

History

of

Vernon and Rockville

Mrs. Gardner Stanley

1936

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Introduction

The Federal Writers Project

During the Depression the government created the Works Progress Administration (WPA) to assist the millions of unemployed. Best known is probably the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) that did many construction projects at state and federal parks.

The Federal Writers Projects was another program that between 1935 and 1943 produced the American Guide Series of books covering the 48 states at the time and employed over 6,000 writers. The format was uniform, comprising essays on the state's history and culture, descriptions of its major cities, automobile tours of important attractions, and a portfolio of photographs.

“Connecticut: A Guide To Its Roads, Lore, and People” was published in 1938 and sponsored by Governor Wilbur L. Cross. The “Nutmeg State” guide included historical facts and figures about the history of Connecticut, contained photographs of picturesque churches and historic homes and provided a comprehensive index of old and historic houses. Many towns and cities were described in detail and the guide presented a number of tours throughout the state.

In addition to the popular state series, the Writers Project also produced over 1,200 books and pamphlets, including guides to major cities. One of the projects was this history of Vernon and Rockville written by Mrs. Gardner Stanley in 1936. Unfortunately it was never published remaining a manuscript. One copy of the manuscript was given to the Rockville Public Library (RPL). The Vernon Historical Society made a second copy from RPL's but it was on their public shelves.

Why wasn't it published? As the second World War approached Writers' Projects were shut down and archived on short notice, or perhaps there was just not funding in Vernon for its publication.

Mrs. Stanley's history follows the established format for WPA histories covering the town in great detail. It's a valuable snapshot of life here during the Great Depression of the 1930s. At part of her research, Mrs. Stanley interviewed people whose lives and memories extended into the nineteenth century when Rockville was at its peak. Until now the most comprehensive history of Vernon has not been readily available to the general public and only known to a few local researchers.

Mrs. Gardner Stanley

Mrs. Gardner (Betsey) Stanley was not a professional writer but undertook this project during the depression as a source of income. At the time she was a resident of Manchester, not Vernon, but Manchester did not have a WPA history written.

Betsey Thompson was born in Plainville, CT on October 7, 1886. She graduated from the Hartford Seminary Foundation School of Religious Education having trained in social science and family welfare. Before the Depression she worked first as a probation officer at Hartford Juvenile Court and later as a psychiatric social worker for the Massachusetts Department of Mental Diseases.

In 1933 at age 46 she married Gardner Edward Stanley, who was 5 years her junior. They lived on Tolland Turnpike in Manchester opposite the entrance to Northeast Park. From 1935-40 when she wrote our history, she is listed in city directories as an educational researcher and industry war service investigator.

During the war years, 1942-46, Betsey was a social worker for the State of Connecticut at Mansfield Southbury Social Service in Hartford. After the war from 1946 to at least 1949, she worked in the mental health field at an office in Hartford. She was still living at 449 Tolland Turnpike in Manchester.

She probably retired about 1950 after a career in a variety of mental health organizations. She appears to have been very good at her chosen profession and has an entry in the 1949 "Who's Who in New England."

Gardner died in 1967 and Betsey followed him in 1969. They are buried in Manchester's East Cemetery.

We know less about her husband Gardner. He was born in Cincinnati in 1892, married a first wife in 1918 at age 26 just before enlisting in the Army. He served in the First World War in France and was discharged in 1919. Before coming to Connecticut he worked in retail as a manager in a men's clothing department. The 1940 census and later draft records list him as unemployed.

Betsey and Gardner had no children, their closest relative at her death was Betsey's nephew.

Publishing The Manuscript

When the project was abandoned the manuscript was incomplete, still needing some revisions and cleaning up. It appears to be one update from completion. This version of the book was created by scanning the manuscript and reformatting slightly to make it easier to read. Spelling of place names is unchanged.

At this time only a few copies are being printed for review. The Vernon Historical Society would like to add photos and do additional research on the author before publishing and making available to the public.

Vernon Historical Society
August 2016

VERNON I - GENERAL TOPOGRAPHY

Vernon is divided north and south by a range of hills, which mark the limit of the Connecticut Valley on the east and merge into the great mountain regions of northern New England. It is noted for its varied scenic beauty and in this small area of 11,758 acres many differences in surfaces and combination of natural views exist.

The greater part of the town is uneven but agreeably diversified by hill and dale. The western portion is gently undulating territory of fair, gravelly loam, reddish brown in color, somewhat stony, yet fertile, producing abundantly when well cultivated, watered by the principal rivers, the Hockanum and its tributary, the Tankaroosan.

The land slopes gradually towards the south, so that sections in the north and east are somewhat higher above sea level, ranging from 300 ft. at the Vernon town line on the south, to 690 ft. on the northeast, where the series of mountainous ridges, known as the Eastern Highland, begin.

Vernon, in the eastern portion, shows evidence of the great glacial force thousands of years ago, in the variegated rock formation rising precipitous and severe in projecting cliffs. One may see on many farm lands enormous piles of sand and gravel, as well as huge boulders, hard and strong, left by the melting glacier.

Continuing in a northeasterly direction in Vernon and at its remotest point, is the outlet of a marvelous watershed, known as Snipsic Lake. Here the winding, sinuous Hockanum comes tumbling down a grade of two hundred and fifty feet, a mile and a half to the valley below, furnishing one of the finest and most easily available water powers to be found in America. The supply is inexhaustible and the descent is so rapid that the power may be used over and over again. The water possesses a superior quality, is soft and pure, which gives it a special value to manufacturers, as well as a healthful domestic water supply. The average annual rainfall is from forty-four to forty-six inches.

The climate of Vernon is typical of New England and appears to be changing, with mild and severe winters in recurring cycles. There are frequent and sudden changes in the weather and the winters vary, but are invigorating. The humidity is high, generally. Snow comes early and stays late, and then again may be noticeably absent. Years ago, continuous sleighing was enjoyed for weeks in this section, with the merry jingle of bells and laughter ringing out at all hours on the frosty air, but due to the modern methods of snow removal on our highways, it is rare today.

Electrical storms are frequent, generally of short duration, and pass without serious damage to growing crops. An occasional year is marked by a freak storm, accompanied by high winds and hail, but these would be classified as of the unusual. The average date of the first killing frost in autumn is October 15th, and the last killing frost in spring is April 25th.

VERNON I - FLORA AND FAUNA

Vernon has a vast number of native wild flowers that appear to be widely distributed in field, meadows, and woodland, and are likely to be encountered in walks in any section at the season for blooming. The common, or better-known, varieties are yellow adder's tongue, hepatica, marsh marigold, wood anemone, bloodroot, paint-brush, bluets, wild columbine, pink azalea, meadow or blue violet, bird's-foot violet, sweet violet, wild lily-of-the-valley, forget-me-not, geranium, common dandelion, Jack-in-the-pulpit, common red clover, skunk's cabbage, purple trillium, yellow pond lily, wild iris or blue flag, buttercup, white clover, common white daisy, black-eyed Susan, Philadelphia lily, common milkweed, Indian pipe, wild morning-glory, wild carrot or Queen Anne's lace, common burdock, butter-and-eggs, common thistle, goldenrod, pearly everlasting, crinkle-root, New England aster, wild clematis .

Some common varieties have become rare and are in serious danger of becoming extinct because of the ruthless picking of the blossoms and tearing up of the roots by the thoughtless. This is true especially of the trailing arbutus, the loveliest of fragrant spring flowers growing in sandy loam in the woods and mossy, rocky places. The little groups of exquisite blue fringed and closed gentians are found in the damp meadows and appreciated by the natives because they are the last flowers of the year to bloom, often as late as November. Picking of the vivid cardinal flower (very rare) is prohibited. Friends of these wild flowers are secretive as to their habitat in the interest of conservation.

It would be worthwhile to drive or hike along the highways (R-15) (R-85) and turn aside to the wood roads in any direction to view the laurel, the State Flower of Connecticut, in May and June, rising from low shrubs of two feet to twenty feet in height, with its large pink and white showy clusters and the wild azalea makes beautiful the spot wherein it grows along the hillsides and swamps, but it has no place elsewhere and is in danger of being exterminated.

Among the dependable signs of spring are the pussy willows, with their fuzzy buds, and of the alder catkin's heavily tasseled with yellow. As they make the first bouquet of spring, so the black alder, with its loads of red berries and the bay-berry branches, with leadenish blue bunches of smaller berries, make the last and most beautiful bouquet of autumn.

The elderberry bush forms many boundary lines on farms and is now being conserved by the State Highway Department for roadside planting. It blossoms freely

and yields the purple berries in bunches from which wine is pressed. The dogwood, with its masses of pink flowers, its dark red autumn foliage and its bright red berries, is one of our most ornamental native trees, and the shad-bush for the touch of beauty its flowers give to the landscape in early spring before the leaves have come out. The bittersweet vine, draping itself from fences and smaller trees, with its fruit shaped like tiny marbles strung along a crooked stem, adds warmth and life in October and is becoming rare, while the poison ivy infests thickets, walls, fences and trees everywhere. It is thrifty and a menace.

In the marshy lands, over garden walls and hilly places, growing abundantly, is the large mint family: peppermint, spearmint, pennyroyal, catnip, bergamot and thyme, and in the clear running brooks, water-cress. The hardy rock ferns are plentiful and dense growths of fern-brake inhabit the lowlands. The maiden-hair fern, is rare.

There are many wild edible berries. The strawberry, blueberry and huckleberry, high bush blackberry, dewberry or low blackberry, black raspberry, sometimes called thimbleberry, and also the red variety, wintergreen and partridge berries.

Vernon abounds in wild, wooded places and many acres are protected in private ownership. The most thickly wooded lies between Vernon and Bolton on the southeast, and sparsely wooded along the western valley section. The white pine, oaks and hemlocks are the most common and valuable trees. The hemlock is characteristic of the ravines and north slopes and sometimes attains a height of one hundred feet. The chestnut tree was most important in the early days of Vernon but it fell a victim to the chestnut blight and is now practically extinct. This has been a great loss, as it produced rapidly and was used for railroad ties, poles and other products.

The American elm, most desirable as a shade tree, is in danger of extermination by the Dutch elm disease recently introduced into the United States from Holland in 1930, although this area is not infested. The gray, yellow and black birch trees are used extensively as firewood, although it does have other uses. The red maple or swamp maple is widely distributed and its red flowers in dense clusters appear in early spring before the leaves. Sugar maples may be found on farms and are apparently of great age. The sassafras, a small aromatic tree, and the shagbark hickory are well known by every child in the community.

The butternut and black walnut, although native, are now rare and the hazelnut as a product has small value. The red cedar has been used in many parts of the town as a substitute for the chestnut. The Norway spruce, blue beech and Swedler's maple have

been planted extensively for decorative purposes. Apple and other fruits are cultivated in some sections and wild apple is seen frequently in the woods.

The quadrupeds are deer (hunting of, prohibited); gray squirrels (open season Oct. 20th to Nov. 23rd); rabbits and wild hares (open season Nov. 2nd to Dec. 31st); raccoons (open season Oct. 21st, to Dec. 31st); skunks, mink and otter (open season Nov. 1st to Mar. 15th); muskrats (open season Nov. 1st to Mar. 31st); red and gray foxes (bounty on). Licenses, required for hunting. Fees-resident \$3.35, non-resident \$10.35. Trapping, (with privilege of hunting), \$5.35; without, \$3.55. Combined hunting and fishing, resident \$5.35, non-resident \$14.35, with some exceptions. Beavers formerly were not uncommon but are practically extirpated in area. Dangerous are the bobcats (to deer, raccoon and to humans) weasel, serious menace to rabbits.

Wildfowl are Woodcock (open season indefinite); quail (open season Oct. 20th to Nov. 23rd); Hungarian partridge (indefinite closed season); ruffed grouse (open season Oct. 20th to Nov. 23rd); pheasants (male) (open season Oct. 20th to Nov. 23rd). Hunting of golden and female pheasants prohibited. Birds of prey, the great horned owl becoming numerous and destructive. Goshawks are appearing at irregular intervals and five have been killed this season.

Migratory birds are the American robin, wood-thrush, nuthatches, creepers, wrens, brown thrashers, warblers, vireos, swallows, tanagers, sparrows, finches, rose-breasted grosbeak, towhee, orchard oriole, Baltimore oriole, meadow-lark, cat-bird, red-winged blackbird, cow-bird, starlings, phoebe, ruby-throated hummingbird, kingfisher, kingbird, woodpeckers, cardinal chickadee.

Permanent birds are chickadees, woodpeckers, sparrows, junco, bluejay, crow.

Native fish are trout (other than lake trout, (open season April 15th to July 15th); pickerel, wall-eyed pike, pike perch (open season April 15th to Feb. 9th); black and striped bass (open season July 1st to Oct. 31st); perch, yellow and white. License for angling required fee resident \$3.35, non-resident \$5.35. License required for fishing through the ice.

Common reptiles are snakes and turtles.

The rattlesnake and copperheads prefer the rocky ledges and the deep woods with a swamp base. These vipers are poisonous and the distribution about even. (Bounty on). For those who like the element of danger, rattlesnake hunting is a favorite

sport, and is held regularly each year. The brown, ugly snake, non-poisonous, is a local water snake, and around farms are found the banded milk snake. Black snakes of great length are attracted to certain areas. Some species of spiders and mosquitoes are said to be poisonous.

Snapping, box and spotted turtles are numerous. The mud turtles are common in sluggish ponds, the box turtle in wooded areas, and the spotted turtle is prolific, living in the swamp meadows.

Large woodland areas, (with trespassing signs posted), are owned by A. N. Belding, of Rockville, and other individuals who have summer homes in the vicinity. Drives through these woods on good public roads are restful and it is not unusual to sight deer in their natural haunts.

The Rockville Fish and Game Club, with skeet grounds off Mile Hill Road, Tolland, is reached by (R-15), and for a pleasant hour at golf, the Cogswell Brook Golf Course, West Road, Ellington (R-83) is recommended,

A visit to the Shenipsit State Forest, in the towns of Somers, Stafford and Ellington, may also be reached by R-83 from Rockville to Somers and R-20 from Somers to Stafford. On a clear day distant points such as Mt. Monadnock in New Hampshire, the Green Mountains in Vermont, Greylock in Massachusetts, Bear Mountain near the Connecticut line in New York, and the hanging hills of Meriden are visible, as well as the Connecticut Valley as far as Middletown on the south. Picnicking is permitted in the forest and a road has now been completed to the summit of Soapstone Mountain, acquired for a forest fire lookout station. Upon leaving, the visitor should follow the C.C.C. road through the forest to R-83.

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VERNON II - HISTORY

In the year 1635, the towns of Windsor, Hartford and Wethersfield were established by the pioneer settlers of Connecticut, and in 1716, Samuel Grant, (of Windsor) journeyed into the territory of Bolton (which originally was a part of Hartford) and there purchased a farm of one hundred acres, although he continued to live in Windsor.

Sometime later, Bolton township became a flourishing center. The inhabitants desired to lay out, through the center of the settlement, a broad street or common, and the farm owned by Samuel Grant interfered with the project. Being a non-resident, he did not take sufficient interest in the improvement to induce him to give the lands, so the people made him an offer to exchange his farm in Bolton for certain lands belonging to the proprietors of Bolton, lying in the north end of the township.

Apparently, this offer interested Samuel Grant, so mounting his horse, he rode from Windsor to look over the lands. Plunging into the forest, he followed the streams, until he reached the outlet of a large body of water known today as Snipsic Lake. This great volume of water tumbling down the valley must have inspired Samuel Grant with a great faith for the future in this almost impassable wilderness. He then offered to swap his hundred acre farm in Bolton for about five hundred acres of the lands of North Bolton. Immediately his offer was accepted for fear he would regret his bargain, as the people could not understand what he could do with these primitive lands that were considered of no value.

After becoming proprietor of the North Bolton lands in 1726, Samuel Grant left his kinsfolk in Windsor and traveled to what is now known as Union and West Streets in Rockville. This site was probably chosen as an easy place to clear in the almost impassable thickets higher up in the series of hills upon which the City of Rockville now stands. In the course of a few weeks he built a rude, one-story cabin and settled down as the first permanent white settler.

Samuel Grant had one son, Ozias. He was a miller by trade and attracted a great deal of attention by his large and stalwart frame. He is remembered as a man of simple and quaint manners. Ozias had a large family, six sons: Wareham, Abial, Elisha, Elanthan, Augustus and Francis, and seven daughters. All settled down on the original acres and built homes. Francis Grant held the homestead and his heirs still own fifty acres under the original deed.

The early settlers were attracted by the power of the two streams now familiar as the Hockanum and Tankaroosan. To follow these waters through an undisturbed wilderness was no small task. In fact, land companies, acting as proprietors, were formed by leading citizens of the Connecticut Valley for the purpose of developing and creating townships in just such a wild territory as was Tolland County. So the settlement of Vernon and its larger towns were due solely to the courage, vision and undaunted spirit of Samuel Grant and his descendants, which made them the possessors of a township that has become internationally known as a woolen manufacturing center. They were a contented united group of pioneers, reflecting Puritan tradition in the call to the service of religion, education and government.

The established church was Congregational in denomination, and taxes were by law collected for the support of the church as regularly as for town expenses. In 1749, upon petition of eighteen residents of North Bolton, the General Assembly granted the privileges of a winter parish, due to the unusual distance from the ordained church in Bolton. In 1760, a separate parish was established under the name of The Ecclesiastical Society of North Bolton. The first pastor of this Society was Rev. Ebenezer Kellogg. His salary during the fifty-five years of his pastorate did not exceed 70£, (Colonial currency \$233.33). A church building was erected in 1762 and was located a half mile east of the present edifice at Vernon Center. The spot, being elevated, became familiarly known as Old Meeting House Hill. A second church was organized in the north section of Vernon in 1837. This church remained the second church in Vernon up to 1848, when the growth of the village became so pronounced that the parish was divided and a new church was organized. The churches became known as the First and Second Churches in Rockville. Of the other denominations, the first to make its appearance was that of the Methodists. Meetings were conducted in the old schoolhouse on West Street until 1847 when a church building was erected in the same vicinity.

A school society was established in North Bolton in 1796. At this meeting a committee was appointed to procure masters and misses in their respective districts and to raise on the last August list one penny and a half to support schooling for the ensuing year. The first meetings were held in the old meeting house of North Bolton, but no statement is given in the early records relative to the names and localities of the school districts. In 1808, a committee was appointed to visit and inspect the schools in town. In 1810, the inhabitants in the town of East Windsor, who belonged to the High Hill District, were annexed to the Northwest District. This district was afterward divided and in 1811 the south portion was formed into a district by itself called the West District. In 1814, by order of the town board, a stake was set on the corner of Chester King's land a few rods southeast of the old school house as a designated place for the

erection of a new school house and is the first intimation given in the records of the action of a schoolhouse building committee. The government of the schools was vested in the powers of a society school committee and a visiting committee was appointed to establish a school of a high grade. In 1831, the visiting committee were required to visit the schools in the respective districts and make annual reports to the town board. Then followed the present day school system.

In the fall of 1829, the Vernon School Society voted to establish a school of a high order and advanced students received a part of their preparation for college. The only select school in Vernon, before the High School, was established in the winter of 1815-1816, taught by Junius S. Barnes, then a recent graduate of Yale College, and had an attendance of from 30 to 40 scholars.

In those primitive days, the most natural needs soon started the saw and grist mills. The first saw mill to the erection of which a date can be positively fixed was one built at Valley Falls in 1740. In that year, Thomas Johns started a saw mill on a small tributary of the Tankaroosan. This mill was altered in the year 1790 to an oil mill for the manufacture of linseed oil from flaxseed and was owned and operated by Joseph and Samuel Carver and Ezekiel Olcott of Bolton until 1847. The Payne saw mill and grist mills became notable early and performed the grinding for a good portion of Ellington, Tolland and Vernon. At Centerville, in 1774, one Wolcott of East Windsor built a saw mill which in 1789 he sold to Stephen King. In 1792, one named Chapman of Tolland established on this site at the outlet of the lake (now Snipsic) works for the manufacture of bar iron, which was made from bog ore and scrap iron. During the Revolutionary War, cannon balls were made and cannon cast from bog ore found in neighboring swamps.

In 1795 was begun one among the very few earliest manufacturing enterprises in the country. Warburton's Mill which began in the above mentioned year, was widely known and celebrated all over this section of New England for its eagerly sought stocking yarns and thread. The first machinery for carding and spinning was built by John Warburton, who came from England in 1794, and shortly afterward located on the water privilege now held by Talcott Brothers of Talcottville. Mr. Warburton was very successful and his prosperity has been linked with his generosity. His history reveals that he was accustomed to dispense his free hospitalities very lavishly and kept a hogshead of Jamaica rum on tap in an open shed by the roadside, free to all comers. There are still standing two brick houses built by Mr. Warburton, one known as the Warburton Inn, which was used as a boarding house in later years. However, this house, although in poor repair is a landmark. It has whitewashed brick walls, a hip roof and chimney on each corner, and can be reached by a short-cut off from R15 at Talcottville. In 1809 the

Warburton interests were sold to Alexander McLean, Lebbeus Tinker, Irad Fuller and Colonel Francis McLean. Under Alexander McLean's leadership, the property became known as McLean's wool-carding plant and in one part of this plant, the famous Peter Dobson made his first preparations for the spinning of cotton, which is said to be one of the first in America. His co-worker was Samuel Slater. Mr. Dobson was the first manufacturer making his own designs and much of the raw stock was carded at McLean's, then spun by Peter Dobson and put out to housewives for weaving. The variety of goods woven embraced shirtings, sheetings, tickings, diaper-cloth, checks and gingham for women's wear. Among the varied accomplishments of Mr. Dobson may be named that of cotton dyer, producing permanent blues for various stripes and checks.

Up to 1811, Dobson's yarns had been used for home needs and all woven with the simple weaves, and confined to home manufacture. At that time a farmer, Delano Abbott, consulted with Peter Dobson with regard to a sample of mixed woolen cloth, which he had obtained from Daniel Pitkin, a storekeeper at the ferry in East Hartford. He carefully raveled out a small scrap of the material and found that it had a cotton base and was woven in six shifts. The first piece was fabricated on a handloom in his own home. He persuaded Mr. Dobson to build the necessary machinery to make this cloth, which was the initial step in the manufacture of satinet, the beginning of woolen manufacturing in Rockville. Satinets were a very durable kind of goods and, after homespun, came into common use as clothing.

The second plant was introduced in Rockville in 1814 by Ebenezer Nash, a nephew of Delano Abbott, who chose the north end of Vernon, which was then a wild glen of rocks, for the site to build a small mill on the Hockanum River. Later in 1821 this became the Rock factory, the first large woolen mill in Rockville and from which the city derived its name. This enterprise was fostered by Colonel Francis McLean and George and Allen Kellogg. Another brother, Nathaniel, bought the Warburton privilege at Talcottville and also manufactured satinet, and the early development was almost simultaneous at both extremities.

