

Presented  
OXFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Settled By  
THE FRENCH HUGUENOTS

1686-1696

Reorganized 1703



Preserved by THE OXFORD  
HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
1984



Oxford, Massachusetts



- 2 MILESTONE.** For two centuries this marker has told travelers that 53½ miles lay between this corner (known as Sigourney Corner) and the state capital. The milestone was erected in 1771.



- 5 SITE OF THE JOHNSON (JANSEN) MASSACRE.** The Massacre of the Johnson family during an Indian raid on August 25, 1696 brought the first Huguenot settlement to an end. The stone marker placed in 1875, bears the initials of John Johnson and his three children, Peter, Andrew, and Mary who were killed. Fortunately Mrs. Johnson and her cousin escaped.



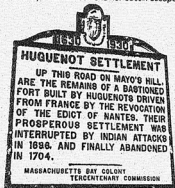
- 8 HUGUENOT MONUMENT and FRENCH FORT.** The Huguenot Memorial Society erected a cross and pedestal monument to the memory of the Huguenot settlers on the site of the original Fort that was constructed in 1686.

**3 GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH.**

The first Episcopal services were held as early as 1687, by the Huguenots. The present church was from stone quarried from a nearby hill as a gift from George Hodges who's burial plot is located to the rear of the Church.



6



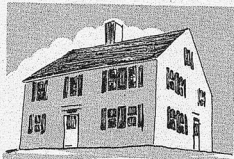
- 9 BRIDGE AT SACCARAPPA.** Built by Joshua Stockwell in 1792, mill adjacent to the roadway was built for the purpose of making nails. A house, blacksmith's shop and school house were built on the north side of the brook.



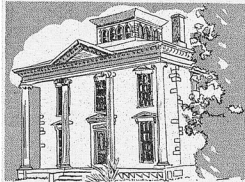
- 4 MAIN ST.** View of the Main Street looking north from an area just south of Quabog Avenue. This was the principal avenue of the town at the time of its early settlement in 1713. Known as "the Eight-Rod Way" it is over 100 ft. wide, lined with trees on both sides and in the spring, the scent of the crabapple blossoms fill the air. Upon the central highway were located chiefly the house lots of the English settlers. Many older homes still line the Main Street.



- 7 HUGUENOT OAK** the last living evidence of Huguenot presence in Oxford located on the corner of Huguenot Road and Russell Lane is the only Huguenot Oak left standing. Early writings suggest that the Huguenot Oaks were used as a guide to the Fort.



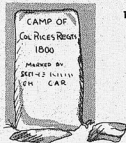
- 10 LEARNED DAVIS HOUSE,** built in 1785 is of unique ¾ design. Learned Davis operated a nail mill powered by a brook fed by Saccarappa Pond nearby. Davis was a state representative, selectman, assessor and member of the school committee.



**CLARA BARTON'S SUMMER HOME.** Clara Barton lived to be 90 years old, living at her home in Maryland during the autumn, winter, and spring. The summers of her last 10 years were almost always spent at her home at No. 28 Charlton Street.



**HODGES VILLAGE DAM AND RESERVOIR** - A Federal Flood Control Project was completed in 1960 at the cost of \$4,500,000, bringing much needed flood protection to the French River Basin. This installation is located near the original Hodges Mill and dam that manufactured, perhaps, the first flannelette sheets and virgin wool blankets in America.



**13 CAMP HILL.** A stone marker on the hill erected by General Ebenezer Learned Chapter, D. A. R. marks the site of the camp of Colonel Nathan Rice's Regiment of the New England Division of Adam's Provisional Army in 1799 and 1800. The camp was visited by Alexander Hamilton in 1800.



**14 FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.** Built in 1903 - 1904 as a gift from Mr. Charles Larned. The stained-glass window above the main entrance shows the departure of Pilgrims from Holland in 1620. A fine Historical exhibit is on display in the Library's Museum. There are sixteen smaller stained-glass windows of interest and the framed original deed to Oxford.

**15 FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.** The Congregational Church was the first "meeting-house" built in Oxford, the first service was in 1721. The present house is the fourth dedicated in 1829. A stained-glass window on the south wall of the church was dedicated in memory of Miss Clara Barton in 1913.



