

# WAKEFIELD

## MASSACHUSETTS

A HISTORY  
1544...1944



# TERCENTENARY

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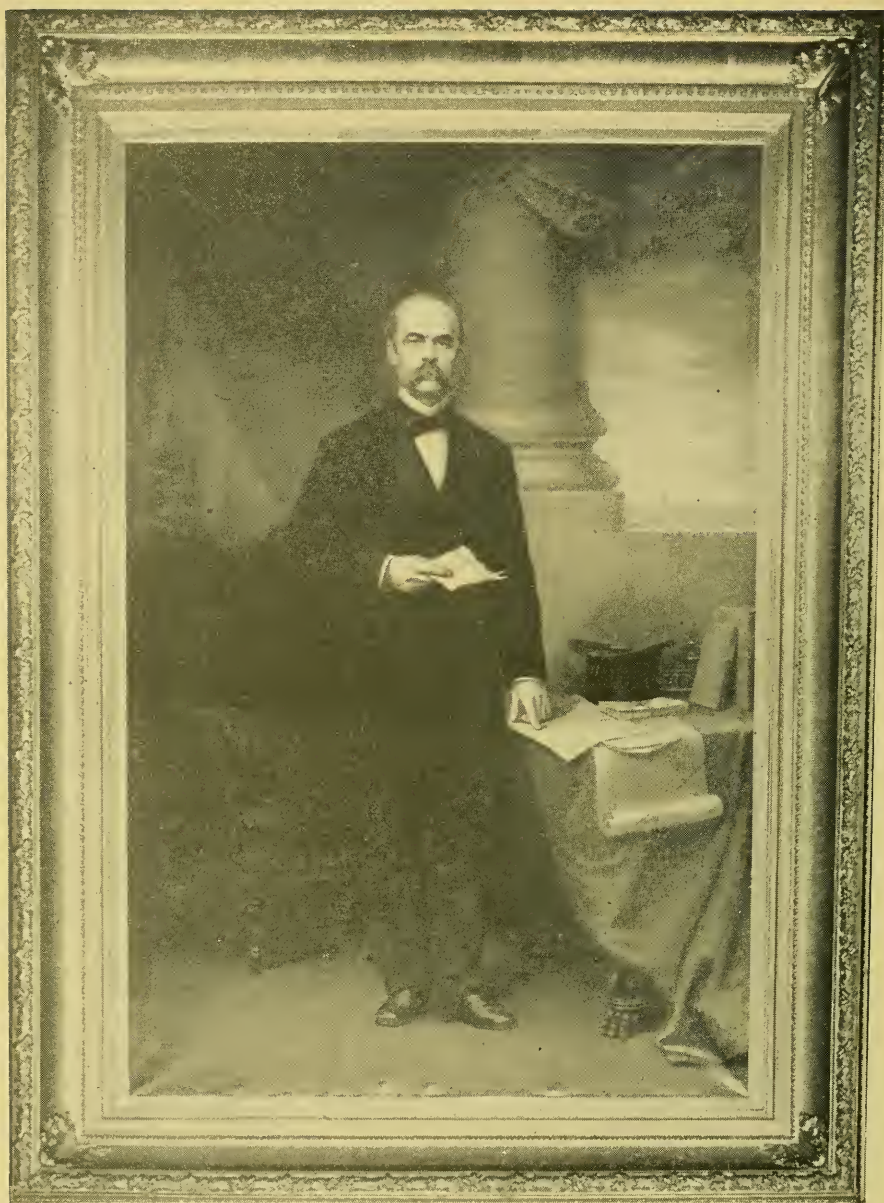
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## THE EVOLUTION OF A TOWN NAME

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LYNN VILLAGE .....	1638-9
REDDING .....	1643
READING .....	1644
SOUTH READING .....	1812
WAKEFIELD .....	1868



**CYRUS WAKEFIELD**

**Born February 14, 1811**

**Died October 26, 1873**

(Framed Portrait in Town Hall Auditorium)

*This Volume Is Dedicated  
to the  
Inhabitants of the Town of Wakefield  
by the  
Tercentenary Committee  
May, 1944*

*"Ask, now," says the Prophet, "of the Days that are Past, and they shall teach thee."*

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*"We have so much to do, to care for, to think, read and talk about, in regard to what is going on in the wide and wide-awake world about us that there is great danger in forgetting the PAST and what is due from the PRESENT."*

## FOREWORD

The story of the settlement of Ancient Redding, its people, its geographical boundaries, its ponds and rivers, and its problems has been told and retold over the years by painstaking writers of local history.

Fruitful sources of Reading's early history are to be found on the shelves of libraries and homes—available to all, but too little sought for in these later days.

The town of Wakefield, in a town meeting held March 8, 1943, authorized the appointment of a committee to plan for a proper observance of the three hundredth anniversary of the town. The naming of a Tercentenary Committee followed, and one of its plans was to prepare and publish an up-to-date history of the town.

The memorable Bi-Centennial in 1844 ended with a great banquet with the following closing toast:

*"The Inhabitants of Old Reading: One hundred years hence, when our posterity shall celebrate the third centennial anniversary of the incorporation of the town, may we, by faith and patience, have obtained seats in that pavilion of God 'not made with hands, eternal in the Heavens.'"*

And so, as the sun was sinking in the western skies, the President of the Day declared that "this gathering stands *adjourned for one hundred years.*"

And now, Gentlemen of the Board of Selectmen, it is May, 1944, and will you, through your Tercentenary Committee, call the townspeople of Wakefield to continue the adjourned meeting of 1844, and proceed with the business of the 1944 Tercentenary.

WILLIAM E. EATON

EVA G. RIPLEY

HELEN F. CARLETON

*History Committee*

History is a collection of *Facts* having to do with humans, their ambitions, deeds, desires and achievements. The inspirational lessons of the Past are brought to the individual as a result of the use and understanding of the Facts of History and its teachings, through the printed page.



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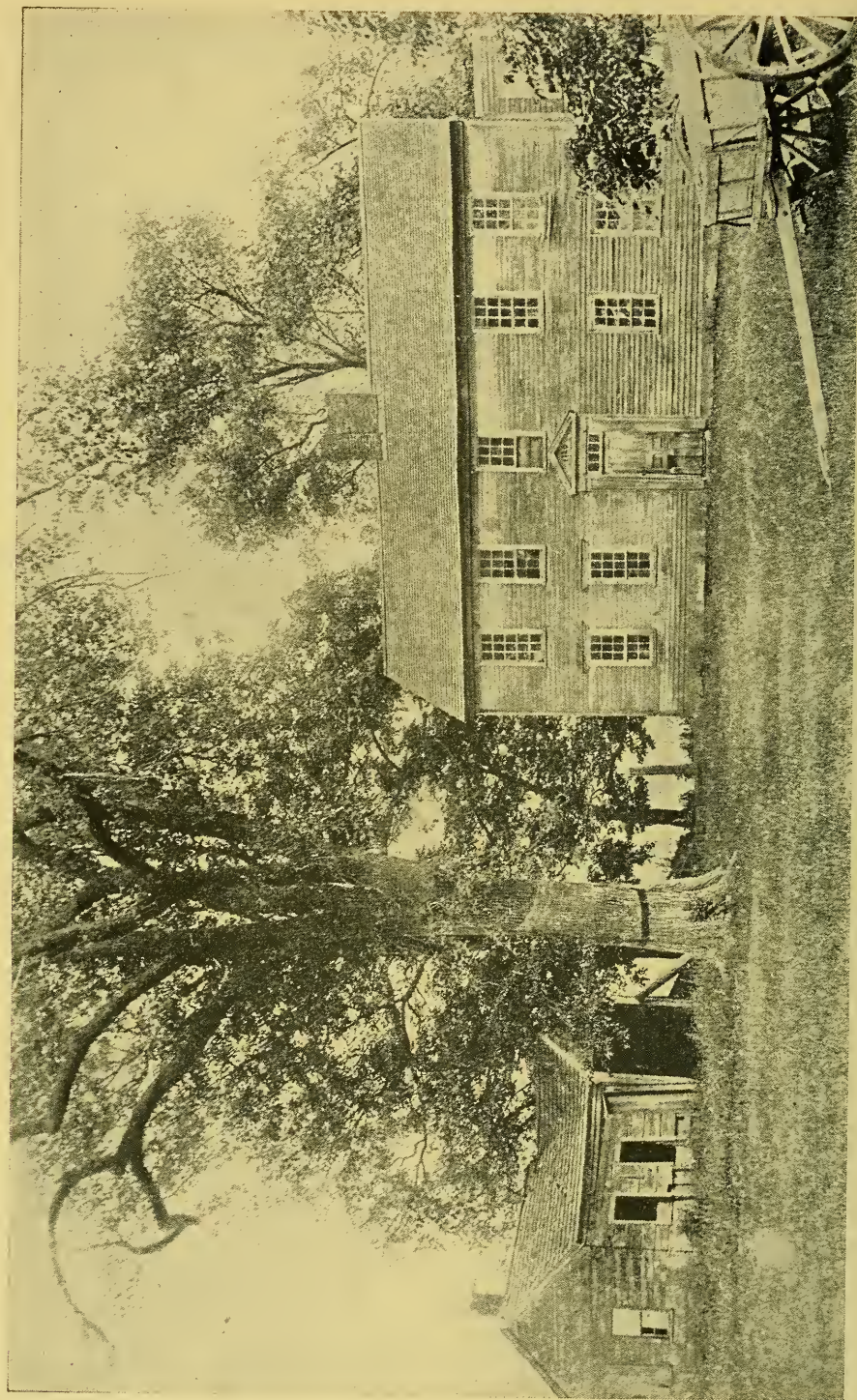
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# READING

1644·1812

In 1639 sundry inhabitants of Lynn petitioned the Colony Court "for an inland plantation at the head of their bounds." This petition was granted upon condition that the petitioners shall, within two years, make good proceeding in planting, so as it may be a village, fit to contain a convenient number of inhabitants, which may in due time have a church there, etc. In 1644, a sufficient number of houses, (seven houses and seven families settled) having been built, and a sufficient number of families having been settled "the Court ordered that 'Linn Village' should take the name of Reading."





**THE OLD SWAIN HOUSE**

Located on Vernon Street where DeVita's greenhouse now stands. Built in 1720 and later known as the "Batchelder House."

## CHAPTER ONE

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### *Early History of Reading*

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#### *Early Settlers — Their Homes — Land Grants — The Three Parishes Revolution — Separation of Parishes — Early Names*

Wakefield's birthday goes back 300 years to 1644, when Reading was incorporated as a Town. This period covering the growth from a primitive settlement to a prosperous progressive town of 18,000 people, has been crowded with events worthy to be recorded for this and future generations.

We have to go back to old England to learn the causes that led our ancestors to abandon their homes, churches and family connections, and embark on an emigration to a New World, to assist in creating a new nation. They were Christian men and women of good families, eager to escape from the relentless, religious persecution of the times, and to go to a place where freedom of action and worship might be their lot.

The first immigrants were Englishmen, not Welshmen, Irishmen or Scots, bringing with them to the New World "that inheritance of thought and language, of character and policies, of legal customs and political traditions which had been gathered in that land by centuries of fortunate history." "These first settlers, their parents and families, had embraced the Puritan form of the Protestant religion; had been persecuted for long years; had learned of the opportunities beyond the broad Atlantic, and had left their homes in a great adventure in pursuit of a Freedom no longer theirs in old England."

The early Plymouth Colony of 1620 were Pilgrims; the Colonists to settle in the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1624-30 and later, were Puritans.

Barry, in his history of Massachusetts, explains the difference between the Pilgrims and the Puritans:

"The Pilgrims were Separatists, having openly withdrawn from the communion of the National Church. Few of them had been reared in opulence or luxury. Few had enjoyed extensive opportunities for literary culture. Early inured to hardship and toil, unaccustomed to the ease and refinements of wealth, simple in their habits and moderate in their desires, they were eminently fitted as pioneers to New England.

"The Puritans on the other hand, were connected with the National Church, though not fully conforming to its service and ritual. Their



ministers were men of standing and influence. Of the laity, many were well versed in public affairs, possessed fortunes, accumulated or inherited, and lived in the enjoyment of the external comforts which wealth can command. Able of themselves to furnish both followers and funds, they could easily equip not one boat but a fleet, and send not one hundred but many hundreds, to inhabit the territory selected for their residence. The history of the Massachusetts Colony is of a stamp very different from that of the Plymouth Colony. Its enterprises were prosecuted with vigor and success. Its superior advantages gave it an immediate ascendancy."

Roger Conant established a colony at Cape Anne in 1624, Conant being appointed Governor. Dissatisfaction with the location, and because of the unprofitableness of the experiment, these early settlers removed to Salem, where John Endicott and others joined the Colony. Here the settlement of Salem began under a "patent, granting all the land in that part of New England lying between three miles to the north of the Merrimac, and three miles to the south of the Charles River, and of every part thereof in the Massachusetts Bay, and in length between the described breadth, from the Atlantic Ocean to the South Sea."

John Endicott, Esq., a Puritan of the sternest mould, sailed from England in June, 1628, in the "Abigail," landed at Salem with his wife and children, and soon was appointed Governor of the Plantation. This party of about fifty, with servants and "old planters," under Conant, made a settlement of about one hundred persons.

We now have a clearer vision of the landing in Salem, in 1629, of Governor Winthrop in the "Arbella" and the sister ships, the "Talbot," the "Ambrose," the "Charles" and the rest of the eleven ships in the fleet bearing Puritans from England to their new homes in Massachusetts.

We have referred to religious persecutions in England. The greater proportion of our first settlers were young men who had not, perhaps, felt seriously the outrages and restrictions endured by their parents, and fearful of the future, saw in the adventure a new life of liberty and happiness.

The great tide of Puritan immigration ceased in 1641, after which time few came to the Colony.

Those Englishmen! Those First Settlers! You of the present day should know more about them. They were capable, courageous and industrious men following many trades.

First, there was Nicholas Brown, a husbandman whose home was in Inkburrow, Worcestershire. Lynn was first settled in 1629 and he was there! He came over with Cabot to Cape Ann or with Endicott to Salem. His family had means, for on the death of his father in 1660, he sent his eldest son back to England to obtain his inheritance.



There was William Cowdrey, probably the best educated of the first settlers, born in 1602 in Weymouth, England, who sailed from Southampton in 1630. He was the lawyer of the settlement; drew all the early deeds, wills and other documents; was town clerk until his death in 1687. For six years before his death, the town kept him in office through the services of an assistant. William was also Clerk of the Writs, Deacon of the Church, Alcoholic Commissioner and at one time was appointed by the colony to a Committee to draw up "a confession of Faith and Discipline of the Churches."

There was Captain Richard Walker, the surveyor and soldier, who was in Lynn in 1629, coming with the Governor Endicott group. He was born in 1610. He was captain of Reading's first training band. After 25 years he removed to Boston when he developed a fur trade in Nova Scotia, serving as deputy governor of that province.

There was John Poole, the miller, glover and farmer, who was thought to be one of the wealthiest in the settlement. He was granted land on Water Street for "a mill to grind the Settlers' Corne." He was in Cambridge in 1632 and in Lynn in 1636. In 1650 he built a saw mill on Vernon Street at the Lynnfield town line. With Lieut.-Gov. Dudley in 1632, he was among the first eight proprietors of Cambridge. Though prominent in all ways in the settlement it is strange that he never held office nor was he a member of the Reading Church.

There was Deacon Zachary Fitch, born 1591, a native of St. Albans, England, who was at Lynn in 1633. He was among the very first to build a house in the Reading area. He was not one of the younger men, for he was 51 when he came from Lynn. Our present Fitch Lane is a reminder of his life in Reading.

There was Francis Smith, who was in Watertown in 1637; whose domicile on Main Street at the Junction, and farm of 200 acres or more, extended from Wappatuck Pond (later Smith's Pond and Crystal Lake) to the Woodville district. He died in 1650, the first of the early settlers to pass on. The nearest approach to the size of those first dwellings is contained in the inventory of Smith's estate—a house of a kitchen, parlour, bedroom and hall in which he reared six sons—John, Isaac, Abraham, James, Benjamin and Elias, and two daughters, Katherine and Mary.

There was Isaac Hart (or Heart) born in 1618, who came to the Bay Colony in 1637 as a servant to Richard Carver. Hart owned the land at "Hart's Corner," where the second meeting house was built in 1689 on land extending from Reading Pond to the present Baptist Church. During the witchcraft episode his wife, Elizabeth, an eccentric person, was arrested and imprisoned for ten months in a Boston jail.

There was Deacon Thomas Parker, who came from England in the "Susan Ellen," out of London in 1635, and was in Lynn in 1637. He was born in 1614, and was one of three brothers to come to America from Reading, England. The other two settled in Chelmsford and Groton. He was an influential man in the first settlement until his death in 1683.

There was Captain Thomas Marshall, Sr., and his son, Lieutenant Thomas Marshall, born in 1613, sailed from London in the "James" in 1635. Both were members of the first Reading Church. Captain Marshall returned to England, served under Cromwell, returned to Saugus where he was an inn keeper. The son was a farmer and "sold good, sweet, well-salted and 'fatt beeff,' fat pork and dry pease and wheat" in the Boston market.

There was James Bouttell, born in England in 1615, who was in Lynn in 1638. That he was in Lynn Village in 1642 is shown by the birth in that year of his eldest son, James. It is recorded that one of the outstanding characteristics of the family is that they were patriots, for there never was a war in this country but that the name figured in a prominent manner. The family was originally of Norman-French, spelled Bouteville. In the ancient village of Bouteville near Rouen, France, the foundation of the old family castle can still be traced.

Among other settlers was Dea. John Damon born in 1621; Thomas Clark born in 1618; Robert Burnap born in 1595; William Eaton and his brother, Jonas, who came to America in 1637 in the good ship "Hercules," first settling in Watertown; Henry Felch, probably of Welsh origin and said to have been a descendant of David Prince of North Wales, and his Princess Mary, granddaughter of King Henry the First of England. Thomas Hartshorne, born about 1614, was a "Taylor" and the ancestor of the local family of Hartshornes; William Hooper, born 1617, was only 18 when he arrived from England. Limited space forbids mention of others.

Reviewing the ages of the first Reading men, it is apparent that the majority were young men, going places with homes and families at the end of the rainbow in the new America. Brown settled on the east shore of Reading Pond near the upper end; Cowdrey opposite our Town Hall; Smith on Main Street at Wakefield Junction; Poole near the Rattan Factory; Taylor and the Eatons on the east shore of Reading Pond; Fitch between Salem and Pearl Streets; Sweyne near the junction of Lowell and Salem Streets; Kendall, Taylor and Clark on Prospect Street; Walker on Elm Street—and so Reading came to be settled!

Historians complain of the absence of preserved correspondence between early settlers and their homeland folks in England. The best avail-

able records are the wills, deeds, agreements, etc., recorded in the courts, or held as family heirlooms by the descendants.

Prior to 1638 there was unrest among the men in Lynn—an urge to penetrate the land to the west where some of them had explored.

What wonders did these early settlers have spread before their vision as they gazed westward from "Castell Rock," or northward from what is now Hart's Hill?

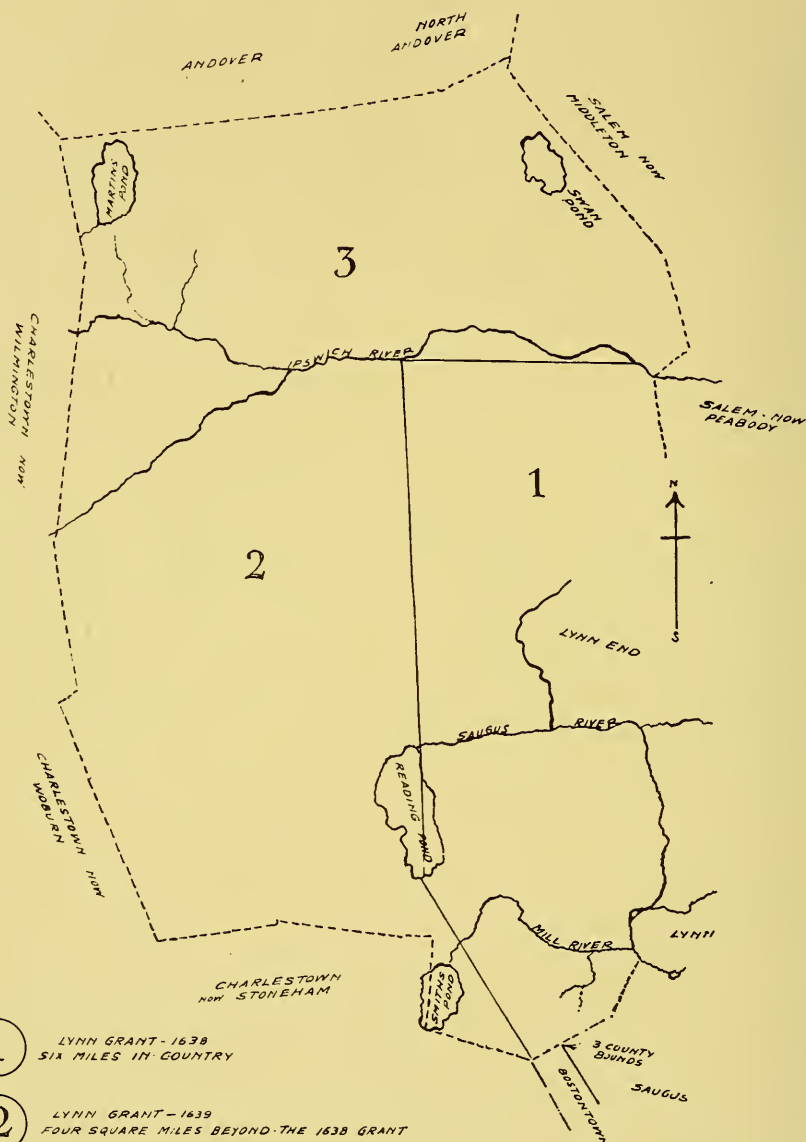
Two beautiful lakes, two rivers rushing crystal waters eastward toward the ocean, a fair valley lying between lower hills, a pleasant prospect to those anxious, expectant men—explorers into the wilderness—a forest primeval! Geologists tell us that the valleys and hills are of glacial origin—"a silent witness to the might of the ancient sheet of ice that once enveloped all the region," and left Reading and Smith's Ponds and two rivers to the use of mankind forever.

Possibly there may be some foundation in the theory that in very early times the Merrimac River, or some tributary, flowed through Reading leaving, after some natural upheaval, our two lakes and the Saugus and Ipswich rivers, and Martin's Pond in North Reading.

Here were swamps, mighty trees, "such as are unknown in England," wild animals, enormous flocks of wild pigeons, the wild turkeys, "exceeding fat, sweet and in abundance, fish in the rivers and ponds, grapes, blackberries, blueberries in great quantities—and also the Indians, generally very friendly and from whom the Reading and Lynn settlers bought their land at a cost of £16 "of current sterling money of silver." Reading's share was £10, contributed by ninety-six of the early settlers. The Indians named in the old deed of 1686, now safe in the Salem Court House archives, were David Kunkshamooshaw, and Abigail, his wife, Cecily, alias Su-George; James Quonopohit, his wife, Mary, all nearest of kin and legal successors of George-No-Nose, alias Wenepoweequin, the earlier Chief of the Saugus Indians. It is interesting to note here that the first edition of the Bible ever printed in America (1663) was in the Indian language and was called "Um-Bibulum God."

Following an irksome voyage across the Atlantic—a voyage averaging forty-six days—we find our early settlers scattered in Salem, Lynn, in Charlestown and Watertown, the majority being in Lynn where they had been allotted land for habitations. A few at first ventured toward the early western boundary of the town—Nicholas Brown established his first home site in what is now Saugus Centre, near the old Saugus Iron Works. A short distance to the north, Richard Walker planted his first home on American soil; and still farther north, John Batchelder reared his dwelling.

MAP  
OF  
OLD READING  
MASSACHUSETTS - BAY COLONY  
-1651-



LAND GRANTS

- (1) 1638. That portion first settled in what is now Wakefield.
- (2) 1639. Land extending west to Charlestown, now Stoneham and Woburn.
- (3) 1651. Land north of Ipswich River, now North Reading.

They were then nearer to their later, more permanent homes. Zachery Fitch, on the other hand, took land in the town village.

The coast land was not entirely suitable for permanent settlement. There was dissatisfaction with the lands allotted. This drew a group together to consider removal of their families farther inland. Early explorers had reported the many advantages to be there found.

The decision was hastened by a grant of land in 1638 to Lynn inhabitants, by the Colony, extending six miles to the west from the first Lynn Church, established in 1635, to Reading's two ponds. That this group had several meetings to discuss ways and means of removal, is a matter of record at the Massachusetts State Archives, Exhibit 841, court records of 1683, on the authority of no less a person than William Cowdrey. In this group were Poole, Sadler, Marshall, Walker, Brown, Fitch and Martin. The Town of Lynn, naming members of this group as "deserters," petitioned the General Court for relief from taxes because of their removal to Reading, which relief was granted. An old Lynn record reads: "Those few able persons which were with us, its not known how many have deserted us in removing to Redding."

Two other groups left Lynn about the same time but to more remote localities.

The 1638 grant gave the aforesaid group the opportunity to remove inland. Twelve hundred acres were allotted in a division as follows: 200 acres each to Nicholas Brown, Richard Walker, John Poole, and Richard Sadler; 60 acres each to William Cowdrey, John Smith, Boniface Burton and James Boutwell; 30 acres each to Zachery Fitch, Thomas Marshall and Thomas Parker; and George Taylor and Hugh Burt took 20 acres and Samuel Hutchinson ten acres. Sadler, Burton and Hutchinson sold their holdings without settling in "Linn Village." It is probable that these holdings were, for the most part, on both sides of our present Main Street and along the east shore of Redding Pond.

The next year, 1639, the colony made another grant of land extending still farther westward to the Charlestown line, later Stoneham and Woburn, and designated William Hathorn of Salem and Edward Tomlyn of Lynn to survey and lay out "Linn Village." This new section was soon divided among the first settlers—the first "Divident" extending northward from and including Cowdrey's Hill. It was here that Richard Walker, Thomas Kendall, Abraham Briant, Thomas Hartshorne, Thomas Clark, Thomas Taylor, and others settled.

To complete the territorial picture, the Colony in 1651 granted Redding land extending from the Ipswich River north to the new town of





### MAP OF EARLY LYNN

The arrow points to the ford-crossing on the Saugus River, the only place where it was fordable, in 1639. The first Redding settlers from Lynn crossed the river at this point, where, in 1631, Gov. Winthrop and officials made the crossing on their trip from Salem and Lynn to Boston. Below the ford was the famous Saugus Iron Works, established in 1643. The dam above prevented alewives (food for the early settlers) from coming to old Redding Pond, an act protested by the town, but without success.

Andover—and this was when the early settlers really went into the marketing of large areas to late arrivals, many from Salem and vicinity, where they settled in what is the North Reading of today.

To describe accurately the events and conditions of early settlement of Redding is most difficult, since so many of the early records have not been preserved. It can be supposed that the first group, on being allotted land in ample measure, departed from Lynn and journeyed in canoes up the Abbousett (Saugus) River, and by the old Indian trail, crossing the ford at Saugus, up the Nahant Street of the present day, passing to the south of "Castle Rock." With their families and cartels it was an adventure worthy to be more clearly described. Timber had to be cut, dwellings erected, lands to be cleared, cultivated and sown. Meadows had to be cut for cattle fodder; an embryonic local government established; the whole as "Linn Village," a Parish of Lynn, for just a few years, when the settlement came of age, so to speak; and there, by Colony decree, we have Redding in 1644 as an accepted, incorporated town of courageous and God-fearing men and their families.

#### KEY TO MAP 1647

The map on the next page is based on a list of the first settlers of Redding, who were given grants of land in 1647; this is the first general division of land of which there is any record.

There had been numerous earlier individual grants by Lynn prior to 1644, when Redding was incorporated. These grants were described in such general terms as to prohibit any accurate determination of location in many instances.

The location of homesteads, as indicated on the map, has been the result of a careful study of grants, deeds and wills, but the fact remains that, because these early settlers owned land in the places marked by a dwelling, it is no assurance that buildings had been erected as early as 1647. They must have had some sort of habitation on removal to Redding; and the map shows for the most part, the locations of early homesteads as they passed to the children or to the eldest son, as was the general practice. All were within the limits of the town of Wakefield.

- No. 1. Francis Smith. On the westerly side of Main Street, a short distance east of the present Wakefield Junction Railroad station.
- No. 2. John Smith. On the easterly side of Main Street at the southeast corner of Nahant Street.



MAP OF  
OLD-READING  
MASSACHUSETTS BAY COLONY  
-1647-

SHOWING THE LOCATION OF THE HOMESTEADS OF THE FIRST SETTLERS  
ALL BEING WITHIN THE LIMITS OF THE PRESENT TOWN OF WAKEFIELD



- No. 3. Henry Felch. On the westerly side of Main Street south of Mill River, the outlet of Crystal Lake. This is only a probability. A descendant was living in this location in 1750.
- No. 4. George Davis. On westerly side of Main Street, near the present High School. Land descriptions bounding west on the Charlestown line favor this location.
- No. 5. Rev. Henry Green. The first minister. Northeast corner of Main and Water Streets, where the Wakefield Town Hall now stands. There is an old grant description that raises the question that perhaps the original owner of land at this point was Lieutenant Thomas Marshall.
- No. 6. Samuel Dunton. On northerly side of Corne Mill River, near the northeast corner of Water and Crescent Streets.
- No. 7. John Poole. North side of Corne Mill Road, near where the present Vernon Street enters Water Street.
- No. 8. Thomas Parker. On easterly side of Crescent Street facing what is now Mechanic Street.
- No. 9. The First Meeting House. Westerly side of Main Street, south of Albion Street.
- No. 10. Jeremy Fitch. Easterly side of Main Street, between Salem and Pearl Streets; homestead set well back in the direction of Pleasant Street.
- No. 11. Josiah Dustin. Easterly side of Main Street, Lakeside near the present Lawrence Street.
- No. 12. William Martin. Easterly side of Main Street, Lakeside next north of the Dustin homestead.
- No. 13. Edward Hutchinson. Easterly side of Main Street, Lakeside, next north of William Martin, later in possession of Thomas Nichols.
- No. 14. William Eaton. Easterly side of Main Street, Lakeside, above Aborn Avenue.
- No. 15. Jonas Eaton. Easterly side of Main Street, Lakeside, next north of his brother, William Eaton.
- No. 16. John Bachellor. Easterly side of Main Street, Lakeside, near the present Cordis Street.
- No. 17. Nicholas Browne. Easterly side of Main Street, Lakeside, next north of the Bachellor homestead. There was a dwelling on the Browne land early, but when it was built is at present unknown.

- No. 18. Edward Taylor. Easterly side of Main Street, Lakeside, probably within the location of the Beebe estate of the present day.
- No. 19. Robert Burnap, Sr. Homestead was east of Lot End Road, (Vernon Street), and south of the old Reading-Salem road, (Lowell Street). He was not listed in the 1647 grant but was there very soon after.
- No. 20. Jeremiah Sweyne. On the easterly side of the early Reading-Salem road, south of and near the junction of Lowell and Salem Streets.
- No. 21. Nicholas Brown. His early homestead was on the westerly side of the early Reading-Salem road, some distance north of Montrose Avenue.
- No. 22. Isaac Hart. Southwest corner of the present Church and Common Streets, facing what was later known as "Meeting House Green." This location was early known as "Hart's Corner."
- No. 23. William Hooper. Southerly end of Church Street at the south end of Reading Pond, at or near the present Hartshorne house.
- No. 24. Thomas Kendall. His homestead was on the southerly side of Prospect Street, on the easterly corner of the present Cedar Street. The old James Emerson house now standing is on or near the same site.
- No. 25. Richard Walker. Northerly side of Elm Street, west of Winn Street. This site was later known as "Winn Place."
- No. 26. Abraham Briant. Southerly side of Elm Street, the old and early road to Woburn, and east of Parker Road.
- No. 27. Thomas Hartshorne. Westerly side of Elm Street, near the present Western Avenue. There is reason to believe that Elm Street was early used as Reading's Training Field. Its extraordinary width may thus be explained.
- No. 28. William Cowdrey. Northerly side of Prospect Street, Cowdrey's Hill and east of Parker Road.
- No. 29. William Hooper. Northerly side of Prospect Street, near the intersection with Hopkins Street.  
page 104.
- No. 30. Thomas Clark. Southerly side of Prospect Street, near its junction with Park Avenue.
- No. 31. Thomas Taylor. Southerly side of Prospect Street, Cowdrey's Hill, close to where Summit Avenue enters. His pasture extended south to the early Charlestown line.

No. 32. Sergt. Thomas Marshall. Southerly side of Prospect Street is a probability, although his homestead at one time may have been in the southeasterly part of Reading.

The locations of the dwellings of Henry Felch, Jr., John Pierson and Samuel Walker, all named in the 1647 grants, have not been determined. Walker went early to Woburn and Pierson later to Lynn End (Lynnfield).

It is to be noted that no early homesteads appear to have been located on the westerly side of Main Street, from Lafayette Street to Water Street. Early owners of land in this section were Robert Burnap, Abraham Bryant, William Cowdrey and Ephraim Savage. It is probable that these men may have lived at one time on their land west of Main Street in the center of the new town. Eaton's History records that Cowdrey had a house south of Albion Street. It was probably near to Water Street where his land lay.

## EARLY COMMUNITY PROBLEMS

The first two community problems were soon attended to. First, a meeting house was erected about 1645 on land on the southwest corner of Main and Albion Streets, the twenty-third in the Colony, and ere long, a parsonage just south of the meeting house with an orchard close by. Second, a burying ground was set out on the north side of Church Street, near the band stand in the Park. It was not until 1666 that it was fenced with pine rails. With these essentials for life and death, the settlement expanded and grew so that by 1667 there were fifty-nine houses built, a few main highways and open spaces located. The History of Reading, by the Hon. Lilley Eaton, gives in interesting detail the progress during the formative and later periods, as well as the rules and regulations under which life, liberty and happiness progressed down to 1868. The first church records in 1648 show a membership of sixty men and women. In this year the Rev. Henry Green, first minister of Reading, ordained November 5, 1645, died; and a license was issued to Francis Smith to sell intoxicating liquors. Sergeant Thomas Marshall, Captains Bridges and Walker were appointed in 1645, Commissioners to negotiate a treaty with the Indians, but the final deed and payment did not pass until 1686.

A modified, democratic government was established in 1647 when, as far as the records show, the first Board of Selectmen of seven was elected. For a great many years town meetings were held in the meeting house and limited to daylight hours; in some years with a penalty for non-

attendance. Very early the town voted "that all business shall proceed orderly," and "nothing done hastily." In 1650 Captain Richard Walker was chosen the first Representative to the General Court.

The Pine Tree Shilling came into circulation in 1652, previous business transactions being by barter, English and Spanish money and Indian wampum.

In 1675 the town furnished its quota of men for "King Philip's War," Major Jeremiah Swayne, Captain Jonathan Poole, and seventeen others.

It was the habit of alewives to come up the Saugus River to Reading Pond to spawn. Such fish furnished good food for Reading families until 1675, when a dam built at the Saugus Iron Works destroyed this food supply, and so in righteous indignation, the town fathers protested. The dam remained!

### SOME EARLY RULES AND REGULATIONS

The story of the early Massachusetts settlements has been so often told in prose and verse that it does not seem necessary here to repeat it. From the early log cabin to the lean-to, and the overhanging garrison to the more modern two-story colonial; from the pillion to the chaise; from the rugged life to the increasing comforts of living and transportation—all these afford increasing pleasure to those historically inclined. A study of early wills and inventories of real and personal property gives a clear insight into the developments of the Great Puritan Adventure. In these days it is difficult to realize the primitive conditions of life—no potatoes, but turnips; no light but the candle and oil lamp, or the light from the great fireplace; no newspapers; a Bible and one book for reading; no window glass or paint, etc., but always a gun close at hand. Yet here was an independent life "with broadacres, large flocks and herds, a good store of flax, wood and cider and a large family!"

Of the early settlers it can be said "that they left their children a heritage of wisdom and common sense—and a conscience."

Among the, to us, strange rules and regulations governing the early community a few are given as samples:

The Town Crier, in stentorian voice proclaimed "that he who is to cry things lost shall keep a booke where he shall note down fully as such things."

"Youths from ten to sixteen years old shall be trained to the use of small guns, half pikes and also bows and arrows, lest the Colony shall be destitute of powder."

"If any young man attempted to address a young woman without the consent of her parents, or in case of their absence he shall be fined £15 for the first offence, £15 for the second offence and imprisonment for the third." Note: One swain was caught and fined £5:2:6.

"If anyone shall depart the town meeting without leave such person shall be fined six pence."

"That (to combat fire) no barn or haystack shall be sett within six poles of anni dwelling." Penalty 10 shillings.

"Every dwelling shall have a sufficient latner (ladder) standing by the chimney."

"The early rule was to fence land *to keep out* 'Cattle and hoggs'—not to keep them in."

"Every man was to yonke his hoggs; the yonke being as long as the hoggs is high and to be six inches above his neck."

"That males of less property than £200 are prohibited from wearing gold or silver lace, or buttons or points at their knees, or walk in great boots; or if any females, not possessed of £200 wear silk or tiffany hoods or scarfs, they shall be prosecuted and fined."

The General Court agreed "that for the dispatch of business the Deputies shall *eat* and especially *dine*—together in the Court House where they shall have breakfast, dinner and supper, and a cup of wine with the two last meals, and fire and bed for 3 shillings a day."

John Weston "was admonished and to make public acknowledgment for challenging Thomas Clark in the field to fight."

"Dogs coming to meeting on Lord's Day or lecture days, not with owner, or without pay to the dog's whipper, the owner shall pay six pence everytime they come to the meeting." The record tells that twenty-six men agreed to pay the dog-whipper.

A herdsman was chosen to look after the cattle on the Common "so they may not eat up and destroy in the Somer what should be for them in the winter."

In 1680, freemen, in voting for public officers, were obliged to use "Indian corne."

One of the "Goodwif's" for sweeping the meeting house for the year of 1690 was given "three bushels of Indyun Corne."

Just previous to 1700 the town voted "that there shall be shade trees left on the Common."

Voted that "no geese shall go on the Common after January 1 next, but that swine may."

Down through the early years there are recorded incidents and laws that give a glimpse of the gradual transformation of local life and habits.



Main Street was known as the Common, much as it is laid out in these present times. Cutting of oak, spruce and pine trees on the Common was prohibited. No man was to turn "cattell" upon the Common from the middle of March to herding time. William Cowdrey was licensed to sell wine and strong liquors to the Indians with a one-pint limit. Robert Burnap was chosen keeper of the Pound. Slaves, male and female, appeared as servants earlier than 1655.

In 1657 it was voted to hold two town meetings a year, with a "fine of two shillings, six pence if not present by 9 in the forenoon." In 1661 a lease was made on terms of £7 yearly, payment to be made—one bushel of Ry and Indian (corn), all the rest in wheat and cattell. Part payment of a house was in "English goods, linens and wool." Thomas Chandler paid a debt with shovels, spades and axes; and Lieutenant Marshall a debt in "Fatt Beef and Fatt Pork."

In 1666, a quarter of a century following the settlement of Linn Village, Henry Merrow, who married (1661) Jane Wallis of Woburn, built the first house in the present town of Reading at or near the corner of Woburn and West Streets. It is said that Merrow was one of Cromwell's prisoners and was brought to America to work in the Saugus Iron Works.

In 1672 the town appeared to be having trouble with the ladies, so it was ordered "that any woman, convicted of Railing or Scholding, shall be gagged, or set in a ducking pool and dipped over head and ears three times."

For years the life of the Colonists was one of anxiety, of struggle against nature and its environments, for many of them against advancing age. From 1670 on, many of the early settlers passed away. They had reared large families, had seen sons and daughters married in good families within the town. Most wills devised property to the eldest sons. Widows were given rather meager allotments—such as "my wife to have the bedroom to the west of the hall; permission to use the hall and one half of the cellar, to have a small sum of money and a barrel of cider and one cow"—all under the direction of the eldest son. Some estates where there were no sons went wholly, or in part, to married daughters. In all these early family documents we find the handwriting to be that of William Cowdrey, the scribe and adviser of the town's people. In many of the older documents the X (his or her) mark appears.

Early wills, with some variations, begin "being in perfect mind and memory though weak in body," and "I give and bequeath my soul unto the hands of God, my Creator, entreating Him through the merit of his blessed Son to accept me and my body to the earth, out of which it was

made in hope of a glorious and happy reunion of those old companions at the last day." So began the will of Nathaniel, the son of William Cowdrey.

William Cowdrey died in 1684 and this is what he gave by will to his wife Also; "one mare and to cows, and ten oxens and ten young calves and fower sheep and three young shoats and if there Be not soe many catell there in Being of Every Sort then they must be made up from some other Catell, or in something else, and furthermore I give unto my deare wife also one feather Bead and Boulster and Green Rug, fower Pillows and three Cotton Blankets, and three pares of cors. (corse) flaxen sheets and fower Pillow Pears Good and Bad; one pare of toe sheets and five napkins and a Littal tablecloth and ten Puter Dishes," etc. Two grandchildren each received "one pare of flaxen sheets."

There is mention in the will of Kendall Bryant of his wife, Elizabeth, who was to have the use of "the left end of my dwelling house during her widowhood." Robert Burnap's will recites that his wife, Sarah, is "to have all movables and my house to live in as long as she is a widow."

It is clear that those early settlers did not want a second husband to enjoy the fruits of their own hard labor. Still the number of second and third marriages for the *men* were a-plenty down through the years! Burnap's son left to his widow "the west lower bedroom in the Leanto."

James Boutwell, Sr., in his will gave to his daughters Mary and Elizabeth "choice of one room in my home to live."

The early records for the first hundred years told of many changes in real estate holdings. Some of the early, large farms, and especially large and small lots from first and subsequent divisions, were disposed of to later arrivals, or given to sons upon which to build and maintain homes. It was a natural transformation of material things to the newer generation.

The second meeting house was built in 1689 at "Hart's" corner on Church Street, a little south of the present meeting house of the First Parish. It signified a growth of religious interest, to care for the spiritual needs of a growing, healthful town. The cost was shared by 72 Redding men, 26 Lynn End (Lynnfield) men, and 10 men of that part of Charles-town now the town of Stoneham. There was now a meeting house and a burial ground, side by side!

The purchase of the town's open lands through the early years was by paying "as one can"; but in 1679 the town voted that hereafter town lands would be sold "*only for cash*."

In 1680 Robert Ken arrived in town; located on a small pond in our Common; built a blacksmith shop on the west shore. That's where "Ken's Pond" took its name.

In 1685 a highway to Woburn was laid out over Cowdrey's Hill and a highway to Stoneham over Cedar, Gould, Albion and Green Streets. In 1726 what is now Greenwood was set off from Malden and became a part of old Reading. In 1729 there was a meeting at Landlord Wesson's to hear the reading of the Indian Deed.

An old county road, much in use in early times, extended west from the First Parish meeting house, and north of the present Church Street, to a point east of the Hartshorne house. When the present Church Street was laid out, the county road was abandoned, but a portion thereof remains to this day in possession of the Middlesex County Commissioners.

In 1733 the bill of expense of the funeral of Rev. Richard Brown, minister of the First Parish contained these items: for provisions, £2:1:0; for fetching the wine, 15s; for 5 qts. Rhom, 8s; for digging Mr. Brown's grave, 8s; Landlord Wesson for Rhom, 10s, 6d; Wm. Cowdrey for making the coffin, 15s; Andrew Tyler of Boston, 6 gold rings for funeral, £10:18:0.

In 1734 the town bought a "Kalash" and a horse to go with it. Seven years later Rev. George Whitefield preached on Reading Common.

In 1752 a new style of time (as it is today) was introduced into the country. The old style year began in March, with February the 12th month.

Up to 1775 all town meetings were called in the name of the then King of England.

Following the early settlement of Reading, the growth of population, of government and of industry and of social life was toward a long, sane and stable existence. Generations followed generations, many inherited from their parents—the continual flow of new peoples with more modern ideas and habits tended to create problems that had to be solved—and they were solved.

So it is that the town of Reading reached a maturity when it was desirable to set up separate and distinct areas of influence. To this end there was created three Parishes—what is now Wakefield was the First or South Parish; what is now North Reading was the Second or North Parish; and what is now Reading became the Third or West Parish, earlier (1673) named "Wood End." These districts continued down to 1812 when the First Parish was legally divorced from the other Parishes, as the Town of South Reading. This closed the first historical period of Reading existence. The remaining two parishes took the name of Reading, and it was not until 1853 that the Second Parish separated from the Third Parish and was incorporated as the Town of North Reading.

The first 100 years—the Centennial of Incorporation—passed without apparent recognition of the importance of the event either by town or



parish. Searching the records discloses only one episode, i.e. "The Bible was read for the first time in the First Parish meeting house."

### 1700 - 1812

After sixty years the old Town of Reading had acquired a well-earned place in the Massachusetts Colony. Forty of the first settlers had passed on, leaving large families to take up the burdens of life, and government. Fifty of the males had given several or more years as Selectmen with six as town clerks, and eight as delegates to the General Court.

A town school had been established to teach the children "reading, wrighting and sifering," the masters and parents to furnish the wood. The meeting house had been enlarged, and the new century opened with prosperity generally the portion of the inhabitants.

Six years later an Indian attack was made in the north part, killing a woman and three children. Other children carried off were recovered by the infuriated settlers.

As the years followed, the north part was set off as a separate parish in 1713, and later the west part was likewise set off. Meeting houses and schools followed. In 1720-1721 there were 184 Reading members of the Church, 7 from Malden (Melrose), 20 from Lynn End (Lynnfield), 25 from Charlestown (Stoneham) a total of 236.

The financial affairs of the town as of the year 1730 showed expenditures of £77:8:2, with credits of £99:17:4 and a cash balance of £22:9:2—a healthy condition for the young town.

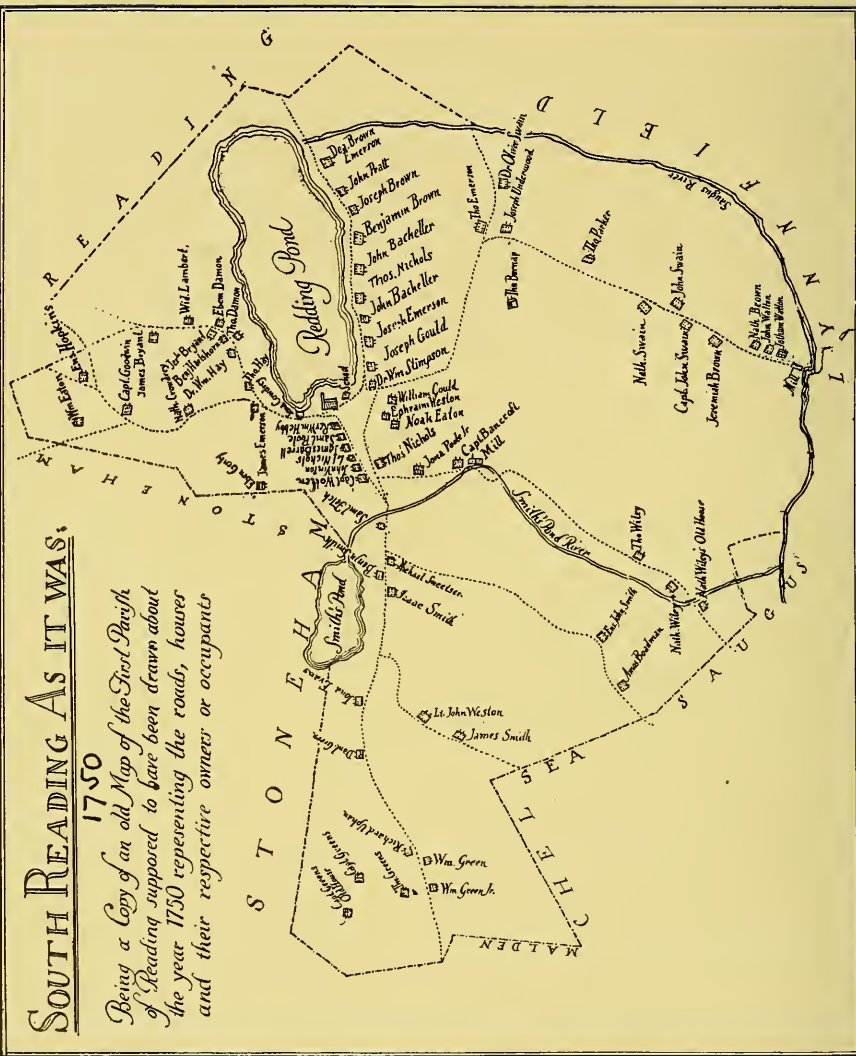
In 1735 the widow of Thomas Hodgman died in her 96th year. It was Hodgman who built the old Hartshorne house on Church Street in 1693.

The year 1741 was one of great importance to the townspeople as envisioning the future development of the town, and of greater importance to later generations, even up to the present day. It was a town vote "to lay out in perpetuate, as Common land, the present Main Street to the Great Pond (Quannapowitt) and so up the Pond as far as the J. G. Aborn Shoe factory (foot of Aborn Avenue); all the land west of the old first cemetery and beyond the First Parish Meeting house and up Cowdrey's hill and up Elm Street for the use of the Old Parish, for highways, a Training Field and Burying Place, and to accommodate the neighbors that live bordering on said land for their more convenient coming to and improving their own land and buildings; to the use of the Old Parish and neighborhood above said FOREVER, never to be disposed of for any other use whatsoever." It was a vision with action that has proved of untold value, for this and future generations.

SOUTH READING AS IT WAS;

1750

Being a Copy of an old Map of the First Parish of Reading supposed to have been drawn about the year 1750 representing the roads, houses and their respective owners or occupants



OLD MAP: "SOUTH READING AS IT WAS - 1750"

Reading men gave service in the expedition to Nova Scotia in the French and Indian war of 1745. The contingent was made up of eighty-two men under Col. Eben Nichols and seventy men as a troop of horse under Capt. Jonathan Eaton.

For many years the town had been forced to pay fairly large sums for the care and support of the Mystic Bridge at Medford. This was the only way that Reading men could go to Boston, to Cambridge and over the ferry, or by the long over-the-road via Roxbury Neck. After long litigation the town in 1760 paid £16 and was relieved of any further payments.

About 1767 a Young Men's Christian Association was formed and it is probable that this was one of the first in the Colony. The constitution and by-laws afford interesting and instructive reading in these more recent times.

Money and the value of money of early days is intriguing. Just before the Revolution one hundred pounds, old tenor, was in reality £13:6 shillings and 8 pence. During the Revolution some of the draft records read "£2340 or 130 bushels Indian corn, £900 or 50 bu. Indian corn," etc.

The town records for a great many years showed that the town made frequent protests or petitions for relief, etc., to the General Court, on many questions of the day. If the town happened to be quiet then the Court promptly got busy with its surveys and orders for this or that thing that must be done—always with threat of a penalty.

In Rev. Caleb Prentiss' almanac of 1771 there is recorded a short story of the parade of his parishioners in Reading, on the occasion of his marriage: they met at Lexington, 24 of the parish, and were joined by many more at Woburn, *five chaises* and thirty-two horses.

On March 8, 1775, a month before the British marched to Concord and Lexington, an old Reading document recites:

"Whereas the late Provincial Congress, on October ye 26th 1774 Recommended that one-fourth Part at Least of the Several Companys of ye melitia of the Province be enlifted; equip'd and hold themselves in Reddinefs to march on the Shortest Notice, we, the Subfcribers Being Defirous of conforming to the aforementioned advice of the Congrefs as far as our Circumftances will Admit Do Volentarily Enlist our Selves for Six months, do Promise to equip ourselves Respectively with an Effective fire arm, Bayonet, Pouch, Knapfact, thirty Rounds of Cartridge and Ball and all other Nefessary Warlike Implements & to ufe our Endeavors to learn the art of Military By faithfully exercifing our Selves twice a week at Leaft for three months next ensuing & that we will hold our Selves

in Readiness to march instantly on Receiving notice from the Provincial Congress or our Officers.

Reading, March ye 8th 1775.

Signed: Abraham Foster	Timothy Wakefield
James Bancroft	William Eaton
William Johnson	Joseph Parker, Junr
Nathan Parker, Junr	Simon Nichols
Joseph Hill, Junr	Daniel Pratt, Junr
Joshua Eaton	Joseph Burnap
Thomas Eaton	John Hartshorne

James Hill"

On April 19, 1775, the First Parish (Wakefield) Company commanded by Captain John Walton had 86 enrolled members; the Second Parish (North Reading) Company commanded by Captain John Flint had 79 enrolled members; the Third Parish (Reading) Company commanded by Captain Thomas Eaton had 63 enrolled members.

Who will tell of the thrilling ride of Dr. John Brooks, afterwards Governor of the State, (upon learning at Boston of the threatened movements of British troops to Concord) who rode his horse to Reading, spreading the alarm? He was Reading's Paul Revere.

## THE REVOLUTION

The greatest event between 1644 and 1812 was the Revolution of 1775 in which the town of Reading took an active part with men, money and influence. Her men were in the actual fighting at Merriam's Corner with the retreating British in 1775. Parson Prentice was there in Lexington with his gun. Into the army went more than 400 men, for longer or shorter terms, among them being Col. John Brooks on horseback from Boston, later Governor of Massachusetts, and the man who brought to Reading the first news that the British were to march to Lexington and Concord. An eminent historian relates: "Into the spirit of that war, in defense of American liberty against the growing encroachments of British tyranny, the people of Reading entered with great unanimity and with all their heart; to its support they not only *pledged*, but they frequently *paid* with their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor."

Reading contributed one man to the famous Boston Tea Party, Andrew Oliver of Greenwood, who died in 1817.

She had few men at the Battle of Bunker Hill, since the local company was on guard duty at headquarters in Cambridge.

Reading's part in the Revolution of 1775-1782 is a story yet to be written—an opportunity for some historically-minded citizen of the present generation to collect and transcribe already recorded data, and to bring together a wealth of material awaiting the magic hand of an enthusiastic and patient researcher.

The men of Wakefield, as the First Parish of Revolutionary days, have much of which to be proud, as contributing to the establishment of these United States of America. Individual achievement deserves not only recognition but to be forever preserved as an illuminating part of Wakefield's long, enviable military history.

When on July 4, 1776, there was adopted that immortal document, the Declaration of Independence, the town of Reading voted unanimously "to adhere to its sentiments and stand by it to the last with their lives and their fortunes."

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The census of 1776 placed Reading second in population of the towns in Middlesex County; and thirty-third in the State proper, with its population of 2000. Boston then had only 2700 inhabitants. Of these 2000 inhabitants of Reading it is estimated that 500 were refugees from Boston, Charlestown and other places.

In 1803 Reading Selectmen were directed by the town to oppose all turnpike roads going through the town. Two years later the town chose a committee to use their influence "that the Turnpike Road shall be made from Essex Turnpike to the Malden Bridge."