The beginning of Rockville as a village was about 1840. Prior to this time, the community had no name. It was made up by counting the mills and houses belonging to each corporation. There were several small localities known by different names, each group taking the name of the factory around which they lived. There was considerable desire on the part of many influential people to have the place named Frankfort in honor of Colonel Francis McLean, but the question was put to vote and the place was named Rockville after the Rock factory, the pioneer factory.

In 1808, by special act of the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut, a section of the town of Bolton was set off and incorporated into the town of Vernon. There is some question as to where it derived the name, but probably was so named for Mt. Vernon, the home of Washington. The first meeting of the voters of the town was held on the third Monday of November, 1808,

The first large factory was built by Colonel Francis McLean in 1821 and called the Rock. Others in order of development were the Frank (1831), New Rock (1832), afterward the Leeds (1837), Hockanum (1833), formerly Twin Mills (1814), Springville (1833), Saxony (1836), Panola or Stone Mill (1836), and New England (1837). These various enterprises succeeded very rapidly and Vernon became a manufacturing town, where previously agriculture had been the foremost industry.

These mills have a wide reputation for the fine texture and excellent quality cloths which they produce. They have made suits to be worn at the Inauguration by three different Presidents of the United States, the Springville Company having made a suit worn by President Harrison; the Hockanum Company, President McKinley's; and the Springville Company, President Theodore Roosevelt's. The cloth of which these different suits were made was sold thereafter as among the highest priced fabrics on the market, and were named "Inauguration" cloth, "McKinley" cloth, and "Presidential" cloth respectively. The cloths were all similar fabrics, being black, undressed worsted, made of the finest counts of yarn used in goods for men's wear. These yarns took many months to produce, as they were from the finest selected wool, and were turned out with a soft and beautiful finish. The Rock Manufacturing Co. made the cloth worn by President Benjamin Harrison and Vice President Levi P. Norton at the Centennial celebration of the Inauguration of George Washington as President of the United States in New York City, April 30, 1889.

John Brown, the hero of Harper's Ferry, the forerunner of freedom for the black man in the United States, now immortalized in song and story, was associated with the business interests of Rockville, being a wool buyer in his early days. Brown purchased wool for the old New England Co, when George Kellogg was the agent, and they had the utmost confidence in his honesty, often advancing large sums of money to purchase wool in Ohio. An original letter directed to Mr. George Kellogg, August 27, 1839, by John Brown is now in possession of the Maxwell Memorial Library. The bell on the old First Church in Rockville was tolled out of respect to John Brown at the time he was hanged by Governor Wise of Charlestown, Virginia, December 2, 1859.

Within the past century these plants have continued to function (with changes) until today they are known generally as The Hockanum Mills and under the ownership of M.T. Stevens Sons Company. Most of the interests was owned and controlled in the city of Rockville until recently.

While Rockville is noted for its woolen mills, it has another distinction: One of the largest envelope manufacturing companies in the country, the White-Corbin Company (parent mill of the United States Envelope Co.) which concern was among the pioneers in the business. The first envelope machine of any account in this country was the work of a Rockville inventor, Milton G. Puffer.

One of the earliest paper mills in Connecticut was built in Rockville. It was owned by Hale Brothers, proprietors of the New York Journal of Commerce. For many years the paper upon which the New York Journal of Commerce was printed was furnished by this mill. The largest fish-line factory in the country, making the famous Kingfisher Brand of silk fish-lines, is also located in Rockville.

Belding Brothers (Hiram and Alvah) are silk manufacturers of world-wide reputation. The history of the rise and progress of these manufacturers of machine twist sewing and embroidery silks in 1857 is interesting. They first peddled sewing silks from door to door followed by horse and wagon.

The first granite and marble works of any importance in Rockville were established by a German named Laubscher about 1862-63.

Tavern and stage coach days are gone, but around these famous taverns of Vernon and Rockville are associated many facts of historic interest. Built prior to the Revolutionary War, the first hotel was called "Waffle Tavern", as they made a specialty of waffles. During the war with England, transportation became so heavy on the Boston Turnpike a larger tavern was erected. The old King Tavern was built by Lemuel King, a soldier of the Revolutionary War, about 1820 of brick manufactured near where the buildings now stand and was known as King's Stage House. Lemuel King was a great landowner, possessing most of the Tankaroosan Valley and the brick house was erected for his son, Hezekiah King, who married Wealthy Warburton of Vernon. A little west of the house was the toll gate. General Lafayette stopped at the tavern on his memorable revisit to the United states in 1824. A room was especially fitted up for him, the wallpaper being imported from France. It is said to have had many mythological figures of large size, the principal one of the Goddess Ceres. A royal salute by the military was planned to pay homage to the great visitor, and from sunrise to sunset there was a

continual roaring of guns with runners to keep people informed of the approach of the stage over the Tolland Mountains. However, he did not arrive that day. Other men of national fame have stopped there: Daniel Webster and Henry Clay, commemorated by the patriotic society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Sabra Trumbull Chapter, in 1902.

Another well known tavern was the Sullivan House at Dobsonville, where Bije Evans, one of the town characters, fiddled for the "breakdown". The first public house in Rockville was built in 1843 by William Cogswell on the site of the present Rockville House. Proprietors were Hubbard Kellogg, Esq., and Samuel Rose, keeper of the village store and postmaster. These men owned the land, but there was a clause in the deed which said that in the case of keeping or manufacture of alcohol or malt liquors, the property should be forfeited to the Rock Manufacturing Company, which at that time was the controlling power in the village under George Kellogg. This house was taken down and removed in sections to Ellington and there it once more became a hotel. On this site is now the Sykes Manual Training School presented by Elsie Sykes Phelps.

About a half mile east of the spot, where Vernon's first meeting house stood on the road from Rockville to Vernon, is an ancient burying ground, the old Pioneer Cemetery, an acre consecrated to the burial of the dead. It was laid out many years before the first church was erected and probably the site of the church was selected because of its proximity to the cemetery, but principally because of its location on a high hill. It was customary in the early days to select the most elevated site that could be found. There are many old gravestones and several graves without stones. Tradition says that the first body buried there was that of a child who was killed by a fall from an ox-cart near the very spot. These lines under the rudely carved death's head on the frail memorial of one of the early pioneers is found:

"Behold and see as you pass by,
As you are now, so once was I;
As I am now, so you must be,
Prepare for death and follow me."

Many of the pioneers who helped to make history in the early days are buried in this cemetery, among them being the honored Ebenezer Kellogg, Vernon's first pastor, who died in 1817. The inscription on his stone reads:

"Rev. Ebenezer Kellogg died
Sept, 3, 1817, in the 81st year
Of his age and 55th year
Of his ministry in this place."

"In yonder sacred meeting house he spent his breath
Now silent, senseless, here he sleeps in death.
Those lips again shall wake and then declare
A long amen to truths they published there."

Captain Moses Thrall, who was the first to settle on the tract of land in the vicinity of this ancient burying ground in 1703, was one of the pioneers in what is now Vernon Center. He died August 24, 1790, and is buried in Vernon's ancient burying ground. Daniel Thrall was one of the first sextons of the historic old burying ground, and a Thrall continued to be the sexton for many years. First Cemetery in Rockville 1847, Elmwood at Vernon Center and Mt. Hope at Talcottville. St. Bernard's Catholic Cemetery was started in 1855.

The first newspaper established in Tolland County issued from the press of Clapp and Roberts at Tolland, February 10, 1830, a four page, six-column weekly. This paper in its early day prologued nearly every article with a line or two of verse. It lasted for one year and in 1831 became the Free Press, which was anti-masonic in its editorial policy, lasted only a short time. In 1858, The Press was started in Stafford by Fish & Goff, publishers of The Farm at Palmer, Mass. The paper was printed at Palmer until 1862, when one of the McLaughlin's bought the Stafford subscription list and removed the publishing office to Stafford Springs, where it has continued.

In 1876, B. L. Burr, who for several years had been representing The Press at Rockville, bought from The Press the Rockville subscription list and started the Tolland County Gleaner at Rockville. In 1877, Burr sold the paper to A. W. Phelps, who in turn sold it to L. J. Washburn of New York in 1878. Not being successful, the new owner sold the paper back to the original owner, Mr. Burr, who changed its name to the Rockville Leader, and under which name it continues publication. Proprietors, T. Rady & Company; issued bi-weekly.

Other journalistic attempts were the Tolland County Record, which appeared in 1861 and ceased after about six issues, and in 1867 the Tolland County Journal, J. E. Spaulding, editor and owner, began its existence and has been continued as the Rockville Journal. The present editor is Stephen Von Euw, and the plant is located in the Rockville Opera House Block. Issued weekly, on Thursday.

Rockville, as a theatrical town, is well known. In the olden days, many of the Madison Square Companies of New York City played at White's Opera House in 1869, and later at Henry Hall. Famous actresses and actors, among them Fanny Davenport in

"As You Like It", Kate Claxton in "The Two Orphans", Denman Thompson in "Joshua Whitcomb", and DeWolf Hopper in "The Mascot", played to crowded houses. Other well-known companies were Pinafore, Haverley's Minstrels, Hi Henry, Amy Stone, Harvey Bloodgood, Spaulding's Bell Ringers, Duprey and Benedict Minstrels.

The first fire fighting apparatus came into use in 1851, and the financial history of the town began in 1855. In the early days the banking business of Vernon was done with the Tolland County Bank, which was a flourishing institution. Rockville's savings banks are known far and wide as two of the first to pay 5% interest on deposits. The Savings Bank of Rockville was incorporated in 1858, and The Peoples Savings Bank was started in the year 1870. The Rockville National Bank was organized as a state bank in 1855, and The First National Bank of Rockville was chartered in 1863. The Hartford-Connecticut Trust Company is represented by a Rockville Branch at 30 Elm Street. The Rockville Building and Loan Association was incorporated in 1903.

Lake Snipsic, an artificial reservoir, furnishes Rockville with its domestic water supply, which is of the superior quality with good gravity and high pressure service. The business was first conducted by the Rockville Water Power Company and was organized in 1847. In 1866 the needs of the village demanded better service than the old company with its limited capital and capacity could give, and application was then made for a charter under the Rockville Water & Aqueduct Company. The former company had the control of the water for power purposes and the latter for domestic consumption. In 1893 these two companies were merged and consolidated under the Rockville Water & Aqueduct Company.

Rockville has modern gas and electric service, which had its first beginning in 1862, known as the Rockville Gas & Electric Company; present utility the Connecticut Light & Power Company.

The first post office in Rockville was started in 1842, and the first postmaster was Samuel P. Rose. Previous to this, the mail had been brought from Vernon and distributed by him. The Rockville post office became a presidential one on March 11, 1865. Postal delivery went into effect in 1896.

The Rockville City Hospital was made possible by a gift from William H. Prescott prior to his death, and the Rockville Library Association was formally organized in 1893.

Building became active about 1843 and continued until there are numerous business blocks, the most notable being the Prescott Block on Park Street; the Henry Building corner of Park Place and Park Street; the Rockville National Bank Building, Doan Block, Exchange Block, and Citizens Block, all in the center of the city. The Rockville Memorial Building was erected by the town in 1889 in memory of the soldiers and sailors who fought in the Civil War.

Rockville is serviced with modern stores, shops and markets. The people of a number of the smaller villages, including Vernon, Vernon Center, Talcottville, Ellington, Tolland, Bolton, Quarryville, Coventry, Broad Brook and Windsorville, all within a radius of a few miles, do considerable trading in Rockville.

Transportation in the early days was by stage coach, and there were different routes in Vernon. One of these routes was between Rockville and Warehouse Point, which was the nearest railroad center. Among other stages was one from Rockville to Hartford, also a line from Norwich to Springfield through Rockville, and one from Rockville to Tolland. Practically all mails were carried by stage coach. In 1849 the Hartford, Providence and Fishkill Railroad was opened, and the stage ran from Rockville to Vernon Depot instead of from Rockville to Hartford. In 1863 the Rockville Railroad was opened for travel, and in 1869 it was practically destroyed by floods. It was then leased to the Hartford, Providence and Fishkill Railroad and afterwards leased to the New York and New England Company. In 1875, the Connecticut Central Road was built from East Hartford to Springfield and there was a branch from Rockville to Melrose, known as the Melrose Branch, which made connections with the Connecticut Central. Eventually these roads were sold to the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad.

An interesting feature in connection with the Rockville Railroad is Henry Vaness, who was in the service of this road in various capacities for forty-three years, and he was the only colored railroad conductor in the country. He was retired on a liberal life pension.

In 1898 Rockville became connected with the outside world by trolley, and in 1906 the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad assumed control. The road is operated today under the Connecticut Company. The opening of the trolley road from Warehouse Point to Rockville was a notable event in 1906. In 1908 the interurban service over the electrified steam tracks of the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad from Hartford to Stafford Springs via Rockville was formally opened to the public. There was a notable celebration. Bus service has replaced the trolley and interurban.

Vernon was incorporated as a town in 1808 and continued to go along under town government for a number of years, or until Rockville developed into a prominent manufacturing town, and the people felt that it was time for public improvements, which were impossible to carry through, as the people in Vernon felt Rockville was planning to expand too much and objected to the paying of the bills. At the legislative session of 1889, application was made for a city charter, and provided that the matter be submitted to the people. It was approved by the freemen of the town of Vernon and in April, 1889, Rockville became a city. The first meeting was held in December and Samuel Fitch became the first mayor.

The new system of government provided for a city court doing away with the justice system and giving wider jurisdiction. Present officials are Judge John E. Fisk, Associate Judge John E. Fahey. The city charter provides for a mayor and a Court of Common Council, consisting of two boards. The present mayor is George C. Scheets. The County Court was established in Tolland County in 1786 and abolished in 1885.

Sessions of the Superior Court are held in Memorial Building, Rockville. Clerk of the Court, Willis H. Reed.

Grand List of the city of Rockville, \$8,470,982. Indebtedness \$141,368.17. Rate of taxation 11 mills. Town officers: Clerk and Registrar, John B. Thomas; Selectmen, Francis J. Prichard, Orlando Ransom, and Max J. Schmidt.

Town of Vernon Grand List \$9,927,051. Bonded indebtedness \$339,000; rate of taxation (1935) 16 mills.

From the founding of the colonies, numerous wars have taken place and Vernon was well represented in the struggle for the preservation of the Union, and on the various pension rolls are the names of prominent men in the history of the town who took part. The men of the World War rendered the same loyal patriotic service as in previous wars and the Liberty Bonds went over the top.

Heavy losses were sustained in the Civil War, as the Fourteenth Regiment (including Vernon men) had the largest percentage of loss of any regiment in the state. These men fell at Antietam and Gettysburg, and several died prisoners of war at the famous Andersonville Prison, Ga.

Rockville was very patriotic at the time of the War with Spain in 1898, and the manufacturers made arrangements to provide for the families whose husbands or other

members enlisted for the war. The sum of \$25 per month was given the married men and \$15 per month to the single men.

After the wars, military traditions have been upheld by various associations to perpetuate the memories of those who made the supreme sacrifice.

War made it's summons upon the Town of Vernon and the City of Rockville in the most memorable conflict in history - the World War. On its honor rolls are found four hundred and forty-two (442) names. Of these, seventeen soldiers paid the supreme sacrifice. They are Private Stanley Dobosz, Private August Keune, Private Fred Schweitzer, Private Frank A. Badstuebner, Private William Orłowsky, Private William Cahill, Private Carl Skibiski, Private Leon Fisk, Private Harold Lounsbury, Sergeant John Kleindienst, Lieutenant Alfred G. Berr, Private Elmer H. Turner, Private William E. Kingston, Private John T. Kennedy, Private John Rosinski.

The Talcottville Roll of Honor contains the following names who make the supreme sacrifice. ????????

In memory of these who have given their lives for their country in the service, trees were planted on the town school lot corner of Union and Maple Streets and dedicated May 5, 1919 with fitting ceremony. A bronze name plate with date of death marks each tree, a living tribute that will thrive ???????? to these war dead.

Sergeant George N. Brigham was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal for extraordinary bravery in action at the Battle of Thibaut August 11, 1918.

Miss J. Alice Maxwell, a prominent Rockville woman, also served in War Relief work in France and was in charge of the Bureau of Distribution for the Mayfair War Relief in Paris, France. This bureau supplied surgical dressings and other supplies to the various hospitals in and around Paris. Much work was done among the refugees, and after the Armistice, rehabilitation work was carried out in the devastated areas beyond Chateau Thierry.

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From the Liberty Loan Report of 1919 we learn that Rockville greatly exceeded its quota on every drive. The total amount of the five drives amounted to \$3,390,400 and there were 8,000 subscribers. Francis T. Maxwell was the chairman of the Liberty Loan Committee throughout the duration of the war and to him much credit is due for the successful record made by the City of Rockville, and the Town of Vernon. The following tabulated statement is of interest.

<u>Liberty Loan</u>	<u>Subscribers</u>	<u>Quota</u>	<u>Amounts</u>
1st Liberty Loan	1,016	non-assigned	\$336,750.00
2nd " "	1,422	\$344,000.00	679,800.00
3rd " "	2,034	298,500.00	709,600.00
4th " "	2,618	623,600.00	1,113,300.00
	<u>916</u>	<u>467,500.00</u>	<u>550,950.00</u>
Total	8,006	\$1,733,600.00	\$3,390,400.00

Vernon was one of the eighteen towns in Connecticut to go over the top in the War Savings Campaign and sales of War Savings Stamps in 1918. The employees of the woolen mills of Rockville took in lieu of, a cash bonus of 5% the amount in War Savings and Thrift Stamps.

In the United War Work Drive, the city of Rockville went over the top in November 1919 and the fraternal organizations and schools did remarkably well.

In 1869, floods destroyed the bridges at Vernon, doing hundreds of thousands of dollars damages to property in the town.

The greatest freshet which visited the water courses of this vicinity since 1869, was February 18, 1886, when a rain and windstorm swept the city of Rockville. It began on Friday and continued all day on Saturday. The waters rose in Lake Snipsic, starting from 23 feet, 8 inches, until they reached a point 21 inches above high water mark, or the point of overflow. This great volume of water pouring down the steep declivity of rocks broke into seething foam, and the roar of the rushing waters over the various mill dams was terrific. The Rockville mill pond overflowed and caused some damage to property. The long continued rush of the waters caused mill owners much anxiety, as the supports under some buildings were seriously undermined and water seeping into the factories damaged belting and machinery. Men were stationed along the irregular mile and a half stretch of stream to watch the danger points through the nights.

In the summer of 1912, Rockville experienced a storm of sudden and short duration, which was called a cloudburst, without lightning but accompanied by a high wind, uprooting trees. Much damage was done to highways and sidewalks were washed away in many places.

The year 1832 was one long remembered by the people. It was the year of the great Asiatic cholera visitation and every cesspool in Rockville was examined. In 1918 and 1919 the Spanish influenza epidemic was very serious in this vicinity.

In 1837 and 1838 there was a general depression, which adverse influence was felt by Vernon industrialists. In 1847, 1848 and 1849 there was a marked progress in industry. Streets and houses sprung up on every hand, far up the steep hillsides of Rockville, bordering the Hockanum River, largely erected by employees in the mills.

The panic of 1857, which was national, hit Vernon severely and there was an extended period of business depression with no marked change until the Civil War broke out in 1861. The demand for goods for army purposes provided contracts for those who desired them. Those mills that did not care to take army contracts found a ready market for all their goods. The town prospered until 1865 and the manufacturers made money at a rapid rate. However, since that time, there never has been expansion equal to that of the early '40's.

About 1870 there was a general financial depression and the growth of Rockville has been more slow since that time.

In this present-day, world-wide, depression the factory employees have been kept at work. This is due to the Maxwell family (and not generally known), who have borne the burden themselves with severe losses until 1935, when their interests were taken over by the M. T. Stevens Sons Company.

In every community and of every period are outstanding characters and there have been many from Vernon who have distinguished themselves in literature, art, the professions and in the development of the mechanics of trade and finance.

Peter Dobson, a founder of the first cotton mill in Vernon and one of the first in America, is also famous as a geologist. In Sullivan's American Journal of Science, February, 1842, is found an abstract of the address delivered at the anniversary meeting of the Geological Society of London by Sir Roderick Murchison in which he mentions Peter Dobson's paper on "Boulders", contributed to the American Journal of Science in

the year 1826 as being the Original Author of the Best Glacial Theory, though his name had escaped notice prior to that time. Recommending Peter Dobson's argument, he stated "that it might have saved volumes of disputation on both sides of the Atlantic had it been recognized". (Complete text found in appendix History of Eastern Conn. Vol. III; author, Harwood, Pliny LeRoy).

Rev. Ebenezer Kellogg, first pastor of the Church of Vernon, was graduated from Yale College 1757. In 1762 he was called to preach by the Ecclesiastical Society of North Bolton. His pastorate covered a period of fifty-five years.

The name of Kellogg is closely associated with the founding of the woolen industry in Rockville. They were men of keen interprise and sterling integrity devoted to the general interests of Rockville.

Col. Francis McLean was the builder of the first woolen mill of importance and pioneer of the industry and the founder of Rockville.

Physicians were prominent much earlier than lawyers. One of the earliest in North Bolton and the first in Vernon was Dr. Scottoway Hinckley. Dr. Alden Skinner, born in Vernon in 1790, is one of the last of the old-time physicians, and Alden Skinner Camp, Sons of Veterans of the Civil War, is named in his honor.

The first lawyer, Judge Dwight Loomis was said to be an impartial judge, and he devoted his life to the welfare of others. His public career commenced in 1851, and he was prominent in national life.

The Talcott family, of English extraction, have long been prominent in Vernon. There are many distinguished descendants, among them Joseph Talcott, who was the Governor of the State of Connecticut, 1725-1742 - service 17 years, 5 months. Others have held high and influential positions at various periods of our Colonial and State history. They are associated with the founding of Talcottville, a thriving village in Vernon township, to which they have contributed to the welfare of their constituents for many years, providing a church, school and library. They also are associated with Rockville industry and finance.

The name of Hammond, native sons, is closely connected with Vernon and Rockville. Largely identified with the organization and promotion of business enterprises.

E. Stephens Henry was identified with the growth of business interests, real estate and associated with the various banking institutions. He was the recipient of many offices of trust and represented his town in the legislature, both as representative and senator.

Cyrus White and George Pault developed Rockville as builders of homes and business blocks.

The late George Maxwell came to Rockville in 1843. Here he began a mercantile career, and speedily became an influential factor in the leading financial enterprises of Rockville, where his executive genius and sound business qualities placed him in many positions of trust. He served his town in the legislature, both as representative and senator. In benevolences and all efforts to advance the cause of the people of Rockville, the Maxwell family have been and are today leading figures. The foremost institution is the George Maxwell Memorial Library presented by the Maxwell family to the city in 1904 as a memorial in honor of their father.

