

Mendon in 1845, including Millville. In 1729, Daniel Darling erected a grist mill here. The first woolen mill on the river was established in 1814, after which industry developed rapidly. The Lawrence Felting Company had mills here in 1877, and during the World War subsidiary plants of large rubber and knitting companies were established in Millville. The recent depression, however, witnessed the departure of all industries.

Left from Millville a short distance on a marked road is the *Chestnut Hill Meeting House* (1769) now used by the Congregationalists. It is almost square in plan devoid of spire or ornament, and the severe aspect of the interior has been carefully preserved. A high pulpit, reached by a narrow winding stair and surmounted by a sounding board, dominates the interior. A drop-leaf, semi-circular shelf, hinged to the chancel rail, serves as a Communion table. The white box pews with battened doors are on a platform eight inches above the floor to protect the feet of the worshipers from chilly drafts. On three sides runs a gallery with plain wooden benches. In the window behind the pulpit are several panes of early rolled glass.

BLACKSTONE, 25.1 *m.* (town, alt. 190, pop. 4588, sett. 1662, incorp. 1845), was named for the Rev. William Blackstone, an Episcopalian clergyman who was the first white settler on the banks of the river, also named for him. In 1809 the first cotton mill was established, followed by a woolen mill erected in 1814. The industrial growth of the town was rapid and reached its height in the second decade of the 20th century when the Blackstone Cotton Manufacturing Company attained a capitalization of \$1,000,000 and the Laramac Mills of the American Woolen Company approximated this amount. Since 1924, however, the industrial development of Blackstone has retrogressed and today there is no manufacturing carried on. The inhabitants are employed, for the most part, in the near-by Rhode Island towns.

Roosevelt Park, on St. Paul St., is well planned and equipped as a recreational center for the community.

St. Paul's Church (Catholic) (1852), near the park on St. Paul St., is on the Rhode Island Line, which cuts diagonally through it; half the congregation sits in Rhode Island and the other half in Massachusetts. Its organ is played in Massachusetts and produces its tones in Rhode Island. At 26.2 *m.* State 122 crosses the Rhode Island State Line, about 15 *m.* north of Providence, R.I.

T O U R 23 A: *From* BARRE *to* CONNECTICUT STATE LINE (*Willimantic*) 36.7 *m.*, State 32.

Via New Braintree, Hardwick, Ware, Palmer, and Monson.

B. & M. R.R., B. & A. R.R., and Central Vt. R.R. parallel the route.

Hard-surfaced roadbed throughout.

STATE 32 in the northern part runs through hilly country with many attractive views; south of Palmer, it runs between hills.

South of the junction with State 122, at Barre (*see Tour 23*), State 32 passes a cemetery at the edge of which (R) stands a *Wineglass Elm*, so called from its shape.

BARRE PLAINS, 2.6 *m.* (alt. 630, Town of Barre).

Left from Barre Plains on State 67, at 4.4 *m.* is the junction with an unnumbered hard road; right on this is NEW BRAINTREE, 5.8 *m.* (town, alt. 985, pop. 436, sett. 1709, incorp. 1775), an agricultural community. The town was originally a gore between Rutland and Hardwick owned by Braintree inhabitants. The Indians in this region were active during King Philip's War. Manufacturing was unsuccessfully attempted during the 19th century. Agriculture and dairying are the chief means of livelihood.

At 5.8 *m.* is the village of OLD FURNACE (alt. 660, Town of Hardwick).

State 32 climbs *Hardwick Hill*, an ascent of more than one mile, from the top of which is a wide view of the Ware River Valley.

HARDWICK, 9.2 *m.* (town, alt. 986, pop. 2379, sett. 1737, incorp. 1739), is an agricultural community whose inhabitants are of English, Polish, French, and Lettish stock. The land comprising the present township was purchased in 1686 from the Nipmuck Indians by eight Roxbury residents. No settlement was made at the time, however, because the owners were afraid that the Royal Governor, Sir Edmund Andros, would expropriate the land. At first called Lambstown, the district was incorporated as Hardwick, probably for Philip York, first Lord Hardwick. One of the largest herds of Guernsey cattle in the world was, until recently, pastured in this town.

