons who petitioned for church privileges at Newbury-Brookfield in 1743, in 1732 sold half an acre of land (taking in the river) at the Half-Way Falls in the Still River (afterwards Iron Works), “so that there may be a way to come at the iron works already set up, and also at the dam that is made across

the river." This conveyance was made to Samuel Hathaway.

In December, 1732, Peter Hubbell of Newtown sold his one-third interest in the iron works, including dam, houses, and instruments in making iron, the same being at the Half-Way Falls on Still River, to John Fairweather.

In November, 1733, all the parties interested in the iron works loaned to Eleazer Hathaway, then of New Milford, one hundred pounds current money. Mr. Hathaway was "to perform the work of a skillful bloomer" in the iron works on Still River for the benefit and advantage of the owners. He was to make "shire moulds, cranks, and gudgeons." It was specified that he should make twenty-four tons of iron from two forges yearly, or twelve tons if only one forge should be furnished him.

The exact spot where the dam was constructed and the iron works set up is believed to have been near John Bateman's shear shop, for reasons which may be given.

I have thought best to enter fully into the matter of the iron industry at Brookfield, as few are aware of the details, notwithstanding the fact that this portion of our town has been called the Iron Works so long as the oldest living resident can remember. Tradition affirms that during the Revolutionary War iron from

this place was conveyed by night across the country to West Point (about forty miles) and was used, with iron brought from another place, in making the chain which was stretched across the Hudson River to retard the progress of the British.

Iron works were later set up at Still River Falls at Lanesville, in which Lazarus Ruggles, a son, was interested.

A fording place was set up at Brookfield-Iron Works, but a bridge over the Still River here was not built until 1745.

The first schoolhouse at the Iron Works was established in 1745, near the home of Joseph Ruggles, Esq., "near about the middle of the highway."

Capt. Joseph Ruggles, who came to the Iron Works (afterward Brookfield) in 1733, from New Haven, was one of the earliest settlers here; he was a partner in the iron works, and purchased considerable land in the Still River Neck, not far from the Newtown line.

The "Still River Neck" was the name given to all that elevated land lying between the iron works and the Housatonic River; it included the Iron Works Hill, Longmeadow, and Pumpkin Hill. Capt. Joseph Ruggles remained in (Brookfield) Iron Works until 1750, when he returned to New Haven, but subsequently lived here and was deacon in the Congrega-

tional Church at Brookfield Center until his death. He was the ancestor of a large and quite distinguished family, some of whom settled in New England cities and became widely known.

Capt. Joseph Ruggles<sup>d</sup> was the grandfather of Samuel Ruggles, who went out from Brookfield in 1819 as missionary to the Sandwich Islands, and of Lucia Ruggles Holman.

The ancient highway from Danbury to New Milford, in passing through the Iron Works, pursued a westerly course; it was the highway on which the Baptist Church and Laurel Hill Cemetery fronted.

The present main thoroughfare through the village street was of later construction.

The first tavern was built on the north corner of this ancient highway, a rambling two-story inn, facing the south, its glory long since departed, though the dilapidated structure is standing. It was opposite the Baptist Church and the home for many years of Elder Biddle. It was doubtless one of a chain of posts extending from Southern New England into the Canadas, through the wilderness. This building is probably more than 150 years old. It has been handed down, that persons of importance have tarried for a night in this old tavern. Major Nichols in 1757, under commission from England to examine and report concerning suitable places for fortifications at the north, during

the French War, spent a night here, and the brother of Napoleon, with his escort, stopped on his journey; he was then living in this country.

The American Hotel, built on the east side of Still River, was for long a well-known hostelry, Nathan Terrill, Gregory Knapp and Augustus Knapp being among the well-known landlords.

### Grist Mill

“ Back of the loaf is the snowy flour,  
And back of the flour is the mill;  
And back of the mill is the wheat and the shower,  
And the sun and the Father's will.”

—*M. D. Babcock.*

In 1748 a grist mill was established a little north of the iron works, by Abel Barnum, and a highway was laid out to the southeast corner of the mill.

In 1780 the present grist mill privileges were established. In 1832 William D. Meeker rebuilt the mill. Gregory Knapp purchased the property later, and his widow, afterward Mrs. Daniel Ferris, owned it, and rented the same for many years. Benjamin Treat leased the mill during the '60's, and Henry B. Hawley leased the property for a considerable time of her. In 1888 Michael McNamara purchased of Mrs. Ferris and rebuilt the mill in 1890. In 1902 Arthur S. Mansfield bought the grist mill and improved the property.

Mr. Mansfield is the present owner and proprietor of this property.

### **Stone Industry**

Several stone quarries have been operated at the Iron Works in past years, the stone being of fine quality. In 1819 there were two sawmills, which were erected for the purpose of sawing the stone and getting it in shape for manufacture; monuments, hearthstones, and building stone were cut here. Marble was found, and there was something of an industry in this line, as it was made into various articles.

### **Carding Mill**

A carding mill was set up in 1810 near the site of John Bateman's present factory.

### **Lime Industry**

Lime quarries have been operated in Brookfield for considerably more than one hundred years. The lime here is considered to be as fine as any in the state. Extensive quarries have been opened up, and this particular industry has changed hands many times. During more recent periods Platt Hawley, Esq., Ezra Wildman, and John Bennett have severally owned and managed the business.



Andrew Northrop, Esq., was owner and operator many years; he sold to Pierce, Lawrence & Vroman in 1882; they rebuilt the kiln, and conducted the business for more than twenty years, when it was sold to a syndicate. Mr. Clarence Vroman is still connected with this branch of the New England Lime Company, being the general superintendent of the Brookfield works. A small lime kiln was operated for a time on the east side of the railroad track near the freight depot by Gregory Knapp.

### Hat Manufacturing

ELIJAH STURDEVANT, ESQ., was engaged in the hat manufacturing business for some years, employing a considerable number of persons. He was a man of ability and enterprise. His shop was located on the Danbury road at the spot where Robert Jones and family now live. Mr. Sturdevant later on removed his hatting industry to Beaver Brook District and continued there until August, 1873, when the building was destroyed by fire, the loss being some sixty thousand dollars. Mr. Sturdevant was an active member of this church here, and was one of the original incorporators of the Union Savings Bank of Danbury.

HENRY B. HAWLEY was engaged in the hatting business, just north of the stone-arch bridge, from 1868 to 1875, employing one hundred persons. Mr. Hawley

manufactured hats for Pearce & Hall of New York City, and did a large business.

CHRISTIAN QUIEN of Danbury also engaged in hat-making business in this factory for a time. A. and E. De Comeau of New York leased this factory for the fur business.

V. E. PATCH purchased this factory later on, and conducted for some years the shoddy business here. The building was destroyed by fire in 1907.

HOMER LAKE & SON were engaged in the wool hat industry.

IRA KEELER & SONS manufactured cotton batting in their factory, which is still standing, and owned by V. E. Patch.

### Shear Business

DANIEL TOMLINSON, ESQ., a prominent citizen and one-time state senator, in the year 1837 built a dam and erected buildings for the manufacture of Currier's knives. A few years later L. P. Wetmore began forging knives for him.

TREAT, WILDMAN & WETMORE, some time after, built an addition to the shop, and started the shear business in connection with the original business started by Squire Tomlinson. The freshet of 1853



STONE ARCH, STILL RIVER, BROOKFIELD



carried away the dam, and Tomlinson retired from the business. BENNETT & WILDMAN succeeded in 1854, and later JOHN F. BENNETT & WETMORE conducted a successful business for many years.

In 1882 JOHN T. BATEMAN was taken into the firm.

In 1884 Mr. Wetmore retired from the business and F. H. BENNETT & JOHN T. BATEMAN continued the shear industry.

In 1889 Mr. Bennett resigned and Stephen Meaney purchased his interest; the firm then became known as the LENOX SHEAR COMPANY. In May, 1895, Mr. Bateman bought out the entire plant and has been sole owner ever since.

The factory was destroyed by fire in 1902 and Mr. Bateman purchased the site formerly occupied by the Jones saw mill and erected a new factory.

### Stores

Among the early merchants at the Iron Works were: CAPTAIN MEEKER, a man of considerable influence and wealth; HARRY BURRELL, ESQ., who became well-to-do; he built several houses now standing, among the number the "pillars."

WILLIAM D. MEEKER, son of Captain Meeker, inherited a large property and was a merchant; he built the stone residence on the west side of Still River, now the home of the Dr. Smith family; this house is not

only the most substantial, but the most dignified type of residence in the town.

BURR & MORRIS were engaged in general mercantile business for a time.

SAMUEL BALDWIN, ESQ., was in the tailoring business.

JOHN STEVENS, ESQ., was a merchant here, and also BEERS & FAIRCHILD, and ANDREW NORTHROP.

DANIEL G. BEERS built a substantial store property on the west side of the railroad and was in business until his death.

ROBERT G. KNAPP, for some years was a successful merchant, first in the store under the American Hotel, and later built near the railroad track on the east side of same.

GEORGE HALLOCK also conducted a store which he built on his property.

HENRY S. BEERS succeeded his father, Daniel Beers, in mercantile business, and after his place of business was destroyed by fire, built the substantial store property on the east side of the railroad, now standing. Mr. Beers was for years an active and successful merchant. He became the local funeral director here.

WILLIAM J. BEEHLER purchased the business which he conducted for some years. Mr. Beehler also succeeded Mr. Beers as funeral director. Mr. Beehler is

still engaged in the grocery business at the Iron Works, and is our town clerk.

LEVI J. STURDEVANT is owner of the store built by H. S. Beers and continues the business, the business manager being Cornelius Dean. This store does a large general mercantile business.

THE BROOKFIELD CASH GROCERY COMPANY commenced business on the west side of the river a few years since. The enterprising business manager is Mrs. Homer Martin. The post office is located in this store, the postmaster being Mrs. Emma J. Smith.

### Saw Mills

There have been several of these mills in our town. WILDMAN & JONES operated one of these saw mills at the Iron Works for years, their plant being where J. T. Bateman's shop is now. At the present time LOUIS COVILLE is proprietor of a steam saw mill on Huckleberry Hill, and CHARLES PINCKNEY at Brookfield Center.

### Iron Works Street

The present village street at the Iron Works is quite thickly settled, and is laid out on the west side of Still River; here are the pleasant homes of Mrs. Junius F. Smith, Arthur S. Mansfield, Nile Hendrickson (the two latter were for some years the homes of the Ira and

Frederick Keeler families. On the opposite corners are the residences of E. Roswell and William J. Beehler, former homes of the Burr and Bennett families. The residences on the west side of the street belong to Major Greene, B. T. Jackson, Clarence Vroman, Emily C. Hawley; the east side of the street includes the homes of V. E. Patch, James and John Bateman, Miss Cotton, Mrs. Knight, Peter Dixon, and the O'Donnell home.

The Charles Taber home is south of the former Baptist Church, and on the Danbury road is the Morehouse place, formerly owned by Lewis Osborne.

The substantial stone-arch bridge over the Still River was erected in 1880, the builder being C. S. Pendleton of New London. Harvey Roe was our first selectman at that time.

North of the village street are the homes of John Wetmore, Asa Hoyt, the John Warren Homestead, and Supple residence.

The beautiful farm lands lying southwest of Lanesville, and extending to the Iron Works, were known in early times as the "South Farms," and the families of John Noble and brother, and Capt. John Warner and brother were the first settlers there.

There was a Methodist meeting house on Gallows Hill, near the cemetery, built about 1825; it was removed some years since, and was about two miles





MAIN STREET, BROOKFIELD



north of the Iron Works village; services were held there for twenty years, when they were discontinued. A schoolhouse also stood in the same neighborhood.

### **Cemeteries**

The boundary line between Brookfield and New Milford passes through the Gallows Hill Cemetery, a portion of which lies within the town of Brookfield; this ground was sequestered in 1734, and for many years it was the place of burial for the inhabitants at Iron Works and vicinity, being about two miles above the village. Laurel Hill was set aside later.

## CHAPTER XI

“ A region of repose it seems,  
Remote among the wooded hills !”

—*Longfellow.*

### BROOKFIELD CENTER

It is a quaint old spot like many another New England village, shut away from the noise and bustle of the outside world. It is a place of running brooks, and woods, and meadows, with delightful views of the hills and valleys around about.

The village is located on a hill about midway between Brookfield Iron Works and Brookfield Junction. The village street is somewhat winding and undulating; it is well shaded by fine old trees. At the north end of the street the double row of elms forms a beautiful parkway.

