

CHAPTER IV.

BROOKFIELD'S SUBDIVISIONS AND HOMES.

The town embraces two villages and several school districts, namely, the village of Brookfield Center; the village of Brookfield (Iron Works); Obtuse District in the eastern part of the town; Whisconier Hill District, which lies south of the Center; Longmeadow Hill District, in the northeast section of the town; Huckleberry Hill District, which is located in the southwestern section. Bound Swamp District, south of Brookfield Junction and adjoining Stony Hill, was formerly a school district.

BROOKFIELD VILLAGE.

The Iron Works.

This section of our town formerly belonged to New Milford and is located on both sides of the Still River at the "*Half-Way Falls*," which are located midway between Danbury and New Milford. The water flows over a dam, which is a stone ledge reinforced by concrete, just south of the stone-arch bridge. The river then enters a narrow gorge and flows north to join the Housatonic River at Lanesville.

Brookfield village is a railroad station on the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad, formerly the Housatonic Railroad.

The iron industry was undoubtedly the beginning of the settlement here. In the land records at New Milford in 1732 it is recorded that "Iron Works were set up at the Half-Way Falls on the Still River at a place afterward known as Brookfield, and a fordingplace was made to come at the Iron Works already set up." These iron furnaces were located on the east side of the river near the present railroad station and the earliest houses erected were for the most part in this vicinity and along East Iron Works Hill. Not one of these old houses is standing to-day, unless it is the house in which Mrs. Sarah Knapp lived, which originally belonged to the Hubbell family, one of whose members was a part owner in the iron furnaces.

A bridge was built over the Still River at the Half-Way Falls in 1745 and later a second bridge was constructed; the present stone-arch bridge was built in 1880 by C. S. Pendleton of New London, Conn., the stone be-

Smith estate in 1864, is the first house south of the Skidmore home. It is attractively located and shaded by pines and maples planted by Deacon Smith quite eighty years or more ago. This residence is now the home of Miss Emily C. Hawley and Lucius S. Hawley. Opposite the Hawley house is the ancient home of Dr. Noah Lacey, later occupied by Dr. Ebenezer Blackman, Peter Hubbell, Ezra Howland, Mrs. Abby Merwin and other occupants. The place was the summer home of Madam Anna Ziegler-Horan of New York City and in 1922 sold to Miss Ann S. Anderson of Woodmont, Conn.; now the residence of Miss Alice Bennett. These ten or more residences are in the northern part of the village street, sometimes called the "hill."

Below the Hawley residence, on the east side of the street, is the house built by the late Dr. Amos L. Williams, who for sixty-three years was Brookfield's only physician, from 1833-1896. It is now the home of his youngest daughter, Mrs. Florence Williams Sagendorf, and family.

On the west side of the highway are located the buildings of the "*Curtis School for Boys*," founded by Prof. Frederick S. Curtis of Stratford, Conn. (An account of this school is given elsewhere.) The property consists of a large dormitory, a schoolhouse, gymnasium, caretaker's house, a master's study and a considerable acreage. The Goodsell family of Bridgeport originally had a residence on the site of the Curtis School dormitory and occupied it until 1884. The property passed to Mr. Curtis about 1886. He has entirely rebuilt the property, adding thereto both buildings and acreage. He also acquired by purchase the Bryant Smith residence, just north of the school, which is occupied by the caretaker.

In May, 1907, that portion of the ancient Bridgeport and New Milford turnpike lying between the Episcopal church and the former residence of Bryant Smith was, upon application of Frederick S. Curtis of the Curtis School, closed by vote of the town and a short highway established through the northern part of the Curtis School property, connecting the east highway with the turnpike near the former Bryant Smith residence. Mr. Curtis thereby received from the town the land formerly occupied by the turnpike for his private use.

There are a few residences north of this point on the old Bridgeport and New Milford turnpike (now the state highway). The first house on the west side of the highway was for years the home of Bryant Smith, a lawyer, whose little red office stood just north of his home. He was a graduate of Union College and was born in this town in 1790 and died here in 1880. He is remembered as a white-haired, dignified gentleman of the old school, and his wife a gentle lady. Oscar Johnson and family now occupy this house.

The next residence north is the attractive home erected by William S.

