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SOUTHBRIDGE

A SOUVENIR

Published by the Ladies' Circle and Y. P. C. U.
Of the First Universalist Society of Southbridge, Massachusetts.

1899.

Photographs by
A. Wm. Barnes.

Decorations by
Miss Mabel L. Morse.

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SOUTHBRIDGE.

Southbridge, Worcester County, Massachusetts, was incorporated as a town Feb. 15, 1816. Its colonial and revolutionary history is merged in that of Charlton, Sturbridge and Dudley, from which its territory was taken. The origin of the town was in a poll-parish, incorporated Feb. 28, 1801. The name Southbridge was finally adopted, after much discussion, on Jan. 20, 1815, and stands unique among all the places of the country. The first town meeting was held March 6, 1816.

Marcy's grist and saw mill in 1732 was the first factory on the Quinebaug which winds its circuitous but useful way through the town, and ever since, Southbridge has taken a prominent place among the industrial centres of New England.

Four villages in the town—the Centre, Globe Village, Sandersdale and Shuttleville—justify its claims to be an up-to-date community, as a perusal of the following pages will serve to prove.

It is proud of its schools, streets, and public buildings, its social, intellectual and religious activity, and its various manufacturing industries and farming interests. Its public library of 17,000 volumes is worthy of special mention, and in and near the town one may wander for hours amid natural and artificial beauties.

It has three weekly newspapers, electric lights and street railway, sewerage and water-supply systems, and communication with the outside world over the Southbridge branch of the N. Y., N. H., & H., R. R.

The population of the town is 10,000, and the valuation about $4,000,000. It is a town which has been built up by internal capital and energy, and as such is famous among its sister towns of the Commonwealth. The town has over five miles of concrete sidewalk, and the busiest part of Main street is macadamized. The town takes special care of its streets, which are well-shaded in summer, and well-lighted at night.

Southbridge was the birthplace and early home of William Learned Marcy, once Governor of New York, United States Senator, and Secretary of War and State.

Here were also born, Holmes Ammidown, millionaire merchant of New York, donor of a perpetual lease of our library quarters; George L. Stedman, prominent at the bar in Albany; George T. Angell, President of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; Moses Plimpton, Linus Child, Dr. Samuel Hartwell, and others of more than local prominence. William DeWitt Hyde, President of Bowdoin College, received here his early education. "Honest Town" has grown into a community of large results and greater possibilities.

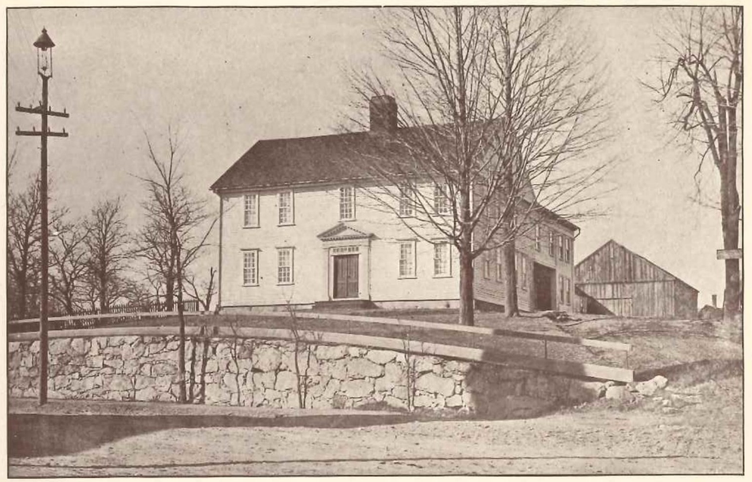
THE MARCY HOUSE.

Quite in the centre of Southbridge stands the Marcy House, the oldest residence in the town and indeed in the vicinity. It is one of the first places to which the attention of the visitor is directed on account of its historic interest. It was built about the middle of the last century. Through its doorway men passed to fight the Indians in the Colonial wars, later to join the Revolutionary forces in the great struggle of the colonies for independence, again in 1812, and still later in the Civil war.

The house is in a most excellent state of preservation ; the wainscoting and decoration being in perfect repair. The windows have many small panes of glass, and there is still the original many-paneled door.

In 1732 Moses Marcy came from Woodstock, Ct., and purchased a large tract of land in Sturbridge. The estate comprised about four hundred acres and is now occupied by the central village of Southbridge. Twenty-five years later he built this house, which has always been occupied by his descendants. William A. Marcy resides there at the present time.

Here, on December 12, 1786, was born the illustrious statesman, William L. Marcy.



HISTORIC SPOTS AND HOUSES.

1. Cave of Rocks in western part of Southbridge, said to have been the dwelling-place for some time of James Dennison, who came to "New Medfield" about 1730, one of the earliest settlers of this region.

2. Old Clark homestead, at corner of High and Glover streets, one of the earliest houses erected in town.

3. Old Oakes homestead, South street.

4. The Famous Elm, on Elm street, over 100 years old, which has a currant bush growing in the crotch of the tree, over 25 years old. Next to the "Old Tavern."

5. The Daniel Perry homestead, in Globe Village, West Main street.

6. The "Old Tavern," once owned by Col. Benjamin Freeman. The low part was built in 1744. The whole was recently torn down to make room for the new Centre Fire Department Building.

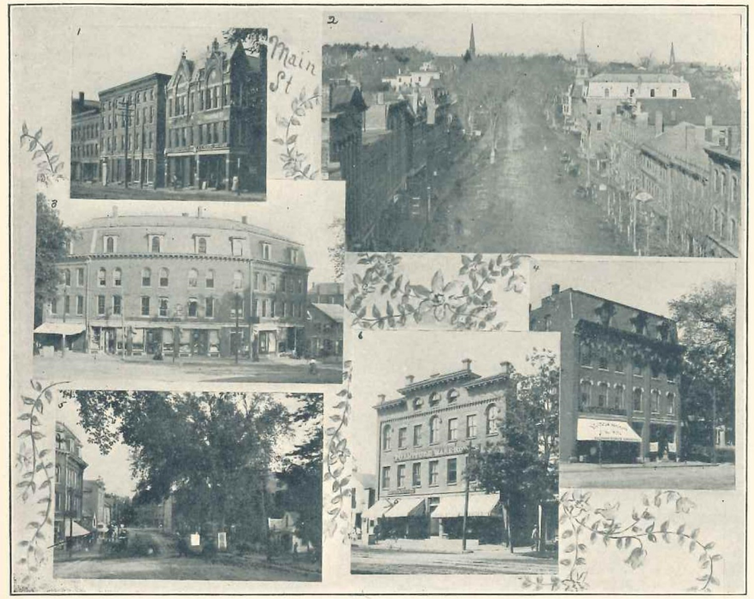
7. The Capt. Daniel Newell place, West Main street, Globe Village.

