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Fairfield County

HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

*Report and*

*1880-87*

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

BY - LAWS,

LIST OF MEMBERS

AND

First Anniversary Meeting,

APRIL 14TH 1882

BRIDGEPORT

THE STANDARD BOOK CONCERN PRINTED

1882





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FAIRFIELD COUNTY HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY.

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PRESIDENT.

ROWLAND B. LACEY.

VICE-PRESIDENTS.

WINTHROP H. PERRY,	Southport.
CHARLES BURR TODD,	Redding.
A. B. HULL,	Daubury.

RECORDING SECRETARY

NATHANIEL E. WORDIN, M. D.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.

LOUIS N. MIDDLEBROOK.

HISTORIAN AND CUSTODIAN OF SOCIETY RECORDS.

WILLIAM B. HINCKS.

TREASURER AND CURATOR.

RICHARD C. AMBLER.

P, 4526



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Fairfield County historical society, *Bridgeport, Conn.*  
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1882-97.

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Consolidated in 1899 with the Bridgeport scientific society under the  
name Bridgeport scientific and historical society.

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report for 1891-2.—Fairfield  
Reports ... for 1893-5.—  
1. Fairfield Co., Conn.—  
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County historical society, 1884-4.—  
Reports and papers ... 1886-1887.  
Hist.—Societies.

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LIST OF MEMBERS OF  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
IN ORDER OF THEIR ELECTION.

ORIGINAL MEMBERS.

R. B. Lacey, Bridgeport.	G. C. Waldo, Bridgeport.
W. H. Noble, Bridgeport.	L. N. Middlebrook, Bridgeport.
W. B. Hincks, Bridgeport.	N. E. Wordin, Bridgeport.

MEMBERS SINCE ADDED.

Rev. B. L. Swan, Monroe.  
Abram W. Morehouse, Bridgeport.  
A. B. Hull, Danbury.  
J. N. Ireland, Bridgeport.  
R. C. Ambler, Trumbull.  
Hon. W. T. Minor, Stamford.  
Hon. Lemuel Sanford, Redding.  
James L. Gould, Bridgeport.  
James W. Beardsley, Bridgeport.  
Henry M. Hoyt, Bridgeport.  
C. B. Todd, Redding.  
H. G. Scofield, Bridgeport.  
James Ryder, Danbury.  
Hon. E. S. Hawley, Buffalo, N. Y.  
H. K. Scott, Ridgfield.  
Curtis Thompson, Bridgeport.  
Rev. J. K. Lombard, Fairfield.  
W. A. Beers, Fairfield.  
Rev. E. W. Maxcy, D. D., Bridgeport.  
Rev. William Shelton, D. D., Buffalo, N. Y.  
Rev. George S. Burroughs, Fairfield.  
A. H. Byington, Norwalk.  
Winthrop H. Perry, Southport.  
Hon. J. H. Trumbull, LL. D., Hartford.  
Rev. E. E. Beardsley, D. D., New Haven.  
Walter Hubbell, New York.  
Henry S. Sanford, Bridgeport.  
C. J. Hoadley, State Librarian, Hartford.  
D. B. Lockwood, Bridgeport.  
S. M. Middlebrook, Bridgeport.  
W. T. Van York, Bridgeport.  
Frederick Bronson, Greenfield Hill, Fairfield.  
O. P. Dexter, New York.



## ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION.

We, whose names are herunto subscribed, to wit, Rowland B. Lacey, William H. Noble, William B. Hincks, Nathaniel E. Wordin, George C. Waldo and Louis N. Middlebrook, all of Bridgeport, Fairfield County, State of Connecticut, do hereby form a Voluntary Association, under the laws of said State, for the promotion and encouragement of Historical, Antiquarian and Genealogical Investigation relating to said County and the Towns composing it, the same to consist of the undersigned as present members thereof, together with such others as may be chosen by a unanimous vote of such meetings of said Association as may be hereafter held for that purpose; we, the subscribers, and our associates and successors, forever to be known as the Fairfield County Historical Society, and to be governed by such officers, rules and by-laws as may from time to time be established by said Association.

Subscribed by us at said Bridgeport this February 4th, A. D. 1881.

ROWLAND B. LACEY,	GEORGE C. WALDO,
NATHANIEL E. WORDIN	WILLIAM B. HINCKS,
WILLIAM H. NOBLE.	LOUIS N. MIDDLEBROOK

And of the same date, hereby waving any further notice of a first meeting of said Association, for the purpose of completing the present organization of the same, adopting rules and by laws, and transacting any other business that may be lawfully done at such meeting, we, the said subscribers, do hereby unanimously adopt the following rules and by-laws for said Association.

**RULE I**—The officers of said Association shall consist of a President, three Vice Presidents, Treasurer, Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary, who shall be chosen annually from its members, by a majority ballot, at the annual meeting of the Association, upon notice of the time, place and purpose thereof to be given by the President and Corresponding Secretary for the time being, personally or by mail, to all of said members, one week before said meeting.

And said officers shall hold their offices for one year from their election, and until others shall be chosen in their places, and their powers





and duties shall be those usually appertaining to those offices, except when otherwise ordered by the Association.

And any vacancy occurring in any of said offices before the expiration of its term, may be filled for the unexpired portion thereof, by those of the Executive Committee of said Association who shall be in the exercise of their offices at the time.

Said officers shall also be the Executive Committee of said Association, and as such shall have charge of and direct all matters of executive, financial and clerical business appertaining to the management of the Association, except when otherwise ordered by the Association.

**RULE II.**—The election of new members of said Association shall be by a unanimous vote, by ballot or otherwise, at any annual, regular or special meeting of the Association; the nomination of such new members having first been made at the last regular meeting preceding the meeting at which said vote shall be taken, and not less than one week previous to such voting.

**RULE III.**—The regular meetings of said Association shall be held on the first Friday evening of each and every month; and special meetings thereof, as also of the Executive Committee, may be held whenever the Association shall so order, or whenever the President and Recording Secretary shall deem it necessary to call the same, on the giving of one week's personal notice, or notice by mail, by the President and Recording Secretary, of the time, place and purpose thereof, to all members of said bodies respectively.

**RULE IV.**—The first annual meeting of said Association for the election of officers, and such other business as may be lawfully transacted thereat, shall be held in the city of Bridgeport, at the office of the Mayor of said city, at 8 o'clock p. m., on the first Friday in April, A. D. 1881. And the annual meetings of the Association thereafter to be held, shall be held on the anniversary of that day in each year.

**RULE V.**—All persons elected to and accepting membership in said Association shall subscribe these original Articles of Association, Rules and By Laws.

**RULE VI.**—These Rules and By-Laws may be altered, amended, repealed or added to, by a major vote of the members present at any annual, regular or special meeting of said Association, held in accordance with the rules of the Association.

Adopted unanimously this 4th day of February, A. D. 1881.

ROWLAND B. LACEY,  
NATHANIEL E. WORDIN,  
WILLIAM H. NOBLE,

GEORGE C. WALDO,  
WILLIAM B. HINCKS,  
LOUIS N. MIDDLEBROOK,



Additional Rules adopted by the Fairfield County Historical Society  
August 5th, A. D. 1881

**RULE VII.**—The President of this Association shall be, *ex officio*, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Association.

**RULE VIII.**—The Chairman of the Executive Committee shall be the Auditor of the accounts of the Association, and as such shall audit and approve all bills of expenses incurred by the Association before the same shall be ordered paid, and only upon such audit, and an order of payment by the Association or Executive Committee, shall the Treasurer pay out any funds of the Association.

**RULE IX.**—The Treasurer of the Association shall be also Curator of the same so long as he shall be Treasurer; and the duties of the office of Curator shall be to have the care, custody and preservation of the books, papers, antiquities, and all other property of the Association.



## ANNIVERSARY MEETING.

The inception, organization and object of the Fairfield County Historical Society are set forth in its constitution and the papers which follow.

The foundations are laid and the one year's work has produced a fruitage which is decidedly encouraging. Valuable papers have been prepared and read at the monthly meetings, some of them of great research and rare value. Some interesting old books and relics have been received, and many more are in waiting for a suitable depository for their safe keeping. We bespeak the hearty co-operation of all who can in any way further the objects of the society. The first anniversary of the Society occurred on the second Friday in April, the 14th, 1882.

### OPENING ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT.

*Ladies and Gentlemen :*

When the settler of a new country pushes into the wilderness, acquires and locates his homestead, he is, for the time, and naturally will be, for a number of years, too much occupied with building his cabin, making improvements, rearing and providing for his family, to attend to matters of his tory. Current events, even, are likely to be neglected—much more the past. This remark will apply to and illustrate the condition and experience of the early settlers of New England. Though the condition of succeeding generations has changed, and thrift and comfort have taken the place of hardship and privation, so inwrought has been the idea of utility, measured by a money value, that to spend *time even*, to fix and perpetuate the facts of our early history and the habits and sentiments of the fathers and mothers, has been deemed extravagant waste. Speak on this subject to a majority of people and you will be met with the question, *will it pay?* Inquiry into family genealogies, at once raises, in most minds, the presumption that some estate or fortune in the old country is behind it.

The fact that our grandfathers and grandmothers could *tell* us, much of our early local history from their own observation and memory, or from tradition, has been enough for too many of us, and we have thus suffered data of intense interest, and



often of great importance, to be buried in their graves or scattered to the winds. I am glad there are some exceptions to this, and that something has been done to recover and fix the past, to transmit with current history to succeeding generations.

The early church, parish and town records form a sort of skeleton or frame work for our local history, but these need to be supplemented, amplified, clothed or illustrated by personal and family sketches—specimens of implements and articles useful and ornamental—such as have been to a limited extent and can be more largely gathered up in every village and hamlet in the county.

The store-rooms and attics of numerous old family residences are the receptacles of books, papers and quaint articles, useful in their time and exceedingly useful now as illustrative of the thoughts and industries of a century or two ago, and should be preserved.

Numerous facts about our early history are now accessible on research, more or less dilligent, which in a very few years will be beyond recovery.

A few individuals have held and pondered sentiments like these, and although something had been done in the right direction, the feeling prevailed that to reach any adequate results, combined organized effort was needed. This has led to the organization of the Fairfield County Historical Society—as will be recited more in detail by the Recording Secretary.

I congratulate you upon what has been done by the little effort put forth in one year, and welcome our friends and fellow members from abroad who have not usually been found at our monthly meetings, and those of our fellow citizens who have gathered at this our first anniversary.

#### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE RECORDING SECRETARY.

*Mr. President:*

At this anniversary meeting of the Fairfield County Historical Society it is very proper and may be somewhat interesting to cast a look backward.

In the year 1880, attention had been called to some histori-





cal facts connected with the county by the publication of a book which, compiled by parties from a distance, by its very incorrectness invited those interested, to have the truth. In the early part of 1881 a conversation took place in the office of Maj. L. N. Middlebrook, Franklin block, during which that gentleman suggested the formation of a society whose members from different parts of the county, working together, should collect such facts as could from time to time be gathered, so that the history of our ancestors and the parts they played might be known.

A few gentlemen notably interested in such matters were consulted, and on the evening of January 28th, 1881, Maj. L. N. Middlebrook, Maj. W. B. Hincks, Mr. R. B. Lacey, Gen. W. H. Noble and Dr. N. E. Wordin, met at the residence of the latter and arranged definitely for the formation of the Fairfield County Historical Society.

The first meeting of this society was held at the office of Maj. W. B. Hincks, Wheeler's Building, on the evening of February 4th, 1881. Mr. R. B. Lacey was chosen chairman, and Maj. L. N. Middlebrook, secretary. Articles of Association and Rules and By-Laws were adopted, and the roll of membership was increased by the addition of seven names.

At the first annual meeting held in the Mayor's office, April 1st, 1881, the following officers were chosen :

President—R. B. LACEY, Bridgeport.

1st Vice-President—Hon. W. T. MINOR, Stamford.

2nd " " Rev. BENJ. L. SWAN, Monroe.

3rd " " CHARLES BURR TODD, Redding.

Treasurer—Maj. W. B. HINCKS, Bridgeport.

Recording Secretary—Dr. N. E. WORDIN, Bridgeport.

Cor. Secretary—Maj. L. N. MIDDLEBROOK, Bridgeport.

These officers have remained on duty during the year, and, ex officio, constitute the Executive Committee.

Eleven regular monthly meetings have been held during the year, from only two of which has our President been absent.

The present membership is thirty-nine, of which there are resident in Bridgeport, nineteen : resident outside of Bridge-



port, mostly within the county, twenty. Among them are eight lawyers, six clergymen, five editors, six business men and five gentlemen, business or profession not stated.

Original papers have been presented and read before the Society during the year as follows: By Richard C. Ambler, Esq., A. W. Morehouse, Dr. N. E. Wordin, W. A. Beers, Esq., two; five in all. As one of these papers occupied part of three evenings, and as three documents not original with the members of the Society, but of historical interest, have been also read, it will be seen that the evenings have been well occupied with literary labor.

Seven members have been asked to contribute articles who have not yet complied. Probably most of them will comply during the coming year. I take this opportunity of making the suggestion that in the future we carry out the original plan of the Society and only receive such additional members as will contribute to our object, viz.: the collection of the early history of Fairfield County.

I will also repeat here a suggestion made by one of our members, that some person be appointed to gather such items concerning our Society as may be published in the daily papers, especially extended reports of essays and papers read from time to time, and that they be preserved as additional history of our Society.

With congratulation on the unexpected progress made during the year.

Respectfully submitted,

N. E. WORDIN,

*Recording Secretary F. C. H. Society.*

REPORT OF THE CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.

*Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Fairfield County Historical Society:*

Macaulay, in one of his inimitable essays, says: "A history in which every *particular incident* may be true, may on the *whole* be false. The circumstances which have most influence on the happiness of mankind, the changes of manners and morals, the transition of communities from *poverty to wealth*,



from *ignorance to knowledge*, from *ferocity to humanity* ; these are, for the most part, noiseless revolutions. Their progress is rarely indicated by what historians are pleased to call important events. They are not achieved by armies, or enacted by senates. They are sanctioned by no treaties and recorded in no archives. They are carried on in every school, in every church, behind ten thousand counters, at ten thousand firesides."

And again, the same noble author, in his review of "*Hallam's Constitutional History of England*," takes occasion to reassert this view of the philosophy of history, in this way :

"To call up our ancestors before us, with all their peculiarities of language, manners and garb, to show us over their homes, to seat us at their tables, to rummage their old-fashioned wardrobes, to explain the uses of their ponderous furniture, these parts of the duty which properly belongs to the historian, have been appropriated by the historical novelist."

And even the great Gibbon was willing to confess, "that he owed part of his success as a historian to the observations which he made as an officer in the militia."

It is, I take it, gentlemen, in the spirit indicated by these sentiments, that our youthful society, one year ago, entered upon its work.

And it appears to me, and so I think it does to all of us, that the reflections of the distinguished authors quoted, most peculiarly illustrate the character of the labors upon which we have entered.

And yet, while our duties are in the main such as above described, the history of Fairfield County is not entirely without what even Lord Macaulay would call "important events." The biography of its principal founder, the father of Connecticut jurisprudence and the author of our constitutional government, would be an addition to any archives. And it will doubtless surprise some of my hearers to learn, that in our county and within the reach of this society, are original autograph manuscripts relating to the military operations in Fairfield County of Gens. Washington and Putnam, and other foremost men of the Revolution, to which their signatures are affixed.



No less curious would seem the fact that some of the gilded fragments of the equestrian statue of King George, that stood in the old Bowling Green in New York city, until demolished by the indignant patriots, are said to be reposing peacefully in Fairfield County.

But, gentlemen, I will not detain you. Of the more formal part of the annual report of your Corresponding Secretary, there is but little, and that may be embraced in a few words.

Your correspondence has been conducted with many men eminent in all the walks of life, both within and without New England, upon subjects germane to our purposes.

And this I desire more particularly to report, what indeed you have doubtless observed, that the interest expressed by these correspondents, and the desire manifested by them to aid us in our labors, has been remarkable. From this sign alone, your Corresponding Secretary would be willing to predict prolonged life and success for our cherished enterprise.

All of which is most respectfully submitted.

L. N. MIDDLEBROOK,

*Cor. Secretary F. C. H. Society.*

After the acceptance of these reports, William A. Beers, Esq., of Fairfield, read his paper on Roger Ludlow, which has been published, and the following sketch of Rev. Richardson Miner was read by the author:

A sketch from the life of of Richardson Miner, who from November 18th, 1730, to March 21st, 1744, was pastor of the Church of Christ at Unity (now Trumbull), by Richard C. Ambler, Esq.:

In writing upon this subject I shall be compelled to state many things which are familiar to some of you who have spent days among the records, which are the source of what little information upon the subject I possess. Hence, I beg you not to expect to be informed or instructed by my paper.

In truth, I feel at loss to attempt a paper upon a subject of this nature, in which laboring among so few facts I must be confined simply to the originality of clothing them.





In the first place it may be well to state as preliminary some facts which, while they may be well known to all hearers, still tend to bring to mind more clearly the situation of the work in which the subject of this sketch was engaged.

The old town of Stratford at the beginning of the last century, and later yet, comprised what is now within the limits of Stratford, a part of Bridgeport and the whole of the towns of Monroe, Huntington and Trumbull. This was subdivided into districts, not having definite boundaries, comprising New Stratford, now known as Monroe; Ripton, now Huntington; and North Stratford or Unity, now Trumbull.

The scattered population of this large town attended "meeting" at Stratford proper. As the settlement increased and the people spread farther and farther back into the town, it became necessary to form a new society farther inland. This was done November 18th, 1730.

The new organization was called "Church of Christ at Unity." This society continued until May 6th, 1747, when, owing to the conversion of Richardson Miner, the pastor, to the Episcopal belief, of which circumstance we shall hear more below, dissention followed in the church and society. The association, the General Assembly of the colony and the neighboring associations sought to advise, but the society became so broken that it was gathered anew by the council at the settlement of the next pastor, the Rev. James Beebe.

"It was natural that when the shepherd had thus sought another fold, the one he leaves should be scattered. It was so here," and we find on the record of the association that over two-thirds of the Rev. Richardson Miner's congregation at Unity followed him into the Church of England. It was these people who formed the nucleus of the parishes of Grace and Trinity Churches, Trumbull, and added many members to Christ's Church, Tashua, and to the Episcopal parishes in Huntington, Monroe and Stratford. Then, of course, the society being so disunited, could no longer appropriately be called by the name of Unity; hence, in 1747, it was changed to the name of Church of Christ at North Stratford, which



name it continued to hold until the town of Trumbull was set off from Stratford in 1798.

Of the birthplace of Richardson Miner, there has been some doubt, which doubt has been entirely removed by following up a circumstance which laid open a long missing clue. The Rev. Dr. E. E. Beardsley in his history of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut, Vol. 1, page 142, speaks of Mr. Miner as going home for orders. Now, it being a fact that he did go to England for Episcopal ordination, of course Dr. Beardsley in speaking of his going home implies that his home was in England. That this was a fact seemed highly improbable.

Mr. Miner graduated at the age of 22 from Yale College in the class of 1726, a class of 23 members, the largest that had graduated since the organization of the college. Now only the sons of men who possessed some considerable wealth were sent to college in those days, and it is hardly probable that an Englishman of means would have left the world renowned universities of England to educate his son in a young college in the colonies.

Of the date of the birth of Mr. Miner, I find the following in his own handwriting, made upon the society records of Unity, after entering the birth and baptism of his son, as follows: "William, son of the Rev. Richardson Miner and his wife, Elizabeth, born November ye 24th, 1739, baptized November ye 25th." He made the following postscript: "N. B.—The above sd Revd. Mr. Miner was born November ye 25th, 1704."

With this record alone would we have been left and all knowledge of his birthplace and ancestors would have been unknown, had it not been for the precision and exactness with which he made record of all his ministerial acts. In the Unity records, upon a neglected fly leaf, the careful observer will find entries written by Mr. Miner that time has nearly effaced. Among these he recorded the fact of his being at Stonington on two occasions, and on one of these times, July 20th, 1740, at North Parish, he baptized Robert, son of Samuel and Elizabeth Miner. The distance of Stonington from Unity, taken into consideration with the difficulties of traveling in



those early days, and also the fact of the baptism of a person in that place named Miner, led me to surmise that perhaps Stonington was his early home.

I find that the date of Richardson's birth in the Miner family records coincides fully with his postscript made on the records at Unity, thereby to my mind sufficiently identifying the person to be the same. Also, the New London family record not only mentions Samuel Miner (who, by the way, was half brother of Richardson) and his wife Elizabeth, but also that Samuel and Elizabeth Miner had a son Robert, born July 4th and baptized July 20th, 1740, which to a letter confirms the entry on the Unity records. This Robert Miner died unmarried in the French army at Crown Point, August 30th, 1761.

Of the ancestors of Mr. Miner, Savage, Vol. III., page 216, says, (2) Thomas Miner came to this country in 1632. He was son of (1) William Miner of Chew Magna, Summersetshire, England; was in Charlestown, Mass., in 1632; was one of the founders of the church there; was made a freeman March 4th, 1634; removed to New London in 1645. He was a very valuable man, was several times chosen representative, and died in 1690, aged 83 years. He was therefore born in 1607.

The records of the family in New London further say that he came to this country in 1630, with Governor Winthrop and family. That he was married at Rehoboth in 1634 to Grace Palmer, eldest daughter of Walter Palmer; moved to Watertown, then Charlestown and finally came to Connecticut with young Winthrop and settled in Saybrook. In 1643 he settled in New London, and in 1645 moved to Quiambog, where he died in 1690. He had twelve children. His son (3) Manassah was born in New London April 28th, 1647, and was the first born white male child in New London. He married Mrs. Lydia Moore for his first wife; had five children, and died August 22nd, 1728; (4) Elnathan, the first child of Manassah, was born December 20th, 1671. He had three wives. He married his second wife, widow Prudence Hallam, March 17th, 1703. By this wife, (5) Richardson, the subject of this sketch, was born.



Four years after his graduation, Richardson Miner makes the first entry, or "account," as he calls it, in the records of the Church of Christ at Unity. It is as follows: "November ye 18th, 1730, there was a church gathered and settled at Unity, and the same day was ordained there the Rev'd Richardson Miner, by Presbyters the Rev'd Messrs. Joseph Webb, of Fairfield; Sannel Cook, of Stratfield; Hezekiah Goold, of Stratford, and Mr. Jedediah Mills, of Ripton. Mr. Cook preached; Mr. Webb made the first prayer; Mr. Cook gave the charge; Mr. Goold gave the right-hand of fellowship, and Mr. Mills made the last prayer." Such is the record of the ordination of Mr. Miner to the charge of the Church of Christ at Unity. Of Hezekiah Goold, spoken of in the records by Mr. Miner, the following incidents are related by Dr. Beardsley. But in order to more fully appreciate them we must bear in mind the great excitement caused in religious circles by the extravagancies of Whitefield during this time. "Mr. Goold in one of his sermons pronounced Dr. Johnson and all his people unconverted, and not only so but intruders and workers of all manner of mischief. The following is quoted as being well authenticated, that Dr. Johnson, meeting one of his parishioners one day, was enquired of by him whether his church was increasing. 'Yes,' replied Johnson, 'it is increasing, I am a feeble instrument in the hands of God, but thanks be to him. He has placed my left-handed brother Goold here who makes six churchmen while I can make one!'"

The Society at Unity was very prosperous under the charge of Mr. Miner. During the fourteen years of his pastorate there were added to the church one hundred and four members. Thirty-eight of whom signed on the day of his ordination and the remaining sixty-six at subsequent times. He joined in marriage thirty-eight couples and baptized one hundred and eighty one persons, the most of whom were infants less than two days old, and in one case of a "son Reuben, to Daniel Sherwood and Ann his wife, baptized Sept. 3rd, 1732," and adds in a postscript, "born an hour and a half before baptism." There can be no doubt but what the doctrine of infant baptism was fully indorsed by Mr. Miner's people.





\*Richardson Miner was married May 16th, 1725, to Elizabeth, daughter of Theophilus Munson. She was born September 20th, 1751. Theophilus Munson was son of Samuel, who was baptized August 7th, 1643, who was son of Thomas Munson. Thomas Munson first settled in Hartford and soon removed to New Haven, which he represented in the General Assembly twenty-four sessions, from 1660 to 1683. Elizabeth Munson was a New Haven lady, and as fatal to the single blessedness of our young graduate as so many of the ladies for whose beauty New Haven is yet renowned, are to the graduates of to-day.

Mr. Miner had a child named Henrietta, born in New Haven July 5th, 1728, which was baptized by Rev. Joseph Noyes. In November, 1729, we find him in Stratford, where the Rev. Hezekiah Gould baptized another child, named Prudence, which was born November 18th, 1729. Just one year after, i. e., November 18th, 1730, as stated above, he took his first, which, so unfortunately, turned out to be his last pastoral charge.

While at Unity, Mr. Miner lived about a quarter of a mile above the "meeting house," on the same side of the way, in a house which stood in the lot opposite the residence of Isaac Booth, Esq. The "meeting house" stood near where the barn of John Booth, Esq., now stands, on the corner opposite the residence of the late Dr. Dyer.

In the records we find the account of the births and baptisms of the remaining eight children, viz. :

Esther,	born March 4th, 1731.	Baptized by her father.
Isabella,	" Jan. 1st, 1732.	" " " "
Elizabeth,	" March 7th, 1734.	" " " "
Martha,	" " " 1735.	" " " "
"	died " 12th, 1735.	
Richardson,	born March 5th, 1736.	Baptized by his father.
Martha,	" Feb. 13th, 1737.	" " her "
Rebecca,	" Oct. 16th, 1738.	" " " "
William,	" Nov. 24th, 1739.	" " his "
"	died March 22nd, 1740.	

\*Trowbridge family records in New Haven.



Of the home life of Richardson Miner we have no particular record. But we do know that he led a busy life. By reference to the biographies of the New England Clergy of the earlier times, it is I believe true that those who came over in the first migrations and the generation following them usually combined the professions of ministry and medicine. For example, Rev. John Bulkley, 1635-1689; Rev. John Allen, 1637-1680; Rev. Joshua Hobart, 1629-1717; Rev. Charles Chauncy, 1654, and Rev. Israel Chauncy, 1665-1703, the latter of Stratford. I might mention many others, but this will suffice to show that it was not uncommon for the minister and the doctor to be one and the same person. But in the time of Richardson Miner, I think it was more exceptional than it had been for several generations previous, and I do not doubt but that the practice was growing unusual. We know that with many clergy in the time of Mr. Miner it was customary to mingle their clerical duties with those of farming and often as has been so aptly said by Oliver Wendell Holmes, in speaking of New England clergy of that period, "they toiled like day laborers teasing lean harvests out of their small enclosures of land, for the New England soil is not one that laughs when tickled with a hoe, but rather one that sulks when appealed to with that persuasive implement."

Mr. Miner was an exception to this rule, for he not only combined medicine with his duties as a pastor, but was a physician with a large and lucrative practice. His visits were not only about Unity but extended into Fairfield, New Stratford, Tashua, Ripton and Stratford. The fact of his being a physician undoubtedly accounts for the very tender age in which many infants were brought to baptism. A child in delicate health, as the record shows, was often baptized the same day of its birth.

By the fact of his having a large practice, we must not allow ourselves to come to the conclusion that Mr. Miner was well to do in worldly goods. He was reared by parents of wealth, for those days, and had undoubtedly always lived well caring for his bodily wants, in fact it has been said of Mr. Miner that he was a high liver and that he was quite particular as to his



personal appearance. That this was true I do not doubt. But it cannot be said that there was fault in this, for if there was any fault at all, it was in his early training. Then too when we consider his large family living in the same style we can easily conceive that although his practice might be quite lucrative, still there would not be much for the traditional "rainy day." It is also said by one of his descendants that (Eli Walker, Esq., grandson of Mr. Miner, and died May 29th, 1879, aged 96), he had calls to preach in other parishes but that he would not accept them because he could not afford to give up his established practice.

He often visited Stratford and there saw Dr. Samuel Johnson, rector of Christ Church, (Episcopal,) who spoke of him in glowing terms of praise. He described Mr. Miner as being of fine gentlemanly appearance and bearing. We can imagine him as being apt in the gentle courtesies which seemed inborn to a gentleman of that fine old school.

That he was a man of high culture and education: a man deeply imbued with a fine sense of honor and accuracy, I have no doubt, as we can determine the workman by his chips so can we determine a considerable of the accuracy: of the openness of character: the culture; and the education of Mr. Miner from the record of fourteen years, made during his sojourn at Unity. He wrote in a beautiful round hand, which shows both in the nerved inflexibility of lines and definitely finished letters, not only that he was a prompt ready writer, but that he was open in character and accurate in finish. Here too he leaves the best of testimony concerning his culture and education in the ever accurate use of letters, words and sentences, showing that he did not mistake the varied use and signification, but that with the skill of a scholar he framed the long covenants with a dexterous vividness of meaning.

The seed of Episcopacy had for some time been sown in the fertile soil of Connecticut. Cutler, the President or Rector of Yale, Johnson, Brown, Beach, and several other well known Congregational divines, had espoused the cause. Could it be that young Miner, too, was already interested in the all important subject of the day? Perhaps so. The subject was



largely discussed. In a letter to England, written June 11th, 1724, Dr. Johnson speaks of going to New London and of holding services there. Perhaps it was then that our young friend first met that eminent divine.

Dr. Samuel Johnson and Mr. Miner were on terms of intimacy, and undoubtedly many of the views entertained by Mr. Miner found genial nourishment in the cultured society of his friend, and it was without much doubt in the quiet study in the old Johnson mansion in Stratford that Mr. Miner became convinced that it was his duty to openly stand before the world in the true light of his Episcopal beliefs.

There are rumors that Mr. Miner left the Congregational faith for the gratification of personal ambition; that his education, gentlemanly appearance and superior abilities had so attracted the leaders of the doctrines of the Church of England in the colony that large inducements were held out persuading him to seek ordination from the Bishops in England. That Dr. Johnson was represented as saying, upon hearing of Mr. Miner's death in England, that had he lived he would have been foremost among the candidates for consecration as the first Bishop of the Episcopal Church in America. At the ordination of the Rev. James Beebe over the new society called together May 6th, 1747, at North Stratford, and comprising the remaining one-third portion of the old society at Unity, which did not join the Episcopal Church upon the discharge of Mr. Miner three years before, i. e. March 21st, 1744, if any conclusion can be formed from the text chosen by the Rev. Mr. Woodbridge of Unity, which was from 1st Timothy, 3:1: "This is a true saying, if a man desire the office of a Bishop he desireth a good work." I would conclude that some of these rumors had reached the ears of Mr. Woodbridge.

Whether there was any foundation for these reports, I know not, but I prefer to believe that even if such rumors were afloat, that Richardson Miner left the Puritan faith out of pure conscientiousness on the point of duty, and that *that* conscientiousness, if augmented at all by any influence outside of his own mind, was augmented by what was then considered the extravagancies of Whitfield.





Richardson Miner in leaving the doctrines of the Church of Unity must have encountered numerous difficulties. In order to realize more fully the situation, we must place ourselves among those with whom he was working. We must imagine the trials, the discomforts, the hardships, not only of a poor young minister in a young and struggling parish, but of one reared by some tender hands, of one who had spent his boyhood days in the society of a cultured mother, must have met in a parish situated in a back settlement of a new country.

The society at Unity one hundred and fifty years ago comprised what is now known as Trumbull. It was settled by a rough and hardy class of people. Not by the men who fifty and one hundred years before had landed from England and used the little fortunes they had brought with them in the purchase of uncleared lands lying in indefinitely large tracks back in the country. Not by these same men who erected the mansions of imported materials in the settlements upon our coast towns, many of which still remain, records oftentimes of the folly of those who thought that in a new country wealth untold would come to their empty coffers at the bidding, forgetful that a sure foundation and first step must exist to the ladder leading to wealth as well as to any other height. But the congregations which gathered in the little "meeting house" at the foot of the street at Unity to listen to the sermons of Mr. Miner were the children and grand-children of those who having spent their living, left as a heritage the rough and rocky acres. It was then that the struggle began. It was not with the well-to-do settler who lived by his comfortable fireside in his mansion house in Stratford and Fairfield that Mr. Miner labored, but with earnest struggling men and women having little or no education, for in that struggle for existence there was little or no time or money, for schools or learning. Here, among these people he had made his home for fourteen years, during which time what a terrible struggle must have been going on in his mind. Among poor people and with his large family, let his practice in medicine be what it might, he could barely have eked out an existence. How then could he think of leaving his family without support for



a time sufficient for the journey to England and return, to say nothing of the expense of such a journey? It must have been a question of stern duty with him, that he was led to make such a sacrifice.

After leaving his charge at Unity, March 21st. 1744, he went to Stratford, where he and his wife caused their names to be entered upon the records of Christ Church, Episcopal, as communicants of that church. Then he officiated in Stamford as lay rector until he embarked upon his fatal voyage to England for Holy Orders.

Dr. Beardsley speaks of the voyage as follows: "The Episcopalians in Stamford and vicinity with a view of having him as their minister exerted themselves to the utmost of their abilities to assist him to go to England for Holy Orders. Accordingly he embarked with Joseph Lampson, afterwards the faithful missionary at Fairfield, but the vessel was taken upon its passage by the French. After he and his companions were released from confinement, and while on their way from Port Louis, in France to London, Mr. Miner died, at the age of forty, in the same year 1744, of a fever at Salisbury, to the great sorrow of his waiting flock and dependant family." He had not reached the point of his destination and therefore had not been ordained in the Church of England when smitten down with death. Dr. Johnson in alluding to the event exclaimed, "would to God we had a bishop to ordain here which would prevent such unhappy disasters." Rev. Daniel Brown only a few years previous had died while on the same mission, and now Richardson Miner's name is added to the list of those who left home, friends and a dependant family to seek Holy Orders in England, braving the perils of the sea, to say nothing of the small-pox, which then was most terrible in its ravages. It was not with Miner as with Brown, for the latter had been ordained and had once lifted his voice as a minister of the church for which he had periled so much. But with Mr. Miner it was different, Death, that servant of God sent only to bear the soul to its home, had come on its mysterious mission, and the comparatively insignificant plans of man were unfulfilled.



Granted, that Richardson Miner's name has no place in the roll of eminent divines; granted, that his powers as a progenitor of the Church of England in Connecticut have become traditional. Do you know that the most essential part of a building is always under ground? That the fairest islands of the South Seas are based upon the results of labors carried on for generations beneath the level of the waves? And that to use the words of Emerson "every revolution was once a thought in one man's mind," who is not less its author though all trace of the original impulse vanishes ere it is reached? I say that much of the strength of to-day of the Episcopal church in what was the original limits of the old town of Stratford owes its existence through the labors of Richardson Miner. That he was essentially one of the pioneers of that church in these parts of Fairfield county.



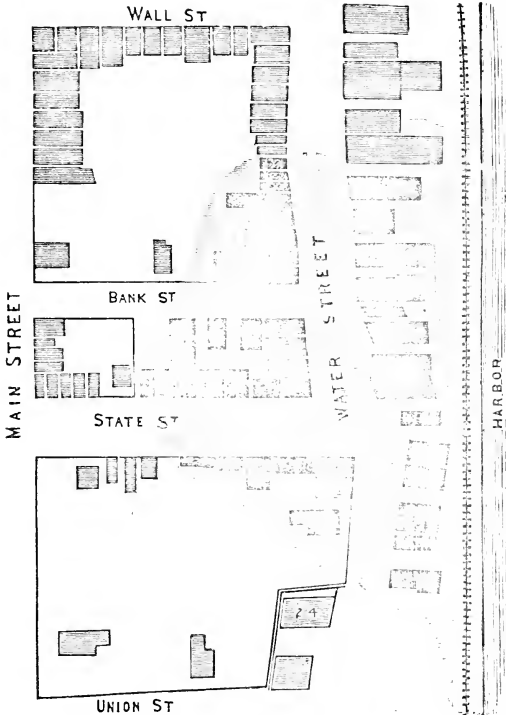


DIAGRAM OF THE "GREAT FIRE OF 1845."





On the preceding page is shown a diagram of what has been known by the older inhabitants of Bridgeport as the "Great Fire of 1845."

The diagram also gives a good illustration of the then business portion of the city, and it will be seen that the burnt district comprised the principal business houses of the place.

The fire was first discovered about half-past one o'clock of the morning of December 12th, 1845, in a large wooden building on the south side of Bank street, near Water, occupied by George A. Wells (A) as a boarding house and oyster saloon. It originated in the cellar where there was a quantity of shavings and wood stored for fuel. It had made considerable progress before it was discovered, and it spread so rapidly that the family of Mr. Wells had time only to save themselves and a few articles of furniture near at hand. One young lady an inmate of the family, was rescued by a neighbor from the burning building, she having become confused in the excitement of the alarm. The weather was bitter cold with a light breeze from the north and northwest. The alarm being given, the firemen responded as quickly as possible, but their facilities for extinguishing a fire were very limited at the best, and they were in this instance virtually powerless, the tide being low in the harbor they were unable to obtain any water. In the meantime, the fire spread with great rapidity to an adjoining building corner of Bank and Water streets, owned by Silvanus Sterling and occupied by L & L. B. Sterling (B) as a house furnishing and stove store, and occupied above by two families, one of whom was named McAdams. The building adjoining (C), occupied by A. Gordon and others as a dwelling, took fire about the same time. On the opposite side of Bank street a building (U) owned by C. B. Hubbell was occupied by Philip Conrad as a meat market and dwelling, which was entirely consumed, together with most of the stock and furniture. Adjoining this at the east (O) was a building occupied by Messrs. Hubbell & Thompson as a carpet room, their principal store being on Water street (2). The corner building (D) was occupied by Olmstead & Keeler. This firm succeeded in saving most of their stock. The remaining building on Bank



street (9) was owned by B. Brooks and occupied by F. Lockwood as a cabinet shop. Most of the stock was got out. Nearly opposite stood the residence of C. B. Hubbell, Esq., which escaped the flames, and at the west, on the site of the post-office building, stood the old residence of William Peet, which also checked the spread of the flames in that direction. Had the latter house caught fire the probabilities are that the flames would have spread into Main street and destroyed every building on the block.

The building was only saved by the most strenuous exertions, the hanging of carpets on the east side and keeping them wet with water drawn from a well on the premises. Of the buildings on the west side of Water street, above Bank, were Lockwood & Zane (F), hardware and stove dealers. They saved a portion of their stock. The building was owned by D. B. Nichols. Adjoining was the dry good store of Hubbell & Thompson, who saved the most of their stock. The next (W) was occupied by G. Forbes as a clothing store, who also saved nearly all his stock. The building was owned by T. & W. Hawley. Adjoining (T) was the drug store of the late Joseph Thompson, and the upper portion occupied as a dwelling. Mr. Thompson succeeded in saving a portion of his stock. Rodney Curtis (shoe store adjoining) (X), saved most of his stock. The building was of small value, and was owned by I. H. Whiting. The adjoining store (2) was also owned by I. H. Whiting, and occupied by John H. Whiting, grocer. The building (Y) owned by D. Hatch and occupied by Schuyler Seeley as a shoe store, was pulled down and the fire checked from further spreading in that direction.

Below Bank street, on the west side of Water, (E) was occupied by O. & W. Sherman, grocers; (G) by George A. Wells as a grocery. This and the adjoining building (I) was occupied by Henry Hall as a grocery store, and owned by Mrs. T. Hubbell. The goods in these stores were partially saved.

On the north side of State street (23) was occupied in the lower part by William A. Whiting as an oyster saloon, and above as a dwelling. It was owned by Mrs. S. Sherman. The buildings, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, were a row owned by Benjamin Wheeler



and occupied below as shops and stores, and above as dwellings. Their value was small and not insured. Adjoining (6) was the grocery store and billiard room of G. G. Wheeler; 7 was the cabinet ware room of F. Lockwood, and 8 occupied by Samuel Hodges as a shoe store

On the opposite side of the street (22) was an old rookery known as the "Flat Iron," occupied by a number of colored families, owned by Benjamin Wheeler. The four buildings east (18, 19, 20 and 21) were owned by D. B. Nichols, the heirs of Jesse Sterling, the Misses Lacey and E. Thompson. In 18 was 500 bushels of wheat belonging to Ryan & Thorp of Weston. The upper portion was occupied as a dwelling; 19 was a tailor shop and dwelling, and 20 and 21 were also dwellings. The corner of State and Water streets (15) was occupied by E. Thompson as a grocery, 16 by Palmer as an eating and boarding house, and 17 was the temperance house kept by A. A. McNeil. The fire, fortunately, was stopped here, as there was a large lumber yard on the opposite side of the way and several dwellings below, which would have been destroyed.

On the opposite side, 11, 12 and 13 were owned by David Perry and occupied principally for storage, with one or two dwellings above; 14 was the old store of A. Hawley & Co.; 10 was occupied by Hall & Burroughs as a wholesale grocery with dwelling above. It was owned by I. Burroughs. The goods were mostly saved. The next store above, owned by I. & W. DeForest, was occupied by T. Ranson & Co., wholesale grocers, and contained a large and valuable stock. A small portion only was saved. The adjoining store (R) was owned and occupied by Mathew Curtis as a paint store. The next (N) was occupied by Morford, Northrop & Co., wholesale grocers. The building was owned by Philo Hurd, who also occupied an office on the second floor as an insurance office. Henry Burroughs owned and occupied the next one (M) as a flour and fish store. The goods from this and Mathew Curtis's store were removed to the wharf for safety, but the fire overtook and destroyed the greater portion before they could be rescued. Charles DeForest occupied the store next adjoining (L) as a wholesale grocery, and the upper portion by L. & L.



B. Sterling as a stove depot. The building belonged to the heirs of S. Burroughs. Edwards & Whiting occupied the building (K) as a fish market. Adjoining (J), was occupied by Niles, Thorp & Co., wholesale grocers. The building was owned by C. B. Hubbell. Their books and papers were partially destroyed, the iron safe proving worthless. The brig Joseph Gorham was lying in the rear of this store when the fire reached it, and in attempting to move her she ran aground and was only saved by the greatest efforts. The next store (H) had been used as a hide and leather store by Morris & Marvin. Sherwood Sterling occupied the next store (P) as a cordage and iron store. The next store (V) occupied by Lockwood & Zane as a stove depot, and owned by Sherwood Sterling. The fire was checked here by the liberal use of salt water, and the adjoining store of Munson Hawley saved, although somewhat scorched.

The contest was ended about 4 o'clock. The streets outside the burned district were filled with goods and furniture. These had in many instances been moved, but not saved. The lack of water enabled the fire to obtain its great headway, and most of the damage on Water street was done while waiting for the tide to rise.

The number of buildings destroyed were 49, and all were of wood. Some forty families were burned out.

The amount of loss was estimated at \$150,000, on which there was an insurance of \$80,000. Among the goods destroyed were about 800 barrels of flour, 100 barrels of mackerel, large quantities of tea, coffee, sugar, molasses, etc.

The building 24 designates the location of No. 1 Fire Engine and the Hook and Ladder Companies.

The Common Council held a meeting on the evening of the 12th and passed appropriate resolutions of thanks to the fire department for their efficient services. A public meeting was held on the following evening, the 13th, at which Mayor Haral presided. A committee composed of Alexander Hamilton, Edwin Porter, Isaac M. Conklin, Daniel Thatcher, V. D. Ellsworth, Ira B. Wheeler, Joseph Cook and Eliakim Hough were appointed to inquire into the condition of the suffering poor

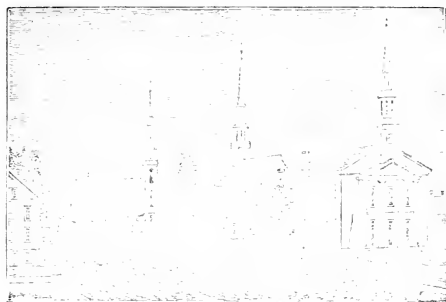




in consequence of the late fire, and authorized to collect and disburse subscriptions according to their best judgment, to those who were needy.

[See *Farmer* 1845; *Leader* July 1, 1882.

SOUTH VIEW OF CHURCHES IN BRIDGEPORT, CONN., FROM CORNER  
BROAD AND GILBERT STREETS, 1835.



Methodist.                      St. John's                      Second  
First Congregational.      Episcopal.                      Congregational.

SKETCHES OF BRIDGEPORT CHURCHES IN 1835.

The foregoing is a representation of the four churches in Bridgeport as they appeared in 1835, all standing in a direct line on Broad street. The view is taken from near the southwest corner of Broad and Gilbert streets. The early settlers on the present site of Bridgeport attended church or *meeting* for a number of years a mile or more away to the north west on North avenue. "The Church of Christ in Stratfield," (now the First Congregational) was organized in 1695, and was located at the corner of Park avenue and North avenue. The Protestant Episcopal Church in Stratfield (St. John's), organ-



ized in 1748, was located at the corner of North avenue and Church street, or Wood avenue extension. The location of each was central at the time, but by reason of the more rapid increase of the population of the Borough of Bridgeport—soon after the commencement of this century—they ceased to be central. The Episcopal Church was the first to occupy this ground, which they did in 1801, erecting the building shown in the cut as St. John's, and completing it so far as to perform services therein in November of that year. It was not fully seated until 1804. Isaac Hinman and William Peet were the acting committee in building, conducting the same with "good prudence, strict economy and a degree of elegance and taste which did them honor and adds respectability to the place."

The cost of the building amounted to about three thousand five hundred dollars, all which was raised by voluntary subscriptions.

The whole committee consisted of:

Capt. David Minot, vice, John S. Cannon resigned.

Isaac Hinman, Elijah Burritt,

William Peet, Ozias Burr,

Robert Linus.

In 1830 the church was widened six feet on each side, the steeple rebuilt, the front improved, and the whole renovated and repaired. An organ was also purchased.

In June 1835, under the rectorship of

REV. GERDON S. COIT,

William Peet and Isaac Burroughs, *Wardens*,

the plan of a new church was presented, and a building committee appointed consisting of:—

Phillip A. Cannon, Esq., Isaac Sherman, Jr.,

Gen. Enoch Foote, Charles Bostwick,

Stephen Tomlinson.

This resulted in the erection in 1836 of what is now known as the old St. John's Church on the corner of Broad and Cannon streets—the former edifice having been sold for the use of the Baptists.



The following names appear as among the principal contributors to the improvement of the then old church in 1830:

Phillip A. Cannon,	James W. Allen,
William Peet,	Josiah S. Hayt,
Enoch Foote,	Ira Curtis,
R. Hyde and H. Shelton,	Elijah Burritt,
Edward Rossiter,	Eli Walker,
Henry R. Judah,	Alfred Cooke,
Benjamin Brooks,	Levi Young,
David Minot,	George Smith,
Thaddeus Hubbell,	Abijah Burroughs,
Jos. Brooks and S. Stratton,	Daniel O. Wheeler,
Isaac Burroughs,	Noah Plumb,
Lewis C. Segee,	Mrs. Sterling Sherman,
Charles T. Nichols,	Samuel Simons,
Everit Lewis,	William H. Peet,
Philo and S. F. Hurd,	Stanley Lockwood,
Samuel C. Kirtland,	Samuel Sherwood,
Amos Burr,	Jessup Banks,
George W. Smith,	Jesse Brooks,
Isaac Sherman, Jr.,	Henry Ohastead,
Elias Camp,	Joseph Thompson,
David Whiting,	*Henry Allen,
*Eli Thompson,	John Burr,
David L. Mills,	William Sherman,
Benjamin S. Smith,	Elias Hodge,
*William A. Peck,	Munson Secley,
L. M. Hitchcock,	Ozias Burr,
Meigs D. Benjamin,	William Wright,
Sylvester May,	R. G. Van Polanan,
Stephen Lounsbury,	Steven Tomlinson,
Matthew Curtis,	S. B. Ferguson,
Phillip Walker,	Roswell S. Nichols.

Of the foregoing, only three marked with a \* are known to be living in July, 1882.



## FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

The change of location naturally came harder with the Congregational Church than with the Episcopal. The movement originated, of course, in the Borough as called—was wholly voluntary, and the records of the inception do not appear on the books of the Society.

The building shown on the cut as the First Congregational Church was erected and inclosed during 1803. In June 11th, 1804, the Society voted to agree to hold the meetings for public worship half the time in Bridgeport, when a house suitable for that purpose shall, without expense to the Society, be so far completed as to accommodate such meetings. Ayes, 32; nays, 19.

This resulted in dividing the time equally between Stratfield and Bridgeport.

June 13th, 1808, it was voted that a meeting of the Society be warned to be held at the new meeting house in Bridgeport. The meeting was warned and held June 20th, 1808, in the new meeting house, and it was voted to hold public worship there two-thirds of the time.

Soon after this the change was made entire.

The following names appear on the records as pew holders at this period, but the list does not include those who owned pews:

Josiah Lacey,	Samuel Hawley, Jr.,
Deacon John P. Austin,	Elijah Burr,
William DeForest,	Stephen Hull,
Lambert Lockwood,	Abijah Morehouse,
Lewis Sturges,	William Benedict,
Silas Sherman,	Widow Mary Sherman,
Ezra Gregery,	Salmon Hubbell,
Thomas Woodward,	Robert Southward,
Simon Backus,	David Sterling,
Benjamin Wheeler,	Thomas Gouge,
Stephen Burroughs, Jr.,	Jesse Seeley,
Wilson Hawley,	Henry May,





Abijah Sherman,  
Samuel Wordin,  
Levi Silliman.

Barzilla Benjamin,  
Anson Beardsley,  
Samuel Burr,

In 1830 a division occurred, and 39 male and 78 female members were dismissed at their own request, to form the second church: the old church giving them one-half of the church property and funds, and also contributing two thousand dollars toward the erection of a church edifice. The erection of a new church contiguous, to wit: the Second Congregational, as shown in the cut at the head of this article, seems to have stimulated improvements in the others. The Episcopal Church was enlarged and improved, as has been related, and the First Congregational also rebuilt their steeple in improved form, and reconstructed pulpit and galleries.

The following is a nearly complete list of pew holders in the First Congregational Church in 1835. Those marked with \* are the only survivors in 1882:

Daniel Thatcher,  
Alanson Hamlin,  
Alexander Hubbell,  
Daniel Sterling,  
Hanford Lyon,  
Thomas C. Wordin,  
Samuel Niles,  
Charles B. Hubbell,  
Dr. James E. Beach,  
Silvanus Sterling,  
David Sterling,  
Joel Thorp,  
Philo C. Wheeler,  
John M. Thompson,  
Daniel Fayerweather,  
Charles Hawley,  
\*Gideon Thompson,  
Benjamin Wheeler,  
Isaac Sherman,  
Nathaniel Wade,

Legrand Sterling,  
Levi Wordin and four others,  
Alanson Caswell,  
Coley E. Betts,  
James Betts,  
Daniel Curtis,  
Henry N. French,  
Gurdon Hawley,  
Abijah Beardsley,  
Wyllys Stillman,  
Alexander Black,  
Nathaniel Hummiston,  
Cyrus Botsford,  
Titus C. Mather,  
Joseph Mott,  
Isaac M. Conklin,  
Capt. E. Wicks,  
David Wheeler,  
David Victory Seeley,  
Joseph Knapp,



George Wade,  
 Ezra Gregory,  
 Joseph P. Sturges,  
 Nichols Beardsley,  
 Lemuel Coleman,  
 William R. Bunnell,  
 Thomas Bartram,  
 Ira Peck,  
 Joseph C. Lewis,  
 David Hubbell, 3rd  
 \*Anson Hawley,  
 David Sherwood.

Robert Milne,  
 Wheeler French, Jr.  
 Judson Bray,  
 Sturges & Smith,  
 Isaac E. Beach,  
 \*Stephen Nichols,  
 George Kippen,  
 Samuel Porter,  
 Elijah C. Spinning,  
 Samuel Wordin,  
 Louisa Bartlett,  
 Eleazer Edgerton.

## OFFICERS.

Rev. John Blatchford. *Pastor.*

## DEACONS.

Isaac Sherman.  
 David Sherwood.  
 Silvanus Sterling.

## SOCIETY COMMITTEE.

Isaac Sherman,  
 Hanford Lyon,  
 Joseph Mott.

Daniel Sterling. *Treasurer.*  
 \*N. S. Wordin. *Clerk.*  
 Nathaniel Wade. *Collector.*  
 Silvanus Sterling. *Salesman.*

The building shown in the cut was occupied until 1850, when it gave place to the present edifice. It was purchased for the use of Christ Church, and moved upon John street, at the present site of the works of Nichols, Peck & Co., and accidentally destroyed by fire in 1851.

## SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

The Second Congregational Church was organized January 28th, 1830, and elected as deacons, William DeForest, Stephen Hawley and Josiah B. Baldwin, who held the same office in the First Church.



They held public worship temporarily in the *old* High School House on State street.

Measures were at once taken to erect a house of worship. The lot on the corner of Broad and Gilbert streets was purchased, and the building shown on the cut at the head of this article erected the same year at a cost of about \$5,000, exclusive of foundations and basement. Rev. Nathaniel Hewitt was installed as pastor December 1st, 1830, and continued until 1853.

The following is a list of pew holders as appears on record in 1835. Those marked with \* are survivors in 1882 :

Seth B. Jones,	Josiah B. Baldwin.
William B. Dyer,	*Nichols Northrop,
Burr Knapp,	Ransom C. Canfield,
Josiah Hubbell.	Benjamin DeForest,
*Victory Curtis,	Mrs. Talman Perry,
Joseph Wood,	Edwin Porter,
Fitch Wheeler,	James Robinson,
Jesse Sterling,	E. C. Warren,
Charles DeForest,	Bradley Gould,
*Mnson Hawley,	Samuel Morse,
Abijah Hawley,	John Brooks, Jr.
David Perry,	James Jennings,
Stephen Hawley,	Nathan Baldwin,
Edwin B. Gregory,	Samuel Peet,
R. Thorborne,	Josiah S. Fayerweather,
Roswell Lewis,	Josiah B. Hall,
Mrs. William Burr,	William B. Nash,
David Hubbell,	Charles Sherman,
Elliot Morris,	George Wheeler,
Sherwood Sterling,	Daniel B. Oviatt,
George Sterling,	D. Mallory,
Wilson Hawley,	Zenas R. Moody,
William DeForest,	Benjamin Pilgrim,
Lockward DeForest,	Nathan Shepard,
Bronson Hawley,	Capt. E. Doane,
Charles B. Middlebrook,	E. D. Bull,
Edward Burroughs,	*John Cogswell,
Harry Judson,	William Allis.



## OFFICERS.

Rev. Nathaniel Hewitt, D. D., *Pastor*.

## SOCIETY'S COMMITTEE.

Edwin Porter.                  David Hubbell,                  Thomas Hawley.

Stephen Hawley, *Treasurer*.

Charles DeForest, *Clerk*.

William DeForest, *Collector*.

During the pastorate of Dr. Hewitt the house was considerably enlarged. It was occupied until 1860-2, when it gave place to the present brick edifice—was sold, taken down and removed.

## \*METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

Previous to 1816, in Bridgeport or vicinity, a week evening, was the only appointment of this denomination. In this year the old Stratfield Congregational meeting house (at corner of North avenue and Park avenue) was purchased for their use. The Rev. Benoni English and Rev. Elisha P. Jacobs, not members of the conference—preached there on the Sabbath, and for the first time Bridgeport appears on the conference minutes. This was the church home of the denomination for about six years. Probably in the winter of 1821-2 an upper room was procured for holding Methodist meetings in the burough, in what was then called new block at the corner of Main and State streets, mainly through the efforts of Mr. Nathaniel Ruggles, who was a convert under the labors of Rev. Benoni English at the old Stratfield church. The first organization according to law as an ecclesiastical body was effected June 30th, 1821. In 1822 Rev. John Newland Maffit, the Revivalist, spent a portion of the year in this place and regular preaching in the old church was soon after discontinued. In this year measures were taken for the erection of

\* Compiled from Memoranda preserved by Mayor W. B. Hincks.





their first house of worship in this city. The principal members as stated in the warrant for the first meeting appear to have been Nathaniel Ruggles, Burr Penfield, Agur Bassett, Richard Fuller and Stephen Durand. At this meeting Stiles Nichols was chairman, N. Ruggles clerk, and Agur Bassett, John P. McEwen and Richard Fuller, were elected trustees. The site of the house was fixed at a meeting held May 13th, 1823, and the house though remaining unfinished for some years was occupied for worship the latter part of 1823, Mr. Maffit preaching the first sermon in it. This building appears without steeple or tower in the cut at the head of this article. It was 40x60 in dimensions and cost with the lot about \$3,000. It was destroyed by fire in 1849.

The Bridgeport station was organized and manned in 1835 6 as follows :

Rev. William Jewett, *Presiding Elder*.  
 Rev. Charles F. Pelton, *Station Preacher*.  
 Samuel Bassett, *Local Preacher*.  
 Nathaniel Ruggles, *Local Preacher*.  
 W. H. Dikeman, *Local Deacon*.

STEWARDS.

