

# OFFICIAL



*Souvenir Program*

Congratulations Chelmsford  
**ON YOUR 300<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY**  
**1655 - 1955**

Lowell Five Cent Savings Bank, just starting its second century of banking,

is happy to salute Chelmsford on their 300th Anniversary.

When the first settlers arrived here,

witch hunting was prevalent in nearby Salem,

Oliver Cromwell, Lord Protector, reigned supreme in London,

and Louis XIV was the Sun King of France.

That was the world of 300 years ago.

Today, Chelmsford is home to over 2500 families.

The services of the Lowell Five Cent Savings Bank,

traditional in Lowell for 100 years,

will soon be available right in Chelmsford.

Yes, we hope to open a new office of this bank in your town.

The new branch will be established in what is now Page's Drugstore.

Many of our present depositors are Chelmsford residents.

To them, and others, our new office will bring convenience

and the best in mutual savings bank services.



**THE LOWELL FIVE CENT SAVINGS BANK**

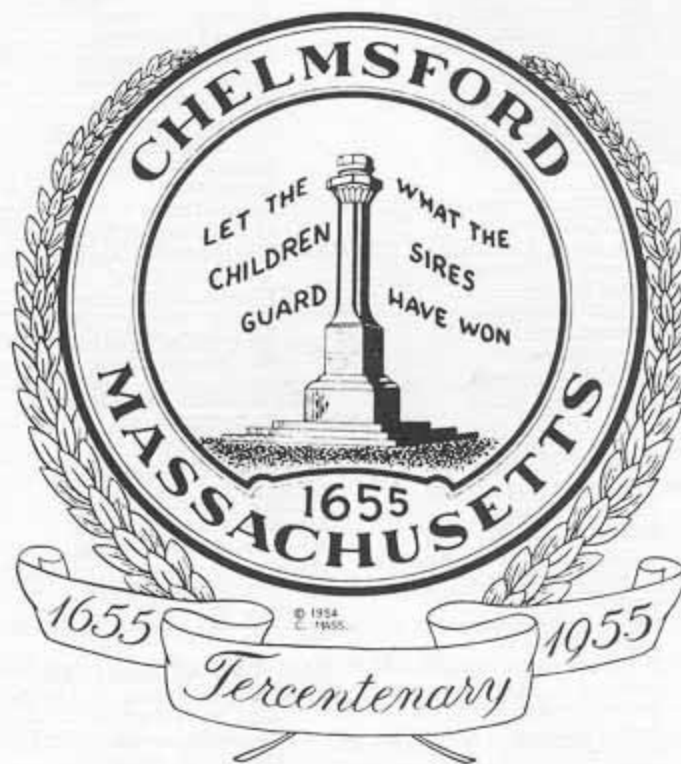
34 JOHN STREET  
INCORPORATED 1854

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1655 - 1955

OFFICIAL PROGRAM

CHELMSFORD TERCENTENARY



... CREDITS ...

OFFICIAL SEAL, BY KAY MACELROY

FRONT COVER SEAL AND LETTERING, BY BERNARD READY

BACK COVER SEAL, BY BERTRAM NEEDHAM

ART WORK ON SIGNATURE PAGES, BY SHIRLEY L. BUTTERFIELD

COMPILING, ARRANGING AND EDITING OF THIS PROGRAM BY RICHARD T. MCDERMOTT, RAYMOND T. OSBORN AND CHARLES D. HARRINGTON.

ALL HISTORICAL DATA IN THIS PROGRAM WAS COMPILED BY THE HISTORICAL COMMITTEE HEADED BY HOWARD D. SMITH, WHO ACKNOWLEDGES A GREAT DEAL OF ASSISTANCE FROM ARNOLD C. PERHAM.

# CHELMSFORD TERCENTENARY CELEBRATION COMMITTEES

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Vice Chairman  
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Thomas J. Campbell  
Charles D. Harrington  
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Sidney E. Dupree  
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Edward G. Krasnecki

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Bertram T. Needham  
Mrs. Donald E. Wilder  
Harold Linstad  
William Edge  
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Mary Cone  
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William Colmer  
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Richard Monahan  
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Harry Pascall  
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Sumner Edwards  
Ralph Wells  
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Daniel Haley  
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Mr. Robert Barris

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Mrs. Raymond Reid  
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Mrs. Richard Monahan  
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Mrs. Allan Kidder  
Mrs. Raymond Johnson



CHRISTIAN A. HERTER  
*Governor*

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Department  
State House, Boston



CHRISTIAN A. HERTER  
*Governor*

*To the Chelmsford Tercentenary Committee:*

I am honored to be able to convey the official greetings of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, as well as my own best wishes, to the many citizens of the Town of Chelmsford upon the significant occasion of the celebration of a 300th anniversary.

Chelmsford's three centuries of incorporation as a township — with nearly as much of its history recorded in the colonial era as in the days following the emergence of our new nation — give your town a reassuring continuity, a venerable dignity and a shining tradition which is very precious, indeed, in these times of instability and world unrest. That the American experiment in democratic self-rule was well conceived and soundly constructed by the founding fathers is no better evidenced in the United States than by the peaceful and assured manner in which our present day Chelmsford citizens freely and happily pursue their many activities, treading the same ground and breathing the same air that stimulated colonial forebears who also dreamt American dreams and succeeded in them.

Chelmsford, I am confident, has a secure future, just as does America. At this Tercentenary celebration, I know that we will want to re-examine and re-evaluate the magnificent accomplishments of the past in order to better sustain and promote the bright future that lies ahead.

On behalf of all of the people of the Commonwealth, I am delighted and privileged to extend official congratulations.

*Christian A. Herter*

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# The New Chelmsford War Memorial

Located on the Common  
Chelmsford Center

Dedicated May 30, 1955



Dedicated to the memory of all Chelmsford Men and Women who have served in all of the Wars in which our Nation has been involved.

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THIS PAGE CONTRIBUTED BY  
**THE LOWELL ELECTRIC LIGHT CORP.**

29 MARKET STREET

LOWELL, MASS.



BOROUGH OF CHELMSFORD,  
ESSEX, ENGLAND.

MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATION  
To Chelmsford, Massachusetts,  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

**W** The Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the BOROUGH of CHELMSFORD, the County Town of Essex, England, send to you the Chairman, Selectmen and Inhabitants of CHELMSFORD, MASSACHUSETTS, United States of America, our warmest greetings and congratulations on the occasion of your celebrating on the Thirty-first day of May, One thousand nine hundred and fifty five, the THREE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY of your incorporation.

**W**ish you to know that our thoughts are of you and your Town on this important day in your long history. It is with a deep and sincere sense of pride that we remember that it was our Town after which your own was named, and from which a number of your founders came so long ago in the early days of your great country.

**W**like to think that links such as this which so many Towns in the New World share with those of the Old serve to strengthen the ties of friendship and goodwill which unite our two Nations and in which they both strive for a lasting peace and freedom for all peoples throughout the world.

**I**s our earnest hope that these ties may grow stronger throughout the passing years and that our two Nations marching side by side in their great endeavours may to quote the motto of our Town forever have MANY MINDS ONE HEART.

**G**IVEN under the Common Seal of the Mayor Aldermen and Burgesses of the BOROUGH OF CHELMSFORD this 26th day of April, One thousand nine hundred and fifty five

*W. W. Darby*

Mayor

*R. Harris*

Town Clerk.





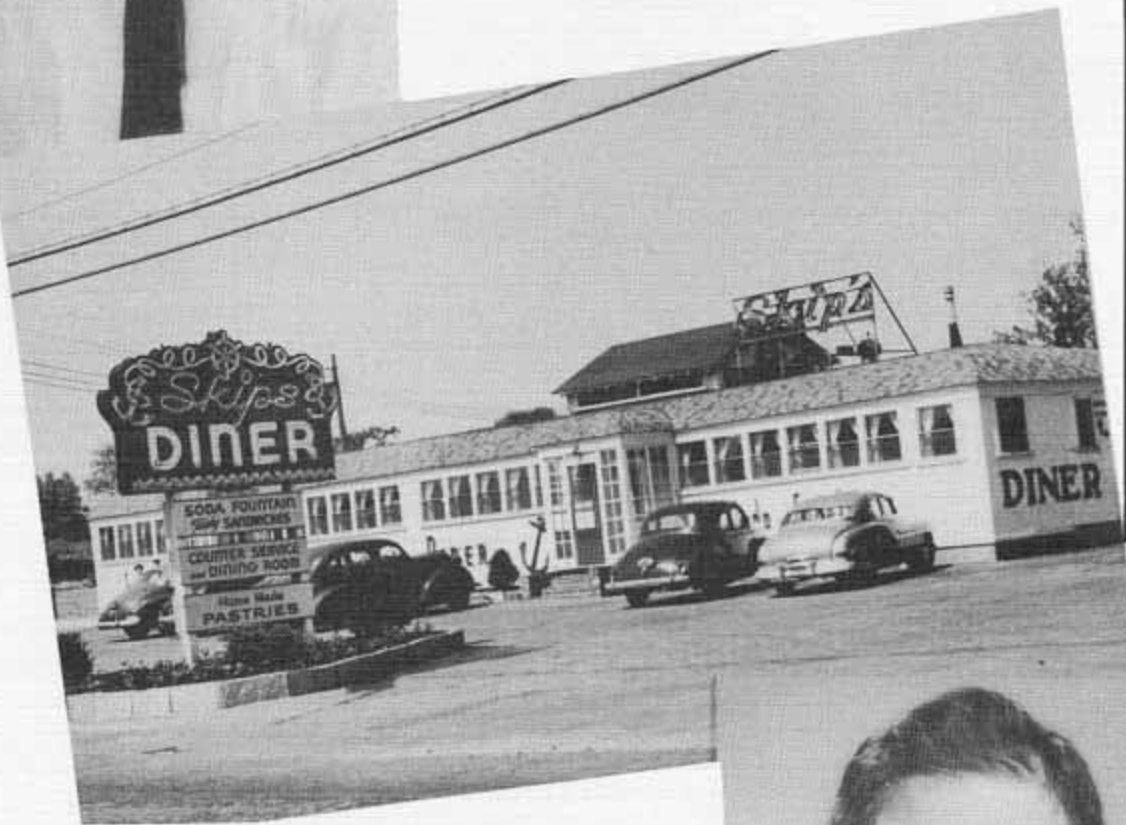
*Congratulations*

FROM

ALL THE "GANG"

AT

**SKIP'S**



*Famous*

FOR FINE FOODS  
BARBECUE CHICKEN  
HOMEMADE PASTRY



**SKIPS**



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## WHAT IS CHELMSFORD ?

