

THE  
MEMORIAL HISTORY  
OF  
HARTFORD COUNTY  
CONNECTICUT

1633-1884

*James* EDITED  
By J. HAMMOND TRUMBULL LL.D.  
PRESIDENT OF THE CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

IN TWO VOLUMES

VOL. I.

HARTFORD  
COUNTY TOWN AND CITY

*PROJECTED BY CLARENCE F. JEWETT*

BOSTON  
EDWARD L. OSGOOD PUBLISHER

1886.

## XVI.

### MANCHESTER.

BY THE REV. S. W. ROBBINS,

*Pastor of the First Congregational Church.*

MANCHESTER is one of the four towns whose territory was originally included in the town of Hartford. It was incorporated in 1823, and its separate history is comparatively brief; yet it claims its inheritance in the historic treasures of the ancient town, in the wisdom and valor of the early settlers whose bequest to posterity renders illustrious the record of two hundred and fifty years. Though the Earl of Warwick gave to the Connecticut Company the entire domain from Narragansett Bay to the Pacific Ocean, prudence and equity required the confirmation of the title by the original possessors of the land; the good-will of Chief Joshua being even more essential to a peaceful settlement than the favor of King Charles. The first purchase made after the arrival of the Rev. Thomas Hooker and his company from Newtown, Mass., comprised a tract extending six miles west of the river and three miles east of it, bounded north by the Windsor settlement and south by Wethersfield. The tract west of the river was divided into two sections each three miles wide, east and west. The plantations east of the river were known as the Three-mile Lots, and were supposed to extend as far east as the Hillstown road, in Manchester.

The land lying east of the Three-mile Lots was known as the Commons, and belonged to and formed a part of the hunting-grounds of Joshua, sachem of the western Niantic Indians, who was the third son of Uncas, sachem of the Mohegan Indians. About the year 1675 or 1676 Joshua sold to Major Talcott of Hartford, for the use and behoof of the town of Hartford, a tract of this common land extending from the aforesaid Three-mile Lots five miles still farther east the whole width of the town of Hartford, and bounded east by other land claimed by Joshua, which now constitutes the town of Bolton; but the conveyance was not made till after Joshua's death, which occurred in May, 1676. The Governor and Council, or General Court, nevertheless claimed and exercised authority over this land under and by virtue of the charter of King Charles II., and in 1672 had passed an order extending the boundaries of Hartford five miles farther east, for the encouragement of planters to plant there, covering the same ground afterward sold to Major Talcott by Joshua. In 1682, after Joshua's death, Captain James Fitch, of Norwich, and Thomas Buckingham, of Saybrook, administrators on the estate of said Joshua, sachem, conveyed the

same by deed to Mr. Siborn (Cyprian) Nichols, Sergeant Caleb Stanley, and John Marsh, selectmen of the town of Hartford; and from that time onward till 1772 it was known as the Five Miles.

By the act of incorporation the western boundary of the town of Manchester was placed half a mile west of the west line of the Five Miles. The town therefore included, in addition to the Five Miles, a section, half a mile wide, of the original Three-mile Lots. In 1842 a portion of East Windsor, comprising an area of nearly two square miles, and including Oakland district, was annexed to this town, making its present area about twenty-eight square miles, bounded north by South Windsor, east by Bolton and Vernon, south by Glastonbury, and west by East Hartford. The face of the country east of Connecticut River for a considerable distance is generally level, rising into broken uplands in the northern part. Near the centre of the town of Manchester the land gradually rises into a moderately elevated plain, along which extends the broad avenue which is the continuation of the old "country road" from East Hartford Street, beginning at the corner near the mouth of the Hockanum River. This plain gradually terminates on the east in the high range of hills which, sweeping round to the southwest, encloses the extensive valley that forms the southeast part of the town.

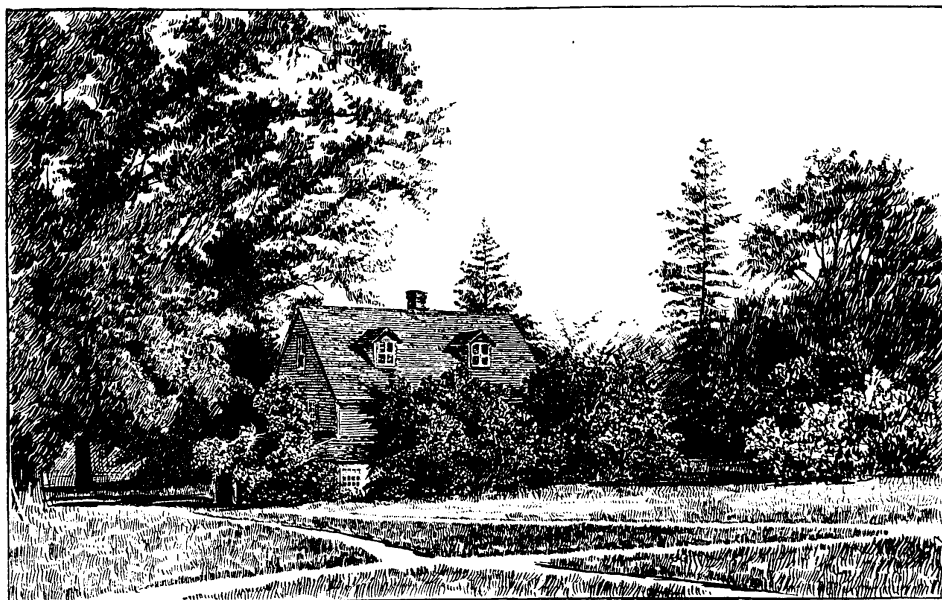
The Hockanum River, the outlet of Snipsic Lake, in Vernon, flows through the entire northern portion of the town, receiving as chief tributaries Hop Brook and Bigelow Brook. In the vicinity of these streams the manufactories are located. The chief centres of business and population are North Manchester and South Manchester. Other settlements are Manchester Green, Lydallville, Parker Village, Oakland, Buckland, Hilliardville, and the Highlands.

The first settlers of the Five Miles located in the western part, in the vicinity of Hop Brook.<sup>1</sup> Here, as early as 1711, Thomas Olcott was appointed to keep a house of entertainment, which stood just across the road from the residence of the late Sidney Olcott. Subsequently a tavern owned by John Olcott was kept on the corner, a few rods farther south. Tradition tells of the great droves of cattle which in the early days passed this point on the way to market, and of numerous emigrants from Rhode Island making the journey to the Western Reserve, which was the westernmost point that anybody then sought.

The first general division of lands in the Five Miles occurred in 1731, when the proprietors appointed a committee to lay out three miles and

<sup>1</sup> Prior to any general division, lands in this section were, in some instances, assigned by the General Court to individuals for meritorious services rendered to the colony. For example; in 1666 the General Court ordered that four men and horses be speedily sent to Springfield to accompany such as should be sent by Captain Pyncheon to Fort Albany or farther, as should be judged meet to "atteine certeine understandinge concerninge y<sup>e</sup> motion of y<sup>e</sup> French." Corporal John Gilbert was one of the men sent. For this service the General Court in 1669 granted him two hundred acres of land, whereof twenty acres might be meadow. In October, 1672, the Court appointed James Steele and Nathaniel Willett to lay out to Corporal John Gilbert his grant, and they, in March, 1673, laid out to him two hundred acres on the east side of the Great River, about two miles eastwardly from Mr. Crow's saw-mill, upon a brook called Hop Brook. This land came into the possession of Joseph and Thomas Gilbert, sons of Corporal John Gilbert; and in 1707 one hundred acres of it were deeded to Thomas Olcott, Jr., by Joseph Gilbert as administrator of Thomas Gilbert's estate. This land, or a portion of it, has remained in the Olcott family one hundred and seventy-five years.

one hundred rods on the east side, next to Bolton, the whole width of the town of Hartford, to be divided to the original proprietors or their heirs, according to their rate as it stood recorded on the town-book, including necessary ways. The same year this committee laid out four strips or tiers of this land, each tier being two hundred and forty rods wide, running north and south, parallel with Bolton town line from



THE CHENEY HOMESTEAD, SOUTH MANCHESTER.

