## Eastern Illinois University The Keep

#### Masters Theses

Student Theses & Publications

1977

# Designing Curriculum with Community Resources: Using a New England Town—Charlton, MA—as a Model

Kevinetta Clare O'Brien *Eastern Illinois University* This research is a product of the graduate program in Geology/Geography at Eastern Illinois University. Find out more about the program.

#### **Recommended** Citation

O'Brien, Kevinetta Clare, "Designing Curriculum with Community Resources: Using a New England Town—Charlton, MA—as a Model" (1977). *Masters Theses*. 3338. https://thekeep.eiu.edu/theses/3338

This is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Theses & Publications at The Keep. It has been accepted for inclusion in Masters Theses by an authorized administrator of The Keep. For more information, please contact tabruns@eiu.edu.

#### PAPER CERTIFICATE #2

TO: Graduate Degree Candidates who have written formal theses.

SUBJECT: Permission to reproduce theses.

The University Library is receiving a number of requests from other institutions asking permission to reproduce dissertations for inclusion in their library holdings. Although no copyright laws are involved, we feel that professional courtesy demands that permission be obtained from the author before we allow theses to be copied.

Please sign one of the following statements:

Booth Library of Eastern Illinois University has my permission to lend my thesis to a reputable college or university for the purpose of copying it for inclusion in that institution's library or research holdings.

Summer 1977 Date

Author

I respectfully request Booth Library of Eastern Illinois University not allow my thesis be reproduced because

Date

Author

pdm

#### DESIGNING CURRICULUM WITH COMMUNITY RESOURCES: USING

#### A NEW ENGLAND TOWN-CHARLTON, MA-AS A MODEL

(TITLE)

BY

Kevinetta Clare O'Brien

### THESIS

SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF

Master of Arts

IN THE GRADUATE SCHOOL, EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY CHARLESTON, ILLINOIS

> 1977 YEAR

I HEREBY RECOMMEND THIS THESIS BE ACCEPTED AS FULFILLING THIS PART OF THE GRADUATE DEGREE CITED ABOVE

ADVISER

DEPARTMENT HEAD

## DESIGNING CURRICULUM WITH COMMUNITY RESOURCES: USING A NEW ENGLAND TOWN CHARLTON, MASSACHUSETTS AS A MODEL

BY

#### KEVINETTA CLARE O'BRIEN

B. S. in Ed., Eastern Illinois University, 1969

#### ABSTRACT OF A THESIS

Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts at the Graduate School of Eastern Illinois University

> CHARLESTON, ILLINOIS 1977

This paper is a model to be used as a vehicle for elementary school students to become more informed about their community. A basic understanding of the local community will help elementary students (kindergarten through sixth grade) continue to expand their social science concepts in the modern, rapidly-changing world. The students readily observe the present growth and development of the community and they wonder about its bearings on the future.

This study is designed to be flexible enough to meet the needs of most elementary teachers pursuing such a topic. The instructor, after familiarizing himself with the background material presented in Part 1, should experience minimum difficulty in teaching a model.

The community model in this investigation is Charlton, Massachusetts. It is a rustic New England town located in the south-central portion of the state. The economic base is dairy farming.

Part 1 of this paper presents information relative to the physical and cultural background of the town. It is presented topically. Physical features of the town include: landforms, soils, main bodies of water, vegetation, climate and weather. The cultural features include: early inhabitants, agriculture, industry and educational institutions.

Following the background information a sample teaching model is outlined. After a general survey of the material has been explored a focus is selected. The focus chosen for this model was family life in Charlton, specifically during the early 1800's compared and contrasted to family life during the 1970's in Charlton.

The early nineteenth century model is the Salem Towne family who was active in Charlton's agricultural, military, and political affairs. Many records of the family have been preserved. The Towne home, now on the common, at Old Sturbridge Village, Sturbridge, Massachusetts, is toured by many visitors each year.

The twentieth century model is each student's family. The students will center on comparing family member roles in this study. The areas include: family member roles in work performed in the home, work performed away from the home, and how leisure time is utilized.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to thank the many people who have provided suggestions and information to make this thesis a reality. I am indebted to my adviser Dr. Dalias Price for his guidance throughout this project. To the research personnel and librarians located at the various library facilities in Worcester County, thank you. To the residents of Charlton who so generously shared their materials with me, I am grateful. To my class at the Charlton City Grade School, who took part in the model study, your participation was invaluable. To my parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry M. O'Brien, I wish to express my deepest appreciation for your unwavering faith in me to successfully complete this project.

> Kevinetta C. O'Brien Summer 1977

ii

	PART II	
III	THE TEACHING MODEL AND CASE STUDY	21
IV	SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS	37
APPENDIX		40
SELECTED	BIBLIOGRAPHY	59

Chapter I	THE PHYSICAL SETTING	• 4
II	CULTURAL FEATURES	. 10

## PART I

																		Page
LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	iv
INTRODUCTION		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		1

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure	Page
1 The Town of Charlton, Massachusetts	5
2 Flooding During the 1955 Hurricane	8
3 Flooding During the 1955 Hurricane	8
4 The Charlton Common	11
5 Landforms of the United States	20
6 The Salem Towne House	33

#### INTRODUCTION

Every child is a geographer, that is, all children interact with their surroundings through play, exploration, and everyday activities. These awarenesses can and should be made a part of formal classroom experiences.<sup>1</sup>

Students at Charlton, Massachusetts interact daily with historical and contemporary surroundings in their community. They are anxious to learn more about past residents who have contributed to the growth and development of their town. They recognize such names as General John Spurr, a Boston Tea Party participant, Salem Towne, a statesman and gentleman farmer, Dr. William T. G. Morton, the first to demonstrate surgical anesthesia, and Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross as some of those persons who have made contributions.<sup>2</sup>

These students seek information about the Town of Charlton's founding and the events that followed. The purpose of this study is to help students explore and understand Charlton's past, present, and prospect.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Dennis G. Asmussen, "The Child as an Urban Geographer: Where Do The Children Play?" Issues of Our Time, The Program Committee of the National Council for Geographic Education, Atlanta, 1971, p. E-5-143.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>More information about these individuals is found in appendices 1-5 respectively.

This model can be used as a vehicle for students to become more informed about their community.

The home community is a laboratory that is unsurpassed in the quantity and quality of contributions it can make to the educational process. The home community is a reality which encourages primary learning activities. The home community permits a study of what people have, what they believe, and what they do.<sup>3</sup>

A basic understanding of the local community will help students continue to expand their social concepts in the modern, rapidly-changing world. Students readily observe the present growth and development of their town and they wonder about its bearings on the future.

Aspects of this study contain elements of history, economics, political science, and sociology, however, this paper is written from a geographic point of view. Geographers look at the world in a special way. Each geographer must decide for himself what he will include in his definition. The writer defines geography as the interrelation of man to his environment and the effects each has on the other.

The methodology employed in this study included extensive library research, field study, and interviews with Charlton residents and other interested parties.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Herbert H. Gross, <u>Do It This Way, The Home Commun-</u> ity no. 4. (Chicago: National Council for Geographic Education) [1959], p. 13.

This thesis is divided into two parts. The first part is devoted to information relative to the physical and cultural background of the town. It is presented topically. Physical features of the town include: soils, main bodies of water, vegetation, and climate. The cultural features include: early inhabitants, the economic base, and land use.

The second part of the paper is a teaching model. A background of physical and cultural concepts will be introduced to the students using the first part of this paper as a guide. After a general survey of the material has been explored a focus is selected. The focus chosen for this model is family life in Charlton, specifically during the early 1800's compared and contrasted to family life during the 1970's in Charlton.