Charles G. Briscoe,	Wakeman H. Dikeman,
*Fenelon Hubbell,	Christopher Moore,
	John Plumb.

LEADERS.

Daniel Benedict,	Charles G. Briscoe,
Fenelon Hubbell,	Edmund Fanton,
	John Radcliff

The following are names of other male members at this period :

John Hall,	Joseph Polly,
Stiles Nichols,	Seth Hall,
James Penfield	Samuel Wilcoxon,
Silas Turney.	Reuben Rogers,



William I. Peet.  
 David Lockwood,  
 Charles H. Wakelee,  
 Charles Lewis,  
 Aaron K. Morris,  
 Israel W. Blackman,  
 George Robbins,  
 Anson Lockwood,  
 Ira Barnum,  
 Bronson Patchen,  
 Philo Johnson,  
 Benjamin Stillman,  
 John Atkinson,  
 John M. Middlebrook,  
 Thomas T. Benedict,  
 Solomon Sturdevant,  
 John Treadwell,  
 Abel Beers,  
 George Porter,

George Watkins,  
 Harmon Gray,  
 John Parrott,  
 Elias Johnson,  
 Nathan Peek,  
 Benjamin F. Payne,  
 Elias A. Hall,  
 Stephen Handford,  
 William Hayes,  
 Allen Renode,  
 Samuel D. Platt,  
 Robert W. Lewis,  
 Charles Delivan,  
 William Bower,  
 George Davis,  
 Henry Goodwin,  
 William J. Stoddard,  
 George Kershaw,  
 Thomas H. Brooks,

#### BAPTIST CHURCH.

In 1835 the known and recognized Baptist element within the limits of the city of Bridgeport was confined to two females, Miss Hannah Nichols and Mrs. Lydia Sherwood. The Stratfield Baptist church, an off-shoot from the original "Church of Christ in Stratfield" was organized in 1751, mainly under the leadership of Capt. John Sherwood, grandfather of the late Deacon David Sherwood.

Its location was northwest from the present city, nearly three miles away. It took fast root in that vicinity in Fairfield Woods, Chestnut Hill, and as population sought the interior, extended to North Fairfield, now Easton; and to the southwesterly part of Monroe. It had its two meeting houses known as the Stratfield and the North—which latter was located about one-half mile westerly of the Stepney Depot. In 1836 the three Whitney brothers who were members of the Stratfield church, resided on Clinton avenue, just north of



Fairfield avenue, and conducted a foundry business on the northwest corner of Clinton and Fairfield avenues. Rev. James H. Linsley was at this time pastor of the Stratfield church, and yet resided in Stratford village. The Messrs. Whitney and their pastor had frequent consultations together and with Miss Hannah Nichols upon the practicability of establishing a Baptist church in Bridgeport. The opportune time came when in 1835 the St. John's Episcopal church offered their edifice on the corner of Broad and State streets for sale. Mr. Linsley lost no time in collecting the necessary funds; himself the leading contributor. The price of the property was \$3,650—\$3,000 was collected and paid over to St. John's Society and the deed passed August 8th, 1835.

The First Baptist Society was organized July 24th, 1835, composed of six members, viz: Benjamin Wakeman, Raymond Whitney, Roswell Whitney, Bennett Whitney, and two other persons, names not known.

The church was constituted September 20th, 1837, with thirty-seven members; eleven males and twenty-eight females. The following is a list of the male members. Those marked \* are living in 1882:

Rev. James H. Linsley,	*Bennet Whitney,
Elijah Burton,	*Horace Lyon,
Stephen Silliman,	*Zenas Whitney,
Raymond Whitney,	Samuel Hammar,
*Roswell Whitney,	Augustus M. Gregory,
	Ferdinand M. Gregory.

The building indicated in the cut as St. Johns' church was occupied by them substantially as it there appears from 1837 until 1858, when during the ministry of Rev. J. L. Hodge, D. D., it gave place to the present substantial brick edifice.

NOTE.—The object of the foregoing sketch has been to show by the cut, the location and appearance of the Churches of Bridgeport at the period indicated, (1835) to explain the leading points of their previous history and to fix the organization and *personnel* of each, at that time. Taken together the families of the then Borough are very fully represented therein.



THE  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY.



ACT OF INCORPORATION,  
BY-LAWS,  
LIST OF MEMBERS,  
AND  
FOURTH ANNIVERSARY MEETING,  
APRIL 10TH, 1885,  
Etc., Etc.

---

BRIDGEPORT;  
THE STANDARD ASSOCIATION, PRINTERS.  
1885.





THE FAIRFIELD COUNTY HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY.

---

PRESIDENT,

ROWLAND B. LACEY.

VICE-PRESIDENTS,

GEORGE C. WALDO,	Bridgeport.
WILLIAM A. BEERS,	Fairfield.
REV. SAMUEL ORCUTT,	Bridgeport.

RECORDING SECRETARY,

NATHANIEL E. WORDIN, M. D.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY,

LOUIS N. MIDDLEBROOK.

TREASURER AND CURATOR,

RICHARD C. AMBLER.

HISTORIAN,

GEORGE C. WALDO.



FORM OF APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP.

To the Fairfield County Historical Society,

Gentlemen :

The undersigned hereby makes application for admission as \* ..... Member of said Association, under its existing Rules and By-Laws.

Dated at Bridgeport, this ..... day of ..... 188..

Signed,.....

\*Blank to be filled with - an Annual, a Patron, or a Life Member, - as the case may be.



THE FAIRFIELD COUNTY HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY.

---

PRESIDENT,  
ROWLAND B. LACEY.

VICE-PRESIDENTS,  
GEORGE C. WALDO, Bridgeport.  
WILLIAM A. BEERS, Fairfield.  
REV. SAMUEL ORCUTT, Bridgeport.

RECORDING SECRETARY,  
NATHANIEL E. WORDIN, M. D.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY,  
LOUIS N. MIDDLEBROOK.

TREASURER AND CURATOR,  
RICHARD C. AMBLER.

HISTORIAN,  
GEORGE C. WALDO.



## ORIGINAL ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION.

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WE, whose names are hereunto subscribed, to wit: Rowland B. Lacey, William H. Noble, William B. Hincks, Nathaniel E. Wordin, George C. Waldo and Louis N. Middlebrook, all of Bridgeport, Fairfield County, State of Connecticut, do hereby form a Voluntary Association, under the laws of said State, for the promotion and encouragement of Historical, Antiquarian and Genealogical Investigation relating to said County and the Towns composing it; the same to consist of the undersigned as present members thereof, together with such others as may be chosen by a unanimous vote of such meetings of said Association as may be hereafter held for that purpose; we, the subscribers, and our associates and successors, forever to be known as The Fairfield County Historical Society, and to be governed by such officers, rules and by-laws as may from time to time be established by said Association.

Subscribed by us at said Bridgeport, this February 4th, A. D. 1881.

ROWLAND B. LACEY,      GEORGE C. WALDO,  
NATHANIEL E. WORDIN,      WILLIAM B. HINCKS,  
WILLIAM H. NOBLE,      LOUIS N. MIDDLEBROOK.

Under the above Articles of Association the Society was formed, and continued down to the date of the following Act of Incorporation.





## INCORPORATING THE FAIRFIELD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

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*Resolved by this Assembly:*

SECTION 1. That Rowland B. Lacey, George C. Waldo, William A. Beers, Samuel Orcutt, Richard C. Ambler, Nathaniel E. Wordin, L. N. Middlebrook, William B. Hincks, and Curtis Thompson, all of Fairfield County, present officers and members of The Fairfield County Historical Society, a voluntary association located at Bridgeport, in said county, together with such other persons as are now or may hereafter be associated with them, be, and they are hereby, with their successors, constituted a body politic and corporate by the name of The Fairfield County Historical Society, for the promotion and encouragement of historical, antiquarian and genealogical investigation relating to said county and the towns composing it, and for the preservation and publication of the same, and with power to purchase, receive, hold and convey real and personal estate to an amount not exceeding fifty thousand dollars, which, together with the income thereof, used for the purposes aforesaid, shall be exempt from taxation; that said corporation may have a common seal, and may establish such rules and by-laws not contrary to this charter or the laws of this State or of the United States, as it may from time to time deem necessary, relating to all matters connected with the objects, membership and government of said corporation.

SEC. 2. Said corporation shall meet once in each year for the election of a president, secretary, treasurer and such other officers as may be designated from time to time by the rules and by-laws of said corporation; *provided, however,* that in case of a failure to hold such annual meeting, or elect its officers, said corporation shall not thereby be dissolved;



but the officers of said corporation shall continue to exercise the powers and duties of their several offices until others shall be duly appointed in their stead.

SEC. 3. The present by-laws and rules of said voluntary association, and the officers thereof, shall remain the by-laws, rules and officers of said corporation until others are adopted and appointed in their stead.

SEC. 4. The first annual meeting of said corporation shall be held in the Mayor's office in the City of Bridgeport, at such time as shall be designated by Rowland B. Lacey, the president of said voluntary association, one week's notice of the time, place and objects thereof being previously given by him in one or more newspapers printed in said Bridgeport.

SEC. 5. This resolution may be amended or repealed at the pleasure of the general assembly.

Approved, March 24, 1885.



## B Y - L A W S .

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### RULE I.

The officers of The Fairfield County Historical Society shall consist of a President, three Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary, who shall be chosen annually from its members by a majority ballot at the annual meeting of the Society.

The term of the officers of said Society shall be for one year from their election, and until others shall be chosen in their places; and their powers and duties shall be those usually appertaining to those offices, except when otherwise ordered by the Society.

Said officers shall also be the Executive Committee of said Society, and as such shall have charge of and direct all matters of executive, financial and clerical business appertaining to the management of the Society, except when otherwise ordered by the Society.

The President of this Society shall be, *ex-officio*, Chairman of the Executive Committee.

Any vacancy occurring in any of said offices before the expiration of its term, may be filled for the unexpired portion thereof, by those of the Executive Committee of said Society, who shall be in the exercise of their offices at the time.

### RULE II.

The regular meetings of said Society shall be held on the second Friday evening of each month at the rooms of the Society.

The annual meeting of said Society shall be held on the second Friday of April in each year, and special meetings may be held whenever the Society shall so order, or whenever the President and Recording Secretary shall deem it



necessary to call the same. Notice of the annual and special meetings shall be given by the President and Recording Secretary of the time, place and purpose thereof, by three days publication in one or more daily newspapers, published in the City of Bridgeport, at least four days before said meeting.

### RULE III.

The Chairman of the Executive Committee shall be the Auditor of the Accounts of the Society, and as such shall audit and approve all bills of expenses incurred by the Society before the same shall be ordered paid, and only upon such audit, and an order of payment by the Society or Executive Committee, shall the Treasurer pay out any funds of the Society.

### RULE IV.

The Treasurer of the Society shall be also Curator of the same so long as he shall be Treasurer; and the duties of the office of Curator shall be, to have the care, custody and preservation of books, papers, antiquities, and all other property of the Society.

### RULE V.

The election of new members of said Society shall be by a unanimous vote, by ballot or otherwise, at any annual, regular or special meeting of the Society; the nomination of such new members having first been made at a preceding meeting and not less than one week previous to such voting.

### RULE VI.

No application for membership of said Society shall be entertained or acted upon, unless accompanied by a written or printed request of the applicant, dated and signed by the applicant in person.

### RULE VII.

An initiation fee of two dollars shall accompany each application for annual membership.





**RULE VIII.**

A due of two dollars shall be laid upon each annual member of the Society living in Bridgeport, Stratford, Trumbull and Fairfield, and one dollar for all the others. This amount shall be paid to the Treasurer annually, during the month of July, unless excused by the Society.

Any member remaining in arrears for dues may be dropped from membership by a majority vote of the members present at any regular meeting of the Society.

**RULE IX.**

Any approved person may, upon election according to Rule V, become a Life Member on the payment of two hundred dollars, or a Patron Member for five years on the payment of twenty-five dollars, and both Life and Patron Members shall be entitled to all the privileges of the Society. The Society may elect, according to the manner provided in Rule V, as Honorary Members, persons whose membership may be an honor or advantage to said Society, and they shall be entitled to all the privileges of the Society except voting.

All members other than Life, Patron and Honorary shall be known and designated as Annual Members.

**RULE X.**

These Rules and By-Laws may be altered, amended, repealed or added to, by a major vote of the members present at any annual, regular or special meeting of said Society, notice of such proposed repeal, alteration or amendment having been given at a previous meeting of the Society, not less than one week before final action thereon is taken.

**RULE XI.**

The Rules of this Society may be temporarily suspended by unanimous consent of all the members present at any regular, annual or special meeting of the Society.



# MEMBERS

## OF THE

### FAIRFIELD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

---

Rowland B. Lacey, Bridgeport, . . . .	Original Member.
Nathaniel E. Wordin, M. D. Bridgeport.	" "
William H. Noble, Bridgeport, . . . .	" "
George C. Waldo, Bridgeport, . . . .	" "
William B. Hincks, Bridgeport, . . . .	" "
Louis N. Middlebrook, Bridgeport, . .	" "
*Aaron B. Hull, Danbury, . . . .	Elected Feb. 18, 1881.
Joseph N. Ireland, Bridgeport, . . . .	" " " "
Richard C. Ambler, Bridgeport, . . . .	" " " "
William T. Minor, Stamford, . . * . .	" Mar. " "
Lemuel Sanford, Redding, . . . . .	" " " "
James L. Gould, Bridgeport, . . . . .	" " " "
James W. Beardsley, Bridgeport . . . .	" " " "
*Henry M. Hoyt, Bridgeport, . . . . .	" " " "
Charles Burr Todd, Redding, . . . . .	" " " "
Henry G. Scofield, Bridgeport, . . . .	" May 6, "
James Ryder, Danbury, . . . . .	" " " "
Elias S. Hawley, Buffalo, N. Y. . . . .	" June 3, "
Curtis Thompson, Bridgeport, . . . . .	" Aug. 5, "
William A. Beers, Fairfield, . . . . .	" Sept. 2, "
Eaton W. Maxey, D. D. Bridgeport, . .	" " " "
*William Shelton, D. D. Buffalo, N. Y.	" " " "
Rev. George S. Burroughs, N. Britain . .	" Oct. 14, "
A. Homer Byington, Norwalk, . . . . .	" Nov. 11, "
Winthrop H. Perry, Norwalk, . . . . .	" " " "
Walter Hubbell, New York City, . . . .	" " " "
David B. Lockwood, Bridgeport, . . . .	" Feb. 10, "

\*Deceased.



*Stiles M. Middlebrook, Bridgeport,	Elected Mar. 10, 1882.
Frederick Bronson, Greenfield Hill, . . .	" " " "
O. P. Dexter, New York City, . . .	" " " "
David H. Miller, Georgetown, . . .	" April 21, "
Horace L. Fairchild, Trumbull, . . .	" " " "
Samuel M. Main, New York City, . . .	" " " "
Nathan M. Belden, Wilton, . . .	" " " "
*Barzillai B. Kellogg, Brookfield, . . .	" " " "
J. M. Bailey, Danbury, . . .	" " " "
John W. Bacon, Danbury, . . .	" " " "
John D. Caudee, Bridgeport, . . .	" " " "
John L. Morehouse, Fairfield, . . .	" " " "
Warren B. Nichols, West Stratford, . . .	" " " "
Samuel Garlick, M. D. Bridgeport. . .	" " " "
Eugene Morehouse, Stratford, . . .	" May 12, "
William S. Bonton, S. Norwalk, . . .	" Sept. 8, "
Plumb N. Fairchild, Trumbull, . . .	" Jan. 12, 1883.
Morris B. Beardsley, Bridgeport, . . .	" Mar. 9, "
Thomas Calef, Bridgeport, . . .	" " " "
*Eli T. Hoyt, Danbury, . . .	" April 5, "
Oliver B. Jennings, Fairfield, . . .	" June 9, "
Frederick S. Wildman, Danbury, . . .	" " " "
Rev. Samuel Orcutt, Bridgeport, . . .	" Feb. 8, 1884.
Thomas B. Fairchild, Stratford, . . .	" May 9, "
Edward F. Meeker, Bridgeport, . . .	" July 11, "
William L. Sherwood, Newark, N. J.	" Sept. 12, "
Rev. G. H. Nichols, Hoosic Falls, N. Y.	" Feb. 13, 1885.
Phineas T. Barnum, Bridgeport, . . .	" " " "
Robert W. Curtis, Stratford, . . .	" Mar. " "
Nathaniel Wheeler, Bridgeport, . . .	" April 10, "
Arthur E. Meaker, Bethlehem, Pa. . .	" " " "
Nathan B. Wells, Stratford, . . .	" " " "
Albert S. Comstock, New Canaan, . . .	" June 26, "
Samuel L. Carter, New York City . . .	" July 10, "
Amos S. Treat, Bridgeport, . . .	" " " "
Silas Burton, Bridgeport, . . .	" " " "
Ebenezer S. Phillips, Bridgeport, . . .	" Aug. 14, 1885.

\*Deceased.



HONORARY MEMBERS.

---

REV. BENJAMIN L. SWAN,  
Mendham, N. J.

REV. E. E. BEARDSLEY, D. D.,  
New Haven, Ct.

J. HAMMOND TRUMBULL, LL.D.,  
Hartford, Ct.

CHARLES J. HOADLEY,  
Hartford, Ct.

REV. HORATIO N. POWERS, D. D.,  
Bridgeport, Ct.

ABRAHAM W. MOREHOUSE,  
Bridgeport, Ct.





## FOURTH ANNIVERSARY MEETING.

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The fourth annual meeting of the Fairfield County Historical Society, the first under the new charter, was holden at the Mayor's office, Wheeler Building, Main street, April 10, 1885, the President of the Society, R. B. Lacey, Esq., in the Chair. A large number were present including a goodly proportion of members from out of town. The meeting was called to order shortly after eight o'clock, and the following call under the new act of incorporation was read:

### \*-THE FAIRFIELD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

The undersigned, duly authorized by Special Act of the General Assembly, at its present session, incorporating The Fairfield County Historical Society, hereby gives notice that the first Annual Meeting of said Society for the election of officers under the provisions of said Act, will be held at the Mayor's office, in the City of Bridgeport, on Friday evening, April 10th, 1885, at 7 o'clock. Also to do any other business that may properly come before said meeting.

This meeting will be in the place of the usual Annual Meeting, and will receive the annual reports of the officers of the Society, and will also be favored with interesting papers and addresses."

ROWLAND B. LACEY, *President.*

Bridgeport, April 1st, 1885.

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The President then delivered the following address:

### PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

*Friends and Members of The Fairfield County Historical Society:*

We are met this evening on the occasion of the fourth anniversary of the organization of this Society. The year past has been marked with points of special progress. The secre-

\*Published in the Daily and Weekly Standard.



taries and other officers will take these up, and treat them properly, under their several heads. There are two or three only to which I propose to allude.

First, The actual commencement and considerable progress upon the History of Old Stratford and Bridgeport, by Rev. Samuel Orcutt, under the auspices of this Society. One number of one hundred and eighty pages has been published and has been received with much favor for its evident thoroughness and impartiality. The Society has been favored at its monthly meetings with scraps from Mr. Orcutt's further labors and research, which give promise of a faithful and interesting history. More and more interest is elicited in regard to local and family history and geneologies. The old family relics—rare and ancient books, and newspapers are brought out. We have the basis and could easily gather a collection of great interest and value, had the Society a suitable place for their exhibition and safe-keeping. For the present we are kindly offered space for valuables of small bulk in bank safes. But for the proper developement and usefulness of the Society we need a building—fire-proof—at least a portion of it. In our growing community there are kindred uses, which together with the Historical Society, would worthily occupy a neat fire-proof structure in a central position, and we hope and pray that some citizen or friend, of ample means may be moved to erect for himself or herself such a building, as the very best kind of a monument—a monument that shall not only keep the memory fresh and green, but shall be a centre from which shall radiate most benign influences, reaching back and gathering up treasures from the past, for the pleasure and profit of the present and future generations.

Second, For the purpose of placing the Society in position for its highest usefulness in just these lines, we have sought and procured from the General Assembly now in session, an Act of Incorporation, “with power to purchase, receive, hold and convey real and personal estate to an amount not exceeding fifty thousand dollars, which together with the income thereof, used for the purpose aforesaid, shall be exempt from



taxation, &c." It is expected that we elect officers and organize anew under this act this evening, and anew flinging our banner to the breeze we desire not only to rally and stimulate the old corps, but invite enthusiastic recruits, to prosecute the good work in which we are engaged with new vigor.

Third, The fact has been emphasized in our labors and researches, that the ancient records of the original towns, also ancient church and parish records are fast going to decay. This could be illustrated most amply and forcibly did time permit. The value and importance of these early records is conceded and need not be argued. Immediate effort is demanded to have them reproduced, preserved and made easily accessible to all. Individual interest where it exists, is apt to be fitful and uncertain for the purpose. The towns neglect these old records. Nor can the present original towns, though bearing the ancient name, and the custodians of the early records, retaining as they do only a tythe of their ancient limits, be expected to bear the entire expense required. The real interest in them is wider. Wide as the State and the State's representatives throughout the whole country. The State has promoted the publication of the so-called "Colonial Records" found at Hartford and New Haven. These embrace much that was sent up to Hartford from Stratford and Fairfield, for instance, of no more value to the public at large, than very much or all of the early records of those towns up to 1700. The State thus is the party largely in interest and State aid should be afforded for the purpose in question, extending to all such old towns as Stratford, Fairfield, Stamford, etc. Their position in their earliest settlement was isolated and peculiar—arising from their great distance from the central court, and the great difficulty of communication. The general court appointed magistrates in special manner for these towns. Ludlow and others exercised large powers, giving the settlements the position of separate plantations. Holding these sentiments and trusting that they could be duly impressed upon the minds of our legislators at Hartford, we petitioned the General Assembly



now in session for an appropriation of the sum of \$2,000, to be expended by the Society for the aforementioned objects under the direction of Hon. C. J. Hoadley, the State Librarian.

We regret that our efforts before the committee on the judiciary, to whom our petition was referred, failed. It may be pursued further this year by our efficient representatives. Should the effort be altogether unsuccessful we propose to renew it—we hope successfully, in the near future.

#### REPORT OF THE RECORDING SECRETARY.

The report of the Recording Secretary, Dr. N. E. Wordin, was then read. The Secretary stated among other facts, that the Society numbers twenty-seven members in Bridgeport, and thirty-nine members in the county outside, making sixty-six in all.\* During the past year one member, Major Hoyt, had died; there had been eleven regular meetings and one special meeting, and the work of the Society had been much advanced. The Secretary also gave some valuable hints as to the future.

#### REPORT OF THE CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.

The Corresponding Secretary, Major L. N. Middlebrook, reported a large amount of correspondence and an increasing interest in the work of the Society by members and others scattered over the entire country.

#### REPORT OF THE TREASURER AND CURATOR.

The Treasurer and Curator, R. C. Ambler, Esq., reported a very satisfactory condition of the finances, library and museum, and the reports were accepted for record.

\*A number of these have been dropped from the list by action of the Society, under Rule VIII.





SOME DUTCH TROUBLES IN EARLY CONNEC-  
TICUT.

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READ BEFORE THE FAIRFIELD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY AT  
THEIR FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING, APRIL 10TH, 1885.

---

BY THE AUTHOR, WILLIAM A. BEERS.

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Perhaps no phase of national significance has so slight foundation for literal application as the familiar one, "Dutch Courage"; yet even up to our present epoch of historical research the notion is quite general that the courage of a Dutchman is mostly the outcome of schiedam schnapps, beer, or other stimulant of a *pot calor* nature.

Motley did much to explode this fallacy when he told the world of the greatness of the ancient Dutch Republic with its three thousand ships, and its one hundred thousand sailors, whose sober, daring and successful enterprise excited the wonder of the Eastern Hemisphere.

No Connecticut man, therefore, however loyal, need abate one jot of his pride of ancestry when reminded that the original (*i. e.*, after the aboriginal) settlers of his country were Dutchmen, and that his forefathers found, not only a vigorous opponent to English civilization, but a foeman worthy of his steel in the lusty Hollander of nearly three centuries ago.

Nor was the typical "New Amsterdammer" precisely the sort of person whom the genius of Irving led him to describe as "a man exactly five feet six inches in height and six feet five inches in circumference, who ate, drank and smoked twelve hours and slept the other half of the twenty-four." The ancient Knickerbocker, it is true, was inclined to be rotund, convivial, and contemplative, but he was also conscientious, orderly and altogether respectable, and he founded a metropolis that still holds him in pride and reverence.



As early as 1609 the little Dutch yacht *Half-Moon* dropped anchor in the familiar river that now bears the name of its discoverer; and although he was an Englishman, he was prospecting under Dutch authority, and it was the hand of a Dutchman that planted the emblem of the States General on territory that all to-day acknowledge as the Empire State of the Western World.

English historians are quite fond of saying that this discovery of the Hudson river was quite as much the result of accident as design, that the voyage of the *Half-Moon* was simply a commercial venture of the East India company who were stupidly quite as rejoiced to see their vessel returned as Hudson himself—so little did they comprehend the possibilities to which the voyage pointed; and that, in the broad sunlight of the discovery by the Cabots, which they thought should include the whole continent, the claim presently set up of priority by a Dutch trading company was all moonshine.

Nevertheless, the East India company promptly despatched to Manhattan a body of traders; a goodly company of settlers followed and Holland officially took possession of what is now New York, together with considerable adjoining territory that included our own State of Connecticut—the whole being called New Netherlands. And this was done despite the threats of Old and the protests of New England; and thus began troubles between the conflicting nationalities which continued for more than half a century.

To fully understand why such unnatural troubles should disturb the natural solitude of early Connecticut, we should remember that the traders, who penetrated these wilds were quite different in character from the good people of New Amsterdam; for, while the latter came with pretty much the same purpose as the people of ancient Connecticut, the former had scarcely other object than to buy up large tracts on which to monopolize trade with the natives, and being a roving, careless class, made themselves obnoxious to our sober, staid fathers, in a variety of obvious ways. When, therefore, in the autumn of 1633, a company of planters from Plymouth,



broke ground at Windsor, and found, within half a dozen miles, a Dutch fort and trading station, and were confronted with a claim of the Dutch West India Co. that coolly took in the entire valley, we cannot wonder that a series of bitter quarrels was inaugurated. The Dutchman, indignant that his Indian deeds were questioned, scornfully smiled at any allusion to Plymouth charter or King James' patent. He laughed outright at the Scriptural texts with which the pilgrim was wont to bolster what he considered his peculiar privileges; such utterances, the Dutch frontiersman argued, were those of Christians, who served God, after first taking care of themselves. But the Plymouth-man gradually got the better of his rival by cutting down the trees and plowing the grounds nearer and nearer the trading stations, continuing the civilizing process until the jovial traders were compelled to seek more congenial quarters. The Good Hope Fort had not been happily named: its promise of future wealth was broken by English axe and plow; its wild surroundings soon gave place to the tilled fields and neat habitations of a people that had come to stay. Let us remark here, however, that it was from no lack of courage that the trader withdrew from this region—the staunch Hollander, who had conquered his country from the sea and had defiantly sailed the English channel with a broom at mast-head, was not to be daunted by any impediment in the American wilderness. But his occupation gone he discreetly retired, and, as may be said, with all the honors of war.

It seems pertinent to recall just here that when Captain Underhill, "the Friar Tuck of New England Greenwood" feasted his twenty-three men within the abandoned pallisades of Good Hope, he found little to reward his exploit, and, indeed, had to supply his own "Dutch Courage."

Failure often follows the best endeavor, and the best success is not always the award of better motive: but our fathers insisted that the Dutch were wrong, from first to last, both in object and action. There was a wide difference, they argued, between settlers who came to make permanent homes for themselves in a land specially reserved by providence, and



the godless adventurers who had no better errand than to multiply patroonships and heap up wealth and temporary power after the manner of the greedy monopoly, the East India Company, in heathen lands; and so, it was clearly a providential decree that the Dutch must go.

Many attacks of Indians, too, were laid at the door of the traders—they being supposed to have identity of interests with the natives—and there was hardly a meeting of the General Court but accusations of a league to destroy all the English were seriously considered. Many of these reports, so far as my reading goes to show, were indignantly denied by the Dutch who, nevertheless, were objects of suspicion long after the vicinity of Good Hope was rid of them.

Boundary lines continued to be alleged sources of dispute and often bloodshed, when suspicion and cupidity were the real causes; and the hard facts of history compel the confession that our worthy sires were as frequently in the wrong as the much abused Dutch.

For a notable instance, how shall we explain away the fact that when, in 1635, John Winthrop, the younger, brought over his commission to govern Connecticut, he permitted his followers to tear down the arms of the "state's general" affixed to a boundary tree of lands fairly bought of the natives three years before; and contemptuously carved a grinning face in its stead.

This piece of effrontery (to put it mildly) prompted even the loyal Hollister to say he did not think Winthrop "labored under very oppressive apprehension as to the Connecticut boundary question."

Be this as it may, there was another reason, more potent even than English aggression, that pushed the traders from the vicinity of the planters, viz: they failed to maintain the reputation for fair dealing with the natives whose friendship, in consequence, gave place to savage resentment.

Diedrich Knickerbocker was not altogether fanciful when, in speaking of the traders, he said: "In their trading for peltries they were scrupulously honest, (?) establishing as an invariable table of avoirdupois that the hand of a Dutchman





weighed one pound and his foot two. It was true that the simple Indians were often puzzled by the great disproportion between bulk and weight: for let them place a bundle of furs never so large in one scale, and the Dutchman's foot in the other, the bundle was sure to kick the beam." The natives, awakening to the one-sidedness of this mode of barter, needed but little provocation to put in force their subtlest points of resentment; and the Dutch soon found the savage arrow and firebrand to be the most persuasive arguments to hasten their departure. But fierce quarrels between the rival colonists were continued for several years along the New Netherland borders, and not infrequently pushed to the happy, orderly villages within that province.

When in 1639 the able but impetuous Ludlowe and his followers left Windsor to settle Fairfield, he found the ubiquitous Dutch a formidable obstacle to his somewhat ambitious designs—an obstacle, indeed, over which his ambition tried to vault, but overleapt itself and fell on t'other side. I wish to be perfectly fair to Roger, and before now have attempted to render his memory the homage it invites by reason of conspicuous public service, but it appears quite clear that when, in 1654, the people of Fairfield took the law into their own hands and appointed Ludlowe leader of the troops to invade New Netherlands, he knew better than to accept what the town had no right to bestow.\* He failed in this matter to act for the best interests of the town or colony, and with little or no regard to that code he himself had formulated. His repeated reports to the General Court of Dutch complicity in a plot to exterminate the English do not appear to have had reliable backing; they were certainly regarded with suspicion, and it was through the adverse action of the court that our baffled and disappointed lawmaker determined to return to England. I suppose, just here, I should pause to make allusion to the much mooted question of Ludlowe's destination when he turned his back upon the land of our fathers. He is generally reported, as we know, to have retired to Virginia; but he is also authoritatively heard from in England about the same time. Now, I think, if I yield a point and observe

\* See Note at the end of this article.



that possibly he sailed to England from a Virginia port, a proper deference is rendered to conflicting opinions. "The truth of this observation lies in the application of it." And so, amiable leave may be taken of the problem with one brief remark; if the Dutch had got hold of Ludlowe at the time of that very questionable departure, there would have been no mystery now about his final taking off. As has been seen, the traders retreated from early Connecticut very sullenly; which fact reminds me of the remark of a somewhat profane confederate commander when told that General Scigel appeared to be making a retrograde movement: "Retreating is he? Then look out! for when that — Dutchman begins to fall backwards, he is gathering himself up for a ——— leap forwards."

Our colonial Dutchman, too, promptly changed front, and again facing the English settlements looked sternly toward the lands of which he had been unjustly deprived. Cromwell, on the other side of the water, was shaking his mailed hand at the States General who defiantly began to arm. New Netherlands, of course, followed suit and for the first time, complained of their Dictator and asked that a new one might be sent out to them who would be equal to this particular time of trouble. He appeared in the person of the renowned Petrus Stuyvesant who, if not blessed with the customary allotment of legs, had the average supply of brains. He also was endowed with unequivocal courage, and if falling a little short in manly beauty, had an executive ability that gained the regard of his own people and did not suffer in comparison with that of his neighbors. Connecticut, too, at this juncture—with a loyalty not always so hot and ready—was arming. By order of the General Court, Fairfield county put her quota of one hundred and twenty men into the field under command of that noted worthy, the Worshipful Major Nathan Gold, who had succeeded Ludlowe as the leading man of ancient Fairfield. Savage tells us that Gold was at the period the "richest inhabitant in the town. He was a man of sterling character, but unobtrusive—bearing little impression of the "guinea's stamp"; and was so beloved by the



people as to be called their father. Intellectually the inferior of Ludlowe, he was more reliable, and had better balance; perhaps he was blessed with one of those equitable temperaments that always seems to enable its happy possessor to do the right thing at the right moment, a temperament that the *almost* great Ludlowe did not possess. All the same, it is dangerous to excuse the lapses of public men on the ground of temperament; as an analytic writer recently well puts it: "The savage lurks so near the surface in every man that a constant watch must be kept upon the passions and impulses or he leaps out in his war-paint, and the poor integument of civilization that held him, is flung aside like a useless garment."

So little is known of the individuality of Major Gold, that even an abstract of one of his orders to his sentries, when war-like troubles with the Dutch were imminent, seems worthy of record: "The charge to the watch is that in his Ma'tie's name you faythfully attende by watching in such places where you may best discover danger of an enemie, or of fire, which you are to give notycee of by cryeing Fire! Fire! or Arms! Arms!; you are also to examine all such personnes as you meet unseasonably, command them to Stand! twice, and the third time to *Stand! upon their peril!*!, but if they will not stand, or flye from you, you may shoot at them, but to *shoot low*, unless you judge them to be an enemie, and then you are to shoot them as directly as may be."

It is perhaps as well to remark here that, although the fleet which was dispatched from Holland did sail up the Sound, not a gun was fired toward Connecticut lines; but whether or no the war-like inhabitants of Fairfield were disappointed at having thereby lost an opportunity for open rupture with New Netherlands, history remains silent.

History tells with much emphasis, however, that the colony received but little notice from the mother country until peace was proclaimed and ended all prospects of war between the English and Dutch on either side of the Atlantic.

But the Restoration brought about a most important change. Charles, with an eye to fresh sources of revenue,



began to take lively interest in his American colonies, and, with more zeal than intelligence, despatched his brother, the Duke of York, with a brand new grant of territory. The fresh patent proved so elastic as to stretch over not only New Netherlands, but pretty much the whole of Connecticut originally granted by the charter of King James.

The Duke's commission was accompanied by a fleet which got within easy range of the not very formidable Fort Amsterdam; and again the English changed its name to Fort James. Brave old Stuyvesant was at first determined to fight, but finally yielded to solicitations of both Dutch and English residents and stumped out with the historic remark: "I would much rather be carried out dead." He was the last of the Dutch governors and on the whole far from a bad one. Indeed, it is pleasant to recall that he had many admirable qualities, and, according to later historians, seems to have given our fathers as little trouble as the peculiar times and situation would permit. He was the revered ancestor of a long line of prominent men, whose personality and influence touches with no light hand the life and thought of our own time.

It is familiar history that, although the Dutch recaptured the fort in 1672 and reasserted their claims, they gave no special trouble to early Connecticut; and two years later, by the treaty of Westminster, Holland ceded the province she had discovered, peopled and governed with much wisdom and order for sixty years.

It is true that New Amsterdam changed hands several times during the period, being alternately under Dutch and English rule; and it is a very significant and novel bit of history that records the equally good order that prevailed whenever was in power.

The original settlers became largely sprinkled with English, and the two nationalities, so antagonistic in the Connecticut valley, assimilated quite readily at Manhattan, which fact partly accounts for the cosmopolitan character of New York to-day.

In conclusion, it seems to be the verdict of rewritten his-





tory that Sir Edmund Andross, acting for the Duke of York, gave our sires more real trouble than ever did the Dutch. It scarcely need be repeated here that our charter escaped his arbitrary clutches by little short of a miracle.

But almost the last vestige of the sapling, that beginning its marvellous life in the wilds of ancient Windsor, finally spread its protecting arms over our capital city of Hartford, has passed away, and with it pretty much all the prejudices of early Connecticut.

Many descendants of the Dutch colonists—may St. Nicholas ever watch over them—are respected rulers in high places or live among us in a common brotherhood, rejoicing in and helping on our prosperity and peace—no longer troublesome neighbors.

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NOTE.—The author desires to say, that in the rather hasty preparation of this paper, he had not the benefit of some facts brought out by Rev. Samuel Orcutt, in his *Old Stratford History*, pages 256 and 260, which must modify the generally received opinion of the part taken by Roger Ludowe in these matters.

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The President then read the following interesting extracts from a letter addressed to him by Elias S. Hawley, Esq., of Buffalo, N. Y.

#### LETTER FROM MR. HAWLEY.

\* \* \* \* \*

Fairfield County is "sacred turf" to me. When we think it over what strange and weird reflections arise. Contrast 1639 with 1885. Imagine the status of "Old Stratford" and "Old Fairfield," the father and mother of Stratfield, named from both parents. How the bantling has grown into the great city of Bridgeport. "Port" with "bridges" across it. I suppose.

Think of the old names—Sherman, Wilcoxson, Curtis, Minor, Fairchild and many more "fit to conjure with."

What, for instance, would Joseph Hawley, 1st, of Stratford, think were he to-day to stand on your docks. He built the first vessel that sailed out of Stratford and the Housatonic.



He named her the "Mary and John," after two of his children and put his son John in command, who thence and thereby became for all time "Captain John." It is not stated that Mary went as cook, perhaps she did. Nor is the tonnage of said "vessel" registered nor whether she were schooner, sloop, periauger or clam-boat. If you ask me to prove all this I am silent. Tradition, about the most unreliable of all authorities, is accountable for the untruth, if it be one. Now, Mr. Joseph Hawley, standing on the busy docks at Bridgeport and looking off to the harbor and the Sound, what do you quietly remark to your old land-partner, Mr. John Minor, whom I see standing at your elbow? Do I hear you say—"Friend Minor, this beats my boy John's 'Mary and John' all out of sight!"—eh?

What a stupid young stick I was when in 1834 (was it?) I used to trot down of a Saturday afternoon from Weston (now Easton) academy [Staples' Free School which lost a large portion of its endowment by failure of a New Haven Bank?] to Bridgeport to purchase a little writing paper or a book and pass almost within a stone's throw of that grand old burying ground now well cared for, without knowing it was there, and doubtless not caring if I had known.

Your county is full of good points for historical study. I should like to hear, for instance, a full paper on "The King's Highway," where it commenced—where it ended—its width and location—when and by whom "laid out"—how kept in repair—how the title to much of it has happened to pass into private hands, and all about it.

Should like to hear or read an exhaustive paper on "Golden Hill," another on "Greenfield Hill." This paper might mention the origin of the names and give the locations of the "Hills of Fairfield Co."—as Break-Neck Hill, Three Story Hill, Gad's Hill, etc.

By the way, our Buffalo Young Men's Association has in course of construction a large, commodious and beautiful building—fire-proof—which, when it is completed, is intended to be a permanent *Home*, not only for its own library and collections, but also for our Natural Science Society and its



Museum, our Art Gallery, and our Historical Society with its manuscripts, archives and portraits of early settlers and citizens. This building will cost \$200,000 (besides the land), of which \$117,000 has been subscribed by our citizens, and the balance is to be borrowed by the association on property it holds outside the new building and from which it receives a large rental with which to meet interest, taxes, etc. And this reminds me that it would be just a splendid thing to do if some of the wealthy and liberal citizens of your city and county would club and endow The Fairfield County Historical Society. No money could find a better investment as a permanent means of education and improvement, or as a source of pure and high pleasure to thousands for all time. History is being made constantly, and no method for its authentic preservation is so sure, as a *permanent* and living Historical Society.

The other day a very intelligent and wealthy lady of this city found that she had no means at hand, of establishing the date of the death of a sister who died young, many years ago. I heard of her perplexity, and dropping in to our Historical Rooms, in ten minutes found the required date. We have a continuous record of marriages and deaths from A. D. 1811 to the present times, numbering, I think, over 17,000. Old Mortality with his mallet and chisel is "nowhere" in comparison with an industrious and conscientious and painstaking Historical Society.

Yours, respectfully,

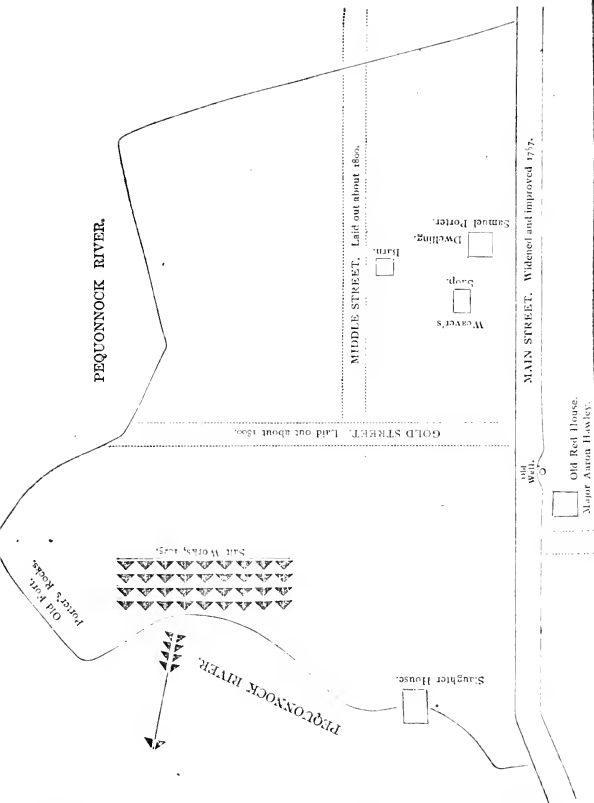
ELIAS S. HAWLEY.



## APPENDIX.







Map of the portion of Bridgeport east of Main street and north of Golden Hill to Congress street, about the year 1759, showing the old Porter place, recently demolished.

Prepared for the History of Bridgeport.



# HISTORY OF THE PORTER PROPERTY.

PAPER READ BEFORE THE

FAIRFIELD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

By R. B. LACEY, Esq.,

June 12th, 1885.

There is much of interesting and suggestive history connected with premises No. 532 Main street and the house recently demolished to make room for a block of stores. The territory, nearly seven acres, on the east side of highway (Main street) from a point at or near Golden Hill street to Congress, bounded easterly by the creek or harbor, was purchased by Samuel Porter, Sen., from Zachariah Hawley Feb. 5, 1759. I have the pleasure of presenting in this connection a plot of the premises copied from the original made by Wolcott Hawley, surveyor, found among the Porter papers and now in my possession. The following is the interesting portion of the original deed of the above date:

To all persons, &c., Greeting. Know ye that I Zakry Hawley of Stratford & County of Fairfield & Colony of Connecticut in New England For the Consideration of One Hundred and two pounds York money by me in hand received to my full satisfaction of Samuel Porter of Stratford & County & Colony aforesaid do give grant bargain sell and confirm unto the said Samuel Porter & to his heirs and assigns forever my Dwelling house & Land whereon it stands on Golden Hill, called ye old fort, and is bounded South on Deacon Joseph Booth's Land Easterly and Northerly on ye creek & West on highway—the sd house & Land with all the appurtenances thereunto Belonging for him the said Samuel Porter forever. To have and to hold, &c.

Witness my Hand and Seal the 5th day of Feb. in the 32d year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord GEORGE ( ) the Second of Great Britain, etc., ( L. s. ) King Annoque Domini, 1759. ( )

Signed ZACHARIAH HAWLEY.

Signed and sealed etc., in presence of  
THEOPHILUS NICHOLS,  
JOSEPH NICHOLS.

It appears there was a dwelling house on the plot in 1759, probably not the one which has just been taken down. The latter was probably erected by Mr. Samuel Porter, Sen., soon after the close of the Revolutionary war and with the "Old Red house" which stood

on the west side of the highway (Main street) the site of the present wooden block of Mr. N. Wheeler, was among the very first residences of a good class erected upon the Newfield, as Bridgeport was then called. James and Zachariah Hawley were sons of Gideon and third in descent from the original Joseph Hawley of Stratford, through first Ephraim and Sarah Wells, and second Gideon and Ann Bennett. They were pioneers here. The Hawley family were large land owners. James seems to have settled on the west side of the highway. His son, Deacon Elijah, was a house carpenter. He occupied and probably built the old red house. Isaac Sherman, Esq., says of him: He removed to the West very early, and died in Ohio in 1825, aged 81 years. He had a son by the name of Jesse, who was born in the old red house. Said Jesse removed to the state of New York in early life and died there in 1843 at the age of 70 years. It is said that he (Jesse Hawley) was the projector of the Erie canal. He communicated his ideas to Governor DeWitt Clinton, which resulted in the construction of that great work. Major Aaron Hawley, a brother of Deacon Elijah, appears to have been the owner of the old red house in 1787, at which period the "up-right highway" (Main street) was widened and the site of the famous well in front, which stood its width upon the street, was excepted and liberty was given to fence around it. The same well exists to-day covered by the sidewalk stone. Zachariah Hawley married Bethia Austin of Suffield, Ct., and probably removed to Massachusetts. None of his descendants appear in this part of Connecticut.

Samuel Porter, Sen., died September 15, 1795.

The Porter purchase remained intact as field land during his life, except at the south end he gave a house lot as an advancement to his daughter Mary, who married Lewis Sturges. The old house, now a portion of the Elisha Hubbell property at the northeast corner of Main and Golden Hill streets, was the residence of Isaac Sturges, son of Lewis. His other son, Joseph P. Sturges (commonly called Porter Sturges), had his residence a



little south. The original house stands, but it has a brick front and has been raised an extra story. The main building is occupied by Cohen (millinery) and Bain (tea and coffee store). It was a double house, with hall way and kitchen wings both on the north and the south. Porter Sturges occupied the south house and Henry Coty and the late Thomas Hutchins successively rented and occupied the north part for many years. There was a vacant lot between the two Sturges houses through which Golden Hill street was extended in 1847 from Main street easterly, leaving a strip of land on the south side of the street which was leased by the city and an engine house for the original No. 5 hand-engine, was erected thereon. The same building is now occupied as a bakery, &c., by Mr. A. Brennan.

The original survey from which the foregoing diagram was taken was made by Wolcott Hawley, surveyor, a brother of Major Aaron and Deacon Elijah Hawley, October 20, 1795, to aid the distribution of the estate of Samuel Porter, Sen. The original plotting has the dotted lines showing the tracts and quantities set out to the two heirs, to wit: Samuel Porter, Jr., who had a double portion of the real estate, and his sister Mary Sturges.

Lewis and Isaac Sturges with their families went West about 1820, and later were settled in Wisconsin. Rev. Albert Sturges, the veteran missionary of the "American Board" in Micronesia, is from this family.

They sold their interest in the remnant of this property on the death of Samuel Porter, Jr., who died without issue September 9, 1812. Rev. Thomas B. Sturges, of Greenfield Hill (Fairfield), Ct., is the only son and heir of Joseph P. Sturges. He inherited the undivided one-half of the old Porter house and lot, No. 532 Main street, and came into possession on the death of the widow of Samuel Porter, Jr., April 12, 1867. Recently there has been a division by which he has acquired sole ownership of the entire Main street front, and is putting it to use by erecting the one-story block of stores now in progress. The location is a fine one and worthy of more substantial buildings.

Having traced the connection of the Porter and Sturges families with the land embraced in the diagram it remains to gather up the interesting points of history in respect to the use that has been made of it. It is referred to in the Ancient deed printed above—as located "on Golden Hill" showing that the Golden Hill land as then designated extended to the Creek or Pequonno-k River. And further it was "called Ye Old Fort." Referring to the diagram, on the right hand side, bordering the creek at the extreme point "Ye Old Fort" is located. These are the only allusions to a fort here, now known and its previous existence must have been traditional in 1795. It could hardly have been built by the English settlers, or there would

have been some record of, or in connection with its erection and use. It follows then, that it must have been an Indian fortification which had gone into disuse at the date of the deed 1759. The location was a rocky promontory jutting out into the creek from a beautiful plateau which extended back to the Highway—Main street. Later, for three-quarters of a century it was universally known as "Porter's Rocks." It retained nearly its pristine beauty until 1838 and was a favorite resort for sports and bathing, by the young men and boys of the period, a few of whom survive to-day. There was the round rock and the flat rock—both extending out so as to afford at their base considerable depth of water at high tide: the latter was at the extreme point and was a favorite place for fishing, especially for frost-fish in their season. A short distance from the point on the northern bank was the round rock, from which the bathers took their leap head foremost into the briny waters. The bank here was skirted by cedars, which afforded a good cover for this sport.

As has been said the entire Porter property remained intact, and was used as field land until after 1795. About this period—just before the commencement of the present century, a new spirit of enterprise was awakened here. Previous to the Revolutionary war the parish of Stratfield was a quiet agricultural settlement of no special importance. Nothing had been done to develop business at the Newfields or Bridgeport. Long Island Sound had indeed become a highway of commerce. The then frequent disturbances in the political atmosphere of the Old World, were soon felt here, and the infant settlements, unprotected as they were, and their trading vessels especially, were attempting and an easy prey to the privateers, which swarmed on the American coast.

The harbors and settlements lying close upon the Sound were most exposed. Pequonnoek river or creek, however, was exceptionally safe. There was fully as much depth of water above the neck, now the site of Berkshire bridge, as on the bar outside, and plenty of space also. The wooded bluffs of the shore, some of them jutting out into bold promontories shut out this portion from the open harbor and Sound, affording a safe retreat—almost a hiding place. Under the then existing state of things, it is no wonder that the first commerce was developed from this point. Theophilus Nichols and his son Philip had their store and wharf at the extreme head of navigation, near what is now known as the Plum place. They built and sailed vessels from there, as did also Capt. Stephen Burroughs, Sen. The shore opposite the old red brick house on North Avenue, was long known and designated as the "ship-yard." The commercial and trading interests to this period, with Boston, New York, &c., were not large, yet were sufficient to foster a spirit of enterprise, and educate and



prepare the more enterprising young men to embrace their opportunities. The establishment and recognition of our national independence, not only infused new life, but brought greater security to our coast and coasting trade. The back country naturally centering here was rich in agricultural resources. Boston, New York, South Atlantic States, and the West Indies, were the markets. Water street had been laid out from the present Fairfield avenue, three rods wide, to Wells' Tongue. Wharves and stores now began to be built on it. Men and families that had lived one to two miles interior settled on the shore and entered vigorously into trade and commerce. Among these may be mentioned the Nichols, Hawleys, Hubbells, Shermans, Burroughs, Sterlings and Summers. The advantages of our location and harbor appear to have been appreciated then as now and an enterprising and valuable element came in, from the surrounding towns more or less distant. Esq. Isaac Sherman mentions by name not less than forty men who came from abroad and settled here from 1790 to 1806, who either brought families or soon became heads of families and most of them prominent as successful business men.\*

In 1800, the borough of Bridgeport was chartered. The bridge across the harbor had just been built, and many new streets had been laid out. These were now recognized and named. Among them, Gold street was laid out, two rods wide, from Main street to the harbor, and Middle street, extending from Wall street to Gold. Mr. Nathaniel Wade, a watch maker by trade, from Norwich, Conn., (afterward merchant,) bought land of Mr. Porter, and erected his house, the same now standing on the southeast corner of Main and Gold streets. Philo and De Luzern DeForest secured the northeast corner, and erected the house now standing there, so long owned and occupied by Isaac Sherman, Esq., and now by his descendants. Captain Joseph Sterling Edwards, from Trumbull, Conn., bought and built on the south side of Gold street, from Middle street to Water street. His widow left this with other property, at her death to her brother, Isaac Burroughs, Esq., which has served to swell the Pettengill estate, from which such munificent public benefactions are now being realized. Mr. Jesse Sterling, also from Trumbull, merchant, purchased the site on the north side of Gold street at the head of Water street and erected the house more recently owned and occupied by Mr. Abel Drew. This same was removed in 1870 for the extension of Water street. Later, on Main street, next north of Isaac Sherman,

\* This list appears in full in the history of Bridgeport, now in preparation by Mr. Orcutt, and embraces most of the old Bridgeport names and prominent families among the original settlers of the place. It shows the places from whence they came to Bridgeport and how the surrounding towns contributed to build up the new and enterprising city.

Capt. Gershom E. Hubbell located. Next to him was Mr. George Smith and last on the plot was Capt. William Goodsell, who had his slaughter house on the bank of the creek in the rear of the dwellings.

Isaac Sherman sold a part of his Main street front to Capt. Joseph H. Hand from Long Island—the same property now owned by Jacob Sutter and occupied by C. P. Coe's wholesale and retail grocery.

#### WEAVER SHOP.

Referring to the diagram, you observe northerly of the dwelling house of Samuel Porter, standing back from the highway, is a building designated as a Weaver's shop. Both Samuel Porter, Sen., and his son of the same name were weavers by trade, and supplied the settlement with their elegant or plain woolen bed coverlets (specimens of which are still extant in the old families), woolen cloth and blankets, damask and plain linen, &c.

So far as appears, this building was the first specially devoted to manufacture in the limits of Bridgeport, and contrasts strongly with the splendid and extensive structures of the present day.

#### SALT WORKS.

For some reason which does not now appear, after the close of the second war with Great Britain, somewhere about 1818-20, it was deemed a wise measure to secure salt of home manufacture, and so prudent and sagacious a man as the late Isaac Sherman was persuaded it was safe to invest capital and labor in it. The beautiful plateau north of Gold street, the property of his brother-in-law, Samuel Porter, Jun., was selected as the site for the operations. The location of the evaporating vats are shown on the diagram. The salt water was pumped from the bay or creek into the vats, by means of a wind mill stationed at or near the Point. No statistics are extant as to the quantity or quality of the product, but merchantable salt was made. One mistake as to location became apparent, that the water of the creek at this point was too much diluted with the fresh water of its tributaries. This and increased facilities for procuring the West India product, both conspired to render the enterprise unprofitable. The "Salt Works," as they were called, were mentioned in the will of Samuel Porter, Jun., written in 1825. The unused vats were admirably adapted to, and much used for the game of "hide and seek." The writer remembers them about 1830. They disappeared soon after this date.

#### SLAUGHTER HOUSE.

Capt. William Goodsell who early lived in the old yellow house which was removed from Main street in 1871 in order to open Congress street, is believed to have been the first to fit up and occupy a regular slaughter house here. Its location is given on the diagram. It was a barn-like structure standing





on the edge of the bluff and extending almost its whole size over the bank (which was well washed by each flood tide), the building being supported by substantial posts. Its site was included in the purchase of the late Mr. Benjamin Ray, who had much difficulty in getting the lines fixed satisfactorily. In his numerous and vigorous talks about the matter, well remembered by many, very frequent allusions were made to "Capt. Goodsell's slaughter house yard." It is interesting to note how the progress of the settlement—moved back the slaughter houses. The next location was that of Gideon and Eli Thompson on the westerly side of North Washington avenue, not far from the present site of Mulloy's lane—say from 1833 to 1843. From this, the same parties removed to what is now the Thompson farm, a little south of the toll gate on the Huntington Turnpike—while Smith & Stratton and their successors and Capt. Terry, located theirs on the Newtown Turnpike about two miles out of town. The heavy beef is now mostly butchered for this market in Chicago, Ill., transported in Refrigerator cars and distributed from Refrigerator depots (two of them located on this territory) to be dispensed in steaks and roasts from the Refrigerators of the local markets and stalls.

#### SADDLE BOXES.

The shipment to markets in the South, of the large quantities of saddles and harness manufactured here from 1815 to 1869, required many strong boxes of special form and sizes. Up to about 1818-9, these were almost exclusively made by hand, by Mr. Porter Sturges, whose shop and lumber yard were on Middle street at the present corner of Golden Hill street occupied now by the Nangatuck Valley Ice Co. His assistant when needed was the late Mr. David Wheeler who lived on Arch street, later on Newtown turnpike near Beach street.

This afforded reliable and steady employment, and with the frugality for which they were both noted, laid the foundation of handsome estates, for each.

Increased quantity needed and the competition of machinery, diverted the source of supply, to the shops of L. C. Shepard & Co. about 1850, then located at the site of the north end of the Atlantic Hotel, the Union House being a part; later to Lyon & Curtis on "Simons' wharf."

#### COMB MAKING.

Moss K. Botsford, from Newtown, purchased of Jesse Sterling the house on the bank north side of Gold street at the head of Water street, established and carried on for awhile the comb making business. This business had a great run about 1830-35. Bethel and Newtown were largely engaged in it. Some were successful for a time, but the fashions were extremely changeable and business fitful which led to my failures. The business hardly obtained a foothold here.

#### COOPERAGE.

Mr. Abel Drew from Derby was the next owner of the above mentioned house. The commerce of the place, especially the West India trade and for a number of years the whaling business, required a great many casks and made a lively business for the coopers. Mr. Drew's shop was on the south shore of the point. He employed a number of men. It was lively times in his shop early and late and all the time. Mr. Drew saw and embraced his opportunities and here laid the foundation of his handsome estate.