CHAPTER V.

THE FIRST ECCLESIASTICAL SOCIETY. CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

In Connecticut the church and the school were the two sources of life in the community.

The church had great influence in shaping the character of the early settlements; her ministers who were men of positive ideas and native force wielded a powerful influence over the religious and social life of the towns; in some instances the town records were for years kept by the minister of the parish. The First Ecclesiastical Society in Newbury Parish (later Brookfield) was Congregational, although sometimes referred to as Presbyterian. It was gathered previous to the year 1755, probably in 1753 or earlier, and Sabbath services were held in the homes of the people at that date, for in January, 1755, by a vote of two thirds of the members of this parish, petition was made to the court of Fairfield County to grant them the privilege of erecting a meeting-house and fixing the site for the same.

In January, 1755, the county court, sitting at Fairfield, in and for the county of Fairfield, passed the following vote:

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

"This court does thereupon appoint Samuel Olmstead of Ridgefield, Stephen Burr and Joseph Sandford of Fairfield, all of the county of Fairfield, a committee to fix the place whereon said meeting house shall be erected and built, and make return of their doings to the county court to be held in Fairfield in April next."

Signed by Thadeus Burr, Esq.,
Clerk of the Court.

The committee appointed by the court to select a site for the Newbury meeting-house performed its task; but the same was not acceptable to the court, and this body appointed a second committee, namely, Increase

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

In 1815, when the pews were sold at auction, the proceeds to be applied to the salary, provision was made for "seating the poor," as the introduction of the "sale of pews" did away with the custom of "seating the meeting-house." For some years the "tithing man" was regularly appointed to "care for those in this Society who on the Sabbath day are disorderly."

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

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

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

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

**PERSONS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE FIRST ECCLESIASTICAL
CHURCH AFFAIRS IN ITS EARLY DAYS, BEING
THE MALE MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH.**

Jeremiah Northrop, society's
clerk in 1755

Joshua Northrop, 1755

Daniel Burr (court clerk)

Lieut. Benj. Ruggles, 1755

Amos Northrop, 1756

Benjamin Stevens, 1756

Caleb Stevens, 1756

Peter Hubbell, 1756

Joseph Gunn, Jr., 1756

Edmond Bostwick, 1756

Gershom Bostwick, 1757

Lazarus Ruggles, 1758

Eli Dunning, 1758

Josiah Burrit

William Barnum, 1760

David Jackson, 1760

Joshua Stevens, 1761

CHAPTER VI.

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, BROOKFIELD, CONN.

Thirty years after the gathering of the Congregational Church, fifty-five persons residing in the Parish of Newbury, later Brookfield, on January 21, 1785, declared themselves thus:

"We, the Subscribers whose names are under written, declare ourselves to belong to the Episcopal Church, and desire to be considered as such.

Charter Members.

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| Caleb Stevens | David Bennit | Amiel Peck |
| Daniel Stevens | David Northrop | James Osborne |
| Josiah Stevens | David Smith, Jun. | Israel Osborne |
| David Betts | William Morrison | Francis Burrit |
| Joseph Starr | Joseph Tomlinson | Hezekiah Stevens, Jun. |
| Benjamin Daley | Abel Booth | John Morehouse |
| Richard Wildman | Isaac Thair | Ichabod Bets Palmer |
| Isaac Chase | Rubin Dunning | Abraham Smith |
| Libeus Wildman | Andrew Northrup | Jesse Noble |
| Ebenezer Barnum | Oliver Rugg | Elnathan Noble |
| James White | Isaac Hawley | Ammi Palmer |
| John Lobdell | John Treadway | Ephraim Curtis |
| Isaac Barnum | Samuel French | Abijah Ruggles |
| Isbon Barnum | Abel Hurd | Josiah Burrit |
| Daniel Barlow | Abel Gun | Daniel Jackson |
| Francis Barlow | Suzanna Northrop | Samuel Sherman |
| Olburt Barnum | Samuel Babbit | Isreal Bristol |
| Nehemiah Barnum | Lemuel Babbit | Lewis Lobdell |
| Joseph Brush | | |

Certified to by me

Ichabod B. Palmer
Society Clerk for the Episcopal Church
Newbury

Jany 21- A. D. 1785

Received for Record Jany 29-1785 and acknowledged by me
Elijah Starr

Society Clerk

(of First Ecclesiastical Society, that is, The Congregational Church)"

The above is an exact copy of the official record taken from the books of the First Ecclesiastical Society of Newbury (Brookfield), showing that

fifty-five persons connected with this society desired to withdraw and become an Episcopal Church Society. The spelling of the names is that given in the record.