#### CHAPTER I

#### PART I

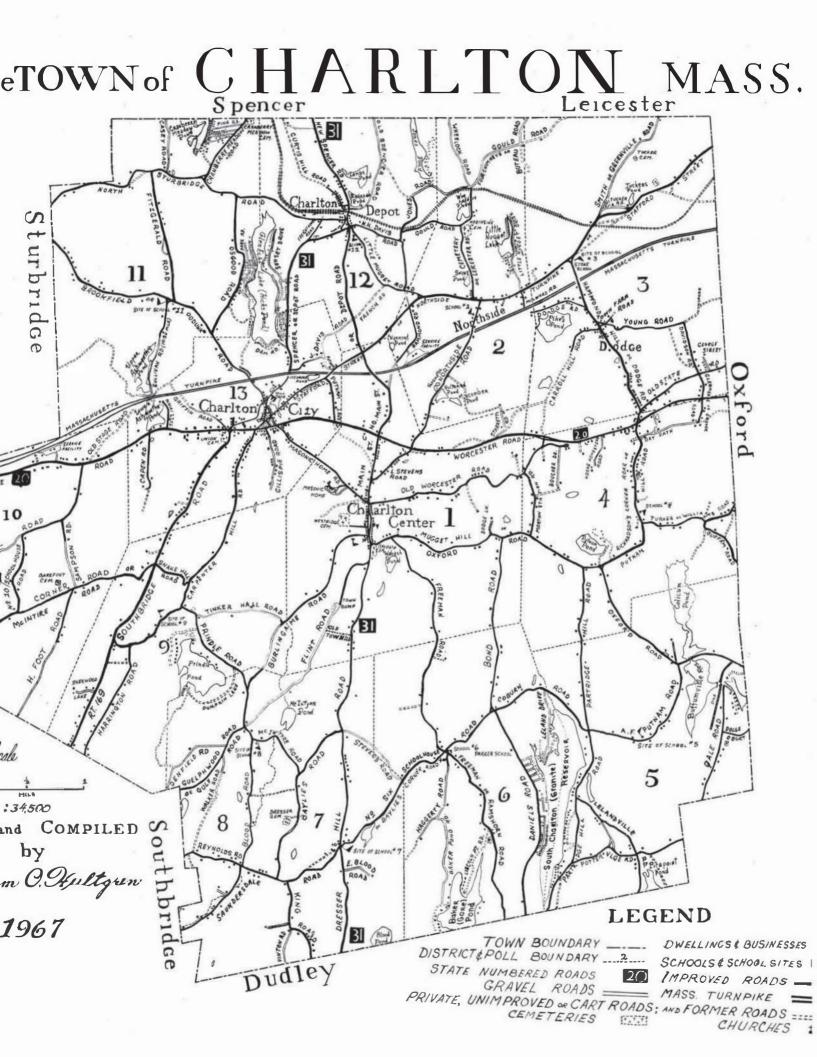
#### THE PHYSICAL SETTING

Charlton is located in the south central portion of the state of Massachusetts in Worcester County. The town of Charlton is presently bordered by the following towns: Leicester, Spencer, and Brookfield on the north, on the south by Southbridge and Dudley, and on the east by Oxford (Fig. 1).

The town land area is 42.86 square miles. The elevation is 895 feet above mean sea level at the Town Hall. The range is from 480 feet to over 1,000 feet. The 1,000 foot elevation is the highest elevation between Boston and Springfield.<sup>4</sup>

Three-fourths of the town of Charlton was once a part of the original grant for the town of Oxford. Approximately 23,500 acres were taken from Oxford in 1754 to form the District of Charlton. The quality of the land taken was considered poor agriculturally in comparison to the remainder

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>Massachusetts Department of Commerce and Development, "City and Town Monograph Town of Charlton," (Boston 1968), p. 3.



of Oxford. The land was owned mainly by non-residents.<sup>5</sup>

After the last glacier receded 10,000 years ago the area topsoil was scraped away. "In time, climate and vegetation, acting on the parent material, have produced a twoto-three foot thick weathered zone of soil that has a dark surface rich in organic matter and a brown to yellowish brown subsoil, paling with depth to a light olive brown substratum. The soils contain rocks of micaceous schists, phyllites, and gneiss with some granite. The till is characteristically loose and friable to firm. The soils belong to the Charlton Series. The Charlton Series is a member of the coarse-loamy, mixed, mesic family of Entic Haplorthods. The Charlton Soils typically have fine sandy loam texture in the solum and friable fine sandy loam textures in the substratum."<sup>6</sup> The soils are well-drained and runoff is medium to rapid. Internal drainage is medium; permeability is moderate. The soils were formerly classed as Brown Podzolic Soil.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>6</sup>David E. Hill and Arthur E. Shearin, <u>The Charlton</u> <u>Soils</u>, no. 706 (New Haven: Bulletin of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, December 1969), p. 4-14.

<sup>7</sup>Ibid., p. 16 (classed currently according to the Seventh Approximation).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup>D. Hamilton Hurd, <u>History of Worcester County with</u> <u>Biographical Sketches of Many of its Pioneers and Prominent</u> <u>Men, 2 vols. (Philadelphia: J. W. Lewis and Co., 1889),</u> <u>1:263.</u>

The major bodies of water in the north include: Glen Echo Lake (in the 1800's it was called William's Meadow Pond, then renamed Hick's Pond), Cranberry Meadow Pond, Upper Ashworth's Pond, Lower Ashworth's Pond, Little Nugget Lake, Jones Pond, and Pikes Pond. South of Worcester Road the main bodies of water are: Prindle Pond, McIntyre Pond, Baker (Gore) Pond, South Charlton (Granite) Reservoir, Buffumville Reservoir, and Colicum Pond. Cady Brook, a tributary of the Quinebaug River flows south from Glen Echo Lake. These bodies of water, left as a result of the glacier, provide excellent: fishing, swimming, boating, camping, hiking, and other outdoor activities.

In 1955, Hurricane Diane caused flooding in this region. The dam burst at Glen Echo Lake, homes and businesses were destroyed. Flooding resulted in \$5,000,000 worth of damage to the town (Figs. 2 and 3). The area has since been rebuilt.<sup>8</sup> The Buffumville Reservoir was built as a result of the flooding. It is part of the Little River, New England U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, flood control project.

Climate variations range from January temperatures of 24.0°F to July temperatures of 69.8°F. The

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup>Fred W. Murkland, Bruce H. Lamprey, Evelyn V. Hilton, William O. Hultgren, Armand L. Carpentier, Kenneth A. Maynard, and Leland H. Baker, <u>Charlton, Massachusetts</u> <u>An Outline of Its History 1755-1976</u> (Webster, MA.: Elm Press, 1976), p. 11.



Fig. 2 Flooding During the 1955 Hurricane



Fig. 3 Flooding During the 1955 Hurricane

average annual precipitation is 49.16 inches.<sup>9</sup> The forest vegetation consists of: oaks, hickories, white pine, hemlock, red maple, sugar maple, gray birch, yellow birch, white ash, and beech.<sup>10</sup>

In this chapter a survey of the physical geography of the town has been presented. This writer believes that one should have a knowledge of the physical environment of an area to better enhance an understanding of what man has done to that area as a result of having lived there. The next step, therefore, will be to take a closer view of man's activities in Charlton, which is what follows in Chapter Three.

<sup>9</sup>Massachusetts Department of Commerce and Development, "Town Monograph," p. 3.

<sup>10</sup>Hill, <u>The Charlton Soils</u>, p. 16.

#### CHAPTER II

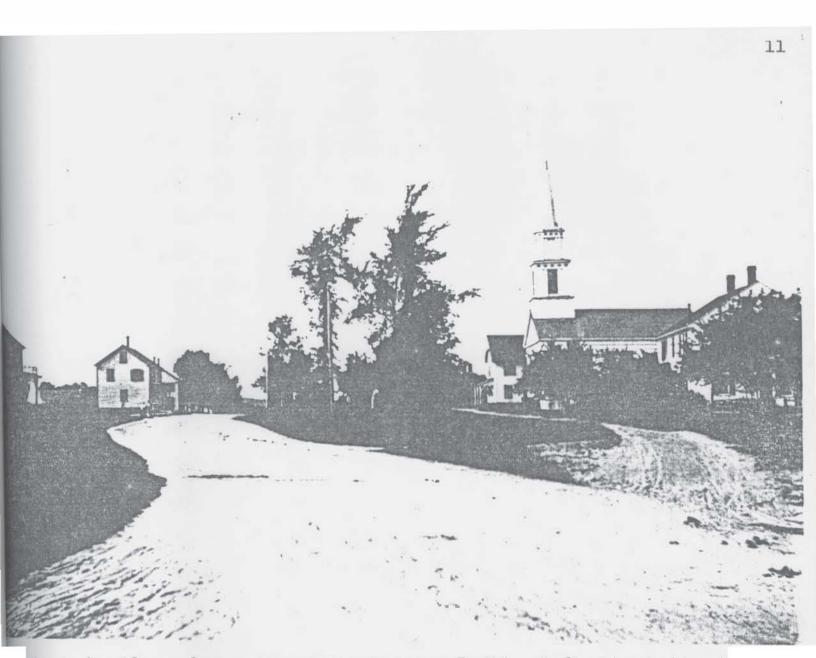
#### CULTURAL FEATURES

A division of the Nipmuck Indians known as the Pegan or Dudley Indians were early inhabitants in the Charlton area. Indian artifacts have been found around the South Charlton Reservoir. These Indians raised corn and beans, and were hunters and fishermen. Evidence leads us to believe that they wove mats and baskets.

The Nipmuck's are sometimes called the Nipnet Indians in other sources. The name is believed to mean "fresh water." This way they would not be confused with the "Coastal Indians." The Bay Path, a series of trails from the coast of Massachusetts coming west through the central part of the state to the Connecticut River Valley, was a well-worn transportation route. Later settlers followed this trail. A portion of the Path can be traced through the Charlton Common (Fig. 4).

The Nipmucks, led by Metacomet, in 1675-76 attacked the settlers coming into the area. The Indian uprisings also had a disastrous effect on the tribe. As a result of the war the small tribe almost became extinct.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup>Harry E. Black, "The Quinebaug River From its Sources to East Brimfield," pt. 1, vol. 2 no. 1 (1903), p. 2.



A north view of Charlton Common at about the turn of the century. The Universalist Church is at the right and next to it the combination elementary and high school building. The second building at the left was a store. The present Town Hall, opened in 1905, is located on a site between the two buildings at the left. The church and school building were destroyed by fire on May 23, 1939.