#### HOUSATONIC RAILROAD.

In 1836 the Housatonic Railroad was chartered for a line from Bridgeport to the north boundary of the state in the town of Canaan, Litchfield County. The company was organized, capital subscribed and right of way secured to New Milford in 1838. Commencing at a point near the west approach to the Bridgeport Bridge (Fairfield Avenue) it extended northerly across the mud flats and over this Porter property making thereon quite a deep cut. The company not only purchased the usual right of way over this property for main tracks, but secured the entire point east of the main line, graded it down, using the material towards filling the roadway across the adjacent mud flats, and then located their engine house, turntables and car shop thereon. A wharf was constructed at the extreme point, and the Long Island skipper connected with Mr. Roswell Lewis, coal and wood yard, landed thereon the pine wood which was then used at this end of the line for fuel for the locomotives. Thus the beautiful bluff was invaded, and its glory, as such, departed before the march of modern utility and progress. The construction and operating of the railroad developed the need of foundry and machine shops. This need was measurably supplied by the late Mr. David Wheeler of Park avenue, who was in 1813 joined by Messrs. George and J. R. Young, and had their works in a wooden building on the same site as the present Bridgeport Iron Works, which is *now* land on the mud flats fronting this Porter property.

#### FIRST CENTRE BRIDGE.

When in 1852 Mr. P. T. Barnum joined Gen. Wm. H. Noble for the development and improvement of East Bridgeport, they at once realized that they must have more direct and easier communication with the business portion of west side of the harbor. Hence they procured a charter for a bridge—the eastern terminus about identical with that of the present Centre bridge, and the western end, spanning the Housatonic railroad track, and landing upon the high bank of this Porter property, for which they made an appropriate purchase of Mrs. Ellen Porter, the widow of Samuel Porter, Jr., Nov. 19th, 1852.



This was reached by a street which had been dedicated as a highway by Mr. Porter, and named by him Summer street, extending northerly from Gold street a little east of the line of Middle street extended. After the location of the bridge it was called Bridge street. By the kindness of General Noble this society has a picture of the bridge on its walls, painted in water colors—showing a condition of the surroundings now most thoroughly changed. When the new Centre bridge was constructed in 1869, the western terminus was changed to Congress street, crossing the railroad at grade. Middle street, was soon after extended thereto in a direct line and Bridge street, discontinued. In November, 1864, the city purchased this bridge and appurtenances with the other bridges across the harbor, and in the adjustment of property interests affected by these changes, and the extension of Middle street, the city obtained the site of the present No. 5 engine house.

Previous to the extension of Congress street for the western terminus of the Centre Bridge in 1869, the mud flats and low ground on the west side of the Housatonic railroad track from the Porter property to Lumber street, was flooded, though a water way at the old mill located near the line of Lumber street and the face of the wharf at that point. The water was changed and purified each flood tide, but the gate in the water way retained enough to give at all times a depth of several feet in the southern portion near this Porter property. Previous to the introduction of the present water supply much dependence was placed upon the salt water of the Harbor for extinguishing fires. This vicinity was practically shut off from the water front, especially at low tide. To meet this necessity Mrs. Ellen Porter deeded to the town an addition to the Bridge street highway May 19, 1859, and opened a way to the water above described, where the city constructed a platform sufficient to accommodate one of the hand engines of that period and its company in actual service.

About 1846 the Housatonic Railroad company removed their depot both for passenger and freight from near Fairfield avenue southerly to a point near the present elevator. A few years thereafter, having filled and made solid ground of the mud flats still further south they put up a round house, and other necessary shops and buildings thereon and withdrew from "Porter's point." The old engine house and the long car house remained on the premises for many years, also a blacksmith business by Mr. Hunt from Falls Village, Ct.—a relative of Superintendent

Charles Hunt of the Housatonic Railroad. The Veteran blacksmith, Mr. J. C. Barnum, also had his shop here for many years until his death, Feb. 25, 1883, at the ripe age of 80 years.

#### BOILER WORKS.

In 1869 "The Bridgeport Boiler Works" commenced operations on the Point, utilizing some of the old buildings, and erecting others. This company embraced the following names: Humphrey, Watson, Farrel and Chatfield.

In 1870, Messrs. Farrel and Chatfield retired, and the business was continued by Humphrey & Watson, until 1872, when Mr. William Lowe took the place of Mr. Humphrey. Messrs. Lowe and Watson continued the boiler business very successfully for ten years, until they were burned out, April 24, 1882. As they were unable to secure a lease of the premises, for a term of years, Messrs. Lowe & Watson obtained another location on the premises of Mr. William H. Perry, adjoining the Housatonic Railroad track, further north.

The late Mr. Hanford Lyon purchased the water front of a portion of this property, and improved it, in connection with that he previously owned, adjoining it on the south. This has been occupied as a coal yard by C. M. Noble & Co., and by Courtland Kelsey, and is now a part of the extensive yards of Messrs. Miller & Strickland.

Mr. Julius Hawley purchased of the Burroughs family, the Edwards' property, on the south side of Gold street, extending to the channel of the harbor, which he has improved, and upon which is located the extensive lumber yards and steam saw mill of the Bridgeport Lumber company.

Messrs. H. N. and A. J. Beardsley purchased the water front of Mr. Abel Drew, which carried one half the width of Gold street, form the east side of the tracks of the Consolidated railroads to the channel, which they are leisurely filling and will become a very valuable property.

The Housatonic Railroad Co., have here a fine property partly mud flats which they will no doubt fill to the harbor lines, at no distant day. This done, it will afford room for the return to this point of their engine houses &c.—thus relieving the crowded condition in their present locality and facilitating the removal of the tracks of the Consolidated road from lower Water street, an end most devoutly to be desired.

The whole plot, much of it forty years ago so quiet and so pleasant for family homes of the best sort, is now almost wholly given over to business—the canvas of which I leave to the future.



FIFTH  
ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE  
Fairfield County Historical  
SOCIETY,

HELD APRIL 9TH, 1886:

AND

THE PAPERS READ

BEFORE THE SOCIETY.

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BRIDGEPORT, CONN.:  
THE STANDARD ASSOCIATION, PRINTERS.  
1886.



FORM OF APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP.

*To The Fairfield County Historical Society.*

GENTLEMEN: The undersigned hereby makes application for admission as \* . . . . . member of said Association, under its existing Rules and By-Laws.

Dated at Bridgeport, this . . . . . day of . . . . .  
18 . . . . .

Signed, . . . . .

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\* Blank to be filled with—an Annual, a Patron, or a Life Member,—as the case may be

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FORM OF BEQUEST TO THE FAIRFIELD COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

I give and bequeath to The Fairfield County Historical Society of Connecticut, the sum of  
dollars, to be paid by my executors out of my real and personal estate, as soon as the settlement of my affairs will permit, to the Treasurer of said Society, for the time being, in trust, for the benefit of said Society.





THE FAIRFIELD COUNTY HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY.

---

PRESIDENT,  
ROWLAND B. LACEY.

VICE-PRESIDENTS,

GEORGE C. WALDO,	-	-	-	Bridgeport.
WILLIAM A. BEERS,	-	-	-	Fairfield.
REV. SAMUEL ORCUTT,	-	-	-	Bridgeport.

RECORDING SECRETARY,  
NATHANIEL E. WORDIN, M. D.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY,  
LOUIS N. MIDDLEBROOK.

TREASURER AND CURATOR,  
RICHARD C. AMBLER.

HISTORIAN,  
GEORGE C. WALDO.



## HONORARY MEMBERS.

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REV. BENJAMIN L. SWAN,  
Mendham, N. J.

REV. E. E. BEARDSLEY, D.D., LL.D.  
New Haven, Conn.

J. HAMMOND TRUMBULL, LL.D.,  
Hartford, Conn.

CHARLES J. HOADLEY,  
Hartford, Conn.

REV. HORATIO N. POWERS, D. D.,  
Orange, N. J.

ABRAHAM W. MOREHOUSE,  
Bridgeport, Conn.



## FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING.

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The Fifth Annual Meeting of the FAIRFIELD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY was held at the Rooms of the Society, No. 446 Main street, Friday evening, April 9, 1886.

The President, R. B. Lacey, Esq., called the meeting to order shortly after eight o'clock. He congratulated the audience upon the presence of two gentlemen of recognized ability, who had prepared and would read papers which would prove a rich treat, and proposed to defer the election of officers, and other routine business, to an adjourned meeting that they might the better enjoy it.

Accordingly, on motion, it was voted to adjourn the business portion of the meeting, with the election of officers, etc., for one month, and to give the entire time of the session to the literary exercises. The President then made a few happy remarks appropriate to the occasion, and introduced W. A. Beers, Esq., of Fairfield, one of the Vice-Presidents of the Society, who read the following admirable paper upon

### JOHN READ, THE COLONIAL LAWYER.

In the first quarter of the eighteenth century the name that heads our paper belonged to one whose genius and force placed him abreast of the foremost men of the young American colonies. But in company with many of his contemporaries, he has but slight mention in general history, and what is known of him is gathered mostly from town and colonial records, or thin pamphlets and biographical collections in widely separated libraries.

Several years since, however, George B. Read, Esq., of Boston, wrote and privately distributed a monograph of his distinguished kinsman; and Mr. Charles B. Todd, and Rev. Samuel Orcutt, of this society, have each supplemented the filial tribute



with facts that have materially aided the present attempt to contribute another leaf to a yet imperfect history.

More than one town in Massachusetts and our own State has claimed the honor of being the native heath trodden by John Read, but even his filial biographer is not positive on this point beyond the general notion that he was a native of Connecticut, and it is with no little pride that the present writer names the precise spot, upon authority that will hardly be disputed as undeniable and final.

Chief among the veteran records of the old town of Fairfield is the *A Book*, whose pages of "old gold" dated from 1643—four years after the town's settlement—until recently shorn of thirteen leaves and six precious years by a genealogic kleptomaniac who, it is hoped, may be accorded a punishment sufficiently lingering to fit the crime. One of the clearest entries of this otherwise fairly-preserved volume is here faithfully transcribed: "*John Read, the son of William Read, was born the 29th of January, 1679.*" Reversing the book, for, after the political economy of our fathers, it did the double duty of birth-register and probate record—on page 252, may be found in the record of a deed of gift, corroborative evidence that Fairfield was the birth-place and home of the Colonial Lawyer, to wit:

"For good causes and considerations moving me y<sup>to</sup> I grant to my daughters Sarah and Abigail, the lot called Hedges Lot, situate in Fairfield, in quantity about five acres, bounded on y<sup>e</sup> N. W. by land of Cornelius Hull, on S. E. by y<sup>e</sup> highway and on y<sup>e</sup> N. E. by land of Joseph Roland. I also give them meadows at Sascoe Creek; and all other lands, meadows, house, barn, orchards and fences unto my loving son John Read.

[Signed.]

William Read.

NATHAN GOLD, Assistant.

September 29, 1693."

This unquestionably locates the Read birth-place and homestead on the site of the present Slayback homestead and adjoining land in which the writer has the double interest of ownership and historic pride.





William Read's name first appears on the Fairfield Records under date of 1677, and at frequent intervals thereafter; but little is known of him except, from the inferential facts of his buying and selling of large parcels of land, that he was a substantial planter who was able and willing to give his "loving son" the education and fair start in life he is known to have received.

That John was an apt scholar, as well as an affectionate son, is known from the fact that at the early age of thirteen he was prepared to enter Harvard College from which he was graduated seventh in a class of fourteen in 1696. His father died the following year, his will being probated May 7, 1697, wherein he leaves his "loving son" one-half of his estate. It is worthy of notice that on several public documents John receives from his father a tender as well as substantial recognition, and we must argue from this that as boy and man he was singularly trusted and beloved.

Theology rather than jurisprudence seems to have been the first inclining of the young graduate, and his progress in this direction must have been unusually rapid since, in a single year from graduation, he began preaching at Waterbury, Conn., giving such satisfaction that an invitation to become permanent minister was twice renewed in town meeting. The popular young preacher (he could not have been over twenty.) declined each time without stating reasons which have found their way into the records; but, he nevertheless, retained the nominal pastorate until December, 29, 1699, when he resigned, and, as is recorded, the town "voted a rate of three half-pennies in the pound to satisfy the Rev. John Read for his pains in the ministry among us and to defray charges about providing for him." It is necessary to make this statement in view of the fact that a notion has obtained that Read at this time was not paid for his services.

On the 12th of the following November an entry in the Church register informs us that he was received into "full communion" of the First Church in Hartford, and shortly after was called to preach in East Hartford where he remained three years, although declining to be regularly installed.



“And here,” says Goodwin, in his *Early History of Hartford*, “on Sundays, and lecture days besides, the Rev. John Read ministered to the spiritual needs of a flock over which he never became a settled pastor. And he abated no whit of his sermon though a mid-winter chill was in the air and there was no fire save in the tiny foot-stoves that half filled the room with thin blue smoke—the rime gathering the while, perchance, on the muskets that had been brought as far as the porch and left in charge of the sentry there.”

In 1703 the people of Stratford had occasion to supply their pulpit and, as the invariable custom was, called a town meeting which voted “That Nathaniel Sherman proceed forthwith with all convenient speed to Hartford, and endeavor by all lawful means the obtaining of Rev. John Read to supply the vacancy in the ministry made by the decease of Rev. Israel Chauncey; and that he be voted £40 in money and £6 in fire-wood for half a year; and that the committee take care of transporting Mr. Read’s family, and provide suitable habitation for him,”—he having about this time married a sister of Governor Talcott. There appears to have been three candidates and much discussion among the brethren at the time, but young Read received a large majority of the votes. At Stratford he officiated three years and, as before, persevered in declining to be more than nominally settled.

In 1706 the hitherto uneventful life of the steadfast young preacher was interrupted by a serious division in the church, which entirely changed the course of his life, and as it is chronicled, “rocked the town to its very center”—a natural sequence, church and town being in those days almost identical. We need not look far for the cause of this agitation. It has been seen that Mr. Read had persistently refused to be made pastor of the churches in his charge in the prescribed manner, which fact aroused occasional inquiry and suspicion; but at this juncture, he had been confronted by some of the orthodox brethren with some questions as to his views respecting the Episcopal church. The young man replied, laconically, that he “could have no decided views about a church too poor to afford him a living.” The answer seems



to have awakened much condemnation of the preacher, particularly from that part of the congregation who did the least paying and most talking—an element quite as ubiquitous with our fathers as with us. The remedy attempted to quiet the difficulty was the usual one of town meeting and a day of fasting and prayer; and Reverends Pierpont, Andrews, Chauncey, and Webb, were appointed “a committee to look into the matter.” Mr. Read now became indignant, and hotly resented what he called “this scurrilous and abusive talk,” and demanded the closest investigation. It is almost needless to say he was promptly accommodated; and the enquiry resulted in thorough work by the committee, who reported that they “found no indication of anything offensive to Mr. Read except the intimation that he had made overtures to join the Episcopal Church.” The possibility of this “intimation” being very near the truth aroused the people still more; but the excitement became alarmingly intensified when, at the crisis, the first missionary sent out by the Church of England appeared on the scene. He was Rev. George Muirson who, it is said, accompanied by Col. Heathcote, *jolly armed*, rode furiously into old Stratford one morning nearly overturning some members of the congregation and a member of the Governor’s Council who had met to oppose the intruders with numbers and resolution, but no warlike weapons. It appears, however, that the missionaries had a larger following than had been anticipated, and conspicuous among these was Mr. Read who, at this juncture, openly expressed his Episcopal preferences.

It is well to remember that as yet the Colonies were entirely loyal, and a considerable number of the people retained traditional affection for the home church, though worshipping in faithful spirit with the dissenting communities among whom their fortunes had been cast.

There had, of course, existed a feeling of antagonism which had been suppressed until the appearance of Muirson, when it seemed to break out in almost open hostility—the possibilities of a liberalism in the near future that would, without acrimony, view two Christians toiling along two roads toward Heaven, had not entered the dreams of the average New Eng-



lander of a couple of hundred years ago. Mr. Read, of course, now withdrew from the congregation that for three years had liked him so well, and doubtless grieved many who thought he was fast falling into "papistical" ways of Muirson's people. It was thought, indeed, he would become their clergymen, and Col. Heathcote wrote the Propagation Society that "Mr. Read of this place is inclinable to come over to our church, and being by far much the most ingenious man amongst them, would be very capable to serve the church."

Contrary to the general impression, however, he announced his intention of giving up preaching altogether, as a profession, and to enter upon the study of law, not, however, before preaching the first Congregational sermon at New Milford. (See Orcutt's History). We have exhausted numerous resources in the vain effort to discover where and when he began his experience in jurisprudence. With his native energy and intuition it was to be expected that he would make rapid progress in any branch of knowledge, but it is, nevertheless, amazing that he should have been admitted to the Bar in New London as early as May, 1709, he being barely thirty-one. His arrival at this age seems to have developed a somewhat high-spirited disposition at once accredited by many to the eccentricity of genius, and he was compelled to apologize to the General Court for some words he had let drop (probably in connection with the recent church difficulty) that intruded upon the very sensitive notions members of this court held concerning their official prerogatives and personal dignity, a feature of public office not yet grown into "innocuous desuetude." Mr. Read seems also to have preferred the title of King's Counsel—which indeed he was—rather than that of Court's Attorney, and this doubtless had its share in raising the ripple of disapproval with which, as is of record, his admission was attended.

Possibly his first case was when appointed prosecuting attorney for the New Milford people—in which he had, too, a personal interest—in "an action against the Stratford company for trespass on a large tract of land," as say the records, "at Wiantenock," which belongs to "y<sup>e</sup> inhabitants of Milford"  
 • • • and certain of Read's lands.





The jury (for at that early day this institution existed) found for the plaintiff; and on the case being carried from the County Court to that of the Governor and Assistants, Read was awarded "treble damages and costs." No less than fifteen times was this case brought to Court—facilities for keeping this sort of ball a rolling, being quite on a level with those of our own times—until even the stout heart of our young advocat  began to weary of the law's delay; and he makes, after a reverse decision, the following rather petulant petition to the General Court, sitting at New Haven in 1710: "May it please the Honorable Court: misfortunes in my adventures have undone me utterly for as I thought with a prudent foresight I purchased about twenty thousand acres of land in Wiantenock, parcel of a purchase of thirty-nine, recorded in May last: had spent much to settle and defend it; settled some inhabitants with me y<sup>r</sup> afterwards, tried y<sup>e</sup> title and defended it against home pretenders. Sixteen times have I been to court about it, ever gaining till y<sup>e</sup> last Courts Assistants wherin I finally lost; and am utterly discouraged and broken—finding two things, 1st that I am not able to maintain suits forever, and that Indian titles are grown into utter contempt, which things make me weary of y<sup>e</sup> world. Wherenpon I pray, seeing I nor my father have had not one foot of land by division or grant of town or county, tho' spending all our days in it, that I may have liberty if I can to find a place in y<sup>e</sup> colony (w<sup>ch</sup> I know not yet of) not granted to nor purchased by any; y<sup>t</sup> by your allowance I may settle it with some others of my friends, where in obscurity we may get a poor living, and pray for your health and prosperity with great content." Attention is called to the fact that this petition is—after the manner of the times—very deferential and a necessary stroking of the judicial ermine. Read would have never made a lawyer, if he had failed to gratify the vanity of this court: and he certainly would never have had his prayer answered if he had rubbed the fur in the wrong direction. His meek procedure was duly if not fully rewarded, and he was granted "a tract of the bigness of eight square miles," bordering on the province of New York. The locality did not suit him, however, and he soon sold it to par-



ties more willing to have the early Dutchman for a neighbor. Land within the present lines of Redding apparently struck him as a much more available place of settlement; and here was founded the township which was named for him, but which for some reason, (unexplained by Mr. Todd and therefore unexplainable at all.) was long since changed to its present nomenclature. In this vicinity Mr. Read built his log farm house; here began a clearing for himself in a wilderness whose savage reality was attested by the existence there of a genuine fortified Indian village. We cannot but add just here though, that this settlement could hardly have been the ideal one pictured in the petition. The "obscurity" therein referred to certainly bore but faint relation to this savage retirement; and we positively refuse to believe that—though named by Mr. Read himself—Lonetown—it was the hermitage spiritualized in the petition where the victim of sixteen courts of law would "pray for the health and prosperity with great content" of the judges inimical to his righteous claims. Lonetown, nevertheless, was now his home wherein he gathered, among other household goods, his well-selected law library and set up as—a scholar and not a snob—the family motto: *Sobrius Esto*. Here were his professional headquarters, his office as Justice of the Peace, his counting-room as a large operator in real estate, and the point from which he journeyed to the General Assembly when a member: and it was here that he wrote the appended curious document that quaintly emphasizes his saying that "Indian deeds had grown into utter contempt:"

"Know all men by these crooked scrawls and seals y<sup>e</sup> we *Chickens*, alias Sam Mohawk and *Naseco* do solemnly declare that we are owners of y<sup>e</sup> tract of land called Lonetown, fenced around between Danbury and Fairfield; and John Read, Governor and Commander-in-Chief thereof and of y<sup>e</sup> Dominions thereupon depending, desiring to please us have plied the foot and given us three pounds in money, and promised us a house next Autumn. In consideration thereof we do hereby give and grant to him and his heirs forever, the farm above mentioned and corn appurtenant and further of our free will,



motion, and soverain pleasure make y<sup>e</sup> land Manour; Indowing y<sup>e</sup> land thereof, and creating said John Read, Lord Justice and Soverain Pontiff of y<sup>e</sup> same to him and his heirs forever. Witness our crooked marks and borrowed seals this seventh day of May. *Anno Regni, Gratia Magna Britannia* and *Regina Decimo Tertio*, 1704.

In presence of	Chickens, his X mark.
	alias
<i>Liucus</i> , his ? crook.	Sam Mohawk.
	Martha Harney, her X mark.
	Naseco, his ? mark.

The above mentioned personally appeared and acknowledged y<sup>e</sup> above Instrument y<sup>e</sup> free act and cheerful deed, in Fairfield y<sup>e</sup> 7th day of May, 1714, before me.

NATHAN GOLD, Dep. Gov.  
his § seal."

This document, still preserved in the original, has something of the savor of trifling, for it really came before the Deputy Governor, and was legally binding; one must infer that Capt. Read (he had also attained that honor,) was inclined not only to "sulk in his tent," but to add a spice of grotesque humor to the official paper upon which the august assistants had to pass judgment with regard to Indian deeds. The Indians, themselves, certainly never read these deeds, and probably never looked at them; copies had to be given them over and over again, and it was a paper of unusual toughness that would stand this savage handling. However severe the wording might be a further Indian construction would include another blanket, a brass kettle, and perhaps an additional keg of rum, together with a change of boundaries and a lessening of acres, that inclines us to accept as at least partial truth the assertion of Sir Edmond Andross, that "an Indian deed was as worthless as the scratch of a bear's paw." Nor were the white man's dealings always models of probity. Mr. Read, himself, tells of a sale of some portion of these very Lonetown lands which was, to use a familiar modern phrase, a "put up job" on the part of the General Court, two of the members



being sharers of the "boodle," and Capt. Couch being the man who "made the deal." At public "vendue" some hundreds of acres were knocked down to Couch, though, on the testimony of Jonathan Sturges, of Fairfield, "there was a bid of twenty shillings more;"—"crookedness," we observe, is an old product with a new name; it thrived before our fathers' time, and has, we incline to believe, a protoplasmic antiquity.

The records pertaining to the subject of our sketch are free from even a hint of suspicion of the absolute honesty that characterized his public and individual acts, although he is occasionally referred to as an eccentric man; and this point will do as well as another to recall a story in this connection. He would at intervals take abrupt leave of professional duties and journey with no apparent object about the country. On one of these excursions, or periodic tramps, he stopped on a Saturday afternoon at the home of a friend by the name of Walker, a Congregational clergyman, who, after the evening meal, invited him to preach the following Sunday. Mr. Read at first declined, but being urged on the special plea of friendship—a plea his good nature never could resist—finally assented, and the next morning duly appeared in his friend's pulpit. At the proper time, opening the Bible he read his text: "And the Lord said unto Satan whence comest thou?" and Satan said, "From going to and fro in the Earth and walking up and down therein." Here he looked calmly around and observed: "Without any formal introduction I shall raise the doctrinal proposition that *the devil is a walker*." Mr. Walker was as suddenly astonished as if he had inadvertently come in contact with a charged Leyden jar; the brethren sat aghast; and the young folks had hard work to suppress giggling. But the countenance of the strange preacher betrayed no hint of overt intention, and the entire solemnity with which he entered upon his discourse, soon commended the most respectful interest. No reference was made to the coincidence (?) of the text; the sermon was original in conception and handling; and, though profound in matter, was picturesque and replete with sharply-pointed illustrations and markedly effective application. It was, in brief, a sermon that might have been





delivered with success two hundred years later in the largest and most popular of modern tabernacles.

No reason is recorded for Mr. Read's removal from the Connecticut Colony, but the monograph before alluded to informs us that he came to Boston to live in 1722, buying a fine house and lot on Hanover street, the deed of which is made to John Read, of Lonetown, Fairfield County, Conn., December 12th, of this year. But he did not dispose of all his lands in our State, the Manor of Redding being a notable exception. This was for many years the residence of his son John, who kept up the place, including a deer park, in fine old English style, and who was the distinguished Colonel Read of our State history, often confounded with, but by no means the able man with whom this paper concerns itself. The "Colonial Lawyer" was scarcely forty years old when he began practice in Boston, but fame had already singled him out, said John Otis, as "the greatest common lawyer the country ever saw." Like most great men, he was remarkable for his industry, and was soon carrying on so extensive a law practice, and was so actively engaged in numerous other varied affairs as to be recognized as "the busiest man in Boston."

About the year 1736, while a representative—the first lawyer admitted to that honor—doing, as the records show, a large amount of committee duty, and continually introducing important bills on the currency, and recodifications of the statutes, he wrote a Latin Grammar which attained celebrity as a simplified text-book. Copies of this book are quite rare, and the advisory note at the end invites reproduction, as characteristic of the author. He says: "Now, therefore, let the tutor read distinctly any chapter [of the vulgate translation of the Bible] into English, explaining the nature and difference of the syntax and translations as need requires: and then the pupil by comparing the English and Latin translations by himself, shall easily attain the Latin tongue: and at the same time furnish his mind with the fundamental principles of all knowledge, establish his heart with true wisdom and conduct of life, and finally grow up in favor with God and man. Amen."



He was, too, a communicant and regular attendant of King's Chapel, and for two years one of its wardens, which fact is of ecclesiastical record and is decisive as to his Episcopal preferences. He also found time to engage in many large operations in real estate; and when in 1737 the Massachusetts colony placed a vast tract at public sale he bought 23,040 acres in the territory now known as Claremont, selling the greater part a few months after; though he reserved 1,760 acres, which he presented to his son William, who became a prominent citizen. He also acquired an interest in a township at Piscataqua river, and during the same year purchased the mansion and grounds on Queen street, in Boston, which was his residence during his phenomenally busy life. In brief, such were his numerous, varied and successful activities that John Adams has left on record these words: "John Read possessed a genius and attained an eminence as great as any man."

Whenever he elected to serve in a public capacity the people elected him to places of dignity and trust. He was a member of the Governor's Council during the administrations of Governors Shirley and Belcher, and it is written of him, officially, that "while he sat at that board he was their oracle." The same historian goes on to say "as a legislator he was conspicuous, but too unambitious to be a regular leader; he was too independent and enlightened for a lover of prerogative, and too honest for a leader of faction—he spoke with frankness, regardless of political consequences." His advice and individual service was frequently called in to solve the difficult money problems of the day, and it is worth while to briefly quote from his report when he met the commissioners of Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and other colonies on the depreciation of the paper money then in vogue. Said he: "The paper money now abroad daily sinks in value \* \* \* so that merchants raise the price of goods to what they think it will sink to; and thus the husbandry—the stay of land—always comes off the worst by it. Perhaps it may be ordered redeemed by act of parliament, \* \* \* will become to be no medium of trade, and we shall



be obliged to give silver money for these old broken rags—for money they are not, and money we must have and be just." These thoroughly practical—though necessarily brief—extracts will be recognized by some of our Connecticut people as "good old-fashioned horse-sense" that would mix well with many nice theories of modern finance. They also prompt us to allude to another quality of statesmanship which is notably scarce among our public men to-day. He was endowed with rare modesty, and when an important money measure was presented to the Council, John Read promptly withdrew his own admirable bill with the remark that "the other was too much better for the country at large to exist at the same time," and immediately set to work to formulate the measure of his colleague.

It would not do, however, for contemporary lawyers to presume too far upon Read's self-abnegation; he took such shrewd care of himself in court as to make opposing council very wary of him, and a case in point will illustrate a neat bit of his sagacious special pleading.

A merchant had a ship and cargo seized by the customs through some technical breach of the Trade Acts, and retained Read as counsel. He was told to replevy, and a writ was issued to the Sheriff to restore the ship and cargo—bond being given to answer at next court. In the process, Read had intentionally given defendant no replevin or addition, but on the day of next sitting of court defendant's counsel found the flaw and so informed the owner of the ship, who, in turn informed his counsel. Read told his client "never mind," and to enter the action. In court defendant's counsel whispered across the table that he knew of the error and intended to have the writ abated in consequence. Read, innocently looking over the papers, asked the privilege of amending the mistake, which being denied, he remarked that if such an advantage was taken it could not be helped and he must plead as matters stood. A plea of abatement was thereupon made *ore tenus*—without asking the return of the ship—and judgment entered up accordingly. Then Read told his client to let execution be taken out, but not to pay the sum before it was



served. At next term suit was brought on the bond; and Read pleaded he had fully performed its conditions by prosecuting the suit to final judgment, producing in proof the Sheriff's return. Meanwhile the ship having gone to sea, there was an end to the matter.

An instinctive abhorrence of wrong was another quality of the "Colonial Lawyer," and there is still preserved at Hartford an autograph letter in which he expresses his interest—gratuitously of course, in one of the Uncas family of Indians, who claimed he had been wronged by Capt. John Mason; the letter is fragmentary which unfortunately precludes its reproduction. Another instance in this direction was brought about by one of Read's eccentric pedestrian tours. Having made up his mind to relieve the dull routine of his professional labors, he donned the plainest of garments and started on foot for a journey south. His sunny disposition, his remarkable familiarity with the practical workings of a variety of occupations outside of his profession, added to his legal and theological erudition, made him a welcome guest wherever he chose to be one. A thick volume might be filled with accounts of his adventures, none of which, however, were of the kind that tilts at windmills. In his homely attire, afoot, and with a bundle on a staff over his shoulder, he had more the appearance of the better sort of tramp than a knight errant; yet when he stopped to converse with some intelligent person he invariably conveyed the fact that he was an unaffectedly chivalrous gentleman. At the farm, the mill, the forge, the school or parsonage, he was welcomed on account of his genial face and honest manner, notwithstanding his plain garments, and all were surprised with the quantity and variety of his practical knowledge.

Entering a town, he was naturally attracted to where a court was sitting and had his sympathies at once enlisted on the side of a plaintiff with a righteous but complicated case to defend against an unscrupulous land speculator. He took in the case at a glance and, after a talk with the presiding judge offered his services to the weaker side, and at once began operations with the intuitive grasp and instant compre-





hensiveness that always distinguished him. When on his legs to plead many present recognized the traveling farmer, the veterinary surgeon, the skilled mechanic, the scholar or preacher, but as he warmed to his work were amazed to discover an accomplished lawyer, a jurist of wide and profound knowledge of all law—even that of a strange province: and he not only captivated the court, jury, and audience, but gained the case. The plaintiff was in ecstasies of delight and gratitude, but before he could get through the throng to offer his thanks, the “Colonial Lawyer” had disappeared. The presiding judge, who had in the interval, adjourned to a neighboring inn, was appealed to as to his whereabouts; and, singularly enough, remarked, as he shaded the rays of the setting sun from his twinkling eyes, that he thought he observed, about a mile and a half down the turnpike, the perepatetic lawyer making good time southward.

Indeed, a pleasing evidence of philanthropy ever accompanies these stories of eccentricity; and when Gov. Washburn spoke of such “out of the common” acts, he also said: “John Read filled a wide sphere in the provinces, and did more, perhaps, than any other man in introducing system and order into the practice of the courts in Massachusetts.” And, in concluding this feeble memorial we will, leaving out all analysis of character, only add that the great John Read was a most estimable citizen, who so conscientiously did his day by day duties that common people took pride in quoting his common sayings; that jurists and statesmen, and his professional contemporaries held him in high regard; that his legal works were preserved by Story, and commended by Parsons; and that a large fortune rewarded the incessant labor of his life. He died peacefully, in his seventieth year, at his home in Boston, on the 12th day of February, 1749; and of so noble a life may it not be justly recorded: *Sic itur ad astra*—such is the way to the stars.

At the close of the reading of Mr. Beers' paper a vote of thanks to him was passed, and upon the suggestion of William E. Seeley, Esq., it was also voted to print the paper in pamphlet form for preservation.



## STRATFORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE.

The President then called on the Rev. Samuel Orcutt for some items concerning the township of Stratford in New Hampshire, the knowledge of which had entirely passed out of memory and recognition in Old Stratford, Connecticut, a somewhat surprising fact. The following were the items, taken from the records of Stratford, N. H., by the Rev. L. W. Prescott, of Warren, N. H.

Stratford Township in New Hampshire was first settled by persons from Stratford in Connecticut. Among the first proprietors of that township were the following men, then resident in Stratford, Connecticut, but few of whom removed to New Hampshire, but they sent several of their children to settle there.

SAMUEL BEARD,	CAPT. SAMUEL BEERS,
STEPHEN CURTISS, JR.,	ABNER JUDSON,
JUDAH KELLOGG,	ELISHA MILLS,
CAPT. ISAIAH BROWN,	NATHAN BOOTH,
MR. SAMUEL JOHNSON,	CAPT. AGUR JUDSON,
GEORGE LEWIS,	AGUR JUDSON, JR.,
DANIEL JUDSON, JR.,	CAPT. JOSEPH TOMLINSON,
DAVID JUDSON,	STEPHEN TOMLINSON,
STILES JUDSON,	WILLIAM AGUR TOMLINSON,
NEREMIAH CURTISS,	WM. THOMPSON, inn keeper.
SAMUEL CURTISS,	THOMAS ———,
STEPHEN CURTISS,	JOSEPH WELLS,
AGUR TOMLINSON,	NATHAN WELLS,
BEACH TOMLINSON,	REV. ISRAEL WETMORE.
DOCT. HEZEKIAH TOMLINSON,	

The first tree was cut in Stratford, N. H., by Isaac Johnson. He and Archippas Blogget (Blodget), both from Stratford, Conn., tried which could cut his tree down first, and Johnson succeeded.

In 1772, the following persons left Stratford, Connecticut, and made the first permanent settlement in Stratford, New Hampshire:



JOSHUA LAMPKIN,  
 ARCHILPAS BLODGET,  
 JAMES BROWN,  
 JAMES CURTISS,  
 WILLIAM CURTISS,

AARON CURTISS,  
 ISAAC JOHNSON,  
 TIMOTHY DEFOREST,  
 BENAJAH BLAKEMAN,  
 JOHN SMITH.

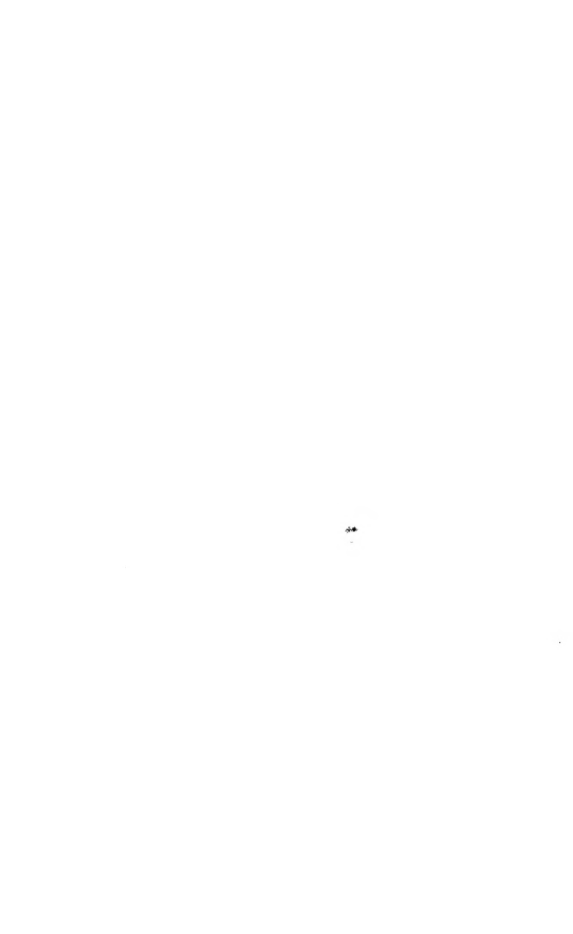
The town records of Stratford, N. H., say: "August 13, 1773, the sum of ten pounds was voted to Mrs. Barlow, wife of Joseph Barlow, . . . that she hath proceeded with her husband and family of children to come to our township of Stratford, and is the first woman that hath settled upon said township."

The ten men above named were voted "three pounds each for their extraordinary trouble and expense in proceeding to settle and make improvements."

James Brown, son of Capt. Isaiah Brown, called the first town meeting in Stratford, N. H., and was one of the most prominent citizens for many years. His marriage to Hannah, daughter of Joshua Lampkin, in 1775, was the first that occurred in that township, she being sixteen years of age, and their daughter Anna, born in 1776, was the first child born in the town. He died in 1813. His widow, Hannah, died in 1836, aged 77 years. He remained in that township through the Revolution, had charge of the fort, and his daughter Anna was born in the fort, and his descendants are still numerous in that part of the country.

Daniel and Agur Platt were among the early settlers there and are said to have gone from Stratford, Connecticut. Agur returned here and died, but Daniel married a daughter of James Brown, lived a prominent citizen, and died about 1860. The Johnsons, Blodgets, Curtisses, and Platt, are very numerous there yet.

The President next introduced Mr. Charles Burr Todd, of New York and Redding, Conn., and said that he did so with all the more pleasure as he was thereby relieved from making any extended remarks on this occasion himself. He had on several occasions endeavored to set forth the work and to emphasize the needs of the Society. It was a matter in which



he felt a deep interest—and he was glad to have so able a helper come to his aid. Mr. Todd then read the following paper on

THE FAIRFIELD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY: ITS WORK AND NEEDS.

One of the greatest of modern critics has observed that the literary and artistic faculties come latest in the development of peoples, the inference being that this is the *summum bonum*, the highest gift, to be obtained only through successive and ever widening stages of development.

We may urge the same claim for the historical faculty. The pioneer is rarely the historian. The men who make history are usually the most careless about preserving it, and it is not until a people has attained a certain degree of culture, leisure, and refinement that much interest is taken in the details of history, in the various steps by which the pioneers founded the State and laid its walls in liberty, justice, and righteousness.

This fact explains, perhaps, why the Fairfield County Historical Society was not formed until nearly two hundred and fifty years after the County was first settled. There was no reason why it should not have been founded before. It is cause for congratulation that certain public-spirited gentlemen at length organized it, and that having survived the perils of infancy, it has grown into the stout and lusty youngster we now behold. And what a field lies before it! No county in the State is richer in quaint, interesting, romantic, valuable, historical material. Let us consider it a moment. It gave to Whittier, and Whittier to the world; Abraham Davenport, the best and noblest exponent of the Puritan idea to be found in history; it gave Deputy-Governor Gold; and John Read, the Colonial lawyer, and Judge Peter Burr, with Governor Fitch, and other pillars of the Colonial fabric. Joel Barlow, too, and Aaron Burr, the founder of Princeton College, his son Aaron Burr, the better known man of affairs, Roger Minot Sherman, the leader of the Connecticut bar, Commodore Hull, and later to our civil war, William Tecumseh Sherman, and to our councils John Sherman his no less illustrious brother.





The hill towns have their beauty of scenery, and charm of tradition. Danbury, one of the initial points from which sprung the industrial pre-eminence of Connecticut, with her Sandemanian outgrowth in religion, her martyr fires of the Revolution and wealth of local incident, has a history worthy of preservation; so with Ridgefield, where the battle was fought; and Redding, where the camp was erected, and which was later the theatre of some of the opening struggles of the anti-slavery reform; and Newtown and Trumbull with their legends and footprints of the Indians who lived along the Great River. The shore towns, however, are richer in historic material. Whoever shall set himself to unearth and put in order the annals of early Colonial privateering and piracy, the origin and full development of the whale-boat crews of the Sound and their bloody encounter with leviathan, of the West India trade, and of those adventurous captains of Stratford, Fairfield, Westport, Norwalk, and Stamford, who unfurled their flags in the farthest seas of the rich East, or of the secret service and illicit traffic of revolutionary days in which these same whale-boats figured prominently, would not only give to the historian hitherto concealed facts, but would furnish a Cooper or an Irving, with material for half a score of living romances. Again, in some of these old towns, notably in Fairfield, there exists material of the highest literary interest. In Fairfield, for instance, Copley and Stuart dreamed and painted, and Dwight, Humphreys and Barlow wrote and sung; to Fairfield Hancock and Adams fled from British proscription; there Hancock was married to the beautiful Miss Quincy, of Boston, and there Madam Hancock, his aunt and benefactress, died and was buried in the old Fairfield burying ground, where her tombstone may still be seen.

Lastly the southern shores of the county are washed by Long Island Sound. To many of us, no doubt, the Sound is only an avenue for the cheap, speedy transportation of our coals and manufactured products. To the imaginative mind it is a fountain of happy memories, a reservoir of stirring incident and weird, ghostly fancies. Whenever under the genial sun of public appreciation, some romancer or poet shall arise



to fitly celebrate, it will become as storied and poetic as the Hudson or Horicon. Let us glance briefly at the materials ready to his hand. There are Indian loves, intrigues, and struggles for dominion; Sagas of the Northmen whose adventurous prowls lurst into its waters as early as the ninth century, and the story of Adrian Block, who came in his square-bowed, high-decked yacht the *Restless*, to lay claim to the fair lands of Connecticut for his Dutch masters at New Amsterdam. Capt. Kidd, too, and the other bold corsairs of that day whose spectral sails and low black hulls, old skippers seen even now fitting down the Sound in the wrack of departing storms. Then the whale boatmen and the smuggling, the forays and heady sea fights of the Revolution, when this strip of water became the theatre of internecine strife. We are thrilled at Thermopylæ, and Marathon, and Hastings, and Marston Moor, but that fight off Fairfield between Captain Brewster's patriots and the Long Island Tories was as thrilling, and noble, and gallant a battle as ever men waged "for their altars and their fires and the green graves of their sires."

Thus very crudely, very superficially, I have indicated the field of historic research which lies before the Society. Four years have passed away since its organization and on this anniversary occasion it is proper to inquire how deeply, thoroughly, and skillfully it has entered this field, what have been its achievements, what does it need further in the way of equipment?

The Society, as you are aware, aims to preserve and illustrate history through the printed page, by the collection of old records, manuscripts, and relics. I will speak first of the publications of the Society, which form its most important contribution to history. These, with one exception, consist of papers read by members at its stated meetings, all local in subject though all possessing general interest to a marked degree. The first was Mr. R. C. Ambler's paper on the Rev. Richardson Miner, first pastor of the church in Unity, now Trumbull, issued in 1882. Next a paper on the Rev. James Beebe, by the same author in 1882. Then in succession were



published: The Rev. John Jones, of Fairfield, by Mr. W. A. Beers, in 1882; in the same year a paper on Roger Ludlow by the same author; the Account of the Bridgeport Fire of 1845, with \*diagram by R. B. Lacey, Esq., President of the Society; Sketches of Bridgeport Churches in 1835, by R. B. Lacey (1882); of the Rev. Gideon Hawley, by Dr. N. E. Wordin; of Nathan Gold, father of the Deputy-Governor of the Colony of Connecticut, by W. A. Beers, (1882); of Roger Minot Sherman, by the same author (November, 1882); of the History of the Bridgeport Bank, by R. B. Lacey (1884), which in its sketch of Dr. Isaac Bronson, the friend and adviser of Hamilton, and with Roger M. Sherman, the author of the independent treasury system which succeeded the collapse of the United States Bank during Jackson's administration, is a contribution to our financial history that would alone warrant the Society's being. The history of old Stratfield Baptist Church, by Mr. Lacey, and a history of the Stillwell Methodists, by Mr. Samuel Main, followed next on the list, with Mr. Beers' interesting lecture on the early Dutch troubles between New Netherlands and Connecticut, and Mr. Lacey's History of the Saddlery Business of Bridgeport, and lastly the Society's most important and noteworthy work, Mr. Orcutt's careful and painstaking History of Old Stratford and Bridgeport, four numbers of which, covering nearly one hundred and eighty pages each, have been issued, while a fifth is in print.

The collection of books and papers of Indian relics and of articles illustrating the social condition existing one and two centuries ago, is fast becoming extensive and important and will soon require a much larger and more secure depository for its preservation. Here are arrow and spear heads, tomahawks, celts, wampum, and the like, once in use by the county Indians, ancient articles of furniture and dress, spinning wheels and puspun flax, rusty match-locks, ancient swords, flint, tinder, and the machinery for striking a light, time-stained commissions of county officials, old letters, Indian deeds, rare old books and quaint engravings. Many possess a general interest, some of which we will notice. There is a

\* First published in (Bridgeport) FARMER.



cup made from the old oak under which Col. John Burr ratified that treaty with the Indians which extinguished their title to the Pequonnock openings in Fairfield. There is an old book, "The Returned Backslider," printed in 1638, once owned by Samuel Sherman, of Stratford, the ancestor of Gen. William T. and Senator John Sherman—"Jackson's Nullification Proclamation," printed on floss silk, and a quaint old-time stained paper which takes us back to the days when Connecticut citizens were slave owners. It reads as if it dated longer ago than 1797:

"Whereas, Elisha Wilson, of Stratford, is the master and owner of a negro male slave named Cæsar, and is disposed to emancipate and make free such slave, and hath applied to us, the subscribing authorities to inquire into the health and age of said slave, and we having found upon examination that said slave Cæsar is in good health, and is not of greater age than forty-five years, or less than twenty-five years, and that said Cæsar is desirous of being made free, we the subscribing authority do certify the same according to the statute law of this State in that case made and provided."

Signed by one Selectman and two Justices of the Peace of Stratford, February 24, 1797.

Of equal interest is an account of the old Carter mansion in New Canaan, the oldest dwelling in the town, perhaps in the county, said to have been built between 1724-26. "Mansion House," it is called in the deeds of the period conveying it. In 1733 the house, barn, and the tract of land they stood on (8½ acres) were deeded to John Eells, on condition that he "do settle in said parish as minister of ye people therein." This Parson Eells seems to have been an eccentric person. In the "account" referred to, we have a story of a couple who came in a thunder-storm to be married. "It was late in the evening, and the minister had retired. From the window he asked who was there and what was wanted. The man told his errand, and Mr. Eells said "Come around under this window here and I'll marry you." This is the formula which he used:





“Under this window in stormy weather,  
I join this man and woman together;  
Let none but him who made the thunder,  
E'er part these married two asunder.”

Tradition adds to this story that when the anxious couple came to the open summer window Parson Eells, about to perform the ceremony remarked, “That it was customary on such occasions to make a prayer, but it was nothing essential: also to sing a hymn, but it was nothing essential.” Then directing them to join hands, the ceremony was performed in the manner above indicated. The happy groom replied on leaving “that it was customary to pay a dollar, but it was nothing essential. Good night.”

Among the relics is an old worn razor case of leather with brass hinges, clasp and lock, and room within for six razors, a brush and comb. That case was once the property of Sir John Stirling, of Stirling Castle, Scotland, but if I am to tell how it comes to be reposing in our Historical collection in 1886, I must go back a century and more, and recall some historic facts, and in stating them I am well aware that Mr. Orcutt, the historian of Stratford is present, ready to correct any misstatement I may make, whether intentional or otherwise. However, I do not stand in much awe of him because all the material for this idyl was taken from his excellent and entertaining history of Stratford. The first statement is, that in 1770 Stratford contained more beautiful maidens than any other town in the county. The second, that the prettiest of these was Miss Gloriana Folsom, daughter of Samuel Folsom, the village blacksmith, and the third, that one mellow autumn day in 1770, a gay, careless, handsome young stranger came riding into the town, and put up at the village inn. His distinguished air, skill in the dance and with the violin, and hearty interest in the village gayeties, quite won the hearts of the maidens, while eliciting the stern condemnation of the elders.

In these three statements you have all the elements of the modern society novel—the beautiful maiden, the young stranger, gay and debonair, and the opposition of stern parents—and are ready to go on with me to the denouement which



occurred March 10, 1771, in the marriage of the young stranger to the beautiful Gloriana. Before this, however, to remove the mother's opposition, he had declared himself the son and heir of Sir John Stirling, of Stirling Castle, Scotland, which, indeed, proved to be the case. This marriage turned out much more happily than misalliances are wont to do. The pair resided more than a year in the village, the young husband, meantime, receiving frequent letters importuning him to return home. These, at length, became mandatory, and he sailed away in 1772, leaving behind wife and baby, and this ancient razor case, but promising as soon as possible to return and reclaim them. I need not detail the weary waiting of months: it is enough to say, that a vessel, specially fitted up for the lady and her babes, at length appeared and conveyed them safely to Edinburgh, and that members of her family who subsequently visited her at the castle found her discharging the duties of her position with as queenly a grace as if she had not been born daughter of the blacksmith of Stratford.

It is a pleasant story, this suggested by an old razor case; one that would be deemed highly improbable if read in a romance. I cite it as an illustration of the material to be eagerly utilized by the future poet and romancer, to be unearthed, with proper effort, from the archives and legendary stories of these old towns.

It would be tedious were I to enumerate seriatim all the books, documents, and objects now in possession of the Society. It suffices to say that the collection is varied, extensive, interesting and valuable. The experience of five years has served to define the field and to demonstrate what can be gleaned from it. Perhaps in the future the attention of investigators might be turned with profit to the subjects suggested above, viz., Colonial privateering and piracy, the West India trade, its exports and imports, the whaling crews and their exploits before and during the Revolution.

The perplexity of the Society, to-day, lies not in securing these votive offerings, but in providing a proper shrine for them. Its greatest need is a fire-proof building secure as



iron, brick and granite can make it for their proper custody. There are many superfluous millions held in Bridgeport and the other county towns, millions that only entail harrassing care and anxiety on their possessors. I have sometimes loved to fancy the possessor of one of these millions, ambitious of providing himself an enduring monument, desirous of being embalmed in the hearts of the people as a public benefactor, devoting a tithe of one of those millions to the erection of a library building on one of your principal streets, such a building as one may see in Northampton and Quincy, and in almost every Massachusetts town of half the pretensions of Bridgeport; or such a building as that erected by Enoch Pratt to hold his magnificent gift to the City of Baltimore, which I had the pleasure of inspecting a few months ago, and which with its treasures of books and its endowment represents a value of nearly a million of dollars. I can fancy some one among us, I repeat, devoting to the city in which he has gained his fortune, a modicum for the public good. Such a building an architect would design with special reference to its use. It should be neat, chaste, ornate in design. On the first floor would be accommodations for the City's Free Library; the second would afford ample space for the collections of the Historical Society and of the Scientific Society, and so with positive benefit to the giver and an inestimable boon to the public, this most perplexing problem of securing a storehouse for our treasures would be solved.

At the close of the reading it was voted to print Mr. Todd's paper with that of Mr. Beers', and the thanks of the Society were voted for the excellent paper.

Remarks on the Society and its work were made by Major L. N. Middlebrook, and other members, and at about ten o'clock the meeting adjourned after a most pleasant and profitable session.



## HISTORICAL PAPERS.

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The rooms of the Historical Society and the adjacent rooms were filled Friday evening at the regular monthly meeting of the Society, November 13, 1885. The bones recently found at Seaside Park formed the chief attraction undoubtedly, and the interest displayed was gratifying to the officers and members. The Secretary, Dr. N. E. Wordin, acknowledged the receipt of the following additions to the library and museum of the Society: "Magual's *Christi Americane*." The Ecclesiastical History of New England from its first planting in the year 1620 unto the year of 1698, in seven books, by the Reverend and learned Cotton Mather, D. D., London, printed by Thomas Parkhurst at the Bible and Three Crowns in Cheapside, 1762. Given by Miss Ellen L. Boardman. The *Connecticut Courier*, August 1, 1821, to February 25, 1825, by R. B. Lacey, Esq.

Copy of the *Republican Farmer*, for February 6, 1814, by Seymour Wells.

The Descendants of Samuel Carter, of Deerfield, Mass., by Samuel Carter.

The *Fairfield Gazette*, for July 4, 1787, from R. B. Lacey, Esq.

An antique Connecticut plow, with wooden mold board, iron share, horn handle, etc., very interesting, old and valuable. From Alexander Hawley, Esq.

At the hour for opening the meeting, the regular business was, on motion dispensed with, and the President, R. B. Lacey, Esq., read a paper upon the Old Stratfield Baptist Church, the first of that denomination established in this vicinity. The paper was as follows:





## THE OLD STRATFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH.

This church was first gathered in the dwelling house of Capt. John Sherwood, October, 1751. The organization occurred soon after the visit and preaching of Rev. George Whitefield in this country. The state of religion had become very low at this period in New England, and the results of Mr. Whitefield's awakening and effective preaching was what has sometimes been denominated the "New Light Stir." He did not preach in Stratfield, but did preach in Stratford and Fairfield, and it made its impression here. The pastor, Rev. Samuel Cooke, sympathized with Whitefield and his preaching, but there was a strong party in the church which did not. After the death of Mr. Cooke in 1747 a successor—Rev. Lyman Hall, was called and settled—who was opposed by some on account of his want of sympathy with or supposed opposition to the "new light" views. This agitation and the unsettled condition of the parish at the time, it is said, prepared the way for a "Separatist" movement which was not necessarily distinctively Baptist. The movement here took shape under the leadership of Capt. John Sherwood and the Rev. Joshua Moss (or Morse). The latter was a convert under the preaching of Mr. Whitefield in Rhode Island, and had adopted Baptist sentiments in regard to baptism by immersion, close communion, and preparation for the Gospel ministry. In regard to the latter it was held that a liberal education was unnecessary—the requisites being—the Divine Call—hallowed fire and promised spiritual enlightenment. It is said that Elder Moss began preaching very young, being licensed by the Baptist authorities of Rhode Island. He was instrumental in gathering a church of his order in the north part of New London (now Montville), and was ordained there in May, 1751. Mr. Moss had repeatedly visited Stratfield and held meetings and thus prepared the way—so that on the second Lord's day in October, 1751—as the record is in substance—"being assembled at y<sup>e</sup> house of y<sup>e</sup> said John Sherwood, said Elder being present, he did minister to our edification, and at the close of said service the following persons came forth, viz: Zechariah Mead, Nathaniel Seeley, Elilū Mash (Marsh), John Sherwood.



Ebenezer Sanford, and Samuel Beardsley, six male members besides y<sup>e</sup> Elder, and which gave out a particular relation of the work of God upon their souls, in the presence of y<sup>e</sup> Elder and of each other, and in the presence of the assembly, and by solemn covenant united together in the fear of God and love of Christ, with a number of sisters in the same manner and form, namely: Elizabeth Seeley, Mary Sherwood, Sarah Beardsley, and Martha Jennings. After solemn dedication and prayer to Almighty God, Elder Moss proceeded and went on in the ordinance of baptism by plunging under water each particular member aforesaid, (except Martha Jennings, who had received that ordinance some time before), and to conclude the day's solemnity he did also administer the other ordinance, namely, the Lord's supper to each and every member, then standing, as we believe according to y<sup>e</sup> Gospel and order of Christ's house, a regular Gospel church, under y<sup>e</sup> watch and care of Elder Joshua Moss." Elder Moss gathered several other Baptist churches in the eastern part of the State and his time seems to have been mostly taken up in the care of them. He visited Stratford and preached from time to time—how often is not known. After the organization of the church for six years there is not the slightest record extant, nor any data for its history.

Some friction occurred during this period between both Baptists and the adherents to the Church of England, and the Stratfield Society of the "standing order" about the collection of ministerial rates. By Colonial as well as English law every person was required to pay according to his ability, for the support of public worship and in default of payment was proceeded against in the same manner as for any other species of debt. Capt. John Sherwood and his Baptist associates, thought they should be exempted from payment of the customary rates, under the toleration acts of the General Assembly. (Tradition has it that Capt. John Sherwood allowed his assessment to be collected by distraint of his personal property).