The first settlers came here one hundred and seventy-five years ago or more, but of their early struggles we know but little. In 1743 they were sufficiently numerous to desire a church and schools. The Newtown turnpike was laid out to this place, and it was a post settlement called Newbury.

It will be of interest to the citizens here to-day to revive the old memories concerning the life here so far as we can.

COLONEL ISAAC HAWLEY, born in 1756, was one of the most prominent citizens of Newbury-Brookfield during the early years. He owned some eight or nine hundred acres of land here, and in 1807 built at his own expense the first bridge over the Housatonic River at Southville, where he also owned property and a mill. Colonel Hawley was an enterprising man. He died in 1839, being eighty-three years of age. His daughter was the wife of Charles Sherman, Esq., who lived in the Obtuse District.

Well-preserved portraits in oil of Colonel Hawley and his wife are the property of Mrs. Eli Stevens of Brookfield.

Colonel Hawley built the residence now owned and occupied by Hiram D. Hawley, Esq., at Brookfield Center, and the John A. Peck homestead.

SQUIRE AMOS WHEELER was another of Newbury's important citizens, and "ruled this place" for some years. At a lawful meeting of the inhabitants he was appointed their agent to present the "memorial" for town privileges to the General Assembly in 1788, and to secure the act of incorporation, which duty he discharged.

Amos Wheeler also induced the town to change the Obtuse highway, by which it was laid out on the north side of the Isaac Lockwood place and joined the village street by the side of the Bungalow; previous to

this the Obtuse Road passed to the south of the old Lockwood residence, and following the orchard reached the village street through the garden of Miss Sarah Fairchild. This old road was in reality constructed along the ancient division line between New Milford and Newtown, which was at this point.

### **Taverns**

PRESERVE SMITH, ESQ., was proprietor of a public house, which stood where Mrs. Eliza G. Peck's residence now is. It was a large, rambling house, with a ballroom on the second floor, the scene of many festive occasions in past days. The two brothers of Preserve Smith were Bryant Smith, a lawyer, and Azor Smith, a bachelor who lived north of the Episcopal rectory, near the "bird rock."

SQUIRE DANIEL HAWLEY also kept a tavern near the site of Prof. H. W. Greene's residence, and after his death his widow continued the business; but the day of country taverns is no more, and at the present time Brookfield Center is without a public house.

### **Village Stores**

At the corner of Main Street and Obtuse Road (now the property of Hiram D. Hawley) stood for many years a building which was erected for store

purposes. COLBE CHAMBERLAIN, ESQ., kept a country store here. His successor was ESQUIRE COOKE, who employed as clerks Hanford N. Lockwood and William H. Peck. Mr. Cook later was a merchant in Danbury.

BENJAMIN STARR occupied this building for a cabinet shop for some years, many specimens of his work being still in evidence in this town.

On the opposite side of the street stood for years the little red store occupied by DANIEL JOHNSON for about fifty years. Mr. Johnson also conducted a tailoring business in this store; he lived in the old house nearby, and died in 1864. He was a native of Newtown.

The first floor in Masonic Hall was likewise a store. BOOTH PECK, ESQ., kept this store; he was succeeded by CORNWALL & NORTHROP, and that firm by PECK & FAIRCHILD.

The store erected just north of the town hall was operated by CAPT. SIDNEY HAWLEY & ELMER B. NORTHROP; later by HENRY L. PECK, who was merchant here about thirty years. Upon his death HENRY S. PECK, his son, continued the business and became a leading citizen of the town, a prominent church member, and filled positions of trust elsewhere.

In 1866 the store of DANIEL JOHNSON was replaced by a new building, in which JUDGE BENJAMIN GRIFFEN, his grandson by marriage, conducted a gen-

eral store until 1904. This building was remodeled for residence purpose in 1906.

In 1867 HENRY S. PECK erected a substantial store on the west side of the village street, it being on the site of the PRESERVE SMITH property. The second floor of the building was furnished for public meetings and was so used for various gatherings for many years through the generosity of Mr. Peck and family. ALFRED SOMERS entered into partnership with Mr. Peck in 1867 under the firm name of PECK & SOMERS, which existed for over thirty years. The firm of PECK & Co. succeeded about 1901, Robert W. Greene being the business manager of the company and Robert Badeau clerk. In 1906 WILLIAM F. PINCKNEY purchased the business; his clerks are Robert Badeau and Frank Wildman.

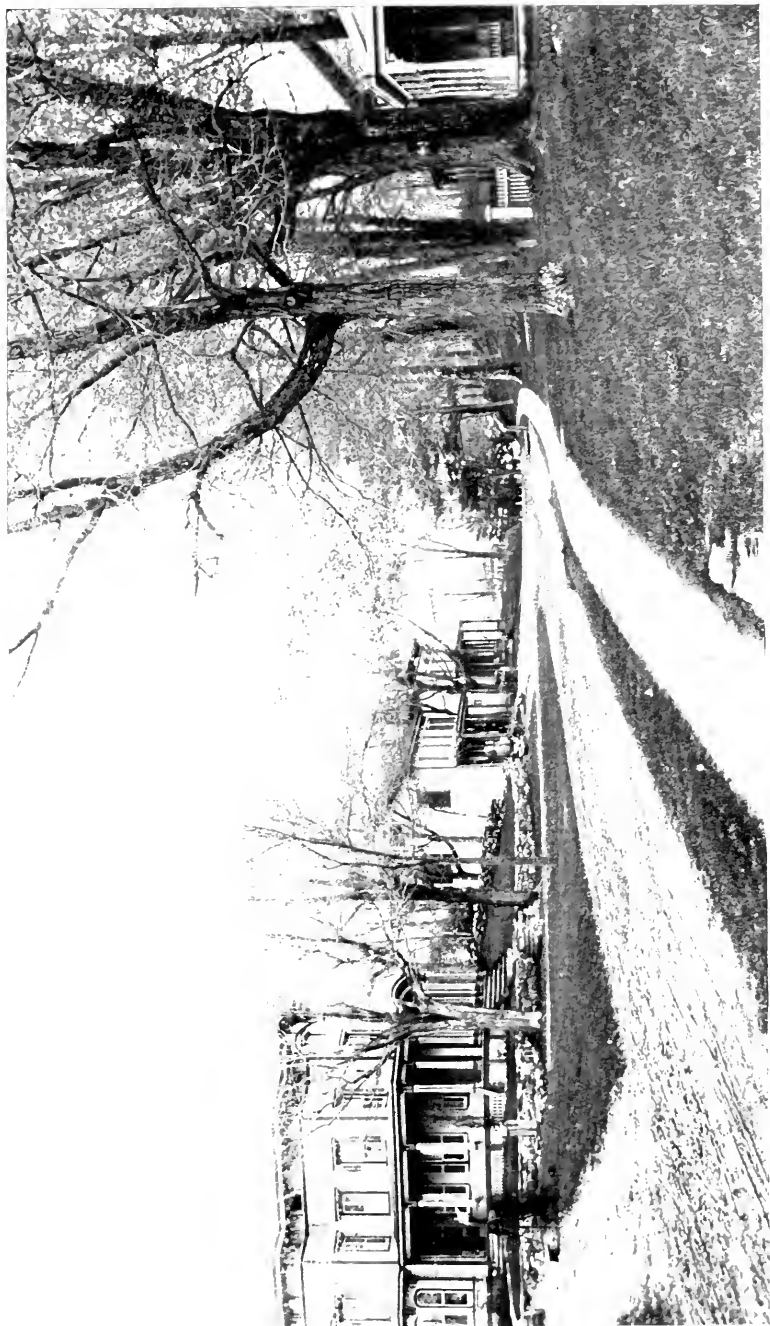
#### Post Office

In 1869 the Brookfield Center office was established by the government. Postmaster ALFRED SOMERS has been in charge to the present time.

To-day the village embraces two churches, one general store and post office, a town hall, a public school, a boarding school, and from forty-five to fifty dwelling houses.

Between the Congregational and Episcopal churches are some six or seven residences. Mrs. Haight occu-





Village Street, Brookfield, Ct.



pies the home of her grandfather, Henry L. Peck, Esq. Hiram D. Hawley and family occupy the Benjamin Starr homestead, a well-preserved house built probably a century ago. The residences of Mrs. Benjamin Griffen and her son, Henry W. Griffen, are opposite. North of the village store is the substantial residence built by Henry S. Peck and now occupied by his wife and daughter; also the Congregational parsonage and the Hiram Fairchild Homestead, now occupied by Miss Sarah L. Fairchild, and the house occupied by William Pinckney.

“THE BUNGALOW.” It would make interesting history if we could record all the persons who have lived in this ancient house, which is doubtless one hundred and fifty years old. I can mention only the following: Amos Wheeler, Esq., who resided in this house in 1788; Anthony Beers, in 1814; Daniel Holley occupied the house soon after, and had a hat shop on the green opposite; Daniel Brush and his son, Homer Brush, owned the place for many years; George Jones and family came to it by inheritance, and a sale of the property was made to E. H. Houseman of Danbury some few years ago. This building contains many curios and relics, the property of Mr. Houseman.

North of the Bungalow are the residences of H. Allen Smith, Esq., Mrs. John W. Sagendorf, who occupies the Dr. William's home, and the Curtis school

buildings, embracing a large dormitory, stone gymnasium and other buildings.

A little east of the main street is the former residence of Isaac Lockwood, Esq., now owned by Benjamin Rippy, our mail carrier for about thirteen years. Isaac Lockwood, Sr., who served in the Revolutionary War, purchased the old homestead in 1785; he also purchased land of the Rev. Thomas Brooks. His son, Isaac Lockwood, Esq., built the present Lockwood place, and reared a large family of sons. One of his sons, Henry Lockwood, held a responsible position with James H. Prentice of Brooklyn. Harmon B. Lockwood, Esq., is the only representative of this family living in this town. After engaging in business in several places he returned to his native town. Mr. Lockwood is a director in the Union Savings Bank, Danbury; takes an interest in the affairs of the day, and spends his winters in the South.

In May, 1907, that portion of the ancient turnpike lying between the Episcopal Church and the former residence of Bryant Smith was closed by vote of the town, and a new highway established north of the residence of Mr. Frederick S. Curtis, connecting the turnpike with the east highway. Mr. Curtis built the new road at his own expense, receiving from the town the land formerly occupied by the closed highway for his own private use.

On the "Hill" are the homes of Mrs. Esther M. Hawley, Mrs. Julia W. Skidmore, Stanley B. Terrill, the Philo Merwin homestead, now occupied by his daughters, Mrs. Kellogg and Miss Julia B. Merwin, the old-fashioned residence owned by Lucius S. Hawley, and further north the Episcopal rectory and the residence of Mrs. Georgiana Williams.

A little further north is the summer cottage of Prof. L. W. Sprague of New York, preacher and lecturer, who contributes much to the intellectual life of the community during his summer vacation.

Frederick Johnson is the owner of the Hawley Sherman farm on the lower road, and also owns the Nearing property.

South of the Congregational Church is the Elmer H. Northrop residence, which has sheltered several generations. Mrs. Cornwall and E. H. Northrop have been lifelong residents here. Elmer H. Northrop, Esq., has held various town offices; namely, first selectman, justice of the peace, grand juror, assessor, highway surveyor, the "safety road" at the Junction being constructed while he was selectman. Mr. Northrop witnessed the laying of the first rails on the Housatonic Railroad in 1840. He served as delegate to the Constitutional Convention. Mr. Northrop was born here October 24, 1828. Also south of the Congregational Church are the residences of John A. Peck, Deacon

Alfred Somers, Mrs. Henry Lake, and the Charles Hawley homestead, now the summer residence of Sidney E. Hawley, the sheriff of Fairfield County. The group of buildings constituting the Greene Summer School of Music is located close by; one of these buildings on the west side of the street, known as the "Back-log," was once the home of Sherman Foote, Esq., also more recently occupied by the Reuben Bailey family. The residence of the late Homer Keeler is just south of this place, and is now the home of Seth F. Keeler, Esq., his son.

Below the village street are the homes of Frank and Charles Pinckney, the latter occupying the Capt. Sidney Hawley place. A "pound" was set up just south of this spot many years ago, and probably served its purpose, when stray or trespassing cattle had to be dealt with.

The home of Frederick Gustafson, once the residence of Timothy Mansfield and family, is just below this spot; also the homes of Robert Badau and John Lee. Frank Keeler and Elof Gustafson live near the brook; these places were both once owned by Beman Fairchild, Esq., one of the wealthiest farmers in this vicinity.

Dwight Camp, Esq., lives on the hill in the house once occupied by Amos Peck, and A. G. Anderson is

the owner of the Peck farm and home. A hat shop once stood nearby, owned by Daniel Holley, Esq.