Daniel Webster in his autobiography, said that in 1804 he hired a seat in a country sleigh that had come down to the Boston market for a journey to his home in New Hampshire, further stating that "stage coaches no more ran into the centre of New Hampshire at this time than they ran to Baffin's Bay."

### THE ANDOVER TURNPIKE

The Andover and Medford Turnpike Corporation was chartered, June 15, 1805. This new road was of great interest to Reading people. Tolls were taken up to 1835 when the roads were surrendered to the several towns. For a few years the Corporation took an annual fee instead of tolls. No tolls were taken from persons going to church, on foot or with horse and carriage, or to any grist mill. Toll fees were established as follows:

"For each coach chariot, phaeton and other 4-wheel spring carriage, drawn by 2 horses, 25c: if drawn by more than 2 horses 2c for each ad. horse.



"For every wagon drawn by 2 horses, 10c: by more than 2, 2c for each ad. horse.

"For every cart and wagon drawn by 2 oxen, 10c: more than 2, 12½c.

"For each curricle, 15c.

"For every chaise, choir, fulkey or other carriage for pleasure, drawn by one horse, 12½c.

"For every cart, wagon or truck, drawn by 1 horse 6¼c for each.

"For every man and horse, 4c.

"For every sleigh or sled drawn by 2 horses or oxen, 8c: by one horse, 4c.

"For all horses, mules or neat cattle, led or driven, besides those in teams or carriages, one cent each. Sheep and swine, 3c a dozen.

"Carts and wagon with tires 6 inches or more wide, ½ toll price.

"No gate on any country or town road already in use."

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## SEPARATION OF PARISHES

The approach of the separation of the three Parishes was not sudden. It was the result of many years of contention of geographical conditions, of church needs, and later because of a political issue. As one writer has expressed it, "On the triple foundation of congregational, town government and the village school, a liberty-loving, self-improving, God-fearing, but fiercely *competitive* society was formed."

In the separation of the parishes in 1812, the legislative act gave South Reading more land on Elm Street, including the old Eaton farm, than the town of Reading was willing to grant. Protests followed and the following year (1813) a corrective legislative act was passed, bringing the town line in this locality more to the south and as it exists today.

The growth of population, up to 1812, in the Second and Third Parishes had advanced beyond that of the First or South Parish which had been deprived of its rightful share of representatives to the General Court.

This situation rankled and was brought to a climax, when war with England was declared. The South Parish, strong for the Democratic Republican Party, favored the war. The other Parishes, strongly Federalists, were opposed. The two sections were politically unbalanced. The record indicates that "party spirits ran high and prejudices were strong." The break came, and by legislative decision, the First Parish became, in 1812, a town named South Reading, and so remained for 56 years.



It has long been a disputed topic, but many have held the opinion, that by all rights of occupation, possession and sentiment, the South Parish was entitled to a priority claim to the old and ancient name of Reading as that part of the town first settled.



#### ANCIENT COMMUNION CUP

In possession of the First Parish (Congregational) Meeting-House, being one of seven other ancient Communion pieces.

#### EARLY NAMES

In reviewing the progress of the old town of Reading, and particularly of the First Parish, it is incumbent upon the historian to indicate those individuals, who by their sound judgment and civic endeavors, made possible such progress.

In the early days, the deacons of the First Parish had great influence over many years: Zachariah Fitch, John Pearson, Thomas Kendall,

Thomas Parker, William Cowdrey, Thomas Bancroft, John Damon, Thomas Boutwell, Thomas Nichols, John Goodwin, Kendall Parker, Brown Emerson, and others.

Giving the town their services as officials were Robert Dunton, Francis Smith, William Cowdrey, Thomas Marshall, Henry Felch, William Martin, Richard Walker, Zachariah Fitch, Thomas Kendall, Jonas Eaton, John Smith, John Batchelder, John Pearson, Robert Burnap, Nicholas Brown, George Davis, Thomas Clark, Thomas Parker, Thomas Hartshorne, Jonathan Poole, Nathaniel Cowdrey, Robert Burnap, Jr., and many others.

From 1700 to 1812 this list of officials and representatives of the town contains old familiar family names: Taylor, Smith, Goodwin, Browne, Burnap, Pratt, Emerson, Poole, Parker, Bryant, Eaton, Weston, Nichols, Damon, Hutchinson, Swain, Foster, Hay, Sawyer, Boutwell, Flint Batchelder, Townsends, Hopkins, Wiley, Hart, Green, Gould, and Weston.

During the Revolutionary days, those officials in town office were: John Temple, John Batchelder, Joseph Parker, Benjamin Flint, Benjamin Brown, Captain James Bancroft, Ebenezer Nichols, Jacob Emerson, Timothy Pratt, Benjamin Foster.

On important committees were Benjamin Brown, Samuel Bancroft, Esq., Lt. John Walton, Capt. Thomas Flint, Dea. Amos Upton, Capt. Daniel Green, John Temple, William Sawyer, Andrew Beard, Ebenezer Parker, Ebenezer Flint, Thomas Eaton, Edward Hircom, Ebenezer Nichols, George Flint, David Damon, Jabez Damon, Nathan Bancroft, Jonathan Flint, Capt. Abraham Foster, Thomas Damon, Dea. Jacob Emerson, Capt. John Goodwin.

# SOUTH READING

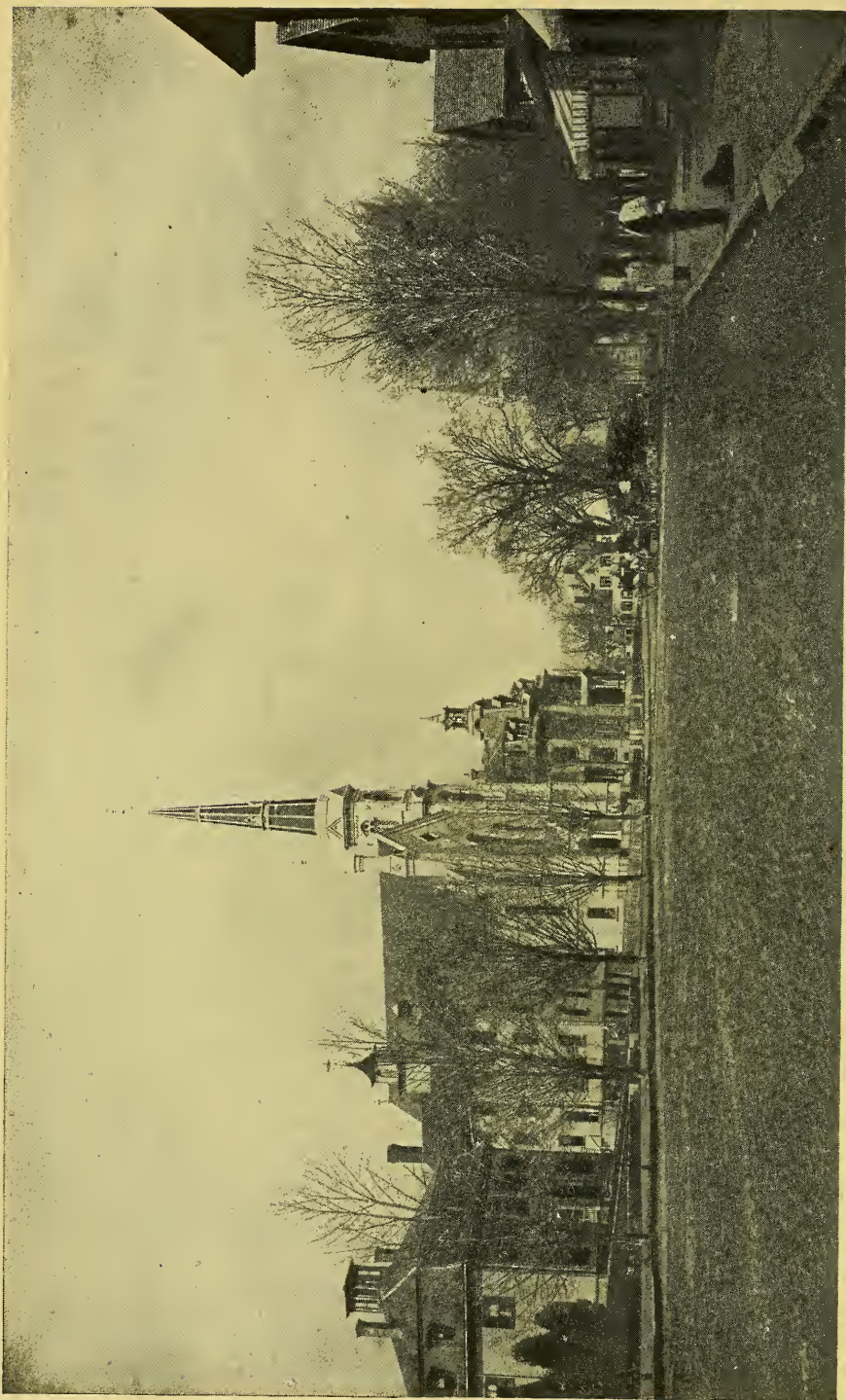
1812 ~  
1868

LEGISLATIVE ACT FEBRUARY 25, 1812

“Be it enacted, etc.

“Section 1. That all that tract or parcel of land, with the inhabitants thereon, which is within the bounds of, and known by the name of the First, or South Parish in Reading in the County of Middlesex \*\*\*\* is hereby incorporated and established as a town by the name of South Reading.”





WESTERLY SIDE OF MAIN STREET ABOUT 1872

This is a picture of the westerly side of Main Street as it appeared about 1872. The dwelling at the left was the Stearns-White homestead where now stands the new post office. The Emerson shoe factory lot is now occupied by the Y. M. C. A. Beyond the Baptist Church is the second high school, remodeled and now known as the Lafayette Building. The third First Parish meeting-house is seen in the distance.

## CHAPTER TWO

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### *South Reading*

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*Name Change — Town Life — War of 1812 — South Reading Stage Coach  
Company — Sale of Pew in Baptist Church — First Town House  
First High School — Stoneham-Wakefield Bounds  
Two Hundredth Anniversary — Civil War  
A Second Change of Name*

South Reading, clothed in her municipal robes of local grandeur and General Court authority, was at best a small Massachusetts town. The name-change was accomplished with dignity and with a true sense of new responsibilities. An efficient town government was set up. Her venerable historian gave freely of his early and mature years to the study of local events and actively participated in its political life.

Of the town, as it was 132 years past, he writes: "In the first place, in endeavoring to show how the place looked, and what it then was, let us say how it did NOT look, and how it was NOT.

"It had no post office, letters being received and mailed at the Boston post office. It received no daily papers, weekly and semi-weekly only. It had no stage to Boston, but the first came along in 1817. Papers were left by publishers at the toll-house on Charlestown Bridge, and it was the duty of the first person returning from Boston, to take the South Reading papers and leave them at one of the stores for distribution.

"There were but about sixteen public roads, and these were generally narrow, crooked and poorly graded. There was no town hall, town meeting being held in the Centre school house (erected in 1789 on Church Street Common). There was no public library.

"Yet it had established a responsible and capable town government, a population of 800; about 125 dwelling houses with a valuation of real and personal property of \$100,000. The heaviest taxpayer was Dr. John Hart, whose tax was \$50."

The Common was unfenced, with only three trees for shade. The First Parish meeting house, erected in 1768, stood on the site of the modern edifice. The Baptist meeting house, erected in 1800, was on Salem Street. The old burying ground was there on the northerly side of Church Street,



the gravestones badly broken. A little west of the burying ground gate was a small engine house. The town pound was on the site of the present Universalist Church.

With this humble beginning, and following the close of the War of 1812, the town renewed its growth and became one of the most enlightened and progressive towns in the Commonwealth. Great attention was given to its schools and teachers and new school houses; to its physical development and its political progress. The town sent able representatives, senators and councilors to the General Court, and also delegates to the Constitutional conventions.

### WAR OF 1812

Sometime in 1814, during the War of 1812, our Government wished to strengthen and improve the fortresses in Boston Harbor, and invited nearby people to aid by voluntary labor. To this invitation South Reading citizens responded and here is the story about it (as a boy of ten years saw the incident when he accompanied his father to Boston and later wrote this account):

"It was a glorious day for me and never will be forgotten. We were to be at Long Wharf in Boston at Sunrise. No railroads or stages were then available—horses and carriages must be provided—and it was agreed to meet at the Common in front of Hale's Tavern at two o'clock A.M. and all start together.

"Some 200 men, including some boys, were on hand betimes. Everyone furnished himself with some implement of labor—a shovel, hoe or pickaxe, together with a box of rations, solid and liquid, and long before the sun rose our procession of 50 carriages were enroute.

"On our arrival at Malden Bridge, Sergeant, the toll gatherer, an illiteral and surly old publican, having got a hint of our early coming was at the gate to exact his tribute but our heroes, justly feeling that their public, voluntary service entitled them to a free passage, were not disposed to respond to the old man's demands; they accordingly opened the gate and told Mr. Sergeant to get out of the way.

"I remember that my father, one of the most conscientious and honorable of men, accompanied by his good brother, the Deacon, despising the parsimony of the tollman, when he presented himself at our carriage for a ninepence, cracked up the old mare and nearly ran down the old fellow. (He paid his morning's toll, however, on his return in the evening—not so the majority, I think.)

"Arriving at Charlestown Square at about daybreak, we stabled our steeds and assembling around the grocery store of Horn & Ball, we sent

for the proprietors, who soon appeared and threw open their doors; and in the spirit of '76 and 1812 and their spirits--red, white and blue of Horn & Ball formed a glorious union.

"We then formed ourselves into a company, with platoons and sections, armed with shovel, spade and pick, under the command of our gallant Col. Amos Boardman, one of the most patriotic and public-spirited men of the day, with old Jeremiah Green, of Revolutionary service, on the drum, and old Fife Major Caleb Green on the fife and other musicians, and with the stars and stripes gaily flying, we took up our line of march for the Town of Boston.

"Upon our approach to Charlestown Bridge, *its* toll gatherer, more generously spirited than he of Malden, threw open his gate and welcomed us with a free passage thereover.

"On we marched along Prince Street in Boston, on our way to the place of embarkation, our Band playing 'Yankee Doodle' in animating strains, we roused the still slumbering inhabitants; and it was an amusing sight to see the upraising of bed chamber windows, and the presentation thereof of uncombed heads and half-opened eyes.

"On our way, we passed the house of Mrs. Barber, whose family was on terms of intimacy with my father's family, and as we marched along under her chamber windows, we looked up and saw her daughter, a fair, middle-aged maiden lady, with her hair disheveled; ringlets loose and all unruffled, reaching out from a window just over us to get a good view of the coming gang, just then my father looked up and called out in tones all could hear: 'Good morning, Aunt Dolly, how is your mother?' I guess she went to see, for she quickly withdrew her head from the window.

"Upon reaching the wharf, we found the Revenue Cutter alongside and soon were sailing down the harbor. On the way our venerable citizen, Timothy Poole, Esq., lost his best beaver overboard, but was later presented with a fine tarpaulin, which he retained as long as he lived, as a memento of the occasion.

"At the fortress we went immediately to work in the moat, where we worked diligently through the day. At noon, under the polite escort of General Dearborn, the Commander of the Port, we saw the huge 32 and 44 pounders, the great mortars, the shells and balls, the magazine, the furnaces for heating shot, and the other paraphernalia of the Castle.

"In plain view were British warships, cruising round the entrance to the harbor and threatening to make a descent upon the town, occasionally letting off a discharge from their great guns.

"The labors of the day were ended, we returned in safety to Boston

and thence home, all well pleased with our excursion—and proud I was of having devoted one day to the service of our country.”

At the termination of the War with England in 1814, South Reading celebrated the event in a grand and glorious manner. There was a parade and speeches, and had one been in the party at Hale’s Tavern, where the Baptist Church now stands, he would have been refreshed from the “ten quart pails of grog and punch, gingerbread, crackers and cheese.”

From 1812 to 1868 there were many minor events: The town began in 1813, printing its annual receipts and expenditures. In 1835, the South Reading Stage Coach Company was organized by citizens of the town. On July 25, the company purchased the equipment of the existing company. Capital stock was \$1,000. In 1838, the company ceased operations.

Old-timers remember the Benjamin F. Abbott house that stood at the lower end of Lake Quannapowitt, between Main Street and the lake. South of his house was more land but being in the “open lands of the town” by its vote in 1741, was leased to Mr. Abbott for 50 years at a total rental of \$30 in advance.

There were occasional family disputes among town officials. There was one in 1827 when members of the school committee disagreed over a teacher for the Centre School. The first result was the appointment of two teachers. This did not end the trouble for, on Writs, three of the Committee were imprisoned in the county jail charged with trespass. The defendants won; the town paid the costs, then sued the Chairman of the Committee and made him take on the costs.

An early town vote was “that no theological catechism shall be taught in any schools supported by the town.” The South Reading Academy was established on Crescent Street, where the Lincoln School now stands. Some years later, 1847, the town purchased the Academy building as its first High School.

The year 1831 two law cases locally known as “Emerson versus Wiley” were decided, after being in court for six years. The town had become divided into two excited parties during the lengthy trials in the Massachusetts Supreme Court. The trial was one that was of great interest throughout the state, and among the townspeople there was “a high amount of anxiety, prejudice, rancor and party feeling.”

It appears that Benjamin B. Wiley, who lived on the south shore of Reading Pond persisted in crossing Rev. Reuben Emerson’s parsonage lot which he had fenced in violation of the town vote of 1741. The Parson sued for trespass. After a long trial, with able lawyers contesting, the court decision was against the Parson. Then Wiley sued the Parson for

false arrest, etc., and a new trial followed. Wiley again won his case. This exciting episode was expensive to the First Parish for its defense of the Parson. The full course of the two trials appears in the Pickering's Reports Nos. 7 and 10.

### THE SOUTH READING STAGE COACH COMPANY

It was in 1817, that the first stage that ever passed through Wakefield, regularly, commenced running once a week. Mr. O. B. Knapp was the owner, but in July, 1835, he sold to the South Reading Stage Co., as he was unable to make it remunerative. The property consisted of one stage, one stage sleigh, six horses and six harnesses, one wagon and harness, blankets, halters, lanterns, buffalo robes, etc.

The first Trustees of the Company were Benjamin B. Wiley, Peter B. Wiley, Joshua N. Eames, Leonard Wiley, Lilley Eaton, Clerk, and S. O. Richardson, Treasurer. Levi Flanders, who died December 4, 1881, was employed as driver at 25% of net profits. The stock was placed at \$25 a share and purchased by many of the citizens of the town in lots varying from one to five shares. The expenses and other drawbacks proved too much for the profitable management of the business and the Company soon began to decline in prosperity. Major Suel Winn bought largely of the falling stock at five dollars a share, declaring his intention of keeping the Company alive. His efforts proved futile and the property was bought by Thomas Brown who ran the stage until the Boston and Maine Railroad was built in 1845.

Mr. Amos Butler, an uncle of Aaron Butler, ran a stage from Boston to South Reading in opposition to Thomas Brown and there was considerable rivalry between them to secure passengers.

There were two bridges on the way to Boston, and at both bridges a toll had to be paid. The excitement of the day in those times was the arrival at the Quannapowitt House of the stages late in the afternoon. Mr. Butler ran his stage some months in opposition to the railroad, but finally gave up in favor of the "iron horse."



### SALE OF A PEW IN FIRST BAPTIST MEETING HOUSE

September 21, 1829, Abel Bayrd of South Reading sold Pew Number 41 to John Rayner, consideration \$45.

This pew was a wall pew on the "floor of the meeting house at the easterly end and northerly of the pulpit," and was in the first Meeting House of the Baptist Society built in 1800. It was in size 38 x 34 feet and located on the northerly side of Salem Street, between Main and Pleasant Streets.

This ancient edifice was totally destroyed by fire in 1835, and the second meeting house erected in 1836 on Main Street, corner of Crescent Street.



**SECOND MEETING-HOUSE, FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**

(Destroyed by fire in 1871)

Was located at the corner of Main and Crescent Streets, on present site of Crystal Apartments.



## FIRST TOWN HOUSE

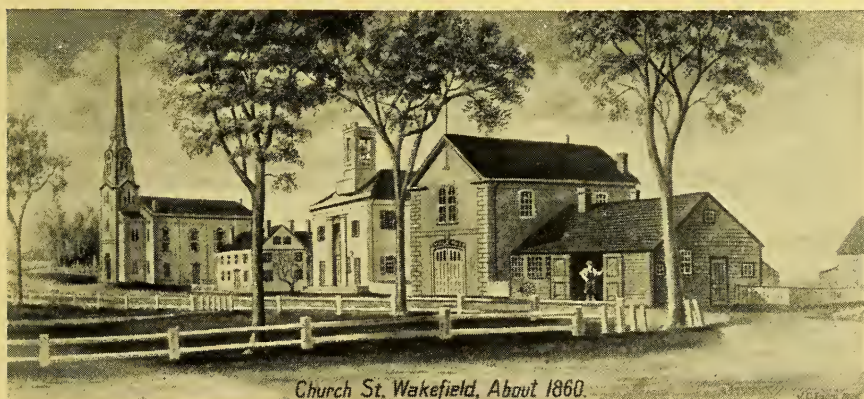
In 1834 the first Town House was erected on the site of the first Burying Ground on Church Street, the bodies having been re-interred in the easterly part of the new second cemetery.

The building committee was Lilley Eaton, Ira Wiley, Benjamin B. Wiley, John Abbott and Adam Wiley. This committee made a contract with John Wiley "to built a cellar or basement story on the old Burial Lot for \$310. The cellar shall be 60 feet long by 40 feet wide, the walls to be 8 feet in height in all parts, and the walls to the ground surface shall be 3 feet thick of good plaster or thick stones." Wiley also agreed "to furnish eight split stone pillars 8 feet in length and 1 foot square suitable to set under the centre of the house." Upon this foundation the Town House was built.

The building was of solid construction, served at first as a Centre School and in 1870 was removed to the corner of Main and Salem Streets. In its belfry the old Paul Revere bell was the only town fire alarm. The old building was torn down years ago.

The year 1844 was memorable for two great events. First: work was commenced on the new Boston and Main Railroad extension between Wilmington and Boston with train service the following year.

Second: the celebration of the 200th anniversary of the incorporation of the town of Reading. The observance of this Bi-Centennial, on May 29, 1844, was jointly by the old South, North and West Parishes.



**NORTH SIDE OF CHURCH STREET BETWEEN LAKE AVENUE  
AND MAIN STREET (Painting by Joseph Payro)**

The buildings here pictured are the third First Parish meeting-house; the old Parsonage, occupied for many years by Reuben Emerson, the pastor; the old town house; old brick fire station, and the blacksmith shop of John Hood (later Abner Hart's).

## READING'S BI-CENTENNIAL 1844

It is fitting that this history should recall to the citizenry of Wakefield the stirring events that celebrated the two hundredth anniversary of the town, on May 29, 1844.

It was a notable occasion and it was also a forceful reminder, not merely a notice, but a *challenge* to "carry on" in 1944, a Tercentenary observance of the Past, Present and Future of the old Town. This challenge will be met in the same effort and spirit that then animated the lives and deeds of men and women and their descendants for the longer period of three hundred years!

The sun shone on the people of Reading on May 29, 1844. The town turned out for a stirring holiday, gathering at Union Hall on Main Street. A colorful procession formed, with officers of the day, chaplains, members of committees, and a coach with soldiers of the Revolution; next came the "old folks" in costume, clergymen, physicians, lawyers, residents and invited guests—all with their ladies and under escort of the South Reading Rifle Greens and military companies from Medford and Woburn. To the music of the Malden Band, and the Marion Band of Woburn, the procession moved to the Common, under a banner "1844 Bi-Centennial." Here in an amphitheatre of raised, single and platform seats four thousand persons participated in an occasion long to be remembered.

Following an historical address by Rev. Dr. Flint of Reading, a poem by the Hon. Lilley Eaton, closing with

"Let us entreat our father's God,  
Who long has blest this fair abode,  
To scatter light and truth abroad;  
That future generations here  
Shall so increase from year to year,  
To those rich treasures, stor'd in heaven,  
To wisdom, knowledge, virtue given,  
That when the sun's revolving way  
Shall light our *next centennial* day,  
Spectators may with joy behold  
Those treasures grown a *hundred* fold."

Following exercises on the Common, the procession reformed and marched to a spacious pavilion, erected near the meeting house on Church Street, where sixteen hundred persons, including the children, enjoyed the good eats provided by a Boston caterer.







MAP OF SOUTH READING — ABOUT 1856





Next came speeches, prominent citizens and invited guests responding to regular and special toasts directed by Caleb Wakefield, Esq., president of the day. Many of these toasts contained the "challenge" previously mentioned and so are here quoted:

*"The Town of Reading"*—"May we so administer the inheritance which our fathers have left us, that our children, on some *future occasion*, may take as much pride in recalling the events of our local history, as we today are able to do."

His Excellency Governor Briggs responded to *"The Ancient Town of Reading"*—"After two hundred years of progress in the cause of education, and of civil and religious freedom, the sentinel from her watch-tower proclaims 'all's well'; may the same cheerful cry be heard on the morning of her *Third Centennial birthday*."

Once again the Challenge confronts us! -

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In the following years there was intensive material progress: streets were laid out and named, school districts were established, Lakeside Cemetery was organized (1846); the Yale engine was purchased in 1852, and a frame engine house erected on the site; the Eastern railroad was built from South Reading to Danvers; and beyond, a new almshouse was built (1856); the name "East Ward" was changed to Montrose (1859); the Common was fenced at a cost of \$637.75, and the Jewish Cemetery was laid out in 1859, on the west shore of Lake Quannapowitt. Then came the Civil War of 1861-65, which is described in this volume under the heading of "Military History."

## FIRST HIGH SCHOOL

The action of the town in 1847, regarding a High School, came on a report of a committee on new school houses, prior to the purchase of the buildings of the South Reading Academy on Crescent Street. This report reads:

"That they recommend to erect within 2 or 3 years for the East, West, North and South Districts and for the High School i.e. one for each between 40 and 50 feet in length, and between 30 and 40 in breadth, 2 stories in height, with cellars under them, leaving the upper stories unfinished for the present; or in respect to the High School, as that now has no home, and a suitable room for it cannot be hired for less than \$150 per year, the Committee would recommend the purchase of the Academy, land and buildings for this purpose.

"As the Academy building, which is 36 x 50 feet together with the lot of land upon which it stands, can now be bought for \$2200, the Committee think it may be more economical to purchase this than to erect a new school for the High School.

"Also a portion of the Academy land may be sold for house lots if deemed expedient."

The town acted promptly and acquired the Academy property, thereby establishing the first High School.



#### **SOUTH READING ACADEMY BUILDINGS**

In 1847 the town bought the South Reading Academy buildings on Crescent Street, and in the building to the left established the town's first High School—an English High School—as the records state. This building is now located on Foster Street and is the house of worship of the Methodist Church. The old Academy (right) was removed to Crescent Street for a fire station, and was later destroyed by fire.

### STONEHAM-WAKEFIELD BOUNDS—1856-1899

For many years the western boundary line between South Reading and Stoneham extended from the lower end of Crystal Lake, northerly to a point only a short distance to the south of the present Wakefield Boston and Maine upper station; thence in a northwesterly direction to a stone boundary in the rear of number 26 Summit Avenue, and thence still northwesterly to the Stoneham bounds. All the territory west of Crystal Lake, the Lake and Albion Street sections, and a large part of the present Wakefield Park, was Stoneham's. South Reading coveted this section, and in 1856 acquired the southern portion by an Act of Legislature. Again, in 1889, Wakefield acquired the northerly part of 142 acres of Stoneham land, including the balance of Wakefield Park, to the town bounds as they exist this year, 1944.

There have been two other changes in the boundary lines of the town. In 1726 the north part of Malden was set off to Reading. This is the Greenwood of the present time. In 1933 a portion of Saugus, known as Golden Hills was set off to Wakefield. This is situated east of Main Street at the south end of Greenwood.



**OLD BANK BUILDING**

Now standing at the corner of Albion Street and North Avenue. The South Reading Mechanic and Agricultural Institution, incorporated in 1833, and the South Reading Bank, organized in 1854, had their banking rooms on the second floor. Everett W. Eaton opened a grocery store in 1864, on the first floor, where he conducted business for nearly half a century. In recent years, following several years of occupancy as a hardware store, the first floor space has remained unoccupied.

## THE CIVIL WAR 1861 - 1865

The story of the Civil War, the services rendered by soldiers, and the activities of the citizen have been elsewhere recorded. On the ever memorable 19th of April, 1861, came the call and orders for the local military company—the Richardson Light Guard, to proceed to Washington. Three times this company responded for duty in the battle sections of the South, and rendered gallant service that was recognized at home by receptions, parades, banquets, etc. In Eaton's History of Reading, on page 600 and beyond, is an alphabetical list of South Reading persons who were in the military or naval service during the War of the Rebellion.

The close of the Civil War brought the town again to its normalcy. The Wakefield Real Estate and Building Association was established in 1864. The South Reading Bank changed its name to the National Bank of South Reading, (June 21, 1865).

An old house that stood where is now the Baptist Church was torn down in 1865. It was early used and known as Hale's Tavern, and was a famous local resort; had a most spacious hall used for dancing, Masonic lodge meetings, headquarters on training days and for many public meetings and gatherings. The Methodist Episcopal Church purchased Albion Hall (1869). A disastrous fire occurred in 1866 at the Boston & Maine Foundry. New buildings were erected the following year. H. M. Warren Post No. 12 was chartered in 1867. The Public Library took the name of the Beebe Library of Wakefield (1868), with Miss Victorine Marsh as librarian, who served until 1885. The Wakefield Savings Bank was incorporated in 1869. Emmanuel Episcopal Society established a Mission in 1869.

In 1868 the Selectmen issued the last annual report of the "Selectmen of South Reading" as the town, from July 1, was henceforth known as Wakefield.

The inhabitants of South Reading had, for several years following the Civil War, considered a change in the corporate name. Following reports of committees and discussions in the local press, the time arrived for action. The Massachusetts Legislature accepted the request of South Reading and in 1868 the corporate name was changed to Wakefield.



# WAKEFIELD

## MASSACHUSETTS

### TERCENTENARY



, Legislative Act — February 25, 1868

“Be it enacted, etc.

“Section I. The Town of South Reading, in the County of Middlesex, shall take the name of Wakefield.

“Section II. This Act shall take effect from and after the thirtieth day of June, in the year one thousand eight hundred and sixty-eight.”

# 1868-1944



#### INFLUENTIAL CITIZENS OF SOUTH READING IN 1868

When town changed its name to Wakefield

Seated, left to right: Samuel Gardner, Lucius Beebe, Thomas Emerson, Lilley Eaton, Edward Mansfield.  
Standing: Cyrus Wakefield, George O. Carpenter.

### CHAPTER THREE

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## *Wakefield*

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*Name Change — New Town Hall and Dedication Exercises — Town Hall  
Portraits — Chronological Progress Over Seventy-four Years  
250th Anniversary in 1894 — Historical Pageant of 1934*

### WAKEFIELD 1868-1944

From today, June 30, 1868, it is the town of Wakefield now and forever! Time marches on! Yesterday it was South Reading; today it is the same town, but with an identity as an active and independent town. Its people are the same people. Its hills, valleys, lakes and rivers are the same. BUT, by an Act of the Legislature of Massachusetts, the town shall henceforth bear the name of its most generous and influential citizen, Cyrus Wakefield, Esq. 3

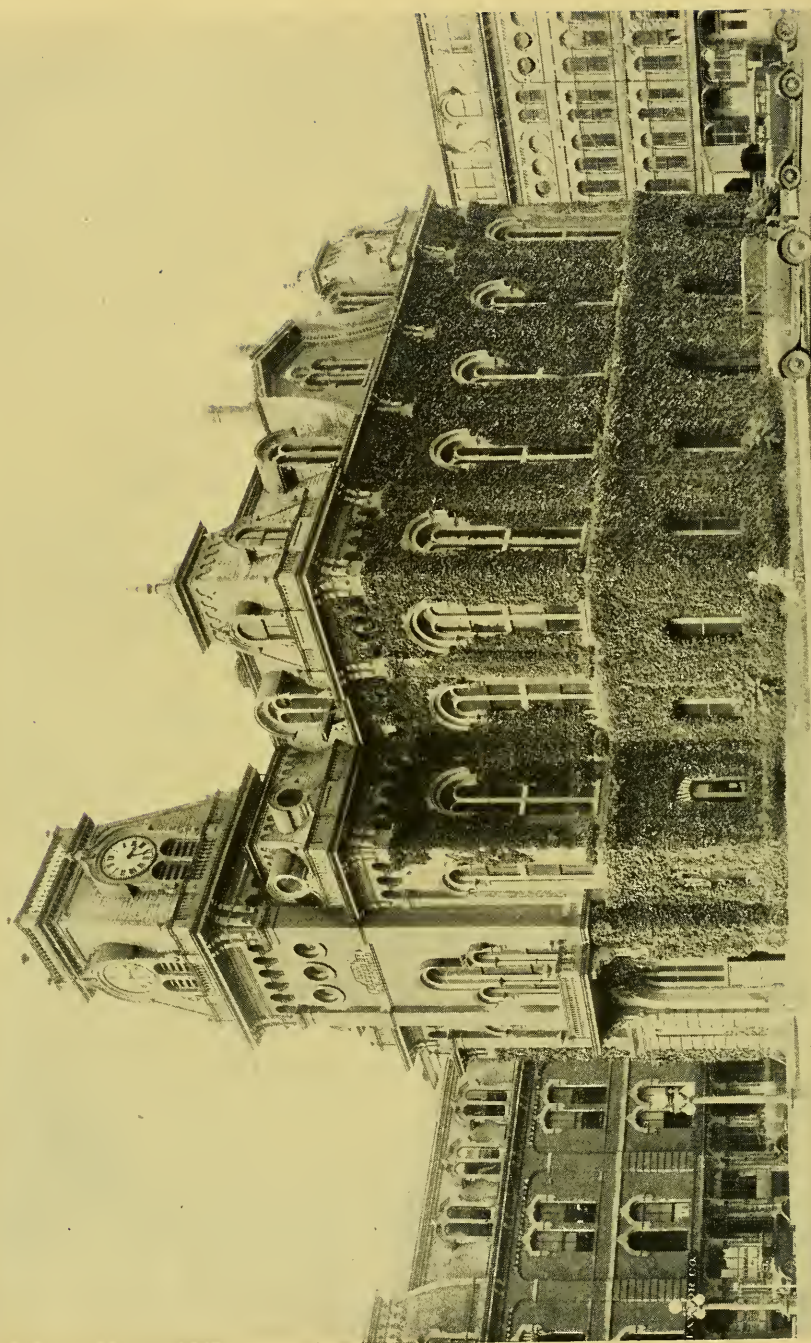
We are now in the presence of that day July 4, 1868, the day of celebration, told in prose and verse, indelibly written on the pages of local history—two hundred and twenty-four years from its very early beginning as an important community in the Commonwealth.

It was a day long to be remembered and revered. To the music of pealing bells, ushered in by a perfect blaze of sunshine, its citizens gathered for rejoicing, and for recognition of a great event, and of a committee who "with diligence and faithfulness" had prepared the program of the day.

There was a morning concert on the Common by the Boston Brigade Band. Flags were flying over residences, and public buildings and business stores were beautified by the national colors and bunting, artistically displayed. The entire population "took a day off" and actively, or inactively, participated in the various exercises of the occasion.

There was a grand parade with Mr. Wakefield riding in the carriage with the president of the day, Daniel Allen, Esq., and with the school children participating in a colorful procession that ended on the grounds of the old High School on Academy Hill on Crescent Street, earlier the site of the South Reading Academy and now occupied by the Lincoln School. Here, in a mammoth tent, were held the more formal exercises under guidance of the president of the day. Rev. Charles R. Bliss, pastor





WAKEFIELD'S TOWN HALL  
Dedicated February 22, 1871

of the First Congregational Church, offered prayer; Principal B. P. Snow of the High School read the Declaration of Independence, and the Hon. Lilley Eaton made a stirring historical address, followed by a poem by Mr. John Sullivan Eaton.

A collation for over one thousand participants, many being former residents of South Reading, closed the program of the day—"a most interesting and joyful occasion on a national holiday anniversary, and a new and memorable era in our local history."

### WAKEFIELD'S TOWN HALL

The notable event following the town's change of name was the building and dedication of a new town hall, the gift of land and building from Cyrus Wakefield, Esq., and the gift of the furnishings from Solon O. Richardson, Esq.

Seventy-three years ago, on February 22, 1871, occurred the dedication. As early as 1867, and in anticipation of a transition from South Reading to Wakefield, the town, through a committee, had given consideration, to a change of name.

On January 20, 1868 two reports were submitted, and the town took prompt and favorable action on both. First, acceptance of the offer of Cyrus Wakefield of \$30,000 to \$50,000, or whatever sum might be needed, to build a town hall satisfactory to the town; and of the offer of Solon O. Richardson, Esq., of \$1000 for furnishing and adorning the rooms. Second, acceptance of the committee's report that the town name shall be Wakefield. There was great unanimity and enthusiasm as these votes were passed and recorded. A building committee was appointed, made up of Cyrus Wakefield, Solon O. Richardson, Paul Hart Sweetser, Lilley Eaton, Daniel Allen, J. D. Mansfield, and Thomas Emerson, Jr.

The site selected was "Noah Smith House Lot" on the corner of Main and Water Streets, and the earlier site of the house of Reading's second minister, Rev. Samuel Haugh, who was ordained pastor in March, 1650. In his will, this house was left to his daughter, Elizabeth, wife of Captain John Herbert of Boston, who removed thereto.

The dedication took place under a cloudless sky. At two o'clock the new hall was crowded with the townspeople, and on the platform were Hon. P. H. Sweetser, president of the day; Cyrus Wakefield, Solon O. Richardson, town officers, and invited guests. Following the preliminaries came the reading of the deed to the town from Mr. Wakefield and his wife, Eliza A., of the land and building, in which it was recited that this was a building designed for a Town House and for municipal purposes;





**THE WAKEFIELD MANSION — HOME OF CYRUS WAKEFIELD**  
On Main Street, the present High School site

but also with the desire and intent that such portions thereof as are adapted thereto, shall be, from time to time, devoted to use for patriotic, charitable, scientific, military, literary, aesthetic, educational, moral and religious purposes, and for meetings, lectures and addresses promotive thereof"—"as a free and unrestricted gift to the town."

Mr. Wakefield followed with an address in which he emphasized the duty of a citizen to his town, state and country, and his ideas of his personal obligations to the town of his adoption and to its people. He laid stress upon the value of education in these words:

"And for myself, I can truly say, that though from early youth to the present time, my life has been one of constant, daily activity in business pursuits, yet have I never lost sight of the fact that all the blessings of social life are given us on one condition, that of intelligence, viz.: education—intellectual, moral, and religious. This truth, indelibly stamped upon my mind in early life, has been more and more deeply engraven there by the observation and reflection of maturer years. And today, more than ever before, do I love and respect that time-honored institution, established by our fathers, almost at the moment they set foot on this, our New England soil. I mean the common school. We are all proud of our free public schools—and justly so, for they make education co-extensive with the community. They place the children of the rich and the poor on an even level, as regards the advantages of intellectual culture. It is education, and its results of intelligence, which make labor reputable and the laborer respected, a result, which, in this country, gives the workingmen a place in society not merely as laborers—furnishing for others the comforts and luxuries of life—but as MEN, claiming an equal share in all the domestic, civil, and religious privileges of free men."

Richard Britton, chairman of the Selectmen, formally received the title-deed and the keys of the building with remarks expressing the thanks of the inhabitants of Wakefield for this magnificent gift. A dedication hymn by Hon. P. H. Sweetser, sung by the choir and children of the public schools, under direction of Solon Walton, Esq., was followed by stirring addresses by Hon. Lilley Eaton (his last public appearance before his death) and others. The dedicatory banquet was in the upper hall, attended by four hundred citizens, and with toasts and responses under the direction of Hon. Thomas Winship as toastmaster. Thus closed one of the most memorable days in the history of our town—and the climax was three thundering cheers given to Mrs. Wakefield as the co-grantor of the gift of her husband.

(Any description of the town hall is omitted as the edifice and its uses are evident to all.)



**GEORGE WASHINGTON**

Framed copy of a Gilbert Stuart painting which hangs in town hall,



## THE TOWN HALL PORTRAITS

Familiar to every man, woman and child who enters our town hall are the two portraits that hang on the paneled walls at the left and right of the stage. Since these are treasures of art and arouse in everyone who beholds them both emotion and civic pride, they are highly deserving of mention in this history. Fortunately, the important facts about both portraits are known and documented. The research that made possible the connected story concerning the portraits was carried on by Mrs. Winfield S. Ripley.

She presented the data of her research in an address given on February 22, 1932, in the town hall, on the occasion of the Washington Birthday Bicentenary. Mrs. Ripley was assisted in her investigations by Joseph C. Payro and the late Walter Kendall Watkins.

It appears that a group of public-spirited citizens, desiring to express to Cyrus Wakefield the thanks of the townspeople for his recent generosity, constituted themselves a committee to raise funds for a gift. This committee was active in the summer of 1871 or early 1872. The gift that they selected and for which they raised the funds was the portrait of Washington. They found this portrait hanging in the Boston studio of Thomas H. Badger, and it had been painted by the father of Thomas H., whose name was Thomas Badger. This Thomas was born in Wakefield on Salem Street, and he and his son, and his grandfather, Joseph, were all artists.

The Washington portrait is a copy of the original handsome portrait painted by Gilbert Stuart in 1796. Stuart lived in Boston the last 20 years of his life, and had a studio on "Federal Court," where Thomas Badger also had a studio. Stuart was commissioned to paint the portrait by Mr. and Mrs. Bingham of Philadelphia, who presented it to the Marquis of Lansdowne. The original was known, a few years ago, to be in Carlton House in London, and to be owned by the Earl of Rosebery. Thomas Badger copied the portrait while it was in Boston in the studio of Stuart, and his copy was presented to the town, on behalf of the citizens, sometime in the spring or summer of 1872.

The companion space on the other side of the stage did not long remain vacant. It is a reasonable conjecture that this same enterprising committee talked over with Thomas H. Badger the possibilities which the space offered. What more natural suggestion than that there should be hung there a portrait of the donor of the town hall? The necessary funds were raised and the commission given to Thomas H. Badger. On the back of the portrait is printed the artist's name, and the date "1873." It is to

be hoped that this portrait was finished and hung in its place before the demise of Mr. Wakefield, which occurred on October 26, 1873.

Lack of space prevents a description of these two fine portraits; but they can be seen by everyone. They should be viewed with admiration for their artistic worth and with reverence for what they signify in noble patriotism and civic generosity.

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**FIRST TOWN HOUSE**

Erected in 1834 on the northerly side of Church Street. Two school rooms were set apart therein for the use of the two centre schools, and were occupied by them until 1853. In 1873 the town sold the town house and the buyer removed it to the south corner of Main and Salem Streets, as shown in the picture. The building was torn down in 1903.

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#### CHRONOLOGICAL — 10-YEAR PERIODS — 1870-1944

Since 1868 the town of Wakefield has grown steadily in population, in valuation, in industries and in religious, educational, civic, literary and fraternal efforts to improve a community that has taken a high place in the Commonwealth. Step by step, always *Onward*, has been an accepted slogan! To enumerate and to evaluate important incidents, events and accomplishments, rightly belongs to this historical recital.

Many of these events will have extended information in succeeding chapters.



DECADE 1870-1880 — TIME MARCHES ON!

This decade had several important and a number of lesser events. The time was now ripe for a new high school to replace the old building on Crescent Street. The town decided on the early site of the Parson Prentice house—the third parsonage in the First Parish—on the northwest corner of Lafayette and Common Streets. Following the purchase of the land the town built a fine, commodious high school edifice and dedicated it on October 10, 1872, with becoming dignity and general approval. The building was conceded to be the best in the state. This structure is now the rebuilt Lafayette building, and houses town officials and veterans' organizations.

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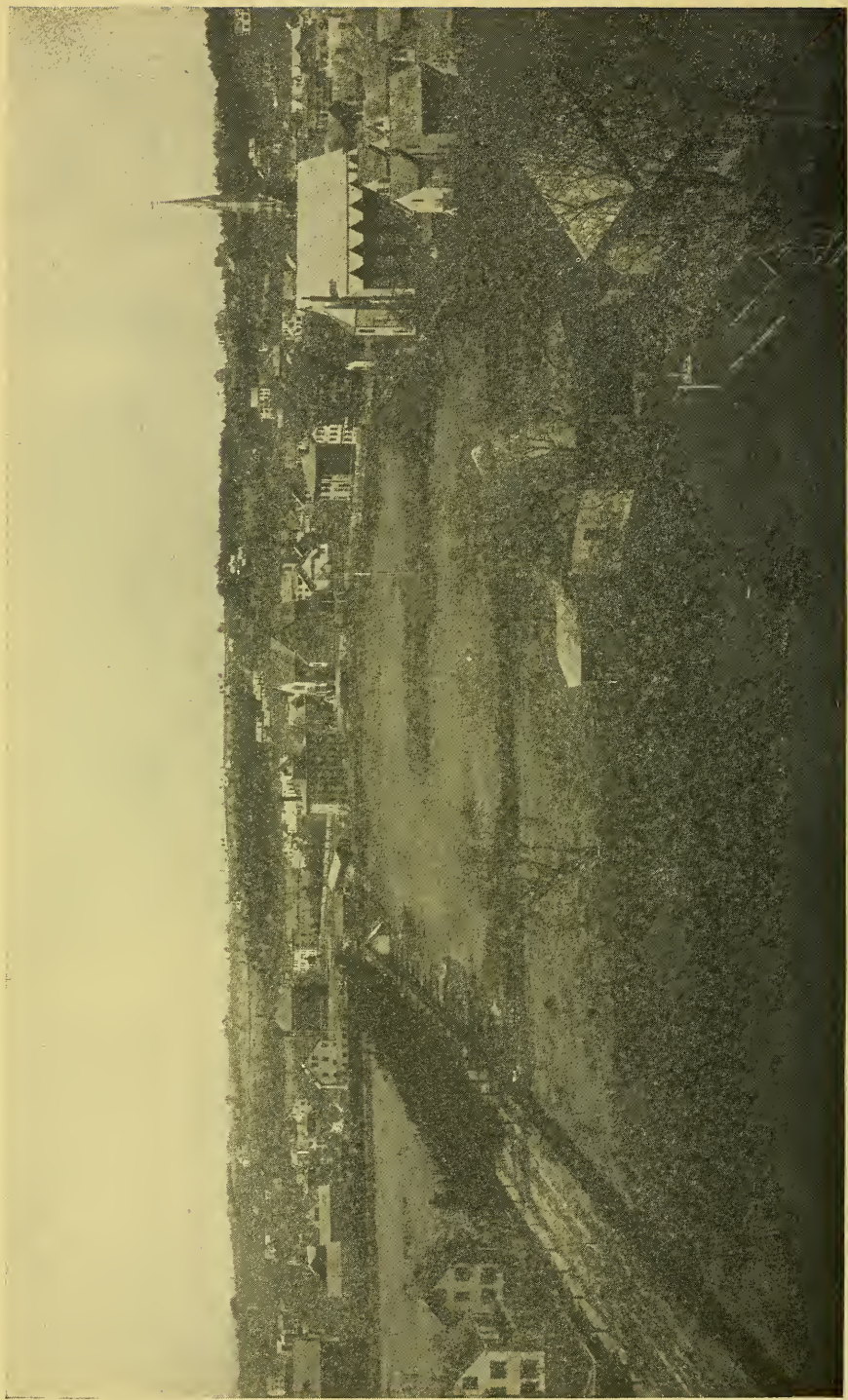


**EASTERLY SIDE OF MAIN STREET ABOUT 1870**

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The next important matter was a domestic water supply. A group of citizens formed the Quannapowitt Water Company, (May 4, 1872) later changed to the Wakefield Water Company. For several years the water situation was vigorously debated in town meetings and press. On April 2, 1883, the town entered into a contract with the company for water for hydrants and domestic use. On December 2, 1903, the town acquired the Wakefield Water Company and all its rights, pipes, hydrants, plant and equipment, authorized by an act of the legislature.

The building and dedication of the town hall has been previously described. This year, 1873, the old and first town house on Church Street, then no longer needed after having served the town for forty years, was



**VIEW LOOKING WESTWARD FROM TOWN HALL ABOUT 1875**

Across Dr. Solon O. Richardson's home lot. The old circular riding building is at the right, as is the former Methodist Church, the Walton shoe factory and the first bank building. In the center is seen St. Joseph's Church, and the Osgood Shirt factory. The street at the left is West Water Street.

sold to John M. Cate, who removed it to the corner of Main and Salem Streets, where it was used for the fire department and as a military armory until, years later, it was torn down.

In December, 1879, Mrs. Mary E. Stevens, residing on Broadway, had the honor of being the first Wakefieldian to register her name, entitling her to vote for School Committee. She was a clerk in the Registry of Deeds office at Cambridge.

1871. Town bought land for park. Committee of the town and mill owners on the Saugus River made an agreement defining low water mark. Boundary line between Wakefield and Lynnfield defined. Second Baptist Church, built on corner of Main and Crescent Streets in 1836, destroyed by fire June 21. (The following year the present Baptist Church was erected and dedicated.) Town purchased its first chemical engine.

1872. Town purchased first hook and ladder truck. Board of Health was organized. Wakefield Rattan Company took over the business and factories of Cyrus Wakefield. Eaton's History of Reading was published.

1873. Cyrus Wakefield died October 26, aged 62. He was deeply mourned by his fellow townsmen and business associates. First telegraphic service installed at Upper Station. First Congregational Society of Greenwood organized.

1874. Legality of the act of the town in establishing a public Park was confirmed. Pond Street, leading from Church Street to the lake, was discontinued, and Lake Avenue laid out. Town relieved from further payment on the Malden Bridge. First meeting of citizens looking to a water supply, March 1. Methodist Episcopal Society dedicated its new church edifice on Albion Street, February 7. New By-Laws went into force.

1875. Curley's brick block built on corner of Main and Mechanic Streets.

1876. Fish commissioners first chosen. New lock-up built in basement of town hall.

1877. State prohibited fishing in Lake Quannapowitt until January 1, 1882. Montrose Chapel Society organized.

1878. Town seal adopted. Design by Kingman S. Nichols. "Our Town," a local paper, appeared.

1879. Smith and Anthony Stove Company succeeded the old Boston and Maine Foundry Company. Was known at one time as the Franklin Foundry.

#### DECADE 1880-1890 — TIME MARCHES ON!

The leading events in this period include the town's contract with the Wakefield Water Company for home use, and to supply sixty fire hydrants;



the first introduction of the telephone service; the acceptance of Cornelius Sweetser's bequest of \$10,000 for park purposes; contract to build the Hamilton School; the completion of the "Rockery"; the setting off of a large section of Wakefield Park from Stoneham; Greenwood Park development, and electric light service. Other noteworthy events:

1880. Quannapowitt House, opposite town hall, removed.

1881. Big rattan factory fire, loss \$190,000. First town watchman appointed. Steamer Lucius Beebe purchased. Wakefield Bulletin, first issue. Episcopal Church built on Water Street. Ladies vote for School Committee. Death of Cornelius Sweetser.

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**HARTSHORNE'S COVE**

Scene at Lake Quannapowitt in the early '80's  
(Note pleasure steamer and public wharf)

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1882. Wakefield Home Fire Protective Association formed. First telephone service. Town votes "No License" 198 to 101. Town votes for water, 563 to 250. Makes contract with Water Company.

1883. Revision of Rules and Orders adopted. Citizen and Banner changes owners. Water service to dwellings. Public reading room opened in the town hall. Greenwood Chapel built. Contract to build Hamilton School. Town accepts gift of Jonathan Nichols for a Temperance Fund.

1884. Public Park Act accepted. Miller Piano factory comes to Wakefield. Free text books required in public schools. Richardson Light Guard Veteran Association formed. Sudden death of Lucius Beebe.

1885. Rockery built. Montrose Chapel erected. Wakefield Record published. Military drill introduced in High School. Park pavilion built.

1886. Sweetser Lectures started. First Parish release land between Main Street and Lake Quannapowitt to town. Bequest of Cornelius Sweetser of \$5000 for lecture purposes. Women's Relief Corps organized. History of Richardson Light Guard published. First issue of Wakefield Record.

1887. Co-operative Bank opened for business. New automatic fire alarm system installed. Red Men organized. Boston & Maine Railroad makes offer to town regarding new Upper Station. Electric Light Company incorporated. Board of Trade organized.

1888. Masonic Lodge instituted. Incorporation of Wakefield National Bank. Paul Revere bell removed from old Town House to High School.

1889. Legislative Acts set off 140 acres of Stoneham land (Wakefield Park) to Wakefield. Winship-Boit Co. comes to town. Street Railway Company formed. Old rope walk on Cedar Street torn down.

### JONATHAN NICHOLS TEMPERANCE FUND

On March 22, 1883, Jonathan Nichols made a gift to the town of \$1000, the interest to be used to pay \$10 to every young man of Wakefield on reaching 21 years, who made good a declaration made before his sixteenth birthday that he would not drink intoxicating liquors, nor chew nor smoke tobacco before his twenty-first birthday. With the \$10 there was to be given a certificate of commendation, "and at the end of 100 years the town may, if it sees fit, pay the interest for school books for orphan children, or for lectures, or for additions to the public library." This gift the town accepted and over the years has made many payments.

### DECADE 1890-1900 — TIME MARCHES ON!

The Spanish-American War (See Military Chapter) was the outstanding event at the close of the century. A new main line Boston & Maine station; introduction of street cars; town obtains gas for lighting; town buys a water system; all important in the town's rapid growth.



## 250TH ANNIVERSARY — 1894

Wakefield has always been a "celebration town." This fact is known far and wide. No local event of any importance to its people has been neglected.

The 250th anniversary of the town's incorporation, celebrated in May, 1894, eclipsed not only by its historical significance, but by its splendid observance, any other during the town's entire existence. The three towns of Wakefield, Reading, and North Reading gave it united attention on a scale that will be long remembered by those who were fortunate enough to participate.

The span of two and one-half centuries brought out "rare memories and traditions—helpful and inspiring to the present (and future) generations."

Four days were set apart: Sunday for religious exercises in the churches; Monday was Wakefield or Settlers' Day; Tuesday was Reading's or "Incorporation Day," and Wednesday was North Reading's as "Second Parish Day." Space denies a recital of the many historical, literary and memorial exercises, parades, sports, all related in type and pictures in the "Memorial Volume," issued following the celebration.

Members of the 250th Anniversary Committee still alive: Harry Foster, Secretary; Col. E. J. Gihon, C. E. Walton, C. N. Winship, Edward Barker.

A summary of other activities:

1890. First electric light service. Organization of the Wakefield Historical Society. H. M. Warren Camp 34, Sons of Veterans organized. New Boston & Maine Railroad depot at the Upper Station. Wakefield Lecture Association dissolves.

1891. Precinct voting established. Sweetser Charity organized. Cutler's Block and the R. L. G. Armory destroyed by fire. Wakefield Home for Aged Women incorporated. Town votes for municipal lighting.

