

Report of the Superintendent of Schools

To the School Committee of the Town of Hampden:

On July 1, 1953, I became the first Superintendent of Schools for the Town of Hampden. In the short time that I have been in Hampden, I have been greatly impressed by the genuine friendliness of its citizens and their deep concern for the best interests of their boys and girls. Serving as Superintendent of Schools is proving to be an interesting and pleasant experience.

OUR MAJOR PROBLEMS:

The constant problem of a community is to provide the best possible education for its boys and girls at a reasonable cost to the community. The solution to this problem in our community is complicated by the increase in school enrollment of the Hampden Consolidated School during the past six years:

Hampden Consolidated School

Year	Total Enrollment Grades 1 through 8
1954	263
1953	241
1952	243
1951	217
1950	216
1949	194

At the present time our 263 pupils are dispersed by grades in the Hampden Consolidated School as follows:

Grade	Enrollment
8	27
7	28
6	24
5	38
4	41
3	33
2	34
1	38
	<hr/>
	263

Grades 1, 4 and 5 are too large for efficient teaching. An increase of six pupils in grades 1 and 5, or an increase of three pupils in grade 4 will cause the quality of the teaching to fall below a safe minimum. Double sessions have been found to be an unhappy solution. Sending elementary pupils to Springfield, if Springfield will take them, will be extremely expensive. The steady growth of the school enrollment noted above, from 1949 to 1954, indicates that two classrooms per grade will be required, subsequently, in some of these grades.

A careful study of our pre-school potential indicates some large grades already with us, without allowing for growth:

Grade I	Potential Pupils	
	September 1	Now Living in Hampden
"	1954	25
"	1955	31
"	1956	36

"	1957	28
"	1958	37
"	1959	31

(births recorded
to Oct. 1, 1953)

New home construction in Hampden and the trend to suburban living indicates that even before some of the first grades assemble for the first time, the number of pupils in the grade will have increased to a total requiring two classrooms per grade.

It is evident that both short and long range surveys indicate a subsequent need for additional school construction. This will impose considerable financial burden upon the town.

However, there are some compensating factors which could lighten the financial burden of education in our community. These should be carefully studied:

1. The advisability of educating grade 9, with the exception of grade 9 vocational school pupils, in Hampden.

This year we are sending twenty-six 9th grade pupils to Classical Junior High School. The individual tuition is \$345 per year. The total tuition is \$8970. When the large classes now enrolled in grades 1 through 5 enter junior high school, this tuition total will be greatly increased. The educational advantages and disadvantages, the amount of money to be saved, and the cost of additional classroom space needed should be carefully studied.

2. The advisability of participating in a regional high school with Wilbraham and East Longmeadow.

"	1957	28
"	1958	37
"	1959	31
(births recorded to Oct. 1, 1953)		

New home construction in Hampden and the trend to suburban living indicates that even before some of the first grades assemble for the first time, the number of pupils in the grade will have increased to a total requiring two classrooms per grade.

It is evident that both short and long range surveys indicate a subsequent need for additional school construction. This will impose considerable financial burden upon the town.

However, there are some compensating factors which could lighten the financial burden of education in our community. These should be carefully studied:

1. The advisability of educating grade 9, with the exception of grade 9 vocational school pupils, in Hampden.

This year we are sending twenty-six 9th grade pupils to Classical Junior High School. The individual tuition is \$345 per year. The total tuition is \$8970. When the large classes now enrolled in grades 1 through 5 enter junior high school, this tuition total will be greatly increased. The educational advantages and disadvantages, the amount of money to be saved, and the cost of additional classroom space needed should be carefully studied.

2. The advisability of participating in a regional high school with Wilbraham and East Longmeadow.

The present cost of educating our thirty-eight high school pupils in grades 10, 11 and 12 in the Springfield public high schools, at \$400 per pupil per year, is \$15,200. When the larger classes now enrolled in grades 1 through 5 are in senior high school, this tuition total will be greatly increased. It will be prudent to weigh carefully the educational advantages and disadvantages, and the financial aspects of participating in a regional high school. The state has offered substantial financial assistance in building construction and pupil transportation. The cost to the community is proportional to the number of pupils from a community attending the high school.

