

Federal Writer's Project – Class 2



Course outline

Date	Topic
February 1	Introduction
February 8	The WPA guide to Massachusetts and related publications Contemporary tours in central and western Massachusetts
February 15	Preserving Black culture
February 22	Politics and the Federal Writers' Project
March 1	The Legacy of the Federal Writers' Project

Course materials are available on <https://queenlake.com/wise/wise-spring-2022/federal-writers-project/>

See also: [Bibliography](#)





Deerfield, by Conrad Aiken



If it is no exaggeration to say that Deerfield is not so much a town as the ghost of a town, its dimness almost transparent, its quiet almost a cessation, it is essential to add that it is probably quite the most beautiful ghost of its kind, and with the deepest poetic and historic significance to be found in America....

The air of unreality, moreover, is simplified and heightened by the fact that Deerfield is one of those towns which have literally and completely been forgotten by time: it has fallen asleep. To all intents, nothing has happened there for two hundred years; and the whole history of its greatness is crowded into the first three decades of its existence, the violent and dreadful years from 1672 to 1704, when it was the northwest frontier of New England, the spearhead of English civilization in an unknown and hostile country.

Massachusetts guide, p. 223

Photo from Digital Commonwealth:

<https://www.digitalcommonwealth.org/search/commonwealth:fj236h08h>



- ▶ Pulitzer Prize winner, later Poet Laureate of the United States
- ▶ Paid \$100/month
- ▶ Stayed five months, fed up with “commies” and co-workers who were “hopelessly incompetent, except for the photographers”
- ▶ Major contributor to Massachusetts guide on literature, theater, and music and the description of Deerfield

Conrad Aiken



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Source: Mangione, p. 105

FOREWORD

The history of the Armenians in Massachusetts is necessarily a part of American history since it is one of the tributary streams of the American past.

The Armenians are among the most recent of the newcomers to America. They too have been subjected to the melting pot which is the strongest factor in effecting the unification of the American culture. I hope the future generations of Armenians will maintain the traditional industry and high ideals of the Armenian race. The merging of the old and the new is the tried method of continuing progress.

Historians of a later day will find this survey valuable as it describes how one of the many races of America wove itself into the fabric of Western living and standards; it also serves to show that the State of Massachusetts was an anchorage for the Armenians just as it was for the earlier and better known ancestors of New England and America.

This work is unique in that it records historical facts still fresh in the living mind. For that reason and for the completeness and accuracy of this history I consider the present work by the Federal Writers of the Works Progress Administration of great value. The Federal Writers' Project deserves real gratitude for the successful carrying out of an undertaking of this kind.

Varaztad H. Kazanjian

Auburn Today

SITUATED among softly rolling hills, the town of Auburn has a pleasant New England charm compounded of the atmosphere of the past with the very modern present. The Centre with its green Common, ancient trees and fine old church and homes has the mellowness of age, while Stoneville and the Drury Square sections are distinctly of the present. It is this fusion of the old and the new without loss of harmony or proportion that gives Auburn its special distinction. It is chiefly a residential suburb of Worcester offering to the commuter the quiet peace and serene beauty of a rural community of pleasant homes.

Formed from the contiguous parts of Worcester, Leicester, Sutton and Oxford, the town was incorporated in 1778 and named Ward after the Revolutionary hero, General Artemas Ward of Shrewsbury. Over fifty years later, in 1837, the name was changed to Auburn due to the difficulty encountered by the mail service in distinguishing between Ward and the town of Ware to the west.

Publications about Massachusetts



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The Massachusetts Guide was published in 1937, along with guides for Idaho, Washington, D.C., and the other New England states.

MASSACHUSETTS

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE TOWNE OF SUDBURY. (Together with the program of the exercises enacted in commemoration of its three hundredth anniversary, 1639-1939.) Sponsored by the Sudbury Tercentenary Committee. 1939. 64 pp., plates. \$0.35

A HISTORICAL SKETCH OF AUBURN. (From the earliest period to the present day with brief accounts of early settlers and prominent citizens.) Sponsored by the Auburn Centennial Committee. 1937. 63 pp. \$0.50

AIR RAID WARDEN'S MANUAL. Sponsored by the Massachusetts Committee on Public Safety. 1941. 10 pp. Free

AN ALMANAC FOR BOSTONIANS. M. Berrows & Company. Sponsored by the Poor Richard Associates. 1939. 120 pp., illus. \$0.98

BOSTON LOOKS SEAWARD: The Story of the Port. Bruce Humphries, Inc., Boston. Sponsored by the Boston Port Authority. 1941. \$3.00

CAPE COD PILOT. 1st ed., Modern Pilgrim Press, 1937. 2d ed., Viking Press, Inc., 1937. Sponsored by the Poor Richard Associates. 408 pp., plates. \$2.00

FAIRHAVEN. Sponsored and published by the Board of Selectmen of Fairhaven. 1939. 66 pp., plates. \$0.75

PLACE NAMES. Harian Publications Inc., New York. Sponsored by the State Library. 1941. 55 pp. \$0.75

SELECTIVE AND CRITICAL BIBLIOGRAPHY OF HORACE MANN, BOSTON. Issued by Commissioner of Education, James G. Reardon, in cooperation with the Boston School Department. 1937. 54 pp. Free

SPRINGFIELD GUIDE. Published and Sponsored by the City of Springfield. 1941. 84 pp., 12 illus. Free