On the *Old Barn* (R) at 11.8 *m.* are three clock dials, all operated by a single mechanism constructed from junked metals and springs.

At 15.5 *m.* is the junction with State 9 (*see Tour 8*) which is followed (R) to WARE, 17.2 *m.*

At 20.4 *m.* is the junction with a dirt road.

Right on this road, which forks (L) at 5.9 *m.*, is the *Old Babcock Tavern (private)*, 6.2 *m.*, a two-story, gable-end Colonial house that was a Colonial inn for a stage-coach route. The house, situated on a high bank, has been remodeled and has a new door and a colored glass window.

At 22.3 *m.*, is *Forest Lake (fishing, boating, bathing)*.

The *Massachusetts State Fish Hatchery (open 9-5)*, 23.6 *m.*, stocks the important local brooks, rivers, and ponds with trout, bass, perch, and pickerel.

At 24.7 *m.* is PALMER CENTER (alt. 335, Town of Palmer). Opposite the Green is *Frink Tavern (private)*, built in 1733, which was open to the public for over a century. It is a frame structure with hip roof and central chimney. On each side of the front door are pilasters supporting a pediment. Above the door is a semi-circular fanlight. The windows of the second floor have the original small-paned sashes set with wavy glass.

At the *Home of Walter S. Allen* (*open by permission*), 21 Church St., Palmer, are a spinning wheel that came from Londonderry, Ireland, at the time of the settling of Palmer, a device for making musket bullets, a pot for melting lead, and a contrivance for pulling teeth.

Next to the Catholic Church, 76 Thorndike St., is the *Site of the Bear Tree*, cut down in 1920. One Sabbath morning Deacon Thomas King, armed against Indians, was walking through a lonely piece of forest when he was alarmed by the sight of a bear skulking behind this tree. Forgetting the Sabbath laws for the moment, the deacon raised his gun and fired. The shot had been heard and the corpse could not be concealed. Deacon King was tried for violating the Sabbath, and so hot was the debate that it was referred to the church council, which ultimately decided, after long and grave debate, that the deacon had committed a 'work of necessity and mercy.'

PALMER, 26.6 m. (town, alt. 332, pop. 9437, sett. 1727, incorp. 1775), has developed into an industrial town making a large variety of products.

Here is the junction with US 20 (*see Tour 4*).

At 28.1 m. State 32 crosses the Quaboag River, by a bridge at the southern approach of which is the *Site of Fellows Tavern* (L). Fellows was granted a tract of land on condition that he open a tavern for the convenience of travelers on the Bay Path, between Boston and Springfield, the latter a new settlement on the banks of the Connecticut. Since Brookfield was the only plantation between these points at the time, the enterprise promised success. The Indians, however, were hostile, and after a few years Fellows abandoned the attempt.

At the *Tufts House*, 30.5 m., Eugene Field and his brother Roswell, in 1855-66, studied under James Tufts, the 'grand old man' of Monson. In the mill pond opposite, the two brothers were nearly drowned when carried over the dam in a boat of their own construction.

MONSON, 31.8 m. (town, alt. 380, pop. 5193, sett. 1715, incorp. 1775), was originally a district of Brimfield. Provincial Governor Thomas Pownall named the town for his friend, Sir John Monson, President of the British Board of Trade. Although the town is now essentially a farming community, a granite quarry and woolen mills furnish employment to many.

The *Flynt House* (*private*), on High St. facing Fountain St., built in 1824, contains a collection of about 400 unusual old articles from all parts of the world.

Monson Academy, an endowed preparatory boarding and day school for boys, incorporated in 1804, is on State 32. Three Chinese students brought to America by Robbins Brown, a missionary, were enrolled at the Academy in 1847, and were among the first Chinese to study in America.

State 32 now passes through farming country broken at intervals by stretches of wild land. At 36.7 m. the road crosses the Connecticut State Line, 5 m. north of Stafford Springs, Conn.