Close by the turnpike is the old South Cemetery, sequestered about the year 1800, and now but seldom used for interments, the Central Cemetery being the ground in general use for burial purposes by families at the Center. The narrow road running west leads to Sunset Hill, where the extensive view is of the valley, with its winding river, its meadows, and wooded western slopes.

## CHAPTER XII

### THE HILLS

#### Whisconier Hill

Is one of the finest elevations in this town, approaching it from the north a row of maple trees once shaded the highway on the left; years ago there were forty-three of these trees set at regular intervals by some lover of forestry, but they are all gone now. The Bridgeport turnpike runs from north to south over Whisconier Hill and is a broad level roadway. Had the early fathers made selection of this spot for the village street, we can readily see how beautiful the environment would have been, the western outlook being especially far-reaching, the morning sun revealing the gray towers of the castle on mountain-end, "Tarrywile," "Hill-top Farm," and for half a century the spire of the Old First Church (which stood two hundred feet high) until it disappeared May 6, 1907. Whisconier Hill is a place of pleasant houses. The substantial modern residence of Thomas Halpin, Esq., erected a few years since, is one of the most attractive standing in the midst of the well-kept acres of his large farm. A line of stately Lombard poplars of great beauty stood just south of this place years ago, but like all trees of this species they disappeared.



Opposite the schoolhouse the old-fashioned residence on the corner has long been the home of Patrick Collins, Esq., who has here lived his industrious life, and reared an honorable family. Mr. James Lee occupies the attractive home south of the school, with its fine shade trees, broad lawn, and delightful view; this place is the remodeled home of the Anson Smith family. The large residence on the left, below this point, is the home of Mr. Almon H. Taylor, and was built by his father, Thomas Taylor, Esq., the last residence of importance on Whisconier Hill, on this side of the Newtown line, is also the property of Almon H. Taylor, it having been the home of his grandfather, Abel S. The ancestral home of John Hawley is still occupied by members of his family; namely, Frank K. Hawley and family, and Mrs. Clarence Keeler and family. An account of the Bible school conducted here is mentioned elsewhere. It should be mentioned that all members of this family have decided musical ability, inherited from at least three generations of ancestors. One of the earliest pianos manufactured is to be seen in this home, and belonged to the grandmother of Mr. Frank K. Hawley.

The Edson N. Hawley residence is south of the "John Hawley Home." Mr. Hawley was warden in the Episcopal Church at Brookfield for a long period of years, and secretary of the public school board for the

last ten years or more; has also been a prominent member of the Grange. Mr. Clarence Hawley, his son, lives here, and is engaged in agriculture.

The Edwin Smith homestead is now occupied by his daughter, Miss Lucy Smith. The old house in the same yard was the home of Alva Smith, Esq., for many years; both father and son were engaged in the saddle and harness business, the shop standing just opposite their homes being the scene of their labors. Capt. Joseph Smith also lived here.

Jabez Hurd, Esq., kept a tavern on Whisconier Hill; the Patrick Collins place is designated as the site.

On the next hill, westward, is the former home of the Andrews family, Howard Andrews, Esq., being the only representative of the family. Mr. Andrews is a prominent member of the Connecticut Grange and now resides in Cornwall, Conn.

Judge William B. Roe erected his home on the site of his father and grandfather's residence, and is our judge of probate at the present time.

The J. Wesley Wells residence is very pleasantly located, and was once the Andrews homestead; the outlook over Stony Hill is fine.

#### Obtuse Hill

This section of our town, lying east of the Center, has the highest altitude within our borders. Ascend-

ing the first hills, are the residences of the late Cyrenus Peck and Charles Peck, also the home of one of our oldest inhabitants, Daniel Higgins, Esq. From the next hill a general view of our village street may be had, outlined against the sky; here is the well-kept home of Frederick Elsenboss, once the home of Uriah Hayes. Some rods further east is the summit of the Obtuse Hills, where one may look northward over a splendid vista of distant mountains, the lights and shades of the passing day either revealing in bold outlines or softening the far-away hills; there is probably no finer view in Fairfield County than this.

Passing the residence of Charles Stuart, Esq., on the right hand, once the home of the Jackson family, the Four Corners are reached. The residence of Charles Williams stands on the site of the Alonzo Beers homestead; opposite is the Wolcott Northrop place, occupied by Thomas Pettitt; here also is the Lake homestead, owned by Eugene Lake, and the house so long the home of Clark Jackson, Esq., and the village school-house.

Some little distance south the attractive residence of Frederick H. Beers is located, once the home of Horace Beers, Esq. Mr. Beers is a graduate of Trinity College, class of 1889, and the senior warden of the Episcopal Church; his large farm, "Beers-ford," is one of the best in this town.

The Babbitt house is owned by Mr. Beers, and the Amos Camp place by Mr. Wilmont. Mr. William Parker occupies the Starr Skidmore home, and a few rods south the Rufus Skidmore homestead and the Edwin Terrill homestead are now owned by John H. Peck and John S. Peck, respectively. Thomas Bristol's residence is just below. The road leading from Four Corners to Southville and the Housatonic River claims a few dwellings; namely, those of Robert Smith, Esq., an attractive home, and the Gilbert, Roswell, and Petitt places.

The northern part of Obtuse was once the home of the John Stuart family, and of several families long since removed. John Thornhill, Esq., our first selectman, lives here in the home of his father, Samuel Thornhill.

Daniel Murphy occupies the Frank Keeler place.

### Longmeadow Hill

As the name indicates, this is a stretch of meadow land, with glimpses to the east of the wooded slopes within which the Housatonic flows. The highway is broad and straight for a mile or more.

Longmeadow Hill is included in the "Still River Neck." The Still River Neck is the ancient name given to all that elevated ridge lying between the Still

River and the Housatonic River; it includes Longmeadow Hill, Pumpkin Hill, and Prospect Hill, also the ridge east of the Iron Works village.

The families living in the Longmeadow District in days gone by have almost entirely disappeared—the Warners, Baldwins, Fosters, Bristols, Dunnings, Hawleys, Benedicts, Taylors, Shermans, Hamlins, Somers, Ruggles, Merwins, Starrs; descendants of these families are to be found in other places.

Many men, who became very successful in after life, went out from this section of the town. The families were large, and the sons early saw the necessity for starting out in life for themselves.

In 1819 a stone industry was conducted on Longmeadow by James and Stanley Smith, sons of Lyman Smith, at the spot where Edward Starr's home now is; hearthstones, and monuments were cut and lettered and a considerable business done here. A saw mill was located at Hop Brook, and there were fishing rights along the Housatonic River. The farms here are productive. A small school still stands on the rocks by the Hamlin residence, but very few are the children as compared with that great company which in other years gathered there for their elemental training.

Among those now living on Longmeadow may be mentioned the families of William Hamlin, Edward Starr, Charles Bennett, Henry Wildman, Onda Ocif,

John Lee, Frank Drapeau, and others. Ezra Somers is the oldest resident at this times.

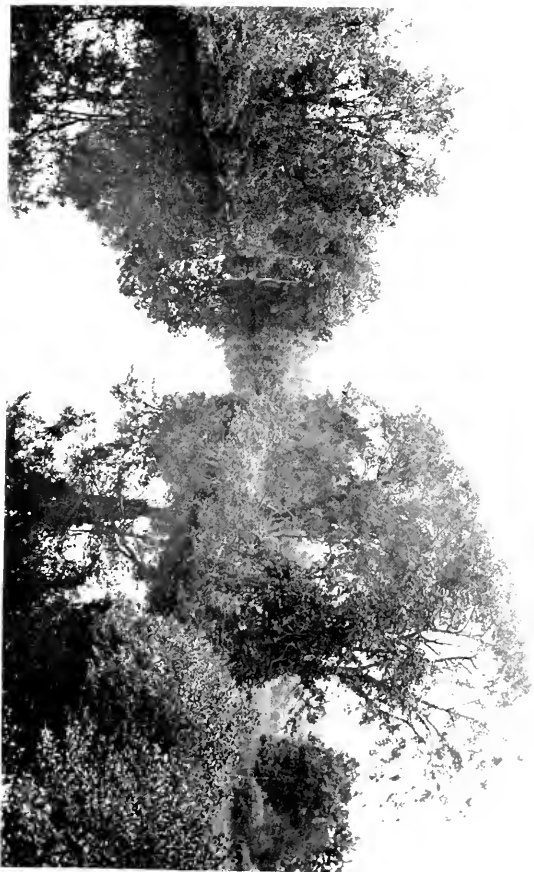
### The Iron Works Hill

This fine ridge was a part of the "Still River Neck," so called. Here are the farms of Henry T. and Percy Hawley, the farm of John Gereg, the Lake homestead, now occupied by Mrs. Gorham, the daughter. The Harry Ruggles homestead is occupied by the family of Albert Thiede. In this house an esteemed former citizen once lived, Robert A. Beers, now of New Haven, whose interest in the people of Brookfield is always a pleasant memory. Mr. Beers was born in Buffalo in 1825. His parents went in 1818 to Wisconsin as pioneers, but in 1823 came to Buffalo, where several of their children were born. His father, Anthony Beers, died in 1835, and his mother removed to Brookfield, her former home, in 1835.

Following this ridge south, where it approaches the Brookfield Center line, is the attractive residence of William Geddes, Esq., long the home of the Levi and Frederick Jones family, and next door is the fine summer home of Stephen Osborne of Bridgeport, once the home of the Benjamin and Emmon Hawley families.

The Curtis Morris place on the lower Iron Works Hill is now the attractive home of John McMahon.





STILL RIVER, BROOKFIELD



The James Barrett home is opposite. The Orson Taylor home is toward the village.

Over the railroad is located a little settlement about the Catholic Church. Here is the home of William O'Hayer and William O'Donnell, and others.

### **Still River Farms and Huckleberry Hill**

From the Junction Hill may be seen several large farms: namely, the farm of the late David Northrop, now owned by his daughters, Miss Julia Northrop and Mrs. Esther Andrews, and managed by William Blackman; the Worden farm, once owned by Garry Northrop, a brother of David Northrop; the Daniel Joyce farm, lying on both sides of the river, one of the largest and most productive in the town; the Frederick S. Frisbie farm, with its well-appointed buildings, once the home of George Peck, Esq.; the Henry L. Foote farm, just south of this property. Mr. Foote for some years was engaged in business in New York City and returned here some time since. A little distance north is the former home of Judge Samuel Sherman and his sisters, once a prominent family in this town. Mr. Sherman was educated at Trinity College for the law. On the west side of Still River, on Huckleberry Hill, is the Levi J. Sturdevant place, with its extensive buildings, and the Hamlin home. Here also is the schoolhouse, and the

Louis Coville home and saw mill, the Wildman homestead, the Barlow home, the Bronson place, the Jones, Bowdy, Corbin, and Morehouse places, and nearer to the New Fairfield line are the homes of Charles Camp, Mrs. Edwin Weld, Miss Bradley, Charles Wildman, and the Ransom place.

## CHAPTER XIII

### HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF BROOKFIELD (Continued)

#### SCHOOLS

Every town having fifty families was required by law to maintain a school in early colonial days, and a school of higher grade in county towns. The selectmen of each town were required to see that heads of families instructed their children and servants to read the English tongue well, likewise to instruct them in religious principles. The penalty was twenty shillings for neglect to comply with this law. The catechism was taught weekly in the schools of the colonies, and each family therein was provided with a copy of the sacred Scriptures.

The legislature provided that the laws governing the colonies be taught in the families of the settlers.

Connecticut for some years contributed to the support of Harvard College (founded in 1638) and young men seeking college education were sent there until Yale College was founded in 1701.

In January, 1756, the Society of Newbury voted to keep a school six months; two months in the New Milford portion of the parish; two months in the Dan-

bury portion, and two months in the Newtown portion. The school committee of the first named district being Lieut. Benjamin Ruggles, David Smith, Peter Hubbell; of the second district, Ronald Bostwick, Benjamin Stevens, John Dunning; of the third district, John Camp, Henry Peck, George Smith.

The school money was raised by a tax of one farthing on the pound on the whole list of the inhabitants. In 1769 four schools are mentioned in Newbury as needing money for their support; namely, South School (Whisconier), Center School, Obtuse School, and Pokono School. In 1774 it was voted by the Society of Newbury that all on the west side of the Still River should be a school by themselves.

Brookfield now has seven and one half school districts; the number of pupils registered one hundred and fifty-two; the number enumerated, between the ages of four and sixteen, being one hundred and ninety-eight. The East and West Iron Works schools were consolidated in 1906, the consolidation taking effect June 15, 1907. The annual expense of maintaining the schools of Brookfield the past year was two thousand four hundred and fifty-five dollars.