Windsor to Glastonbury. Each of these tiers was divided among the proprietors in proportion to their rates, by parallel east and west lines, reserving a strip thirty rods wide for a highway between the first and second tiers, also a forty-rod highway between the second and third tiers, and a thirty-rod highway between the third and fourth tiers. Of these four highways running north and south, the first passed about half a mile east of the Green. The road running north from Oak Grove mill over Academy Hill to the Bryant place corresponds nearly to the western line of the second or forty-rod highway; while the main street from

North Manchester to South Manchester indicates the place of the third, which separated the third and fourth tiers of land. The balance of the unappropriated five-mile tract, lying between the Three-mile Lots on the west and the fourth tier of lots in the former division on the east, remained common and undivided till

1753, when it was distributed among the proprietors and their representatives by Mr. Samuel Wells, Nathaniel Olcott, and Josiah Olcott, a

*Nath<sup>l</sup>. Olcott, Lieut*

*Josiah Olcott*

committee appointed to distribute said lands and lay out suitable roads thereon.<sup>1</sup>

The years between 1731 and 1753 witnessed the gradual occupation of the lands assigned in the first division. Many names in the list

*Timothy Cheney*

of the early settlers of Hartford designate families whose residence for several generations has been within the limits of the five-mile purchase. On the north side of the street, extending east from the Centre, a hun-

dred years ago were the farms and residences of the brothers, Timothy, Benjamin, and Silas Cheney. On the south side of the same street, also west of the north and south highway, tracts of land were owned by Richard Pitkin. Near his residence, a mile east of the Centre, was

*Benja<sup>a</sup> Cheney*

*Silas Cheney*

the chief place of business at the time of the Revolution. The settlement contained a store, a tavern, a blacksmith's shop, a pottery, and a glass-factory.

In 1783 William Pitkin, Elisha Pitkin, and Samuel Bishop were granted the sole privilege of making glass in the State for twenty-five years. The glass-factory was an object of curious interest to many who resorted hither to witness the process of manufacture. Its ruins still remain, — the

*Richard Pitkin*

vine-clad walls and graceful arches of the old stone structure being an attractive subject for the artist's pencil. Some years later the business centre was at the Green, now the oldest village in the town. The store had a large trade, much of it from the country lying to the east.

*David Woodbridge*

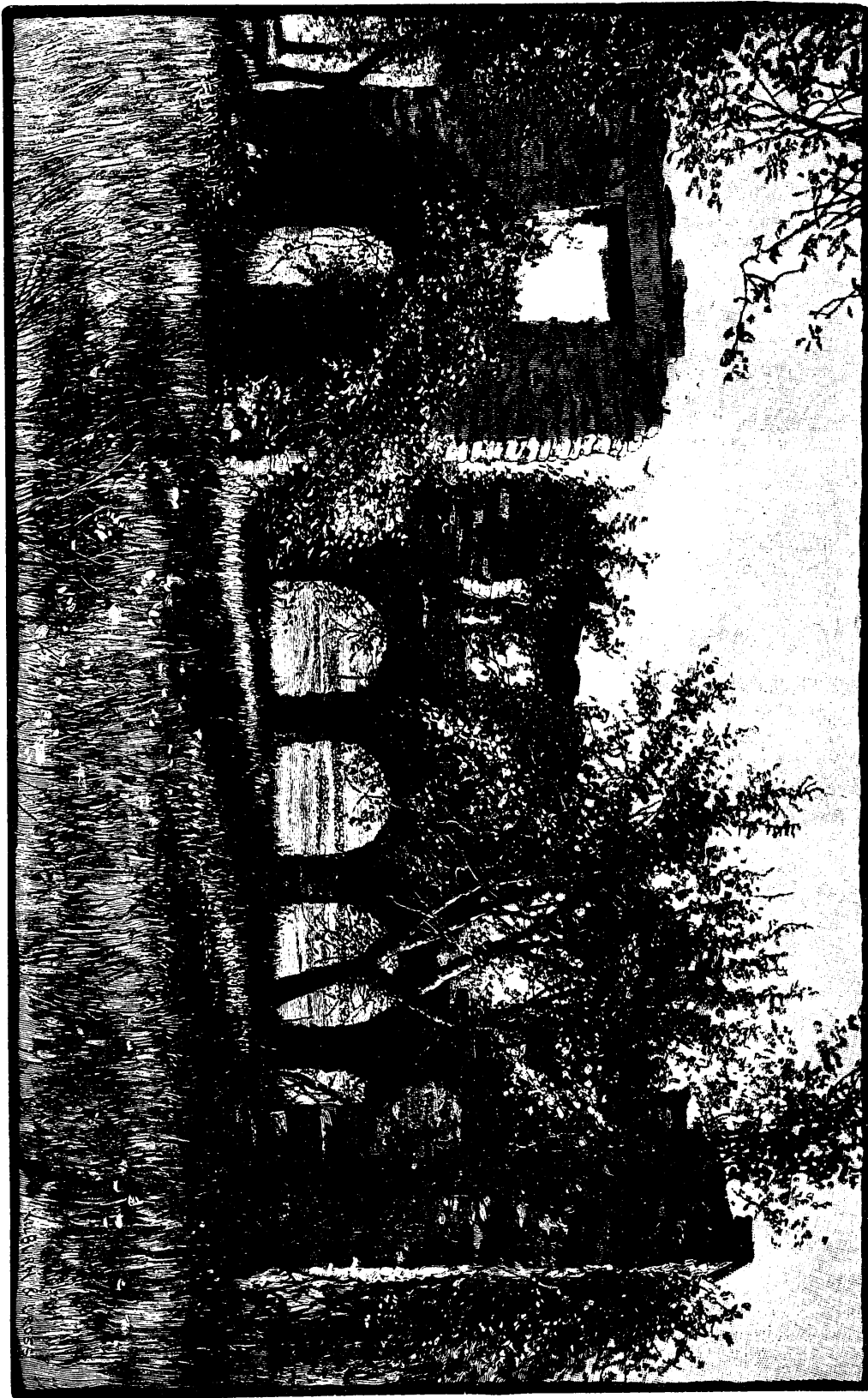
The post-office was established here in 1808.<sup>2</sup> The growth of the village was

promoted by the opening, about 1794, of the Boston and Hartford Turnpike, running directly west from this point midway between the

<sup>1</sup> For the account of the division of the land, also of the purchase of the same, as previously noted, see the Historical Address delivered by Deacon R. R. Dimock at the one hundredth anniversary of the First Church of Christ in Manchester, which has been published in pamphlet form.

<sup>2</sup> Wells Woodbridge, the first postmaster, held the office twenty-six years. The post-office bore the name of Orford Parish till the town was incorporated, when the name was changed to Manchester. At Oakland the post-office was established in 1841. It was removed to Union Village in 1850, taking the name of Manchester Station, which was afterward changed to North Manchester. At Buckland, previously called Buckland's Corners, the post-office was established in 1840; at South Manchester, in 1851.