The Stratfield Society was averse to their claims for exemption perhaps for several reasons such as these, viz: that they had gone off in an irregular manner and though dissenting



were really members of the "standing order"—they were few in numbers—had no place for public worship and had no resident minister. At the annual meeting of the Stratfield Society, held December 26, 1753, "the question being put to y<sup>e</sup> Society whether they would exempt Capt. John Sherwood, Nathaniel Seeley, Zachariah Mead, Ebenezer Sanford and Samuel Beardslee, Jr., from paying anything towards defraying y<sup>e</sup> ministerial charges in the Society for y<sup>e</sup> year ensuing and voted in y<sup>e</sup> affirmative."

"December 30, 1754, question put to y<sup>e</sup> Society whether they would exempt the people among us called Baptists from paying their rates to the defraying y<sup>e</sup> ministerial charges which was to be gathered by Daniel Summers collected in y<sup>e</sup> year 1753, and negated."

In 1755, Capt. Sherwood brought suit to the County Court to recover sums collected from him by distraint—with what result does not now fully appear. It seems, however, to have hurried up the settlement of a resident pastor, which was effected in August, 1757, and at the annual meeting of the Stratfield Society, held December 29, 1757, the ministerial rates for John Sherwood, Nathaniel Seeley, Zachariah Mead, and Ebenezer Sanford, were remitted for the years 1756 and 1757, and it was also voted that they be exempt therefrom the ensuing year.

#### ELDER JOHN SHERWOOD.

On the fourth Tuesday in August, 1757, the Church met at the house of John Sherwood, Elder Joshua Moss (Morse) and Elder Daniel Whipple, being present. On taking the testimony of the members concerning a minister, it appeared evident that Brother John Sherwood was called of God to be a witness in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Accordingly on the third Tuesday in December, 1757, the elders and messengers of the churches in New London and Groton assembled with the "Baptized Church" of Christ in Stratfield, and by solemn prayer and fasting did separate the aforesaid John Sherwood and ordain him to the work whereunto God had called him. The first baptism recorded after the organization of the



church was in September, 1759, at services held in Ridgefield, when four women were the candidates. At the close of the first ten years sixteen had been received by baptism according to the record, and these had their residence in Ridgefield, Redding, Wilton, and Newtown. One who came from Fairfield Society, when he was baptized, "also gave up his children to the watch and care of the church," and upon a "fast occasion" Mary Sherwood, wife of the elder, gave up three children, viz: Rebecca, Anna (or Hannah), and Samuel, to the watch and care of the church; but there was no ceremony called baptism in the acts of consecration. It is said that in some places where the "new light" movement culminated in the formation of Baptist churches, what is called open communion was tried, but the plan did not work well, and in most cases was soon abandoned. The Stratfield church did not begin with that plan, the record says—and it suffered nothing by such experiments.

John Sherwood was so prominent a figure, and so influential in the movements just narrated, that it will be interesting to note something of his previous personal history. He was third in descent from Thomas Sherwood, of Fairfield about 1640, through: 1. Capt. Matthew, born 1643. 2d. Capt. Samuel born 1680. He (3d, John) was born 1705. His wife was Mary Walker. They had ten children, among them son Stephen (born 1748), who was thrice married. His second wife was Jerusha Savage, of Ballston, N. Y., but earlier from Middletown upper houses (now Cromwell) Conn. The issue by this marriage was a son and a daughter. The son was David—the well-known Deacon David Sherwood who so many years lived on the south side of Fairfield avenue, at the point now the site of Clinton avenue, extended southerly—where he owned and held a farm of one hundred acres of land in one body to the time of his death in 1873, at the great age of ninety-four years.

Capt. John Sherwood's residence was located about one-half a mile north of the site of the Stratfield Baptist meeting-house, on the old road leading to Easton, which was the regular and only traveled road on that line, until about 1833. When the





Easton turnpike road was constructed, an easier route was selected. Instead of rising the steep hill at the meeting-house, it turned a few rods westerly—thence northerly, parallel with the old road, and meeting it again about a mile distant from the point of divergence. It was a substantial house of the ancient stereotyped pattern. It was spoken of by Rev. A. N. Benedict, in 1875, as being used as a tenement. During the past season it has been moved aside for use as a store-house or barn, and a modern dwelling erected on its site. Capt. Sherwood and his wife were members of the Church of Christ in Stratfield of the standing order prior to 1751. He was evidently an energetic leading man and stood well with his brethren. In 1744, '45 and '46 he was on the Society's Committee for the "Management of the Prudentials of the Society." In 1747, '48 and '49, he was on special committees to treat with several successive candidates for the then vacant pulpit. On several committees he was the first named, and thus probably the chairman. After the settlement of Mr. Hall in 1749 his name disappeared. He was no doubt a man of strong conviction and faithful thereto while a member of the "Standing Order," as well as after he became a Baptist. His new departure, religiously, was recognized and respected. He was a powerful man, physically, as appears from his encounter with the Indian athlete on the Stratfield Training ground as has been several times related. The story is as follows:

"On a certain training day, among the spectators present was a party of Indians who had been behaving insolently, and one of them, a burly, athletic fellow, finally challenged the whites to choose their best man, and he would defeat him in a wrestling match. No one appeared ready to meet the challenge of the Indian, whose muscular frame plainly showed him to be a formidable antagonist, although all felt it important, for the moral effect, that some one should do it. After some deliberation it was decided that Capt. John Sherwood was the only man able to vanquish him, but doubts were expressed whether he would be willing to engage in a wrestling match now that he had become so active in religious matters. A deputation came to him as he was drilling his men upon the



parade ground, and after hearing their story he briefly answered that his present duty was to drill his company, but that afterward he would attend to the matter. When the parade was over and he had laid aside his regimentals, he approached the Indian champion, who was naked to his waist and shining with grease. This was decidedly to the advantage of the native, since it gave his antagonist a small chance to grasp the well oiled skin, while his opponent, dressed in ordinary clothing, presented a fair opportunity for the grasp of the savage. Capt. Sherwood advanced without any skirmishing, and laying his hand upon the shoulder of the Indian, found himself able to get a good grip on the skin and flesh, then exerting his great strength, at once laid his antagonist flat upon his back, not caring to soften the violence of the fall, to the utter astonishment of the Indian's allies. The victory was complete, confessed, and the natives withdrew quietly and never repeated the challenge."

He served the church about ten years from 1757. He was about forty-three years of age when ordained. He traveled much and ministered in different towns in this county and laid good foundations. His labors were mostly at his own charges, as his salary (if any) was very meagre. He conducted his farming as before his ordination. About 1767 his wife died, which proved a great affliction to him—his own health failed and he after this performed little active service. He died September 17, 1779, in the seventy-fourth year of his age.

Time fails to follow the details of the church history. That has been well done by Rev. A. N. Benedict, the pastor from 1865 to 1878, from whose record and from the records of the Stratfield Society this paper is mostly compiled.

The following is a list of the ministerial successors of Elder Sherwood:

Elder Sherwood's successors have been Rev. Benjamin Coles, 1767 to 1774; Rev. John Whitman, 1779; Rev. Seth Higby, 1781 to 1794; Rev. Stephen Royce, 1794 to 1802; Rev. Asahel Morse, 1802 to 1812; Rev. Daniel Wildman, 1812 to 1816; Rev. Matthew Polly, 1816 to 1817; Rev. Daniel Wildman, 1817



to 1822; Rev. Asa Bronson, 1822 to 1829; Rev. Elisha Cushman, 1829 to 1831; Rev. James H. Linsley, 1831 to 1836; Rev. Enoch E. Chase, 1836 to 1839; Rev. John Scott, 1842 to 1847; Mr. A. E. Clark, 1848 to 1849; Rev. Hamilton Ellis, 1850 to 1851; Rev. N. D. Benedict, 1851 to 1860; Rev. Joseph Babbage, 1860 to 1865; Rev. A. N. Benedict, 1865 to 1878.

After the reading of President Lacey's valuable paper, the box containing the skeletons and parts of skeletons found at Seaside Park was opened and examined by all present. The peculiarities of the formation of some of the skulls were pointed out and commented upon, and comparisons made with the skull of a white man which was brought for that purpose by the Secretary, Dr. Wordin. It was generally admitted that the crania presented peculiarities which were entirely in one direction, and were too strongly marked and frequent to be the result of accident. The resemblance of one of the skulls to the celebrated Naenderthall skull of Europe, one of the few human remains ever found in the old bone caves, is very remarkable and surprising, and seems to indicate differences from the modern red Indian which unquestionably separate them from that race. The paper read by the Rev. Samuel Orcutt showed the strong points of resemblance between these skulls and those found in the mounds and tumuli of the West, and the points of difference between them and the more modern Indian remains. He cited passages from Prof. Foster's recent work which showed the resemblance very strongly, and while not undertaking to settle the question at all, raised the reasonable presumption that these remains were not those of ordinary Indians, and that through the points of resemblance cited they might be those of the older race, the Mound Builders.

#### THE PAPER READ BY REV. SAMUEL ORCUTT.

In the month of October, 1885, while some workmen were engaged in extending Waldemere avenue westward from Iranistan avenue in Seaside Park, at Bridgeport, Conn., some human bones were dug up, but before any special notice was taken of them they were broken into many pieces. The atten-



tion of Mr. S. M. Cate, Jr., the contractor, being called to them he directed that they be laid aside carefully, and notified the Historical Society, and they were secured for its archives. Upon this discovery, and the peculiar shape of the skull bones found, much care was taken in regard to any future discoveries; and the Hon. P. T. Barnum, one of the Park Commissioners, and who had previously owned the ground, directed that any further relics should be sent directly to the Historical Society. A few days later two more skeletons were found, and parts of one of them were delivered by Mr. Cate to the Society. Among these bones was the skull, nearly complete, although fractured and a small portion gone, the upper and lower jaw bones with nearly full sets of teeth well preserved; the bones of the legs and several of the spinal column. The entire skeleton might have been preserved had the importance of the matter been known to the workmen.

The earth where these remains were found was composed of strata of dark loam, then yellow loam, beneath which was fine clay, then a peculiarly clean gravel about a foot deep, and finally sea-washed sand, fine and as dry as though water had never reached it. The location is about twenty rods from the water of the Long Island Sound, and is part of an elevation of land that formed a conspicuous part of the Pequonnock, or open fields when the whites first came to the place. It is just two hundred and four years since the last deed of this Pequonnock land—except Golden Hill reservation, was given; and just about two hundred and thirty years since the first tract of land was laid out in Stratford township to Thomas Wheeler at the southern extremity of what is now Seaside Park, adjoining the old boundary line between Stratford and Fairfield. The land where Mr. P. T. Barnum's residence stands, including that where the skeletons were found, came into the hands of the Fairfield Wheelers, about two hundred and thirty-five or forty years ago, and there are no evidences that any Indians have occupied that land since the agreement of the Pequonnock tribe with the government of Connecticut in 1638. If these are the remains of the bodies of Pequonnock Indians they must have been laid there more than two hundred and





fifty years ago, for this land was among the very first proportioned out to the first settlers in Fairfield immediately after the year 1644, for cultivation.

The different places where these bones have been found, thus far, indicate the burial of about thirty persons; five or six of them were found in near proximity, and apparently were not buried in a sitting position. No shells or implements were found with these remains.

The principal question concerning these relics is as to what race of beings they belong; which question was raised upon the first sight of them by Mr. Cate and others, in consequence of the apparent lowness of the forehead, or almost the want of any forehead, such as is usually seen, especially among the Indians.

This question taken in connection with other recent discoveries within the town of Stratford, will merit and probably receive a more thorough investigation than can be given in a hurried paper on such an occasion. Hence all that can be said at present is to compare these crania with such scientific research as the publications at hand will furnish.

The following extracts from the "Pre-Historic Races of the United States of America, by John W. Foster, L.L. D.," published in 1881, give very important light on this subject. Dr. Foster is the "Author of the Physical Geography of the Mississippi Valley," joint of Foster & Whitney's report of the "Geology of the Lake Superior Region; late President of the American Association for the Advancement of Science; President of the Chicago Academy of Science; and Member of other learned Societies." Dr. Foster's delineations of the crania of the mound-builders are almost a perfect representation of the skulls from Seaside Park. In Chapter VIII, page 275, he describes these "Crania," and from this description the following extracts are taken:

"While the individual variations in the crania of a particular race are so great as to present intermediate gradations all the way from one extreme to another, thus forming a connecting link between widely separated races, yet, in a large assem-



blage of skulls derived from a particular race, there is a general conformation, a predominant type, which appears to have been as far back as human records extend; to have been unaffected by food, climate, or personal pursuits; and which has been regarded among the surest guides in tracing national affinities. Hitherto our knowledge of the mound-builders' crania has been extremely scant—restricted to less than a dozen specimens—which, if authentic, clearly indicate for the most part the Indian type. The results of my observations have led me to infer that the mound-builders' crania were characterized by a general conformation of parts, which clearly separated them from the existing races of men, and particularly from the Indians of North America."

Dr. Foster then describes the skulls from three localities; the first from the region of Chicago, and says: "Dr. Thompson, now deceased, but whose memory will be honored by every cultivator of science in this country, was first attracted to one of these groups of mounds by observing circular trenches investing knolls two and one-half feet above the surrounding plain, which led him to believe that they were artificial, and, under his direction, Mr. Charles Hennicott, assisted by Dr. Durham, entered upon their exploration. There were portions of eleven skeletons found in the first group, but they were so far decayed that only one skull and three frontal bones sufficiently well preserved to admit of measurement and comparison, were obtained.

The other group of mounds, situated near Haas's Park, yielded human remains which evidently belonged to two distinct epochs. In them were found well marked Indian skulls, in a condition slightly changed, and two skulls, evidently belonging to half-breeds, thus showing that up to a comparatively recent time, these mounds had been used as places of sepulture by different races. In addition to these evidences of recent entombment were found, far gone in decomposition, quite a number of crania, presenting features which readily distinguished them from those of the Indian and half-breed. These relics have a high value, as without doubt they are authentic skulls of the mound-builders." Dr. Foster notices



six characteristics in which these skulls differ from those of Europeans, each of which most strikingly apply to the skulls of Seaside Park, and then remarks, "Many of these characteristics, which are not conspicuous in a well developed European skull, indicate an approach toward the lower animals of the anthropoid type; but still, between the lowest of the one and the highest of the other, there is a broad chasm which cannot be spanned by intermediate graduation."

The "Hennicott Mound" yielded three frontal bones—the only part of the skeleton capable of preservation—which were also indicative of a low type. In two instances there was a narrowing in the temporal region; the plates were extraordinarily thick; the superciliary ridges were massive, standing out like ropes; the orbital processes were profoundly notched; and the frontal bone was much prolonged towards the coronal suture.

The Haas's Park Mounds yielded two crania which were too imperfect to give all the salient points. One is represented by a part of the frontal and parietal bone, and is characterized by an almost entire absence of a forehead. The nasal bones are prolonged from the point of union with the frontal bones, like the beak of a bird or the superior jaw of a gar-pike. The bony plates are of almost pasteboard thinness; the orbital rings are sharp and delicate; the sutures are imperfectly joined; and there is absence of frontal sinuses, which are supposed to be formed only after puberty, so that the skull evidently belonged to a young person.

"This is, undoubtedly, the most remarkable skull hitherto observed, affording the nearest approximation to the anthropoid forms."

#### CLASSIFICATION OF SKULLS.

"In the classification of skulls, comprehending the relation of breadth to length, those which are less than seventy-three to one hundred are called longer *Dolicocephalic*; those whose proportions are less than seventy-four and seventy-nine to one hundred are medium, or *Orthocephalic*; and those whose proportions reach eighty and eighty-nine to one hundred are *Braeycephalic*. The mound-builders' skulls which I have ex-



anned, differ on the one hand, from the Indian type, which is *Brachycephalic*, and from the Teutonic, on the other, which is *Dolicocephalic*. They are intermediate, or *Orthocephalic*."

After giving samples of the three classes of skulls, Dr. Foster remarks: "From these examples of a want of conformity in craniological development, apart from other evidences, I think we are justified in drawing the conclusion that the mound-builders were not the ancestors of the American Indians."

"The question arises, whether this singular conformation of skulls is congenial, or the result of artificial pressure. We know that the Flatheads and Chenooks of the Columbia River indulge in this usage at the present day, and there is reason to believe that other tribes did formerly. But, with regard to the mound-builders' skulls, it may be said that, while the volume of the brain is small, the brain-case is as symmetrical as that of the European. Where artificial pressure is resorted to, as pointed out by Morton, the brain in volume is not diminished, but is extraordinarily developed in those parts of the case where the pressure is not applied, and hence we have the most grotesque distortions. The course of every bandage is marked by a corresponding cavity in the bony structure."

So far then as a comparison can be made, the skulls from Seaside Park conform much more closely to Dr. Foster's description of the crania of the mound-builders, than to those of the North American Indians. In the case of the two skulls preserved in the most complete, the symmetry of the brain case is most remarkable, except in one the whole of the top, frontal part of the head is pressed over to the left side as if a heavy blow had been struck under the left ear, or some great pressure had been applied near the top of the right temple. From the end of the chin bone to the crown the line is long, while on an upright line at right angles with this, the depth is short. Dr. Foster says: "The frontal bone is of great strength and slopes backward, encroaching on the peritetales, and giving origin to a low forehead."

One of these skulls where broken on the top of the head on





the frontal bone, where it is smooth on both sides, measures fully five-sixteenths of an inch in thickness.

As to the character of the three classes of crania Dr. Foster remarks: "We place the seat of the intellectual faculties in the anterior lobe; of the propensities which links us to the brute, in the middle lobe; and of those which appertain to the social affections, in the posterior lobe. The predominance of any one of these divisions in a people would stamp them as either eminently intellectual, or eminently cruel, or eminently social. The mound-builders, assuming the skulls to be typical, were doubtless neither eminent for great virtues nor great vices, but were a mild, inoffensive race, who would fall an easy pray to a crafty and cruel foe."

In this paper no attempt is made to classify these crania, or to decide the race to which they belong, but to call attention to their peculiarities as being in form and measurement strikingly in favor of the mound-builders.



# MEMBERS

OF THE

## FAIRFIELD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Rowland B. Lacey, Bridgeport, - - -	-	Original Member.
Nathaniel E. Wordin, M. D., Bridgeport, -	“	“
William H. Noble, Bridgeport, - - -	“	“
George C. Waldo, Bridgeport, - - -	“	“
William B. Hincks, Bridgeport, - - -	“	“
Louis N. Middlebrook, Bridgeport, - -	“	“
*Aaron B. Hall, Danbury, - - - -	-	Elected Feb. 18, 1881.
Joseph N. Ireland, Bridgeport, - - -	“	“ “ “
Richard C. Ambler, Bridgeport, - - -	“	“ “ “
William T. Minor, Stamford, - - - -	“	Mar. “ “
Lemuel Sanford, Redding, - - - -	“	“ “ “
James L. Gould, Bridgeport, - - - -	“	“ “ “
James W. Beardsley, Bridgeport, - - -	“	“ “ “
*Henry M. Hoyt, Bridgeport, - - - -	“	“ “ “
Charles Burr Todd, Redding, - - - -	“	“ “ “
Henry G. Scofield, Bridgeport, - - -	“	May 6, “
James Ryder, Danbury, - - - - -	“	“ “ “
Elias S. Hawley, Buffalo, N. Y., - - -	“	June 3, “
Curtis Thompson, Bridgeport, - - -	“	Aug. 5, “
William A. Beers, Fairfield, - - - -	“	Sept. 2, “
Eaton W. Maxey, D. D., Troy, N. Y., -	“	“ “ “
*William Shelton, D. D., Buffalo, N. Y., -	“	“ “ “
Rev. George S. Burroughs, New Britain,	“	Oct. 14, “
A Homer Byington, Norwalk, - - - -	“	Nov. 11, “
Winthrop H. Perry, Norwalk, - - - -	“	“ “ “
Walter Hubbell, New York City, - - -	“	“ “ “
David B. Lockwood, Bridgeport, - - -	“	Feb. 10, “
*Stiles M. Middlebrook, Bridgeport, - -	-	Elected Mar. 10, 1882.
Frederick Bronson, Greenfield Hill, - -	“	“ “ “
O. P. Dexter, New York City, - - - -	“	“ “ “

\* Deceased.



David H. Miller, Georgetown, - - -	Elected April 21, 1882.
Horace L. Fairchild, Trumbull, - - -	" " " "
Samuel M. Main, New York City, - - -	" " " "
Nathan M. Belden, Wilton, - - - - -	" " " "
*Barzillai B. Kellogg, Brookfield, - - -	" " " "
J. M. Bailey, Danbury, - - - - -	" " " "
John W. Bacon, Danbury, - - - - -	" " " "
John D. Candee, Bridgeport, - - - -	" " " "
John L. Morehouse, Fairfield, - - - -	" " " "
Warren B. Nichols, West Stratford, - -	" " " "
Samuel Garlick, M. D., Bridgeport, - -	" " " "
Eugene Morehouse, Stratford, - - - -	" May 12, "
William S. Bouton, South Norwalk, - -	" Sept. 8, "
Plumb N. Fairchild, Trumbull, - - - -	" Jan. 12, 1883.
Morris B. Beardsley, Bridgeport, - - -	" Mar. 9, "
Thomas Calef, Bridgeport, - - - - -	" " " "
*Eli T. Hoyt, Danbury, - - - - -	" April 5, "
Oliver B. Jennings, Fairfield, - - - -	" June 9, "
Frederick S. Wildman, Danbury, - - -	" " " "
Rev. Samuel Orcutt, Bridgeport, - - -	" Feb. 8, 1884.
Thomas B. Fairchild, Stratford, - - -	" May 9, "
Edward F. Meeker, Bridgeport, - - -	" July 11, "
Albert Relyea, Norwalk, Conn., - - -	" Aug. 8, "
William L. Sherwood, Newark, N. J., -	" Sept. 12, "
Rev. G. H. Nichols, Hoosic Falls, N. Y.,	" Feb. 13, 1885.
Phineas T. Barnum, Bridgeport, - - -	" " " "
Robert W. Curtis, Stratford, - - - -	" Mar. " "
Nathaniel Wheeler, Bridgeport, - - -	" April 10, "
Arthur E. Meaker, Bethlehem, Pa., - -	" " " "
Nathan B. Wells, Stratford, - - - -	" " " "
B. W. Maples, Westport, - - - - -	" May 13, "
Albert S. Comstock, New Canaan, - - -	" June 26, "
Samuel Carter, New York City, - - -	" July 10, "
*Amos S. Treat, Bridgeport, - - - -	" " " "
Silas Burton, Bridgeport, - - - - -	" " " "
Ebenezer S. Phillips, Bridgeport, - - -	" Aug. 14, "
Charles H. Carter, New Canaan, - - -	" Oct. 9, "

\* Deceased.



## In Memoriam.

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[FROM THE BRIDGEPORT STANDARD of Saturday, April 4, 1885.]

### MAJOR HENRY M. HOYT.

Major Henry M. Hoyt, a veteran of the late war, died at his residence, No. 433 State street, about nine o'clock Thursday evening, in his fifty-first year. He had for several months been suffering with a heart disease which was, without doubt, the cause of his recent relinquishment of journalistic work. Until a few minutes before his death he was in good spirits and conversing with his wife and daughter. When the war broke out, Mr. Hoyt joined the First Regiment C. V., and was present at the battle of Bull Run. Returning at the end of three months he raised a company which was attached to the Eighth Regiment C. V., and with it he remained in service till mustered out at the close of the war. At one time he was commander of the regiment. Deceased was a member of Elias Howe, Jr., Post, G. A. R., of the Army and Navy Club of Connecticut, President of the Eighth Regiment Association, commander of Uniformed Degree Camp, No. 6, I. O. O. F., belonged to Arcanum Lodge, Stratfield Encampment, No. 23, Mithra Lodge, K. of P., the Seaside Club, and Grand Army of the Potomac. Mr. Hoyt learned the printer's trade of Pomeroy & Morse, and he was at different times connected with the *Farmer* and *STANDARD* of this city, the *Courant* of Hartford, and the Monroe Publishing Company, New York. At one time he edited *The School Visitor*. In 1874 he established the *Morning News*. It lived one month. Five years later it was revived, and has since been continued with varying success.





[FROM THE BRIDGEPORT STANDARD of Thursday, October 11, 1883.]

### REV. DR. WILLIAM SHELTON.

At an early hour this morning, in what to many of our older residents is known as "The Old Parsonage," the venerable William Shelton, D. D., Rector Emeritus of St. Paul's Church, Buffalo, N. Y., quietly passed from the scenes of earth, having attained the good old age of more than four score and five years. The son of the Rev. Philo Shelton, the first rector of St. John's Church in this city and the first clergyman Episcopally ordained in this country, he worthily followed in the footsteps of his reverend parent. He was graduated at the General Theological Seminary of the Episcopal Church in New York city in 1823. In the same year he was admitted to the deaconate by Bishop Brownell of this diocese, and in 1825 received priest's orders at his hands. After a brief service in this State he was elected rector of St. Paul's Church, Buffalo, N. Y., in 1829, and continued in the active duties of that important station for fifty years. With a sturdiness of character which was most marked, he united a tenderness of heart which greatly endeared him to those who were intimately acquainted with him, and in the great city with whose interests he has been so long identified none was more thoroughly honored and respected. His remains will be taken thither for interment, and the funeral services will be held in the church in which for so many years he ministered to one of the largest and most influential congregations in that city.

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[FROM THE BRIDGEPORT STANDARD of Friday, March 30, 1883.]

### STILES M. MIDDLEBROOK.

The community was very much surprised last evening to learn of the sudden death of Stiles M. Middlebrook, Esq., which occurred at his residence, 210 Washington avenue, at about half-past six P. M. He was taken suddenly ill while on his way to the evening prayer-meeting on Wednesday last, and yesterday called in his physician. His trouble proved to be an obstruction in the blood passages of the heart, no relief



could be afforded him and he died as stated. The deceased was one of the oldest and most respected citizens of Bridgeport and stood high in the community. He was the son of the late Ephraim Middlebrook, of Trumbull, in which town he was born on March 24, 1809. He came to Bridgeport when a boy, and began his business career as a merchant tailor, in which occupation he was engaged about twenty-five years, at the corner of Main and Wall streets, his residence being across the street on the site of the Sterling House. He next went into the wholesale grocery business on Water street, which he followed for a number of years. He was for several years Secretary and Treasurer of the Mutual Building Association, and carried on the Insurance business at the same time. In 1859 he originated the City Savings Bank, was elected Treasurer and has held that position ever since. He was prompt and accurate in all his business transactions, and to this may be attributed his success in his business career. He took the deepest interest in the affairs of the bank, and his wise counsel and sound judgment in the management of its affairs established it successfully in the confidence of the people. As a citizen he has been active and influential. When the city government was organized in 1836, he was elected to the Council, and since that time has served in that body repeatedly, besides holding other positions of honor and trust. His thorough knowledge of financial affairs was of much value to the city during his connection with the city government, and he was, we think, the last surviving member of the first Common Council of the city. Mr. Middlebrook was a devout Christian, carrying his religion with him in his daily walks, living as he believed. He was a constant attendant at church and week-day meetings, and was a valuable member of the Christian body to which he belonged. Early in life he united with the North Congregational Church. Afterward when the South Church was formed Mr. Middlebrook united with it and was one of its leading men. When the First Presbyterian Church was formed, in 1853, Mr. Middlebrook, and other prominent members were the leading spirits. He was one of the original elders of that church and continued with that body



till 1878, when he went back to the North Church. During his long service in the Presbyterian Church he was a member of the Society's Committee, and was treasurer both of the society and of the session.

The deceased belonged to a family noted for its longevity. He leaves a widow and four children, William N. Middlebrook, City and Town Treasurer; Mrs. Robert K. Brown, of Waterbury; Mrs. Granville W. Goodsell, and Mrs. Moses H. Wheeler, of this city. His honest and upright life have won for him a host of friends who will deeply sympathize with the bereaved family in the sudden termination of a useful Christian life.

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[FROM THE BRIDGEPORT STANDARD of Saturday, April 24, 1886.]

#### HON. AMOS S. TREAT.

The intelligence that the Hon. Amos Sherman Treat had departed this life at three o'clock this morning spread rapidly about the city early this forenoon, and the news was a sudden shock to the community. Mr. Treat and family have been traveling West and South for a number of weeks, the latter portion of the time being spent at the City of Mexico. The trip that Mr. Treat was taking was for the benefit of his health and for pleasure, and business was left in the background as far as possible. The party left this city March 11th, for Mexico by way of Canada. They were on the return journey when Mr. Treat was taken ill in Kansas last Tuesday. Before then his trip had proven very enjoyable. No fears of serious sickness had been expressed and the remainder of the trip was carried out as intended. Niagara Falls was visited among other points of interest. Thursday his condition was regarded with apprehension on account of a diarrhœal attack, and on that night a change for the worse took place. The party traveled night and day and Mr. Treat appeared very feeble and exhausted. On arrival in this city at 1:57 o'clock yesterday afternoon he was conveyed to his home on Courtland street, where he was attended by Drs. Hubbard and Garlick. He was very weak and only rallied temporarily. He was perfectly con-



scious till eight o'clock in the evening, and from that time till midnight he knew when he was addressed. He passed away very quietly.

Mr. Treat was born at Bridgewater, Conn., February 5, 1816, and is a lineal descendant of Richard Treat, one of the patentees in the Colonial charter, and of his son Robert Treat, who was for many years Governor of Connecticut. On the maternal side he descended in a direct line from Amos Sherman, of Bridgewater, Ephraim Sherman, son of Job Sherman, Benjamin Sherman, son of Samuel Sherman, son of Edmund, who was the son of Edmund Sherman of England, who was born about 1545. This is of the same line as General T. W. and Senator John Sherman. The Sherman line is traced back in regular succession to 1499. The early years of deceased were spent on the family farm at Bridgewater. He prepared for college at Hudson, Ohio, and entered Yale College. Afterward he taught school in South Carolina, and later in New Jersey. After studying law with Hon. Jacob W. Miller, of Morristown, N. J., and C. R. Butler, of Plymouth, Mr. Treat was admitted to the Litchfield County bar in 1843. He removed to Newtown and practiced his profession for ten years. Besides being a member of the Board of Education he took an active part in town affairs and occupied the position of postmaster for one year. He came to Bridgeport in July, 1854, where he has since resided, with the exception of the time intervening between May, 1870, to November, 1875, when he lived in Woodbridge. He was Clerk of the Fairfield County Court from 1854 to 1859, member of the Peace Congress in 1861, represented Bridgeport in the Connecticut Legislature in 1858, 1862, 1869, and 1879 and Woodbridge in the same body in 1871, 1872 and 1873. He was Speaker of the House in 1872, chosen to that position by the republican party, of which he has been a member since its organization. At the close of this session the House presented him with a valuable watch and chain, not as a reward for particular service but as an evidence of the high appreciation of the courteous, proper, and impartial manner in which the difficult duties of Speaker were discharged.





In the Masonic fraternity Mr. Treat had taken a prominent position. He was made a Mason in 1855, and had held nearly all the offices of the order, including Master. He also held nearly all the offices in Hamilton Commandery, in which he was created a Knight in 1858, and has been its Eminent Commander. He was Grand Commander of the State in 1868 and 1869. He was a thirty-third degree Mason, also the highest rank in the order, and took an active part in masonic matters up to the very last. Deceased leaves a widow, Mary Clark-Treat, only daughter of Treat Clark, of Woodbridge, to whom he was married December 15, 1869, and a daughter, Mary Clark, who was born January 28, 1872.

Until his death Mr. Treat was actively engaged in the practice of his profession, his associate being Mr. Charles Sherwood of this city. He was President of the Bridgeport Gas Light Company, Treasurer of the Bridgeport Hydraulic Company, President of the Compressed Paper Box Company, a Director in the STANDARD ASSOCIATION since its organization, and a stockholder in several other industrial concerns. He was a man of large wealth, and one who, with his family about him, took every opportunity for social enjoyment.

Mr. Treat was a man of fine judicial mind, an able lawyer and counselor, and his advice was widely sought. He was a republican and an astute politician, with views which were far reaching and nearly always based upon sound premises. He was a strong and persistent opponent, and a firm and reliable friend, and although shunning everything like ostentatious charity, he did many good works in secret, for which he will be to-day remembered with gratitude. He assisted many young business men at times when their need was pressing and their friends few, and he found his reward in the friendship which was thus secured. He was a member of the North Congregational Society and a regular attendant for many years at that church.

In the same paper of Wednesday, April 28, 1886, appeared the following notice of the funeral of Mr. Treat:

The funeral of Hon. Amos S. Treat took place this after-



noon from his late residence, No. 85 Courtland street. Gathered there were a large number of personal friends and relatives from this city and vicinity, Woodbridge, his native town, New Haven, and other places. The Bar was largely represented, as was also the Masonic fraternity. The remains lay in an elegant copper-lined casket covered with black broadcloth, with textile bar-handles, tipped with silver. The plate was of solid silver, displaying the name and age of deceased, the emblem of a Knight Templar appearing on the left side. Among the floral devices placed near the casket were a "Gates Ajar," from employes of the Bridgeport Gas Company; a broken column, from the directors of the same company; a crown and cross, from Hamilton Commandery; a purple wreath displaying the figures 33, from Lafayette Consistory, S. P. of R. S.; palm leaf with bunch of Ascension lilies, from Chief Gerdenier; a standing cross with wreath of roses, bunch of callas, and a pillow displaying the word "Papa," from the family; a floral piece three feet long and four feet high, representing the "Heavenly Arches," an artistically beautiful object, from the Bridgeport Hydraulic Company, and many other suggestive and appropriate emblems. Rev. C. Ray Palmer of the North Church, conducted the religious services, which were impressive by their simplicity. Appropriate music was rendered by the choir of that church. At the close of the services an opportunity was given all who wished to look at the face of deceased. The casket was then taken to Mountain Grove Cemetery where the burial took place. The pall bearers were Chief-Justice Park, and Judge S. B. Beardsley, representing the Bar, S. C. Trubee and Hon. Wm. D. Bishop, the Bridgeport Gas Company, William R. Higby, Esq., the Masonic fraternity, and S. J. Patterson, Mr. Treat's neighbors and friends, and the people of North Church where he worshipped.



1736. - 1886.

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HISTORICAL DISCOURSE,

Commemorating the

One Hundred and Fiftieth

ANNIVERSARY

Of the Consociations,

Fairfield East AND Fairfield West,

AT FAIRFIELD, JUNE 8, 1886,

By REV. ASA C. PIERCE.

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By Permission.

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Anniversary held pursuant to plans formed by the separate Consociations of Fairfield East and Fairfield West, embracing pastors and delegates, with a goodly representation from the churches of the county, in the Congregational Church, Fairfield, Ct., at 10.30 A. M., Tuesday, June 8, 1886.



# HISTORICAL DISCOURSE.

BY REV. ASA C. FIERCE.

BRETHREN AND FRIENDS OF FAIRFIELD WEST. AND FAIRFIELD EAST,  
CONSOCIATIONS:

In undertaking the service appointed to me by your joint committee, I must beg at the outset your kindly consideration in view of the facts, the period coming under our review is so protracted, and the geographical limits over which our inquiries are to range, are so extended.

It is not an easy thing to crystalize, so to speak, the saline properties of an entire pool of salt water within the compass of a moderate sized water jar, and if in the attempt now made the crystals shall not be very perfect and the whole mass shall appear inadequate, you will appreciate I am sure, the difficulty, and make generous allowance in the spirit of fraternal kindness, of which my appointment to address you on this occasion is so strong an expression.

Another occasion of embarrassment may also be referred to. From its organization in 1736 to 1779. "Fairfield West Con-sociation" has no existing *books* of records. These were burned in the house of Rev. Andrew Eliot, of Fairfield, in 1779, when the British entered and burned that town, Gov. Tryon, of *blazing* reputation, being the leading spirit in the brilliant enterprise.

The records of these forty years and more, which escaped the British fury are the original minutes, in manuscript, fragmentary and mixed in every conceivable way. They are striking examples of the *fading* and *perishing* monuments of human toil, and to make one's way through the rubbish to an intelligent comprehension of the facts recorded is, as I happen





to know, an undertaking strongly suggestive of a pleasure trip upon a bicycle through the Everglades of Florida.

But a truce to these explanations. It is quite befitting on the occurrence of memorial days intermediate between rounded and completed epochs, that we should refresh our memories concerning events and men conspicuous during such periods of history—fitting that we should reinvigorate our reverence and appreciation of those who have gone before us in the responsibilities and toils connected with a great cause, that we should lay fresh garlands upon the tombs of the worthies and get new inspiration for ourselves out of their characters and deeds.

And as to times that are by-gone especially fitting is it that we should make God's doings of Providence and grace in all forward movement occasion to our thankfulness and courage.

For such a purpose we are here gathered from these various parishes—are here to commemorate an event which transpired one hundred and fifty years ago to-day, viz.:

THE SEPARATION OF THE ORIGINAL FAIRFIELD COUNTY CONSOCIATION, into the two distinct bodies, thenceforth to be known as the "Fairfield East" and the "Fairfield West."

Underlying all our commemorative exercises, of course, is the Consociational system by which these churches have been held in mutual relation and service for the lapsed century and a half, and it will be pertinent before giving direct attention to the separating and re-organizing acts and incidents which followed, to deal somewhat with

THE EARLY CAUSES AND HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE SYSTEM  
ITSELF,

and the more so, as it is distinctively a Connecticut polity and divergent in some particulars from the "Congregational way" as accepted contemporaneously among the sister churches of Massachusetts and now held in preference by the majority of the churches of our order in those portions of the country where Congregationalism prevails.

The roots of this tree let it be observed, then, had their



starting and early growth in English soil, and their transplanting to New England glebe did not altogether change its fruit—that is to say, Presbyterianism and independency divided the sentiments of those who came here from the mother country and instead of these differing sentiments being fused and unified under the new environment, they continued to be occasion of friction, often of most serious rancor and belligerency for more than one hundred years. In answer to inquiries concerning the state of religion in the Colony, proposed by the “lords of trade and plantations,” in London, after about fifty years had passed, the answer given was, “Our people in the Colony are some of them strict Congregational men, others more large Congregational men.” (meaning, probably, “half-way Covenant men, or such as were for admitting all of regular life and habit to church membership without any inquiry in respect to a change of heart,) “and some moderate Presbyterians. The Congregational men of both sorts are the greatest part of the people in the Colony.”

Say what we will in honor of our Puritan ancestry, and we can scarcely say too much, they were not a little opinionated—men of strong convictions, and very determined in the maintenance of views they esteemed to be right. Hence, after the rigors and sufferings of the first few years, which served temporarily as a bond of peace, were passed, the difference became more pronounced, and mutterings of a rising storm began to be heard—Hartford for a long period the storm center.

During the continuance of his pastorate and life, the renowned Thomas Hooker, who has been characterized as the “Luther of New England,” and also as the “Father of Congregationalism,” and who was remarkably endowed for the management of difficult and turbulent affairs, for he was not only imperial in pulpit discourse, but as Dr. Trumbull testifies, “his appearance and conduct were with such becoming majesty, authority, and prudence, that he could do more with a word or look than most men could with a severe discipline”—this influential pastor I say, while he lived, held these disturbed conditions in comparative quietude. But this great and good



man having passed away, characteristically closing his own eyes in death and saying "I am going to receive mercy"—the restrained elements of discord broke loose and at length not only rent the Hartford church in twain, but involved the other churches in the neighborhood, notably those of Weathersfield and Windsor, and ultimately drew almost all other churches of the Colony into its sweep of disaster, our own Stratford for example coming into a like state of controversy and division, two separate congregations worshipping at different hours of the Sabbath in the same sanctuary.

As a historian of the times (Mather) represents. "From the fire of the altar" (i. e. of the First Church in Hartford) "there issued thunders, and lightnings, and earthquakes, through the Colony."

Precisely what the points of dissent and reasons for bitter controversy were, it is not altogether easy to determine, the records for the most part having perished, but from certain questions propounded to a General Council in 1657, it is evident that they were mainly in reference to the terms of church membership, baptism, and discipline, the first of these having special prominence, there being a pretty large and persistent element in the Colony holding the "Half-way Covenant" view and the Stoddardian theory of the Lord's Supper, (viz.) that it is a converting ordinance and should be open to all.

Such, then, being the disturbed condition of the churches a question of prime importance was, whence the healing efficacy and how should it be applied? The winds of discord fiercely blowing, how should they be lured back again into their eave and its entrance be sealed against a future escape?

Two sources of help seemed open to the anxious seekers for harmony. It was among the received opinions that "Synods or General Councils were an ordinance of Christ and that their business was to give council in weighty concerns." Might they not be of service in the present exigency?

Moreover, at this period, the churches recognized an intimate relation to the civil power, and government held it to be a part of its proper functions to further the interests of the churches in all practicable ways, even to the extent of inter-



ference with their internal order and doing. How more suitably could this civil power express itself than by evoking the aid of synods and striving to make their deliverances the basis of agreement?

The experiment was at least worth the trial, and again and again, as in 1657, 1659 and 1662, convocations of distinguished elders and laymen of both Connecticut and Massachusetts Colonies were convened either at Boston, Hartford, or Cambridge, and again at Hartford in 1667 for the harmonizing of doctrinal views and for the settlement of existing difficulties.

The endeavors were not eminently successful, partly for the reason that the representatives were not able to agree among themselves, and partly because as is usual in attempts to unite opposing parties, each side regarded union a delightful thing, provided all the surrender should be by the other party.

But a brighter and more tranquil day was about to dawn. As tornadoes at length blow themselves out, so the violence of these contentions began to abate, and to such extent that John Cotton wrote to Mr. Davenport, in Amsterdam, that "the order of the churches was so settled in New England by common consent that it brought into his mind the new heavens and the new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness."

In the progress of the new era of feeling it had come to pass that a "great majority of the legislators and clergy of Connecticut were for the association of members and consociation of churches, trusting doubtless that there would thus be virtually established courts of appeal before which differences might be adjusted, the churches bound together in mutual accord and the common object of their existence be promoted.

Accordingly an act of the General Assembly was passed in May, 1708, making provision for a delegate convention of the churches to assemble in the following September in Saybrook, then and there to arrange a code of Ecclesiastical law which by a subsequent approving act of the legislature should become of binding authority throughout the Colony.

The outcome of this Synod or Council was





## THE SAYBROOK PLATFORM,

which we, the sisterhood of churches of Fairfield county, still recognize as the basis of our union and the law of our Ecclesiastical fellowship.

The members of that famous Council from Fairfield county were Rev. Charles Chauncey, of Stratfield, (now Bridgeport), Rev. John Davenport, of Stamford, of whom we have the testimony that "he was not inferior in ability to any other member of the Synod," and as a lay delegate, Deacon Samuel Hoit, also of Stamford.

For the most part the churches accepted with satisfaction the doings of their representatives, and henceforth had "Heads of Agreement" of their own for their control instead of owning allegiance to the Cambridge Platform, which for sixty years had been the Ecclesiastical law of New England.

Having thus traced the origin and establishment of our peculiar polity I come now to speak more particularly of the local Consociations, and especially the one subsequently divided into the two represented on this commemorative occasion.

The year following the adoption of the platform the practical results aimed at in that instrument began to be realized. Five district Consociations were organized—two in Hartford county, and one each in the counties of New Haven, Fairfield, and New London.

As we have especially to do with the

## CONSOCIATION OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY,

the others may be dismissed from further attention.

It would be interesting to know more than we can of the original members of the united body. It were pleasant if I might daguerreotype the group as they sat discussing the new platform, and determining the various steps to be taken under it. But a mist has gathered upon their countenances which no photographic art can dissolve—no camera can penetrate.

The clerical members were Rev. Messrs. John Davenport, of Stamford; Stephen Buckingham, of Norwalk; Joseph Webb, of Fairfield; Charles Chauncey, of Stratfield, (Bridge-



port, First Church); Seth Shove, of Danbury, and Anthony Stoddard of Woodbury.

The messengers of the churches associated with these elders were Deacon John Thompson and Samuel Cobbet, of Fairfield; Deacon Samuel Hoit and Joseph Bishop, of Stamford; Deacon Zerubbabel Hoit, of Norwalk; Joseph Curtis, Esq., and Samuel Sherman, of Stratford; Lieutenant James Bennet, of Stratfield; Lieutenant James Beebe and James Benedict, of Danbury; Deacon John Sherman and Deacon Matthew Mitchell, of Woodbury.

These Consociational builders convened at Stratfield (Bridgeport,) March 17, 1709, and set the wheels in motion which have revolved nearly one hundred and seventy-eight years. Let us hope that as to results "they builded better than they knew."

A most unfortunate fact is to be added, viz., that this united body kept no records, at least none which have been preserved, for a period of twenty-five years, i. e. from 1709 to 1734.\*

During the progress of these twenty-five years, with the growth of the Colony the number of the churches had increased quite largely, so that in 1735 there were in the entire limits of the Consociation twenty-one churches, and the time was come, when in the judgment of the body there should be

#### A DIVISION OF FORCES.

Accordingly, "Pursuant to a notification from the Rev. Mr. Cooke," so the record runs, "being thereto advised by sundry elders of the County of Fairfield, a Consociation of several ministers and churches met at Fairfield, prime Society, June the 8th, 1736, viz:

#### ELDERS.

- From Woodbury, Mr. Anthony Stoddard.  
 " Stratfield, Mr. Samuel Cooke.  
 " Green's Farms, Mr. Daniel Chapman.  
 " Stratford, Mr. Hezekiah Gold.

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\* Supplementary Note A.



- From Fairfield, Mr. Noah Hobart.  
 “ Canaan, Mr. John Eells.  
 “ Unity, Mr. Richardson Miner.  
 “ Greenwich, Mr. Ephraim Bostwick.  
 “ Newtown, Mr. Elisha Kent.  
 “ Reading, Mr. Nathaniel Humn.  
 “ Danbury, Mr. Ebenezer White.

MESSENGERS.

- From Woodbury, Mr. Ephraim Miner.  
 “ Stratfield, Maj. John Burr, Esq.  
 “ Green's Farms, Mr. Gideon Hurlburt.  
 “ Stratford, Dea. Robert Walker.  
 “ Fairfield, Mr. Lathrop Lewis.  
 “ Canaan, Lieut. Ebenezer Carter.  
 “ Newtown, Mr. Peter Hubbell.

To which number, after the opening of the meeting, there were added,—

Elders, Mr. Moses Dickinson, from Norwalk, and Mr. John Goodsell, from Greenfield, and as Messengers, Deacon John Benedict, from Norwalk, and Ensign William Peat, of Unity.

These were the men by whom was accomplished the separation of the county organization into the two bodies here represented, and this is the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of that event. The division was not seemingly on account of any mutual jealousies or alienations—not because Ephraim envied Judah, or Judah vexed Ephraim—not because, thus to speak, one part of the flock wished to go on the east side of Lebanon and the other upon the west, each hoping thus to find sweeter pasturage, but from a judgment that a better cultivation of the whole field, and hence, more abundant products could be realized by two separate organizations rather than by one. The disuniting and re-forming act of that body was in these words.

“Voted, That the Consociation of this County be divided into two Consociations by a line running from the sea on the



eastern side of ye prime Society of Fairfield, on the eastern side of Greentfield, on the western side of Reading, and on the western side of Danbury; that the several pastors and churches on the western side of said line be known by ye name of the Western Consociation of the County of Fairfield, and the several pastors and churches to the eastward of the aforesaid line by the name of the Eastern Consociation of the County of Fairfield, and that the present act of division shall take place and be in force immediately upon the dissolution of the present Council."

It will have been noticed that some of the names made use of in the records referred to, seem unfamiliar, and that certain churches named do not belong at present to either of our bodies, it will be suitable, therefore, that I shall make mention here of

SOME CHANGES OF NAMES OF PARISHES, AND ALSO CHANGES IN THE GEOGRAPHICAL LIMITS OF THE CONSOCIATIONS AS TIME HAS PROGRESSED.

Unity (I trust from no change in the disposition of the people) has come to be Trumbull. Ripton has ceased to be, and Huntington is its recognized successor. Monroe designates the locality formerly known as New Stratford. Darien appears in the early records as Middlesex. Norfield has come to be Weston, and North Fairfield, Easton. New Fairfield, north parish, is now Sherman, and the church at Horse Neck is the Second Church in Greenwich. Newbury, in honor of its first pastor, Brooks, is Brookfield, and Canaan of the former days is the New Canaan of the present.

Added to these changes of names there have been changes, as already implied, of geographical limits.

Quite early in the history of "Fairfield East," the churches in Bethlehem, Washington, (then called "Judea"), Roxbury, New Milford, and the First Church in Woodbury, were all included in that body. On the organization of the Consociation of Litchfield County, in 1752, they were transferred to that group.

At an early date there were churches connected with us within the boundaries of New York, as at Philippi Patent, or





South East, Yorktown, West Philippi, or Carmel, Bedford and Rye, but State limits came afterward to be regarded and their connection here was dissolved.

The church in Sherman, on account of geographical and business relations of the town to Litchfield county, withdrew from "Fairfield East" in 1779, and united with "Litchfield South."

The First and Second Churches of Greenwich, dissolved connection with "Fairfield West" in 1876, and organized as the "Fairfield South West Conference."

It is relevant here, to say, that again and again in the progress of years, endeavors have been made on the part of the Eastern Consociation to secure a more equitable division as to the number of churches belonging to each body, but without success, the brethren of the "West" being content to remain with the larger group notwithstanding the sweetest cooings and most persistent wooings of lovers on the Eastern side, (I speak as a member of the Eastern district), only proving that churches like individuals, do not always comprehend their privilege, and that swollen majorities tend to pervert judgment!

Brethren, of the West, the way is still open to genuine penitents, and Fairfield East is willing!

But, to be done with pleasantry. Not only geographical changes have taken place with the drift of time, but changes also in

#### THE ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS

of the two bodies. While our consociational fathers were careful not to invade or seemingly impair the autonomy of the individual church while they took action specifically defending the local body of believers against usurpation of its rights, they nevertheless, claimed for the representative Council power almost Presbyterian. One of the first recorded acts of "Fairfield East," was in the words following: "Voted, That the pastors, with the consent of the representatives of the churches convened and that shall hereafter convene in Consociation as above said, have power *authoritatively and deci-*



*sively to determine Ecclesiastical affairs* brought to their cognizance according to the Word of God."

Presumably similar claims were asserted by the brethren of the Western district, though their records having perished, the evidence is not decisive.

This sounds quite differently from a deliverance of the "Fairfield West," given in 1846, in answer to certain questions propounded by the Second Church in Greenwich. "As concerns the relation of Consociation to consociated churches, and its power over them, it disclaims, and always has disclaimed all legislative power. \* \* In cases of difficulty and discipline submitted to Consociations by the churches, it *simply gives advice*. It is a permanent Council, having the same powers and doing the same services with regard to consociated churches which churches in New England not consociated allot to occasional Councils."

This is certainly a marked receding from the high Consociationism of the earlier date, and is I suppose a fair expression of the view generally accepted at present—a permanent Council with the advantage of continuous and permanent records.

The inquiry is appropriate here,

#### WHAT WAS THE STATE OF MORALS AND RELIGION

in the earlier days of our churches as compared with the type which now prevails? There is a certain class of minds always looking to the past for the *golden* and sorely deprecating lapses from a former standard. Is our review to-day a justification of such a state of mind?

Were "the former days better than these?"

A few years previous to the Synod at Saybrook the members of one of the most important churches of the Colony renewed their Covenant, and a part of the instrument was in these words—not a very animating picture, certainly, of the moral *status*.

"Whereas to the great dishonor of God, scandal of religion and regard of the damnation of many souls, drunkenness and uncleanness are prevailing amongst us. We do solemnly engage before God \* \* faithfully and conscientiously to



strive against these evils and the temptations leading thereunto."

President Edwards, in his "Narrative of the Revival in Northampton," gives this account of the state of things there prevailing when the "day spring from on high" visited the place in 1734.

"It was a time of remarkable dullness in religion. Many of the youth were much addicted to night walking, frequenting the tavern, and lewd practices. They would often spend the greater part of the night in frolics without regard to any order in the families they belonged to, and indeed family government did too much fail in the town."

In 1750, the brethren of the Eastern district find occasion to speak of "the abounding profaneness and irreligion of the times, especially the crying sins of Sabbath-breaking, intemperance, profane swearing, uncleanness, filthy and foolish jesting," and advise public fasting on these accounts.

The records of these bodies contain frequent allusions to a state of things scarcely better—testimonies of good men deploring the prevailing immoralities and irreligion in terms truly pathetic, as for example when the brethren of the Western district, in 1781, record that "they are exceedingly grieved at the too general neglect of public worship \* \* throughout this part of the country," and in 1814 testify to "a deeply affecting state of coldness and indifference respecting Divine things," when not "even the judgments of God seemed to be regarded," referring doubtless to the calamities of the war of 1812, which were still oppressive upon the people.

There is another kind of evidence quite as conclusive to the reader of Consociational doings in the long stretches of our early history.

The pages thus open to our perusal are not pleasant reading since they are so largely a record of disciplinary processes carried up from constituent churches and often for very gross offences—too often I am pained to say, involving the purity, temperance, and straight forwardness of ministers themselves.

Having carefully perused these records, and without the least desire to disparage those who can raise no voice in their



own defense, I am free to say, the churches, the ministry, for the last fifty years have been moving upon a far higher plane of morality and practical Christianity than during the previous hundred years which come under our review to-day. In strict justice it should be said, however, in partial abatement of the force of this kind of evidence, that a hundred, or even fifty years ago, discipline was much more rigidly enforced than in these later years.

The transition is easy here to the question.

#### WHAT SPECIAL MEASURES

did our Consociational fathers adopt for making head against the prevailing sinfulness of their times and promoting godliness in their generations?

They were not, I judge, in the earlier period of their organization so much disinclined to extraordinary measures and extraordinary men as some of their brethren in other sections of the Colony. When Rev. George Whitefield visited some of the parishes of Connecticut in 1740, the "Fairfield East" put on record its appreciation of "the wonderful success" that attended his ministrations "in awaking secure sinners and the promotion of piety," and instructed the Moderator and Scribe, in the name of the Consociation, "to prepare a letter and send it to the Reverend gentleman with all convenient speed, entreating that he would make a visit to the several towns within our district that if it may be the will of God he may be an instrument of reviving decayed religion in our churches likewise."

Whether he actually came in response to this request is not a matter of record, though there is a tradition that he visited and preached in the parish of Stratfield, (Bridgeport), and that considerable religious interest followed.\* However, this may have been some of the "new light" representatives itinerated in different parishes causing no small ferment, and the men who invited the great preacher had occasion in the most energetic manner to warn the churches against the extravagances and irregularities that were then introduced, and to

\* Supplementary Note B.





advise most seriously, parishes with vacant pulpits as to the kind of candidates they should seek.

As to other and later measures additional to the regular ministrations of the Sanctuary, "Circular Fasts" as they were called, came into use in conjunction with the "Great Awakening" in 1740, and were continued for twelve or fifteen years, at first with marked success but varying afterward.

Family religion was much insisted on, neglect of family prayer being voted by the body a disciplinable offense and a quarterly catechising of the children in public by each pastor was accepted as a part of ministerial duty.

In addition to these methods, for a considerable period in the Western district, preaching tours were arranged, the ministers of the several parishes going forth after the pattern of Christ's time, two by two, spending four days among the churches visited in their evangelistic work, and repeating this twice each year.

It is in the natural order of thought next to inquire what was the effect of these and other endeavors in promoting

#### REVIVALS AND SPECIAL GATHERINGS?

Allusion has already been made to the "Great Awakening" in 1740, in which Edwards and Whitefield and Bellamy and the two Tennents were so conspicuous workers. It was the dawning of a resplendent day after a dark and long continued night of religious degeneracy and depression—"a general and terrible decay of Christianity" as Increase Mather expressed it, consequent, largely upon the wide acceptance of the "Half-way Covenant," and the Stoddardian theory of the Lord's Supper—a connection of cause and effect. I cannot forbear to say, in passing, which sends down its warning to us, bidding us beware how our churches shall receive into membership unconverted men and women.\*

The dawning of this brighter day cast its reviving beams upon some, at least, of these churches, and the brethren of "Fairfield East" refer under date of 1741, to "the large experience they have had within the year of the boundless goodness and saving grace of God as a hearer of prayer."

\* Supplementary Note C.



After these remarkable demonstrations of the Spirit's power other years of gloom for Zion succeeded, and when at the close of the century the tide of French infidelity began to ebb, it was necessary "to lay again the foundations of repentance from dead works and faith toward God," which was a work of some years. This being accomplished, the grace of God again became conspicuous in its operations.

In 1816 many of the churches, especially in the Western district, were visited by reviving influences. Fairfield church received into its membership as the fruits of this visitation, fifty; Green's Farms, thirty; Norwalk, one hundred and fifteen; Middlesex, (Darien), forty; Stamford, twelve, Wilton, fifty four; New Canaan, thirty; Ridgefield, ten; Ridgebury, twenty one, making a total ingathering of three hundred and sixty-one for the strengthening and encouragement of Zion. Years of special grace subsequent to this for both the Conso-ciations were the memorable ones of 1831 and 1832, the former of which added from two hundred and fifty to three hundred members to the churches of our order in the Eastern district, and in the latter year, in the same district, revivals were reported in Bridgeport, New Fairfield, Stratford, Redding, Trumbull, and Monroe, while in the Western district nearly all the churches were revived and strengthened, as their records affirm. "to an extent never before experienced."