To attempt to describe Chelmsford as a spot on the map, or as a certain number of square miles of land, or as so many streets, so many buildings and so many people, is the height of folly.

Chelmsford is a community — a community of people with ambitions, with loves, with responsibilities and with hopes that could not be tabulated by the newest of the electronic tabulators; and it is also a community that has a whole-hearted respect for the people who founded it some 300 years ago, who dared the wilderness to set up homes here where now we live.

But Chelmsford, while respecting its past, is not content to live on this alone. Chelmsford is looking ahead and planning for a future that will give our children and our children's children an even better community in which to live.

Progress is more evident today than ever before. Chelmsford today is fast completing the change from a rural to a suburban residential community. With nearly 3000 homes in Chelmsford today, there is no let-up in the demand for more houses, and with the influx of population—today's figure being 11,760—comes the demand for more business establishments, more industries, more schools, and more of everything that goes into serving such a community. This demand is being met as quickly as possible.

The school, police, fire, health and highway services, all town-operated, bear little resemblance to those of 50 years ago, or even 10 years ago, and with progress will come more and more to help make Chelmsford an even better place in which to live.

But Chelmsford, as a community, is primarily the people of the town, and it is to these people that this Official Souvenir Tercentenary Program is dedicated — to recall a bit of the great past and to lend promise for the glorious future.

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THIS PAGE CONTRIBUTED BY  
**MIDDLESEX COUNTY NATIONAL BANK**

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**PURITY** is proud to salute

THE TOWN OF CHELMSFORD

on its 300th birthday

**PURITY FOOD STORES**

**Boston Road ❖ Chelmsford Center**

**OPEN EVERY EVENING**

**UNTIL 9 P. M.**

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# Program of Tercentenary Events

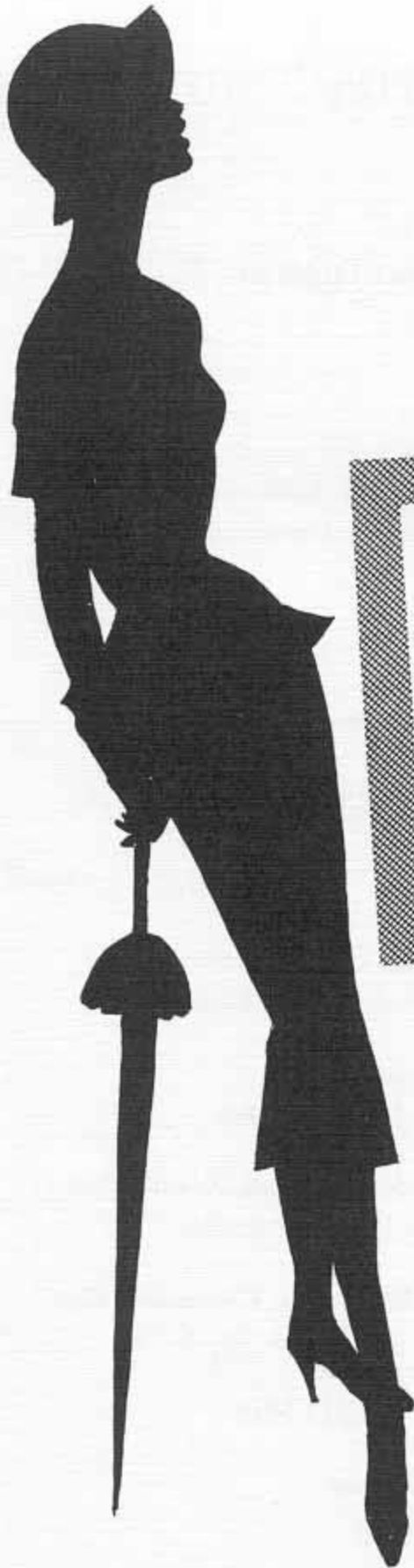
## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8

- 6:30 p.m. Kick-off Dinner.  
Crowning of Queen.
- 7:30 p. m. Historical Pageant, High School Auditorium  
sponsored by Youth Activities Committee.
- 10:00 p.m. Fireworks, North Chelmsford.

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## THURSDAY, JUNE 9

- 8:00 a.m. Ringing of the Bells.
- 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Field Day, High School Memorial Field  
sponsored by School Committee and Lions Club.
- 10:00 a.m. Tree Planting, Adams Library  
sponsored by Chelmsford Garden Club.
- 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Open House, Historical Museum, Adams Library  
sponsored by Chelmsford Historical Society.
- 2:30 p.m. Baseball — Howe High of Billerica vs. Chelmsford High.
- 6:00 p.m. Baseball Game, Varney Playground  
Pony League
- 7:30 p.m. Pageant, High School Auditorium  
Youth Activities Committee



*congratulations  
Chelmsford  
on your  
Tercentenary  
celebration!*



*Lowell's only  
large store  
devoted exclusively  
to fashion*

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# Program of Tercentenary Events

FRIDAY, JUNE 10

- 8:00 a.m. Ringing of the Bells.
- 9:00 a.m. Cake Contest, Judging, All Saints Parish Hall, Chelmsford  
Best decorated cake — Prizes to be awarded.
- 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Arts and Crafts Exhibit, by men, women and children of  
Chelmsford, Unitarian Church Vestry.  
Theme — "My Leisure Time Activity".
- 2:00 p.m. Open House, Historical Museum, Adams Library.
- 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Parade of Fashions, All Saints Parish Hall  
Refreshments to be served.
- 6:00 p.m. Baseball, Little League Park, Westlands  
Sponsored by Little League.
- 8:30 p.m. Olde Folkes Concert, Leroy W. Allen, Guest Conductor  
Home Coming Evening  
at the High School Auditorium.

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# *Congratulations Chelmsford*



THE  
**LOWELL CO-OPERATIVE BANK**

IS PROUD TO HAVE ACTIVELY PARTICIPATED IN THE GROWTH  
OF THIS FINE RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY. WE ARE ALWAYS  
READY TO SERVE THE PEOPLE OF CHELMSFORD.

*Complete Mortgage Service*  
*Three Savings Plans*

**LOWELL CO-OPERATIVE BANK**

18 HURD STREET

LOWELL

GLenview 7-7597

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# Program of Tercentenary Events

SATURDAY, JUNE 11

- 8:00 a.m. Ringing of the Bells.
- 10:00 a.m. Tercentenary Parade.
- 1:00 p.m. Firemen's Muster — Golden Cove Park.
- 1:30 p.m. Some early homes of Chelmsford to hold Open House  
Sponsored by Tercentenary Historical Committee.
- 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Open House, Historical Museum, Adams Library.  
Sponsored by Chelmsford Historical Society.
- 5:00 p.m. Tercentenary Banquet — Tent at High School Grounds  
Speaking program to follow.
- 8:30 p.m. Tercentenary Ball — High School Auditorium.
- 8:30 p.m. 20th Century Ball — North Elementary School.

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GEORGE C. MOORE  
WOOL SCOURING MILLS

North Chelmsford  
Massachusetts



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# Program of Tercentenary Events

SUNDAY, JUNE 12

Morning — Church Services.

2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Home Coming — South Chelmsford Village Improvement Hall.  
Sponsored by South Chelmsford V.I.A.

2:00 p.m. Open House, Historical Museum, Adams Library.

2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Band Concert, North Chelmsford.

3:00 p.m. Tercentenary Tree Planting, North Chelmsford Common  
Billerica Gift to Chelmsford.

4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Band Concert, Chelmsford Center.

8:00 p.m. Tercentenary Choral Concert — High School Auditorium  
Choir of 100 voices, Arthur Thompson, Conductor  
Speaker — Prof. Richard Cameron of Boston University.