The town received from the state to meet the school expenses four hundred and fifty dollars on the enumeration grant, and seven hundred and seventy-one dollars on the average attendance grant; this last grant is

made to all towns whose grand list is below half a million dollars, the object being to help these towns to improve their schools; the only change made in this respect has been to lengthen the school year from thirty-six to thirty-eight weeks.

The officers of the present school board are as follows: President, Frederick H. Beers; secretary and acting visitor, Edson N. Hawley; other members of the board, F. S. Curtis, Dr. C. A. Ryder, S. B. Terrill, C. S. Williams. Mr. E. N. Hawley has served as secretary and school visitor for ten years.

#### Select Schools in Brookfield

In 1799 the selectmen were authorized to pay forty-five dollars, that the upper story of the town hall might be finished off and used for school purposes; and a joint committee from each school district was appointed to secure a teacher to teach this school. Miss Skilton was at one time a teacher employed to teach this school, and later Miss Kate Goodsell. A building erected by Elmer B. Northrop, just north of his residence, was for a time used for select school purposes.

A fund of about four hundred dollars was left by Mrs. Mary Northrop, the income from which was to be devoted to high school purposes. This fund is now held by the town of Brookfield.

In 1840 Mr. Edward Robbins opened a school at the Center, which was in operation for more than ten years, some of the time in Masonic Hall. Mr. Robbins is remembered as an excellent teacher.

Miss Ellen Williams, daughter of Dr. A. L. Williams, taught a private school in her father's residence from 1852 to 1853.

Miss Julia Williams, a normal graduate, conducted a private school in her father's home from 1853 to 1855. Also taught from 1859 to 1865 in St. Paul's School for Boys, Brookfield Center. (Mrs. J. W. Skidmore.)

From 1868 to 1878 a select school was conducted here under the patronage of Mrs. C. V. B. Booraem. The school building was opposite the Episcopal Church.

From 1879 to 1881 Miss Emily C. Hawley taught a private school in the school building now occupied by the Curtis School.

Miss Wilhelmine Skidmore, after a course of study at Windsor and Wellesley College, opened in 1889 a private school in her home, which she conducted for about ten years. Since 1904 Miss Skidmore has been assistant instructor at the Curtis School, Brookfield.

### Boarding Schools

ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL FOR BOYS was founded in 1858 by Rev. Henry D. Noble, at one time Episcopal rector





FREDERICK S. CURTIS  
MASTER OF THE CURTIS SCHOOL



here; the school secured a wide popularity. The school property being the present residences of S. B. Terrill, Esq., and Mrs. Skidmore. This school was conducted for ten years or more, Mr. J. W. Sagendorf being assistant principal during the later years. The double row of beautiful elms at this site was planted by Mr. Noble.

The CURTIS SCHOOL FOR BOYS, established in 1875 by Frederick S. Curtis, a Yale alumnus, was removed from Bethlehem, Conn., to Brookfield Center, Conn., in 1883, and has been a permanent and growing institution here for twenty-four years. Mr. Curtis was located from 1883 to 1886 "on the hill," but in 1886 purchased the present school property of the Goodsell estate, which he has greatly enlarged and beautified. Mr. Curtis, by methods entirely his own, has built up a school which is to-day widely known and of high reputation; pupils from remote parts of the country are students here. The school at present numbers twenty-eight pupils and five instructors beside numerous helpers. The school property comprises a large modern dormitory and home, a schoolhouse, gymnasium, master's study, caretaker's home, and about fifty acres of ground. In November, 1906, a fire destroyed the gymnasium, which has just been rebuilt. The school is unsectarian, but the pupils and teachers attend the Congregational Church, and because of their

numbers and interest have made a place for themselves in the local church.

The "John Hawley Bible Training School" was opened by Rev. Frank K. Hawley in 1895 at his commodious home on Whisconier Hill. The school was in active operation for seven years, the object of school being to train laymen for home and foreign mission work. Six persons went out from the school to the foreign field, among the number Rev. William P. Knapp and wife. Monthly religious services are now conducted by Mr. Hawley at his home, including a summer gathering for conference. Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Keeler are also interested in this work.

### School of Music

In 1901 Prof. Herbert W. Greene of New York City removed his Summer School of Music to Brookfield Center, and during the seven years of its residence here over two hundred pupils have been in attendance, who represent many states. The school property embraces five buildings pleasantly located. A course of instructive lectures and recitals is annually given by the school, the lecturers and artists being of high grade. The department work is as follows: Pianoforte, theory, vocal, organ, violin, sight singing, and art.

## CHURCHES

**Episcopal Society**

January 21, 1785, fifty-five persons lodged a certificate with the clerk of the First Ecclesiastical Society of Newbury, declaring themselves "to belong to the Episcopal Church." They built a church edifice on the triangular spot opposite the residence of Elmer H. Northrop, Esq., where they worshiped until their present church edifice was constructed in 1837.

For a complete list of the rectors of this church see the Addendum. Rev. E. L. Whitcome was the faithful rector of this parish from 1877 to 1906, a period of about thirty years, being closely identified with the interests of this town. He resigned in 1906 and is living at Poughkeepsie, N. Y. Rev. Clarence S. Mullikin became rector of this church early in 1907. Mr. Mullikin is a graduate of Virginia Theological Seminary, class of 1902-03. He was ordained to the diaconate in 1903 and settled in Alaska, remaining one year and a half at Sitka and the same length of time at Skaguay. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1906 by Bishop Rowe. Frederick Beers and Stanley B. Terrill are the wardens of this church, and Charles Stuart is the treasurer of the society.

It is interesting to note at this time that the Episcopal Church in Connecticut celebrated her bi-centennial

in June, 1907, at Stratford, where the First Episcopal Church in Connecticut was organized two hundred years ago.

### **Methodist Society**

In 1837 members of the Methodist faith residing at Southville and Brookfield purchased the old Episcopal edifice and organized a society, worshipping in this building until about 1857, when they built an edifice at Brookfield (Iron Works), which they occupied until 1867, when the society became extinct. Methodist brethren living north of the Iron Works worshiped in this church after services were abandoned at Gallows Hill Church.

### **Reformed Church**

In 1868 Henry B. Hawley, Esq., purchased the Methodist Church edifice and remodeled it.

In 1869 Mr. Hawley invited the Reformed Church of New York City to organize a church. This was done by "class"; twenty persons constituted the original membership, eleven persons coming from the Congregational Church. Sabbath school was gathered February, 1869, consisting of thirty scholars and six teachers. It increased in five years to seventy-five scholars; church membership to about eighty members. During a revival season in 1876 thirty-six persons united with the church on profession of faith.





HENRY B. HAWLEY

The Reformed Church organization existed for sixteen years, or until 1883, with pastors as follows: Rev. Sanford W. Roe, Rev. Ransford Wells, D. D., Rev. F. E. Allen, Rev. F. M. Bogardus. Ordained elders were: H. B. Hawley, R. G. Knapp, J. F. Bennett. Deacons were Hiram Manville and A. S. Osborne.

### **Episcopal Mission**

In 1883 Mr. Hawley removed to Danbury and invited the Episcopal and Congregational churches to assume charge of the religious services at the Reformed Church edifice. Rev. E. L. Whitcome, rector of the Episcopal Church, accepted and for more than twenty years conducted Sabbath day services in this church (from 1884 to 1906). Rev. C. S. Mullikin has continued the services since 1907.

Mr. John Bateman has been the faithful superintendent and chorister for more than thirty years, during the period of Reformed Church and present mission.

### **Baptist Church**

In 1846 the Baptist Church edifice was built. Rev. William Biddle was the first pastor and remained so until 1854. He resided near the church until his death in 1877 and frequently preached in this church.

Building was converted into a dwelling a few years since.

### **Catholic Church**

About the year 1867 the Catholic community at Brookfield gathered for religious services in the home of Mrs. Mary Meaney, and for twenty-five years her home was their meeting place. This mission at that period was in the parish of Newtown.

In 1892 St. Joseph's Catholic Church was built here. Since 1881 this church has been within the parish of New Milford, and Rev. John Burke, curate, and Father T. J. Cronin officiate. The present membership is about two hundred.

### **PHYSICIANS**

DR. PRESERVE WOOD was the first resident physician in Newbury-Brookfield; he is frequently mentioned in the Society records, being prominent in the affairs of Newbury. Dr. Wood was born in Danbury in the year 1756. He was the grandson of Danbury's first physician, Dr. Samuel Wood, who came from England. I am unable to ascertain the number of years he practiced in Newbury, but judge that it was twenty-five at least. Dr. Wood died in Brookfield in 1806 and was interred in the South Cemetery; his brother, Dr. John Wood, was practicing physician in Danbury.



DR. PHILO MERWIN, born on the site of the present Merwin residence in the year 1765, practiced medicine in this town for thirty years; he studied with Dr. Preserve Wood. In 1825 Dr. Merwin retired from active practice, but was called in consultation up to the time of his death in 1844. He lived to the age of eighty-three years.

DR. LEMUEL THOMAS practiced in Brookfield at one time, but removed to New Milford, where he died in 1798. He was born in Newtown, Conn.

DR. ARZA CANFIELD was born in 1798. He came from Bridgewater and practiced here, where he died in 1826, in his twenty-eighth year. He was interred at South Cemetery.

DR. ELI PERRY was practicing physician in the early days of the town. He lived on the site where Benjamin Hawley built a residence in 1854, now the home of Stephen Osborne, Esq.

NOAH LACEY, M. D., practiced in Brookfield many years. His residence is now owned by Lucius S. Hawley. Dr. Lacey was a man of ability; he was a member of the Constitutional Convention which formulated our state constitution in 1818. He died in Wisconsin, being nearly one hundred years of age. Three of his sons were physicians—Edwin Lacey, William F. Lacey, Thomas Lacey. Dr. Edwin practiced in

Brookfield, Dr. W. F. in Danbury, and Dr. Thomas in Racine, Wis.

DR. CHAUNCEY STEWART, who came from Sherman to this town, was resident physician in 1830-1833 and later.

DR. CHAMBERLAIN was also engaged in medical practice in Brookfield. I believe that he lived where Hiram D. Hawley now resides.

DR. EDWIN LACEY, son of Dr. Noah Lacey, was born in Brookfield. He lived and practiced his profession in the house formerly used as an Episcopal rectory, and removed when present rectory was built. His brother, W. F. Lacey, M. D., was practicing physician in Danbury from 1844 to time of his death.

DR. AMOS L. WILLIAMS located in Brookfield in March, 1833, his professional life here extending over sixty-three years. Dr. Williams was born in 1811 in Lebanon, Conn. He studied with his brother, Dr. W. C. Williams of Roxbury, Conn., for two years, and in 1831-32 attended a course of medical lectures in New Haven, after which he was licensed to practice. In a few months Dr. Williams located in Brookfield. In 1840 he attended a course of medical lectures and was graduated from Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, Pa. Dr. Williams was widely known and





JUNUS F. SMITH, M. D.  
FOR SEVENTEEN YEARS PHYSICIAN IN BROOKFIELD

highly esteemed. He served the town in various capacities for more than half a century, being medical examiner, postmaster, registrar, and in 1883 represented the town in the legislature, being a member of the committee on humane institutions. Dr. Williams died in 1896 in his eighty-fifth year, being the oldest member of the Fairfield County Medical Society.

DR. JUNIUS F. SMITH located in Brookfield in 1890. He was born in New Marlboro, Mass., in 1865. In 1887 he commenced the study of medicine with Dr. W. S. Watson of Danbury, Conn., and entered the Long Island College Hospital in Brooklyn in the year 1887, from which he graduated in 1890. Dr. Smith also received a post graduate course in New York City and took a position on the staff of the Manhattan Eye and Ear Hospital for several years. In 1898 Dr. Smith opened offices in Danbury, which he continued until the time of his death. Dr. Smith's professional life in Brookfield extended over seventeen years, and he was regarded as a physician of skill and ability. Dr. Smith was a member of Fairfield County Medical Society, and the state society. In 1906 Dr. Smith was elected to represent Brookfield at the General Assembly. His death occurred in Brookfield April 22, 1907, in his forty-second year.

DR. ARTHUR W. GRISWOLD practiced here, residing

at the Iron Works, for a few years. He left Brookfield about 1902.