At the death of George Sykes, which occurred in 1903, Vernon lost a citizen who had been closely identified with the largest corporations and to his generosity the children of Rockville have the opportunities of a manual training school today.

Gustave Adolph Hoffman, born in Germany and living in Rockville since childhood, is a famous etcher and portrait painter. He lectures on painting and etching subjects.

Rockville is represented in American education by Professor Thomas D. Goodell, who was a member of the first graduating class of Rockville High School. He distinguished himself as a Greek scholar and taught at Yale University.

Vernon Center is the home of Clifford Knight, famous cartoonist.

Many prominent and respected citizens of Rockville today are active and helpful, still affiliated with local public interests. Among these are Arthur Bissell, leading financier; Fred Swindells, retired manufacturer; and Charles Phelps, retired lawyer and lawmaker, the latter elected to the office of Attorney General in 1893, being the first incumbent, which office he filled for four years. Alfred R. Goodrich held executive office as State Treasurer 1883-1885, and Lyman T. Tingier was Lieutenant Governor from Vernon 1913-1915. Henry E. Stevens representative in Congress from District I, 1854-1856; 1895-1913.

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VERNON II - MONUMENTS AND LANDMARKS

Turn aside at the cutoff on R (15) in Talcottville to view the monument in Mt. Hope Cemetery. It was erected in 1869 by the people of the town to the memory of the soldiers from this place who gave their lives to their country in the War of the Rebellion. The obelisk is of brownstone, in an appropriate setting on the top of a rounded hill, partly circled by white pines.

An interesting landmark is located on state highway R (15) at Vernon Center, near Tolland County Temporary Home for Children, and it has been marked as to its date and date of the McLean Tavern, which originally stood on this site. Complete inscription is as follows: "Old Milestone erected by Hartford and Tolland Turnpike Co. 1801. Six miles to Tolland Court House. McLean Tavern built in 1793 stood on these grounds. Marker placed by Sabra Trumbull Chapter D.A.R. June, 1934."

On this same highway R (15), continuing for about two miles, is the famous "King's Stage House", now the Town Farm, located at intersection of Grove and East Streets, Rockville, with the Boston Turnpike, R(15). It is of historic interest, built in 1820 by Col. Lemuel King and in 1824 General Lafayette was entertained there. The house is built of red brick, two stories in height, with basement and attic and an ell extends from the east side. The room occupied by Gen. Lafayette is on the ground floor of the building, immediately to the left of the main entrance. When the stage route was abandoned in 1846, this necessitated the closing of the tavern. The building was then used as a farm-house until purchased by the town. In the spring of 1902 Sabra Trumbull Chapter D.A.R. laid out a small plot of ground in front of the Old Tavern, curbing and turfing the enclosure. A large boulder was placed there with a bronze inscription commemorating Lafayette's visit.

This park was given to the Town of Vernon and dedicated "Lafayette Park, June 12, 1902." The full inscription is as follows: "Built in 1820. In grateful memory. Gen. Lafayette, whose love of liberty brought him to American shores to dedicate his life and fortune to the cause of the colonies. The Sabra Trumbull Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution erected this monument near 'The Old King Tavern' where he was entertained in 1824."

Consultant:

John Talcott, Talcottville, Conn.

VERNON II - INDIAN TRIBES AND ARCHAEOLOGY

Vernon township was probably the hunting and fishing grounds for the tribe of Podunk Indians. This tribe resided west of what is known today as Lake Snipsic, in Rockville. In 1675, by the will of the old Sachem Joshua, son of Uncas, the northern hunting grounds were transferred to the white men of the Saybrook Colony. An extract from this old Colonial record is as follows: "I give and bequeath all the tract of land lying from the mountains in sight of Hartford, northward to the pond called Shenaps."

The name Snipsic is all that is left of Mishenipset. In the Indian dialect Mi she, means big; nips, pool; et, at. The Mohegans called, it Moshenips and the outlet (Hockanum River) Moshe-nips-sauk, which translated means big-pool outlet. The Podunks called the river Mishenipsaug and the Nipmucks, M Shenip sac. The Tankaroosan (River), a stream in Vernon, from Watunk- shanoos'e. Watunkshan denotes a rapid end winding stream; oos'e, towards, - towards the fast flowing and winding stream.

By this river at Vernon Center, R(15), is said to have been an Indian village. On the Elmer Dart Farm, Vernon Avenue, in 8 meadow, may be seen a mortar which may have been used to pulverize ingredients for pottery. Arrow and spearheads, mortars and pestles have been found in this vicinity and along the shores of Lake Snipsic. An interesting collection of arrow-heads can be seen at No. 81 Union Street, Rockville, John Devlin, Collector.

At Bolton to the southeast of Vernon (which was the parent town) has been located a workshop, where spear and arrow-heads were made. This is said to be near the dam of the middle pond, now inundated. The first land transportation ways in the state were the paths or trails used by the Indians. There is a path from the Alfred O. Thrall farm in Vernon Center to this workshop at Bolton, also another trail or continuation of this Bolton path to the northeast and apparently connected with the Nipmuck settlement. This trail is traced on map, Indian Trails of Connecticut, published by the Colonial Dames of America. Topographer, Mathias Speiss, Manchester, Conn.

From the intersection at the Town Farm on R (15), a few hundred rods left, up the hill to the second house on that road (known as the August Loehr Farm, Rockville) and by walking a short distance through a field to the edge of the wood lot, a group of Indian burial-mounds are to be seen.

In the vicinity of Lake Snipsic is found, when the water is low, in a dry season, clay banks and the stones are fantastic shapes and design.

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Mathias Speiss, 28 West Center St., Manchester, Conn.

VERNON III-A - ART

Vernon has produced several artists who have made Rockville their home. The late Charles Porter (colored), a natural artist, was extraordinary in his work in oils of flowers and fruits, and many of his canvasses are found in homes of the older residents of Rockville. The late Elizabeth Prella was a landscape painter and taught art to private pupils for a number of years prior to her death. One of the best known cartoonists is "Cliff" Knight of Vernon Center and he is now on the staff of the Hartford Times.

One of America's best known living artists is Gustave Adolph Hoffman, whose home is in Rockville with his sister Miss Martha. The house is a simple cottage under the lee of a hill, the original home of his parents. Mr. Hoffman is a frail man physically, of sixty-odd summers, but he works regularly at his art pursuits in one form or another. He is a shy, reticent type of person, impressing one as having great spiritual strength. It is a rare pleasure to have time with him, as he describes the interesting fields he has covered and the world he has known, both here and abroad.

Mr. Hoffman was born in Cottbus, Germany, in 1869, and came to Rockville, Conn, to live at the age of one. His father was a designer in the American Mills and a man of more than average ability.

Gustave attended public school but at age 14 his father died, leaving a widow and nine children in very poor circumstances. He then entered the mill and worked twelve hours a day as a bobbin boy to help maintain the home. Physically, he was unequal to this type of work, and working beyond his endurance he soon developed a bronchial and nervous condition, which he has had to contend with all of his later life. During this period he continued to draw objects and struggled with his crude materials to express the beauty that was within his soul. At sixteen his health began to fail and he left the factory, taking a job as a clerk in a store. About this time, Charles Porter, the artist, came to Rockville to live and to teach art, and Gustave Hoffman had his first real instruction. He showed promise and as his brother, Paul, was employed as a court stenographer at Norwich., Connecticut, he offered to help Gustave obtain a course in art at the National Academy of Design in New York, and he went there in 1888. Thus he overcame the handicap of his boyhood and arose to a position of security in the art world of Europe and America, and to a high point of cultural development personally.

Mr. Hoffman is noted as a portrait painter. In the Senate Chamber of the state Capitol hang his portraits of Governor Everett J. Lake and Lieutenant Governor Lyman Twining Tingier. In the Superior Court Room of Tolland County, in the town of Rockville,

are portraits of Justice Dwight Loomis of the Supreme Court, and Judge Joel H. Reed, both deceased, two of the county's most eminent men and its only contributions to the higher benches of their state courts. The portrait of the late Judge Joel H. Reed bears a true and perfect likeness and is a distinctive work greatly appreciated by the Judge's son, Willis H. Reed, Clerk of the Superior Court at Rockville, Conn.

Gustave Hoffman's work as a landscape painter in oil is notable. The richness of color and the moods of forest, field and stream are drawn with deep insight into nature's secrets in harmony. Most remarkable is his copper-plate etching, which in originality of design and effect is unusual. This particular form of copper-plate etching is solely in his possession and he has made no provision for the future of his fine collection and the secrets of production.

Mr. Hoffman studied for three years at the National Academy of Design in New York and went to Germany in 1891 to further his study of portrait painting, which covered a period of three years under distinguished artists. His etchings were first exhibited in Munich, and some of his plates were purchased by the Munich Society for Etchers to continue the interest of copper-plate etching there.

Upon his return to America he exhibited at the National Academy in New York City and these etchings have been sold to collectors far and wide. Some hang in the Royal Gallery in Munich, the Art Museum at Frankfurt, the National Gallery of Leipsic, and the National Gallery of Berlin, as well as in the British Museum in London. In 1910, Mr. Hoffman suffered a collapse of health and sailed for Egypt to recuperate where he traveled south as far as Nubia studying and painting the various types of races in water colors.

Some of his finest etchings are as follows: "New England Road", "The Clearing of the Storm", "The White Cloud", "Harvest Rye Field", "Old Saw Mill", "The Cottage", and "Autumn at the Brookside." Some of these picture the beauty of Rockville and surrounding countryside. He lectures on painting and etching subjects, and his collection of paintings are open to the public and reception at his home is welcomed at anytime. He also has curios brought from Egypt and other countries which are of interest.

There are several stamp collections but the largest and the most valuable is owned by Mr. H.O. Clough, 17 Ellington Avenue, Rockville, Conn. Throughout the state he is regarded as one of the leading authorities on rare stamps and is President of the Rockville Stamp Club and Hartford Stamp Club. A collection of Indian arrow-heads,

many obtained on the shores of Lake Snipsic, is found at No. 81 Union Street; Collector, John Devlin.

An unusual collection of church calendars dating back twenty years can be seen any time at the Union Congregational Church, corner of Union and Elm Streets; office of Dr. George S. Brookes, Pastor. The calendars are bundled by the year in order of issue.

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History of Eastern Connecticut.

Consultants:

Gustave Adolph Hoffman, 5 Laurel Street, Rockville, Conn.

Mrs. Joseph Develin, 84 Ward Street, Rockville, Conn.

Rev, George S. Brookes, Ph.D., 62 Union Street, Rockville, Conn.

VERNON III-A - LITERATURE

In literature, art, music and education there have been many names of those who were of more than ordinary ability and who have contributed from Vernon and Rockville to the aesthetic side of life.

Some of the minor writers are Frank D. Maine, M.D., who was a native of Rockville, later living in Springfield, Mass. He writes in a humorous vein, "Early Reminiscences of Rockville in Rhyme", which was published in 1902. "The Lady of Shenipset" is from the pen of Frederic P. Ladd and the scenes are laid at Snipsic Lake in Rockville. While this is not a masterpiece, it does portray the scenes of this New England countryside at the lake. This book was published by Sturgis and Walton Co., N.Y., in 1910.

The late Harry Conklin Smith, (who was editor-in- chief of the Rockville Leader for about twenty years), has contributed to several publications. "The Summary of Vernon's History and Centennial Observance", compiled and edited by him, is an excellent record of the early and modern history of the town up to 1908. It was published at Rockville, press of T.F. Rady & Co. in 1911. "Leisure Hour Lyrics", by Anthony M. Gibson, published by The Case, Lockwood & Brainerd Co., at Hartford in 1899 is a group of poems, beautiful in sentiment, that will always live.

The most noted poet of Vernon is the late Professor Thomas Dwight Goodell, Lampson Professor of the Greek language and literature in Yale University and former Rockville boy. "Commemoration", a poem dedicated to Vernon, was read by him at the Centennial Observance in Rockville in 1908. This poem and other verses was published in 1921 by the Yale University Press, New Haven, Conn., and was made possible by gifts from members of the class of 1877 in memory of their classmate.

Professor Goodell was an unusual character with very high standards, demanding the best from his students. He was a classical scholar of remarkable attainments and his book on "Athenian Tragedy" is a work which required long hours of research and meditation. His "Greek Ode" was one of the memorable features of the two hundredth anniversary of Yale University in 1901 and was set to music by his colleague, Professor Horatio Parker.

Professor Goodell was profoundly impressed by the World War and his war poems are among his best. "Retrospect" was written in 1901 while visiting scenes of his early boyhood in Rockville. He was appreciative of his nativity and truly lived his poetry.

A remarkable and authoritative work of events and dates is a series of daily entries and comments entered into a diary that was continued for seventy-two years by the late Edwin A. Newton of Rockville. This collection contains a wealth of material, as Mr. Newton traveled many miles to hear public speakers and platform orators, and all subjects were of equal interest to him, especially world affairs. He was conversant with the topics of the day and no important happening passed without some mention of it. These diaries (all 72 are exactly alike) are at present in the possession of Mrs. Mary Newton, his wife, at 10 Talcott Avenue, and can be seen upon request. These wonderful diaries will probably be given to the Maxwell Memorial Library at some future time.

To be published soon by the University Press of Philadelphia is a book entitled "The Life and Letters of Anthony Benezent, Quaker". It is the first definitive biography of this great man and promises to be the most complete work in existence. Compiled by George Savage Brookes, Ph.D., Rockville, Conn.

Dr. Brookes' ready pen has produced pageantry and poetry in his dramatic pageant "The Road to Understanding", based upon the order of the Knights of Pythias, and a number of his hymns are well known, the music as well as the words having been written by him.

The late Albert F. Thompson, of St. Petersburg, Fla, born in Rockville, was a writer of short poems.

Charles W, Burpee, Hartford, noted as an author, editor and scholar.

Miss Mariette Fitch has contributed a fine collection of costume books covering periods from 1400 to the present time, a memorial to the late Leila Church, who was interested in pageantry and these are to be seen at the Maxwell Memorial Library, No. 58 Union Street.

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The Lady of Shenipset

Author: Ladd, Frederic P.

Published: Sturgis and Walton Co., New York 1910.

Leisure Hour Lyrics

Author: Gibson, Anthony M.

Published: The Case, Lockwood & Brainerd Co., Hartford, Conn. 1899.

"Commemoration" and other Poems

Author: Goodell, Prof. Thomas Dwight

with an introduction by William Lyon Phelps.

Published: Yale University Press New Haven, Conn. 1921.

Early Reminiscences of Rockville in Rhyme

Author: Maine, M.D., Erank D.

Published in 1902,

Consultants:

Miss Edith Peck, 52 Union Street, Rockville, Conn.

Rev. George S. Brookes, Ph.D, 62 Union Street, Rockville, Conn.

VERNON III-A - MUSIC

The history of music in Vernon and Rockville is outstanding and much credit is due Miss Mariette Fitch, a most talented musician. Her life work has been to broaden the horizon of her gifted pupils and today many of them are nationally known. Like the famous "Major Bowes", Miss Fitch develops the talents of promising youngsters, not only teaching them to play the organ or piano but trained in the fundamentals, so that in entering other schools for advanced work they are exceptionally well prepared. Miss Fitch was born in Rockville and educated in the local schools. She studied organ under Gaston Dethier in New York City and piano under Mrs. N. F. Peck. Hartford, Conn., and has been a prominent organist in local churches and nearby towns.

One of America's most promising composers is Carl McKinley, of the younger generation of American composers, and his work commands attention. He was born in Yarmouth, Maine, the only child of Dr. Charles E. McKinley, a minister of the Congregational Church, and his wife, Fannie McKinley. The atmosphere of his home life was said not to have been musical, but his musical ability was apparent in his early years to Miss Mariette Fitch, who encouraged his early efforts by her enthusiasm and interest. She was responsible for his training until he entered Knox Conservatory. Carl McKinley's education was received in the public schools of Rockville. In 1913 he went to Galesburg, Illinois, where he spent the next two years and supplemented his academic studies with work at the Knox Conservatory while living there and received his Master's degree from Knox in 1915. In 1917 he entered Harvard University and his record in the music courses of Harvard was so outstanding that he was awarded the Elkan Namburg Traveling Fellowship in Music, which enabled him to study under Gaston M. Dethier in New York. He was organist of Center Congregational Church, Hartford, Conn. for five years, 1918-1923. Mr. McKinley's poem, "The Blue Flower", was awarded a \$500. prize by the New York Symphony, written in 1921. He has published eight compositions: ten organ, five choir and twenty-five other works of music. Dr. Carl McKinley is now organist at the Old South Church, Copley Square, Boston.

Dr. William Churchill Hammond was born in Rockville, November 25, 1860, and studied music with Benjamin Franklin Leavens of Manchester, Nathan Hale Allen, of Hartford, and Samuel Prouty Warren of New York City. He began work as an organist in the Second Congregational Church of Rockville, January 4, 1876, then went to the Pearl Street Congregational Church in Hartford, April, 1, 1884. He played at the dedication of the Second Congregational Church of Holyoke, Mass., January 29, 1885, where he has been organist and choirmaster for fifty years. He was instructor of the organ at Smith College from 1890 to 1900, and in September, 1900, was called to the Dept. of Music at

Mt. Holyoke College. He is a founder of the American Guild of Organists.

Vernon has had several good bands in its history. The Hammond Fife and Drum Corp. was organized by Joseph C. Hammond, Jr., and brought fame to Rockville back in the early eighteen seventies. The band participated in many memorable parades in various parts of the country and continued in existence for many years. At present there are three bands and two drum corps: The American Band, Polish Boys' Band, Rockville Boys' Band, Rockville Fife and Drum Corp, American Legion Drum and Bugle Corp., which has won several prizes in state contests. The State Field Day is September 12th. There are several dance orchestras and a High School orchestra.

Rockville has known many musical moments in the early history of the town. There were the Beethoven Circle Concerts by the Rockville Choral Union, when many soloists of note, assisted by the Boston Festival Orchestra, appeared on the various programs. The Girls' Glee Clubs and the Men's Chorus, under the efficient leadership of A. E. Waite, who is organizer and choir conductor in the various programs presented by the Fortnightly Music Club, an organization which did much to encourage young talent. The monthly musical services in the Union Congregaional Church, under the direction of George Mietzke, organist, and composer, and the many delightful organ recitals of May Chapman Holt. The inspiring Tolland Community Chorus concerts given in connection with the Governor's Foot Guard Band in Talcott Park before an audience of thousands, and the several community concerts given during National Music Week. The Rockville Junior Music Club was organized by pupils of Miss Edith Hansom, a native of Hockville, and a soprano of note.

In 1876 a group of German residents organized the Liedertafel singing society, which is still in existence. During the past fifty-five years they have had nine conductors and have taken part in various state contests. The Treblers, a group of singers, are very successful.

Many have gone forth to make their mark in the musical world: Fred Bacon, a banjo soloist and maker of banjos; Kliendienst Brothers, known as Tambo and Tambo, tambourine artists, who have traveled all over the world playing before royalty; Edgar Schofield, baritone, opera, church and concert singer and voice teacher in New York City; Russell Keeney, violinist and teacher in California. Also broadcasts. Harry Goldfield, cornetist called Paul Whiteman's double, assistant conductor of Whiteman's Orchestra; Frederic Kuhnly, tenor soloist in New York Church and Brooklyn Synagogue. Also broadcasts. William Weyhe, vocal teacher in Hartford, Conn.; Herman Brandenburg, cornetist with Hi Henry's Minstrels, now staff bass viol player at Station

W.T.I.C.; Stanley Usher, organist Asylum Avenue Baptist Church, accompanist and teacher in Hartford, Conn., a member of the Colonial Quartette; Lois Randall, soprano and pianist with Tony Sarg Co.; Laura Wendhiser, teacher of piano, Rockville; Emil Dintch, for nearly thirty years a drummer at West Point; John Gworek, clarinet and saxophone player in the United States Marine Band; Frank Eidam, drummer and staff-sergeant at West Point; Harvey Brown, trombonist, with the Thirteenth Infantry Band, Fort Adams, N.Y.; William Schultz, traps, W.T.I.C. Orchestra, Hartford; Edward Doherty, trombonist, at Capitol Theatre, Hartford (These two are members of Rockville Boys Band); Jack Keeney, saxophone, flute and clarinet player at Club Hollywood, Wethersfield; John Cyrkiewicz, plays violin, xylophone and drums at a night club on Long Island; Bruno Ertel, clarinetist, with Creatore's Band; Louis Hammond, Public School Superintendent of Music in Elmoot, L.I. There are five musicians who are deceased, worthy of mention: Arthur Towne, organist, and teacher in Springfield and Waterbury; Ida Martin, violinist and teacher in St. Mary's School, Raleigh, North Carolina; William Fay, cornetist with Barnum and Bailey's Circus; William Brandenburg, clarinetist with Liberatti and Sousa Bands; William Sturgeon, tenor, choral conductor and supervisor of Public School Music at Mt. Hermon, New York.

As a center for development of music and individual artists, Rockville may well be proud.

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Vol. 15, April 1932, No. 4.

History of Eastern Connecticut

Author: Harwood, Pliny Le Roy

The Pioneer Historical Publishing Co. 1932.

Consultant:

Miss Mariette Fitch, 48-1/2 Union Street, Rockville, Conn.

VERNON III-A - DRAMA

In the early 70's amateur theatricals were popular and local talent furnished much of the entertainment for the wide-awake community of Rockville, which was the intellectual center of Vernon and has continued to develop artistically in music, art and drama. There appears to be a revival of that interest today in the Little Theatre Movement, which was organized this past year (Nov. 1935) with a membership of thirty active members. They have produced one play entitled "One Murdered". The play was given for the benefit of the Italian-American Club of Rockville in February, 1936. The players are handicapped in their productions by the cost of having to pay from \$25. to \$35. per night for the use of Sykes Auditorium, the only available hall of any size. This has somewhat dampened the enthusiasm of some of the players.

There is also a group called the Hospital Players, who have given three plays for the benefit of Rockville Hospital, not active at present. The annual minstrel show of the Rockville Textile Union, Local 2012, took place March 27, 1936. Max J. Schmidt is the director of this show and has directed minstrel shows for the past twenty-five years. There were novel stage settings, good comedy and excellent feature acts.

The faculty of the Rockville High School give a costume play each year and divide the proceeds with the high school, to be used for school equipment that is not taken care of in the budget. They recently gave "The Late Christopher Bean", which was very well done for amateur players.