Years later permanent settlements were re-established. After many years of petititions to the General Court, the residents of the western land region of Oxford in 1755 were permitted to establish a separate territory called the "District of Charlton." Residents of the Gore, north of the Charlton line, petitioned the state for annexation to Charlton at various times, with annexation taking place in 1757.

Charlton was first created as a district rather than a town because at the time it was against the state policy to increase the number of representatives to the General Court. The new district was accorded all of the privileges and authority of towns except that of electing a representative. The district became a town 23 August 1775.<sup>12</sup>

The boundaries of the town have changed many times. In 1789 part of the town was annexed back to Oxford. The Town of Sturbridge annexed some Charlton acreage in 1792. Oxford once again claimed a portion of eastern Charlton in 1809, and the Town of Southbridge incorporated Charlton land in 1816. Finally in 1907 the present boundaries between Charlton and Oxford, and Charlton and Southbridge were established.

#### Education

Educational institutions have been a part of Charlton since its founding. It is recorded that money was

<sup>12</sup>Hurd, <u>History of Worcester County</u>, vol 1:263.

appropriated for public schools at the second town meeting and two schools were established: one for the Northside, and one for the Southside (Charlton Center). The next year summer school began.<sup>13</sup>

In 1757 three schools were serving the community during the winter months. By 1769 each of the town's six districts was served by a school.<sup>14</sup> Over eighty years later thirteen district schools and six private schools were educating over 400 students. The students were between the ages of four and sixteen years.<sup>15</sup> Subjects taught in these schools included: "reading, ciphering, writing, along with declamation, or reading and speaking aloud." Teachers were hired on a term basis. Men usually taught the winter term while the women taught during the summer. The district teachers were paid a weekly rate. The women were paid \$14.71 and the men \$23.00.<sup>16</sup> In 1894 graded school education began in Charlton in a school built near the District Thirteen School, in Charlton City. It is recorded that in "1902 school began here at 9:00. It closed at noon, opened at 1:00 and finished at 3:45 with two fifteen minute

<sup>13</sup>Murkland et al., <u>Charlton, MA.</u>, p. 8.

14Ibid.

<sup>15</sup>John Hayward, <u>Gazetteer of Massachusetts</u> (Boston MA. By the Author, 1846), p. 402.

<sup>16</sup>William O. Hultgren, "A Record of the Public Schools of the Town of Charlton, MA. Through 1755-1905" (a paper prepared for the Charlton Historical Society, 1971), p. 5.

recesses."<sup>17</sup> In 1913 the school was named City Grade Primary. The school population increase years later necessitated more space; and in 1929 a five room addition was built.

Charlton High School was established for students continuing their education in 1905. Two rooms over the Charlton Center Primary School were converted to a High School. The two rooms became available when the Town Hall was built and the Town offices moved to the new location. In 1909 the graduating class consisted of two students. In 1922 after the building was destroyed by fire a new one was erected. Classes were held in the Town Hall while construction of the new school was being completed. The structure is now the center part of the present Charlton Intermediate School.<sup>18</sup> The school was later expanded in the years preceding the regionalization with the Town of Dudley. The building housed elementary through high school students.

In 1973, a major change occurred. The high school age students now had a choice of attending Shepherd Hill Regional High School in Dudley or Bay Path Vocational High School located in Charlton. Bay Path, now in its fourth year of operation serves the towns of Auburn, Dudley, Oxford, Southbridge, and Webster as well. By this time the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup>Ibid., p. 8. 18<sub>Ibid.</sub>, p. 9.

district schools had closed and the buildings had been put to alternative uses. Today the kindergarten through second grade students attend the Charlton Elementary School located on Burlingame Road. The school was completed in 1959. The third grade students are housed in the Charlton City Grade School on Route 20. The fourth through grade six students attend classes in the former Charlton High School building, renamed the Charlton Intermediate School.

#### Agriculture

Agriculture has been a primary means of making a livelihood for Charlton residents. The early settlers learned from the Indians methods of clearing the land which was usually by burning off the vegetation. They were taught how to raise native corn and how to fertilize their fields. As settlement increased, the agricultural region expanded. Boulders and stones as well as trees and stumps were removed. The stones were piled into the stone walls that are still a scenic feature of New England. The seasons defined the farm chores to be attended to by the family. Small family farms were the rule.

Farming was changing in the late 1800's. "The cities and larger towns around were increasing their need for milk. Gristmills, which had been an important part of the food chain, were closing because of the change in demand of products. Originally the farmers raised corn, rye, oats, and barley; these were allowed to ripen and then were

threshed, taken to the mill, ground and then fed to the animals. Also some grain was ground for the home use. Now the grains are cut green and used as fodder, the corn put into the silo and the farmer never goes to the mill because of the lack of anything to grind."<sup>19</sup>

A Massachusetts farm today is defined as: five acres of land or more from which 60 percent of an individual's income is derived according to the state department. Dairy farming continues to dominate the farm types here. According to a survey in 1959, thirty six dairy farms were operating. Other farms included: eleven poultry farms, two market gardens, and six fruit orchards.<sup>20</sup> In 1977 these dominant farms are presently in operation: fourteen dairy farms, one poultry farm, one livestock (beef and horses) two apple orchards, and two market gardens (corn, squash, and strawberries). Some of the dairy farms have been bought out and put to alternative uses. Two examples are: The Wee Laddie Farm which is now the Assemblies of God Camp and The Bemis Farm which is now the Joslin Diabetic Camp.<sup>21</sup>

<sup>19</sup>Charles W. Weld, "West Dudley and its Manufactures," vol. 2 no. 8 (1905), p. 71.

20"Charlton is the Third Largest Town (in Area) in Worcester County," <u>Worcester</u> (MA.) <u>Sunday Telegram</u>, 18 January 1959, Feature Parade.

<sup>21</sup>Murkland et al., <u>Charlton, MA.</u>, p. 45.

#### The Woolen Mills

Manufacturing began early in the nineteenth century in Charlton. Earliest known records reveal that in 1806 John H. Rich and his son David did power carding near the Buffumville Reservoir. On Cady Brook in 1841,Caleb Torrey of Oxford established a fulling and scouring wool mill. No recount of spinning or weaving is mentioned so it is assumed that those operations were completed in the home.<sup>22</sup>

In 1848 Mr. Torrey sold his mill business to Mr. Michael Coogan. This operation continued until it was acquired by Mr. Andrus March in 1856. During this time carding, spinning, and weaving equipment were added to the mill operation.<sup>23</sup>

After having rented property from Andrus March for several years, Mr. Ed Akers and Mr. Nathan Norris set up a wool mill on Cady Brook in 1877. The upper mill of the Charlton Woolen Company presently occupies the site. This new mill operation was known as Spring Brook. After the partnership of Akers and Norris was dissolved in 1878, Mr. Norris purchased Cady Brook Mill from Andrus March. Mr. Akers in turn formed a partnership with Mr. Fred Taylor to oversee the Spring Brook Mill operation.<sup>24</sup>

23Ibid., p. 3A. 24Ibid., p. 3B.

 $<sup>^{22}</sup>$ R. Reed Grimwade, "A Brief History of Manufacturing on Cady Brook," a paper prepared for the Charlton Historical Society, 1 April 1968, p. 3A.

A look at the woolen mills in the 1890's in Charlton City found Akers and Taylor owning the most important mills on Cady Brook namely, the Spring Brook Mill and the Cady Brook Mill.<sup>25</sup> Approximately 120 people were employed here. A usual work day lasted ten to twelve hours. A work week was six days. These mill owners were among the first to install automatic sprinklers for the protection of their employees. Aklor House on Brookfield Road was built to house some employees and a company store was established nearby.<sup>26</sup>

The ethnic background of the mill workers had changed dramatically by the 1900's. In the beginning the local population comprised the work force. Later, immigrant labor became dominant. Many French-Canadians and Albanians joined the work force.<sup>27</sup> Later in the decade a credit panic proved too much for Akers and Taylor and the mills failed. They were foreclosed. The bank took over the mills and ran them under the name of Akers and Taylor Manufacturing. This operation continued until 1912. The mills were purchased by Mr. Harry Grimwade, Mr. Winfield Kilton, and Mr. Harry Goddard. In 1916 the mills were renamed the Charlton Woolen Company.