8. The Litchfield Estate, South street. This house was erected about 1835, on land once belonging to the early family of Wolcotts, by Samuel H. Judson, who, in 1867, sold it to the late Libya M. Litchfield. It is at present owned by Worcester parties.



MAIN STREET, BUSINESS SECTION.

1. Dresser block, containing Dresser Opera House; Edwards and Edwards Memorial blocks.
2. View of Main street, looking east from Hamilton street corner.
3. Whitford & Stowe block, corner Main and Hamilton streets.
4. Barnes block, at corner of Main and Chapin streets.
5. View of business section looking west from Elm street.
6. Whitford & Ellis block.



MAIN STREET, BUSINESS SECTION.

This group of pictures includes the blocks occupied in part by the (1.) Johnson-Colburn Co's. and P. H. Carpenter Co's. stores, (2.) Hartwell's blocks and Comstock block, (3.) "Edwards House" block, (4.) C. A. Dresser house block, and the (5.) Public Library block, all on Main street, and a portion of the "Tiffany" block on Central street. Also general views of Main street in its busiest parts—looking west.



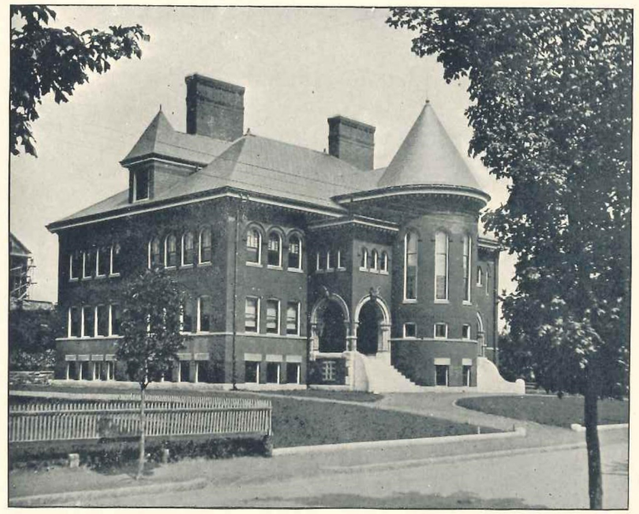
SOUTHBRIDGE BANKS.

The Southbridge Savings and the Southbridge National Banks occupy a building of brick with brownstone trimmings next to the Y. M. C. A. building, on Main street. This building is also occupied on the second floor by the Telephone Exchange, offices, and the Elmhurst Club. The I. O. O. F. and K of P. have lodge rooms on the third floor. The Southbridge Savings Bank was incorporated April 23, 1848. Jacob Edwards of Boston and C. A. Paige of Southbridge are the only surviving original members, and Jacob Edwards is the only one of the first board of Trustees. The present Treasurer is John A. Hall, and the Assistant Treasurer, L. Wesley Curtis. The Southbridge National Bank was originally organized in 1836, as a state bank. In 1865 it became a national bank, with a capital stock of $150,000. F. L. Chapin is the present cashier, and he has as able assistants, Samuel D. Perry and Allan H. Faxon. These banks are equipped in a thoroughly up-to-date manner for carrying on the large financial interests of the town.



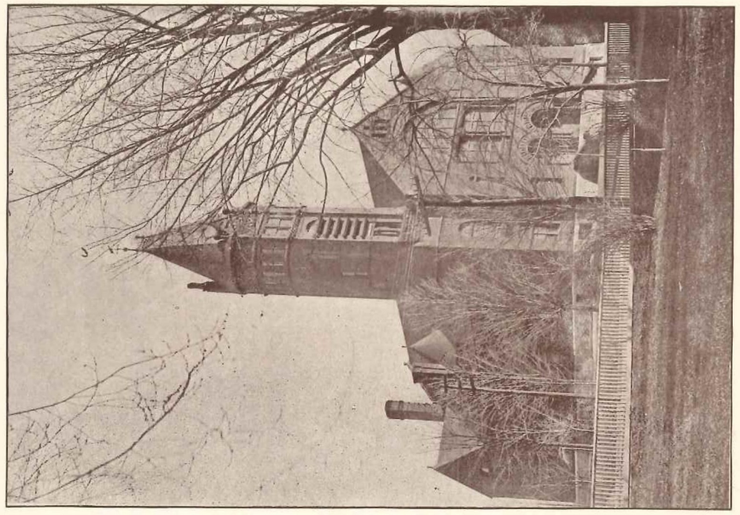
MARCY STREET GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

The Marcy Street Grammar School is the latest and best public school building in Southbridge. It is a brick house constructed according to the most approved methods of heating, ventilation and sanitation, at a cost of nearly $50.000. Located very centrally and conveniently on high land, it contains eight school rooms, with seats for four hundred pupils, accommodating at present all public school pupils in the village classes above the fourth grade. It was first occupied at the beginning of the school year in September, 1898, but its capacity is already tested, and, with the rapid increase of population, the time is probably not far distant when the town must consider the erection of both a new and commodious High School and another building for the lower grades.



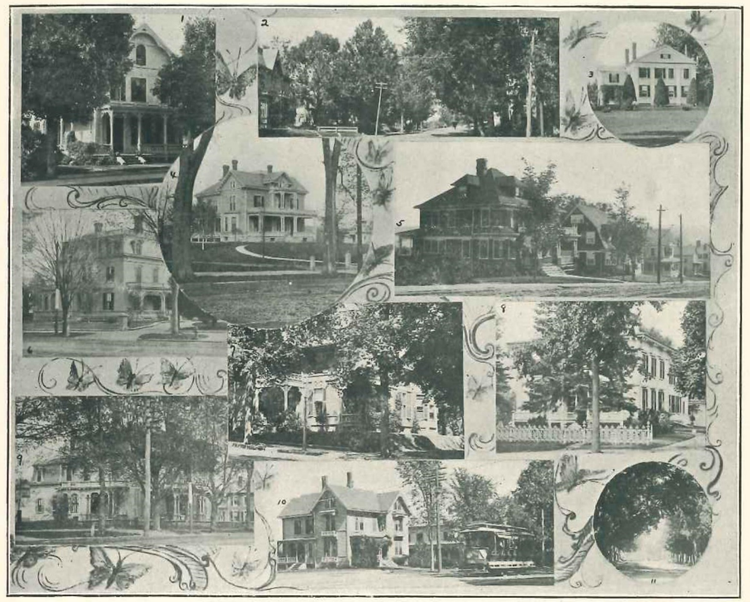
TOWN HALL AND HIGH SCHOOL.