*Wells Woodbridge*



RUINS OF THE GLASS-FACTORY.

north road<sup>1</sup> and that by the Centre. This was an important route for the stage-lines from Boston and Providence to New York. The public-house kept by Deodat Woodbridge, and afterward by his son Dudley Woodbridge, was a notable stopping-place for numerous travellers, including judges, statesmen, and high military officials. This point was in the direct

*Dudley Woodbridge*

course from Hartford to Lebanon, the headquarters of military operations for the State and the home of Governor Trumbull, — Washington's "Brother Jonathan." The people here, therefore, had the opportunity of seeing men noted in the country's history, especially during the period of the Revolution. A daughter of the proprietor of the hotel was accustomed to relate, as an interesting incident of her childhood, that she gave a glass of water to General Washington at his request, and received his thanks for the favor. The hotel building, now and for many years used for a private residence, is kept in excellent condition, and is a pleasant memorial of the past. It needs only the hanging out of the old sign to recall the bygone time when the frequent stage arrivals not only brought welcome guests but summoned from the neighborhood eager inquirers for tidings of great affairs going on in the world. Few stop now to think what grave questions of national and local interest were here discussed with the practical wisdom and common sense which characterized the men of that time. This village, known as "The Green," — after the fashion of naming the villages in the former days, — has not shared the growth of some other parts of the town since the convenience of water-power and railroad transportation has given the advantage to other localities. It, however, still retains the aspect of thrift, and for a place of residence its healthful atmosphere and the commanding views from its graceful slopes are a permanent attraction. A single stage-line does good service connecting the old post-office with the trains on the New York and New England Railroad at the Manchester station, a mile away.

Manufacturing enterprise had an early beginning but a limited development in this section as compared with others.

*Benjamin Lyman*

Timothy Cheney, as well as his brother Benjamin, was notable as one of the first clock-makers in New England. In those days the usual time-

piece was the noon-mark on the kitchen floor, and clocks were rare and costly. Those made by Timothy Cheney and his brother had tall carved cherry-wood cases and wooden works, some of which, after

<sup>1</sup> The north road was known in the older time as the Tolland Turnpike, which also had its lines of stages. One of the lines by the Green turned at that point, proceeding to Hartford on the Tolland Turnpike by Buckland's Corners, where for many years in the early part of the century a tavern was kept. This was the rallying-point for the people of this region to pay honor to General Lafayette when on his way to Hartford during his visit to the United States in 1824.

the lapse of a century, are still keeping good time. In their workshop John Fitch, whose invention of the steamboat antedates that of Fulton, was an apprentice and received his first lessons in mechanics. Subsequently Richard Pitkin started a cotton-mill, which went into operation only a few years after that at Union Village.<sup>1</sup> Still later, Benjamin Lyman was a manufacturer of ploughs, carts, and wagons. He was the first in the State to manufacture cast-iron ploughs in place of those having the old wooden share and mould-board, and he was the inventor of the iron hub, which went into extensive use in drays and other wheel-vehicles. The excellence of the ploughs and wheels now in use is due in no small degree to the merit of these inventions. Mr. Lyman was also the first in this region to manufacture light one-horse wagons, — light for those days, — whereby the good wives of that time were saved the necessity of going on foot or choosing between the ox-cart and the pillion. Marvin Cone, also, during his long life was engaged in a similar line of manufacture. The carriages and wagons from his factory were in extensive demand for their finish and durability. To this business the present firm — Cone & Wadsworth — succeeded. In 1851 a stockinet-mill was erected by the Pacific Manufacturing Company. In 1861 this company was succeeded by the Seamless Hosiery Company, — Keeney & Colt. The mill was burned, a new one was built, and the business conducted by C. G. & M. Keeney. Addison L. Clark became associated with the Keeney Brothers in 1871, and since 1877 has been the sole owner and manager of the mill, now called the Manchester Knitting Mill.

Early manufacturing enterprises on the Hockanum River created the settlement called Union Village. Near the present paper-mill of the Keeney & Wood Manufacturing Company was built the first paper-mill in Connecticut, with one exception.<sup>2</sup> The news of the battle of Lexington was printed in the "Connecticut Courant" on paper made at this mill, then owned by Ebenezer Watson and Austin Ledyard.<sup>3</sup> In 1778 the mill was burned by an incendiary,<sup>4</sup> and the legal representatives of Watson & Ledyard brought their memorial to the General Assembly, stating their loss to be \$20,000, and claiming that this mill had supplied the press of Hartford with eight thousand sheets weekly, and had made a great part of the writing-paper used in this State, besides large quantities for the Continental army and its officers. Permission was granted to hold a lottery to raise the sum of \$7,500. In 1784, on a site a little farther west, Butler & Hudson erected a mill which afterward came into the control of John Butler. Of

<sup>1</sup> Richard Pitkin, who started this cotton-mill, was a son of the Captain Richard, of the Revolution, mentioned elsewhere in this article. He followed his father into the army, a mere lad acting as teamster. In 1818 he was one of the delegates to the Convention which formed the present State Constitution. He was the father of the late Deacon Horace Pitkin, of Manchester.


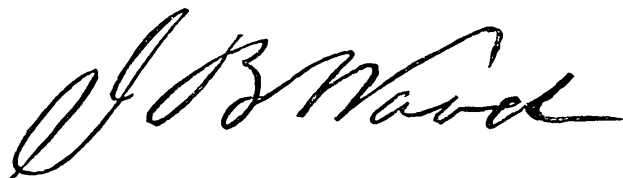
<sup>2</sup> In 1769 Christopher Leffingwell, of Norwich, was allowed a premium of 2*d.* a quire for the manufacture of letter-paper, and 1*d.* for printing-paper.

<sup>3</sup> The deed of the land and privilege was given to Watson, who, to secure it from his creditors, made it wholly over to Ledyard. After Watson's decease the administrators applied to the General Assembly for a committee to adjust their accounts, and liberty to grant a deed of one half to Watson's heirs. The committee reported that there "is due Ledyard on the expiration of the partnership, Jan. 30, 1779, £171, 17*s.* 3½*d.*," and that on settlement a deed of release of one half should be given to Watson.

<sup>4</sup> Fire has always been the persistent foe of the paper-mills. Not less than thirteen have been burned here during the last forty years.



this mill Timothy Keeney, father of Timothy Keeney of the present company, was foreman. After Mr. Butler's death Increase Clapp, Timothy Keeney, James B. Wood, and Sandford Buckland, who a short time before (in 1838) had formed a partnership under the name of Clapp, Keeney, & Co., purchased the mill property of John Butler's estate. This firm was the first to use paper shavings in the manufacture of paper. These shavings, which before had been taken from the

book-binderies in New York to the beach and burned, were bought at a very low price and converted into paper at a great profit. On the

death of Mr. Clapp this partnership was dissolved, and in 1850 it was succeeded by the Keeney & Wood Manufacturing Company.

In 1794 the first cotton-mill put into successful operation in Connecticut was built in Union Village. Of this mill Samuel Pitkin was the principal owner, John Warburton the chief designer and operator. The machinery was made under his supervision, and would be considered at this day a prodigy of clumsiness. Sometime previous to this undertaking Mr. Warburton brought from England some valuable secrets about cotton-spinning which were of great service to the enterprise. Tradition says that he brought important designs concealed in a false bottom of his trunk. The spinning of cotton was a success; and people came from afar to see the wonderful machine capable of making the fabulous amount of twelve pounds of good yarn in a single day. At first the yarn was put out to be woven by hand-loom in the families of the neighborhood; afterward power-loom were introduced and cloth was made in the mill. In 1819 David Watkinson and brothers, of Hartford, having purchased this mill with a tract of land adjoining, erected a large stone mill, and a company was incorporated under the name of the Union Manufacturing Company. In 1854 this company erected a fine brick mill, which is operated in connection with the stone mill.

At Oakland, in 1832, Henry Hudson, of Hartford, purchased of Joseph Loomis the privilege already occupied by a saw-mill and grist-mill. These he converted into a paper-mill. In 1842 the property was deeded to his son, Melancthon Hudson, and in 1844 a second mill was erected. The Hudson paper-mills were managed by the Hudsons for thirty years, Melancthon Hudson being succeeded by his sons, William and Philip W. Subsequently the Cheney Brothers came into possession of the property, rebuilt and enlarged the old mill, putting into it the best modern machinery, improved the dwelling-houses, and adorned and beautified the grounds, making Oakland an attractive village. In former years the Hudson paper-mill filled large orders for the United States Government. In 1878 the property was sold to the Hurlburt Manufacturing Company, which has since been re-organized under the name of the Oakland Paper Company. Between Oakland and Union Village, in 1831, William Jones started a silk-mill, which was used afterward for the manufacture of satinet, and

still later was sold to G. H. Childs, who has converted it into a grist-mill.