STATE FORESTS AND PARKS OF MASSACHUSETTS, A Recreation Guide. Sponsored and published by the State Department of Conservation, Boston. 1941. 58 pp., 27 maps. Free

STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE AT WESTFIELD. Sponsored and published by the State Teachers College. 1941. 114 pp. Free

STORIES OF MASSACHUSETTS (Series). Sponsored by the Boston School Committee. 1941. 4 pp. Free


John Boyle O'Reilly
Great Boston Fire
National Peace Jubilee Festival
Garrison, the Liberator

Stephen Daye & the Printing Press
~~Declaring the Constitution~~
First American Subway
America's Great Fish Market

THE ALBANIAN STRUGGLE IN THE OLD WORLD AND NEW. The Writer, Inc., Boston. Sponsored by the Albanian Historical Society of Mass. 1939. 168 pp., plates. \$2.00

THE ARMENIANS IN MASSACHUSETTS. Sponsored and published by the Armenian Historical Society, Boston. 1937. 148 pp., plates, maps. \$1.00

Publications of the Federal Writers' Program in Massachusetts



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6

Many have not been digitized. This class won't find out what happens at America's Great Fish Market

HIKING TRAILS OF NEW ENGLAND. Randolph Avery Printing Co., Boston. Sponsored by the New England Council in conjunction with other agencies. 1941. 1 page map with printed legend on reverse side. Free

MASSACHUSETTS: A Guide to its Places and People. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston. Sponsored by the Secretary of the Commonwealth. 1937. 675 pp., maps. \$3.00

MASSACHUSETTS, American Recreational Series. America Travels Press, New York. Sponsored by the Quilts' Committee for Federal Writers' Publications, Inc. 1939. 32 pp., sketch, map. \$0.10

MOTOR TOURS IN THE BERKSHIRE HILLS. Sponsored and distributed by the Berkshire Hills Conference, Inc. 1938. 68 pp. Free

OLD NEWBURY TALES. Historical Society of Old Newbury, Newburyport. 1937. 69 pp., illus. \$0.35

ORGANIZATION OF AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS SERVICES. Sponsored and published by the Protection Division, State Committee on Public Safety. 1941. 20 pp., charts. Free

THE BERKSHIRE HILLS. Funk & Wagnalls Company, New York. Sponsored by Berkshire Hills Conference, Inc. 1939. 368 pp., plates, maps. \$2.50

WHALING MASTERS. Reynolds Printing Company, New Bedford. Sponsored by the Old Dartmouth Historical Society of New Bedford. 1938. 314 pp., plates, port. \$5.00

WINTER SPORTS AND RECREATION IN BERKSHIRE HILLS. Sponsored by the Berkshire County Commissioners, Pittsfield, Mass. 1937. 29 pp., illus., maps. Free

WINTER SPORTS MAP OF THE BERKSHIRE HILLS. Published by the Berkshire County Commissioners, Boston. 1936. Free

More





- Director of Massachusetts Writers' Project.
- Noted historian, winner of Bancroft Prize for his biography of Frederick Jackson Turner
- Taught at Clark, Smith, and Northwestern
- See [obituary](#) from American Antiquarian Society

Ray Allen Billington





- ▶ Via Chesterfield, Worthington, and Peru.
Rolled gravel roadbed; very steep at times; poor in winter.

STATE 143, bordered in June by masses of pink and white laurel, passes over high hills affording excellent views. Heavy growths of spruce and birch line both sides for long stretches. The valleys are narrow and the road descends and ascends steeply.

West of Williamsburg (alt. 494) on State 9 (see Tour 8), State 143 begins a hilly and winding climb.

Tour 8A – From Williamsburg to Hinsdale 25.7m





CHESTERFIELD, 6.3 m. (town, alt. 1440, pop. 445, sett. about 1760, incorp. 1762), originally called New Hingham, was eventually named for the polished Earl of Chesterfield. Farming and cattle-raising have been the most prominent economic activities from the beginning, while the forests have always encouraged the lumber trade.
West of Chesterfield, State 143 drops about 600 feet in 2 miles.

CH, alt. 1440, pop. 445, sett. about 1760,





At 8.6 m. is WEST CHESTERFIELD (alt. 795, Town of Chesterfield) on the East Branch of the Westfield River. A small lumber mill here is the only appreciable industry in the town.

Left from West Chesterfield on an improved road following the river is *Chesterfield Gorge*, 1 m., 1000 feet long and 30 feet deep. The long grooves in the walls were made by glacial action. In the gorge a gift shop, run by an old-time Yankee, has many odd labor-saving devices and machines invented and made by the owner.

At 8.6 m. is WEST CHESTERFIELD (alt. 795, Town of Chesterfield)





West of West Chesterfield, the road climbs steadily.

At 12.8 m. is WORTHINGTON CORNERS (alt. 1500, Town of Worthington).

Left from Worthington Corners on State 112 is WORTHINGTON CENTER, 0.7 m. (town, alt. 1460, pop. 530, sett. 1764, incorp. 1768), a community engaged in dairy farming. In season the maple sugar industry provides an additional source of revenue.

At 2.7 m. on State 112 is the junction with a dirt road; left here 0.5 m. to *Indian Oven*, a natural formation in a large rock, said to have been used by the Indians for baking.

At 5.6 m. on State 112 is the village of SOUTH WORTHINGTON (town of Worthington). Left across the bridge here on a country road is the junction with another road at 0.2 m.; left here to the *Birthplace of the Rev. Russell H. Conwell* (open), 0.4 m., a red-painted farmhouse, maintained much as it was in the early days of the educator who founded Temple University in Philadelphia. The main part of the building dates back to about 1800; the veranda and kitchen are recent additions.