This building is on Elm street, on the site of the old Town House, which was torn down. The corner-stone was laid July 4, 1887, with appropriate exercises, and the building was completed in 1889, at a cost of nearly $100,000. The main audience-room, with a seating capacity of 1400, is considered the most beautiful auditorium, outside of the cities, in this part of New England. At either side of the large lobbies, rooms for various officials of the town are arranged. In the Selectmen's room there is an immense fireproof vault, for the preservation of town books and papers. On the ground floor is Memorial Hall, used by the G. A. R. and W. R. C., in which there is a marble tablet, inscribed with the names of those of the town who died in the Civil War. The east end of the building is used for High School purposes. Recently a large addition has been built to this part, for the accommodation of the increased membership of the school. The teachers in the High School are F. E. Corbin, Principal, J. B. Mowry, Sub-Master; Misses Elizabeth Perry and Laura Williams, Assistants; Miss Blanche Wheeler, teacher of Elocution and Literature, and Mrs. H. N. Carpenter, teacher of Music.



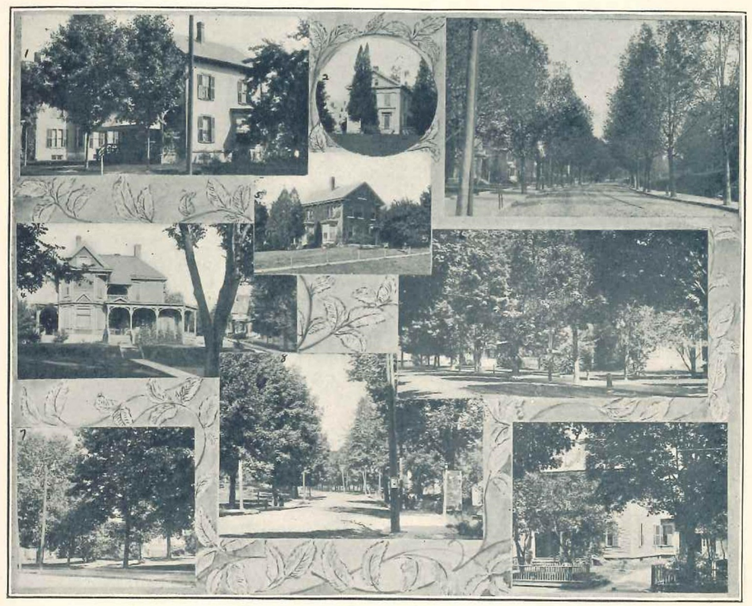
MAIN STREET RESIDENCES.

1. Residence of Charles S. Edmonds.
2. Main street, looking up the hill towards Methodist Church.
3. Residence of Channing M. Wells—originally the Moses Plimpton place.
4. Residence of George W. Wells—the William Edwards estate.
5. Residences (beginning at left) of C. Fred Hill, L. E. Sibley and William Hardenber.
6. Residence of Calvin D. Page—the John Edwards estate.
7. Residence of T. Jerome Harrington.
8. Residence of the late Chester A. Dresser.
9. Residence of Mrs. E. S. Ellis and Miss M. L. Merritt.
10. Residences (beginning at left) of Mrs. I. Perkins Hyde and Mrs. C. V. Carpenter.
11. East Main street, looking west.



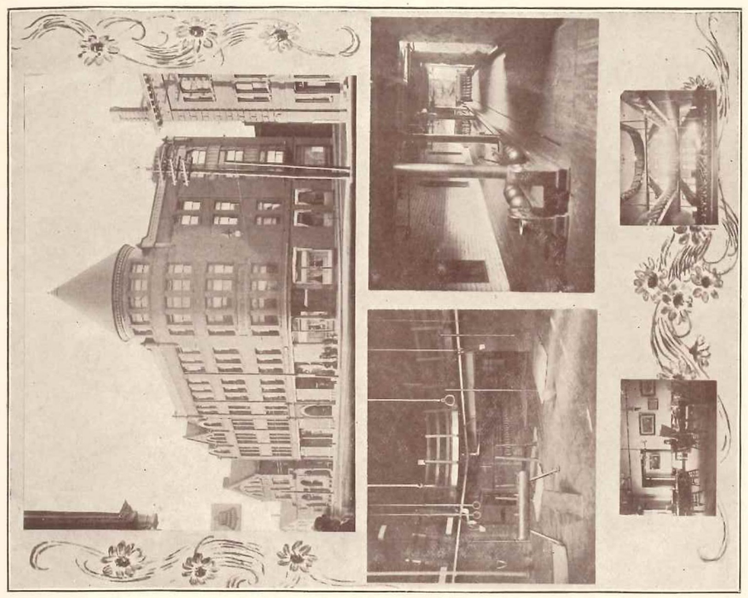
HAMILTON STREET.

1. Residence of F. W. Edwards, M. D.
2. Residence of the late Theodore Harrington.
3. View of Hamilton street, looking to the south.
4. Residence of Stephen K. Edwards, at corner of Edwards and Hamilton streets.
5. Residence of Henry A. Morse.
6. Residences (beginning at right) of the late William Comstock, of J. T. Clark, Superintendent of Schools, and of S. S. Silva, D. M. D.
7. Residence of George K. Dresser.
8. View of Hamilton street, near Hook street, looking north.
9. Residence of William C. Barnes.



YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

The Town of Southbridge is very proud of the Y. M. C. A. building, which was completed in 1893, at an approximate cost of $75,000, and occupies the site of the old "Columbian" block and other buildings at the corner of Main and Elm streets. The ground floor is rented for stores, offices, and the Centre Post-Office. The three upper stories are occupied for the uses of the Association. The page gives views of the exterior of the building, the gymnasium, the bowling alleys, the reading room, and auditorium. The officers of the association are: President, Henry C. Cady; Treasurer, John A. Hall; Clerk, L. B. B. Coit; Executive Committee: George W. Wells, John A. Hall, Henry C. Cady; General Secretary, J. F. Leonard; Physical Director and Assistant Secretary, A. D. Murray. The Y. M. C. A. was organized Dec. 31, 1882, and was incorporated July 21, 1885. The present building was dedicated Nov. 7, 1893.



SOUTHBRIDGE CENTRE AND RESIDENCES.

1. Residence of James H. Sanders, Chapin street.
2. View of Everett street from Main street, looking south.
3. Residence of Henry C. Cady, Everett street.
4. Residence of Hiram C. Wells, corner Dresser and Chapin streets.
5. Residence of Mrs. Ellen M. Hartwell, Elm street.
6. Residence of Herman S. Cheney, Chestnut street.
7. Residence of C. A. Paige, Esq., Elm street.
8. View of Elm street from corner of Summer street, looking north to Main street.
9. Residence of Jacob Booth, corner Elm and Dresser Streets.