DR. CHARLES A. RYDER commenced the practice of medicine in Brookfield February, 1904. Dr. Ryder was born in Redding in 1874; prepared for college at Betts Academy, Stamford, Conn.; graduated from Yale University Medical School in 1898; was *interne* for one year in the Willard Parker and Riverside Hospital, New York City. Practiced medicine in Waterbury four years, and at Cornwall-Bridge one year previous to locating in Brookfield.

DR. OTIS W. SEDGEWICK commenced the practice of medicine in Brookfield in the spring of 1907 in the office of Dr. Smith.

## CHAPTER XIV

### TOWN AFFAIRS CONTINUED

#### Revolutionary War

The first military company was organized in Newbury-Brookfield in 1761. The General Assembly appointed Capt. Joseph Ruggles, Jr., the captain of this company; he was then thirty years of age. This military company served under Wooster at Danbury in 1777. Pastor Brooks was without doubt an ardent defender of the Declaration of Independence, as I find that he appeared before the town clerk at Newtown in October, 1777, and then and there took the oath of fidelity to this declaration.

Four of Pastor Brooks' sons served in the Continental army. One of these sons, Samuel Lewis Brooks, born in 1750, commanded a battery of artillery under General Washington at West Point; also served under General Lafayette and was with him at the siege of Yorktown. He died in 1846, being ninety-six years of age. A complete list of men who served in this war from Newbury may be found in "Men of the Revolution in the Continental Army."

**War of 1812**

In 1812 Lieutenant Ruggles, descendant of Capt. Joseph Ruggles, Jr., headed a company of volunteers and went to New London for service.

Congress in 1818 adopted the flag designed by Captain Reid, a Fairfield County man.

In 1840 the Fairfield East Association of Ministers opposed the idea of holding a convention of ministers in Hartford to discuss and take action on the slavery question.

The writer's father has related to her that in 1837, when an anti-slavery sermon was being delivered from the pulpit of this church, his father leading him by the hand, and in company with other men, left the church. These men subsequently became strong anti-slavery men.

**War of the Rebellion, 1860-1865**

Fifty-seven men enlisted from Brookfield, and ten died in the service of their country. William H. H. Williams, son of Dr. Williams, entered the navy as assistant quartermaster; he became later quartermaster; he was presented with a sword by the townspeople. Major Williams now resides in New York.

The ladies of this town frequently met to sew for the soldiers and to assist in supplying them with comforts.



I find on the church records in 1864 the following: "It was voted at a church meeting that Miss Augusta Pugsley be sent to the hospital to assist in the care of wounded soldiers." Whether Miss Pugsley undertook this work or not I do not know. The writer can recall, as a little child, the death of Lincoln. Riding with my parents from New York City to this town the morning following this dreadful event, I remember the excited and sorrowful crowds of people at every station. A great man had fallen, for, as Maurice Thompson wrote of him:—

"He was the Southern mother leaning forth,  
 At dead of night to hear the cannon roar,  
 Beseeching God to turn the cruel North  
 And break it that her son might come once more;  
 He was New England's maiden, pale and pure,  
 Whose gallant lover fell on Shiloh's plain;

. . . . .

He was the North, the South, the East, the West,  
 The thrall, the master, all of us in one;  
 There was no section that he held the best;  
 His love shone as impartial as the sun."

. . . . .

### The Spanish-American War, 1898

The Spanish-American War of 1898, undertaken by our government to free Cuba from the yoke of Spanish

misrule, was of such brief duration, happily, as not to demand the service of volunteers from this community, although men were called into the service from neighboring towns.

John W. Sagendorf of Brookfield went to Cuba, being employed as clerk to the assistant quartermaster of a transport which conveyed United States troops to and from the island. His position was a civil service appointment.

### Representatives

The charter under which Connecticut lived from 1662 to 1818 provided that the legislative power be vested in two branches, the Council and House of Representatives. The old towns were entitled to two representatives elected in the spring and fall, being chosen for six months each; but after 1818 there was but one stated session, in May. After the change in the constitution in 1876 the session was in January. Brookfield's first representatives were Henry Peck and Joseph Smith. It was no small undertaking for the representatives of the early days to discharge the duties of their office; the journey to and from the legislature was taken by private conveyance, sometimes on horseback, all of which necessitated long journeys and protracted absence from their homes. For a complete list of town representatives see Addendum.

### Probate Court at Brookfield

Previous to the year 1850, all estates settled in this town were probated at Newtown. Newtown was a part of the probate district of Danbury from 1744 to 1820; therefore, up to 1820 the records of Brookfield estates are to be found at Danbury, and from 1820 to 1850 at Newtown. In the year 1850 a probate district was established for Brookfield, and the first estate probated here was that of Mrs. Philena Wildman, who died at the Iron Works in November, 1850, and was interred at Gallows Hill Cemetery.

### Judges of Probate in Brookfield

JUDGE EBENEZER BLACKMAN was the first judge of this district, serving from 1850 to 1859.

JUDGE CURTIS MORRIS served from 1859 to 1867.

JUDGE ROBERT G. KNAPP followed from 1867 to 1869.

JUDGE HOMER LAKE, elected in 1869; died soon after.

JUDGE HENRY O. LAKE served from 1869 to 1873.

JUDGE SAMUEL SHERMAN held the office from 1873 to 1874.

JUDGE BENJAMIN GRIFFEN, elected in 1874, served until 1905, a period of thirty-one years. Judge Griffen

was an efficient and valuable incumbent of this office. He died September, 1906.

JUDGE HENRY W. GRIFFEN, his son, occupied the office from 1905 to 1907.

JUDGE WILLIAM B. ROE was elected to the office in 1907. Judge Roe is the grandson of the first probate judge of Brookfield, and the ninth judge in this probate district. Judge Roe has held various town offices, and brings to this office experience and legal knowledge.

From 1850 to 1876 the probate judge was elected annually; since 1876 the term has been two years.

It may be here stated that previous to our incorporation in 1788, some estates may have been settled in New Milford. If so, they would be found in Woodbury Probate Records, as New Milford was included in that district up to 1789.

### Population

In 1810 I find that the town of Brookfield had a population of 1,037; a company of militia; two grain mills; a fulling mill; four taverns; a social library; one physician; two clergymen; two attorneys; several quarries were in operation.

In 1840, the population of Brookfield numbered 1,415; in 1844 it was reduced to 1,250.

The last enumeration showed 1,060. In common with a large number of the New England country towns there has been a slow but sure decline in population, and a change in the character of the community life. Other types are manifest, and these elements are shaping themselves into a new American character, which must solve new problems, even as those of earlier generations solved those of the formative period of New England life.

### Railroads

In 1840 Brookfield came into connection with the outside world by railroad, as during this year the Housatonic Railroad was constructed from Bridgeport to New Milford, largely through the enterprise of Alfred M. Bishop, Esq. In 1842 this road was continued to the state line. The Housatonic was one of the first railroads constructed in the country. At Bridgeport passengers took boat to New York City. The writer's father has often related his first ride by rail from this town to Bridgeport in 1840, he being a lad of thirteen years was accompanied by his older sister (afterward Mrs. L. A. Weed). The trip was made in open cars and fraught with more or less excitement, inasmuch as the iron strap which was used as a rail would occasionally become loose and the car leave the

track. The journey, however, was made without serious disaster. In the year 1869 Brookfield was connected by rail with Danbury, the road being long known as "The Dummy" road; very amusing are the experiences related by those who first became the patrons of this road, as the dummy engine sometimes refused to work. Seventeen years later this branch railroad was leased by the Housatonic. The Danbury & Norwalk Railroad, constructed in 1852, was also leased by the Housatonic road in 1886. The entire Housatonic system passed into possession of the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad in 1892. Charles S. Mellen is president of this system at this date.

#### Federal Lodge

Brookfield had a Masonic lodge. It was known as Federal Lodge, No. 41, and was chartered November 7, 1797. The charter members were Eli Perry, Benjamin Bostwick, Lemuel Hawley, Rufus Sherman, Solomon Warner, Peter Hurd, Benjamin Warner, Nathaniel Ruggles, Jabez Hurd. The first three persons given on the list held respectively the offices of master, senior warden, and junior warden. In 1826 the Congregational Church at Brookfield voted to give Federal Lodge, No. 41, the privilege of erecting a Masonic hall on the north side of the meeting house,

provided they do not locate within twenty-four feet of the church. The lodge did not conclude to build near the church, but erected a two-story hall just south of Hiram Fairchild's residence and on his ground. This building was subsequently used for select school, store, and dwelling, and was removed some years since. Mr. Ira Keeler was one of the last to be interested in this lodge, and in the closing up of its affairs, May 8, 1844, the charter was revoked by the Grand Lodge of Connecticut.

### The Grange

A local Grange was organized here in 1894. It was auxiliary to the Pomona Grange of Fairfield County. The society's headquarters were in Peck's Hall, the use of which was donated by Mrs. Eliza G. Peck. Meetings were held twice during the month. Papers were prepared and delivered by members of the society on various subjects relating to agriculture. This organization was successfully managed for some thirteen years, enjoying a good degree of prosperity; but owing to the removal of some prominent members of the society from the town, and the death of others, it was thought best to discontinue the meetings in the summer of 1907. The hall in which the Grange had conducted its meetings was also, at about this time, used for other purposes.

### Village Improvement Society

At the suggestion of Mr. H. Allen Smith, and very largely through his efforts, a Village Improvement Society was organized here December 2, 1893. The first officers of the society were: President, Hiram D. Hawley; vice president, Alfred Somers; secretary, Minnie Somers; treasurer, Sidney E. Hawley. The executive committee, of which Mr. H. Allen Smith was the chairman, included also Rev. E. L. Whitcome and Stanley B. Terrill, Esq. This committee had the entire work in charge from first to last.

It was decided to construct a sidewalk on the east side of the village street, and the society immediately took steps to raise funds for this purpose. This was accomplished by subscriptions, membership fees, and moneys raised through public entertainments. H. Allen Smith contributed very largely toward the latter, giving illustrated lectures by means of the stereopticon, which were highly entertaining as well as a source of revenue to the society.

A concrete sidewalk, five feet in width and nearly three quarters of a mile in length, has been constructed through the village at Brookfield Center, at a cost of nearly two thousand dollars, including crosswalks.

The society raised about fifteen hundred dollars, and three property owners (Mrs. Skidmore, Esther M. Hawley and Mr. Houseman) paid for the construction



of the walk in front of their respective properties, amounting to about four hundred and fifty dollars additional. The work was done by John P. Beard, Esq., and Benjamin Brothers, all of Danbury, in the years 1898-99, 1900-01 and 1903-04.

The present officers of this society are: President, F. S. Curtis; vice president, S. B. Terrill; secretary, Miss Somers; treasurer, Alfred Somers.

The Village Improvement Society is also credited with securing the first telephone installed in Judge Griffen's office.

## CHAPTER XV

### A FEW SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF BROOKFIELD WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE WORLD'S WORK

#### Ministers and Editors

REV. ALBERT E. DUNNING, editor-in-chief of *The Congregationalist*, the national organ of Congregational churches in this country, was born in Brookfield, Conn., January 5, 1844. A graduate of Yale College, class of 1867, and of Andover Theological Seminary, class of 1870. Mr. Dunning became pastor of Highland Church, Boston, Mass., in 1870 and served the same until 1881, when he was appointed national superintendent of Sunday-school work for Congregational churches. From 1897 to 1902 he was secretary of the International Sunday School Lesson Committee; also connected with the publishing society.

Mr. Dunning is author of the following books: "The Sunday School Library," "Normal Outlines for Sunday Schools," "Bible Studies," "Congregationalists in America," and others. During the eighteen years that Mr. Dunning has been editor of *The Congregationalist* he has placed the paper in the very front rank



REV. ALFRED E. DENNING, D. D.,  
EDITOR OF THE CONGREGATIONALIST.



of religious weeklies, both as to literary merit and as a medium for religious intelligence. Beloit College conferred on Mr. Dunning the degree of Doctor of Divinity in 1889.

Dr. Dunning resides at Brookline, Mass., with business offices in the Congregational House at Boston.

JOSEPH C. SMITH, born in Brookfield September 4, 1865, graduated from Yale University and received degree of A. B. in 1885. Removed to Boston in 1887, and has been connected with *The Boston Globe* ever since. Elected alderman in Medford, Mass., in 1907.

