

PART FIRST.

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# GAZETTEER

—OF—

Hampshire County, Mass.,

1654-1887.

COMPILED AND EDITED BY

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GRAND ISLE, LAMOILLE, ORLEANS, WINDSOR, ESSEX, CALEDONIA,  
AND WINDHAM COUNTIES, IN VERMONT, BERKSHIRE  
COUNTY, MASS., AND CHESHIRE AND GRAFTON  
COUNTIES, IN NEW HAMPSHIRE.

PERMANENT OFFICE,

SYRACUSE, N. Y.

"He that hath much to do, will do something wrong, and of that wrong must suffer the consequences ;  
and if it were possible that he should always act rightly, yet when such numbers are to judge of his conduct,  
the bad will censure and obstruct him by malevolence, and the good sometimes by mistake."—SAMUEL  
JOHNSON.

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SYRACUSE, N. Y.

**H**UNTINGTON lies in the southwestern part of the county, and is bounded north by Chesterfield, east by Westhampton and small parts of Chesterfield and Southampton, south and west by the county line.

The surface of the town is varied by mountain, hill, valley, lakelet and stream, so that an extremely pleasing and picturesque view is presented from almost any point. Add to this, then, the delight of a healthful climate, and it will not seem strange that so many from less favored localities linger here during the summer months. The east branch of Westfield river is the prin-

cipal stream, which flows in a sinuous course through a beautiful valley the whole length of the town from north to south. In the southern part of the town, just above the village of Norwich Bridge, it receives the Middle branch from the west. Their united waters continue on to a point just below Huntington village, where they are joined by the West branch, making up the volume of Westfield river proper. Several smaller tributaries add to the waters of the East branch, the largest of which are Pond brook, from the east, and Little river from the west. In the southeastern part of the town, Roaring brook and a branch of Manhan river drain the country. In the western-central part of the town lies Massasoit pond, a pleasant little sheet of water which serves as a reservoir for the mills below. Among the more prominent elevations are Mt. Pisgah and Walnut hill, in the northern part, Goss hill in the western part, and Deer and Horse hills in the southern part. The town has also 13,334 acres of good farming land.

*Grant, Settlement and Subsequent Growth.*—A large part of the present territory of the town was originally embraced in what was called "Plantation No. 9." On June 2, 1762, this plantation, in common with several others in the vicinity, was sold at auction by the general court, and was purchased by William Williams, for £1,500. Three years later, October 31, 1765, the new township was incorporated under the name of Murrayfield.

On June 29, 1773, the eastern part of Murrayfield was set off and incorporated as the "District of Norwich," with "all the powers, privileges and immunities of a town, that of sending a representative to the general court, alone excepted." But on March 23, 1786, an act was passed providing that all districts incorporated before January 1, 1777, should be considered towns and have the rights of representation.

On February 21, 1783, the western part of the old territory of Murrayfield was given the name of Chester. As time passed on a thriving village sprang up on the corners of the towns of Blandford, Chester and Norwich, and which, thus lying in three towns and two counties, rendered police regulations very difficult to enforce. Accordingly, through agitation of a means to remedy this evil, a portion of the towns of Blandford and Chester were annexed to Norwich, in 1853, thus bringing the village (now Huntington village) entirely within the limits of that town. The Hon. Charles P. Huntington, of Northampton, was actively engaged in securing this change, and in 1855 the legislature passed an act changing the name of Norwich to that of Huntington, which it still bears.

The exact date of the first settlement cannot be given; but it was probably in the spring of 1769, and it is also probable that Daniel Kirkland and Samuel Knight and their families were here in the spring or summer of 1769. These are known to have been here, and there were doubtless others, for quite a group of families came on from Norwich, Conn., about that time. Among them, aside from those already mentioned, were Caleb Forbes, William Miller, David Scott, Isaac Mixer and John Rude. John Kirkland located

upon the place now owned by C. H. Kirkland, which has always remained in the possession of the family. Isaac Mixer located near Norwich Bridge. Caleb Forbes located a little further up the river. William Miller and John Rude located still further up the stream, near the north line of the town. This section was long known as Norwich Hollow.