Within the present limits of Parker Village a settlement was started in 1808 by John Mather, who built a small glass-factory and powder-mill. It required, it is said, twelve men to operate these establishments; and Mather was regarded the aristocrat of the region, on account of his ability to give



orders to such a multitude.

The powder was made by using hand-mortars for working the materials. Two kegs of twenty-five pounds

each were the daily product of the mill. When fifty kegs were produced, they were loaded into the team-wagon and started on the old turnpike for Boston, to be sold for part cash and part New England rum. In the old time the latter article was deemed an important force in building and running the mills. Some veteran manufacturers remember their apprentice days, when one item of their duty was to go to the store at eleven o'clock for the supply necessary for "dinnering the men." In 1830 Mr. Mather sold this property to Hazard, Loomis, & Brothers, then the powder monopolists of New England, who built a new powder-mill and introduced new methods of manufacturing. They also bought of Daniel W. Griswold another small powder-mill on the same stream, nearer Union Village. The latter privilege was sold, in 1840, to Keeney, Marshall, & Co., who erected thereon a paper-mill, which was burned a few years later, and then a new mill was built, now owned by White, Keeney, & Co. The Mather privilege, sold also in 1840 by the Powder Company, was bought by Lucius Parker & Co., who erected a cotton-warp mill, which is still in operation. Nearly all the powder-mills have had their destructive explosions. The last occurred in 1834, in the mills above mentioned, resulting in the death of six men.<sup>1</sup>

In 1850 the Pacific Manufacturing Company bought of Daniel Lyman a privilege three quarters of a mile east of Parker Village, and erected a mill to be used in connection with their mill at the Green. This mill was burned, and the privilege was subsequently purchased by Lydall and Foulds, who have a paper-mill and needle-factory here, and also a paper-mill at Parker Village.

In Buckland the first paper-mill was erected in 1780 by Richard L. Jones, who already had in the vicinity a powder-mill and an oil-mill, used afterward as a grist-mill, and later as a wire-factory. During the succeeding forty years the property passed to various owners, among whom were Joseph Chamberlain, who held it in 1825, Colonel Henry Champion, of Colchester, Samuel C. Maxon, and William Debit, by whom it was sold in 1836 to George, Henry, and Edward Goodwin. Subsequently it came into the possession of the National Exchange Bank of Hartford, and was sold, Oct. 15, 1868, to Peter Adams, who has expended a large sum in rebuilding and providing the best manu-

<sup>1</sup> The record of deaths kept by the pastor of the First Church gives the names of these persons, and adds: "All but Bivins were killed instantly, and most of their bodies were shockingly mangled. A leg of Avery was carried about thirty rods against the roof of a barn with such violence as to break a hole through."

facturing facilities. The mill is devoted chiefly to the making of writing-paper, and is said to be one of the largest in the country.

A short distance southwest of the Adams mill Aaron Buckland, in 1780, built a woollen-mill, in which he manufactured plain cloth, woven by hand-looms. Mr. Buckland sold the property, Sept. 28, 1824, to Andrew N. Williams and Simon Tracy, who sold the same, March 13, 1828, to Sidney Pitkin, of Lebanon. Elisha E. Hilliard, of Mansfield, first an employé, then a partner, of Mr. Pitkin, afterward became the owner of the mill. He was also principal owner of the Charter Oak Mill, in South Manchester. Later, F. W. Clark was associated with Mr. Hilliard in the ownership and operation of the latter, which was sold, in 1881, to Cheney Brothers.

The pioneer manufacturer on Hop Brook was Charles Bunce. Having served his apprenticeship in a paper-mill in New Haven, he came to Hartford in 1788, and was employed by Hudson & Goodwin, printers and paper-manufacturers. He afterward worked in Butler's mill, and for

four years was superintendent of a mill in Andover.

He then pur-

chased of Elisha Pitkin an unfinished building designed for an oil-mill, which he completed; and there he began the manufacture of paper. His oldest son, George, worked in his father's mill till he became of age, in 1811, when he became a partner in the business. The other sons, Heman, Charles, Walter, Lewis, and Edwin, engaged in paper-

*George Bunce*

making; other mills were built, and for more than sixty years an extensive business in this line was carried on by members of the family.

Lewis Bunce, with his sons, Henry C. and Edgar, had a flourishing mill, which was destroyed, with great loss, by the flood of 1869. For nearly twenty-five years George Bunce owned a mill on a site purchased of George Cheney. On retiring from business, in 1850, he sold it to Cheney Brothers.

Another notable paper-maker was Peter Rogers, who in 1832 leased of Robert McKee a privilege occupied by a powder-mill, which he converted into a paper-mill, making

press-boards and binder's boards. Mr. Rogers came to this country a

poor boy from Amsterdam, in Holland. He worked for a time in Butler's mill, and was a partner, in 1825, with William Debit in the mill at Buckland. He died in 1841.

*Robert McKee*

The same year his son, Henry E. Rogers, purchased the property on the expiration

of the lease, and in 1849 erected another mill, which was burned in 1869. The Atlantic Mill was erected on the same site in 1881. The first mill was twenty-four feet by thirty, with two stories, and produced

but one ton of paper per week. The second mill produced one and a half tons per day, and was the first in the country to use printed-paper stock in making white paper, extracting the ink by a novel process. Two other mills were built by Mr. Rogers farther east,—the first in 1852, the second in 1860. The former was purchased by D. T. Ingalls & Co. It was afterward burned, and the present Oak Grove Mill was built on its site.

In the vicinity of the mills last named are the cotton-warp mills of the Globe Manufacturing Company. This company purchased the privilege in Globe Hollow, previously occupied by the satinet-mill of the American Company, and in 1844 erected there a mill which was used for several years in making cotton warp, and afterward sold to Cheney Brothers. In 1853 the Globe Company purchased the Eagle Hill Mill, erected in 1836 by another company for making satinet, and continued the manufacture of cotton warp. After the decease of Joseph Parker, agent, the mill owned by F. D. Hale, on the site of the old cotton-mill of Richard Pitkin, became also the property of the Globe Manufacturing Company.

At the Highlands, once included in the old Wyllys farm, the Case Brothers have established their business. In 1862, A. Wells Case pur-

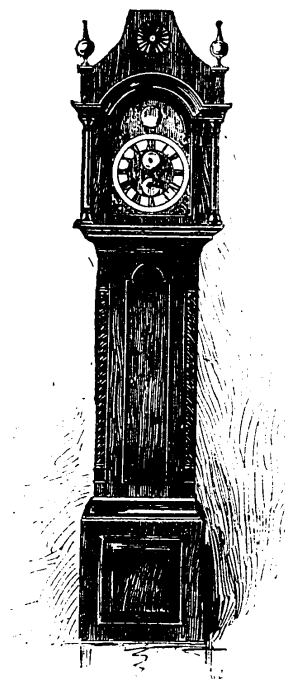


WYLLYS FALLS.

chased the privilege, and a mill built by Salter & Strong. In twelve years three mills were destroyed by fire and one by water. Two, built respectively in 1874 and 1884, are now in operation, making press-boards, binder's boards, and manila paper. Two others are operated by the same proprietors in the west part of the town on the sites formerly occupied by Bunce's mills, in which the Case Brothers learned in boyhood the art of paper-making. The romantic beauty of the Highlands is surpassed by that of few other localities in New England. On the south-

east the hills are crowned with forest; in other directions a full view is afforded of Manchester, Hartford, and an extensive portion of the Connecticut valley. Here the stream falls sixty-five feet over the rocks into the valley below, grass-covered, and enclosed for some distance by wooded bluffs, — a miniature Yosemite, admired by all observers. At the base of these bluffs are excavations that have been made for ore (sulphide of copper), which, being found in limited quantity, was once supposed to indicate the existence of valuable mines. In the original division of the land, the place where the copper-mines were supposed to be was to remain undivided, “to lye for the general benefit of the proprietors.” Above the falls are the mineral springs, containing — according to analysis by Professor Barker, formerly of Yale College — a large percentage of bicarbonate of iron, with sodium, calcium, magnesium, and other elements. In 1869 enterprising parties erected here a commodious house, intending to make the place a pleasure-resort. This building, just as it was completed, shared the fate of the mill below the falls, as well as of much other property that was swept away at the same time by the flood.