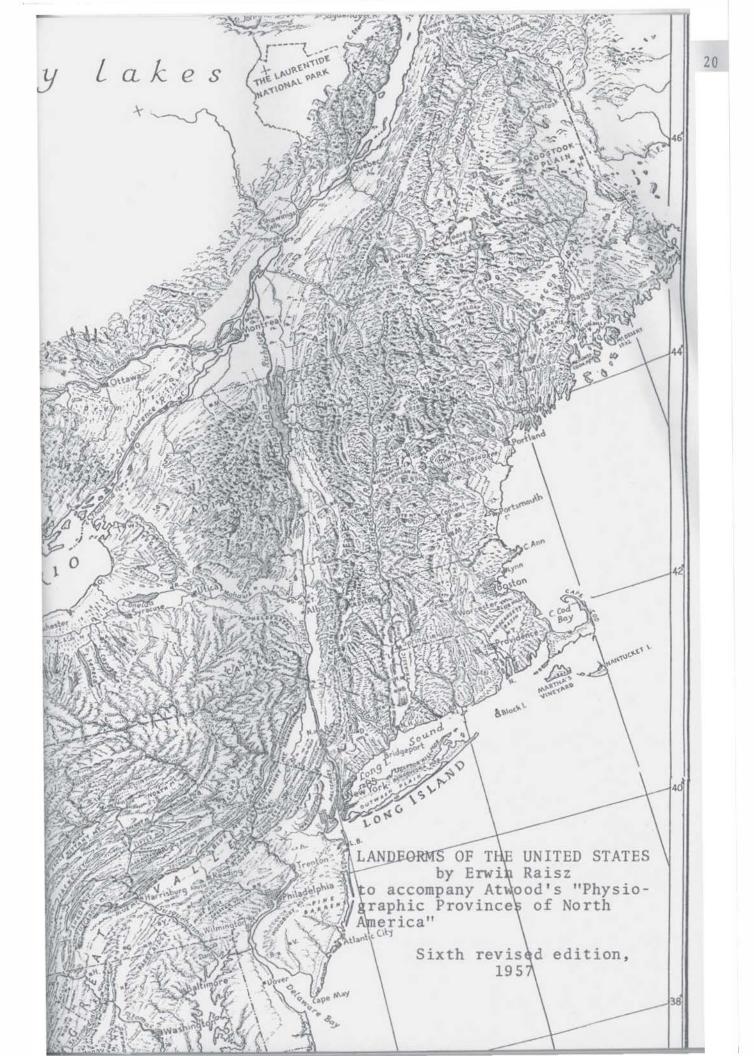
In the 1930's overproduction became a problem. Num-

25Ibid., p. 6. 26Ibid., p. 6 27Ibid., p. 7 erous mills in the region went out of business. Multiple shifts were common work situations. During this time, the National Recovery Act was passed which set a 40 hour work week. The Charlton Woolen Mills continued operation.<sup>28</sup>

Today the Charlton Woolen Company produces cloth for inexpensive ladies and children's coats. They spin mainly reclaimed woolen and synthetic fibers.<sup>29</sup>

This concludes the first part of the study in which physical and cultural geography of the town has been presented. The second part (Chapter Three) consists of a teaching model and focuses on family life in Charlton.

> <sup>28</sup>Ibid., p. 6. <sup>29</sup>Ibid., p. 7.



#### CHAPTER III

#### PART II

#### THE TEACHING MODEL AND CASE STUDY

The following outline is a sample teaching model. This model is related to the immediate interests and concerns of pupils, namely the family. A study of the cultural heritage was chosen because of its significance to children. How family life has changed is a basic rational for the case study which is included.

This outline is designed to be flexible enough to meet the needs of most elementary teachers pursuing such a study. As the students progress through the study, each will move from simple to complex ideas in terms of their capacity of understanding.

The instructor, after familiarizing himself with the background material presented in Part I, should experience minimum difficulty in teaching a model.

The suggested time allotment depends on many variables: the age and maturity of the students, the extent the study has been included in the curriculum, the resources available, and the depth in which the instructor wishes to develop the topic.

In the community resource persons, people with

special abilities, skills or understandings can make important contributions. Some good resource persons to consider are: descendants of early settlers, librarians, public officials, farmers, religious leaders, industrial managers, and health officials among others.

Materials available include: books, songbooks, films, filmstrips, slides, maps, newspapers, documents, study prints, recordings, and artifacts.

#### Designing Curriculum with Community Resources: Using a New England Town Charlton, Massachusetts as a Model

- I. Introduction
  - A. Statement of Purpose-to explore and understand Charlton's past, present, and current trends to provide a vehicle for elementary school children (kindergarten through sixth grade) become involved in exploring their community.
  - B. Methods used in this study include: field study, library research, and interviews.
- II. What Factors are Important in an Understanding of the Physical Environment?
  - A. Locational Features
  - B. Physical Resources
    - 1. Landforms--Soil
    - 2. Bodies of Water
    - 3. Vegetation
    - 4. Climate--Weather
  - C. Cultural Features
    - 1. Settlement Patterns--Early Inhabitants
    - 2. Economic Base and Land Use
      - a. Agriculture--Dairy
      - b. Industry
      - c. Educational Institutions
- III. The Textile Industry
  - A. Past operations
  - B. Present operations

- IV. Case Study--The Salem Towne Family
  - Α.
- Why this Family was Chosen 1. Active in political, military, and agricultural affairs in Charlton in the 1800's
  - Original Manuscripts Available 2.
  - Salem Towne Sr. 1746-1825 Β.
  - C. Salem Towne Jr. 1780-1872
  - V. Charlton Families Today

Concepts	Topic from Paper Outline	Where to Find Help	Performance Objectives	Activities
Location of Charlton in state, county surrounding communities	Where is Charlton? Include natural and cultural features	Maps U.S. State Tourist Regional New England County atlas	On a state map the student will mark Charlton's loca- tion On a county map the student will locate Charlton and the communi- ties surrounding Charlton On a town map the student will locate: Cady Brook Mugget Hill Glen Echo Lake State Routes 20, 169, 31, 90 The Charlton City Grade School The student will mark the location of their home	The students will construct a personal atlas includ- ing the maps of: State of MA. Worcester county Charlton and their own neighborhood

Concepts	Topic from Paper Outline	Where to Find Help	Performance Objectives	Activities
Physical Geography land forms (soil)	Land forms	Topographical map	Using a topo- graphical map of Charlton, the student will name and locate	Make a relief map showing physical features using d <b>r</b> y
Bodies of water			Mugget Hill and Cady Brook	detergent and water, and label the prominent feature
				Bring in soil samples from: a wooded area near a road, the schoolyard, student's home
Vegetation	Vegetation	Natural vege- tation map <u>Goode's World</u> <u>Atlas</u>	Student will state the area vegetation as either broadleaf deciduous (loses leaves annually) or as evergreen trees (that keep their leaves all year round)	Student will identify broadleaf, deciduous trees and evergreen trees in the school area

Concepts	Topic from Paper Outline	Where to Find Help	Performance Objectives	Activities
Climate- Weather	Climate-Weather	Climates of the Earth <u>Goode's World</u> <u>Atlas</u>	Student will identify the area as Daf (Humid (Continental) warm summer constantly moist rainfall throughout the year Define climate as all the weather year round	On a map of the continental U.S. the stu- dent will mark the areas with climate areas classified as Daf Keep a daily weather record
		Weather map	Student will identify the weather daily	
Cultural Features	Settlement Features Economic Base Land Use agricultural dairy service tourism Educational Institutions	Guest speakers Photos Slides Aerial Photos Gazetteers Archive Maps Historical map Town Maps Field Experi- ences Town Histories Public School Reports, Town Reports Deeds	The student will identify agricul- tural, industry and service areas on a map Give examples of several services and explain how they help the people of the town The student will name and locate the four schools in town	The students will make a mural of Charlton in 1776 noting cultural features The students will make a mural of Charlton in 1977 noting cultural features

Concepts	Topic from Paper Outline	Where to Find Help	Performance Objectives	Activities
Focus on a textile industry	The woolen mills	Town Histories Field Experi- ences, Slides Archive maps Guest speakers Photographs	The student will name the two mills and their functions On a town map the student will locate the present Charlton Woolen Mills The student will explain why the mills are near a source of water	hand card some wool weave on cardboard looms dye cloth with natural vegetation Visit one or both of the Charlton Woolen Mills
Early Settlers	The Salem Towne Family	Vital Statis- tic Records Gravestones Town Histories Diaries Letters Interviews	The student will be able to briefly relate some information about the family Name two Towne family members (1 adult, 1 child) and their 19th century roles location of both Charlton homes past and present	Create samplers, cut silhouettes, play 19th century games. Do a gravestone rubbing of a Towne Family member's grave in Bay Path cemetery. Visit the Charlton common and Old Stur- bridge Village. Create a play. Dress as a per- son of the period.

Concepts	Topic from Paper Outline	Where to Find Help	Performance Objectives	Activities	
			Tell what work activities family members engaged in Tell what leisure time activities the family members engaged in	Old Fashioned School Days Spelling Bees Ciphering matches poem recita- tions Bulletin boards, make a scrap- book, do a 19th century dance, grow herbs, make butter or Johnny cake	
				role play a family members jobs	
Families	Our families in Charlton today	Telephone book		play 20th	
Today		Census reports		century games, fill in a	
		Town reports		family tree, keep a diary	
		Town maps		for a week, have a treasure hunt for 20th	
		Town mono- graphs	tell who are the members of the Charlton families today	century objects, present a play, role play family	
		Field experi- ences		members activi- ties,	

Concepts	Topic from Paper Outline	Where to Find Help	Performance Objectives	Activities
	5	Aerial Photos Newspapers Family photos Family slides Interviews with family members	Tell what activ- ities the family members engage in compare and contrast the rules and func- tions of the 20th century family with the 19th century family generalize about factors that affect family roles and functions 19th vs. 20th	create bulletin boards, collect material for a scrap- book, write poems, sing and listen to songs of today, invite visitors to share their experiences

#### The Salem Towne Family

The Towne family was among the first settlers in Oxford, Massachusetts in 1713. John Towne served as the first clerk. Jacob, his descendant, married Mary Campbell in 1743. They became the parents of Major-General Salem Towne, the sixth generation of Townes in the New World.