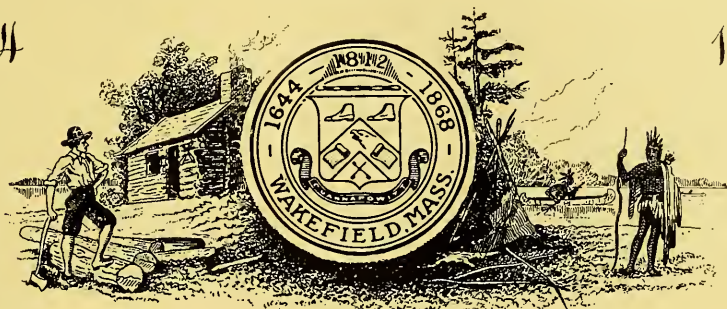
1892. Wakefield and Stoneham Street Railway operates first car to Stoneham, followed later by lines to Melrose, Reading, Lynn and Salem. Old Academy building sold and removed to Foster Street. Town enters contract with the Globe Gas Light Company. First free delivery of mail. Strike at Rattan factory.

1893. Town refuses to have Boyntonville set off to Melrose. Quarter Centennial of changing of town name. Continued discussion of water question with town voting to buy the Wakefield Water Company.

1894. Daily Item first published by Fred W. Young. Armory built on Main Street. Town buys franchise of the Citizen Gas Light Company.

1644

1894



*The Towns of Wakefield, Reading and  
North Reading will unite in celebrating the  
Two Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary of the  
Settlement and Incorporation of the old town of*

## *Redding*

*by the observance of  
Settlers Day at Wakefield,  
Monday, May twenty-eighth,*

*and  
Incorporation Day at Reading,  
Tuesday, May twenty-ninth.*

*The Town of Wakefield respectfully requests  
the honor of your presence on Settlers Day,  
May twenty-eighth and cordially invites you  
to be her guest on that day.*

*Samuel A. Hamilton  
John Gould Aborn  
William A. Tyler  
Chas. F. Woodward*

*Richard Britton  
Thomas J. Skinner  
John W. White.  
Wm. L. Con*

*Committee on Invitations.*

WAKEFIELD'S INVITATION TO 250TH OBSERVANCE, 1894

Chicago plant of Rattan factory burns, loss \$75,000. Quannapowitt Sportsmen's Club organized. High School graduates "9 young ladies and one young gentleman."

1895. Boston & Maine Railroad opens travel to Salem. Richardson Light Guards occupies State Armory. Kosmos Club formed. Firemen's Relief Association organized. Home for Aged Women opened. Water Company names \$1,500,000 as price for franchise. H. M. Warren School completed. Wakefield Sewerage Act becomes law. Flanley's Block built on corner of Main and Avon Streets by John Flanley.

1897. Trader's Block built. Wakefield Rattan Company and Heywood Brothers and Company consolidate. Post Office relocated.

1898. United States declares war on Spain. Richardson Light Guard left town May 6, and mustered into United States service May 12. Winship Boit and Company builds mill on Albion Street. Attempt to have Rockery removed fails. Town buys land on Lowell Street for a cemetery—named Forest Glade in 1903. Return of 6th Regiment and banquet.

1899. Franklin P. Hurd School named.

#### DECADE 1900-1910 — TIME MARCHES ON!

A controversial decade.

The town accepted the Sewerage Act and elected Commissioners. The United States Government gave Wakefield the benefit of Rural Free Delivery. The new brick fire station on Crescent Street was completed and occupied.

The Street Railway Company obtained rights to double track to the Melrose line; on Water Street to the Saugus line; and for tracks to and into Wakefield Park, West Side.

The Soldiers' Monument on the Common, the gift of Mrs. Harriet N. Flint, completed and dedicated. (See Chapter "Memorials to Veterans.") Among guests present was Governor Crane. Montrose and Wakefield Park street car lines opened.

Town buys Water Company. Forest Glade Cemetery opened.

In January, 1901, the town took title to Hart's Hill and its twenty-three acres with the stipulation that it be forever kept open as a public park and reservation for the use of the people. The town had voted \$5000 to purchase the Flint property and the Metropolitan Commission offered an additional \$5000. Eight public-spirited citizens purchased and gave to the town buildings and one acre not included in the town's purchase. This reservation is under Metropolitan control. Later the town erected a fire tower on the crest of the hill.

1900. Bear Hill Golf Course laid out on Hopkins Street. Old skating rink fire. Daily Item first published by Harris M. Dolbeare. Second great Rattan Co. fire. Sewerage Act accepted. New Central Fire Station completed, cost \$14,554, not including land. Emmanuel Episcopal Church bought the Andrew Young property, corner Main and Bryant Streets, as a site for its new church. The old Leslie house on Prospect Street, destroyed by fire, April 18, 1901.- At that time this house, built by Sergeant John Parker about 1667-1670 was the oldest in Wakefield. National Bank bought the Hannah S. Brown land, corner of Main and Chestnut Streets, on which to erect a bank building.

1901. Street car service to Melrose. Richardson Block built.

1902. Emerson Shoe Factory torn down. Town By-Laws adopted. Final payment of indebtedness on Lincoln School. Post Office removes to Richardson Block. Y. M. C. A. organized. First street car service to Wakefield Park.

1903. First Municipal Ambulance obtained by public subscription. Cooper Street bridge completed. Old Town House on Main Street torn down. Through street car line opened—Reading to Boston. New bank building opened at north corner of Main and Chestnut Streets. Greenwood postal station opened. Town accepted Act enabling purchase of privately owned water system. Contract made to build a bath house at Lake Quannapowitt. Forest Glade Cemetery opened for sale of lots.

1904. Greenwood Branch Library opened.

1905. Company A goes to Washington. Town votes to modernize cane seat chairs in town hall. Charles F. Parker Camp No. 39, Spanish War Veterans instituted. L. B. Evans Sons Company incorporated. Wakefield Catholic Club organized with Mrs. Minnie Gihon as first president.

1906. \$20,000 raised for local Y. M. C. A. and new building erected and dedicated 1908. \$50,000 fire in Walton's Block. New Amoskeag steamer purchased for \$5157, weight 7450 pounds. Old Howlett Mill in ruins. South Reading Mechanics and Agricultural Institution, opened in 1833, dissolved. Death of Brig.-Gen. Edmund Rice.

1907. Wakefield Historical Society placed a tablet on the Pilgrim Monument at Provincetown.

1908. Volunteer Hose Company buys first motor hose wagon east of Springfield. Wakefield firemen assist at big Chelsea fire. Cornerstone of Y. M. C. A. laid in September.

1909. First Parish stone Meeting House destroyed by fire. Citizens honor Col. Edward J. Gihon, commander-in-chief of the Spanish War Veterans, with a reception. Wakefield Improvement Society formed



## DECADE 1910-1920 — TIME MARCHES ON!

This decade saw World War I begin and finish. The town took positive, progressive actions of lasting importance. It acquired the Mansfield and Hickok properties on Main Street as a site for a new Library. It fostered action for a new Post Office and a new State Armory. Its representative at the State House introduced a bill for a State Boulevard on the northwest shore of Lake Quannapowitt. It investigated the possibility of a water filtration plant. It installed the first motorized piece of apparatus at the Fire Station, and later motorized the entire department. It placed a drinking fountain on Main Street in the business section. It bought the Wakefield Mansion property as a site for a new High School. It voted to buy electric light and power from Malden. It introduced garbage collection. As a town it did its full duty before and during World War I. Townspeople on April 6, 1919, celebrated the return of Wakefield men from war service, with the 26th Division, A. E. F. and other branches of the armed forces. Thousands of citizens, their families and children lined the Main Street, and the exercises at the Armory were a remarkable tribute to the returning soldiers. On October 13, there was another "Welcome Home" ceremony, considered to have been "the most memorable celebration ever held in Wakefield." The war casualty list records 29 dead, 19 killed in action; 8 died of disease, and 2 from accidents. Major General Clarence R. Edwards, Commander of the 26th Division, was the distinguished guest of the day.

1910. Water and Sewerage Departments consolidated by act of the State Legislature. Playground land bought in Greenwood. Wakefield has its first safe and sane July 4th. Land on west side of Crystal Lake to be developed for home building. Wakefield National Bank on Honor Roll, 28th in the state and 66th out of 6887 in the country.

1911. Citizen and Banner, weekly paper, purchased by Daily Item and discontinued. Cutler Brothers' Block and Armory burns. Factory Field sold to George W. Killorin. Addition to Evans' factory. Town votes to buy land for a new library. Age limit on school children—must be 5 years of age before October 1st. Boy Scouts organize. West Siders form club.

1912. New First Parish Church dedicated. Visiting Nurse Association organized. Parcel Post system in effect. New Daily Item building completed. B. P. O. E. instituted. U. S. W. V. dedicates lot at Forest Glade Cemetery.

1913. New State Armory dedicated, January 26. Town votes to buy Wakefield estate for a new High School. Company A goes to Wash-



ington to take part in the inauguration of President Wilson. Elks buy the Fitz estate at Lakeside. Watch Tower placed on Hart's Hill. Universalist Society celebrates Centennial. Two daily mail deliveries given to Wakefield. West side of B. & M. R. R. set off as Precinct Three.

1914. Fire Department motorized. New white light way in Square. Town to use chlorine to purify water supply. Heywood-Wakefield Company removes cane seat department to Gardner. First collection of garbage. Town accepts Workingmen's Compensation Act.

1915. Brick block built on corner of North Avenue and Chestnut Street. New class for aliens opened. Dedication of Italian Chapel. Official records show Wakefield to be the healthiest town in the state.

1916. Citizens subscribe about \$13,000 to purchase land for a new library. Wakefield National Bank changes name to Wakefield Trust Company. Six Wakefield men serve in the Mexican border war, at El Paso, Texas. They were Leon H. Boudreau, Charles H. Brown, Harold Campbell, Richard Barrett, John Maloney and William J. McGlory. New Wakefield Theatre opens. Chamber of Commerce organized. First Community Christmas tree with carolers. William N. Wanamaker, first Wakefield young man appointed to West Point Military Academy. Charter granted to the Wakefield Trust Company.

1917. War declared against Germany, April 6. Town authorizes War Relief Committee, later the Wakefield Committee on Public Safety. Company A leaves for Fort Revere, Hull, called to service March 30. Farewell to Company A as it departs for war service. Junius Beebe offers to build the new Library.

1918. November 11, all-day celebration of Armistice Day. Wakefield Branch, Red Cross organized. Industrial Chemical Company locates plant in Taylor Building. Wakefield goes over top in Liberty Bond drive, total nearly \$500,000. New home of Odd Fellows dedicated.

1919. Corp. Harry E. Nelson Post, American Legion organized. Welcome Home for returning soldiers. Town votes bond issue of \$450,000 for new High School. Montrose-Wakefield Park street car service discontinued.

## DECADE 1920-1930 — TIME MARCHES ON!

A decade of important events of unusual interest, many of which have extended notice elsewhere. The completion of the Beebe Memorial Library; the opening of the new banking building of the Wakefield Trust

Company; first graduation from the new High School building; the local post office removes to Albion Street; Greenwood obtains a new school house; Catholics open their Parochial School on Gould Street; Telephone Company erects brick building on Richardson Avenue; limited town meeting movement defeated; Catholic Church built in Greenwood; Wakefield-Salem railroad service discontinued; Major Connelly decorated by French Nation, and given a town reception; new water filtration plant at Crystal Lake.

In 1924 the town recorded a gift of the old Mill property on Vernon Street, at the Wakefield-Lynnfield town line, and where Saugus River crosses under Vernon Street. The gift-deed came from Mrs. Harriet W. Potter, and carried with it mill rights, which govern, more or less, the level and outlet of Lake Quannapowitt. The recent widening of the river between Vernon Street and points west is a part of Reading's new drainage system. The old saw mill was erected here by Poole in 1682.

1920. Richardson Light Guard re-organizes as Company K, 101st Infantry, Massachusetts National Guard. Memorial on Common to World War I Veterans is dedicated. New Woodville School opened. American Reed factory destroyed by fire. Dedication of Greenwood boulder. Harvard Mills gives employees bonuses to \$70,000. Elks' memorial tablet for 34 members giving lives in World War I dedicated.

1921. Local Telephone Exchange changes its call from Wakefield to "Crystal." Work begins on sites for new High School and Library. Town adopts new By-Laws. Old watering trough near Rockery removed. Business pageant in Armory. Big sleet storm. No Daily Item for four days. Funeral of Corp. Harry E. Nelson, first soldier to die in action in World War I.

1922. Rotary Club organized. Neveroil Bearing Company removes from Worcester to Wakefield.

1923. Lucius Beebe Memorial Library completed and dedicated. New High School building on Main Street dedicated and first graduation took place.

1924. Dam, with purifying apparatus, built at the southwest cove of Crystal Lake. American Legionnaires attend convention at St. Paul, Minnesota. Argentine Navy Rifle Team in practice at local rifle range. Boyntonville petition to join Melrose rejected. Park Commissioners decide that playground is to stay at Hart's Hill. Crystal Apartments built. Branch of Beebe Memorial Library established in the Greenwood School house. Hibernians dedicate building at the corner of Albion and Foster Streets. Building records pass million-dollar mark for the first time. Wakefield Trust Company's new building dedicated. The late T. E.

Dwyer gift of chimes to St. Joseph's Church installed and dedicated. Town protests discontinuance of Newburyport Branch Railroad. New high tension electric service connected at the Heywood-Wakefield plant. United States Post Office removes to Albion Street.

1925. Wakefield Savings Bank buys the building it now occupies. Tamworth Hill home building development started. New Greenwood School house built. Town shaken by earthquake; previous ones in 1655, 1663 and 1727. Unsuccessful effort to establish a limited town meeting. Population this year—15,623. State to take over Curtis Guild rifle range. Miss Lucia Buckle, a 14-year-old girl, swims around Lake Quannapowitt in 2 hours and 35 minutes. City government advocates an active program. New Parochial School opens for inspection. The dirigible "Shenandoah" flies over the town. Zoning ordinance voted. Old Age Pension proposed. Presentation to publisher, Harris M. Dolbeare.

1926. Dedication of Memorial to Spanish War Veterans. Town builds low level pumping station, east of Valley Street. Limited town meeting act defeated. Camp Curtis Guild named. Death of Congressman Harry I. Thayer. First trans-Atlantic telephone wires pass through Wakefield. Bonney's Drug Store block, corner of Main and Albion Streets, bought as a site for new store building. Speed limit in center of town is established at 15 miles per hour. Boston & Maine Railroad deed Tuttle Street to the town. New telephone exchange established. Dirigible "Los Angeles" passed over the town. Zoning laws into effect. East Massachusetts Electric Company given street rights for bus service.

1927. Local doctors form association. Catholics build a church at Greenwood. National survey shows Wakefield to be one of the healthiest towns in the United States. Town reception to Major Edward J. Connelly, decorated by the French government. Membership in the G. A. R. drops from 52 to 21 in past ten years. Selectmen appoint a Safety Committee. New low level sewerage station opened. Indian War service men in town, Albert D. Cate, George W. Hutchinson and Albert S. Townley. Dedication of memorial tablet in town hall to the men who lost their lives in the Civil War, Spanish-American War and World War I.

1928. Town purchases a Seagraves aerial ladder, and a police ambulance. Introduction of first traffic signals; corner of Vernon and Lowell Streets especially widened for placement of signal. Drainage survey by engineers. Greenwood Bridge declared unsafe. New filter plant on Broadway opened for public inspection. Dr. J. W. O'Connell gave valuable service in Greenland with the Grenfell expedition. City government move-

ment defeated. Red Cross Chapter organized. New post office at Greenwood opened. First Parish entertains English Pilgrims. Town observes the sixtieth anniversary of change in name.

1929. Traffic regulations adopted. Town purchases the Porter-Milton ice house property at corner of Church Street and North Avenue, including the old Col. James Hartshorne house. Pictures of Cyrus Wakefield and George Washington, in town hall auditorium, restored to their original freshness. Wakefield Hospital Association formed, and 12 acres of land on North side of Hopkins Street bought. Fiftieth anniversary of Wakefield Club observed.

### THE 1934 PAGEANT

With many events sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, the week of August 12, 1934, was a gala one. While it was in many respects an Old Home Week, the sponsors desired to demonstrate that Wakefield was a good place in which to spend the summer. Features of the week were special church services; a flag raising; exhibits by the Historical Society and the Arts and Crafts Society; a display of Wakefield products by merchants and manufacturers; sports; a water carnival on Lake Quannapowitt and band concerts.

The climax of the week's celebration, and its outstanding event, was the historical pageant, presented on the evenings of August 13 and 14, on the southwest portion of the park close to the lake shore.

The pageant was written by Mrs. Winfield Scott Ripley and was entitled "Across the Centuries Wakefield Welcomes." In five episodes, a prologue and an epilogue, the pageant depicted welcomes to groups and individuals through the years from 1639 to the present. Ronald Clark was the chronicler.

Played from a large stage and on the adjoining grounds the spectacle was beautifully lighted in all its carefully worked-out details.

Committees, organizations and individuals co-operated to make the pageant the genuine success and, beautiful spectacle that everyone who witnessed it pronounced it to be. Clyde Cummings and Clyde Dow were stage managers.

The audience was estimated at 7,000 for the first evening and 10,000 for the second.



# DECADE 1930 - 1940 -- TIME MARCHES ON!

The push and pull decade! Domestic water shortage feared; Metropolitan Supply advocated, but \$200,000 fee thought prohibitory. The town considers a drainage project. Heywood-Wakefield Company removes its business to Gardner. Sunday movies permitted. Bus service takes place of abandoned street car lines. Engineers advocate and town accepts driven well plans for additional water supply. Miller Piano Company removes its manufacturing business to Boston. The second High School building remodeled and named the Lafayette Building, designed to accommodate town offices and headquarters of veterans' organizations. Town votes for limited liquor licenses. Hamilton School closed for lack of pupils. That part of Saugus known as "Golden Hills" annexed to Wakefield. 1933 will long be remembered as the "Bank Holiday Year," coincident with a momentous national election. The town accepts the Pension Plan for employees. New post office dedicated.

From year to year, time marches on, and so does local progress.

1930. New Montrose School house erected and dedicated. The water shortage demanded attention and resulted in a series of driven wells giving an ample additional supply. Police teletype installed. The town loses the Heywood-Wakefield manufacturing business through their removal to Gardner. The town votes to permit Sunday movies. Trolley lines give way to bus service.

1931. Town feels the economical depression and makes an appropriation for relief agencies. The Miller Piano factory sold to W. T. Curley. Lafayette School closed and pupils transferred to new High School.

1932. Town votes favorably on Sunday sports. Chapel built at Lake-side Cemetery.

1933. Relaying of water mains an unemployment project. Town votes for a bond issue of \$100,000, with United States Government \$30,500, up to 393 men on the project. Dine Shoe Company, a new industry. Town votes 3140 to 1409 for beer sales while church bells toll. Golden Hills, a part of Saugus, annexed to Wakefield. Bank holiday closes the Trust Company, but reopening follows quickly.

1934. Town received \$270,000 in wage money from the Government from C. W. A., E. R. A., and W. P. A. Tremendous cost to the town for relief work, 1909 men on relief or jobless. City government advocates defeated. "Old Home Week" celebrated with a wonderful pageant on the Park.



1935. Addition to High School advocated. Lafayette Building remodeling suggested as a memorial, approved in 1937. Town votes to purchase the Moulton-Porter ice house property. New post office to be built, contract goes to the Long Construction Company for \$90,373. Wakefield Co-operative Bank moves into the Trust Company Building.

1936. Town employee pension plan accepted. Death of Benjamin I. Day, last surviving member of Post 12, G. A. R. New ambulance presented to the town in memory of the late Dr. J. W. Heath.

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**WAKEFIELD SQUARE—1944—RETAIL SHOPPING CENTER**  
Buildings: Wakefield Theatre, Richardson and Traders'

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1937. Wakefield in the World War I—service records published. Sewer department builds an ejector station between Main Street and Lake Quannapowitt, opposite Central Street. Pension system adopted and \$5000 voted. New United States Post Office dedicated and opened for business. Death of Arthur G. Walton, who, with Mrs. Walton, presented the Walton Athletic Field to the town. Hartshorne House Association incorporated.

1938. Lafayette Building completed and 1500 people inspect the remodeled school structure. Fiftieth anniversary of Golden Rule Lodge A. F. and A. M. Highest tax rate of \$37.40. Teletype installed in police station. The old Gould or Walton block, corner of Main and Centre Streets, demolished. Thirty-nine parcels of the Walton estate sold at

auction. Death of Harris M. Dolbeare, prominent citizen and publisher of the Daily Item. This was the year of a most destructive hurricane. New \$9500 pumping engine delivered at central Fire Station. National Mat and Matting Company incorporated—a business that the Heywood-Wakefield Company did not remove to Gardner.

1939. A year of intensive local progress! Observance of the settlement of the town. Reunion of the 6th Massachusetts Regiment. Taxpayers' Association formed. Death of Junius Beebe, leading citizen and philanthropist—donor of the Lucius Beebe Memorial Library and "father" of the Wakefield Trust Company and its new banking building. Perkins Block, corner of Main and Albion Streets, sold to be torn down for a new business building. United States Geodetic survey of town. \$5261 allocated for Bath House project at Lake Quannapowitt. Great activity in local home building. Single session restored at High School. Town adopts tenement act revision. Pine Hill Circle development named. Mobilization plans considered in event of United States entering war. Victory Village at "Factory Field" to be developed. Bear Hill Golf Club House destroyed by fire. Lake Quannapowitt freezes—earliest on record. New Curley, First National Stores and A. & P. business blocks erected. Military drill abandoned at High School. Death of Liberio Nasella, the first man of Italian birth to become a citizen of Wakefield. American flag unfurled at Legion headquarters, in memory of the late Harris M. Dolbeare, pole donated by Daddies' Club. Highway Safety Council organized. Savings Bank remodels interior of banking house.

#### YEARS 1940-1944

The four years preceding the three hundredth anniversary were continuous periods of progress, and of war. World War II began with the declaration of war against Japan on December 8, 1941. From then on, all interests of nation, town and people centered in its war efforts. Space limitations deny listing all the local activities as they progressed up to the publication of this history.

Main Street in the center of the business section experienced a marked change from the old to the new. Buildings that had been landmarks were replaced by a new one-story brick building housing Nagle's Drug Store, Friend's Bakery, The Atlantic & Pacific chain store and Russell's Electric Shop. Farther down the street another old structure gave way to a new Curley Block where is found the Cubby Hole and Smith's Drug Store. A little beyond these buildings (the old Walton or Odd Fellows' Building) another brick building of one-story height houses the First National chain market.

The old Perkins Block, housing the former Bonney & Dutton's "Old Corner Drug Store," corner of Main and Albion Streets, was torn down and here is found the Lane Drug Store and O'Connor's Men's Shop. The old wooden Brown Block on Main Street, opposite the library, was torn down and the cellar hole is still vacant.

Factory Field, off Richardson Street, has been developed as a residential section, under the name Victory Village. Pine Hill Circle, off Elm Street, is a new residential development, as is White Circle, off Vernon st in the North Ward, and Aborn Avenue Extension. Keeling Village was developed off Lowell Street, and new developments were started off Meriam and Forest Streets in Greenwood, and in the Sherman and Crosby Roads area.

The town acquired land southerly from Bay State Road and built a brick pumping station and wells for an additional water supply.

1940. New bath house completed at a cost of \$6,882.59. Two chain stores occupy new buildings. Ronald W. Northrup is first Wakefield man drawn in draft. The first three men to report under peace time **conscription** were Thomas F. P. Walsh, Walter I. Hatch and Charles J. Confalone. Federal census gave Wakefield a population of 16,179. First draft quota in November. The Walton mansion, Lakeside, destroyed by fire. Wakefield, Stoneham and Melrose made one representative district.

1941. Wakefield Council, No. 2585, Royal Arcanum, organized. New ambulance presented to town by Stanley W. Heath of Lynnfield Center on behalf of his mother, his wife and himself in memory of the late Dr. Joseph W. Heath. Wakefield sends a short-wave message to Wakefield, England. Methodist Episcopal Society buys the Grand Army building on Foster Street for a church home. Committee on Public Safety begins defense preparations, and schools prepare against enemy air raids. Town Report printed as a 48-page supplement to the Wakefield Daily Item. Town appropriates \$11,000 for local defense.

1942. Town buys 25 acres on Saugus River, between Lowell Street and Bay State Road, for wells for an additional water supply. First blackout test occurred in March, and was successful. War Price and Rationing Board established. W. P. A. work comes to an end. Five sub-police stations located in public schools, under civilian defense—auxiliary police protection. Total of 5,801 gasoline ration books issued. 3,601 persons register for fuel oil coupons. Victory Village being developed.

1943. Two-way radio added to police equipment. Board of Health reports that diphtheria in schools has been controlled. Branch of Beebe Library established in Montrose School. School Committee inaugurates

a rehabilitation program. At the High School, 16,610 No. 4 ration books were issued. Public schools sell \$31,301.70 worth of war savings stamps, and by special drives fourteen "jeeps" were purchased. This year witnessed the introduction of new and important local war plant (defense) industries, giving promise of post-war manufacturing enterprises. Corp. Harry E. Nelson Post 63, American Legion, votes to erect Honor Roll Plaque for World War II veterans. Sylvania Electric Products Inc., comes to Wakefield and sets up a branch for the manufacture of electronics. William A. Hickey develops several new business enterprises for defense work, including Diamond Tank and Welding Co., and Diamond Instrument Co. Rehabilitation Committee of 25 appointed by Selectmen. Townspeople purchase \$1,850,000 worth of war bonds, goal was \$820,000. Wakefield Municipal Light Plant buys Realty building on Albion Street.

1944. Tercentenary year! To be observed by the town and First Parish. Two additional patrolmen added to police force. Town debt January 1, 1943 was \$231,000 with \$47,500 due in 1944. Debt is allocated as follows: Water Department, \$151,000; Light Department, \$4,000; Sewer Department, \$68,000, and Highway Department, \$8,000. Returning soldiers from Italy and the South Pacific battle areas reveal heroic service by numerous Wakefield men and women.



**WALK ALONG LAKESIDE**



## CHAPTER FOUR

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### *The Town in the Wars*

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*Early Military History — Civil War — Richardson Light Guard  
Spanish-American War — World Wars I and II  
State Guard Units*

For 300 years Wakefield has been a military town—every day, every year, and all the years! Its martial history had been fully set forth by many writers; its patriotism has been shown by resolutions, by generous appropriation of town's money, and its frequent celebrations of military success by its soldiers in many wars. The townspeople, from the early days to the present, have been spontaneous in responses to all calls to duty—on the home front and the battle front. No Massachusetts town has a more glorious military record!

One of the first problems of the early settlers was that of security against the Indians. A training band was organized about 1645 with Captain Richard Walker as its first captain. He had been an ensign under Col. John Endicott of Salem as early as 1636. There were drills and preparations looking to the protection of the settlement. The Indians did not offer serious local trouble although for several years there were "alarms." In 1675 when strong Indian tribes made an attempt to destroy the new, English settlements, Captain Jonathan Poole of Reading was in command of his company in the field. He recommended John Brown for special service. The record reads: "He signifies to us yt there is now in the army a man of ye same town viz Reading by name Mr. John Brown whom he judgeth very fitt to oversee ye soulders."

Besides Poole there was in his company from the later First Parish, Joseph Hartshorne, born 1652; Benjamin Davis, John Burnap, born 1654; Thomas Hodgman, John Boutel, born 1645; and Edward Brown, born 1640, a son of the first settler, Nicholas Brown. On December 10, 1675, in the King Phillip War, the Governor issued a proclamation to the soldiers to the effect "that if they played the man, took the fort and drove the enemy out of the Narragansett country they should have a gratuity of land besides their wages." Major Jeremiah Swayne, who had the honor of being appointed Commander-in-Chief of all the forces raised to fight the

Indians on our eastern frontier, Samuel Dunton, James Nichols, and others did receive such grants of land and left them to their sons—or settled on such grants. Several other names of Reading men appear in the Colony records, sons of early settlers.

Next came the French and Indian wars of 1689, in which is found mention of Captain Thomas Bancroft, Major Jeremiah Swayne, Captain Ephraim Savage, Lieutenant Jonathan Poole, Jr., Nathaniel Goodwin, Dr. James Stimpson, and Abraham Bryant. It was in March, 1711, that Jonathan Eaton, born 1686, grandson of Jonas Eaton, died at Annapolis Royal, N. S., after 167 days of service, as did Hananiah Parker (born 1691), grandson of Hannaniah, the early settler. And so on for many years to 1759, the names of Reading men appear on old roster lists for services given to the Colony as soldiers from Reading. For 196 years fathers, sons, and grandsons met for drills and training days.

The 1812-1815 war with England had repercussions in the old Town of Reading, causing the separation of the First Parish from the Second and Third Parishes and the legal adoption of the name of South Reading. (A more complete story of the War of 1812 is contained in Chapter 2.)

For this war the Washington Rifle Greens were organized in Stoneham, Reading and vicinity. This soon became a Reading Company—the Washington Rifle Grays. The company saw service on Dorchester Heights. In 1846 the Company was disbanded and the Richardson Light Guard was organized in 1851 to carry on the military traditions of the town.

For nearly one hundred years the Richardson Light Guard had a brilliant, continuous military record. In 1851 it was one of the fourteen companies organized in the state. The old flint-lock muskets were exchanged for those with percussion caps. It has been chronicled that “this company was not formed for the love of militarism but rather as a love of adventure, the spirit of comradeship, and a purpose to be ready for any call of duty to defend a country, state or town.”

## THE CIVIL WAR

The call came in 1861, at 12 o'clock noon on April 19 to report for service at the front. At four o'clock the company, under the command of Captain John W. Locke, boarded the train for Boston. En route to Washington the company encountered the hostilities of rebel sympathizers in Baltimore. From Washington the Company soon went into action at the front.

From then on until the close of the war, South Reading men fought nobly in the Civil War. The Richardson Light Guard, under a separate commander, responded four times for duty in the southern war area. On the second call the company left town August 17, 1861, and served three years as Company E, 16th Massachusetts Regiment, with distinguished valor as part of the army of the Potomac; fought in many battles and lost many men. The third call came in September, 1862, as Company E, 50th Regiment, Massachusetts volunteers under Captain Samuel F. Littlefield.

The company went by steamer to New Orleans and was soon engaged in action at Port Hudson, and was active in this campaign until July 8, 1863, when Port Hudson surrendered. The fourth response came on July 11, 1864, when as Company E, 8th Regiment Massachusetts volunteers proceeded to Washington and did guard duty on the North Central Railroad near Baltimore.

Space restrictions forbid recitals of the names and deeds of officers and men who gave unselfish, patriotic service to their country and to their town. However, two volumes of the history of the Richardson Light Guard have been published and contain detailed accounts of the war, local participants, their valor and other facts of interest.

### THE SPANISH AMERICAN WAR

After the Civil War the Richardson Light Guard maintained its membership and its military activities. It had a conspicuous place in the parade on July 1, 1868, when South Reading changed its name to Wakefield.

On April 26, 1898, the United States declared war against Spain. The 6th Regiment, of which Company A, Richardson Light Guard was a member, was the first regiment to offer its services as a volunteer regiment. On May 6, the company under Captain Edward J. Gihon (later Major of the Regiment), left town and on May 12 was mustered into United States service as Company A, 6th Massachusetts Volunteers. The life of the members at Camp Alger in Virginia; the trip south to Charleston, South Carolina; the trip on the "Yale" to the battle front in Cuba, to Guantanamo and to a final landing at Porto Rico belong to its history. It was the first United States Regiment to land there. Its later notable active service maintained the high, noble standards of an organization that was then forty-seven years old.

## HISTORY OF THE RICHARDSON LIGHT GUARD

On October 11, 1901, Company A, Richardson Light Guard, celebrated its 50th anniversary. The history of the Richardson Light Guard from 1851 to 1926 has been fully and authoritatively written in two volumes, Vol. 1, 1851-1901; Vol. 2, 1901-1926. The latter volume contains a full story of the Spanish American War and World War I. Both copies are in the Beebe Memorial Library.

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**STATE ARMORY**

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## THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE GUARD

Members of Co. H, Massachusetts State Guard, which was formed upon the departure of the national guard unit (Co. A) in 1917, participated in emergency details at the Boston Police strike in September and October, 1919, doing duty in Brighton, Roxbury Crossing district and in Boston proper. Further details of this unit are likewise included as an important part of the history of the Richardson Light Guard.



## WORLD WAR I—1917-1919

The story of Wakefield's part in World War I is a story of the continuance of the activities and unity of the town and its men and women down through the years—a demonstration of patriotism and supreme sacrifice in keeping with our well-known traditions.

April 6, 1917, is an unforgettable date to our town and country. It was then that Congress declared war against Germany. Thereafter local military action followed in succeeding days. Company A was mobilized, new recruits added. On April 7 the company proceeded in trucks to Fort Revere at Hull. From then until April 29, 1919, the members of Company A, with hundreds of other men and women, played an important part in World War I. Prior to August 5, 1917, officers and men were under state control, but on that day all troops were placed in the service of the U. S. Government. Individually, his body and allegiance was pledged to the nation—all had moved up to the level and status of men in the Regular Army. Members of the Richardson Light Guard served overseas chiefly in the Yankee 26th Division of the American Expeditionary Force in the 101st and 102nd as the 51st Brigade. The record of Wakefield's soldiers in France and other scenes of war on land and sea is one indelibly recorded on the pages of local history.

Many years passed before the History of World War I was written. As far back as March 18, 1919, a committee was appointed to prepare such a History but time speeds, and it was not until December, 1935, that the project was given a "go-ahead" signal under W. P. A. direction, sponsored by the Board of Selectmen. This History has been completed with a service record of every local man and woman in the armed forces and allied branches, as well as the war efforts of hundreds of civilians—a volume containing 472 typewritten pages. It is to be regretted that only a few copies were made—one of which is in the Lucius Beebe Memorial Library.

The introduction of the History of World War I is a condensation of its contents and reads as follows:

"It is to the honor of the Town of Wakefield that during the long and trying days of the World War her records were a noble one, of faithfulness to the obligations and restrictions incident to the war, and of alert response to every call.

"Nine hundred men and women were enrolled in the different branches of the Service and there were many men and women engaged in hazardous occupations such as gas and munitions plants.

"Forty-one gave their lives to the cause, and ninety-seven were gassed or wounded; twenty-seven received decorations for valor. Three received the Distinguished Service Cross, four the Silver Star decorations, two the Navy War Cross, one the French Legion of Honor, twelve the French Croix de Guerre, one the Italian Silver Medal, two the Polish Cross of Honor. Thirty-seven were also cited for gallantry in action, one hundred and four received officers' commissions in the Army, Navy and Marine Corps.

"Not only did hundreds of our young men serve bravely, and many dying in the line of duty, but there was also no lack of devotion among those who waited at home.

"As we recall that unreal April, 1917, and the many succeeding months of anxious apprehension, there comes back to our minds the events of those not-to-be forgotten days. With pride we remember the lavish expenditure of time and thought on the part of the business men and professional workers who served on important committees; of the quick answer to the constant needs for money by the thousands of men, women and children who helped to make the Liberty Loan Drives and the War Chest Fund, and all other necessary campaigns so universally successful.

"We recall, too, the spiritual support and the steady co-operation given by the pastors of the Churches; the enthusiastic help that came from many fraternal and patriotic organizations, as well as the assistance of various clubs and societies."

The diversified civilian activities and accomplishments deserve more space than is available here. To enumerate:

The original War History committee, Ashton H. Thayer, chairman.

Wakefield Committee on Public Safety, Solon O. Richardson, honorary president; Charles E. Walton, president. This committee's financial report showed receipts of \$6,633.35, expenditures \$5,519.93, balance of \$1,113.42 turned over to Corp. Harry E. Nelson Post 63, American Legion for relief purposes.

Citizens' War Relief Committee, John J. Round, chairman.

Wakefield War Chest, with a chairman in each of seventeen districts. Receipts were allocated to the United War Work, the Red Cross and branches, the Salvation Army Home Service, the Y. M. C. A. contingent fund, and the Ladies' Auxiliary of Co. A.

Four Liberty Bond Drives, Junius Beebe, chairman. Quota of \$1,885,700. Value sold, \$2,728,350 with 10,974 subscribers, and an over-subscription of \$842,650.

Various War Reliefs with the Kosmos Club as the first of several.

Wakefield Branch of the Red Cross, Harry I. Thayer, chairman, with collections of \$10,906.25.

The Special Aid Society, Mrs. Ida Farr Miller, chairman; membership 194, collections \$5,033.77.

The Patriotic Knitting Club, Miss Lucia Beebe, president. Money raised, \$1500.

The activities of the Y. M. C. A., School Gardens and Food Campaigns, Schools and Churches all merit special mention.

In what might be termed the Appendix, there are well written authoritative records of:

Co. H, 12th Regiment, Massachusetts State Guard.

Victory celebration of Armistice Day, November 11, 1918.

American Legion, organized May 28, 1919.

American Legion Constitution.

Welcome Home Celebration, February 29, 1919.

Welcome Home Celebration, October 13, 1919, with roster of parade.

Unveiling of Boulder Tablet at Greenwood, May 23, 1920.

Unveiling of the War Memorial Tablet—the Boulder on the Common, November 14, 1920.

Wakefield soldiers were in practically every and all branches of the activities of the United States in World War I.

One was intelligence officer of the Navy—"one of the eyes of the Navy" in America.

One was on the U. S. S. Texas in the North Sea taking the German defeated fleet to the Firth of Forth, Scotland.

One served in both the English and American armies performing over 2,000 surgical operations.

One was in the Saw Mill unit—first overseas—cutting lumber in Scotland for the English ship-building yard.

One was on the war vessel escorting President Wilson to France.

Several were in the Canadian Army.

Several were in the English Army.

One was early in the French forces and doubly cited for bravery.

One was credited with capturing, unaided, ten German prisoners.

One Wakefield family had six sons in service, another family five sons, and another, four sons.

One woman had service on a United States war ship to eastern Siberia.

Wakefield had twins in service—one killed in action.

One had a thrilling trip from South America to the United States to enlist.

## WORLD WAR II

As this history goes to press, the United States, England, Russia and China, as allies, are hastening the destruction of the military might of Germany and Japan to an "unconditional surrender."

The United States declared war on Japan on December 8, 1941, following Japan's dastardly attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. Immediately following, on December 11, war was declared against Germany.

Germany's dream of being a world-conquering nation is being destroyed on battlefields on many fronts and in many countries, with disastrous results to her military and economic power.

The United States has mustered into war service her vast strength of manpower, gigantic production of war materiel, and financial resources for a successful finish to this great global war, the scope of which the world has never before experienced.

The town of Wakefield and its citizens of both sexes are bearing an honorable part in these years of our country's peril. With promptness, energy and co-operation, a variety of efficient defense organizations is making an excellent record of service.

Wakefield (with the entire country) has experienced sharp rationing of foods, gasoline, fuel oil, coal and many other articles. She has exceeded sums allocated for War Bonds, Red Cross, and Community Chest drives and other money-raising calls, local and national, and has successfully carried out black-outs, and dim-outs as required by the government.

Wakefield's military companies are now a part of the regular army, performing valiant service in the far-away islands of the South Pacific Ocean. Through enlistments, drafts and selective service almost two thousand men and women have joined the armed forces, serving in Africa, Italy, India, South Pacific Islands, Iceland, Alaska, England and other foreign countries. Almost daily, information reaches the home front of promotions of our service men and women; of decorations for valorous service, and of distinguished work at home and abroad by instructors in military camps, in hospitals, in Red Cross activities, and in all branches indispensable to the conduct of the war.

In the Army, Navy, Coast Guard, Merchant Marine, Air Corps—on land, sea and in the air—as part of a gigantic military organization, they are doing their full duty to their beloved country and to their homes, where anxious parents, relatives and friends eagerly await the Day of Peace!

In recognition of the men and women serving in World War II, several flag raisings have taken place in the different sections of the town, with patriotic exercises and programs at each.



### WAKEFIELD UNIT OF STATE GUARD

Following World War I, the Richardson Light Guard, as Co. A, Sixth Massachusetts Regiment, subsequently Co. K, 101st Regiment, maintained its military organization in formation and in the spirit of earlier days.

Previous to the advent of World War II, Co. K was re-designated as Co. E, 182nd Infantry, Massachusetts National Guard. The company was mustered into service in January, 1941, and went to Camp Edwards under Capt. James G. Brown. Its members are, at this writing, in the service of the United States and scattered through the battle areas of several foreign countries. In the South Pacific, Co. E officers and men acquitted themselves with signal valor, under Capt. Richard B. Dolbeare, since promoted to Major. Other members of this unit have seen or are seeing service in England, Africa, Italy, India and elsewhere in many battle and training areas.

In the summer of 1940 a local company was formed, and in September was designated as Co. F, 23d Massachusetts State Guard with Capt. Gray B. Brockbank as its commanding officer. In 1943 it became the Sixth Company Wakefield Unit of the 23d Massachusetts State Guard, as a first line of defense within the State of Massachusetts. The Company in 1944 was made up of three officers and 61 men. Since the local unit was formed, 100 men had been honorably discharged and of this number more than 50 are serving with the armed forces, some with commissioned and non-commissioned officers' ratings.

### MASSACHUSETTS WOMEN'S DEFENSE CORPS

(See Chapter on Civilian Defense for story)

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**FLEET OF SAILBOATS ON QUANNAPOWITT**

## CHAPTER FIVE

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### *Town Government*

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#### *Early Forms — Duties and Obligations of Town Officials and Departments, as of 1944 — Town Planning*

Orderly conduct of the town, a true democracy, through rigid rules and regulations, closely followed settlement. The Colony Court for a long time took over protective and local authority. Its first act was to order a military guard for protection against the Indians, and it also ordered training of youths from ten to sixteen years old. The early town records, from year to year, "ordered" this and that shall be or shall not be done. In 1649 William Cowdrey was elected Clerk of the Writs, and Edward Taylor, constable. Taxes became necessary, and in 1651, a poll tax of 2s 6d per head was levied, but on a provisional basis "the reste to be put on estates." As early as 1658, forty-six persons were assessed to pay the minister.

Gradually, in progressive steps, so to speak, came election of town officers—first surveyors of highways, selectmen, pound keepers, committees on division of lands, a "clerk of the market," a sealer of weights and measures, and commissioners to accept and ratify the old Indian Deed of 1686.

Voting in town meeting, in early times, was limited to Church members and to Freemen. The Church was the moral disciplinary force, as the old Church records reveal in language unrestricted.

For the ten years prior to the settlement of Reading, the Colony had established a form of government with restrictive rules of conduct. The town adhered as strictly as possible to such lawful instructions, following amendments, and legal obligations as they occurred down through the years.

Coming down to recent times—to 1944. We have an efficient Town Government based on the democratic idea that we, as a town, govern ourselves. We elect, annually, town officials to execute national, state and town laws, rules and regulations for the benefit of the people as a whole. This is their job.

The set-up of Wakefield government follows:

## TOWN MEETINGS

Wakefield is a typical New England town, and it was in this region where the system of government of, by, and for the people was born. For three hundred years the town has adhered to government by its citizens, and by the town meeting, with free and open expressions of individual opinions. Town meetings are regular or special, called by the Selectmen, and directed by an elective Moderator, under accepted town and parliamentary rules of procedure. In recent years, since the appointment of a Finance Committee, all appropriations calling for money are considered by this committee, and their recommendations, favorable or otherwise, have become a deterrent against unwise appropriations of town's money. This has tended toward a lower tax rate—very much lower during the past ten-year period. Town meetings are also called for all elections of national, district, state, county and town officials elected by ballot. Wakefield is one of only two or three large towns to keep clear of a city charter, or of a district-elective representative government. It is the duty of the Town Clerk to keep accurately a record of all meetings.

The town meeting, or the moderator, appoints all committees to report on matters that require special consideration and reports as to action recommended, as on Town By-laws, Zoning Laws, or Building Rules and Regulations. The town meeting authorizes sales and leases, accepts gifts and bequests, considers claims against the town, and many other matters of major or minor importance. Elected by the meeting are field drivers, surveyors of lumber, the Recreation Committee, and the Planning Board.

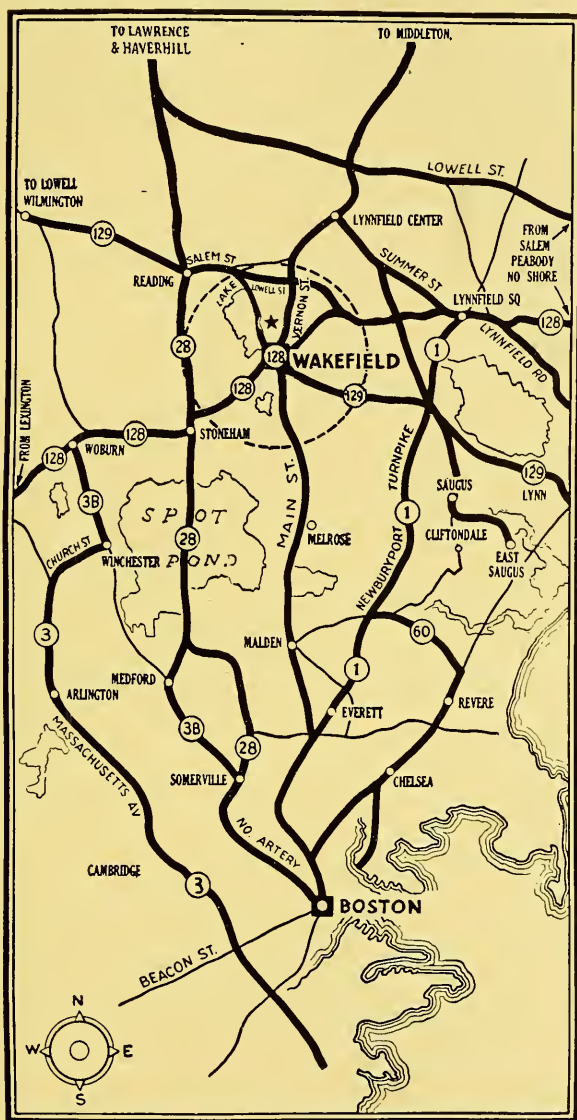
## TOWN CLERK

This is the oldest of all town-elected officers. For three centuries there has been continuous service by worthy officials. The first town clerk was William Cowdrey, elected in 1644 and serving to 1687. In the eighteen fifties William J. Wightman, the town clerk of Reading, made a copy of the early town records that are now at the Reading town building.

In Wakefield the late Charles F. Hartshorne, first elected in 1872, held office until his death, January 7, 1911, a record-service time. He was succeeded by his son Frederick S. Hartshorne, who served until June, 1939.

Charles F. Young is the present town clerk. He has many and varied duties. He keeps the records of all town meetings and elections; keeps a record of all births, deaths, and marriages; gives genealogical information to all inquirers; keeps the voting list up to date, prepares ballots and other details for elections.

The town clerk, by Statute, is clerk of the Board of Registrars. Other duties include issuing of dog licenses and sporting licenses. All local chattel mortgages and business certificates are registered at this office.



### WAKEFIELD'S LOCATION

Middlesex County. Ten miles north of Boston. Other nearby cities: Malden, 5 miles; Lynn, 8 miles; Lawrence, Lowell, Haverhill, 17 miles; Worcester, 50 miles; Springfield, 100 miles; Portland, Me., 96 miles; New York City, 230 miles.



## SELECTMEN

The first Board of Selectmen of our parent town was elected in 1647. Seven citizens were sworn into office. Several had long years of service. Thomas Kendall, first elected in 1647 was a Selectman in 1677, but not in continuous service.

It has been a highly esteemed office and in all the years has called upon able, conscientious and honorable citizens for this civil responsibility.

In this day and generation, the Board is made up of five elected citizens with duties onerous and complex. The Board is the governing body of the town, charged with duties affecting many town departments. The Board also makes twenty-four annual appointments from Town Counsel, Fire Inspector, Soldiers' Relief Agent and down through the list to the Sweetser Lecture Committee. It grants liquor and auction licenses; acts as a Board of Survey; appoints citizens to various civil duties on Public Safety, War Transportation, and Rationing Board. Under the state law, the Selectmen perambulate the town boundary lines to see that markers are in place and condition. It is the body where constructive plans and ideas, yes, and complaints and criticisms find recognition and decision.

The Board approves warrants weekly drawn on the Treasurer for the payment of bills and payments of town officials and employees' salaries.

If one should ask a member of the Board in 1943 or 1944 if the above fairly indicated its duties, the answer would probably be, "you ain't told the half of it!"

The Tercentenary Board: William R. Lindsay (chairman), Orrin J. Hale, William G. Dill, L. Wallace Sweetser and Richard M. Davis.

## TOWN TREASURER

The Town Treasurer is appointed annually by the Selectmen. All monies received or paid out are made through the treasurer's office. A long list of trust funds, aggregating over \$60,000; money borrowed on bond issues or temporary notes, and debt payments and maturities are major duties of the treasurer. John I. Preston is the present treasurer.

Deeds, issuing from tax title, come from this officer.

## TOWN COUNSEL

The duties of Town Counsel are described at length in the Town By-Laws adopted March 22, 1921, under Chapter 5, Legal Affairs. John I. Preston is the 1944 Town Counsel by appointment of the Selectmen.

## TAX COLLECTOR

The title is a clear indication of the Collector's primary duties. Back in 1877 and 1878 Richard Britton was Collector, followed by Charles F. Woodward and Charles E. Walton; the present Collector is Carl W. Sunman. All payments of taxes—real and personal—are made at his office in person or by mail. Payment of water, sewerage and tax titles; street betterments, sewer and moth assessments, poll, motor vehicles and excise taxes are also collected at this office. The Collector acts as paymaster, under the supervision of the Town Treasurer, and takes care of the labor payrolls, including the Welfare Department payments and the Old Age Assistance Bureau payments.

All records of the Collector of Taxes and Town Treasurer relating to taxes and tax titles, are kept in the Collector's office, as are all Old Age Assistance checks.

## ASSESSORS

The town appropriates money. It is the duty of the Board of Assessors, made up of three elective officers, annually to apportion all annual or special appropriations among the people in two forms, based on the tax rate determined each year—assessment on real estate, and assessment on personal property. Taxes, so assessed, are payable annually on October 1. After November 1, all unpaid taxes are subject to interest charges. Any citizen objecting to the assessment on his property, may file an application for abatement, with all facts supporting his objection, stated in a legal form furnished by the Board.

The complete list of all taxable property, and plans of all lands within the town are open to inspection during regular office hours.

In the determination of the tax rate the Board has to consider valuations of all land, buildings and personal property; State, Metropolitan and County charges; estimated receipts, and state credits, free cash, transfers, bonded indebtedness, etc. In the list of property *exempt* from taxation, it is noted that the United States has property valued at \$88,450 and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to the value of \$179,075. Other exemptions include literary and benevolent institutions, houses of religious worship, cemeteries, parsonages and tangible property to the value of \$1,108,650 in 1943.

Valuations and tax rates of recent years have been:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Valuation</i>	<i>Tax Rate</i>
1934 .....	\$21,451,675.00	\$34.00
1935 .....	21,418,205.00	34.00
1936 .....	20,978,320.00	35.20

1937 .....	20,788,745.00	36.20
1938 .....	20,756,885.00	37.40
1939 .....	20,644,140.00	37.60
1940 .....	20,757,660.00	34.40
1941 .....	21,242,075.00	31.40
1942 .....	21,865,666.00	30.40
1943 .....	22,273,850.00	28.00

The Board lists all polls assessed, number of motor vehicles, persons, partnerships and corporations; stock in trade, live stock from horses and cows to turkeys, ducks and geese. The excise tax also emanates from this office.

The 1944 Assessors are George E. Blair, chairman; Leo F. Douglass and George H. Stout.

## MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT

In a little more than two centuries the town went from candles and fireplace light to whale oil lamps, then to kerosene, and then, in 1860 came gas! That year the Citizens' Gas Light Company of Reading, Wakefield and Stoneham was incorporated with a capital of \$100,000. A gas house and tank were erected on Railroad Street (now North Avenue) and gas piped to the three towns for street lighting, public buildings and private residences at a cost of \$3.50 per 1000 feet.

In 1890 Wakefield citizens had their first electric light service and two years later the town entered into lighting contracts with the Globe Gas Light Company.

In 1894 the town purchased from the Citizens' Gas Light Company its gas and electric equipment and on July 23, voted to issue bonds for \$180,000, to take over the plant, franchise, etc., and "to reconstruct and enlarge same." The cost to the town was \$145,000. At that time there were only 84 electric and 169 gas consumers, 42 miles of electric wires and 600 poles, but no electric street lighting.

The story of rapid and efficient development of electric and gas lighting over the intervening years of town management is fully described in the 1943 town report recently published. Summarized it gives ample proof of very efficient management over a period of fifty years, and is attested by the fact that in the past ten years, this department has turned back to the town \$258,611.82. More than this, the entire original cost and all extensions have been paid out of income.

The following comparisons are self-explanatory:

	1896	1943
Total assets .....	\$179,187.35	\$983,992.72
Total liabilities .....	179,543.56	62,685.37
Surplus .....	356.11	921,309.35
Book value of gas and electric plant .....	169,373.33	681,195.27
Gas sales .....	11,702.50	114,905.96
Electric sales .....	3,784.85	272,269.72
Operating expenses .....	21,401.62	322,193.39
Gas sold—cubic feet .....	6,918,400	85,745,300
Electricity sold—K. W. H.'s .....	190,000	8,523,442
Meters in use—gas .....	231	4,116
Meters in use—electric .....	80	5,246
Electric Street lights .....	145	1,366

During this time the price of gas for home use has been materially reduced and the price of electricity for home use has had welcomed reductions.

Under favorable contracts, Wakefield's supply of electric current is purchased from the Edison Company, and its gas from the Malden and Melrose Gas Light Company.

Wakefield was one of the first towns in the state to make a test of municipal ownership of gas and electric services. The test has proven to be not only remarkably successful, but of great benefit to the town and its people.

The 1944 Commissioners are Marcus Beebe 2d, chairman; Curtis L. Sopher and Theodore Eaton.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

The early engine house, a small building, stood a little west of the gate to the first burial ground on Church Street. This was to house the "Republican Extinguisher," a hand-pump tub. The next piece of fire apparatus was the "Black Hawk" engine; followed later by the "Yale," with a rather pretentious brick engine house on the northerly side of Church Street, east of the old town house. Next came the "Silsby" steamer, costing \$3400, and a chemical, hook and ladder, and hose equipment. The old "Silsby" still "shows off" at musters and exhibitions. The department was modernized with the introduction of fire hydrants throughout the town.

The department in 1944 is up-to-date with an efficient staff with Fred D. Graham, chief since 1920, a captain, lieutenant, twelve men, regulars,



and several call men. The main department is housed in a fine brick building on Crescent Street, built in 1900, and a secondary fire station on Oak Street, Greenwood, is efficiently staffed. The fire equipment, thoroughly modern with eight pieces of apparatus, is fully described in the annual report of 1943.

