

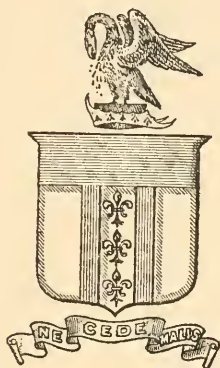
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The  
Loomis Family  
in  
America





# The Loomis Family in America



## A Brochure

Addresses Delivered at  
the Reunion of the Loomis Family  
Association at Hartford, Connecticut, Sep-  
tember Twenty-seventh, Nineteen Hundred and  
Five, and Including the Official Record of the Business Transacted

Press of  
The Connecticut Magazine  
m c m v t



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# To the House of Loomis

Address of Welcome delivered at Reunion of the Loomis  
Family Association at Hartford, Connecticut,  
September Twenty-seventh, Nine-  
teen Hundred and Five

BY ARTHUR L. SHIPMAN

We have met, I take it, not only to do honor to the memory of one Joseph Loomis and certain of his worthy and public-spirited descendants, but to extend and receive the warm grasp of kin and fellowship. I must apologize in this company, although not on other occasions perhaps, because my surname is not the name that the maker of this address should bear. My name is not "Loomis," nor even "Lomas," but Joseph's daughter Mary married John Skinner, of Hartford. So through nine generations of New England history, our Loomis book has made the tracing an easy one to our common ancestor. We, who are of the female branches, can take what satisfaction we can in remembering that we are more numerous, if not so important, as you of the male lines. Although I am a guest, as it were, I esteem it a great privilege to welcome you, the Loomises, here to-day.

We know your past, and the doings of your family. We remember its connection, through two and one-half centuries, with things worth doing and things well done. We are proud of the reputation of this family throughout the land, due not to wealth or so-called station, but to its accomplishments in the arts, in science, in scholarship, and for the public service.

We throw open to you the doors of the ancestral home, a house proud of your coming and unashamed of its old-fashioned rooms and surroundings. We of the family who have stayed here have faith to believe that if we have not done what some of you have done, we have kept to the teachings of that old house in thrift and honesty and fair dealing.

We are met in the spirit of an honest family pride. We welcome you to the inspiration which comes from a reunion of such a family; from the mutual recollection of the achievements of its members, and of their families in every branch of life. We pledge ourselves that from this reunion we shall go out to better things than we have yet done for the name and the land we love.

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The speakers who delivered the notable addresses herein recorded were introduced to the assembly by Mr. Burdett Loomis, President of the Loomis Family Association.





# The Loomis Institute Consecrated to American Education

BY JOHN M. TAYLOR

*President of Board of Trustees of The Loomis Institute.*

An address setting forth the organization, condition and purposes of The Loomis Institute at Windsor, Connecticut, delivered at the Reunion of the Loomis Family Association at Hartford, Connecticut, September Twenty-seventh, Nineteen Hundred and Five.

**I**N behalf of its trustees, at your president's request, I am to have the pleasure and the honor of stating a few facts to you about The Loomis Institute, its organization, condition, and purposes.

May we not first take a glimpse at the historic principles which, nearly three centuries after their enunciation, make our government what it is, link together the constitutions of the nation and the states, and find a new renaissance in the work of family reunions like these, and of the many patriotic orders and societies, on whose rolls we read alone the names of the descendants of the adventurers into the New England:

"Faith in God, faith in work,—this is the short formula in which we may sum up the teaching of the founders of New England, a creed ample enough for this life and the next."—"New England Two Centuries Ago." (Lowell).

"The Puritan was hard, severe, sour, sober and bigoted; but God sifted three kingdoms to find him wherewith to plant a free republic."—Address, Forefathers' Day. (Curtis).

"I do not believe in all the beliefs of the Puritan Fathers; but I thoroughly believe in them, in their manhood, their fortitude, their integrity, their devotion to duty, their reverent recognition of God in their public and private affairs."—"The Puritan Republic." (Howe).

"The Pilgrims and the Puritans did not live in vain. Their influence has gone out into all the earth. We are drinking at the fountains which they opened. We walk in their light; and we are to pass on the torch to other generations."—"The Puritan in England and New England." (Byington).

These are the honors paid to the Puritans of Old England and of New England, and to their service to mankind, by their kinsmen of our generation.

These are the present day tributes of the diplomat and poet, the orator and reformer, the historian and theologian, not only to the men who stood in the ranks of Cromwell's Ironsides, and with "the embattled farmers who fired the shot heard round the world," but to their fine and unconquerable spirit and devotion which in parliament and conventicle, in camp and field, in council chamber and meeting house, gave character, inspiration, perpetuity, to that great historic movement which Carlyle calls the last of our great heroisms.

We light our altar fires and burn incense to the memories of these masterful men, and of the gentle and heroic women who shared in their sacrifices and achievements that our matchless heritage of government by the people might endure; and it is not alone what the forefathers and foremothers were or were not in birth, station, inheritance, environment, that commands our homage, but what they wrought out of hard and fast conditions in the colonial settlements in the New England, that we offer our songs of thanksgiving.

Therefore are we ancestor worshippers; and these are the days of ancestral honor, discovery, and exploitation. Vanity, social ambition, and preferment may inspire some of the candidates for honors in the societies of the day; and shrewd politics, we are told, plays a part in conventions and elections; and these are necessary incidents; but every monument, memorial, tablet, statue and inscription, every neglected God's acre restored and made beautiful by the loving hands of the children of the Pilgrim and Puritan, voices the spirit of new loyalty and patriotism, and of a new-born faith in God, our country, and our fellow-men.

Is it not fitting to-day, and in this presence, and always, to lay stress on what our forefathers ordained here in blood and sacrifice and tears?

Twenty-six thousand people came over to this land of ours in the great Puritan exodus from England, from 1620 to 1640. Strong and masterful were many of these men—makers of history—men of Kent and Middlesex, of Suffolk and Essex, of whom I may not speak, as no time offers; and with the men of Essex came your first ancestor, Joseph Loomis, of Braintree, to set down at Windsor in the "Lord's Waste."

What an environment was his, what an opportunity of acquaintance and of honor, what a share to have in building the temple of the Republic! He was the friend and companion of Hooker and Ludlow, of Haynes and Wyllys, of Stiles and Phelps, Grant and Rossiter, and all the leaders of the three original towns; doing his duty amid the hardships and dangers that confronted the colonists in his life at Windsor from 1639 to 1658.

What a race of men and women in church and state, in all the world's busy activities of action and of thought, has sprung from that sturdy stock. Are they not known to all of us, who do honor to their memories this day—physicians, surgeons, artists, physicists, journalists, authors, diplomatists, educators, scientists, inventors, statesmen and jurists, soldiers in all the wars of the colonies and of the Revolution and of the Union? A wonderful record is the story of their service to mankind.

It is a pure and princely heritage of truth, of honor, of nobility of character, which these men have left to you—sons and daughters of the house of Loomis. Will any memorial of them be more enduring or more fitting to perpetuate the family name, than the one to rise on "The Island" yonder when we or our successors have carried to fruition the plans and purposes of the Institute's donors whose names are on your lips?

Thirty years ago, James C. Loomis, Hezekiah B. Loomis, Osbert B. Loomis, H. Sidney Hayden, and his wife, Abbey S. Loomis, and John Mason Loomis, petitioned the General Assembly of Connecticut for an act of incorporation.

There was a deep and tender pathos, a great sorrow, written within the lines of this appeal. Children were not born of some of the marital alliances of these good people; and children born of others died in the bloom and promise of their youth.

With none to bear their names in direct lineage, and inherit their fortunes, their thoughts were turned to the nurture, protection and education of the children of their kinsmen, and others upon whom might fall the benediction of their good deeds.

Earnest study, keen foresight, and prayerful meditation—in the old, Puritan fashion—marked the beginning of their philanthropic purpose and wise charity, made perpetual in the special law of the Commonwealth. All this stands out in bold relief in the

notes, memoranda, family records, and in the last wills and testaments of the incorporators.

Is not that a fine and exalted spirit, the spirit of their forefathers and yours, that rings in the words of James C. Loomis, written four years after the charter was granted, and signed by all the petitioners and Mary H. Loomis, and entitled a

“FAMILY TESTIMONIAL.”