The Rockville High School Dramatic Club are active and have given a three-act play for the past three years. In 1933 they produced the "Haunted Mystery"; in 1934, "The Whole Town is Talking"; and in 1935, "Tons of Money". They were very successful, both as to production and financially. Miss Mary Darling is the dramatic coach, and she feels that there is a definite need for public speaking classes in the high schools of today. The Senior and Junior classes of the Rockville High School produce plays each year for the benefit of the individual class. The money obtained from the Senior play is used to defray expenses for the annual trip to the nation's capitol at Washington, D. C.

The Annual Rockville High School Alumni Association prize speaking contest was held March 20, 1936. There were eight contestants chosen from a group of eighteen at a preliminary contest, all pupils in the high school being eligible to compete. In determining the winners, the following points were considered: enunciation, delivery, expression, gesture, presence, subject matter and preparation. The first prize was Ten Dollars, the second Five Dollars and the third Two and one-half Dollars.

"It Happened in Hartford", a movie with local talent, was recently produced in Hartford by Metro Goldwyn in the interest of finding new talent for the screen. Miss Viola Hoering, address No. 25 Oak Street, Rockville, a graduate of the Rockville High School, was the leading lady in this production. She is also prominent with the Aetna Players of Hartford.

"The Road to Understanding" was written for the Connecticut Knights of Pythias by the Rev. George S. Brookes, Ph.D., Pastor of the Union Congregational Church. The play was presented by the Knights and Pythian Sisters in the Sykes Auditorium in 1930. The story is based on the founding of the Order and the understanding of friendship, charity and benevolence as portrayed by this Society. It was well presented.

The young people of the Union Congregational Church will present the Easter pageant, "The Unshadowed Cross" on Easter Sunday, 1936.

The name of Rockville has also gone forth into wide areas through dramatic achievements. Charles Dillingham of New York City, well known producer of plays, was a Rockville boy.

The late Leila M. Church, the most talented writer and director of pageants, native of Rockville, was widely known because of her work. She was descended from pioneer stock and educated locally and had a winning personality. Her last pageant (Washington's 200th Birthday) was staged in Sykes Auditorium, Rockville, prior to her death in 1933. Her major historical pageants were produced in Glastonbury, Manchester, Enfield, Antrim, Northfield and New London. Also presented pageants at Mt. Holyoke College. The most outstanding piece of work which Miss Church achieved was the writing and directing of the town Centennial Pageant presented October 5, 1923, Manchester, Conn. She not only directed but wrote the outline, planned the scenery and costumes and being an accomplished musician wrote much of the music used. Many marveled at her skill and executive ability in staging such events. Her work was always a finished production in every detail and carefully planned. She also wrote several plays, which have been given in various parts of New England. The best known are, "The Jade Doll", "The Magic Carpet", "The Cat and the King". In the Maxwell Memorial Library are found three volumes entitled "Costumes of Bygone Years". They are compiled by Mariette N. Fitch, of Rockville in memory of Miss Church, who began this work, and is now continued from year to year.

The most successful event ever taking place in Vernon was the centennial or "Old Home Week" celebration, commemorating the one hundredth anniversary of the town of Vernon from 1808 to 1908 held the week of June 28th to July 4th inclusive.

It was a notable occasion and Rockville with its natural scenic advantages made a fine setting for the various decorations which transformed the city into a huge theatre, a gigantic carnival.

Everyone joined in the friendliness, gaiety and inspiration of the observance in the spirit of genuine hospitality from the men and women descendants of the pioneers who laid the foundations of Vernon to the strangers within the gates.

The centennial exercises began with the services at the historic Mother Church, the Congregational Church of Vernon Center and were followed by other notable events. The colonial ball, the antique and industrial exhibits, civic and military parade, concerts, receptions and banquets, not forgetting the vaudeville and "Midway" for pleasure seekers. It was a glorious week of festivity, marking a century of real progress in the town of Vernon.

In celebrating the Three Hundred Years of Progress in the State of Connecticut, 1935, the town of Vernon with Rockville as a part, observed the 127th founding of the town of Vernon with a fitting celebration on September 12, 13, 14, 1935. Episodes from colonial Connecticut were presented in a historic pageant by the public schools. There was also a Colonial and military ball, parades, sports program, public exercises, historical exhibits of old china, glassware, pewter, books, samplers and other articles of unusual interest. The Fall Flower Show under the auspices of the Rockville Garden Club was open to the public at this time without charge. The event was a success.

Rockville has two active moving picture houses: The Palace Theatre, No. 8 School Street, daily shows afternoon and evening. Belongs to chain of Interstate Theatres with central office at Putnam, Connecticut. Modern building in every detail. Features latest talking pictures, news reels and comedies. The Princess, Village Street; Frank Mann, owner. Features G. B. pictures (Gaumont British Films).

On July 4, 1919 Rockville celebrated "Welcome Home Day" in honor of the men and women from the city of Rockville and the Town of Vernon who served in the World War 1914-1919. It was the greatest celebration in it's entire history, with all patriotic, civic and fraternal organizations connected with town and city taking part.

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Summary of Vernon's History and Centennial Observance

Author: Harry Conklin Smith
C. Denison Talcott

Published, Rockville, Connecticut, 1911.
Press of T. F. Rady & Company

Connecticut - Yesterday and Today Celebrating Three Hundred Years of Progress
in the Constitution State; and 127th Anniversary of the Founding of the town of
Vernon with Rockville as a Part, 1635-1935.
Published by Rockville-Vernon Tercentenary Committee in charge of celebration.

Consultants:

Miss Gertrude Fuller, 8 North Park Street, Rockville, Conn.

Miss Mariette Fitch, 48½ Union Street, Rockville, Conn.

Miss Mary Darling, 30 High Street, Rockville, Conn.

Rev. George S. Brookes, Ph.D., 62 Union Street, Rockville, Conn.

VERNON III-A - ASSOCIATIONS AND SOCIETIES

Vernon, for the size of its population, has a great number of fraternal organizations and societies which are influential in the social and charitable life of the community.

The oldest strictly fraternal organization is Fayette Lodge of Masons which was organized in October 1825, in the William Morgan Tavern in Ellington. Masonry in the vicinity of Vernon is nearly as old as the town itself. Frank Winthrop Perry was the first Master Mason ever made in the town of Vernon in the famous King Tavern in 1857, where the first meeting place was held in a room in this tavern.

Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, Foresters of America, The Rockville Business Men's Association and Lions Club (both recently disbanded) have exerted a fine influence in the city of Rockville.

The Tolland County Agricultural Society was organized August 22, 1853, at the County House in Tolland by Jonathan Flynt, who was then treasurer of Tolland County. Ephraim H. Hyde was the first president who remained at the head of the society for a great many years. The fairs were held at Tolland for a few years and were then transferred to Rockville. When the park in Rockville was purchased, it was named Hyde Park in honor of the first president in consideration for his valuable services. In 1898, the Tolland County Agricultural Society became a joint stock corporation and the name was changed to the Rockville Fair Association. For many years the annual fair drew great numbers to the fair grounds (Hyde Park) and it was recognized as one of the largest and best in the state. One of the features was the horse races, and some famous horses have been trotted on this track, which has been abandoned for several years.

Sabra Trumbull Chapter D.A.R. are doing an effective work along patriotic lines. In 1908 they inaugurated a free evening school now under town support. The Chapter has recently been awarded a prize for the best work in the State during the year on better films, in recognition of the excellent work done by chairman, Mrs. Bessie Heck.

The Veterans' Association perpetuate the memory of departed soldiers who have taken part in the various wars of our country and are active in the civic and social life of the community.

The Village Improvement Society was successfully organized in 1886, and the Rockville Y.M.C.A. in 1889 by the Rev. W. J. Yates. Tolland County helps to support Y.M.C.A. Camp Woodstock.

The Rockville Building and Loan Association was organized November 20, 1889, and incorporated June 30, 1903. For the past forty-seven years, it has been very popular with the people of the entire community. Its mortgage loans approximate at present about one half million dollars. One of the most potent factors in the building of homes in the city of Rockville has been the activity of the Rockville Building and Loan Association. Hundreds of men and women own their property by subscribing to this plan of financing. Officers - George Arnold, Jr., President; John E. Fahey, Vice-President; Fred H. Holt, Treasurer; Charles M. Squires, Secretary.

There are two Boy Scout Troops, one sponsored by the American Legion, the other by the Union Church. Three Girl Scout Troops - Cardinal Flower Troop No.3, connected with the Union Congregational Church; Mountain Laurel Troop with the Methodist Church, and Camp Fire Girls with the Episcopal Church.

There are many other organizations and societies of the early group functioning effectively, and some of the newer associations worthy of mention are:

The College Club, organized 1934. Object: combined social and literary interests. Membership limited to graduates of colleges recognized by American Association of University Women.

The Rockville Garden Club has been organized five years. The spring show is held about the first week in June and the fall show in September, second week. Free to the public.

Patrons of Husbandry, Vernon Grange, is promoting a contest among the school children for the collection of tent caterpillar egg masses and the Vernon Civic Betterment Association is active in town improvements, also the Vernon Parent-Teachers Association.

The Retail Merchant's Association, a new organization but a few weeks old, has already shown evidence of greater activity, and business in general has improved throughout the city.

Following are the listed associations and societies in alphabetical order:

American Legion - Dobosz, Stanley Post No. 14
Meets 1st and 3d Tuesday, 14 Park Place
Adjutant, George M. Brigham, 33 Elizabeth St., Ellington

Hatheway-Miller Post No. 62
Meets 1st and 3d Thursday, Town Hall, Main Street, Ellington
Adjutant, Charles E. Batz, Snipsic RFD 4

Ancient Order of Hibernians Div. No. I
Meets 2d Monday, 13 Park Place
President, Thomas J. Kernan, 23 Hale Street
Ladies Auxiliary
Meets 2d and 4th Tuesday, 13 Park Place
Secretary, Mary Bresnahan, 32 Prospect Street

Ancient Order of United Workmen, Rockville Lodge No. 18
Secretary, Francis Murray, 39 Ward Street

Arbeiter Kranken Und Sterbe Kasse Branch No. 116
Meets last Sunday, Maple Grove Hall ft. Franklin Street
Secretary, Oscar Menge Jr., 121 High Street

Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, Rockville Lodge No. 1359
Meets 2d and 4th Thursday, 76 Prospect Street
Secretary, M. J. Cosgrove, 35 Lawrence Street

Burpee Woman's Relief Corps No. 11
Meets 1st and 3d Wednesday, 14 Park Place
Treasurer, Anna S. Dickinson, 50 Elm Street

G.D.K, Club
Meets Tuesday, 5 Park Place
Secretary, H. C. Dowding, 104 Talcott Avenue

Clerk Athletic Club
5 W. Main Street
Secretary, William Burke, 17 Linden Place

Connecticut Pomological Society
Alexander Bunce, Vice President, Rockville
Connecticut Vegetable Growers' Association, Tolland County North
Harry Liebman, Ellington; Gene Gagliardone, South Bolton, County Vice-Pres.

Connecticut Potato Growers' Marketing Assn., Inc.
President, Harry Liebman, Ellington
Connecticut Farm Bureau Federation
Vice President, R. A. Sykes, Ellington

Co-operative Marketing for Fruit and Vegetable Growers in Connecticut

Connecticut Native Fancy Turkey Marketing Project

Deutsche Order Harnhari, Rockville Lodge No. 436
Meets 1st Thursday, 62 Village Street
Secretary, Eugene Thuemmler, 107 Talcott Avenue

Rosalie Lodge No. 151
Meets 1st Thursday, 9 Elm Street
Secretary, Martha F. Fritzsche, 108 Union Street

Every Mother's Club
Meets 1st and 3rd Friday, 69 Union street
Secretary, Mrs. Florence E. Thompson, 35 East Street

Foresters of America, Court Hearts of Oak No. 16
Meets 2nd and 4th Thursday, 9 Elm Street
Secretary, Harry C. Dowding, 104 Talcott Avenue

Court Snipsic No. 32
Meets 1st and 3rd Monday, 13 Park Place
F. S. Frederick Berger, 12 Maiden Lane

Court Foresters' Pride Juvenile Branch No. 1
Meets 1st and 3rd Thursday, 9 Elm Street
Secretary, Arthur F. Ulitsch, 61 West Street

40-8 Voiture No. 1007
Meets 4th Friday, 14 Park Place
Secretary, Leo Lebreque, Somersville

Hockanum Fireman's Benevolent Society
Meets 1st Monday in Jan., April, July and Oct., 11 Ellington Avenue

Secretary, Fred W. Hermann, 57 Davis Avenue
Improved Order of Red Men, Kiowa Council No. 26, Degree of Pocahontas
Meets 2nd and 4th Friday, 9 Elm Street
K. of R., Mrs. Caroline L. Kane, 39 Village Street

Tankeroosen Tribe No. 51
Meets 2nd and 4th Tuesday, 9 Elm Street
C. of R., Louis H. Kreh, Jr., 38 Ward Street

Independent Order of Odd Fellows .
Mayflower Rebekah Lodge No. 38
Meets 2nd and 4th Tuesday, 5 W. Main Street
Secretary, Mrs. Alice H. Kington, 43 Hale Street

Rising Star Lodge No. 49
Meets every other Monday, 5 W. Main Street
Secretary, Harry C. Bartley, 125 Prospect Street

Knights of Columbus
Rockville Council No. 1155
Meets 2nd and 4th Tuesday, 13 Park Place
Secretary, F. S. Berger, 12 Maiden Lane

Knights of Pythias - Damon Lodge No. 17
Meets 2nd and 4th Wednesday, 9 Elm Street
K. of R., Arthur Friedrich, 23 Grant Street

Damon Temple No.4 Pythian Sisters
Meets 2nd and 4th Monday, 9 Elm Street
Secretary, Mrs. Beatrice Minor, Sunset Avenue

Knight of the Maccabees
Loom City Tent No. 25
Meets 2nd and 4th Thursday, 28 Union Street
Record Keeper, Robert Liebe, 136 Prospect Street

Kosciuszko Tadenz Polish National Society
Meets 1st Saturday, 123 W. Main Street .
Secretary, Andrew Fortuna, 68 Grand Avenue

Labor Organizations:

Carpenter's Unions No. 1472

Meets 1st and 3rd Friday, 26 Village Street

Secretary, William J. Schweitzer, Mountain St. bey. Snipsic St., Ellington RFD 4

Nation Assn. of Letter Carriers No. 589

Meets 1st Tuesday, Post Office

Secretary, William C. Pfunder, 35 Windsor Avenue

National Federation of Post Office Clerks No. 527

Meets last Tuesday, Post Office

Secretary, Albert A. Schmeiske, 31 Ellington Ave., Ellington

Painters Union Local No. 969

Meets 2nd Friday, 18 Elm Street

Secretary, George H. Winters, 53 Grove Street

Liedertafel Singing Society

Meets 2nd Thursday, 40 Ward Street

Secretary, Otto P. Lemme, 24 Thompson Street

Loyal Order of Moose Rockville Lodge No. 1574

Meets 1st and 3rd Tuesday, 18 Elm Street

Secretary, John Kuhnly, Jr., 47 Talcott Avenue

Masonic:

Adonirain Chapter No. 18 R.A.M.

Meets 1st and 3rd Thursday, 26 Union Street

Secretary, Alfred A. Girdoth, 220 E. Main Street

Adonirain Council No.14 R. & S. M.

Meets 2nd and 4th Friday, 26 Union Street

Secretary, Charles R. McLean, 7 Pleasant Street

Fayette Lodge No. 69 A. F. & A. M.

Meets 2nd and 4th Tuesday, 26 Union Street

Secretary, Herbert A. Porter, 94 Prospect Street

Hope Chapter No. 10 O. E. S.
Meets 1st and 3rd Tuesday, 28 Union Street
Secretary, Mrs. Ruth M. Cooley, 70 Orchard Street

Modern Woodmen of America
Rockville Camp No. 9272
Clerk, Joseph Moss, 5 Talcott Avenue

Owl's Club, The
South Street, R.F.D. 1

Patrons of Husbandry Vernon Grange No. 52
Meets 1st and 3rd Friday, Grange Hall, Vernon Center
Secretary, Ethel F. Dart, Bolton Road, Vernon Center R.F.D. 1

Polish American Citizens Club
Meets 2nd Tuesday, 62 Village Street
Secretary, John A. Krukierrek, 10 Becker Place

Polish Athletic Club
62 Village Street

Polish Citizens Club
62 Village Street

Retail Merchants Association
40 Vernon Avenue
Secretary, Lester W. Martin, 40 Vernon Avenue

Rockville Fife & Drum Corps, Inc., The
Meets 1st Friday, 5 W. Main Street
Secretary, T. Yanishewsky, off Grand Avenue, Pillsbury Hill

Rockville Fish and Game Club
Skeet grounds, off Mile Hill Rd, Tolland

Rockville Home Club, Inc.
Meets 3rd Wednesday, 18 Elm Street
Secretary, John Kuhnly, Jr., 47 Talcott Avenue

Rockville Lions Club
Meets 1st and 3rd Wednesday, 4 Park Place
Secretary, Allen L. Dresser, 92 Prospect Street

Sons of Herman Margaretha Lodge No. 180 D.H.S.
Meets 2nd Thursday, 9 Elm Street
Secretary, Mrs. Marie T. Lehman, 23 Franklin Street

Sons of St. George, General Kitchener Lodge No. 431
Meets 1st and 3rd Wednesday, 9 Elm Street
Secretary, R. E. Elliott, 127 Prospect Street

Sons of Union Veterans, Skinner Alden Camp No. 45
Meets 2nd and 4th Thursday, 14 Ward Place
Secretary, Francis LaCross, 43 High Street

Skinner Alden Auxiliary No. 5
Meets 1st and 3rd Friday, 14 Park Place
Secretary, Mrs. Annie W. Willeke, 2 East Street

Rockville Retail Merchants Association
Meets at call of president, 40 Vernon Avenue
Secretary, Lester W. Martin, King Street

Rockville Sick Benevolent Society No. 1
Meets 1st Saturday in Jan., April, July, Oct., 62 Village Street
Secretary, Eugene Thuemmler, 107 Talcott Avenue

Rockville Turner Society
Meets 1st Monday, 26 Village Street
Secretary, Morris Kemnitzer, 15 Windsor Avenue

Rockville Visiting Nurse Association
Meets 2nd Tuesday (8-9), 13 Park Place
Secretary, L. Maude Weyhe, 48 Park Place

Royal Arcanum Rockville Council No. 1437
Meets 1st and 3rd Thursday
Secretary, John Kuhnly, Jr., 47 Talcott Avenue

Singing and Declamation Club of Rockville
Meets Friday, Maple Grove Hall, ft. Franklin St.
Secretary, Oscar Roehler, 77 Grand Avenue

Sons of Herman
Meets 2d Wednesday, 5-1/2 Village Street
Secretary, Felix A. Yanke, 47 Grand Avenue

Tolland County Farm Bureau - Meets on call, 13 Park Place
President, Robert E. Foote, R.F.D. Andover
Secretary, Williard F. Pinney, R.F.D. Ellington
Treasurer, Alex. Bunce, R.F.D. Rockville
Agricultural Agent, Ernest E. Tucker, Prescott Bldg., Rockville
Chief Agent, Gilford Gowles, Rockville
Home Demonstration Agent, Evelyn M. Plummer, Rockville

Tolland County Welfare Council
Treas. Office, 15 Park Place
Chairman, L. F. Bissell, 74 Prospect Street

Tolland County Y. M. C. A.
Meets 3rd Floor, 13 Park Place
Secretary, Rev. William F. Tyler, Hartford Turnpike, Vernon Center, R.F.D. 1

Tolland Library Association
Meets Annually in September, Tolland Library
Secretary, Mrs. Charles Gunther, Hyde Avenue, Grove, Vernon R.F.D. 2

Union Congregational Mothers' Club
Meets 3rd Wednesday, Union Congregational Church of Christ
Elm Street, c. Union St.
Secretary, Mrs. Alfreda M. Schrupf, 46 Ward Street

United Spanish War Veterans
James W. Milne Camp
Meets 2d Tues., 14 Park Place
Adjutant, Herman P. Franz, Tolland R.F.D. 4

Veterans of Foreign Wars Frank Badstuebner Post No. 2090
Meets 2nd Friday, 14 Park Place
Commander, Frank H. Rizey, Talcottville Rd., Vernon R.F.D. 3
Auxiliary Meets 4th Friday, 14 Park Place
Secretary, Flora E. Brendel, 93 Grand Avenue

Woman's Benefit Assn. Laurel Review No. 17
Meets 2nd and 4th Tuesday, 18 Elm Street
R.S., Mrs. J. A. Hewitt, 105 Prospect Street

Woman's Christian Temperance Union
Secretary, Mrs. Clara S. Keeney, 15 Mountain Street

Workmen's Benefit and Benevolent Assn. No. 116
Meets last Sunday, Maple Grove Hall ft. Franklin St.
Secretary, Oscar Menge, Jr., 121 High Street

Young German American Association
Meets 1st Tues. (4) 5 W. Main Street
Secretary, John H. Yost, 10 Thompson Street

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Summary of Vernon's History and Centennial Observance
Authors: Smith, Harry Conklin; Talcott, C. Denison
Press: T. F. Rady & Company, 1911, Rockville, Conn.

Articles taken from the Rockville Journal
Tuesday, April 7, 1936

Rockville Directory, 1934

Consultant:

Miss Gertrude Fuller, 8 North Park Street, Rockville, Conn.

VERNON III-A - EDUCATION: GRADE SCHOOLS

There are eight public school districts in Vernon under the supervision of Herbert O. Clough, who is an educator of state-wide prominence. Mr. Clough is a graduate of Bowdoin College 1896 and was principal of the Deep River High School, Deep River, Conn., for thirteen years. He came to Rockville, Conn., in 1918 as Superintendent of Public Schools.

Twelve hundred (approx.) children attend the East District School, Maple Street, Northeast, Vernon Center, Vernon Depot, Dobsonville, Talcottville and Ogden's Corner Schools in Vernon with thirty-one teachers, all graduates of normal schools. There are two special teachers: Mrs. Helen Upson, Music Supervisor and Miss Anna Hendrick, Sewing. Manual training and sewing are taught in all the schools within the city (Rockville) limits. A course in basketry is taught in the fifth grades. For seventh grade boys who do not intend to take higher education a course in electricity is provided at the Sykes Manual Training School. The three public grade schools in Rockville are model buildings, and four of the six are new.

The East District and West District (Maple Street) schools include eight grades and a kindergarten respectively. The Northeast School has three rooms and teaches six grades; Vernon Center, one room and five grades; Dobsonville, one room and four grades; Vernon Depot, two rooms and six grades; Talcottville, one room and six grades; Ogden's Corner, one room and five grades.