The manufacturing enterprise most remarkable for its growth is that of the Cheney Brothers. Near the close of the last century Timothy Cheney removed to a farm about a mile south of his former home at the Centre, and, improving the water-power, built a saw-mill and grist-mill on the stream, and near it the house yet known in South Manchester as the Cheney homestead. When he died, in 1795, his son Timothy returned to the former home at the Centre, while George, another son, occupied the later house, and there passed his life, an influential citizen in his generation, as his father had been before him. George Cheney was married to Electa Woodbridge, Oct. 18, 1798. Their children were George Wells, John, Charles, Ralph, Seth Wells, Ward, Rush, Frank, and Electa, wife of the Hon. Richard Goodman, of Lenox, Mass. Several of the sons, after the manner of New England boys, left home in youth to engage in various pursuits. John and Seth became artists of rare skill and genius, and gave their energies chiefly to their profession, but had part in the business enterprises of their brothers. Seth W. Cheney died, greatly lamented, in 1856, aged forty-six. Charles and Ward were for several years merchants in Providence; but later, Charles went to Ohio, where he bought a farm near Cincinnati. The brothers who remained at home became afterward interested in experiments in silk-culture. In March, 1836, they built a small mill known as the Mount Nebo Silk Mill, and began the manufacture of sewing-

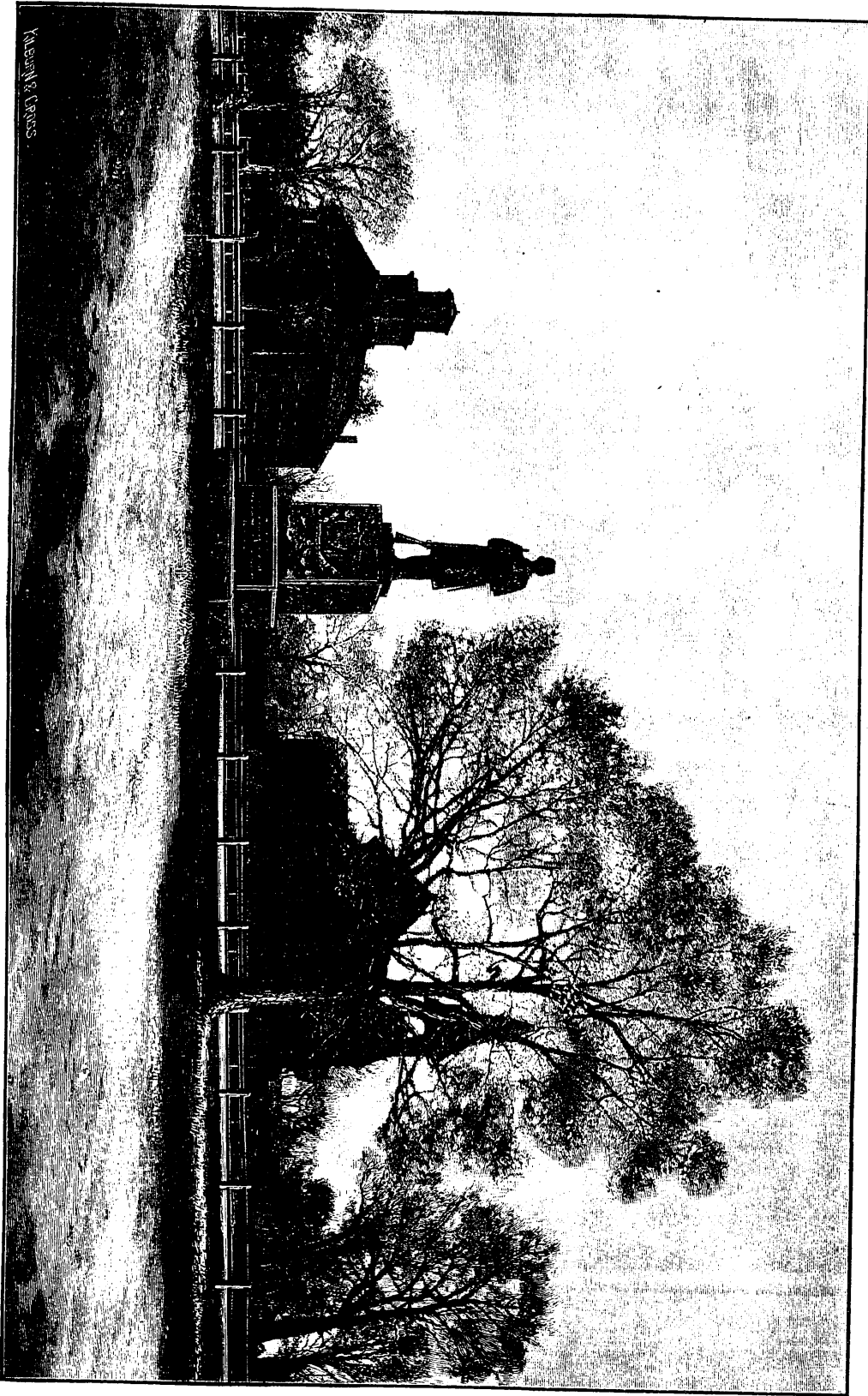


A CHENEY CLOCK.

silk,—their first venture as silk-manufacturers. On the rise of the *Morus multicaulis* speculation, Ward, Frank, Charles, and Rush Cheney went with ardor into the culture of mulberry-trees. Charles Cheney conducted his experiments on his farm in Ohio; the three others took a farm at Burlington, New Jersey, where they had nurseries and cocooneries, and where they published for a year or two "The Silk-Grower and Farmer's Manual." In 1841, after the collapse of the speculation throughout the country, the brothers returned to South Manchester and reopened the Mount Nebo Mill, making sewing-silk from imported raw silk. From this time dates the steady development of the silk-industry. The next ten years were years of experiment and study, aided by travel and close observation of what had been done abroad. Fraternal co-operation, natural ingenuity, and untiring application were the factors which produced success. In 1855 they made their first experiments in the production of spun silk from pierced cocoons, floss, silk waste, and whatever silk cannot be reeled. These hitherto almost waste materials have by special machinery been spun into fine yarns and woven into beautiful and durable fabrics. From a small beginning this new industry, developed by years of patient and costly experiment, grew to be the specialty of the business. The present company was incorporated in 1854 under the name of Cheney Brothers Silk Manufacturing Company, with a capital of \$1,000,000. During the same year, the growth of the business requiring a larger number of hands than could be obtained at that time except in cities, a mill was built in Hartford, of which Charles Cheney had special charge until 1868, when he returned to South Manchester.

The original Mount Nebo Mill was a small building, with machinery driven by water-power, and gave employment to half a dozen hands. In place of this has arisen the group of buildings known as the Old Mill, comprising the business offices, with various departments for weaving, dyeing, finishing, and preparing goods for shipment. In 1871 the New Mill (so called) was erected, consisting of four three-story brick buildings, each two hundred and fifty feet long and connected by a common front. The Lower Mill is a third group, comprising a large carpenter's shop and the building formerly used for velvet-weaving. Near by are also the gas-works for lighting the mills and the whole village. Cheney's Hall is a spacious brick building which serves an important purpose as a place of meeting for religious, literary, and social occasions. In the third story is the armory of Company G, First Regiment Connecticut National Guard. The public library and reading-room, till recently occupying the basement, have been removed to a commodious building specially provided. The number of names on the Cheney pay-rolls has increased from the original half-dozen to over fifteen hundred. The mills are models of order and convenience in their internal arrangements, while their attractive surroundings manifest the same taste and care that appear alike in the private grounds and residences of the proprietors and in the comely cottages and shaded avenues of the village.