3. State aid for new school construction.

The State of Massachusetts has provided financial aid for new school construction. The amount of aid depends upon the equalized valuation and its net average pupil membership. The amount of aid for which Hampden is eligible is substantial.

The time has come when the citizens of our community, the school committee, the school building committee and the school administrators must unite and meet this problem squarely.

HAMPDEN CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL:

Mrs. Eleanor McCray, principal of the Hampden Consolidated School, was granted a year's leave-of-absence because of ill health. Miss Helen Flynn has been appointed acting principal. Mrs. Vivian Cotton of Wilbraham, a graduate of Westfield State Teachers' College, is teaching grade 8 in the absence of Mrs. McCray. Mrs. Violet Lunden, teacher of grade 6, resigned. Mrs. Lena Moriarty of Springfield, a graduate of Westfield State Teachers' College, was elected to fill this position. Mrs. Lucy Kerr retired. Mrs. Charlotte Goss, teacher

of grade 1, was transferred to grade 5, and Mrs. Eleanor Drummond, a graduate of Lowell State Teachers' College was elected teacher of grade 1.

Mr. Wilfred Gerard, our efficient custodian, re-decorated the interior of the classrooms, corridors and lunchroom during the summer vacation. He did a fine job and the building was in excellent shape when school opened in September.

During the present school year new textbooks have been provided in science and language. These new textbooks were badly needed. New textbooks for work in phonetics have been purchased. These books should help greatly in our reading program. Our playground facilities have been improved by the addition of a baseball backstop, a slippery slide, a large sandbox, a hop-scotch area and a basketball court. A bicycle rack has been purchased and will be set up after the winter snows have gone. Movable furniture has been placed in grade 3. All rooms have movable furniture now, except grade 4.

Early in September our teachers met with a reading consultant to study our reading program. The time was very profitably spent and this meeting should benefit our reading program. This service is supplied free-of-charge by a publishing company.

Practice teachers in physical education, formerly supplied by Springfield College, were not available this year. The Superintendent of Schools and the members of the school faculty have cooperated to provide this instruction. Emphasis has been placed on learning individual skills and sportsmanship. As a result our playground situation has been improved.

National standardized achievement tests will be given in the late spring. The results of these tests will offer an opportunity to compare our academic achievement with the rest of the country, note the strong and weak points and adjust our curriculum accordingly.

We have experimented with a new time table. School opens at 8:45 a.m. Lunch is served at 11:30 a.m. to grades 1 through 4 and to grades 5 through 8 at 12:00 noon. Both groups have a short noon recess and school is dismissed at 2:15 p.m. It is thus possible to return all bus pupils to their homes before the busses leave for Springfield for the high school pupils. The teachers remain for one-half hour after school has been dismissed. This time table is working out very well. The long, tiring noon hour on the small congested playground has been eliminated. The children are less tired at the end of the school day, none of the pupils have a long bus wait at the close of school, and the children still have an opportunity to enjoy a few hours in the sunshine before nightfall. Thus we have obtained better leverage on the school day and the teachers believe the actual work accomplished has been increased.

Hampden is fortunate in having its school staffed by an unusually fine group of teachers. Their enterprise, cooperation and loyalty to the ideals of their profession is making our school a happy and efficient organization. Miss Flynn, acting principal, is making a fine contribution to our school.

Mrs. Alma Temple and her assistant, Mrs. Rachel Dickinson, are doing a fine job serving a tasty, well-balanced meal consisting of a main dish, vegetables, bread and butter, a bottle of milk and dessert to approximately 155 pupils each day. The price is 20¢. Our new refrigeration units make it possible to accept the sur-

plus commodities offered by the federal government. Our Hot Lunch Program is now so large that it is necessary to feed our pupils in two groups. Grace is sung at meal time.

The health of our school children is zealously guarded by John Quinn, M.D., and Harold J. Bennett, D.M.D., and Mrs. Shirley Fuller, R.N.