VIEWS ABOUT TOWN.

1. Residences of J. Edward Clemence and Frank C. Litchfield, South street.
2. No. 1 Fire Engine—Firemen's Muster—1898
3. Residences of Mrs. Emma B. Cheney and Edgar M. Phillips, South street.
4. View of "Hillside Park," one of the prettiest residential sections of the town.
5. Residence of Dr. L. W. Curtis, Pleasant street, Globe Village.
6. Gleason Block, Globe Village.
7. Residence of Albert H. Wheeler, South street.
8. Hook & Ladder Truck, Southbridge Fire Department, muster 1898.
9. South street, looking west, with residences of E. C. Ellis, Frank H. Marble and O. B. E. Chipman.
10. Residence of the late Judge A. J. Bartholomew, Main street.
11. Residence of John M. Cheney, Marcy street.

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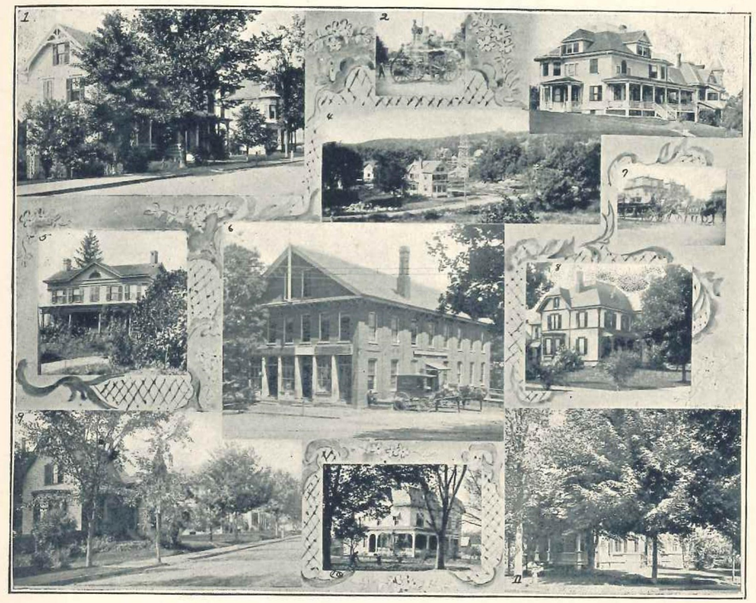
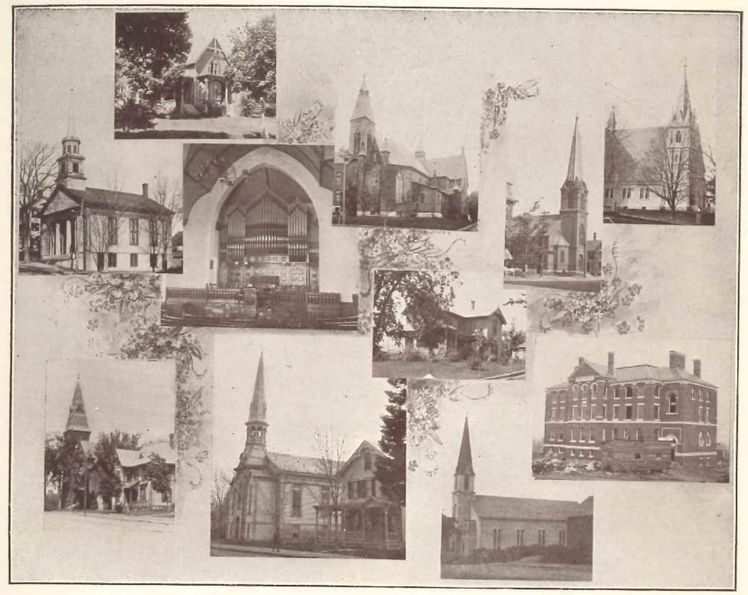


CHURCHES IN SOUTHBRIDGE.

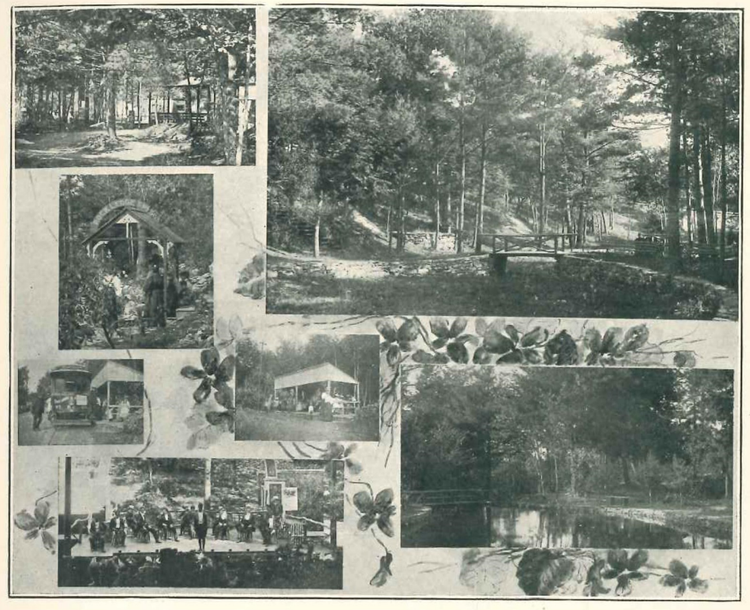
1. Baptist Church, Main street, H. Jerome White, minister.
2. Baptist Parsonage, Everett street.
3. "South" (Congregational) Church, Elm street, Willis A. Hadley, minister.
4. Interior of "South" Church, showing organ.
5. Methodist Episcopal Church and Parsonage, Main street, C. H. Hanaford, minister.
6. Universalist Church, corner of Main and Hamilton streets, George W. Penniman, minister.
7. Universalist Parsonage, Hamilton street.
8. Evangelical Free ("Union") Church, and Parsonage, Hamilton street.
9. St. Mary's, Irish Catholic, Hamilton street, J. B. Drennan, pastor.
10. Notre Dame, French Catholic, Pine street, G. E. Brochu, pastor.
11. New (1899) Parochial School, of the French Catholics, corner Pine and Edwards streets.



FAIRVIEW PARK, STURBRIDGE.

In April, 1897, Messrs. C. D. Paige and F. L. Chapin of Southbridge purchased ten acres of land two miles west from Southbridge Centre, on the line of the Southbridge & Sturbridge Street Railway, and named the tract, which has since been enlarged, Fairview Park. An observatory was erected on the highest point, which commands a broad view of the pretty villages and picturesque country for many miles around. In one of the most attractive glens below, a covered pavilion, a restaurant and stage have been erected, while rustic seats are scattered about the grove and along the sides of artificial lakes.