The Episcopal Church in Connecticut was first organized at Stratford in 1707. Missionaries were sent out from the parent church into all the newly settled towns for the purpose of holding religious services among those whose preferences were for the Episcopal form of worship.

The first rectors of the Episcopal Society in Newbury (Brookfield) were the rectors of Trinity Episcopal Church, Newtown, Conn., who in addition to their own work came to Brookfield for a portion of the time, and held services for a definite salary, regulated by an agreement entered into with the Newtown Episcopal Church.

The same arrangement was later made with New Milford parish, known as St. John's Episcopal Church, whereby her rectors came to Brookfield a portion of the year. The early Episcopal services were held in private residences, as was usually the custom.

In 1835 the following men, over their own signatures, declared themselves to be members of St. Paul's Church:

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Sylvanus Noble | Abram F. Shepard |
| Timothy Foster | Zalmon Starr |
| Philo Merwin | Zibe Lake |
| Jedediah Wellman | David Meeker |
| Benj. Lake | Homer Lake |
| Merritt Hubbell | Squire V. Smith |
| Zalmon Stevens | Gideon Seeley |
| John Jackson | Alonzo Beers |
| Agur Tomlinson | Homer C. Brush |
| Abel Booth | Henry Ruggles |
| Daniel Brush | Ira Stevens |
| Abel Bennett | David S. Dibble |
| Ithamer Merwin | Harlow Keeler |
| Zalmon Goodsell | Ezra Osborne |
| Czar Starr | Ethel Andrews |
| Hanford M. Kellogg | Waite S. Northrop |
| John Camp | Hiram Lake |
| Solomon W. Stevens | Wheeler Skidmore |
| William G. Morehouse | Amos Camp |
| Joseph B. Beebe | Hemon Terrell |
| Daniel Tomlinson | Daniel Terrell |
| Rufus Hamlin | Peter B. Jackson |
| Henry Burwell | Jesse B. Jackson |

Isabelle Couzens Carpenter of Hastings-on-Hudson; is a graduate of St. Stephen's College in 1893, and a graduate of General Theological Seminary in 1896. He was rector of Episcopal parishes as follows: A circuit of seven mission stations in Kansas and Oklahoma from 1896 to 1899; assistant rector of St. James's Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, Pa.; rector of Episcopal Church, Milford, Pa.; rector of Episcopal Church, Tenafly, N. J.; rector of Episcopal Church, Brandon, Vt., 1904-1910; accompanied expedition to Greenland in 1894; chaplain of Seaman's Institute Church, New York City, from 1910 to 1912. Mr. Carpenter purchased a residence in Brookfield Center in 1912 of Mrs. Georgianna Williams, formerly the Noah Taylor homestead. He was rector of the Episcopal Church of Bridgewater for a time. Removed to Salisbury, Conn., in 1914 and was rector of St. John's Church until December, 1920. From January, 1921, to December, 1922, Mr. Carpenter was in St. Louis, Mo., chaplain of nine institutions in that city. He returned to Brookfield in December, 1922, and immediately resumed pastoral work over the Bridgewater Episcopal parish. He visited the Hawaiian Islands in February, 1924. Mr. Carpenter is at the present time (1929) the rector of two parishes, namely, St. Mark's at Bridgewater, and St. Paul's at Brookfield.

CLERKS OF THE PARISH.

| | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| Rufus Sherman (many years) | Abel Booth |
| E. D. Hawley | Daniel Hawley |
| Ph. P. Fairchild | Eleazar D. Hawley |
| Waite S. Northrop | A. F. Shepard |
| Ethel Andrews | Edson Hawley |
| Ezra Osborne | Stanley B. Terrill |
| Dr. Eli Perry | William J. Beehler |
| Lyman Wheeler | Clarence Bristol, 1929 |

COLLECTORS FOR THE SOCIETY IN EARLY YEARS.

