

**THE HUNDREDTH TOWN.  
GLIMPSES OF  
LIFE IN WESTBOROUGH,  
1717-1817**

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The hundredth town. Glimpses of life in Westborough, 1717-1817 by Harriette Merrifield Forbes

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**HARRIETTE MERRIFIELD FORBES**

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1717-1817**





Main Street in 1828

# THE HUNDREDTH TOWN.

GLIMPSES OF LIFE IN WESTBOROUGH, *Mass.*

1717-1817.

BY

HARRIETTE MERRIFIELD FORBES.



BOSTON:

PRESS OF ROCKWELL AND CHURCHILL, 39 ARCH STREET.

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PREFACE.

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**F**OR the use of the Parkman papers, thanks are due to the Antiquarian Society, in Worcester, for the earliest volume of the Journal and the Natalia; to Mrs. I. E. S. Tuckerman, of Amherst, for the Journals of the years 1737 and 1778-80; to Mrs. Maria D. Leach, for that of Anna Sophia Parkman; and to Mrs. Nahum Fisher, for several papers of interest. Mrs. J. W. Brittan has kindly loaned the large number of papers left by Dr. Hawes, and Mrs. Sarah Ball Searle, of Northborough, those of Dr. Ball.

Nearly all the older residents of the town have been of very great assistance in the work, by telling stories of fact or folk-lore, or by pleasant companionship in drive or walk.

For the title chosen, THE HUNDREDTH TOWN, I am indebted to the chance of circumstance, — ninety-nine other towns having been previously incorporated in Massachusetts.

*Dr. H. Parkman 1735*

The view of Main street in 1828 is taken from an old water-color in possession of Mrs. Leach; that of the church in 1806 from a drawing, also loaned by her, made by Mr. Charles Parkman. Governor Davis' birthplace is from a daguerreotype owned by Mrs. George C. Davis, of Northborough.

The engraving was done by Clara Denny Ward, of Shrewsbury.



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# THE HUNDREDTH TOWN.

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## CHAPTER I.

### TRACES OF THE INDIAN.

 MORE than two hundred years have passed away since the Indian, unmolested, roamed through the wilderness of Wabbequasset — the land of the Nipmucks — the Whetstone country. Nearly every trace of him has disappeared. His Okommakamesit and Whipsufferage we call Marlborough; Hassanamisco, the place of small stones, is Grafton; Wopanage, the crossing-place, is Milford; and Magunkook, the place of great trees, is Hopkinton. Very few places retain their Indian names; even the great pond, Naggawoomcom, was rechristened Chauncy, in honor of a Harvard College president, to whom the land near by was granted.

The exceptions in this immediate vicinity are Quinsigamond, “the pickerel-fishing place,” in Shrewsbury; the