The firm alarm system with 106 boxes throughout the town, is under control of the Municipal Light Department, with mutual assistance arrangements with the neighboring towns of Reading (Box 6), Stoneham (Box 8), and Melrose (Box 7).

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**CENTRAL FIRE STATION**

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### THE FIRE ALARM SYSTEM

The town voted, at the annual town meeting held April 4, 1887, under article 48, to install a fire alarm system and appropriated \$1000 to be placed in charge of the fire engineers.

The fire engineers were H. W. Dalrymple, A. S. Cobb and Owen Corcoran.

A. S. Cobb was the first superintendent of fire alarms, H. W. Dalrymple the second superintendent, and William E. Cade the third superintendent.

The committee voted to install the George M. Stevens system.

There were ten miles of wire, and six boxes located as follows: Box 6 at Nahant and Farm Streets, Box 12 at Main and Oak Streets, Box 23 at Albion and Foundry Streets, Box 35 at Main and Albion Streets, Box 41 at Cordis and Pleasant Streets and Box 54 at Salem and Lowell Streets, and thirty cells of gravity battery, one ten-inch steam whistle, one galvanometer and one tapper in Hathaway's stable.

The gong on the post office was loaned to the superintendent of fire alarms for one year and unless purchased by the town would be returned in May. The first alarm recorded on the new fire alarm system was from Box 12, on May 2, 1887.

Since February 1, 1887, the standard time has been struck at 9:00 a.m. and in more recent years at 9:00 p.m.

The firm alarm battery and apparatus were housed in the brick engine house on Church Street until 1892, when it was moved to the Central Fire Station on Crescent Street, corner of Mechanic Street, where it occupied excellent quarters on the second floor and remained there until October 23, 1899, when the station was destroyed by fire during the Hathaway stable conflagration. Some of the firm alarm apparatus was saved by citizens before the building was consumed.

The fire alarm equipment saved, with some borrowed equipment, was hastily installed on the second floor of the then Wakefield Block (Taylor Building), remaining there until 1900, when it was moved to the Light Plant on North Avenue and placed in charge of the Municipal Light Department, who have since cared for the system.

In 1914 the equipment was transferred to the rear of the Central Fire Station where it is still housed.

## HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

From ye days of long ago the care of highways has been constantly a subject of general concern. In the years from 1644 to 1812, a matter of one hundred and sixty-eight years, very little had been done to better highway traffic conditions. Even then there were but about sixteen public roads in South Reading. To quote: "There was then but one single street, opening or leading from Main Street westerly from the north end of Reading Pond to the Malden line; and opening or leading easterly there were but three within the same limits. The streets were generally narrow, crooked, poorly graded, and without sidewalks, except for a short distance on one side of Salem Street, from the corner of Main Street to the Baptist Meeting House."

So in 1812 the new town named its Surveyors of Highways—three in number. In contrast, let this history present the 1944 highway conditions.

The first planned Highway Department set-up in Wakefield divided the town into sections, a man in each section being responsible for repairs and maintenance. Early in the 1900's work of the sectional bosses was placed in the hands of one man, who became known as the Superintendent of Streets. His work consisted mainly of gravel construction. In 1912 the

road construction had reached a stage where tar and binding materials with crushed stone was being applied to road surface. From 1912 to the present time, practically every traveled road in the town of Wakefield has been surfaced with stone construction or built up by many treatments of tar materials.

The cost of highway construction and maintenance increased steadily from 1912, reaching a peak in 1931, when the general highways appropriation was \$132,000.00, with substantial special appropriations.

According to the records, since 1903, the Highway Department has had seven superintendents, the present official being Robert B. MacKenna.

Previous to 1912, newly-accepted streets were built by the town with no cost to the abutters. The town meeting of July 15, 1912, voted to accept the section of Chapter 50 of the Revised Laws, which chapter relates to betterment and other assessments on account of public improvements. Since that time, on newly-accepted streets that call for the construction and relocation of same, one-half of the betterment must be borne by the abutters.

One item that has been carried on for many years by the department, of which the public sees little, is the matter of surface drainage. Much has had to be done in the latter years because of the building areas that were used for surface drainage. In 1930-1931 an expensive piece of drainage was completed through the Heywood-Wakefield properties on Water Street. Later this was followed by an ERA and WPA project enclosing the Wakefield Brook drainage from the Heywood-Wakefield properties to North Avenue. Many hundreds of feet of pipe have been laid to take care of surface drainage in all parts of the town. This problem is mounting steadily as the building of homes continues. The 1943 highway appropriation was about \$46,000.

With the steady increase of automobile traffic, the department is forced to expend large sums for the care of highways during the winter season for street plowing, snow removal, and sanding. The department also has the care of street signs, traffic lines, coasting signs and snow fences.

At the present time the Highway Department personnel consists of fifteen permanent employees. During the heavy working season the crew is supplemented by temporary workers.

The department has nine motor vehicles, five tractors, a crushing and screening plant, two road rollers, two graders, a shovel and loader.

Office, garages, and yard are located on North Avenue.

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Police Department is the town's protective body, charged with a 24-hour duty, seven days a week, including all holidays. It regulates all traffic on the highways, investigates and prosecutes violation of state laws and town rules and regulations.

Its personnel requires all officers to be wise, humane, and with a responsibility to be used justly, and patiently, but with full power to protect individuals and property from all violations of the rights and privileges of our citizenship.

The annual reports of this department name numerous and varied activities of accidents, recovery of lost or stolen property, defects in public utilities, lost children cared for, and prompt and efficient details at fires, weddings, parades, celebrations and public gatherings. The presence of officers at headquarters and on our highways from one sunrise to the next gives an assurance of safety that fully meets the wishes and demands of our people.

The department is staffed with a chief, John G. Gates, one lieutenant, two sergeants, fifteen regular patrolmen and six reserve men and 130 auxiliary police.

Since the beginning of World War II, many additional duties have come to this department. An auxiliary police school has been organized; blackout and dim-out regulations have been enforced; sub-police stations have been organized in the public schools; replacements have been made of officers lost to the armed forces; and there has been close co-operation with the several defense organizations and other activities in public defense.

## WATER AND SEWERAGE DEPARTMENTS

Wakefield has a pure and plenteous supply of water for domestic use and fire protection. The early story of the introduction of water dates back to 1872 when the Quannapowitt Water Company was incorporated to supply water to Wakefield and Stoneham, with authority to take water from both local lakes. It was not until 1881 that the Water Company submitted a proposition looking to a water supply. On July 3, 1882, the town took decisive action by the appointment of five citizens who reported April 2, 1883, that a contract for water and 60 fire hydrants had been executed. On May 12 following, the company began laying pipes with Crystal Lake as the supply. In the meantime, on April 23, 1883, the Company changed its corporate name to the Wakefield Water Company. A pumping station and an engineer's residence were constructed on the



north shore on Broadway where both are still in operation and occupancy.

For several years, at numerous town meetings, the question of the town owning its water supply was debated vigorously—probably the most debatable question in the town's history—with the result that the town passed a favorable report, and in 1902 acquired the franchise and property of the Wakefield Water Company. The cost to the town was \$230,000. The Wakefield Water Company had been supplying water to the town of Stoneham, but in 1901 Stoneham entered the Metropolitan system. The water system then in 1903 became the Wakefield Water Department and in 1910, it was consolidated with the Sewerage Department.

The main source of water supply is Crystal Lake. Auxiliary supply No. 1 consists of 48 driven wells located on the north side of Nahant Street on Smith Pond Brook. Auxiliary supply No. 2, located on Bay State Road, is a concrete well, 29 feet deep and 20 feet in diameter.

The Broadway Pumping Station at the present time has complete equipment.

The pump at the Bay State Road well is a Fairbanks Morse vertical turbine type submerged pump, capacity 500,000 gallons per day.

The auxiliary pumping equipment at the Broadway Station consists of two steam fire engines.

The filter plant which was put into operation February 9, 1928, has two slow sand filters and two aerators, with a capacity of 2,500,000 gallons per day each.

There are two standpipes owned by the Wakefield Water Department, one on Green Street, Stoneham, Massachusetts, built in 1883, with a capacity of 565,485 gallons, and the other on Hart's Hill, Wakefield, built in 1927, capacity 651,817 gallons.

In use within the town are 60.09 miles of mains, 858 gates and 383 hydrants; also, 26 sprinkler systems and fire pipes are served by the town.

Wakefield has two mutual aid connections with Reading, one with Lynnfield, two with Melrose and two with Stoneham.

In the Broadway Pumping Station is a fire alarm tapper and tape receiving and recording all alarms of fire in town; also the station houses the thawing equipment, a portable chlorinator, a portable air compressor, a trench machine, etc.

### SEWER DEPARTMENT

The first Sewer Department was organized on July 23, 1900 and until 1910 was in control of the Water Commissioners.

The gravity sewer system originally installed in 1900 has been

extended, so that the greater portion of the thickly-populated section of the town is now served by it.

The outfall sewer, which connects all sewerage from various sections of the town, was built in 1901 and extends from the Melrose line northerly along the Boston and Maine Railroad to North Avenue near the corner of Main Street.

On March 16, 1910, the Sewer Department was consolidated with the Water Department under Chapter 106 of the Acts and Resolves of the Massachusetts Legislature, approved February 21, 1910, and accepted by the town under Article 33 of the Town Warrant.

The low level pumping station, built in 1926, is located about 350 feet east of Valley Street near the Saugus River on Vinton Street (so-called). Sewage is received from the buildings in the low area east of Pleasant Street and east and southeast of the Center Railroad Station.

The ejector station, constructed in 1937, is located on town-owned land between Main Street and Lake Quannapowitt, opposite Central Street, serving practically the entire territory north of Sweetser Street to the Reading line. The territory comprises part of Sweetser Street, part of Cordis Street, Main Street north of Sweetser Street, part of Lowell Street, and Walton Lane and also was extended to serve the adjacent land when developed.

The 1944 Water and Sewerage Board: Sidney F. Adams, chairman; John N. Bill and Herman G. Dresser, with Morrison Merrill, superintendent.

## THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

The first mention of a School Committee is found in the records of 1792 and the first report was rendered in 1798. This department of the town government has therefore been functioning continuously for a little over a century and a half.

In the early portion of the 19th century, there seem to have been two sorts of committees—prudential committees, which under the instructions from their several districts, selected and contracted with teachers; and committees of superintendence and examination, whose duties seemed to include what we, in modern speech, would call the “rating” of teachers and oral examinations of pupils at the close of terms or school years.

Readers will find references to this latter group, with quotations from their reports, in the chapter on “Education.”

This set-up of prudential and superintending committees seems to have merged into one body at least by the late '50's. This statement is inferred from the language of the records.

Wakefield has had Superintendents of its schools since 1893, nine years before an act of the Legislature made the appointment of such mandatory upon towns and cities.

The School Committee has the responsibility of formulating school policies and regulations; of informing the voters of the needs for the proper education of its youth; and of the expenditure of appropriations. Its functions are administrative.

The School Committee is composed of six members, two of whom are elected each year for a three-year term. They are organized with a chairman, a secretary and a treasurer, and each member is a sub-chairman of some special phase of the work of the committee, for the purpose of investigation and report.

For many years the School Committee has met regularly twice a month, with many special meetings during the course of a year.

The 1944 School Committee comprises Patrick H. Tenney, chairman; Mrs. Eva G. Ripley, secretary; James M. Henderson, Mrs. Mary L. Tredinnick, Paul A. Saunders and Walter C. Hickey.

### BOARD OF HEALTH

The Board of Health was in early years elected at the town meeting upon nomination by a committee, and as a result there were frequent changes in personnel. The town did not regard this Board as very essential, for in 1874 it voted to pass by the article calling for an appropriation.

The first Board of Health elected at the annual town meeting of 1872, consisted of Dr. Charles Jordan, Dr. Azel Ames, Jr., Dr. John R. Mansfield, Chester W. Eaton, and J. M. Evans, and the first health regulations were adopted in May of the same year. It is evident from the regulations and records of the meetings that most of their duties were abating nuisances and seeing that privies and out-houses were properly cleaned. The only mention of health and disease was vaccination and small pox. An early epidemic of small pox was followed by vigorous vaccination in which physicians visited every house in town, street by street, and vaccinated everybody. Diphtheria was prevalent at times and the records of many meetings show cases of diphtheria and nuisances abated in the same list.

In 1900, the first comprehensive plumbing regulations were issued. In 1900 and 1901 an epidemic of small pox diverted attention from nuisances and drainage problems that generally occupied the attention of the board. In 1910 there was a second epidemic of small pox. In 1914 the first contract for collection of garbage was written, and an ordinance, ordering foods exposed for sale to be covered, was adopted.

In more recent years the prevention of disease has been the principal problem. Tuberculosis is attacked by the sanatorium treatment of cases in the contagious stage, with X-ray of contacts and suspicious cases. All milk now has to be pasteurized, and continual inspection of dairies and dealers' plants goes far toward preventing milk-borne diseases.

Inoculations have largely abolished diphtheria. The board has charge of the collection of garbage, the care of the dumps, problems of drainage and the abatement of nuisances of all kinds, including the keeping of animals. It also has charge of the inspecting of plumbing, and oversight of the preparation and dispensing of foods.

The 1944 board consists of Wesley S. Goodwin, chairman; Ned C. Loud and Dr. Charles E. Montague.

## PARK AND CEMETERY DEPARTMENT

The Wakefield Park System dates almost to the time of the earliest settlers, or about 1647, when the first general division of land was made by the early, sturdy settlers. Acreage was assigned in what is now Wakefield, a goodly stretch of land was set apart and reserved for the use of the community in general—for their use in common—hence the Common and the term have continued to this day, here and all over New England.

Our "Common" in its earliest years extended from a point near the present corner of Main and Albion Streets to the shore of "The Great Pond," and part way up the pond's east and west sides.

Parts of land were sold later, north of Church Street to private parties and built on, also the town built a town hall and an engine house and part of it was used for burial purposes.

About 1871 the town redeemed, by purchase, the land sold out of the Common, and in 1873 sold the old town hall, demolished the engine house and removed the cemetery to the Church-Street site.

In 1883 Cornelius Sweetser of Saco, Me., a native of South Reading, now Wakefield, bequeathed to the town \$10,000.00, provided the town appropriate an equal amount, which was done "for the furnishing and beautifying of the Public Park."

In 1884 the town accepted an act, passed by the Massachusetts Legislature of 1882, authorizing the towns and cities of the state to lay out public parks within its limits, and Messers. James H. Carter, David H. Darling and James F. Emerson were elected the town's first Board of Park Commissioners. The care of the town's cemetery was later added to their duties.



Since then, year by year, the Wakefield people have enjoyed their modern park system and the old "Common," besides taking pride in showing both to out-of-town visitors. Board after board of Park and Cemetery Commissioners have cared for both with due and proper faithfulness.

In recent years the park system has been increased by the addition of six playgrounds: Hart's Hill in the Junction District, Veterans' Field (former Church Street), Moulton Field on the west side, on Albion Street, Mapleway in Greenwood off Greenwood Street, Nasella Playground on Water Street towards Lynn, and Webber Field on Prospect Street at Hopkins Street on the west side, and about seventeen triangles, odd bits and corners at street intersections in various parts of the town.

A modern bath house on Spaulding Street on the shore of Lake Quannapowitt (The Great Pond) is included in the park system, and is a source of refreshment and enjoyment to the townspeople, young and old.

The Old Cemetery, so called, on Church Street dates from 1688 up to 1860, since in later years few interments have been made there.

The original cemetery interments on the common, near where the band stand now is, were removed to this cemetery about 1873 or 1874.

Land for Forest Glade Cemetery was acquired in 1898, and with the help afforded through the W. P. A. it has been developed into a very modern and well-kept cemetery. It consists of about 30 acres divided equally for those of the Protestant and Catholic faiths.

The Park Commissioners of 1944: John W. MacGilivray, chairman; William E. Packard, and John T. Stringer.

## BUILDING INSPECTION DEPARTMENT

Inspections of buildings first started in the town about 1900. The position of Building Inspector was a part-time position until the year 1941, at which time it was made a full-time position.

Buildings house people as they work, worship, shop, live and play. It is therefore necessary that all buildings be safe, not only structurally, but they must safeguard the health of the occupants as well as to prescribe reasonable measures for safety against fire.

The Building Inspector is charged with the survey and inspection of buildings and with the enforcement of the provisions of the Building Laws, and all other laws and ordinances relating to the erection, construction, alteration, repair, removal and safety of buildings, signs, theatres, elevators, fire escapes, awnings, rooming houses, factories, public halls and all places of public assembly, convalescent homes, schools and to issue all permits for the use of sidewalks.

Valuations for the construction, alteration and repair of buildings within the Town of Wakefield since 1935 have been as follows:

1935 .....	\$ 85,975.00
1936 .....	163,860.00
1937 .....	234,453.00
1938 .....	223,329.00
1939 .....	461,060.00
1940 .....	573,342.00
1941 .....	737,710.00
1942 .....	431,390.00
1943 .....	89,573.00

The War Production Board by order L-41 has restricted the construction of all structures not essential to the successful prosecution of the war, and which utilizes labor or material so urgently needed in the war effort.

The existence of order L-41 of the War Production Board explains, at least in part, the decrease in the value of construction and alterations in the years 1942 and 1943.

It is to be expected that when the war has been brought to a successful conclusion much critical material may be released for further building. The Town of Wakefield may expect to receive its full share of the post-war boom in building construction.

The Building Inspector also has the duty of enforcement of the Zoning By-Laws.

Zoning is a method of directing the development of property within the town in a sensible and orderly manner, rather than permitting it to take place haphazardly and injuriously, and to give a reasonable amount of space around buildings for proper ventilation and sunlight in order that health of the citizens of the town may be conserved.

The town of Wakefield is divided into four classes of districts as follows:

1. Single Residence
2. General Residence
3. Business
4. Industrial

Each district is a necessity and each can be an asset to the other provided it is located properly. That is the purpose of zoning—to find a place for each district and keep each district in its proper place.

### COMPENSATION AGENT

The Inspector of Buildings also acts as Compensation Agent for the town of Wakefield.

Certain town departments are covered under the Workmen's Compensation Laws, providing for payments of medical and hospital bills and a weekly allowance in cases where a municipal employee is injured during his employment.

It is the duty of the Compensation Agent to make all necessary inspections and investigations relating to causes of injuries for which compensation may be claimed. If the investigation indicates that the injury occurred during the course of employment of the employee the Compensation Agent must arrange suitable medical and hospital services and provide payments therefor. He must also arrange to make the weekly compensation payments to the injured employee in cases where the injury is of an incapacitating nature.

The Workmen's Compensation Act is administered under the supervision of the Industrial Accident Board for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. All agreements with injured employees must be approved by that department.

The town of Wakefield voted to accept the Workmen's Compensation Act by ballot at the town election in March 1914. Since that time the acceptance has proven to have been beneficial to the town of Wakefield as well as to the employees of the town, covered by the provisions of the act.

Joseph W. MacInnis is Building Inspector and Compensation Agent.

### BOARD OF PUBLIC WELFARE

This is one of the town's major departments with a board charged with relief to the needy. It supplies cash, groceries, fuel, shoes and clothing, gas and light, ice, water, rents, board, medical care, hospitalization, burials, and other comfort necessities. In co-operation with the government, as to costs, the department cares for dependent children, with 1943 expenditures totaling \$14,841.32.

Application for Old Age Assistance can be made by citizens 65 years or older, whose financial circumstances are such that they require assistance. A total of \$124,365.69 was expended in 1943 for Old Age Assistance outside of administration expense. This board is further charged with the care and maintenance of the Town Infirmary where the 1943 expenses amounted to \$7,755.22.

The 1944 Board includes Helen S. Randall, chairman; M. Leo Conway, H. C. Robinson, J. Edward Dulong, and Peter Y. Myhre.

### PLANNING BOARD

This civic organization dates from April 14, 1914, when F. H. Long was chosen chairman, and J. W. O'Connell, secretary. Other board members were Hubbard B. Mansfield, F. A. Seavey and Curtis L. Sopher. First activity was directed to a company developing land in Greenwood.

This was the parent of the Town Planning Board. On November 25, 1925, the town adopted the Zoning By-Law, dated November 10, 1925, and a Zoning Map presented by the Planning Board.

The object of the original Wakefield Zoning Law was to promote the health, safety, comfort and welfare of the inhabitants. Recent years have justified the existence of this department of our town government.

Fitzroy Willard is chairman and other members are M. Gardner Clemons, Dr. Frank T. Woodbury, Edward M. Bridge and Edward G. Lee.

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**PART OF WAKEFIELD'S CIVIC CENTER — 1944**



### RETIREMENT BOARD

The Contributory Retirement Board consists of three officials, and collects membership payments from approximately two hundred members in the employ of the town. The total assets as of January 1, 1944, were \$97,904.32 deposited in National, Savings and Co-operative Banks in nearby cities and towns. The total membership December 31, 1943, including pensioners, was 217. During the year 1943 the total receipts, including contributions of members, town appropriation, accumulation fund, interest, etc., were \$38,091.91, and payments in total were \$29,621.45.

The Board of 1944 is William P. Hurton, chairman; Charles C. Cox and James M. Henderson.

### MOTH AND TREE DEPARTMENT

This department is under the direction of a superintendent, appointed by the Selectmen. The chief duties have to do with the extermination of tent caterpillars, the satin and brown tail moth, and the gypsy moth. All elm trees in the town are sprayed for the elm leaf beetle. This department maintains a tree nursery on Broadway, plants many shade trees, annually, and cuts down trees that are decayed, or dangerous to travel. Attention is also given to trimming and cutting bushes at the sides of highways.

John Landry is the present superintendent.

### MILK AND FOOD INSPECTOR

This department is one of health protection. Sources of milk within the town and from all outside dairies selling milk in Wakefield are inspected and approved, or if changes are necessary, they are made. Laboratory tests are made for fats, solids, bacteria and clean handling. Pasteurization, which is an especially important function in processing milk and cream, and plants employing these methods are rigidly and frequently inspected. Food inspections are made by the inspector, who issues milk permits to dealers and retail merchants, for ice cream manufacture, and for the sale of oleomargarine.

Lawrence Doucett is present inspector.

## ANIMAL INSPECTOR AND DOG OFFICER

The earliest record of the appointment of an animal inspector was in 1903. His duties are now regulated by the State and his nomination by the Selectmen must have the approval of the Division of Livestock Disease Control of the United States Department of Agriculture. His duties are many, including quarantining of any animal under suspicion of contagious disease, to inspect all cattle, to see that all barns and stables are kept in sanitary condition.

The Office of Dog Officer, created in 1909, is combined with that of the Animal Inspector. To meet legal requirements the Dog Officer cares for stray, sick or vicious dogs, and restrains all unlicensed dogs, but the quarantining of dogs is the duty of the Animal Inspector. In the past seventeen years the number of dogs has increased from 600 to about 1050.

George A. Bennett has been Animal Inspector since 1931, and Dog Officer since 1926.

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

The function of this committee of fifteen is set forth in Chapter 3 of the Town By-Laws, to wit:

Section 2. When the warrant for a town meeting contains any article or articles under which an appropriation or expenditure of money, or the disposition of any property of the town, may be made, the finance committee shall consider said articles after giving one or more public hearings, of which the person whose name first appears attached to an article shall be notified, and shall report in print its recommendations to the said town meeting.

## TOWN PLANNING

There are many maps of old Reading, of South Reading and of Wakefield that faithfully depict the steady growth of the town from early days. The oldest map is dated 1651 and shows the location and areas of the early grants of land in 1638, 1639 and 1651.

A map of 1647 indicates the location of the homesteads of 32 of the original settlers as determined by painstaking search of old records and wills. (See Page 26.)

That the town of Boston touched the ancient town of Reading is a historical fact. In 1639, when the town lines of Boston, Charlestown and Lynn were established, a narrow strip of land, designed as a part of

Boston, was known as "the Boston Panhandle". This location, south of Castle Rock, is known as the "Three County Bounds"—where the three counties of Essex, Middlesex and Suffolk have a common meeting place, 1050 feet westerly from Main Street in the Greenwood section. Here a granite monument marks the spot, and old maps locate it.

Other maps that have come down to modern days are: Map of the First Parish in 1750; Map of Reading, 1765; Map of Malden, 1795, showing the early Reading road; Map of Reading and Lynnfield, 1794; Map of Reading, 1795, with location and names of owners; plan of South Reading Common in 1826; plan of Reading in 1830; and Map of South Reading, 1830, and another in 1856.

We come now to more recent years. There exist a large wall map of Wakefield issued in 1874 and a smaller map showing the real estate holdings of Cyrus Wakefield. In recent years, the Wakefield Item Co. has issued yearly an up-to-date map of the town that has come into general use because of its completeness and low price. A copy of this map is made a part of this History, affixed near the back of this book. Two years ago Harry D. Lord of Newton, Massachusetts issued a book of maps including Wakefield, Reading, North Reading, Lynnfield, Melrose and other towns and cities. The Board of Assessors has a complete book of plans of locations, areas and dimensions of all property in the town. These are only for the use of the Board but any citizen is privileged to consult them.

The town has for public distribution a Zoning Map defining the building restriction areas.

## OTHER DEPARTMENTS

The list of other departments and officials includes Forest Warden, Inspector of Wires, Plumbing Inspector, Sealer of Weights and Measures, the Board of Appeal, the Board of Survey, Soldiers' Relief, Fence Viewers, Constable, Registrars of Voters and Sweetser Lecture Committee.

## CHAPTER SIX

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### *Religious Progress*

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#### *Town and Church Begin Together*

#### *Brief History of Each of the Churches — Co-operation Today*

The churches of Wakefield, through their ministers, their members and their parishioners, have been towers of strength to the community in all the years since their establishment. Through the preaching of God's Word, and through the training of youth in the "nurture and admonition of the Lord," men and women from all the churches, having been imbued with the highest ideals of conduct, have rendered, by the thousands, the best kind of community service.

Indeed, so important and so worthy has been the service rendered to Wakefield by all the churches, that a book of many pages would be required, adequately to record their history.

The task, therefore, of condensing that history is a formidable one, and space permits only a few pages for even this great enterprise. Every reader of this chapter will note what will seem to him or to her, unfortunate omissions. Will all such attribute them to limitations of space, and not to any under-estimate of the value of this or that undertaking?

Even in a brief chapter, there should be mention of every church. We have, therefore, followed the most natural plan and arranged the churches, for purposes of this chapter, in the order of their establishment in Reading, South Reading or Wakefield, as the case may be.

The churches of Wakefield, in the order of their establishment, are as follows:

The First Parish — First Congregational Church — 1644.

The First Baptist Church — 1779-1800-1804.

The First Universalist Church and Society — 1813.

St. Joseph's Catholic Church — 1850.

The First Methodist Church — 1864-1865.

Emmanuel Parish Church — Episcopal — 1870-1871.

The Greenwood Union Church — 1873.

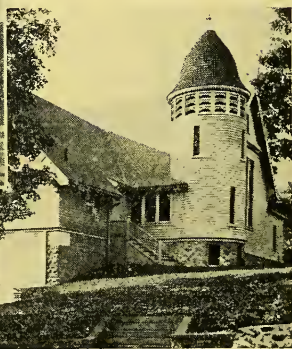
Italian Baptist Chapel — 1901.

The Church of the Most Blessed Sacrament, Greenwood — 1909.

Italian Catholic Chapel — 1924.



# WAKEFIELD CHURCHES



Methodist

Baptist

Congregational

Episcopal

Greenwood Union



# WAKEFIELD CHURCHES



Universalist      St. Joseph's  
 Blessed Sacrament, Greenwood  
 Italian Catholic    Italian Baptist

## THE FIRST PARISH FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

As in all communities of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, town and church began their existence together. Thus it was that the little group of English immigrants, who had "found their way hither from Lynn and other towns" took steps at once toward establishing a church. This first church, Congregational in its faith and creed, was no doubt founded in that first year of 1644, and the little group of settlers attended divine service in the tiny structure near the corner of Main and Albion Streets. This house of worship served for over forty years, and while it was humble, rough and uncomfortable, it was a true house of prayer for the valiant settlers who had come through the Lynn Woods, crossed the Saugus River at the single ford, and built their meeting house between the two lakes.

In 1688 a new structure was built near the site of the present church. Provided with a steeple and a bell, this edifice served until 1768.

The third edifice faced the west. Its tall spire, blown down in the great gale of 1815, was replaced by a dome-shaped steeple, less beautiful than its predecessor, but safer.

The interior was remodeled in 1838, and in 1847 an even more thorough remodeling was carried out. The building was turned about to face the south and a graceful spire replaced the old steeple.

There are still living those who can recall this third church, and remember that it was demolished, following the final service on May 14, 1890. Even more persons can recall the dedication, on March 10, 1892, of the handsome stone edifice that was the fourth building. Many who read these lines will recall the disastrous conflagration of February 21, 1909, which partially destroyed the church building and brought genuine grief to the townspeople, as well as to the men and women of the First Parish.

Sunday worship services were held in the town hall, and sister churches extended hospitality for other meetings during the years when the First Parish was without a home of its own.

Rebuilding, however, was begun at once, and the new edifice, much like the old, but with many improvements, was dedicated on February 1, 1912. By great efforts and sacrifices on the part of pastor and people, the church was pronounced free of debt in just ten years after the 1909 fire. The mortgage was burned at the morning service on February 21, 1919. Lawyer Samuel K. Hamilton, who had been chairman of the building committee for both the fourth and fifth edifices, himself burned the mortgage paper, and the service was one of rejoicing.



The church is known far and wide for the beauty of its architecture, without and within. The style is Byzantine-Romanesque, walls are of two shades of gray granite. A square tower on the southeast, three round staircase towers and a massive arch at the chief entrance are external features of note.

The church auditorium seats 750 persons. It is finished in quartered oak and carpeted in deep rose figured broadloom. It is further beautified by many stained glass windows, all memorials to sainted men and women of the church gone to their reward.

Vestry, parlors, Church School rooms, class rooms, dining room and kitchen are commodious and modern in equipment; but even so, in this tercentenary year, a building fund is being raised, for changes or additions, when peace shall have made new plans possible.

The Thayer Memorial Chimes were given in memory of Hon. Harry I. Thayer, by Mrs. Thayer and their three sons. They were dedicated on October 21, 1928, and are often played during church services with impressive effect. Playing of them on other occasions, both churchly and civic, is welcomed as a contribution to the dignity and beauty of any event.

Seventeen ministers have served the church and parish during its 300 years. Of rare personal qualities, widely respected and singularly devoted, these men have labored and accomplished greatly in shaping the intellectual and spiritual life of the community, as well as that of their own members. The story of their contributions to the life and thought of the town in which they ministered, will be told, no doubt, at the various services of observance which are to make up the church's part in the tercentenary.

It would also be appropriate, were space at our command, to speak of the part taken by the church through its patriotic men in the various wars, and in the development of the religious thought of New England. All that, however, is beyond the confines of this chapter.

As has been so forcefully remarked by the editor of this history, Mr. William E. Eaton, the one thing that has had a continuous existence since 1644—outside of hills and lakes and other of God's creations—is the First Parish, and the First Congregational Church.

It has a total membership of 1289. The out-of-town membership is 220. Its Church School registers 550 persons, and it has numerous organizations, large and small, to meet the spiritual and social needs of men, women, boys and girls, and little children.

Rev. Austin Rice, D.D., is senior pastor. He has served the church with conspicuous devotion and ability since November, 1907.



Rev. Richard A. Wolff is assistant minister. He already has a reputation as an excellent and forceful sermonizer and he devotes much time to the work with and for young people.

### THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

In the spring of 1793, a small group of persons banded themselves together, independent of the First Parish. While they were members of the Baptist Church in Woburn, they constituted the Baptist Society in Wakefield, then Reading. The first meeting house was built in 1800 on Salem Street and the first pastor was installed January 31, 1804. The structure was destroyed by fire in 1835, and the second that replaced it in 1836 at the corner of Crescent and Main Streets was burned to the ground in 1871. The present church building was dedicated on December 11, 1872. It is a handsome structure and has seating accommodations for a thousand persons. Its slender spire is 180 feet in height, the loftiest in the region round about. In pre-war years during the Christmas season and again in the days preceding Easter, the star, in the former instance, and the cross in the latter, electrically lighted and high on the tower, were of extraordinary beauty at night.

This church has had strong missionary and educational interests from its beginning. Rev. and Mrs. Willis F. Thomas went from the church to spend their lives in Burma, Rev. Fritz C. Gleichman went to Africa, and Miss Lucy Bonney, who served many years in India, is now stationed in India.

It organized the first Bible school in the community in 1818, and the South Reading Academy in 1828. It held services in Swedish for many years, and welcomed and held services for Italians newly come to town. The following significant action is to be found in the records of April 3, 1834: "Voted that the anti-slavery society may have the privilege of holding their meetings in our meeting house."

The present membership of the church is 868.

United in its faith and assiduous in its good works, the Baptist Church has been, since 1936, under the able leadership of its scholarly young minister, Rev. Ralph J. Bertholf.

### THE FIRST UNIVERSALIST CHURCH AND SOCIETY

While the preaching of Universalism had been held in private homes and public buildings from 1813, the Universalist society did not settle its first pastor until 1833. A meeting house was built in 1839 and remodeled in 1859. The church building has twice been damaged by fire, once in

July, 1900, and again in July, 1939. Following extensive repairs, the church was rededicated on February 22, 1940. It remains an example of the true New England meeting house and it is in its architecture distinctive and distinguished. The building stands on its original site on Main Street, not far from the Common.

Twenty-four ministers have served this church and have given to it, through its more than a century of continuous life, notable examples of high-minded, liberal preaching. They have been to a conspicuous degree men of intellectual attainments.

The Sunday School has had a continuous record of service since 1837, and its leaders have been notable for their devotion.

Rev. LeRoy Congdon, minister since 1941, and his parishioners, are working loyally together in carrying on the best traditions of their denomination, the third oldest in Wakefield.

### ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH AND PARISH

The first Mass in Wakefield, at that time still South Reading, was celebrated in July, 1850, in the house of Malachi Kenney. While there were about fifteen Catholic families in town then, the attendance at the first service was increased to more than 200 by worshipers from out of town. The day following the service, a parcel of land on Albion Street, a part of the present parochial estate, was purchased and a chapel erected, that served until 1871.

In 1868, the erection of the transept and chancel of St. Joseph's Church was begun, and, in 1873, the Catholics of Wakefield were organized as a separate parish. The old church was moved to Murray Street, and it has been in continuous use as a hall ever since.

Some fourteen years later, within a term of ten years, the nave of the church was completed, the tower erected and the basement finished. By this time, 1887, the congregation had grown to 2500 souls. In another ten or twelve years the chapel in the lower church and the sanctuary in the upper church were greatly beautified. The church, cruciform in shape, with side galleries, has a seating capacity of eleven hundred. It is in the Gothic style and the interior is frescoed in soft colors.

The major portion of the present rectory was built in 1884, and some five or six years later it was remodeled.

The physical plant of St. Joseph's Parish is thus seen to be extensive, including, as it does, the church itself, the rectory, the hall on Murray

Street, the parish school on Gould Street, attended by four hundred pupils, on an average, and the convent for the Sisters of St. Joseph, who are the teachers in the school. Chimes in memory of Thomas E. Dwyer sound the Angelus at seven in the morning and at six in the evening. These, with the clock that strikes and sounds the quarter hours as well, are further additions to St. Joseph's Church and to the neighborhood in which they are daily heard.

Four religious societies, two clubs, a youth organization and three fraternal organizations are continuously active and contribute to the vigor of parish life.

Large numbers of devout Catholics attend Mass and Holy Communion every Sunday. The parish is regarded as well organized and influential, and includes in its membership more than 5,000 souls.

In 1921 the Catholics of Lynnfield, who were served by the Wakefield church, were organized into a mission, and an attractive chapel was opened on the Newburyport Turnpike in August, 1922. They were separated from the Wakefield parish in 1937.

Rev. Florence J. Halloran, LL.D., has been pastor since 1913 and on September 26, 1943 celebrated the Golden Jubilee of his ordination to the priesthood. His assistants are Rev. Francis J. Murphy, Rev. John P. Cosgrove and Rev. James T. McCarthy.

### THE FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

The Methodist Church dates from January, 1865, when services were first held in the town hall, located, at that time, on the east side of Church Street. The church was officially organized June 4, 1865, with a membership of twenty-six. For four years the members worshiped in the vestry of the Universalist Church.

In 1869, Albion hall on Albion Street was purchased and served for about five years. The church building on Albion Street was begun in 1873, and dedicated in February, 1874. The debt on the building was discharged in twelve years, and on April 9, 1886, a "Grand Jubilee" was held in celebration of this freedom from debt.

The church seated 600 persons, and had a vestry and kitchen below stairs. It was of Swiss timber construction, adapted to 14th century Gothic outline, and it had a 130-foot spire. The building had just been thoroughly and beautifully redecorated, when the hurricane of September 21, 1938, partially wrecked it. It was condemned as unsafe and torn down.

For three years the members met with their good friends of the Universalist Church, until November, 1941, in fact. In September, 1941,

the Grand Army building on Foster Street was bought, remodeled and dedicated March 15, 1942.

Loyal to their Methodist faith and to its governing bodies, the worshippers at the church on Foster Street are carrying on with enthusiasm a forward looking program.

As this history goes to print, the church welcomes a new pastor, Rev. Herbert Picht.

### EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL PARISH CHURCH

The beginnings of Emmanuel Church were made in the 1850-1860 decade, when small groups held meetings in private homes. The groups were organized in 1869-70, and in 1871 the church was incorporated in the Diocese of Massachusetts.

The church building, located on Water Street, east, (on the present L. B. Evans shoe factory site) was erected in 1881, and later enlarged. In 1900 it was moved to its present location, on the corner of Main and Bryant Streets.

The church building, with the Parish House, erected in 1902, and the rectory in 1903, constitute the physical properties of Emmanuel Church. Church and parish are free from debt.

Four hundred residents of Wakefield and vicinity attend services, and the Sunday School has 100 members. Seven organizations for men, women, boys and girls supplement and co-ordinate the work of the church.

Rev. Stewart Clark Harbinson, M.A., is rector, and under his devoted and efficient leadership, Emmanuel Church communicants give an inspiring example of loyalty to their faith and of civic consciousness.

### THE GREENWOOD UNION CHURCH

The Greenwood Union Church was formed as the "First Congregational Society of Greenwood" in January, 1873, and for several years, though not continuously, services were held in a room in the Greenwood School. In the Autumn of 1883, the foundation of a new structure was commenced and work upon the "chapel," also, as it was called for many years, was begun. It was dedicated February 27, 1895, "for all purposes of a Christian church, without respect of persons." In its earlier years chapel services were conducted by Wakefield pastors and others who served for short periods.

On November 19, 1903, the Greenwood Union Church was organized, following a survey of the denominational preferences of residents in the community. The conviction of the Founders that all faiths could work



together in harmony has been justified by the advance that the church has made.

The remodeled and enlarged church building as it is today was dedicated on Easter Sunday, April 16, 1922, and on October 21, 1937, a service of rededication was held to celebrate the further remodeling of the sanctuary, and the installation of the chancel.

Still more recently a pipe organ has been installed, mortgage payments made, and church work expanded.

A service for the burning of the mortgage was held in the sanctuary on Sunday afternoon, April 30, 1944, which was a joyous occasion for all.

The church stands now in the forefront of union churches that, by their "fellowship and spirit," minister to the needs of all men.

Rev. Harry W. Birch is the present minister.

### THE CHURCH OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT GREENWOOD

In May, 1909, the Catholics of Greenwood celebrated Mass in the Hose House Hall. A chapel of Gothic design was built on Main Street, near Hanson st, for them, and the opening service was held on New Year's Day, 1927. Greenwood parishioners were separated from the Mother Parish in 1931, and now form a separate parish with their own well-organized activities.

In 1931, the church was consecrated as the Church of the Most Blessed Sacrament. It has under its care approximately 1800 souls and it enjoys a vigorous spiritual life. The church building was enlarged in 1942 to twice its original size.

There are organizations for men, women and girls, and a Sunday School with an enrollment of 400 children.

Rev. Francis P. Doyle is pastor of this rapidly-growing parish, and Rev. Edward F. Hartigan is assistant.

### ITALIAN CATHOLIC MISSION

A Sunday School for Italian children had been conducted in the early 1920's in a hall on Water Street. In 1924 it became possible for Italian Catholics to assist at Mass in a chapel in their own neighborhood. The Santissima Maria del Carmine Society had erected a building on Water Street with a view to providing a place of worship, as well as headquarters

for their society. The upper portion of this structure is fitted up as a chapel and here Mass is celebrated every Sunday for Catholics of Italian birth or lineage.

The Society has generously transferred the title to their building and land to the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Boston, the title under which all Catholic Church property is held in the Archdiocese of Boston.

As this history goes to press, a successful money-raising campaign is in progress for the building of a church on the present site of the chapel.

### THE ITALIAN BAPTIST CHAPEL

The Italian Baptist Chapel is a branch of the work of the First Baptist Church. The present building at the corner of Water and Melvin Streets was erected on land deeded by the Heywood-Wakefield Company. It was dedicated on November 14, 1915. The work for the new-comers from Italy had been started some fourteen years previous, and among these new-comers were many who were descended from the Waldenses and the Vaudois.

For some years previous to the erection of the chapel, services were conducted in Italian in a large room in a building on Water Street. This room, first intended for a store, served as headquarters for the work among Italian Protestant families.

The Sunday School was conducted in English and the late Alice Hill served for many years as superintendent. She was succeeded by her sister, Florence Hill. Frank DeFelice is the present superintendent.

Rev. Theodore DeLuca was pastor for many years. A man of superior intellectual attainments he gave assistance to his young people in their ambitions for a higher education.

Rev. Anthony Collela, pastor since August, 1942, is holding and increasing the interest of his congregation and is working especially with young people. A new organ was dedicated in October, 1943.

### WAKEFIELD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

This organization is made up of the pastors of the several Wakefield churches, and two delegates from each church society. It includes, ex-officio, the pastor of the Italian Baptist Chapel, the general secretary of the Young Men's Christian Association, and a delegate of the Wakefield Youth Council.

The Wakefield Council is affiliated with the Massachusetts Council of Churches.

## CONCLUSION

What shall be said in the concluding paragraphs of this brief survey? This much, at least. That portion of ancient Reading which is now Wakefield possessed, in 1644, its one little meeting house for its 30 families. Here are now 10 houses of worship. Where there were perhaps 50 members in the 1644 church, there must now be at least 10,000, perhaps more, who give their allegiance to one or another of these churches.

Increase in contributions for current expenses, benevolences and missionary work has been in generous proportion to the growth in membership; and as for the value of church property of the various religious bodies, we know that it is tremendous, and that it means great generosity and great sacrifices.

It is right to call to mind these evidences of growth and prosperity. But as we do so, let us think also of the devoted pastors who have served these churches down the years, and of the men and women who have found comfort, consolation and spiritual enlightenment within the walls of the churches of their faith.

Perhaps the records would show here and there within a single denomination sharp differences of opinion about matters of doctrine, or even dissensions on national issues. But these controversies have passed and they do not need to be here revived. Indeed, they may well be ignored, for in recent years there have been numerous instances of long-continued generosity, extended to churches temporarily homeless. There have been, and continue to be evidences of tolerance and co-operation of the right sort, and of broadmindedness among those of differing faiths.

We like to think that a certain creed and faith and practice answer and satisfy the spiritual needs and longings of one type of persons, another faith enables those of quite another spiritual and mental make-up to find a haven for the soul and a field for religious activity.

Let it be said to the future historian that this good word is in a very real sense true of Wakefield churches today.

This same historian of a future day will not need to be told that we, in this tercentenary year, are passing through deep waters; but the "faith of our fathers," we believe, "has kept our country brave and free," and it will sustain us through the dark days that may be before us, and into the days when the light of peace shall shine.

As was said by a speaker at the 250th anniversary, there is the "boundless, the limitless hope—new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness."

## CHAPTER SEVEN

### *Old Homes and Sites*

#### *List of Old Houses and Historic Sites — Dates of Origin Identification Tablets Placed*

The Tercentenary Committee, through the painstaking efforts of Morrison Merrill, a member, has located ancient homes and other historical places on which suitable tablets will be placed.

1. On high ground on the east side of Brook Street, about opposite the Reading Sewer Pumping Station, stood Parker's Saw Pit, where logs were sawed with an "up and down" saw operated by two men, one standing in a pit under the log and the other standing above the log; used by the early settlers before the use of water or steam power.

2. Ensign Hopkins Homestead. Built prior to 1765. Located north side of Hopkins Street nearly opposite house of Mrs. Dunn. Demolished years ago.



#### **THE OLD JOSEPH HOPKINS HOMESTEAD**

Located on the northerly side of Hopkins Street, a short distance east of Brook Street. The old home was torn down many years ago.



3. Nathaniel Eaton House, built prior 1795. Located west side of Brook Street near intersection of Hopkins Street. This house was destroyed by fire October 26, 1894.

4. Jonas Eaton Homestead. Located on an old wood-road west of Strathmore Road and on the east side of what was formerly Hero Nichols' meadow. Only the cellar hole remains. Built about 1642.

5. Aaron Cowdrey Homestead, erected prior to 1764 (early settler) later home of Emily Gould, also owned in later years by the Ryland Family. Located at 71 Prospect Street.

6. Jonas Cowdrey house erected about 1790. Located at 61 Prospect Street.

7. William Atwell's razor strop factory, now a dwelling. Located rear of house at 24 Prospect Street.



**EMERSON (OR KENDALL) HOUSE AT 1 PROSPECT STREET**

Probably the second oldest house in Wakefield; erected prior to 1750.

Site of home of Deacon Thomas Kendall, first settler

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8. Capt. Goodwin Homestead erected prior to 1770 (an early settler). Later the house of James Eustis was erected on the same site and is still standing. Located No. 1 Elm Street.

9. William Stimpson Homestead. Built before 1795. Later owned by William Atwell who manufactured razor strops in a building in rear. Located at 24 Prospect Street.

10. Deacon Thomas Kendall Homestead erected prior to 1750 later the home of James Emerson, Sr., and James Emerson, Jr. Located at 1 Prospect Street, and probably the second earliest dwelling in Wakefield.

11. Thomas Hay House erected about 1746, later the home of Deacon Francis Smith; also Amos Boardman lived here. Located rear of 22 Elm Street, this house torn down years ago.

12. Benjamin Hartshorne House built prior to 1750 later the home of James Hartshorne, demolished about 1925. Located west side of Elm Street at Pine Hill Circle.

13. Homestead of Ebenezer Damon, built prior to 1775, also home of Capt. Walker, long since demolished. Home of Suel Winn erected about 1800. Located at 72 Elm Street.

14. Sgt. John Parker house erected 1670, in later years was the home of Matthew Leslie, destroyed by fire April 18, 1901. Located about 150 feet rear of 157 Prospect Street.

15. Emerson's Rope Walk later owned by Charles Davis, and by William Biggs, who was the last to manufacture rope, erected 1800, removed about 1889. This building was located on the east side of Cedar Street in the rear of No. 44.

16. Horace Tilton house. Erected about 1726. Located at 379 Albion Street. Erected by Daniel Hay.



**SUEL WINN HOMESTEAD**

The old Winn homestead on Elm Street corner of Winn Street. It stands on the site of the homestead of Capt. Richard Walker, one of Reading's first settlers. Suel Winn was killed at the Church Street railroad crossing. The Winn homestead is now owned and occupied by Elwin I. Purrington.

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18. First St. Joseph's Catholic Church, now used as a hall, erected 1862 and stood on the site of the present church facing Albion Street. Located on Murray Street, east side.

19. Col. James Hartshorne House. Built in 1681. Erected by Thomas Hodgman, later owned by Jonathan Cowdrey, and later the home of Dr. John Hart who built a hall within it for the use of Mount Moriah Lodge of Masons; was later a public house and in later years the residence of Col. James Hartshorne. Located north side of Church Street.

20. Second Old Brick Powder House erected 1765. Located southwest corner Old Cemetery on a knoll, removed years ago.

21. Second Town Pound built 1761. Located southwest corner of Old Cemetery.

22. The second meeting house of Reading erected 1688-89 stood near the monument of the Rev. John Mullen and thus the second burying ground grew around it. Located Old Cemetery on Church Street.

23. First Parish meeting house, Church Street. This church, first built 1820-92, and rebuilt after the fire of 1909, covers the site of the third meeting house of Reading, erected 1768, remodeled 1837, turned around and altered 1859, taken down 1890.

24. The earliest and for about fifty years the only burying place of Reading occupied this spot. In 1834 some of the gravestones were removed and the Town House erected here. The Town House was removed to southeast corner of Main and Salem Streets 1873. Located where the park and bandstand are found.

25. In front of the present pagoda stood the wooden Engine House erected in 1852, destroyed by fire 1859, a brick engine house was erected the same year, torn down 1891. The hand engine, "Black Hawk," and the "Yale" hand engine were housed here and later the first Silsby steam fire engine was quartered here.

26. Jeremiah Bryant's blacksmith shop occupied the location at the northwest corner of Church Street at Main Street on the present Park, erected before 1799, known as the village smithy.

27. The first centre district school house stood on the south side of Church Street, near Main Street, erected 1799 and discontinued in 1834, later moved to site of Princess Theatre, Mechanic Street and destroyed by fire 1899.

28. The first hay scales, where weighing was done by lifting the wagon wheels off the ground by chains attached to wooden cross beams overhead, located south side of Church Street next to school. (See 27.)

29. This house originally occupied the site of the Fire Station, Crescent and Mechanic Streets, and was the factory of Dr. S. O. Richardson for the compounding of his famous Sherry-Wine Bitters; and later used to manufacture the Abbott Hydraulic Engine. Erected 1835, moved to present site about 1889. Located at 48 Bartley Street.

30. Leonard Wiley's house formerly stood on the northeast corner of Water and Crescent Streets; erected about 1765, about 1890 it was moved to present site. Located at 35 Bartley Street.

31. Pond Summer School was located on land between Main Street and the Lake opposite Central Street, formerly West District School, moved there 1822, later sold, now used as wood shed rear of Lafayette Street.

33. Lilley Eaton's Mansion built 1804, Post Office, principal store for many years, and center of population and trade. Located at Main and Salem Streets, northeast corner.

34. Homestead of Samuel Gould built 1735, later the home of T. S. Meriam. Located at 48 Meriam Street. (East side.)

35. Parish House which originally stood on the north side of Church Street corner Lake Avenue on the Park and was the home of Rev. Reuben Emerson. Erected about 1804. Now located on south side of Salem Street.

37. Samuel Sweetser house built prior to 1795, later the home of Capt. Asaph Evans. Located 19 Salem Street.

38. Elias Emerson House erected prior to 1795, later became the home of Franklin Poole, well-known artist. Located at 23 Salem Street.



39. Daniel Sweetser house erected about 1780, later the home of Col. James F. Mansfield, now owned by Wilfred DeRocher. Located at 185 Lowell Street.

40. Homestead of Joseph Gould stood on this site erected about 1765. Moved to the south side of Lawrence Street near No. 34. Located southeast corner Main and Lawrence Streets.

41. First Saw Mill in Reading stood on this site, erected by John Poole in 1652, torn down 1922. Located Vernon Street west side at Saugus River.

42. Homestead of Capt. William Green erected about 1750. Located at 18 Vernon Street.

43. On this lot stood the David Batchelder House erected 1720, later the Swain house, demolished about 1899. Located east side of Vernon Street north of DeVita's Conservatory.

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**LILLEY EATON HOMESTEAD, BUILT 1804**

North corner Main and Salem Streets  
(Torn down in 1913.)

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44. Home of James Bryant stood on this site; only cellar hole now remains, built prior to 1750. Located south side of Elm Street opposite No. 130.

45. Homestead of John Swain built prior to 1750, also the home of William Gould, George H. Wiley and others. Located at 237 Salem Street.

46. Homestead of Capt. John Swain built 1752, later the home of John Gould. Located at 229 Salem Street.

47. This house originally stood on north side of street and built in 1740; owner was Thomas Parker. Was the home of the Bailey family and now owned by Eric V. Larson. Located at 200 Lowell Street.



48. This house, which originally was located in the town of Stoneham, was built prior to 1760. The owner is unknown; was later the home of the Seavey family, also the Hollands, and Goldthwaits were later owners, now the home of John S. Stormont. Located at 335 Albion Street.

49. On this spot stood the homestead of Thomas Burnap, built prior to 1750, later the Goldsmith home (3rd house in rear remodeled). Located at 99 Salem Street.

50. On this site stood Jeremiah Bryant's homestead built about 1794, torn down 1899. Located northeast corner Main and Bryant Streets.

51. The first Baptist meeting house erected 1800 on Salem Street was removed to this spot in 1820, destroyed by fire 1835, a second house built in 1836 was destroyed by fire 1871. Location, northeast corner Main and Crescent Streets.

52. Near this spot stood the South Reading Academy, built in 1829 and sold to the Town in 1847; used as a high school until 1872, moved in 1892 to present location and used as a G. A. R. Hall until 1941. Located on Foster Street.

53. First Powder House and the first Town Pound were located in the rear of this house 1659. Located rear of 316 Main Street.

54. Universalist Church built 1836, remodeled in 1856 and steeple added, 1876 interior remodeled and pews added; 1897 more improvements made.

55. Archibald Smith house stood on this site, erected 1807, moved to Centre Street, later demolished in 1942. Located northeast corner of Main and Centre Streets.

56. Joseph Underwood homestead built prior to 1740, later home of Moses Parker and J. Drinkwater. Located Lowell and Vernon Streets, northeast corner.

57. Homestead of Thomas Emerson built prior to 1760, later the home of Rev. Dr. Cushman. Destroyed by fire more than fifty years ago.

58. Near this spot stood the Centre District School, built in 1853 and in 1891 moved to Crescent and Mechanic Streets; used as a fire station until destroyed by fire in 1899.

59. On this spot stood a small school house, later used as a shoe shop, removed to No. 2 Cottage Street now used as part of dwelling of C. P. LeDuc. Site of Town Hall. (See No. 91.)

60. Homestead of the Woodward Family, occupied 1795 by Thomas Stimpson, later by Samuel Tileston 1850. Located on west side of Main Street just north of Lowell Street.

61. On this site on the south side of Albion Street stood the Methodist Episcopal Church built 1873, demolished 1938 by the terrific hurricane of that year.

62. Homestead of Samuel Wiley built about 1795, later years was the Quantapowitt House. In subsequent years it was cut in three parts and moved. First part now A. O. H. Hall, second part now located northeast corner Avon Street and North Avenue, third part now a dwelling house on Bennett Street. Located south-west corner Main and Albion Streets.

63. Site of first Post Office in South Reading. Located near Abe Fine's store, east side of Main Street.

64. Homestead of John Raynor stood on this site, built before 1775, torn down many years ago, gave way to erection of a new house owned by Daniel Norcross, burned 1857. Location of Wakefield Savings Bank.

66. First Meeting house of Reading, erected prior to 1644, stood near this spot. Located northwest corner Main and Albion Streets.

