

June 23, 1940

Haverhill's Seventh Ward Enjoyed More Than 200 Years As Township

BY HARRY ALDEN JOHNSON

The town of Bradford was originally a part of Rowley plantation, which was settled in 1639 by the Rev. Ezekiel Rogers and his followers, most of whom had emigrated to America from Yorkshire and places adjacent in England.

The Rowley grant was an extensive area, comprising eight miles from the meeting-house in a straight line, with a cross-line diameter from the Ipswich to the Merrimack river the court making this allotment "provided it doth not prejudice any former grant".

The area occupied by Bradford was first called Merrimack, but in 1672 it was designated Bradford in honor of a street in the home town across the sea. John and Robert Haseltine and William Wilde were the first men to settle in Bradford, sent by the town of Rowley into the vast wilderness to guard the Rowley herds from bear and prowling wolf and the occasional Indians who wandered from place to place for sustenance.

To guard their charges, the herders carried 10-foot pikes and flintlocks. They were hardy and stalwart men, undaunted by the task assigned them. For this service Rowley allowed each man 40 acres of common land, sufficient for 20 or more head of cattle; they might cut a thousand pipestaves annually and timber sufficient for building their houses and fences. In addition, each was to receive two shillings per day for looking after the cattle.

As soon as these pioneers had established themselves and erected rude cabins and shelters for the cattle, their wives and families came from Rowley. The women were worthy help-mates, and the looms and spinning wheels which they brought with them were seldom idle. The newly-made linens were spread on grass and bushes to whiten in the sunlight and the autumn breezes. Thick flannels were made too, for the men must have warm and durable clothing for their out-of-door life.

FIRST SETTLEMENT

This first settlement in Bradford was made in the vicinity of the old burying-ground on Salem street. Here stood the first meeting-house, with roads to different sections of the new plantation. Across the river, blue and sparkling and undefiled, was the little village of Haverhill, settled in 1640, but the heavy forests of oak and pine were so dense that not even a glimpse of the Rev. John Ward's settlement could be seen. And so the years sped on, the population of Bradford being increased from time to time by the arrival of other pioneers from the home town of Rowley and from neighboring communities.

From 1668 until January 7, 1672, the original name of Merrimack was used, having been given it by the settlers from Rowley, who designated it "Merrimack Plantation". In 1672, it was named Bradford, from which place in England, some of the early Rowley settlers had emigrated.

There is no record when the first town meeting was held, but the earliest noted in the town books is under date of Feb. 20, 1668. Reference made in this account indicates that similar meetings had previously been held, for a committee was chosen "to go on and finish the minister's house;" this was the parsonage home of the Rev. Zachariah Symmes, Bradford's first minister. In their execution of town business the inhabitants did not lose sight of the religious aspect, and these early records abound with allusions to the ministry. Land was allotted to the Rev. Mr. Symmes and the new town paid charges for moving his household goods from Charlestown. His salary for the first year was 40 pounds, one-half payable in wheat, butter, pork and cheese, and the remainder in corn and cattle. In addition to these

considerations, the Rev. Mr. Symmes was at liberty to call upon any townsman at any time to assist him in his farm duties, and there was a penalty if such person refused or neglected to carry out his order.

His home stood near the meeting-house, a log house with spacious fire-places. In 1681, the town granted the minister "a burying place for his own proper use." Bradford records give more detailed information concerning the second parsonage which was 20 feet by 40 feet and "had four chimneys."

FIRST MEETING HOUSE

The first meeting-house stood near the west corner of the old Salem street burying-ground, and this too was of log construction. In 1690, the town voted to build a gallery, for the original capacity was severely taxed, more families having arrived. The need of a new church was apparent in later years, and the second church was built on a site east of the original edifice. This was built in 1765, and was occupied until 1751 when a new meeting-house was erected on what is now Bradford Common. This was of more modern construction, having square pews with doors, a high pulpit and a huge sounding-board.