Other especially fruitful years in which the harvest song was sung were 1821, 1843, and 1858, but time forbids more than this general reference.

It is among the pleasant features of our history that these bodies were so early and vigorously committed to the

#### REFORMATORY AND MISSIONARY MOVEMENTS

characteristic of the passing century.

So early as 1768 a lively interest began to be felt on the part of the ministers and churches in the spiritual condition and welfare of those who had pushed to the frontier settlements and were without the means of grace, and in that year the brethren of the Western district delegated Rev. Mr. Silliman as a missionary to destitute churches in New York and



Pennsylvania, and subsequently this kind of endeavor was enlarged, the elders of both Consociations engaging more or less in evangelistic work outside their own parishes.

The benevolent spirit thus awakened began shortly to contemplate wider fields and more appalling destitutions. In 1797 the brethren of the Western district proposed to the General Association that a society be formed in the State "for the purpose of enlarging the Redeemer's kingdom and propogating the gospel among the heathen," and in 1812, the second year after the organization of the "American Board," a "Foreign Missionary Society" was formed in the district,\* and two years later an Auxilliary Bible Society was formed in the Eastern district.

About the same time—for benevolence limits itself to no one particular channel—a sore evil existing in all the communities to an alarming extent, and invading even the churches themselves, was recognized and its abatement became an object of solicitous endeavor. The same year in which the missionary spirit became so active in the Western district, viz. in 1812, Messrs. Swan, of Norwalk, Humphrey, of Fairfield, and Bonney, of New Canaan, were appointed a committee to draft and print an address respecting "the temperate use of ardent spirits," and it was voted in Association "wholly to discontinue the use of ardent spirits in the future meetings of this body except in cases of real necessity."—similar action being taken, the same year, by the associated brethren of the Eastern district.

This action is the more noteworthy as being the first decided movement on the subject of temperance made by any Ecclesiastical body in the country, and the address drawn by Messrs. Swan, Humphrey, and Bonney, is referred to in the records as "one of unusual power." Would that its prolonged echoes were a thousand fold stronger than they are to-day!

A somewhat less agreeable department of our subject invites here, passing attention.

The recorded doings of these bodies for the one hundred and fifty years of their existence, and the documents held on

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\* Supplementary Note D.



file, are a sad commentary upon the infirmities, imperfections, imprudencies, and evil passions of those even professing Christianity, and our review would be not a little defective if no allusion were made to

SOME OF THE MORE NOTICABLE CONTROVERSIES, DIFFICULTIES  
AND TROUBLES

which have been brought before these bodies for adjustment.

Neither time nor inclination allow protracted reference to these matters. In respect to many items, especially of more recent date, it is better that the ashes should not be stirred at all lest some spark should remain which even now may have injurious heat.

The most conspicuous of these difficulties, and those which have put the wisdom and patience of the members to the severest test, have been perhaps the case of Rev. Mr. Miner, of Unity, (Trumbull), whose defection in 1743, from the "Congregational way" to Episcopacy, connected with some other circumstances in the state of the church unfavorable to its prosperity developed under his ministry, led to its reorganization in 1747; the case of Elisha Kent, of Newtown, tried, though not convicted, on scandalous charges in 1742; the case of the "White Controversy," so called, wherein Rev. Ebenezer White, of Danbury, Rev. James Taylor, of New Fairfield, and Rev. Noah Whitmore, of Bethel, were tried for false doctrine, (viz. Sandemanianism), and the two former were silenced; the case of Rev. Robert Silliman, who was not willing to acquiesce in the wish of the church at New Canaan for his dismissal, and whose pastorate finally came to an end by an act of the legislature in 1771; the case of Rev. Mr. Seward, dismissed from the church of Stanwich in 1794, and afterward deprived of his standing in the ministry for immorality; the case in 1797 of Benedict *vs.* Comstock, of New Canaan, the trouble growing out of disagreement in respect to a land-boundary, and the further case of Rev. Mr. Carle, of Wilton, who after two unsuccessful endeavors to have his pastoral relations dissolved by act of Consociation, abdicated his charge without their consent, and was adjudged therefor no longer a minister of the gospel.





In 1817 the church at Ridgefield withdrew from the Conso- ciation because the body refused to install their chosen candi- date under the so called "six months notice" clause, and remained outside until 1831, and a serious unpleasantness arose between the Second Church in Greenwich and "Fair- field West" in connection with the dismissal of Rev. Mr. Coe, the disagreement being as to what constitutes a sufficient reason for the dissolving of the pastoral relation.

To controversies of more recent date, for obvious reasons I make no allusion.

Cases like these, only a little less conspicuous and perplex- ing, brought before one or other of the bodies for adjustment might be added to a painful extent, but it is better they should remain in the obscurity given them by intervening years— "*Requiescat in pace.*"

A few words are at least allowable before I am done, in re- spect to

#### THE MINISTRY

of these more distant periods of our history, though a testi- mony from the pew, upon this topic might be quite as grace- ful and more satisfactory.

Notable men of this class there have been among us, as Rev. Charles Chauncey and Rev. Samuel Cook, of Stratfield, (Bridgeport), Rev. Noah Hobart, of Fairfield, Dr. Noah Wells and Rev. John Davenport, of Stamford, Dr. Samuel Hopkins, of North Stamford, and Dr. Timothy Dwight, of Greenfield, Rev. Isaac Lewis, D.D., of Greenwich, and Rev. Joseph Bel- lamy, of Bethlehem.

In the roll of distinction at a later date stand the names of Drs. Heman Humphrey and Lyman Atwater, of Fairfield, Rev. Elijah Waterman and Drs. Samuel and John Blatchford, Drs. Woodbridge and Hewit, of Bridgeport, Rev. William B. Weed, of Stratford, and later of Norwalk, Dr. Edwin Hall, of Norwalk, and Dr. Joel H. Linsley, of Greenwich, true and good men all, who like David, having "served their own gen- eration by the will of God, fell on sleep and were gathered unto their fathers."



So far as appears, the ministers of the county have in a marked degree been true to their doctrinal standards, with exception of the Sandemanian or Glassite defection at Danbury already referred to, and a protest by four members of Council against the settlement of a candidate at Green's Farms in 1840. In all the one hundred and fifty years not a single stain of blood from the veins of heretics—not even a scorch by inquisitorial fires, appearing upon the records.

As the nearest approach to this it perhaps should be mentioned, that at the settlement of Dr. Dwight, in Greenfield in 1783, (was there a touch of humor in this?) a protest was submitted to the Council from some of the congregation based upon the asserted doctrinal unsoundness of the candidate. In this connection I can scarcely refrain from making mention of a single name in the list of licentiates, though its relation to us is Associational rather than Consociational—a name held in well deserved honor as the symbol of all that is self-denying and heroic in Christian character and life. I refer to David Brainerd, licensed by the "Fairfield East" Association in 1742, and who after being expelled from Yale College, in part because he disobeyed orders in attending meetings held by the sympathizers with Whitefield and Tennent, was received into the family of Rev. Mr. Mills, of Huntington, and by him qualified as to his theological education for his subsequent mission as preacher among the Stockbridge Indians.

It may be justly added, we of the present generation have no reason to think lightly of our Consociational fathers. They were for the most part men of sound judgment, "zealous for purity of doctrine and the wholesome administration of discipline," full of labors for Zion's welfare, and with just enough of divergence of opinion on cases submitted for adjustment to make evident their independence of thought and the courage of their convictions, yet in these cases differing without bitterness and at all times maintaining good fellowship.

But here our review must reach its end.

These memorials of the past—these gleanings from the records of the church within these Consociational boundaries



while five generations of our brethren in Christ have been fulfilling their mission and ripening for the estate of glory upon which they have entered—do they not render their testimony that the church is of God, and that God is in her history, and this further truth also, that the faith which is the inspiration, the comfort and the undying hope of believers from age to age is not of human origin, but divine, is not an experiment, but a settled verity, is not ephemeral, but everlasting.

The clear affirmations of history—the chronicles of all the Christian centuries are on our side, and we say to the agnostic, the scientific doubter, the scoffing infidel—whatever may be true of human interpretations, Christianity itself hath its walls of adamant and its gates of brass, against which the bow-guns of the assailant will have little effect!

Institutions which men have builded grow old and perish, but “whatsoever God doeth shall be forever; nothing can be put to it nor anything taken from it, and God doeth it that men should fear before Him.”

Our review may properly suggest to us also that organizations for religious ends are valuable not for their own sakes, but for their serviceableness in sustaining and advancing truth and righteousness—valuable for what they enshrine and transmit of “the faith once delivered to the saints,” and for the aid they furnish to successive generations struggling toward a sanctified life and a realm of purity and peace.

The ark is worth perpetual guarding and severest attention, not because of its curious workmanship of accasia wood and gold, but because of the sacred tablets within, and the mercy-seat above it.

And, once more, let us accept the view, with its practical bearing upon ourselves—the spiritual elevation, energy and success of the organization, whether like that which occupies our thoughts to-day or the church itself, is dependent upon the measure of sanctification attained by the *individual* member and the fidelity each one brings into the service of the Master.



A motto, then, not unsuitable to us as Christian men and women is that in the poet Goethe's lines,—

Like the star  
That shines afar,  
Without haste,  
And without rest,  
Let each man wheel with steady sway,  
Round the task that rules the day,  
And do his best!





## SUPPLEMENTARY.

### NOTE A.

It may be presumed that the records of the Fairfield Consociation from its organization in 1709, to the period of the division in 1736, were held and perhaps continued by the Registrars of the Western District, and destroyed with the dwelling house of Rev. Andrew Eliot at the burning of Fairfield in 1779.

Fortunately, however, a complete account of the organization is preserved in the Records of the Stratfield church, copied therein and attested by Rev. Samuel Cooke, from the original minutes by Rev. Charles Chauncey the Scribe of the body, and is as follows:

"Sigillum Consociationis Fairfieldensis.	}	At a Consociation or meeting of the Elders and Messengers of the County of Fairfield at Stratfield March 16, 1708-9.
Present from ye Chh. of Fairfield The Rev <sup>d</sup> Mr. Joseph Webb. Messengers. Deacon John Thomson Mr. Samuel Cobbet.	}	The Revd. Mr. John Davenport chosen Moderator. The Revd. Mr. Charles Chauncey Scribe. After Solemn Seeking of God for divine guidance, direction and blessings the Council convened. The Acts of ye Council at Saybrook, September 9, 1708 were read the first time as also ye general Assembly's approbation and sanction thereof, October 1708.
From ye Chh. of Stratford. Messengers. Joseph Curtiss Esqr. Mr. Samuel Sherman.	}	Voted in Council to adjourn till 8 of ye clock in ye morning. The Consociation being met according to adjournment, after prayer made it was agreed
From ye Chh. of Stratfield. The Revd. Mr. Charles Chauncey Messenger. Lieut. James Bennet.	}	Imps. That all the Chhs. in ye County of Fairfield be one Consociation. 2. That ye Pastors met in our Consociation have power with ye Consent of the Messengers of our Chhs. chosen and attending. Authoritatively Judicially and Decisively to determine ecclesiastically affairs



From ye Chh. of Stamford. }  
 The Revd Mr. Jno. Davenport. }  
     Messengers. }  
 Deacon Sam<sup>l</sup> Hoit }  
 Mr. Jos. Bishop. }  
 } bro't to their Cognizance according to  
 } the Word of God and that our Pastors  
 } with the concurrence and consent of the  
 } Messengers of our Chhes to be chosen  
 } and that shall attend upon all future  
 } occasions, have like Authoritative, Ju-  
 } dicial and Decisive power of Deter-

From ye Chh. of Danbury. }  
 The Revd Mr. Seth Shoye. }  
     Messengers. }  
 Lieut. James Beebee }  
 Mr. James Benedict. }  
 } in further and f<sup>r</sup>ther meetings of two Con-  
 } sociations together compliant with the  
 } conclusions of ye sd Councill at Saybrook,  
 } there is the like Authoritative, Judicial  
 } and Decisive power of Determination of  
 } Ecclesiastical affairs according to ye word  
 } of God.

3. That by Elder or Elders of a par-

From ye Chh. of Norwalk. }  
 The Revd Mr. Stephen Buckingham. }  
     Messenger. }  
 Deacon Zerubbabel Hoit. }  
 } ticular Chh in said Saybrook  
 } conclusions mentioned in Para-  
 } graph ye first is understood only  
 } in ye teaching Elder or teaching  
 } Elders.

4. That in ye 6<sup>th</sup> Paragraph of  
 sd conclusions we do not hold

From ye Chh. of Woodbury. }  
 The Revd. Mr. Anthony Stoddard. }  
     Messengers. }  
 Deacon John Sherman, }  
 Deacon Matthew Mitchell. }  
 } ourselves obliged in our practice  
 } to use ye phrase of ye sentence of  
 } Non Communion but in ye stead  
 } thereof to use ye phrase of ye sen-  
 } tence of Excommunication which  
 } may in our judgment be formally  
 } applied in ye Cases expressed in  
 } said Paragraph.

The Councill adjourned till half an hour past two oclock in ye after-  
 noon.

5. That to ye orderly begining of a case before a Councill of our  
 Chhes, ye aggrieved member shall make application unto ye moderator  
 of the Councill or Consociation for ye time being or in case of ye mod-  
 erator's death to ye free Senr Pastor of ye Consociation who upon his  
 desire shall receive attested copies of ye Chhs. proceedings with ye ag-  
 grieved member from their minister and ye sd. Moderator with the two  
 free senr. Pastors of ye Circuit or in ye Case premised of ye death of  
 ye Moderator ye sd 2 senr. pastors of ye circuit being satisfied there is  
 sufficient cause shall warn ye convening of the Consociation.

6. That a Copy of a Warning to appear before ye Councill the time  
 and place being notified being read in the hearing or left in ye house of  
 the ordinary abode of a scandalous member or witness concerning the



case depending before two members of the designation of the Scribe for y<sup>e</sup> time being and signed by the sd Scribe be adjudged a regular notification.

7. That a copy of a Warning to appear before y<sup>e</sup> Pastor or Chh. y<sup>e</sup> place and time notified being read in y<sup>e</sup> hearing or left in the ordinary abode of an offending member or witness needfull in the case before two members appointed by the pastor and signed by him shall be a fair notification y<sup>e</sup> neglect whereof unless upon sufficient reason shall be reputed a scandalous contempt in our respective Chhes

8. That all persons that are known to be Baptized shall in y<sup>e</sup> places where they dwell be subject to y<sup>e</sup> Censures of admonition and excommunication in case of scandall committed and obstinately persisted in.

9. That the Moderator and Scribe now chosen be accounted to stand in y<sup>e</sup> same respective capacities for y<sup>e</sup> time being untill a new regular choice be made, and so for the future.

10. That y<sup>e</sup> Judgment of y<sup>e</sup> Consociation or Councill be executed by any Pastor appointed thereto by y<sup>e</sup> Councill when y<sup>e</sup> Pastor that hath already dealt in y<sup>e</sup> case hath not a freedom of conscience to execute y<sup>e</sup> same.

The above Acts and Conclusions of the present Consociation unanimously Voted March 17, 1708-9.

Signed Charles Chauncey, Scribe.

The above and foregoing is a true Copy of the Original Compared.  
pr. Samuel Cooke."

#### NOTE B.

Since the discourse was delivered the following items from the pen of Rev. B. L. Swan, a former pastor of the Stratford church, reproduced in the very interesting and exhaustive History of the Town of Stratford recently prepared by Rev. Samuel Orentt, have come under the eye of the author.

The items are as follows: "Mr. Whitefield preached here Monday afternoon October 27, 1710, on his way from New Haven where he preached on Sunday the 26th, and on the three days preceding."

"The sermon by Mr. Whitefield was heard by Mrs. Ann, wife of John Brooks, \* \* who herself narrated the matter to Miss Polly Tomlinson who related it to me in 1859, and she was so much interested that with her infant in her arms she went to Fairfield to hear him again the same day."

"A tradition preserved by Mrs. Victory Wetmore \* \* and given me by her in 1859, represents a Mrs. Burritt who lived on the wood end road below Main street as being in the yard of her dwelling \* \* a mile nearly from the meeting house hill, where she distinctly heard Mr. Whitefield name his text from Zechariah 9, 12: 'Turn ye to the



stronghold ye prisoners of hope.' Hence it is probable that this sermon was delivered in the open air."

These statements of Mr. Swan seem to make it evident that Mr. Whitefield preached in response to the invitation both in Stratford and Fairfield and make improbable the tradition referred to of his having preached in Stratfield (Bridgeport) with some fruit of his effort afterward gathered.

#### NOTE C.

The "Half Way Covenant" as it stands upon the early records of the church in Huntington, and was accepted as the bond of fellowship by that church until 1817 when it was discarded, was in these words:

"You do now before God and these witnesses avouch the Lord Jehovah to be your Covenant God and Father, viewing yourself under solemn bonds and obligations to be the Lord's by your baptism and vows. You do so far as you know your own heart, make choice of Jesus Christ to be your only Saviour and Redeemer, and the Holy Ghost to be your Sanctifier. Solemnly engaging to serve the Lord and Him only, as He shall by His grace enable you, that you will deny all ungodliness and worldly lusts, that you will be careful to keep a conscience void of offense so as to do honor to God, and the religion you profess; that you will endeavor by strength from God to walk in all His commandments and ordinances blameless, desiring to put yourself under the watch and care of this Church, to be trained up in the school of Christ for His heavenly kingdom, promising also, that you will give up your children to God in Baptism and to bring them up in the fear of the Lord; and to attend upon all the ordinances of Christ as administered in this place; also that it is your full purpose to obey God in the ordinance of the Holy Supper as God shall give you light and show you His will therein. And you covenant and you promise, relying for help and strength and ability on the Blood of the everlasting Covenant to perform all and every duty to the praise and glory of God."

To make such professions and bind the life by such vows surely *seems* an act of sufficient solemnity. In *form* the instrument does not appear a wide departure from the obligations assumed in truly evangelical and orthodox churches.

But the instrument as interpreted by the purpose had in view by those who desired it as a basis of membership, and its practical effect upon church life, is misleading. The form was indeed almost parallel with the vows regarded as evangelical and adopted as conditional to full membership, but that there was a radical defect in the spirit of the instrument, at least in the spirit of those assuming its obligations is evident in the two fold fact, the effect was so disastrous, and when time had made its pernicious influence manifest, the evangelical churches both in Massachusetts and Connecticut rejected it. As to the intent and practical working of the scheme, a few extracts from authorship immediately following the period when this Covenant was the open door to the church will make the matter sufficiently obvious.

"According to the provision of this arrangement, persons who con-





fessedly had not given their hearts to God, for the purpose of obtaining access to the (in such case) mere ceremony of baptism for their children \* \* were permitted and encouraged to come and make in the most solemn circumstances the most solemn of all professions, when they did not regard themselves and those around them did not regard them as having at all in heart given themselves away to God and trusted in Christ and yielded themselves up to be temples of the Holy Ghost. And as to the promises which were annexed, of educating children in the fear of the Lord and submitting to the discipline of the church on the one hand and watchful care on the other, they soon came alike to be disregarded both by those who exacted and those who made them; parents did not and soon were not expected to fulfil their engagements, in form so significant and solemn, and churches did not and soon were not expected to fulfil theirs. \* \* The churches soon came to consist very considerably in many places of unregenerate persons. \* \* The consequence was that within thirty years after the commencement of the eighteenth century a large proportion of the clergy through the country were either only speculatively correct in their religious opinions, maintaining regularly the forms of religion, but in some instances having well nigh lost, and in others, it is to be feared, having never felt its power."

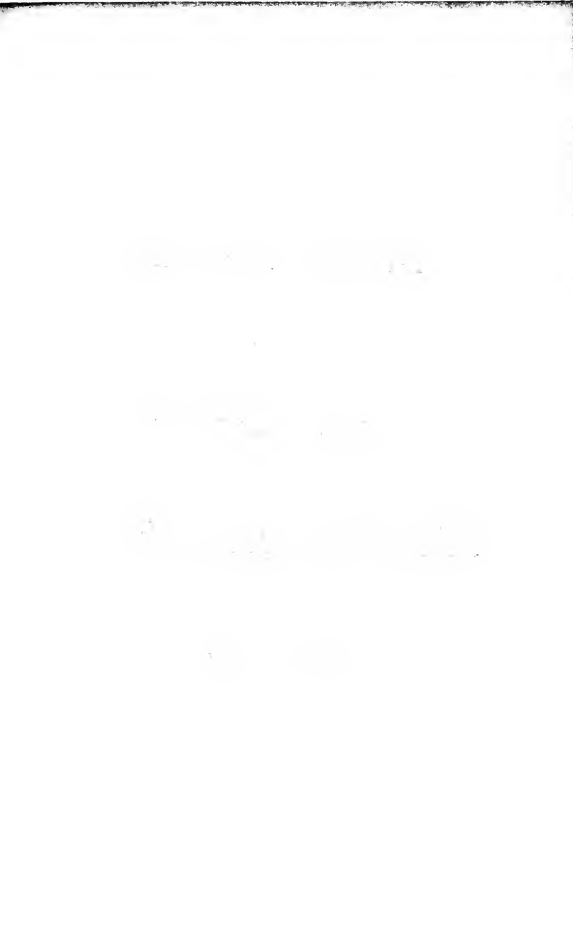
#### NOTE D.

The Constitution and Roll of Membership of this Missionary Society are preserved, also the amount subscribed by each member as an annual payment for promoting the object had in view.

The sum appended to most of the names is one dollar, which seems to have been regarded at that time as a pretty generous contribution.

An aged clergyman of the state who passed away years ago at an advanced age, told the author that when he first presented the cause of Foreign Missions to his congregation and felt constrained to head the subscription list with one dollar, his deacons in the evening called to expostulate with him as having set an example of extravagance before the people! The world does move *somewhat*.







ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
Fairfield County  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
FOR 1889.

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Printed for the Society.

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1889.



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OF THE  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

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RICHARD C. AMBLER.

HISTORIAN,

GEORGE C. WALDO.





## PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

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In connection with our Annual Report for 1889, we take great pleasure in publishing the admirable paper of Prof. W. G. Andrews on the Life and Times of William Samuel Johnson, originally prepared for, and read before this Society.

The past year may be classed as the off year for work of the character of that of our Society. The excitements of the late Presidential canvass and the absorption of time and interest into the political questions uppermost at such a period, have rendered it difficult to sustain the monthly meetings and other work with the accustomed degree of interest and efficiency, and we cannot point to so many valuable papers contributed and read as heretofore—yet our society has made progress.

Month by month there has been brought out additions more or less valuable to our Library and Museum: some of them of marked interest. During the two years past we show a large increase in these departments. We cannot exhibit them to the best advantage for want of room, and time and means to make the proper classification and display.

A very important addition to the history of current events is the bound files of our leading daily newspapers from April, 1871, to January 1, 1886, furnished gratuitously by the publishers to the office of the City Auditor and Clerk, and there preserved for reference and bound in semi-annual volumes.

On the removal of the city offices from Wheeler's Building, on Main street, to their present quarters in the City Hall, it was arranged that these should be turned over to our Society, as their special usefulness for reference there ceased—the city holding the issues of three or four of the most recent years. These files in time will become very valuable. We are constantly receiving newspapers and some files of an older date e. g. the complete files of the Bridgeport *Messenger*, published



by the late William S. Pomeroy, in 1831-1832, previous to his connection with the *Republican Farmer*, and many issues of the early *Farmer*, *Connecticut Courier*, etc. The advertisements and other contents are of intense interest to our older citizens, and a most excellent study for any student of history. Recently an old citizen whose memory and interest extended back over fifty years, on making a business call to our rooms, was shown some of these old papers, and became so much absorbed in looking them over and noting the persons and events thus revived to his memory, that several hours passed almost unconsciously, and when obliged to tear himself away he declared he must come again, bring his dinner and spend the day.

The complete issues of the Bridgeport Directory and of the Municipal Register, our exchanges with other Historical Societies; also, ancient and current Legislative documents, State and National, are an important feature. We have received numerous books of a miscellaneous character, more or less valuable. During two years past our Library has thus been more than doubled.

Visitors to our rooms are shown the beautiful library set of furniture, of elegantly carved birdseye maple, donated from Waldemere by Hon. P. T. Barnum, the ancient sofa of the elder Governor Jonathan Trumbull (Brother Jonathan,) handed down through the family of the late Rev. Nathaniel Hewett, D.D., of which his daughter Mrs. Dr. Bowen says, "*we know that Governor Trumbull died upon it*;" the ancient wooden plow of the grandfathers, the implements for thrashing and cleaning their grain, hatches for dressing and preparing the flax for linen fabrics, and the wheels, large and small, for spinning it; also, reels and other appliances, warming pan and foot-stoves such as the grandmothers used before the introduction of stoves for burning wood or coal into the churches, the old bass viol that led the singing, ancient chairs and other furniture, the tin oven that cooked the Thanksgiving turkey *à la turn* before the open wood fire, leather fire-buckets and fire-men's caps of the olden time, ancient portraits and pictures of old churches, and other articles too numerous to mention,



with ancient records and documents. These are but specimens of what we want and might have in greater variety if our friends would search the attics of the old houses, and be on the alert for us. We still want ancient military equipments, as swords, guns and pistols, etc., domestic utensils of wood, pewter, and other metals, illustrating the domestic economy of the early families of New England; also, Indian relics, ancient records and manuscripts, or printed documents of interest. Most of all, we want a host of new members, to help by their countenance and annual dues; or some one or more patrons who by the contribution of a generous sum could put new life into our efforts in the great and important work before us.

In the words of another "had organized effort been commenced and prosecuted immediately after the close of the Revolutionary War to gather and preserve facts, traditions, documents, books, pamphlets, manuscripts, memorials, and articles of curiosity illustrating the state of manners, laws and opinions, the treasures of the Society would have been vastly richer, and the student of history might have found in them the means of verifying many points and declarations now in doubt, or at least supported only by vague tradition. The lapse of years bears away everything that lives simply in the memory of man. Recollections fade and become uncertain, if unrecorded. Says Goldsmith, "The fundamental materials for the general history of a country are the public records, ancient monuments, and original historians of that country; and in proportion as they are slighted by the compiler these venerable originals themselves may fall into neglect and possibly in the end even into irretrievable oblivion; and when they are gone in vain may we look for an enlightening ray to guide us through the darkness of antiquity; we must then be content with the uncertain gleam with which an erroneous or partial leader is pleased to guide us."

Let us be wise and do what we may, to secure and religiously preserve all that remains to us of our early history and impartially fix and transmit the current.



## A FUTURE BUILDING.

Since our last published annual, this Society has been the recipient of, and has in its custody, a deed, jointly with the Bridgeport Scientific Society in equal undivided shares, of a valuable building site, on the southeast corner of Main and Gilbert streets from

HON. P. T. BARNUM,

understood to be supplemented by a provision of his will for the erection of a suitable building, for the home and work of these sister Societies.

For anything like adequate work and progress, our first and essential need is a building, ample in size and appointments, and reasonably safe from the devouring elements. This secured and it would speedily become the deposit and home of the interesting records, memorials, and relics which illustrate and perpetuate the history and life of the early settlers of our land, and their aboriginal predecessors; and means will be found for their care, display, and use.

We believe that with his characteristic shrewdness and generosity, Mr. Barnum will elect—himself to see and direct the erection of what will be one of the best and most useful monuments commemorative of himself, and his remarkable and useful life. So mote it be.

## PUTNAM PARK.

One of the very few points of interest illustrating Revolutionary history, extant—is Putnam's Winter Quarters in Redding. Though neglected more than a century, its special features have remained unobliterated. Recently these Revolutionary remains, which have been so interestingly portrayed in the papers, are receiving something of deserved attention, and we take satisfaction in the part our Society has had, in their restoration, and in the improvement of the old quarters and the adjacent grounds acquired in connection therewith. By appeals, resolutions, and personal application, individual interest has been enlisted to a laudable extent, and State aid has been successfully invoked. To none, more than to one of





the Vice-Presidents of this Society, is due the inception and successful prosecution of the measures, which have resulted in Putnam Park, with all its historic monuments and memorials.

At our earnest and persistent request the separate houses of the last Congress voted to authorize, but inadvertently failed to provide for, the removal from an obscure grave in a small town in central Poland, of the remains of Joel Barlow, a native of Redding, and one of the most illustrious Revolutionary characters, who laid down his life in that far-off land, in the service of his country. The present Congress will no doubt complete the intended action, and it is now intended that their final resting place shall be in Putnam Park, to be marked and honored by a suitable monument.

After Putnam and Barlow, no name will be more known and honored in connection with this interesting spot than

CHARLES BURE TODD.



## WILLIAM SAMUEL JOHNSON AND THE MAKING OF THE CONSTITUTION.\*

REV. W. G. ANDREWS, D. D.

Mr. Gladstone calls the Federal Constitution "the most wonderful work ever struck off at a given time by the brain and purpose of man." But this description, however correct it may be as regards the written instrument, becomes a little misleading when appended, by way of contrast, to a description of the British constitution as "the most subtle organism which has proceeded from progressive history." Our constitution, also, is the product of history. The federal system, the combination of central and local government in a strong nation composed of free states, was not constructed in 1787. It was accepted in spite of themselves by men whose greatest merit was that they were wise and patriotic enough to accept it at the expense of cherished theories of their own. The theories gave way in the presence of a great fact, the existence of thirteen political societies already acting as one society, and yet continuing to act as thirteen. And so those men consented to have the paper which they were drawing up dictated to them by the voice of history, which said imperatively, *E Pluribus Unum*. "one out of many."

It is well-known that Connecticut, through two of her delegates to the constitutional convention, Roger Sherman and Oliver Ellsworth, bore a leading part in securing the acceptance of the federal system. And her recent historian, Professor Johnston, has pointed out one of her qualifications for such a task in the fact that she had long maintained "a fede-

\* Paper read before the Fairfield County Historical Society, on Monday evening, December 12, 1887.



rative democracy" of her own.<sup>1</sup> Her towns were, even more completely than those of Massachusetts, so many free republics, firmly knit together in a vigorous commonwealth through a legislature in which both towns and commonwealth were represented. For a century and a half Connecticut had been the United States in miniature. But another qualification may be found in the attitude of the colony as a member, albeit a very small one, of the British empire. It was conspicuous among the colonies at once for its freedom and its loyalty, for the co-existence of large powers of local government with a generally prompt obedience to a central government. Its temper was illustrated just a century before its delegates did their great work at Philadelphia, when in the autumn of 1687, it submitted quietly to a temporary abrogation of its marvellously free charter, while that document probably found a safe hiding-place in a hollow tree, the oak which so fitly sheltered our transplanted vine.

I desire this evening to set forth the service rendered in the making of the Constitution by the man whom Connecticut placed at the head of her delegation, Dr. William Samuel Johnson. In the convention itself his influence, though it must have been considerable, was at all events less palpable than that of Sherman and Ellsworth. But for more than twenty years he had been occupied, in America and in England, with the problem of the right adjustment of local and central authority. He had done his utmost to secure the combination of colonial freedom with imperial control, and what he accomplished was so far a contribution to the development of the federal out of the imperial system, of the American out of the British constitution. What he and his colleagues performed in 1787 was for him the completion of a task which he began in 1765. Our study of his labors upon the Constitution will therefore cover his whole career as a statesman.

His history before his public life opened must be given very briefly. The chief source of information is his "Life and Times," by the Rev. Dr. Beardsley, of New Haven. This work has lately come to a second edition, as it well deserved.

<sup>1</sup> Connecticut. A Study of a Commonwealth-Democracy, Prof. Vill.-ix. : 121-2, etc.



and is principally complained of for being too short. But for this fault I might have had nothing to tell you, but I should certainly have had nothing to tell you had the book not been written. It has a double interest for your Society, since its author, like its subject, is a native of Fairfield county.

William Samuel Johnson was born on the seventh of October, 1727 (old style), in the town of Stratford, which then included that portion of the ancient parish of Stratfield in which we are now assembled. He was the eldest son of the leading Episcopal clergyman of the colony, Dr. Samuel Johnson, who became the first president of King's (now Columbia) College, New York. After being carefully trained at home young Johnson graduated at New Haven in 1744, studied for three years longer as a "scholar of the house" on the Berkeley foundation, (a privilege won by his industry and ability,) attended lectures and took his second degree at Harvard in 1747, and entered on the practice of law in his native town. He had rare gifts of oratory, including much grace of action, with a voice of singular richness and melody. While he was a diligent student of law, he made himself familiar with literature, and his mental discipline and acquisitions were such that he was found a delightful companion by the first man of letters in England, his namesake, Samuel Johnson. The latter said that there was "scarcely any one whose acquaintance he had more desired to cultivate." At the time when our more careful examination of his career begins he is described by the historian Pitkin as "one of the ablest lawyers and most accomplished scholars in America."

After serving two or three times as a deputy from Stratford, Mr. Johnson was made one of three commissioners selected to represent the colony in the Stamp Act congress, which met in New York on his thirty-eighth birthday (new style), or October 7, 1765. The appointment of an Episcopalian to such a position shows that the Connecticut assembly, filled with Congregationalists, was not controlled by ecclesiastical prejudices, and equally shows that Johnson himself was not controlled by them. Most Connecticut Episcopalians believed that avowed opposition to the Stamp Act was "nothing





short of rebellion."<sup>2</sup> All that the colony desired of its commissioners, (who were charged to "form no such junction with" the rest as would subject them to the power of a majority,) was that they should unite in a "dutiful, loyal and humble Representation" to king and parliament.<sup>3</sup> But they were expected to "avow opposition" to the Stamp Act, and Johnson was fully prepared to answer this expectation. While he agreed with his fellow Episcopalians in disapproving of riotous opposition, which was perhaps what they had chiefly in mind, he was, unlike them, in hearty sympathy with those Americans who soon came to be called whigs. And this implied much more than sympathy with the English whigs. It was the latter who had imposed the tax against which the former protested, and they imposed it in accordance with the chief article of the whig creed, the supremacy of parliament. This article, when asserted against the crown, was in fact the safeguard of English liberty, and English statesmen did not understand why it was not equally valid as against the colonies. And the appeals which the colonies sometimes addressed to the king as their constitutional protector from the tyranny of parliament, must have sounded to whig ministers strangely like toryism. When Franklin said a few years later, (1770) that the lords and commons had "been long encroaching on the rights of" the sovereign, he confessed that they would think his doctrine almost treason against themselves.<sup>4</sup> And it is a striking illustration of the constitutional change which was in progress that the American revolution began with an apparent denial of the great doctrine of the English revolution. The necessity for this lay in what John Richard Green describes as the failure of England "to grasp the difference between an empire and a nation," between "an aggregate of political bodies" related more or less closely "to a central state," and "an aggregate of individual citizens" forming one state. England did not even perceive that the colonies were

<sup>2</sup> Church Documents. Connecticut, ii. 81.

<sup>3</sup> Connecticut Colonial Records, xii. 410.

<sup>4</sup> The Life of Benjamin Franklin. Written by himself. John Bigelow. ii. 51.



"political bodies;" "they were not states but corporations," like a borough or a bank.<sup>5</sup>

The Stamp Act, which was the imposition by parliament of a tax on the paper to be used in all sorts of legal and commercial transactions, struck at both the personal and the political rights of British subjects in America. By assuming to take their money without their consent given through their representatives, parliament had violated a fundamental principle of the British constitution, and a principle about which there was no direct dispute. It had also violated a principle which Americans supposed to be established, and which flowed from the former, that the colonial assemblies, in which alone Americans were or could be represented, had the sole power of, at any rate, internal taxation. This principle was in dispute, as it continued to be throughout the struggle, forming the great question at issue. And while the congress had of course to protest against the invasion both of personal and political rights, it was the latter which had chiefly to be asserted. It was the business of the congress to insist on the difference between a nation and an empire, to complement and limit the national doctrine of parliamentary supremacy by the imperial doctrine of state rights.

The part taken by our Stratford lawyer in the transactions of the congress is described by Mr. Bancroft in half a sentence. The question being the ground on which the demand for the redress of grievances should be based. "Johnson, of Connecticut," says the historian, "submitted a paper which pleaded charters from the crown." Mr. Bancroft goes on to tell us how Robert Livingston, of New York, and Christopher Gadsden, of South Carolina, opposed the plan of resting the protest on the charters. Gadsden said, among other things, "I wish the charters may not ensnare us at last, by drawing different colonies to act differently in this great cause . . . There ought to be no New England man, no New Yorker, known on the Continent, but all of us Americans." Instead of appealing to charters they "should stand upon the broad common ground of" their natural rights "as men and as the

<sup>5</sup> History of the English People, Am. Ed., iv. 226-7.



descendants of Englishmen." And, according to Mr. Bancroft, "these views prevailed; and . . . the argument for American liberty from royal grants was avoided."<sup>6</sup> Our famous historian hardly meant to give the impression that Johnson, (of whom he elsewhere speaks with great respect,) would have used no other argument than this, and his account of the proceedings is perhaps too condensed to admit a fuller report of one member's action. But as our interest just now centres in that member, it is pleasant to be able to remove a possible suspicion that he distinguished himself at the congress merely by an abortive effort to have the rights of man ascribed to the favor of kings.

The paper of which Mr. Bancroft speaks is evidently one in Johnson's handwriting which was found among his manuscripts by Timothy Pitkin, in the form of a committee's report. In this paper the rights which the Stamp Act invaded are traced back through the British constitution to the foundation of that "in the law of nature and universal reason." Clearly the author of the report did not suppose them to have had their origin in "royal grants." The charters, "and other royal instruments," are then mentioned by way of proving that the rights in question had been formally recognized as belonging to British American subjects," and Gadsden admitted that the charters might safely be appealed to as confirmatory. The report proceeds to acknowledge parliament, "as consisting of the king, lords and commons," to be "the supreme legislature of the whole empire," and "the final judges" even as to those "*essential rights*" which could not justly be infringed. (The italics are in the report.) Furthermore, it had become necessary "for the enjoyment of those rights . . . that several colony jurisdictions should be erected," subject "to the supreme power of Great Britain." Under these jurisdictions the colonists had expected to be at least as free in America as they or their forefathers were elsewhere, and by them laws had been made and taxes levied. These quotations present an argument drawn mainly neither from abstract principles nor from the charters, but from the

<sup>6</sup> History of the United States, Cent. Ed., iii. 599-10.



British constitution as imperial, from the recognized legitimacy of certain dependent states, existing without prejudice to the supremacy of a central government. This supremacy, it will be observed, is asserted very strongly, and as extending to legislation. Many Americans learned to deny to parliament the power of imperial, as distinguished from national, legislation, but Johnson always believed the former to be necessary to the government of an empire.

Of course the charters, by which the "colony jurisdictions" had been established, though not named in direct connection with the latter, furnished an obvious proof of the existence of the colonies as bodies politic. To have appealed to those instruments as proving this would only have been asserting in another form that the British constitution had extended its shelter over new states: that, as Connecticut virtually asserted at about the same time, the charters themselves were a part of the constitution.<sup>7</sup> It would have been to act in the spirit of those who had for centuries appealed to Magna Charta: in accordance with the sober traditions of

"A land of settled government,  
A land of just and old renown,  
Where freedom broadens slowly down  
From precedent to precedent."

But it was not essential to the argument to name the charters, and Johnson was probably quite willing that the word should be omitted from the addresses which were to be sent to England.

Four papers, including a declaration of rights, were issued by the congress, and Pitkin has no hesitation in saying that the report presented by Johnson "formed the basis" of all of them. The address to the king was largely or wholly his work, and set forth the great political fact of the early establishment of "several governments" in America very much as does his preliminary paper. The petition to the house of commons, reported by another committee, is particularly interesting, as containing a very plain allusion to the charters. "The several subordinate provincial legislatures have been moulded

<sup>7</sup> Conn. Col. Rec., xii. 422.





into forms as nearly resembling that of the mother country, as by his majesty's royal professors was thought convenient; and these legislatures seem to have been *wisely and graciously established*, that the subjects in the colonies might, under the due administration thereof, enjoy the happy fruit of the British government."\* (The italics are mine.) The congress, in fact, being composed of practical men, of English blood, did not dream of overlooking that action of the crown by which the state rights which they had to assert had been solemnly confirmed. It merely avoided the use of the word "charters;" it did not avoid what Mr. Bancroft calls "the argument for American liberty from royal grants." And the word was omitted, not because "natural justice" and "abstract truth" were the only pleas which it became Americans to urge, but because, as Gadsden suggested, there was a possibility of division of interests owing to the unequal grants of power made to the different colonies. Self-government, for example, was most fully provided for in Connecticut and Rhode Island, while Maryland seemed best secured against parliamentary taxation. And although it was high time, as Gadsden farther said, for the colonists to think of themselves as all alike Americans, they could only act effectively, they always did act, they were at that moment acting, as members of distinct political bodies, as citizens of Massachusetts, and New York, and Virginia. And neither Gadsden nor Johnson was able at the time to sign the addresses because of restrictions under which South Carolina and Connecticut, respectively, had laid themselves. To have disregarded the "colony jurisdictions" in 1765 would have obscured the very fact which it was so important to get clearly recognized, as clearly, at any rate, as they yet recognized it themselves, that the colonies were already states, with the right, as such, to protect the colonists.

Dr. Beardley tells us that the three memorials sent to England were all prepared by Johnson.<sup>6</sup> The statement is supported by the abundant use made of the paper which he

\* Pitkin's Political and Civil History of the U. S., i. 70, 150, 46-55; Principles and Acts of the Revolution, etc., by Elizabeth Niles; E. L. 1776, 135-42.

<sup>6</sup> Life and Times of William Bradford Johnson, p. 12.



laid before the congress, and by the fact that the memorials, though reported by different committees, were evidently drawn up in concert. His influence in this famous assembly has hardly been appreciated. Though he was an eloquent speaker he was probably better fitted to shine at the bar than in debate, and when he sat in deliberative bodies his best work was done in committees. In this case, as in others, fame has been kinder to debaters than to committee-men. But it seems fair to say that when the American states formally and in unison claimed their place in the British empire as bodies politic, William Samuel Johnson was their leading spokesman. Undoubtedly what he said was what many others were saying, but it was felt that few could say it so well. And if he was not among those who appear to change the course of history, he admirably discharged the more useful function of helping to keep general action in harmony with natural progress.

That Johnson was then in full sympathy with the mass of the Connecticut people was shown in various ways. He joined in passive resistance to the Stamp Act while it was in force, and when it was repealed he was chosen to thank the king, and to assure him, with perfect truth, of the "unshaken loyalty" of the commonwealth. Before the congress assembled he had been one of twenty men nominated by popular vote for seats in the Governor's council, or board of assistants, and in the following April he was one of the twelve chosen, by popular vote, to occupy the position. Like all the higher offices in Connecticut at that period, this was commonly a permanent one; the freemen, having made a good choice, adhered to it, though they might have made a new choice every year. In the meantime Johnson had been honored in a different way through his father's influence with the Archbishop of Canterbury, the university of Oxford having conferred on him the degree of Doctor of Laws. The title had been well-earned by his lucid exposition of the British constitution in the Stamp Act congress, though that consideration probably had no great weight at Oxford.

Dr. Johnson had sat but a short time in the upper house when Connecticut gave him what was perhaps the strongest



proof that could have been given of confidence in his ability and integrity. She was summoned to defend before the king in council her title to a large tract of land, claimed in behalf of the Mohegan Indians. The case had been in litigation for seventy years, it had been closely connected with attacks on the colonial charter, and there was danger that an unfavorable decision would be used to secure the forfeiture of the charter as proving misgovernment, if not dishonesty. The life of the colony, as a free commonwealth, almost seemed to depend on the result. And when Johnson was sent, at the close of the year 1766, to conduct the defence, and to serve the colonial cause in such other ways as might be open, the choice showed that the assembly could not find an abler lawyer. It also showed absolute trust in him as a man. It was perhaps not known, indeed, that his father had learned to detest the New England charters, and thought the governments which they sanctioned "pernicious." This attitude of the elder Johnson had no doubt been reached through the pressure of ecclesiastical controversy, leading him to believe that the Connecticut charter gave the Congregationalists an unfair advantage.<sup>10</sup> It ought to be easy to forgive him now, since Connecticut herself long ago abolished the charter for very much the same reason. But whether his views on this point had become public or not, there was no doubt about his intense, and perfectly reasonable, desire for an American episcopate. And to most people in Connecticut bishops seemed even more intolerable than stamped paper. It was feared that their salaries would be raised by taxation, and that they would set up courts of probate and divorce. These fears were not feigned, for opposition to American bishops ceased when the colonies became independent: that the danger was not quite imaginary, though exaggerated, has been admitted by candid Episcopalians from that time to this. In 1766 anxiety on this subject had been freshly excited, but when the alarm was greatest Connecticut Congregationalists sent to the seat of danger, and to the society of the English primate, the son of the man from whose influence they had most to fear, certain

<sup>10</sup> *Beardsley's Life and Correspondence of Samuel Johnson*, 206, 279, 285, etc.



to be charged by his father, as he was charged, to spare no efforts to get bishops for America. They could hardly have given more emphatic testimony to his virtue and enlightened patriotism. He would himself have welcomed a bishop clothed with purely spiritual powers, and he lived to do it. But he was unalterably opposed to the half-secular episcopate which the colonists dreaded, and which even his father did not ask for.

Owing to repeated postponements of the Mohegan case the younger Johnson was absent nearly five years, or until the autumn of 1771. The publication by the Massachusetts Historical Society in 1885, of "The Trumbull Papers," containing his official correspondence with the Connecticut governors, Pitkin and Trumbull, makes it easy to follow his course as colonial agent. In the preface to this volume Johnson's letters are described as "written with great elegance of style," and as graphically reporting parliamentary debates, while the writer is called "a man of rare insight, great common sense, and most excellent judgment." Ninety years before, the corresponding secretary of the society, Dr. Jeremy Belknap, wrote: "I have read the letters repeatedly with delight, and have gained a better idea of the political system than from all the books published during that period." Mr. Bancroft consulted them in manuscript, and often quotes from them.

When Johnson reached London, in February, 1767, there had been no renewal of parliamentary taxation, though the right to renew it was maintained. William Pitt, lately made Earl of Chatham, was the nominal head of the ministry, and was inflexibly opposed to taxation. But his health was giving way, and he soon ceased to take part in public business, though he did not resign his post until October, 1768. When Chatham became inactive the chancellor of the exchequer, Charles Townshend, a brilliant but impulsive and unstable man, assumed the leadership. He died in the same year (1767) but in the meantime he had, as it would almost seem in a fit of petulance, induced parliament to lay a duty on several articles, including tea, for the purpose of raising an American revenue to be used in paying the salaries of American governors and





judges. This would have made those high officials independent of the people but left them dependent on the king, a situation very unfavorable to freedom. The colonists had heretofore submitted, after a fashion, to the imposition of duties, or to what was called external taxation, in the way of regulating trade. But they now began to give up the distinction between internal and external taxation, and they also began to give up the importation of dutiable goods. In the mean time the special administration of the colonies was assigned to Lord Hillsborough, who retained it during the whole of Johnson's residence in England. Hillsborough was diligent and courteous, but obstinate and arbitrary. He called the American theory of colonial self-government "a polytheism in politics," and "fatal to the constitution."<sup>11</sup> In January, 1770, Lord North became prime minister. He had ability and good nature, but was almost entirely controlled by the king, who, as Mr. Green says, "was in fact the minister," and wholly responsible for "the shame of the darkest hour of English history."<sup>12</sup> In March, 1770, Lord North introduced, and parliament passed, a bill removing all the new duties except that on tea. But they were removed not because they were unconstitutional but because they were "anti-commercial." Throughout the whole period of Johnson's agency, therefore, the attitude of England was essentially the same. Being a single state of the empire she claimed the right to lay burdens on the other states.

In these circumstances, Johnson showed himself, to borrow a phrase of his own, "a hearty American." His devotion was proved, if in no other way, by his consenting to remain so many years absent from his family at a very great sacrifice of interest and feeling. But he was also willing to incur danger for the common cause. When Townshend's proposals were under discussion, soon after his arrival, and colonial agents were forbidden to attend the sessions, he got admission to the gallery, and sat there taking notes while the speaker was assuring George Grenville, the late prime minister, that no agents

<sup>11</sup> Trumbull Papers, (Collect. Mass. Hist. Soc., 5th Series, ix.) 307.

<sup>12</sup> Hist. Eng. Peop.; iv. 232.



were present. He told Governor Pitkin that he should renew the attempt at the risk of imprisonment.<sup>13</sup> His view of political matters was that of Americans generally. He believed that the dispute was not a struggle between the head of the empire and seditious provinces. "For clearly," he wrote, "the controversy is . . . between subject and subject, between the people of America and the people of Britain, which shall have the power over American property." This was precisely Franklin's opinion, as transmitted from England in 1770.<sup>14</sup> And Johnson judged of men, in their public capacity, by their attitude on the general subject of colonial rights. He was very much afraid of Lord Chatham because he knew that Chatham held "the dangerous idea of a right to restrain us absolutely from every species of manufacture." "Should he come into power," added Johnson, he must be obeyed; "it is with him but a word and a blow."<sup>15</sup> In fact Johnson found but few friends of America in England, as he estimated friendship, though he had personal friends in all parties. There were few who admitted her title to what he really claimed for her, equal political rights with England.

And like a "hearty American" Johnson rejoiced in the "firmness and intrepidity" with which the colonies met the efforts of the ministry at once to "deceive" and to "intimidate" them, and was delighted by the assurances which were given him "of the firm universal union of all the people of America to assert and maintain their indubitable rights." This union, he said, "joined to a prudent, well-advised conduct, must render them impregnable, and insure their success."<sup>16</sup> The conduct which he thought prudent and well-advised was not by any means hanging custom-house officers in effigy, nor breaking their windows. He often complained of the obstacles which such proceedings threw in his way. What he did emphatically approve of, and constantly implore his countrymen to persist in, was the non-importation agree-

13 *Trum. Pap.*, 234; *Life and Times*, 41.

14 *Trum. Pap.*, 317; *Life of Franklin*, i. 51.

15 *Trum. Pap.*, 366, 487.

16 *Trum. Pap.*, 358, 575.



ments. Indeed, the substitution of "some of the more salutary herbs of" America, for the "expensive exotic" tea, was one of the first things which he thought of when the duties were imposed.<sup>17</sup> He would not believe "that any American of consequence could have been guilty of" evading the agreements; he asked why the people should not stop using, since the merchants must then stop importing; he hoped that the threat to make the agreements criminal would bring about this "much more effectual" agreement. As time went on, and the combinations against British goods, in spite of violations and evasions, and a temporary failure to reduce trade, which he at once acknowledged and accounted for, began finally to tell on both commerce and manufactures, he became almost passionate in his plea for "union and firmness." "All depends upon it," he said: "the game . . . is in their own hands . . . I must yet believe that there is wisdom, virtue, and patriotism enough in that country, not only to save it from ruin, but to fix its right, on a firm basis."<sup>18</sup>

Johnson was distinguished for his moderation, but it was because, being a strong man, he could control strong feeling, not because he did not feel strongly. And in this correspondence he repeatedly shows himself capable of intense indignation against tyrannical words and acts. Thus he denounces those who had told the ministers that the American opposition was "a petty, desperate, dying faction," as "wretched sycophants." The ministers, or some of their English advisers, were malicious "madmen, who would wreak all their wicked wrath upon the colonies." He could even wish that some of them "might atone by their forfeited heads for the badness of their hearts."<sup>19</sup>

There is no room to doubt Johnson's devotion to America, but he was none the less devoted to the British crown. Colonial and imperial interests were both dear to him, and it is curious to observe how instinctively he speaks as an Englishman in the presence of annoyance or danger from without the

17 Trum. Pap., 236.

18 Trum. Pap., 298, 319, 384, 406, 423-4, 432-3.

19 Trum. Pap., 375, 377.



empire. "Our court, it is said, is not upon good terms with that of Portugal, nor are we in the best humor with the Dutch." When France becomes insolent, and "the Spaniards, too, have been very saucy," he writes, as if he had been one of the ministry which he denounced so fiercely, "we are therefore arming as all other powers of Europe have done before us . . . we are preparing to meet the threatening storm." He has even warm praise for the "firmness and fortitude" of the government in its foreign policy. When what he calls "our rupture with Spain," seemed to foreshadow a general war, he said that "the spirited conduct of Lord North" had "given him great reputation," and his sympathies went with North in this matter against a parliamentary opposition which included those who were most friendly to America.<sup>20</sup> And he could fairly expect the Connecticut governors whom he addressed to share his feelings. Pitkin declared that the colonists idolized "the British constitution, government and nation." And as for Connecticut, he wrote: "Not a disloyal thought lurks in the breast of any one."<sup>21</sup> Trumbull labored to the very last moment for peace, with freedom, within the empire. Fidelity at once to the local and to the central government was as possible under the imperial as under the federal system, and the former system was educating Americans for the latter.

At the same time Johnson himself perceived that a separation was more than probable, and while he did not desire it, he felt that it might be advantageous to the colonies. In 1769 he wrote to a friend in Connecticut: "If we were wise and could form some system of free government upon just principles, we might be very happy without any connection with this country." But he feared that Americans would "fall into factions and parties," and "destroy one another," and so he pleaded for moderation on both sides.<sup>22</sup> And he undoubtedly still believed, as he did at the time of the Stamp act congress, that colonial freedom was compatible with the existence

<sup>20</sup> Trum. Pap., 385-6, 396, 456-7, 461-5, 489.

<sup>21</sup> Trum. Pap., 283, 287.

<sup>22</sup> *Life and Times*, 65.





of a "supreme legislature," namely, parliament. Franklin, on the other hand, was gradually reaching the conviction that parliament, as then constituted, had no right to legislate for the colonies at all, and that the various states of the empire had at present no lawful bond of union except the king, as had formerly been the case with regard to England and Scotland. A political union of this sort, however, would have left the distant American states about as little members of the British empire as Hanover was. And even Franklin seemed to prefer such a union as had been formed between England and Scotland, through a parliament representing both.<sup>23</sup> But such a union, if we understand him literally, would have done away with the colonial assemblies: it would have been a consolidation, turning the empire into a nation, with an ocean in the middle of it. The modern imperial system of Great Britain has taken very much the direction indicated in Franklin's conception of the old system. But, although parliament has not wholly relinquished its share in the government of the empire, the practical independence of the colonies in legislation seems to be carrying them towards complete independence, something which neither Franklin nor Johnson desired for the colonies of their day. The federal system of America, on the contrary, though its supreme legislature is really representative, on the whole more closely resembles that which Johnson conceived of as then existing, and promises to last, by escaping both consolidation and separation. Johnson saw as clearly as Franklin that there had been not only an abuse but a usurpation of power by parliament, but he apparently saw more clearly than Franklin that a combination of general with local legislation belonged to the true constitution of an empire, and would best secure its stability.

Our colonial agent's highest service to the American cause was rendered through his skillful performance of his proper task, the defence of the state rights of Connecticut. Professor Johnston says that the government of this colony was kept "so free from crown control that it became really the exemplar

<sup>23</sup> *Life of Franklin*, i. 515, 518, 567; ii. 63.



of the rights at which all the colonies finally aimed."<sup>24</sup> They are all supposed to enjoy those rights under federal control, and it was your Fairfield County statesman who so guarded them for this commonwealth, and therefore for all her sisters, during the closing years of the colonial period, that the charter passed safely from the king to the people, and a "royal grant," wholly unchanged, was found worthy to be formally acknowledged by the most democratic of republics as its own work. The Charter Oak had been itself for the time transplanted from Hartford to Westminster. Johnson's task was undoubtedly far easier because he found that Connecticut was "rather a favorite colony." The genuine loyalty of the commonwealth thus had its reward, and her representative did his own work so well because he so completely represented her at her best, through his purity of character, his highly trained intelligence and his mastery of himself. In these qualities, as in courtesy and grace, he was such another envoy as she had had about a century before in the man who won the charter, the younger John Winthrop.

Johnson's management of the Mohegan case, with the help of the best (and most expensive) English counsel, was substantially successful, and the danger which threatened the colonial constitution in that quarter was avoided. But he had much other work to do. Early in the year 1768 he had an encounter with Lord Hillsborough. The interview, which lasted about two hours, is described at some length by Mr. Bancroft,<sup>25</sup> and I need give but an outline of the discussion. Hillsborough complained that the British ministry "seemed to have too little connection with" Connecticut. Johnson accounted for this chiefly by the "good order and tranquillity," of the colony, and by the fact that its constitution, not making it, like some provinces, directly dependent on the crown, left little occasion for troubling the home government with its affairs. Hillsborough then said that the colonial laws ought to be sent to the ministers to be rectified, if "amiss." Johnson politely assured him that he might have a copy "for

<sup>24</sup> Connecticut, Pref. vii.