Rock Ledge Spring furnishes clear drinking water. Since the opening of the Park, vaudeville performances have been given nearly every week-day afternoon and evening from the middle of June to the middle of September and band concerts, Sunday afternoons, which have been very popular with all classes of people. These entertainments are free to all patrons of the electric road, which now owns and controls the Park.



COHASSE FARM AND BROOK.

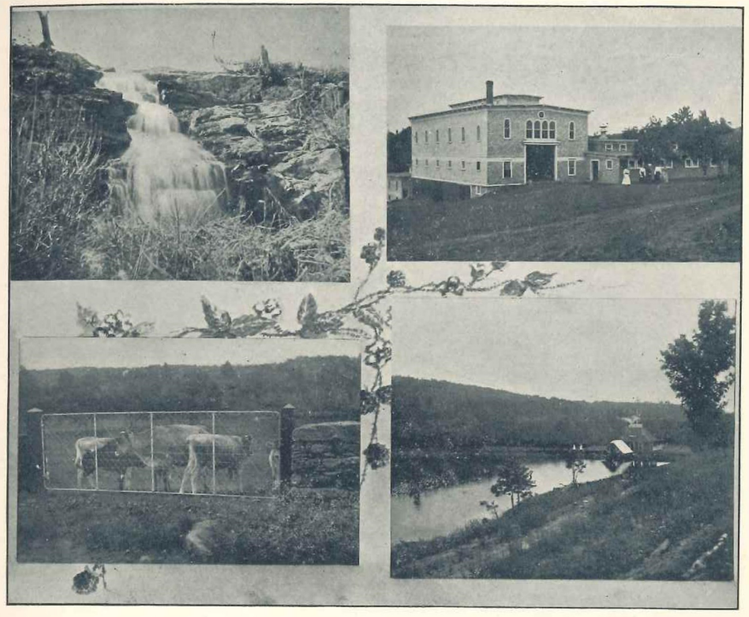
Driving out from the town, about a mile toward the south, we find ourselves approaching Cohasse Farm, a most attractive place.

The view from this beautiful hill in every direction is charming; in front of you lies the town, beyond, the white spires of Charlton, in the distance on the right, Dresser hill, a little further to the right, Lebanon hill; on the left, the pretty lake through which runs Cohasse brook, bustling on down through the valley to join the Quinebaug.

The large farm barn is indeed a model of convenience and cleanliness. A visit to this and a sight of the fine herd whose home it is, gives great pleasure to the visitor.

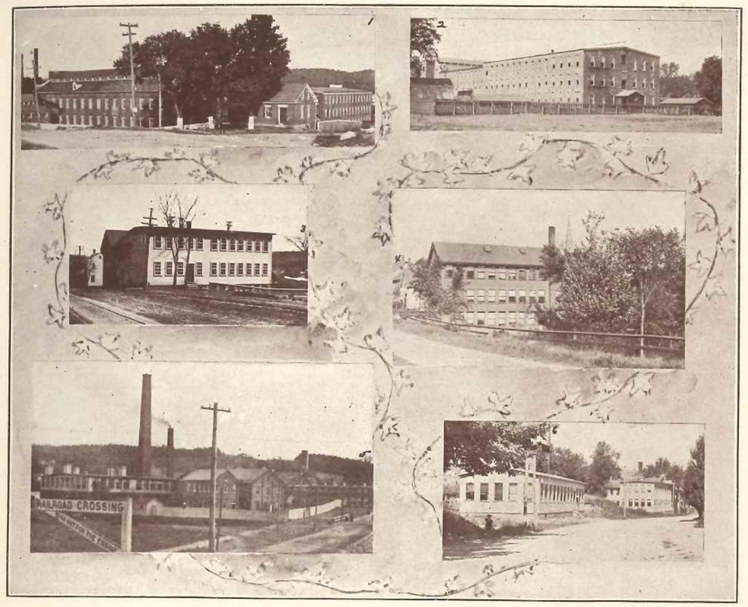
The farm is now owned by George W. Wells. In earlier years it was the property of the Hooker family.

Following Cohasse brook through the woods we suddenly come upon the most beautiful cascade dancing over the rocks. Many residents of the town hardly know of its existence, but its beauty quite equals that of waterfalls found on trips to far away places.



MILLS OF SOUTHBRIDGE.

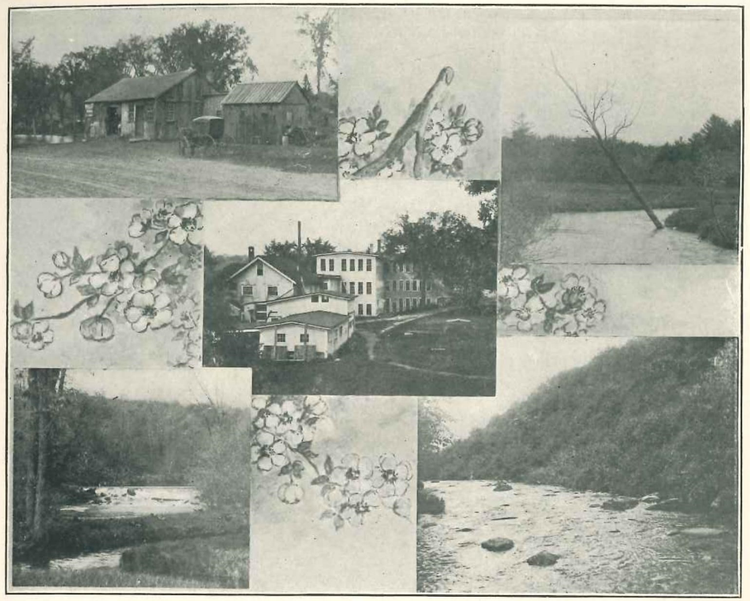
The principal industries of Southbridge are the manufacture of spectacles and eye-glasses, woolen, cotton and print goods, shuttles and knives. The accompanying plate of pictures represents some of the leading mills engaged in these kinds of business. Nos. 1 and 2 are of the Central Mills Co., Central and North streets, near which location, in 1813, was erected the first woolen mill in this section, and it was at or about this point on the Quinebaug, that the river's water-power was first utilized by Moses Marcy, in 1732. No. 3, the Hyde Mfg. Co. and Dupaul-Young Co., knives and optical goods, on East Main street. It is here that the optical industry started. No. 4, the Southbridge Optical Co., Marcy street, founded in 1882, which employs over 100 hands. No. 5, the Southbridge Printing Co., a very large and increasing industry, situated at Sandersdale (formerly Ashland), in the east part of the town, on land which originally belonged to Col. Thomas Cheney, the pioneer settler of that region. No. 6, a view of two knife factories on Elm street; the one in the foreground is of the S. Richard Co., the other the Richard Mfg. Co.