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**H. E. FLETCHER CO.**

**PRODUCERS OF**

**CHELMSFORD GRANITE**  
**FOR**  
**75 YEARS**

# CHELMSFORD TERCENTENARY COMMITTEE



John H. Valentine



Arnold C. Perham  
Vice Chairman



Carl A. E. Peterson  
Chairman



Mrs. E. Newcomb Mills  
Executive Secretary



Perry T. Snow



Edward G. Krasnecki



Thomas J. Campbell



Charles D. Harrington



Clifford Hartley



Harold C. Petterson  
Treasurer



Sidney E. Dupee

## CHAIRMEN OF SUB-COMMITTEES



Raymond Osborn  
Ways and Means



Thomas R. Hennessy  
Parade



Mrs. Donald E. Wilder  
Women's Activities



Thomas L. Rivard  
Youth Activities



Richard T. McDermott  
Official  
Souvenir Program



William T. Picken  
Banquet



Arthur N. Thompson  
Music



Roger W. Boyd  
Guest



Howard D. Smith  
Historical



Ralph J. Hulslender  
Traffic-safety



Allan Kidder  
Musters



Bertram E. Needham  
Decorating-souvenirs



Mrs. Roger W. Boyd  
Official Seal



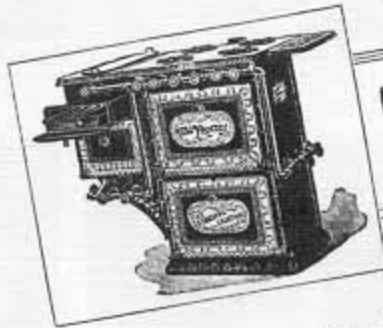
Arnaud R. Blackadar  
Church Affairs



Sheppard Bartlett  
Publicity

The advertisement below appeared in the year 1899, when the Lowell Gas Company was only a youngster and Chelmsford was just 244 years old . . .

*Models have changed a bit since then*



*Only a Match To Light the Fire.*

*Now it's entirely automatic, of course*

*stated rather strongly but it's still true*

*Today it's far superior to any other fuel*

*We have the Gas Range. You have no excuse for poor cooking, whether for baking, boiling, roasting, or broiling, or for any kind of fancy dish; it will be found that*

*Cooking by Gas is Far Superior than Cooking by Coal.*

*Very true!*

*The gas method is quicker and cleaner, and it is a fact that gas is much more easily controlled than coal, and the heat is of course uniform, which is especially desirable for baking. You pay for what you use, and you use less than what you think. Cooking by gas will be found to be as cheap as any other kind of fuel. If you will call at the office, would be pleased to show samples of Gas Ranges.*

*Lowell Gas Light Company, Office, 22 Shattuck St.*

*Cheaper in fact*

*We've moved since then*

Fifty-six years ago gas was the leader in its field and today gas is still the leader.

In 1899 the gas range had features and advantages no other types of ranges could duplicate. In 1955 the modern gas range . . . as all gas appliances . . . is far ahead in cleanliness, speed, convenience and economy.

## LOWELL GAS COMPANY

81 EAST MERRIMACK STREET, LOWELL, MASS.

TEL. GL 8-6851





SUMNER G. WHITTIER  
*Lieutenant Governor*

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Department  
State House, Boston



SUMNER G. WHITTIER  
*Lieutenant Governor*

Heartiest congratulations to the people of Chelmsford  
on the tercentenary of the incorporation of your town.

From the time of the first settlement of Chelmsford by adventurous and enterprising young men of Woburn and Concord, your town has taken its part in the progress of Massachusetts and New England.

The early years were the hardest and through those perilous times the men and women of Chelmsford displayed their tenacious love of land and liberty as they weathered the ravages of King Philip's War and later battles with the French and Indians.

The example these pioneers set as they fought for freedom and family has been followed by their descendants. For three hundred years the people of Chelmsford have graphically demonstrated this same courage and determination in all of our wars.

Now, as Chelmsford steps into the fourth century of its existence, the eager anticipation, the confidence, the community spirit, and the new growth of the town assure me that even brighter, more glorious years lie ahead.

SUMNER G. WHITTIER

THIS SPACE CONTRIBUTED BY

CARL A. E. PETERSON

REALTOR ——— INSURANCE

43 CENTRAL SQ.

CHELMSFORD, MASS.

The

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Story

In 1653 there were thirty-nine persons from the vicinity of Concord and Woburn who petitioned the legislature for a tract of land on the west side of the Concord river, and in that petition they stated, "that there was a very comfortable place to accommodate a company of God's people upon, who may with God's blessing do good in that place



Known today as the "Hearse House" and located at Forefathers' Cemetery, center section, this building is the oldest surviving district school of the town.

for church and state." The tract they wished to have was about six miles square. About this same time the Rev. John Eliot of Roxbury petitioned the legislature, "for a grant of land lying about Pawtucket and Wamesit falls, to be appropriated to the sole and exclusive use of the tribe inhabiting thereabouts." This was the section in which the Pawtucket tribe of Indians lived. The court directed that both of the above mentioned plantations be laid out, and that the petition of the thirty-nine inhabitants of Concord and Woburn be granted, except a portion of it lying on the Merrimack river. This plantation grant was made on May 18, 1653 and laid out the next June, and in less than eighteen months there were enough settlers to render it advisable to call a general meeting for the choice of officers, "to manage the public affairs of the place," and at this first public meeting on Nov. 22, 1654 the first town officers were chosen, they were, Esdras Reed, Edward Spalding, William Fletcher, Isaac Learned, Simon Thompson, William Underwood, and Thomas Adams.

At this meeting measures were adopted for the support of a settled minister, the Rev. John Fiske,

whose recompense was as follows:- "thirty acres of meadow and thirty acres of arable land, for his convenience; to build him a house thirty-eight feet long and twenty feet wide, with three fire places and chimnies, built of brick or stone; to pay him fifty pounds sterling for the first year, and his maintenance for the future as the Lord should enable them." This first public meeting of the settlers was held at the home of William Fletcher.

The second town meeting was held on March 24, 1655, and it was at this meeting that it was voted "that the first Monday in March shall be observed by all the house-holders of the town, from year to year for the choosing of all annual officers, belonging to the town, as selectmen or committee." and thus originated the time of our annual town meeting. Every house-holder was obliged to attend these town meetings, and if absent the first hour the fine was twelve pence; and for a whole days absence the fine was two shillings.



Located right in the Center, at Central Square and Billerica Road, this is the Fiske House, built in 1798 and bought by John Minot Fiske in 1839.

This early plantation was incorporated in May, 1655, and given the name, Chelmsford, after Chelmsford, England, as it is supposed that some of the early settlers were from that place. Although there were only a relatively few settlers at this time, yet they were not content with the large tract of land already granted them, and so as soon as 1656 they asked the General Court for an additional grant of land, giving as their reasons:- "That the barrenness of one part and the stoniness of the other had constrained them to situate their habi-

THIS SPACE CONTRIBUTED BY

Pratt and Forrest Co.

391 SCHOOL STREET

LOWELL, MASS.

THIS SPACE CONTRIBUTED BY  
**RUSSELL LUMBER CO.**

Foot of MEADOWCROFT STREET

LOWELL, MASS.

The

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Story

tation on the corner of their bounds; that their situation was near the northeast line, and that they had no outlet for their cattle to feed upon." This petition with some modifications was later granted, and also at about this same time the Rev. John Eliot asked for an enlargement of the grant for the Indians. This additional grant contained the northerly part of the present Chelmsford and all of what is now the town of Westford, the Chelmsford line extended to the Groton line, so that the whole of Chelmsford after this second grant included the



*This house, located at 16-18 Westford Street, was built in 1793 for Hezekiah Packard, one of the early ministers of the town and founder of the first Social Library.*

present town of Chelmsford, the town of Westford, most of Carlisle, and a goodly portion of what is now the city of Lowell. In this second grant of land the Indians were given a common right with the inhabitants of Chelmsford, but whether they availed themselves of this right at all is not certainly known. These early settlers were thus possessed of this large tract of land and wished to have others come and locate here, yet they were extremely cautious of admitting strangers to share their toils and enjoy their privileges, and so no one was allowed to take up or purchase land of the Committee so empowered, until they had been approved and formally admitted an inhabitant by major vote in a town meeting. At the same time they were attentive to the civil and pecuniary interests of the town, and their policy was to invite mechanics and tradesmen to settle here by offering land and accommodations gratuitously to them who would come and set up and carry on their trades in this town. As early as 1656, William How was admitted

as an inhabitant, and he was granted twelve acres of meadow and eighteen of upland, provided he set up his trade of weaving and perform the towns work. That same year, Samuel Adams set up a saw-mill, and he was granted 450 acres of land.

To this grant another of a hundred acres was added in consideration of his erecting a corn-mill, and to further encourage him, an order was passed, "that no other corn-mill shall be erected for this town, provided the said Adams keep a sufficient mill and miller. In 1661 he obtained liberty to set flood gates at Heart Pond to himself and heirs forever." However, we find that in 1669, "it became necessary for the accommodation of the north westerly part of the town to encourage the erection of another saw mill. To this end a parcel of land was granted to Thomas Hinchman, William Fletcher and Josiah Richardson in 1669, for their encouragement and assistance in Building the second saw mill in town."



*Built just 200 years ago, this place, known as the "Trooper Jock House", gained its name because the builder, Jonathan Coburn, was a Revolutionary War trooper.*

On Sept. 3, 1669 it, "was ordered by the town that all those who shall take up any accommodation in town shall pay for a ten acre lot 12-10 and in the same proportion for any lot greater or smaller, which shall be appropriated to the use of the town. Previous to this, house-lots of ten, fifteen or twenty acres were given to approved characters, on condition they build and settle upon them, otherwise they were to return to the town. After this date no lands were given except to mechanics, or

continued on page 34

THIS SPACE CONTRIBUTED BY  
**E. A. WILSON CO.**

700 BROADWAY

LOWELL, MASS.



CHELMSFORD FIRE DEPT.



PUBLICITY COMMITTEE



CHELMSFORD FIRE DEPT.