<sup>25</sup> Hist. U. S., iv, 65-8.



his private perusal," and as a book of reference for his clerks. But if he wished the laws transmitted for ministerial inspection and approval, the charter provided against that, and the colony "would never submit to" it. This drew an attack upon the charter as perhaps containing extravagant grants of power, which were necessarily void. Thus the power of absolute legislation "tended to the absurdity of" creating "an independent state." Johnson answered that every corporation might make laws, the extent of its capacity depending on the nature of the corporation, in the present case a colony. Hillsborough admitted the right to make by-laws, but he distinguished between that and the wide range of legislation common in New England. A similar distinction was made not quite twenty years later in the constitutional convention, when Madison, in replying to Johnson's plea for the states as political societies, virtually ranked them with such corporations as are only competent to pass by-laws.<sup>26</sup> Johnson called Connecticut a corporation in his discussion with Hillsborough, for so did the charter, and he was quite ready to acknowledge the incorporating power of the crown. But he pointed out that such a corporation as a colony "included in its idea full powers of legislation," and ought not to be classed with corporations of a lower grade, like towns. Hillsborough now apparently gave up his contention that royal approval was necessary to give validity to Connecticut legislation. But he was sure that it should be regularly submitted to the privy council, that they might disapprove acts "repugnant to the law of England," for such acts were forbidden by the charter itself. Johnson parried this final thrust by denying that the power to determine whether a law "was within that proviso or not" belonged to any body except "a court of law, having jurisdiction of the matter" to which the act related. This was much the same as saying that the constitutionality of a law of Connecticut could only be settled judicially, through action brought in particular cases: an extremely different thing from pronouncing upon the laws as they were passed, and apart

<sup>26</sup> Elliot's Debates on the Adoption of the Federal Constitution, Vol. v. (supplementary), 256.



from any case arising under them, but extremely similar to the provision which Johnson helped to make in behalf of State rights, and against Madison, in 1787.<sup>27</sup> At the latter period it was from interference on the part of the general legislature rather than on the part of the executive branch of the central government, that the local legislature was to be protected in its own sphere, but in either case the same local rights were assigned to the same guardianship, that of the judiciary. A striking feature of the American constitution was thus exhibited to a British minister by Dr. Johnson in expounding the British constitution, while America was still part of the British empire. Johnson added that the validity of colonial laws might be settled in the colonial courts, coming, if necessary, on appeal, before the English courts, but before the courts alone, and not before the privy council, acting as a board of revision. Hillsborough continued to be afraid that the people of this commonwealth "were in danger of being too much a separate, independent state," and he did not get rid of the apprehension. But Johnson seems to have convinced him that a "royal grant" had recognized at least one complete political society within the empire, and outside of Great Britain, while he had defined its constitutional position in terms which nearly describe that which it now holds in the federal union.<sup>28</sup>

Dr. Johnson more than once had occasion to make a practical use of the principles which he had laid down in this remarkable interview. In February, 1769, he warned Connecticut against what he suspected to be a trap set for that colony and Rhode Island. An act of parliament had authorized certain legislation by the American assemblies, which was to be subject to approval by the king in council. "I trust," he wrote, that "nobody will once think of passing an act to be transmitted here for approbation."<sup>29</sup> Before many months somebody transmitted an act for disapprobation. Connecticut had suddenly set up a protective tariff in the shape of a duty

27 Elliot's Debates, v. 170-1, 481-2.

28 Trum. Pap., 253-62.

29 Trum. Pap., 327-9.





of five per cent. on all imports, including those brought directly from Great Britain. Lord Hillsborough, in great indignation, declared that, on the American theory, Connecticut was taxing the whole empire, and he was determined to bring the act before the council. Johnson knew nothing about the motives for passing it, but he conjectured that it was designed to protect local dealers against unfair competition on the part of men who did not stay long enough in Connecticut to be taxed, which proved to be precisely the fact. This, he assured Hillsborough, was a very proper thing, and "well within the powers of the Assembly." After some three months of great anxiety he persuaded the minister to abandon his unpleasant intention about the act, and to give the assembly an opportunity to modify it, by excepting goods imported by Englishmen. This was conceding a privilege which Connecticut does not now enjoy.<sup>30</sup>

Before the agent's mind was at rest on this subject, (1770) the colony was again threatened with extra judicial proceedings before the king in council. The Penn family addressed a petition to the king for the immediate removal of certain Connecticut settlers from lands near Wilkes-Barré, and sought to make the colony a party in the case along with the Susquehanna Company, which was making the settlement. Johnson believed that the colony had, under its charter, a title to the lands in question which ought not to be surrendered. But the company could defend its own title without the coöperation of Connecticut, and he was very unwilling to have the charter, with its grant of a belt reaching to the Pacific ocean, brought before the ministry at so critical a moment. He therefore earnestly advised Trumbull not to commit the colony, and he himself, by pursuing the same policy, secured an opinion from the Board of Trade, of which Lord Hillsborough was president, to the effect that the case was "entirely within the jurisdiction of" the Pennsylvania courts.<sup>31</sup> It is quite likely that Johnson's former argument with Hillsborough influenced this decision, and in any case he had saved the charter from some risk.

<sup>30</sup> Trumb. Pap., 387, 392-3, 397, 407, 419, 428, 444.

<sup>31</sup> Trumb. Pap., 413-6, 440, 447-8, 454-4.



His last alarm on the subject of the charter perhaps caused him the greatest distress. He learned that a plan was formed, about the close of the year 1770, not to abolish, but by so-called "regulations" to make nearly valueless, the charter of Massachusetts. He dreaded what might follow for Rhode Island and Connecticut. "When charters are called in question," he wrote, "we have certainly more to fear because we have more to lose, than any other people upon earth." He trusted that his own colony would continue to be so prudent and temperate "as not to endanger the most valuable privileges that people ever enjoyed." He held the traditional Connecticut view, colored by neighborly prejudices, of the prudence and temper of Massachusetts, which in turn used to think Connecticut timid and selfish, though that view always became untenable after fighting began. And Johnson now regarded the proposed treatment of the sister colony as both impolitic and unrighteous, and very likely said as much to the ministers. Still, although he had some influence with Hillsborough, it is doubtful whether this appeared in the present abandonment of the design against Massachusetts, for which Franklin himself, then her agent, declined to claim any credit.<sup>32</sup> But Johnson's influence is apparent in the assurance which the secretary gave him that whatever was done Connecticut should not be involved.<sup>33</sup> He could feel that he was leaving the affairs of his own commonwealth in as good a condition as was then possible. As far as she was concerned he had successfully defended state rights, without seeming to impair the authority of the central government.

But he could not feel that his countrymen in general had been steadfast in the cause of liberty. About a year before his return, or in August, 1770, he was confounded by the news that the agreements against trade with England, on which he had declared that the fate of the colonies hung, had been abandoned except as regarded tea. He clung to the hope that the virtue of the people, on which he had throughout depended more than on that of the merchants, would be equal to the

<sup>32</sup> Life of Franklin, ii. 65.

<sup>33</sup> Trum. Pap., 466-7, 470-1.



sacrifice of refraining from consumption. But in the following March he wrote that goods were about going to America to the amount of more than a million sterling.<sup>34</sup> This had both pleased and strengthened the ministry, and he evidently believed that the proposed attack on Massachusetts had been encouraged by this sudden breaking down of the American defences. Moreover, the English opposition was utterly routed, and was, in Johnson's view, "equally destitute of principle with" the ministry, while scarcely more willing to concede their full rights to the colonists. He thought its leaders capable of little except "teasing the Administration," and as against them the latter probably had his sympathy. And the latter he describes as "in perfect plenitude of power:" in spite of a popular outbreak which he briefly describes, almost his last letter declares the ministry to be "in perfect peace."<sup>35</sup>

On Johnson's return in October, 1771, the Assembly of Connecticut thanked him "for his faithful service . . . his constant endeavors to promote the general cause of American liberty, and his steady attention to the true interests of this colony in particular."<sup>36</sup> His restoration to his old place in the council was a sufficient proof that he and the freemen of the commonwealth were in substantial agreement. Much as he had deplored the abandonment of the non-importation policy, he was glad to see his countrymen peacefully inclined, and he hoped that discreet conduct on both sides would "perfectly re-establish" harmony.<sup>37</sup> He certainly had not learned in less than a year to desire that the colonies should quietly acquiesce in arbitrary government, but he had, in common with other patriots, feared lest the two countries should "go on contending and fretting each other till" they should "become separate and independent empires."<sup>38</sup> The attitude in which he found the Americans relieved him from this anxiety, while their continued refusal to import tea assured him that

34 Trum. Pap., 450, 479.

35 Trum. Pap., 474, 480, 482.

36 Life and Times, 86.

37 Bancroft's Hist. U. S., iv. 326.

38 Life and Times, 65.



they had not renounced the principle of home rule. He knew that acts of violence would simply irritate not alone the ministry but the English people, and his utter lack of confidence in the English opposition made him hopeless of help from that quarter, while he probably thought the military power of England irresistible. The few letters of this period which are in print show, on the one hand, that he loved justice and hated oppression as intensely as ever, and, on the other, that he still thought the English enemies of the administration "the friends of confusion:" and still believed the stability of the empire to demand not only an imperial executive but an imperial legislature.<sup>39</sup> The colonies probably contained no firmer adherent to the American cause, as Americans then understood it, namely, security for the rights of Englishmen under the British crown.

In the meantime the non-importation of tea had proved a more powerful weapon than Johnson had ventured to hope. It had brought the East India Company into great straits, and the company obtained from the folly of the ministers authority to do what the Americans refused to do, namely, to bring tea to the colonial ports. Mr. Bancroft says that if this permission had been accompanied by a removal of the duty it would have restored a good understanding. Nothing of the kind was thought of, and in December, 1773, the company's tea was thrown into Boston harbor. Johnson doubtless condemned this act, but so did Washington and Franklin. Retaliation came in the shape of a bill closing the port of Boston, and one of the best friends of America, Colonel Barré, voted for it, though he opposed the companion bill which practically annulled the Massachusetts charter. Johnson's moderation of temper never kept him from detesting tyranny even towards those whose course he may have thought injudicious, and we could have little doubt that he shared the indignation of his countrymen at these cruel enactments, even were there no other evidence to that effect. But we learn that the Episcopalians of Stratford joined in the contributions everywhere made for the relief of Boston. They continued to act

<sup>39</sup> Life and Times, 101-2, 207 (App.)





in this spirit throughout the war, while Dr. Beardsley tells us that in "1774 not a man in Stratford was ready to dissent from revolutionary measures."<sup>40</sup> Johnson's influence undoubtedly appears in this attitude of the Stratford Episcopalians, but we need not infer that he personally approved of "revolutionary measures." And he was probably made very uneasy by the course which things were taking. In March, 1774, the Massachusetts assembly ordered the purchase of powder and cannon, and during the summer the militia were holding parades throughout the province. A similar belligerent disposition was showing itself elsewhere. Now Johnson certainly thought that the British soldiers had no business in Boston, but they had not yet made open war, and he would naturally fear that if the colonists armed themselves they would be tempted to strike the first blow. Such an apprehension perhaps accounts for the fact that in October he resigned his commission as lieutenant-colonel of the fourth Connecticut regiment, of which he had previously been major.<sup>41</sup> Various reasons might have led to this step, but neither lack of patriotism nor lack of courage was among them, and it was such a step as he would have been likely to take if he were seriously afraid that the colonies would plunge into an offensive war, having either the dismemberment of the empire, or the loss of colonial freedom as its probable issue. It would indicate no unwillingness to take part in defending the colonies, if attacked, even against the army of his sovereign. In the same year he declined an appointment to represent the colony in the first continental congress, and though he had a good excuse, he was certainly not sorry that he had one. The congress, however, upon the whole, pursued his own policy, and showed a sincere wish for peace and the unity of the empire. He could still feel that he was not essentially at variance with the majority of his sober-minded countrymen.

And there were enough equally sober-minded men in Connecticut to send Dr. Johnson once more to the upper house

40 Orcutt's History of the Old Town of Stratford and the City of Bridgeport, Pt. I. 373; Beardsley's History of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Connecticut, I. 310.

41 Conn. Col. Rec., xiv. 221, 231.



of the legislature in 1775. Furthermore, the legislature, much against his own wishes, and a good deal to the annoyance of Massachusetts, made him, towards the end of April, one of the bearers of a letter from Governor Trumbull to Governor Gage, complaining of what the writer was inclined to regard as "a most unprovoked attack upon the lives and property of His Majesty's subjects," and pleading for a suspension of hostilities. Even at this date, when the war had begun at Lexington and Concord, the people of Connecticut abhorred "the idea of taking up arms against the troops of their Sovereign," although, on "the principle of self-defense," they were resolved to fight, if necessary, either for themselves or for "their brethren."<sup>42</sup> As far as appears, Johnson might have written such a letter himself. The mission of course was futile, and peaceful Connecticut was soon in thickest of the fight. It was still, however, a defensive war, prosecuted in behalf of the rights of Englishmen within the empire. Dr. Dwight tells us that the thought of independence was derided by zealous whigs in the colony even after the battle of Bunker Hill.<sup>43</sup> And Johnson, however much he regretted the necessity of forcible resistance to invasion, and however little he hoped for a successful issue, continued to act as a member of the Connecticut government during the whole of the year 1775, when the commonwealth was doing its utmost against the king's troops and fortresses and ships. And when the king declared the colonists rebels, Johnson shared the reproach, along with Trumbull and Israel Putnam and Ethan Allen.

It is evident, however, that the people felt that he did not share their enthusiasm. A paper found by Mr. Hoadly, the state librarian, and to be printed in the next and final volume of the Colonial Records, (should that appear, as is earnestly to be hoped,\*) is very significant here. It gives, what we seldom have, the votes of the freemen at the September nomination for members of the council, and Johnson's name is the

<sup>42</sup> *Life and Times*, 109-12, 210-12 (App)

<sup>43</sup> *Travels*, I, 152.

\* *Mr. Hoadly is now (October, 1889,) superintending its passage through the press.*



last of the twenty put in nomination. The higher numbers exceed four thousand, while Johnson received less than one thousand votes. At the election in April, 1776, when twelve of the twenty were chosen, he was naturally not one of them. For the time the whigs of Connecticut had disowned him, though he was as good a whig as before. But his defeat was probably fortunate for him, since he must have opposed the action which the assembly unanimously took in June, by instructing the delegates of the commonwealth in the second continental congress to vote for independence.

Johnson's reasons for thinking the famous Declaration which followed, an unwise step, may be clearer to us, and even in some degree command our sympathy, as we read the words used by the assembly in the following October: "This Republic," (to wit, Connecticut,) "is, and shall forever be and remain, a free, sovereign and independent state."<sup>44</sup> Johnson believed in state rights, and contended for them throughout his public life: he did not believe in state sovereignty, and he was now bearing witness to the necessity of a supreme central government. He separated from Trumbull in 1776 in behalf of the principle which Buckingham summoned the commonwealth to vindicate in 1861. It is true that Connecticut did not dream of acting apart from the other states, and that the phrase "state sovereignty" was often used to express very nearly the same idea which now attaches to the phrase "state rights." But thought, as well as language, was confused at that period with respect to the novel political system which emerged at the Declaration of Independence, and the sovereignty which Connecticut meant to claim was something quite beyond anything that the system admitted of. We can see that a new sovereign, stronger than George the Third, was proclaimed in the Declaration: that it proceeded from an authority capable of binding all the states into one larger state, the authority of the sovereign people. But the very men who signed that instrument did not see this, or they would hardly have gone on to frame the Articles of Confederation in behalf of sovereign states. Those articles, fortu-

<sup>44</sup> See Johnson's Connecticut, 304.



nately not adopted until the war was nearly over, (1781) were like an abdication on the part of the new king between his accession and his coronation. And we all know that the rule of the states, substituted for that of the people, very nearly ruined the country. Dr. Johnson, in spite of his clear political insight, perhaps did not recognize the incoming lord paramount any more than his neighbors did. But he undoubtedly perceived the immense difficulty of the situation created by cutting one bond of union before another, equally strong, was visible somewhere. Even Patrick Henry, eager to fight, and eager for independence, would have had the Declaration delayed until the colonies should have united as a confederacy.<sup>45</sup> And Johnson's mistake seems to have been that of being a "Union man" eighty-five years too soon. Moreover, he was not mistaken in thinking, as most men had thought until then, that freedom was possible without independence. England could learn to respect colonial rights, and the subsequent history of the British empire on the whole proves this. It is even probable that the lesson would have been learned in another year, and that the war for freedom would have closed triumphantly with the battle of Saratoga. And that a man who foresaw such evils as the country actually suffered before state sovereignty was repudiated, should have shrunk from independence, implies no failure of patriotism. John Dickinson, the famous "Pennsylvania Farmer," though in command of a regiment enlisted to fight the king, opposed the Declaration on the floor of congress, thereby furnishing, in the judgment of the historian Hildreth, one of the two or three highest examples of moral courage in American history.

But while Johnson's conscience would not have permitted him to take part, as a public man, in dissolving what we may call the British union, he could and did, as a private citizen, give his aid in repelling invaders. He subscribed money for the common defence, he promoted enlistments, he furnished a soldier for the war, and he was ready, before the war was over, to take the oath of fidelity to the United States.<sup>46</sup>

45 Tyler's Patrick Henry, 171 G.

46 Life and Times, 116.





During his retirement he was once (1779) arrested by a military officer for having promised, against his own judgment, to ask General Tryon not to burn Stratford. But the civil authority refused to hold him, and his old friend, Governor Trumbull, may have seen a partial resemblance between the proposed mission to Tryon and the one on which he himself had sent him, four years earlier, to Gage, at the risk of offending Massachusetts. In the present case it appears that the majority of the Stratford freemen were offended at being made to seem willing to hold "a traitorous correspondence with the enemy," and they prepared a statement for publication in the New Haven newspaper. But they must have thought better of it, since that paper, the *Connecticut Journal*, is apparently silent about the whole transaction.<sup>47</sup>

It is well known that many Americans became partisans of England during the war, after having zealously opposed parliamentary taxation. But Dr. Johnson never was transformed into a partisan of England. And his belief that the dissolution of the union with Great Britain, at that time, was unwise, a belief which he never renounced,<sup>48</sup> did not permanently affect his standing among his contemporaries. Before the articles of peace were signed he was once more serving the commonwealth, and once more in defence of a chartered right, the title of Connecticut to the land on which the Susquehanna Company had made settlements. The title had been approved by high legal authority in England, and the unanimous decision now given in favor of Pennsylvania, may have suggested to our advocate the reflection that independence had not increased the security of state constitutions.

This appointment was a mark of confidence on the part of the government. The people, in turn, soon showed how highly they rated character above opinions by electing Johnson once more to the council. In 1784 he was sent to the continental congress, and in 1787 he was first in the Connecticut delegation to the convention which framed the Constitution of the United States. It appears that he had been

<sup>47</sup> *Life and Times*, 112-6; *Hist. of Stratf.* Pt. I, 382-3.

<sup>48</sup> *Life and Times*, 85.



opposed to the convention,<sup>49</sup> and he certainly had some reason to fear that the miseries caused by state sovereignty would now react to the prejudice of state rights. What the convention really had to do was, with a difference, what the British parliament had failed to do, namely to find out to govern a nation and an empire, a single state and a collection of states, through the same legislature. The British experiment had failed because the supreme legislature, representing the people of a single state, had tried to take money from the people of states which were not represented. But the American experiment had already proved that the supreme legislature could not get money through the local legislatures. Its credit was ruined by their disregard of its requisitions, and it must assume the power of taxation. Parliament was having its revenge on the continental congress. An American congress, however, might rightfully tax Americans because they would be represented in it. But how should they be represented? In laying taxes congress must undertake to govern them not as members of several bodies politic but as members of one, as a single people. And when it should begin to act thus directly on the people the people ought to be represented equally. One man in Delaware ought not to have the taxing power, and the general governing power, of sixteen men in Virginia, which would be the case if Delaware and Virginia should have an equal vote in the new congress, as they had in the old. It was in fact the sovereignty of the people which had now to be re-asserted, and it must find expression in a truly representative legislature. Most of the leading men in the convention, therefore, men like Madison and Hamilton, devoted themselves to the task of making the new representative body purely national, by wholly depriving the states of the equal vote, leaving their weight in congress to depend on their population.

Dr. Johnson, who had insisted on "due subordination" within the old empire, and who had found it so hard to "go with his state" in seceding from the empire, believed as firmly as Madison and Hamilton in a strong central government.

<sup>49</sup> Binckhoff's History of the Constitution, ii. 50, 418. App. 3



But he was not willing that what was then called a "partial" or "residuary sovereignty" should be lost to the states, and he feared that they would lose it if congress should represent the people exclusively. It apparently was assumed in some quarters that they had fulfilled their function, as states, by protecting individual rights against invasion from the central state, and that they must disappear, or become atrophied, since that had been excinded. Madison avowed the wish to reduce the states, as far as possible, to the condition of counties,<sup>50</sup> and this, to a New Englander, was nearly equivalent to abolishing them. And when a plea for state rights was offered, some of the advocates of a purely national system described the states, in reply, as "artificial," or even as "imaginary" beings, to which it was monstrous to sacrifice the rights of men.<sup>51</sup>

Those who defended the claim of the states to representation in their corporate character generally treated the question as an issue between the small states and the large ones. They asserted that the former would be at the mercy of the latter if the equal vote allowed in the continental congress were taken away. It was easy for Madison to show, as John Adams had shown in 1776, that the larger states, (Virginia, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts,) had no common interests apart from the others.<sup>52</sup> And he justly urged that a strong central government would best protect the small states. Had Madison been as familiar with the history of New England as he was with that of Greece he might have referred here to the confederacy of 1643, in which the one vote of Massachusetts commonly outweighed the other three, and which was powerless to prevent Connecticut from annexing New Haven piecemeal. The New England delegates, in fact, knew very well, thanks to their town meetings, that local rights may be secure under a vigorous general administration, and none of those from Connecticut maintained the cause of the small states violently. Johnson, however, stood alone in the so-called

50 Elliot's Debates, v. 253.

51 Elliot's Debates, v. 258, 263, 267.

52 Elliot's Debates, v. 250-3; Works of John Adams, ii. 500, note.



"state rights party," in resting the argument against a one-sided nationalism on the simple fact that the states existed. It is possible that had he spoken as often as Sherman and Ellsworth he would have expressed, like them, a moderate interest in the small states as such, but what he actually said indicates no interest in them whatever. His object was now, as in the Stamp Act congress, to secure certain bodies politic, the large and the small alike, against the invasion of their rights by a central authority which he nevertheless recognized as supreme. For him the colonial charters had passed from the British into the American constitution, and the sovereign people must acknowledge and protect them.

The last of Dr. Johnson's three brief speeches on this subject, made at the opening of the debate on the day after Franklin's famous proposal of daily prayers, is thus reported by Madison: "The controversy must be endless whilst gentlemen differ in the grounds of their arguments: those on one side considering the states as districts of people composing one political society, those on the other side considering them as so many political societies. The fact is, that the states do exist as political societies, and a government is to be formed for them in their political capacity, as well as for the individuals composing them. Does it not seem to follow that if the states, as such, are to exist," (as nearly all felt to be inevitable) "they must be armed with some power of self-defence? . . . On the whole he thought that as, in some respects, the states are to be considered in their political capacity, and, in others, as districts of individual citizens, the two ideas embraced on different sides, instead of being opposed to each other ought to be combined—that in *one* branch the *people* ought to be represented, in the *other*, the *states*."<sup>53</sup>

It should be borne in mind that the division of the general legislature into two branches, of which the second, (the senate,) should after a fashion represent the states, had formed part of the "Virginia plan," offered to the convention three days before Johnson took his seat, and that about three weeks before this speech was made Sherman had declared equal rep-

<sup>53</sup> Elliot's Debates, v. 255.





resentation of the states in the second branch to be indispensable.<sup>54</sup> So far, Johnson was simply supporting his colleagues. But while the friends of the Virginia plan strenuously opposed equal representation in either branch as unjust, Sherman personally preferred the "New Jersey plan" of a legislature in one chamber, representing the states. The union which he really desired was a league of sovereignties.<sup>55</sup> Now Johnson's whole political career, above all his opposition to an independence which seemed to threaten, and which had nearly produced, disintegration, had been a protest against such a system as his colleague wished for. But although the difference between him and Sherman was probably more radical than that between him and Madison, he could act with Sherman against Madison because the double representation offered by the former and rejected by the latter, was precisely what existing facts, as Johnson saw them, made not simply expedient but right. He virtually held up before his associates that unwritten constitution which is, as Judge Jameson says, to be "considered as the outcome of social and political forces in history, as an organic growth . . . as a fact."<sup>56</sup> We need not assume that Johnson had learned the doctrine of historical development; it is enough that his clear insight showed him a certain result of development. He perceived that the new system, really evolved out of the old, retained the unity and the diversity of the latter, and must be accepted as it was. The single state and the group of states, the one political society, and the many, were alike there, only they now occupied the same territory, and the one people inhabiting them all had taken the place of the crown. It was nation and empire in one. The national character of this complex body politic should appear, therefore, in a popular branch of the supreme legislature, speaking for the sovereign people, while another, the mouthpiece of co-equal states, should be the symbol and the safeguard of the old colonial liberties, the imperial signet on the young republic.

54 Elliot's Debates, v. 127, 181; Hildreth's History of the United States, Revis. Ed. iii. 485.

55 Elliot's Debates, v. 218-9, 260, etc.

56 The Constitutional Convention, 3d Ed., 66.



Mr. George Ticknor Curtis says, with reference to Dr. Johnson's speech, that "neither party was ready to adopt the suggestion" about a combination of views,<sup>57</sup> and what Johnson urged as right in itself, was finally done under the form of a compromise, and largely through the efforts of Sherman and Ellsworth. But what took place was, in reality, the submission of both parties to the impersonal, infallible arbitration of an historical evolution, the results of which Johnson saw more clearly than either. And when, a year later, Hamilton and Madison were pleading so ably and magnanimously for the constitution with discontented state rights partisans, we find them more than once defending positions which the older statesmen had defended against them, and doctrines on which he had been acting when they were school-boys. They were bearing unconscious witness to the strength of the system which he knew to be already in operation, and which had been the real antagonist of their theories.<sup>58</sup>

Dr. Johnson made an interesting contribution to the completeness of the federal system after the great struggle was over, and when, as Mr. Bancroft says, "Connecticut had won the day." It was voted on his motion, by a large majority, that the jurisdiction of the supreme court should be "extended to cases of law and equity," and then, with no dissenting votes, that it should embrace "all cases arising under the Constitution." This, according to Mr. Bancroft, finally disposed of the plan favored by Madison, of giving congress a veto on state legislation, and confined the power of reversing state laws to the judiciary, in cases brought before it.<sup>59</sup> This is the principle (differently applied) for which Johnson pleaded with Lord Hillsborough in 1768. He thus fitly closed the battle in behalf of the freedom of local legislation which he had begun in England nearly twenty years before,<sup>60</sup> and the supreme court is to-day the most conspicuous guardian of state rights.

57 Curtis's History of the Constitution, II. 138.

58 See *The Federalist*, Ed. 1826, 152, (No. 28), 200 (No. 37), 263 (No. 46), 333 (No. 59), 346-7 (No. 62).

59 Bancroft's Hist. of Const., II. 193; Elliot's Debates, v. 170-1, 431-2.

60 See above, pp. (13-14-15.)



When the draft of the Constitution was to receive its final form, and was entrusted for that purpose to a committee appointed by ballot, which included four leaders of debate, Alexander Hamilton, Gouverneur Morris, James Madison and Rufus King, Dr. Johnson was its chairman. And though the preparation of the new draft was the work of Morris, Johnson did not fail in his own duty of oversight and revision, for his handwriting is still to be seen in corrections made in the original document, and included in the Constitution as it stands.<sup>61</sup> And the Constitution as it stands probably expresses his lifelong political convictions more adequately than those of any other member of the committee. The convention chose the right man to superintend the final touches upon its great work. But he was the right man especially because its great work had really been done by "progressive history," and because few Americans, if any, had been so closely identified with the development of the federal out of the imperial constitution, from the moment when the process becomes clearly visible at the Stamp Act congress. This is not less but more true as respects his attitude at the middle point of the process, eleven years after the congress, eleven years before the convention, when his countrymen seemed to him to be removing one essential part of their political system, the supreme central authority, without knowing whether it could be replaced. For then he accepted a situation which he would have no hand in creating, and adjusted himself to it without factious and useless opposition. And so he could take, and his countrymen could let him take, an honorable and useful part in the task of giving just scope to the new central authority which was all the while present, and which had spoken in the Declaration of Independence, "the authority of the good people of these colonies." Dr. Johnson was undoubtedly one of the most cultivated men in America, and his mental and moral action at this period admirably illustrate the value of culture. In that we have, according to Mr. Matthew Arnold, "the endeavour to see things as they are, to draw towards a knowledge of the universal order which seems to be intended and aimed at in the

<sup>61</sup> *Life and Times*, 128.



world, and which it is a man's happiness to go along with or his misery to go counter to."<sup>62</sup> Dr. Johnson instinctively yielded to that which makes history progressive, the movement of regulated forces, forces which control the most sensitive conscience because they are the expression of laws, of laws which instruct the best trained intellect because they are thoughts. He is an admirable example of that unreserved self-surrender of the good and wise to the irresistible march of progress which is their testimony to the truth that

"— thro' the ages one increasing purpose runs,"

and which gives them the power to serve their fellow-men by helping "to make reason and the will of God prevail." And his firm and effective maintenance from first to last of the political principles which are embodied in the Constitution warrant the assertion that he was one of the best qualified statesmen of the most critical period of American history.

When the Constitution went into operation in 1789, Dr. Johnson became one of the senators from Connecticut, Oliver Ellsworth being his colleague. The two acted together in organizing that "court for commonwealths . . . the most august in Christendom," (as a descendant of Roger Sherman has styled the supreme court.)<sup>63</sup> over which Ellsworth was afterwards to preside, the principle of which Johnson had long before taught a British minister to respect. In 1791, soon after congress removed to Philadelphia, whither he could not follow it without neglecting his duty to Columbia College, (of which he had been made president in 1787.) Johnson resigned his seat in the senate. He was succeeded by Sherman, who meanwhile had been serving with distinction in the house of representatives. His academic career lasted nine years longer, until his resignation in 1800, when he was almost seventy-three. He lived in cheerful and dignified retirement for nearly twenty years in Stratford, where he died, soon after passing his ninety-second birthday, on the fourteenth of November, 1819. He barely outlived the colonial charter, which, by

<sup>62</sup> Culture and Anarchy, Eng. Ed., 11.

<sup>63</sup> Prof. S. E. Baldwin, in New Haven Col. Hist. Soc. Papers, III, 291





-serving as the state constitution until 1818. had vindicated his belief that the English sovereigns had established true and free states in America. It had also been proved that the great native sovereign whose accession, in disguise, had not been much more visible to Dr. Johnson than to other men, was a rather better guardian of local government than the king of England. For the charter had had nearly thirty years of security, not absolute indeed, but greater, upon the whole, than it enjoyed even when it lay, (if it did lie,) in the heart of the Wyllys Oak.

NOTE.—The foregoing paper was read before the New Haven Colony Historical Society, February 27, 1888. Slight additions were made at that time, and a few verbal changes have been made since. But it appears in very nearly the form in which it was read at Bridgeport.



# FAIRFIELD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

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## BY-LAWS.

### RULE I.

The officers of the Fairfield County Historical Society shall consist of a President, three Vice-Presidents, a Treasurer, Recording Secretary, and Corresponding Secretary, who shall be chosen annually from its members, by a majority ballot, at the annual meeting of the Society.

The term of the officers of said Society shall be for one year from their election, and until others shall be chosen in their places; and their powers and duties shall be those usually appertaining to those officers, except when otherwise ordered by the Society.

Said officers shall also be the Executive Committee of said Society, and as such shall have charge of and direct all matters of executive, financial and clerical business appertaining to the management of the Society, except when otherwise ordered by the Society.

The President of this Society shall be *ex-officio*, Chairman of the Executive Committee.

Any vacancy occurring in any of the said offices, before the expiration of its term, may be filled for the unexpired portion thereof, by those of the Executive Committee of said Society, who shall be in the exercise of their offices at the time.

### RULE II.

The regular meetings of said Society shall be held on the second Friday evening of each month, at the rooms of the Society.

The annual meeting of said Society shall be held on the



second Friday of April in each year, and special meetings may be held whenever the Society shall so order, or when the President and Recording Secretary shall deem it necessary to call the same. Notice of the annual and special meetings shall be given by the President and Recording Secretary, of the time, place, and purpose thereof, by three days' publication in one or more daily newspapers, published in the city of Bridgeport, at least four days before said meeting.

RULE III.

The Chairman of the Executive Committee, shall be the auditor of the accounts of the Society, and as such shall audit, and approve all bills of expenses incurred by the Society before the same shall be ordered paid, and only upon such audit, and an order of payment, by the Society or Executive Committee, shall the Treasurer pay out any funds of the Society.

RULE IV.

The Treasurer of the Society shall be also, Curator of the same so long as he shall be Treasurer; and the duties of the office of Curator shall be, to have the care, custody and preservation of books, papers, antiquities, and all other property of the Society.

RULE V.

The election of new members of said Society shall be by a unanimous vote, by ballot, or otherwise, at any annual, regular or special meeting of the Society; the nomination of such new members having first been made at a preceding meeting, and not less than one week previous to such voting.

RULE VI.

No application for membership of said Society shall be entertained or acted upon, unless accompanied by a written or printed request of the applicant, dated and signed by the applicant in person.

RULE VII.

An initiation fee of two dollars shall accompany each application for membership.



## RULE VIII.

A due of two dollars shall be laid upon each member of the Society living in Bridgeport, Stratford, Trumbull and Fairfield, and one dollar on all the others. This amount shall be paid to the Treasurer annually, during the month of July, unless excused by the Society.

Any member remaining in arrears for dues may be dropped from membership by a majority vote of the members present at any regular meeting of the Society.

## RULE IX.

Any approved person may, upon election, according to Rule V, become a Life Member, on the payment of two hundred dollars, or a Patron Member, for five years, on the payment of twenty-five dollars, and both Life and Patron Members shall be entitled to all the privileges of the Society. The Society may elect, according to the manner in Rule V, as Honorary Members, persons, whose membership may be an honor, or advantage to said Society, and they shall be entitled to all the privileges of the Society except voting.

All members, other than Life, Patron and Honorary, shall be known and designated as Annual Members.

## RULE X.

These Rules and By-Laws may be altered, amended, repealed or added to, by a majority vote of the members present at any annual, regular or special meeting of said Society, notice of such proposed repeal, alteration or amendment, having been given at a previous meeting of the Society, not less than one week before final action thereon is taken.

## RULE XI.

The Rules of this Society may be temporarily suspended by unanimous consent of all the members present, at any regular, annual or special meeting of the Society.





# M E M B E R S

OF THE

## FAIRFIELD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Rowland B. Lacey, Bridgeport, - -	
Nathaniel E. Wordin, M.D., Bridgeport,	
William H. Noble, Bridgeport, - -	
George C. Walden, Bridgeport, - -	
William B. Hincks, Bridgeport, - -	
Louis N. Middlebrook, Bridgeport, -	
*Aaron B. Hull, Danbury, - -	- Elected Feb. 18, 1881.
Joseph N. Ireland, Bridgeport, - -	- Elected Feb. 18, 1881.
Richard C. Ambler, Bridgeport. - -	- Elected Feb. 18, 1881.
*William T. Minor, Stamford, - -	- Elected Mar. 18, 1881.
Lemuel Sanford, Redding, - -	- Elected Mar. 18, 1881.
James L. Gould, Bridgeport, - -	- Elected Mar. 18, 1881.
James W. Beardsley, Bridgeport, - -	- Elected Mar. 18, 1881.
*Henry M. Hoyt, Bridgeport, - -	- Elected Mar. 18, 1881.
Charles Burr Todd, Redding, - -	- Elected Mar. 18, 1881.
Henry G. Seofield, Bridgeport, - -	- Elected May 6, 1881.
Elias S. Hawley, Buffalo, N. Y., - -	- Elected June 3, 1881.
Curtis Thompson, Bridgeport, - -	- Elected Aug. 5, 1881.
*William A. Beers, Fairfield, - -	- Elected Sept. 2, 1881.
Eaton W. Maxey, D.D., Troy, N. Y., -	- Elected Sept. 2, 1881.
*William Shelton, D.D., Buffalo, N. Y.,	Elected Sept. 2, 1881.
George S. Burroughs, Rev., N. Britain,	Elected Oct. 14, 1881.
A Homer Byington, Norwalk, - -	- Elected Nov. 11, 1881.
Winthrop H. Perry, Norwalk, - -	- Elected Nov. 11, 1881.
Walter Hubbell, New York City, - -	- Elected Nov. 11, 1881.
David B. Lockwood, Bridgeport, - -	- Elected Feb. 10, 1882.
*Stiles N. Middlebrook, Bridgeport, -	- Elected Mar. 10, 1882.

\* Deceased.



Frederick Bronson, Greenfield Hill,	- Elected Mar. 10, 1882.
O. P. Dexter, New York City,	- Elected Mar. 10, 1882.
David H. Miller, Georgetown,	- Elected Apr. 21, 1882.
Horace L. Fairchild, Trumbull,	- Elected Apr. 21, 1882.
Samuel M. Main, New York City,	- Elected Apr. 21, 1882.
*Barzillai B. Kellogg, Brookfield,	- Elected Apr. 21, 1882.
J. M. Bailey, Danbury,	- Elected Apr. 21, 1882.
John W. Bacon, Danbury,	- Elected Apr. 21, 1882.
*John D. Candee, Bridgeport,	- Elected Apr. 21, 1882.
Warren B. Nichols, Bridgeport,	- Elected Apr. 21, 1882.
Samuel Garlick, M.D., Bridgeport,	- Elected Apr. 21, 1882.
Plumb N. Fairchild, Trumbull,	- Elected Jan. 12, 1883.
Morris B. Beardsley, Bridgeport,	- Elected Mar. 9, 1883.
Thomas Calef, Bridgeport,	- Elected Mar. 9, 1883.
*Eli T. Hoyt, Danbury,	- Elected Apr. 5, 1883.
Oliver B. Jennings, Fairfield,	- Elected June 9, 1883.
Frederick S. Wildman, Danbury,	- Elected June 9, 1883.
Samuel Orcutt, Rev., Bridgeport,	- Elected Feb. 8, 1884.
Thomas B. Fairchild, Stratford,	- Elected May 9, 1884.
Edward F. Meaker, Bridgeport,	- Elected July 11, 1884.
Albert Relyea, Norwalk,	- Elected July 11, 1884.
William L. Sherwood, Newark, N. J.,	- Elected Sept. 12, 1884.
G. H. Nicholls, D.D., Hoosic Falls, N. Y.,	Elected Feb. 13, 1885.
Phineas T. Barnum, Bridgeport,	- Elected Feb. 13, 1885.
Robert W. Curtis, Stratford,	- Elected Mar. 13, 1885.
Nathaniel Wheeler, Bridgeport,	- Elected Apr. 10, 1885.
Arthur E. Meeker, Bethlehem, Pa.,	- Elected Apr. 10, 1885.
Nathan B. Wells, Stratford,	- Elected Apr. 10, 1885.
Albert S. Comstock, New Canaan,	- Elected June 26, 1885.
Samuel L. Carter, New York City,	- Elected July 10, 1885.
*Amos S. Treat, Bridgeport,	- Elected July 10, 1885.
Silas Burton, Bridgeport,	- Elected July 10, 1885.
Ebenezer S. Phillips, Bridgeport,	- Elected Aug. 14, 1885.
Charles H. Carter, New Canaan,	- Elected Aug. 9, 1885.
Horace Nichols, Bridgeport,	- Elected May 13, 1887.
Alexander Hawley, Bridgeport,	- Elected May 13, 1887.
Robert H. Russell, Stratford,	- Elected May 13, 1887.



Samuel B. Sumner, Bridgeport, -	- Elected June 10, 1887.
Sidney B. Beardsley, Bridgeport, -	- Elected July 8, 1887.
Mrs. Mary C. Wheeler, - - -	- Elected Sept. 9, 1887.
Mrs. Julia A. Bishop, - - -	- Elected Sept. 9, 1887.
Mrs. Frances H. Cruttenden, -	- Elected Sept. 9, 1887.
Mrs. Susan H. W. Hawley, -	- Elected Sept. 9, 1887.
Mrs. Mary K. Perry, - - -	- Elected Sept. 9, 1887.
Mrs. Harriet L. Torrey, - - -	- Elected Sept. 9, 1887.
Mrs. Elizabeth R. Lacey, - - -	- Elected Sept. 9, 1887.
Miss Henrietta M. Noble, - - -	- Elected Sept. 9, 1887.
James R. Burroughs, - - -	- Elected Sept. 9, 1887.
Mark R. Leavenworth, - - -	- Elected Sept. 9, 1887.
Oliver C. Bullard, Bridgeport, -	- Elected Nov. 11, 1887.
Mrs. Cornelia C. Comstock, New Canaan,	Elected Nov. 11, 1887.
Mrs. Agnes Hills, Bridgeport, -	- Elected Nov. 11, 1887.
C. W. DeL. Nichols, Rev., Tot'ville, N. Y.,	Elected Jan. 13, 1888.
Walter Nichols, Bridgeport, -	- Elected Jan. 13, 1888.
William F. Nichols, Rev., Phila., Pa.,	- Elected Apr. 13, 1888.
Cyrus Bradley Sherwood, Southport,	- Elected Apr. 13, 1888.
Charles Merritt, New York City, .	- Elected May 11, 1888.
Edward R. Lambert, Bridgeport,	- Elected Aug. 10, 1888.
Seth B. Squires, Bridgeport, -	- Elected Aug. 9, 1889.
Johnson T. Platt, New Haven, -	- Elected Dec. 14, 1889.
Samuel C. Kingman, Bridgeport,	- Elected Dec. 14, 1889.

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### HONORARY MEMBERS.

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Rev. Benjamin L. Swan, - - -	- Mendham, N. J.
Rev. E. E. Beardsley, D.D., LL. D. -	- New Haven, Conn.
J. Hammond Trumbull, LL. D., -	- Hartford, Conn.
Charles J. Hoadley, - - -	- Hartford, Conn.
Rev. Horatio N. Powers, D.D., -	- Orange, N. J.
Abraham W. Morehouse, . . .	- Bridgeport, Conn.



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In Memoriam.

HON. JOHN D. CANDEE.

Born June 12, 1819.

Died February 27, 1888.

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In Memoriam.

HON. WILLIAM T. MINOR.

Born October 3, 1815.

Died October 14, 1880.

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## FORM OF APPLICATION.

*To the Fairfield County Historical Society :*

GENTLEMEN :

The undersigned hereby makes application for admission  
as an Annual Member of said Society.

Dated at \_\_\_\_\_ this  
day of \_\_\_\_\_ 18

RULE VII of By-Laws: "An Initiation Fee of Two Dollars shall accompany each application for Annual Membership."



ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
Fairfield County  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Bridgeport, Conn.,  
FOR 1891-2.



ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
Fairfield County  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Bridgeport, Conn..

FOR 1891-2.



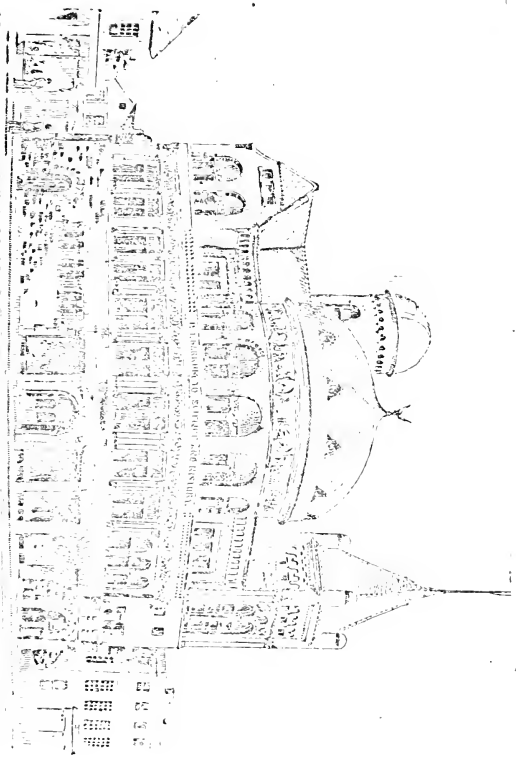
Published by

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1892.



BARNUM INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND HISTORY







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OFFICERS.  
OF THE  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

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PRESIDENT,

ROWLAND B. LACEY.

VICE-PRESIDENTS,

GEORGE C. WALDO,            CHARLES BURR TODD,  
GEN. WILLIAM H. NOBLE.

RECORDING SECRETARY,

SAMUEL ORCUTT.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY,

ALBERT M. TALLMADGE.

TREASURER AND CURATOR,

EDWARD DEACON.



# THE FAIRFIELD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

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Report of the Executive Committee for 1891-2.

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The special and most noteworthy feature of the year 1891-2, in connection with our Society is, the commencement and progress of the building now being erected for the kindred societies—The Bridgeport Scientific Society, and The Fairfield County Historical Society; dedicated to Science and History, as provided by our distinguished and public spirited fellow citizen, the late Hon. P. T. Barnum.

The year is memorable also as marking the close of the life work of this distinguished man, one of the most remarkable our country has produced.

PHINEAS T. BARNUM,

Born July 5, 1810, Died April 7, 1891.

Some fitting words are spoken of him in another place. A full account of his best monument now being erected, for the promotion of Science and History, will be in order when the building is completed.

For years we have been saying—as we deeply felt—that our great need was a suitable building for the safe deposit of the valuable books, documents, pictures and relics donated, and waiting to be donated, to illustrate and perpetuate our early and current history—where they could be properly arranged for exhibition, study and preservation. Our previous reports have chronicled the first movements of Mr. Barnum towards supplying this want, in giving our Societies an eligible site and providing in his will (as a matter of pre-



caution) for the erection of a suitable building. This was highly appreciated and gratefully acknowledged, while we strongly hoped and confidently believed that he would elect to have the work of construction done in his life time. This hope and belief is partially realized in that Mr. Barnum did decide to erect the building, approved the plans, and signed the contract for the noble structure now in progress at the corner of Main and Gilbert streets, but was not permitted personal supervision of its erection. So well did he plan, however, that thereby it may be truthfully said, being dead he yet speaketh, and will continue to, for a long time to come.

At the breaking up of the Waldemere residence, Mr. Barnum gave this Society the unique library set of furniture, consisting of large book case, writing desk, two tables, sofa, easy chair and five other chairs. It is of curled maple in uniform style, of elaborate Chinese carving, and the sofa and chairs elegantly upholstered.

This set is historic, in that it was originally made for, and used in Iranistan\*. It was saved from the fire which destroyed the first elegant home of Mr. Barnum, in Bridgeport, and was successively installed in Lindencroft and Waldemere, his later residences.

It has been the study of this society to locate and fit up appropriately a room in the new building, for the proper reception and use of this furniture, where may also be located the marble bust of Jenny Lind, and other mementoes of Mr. Barnum and his life work, making it distinctively a Barnum room.

We recognize that the support of such a building, and the proper work of the Societies, even by the combined energies of the two, on a scale commensurate with its importance and

\* IRANISTAN, the first elegant residence of Mr. Barnum in Bridgeport, located on extensive grounds at what is now the northwest corner of Fairfield and Iranistan avenues, built in 1847-8, was destroyed by fire Dec. 18, 1857. Most of the furniture and effects in the house were saved, much of it in a damaged condition. The building was a total loss, and so far as known, this Society has the only vestige of it extant. On the spandrels of the arches across the front, were placed floral carvings of arabic characters in northward mood, or otherwise. During the progress of the fire, one of these carvings became detached, and was lying on the ground. It was picked up by Mr. N. H. Jones, then a boy, who very properly appealed to the Chief Engineer of the Fire Department in charge, (the late Isaac M. Conkling) for liberty to take it away. He replied, "Yes, take it along and get out of the way, quick." He did so, and kept his relic until 1857, when he turned it over to the Historical Society, where it is respectfully preserved as a memento of the once famous Oriental Villa, as its name signifies.





the possibilities, presents a problem quite formidable to a weak faith. We have heretofore said that if a building is provided, the means for its support would be forthcoming. This we believe still. The work of our Society is comparatively but little known, or appreciated, by the people at large. It will be more and more appreciated as it is developed. We have been quietly employed for seven or eight years, gathering materials and laying it by in our own possession, or in the custody of friends, doing what we could with our means and opportunities, and we take satisfaction in referring to the results, and the strength and solidity of our position to-day. We have not gone beyond our means, nor have we made any special appeals to the generosity of our citizens, beyond the pittance of one and two dollars in annual dues. Yet we have paid our bills and have a fair balance in our treasury, and we have to-day a literature to be proud of. Our reports and papers contributed and read—all most valuable, many of them of remarkable interest—would make two good volumes of six or seven hundred pages each. We have ancient records and relics of exceeding value. This is beginning to be known by many inquirers in Colonial History, and Family Genealogy, who have visited our rooms and been greatly helped by the facilities we have afforded them. Parties have come here, or corresponded from all parts of the country, and the applications increase year by year.

#### SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

This Society has special facilities for aiding decendants of Revolutionary Soldiers in preparing applications for membership in the Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, of which large numbers have availed themselves.

#### OUR PUBLICATION FOR 1851-2

will be one of unusual interest, containing (from the papers read during the year) the Burritt Paper of M. D. Raymond, and the paper on the "Pilgrim Fathers and What They Wrought," by Rev. Dr. C. R. Palmer. It will also contain a complete transcript of all the inscriptions on the tombstones



## XII

in the cemetery in Easton, near the Baptist church, embracing dates from 1760 to the present time. This work of collecting and recording or publishing the inscriptions of the ancient and older burial grounds, was commenced and fairly prosecuted by Mr. Orcutt, in his History of Old Stratford and Bridgeport, and for preservation and reference is of great value. It is one of the lines of work we desire to follow up until the cemeteries of the entire county have been canvassed and recorded.

### OLD CHURCH RECORDS

Our Society has the transcript in alphabetical order, of the marriages, births or baptisms of children, and membership of several among the oldest churches of the county, which are found to be of great interest and value for reference and study, and opens a line of work which also should be followed up throughout the county.

### ABSTRACT OF ANCIENT WILLS AND FAMILY DEEDS.

Still another field very fruitful and interesting is in the ancient Probate records and land records of the oldest towns—where are found wills and family deeds of great historic and genealogical value. We want, and would be glad to collect and publish a volume made up of copious abstracts of thees, and the State should bear the expense, as it has of other Colonial records.

### BRANCH SOCIETIES.

The foregoing indicates appropriate work for branch societies in nearly every town, in which they may become greatly helpful to the County Society. There are several such in existence. Only one has organized as auxiliary to this Society, that is the New Canaan Society, which is fully alive and has an excellent record of work done and doing. The President visited and attended one of its meetings in October last by invitation, and with much satisfaction. It has a good room furnished by loan and gift, in Colonial style. The monthly meetings are well attended and enriched by valuable papers, conversations and reports. Gentlemen and ladies, in about equal numbers gather and equally participate



### XIII

in the active work, A very copious and valuable history of the Canaan Parish, and the town of New Canaan has been prepared and a copy lodged with this Society. We are also indebted to it for a number of contributions to our museum and library. We refer to this with satisfaction on its merits, and as an example to other towns. Copies of all historic and genealogical papers should be furnished the County Society, which in turn will furnish the Branches, with copies of its published reports.

We are glad to mention that Westport has an active Society, and the occasional notices published, indicate that it is doing a good work. We shall be glad to be brought into closer relations with it.

#### CATALOGUE.

A commencement has been made by the Curator at a classification and catalogue of our library, which consists of over two thousand volumes, about five hundred pamphlets bound and unbound, one hundred volumes of local newspapers of the last twenty years, and a large collection of local and other newspapers, dating from 1780 to 1850, the New York Observer from 1834 to 1891, the London Spectator and other magazines unbound.

A catalogue of our specimens of Colonial furniture and utensels, relics of the olden and more modern times, will be made as early as possible, and will be very interesting. Very interesting and valuable additions have been made to both library and museum, during the past year.

#### SITE OF LEE'S CHAPEL MARKED.

At the late Centennial of Methodism in New England, (1889) much interest centered around Lee's Chapel, understood to have been the first building erected for public worship by the Methodist Episcopal denomination in New England. It was erected in 1796, and was located in the Old Stratfield Parish, on the line road dividing Stratford town from Fairfield, now Park Avenue Extension, about three and one-fourth miles north of North Avenue, or about five rods above the southern boundary of the present



#### XIV

town of Trumbull. Its construction was promoted by Rev. Jesse Lee, whose pioneer work in this region is sketched in Orcutt's History of Old Stratford and Bridgeport, pages 412, 658, and 661\*. At the period above referred to, (1889), Mrs. Laura Hall, the widow of the late Mr. Turney Hall, was living with her son Mr. Nelson T. Hall, in her old homestead near the above site, at the age of ninety years, but in full possession of her faculties. She was born and reared in the aforesaid old homestead, and in her girlhood was perfectly familiar with the chapel building, both exterior and interior, and was able to describe it to her son, who made a drawing of it for the use of the Conference, on the Centennial occasion. It was drawn to scale, as to size and proportion, 34x24 feet, and was recognized by Mrs. Hall and others of the small remnant who had seen the original, as a good representation of it. The figures of the size are verified by an examination of the main timbers of the frame which are extant in the barn of Mr. Frank Staples, on the Easton turnpike, near the Flat Rock M. E. Church. Mr. Hall made a duplicate of his picture for Rev. Dr. George Lansing Taylor, of the New York East Conference, but the original is framed and hung in his own parlor. During the past year Mr. Hall on solicitation, consented to make another copy of the Old Chapel picture for the Historical Society, in which he has outdone his former efforts, and we hope to secure from Mr. Staples enough timber from one of the white oak beams in his barn to frame it. The President of the Historical Society has had a substantial brown stone block of suitable size inscribed "Site of Lee's Chapel 1796," located by Mr. Hall, and placed securely in the stone fence precisely over the spot where the chapel stood. Lee's chapel was removed about 1816, and its supporters merged into the present Easton Church at Flat Rock.

#### MEMBERSHIP.

Twenty-five have been added to our membership, making our total over one hundred after deducting our losses by death. With the prospect of our early occupancy of the new

\* See also Rev. George Lansing Taylor, D. D.'s Centennial sermon at Bridgeport Sept. 27, 1889 and accompanying papers.





building it should at once be doubled. We bespeak the favorable consideration of our fellow citizens in our effort in that direction.

As we enter upon a new period in the history of our Society, may it be with new life and vigor—old friends and new vieing with each other, in efforts in behalf of its noble work of gathering up and preserving the history of the past, also to fix and transmit to posterity the present and passing.

OUR HOME IS FAIRFIELD COUNTY CONNECTICUT. OUR FIELD IS THE WORLD.

MAINTENANCE OF BUILDING ASSURED FOR THREE YEARS.

Since the printing of this Annual was commenced, a plan has been approved by our two Societies for raising a fund to provide for the expenses of the maintenance of the new building by securing individual pledges amounting to twenty-five hundred dollars per year, for three years. Of this sum, Mrs. P. T. Barnum has generously and nobly pledged fifteen hundred dollars per year, for three years, and we cannot omit here a recognition of her free, voluntary and unsolicited gift for this worthy object, in furtherance of her late husband's generous purposes. The two Societies by their joint committees are canvassing vigorously with good encouragement among our public spirited citizens, to make up the balance, the success of which we cannot doubt. May we not hope that the work of the Societies in their respective departments, will so commend them to persons of means and generosity, as to insure gifts for a liberal endowment to cover future expenses.



REV. BLACKLEACH BURRITT  
AND  
Related Stratford Families.

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BY  
M. D. RAYMOND, ESQ.

OF TARRYTOWN, N. Y.

READ BEFORE THE  
Fairfield County Historical Society,  
Bridgeport, Feb. 19, 1892.



REV. BLACKLEACH BURRITT.

It may seem presumptuous for a resident of New York to appear before the Fairfield County Historical Society with a page of local history, and yet is it not fitting that Westchester Co., especially, should bring some offering as a tribute to the debt it owes, for ever since the days of Wouter Van Twiller, and William the Testy, and Antony Van Corlear, who essayed in vain with windy proclamations and his wonderful trumpet to stop the inroads of those terrible Yankees, the peaceful invasion has been going on, so that to erase the names of the sons of Fairfield from its annals, would make a blank on many of the most illustrious pages of its history. The son may well indeed turn back and crown his honored sire with laurels.

“There be of them that have left a name behind them, that their praises might be reported; and some there be which have left no memorial; who are perished, as though they had never been.”