The settlement of the new town increased with moderate rapidity, for in 1773 the following were here, many of them with families: Christian Angell, Solomon Blair, Thomas Crow, James Crow, David Crow, William Carter, Asa Carter, John Crow, Caleb Forbes, William Forbes, Elijah Forbes, Zebulon Fuller, James Fairman, Samuel Fairman, William French, John Griswold, James Gilmore, David Halbard, Jabez Holmes, Nathaniel Bennett, John Barnard, Solomon Holiday, Daniel Dana, John Crossett, Ebenezer Freeman, Solomon Holiday, Jr., Patrick Buckle, John Kirkland, Ebenezer King, Samuel Knight, Daniel Kirkland, Isaac Mixer, Isaac Mixer, Jr., Ebenezer Meacham, William Miller, David Palmer, John D. Palmer, David Palmer, Jr., Capt. E. Geer, Elijah Geer, Mace Cook, Zeb. Ross, John Rude, David Scott, Joseph Starton, John Tiffany, Miles Washburn, Peter Williams, Daniel Williams, Isaac Williams, Jr., Charles Williams, Jabez Story, James Clark, Jehiel Eggleston, Jonathan Ware and Peter Bunda.

The subsequent growth and fluctuation in the town's population may be seen in the following figures: In 1776 its population was 742; 1790, 742; 1800, 959; 1810, 968; 1820, 849; 1830, 795; 1840, 750; 1850, 756; 1855, 1,172; 1860, 1,216; 1865, 1,163; 1870, 1,156; 1875, 1,095; 1880, 1,236.

John Kirkland was a son of Rev. Daniel Kirkland, was born November 15, 1735. He bought in 1768 seven hundred acres of land, and built a log cabin on Norwich hill, as we have said, his nearest neighbor being at that time twelve miles distant. He was one of the first deacons of the church, and married Anna Palmer, who was a descendant of Thomas Palmer. His son Samuel was, in his younger days, surveyor on the Phelps tract near Canandaigua, N. Y., was representative to the general court in 1828 and 1830, for many years was justice of the peace, town treasurer, etc. He was taken prisoner in the Shays Rebellion, but was soon released. He married Dorcas Maxwell, daughter of Col. Hugh Maxwell, who was an officer in the Revolution, and died December 1, 1852, aged eighty seven years. His son Joseph was an officer of the church, and served the town in various ways, as a justice of the peace, etc. Edward, second son of Samuel, was a graduate of Amherst college, resided for many years in Louisville, Ky., but afterwards practiced law in Brattleboro, Vt., and died in January, 1866, aged fifty-nine years. The old homestead is now in possession of Charles H. Kirkland, son of Joseph, and has thus been in possession of the family for nearly one hundred and twenty years. He has served the town as selectman and school committee, and represented the Second Hampshire district in the legislature of 1860 and 1864. He served in the late war as lieutenant in Co. F, 46th Mass. Vols.

William Miller was one of the early settlers of Huntington, and made the first settlement on the farm now owned by William P. Miller, in 1763. The first night he spent in the town, he climbed into a scrubby hemlock tree, which is still standing, to avoid the wolves. He was a saddler by trade, married Elizabeth Perkins, and reared three children, Nathaniel, William and Rachel. William had born to him three children, namely, Electa, wife of William Gardner, Rachel, deceased, who married David Blair, and William P., who resides on the homestead.

Joel Searle came to this town, from Southampton, about 1795, and settled on the farm now owned by A. S. Searle. He married Sophia Sheldon, and reared nine children. Spencer, son of Joel, was born in 1804, married Philomelia Gaylord, and had born to him three children, Charles A., Albert S. and Clarissa P. Albert S., the only one now living, married Ellen M., daughter of John Peck, of Shelburne, Mass., and has three children, Clarissa B., John S. and Anthony C. On this farm is a ledge, which consists of mica, feldspar and quartz, which is considered valuable for the manufacture of crockery.

John Rude, son of Jacob, came to this town from Norwich, Conn., and made the first settlement on the farm now owned by Elias Rude, 2d, in 1770. His son John married Deborah Dunbar, and reared six children, namely, Zara, Clarissa, Alvin, Relief, Harvey and Elias. The last mentioned is the only one now living. Zara married Elizabeth Patch, and reared ten children, two of whom are living, Elias and John. The former married Ruth, widow of John Cole, and has had born to him two children, one of whom, Norman, resides in Syracuse, N. Y. Alvin married Mary, daughter of Jonathan Bisbee, and had six children.