“Somewhere near the termination of the year 1871, or the beginning of 1872, a sentiment, born of the strong natural love and sympathy between us, and intensified by the loss of all our children, crystallized into a desire to leave some memento of our lives, failing the natural one of succession; and this finally took the form of a free educational establishment, called the Loomis Institute.

“Those of us now living, admonished by the death of our brothers, James and Samuel, that whatever we wish to do, or make known, must be done now; and desiring to make a record of our united sentiments for ourselves, and all who in the future may be interested in the story of the love and tenderness we bear to each other, moving us to stand together, supporting at the close of our lives a common purpose, pledge ourselves to the support, care and personal comfort of each other, and to remain true and signally faithful to the Loomis Institute, acknowledging and accepting the duties incident, cheerfully, lovingly, and devotedly; so that nothing short of death shall divert us from our purpose of mutual support; hoping and trusting that some good may come to posterity, from the harvest, poor though it may be, of our lives.”

After clothing the body politic and corporate by the name of The Loomis Institute with full corporate powers, there came the vital question of defining its purposes, and, it is to this point we ask your especial attention. With what clear conception of future needs and conditions, and under what explicit and simple limitations were the intentions and plans of these donors written in the law. This is the educational clause of the charter:

SEC. 2. This institute shall be, and the same hereby is constituted and established for the free and gratuitous education of all persons of the age of twelve years and upwards to twenty years in all the departments of learning which are now taught or hereafter may be taught in the various grades of schools in this country, and also for the purpose of maintaining and supplying all those whose condition and circumstances may require it, with all those things which may be deemed necessary and

proper for their comfort and advancement in useful knowledge, so far as the funds of the institute will permit. But no person shall be admitted as a student in said institute until he or she shall be adjudged, on examination, capable of reading and spelling the English language correctly, writing a good, legible hand, and resolving questions in the four rules of arithmetic, with a knowledge of elementary geography and grammar, and shall sustain a good moral character. In case a greater number of persons having the requisite qualifications shall apply for admission than the institute can accommodate, then selection from said applicants shall be made, first from those belonging to the Loomis family by name or consanguinity, next from those belonging to the town of Windsor, next from those belonging to the state of Connecticut, and next from those deemed most worthy, without regard to state or nation, all of which shall be determined by said trustees and their successors, or by committees by them appointed, in conformity to the provisions of this act.

Such, then, is the trust committed to us—one which no one may venture to administer save in the spirit which gave it life, and under a full sense of its solemn obligations.

Who are charged with these charter duties, and under what authority and commission do they serve? They are acting at the request of some of the original incorporators, and under the wise provision they made for the nomination and appointment of their successors:

SEC. 8. The said trustees and their successors shall have power and authority by a major vote, from time to time, as they may deem expedient to increase the number of trustees to any number not exceeding twelve, and also by a similar vote to fill any and all vacancies that may occur by death, resignation, removal, or otherwise, at their discretion; but after the death, resignation, removal for cause from office, or neglect or refusal of all of the above-named trustees to act as such, the number of trustees shall not in any case be less than seven; and if the then existing board of trustees shall neglect or fail to fill all the vacancies that may then exist under the number of seven, for the period of six months, or if from any cause at any time there shall be an entire vacancy in said board, then the governor of the state, for the time being, shall have power, and it shall be his duty, by and with the advice and consent of the chief judge or justice of the state, to appoint not less than seven fit and proper persons to be and become the trustees of said institute; and the persons thus appointed shall be the trustees of said institute, with all the rights and power appertaining thereto.

The charter fixes the institute site. The trustees have power and authority, with the consent of the owners thereof, to select such portion of the original homestead of Joseph Loomis, taken up by him in 1639, and continued in the ownership and possession of his descendants from that day to this, situated upon "The Island," so called, in Windsor, in the County of Hartford and State of Connecticut, and any other lands immediately contiguous thereto, not exceeding in quantity fifty acres, as they may deem necessary and proper. And the location thus selected and determined upon shall thereafter become and forever be and remain the site and location of said institute, and no person or persons shall thereafter have power or authority to take, appropriate, convey, or otherwise dispose of the same, by gift, grant, bargain, sale, exchange, mortgage, or in any other manner or form to any person or persons, or for any cause or purpose whatever, but the same shall be and forever remain the location of said institute, and appropriated and used for the purposes intended by the donors and by the provisions of this act.

No duty imposed on the trustees, save the establishment of educational methods and courses of instruction, involves more serious problems than these permissive charter provisions—to lay out, improve and beautify said grounds, in such manner and to such an extent as they may deem necessary and proper—to determine the number, form, dimensions, materials and style of architecture of the buildings to be erected thereon, and the location of the same in said premises.

It is our present purpose during the coming year, acting under expert advices to take some steps in beautifying and improving "The Island," by grading, draining, designating roadways and paths, and especially in setting small plantations of trees and shrubs, and all with a proper view to the location of the institute buildings; and we are not unmindful of your deep interest in the preservation and maintenance of "The Homestead."

On these historic grounds, diversified by hill and valley, meadow and upland, and wide river views, rich in tradition and hallowed by ancestral memories, there will rise to view, in the coming years, the memorials to the Loomis name, consecrated to the ends they sought to serve.

These important and primary works for the beginnings of the institute must be co-ordinate. They must be undertaken with a clear and definite knowledge of the end in view, from the outset. We shall take no action until we are fully prepared with ways and means.

We shall try no experiments. We shall erect no buildings, beautiful and ornate, without resources to maintain them. We shall erect none until we know what plans are the wisest to insure that "free and gratuitous education," that "comfort and advancement in useful knowledge," which we are solemnly charged to devise, inaugurate and conserve. We are in the midst of a revolution in educational views, systems and results; and who may predict what the course of wisdom and prudence may be, at some distant day, when the affairs of the institute shall call for practical administration, as a school or series of schools of learning? Noting on every side the value and success of present-day methods in the arts, crafts, trades and industries, and the wider sweep of practical instruction and experience, I can only say that, so far as we can now foresee, the children and youth who may be trusted to The Loomis Institute will go out from it equipped to win their way in the world, with both heads and hands.

Five years ago vacancies caused by death made a reorganization necessary; and the present trustees were appointed by Governor George P. McLean, with the advice and consent of the late Chief Justice of the State, Charles B. Andrews.

The institute cannot be established and maintained, except it have ample resources. They are provided, and to be provided, by the bequest of the donors whose names you may read in the charter, of other members of the family who hold to the same great purpose, and by the gifts or bequests of others who may be interested through your good offices:

SEC. 4. The said trustees and their successors shall have power and authority to manage and direct the property, funds and effects of said institute, all of which shall be exempt from taxation so long as said institute shall be maintained and used for the purposes of education, as herein intended; provided, always, that no real estate located in the state of Connecticut, held by said institute for investment and not used by said institute for educational purposes, shall be exempt from taxation by virtue of the provisions of this section.

And after the original buildings shall have been completed according to the plans of said trustees, and furnished as herein provided, it shall be the duty of said trustees and their successors to cause all of the uninvested principal funds which may remain, or which may thereafter be received, and which may not be given to the institute for any specific purpose inconsistent herewith, and which may not be needed for the erection of any other buildings, to be safely invested in the same manner as required by the laws of this state for the investment of trust funds; and said funds shall be and remain a perpetual fund, and the rents, issues, and profits thereof thereafter shall be used and expended in defraying the current expenses of the institute, in the erection of new buildings, and in the purchase of books, maps, charts, apparatus, and all other matters and things which may be deemed necessary and proper best to promote and secure the welfare and prosperity of the institute.

The present assets of the institute in the treasurer's custody, under various bequests of members of the family and the result of their investment and reinvestment as trust funds, amount to \$520,000. This is a conservative estimate. The securities are sound in quality and character, and they are selected by the finance committee of the trustees. As it has been publicly noted elsewhere, we think it proper to also state that when the life estate of his widow, Mary H. Loomis, ceases (an event which we trust may not occur for many years), except five per cent going to various persons, the institute will receive the properties bequeathed to it by the late Col. John Mason Loomis—of whose last will and testament one of the trustees is an executor—estimated at \$1,120,000. The institute therefore has either a present or vested interest in property worth, at a reasonable present valuation, \$1,640,000—a great benefaction, dedicated to one of the noblest of purposes, and to be administered, we trust, now and always, in the spirit which illumines these words in Colonel Loomis' will:

“Hoping to leave some mark for good upon our race and time, we present to the Loomis Family this their Hearth Stone, and endow it with all we have; inviting them to rally round it as their shrine, from which their boys and girls shall take the highest inspirations for better and grander lives, from the best of their race who have gone before, and, like them, ever keeping the banner of human progress, honor and manhood, to the front.”

