



SOUVENIR
...AND...
PROGRAMME
...OF...
TOWN **C**ENTENNIAL
...AND...
CELEBRATION

FRIDAY, JULY 4th, 1902.

WESTFIELD, VT.

*I am obliged to put this in
order to get it in the envelope*

History of the Town of Westfield.



THE town of Westfield is situated in the northwestern part of Orleans County. It is bounded on the north by Jay which separates it from the Canadian border. On the east it is bounded by Troy, and on the south by Lowell. On the west it is bounded by Montgomery which is in Franklin County. Westfield is six miles square, containing 23,910 acres. The town is watered by the Missisquoi river and its tributaries. The section along the river and for a distance back from it forms a part of the choicest and most fertile farm lands of this region. The climate is invigorating, the waters pure and sparkling, the scenery is picturesque and grand. On the north the summit of Jay Peak is within the borders of this town, and likewise to the northwest the gap in the mountain known as Hazen's Notch.

Originally the town was granted to Daniel Owen and others, most of whom were of the

state of Rhode Island. The charter was signed by Gov. Thomas Chittenden at Arlington, May 15th 1780. Only one of the original proprietors, Thomas Burlingame, ever resided here. About 1803, Burlingame made a clearing on the farm now owned by C. W Bryant. He left after a few months.

The first settler was Jesse Olds who came from Massachusetts in 1798 and located on the West Hill in what is now a pasture owned by Frank Wright. He is said to have been a gentleman of culture, a graduate of Harvard College, a lawyer and a Congregational clergyman, who by reason of irregularities, left civilization and sought the wilds of Vermont. The next year William Hobbs, Antony Burgess, and John Hartley came. Hobbs located on the "Bull Place" and Hartley on the North Hill on the farm now owned by Alfred Hartwell.

On May 29th 1802 the town was organized at a meeting held at the house of Mr. Olds. That gentleman was chosen first town clerk and to several other offices. The names of six citizens appear in the record of the meeting. Of these only one, James Coburn, has a descendant living in town. He is represented by his great grandson, A. J. Coburn.

In 1803 David Barber and Rudolphus Reed came to town. Mr. Reed's son, Calvin, resides here now, the oldest male citizen in town. Mrs. Betsey C. Stebbins is the oldest lady in town; August 3rd she will be 90 years old. In 1804 Captain Medad Hitchcock and his sons, Thomas, Heber, and Smith came to town and located on the "Flat" where the village now stands. The Hitchcocks built a saw mill and grist mill on the stream above the village. The captain built a barn which is still in use on the farm of Hiram Miller. Mrs. Miller is the captain's great granddaughter. In 1806, Dr. Shubel Winslow and his sons Luther and Amasa, Thomas Stoughton, Jarias Stebbins and David Hitchcock came to town. In 1809 James Brown came. In 1818 Jerre Hodgkins came from Belvidere and opened a small store. In 1839 O. Winslow, R. S. Page, and Smith Hitchcock opened a store here. Mr. Page was the father of Ex-Governor O. S. Page of Hyde Park, who was born here.

In 1810 the population was 149. In 1900 it was 646.

The first celebration of the Fourth of July was in 1806. Asa Hitchcock was orator, Amasa Winslow was toast master, and a platoon of twelve soldiers fired the salutes.

Program of Exercises July 4th, 1902,
Westfield, Vermont.

FORENOON.

Salute of 48 guns at sunrise.

9:00 A. M. Parade.

11:30 A. M. Tug of War, Troy vs. West-
field. Purse, \$5.00.

AFTERNOON.

1:00 P. M. Speaking by
Ex-Gov. C. S. PAGE, Hyde Park.
HON. T. J. BOYNTON, Boston.
" O. S. ANNIS, North Troy.
" O. C. MILLER, Newport.

1:30 P. M. Baseball Game. North Hyde
Park vs. Newport Center.
Purse, \$10.00.