About 5.8 m. on State 112 is *South Worthington Cascade*, a gentle but beautiful falls with a 50-foot drop.

Northwest of Worthington Corners, State 143 passes between several beautiful estates as it rises to a higher level.

At 12.8 m. is WORTHINGTON CORNERS (alt. 1500, Town of Worthington).



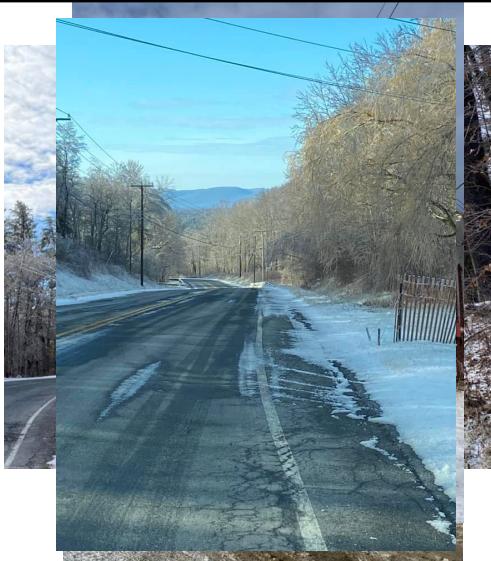


At 14.6 m. is the entrance to the *Worthington State Forest*, a 412-acre tract of natural woodland (*picnicking facilities*), with shaded walks and many points of scenic beauty.

WEST WORTHINGTON, 17 m. (alt. 1300, Town of Worthington). *West Worthington Falls*, 0.4 m. south on Huntington Rd. makes a 75-foot plunge down a tree-bordered gorge. In summer there is only a sparkling rivulet falling over bare rocks into the chasm, but in floodtime there is a roaring torrent.

WEST WORTHINGTON, 17 m. (alt. 1300, Town of Worthington).





Because of the condition of the roads, church services are held here only from May until November, and school opens in August and is closed from Christmas until March. A few families hold to an old New England custom of 'storing up for the winter,' and in the fall buy a whole winter's supply of groceries.

Self-sufficiency and the ability to solve their own problems are two characteristics held in high esteem by the townspeople. Back in 1799, Charles Ford moved into Peru with a horse and cart, a yoke of oxen, and one hog. Since the hog had to walk, it became footsore and caused much delay. A shoemaker by trade, Mr. Ford had leather and tools with him, so he sat down by the roadside, then and there made boots of sole leather for the hog, fastened them on, and neither he nor his traveling companion encountered further difficulty.

The most exciting day for Peru is the second of March, town-meeting day, the pivot around which the town revolves all year. All the townspeople, young and old, and even Peru voters living in other towns and cities during the winter, turn out for this event. At times the intensity of feeling almost creates a feud — though there has never been any serious disturbance — as the contest continues, not between the regular parties, Democrats and Republicans, but between those on one side in local affairs and those on the other.

State 143 continues west, and begins its ascent of a long hill through pleasant wooded country.

Peru

The *Ashmere Reservoir*, named by William Cullen Bryant, is passed at 23.2 m.



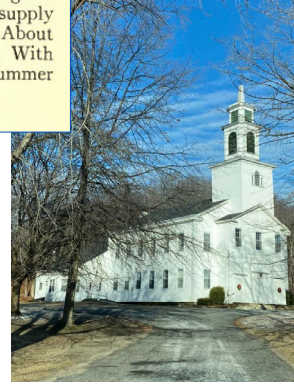
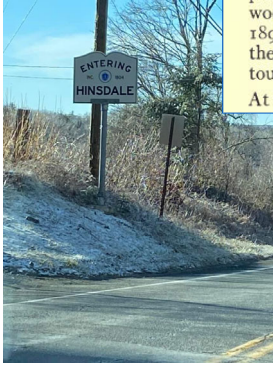
Ashmere and the Lafayette Trail



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Lafayette's tour of the nation, done at the invitation of President James Monroe, took place between July 1824 and August 1825. The president envisioned the tour as a kick-off of the festivities for America's upcoming 50th anniversary.

HINSDALE, 29.6 m. (town, alt. 1431, pop. 1144, sett. 1763, incorp. 1804), soon after its settlement became an industrial town, utilizing the plentiful water-power of the Housatonic River. Raising sheep to supply wool for local mills had some importance between 1800 and 1840. About 1895 there was brief excitement over an apparent discovery of gold. With the decline of textile industries, dairying and catering to the summer tourist trade have become the most profitable occupations. At the Center is the junction with State 143 (*see Tour 8A*).



Hinsdale



WORCESTER is favored in appearance by its terrain. Hills break its surface everywhere, even in the core of the city, and rescue it from monotony. Zoning and city planning have co-operated to increase its variety and beauty. Factories are counterbalanced by municipal parks.

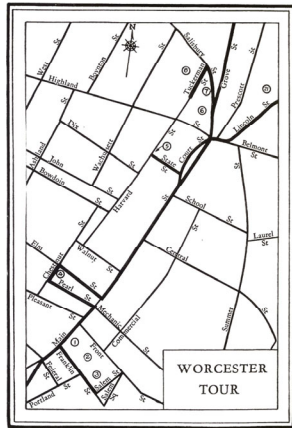
‘Heart of the Commonwealth’ is the emblem engraved upon the municipal seal. The claim is not only geographical but industrial. Excellent facilities for transport, diversified manufactures, and flourishing mercantile establishments give the city a central position and a vital function in the life of New England.