A drum first summoned the worshippers to Sunday service and on "lecture days". The parishioners were assigned seats by the selectmen, the men and women occupying separate sections. There was a fine for not sitting in the place allotted, and tithingmen kept the children in order or administered a public reprimand to those arriving late.

Five selectmen were chosen in the first recorded meeting, also a constable, a clerk of the writs or town clerk, four overseers of the poor and a committee of three persons "to lay out town highways." Rules for the execution of town business were laid down; a penalty was established for persons tardy in attending town meeting, also a fine for speaking in meeting without first obtaining leave from the moderator. These meetings were held on the first Tuesday in January.

The houses of Benjamin Gage and Thomas Kimball were designated the places for posting up notices or other business "of concernment to the town." Regulations were established for fences, they must be at least three feet in height, and must consist of five rails. The fence viewers, chosen in town meeting, were ordered to inspect these fences annually before the first of June, and for every defect in building found, the owner was fined two shillings sixpence.

FIRST WARRANT

The first warrant for town meeting is recorded under date of 1742. This was issued "To all free-holders" and called for action on the approbation of town debts, to allow bills of charge, to choose a representative to the General Court in Boston, to elect committees to "mend" highways and to make school allotments.

In 1762 the meeting-house was inadequate to accommodate all who wished to attend town meeting, and at that time the town was separated into the East and West parishes, the area now occupied by Groveland being the former parish. The East Parish increased in population quite as rapidly as Bradford proper, many settling in the former parish owing to the proximity of Haverhill shoe factories. The time came when the inhabitants of this section began to chafe at the distance from the seat of town government, the more so, because several small industrial concerns had been established in their own locality.

About 1843, owing to a certain antagonism which had more or less existed for some time between the two villages, an attempt was made for a division of the town into two. An effort was made to petition the court for a division, but it was voted down, 123 voting "Yes" and 148 "No."

This move to form a new town was precipitated by the action of the Post-office department in changing the name of the office in the East Parish to East Bradford, and dropping the word "West" from the office in the other village. In December, 1849, separation was again agitated. It was asserted by those in favor of the plan that such a step must come sooner or later, and that it would be advisable to bring it about before the census and valuation were taken for the next decade in 1850; if not, the proposed new town would be without representation until 10 years later.

DIVISION UNOPPOSED

It was usually the custom at this period to elect a resident of East Bradford town treasurer and collector one year, and to fill the same office the following year from West Bradford.

So far as can be ascertained, there was no movement in the west part of the town to prevent this proposed division. That section was quite willing to agree to a separation as many of the more influential men were in the East Parish, and more or less able to control town meeting votes. West Parish residents believed that this separation would bring about their political independence.

On Jan. 3, 1850, a meeting of the citizens of the East Parish was held in the vestry of the

Congregational church to consider a division of the town. It was voted to petition the legislature for such action and a committee of five members drew up a petition to circulate for signatures. On Feb. 11, 1850, a notice was received from the Legislature to call a town meeting to vote upon the petition of Daniel B. Stickney and others for a division of the town of Bradford. There was a committee of the same number appointed to circulate the petition in the East Parish. Later, this committee was heard before the Committee on Towns at the State House, and a favorable report was received.

Groveland was incorporated a town on March 7, 1850—"A new town is hereby incorporated by the name of Groveland, and is hereby vested with all the powers and privileges, rights and immunities, and shall be subject to all the duties and regulations to which other towns are entitled and subjected by the Constitution and laws of this Commonwealth".

The late Dr. Louis A. Woodbury, long a prominent Groveland physician, prepared considerable unpublished material relating to the name of the new town. Many meetings were held before a satisfactory name was agreed upon.