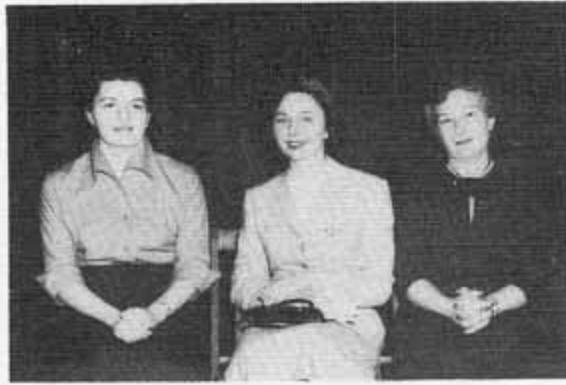
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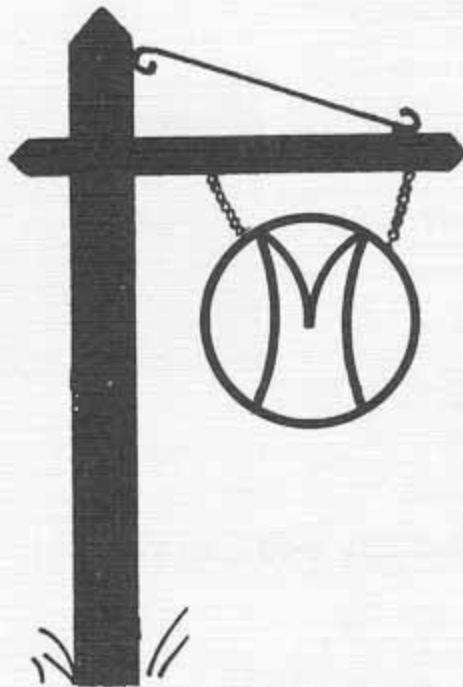


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CHELMSFORD POLICE DEPT.

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# THE SCHOOLS OF CHELMSFORD

## EDUCATION

By **GEORGE S. WRIGHT**  
*Retired School Superintendent*



McFARLIN SCHOOL



WESTLANDS SCHOOL



EAST CHELMSFORD SCHOOL

The settlers in Massachusetts, educated men, prized learning. In 1636 they founded their college, Harvard. In 1647 the General Court required all towns to give children instruction. Chelmsford struggled to comply. At first a house-wife taught children in her own home. In 1698 a master travelled from place to place. In 1718 the first school house was built, and before 1800 there were twelve district schools. They grew into larger ones, and finally the North and the Center had high school departments. In 1916 came a central High School, to which many students were transported at town expense. Ever the number of pupils increased, and larger buildings were needed.

In the days of the district schools children walking over rough trails met an occasional ox-cart or horse-drawn farm wagon. Now vehicles powered by more than a hundred horses race over paved roads. For reasons of safety most children must be transported. Common sense dictates that they be carried to larger central schools, where the work can be better organized and special teachers and facilities provided. Hence today we have the North School with eighteen rooms, the Center with twenty-four, the Westlands with eight, and a six-year High School occupying two buildings.

The early schools taught the three R's. Boys only sought preparation for the one college. Today's school prepares for many colleges, has laboratories and work-rooms, trains for many occupations, offers subjects never dreamed of in earlier days. As in the past, the better the schools become, the greater the number attending them. For three hundred years the schools have been Chelmsford's most important community effort for community betterment. Today, as of old,

LET THE CHILDREN GUARD WHAT THE SIRENS HAVE WON.



CHELMSFORD HIGH SCHOOL



CENTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



NORTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

THIS PAGE CONTRIBUTED BY  
**W. J. GATELY**

*Official Decorator*

for

*Chelmsford's Tercentennial*

---

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The People of Chelmsford

PLEASE MOTOR CO.  
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*Your Town Representatives*



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PAUL H. REILLY  
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# THE CHURCHES OF CHELMSFORD



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South Chelmsford



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FOR OVER  
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**SOUTHWELL COMBING COMPANY**

*COMMISSION WOOL COMBERS*

**North Chelmsford, Mass.**



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*Hymn*  
for the 300th Anniversary  
of the  
Incorporation of the Town of Chelmsford,  
Massachusetts  
**1655 - 1955**

Through three hundred toilsome years,  
Fraught with trials, joys and fears,  
In His sure, protecting way,  
God has brought us to this day;  
And to Him we gladly raise  
Fervent thanks and hearty praise!

Generations came and went,  
Leaving fruit for labor spent;  
And with gratitude we hold  
All that History has told  
Of their sacrifice, success,  
Courage, faith and steadfastness.

Time and change have left their trace,-  
Old to new has given place;  
Far beyond the fathers' thought  
Are the wonders years have wrought!  
And our thriving town can see  
Progress, growth and industry.

Trusting Him who rules above  
For continued help and love,  
In the future may we be  
Blest with much prosperity,  
While, whatever shall be done,  
"Children guard what sires have won!"

EDNAH F. B. PARKHURST  
(MRS. G. THOMAS PARKHURST)

---

THIS PAGE CONTRIBUTED BY  
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LOWELL

BOSTON ROAD  
CHELMSFORD

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IT IS SAID THAT ALL GOOD THINGS AND ALL GOOD PLACES  
IMPROVE WITH AGE. AND SO IT IS WITH CHELMSFORD.  
WE ADD OUR CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MANY ON THIS  
GREAT OCCASION.

**FIRST NATIONAL STORES**

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CHELMSFORD'S  
TERCENTENARY  
EDITION

will be published by the Chelmsford Newsweekly  
**CHELMSFORD'S ONLY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1940**

Orders will be taken now for bound copies  
of the first printing available  
after August 1, 1955

TELEPHONE  
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The  
CHELMSFORD  
Story

continued from page 21

to encourage some useful art or trade." This is a short summary of the beginning and settlement of the town of Chelmsford.

Growth and early industries and occupations of the inhabitants of Chelmsford.

For the first fifty years after the town was first settled the fishing industry was an important one, for the Merrimack and Concord rivers are said to have abounded with salmon, shad, alewives and sturgeon, together with various kinds of small fish. The quantity caught annually in Chelmsford is estimated at about twenty-five hundred barrels, mostly salmon and alewives. During this early period there were six saw mills, seven grist mills, one woolen factory; and iron works where hoes and shovels were manufactured, and irons for machinery cast, and there was also a fulling mill, and clothiers shop, also a curious loom for weaving boot-straps, powered entirely by water. There was also a bed of limestone said to be of excellent quality, and located along this bed were five lime kilns, from which was drawn about a thousand hogsheads of lime a year. The granite industry was among the early ones, and the quality and excellence of the Chelmsford granite was soon established and has continued all of the years and is still one of the big industries of our town. The making of bricks was another one of the early industries, especially in the eastern part of the town. The number of Traders in English and West India

Goods is stated to have been seven, two at Pawtucket bridge, two at the head of the Middlesex canal, one on the turnpike, and two in the center of the town. There were also six or eight in-keepers situated in different parts of the town on the public roads. "On the east bank of Middlesex canal at the distance of two hundred rods from Merrimack river, a large building 124 feet long and 62 wide, with necessary appendages for the manufacturing of window glass was erected in 1802." This situation is very favorable for the transportation of glass to Boston, and those raw materials from thence, which it would be expensive to convey by land. A ready and cheap supply of wood is also easily obtainable, of which it is estimated that about two thousand cords are annually consumed in the manufactory and houses attached to it."

In 1813 Capt. Phineas Whiting and Col. Josiah Fletcher erected a large building for a cotton manufactory at a point on the Concord River about three hundred rods from its entrance into the Merrimack River. The factory cost about twenty-five hundred dollars. At that time this location was in the Town of Chelmsford. In 1818 this building was sold to Mr. Thomas Hurd, who repaired it and fitted it for a woolen factory,—it had sixteen looms which were powered by water. It is said to have employed about twenty persons, and about 120 yards of satinets were produced per day. Thus was started the mill business which later made the city of Lowell.

## Planning 300th Anniversary

Plans for the 300th Anniversary of the incorporation of the Town of Chelmsford were formulated at the March 10, 1952 Annual Town Meeting when the selectmen were authorized by a vote of the people to name a special committee "for the purpose of making preliminary plans" for the observance. Immediately after receiving notification of their appointment, January 19, 1953, this special committee met January 29 and organized. Royal Shawcross was the unanimous choice of the committee for Chairman and Margaret Robbins Mills likewise received a unanimous vote for Secretary. Other members of this committee were:- Sidney Dupee, Clifford Hartley, Charles Harrington, Edward Krasnecki, John J. Meagher and Perry Snow.

At the 1954 Annual Town Meeting, the above Committee was reappointed by popular vote but at this meeting Mr. Shawcross declined the honor to serve for business reasons and on May 11, 1954, Carl A. E. Peterson was appointed to take his place. At a special town meeting later, John H. Valentine, Thomas J. Campbell and Harold C. Petterson were named to the committee.

To prepare the celebration, this committee called upon hundreds of townspeople for assistance as members of sub-committees and for other purposes, and extends its thanks to these and to all others who have co-operated in the planning and preparation for the 300th anniversary celebration.

THIS PAGE CONTRIBUTED BY  
THE BON MARCHE, INC.

153 MERRIMACK ST.  
LOWELL, MASS.

# NEWFIELD

## North Chelmsford

By HOWARD D. SMITH

The

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Story

One of the first industries in North Chelmsford was a blast furnace which was located near where Moore's mill now stands, and the first iron produced in 1825. Bog iron ore was the source of the iron and much of it was obtained in Chelmsford and nearby towns, and the flux was limestone from near Robins Hill, and the charcoal for reducing the ore was made in kilns located near the furnace, and thus large areas nearby were stripped of their wood to make into charcoal. Many castings and heavy gears were made here for the Lowell mills and other mills in nearby cities. As the native iron ore deposits became exhausted, it became necessary to obtain the ore from distant places, some coming from Maine. Thus the early colonists were served by this iron works.