Worcester



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Mass Guide, p. 393



WORCESTER MAP INDEX

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. City Hall | 6. Municipal War Memorial Auditorium |
| 2. Worcester Common | 7. Worcester Historical Society |
| 3. Hidden Graveyard | 8. Worcester Art Museum |
| 4. Worcester Horticultural Society | 21. Home of Timothy Paine |
| 5. Natural History Society | |

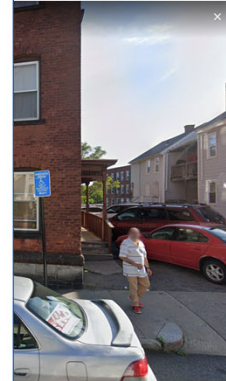
19. *Assumption College*, founded in 1904, is conducted by the Augustinian Fathers of the Assumption. Emphasis is laid on religious instruction and moral guidance. Situated on a hill in Greendale, the college overlooks one of the most beautiful sections of the city. The main building in the form of a T serves the High School Department, and a large wing built in 1926 is occupied by the College.

Worcester Foot Tour



NAME
DATE OF BIRTH
ADDRESS
DATE OF INTERVIEW
INTERVIEW
NAME OF INTERVIEWER
ADDRESS

Mr. Sargeant
refined little 24
which she tries to
of her two modern
for a daughter, a
younger son, about
waitress, the old
there is more slang
than in the average
through it all, the
difficulty in retaining
manners. When she
flowing, it is not
"Indeed, Mrs. Sargeant
everything had to be
pleasure to serve her,
a guy -- he was nuts!"



Marie Haggerty, 63 Austin Street, Worcester



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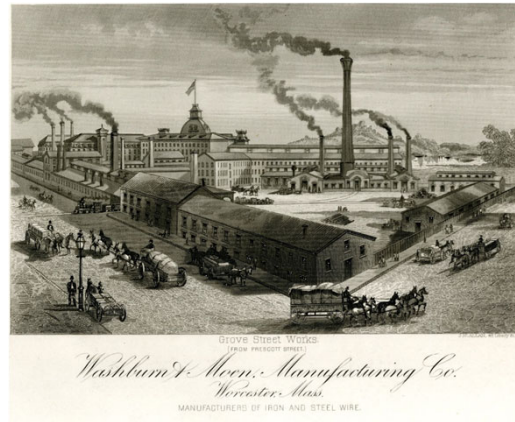
Haggerty, Marie (Interviewee) [\[Source\]](#)
Text

"You think I'm Swede, (laughs) Jah! not only you thinks that - everybody does, if he don't know Erik. Denmark was where I was born, in 1870, and not 'til 1893 do I come to this country....

[Erik broken his back in a farming accident. Doctors didn't offer much hope of recovery.]

'the Jensen family are well family and good family, and they should not suffer, but die in their sleep.'

My father had two 2 brothers, and they all go to sleep and die, and the some should I do. My father was well, eat good supper, and lay down on the bed, and my sister put shawl over him, and we play cards at the table. We go to bed, and in morning, my father just like we left him, only dead.



Erik Christian Jensen, Worcester, interviewed by Emily Moore



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After the accident, he could no longer work on the farm. Jensen taught Danish and math in Denmark, but didn't like it. He came to Worcester and found work at Washburn and Moen (Northworks on Grove Street). Work at the factory was slow at one point, but he was able to repair the bicycles that we so popular in the late 19th century.



- ▶ Owing to the dominance of heavy industries, Fitchburg gives the appearance of being a man's town, although the census reports that women lead in actual numbers. A Yankee twang is at once detected in the voices, but the city is a composite of many races. There are Irish, some descended from early railroad hands, many dark French-Canadians, who came as mill workers about 1860, lean, blue-eyed Swedes, brought by Iver Johnson interests in 1890, and serious-faced Finns, introduced in the great immigration of 1880 to 1912, and Poles and Italians.

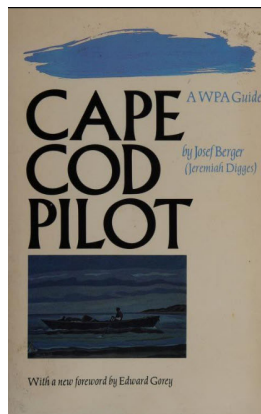
The city itself has an air of substance, unleavened by imagination.

Fitchburg



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Mass. Guide, p. 233



And so, though the Cape changes, and does so at an ever increasing pace, the older Cape Cod continues to exist as tenaciously as ever, possibly more so because of an increasing consciousness of what can be lost. In a way then, there is more to be seen and appreciated by the first-time visitor than ever before.