Rockville has two parochial schools: St. Bernard's Roman Catholic Convent School, 22 School Street, Father George Sinnott, Principal. Sister Edith, Order of the Sisters of Mercy, Superior, in charge of school. Grades 1-8 with one hundred and ninety-six pupils in attendance, St. Joseph's Polish Roman Catholic Convent School, Father Sigismund Woroniecki, Principal. Sister Mary Amelia of the Order of Felician Sisters, Superior, in charge of school. Grades 1-8 with one hundred and ninety pupils in attendance.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

History of Eastern Connecticut, Vol. III

Author: Harwood, Pliny LeRoy

The Pioneer Historical Publishing Co., 1932

Reports of the Selectmen - Town of Vernon 1935

Consultants:

Mrs. Annie B. Andrews, Principal, East District School

No. 10 School Street, Rockville, Conn.

Sister Edith, Superior, St. Bernard's Roman Catholic Convent School

No. 22 School Street, Rockville, Conn.

Sister Mary Amelia, Superior, St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Convent School

No. 31 West Street, Rockville, Conn.

VERNON III-A - EDUCATION: HIGH SCHOOL

The schools in Vernon rank next to the churches in public regard. School societies were first established in North Bolton in 1796, which was the prevailing method at that time in the promotion and regulation of all school matters. In the early days, the common education was a subject for action at town meeting and there was usually but one parish in each town. As the population increased, a division became necessary and two or more parishes began to occupy the same general territory. With this division into parishes came the gradual transfer of school supervisor from the town authorities to the leaders of each parish. The school society was a self-supporting representative committee of the parish interested in school matters. The first meetings of the society in North Bolton were held in the old meeting house. The parish was then divided into districts and the erection of small school houses soon followed with the visiting committee appointed in 1808, when North Bolton became Vernon.

The southern part of the town of Vernon developed first. The Vernon Center, Dobson, Phoenix and Valley Falls districts became the first of importance. In Rockville, the first district to develop was the West, and this school stood near the old Grant Mill. In the East District, there was no schoolhouse until 1836, and to meet the needs of the village, schools were held in private homes. In that year, the society voted to keep school four months of the year which was the first reference to the length of the term of instruction, which probably was elementary and until 1839, there was but one grade. In 1848, the first regular school building was completed for both lower and higher grades, and this marked the beginning of the modern system of education. A state law in 1856 abolished the school societies and transferred the school jurisdiction from the parish back to the town. It was some time later (1866) before the various school districts were made uniformly responsible to the town authority as it is today.

In 1870, education advanced rapidly and a second regular school building was erected and a high school course inaugurated. It was under district management until 1893, when the first town High School Committee was appointed and was known as The Public High School of Vernon. Randall Spaulding was the first principal following the establishment of a High School Course. The first class was graduated in 1873, which consisted of Thomas Goodell and his brother Edwin B. Goodell. These brothers graduated from Yale University in the class of 1877, the former becoming a distinguished Greek scholar, and a member of the faculty of Yale University.

There have been many graduates from the Rockville High School who have become distinguished and many of the following were graduates of Yale University:

Judge Lucian Burpee, Justice Supreme Court in Connecticut; Charles W. Burpee, writer and editor, Hartford, Connecticut; Judge Edward Gavegan, Justice Supreme Court in New York; Thomas W. Noone, State's Attorney for many years; George Kellogg, Receiver in Bankruptcy, State of Connecticut; John B. Thomas, Town Clerk of Vernon for twenty years; Earl D. Church, appointed United States Commissioner of Pensions under President Hoover, died in office about five years ago; Miss Ella Dickenson, Registrar at Mt. Holyoke College; Dr. Isaac Agard, Principal of Rockville High School from 1888 to 1906; and was president of Straight College in New Orleans; Floyd C. Harwood, graduated from Rockville High and afterward was an instructor at Yale University; Frank P. Olds, graduate of Harvard, well known journalist, associated with the Milwaukee Journal; Ernest Whiting, instructor in literature at Yale University; Rodney L. Loomis, City Manager of West Hartford, Connecticut, graduate of Rensselaer Polytechnic; Dr. John A. Wilson, specialist in New York Hospital for many years; Col. Harold Loomis, graduate of West Point Military Academy and also an instructor on the staff, served in World War; Anna Maskel, poetess, graduated from Rockville High School, now at Columbia University, New York City, author of "Wild Stubble" and other poems; Alice M. Watts, Librarian Aetna Life Insurance Company, Hartford, Connecticut; Ruth B. McLean, Head of Cataloguing Department, State Library, Hartford, Connecticut; Sigismund Dielenschneider, Journalist, New York Office, Philadelphia Ledger; Leo T. Kelly, connected with United States Veterans Bureau, Washington, D.C.

Harry Brooks Marsh, M.A., was the second principal of the Public High School of Vernon from 1906 to 1912, and Philip M. Howe, A.M., was assistant principal who became principal in 1912 and is the present incumbent. Mr. Howe is a graduate of Yale University, 1902. There is an enrollment of about seven hundred pupils in the high school and two hundred of these are tuition students from other towns. Twenty-five teachers compose the faculty. Text books are furnished free.

George Sykes closely identified with the growth of Rockville for a third of a century, at his death in 1903, he left a fund of \$100,000 for a manual training school for Rockville and his family presented a desirable site on Park Street. The George Sykes Manual Training School building, which the Rockville High School now occupies, is one of the most modern and best equipped schools in the state. Besides the regular class rooms, it contains the Sykes Auditorium with seating capacity for eight hundred and sixteen, a modern stage, a gymnasium of ample size, a physical laboratory, a chemical laboratory, a biological laboratory, a domestic science suite, a woodworking shop, a machine shop, a forge and plumbing room, a commercial department, a mechanical drawing room, a library, a lunch room, dressing rooms and showers. The Auditorium is equipped with a motion picture booth with two machines.

Graduates are admitted to many colleges and professional schools upon certification by the principal. This High School is approved by the New England College Entrance Certificate Board, representing the following colleges: Amherst, Bates, Boston University, Bowdoin, Brown University, Clark, Colby, Massachusetts Agricultural College, Middlebury, Tufts, Wesleyan University and Williams. Students who have completed the work of the graded schools, approved by the School Committee of the Town of Vernon, are admitted by certificate to the High School, which offers four courses of study, each of four years. There has been an increase in High School attendance because of less opportunities for work.

The pupils of the Rockville High School have an incentive to high standing in scholarship by the offer of various prizes:

E. Stevens Henry Prize. By will of E. Stevens Henry, the Town of Vernon has received the sum of \$1,000., the income of which is to be used as prizes for superior scholarship among the several classes. The Alumni Association offers prizes of ten dollars, five dollars and two and one-half dollars respectively for the three best speakers at an annual prize-speaking contest, open to all pupils of the school.

Girls' Club Prize. In 1931, a Girls' Club Prize was established by the Rockville Girls' Club to be conferred on that girl in the graduating class, who, in the opinion of the Principal and Faculty, best exemplified the qualities of fine character, scholarship, leadership, initiative and general promise.

Rensselaer Polytechnic Alumni Association Award. The Rensselaer Polytechnic Alumni Association of Connecticut offers a prize medal to the scholar of graduation class showing the greatest proficiency in science and mathematics.

The Charles Ellsworth Nettleton Memorial Award is annually awarded at graduation to that boy of the Senior Class who most nearly approaches the standard of fine character, scholarship, leadership, initiative and general promise set by Charles Ellsworth Nettleton, who died in January, 1929, at the age of 22.

The Rockville Evening School, A. L. Dresser, Principal, had its usual winter term. A large class availed themselves of the opportunity to take courses in the usual branches of manual work and commercial branches. The sewing class started out well but dropped off considerably toward the end of the term. No beginners class in English was taught, as there was no request for it, a lack of pupils.

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Harry Conklin Smith, C. Denison Talcott
Pub. Rockville, Connecticut, 1901
Press of T. E. Rady & Company .

Consultant:

Mr. Philip M. Howe, Principal, Rockville High School, Rockville, Conn.

VERNON III-B - PARKS

Rockville, the industrial center of the town of Vernon, is so geographically situated as to render impossible the allotment of much space for parks and gardens. However, the majority of the people are home owners and take pride in well-kept lawns and shrubbery. Colorful flowers in season add to the attractiveness of the city, set high on a series of hills. Its triple terraced streets are as picturesque as many of the historic Old World villages.

There are four public parks: Talcott Park, a square centrally located, is bounded by Park, Elm and Prospect Streets with cement walks radiating from the center and shaded by stately elms. This park was a gift to the city by Phineas Talcott, who was a potent influence in political circles and a factor of great importance in public life of the city of Rockville. Talcott Park acquired its name in his honor about 1850.

Central Park, as the name indicates, is on the main thoroughfare, a small oval plot of greensward, granite curbed, at the junction of Main, Union and Elm Streets. This park was donated by adjacent land owners and laid out in two plots originally and into its present shape in the early seventies. The Rev. Horace Winslow was the first person to interest the townspeople in making this an attractive spot. Trees were planted, walks laid and benches placed. Today it is a fine memorial to his enthusiasm and efforts.

An odd drinking fountain adorns one corner of the Central Park and has graced the center of the city for many years. This ornamental fountain was the gift of Dr. Henry D. Cogswell and at one time a likeness of the donor appeared on the top. Dr. Cogswell came to Rockville from South Coventry and was one of the first dentists to open an office in Rockville. In 1882 Dr. Cogswell, who had removed to California, wrote and offered the city a substantial drinking fountain to adorn the park. He imposed only one condition: That Rockville would provide the base. It did and the statue came and was erected. It was Dr. Cogswell in characteristic pose, extending a glass of water. Apparently the statue of Dr. Cogswell did not meet with full public approval for it was removed and later recovered from the waters of Lake Snipsic. However, a flower urn was substituted for the vanished Dr. Cogswell, and the fountain serves its purpose to the passerby with fine water, iced at the expense of the city.

Lafayette Park, a small park at the intersection of Grove, East and South Streets, Hyde Avenue and Cemetery Road, was a memorial to General Lafayette erected in 1902. It consists of a large native boulder with appropriate inscription on a bronze plate. A fine row of maples, nearly a mile long, set out by Lemuel King, flourish along the road by

the Old King Tavern, now the Town Farm, in this vicinity.

Henry Park and Fox Hill, a gift to the city by the late E. Stevens Henry, 1923, who gave the land and \$25,000 to develop it. The hill is 693 ft. above sea level and from the top, a magnificent view of the city and the surrounding country may be seen. It contains about twenty-five acres of land with improved roads. Shrubs and various kinds of flowers add to the natural scenic beauty.

There is a beacon light on the top of Fox Hill that is a guide to aviators and may be seen for many miles. There are walks and picnic groves and a fine new baseball field with bleachers, recently developed as a Public Works Project. One may vision nature in all its moods from Fox Hill.

The upper part of North Park Street furnishes a delightful prospect and "Maxwell Court", the home of Francis T. Maxwell, crowning one of the hills of Rockville, commands a beautiful view of the Connecticut Valley. The house, which is one of the finest examples of Italian architecture, and the formal gardens with their particular characteristics were designed by the late Charles A. Platt of New York City. The Maxwell Court gardens have various kinds of flowers, both from native and foreign soil. Especially fine are the tulips in spring.

"Kellogg Lawn" , the home of William and Miss J. Alice Maxwell is situated centrally and the estate faces West Main Street on the south and Union Street on the north. The hillside approaches are planted with wild and old fashioned flowers of New England that grow in abundance. There are several elevations of these extensive gardens, each with their own particular types of flowers or shrubbery tastefully arranged. There are many rare flowers and plants from distant lands and the trees form a setting that lends a quaint charm to this quiet spot, scarcely a hundred feet from the busy city streets.

There are other gardens of note: The estate of Charles Phelps, corner of Ellington Avenue and Prospect Street is markedly attractive and that of Luther Fuller at No. 8 North Park Street is worthy of mention.

Consultant:

Mrs. Francis T. Maxwell, 9 North Part Street, Rockville, Conn.

VERNON III-B - RECREATION

Rockville, in Vernon, has always been a community interested in the promotion of sports, and in the early days, bicycle, camera, polo, baseball, cricket and boating clubs were popular and active. Also basketball, football and hockey in their season.

For many years local baseball league games were played at the Rockville Fair Grounds until this property was sold to St. Bernard's Catholic Church for a cemetery. The new diamond at Fox Hill in Henry Park is a fine addition to the city for the purpose of this entertainment, as it affords ample space for parking and large attendance. The season opens May 10th, and the grounds are reached from Hartford via (R.15) to Lanz Four Corners on Hartford Turnpike to Vernon, turn left and follow to South Street on right, then to entrance of park. Entering Vernon from the east on Hartford Turnpike, turn right on South Street below intersection at Town Farm and Grove Streets, Rockville, and proceed to park entrance.

The first supervised public playground in Rockville for the East and West District Schools was organized in 1917, with Miss Waterbury, a graduate of Vassar College and the Anderson Normal School of Gymnastics, in charge, and is now continued as a community project with modern play equipment.

There are tennis courts connected with the Union Congregational Church, No. 62 Union Street, center of Rockville, open to the public, fee \$3.00 per year for non-members. Tennis courts at the German Evangelical Church, No. 104 West Main Street, a short distance from the center - \$3.00 per year for non-members. Tennis court over the line on Mountain Street, in Ellington, known as the St. Louis Tennis Court, semi private, \$1.00 per year. Private tennis court at Maxwell Court, No. 9 North Park Street, loaned to teachers on occasion.

Crystal Lake, formerly known as "Square Pond", Tolland County's leading summer resort, is located seven miles from the center of Rockville (R.15) and offers exceptional opportunities for boating enthusiasts, excellent bathing beaches, with a life-guard in attendance, canoes and flat-bottomed rowboats and good fishing. At Sandy Beach Ball Room there is regular dancing, with well-known orchestras, and a Saturday evening specialty. Exceptional "over-nite" and bungalow privileges, with camping accommodations for bathers, at the modern Wendell Bungalows overlooking the lake. Restaurant service at lakeside. Open May 15 to September 15.

Tankeroosan Lake, formerly called the "Tin Bridge Pond", is located on Phoenix Street between Dobson Village and Vernon Center, to the right at Wetstone Tobacco Plantation, on (R.15) Hartford Turnpike. A recent development in cottage homes; very quiet and restful.

Walker's Reservoir on Bolton Road, right at Town Farm intersection at Rockville, at Lafayette Park on (R.15) Hartford Turnpike, is used by youngsters for bathing.

Nearby lakes noted for fishing are Bolton Lake, a series of three ponds on the highway between Manchester and Willimantic, and bordering Vernon on the south. Road right at intersection Town Farm and Grove Street at Lafayette Park, Rockville.

Fishing and hunting are permitted according to the Connecticut Fish and Game Laws, booklet published, State Office Building, Hartford, Connecticut. (Information in full previously given under General Topography.)

The Dog Spring Field Trials of the Rockville Fish and Game Club is an annual affair. Reservations are made from dog owners all over New England and eastern New York about the first week in May. Run at the County lot in Tolland (R.74) with the route posted and activities advertised in the newspapers.

The Cogswell Brook Golf Course, West Road, Ellington, just over the line from Rockville on (R.83) is patronized by local fans. It is a nine hole course, and to play it the fee is thirty-five cents. Yearly rates \$5.00 for women and \$10.00 for men.

Throughout Vernon are many dirt roads leading through exceptionally beautiful trails, excellent for hiking or riding horseback. Most of the land is privately owned and posted, but the roads are frequented irregularly, which allows for a pleasurable jaunt. Just over the town line of Vernon in Manchester on (R.15) is the Scranton Approved Wayside Station with "over-nite" and camping facilities. A riding academy is connected with the station and is patronized by Vernon and Rockville residents. Rates \$1.50 per hour.

The Palace Theatre, one of the Interstate Chain of Theatres, located on School Street, shows the leading talking pictures. It was renovated in 1928 at a cost of \$60,000. The interior is finished in Spanish design and has a large improved organ. Shows daily at 2:30 and 8 P.M.; Saturdays at 2:30, 6:30 and 8:30 P.M. and Sundays at 7 and 8:45 P.M.

Works Progress Administration Community Center Project - Francis D. Leonard, Supervisor. Originally active as an Emergency Relief Educational Project and continued under Playground Association with Federal Emergency Relief Funds. Supervisor of Playground, 1935, Miss Marjorie Wainwright, 102 Grove St., Rockville. Present community program in progress now, every afternoon and three evenings a week with groups of about twenty calisthenics for girls, group games and dramatics for both girls and boys are under the supervision of Mrs. Esther H. Kemnitzer, Hale Street Extension, Rockville.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Consultants:

Miss Gladys Willey, 52 Union Street, Rockville, Conn.

Mrs. Esther H. Kemnitzer Instructor, W.P.A., C.C.P.
Hale Street Extension, Rockville, Conn.

VERNON III-B - HEALTH AND SOCIAL WORK

Public Health in Vernon is free from many of the usual community diseases and may be attributed to the locality, excellent drinking water and fine sewage disposal, also the vigilance of the health and social organizations for the prevention and control of disease.

The Rockville Visiting Nurse Association, established in 1912, is doing excellent work in Rockville and surrounding communities, They carry on the social service and welfare in addition to the bedside care, which is their first consideration. They have cooperated with Mrs. Kenneth Little in administering the work of the Federal Emergency Relief in Vernon.

An educational health program is open to all young mothers who will bring their babies to the Well Baby Conferences, held twice a month at the Visiting Nurse rooms, Prescott Building. Prenatal care and advice is given to expectant mothers and a nurse is on call to assist at deliveries. All cases are followed up with post natal and child hygiene care and every effort made to give help to anyone, who will avail himself of the Visiting Nurse Service.

A tuberculosis clinic, one or more and follow up, and toxoid clinics are held in the summer months in cooperation with local doctors and this service is given at a minimum charge. The nurses are in constant touch with the Hartford Hospital and follow all cases brought to their attention.

Rockville Chapter, American Red Cross, including surrounding towns of Ellington, Somers, Willington and Tolland was established in 1918. First President, Louis H. Talcott.

The Rockville Convalescent Home, 23 Elm Street, Miss Minnie McCarthy, Supervisor. Capacity 8; \$15. per week. Also takes couples and elderly people for care.

The influenza epidemic 1918-1919 was taken care of by volunteer aid. The Rockville High School (old brick building, Park Street) was utilized as a temporary hospital. Excellent work in caring for the sick was done by Dr. T. E. Rockwell (deceased), who organized a camp in his back yard and converted his garage into a kitchen and cared for patients until he too succumbed to the disease. Mrs. Arthur Newell and Mrs. W. B. Bean, of the Methodist Church group, were very active during this siege and were highly commended. There were eighty deaths as the result of the epidemic and from this severe lesson, Rockville people became interested in establishing a hospital.

The Rockville City Hospital is one of the best institutions of its kind, and was the outgrowth of a fund of \$50,000. given by the late William H. Prescott. The wife of William Prescott, Mrs. Celia Kinney Prescott, also left a large bequest to the hospital at her death. The late E. Stephens Henry and Robert Maxwell also endowed the hospital generously. A recent gift has been made in the form of a wooded tract adjoining the hospital on the north, known as the Rock Lot, by Mr. Frederick Swindells.

The hospital is staffed locally, each physician on service two months. There are five day and two night nurses. Private rooms are at the rate of \$5. per day; ward \$14. per week; operating and delivery room extra. Has a well equipped operating room and new sterilizer equipment, X-ray under supervision of Dr. John Flaherty.

The Rockville Welfare Association was organized in 1931. President, S. C. Cummings; Mrs, D. J. McCarthy, Treasurer. This organization was active in 1933-1934. The Hockanum Mills Co. cooperated by placing anyone at work that had been investigated and recommended for a job. It was considered a fine example in the town of how welfare work could be handled by its own people and town setup. The factories operated with curtailed force at the peak of the depression but opportunities for work for as many as possible were made, which required less money to be raised for welfare work, and all organizations worked through the town so as not to duplicate.

The list follows:

Rockville Chapter, American Red Cross - President, Nelson Mead, 57 Elm Street, Rockville; Treasurer William E. Partridge, 19 Elm Street, Rockville; Secretary, Mrs. Walter Draycott, 23 Davis Avenue, Rockville; Assistant Secretary, Mrs. Minnie Swartfiguer, 8 Davis Avenue, Rockville.

Rockville Visiting Nurse Association - Prescott Block, 15 Park Street. Miss Miranda Bradley, R.N. , Superintendent (on leave of absence) Rockville; Miss Alice E. Goehring, R.N., Assistant Superintendent; Miss Helen Steger R.N.; Miss Helen Regan, R.N. Office hours 8 to 9:50 A.M. and 1 to 1:30 P.M. Visiting hours 8 A.M. to 5 P.M. Funds raised by annual membership drive.

President, George -Arnold; Vice Presidents, Mrs. F. T. Maxwell, Maurice Spurling and F. N. Belding; Treasurer, Sherwood Cummings; Secretary, Miss Maude Wehye; Executive Committee, Lebbeus Bissell, Geoge Wendheiser, Arthur Hayward, Maurice Spurling, Mrs, Thomas Sykes, Mrs. F. H. Burke, Mrs. H. J. Regan and Mrs. Walter Draycott.

Rockville Convalescent Home - Miss Minnie McCarthy, RN., Supervisor; capacity 8; \$15. per week.

Rockville City Hospital - 48 Prospect Street, telephone 512; has capacity for 50 patients. Superintendent, Mrs. Agnes Lazzerin; Col. Francis T. Maxwell, Chairman, Board of Trustees.

Physicians and Surgeons - Francis M. Dickinson, 38 Elm Street, Rockville; Roy C. Ferguson, 57 Union St.; John E Flaherty, 42 Elm St.; E. Harrison Metcalf, 50 Elm St. and Thomas O'Loughlin, 51 Elm St.

Rockville Welfare Association - President, S. C. Cummings, 10 Ellington Ave.; Treasurer, Mrs. D. J. McCarthy.

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Consultants:

Helen Regan, R.N.

Helen Steger, R.N., 15 Park St. Rockville

Lebbeus. E. Bissell, Ellington Avenue, Rockville

Philip H. Howe, 18 Talcott Avenue, Rockville

Mrs. Clara Cole Keeney, 15 Mountain Street, Rockville

VERNON III-B - ETHNOLOGY

The population in the district of Vernon until 1845 was native American of English extraction. By 1850 the Irish emigrant had come to settle in Rockville and in 1868 there was a great influx of Germans. For several years, at least a third of the population was of German birth or descent. These early Germans came from Holstein and the woolen manufacturing districts of western Germany. They are an industrious class, home owners and fine citizens. Their children have intermarried.

About 1910, the population again changed with the Polish people coming to Vernon in large numbers until today they represent about 50% of the total population. They are employed chiefly in the factories and on farms. The German element rates about 35% and 10% covers the American, Irish, English, Italian, Swedish, Swiss and Negro peoples. The remaining 5% being Jewish.