JUNIOR AND HIGH SCHOOL ENROLLMENT:

November 23, 1953

Grade	12	11	10	9	Totals
Trade H.S.	3	8	5	3	19
Senior H.S.	16	11	11	0	38
Voc. Agric. H.S.	1	2	0	0	3
Cathedral H.S.	3	0	2	1	6
Junior H.S.				26	26
TOTALS	23	21	18	30	92

In the last analysis, the strength and efficiency of a school system depends upon the interest the citizens of a community demonstrate in it. It is commendable that our School Committee is fostering this interest by providing open school committee meetings, and by publishing brochures on school committee policies.

I wish to extend my personal thanks to the School Committee, the members of the school staff, and the citizens of Hampden for their fine cooperation and sincere efforts in the cause of educating the boys and girls of our community.

Respectfully submitted,

S. J. BERNARD

Superintendent of Schools

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GRADUATES—JUNE
1953

Attleton, Priscilla Jane	Kibbe, Bruce David
Baribeau, Roland James	LaMountain, Armand George
Carver, Richard Prescott	LaMountain, Rita Marie
Davis, Patricia Louise	Luff, William Edward
Finn, Judith Ann	Lunden, Judith Mary
Goodrich, Barry Lynn	Lyons, Marilyn Joan
Gray, Patricia Ellen	Metivier, Meryl Eleanor
Hatch, Lawrence Wells	Patullo, Janet Martha
Henning, Carol Ann	Pratt, Wayne Evans
Heroux, Marylou	Reddish, Pamela Jessie
Hill, Warren Stanley	Rogers, Robert Leonard
Howlett, Richard Wayne	Sloat, Jane Eleanor
Jenkins, Howard Elton	Stotz, Judith Clara
Jenkins, Russell Vernon	Streeter, Virginia Lynne
Jones, Nancy Decia	Vester, Franklyn Morrison
Jones, Philip Raymond	Wehr, James Alfred

3-YEAR HONOR PUPILS,
SPRINGFIELD HIGH SCHOOLS

Suzanne Gallagher, High School of Commerce

Geraldine Merle Witkop, High School of Commerce

REPORT OF HAMPDEN SCHOOL DENTAL CLINIC FOR 1953

Examinations	253
Notices Sent Home	138
Permanent Teeth Filled	75
Temporary Teeth Filled	60
Permanent Teeth Extracted	15
Temporary Teeth Extracted	45
Cleanings	50
Treatments	15

Respectfully submitted,

HAROLD J. BENNETT, D.M.D.

REPORT OF THE SCHOOL PHYSICIAN

The school physician has completed the following:

Physical Examinations of the school personnel	14
Diphtheria Immunizations given to school children	7
Physical Examinations of the school children	231

The school physician feels that the physical condition of the Hampden school children is generally good. He wishes to remind all parents that personal hygiene and cleanliness have a great bearing in good health. Let us not forget to impress this on our children so that Hampden may maintain its good physical standards.

The school physician has responded to school emergencies.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN J. QUINN, M.D.

REPORT OF THE SCHOOL NURSE

The school nurse has assisted the school physician with the following:

Physical Examinations	231
Heart murmurs (notices sent)	7
Hernias	1
Number weighed and measured	240
Head Inspection	251
Infested Heads	5
Eyes examined	124
Notices sent on defective eyes	6
Reported Scarlet Fever Cases	
(First Grade)*	1
*All first-grade throats checked following reported case	
Diphtheria Immunizations	7
Pre-school registration vaccinations	11

The school nurse has assisted the school dentist with the examination of the teeth.

Number of children examined	253
Notices sent	138

Four children had the benefit of four weeks' vacation at Camp Frederick Edwards, gaining from 11½ to 6 pounds. All four children were given the Patch test and all were found negative.

I wish to extend my thanks and appreciation to the Teachers' Club, P. T. A., and the Lions' Club for their fine cooperation.

Respectfully submitted,

SHIRLEY C. FULLER, R. N.