BOUNDS OF NEW TOWN

The bounds of the new town as recorded in 1850 are—"All that part of the town of Bradford which lies east of a line beginning at the Merrimack river at the West side of Johnson's creek at low water, thence running southeasterly up the west side of said creek about seventy rods to a small white oak tree; thence south 15 degrees, west 89 rods to a bound on the southerly side of the highway near Jonathan Kimball's house; thence south 54 degrees, west 85 rods, 17 links to a walnut tree on the easterly side of the road near the house of William Brown; thence south 38½ degrees, west 149 rods, nine links to a bound at the northwesterly angle of said highway near Johnson's pond; thence south 27 degrees, west to a bound at the westerly side of said highway at Boxford line."

Under the authority of the act of incorporation, Jeremiah Spofford, a justice of the peace, issued a warrant to Nathaniel Ladd, of Groveland, directing him to warn its inhabitants to take such measures as might be necessary to effect a settlement between the old and new towns. In the following year, Groveland voted that the town's connection with the town of Bradford in the support of the poor be dissolved.

WARD HILL

Ward Hill, the highest point of land in Bradford, was called "Philistine Hill" in the earliest days of the town. From its summit many miles of the surrounding country could be seen, leading the first settlers to kindle on its summit their signal fires, also designated ward fires. These were used mainly to warn the townspeople of the approach of Indians. In 1802, a brick powder house was erected here, and according to town records, "was to be at all times suitably provided with ammunition and an ample supply of flints".

Industrial enterprises, notably hat manufacturing sprang up in this locality, and, with the erection of factories, many residences were built. Today it is the home of the important Knipe shoe manufacturing plant.

Farming was mainly carried on, and some of Bradford's largest and best tilled farms are found in this section with considerable cattle raising and sheep in the earlier days.

From its earliest years Bradford evinced an interest in education, as the selectmen in 1701 were empowered "to provide teaching of children of this town to read and write." Two years later, the selectmen were ordered to provide the town with a schoolmaster. Parents who sent children or servants to school were ordered to pay two pence per week for their instruction in reading and four pence "to learn to write."

"A good scoule to be set near the senter of the town near the meeting-house" was voted in 1711. In 1745, Bradford voted 17 shillings per week to persons boarding the schoolmaster, and a total of 150 pence was raised for general school expenses. Schools were often held in private homes and the terms were of about four months' duration. In 1785, fire wood for the first time was provided "at town cost."

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

At this time there were two school districts, one in each of the two parishes; an additional district was set off in 1797. A series of by-laws establishing the duties of committee, preceptors, school masters and mistresses. A vote was also passed including the ministers of the town on the school committee.

"The Merrimack Intelligencer" noted the opening of a new academy in Bradford in 1803. This institution it was stated in the announcement was located one-half mile from Haverhill Bridge, and has both male and female departments. The term was to open on June 1 of that year. This school was incorporated in the following year.

Another notable institution was Merrimack Academy in East Bradford, established Feb. 7, 1822. It was incorporated "to provide piety, religion and morality and for the education of youth of both sexes in the languages, liberal arts and sciences." This academy functioned until 1870 when it burned, later it was rebuilt and in 1878 the town of Groveland leased it for a term of 99 years. Active in the management of this school were Dr. Jeremiah Spofford, Peter Parker, Dr. Benjamin Parker, Thomas Savary, Sylvanus Hardy, Nathaniel Ladd, Jonathan Balch, Leonard Balch and others. The tuition in 1844 was four dollars for a term of 12 weeks, and Rufus Hardy was master. The Haverhill Gazette, of Aug. 24, 1844, has an interesting article on this academy, and in the Haverhill Historical society's collections is a broadside giving the names of students and where they resided.

Bradford school reports and regulations of this period contain much of interest. "If we would have the rod and ferrule dispensed with, we must put in their places the more potent power of moral restraint, and the Bible is confessedly the highest, the most pure and the most authoritative code of morals." Teachers were ordered to inculcate the sacredness of the Sabbath and its due observance.

In 1878, Bradford adopted by-laws regarding truancy and elected two truant officers. Citizens, parents and teachers were authorized to aid these officials whenever possible.