In 1707 John Richardson's iron works was established at the mouth of Stony Brook, and it was necessary to build a special road to this location, and it is supposed that the present Mill street is a part of this old road. The water to supply this mill was to come from Newfield Pond, and so workmen started to dig a channel to allow the water to run into Stony Brook, and as they neared the pond the remaining bank of earth suddenly gave way and most of the water of the pond ran out, and so the original pond which covered about one hundred acres was reduced to about one acre, and it remained this way for about one hundred years, until in 1824 Gen. Leech had the breach in the bank filled in and the pond once again filled with water.

The first grist mill was built in North Chelmsford soon after 1695 by Daniel Waldo, and it was located on Stony brook below the highway to Dunstable, which is now called Middlesex. Grist mills occupied this location under various owners until after 1850. There was also a saw mill located nearby.



Temporarily located at the Center for the Celebration, this old Toll House properly belongs in North Chelmsford, for its original site was at the terminal of the Middlesex Canal in what now is Middlesex Village, Lowell.

The Waldo grist mill was bought by the Marri-mac Manufacturing Co. when the dam was built at the Pawtucket Falls, and they later sold it to the Locks and Canal Co. who leased it to various

parties until 1839 when it was sold to Charles Blood, and it changed ownership a number of times after that, but during all this time the mill had been used to grind grain and to saw lumber. Between 1863 and 1868 the saw mill was taken out, and another story added, but it was still used to grind and store grain. Later the J. C. Ayer Co. used this mill to grind drugs used in their medicines. About 1872 this building was converted into a shoddy mill, and this business continued until 1882, when the shoddy business was removed to some other location and the building remained



A gift to the town by the late Selectman Stewart MacKay, this dwelling now is the North Chelmsford Library and is one of the more popular spots in this section.

unused for a number of years, but in 1872 George C. Moore bought the building and tore down the old grist mill part, and this was the start of the Geo. C. Moore Co. storage building. The Geo. C. Moore Co. started in 1872 when he bought the old foundry from G. T. Sheldon, the machinery was put in and the scouring of wool started right away, and in 1875 he built a large three story building, but in Oct. of that year all of the Geo. C. Moore buildings were burned. A temporary wooden building was soon erected and the wool-scouring business continued, and in 1877 a large new brick mill was built, and additions to this plant were made in 1885, and in 1888, also in 1890. In 1890 this company had the plant to clean 30,000 pounds of wool a day. In 1915 twenty-five millions pounds of wool were scoured annually in this plant.

The North Chelmsford Machine & Supply Co., was established in 1832, at one time called the Gay, Silver & Co. is one of the older industries of this industrial section of Chelmsford. Geo. C. Moore bought all of this company in 1898, and he continued to operate it, and seven years later it was consolidated with another company he also owned, and which concern manufactured leather belting, leather comb aprons, brushes and general mill supplies, and this new corporation was capitalized at \$50,000 with Geo. C. Moore treasurer, H. Stanley Crysler, president, and Henry Woods as secretary. The output of this corporation could be found in any state where there was textile manufacturing to any extent.

The Lowell Textile Co. occupied one of the Geo. C. Moore buildings and manufactured towels.

The Boston Ice Co. had ten or twelve buildings on the shore of Crystal Lake, and most of this ice was shipped to Boston.

---

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on its 300th ANNIVERSARY

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# SOUTH CHELMSFORD

By LESTER W. BALL

The

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Story

South Chelmsford began and still is a farming community. Not too much history has come down to us from its early days. However, the Haywood Garrison House at 105 Garrison Road is one of the oldest in Chelmsford (1690), and probably as little changed as any.

Some other old houses are the Carolyn Wright house at 79 Elm Road, the Park house at 12 Park Place, the Dupee house, 246 Acton Road, the Berry house in the Square, the Case and Hicks house (#15), the Jeffords house (#40), both on Byam Road, the Peirce house, 75 Robin Hill Road, the Alta Byam house (#11) and the Porter house (#19), both on Maple Road.



*The brick ends of this house are a tip-off to its garrison design. Located at 4 Proctor Road, South Chelmsford, it was originally the Bateman House and now is the Waite residence.*

Of course, each dwelling has its own interesting story. A few highlights of the Jeffords place may be typical. A home was established here during the early days of the town by Thomas Barrett. In the late 1600's his married daughter, Martha Barrett Sparks, was taken from Chelmsford and imprisoned in Boston for over a year on the charge of witchcraft. Thomas Barrett, Jr. probably built the present house in the early 1700's. At the time of the Revolution the house was occupied by Dr. Jonas Marshall. One day a sick, destitute soldier boy, making his way home from the war, was befriended by Mrs. Marshall. He left smallpox germs, and a short time later the entire family contracted the disease and was wiped out. The headstones may still be seen at Heart Pond Cemetery.

The earliest mention of a school at the South was in 1753, located near the intersection of Park and Proctor Roads. The present Fire House was another old school.

The First Baptist Church was established shortly before the Revolution. The first church building was brought from Westford by oxen in the dead of winter and located near the old cemetery. The present edifice was built in 1836, making it the second oldest church building in Chelmsford. The Reverend John Parkhurst who served there as minister for 23 years, lived at the Peirce place.

On Robin Hill Road, near Acton Road, was manufactured the first Lucifer match in the country by Ezekiel Byam, who later moved this thriving business to Boston. His father-in-law built the Berry place.

Opposite the church, on Maple Road, is located the old Parkhurst blacksmith shop (now an antique shop.) It still holds all the equipment used by an old time blacksmith:



*Another "old-timer" among South Chelmsford houses is this one, known as the "Hunt House" and located on Hunt Road. Two daughters of the builder helped to found All Saints Church.*

The chief topographical feature of the district is Heart Pond with its thriving summer colony. It is also called Baptist Pond because converts were immersed there in the old days. Water from the pond supplies the cranberry bogs just over the line in Carlisle.

This section has survived wars, discord, prosperity and depression and has evolved an unusually fine community spirit which is worthy of emulation.



PARADE COMMITTEE



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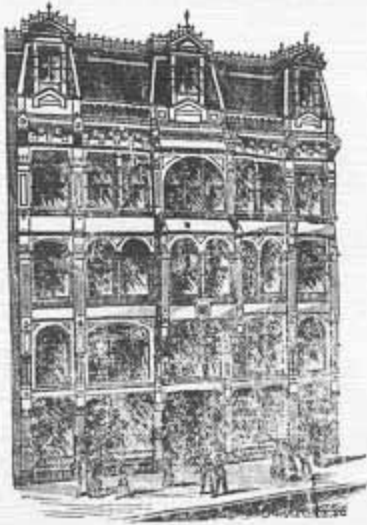
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90 years old*

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what is there about Pollards

We're proud as a peacock when we look back over the many years we have been serving communities like Chelmsford. We find it is our top styling, top quality, and top service that has made us the largest store in Merrimack Valley. Pollards is now the Store with More, more departments, more assortments, more services, and we're sure as the years go by, that Pollards will consistantly grow larger, because it is one of the important traits that has made Pollards what it is today.

# WEST CHELMSFORD

By FREDERICK BURNE

The

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Story

West Chelmsford received its official name when the post-office was established, shortly after the Stony Brook Railroad was opened for travel, July 6, 1848. Previous to this time, the village had been called "Farwell" and "Scythe Factory Village."

This section of Chelmsford was very sparsely settled until 1822, at which time Deacon John Farwell of Fitchburg, Massachusetts, purchased land and water-power from Richardson, Spaulding, and Keyes, and erected a factory for the manufacture of scythes. The business was later purchased by Sawyer and Roby, who manufactured scythes until the outbreak of the Civil War, during which time they produced swords and sabres. At the end of the war, the Hiscox Company purchased the business, manufacturing files and machine knives until 1888. This site was then abandoned and later sold to George C. Moore of North Chelmsford.



*During Civil War days this old Scythe and File Plant in West Chelmsford turned its activities to making sabers for the army. This picture was taken about 1900.*

The "Red House Dam," so-called, on the downstream side of the file shop location was never used for an industrial site, but was used entirely for the control of the water of Stony Brook, entering the canal feeding Newfield Pond in North Chelmsford.

In 1830, a dam was constructed, westerly of the railroad station, and a mill erected for the manufacture of worsted yarns. This site was used until the industrial depression of 1889, shortly after which it was destroyed by fire and never rebuilt, although a small manufacturing site was located near by, and still remains in operation.

The depression of 1889, having affected the manufacturing in the village, brought about a migration of many of the established families, and it appears that the H. E. Fletcher Company, producers of the nationally-known Chelmsford Granite, was responsible for the immigration of a new people, many of whom were of Swedish extraction, who were connected with the operation of the quarry.



*Another old picture of West Chelmsford, taken in 1900, shows the railroad station, the Sugden Co. Plant and the fire-scarred ruins of the Eagle Mill.*

The ecclesiastical history of the village began on April 6, 1847, in the school-house in District Number Ten, when the Stony Brook Association for Religious Worship was formed. A building was dedicated for religious purposes on the site on which the West Chelmsford Methodist Church now stands. The building was sold and removed to make room for a new Methodist Episcopal Church, erected in 1887. This building was totally destroyed by fire on July 16, 1920. The present building was dedicated January 18, 1922.

The West Village has not changed to any great extent in the last fifty years. Trolley cars and railroad service have come and gone. Our building growth has been limited to the outskirts of the village proper. Stony Brook was the cause of the early growth of the village, but is no longer contributory to its needs. It is slowly receding to its original banks.