The Polish and German people use their native tongue and many of the Polish children speak poor English, They attend the parochial school, where the language is taught one hour daily. The racial groups are sharply defined and more noticeable with the Polish and German people. Today they are a cosmopolitan group, speaking many languages, as the builders of the Tower of Babel in early Biblical times.

The German people are credited with bringing to Rockville the lager beer saloon and there were several taverns serving this beverage as early as 1870. They also were clannish and the social customs of the old world made Rockville seem like a German mountain village. However, the controlling interests of the town of Vernon and city of Rockville have been chiefly in the original mold of American ideals of the founders and the city, while foreign in population to a great extent, does not show any marked change in architecture or social customs.

The estimated population of Vernon in 1930 was 8,703; approximate population of Rockville today 9,000.

Consultant:

Town Clerk, Mr. Frederick Hartenstein, 138 Prospect Street, Rockville, Conn.

VERNON III-B - CEMETERIES

The town of Vernon has five cemeteries: four public and St. Bernard's Cemetery. The first cemetery in Rockville, purchased in 1847, consisted of seven and one-half acres, costing three hundred and ninety-eight dollars. Additional grounds were purchased for cemetery purposes in 1867.

Grove Hill is an attractive burial ground containing five monuments and four mausoleums built of marble and granite with stained glass windows, the family resting place of Bond, Phelps, Preston and Brautigam. Exceedingly beautiful in simplicity of design and architecture.

The early pioneer cemetery, known as the East Cemetery is at Vernon Center, a half mile east of Vernon's first meeting house on the road from Rockville to Bolton. It is of historic interest. Captain Moses Thrall, who was the first to settle on the tract of land in the vicinity of the ancient cemetery in 1703, was one of the pioneers in what is now Vernon Center. He died in 1770 and is buried in this burial ground. Daniel Thrall was one of the first sextons of this historic spot. His son, Ira Thrall, succeeded him and he in turn was succeeded by his son, Alfred O. Thrall.

Elmwood, located in Vernon Center, is a triangular plot, terraced and shaded with pines, hemlocks and cedars. It is also historic.

One very interesting and odd-shaped granite obelisk of the short type, is that of Lemuel King, founder of the famous King Tavern in Rockville and also of Revolutionary War fame.

The Southwest Cemetery, below Dobsonville on Dobson Avenue and Talcottville Highway, (R. 83) is also the burial place of those who settled near and in that section of Vernon about 1775. John Warburton and Mary Booth, his wife, rest in the quiet yard with Betsey, their daughter, who died at the age of four in 1779.

Mt. Hope Cemetery, off Hartford Turnpike at Talcottville in Vernon, is largely maintained by Talcott Brothers.

List of Cemeteries:

Grove Hill Cemetery, with entrances on Grove Street, is between the Hockanum River and Hale Street

St. Bernard's Cemetery, East Main Street and Kingsbury Avenue, near Tolland line (R. 74).

Elmwood Cemetery, Bolton Road, corner Cemetery Road and Old Pioneer Cemetery, Bolton Road, both at Vernon Center, (R.15) Hartford Turnpike

Southwest Cemetery, Dobson Avenue and Talcottville Highway to Rockville (R.83).

Mt. Hope Cemetery, Hartford Turnpike (R.15) Talcottville.

Cemetery of the Congregation Keneseth Israel, located in Ellington Center. Samuel Rosenberg, Cemetery Agent, Ellington. Telephone, 282-4. Entrance on Maple Street (R. 83) from Vernon.

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VERNON III-B - RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS AND STRUCTURES

The ecclesiastical history of Vernon begins with the settlement of the town of Bolton in which the larger part of Vernon was then included. The history of the Church and Society during this long period presents but few facts. The principal one is shown by the record of church communicants that there were almost yearly additions to the membership. The record of business transacted by the church as showing contentions but few occasions for church discipline. The parish was formed by the name of North Bolton in 1760 and was organized as the Second Church of Christ in Bolton in 1762. When the town was incorporated in 1808, the church and society took the name of Vernon.

The first house of worship, one half mile east of the present building, was erected on an elevation and called Meeting House Hill in 1762. This church was of the prevailing style of architecture, a plain four-sided building with doors and windows in the east and west ends. The interior of the house was fitted with nearly square pews with straight-back seats. There were galleries on three sides and high above the stairs in each front corner, a Negro pew. The pulpit was elevated with a sounding board above. The present building was erected in 1826 and thoroughly remodeled in 1851 when the portico and spire were added. The spire was taken down in 1896. The first pastor, Rev. Ebenezer Kellogg, was ordained over the church and congregation on November 24, 1762, and completed a term of fifty years, through which period of time Rev. Kellogg had been detained from attending public worship and preaching on the Lord's Day not more than twelve Sabbaths.

The Rev. Kellogg was born in Norwalk, Connecticut, April 5, 1737, was graduated from Yale University in 1757, studied theology under the Rev. David Judson of Newtown, Connecticut and was licensed to preach May 28, 1760. He did not make a public confession of religion until he was twenty-one years of age.

He read his sermons without any action. They were serious discourses, carefully setting forth the most important doctrines and duties of religion. The seasons of uncommon spiritual awakening and influence were 1772, 1782, 1800, 1809 and 1815. The Rev. Kellogg moulded his people into a certain type of religious faith which was indelibly stamped upon them. He was a Puritan, and they became likewise in his systematic efforts along Christian behavior and benevolence. The children were taught to make obeisance to him and he was affectionately called "Priest".

The Rev. Kellogg, on completion of fifty years of service, gave an historical discourse on that occasion and not one of the original members of the church was present to hear the address due to death and removal from the parish. He preached four years more after the close of his half century of ministerial service and died September 3, 1817 in the eighty-first year of his age. He is buried in the Old Pioneer Cemetery, Vernon Center, Connecticut.

The second pastor of the church in Vernon was Rev. William Ely of Saybrook. He established the Sabbath School in May 1818, one of the earliest in Tolland County.

The principal event of Rev. Amsi Benedict's pastorate was the building of the new church at Vernon, dedicated April 4, 1827. This is the house of public worship now standing at Vernon Center, having been moved from the original site and remodeled. The original Church was removed to Rockville in 1832, made a part of a factory and was destroyed by fire.

In 1832, there was an era of revivals of remarkable spiritual value commencing in September 1831. They were the most interesting and efficient meetings of the kind that had been held. Eighty persons joined the church upon profession 1831-1832 - a much larger number than in any corresponding period of the church history.

Attendance at worship in Vernon was expected and many came from a distance to the services by wagon and on foot. The Patzold House, now standing, built in 1762 near the church is famous as it is said the women used to bring their shoes and stockings and put them on in this home before going to church and changing again on their return from service.

Seven of the members of the church in Vernon became preachers of the Gospel: Salmon G. King, Allen McLean, Francis King, Joel Talcott, Eliot Palmer, Cyril Pearl and Lavalette Perrin. All but one of these were natives of Vernon. All were children of members of the church, were baptized by the first minister, taught the way of life and professed their faith.

All left Vernon and labored in other fields except Francis King who preached for several years and then became a deacon in the home church. Two other children of the church, Ebenezer Kellogg, a grandson of the first pastor, for nearly thirty years was a professor in Williams College, preaching also in the early years as his health permitted and sometimes in the church where he was baptized. One of the early missionaries was Lauren Andrews. His life work was in the Sandwich Islands, where he labored 40 years.

Among some of the first Sabbath School scholars in the Vernon Church was Rev. R. S. Perrin, Pastor of Congregational Church in New Britain; Rev. Erastus Ripley, a professor in the Normal School of Connecticut; the Rev. S. N. Tarbox, President of the American Education Society; the Rev. Martin Kellogg, Professor in the University of California; William H. Wells, who was for years principal of the Teachers' Seminary at Andover, Massachusetts and the author of several school books in common use in our schools at one time; J. M. Talcott, Superintendent of Rhode Island Reform School; the Rev. Edward Payson Hammond, an evangelist well-known to thousands of persons, holding meetings in many parts of the world, also has written tracts and books which have been published; Edward McLane, a director of the University of California and a man of influence in Sacramento, California.

In 1821, the men who came from Vernon to Rockville and organized its business and started its institutions saw the necessity for a church in Rockville. For fifteen years the original settlers of Rock Village (as Rockville was not yet named) went to the old church in Vernon but held weekly prayer meetings in the Rock Mill Boarding House. In 1826, Mr. George Kellogg and Ralph Talcott suggested that a new society be formed at Rock Village. This proposition was treated by many with indignation and Mr. Kellogg was abused for his benevolence towards the people in this part of the town and was accused of malice toward the church in Vernon to which he belonged.

In 1836 at Rock Village, Messrs. Kellogg and Talcott erected a building and a part of it was used as a lecture room. Preaching began as soon as it was completed and was continued every Sunday. In 1837 it was proposed by some of the members to form a new society and withdraw from the parent church in Vernon in the manner provided by law. This was done and the First Church Society established October 26, 1837 with forty members, thirty-five of them from the old church, and was continued until June 29, 1839, when the First Church of Rockville was dedicated.

The people had acquired a peculiar doctrine of New England Congregationalism and the Sabbath was a holy time. None but the church-bound wheels or those bearing the physician were heard on the highways. They kept Saturday night and the moment after sundown, all labors ceased. It was a serious offense to drive out of the valley after sundown Saturday or into it, before sunset Sabbath evening. None save the watchman's light twinkled from any source during this sacred time. It is said that someone saw a light in a garret of the Rev. Kellogg's House at Lanz Four Corners, Vernon Center and for many years this house was unoccupied as being haunted by witches. Oftentimes on Sabbath evenings one could see a well lighted room and busy cloth packers making ready for the early Monday team, market bound. It is said that the owners of the Rock

Mill would not employ a man in their factory unless he be a Congregationalist and in each workman's bobbin box was placed a Bible to be read during unoccupied moments. Evidently the community was of a high moral and religious character.

The growth of this church was rapid and a second church was organized February 22, 1849 and a meeting house built, a typical New England building, with an Ionic portico and lofty spire. These two church's worked together for a generation until the village grew to be a city. The years 1850, 1852, 1854, 1858, 1864, 1866, 1867, and 1874 were spoken of as times of religious interest, when large numbers were added to the church membership. In 1888 the building of the Second Church was destroyed by fire and about this same time the town of Vernon wished to acquire the site of the First Church Building for a Memorial Town Hall, so a union was decided upon. The Union Ecclesiastical Society was formed June 15, 1888 and the property of these other societies connected into what is known today as the Union Congregational Church of Christ, Inc. Rev. James Dingwell was the first pastor. The present incumbent and pastor for ten years is George S. Brookes, Ph.D.

On July 24, 1888, it was decided to build a new church building on the site of the former second church. Plans submitted by the Architect, Warren H. Hayes, of Minneapolis were accepted and the present edifice was completed September 5, 1890. It is built of two shades of grey Monson granite and is of the cathedral type with turrets patterned after a church in Minneapolis which had been previously viewed by the building committee. The windows are of stained glass, and the woodwork is of quartered oak. It is an attractive edifice and an active community center.

The Talcottville Congregational Church was organized March 13, 1867. The church building was erected by W. H. and C. D. Talcott and presented to the Congregational Church in Talcottville. This edifice was destroyed by fire in 1906 and for two years church services were held in a hall in the upper part of the store building owned by Talcott Brothers.

On the site of the old church, a yellow brick church was erected in 1912. The corner-stone of the present edifice was taken from the foundation of the first church and the metal of the first bell was recast and now hangs in the second church tower. The architect is Russell S. Barber of West Hartford, Connecticut. There have been eight pastors, the first Rev. George H. Oviatt and the present pastor Rev. Francis P. Batcheler who has served since 1908. The Talcott Family have been devoted to the religious life of the community and have occupied the various offices in the church for many years.

Of other denominations, the first to make its appearance was that of the Methodists, Meetings were conducted in the old schoolhouse on West Street in Rockville until 1847 when a church building was erected. The location was in the same vicinity on West Street not far from Windsor Avenue, which later burned. By courtesy of the Congregational Church, a lecture room was loaned to the Methodists until a new church home was built on November 26, 1867. This building was heavily mortgaged and not until 1887 was the church freed from debt, at which a jubilee celebration marked the occasion. In 1906, the church was redecorated and repaired generally with additional improvements. The first pastor was S. Cushing, according to the church records of 1834. The present minister is Rev. C. S. Johnson.

The Vernon Methodist Episcopal Church, situated between Talcottville and Dobsonville, started from class meetings of eight members and was connected with Rockville Station in 1856. The meetings were held in the Dobsonville Schoolhouse. About 1865 the congregation had increased to such numbers that a house of worship became imperative and the church at Bolton was purchased and moved to Vernon, cut in two and lengthened. Later it was improved, a belfry added with a fine bell, the gift of S. S. Talcott, a prosperous manufacturer, who for many years was the motive power of the society. In 1872, Rev. S. O. Benton, became the resident pastor. In 1886, the Vernon church was united with the Wapping Church which arrangement lasted a year or more. From this time on, until 1892, the church had a temporary supply and then an interval of three years with no pastor and a closed church. In 1895, the Crusaders succeeded in awakening an interest which resulted in the opening of the church. Later the church was united with the North Manchester parish.

The history of the Baptist denomination in the vicinity of Vernon begins about 1842, when a church was organized at the home of Thomas King in Ellington. The service of this organization was held in the lower room of the second Congregational Church in Ellington. The first pastor was Rev. George Mixter. This building was later removed to Rockville and re-erected as White's Opera House. In 1849, the Rockville Baptist Church was organized and services were held during the earlier period in Union Hall, which later burned down. A church was erected and sold to the Methodist Episcopal Society in 1855. Regular services were discontinued at this time but the society continued to hold annual meetings and elect officers year by year until the church began to hold regular services in 1882. This appears to be a remarkable fact and shows the persistent characteristics of this sect. In 1882 services were held Sunday afternoons in Rockville Hall, which is now the dining room of the Rockville House. The Baptist church was revived in 1882 with six members. The present house of worship was dedicated March 8, 1887. Present pastor is Rev. Edward L. Nield.

The first Episcopal service held in the town of Vernon was the marriage of Dr. Alfred R. Goodrich, who in later years achieved distinction in the professional and political life of the town, and Miss Charlotte Dobson, daughter of Peter Dobson, founder of the first cotton mill in the town, and one of the first in America. The ceremony was performed October 28, 1847 by Rev. Mr. Clero of Broad Brook, Connecticut. In 1850, a funeral service was held by Rev. Fitch.

Regular Episcopal services were begun by Rev. Enoch Huntington in 1855. He was the rector of Grace Episcopal Church in Broad Brook and the initial service of the denomination in Rockville was held in the Rockville House on May 7th. He hoped to have a chapel built to accommodate the Episcopalians but his efforts were unavailing as well as those of his son Rev. John Huntington of Hartford, who assisted and succeeded him. Not until 1872, was a parish organized, and in 1905, the present church edifice was consecrated as St. John's Episcopal Church. The first rector was Rev. Harlow R. Whitlock and the present rector is Rev. H. B. Olmstead.

The first Catholic to settle in Rockville was James McAvenney. In 1848, the first Mass was celebrated in Rockville with fifteen present in a house owned by the paper mill company and then occupied by Christopher Carroll and family on Grove Street. Rev. John Brady of Hartford was the celebrant of the Mass. In 1849 regular visitations were made by Rev. James Smyth at monthly intervals. Mass was conducted at the homes of Patrick Quinn and Martin Flood and in various other places until 1854. Rev. Peter Egan assumed charge as the first resident pastor.

Between 1850 and 1860 the Catholic population increased rapidly and it was necessary to secure a site and building for church purposes. At this time there existed a deep-rooted local prejudice against Catholics and Irishmen. Hawley Kellogg, a druggist, owned and conducted a business on what is known today as T. Bernard's Terrace. He was quite liberal in his views and offered his entire property to the Catholics, which was accepted promptly. Rev. Bernard Tully succeeded Rev. Egan in 1856, and under his administration, the church was finished and dedicated, and his pastorate continued until 1863. Father Tully's second pastorate was of short duration as he died suddenly in 1869. A marble monument which stands over his grave in front of the church was erected by parishoners in testimony of their love and esteem for him.

The Rev. John Furlong served as pastor for twenty-one years and during his pastorate the church was completely renovated. This church was rededicated on January 20, 1878. In November 1886, the Sisters of Mercy took up their work in Rockville and in 1887 the basement of the church was opened up for school purposes.

From 1900 to 1910 there was wonderful growth and expansion with material prosperity, progress and spiritual awakening. On August 30, 1904, the frame church erected in 1855, enlarged in 1863, moved back and added to in 1873 and improved by the addition of a new steeple, was totally destroyed by fire. The town authorities placed the Town Hall at the Catholics disposal as a temporary place of worship, which was accepted. Plans were immediately made for a new church and the corner stone laid May 28, 1905. A memorable occasion in the history of the parish, but the greatest epoch in the history of the parish arrived when the church was dedicated September 20, 1908.

The church, standing on an elevated site overlooking the center of the city, is an imposing edifice of the cathedral type with graceful spires capped by gold crosses. The foundation to the main floor is of granite and the main body of red brick. The frescoing is well worth seeing and the ceiling paintings, a series of the Virgin Mary, are exquisitely drawn and beautifully colored. The altar is ornate with gold mountings and the woodwork is of oak.

The frescoing was done by Whitaker Brothers, Boston, and the painting by Muller, Brooklyn, New York. The beautiful stained glass windows manufactured by Morgan Brothers, New York, of which there are seven on a side, are particularly referred to and from the inscriptions were the gifts of organizations connected with the church. The present pastor is the Rev. George Sinnott.

St. Joseph's Catholic Church (Polish) was erected in 1905. Previous to this time, the Polish people worshipped at St. Bernard's Church. The steady increase in the Polish population made it necessary to erect a church home and the present edifice, at the corner of Union and West Streets, was built. The church is of Gothic architecture, of frame construction. The Order of Felician Sisters is connected with the church. The first pastor was Rev. C. J. Wotypka; present pastor is Rev. Sigismund Woroniecki.

The German Lutheran Church was first held in 1856. The present building purchased from the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1867 and is an active organization.

Trinity German Lutheran Church was started in 1866, and refounded in 1882. First service held in the hall of the Rockville Hotel. First church building erected 1883. There was a parochial day school connected with this church consisting of fifty-two pupils and two teachers, which has been discontinued.

Christian Scientists, believing in the doctrine, hold meetings every Sunday in Masonic Hall, No. 28 Union Street. Established about 1909.

The Jewish population of Vernon attend service at Kwasis Israel Synagogue, Ellington, Connecticut.

There is one undenominational church, The Apostolic Christian Church, which meets at Ellington on Orchard Street. Christian Gerber, Elder, 21 West Road, Ellington, R.F.D. 3.

The Lucina Memorial Chapel erected in Grove Hill Cemetery is a fine example of old Norman architecture. The architectural character of the chapel is that of simplicity of design and sturdy strength of construction. The walls are built of local stone and laid irregularly. The gable copings and buttress heads are of cut limestone, rough dried, except where window and door jambs make smooth work necessary. The floor is of slate, irregularly laid. The roof is also of slate with lead flashings and gutters. The pews and doors are of oak and the chapel is lighted and heated by electricity. The heating units being placed in recesses below the windows, and the lighting fixtures are simple wrought iron, lantern forms, old Norman style placed on the side walls. The Lucina Memorial Chapel was erected in accordance with the wishes of the late E. Stevens Henry, who left a bequest of \$30,000 for this purpose. It seemed peculiarly fitting that the first body to be taken into the new chapel should be that of a member of the Henry family.

Churches

Baptist:

First African (Colored), 65 Davis Avenue, Rockville
69 Union Street, Pastor, Rev. Edward L. Nield, 84 Orchard St.

Christian Science:

Christian Science Society, 28 Union Street

Congregational:

Union Congregational Church of Christ, Elm St. corner Union St.
Pastor, Rev. George S. Brookes, 62 Union St.

Vernon Center, Hartford Turnpike, Vernon Center
Pastor, William Tyler, Hartford Turnpike, Vernon Center, R.F.D. 1

Talcottville, Hartford Turnpike, Talcottville
Pastor, Rev. Francis P. Bachelor, Talcott Avenue, Talcottville

Episcopal:

St. John's, 11 Ellington Ave.
Rector, Rev. Henry B. Olmstead, 9 Ellington Ave.

Jewish:

Kwasis Israel Synagogue, Abbott Rd. cor. Middle Rd., Ellington
Rabbi Istael, Cor. Pinney St., Ellington, R.F.D. 1

Lutheran:

First Evangelical, 104 West Main St.
Pastor, Rev. K. Otto Klette, 56 Ward St.

Trinity Evangelical, 85 Prospect St.
Pastor, Rev. Eric O. Pieper, 85 Prospect St.

Methodist Episcopal:

Main St., Vernon R.F.D. 1
26 Park Place
Pastor, Rev. Charles S. Johnson, 91 Union St.

Roman Catholic:

Sacred Heart, 2 Church St., Vernon Depot
Pastor, Rev. William. P. Reidy, 896 Main St., South Manchester, Conn.

St. Bernard's, 27 St. Bernard's Terrace
Pastor, Rev. George T. Sinnott, 25 St. Bernard's Terrace

St. Joseph's, 175 Union St.
Pastor, Rev. Sigismund Woronicki, 33 West St.

Undenominational:

Apostolic Christian Church, Orchard Street, Ellington
Elder, Christian Gerber, 21 West Rd., Ellington, R.F.D. 3

Convents:

Felician Sisters, Order of St. Francis, 31 West Street

St. Bernard's Convent, Order, Sisters of Mercy, 20 School Street

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(For many years Clerk of the Church Interested in its formation and early history)

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Rockville Journal, Issue, January 18, 1923.

Consultants:

Lucius P. Fuller, 8 North Park Street, Rockville, Connecticut.

John N. Talcott, Talcottville, Connecticut.

George S. Brookes, Ph.D., 62 Union Street, Rockville, Connecticut.

VERNON III-B - RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS AND STRUCTURES - SCOTTISM

Jesse Lee introduced Methodism into Connecticut in 1789. Hartford Circuit, embracing both sides of the Connecticut River, appears in the minutes of the first meeting, 1791. During that year there was a revival in Tolland. Just when the Methodists came to Vernon is not known. Rev. Ezra Whitney was one of the first to preach at Rockville factories in 1833. In 1854 the first class was formed and formally organized. Some months later Vernon was in the Tolland and Stafford circuit, with various itinerant preachers until 1836, and in 1840 Vernon appears on the list of appointments for the first time.