67. Site of Daniel Sweetser's homestead, built about 1800; later the home of Burrage Yale, also of John W. White, demolished 1935. Located on site of Post Office.

68. Burrage Yale's tin shop built 1803, later used as Emerson's Shoe factory. Town down 1900. Present Y. M. C. A. Building erected 1907. Located northwest corner Common Street and Yale Avenue.

69. Near this spot stood the homestead of Samuel Poole, built 1752, an inn famous in its day; kept by Stephen Hale, later by Leonard Wiley. It was demolished 1865. Located near vestry door of Baptist Church.

71. Caleb Prentiss House, built 1740, stood on this spot, moved to Traverse Street 1870, later destroyed by fire. High School erected 1871, discontinued as a high school 1923. Located northwest corner Common and Lafayette Streets.

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**THE OLD GREEN HOUSE**

On the easterly side of Main Street, just north of the Greenwood bridge. Built about 1754.

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72. Near this spot in 1680 stood Ken's Blacksmith Shop and Ken's Pond. Located northwest of flag staff on Common.

73. On this spot stood the home of Rev. William Hobby, erected prior to 1750. Located southwest corner Common and Church Streets.

74. Homestead of Thomas Stimpson, Jr., erected 1785. Located northeast corner of Main and Lowell Streets.

75. In the rear of this spot stood the homestead of John Brown, esq., later owned by James Gould; Aaron Foster; Francis P. Hurd and A. G. Walton, destroyed by fire 1940. Located Main Street, Lakeside.

76. Daniel Gould homestead built before 1725, and the first house built in Stoneham; later the home of William M. Arrington; originally was located half in Wakefield and half in Stoneham; torn down about 50 years ago. Located at north-west corner of Gould and Walnut Streets.

77. Home of John Smith later the home of Joanna Oliver, built about 1790, now the home of A. S. Oliver. Located at 224 Nahant Street.

78. Nathan Wiley House built before 1765. Located east side Wiley Street. (Brick house.)

79. Homestead of Michael Sweetser, erected about 1755, formerly stood on Main Street corner Nahant Street. Located at 6 Nahant Street.

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### GREENWOOD SEMINARY

Located on Main Street, Greenwood, nearly opposite the present Greenwood School about 1850. It was later used as a home for inebriates,

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80. Site of Francis Smith homestead built before 1650, it is said he purchased from the Indians for a jack knife and other cutlery a large tract of land on the northerly side of the Pond, he was an inn holder, in 1644 had leave of the Court to draw wine for travelers. Located west side of Main Street near Junction Depot.

81. This house originally stood in the rear of theatre building, Richardson Avenue, owned by Dr. S. O. Richardson and used as an armory by Richardson Light Guard. Located at 608 Main Street, corner Summer Street.

82. John Poole homestead, also home of Capt. Thomas Green (the old miller) built before 1700, since added to and remodeled. Located Center house, Water Street just east of railroad crossing.

83. Homestead of William Green built about 1754. Located Main Street east side south of Green Street.



84. Near this spot stood the first public school in Greenwood built 1828. Located near ledge on east side of Main Street.

85. Fountain Hand Engine House first located south side of Center Street, foot of hill, then Crescent Street, corner Lincoln Street, and later moved to present location, also housed Volunteer Hose Company in later years. Located north side of Water Street next to Piano Factory.

86. Thomas Walton homestead, built in early 1700, originally stood on the northwest corner of Main and Greenwood Streets; on lower story walls notable mural paintings were found under wall paper in later years. Located at No. 9 Greenwood Street.

87. Site of Greenwood Seminary built over 100 years ago was an approved educational institution of that date. Located on west side of Main Street, south of Melrose Terrace.

88. This house was the first Woodville District School and stood in the rear of the Infirmary, Farm Street. Erected 1844. Located 144 Water Street.

89. Homestead of John Poole and corn mill, built 1644. The earliest town record relates to this mill which stood in the center of this enclosure. Heywood-Wakefield yard.

90. Capt. John Walton homestead erected about 1772. Located at north side Oak Street near Crosby Road. Now the Decker house.

91. The ell of this house originally stood on Main Street site of Town Hall and was used as a school and later as a shoe shop. Located at No. 2 Cottage Street. (See No. 59.)

92. This house originally stood at northwest corner of Main and Albion Streets and used as the post office. Located Water corner Farm Street.

93. Homestead of Thomas Wiley erected prior to 1730. Located northwest corner Water and Montrose Avenue.

94. Homestead of William Green erected before 1760. Located east side Main Street, first house north of Oak Street.

95. Jeremiah Whitehead house, erected prior to 1760, was originally the homestead of Joseph Eaton and stood on the west side of Main Street south of Greenwood Bridge on land now occupied by the B. & M. R. R., was moved to near the Junction depot 1843; was moved to the present location 1847; was hauled on skids on the snow by 20 yoke of oxen. Located at 48 Nahant Street.

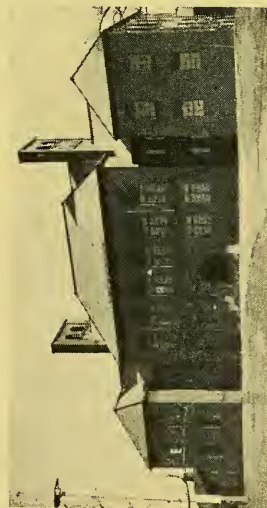
96. Homestead of Deacon Benjamin Brown, built prior to 1728, later the home of Thomas Clement, Thomas Haley Forrester, John Clapp, Dr. William W. Cutler, John Brewster, Lucius Beebe and Junius Beebe. Located Lakeside, Main Street.

97. Homestead of Capt. John Batchelder erected before 1745, and stood on the northeast corner of Main and Cordis Streets, later owned by Jonathan Nutting and Joseph Cordis. In later years, about 1800, it was cut in two, one half was moved to east side of Pleasant Street north of Cordis Street on knoll, since demolished; the other half was moved to the north side of Cordis Street, later the home of the Sweetser family, now the home of Lawrence DeRenne. Located at 33 Cordis Street.

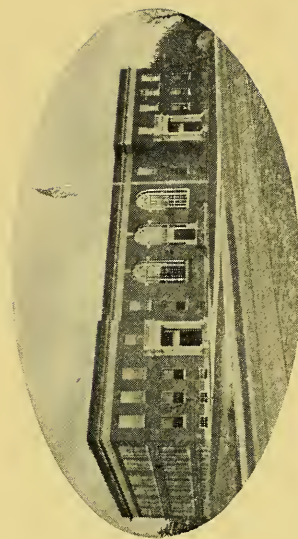
98. Homestead of Deacon Daniel Green built about 1785 later the home of Charles Green and the Alden family. Located 659 Main Street.

99. Reuben Green home built about 1788-1790, later home of Judge Nash, and William Boynton. Located northeast corner Spring and Greenwood Streets.





SOME OF  
WAKEFIELD'S  
SCHOOL  
BUILDINGS



Lincoln

Greenwood

Warren

Franklin

Hurd

Montrose

St. Joseph's



## CHAPTER EIGHT

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### *Education*

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*Dame Schools — "English" Schools — "Grammar" Schools  
Buildings in Order of Construction — Evidences of Progress*

To the community that has been successively Reading, South Reading and Wakefield, the education of its youth has been, and continues to be, a matter of supreme importance. The story of educational progress in the town over its 300 years of life might well occupy a book as large as the history in which this brief chapter finds a place. Such a history would record facts about school buildings; their locations; replacements of them; and courses of study—from three R's in the "English" schools, to the highly developed curricula of today. Facts about increase in registration from a dozen or so to over 4,000 (1931); about appropriations beginning with £7 and rising to \$310,853.67 in 1944; about boys and girls trained to good citizenship, many of them worthy and selected for positions of distinguished service; and of the noble army of teachers, supervisors and instructors in special subjects, whose supreme interest over the years has been the growth in knowledge and wisdom of the youth of Reading, South Reading and Wakefield—all these would be included in the chapter we would like to write. It is only limitations of space that make it impossible to relate this story in all its valuable detail.

The earliest mention of instruction or teaching in the records is made in 1690. The question as to why the little community went along for more than 40 years without any provision for teaching is a natural one. Reasons are not difficult to assign. Here were pioneer conditions—the necessity of clearing the land of forest; of making farm lands ready; of contending with illness, perhaps with Indians and wild animals; and with a climate more severe than that of the native England.

But it was also no doubt true that the intelligence of these early settlers was more than adequate for teaching; and that instruction was given to boys and girls in their homes about their firesides.

The first teaching in groups was done in the so-called dame-schools, held in the private homes. We like to think of the prim little ladies, knitting and teaching and admonishing.

The free school started off well, with Nicholas Lynde, a Harvard graduate of 1690, as the first teacher. Master Lynde was the only teacher in the whole town. He gave three months to what is now Wakefield, two to what is now Reading and one to North Reading.

It is not known where the first school was erected; but in 1707 the selectmen were asked to consider whether the "school house should be removed." This building (presumably the second. Editor.) a small one, stood upon a portion of our park, a little northerly from the Congregational Church. It served until 1799.

Probably this same Master Lynde "began his teaching," as we would say, in a private building or house. The evidence of this fact is a town vote in 1694 to "pay 2s 9d to repair the house in which Mr. Lynde keeps school."

In 1799 the First Parish built three new school houses and purchased a fourth. The school house in the Centre district measured 28 x 24, with a 12-foot stud and cost \$500. It stood at the northerly end of the Common, and there was a blacksmith's shop nearby.

We would like to set down in some detail just how our school system was developing in the difficult years of the 18th century. The troubles in the Colonies incident upon the French and Indian wars; the unrest that pervaded them in the years before 1775 and 1776; and the long years of the American Revolution—all these must have affected the little community by the two lakes. There were years, apparently, when the town, at least, made no appropriations for schools.

But in 1791, obedient to the statute of 1789, the town voted to establish a grammar school, to be kept "near the meeting house in the First Parish . . .," in which "ancient languages and the higher branches" should be taught.

The early records speak of "English" schools, and "grammar" schools. The former correspond, we believe, fairly well with the modern grade schools, while the latter featured the teaching of languages, the sciences and so on, as in the modern High School.

A concise statement about the support of schools in the earliest years is difficult to make. From 1693 to 1720, the town apparently hired the teachers and paid them. "From 1721 to 1778 the care and support of the schools seems to have devolved upon the separate parishes." The date when the town "took over" will be found in a later paragraph.

Coincident with the vote to establish a grammar school a vote was passed not to raise any money to "hire school-dames." But this vote was disregarded as soon as 1793. In 1792 a School Committee was chosen by the town for the first time; and in 1795, the first school report was

issued; but "the first report that appears on the record was made in 1798 and was as follows: 'That the Committee have visited the several schools and have the satisfaction to observe that our youth have made proficiency equal to our expectations.'"

The report of 1803 contains this flattering comment: "The Committee . . . wish to report that the behaviour of youth, while in their visitations was decent, and their improvements are such as does them great credit, and much to the honor of the town." Hon. Lilley Eaton. *History of Reading*, pp. 247-8.

The town of South Reading (1812) assumed ownership of the school houses that had been built by the parish, when the parish included the entire population. Thereafter the school houses were built by the town and the town raised the money for the payment of teachers and incidental expenses and divided it among the districts (or wards). The committee, called prudential, selected and contracted with teachers. Then in 1826 a committee of "superintendence and examination" was provided for.

We would like to take our readers in leisurely fashion along the way of education in South Reading from 1812 to 1874; and then over the widening road to the end of the 19th century, and so out into the broad highway of twentieth century education in Wakefield. The most that we can do is to draw the attention of readers to various aspects of our subject that are the signs of progress along the way.

We offer to you now, as such, some "Miscellaneous Items," all drawn and properly documented, from records. Some of them are amusing. Even so, taken as a whole, they indicate progress, and always an earnest desire on the part of the administrative bodies—prudential and superintending committees—for the progress of the youth.

### MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

"In 1647 Massachusetts passed the first act making the support of public schools compulsory and education universal and free."

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In the records of the School Committee in the years from 1835-1839 are recorded month after month, votes phrased like this—"approved and examined the literary qualifications of Miss" So and So. And often this vote was followed by the pleasing statement, "Approbated the qualifications" of this same Miss So and So.



These records are in an excellent state of preservation in their tall ledgers. The handwriting, in ink now fading, of the various secretaries is all beautiful and even, and sometimes done with many flourishes.

“Visiting schools” was an important part of the duties of the School Committee. For example it is recorded that on February 17, 1842, occurred the “final examination of the infant department of the Centre School.” Fancy an oral examination of the infant department!

NOT SO NEW! On April 15, 1843, “the Committee met in the afternoon to examine the qualifications for Teachers of the following ladies:—” Here follow the names of several young women. The record continues: “The last four Ladies are Normalites fresh from Lexington, from whom we expect *progressive schools*.” (The first Normal School was located in Lexington.)

In 1835. Voted “that the 1st, 2nd and 3rd classes be allowed to read twice daily and the remaining classes and scholars”—(please note)—“scholars in the Alphabet 3 times.”

HOW FAMILIAR THIS SOUNDS, DOESN'T IT? “Your Committee of last year called your attention to the great number of absences, and the practice of many pupils of leaving school just before its termination.” And again, “The teacher had a desire to do good and strove to benefit her School. She taught thoroughly but advanced her pupils moderately.”

Following a statement of somewhat unfavorable comment about teachers in a school, an exception was made “of a few of the larger teachers.”

The eight-page report of the School Committee in 1844 is a little, brown, printed document on 6 x 8 paper. “Schools kept” 26 weeks of the year, and the names of them were odd enough here to be recorded: Senior Centre, Junior Centre, North School, South School, East School, West School and Little World School. These were the days when the School Committee visited each school at the close of the school year and gave oral examinations; and their estimate of each teacher's work was stated in the report. “Notwithstanding the many defects which now exist, the Schools are in a state of advancement,” says the 1844 Committee.

The school in Little World, (our present Woodville) receives extraordinary praise. The Committee states “This School was characterized by industry, obedience, system, good discipline, faithfulness, promptness, energy, and laudable improvement.” And again in this same report of 100 years ago we read “Your Committee in their monthly visits, as they have

bestowed commendation when deserved, so have they not failed to point out . . . the errors which should be shunned."

June 12, 1847. The record of the School Committee on this date states that "the member of the building committee in each ward respectively be authorized to move the old school house in his ward, if necessary, in order to set the new house." Do you get the picture?

In 1856. Lynnfield pupils are permitted to attend the school in the East District in So. Reading, "agreeably to such arrangements and terms." This last phrase is not too clear, perhaps, but the first portion of the sentence is pleasant proof that Lynnfield boys and girls (in recent years, of course, High School boys and girls) have been coming to Wakefield schools over a space of 88 years, though perhaps not continuously.

1857. "Boys and girls shall have separate recesses of ten minutes each, once in each half day."

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November 9, 1858. Miss H—— of the Greenwood School, proffered a written request to be excused from a public exhibition of the school under her charge, . . . because of "her own feeble health and an interruption of the School by the removal of the School house." The picture is an odd one of the school building, slipping away somehow from the teacher and leaving her stranded. But some proper arrangement must have been made, because in the 1860-61 report we read that the teacher in the Greenwood School received "Wages, \$6 per week."

1861-2. Here are some of the topics discussed in the report of this year: Home Influence, Discipline, Behaviour, Character, Neatness, Truancy, Absence—and—(appropriately enough in this first year of the Civil War) Our Country.

These topics were discussed in earnest, rather lengthy essays, and carried numerous quotations in prose and poetry. Throughout is expressed a great desire for improvements in all these "areas" in the life of boys and girls. 1863-4. (In the midst of the Civil War) "Notwithstanding the unparalleled tax upon the physical and pecuniary resources of the people consequent upon the base rebellion now existing in the land, by the great liberality of the town, our schools have been well maintained, and the schools are generally in a prosperous condition."

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For the remainder of the space allotted to educational progress, we are obliged to offer our story in the form of topics, instead of as a running and fairly chronological outline. We believe, however, that even in this form, the evidences of progress will be apparent.

## THE SOUTH READING ACADEMY

In the 1820's two new school buildings and the South Reading Academy were constructed. In the speech of today, this academy was a preparatory school for the Theological Seminary in Newton. While it flourished not more than 15 or 20 years, it did raise standards and create desire among the youth for higher education; and it certainly hastened the establishment of a public High School.

## THE HIGH SCHOOL

The High School was established in 1845, when South Reading families numbered but about 300, and the inhabitants were persons of moderate means and incomes. Public High Schools in the city of New York were not established until about 1895. Ours in Wakefield preceded those of the metropolis by half a century.

The High School occupied first a small building 20 x 30 on Lafayette Street. Later it occupied one of the two buildings, which, before the present Lincoln School was built, stood on the ground of that building. The hill was known as Academy Hill.

The High School struggled for existence during its first years, when the early attendance was 28—hardly as many as occupy a single classroom in the High School today. A slightly later record says that the “High School scholars—please note the word ‘scholars’—numbered 39.”

Eaton's History notes that the town was fortunate in the first teacher of this school. His name was James F. Blackinton, and he is characterized as “well learned, wise, prudent and conciliatory, a most skillful and popular teacher.” Here indeed was an auspicious beginning. Mr. Blackinton has been succeeded, in the century that followed the establishment of the High School, by scores and scores of men and women teachers who merit these same words of commendation. We greatly wish that their names could be set down.

In 1860 a three-year course was adopted and the first class numbering twelve—nine girls and three boys—was graduated in 1863.

As this History goes to press, there still lives a member of this first graduating class—Laura Louisa Eaton Keith; and proud she is to have this distinction. And the High School is proud to have her as an honored alumna.



**WAKEFIELD HIGH SCHOOL**

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### THE HIGH SCHOOL CADETS

In October, 1885, the boys of the High School formed a military company and entered the Second Massachusetts School Regiment. With the cadets from Reading and Andover, they formed a battalion. Local military men were drillmasters and in later years officers of the U. S. Regular Army were instructors. For many years the companies of High School cadets that made up the Wakefield battalion held spring prize drills in the Town Hall, and then on the Park. The heart of many a former High School girl who reads these lines has fluttered at the comely sight of the W. H. S. cadets.

Military drill was given up in 1931, owing to crowded conditions in the school, and a consequent over-crowded program.

With the entrance of the United States into the second World War, because of the fact that military training would be of value to young men entering the service, it was resumed and required of boys in the Junior and Senior classes.



## SCHOOL BUILDINGS

For future reference by the historian, let us say, of 1994, we here set down the names of the school buildings in Wakefield, with the dates of their construction:

1. The West Ward School, Built in 1847.
2. The Hamilton School, Built in 1883.
3. The Lincoln School, Built in 1892.
4. The Warren School, Built in 1897.
5. The Greenwood School, built in 1897. Enlarged and remodeled in 1902 and again in 1924.
6. The Hurd School, Built in 1899.
7. The Franklin School, Built in 1902, remodeled and enlarged in 1925.
8. The Montrose School, Built in 1918, enlarged and remodeled in 1930.
9. The Woodville School, Built in 1920.
10. The High School, Built in 1922, opened June 4, 1923.  
 One building is 97 years old.  
 One building is 61 years old.  
 One building is 52 years old.  
 One building is 46 years old.  
 One building is 45 years old.

Four of the ten buildings belong to the 20th century. All of them are in use in this tercentenary year, save the Hamilton School. This building remains, however, in the control of the School Department. The first four schools and the sixth named in the list remain, as far as enlargement is concerned, of their original size, though numerous interior changes have been made.

## ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL

St. Joseph's Parochial School was erected and opened in 1924. Beginning with the lower grades, it added the next grade or the next two grades year by year, until it attained the full quota of eight grades. The grades are taught by the Sisters of St. Joseph, the school is in direct charge of Rev. F. J. Halloran, rector of St. Joseph's Church, and under the supervision of His Eminence William Cardinal O'Connell.

This school, as a building, is a handsome structure and a distinct addition to the street on which it is located, and to the town. As a centre of education for the pupils who attend it, it has been from the beginning important and efficient.

### SUPERINTENDENTS

Wakefield made an important forward step in 1893, when the appropriation by the town for the School Department included a sum for the salary of a superintendent. The superintendents and their terms of service are as follows:

Charles E. Hussey, 1893 to 1899.

Ulysses G. Wheeler, September, 1899 to August, 1902.

Alfred Thompson, 1902 to 1905.

Jacob H. Carfrey, September, 1905 to June, 1911.

Willard B. Atwell, July, 1911.

Professionally trained and experienced as educators, these men have initiated and carried out innumerable projects which have assured the continual progress of the schools of the town.

### SIGNS ALONG THE HIGHWAY IN THE 20TH CENTURY

1910. Appropriation for public schools, \$62,902.80.

1911. High School accommodations not adequate.

1913. Two sessions in the High School because of crowded conditions.  
Home Gardens a prominent activity.

1917. The keynote this year was "Education Should Not be Neglected Because of the War." Topics outstanding, "War Work in the Schools." "Liberty Bonds."

1918. Three weeks and two days lost because of the flu epidemic.

1920. Plans made for the financial recognition of professional advancement.

1921. Evening school registration, 211.

1923. The High School opened and used during a portion of June.

The pupils of the eighth grades, with the exception of those in the eighth grade of the Greenwood School, united in the former High School building, which quickly became known as the Lafayette School. Departmental teaching here.

Wider use of school buildings recognized.

1925. Attention to "Housing, because of a 40% increase in population."

1927. Testing and admission to the first grade of children under the required school age, (begun in 1924) commented on favorably.

1928. Survey made, looking toward future school house construction.  
Inter Nos Club for High School girls established.

1931. High School sessions from 8:00 a.m. to 5:04 p.m.

Successful football season.

"No military drill this year."

Eighth grade pupils attend afternoon session in the High School

- 1933. A year of stringent economies, made necessary by the "general financial condition of the town"; but the "health of school children seems not to have suffered under economic conditions due to the depression."
- 1935. Crowded condition of the High School remains a serious question.
- 1936. Eighth grade pupils return to the schools of the districts in which they live.
- 1938. Teaching of Italian introduced in the High School.
- 1943. Five rooms at the Lincoln School used as headquarters and production rooms for Wakefield Chapter of the American Red Cross.
- 1944. All bonds for school house construction discharged.

The tercentenary year of 1944 finds us in the midst of the most terrible conflict in history—World War II. Its impact and effect upon our schools are strong. Many High School boys have already enlisted, some have been drafted. Teachers, too, are in the service.

Pre-aeronautics, advanced mathematics, physics, chemistry are most important subjects for the boy who may soon be called. He is undergoing an intensified physical training. Courses in First Aid, and for girls, in Home Nursing are offered. The Junior Red Cross is flourishing in the grade schools. Boys and girls buy war savings stamps and bonds and contribute in other ways to the patriotic effort. Teachers, too, have rendered important service as they have been called upon by the federal government for special work.

That public education will undergo great changes when peace shall have come is an accepted fact. One would be unwise, however, to make any prophecy as to what these changes may be. But whatever new things in education the better world will offer, it is safe to say that, because Wakefield has built up through its 300 years a worthy edifice of education, whose base is sound and good, it will select with discrimination those features of the new education which, it believes, will be for the good of its youth—its youth who are its responsibility, its pride and its hope.

We have come a long way, have we not, from the little "dame school" in the home of a yeoman farmer, with ten or a dozen boys and girls about her, reading perhaps from the "New England Primer," to our 1944 grade schools with their 2733 pupils, and our High School with its 891. We would like so much to have gone up many educational by-ways and written about text books (there are changes for you) courses of study, athletics, extra curricular activities, vocational guidance, vocational training—all so familiar that one scarcely realizes that they have not been with us always; but our space forbids. And anyway, may we repeat, the foundation

is laid for the worthy structure to be built out of that which the new and better world is to bring us.

We have spoken of the by-ways in educational progress along which we would like to have walked with you. Just to show how pleasant a pastime these brief journeys might be, we take you a little way along one of them. It is entitled:

### HIGH SCHOOL COURSES, 1859 AND 1944

While we have found no record of the High School course in its first decade and a half, we do find the three-year course outlined in the School Report for 1859-60. Presumably all the pupils followed the same course. It prescribed in the first year Arithmetic, English Grammar, Analysis, Reading, Spelling, Writing, Composition, Declamation, Physical and Political Geography and Natural Philosophy. Latin was begun in the second term and continued throughout the three years. And note what was added in the second year—Botany, French, History and Greek. Astronomy was begun in the second term and “completed,” if you please, in the first term of third year.

Intellectual Philosophy (!) and Chemistry were begun in the second term and in the third term, along with Latin, French, Greek and Chemistry, all “continued,” came a grand climax in Trigonometry and Surveying!

And in less than a century, what do we find for our young people to choose from? Five well-integrated courses, which the boy or girl may select, in accordance with his or her plans for higher education, or special abilities. Let us name these courses. Their content is self-evident.

College Preparatory  
Scientific  
English  
Commercial  
Industrial Arts

These are four-year courses. In these four years the diligent student can prepare himself or herself for the best New England colleges and scientific schools; for Teachers' Colleges; for immediate business life; or for those fields of work that require skill of hand as well as brain. Required and elective subjects combine in a program. English must be studied during the entire four years, American History and problems of democracy in the last two. Here are doors opening into languages, sciences, and many sorts of immediately practical and usable subjects.

And for special tastes and talents there are extra curricular activities to fill pages. And now in war time, special courses are offered both to boys and girls. Now, more than ever, the High School diploma is indispensable



to young persons of ambition. And well they realize that fact in this ter-centenary year.

Note. The absence of all but a very few names in this brief outline is regrettable but necessary: Lists of names would require many times the space allotted to this chapter; and once committed to names, the danger of omitting one is too great to risk. Sorry.

### STATISTICS

#### Appropriations —

1693 —	£7
1844 —	\$2700.00
1894 —	\$26,559.43
1944 —	\$310,853.67

#### Length of School Year —

1693 —	3 months
1844 —	26 weeks
1894 —	40 weeks
1944 —	39 weeks

#### Number in the Graduating Class —

1863 —	12
1893 —	24
1943 —	217

#### Number of Teachers —

1693 —	One
1844 —	7 in summer 8 in winter
1894 —	35
1944 —	107

#### Registration —

1693 —	A few
1844 —	369 in summer 338 in winter
1894 —	1341
1944 —	as of March
891	High School.
1842	Elementary Schools
<hr/>	
2733	Total
403	St. Joseph's Parochial School
<hr/>	
3136	

## CHAPTER NINE

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### *Lucius Beebe Memorial Library*

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*Story of Early Libraries — Lucius Beebe Memorial Library  
The Gift — Its Services to the Town Today*

#### A CENTURY OF PUBLIC LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT IN WAKEFIELD

While early records show that a circulating library existed in South Reading long before 1800, the Social Library was the first whose name is on record. This library was supported by subscriptions and consisted chiefly of works on theological subjects and ecclesiastical history.

In the year 1831, a group of young men started the South Reading Franklin Lyceum and established in connection with it the Franklin Library, containing works on art, science, history, and medicine. Later the Social and Franklin libraries united and continued under the name Franklin Library, which was open six days a week and was much used. Other libraries followed these early beginnings: the Phrenological Library, the Prescott Library, and the Mechanics Library. Though little is known of them, they indicate an active growing interest in books and reading.

In March, 1856, the citizens of South Reading appointed a committee to organize and establish a town library. This committee—B. F. Tweed, Lilley Eaton, Fred A. Sawyer, J. M. Evans, George O. Carpenter, and James Oliver—chose the first floor of the old Town House at the head of the Common as the best place for the library. Books were contributed by citizens and by the older libraries, and in the summer of 1856 the committee opened to the public the Town Library of South Reading.

At the Town Meeting of March, 1857, the first Board of Trustees was appointed: Lucius Beebe, Chairman; J. M. Evans, Treasurer; Lilley Eaton, P. H. Sweetser, D. B. Wheelock, and E. E. Wiley. At the same meeting an appropriation of \$300 was made for the purchase of books and to pay the salary of a librarian. The first Board of Trustees at once bought 420 volumes, 33 volumes were given by citizens, and the school children gave a concert for the benefit of the library, the proceeds of which were used for the purchase of books. At the end of the first year the library contained

1536 volumes. The same annual appropriation for the library was made the next year and continued until the Civil War. The report of the year 1859 gave the total number of volumes as 1678 and noted a marked increase in the circulation.

When in 1868 Cyrus Wakefield gave a new town hall to the town and the name South Reading was changed to Wakefield, one half of the first floor of the new town hall was given over to the library. Lucius Beebe saw at once that many more books would be needed and accordingly gave the trustees the sum of \$500. In recognition of this gift the Trustees recommended that the library be known as the Beebe Public Library of Wakefield, a name which continued for many years. The gift of Mr. Beebe was followed by gifts from Mrs. Harriet N. Flint and Dr. Francis P. Hurd. These were the first gifts to the library, but through the years twenty-eight trust funds have been given, which now amount to slightly over \$105,000.

With the added space in the new town hall, successive advance steps were made: a reading room was opened, closer co-operation with the schools was established, and children's books were purchased. A story hour for the children on Saturday mornings was held under the charge of the Kosmos Club, an arrangement which continued until the library moved into its own building.

The library grew rapidly with the expansion in service, and through the years the new quarters gradually became inadequate. As early as 1900 it was evident that a building for the library was urgently needed, but not until 1910 was there any definite action taken. In that year the Trustees acquired an option on the Mansfield-Hickock-Cushing lots on the corner of Main and Avon Streets. After a further delay in September, 1916, a whirlwind campaign was begun to raise money for the purchase of these lots, by popular subscription, the first civic drive to raise money to be held in Wakefield. Twelve hundred residents, many of them children, contributed \$12,000.

In December of that same year, Junius Beebe, son of Lucius Beebe, made a Christmas gift to the town of \$60,000, for a public library building to be erected in memory of his father and mother, on the lots purchased by the citizens of the town. The entrance of this country into World War I delayed the erection of the library, but in 1922 work was actually begun and on March 17 the cornerstone was laid. Meanwhile some changes in the boundary lines of the lot were made in order to make it more symmetrical, and at this time Mr. and Mrs. John W. White gave a strip of land on the north. Because of the increase in the cost of labor and building materials, Junius Beebe and his family increased the original gift until

it reached about \$200,000. The building, beautiful and substantial, known as the Lucius Beebe Memorial Library, designed by Cram and Ferguson, was ready for use in 1923.

Today the Lucius Beebe Memorial Library has two branches in addition to the Main Library, the Greenwood Branch established in 1904 and the Montrose Branch opened in 1943. Both of these branches have the advantage of being located in large, busy schools. The library furnishes many school classrooms with collections of books, which are changed three



**THE LUCIUS BEEBE MEMORIAL LIBRARY**

Dedicated April 14, 1923; also the home of the Wakefield Historical Society and its collection.

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times a year; other book collections have been placed in the E. E. Boit Home for Aged Women, the Cameron Hospital, and the Forrest Convalescent Home.

The library has over 8,000 borrowers and on December 31, 1943, contained 67,521 books, subscribed to 173 magazines and had a collection of 3,483 pamphlets, with some 60,000 pictures, used not only in library exhibits but also by clubs, school classes, and smaller groups. Reference assistance is always available and includes an inter-library loan service, whereby local library resources are supplemented by special loans from various college, business, and other public libraries.



There are many special collections in the library: the garden books; the mothers' collection, dealing with the care and training of children; the Keander collection of Medici prints; the Burley collection of books on furniture design and interior decoration; the histories of the towns and cities of Massachusetts; and the Wakefield collection, containing histories, anniversary records, documentary records, war records, maps, and pictures, as well as descriptive material of the town of Wakefield. A collection of choral music contains many copies in duplicate.

The attractive large room for children, with low shelves, chairs, and tables, has a separate entrance. This room, so well adapted for special work with children has not only books and magazines, but also exhibits, posters, and pictures. Story hours are usually held in the lecture hall just below the children's room. At the time the library building was opened, a former library board member, especially interested in this department, gave an anonymous gift of \$500 to obtain new books.

The lecture hall is also used for large exhibits, and is available for meetings of clubs, classes, and other groups of townspeople. Since 1941 it has been especially useful for classes concerned with first aid, nutrition, and civilian defense, and for meetings of the Committee on Public Safety and other special committees.

In World War I, the Secretary of War requested the libraries of the country to raise \$1,000,000 by popular subscription for the erection of buildings and the purchase of books for libraries in cantonments and camps. Wakefield's share, \$650, was exceeded and \$783.33 was subscribed. In addition, 1121 books for the soldiers were contributed during 1917 and 1918.

Again in World War II, the library has done its share, having collected over 6000 books for distribution to the men and women in the country's services. The library is also the war information center and its staff has compiled a war information directory of local and state officials. During the period when the Report Center was operated by civilian defense personnel, the library maintained a deposit of books at the Center.

Free use of library services is available to service men stationed in Wakefield. A room, called the Victory Room, has been set aside for books on the warring countries and international relations, technical books of special importance in the emergency, the world news of the week, and government and Red Cross posters of special interest. There is also a collection of special war service pamphlets.

This story of public library development in Wakefield from its early beginnings is also the record of the constructive service of the following librarians:

Miss E. M. Newhall  
Mrs. Emily C. Poland  
Miss Ella E. Morrison  
Miss Victorine E. Marsh  
Mrs. Harriet A. Shepard  
Miss H. Gertrude Lee  
Miss Ruth Shattuck, *Acting Librarian*  
Miss H. Gladys Mackenzie, *Acting Librarian*  
Miss Helen F. Carleton

The Board of Library Trustees in 1944 consists of:

Hervey J. Skinner, *Chairman*  
Mrs. Florence L. Bean, *Secretary*  
Dr. Richard Dutton  
Arthur L. Evans  
Walter C. Hickey  
Albert W. Rockwood  
John J. Round  
Mrs. Alice W. Wheeler  
Dr. Frank T. Woodbury

## CHAPTER TEN

### *Newspapers*

#### *Journalism, Past and Present — Publishers Wakefield Daily Item and Item Press*

#### LOCAL JOURNALISM

Up to 1854, Boston weekly newspapers brought news to South Reading. The Middlesex Journal of Woburn, this year, printed a South Reading Department. For ten years Edward Mansfield sent in local items.

In 1858, William H. Hutchinson of Boston established the South Reading Gazette.

In 1868, A. Augustus Foster commenced publication of the Wakefield Banner. Four years later it bore the name of the Wakefield Citizen. About this time, William H. Twombly launched the Wakefield Advocate, a campaign sheet, but soon after picked up the discarded name of Banner. In 1874, the two papers were consolidated as the Wakefield Citizen and Banner. Two other sheets to make their appearance locally, each short lived, however, were the "Wakefield Casket" in 1872, and "Our Town" in 1878.

In 1880 Chester W. Eaton acquired ownership of the Citizen and Banner from Mr. Twombly and continued publication until he sold out in 1890 to Maitland P. Foster. In the interval two other weekly papers appeared—the Bulletin in 1881, and the Record, in 1886. These Mr. Foster acquired, and consolidated with the Citizen and Banner, selling out soon to Chester W. Eaton, who continued its publication until 1911.

On May 7, 1894, the Daily Item was established by Fred W. Young, who had previously conducted weekly newspapers in Wakefield.

In September, 1894, another daily, the Wakefield Evening News, was launched by the Citizen and Banner, but it was discontinued after a month's publication.

In 1899, the Wakefield Daily Banner started from the Citizen and Banner office.

Mr. Young sold the Item to Alstead W. Brownell, a printer in the Taylor Building, (then the Wakefield Block) in March, 1900, and a

few days later, April 1, 1900, Mr. Brownell sold both the newspaper and his job printing business to Harris M. Dolbeare. The name of the printing department was designated as the Item Press. About the same time Mr Dolbeare also purchased of Mr. Eaton the Daily Banner, following its one-year career.

On June, 1911, the Wakefield Citizen and Banner, the town's old established (weekly) newspaper, was purchased by the Daily Item and discontinued.

In September, 1912, the present Daily Item Building was erected at the corner of Albion and Foster Streets. Previously, since its birth, the Daily Item had occupied part of the second floor of the Taylor Building, Wakefield Square. The Item was one of the first daily newspapers, except in larger cities, to build its own newspaper plant in New England.

In February, 1913, the Wakefield Evening Mail was launched by Fred W. Young, founder of the Item. (Publication discontinued April 3, 1916.)

In November, 1913, a Duplex Junior web press was installed by the Daily Item, making possible the printing, from rolls, of four, six, or eight-page papers in one operation—printed, folded, and counted. The former method, using single sheets of newsprint, called for the printing of two pages at a time on a hand-fed cylinder press. The Duplex press was replaced in November, 1927, with a larger model, the present equipment.

In June, 1915, the first Linotype (typesetting) machines were installed by the Item—two in number. Five Linotype machines are now used to produce the Daily Item and practically all of the type in the Item (not only news, but the headlines and advertising) is set by modern typesetting (Linotype and Ludlow) equipment.

These machines are also operated for Item Press composition, and with up-to-date job presses, such as the automatic Miehle vertical and horizontal presses, and associated folding, stapling and other machines, the Item Press today is one of the largest and most completely-equipped printing establishments in the Boston area.

On December 15, 1919, the price of the Daily Item was raised from one cent to two cents per copy, the Item taking the lead among suburban dailies in meeting the rising costs of paper stock due to World War I.

On January 1, 1923, the newspaper and printing business, hitherto personally owned and conducted by Harris M. Dolbeare, under his name, and/or that of the Wakefield Daily Item and Item Press, was incorporated under Massachusetts laws in the name of Wakefield Item Company—five members of the Dolbeare family becoming the sole owners and holders of all stock. There were no changes in personnel or management.



In October, 1923, a stereotyping outfit, for the casting of cuts (illustrations) from mats, was installed for the benefit of advertisers. At the same time new and modern equipment was added to the Item Press including machinery for the production of relief or raised (process) printing, similar to embossing.

On June 12, 1925, announcement was made that in a survey of Massachusetts dailies, published in cities of 25,000 or less, the Wakefield Daily Item ranked first in the presentation of strictly local news, outdistancing

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**ITEM BUILDING, ALBION AND FOSTER STREETS**

Home of the Daily Item--Item Press

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all contemporaries in the survey, and tying with the Gloucester Evening Times for second place as the best all-round local daily in Massachusetts. In other departments of newspaper work, the Item was given more places of honor than any other newspaper in the survey. The survey was made by the Department of Journalism of Syracuse, New York, University, and was conducted from regular issues, none of the newspapers having an opportunity to present specially prepared editions for the judges. The Item since has won numerous honors, particularly for its editorial page content and set-up, in Massachusetts Press Association contests.

During 1933 and 1934, Mr. Dolbeare purchased two parcels of property west of the original building, and during the summer of 1935 erected a much-needed addition to the plant, on the Albion-Street side, on the site of the former Atherton grocery store, and later the Champagne furniture store. Approximately one-third greater floor space was obtained.

The Wakefield Independent, a weekly, was established by Charles F. Young, son of Fred W. Young (founder of the Daily Item) on June 14, 1934, and was suspended April 16, 1936. Since then, the Daily Item has been the only newspaper to serve the town of Wakefield.

Harris M. Dolbeare, a Wakefield newspaperman for nearly 50 years, (starting in high school in 1888 as a reporter for the Citizen and Banner and with the latter until 1900, when he purchased the Item) died on January 22, 1938. The management of the Wakefield Item Company was assumed by his family, under the direction of two sons, Cyrus M. and Richard B. Dolbeare. The latter answered the call to the colors in January, 1941, having been a national guardsman and officer for many years, and later served with distinction overseas during World War II.

Cyrus M. Dolbeare, as editor and general manager of the business, retained both Gardner E. Campbell, managing editor of the Daily Item, and Paul W. Mortimer, superintendent of the Item Press, in their respective positions, both men having "started in" and worked with the late publisher since the early 1900's. The staffs of the two businesses under one roof, in 1944, total about 30 persons, many of whom enjoy the distinction of having given long and faithful service to their employers.

On May 4, 1942, the price of the Daily Item, in common with other publications, increased from 2 to 3 cents per copy, due to wartime conditions and rising labor costs. The Saturday issue was discontinued for two summers—1939 and 1940, then permanently beginning in September, 1940, in order to meet government wage-hour regulations, also to conserve paper and heat, and for other patriotic reasons.

As this history goes to press (April, 1944), the Daily Item enjoys a circulation of approximately 4,800 copies daily, and ranks high in journalistic accomplishments. As a part of the Town Tercentenary, and in observance of its own 50th anniversary, the Item plans a noteworthy, illustrated edition of at least 64 pages.

## CHAPTER ELEVEN

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### *Industries*

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#### *Early and Modern Shoemaking — Manufacturing Concerns Wakefield, a Thriving Industrial Town*

The Town of Wakefield (known previously as South Reading and the First Parish) for almost its entire existence has been an industrial community. The farm had its cattle, swine and sheep. The early development of the cattle trade in Salem gave access also to much needed horses, cows, bulls, and swine.

As early as 1655 Lieutenant Thomas Marshall mortgaged his large farm holdings to Robert Bridges of Linn for "the full and just sum of two hundred, four score and two pounds—sterling, fifty pounds to be paid at Boston in the warehouse of Thomas Broughton in good sweet, well-salted and saved fatt beef without heads or feet, by the barrel at prices current amongst merchants in Boston: and two hundred and fifty pounds in good, well-cleansed, sweet merchandisable dry pease and wheat by the bushel, and in fatt porke by the barrell", etc.—and all of this had to be carried by horse and cart over the old road to Medford and bridge to Cambridge and into Boston by the long highway at Roxbury Neck!

Shoemaking was an early industry in the homes of the settlers. A tannery was also essential. For this, the town granted a two-acre piece of land between the near end of Reading Pond and the Burying Place as a "Tan Yard" to be held only as long as the tanner should make use of this privilege. As early as 1677 one Jonas Eaton was assigned the privilege of wood and herbage on a tract of land, on condition that he remain in town and follow the trade of shoemaker. The establishment of the Saugus Iron Works in the neighboring town caused the damming of the Abousett (Saugus) River, preventing alewives from coming up to Reading Pond to spawn. The town protested strenuously but without success, and a valuable fish supply, near at hand, was lost to Reading families.

The boot and shoe industry, small at its beginning, continued to grow and develop over the years—from the home, to the little New England shoe shop in the back yard, to the large Evans factory of the present time. In 1805 Thomas Emerson began the manufacture of shoes, later

the firm was known as Thomas Emerson & Sons, the senior member retiring in 1854. The old factory stood on the present site of the Y. M. C. A. and its product was men's fine shoes. They were sold all over the country. It was about 1812, when Bolles Evans introduced shoe making by a collective system, centered in his small shoe shop on the northerly side of Salem Street. He purchased leather linings, thread, lasts, tacks, etc., and distributed them among the townspeople for assembly.

Here we find evidence of the work done by women in local industry, the lighter work by women and the heavier by men.

In 1835 Julia Eaton rendered a bill for making 526 bootes at 3c a pair, a total of \$13.52 covering time from July 18 to October 30. By steady work she averaged 36 pairs a day, while one day she made 40 pairs, and other days only 12 or 18 pairs. September 18th she was paid \$3.00 on account and the balance was paid November 11th. Well does the writer remember the little old shoe shops that stood in yards about town where two, three or more men would gather for the shoemaking—one in the yard of Henry Emerson on Lafayette Street and another in the yard on old Salem Street just east of Vernon Street.

This same year, January 8, 1835, Ruth Parker made for Oliver Burnham a suit of clothes for \$2.42, charged 33c for trimmings; 12c for repairing a vest and for twist; 12c for cutting pantaloons, \$1.00 for making a Spencer, and 20c for trimmings—a total of \$4.19 and there is evidence that in the settlement she was paid only \$2.96.

Then there was Eliza Miller's bill of \$6.24 for binding shoes at 6c a pair, but in the settlement she was charged \$1.00 for a pair for herself.

Then there was the Aborn shoe factory on the east shore of Lake Quannapowitt, near the foot of White Avenue, specializing in ladies', misses' and children's shoes. Other shoe manufacturers were the Wakefield Co-operative Boot & Shoe Company, E. H. Walton & Company with factory on Albion Street, Henry Haskell on Lawrence Street, I. F. Eaton, L. H. Day & Company in Taylor's Block on Main Street, all disappearing as the years passed.

The shoe trade required awls and needles, and it was Thomas Woodward in his two-story building on Albion Street, in 1810, who developed and improved a shoe awl, being first in America to manufacture a better article than those imported from England. His son, James F., continued the business to a country-wide sale.

It was along in 1822 or thereabouts, that Dr. Nathan Richardson, a physician, developed sundry articles in medicine, and with his son, Dr. Solon O. Richardson, manufactured the famous-over-New England Dr.



Richardson's Sherry Wine Bitters, in a building on Crescent Street at the location of Wakefield's Central Fire Station.

At about this time, Emerson razor strops were being made by Charles Emerson, inventor. On removal of the business to Charlestown, the Messrs. Atwell improved on the Emerson strop and began and continued their manufacture in a building in the rear of the early Atwell home, now standing on Prospect Street. Not far away on the east side of Cedar Street a rope-walk was a local industry.

Burrage Yale, born at Meriden, Conn. in 1781, began as a young man to sell tin ware, and in 1802 came to Wakefield and remained here. He began the manufacture of tin made utensils, and in time had so increased his business that he was one of the largest tinware dealers in the state. His home was on the site of the present Wakefield Post Office.

It was over two hundred years before the town could boast a "heavy industry." In 1850 there came to town a sagacious, progressive man with vision and means. He was Cyrus Wakefield, who early acquired much land and soon was the town's leading citizen. His first enterprise was the establishment of the Boston & Maine Foundry Company on Foundry Street in 1854, in buildings some of which are still standing. This later became the Smith and Anthony Stove Company, and here until 1917 was manufactured the first enameled bath tub to be produced in the country; and its products of stoves, furnaces, etc., had country-wide distribution. Today, the Diamond Tank and Welding Company occupy the remaining early foundry buildings.

Mr. Wakefield, the man of vision, had for years been engaged in the rattan business as a broker with raw material from the Far East. To manufacture the cane into forms of beauty and usefulness intrigued him, with the result that in 1855 he built the factories on Water Street, so long known as those of the Wakefield Rattan Company, where business continued until recent years, and where, after being taken over by the Heywood-Wakefield Company of Gardner, the business and equipment excepting the jute mat business, was transferred to Gardner with many of its experienced operators.

Joshua Whittemore, Boston native, who helped cover the dome of the State House with copper, built his home in 1849 on West Chestnut Street, corner of the now Whittemore Terrace, the first house to be built on the south side of Cowdrey's Hill. He manufactured fireworks and in 1861 gave an exhibition on South Reading Common. In 1850 he lost a leg in a railroad accident, and in 1862 he invented and manufactured at his home shop, for more than 33 years, the Whittemore Patent Elastic Crutch—a crutch that became known throughout the civilized world.

In 1884 the Henry F. Miller Piano Company, removing from Boston, began the manufacture of pianos in the six-story brick building in the rear of our Town Hall. Here were produced pianos of highest quality in tone and construction, employing many citizens of skill and technique. In 1884, following the death of the senior Miller, his five sons who had been associated in the business reorganized the company under the name of The Henry F. Miller & Sons Piano Company. Our late well known citizen, Edwin C. Miller, was an able and energetic member of the firm. He was, by the way, a lineal descendant of Roger Williams, governor of Rhode Island, and of the man who made the dies for the Pine Tree Shillings and also invented and made the scythe as it is now used, and the first fire engine in America. The Miller Company abandoned its Wakefield factory in 1932 removing back to Boston.

#### L. B. EVANS' SON COMPANY

Antedating the history of the L. B. Evans' Son Company is the story of the business of Thomas Evans, Jr., (father of Lucius Bolles Evans) as recorded in the old ledgers now in possession of the Evans family and dating back to 1805. From these records and the records of James Madison Evans, also a son of Thomas Evans, it would appear that hand-turned footwear has been made by the Evans family since 1805 and probably before that date. These records show how much business was done in those earlier days by the trade and barter method.

Thomas Evans, in addition to his shoe business, operated with his brother, Amos, a so-called Variety Store at the corner of Main and Salem Streets. The local shoe makers were credited with shoes made at so much per pair and charged with merchandise from the store, and other services, such as use of horse and carriage for trips to Boston, Charlestown or Cambridge, the prevailing rate being entered at 6c per mile. A cash settlement was made every six months to balance each account.

From the years 1810 to 1815 apparently a very substantial business was carried on with J. & E. Lyman of Hartford, Vermont. Here again it was by trade and barter, the teams carting the shoes to Hartford coming back with a full load of cheese, butter and hogs in exchange, and it is surprising to note the amount of business transacted, with perhaps a cash payment of from \$50.00 to \$90.00 at the end of each six months period to balance the account.

Among the shoe makers listed appear the names of prominent citizens of that day, such as John Gould, the first Town Clerk of the township of South Reading.

Prices quoted on the merchandise of that period are also interesting—  
Good Brandy at 20c a quart  
Ceylon Tea at 90c a pound  
Sugar at 3½ pounds for 42c  
Potatoes at 50c a bushel

Thomas Evans, Jr., died in 1832 and the shoe business was continued by his eldest son, James Madison Evans, who is reported as a prominent shoe manufacturer of South Reading from 1832 to the time of his death in 1857.

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**L. B. EVANS' SON CO.**

Shoe and Slipper Manufacturers for over 100 years

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The L. B. Evans' Son Company, a Massachusetts Corporation, incorporated in 1905, succeeding L. B. Evans' Son 1881 to 1905, succeeded L. B. Evans who established the business in 1841, is now the oldest shoe manufacturing concern in the U. S. A. and the oldest manufacturing business now in Wakefield. Hand-turned footwear has been made continuously for over 100 years.

A copy of Lucius Bolles Evans' first annual inventory of January 1, 1842 shows total assets of \$617.00. Mr. Evans learned his trade in his older brother's shoe shop and the brother, James Madison Evans, had an established business in Wakefield, then South Reading, from 1832 to 1857.

The first real home of L. B. Evans' footwear was provided in 1846 when L. B. Evans built a new home for his bride, and used the long ell at the back of the house for his business. This is No. 9 Salem Street, now occupied by Mr. George Hurd, foreman of the Making Dept. in the

Evans factory. Here the shoes were only cut, finished and packed. All shoes were hand-made in individual shoe shops scattered over the farms of South Reading, Lynnfield and Saugus. The uppers, soles and heels were delivered by horse and team to the local shoemaker-farmers, and collected when finished. During the planting season and the haying season, production was difficult and uncertain.

Until 1884 all shoes made were hand-sewn in the workers' own shops, but with the advent of modern shoe machinery and the Goodyear stitching machine, the picture changed. A factory was built that year on Salem Street, still standing, but now a two-apartment dwelling, No. 8 Salem Street, occupied by Mr. Leslie Johnston and Mr. Louis Harris. For many years, however, a good portion of the product continued to be made in the individual shoe shops, since hand-sewed footwear did not give up easily to the less expensive Goodyear stitched shoes, and many of the workers took great pride in their finished product.

Shortly after the factory was built a deal was made with Mr. Stillman J. Putney, who operated a contract shoe business in what was known as The Old Town Hall Building, standing on the land now owned by L. Wallace Sweetser, Main and Salem Streets. For many years Mr. Putney heeled and finished the shoes made in the Evans factory, and some old-timers can still remember the long covered bridge which connected the two factories, and also remember perhaps the rumble of the shoe racks being pushed back and forth between the two factories.

The year 1893, however, saw the end of this arrangement, and a new factory was built on Water Street, the present location, and thereafter all work was done under one roof and the day of the house shoe shop had passed forever.

This first factory was a small building 60 by 40 feet, three stories in height, and employed about 80 people. In 1903 a forty foot addition and a fourth story were added and other additions were made in 1911 and 1920. In the pre-war period the factory employed about 325 with an annual payroll of \$500,000. At present the employees number about 275.

In 1905, at the death of the owner, Harvey B. Evans, the business was incorporated as the L. B. Evans' Son Company with John S. Griffiths, president; Arthur L. Evans, treasurer, and Percival B. Evans, vice-president. Mr. Griffiths had for many years previous been superintendent of the factory and was largely responsible for the active growth of the business.

In 1916 the Evans' Company purchased the W. S. Chase Slipper Company of Haverhill, Massachusetts, and in Haverhill the company



made a cheaper grade of merchandise sold largely to the jobbing trade. About ten years later the Haverhill business was sold out to Mr. Griffiths, who at that time resigned his interests in the L. B. Evans' Company.

The company has made great progress in the past ten years as a result, in part, of its Consumer Advertising Campaign, and now holds a leading position among the American slipper manufacturers. During the past few years the business has been confined chiefly to the production of men's house slippers.

The company has been very fortunate in having a group of very able and loyal employees, especially among its executive force, and many workers have established long time records of continuous employment. The late Willis H. Knight, a shoe cutter, worked at his trade continuously for 51 years as an employee of L. B. Evans, L. B. Evans' Son and of the L. B. Evans' Son Company.

In past years the company made women's, misses' and children's shoes as well as men's slippers, and was the first factory in this county to introduce what are now known as "English Sandals" for the children. The company also produced the first "Dun Deer" sandals and Hollywood sandals.

During 1943 the company made several thousand pairs of heavy felt boots for the Army Transport Service and hopes to have further orders in this line.

All slippers made as now constructed are non-rationed. The only rationed shoe being made is a heavy sole leisure type shoe of pre-welt construction, a large part of this production being made for Honolulu accounts. During World War I the Evans' Company did a large business with accounts in Great Britain, but in the present war it has been necessary to decline all export business, as production cannot exceed 100% of former years and this production is being allotted to regular accounts of years standing.

The present officers of the company represent the fourth generation in the company, Harvey B. Evans, president, and George J. Evans, treasurer.

### WINSHIP-BOIT COMPANY

The Winship-Boit Company is a local industrial establishment that has made noteworthy contributions to the progress of Wakefield. For fifty-five years the company has had remarkable growth in the specialty field of manufacturing, and a well earned expansion of factory space and equipment. This company was founded in 1888 at Cambridge,

Massachusetts, by Charles N. Winship and Elizabeth E. Boit, and a year later removed to Wakefield and occupied the third floor in the Taylor Building.

The business expanded rapidly and soon felt the need for larger manufacturing space, which was provided by construction of a new mill at the corner of Foundry and Albion Streets. Further expansion resulted in new mill construction, until today the plant comprises three large manufacturing mills making knit undergarments.

Women's knit underwear has for many years been the chief product, but at times the mills have also made underwear for men, boys, girls, and infants.

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**WINSHIP-BOIT COMPANY (Harvard Mills)**  
Manufacturers of Merode (handmade) knit underwear

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The business was incorporated in 1934 with Walter B. Winship, president; Charles N. Winship, treasurer; and Edward N. Winship, corporation clerk.

The company normally has a volume of over a million dollars and during World War I and World War II has provided thousands of undergarments for the United States Army and Navy.

### PARKWOOD CORPORATION

This industrial company is a Massachusetts Corporation, established in 1936, and moved from Leominster, Massachusetts to Wakefield in 1939. It is a large user of factory space in the former Heywood-Wakefield buildings on Water Street.