### Missionaries

SAMUEL RUGGLES was born at Brookfield (Iron Works) in 1795; he came of an unusually interesting and brilliant family. Mr. Ruggles early became active in foreign missions, and decided to join a company sailing for the Sandwich Islands. His sister, Lucia Ruggles, who had established a school in Cooperstown, N. Y., married soon after Dr. Thomas Holman (1819), and Samuel Ruggles and wife with Dr. Holman and wife sailed with others from Boston in October, 1819, being the first missionaries sent by the American Board to those Islands. They were five months on the voyage. Mr. Ruggles remained fifteen years, and accomplished a great work, having ability as a translator of languages. Dr. Holman and wife returned in

1822. They were in Bridgeport at the time of Dr. Holman's death in 1826. Mrs. Holman married Daniel Tomlinson, Esq., of Brookfield, a successful man. She died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Hiram Noble of New Milford, in 1886, in her ninety-third year. Mr. Samuel Ruggles returned to Brookfield in 1835, but died at the home of his daughter, years after, in Fort Atkinson.

### Ministers

Other ministers who have gone out from Brookfield in past years are: REV. WILLIAM A. HAWLEY, REV. WILLIAM DIBBLE, REV. B. F. NORTHPROP, REV. STEVENS, REV. PETER SHEPARD, REV. OLIVER TAYLOR, REV. OLIVER ST. JOHN, REV. FRANK LOBDELL, REV. FRANK WHITCOME.

### Physicians Who Went Out from Brookfield

DR. MICHAEL DUNNING BENEDICT was born in 1814 on Stony Hill, Danbury, but spent his youth in Brookfield, and married here. He took a course of lectures in the Medical Department of Yale College, practiced medicine in New Haven, and removed to Skaneateles in 1838, and was a successful physician there for twenty-five years. In 1861 he became army surgeon of the 75th New York Volunteers and served

until December, 1864. In 1865 he was on the Sanitary Commission at Washington, D. C. He settled in Syracuse, N. Y., in 1865, where he remained until his death in 1885. Dr. Benedict was one of the foremost physicians in Onondaga County. He was brother-in-law to Dr. Williams of Brookfield.

DR. WILLIAM F. LACEY, son of Dr. Noah A. Lacey, was born here in 1823. He graduated from Yale Medical School in 1844 and practiced in Danbury, Conn., from 1844 to the time of his death. Of his three brothers two were physicians.

DR. ANSON P. SMITH, son of Anson Smith, is a graduate of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of New York City, class of 1879. Dr. Smith practiced in Brookfield, Sandy Hook, New York, and resides in Nova Scotia.

DR. ELBRIDGE W. PIERCE, whose youth was spent here, graduated from the University Medical School, New York City, in 1885. He settled in Meriden, Conn., in 1885, where he is now practicing his profession. Dr. Pierce is a son of Rev. A. C. Pierce.

DR. HOMER B. JONES, born here, is a graduate of the University Medical School, New York City, class of 1891, practiced in New York City and in Borough of Brooklyn from 1891 to the present time.

DR. GEORGE R. HAWLEY, born here, is a graduate of the Long Island College Hospital, class of 1892. Dr. Hawley served as *interne* one year at this college; practiced medicine one year at Danbury, and in 1894 located in Brooklyn, N. Y., where he has since been engaged in the practice of his profession.

DR. HOWARD P. MANSFIELD, born here in 1863, is an alumnus of the Long Island College Hospital, class of 1893. He settled in Georgetown, Conn., where he practiced medicine until 1901, when he removed to Ridgefield, Conn., where he is now a practicing physician.

DR. JOSEPH MICHAEL COLLINS, born in Brookfield in 1866, is a graduate of New York University, class of 1888. Dr. Collins is a widely known specialist in neuropathy. Dr. Collins has practiced in New York City since 1888.

MARTIN LAWRENCE COLLINS, D. D. S., is a native of Brookfield, born in 1868. He is a graduate of the University of New York, class of 1892; practiced in Rush, N. Y., one year, and in New York City since 1893.

CHARLES S. HALPIN, D. D. S., is a graduate of the New York College of Dentistry, class of 1894. Dr. Halpin practices his profession in the city of Brooklyn, N. Y.



W. D. HALPIN graduated from the College of Pharmacy, New York City, in 1884.

### **Teachers Who Were Born Here and Who Have Been Successful Elsewhere**

MISS ALMIRA J. GRAY was born July 1, 1830, in Brookfield. She has taught forty-six years—fourteen years in Connecticut and thirty-two years in Michigan—resigning her vocation in 1906. She was a teacher in the public schools, except seven years, when she taught in a private school in New Haven. Her present residence is Grand Haven, Mich.

MISS HARRIET E. STEVENS was born in Brookfield. She was teacher and principal of Children's Aid School in New York City from 1863 to 1903, a period of forty years. Miss Stevens' school opened on Canal Street in 1864 with five pupils. In 1888 John Jacob Astor erected a fine school building on Mott Street for Miss Stevens' school, which numbered at that time two hundred pupils, the grade being the same as the public schools of the city. In 1903, when Miss Stevens voluntarily retired from the principalship, her school numbered five hundred pupils and twelve teachers. Her work is of lasting value to thousands. Miss Stevens has traveled extensively here and in Europe.

MISS ELIZABETH STEVENS was born in Brookfield. She was teacher and principal of Children's Aid School, New York City, from 1865 to 1886, a period of twenty-one years. Her school on East 14th Street was under the patronage of Mrs. John Jacob Astor. Miss Stevens was called to be principal of the school on 40th Street, which she served with great efficiency until 1886. Miss Stevens was married to Edward Davidson, Esq., of Hempstead some years ago, and now resides in Hempstead, L. I.

ABNER BRUNDAGE HOLLEY was born in Brookfield November 1, 1834. He was a teacher for more than forty-three years. Mr. Holley taught in the public schools of New York City thirty-nine years, from 1859 to 1876 and again from 1882 to 1904. For twelve years Mr. Holley was a principal. In addition to his regular work he was principal for a time of the largest night school for men in New York City (this was previous to 1876), and for many years thereafter, in conjunction with his regular work, he taught in the night schools of the city. Mr. Holley was regarded as a teacher of unusual excellence. He died May 15, 1904.

F. LILIAN TAYLOR, born in Brookfield, graduated from Mt. Holyoke Seminary in class of 1873. She has taught in Galesburgh, Ill., for many years, and is

a lecturer and author of a series of school readers of much value. Miss Taylor belongs in the first rank as a teacher.

AMELIA I. NORTHPROP, native of Brookfield, taught school in Brookfield Center, Great Plain, and city of Danbury for a period of about ten or fifteen years. Miss Northrop resides in Brookfield, where she has long been a very useful member of this community, entering into church and civic affairs.

PRINCIPAL GEORGE D. NORTHPROP was born in Brookfield Center and commenced his career as teacher in 1875. He has taught thirty-one years as follows: Brookfield two years, Great Plain two years, and has been prominently identified with the public schools of Danbury, Conn., for twenty-seven years. Mr. Northrop has held the following positions in Danbury: Principal of the White Street School two years, principal of the Balmforth Avenue School twelve years, superintendent of the Center District schools ten years, principal of the New Street School three years.

MISS SUSAN WHITCOME, daughter of Rev. E. L. Whitcome, was graduated from Connecticut Normal College in 1881. Miss Whitcome has taught in Litchfield, Clinton and Hartford; also in Poughkeepsie, N. Y. For ten years Miss Whitcome has been

a popular instructor at the Curtis School for Boys, Brookfield Center.

HENRIETTA B. RUGGLES graduated in 1884 from the New Britain Normal School; began teaching in Shelton, Conn., in 1884, and has been a successful teacher in the public school of that city ever since.

MIRIAM TAYLOR is an alumna of the Normal College of New York City, class of 1889. Miss Taylor taught in the Training School of the Normal College from 1889 to 1898, and has been a teacher in the Girls' High School of New York City since 1898.

ANNA THEODORA SKIDMORE, graduate of Wellesley College, class of 1894, taught at Northfield Ladies' Seminary, Massachusetts, from 1894 to 1903; taught in New York City in 1904, and has been professor of mathematics in the High School at Newark, N. J., since 1904.

FLORENCE R. SAGENDORF taught in Brookfield seven years, and entered the New Haven Normal School in 1900, graduating in 1903. She taught in Port Chester in 1903 and in Amenia Union in 1904. (Mrs. Odell.)

CHLOE CURTIS, a graduate of Wellesley College, class of 1900, was a social worker in the city of Boston from 1904 to 1907, a position of responsibility under the State Board of Charities.

**Business Men Who Were Natives of Brookfield**

HIRAM N. PECK, born in Brookfield in 1804, located in New York City, where he became a dealer in importations to and from Russia, and amassed a large fortune. Mr. Peck visited Russia. He was connected with the first Colonel Vanderbilt at one time. Mr. Peck died in 1851.

HENRY WILLIAM PECK was born in Brookfield in 1812, and removed to New York City early in life. He succeeded to the business of Hiram N. Peck, under the name of H. W. Peck & Co.

ARZA CANFIELD PECK, merchant and ship owner of New York City, was born in Brookfield January 8, 1822. Mr. Peck removed to New York in 1843, and entered the employ of H. N. Peck & Co., which firm was succeeded by H. W. Peck & Co., and later by the firm of DeGroot & Peck, engaged in Russian and East Indian goods, and of later years in running their vessels. Mr. Peck's business career in New York extended over a period of sixty-three years. He died March 10, 1906.

EDWARD FAIRCHILD, merchant in Danbury, Conn., and large real estate owner.

E. P. GOODSSELL, business man, and one-time mayor of Bridgeport.

AMOS P. HAWLEY, in active business, first in Boston, later in New York City, for many years he was associated with his brother, John G. Hawley, in the clothing business. At one time Henry L. Foote was a member of the firm, known as Hawley, Foote & Co.

NOBLE FOSTER and HENRY FOSTER were business men in New Haven and New York City.

HENRY and HOMER LOCKWOOD were in business in New York City and Brooklyn.

HEMAN KEELER was in mercantile business in Rome, N. Y.

EZRA KEELER was in manufacturing business in New Jersey.

ISAAC B. BRISTOL was born in Brookfield, Conn., in 1821 and received his early education here. For sixty-six years he was a resident of New Milford, representing his district in the State Assembly six years, and in the Senate two years; besides holding numerous offices in that town. At his death in 1905 Mr. Bristol was president of the First National Bank, also president of the Savings Bank, both of New Milford. Mr. Bristol married for his second wife Miss Lizzie Allen, at one time a resident of Brookfield.

HENRY B. HAWLEY was born here in 1826. He engaged for a short time in mercantile business at New

Milford, which he sold in 1853 to Charles C. Noble. He went to Brooklyn the following year and remained in New York City from 1854 to 1868 in the clothing business. He engaged in manufacturing business at Brookfield from 1868 to 1880; was actively engaged in religious work at Brookfield from 1868 to 1883, and established a prosperous mission work in Danbury from 1883 to 1894. Mr. Hawley was an earnest advocate of temperance and devoted time and means to that reform. He died in 1894.

GEN. SAMUEL E. MERWIN was born in Brookfield in 1831 and removed to New Haven in 1847, where he died in 1907, in his 76th year. General Merwin was one of the best known citizens of New Haven. He was president of the Yale National Bank for years, and president of the New Haven Savings Bank at the time of his death. In 1876 General Merwin represented the fourth senatorial district in the legislature. In 1888 he was chosen lieutenant governor on the ticket with Governor Bulkeley. General Merwin twice received the Republican nomination for governor, in 1899 and in 1892. He was captain of the New Haven Grays during the Civil War and adjutant-general of the state from 1868 to 1872. He was chairman of the committee which erected on East Rock the beautiful soldiers' monument. General Merwin held numerous private and public trusts.