We trust that every one here has visited “The Island,” “The Homestead” and “The Hearth Stone,” and feels the uplifting and





ANCESTRAL HOME  
OF THE  
LOOMIS FAMILY OF AMERICA  
BUILT IN 1640 AT WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT  
OLDEST HOMESTEAD IN AMERICA IN  
PERPETUAL POSSESSION OF  
DESCENDANTS OF ITS  
PIONEER BUILDERS



the inspiration which such ties and associations alone can give. We hope every one has seen our "Loomis Room," where we hold in trust and safety—until transferred to the Memorial building on "The Island"—the libraries, paintings, portraits, engravings, arms, curios, letters, manuscripts (many of them of tender and inspiring memories) of men and women of your lineage who have passed on and have left these cherished possessions to our keeping.

A word more and I have done. In this booklet are written the purposes, the prayers and admonitions of the founders of the institute in the letters of the law. It is our character, it is our corporate bible, it is worthy of your consideration in its teachings of morals, philosophy, and the charity that finds its expression in the words: "Write me as one who loves his fellow-men." Will you take it with you and give it place in your thoughts when you pay homage to your ancestors at the shrine of "The Loomis Family Association?"

# The Progenitors of the Loomis Family and Their Descendants

By PROFESSOR ELISHA S. LOOMIS, PH.D.

*Late member of Faculty in Berea College, Berea, Ohio*

An address recalling the achievements of the Loomises in America and appealing to the present generation to give it suitable record in the form of a revised edition of the Loomis Genealogy; delivered at the Reunion of the Loomis Family Association at Hartford, Connecticut, September Twenty-seventh, Nineteen Hundred and Five.

THE occasion, the place and our purpose are in harmony. The past and the future are separated by the present. Our purpose is to unify them by bringing our ancestors near to our descendants. Some fifty years ago Samuel G. Drake said: "People begin seriously to think that there is *no* reason they should *not know* something about their progenitors." And Edmund Burke once remarked: "Those who do not treasure up the memory of their ancestors do not deserve to be remembered by posterity." Also, Thucydides, the Athenian philosopher, who lived 400 years before Christ, expressed these sentiments in still stronger terms, when he said: "Both justice and decency require that we should bestow on our forefathers an honorable remembrance."

How thankful we should be that one of our name became imbued with this one idea, a record of all who bore the name of or were descended from, our common ancestor, the pioneer, Joseph Loomis. In the language of Anthony Wood: "A painful work it [is] (was), and more than difficult, wherein what toyle hath been taken, as no man thinketh, so no man believeth, but he that hath made the triall."

Such was the work of Dr. Elias Loomis, and it is valuable beyond estimation. The more one studies his work as to plan and purpose the greater it becomes. He modestly called it a catalog of names, and from one isolated standpoint such it is. But internally it is vastly more; it is the basis of what this association now hopes to realize, and what he evidently foresaw and surely hoped for, a "complete family genealogy," second to none heretofore published.

He did so well what he did do that it is hardly possible to improve upon it; in fact, we only hope to supplement it, as we

ought, by making mention of and giving credit to those who have earned a name and a place, and among the first of this list we must write the name of Dr. Elias Loomis, of Yale College, author and original investigator, and a pioneer in a multitude of fields heretofore unexplored.

This association is about to undertake a stupendous work in bringing out a revised edition of our genealogy, and if it is as successful in the completeness of its work as was Dr. Elias Loomis in his it will have earned for itself the praises of posterity. Above all, let it be adorned by pictures of places and persons worthy of a page in such a work.

Serious questions confront us at the outset. Shall we follow the plan of numbering set forth in Dr. Loomis' work, or shall we adopt the system of the *New England Register and Genealogical Journal*? This and other vital and important questions must be met and answered. But that they will be solved so as best to serve our purpose goes without question. And, in addition to the matter contained in the present edition, and that of a like nature which will naturally come to the new edition, it should be the purpose of this association—and it is—to include such historical records relating to our first forefathers as are now extant; by your permit I shall mention some of them. viz.: a copy of the will of John Loomis of Braintree, England, the father of our ancestor, Joseph; a copy of the will of Robert White, the father-in-law of Joseph; a copy of the administration of the estate of our ancestor, Joseph; a copy of the map of Old Windsor, showing the location of the "Island," the original homestead of Joseph Loomis, of which the *Connecticut Magazine*, Vol. VI., No. 7, p. 463, contains a good cut, and other historical document or record, relating directly to our early ancestors, either in Old or New England. In this way we will make it truly a record, as the Psalmist says (Psalm LXXVII, 3-6), of those things "which we have heard and know and our forefathers have told us. . . . That the generations to come might know them, even the children which should be born, who should arise and declare them to their children."

Formerly a name found in any one of the three learned professions received more attention and was allotted more space in print than if found elsewhere; but in this latter day of general leveling

up caused by our excellent system of universal public education there are many other callings which rank socially and intellectually as high as the former, and therefore, there are those in other callings—that of the teacher, the scientist, the artist, the author, the military man, the stage, the inventor, and the business man—whose names shall receive attention commensurate with their success, and space for such historical statements as are necessary to render the same instructive and entertaining must be apportioned to such. For as we read in Ecclesiasticus (XLIV, 8, 9): “There be of them that have left a name behind them, that their praises might be reported. And some there be which have no memorial, who are perished as though they had never been; and are become as though they had never been born; and their children after them.”

All this will require three things: time, labor and money; but these three things, backed up by the everlasting pluck and plod of Dr. Elias Loomis, made his work what it is, and now shall we expect more for less? Some of us must give the time, some must labor, and some, blest more than others in worldly goods, must furnish the money. Without money the elements of time and labor are handicapped. But this association, through its stock subscription plan, the evolution and successful completion of which is due to your president, Mr. Burdett Loomis (see details of said plan enclosed herewith), makes it possible for every one to do something, and for the doing he will receive, in due time, an heirloom of great value—his family history from 1639 to date. Let every one, as every one ought, subscribe for one or more shares of this stock, and thereby make possible this noble undertaking. And let us not forget that with the continuous use of all three of these ever necessary elements will it necessarily follow that every important fact will be properly placed, for, as Plato says: “As it is the commendation of a good huntsman to find game in a wide wood, so it is no imputation if he hath not caught all.”

It is a fact patent to the genealogist that persons who will not take the trouble to send a record of their family are often blamed by their children or grandchildren for not having done their duty. Daniel Webster, on December 22, 1845, said: “It is wise for us to recur to the history of our ancestors. Those who are regardless of their ancestors do not perform their duty to the world.”

If all who may contribute in any way any fact, be it ever so little, could come to realize these sentiments and also that "any labor that adds to our knowledge of the descent of a family, or gathers the scattered facts of a genealogical line into a simple history, is of the highest value and deserving of the warmest praise," then we who may be called to collate, classify and index the same, would be very greatly helped, for sometimes an isolated fact is the key by means of which a thousand names are quickly classified and a whole genealogical line established. Let each and every one

Attempt the end and never stand to doubt,  
Nothing's so hard but search will find it out.

Turn to what field of labor we may and we find high up on the roll of honor, one or more whom we can claim as kinsman. In many cases their names have been written there since 1875, the date of our present edition. Such are deserving of more than catalog mention in the proposed edition that those who come hereafter may read and emulate their example. Pardon me if I reiterate what you each may have in mind; but, by way of suggestion, let me hurriedly recall a few names of such kinsfolk as have earned a name, and by their work have built their own monument.

In the ministry the roll is long, very long; a few are, viz.: Rev. Theo. B. Lyman, Rev. Hubbel Loomis, Rev. Chauncy L. Loomis and Rev. Samuel Lane Loomis; these and a host of others as worthy as these have devoted themselves unsparingly to the spiritual needs of their fellow-beings.