The business consists of combining plastics and wood, paper or cloth, which after treatments and pressing, makes a prefinished and permanently surfaced board or sheet. These are then used for decorative

purposes, such as desk tops, table tops, wall panels, as well as novelty jewelry, cigarette cases, compacts, etc. This material can also be used to make beautiful flooring.

The company was obliged to abandon the decorative line entirely for the duration of the war, and for the past two years have been manufacturing products concerned with aviation on 100% production for defense work.

The company was given the Army-Navy "E" Award for excellence on November 12, 1943, and as far as the officials know it is the only firm in Wakefield thus honored.

The volume of business and sales will be between \$300,000 and \$500,000 per year.

The officers are: Gordon Parker, president; M. S. Parker, vice president; Paul B. Leverette, vice president; Harry G. Anderson, Jr., treasurer; and Lucius B. Thayer, clerk.

### INDUSTRIAL CHEMICAL COMPANY

The extended variety of Wakefield's manufactured products is evidence of the progress and stability of our industrial organizations.

In the chemical field the Industrial Chemical Company has had a noteworthy development since its organization in 1916 for the primary purposes of furnishing leather manufacturers with chemical products, principally leather finishes. The Company came to Wakefield January 1, 1918, and have been located continuously since that time in the Taylor Building, under the proprietorship of Albert K. Comins. The Company also manufactures materials for use in shoe factories, as well as tanneries. Its customers are widely scattered over the United States, and with a small amount of foreign business.

The business at present is principally operated by Paul H. Comins, son and Richard S. Harlow, son-in-law of the founder, Albert K. Comins.

### THE PALMER ELECTRIC & MANUFACTURING COMPANY

The Palmer Electric & Manufacturing Company is a corporation, incorporated in the State of Maine in 1912, and in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in 1927.

1. Pioneer manufacturers of Enclosed, Fused Electric Switches. For a number of years the products of this Company were exclusively listed by the Underwriters' Laboratories, Inc. as complying with the highest classification applied by the Laboratories to this class of product.

2. Pioneer designers and manufacturers of alternating current protective apparatus, through the use of which, alternating current has been substituted for direct current in the congested areas of substantially every large city in the United States, with a material reduction in the distribution of electrical energy costs.

3. The entire production abilities are concentrated on the manufacture of electrical distribution and communication apparatus, with which to supply our military forces for the duration of the war.

4. Volume of business—\$500,000 per annum.

Officers: President and Treasurer, Granville E. Palmer of Cambridge; General Manager, John H. Ward; Works Manager, Frank H. Myshrall; Electrical Engineer, Stewart Gauss, all residents of Wakefield.

#### MORRISON-SKINNER COMPANY

The Morrison-Stoddard Company was started in 1891 by Herbert Stoddard and Elmer E. Morrison who had formerly worked for Herbert Philbrook manufacturing window screens. In 1907 Mr. Stoddard retired and Arthur Skinner became a partner with Elmer Morrison and the business was then incorporated as the Morrison-Stoddard Company with Thomas Sullivan as the third member of the organization, Mr. Sullivan having been associated with the business for a few years as foreman.

In 1911 the business was changed from the Morrison-Stoddard Company to the Morrison-Skiner Company. Elmer E. Morrison continued as president with Arthur Skinner as treasurer. The company built a new plant on New Salem Street, Wakefield, in 1916, and in 1921 Mr. Skinner's interests were purchased by the present treasurer, Frank E. Morrison. The company does a business in normal times which extends to the extreme South and to the middle western states, but during the present war practically all of the business has been for army camps, etc. in the New England states.

It is noteworthy that some of the screens manufactured by the company in the 90's are still being used, and the company has screened a great many large hospital groups of buildings as far West as the Black Hills Reservation in North Dakota, and in the early 30's screened the Shushan Airport group of buildings in New Orleans, La.

#### SYLVANIA ELECTRIC PRODUCTS, INC.

Sylvania Electric Products, Inc., stems from a combination of two highly successful manufacturers of incandescent lamps and radio tubes—the Hygrade Lamp Co. of Salem, Mass. and Sylvania Products Co. of Emporium, Pa.



Hygrade Lamp Co. started in 1901 as the Merritt Manufacturing Co. of Middleton, Mass., a tiny concern which renewed burned-out carbon lamps by a process invented by Mr. Merritt.

Frank A. Poor of Salem acquired an interest in this business and a short time later bought out his partner and moved the establishment to Danvers, Mass., where it became the Bay State Lamp Co. At this time it had fifteen employees.

Subsequently, when the renewing of carbon lamps was abandoned and only new lamps were manufactured, the concern became Hygrade Incandescent Lamp Co. in 1909 and Hygrade Lamp Co. in 1917.

Frank Poor was early joined by his two brothers, Edward J. and Walter E., and to the steadfastness, courage and foresight of these three, coupled with an uncommon ability to work together, the success of the business belongs.

In 1906 a young man was employed as an electrician to help set up a new incandescent lamp factory in St. Mary's, Pa., then owned by General Motors and later by General Electric Co. He made good so thoroughly that he became superintendent. In 1921, when conditions were trying and the factory was about to be shut down, he showed his mettle by purchasing the enterprise, assisted by two associates, and carrying it along successfully.

This man was B. G. Erskine, present chairman of the Board. Later he built a second factory at Emporium, where he made radio tubes.

The original factory of Hygrade in Danvers was soon outgrown, so in 1916 the company moved to a new factory in Salem. The business kept growing, additions to the plant were made and in 1918 radio tubes were added to the line.

Sylvania at Emporium, had entered the radio tube field some time before and Sylvania radio tubes had already become well and favorably known.

The similarity of products, the similarity of methods of doing business and a mutual respect and liking brought these two concerns together to form in 1931 Hygrade Sylvania Corporation. Later, to give all products a similar name, the corporation became Sylvania Electric Products, Inc.

From this point progress was rapid. In 1932 a central New York office was established, and in 1936 a new radio tube factory was built in Salem. The company was definitely going places. It had always been in the forefront of development and in both incandescent lamps and radio tubes had made many contributions to the industry.

And now came fluorescent lamps. Long a dream of the engineers, but never capable of practical use, the invention of a Sylvania engineer made possible the production of fluorescent lamps on a commercial basis. So the company found itself a pioneer in another line.

But this was not all. The spirit of adventure had seized the engineers. There were no adequate fixtures for fluorescent lamps, so it looked as if they might remain a laboratory product, with a very limited and slowly growing field. But Sylvania changed the picture. It designed fluorescent lighting fixtures, established a factory for their manufacture at Ipswich, and immediately fluorescent lighting came into being, to grow with astounding rapidity.

A new factory was built in Danvers to make the lamps to be used in these fixtures. This new enterprise, however, had barely got under way when the war came and with it a demand, not only for fluorescent lighting, but also for radio tubes; and more than that, for dozens of secret electronic devices which Sylvania was unusually well equipped to make.

The demands of the government compelled the company to expand enormously. New factories, particularly for the secret electronic devices, were established in a number of different localities. And now Wakefield is added to their number.

The Wakefield plant acts as a feeder for the main Massachusetts radio tube plant at Salem. It is officered by veteran radio tube experts and bids fair to become an important part of the town's industrial life.

### NEVEROIL BEARING COMPANY

The Neveroil Bearing Company moved to Wakefield from Worcester, Mass. in 1922. Its business is that of the manufacture of self-lubricating wood bearings and oilless powdered metal bearings and bushings. The powdered metal bearing business has been instigated and developed here in Wakefield. The principle of this is compressing powder, copper, tin, lead, and graphite into a bushing or bearing and machining it to the specification of size required by blue print. The wood bearing is made from high quality Vermont rock maple lumber cured and dried to a very low moisture content and then impregnated with a special formula of oils and greases. The advantage of this type of bearing is largely brought about through the fact that many pieces of equipment can be installed and sealed into a case and never have to be opened to oil the bearings. The wood bearings are very largely used in textile industries where an oil can might slop over and destroy or spoil a large yardage of cloth.

The company has enjoyed good business throughout the years in Wakefield and is gradually expanding. The equipment is used throughout the war to 90 per cent of its capacity of output. The company employs approximately 100 persons which is about four times that which was employed when the company came to Wakefield. Many of its machines are special machines developed and adapted especially for the work of producing bearings and its slogan is "Bearings or Bushings Tailored to Fit Your Needs." L. A. Burbeck is treasurer of the Corporation.

### FRAEN CORPORATION

In March 1944, the Fraen Corporation succeeded the Smith, Richardson Company of 338 Main Street. It is a Massachusetts Corporation, established in 1933. The company manufactures pointers for the clock, radio and gauge industries, as well as other precision stampings, also screw machine parts and assemblies.

### THE NATIONAL MAT AND MATTING COMPANY

The National Mat and Matting Company, Incorporated, is a Massachusetts Corporation with works at the Heywood-Wakefield plant. It continues the cocoa fibre mat and matting business brought to this country many years ago from England by Harry Goodacre. The present company was formed July 1, 1938 and its products have national distribution. Raw materials come from India and England in ships arriving once a month. The average employment is forty-five worthy women. Richard N. Greenwood is president and Fred W. Siller, treasurer.

### SLATER MANUFACTURING COMPANY

Slater Manufacturing Company of 24 Water Street was organized in February 1934. Its products consist principally of radiator, air and vacuum valves; defense machine products; radar equipment, for air craft; lathe and screw machine parts; drill presses, etc., a worthy sub-contract work. Charles B. Simoneau is president and Ralph S. Taylor, treasurer.

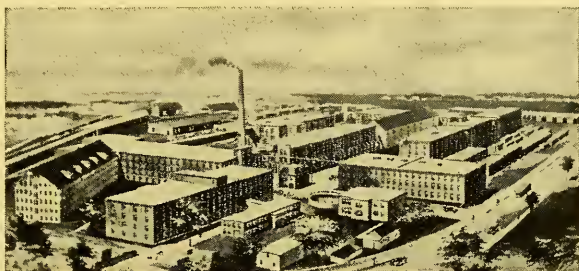
### LEAD LINED IRON PIPE COMPANY

This industry—the lining of iron pipes with lead—had its beginning on June 4, 1892 when the company was organized and in 1893 began operations in the building now occupied on the northerly side of Broadway. This industry has been successful from its inception with sales countrywide. For many years the late Thomas E. Dwyer was general manager, succeeding the inventor, the late George W. Harrington.

### SUPREME PARLOR FURNITURE COMPANY

This is a Massachusetts Corporation located at the Heywood-Wakefield plant. The company came to Wakefield in 1939, and manufactures skeleton parlor furniture for the upholsterers' trade, and gives work to an average of thirty employees. Myer Gelpe is president and Jacob Lichter is treasurer of the company.

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**FORMER HEYWOOD-WAKEFIELD CO.**

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### VARIOUS INDUSTRIES IN HEYWOOD-WAKEFIELD PLANT

The Heywood-Wakefield Company's plant on Water Street houses many industries, adding greatly to Wakefield's contribution of manufactured goods in which defense output predominates. The firms are:

Slater Manufacturing Company—Radiator Air Valves  
Palmer Electric and Manufacturing Company—Electric Switches  
Parkwood Corporation—Plywood Products  
Bartlett-Thompson Company—Metal Spinings  
Eastern Tool and Stamping Company—Metal Stampings  
Paprex Company—Insulating Materials  
Magnus Brush and Craft Materials, Inc.—Craft Materials  
National Mat and Matting Company—Coir Mats and Matting  
Dine Shoe Company—Women's Shoes  
Hy-Grade Shoe Findings Company—Shoe Findings  
Supreme Parlor Furniture Company—Parlor Frames  
Copley Shoe Company—Women's Shoes  
Morton, Lane & Daniels—Tire Retreading  
Noyes Print, Roley's Auto Repairs, Crystal Laundry, Hinds Lunch

### DIAMOND TANK AND WELDING COMPANY

This company has been in operation for several years in the former Smith and Anthony Foundry on Foundry Street, specializing in the manufacture of oil tanks.



### DIAMOND INSTRUMENT COMPANY

Diamond Instrument Company, Incorporated, and occupying the former American Reed and Fibre Company's plant on North Avenue, manufacturing precision and other instruments. Capital \$250,000. President and Treasurer, William A. Hickey; Clerk, John A. Chew.

### DIAMOND FOUNDRY COMPANY

Diamond Foundry Company, a Massachusetts Corporation, occupying the former Smith & Anthony Stove plant on Foundry Street. Manufacturing metal founding and castings. Capital, \$100,000. President and Treasurer, William A. Hickey; Clerk, John A. Chew.

### DINE SHOE CORPORATION

The Dine Shoe Corporation was incorporated in October, 1931. Since settling in Wakefield they have been most successful, manufacturing women's novelty shoes, with an annual business of approximately \$600,000.

Henry L. Dine is president, and Samuel G. Rosenberg is treasurer.

### NUCRAFT TOYS

Nucraft Toys is a prominent industry founded in 1926 by Paul K. Guillow, former naval aviator, who has continued as owner. The business started over Smith's battery station on Centre Street where it was located until the Morrison-Skinner plant on New Salem Street was purchased. Model airplanes for domestic and foreign markets are produced, and range in price from one cent to ten cents. Airplane construction sets sell from five cents to \$3.50. Airplane kites are also made in this factory, which employs an average of fifty workers. Roscoe M. Guillow, a brother of Paul, is general manager.

### CO-ED SHOE MANUFACTURING COMPANY, INC.

This company was incorporated in 1835. It manufactures essential civilian shoes for the United States Government and the British Government, with a peak production of 200 pairs daily. The president is Maurice Dell, and Joseph Dell, a successful shoe manufacturer for 35 years, is the treasurer. The plant is in the former Miller Piano factory on Smith Street.

### THE WILLIAM BLANCHARD COMPANY

The William Blanchard Co. was started in 1915 by William Blanchard and has had a continuous successful business in awnings, canvas specialties, street flags, flag poles, venetian blinds, etc. The company has rendered conspicuous service to World War II by the manufacture of Navy supplies. The company's slogan: "Master Awning Makers."

## CHAPTER TWELVE

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### *Banks and Banking*

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*Early Institutions — Wakefield Savings Bank — Wakefield Trust Company  
Wakefield Co-operative Bank*

The towns of Salem, Lynn, Charlestown and Boston were all ten years old when Reading was first settled. In this interval some progress had been made in the exchange of goods by barter. English and Spanish coins and Indian shells (wampum) were in limited use. As a matter of fact, the first settlers had little use for money as we know it. Each family was a unit unto itself. They hunted for meat and fowl, ate Indian corn, pease, fish and berries. Any excess, as farms grew, was disposed of by barter with neighbors or wheeled to the Boston Market. Furs brought in by Indians and exchanged for firearms, knives, cooking utensils, etc., made a lucrative business, since furs brought big money in England. As domestic cattle increased, there was an exchange for necessities, or for mortgages or cash. The word "chattel" for example, meaning personal property, is derived from the word "cattle." For a great many years these conditions prevailed. Later the English pound (originally a pound of solid silver), shillings and pence were the chief currency of the Colony. Coins were not struck in North America, except a few issued by separate Colonies, until the opening of the Government Mint in 1792.

The Bay Colony was an exception. Notwithstanding that the Colonists were forbidden by England to mint any money, Massachusetts ignored this edict and in 1652 struck the first coin on the North American continent. It was a shilling and became known as the "New England shilling." It was of great assistance to the Colonists. Later the famous Pine Tree shilling was minted until 1686. All this time Indian wampum was in general use for ordinary trading purposes along with the Spanish dollar that was much sought after.

Then in 1758 the name "dollar" was adopted by Congress, for the monetary unit of our currency, replacing the Spanish dollar, the chief unit of money in circulation at that time. Such was the banking of those early days!

The town of Reading had no bank for nearly 200 years. In 1833 the South Reading Mechanical and Agricultural Institution was incorporated

with a capital of \$100,000. The banking rooms were in the old and present building on the corner of Albion Street and North Avenue. Thomas Emerson was its first president, and Thomas Winship its treasurer.

In May 16, 1854, the South Reading Bank was organized as a state bank with a capital of \$100,000. Hon. Thomas Emerson was the first president, and Hon. Lilley Eaton was the cashier until his death in 1872. The directors were Thomas Emerson, Lucius Beebe, Samuel Gardner, George O. Carpenter, Edward Mansfield, and Cyrus Wakefield.

On June 21, 1865, this institution was reorganized as the National Bank of South Reading, under the same management. The banking rooms were on the south side of the second floor of the "Bank Building" at the corner of Albion Street and North Avenue. Cyrus G. Beebe was its president; Thomas Winship, cashier; Frank A. Winship, assistant cashier; and directors were Cyrus G. Beebe, Thomas Emerson, George O. Carpenter, and James F. Emerson.

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**WAKEFIELD TRUST CO.**

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### WAKEFIELD TRUST COMPANY

July 16, 1902, the National Bank of South Reading changed its name to the Wakefield National Bank. This was the parent of the present Wakefield Trust Company, with its savings and trust departments domiciled in a two-storied commodious bank building in Main Street.

This leading banking institution of Wakefield is a continuation of the early South Reading Bank of 1854, that remained a State Bank until 1865. That year the name was changed to the National Bank of South Reading. In 1902 its successor, the Wakefield National Bank, and the Wakefield Savings Bank, jointly erected a brick building on the corner of Main and Chestnut Streets. In 1916 the Wakefield National Bank became the Wakefield Trust Company.

For several years the subject of a new Trust Company banking house had been under serious consideration. In 1924 the present imposing building was erected, largely through the personal energy of Junius Beebe who was then president. This banking house, with its modern vaults and electric protective system, is today one of the most imposing in this part of the state. Albert W. Rockwood was elected president in 1944 succeeding Charles N. Winship, who had held that office since 1934. Ervine E. Laughton is treasurer of the corporation.

The Wakefield Co-operative Bank, since 1935, has occupied a portion of the main floor of the Trust Company building.

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**WAKEFIELD SAVINGS BANK**

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### WAKEFIELD SAVINGS BANK

The Wakefield Savings Bank received its charter from the Commonwealth on the 26th of May in 1869.

"Cyrus Wakefield, Daniel Allen and M. S. Southworth, their associates and successors, are hereby made a corporation by the name of The Wakefield Savings Bank, to be located in the town of Wakefield, with all the powers and privileges and subject to all the duties, liabilities and restrictions set forth in all general laws which now are, or may hereafter be in force applicable to Savings Banks and Institutions for Savings."

The first meeting of the incorporators was held at the office of Chester W. Eaton, Esq., on June 12, 1869. By-Laws were adopted and the following officers elected:

Cyrus Wakefield, President; Edward Mansfield and James T. Emerson, Vice Presidents; Daniel Allen, Clerk.

The first meeting of the Trustees of the bank was held June 15, 1869, and Daniel Allen was chosen Treasurer of the Corporation and N. R. Coffin and M. S. Southworth appointed on the Committee of Investment.



The bank opened for business June 30, 1869, and thirty-eight accounts were opened, total deposits being \$3,263.53. Account Number 32, opened the first day, is still active, as is Number 73 which was opened July 14, 1869.

February 5, 1870, the records disclose, the first banking rooms were shared with the Wakefield Real Estate & Building Association. Where this was is not disclosed in the records, but it is said to have been in the old Brown Block, which, until recently, stood on the easterly side of Main Street opposite the end of Avon Street.

The first Annual Meeting was held June 6, 1870, at which time deposits had mounted to \$31,698.58 and total assets to \$32,476.91.

Cyrus Wakefield, the founder of the institution, remained as its president until his death in 1873. Including Mr. Wakefield, the bank has had eight presidents, whose names and terms of office are as follows:

Cyrus Wakefield, Sr. ....	1869 - 1873(d)
James S. Emerson .....	1874 - 1884
Solon O. Richardson .....	1884 - 1892
Thomas J. Skinner .....	1892 - 1907
Edward A. Rich .....	1907 - 1909
John W. White .....	1909 - 1930
Arthur T. Locke .....	1930 - 1933
Arthur L. Evans .....	1933 -

Seven treasurers have served the bank since its organization. They are as follows:

Daniel Allen .....	1869 - 1871
Mason S. Southworth .....	1871 - 1872
John W. Cate .....	1873 - 1874
Chester W. Eaton .....	1875 - 1878
Richard Britton .....	1878 - 1917
Melvin W. Boardman .....	1917 - 1924
Harlow H. Hovey .....	1924 -

Starting from a small beginning, the Wakefield Savings Bank has grown with the town. For many years its office was in the Wakefield Block, now the Taylor Building, and later in Flanley's Block, now Odd Fellows Building. In 1902 it joined with the Wakefield National Bank in erecting the Bank Building on the northwest corner of Main and Chestnut Streets. In 1924, when the Wakefield National Bank's successor, the Wakefield Trust Company, built its new building on the other corner of Chestnut Street, the Savings Bank acquired the whole building and shared space with the Municipal Light Department.

In 1939 extensive alterations were made and the present banking rooms are thoroughly modern in every detail.

On January 31, 1944 the bank had 10,752 depositors with aggregate deposits of \$6,576,934.62 and total assets of \$7,374,483.89. The staff consists of the Treasurer, two Assistant Treasurers, one of whom is in the service of our country, and six clerks and tellers. The bank performs all the functions of a Savings Bank, and has over two million dollars in loans on mortgages in Wakefield and nearby communities.

### WAKEFIELD CO-OPERATIVE BANK

The Wakefield Co-operative Bank was formed in the year 1887 when Grover Cleveland was President of the United States and Oliver Ames was Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

It was necessary, in accordance with the Law that 25 or more persons associate themselves by an agreement to form a Corporation for the purpose of accumulating the savings of its members, paid in to the Corporation in fixed monthly installments, and lending to its members the funds so accumulated.

And so it was that thirty-six (36) of the substantial citizens of Wakefield, thoroughly believing in the necessity of such a Corporation, for the benefit and welfare of all the citizens of Wakefield, subscribed to the Agreement of Association on January 19, 1887.

The first officers elected were Thomas J. Skinner, president; Arlon S. Atherton, vice-president; Harry Foster, treasurer, and Chester W. Eaton, attorney.

The Wakefield Co-operative Bank was opened for business on March 5, 1887 in the Wakefield Town Hall. At this meeting 515 shares were sold and immediately the Directors offered the money for sale for mortgage loans.

The first loan was made to Mr. James Cavinaro on property on Highland street, Wakefield. In the early days of Co-operative Banking it was the custom, as soon as money had been accumulated to offer it for sale to prospective borrowers and sell to the highest bidder. The money would be offered for sale at the regular interest rate plus a premium per share. The rate of premium bid per share depended upon the supply and demand of money. Money was sold as low as a five cent premium and as high as forty-five cents. Money today is offered for mortgage loan on two plans: "The Co-operative Plan" and the "Direct Reduction" plan.

The first annual report of the Bank showed assets of \$11,972.50 and there were 13 borrowers who were paying for their homes the Co-operative Bank way. There were 241 shares outstanding and the first two dividends paid on these shares were at the rate of 6 per cent for the first eight months and at 7 per cent for the next six months.

In comparison the Wakefield Co-operative Bank is now assisting 650 citizens of Wakefield and vicinity to own their own homes. It has 1950 members and the outstanding shares now number 14,314. The last dividend on these shares was at the rate of 4 per cent per annum. The assets now total \$1,716,000.00.

The Bank has had seven Presidents, Thomas J. Skinner, Arlon S. Atherton, Erastus D. Weston, Everett W. Eaton, Richard S. Stout, Warren B. Wiley, and Dr. Charles E. Montague.

The first treasurer of the bank was Harry Foster, who resigned in 1907 and was succeeded by Charles E. Walton. Mr. Walton held the office of Treasurer until 1941 when he resigned the office and was elected a vice president, and Galen W. Hoyt was elected treasurer.

The bank has always been fortunate in having as Directors public spirited men of ability, successful in their various vocations, watching carefully and guarding its affairs, always interested and working for its success. Dr. Charles E. Montague, the present president, has served many years.

The Wakefield Co-operative Bank was organized with only two objects in view—first: the encouragement of thrift by providing the means of systematic savings, and second: to provide an easy method for a person to pay for his home.

From its inception the Wakefield Co-operative Bank has earned a reputation for fair dealing, and enjoys the confidence and good will of its thousands of shareholders. In the years that are to come it will strive to maintain this reputation.

## CHAPTER THIRTEEN

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### *Red Cross, Hospital Project, Community Chest*

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*Wakefield Chapter in World War I — In the Twenty Years After  
In World War II — Wakefield Hospital Association  
Wakefield Community Chest*

#### WAKEFIELD CHAPTER, AMERICAN RED CROSS

Wakefield Chapter of the American Red Cross was formed as a Branch of the North Middlesex Chapter of Lowell on March 27, 1918, in the midst of World War I. The meeting was held in the State Armory, and the late Honorable Harry I. Thayer was elected chairman by those assembled, representing numerous civic organizations.

In May, 1918, the Branch established headquarters in the so-called "Wakefield Mansion," which was located on the site of the present High School building.

Red Cross activities were carried on in the "Mansion" until October, 1921, when the demand for production ceased to be imperative.

Following release from the North Middlesex Chapter, the Wakefield Branch became Wakefield Chapter, November 21, 1921. Its framed charter hangs in the Chapter headquarters in the Lincoln School.

In the years following, the Chapter carried on the requirements of the National Red Cross through annual membership drives each November, and by prompt and generous contributions to every national disaster.

At least twice the Chapter received a decoration of merit for exceeding its quota in annual drives, and at the beginning of one of the flood disasters it was the first Chapter in the state to send in a substantial contribution. Another activity was the distribution, in the winter of 1933-34 of a large quantity of clothing for men, women and children, as well as hundreds of yards of cloth for garments.

In March, 1926, following the lamented death of Congressman Thayer, the vice-chairman, Charles N. Winship, who had held that office from the beginning, became chairman. He remained chairman until the annual meeting on January 20, 1944, when he declined re-election and was unanimously made honorary chairman.



Cyrus M. Dolbeare, who had been vice-chairman for the year 1943, was elected chairman at the annual meeting in January, 1944.

A brief history, such as this, makes mention of individuals who have carried on year after year virtually out of the question. It should be recorded, however, that the work of the Chapter was initiated and carried on through the years by men and women whose loyalty to, and faith in the policies and practices of the Red Cross were unquestioned. Mrs. W. S. Ripley, chapter secretary from the beginning, and the late Harris M. Dolbeare, deserve special mention for their devotion to the foundation and good work of the Red Cross.

In October, 1940, Wakefield again became active in production because of the need for help in England and European countries, and it has continued with unabated zeal, and sustained vigor, since the entrance of the United States into the war.

Every activity required by the National Red Cross is being carried on at the moment of writing (February, 1944) on behalf of men and women in the service of the United States. A large corps of volunteer workers, headed by Mrs. Raymond P. Dellinger, numbering nearly 20 separate services, plus similar groups in the Lynnfield Center Branch of Wakefield Chapter, are engaged in this valuable war work—a major activity for civilians on the home front. Such work must and will continue until peace comes, and probably for many months thereafter.

Annual membership drives were discontinued when World War II was declared, and huge financial campaigns were launched. The chapter raised nearly \$16,000 by public subscription in March, 1943, having had a quota of \$14,300. In the 1944 drive more than \$25,150 was raised in the largest and most successful financial campaign ever conducted in the community. Ned C. Loud was general chairman of both campaigns, and was assisted by chapter leaders and a large corps of about 400 citizen-solicitors each year.

### WAKEFIELD HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

For several years, following World War I, a hospital project was under serious consideration. It was not until 1929 that two prominent citizens brought the project to a favorable opening for later action. They were Lloyd J. Thayer, son of the late Congressman Harry I. Thayer, and Junius Beebe, president of the Wakefield Trust Company, and principal donor of the Lucius Beebe Memorial Library. Jointly, they purchased from the Bear Hill Golf Club Associates a 12-acre tract of land on the northerly and easterly sides of Hopkins Street in Wakefield, bordering on the town

of Reading, as a favorable site for a hospital. At this time, Reading was in possession of a trust fund of \$150,000 for a hospital and site, and it was thought that jointly the two towns could and would at some future time erect two 30-unit buildings with central heating plant—one unit to be in Reading and one unit in Wakefield. The cost was estimated at \$400,000—\$200,000 as Reading's share and \$200,000 as Wakefield's share.

There were several public meetings and much agitation, but as yet no hospital has materialized.

On August 12, 1930, the board of governors of the Wakefield War Chest Fund turned over to the Hospital Association a balance of funds in the sum of \$3,260.87. Mr. Beebe's gift was \$3025, Mr. Thayer's gift was \$3000, and the Greenwood Ladies' Circle contributed \$25, totaling \$9,310.87. The sum of \$6000 was paid for the land and the balance, with some small donations added, is held by the Association under a trust agreement running until March 1, 1959.

As the years have passed without any building activities, the held land has been subject to taxation by the town. Today's fund is approximately \$4000. The original trustees were Lloyd J. Thayer, chairman; Charles N. Winship, Dr. J. William O'Connell, secretary, and Harris M. Dolbeare, treasurer. Dr. O'Connell and Mr. Dolbeare have since passed away. The present trustees are Lloyd J. Thayer, chairman; Charles N. Winship, Robert H. Adams, Cyrus M. Dolbeare and George J. Evans, secretary-treasurer. Theodore Eaton is legal adviser.

### THE WAKEFIELD COMMUNITY CHEST

In the spring of 1943 a group of Wakefield residents, who for many years had been active in the support of Wakefield's charitable organizations, gathered at the Y. M. C. A. for the purpose of considering the possibility of improving the established custom of having many separate financial drives to raise the money needed to support Wakefield's charities.

After several meetings had been held, it was decided to form a "Wakefield Community Chest," which was to be affiliated with the Greater Boston Community Fund. Howard M. Tuttle was elected president; Patrick H. Tenney, vice president; Ervine E. Laughton, treasurer, and Mrs. R. Edgar Fisher, secretary.

Six local agencies immediately applied for membership in the Chest. They were: Boy Scouts (Wakefield district of Quannapowitt Council), Elizabeth E. Boit Home for Aged Women, Girl Scout Council of Wakefield, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Wakefield Visiting Nurse Association, and Wakefield Young Men's Christian Association.

In the fall of the same year, the first combined financial drive was undertaken. The Greater Boston United War Fund Drive combined the needs of charitable war agencies of World War II, The Greater Boston Community Fund and the Wakefield Community Chest.

A goal was set at \$21,000 and 566 Wakefield residents set out to raise this amount. George J. Evans was campaign chairman with James F. Keating, Herbert D. Anderson, Raymond P. Dellinger, Augustus C. Wiswall and Howard M. Tuttle serving as an advisory committee.

Associate community chairmen were Frank H. Terhune, Mrs. Louise W. Boardman, Marcus Beebe, 2nd, Irving Burwen, Orrin J. Hale, Ernest G. Willard and Cyrus M. Dolbeare. The town was divided into ten districts which were headed by the following district directors: Fitzroy Willard, Henry A. Sanders, Fred Raymond, Harry I. Reed, Hiram A. Tobey, George J. Morgan, Mrs. James A. Fox, Thomas F. Kenney, Phillips C. Davis and Milan L. Hatch.

The drive met with an eager response on the part of the townspeople, and was successful in raising just over \$23,000. This was the largest amount that had ever been raised in Wakefield for charitable purposes up to that time.

Plans for the second Wakefield Community Chest Drive were already being made in the spring of 1944, when this publication went to press. William E. Jones has been named chairman for the 1945 campaign.

## CHAPTER FOURTEEN

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### *Civilian Defense*

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*Organized Under Massachusetts Committee on Public Safety  
Massachusetts Women's Defense Corps*

#### WAKEFIELD COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

The Wakefield Committee on Public Safety was organized in June, 1940, with Major Edward J. Connelly as chairman, Charles F. Young, as secretary, and Arthur L. Evans as treasurer. Chairmen of half a dozen sub-committees were appointed. In October, Major Connelly resigned his chairmanship because of his duties at Camp Edwards. Captain J. Theodore Whitney served until June, 1941, when he was called into service. Chief of Police John G. Gates was appointed chairman on June 24, 1941.

Activities in the autumn of this year, and in the winter of 1942, included the establishment of a report center, the organization of air-raid wardens, and of a medical defense unit, and the establishment of a school, under the direction of Mrs. Harry M. Wheeler, for the training of women in canteen, nutrition, motor corps and first aid work.

At a special town meeting \$11,000 was appropriated for defense purposes. An auxiliary police force of about 150 men and a force of 55 auxiliary firemen were organized by Chief Gates and Chief Graham of the Fire Department, respectively.

Other activities of early 1942, were the formation of the Women's Defense Corps; black-out tests; distribution of sand; siren signals installed, and evacuation and demolition committees organized.

Chairman Gates resigned on March 15, 1942 and A. Stanley North was appointed to succeed him. On July 4, 1942, a demonstration of the town's defense units was held. 1942 was a "dim-out" year in Wakefield. The dim-out regulations were in force until the early weeks of 1944, when they were lifted. Numerous black-outs and mobilizations proved the efficiency of the various units of the civilian defense in Wakefield.

Women air-raid wardens were organized and rendered service during daytime practice air raids.



THE WAKEFIELD COMPANY OF  
THE MASSACHUSETTS WOMEN'S DEFENSE CORPS

The first women's organization of a military nature in the Commonwealth began training its Wakefield unit in October, 1941, and on January 30, 1942, a class of seventy was graduated. The unit was organized as Wakefield Company of the Massachusetts Women's Defense Corps in March, 1942, under the leadership of Captain Muriel Colson.

The purpose of the corps being to provide a reserve of trained women to supplement regional and local civilian defense; the women were trained in motor transport, canteen, hospital evacuation, first aid, chemical warfare, community service, mobile casualty, and communications.

In February, 1944, the Massachusetts Women's Defense Corps was transferred from the jurisdiction of the State Committee on Public Safety to the military division of the Commonwealth.

The familiar brown uniform, the courses of instruction and all services previously undertaken, remained; the only change being the closer co-operation between the corps and the State Guard, with the women's organization supplementing the men in various military duties; making possible the relief of men from canteen, convoy, medical detail and communications.

The corps has become an important link in the welfare of the town and state. In every emergency during the war period the corps has responded to every local and regional demand. A completely outfitted canteen trailer and an ambulance fully equipped and ready for service, are a part of the Wakefield unit. Surely the watchword of this Wakefield organization is, "Service for Town, State and Nation."

## CHAPTER FIFTEEN

### *Patriotic and Veterans' Organizations*

#### *Brief History of Each Organization Since Its Formation*

Wakefield, as a town, is intensely a community where civic, philanthropic, patriotic, social and fraternal societies are an important and integral part of the community life. Owing to space limitations, condensation of many interesting details have been imperative. The lists following in service chapters present the "round the table" facts of names, organization, objects, etc.:—

#### GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC

Post No. 12, Grand Army of the Republic is no more! Its last surviving member, Benjamin I. Day, passed away on May 16, 1936. For long years this was a notable local organization of men who served in the Civil War of 1861-65. Its members represented patriotism in its highest sense, and the organization one which the town held in high honor. When the old Academy building on Crescent Street was no longer of use, it was removed to Foster Street where it became the home of Post 12. This building is now owned and occupied by the First Methodist Episcopal Society.

#### H. M. WARREN CORPS NO. 69 WOMEN'S RELIEF

This auxiliary to the H. M. Warren Post No. 12, G. A. R., was organized March 17, 1886 with Mrs. Juliette H. Anderson its first president. There were 76 charter members. This body of faithful women warmly commended itself to the community over many years, for its devotion to the objects for which it was formed.

In April, 1937, the Corps surrendered its charter to the state, after a successful existence of 51 years, the last Civil War Veteran of Wakefield having passed away.

#### H. M. WARREN CAMP 34, SONS OF VETERANS

This organization of the sons of men serving in the War of the Rebellion, was instituted in 1890 with 17 charter members. Its first captain was

the late Emery W. Rolfe, and its declaration was: "We hold ourselves in readiness to take up the work of that great body of men, the Grand Army of the Republic, when its last survivor shall have broken camp and pitched his tent in the field beyond."

### AUXILIARY 13, SONS OF UNION VETERANS

Auxiliary 13, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, was instituted on September 28, 1892.

Their object was to assist the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War in all their principles and objects; to aid the members and families of the Grand Army of the Republic and give aid and protection to their wives and orphans; to perpetuate the memory and history of the heroes of the Civil War by the proper observance of Memorial Day; to inculcate true patriotism and love of country among all the people of our land, and to sustain equal rights with liberty and justice for all. The first president was Mrs. Ray E. Lane.

Years ago the Auxiliary gave money and supplies to the Soldiers' Home in Chelsea. In 1917, they raised a large sum of money to help the Massachusetts Department buy 17 ambulances to be sent to France. The Auxiliary has given many flags to the Sons of Veterans, schools, churches, organizations, boy and girl scouts. They also placed a memorial plaque in memory of H. M. Warren Camp Post 12, in the Warren School. They have bought war bonds in both wars and are now raising money for blood plasma for the Red Cross. The Auxiliary has been honored by the Massachusetts Department by having two national presidents, three department presidents, one chief of staff, one historian, one patriotic instructor, and two department secretaries. In 1942 they celebrated their 50th anniversary with a banquet, speeches and entertainment.

### DAUGHTERS OF UNION VETERANS

Julia Ward Howe Tent 49, Daughters of Union Veterans was instituted April 29, 1911 in Grand Army Hall. There were 26 charter members. Mrs. Emily Wilkins was the first president. The object is to aid and assist the Grand Army of the Republic. Monthly visits are made to the Soldiers' Home at Chelsea, bringing cheer to its veteran inmates. A ward named "Daughters of Veterans' Ward," with twenty beds is always occupied.

The 1944 president is Mrs. Edna Smith.

## FANEUIL HALL CHAPTER DAUGHTERS OF AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Faneuil Hall Chapter was organized in 1896 by Mrs. Ida Farr Miller who served as the first Regent. Of the charter members, four are still living. The Chapter has had two real daughters, Mary Hopkins Pratt and Lucretia Hopkins, both of Wakefield. Members of the Chapter are from Reading, North Reading, Wakefield, Stoneham and Melrose.

Each year flags are placed on the graves of 46 Revolutionary soldiers in the Old Burying Ground in Wakefield.

Several old houses in this vicinity have been marked, and contributions made toward the restoration of the Colonel Hartshorne House in Wakefield, and the Parker Tavern in Reading.

The Society was created for patriotic, historical, educational and civic purposes.

Educational work is carried on in connection with approved schools in the South and Hillside School for Boys in Marlboro, Massachusetts.

Prior to the present war, work was carried on at Ellis Island for the immigrants detained there.

In 1942, a notable piece of work was done by Mrs. Peter Y. Myhre in forming a Faneuil Hall Chapter Junior Group, with eight charter members. The Chapter Regent for 1943-1945 is Mrs. J. Hubbard Jones of Melrose. The membership is 67.

## VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Chartered by an Act of Congress, its membership is limited to men who have seen active service, "in campaigns or expeditions on foreign soil or in hostile waters" service which has been recognized by the United States Government by the issue of a campaign medal, badge or ribbon.

The purposes of this organization are fraternal, patriotic, historical and educational; to preserve and strengthen comradeship among its members; to assist worthy comrades; to perpetuate the memory and history of the dead, and to assist their widows and orphans; to maintain true allegiance to the Government of the United States of America, and fidelity to its Constitution and laws; to foster true patriotism; to maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom, and to preserve and defend the United States from all her enemies.

Wakefield Post No. 2106 was instituted on May 16, 1931, and immediately became one of the leaders in the fraternal and patriotic life of the community. The first Commander was Charles F. Young, and all twelve of the successive Commanders are still residents of Wakefield.



## UNITED SPANISH WAR VETERANS

Corp. Charles F. Parker Camp 39, United Spanish War Veterans was instituted in 1905. It is a semi-military organization and membership is open to officers and enlisted men who served in the various branches of the United States armed forces in the Spanish-American War and later in the Philippine Islands and the Boxer Relief expedition in China prior to July 2, 1902. The principles are freedom, patriotism and humanity. The object is to perpetuate the memory of the war with Spain and the Philippines and the China expeditions. Col. Edward J. Gihon was the first commander. The present membership is 51.

## MRS. EDMUND RICE AUXILIARY NO. 14 UNITED SPANISH WAR VETERANS

Mrs. Edmund Rice Auxiliary No. 14, United Spanish War Veterans was instituted October 6, 1906, by the national officers, assisted by Col. Edward J. Gihon.

The first president, who served three years, was the late Minnie Gihon, wife of Col. Edward J. Gihon.

The object of the auxiliary is to extend aid to veterans of the Spanish-American War and their dependents; to promote patriotism and the proper reverence for the Stars and Stripes, and to inculcate everywhere, and at all times, lessons in good citizenship. The auxiliary has donated beds to the Soldiers' Home, given entertainments, candy, smokes, etc., to all veterans in soldiers' and sailors' hospitals in Massachusetts.

It has assisted in the present war by blood donations, Red Cross work, and bond selling.

Mrs. Maude Baxter of Greenwood is president.

## THE AMERICAN LEGION

Corp. Harry E. Nelson Post 63, American Legion was organized in the Spanish War Veterans' rooms in the old state armory (now the Hodgdon Block) on lower Main Street, Wakefield Square, May 27, 1919, with Major Edward J. Connelly (now Lt.-Col.) as its first commander.

Over the years (May, 1919 to May, 1944) 26 men, prominent in civic and county affairs, and various walks of life, have successfully guided the destinies of this Post through an unusually active career, through many fields of endeavor, from money-raising projects, membership drives, dramatic performances, band concerts, dances, bazaars, patriotic rallies, and other events, to public Memorial and Armistice Day observances.

Valuable backing and aid have been given by the Legion towards town, county, state and national legislation, also many public endeavors—some of them of distinct benefit for the service man, his family or orphans, with generous consideration, always, for the disabled veteran, through cheer, employment, rehabilitation or his many other needs. Americanization and other betterment programs have been fostered and close co-operation given wherever and whenever needed.

Intimate details of Corp. Nelson Post's activities are carefully chronicled in the Post historian's valuable scrapbooks, which contain nearly 600 4-column pages of interesting news clippings from the Daily Item. These, with the records of the Post's bi-monthly business meetings and all intervening civic, social and patriotic activity, tell only a small, but authentic story of the Post's enviable and prominent part in the up-building of "Better Wakefield" since 1919.

The record of Post members on the home-front and engaged in the war effort during World War II also is being carefully kept, and the assistance being given active service men, as well as those of all past wars, is outstanding, both as to its present value and for the continuation of the spirit of goodwill which exists in Wakefield for the common good and general welfare of organized society.

William H. Condon is the present commander.

#### AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

The American Legion Auxiliary was formed in 1920 by the mothers, wives, sisters and daughters of the valiant men of Wakefield who fought in the first World War. For 24 years it has given service to commemorate and perpetuate the actions of members of Corp. Harry E. Nelson Post No. 63, American Legion, and has given service and devotion to patriotic organizations, and to Gold Star mothers and fathers of World War I and II. Its varied activities deserve more extended review.

Mrs. Rose L. Findlay is the 1944 president.

#### SERVICE MEN'S AUXILIARY

This group was organized for the sole purpose of bringing cheer to the men and women serving in World War II. Up to March, 1944, 1450 boxes, 1000 birthday cards and many letters have been sent to all parts of the world. Money is earned to supply the boxes, and any surplus is deposited in the Wakefield Trust Company to make a gift to the soldiers on their return.

Mrs. Clara Meuse is president.

THE COLONEL ALLEN C. KELTON UNIT  
OF THE  
WOMEN'S MARINE CORPS LEAGUE AUXILIARY

The first meeting of the Wakefield Unit of the Women's Marine Corps League Auxiliary was held on June 11, 1943.

Miss Marion Harper, the state president, presided. It was voted to name the unit for Colonel Allen C. Kelton, born in Pennsylvania. He went to Phillips Andover Academy in Massachusetts, and then served as a drummer boy in the Civil War.

The first installation of officers was held July 9, 1943 with Mrs. Natalie Earsome, president.

A charter was presented to the Unit on August 27, 1943, by the State President.

The organization's activities, aside from money-making endeavors, are as follows:

Twice every month the members visit Chelsea Naval Hospital to entertain and serve refreshments to the convalescent marines at the Red Cross Hut.

The Women's Marine Corps League Auxiliary have a booth in Loew's Orpheum Theatre in Boston for the sale of war bonds and stamps, each Unit doing its share. Over one million dollars worth of stamps and bonds have been sold in little less than one year.

Every member's marine in service receives a birthday package from the Unit.

## CHAPTER SIXTEEN

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### *Memorials to Veterans*

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#### *Four Wars Recognized by Memorials Recalled in Yearly Exercises*

#### SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' MONUMENT

Wakefield's Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument, situated midway in Common, was made possible by a bequest of \$10,000 in the will of Mrs. Harriet N. Flint, late of Wakefield: "I give and bequeath to said Town of Wakefield, the sum of \$10,000 to be held in trust by said town, and by them invested until said town may, by public appropriation, or private contributions, or both, add a sum sufficient to erect a soldiers' monument. Then both principal and interest are to be devoted to this object. And it is my wish, and I desire that said monument, when completed, shall cost not less than \$10,000; that it may be grand in itself, symmetrical in architecture, beautiful in design—a monument worthy of the true men to whom we dedicate it."

The town accepted the bequest in March, 1898, and appointed a committee to carry its provisions into effect. On March 4, 1901, the design of the Van Amringe Granite Company was accepted at a price of \$10,715 above the foundation. Later the town appropriated additional sums. The total cost was \$13,845.08.

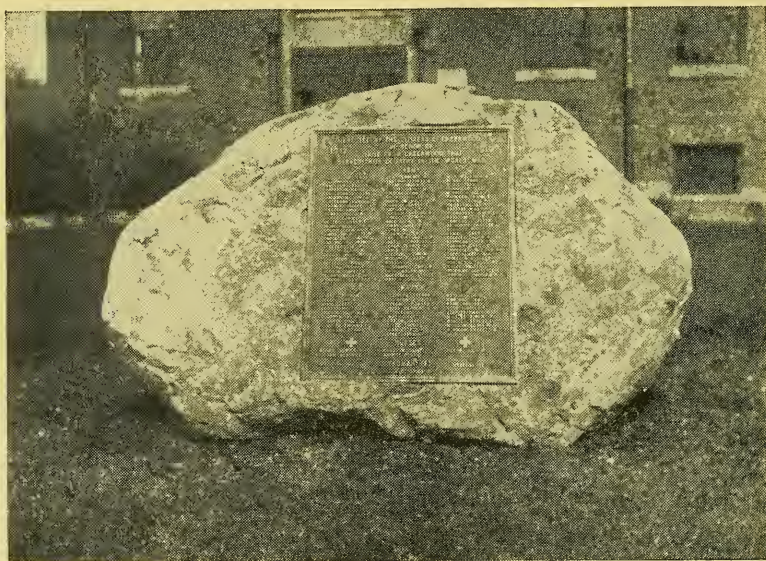
On June 17, 1902, the monument was appropriately dedicated, with Col. E. J. Gihon as Chief Marshal, and the Department of Massachusetts, G. A. R. performing the dedicatory exercises with a grand parade through the principal streets, of veterans, military and civil organizations. Among guests were Governor Crane and members of his staff. Harvey B. Evans was President of the day, Miss Ruth Emily Evans unveiled the monument; Selectman George M. Thompson accepted the monument for the town; Congressman Samuel W. McCall delivered the oration, and children of the public schools sang. This monument and what it stands for is an inspiration to all present and future generations—a constant public reminder "that sacrifices had been made and should be, to maintain our country's honor."



### THE GREENWOOD BOULDER

This memorial to the men and women of Greenwood who served in the World War, and in memory of those who made the supreme sacrifice, was placed in front of the Greenwood School and dedicated May 23, 1920, with an impressive service. Various organization groups gathered at the school grounds on Main Street, forming a guard of honor. The exercises opened with the unfurling of a new American flag from the school house staff by Leon A. Blanchard, a veteran of the famous 104th Regiment of the Yankee Division. Miss Helen Arnold rendered the "Star Spangled Banner," on the cornet. The salute to the flag by the children was followed by a stirring address by William E. Arnold, master of ceremonies. Major Edward J. Connelly conducted the unveiling and read the list of names on the tablet. The exercises closed with a memorial service for Robert Gibbs, the only Greenwood soldier who died in service.

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#### **GREENWOOD BOULDER**

(In front of Greenwood School, Main Street)

Dedicated May 14, 1920

A memorial to the men and women of Greenwood who served in World War I, and in memory of those who made the supreme sacrifice

### MEMORIAL TABLET ON COMMON

On Legion Sunday, November 14, 1920, Wakefield again paid tribute to her veterans of the World War, both living and dead, by unveiling, on the Common, a bronze memorial tablet, beautiful in design and appropriate in its sentiment.

A parade of military and patriotic organizations, which formed at the Armory and marched to the Common, was directed by Major Edward J. Connelly, commander of the Richardson Light Guard when war was declared, and prominent Yankee Division veteran. Arriving at the southeast corner of the Common, a hollow square was formed around the boulder, with the school children on the north side, who sang "America,"

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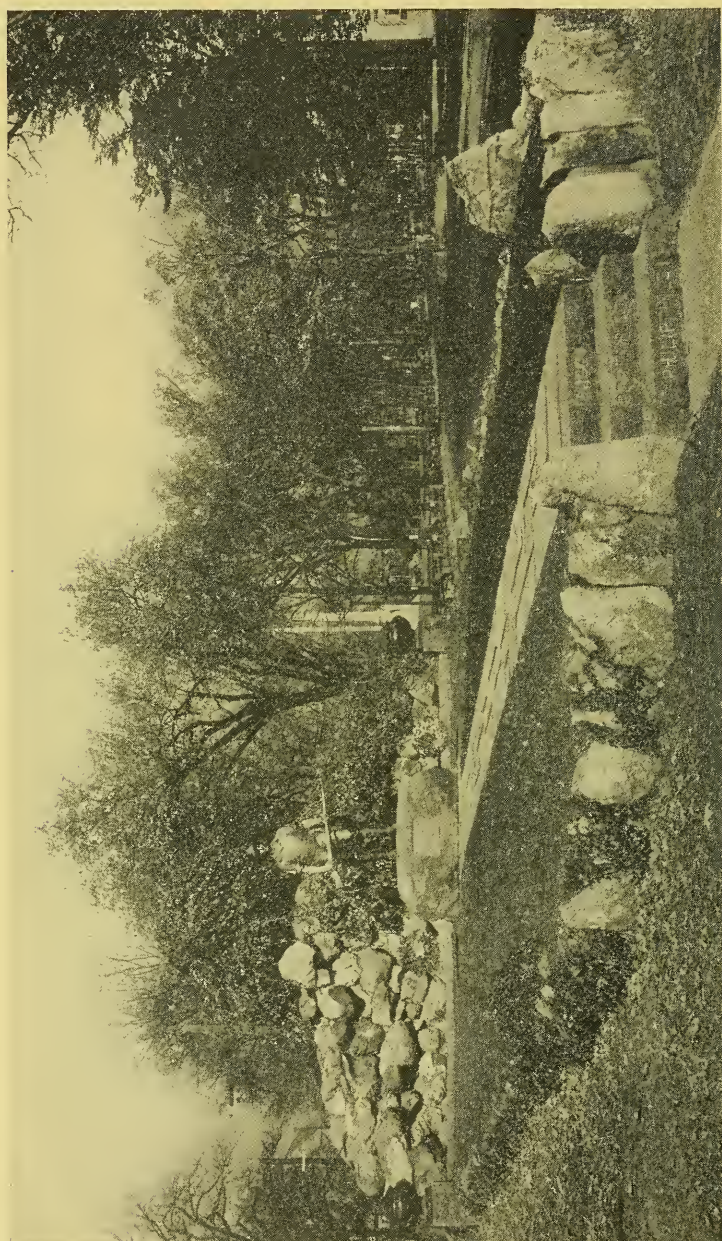
**BOULDER ON THE COMMON**

Dedicated November 14, 1920

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at the opening of the exercises and gave the salute to the flag at the close. After an eloquent prayer by Rev. Warren S. Perkins, D.D., pastor of the Universalist Church, Rev. Benjamin W. Riner, pastor of the Greenwood Union Church, chaplain of Corp. Harry E. Nelson Post 63, American Legion and an overseas veteran, responded with stirring sentiments, ex-





**"THE HIKER"**

(Theodore Kitson Model)

Dedicated October 12, 1926

Erected by the town of Wakefield under the auspices of Charles F. Parker Camp No. 39, U. S. W. V., as a memorial to the men of Wakefield who served in the Spanish-American War

pressing the feeling in the hearts of the ex-service men, their emotions when they entered the service, and their realization of a duty to carry on the work so nobly begun by those in whose honor the memorial was erected.

Thomas F. Kenney, adjutant of Corp. Nelson Post, read the Armistice Day proclamation of the American Legion. Harry I. Thayer, chairman of the War Memorial-Committee, gave a short, patriotic address and unveiled the tablet, saying "It now belongs to the citizens of Wakefield." He also read the words of the dedication on it.

The acceptance in behalf of the next of kin of the 29 heroes whose names are enrolled on the tablet was appropriately given by William H. Cartland, whose son was one of the first from the town to die on the field of battle in France.

Inscription on the tablet:

"To the honor and glory of the men and women who served in the World War and to these who made the supreme sacrifice."