The village people have been a very neighborly, honest, and industrious people, interested in the future well-being of their children and their fellow-men.

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*At the Sign of the Clock*

**120 YEARS OF SERVICE -- IN BANKING**

# EAST CHELMSFORD

Condensed from an historical sketch prepared by  
MR. AND MRS. ROBERT BARRIS

The beginning of recorded history perhaps starts with John Eliot, the Apostle to the Indians, making a visit to the Pawtucket Falls on the Merrimack River. He was a staunch friend to the Indians in his efforts to convert them to Christianity. In 1653 when the Chelmsford Grants were being made, Eliot secured ample reservations for the exclusive use of the Indians where the City of Lowell and most of East Chelmsford now is located. This grant was known as Indian Land, Wamesit Plantation, laid out from the Wamesit-Pawtucket Stake at a point on the Concord River at the Billerica-Chelmsford line. This stake is a few rods from Gorham Street at this junction. Then running along the west shore of the Concord River to the junction of the Merrimack River, thence westerly to a stake about where the old glass shop was at Princeton and Baldwin Streets; thence southeasterly to the Wamesit Stake forming a triangle containing about 1500 acres; and on the easterly side of the Concord River to the Merrimack River, containing 1000 acres in what is now Lowell and Tewksbury. The early settlers were English. They settled along the west side of the Concord River in what is known as the Concord River Neck, land lying between the Concord River and Rivermeadow Brook or what is now East Chelmsford, settling there about the same time as the first settlers around the open field south of Robin's Hill, 1653-1654.



*In East Chelmsford are two beautiful examples of colonial architecture. This is the Manning House, on Manning Road.*

The Wamesit Purchase, 1686. A tract of land by the name of Wamesit Purchase was the last Indian territory in this town. It was sold by the Indians to Jonathan Tyng, Esq. and Major Thomas Henchman. Jonathan Tyng conveyed his rights in the Purchase except one-fourty-sixth part to Major Henchman, who sold the whole tract to forty-four other persons, each of equal share, reserving one share for himself. This became known as the Wamesit Purchase. This settlement was annexed to Chelmsford in 1726, afterward known as East Chelmsford.

In the History of Wilks Allen, A.M., Chelmsford From The Beginning, 1653-1820, he writes



*Another example of colonial architecture in East Chelmsford is the Marshall House, above, located on the road bearing its name.*

of a Plantation called Pawtucket styles Wamesit, the land running from the glass house and terminating at the Wamesit Falls, but a plan made by Henry Wood, Civil Engineer gives the termination at the Pawtucket Stake. Allen also records a record of Humbley Shewith "Whereas there are sundry Inhabitants in a certain tract of land lying adjacent to the Town of Chelmsford but not annexed thereunto, that from the first settlement have been partakers of privileges and offices of the Town of Chelmsford, sometime in the year of 1725, the Inhabitants of Wamesit at a town meeting did elect Mr. Steven Pierce to represent them in this Honorable Court, who was dismissed by reason he did not reside in Chelmsford." Mr. Pierce's home stood about where the Lowell City Hospital is now. This brought the matter to a crisis. The people of Wamesit refused to pay the tax assessed upon them. They petitioned the General Court to be erected into a separate and distinct town. The Selectmen of Chelmsford sent a petition at the same time. The Chelmsford petition was granted and Wamesit then became a part of Chelmsford, June 10, 1726.

As early as Nov. 22, 1824 a committee of the Merrimack Mills was appointed to consider a new Township for East Chelmsford. In a short period of six years the Town had grown from 260 inhabitants to 2300. These 2300 persons were compelled to go four miles to the Centre to attend town meetings and transact other town matters. The two villages had no common business relations and no social sympathies. The taxes on the valuable property were raised and expended by the Town as well as schools, under town management. These various motives conspired the village of East Chelmsford to become a Town by itself, taking place March 1, 1826. The most of East Chelmsford was then set off to become the Town of Lowell. East Chelmsford today is located in what is now Precinct #4, an area of 1000 acres. There are a few farms still being worked, but for the most part the village is content to remain a residential section in close relationship to Lowell.

The

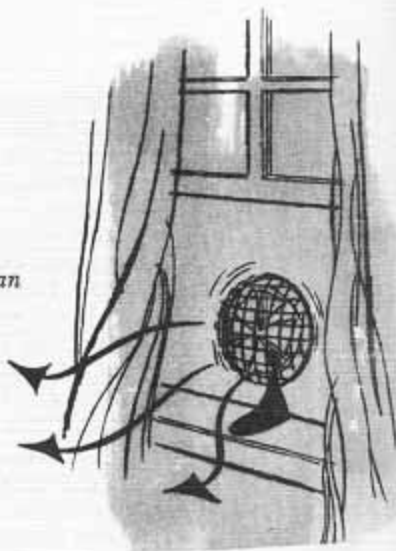
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With the warmest thanks to the people of Chelmsford for giving me the opportunity to serve them as their Moderator and as their State Representative, and the wish that the next 300 years are as productive and rewarding to Chelmsford as its first 300 years.

Attorney Edward J. DeSaulnier, Jr.

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*Story*

## CHELMSFORD NAMES OF THE EARLY DAYS

Cross Bridge Road is now North Road, and Cross Bridge was over what was then called Cross Bridge Brook which is in the hollow beyond Fletcher Square.

Leechs Pond, later called Newfield Pond, is the one now called Crystal Lake.

Carolina Plain in the Westlands is an area along part of Stedman St., Clinton Ave. and Waverly Ave. cross part of this plain.

Newfield was the name given to part of the section now known as North Chelmsford.

Merrimack plain, so called, was the north western section of Newfield.

Robins Hill was so called when the English first visited the place, and is said by tradition to have received its name from its first cultivator, who was it is apprehended OLD ROBIN, or some one of the Robin family from Pennacook. (Allens, History of Chelmsford)

Sawpit Hill is now Bartlett Street.

WAMESIT.

A section of land reserved for the sole use of the praying, or Christianized Indians, and the grant for which was obtained by the Rev. John Eliot. It was a much larger section than the present section in Tewksbury which is called Wamesit,—it included parts of Lowell, and East Chelmsford.

---

*Congratulations*  
*on this*  
*Happy Anniversary*

We salute the generations of citizens who have contributed so much to this beautiful New England community and to the building of the greatest country on earth, dedicated to freedom, justice, and peace.

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# GROWTH OF POPULATION IN CHELMSFORD

By HOWARD D. SMITH

The original Chelmsford was a much larger tract of land than the present one, as it originally included all of Lowell this side of the Merrimack River, also the present town of Westford, a portion of Carlisle, in addition to its present size, so that this separation of large sections of the town and their incorporation into separate towns or city, has several times much reduced the population at those particular periods.

Chelmsford started with thirty-nine settlers from Concord and Woburn and within eighteen months this number had been increased by newcomers to such an extent that it was considered expedient to call a general meeting for the selecting of officers to manage the public affairs of the place.

No real census was taken until 1741 at which

time the population was 853, and in the census of 1764 the population was 1012, and in 1776 it was 1341, but in 1790 it had dropped to 1144 due to separation of a part of Chelmsford to form the District of Carlisle. In 1800 the population was 1290 and in the next twenty years it only increased 160 in number.

In the thirty years from 1820 to 1850 there was a gain of 562 in the population, and the next fifty years showed an increase of 1887, or a total population in the year 1900 of 3984, and in the next twenty-five the population jumped to 6573, or a gain of 2589, and this was followed by another gain of 2901 in the following twenty-five years. The present population is 11,760 or approximately double what it was in 1920 right after the first World War.

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## A FEW CHELMSFORD FIRSTS

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Story

The first person born in Chelmsford was Joseph Parker, son of Joseph and Margaret Parker, and he was born on Mar. 30, 1653.

The first weaver was William How, who was admitted as an inhabitant in May, 1656, and he was granted a certain tract of land on condition he set up his trade of weaving and perform the towns work.

The Rev. John Fiske was the first pastor in the meeting-house of the first settlers. He came from Wenham.

The first saw-mill was erected by Samuel Adams in 1656, and a little later he started the first corn-mill.

In 1664 mention is made of Edward Spaldings orchard.

The first school house in Chelmsford was built in 1818, and was paid for by individual subscription.

The first census in 1741 gives the population as made up of 415 males and 438 females, but no mention is made of the number of children.

The first mention of the number of houses is in the 1764 census, which states there were 133, and there were 176 families.

The first recording of the number of deaths in Chelmsford for any one year was in 1742, when the number is given as 26., and the year 1751 must have been a very healthy one, for the number of deaths in the town for that particular year was 6.

Mrs. Dorethy Williams, who died Feb. 11, 1790 is the first one recorded as reaching the age of one-hundred years.

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## IT HAPPENED IN CHELMSFORD

The

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Story

In 1844 the town paid Benj. Obear \$3.00 damages for spilling milk.

Jos. Bailey was paid \$3.00 in 1844 for going to Jaffrey, N. H. to stay.

In 1873 the bounty paid on woodchucks and crows was \$170.00.

In 1728-29 Simeon Spaulding built the house at the corner of Dalton and North Roads. Dr. Dalton, a great-grandson of Simeon was born in this house and Dalton Road was named for him.

In the 1908 town report there was an appraisal of one nigger \$5., and one voter in town meeting wanted to know whose nigger it was, and the moderator said it must belong to the Colonel as they always had one. It is probable that a "gigger" was intended in the report.

A flag pole was raised on the south-east corner of the Common on Nov. 7, 1864 and was paid for by public subscription.