In the missionary field any family might be proud of such names as Rev. Henry Loomis of Japan, Rev. Wm. H. Gulick of Spain, Rev. Wm. A. Benton of Syria, Rev. Oliver P. Stark, missionary to the Choctaws, and Rev. Lorrin Andrews, missionary to the Sandwich Islands. In fact, our encyclopedias of to-day would not be complete without mention of what Lorrin Andrews has done for the uplifting of humanity.

When I turn to the field of the physician and surgeon I find high on the roll of honor the names of Dr. Jamin Strong of Cleveland, Ohio; Dr. Samuel B. Ward of Albany, New York; Dr. Edward Beech Loomis, Dr. Ezra S. Loomis and the distinguished Dr. Alfred L. Loomis of the sanitarium, and scores of others, who

have striven hard to alleviate the aches or conquer the "White Scourge" of suffering humanity.

As mayors, jurists, judges, consuls and statesmen I read such names as Hon. Jas. P. Baxter, present mayor of Portland, Maine; Assistant Secretary of State Francis B. Loomis, Hon. Joel W. White, Rufus Mead, Charles Otis Shepard, Andrew W. Loomis, Hon. Norman B. Judd, Senator Morgan G. Bulkeley, Ex-Governor McLean, Judge Nathaniel Shipman, James C. Loomis and Francis B. Loomis, lieutenant-governor of Connecticut; Arphaxad Loomis, Congressman; Senator W. Murray Crane and Governor Hunt of New York, and these are only a few of those who have striven hard to make their country first among the nations of the earth.

Passing over an army of self-sacrificing teachers in our public and preparatory schools, many of whom are the very salt of the earth and are as worthy of mention as the following from our colleges and universities, I shall name: Rev. John Barbour of Trinity College; Dr. Shubael F. Bartlett of New York Institute; Rev. Lucas Hubbell of Vermont University; Ebenezer Kellogg of Williams College; Rev. Hiram Mead of Oberlin College; Denison Olmsted of Yale College; Silas L. Loomis of Howard University, D. C.; John C. Loomis of Alabama University; Rev. Aaron L. Chapin, president of Beloit College, Wisconsin; Rev. Heman Humphrey, president of Amherst College, Massachusetts; Dr. Justin R. Loomis, president of Lewisburgh University, Pennsylvania; and Rev. George Loomis, president of Alleghany College, each and every one of whom merits great praise for his untiring efforts in the educational field.

As artists there are the names of Frederick E. Church, landscape painter, New York City; Frederick Law Olmsted, landscape gardener, New York City; Osbert B. Loomis, and our own H. H. Loomis: they with many others have made for themselves a place in the world of the beautiful.

In the field of science, as originators and inventors, we must not forget John W. Barber of New Haven, Connecticut; Samuel Colt of Hartford, Connecticut; Dr. Elias Loomis of New Haven, who has written his name in large letters here as well as a genealogist; and, greatest of all, Dr. Mahlon Loomis of Washington, D. C.,



original discoverer and inventor of world-famed wireless (Aerial, he called it) telegraphy, in 1865. This he demonstrated, beyond doubt, in 1868, by sending many messages between two stations in Virginia, eighteen miles apart, and at sea, Chesapeake Bay, between two ships two miles apart.

But Dr. Loomis' fate was that of many another who has lived and thought ahead of his time. For his patient and untiring efforts he received the scoffs and sneers of his fellow-men. And, passing strange it was that his path must cross both the "Black Friday" crisis and the "Great Fire of Chicago." Was it the "fortuitous concurrence of circumstances," or was the hand of Providence in it? Who can tell? Nevertheless, each of these awful calamities brought all his plans, through the financial failure of the monied men of New York and Chicago, whom he had interested with him, to naught. And Congress, in his application for \$50,000 January, 1869, so that he might complete the demonstration, and which Hon. Charles Sumner presented, delayed and deferred action until 1873, at which time his bill passed the Senate, but ultimately the matter was indefinitely postponed, although Dr. Loomis had received letters patent July 30, 1872.

And thus again the U. S., by its want of foresight, lost what has lately become one of the great commercial factors of the age. Dr. Loomis died in 1886, and in less than a quarter of a century thereafter his cherished dream, so eloquently portrayed by Wendell Phillips in his lecture on "The Genius and Mechanism of the Saxon Race" became a reality. Who is not proud, to-day, to belong to a family which produced the discoverer of the greatest invention of the age—Wireless Telegraphy?

Let me quote what another, Judge George Loomis, has written: "It is not the purpose of this article to disparage the ingenuity of Signor Marconi or pluck a single laurel from his brow, but simply to rescue from forgetfulness the genius, persistent efforts and discouraging struggles of the original inventor of the system of telegraphing without wires, which involved every principle claimed to be of recent discovery. The merit of this grand conception and of the first test of its practicability, made more than a quarter of a century ago, belongs to the United States. After 1873, until the time of his death in 1886, the struggles of Dr. Mahlon Loomis,

single-handed and alone, to win for his discovery a recognition of its worth form an episode in the history of American invention and of human life, both interesting and pathetic." By nature Dr. Mahlon Loomis was a genius, and many were his inventions other than the overshadowing one of Wireless Telegraphy. Letters now in the possession of Mrs. Harriet E. B. Loomis of West Springfield, Massachusetts, written in the forties, prove the wonderful resources of his brain, and this, with that indomitable will of his, made of every obstacle a stepping-stone to a higher plane of action. Let justice be done him.

Of that army of "sturdy men who contributed no mean share towards making good our Declaration of Independence in 1776, and in saving our country from disruption in 1861," the army and the navy furnish such names as Samuel R. Franklin and Captain Owen Tudor of the U. S. Navy; Captain Gustavus A. Hull, Charles T. Baker, Lieutenant Lebbens Loomis, Major General Wm. B. Franklin, Major General James S. Wadsworth and Brigadier General Gustavus Loomis of the U. S. Army, and the Hon. Gideon Welles, secretary of the U. S. Navy from 1861-9.

And next to these, on the roll headed Engineers, such names as Frank Gillman, Ichabod L. Skinner, Hiram Burnham, surveyor of the Northeastern boundary of the United States, and Charles L. Loomis appear.

A short time since I chanced to refer to the index of the Congressional Library at Washington, D. C., and there I discovered that said library contained the works of twenty-three authors by the name of Loomis, and the thought occurred to me that one of the first things the institute, of which this association is an exponent ought to do is to make a collection of all the works published by authors bearing the name of Loomis. Let me suggest that this worthy undertaking be assigned to our kinsman, the accomplished and efficient librarian, Mr. Frank B. Gay. Let there be an alcove dedicated to this collection, yes, let us go further; let us dedicate a second alcove to works published by those directly descended from a Loomis, designating in the front cover of each work the degree and line of descent. Such alcoves will be unique in the field of books, and will also come to have great value as the institute grows old. This collection ought to be begun at once, as delay

only makes its completion the more difficult. Of course, this is only one of several suggestions to those who have these matters in hand. Possibly all these things have already been considered and fully planned for.

Of the authors in the Congressional Library index bearing the name of Loomis I have listed the following:

Mrs. A. Perry Loomis,	Alfred Lebbens Loomis,
Annie Elizabeth Loomis,	Hon. Augustus Ward Loomis,
Charles Battell Loomis,	Charles Close Loomis,
Chester Loomis,	Chester A. Loomis,
Dwight Loomis,	Eben Jenks Loomis,
Elias Loomis,	Elisha Scott Loomis,
Ernest Loomis,	Frederick A. Loomis,
George B. Loomis,	Harvey Worthington Loomis,
Henry T. Loomis,	Herbert Norton Loomis,
Horatio N. Loomis,	Justin Rudolph Loomis,
Lafayette Chas. Loomis,	Silas Laurence Loomis,
William Isaacs Loomis.	

Of those authors descended from a Loomis some are: John W. Baker, Sarah M. Lee, Mrs. Albert H. Pitkin, Joel Munsell, Rev. Edward P. Hammond, Rev. Charles F. Hudson, Rev. Sylvanus D. Phelps, Dr. Henry R. Stiles, and many others whose names I cannot give because I do not know them. Many of those unmentioned, not intentionally, but because of the limited knowledge of the writer, are probably more worthy of mention than these named, and I hope that the fact that the writer cannot mention them will cause those who know of such to make known the facts to us that all such may have a place in the new edition of our genealogy.