In a secluded spot on the eastern slope of the Green Mountains is the unmarked grave of a son of Stratford whose name well deserves to be illustrious in the annals of the County of Fairfield. A man of liberal culture, of more than ordinary gifts, a stalwart Patriot in the stormy days of the Revolution, a pioneer preacher of unusual power, of marked individuality and rugged character, of honorable ancestry, and with numerous and not less honorable posterity, such a man was Rev. Blackleach Burritt. The story of his life is not devoid of interest, and yet strange to relate, although here born, fitted for college, educated for the ministry, and within the borders of this county captured during the Revolution and taken to the notorious Sugar House Prison in New York, his name appears but once in your annals, in a brief note in the history of Stratford. But first of his ancestry:



## THE BURRITTS

May not have had heraldic fame, but they were of the uncrowned Kings of Welshland, whom even William the Conqueror did not find it easy to dethrone, and who when they sailed away over the sea to the New World brought with them not only their brave hearts and brawny arms, but their indomitable love of liberty as well.

Among those early of Stratford were William Burrirt and Elizabeth his wife. They are said to have been from Glamorganshire, Wales, but the exact date of their arrival has not been ascertained; quite possibly they had tarried for a time somewhere else in New England before coming here. The only place wherein William Burrirt's name appears prior to the inventory of his estate, date of January 15, 1650-1, is in a memorandum of the number of rods of fence the share of each settler to build. The paper bears no date, but was of course prior to his death. In the schedule of his estate he is spoken of as "lately deceased." The amount of the inventory was about £140. A very moderate heritage for the widow and her children, of whom there were three, two sons and a daughter; Stephen, John, and Mary, who is said to have married a Smith at an early day and hence the numerous Smith family in America.

The widow, Elizabeth Burrirt, appears to have been a thrifty and sagacious woman, controlling her own affairs and ordering her household well. Though apparently not able to write her own name, she made her mark all over the early town records in more senses than one. She was buying more than selling and evidently adding to her possessions. She apportioned considerable real estate to her sons by conveyances dated April 5, 1675, as follows: "To my loving and dutiful son, John Burrirt, of ye said place, an equal half of my whole accommodations in Stratford aforesaid, being ye allotment and interest of my deceased husband, Wm. Burrirt, or by procurement of myself and my children, excepting only ye home lot and parcel of land at ye Fresh Pond, in ye old field, ye which has already been contracted to Stephen Burrirt," one of which contractions being that "ye aforesid John Burrirt should have





the parcel of land lying on "Quimby's Neck," &c. Stephen Burritt drew lot No. 40 in division of lands in 1671, and John Burritt No. 84.

Widow Burritt evidently made her home with her eldest son, Stephen. Her will is dated Sept. 2, 1681, and she probably died soon after.

Stephen Burritt, the eldest son, was in the list of Freemen at Stratford "8th month, 7th day 1669," a lot owner 1671, and confirmed by the General Court as Ensign of the Train Band at Stratford in 1672, appointed Lieutenant Jan. 17, 1675, and the Council at Hartford, date of Sept. 18, 1675, ordered that "The Dragoones from Fairfield County being come up, and Major Robert Treat sending to us to hasten them to their headquarters near Suckquackheeg, it has ordered that accordingly the Dragoones of Fairfield should forthwith march away up to Norwottag, and so to our army, under the conduct of Ensign Stephen Burritt, and join them in defence of the plantations up the river, and to kill and destroy all such Indian enemies as should assault them on the aforesaid plantations." Again, at a meeting of the Council of the Colony held Nov. 23, 1675, Stephen Burritt was appointed Commissary of the Army, so rapidly was he promoted. No wonder Hinman says, "he was a noted Indian fighter." Evidently a man of force, courage and resource, Ensign Stephen Burritt stands out a heroic figure on the pages of the history of Stratford. He was not only a brave soldier, but the old town records give evidence that he was a man of affairs. At the Town Meeting held Jan. 1, 1673, he was chosen Recorder, and his beautiful and character-like autograph which thereafter frequently appears on the Town Books, may well be the envy of any of his descendants. In 1689 he was appointed on a committee to assess damages for the changing of Black Creek into Mill River, by which one Robert Lane claimed to have been "damnified!" The same year he was chosen one of the Townsmen. In 1690 was an auditor of the accounts of the Town Treasurer, and also chairman of the committee on killing wolves. What a wolf killer that brave old Indian fighter must have been!



He held other offices of trust, and was in his day one of the very foremost citizens of Stratford. The inventory of his estate, dated March 4, 1697, shows a footing of £1,177 2s. which includes £3 6s. as the value of his "arms and ammunition." He had died January 24, 1697-8, according to the old tombstone, fortunately still preserved. It appears that this ancient memorial was recently discovered by Mr. Robert H. Russell in the footpath leading from his house to his garden. It was several inches under ground, and about 200 feet from the southeast corner of the old Congregational burying ground, where it was doubtless originally placed. It is believed that many years since it was taken from thence by some vandal hands, and used for a time as a step-stone. Mr. T. B. Fairchild, of Stratford, though not a descendant or of kindred, to his credit be it said, caused this memorial stone to be returned and reset.

He had married, Nov. 8, 1673, Sarah Nichols, the daughter of Isaac Nichols, a prominent Stratford family, one of her sisters having married Rev. Joseph Webb, and another Rev. Israel Chauncey, pastor of the Stratford church from 1665 to 1703, who was one of the founders of Yale College, and was chosen its first president, but declined the honor. By this marriage Stephen Burritt had seven children, as follows:

Elizabeth, born July 1, 1675; William, born March 29, 1677; (died young.) Peleg, (1st) born Oct. 5, 1679; Josiah, born 1681; Israel, born 1687; Charles, (1st) born 1690; Ephraim, (1st) born 1693.

Peleg Burritt (1st) married Sarah Benit, (sic) Dec. 5, 1705, and had issue: William, baptized Oct. 13, 1706; Daniel, (Bridgeport church records) 1708; Sarah, (Stratford town records) born July 20, 1712; Peleg, (Jr.) born Jan. 8, 1720-1. Peleg Burritt, Sr., of Stratford, deeded lands to his son Peleg Jr., at Ripton Parish, including forty acres on Walnut Hill, "excepting only my own new dwelling house," date of April 25, 1746. He had sold land on Snake Brook, to Richard Nichols, April 27, 1713. Date of his death not ascertained. Sarah, wife of Peleg, united with the church at Stratfield in December, 1709.



Of the other sons of Ensign Stephen Burritt, Josiah was one of the proprietors of Newtown, 1710, and had numerous descendants there. He married Mary Peat, March 10, 1703, and had Elizabeth, baptized (Bridgeport church) July 23, 1704; Stephen, baptized (Bridgeport church) Feb. 10, 1706; Benjamin and Phoebe, (twins) born (Stratford town records), Jan. 29, 1708; William, born January, 1709, all of whom were of Newtown. Israel, 4th son of Ensign Stephen, married Sarah Coe, March 4, 1719, and is said to have settled in Durham. Charles, 5th son of Ensign Stephen, had Daniel, Israel, Charles and Elihu (1), who married and had among other children, Elihu (2), who had Elijah, Elizabeth, Emily, George and Elihu (3), distinguished as the "Learned Blacksmith," who was born at New Britain, Conn., Dec. 8, 1811, and whose fame is world wide. Charles Burritt took Freeman's oath at Stratford September, 1730. He and Mary his wife, were members of the Stratfield church, 1718. Daniel Burritt, son of Charles and Mary, his wife, died prior to his father, who by will dated Jan. 23, 1761, gave to the children of his son Daniel. The distribution of the estate of Daniel mentions the widow Comfort, daughters, Roxanna married Richard Hubbell 4th, Penninah, married Samuel Brinsmade, and Amelia, and sons Stephen, Rollins and Elijah Burritt. Elijah, though mentioned last, was probably the eldest, and probably not a son of the widow Comfort, but of a former wife, as there is good authority for saying—Stephen was his half brother. Elijah was born in 1743, it is the family tradition, on the site of his lifelong residence, which still stands, and appears good for another one hundred years. He was a man of fine form and presence, six feet in height, of uniformly good health, never sick until the last year of his life. He died Sep. 23, 1841, at the advanced age of ninety-eight years and six months. His life was one of great activity, his business embracing blacksmithing, buckskin leather dressing, and cooperage, as well as farming. He was overseer and agent for the Golden Hill Indians from A. D., 1812 to 1834, at a period when their numbers comprised quite a



fund. This rendered the distribution of the income of their small fund both delicate and difficult. By them he was looked up to as a father. He was a man of high character and intelligence, of the strictest integrity and religiously a strong Churchman. He retained his faculties unimpaired in a remarkable degree until the last, and from his intelligence and long life, he occupies in local history a peculiar position. In his younger years he was acquainted with the men and events of the earliest period. In his latest years, he reached down, and communicated his knowledge to men now living.

Isaac Sherman, Esq., says: "It was from him, (Mr. Burritt) that I derived much of the information I possess relative to the early settlers of Stratfield," (now Bridgeport), and which he has so well transmitted in his published recollections.

Elijah Burritt was three married. His first wife was Sarah Hall, daughter of John Hall, Stratfield, by whom he had one son and five daughters, viz:

1. Daniel, merchant, Bridgeport, known as Colonel Burritt, unmarried.
2. Comfort, died young.
3. Ann, married Ephraim Wheeler Sherman, and had issue, three sons and three daughters.
4. Hannah, married Silas Shelton, of Huntington, and had issue, two sons five daughters.\*
5. Mercy, married Captain James Fayerweather, of Bridgeport.
6. Phoebe, married Captain Samuel Hawley, No. 2,335 in the Hawley family record.

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\*—Of these daughters, Elizabeth was a member of the family of her grandfather Burritt until her marriage to Captain George Lanell. Their children are Harriet, married Dr. Joseph S. French, Charles Howard, married Susan Lobdell, Mary Burritt, married Edwin J. Nettleton. Another daughter Harriet, married Henry Bassett, and had one son, Frank H., who with his mother now own and occupy the old homestead of her Grandfather Burritt. Mrs. Lanell, aged seventy-eight years, and Mrs. Bassett, aged seventy-five years, were able to attend the meeting of the Historical Society, Feb. 19, 1892, and listened with much interest to the reading of this paper. The oldest daughter, Mary Shelton, who married Mr. T. Hulse, was also represented by her daughter, Mary Burritt, who by contributions of her pen and pencil illustrations, and perpetuates the history of the Ancestral Home which was erected in 1783, on the site occupied by Mr. Daniel Burritt, father of Elijah. A crayon picture of this house—made by Mary Burritt Hulse—is hung upon the walls of the Historical Society, as a companion piece to the portrait of Mr. Burritt, painted by Edwin White, for Mr. and Mrs. B. T. Nichols. Mr. Nichols who was the survivor, at his death directed it given to the Historical Society. B. B. L., Feb. 1892.





Mr. Burritt married second, Sarah Fairchild, of Redding, Conn. Her only child was

7. Mary, married Barak T. Nichols.

His third marriage was to Sarah (Chappell) McLean. She had by her first marriage, Dr. John McLean, physician, Norwalk, Conn., and Sarah, who married George Wade, Bridgeport.

Stephen Burritt, son of Daniel, and half brother to Elijah Burritt, had his residence on Old Mill Green near the Mill Pond. He married Hannah Platt Avery, daughter of Rev. Elisha Avery, of Norwalk, Conn., and cousin of John S. Avery\* and had Charlotte C., born 1797, died Aug. 8, 1837; Mary Ann, born 1799, died Dec. 21, 1820; and Stephen Elisha Avery, born Nov. 8, 1804, died April 1825. Stephen Burritt died 1815, aged sixty-two years; Hannah, his wife, died Oct. 25, 1843, aged eighty years. The children were all unmarried, and the grave marks of the entire family stand together in Pembroke cemetery.

Stephen Elisha Avery Burritt appears to have been a very bright and promising young man. He was graduated at Yale College in the class of 1824, when but nineteen years old. A class album of his, of remarkable interest, is in the possession of the Fairfield County Historical Society, donated by J. N. Ireland, Esq. The original contributions and selections show a high appreciation of young Burritt, and bear the signatures of such men as Judge Origen Storrs Seymour, Hon. Eliphalet T. Bulkeley, father of Governor Morgan G. Bulkeley, Linus Child, Ebenezer Jessup, Dr. Jeremiah T. Dennison, Benjamin D. Stillman, Esq., New York; Hamilton Murray, New York; Dr. Frederick J. Judson and Henry D. Sterling, (brother of Hon. D. H. Sterling,) of Bridgeport, and others of equal standing.

Ephraim's children were Eunice, Murtha, Mary, Ephraim, Jr., Stephen, William, Abel and Lewis.

Daniel Burritt, son of Stephen, who was a son of Josiah, son of Ensign Stephen, probably married Sarah Collins, at New Milford, Feb. 8, 1756, and lived at Arlington, Vt., for

\*NOTE.—John S. Avery occupied the Stephen Burritt place about 1840.



some years prior to the Revolution, when, being a Loyalist, he went to Canada and settled at Augusta, near Prescott, where he died aged ninety-three. Of his sons, Adoniram lived to be ninety-eight, Stephen, eighty-four, Daniel, Jr., eighty-seven, and Major upwards of ninety; a daughter, Lois lived to be ninety-three. Whether Toryism had anything to do with this extraordinary longevity is not recorded. Perhaps it was to give time for repentance. But there were many patriots among the Burritts, some of whom lived to be aged. Among those whose names appear on the list of Revolutionary soldiers in Connecticut are John, Philip, Abijah, Authouy, Charles, Elihu, Israel, Nathan, Abel, Eben, Stephen, William Burritt and others. Israel Burritt was from New Milford, and was commissioned as Lieutenant. Andrew Burritt, born 1741, who married Eunice Wells, Jan. 27, 1763, and was the great-grandfather of Oscar C. Burritt, of Hydeville, Vt., is also said to have been engaged in the Revolution. Some of the descendants of the daughters of the above Daniel Burritt, still reside at Arlington, Vt.

John Burritt, son of William and Elizabeth, and the younger brother of Ensign Stephen, as appears in the Stratford records was a lot owner as early as 1671. He married Deborah Barley, or Barlow, May 1, 1684, and had a son Joseph, born March 12, 1685, as the records show. Although Savage says in his Genealogical notes that John was unmarried, he appears to have been twice married, his second marriage having been with Hannah Fairchild, date of May 5, 1708. It is claimed that he had a son John, but that is doubtful, for Joseph is named as Administrator, and as sole heir of his father's estate, date of Oct. 3, 1727, the will having been filed Feb. 17, 1726-7. The inventory of the estate amounted to £1754.9s1d. Joseph Burritt made his will March 10, 1750; left widow Mary, sons William, John, Nathan, Samuel, daughters Deborah, wife of Jonas Thompson, Hannah, wife of Isaac Beach; also had Mary, born Sep. 22, 1721, and Ebenezer, born Dec. 18, 1728. This Joseph Burritt, son of John, was probably the ancestor of Joseph Burritt, born in Stratford in 1758, who married Sarah Ufford, and was the father of Joseph



Burritt, Jr., who died at Ithaca, N. Y., in 1888, aged ninety-four. He had married Asenath Curtiss, of Stratford, June 17, 1816, and left many descendants.

Peleg Burritt, Jr., born Jan. 7, 1719-20, married first (his second marriage is elsewhere noted) Elizabeth, daughter of Richard Blackleach, Jr., of Ripton Parish, date unknown, but evidently prior to Dec. 15, 1742, for on that date Richard Blackleach, Jr., conveyed land "to my son, Peleg Burritt, Jr., of said Stratford." He doubtless lived at Ripton Parish. There was a daughter born of this marriage named Mehitabel, after her grandmother, Mehitabel Laboree Burritt, and a son Blackleach Burritt, but the church records of Ripton Parish, prior to 1773, having been destroyed, and the family record of Peleg Burritt, Jr., having been lost at the time of the Wyoming Massacre, it has been found impossible to definitely ascertain the date of the marriage or the birth of either of these children. The birth of Blackleach Burritt has been placed by some as early as 1740, but as his father was then scarcely twenty years of age, it cannot be taken as even appropriately correct, especially in view of the fact that his sister's name precedes his in order of mention in the will of their grandfather Blackleach. Probably she was born about 1742, and he about 1744. As will be noticed he was cotemporary with the late Elijah Burritt, of Stratford, and not distantly related to him.

#### THE BLACKLEACH FAMILY.

The Blackleach family was early of Connecticut, John Blackleach, Jr., of Hartford, 1659, being perhaps the grandfather of Richard, Jr. Richard Sr, was of Stratford as soon as 1676; was a merchant, and is called Richard Blackleach, gentleman. In 1698, in the prosecution of his business, he was plaintiff in a suit against Mr. William Hoadley, merchant, of Braunford, concerning some Negro Slaves delivered by him to the said Hoadley, to be paid for in corn, which was in the courts for several years, but in which he was finally successful. He was a high Churchman, but instead of carrying the Gospel to the Heathen on "Afric's golden sands," he evidently brought the Heathen to the Gospel! This experiment of his



in the way of Evangelization, is in striking contrast with an earlier fact recorded of John Blackleach, (probably his father) who kept the ferry over the Housatonic river between Stratford and Milford, who in 1669, petitioned to be allowed to make known to the Indians, as he should have opportunity, "something of the knowledge of God." Richard Blackleach, Sr., died in 1731, aged seventy-six years.

Richard Blackleach, Jr., married Mehitabel Laboree, probably the widow of Dr. Laboree, Feb. 2, 1715-16, and had two children, Elizabeth, who married Peleg Burritt, Jr., and Sarah, who married Mr. Edward Jessup. Mehitabel Laboree Blackleach died Feb. 21, 1735. His will made Feb. 27, 1747, was recorded Oct. 2, 1750, and inventory filed April 28, 1751. The following is a transcript of the substance of it:

"I give unto Mehitabel Burritt, daughter of Peleg Burritt, Jr., of Stratford, one Silver Cup, two Silver Spoons, together with all my Movable Estate, provided she lives to ye age of eighteen years or marriage; but if she die before, I give said Movables unto Blackleach Burritt, ye son of Peleg Burritt, Jr." He also gave £5 to his daughter Sarah Jessup, wife of Edward Jessup of Fairfield, and £5 to each of her six children. He further gave "unto Blackleach Burritt, son of Peleg, Jr., and unto his heirs and assigns forever, all my land, meadow and buildings in said Stratford, being butted and bounded as appears of record." Ephraim Judson and Daniel Thompson were named as executors, and were given authority to sell land on Fawn Hill if necessary to pay the debts and bequests, and they did so sell lands to Peleg Burritt, Jr., date of March 5, 1753. The total inventory shows £1,051 3s7d, of which £850 was real estate. In the personal property was "one Silver Cup, holding near one pint, two Silver Spoons, and two dozen Silver Vest Buttons," valued altogether at £29s5d. And these were for Mehitabel, and something of personal property besides: quite a dowry. Little is handed down in regard to this young lady, and it is not known whether or not she married. She is said to have been very handsome, and of a somewhat mercurial disposition.

The probate records of Fairfield show the final settlement





of the estate of Richard Blackleach to have taken place in 1758. The debits include a charge for going to Green's Farms to pay the bequests to Mrs. Edward Jessup and her children, and £46 paid out by the executors for the expenses involved in a law suit, the records of which considerable research failed to disclose.

And so the lad Blackleach Burritt was made the heir to quite an estate, the disposition of which, however, does not fully appear. Nothing notable is known of his boyhood and youth except the stories of his acrobatic performances on the roofs of buildings which he seemed to delight in, to the terror of his step-mother, to whom he is said to have been much attached. He does not appear to have been the traditional goody, goody boy, who is expected to die young, but he had the timber in him that men are made of. Aspiring after an education, he entered Yale College, where he graduated, as his still well preserved diploma, an ancient parchment testifies, in the class of 1765. An exciting incident of his college life was the celebrated case of the poisoning of a large number of the students. In answer to recent inquiry, Professor Dexter, of Yale, gives the following version of the affair:

"The mysterious sickness at College occurred on April 14, 1764. A common rumor at the time, and later, imputed it to poison administered by a French woman employed in the College commons; but the more reasonable view held by President Clapp was, that some students that were rebellious against the food furnished in the commons, bribed the French woman to put some strong physic into the food, in the hope of breaking up the system."

In a sketch of Rev. Isaac Lewis, D. D., who was a native of Stratford and a classmate of Blackleach Burritt, which appears in Sprague's *Annals of the American Pulpit*, the following account of that affair is given: "At that time the whole College was poisoned through the villainy of certain French neutrals. These fellows had taken mortal offense at the conduct of a few wild students," and they meditated "the most deadly revenge. To accomplish their purpose, they contrived to visit the kitchen where the food of the stu-



dents was prepared and infused a large quantity of arsenic into one of the dishes that was to be placed before them. A deadly sickness came over all who partook of the food, and a few were so affected that they died shortly after."

Of Blackleach Burritt it is said that he was at that time engaged in nursing his sick chum, Samuel Mills. Another account says that he took a frugal meal of bread and milk on that occasion and so escaped being poisoned. Samuel Mills' father, Rev. Jedediah Mills, who was then and for many years the pastor of the church at Ripton Parish, in Stratford, was preaching in the pulpit when a messenger arrived from New Haven, and went first up into the pulpit, and then to Captain Burritt. Service was then dismissed, and both immediately went to New Haven. All of which is of interest as leading up to the fact that not long after this, Whitfield visited New Haven, and delivered a memorable discourse in the College chapel, that is said to have led to a great change in the current of Mr. Burritt's life, and which resulted in his uniting with the church in Yale College, date of Feb. 3, 1765, and led to the consecration of himself to the noble work of the Christian Ministry.

On graduating he pursued his theological studies with his venerable and able pastor, Rev. Jedediah Mills, of Ripton Parish, evidently in company with his classmates and companions of his boyhood, Samuel Mills and Isaac Lewis, for at a meeting of the Fairfield East Association, as appears in the old records now in the possession of Rev. Joel S. Ives, of Stratford, the Stated Clerk of that Association, held at Danbury on the last Tuesday of Feb'y, 1768, "Isaac Lewis, A. B., and Blackleach Burritt, A. B., presented themselves as Candidates for Examination to preach the Gospel. Their credentials being required, they offered the following, viz.: 'To the Revd. Asso'n convened at Danbury. Gent'm: Being detained by bodily Indisposition, I do hereby signify that Mr. Lewis and Mr. Burritt, the bearers, were sometime since recommended to us by Mr. Dagget, Pastor of a Church in New-Haven, and are in Good Standing with us in all things as becometh the Gospel. Mr. Jedediah Mills, Pas-



tor, Ripton, Feb'y 22, 1768.' Adjourned till to-morrow morning eleven o'clock. Met according to adjournment and proceeded to the examination of the Candidates as to their Qualifications for the Work of the Ministry and then adjourned until to-morrow morning eight o'clock. Met Feb. 24, 1768, according to adjournment, and proceeded to complete the examination of the aforementioned Candidates, as to their Abilities natural & acquired, their Knowledge, Doctrinal and experimental, and finding them hopefully qualified for the work of the ministry: do accordingly License them to preach the Gospel, and recommend them to the Service of the Churches wheresoever God in his providence shall call them." Rev. Jedediah Mills, born 1697, was a son of Peter Mills, of Windsor, Conn., born 1668; he graduated at Yale, 1722, was pastor of Ripton Parish from 1723-4; a friend of Whitfield, who commemorates him in his journal as "a dear man of God." He died in 1776, greatly lamented, having retired from active service three years previously. His son Samuel, who was a classmate of Blackleach Burritt, was for some time pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Bedford, Westchester County, N. Y. Rev. Isaac Lewis, D. D., the other classmate referred to, who was a native of Ripton Parish, Stratford, was located many years at Wilton, was a Chaplain in the Continental Army, 1776; and after the Revolution, was settled over the Church at Old Greenwich, where Rev. Mr. Burritt, as will be seen, was for a time located. He died Aug. 27, 1840, in his ninety-fifth year.

And so Rev. Blackleach Burritt was regularly licensed to preach. He had previously married Martha Wells, daughter of Gideon and Eunice Wells, of Ripton Parish, at a date not known, but probably soon after graduating from College, as his second daughter was born Feb. 26, 1768. And as he not only so married a descendant of the distinguished Colonial Governor of Connecticut, Thomas Welles, but two of his daughters were afterwards also united with kindred of that name, it seems fitting to here give a brief lineage of that noted family.



## THE WELLES FAMILY

Is illustrious in the annals of this country, but as the head of one among the many different branches which here appeared at an early day, Thomas Welles, the distinguished Colonial Governor of Connecticut, stands out pre eminent. It may be difficult to trace his direct connection with heraldic honors, or to those whose names were inscribed at Battle Abbey, by order of William the Conqueror, (the family tracings go back it is said to 794) but he was evidently of good family and so bore himself as to be well entitled to the kingly title of a man. Late investigations indicate that Thomas Welles was from Northamptonshire, where he was born in 1598. In the English Calendar of Colonial State Papers, is found, date of 1635, "Thomas Welles and Elizabeth his wife Recusant, (i. e. Non-Conformists) in Rothwell, Northamptonshire." Articles of accusation were drawn up against him and he was warned to appear in the Court of Star Chamber to answer charges. He was admonished to answer "plene" under pain of being taken pro confesso. Was then warned to appear next court day to receive final judgment. Feb. 12, 1635, he had been ordered sentenced. As he then disappeared from Rothwell, having lost all of his property by confiscation, he doubtless at that time entered the service of his kinsman, Lord Saye and Sele, who protected all of the Puritans to the best of his ability.

"In the year 1635, John Winthrop arrived at Boston with a commission from Lord Saye & Sele, Lord Brooks and other noblemen interested in the Connecticut Patent, to erect a fort at the mouth of the Connecticut river. They sent men, amunitions and two thousand pounds sterling, (Winthrop's Journal). Early in 1636, Lord Saye & Sele, with his Private Secretary Thomas Welles, came out to Saybrooke, but his Lordship discouraged by the gloomy aspect of everything about him, and not finding his golden dreams realized, returned to England, leaving his Secretary behind to encounter the dangers and difficulties of the then wilderness. Thomas Welles proceeded up the Connecticut river with his company as far as Wethersfield and Hartford.





Thomas Welles on his arrival in Connecticut, disclaimed "Arms," in compliance with the general custom, but that did not prevent his taking a prominent position at an early day in the affairs of the Colony, and from bravely counselling to take up arms against the warlike Pequots at that memorable Court of the Magistrates of whom he was one, held on the 7th day of May, 1637. He held the office of Magistrate for twenty-two years, and until his death. In 1639 was Treasurer of the Colony; in 1641, Secretary; in 1649, a Commissioner of the United Colonies; in 1654, Moderator of the General Court, and Deputy Governor; in 1655, Governor; in 1656-57, Deputy Governor; 1658, Governor, and in 1659 again Deputy Governor. Was considered one of the best writers in the Colony and most of the laws of that period were drafted by him. Was a man of affairs, and one of the largest taxpayers. He died at Wethersfield, Jan. 14, 1660, leaving a widow and seven children, four sons and three daughters, besides one son deceased.

John Welles, the eldest son of Governor Welles, born in Northamptonshire, 1621, came to this country with his father in 1636; was made a Freeman at Hartford, April 1, 1645; removed shortly after to Stratford in which he received his father's interest; was the Representative, 1656-7; Magistrate and Judge of Probate, in 1658. He died in 1659, aged thirty-eight years, leaving the following children: John, Thomas and Robert, (twins) Temperance, Samuel and Sarah. The widow, Elizabeth Welles, who was left by her husband's will "all that is due her in England and forty pounds to carry her there, if she chooses to go," married second, in 1663, John Willecockson, of Stratford.

John Welles, Jr., called Captain Welles in the Stratford records, was born at Stratford, in 1648, and was married to Mary Hollister, daughter of John Hollister, of Wethersfield, 1669. There were eight children, viz.: Mary, Thomas and Sarah, (twins) John, Comfort, Joseph, Elizabeth and Robert, all born in Stratford. John Welles, Jr., died Nov. 24, 1714.

Thomas Welles, eldest son of John Welles, Jr., born Jan. 2, 1674, was married about 1710, to Sarah, daughter of



Ephraim Stiles, of Stratford. There were nine children, as follows:

Bathsheba, born April 30, 1711; Ephraim, born Nov. 7, 1712; Comfort, born Sep. 15, 1714; Thomas, born Aug. 20, 1717; Gideon, born Nov. 12, 1719; Daniel, born May 19, 1722; Gurdon, born Feb. 3, 1724; Hezekiah, born July, 1732.

Thomas Welles was commonly known as Deacon Welles, being the first of that name to hold that office in the old Stratford church.

Gideon Welles, son of Deacon Thomas, married Eunice (—) and lived at Ripton Parish, in Stratford, where she died Jan. 8, 1805, aged eighty-five, and he died Oct. 19, 1805, aged eighty-six years. His will, probated Nov. 2, 1805, on file in the Bridgeport records, gives to his daughters Eunice Welles, who had married Simeon Hamilton, June 4, 1794;

Ruth Welles, who had married Timothy Hatch, Nov. 28, 1782;

Diantha Welles, who had married John Ayers, Dec 1, 1782;

Blackleach Burritt, Jr., son of my daughter (deceased), Martha Burritt:

Each five pounds: while the real estate was divided between his sons, Stiles, Gideon, Jr., and Robert Welles, all of Ripton Parish. Robert Welles married Anna Wheeler, Dec. 9, 1779. The marriages of the other sons do not appear.

Hezekiah Welles, the youngest son of Deacon Thomas, was married at Stratford, about 1753, to Phebe Latin, and had five sons: David, Josiah, born about 1756, Gurdon, Abijah and Abner. She died at Ripton Parish, Jan. 2, 1812, aged ninety years. Hezekiah was a Sergt. in Capt. Edward Barnard's company in the French war, 1759. He is believed to have removed to New Milford. His son, Josiah, married Prudence Leavenworth, at Ripton Parish, Jan. 13, 1770, and had a son, James, born 1780, who married at DeRuyter, Madison County, N. Y., Oct. 1802, Prudence, daughter of Rev. Blackleach Burritt.

Gurdon Welles, third son of Hezekiah, born Feb. 28, 1758, in Ripton Parish, was there married March 1, 1792, to Sarah, daughter of Rev. Blackleach Burritt.



The Fairfield East Association, which licensed Mr. Burritt, recommended him to the church at Ridgebury, as a worthy and proper person, and the records show him to have been there for a short period, from April 8, 1768, the predecessor of Rev. Samuel Camp, who was ordained there in 1769. From then until 1772, there is no record of him, but he is believed to have been at New Milford, Conn., where there were kindred of his wife's, and where there was a Separatist church, or at North Salem, Westchester, County, N. Y. As early as 1772, he appeared at Pound Ridge, in Westchester County, N. Y., and was the first recorded pastor of the Presbyterian church at that place. The records of the old Dutchess County Presbytery, of which he became a member, at a meeting held May 4, 1774, recommended the Congregation at Pound Ridge, to give a call to the Rev. Blackleach Burritt to settle among them in the work of the ministry. Whereupon a formal call was duly extended to him, and on June 15, 1774, an adjourned meeting of the Presbytery was held at that place for the purpose of his ordination. On the day following, after account of some preliminary business, and the formal ordaining of Rev. Mr. Burritt, the following record appears: "But inasmuch as there are certain difficulties subsisting in this Church and Congregation respecting Mr. Burritt's being settled over them, the Presbytery does not think proper to give Mr. Burritt the particular charge of this Congregation, as their stated Pastor, but do ordain him with reference to them, and appoint him to labor here in his Ministerial office for the space of one year." At the end of that year another remonstrance from aggrieved members of that congregation was presented to the Presbytery, but his friends were more powerful, and he was continued there for another year. A copy of the original protest is herewith presented, not only as a quaint and original document, but as giving occasion to show the trend of his religious thought.

*To the Reverend Presbytery now Convened in Pound Ridge:*

REV. SIRS: We the subscribers beg leave to show before you the Reasons why we are not willing the Rev. Mr. Burritt should not be introduced into the work of the Gospel Ministry



in this place, which are as followeth, viz; The first & great reason is Because we in our opinions Look upon his principals in matters of a Religious Nature not to be Agreeable to the Directions, Rules & Precepts of the Gospel, & so consequently contrary to the Dictates of our Consciences, & also contrary to the Peace & good order of this place as to Ecclesiastical Enjoyments, & notwithstanding the Desirable qualities & Endowments which are Discoverable in the gentleman in other respects. As Sundry of us have signed for Mr. Burret's Salery, we stand ready to give the reasons severally when required. We desire to guard against a Party spirit, requesting the same of our fellow members of this community, humbly imploring Divine assistance that we may all be brought to such conclusion in unity as in this important afare shall be most conducive to God's glory & the public weal of this Ecclesiastical communitie, is the earnest request of your most obedient and Humble Servts, the subscribers.

Pound Ridge, June 14. 1774.

Eb C. Brown,  
David Fansher,  
Amos Seofield,  
Enos Brown,  
Joseph Seofield,  
Ebenezer Bouton. Jr.,  
David Dart,  
Joseph Seymour.

Ebenezer Seymour,  
Nathaniel Fansher,  
Abraham Slason,  
William Garnsey,  
Timothy Bowton,  
Joseph Fanshaw,

To understand the causes of this protest it is only necessary to recall the fact that Mr. Burritt had imbibed the spirit of Whitfield's preaching while in College, and that he had studied Theology under Rev. Jedediah Mills, who was a friend of Whitfield, and in favor of revivals, the new light movement, and less restrictions of Church and State, as it then existed in the Colony. That was evidently the reason of his early migration over the borders and into the larger ecclesiastical liberty which then obtained in the State of New York; but Pound Ridge being essentially a New England community, offered some resistance to his theological thesis. The opposition also embraced all there was of incipient torryism





there, which his stalwart patriotism was sure to antagonize.

Mr. Burritt's official relations with the Church at Pound Ridge closed April 1, 1776, but his family appears to have remained a while longer. The well preserved tradition is, as stated by Rev. W. J. Cumming, in his History of the Westchester County Presbytery, that when Rev. Samuel Sackett, of Crompond, present Yorktown, N. Y., was so outspoken that he was obliged to seek safety in flight, Blackleach Burritt supplied his place. Miss Mary Lee, of a family long connected with the Church at Crompond, has the well remembered tradition, and says, "He was thought very much of as a Minister of the Gospel by the people of that place." He was doubtless there and in that vicinity for some two years after severing his relations with his previous charge.

#### MR. BURRITT'S CAPTURE.

As patriotism was a crowning glory to Rev. Mr. Burritt, so his capture was the dramatic event of his life. As already related, he bravely held the post of danger when others retired, but the Federal lines having been forced back so that it became desirable to use the Church and Parsonage at Crompond (present Yorktown) for military purposes, it became a necessity and duty to take his family to a place of greater safety. This probably occurred sometime in 1778. And then he and they seemed to disappear. His subsequent capture and incarceration in the old Sugar House Prison, was indeed a well authenticated tradition in every branch of his family, but where and when did the capture occur? As to the time, no date was mentioned, and as to the place, there was a wide divergence, some claiming that it was at White Plains, Westchester County, and others that it was on Long Island. Long continued research disproved both of these theories, but negations prove nothing. And *when* was the capture? Light unexpectedly flashed upon that query from a chance perusal of Washington Irving's biography, in which, in a quaint certificate to William Irving, testifying to his kindly interest in the welfare of patriot prisoners, and to which further reference will be made, he says that he was "prisoner in this city, (New York) as early in the war as June, 1779."



There was a clue and it was carefully followed up.

Where was he captured? That was the perplexing question. The search was continued as opportunity offered. The traditional account seemed to place the scene near some navigable body of water,—the river or the sea. The Sound line in Westchester County was devastated and in the possession of the unrelenting loyalists—he certainly would not take his wife and children into the jaws of such a lion. Fairfield County only remained, but a careful scanning of its history gave no clue. Nothing in its recorded or unrecorded annals gave the first faint glimmer of light. But at last, patient waiting, patient looking, had its abundant reward, and the truth was made as clearly to appear as the sun in the heavens.

The following Tory account of Mr. Burritt's capture was found in Frank Moore's "Diary of the Revolution," credited to the New Hampshire Gazette of the issue of July 13, 1779, and it was the first discovery of the long looked for event. It led up to others that follow:

"June 19.—Yesterday morning about 4 o'clock 32 Refugees commanded by Capt. Bonnell and other officers landed at Greenwich, in Connecticut. A thick fog favored their entrance, and they marched through the town undiscovered; but the Rebel guard being at length alarmed, and imagining the Refugees to be more numerous than in fact they were, fled with precipitation before them, and so close was the pursuit that some were overtaken and secured. The inhabitants of the town refused to open their doors to the Refugees, and reduced them to the necessity of entering the windows; notwithstanding which they plundered the houses of nothing but arms and ammunition, their principal object being horned cattle, of which they brought off 38, also 4 horses and 10 or 12 prisoners. Among the latter is a most pestiferous Rebel Priest and preacher of sedition, who when taken swore that there was no firearms in his house, but upon his being cautioned against equivocation and threatened with the consequences which would result from persisting in it, his timid spouse produced his firelock and a cartouch box with eighteen



rounds in it. The Refugees proceeded about six miles into the country collecting cattle, &c. On their return they were attacked by a body of Rebels, supposed to consist of about 150, with two field pieces, but they kept at such a distance that only one loyalist was wounded by their fire. Before the Refugees embarked they landed a field piece, which was of great service, and after engaging the Rebels two hours, during which time they expended all their ammunition, they got safe on board, and arrived at Oyster Bay about noon, with their cattle and prisoners. They were obliged to leave a number of the former on the Rebel shore for want of boats to bring them off."

No doubt this "pestiferous Priest" was Rev. Mr. Burritt, as the following account of the same affair taken from the files of Rivington's Royal Gazette, date of June 23, 1779, abundantly testifies:

"Some days ago a party of Rebels came over to Treadwell's farm, Long Island, conducted by Major Brush, and carried off Justice Hewlett and Capt. Young—since which the Refugees went over to Greenwich in Connecticut and returned with 13 prisoners, among whom is a *Presbyterian Parson* named Burritt, an egregious *Rebel* who has frequently taken arms, and is of great repute in the Colony: 48 head of cattle, and 4 horses were brought in with the prisoners."

The following from the Connecticut Gazette of New London, issue of July 8, 1779, gives as will be seen, quite a different version of this Tory marauding expedition:

"New Haven, June 23.—Wednesday night last a party of the enemy from Long Island, landed at Green's Farms in Fairfield and plundered the house of Dr. Jessup of all they could carry off. The next night, (Thursday, June 17), a considerable party landed at Stamford, who before the inhabitants could collect in force, made prisoners of 8 or 10 persons, among whom was a Mr. Blackleach Burritt, an unordained preacher, and took off 30 or 40 head of cattle, which they got on board under cover of the fire of a privateer which landed close in under a point. *They likewise plundered all they could lay their hands on, broke windows, &c., and committed many outrages.*"



It was easy to make the error of locating the raid at nearby Stamford; and as has already been noted, Mr. Burritt was a regularly ordained Minister of the Presbyterian Church.

Mr. Joel Hatch, Jr., nephew of Ruth Wells Hatch, sister of Mrs. Rev. Burritt, in his history of Sherburne, N. Y., says: "He was a zealous Whig during the Revolutionary War, often carrying his patriotism into his pulpit. A party of British soldiers, guided by Tories, surrounded his house in the night, took him prisoner, and hurried him into their boat, not allowing time to put on his clothes until they had him safe on board. They sailed immediately for New York, where he was confined most of the time in what was known as the Sugar House Prison."

The following dramatic account of the capture is by Mrs. D. E. Sackett, widow of the late Rev. H. A. Sackett, now of Cranford, N. J., an aged lady of rare gifts and culture, and a granddaughter of Mr. Burritt, as received from her mother, Diantha Burritt Gray, wife of John Gray, Jr., one of the original proprietors of Sherburne:

She says of Rev. Mr. Burritt that "He used often to take his musket into the pulpit for defence, and, if need be, for ready joining in offensive warfare." Again, "At the seizure, some privates burst into the room. Grandmother sprang between the raised bayonets and her husband, holding them at bay, (heroic daughter of the Revolution, Patriot mother, wife!) till an officer ordered them to desist. As they did not then allow him time enough, or had not enough of human kindness to let him dress, his poor wife followed, clothes in hand, begging a chance for him to put some on, which finally they granted with rough oaths. She then followed to the water pleading for her two cows. With 'Let the —— Rebel minister's wife have one of them!' she drove it back to her desolated home, grief for her lost husband and pity for her helpless children dividing her heart."

It is said that as Rev. Mr. Burritt, and the other prisoners were being hurried along toward the beach, the wives and children followed in the rear. When they had gone some dis-





tance an officer rode up to the little band, and urged them to turn back, saying that they were being pursued by the Colonists, and that if they failed to reach their boats before they were overtaken by them, the women and children would be between two fires: yet they followed on, and did not return, but stood in silent protest against the robbery of their homes though there were signs of battle near at hand. And so the marauders sailed away with their prisoners and pillage, leaving devastation in their track. And this was the spot, this the scene of the capture—Old Greenwich, modern Sea Beach. There is still the old burying ground near which the Church stood, and there in full view to the passing traveller, is the old building, then the parsonage and the home of Mr. Burritt and his family, from which he was so rudely taken. The records of the old church are missing for the Revolutionary period, and the records of the Fairfield West Consociation do not show Mr. Burritt's appointment there for the reason that they were destroyed at the burning of Fairfield by the British early in that year, but the town records of Greenwich bear evidence to the fact that he was there, by his officiating at a marriage there, date of February 10, 1779.

Soon after the capture, the disconsolate family removed to Pound Ridge, Westchester County, N. Y., where they had friends and were cared for during Mr. Burritt's imprisonment, which was for a period of about fourteen months. The reference to Mr. Burritt in Irving's biography may pertinently be here introduced. Mr. William Irving, the father of Washington Irving, had remained in trade in the city of New York during the British occupation, and as the time for evacuation drew near, evidently feeling that his situation was somewhat precarious, and fearing proscription from the now victorious Patriots, he obtained from Rev. Mr. Burritt the following quaint certificate as a means of security:

"These may certify whom it may concern; whether civil or military officers, that Deacon William Irving, merchant in this city, appeared to be friendly inclined to the liberties of the United States & greatly lamented the egregious barbarities practiced by her enemies on the unlappy sons of Liberty



that unhappily fell in their power—contributed largely to my relief (who was a prisoner in this city as early in the war as June, 1779), and was probably an instrument under God of the preservation of my life, and by credible accounts I have had from other prisoners, has been the means of the preservation of theirs also.”

This document was signed “Blackleach Burrirt, Minister of the Gospel in the Presbyterian Church,” and bears date Nov. 15, 1783, just ten days before Washington and his army entered the city in triumph.

The story of Mr. Burrirt's relations with Mr. William Irving while in Prison are told by his granddaughter, Mrs. D. E. Sackett, as follows:

“He discovered Mr. Burrirt very low with prison fever, in his miserable cell, and by personal influence had him given a suitable place and medical care, and when he rallied Mr. Irving looked after him each day in his convalescence. Mrs. Irving also sent him a good bowl of coffee, in the bottom of which was a cheering couplet painted; and that grandfather said did him about as much good as the comforting, strengthening beverage. And at last he rounded up his good deeds by securing a release for him through an exchange of prisoners.”

He used often to preach to his fellow prisoners, and was known among the British officers and soldiers as the “Rebel Priest.” It is said that expecting to be released on a certain Monday he prepared a specially spicy sermon for the Sunday previous, which the officers in charge of the prison, knowing his spirit and independence, were determined to prevent his delivering, and accordingly released him on the Saturday night before, ordering him to leave at once, which to his regret, he was obliged to do.”

The exact date of Mr. Burrirt's release from prison is not known, but the records of the Dutchess County Presbytery, which at that time included a portion of Westchester County as well, show that he was present at a meeting held Oct. 11, 1780, and officiated as clerk. The next mention made of him is that at a meeting of the same body held Oct. 8, 1783,



"Presbytery was opened with a sermon by Mr. Burritt, from Psalm, 122:6. 'Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee.'" At this meeting the record says, "Mr. Burritt being reduced to low circumstances as to the comforts of this life and outward means of subsistence by reason of ye late war and otherwise, request ye advice of the Presbytery respecting ye means of relief, whereupon we agree to recommend him to the warmest charity of our Christian Brethren, and appoint ye clerk to draw up the commendation for the purpose." At the same meeting he and two others were appointed to spend one Sabbath each in missionary work in the lower parts of Westchester County.

Where Mr. Burritt was between 1780 and 1783, does not appear, but his family seems to have been a part of the time at least, at Ripton Parish, for he had a daughter born there in November, 1782. He is believed, however, to have been at Crompond a portion if not most of that period. The next reference to him is of the date of Dec. 1, 1783, when "the Presbytery met at Mr. Burritt's in the West Congregation in Fredricksburg," present town of Carmel, Putnam County, N. Y., having charge of the Mt. Gilead Church as well as the one at West Fredricksburg so called, and where he evidently resided. The site of the old log Church, (Mt. Gilead), where he preached, near Carmel, is still pointed out, and his memory is still cherished there.

On the death, June 5, 1784, of Rev. Samuel Sackett, for a long time except a brief period during the Revolution, pastor of the Church at Crompond, Rev. Mr. Burritt preached his funeral sermon. He was located at West Fredricksburg, or Red Mills—the present Mahopac Falls—for some three years, and it was there that a great affliction befel him in the death of his wife, in April, 1786. She was yet comparatively young, not more than 41 or 42,—the Church records of Stratford show her baptism Feb. 23, 1745—but the burdens of her life had not been light nor her tasks easy. She had come to be the mother of twelve children, and their care and the terrible strain of war times had been too great for her overtaxed powers. The youngest child and daughter was



but an infant of a few weeks old when the mother gave it her last loving look, and fell asleep, another martyr to motherhood and duty, as was fitting a loyal daughter of her sire who bravely suffered confiscation and expatriation for conscience sake. The home was desolated by her death, and the children scattered, several of them going to live for a time with their kindred at Ripton Parish. On the 10th of May following, 1786, Mr. Burritt was present at a meeting of the Presbytery, but no further record is made of him until May 8, 1794, when his name was dropped from the rolls as being then of Vermont.

The following mention of him is copied from the Court Records of Fairfield County, book of Executions, date of Nov. 30, 1789:

*To the Constables and Sheriff of the County of Fairfield:*

"Whereas, Elisha Mills, of Huntington, recovered judgment against Blackleach Burritt, late of New Fairfield, in said County, and now an absent and absconding debtor and gone to parts unknown, before the County Court holden at Danbury within the County aforesaid on the 3d Tuesday of November, 1789, for the sum of £59.19s.6d. lawful money debt, and the sum of £2.10 costs, whereof execution remains to be done hereon, therefore by the authority of the State of Connecticut, you are commanded to levy on the goods, chattels and lands of the said Burritt as the law directs," &c., and if they were not sufficient to satisfy in full the debt and costs, then the said officers were "commanded to take the body of the said Burritt and him commit unto the keeper of the gaol in Fairfield County aforesaid," and there to keep him "until he pay unto the said Mills the full sum aforementioned," with fees, &c. And so this Veteran Patriot Pastor, who had suffered imprisonment for devotion to the cause of his country, was in danger of being thrust into a common jail as a debtor!

The records show that the officer reported on Dec. 1, that Burritt could not be found—he was probably elsewhere too actively engaged in his Master's service to pay any attention to these proceedings—"or money or other valuable consider-





ation," but that he had levied upon a tract of land in Huntington, Ripton Society, called the "Mohegan Rocks," (probably the rocks are all there yet, though the last of the Mohegans disappeared sometime since) containing nineteen and one-half acres, which was appraised at £2 per acre, and that was turned over to the said Mills towards the satisfaction of his claim. It is interesting in this connection to state that the town records of Stratford show that Blackleach Burritt purchased that same piece of real estate, then called "the South End of Mohegan Hills," of his father, Peleg Burritt, Jr., Jan. 5, 1765, paying therefor £142 10s. Evidently he had paid a high price for it, or there had been great depreciation, or Mills was a grasping monopolist. Perhaps something of each, but Mr. Burritt evidently had considered the land as ample security for the debt incurred.

An important fact disclosed by the foregoing, is that after leaving West Fredricksburg, Mr. Burritt was for a time at New Fairfield. Perhaps his second marriage, which was with Deborah Wells, of the Long Island, Southold family, she being a direct descendant of William Wells, one of the foremost men of that settlement, Recorder, Deputy to the General Court, and Sheriff of Suffolk County, N. Y., from 1665 to 1669—was while at New Fairfield, although she had kindred at Wells, in Hamilton County, N. Y., not far from which, in Greenfield, Saratoga County, he next appears, having been the pioneer Pastor of a Church there as early as 1790, the records showing that at a meeting held Sept. 12 of that year, he was authorized to represent the Greenfield Church at a convention "at Bennington, in the State of Vermont, the present week." An old letter at hand also shows his residence there during the early part of that year. The year following, 1791, Mr. Burritt is found at Duanesburgh, then of Albany County, N. Y., where he is said to have formed a Church composed mainly of Connecticut families, who tarried there for a while, among whom were a brother, Stiles Welles, and a sister, Mrs. Ruth Welles Hatch, of his first wife, and that was probably what attracted him thither. In a letter dated at Duanesburgh, Dec. 28, 1791, he writes: "Stiles Welles has



lately returned from Huntington." During the same period he was also ministering to a Church in the adjoining town of Florida, Montgomery County, N. Y. But this pioneer preacher could not long remain in any one place. The true spirit of the Pilgrims was in him, and impelled him on. The old records of the Church at Winhall, Bennington County, Vt., state that on Friday, Jan. 6, 1792, only about a week later than the date of the above quoted letter, he was there present and officiating. Again on the 11th of March following, the records show him to have been there, and so on from time to time during that year. The records then show that an Ecclesiastical Council was "convened at Winhall, on the 1st day of January, A. D., 1793, for the purpose of the Instalment of the Rev'd Blackleach Burritt to the Pastoral care of the Church and Congregation there." Rev. Robert Campbell, formerly of New Milford, Conn., officiating as moderator. It cannot be said to have been an inviting field for a preacher of his ability, but in passing that way he had been strongly urged to come; the offer of a farm to be given him affording a home for his large family doubtless may have influenced his decision, but he is quoted as saying with his characteristic self forgetfulness, "That if he did not go there perhaps nobody else would!" And so a log house was built for him and a log Church, and he became the first pastor of the Church in Winhall. The records show considerable additions to that Church under his ministrations, but it was a brief pastorate, and death soon came in between him and his family, and his people, and they were sorely bereft. The last mention of him in the records is of the date of "Lord's Day, January ye 5, 1794," when he officiated at a baptism. His health had evidently been broken, for in the letter referred to he says, "I have for a length of time been more feebled and disordered than usual." The privations and sufferings to which he was subjected as a prisoner and otherwise, during the Revolution, and subsequently as a pioneer preacher, had been a severe strain upon even his strong constitution, and he was stricken down by a prevailing malady which devastated New England during the summer and autumn of 1794. There was no cessa-



tion in those early days of struggle; no vacation for tired and overworked pastors: no palace cars to carry them away to famous watering places: no beds of inglorious ease: but like good soldiers these Watchmen of Zion must die at their posts; and so

“Tranquil amidst alarms,”  
The summons found him “in the field,  
“A Veteran slumbering on his arms,  
Beneath his red-cross shield.”

The broken family was again scattered, never to be re-united. Some had already married, and others were elsewhere, yet of the fourteen children, twelve by the first marriage and two by the second,—a most interesting group—all survived, and all but two lived to have families. As evidencing their wide divergence, only two, those by the second marriage, died in the same place, although six of them and the widow, came soon afterwards to reside for a time in one place—Sherburne, Chenango County, N. Y., where Rev. Mr. Burritt had preached the first sermon to the Pioneers in 1792; and hence the interest of the writer in this story of his life.

In the absence of the family record, irrecoverably lost during some of the many removals, it has been a difficult task to gather up the somewhat imperfect data of his descendants here presented.

#### THE CHILDREN.

Eunice, named for her mother, appears to have been the eldest child, born at Ripton Parish, in 1766. She married a Mr. Hopkins, had children, and lived for a time prior to 1820, near Batavia, N. Y.

Melissa, the second child, was born Feb. 26, 1768, probably at Huntington, just two days after Mr. Burritt was licensed to preach. She married at Johnstown, N. Y., Oct. 9, 1791, James Raymond, a native of Kent, Conn., a descendant of Captain Richard Raymond from Essex, England, Freeman at Beverly, Mass., 1634, and afterwards of Norwalk and Saybrook, Conn. James Raymond was one of the original proprietors of Sherburne, N. Y., where he settled in 1792-3, his wife, Melissa Burritt Raymond, being one of the members of



the first Congregational Church organized in that place July 6, 1794. She was a strong, independent character, and her son, Philander Raymond, was distinguished as one of the founders of the city of Toledo, Ohio; was the promoter, builder and superintendent of the celebrated Brady's Bend Iron Works, on the Alleghany river, Pennsylvania, and interested in other large enterprises. Melissa Burritt Raymond died at Brady's Bend, Pa., July 3, 1849, in her eighty-second year. Mrs. Rev. J. R. Preston, of Creighton, Nebraska, and E. F. Ensign, Esq., of Madison, O., are her grand-children.

Martha, (called Patsy) Burritt, was born Oct. 1770, and married about 1790, Elisha Gray, then of Florida, Montgomery County, N. Y. She removed with her husband, to Sherburne, N. Y., in 1793, and was a charter member of the Church there. By various removals they came to make their home at Madison, O., where she died May 20, 1851, in her eighty-first year. She had two daughters, and a son Alanson, who removed to Kentucky, and there had seven sons and five daughters. The eldest son, John Tarvin Gray, born 1821, married his accomplished cousin, Cynthia Raymond, granddaughter of Melissa Burritt Raymond, and became a noted civil engineer and bridge builder, and still resides at Covington, Ky. Another son, Philander Raymond Gray, was a loyal Kentuckian in the war for the Union, was afterwards Sheriff of Venango County, Pa., Collector of Internal Revenue for that district, and for several years Superintendent of the great Eclipse and Standard Oil Co. works, near Franklin, Pa. He is the father by one mother, of an interesting family of eight sons and three daughters, one of the sons bearing the name of Burritt Gray. His present residence is at Elizabeth, N. J.

Sarah Burritt, the fourth daughter, was born at Pound Ridge, Westchester County, Jan. 29, 1772, and married her cousin, Gurdon Wells, born Feb. 28, 1758, son of Hezekiah, son of Deacon Thomas, at Huntington, March 1, 1792, and removing to Lincklaen, Chenango County, N. Y., their daughter Matilda, born Aug. 9, 1800, who still survives,\* a Widow Smith, at Three Rivers, Mich., was the first white child born

\*—She died March 17, 1892, in her ninety-second year.





in that township. Gurdon Wells died there Dec. 27, 1827, and she died Oct. 31, 1831, in her sixtieth year. She was a very decided character, and eminent in Christian piety. It is said that a man who had heard of her, came thirty miles once to see her, hoping that she would be able to expound the way of life more perfectly unto him. But then, that was a time when people believed something and thought it of some consequence what they did believe.

Ely Burritt, the eldest son, born at Pound Ridge, March 12, 1773, graduated at Williams College in the class of 1800, was licensed to practice medicine at Troy, N. Y., March 29, 1802, and became eminent as a physician. Dr. Wayland, who studied medicine with him, says: "Dr. Burritt was a man of remarkable logical powers, of enthusiastic love of his profession, and of great and deserved confidence in his own judgment. He stood at the head of his profession in Troy, and in the neighboring region, and was a person of high moral character." He married Mehitabel Stratton, daughter of Deacon Stratton, of Williamstown, Mass., April 12, 1798. There were four sons and three daughters born to them, of whom only one son and a daughter had descendants. This son, Alexander Hamilton Burritt, born in Troy, April 17, 1805, commenced the practice of medicine in 1827, after the Alopah system, which he continued until 1838, when he embraced Homœopathy, placing himself for a time under the instruction of his distinguished kinsman, the late Dr. John F. Gray, of New York, who was a grandson of Rev. Blackleach Burritt. He then practiced the new system; first, in Crawford County, Pa. He afterwards removed to Cleveland, O., where he aided in the organization of the Western Homœopathic College in 1850, and was Vice President and Professor of Obstetrics until 1854, when he resigned on account of his health, and removing to New Orleans, was successfully engaged in practice there until his death, Oct. 1876. His son, Amatus Robbins Burritt, born in 1833, graduated from the Western Homœopathic College in 1853, engaged in practice at Huntsville, Ala. In 1866 he married Miss Mary K. Robinson, by whom he had a son, Dr. William H. Burritt, born 1869,



now in practice at Huntsville, where his father died Aug. 22, 1876. Dr. A. R. Burritt was for a time in the Confederate service, while his only brother, (there is a surviving sister, Mrs. Julia A. Gary, of Evansville, Ind.) Ely Burritt, now of Fall River, Mass., was in the Union Army, and being taken prisoner, Dr. A. R. was instrumental in securing his release. This branch of the Burritt family, is remarkable in that it is represented by four generations of physicians, all of high reputation, being the son, grandson, great-grandson and great-great-grandson of Rev. Blackleach Burritt. Dr. Ely Burritt died at Troy, Sep. 1, 1823, in his fifty-first year. His widow afterwards married Professor John Adams, the noted Principal of Exeter Phillips Academy, Andover, Mass. Julia Ann Burritt, daughter of Dr. Ely, and said to have been a remarkably beautiful girl, married Dr. Amatus Robbins, and died Dec. 12, 1839, in her nineteenth year, leaving a son who is a physician in New Haven. A tradition of Dr. Ely Burritt is, that on the capture of his father, being then a boy of six years, he threw corn cobs at the British soldiers as expressive of his patriotic indignation!