In 1869 the Cheney Brothers built between South Manchester and North Manchester the branch railroad connecting with what is now the New York and New England Railroad. This line, from the date of its opening as the Hartford, Providence, and Fishkill road in 1850, to the



YACOBUS JONES.

The Town Hall,  
formerly the Congregational Church.

The Soldiers' Monument.

MANCHESTER CENTRE.

The new Congregational Church.

present time, when eight or more passenger-trains each way daily connect the villages with Hartford, New York, Providence, and Boston, has been an important factor in the growth of the town, to which also the branch road has contributed in no small degree.

At the time of the final division of the five-mile purchase in 1753, a considerable number of settlers had located here, and they had preaching a part of the time. Since 1748 they had been allowed their proportion of the ministers' rate, not exceeding three months in the year. Prior to 1748 they had paid their rate wholly to the Third Society of Hartford, now the First Society of East Hartford. The minister of this society and those of other neighboring parishes rendered service to the people of the Five Miles by occasional preaching, baptizing their children, and attendance at marriages and funerals. In May, 1772, the ecclesiastical society was established by the General Court, and named the Ecclesiastical Society of Orford.<sup>1</sup> The first meeting was held Aug. 13, 1772, — Captain Josiah Olcott, moderator, Timothy Cheney, clerk. The first action of the society was a vote to build a "meeting-house for publick worship," and to raise for this object three-pence on the pound on the list in money, and ninepence on the pound in grain or labor, to be paid in 1773. Timothy Cheney, Richard Pitkin, and Robert McKee were chosen a committee to receive the above grants and improve them for the purpose named. Captain Josiah Olcott and Ensign Solomon Gilman were chosen agents to apply to the General Assembly for a tax on the land of non-residents. Also an agent was chosen to apply to the county court for a committee "to affix a place in said society for to build a meeting-house on." "The bigness of the meeting-house" by a subsequent vote was determined to be fifty-four feet by forty. The house in which this society meeting was held, and which had been used for a considerable time for religious services, called afterward the "old meeting-house," stood under the oak-trees in the thirty-rod highway, about eight rods east of the present site of the Centre Church.

*Solomon Gilman*

The enterprise of building the new house was one of serious magnitude. The first difficulty was to fix the location. The committee appointed by the county court fixed upon a site which the society declined to accept. A request for another committee was refused; whereupon, at the May session in 1773, Messrs. Timothy Cheney, Richard Pitkin, and Ward Woodbridge, agents for Orford society, presented a memorial to the General Assembly, setting forth that

"Their Honors, in tender regard for the happiness and welfare of the memorialists, were pleased to establish them as an Ecclesiastical Society, and that they soon agreed in due form to build a meeting-house, and applied to the County Court for a committee to affix a place for that purpose; that said Committee came out and affixed a place without notice to the east part of the society, and that they fixed on a side hill in a very inconvenient and very disgusting place; praying that the stake may be stuck further east, at or near the point where the four roads come together."

<sup>1</sup> From Orford in England; or thus, — *Winds-Or, Hart-ford*.



The objectionable site was a few rods west of the present crossing of the branch railroad to South Manchester. After long discussion upon this memorial in both houses, a committee was appointed, who, after thoroughly viewing the premises, established the site according to the desire of the memorialists. The obstacles in the way of building were still more formidable. The work was undertaken on the eve of the troublous times of the Revolutionary War, and the result contemplated by the society's vote in 1772 was not fully realized till twenty years afterward. In 1777 the first grant had not all been paid, and the frame, which then had just been raised, remained for a considerable time without being enclosed. In 1779 it was voted to raise one shilling on the pound to be laid out in covering the meeting-house. This house with only its board covering and its rough slab or plank seats, with no provision for heating, was the Sabbath home of the church, which was organized on the 29th of July, with eighteen members,— sixteen men and two women. The society was moved doubtless to this step toward completing the building by the prospect of having a duly organized church and a settled minister. Further progress toward completing the house was delayed for several years. This was the darkest period of the war. About this time New Haven and East Haven were plundered by the British, and Fairfield, Norwalk, and Green's Farms were wantonly burned. Nothing was decisive in military affairs, and everything pertaining to the final result of the great struggle seemed to hang in doubt. It was a time of great financial embarrassment. Continental money had depreciated in value till one dollar in silver was worth sixteen dollars of currency, and six months later one dollar in silver was worth forty in currency. About this time the sum of £1,300 was raised by the society as the yearly outlay on the highways, and the allowance to each man for labor thereon was twenty dollars per day. After long delay, however, the matter of finishing the meeting-house was again taken up; eighty-nine persons subscribed for the purpose sums varying from £1 to £13, and on May 20, 1794, twenty-one years after the Assembly's committee had set the stake, it was "Voted, That the Society is satisfied with the repairing and finishing of the meeting-house in the parish of Orford as per instruction given to the committee to finish said house, provided the pew doors are well hung and the red paint covered on the front side of said house." This was the house which the Rev. Mr. Northrop referred to thirty-six years later as having been "finished after the approved models of ancient inconvenience and discomfort." It had its high pulpit, broad sounding-board, lofty galleries, and square high-backed pews, the true conception of which was suggested to a five-year old lad when taken for the first time to the Sunday school. Becoming restless during the exercises, he went into the aisle, saying to his attendant, who thought he had started for home, "I'm only goin' into the next *pen*." This house was occupied until 1826. A new one was then erected on nearly the same ground, of better architecture, but like the former in its internal order as to pulpit, galleries, and pews. In 1840 the latter house was reconstructed within, and raised so as to admit of a basement corresponding in size with the audience-room above. It had an open portico, with stone steps along the entire front. In consideration of five hundred dollars paid by the town, the basement was used thereafter

for the transaction of public business. Prior to 1826 the town-meetings were held in the old church. From 1826 to 1840 they were held for some years in the Methodist meeting-house, and occasionally at the house of George Rich. In 1879 the society sold the meeting-house to the town; it was removed about eight rods west, and put in good order for public use. The same year the present house of worship was built. It was dedicated on the 3d of December, and on the next day the centennial anniversary of the organization of the church was celebrated. On this occasion about six hundred persons were present, some having come from afar to commemorate the faith and sacrifices of those who here laid the foundations on which three generations have been permitted to build.

The first pastor, the Rev. Benajah Phelps, was settled in 1781. He was paid a "settlement of £150, and an annual salary of £100," payable in money or in produce, according to the late regulation act; namely, "wheat at 6s. per bushel, rye at 4s., corn at 3s., and all other articles agreeable."