In the field of brain and brawn—the business world—those of our kinsmen who are worthy to be decorated because of meritorious success, are indeed a goodly number, including bankers, merchants, contractors, life and fire insurance presidents, railroad presidents, manufacturers, mine owners, editors, publishers, farmers, lumber merchants, etc. To recall the names of such would become tiresome, but there is one family, the names of whom deserve more than passing mention on this occasion; I refer to Col. John Mason Loomis and his brothers, they who conceived and so wisely planned for and made possible the Loomis Institute, and of which you have received so able and complete an exposition to-day from its efficient

president, Mr. J. M. Taylor. By this act they have not only built for themselves a monument more enduring than marble or granite, but they have also thereby preserved forever the original homestead of our pioneer forefather, Joseph Loomis, and made possible the most complete genealogical family history of any family known in American history. For what this association may do at this time will only prepare the way for future acts of betterment.

Time forbids further enumeration of those worthy or notable. That I have failed or forgotten, in each field touched, to mention some more worthy than some named, is, no doubt, true. And for these acts of omission I humbly pray your forgiveness and ask you to enlighten me. Not that I would not, but that I could not, because I knew not is the only excuse I can offer for my shortcomings.

With these suggestions I am done. Let the committee named by this association plan wisely and well so that, when completed, this work shall excel all others in workmanship, illustration, useful historical matter and completeness of indexes. Let the general committee call to its aid such subcommittees and assistant annalists, which it can in any way interest, and assign such helpers such work as ought to be done, directing all so that when all these efforts are assembled the product shall be a complete and unified whole, a work so complete that each and every kinsman shall desire to own a copy.

“And here will I make an end. And if I have done well, and as is fitting the story, it is that which I desired; but if slenderly and meanly, it is that which I could attain to.”—II Maccabees, XV, 37. 38.

# Joseph Loomis and His Home in England

BY MRS. HARRIET E. B. LOOMIS

*Historian of Loomis Family Association*

An address on the Loomis ancestors in the Old World delivered at the Reunion of The Loomis Family Association at Hartford, Connecticut, September Twenty-seventh, Nineteen Hundred and Five.

TO keep fresh the memories of our forbears, is a duty which we owe, not to them who have ceased from their labors and are beyond our veneration—but to ourselves, that we may preserve the integrity of our name, and to those who will bear it when our part is also finished.

When we were taught in school days of the privations and sufferings of the founders of our republic, it was accepted as a sort of general statement—a tale doubtless true—but hackneyed. But when, in later years, we begin at the nearest end of the chain, and work back from ourselves, link by link, and find that the phrase “our forefathers” has a personal meaning—that bone of our bone, and flesh of our flesh, has toiled and suffered and died, then the liberties which we enjoy take on a new significance, our country becomes dearer to us, and our ambition is aroused to emulate the heroism of our past, or, if our opportunities are small, to at least keep the record clean, and to teach our children the value beyond riches of a good name.

A frequent jeer thrown at those who indulge in genealogical study is that something may be disclosed which is not creditable. But even so, it is profitable for us to know it, for if we can detect the lawless tendency we have a definite flaw to guard against. “Forewarned is forearmed.” Thus can the race be bettered.

Our common ancestor and his English home, our emigrant ancestor, whose memory is ere long to be nobly honored, is the subject of the sketch I present to you.

Forty miles northeast of London, on the great highway to the counties of Suffolk and Norfolk, are the twin parishes of Braintree and Bocking, which comprise the town of Braintree, once known as Brantre, and also as Rayne-Magna. It is situated on rising ground beside the river Blackwater, and was the site successively of British and Roman occupation.

The winding streets are narrow, with mere ledges for footways, and the quaint houses, old and new, seem to be built from one pattern.

The two churches, St. Michael's and St. Mary's, fine examples of Gothic architecture, each have chimes of six bells, and while the former stands in the open, the latter is embowered in church-yard trees.

There are three old inns—the "Horn," "The White Hart," and "Six Bells," and also an ancient ale house, with wainscotted tap-room, and carved oak mantel, called the Dial House, from its sun dial.

Not far distant is the mansion known for centuries as "Dorewards Hall," showing a tall gable, flanked by slender turrets, with large mullioned windows between. Rayne, the former residence of the Earl of Essex is also near by, and the remains of the mediæval church tower, with massive angle buttresses, pinnacled at the top, may still be seen. Five miles west of Braintree are the beautiful ruins of Leigh Priory, and beyond that, is Little Dunmow, celebrated for the "Dunmow Flich," one of those old English customs, which seem so grotesque to our American minds. The usage established in 1111 was that "any person from any part of England, going to Dunmow, in Essex, and humbly kneeling on two stones at the church door, may claim a gammon of bacon—in other words, a smoked ham—if he can swear that for twelve months and a day he has not had a household brawl, or wished himself unmarried." The Dunmow Flich" is said to be still occasionally awarded, although one might suppose it would be rather hard to prove eligibility.

A description of the English classes, as given by William Harrison, an Oxford B. A. and M. A., in an article in the first edition of the "Holinshed Chronicle," in 1577, is interesting.

"We in England, divide our people commonlie into four sorts, as gentlemen, citizens or burgesses, yeomen, which are artificers, and laborers." The first he explains at some length, which we will pass by as it does not concern us. Of yeomen, he says that they were "free men, borne English, who might rent their land in yearly revenue to the summe of forty shillings, sterling, . . . This sort of people have a certain pre-eminence, and more estimation

than laborers, and the common sort of artificers, and commonlie live wealthilie, keep good houses, and travel to get riches."

Of the fourth "sort" were the "daie-laborers, sho-makers, carpenters and tailers"—the last should be borne in mind, notwithstanding our coat of arms. Also, according to Harrison, fashions were as forceful then as now, and were "devised by the fickle-headed tailers"—which shows that they were of some influence, even though rated as fourth class.

In the time of King John—early in the thirteenth century—Braintree became a market town, and was the halting place for throngs of pilgrims on their way to the shrines of St. Edmond of Bury, and Our Lady, at Walsingham.

In the early part of Elizabeth's reign, Flemmings, driven from the Netherlands by persecution, settled at Braintree, and introduced new methods in the manufacture of woolen cloth, which had been made there since 1389—the manufacture of baize, once known as bocking, being especially important. The general name for the woolens of this district was Handywarp, and the Edwards, II and III, took great interest in, and gave encouragement to the business. Braintree, therefore, in the sixteenth century, was what might be termed an up-to-date town, for those times—notwithstanding the "Dunmow Flich." It was used to influxes of new people and new ideas, and thinkers developed. The Reformation was in progress, and Braintree became a hotbed of dissent and non-conformity. It saw persecution and martyrdom within its borders, and the spirit of change was abroad in the land.

Then rising afar in the western sea,  
A new world stood in the dawn of the day.

Strange rumors and tales of the new country spread among the people—tales of its wonderful climate, its fertility, its wealth in furs, mines, timber, fisheries, and—an appeal to that age of religious excitement—the rare opportunity for the dual conversion of the heathen to the worship of God, and—incidentally—the adventurers to that of Mammon.

Sir George Peckham, a prominent colonizer, who would in our day be classified as a "promoter," wrote in 1582: "And if in respects of all the commodities they can yield us, that they should

receive this only benefit of Christianity, they were more than fully recompensed." He had indeed great schemes for wealth! The exchange of Christianity for beaver skins would hardly have been attempted between white traders.

Another item mentioned by Sir George was that "God hath provided such means for the furtherance of this enterprise as do stand us in stead of great treasure," one of which "means" was "the peculiar benefits of archers, . . . amongst those naked people." Truly, their mode of conversion was to be persuasive!

But to return to our subject. In January, 1556, a certain John Lomas, a young man of Tenterden, Kent, was examined and burned for heresy at Canterbury. What kin he was to us we do not know, but that he was the grandfather or granduncle of Joseph Loomis is not improbable.

The account of his trial for heresy, given in "Fox's Book of Martyrs," shows certain family traits. When asked if he believed in the Catholic Church or no, he answered that he believed so much as is contained in God's book, and no more. Seven days later he was again examined as to whether he should be confessed of a priest or no, and answered that he found it not written that he should be confessed by any priest; neither would he be confessed unless he were accused by some man of sin. When asked if he believed in the Catholic church and would be content to be a member of the same, he answered that he believed so much as was written in God's book; other answer than that he refused to give.