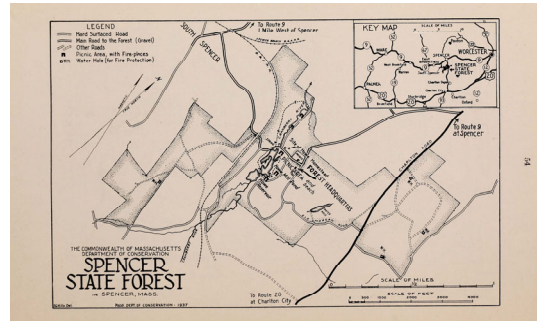
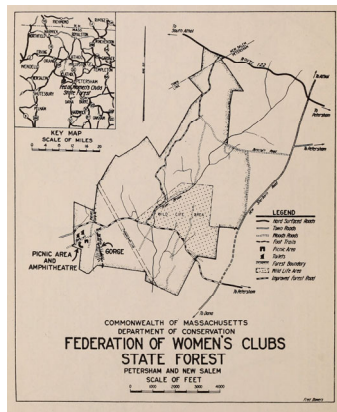
The Cape goes on being a special place, not quite like any other. I know that I for one would not want to live anywhere else.

EDWARD GOREY

Cape Cod Pilot



<https://archive.org/details/capecodpilot0000unse>

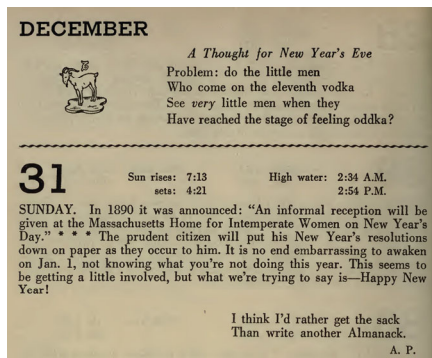


Massachusetts State Parks and Forests



A New Year's event that piqued our interest

An Almanack for Bostonians



Massachusetts Home for Intemperate Women



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See <https://curiosity.lib.harvard.edu/women-working-1800-1930/catalog/45-990023657770203941>

an independent candidate of its own. The reforming zeal of its people was expressed first not against the slaveholders but against the foreigners, for the 1840's and 1850's saw a steady stream of Irish immigrants pouring into the Commonwealth until many of the larger cities were predomi-

Enough of Its History to Explain Its People 49

nantly Celtic in composition. Alarmed by this alien invasion, Massachusetts gave its vote in the state elections of 1854 and 1855 almost solidly to the American or Know Nothing Party, which was pledged to check immigration and combat the growing power of the Catholic Church.

Industry and the rise of cities attracted scores of workers who sought peace and security in the New Canaan. The immigrant invasion which resulted changed the social complexion of the State; sixty-six per cent

Enough of Its History to Explain Its People 51

of all the white stock in Massachusetts contains a foreign strain. Before the Civil War immigration was drawn largely from western Europe, but beginning with the decade of the eighties the majority came from the southern and eastern sections of the Continent, with the result that almost every racial group is represented in the population. The most rigid type of immigration control was in effect up to 1849, and Massachusetts contained a relatively small racial admixture; today it has more foreigners than any other State except New York. French-Canadians, Greeks, Poles, Czechoslovakians, Russians, Finns, Letts, Lithuanians, and Turks live side by side with the descendants of Bay Colony settlers. Many new strands have been added to Anglo-Saxon culture. Slavic, Semitic, and Celtic influences have permeated Massachusetts thought, enriching folkways, enlivening speech, and giving a new perspective to graphic art, music, and literature. The effect of immigration may also be traced in the new direction of the labor movement, as well as in an increase of the Catholic and Jewish religious groups.

Immigration



In the early days of the Republic, citizenship and immigration was controlled by the states. Massachusetts, along with New York, levied a head tax on immigrants coming into their ports.

The U.S. Supreme Court, in [Passenger Cases, 48 U.S. 283 \(1849\)](#), ruled that such taxes were unconstitutional. This helped to allow the Irish and, later, other groups to enter this country.

The federal role in immigration started in the late 19th century, leading to restrictions in the 1920s.

Andrew Cato
Oct. 6, 1941.
Killock
10/10/41

EDITORIAL MEMORANDUM.

TO : Mr. J. D. Newson, Director,
WPA Writers' Program.

FROM : J. Frank Davis, State Supervisor,
Texas Writers' Project.

SUBJECT : Material for New England section, America Today.

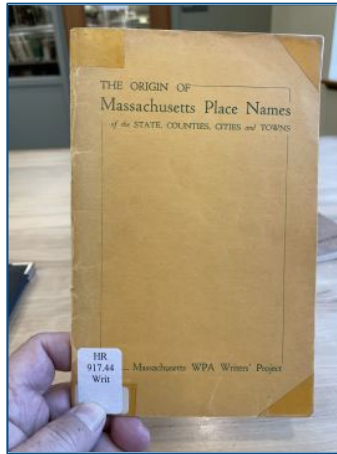
(These paragraphs are submitted for consideration by the New England regional editor of the above-named volume. In so far as they are used they will follow, presumably, the story of why baked beans became a staple dish in New England, which was promised in Mrs. Kerr's Community Service Letter No. 115 of August 11, 1941, Page 2, line 15.)

In many New England homes, to this day, baked beans -- usually with brown bread -- are a Saturday night ritual. The custom once was, and still is in some Yankee households, to serve them for both Saturday night supper and Sunday morning breakfast, and the reason for it was primarily religious.

All labor on Sunday was forbidden by the Puritans as Sabbath-breaking, and among the strict disciples of the Massachusetts Bay theocracy cooking was taboo; even the building of fires except when necessary for warmth was proscribed. What food was eaten on Sunday must have been wholly prepared on a weekday.

Beans on Saturday because of the Puritans





The Origin of Massachusetts Place Names



Not online. Available in a few libraries

WORCESTER COUNTY: (pron. Wōōs'ter). Incorporated in 1731, 1556 sq. m., pop. 504,470, county seats: Fitchburg and Worcester. Named for Worcester County, England.