THE HAMPDEN CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL STAFF

1953-54

S. J. Bernard, B.S., M.A., Superintendent

Miss Helen C. Flynn, Acting Principal

Name	Grade	Date Appointed	Education, Professional Training
Vivian Cotton	8	1953	B.E. Westfield S. T. C.
Helen C. Flynn	7	1939	Hyannis S. T. C.
Lena Moriarty	6	1953	B.E. Westfield S. T. C.
Charlotte Goss	5	1951	B.S. Fitchburg S. T. C.
Miriam Bryans	4	1952	Bridgewater S. T. C.
Helen Colling	3	1951	B.S. Framingham S. T. C.
Emilie Steere	2	1951	B.S. Westfield S. T. C.
Eleanor Drummond	1	1953	Lowell S. T. C.
Virginia Midyette	Supervisor of Art	1952	B.A. Smith College
Alice Fitzgerald	Supervisor of Music	1952	
Shirley Fuller, R.N.	School Nurse		
John J. Quinn, M.D.	School Physician		
Harold J. Bennett, D.M.D.	School Dentist		
Wilfred Gerard	Custodian and Supervisor of Attendance		
Mrs. Alma Temple	Supervisor, Hot Lunch Program		
Mrs. Rachel Dickinson	Assistant Supervisor, Hot Lunch Program		

SCHOOL CALENDAR

1953-54

SEPT. 15 days	M T W Th F 9 10 11 14 15 16 17 18 xx 22 23 24 25 28 29 30	Sept. 21—E.S. Exposition Visiting Day
OCT. 20 days	1 2 5 6 7 8 9 xx 13 14 15 16 19 20 21 22 xx 26 27 28 29 30	Oct. 12—Columbus Day Oct. 23—Teachers' Convention
NOV. 18 days	2 3 4 5 6 9 10 xx 12 13 16 17 18 19 20 23 24 25 xx xx 30	Nov. 11—Armistice Day Thanksgiving Vac.—School closes Nov. 25, half session 12:15; Reopens Mon. Nov. 30
DEC. 17 days	1 2 3 4 7 8 9 10 11 14 15 16 17 18 21 22 23 xx xx xx xx xx xx xx	Xmas Vac.—School closes Dec. 23, Reopens Jan. 4, 1954
JAN. 20 days	4 5 6 7 8 11 12 13 14 15 18 19 20 21 22 25 26 27 28 29	
FEB. 15 days	1 2 3 4 5 8 9 10 11 12 15 16 17 18 19 xx xx xx xx xx	Mid-year Vac.—School closes Feb. 19, Reopens March 1
MARCH 23 days	1 2 3 4 5 8 9 10 11 12 15 16 17 18 19 22 23 24 25 26 29 30 31	
APRIL 15 days	1 2 5 6 7 8 9 12 13 14 15 xx xx 20 21 22 23 xx xx xx xx xx	April 16—Good Friday April 19—Patriot's Day Spring Vac.—School closes April 23, Reopens May 3
MAY 20 days	3 4 5 6 7 10 11 12 13 14 17 18 19 20 21 24 25 26 27 28 xx	Memorial Day, Mon., May 31
JUNE 14 days	1 2 3 4 7 8 9 10 11 14 15 16 17 18 21 22 23 24 25	The Hampden Consolidated School closes for pupils June 18 for summer vacation.
179 Total		

WATER SURVEY COMMITTEE REPORT

The Water Survey Committee has been meeting and working with the Recreation Committee on the development of the Hampden Memorial Park Pond for a swimming site. From the results obtained in the use of this pond by the people of Hampden during the 1953 season, we wish to recommend the following:

1. Clean out and gravel the pond thoroughly so that the water will stay cleaner.
2. Install a drain so that the pond may be drained for cleaning at any time. This is not possible at present.
3. Better toilet facilities to be made available.
4. Drinking water is a necessity.
5. A bath house facility for the children would be convenient and helpful.

The Recreation Field Pond is fed by a small brook. some people have felt that during the summer months, this brook was inadequate in bringing to the pond sufficient change of water for health regulations. During the season of 1953, the water was periodically checked and even though it was a very dry season, the water supply was adequate until the end of August, at which time was officially closed.

The Water Survey Committee feels that the Hampden Memorial Park Pond is the swimming site that should be developed for the children of Hampden, it being centrally located and the place at which the town will spend the least money. Investigation will be conducted for an economical means of more adequate water supply.