LITCHFIELD SHUTTLE CO.'S WORKS.

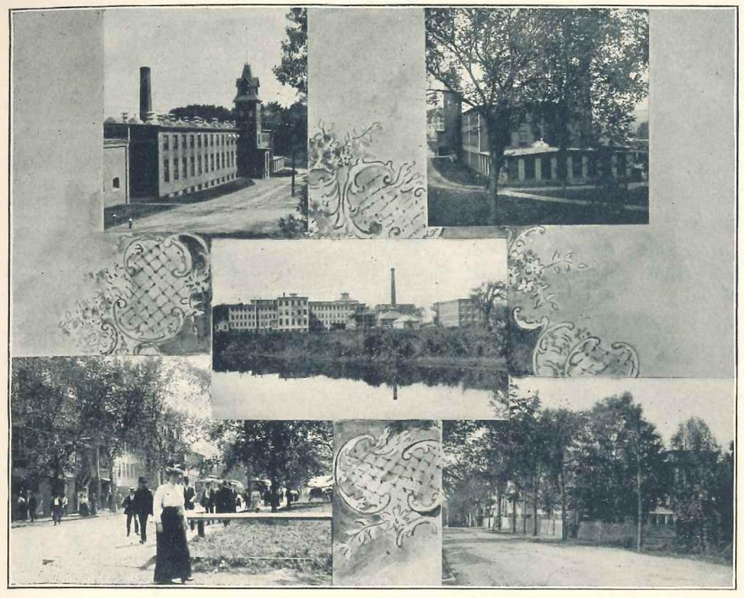
These works are situated in Shuttleville, a mile west of the center of Southbridge, on South street, and consist of a number of buildings, erected for special processes in the manufacture of shuttles and shuttle-irons, for the weaving of various kinds of textile fabrics. This plant has the distinction of being the largest of its kind in the world, and was begun in 1843, by four brothers, natives of Charlton, Pliny, Festus C., Laroy and Libya M. Litchfield, and Schuyler Whitney, a brother-in-law. All the original members have passed away, and the business is now owned and managed by their descendants and successors. The goods are sent all over the U. S., wherever the textile industry is carried on, and also to England, Mexico and Canada, and the business field is constantly enlarging. Frank C. Litchfield is President; John M. Cheney, Treasurer and General Manager; Herbert L. Litchfield, Clerk, and George M. Cheney, head-accountant.

The other pictures in this group are of picturesque spots along the Quinebaug River, and the old blacksmith shop near the Westville bridge.



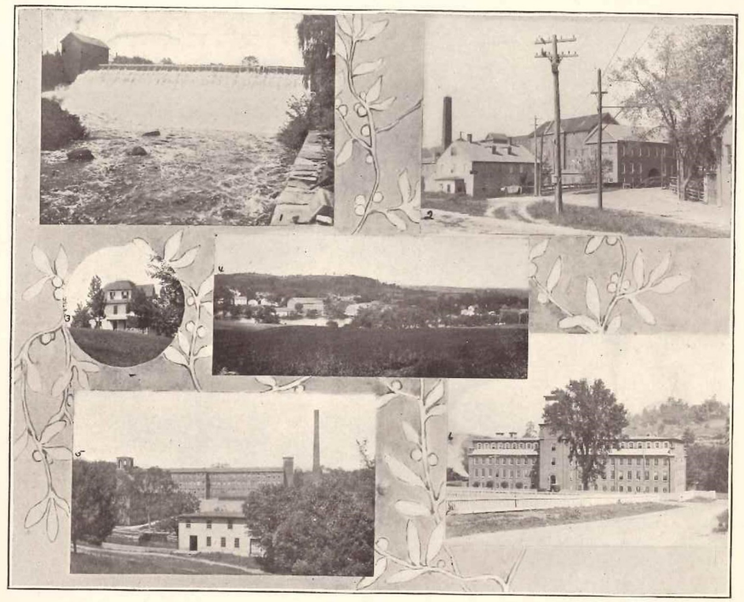
AMERICAN OPTICAL COMPANY.

The plant of the American Optical Company, from which the town originally got its name of the "Spec Town," is one of the principal industries, if not that of chief interest, and is the largest of its kind in the world. Ammidown & Co. may be said to have started the optical industry in Southbridge, and in 1869 the firms of H. C. Ammidown & Co., and R. H. Cole & Co. were consolidated and the present company was organized and incorporated. As the business increased, change of quarters became necessary, and a move was made to the present location, where, from time to time, additional floor space has been added, until at the present time it occupies over 200,000 square feet. The two upper views are of the lens grinding factory, where over 90 tons of lens stock are used each year for the grinding of the lenses, 3,240,480 pairs being the production for 1898. The three remaining views are of the main factory, the one in the lower left hand corner showing the wing with the offices. 2,397,684 pairs of spectacles and eyeglasses were sold in the year 1898; the amount of gold and silver used in their construction $462,000. The number of hands employed at present is 1200. Under its present energetic and progressive management, the high reputation the company has already made is bound to be maintained. The officers of the company are: President and Treasurer, Geo. W. Wells; Superintendent, H. C. Cady.



HAMILTON WOOLEN CO., GLOBE VILLAGE.

Globe Village took its name from the Globe Mfg. Co., which, in the early days of the town, carried on manufacturing in this section. The Hamilton Woolen Company is the modern successor of this early concern. The views show: (1.) The large mill-dam, which presents a beautiful sight when the water, after a heavy rainfall, rushes over the flash-board and through the waste-way; (2.) Print Works (so-called), and the iron-bridge; (3.) residence of C. W. Hill, Agent and Superintendent of the Company; (4.) a general view of Globe Village and the several mills of the Company, with "Big Pond," and in the distance, Clemence Hill and some of the hills in Charlton; (5.) "Big" Mill, Mill street; (6.) "New" Mill, near depot.



THE KNIFE INDUSTRY.