Salem was born in Oxford 2 November 1746, the third of eight children. Tradition tells that the day of Salem's birth the new meeting house at Oxford North Common was raised. Reverend Campbell, the maternal grandfather, in honor of the event named the child Salem, meaning peace.<sup>30</sup> Salem's father died at Fort Edward, New York 18 October 1775 as a soldier in the French War. His mother later remarried Mr. Joseph Twiss of Charlton.

Salem began his political career as a dog warden in Charlton. He became a tax collector for the British Crown in 1772. In 1779 he was elected to the Massachusetts State Constitutional Convention. This convention ratified the new state constitution in 1780. He was a member of the Whig Political Party. During the decade of 1780 to 1790, Salem held various town positions including: constable, town clerk, tax assessor, selectman, and treasurer.<sup>31</sup>

He served as a representative to the State General Court during the following years: 1790, 1795, 1797, 1799

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup>William O. Hultgren, interview, Charlton, MA., 10 September 1976.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup>Major-General Salem Towne Papers, Reference Library, Old Sturbridge Village, Sturbridge, MA.

and 1801-1804. He was elected a Massachusetts State Senator from the Worcester County District from 1794-1803 and from 1805-1809. In 1800, Salem was a United States Presidential Elector from the state. The vote was for John Adams. His last political office was that of Justice of the Peace, which he served in 1816.<sup>32</sup> Records state that Mr. Towne attained the rank of a Major-General in the Massachusetts State Militia.<sup>33</sup> He was active in the Militia as a quartermaster.<sup>34</sup> Among his other interests it is related that Salem was a surveyor for the state authorities laying out public lands in the area of Massachusetts that became the state of Maine.<sup>35</sup> Later in 1807, he was on a committee to locate the Worcester and Stafford Turnpike. His responsibility was to assess land damages and to supervise the building of the road.<sup>36</sup> In addition to his political involvement Mr. Towne worked his farm. He belonged to organizations founded to improve agriculture namely: the Massachusetts Society for Agriculture and the Worcester Agricultural Society.<sup>37</sup>

<sup>32</sup>Ibid.
<sup>33</sup>Ibid.
<sup>34</sup>Hultgren interview.
<sup>35</sup>Ammidown, <u>Historical Collections</u>, p. 224.
<sup>36</sup>Hurd, <u>History of Worcester County</u>, vol. 1:759.
<sup>37</sup>Salem Towne Papers.

Two years after the death of his first wife Elizabeth in 1772, he married Ruth Moore of Oxford. To this union were born seven children between the years of 1774-1787. Ruth died in 1790 and was buried in the Bay Path Cemetery. Sabra Coman, a widow from Dudley, married Salem in 1792. She brought two young children of her own to his home, Benjamin, twelve years old and his nine year old sister, Sarah.

The family occupied both houses on the common now. The original home was built in 1775 and the home south of it built in 1796. The latter has been described as "a handsome country Federal home with white-painted clapboard exterior, green shutters, monitor roof, and a handsome fanlighted doorway."<sup>38</sup> (Fig. 6)

Salem Towne, Jr. was born 26 March 1780, the only son of Salem and Ruth Towne. Records show as a young man he taught school for one winter. (See William L. Marcy Appendix 2) His interest in education continued and later he became one of the founders of Amherst College, Amherst, MA.<sup>39</sup>

Politically, Salem Jr. held a seat in the State Senate during the years 1821, 1822 and 1856.

As for military involvement, Salem followed his father's illustrious lead. Records show that by 1817 he held the rank of Major-General of the Seventh Division of

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>38</sup>Catherine Fennelly, Life In an Old New England Country Village (New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Company, 1969), p. 171.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup>Maynard Gough, a Towne descendant, letter 27 March 1977.



Fig. 6 The Salem Towne House

the State Militia. In 1824, he attended a dinner at Faneuil Hall in Boston the occasion being a meeting of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company, of which he was an honorary member.<sup>40</sup>

Salem was a member of the Worcester County Agricultural Society and was interested in the temperance movement, the railroad and turnpike development, and timber lands. He devoted much time to developing the farm on which the house stood, raising sheep, improving cattle breeds and experimenting with apple growing. He and his father were typical gentlemen farmers, even though farming with them was a livelihood rather than a hobby.<sup>41</sup>

At the age of twenty-four years, he married Sally Spurr, daughter of General Spurr. To this union were born ten children.

SALEM TOWNE B.	21 Oct. 1746 D. 23 July 1825
M .	(1) 11 July 1771, Elizabeth Mayo of Oxford
	B. 1749 D. 15 March 1772
issue:	none
M.	(2) 11 April 1774, Ruth Moore of Oxford
	B. 1749 D. 25 Sept. 1790
issue:	
Polly	B. 18 Nov. 1774 at Oxford
	M. William Weld of Charlton
	D. before 1813
Ruth	B. 28 March 1777
	M. (1) Aaron Wheelock
	M. (2) Dr. Ebenezer H. Phillips
	D. 1838 (survived both husbands)

<sup>40</sup>Major-General Salem Towne Papers.

<sup>41</sup>Fennelly, <u>New England Country Village</u>, pp. 181-183.

Elizabeth B. 20 Sept. 1778 M. 25 Dec. 1798, William P. Rider D. Nov. 1828 B. 26 March 1780 at Oxford Salem Jr. M. 1804, Sally Spurr of Charlton D. 17 Feb. 1872 Pamela B. 29 Aug. 1781 M. (1) 22 July 1801, Captain Isaiah Rider of Charlton M. (2) 26 May 1830, William P. Rider of Charlton (brother of Isaiah) D. 29 May 1884 in Worcester of consumption Augusta B. 3 Jan. 1784 M. 15 April 1807, Dr. Daniel Lamb of Charlton D. 14 April 1865 Lucy Moore B. 2 Nov. 1787 M. 1801, Col. John Fitts of Charlton D. 11 June 1811 M. (3) 1792 to Sabra Coman of Dudley B. n.d. D. 1826 issue: none (Sabra had five children by a previous marriage; Towne assumes guardianship for two of the youngest, Sarah, age 9 and Benjamin, age 12. B. 26 March 1780 D. 17 Feb. 1872 SALEM TOWNE, JR. M. 31 Oct. 1804 to Sally Spurr of Charlton B. 15 July 1786 D. 19 August 1852 issue: Elijah Dunbar B. 27 May 1805 D. 17 Feb. 1809

William Moore B. 7 May 1807 M. Frances A. Robinson D. 20 April 1841 Springfield, Ma. Mercy Dunbar B. 8 Oct. 1810 M. 19 Aug. 1832 to Dwight Woodbury of Macon, Ga. D. 13 June 1848 New York B. 11 May 1813 Sally Spurr M. n.d. D. n.d. Mary Lucy B. 30 July 1815 M. n.d. D. n.d. Margaret Louisa B. 3 May 1819 M. n.d. D. n.d. Amelia Maria B. 12 May 1821 M. Single D. living in 1900 Salem Towne III B. 8 Nov. 1823 M. yes, went to Kansas D. about 1896 Alicia Boylston B. 27 June 1826 M. Single D. 11 Nov. 1843 Edward Whipple B. 9 Jan. 1829 M. yes D. several years before 1899

# CHAPTER IV

### SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The purpose of this study is to help students explore and understand Charlton's past, present and prospect. This model can be used as a vehicle for encouraging students to become more involved in their community.

This study focused on comparisons and contrasts between early nineteenth century family life and twentieth century family life in Charlton, Massachusetts. The early nineteenth century model was the Salem Towne family who were active in Charlton's agricultural, military, political, and religious activities. Many records of the family have been preserved. The Towne home, on the common at Old Sturbridge Village, is toured by many visitors each year.

The twentieth century model was each student's family. The students centered on comparing family member roles. The areas included: family member roles in work performed in the home, work performed away from the home, and leisure time activities.

This study was presented as a teaching unit to elementary age students in Charlton. The study involved

second grade students. The class was introduced to the unit as outlined in the chapter on the model study.

The students participated in many of the suggested activities. The experiences in the classroom and in the field were recorded in a variety of ways. Activities in the classroom took the form of: drawing maps, keeping a diary, contributing material for bulletin boards, role playing, singing, and taking slides and photographs.

In the fields we visited the following locations: Old Sturbridge Village, the Charlton Common, and The Charlton Woolen Mills. At the village, the group visited the Pliney Freeman Farm and the Village Common. In the afternoon the class participated in a Home Cooking Studio where tea cakes were baked. The Charlton Common visit was composed of two parts. The first visit concentrated on the historical aspects of the place while the subsequent visit dealt with the present. In the Mills, the group was escorted through the steps required to manufacture woolen material.

Three major activities the class participated in at school were: an old-fashioned school day and a play followed by a slide-tape show.