See: Crane, Ellery B., *History of Worcester County, Mass.*, New York, Lewis Hist. Pub. Co., 1924, vol. 1, pp. 83-86. Gannett, *op. cit.*, p. 330. Hurd, D. Hamilton, *History of Worcester County, Mass.*, Philadelphia, J. W. Lewis & Co., 1889, vol. I, pp. i-iv.

Worcester and its pronunciation



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See <https://www.yourdictionary.com/wnw/pronunciation.html>

MONTAGUE, Franklin County: pop. 7,582, sett. 1715, incorp. as a town, 1775, alt. 228, B&M RR., State 2A, 62. Named in honor of Captain William Montague (1720-1757), English seaman and commander of the *Mermaid* at the capture of Cape Breton, 1745.

MONTEREY, Berkshire County: (pron. mŏn'tě-ră'), pop. 320, sett. 1739, incorp. as a town, 1847, alt. 1200, State 23. Named for Monterey, Mexico, which the United States Army had captured in September 1846.

Cape Breton and Mexico



At 20 m. is the junction with an improved road.

Left on this road is PHILLIPSTON. 1.5 m. (town, alt. 914. pop. 423. sett. 1751. incorp. 1814), which is in that part of the grant known as Narragansett Number Six organized as the town of Templeton. When Templeton was subdivided this part was named Gerry, in honor of Elbridge Gerry, Governor of Massachusetts 1810-11 and Vice-President of the United States during the administration of James Madison. Gerry's political actions caused the town to change to the present name, which honors William Phillips, for 12 successive terms Lieutenant-Governor of the State. Sawmills were early of importance. In 1837 Philipston produced large quantities of cotton and woolen goods and palmleaf hats. Although some lumbering is still carried on, farming, dairying, market-gardening, poultry-raising, and fruit-growing are the chief occupations.

Left of the small Common stands the Congregational Church (1785) with its old *Horse Shed*, the only one of its kind in this part of the State. Perched on a windy hilltop where snowdrifts are deep in winter, it was made large to provide ample hitching facilities and also to allow sleighs to be turned around inside.

About Phillipston



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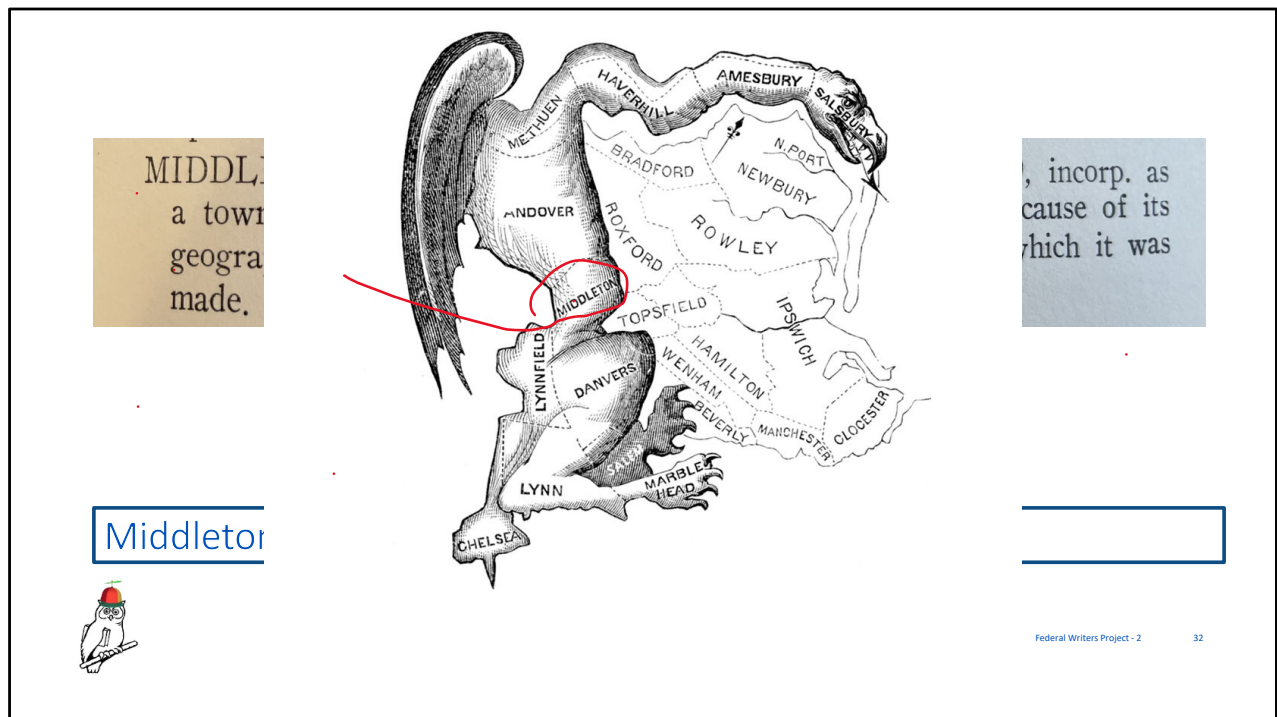
Mass., Worcester, Press of Clark
PHILLIPSTON, Worcester County: pop. 481, sett. 1751, incorp.
as the town of Gerry, 1786, alt. 914, S. of State 2. Named for Gov.
Elbridge Gerry, with whose views on the War of 1812 the towns-
people were displeased. Renamed Phillipston, in 1814, in honor of
William Phillips, Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts in 1814,
and benefactor of Phillips Academy.
See: Harding, William B., *Names of the Towns in Worcester County,*
Mass., Worcester. Press of Clark Jillson, 1883, p. 14.