In 1866 there was a school for the deaf at the corner of Academy Street and the North Road, and its location is now commemorated by a stone marker.

A classical school was opened in 1825 at the Baptist parsonage.

In 1778 the legislature ordered a levy of shirts, shoes and stockings for the army, of which this town's proportion was 47 shirts and as many pairs of stockings and shoes.

In 1777 the town voted to accept 80 bushels of salt provided by the government for the town.

In 1776 a soldier returning from the army, called at Dr. Jonas Marshalls; who with his whole family took the small pox from him. Mrs. Marshall and two of their children died.

The Rev. John Fiske, the first minister in Chelmsford, came in 1654 or 1655. He was past the meridian of life at that time, and for several years there was no other minister nearer than Concord or Woburn. During the latter part of his ministry he was carried to church in a chair and preached sitting.

The second minister was the Rev. Thomas Clark, who served for about twenty-seven years. The inscription on his monument reads as follows:—

The remains of the Rev. Thomas Clark, the faithful Pastor of the flock of Christ in Chelmsford, are here committed to the dust. In the faith and hope of a blessed resurrection, he breathed his soul into the bosom of Jesus, Dec. 7, 1704, (and 27 of his ministry).

Chelmsford had two delegates in the first Provincial meeting at Concord in 1774, they were Jonathan W. Austin, Esq. and Samuel Perham, Jr.

In accordance with the plan of this provincial congress for the immediate defense of the province, Chelmsford voted to raise fifty-two men, including officers, who were to be "disciplined" half a day every week.

The following was an article in the town warrant in 1774.

"To see if the Town will empower some suitable persons to take such measures as they shall think proper to punish and discourage vice and profaneness, and call to an account idle, disorderly persons, who waste their time and substance in public houses at unlawful gaming, horse-racing and excessive drinking, frolicking and sabbath-breaking."

To carry out this article adopted by the town meeting, a committee consisting of the Selectmen and fifteen others were empowered, "to devise and execute such measures as they may think proper for promoting a reformation among persons of the above description."

Part of the report of this committee reads as follows:—

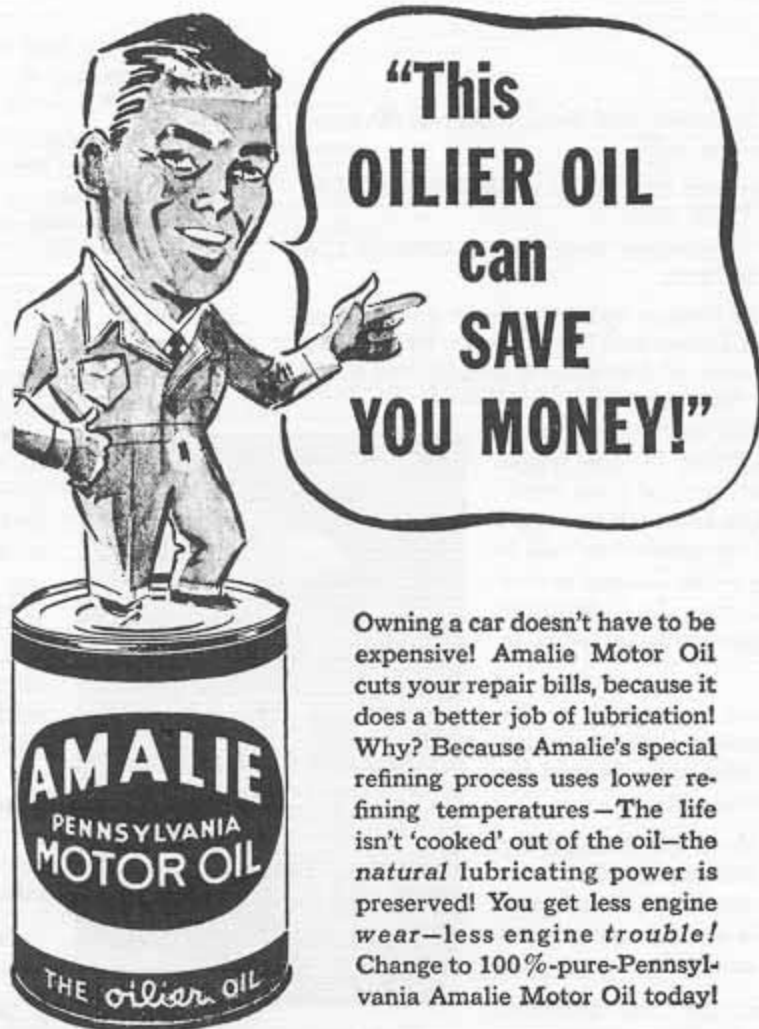
"that their company be shunned; and that people leave off dealing with them as far as is consistent with good reason and justice, not entertaining them in their houses by night or by day; but manifesting a dislike to their conduct, and bearing testimony against their vicious practices, look upon them as disturbers of the peace and good order of society; that the committee converse with such persons, and use their endeavors to reform them; and that those continuing in such practices, be put out by the committee to some honest and lawful employment; and finally that the town will aid, assist and support said committee in proceeding with such offenders accordingly."

The above, "report was unanimously accepted and the measures it prescribes, were found effectual to the desired reform," according to the historical record, and it points to the fact that some of the colonial troubles were not unlike some we still have.

The Selectmen at the time of the above were, David Spalding, Capt. Oliver Barron, Joseph Warren, John Minot, Zebulon Spalding.



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## THE MIDDLESEX CANAL

Gov. Sullivan and Loami Baldwin were the originators of the project of building the Middlesex Canal, and the projectors and others associated with them were incorporated in 1793, and Laomi Baldwin was the superintendent and sole engineer through the whole project. The canal was twenty-seven miles long and thirty feet wide and it was completed and opened in 1804, and the system of collecting tolls was established in 1808. The receipts in 1810 amounted to 15,000 dollars, in 1815 to 24,926—estimated income of 1816 was 30,000

dollars. "Forty thousand dollars would yield a dividend of 6 per cent on the cost, and pay the expense of management and ordinary repairs. The property is divided into 800 shares. The toll established by law is 1/16 of a dollar per ton for every mile carried on the canal." "There were seven aqueducts over rivers and streams and twenty locks." The canal terminated in what was known as the Charlestown Mill pond, an artificial basin. The canal was not a financial success, never paying over 1 per cent on the investment.

## THE FIRST LIBRARY

Through the efforts of the Rev. Hezekiah Packard a social library was started on Jan. 6, 1794, which is the date when the society was organized. This library was supported by annual assessments on the shares, and by the addition of new members. This library society was incorporated in Jan. 1812, under the name,—Proprietors of the Social Library in the Town of Chelmsford. At this time the library had 350 volumes, and the society at this time had about eighty members. The price of a new share was three dollars and fifty cents.



ADAMS LIBRARY

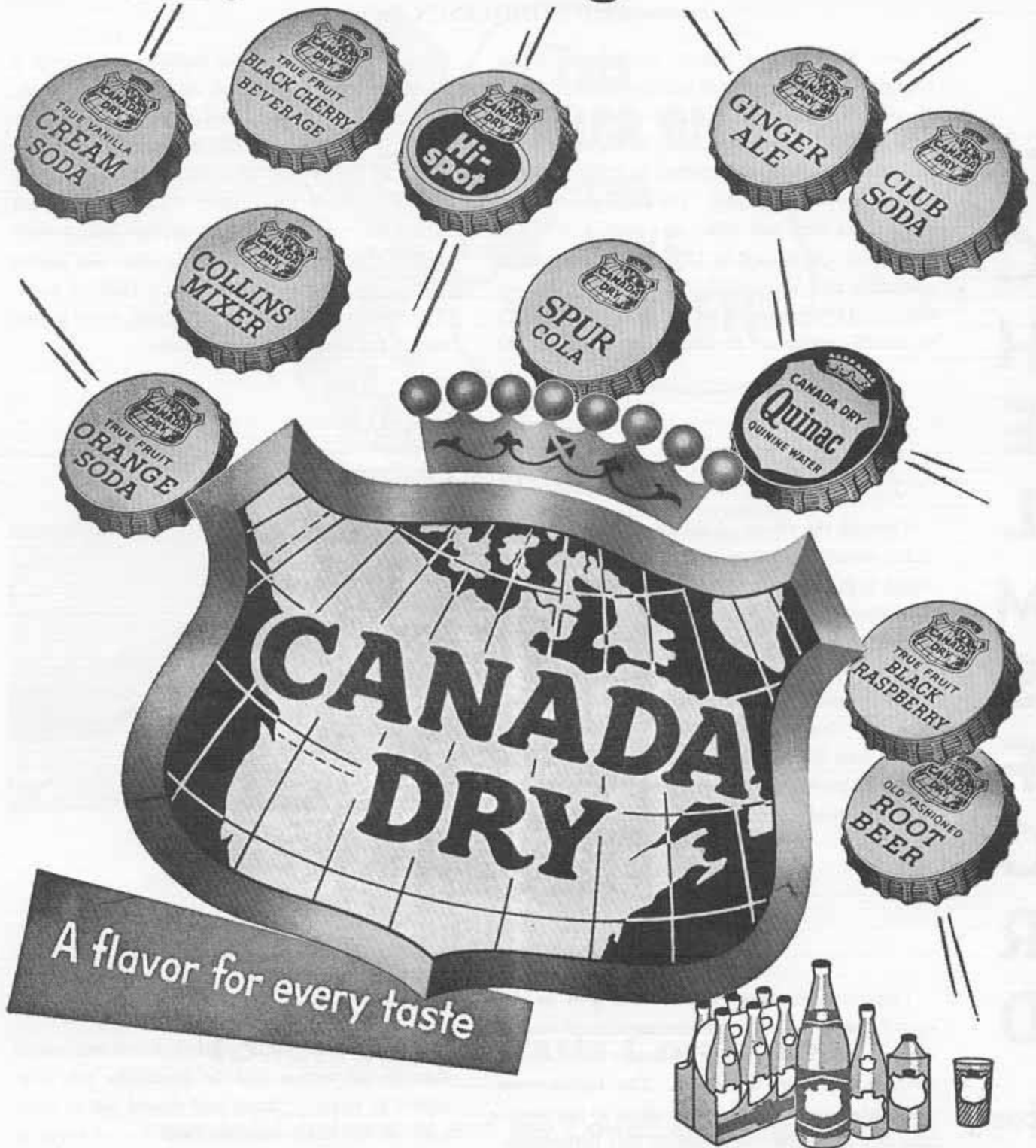
## HURRICANES

Tropical hurricanes visited this region in the early colonial days, the first one mentioned was on Aug. 15, 1635 when, "Many houses were blown down, many more uncovered. The Indian corn was beat down to the ground so as not to rise again. The tide at Narragansett rose 20 feet perpendicularly. The Indians were obliged to betake themselves to the trees, and yet many of them were drowned by the return of the tide before the usual hour. Immense numbers of the forest trees were

destroyed. The extremity of it continued five or six hours."