**OLD BURYING GROUND** the first cemetery in Oxford now called South Cemetery). Ebenezer Learned is buried here. "Ebenezer Learned became quite active in the patriot cause as a Colonel, later as a General in the Revolution. Learned and his men marched on the Lexington Alarm, fought at Bunker Hill, the Evacuation of Boston and Valley Forge. On April 2, 1777, Congress voted his appointment as Brigadier General. Ebenezer Learned served Oxford as Selectman, Moderator, Assessor, and Justice of the Peace. Learned's father, was one of the thirty English settlers in 1713 and is also buried here. The Rev. Campbell First Minister of the Congregational Church, who served for 45 years as pastor, teacher, justice, is buried close by. Many other interesting stones can be found in this area.



**17 JOSLIN PARK.** This land, a gift from Dr. Elliott P. Joslin, formerly was the location of one of the first public schools in Oxford. A stone used by the Indians to grind their corn is still on this land. A granite marker at the foot of the flagpole recognizes the veterans of the Spanish-American War.



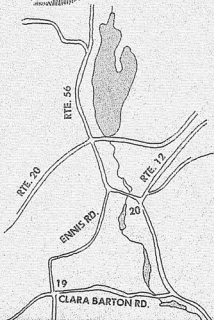
**19 CLARA BARTON BIRTHPLACE.** Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross, was born in this house on Dec. 25, 1821. She has been entered into the Hall of Fame for Great Americans in 1976 as its 100th member. A postage stamp in her honor was issued in 1948. The house is open to the public by appointment and on specified days. It is on the National Register of Historic Places. A camp for diabetic girls is located on the property. It was founded by Dr. Eliot P. Joslin, a world renowned specialist in the treatment of diabetes mellitus.



**18 NORTH CEMETERY.** Miss Clara Barton founder of the American Red Cross, and Dr. Elliott P. Joslin noted in the treatment of Diabetes, are buried in this cemetery.



**20 NORTH OXFORD BAPTIST CHURCH.** In May of 1847, this church was dedicated to fill the spiritual needs of a growing community of worshippers. A spire, 95 feet in height, originally





## OTHER NOTES OF HISTORICAL INTEREST

No formal act of incorporation of Oxford has been found. Its first mention was on May 31, 1693 when "Daniel Allen of Oxford" was chosen representative to the General Court. The site of the town is near the middle of the territory known, in 1630, as "Nipmuck", "Nipmug" or "Nepmug Country". The first movements towards a settlement in this section was made in February, 1680.

On May 11, 1681, the General Court empowered William Staughton and Joseph Dudley to inspect "the matter of the land" and inquire into the validity of the Indian titles acting under authority of the Court. These gentlemen later purchased certain Indian lands and the deeds of conveyance, dated February 19, 1681-82, were presented to the Court May 27, 1682, and by it confirmed. History states that this grant was ratified to Dudley & Company January 11, 1688. The place was named Oxford after the city of that name in England. The plan comprehended about 65 square miles, including, besides the present Oxford, the larger part of Charlton, about one-fourth of Auburn, one-fifth of Dudley and several square miles of the northeasterly portion of Southbridge. On December 8, 1731, the farms of Josiah and Theodore Kingsbury and adjoining land of Isaac Larned were annexed to Oxford. When Dudley was incorporated February 2, 1732, a part of Oxford was included. On November 22, 1734, on petition of the town, Dudley's farm was annexed to Oxford. On November 21, 1754, the district of Charlton was established, which took from Oxford all of the original grant lying west of a line one mile west of "Village line." On June 23, 1773, certain families "were erected into a precinct" called the South parish of Worcester, and the district became the town of Ward April 10, 1778 (now Auburn). On January 9, 1789, the estates of Isaac Moffit and two others were annexed to Oxford from Charlton. On February 18, 1793 a part of Sutton was annexed. On January 6, 1807, the Oxford South Gore was annexed, but was later included in the town of Webster, incorporated March 6, 1832. On February 13, 1809, twenty-six acres belonging to Amasa Kingsbury were annexed. On March 22, 1838, "the Oxford North Gore" (738 acres) was annexed; this lay between the north line of Oxford, as it then existed, and Leicester south line.