In 1841, L. W. Blood, E. A. Standish and L. Leffingwell were the preachers. The little band with its headquarters in the old schoolhouse was full of fire and enthusiasm, and its numbers gradually increased and were in the main united. There was one bone of contention. In those days there was a secession from the main body of Methodists called the Wesleyan Methodist connection. The reasons alleged for the secession were the position of the Methodist Episcopal Church in respect to slavery and some objections to its form of government. Orange Scott, previously a presiding elder in this religion, headed the movement which here took the name of Scottism. Some leading men in the little class at Rockville, became interested in this faction and invited the Society to become "True Wesleyans". While the preachers were away at conference on one occasion, these men invited a Wesleyan preacher by the name of Wheat to preach. He took occasion to denounce the old church and exalt the new in no uncertain words. As he closed, he invited anyone present to make remarks. After a pause, a Methodist who never hesitated to speak his mind, arose and said in substance that he thought the Methodist Episcopal Church had done a great deal of good and to it they all owed much. To him it seemed wrong for a man to come in the absence of their pastor and seek to tear to pieces an organization that had been so useful. The old church was good enough for him, and then he left the room. Others started after him and the preacher could only pronounce the benediction. In this way Cyrus White ended Scottism in Rockville and the church was saved to the Methodist Episcopal organization.

Cyrus White came to Vernon Center a journeyman blacksmith, when he removed, to Rockville in 1838. Later extended the business by addition of a machine shop and iron foundry. He started the White & Corbin Envelope Factory in 1859. He has been largely identified with the development of Rockville. He built the White Opera House in 1869, now occupied by the Rockville Journal, 69 Brooklyn Street, and later a block of stores and other buildings.

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VERNON III-B - LIBRARIES

The Rockville Public Library started in a small way but has continued to grow until it has a good endowment as a result of numerous bequests by Rockville residents. The first public library in the town of Vernon began with the formation of the Vernon Union Library Co., which adopted the constitution and by-laws February, 1811, with 80 subscribers. The idea of establishing a public library was first projected by Hon. George Kellogg and Allan Hammond, who were then managing owners of the New England Co., woolen manufacturers. It was probably intended for the use of the mill employees. The books (about three hundred) were mostly travel and historical works but were not in general demand. A number of the books of this old library are now in the Rockville Public Library.

About 1872 a few public-spirited citizens determined to have a public subscription library and five hundred books were added to the New England Co. collection. The library was located in the office of the White Gingham Co. Mill, now the Regan Manufacturing Co., and was in the charge of G. E. Brigham who was also the bookkeeper. The late Judge Gelon West also largely assisted in the establishment of the library. The books were loaned out on a subscription of \$1.00 per year and new books added occasionally. Later the library was moved from the New England Co. Mill to the probate office, then to a room in Exchange Block, 1886, and from there to the store of E. W. Foote. The library contained at this time about two thousand books. One of the most enthusiastic patrons at that time was "Johnnie" Sullivan, then a boy employed in a woolen mill, who became United States Minister James M. Sullivan to San Domingo. The library remained in this store until the establishment of the present free library, when it was disposed of.

The late George Maxwell left at his death a bequest of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), provided the town gave a like sum within five years for a free public library, October, 1892. The Rockville Library Association (Rockville Public Library) was formally organized June 29, 1893. On October 7, 1895, the town appropriated the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) to secure the George Maxwell offer. As a result of this appropriation, the new library was opened June 12, 1896. The library was free to all residents of Vernon on eleven years of age; all other persons charged ten cents per month. The first librarian was Miss Keating, a graduate of the Albany School for Librarians. She resigned a year later, 1897.

The George Maxwell Memorial Library, 52-58 Union Street, was presented to the City of Rockville, on June 29, 1904 by the Maxwell family in honor of their father, who

had been a prominent figure in the religious, social and industrial life of Rockville in Vernon. The library building is modern and finely located on Union Street, a few rods west of the Union Congregational Church, Central Park and the business center. It stands high above the street, occupying beautiful terraced grounds that was formerly the residence of the deceased George Maxwell for several years. To the east of the building is erected a flag-pole to the memory of Mrs. Harriet Kellogg Maxwell, 1814-1913; its pedestal built of marble, granite and bronze; towards the skies flies the stars and stripes.

The library is a commanding classic structure and considered one of the most beautiful in Connecticut. The main building is 86 x 42 feet, with an ell in the rear 30 x 52 feet. It is built of large blocks of Vermont marble. The central feature is approached by two flights of granite steps, forty feet wide, leading to a pediment supported on eight Ionic columns. In the gable of the pediment is a bronze clock. The window openings are large and arched, the idea being to give from the exterior the effect of a well-lighted room suggesting a library. Over the small pediment of the entrance door is a carving of a book, the symbol of the building.

The vestibule is lined with Formosa marble, which is unusually beautiful. On entering the building one finds himself in a large room and opposite the delivery desk. On the right hand side is a screen separating the children's room from the reading room. The two bookcases on either side of the door protect the reading room from casual visitors. The opening to the delivery room and at either side of it and also to the vestibule is framed in Vienna marble.

The room itself is vaulted as suggested by the circular openings from the outside and has a ceiling of deep blue. The cornice at the spring of the arch of the windows is highly ornamental with a relief and in it are the names of thirty principal writers of all times. Over the delivery desk is a Latin inscription: "Ex hoc fonte illu quae seunna sunt havrunas". Lower down in the marble are the following inscriptions in bronze letters: "To the memory of George Maxwell. Born July 30, 1817. Died April 2, 1891. Of Honored Ancestry and Devoted Public Spirit. He Faithfully Served God and Man" and "George Maxwell Memorial Library, Presented June 29th, 1904 - As a Tribute of Affectionate Remembrance - Harriet Kellogg Maxwell, Julia Alice Maxwell, Francis Taylor Maxwell, William Maxwell, Robert Maxwell. Above the Latin inscription in the vault is a marble clock. This clock, as well as the outside one, are the gift of Miss Julia Alice Maxwell.

All the interior of the building, as well as the furniture, is antique oak. The floor is laid herringbone. Passing through the door at the left of the delivery desk is direct access to the stacks and the staircase leading to the lecture room upstairs. At either side

of the staircase, leading up, are two doors: one leading to the librarian's office and the other to a staircase to the lower floor.

The lecture room has a seating capacity of about 90 and is lighted entirely from the north, with windows separated by pilasters and paneled under the sills. The ceiling is a barreled vault up to the platform. The platform is raised two steps.

The stack room has every modern appliance and has a capacity for about 30,000 volumes. The reading room has a capacity for about 8,000 books.

The building is lighted by electricity. The large room is generally lighted by two chandeliers, each table having individual lights in addition. All the lights in the building are controlled from a switchboard within easy reach of the librarian. The heating and ventilation is accomplished by a system of fans, the temperature in all parts of the building being maintained to any degree by automatic thermostat control.

The library contains 22,000 volumes, with emphasis placed on the many new and timely things in literature rather than in acquiring a library of older volumes. Open ten hours daily from 10-6 and 7-9, six days a week. The present librarian, Miss Edith Peck, native of New York, is recognized as a real factor in community life and is a strong influence along cultural and educational lines. She came to her present position in 1912 and has three assistants.

Through the library, Rockville has access to a unique treasure: one of the few existing copies of the first edition of John Eliot's Indian Bible, printed in 1663. This book, which no living man can decipher, has an extraordinary interest for all the reading people, both as to rare possession from the book-collectors' standpoint and as a monument to the almost inconceivable labors of the "Apostle to the Indians". This Bible was given by Lion Gardiner of Gardiner's Island, N.Y. in Loving Memory of Robert Maxwell to the Rockville Public Library.

The history of the Bible is as follows:

John Eliot was born in England in 1604. He was educated at Cambridge and removed to Boston, 1631, and in 1632 began his connection with the church at Roxbury, Mass., which he held at his death, May 21, 1691.

He acquired the language of the Indians and from 1646 he devoted himself to improving their conditions and to converting them to Christianity. He traveled

extensively among them, enduring great privations and passing through many dangers. He acquired great influence over them and many of them embraced the Christian faith.

In 1663 John Eliot completed his task of years, making the first translation of the Bible into the Indian language and in Cambridge, Mass., was printed the first edition of the combined Old and New Testaments. Previous to this, Eliot's Old Testament translation had been printed, as well as other separate portions of the Bible, but the 1663 edition was the first printing of the complete Bible. In 1666 he published an Indian Grammar.

About 1500 copies are said to have been struck off at this printing, of which a few were sent to England: one as a gift to King Charles II and others to be presented to the members of the "Corporation in England for the- Propagation of the Gospel Amongst the Indians in New England", who furnished funds for the work of translation and printing. Of the few existing Indian Bibles (similar to the one now in the Rockville Public Library), two are in the New York Public Library, one in the Bodleian Library, Oxford, England, one in the Library of the British Museum, one in the Library of Congress, Washington, one in the Library of Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland, and three in libraries of private owners. Some of these are the identical copies presented to the members of the Corporation in England and have been bequeathed or sold during the years as historical curiosities but the Bible now in the Rockville Public Library possesses the distinction of having actually been used by the Indians.

The Bible is in its original calf binding with gilt tooling, lacking the clasp and showing marks of much use, with the diamond-shaped figure on the Indian New Testament title. The first leaf of the dedication is lacking. The second leaf is loose, together with the English general title and front cover.

The Bible is ruled throughout with red ink around every page, around the headings of the chapters and between and at the tops of the columns. This was evidently done before the book was bound, as some of the sheets were incorrectly folded. A note in this Bible made by Mr. John Lyon Gardiner (Born 1770, died 1816), the seventh proprietor of Gardiner's Island and ancestor of Lion Gardiner, reads as follows: " I received this Indian Bible from Joshua Nonesuch of Nihantic tribe in Lyme, Quonehtancutt (Connecticut) by means of Daniel Wanheat this vj May 1813. It is said to be presented to the tribe by a Sachem of the Moheags in Norwich, Conn. Dated Monchongomic, Gardiner's island, May vj, 1815."

Rockville also had a free reading room which opened December, 1884. It was open on week days from 8 to 11:30 A.M. ; 12:50 to 5:30 and 6:30 to 9 P.M. The leading newspapers were on file; The Hartford Courant, Post and Times; New York Tribune, Herald and Sun; Springfield Republican and Boston Journal, Herald and Post; and four German papers - Milwaukee Germania, New York Nachrichten aus Deutschland und der Scheverz, Wochensblatt der New York, Staats Zeitung, also a German magazine entitled Die Neue Welt. Included in the list of magazines, illustrated papers and other periodicals regularly received were, Cottons, Wool and Iron, Boston Commercial Bulletin, Scientific American, Harper's Weekly, Leslie's Weekly, New York Daily Graphic, Harper's Monthly, Century, Atlantic, St. Nicholas, Independent, Christian Weekly, Rockville Journal and Leader. The average attendance at the evening sessions was about sixty.

In February, 1892, a reading room was established in rooms in the lower part of the Union Congregational Church edifice, by the establishment of a trust fund of \$5,000 by the heirs of the late George Maxwell and transferred to the Ecclesiastical Society, the annual income to provide reading matter, which is still maintained today. The late Miss Sarah Wicks was the faithful librarian for thirty-five years.

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Consultant: Miss Judith Peck, Rockville Public Library, 58 Union Street, Rockville, Conn.

VERNON III-B - BUILDINGS AND HALLS

List of Buildings and Halls:

- Arbus Block, 74 Union Street;
- Beckendorf Block, corner Market and West Main Street;
- Bingenheimer Block, 15 Market Street;
- Citizens Block, 30-38 Park Place;
- Elk's Home, corner of Ellington Avenue and Prospect Street;
- Exchange Block, 1-9 West Main Street;
- Forester's Hall, 9 Elm Street;
- G.A.R. Hall, Memorial Building;
- George Sykes Memorial School, 14-16 Park Street;
- Henry Building, corner Park Place and Park Street;
- I.O.O.F. Hall, Exchange Block;
- I.O.R.M, Hall, (see Forester's Hall);
- Journal Building, 67-69 Brooklyn Street;
- K. of C. Hall, Prescott Block;
- Koscieszko Hall, Franklin Street;
- Masonic Hall, Rosenberg Block;
- Memorial Building, 14-20 Park Place;
- National Bank Building, 9 Elm Street;

Old High School Building, 30 Park Street;

Palace Theatre, 10 School Street;

Pliska Hall, 21 Spring Street;

Prescott Block, 9-17 Park Street;

Princess Hall, 26 Village Street;

Pulaski Hall, (Y.P.A.A.), 62 Village Street;

Rockville Home Club,(Moose Hall), 18 Elm Street;

Rockville, House, corner Park Street & Middle Road;

Rockville Public Library, 52-59 Union Street;

Rosenberg Block; 20—36 Union Street;

Savings Bank of Rockville, 25 Park Street;

Sykes Auditorium, 14-16 Park Street;

Town Hall, Memorial Building;

Weber Block, 92 West Main Street;

Wesleyan Hall, rear of Methodist Church.

VERNON III-B - WATERWAYS

Snipsic Lake, in Rockville, is one of the most beautiful bodies of water, and few lakes in New England surpass it for its broad expanse, wooded bluffs and pine-clad shores. It is conceded to be the best illustration of an artificial reservoir to be found in Connecticut. It is situated in the Tolland Hills; borders on the towns of Tolland, Ellington and Vernon, and is five hundred and fifteen feet above sea level. Sucker Brook, on the eastern slope of the lake, is the feeder brook and the lake is the source of the Hockanum River, which runs through the city of Rockville, from end to end along which are scattered the leading industries, and at one time it was the main supply of making power for the mills. It also furnishes Rockville with its domestic water supply.

Prior to 1888 boating on Lake Snipsic was permitted and a pleasure steamer made the rounds of the lake. The boat was 600 feet long; capacity 200 passengers, and was owned by A. T. Thompson. It was a favorite summer resort.

Snipsic Lake, up to the year 1725, had remained in its primeval state. About that time the first effort was made to dam what was an insignificant brook, the outlet of the pond. This improvement was very primitive and consisted of a hemlock log thrown across the stream and slabs from the sawmill were placed against it to hold the water for storage in the dry season, and it was not uncommon even after this enlargement for the water to be drawn out in the spring and leave insufficient water during the summer to grind the grain at the grist mill. This continued until 1834, when necessity led to the project of drawing water supply for domestic and other common purposes direct from the pond. This water power and exclusive control of the pond was purchased by the Rock Manufacturing Co. This company built a nine inch stone and gravel dam, three and one-half feet high, and put in a flume.

In 1846, it became necessary to enlarge the dam. This new dam was built thirteen and one-half feet in height near the site of the old one and down to natural ledge in the bed of the stream. Total cost about \$4,000. This improvement gave an important impetus to Rockville, which was exhibited in the erection of new mills and the enlargement of old ones. New streets were projected and dwellings built, and very soon the village doubled in size and population.

In 1866, the dam was raised seven feet and eight inches, the old dam removed to bed rock and a cement dam constructed. Most of the stone required for this work was quarried close by the dam. In 1871-1872, three feet more were added to the top, making the dam twenty-four feet in height with a wall of 5 to 20 ft, on the top of the ledge on the upper side of the dam to prevent an overflow when the pond is full. The

bank on the north side is sufficiently high to require no artificial protection. The total cost and investment of the Water Power Co. was \$65,000, all of which was contributed voluntarily by mill owners.

The dam is 63 feet, 6 inches across, but a gate house of 16 feet, 3 inches leaves 47 feet, 3 inches for the waste weir. The reservoir is 2-1/2 miles long and one mile wide, covering 600 acres.

The pumping plant and apparatus at Lake Snipsic Dam is said by mechanical and insurance men to be a model plant. Prior to 1903, homes in elevated parts of the city were supplied by wells or cisterns. At the Rockville Water and Aqueduct Pumping Plant power is obtained from a McCormack water wheel, electric centrifugal pump. The Emergency and Gould Fire Pump is a double-acting, triplex piston pump, producing 400 gals. to the minute and made by the Gould Mfg. Co., Seneca, N.Y. The flowage of water to the mills is twelve inches daily and can be increased to forty-one inches. At the Snipsic Dam the falls are of exceptional beauty, but as this is a domestic water supply, all acreage is posted for protection. However, many excellent views of Lake Snipsic may be obtained from roads leading out of Rockville in the direction of Tolland and Stafford Springs via East Main Street (R.74) and (R. 15), Hartford Turnpike intersection above Rockville City.

The falls at the base of the stone mill, overlooking the city on East Main Street, are conceded to be the most picturesque, pouring under a keystone arch in a frothy mass of clear waters. This is the first fall from Paper Mill Pond and is forty-six feet at this point, which empties into the American Mill Pond on East Main Street, Rockville. From the coping of the dam at Lake Snipsic to the foot of The Snipsic Mill privilege, the stream has a fall of 275 feet and to the foot of Windermere privilege (now known as the Draycott Lace Mfg. Co., Ellington, over the line from Vernon) 299 feet fall within the distance of one and one-half miles.

There are many smaller ponds in Vernon, which are utilized for fishing to some extent. Paper Mill Pond, East Main Street, Rockville, so named from the mill established at this privilege, where paper for books and other printing material was made in the early days of Rockville. Walker's Upper and Lower Reservoirs on Bolton Road, off Hartford Turnpike at the intersection of Grove Street, at Town Farm, Rockville. Bolton Club Pond in Bolton and Vernon. The Tankaroosan Lake, Phoenix Street, off Hartford Turnpike at Vernon Depot. Talcott Pond, off Hartford Turnpike - Talcottville, in Vernon at rotary traffic circle.

Most of the brooks are posted and privately owned but some have been planted to trout by the State Fisheries. They are listed as follows:

Barrows Brook, Vernon, Tributary to Tuncahoosen River, Feeder Brook.

Broll Brook, Vernon, Tributary to Ogden Brook.

Edgerton's Brook, Vernon, tributary to Ogden Brook

Hockanum River, Vernon, tributary to Connecticut River, Trout Planted
Brown Fingerling, Brown Adults.

Leutgen's Brook, Vernon feeder of Clark's Brook

Ogden Brook, Vernon, tributary to Hockanum River

Rickenbach Brook, Vernon, tributary to Tankahoosen River

Tankahoosen River, Vernon, tributary to Hockanum River

Town Brook, Tucker Brook, tributary to Belding's Brook

Kinds of fish known to inhabit each stocked pond or lake:

Snipsic Lake	Black bass
Tolland	Smelt
Talcott Pond	Yellow perch
Vernon	Bullheads
Tankahoosen Lake	Yellow perch
Vernon	Bullheads
Walker's Reservoir Upper	Calico bass
Vernon	Yellow perch, Sunfish
Walker's Reservoir Lower	Yellow perch
Vernon	Bullheads, Shiners

VERNON IV - TRANSPORTATION

Up to the beginning of the nineteenth century roads between cities and from interior towns were very poor. Ten miles a day was considered good traveling for a loaded wagon. Much freighting was done by ox teams. Farmers spent days and nights on the road taking their grain and stock to Hartford and other trading centers. We can well see why there were so many taverns in the olden days as people could hardly go thirty miles from home without being obliged to spend at least one or two nights. Following the stagecoach days, steam railroads became popular, then trolley lines from town to town connecting with the urban centers. These have almost disappeared from this section and with the advent of the automobile, fine improved highways came into existence.

Vernon is reached from several directions, served by the Highland Division; N.Y., New Haven & Hartford Railroad, Hartford to Willimantic; and by state and interstate motor bus lines from Boston to New York. Blue, Way, Inc., Terminal at the Rockville House, 4 Park Street, Telephone 893; Victoria and Berkshire Coach Lines, Inc., Ticket Agency at the Lee Pharmacy, Telephone Rockville 36-2. Motor service via Ellington, Broad Brook and Warehouse Point, New England Transportation Company, connecting with points north and south on the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad. The Connecticut Company Motor Coach from Hartford to Rockville takes care of the commuting public. Regular schedules of half hourly service to 7:15 A.M. and hourly until 4:15 P.M., half hourly from 4:15 to 6:15 P.M. and hourly until 11:15 P.M. Running time from State and Market Streets in Hartford to Rockville, Hale and East Streets, via Burnside, Manchester, (Depot Square) Talcottville (U.S.P.O.) sixty minutes. Two fares to Station No. 52 Talcottville; three fares to Rockville.

List:

New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad	
New England Transportation Company (Bus Service)	
Blue Way, Incorporated	" "
New Way Transportation	" "
Victoria & Berkshire Coach Lines, Inc.	" "

VERNON IV - HOTELS

The first public house in Rockville proper was built in 1843 by William T. Coggswell on the site of the present Rockville House. The proprietors were Hubbard Kellogg and Samuel P. Rose, also the first postmaster. Asaph McKinney was the first landlord and moved into the house from Ellington in the fall of 1843 before it was finished. The house was not dedicated until 1844. Mr. McKinney kept the house for three years and a half, paying an annual rental of \$200., as did his successor, Francis Keeney. Francis Keeney succeeded Mr. McKinney October 5, 1847. He continued in charge for three and a half years, leaving because the proprietor thought best to raise the rent to \$300. Mr. Keeney then moved to Norwich, taking possession of the American House on March, 1851.

From the opening of the hotel there had always been considerable trouble between the land owners and George Kellogg, who represented the Rock Manufacturing Company, in regard to the sale of intoxicating liquors on the premises. There was this determination to prevent the sale of spiritous liquors even up to 1850. At this time, there was a jolly crowd of Yankees who patronized the hotel. They frequently held oyster suppers and the landlord would bring on a little cider. This exasperated the mill company and things were quite unpleasant for all and hard feelings predominated.

The prices in Mr. Keeney's time were 85 cents for each meal and the same price for a night's lodging. On account of the popularity of the house, eight men, all strangers, were sometimes compelled to occupy one room. This made things unpleasant and in 1851 it was thought best to build a new and more commodious house, and accordingly a company was formed for that purpose consisting of Phineas Talcott, Allen Hammond, Nelson Kingsbury, Alonzo Bailey, Aaron Kellogg, Major Nathaniel Kellogg and Joseph Hammond.

The old hotel was moved north and during the construction of the new building, it was kept by George Hammond. After the new hotel was completed, the old one was rented to various tenants as a place of residence and was purchased by Benezet Bill.

In 1853 Elisha Pember was engaged to open the new hotel and to conduct it. He continued until May, 1854. One Newton, of Greenfield, was next engaged as manager, but after six months, he failed and cleared out. George Hammond and George Talcott were engaged to fill out his term and during the next year, 1855, Horace Chapman kept house.

George Kellogg purchased the property from the Rock Manufacturing Co. and Elisha Pember managed it for two years. In February, 1858, he sold the house to Francis Keeney for \$5,095. During 1858 the house was managed by Henry Pember, a son of Elisha, but at the expiration of the year, Mr. Keeney moved in and remained there for seventeen years.

The Keeney House was known far and wide for its hospitality. Twelve years later Mr. Keeney's son, Edgar, was taken into partnership and soon after, the property was deeded to both sons, Edgar and Francis, although Francis, Sr. remained in charge of the business. The charges for rooms and meals were then doubled from the old days.