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| David Northrop, Sr. | Dr. Eli Perry in 1800 |
| Jabez Hurd | Zelotus Sherman |
| David Osborne | Abel Booth |
| Libeus Wildman | Peter Hurd |
| B. Tomlinson | Ralph Booth |
| Abel Gunn | Agur Tomlinson |
| William Bostwick | William Meeker |
| Julius Peck | Lemuel Peck |
| Reuben Dunning | Zadock Sherman |
| Clement Hubbell | Joseph Benedict Beebe |

Timothy Foster
 Smith Wheeler
 Eldad Ruggles
 Zalmon Goodsell
 Hezekiah Camp

Philo Hurd
 George Hurd
 Alonzo Beers
 John Jackson

PARTIAL LIST OF TREASURERS OF THE PARISH.

Agur Tomlinson in 1809
 Henry Burwell in 1829
 Homer C. Brush in 1833
 Edson Hawley

Stanley B. Terrill
 Charles Stuart
 Frederick Beers

**A PARTIAL LIST OF THE WARDENS AND VESTRYMEN
 OF ST. PAUL'S PARISH.**

Jesse Noble
 Amos Wheeler
 Samuel Sherman
 Martin Kellogg
 Isaac Barnum
 Dr. Eli Perry
 Peter Hurd
 David Meeker
 Lemuel Peck
 Amiel Peck
 Czar Starr
 Hezekiah Stevens, Jr.
 William Meeker
 Jedediah Wellman
 Nathan B. Thorp
 Squire Van Smith
 David Dibble
 Merritt Hubble
 Ezra Osborne
 Ethel Andrews
 Hanford Kellogg
 Lemuel H. Sherman
 Ziba Lake
 Abel Sherman
 David Smith
 Henry Ruggles
 Zalmon Goodsell
 Daniel E. Brush
 John Jackson

Abram Shepard
 Jabez Hurd
 Henry Andrews
 Samuel Sherman
 Howard W. Andrews
 Charles Stuart
 Charles Camp
 Charles Williams
 John Bateman
 Robert Supple
 Arthur Mansfield
 Clinton Jones
 Wm. J. Beehler
 Frederick Beers
 Charles Stuart

1929 Wardens

F. H. Beers
 A. S. Mansfield

1929 Vestrymen

Ernest Hawley
 Charles Camp
 Robert Supple
 Clarence Learned
 David Morehouse
 H. W. Keeler
 Clinton Jones
 Clarence Bristol

CHAPTER IX.

BROOKFIELD'S INDUSTRIES.

IRON INDUSTRY IN BROOKFIELD.

The Brookfield Iron Works were in operation as early as 1732.

In the town records at New Milford (in which township Brookfield Iron Works then was) it is on record that a dam was built across the Still River, and houses and instruments for making iron were set up at a place afterward Brookfield, and the equipment was owned by "Peter Hubbell of Newtown, Samuel Hathaway of New Milford, and Joseph Ruggles of New Haven," who came to the Iron Works to live at that time.

In November, 1733, the owners of the iron works loaned Eleazer Hathaway of New Milford one hundred pounds (\$500), said Hathaway agreeing to perform the work of a "skillful bloomer" in the iron works for the benefit of the owners. He was to make "shiremoulds, cranks, and grudgeons."

The iron used at the Brookfield furnaces or forges may have been brought from Kent, or from some near-by town, as we do not know of iron beds in this vicinity.

The Brookfield furnace was quite likely one of the "seven forges" mentioned as conducted in New Milford in early days, keeping in mind the fact that Brookfield Iron Works was then in New Milford. The ore used at the New Milford furnaces, or forges, was supplied by the brown hematite ore from Kent. These furnaces produced iron for muskets, chains, anchors and innumerable purposes. One of the muskets bearing the Brookfield stamp is now owned by a citizen of Bethel. Ethan Stillman made muskets, under contract by the United States Government, at Brookfield, Conn., under date of September 14, 1808. It would appear that he must have employed quite a number of workmen to have been given a contract by the government and he had probably been a gun-maker of previous experience.