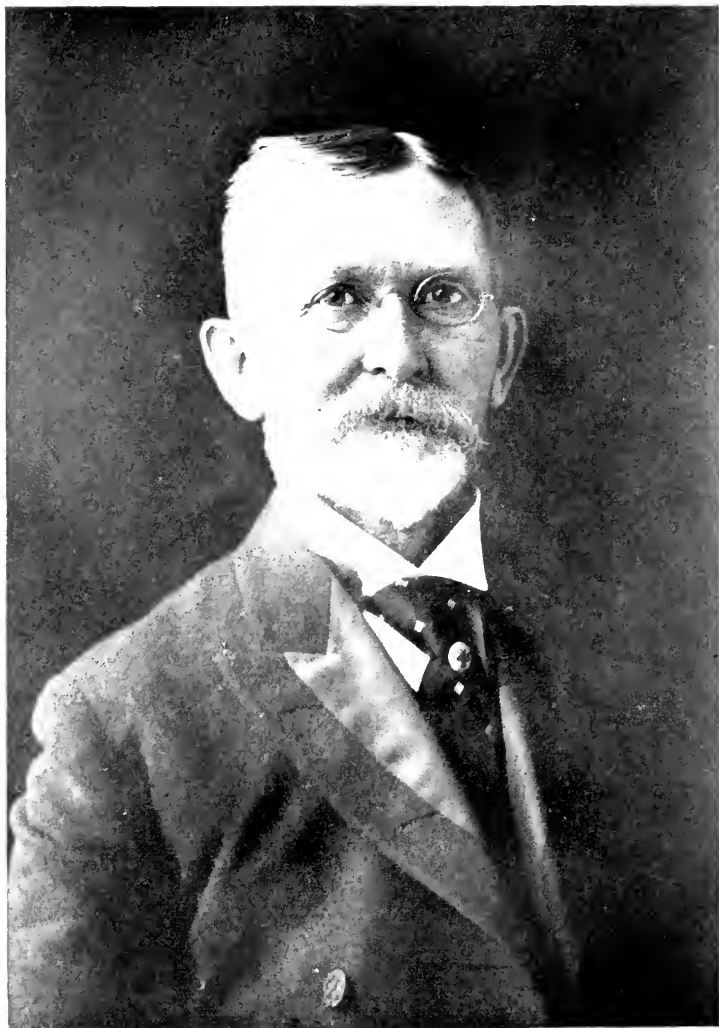
SAMUEL C. HOLLEY, born in Brookfield in 1832, has been a resident of Danbury, Conn., for fifty years. From 1866 to 1873 Mr. Holley was director of Union Savings Bank, being one of the original incorporators of said bank. Since 1873 he has been president of this bank, a period of thirty-four years. In 1862 Mr. Holley became engaged in the manufacture of hats, and for forty-five years has been actively connected with that industry in Danbury. In 1887, when the Danbury and Bethel Street Railway was organized, Mr. Holley became a director, serving for three years, and in 1890 was elected president of the road, which office he has filled for seventeen years. Mr. Holley is connected with various other interests in the city of Danbury.

ATTORNEY SAMUEL SHERMAN was born in Brookfield in 1828. He was graduated from Trinity College in 1850; was admitted to the bar in 1852, and practiced law in New York City until 1872. Mr. Sherman returned to his native town, where he resided until his death in 1901, in his seventy-third year.

Mr. Sherman was an active member of the Episcopal Church and an officer in the same. He was a man generally informed on the questions of the day, which he enjoyed discussing with his friends, and took a lively interest in the affairs of this town. He married Miss Mercedes Montejo of Cuba.







SIDNEY E. HAWLEY  
SHERIFF OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY

BARZILLAI B. KELLOGG, ESQ., although residing in New Fairfield, was a lifelong member of the Episcopal Church in Brookfield Center and prominently identified with its interests. Mr. Kellogg was a highly esteemed business man, and at the time of his death was president of the National Pahquioque Bank of Danbury, Conn., now the City National Bank.

HIRAM D. HAWLEY, born in 1829, left Brookfield to engage in mercantile business early in life. During the Civil War he was with the 10th Connecticut regiment. Mr. Hawley has been for nearly forty years commercial traveler for the Francis H. Leggett Company of New York City, and has led a very active life. He left New Haven some years ago and took up his residence here on the Benjamin Starr place, which he has greatly beautified. He has also manifested great interest in local town improvements.

CHARLES SEELEY HAWLEY was born in Brookfield in 1836. Mr. Hawley has been actively engaged in business for fifty years in New York City.

SHERIFF SIDNEY E. HAWLEY was born here in 1844. He represented the town of Brookfield in the legislature from 1887 to 1889. Mr. Hawley was elected sheriff of Fairfield County, and took office June 1, 1895. After serving the county for three consecutive terms, or twelve years, Sheriff Hawley was again re-

elected and entered on his fourth term June 1, 1907. Sheriff Hawley is regarded as a valuable incumbent of this office.

FREDERICK B. ROE, son of Harvey Roe, was a native of Brookfield, born in 1845. Mr. Roe was a civil engineer and publisher.

ELMER CORNWALL, son of George Cornwall, was born here in 1849. Mr. Cornwall has been in business in Bridgeport for many years.

HON. WILSON H. PIERCE, whose youth was spent in Brookfield, was graduated from Yale University in 1881, from Yale Law School in 1885. Attorney Pierce located in Waterbury in 1888, where he has since been engaged in the practice of law. As clerk of the city court and member of the board of education he has served the city of Waterbury. For ten years he served New Haven County as prosecuting agent. He was also president of the University Extension Society of that city. Mr. Pierce is a son of Rev. A. C. Pierce, a former pastor.

PROF. CHARLES B. HAWLEY, musical composer and basso of New York City, was born in 1858 on Whisconier Hill. For twenty years Mr. Hawley was musical director and solo bass in the Broadway Tabernacle, New York City. Professor Hawley is a composer of wide reputation.

Among the younger men who have entered business and gone out from Brookfield may be mentioned:—

RICHARD MEANEY, who is in business in Danbury. Mr. Meaney has been superintendent of public works in that city, also alderman. He is a prominent member of St. Peter's Church.

WILLIAM H. HAWLEY was born here in 1858. He took a course at Eastman's Business College, Poughkeepsie, and engaged in the drug business some years at Danbury, Conn., later was commercial traveler for the Dr. Kilmer Company of Binghamton, N. Y. Mr. Hawley died in 1893.

JOHN G. HAWLEY resides in Hartford, Conn., where he has been engaged in business for many years, being connected with the Capewell Horse Nail Company in a responsible capacity.

EDWIN M. SOMERS has been engaged in business for some years in the city of New Haven, Conn., where he is a successful merchant.

EDWIN P. JONES, son of Frederick Jones, Esq., is a business man in the city of Boston, residing in West Roxbury, Mass.

EDWARD GRIFFEN is an accountant, and in this capacity has been connected with several business houses. He resides in Brooklyn, N. Y.

HENRY B. HAWLEY, JR., engaged in the confectionery business at Stamford, Conn., in 1895. In April, 1902, Mr. Hawley opened a real estate office in Danbury, Conn., in which city he is active as a successful real estate broker. He is a member of the Danbury Business Men's Association and secretary of the Board of Trade Committee of that association.

ROBERT R. HAWLEY has held clerical positions in Brookfield, Bridgeport, Hartford and Boston, where he now resides.

ERNEST GRIFFEN occupies a clerical position with the Windsor Hotel, Bridgeport, Conn.

PAUL JONES is a governmental photographer in the New York Custom House.

HENRY W. GRIFFEN has for some years been in the employ of the Southern New England Telephone Company at Danbury. He resides in Brookfield.

GERALD CURTIS, after taking a course of study at Columbia College, N. Y., entered business.



HENRY B. HAWLEY, JR.





## THE ADDENDUM



## FIRST ECCLESIASTICAL SOCIETY AND CHURCH

### Pastors

- Rev. Thomas Brooks, 1757-1799.  
Rev. Erastus Ripley, 1800-1801.  
Rev. Richard Williams, 1807-1811.  
Rev. Bela Kellogg, 1813-1816.  
Rev. Abner Brundage, 1821-1839.  
Rev. Dan C. Curtiss, 1843-1855.  
Rev. Thomas N. Benedict, 1859-1862.  
Rev. P. H. Hollister, 1862-1864.  
Rev. F. Munson, 1864-1870.  
Rev. A. C. Pierce, 1870-1888.  
Rev. H. B. Mead, 1889-1892.  
Rev. George W. Lawrence, 1893-1895.  
Rev. Cyrus W. Francis, 1895-1904.  
Rev. Marion L. Burton, 1904-1907.

### Clerks

- Jeremiah Northrop.  
Liverius Hawley.  
Samuel Ruggles.  
Henry Peck.  
Daniel Cook.  
Colbe Chamberlain.  
Philo Merwin.  
Samuel Merwin.  
Heman Burch.  
Elijah Starr.

Daniel Holley.  
Peter Hubbell.  
Benjamin Hawley.  
Sidney Hawley.  
Hiram Fairchild.  
Benjamin Starr.  
Alfred Somers.  
E. H. Northrop.  
H. S. Peck.  
Benjamin Starr.  
F. S. Curtis, since 1887. Society.  
Miss J. W. Skidmore, since 1890. Church.

#### Deacons

Joseph Ruggles.  
John Dunning.  
Joseph Smith.  
Henry Peck.  
Abraham Camp.  
Samuel Merwin.  
Matthew Baldwin.  
Michael Dunning.  
Levi Dibble.  
Ashbel Dunning.  
\*Abel S. Taylor.  
Luther Smith.  
Alfred Somers.  
William H. Skidmore.  
Enoch W. Ford.  
Orson J. Taylor.  
Frederick S. Curtis.

**Officers of the Church in 1907**

Deacons, Alfred Somers, Frederick S. Curtis.

Clerk, Miss Wilhelmine Skidmore.

Treasurer, William H. Blackman.

Church Committee, the Pastor, *ex officio*, the Deacons,  
*ex officiis*, Clarence E. Vroman, Almon H. Taylor,

Mrs. Eliza G. Peck, Mrs. Albertina G. Wetmore.

Auditor, Frederick S. Curtis.

Trustees, Alfred Somers, Sidney E. Hawley.

Choir Director, Herbert W. Greene.

Organist, Miss Minnie Somers.

Ushers, Austin Smith and Lucius S. Hawley.

**Sunday School**

Superintendent, Clarence E. Vroman.

Secretary and treasurer, Miss Wilhelmine Skidmore.

Librarian, Miss Amelia I. Northrop.

**Ladies' Industrial Society**

President, Mrs. Ida J. Curtis.

Secretary, Miss Amelia I. Northrop.

**Women's Foreign Missionary Auxiliary**

President, Mrs. Rachel A. Geddes.

Secretary and treasurer, Miss Julia W. Skidmore.

**Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor**

President, Lewis Smith.

Secretary, Miss Kathleen Smith.

**Officers of the Society**

Clerk, Frederick S. Curtis.

Committee, Frederick S. Curtis, Frederick S. Frisbie,  
Clarence E. Vroman.

Treasurer, William H. Blackman.

**Superintendents of Congregational Sabbath School**

Organized about 1831

First officers unknown.

Hiram Fairchild.

Abel S. Taylor.

Sidney Hawley.

Joshua Davis.

Henry B. Hawley, 1862.

William H. Skidmore, 1864.

Alfred Somers, 1865-66.

Henry S. Peck, 1867-68.

Alfred Somers, 1869-74.

Almon Taylor, 1875-76.

Alfred Somers, 1877.

A. Williams, 1878.

Alfred Somers, 1879-86.

C. E. Vroman, 1887-91.

Alfred Somers, 1892.

Almon Taylor, 1893.

Rev. Mr. Lawrence, 1894.

Alfred Somers, 1895.

C. E. Vroman, 1896.

Alfred Somers, 1897-98.

Mrs. C. W. Francis, 1899-1903.

C. E. Vroman, 1904-07.

### Superintendent of Home Department

Organized about 1890

Miss Florence Vroman, 1890-94.

Mrs. Skidmore, 1895-97.

Rev. C. W. Francis, 1898-1904.

William Blackman, 1905-07.

### Christian Endeavor Society Presidents in Part

H. E. Tuttle.

C. E. Vroman.

Eliza G. Peck.

Charles Kellogg.

Junius F. Smith.

Frank Kellogg.

E. H. Taylor.

Theodora Skidmore.

William Blackman.

Nellie Smith.

Cyrus W. Francis.

Wilhelmine Skidmore.

Ellen P. Vroman.

Lucius S. Hawley.

Lawrence Curtis.

Lewis Smith.

DATE OF ORGANIZATION OF NEIGHBORING  
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCHES, AND  
FIRST PASTORS

Church in Stratford, 1640, Rev. Adam Blakeman,  
pastor 25 years.

First Church in Bridgeport, 1695, Rev. Charles  
Chauncey, pastor 19 years.

First Church at Danbury, 1696, Rev. Seth Shove, pas-  
tor 39 years.

\*Church at Newtown, 1715, Rev. Thomas Toucey,  
pastor 9 years.

Church at New Milford, 1716, Rev. Daniel Boardman,  
pastor 28 years.

Church at Huntington, 1724, Rev. Jedediah Mills,  
pastor 52 years.

Church at Trumbull, 1730, Rev. Richardson Miner,  
pastor 13 years.

Church at Redding, 1733, Rev. Nathaniel Hunn, pas-  
tor 16 years.

Church in Bethlehem, 1740.

Church in New Fairfield, 1742, Benajah Case, pastor  
16 years.

Church in Washington, 1742, Reuben Judd.

Church in Sherman, 1744, Thomas Lewis.

Church in Roxbury, 1744, Thomas Canfield.