Francis and Richard Cook came from England, and settled in the state of Massachusetts at a very early period in its history. John, a descendant of one of these brothers, married a Miss Tracy, and reared seven sons and four daughters. About 1770 he purchased a tract of land then in Chester, being the third lot surveyed in the town, and being a part of the farm now owned in Huntington by his grandson, John J. Cook. Perly, the third son of John, was born in 1764, came to Huntington about 1790, locating on the Cook farm, and married Lovina Burt, who bore him five sons and four daughters. Of these only four are at present living, viz., Pearly B., of Cohoes, N. Y., Edward W., of Hartford, Conn., Clarissa M. Clark, widow of Edward A. Clark, of Easthampton, and John J., of this town. The last mentioned was born July 13, 1806, married Lucy S. Taylor, and has two children, Franklin B., of Hinsdale, Mass., and Marion L., who resides with her father. Mr. Cook became interested in the manufacture of window shades, in 1833, in company with Thomas F. Plunkett; in 1836, bought the entire interest in the blind business, and a half interest in the cotton business, and in 1842, purchased the entire interest of Mr. Plunkett, carrying on the business until 1855, when through failing health he was compelled to retire.

Abel Stanton, son of Jabez, was born about 1748, and married Olive Reed

in 1769. His son Joseph was born in July, 1783, married Grace Winchell, August 16, 1804, and reared a large family of children as follows: Luke W., born September 17, 1806, Jabez, born July 16, 1808, Hannon, born December 4, 1810, Fanny M., born February 12, 1813, Henry, born April 5, 1815, Joseph, born February 12, 1818, Adeline, born February 20, 1820, and Catherine, born April 19, 1822. Mr. Stanton was a prominent man in his day, held various town offices, was deacon of the church, and died March 12, 1870. Luke W. was a successful physician, and died in 1869. Jabez lived in Ohio, for a time, and at the time of his death, in 1872, was station agent of the Boston and Albany railroad at Huntington. He had born to him two children, A. J. and Mrs. H. W. Munson, the latter residing in this town. Hannon lives in the West. Fanny M. married twice, first Hiram Chapman, and second Moses Fisk, and died in 1879. She had three children, Emerson, who died in the late war, Henry S. and Irving. Henry reared nine children, seven of whom survive him. He died in 1874. Four of his sons reside in town, Henry E., Fred P., George K. and Edward W. His daughter Flora L. also resides in town, living at home with her mother. Adeline married Haverton Collins, a farmer at Huntington, and her children are Ella, who married A. J. Stanton, Carrie, who married Alex McDougall, Arthur and Isabel, the last two residing at home. Catherine has married twice, first, Dr. Homer Holland, and second John J. Bowles. They reside in Huntington.

Joseph Lindsey moved to Blandford about 1790, and purchased a tract of land extending from near Russell to what is now the village of Huntington. Joseph married Salvina Gere, and reared seven children, only one of whom, S. I. Lindsey, is now living. The latter married twice, first, Electa Lindsey, who bore him two children, Charles M., of this town, and Eunice A. Gilmore, of Springfield. He married for his second wife, Mary A., widow of Emmons Griffin, and has one son Frank H., who also resides in this town.

Ebenezer Williams moved from Canterbury, Conn., to Worthington, as an early settler. His oldest son, Leonard, was born in 1774, studied medicine with Dr. James Holland, of Huntington, and succeeded to his practice. He married Olive Wadsworth, March 7, 1799, and reared three children. Jabin B., son of Leonard, was for many years a merchant in this town, married Lydia Wilson, and had born to him six children. Of these L. B., Henry F. and Charles are engaged in the manufacture of baskets at Northampton, and Cynthia A. is the widow of Israel D. Clark. James H. was born in this town, June 20, 1805, married Mary Prentiss, and had born to him three children, only one of whom is living, Whitman P., who lives in Huntington, and is engaged in milling and is a dealer in flour and feed.

The first legal district meeting was held July 14 1773, when David Scott was chosen moderator; John Kirkland, clerk; John Kirkland, Caleb Fobes and David Scott, selectmen and assessors; David Scott, treasurer; Miles Washburn, constable. District meetings were first held at the dwelling-house of Caleb Fobes, afterwards at Isaac Mixer's hotel. The constable was di-

rected to warn such meeting by posting up a copy of the warrant at Isaac Mixer's grist-mill, which appears to have been located about half a mile, more or less, above Norwich Bridge. From 1781 to 1841, they were held at the meeting-house. A town-house was then built near Knightville, which did service till after Chester village was brought into the town. A hall was hired here, which burned in 1862, and the town then built their present town-hall.