IN THE BOOK STORES

Haverhill newspapers at this period contain some interesting advertisements of Haverhill and Bradford bookstores selling school and religious books. One of these, "The Village School Geography" was adorned with woodcuts and 10 engraved maps. Arithmetics and geographies by the eminent "Peter Parley" were in use in the schools, also the geographies by Jedediah Morse and his brother Sydney. Of course Benjamin Greenleaf's arithmetics and grammars attained popularity in his home town, and many editions were issued. Mr. Greenleaf held various town offices, was a land surveyor of note and was the last preceptor of Bradford Academy, 1814-1836. In 1877, a music teacher was first employed in the Bradford schools.

Bradford from its inception showed its interest in military matters, voting in 1775—"to give some encouragement to such men as are inclined to enlist as minute-men". Training was provided on one-half day each week for a period of 10 weeks, and their pay was one shilling for each training day.

The selectmen were ordered to provide each man enlisted with a bayonet and cartridge box. The town had its committee of correspondence, inspection and safety. It had already erected a powder house stocked with six half-barrels of powder, bullets and flints proportionately. Capt. Nathaniel Gage and his company of 40 Bradford volunteers participated in the Battle of Bunker Hill, the company being rated as one of the best disciplined outfits participating in the conflict. Some of the Bradford men in military service were Lt. Daniel Kimball, Lt. Moses Harriman, Lt. Eliphalet Hardy, Capt. John Savary and Lt. Phineas Cole.

During the War of 1812, Bradford furnished its quota of men, and, according to a record in the town meeting books, "Deacon William Tenney was paid seventy cents for bringing up two casks of powder from Salem."

About this time Phineas Carleton was ordered to provide the town with stocks at town charge.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, \$1000 was appropriated for the families of volunteers, and in 1862 the selectmen were authorized to pay each person enlisting and called into active service within three weeks \$150 in addition to their bounty and pay. Bradford's quota in 1863 was 20 men, and that year a bounty of \$125 was paid all soldiers re-enlisting.

DEED OF BRADFORD

The deed of Bradford is recorded in the Essex Registry, Vol. 15, Leaf 136. Although in 1638 a title for Rowley lands had been secured from Mascomet, Sagamore of Agawam who was paid for an indefinite territory, heirs of the chieftain later made a claim upon the town, with the result that the bounds were definitely defined, a deed executed, and Samuel and Joseph English and John Vmpee were paid the sum of six pounds, and ten shillings, which put to an end all controversies with the Indians.

The deed was signed and sealed in the presence of Samuel Hazen, who represented Samuel English, Moses Parker for the same; Robert Clement and John Griffin for Joseph English, and Thomas Perley and Joseph Foster for John Vmpee. On the deed are the marks of the Indians and their seals. This deed was written by Isaac Addington, of Boston, and was acknowledged before Nathaniel Saltonstall in 1702.

But one Bradford person was killed by the Indians, Thomas Kimball. He lived on the road leading from South Groveland to Boxford. His wife and small children were taken captives, but returned home a few months later.

Bradford showed its respect for George Washington by holding memorial services in the East and West Parish meeting-houses on successive days. Eulogies were given by the ministers and many of the attendants wore rosettes of black crepe.

EARLY INDUSTRY

Manufacturing occupied a place of prominence in the early days of the town, the power furnished by Johnson's brook affording facilities for Thomas Carleton's fulling mill as early as 1760. Ship-building, which was carried on quite extensively, reached its height between 1775 and 1815, and Bradford and Haverhill had the reputation for being expert builders of sloops. One of the first yards on the river shore was operated by J. Atwood about 1800. There were other early time industries; Moses Parker raised tobacco which he pressed into small cakes, and during the Revolution Deacon Samuel Tenney established saltpetre works. Retier Parker operated a tan yard on Johnson's brook, introducing a smoothing device in the form of a circular stone operated by water power. This discovery made his skins especially desirable and they found a ready market in the Haverhill shops. Tanning was followed extensively in both the East and West parishes. In 1769, Bradford voted James Hatson five pounds, eleven pence "to encourage him in his manufacture of salt."