JASON DOUBLEDAY

MARJORIE DOUBLEDAY

ESTHER EDWARDS

RICHARD FULLER

LESTER PAULY

ATHOS ROSSI

HOW HAMPDEN GOT ITS NAME

When our village seceded from Wilbraham a name for the new town became necessary. Some wanted it called Hampden after the county, while others preferred Dayton in honor of the Dayton family from New Jersey, who had won popularity for their anti-slavery stand in Congress. A door to door canvass in 1878 proved that most town residents favored the name of Hampden.

Richard C. Garvey in an article in the "Springfield Daily News" enlightens us further on the subject as follows:

"The objection, and powerful it was, came from a Wilbraham native. Marcus Perrin Knowlton (an owner at one time of the Ernest Howlett house on Main Street) who was a member of the Judiciary Committee of the General Court. This able lawyer who had been president of the Springfield Common Council and would one day be chief justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Court (following Oliver Wendell Holmes) argued with zeal and conviction that great confusion would result if a town were allowed to take the county's name. It must have had almost mysterious overtones when a man arose to make answer and identified himself as William Pynchon of Springfield—not its founder of course, but his eighth generation son, who was a farmer on Plainfield Street. In one of his very rare speeches during his service in the Legislature, Mr. Pynchon delivered an enthusiastic eulogy of John Hampden and bested in debate the barrister destined to hold the highest judicial office in the Commonwealth."

If it were not for William Pynchon we would today be living in Dayton, Mass. instead of Hampden, Mass.

200 YEARS OF HAMPDEN INDUSTRIES

1750-1950

By Carl C. Howlett

EARLY HAMPDEN INDUSTRIES

Mills At The Ravine

Hampden's first settler arrived in 1741. Nine years thereafter (in 1750) Lewis Langdon erected the first saw mill in town on the Scantic River about 80 rods below where the ice plant now stands. At about the time of the Revolutionary War he erected a grist mill about a hundred rods below his sawmill, which was afterward owned by Bemanuel Leach.

In the early 1800's Mr. Bacon of Brimfield built a grist mill where the ice plant is now located, but sold soon after to Christopher Langdon, grandson of Lewis. It passed through the hands of Jacob Wood and Hubbard Arnold into those of William Moseley, who thoroughly remodeled the grist mill, rebuilt the dam, and erected a saw mill and added a shingle mill. This factory subsequently burned and a wrapping paper manufacturer built on its ashes.

The first mill of any size at the ravine was built in 1858, over 100 years from the time Lewis Langdon erected his saw mill. The new mill was erected by Eleazer Scriptor, who lived where Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Officer now reside. It stood on the river bank about opposite where the house now called the "boarding house" is located. During the Civil War the mill belonged to Luther Sage, who lived where Mrs. Beatrice (Tait) Henrich now resides. The mill did such a rushing business that a larger mill was erected further down the stream in 1867. A Mr. Hollister operated the mill for a time.

According to George P. West who wrote "Memories of Hampden" the dam at the Ravine went out in the late

60's, causing the water to back up to where the Hampden House now stands. He states that the present dam was built soon after the catastrophe. The latter information doesn't seem to check with another source which states that William Moseley erected the present dam many years earlier.

On February 8, 1878 the mill standing at that time burned and it was rebuilt the following year by Lafayette Reynolds. A newspaper clipping of that date describes the "superior building with 200 large windows." This mill furnished employment to about 75 persons and produced about 1000 yards of fancy cassimeres daily. At another time it manufactured 2000 yards of doeskins a week.

Sometimes this mill was called the Ravine Mfg. Co., and at other times the Hampden Woolen Mills. The superintendent of the factory in its last days was Patrick E. Wall. He was chairman of the Board of Selectmen and lived where the Hampden Nursery Company is now located.

A map of Hampden dated 1870 shows the Ravine Mfg. Co., as owning what is now the "boarding house," the house opposite which was burned a few years ago, the old mill above the dam and the woolen factory below the dam.

The last Ravine Mill burned to the ground on April 11, 1904. At that time it was owned by Horace Earl Kimball, one time president of Clicquot Club Ginger Ale Company.

In 1909 John Sheldon erected a small wooden mill at the Ravine. He used it only a short time and afterwards Henry M. Davis canned apples and blueberries therein. The building was afterward torn down. The tall chimney and brick parts of the mill burned in 1904 re-

mained standing until October 1922 when the ruins were leveled by dynamite so that the stone and bricks might be used on the new rock bottom road being then made through the village.

