

Historical and Topographical Sketch at Brookfield

Brookfield (Mass.) or Quaboag was purchased of Shadookis by Ens. Thomas Cooper, for certain inhabitants of Ipswich, Nov. 10th A.D. 1665, equal to six miles square for 500 fathoms of Wamp-Pump-Peoge; about 250 Dollars.

The town was incorporated, Oct. 1673. In 1675 it contained about 13 houses and a house for public worship; it was burnt (one house excepted) Aug. 1675, and the settlement broken up. It began to be resettled about 1687, the affairs of the town were managed by a Committee of the General Court till 1718 when it obtained all the powers and privileges of a town.

In 1741 the S.W. part of the town, with parts of other towns was incorporated by the name of Western. The N.E. Part of town was Incorporated as the 2nd. Parish in 1750; and as a distinctive town, by the name of N. Brookfield in 1812. In 1754 the S.E. and S. parts of the town were incorporated as a third precinct.

There are in Brookfield several meeting houses, one Congregational, and Methodist in the first precinct, two Congregational one Baptist, one Methodist and one Universalist in the 3rd precinct. It is pleasantly upon the Chicopee River, 60 miles from Boston and 20 miles westerly of Worcester. It contains about 29,576 acres or 46 $\frac{1}{5}$ square miles of which about 1200 acres are covered with water.

The Chickoee or Quaboag river is formed by the junction of 5 Mile and 7 Mile Rivers in the east part of town. After the junction of the 5 & 7 Mile Rivers, it runs southerly into Podunk Pond, issuing at the N.W. Extremity of said pond and pursuing a westerly and N.W. course, sluggishly through a low and flat meadow as it enters Western. Said meadow is at an average width of half a mile, and abounds in good peat. The whole descent of miles is less than 3 feet. The tributaries of the Chickopee are small, offering few mill sites and no extensive water privileges.

The general range of hills that stretch north and N.E. between the west and 5 Mile River, furnishing small, but numerous feeder to the said rivers are broken by the Westerly by N. Westerly course of the Chickopee River, which again rise and form a broken ridge between the Chickopee and Quinaboag Rivers. There are 11 bridges, 10 saw mills, 5 grist mills and one furnace. Bog iron ore is found in great quantities in all parts of the town, and large quantities of the rich ore has been drawn from the ponds. There are 14 school districts, 1 female seminary incorporated in 1826.

Wilder's Note

The following citizens enabled the cartographer to reproduce this map from information gleaned from the original, which is retained by the Massachusetts

Archives, Boston, Mass. Coordinator: Brookfield Library Director, Brenda Metterville, Brookfield citizens Jean and Kermit Eaton: The Eatons traveled to Boston and provided Wilder with more than 50 photographs of the original Stebbins map which enabled him to complete this project. Jean's additional efforts and perseverance in interpreting the fold-marked, faded manuscript data greatly assisted Wilder in interpreting and the reproduction of this rare and valuable document.

Additional info on this map contains additional data contained in Heman Stebbins earlier survey of 1827 prepared for H. Merriam in Oct. 1828.