Several brick yards operated in different parts of the town in its earlier years, and from the same clay a form of earthenware was manufactured. The manufacture of hats in Bradford began before the Revolution. These were of beaver, raccoon, muskrat, cotton with pasteboard bodies, silk and napped fur, as well as wool. They were first packed in boxes strapped to axles for shipment or carried to the Boston market on horseback.

MUCH SHOEMAKING

Shoe manufacturing, which developed extensively until about 1880, commenced about 1760, at which time nearly every house had its shoemaking shop. One of the early manufacturers was William Tenney who made "sale shoes" which were marketed in Boston and Portsmouth, N. H., Salem and Newburyport, from which port they were shipped south. The first product was distributed on horseback, the shoes being tied up in bundles and tied to the saddle on each side of the rider. Later, the larger shoe firms, which had developed, moved to Haverhill, which was becoming an important manufacturing center. Some of these firms included those of Messrs.

Laburton Johnson, who did business for a long period at Railroad square, Webster, Kimball, Farrar, Hoyt, Ordway and Hopkinson.

Moses Parker kept a general store in the East Parish but most of the inhabitants of the other parish traded in Haverhill.

Orcharding received quite an impetus about 1830, and fields of apples, pears and peaches were set out. From his apples, Jonathan Balch manufactured what he called "Arminian Cider" from a formula of his own concoction, and the secrets of which he never disclosed. The Worcester pear was introduced into Bradford about this time, a delicacy for which the Bradford people had previously depended upon import. For many years Weeks, Cummings and Co. carried on extensive monumental works and a steam polishing mill on the river shore. Many of the Haverhill and Bradford memorials and monuments were furnished by this firm. Col. Harry H. Hale who owned the island in the river, developed the "Island Stock Farm" where he raised racing and driving horses. He had an extensive pasturage, corrals and a half-mile racing course.

The Newburyport and Boston stage rumbled through Bradford town in 1803, having, according to its announcement in the "Merrimack Intelligencer", "the best horses and the most careful drivers". There was also a route to Hanover, N. H., through Haverhill, Atkinson, Chester and Concord, N. H.

The fare from Boston to Haverhill was two dollars and from Haverhill to Concord, N. H., a quarter more.

BRADFORD STORES

Advertisements in Haverhill newspapers give considerable information concerning other Bradford stores and the goods which they carried. Leonard Johnson, who in 1823 kept a store "a few rods south of Haverhill bridge, had for sale satinets, English and factory ginghams, mixed broadcloths and cassimeres, dark and light calicoes, cambrics, plain muslins, black and colored nankin crepes and shawls of beautiful patterns." He also carried ladies' worsted hose, black and colored, tapes, pins and needles, young Hyson tea, perlash, saltpetre, window and bar soap, raisins, beeswax, Havana and loaf sugar, as well as shoe knives, awls and brads of all sizes. A customer might also purchase old New England rum as well as Holland and American gin.

trouble their families and injure themselves, and we have formed a society and a pledge to abstain from this excessive use." Mr. Gage was a genial and hospitable man; he went to the corner cupboard, brought out a decanter, loaf sugar and the toddy-stick, and invited the minister and his companion to "Take something." Parson Allen looked at Deacon Gage and Deacon Gage looked at Parson Allen, who responded: "I believe, Deacon, we have a clause in our constitution which allows us to drink on extra occasions". "Yes", replied the deacon; "and this is certainly an extra occasion." "And," said the parson, "this is certainly a very cold day." There was no further mention of temperance that afternoon.

MANY INDENTURES

Bradford town records contain many indentures binding out children, usually those of poor parents or orphans. Only responsible persons were allowed the custody of these unfortunate children, their terms of indenture usually being until they reached 21 years.