Phillipston



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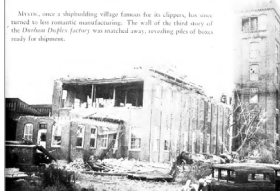
But, wait, there's more. Gerry also promised windows for the town's Meeting House. See Carole Gariepy's book, *The Spirit of Phillipston*



The name Middleton is derived from its location midway between the important early settlements of Salem and Andover.



The old coastal village of Swansea, the home of several fishermen, fishermen, and boat-builders. For days after the hurricane, walls crumbled in and out among poorer boats, fishing crafts, and the refuse of abandoned wharves.



Swansea, once a shipbuilding village famous for its clippers, has since turned to her romantic manufacturing. The wall of the third story of the Peabody Drydock factory was smashed away, revealing piles of bones ready for shipment.



Refugee Park became a logging camp. Streets were labyrinths of tracks and poles.



In the outlying districts of Gardnerville, the "chain-down," livestock stampeded 25000 crashed down and walls buckled in. The Baptist Church shook to its foundations as part of its roof was torn away. A chain factory lost its top along with a section of the third story. Property damage was estimated at one half million dollars. Athol had watched the Millers River rise without alarm. Too late, the townspeople realized that flood was imminent. The waters rushed over the Starrett dam and the main street bridge, knocked three filling stations into the middle of the road. The hurricane made flood control a hazardous job; while workers battled the rampant river, winds smashed through the town, halting the power service. The National Guard was mobilized. Throughout the crisis, the Red Cross and associated agencies stood by to aid in evacuating flooded districts and provide shelter for homeless families.

New England Hurricane

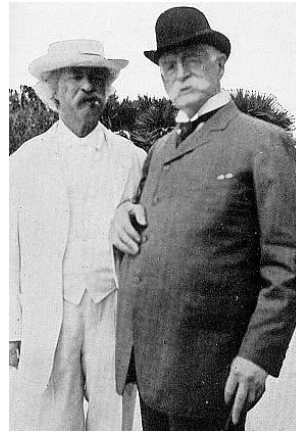
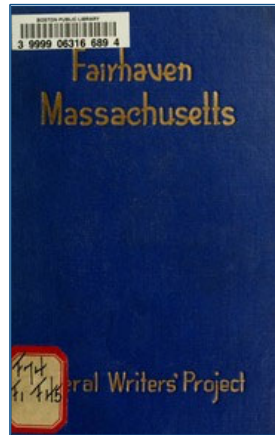


Published in October 1938, one month after the storm

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33

All but a handful of the book's 232 pages contain photographs. Most of the scenes described were in Rhode Island, southeastern Massachusetts, and the Connecticut coast



Fairhaven guide, Sponsored by the Board of Selectmen of Fairhaven



Tells the story of Henry Huttleston Rogers, the man who pulled Twain from bankruptcy

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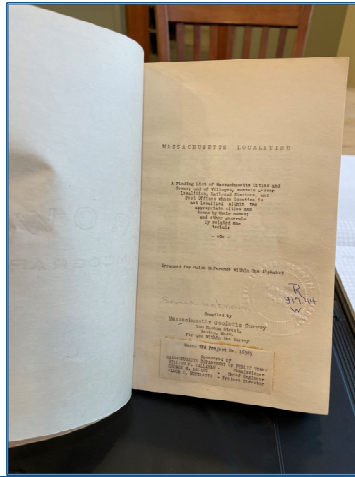
Fairhaven Guide, p. 33

Of the many colorful feasts and religious observances in their home land, Azoreans in Fairhaven have retained only one, the Feast of the Holy Ghost, observed at Pentecost fifty days after Easter, and ten days after the Ascension. This paucity of observances is not due to the fact that the Portuguese have no church of their own in Fairhaven, for even where Portuguese churches exist in other communities this is the chief fiesta celebrated.

The feast, according to local tradition, originated in 1522 in the Azores. On the island of St. Michael on the eve of October 21, the volcanoes Lourical and Rabacal, in the village of Franca do Campo, suddenly erupted, completely covering the community with lava. So terror-stricken were the people of the whole group of the Azores by the fearful disaster that groups of peasants began to congregate in the public squares to pay homage to the silver crowns which represented the Holy Spirit, and to pray that they be spared from further destruction.

Azoreans in Fairhaven

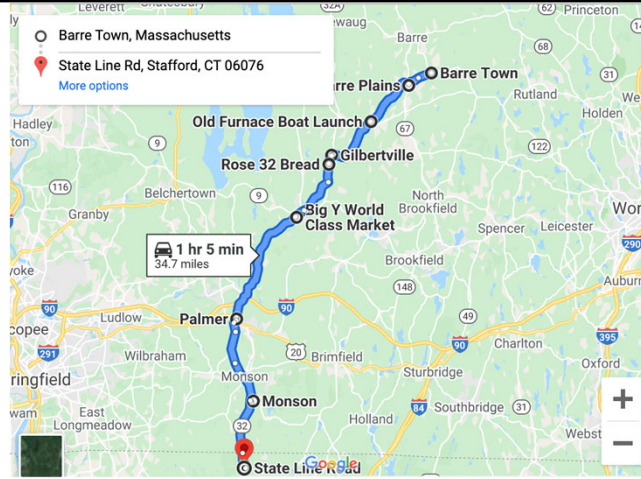




Massachusetts Localities



A finding list of Massachusetts Cities and Towns; and of Villages and Lesser Localities



Tour 23a – Google Maps





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.