The liquor question was still a troublesome one. Frank Talcott kept a restaurant on the corner, afterwards used as a barber shop, until the hotel was extended a few years later, when the barber was moved to the new part. Talcott sold a little beer; Mr. Keeney also had a room upstairs where liquor could be obtained, but finding this inconvenient, after awhile he opened a bar under the hall, which had been added a year after the hotel was built. The bar-room remained in this part of the building entirely separate from the hotel for several years.

In April 1876, the Keeney brothers sold the property to Colonel C. W. Lay of Stafford. Then he sold it to Julian Thrall. In 1877, the original property sold to Claudius Harvey.

As the general business in Rockville increased, the capacity of the hotel was found unequal to the demand, therefore, an enlargement of the sleeping arrangement was made by the addition of the rooms over the Rockville Hall. These were built in 1879 by Walter Andrews of Vernon. The same trouble was again felt a few years later, the question of building another hotel was strongly agitated, but the final conclusion was that a division of the business would not be advantageous and accordingly Architect Arnold, of Hartford, drew up plans for a grand enlargement, and in 1882, George Arnold took the contract and remodeled the hotel to its present appearance. It then contained twenty-four rooms and now has fifty-four rooms.

There were many changes in the proprietors of the hotel during the next half century, and at the present time it is under the management of Mrs. Ellen Chapdelaine, who succeeded her husband (deceased). They came to the Rockville House in 1920 and have recently modernized the building. Rooms and meals are available at attractive prices. It is located centrally from all points in Rockville.

The Rockville Hall, now the dining room and kitchen of the Rockville House, has played a prominent part the history of the town. It has been used for church services by several denominations in times of stress. Town meetings were held there for many years, and many social activities. When the men left for the Front during the War of the Rebellion, the Rockville House was the meeting place, and they left via stagecoach. The informant, Mrs. Karber, was a small child, and went with her mother, to the Rockville House to see her father leave.

Many important personages have signed the register at the Rockville House and, in the stagecoach days, it was an important center as all the mails were carried by coach. There were two large barns connected with the hotel where from forty to fifty horses were kept and the changes made at the hotel before going over the hills into Tolland. The stages carried from thirty-five to forty passengers, and during these stops many partook of the hospitality of the Rockville House.

List of Hotels:

Rockville House

Location: 4 Park Street, Rockville, Connecticut

Telephone: 894

Management: Mrs. Ellen Chapdelaine

Accommodations: Rooms 54; (a) \$1.-\$1.50-\$2.00.

Breakfast: 6 :30-9 :00 A.M. ;

Lunch: 12:00-2:30P.M.; Special 40 cents and 75 cents lunch daily.

Table-de Hote Dinner, 6:00-7:30. P.M.

Parking space, outdoors, 9 Middle Road Garage, connected with Rockville Garage.

Special rates for guests, 50 cents per night.

Dry Cleaning Establishment; Eye Specialist; Barber;

Tavern in basement; connected with hotel.

Coggswell Brook Golf Course

Location: West Road, Ellington, just over the line from Rockville on (R.83) about one mile from center. Nine hole course. Fee, 35 cents.

Restaurants and Lunch Rooms:

Hof Brau Haus, 26 Village Street

Kastle, The, West Road, Ellington, R.F.D. 1

Rockville Diner, 11 West Main Street

Triangle Diner & Service Station, Stafford Rd., Ellington

Charles Vetterlein, Hartford Turnpike, Vernon, Ellington

Edna Hansen Johnson, Crystal Lake Road, (R.15)

Tea Room, Socony Filling Station connected.

Tourist Camps have been listed and filed with Mr. Lafayette Robinson.

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Consultants:

Mrs. Clara Cole Keeney, 15 Mountain Street, Rockville, Conn.

Mrs. Phoebe Gilmore Karber, 15. Mountain Street, Rockville, Conn.

Mr. Francis Keeney, 32 Talcott Avenue, Rockville, Conn.

VERNON IV - MANUFACTURING AND INDUSTRY

The woolen manufacturing of Connecticut centers in Tolland County, with a large number of the mills in the town of Vernon and in Rockville city. This is a thriving modern industrial area; the principal manufactures are wool products, silk, fish lines, golf clubs and envelopes, with a large import and export trade. As an inland town, the raw materials and fuel used in the manufacture of these articles must be brought from distant places.

From 1865 to the present time, Vernon's industrial life has shown a slow but steady growth. Old concerns have passed away, new ones have come with additions and improvements. Small industries have expanded and today, Rockville is internationally known as a manufacturing center of importance. There are manufacturing concerns in the town doing business on a large scale. They are for the most part, corporations chartered by the state with several smaller enterprises conducted by private firms.

The M. T. Stevens Sons Co. of North Andover, Mass., established in 1809, purchased the Hockanum Mills Company interests and the trade name in Rockville in 1933. Resident superintendent F. S. Nettleton, Rockville, Conn. Prior to this sale the mills were controlled by local interests. This unit consists of the Springville Mfg. Co., West Main St., Saxony Mill, West Main St., New England Mill, Vernon Avenue; American Mill, West Main St., Daniels' Mill, East Main St., Minterburn Mill, East Main St., General Office Building 155 West Main St. The present company are the second largest woolen manufacturers in the United States. They purchased the Hockanum Mills to round out their own production, never having made cloth for automobile manufacturers and a certain type of men's goods, which are a product of the Hockanum Mills. They maintain a remnant and sales room at the general office building, 155 West Main Street.

The plant is operating on N.R.A. Code. Complimentary departments, preparatory machinery running twenty-four hours daily on three shifts; weaving two shifts, full time forty hour week. Confines all purchases to domestic supplies as far as possible and use almost all domestic machinery, American made. There are some English machines that make it necessary to buy parts from England.

Products are woolen and worsted goods for ladies' and men's wear. Wool is purchased chiefly from Boston Market in New York City and from there is shipped to all points of the globe. They also make automobile fabrics, which is shipped entirely to the automobile centers of Detroit and Wisconsin. The employees number 1500. They were

chiefly of English, Irish and German races in the early years of manufacturing in Rockville, but now the Lithuanians, Germans and Poles represent the largest percentage. They began to center in Rockville about 1914.

Other woolen manufacturers are Talcott Brothers, at Talcottville in Vernon, organized in 1856, and incorporated in 1918. Capital \$400,000. President, C. Denison Talcott and Treasurer, John G. Talcott. They manufacture women's dress goods, men's suitings and coatings. Use domestic market as far as possible for mohair, wool, garnet, dyes, rayon and chemicals. The complete operations from the beginning to a finished product is produced at this mill. Market is in New York and shipping by truck, where goods are redistributed. The factory is working on restricted basis varying from two to five days per week. They have operated at a loss to keep employees at work. Maintain a remnant and sales department on (R.15), short cut off Hartford Turnpike at rotary traffic circle.

United States Envelope Co. (White-Corbin Co.) 121 West Main Street, Rockville; became one of the divisions of the United States Envelope Co. in 1900. Main office Worcester, Mass. They employ 175. Purchase domestic paper and convert into envelopes, and also solicit outside contracts. Some are exported but not a large percentage.

Peerless Silk Textile Corp., 55 West Main Street. Incorporated 1930. President, Harry Fine and Vice President, Abe Fine, New Jersey; Secretary, Edward Newmarker; Treasurer, Frank Mann, Rockville. Dress and weave, processing plant. They solicit contracts from anyone who ships yarn to be made into material. At present are having labor trouble and it is quoted as being due to southern competition. Factory now working 48 hours per week on a minimum wage scale.

The James J. Regan Mifg. Co., 74 West Main St., makers of woolens and worsteds, has been in the hands of receivers and closed for eighteen months. Factory to be reopened under new management of Goldfine Brothers, who operate other mills in New England. Resident Superintendent, Lawrence M. Dillon, Rockville.

Rock Manufacturing Co., 41 West Main St., manufacturers of woolens, worsteds and automobile cloth were very active during the World War and made French and Russian army uniforms and later for the United States government. The President, Frederick Swindells, was noted as an expert wool buyer. He suddenly retired from business, sold his machinery and the once famous Rock Manufacturing Co, now stands silent and vacant. Hockanum Mills Co. absorbed most of the workmen thrown out of

employment by this action and also of the Regan Manufacturing Co., which lessened the welfare problem in Rockville to a great extent during the depression.

The Horton Manufacturing Co., of Bristol, Conn., branch factory in Rockville, are the makers of the famous Kingfisher silk-braided fish lines, Bristol rod and golf clubs. The industry is seasonable, although always working, the personnel differs according to the demand. First silk-braided fish lines were made as a by-product of the Belding Bros, & Co., silk manufacturers, by E. Martin & Sons. Certain silk waste thread was braided by hand into cord for eye glasses, and later machines made the cord. Fish lines had been first braided for friends and then began the manufacture in general in 1882.

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Consultants:

F. L. Elliot, 158 Union Street Rockville, Conn.
Asst. to Purchasing Agent, M.T. Stevens Sons Co.

E. H. Leonard, Tolland, Conn.
Asst. Manager, U. S. Envelope Co.

William Kuhnly, 49 Talcott Avenue, Rockville, Conn.
Resident Supt., Horton Mfg, Co.

VERNON IV - PUBLISHING PLANTS

In 1881 Thomas S. Pratt purchased the Tolland County Journal from J. N. Stickney Co. and continued to publish the newspaper in connection with a job printing plant until 1905, when he sold out. The plant is now owned by a stock company. The present editor of the Rockville Journal (Rep.) is Stephen Von Euw, and the newspaper is published weekly. The plant is located in the Rockville Opera House Block and is known as the Journal Publishing Co., 69 Brooklyn St. Incorporated November, 1910. Capitalization \$10,000. President, David L. Hondlow; Secretary, H. E. Carney.

The Rockville Leader (Dem.) is the outgrowth of the Tolland County Gleaner and made its first appearance in 1875. In 1879, the Tolland County Leader was started and the publication was continued until 1897, when it was disposed to Rady & Brown and in 1898 the name of the paper was changed to the Rockville Leader. In 1904 T. F. Rady bought the paper and since that time it has been known as T. F. Rady & Co. For several years the plant was located on Brooklyn St. but in 1908 Mr. Rady obtained a site at 46 East Main St., making many changes and improvements in the newspaper and job printing plant. For twenty years the editor of the paper was the late Harry Conklin Smith (1934).

The list follows:

The Journal Publishing Co., Printers, Books and Commercial
69 Brooklyn St.

Inc. Nov. 1910; Cap. \$10,000

President, David L. Hondlow; Secretary, H. E. Carney

T. E. Rady & Co., Publishers

46 East Main St., Rockville, Conn.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Summary of Vernon's History and Centennial Observance

Authors: Smith, Harry Conklin, Talcott, C. Denison

Press of T. F. Rady & Co., Rockville, Conn.

VERNON IV - PUBLIC SERVICE CORPORATIONS AND CHARTERED INSTITUTIONS

The financial life of Vernon began in 1855. In the early days, the heads of industry were also the financiers and the banking business was done at that time with the Tolland County Bank, which was a substantial and influential institution with an extensive business and clients in all parts of the county. In 1849 the monthly payment system was in effect in the mills and continued until 1887, when a weekly payment law enacted by the State went into effect, making necessary a different system of banking.

Rockville's financial institutions have, from the time of their establishment, been strong and sound, keeping pace with the city's development and progress.

The list follows:

The Savings Bank of Rockville, 25 Park Street, Inc. 1858. Chairman of Board, Arthur T. Bissell; President, William Maxwell; Vice President, Parley B. Leonard; Lebbeus F. Bissell, Secretary-Treasurer. Assets approximately \$15,000,000. Rate of interest 5%. Edward L. Newmarker, Assistant Treasurer, Kenneth White, Fred Hallcher.

People's Savings Bank, 24-26 Park Place, Inc. 1876. President, John E. Fisk; Vice President, F. N. Belding; Secretary-Treasurer, J. Everett North; assets approximately \$5,000,000. Rate of interest 5%.

The Hartford-Connecticut Trust Co., Rockville Branch, 5-7 Elm Street. Reorganized December 27, 1933. Chairman, Francis T. Maxwell; Assistant Trust Officers, Charles W. Squires, William F. Partridge; Assistant Trust Officer, Marguerite E. Moxon. Safety Deposit Vaults connected with bank.

Savings Bank of Tolland, Tolland. Inc. 1841. President, Perkins L. Lathrop; Treasurer, I. Tilden Jewett; Assistant Treasurer, Frederick S. Tyler. Bank has assets of approximately \$3,500,000 and pays interest at the rate of 5 %.

Building and Loan Association, Inc. 1893. Meets 2d Wednesday, 28 Union Street. Secretary, Charles N. Squires, 120 Prospect Street. President, George Arnold, Jr. Vice- President, John E. Fahey; Secretary-Treasurer, Frederick H. Holt.

Rockville Water & Aqueduct Co., 9 Elm Street. Inc. 1893. Cap. \$125,000. President, David A. Sykes; Secretary-Treasurer, George B. Hammond. N. Belding; Secretary, Arthur T. Bissell; Treasurer, Lebbeus F. Bissell.

Town of Vernon, City of Rockville Officials

Board of Selectmen: Fred J. Cooley, Herbert Krause, William Dunlap

Tax Collector: William A. Kuhnly

Assessors: James A. Elliot, William Sadlak, Clifford B. Knight

Board of Relief: Herbert T. Hewitt, Henry Schmidt, William C. Johnson

Registrars of Voters: Henry Schmidt, George E. Dunn

Agent and Treasurer of Town Deposit Fund: Frederick G. Hartenstein

Auditors: William H. Yost, Christopher E. Jones

Mayor: Claude Mills

Town School Committee: S. C. Cummings, Chairman; John G. Talcott, Sec'y.; Francis S. Nettleton, Ernest C. Hensig, Marion L. Butler, Mrs. Catherine Burke, George Arnold, Helen S. Garvan, J. E. Flaherty

Tree Warden: Roger J. Murphy

Rockville City Court: Judge, John E. Fisk

Probate Court, 14 Park Place: Judge, John E. Fahey

Superior Court, Memorial Building: State's Attorney, Thomas F. Noone, Rockville

Clerk of Superior Court: Willis H. Reed

Attorneys: John E. Fisk, Henry Building, 3 Park Street
Thomas Noone, Henry Bldg., 3 Park street.
Willis H. Reed, Henry Bldg., 3 Park St.

Police Department: Police Station, Memorial Bldg.
Captain of Police, Richard Shea. Residence 100 Union St.

Fire Department: Fire Chief Milne. 142 Union St.
Asst. Fire Chief Conrady.

County Commissioners (Tolland County)

George Siswick, Stafford Springs

Chester R. Worthington, Somers (Oct. 1, 1939)

Harry C. Smith, Rockville (Died in office) (Oct. 1, 1935)

Hubert P. Collins, Columbia (Oct. 1, 1937)

Treasurer - Raymond B. Kelsey, Stafford Springs

Auditors - Mrs. Maude L. Woodward, Bolton; James W, Galavin, Tolland

County Deputy Jailer - A. Esten Clough, Tolland

County Coroner - John H. Yeomans, Andover

County Home, Vernon Center:

Superintendent - Albert S. McClain, Rockville, R.F.D.

Board of Management, County Commissioners - Stanley H. Osborn, M.D.
Hartford; W. T. Squires, Hartford

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Connecticut State Tercentenary Manual 1955

Vernon Town Report 1935

Rockville Directory

Geography of Connecticut

Author, Dakin, W. S.; Ginn & Co. , 1926

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Authors: Smith, Harry Conklin; Talcott, C. Denison

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State of Connecticut - Factories and Mechanical Establishments

Compiled by the Factory Inspection Dept. 1934-35.

Connecticut Crops and Live Stock Review 1934, Bulletin No. 34, April, 1935.

Compiled in Cooperation with the New England Crop Reporting Service

Pub. by State Dept. of Agriculture, Hartford, Conn.

State of Connecticut, Public Document No. 18

Biennial Report of the Commissioner of Agriculture For the Fiscal Period July 1, 1932 to June 30, 1934.

VERNON IV - PRODUCTS

The people of English descent, in the town of Vernon, developed agriculture, and then turned to manufacturing as the best means of making a living and general farming was the rule in the early days. All farms raised about the same variety of crops. Corn for silage, rye, oats and hay were formerly the most important and are still grown, but the lessened production is due to western competition where crops are grown on a large scale and not to loss of soil fertility. Favorable climate and soil conditions with the advantage of fine roads and truck facilities make it an ideal area to conduct agricultural enterprises.

The most successful branches of agriculture today are the results of specializing. Some of the most popular types in Vernon are tobacco culture, dairying, fruit growing, poultry raising, market gardening and ornamental shrubs.

Tobacco growing requires much skill and hard labor. In 1934 tobacco growing was materially reduced in conforming with the national reduction plan and this area has been shifting to production of fruits and vegetables to some extent.

The kinds of tobacco grown in Vernon are Conn. Valley Broad Leaf Type 51, Connecticut Valley Havanna Seed Type 52, Connecticut Valley Shade-Grown Type 61, the latter grown under cloth. The greater percentage of tobacco land is controlled by a Farmer's Co-operative Association and the organization enables the farmers to sell their crops for better prices. Season, May to September.

Potato growing is one of the major crops and the sale of native potatoes on the basis of the official United States No. 1 grade by the Association has been an important step in grading and standardizing for this locality. Season May to October.

Accredited dairy cows and products represent a business of importance in Vernon.

Poultry is raised on a large scale both for egg production and market. Trade flows towards New York City. Oakhurst Poultry Farm., Bolton Road, Vernon Center is a model plant with modern equipment, free range, etc.

There are roadside markets and the industry is benefitted by the formation of the Approved Roadside Market Assn., Inc. Chain store systems operating in Rockville handle some of the volume of local farm products. The principal vegetables grown are

asparagus, cabbage, carrots, and cauliflower. Small fruits, with the red raspberry, becoming more popular. Peaches and apples are also grown. There was a loss in the peach and apple crops in 1933 due to unusually cold weather, the coldest year on record. However, 1934 was normal.

The Union Agricultural Society of Somers, Enfield, Ellington and East Windsor hold fairs annually and an agricultural fair is also held at Stafford Springs. These are nearby border towns and dates range from early September to October.

There are several societies representing the farm units in Vernon and localities as follows:

Connecticut Pomological Society.

Alexander Bunce, Vice President, Rockville, Tolland County.

Connecticut Vegetable Growers' Association, Tolland County North

Harry Liebman, Ellington; Gene Gaglardone, Bolton South.

Connecticut Farm Bureau Federation

Vice President, R. A. Sykes, Ellington,

The Tolland County Farm Bureau, Office Prescott Building, Rockville, Conn.

President, Robert E. Foot, Andover; Secretary, Willard F. Pinney, Ellington; Treasurer, Alex Bunce, Rockville; Agricultural Agent, Ernest E. Tucker, Rockville; Club Agent, Tilford Cowles, Rockville.

VERNON IV - DEPOSITS

In 1737 bog ore was mined near Snipsic Lake In Vernon and small deposits of coal found in this locality but of no value to mine, lacking in quantity. There were also granite quarries located in Rockville which were extensively quarried until exhausted. Many of the foundations of houses in Rockville are built of this material. Walls and flag stone walks made of this native grey granite are seen about the city.

Consultant:

Miss Anna Fitzgerald, 47 Mountain Street, Rockville, Conn.

VERNON IV - IMPORTS EXPORTS

Nearly all raw material used in manufacturing is imported from other states and countries. Without imports the woolen and worsted industry, for which Vernon and Rockville are famous, would be practically nonexistent. Australia, Argentina and Asia supply raw wool; China and Japan, raw silk through various buyers in the centers of the United states.

Coal, coke, fuels, lubricating oils, gasoline, automobile accessories, tires, flour, grain, hay, lumber, and machinery are other imports on a large scale. Major exports are woolens, worsteds, automobile fabrics, fish lines, broad silk, envelopes, dairy, fruit, market garden products and tobacco.

VERNON IV - MARKETS

There are attractive diversified and advantageous shopping facilities in Rockville, Town of Vernon.

It is a trade center for surrounding border towns within a radius of several miles. Manchester on the south is the nearest large retail center with stores of all classifications. The larger department stores of Hartford (Capitol City, 16 miles) maintains free telephone and delivery service in Vernon.

Rockville is serviced by the larger chain stores and with several general stores. The business district surrounds the center of the city with much of the trade on East Main and Union Streets, the main thoroughfare through the city.

The chain stores are listed as follows:

The Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company
19 Main Street; 38 Park Place; 15 Prospect Street; 80 Union Street, Rockville.

E. W. Woolworth Company Variety Store, 5 & 10 Cents, 24 East Main Street.

The Economy Grocery Company - 68 Union Street; 28 East Main Street.

A. H. Phillips, Inc., Grocers
54 East Main Street; 58 Park Place; 44 Market Street; 77 West Main Street.

W. T. Grant Variety Store, 25¢ to \$1.00 - 56 East Main Street.

The Royal Department Store - 7 Park Street.

Co-operative Marketing of Fruits and Vegetables is conducted by auction method at Manchester, Connecticut. Robert Reid & Son, Auctioneers.

Fruit and vegetables growers from surrounding towns meet at Charter Oak Street, Manchester, Auction Place during season beginning in June with strawberries and continuing to end of season with cauliflower. Products are sold by bid and some buyers come from New York and Boston.

VERNON V - CONSERVATION (Fire Stations)

To guard against fire, lookout stations have been established. Somers tower is the nearest to Rockville. It is reached from Route (20) or Route (83). Turn south on (R20) at the directional sign about one mile east of Somers and proceed to the Shenipset State Forest, where other signs will guide to the tower, which was erected in 1929. The elevation of the tower site is 1,061 feet above sea level and elevation of the floor about 35 ft. The most interesting and extended view of any of the Connecticut Lookout Towers. Picnicking is permitted in the forest.

Storrs Tower is on Route (195) just north of the village of Storrs, which is the home of the Connecticut State College. The elevation is 747 feet above sea level and the tower is in a small, round, steel structure on top of the water tank, which furnishes the water supply for the College. Erected in 1926. Storrs is reached from Vernon (R.15), (R.74), (R.32), (R.44), and (R.193) to Willimantic.

Union Tower is just north of (R.15) on Mt. Ochepetuck. Elevation is 1,286 ft. above sea level. The tower is 30 ft. high and erected about 1912 by the State. Wonderful views of the east and south. From Vernon it is reached by (R.15).

Tolland County now has 50% of its acreage in forest land with white pine plantings around Snipsic Lake, Rockville to conserve water supply. Under supervision of Connecticut State Forestry Department.

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By The Way to Connecticut Forest Fire Lookout Towers