These legal agreements specified the name and age of the child, the names of his parents or guardian, the term of indenture and other pertinent facts. The child was ordered to refrain from card playing, dice and to carry himself "as a good and faithful apprentice." He must promise not to absent himself from his master. In turn the master must agree to give the child two months of schooling each year with instruction in writing and ciphering and to provide sufficient meat, drink and other necessaries. At the expiration of his term of service, the master agreed to give the person indentured two suits of wearing apparel "suitable for the Lord's Day," and also two other suits for working days. These documents were signed by the master, and by the overseers of the poor who bound out such children.

Bradford constables found their time frequently interrupted by orders issued by the selectmen to warn undesirable persons out of town. These people, it was feared, might become town charges. According to the town records, they had many trades, spinners, tobacconists, farmers, bushel-makers, cordwainers, comb-makers and others. Some of them came from Haverhill, Newbury, Boxford and Salem and from Pembroke, N. H.

In 1865, the population of Bradford was 1567; 336 families, and the trades represented were one soap manufacturer, three master builders, one blacksmith and ninety farmers. The yearly inventory of farm products was 8607 pounds of butter and there were 140 acres of land planted to corn,

Carleton and Newcomb announced that they had plenty of live goose feathers of the first quality for sale. No doubt Bradford women's spirits rose when the business card of Miss Abigail Chase, of Bradford, caught their eye as they read the weekly paper by candlelight for she announced: "I have just received a handsome assortment of leghorn straw bonnets of the very latest patterns." Miss Chase also "kept a good supply of mourning bonnets constantly on hand."

In 1803, a house was for rent "Near Moses Kimball's Tavern". The owner added: "A wheelwright would find very good encouragement at this place". Kimball's was for a long period a prominent Bradford hostelry. Here in 1803, a meeting of townsmen was held to raise subscriptions for the erection of Bradford Academy. An old bill from Proprietor Kimball to the town fathers, notably the selectmen and the overseers of the poor, dated 1809 reads thus: "For expenses at my house two evenings, \$3.48." In 1813, the same town officials ran up a bill as follows: "Five dinners, \$1.50; three pints of rum, \$1.20; 1 glass of brandy, .06; and hay and provender for four horses, \$1.33."

ABOUT PARSON ALLEN

A new era in benevolent work had its inception with the formation of the American Board of Foreign Missions during Parson Allen's ministry. He was the fifth minister, a graduate of Harvard College in 1774, and was ordained in Bradford on June 5, 1781. His early religious training was under the direction of the Rev. Ephriam Judson, a brother of the Rev. Adoniram Judson, father of the famous missionary to India. He wore the short breeches with powdered wig and high cocked hat, and silver knee-buckles. His sermons were marked by a severity in the depiction of the guilt of sin and doom of the sinner. He wrote much poetry, including "A Poem on the Existence Of God", an "Ode on the Creation", and an "Eulogy on the life of George Washington". In later years, Parson Allen wrote several hymns, one beginning

"Sinners, will you scorn the message
Sent in mercy from above?",
brought him fame in two continents
This was born in the revival of 180

One day Parson Allen and his good friend, Deacon Griffin, went to the upper part of the town to visit Uriah Gage, one of the influential men of the town. Parson Allen opened the conversation, "You know, my friend Gage, that many men drink too much and make bad use of rum, waste property

five acres of rye, twenty-seven acres of barley, and seventy acres of oats. There were 75 oxen in the town and 148 horses.

GREAT REVIVAL

The great revival of 1806 resulted in the conversion of Ann Judson and Harriet Atwood, two young women who with their husbands, the Rev. Adoniram Judson and the Rev. Samuel Newell, sailed on the brig "Caravan", for missionary service in India. An imposing boulder on Bradford Common opposite the First Church commemorates the founding of this board and the sacrifice made by the two women, both graduates of the Bradford Academy. Across the seas there is a monument to the memory of Mrs. Newell, who died there in 1812. This monument was erected by the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. It is suitably inscribed: "She left her kindred and her native land and welcomed dangers and suffering. Her short life was bright, her death full of glory."

The Philendian Society was organized in Bradford in 1813, its object being the support of female teachers; through its efforts schools were established in Bradford and Haverhill, in Newburyport, and on the Isles of Shoals, N. H.