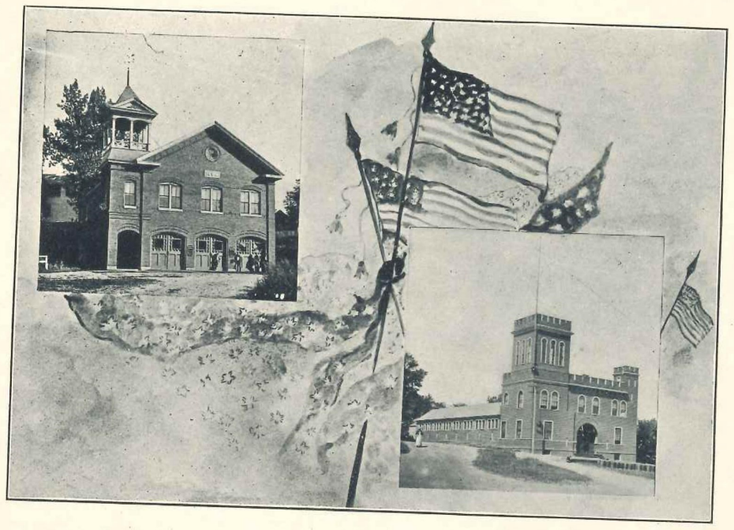
In the lower right hand corner of the opposite page is shown the shop of the late Theodore Harrington, "Cutler to the People," who started in business in 1848. This shop is situated on the Charlton Road and derives its water-power from Cady Brook. Views of the pond are shown. The other shop on the page is the knife shop, owned and operated by D. Harrington & Son, and is situated about two miles north of the town. The knife industry is carried on by other concerns, also, in town, and has added greatly to the manufacturing fame of Southbridge.



FIRE DEPARTMENT AND ARMORY.

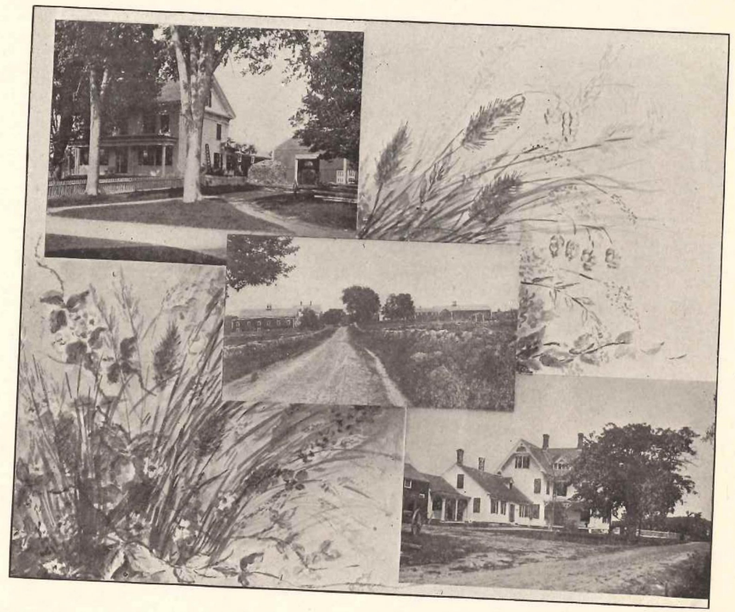
Southbridge has always possessed an excellent and efficient fire department. From the days of the old tub machine to the present. the department has been an honor to the town and has had enrolled in its membership many of the most prominent citizens, who, as soon as they drop out of active service, join the Veteran Firemen's Association, which has under its care the famous "Tiger" hand-engine. The department consists of two steam fire-engines and two hook and ladder trucks, modernly equipped and comfortably housed. The left hand picture is that occupied by the Globe Village department. The building for the Centre companies is in process of erection on Elm street and will cost upwards of $25,000, including land.

The Armory building, seen in the other picture, is situated on Central street, and was erected about two years ago at a cost to the town of $10,000. Here are the headquarters of Co. K., 6th Mass., M. V. M., Capt. U. A. Goodell. The company was organized ten or more years ago, and has brought much credit to the town. In the Cuban war the company responded almost to a man, and saw much hard service in Porto Rico.



HOMES OF THE MORSE FAMILY.

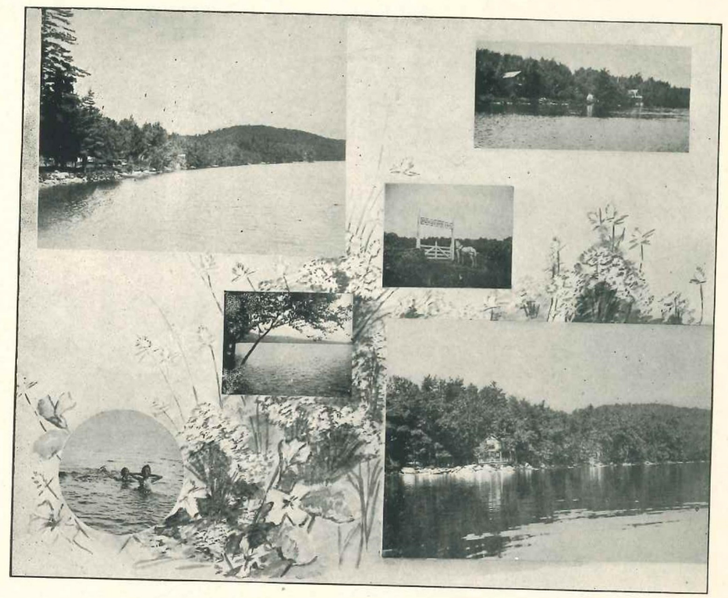
The Morse family is one of the oldest in this region, having settled here in the middle of the last century. The Morse (or Pratt) district in the eastern part of Southbridge, formerly Dudley, is noted for its fertility of soil and pleasant views. In the midst of these natural advantages are situated the comfortable homes of several members of this pioneer family. The farms connected therewith are models of the tiller's art. The pictures are of the residences of the late Hiram Morse, now the home of his son, Hiram P., and of the late Mnason Morse, which is occupied by Charles M. Morse, his son, and it is here that the Universalist Social Club has its pleasantest gatherings. The view in the center is taken at the south of the Morse residences, looking towards them.



LAKE POOKOOKAPOAG.

The first cottage at Alum Pond or "Pookookapoag" was built by William D. Morse and George H. Hartwell of Southbridge, some years since, and from that time this place has been a resort for Southbridge people seeking health and recreation in a quiet and picturesque spot. There are several private cottages and more to be built by another season. Also, cottages to be rented at reasonable rates.

The photographs show some points of interest about the pond, and the large gate at the entrance from the Brookfield road, which is eagerly watched for by those whose way leads through it.



LAKE POOKOOKAPOAG.

There are many shady nooks along the shores of this pretty lake where a boat or canoe may glide out of the heat and dazzling light of the open water. The trees spread their leafy branches out over the mossy rock-banks and mirror themselves in the placid surface below. Here the sly pickerel loves to hide from the eager fisherman. Out yonder to the west one sees the green-covered slopes of Mt. Dan, or across the lake the hills where herds of cows are seen to graze. Not far away are the cottages from which comes the merry sojourner's shout or song. In the depths of the forest one hears the chirping of a squirrel or the warbling of a bird, and the thought comes that the pleasant Summer days are all too few and the happy hours spent 'mid Nature's loveliest charms will soon be a sweet memory of the past.