The location of the Brookfield iron furnaces was on the east side of Still River and is believed to have been near the railroad station, although it was at one time supposed that the exact site was considerably north and near the hat factory once conducted by Henry B. Hawley. It is a matter of

CHAPTER XII.

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS, TEACHERS.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

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

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

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

In January, 1756, the Society of Newbury voted to keep a school six months; two months in the New Milford or northern portion of the parish, two months in the Danbury or western portion and two months in the Newtown or southern portion. The school committee of the first-named district was Lieut. Benjamin Ruggles, David Smith, Peter Hubbell; of the second district, Ronald Bostwick, Benjamin Stevens, John Dunning; of the third district, John Camp, Henry Peck, George Smith.

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

In 1808 Brookfield had eight school districts, namely, Brookfield Center, Iron Works (East), Longmeadow, Whisconier, Obtuse, Bound Swamp, South Mountain (Huckleberry Hill), North Mountain (West Iron Works).

The school visitors that year were Rev. Richard Williams, Daniel Tomlinson, Dr. Noah Lacey, George C. Smith and Colbe Chamberlain.

vault was given by Mr. Henry Starr Beers, a former resident of Brookfield.

In this ground were interred Rev. A. C. Pierce, for years pastor of the Congregational Church, Rev. Benjamin Benham and Rev. Henry D. Noble, both rectors of the Episcopal Church; also Dr. Amos L. Williams and Dr. Junius F. Smith, our former well-known physicians. Central Cemetery is the burying place of the following families: Andrews, Anderson, Beers, Bradley, Barnum, Babbitt, Briscoe, Barlow, Bostwick, Burwell, Brush, Baten-court, Buckingham, Blakeman, Blackman, Beehler, Bristol, Brownell, Co-vill, Carpenter, Cogswell, Corbin, Campbell, Couch, Carlson, Clarke, Cro-fut, Dibble, Dauchy, Dikeman, Dunning, Elwood, Edmunds, Edgett, Foster, Foote, Fairchild, Ferris, Fennell, Frisbie, Gorham, Gardner, Gregory, Griffin, Gray, Gustafson, Gilbert, Hawley, Hurlburt, Hatch, Hughes, Ham-lin, Hall, Hill, Higby, Joyce, Jones, Johnson, Jackson, Keeler, Knapp, Knowles, Lacey, Lake, Logan, Leach, Lobdell, Morris, Morehouse, Mans-field, Montrose, Meeker, Merwin, Northrop, Noble, Osborne, Odell, Rug-gles, Read, Peck, Pulford, Perry, Parker, Porter, Quintard, Roe, Randall, Stevens, Sturdevant, Salmons, Sherman, Starr, Saunders, Stuart, Smith, Somers, Swanson, Sweeney, Sturges, Sagendorf, Thornhill, Tomlinson, Taylor, Terrill, Wildman, Williams, Weld, Warner, Wells, Ward, Warren, and other families whose names are less familiar.

GALLOWS HILL CEMETERY, 1734.

Gallows Hill Cemetery, located about two miles north of Brookfield Iron Works on the east side of the state highway, lies partly in Brookfield and partly in New Milford, the boundary line between the two towns pass-ing through these grounds. This cemetery was opened in 1734. The ground was donated by Mr. Noble, an ancestor of Miss Belle G. Foster, whose colonial house is just north. This ground was the place of inter-ment of numerous families once residing in Brookfield, especially in the northern section of the town. Persons bearing the following family names are buried here: Baldwin, Banks, Bassett, Blackman, Bostwick, Briggs, Benedict, Bennett, Bradshaw, Bristol, Bulkley, Camp, Cole, Crane, Davis, Edwards, Foster, Giddings, Goodsell, Hull, Hubbell, Hurlburt, Jackson, Keeler, Knapp, Lake, Mills, Lewis, Merwin, Maxfield, Morehouse, Near-ing, Nichols, Noble, Osborne, Palmer, Perry, Ruggles, Sanford, Stebbins, Tomlinson, Vail, Waller, Warner, Wheeler, Wildman.

LAND'S END CEMETERY, 1748.

Land's End Cemetery lies just outside the Brookfield line on the south, and belongs to the town of Newtown. It is pleasantly located on a hillside,