The Methodist church was incorporated in 1838, the Ward Hill Congregational church in 1893, and the Church of the Sacred Heart in 1910.

The First Church of Christ (Congregational) was erected in 1848, a beautiful type of colonial meeting-house with fluted columns and foliated capital and graceful spire.

In 1872, Bradford appropriated \$50 for its first Memorial Day observance. The women of the town were active in arranging bouquets cut from their gardens and at the cemeteries exercises were held, including an address by the minister and singing by the church choir.

The town in 1876 made appropriate observance of the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. This was held on July

1, and the town appropriated \$300. The committee was made up of D. Freeman Towne, Dr. William Cogswell, James K. Hall, George W. Ladd, William A. Kimball, Charles B. Emerson, William Hilton, Gardner G. Kimball and William L. Gage.

At sunrise the church bell was rung and a salute of 13 guns was fired. At noon the bell was again rung, and the people assembled on the Common in front of the meeting-house. A procession was formed with Maj. Eugene Carter as chief marshal. This in-

cluded the Groveland Brass Band, carriages bearing the selectmen and officers of the day, also townspeople and invited guests, followed by a detail of school children bearing flags.

An interesting letter was read from Dr. Jeremiah Spofford, of Groveland, the Rev. J. C. Paine of that town invoked the blessing and the audience sang "Hail Columbia" under the direction of Prof. H. E. Holt.

A special feature of this event was the reading by Dr. William Cogswell of the identical sheet sent to Bradford a century previous, and first read from the pulpit of the Congregational church by the Rev. Samuel Williams, who was then minister. It was voted to have this same document read a hundred years hence. This precious message is now at the Haverhill Historical society's rooms at "The Buttonwoods", encased in a metal container. The oration of the day was delivered by Harrison E. Chadwick, who said: "The people of Bradford fully entered into the spirit of the times. They comprised scarcely a thousand people scattered over a territory eight miles, with their East and West meeting-houses, around them a few dwellings, but not a post-office. This town was represented in the Provincial Congress at Concord Oct. 11, 1774, by Capt. Daniel Thurston.

"At a town meeting in 1775, the first after the battles of Lexington and Concord, a committee of correspondence was chosen, and 11 days after the Battle of Bunker Hill a town meeting was held to encourage the reenlistment of the Minute Men, and promising them pay."

A toast to the President of the United States was responded to by Hon. Henry Carter, and there were other addresses by the Rev. John C. Paine, of Groveland, Herbert I. Ordway, representing the school committee, Hon. E. B. George, of Groveland, Warren Ordway, C. F. Payne, of Groveland, Charles B. Emerson, William Hilton, D. Freeman Towne and others.

Bradford homes were lavishly decorated, particularly the "Old Tavern," the residence of Jacob Kimball. The day was concluded with the ringing of the church bell, a salute of 38 guns fired by a detachment of the Massachusetts battery, and a display of fireworks. The last entry in the Bradford town meeting records in 1896 was an account of this centennial celebration.

When the Boston and Maine railroad was opened as far as Bradford in 1837, the village contained but three streets; the Andover and Salem roads which unite near the meeting house.

and the old Ferry street. In 1810, Bradford's population was 1369; in 1820, 1650 and in 1850, after Groveland had been set off, 1300 inhabitants. In 1876, the population was 2500. Although the postoffice system was established about 1672, Bradford had no office until 1811.

In 1869, Bradford voted in regard to annexation to Haverhill. The vote was: "Yes", 42; "No", 149. On Nov. 3, 1896, the town voted on: "Shall an act passed by the General Court in 1896, entitled "An Act to Provide For the Annexation of the Town of Bradford to the City of Haverhill", be accepted? The vote recorded is "Yes" 531; "No", 341, and blanks, 59.

In the following year, 1897, Bradford became a part of Haverhill and was officially designated "Bradford District" by vote of the Haverhill city council.