On Sept. 18, 1815 another hurricane passed through this section, and the destructive gale is reported to have,— "upset and moved out of place most of the small buildings, and several barns in this town. A considerable proportion of the fruit and forest trees were broken down, eradicated, or prostrated to the ground. The wood blown down and destroyed in Chelmsford, is estimated at 50,000 cords."

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# CHELMSFORD PERSONS AND ITEMS

The

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Story

Henry Sparks married on July 10, 1776, Martha Barrett of Chelmsford, who was imprisoned for more than a year in Boston on suspicion of witchcraft.

## A CLERGYMANS SALARY IN THE EARLY DAYS

The Rev. Thomas Clarke, the second pastor of the only church in Chelmsford, was ordained and installed in 1677. Near the beginning of his ministry, May 31, 1679, "a tract of land thirty acres of upland and swamp be it more or less," was given by the town for the ministry. In the contract of settlement among other things it was stipulated that, "The inhabitants of Chelmsford do agree to pay Mr. Thomas Clarke the just sum of £80 in manner following, viz:—"Twenty pounds in current money and sixty pounds in provisions, viz:—Twenty pounds in corn of all sorts, as God gives. The other twenty in pork, beef and other flesh, but not exceeding 2½ pence per pound. More over it is agreed that the town shall supply Mr. Clarke with wood for his family yearly, which is by agreement 30 cords yearly." A dwelling house was also built by the town for the Rev. Clarke.

The present Unitarian Church is the fourth one on this location, and it was built 1842-43, and dedicated on April 13, 1843. The previous church (third one) was burned on Feb. 13, 1842. The first meeting house was built in 1655, "and probably made of logs hewed and locked together," as there was no saw mill in the settlement until 1656. The second meeting house on this location was erected in 1710, during the pastorate of the Rev. Samson

Stoddard. It is stated that this second church building cost "330 pounds current money together with the old meeting house."

The Unitarian Church was a community church up to the year 1831 and until then it was supported by town funds. On March 1, 1831 a parish meeting was held and the following action taken,— "Voted to choose all necessary parish or society officers distinct from the town officers, and that hereafter this society will transact its business in parish or society meetings."

## TRANSPORTATION COMPETITION

When the Boston to Lowell railroad went into full operation the receipts of the Middlesex Canal were reduced one-third in amount in a year, and when the Lowell to Nashua railroad went into operation the income of the Canal was again reduced by another third, and the canal could no longer meet expenses of operation.

## LONE PINE TREE ON SUMMIT OF ROBINS HILL

The Chelmsford Eagle under date of Dec. 15, 1883.

"Robins Hill in the town of Chelmsford, is known to every resident of Lowell and the surrounding towns. Its lone pine on the summit is recognized by people living 40 miles distant, and the sailors far out at sea hail its feathery top, and know that Boston light is not far away. The view from the summit is one of unsurpassing loveliness."

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## HOME-COMING EVENTS



MR. LEROY W. ALLEN

Mr. Allen will be Chelmsford's Guest Conductor at the Tercentenary Old Folks' Concert scheduled for Friday evening, June 10th at the High School Auditorium.

A native of Chelmsford, Mr. Allen now makes his home in Los Angeles, California. He recently retired from the University of California at Los Angeles where he had been chairman of its Department of Music and director of bands and the Symphony Orchestra.

Mr. Allen's father, Mr. Arthur W. Allen, was a resident of Chelmsford for many years and was the director of the Old Folks' Concert during Chelmsford's 250th Anniversary. He was the organizer and for many years the director of Allen's Cornet Band of Billerica. It is a pleasure to welcome his son, Leroy W. Allen, during this, our 300th Anniversary.

A chorus, of Chelmsford residents, accompanied by an orchestra will present an Old Folks' Concert which will serve as an appropriate introduction to the evening which is to be known as a "Home Coming Event." At this time those from near and far are expected to have a reunion with former friends and present residents of the Town.

On Sunday evening, at the High School Auditorium, a Tercentenary Choral Concert will be presented. Well known sacred music classics will be sung by a large chorus of Chelmsford men and women, accompanied by an orchestra, all under the direction of Mr. Arthur N. Thompson of Chelmsford. Mr. Thompson will be in charge of all musical activities during the Tercentenary Celebration.

As part of this Sunday evening program, the audience will be privileged to hear as Guest Speaker, Prof. Richard Cameron, Ph.D. of Concord, Massachusetts, Professor of Church History, School of Theology, Boston University. Prof. Cameron has chosen for his subject "Town and Gown in Chelmsford's History."

The public is cordially invited to attend both the Friday and Sunday evening programs. There will be no admission charge.

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1905

1955

*Celebrating 50th Anniversary*



# Chelmsford's War Contributions

Condensed from an historical sketch prepared

By MRS. GEORGE PARKHURST

## The C H E L M S F O R D Story

At the time of the revolution, a century and a half had elapsed since the first settlement of the town. During much of this time, beginning with King Philip's War, the people lived in constant fear of being attacked by savages and suffered heavy losses in the French and Indian wars. The men of Chelmsford participated in all these campaigns. In 1673, the Town's House was built upon Robin's Hill, probably as a look-out, as the Indians' resentment against English attempts to Christianize them grew.

In 1674, general Indian uprisings were planned and Indian war parties wreaked havoc as far as the Connecticut valley, with Chelmsford suffering from an attack.

Each county then had its regiment of trained soldiers with Middlesex having 15 companies of foot and one of cavalry. Prominent Chelmsford leaders were Lt. Thomas Henschman, Capt. Thomas Wheeler, Capt. Samuel Hunting, Lt. James Richardson, John Fiske, Jr., son of the minister; Sgt. Thomas Adams and Major Simon Willard.

In 1698, King William's war enflamed the country. There were 19 garrisons in Chelmsford during this time but short crops and frequent attacks by Indians along the frontier left the people hard-pressed in obtaining a livelihood. Billerica and Tewksbury both were raided by the Indians.

In 1702, England declared war against France and Spain and Queen Anne's war was underway, with the New England Indians sympathetic to the French. Towns were ordered to reinforce their defenses and eight men were sent to Chelmsford, while the council advised that a company of 150 men be set up around Chelmsford, Groton and Lancaster. William Tyng commanded the first Massachusetts company and many of the men were from Chelmsford.

In May of 1725 a group of Bay State companies

under Captain John Lovewell of Dunstable attacked Paugus and his Pequawkets at what is now Fryburg, Maine and in this group were Lt. Jonathan Robbins, Solomon Keys and John Chamberlain, all Chelmsford Natives and Chamberlain is credited with having killed Paugus.

Many men from Chelmsford took part in the expedition against Louisburg in 1744 and in the succeeding battles several Chelmsford men lost their lives.

By 1775, when the Revolutionary War started, Chelmsford people were divided as to their desire for separation. Chelmsford had become a "modern" town with 1341 people. Chelmsford Minutemen responded to the battle of Concord and Chelmsford men played an important role in the Revolutionary War, with such Indian-war-trained men as Capt. John Ford, Capt. Benjamin Walker, Capt. Oliver Barron and Lt. Col. Moses Parker becoming leaders.

At Concord Benjamin Pierce, father of President Franklin Pierce; John Ford, Lt. Col. Simeon Spaulding and many others took part, while at Bunker Hill Capt. Ford had his company in the forefront and here Joseph Spaulding fired the first shot.

During the Civil war, 218 men from Chelmsford served and 25 were killed or died in the service, while in World War I, 252 served and three lost their lives. The well-remembered Second World War drew 1223 from Chelmsford and 43 of these gave their lives.

So from the beginning to the present, Chelmsford has played its part in the building of the nation and in its defense against any enemy who reared its head, and undoubtedly in the years to come, should the nation be endangered, the people of Chelmsford can be relied upon to put into practice the admonition of their forefathers: "Let the Children Guard What The Sires Have Won".



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## What is a Town?

A town isn't just a point on a map.

It isn't only streets.

It isn't simply houses or stores or schools.

A town is *people*. And a town takes its character from the kind of people who live in it as surely as an old shoe conforms to the foot that wears it.

Chelmsford is a good town — a friendly town — because good and friendly people live in it.

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CHELMSFORD

1655

1955



TERCENTENARY