For the old-fashioned school day, each member came attired as an individual of the nineteenth century. Each chose an historic personage to portray. We pretended to be a class in the Stone School with Clara Barton as the instructor. The lessons were recited or recorded on slates. The day followed as nearly as possible school activities of the nineteenth century. Many of the activities were recorded on film.

The culmination of the unit was a presentation titled Charlton: People and Places. Each class member participated. After the play a slide-tape recording of the unit was presented. The students' parents, the school administrators and the remaining school classes attended the presentation.

The town is changing. It began with less than 800 people and has grown to over 5,000 residents. Dairy farming continues although on a smaller scale. The woolen mills continue to employ a steady work force. Another part of the work force has found employment in the communities surrounding Charlton. Many residents now travel considerable distances away from home to their places of employment. For better or worse commuting has become an increasingly important factor in the life of Charlton.

## SALEM TOWNE FAMILY RECORDS

- (1.) Salem Towne's Certificates for Premiums at the Worcester County Agricultural Society Cattle Show and Exhibition in 1823.
- (2.) Letters from Salem Towne, Jr. to his wife Sally during 1820-1824.
- (3.) Letters from William Towne, grandson of Salem Towne, Sr. 1818 and 1821.
- (4.) The Inventory of Estate of Salem Towne, Sr., 12 September 1825.

OSU MS 1953.10.2 Certificates for premiums t the Wore Co. agric. xiety's Cattle Show and chibition in merino ewes 1 heifers. 1823 This Certifics that at the Poriety's Battle Chewand Schebilion. All minufactures in the Year 1896 Lon. Salore Sour for Manter Stering the Premium for Mexino Elecis. William C. Sucher Courses Tiesident This Certifies that at the Poriety's Battle Phone and nanafactures in the Year 1828 floor Saler Cours obtained the Promium for 2. best Heifer. William C. Mucher, Burin Syesiden

Letters from Salem Towne Jr. to his wife Sally, 1820 - 24 My Dear

I am well. If there should be any alteration <u>un-</u> favorable in my Good Father before Friday, write to me at Falmouth, after that time direct it to Boston. I am wanted in Boston Tuesday and shall leave the Island Saturday if possible -- Harod has made a good bargain in agreeing to move to Dorchester. Tell him if you see him to say nothing about the bargain. I have been to Dorchester. The house is better than I represented. All is better -- There is a fair prospect of my having employment for a year to come if I am well -- I am at Josich D\_\_\_\_'s, all are well. Love cent in abundance. Captain Sibley and wife (uas Betsy Cuamings) at the Eastward are both dead! Leaving 5 small children ---James Dunbar's wife has had, & lost, an heir ---Harod had better not do much about his stock until I come home ---The horses should not be used in harness this muddy weather --- the Bullivan horse must be kept well and not used --- I wish the Lieut & Draper (?) would draw out mould but not heat the oxen on any account. I have 4 hours to be in bod tonight and then away. I cannot think of anything at Charlton but My Father. Do not let this be seen. You have now read all --- either burn or lay it away, not in that basket but your draw.

> I am to you what a husband ought to be to an affectionate, prudent, loving wife.

Sally Town

Salem Town Jr

Boston Novm 8th 1821

My Dear

I have sent all the articles you sent for. Your Felise should be wadded round bottom up and down forward and collar... wadded all over & if you should choose that now & anyboddy knows how to do it I will get 2 pieces more wadding for you. P.P.D. & Hashut (?) should have 17 buttons on their great coats ---Hashut never ought to have the red lining put, he will be laughed at in Boston or anywhere else --- pent 18 yds black bombasett (?) for widow Farnum -- seven for Caroline -- more silk....P.P.D. wants to line his coat. I would not let Nary go to school..... Say to Father I dined at Salem with E. Hersy Derby. He remembers him respectfully. I go tomorrow morning. If you hear no more from me you may get H\_\_\_\_\_ Town to come down with one horse...I intend to write this evening in not so much haste ---If the shoes do not fit Louisa and Mary Lucy send them by H\_\_\_\_. With affection yours

Sally Town

Salem Town Jr

My Dear

I got safe into winter quarters after a cold rido and a few days fatigue at Brighton. I am pleasantly situated at the Engle Coffee Nouse Kept by Col. Chane Where mything you may wish to send will be taken charge of by Samuel T. Edwards, the bar keeper who by the way is just recovered from the measles. I have just heard from Hary by Hr. M. Strong and wife. She is well. I intend writing to her by them. The horse that Brown rode up must be kept at my stable. Tucker may take the long tail bay horso and use him at 42° per week or the other bay horse at at 3 f and use him or weither as he chooses. I could get no other for him. He must make out the items of his amount as adjutant for he has not been commissioned a year, inform him immediately and if he sent it by mail direct it to me at Boston (Member of the Scnate) and you will please to do the same if you write and I shall have it sent me. I shall send by Mr. M. Meritt the weight of each man's cattle with the money in the bill which I wish William Weld to take an pay out and get benefits for some of the bill. I have not yet got and if I do not before Hr. Heritt goes out I will send the other the first opportunity ---. William will be at home probably the 14th or 15th. I have just been to deliver Mary's letter with a new year's present and Hr. Strong is gone. I have sent no bill, they have not come in. I send bills for Fanny, gown for Sally Town, four pocket and 4 neck handkerchiefs for myself, 10 yds shirting and 12 Doz shirt buttons & cake soap. Your loving, affectionate husband.

Salem Town Jr

P.S. Write soon

Boston Jan'y 30th 1822

My Dear

I got in town safe at 4 o'clock in the morning after riding 30 miles alone in the stage and am very sorry to be obliged to add that I found Louisa afflicted with a bad cold. Josiah Spurr much poorer than when I left Boston and George S dangerously ill with the rheumatism so bad as to unable even to lift his hand. He is however easier today. I was informed by one I usually placed confidence in that I had two clean flannels but upon opening my trunk found none. My boots must be attended to. I want the feet to be made a good size larger than the last pair Major Collar made me. I took cold coming down and am apprehensive I am about to be afflicted with my teeth and face and it happened to be my duty as committee on Engrossed(?) bill, to have more to examine after riding all night then I have done since I have had a seat at this board. And all this has rather confused my head. You will say to Fr. Russell that I think he had better be in town

as soon as next Honday. I don't see as it will anke much difference with me. I can't tell today how I shall be engaged tomorrow. Business increases as the session draws towards a close. I have seen Mr. Parker and he can have the horse and I will assist him all I can when he comes in. I wish him to bring my boots (and so forth). I wish you to inform Hajor Williams that the 2 ten dollar bills (Hiddle District) are good but a discount of W percent on them. I wish him therefore to let me know whether I sholl send them back or put them off at that discount. It will amount to only 80 cents. He can tell whether it will cost more than that to get them back or not. Josiah Spurr is no better Jan'y 31st. Send word to Ers. Farnum that there is a letter in post office for her from me. In haste I am in health yours, affectionately

Salem Town Jr

#### Castine May 22 1822

My Dear Sally

If I could have an immediate answer I should inquire first, how you and the children do but they are with the best of mothers and you and they are in the hands of the all wise disposer of events who never errs. That ought to remove all anxiety. I left Boston the 17th since which time I have rode in stage. 230 miles. in waggon 18 and on horseback 100. Have been to Mt. Desert and got here last night 6 o'clock wet and as much beat out as I ever was but with good nursing I am somewhat revived and though it rains fast I must after getting through with Judge Kelson and some recording go on horseback or waggon to Bucksport tonight or neglect my Father's business and however reluctant I am compeled from duty to him (not myself) to do the former. I cannot give to you a minute detail of my journey. I enjoyed the best of company in a male stage and met a most cordial reception at Mt. Desert. I hope and expect to be in Boston the 28th and to see our friends at Charlton before they return to the city. You may if you please kiss Margaret and Louisa for me. No. No. I choose to do that myself if I get home. I mean our child M.L. and the rest of the children. I have as yet kept up to my time. If I lose half a day I lose 3 days, therefore rain or shine and sometimes night and day I keep moving. If I get home well now I shall never undertake such a journey without more time. It would seem superfluous to say anything about my love or affection as you have lived 20 yrs in the constant enjoyment of such a share of it I shall therefore only say if you have more than you want give it to my friends and then add the name of

Salem Town Jr

Ny Dear

I have it in contemplation to set off at half past two this day for Naushan. I leave N. Lucy at Mrs. Milliams' well (hardly contented). I shall send by Mr. Hall or some other conveyance the best and handsomest crepe gown for you that could be found. The colour will not please you exactly but when you learn that your husband thinks so highly of it your entire devotedness to my <u>reasonable</u> wishes and the high opinion you have of my taste will induce you to have it made and worn by yourself to gratify the feelings of yours, during life.

Salem Town Jr

1/2 past one

Charlton Sept 26th 1822

Hy Dear

Mr. Michols who by the way is very unwell informed me this morning that you wished me to send five dollars Kennebec & five dollars Bangor which I have accordingly done. I would just say that I think my cold is rather better. The rest of us are as well as usual. W.S.M. got here last night with Mr. R's youngest sons and we expect the goods soon after dinner. In haste

Salem Town

Sally Town

N.B. I wish you would get me a yard of silk velvet as near the pattern (the colour I mean) as you can and send it up.