The tablet bears the following roll of honored dead:

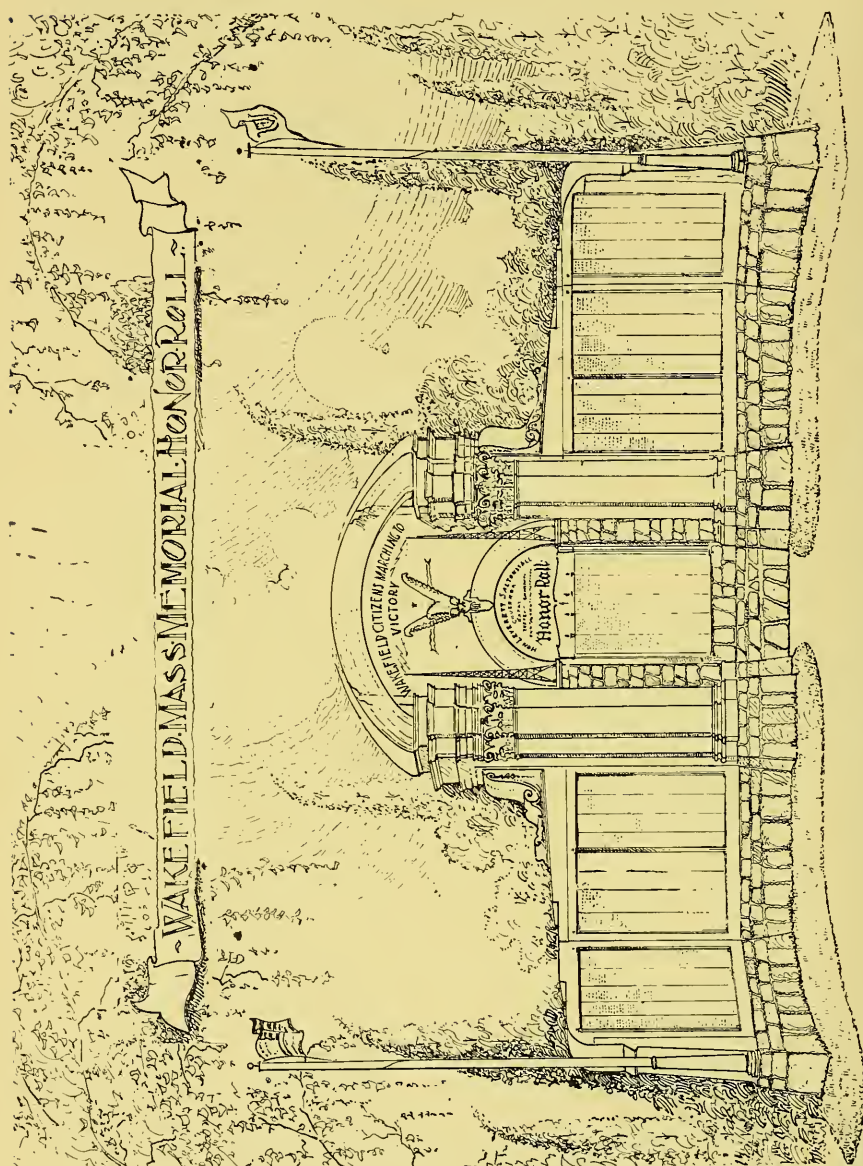
Robert F. Baker	Alvin W. Gordon
Herbert E. Biggs	Henry A. Heningar
John C. Brockbank	Harry E. Nelson
Joseph Buckley	Patrick Neville
John T. Burns	Erland F. Norton
William H. Cartland	Albert Ray Townley
Paul Cartwright	Ambrose Hughes
Nicola DeFelice	Bert L. Johnson
John P. Donegan	George W. Killorin, Jr.
John P. Duggan	Clark R. Lincoln
Edward M. Fay	James Martino
Crowell G. Fish	Andrew P. McLaughlin
Michael Gibbons	Edward S. Merrill
Robert H. Gibbs	Richard P. Merrill

Henry Nasella

#### DEDICATION OF THE HIKER MONUMENT

The Spanish War Veterans' Hiker Monument at the "Rockery" was dedicated on Tuesday, October 12, 1926, (Columbus Day) on the occasion of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Richardson Light Guard, both organizations uniting in the program of the day and evening. It was a memorial to the men of Wakefield who served in the Spanish American War and the dedicatory exercises were under the auspices of Charles F. Parker Camp No. 39, U. S. W. V.





# **WORLD WAR II HONOR ROLL MEMORIAL PLAQUE**

On the Common, opposite the Veterans' (Lafayette) Building  
Erected and presented to the Town on May 28, 1944, through the sponsorship of Corp. Harry E.  
Nelson Post 63, American Legion, and the generous contributions of funds from the townspeople.

The "Hiker" is a Theodore Kitson model and its placement on the "Rockery" facing southerly on Main Street is a distinct ornament to Wakefield's civic center.

The full details of the exercises are told in the History of the Richardson Light Guard 1901-1926. Col. Edward J. Gihon, as chairman of the committee, presided at the impressive ceremony of dedication, and presented the monument to the Town of Wakefield. There was an evening parade, a reunion of War Veterans, and a banquet, with addresses, in the State Armory, with prominent military men and town officials as guests. Captain Thomas J. Quinn opened the exercises and the late Harris M. Dolbeare served as toastmaster. The monument is now in the custody of the Charles F. Parker Camp No. 39, U. S. W. V. This was another notable local town celebration.

### WAKEFIELD MEMORIAL HONOR ROLL PLAQUE

The sponsor of this Memorial is the Corp. Harry E. Nelson Post 63, American Legion. It has been placed on the Common opposite the Lafayette Building. Voluntary contributions from the townspeople financed the cost. The plaque, with names, will be dedicated with appropriate exercises, in connection with the Tercentenary observances, on May 28, 1944. It bears the names of the men and women of Wakefield who have served or are now serving in World War II.

The plaque was designed by John H. Rogers, accepted by the Committee and endorsed by the Board of Selectmen.



(Photograph by E. A. Rich)

**THE COL. JAMES HARTSHORNE HOUSE, CHURCH STREET, AS IT APPEARS IN 1944**

Oldest house in Wakefield, built in 1681



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*Historical Societies*

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*Wakefield Historical Society — Its Exhibition Hall — Col. Hartsborne  
House Association — Its Activities*

WAKEFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Wakefield Historical Society was formed on January 23, 1890, with Chester W. Eaton, its first president. Its name explains its objects: to rescue from oblivion ancient records, documents, portraits, implements, relics, photographs, etc. having to do with the early and later years of the town's life; and to foster local interest in the town, and its earlier history.

When the Lucius Beebe Memorial Library was built in 1921-3 one of the conditions was that the Historical Society should have a room set aside for its use. This was done, and today, in the north basement room of this imposing institution, can be seen and admired the Society's collection of mementoes of days gone by. The Society's exhibition room will be open to visitors during the 1944 Tercentenary observance.

THE HARTSHORNE HOUSE

The old Hartshorne House on Church Street, at the southern end of Lake Quannapowitt, is probably the oldest house in Wakefield. The west portion has been dated 1681 with conclusive evidence as to its age. It was built by Thomas Hodgman who, as early as 1688, had a small farm extending easterly to Common Street. In the deed of that year of the land from Reading Pond to the present Baptist Church, as a site for the second meeting house, it specifically stated that "Thomas Hodgman had rights of occupancy to the southeasterly portion of this lot." Hodgman in 1725 sold his house to the Widow Patterson. Later owners were Jonathan Cowdrey, Dr. John Hart for £106:10, and several others until it came into the possession of Col. James Hartshorne, who resided there for sixty-seven years, until his death in 1870. Subsequent owners were John Rayner, J. Reed Whipple and John G. Morrill, then the Morrill Ice Company, next the Milton, Porter Ice Company. On October 4, 1929, the town bought the ice company's property—land, ice houses and the Hartshorne house for park purposes, paying \$14,499.90.

The old house, restored by the Park Commissioners and the earlier 1930 Tercentenary Committee, was leased to The Col. Hartshorne House Association, formed in 1937, by a group of citizens. This ancient structure, due to the activities of the Association, has become a popular center for many local and neighborhood civic, social and fraternal gatherings where good food, a welcoming hostess and an atmosphere reflecting the years ago may be enjoyed. Percival B. Evans is president.





(WPA Photograph)

FIREPLACE IN THE COL. HARTSHORNE HOUSE

## CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

### *Transportation*

*Stage Lines — First Railroad Service — Upper Station — Street and  
Bus Lines — New Route 128 State Highway*

'Tis a long way back to the days when the man of the family rode his horse to the meeting house, with mother sitting heavily on the pillion beside her husband. And yet it was practically day before yesterday, as the scientists space off mundane miscellany.

Now, Wakefield is, in a slight degree, an important railroad junction with three active stations and two flag stations.

In 1844 the Boston and Maine Railroad built, and opened the following year, a service from Boston to its earlier line in Wilmington. Later the Danvers Branch and the South Reading Branch to Salem was built. The latter, leased to the Boston and Maine Railroad in 1892, was abandoned January 1926. The former is active but with a curtailed service. The town is on the main line from Boston to Portland, 31 inward and 34 outward Boston trains run daily and there is an ample



WAKEFIELD UPPER STATION



Sunday service. Wakefield Junction has a fair daily service and Wakefield Center a few daily but no Sunday trains.

The present Wakefield Upper Station was built in 1890. The old "depot" was removed to the Junction on North Avenue where it does duty as a freight office. With this new station came several changes in this locality. By agreements with the Boston & Maine R. R. that portion my Railroad Street (North Avenue) lying east of the old station was deeded to the town; the land west of the new station to Murray Street was bought by the Railroad, and is now under lease to the town as a parking space. Over this land, and some land south bought from the St. Joseph's Church, was laid out the street now known as Tuttle Street. A 20-foot strip east of the church had previously been set aside for street purposes. The said lot at the corner of West Chestnut and Tuttle Streets has been held against the day when it would be required if and when the railroad should elevate its tracks over the Albion and Chestnut Streets crossings.

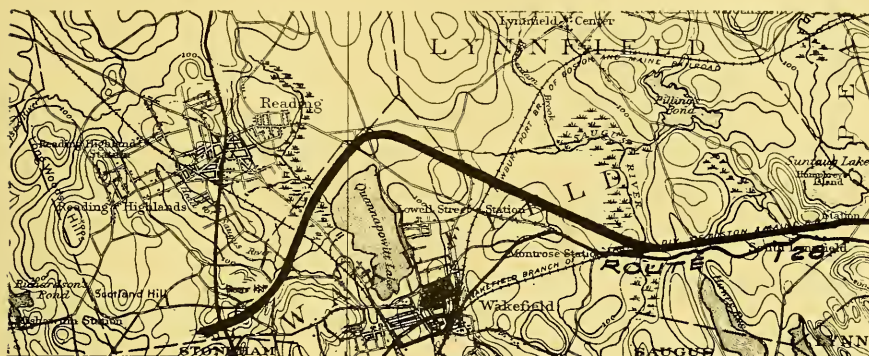
In May, 1892, the Wakefield and Stoneham Street Railway was chartered and the first trip was made on August 14 to Stoneham with connections for Woburn, Winchester, and Medford. The following year the line was extended to Melrose, and the next year to Reading via Main Street and Lake Quannapowitt, and to Lynn. On May 6, 1898, the Wakefield, Peabody and Salem Electric Street Service opened. A branch line to Wakefield Park was opened in 1902, and operated until 1919 when a bus service was operated by Andrew Perham for only a few years. Gradually the electric car service passed into the discard and in recent years similar lines have been taken over by the buses of the Eastern Massachusetts Street Railway, to Melrose, Malden and Everett to connect with the Boston Elevated; to Stoneham, Winchester and Arlington; to Reading, Lowell and Lawrence. The Lynnfield Community Bus has regular service to Lynnfield Centre, Lynnfield and Lynn.

#### NEW HIGHWAY ROUTE 128

The present Route 128 passing through Wakefield is from the Stoneham line, via Albion Street across North Avenue, up West Water Street, and via Water Street, New Salem and Salem Streets to connect at Montrose with the newly-built highway to Peabody, Danvers and the North Shore.

The new Route 128, planned by the Department of Public Works of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, lies within the limits of the Town of Wakefield.

The plan, here shown, when described, was the first public announcement of the new route. Briefly, the new highway starts at Montrose and



### NEW HIGHWAY ROUTE 128

runs northwesterly across private lands, and the Forest Glade Cemetery and at some distance northerly of our present Salem and Lowell Streets; it crosses the Danvers-Newburyport railroad north of the Lowell Street station; crosses Vernon Street, south of the Lynnfield-Wakefield line; then, still northwesterly over the Edward's Hill to Main Street, crossing the Saugus River about half way between Vernon Street and Main Street; thence, the new route turns sharply to the southwest crossing Lowell Street, at or near the Building Wrecking Company's yard; crossing North Avenue west of the present Quannapowitt Highway; thence, southwesterly across swamp land, crossing Elm Street to the south of Bear Hill, crossing Brook Road at or near its junction with Elm Street west; thence, across Hopkins Street and the Bear Hill Golf course, Prospect Street and across Main Street south of its intersection with North Street, just north of the Stoneham line. This is the extent of the new 128 route now planned.

R. W. Coburn, chief engineer, in his letter to the Tercentenary Committee adds this further information:

"I am enclosing a section of the topographical map on which is shown in red the proposed location for the new Route 128 in Wakefield. The detailed plans are not yet sufficiently complete to give out.

"This route will be constructed as a four-lane divided highway, with highway grade separations at all important cross roads. Entrance from abutting land will be restricted under the Limited Access law, and the entire design will be comparable to the finest examples of express highway construction in the United States.

"No prediction can be made as to when this work will be done as this depends on future State and Federal appropriations. However, it is hoped that sufficient appropriations will be made so that the work may be done immediately after the war."



## CHAPTER NINETEEN

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### *Lakes, Parks and Playgrounds*

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*Wakefield's Lakes, Parks and Playgrounds — Incentive to Healthful Recreation — Veterans', Moulton, Mapleway and Nasella Playgrounds*

Wakefield has been unusually favored by nature for the laying out of parks and playgrounds. First credit goes to the early settlers in providing a Common and a wide main street through the center of the town. This has been a valuable heritage for later generations. Few towns in the state are so favored.

The second definite action to preserve open areas came in 1741 when our present Main Street, Common, Lakeside, Church, Prospect and Elm Streets were declared common land to be held *forever* for the use and benefit of the inhabitants of the town. Any change was to be by *unanimous* consent of *all* the townspeople. This restriction has never been violated!

Wakefield's scenic park between Church Street and Lake Quannapowitt was acquired in 1883 through a generous bequest of \$10,000 by Cornelius Sweetser, Jr., of Saco, Maine, a native of our town. The southerly section had long been occupied, first as the first cemetery, later by the parsonage of Parson Reuben Emerson, the first Town House, the old Yale engine house and Bryant's blacksmith shop. All these, in time, gave way to modern needs. Our Common and Park combine to make Wakefield's civic center a public playground of inestimable value for all time.

In recent years the town has recognized the need of additional open spaces in various parts of the town. The old Morrill and Atwood ice house property, located on the southwest shore of Lake Quannapowitt, was acquired and on this picturesque spot there was laid out the Church Street Playground of spacious size, now named Veterans' Field.

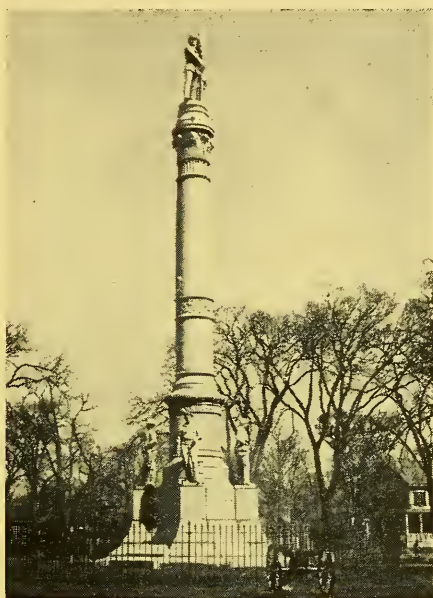
The Hart's Hill 23-acre Reservation, on whose summit is a fire tower; Maple Way Playground in Greenwood; the Moulton Field between Albion and Gould Streets; and the Nasella Playground on Water Street are more recent additions to our Park System, one of the best in the state. The present generation has met its obligations with sensible recognition of the demands of our youth for athletic sports and physical development, as well as for the use by the public as occasions arise.

Included in our Park System is the Bath House on Lake Quannapowitt, recently modernized and conducted by the town for the use and protection of the young people and by soldiers from Camp Curtis Guild.

At the upper end of Lake Quannapowitt the Metropolitan District has a free bathing beach under state control and supervision.

Walton Field, a playground primarily for the High School—for football and baseball—occupies a large area of level land west of the High School. This Field was a gift of the late Mr. and Mrs. Arthur G. Walton, and its frequent use has justified the donors' philanthropic attitude toward healthful sports.

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**SOLDIERS' MONUMENT**  
On the Common

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### LAKES, HILLS AND COMMON

When the first settlers came to Linn Village in 1639, the topography was as it is three hundred years later. The two lakes, ample in size, beautiful in their setting—a crown of glory to our town. The larger was called the "Greate Pond" and by the first settlers, Reading Pond. No early Indian name is known to have existed, although evidences of Indian life on its borders have been found. The old name appeared inappropriate,

as the lake lies entirely within the bounds of Wakefield and so, in 1847, it was given the name of Quannapowitt, in honor of one of the signers of the old Indian deed of 1686. Its area is 247 acres, with sandy beaches at either end. Its outlet is the Saugus River to the ocean and its waters go into Lynn's water supply.

Our public Park fronts beautifully against the clear waters of the lake on which craft of the Quannapowitt Yacht Club dot its surface in good weather. Its winter ice is a lure for skaters of all ages, with a few ice boats doing their varied stunts. For long years ice has been harvested annually for home consumption, although for many years the Boston Ice Company shipped their ice to Boston. There is little good fishing, although the lake has often been stocked.

At the south end of the center of the town is a smaller lake of only eighty-two acres of area, early known as Wahpatuck Pond, later Smith's Pond, (named for the early Smiths) and now known as Crystal Lake. This is Wakefield's original and principal supply of domestic water for drinking and industry. At the south end two small islands dot its surface. At the north end are located the town's water pumping station and filtra-

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**CRYSTAL LAKE (64 Acres)**  
Town Water Supply

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tion bed. The outlet is Mill River, flowing east to join the Saugus River at the Lynnfield-Saugus town line. In earlier years the Boston Ice Company operated a large ice house on the northerly shores, long since destroyed by fire. Fishing and boating are prohibited.

“From rounded Cedar’s airy crest,  
View lake, with leafy hem,—  
Two farie islands on its brest,  
Shining a CRYSTAL gem.”

Wakefield lies in a valley, left by the retreat of the ice in glacial years of centuries past. Hart's Hill at the Junction, commands a wide view for many miles, and looks down on placid Crystal Lake. On its summit is a Fire Tower, placed there in 1913. Over Castle Rock, farther to the east and on the Wakefield-Saugus line, is a bold promontory from whose crest, on a clear day, may be seen the Atlantic Ocea. To the west of the town is Cowdrey's Hill, named for William Cowdrey, a first settler. This hill has always been popular as a residential section. Farther west is Bear Hill, so called according to tradition, for its lack of trees, a condition that still exists. On its slopes the Bear Hill golfers play the game. How aptly is an entry in Ralph W. Emerson's diary of 1848, "Finest picture, through wintry air of the russet Massachusetts, the landscape is democratic, not gathered into one city or baronial castle, but equally scattered into these white steeples, round which a town clusters in every place where six roads meet."



Exceptional playground opportunities exist in  
several sections of the town



## CHAPTER TWENTY

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### *Civic and Philanthropic*

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#### *Organizations Aiding Cultural and Philanthropic Progress Objects — Activities*

#### SWEETSER LECTURES

Cornelius Sweetser, of Saco, Maine, and a native of the old town of Reading (born April 6, 1808) made the Sweetser Lectures possible with a bequest of \$10,000—in trust to the town of Wakefield “to expend the income yearly in providing lectures as will tend to improve and elevate the public mind” . . . the proceeds to go “to such charitable organizations as the municipal officers may designate, to be distributed among the worthy poor of the town.” From 1886 to 1943, inclusive, lectures have been provided for the public, with nationally known lecturers, and speakers on national and international subjects, personages of note, of scientific and notable explorations, music, etc., in endless variety of wholesome and instructive entertainment—all under able direction and management of appointed town citizens.

All balances, as profit, are turned over to the Sweetser Charity, organized in 1891, for the distribution to needy people of the town. The income and receipts on hand in 1943 amounted to \$514.38. During the existence of the Sweetser Lectures goodly sums have annually been turned over to the Sweetser Charity.

#### WAKEFIELD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Wakefield merchants and local industry have been more or less united, generally speaking, over the years, commencing with the old Board of Trade organized November 30, 1886, and particularly flourishing in the early '90's. Then came the former Wakefield Merchants' and Business Men's Association about 1904.

Many outstanding leaders have guided the destinies of various groups. Outings were held in the earlier days, and “Wakefield Days,” “Dollar Days” and various other special shopping attractions, including the offering of costly merchandise prizes via the coupon system, have been successfully launched.

In 1921, a movement was started for the organization of an active Chamber of Commerce, which was successfully undertaken in succeeding months under the leadership of Lauren L. McMaster, president, and a loyal group of officers and more than 500 active members. A professional executive secretary, Donald G. Roby, was in charge of all Chamber activities for the years 1922 and 1923, during which time there resulted definite, organized programs of major civic accomplishments, with widespread publicity in both newspaper and pamphlet form.

In the succeeding years interest in such an ambitious and costly program began to wane; then came the "depression" of 1929, when local chamber activity practically ceased.

In an attempt to retain what industrial activity the town had, during the early '30's, and at the same time try to attract new, diversified industries to Wakefield, a group of leading citizens banded themselves together under the name of the Wakefield Expansion Board, and successfully functioned as an industrial group, whose major interest was industrial expansion.

Later, about 1934, the need for a Chamber of Commerce again became manifest, and the present organization was effected, with Expansion Board leaders merging with the new and wider interests, under the leadership of Frederick W. Bliss, president.

In 1935, William Blanchard was elected president, which office he retains at the time of publication of this history, with credit to himself and to the town, and with the aid of a supporting board of directors, whose interest and loyalty towards the town, state and national chamber activities is commendable.

As constituted in 1944, the Wakefield Chamber of Commerce is a vital, progressive force in Wakefield, and has sponsored many notable occasions. Outstanding among recent endeavors were the Old Home Week celebration and pageant of 1934, and the dedication of the new post office building.

The Chamber has achieved a record for the introduction of new industries. It maintains a Bureau of Business Research, containing thousands of references on 133 business subjects. It has published "come hither" booklets, setting forth the advantages of Wakefield for business and homes.

The Wakefield Chamber is a member of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, and of the American Statistical Association.

It subscribes to twenty business information services covering every branch of business and industry, and all new developments from industrial research.

The executive secretary, N. J. Busby, is an alumnus of the National Institute for Commercial and Trade Organization Executives of Northwestern University, of Evanston, Illinois.

A description of Wakefield in attractive literature, is listed in six of the leading trade directories which have national distribution in every public library listed in the cities of the United States.

### THE WAKEFIELD CLUB

The Wakefield Club, originally the Wakefield Athletic Club, was formed on March 12, 1879, as a result of a preliminary meeting of a number of young men, at the residence of Otis V. Waterman.

The first quarters of the club were in the present Boothby building on Main Street, opposite Albion Street. Ira O. Wiley was the first president. The club was formed to provide a meeting place which would afford suitable amusements and diversions for its members. It was and always has been a private, social, non-political group, although its membership has included many town and state officials.

Quarters have been occupied in the former Cartwright Block, and in the Gould Building, both now removed, before going in 1938 to the present location in the Hodgdon Building, 506A Main Street.

Harry Marshall is president.

### THE KOSMOS CLUB

The Kosmos Club was organized on April 12, 1895. Mrs. Edward P. Colby was its first president. The object of the club, as stated in the constitution, is "to broaden and strengthen the moral, social, and intellectual life of its members and through them to make itself a power for good in the community."

The club has a student loan fund established in 1905. Through this fund many Wakefield boys and girls have received financial aid in securing higher education. In 1912, a committee from the club arranged an open meeting to interest Wakefield citizens in a District Nurse Association; the present Visiting Nurse Association is the outcome of that meeting. In 1926, a living Christmas tree was presented to the town. In 1930, the Wakefield Garden Club was organized under the sponsorship of the Kosmos Club.

At the first annual meeting, 18 members were present; on February 28, 1944, there were 300 members with a waiting list of 16.

Mrs. Arthur A. Fulton is president.

## WAKEFIELD YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

The Wakefield Y. M. C. A. is a part of a world-wide fellowship. This year, 1944, the Wakefield Association joins with 10,000 other Y. M. C. A.'s around the world in celebrating the 100th anniversary of the founding of the first Y. M. C. A. in London, England, by George Williams, on June 6, 1844.

The Wakefield Association was organized on February 12, 1902, by a group of twenty-five representative male citizens of the community, at a meeting held in Flanley's Hall. The men attending this meeting were: A. D. Dimick, E. R. Patridge, Edward Winkler, W. F. Deadman, J. S. Griffiths, E. C. Hodges, H. B. Evans, C. L. Harlow, W. H. Flanders, H. W. Jackson, Frederick Emerson, W. J. Brenan, Wallace Bennett, G. A. Johnson, W. O. Abbott, H. A. Perkins, G. S. Grattan, and F. A. Sweetser.

The first meeting of a Board of Directors was held at the home of John W. White on February 16, 1903. Mr. White was elected the first president, and Harvey B. Evans, the first vice-president.

The cornerstone for the present building was laid on September 16, 1908 and the building was opened on April 7, 1909. Ernest P. Conlon was called as the first General Secretary.

The Association has sought to serve the youth of Wakefield over the past 35 years through an extensive program of educational, physical, social, and spiritual activities.

Some idea as to the present scope of its program is indicated in statistics released by General Secretary Frank H. Terhune for the year 1943. During this year, 46 organized Y. M. C. A. groups held a total enrollment of 786 members. These groups held 907 sessions which were attended by 10,648 people. "Y" groups also held 61 special events which recorded an attendance of 1,828. Such organized clubs as the Y's men, Hi-Y and Tri-Hi-Y had 219 members enrolled. Two summer day camps, enrolling 71 boys and 49 girls, held 30 sessions which were attended by 1,375 campers. The Y. M. C. A. dormitory of 12 rooms recorded an occupancy of 3,916 bed nights.

In addition to its own program in 1943, the Association in serving as a recreation center for men in the armed forces stationed in and near Wakefield, provided 1,876 men with shower baths free of charge, while 2,701 men in uniform made use of the reading, writing and game room facilities in the Association building.

The Association also rendered service to 36 other organizations in Wakefield by providing them meeting room space on a regular or occasional schedule. At 367 such meetings held in the Association building, there was a recorded attendance of 8,516.



Wakefield citizens have generously financed the work of the association and helped maintain the building through public financial appeals. Since 1943 this phase of the activity has been handled through membership in the Wakefield Community Chest and its affiliation with the Greater Boston United War Fund.

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**WAKEFIELD Y. M. C. A. BUILDING**

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Men now serving on the Y. M. C. A. Board of Directors are: Irving Burwen, President; Roy A. Hovey, Vice President; Donald A. Bartlett, Recording Secretary; John S. Hird, Treasurer; George E. Blair, Forrest E. Carter, Rev. LeRoy A. Congdon, George J. Evans, Lawrence R. Gardner, Prescott R. Harmon, Milan L. Hatch, Jabez Hollett, Thomas F. Kenney, John M. Petersen, and Kenneth W. Thomson.

#### THE WAKEFIELD CATHOLIC CLUB

The Wakefield Catholic Club was established in 1905. The first president was Mrs. Minnie Gihon. Purpose: the moral, social and intellectual uplift of its members; the making of the club a power for good in all movements for the betterment of the community. Its members conduct many charities and a variety of classes—painting, physical culture, cooking, needlework and a Book Club, started in 1906. The 1944 president is Miss Helen M. Kelley.

### THE BOOK AND THIMBLE CLUB

The Book and Thimble Club is an organization whose object is social, intellectual and charitable. Organized in 1908, with 14 members, the club has met, regularly, on Monday from November to May.

Originally interested in general charity, it has concentrated in recent years, on the Sharon Fund, which has sent tubercular contact children to the Sharon Health Camp. The club has also sponsored the work of sending out the Christmas seals.

Since the beginning of World War II, the members of the club work as a surgical-dressings unit of the Red Cross.

The president is Mrs. Allyn T. Gilbert.

### WAKEFIELD ARTS AND CRAFTS SOCIETY

This society, first known as the Handcraft Society, was organized February 12, 1915, "to raise the standard of handcraft in the community and to furnish a means of exchange between producer and consumer."

During the first World War, the society established a melting pot to which articles of silver and gold were contributed. These were sold to buy wool for the special aid.

The society also presented and interpreted living pictures of Abbey's frieze of the Holy Grail, with Parsifal music. This artistic achievement, in which 70 persons took part, was given in the Princess Theatre February 25, 1918, and is still remembered with enthusiasm. It made possible another substantial contribution for the much-needed wool.

On its twenty-fifth anniversary, the society presented a fine pair of andirons to the Beebe Memorial Library.

It also furnished a room at the Colonel James Hartshorne House.

The name Wakefield Arts and Crafts Society was adopted November 7, 1922.

Exhibits and sales have been sponsored, often with craftsmen at work; guilds in the crafts have been maintained, and there have been classes in art appreciation and pilgrimages to places of interest.

Membership is limited to 75 and there is usually a waiting list.

The president is Mrs. Arthur L. Denton.

### THE WAKEFIELD MOTHERS' CLUB

The Wakefield Mothers' Club, formed in 1915, endeavors to bring about conditions under which children may develop physically, mentally, morally and spiritually to their fullest extent, and to arouse in mothers a

sense of their responsibility. The club has 250 members, and new members are added at each meeting. It meets the fourth Monday of each month in one of the churches and at each meeting there is a devotional service, music and a speaker who brings a message especially valuable to mothers.

The club is affiliated with Union Mothers' Association and members attend its meetings and render reports of them twice a year.

Its charities include every local worthy cause, including Community Chest, Red Cross, donations to children's wards in nearby hospitals, special gifts to Sharon Health Fund, Floating Hospital, and Little Wanderers' Home. This year, in addition to the donation for the Y. M. C. A. included in the Community Fund, the members voted to give a sum of money for membership in the "Y" to deserving boys and girls who could not afford to belong, otherwise.

The president, at this time, is Mrs. Ray Cutter.

#### SANTISSIMA MARIA DEL CARMINE SOCIETY

This society was organized and incorporated on July 10, 1916. Its purpose is to spread among Italian men and women the importance of holding on to their Catholic faith; and to build a church where all persons of the Catholic faith, living in the Italian section, may worship.

The society owns the property at 94 Water Street, on which it built a Catholic Chapel. With the help and co-operation of Rev. Florence J. Halloran, pastor of St. Joseph's Church, Mass is said in the chapel every Sunday morning.

This chapel is now too small to accommodate the worshipers, and as this history goes to press, a committee is engaged in raising a fund for the building of a new church edifice on the present grounds. Their efforts have been most encouraging and the gifts generous.

#### WAKEFIELD ROTARY CLUB

The Rotary Club of Wakefield received its charter from Rotary International September 28, 1922. The charter membership consisted of 25 business and professional men of Wakefield and weekly luncheon-meetings have been held, usually at the Y. M. C. A., each Tuesday noon since its organization. The first president was Albert K. Comins, who, in 1928, was appointed Governor of the 31st Rotary District, a signal honor.

During the nearly 22 years of the club's existence, the membership has averaged about 33 members, the largest membership being 48 and the lowest 28.

In 1926 the club organized and equipped a boys' band of approximately 30 pieces, and maintained it for several years, turning it over as a going organization to the high school. The present excellent high school band is the result. Many other projects for the benefit of the town have been sponsored by the club. The present membership is 34.

Charles J. Peterson is president.

### WAKEFIELD LIONS CLUB

This local organization's ideals are to have faith in humanity, a willingness to serve and a spirit of friendship. To this add: "doing with others the things they cannot do alone" and "to establish in the hearts of its members a spirit of loyalty to the nation."

The 1944 president is Police Chief John G. Gates.

### THE WAKEFIELD GARDEN CLUB

Under the sponsorship of the Kosmos Club, Mrs. Charles E. Randall and Mrs. William W. Greenough organized the Wakefield Garden Club on October 9, 1930, to "further the advancement of gardening, to develop home grounds, and to contribute to civic betterment." The qualifications for membership are "possession of a garden, an active interest in gardening, and willingness to aid in projects of constructive benefit to the town."

From a small group of 20 women the club has grown to a membership of 75.

In 1931, 27 members enrolled in a course in home gardening at the Essex Agricultural School.

The Garden Club has bought and presented to the town rock maple trees and shade trees for the Water Street playground. In addition to these, many trees were given to fill in vacancies caused by the hurricane of 1938. The triangle at Church and Lafayette Streets, and the beautifully landscaped triangles at Prospect and Elm Streets, were planned and planted by members of the Civic Betterment Committee.

Funds to destroy poison ivy in various parts of the town also have been provided by the Civic Betterment Committee.

For the past three years the Horticultural Committee has planted a demonstration garden at the Church Street playground at the rear of the Hartshorne House. The combination of the newer kinds of flowers with vegetables has proved of great interest to many visitors during the summer months. The 1943 demonstration garden received an award from the Recreational Division Committee of the New England Council in recognition of its contribution to the attractiveness of its community."



This year, in recognition of the town's Tercentenary celebration, the Horticultural Committee is developing an old-time herb garden at the Garden Center, Hartshorne House grounds.

In the spring of 1943, Mrs. Archibald Hume trained a group of 15 High School boys, known as Victory Garden Troopers, to work as garden helpers. Their services were in constant demand by the townspeople.

Each year since 1931 the club has held a flower show.

At present the club is co-operating with the State Federation in its horticultural therapy for hospitalized members of our armed forces at nearby army hospitals. Members helped decorate the Lovell General Hospital at Fort Devens at Christmas time for the past three years, and are now busy collecting money and plants for the hospital gardens in which convalescent soldiers may exercise and relax.

Mrs. Howard S. Glynn is president.

#### GREENWOOD WOMAN'S CLUB

Greenwood Woman's Club was organized June 13, 1934, with 28 charter members, and now has a membership of about 135. Object: to open wider avenues of community service and to promote philanthropic work. The tenth anniversary of the club was celebrated on April 28, 1944, with a luncheon at the Union Church. A review depicted Mrs. Fell serving as first president, followed by five presidents, each giving efficient services. The new president elected was Mrs. Walter K. Freeman.

#### THE GREENWOOD JUNIOR WOMAN'S CLUB

In January, 1938, a group of young women between the ages of 15 and 30, organized the Greenwood Junior Woman's Club, sponsored by the Greenwood Woman's Club, who appoint two members to attend all meetings of the Juniors and act as advisers to the club. The club is a non-partisan, non-sectarian, non-political organization with aims, as adopted at the time of organization "to promote a spirit of friendliness among the girls of Greenwood and to further community spirit," with special emphasis, at this time, upon the war effort.

The club was admitted to the Massachusetts State Federation of Women's Clubs, Department of Junior Membership, in May, 1938. The club has participated in several of the contests sponsored by the Federation, in competition with all other Junior clubs in the state, winning first prize in 1941 for their yearbook. For excellence of program, in 1941 honorable mention was attained, and in 1942, first prize, a beautiful silver cup, was awarded to the Greenwood Junior Woman's Club.

The money-making schemes have been many and varied. Since the war, the money has been used to purchase war savings bonds.

### THE WEST SIDE SOCIAL CLUB

The history of the West Side Social Club presents an outstanding example of what can be accomplished by a small group of citizens in a community, when they are united in a common purpose.

The West Side Social Club was founded in December, 1935, when a group of 19 young men residing on the West Side of Wakefield met and agreed they could unite, and could promote social, civic, and educational activities which would reflect on the welfare of their district, namely the West Side of Wakefield.

This small group elected as their first president, John J. Powers, and during the year following their organization a club house was erected off Albion Street.

Herbert D. Anderson is president in 1944.

Members worked for civic improvements and accomplished much in this respect, for with the backing of the organization the Moulton Playground off Albion Street, Byron Street, and Gould Street, was developed by the town.

It was on this playground that the club members, with the financial assistance of other citizens of the West Side, provided the town of Wakefield with July 4th celebrations in the years of 1939-40-41.

During the year 1943 the members dedicated a plaque in honor of their members in the armed service of World War II, also a service flag was dedicated to fly on the Moulton Playground in honor of all men and women serving in World War II from the West Side. This service flag, at the time of its dedication, showed five gold stars and 449 blue stars.

In February, 1944, the membership of the West Side Social Club numbered well over 100 members, of which 35 are in the armed forces of our country.

### BEAR HILL GOLF CLUB

Some time after Stedman Hanks developed the Wakefield Park section for residential sites, a group organized a Country Club, with headquarters in a dwelling on Morrison Road. Out of this club came the Bear Hill Golf Club, organized in 1900. A club house was located on Hopkins Street and a golf course laid out. In 1913 the club acquired land lying to the south and across Prospect Street, built a commodious new club house on the south side of Prospect Street, and laid out a new 9-hole golf course. Several purchases of adjacent lands gave opportunity to lengthen the golf holes, and when completed the club had and has one of the best in this part of the state. In September, 1939, the club house

was burned down. A new \$30,000 club house was built and it is today, in size, equipment and all desirable essentials an imposing club house and often used by civic and social organizations.

#### WAKEFIELD BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB

The Wakefield Business and Professional Women's Club was formed October 26, 1937. Objects: to promote the common interests of women actively engaged in business and professional work; to maintain highest standards, and to be a constructive force for civic betterment of the town. The club has affiliation with the National Federation and the International Federation. The president is Mrs. Willhelmina Walker.

#### COMMUNITY ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

The Community Athletic Association of Greenwood was organized December 13, 1937. Its purpose is to increase interest in and improve facilities for athletic activities in Greenwood. This is for the benefit of the youth of the community in particular. The membership is non-sectarian and non-political, is available to any man 18 years or over, and now numbers 100.

The association has been particularly interested in the playground and the activities centered there for the boys and girls of the community. Its members have done much individually and collectively toward providing equipment for use at the grounds, and the construction of benches, stands and backstops for the tennis courts.

To keep up interest in the association, bowling leagues and softball teams were organized, which have given a good account of themselves. Under the guidance of some of the members, many of the youth of the town have started on their way toward athletic prominence. Over 30 members who are in the armed service of our country are now listed on the honor roll.

The first president of the association was William G. Dill. The present leader is Levi G. Cook.

#### QUANNAPOWITT PLAYERS

The little theatre movement in this part of the country is best represented by the Quannapowitt Players, now in their seventh season. The organization, given its original impetus by Clare Tulin Robinson of Reading, is a joint enterprise among persons in both Wakefield and Reading, and came into existence on December 10, 1937. The major productions, three plays a year, have been divided between the two towns. While the club

has contributed to many other benefit funds, it has turned over the proceeds of one play each year to the Y. M. C. A. in recognition of their splendid co-operation. The Quannapowitt Players is the only organization which is a Wakefield-Reading club, carrying on the early traditions of mutual association between the towns.

#### MONTROSE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

This is an organization of a group of public-spirited residents of Montrose, dating from February, 1938. Its objects are to promote the interests of the entire community, to improve home surroundings, streets, sidewalks, and zoning laws, emphasizing Montrose as a good place in which to live. The association was instrumental in obtaining a branch of the Lucius Beebe Memorial Library in Montrose, and has been of great assistance to the district in many ways. Hiram Tobey is the 1944 president.

#### WAKEFIELD TAXPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

Organized April 21, 1939, through the efforts of the Greenwood Men's Club, the first Board of Directors consisted of five voters from each of the three precincts. Objects: "to foster, encourage and promote non-partisan interest in, and study of, the business and fiscal activities of local, county, state and federal government agencies, as such activities may affect the taxpayers of Wakefield, and by co-operation to assist in effecting economy and efficiency in public affairs." Any registered voter is eligible to membership. Yearly dues are \$1.00. The association can claim some credit in the lowering of the tax rate of \$37.60 in 1930 to the rate of \$28 in 1943.

Edward A. Ramsey is president.

#### WAKEFIELD HIGHWAY SAFETY COUNCIL

The Wakefield Highway Safety Council was organized in May, 1939, and the original members of the Council were James M. Henderson, Patrick H. Tenney, Louise P. Marché and Robert F. Fitz.

The purpose of the Highway Safety Council is to try to prevent traffic injuries and deaths among the citizens of the town and especially among the school children, by making safety suggestions to the proper town authorities, and by conducting an educational program in the Wakefield Daily Item, appealing directly to the parents and children themselves.

Meetings were held with the Wakefield School Board regarding the establishment of school boy patrols and this plan, with the able assistance of Superintendent of Schools Atwell and Chief Gates of the Police Department, was put into effect.



The suggestions were made for the placing of speed limit signs on the main thoroughfares, warning and stop signs at dangerous intersections and the changing of location of certain signs that were hidden from the view of the driver because of trees that had grown up since the signs were installed.

In co-operation with the various parent-teacher associations, life-like wooden images were placed in positions near schools to warn drivers to be on the lookout for children.

The Council advocated for some time the adoption by the town of registration plates for bicycles. This plan has now been put into effect.

Many suggestions for better safety conditions have been received from the parents and from the children themselves, and some of these have been passed on to the Board of Selectmen by the Safety Council.

### WAKEFIELD BOY SCOUTS

The Boy Scout movement in Wakefield dates from 1914 when a troop was organized, sponsored by Rev. Claude A. MacKay, pastor of the Greenwood Union Church. The first scoutmaster was Carl W. Sunman, who was followed by Everett Winslow. In the absence of any Council, the boys were dependent on Scouts' handbooks and improvised programs of activities.

In the early days Scouting was largely for boys from 12 to 15 years of age. The movement increased in interest and now includes boys from 9 to 12 years as Cubs; boys somewhat older are designated as Senior Scouts, while the oldest group are organized as Sea, Aviation, Explorer and Ranger units.

Quannapowitt Council, of which Wakefield is a part, was incorporated in 1931 and was the result of adding Melrose, Wakefield, Reading and North Reading to the earlier Malden Council. The district organization consists of various Cub packs, Scout troops, and senior units.

The essence of Scouting is the building of character, through planned indoor and outdoor activities. The Scout oath pledges allegiance to God and Country, and through the Scout laws each boy promises to be trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, reverent and clean living. This means to develop mentally, normally and physically.

During World War I local Scouts gave efficient service in promoting war bonds, stamps and other projects, as distributors of governmental literature to homes, and as messengers on many occasions, largely under the supervision of Scoutmaster Ernest L. Brown and others.

Since the beginning of World War II the six troops of Wakefield scouts have given full service in a hundred ways that does credit to the individual members of the organization and to the scout movement.

Paul H. Heywood is chairman in 1944 of the Wakefield District Committee of Quannapowitt Council. Wakefield Boy Scouts are participating members of the Wakefield Community Chest.

#### WAKEFIELD GIRL SCOUT COUNCIL

The local Girl Scout Council was founded in September, 1941, and received its official charter on December 24, 1941. This council is responsible for guiding and directing the Girl Scout work in the community, and sponsoring the program as recommended for girls from seven to eighteen years of age by the National Council of Girl Scouts.

At the time of organization the council had under its jurisdiction approximately 179 scouts and 15 leaders. There has been a continuous growth in scouting and there are now 451 girl scouts, 126 adults representing the leaders, council and committee members.

The object of this organization is to help girls realize the ideals of womanhood as a preparation for their responsibilities in the home and service to the community.

The council is an active participant in the Wakefield Community Chest.

The 1944 Commissioner is Mrs. Paul S. Emerson.

#### BOARD OF REAL ESTATE BROKERS

The East Middlesex Board of Realtors was organized in 1942 under a charter issued by the National Association of Real Estate Realtors. Its membership comprises leading realtors in Wakefield, Reading and Stoneham. Its objects are to conduct realty business upon fundamental and proven ethics of legitimate business conduct.

The 1944 president is Carleton Bemis of Stoneham.

#### ST. JOSEPH'S BAND

About 25 years ago, a musical organization was founded in Wakefield. From meagre beginnings it flourished into a well-recognized unit. The St. Joseph's Band, under the leadership of Michael A. Sibelli, its founder, has played for many and varied audiences. It first appeared at a "welcome home" parade for the soldiers and sailors of World War I. Since then people have heard its excellent music at Metropolitan District Concerts, military reviews, holiday parades, and religious festivals.

## *Charitable and Fraternal Organizations*

### *Lodges and Their Auxiliary Bodies — Relief Associations*

#### SOUHEGAN LODGE NO. 38 INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS

Souhegan Lodge No. 38, Independent Order of Odd Fellows was instituted in 1844 and continued active until 1853 when the lodge surrendered its charter. In 1871, the lodge was re-instituted with Joseph Dix as Noble Grand. In 1918, the three-story brick building on the corner of Main and Avon Streets was purchased (now known as Odd Fellows' Hall) title being held by the lodge's building association.

Objects: good fellowship and benefits to members and their families in distress. Every year in January the Lodge has an annual anniversary in honor of Thomas Wildey, founder of the order, and in April, 1944, celebrated its one hundredth anniversary with interesting exercises.

J. Edson Tredinnick is the 1944 Noble Grand.



#### **ODD FELLOWS' BUILDING**

Formerly known as Flanley Block, now owned by Souhegan Lodge No. 38, I. O. O. F. and tenanted by numerous fraternal organizations.

### DIVISION 26, ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS

The Ancient Order of Hibernians was organized on August 1, 1868, with 33 members. Timothy Hurley was the first president.

From August, 1868, to March 4, 1876, the organization was known as the Hibernian Aid Society. It was then that the society affiliated with the A. O. H.

During this time, the organization has distributed many thousands of dollars in sick and death benefits. The society was active in building up St. Joseph's parish in its early days, and since September, 1924, has owned a two-story building, in the upper hall of which are its headquarters, with stores on the first floor which are rented. The building is located at the corner of Albion and Foster Streets, opposite the Item building.

Robert P. Hurton is the 1944 president of the organization.

### GOLDEN RULE LODGE OF MASONS

Golden Rule Lodge, A. F. and A. M. had its first regular communication on February 9, 1889, with Bro. William D. Deadman as Worshipful Master, Everett W. Eaton, treasurer, and Willis S. Mason, secretary. The Lodge was duly constituted on January 10, 1889, in the presence of a distinguished group of Masonic officials. The 50th anniversary was observed in three events on Sunday, January 23; Wednesday, January 26, and Friday, January 28, 1938. "The First Fifty Years," published by the lodge immediately following the anniversary, contains a detailed history of the lodge's activities. For 56 years the Wakefield Masons and Odd Fellows have continued harmoniously in sharing the same quarters.

### THE SWEETSER CHARITY—1891 - 1944

In 1881 Cornelius Sweetser left in trust to the town of Wakefield \$10,000, with directions as follows: "to expend the yearly income in providing such lectures as will tend to improve and elevate the public mind, and to impose a reasonable fee for admission to such lectures, and pay over the proceeds of the same to such charitable organization in said Wakefield as the municipal officers of said town may designate, to be distributed among the worthy poor of said town."

The Sweetser lectures were started in 1886, and in 1891 the selectmen, William N. Tyler, Silas W. Flint, and William B. Daniel, called a meeting of ladies of Wakefield, representatives of the various churches and charitable societies existing in the town at that time to consider the organization of a charitable association to dispose of the income of the lectures. The



following churches and societies were represented: the Baptist, Catholic, Congregational, Episcopal, Methodist, and Universalist Churches; the Greenwood Union and Montrose Chapels; the Daughters of Rebekah, and the Women's Relief Corps.

The meeting was held May 27, 1891, and the Sweetser Charity was formally organized. The first president was Mrs. Samuel K. Hamilton.

Previous to the organization of the Sweetser Charity, part of the proceeds of the first lectures was paid to the local Grand Army Post. Since then the proceeds from each year's lecture season have been turned over to the Sweetser Charity, and the money has been quietly spent for the benefit of the worthy poor of Wakefield, in accordance with the terms of Mr. Sweetser's will.

The total amount turned over to the Sweetser Charity from the lecture committee from June 13, 1891 to January 1, 1944, is \$9030.12. (This does not include proceeds from 1943 lectures, which check of \$191.70 was received after Jan. 1, 1944.) Gifts from organizations and individuals from 1891 to 1944 have totaled \$234.47. Savings bank dividends have amounted to \$412.66 and returned loans to \$49.03.

The total amount spent for charity since 1891 has been \$9,422.63.

The balance on hand January 1, 1944, was \$303.65.

According to its by-laws, the Sweetser Charity is self perpetuating. Its present membership is:

*President*, Mrs. Arthur L. Evans, Baptist Church.

*Vice-President*, Mrs. Frank Reid, Montrose Chapel.

*Secretary and Treasurer*, Mrs. Eustace C. Fitz, Episcopal Church.

Miss A. Gertrude Burley, Congregational Church.

Miss Frances A. Mansfield, Universalist Church.

Mrs. A. Frank Harrington, St. Joseph's Church.

Miss Louise Sheldon, Methodist Church.

Mrs. C. Ernest Sanford, Greenwood Union Church.

Mrs. Everett Skinner, Daughters of Rebekah.

## THE ELIZABETH E. BOIT HOME FOR AGED WOMEN

For fifty years the Elizabeth E. Boit Home has been a landmark in Wakefield.

In the spring of 1894 a group of serious-minded citizens gathered, or, as they expressed it, "associated themselves with the intention to constitute a corporation, according to the provisions of the 115th Chapter, public statutes of the Commonwealth of Mass.—The name by which the Corporation shall be known is 'Wakefield Home for Aged Women'—the purpose for

which the Corporation is constituted is to furnish a home for Protestant aged women who have been residents of the town of Wakefield not less than ten years."

The certificate of incorporation was given by the Secretary of the Commonwealth on April 21, 1894. Mrs. Sarah Y. Morton was the first president of the Board of Managers. By-laws were drawn up, the town was canvassed for contributions and the property at 5 Bennett Street, the present location, was purchased. One member of the Board was appointed the Chairman of the Committee on Admissions, and that committee was made up of representatives from the various churches. At the time the Home could accommodate but seven, and there was a waiting list.

The Home has always been under the management of a Board of 23 members chosen from the town at large, and during the half century these Boards have been made up of the town's most highly-respected women. In several cases the length of service has been more than twenty years.

The name of Miss Elizabeth E. Boit runs like a bright thread through the records from the day of incorporation until her death in 1932. In 1921 the Board of Managers recommended "that the name of the 'Wakefield Home for Aged Women be changed to the Elizabeth E. Boit Home for Aged Women' in recognition of Miss Boit's great generosity to the Home since the foundation, and of her faithful assistance in the management of the affairs of the Home." In that same year, 1921, the Home was enlarged to its present size, affording rooms for six additional women. A New Year reception was held to celebrate the new name and the addition.

Throughout the first fifty years the Home has depended on the generosity of the townspeople for its support, and it has never been let down. The annual Donation Days, the Membership Drives, and the Spring Luncheons planned and conducted for so many years by the Board and the local clubs have been well known and successful events. Many gifts toward the running expenses and additions to the endowment have been gratefully received. This year, however, there is a change of policy. The Home has been admitted to the Greater Boston Community Fund, as a participating member of the Wakefield Community Chest.

A contribution which is most gratefully acknowledged at this time is that made by the physicians and clergymen of the town. Medical care beyond measure has been given at any and all times. Religious services are conducted at the Home at least once a month, bringing great spiritual comfort to all who can attend. Other visitors bringing cheer have been welcome at all times.

At present there are 13 members of the Home family living pleasantly

and comfortably under the care of the matron, Miss Margaret Johnson, and her assistant, Mrs. MacDonald. In its 50 years of service 60 women have enjoyed its peaceful shelter. Of these two lived at the Home more than twenty years, and several others more than a dozen years. It is a fine record.

#### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Wakefield Council, No. 104, Knights of Columbus was organized and received its charter September 30, 1894, with an enrollment of 75 members. It is purely a Catholic fraternal organization, having standard forms of insurance and social membership; providing mutual aid and assistance to the sick and disabled members; promoting social, educational, charitable and religious activity; and assisting in public and welfare relief and war work.

Its chaplain is Rev. Florence J. Halloran, LL.D., and the Grand Knight is Frederick J. Wheeler.

#### HARMONY CHAPTER NO. 60, EASTERN STAR

Harmony Chapter No. 60, Order of the Eastern Star was instituted on December 16, 1897, with a charter list of 46 members. First Worthy Matron was Harriet M. Ware. First Worthy Patron was Arthur B. Weld. The present membership is about 300. The Chapter is prominent in the social and fraternal life of the town, and contributes to many charities.

The present Worthy Matron is Mrs. H. Ruth Crocker.

#### WAKEFIELD COURT NO. 161, M. C. O. F.

The Massachusetts Catholic Order of Foresters, a fraternal organization, was granted its first charter on March 12, 1879, in Boston, with a membership of 56 men.

It was founded for "charitable purposes, in the promotion of fraternity, unity and true Christian charity amongst its members and for the purpose of raising and maintaining a fund in order to give substantial assistance in time of sickness and distress."

It wasn't until fifteen years later in April of 1894 that the membership of the organization, originally limited to men, permitted the admittance of women. As the membership grew, charters were granted in the various cities and towns throughout the state.

On December 21, 1898, Wakefield Court No. 161 was instituted with 18 members. Of this number, four charter members remain on the roll, namely; William Bowman, Mrs. Mary Desmond, James Galvin and Michael Hallissey.

The adult membership of the Court at the present time numbers 77, and Mrs. Eileen M. Parsons is Chief Ranger for 1944.

A new branch of the Foresters, known as the Juvenile Division, which has just been formed for persons up to sixteen years of age, is proving very popular, there being at the present time 25 members in Wakefield Court. This makes a total of 102 members of the Massachusetts Catholic Order of Foresters belonging to Wakefield Court.

#### WILLIAM MCKINLEY LODGE 101, KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS

This Lodge was instituted February 12, 1902, and has listed as members many prominent citizens and town officials. A few of the charter members are still alive, with a membership record of 42 years. The 1944 membership is 64 with 11 in the armed services.

The first chancellor commander was Dr. James H. Kimball and Henry Sampson is the present chancellor commander.

#### WAKEFIELD AERIE NO. 842, FRATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES

The Wakefield Aerie was instituted September 4, 1904 as a beneficial and social organization. Among the national activities to its credit are the 1921 campaign for old age pensions resulting in the National Security Act; the workingmen's compensation laws and adequate widows' pension laws, and the idea of Mother's Day. The Order is now advancing the fight for stabilization of employment.

The Aerie has a membership of 253.

Thomas J. McKeon is president.

#### WAHPATUCK TRIBE 54, IMPROVED ORDER OF RED MEN

The name originated from Chief Wahpatuck, Sachem of the Massachusetts Indians, son of Chief Chicatalbut, who died in 1633, a victim of smallpox. Chief Wahpatuck was killed in 1669 while on a raid against the Mohawks. The meaning of the name is "the white water of the waterfall." Wahpatuck Tribe 54 received its charter on the sleep of October 8, 1909 in Grand Army Hall. At the present time, April 1, 1944, it is the largest tribe of Red Men in the state. The Red Men own their wigwam, located at 33 West Water Street, and have a membership of over 250.

The present Sachem is Fred Fletcher.

#### SWEDISH SOCIETY ODEN

In the early nineties of the last century, a mild-mannered, and likable Swedish man, Andrew Johnson, approached his fellow countrymen—and



there were a lot of them at the old Wakefield Rattan Shop—and proposed that they form an organization or society for mutual benefit and social times.

With the assistance of such capable men as the late Andrew G. Anderson, foreman at the rattan shop, well-known Odd Fellow, and for many years a selectman, and Axel Nelson, now deceased, men qualified for organization and leadership, a primary meeting was held on February 8, 1892, with Andrew Johnson temporary chairman. It was then decided to form a Scandinavian Benefit Society. It turned out to be entirely Swedish as there were no Norwegians nor Danes in Wakefield. From 1909 this organization has been known as the Swedish Society Oden.

The society started with 37 members.

For over a third of a century the society has paid sick and death benefits to members. besides donating liberally to individuals and institutions. The officers and members have included men of prominence in local affairs, and while the society has not been spectacular during its long career, the organization has kept along in a quiet way, fulfilling fraternal obligations and serving the interests of members and their families.

Women have been admitted to membership and have contributed successfully to the social end of the society's activities. The present membership is 74.