In 1937 Emil LaBonte bought the property from Horace Kimball and erected a plant for the manufacture of artificial ice. The plant was in operation 24 hours a day for more than 10 years, when electric refrigerators made the manufacture of ice unnecessary. At the present time (1953) the factory is idle.

Mills Near Buereau's Garage

At the "turn of the river" so-called, some rods south of where Buereau's Garage now stands, and on the opposite side of the river, was the saw mill of Capt. Charles Sessions. Mr. Sessions was the oldest son of Robert Sessions, Hampden's representative at the Boston Tea Party, and lived where the Town House now stands. The mill was probably built in early 1800's. When the original factory fell to pieces another was erected on the north side of the river near the road.

To Deacon Sumner Sessions, who owned what is still the Sessions Homestead on North Road belongs the faith, foresight, and energy of erecting the first woolen mill in Hampden. Mr. Sessions built his mill in 1845 on the spot where his brother Charles had his sawmill, the latter removing his mill again to the south side of the river. Sumner Sessions's mill was rented and operations commenced by Levi Bradford and Eleazer Scriptor in 1846. Business was started with one set of machinery for the manufacture of satinet.

In 1847 Mr. Bradford retired from the firm and Luther E. Sage, William V. Sessions (brother of Charles and Sumner) and Samuel Beebe became partners and called the company Scriptor, Sage & Co. This company existed until 1856 when a new company was formed cap-

italized for \$200,000, and the name changed to South Wilbraham Mfg. Co. In 1862 a large addition to the mill was built and more machinery added.

In 1863, when Stebbins' History of Wilbraham was written, the mill turned off every day one thousand yards of three-fours satin.

Some years later a new company was formed and the name changed to Lacousic Woolen Mills. The mill contained 5 sets of machinery, 16 looms, furnished employment to from 75 to 80 persons, and produced about 16,000 yards of fancy cassimeres each month.

In 1870, the Lacousic Woolen Mill, according to a map of that date, owned what is now the house of Clifford Gunther, the house and barn of Bernard Ackerman, the three buildings comprising the woolen mills, and the building now known as "the fort." According to the late William J Sessions "the fort" received its name from the fact that ammunition for the local company of militia was kept therein during the Revolutionary War. The building was evidently selected for the purpose because there were then no houses anywhere near it.

On the spot where the Fire House is now located was the Lacousic Mill Office.

At one time Sumner Smith was superintendent of Lacousic and his brother Lyman Smith was overseer. Sumner, who lived where the Sloat Family now reside afterwards ran the store in the vestry of the Baptist Church.

At one time a Charles Parsons operated Lacousic and was followed by Brown & Chapman. The mill was operated still later by Hinsdale Smith under the immediate control of Frank Stockbridge Smith. The latter's wife was well known in town as a beautiful singer, who sang in choirs of churches in large cities.

Lacousic, which was the largest mill in town, was burned in 1892 and never rebuilt. The large chimney and the stone walls of the various buildings remained for some time but were eventually torn down.

The land passed through several hands until it was bought by Geob's Garage of Wilbraham who erected the garage now owned by William Buereau.

Mills Near Scantic Bridge on Somers Road

In 1850 Milton Stebbins erected a grist and saw mill just south of the bridge on Somers Road, about where the building called the "block" now stands.

In 1865 the Scantic Woolen Mill was built some rods east of Stebbins's Sawmill. Luther Sage who was interested in the other two large mills of the town was also a moving spirit in the founding of this one.

The Scantic Woolen Company engaged in the manufacture of fancy cassimeres until 1875. The mill then passed into the hands of Judson A. Leonard, who owned and operated it for several years.

In February, 1877 Kenworthy Brothers bought the mill and engaged in the manufacture of yarns of different grade and qualities. They employed about 12 men. Blankets were afterward made in the mill by the Kenworthys.

At a later date Eugene Redden operated the mill. It was then idle for a period and later torn down. This was the last mill of any size in town and the only one in existence 40 years ago.