Boston Sept 28th 1822

My Dear

I am better though not well after writing last I repeated the wormwood and by the advice of my real friend Winthrop put my feet in warm water, drinked 1 qt sage tea and with flannel at my feet went to bed, slept some 27th. Lightheaded, no apprite, weak. At noon some appetite. 4 o'clock pain returned. Not so bad at night. Slept some. Used the whole of a wide bed. This morning better and with the advice of same friend shall soon set out Eastward to travel slow after having to promise him, Nr. W., that if I was the least fatigued would stop and if more unwell to be sure to instruct \_\_\_\_\_\_ to inform

### Boston Sept 28th 1822 (continued)

him immediately, and nothing in his power would be wanting for my comfort. I have not been able to pattern your cloth to my mind but have enclosed the nearest with a shop bill and you can send for the one you think most suitable next week. L\_\_\_\_ must pay strict attention to the sheep that they have no\_\_\_\_\_, do up the fences well -- not get in corn faster than he can husk it without beating. Spread it thin. Be sure and see to the sheep at \_\_\_\_\_ if they are scaly wash them without loss of time and in tobacco strong. The whole sheep are now mine and must be seen to. John Dunbar can have some sheep if he asks about it. Am glad you are better, any important event communicate immediately ... and may that God. whose we are and whom we are bound to serve direct and preserve us and ours while we are separated and bring us together again in due time and fill our hearts with gratitude. In haste --you need no other assurances of love and regard than the name of

Salen Town Jr

Sally Town

Boston July 10 1824

My Dear

I want you should come to Boston when the Marquis De LaFayette comes. Be in season....only don't tell that you are coming (but come). They seem not alarmed about your Uncle L\_\_\_\_\_but he will not live one month. Mary is pretty and well. Margaret is -- ah I must not mention it, it makes them blush. I won't say a word. Be ready to come down and keep it to yourself. There never was nor never will be such a meeting in this or any country taken in all its connection such as the Marquis' visit to this country. Write me often and believe mo. Yours

Sally Town

Salem Town Jr

Letters from son William

to Sally Town, one to his grandmother of the same date, and one written to his father Salem Town Jr. in 1821.

( William graduated from Autorst College in 1825, studied law and Was admitted to the Mossachusetts Bar in 1828, and practised in Worcester. About 1835 he moved to Springfield. He died April 20, 1841.)

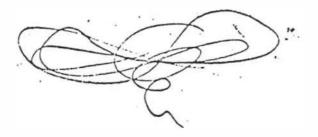
Dour Moliver, Officherst 18:19 Solis mate with net clacsily & den write to you his beller, and ing ha papa has given all his morning and Invill also inform you that if you would necent. Jun Ine. The folk

Amherst 1818

Dear Mother,

It is not without elacrity and delight I write to you this letter and inform you that pape has given all his money for the College, and I will also inform you that I should be glad if you would write me a letter & send me one cent. Give my love to all the folks.

Dear grandmolin climberst the pleasure and celight. is Letter & inform you that Sun www the same, I will also inform ad if would send me ler St hul. bouchs. Give my love ball lie. ecia m faither o



Audicest 1818

Dear Grandmother,

It is with pleasure and delight I attempt to write this letter & inform you that I am well and I hope you are the same. I will also inform you that I should be glad if you would send me a letter and put therein a mess of flapjacks. Give my love to all the folks & especially to Grandfather.

William Town

Macin UP; Que Plan han Mu the low to Gen the for my 2.5 The Shall caper Mathe to Ba

Worcester Jay 12 1821

,51

Dear Father,

I have seen Mr.\_\_\_\_ He has sold his oxen. It will be unfavorable for me to come to C. this week ---I shall depend on seeing you and Mother on your way to Boston.

Yours truly

Wm Towm

# TOWNE HOUSE

Worcester County Probate Records, Series A. Case 59712. Inventory of Estate of Salem Towne, Sr., Sept. 12, 1825

# Real Estate

To the Phillips lot with the building containing 148 Rods of land	
we appraised at	\$1200.00
To 26 acres called the Martin lot at	1000.00
To 8 acres with the Buildings the City lot at	500.00
to 47 acres of Woodland Called the Williams lot	1500.00
To 70 acres of wood & pasture Called the Worth lot	1120.00
To about 15 acres of Meadow land called the Williams Meadow	250.00
To 46 acres called the Barton Lot	1150.00
To 26 acres called the Same name	650.00
To about 50 acres adjoining the home farm	1500.00
	\$8870.00

# Personal Estate as Follows

To Carpet in the Parler 6, to window Curtains 1	7.00
To looking glass 1.50, to 1 pr Card Tables 8, to 1 Cherry Table 3	12.50
To do small 2, to 1 Server 1.50, to 11 Dining Chairs 3.66	7.16
To 9 old arm Chairs 5.25, to 15 old kitchen Do. 1.87	7.12
to 3 old arm Chairs 1, to Dining Do67, to 1 gow [sic.] do. 6	7.67
to fire set 1.50, to Trunk and Basket .50, to 2 large Pitchers .67	2.67
to Set Chinaware 1.6, to 2 Black [Block?] tin Teapois 3.50	19.50
to Crockery ware 2.38, to dipper & castor 2, to Sugar Tongs &	
Spoons 1	5.33
to 15 silver tea spoons 6, to 8 wines .60, to 7 tumblers .75	7.35
to cruets & servers .31, to 2 Candlesticks 1.50, to 5 from do75	2.56
to Baskets, Bottles, & jugs &c 1.75, to Vials [?] & other Bottles .97	2.72
to 4 tin pales & 17 Tin pans 3.67, to Coffee pot & old tin ware 1.33	5.00
to 27-3/4 lb of Pewter & 7 old Spoons 7.48, to warming pan &	
teapot 1.50	8.98
to 6 Baskets 1.50, to knives & forks 2.42, to wooden dishes .30	4.28
to Stove Stily ands & Bellows 1.75, to 2 fire shovels & tongs 2.50	4.25
to 1 pr and irons .75, to Brass Clock 25, to 2 Tables 3	28.75
to old Candlestand looking glass & 2 Brushes 1.37	1.37
to 2 old drawers 3, to 2 Tables 3, to Cloth frame .75	6.75
to 1 Buauroo 8, to 2 pails .33, 2 porrage pots 1.25	9.58
to 1 Dish kettle .67, to 2 Tea do $1.50$ , to small Do & fry pan .75	2.92
to 2 small Brass Do & Skillet 1.25, to 1 flax comb 1	2.25
To Salt morter Tray &c .50, to 3 flat frons .50, grid & tost	2.21
fo san morier fray de 150, to 5 tan frons 150, grit d tost	2.50
to old Brass kettle 2.50, to Tin oven 1.25, to old hot [sic.] .50	4.25

to Bread Trough & peal .75; to 1 pr large andirons 2	<b>%</b>	2.75
to Skimmer Rolling pin & Cinque [sic. sink?] .97, to 4 old		
tubs 1.60		2.57
to washing machine .50, to small Stilyards .25, to old Chest .50		1.25 .
to 3 chests 2.25, to 1 Cherry Table 3, to old Do & Trunk 1.25		6.50
to 4 Towels 2, to 9 Table Cloths 11.25, to 5 Towels 2		15.25
to 11 Towels 1.91, to 2 Table Cloaths 1, to 8 pr pillow cases 4		6.91
to 28 1/2 pr of Sheets 24.95, to 22 pr of Pillow Cases 4.50		29.45
to 6 Blankets 15,83, to 1 Coverlet 6		21.83
to 18 Blankets 24.99, to 1 Bed quilt 4, to 2 Do 2		26.99
to 5 old Do 3.25, to 2 pr of Sheets & 2 prs of Pillow Cases 2		5.25
to Best Bed Bedstead & Cord and under Bed 19.25		19.25
to one Do & Do 8, to 1 old Small Do 3 to 1 Do 8, to 1 Do 12		31.00
to 1 Do 13, to Side Saddle 8, to 2 looking glasses 1.75		22.75
to 4 window curtains .33, to piece Base .50, to Tow yarn 3.20		4.03
to 1 table .75; to 1 pr worsted Combs 1; to Sundry old things .83		2.58
to 2 close stools 1.50, his Library of Books &c 7.50		9.00
to Bake pan .75		.75
to his Wearing apparel the Particulars left with the executors		
appraised at 37		37.00
	\$9	277.62

# WILLIAM L. MARCY

# 1786-1857

One of William Marcy's early teachers was Salem Towne, Jr. William had a reputation of frequently displaying disruptive classroom behavior. It is told that Salem extended a firm and friendly manner when dealing with William. The once uncooperative student began to cooperate and complete his studies successfully under Mr. Towne's leadership.

Young William continued his studies at Woodstock Academy and subsequently entered Brown University. He graduated with distinction in 1808.

In later life he achieved a successful career in politics. He served as a U.S. Senator in 1831. During the next year, he was elected Governor of the State of New York. He also served in two Presidential Cabinets, namely, as Franklin Pierce's Secretary of State, in 1845, and as James K. Polk's Secretary of War in 1853.