Tour 23 A: From Barre To Connecticut State Line (Willimantic) 36.7 M., State 32.



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Already we have one problem. The tour ends at Stafford, not Willimantic



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.



Tour start. *Wineglass Elm* no longer standing





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.



Barre Plains and South Barre





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.

Old Furnace



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The village was earlier named Furnace. As the name implies, there were furnaces in the village's mills. Some made cannon balls that were used in the Revolutionary War.
<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc/mhcpdf/townreports/Cent-Mass/har.pdf>

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.





Gilbertville



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New Furnace, in Gilbertville, was the location of a newer furnace along the Ware River. Paige, Lucius Robinson. History of Hardwick, Massachusetts: With a Genealogical Register. United States: Houghton, Mifflin, 1883.



More Hardwick/Gilbertville



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



The Big Y of Ware



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.



On the road to Palmer

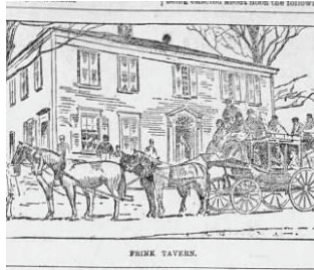




Palmer



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.



Palmer and the Frink Tavern



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Drawing clipped from Boston Globe, March 10, 1889

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 – (photo by Google Street View)





Monson





Stafford Springs



As for the legend of ethnic homogeneity, that is so much pernicious twaddle. Boston has greatly changed from the city of which President Timothy Dwight of Yale wrote in 1796: 'The Bostonians, almost without an exception, are derived from one country and a single stock. They are all descendants of Englishmen and, of course, are united by all the great bonds of society — language, religion, government, manners and interest.'

Today five minutes' walk from the State House will take the visitor to any one of several sections of the city where English is a foreign language. A social statistician has said that every third person whom you meet on the street in Boston today is foreign-born and three out of every four are of other than English descent. The old New England stock still largely controls leading banks, numerous business enterprises, museums, hospitals, and universities, but numerically it is insignificant. The contemporary scene is decidedly more cosmopolitan than Calvinistic. The 'New Canaan' of the English founders is now a political new Canaan for the Irish. Celt outnumbers Saxon.

On ethnic purity



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Pernicious twaddle, p. 136

64. *Chinatown* begins at Harrison Ave. and Beach St. with a group of small native shops, principally markets, the latter displaying in their windows strings of strange-looking sausages and small wire hanging baskets of ancient eggs. At the corner of Oxford St. (L) is the *Chinese Bulletin*, a news sheet in native characters, posted daily.

Slavery was tried during Colonial days, but when found to be unprofitable was soon abandoned.

In 1812, four missionaries sailed for Calcutta on the brigantine 'Caravan' 'to bring light to the moral darkness of Asia.'

On matters of race



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Chinese students at Monson academy

No mention of Japanese people in Boston or elsewhere

No mention of the Ku Klux Klan, who had a rally in Worcester in 1925

Story of Crispus Attucks, as well as stories of the abolition of slavery in Massachusetts and anti-slavery movements,

- ▶ A few mentions of socialists, including the Society of Christian Socialists
- ▶ No Communists, only “communistic” utopian societies such as the Shakers
- ▶ Anarchists: Wendell Phillips, Josiah Warren, and, of course, Sacco and Vanzetti

Wendell Phillips was largely responsible for the Greenback Movement of 1870-80, which, partly socialist and partly anarchist in inspiration, was an effort to displace bankers and middlemen from their key places in the economy of production. Currency and bonds, according to the greenbackists, should be interchangeable. The basic economic theory common to socialism, anarchism, and greenbackism was that capital was solely the product of labor. This was no new doctrine, of course — Adam Smith and Ricardo had already voiced it, while Marx had employed it as a weapon. Its newness lay in its use by workingmen's political movements in America. Greenbackism, popularly supposed to be a currency reform movement, was more than that — it aimed, by a new system of credit and by universal suffrage, at complete industrial reorganization.

Socialists, Communists, Anarchists, and the Greenbacks



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Society of Christian Socialists (p. 54)
Anarchists – Phillips, p. 71



It'll be Sacco and Vanzetti that cause some (more) trouble

Politics and the Massachusetts guide in Class 4



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<https://www.newspapers.com/image/431075640/>



- ▶ Novelist and journalist
- ▶ Contributed to the New York City guide
- ▶ Born in Boston, long-time resident and reporter for the *Vineyard Gazette*

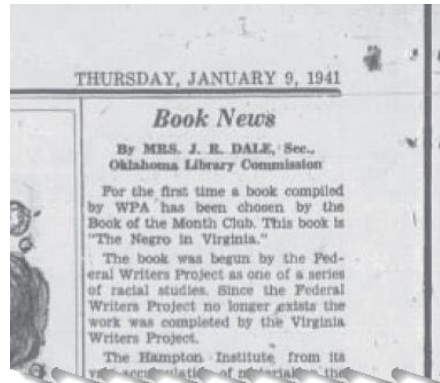


Dorothy West – 1907-1998



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Dorothy West



Next week – Recording and preserving Black history and culture