Albert Johnson is the 1944 president.

#### WAKEFIELD GRANGE NO. 293, PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY

Organized November 10, 1910

Not only is the Grange the oldest and strongest farm organization in America, but it is the only farmers' fraternity in the world. Bringing together into compact groups the people of the open country, it directs its energies towards four distinct objects: (1) A more prosperous agriculture; (2) a more practical education; (3) a better community life; (4) higher ideals of manhood, womanhood and citizenship. All this is achieved through the helpful development of the individual.

#### WAKEFIELD LODGE NO. 1276

##### BENEVOLENT AND PROTECTIVE ORDER OF ELKS

Wakefield Lodge No. 1276, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, was instituted May 16, 1912, in the town hall, with a charter membership of 123, under the leadership of its first Exalted Ruler, Col. Edward J. Gihon. Included in its jurisdiction are the towns of Wakefield, Reading, North Reading, Stoneham and Lynnfield.

The early meetings of the lodge were held in Grand Army Hall, but a rapidly expanding membership soon necessitated larger quarters.

In 1914 the lodge purchased the spacious residence known as the Fitz Estate, overlooking beautiful Lake Quannapowitt. With Col. Gihon again serving as Exalted Ruler, the new home was officially dedicated May 20, 1914.

Actively participating in patriotic, civic, and fraternal affairs, the lodge has acquired an outstanding reputation.

The 1944 Exalted Ruler is Charles V. Statuti of North Reading.

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**ELKS' HOME, MAIN ST., LAKESIDE**

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### THE WAKEFIELD VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION

The idea of a Visiting Nurse Association for Wakefield originated in the mind of the former Mrs. George Burgess, and became a reality with the formation of an organization in June, 1912. Mrs. Burgess was assisted in the details of organizing by the Kosmos Club, and she became its first president. The first considerable money-making effort was an outdoor and indoor fete on the grounds of the former Wakefield Mansion, where the high school now stands.

The purpose of the Association—"to care for the sick of Wakefield in their homes"—has been carried out through the years and the work has steadily expanded. Indeed, so greatly has it expanded, that its activities require a full-time nurse, a second nurse for half-time or more, and a full-time clerk.

The Association has, for many years, maintained a well-baby clinic, with a pediatrician in attendance. To every bi-monthly clinic come babies, to the number of 25 and 50, and their mothers.

The town contributes financially to the maintenance of this community health work by its annual appropriation of \$500.

The Association is a member of the Greater Boston Community Fund organization, through its affiliation as a participating member of the Wakefield Community Chest, and two insurance companies pay regularly for the visits of the nurses to their policyholders.

The business of the Association is carried on by a Board of Directors, which consists of 20 women and two men. Its business is transacted with a proper sense of its importance to the public health of Wakefield.

Mrs. Carlos Monge is the 1944 president.

#### WAKEFIELD HEBREW LADIES' CHARITABLE SOCIETY

The Wakefield Hebrew Ladies' Charitable Society, with 24 years of uninterrupted, devoted service to its credit, has a notable record of accomplishment.

Founded by 19 local women of the Jewish faith in July, 1920, as a chartered organization, its main purpose, as its name implies, is to provide aid to the needy and to render assistance in the maintenance of health, relief and cultural standards on a non-sectarian basis.

It fills a social as well as cultural need in the community. Today, with a membership of 40 women, which includes members from the adjacent communities of Melrose, Stoneham, Reading and Lynnfield, its benefactions, locally, nationally, and abroad, are as manifold as they are numerous.

Its members, both as a group and individually, are active participants in civilian defense, boxes for service men, Red Cross and war bond sales.

The society will continue to uphold and improve its standards to meet the demand of the community and of its people.

Mrs. Barnet Gersin is honorary president, and Mrs. David Berman is president.

#### WAKEFIELD FIREMEN'S RELIEF ASSOCIATION

Organized January 15, 1895, this association has consistently rendered a beneficial service to all firemen. Members of the fire department are liable, in the discharge of their duty, to many casualties to which citizens generally are not exposed. This called for the formation of this Association for the purpose of mutual aid and assistance. Townspeople, at the annual ball, have been generous in response, and year by year, have, with the firemen themselves, seen the wisdom of the creation of this Association and its successful career. The 1944 president is Daniel J. Sullivan.

### WAKEFIELD POLICE RELIEF ASSOCIATION, INC.

This association was organized in 1924, and acting under a well-planned constitution, has a good record of service to members of the Police Department. Four funds have been created: namely, a death fund consisting of 40% of regular dues and of admission fees; a disability fund, consisting of 50% of dues and fees; an expense fund of 10% of dues, fees and fines, and a special fund for donations, bequests, and proceeds of all social activities; transferable to other funds by vote of the Directors. Death benefits are limited to \$1,000; and disability payments to \$15 per week. The association has prospered and its entertainments and other public activities have been well supported by citizens of the town.

Raymond J. Bean is the 1944 president.

### THE ITALIAN ORDER OF COLUMBIAN PIONEERS

This Order was organized May, 1931.

Its purposes are:

To spread among the Italian people the spirit of that great Italian, Christopher Columbus.

To be proud of their heritage and work together for the common good.

To work in harmony with all other Italian organizations in Wakefield for the Americanization, naturalization and unification of all classes of Italians.

To acquaint them, as American citizens, with the affairs of government.

### SONS OF ITALY

William Paca Lodge, No. 1734, Sons of Italy, was organized and incorporated in 1933. The Order of the Sons of Italy is a patriotic organization whose purpose is to encourage naturalization of its members and to acquaint them with the important matter of state and national governments. Thousands of its members are in the armed forces.

### WILDLIFE RESTORATION CLUB

The Wakefield Wildlife Restoration Club was organized by a group of local sportsmen in 1937 for the purpose of stocking local covers with pheasants and rabbits, and also streams in the vicinity with brook and rainbow trout.

Many of the charter members belonged to the old Quannapowitt Sportsman's Association. Joseph Curley was elected first president and was succeeded by Harvey Evans, who served for three terms. Florence McAuliffe is now beginning his second year as president of the organization.



Dr. Frank Woodbury, chairman for many years of the old Q. S. A., is carrying on the same work and office for the new club. Robert Fletcher has done remarkable work as head of the game distribution committee.

The State Fish and Game Department, in co-operation with the Wildlife Club, each year stocks nearby streams with thousands of legal size trout. When the Wildlife Club was organized, game had practically disappeared from the local woods and meadows, but through its restocking program, good hunting may now be enjoyed by sportsmen.

#### WAKEFIELD CIRCLE FLORENCE CRITTENTON LEAGUE

The Wakefield Circle of the Florence Crittenton League was organized June 18, 1937, with Mrs. C. Lawrence Macurda president, followed by Mrs. Hiram A. Tobey in 1940-42.

The Circle is affiliated with The Boston Florence Crittenton League of Compassion, and is one of 25 Circles of Greater Boston with a membership of 2500 representative women.

The League has three departments: the Maternity Home and Hospital in Brighton, the Welcome House, a study house for delinquent girls, in Jamaica Plain, and the Educational Department of the League.

Mrs. Ferdinand Gianfranchi is the 1944 president.

#### ROYAL ARCANUM

Wakefield Council No. 2385 of the Royal Arcanum was instituted June 9, 1941, at Odd Fellows' Hall, with 54 charter members. The Council received its charter September 26, 1941, when 26 candidates received the Royal Arcanum degree, an audience of 170 persons being present.

The Royal Arcanum is a fraternal benefit association. Its purposes are fraternal union; aid to its members and their dependents; the education socially, morally and intellectually of its members; assisting the widows and orphans of deceased members and establishing a fund for the relief of sick and distressed members.

## CHAPTER TWENTY-TWO

### *Cemeteries*

#### *The Two Early Burial Grounds — Lakeside Cemetery — Forest Glade Cemetery — Jewish Burial Ground*

The first Burying Ground was on the northerly side of Church Street. With the erection of the first town house in this location, the remains of the early settlers were removed to the north side of the present First Parish (Congregational) Meeting House. The first male burial

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**SHRINE AT FOREST GLADE  
CEMETERY, MONTROSE**  
(In center of Catholic section)

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was probably Rev. Henry Green, the first minister who died in 1648. Next came Francis Smith in 1651, Jeremiah Swayne in 1658, Zachariah Fitch and Rev. Samuel Haugh in 1652.

The second Burying Ground, known as the Old Burial Ground, and situated on Church Street on the shore of Lake Quannapowitt, was laid out in 1688 and there have been a few interments in recent years in old family lots.

In 1846, because of the need of a new burial location, land was acquired on the westerly shore of Lake Quannapowitt by the Proprietors

of Lakeside Cemetery, an organized corporation made up of local persons. This cemetery, although privately owned, meets present requirement extensions, by purchase, having greatly enlarged the originally laid out cemetery of eighteen acres.

In 1859 a Jewish Cemetery was laid out between Beacon Street and Lakeside Avenue, by the Temple Adath Israel Society of Boston. The principal owner of this cemetery is now the Congregation Adath Israel, also of Boston, who by recent purchases have extended its property out to North Avenue.

A demand for a large, public burying ground was met in 1899 when the town acquired land on the northerly side of Lowell Street, in the northeast section of the town, and here was established the Forest Glade Cemetery, which has been self-supporting up to the present time. This cemetery is developing rapidly and the receipts for 1943 were for perpetual care, \$2663; from sale of lots and graves, \$2162, and other receipts \$1610; a total of \$6435. In 1942 receipts were \$4800. A section of this cemetery has been reserved for the interment of those of Catholic faith. Heretofore, the Catholic Cemetery in Stoneham had been, and is still being used.



**LAKESIDE CEMETERY MEMORIAL CHAPEL**

Erected in 1932

## CHAPTER TWENTY-THREE

### *National and State Activities*

*Post Office — Selective Service — Rationing Board — U. S. Employment Office — District Health Office — State Armory — Camp Curtis Guild*

#### WAKEFIELD POST OFFICE

In the early days mail and Boston papers were brought to town by individuals, who, on returning home, picked up the Reading mail at the toll house in Charlestown, or at a Charlestown or Boston store or tavern, and left it at some central store for distribution to those who called for it.

In 1812 the first regular post office was established in a small building on Main Street, at or near the site of the recently demolished Brown's Block. John Rayner was the first postmaster, followed by Burrage Yale, Eli A. Yale, Charles H. Stearns, Lilley Eaton, Samuel Kingman, John W. Locke, Alstead W. Brownell, Charles B. Bowman, Thomas Hickey, Stanley B. Dearborn, Thomas G. O'Connell, Frank H. Hackett, Felix Pasqualino and Eugene J. Sullivan, the present postmaster.

In 1852, or soon after Kingman's appointment, he built the block, still standing on the corner of Main and Albion Streets, (now Bourdon's Block) and here he established the post office.

The first "free delivery" was by Kingman, as the story goes. He often went to the post office on Sunday morning, took certain mail, placed it in his hat, and would then proceed to the corner on Main Street, and give out the mail to those going to church who lived in the south and east parts of the town. He then proceeded to the Universalist Church, and gave out mail to the people coming from the north district. Mrs. Essie Kingman Pottle is the proud possessor of Grandfather Kingman's *old hat*. The post office was later moved to the brick block at the corner of Main Street and Richardson Avenue; then to the building now occupied by the Wakefield Municipal Light Department; then to the new United States Government Post Office on Main Street erected in 1936. The first money order was issued July 7, 1874.

Rural free delivery came in 1900, and parcel post in 1912 with two mail deliveries daily. The postal service now has fourteen carriers.

The present post office was dedicated on the evening of January 27,



1937, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, and preceded by a banquet, the dedicatory exercises being attended by over 200 citizens and guests. Frederick W. Bliss was master of ceremonies. Among the speakers were Edward M. Bridge, architect of the building; representatives of the postal department of the federal government, and Frank H. Hackett, a former postmaster. Active in negotiations with the federal government were Albert W. Rockwood, Postmaster Eugene J. Sullivan, Dr. Curtis L. Sopher and the late Harris M. Dolbeare. William Blanchard, president of the Chamber of Commerce, was chairman of the Dedication Committee.

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**WAKEFIELD POST OFFICE BUILDING**

Main Street and Yale Avenue, in Upper Wakefield Square

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#### SELECTIVE SERVICE BOARD NO. 149

This is a board charged with the registration and classification of Wakefield and Reading men from 18 to 45 years of age for the various branches of the armed forces of the United States. The Board was appointed by President Roosevelt, as recommended by Governor Saltonstall, and held its organization meeting on October 15, 1940. The Board personnel is made up of Lieutenant Colonel John H. McMahon, Major Samuel H. Brooks, Walter F. Carley and Ervine E. Laughton of Wake

field and Ernest E. Gallant of Reading; Chester L. Fuller is the chief clerk and his first assistant is Mary E. Morgan. It is an inspiring, yet a saddening sight to see the Wakefield youths from time to time, assembled in groups at the Lafayette building, to entrain for Boston for physical examination and induction and then leaving for training camps. These groups are given a blessing by local ministers and send-offs by town officials, relatives and friends. The local Red Cross Canteen is always on hand with refreshments. On one occasion a group was accompanied to the train by the Reading High School Band.

### WAR PRICE AND RATIONING BOARD

War was declared December 7, 1941.

The Office of Price Administration was created in Washington, and is commonly referred to as the OPA. The Federal Government called upon the Governors on January 7, 1942, to set up machinery for the rationing of tires, which was the beginning of rationing in this country during World War II. The Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, Orrin J. Hale, as authorized by Governor Leverett Saltonstall, appointed the three original members of the Wakefield War Price and Rationing Board, then called the Tire Rationing Board. The members were Postmaster Eugene J. Sullivan, Chairman; Francis J. Smith and V. Richard Fazio. In August, 1942, Chairman Sullivan resigned on account of increased postal duties. V. Richard Fazio was then appointed General Chairman.

During the latter part of 1942 the duties of the Wakefield War Price and Rationing Board increased so much that the membership on the Board was increased to twelve. It was divided into four different panels, namely: tire, bicycle and gasoline panel; food panel; fuel panel and price control panel; each panel having a membership of three. The office personnel was increased from one clerk to seven paid clerks.

All Board members, including the General Chairman, are unpaid volunteer workers who have devoted hours of their time to the war effort. It will be noted that a single agency, the Office of Price Administration under which the Wakefield War Price and Rationing Board operates, was responsible for three key fronts in the war against inflation. These include the stabilization of prices, the control of rents, and the administration of rationing. The emergency price control act (January 30, 1942) gave OPA authorization to control prices and rents, and prescribed penalties by putting limitations on its power to control farm prices and products produced from them.

Rationing of tires, automobiles, and typewriters also began in the spring of 1942. Rent control in twenty "defense-rental" areas was authorized on March 2, 1942. The town of Wakefield was included in this area.

The Victory Fund Drive of December, 1942, yielded thirteen billion dollars. The payroll savings plan for bond purchases had the support of about twelve million people in April, 1942, and of twenty-seven million by June, 1943. The Second War Loan Drive in April, 1943, raised eighteen and one-half billion dollars and the Third War Loan, September, 1943, produced nearly nineteen billion dollars. Wakefield's quota for the Fourth War Loan Drive in February, 1944, was set at one million dollars, and on the last day of the drive it was exceeded by \$174,242.

Consumer credit restorations were denied May 6, 1942, by requiring prompt payment of charge accounts and further discouraging installment buying. The General Maximum Price Regulation issued by OPA April 28, 1942, froze prices of almost all commodities at the highest prices charged by each seller during 1942 and the ceilings over 62% of the cost of living. Fresh vegetable prices were frozen in the spring of 1943 and shortly afterwards dollars and cents ceilings were placed on pork at retail.

Additional areas were made subject to Federal Rent Control in April, 1942, and by January, 1943, seventy-six million people lived in rent controlled areas. Rent control meant that President Roosevelt had taken steps to check unjustified rises in rents. Tenants were informed that they should not pay higher rent than was charged for their quarters on a specified previous date. Between May 5, 1942 and March 29 1943 rationing of scarce essential commodities was extended to include sugar, gasoline, bicycles, men's rubber boots and work shoes, fuel oil, coffee, stoves, shoes, processed foods, meats and edible fats and oil. About one-third of all foods were rationed.

Under the Wakefield War Price and Rationing Board the "Hold the Line" executive order, which was issued by the President April 8, 1943, called for ceiling prices on all costs of living commodities. No further increases in ceiling prices, or reduction of unwarranted prices could be made except to further the war effort.

The merchants and the consumers in Wakefield have co-operated extensively with the local War Price and Rationing Board in keeping prices down. This is borne out by the fact that in the first national emergency price check conducted by the local office it was found that only two stores were selling one item for 1c above schedule price. Recognition of this fact was given to the Wakefield Board in a weekly letter published by the Office of Price Administration, Regional Department of Information,

Boston. The achievement in keeping prices down was particularly striking when compared with the cost of living prices of World War I. At that time they rose 53% as compared with 26% during World War II.

The Wakefield Board is comprised also of community service members, with a chairman designated as the Information Officer. Through this Information Officer all news is made available to the public. A price education program was instituted in the High School with the co-operation of the General Chairman, V. Richard Fazio; the Superintendent of Schools, Willard B. Atwell, and the President of the Chamber of Commerce, William Blanchard. The purpose was to educate the High School children in price control and to help keep down the cost of living.

In February, 1944, War Certificates were awarded to volunteer workers outside of the members, who devoted a certain amount of hours to the Ration Board.

#### UNITED STATES EMPLOYMENT OFFICE

The United States Manpower Commission has an Employment Service office located in the Lafayette Building. This service came to Wakefield in September, 1943, as a branch of the Malden office, and caters to the employment needs of Wakefield industries, filling orders for help and making placements in essential manufacturing concerns. Since September, 1943, to April 1, 1944, this office, in charge of Catherine Sullivan, supervisor, has made 1500 employment connections or placements.

#### THE DISTRICT HEALTH OFFICE

A division of the State Department of Public Health, entitled the District Health Office, was established in Wakefield in 1943, with Dr. Robert E. Archibald in charge. The office serves communities in the vicinity of Wakefield in matters that pertain to public health.

Dr. Archibald has both administrative and executive duties and serving with him is a staff of men and women technically trained for the work which they carry on. The names of these follow: Miss Kepler, Public Health Nursing Supervisor; Mrs. Ellison, Nutritionist; Mrs. Sorli, Health Education Worker; Miss Henes, Medical Social Worker; Miss Crosly, Physiotherapist; Mr. Taft, District Sanitary Officer, and Mr. Sullivan, Sanitary Engineer.

The work of these members of Dr. Archibald's staff is that of supervision, advice and instruction, and its activities are keyed to the improvement and benefit of public health in the district.



## STATE ARMORY

On January 26, 1913, the Massachusetts State Armory on Main Street was officially dedicated in true Wakefieldian spirit of patriotism and pride of its local soldiering. The chief guest was Governor Eugene N. Foss, and other guests numbered over one hundred officers, prominent in military life.

Following a colorful reception, with music by the Lynn Cadet Band, the guests sat down to a satisfying banquet; after which Col. E. J. Gihon, as toastmaster conducted the post-prandial exercises. Rev. William F. Dusseault, Chaplain-in-chief of the U. S. W. V., delivered a stirring address. The Richardson Light Guard Fine Members' Association was well represented on this occasion. Three of the four living charter members were special guests. They were George Cox, Henry L. Eaton and William S. Arrington. Solon O. Richardson, and his wife and son, came from Toledo to attend this interesting and historic dedication.

## CAMP CURTIS GUILD RIFLE RANGE

The first permanent rifle range was located in the rear of the Wakefield Rattan Company adjacent to the Salem Branch of the Boston & Maine Railroad (now abandoned) at the then established range of 200 yards. The State troops were armed with Model 45/70 Springfield breech loading rifles, which were issued to the local Militia, Co. A, 6th Regiment, M. V. M., in 1887. In later years qualification requirements called for shooting at greater distances and the local company was obliged to travel to Walnut Hill rifle range (Mass. Rifle Association) in Woburn, Mass.

As the town began to grow, buildings were erected in the rear of the butts of the old rifle range and complaints of bullets flying over the roofs were frequent. Eventually in August, 1891, the Selectmen granted authority for a range to permit firing at 500 and 600-yard distances, which was then a part of the necessary rifle qualification and included in all competitions. This called for quite a drain on the Town and Company treasuries.

A suitable site was finally located in Cox's woods at the corner of Haverhill and Pine Streets (the latter now known as Bay State Road) by Armorer James H. Keough, who was well acquainted with the terrain in that section through his outdoor and hunting activities. The next year the shooting house was loaded on a special rigging and teamed to the pines in the rear of the present 200-yard firing point of the Bay State range, the 500-yard firing point established 300 yards to the left rear, and the 600-yard firing point to the rear of that near a big pine quite handy to what is now the sentry box at the Camp Curtis Guild Range.

Things went on with regularity until the advent of the Krag rifle, when the executives of the Walnut Hill range began to receive complaints from farmers that high speed bullets were going through their chicken coops and it was decided to bar the militia from using the range.

As Sergt. Keough and other members of the local militia company who were members of the Mass. State Rifle Team were about to depart for the matches at Sea Girt, New Jersey, with no chance for practice, the services of the company range were offered to Colonel James G. White, then Inspector General of Rifle Practice, by Captain John H. McMahon and gladly accepted. The surroundings and set-up so well pleased the State militia men that a canvass was made among the leading military men of the state and an organization formed and called the Bay State Military Rifle Association with Captain John M. Blanchard of the 1st Corps Cadets as President.

The tenure of the lease of the Cox land by the town for the local militia had two years to run, and in lieu of this the new owners gave the company the use of three targets (furnish their own markers) and paid the Selectmen \$200 for the company building, targets, equipment and good will. Since then it has been the same with the local company as with all other military organizations using the range. Other land including that of Charles Derby was acquired and now consists of a large acreage.

Outside of Camp Perry, Ohio, this range probably is the next best in the United States, and is certainly the hardest for the long range shooters, due to the currents of air that start from the Shawsheen River section and seep across the range on their way toward the North Shore and the sea. The U. S. Marines early recognized this advantage of conditions for training of their crack rifle teams and have been coming here year after year since 1904. The Navy Rifle Team was the first to train here in 1903 under Commander Babbin with Doctor Scott of Washington as Coach. Major James H. Keough was the first Range Officer. During the first World War the name was changed to Camp Curtis Guild, in honor of Curtis Guild, Jr., a former Governor of Massachusetts. Some years ago the State took over the property.

Since the start of World War II, the Government has made extensive use of the range and camp for military training and as a mobilization and overseas evacuation post.

CHAPTER TWENTY-FOUR

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*Tercentenary Observance*

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*Committees — Outline of Proposed Programs by the Town Veterans  
and the First Parish*

TERCENTENARY COMMITTEE

Orrin J. Hale, *Chairman*

Mrs. W. S. Ripley, *Secretary*

George W. Abbott, *Treasurer*

J. Frank Anderson	Herbert M. Hopkins
Bertha F. Ayscough	Howard A. Jones
Marcus Beebe, 2nd	James F. Keating
Eden K. Bowser	Gaston E. Loubris
Clara L. Brownell	Morrison I. Merrill
Helen Frances Carleton	Thomas G. O'Connell
William G. Dill	Joseph C. Payro
Cyrus M. Dolbeare	*Edward F. Preston
Theodore Eaton	Elwin I. Purrington
William E. Eaton	Daniel C. Stewart
George J. Evans	John T. Stringer
Percival B. Evans	Eugene J. Sullivan
Mrs. Earl W. Fell	Patrick H. Tenney
*Albert W. Flint	Stanley O. Urquhart
Frederick G. Gorman	Frank P. Wakefield
Rev. Florence J. Halloran	Dr. Frank T. Woodbury
Mrs. Mary Harrington	Charles F. Young
Mary Hickey	*Fred W. Young

W. Laurence Young

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

FINANCE

Orrin J. Hale, *Chairman*

Theodore Eaton

Frank P. Wakefield

HISTORY

William E. Eaton, *Chairman*

Mrs. W. S. Ripley

Helen Frances Carleton

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\* Deceased.

GENERAL PUBLICITY

Cyrus M. Dolbeare      Stanley O. Urquhart      Mrs. W. S. Ripley

HISTORIC SITES AND MARKERS

Morrison I. Merrill, *Chairman*

Joseph C. Payro      \*Fred W. Young      Elwin I. Purrington  
W. Laurence Young      Herbert M. Hopkins

PROGRAM

James F. Keating, *Chairman*

John T. Stringer, *Vice Chairman*      Bertha F. Ayscough, *Secretary*

*Sunday Chairman*, J. Frank Anderson

*Monday Chairman*, Katheryn Carney

*Tuesday Chairman*, William H. Condon

*Wednesday Chairman*, Mrs. Arthur A. Fulton

*Publicity Chairman*, Harland R. Ratcliffe

Marcus Beebe, 2nd

Helen F. Carleton

George J. Evans

Mary G. Hickey

William G. Dill

Mrs. Robert D. King

John F. White

Grace A. Jenkins

Daniel C. Stewart

Frederick G. Gorman

CONDUCTED TOURS

Gaston E. Loubris, *Chairman*

Mrs. Earl W. Fell

Dr. Frank T. Woodbury

TRI-TOWN CO-ORDINATION

Thomas G. O'Connell, *Chairman*

Mrs. W. S. Ripley

\*Fred W. Young

BADGES AND DECORATIONS

George W. Abbott, *Chairman*

Morrison I. Merrill

W. Laurence Young

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\* Deceased.



ANNIVERSARY EXERCISES

SUNDAY, MAY 28, 1944

Patriotic Service at 10:45 a.m. in the First Congregational Church with patriotic and veterans' organizations. Sermon by Lt.-Com. Frank F. Smart, U. S. Navy Chaplain.

From 1 to 3 o'clock—concert by Army-Navy Band.

At 3 o'clock in the afternoon, on the Common, dedication of Wakefield's Honor Roll Plaque.

Preceding the dedication of the Honor Roll Plaque there will be a parade of military units, patriotic, fraternal and civic organizations, which will start at Wakefield High School, move up Main Street to Yale Avenue, to North Avenue, to Church Street, to Main Street, and proceed to the Rockery, forming around the south end of the Common.

The plaque committee officers are J. Frank Anderson, General Chairman; William H. Condon, Secretary; Ervine E. Laughton, Treasurer.

The marshal of the parade is Frederick G. Gorman; chief of staff, Col. Edward J. Connelly.

The master of ceremonies at the plaque will be Frederick G. Gorman.

The invocation at the plaque ceremony will be given by Rev. Father Francis J. Murphy of St. Joseph's Church.

The unveiling of the plaque will be by Emil Nelson.

The speakers will be J. Frank Anderson, general chairman; William H. Condon, Commander Corp. Harry E. Nelson Post 63, American Legion; Mrs. Rose Findlay, President of the Legion Auxiliary, and John Delay, State Commander of the American Legion.

The orator of the day will be Hon. David I. Walsh, U. S. Senator from Massachusetts, and chairman of the Naval Affairs Committee of the Senate.

Music will be furnished by Warren H. Gibson, a member of the Post.

Benediction will be given by Rev. Austin Rice, D.D., pastor of the First Parish Congregational Church.

At 7:30 in the evening, Union Service in the Congregational Church sponsored by the Wakefield Council of Churches.

MONDAY, MAY 29, 1944

*Morning*—Special Pre-Memorial Day exercises in the Public Schools.

*Afternoon*—Exhibit at the Lucius Beebe Memorial Library.

Historical Society's exhibition hall open to visitors from 2 to 5 o'clock.

*Evening*—Illustrated Historical Lecture at the Library Hall, sponsored by the Wakefield Historical Society.

TUESDAY, MAY 30, 1944

### MEMORIAL DAY

Memorial Day exercises by the American Legion commencing at 9:30 a.m. by the playing of patriotic music on the Thayer Memorial Chimes in the tower of the Congregational Church, followed by a Solemn High Military Mass at 10:00 o'clock, on the Common. Reverend Francis J. Murphy, Celebrant; Reverend John P. Cosgrove, Deacon; Reverend James J. McCarthy, Sub-deacon. Reverend Florence J. Halloran, LL.D., Pastor of St. Joseph's Church, will deliver the sermon. Music will be rendered by the Senior Choir of St. Joseph's Church, accompanied by Mrs. Edward J. Connelly. Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus of the Boston Chapter will be Guard of Honor at this Mass. The committee extends a cordial invitation to all the townspeople to participate at the first military outdoor Mass to be held in this town.

In the afternoon, starting at 2:00 o'clock, the annual parade will leave the Armory to go to the Common for the usual exercises. The speaker of the day will be the Honorable Arthur D. Healey, Judge of the Federal Court. The parade will then proceed along the rest of its route. All veterans of World War II who are on leave or furlough will participate in the parade. William L. Wenzel will be chief marshal; Ernest E. Johnson, P. C., chief of staff.

Memorial Day Committee: Harold A. McMann, P. C., Chairman; William H. Condon, Commander; Ernest E. Johnson, P. C.; Arthur H. McTague; Daniel C. Stewart, P. C.; Frank L. Champagne, P. C.; Daniel P. Kelliher, P. C.; Charles L. Sullivan; Charles E. Walton, P. C.; Herbert A. Ramsdell; George W. Richardson.

11:30, Invitation from the Reading Tercentenary Committee to join their late morning historical exercises on Reading Common.

North Reading is observing Incorporation Day with interesting exercises and with the usual Memorial Day program.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 1944

*Afternoon*—3 to 5:30 o'clock. Open House at the Col. Hartshorne House on Church Street—the oldest house in Wakefield. There will be ladies in costume in each room. A hostess, also in Colonial costume, will greet visitors at the door. The Wakefield Garden Club will have flower arrangements in each room. Refreshments will be served on the terrace, or if stormy, in the old kitchen. Members of the Garden Club, in costume, will serve as guides in the garden and describe the garden exhibits.

Exhibits open at the Beebe Library and the Historical Society's hall.

*Evening*—An hour's program of old-time music at the High School Auditorium, under the direction of Mrs. Robert King, acting Supervisor of Music in the public schools. A historical lecture by William E. Eaton, town historian, will be an added feature.

THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 1944

The Hartshorne House will be open from 3 to 5:30 with the same cordial spirit of hospitality as on Wednesday.

Committees: John F. White and Mrs. Arthur A. Fulton, co-chairmen; Miss Helen F. Carleton, Mrs. J. Lewis Coon, Mrs. Louis F. Greene and Mrs. Howard S. Glynn.

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As a part of the Reading observance the Quannapowitt Players will give a Historical Play on the evenings of May 26 and 27.

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4:30 to 5 o'clock, daily concerts by Arthur A. Fulton on the Thayer Memorial Chimes in the tower of the First Parish Congregational Church.

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#### ART PRIZES

The Wakefield Historical Society made a gift of \$35 to the Tercenary History Committee to be awarded to pupils of the Art Department of the Wakefield High School for acceptable designs for cover and chapter plates. Fourteen pupils participated under the direction of Miss Isabel M. Hirst, head of the Art Department. The winners:

COVER DESIGN — 1ST PRIZE, \$15

To: Lois-Ann Goldsburly  
74 Fairmount Road  
South Lynnfield

WAKEFIELD TITLE PAGE — 2ND PRIZE, \$10

To: Barbara Anne Williams  
11 Walnut Street  
Lynnfield Center

SOUTH READING TITLE PAGE — 3RD PRIZE, \$5

To: Barbara Emerson Brackett  
13 Charles Street  
Wakefield

READING TITLE PAGE — 3RD PRIZE, \$5

To: Richard Ramsdell  
29 Converse Street  
Wakefield

FIRST PARISH EXTENSION PROGRAM

SUNDAY, JUNE 4, 1944

10:45 A. M. — FOUNDERS' DAY

Sermon by Rev. David N. Beach, D.D.

Pastor First Church (Center Church) New Haven, Conn.

7:45 P. M. — BACCALAUREATE SERVICE

Wakefield High School — Class of 1944

Sermon by Rev. Carl Heath Kopf

Pastor Mt. Vernon Church, Boston

SUNDAY, JUNE 11, 1944

10:45 A. M. — CHILDREN'S DAY SERVICE

Tableaux, "Children of the Church"

by Mary Louise Tredinnick

7:45 P. M. — HISTORIC COMMUNION SERVICE

Pastors, Deacons, friends from Churches historically  
connected with the First Parish, as guests

THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 1944

8:30 P. M. — "PAGEANT OF THE PASTORS"

by Eva Gowing Ripley

SUNDAY, JUNE 18, 1944

10:45 A. M. — CONSECRATION SUNDAY

Sermon by Rev. Austin Rice, D.D.

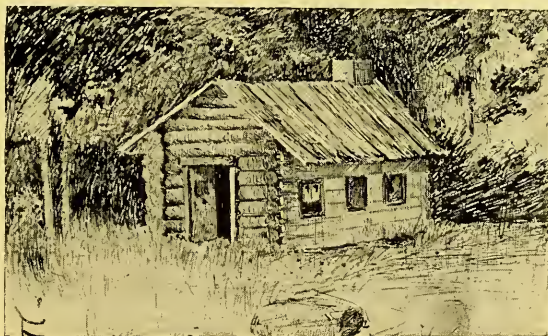
Pastor First Congregational Church, Wakefield

7:45 P. M. — CONCLUDING SERVICE

Address by Rev. Halford E. Luccock, D.D., Litt.D.

Professor of Homiletics

Yale Divinity School, New Haven, Conn.



FIRST PARISH MEETING-HOUSE, 1644



## CHAPTER TWENTY-FIVE

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### *Historian's Scrapbook*

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*Wakefield of 1944 — Looking Backward — Items that Fell by the Wayside  
Incidents Down the Years, Amusing and Otherwise*

#### WAKEFIELD OF 1944

Wakefield is in the Eighth Congressional District; in the Sixth Councillor District; in the Seventh Middlesex Senatorial District; and in the Twenty-second Middlesex Representative District, which annually elects three Representatives from Wakefield, Stoneham and Melrose. Wakefield is in the jurisdiction of the East Middlesex District Court at Malden. All deeds and mortgages and attachments are recorded in the Registry of Deeds and all wills and administrative documents in the Registry of Probate at East Cambridge.

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Wakefield, Mass., is a picturesque town of approximately 18,000 inhabitants, ten miles north of Boston and eight miles from the Atlantic Ocean at Lynn and Salem. Its two lakes, parks and playgrounds add charm to the picture.

The town owns its electric and gas utilities, its water supply and excellent equipment of pumping plant and auxiliary supplies of water of first quality.

Its schools, library, police and fire departments and, in fact, all public departments are keyed to efficient service. Its train and bus service, extending in all directions, is adequate for the town's needs. Its churches attest to the religious progress of the times. Its daily newspaper is one of the best in the state. Its streets and highways radiating from the civic center, efficiently bear the traffic as they should.

The town is proud of its Lucius Beebe Memorial Library, an edifice of outstanding architectural completeness, and for the service rendered by this educational department and its two district library branches.

It is also conscious of having a beautiful post office built, owned and staffed by the United States Government, and a military armory built by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The new High School building and the financial edifices are to be numbered among Wakefield's many progressive endeavors.

The town, mindful of its obligations to the youths within its borders, has laid out, landscaped and made useful to all its people, several recreation parks and playgrounds.

Its industries are numerous, progressive and varied in goods produced, including millions of dollars of defense goods in World War II.

Its 110 retail stores meet fully the every-day demands of the people. Its civic, philanthropic, social and fraternal organizations cover a wide range of worthwhile activities.

All this sums up to a progressive community of happy homes and a contented people—a town proud of her past and rich in historic memories, and planning enriching activities for the future.

### PUBLIC HALLS

Wakefield has several halls for public rental. The Town Hall, the Lafayette Building, Hibernian Hall, Princess Theatre, Bourdon Building and St. Joseph's Hall.

### APARTMENT HOUSES

The Boit and the New Richardson on Richardson Avenue; the Crystal Apartments on Main Street, the Erickson on Church Street, the Sawyer Apartments on Salem Street, and for the accommodation of the public, the Crescent House on Water Street, the Wakefield House on Main Street, and the Colonial Inn on Richardson Avenue.



**CRYSTAL APARTMENTS**

### THEATRES

The Princess and the Wakefield operated by the Princess Amusement Co., Charles W. Hodgdon of Greenwood, principal owner.

## LOOKING BACKWARD

It is 1944. From the front of the Wakefield Trust Company's building on Main Street one looks up and down a wide thoroughfare and notes the changes the recent years have made—the OLD going out, and the NEW coming in! The Episcopal Church is on the site of Jeremiah Bryant's Homestead. The Eaton residence has been replaced by a brick residence, now owned by Dr. Holleran. The Crystal Apartments are on the site of the earlier residence of the late James H. Carter, previously the site of the second Baptist meeting house. A one-story brick building replaces the old Day's Bakery; two unsightly holes are all that remain of the old Brown and the Walton Blocks. The old buildings from Centre Street to Mechanic Street, earlier Cate's Clothing Store, and the Cheney's periodical and jewelry stores except the Butler (Boothby) Block, now have given way to modern business stores. The new Curley Block has replaced the old Curley Building. Beyond to Water Street things are much as of old except that a new business block has replaced Alexander's Restaurant and the Atkinson grocery store. South of Water Street, Cutler's Block and the Richardson Light Guard Armory are no more. Here new store buildings have taken their places.

On the west side the second high school, now remodeled, is the Lafayette Building, the Baptist Church is located where once stood the old Hale's tavern, the Y. M. C. A. home is on the site of the former Emerson Shoe factory. The new Post Office edifice is on the site of the Yale-Stearns-White homes. The old Mansfield residence, and the Hickok Building, have been replaced by the Lucius Beebe Memorial Library. The banking home of the Wakefield Savings Bank is on the earlier garden lot of the late Mrs. Brown, earlier the home of the Rayner family. The Wakefield Trust Company's banking house stands where Bessey's stable and Joshua Eames' blacksmith shop once faced Main Street. Beyond Albion Street south, there have been similar changes. The old Perkins Block, the Wiley House, and the Richardson homestead (removed to Richardson Avenue) have gone with progress, replaced by modern business structures, the Trader's Block and the Richardson Building. The State Armory and the new High School now occupy the sites of several dwellings and the Wakefield Mansion. Wakefield has gone modern!

## FIRST BIRTH IN WAKEFIELD

WALTER MERRILL, male, born July 5, 1868. Son of Israel and Angeline. Residence of parents: Melrose.

### FIRST MARRIAGE IN WAKEFIELD

MANSFIELD-NEWHALL, Albert A. Mansfield and Carrie E. Newhall. July 22, 1868.

Age of groom: 25. Age of bride: 24.

Occupation of groom: Coal dealer.

Birthplace of groom: South Reading.

Birthplace of bride: Lynnfield.

Parents: James A. and Martha B. Mansfield, and Allen B. and Augusta V. Newhall.

### FIRST DEATH IN WAKEFIELD

LOIS SHUTE. Maiden name: Smith. Age: 56 years, 1 month, and 20 days. Female. Widow. Birthplace: Lynnfield. Parents: William and Lois. July 4, 1868.

### THE HISTORIAN'S SCRAPBOOK

#### Broadcast of Events that are Past

The first regular mail service from Boston to South Reading was in 1837. Contract was with Hiram Plummer of the Stage Coach Company.

In 1827 Tanner Evans leased land to the town for a school house in Greenwood. The lease was to run "for the natural life of said Green" at an annual rental of \$3.

The South Reading Anti-Slavery Party was formed in 1834.

The old map of 1856 showed a chapel on the south side of Lafayette Street. Who can tell about it?

Prominent Main Street public and private buildings bear the names of leading Wakefield families—Richardson, Beebe and Walton.

Only three of the town school houses bear names of national and local personages—Lincoln, Hamilton, and Warren.

In 1872 Wakefield had its first Sunday trains to and from Boston.

In 1879 the selectmen sold twelve copies of their report for one dollar a copy and had "eighteen copies on hand." A thrifty Board!

On March 1, 1876, the Commissioners of Inland Fisheries gave a 15-year lease of Crystal Lake to Lyman H. Tasker and five others on their agreement to stock the lake with live, black bass of a weight of 1½ pounds each. Rent \$5 for first four years and \$30 a year thereafter.

The only person to outlive 100 years was Mrs. Clarissa Cox, widow of Benjamin Cox. She was born October 6, 1787, and her birthday on October 6, 1887 was locally observed.



The old brick house standing north of the Universalist Church was built by Benjamin Brown Wiley, born in 1786 and died November 11, 1877.

South Reading had a Horticultural Society, organized in 1861 with James Eustis, president. He was the only town auctioneer for many years, and any article not perfect was offered with "this article is imperfect, and you will bid accordingly." In later years the Society became the Wakefield Agricultural and Horticultural Society.

Franklin Poole was born in the South Parish of Reading in 1808, and the town is indebted to him for many valuable oil paintings of individuals and of private and public buildings.

The first town pound was long a landmark from 1761. It was on Main Street, just north of the Universalist Church, where now stands the brick house of the late Ebenezer Wiley. The second town pound was at the southwest corner of the old burying ground on Church Street, long marked by four willow trees, one at each corner, providing shade for dumb animals temporarily detained there.

The diary of Parson Prentice of the First Parish, under date of April 19, 1775, had this entry: "The Regulars marched out of Boston to Concord, where the fight began and ninety of our men were killed."

In the lobby (or foyer) of the town hall is a bronze memorial erected by the town in 1927. "A Memorial to the Men of Wakefield, who gave their lives in defense of the honor and liberty of their country." There are fifty names, 1861-1865; one name, 1898-1902; and thirty names, 1917-1918. The pictures of Gold Star veterans of World War I, originally on the wall at the selectmen's room, are now displayed in the Lafayette Building.

In 1909 the State Railroad Commissioners wished to change the names of the Wakefield Centre and Junction stations, the former to "Centre Heywood" and the latter to "Souhegan," "Crystal Lake" or "Wahpatuck." The plan never succeeded.

In 1911, Post 12, G. A. R., suggested, unsuccessfully, the erection of a memorial building on the lot at Albion and Foster Streets, which is the present site of the Daily Item Building.

The earliest recorded deed of land in Reading was in 1646 when Captain Walker and Lieutenant Thomas Marshall deeded 500 acres to Francis Smith, extending east from Smith's Pond to Woodville.

The town in 1664 may have had a planning board to limit size of house lots for it granted John Wesson (Weston) "forty feet of ground one way, and twenty feet another way for to sett his house upon."

In 1718 Miss Nichols, a school teacher, was awarded a certificate for "perfectly reciting three chapters from Holy Scriptures."

The old road leading from Church Street to Reading Pond was called "Pond Row." It was some easterly from the present Lake Avenue.

In 1736, the First Parish furnished the Parsonage a "Post and well cratch" and "a little necessary house" costing £1:15.

A bridge over the outlet of Saugus River at the head of Reading Pond was built in 1737.

The church weekly "contribution box" came into use in 1764.

Four years before the Battle of Lexington, there were 80 voters in the First Parish, 65 in the Second Parish, and 64 in the Third Parish.

Jonathan Poole, in 1697, was chosen "to keep a scoole for to teach the young people to wright, to read and to cast up accounts as far as ye Poole could, and they capable to learn."

The first drowning in Reading Pond was in 1705. The victim was Stephen, son of Samuel Dix.

The town constable in 1712 was notified to warn a citizen "who doth entertain an Inmate of a Female Sect not to Entertain no such Female."

The records of the town and the First Parish had been run concurrently. All such accounts were separated in 1722.

In 1791, it was voted not to raise money "to hire school dames." This edict survived only one year.

South Reading Branch Railroad was opened to Peabody November 16, 1850, and was discontinued about 1926. The Danvers Branch was opened on October 23, 1854, and is still limited in operation.

The town of Reading took its name from the old Reading of Berkshire, England, situated between the rivers Thames and Kennet, whose history goes back to 868 when it was destroyed by the Huns. Its name-derivation is supposed to come from the Saxon word *Rbea* or *Redin*, fern, which grew in great abundance. It is only 38 miles from London. The old parish register bore names familiar early and even today, in our community—Poole, Cowdrey, Parker, Bachellor, Brown, Swain, Townsend, Hawkes, Taylor, Foster, Walker, Marshall, Eaton, Davis, Goodwin, Pearson, and others.

General Lafayette never visited the First Parish, but made a brief stop at the Third Parish.

Wakefield contains 4,568 acres.

Wakefield's central section is located latitude 42° 30' 26" north; and longitude 71° 4' 42" west from Greenwich.

Hart's Hill is named for Dr. John Hart.

The Quannapowitt Railroad was a separate corporation with rails extending from the main line of the Boston & Maine to the old Quannapowitt Ice Company's houses on the west shore of Lake Quannapowitt.

The South Reading Academy on Crescent Street was started under Baptist direction. It was acquired in 1847 by the town for the first high school.

The Wakefield Home Fire Protection Association, organized November 10, 1882, was a "Johnson Pump" outfit with a wagon drawn by one of Hathaway's horses, and carried its own water to put out fires.

Captain Thomas Emerson sold his farm and buildings on Water Street to the town in 1825 for a Town Almshouse. Price, \$3275. Allen Rowe was the first keeper.

James H. Carter was the "father" of our "Rockery." Its cost was about \$5000. Its location early bore the name of "Little Park."

In 1868 the town had 13 schools, 14 teachers, and 722 pupils. The school expense was \$8,277.30 and at a cost of \$8.10 per pupil per teacher. The total cost per pupil was \$11.46.

In 1812 a post office was established in a small building on the easterly side of North Main Street in the center section. The present post office, the tenth, a most imposing structure, was erected by the United States Government.

The first post office in Greenwood dates from 1855. Joseph Eaton was the postmaster.

The corner of Albion Street and North Avenue has long been known as "Dog Corner."

From Hart's Hill one can see Mt. Wachusett, 42 miles distant; Hawes Hill 53 miles; Watatic Mt. 45 miles, and Mount Monadnock 58 miles distant.

Greenwood Grove and Union Grove have been landmarks in Greenwood these many years.

In 1868 the town's total expense was \$31,238.03 and net town debt of \$39,737.20.

The great Rattan factory fire occurred on the night of March 12, 1881. Loss of \$190,000 was fully covered by insurance.

The present town seal was adopted in 1878.

The history of Reading, by Hon. Lilley Eaton, was published in 1873-74.

Cyrus Wakefield built his mansion on Main Street in 1851 where now stands the Wakefield High School.

In 1852 Lucius Beebe bought house and land at Lakeside for a residence.

The hill at the intersection of Salem and Pleasant Streets has long been known as "Shingle Hill"—and what a grand winter coast it was for many years!

A unique local association was formed in 1858 known as the "House of Representatives of the Commonwealth." Its object was to study parliamentary rules governing debate and to make more easy public discussion in town meetings. The town was designated as the "Commonwealth" and each street or locality was considered a town from which members were sent. The first petition was presented by Miss Representation, Miss Fortune, Aunt E. Slavery, Miss Ann Thrope, Mrs. Sippy, and 417 other ladies of Womenrightsville praying for "All the rights of citizenship which are enjoyed by the sterner sex." A motion to refer to the Committee on Fisheries was lost, and the petition was sent to the Committee on Judiciary. The story does not end here!

Mill River is a brook, the outlet from Crystal Lake running eastward under Main Street, passing the Heywood-Wakefield plant to enter the Saugus River.

The seating capacity of our town hall is approximately 1164; floor, 704 and galleries, 460.

The town first commenced publishing its expenditures in 1813.

In 1814 the town was set off to the Essex North District; answering a strong protest the town was set back into Middlesex County.

The South Reading Liberty Association was formed in 1843 by men who "believed that Slavery was a moral and political evil and should be removed by moral and political action." Its first president was Jacob Eaton. The association won its first victory in 1847 by electing Franklin Poole representative to the General Court. Later the association merged with the Free Soil Party.

#### SALE OF A NEGRO BOY

"Sometime in August in ye year 1731 Receive'd of Peter Emerson ye Sum of Ten Pounds which is in full of Seventy Pounds for a Negro Boy called George, Received by me.

Timothy Poole"

#### DR. SWAIN IN A SPIRIT OF HUMILITY

"A manorandum of the visits to Hannah Dix on the a counte of her Lame futt after she came from Boston, viz: 21 visits while She was att her Uncle John Dixs and at her fathers with 3 portions of phisick and Salve and Balsums . . . £2:2:0 and gentlemen of Reding if you ples to allow me any part I shall akoleige your Kindnes with thanks if not I remain yours to serve in what I can.

4 March 1728

Benjamin Swain"



In 1872 there appeared a new weekly newspaper called the "Wakefield Casket." Its demise was early—buried, so to speak, in its own "Casket."

In 1873 the old Town House on Church Street was sold to John M. Cate and removed to the corner of Main and Salem Streets, the town reserving the bell rope and wheel, as well as the old Paul Revere Bell now to be seen at the Beebe Library.

For many years the town paid its share for the Malden Bridge. These payments ceased in 1874.

The old Quannapowitt House that had stood on Main Street opposite the town hall was removed in 1880.

The Emerson Shoe Shop, that stood where now stands the Y. M. C. A. building, was torn down in 1902.

Cutler Brothers Block at the corner of Main and Water Streets and the Armory building were destroyed by a fire in 1911.

The vital statistics—births, deaths and marriages, from early days to 1850, may be found at the Beebe Memorial Library.

The Wakefield Theatre Block on Main Street was built in 1915.

The Greenwood Seminary, on the westerly side on Main Street was the venture of Winsor Bruce Wait. In 1874, a Dr. Day took the building over as an Inebriate Asylum.

Back in England our forefathers belonged to the parish churches and it is from these old parish records that genealogists have been able to gather valuable family data.

The Whale arrived at Salem May 26, 1632, with 30 passengers after a voyage of 48 days. On the ship were 68 cows. Seven years later, 1639, the date of the first settlement in Redding, the ship "Fellowship" sailed from Bristol, England, and it is interesting to record that there were aboard 250 passengers and supplies.

One hundred and five years ago, the second Baptist Church, corner of Main and Crescent Streets, was burned. The year following a new edifice was erected on the same spot, where today stands the Crystal Apartments. Old timers can recall this substantial building, in size 68 x 48 feet with 26-foot posts and a granite basement. The building committee were Burrage Yale, Hiram Sweetser, Lilley Eaton, Adam Wiley and N. C. White.

Some years back, town meetings were held outside the meeting house, sometimes in private homes. In the old records of 1805, such a meeting was "adjourned to Mr. Stephen Hale's Hall" and was to be opened at 7 p.m. This, by the way, is the first recorded *evening town meeting*.

AN OLD TIME BILL

October the 2-1767  
 Deacon Emerson, to Jeremiah Briant, Debtor  
 To a Wooden Shovel ——— £ 10.  
 To mending a Skimmer ——— " 4-6  
 To putting a Tree into a Shovel ——— " 9"  
 May 1768-  
 To mending a brafs Kettle ——— " 4-6  
 To 2 Staples for a Canoe ——— " 4-6  
 December  
 To a new Chain ——— 2.. 15"  
 Sum Total 4.. 7 " 6

JEREMIAH BRYANT'S (BRIANT) BILL

Bill for work done at his blacksmith shop that stood on the corner of Main and Church Streets.

"Oct. the 2, 1767

Deacon Emerson to Jeremiah Briant, Debtor

To a Wooden Shovel	10s-1d ten'r
To mending a Skimmer	4:6d
To putting a Tree into a shovel	9s

May 1768

To mending a brafs Kettle	4:6d
To 2 Staples for a Canoe	4:6d

December

To a new chain	£2:15
----------------	-------

Total	4:7:6"
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The annual town meeting, on March 27, 1933, voted to authorize the selectmen to petition the Legislature for authority to make the annexation of that part of Saugus known as Golden Hills. The Legislature granted the authority (Chapter 298 of the Acts of 1933), and the town of Wakefield accepted it on July 11, 1933. The town of Saugus accepted it on September 18, 1933.

From an early deed, to prove the property was unencumbered, this warranty was given: "that the said premises are free from the beginning of the world to ye day of ye date hereof" i.e., 1653. This deed was from Nicholas Browne; a first settler, and signed by his wife, Elizabeth.

In 1655, Robert Burnap sold to Robert Bridges of Linn "fifty pounds of good, sweet, well-conditioned fatt fresh beef, as well as dry, well cleaned wheat and pease." The delivery of local products at Boston was most difficult as the only highway was via Church and Elm Streets of today, through Reading, Woburn, over the old Medford Bridge, through Cambridge and into Boston via Roxbury and the "Neck."

The town supported a "Liquer Agency" in 1867-68. Sales were reported at \$3,983.72; cost \$2,885.26. Somebody figured a net profit of \$109.26. Why?

In passing may it be recorded, as within the decades covered by these chronicles, that in 1837 South Reading paid its debt—how about Wakefield in 1944?

## INDIAN RELICS

The search, within the bounds of Wakefield, for relics of the Indians, whose wigwams and life centered about or near our two lakes, was a hobby of a few citizens. Messrs. Charles A. Perkins, James H. Carter and Elwin I. Purrington each made noteworthy collections but not a single Indian grave has been discovered. The Purrington collection has been presented to the Wakefield Historical Society where it is on view to members and friends.

GREETINGS

Friends:

Wakefield is my native town. All my direct ancestors were born and have lived their lives here since 1644. My affection for this town has been constant and inspiring. Owing so much to a town that has given the privilege of the free and happy life it has been, it was with genuine pleasure that I have given freely of my time and energy to this volume—The History of Wakefield. May it have a worthy place among other books in your home; and increase your knowledge of and affection for the home of *your* ancestors or of your adoption. God bless America for the blessings of freedom of life, and for the town of Wakefield for its gifts to you and yours!

WILLIAM E. EATON







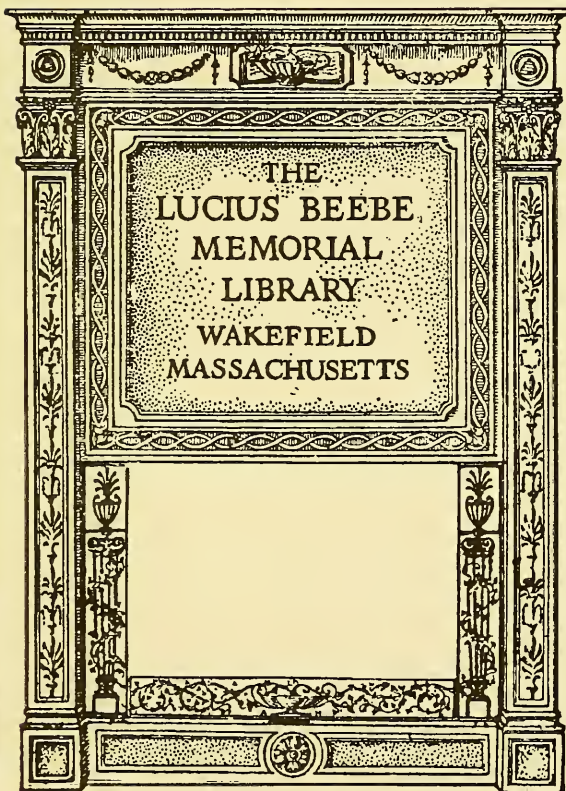
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