Source: Ammidown, Holmes, <u>Historical Collections</u>. New York: By the Author, 1874.

#### MAJOR GENERAL JOHN SPURR

### 1759-1816

John Spurr was a participant in the Boston Tea Party at the age of fourteen. He continued his participation in the cause for freedom by later joining the Continental Army in 1775, where he continued to serve until 1792. He attained the rank of Major General in the State Militia.

He and his second wife, Sally Davis, became the parents of three sons and a daughter Sarah. She later became the bridg of Salem Towne, Jr.

General Spurr served Charlton in the General Court of the State of Massachusetts during the years of 1805-1816.

He and other members of his family are buried in the Bay Path Cemetery in Charlton.

Source: "House of Tea Partier Still Stands in Charlton." The Villager Summer Edition 1975.

# DR. WILLIAM THOMAS GREEN MORTON

## 1819-1868

"Inventor and Revealer of Anaesthesia Inhalation. Before Whom In All Time, Surgery Was Agony. By Whom Pain In Surgery Was Averted and Annulled. Since Whom Science Has Control of Pain."

The above tribute inscribed on Dr. Morton's tomb, in Cambridge, MA., sums up the contribution of this man.

Dr. Morton, a Charlton native, demonstrated at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, MA., the practical use of anaesthesia. The date was 16 October 1846. This demonstration resulted in various honors being bestowed on him, including in 1850, a gold medal presented by the French Academy of Sciences.

In Charlton, two monuments honor the memory of Dr. Morton. One monument was presented by the Dentists of America. Another memorial, located near Dr. Morton's boyhood home, was donated by the Worcester Dental Association.

Source: The Bulletin of the Boston Public Library, More Books. Boston, MA.: Issued Monthly by the Trustees, 1946.

# CLARA BARTON

### 1821-1912

Clara Barton achieved international recognition for her efforts to alleviate suffering of those individuals experiencing great loss during war and peace time, through her leadership as president of the American Red Cross.

In her early years it is related that Miss Barton was employed to teach at the Stone School in Charlton. While teaching there, she boarded with the Tucker family. Today the Tucker family descendants still occupy the original farm.

She spent the last summers of her life in Oxford and is buried in the North Cemetery.

Sources: American Revolution Bicentennial Committee, <u>A</u> Self-Guided Tour to Points of Historical Interest in the Town of Oxford, Massachusetts, September 1975.

> William O. Hultgren, Interview 10 September 1976. Charlton, Massachusetts.

# POPULATION CHANGES

YEAR	NUMBERS	YEAR	NUMBERS
1765	739Colonial census	1880	1,900
1770	1,965	1895	1,887
1776	1,310Census of Revolution	1900	1,860
1790	1,965Census of States by	1910	2,032
	Congress	1920	1,995
1800	2,120	1930	2,154
1810	2,180	1940	2,557
1820	2,134	1945	3,051
1830	2,173	1950	3,136
1840	2,117	1955	3,466
1850	2,015	1960	3,685
1860	2,047	1965	4,017
1870	1,878	1970	4,654
1875	1,852	1975	5,598
		-///	

Sources: Ammidown, Holmes, <u>Historical Collections</u>. New York: By the Author, 1874.

> Hayward, John, <u>Gazetteer of Massachusetts</u>. Boston: By the Author, 1846.

#### SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

### BOOKS

- 1. Ammidown, Holmes. <u>Historical Collections</u>. New York: By the Author, 1874.
- Barber, John, W. More Massachusetts Towns. Barre, Ma.: Barre Publishers, 1905.
- 3. Beers, F. W. <u>Atlas of Worcester County Massachusetts</u>. New York: F. W. Beers and Company, 1870.
- 4. Chase, Levi, Badger. The Bay Path and Along the Way. Norwood, Ma.: The Plimpton Press, 1919.
- 5. Corps of Civil Engineers. <u>New Topographical Atlas</u>, <u>County of Worcester</u>, <u>Massachusetts</u>. Philadelphia, Pa.: L. J. Richards and Company, 1898.
- 6. Crane, Ellery B., Editor. <u>History of Worcester County</u> <u>Massachusetts Vol. I and II</u>. New York: Lewis <u>Historical Publications Inc.</u>, 1924.
- 7. Daniels, George F., <u>The Huguenots in the Nipmuck</u> <u>Country or Oxford Prior to 1713</u>. Boston: Ester and Lauriat, 1880.
- 8. Dodge, Rufus B. <u>Historical Sketch, Read, in part, at</u> the Third Annual Reunion of the Present and Past <u>Residents of Charlton</u>. Boston, Ma.: Weymouth Publishing Co., 1899.
- 9. Fennelly, Catherine. Life In An Old New England Country Village. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Company, 1969.
- 10. Jewett and Company, C. F. <u>History of Worcester County</u> <u>Massachusetts</u>. Vol. I. Boston, Ma.: Wright and Potter Printing Company, 1879.
- 11. Hayward, John. <u>Gazetteer of Massachusetts</u>. Boston: By the Author, 1846.
- 12. Hurd, D. Hamilton. <u>History of Worcester County with</u> <u>Biographical Sketches of Many of its Pioneers</u> and Prominent Men. Vol. I. Philadelphia: J. W. Lewis and Company, 1889.

- 13. Ludovici, L. J. <u>The Discovery of Anaesthesia</u>. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Company, 1961. (Originally titled <u>Cone of Oblivion</u> published in Great Britain.)
- 14. Charlton, Massachusetts An Outline of Its History, <u>1755-1976</u>, by Fred W. Murkland, Chairman, 1976, and committee members. Webster, Ma.: Elm Press.
- Rice, Franklin, P., ed. Vital Records of Charlton, Ma. to 1849. Worcester, Ma., 1905.
- 16. Towne, Edwin Eugene. <u>Towne Genealogy</u>. Newtonville, Ma.: By the Author, 1901.
- 17. Twiss, Stephen, P. Judge. Addresses at the Unveiling of the Portrait of General Salem Towne. Charlton, Ma.: 1909.

# ARTICLE IN A MAGAZINE

 Little, Nina Fletcher. "The General Salem Towne House at Old Sturbridge Village." <u>Antiques</u>, April 1959, pp. 358-365.

## MANUSCRIPT COLLECTION

 Old Sturbridge Village Research Library, Sturbridge, MA. General Salem Towne Papers.

### NEWSPAPERS

- 3. "House of Tea Partier Still Stands in Charlton." The Villager <u>Summer Edition 1975</u>.
- "Charlton is the Third Largest Town (in Area) in Worcester County," <u>Worcester</u> (MA.) <u>Sunday</u> Telegram, 18 January 1959, Feature Parade.
- 5. "Flood of 1955," Worcester (MA.) <u>Telegram-The Evening</u> <u>Gazette</u>, 26 August 1955, Special Section.

### REPORTS

- 7. Leaflets of the Quinabaug Historical Society, Vol. I, II, III, Quinabaug Historical Society, Southbridge, MA.: Southbridge Herald Office, 1903-1914.
- 8. <u>City and Town Monograph, Town of Charlton, MA</u>.: Dept. of Commerce and Development, Boston, MA., 1968.

- 9. <u>Annual Reports of the School Committee and Superin-</u> tendent of Schools of the Town of Charlton, MA. Webster, MA.: Klebart and Steinberg Inc., 28 February 1913.
- 10. <u>Reports of the Town Officers of the Town of Charlton</u> for the Year 1894-95. Worcester, MA.: Charles R. Stobbs, Printer, 1895.

# PART OF A SERIES

- 11. Gross, Herbert H. <u>The Home Community</u>, Do It This Way <u>Series</u> no. 4 National Council for Geographic Education, Chicago, n.d.
- 12. Hill, David E. and Shearin, Arthur E. <u>The Charlton</u> Soils., no. 706. New Haven: Bulletin of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, 1969.

#### UNPUBLISHED MATERIALS

- 13. Asmussen, Dennis G. "The Child as an Urban Geographer: Where Do the Children Play?" Issues of Our Time, The Program Committee of the National Council for Geographic Education, Atlanta, GA., 1971.
- 14. George, Albert J., and Castendyk, Christian A., "Wales: The Study of a Town Teachers Guide," Sturbridge, MA., Three Dimensional Project E.S.E.A. Title III 1971.
- 15. Grimwade, R. Reed, "A Brief History of Manufacturing on Cady Brook," a paper prepared for the Charlton Historical Society 1 April 1968.
- 16. Hultgren, William O. "A Record of the Public Schools of the Town of Charlton, MA., Through 1755-1905." A paper prepared for the Charlton Historical Society 1971.
- 17. Titus, Anson, Jr. "Charlton Historical Sketches." Printed by George M. Whitaker, Southbridge Journal, Southbridge, MA., 1877 (reprinted for the Charlton Historical Society).

- 18. Sebolt, Alberta P. Froject Director, Resource Learning Laboratory, "Localized History Through The Use of Community Resources or A Model For the Study of Local History," E.S.E.A. -Title III, Sturbridge, MA., 1970.
- 19. Gough, Maynard, A Towne descendent, letter 27 March 1977 outlining Towne genealogy.