Church in Brookfield, 1757, Rev. Thomas Brooks,  
pastor 42 years.

Church in Bethel, 1760, Rev. Noah Wetmore, pastor  
24 years.



Church in Monroe, 1764, Rev. Elisha Rexford, pastor  
43 years.

### PASTORS OF EPISCOPAL CHURCH, BROOKFIELD

Rev. Philo Perry, 1785-98.  
Rev. Daniel Burhans, D. D., 1798-1812.  
Rev. Benjamin Benham, 1812-28.  
Rev. Joseph Covell, 1829-36.  
Rev. Shimeal, 1836-37.  
Rev. David H. Short, 1838-39.  
Rev. E. C. Bull, 1839-42.  
Rev. Edward Ives, 1842-44.  
Rev. H. D. Noble, 1844-58.  
Rev. J. E. Goodhue, 1863-69.  
Rev. Levi B. Stimson, 1869-72.  
Rev. Frank B. Lewis, 1872-73.  
Rev. F. A. Fiske, 1873-76.  
Rev. E. L. Whitcome, 1877-1906.  
Rev. C. S. Mullikin, 1907-

### REPRESENTATIVES

Henry Peck, 1788.  
Capt. Joseph Smith, 1789.  
Henry Peck, 1789-90.  
Joseph Smith, 1790-91.  
Henry Peck and Daniel Cook, 1792.  
Amos Wheeler and Benjamin Bostwick, 1793.  
Amos Wheeler and Timothy Ruggles, 1794.

- Daniel Cook and Preserve Wood, 1795.  
Amos Wheeler and Isaac Hawley, 1796.  
Amos Wheeler, 1797-98.  
Jesse Noble, 1798.  
Daniel B. Clark, 1799.  
Eli Perry and Daniel Cook, 1800.  
Jesse Noble and George Smith, 1801-02.  
Jesse Noble and Liverius Hawley, 1803.  
G. C. Smith and Jesse Noble, 1804.  
Jesse Noble, G. C. Smith, and Thomas White, 1805.  
William Meeker and Liverius Hawley, 1806.  
Liverius Hawley and G. C. Smith, 1807.  
Isaac Hawley and Liverius Hawley, 1808.  
George Smith and Daniel Tomlinson, 1809.  
Riverius Hawley, 1810.  
Riverius Hawley and Liverius Hawley, 1811.  
Daniel Tomlinson, 1812.  
Daniel Tomlinson and Liverius Hawley, 1813.  
Liverius Hawley and William Meeker, 1814.  
Noah Lacey and Daniel Tomlinson, 1815-16.  
Noah Lacey and Zerah Peck, 1817.  
William Meeker and Heman Burch, 1818.  
Czar Starr, 1819.  
William Meeker, 1820.  
Czar Starr, 1821.  
William Meeker, 1822.  
Stephen Gregory, 1823.  
Eli Ruggles, 1824.  
William Meeker, 1825.  
Eli Ruggles, 1826.  
John B. Sanford, 1827.

Daniel Tomlinson, 1828.  
Stephen Gregory, 1829.  
Zerah Peck, 1830-31.  
Ebenezer Wanser, 1832.  
Bryant Smith, 1833.  
Aram F. Shepard, 1834.  
Stephen Gregory, 1835.  
Benjamin Hawley, 1836.  
John Hawley, 1837.  
Czar Starr, 1838.  
Ira Keeler, 1839.  
David Burr, 1840-41.  
Charles Hurd, 1842.  
Eli Ruggles, 1843.  
John Hawley, 1844-45.  
Ethiel Andrews, 1846.  
Alfred Morris, 1847.  
Orman Bradley, 1848.  
Abel S. Hawley, 1849.  
David W. Northrop, 1850.  
Bryant Smith, 1851.  
David A. Foster, 1852.  
William H. Seake, 1853.  
John Hawley, 1854.  
Nathan Turrell, 1855.  
Ira Keeler, 1856.  
Hiram Higby, 1857.  
William Randall, 1858.  
Almon Odell, 1859.  
John Hawley, 1860.  
Levi G. Knapp, 1861.

- Czar Joyce, 1862.  
Philo C. Merwin, 1863-64.  
Curtis Morris, 1865.  
S. B. Ruggles, 1866.  
Edwin G. Turrill, 1867.  
Harvey Roe, 1868.  
David H. Meeker, 1869.  
Daniel G. Beers, 1870.  
H. S. Stevens, 1871.  
Augustus H. Knapp, 1872.  
John N. Hawley, 1873.  
Eugene Shepard, 1874.  
Marcus Babbitt, 1875.  
John P. Wildman, 1876.  
Ezra N. Somers, 1877.  
William F. Wildman, 1878.  
Henry S. Peck, 1879.  
Benjamin Griffen, 1880.  
Henry S. Beers, 1881.  
Samuel Thornhill, 1882.  
Amos L. Williams, 1883.  
John H. Barlow, 1884.  
Thomas P. Bristol, 1885.  
Barzillai T. Jackson, 1886.  
Sidney E. Hawley, 1887.  
Sidney E. Hawley, 1889.  
James Lee, 1891.  
James Lee, 1893.  
James Lee, 1895.  
James Lee, 1897.  
Robert W. Green, 1899.

William B. Roe, 1901.  
Frank B. Taylor, 1903.  
Robert W. Green, 1905.  
Junius F. Smith, 1907.

### FIRST SELECTMEN

Lee M. Warner, 1788.  
Joseph Starr, 1789.  
Amos Wheeler, 1790.  
Amos Wheeler, 1791.  
Capt. Richard Smith, 1792.  
Daniel Cook, 1793.  
Samuel Merwin, Jr., 1794.  
Isaac Hawley, 1795.  
Liverius Hawley, 1796.  
Liverius Hawley, 1797.  
Liverius Hawley, 1798.  
Liverius Hawley, 1799.  
Liverius Hawley, 1800.  
Liverius Hawley, 1801.  
Liverius Hawley, 1802.  
Liverius Hawley, 1803.  
George C. Smith, 1804.  
Elijah Sturdevant, 1805.  
Henry Peck, Jr., 1806.  
Nathan Keeler, 1807.  
John Peck, 1808.  
Liverius Dunning, 1809.  
Henry Peck, 1810.

Henry Peck, 1811.  
Benjamin Lake, 1812.  
Henry Peck, 1813.  
Henry Peck, 1814.  
Walker Lewis, 1815.  
Peter Hurd, 1816.  
Peter Hurd, 1817.  
Peter Hurd, 1818.  
Steven Gregory, 1819.  
Czar Nearing, 1820.  
Jabez Hurd, 1821.  
Czar Nearing, 1822.  
Zalmon Goodsell, 1823.  
Zerah Peck, 1824.  
John B. Sanford, 1825-26.  
Wait S. Northrop, 1827.  
Elmer B. Northrop, 1828.  
Wait S. Northrop, 1829-30.  
Eli Hamlin, 1831.  
Czar Starr, 1832.  
Czar Starr, 1833.  
David A. Foster, 1834.  
Ira Keeler, 1835-36.  
Curtis Morris, 1837-38.  
Ormond Bradley, 1839.  
Curtis Morris, 1840-42.  
Elias Camp, 1843.  
Elias Camp, 1844.  
David Burr, 1845.  
Elias Camp, 1846.  
Sidney Hawley, 1847.

- Elias Camp, 1848.  
Ebenezer Wanzer, 1849.  
Curtis Morris, 1850-51.  
Curtis Morris, 1852.  
Curtis Morris, 1853.  
Homer C. Brush, 1854.  
Homer C. Brush, 1855-56.  
Homer C. Brush, 1857.  
William H. Lake, 1858.  
Curtis Morris, 1859.  
Sidney E. Hawley, 1860.  
L. B. Wildman, 1861.  
Homer C. Brush, 1862.  
Philo C. Merwin, 1863-65.  
Philo C. Merwin, 1866.  
Ezra N. Somers, 1867-68.  
Ezra N. Somers, 1869-70.  
Harvey Roe, 1871.  
Harvey Roe, 1872.  
Harvey Roe, 1873.  
Harvey Roe, 1874.  
John H. Merwin, 1875-76.  
Henry D. Lake, 1877.  
Ezra N. Somers, 1878.  
Harvey Roe, 1879.  
Harvey Roe, 1880.  
Harvey Roe, 1881.  
David H. Meeker, 1882.  
David H. Meeker, 1883.  
David H. Meeker, 1884.  
David H. Meeker, 1885.

- David H. Meeker, 1886.  
David H. Meeker, 1887.  
David H. Meeker, 1888.  
David H. Meeker, 1889.  
David H. Meeker, 1890.  
David H. Meeker, 1891.  
David H. Meeker, 1892.  
Elmer H. Northrop, 1893.  
Dwight N. Camp, 1894.  
Elmer H. Northrop, 1895.  
David H. Meeker, 1896.  
William B. Roe, 1897.  
William B. Roe, 1898.  
William B. Roe, 1899.  
William B. Roe, 1900.  
William B. Roe, 1901.  
John S. Thornhill, 1902.  
John S. Thornhill, 1903.  
John S. Thornhill, 1904.  
John S. Thornhill, 1905.  
John S. Thornhill, 1906.  
John S. Thornhill, 1907.

#### TOWN CLERKS

- Elijah Starr, 1788-93.  
Daniel B. Cooke, 1794-1801.  
Daniel Hawley, 1807.  
Colbe Chamberlain, 1810.  
Daniel Hawley, 1820-25.



- Heman Burch, 1826-27.  
Bryant Smith, 1827-52.  
John A. Peck, 1852.  
Homer C. Brush, 1853-55.  
John G. Foster, 1863.  
John G. Foster, 1864.  
John G. Foster, 1865.  
Robert G. Knapp, 1866.  
Robert G. Knapp, 1867.  
Henry S. Beers, clerk and treasurer without bonds,  
1868-93.  
Maurice O'Donnell, 1894.  
Barzillia T. Jackson, 1895.  
William J. Beehler, 1896.  
William J. Beehler, 1897.  
William J. Beehler, 1898.  
William J. Beehler, 1899.  
Benjamin Griffen, 1900-06.  
William J. Beehler, 1907.

In writing this historical sketch of the First Congregational Church, and town of Brookfield, Conn., I have carefully read the Church and Society records since 1755, and have consulted probate records in several places; also visited our state library at Hartford.

I desire to acknowledge courtesies received from our judge of probate, town clerk, and first selectman; also from E. H. Northrop, H. S. Lockwood, Miss Sarah

Fairchild, Mrs. E. G. Peck, and L. S. Brooks of Fairport, N. Y.

The views of the Still River, and the village street at the Iron Works, were prepared from photographs taken by Mr. Harper Vroman. The picture of the Congregational Church edifice is from a lantern slide by H. Allen Smith.

### BROOKS GENEALOGY

Lord Robert Brooke was born in England in 1608. He was given a grant of the Connecticut Valley about 1631, with Lord Say and Seal.

The settlement of Saybrook was founded by John Winthrop under commission from the two lords.

Lord Robert Brooke was an ancestor of Rev. Thomas Brooks.

The Brooks coat-of-arms appears in this book.

Rev. Thomas Brooks, first pastor of the Congregational Church, Brookfield, Conn., and for whom the town was named, was born in England in 1719 and came to New England about 1745. He married here Hannah Lewis, who was the mother of eight children. She died in Newbury in 1769, being about fifty-four years of age. Four of her sons served in the Revolutionary War; they were Samuel Lewis Brooks, who enlisted in 1777 and served until 1781, being with

Washington at West Point. He died in 1846, being ninety-six years old.

Another son was Thomas Brooks, Jr., who enlisted in the Third Connecticut Regiment under General Putnam. He died in 1791.

The names of the two other sons of Rev. Thomas Brooks who did service in the war appear in the records of Connecticut, but are not given here.

A daughter, Hannah Brooks, was married to Gen. David Baldwin of Newtown in 1778.

Rev. Thomas Brooks was twice married. The second wife, Rebecca Brooks, survived her husband and died in Brookfield in 1805, being seventy-nine years of age.

Capt. Garry Brooks, son of Samuel L. Brooks, and grandson of Rev. Thomas Brooks, was born in New Milford July 5, 1806. Captain Brooks is now living at Fairport, N. Y., being a finely preserved old gentleman one hundred and one years old (1907). His photograph, taken when he was one hundred years of age, is reproduced in this book.

Lewis Samuel Brooks, son of Captain Brooks, visited the church at Brookfield June 16, 1907, and deposited with the writer the picture of his father and the coat-of-arms. He resides at Fairport, N. Y.