*There are the ones that
beat that* **RACES.** *you know
any thing about*

2:30.	Bicycle.	Purse, \$3.00	\$2.00	\$1.00
3:00.	Potato.	"	1.50	1.00 .50
3:15.	Sack.	<i>Wallace & Co.</i>	1.50	1.00 .50
3:30.	Obstacle.	<i>E. J. O'Connell</i>	1.50	1.00 .50
4:00.	Slow Horse.	"	3.00	2.00 1.00

Races free and open to all.

EVENING.

8:30. Fireworks. \$250.00.

COMMITTEE ON SPORTS.

V. Bailey, Dr. W. A. Young,
W. O. Wright, D. A. Wakefield.
John Watkins.

MARSHALS.

I. D. Johnson, G. H. Buzzell.

AIDS.

D. C. Woodworth, W. D. Miller.

L. S. WOODWORTH, Pres.

ED. BOYNTON, Sec'y.

*Charles S. Watson Esq.
in sack Obstacle race*

The first plow was brought to town from Craftsbury by Rudolphus Read, who carried it on his back.

Prior to 1820 the post-office was at Craftsbury. About that time a small route was established between Craftsbury and St. Albans, passing through Lowell. A branch route ran from Lowell through Westfield to North Troy, the mail carrier making two trips a week. The first postmaster in Westfield was Henry Richardson.

In 1818 the Cong'l church was organized by Rev. Levi Parsons, missionary, with a membership of ten or eleven persons. About 1830, largely through the instrumentality of Deacon Page, a church building was erected near where Orrin Bailey's house now stands. In 1848 this building was taken down and moved to the village, and the present building erected.

The M. E. Church was organized in town in 1830, with seven members. The house of worship was built in 1869. The Rev. J. H. Wallace is the present pastor.

There is a considerable number of Catholic families in town that belong to the Roman Catholic Church in Lowell.

Prior to 1806 there were two schoolhouses in town, one on the West Hill, and one on the

"Flat." At present there are seven school-houses. In 1857 the Grammar School was incorporated by the Legislature largely through the efforts of Carnot Brailey, who was the representative from Westfield that year. In 1860 the present school building and town house was erected.

The late Aaron E. Hitchcock presented the town with ten thousand dollars with which to erect a library and museum building, fit up the museum, and establish a fund for keeping in part the building and in part the museum. In 1899 the building was erected, 42 by 30, two stories and a basement. The library and museum are now in successful operation. E. S. Miller is the librarian.

The physicians who have resided in town are Shubel Winslow, Henry Corey, A. W. Annis, J. D. McKenzie, A. C. and G. A. Martin, E. H. Belyea and F. S. Gray. The present physician is W. A. Young.

Jesse Olds, Jairus Stebbins, Henry Richardson and N. C. Hoyt have served as associate justices of the Orleans County Court.

At present there are two stores in town—H. D. Miller and H. B. Hitchcock, proprietors; two blacksmith shops, William Dickson and W. H. Kelley, proprietors; one repair shop

S. L. Hendrix, proprietor; one shoe shop, Napoleon Root, proprietor. There are two steam lumber mills—one on the West Hill operated by D. A. Wakefield, the other in the village, L. S. Woodworth & Son, proprietors.

The postmaster and town clerk is H. D. Miller; deputy sheriffs, W. W. Wakefield and G. W. Miller, the latter is also constable and collector; the treasurer is H. W. Burnham; selectmen, H. P. Woodworth, W. H. Burnham, H. O. Miller; listers, Edwin Boynton, E. H. Hitchcock, Eimer Edmunds; road commissioner, Edwin Boynton; school directors, W. B. Gilpin, Willard Farman, John Watkins; justices of the peace, E. L. Miller, L. S. Woodworth, W. B. Gilpin and J. A. Boutwell; member of the General Assembly and president of the Westfield Centennial Association, L. S. Woodworth.

Marvellous changes have been wrought since that March day one hundred years ago when the pioneers of Westfield gathered in the house of Jesse Olds and organized the town. Will the changes wrought in the coming century prove of equal magnitude? The people who observe the next centennial anniversary will behold Jay Peak and Hazen's Notch and the smoothly flowing river, but of the condition of life it is not for us to know to-day.

Westfield, July 4th, 1902.