The last of that month he, with four women, the husband of one of whom had already been burned, "were burned at two stakes, and one fire together, who, when the fire was flaming about their ears, did sing psalms. Whereat, the good knight, Sir John Norton, being there present, wept bitterly at the sight thereof."

The traits here displayed, quiet adherence to conviction and "dying game," still hold in the blood.

Sixty-three years later, the will of John Loomis, of Braintree, was proved by the executor, Joseph Loomis. The phraseology shows a devout, God-fearing nature, who might well have had a martyr for an ancestor:



In the name of God, Amen, I, John Loomis, of Braintree, in ye county of Essex, *Taylor*, being sick of body but of perfect and whole minde, and being carefull to prepare myselfe for ye enjoying of a better life, do make and ordayne this my last will and Testament, this fourteenth daye of Aprille, in ye yeare of our Lord God, 1619. In manner and forme following, first, I commend my Soule into ye hands of almighty god, my Creator.  
 x x x x x

Item: I will, that Joseph Loomis, my sonne shall have my little Tenement or Dwelling house in Braintree aforesaid wherein John Lunt now dwelleth at ye rente of forty pownds, toward ye paying of my debts, with a garden plott thereto belonging, adjoining nere unto his own. And also one stable standing nere the Markett Cross in Braintree, at ye rate of thirty pownds, or to be sould to the uttermost that may be made of yt.

Item: I will that all my household stuffe and movable goods shall be praysed and my son Joseph shall have tenne pownds worth of them as shall seem fitt to him for his own use.

To his four daughters, Ann Warr, Sara Burton, Elizabeth Preston, and Jane Pengelly, the "remaynder and overplus." But the will was not to be administered until after the "decease of Agnis, my loving wife." His son was made executor, and his son-in-law, William Preston, supervisor; to which he made his mark, as did one of his witnesses—and his tenant—John Lunt.

Letters to administer the estate of Geoffry Loomis, of Braintree, were granted to his widow, Priscilla, October 15th, 1625, and in 1631, her estate was administered by John Lunt. tailor, of Braintree, and he was appointed guardian of her daughter, Priscilla, then fourteen years of age. By John Loomis' will, it appears that he was a man of limited education, but yet a man of some substance.

It may be that by the death of John Loomis, the martyr, the family dropped into a lower condition than they had formerly known, perhaps by losing the provider, and thorough education was beyond the means of the survivors. Another point should be noted: John Loomis' garden plot adjoining that of his son. Even then gardening seems to have been an idiosyncrasy.

Two years before the death of John Loomis, occurred that of Robert White, yeoman, of Messing, Essex, a village some distance east of Braintree.

From the Parish Records of Felsted and Shalford, Essex, are taken these entries :

Robert Weighte and Bridget Allgar married June  
24th, 1585.

Joseph Loomis and Mary White married June 30th,  
1614.

Shalford was the home of Bridget Allgar, where she was baptized March 11th, 1562, and where her father, William Allgar, was buried August 2nd, 1575. After her marriage she continued living there until a short time before her husband's death, when they removed to Messing. Robert White left a bequest of forty shillings to Mr. Richard Rogers, preacher of God's word at Withersfields, Essex, which indicates that he was friendly to non-conformists; and a like sum to Bartholomew Schrivener, minister of the Church of God, which implied a continuing interest in the established church. Forty shillings to the poor of Messing, and nothing to those of Shalford, indicates that Messing was his native place.

His surviving family consisted of Bridget, the widow, who with the eldest son, Daniel, was joint executor of the will; two other sons, Nathaniel, and John, who was the younger child; three married daughters, Sarah Bowtell, Mary Loomis, and Elizabeth Goodwin, and two unmarried daughters, Bridget and Anna. The latter was baptized in 1600, and twenty years later she married John Porter, of Felsted, later of Windsor, Conn. Among the items of Robert White's wills occurs this: "I give and bequeath to my daughter Marie, the wife of Joseph Lummis, of Brancetre, one pewter platter." He also provides for his daughter Bridget, if she marries with the approbation and consent of his sons-in-law, Joseph Lummys and William Goodinge.

For his son John, not then of age, he directs that if he should marry without the approbation and consent of his mother, and brothers-in-law, his legacy of two hundred pounds should be



GARDEN AT ANCESTRAL HOME  
OF THE  
LOOMIS FAMILY OF AMERICA  
AT WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT



reduced to one hundred. The Parish Register of Messing gives the marriage, December 25th, 1622, of John White and Mary Levett. William Levett was one of the witnesses of Robert White's will. Let us hope that John received the two hundred pounds. Joseph Loomis was made one of the supervisors of said will.

The will of Nathaniel White, of Fering, a village five or six miles from Messing, gives his mother, Bridget White, an annuity of ten pounds. The date of this will was June 9th, 1623. It was probably for him, that Joseph Loomis' son, Nathaniel, was named.

One more will may be noted here—that of John Hankins, of Braintree, dated and proved in the autumn of 1633, wherein Joseph Loomis—one of the witnesses—is spoken of as a “loving friend and neighbor.”

What better record of his daily life do we want than this? That he was a man respected for his intelligence and integrity is manifested by the offices of trust which he filled. That he was a man of ability is shown from the fact that he was a “woolen draper”—that is, a merchant—a position above that of his father, and which warranted his wedding the daughter of a man of means. But more precious than all is that chance eulogy, “a loving friend and neighbor.”

While these local and family affairs were taking place, there were events of historical importance. The Plymouth colony had become established, also the Massachusetts Bay colony. It was a time of momentous emigration—not overwhelming emigration, as we know it, but a steady, forceful pushing out into precarious conditions, by thoughtful men, who rebelled at the irritations, or persecutions at home.

In 1637, “King Charles made an attempt to sift emigration, and gave orders to the officers of the ports to detain Subsidy Men—those liable for taxes—or those of the value of Subsidy Men, without license from His Majesty's Commissioners for Plantations. Nor could they permit any men to leave under the value of Subsidy Men, without an attestation from two Justices of the Peace—that he had taken oaths of Supremacy and Allegiance, and like testimony from the Minister of his Parish, of his conformity to the Orders and Discipline of the Church of England.”

Nevertheless, the departure continued. Property was con-

verted into ready money, supplies were packed, and sent out of England, passage was taken on little vessels which would be considered unseaworthy in our time, and the long journeys undertaken, which consumed weeks and months. The discomfort, hardships, and dangers that were endured in the transition are beyond our conception. And yet, these were but preliminary trials.

There is one phase of the emigration of our ancestor, on which we need not spend our sympathies. Although he left "the dear old land," the ties of kinship were not entirely severed, for many of the kin came to America. On the "Susan and Ellen," with Joseph Loomis and his family, came John Porter—whose wife was Anna White (Anna White was a sister of Mrs. Joseph Loomis), and their nine children.

In 1632, in the list of thirty-three passengers on the "Lion," the name of John White, a brother, follows that of William Goodwin, a brother-in-law. They settled first at New Town, now Cambridge and in 1636 went to Hartford with Rev. Thomas Hooker, and both became elders—Elder White being called in 1677 to settle the difficulty in the Windsor church.

Among the passengers of the "Truelove," from London to New England, September 19th, 1635, were William Preston and his family, the brother-in-law of Joseph Loomis, although Preston's first wife, Elizabeth Loomis, had died and the Mary Preston who came with him was his second wife. Preston went to New Haven, and signed the fundamental agreement January 4th, 1639.

The Pengellys also came over, and are supposed to have settled at Ipswich, and their descendants removed to Springfield in 1678, living in that part now called Suffield. Several persons by the name of Burton came over before 1638 and settled in eastern Massachusetts, and the will of Abraham Warr is mentioned at Ipswich, in 1654.

From this, it seems likely that nearly all of the descendants of John Loomis came to America, so that Joseph Loomis neither left his kin, or came among entire strangers.

I wish we might know what he thought of the new country, during the time that elapsed between his arrival at Boston in July, 1638, and his settlement in Windsor in 1639.