Mr. Phelps was a native of Hebron, a graduate of Yale College, and before his

*Benja<sup>n</sup>. Phelps*

settlement here had preached thirteen years at Cornwallis, Nova Scotia. He was dismissed in 1793, but did not remove his residence. He died Feb. 10, 1817, aged seventy-nine. The Rev. Salmon King was settled in 1800, and after a ministry of eight years removed to Bradford County, Pennsylvania, where at first he itinerated in the forests and at length gathered a church to which he ministered twenty-five years, till his death, in 1839, at the age of sixty-eight. The pastorate of the Rev. Elisha B. Cook, from 1814 to 1823, was distinguished by a remarkable revival of the church from a condition of almost suspended animation, and by the sad circumstances of his decease. He was drowned in attempting to cross a stream while assisting a neighbor in the hay-field. Thus in the prime of manhood, at the age of thirty-six, his career of unusual activity and usefulness was abruptly closed. The pastorate of the Rev. Bennett F. Northrop, from 1829 to 1850, was the longest in the history of the church.<sup>1</sup>

In 1785 Thomas Spencer invited the Rev. George Roberts, a Methodist itinerant, to preach at his house; and soon after, a class of six persons was formed. From this germ have grown the two flourishing churches in the town. The church grew in numbers and strength,

<sup>1</sup> A notice of the pastors of the First Church may be found in the published account of the One Hundredth Anniversary; also of ministers who have gone forth from the parish, whose names are as follows: Allen Olcott, Rodolphus Landfear, Anson Gleason, Nelson Bishop, Ralph Perry, Chester S. Lyman, Allen B. Hitchcock, Elisha W. Cook, Frederick Alvord, John B. Griswold, Charles Griswold, Charles N. Lyman. Mr. Gleason was a second "apostle to the Indians," having spent over thirty-six years as a teacher and preacher among the Choctaws, Senecas, and Mohegans. Chester S. Lyman has been for many years a professor in Yale College. There are those who recall the ardor of his early pursuit of science, when, a boy, he studied the stars from the observatories of our eastern hills, constructing his own telescopes and mathematical instruments. Of other natives of the town, Frederick W. Pitkin was a graduate of Wesleyan University in 1858, settled as a lawyer in Milwaukee, Wis., removed to Colorado, and became Governor of that State. Wilbur Fisk Loomis was a graduate of Wesleyan University in 1851; became pastor of the Congregational Church, Shelburne Falls, Mass.; engaged in the service of the Christian Commission during the War of the Rebellion; and died Jan. 6, 1864, in Nashville, Tenn.

sometimes through powerful revivals affecting the whole community, as in 1814 and 1821. In 1822 a new house of worship was built at the Centre.

In 1850 the growth of the north village had become such as to require stated religious services. The Second Congregational Church was formed, and its house of worship dedicated Jan. 8, 1851. This church, growing steadily from the beginning, celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary in 1876. The Methodists residing in North Manchester, following the example of the Congregationalists, also organized a church and built a new house of worship in 1851, — the two churches thus resuming relations similar to those of the two parent churches in former years. About two years later the Methodist society disposed of their church property at the Centre, and erected the present house of worship on a very eligible site at South Manchester.

Early in this century a Baptist church was organized, holding services in a meeting-house, in which also a school was kept, on the triangular plot a short distance south of the town-house. A second house was built farther north; but after some years religious service was discontinued and the house was sold and removed.

The Protestant Episcopal Church held services first in 1843 at North Manchester. St. Mary's Parish was organized in 1844. In the course of years the place of worship was changed to other points, — Oakland, the Green, and the Centre. From 1874 to 1883 services were held in the Centre academy building. A new and convenient church edifice was erected in 1883, — the church home of the present flourishing parish.

The Roman Catholic Church has a large membership, with two houses of worship. Its religious services were first held at North Manchester, where St. Bridget's Church was erected in 1858. The large and commodious church edifice, known as St. James's Church, erected at South Manchester in 1876, is delightfully located, and is an ornament to the village.

The first school within the present limits of the town was established in 1745. The third society of Hartford "Voted, That those persons living on the Five Miles of land in this society have their ratable part of school money improved among themselves by direction of the school committee, from time to time, until the society shall order otherwise." Josiah Olcott was the first committee; and the school was near his house, which stood on the site of the residence of the late Sidney Olcott. In 1751 the society passed a vote authorizing several schools on the Five Miles as follows; namely, one to accommodate Lieutenant Olcott, Sergeant Olcott, the Simondses, and those living near them; one on Jamb-Stone Plain;<sup>1</sup> one near Ezekiel Webster's; one in the Centre, between Sergeant Samuel Gaines's and Alexander Keeney's; and one near Dr. Clark's. When the Ecclesiastical Society of Orford was established, the schools and highways, as well as church affairs, were under its supervision. In October, 1772, the society "Voted, That when any school district in the society shall keep up a master-school three months in the year they shall be entitled to their proportion of the publick money according to their list, and proportionately for shorter

<sup>1</sup> The north part of Buckland, where the quarries are located. The use to which the stone was once applied in building suggested the name.

terms." At the same time it was voted to set out the society of Orford into school districts, which were numbered and named as follows: first, or middle; second, or west; third, or southwest; fourth, or south; fifth, or east; sixth, or north.<sup>1</sup>

In 1795 the General Assembly provided for the formation of school societies. The first meeting of the school society of Orford was held Oct. 31, 1796, — Deacon Joseph Lyman, moderator, Dr. George Griswold, clerk. The principal business of the annual meeting of the school society was the appointment of committees. In the list of school visitors at the beginning of the century we find the names of the Rev. Salmon King, the Rev. Allen Olcott, Dr. George Griswold, Moses Gleason, Richard Pitkin, Timothy Cheney, Deodat Woodbridge, Joseph Pitkin, Alexander M'Lean.

In the early history of the society the district school furnished the only opportunity for education, except the occasional select school, and private instruction sometimes given by the minister. Before the days of seminaries and high schools the village academy, usually under the direction of a board of trustees, was a useful institution. In this town, thirty years ago, two imposing academy buildings might be seen, — one at the Centre, the other on the eminence eastward, from its commanding site a prominent object of observation. A stranger might have inquired the meaning of these two institutions in such close proximity. His natural and true inference would have been the zeal of the people in the cause of education. He might also have judged with equal truth that there once existed in the town an East and a West, that on occasion were accustomed to differ; and in the matter of locating the academy, the difference was about three fourths of a mile. At that time there was no committee of the General Assembly, as in 1773, to set the stake. However, the academies served a noble purpose. In them able instructors dispensed their stores of knowledge, and many educated in these schools are doing grand work in the world. But the schools were long ago given up. The increasing efficiency of our public-school system has superseded the village academy.

The public schools in the town at present comprise one school with six departments at North Manchester, one with eight departments at South Manchester, three with two departments each and four with one department each in other districts. The larger schools are open to pupils from all the districts. The number of children between four and sixteen years of age was in 1830, 497; in 1840, 517; in 1850, 584; in 1860, 812; in 1870, 872; in 1880, 1,587; in 1884, 1,675.

The incorporation of the town was a matter seriously agitated as early as 1812. From that time till 1823 the annual meetings of the town of East Hartford were held alternately with the First Society and at the meeting-house in Orford Parish. Opposition to the act of incorporation was made by the people of East Hartford for the same reason that the formation of the Ecclesiastical Society was opposed in 1772; namely, that the boundary line did not correspond with that of the

<sup>1</sup> The order of school districts established in 1859 corresponds with the present order; namely: 1. Northeast (Oakland); 2. East (the Green); 3. Southeast (Porter district); 4. South; 5. Southwest; 6. West; 7. Northwest (Buckland); 8. North (North Manchester); 9. Centre, including South Manchester.

original five-mile purchase. The latter boundary is near the Hillstown road, in Spencer Street. The town boundary agreeing with that of Orford society is half a mile farther west, about eighty rods beyond the cemetery.

The first meeting of the town of Manchester was held June 16, 1823. Dudley Woodbridge was chosen town clerk; George Cheney, Martin

*George W. Cheney.* Keeney, and Joseph Noyes, selectmen. The first representative in the General Assembly was George Cheney. Mr. Woodbridge was succeeded by George Cheney as town

clerk in 1825, and the latter in 1828 by George Wells Cheney, who held the office until his decease, in 1840. The office has since been held by William Jones, Ralph R. Phelps, Ralph Cheney, Samuel R.

Dimock, and Daniel Wadsworth, — the last by annual election

from 1855 to the present time.