Mortimer Pease, father of Mrs. Nelson M. Carew had a small mill just east of the Scantic Woolen Mill which was used in preparing the waste of the different woolen mills for re-carding.

Mills Near Center Bridge

At one time the Scantic River west from the Center was dotted on both sides with small factories.

In 1797 Jonathan Flynt bought a privilege on the Scantic just below the bridge and set up a fulling mill, which is believed to have been the first attempt at cloth manufacturing in Hampden. In 1807 he sold the mill property to his son, Jonathan.

Beriah Smith, who bought out Flynt, did a large business in dyeing and dressing cloth. It was afterwards carried on by Wright & Clarke.

Just below Smith's was Roper's Clover Mill, which was famous in its day. Roper added the manufacture of chairs to the cleansing of clover seed. The house on Main Street now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Gunther housed Roper's mill. The house then stood on the river bank and was afterwards moved to its present location. Holes may still be seen in the cellar where the ropes and machinery came through the floor.

Across the river, on property now owned by Harry Burns, Daniel Chaffee's Shingle Mill and Saw Mill did a thriving business, starting about 1810. The mill was powered from the small brook running through the property and operated by the ancestor of Mrs. Lucy (Chaffee) Alden, Hampden's poetess.

Strong West bought and sold hides at the old West Tannery, which was operated by previous generations of the West Family. The tannery is now the home of Howard MacMullen. Daniel and Jonathan Chaffee also had a tannery near by.

Histories indicate that one of the oldest industries in town was a tannery on the north banks of the Scantic at Center Bridge. It is not known, however, on which side of the road it stood.

In those days there was a good outlet for the products of the tanneries in the shoe factories at nearby Wales, Mass.

Mills Near What Is Now The Wesson Farm

That part of Hampden near the property now owned by Mrs. Henry Atherton and Mrs. C. K. Rockwell, daughters of the late Walter Wesson, was known in its earlier days as Burts' Mills. About 1780 David Burt erected a saw mill on what is now known as the Wesson Pond. Milton Burt also had saw and grist mills at about this time. Some years after Walter Burt erected a fulling and carding mill nearby.

In 1860 Augustus Thompson had a grist mill on the pond.

Laban Button had a fulling mill at Burts' Mills in the early 1800's.

Mills at Goodwill's Pond

Abner Badger built a saw mill on what is now known as Goodwill's Pond, which was in operation before 1772. This was afterwards carried on by Capt. Comfort Chaffee, Jr., S. Stacy Hunt, Andrew Beebe, and Allen O. Thresher.

Mill on North Road

In 1780 Solomon Wright erected a grist mill on Big Brook, not far from the residence of John Flynn. Some people say that a dam about twice the width of the Ravine Dam held back the waters of Big Brook. Remains of the dam may still be seen. D. Foskit also ran a mill at this spot.

Beebe's Plow Shop

Unusual products for a New England town were plows made to be drawn by slaves. Marcus Beebe manufactured them in a shop which was located east of where Buereau's Garage on Main Street now stands. The fac-

tory was established during the 1850's and thrived until the Civil War freed the slaves. Through his brothers who were in business in the Southern states Mr. Beebe found a profitable market.

After the shop ceased operation it was eventually torn down and the land remained in the possession of his heirs. All of the property originally owned by Mr. Beebe, including his residence, which is now the post office (1953) was sold a few years ago.

Coal Pits And Coal Kilns

Immense quantities of charcoal were burned in the eastern part of the town and passing coalwains were a daily sight. Among those who used the old-fashioned "pit" method of making charcoal were Milton Goodwill of Glendale Road, Walter Pease of Scantic Road, etc.

About 1885 Allen Thresher constructed the brick kilns for making charcoal which still may be seen off Scantic Road near the Wesson Farm. At the peak of production they did a thriving business furnishing charcoal for the powder mills in Hazardville.

The kilns were afterward sold to Erwin Temple and Nelson M. Carew. Afterward Mr. Carew carried on alone. Upon the death of Mr. Carew in 1952 the kilns were sold to Mrs. Madeline (Wesson) Atherton. While no more charcoal will be made at this spot Mrs. Atherton has allowed them to stand so that future generations may see how they looked.