The laws of the eastern colonies must have been disappointing to those who wished to escape the severities of the English laws.

Probably our ancestor did as a modern Loomis would do, kept still and did a good deal of thinking. There were several settlements in the Northeast, and some objectionable features about all of them. The New Hampshire colony could not settle their boundaries; the Maine province was too scattered and the people were of a rather poor class; the Providence Plantation had too much variety for safety, while the Connecticut River settlements were liable to Indian attacks—the conversion of the heathen not having been as universal as was planned.

It must have been the Hartford Constitution that brought about the final decision—that, and the friends who were already there. The right to vote without church restrictions, to take part in the making of laws for the good of all, to bow to no authority outside of their own and their Maker's—that first constitution of a republic—what intelligent man could resist it, even though it took him to the frontier and its perils? Certainly not those in whose veins flowed brave blood.

So westward they took their way, "Fearless as ever of what might befall," and at Windsor, at the meeting of the waters, Joseph Loomis took up land and built his home.

When he looked down on the rippling rivers, was there a pang of homesickness for the distant Blackwater? And did he lay out the garden by the humble log cabin, with a thought for those far off English "garden-plotts adjoining?" We cannot doubt it. And down through the years has flowed a current, which bears on its tide, not only independence, courage, integrity, but withal a love for the beautiful growing things which mother nature gives so bountifully to those whose faith and works brings them close to her heart.

# A Tribute to the Name of Loomis

BY CHARLES BATTELL LOOMIS

An Address by the distinguished American humorist delivered at the Reunion of the Loomis Family Association at Hartford, Connecticut, September Twenty-seventh, Nineteen Hundred and Five.

**M**R. LOOMIS, Mrs. Loomis and all the other Loomises: I can truthfully say I have never in my life stood before so fine looking an assemblage, because never before did I see so many Loomises. In the course of some thirty years' wandering around the earth, whenever I have seen a man who was particularly handsome or particularly grave or particularly good, I have always made up my mind he must have Loomis blood in his veins, although I have never proved it. I mention this because I think trivial things are tiresome and I need to be tired.

As I want to be perfectly sure that my speech is exactly as I wrote it, I am going to take the liberty to read it. I used to wonder why it was that Fannie L. Davenport was such an excellent actor, and last summer I found her maiden name was Loomis, and that she was a lineal descendant of Joseph Loomis, and that explained everything. What a varied lot of characteristics the original Joseph must have had when we think of the different lines in which his descendants have distinguished themselves. Think of Professor Loomis of Yale, and Fannie Davenport; think of the landscape gardener and the architect; think of the Loomises in the ministry and the sheep stealers in Middle New York.

As near as I can make out the Loomises felt they had good blood and went around marrying as often as they could to introduce their blood into other families. In this way we are related to Roger Sherman and, in fact, everybody who is worth anything. And now we come to a very versatile man, President Roosevelt; when we think of what he has done and when we notice how he keeps up his record we are perfectly sure he had Loomis blood in his veins. I don't like to think what Hartford would have been to-day if it had not been for Joseph Loomis.

Did you ever stop to think how generous the Loomises are. Do you remember that first Loomis who gave *2s. 6d.* He didn't think about it long, but he handed them right over and never saw



them again. He gave more than we do and now he is celebrated. And that makes me think the Loomises are pretty good in gains, but I never came across any that were extremely rich. I think this is a case of cause and effect. Who among us remember the Loomises who stole the sheep. Let us only remember that they knew their business and got away with the goods. What is a sheep among friends. They are our kin.

In the old days the Loomises did not believe in race suicide and families of twelve were common. They were truly Americans and did not all live in one place, but were spread out all over the country until now there are Loomises in every state in the Union. I think America need never despair as long as there are Loomises to burn. (Much applause.)

## The Name Loomis in History

John Lomas was burnt at Canterbury, England, in 1566, for heresy; that is, for being a Protestant.

A tribe of Indians in Alaska bears the name Loomis.

Jonathan Loomis took an active part in the battle of Bunker Hill.

Simon Loomis was a witness of Burgoyne's surrender and bore a dispatch to General Washington notifying him of said surrender.

The first white child born where the city of Buffalo, New York, is located, was a Loomis boy.

Prof. John Loomis, with his room-mate Mr. Smith, students at Hamilton College, New York, walked nine miles, October, 1835, to attend the famous "First Convention," called to meet at Utica, New York, to form the "First Anti-Slavery Society in the State of New York."

David Burt Loomis was one of the twenty defenders of E. P. Lovejoy and his fourth printing press, in his attack upon slavery, at Alton, Illinois, when he was murdered on November 7, 1837.

The original discoverer and inventor of world-famed wireless telegraphy, 1865, was Dr. Mahlon Loomis, of Washington, D. C.

One of the first investigators of open-air treatment for consumption was Dr. Alfred L. Loomis, of New York City.

The inventor and builder of the first Electric Police Automobile ever built in the world was Frank E. Loomis.

Prof. Silas Lawrence Loomis discovered the process by which the ores of chromium, theretofore valueless, were utilized.

Gustavus Loomis was a Brigadier-General in the United States Army.

ARTICLE I.

NAME.

The name of this Organization shall be "THE LOOMIS FAMILY ASSOCIATION."

ARTICLE II.

OBJECT.

The object of this Association is to unite in closer friendship the descendants of Joseph Loomis who came to Windsor, Conn., in 1639, and who became one of the founders of that place. Also to honor and perpetuate his memory, to further cultivate a spirit of brotherly love, to compile and preserve the family history, to emulate deeds of patriotism, and strive for the best and noblest things of life.

ARTICLE III.

MEMBERSHIP.

SECTION 1. Any descendant of Joseph Loomis, who shall pay one dollar, may become a member of this Association and shall be entitled to the rights and privileges thereof for one year.

SEC. 2. Any descendant may become a life member of this Association by the payment at one time of ten dollars. Life members shall not be subject to further dues.

ARTICLE IV.

DUES, ETC.

SECTION 1. The business year of this Association shall begin with September 1st each year.

SEC. 2. The annual dues shall be one dollar, payable to the Treasurer on September 1st.

SEC. 3. Membership may lapse unless payment of dues is made within three months after notification by the Treasurer to last known address.

ARTICLE V.

RE-UNIONS.

Re-unions may be held at such times and places as shall be designated by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VI.

OFFICERS.

SECTION 1. The officers of this Association shall be a President, eight Vice Presidents, a Secretary and Treasurer, and a Historian.

SEC. 2. The President shall preside at all meetings, appoint committees, not otherwise provided for, and perform the duties usual to that office.

SEC. 3. The Vice Presidents shall, in their order of seniority, perform the duties prescribed for the President, during his absence.

SEC. 4. The Secretary and Treasurer shall have charge of the membership list and send out reports and notices, and shall have charge of all the funds of the Association, subject to the orders of the Board of Directors.

SEC. 5. The Historian shall keep and make reports of re-unions and have charge of general historical matters.

ARTICLE VII.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

The President and Secretary-Treasurer, together with the Executive Committee, shall constitute a Board of Directors, who shall administer the affairs of the Association, execute orders passed at the general meetings or re-unions of the members, and make reports of the standing of the Association at its re-unions.

ARTICLE VIII.

There shall be an Executive Committee consisting of three members not holding other office. They shall have the general management under the direction of the Board of Directors, and be appointed by the President.

ARTICLE IX.

TERM OF OFFICE, ELECTIONS.

SECTION 1. The term of office for the elective officers shall be two years, beginning from date of annual meeting.

ARTICLE X.

AMENDMENTS.

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of members present at any re-union, previous notice of proposed change having been given the members seven days in advance by the Executive Committee, and who shall serve such notice upon a request signed by not less than ten members.

**Official Record of the Reunion of the Loomis  
Family Association at Hartford, Connecticut,  
September Twenty-Seventh, Nineteen  
Hundred and Five**

THE LOOMIS FAMILY ASSOCIATION held a reunion at Hartford, Connecticut, September Twenty-seventh, Nineteen Hundred and Five, MR. BURDETT LOOMIS, of Hartford, Connecticut, President of the Loomis Family Association, presiding: The Morning Session was called to order by PRESIDENT LOOMIS at 10.30 o'clock.

REV. EDWIN POND PARKER, D.D., Pastor of the South Congregational Church at Hartford, Connecticut, offered the Invocation.