The first town officers elected after the reconstruction of the township, March 11, 1854, were Lyman Dimock, clerk; E. B. Tinker, Edward Williams and Jabez Stanton, selectmen; Whitman Knight, treasurer; Rev. Townsend Walker, Dr. N. S. Bartlett and Charles M. Kirkland, school committee; John Parks, constable; Washington Stevens, E. B. Tinker and Edward Williams, overseers of the poor; G. S. Lewis, collector; Salmon Thomas, F. H. Axtell, Homer Clark, Horace Taylor, Elias Rude and C. H. Stickney, field-drivers; Garry Munson, H. B. Dimock and William T. Miller, fence viewers; Daniel Granger, Jabez Stanton, G. S. Lewis, Whitman Knight and A. S. Rollins, surveyors of lumber; Seth Porter, sealer of leather; C. H. Stickney, E. S. Ellis, William T. Miller and Joseph Stanton, sextons; Garry Munson and H. B. Dimock, pound keepers; Daniel Granger, James Jones, Jabez Stanton, George Merritt and Whitman Knight, measures of wood and bark.

*Military.*—In 1774, the district voted to provide powder, lead, flints and a drum for the use of the district. The same year Ebenezer Meacham was chosen to attend the congress at Concord. September 23, 1774, at a legal district meeting, the resolves of a county congress held at Northampton were read and considered satisfactory. A committee was appointed to send to the provincial congress the sentiment of this district respecting the public distresses of this province. It was also "Voted, that it was proper at this critical day, to form into a military company for learning the art of military," and that Capt. Ebenezer Geer be requested to lead in the choice of officers. A military company was accordingly organized October 6, 1774, by the choice of the following officers: John Kirkland, captain; David Scott, lieutenant; Ebenezer King, ensign. As a precautionary measure, to guard against dangerous persons and paupers, certain individuals were voted out of the district, with the refusal to admit them as inhabitants. In 1775, it was

"Voted to choose a committee in compliance with the method adopted by the provincial congress, and also the same to be a committee of correspondence, and said committee are further enjoined by this body to take all possible methods to suppress disorder, and that every person shall be fairly heard before he is condemned, that we may enjoy our interest and prosperity peaceably, and live as Christians."

When the war of the Revolution was fairly commenced, Norwich furnished, it is believed, its full quota of men. Though the town records are on this point very imperfect, yet from various sources the following names of Revolutionary soldiers are obtained: Halsey Sandford, Stephen Angel, Isaac Coit.

In the war of 1812, the town took the usual stand of its neighbors, a willingness to fight if need be, but believing that the war was unnecessary. The following men went out to the defence of Boston under the call of Governor Strong: Samuel Lyman, Enos Wait, John Ladd, Solomon Belden, Samuel Henry, Samuel Sanderson, Harvey Stone, Russell Smith, and Perkins S. Pitcher.

In the late civil war the town furnished 137 men, a surplus of eight over all demands, five of whom were commissioned officers. The total amount of money furnished was \$12,000.00, and \$10,368.51 as a war loan.

#### VILLAGES.

HUNTINGTON VILLAGE lies in the southwestern section of the town, on the west branch of Westfield river and on the Boston and Albany railroad. The village is beautifully located in the midst of surrounding hills and being the business center of quite a large section of country, is a bright, flourishing place. A postoffice was established here early in the present century, and Daniel Falley was the first postmaster, whence the village took the name of Falley's X-roads. Thus it was known until the advent of the railroad, when the name was changed to Chester, the station having been located in a part of the village then lying within the limits of that town. But finally came the changes of 1853-55 we have already detailed, since which time the village has borne its present name.

NORWICH VILLAGE containing the town's only other past postoffice, lies nearly in the geographical center of the township. It is locally known as "The Hill." Here it was that the Kirklands, the Knights, the Hannums, and, not far away, the Fairmans, Fobes, and others located in 1773. The village is divided into two sections, the northern part, where are mills, shops, school-house and postoffice; and the southern part, where are the church, a school-house and dwellings.

NORWICH BRIDGE is a hamlet just above Huntington village.

KNIGHTSVILLE is a hamlet still farther up the valley, opposite "The Hill," taking its name from the Knight family.