STURBRIDGE.

Sturbridge, incorporated in 1738, first attracted the English colonists by the rich deposit of graphite in the south west corner of the town, and this "lead mine" has been worked at intervals for more than two and a half centuries. Though mainly an agricultural community, the water power of the Quinebaug River is well utilized. The Fiskdale Mfg. Co. does the largest business and pays one-third of the taxes of the town.

1. The First Congregational Church is a beautiful example of the "meeting house" of a century and a quarter ago.

2. The Joshua Hyde Public Library is a bequest of the late George B. Hyde, for many years a grammar school master of Boston, in memory of his father.

3. Common, looking west.

4. Beautiful Maple, west end of common.

5. "The Elms." The hotel on Sturbridge common is a historic structure, one of the oldest buildings in the town.

6. Unitarian Church.

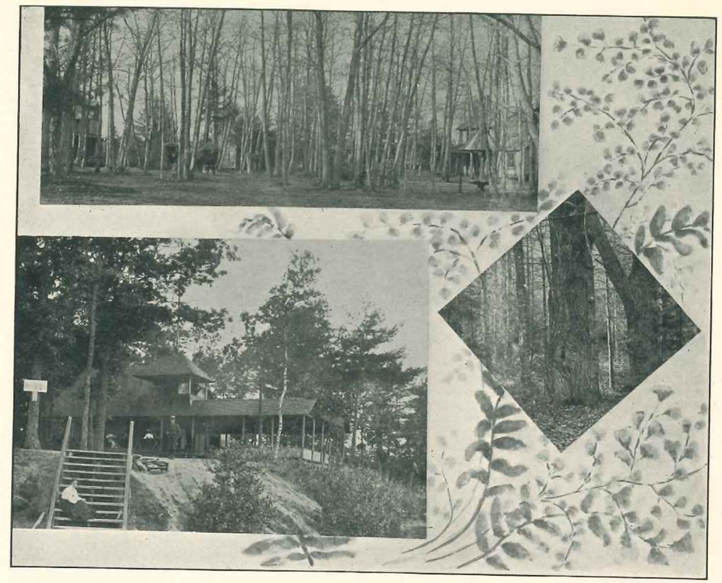
The other churches of Sturbridge are at Fiskdale, and are the Baptist, Advent, French Catholic, and Irish Catholic.

The three unnumbered views are scenes at "The Worcester South Agricultural Society's Fair," which annually attracts large crowds from all the neighboring towns.



MAYLAND PARK AND BAY VIEW.

Southbridge has in itself no pleasure resorts for those seeking rest and recreation during the summer months, but in the neighboring towns of Webster, Sturbridge and Mashapaug, are to be found as beautiful woods, lakes and drives as one would desire. These beauties are enjoyed every summer by large numbers of Southbridge people, who hire a cottage, or camp and fish by the day or week at some one of these attractive resorts. The upper picture is a scene at Mayland Park, about ten miles away, reached by driving, with a hotel and cottages. This is at Mashapaug Lake, where there are also many other pleasant places to camp or board. The lower picture shows the pavilion at Bay View, Webster Lake (as it is called). These are favorite picnic grounds of Sunday schools in Southbridge, and are on the line of the railroad between East Thompson and Webster. There are many cottages at this Lake which are rented, and also boarding-houses, where may be found every summer, many of the leading citizens of Southbridge.



SCENES IN AND NEAR SOUTHBRIDGE.

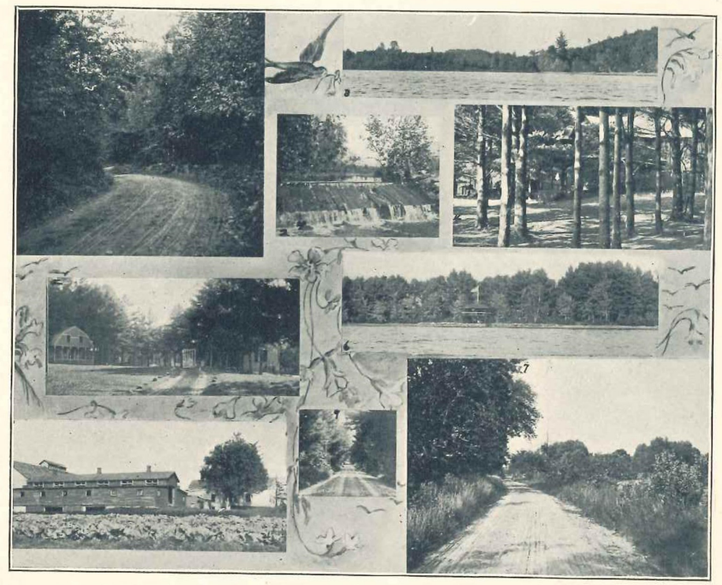
1. View of the Gulf Woods Road—so called.

Walker Pond, now called by its Indian name, Lake Tantousque, is situated in Sturbridge, and was for many years a favorite place for picnic parties from Southbridge. It is now chiefly visited by members of the Edmonds, Cheney and Wells families of this town who have erected pretty and commodious summer cottages on its beautiful shores. Nos. 2, 3, 4 and 6 are views at this resort.

In another part of Sturbridge is situated "Arbutus Park," (5.) where the Chapin and Booth families of Southbridge spend the heated season in cool, sequestered spots.

No. 8 gives a view of the model barn on the George L. Clemence Farm, which is a place always visited by agriculturists.

Nos. 7 and 9 are views from the old and new roads to Charlton, which are favorite drives for the people of Southbridge.



OAK RIDGE CEMETERY.

On April 13, 1801, Colonel Benjamin Freeman gave to the poll-parish, "Honest Town," one acre of land for a burying-ground. This is the part of the Cemetery shown in the uppermost picture. In 1837, about two acres of land south of the Freeman grant were added. This is the lot which contains the Holmes Ammidown tomb, erected in 1867, and the receiving tomb, built in 1861, and is shown in the middle picture. In 1860, sixteen acres more were added, and from time to time new purchases by the town have been made, so that now the Cemetery contains twenty-five acres. This "City of the Dead" is considered one of the most beautiful rural spots in Massachusetts, and shows more and more the devoted interest which the town, through its efficient cemetery committee and superintendent, bestows upon it The new parts of the Cemetery are of special beauty and attractiveness, as is shown by the pictures. Artificial lakes, flower-beds, winding drives, oak trees and naked rocks lend a charm to the place which is irresistible. Here are buried the earthly remains of many of the pioneers and benefactors of Southbridge, who built greater than they knew, and have left a precious legacy to their fellow-citizens.