MISS JENNIE LOOMIS of Windsor, Connecticut, Secretary and Treasurer of the Loomis Family Association, presented the annual report which was accepted as read.

MR. SEYMOUR LOOMIS of New Haven, Connecticut, Chairman of the Committee appointed to draft a Constitution and By-laws for the Loomis Family Association, presented the formulated articles which were unanimously adopted, and are recorded in full on pages 38-39 of this brochure.

PROF. ELISHA LOOMIS of Berea, Ohio, Chairman of the Committee for publication of revised edition of the Loomis Genealogy, presented the following report which was accepted as read: Fellow Cousins, for I think you are all cousins of mine, your committee after a careful consideration of the matter has a proposition to make. I wish you to give your whole attention to this question because you may not all agree with me but in the main I think you will. We have been very careful in the matter; we have tried to make this work out for the best interests of all of us and what we have done is about this: After thinking the matter over from many sides, after weighing the different questions that come up in such an undertaking, and they are many, your committee has formulated a plan which consists of having prepared preliminary subscription blanks; we want to have every one of you look these blanks over and become so thoroughly interested in this organization that you will be only too willing to subscribe your name to this blank. The blank is for this

purpose: By subscribing your name to this blank you agree upon call of our treasurer to pay fifty per cent of the subscription, ten dollars, and this five dollars is to be used in preparing a revised edition of the Loomis Genealogy. That work has cost Prof. Elias Loomis already thirty years of good hard work and it is a work that we ought to perpetuate. It is a work that with such a basis as Prof. Loomis gave us we can make a genealogy second to none in the world. But it will require on our part a willingness to help along in every way we can. Upon the completion of the work we will then call upon you through the treasurer for the second five dollars and you will receive a volume or volumes of the work. It is not decided as yet whether the work will be in one or two volumes but you will receive the completed work if you subscribe. Now don't think for a moment that this ten dollars will begin to pay for the work. It will cost more than that per volume, but you know such a work will be of much value and that the amount of work in getting it out will be prodigious. The volumes will probably cost more than ten dollars but those who subscribe will receive them for that price. But those who do not subscribe and wish the work, will be taxed whatever the cost may be. The preliminary work will be turned over to Mrs. A. H. Pitkin, of Hartford, who is experienced along this line, and when a sufficient number of subscriptions have been received to justify us in advancing with the work we will proceed as I have outlined. The committee will take up the matter and see what must be done and the best way to do it; and each of you will receive a report of what has been done up to that time. As you know Dr. Loomis of Yale during thirty years of his life spent his vacations in travelling all over New England and many western states sometimes going from house to house and from town to town. He also made three trips to England and gathered a mass of valuable information so that you may know he has given us a basis for a great work. The work was published in 1875 and he continued for about fourteen years longer to gather material in the same manner. This material has been saved and through the kindness of his son we will be permitted to use the manuscripts. The work is complete down to 1887 but from 1887 to 1905 is the gap that we will have to fill up and every one of us will have to help; but when it is done we will have

a most valuable work indeed. The committee will act with an eye single to your good. It will do nothing that will not be for the benefit of everyone of you. That is our attitude. What we want is your help in this way: If you are interested, and I know you are, your very presence here this morning testifies to that for here you are from all the New England States, from New York, Ohio, and even far distant Kansas; as I say, if you are interested we want you to give us a subscription that will justify us in going ahead rapidly with this work and bringing it to as speedy a conclusion as it is possible. Just as soon as your committee is satisfied that there are enough subscriptions to justify us in going ahead we will act and you will receive a report of what we have done. You understand it is not necessary to pay any money to-day, you simply make your first payment upon the call of our treasurer. Now will you help us? We cannot do anything without your help; do not be dilatory for if you go away without having subscribed, these little matters are easily forgotten. Therefore let it be done to-day. Everything is for your benefit and you ought to subscribe and do it at once. Someone asked me this morning what this book would probably cost. That is a question no one can answer. It will cost us more than it will cost you. We are willing to pay the extra cost and are justified in doing so for so great a work. And when you take that into consideration that some of us are giving our time and money to get this out, doesn't it seem as though you ought to do your part and help us out? But I am not thinking of the work we will have to do. I am thinking of the work Dr. Loomis himself did and what he suffered thirty years ago that we may have this work. He sacrificed thirty summer vacations for us. We ought to sacrifice something for those who come after us. Compare the most that we can give with what Dr. Loomis himself gave and you will see that we are asking a mere bagatelle. And I feel sure that when this matter is presented to you in this way everyone of you will respond promptly and you will be only too anxious to receive a volume of the work. In fact the time between your subscription and your finishing the work will seem a long delay because it will take such a long time in preparing the work for the printer. I say when you

realize what you are going to get for the money you pay in, you will act promptly. I thank you.

HON. WILLIAM H. LOOMIS of Rockville, Connecticut, PROF. ELISHA LOOMIS of Berea, Ohio, and Mr. W. RILEY LOOMIS of Westfield, Massachusetts, were appointed a nominating committee and presented the list of officers who were unanimously elected (as recorded on page 5 of this brochure), after which adjournment for lunch was ordered.

AT LUNCHEON members of the association were the guests of THE LOOMIS INSTITUTE.

THE AFTERNOON SESSION of the Loomis Family Re-union was called to order by President BURDETT LOOMIS at 2:45 o'clock, and the Addresses of the Convention were delivered, interspersed with musical selections by Mr. Herbert S. Bullard, soloist, accompanied by Miss May E. Chapman, pianist.

HON. ARTHUR L. SHIPMAN, Corporation Counsel for the City of Hartford, Connecticut, extended the Address of Welcome as presented on page 7 of this brochure.

MR. JOHN M. TAYLOR, President of The Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Company, and President of THE LOOMIS INSTITUTE, delivered a historical address on the organization, condition and purposes of THE LOOMIS INSTITUTE, which is recorded on pages 9-17 of this brochure.

PROF. ELISHA S. LOOMIS, of Berea College, Ohio, addressed the Association with some genealogical notes regarding the Loomis Family in American history, including suggestions relating to a revised edition of the Loomis Genealogy, which is recorded on pages 18-26 of this brochure.

MRS. HARRIET E. B. LOOMIS of West Springfield, Massachusetts, Historian of The Loomis Family Association, delivered an address on her historical investigations into the English ancestry of the Loomis Family, which is recorded on pages 27-35 of this brochure.

MR. CHARLES BATTELL LOOMIS, of Fanwood, New Jersey, distinguished American author and humorist, and a Vice-President of The Loomis Family Association, addressed the assembly in a vein of pleasure, and his words are recorded on pages 36-37 of this brochure.

MR. ERNEST N. BAGG, of the editorial staff of the Boston Globe, Boston, Massachusetts, addressed the convention through a letter in which he suggested that prizes be given for the best manuscripts written regarding the Loomis Family. The suggestions were unanimously adopted and full details can be secured by addressing the Secretary.

Signed, JENNIE LOOMIS,  
*Secretary of The Loomis Family Association.*



## The Loomis Family Association

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 MARY ELIZ. WHITON (Mrs.), Manchester, Conn.

Descendants of Joseph Loomis—1639

The Loomises of America have traced their ancestry back to John Loomis, of Braintree, England, born some time before 1570, and have a copy of his will dated April 14, 1619. The common ancestor in America is the pioneer Joseph Loomis who settled at Windsor, Connecticut, 1639, and was the only son of said John Loomis. The original homestead of said Joseph Loomis has never been owned by any person except a Loomis, and on the estate stands the stone which marks the first English settlement in Connecticut. Dr. Elias Loomis' works on Genealogy contain the names of over 28,000 persons who are descendants of our pioneer Joseph Loomis, and a copy of the Loomis Genealogy of 1875 is now so rare a volume that it cannot be purchased. The extensive work of revising this precious heirloom and completing it to 1906 is now in process. If you know of any notable deed, unique discovery or invention, or historical action or document, due to a Loomis, or Loomis descendant, report it at once. Every Loomis, or Loomis descendant, in the world ought to send the lineage of himself and the genealogical data for his family, at once, to Elisha S. Loomis, chief annalist of the Loomis Genealogical Association, Berea, Ohio.





Ernest Jones  
1906





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