*Daniel Wadsworth*

Three burying-grounds were opened east of the river prior to the incorporation, in 1783, of East Hartford, which for forty years after included the Five Miles. Two of these are now known as the east and west cemeteries in Manchester. The west cemetery is doubtless the older, the oldest stone there bearing date 1743. There are doubtless unmarked graves of still earlier date, since the highway as it now runs takes in a portion of the oldest part of this yard. It is probable that for a number of years after the first settlement the people in this section in many cases buried their dead in the first yard, now belonging to East Hartford, as the family names often correspond, and the burials here succeed in the order of dates the burials there. The east cemetery was opened about 1750, the oldest stone bearing date 1751. This yard, enlarged in 1867, now contains seventeen acres. It includes a portion of the diversified upland on the south, which has been laid out at liberal expense and with excellent taste. In the east cemetery are found the names of Bidwell, Cheney, Cone, Griswold, Keeney, McKee, Lyman, Pitkin, Woodbridge; "in the west, Bidwell, Bunce, Caldwell, Elmer, Hills, Keeney, Kennedy, McKee, Marsh, Olcott, Spencer, and Symonds, most of them of people who had to do with the welfare of the 'easternmost parish' in its early days."<sup>1</sup> The northwest cemetery, at Buckland, was opened in 1780. It is beautiful for situation, occupying a plateau raised thirty feet above the surrounding plain. Here are the graves of Dr. William Cooley and Dr. William Scott, each of whom was for thirty years honored in the profession. The names of Buckland, Jones, Hilliard, and others recall the memory of persons identified with the interests of the town.

It is evident that the spirit of "seventy-six" was intense in this section of Hartford in the Revolution. Several votes of the Orford society are recorded, abating the rates of soldiers in the public service. Timothy Cheney was captain, and Richard Pitkin lieutenant, of a company that went into the field. Washington, learning of Captain

<sup>1</sup> See J. O. Goodwin's History of East Hartford.

Cheney's mechanical genius, desired his services for another purpose, and he was ordered home to manufacture powder-sieves for use in the army, Lieutenant Pitkin succeeding to the command of the company. Lebanon was the headquarters of military operations for this part of the State, and soldiers, passing to and from Hartford, were entertained at Olcott's tavern in the west district. The Rev. Benajah Phelps had a severe experience in connection with the war. Residing in Nova Scotia, he was put to the alternative of leaving the Province or taking up arms against his country. He found means to escape, leaving his family and nearly all his effects. Afterward, having obtained a permit to go back for his family, he was taken by a British man-of-war, and after some time was put on board a boat with a number of others about fourteen miles from land in very rough weather, and left to the mercy of the seas, but finally arrived at Machias, and never returned to Nova Scotia. His family came to him a year afterward at Boston. In consideration of his losses he received some years later from the General Assembly a grant of £150.

The record of Manchester in the War of the Rebellion cannot here be fully given. The outburst of indignant patriotism when Fort Sumter fell, the war-meetings, the response to the first call for volunteers to defend the national capital, subsequent enlistments, bounties paid, aid-societies organized, encampment of the boys in blue on the grounds of the old Centre Church, the enthusiastic departure, the gallant record of suffering and death, defeat and victory, — in all this we have the witness that this historic ground could still produce heroes worthy of the old days "that tried men's souls." Manchester<sup>1</sup> sent to the war two hundred and fifty-one men; namely, volunteers two hundred and twenty-four, substitutes and drafted, twenty-seven. Of the whole number the record includes killed in action six, and died in service from disease or wounds, thirty-two.<sup>2</sup> The two hundred and fifty-one men were scattered into widely separated commands, — in all twenty-seven. Forty were in the First Connecticut Artillery, forty-four in the Sixteenth Regiment Infantry, thirty-eight in the Tenth, fifteen in the Fifth, and numbers varying from one to eleven in other regiments, and three in the Navy. Among the officers from Manchester were Captain Frederick M. Barber, who was killed at Antietam, Lieutenant-Colonel Frank W. Cheney of the Sixteenth Connecticut, who was severely

<sup>1</sup> The Spencer rifle, invented by Christopher M. Spencer, of Manchester, should be noted as a valuable contribution of this town to the war. It was the result of patient study and experiment, on the part of the inventor, in the machine-shop of the Cheney Brothers. The manufacture of the rifle for the Government was carried on by the Spencer Rifle Company, in which the Cheney Brothers invested a very large sum of money before the successful development of the invention. The works, for the sake of convenience, were established in Boston. The merit of the weapon proved so great that the demand for it exceeded the capacity of the factory in Boston, and for a time the works of the Burnside Rifle Company, in Providence, were also employed to fill the orders. One hundred thousand of the rifles were in the field.

<sup>2</sup> Those who were killed in action were Captain Frederick Barber, John H. Couch, Amandor C. Keeney (only sixteen years old), Charles Robinson, Julius C. Wilsey, and Lucius Wheeler. The others who died in the service, of disease and wounds, in hospitals, etc., — a more lingering but no less heroic death, — were as follows: Hobart D. Bishop, James Brookman, James B. Chapman, Thomas Connor, Matthew Covel, Orrin J. Cushman, James Dawley, Daniel Haverty, John Horsley, Loren House, Rufus N. Hubbard, Michael Hussey, Peter Johnson, Samuel W. King, James M. Keith, Marvin Loveland, Levi F. Lyman, Frederick Munsell, Ezekiel L. Post, John Rynes, Watson C. Salter, John Smith, James Touhey, Francis H. Wright, George Wright, H. T. Gray, George A. Marble, George Walbridge, George Brookman, George F. Knox, J. Sweetland, George Keeney.

wounded at Antietam, and Brigadier-General John L. Otis, who went out as Lieutenant of the Tenth Connecticut.

The amount paid by the town during the war for bounties, premiums, commutations, and support of families was \$47,212.70; individuals paid \$8,000: total, \$55,212.70. The soldiers' monument, standing in the park in front of the Centre Church, was dedicated Sept. 17, 1877. It consists of a square granite pedestal about eight feet high, surmounted by a statue of a soldier in uniform looking with firm and thoughtful features toward the south.

Drake Post No. 4, G. A. R., named after Colonel Albert W. Drake, of the Tenth Connecticut Volunteers, was organized July 9, 1875, with ten members. It has now one hundred and fifty-five, and has been from the first a flourishing organization.<sup>1</sup>

Manchester was made a probate district in 1850. The town has had two representatives in the legislature since, and beginning with, the session of 1882. The census of 1880 showed that the population had passed the figure (5,000) at which by State law a town is entitled to such representation.

Seventy-five years ago the larger portion of the inhabitants of Orford were in the east and west sections, and agriculture was the chief industry. Union Village contained only seven small dwelling-houses, and the entire population of what is now called North Manchester is estimated to have been not more than one hundred and fifty. From the present site of W. H. Cheney's store in South Manchester might be seen perhaps half a dozen houses. There was no road at that point running east and west. A lane led down by George Cheney's house to the house of Robert McKee, which stood on the present site of John Sault's residence, thence over the hill to the Hackmatack Road, which then, as now, extended east from Cheney Street across the north and south road to Wyllys Falls. There were no stores, and no mills except the saw-mill, grist-mill, and fulling-mill of George Cheney; Hop Brook, winding down from Bolton hills, gave a charm to the valley. On the southeast, Mount Nebo raised its wooded crest toward the sky; named, doubtless, from the delightful view it afforded of the land, fair even in its primitive aspect, before it had been called, as in later times by high authority, the "Eden of the world."

The population of the new town in 1823 was about 1,400. In 1830, it was 1,576; in 1840, 1,695; in 1850, 2,546; in 1860, 3,294; in 1870, 4,223; in 1880, 6,462. The taxable property in 1823 was \$62,009; in 1883 it was \$2,792,600.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Many of the facts here given pertaining to Manchester's record in the late war were furnished by Major Robert H. Kellogg.

<sup>2</sup> The labor of preparing even so brief and imperfect a sketch cannot be known by one who has not undertaken a similar task. The above would have been far less complete without the aid of previous researches by Judge R. R. Dimock, and of facts furnished by others, especially by Colonel F. W. Cheney and by Messrs. James Campbell and Olin R. Wood.

*S. W. Robbing*