#### MANUFACTURES.

*The Highland Mills.*—Atherton J. Stanton, of Pittston, Pa., son of Jabez, was one of the early manufacturers at the village. In company with William Little, son of Benjamin Little, he built on the site now occupied by the Highland Mills. They manufactured bed-spreads, and claimed to be one of the first to make these goods, at least by power looms, in the country. They also made flannel. Little & Stanton's mill was burned, and the Hampshire Manufacturing Company was formed and built the present mill. A number of local parties were induced to invest in the stock of the company, and A. J.



Stanton was the agent. The company failed. In 1873 the mills came into the possession of the present company, of which R. S. Frost, of Chelsea, Mass., is president; R. F. Greeley, treasurer, and H. J. Brown, superintendent. The mills are operated by both water and steam-power, and are at present used in the manufacture of fancy cassimeres, employing about one hundred hands.

*The Chester Paper Co.*—This mill was erected in 1853, by the Greenleaf & Taylor Manfg. Co., and began the manufacture of book and news paper in the spring of 1854, making about 1,800 lbs. per day, which was considered a large product for the times. After running several years on this class of goods, the company decided, in 1855, to change the mill on to fine writing papers, and immediately took steps to put in the necessary machinery, and in 1856 the first fine writing papers were made. For years the mill has been famous for the uniformly fine quality of its goods, and has run with but little or no interruption (except for the necessary repairs incident to a paper-mill) for more than thirty years, during which time its capacity has been more than doubled. The present company was organized in 1882, with a capital of \$75,000.00, the property having been owned by the original founders up to that date. The mill is probably the oldest in Western Massachusetts now in successful operation. The property has a fine water-power ample for its needs during nine or ten months of the year. During low water in the river the power is supplemented by a 150 horse-power steam engine, which is capable of driving the whole works if necessary. The number of hands employed averages seventy-five, and the annual product of the mill amounts to about 500 tons of fine papers.

*W. P. Williams's grist-mill*, on road 27, has one run of stones and grinds about 16,000 bushels of grain per year.

*M. R. Fisk's saw and grist mill*, located at Huntington, is operated by a thirty horse-power engine, is equipped with circular, lumber and lathe-slitting saws, etc., employs five men and cuts annually 500,000 feet of lumber. The grist-mill has one run of stones and grinds annually about 25,000 bushels of grain.

*H. E. Stanton's saw-mill*, located at Huntington, is operated by water-power and gives employment to ten men in the manufacture of lumber, whip-butts, basket-rims and handles, lath, shingles, etc.

#### CHURCHES.

*Christ's Congregational church*, located at Norwich village, was organized by Rev. Jonathan Judd, of Southampton, Jonathan Huntington, of Worthington, and Aaron Bascomb, of Chester, with twenty-five members, in July, 1778, and Rev. Stephen Tracy, of Norwich, Conn., was the first pastor. Services were held in the school-house till 1796, when the first church building was erected. The present building was erected in 1842. It is a wooden

structure capable of seating 225 persons, and valued at \$2,500.00. The society now has seventy-three members, with Rev. Ernest F. Bochers, pastor.

*The Second Congregational church*, located at Huntington village, was organized by the Hampden Association of Ministers, with twenty-eight members, August 26, 1846. Rev. Perkins K. Clark was the first pastor. In 1847 the society built a church, which was destroyed by fire in January, 1862, and in 1863 the present edifice was erected. It is of wood, capable of comfortably accommodating 300 persons, and is valued at \$5,000.00. The society now has seventy members, with Rev. William F. Avery, pastor.

*The Huntington Baptist church*, located at the village, was organized by its first pastor, Rev. John Green, and others, with ten members, October 7, 1852. Their church building was erected in 1836, by the Methodist society that formerly flourished here. The society now has 111 members, with Rev. Howard R. Mitchell, pastor.

*St. Thomas' Catholic church*, located at the village, was organized by the Rt. Rev. P. T. O'Reilly, April 4, 1886, and Rev. Lawrence J. Dervin was appointed its pastor. The church building was erected in 1880, at a cost of \$6,000.00, and is now valued, including grounds, at \$14,000.00. The parish includes the organizations in Russell, Blandford and Montgomery. Among other good works, Rev. Father Dervin immediately instituted a temperance society when he came here in April, now known as the St. Thomas Total Abstinence Society, which has eighty-five members, with the interest steadily increasing.