The Springfield Armory has used many thousand bushels of Hampden charcoal in days gone by. The tobacco growers in Connecticut also used a large quantity of Hampden charcoal for curing tobacco.

POTASH

The amount of wood consumed by the early inhabitants gave an overplus of ashes for home consumption

and William King manufactured potash where the Town House now stands. Paul Langdon also produced this material on Somers Road at Potash Hill, near where Lester Kibbe now lives.

MILLS ON TEMPLE BROOK

In 1770 Abner Badger built a grist mill on the brook that flows through the Temple Farm. This was afterwards operated by Amos Chaffee.

The manufacture of paper was carried on in what was afterwards Harry Temple's barn about 1870. John Warren, who lived where Mrs. Ernest Howlett now resides operated the mill for a number of years, afterward having a prosperous paper mill in West Ware. Mr. Warren was a grandson of Hampden's first minister.

SPRINGFIELD MOUNTAINS COOPERATIVE CREAMERY ASSOCIATION

In 1894 the Springfield Mountains Cooperative Creamery Association was formed to collect the cream from the farmers in the area and make it into butter. It was named from "Springfield Mountains" which was what Wilbraham and South Wilbraham (now Hampden) were called while they were still a part of the town of Springfield.

A creamery was built just west of where Mrs. Edward Leddy now lives on Riverside Drive. Some of the foundation stones for the building are still visible.

The proprietors of the creamery were: Henry Moore, Lucius A. Burleigh, David R. McCray, Moses H. Warren, and L. D. Alden.

GRANITE QUARRY

Only the very oldest residents of the town are familiar with the fact that a granite quarry was once in operation southeast of where Julius Gottsche used to live on Chapin Road.

The quarry was owned by the Wm. N. Flynt Granite Company which had such successful quarries in Monson for many years. Operations were started but soon stopped since there was no way of getting the stone out of town profitably.

When quarrying started, a projected railroad from Springfield to Providence was scheduled to run through Hampden, following the Scantic River. When the project failed to materialize, the Flynt Company ceased operations.

KIBBE'S CIDER MILL

The history of the early Hampden industries would not be complete without reference to Kibbe's Cider Mill on South Road. For many years the late Erskine Kibbe and his son Neil have made cider at this mill. Some of the older residents remember seeing the horse go "round and round" which used to furnish the operative power for the mill. In later days modern machinery has been installed, which is of less interest to the children.

MILLS ON MILL ROAD

For many years a saw and grist mill was operated on what is now known as Mill Road Pond. In 1870 the proprietors were Kibbe & Tuttle. Afterwards Alpheus Peck operated the mill. M. P. Carmody was the last operator.

FINALE

In the latter part of the 19th Century three large woolen mills, the Lacousic, Ravine, and Scantic Mills did a thriving business putting out satinet, doeskin, tweeds, cassimeres, yarn and blankets.

One by one the mills burned or were deserted, lack of transportation to Springfield being the main reason for abandonment. So the brooks have again become the playground for trout with only an occasional wall of stone to show that those quiet beauty spots were once scenes of bustling activity.

Index

Advisory Committee Report	19
Animal Inspector Report	94
Assessors' Report	35
State Auditors Report	79
Balance Sheet	83
Board of Health Report	23
Board of Public Welfare	24
Building Commissioner's Report	91
Cemetery Commissioner's Report	88
Dutch Elm Committee Report	90
Forest Fire Warden Report	95
Gypsy Moth Report	95
How Hampden Got Its Name	133
200 Years of Hampden	134
Librarian's Report	99
Library Trustees' Report	98
Old Age Assistance	27
Planning Board	92
Recreation Committee	87
School Building Committee Report	104
School Committee's Report	106
Selectmen's Report	21
Sealer of Weights and Measures	93
Inspector of Slaughtering	94
Southeast Hampden Welfare District	29
Superintendent of Schools	119
Superintendent of Streets	31
Tax Collector's Report	45
Town Bookkeeper's Report	47
Town Clerk's Report	78
Town Officers	3
Town Warrant	8
Treasurer's Report	77
Treasurer's Report—Trust Funds	75
Tree Warden Report	88
Trustees for County Aid to Agriculture Report ...	96
Water Survey Report	131