Gideon Burritt, son of Rev. Blackleach, born in Pound Ridge, Sep. 15, 1774, married Sarah Bowne, lived at Winhall and Manchester, Vt., where he died in 1858. Had ten children, of whom three still survive at Manchester, viz.: Deacon Edwin Burritt, who married Mary Chellis, and has descendants, Jared Burritt, and Hon. Johnson Burritt. A son, Ely, married Esther Strait, whose mother was Rachel Purdy, and removed to Columbia, Bradford County, Pennsylvania. Mrs. Sarah Burritt Mosher, of Albany N. Y., widow of the late Dr. C. D. Mosher, of Albany, is a daughter of Ely.

Diantha Burritt, daughter of Rev. Blackleach, born at Pound Ridge, Jan. 9, 1776, married John Gray, Jr., at Winhall, Vt., May 26, 1793. Judge John Gray was an early and prominent citizen of Sherburne, N. Y., and afterwards removed to Sheridan, Chautauqua County, where she died Oct. 14, 1846. There were six sons and two daughters born to her. Three of the sons became physicians, one of them, the late Dr. John F. Gray, pre-eminent as the first to embrace the doctrines of



Hahnemann, in the city of New York, and distinguished for his large and successful practice. Another of the sons, Rev. Blackleach Burritt Gray, was a Presbyterian Minister, and one of his sons, General John Burritt Gray, now of New York, won distinction by his services as Adjutant General of the State of Missouri, during the War of the Rebellion. A daughter, Diantha, became eminent as a teacher, and with her late husband, the Rev. H. A. Sackett, was influential in the founding of Elmira Female College, at Elmira, N. Y. This lady of rare gifts and high Christian character, whose home is at Cranford, N. J., is one of the surviving grand-children of Rev. Blackleach Burritt, whose memory she has done much to perpetuate.

Rufus Burritt, supposed to have been born in 1777, studied medicine with his brother, Dr. Ely, at Troy, and was admitted to practice in 1806. It is said that going away for a time to look about the country, he returned to find his intended married to some one else; hence he never married, and led a roving life, teaching some—and he is said to have been an excellent teacher—as he had opportunity both in Pennsylvania and Kentucky, in which latter State he died, in Campbell County, about 1850. A gifted but very eccentric man.

Blackleach Burritt, Jr., born at Pound Ridge, N. Y., Oct. 27, 1779, while his father was in the old Sugar House Prison, after the death of his mother went to Huntington, Conn., to live with his kindred, and on Nov. 1, 1802, married Sally Hubbell, daughter of John Hubbell, Jr. They removed to Pennsylvania in 1810, and he died at Wilksbarre, Oct. 1, 1830. They had two daughters and six sons, as follows:

Hepsa, born 1804; married Ziba Burns; residence, Uniondale, Susquehanna County, Pa.

Grandison, born 1806; lived in Wisconsin.

Samuel, born 1808; lived at Uniondale, Pa.

Rufus, born 1814; lived at Uniondale, Pa.

Ely, born 1817; lived at Carbondale, Pa.

Sarah Caroline, born Aug. 18, 1819; married Otis M. Dimmick, Uniondale, Pa.

Charles, born 1823; died 1825.



Samuel Burritt, third child of Blackleach, Jr., born at Huntington, Conn., March 31, 1808; married Amanda Nichols, Sep. 19, 1836; lived at Uniondale, where he died June 20, 1863. His children were:

Loren, (Col.), born June 26, 1837; died Nov. 11, 1889; married Delphine D. Raynsford.

Ira Nichols, born Dec. 28, 1838; Washington, D. C.

Philo, born April 11, 1840; lives at Uniondale.

Payson, born July 16, 1847; Kansas.

Newell, born Dec. 19, 1851.

Anna B., born July 25, 1853.

Lilian, born Feb. 16, 1858.

Colonel Loren Burritt, son of Samuel, and great grandson of Rev. Blackleach, enlisted in the Union Army as a private in Company K, Fifty-sixth Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers, Jan. 1862. Was promoted successively to Orderly Sergeant, Second Lieutenant, First Lieutenant, and on the 2nd of July, 1863, at the Battle of Gettysburg, was assigned to duty on the Staff of General Cutler. In Nov. 1863 was commissioned Major of the Eighth Regiment, U. S. Colored Troops; was severely wounded at Olustee, Fla., Feb. 20, 1864; was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel while in the Hospital at Beaufort, S. C.; succeeded to the command of his Regiment, in front of Petersburg; was afterward detailed at Newport News and Norfolk, Va.; was President of a Board of Inquiry to investigate the commandant of the Eastern Department of Virginia. In the Summer and Fall of 1865, was in Texas, and received his discharge in December of that year. Engaged in practice of the law for a time at Philadelphia, but suffering from his wounds broke his health, and after being an invalid for several years he died at Athens, Bradford County Pa., Nov. 11, 1889. A man of high character and attainments and a worthy descendant of his patriotic sire. He was greatly interested in his ancestry, and the genealogical statistics which he collected has added much of interest to this sketch. His widow resides at Owego, N. Y.

Mrs. S. C. Dimmick, of Uniondale, Pa., is a daughter of Blackleach, Jr., and a grand daughter of Rev. Blackleach Burritt.





Prudence Burritt, next to the youngest daughter of Rev. Blackleach Burritt, born at Huntington, Nov. 2, 1782, married in Oct. 1802, James Welles, son of Josiah, son of Hezekiah; lived at Edmeston, Otsego County, N. Y., then at Portage, Livingston County, N. Y., where he died Aug. 26, 1848, and she died March 13, 1852. A son, Delos C. Welles, of Monticello, Minn., and two daughters, Mrs. Semantha Wilcox, and Mrs. L. C. Britain, of Sodus, N. Y., still survive.

Samuel Burritt, the youngest son, born about 1784, was a protege of Miss Susannah DeLancey, who seems to have cared for him after the death of his mother, in 1786. He studied law, for a time acted as agent for a part of the DeLancey estate, and died in the city of New York in 1820, leaving two children who died unmarried.

Susannah Burritt, was born at Red Mills, modern Mahopac Falls, Putnam County, N. Y., March 5, 1786, just six weeks before her mother's death. Believing her illness to be fatal, it is said that Mrs. Burritt sent for Miss Susannah DeLancey, the unmarried daughter of Lieutenant-Governor DeLancey, who lived at nearby Crompond, who despite powerful family influence remained true to the cause of the Colonies, and was a warm friend of the Burritt family. On her dying bed she gave her infant daughter to Miss DeLancey's keeping, and she was faithful to the trust. Bringing her up carefully as her own child, she willed her a considerable estate,—a farm of 120 acres in Yorktown, Westchester County, N. Y., and all her personal estate, including a Negro Slave, "Hannah." Susannah Burritt, named after her benefactress, married Elijah Fowler, in 1804, who died in 1812, leaving two sons, one of whom, Samuel Burritt Fowler, now resides at Putnam Valley, Putnam County, N. Y. She married second, Charles Adams, Dec. 1821, and had a daughter Charlotte, born in 1823, who married George W. Seeley, and resides at Lansing, Mich. Mrs. Susannah Burritt Adams, died at Bristol, Ind., Sept. 19, 1881, in her ninety-sixth year, the oldest as well as the youngest of her mother's twelve children.

Deborah Burritt, the first child by the second marriage,



must have been born as early as 1791, as her father makes mention of her in that year. She was taken to Sherburne soon after her father's death, there married Milo Hatch, and died Oct. 11, 1854. Had four sons, of whom three survive: Wells Burritt Hatch, of Syracuse, N. Y., Watson A., of Loyd, Wis., and Albert R. Hatch, of Greeley, Col.

In regard to the youngest child and son of Rev. Blackleach Burritt, the following is copied from the old Church records, of Winhall, Vt.: "March the 3d, A. D., 1793, was baptized Selah Wells, the son of the Rev. Mr. Blackleach, and Deborah Burritt." The following inscription from the memorial stone at his grave in Sherburne, N. Y., shows how he was cut down while yet in the bloom of youth:

"Selah Wells Burritt, youngest son of Rev. Blackleach Burritt, and only son of Deborah Burritt, died Nov.-19th, in the 18th year of his age."

"Insatiate Archer, could'st thou not spare to riper age the virtuous youth,  
The widow's only hope, the staff of her declining years?"

In view of his widowed mother's helplessness, in her old age this seems an almost prophetic as well as sad lament.

This interesting group of Rev. Blackleach Burritt's descendants of fourteen children and sixty grand children, fourteen of the latter of whom still survive, might well form the theme of an interesting paper, but must be passed by without further notice here. He certainly had prolific posterity as well as a virile ancestry.

But to return to his father, Peleg Burritt, Jr.: It is said that within a reasonable time after the death of Peleg's first wife, his mother made a quilting party, to which she invited all the eligible young people of the neighborhood, and among them, Deborah Beardslee. She recommended Deborah as the most sensible of the girls; and Peleg took her for his second wife. The marriage took place at Ripton Parish, "on the evening of Thanksgiving Day," as the record says, in 1746. She was born at Stratford, Feb. 1, 1726, and was the great-granddaughter of Richard Booth and Elizabeth Hawley his wife, of Stratford as early as 1640.



Peleg Burritt, Jr., took the Freeman's oath April 13, 1741; is mentioned as Peleg Burritt, Junior, several times from 1752 to 1761, in the Society records of Ripton. At a meeting held at his house Dec. 6, 1752, he was chosen Clerk, and sworn for the year ensuing. Was also Clerk in 1753-4. In 1773-4, he is said to have joined the Connecticut Colony in the Wyoming Valley, taking up his residence in the township of Hanover, now in Luzerne County, Pa.

"Hanover Green" was laid out in old New England style containing an open court or green, flanked on two sides by the homes of two of the children of Captain Peleg Burritt, Stephen and Sarah, each with its symmetrical front yard, garden, orchard, &c., while the green was open to the street at the front, and occupied at the rear by a Church, back of which was a Cemetery. The whole establishment was laid out by the Burritt family; whether by Captain Peleg Burritt or his son Stephen, is not known. But all this happy scene was broken in upon by the terrible tragedy of the Wyoming Massacre, which occurred the 3d day of July, 1778, and in which Cyprian Hibbard, a son-in-law of Peleg Burritt, husband of his daughter Sarah, was killed. Although Mr. Burritt was not in the Wyoming Valley at the date of the battle, his wife Deborah, was there, and rendered efficient aid during the escape of the fugitives. It is related that all the books and papers belonging to the Burritt's were hastily thrown into a bag, as the result of the battle became known, and that inasmuch as the first thought was to escape by way of the river to Shamokin, the bag was hastily thrown into a boat in which some of the refugees did so make their escape, and thus went down the river without anyone to care for it; since the Burritt's changed their plan, and escaped, with many others, to the east, over the mountains, to the Delaware river. The important consignment was afterwards traced as far as Shamokin or Northumberland, but after that was lost sight of. And thus were lost the only records and papers of this branch of the Burritt family, brought from their early home in Connecticut.

It is related that Mrs. Burritt, on the hasty retreat, had



the forethought to throw upon her horse a bag of flour: and that was the sole sustenance of a considerable party, on their flight to the Delaware. On camping at night, or halting for refreshment, she would form the meal into a cup shape in the mouth of the bag, and pouring in water, would mix up the meal into dough, and bake it upon the coals. It is impossible now to find out who formed the Burritt contingent in this retreat. Mrs. B.'s husband is supposed to have been at the time absent, probably in Connecticut. It is fair to presume that all of their children may have been present in the valley at the time, yet one or more of them may have been with their father in Connecticut.

The following is a partial list of the descendants of Peleg Burritt, Jr., by his second marriage:

Gideon, unmarried, died in Hanover township, Luzerne County, Pa.

Sarah, born Nov. 19, 1750; married first Cyprian Hibbard, Jan., 1775; second, Matthias Hollenback, who was an officer in the Battle of Wyoming, and escaped from the massacre by swimming the river. He was entitled Colonel Hollenback. Sarah Burritt, had by her first husband, Hannah D., born June 18, 1788; being thus fifteen days old at the time of the battle and massacre of Wyoming, in which her father, (Cyprian Hibbard), was killed. She married John Alexander and had three children.

Thomas, died in infancy.

Sarah, died in infancy.

William H. Alexander, married Caroline Ulp; Miss E. I. Alexander of Wilksbarre, is of one their six children.

Sarah Burritt had by her second husband, Judge Matthias Hollenback:

1. Mary Ann, married Laming; three sons and three daughters. One of her grand-children was Mrs. Anthony J. Drexel, of Philadelphia.

2. Ellen J., born Jan. 21, 1788; married Charles F. Welles, born at Glastonbury, Conn., 1789, son of John Welles, of Glastonbury, born 1756; son of John, born 1729; son of Thomas, born 1693; son of Captain Samuel, born at Wethers-





field, 1660; son of Samuel, born in England, 1630; son of Governor Thomas Welles. There were nine children by this marriage, of whom Rev. H. H. Welles, graduate of Princeton, '44, of Kingston, Pa. and Edward Welles, Esq., of Wilkes-Barre, are two of the six surviving.

3. Sarah Hollenback, married first Jacob Cist; second, Chester Butler; seven children.

4. George M. Hollenback, Wilkes-Barre, born Aug. 11, 1791, married twice, and died Nov., 1866; no children.

Mr. Charles F. Welles was a man of large property in coal lands.

Stephen Burritt, son of Peleg, Jr., married a Miss Keeler, and had Joel, who married Ruth, and had numerous descendants, including a grand-son Joel, now of White Haven, Pa. Also Stephen, had a son Stephen, Jr., who may have had descendants, and a daughter Polly, who married a Mr. Dilley, and was the mother of Rev. Alex. B. Dilley, of Florida.

Mary, the youngest daughter of Peleg Burritt, Jr., was twice married but left no children. Captain Peleg Burritt, as he was sometimes called, died at Hanover Green, Pa., April 10, 1789, and his widow, Deborah, at the same place, Aug. 7, 1802.

Characterization of Rev. Blackleach Burritt is not wanting. He is said to have been a little visionary and unpractical, but very pious and devoted. He was strong and earnest in debate, and as evidence of his controversial powers, it is related of him, that meeting a brother minister one evening on the highway, and getting into a discussion with him on some theological, doctrinal point, they continued there, sitting on horseback, until the dawn of the next morning! He possessed wonderful physical strength and agility, and at College was noted for such feats. As a preacher, he was distinguished for readiness and a love of argument. He preached a great deal extemporaneously, and would sometimes take a text handed to him, as he went into the pulpit, and preach from it without any previous preparation. He was a very thoughtful man, a student; but so occupied with his reflections, and the study of life and immortality, as to be



almost indifferent to ordinary mundane matters. It is said that with his other gifts he had a glorious voice for singing, and that it almost carried one away to hear him in some of the grand old anthems.

The following extracts from a letter of Rev. Blackleach Burritt to his sister, Mrs. Sarah Hollenback, wife of Colonel Matthias Hollenback, of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., now in the possession of Miss E. I. Alexander, of that place, and the only letter of his known to be in existence, is a striking self characterization:

Duanes Borough, N. Y., December 28. A. D. 1791.

DEAR SISTER: Your Relations in this Place are generally in good Health, except myself who for a length of Time have been more feeble & Disordered than usual. . . . Stiles Wells has lately Returned from Huntington (alias Ripton), & informs (me) that our Friends are in good Health there. . . . Brother Hubbell & Sister were well last Spring, Since which Time I have not heard from them. . . . I know not but you are ready to Imagine I am forgetful of you & my Mother & Brethren in Wyoming, as I have not Wrote to any of them, since I Received your Kind Letter Informing me of the Death of Father, which was the First Certain Intelligence I obtained of his Death. "Our Fathers, where are they? and the Prophets, do they live forever?" We are hastening to follow them; a few more Revolving Suns brings us to the concluding Scene of all Earthly Joys & Sorrows; we momentarily hasten to the House appointed for all the Living.

I am not unmindful of you, & my Relations so remarkably Scattered from Each other, as I am almost Daily praying for them, in my Family, & many Times conversing of you & them; but it is Rare that we have any opportunity of Conveying Letters from this Quarter of the Country to where you Dwell. I desire to embrace every opportunity of Writing to you in my Power, & wish you & my Friends near you would Do the Same in letting us hear from them. I greatly wish to hear of the State of Religion in Wyoming in General, where Discord hath so greatly abounded in years past, & whether they obtain Regular Presbyterian or congregational Settled Ministers in the towns in general, what Success there is of the Preaching of the Gospel in your Part of the Country, as there is but little visible good Effect of the Preaching of the Gospel in general in the Northern Part of this State. — Real Godliness is the All Important Concern, without which nothing will Serve our Turn in the Hour of Death, or in the future Judgment, to which we are swiftly Hastening. Temporal Prosperity, & External Privileges, while Zion languishes, and the Interest of that glorious Kingdom that will finally brake in peaces all the Kingdoms that have



opposed it, & stand forever, is visibly Discarded among us in our Part of the land, but little Satisfies. — I am greatly concerned for my Friends at Turns, lest Prosperity, or the love of it, should Drown them in Destruction & perdition. Prosperity is generally far more Dangerous than Adversity to Christians in Every Age; but why should I fear? Since Zion's Glorious King Reigns in wisdom, Righteousness & Goodness, & is ever Accomplishing the noblest Ends by the wisest & Best of ALL possible Means. We may fear for them, in a partial View; tho' in the most large & Extensive View, there is the utmost Reason of Rejoicing in the Absolute perfection of the Divine Government, or Disposal of Events in Providence. —

Perhaps you may have an opportunity of Writing to me by Mr. John Gray, the young Man who is the Bearer hereof, a Neighbor of mine, on his Return to Darnesborough. — Pray give my Dutiful Regards to Mother, & let her know I often think of her in her lonely condition; my youngest Child is of her Name. — Give my love (if you Please,) to All My Brethren & yrs. and my unknown Brother will have a share among the Rest. The Bearer is waiting, I must Subscribe myself, Your Effectuate Brother.

### *Blackleach Burritt.*

It has been stated that his grave at Winhall was unmarked. It should be added in explanation that several years since a sum was contributed to furnish a stone for that purpose, but by some misdirection it was placed at Manchester, eight miles away over the Green Mountains, on the plot of one of his descendants there. The following is the inscription upon it:

#### REV. BLACKLEACH BURRITT,

Born at Stratford, Ct., 17—,

Died at Winhall, Vt., 1794.

“An earnest Minister of the Gospel, a learned and upright man,  
His spotless memory is piously cherished by his descendants.”

A son of Fairfield County and of your own Stratford, he well deserves a place in your annals, and is worthy to be held in honored remembrance by his kindred and descendants

NOTE.—Acknowledgment is made for kindly aid in the preparation of this paper, to Rev. Samuel Orcutt, the Historian of Stratford; to R. B. Lacey, Esq., President of the Fairfield County Historical Society; Rev. W. J. Cunningham, of Yorktown, N. Y.; Edward Willes, Esq., of Wilkes-Barre, Pa.; Mrs. Col. Loren Burritt, of Oswego, N. Y.; Mrs. D. E. Sackett, Cranford, N. J.; Mrs. C. D. Mosher, Albany, N. Y., and many others. M. D. E.



## MILLS MEMORANDA.

Rev. Samuel Mills, son of Rev. Jehiel Mills, and first mate of Rev. Mr. Barnum, referred to in the foregoing pages, as of Bedford, Westchester County, from 1770, and minister of the Baptist Church in that place, Dec. 1st of that year, remained there until by the stress of the Revolution he was obliged in 1776 to remove to The Plains, and North Street, now Patterson, Putnam County, and did not return to Bedford after the close of the war, though strongly urged to do so. In 1780 he became an Anabaptist, and so severed his relations with the Dutchess County Presbytery. He soon after removed to the Genesee country, settling at Williamsburg, between Genesee and Mt. Morris. He was a pioneer preacher in that region, and his memory was long cherished in that locality, for his worth and devotedness. He died in 1813, and was buried in the Genesee cemetery. His widow, second wife, was a sister of Colonel Daniel Humphrey, an aide-de-camp of Washington. He left four sons, viz: Alexander, Lewis F. Phil, and William Augustus Mills, the latter of whom born in Bedford, May 27, 1777, located at Mt. Morris, Livingston County, N. Y. Was Major-General in the War of 1812-15, Superior twenty years, a man of great enterprise, a large landed proprietor, and active member of the Presbyterian Church, died April 6, 1844. He had ten children, of whom Myron Holly Mills, born Dec. 8, 1821, resides at Mt. Morris, N. Y. He graduated at the Geneva Medical College in 1844, was Assistant Surgeon U. S. Army in the Mexican war, was in practice at Rochester from 1847 to 1870, was one of the founders of the Livingston County Historical Society, President of the Putnam Historical Society of the Mills, Water Works, and a number of sites in Indian History, has delivered many addresses, lectured, and held various positions of honor and trust. Another son, Rev. Samuel J. Mills, of Nevada, Iowa, graduated at Yale in 1867, was for a time engaged in practice of the law, and has been engaged in the ministry since 1870.





#### ADDITIONAL DATA.

Ira Nichols Burritt, son of Samuel Burritt and grandson of Blackleach Burritt, Jr., as appears on page 36, enlisted as a private on the first call for volunteers in the war for the Union; was at Gettysburg, in the Battle of the Wilderness, and in front of Petersburg, was severely wounded, promoted to Captain, and served until the close of the war. He then lived at Washington, D. C., married Miss Elizabeth Nicholson, and had three sons and two daughters. Was editor and publisher of the Sunday Herald; was highly respected; died from the effects of his wounds.

Alice Burritt, sister of above, whose name should have appeared on page 36, is the eldest daughter of Samuel Burritt and Amanda Nichols his wife. She studied medicine, graduated in New York, has practiced very successfully for thirteen years in Oakland, California, and has been vice-president of the Medical Association of that state.

The widow of Samuel Burritt, and mother of the above, still survives at Uniondale, Pa. Her father was Eli Nichols, son of Philo, and he son of James, all of the noted family of Nichols, early of Stratford, Fairfield County, Conn.

The above would have appeared in its proper place had the desired data been furnished in time.



THE PILGRIM FATHERS,  
AND  
What They Wrought.

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BY

REV. CHAS. RAY PALMER, D. D.

READ BEFORE THE

Fairfield County Historical Society.

Bridgeport, March 11, 1892.



## THE PILGRIM FATHERS

And what they Wrought.

An inquirer after the beginnings of the colonization of America will have his attention directed, first, to a French Colony at Port Royal in 1562, very soon broken up; then to another on the banks of the St. John's River, in Florida, destroyed by the Spaniards, in 1565, and then to the founding of St. Augustine, by the latter, in the same year. This town claims the distinction of being the first permanent settlement by Europeans within what is now the territory of the United States. It needs hardly to be said, however, that its relation to the evolution of the great Republic is entirely insignificant. The next beginning, an inquirer will observe, is the Roanoke Colony, in 1585, the earliest English attempt at a settlement. In a very few years not a trace of this could be found. On May 13, 1607, Jamestown was selected as the site of a new English Colony, and this date is chosen as the beginning of the Commonwealth of Virginia. The ruin of an old church tower and some graves, upon an island, are the only remains of this beginning, and the real life of Virginia dates twelve years later, with the coming of Sir George Yeardley in April, 1619, up to which date, the would be Colonists "repeatedly suffered an extremity of distress too horrible to be described," and were more than once on the verge of extinction. In August of that same year, a Dutch vessel entered the James River, and offered for sale twenty Negroes. The trade thus inaugurated supplied to a Colony of planters the element of labor; and so began that type of social life which became characteristic of the Southern States of this Union. The next beginning was that made at Plymouth, in 1620; the next that of the Dutch at Albany, in 1623; the next, the settlement on the Piscataqua, also in 1623, and the next that of the Puritans of Massachusetts Bay, in 1629. The Great Republic is little more Dutch than Spanish.



Practically it is true to say that the settlement which determined the future of America, were the English Colonies, and that the successful inauguration of these lay within the years from 1619 to 1630. Confining our attention to these a difference appears at once between the Southern Colony and the two New England Colonies. Mr. Bancroft lucidly sets forth the fundamental principle of this difference thus: "Unlike Massachusetts, Virginia was a continuation of English society. The first Colonists were not fugitives from persecution; they came rather under the auspices of the nobility, the Church, and the mercantile interests of England; they brought with them an attachment to Monarchy, a deep reverence for the Anglican Church, a love for England and English institutions. Their minds had never been disciplined into an antipathy to feudalism, their creed had never been shaken by the progress of skepticism; no new ideas of natural rights had as yet inclined them to "faction." The Anglican Church was therefore without repugnance, sanctioned as the religion of the State; and a religion established by law always favors aristocracy, for it seeks support not in conviction but in vested rights." "The germs of an aristocracy existed (from the beginning) and there was a tendency towards obtaining for it the sanction of colonial legislation." "The aristocracy of Virginia was from its origin, exclusively a landed aristocracy." "The power of the rising aristocracy was increased by the deplorable want of the means of education." "The mass of the rising generation could receive little culture." The direction of affairs necessarily fell into the hands of the few. Moreover, "many of the Plebeian class had reached the shores of Virginia as servants," "some of them, even were convicts." "The division of society into two classes became strongly marked, in a degree unequalled in any Northern Colony, and unmitigated by any public care for education. The system of common schools was unknown."

In this Anglican aristocratic formation, then, we see the characteristic type of society as it developed from its Southern focus. I need not tarry to emphasize how differently New England ultimately developed, nor that the root of the





difference lay in the fact that its settlers *were* fugitives from persecution; planted Churches that were *not* subject to the Archbishop of Canterbury, and would not be; organized society on more Democratic principles: were solicitous for public education, had free schools and free presses abundant, and how after an irrepressible conflict between the two types of civilization, thus originated, it is the more sturdy and complex Northern type which has become dominant upon the continent.

While this unlikeness of Virginia and Massachusetts has been generally understood, it has not always been as well understood that in the formation of Massachusetts herself, there were originally two very unlike elements. About two hundred and fifty years ago, the four New England Colonies, Plymouth, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Connecticut, were confederated. Two hundred years ago the Plymouth Colony ceased to be, swallowed up in its younger sister of the Bay. In time there came about a forgetfulness how unlike in their early history and development, the Colonies thus united had been. In fact, they were almost as unlike each other, as either of them was unlike Virginia. Of course such historians as Mr. Bancroft, and Mr. Palfrey do not fail to set forth this difference as it was, but in the popular apprehension of the facts, and especially upon the other side of the sea, it has been largely ignored. The late Benjamin Scott, for the last thirty-four years the Chamberlain of London, delivered in January, 1866, and afterwards published in a pamphlet, a lecture before the Friends' Institute in London, entitled "The Pilgrim Fathers Neither Paritans nor Persecutors," in which he labored to overcome the obtuseness of his countrymen in this particular. He republished his pamphlet last autumn, complaining in his preface that its testimony was still needful. He put upon the cover the following quotation from Dr. Waddington. "The ignorance still existing on this subject is almost incredible. We find men of education who seem to have no exact information respecting the origin of the Pilgrim Fathers. Quarterly Reviewers, Members of Parliament, Christian Divines, and Ecclesiastical



Historians, speak of them with the same complacent disregard of facts. This is discouraging, but nothing is gained by yielding to prejudice, learned or illiterate, and the only remedy is *more light!*"

I am not assuming in coming before you to-night that the Fairfield County Historical Society is in especial need of instruction in the line of Mr. Chamberlain Scott's contention, but in response to a request, I shall emphasize somewhat the independence of the current of influence traceable to the Plymouth Fathers, and indicate some points of difference between them and the men of Massachusetts Bay.

Puritanism properly denominates a movement within the Church of England. Its era is John Hooper's "scrupling the vestments," and refusing to take the oath of supremacy, until King Edward VI. had run his pen through a part of it, in 1550. Cartright became its first great leader. It drew inspiration from Geneva. It was a grand movement in respect of its moral earnestness, and its contributions to the history of the English people. But this is not my subject to-night. The Pilgrim Fathers did not become exiles from England because they were Puritans, but because they were something else—something obnoxious to the Puritans, and their opponents alike—Separatists from the National Church of England, for conscience's sake. There were Separatists in England as early as 1562, but the era of the movement generally recognized is 1582, the publication of the book in which Robert Browne evolved from the New Testament, as he believed, what was essentially the Democratic system of Church polity. Browne relapsed, and died in the communion of the Church of England. But the principles he had enunciated were further developed under other and stouter-hearted leaders. Barrowe, Greenwood, (condemned to death March 23, 1592,) and Penry became the martyrs of the cause and John Robinson the great representative leader, "The Gospel," said Martin Luther in 1524, "is every man's right, and it is not to be endured that any one should be kept therefrom. But the Evangel is an open doctrine; it is bound to no place, and moves along freely under Heaven, like the star which



ran in the sky to show the wizards from the East where Christ was born. Do not dispute with the Princes for place. Let the community choose their own pastor, and support him out of their own estates. If the Prince will not suffer it, let the pastor flee into another land and let those go with him who will, as Christ teaches." This *obiter dictum* of Luther, indicated the course which in the beginning of the next century, the Separatists of England were constrained to take. It was as a self-originated community, which had chosen its own pastor, and for liberty had fled into another land, that the Pilgrim Fathers wrought their part in the colonization of America. "Without any warrant from the Sovereign of England, without any useful charter from a corporate body," without any ecclesiastical head but one of their own choosing, without any civil head at all, they set sail for a new world. They left Leyden in canal boats on July 21, to take ship at Delftshaven, about fourteen miles south, on the Maas. The vessel was the "Speedwell." Reynolds master, of sixty tons burthen, which had been purchased and fitted in Holland, and was to remain with the Colonists in their new home. They embarked the day following, and made a prosperous run to Southampton, where awaited them the "Mayflower," Jones, Master, a chartered ship of 180 tons, which had come thither from London. After some readjustment of passengers and lading, the two ships sailed together Aug. 15. Leaks in the Speedwell, or as the Pilgrim leaders thought, in the courage of its master, compelled them to put back to Dartmouth for repairs. A second outset proved equally unsuccessful, they put into Plymouth, the Speedwell was abandoned, and the expedition was consolidated with some losses, into the Mayflower. She finally sailed from Plymouth Sept. 16. By this loss of six weeks time, they were subjected to heavy charges, and to the misery of their arrival in winter. Rough and weary was the voyage, but it ended at last. On Nov. 19, they sighted Cape Cod. On the 21st in Provincetown Harbor, they signed their compact of civil government, and chose Carver Governor, and

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\*Bancroft.



one month later, Monday, Dec. 21, they landed upon Plymouth Rock, and the history of the Plymouth Colony began. This was the vanguard of the Leyden Church, future migrations brought the rest in installments, and accessions from England as well, some desirable, some by no means so. It was the pioneers, however, who gave its character to the settlement, and moulded its destinies. Of these, at the date of the landing, Brewster was a man between fifty-five and sixty, Allerton was thirty-seven, Standish was in his thirty-sixth year, Bradford in his thirty-second, Carver was thirty, Dr. Fuller about that and Winslow twenty-five. These were the real beginners of New England, and a remarkable group they were. They had all been in Leyden, though not all had been in the original Scrooby Church. Indeed, Standish never joined the Church at all. But they were one in their counsel, and their work. "Let it not be grievous to you," it was written to them from England. "Let it not be grievous to you, that you have been instruments to break the ice for others. The honor shall be yours to the world's end." Yes, the honor is theirs forever!

Now as to the Massachusetts Bay Colony. The transportation of the Pilgrim Fathers from Leyden to New England, was of course an operation which had its business aspect. The financial burden of it had to be assumed like any other business operation, by competent parties. It was assumed by certain parties in London, who became partners in the undertaking, and bound the Emigrants by an agreement with them through which they expected to derive a share in the ultimate profits of the settlement. The relation of these Adventurers, as they were styled, to the enterprise was wholly a commercial one, yet naturally gave them not a little power to influence the development of it. Some of these gentlemen were Puritans, who disrelished the fact that the Mayflower company were Separatists, from the first, and as time went on, increasingly so. When the Colony was an accomplished fact, they desired, and intrigued, to capture it, and bring it under Puritan control. They made repeated attempts in this direction. They sent out Emigrants not in sympathy with the





Pilgrims. They prevented John Robinson from joining the Colony. They sent out with their endorsement, a minister of their own selection, John Lyford, through whom they hoped to counter-work Robinson's influence, and carry their point. This was in 1624. The endeavor collapsed through the caution of the Church, and through the break-down of the moral character of the emissary. At length the Puritan Adventurers withdrew their cooperation, and the company broke up, and the Pilgrims finally bought out their London partners. But the success of the Plymouth Colony, and their persistent adherence to their Separatist principles led to the projection of another Colony, one that should be of the right sort, a Puritan Colony out and out. The times were favorable for the enterprise. The Stuarts' tyranny was making many men in England ready for a migration, and thus the affair took shape, and it prospered. A charter was obtained for "the Governor and Company of Massachusetts Bay," many men of character and substance identified themselves with it, and thus came about the settlement of Naumkeag, or Salem as it is now called, and the great Puritan exodus which laid the foundation of the State of Massachusetts. I have nothing to say about the promoters of this movement to-night, except to emphasize that they were *Puritans*, resolutely determined to keep themselves beyond the reproach of Separation from the National Church of England. They came with a Royal charter, a body politic in virtue of that fact. They were careful to organize their Church by the authority of the government they had set up. They were careful to maintain the legal fiction of their Nationalism, even when they were resolved to practice "the positive part of Church reformation," as they said, which they had been forbidden to do in England. The Plymouth people looked on with some amusement, but cordially tendered to the new Church the right hand of fellowship. The antipathy of Puritan to Separatist in England had been very bitter. On this side of the Sea such an antipathy could not be maintained. There was nothing to feed it. John Robinson had ventured upon a prediction. "There will be no dif-



ference" he said, "between the conformable ministers and you, when they come to the practice of the ordinances out of the Kingdom of England." His words proved true, although he did not live to see the day. But the fact is not altered that at the outset, while the Plymouth men held on their way, the Bay Colonists made their own way, and exhibited both the excellences and the narrowness of their Puritan principles. They established an aristocracy, as truly as did the Virginia Colony, but it rested on a different basis. The suffrage was restricted to Church members. It was intended that only Christian men should be entrusted with power. The purpose was good, but it proved impracticable. In due course Democracy supplanted it, in effect the Plymouth Democracy. All I wish to emphasize is the difference at the start. The Puritans came in greater numbers, their Colony outran the Plymouth Colony in political importance, and after one and seventy years absorbed it. But the Pilgrims were the pioneers, their point of departure from the Old World life was distinct, and the ideas which they brought with them and the institutions they inaugurated, time proved to be the more sagacious, the more liberal, the more enduring, the more expansive. Although their Colony became ultimately a town in Massachusetts, the Pilgrims' polity and the Pilgrims' policy proved to have in them the greater vitality and the greater adaptability, and supplanted in American life the narrower notions of the later comers. In this fact, as well as in their ten years' priority, lies the Pilgrims' claim to be the real founders of this Republic, and the fact becomes more and more clearly seen. That was correctly said which is written of them, "in pursuit of religious freedom, they established civil liberty, and meaning only to found a church, gave birth to a nation, and in settling a town commenced an empire." This must be their everlasting distinction.

Nor was it an accident. They did what they had been carefully prepared to do. Deep and solid foundations had been laid in the character and the convictions of the Pilgrim Fathers, upon which were to be builded not alone the superstructure of their own personal lives and fortunes in a new



country, but of a social fabric in many particulars a far advance upon any ideals men had as yet attempted to realize. Very remarkable were their religious and their political aspirations, very thoroughly matured their plans; and both these were the ripe result of a special and a varied experience. They had suffered oppression until they became possessed by a burning desire of liberty. They had made sacrifices to their conscientious convictions of truth and duty, until those convictions were endeared to them beyond all price. They had become used to hardships and difficulties through a long exile, and had waxed strong of heart and of will in the process. They had been agriculturists in one land, and artisans and tradesmen in another, and in both had been industrious and frugal, and had lived beyond reproach. They had become firmly bound together by ties of brotherhood and of mutual obligation, and were profoundly impressed with the necessity of unity and order. They had been for half a generation instructed, counselled, educated by a pastor of a large mind, a large heart, a liberal spirit, a wide culture, wonderful force of character and strength of purpose, until they were men of spiritual enlightenment, and of faith that no misgivings could weaken, no perils could daunt. They were men not so much prompted to adventure by the desire of personal advantage, as filled with the conviction that they had a common service to render to their own generation, and to coming generations, and to the Kingdom of Christ. With good reasons may it be doubted if there ever was such a company of Colonists before or since, so wonderfully and variously prepared for the precise task to which they were called in the Providence of God, or so conspicuously enabled of God in the face of all difficulties, antagonisms and losses, to persist unto its accomplishment.

Some of the contributions of these pioneers to American civilization can never be forgotten by intelligent and patriotic American citizens. "Government of the people for the people by the people," was Mr. Lincoln's apt description of Democracy. Where did it originate? When and where did it begin? History answers in the cabin of the *Mayflower*, on



the 21st of Nov. 1520, when the Fathers made and signed their compact combining themselves into a civil body. This was done in accordance with the counsels and instructions contained in John Robinson's farewell letter, and in face of the manifest necessity of their situation. It is a most interesting instrument, the first constitution of civil authority on American soil, the first written constitution of civil authority anywhere, resting government primarily and wholly upon the consent and covenant of the governed: the germ of the constitution of this Republic, and the constitutions of its forty-seven States. It is impossible to overstate the significance of this great transaction to the future of the American people. The Colony had no royal charter until long after, and the charter when it came found it a self-complete society. Justly does Mr. Bancroft declare the signing of the compact "the birth-hour of popular constitutional liberty." If in the eyes of Kings and Cabinets, and great Municipal Corporations that little organization in the cabin of the Mayflower would have seemed a subject for mirth, time has revealed that there was in it solemnity enough to make it memorable while the world stands; the beginning of what was to fill and master a continent, and "shall never perish from the earth."

In another aspect the little Colony at Plymouth was most noteworthy. There was to be seen for the first time just that relation between Church and State which exists in this Republic to-day, by virtue of its constitution. There was a free Church and a free State. "There was no identification of the one with the other: no subjection of either, in its own sphere. There was a free Church dependant upon the State for nothing but protection; a free State in which the Church had no control otherwise than through its legitimate influence in quickening and enlightening the moral sense of the people." Theoretically they were a detachment of the Church in Leyden, in charge of an Elder of that Church, who was a layman. Practically, as they were authorized to receive new members, and elect new officers, they were what afterwards they became, the Church in Plymouth. Theoretically and

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\*Dr. L. Bacon.





practically, they were a body politic, a civil society in Plymouth, with Carver or his successor, as their magistrate. The constituents were not identical, but of course the most of the men were members of the Church and of the State, but it was in the clear and definite apprehension that in the one relation their head was Christ, and in the other their head was King James, and between the two relations there was a coordination, but a mutual independence. Nor was this a legal fiction, but a reality. This idea of the independence and self-completeness of every body of believers, organized of its own impulse, and by its own act; the idea that such a body is a true church, and as such is responsible to Christ alone, this largest conception of the inherent rights of believers, and the sovereignty of the individual conscience; this conception taking shape in the freest, and by consequence the most Catholic of all types of Christian communion, was unmistakably the ruling idea of the Mayflower men. It was that idea to which under Robinson's guidance they had suffered, and thought and felt their way. And it is this Democratic Congregationalism of the Plymouth men which has survived and has been perpetuated, and not the aristocratic Congregationalism of the Puritans of the Bay. The measure of the influence which this conception of the Church exerted over the Plymouth men is seen in their superior tolerance. After the Puritan Church was organized at Salem, two heads of families protested against the departure from English usage upon which the Church had resolved. They were loyal members of the Church of England, and they preferred to adhere to the Prayer-book. They had their choice given them, of conforming to the Church in the Colony or returning to England. They declined to conform and they were sent back. That was consistent with Puritan principles, but it could not have happened at Plymouth. I have said that Standish never was a member of the Pilgrim Church. There is some reason to believe that he was a Roman Catholic. But he was the trusted and beloved military leader of the Colony, none the less, and in all respects as free as any man. Nor was he the only member of the Plymouth community not



connected with the Pilgrim Church. In rejoinder to a letter in which it had been reported to them that their enemies said they would have among them none but their own sort, they officially pronounced the assertion false, and declared that any honest men who would live peaceably and seek the common good were welcome there, and that there were many among them, not members of their Church whom they liked well and of whose company they were glad. All they asked was that themselves should not be oppressed in the place whither they had come so far to find freedom. This liberality of the Plymouth men was abundantly shown toward Roger Williams, and received ample acknowledgement by him in his letters, as it has in later times by the historians of Rhode Island.

This for example is what is said to this point by Arnold's History of Rhode Island. "The spirit of Robinson appeared to watch over his feeble flock on the coast of New England, long after his body was mouldering beneath the Cathedral Church at Leyden. Again their twelve year's residence in Holland had brought the Pilgrims in contact with other sects of Christians and given them a more Catholic spirit than pertained to those whose stay in England had been embittered by the strife of contending factions in the Established Church. The records show, that as they were distinct from the Puritans in England, and had been long separated from them in Holland, so did they preserve that distinction in America. The Pilgrims of Plymouth were more liberal in feeling, and more tolerant in practice than the Puritans of Massachusetts Bay."

The appearance of the Quakers in New England was so much later than the era of the Pilgrim Fathers—thirty five years after the Mayflower's coming—that it seems like an anachronism to speak of the two together; but it remains true that there never was any statute against Quakers in the Plymouth Colony, and when in 1659, an effort was made to have measures taken against them, by the Commissioners of the United Colonies, Isaac Robinson, the son of Pastor John Robinson, who was then one of the Commissioners on behalf



of the Plymouth Colony, refused, and was removed from his office for befriending them. Cudworth, also, and Hatherly—Plymouth Colony men—suffered the same deprivation, and the former was deprived of his military rank, for the same reason. "I told them," he says, "that as I was no Quaker, so I would be no persecutor."

I submit that men who were tolerant of religious diversity on principle, who were censured by their contemporaries for being tolerant in practice, who were acquitted of any intolerant spirit by such as were the special victims of intolerance elsewhere, and who refused under severe pressure, to become a party to intolerant measures originating elsewhere—it is grossly unjust to brand with intolerance, because their Puritan contemporaries were intolerant. It is about time to learn to distinguish men who so widely differed! So far as the Pilgrim Fathers were concerned, it may be confidently affirmed that Mrs. Hemans' lines are literally true of them:

"They left unstained what there they found,  
Freedom to worship God."

The measure of the influence which the Democratic Congregationalism of the Pilgrims has exerted in the development of the religious life of America is by no means to be estimated from the number of Congregational Churches, or of Congregationalists to be found in any denominational list. There is no Church polity on this continent to-day—I do not except from this remark the Roman Catholic—which is not modified by the free American atmosphere in which it stands, and this atmosphere you will not account for until you find that men breathed it first in the little commonwealth which the Pilgrims founded. Indeed, I seem to myself to recognize the exhalation of it in the writings of John Robinson himself.

A Connecticut Poet whom some of us remember with veneration, sings in lines with which we are all familiar:

"Laws, Freedom, Truth and Faith in God,  
Came with those exiles o'er the sea."

About the "laws," the "freedom," and the "faith," there can be no question. If there be any rhetorical exaggeration in saying truth was a passenger in the Mayflower, one thing



must be recognized as beyond a peradventure; there came with the exiles a love of truth, a reverence for her sanctity, and a delight in her pursuit, which became a permanent element of the society they founded, and have persisted to a wonderful degree in their descendants. I was extremely interested some two years since in a study by Dr. H. M. Dexter of the sworn inventory of Elder Brewster's library, which he brought to light from the Colonial Records, and illustrated with the wealth of his Bibliographical learning. It was most interesting thus to get access to the intellectual life of this leader of the Pilgrim Fathers, and get a glimpse of that with which it was busied. One is surprised by the bulk of the collection, by its richness for its times, and by the fact that in only two years out of the twenty-three of Brewster's life at Plymouth, did he fail to add to it some fresh importations from England. The fact is set in the clearest light that this man was in touch with the best thought and learning of his age. He was but one of this Colony, but he was one, and doubtless in some sense a representative one. The leaders of the Pilgrims were unmistakably all of them men of intellectual force, lovers of knowledge, and firm believers in education. And in this respect one need claim no precedence for them as compared with the men of the Bay. But they were in no respect behind them either. They made their own mark upon the intellectual life of New England. Is it an accident that their successors and representatives have been recognized as among the intellectual leaders of their time? It was said a few years ago of the Congregational denomination by one outside of it, that it was undoubtedly the foremost intellectual power on the Continent of America. The president of a college presented to the Congregational Club of Boston, a year or more ago, a paper entitled "The Denomination which Educates." This paper brought out the fact that the Churches so described had been far in advance of any others in the founding of educational institutions, and had justified the claim on their behalf that they had been preeminently the educators of the American people. They have in these United States seven Theological Seminaries,





and between forty and fifty Colleges, they have established an Academy or a Seminary for girls within easy reach of every Church of their order in the land, and now maintain eighty schools in the South and thirty-one in the far West. In foreign lands these same American Congregationalists keep up fourteen Theological Schools, sixty-six Colleges and High Schools for boys, fifty-six similar institutions for girls, and nearly nine hundred common schools. I need not speak in the presence of this audience of the unequalled influence and prestige of the great University in our own neighborhood, nor of its origin in an Association of Congregational ministers. But it is in point to say that the example of these far-sighted founders of nearly two hundred years ago is still followed with unflinching courage, and unhesitating self sacrifices in every new State in which Congregational ministers find a footing. A school in every district, a Church in every village, and a College within reach, is still the motto of these pioneers of Christian civilization. The old blood runs still, the old aspirations burn still, the old and ever new hopes sustain their advance. The sons of the Pilgrims and of the Puritans of the Bay, cannot forget that their fathers loved learning, and coveted for their descendants the facilities for acquiring it, with a passion only surpassed by their love of liberty itself. I ask again, is this an accident, or is it the persistence of a certain type of moral force?

The most memorable and characteristic fact about the Mayflower men is that they crossed the sea, and founded their Colony, asserting the sacred right of a free society to act for itself by the major vote, according to the light given it, in things sacred and things secular, and in their own exercise of this right revealed a political sagacity and a religious liberality which command the highest admiration. They were in advance of their contemporaries, they showed the path upon which their posterity have advanced into the largest civil and religious liberty as yet enjoyed by mankind. Beyond a question, it seems to me, they were the true beginners of this magnificent Republic.

Extraordinary sometimes is the contrast between the meas-



ures adopted by human wisdom and those chosen in the counsels of God. The sailing of the invincible Armada from the coast of Spain, in the end of May, 1588, for the conquest of England, was an event most imposing. It was fitted out by the greatest empire of the age. To the eyes of that day the ships which composed it seemed enormous. The number of them seemed immense. The preparations for this expedition had been costly, and the expectations concerning it were vast. It set out in the midst of impressive religious ceremonies. It was deemed sufficient not only easily to overwhelm England, but to conquer the world. Now that sort of enterprise would commend itself to human wisdom. That looked like business. From such an endeavor men would anticipate great results. But from the little vessel crowded to discomfort, which dropped out of the port of Plymouth in England, on the 6th of Sept. 1620, for a voyage across the ocean to an unknown wilderness, which they would reach in the depth of winter, *who* would have anticipated any distinguished performance? Who would have believed that in her went the seeds of empire! How foolish would have seemed the prediction that her passengers would accomplish a task vastly more significant to mankind than any measure of state then engaging the Cabinet of England or of Spain either! But the Armada in a few weeks met its fate in a disastrous overthrow, which filled Spain with mourning, and became the mockery of her foes; and the Mayflower brought to Plymouth Rock the Pilgrim Fathers, whose landing is commemorated in the Palace of the British Parliament, and in the Capitol at Washington, as one of the most memorable scenes of history, and unmistakably was the most fruitful event of the seventeenth century. Verily the weakness which is of God is stronger than the might which is of men.

Some of the Pilgrim Fathers lived to exult in what they had wrought, or as they would piously have said, in what God had wrought by them. But it is interesting to reflect how little they imagined the actual measure of their work. Far-sighted as they were, how impossible was it for them to apprehend the dimensions unto which it has expanded al-



ready, not to speak of what the future shall reveal. "They builded better than they knew," yes, indeed, but they *builted*. They "did the duty that they saw," in magnanimity and heroism, and the issue has crowned their work. Men who have never shown a thousandth part their moral earnestness, or wrought a millionth part their service to mankind, find it easy to gibe at them. Critics having with microscopic observation examined the record of their lives and labors, and found them not in all respects correspondent with the highest ideals of the last quarter of the nineteenth century, make haste to decry them, and find the ears of the self-indulgent more than ready to listen. But this surprises no one, and signifies nothing. The world in the long run does justice to the men of deeds. The men of quips and carping words are soon forgotten. The heroes of a great fight can easily endure the mockery of carpet knights. And as generations pass, and the centuries roll on, there stands out ever more clearly upon the page of history the fact that among the mighty souls lifted by God's grace, and guided by God's providence to great and important services to the world's progress, and to Christ's Kingdom on earth, the men of the Mayflower are entitled by what they dared and suffered, and wrought, and founded, to rank among the largest minded, the bravest, the noblest, the most worthy of remembrance. Within the past year men have set up new memorials of them, among these a monument on the spot their feet last trod in old Plymouth, has been erected by that Municipality. Greener grows their memory and fairer their fame. But after all, the best commemoration of them is the continuance in the life of the American people of the spiritual forces which were generated by their love of truth, their jealousy for freedom, their reverence for law, their zeal in behalf of righteousness, their all conquering faith in God. This is as they would have it. Though long dead, they yet speak, to say to their posterity, "Not unto us, not unto us, but unto *God* be all the glory!"



## THE INSCRIPTIONS

IN THE

### Cemetery at Easton, Conn.

NEAR THE BAPTIST CHURCH,

As Copied in May, 1892, by R. B. Lacey and Samuel Orcutt, for the  
Historical Society.

*Eli Adams*, Died Feb. 19, 1861, .E. 77.

*Huldah*, Wife of Eli Adams, Died Dec. 29, 1862, Aged 70.

*Eliza Adams*, Died Dec. 26, 1862, .E. 74 y'rs.

*Frank Adams*, Son of Andrew B. and Caroline E. Lyon, Died Apr. 13, 1854, aged 7 mo.

*George W. Adams*, who died Oct. 17, 1851, .E. 29 y's. 5 mo. & 6 ds.

*John S. Adams*, Died March 7, 1875, .E. 58 y'rs & 6 mo's.

*Mary H.*, Wife of J. Sherwood Adams, Died Dec. 11, 1890, Aged 48 years 4 mos.

Rest after weariness.  
Crown after Cross.

*Alice Alosia*, Daughter of John S. & Marietta S. Adams, Born Mar. 1, 1855, Died May 12, 1856.

Our loved ones are not our own.

Erected to the memory of

*Doct. Gabriel Baldwin*, who died Sept. 1, 1825, aged 69 years.

*Sarah*, Relict of Dr. Gabriel Baldwin, Died June 9, 1852, .E. 84.

Died April 10, 1817

*Mr. Jared Baldwin* in his 87th yr.

*John Baldwin* died July 7, 1840, .E. 73 y'rs.

*Naomi Brinsmade*, wife of John Baldwin died Dec. 16, 1812, .E. 43 yrs.

*Marianna Whiting*, Wife of John Baldwin died Sept. 12, 1819, .E. 42 yrs.

*Louisa C.*, daughter of James & Cornelia Baldwin Died Oct. 30, 1817, .E. 4 y'rs & 2 mo.

*Anna*, daughter of Ezekiel B. O. & Mary O. Banks, Died May 9, 1846, .E. 34.

*Bradley Banks* died June 16, 1876, Aged 53 years.

*Freddie*, son of Arthur M. & Mary A. Banks, Died May 7, 1878, .E. 4 y'rs 8 mo's & 2 D's.





**Gertie**, Dau. of Arthur M. & Mary A. Banks Died May 12, 1878, .Æ. 7 y'rs 4 mo's & 20 D's.

They were lovely in life, and in death they were not separated.

**George N.**, Son of Munson & Almira O. Banks died Jan. 25, 1849, in his 19th y'r.

**Henry B. Banks**, Born May 5, 1836, Died March 29, 1886.

**Jabez T. Banks** Died August 13, 1885, .Æ. 69 y'rs 7 m's 8 d's.  
Farewell but not forever.

**Susan A.**, Wife of Jabez T. Banks Died July 29, 1875, .Æ. 56 y'rs 7 m's 10 d's.

Mother we miss thee.

**Joseph T. Banks** died July 11, 1860, .Æ. 20 y'rs 7 m's.  
Gone but not forgotten.

**Medad Banks** Died June 6, 1871, Aged 83 y'rs 1 mo, & 10 Days.

**Polly**, widow of Medad Banks Died July 10, 1879, Aged 86 y'rs 8 mo, & 6 Days.

In memory of

**Medad**, Son of Medad & Polly Banks died Aug. 8, 1843, .Æ. 14 y'rs 1 mo, 6 ds.

**Dea. Morris Banks** Died May 12, 1881, .Æ. 65 y'rs 7 mo.

His faith was an anchor to the Soul.

Father

**Munson O. Banks** Died April 30, 1888, aged 81 y'rs.

In memory of

**Nehemiah Bartow**, who died May 24, 1822, .Æ. 56.

In memory of

**Wd. Rebecca Bartow**, who died April 4, 1847, .Æ. 80 y'rs.

**Sarah A.**, Wife of Baldwin Beach Died Aug. 22, 1886, .Æ. 69 y'rs 4 mo's.

Gone but not forgotten.

**Sarah F.**, daughter of Baldwin & Sally Ann Beach Died May 2, 1876, .Æ. 23 y'rs 1 mo.

Death came, thou art gone, alas how sad the hour.

**Burr**, Son of Baldwin & Sally Ann Beach Died March 31, 1877, .Æ. 20 y'rs 1 mo.

God called our loved ones from earth, the Will of the Lord be done.

**Benjamin Beardlee** Died May 4, 1832, .Æ. 54 y'rs & 3 mo.

**Eleanor**, his wife, died Nov. 14, 1861, .Æ. 72.

In memory of

**Benjamin Beardley** who died March 9, 1827, in his 88 year.

In Memory of

**Elizabeth Beardley**, wife of Benjamin Beardley who died Oct. 24, 1821, in the 80 year of her age.

In Memory of

**Hannah**, daughter of Benjamin Beardley who died Dec. 25, 1814, .Æ. 44.

With joy she passed the dreary vale  
To fairer worlds on high.

**Joseph Beardley** Died Dec. 18, 1827 .Æ. 49 y'rs 10 mo, 15 d's.

**Eunice**, His Wife, Died Jan. 1, 1878, .Æ. 87 y'rs 11 mo, 12 ds.

**Anson Beers** Died Aug. 16, 1886, Aged 83 y'rs 10 mos.

**Huldah**, His Wife Died Feb. 1, 1853, Aged 61 y'rs.

**Andrew Beers** Born Mar. 9, 1801, Died Oct. 6, 1876.



**Mary Wheeler**, Wife of Andrew Beers Born Jan. 30, 1800 Died Jan. 31, 1889.

**Charles N.**, Son of Andrew & Mary Beers died Jan. 21, 1832, aged 25 days.

**Charity B. Beers** Died March 26, 1885, Aged 79 y'rs 10 mo.

**Eliza A.**, Wife of Benjamin T. Beers Died June 27, 1872,  $\text{Æ}$ . 44 y'rs 8 mo's & 25 days.

Safe at Home.

**Sylvia J.** daughter of Benjamin T. & Sylvia Beers died Aug. 11, 1847.  $\text{Æ}$ . 1 y'r & 3 mo.

**George B.** Son of Benjamin T. & Sylvia A. Beers died Mar. 13, 1853,  $\text{Æ}$ . 8 m. 17 d's.

**Sylvia A.**, Daughter of Benjamin T. & Sylvia A. Beers died Nov. 3, 1853,  $\text{Æ}$ . 3 y'rs 9 mo's.

**Isaline**, daughter of Benjamin T. & Sylvia A. Beers died Jan. 13, 1857  $\text{Æ}$ . 9 mo's.

**John W.**, Son of C. E. & E. A. Hubbell, step-son of B. T. Beers, Died March 8, 1877,  $\text{Æ}$  24 y'rs 10 mo's & 5 days.

Earth changed for Heaven.

**Barton M. Beers** died Nov. 5, 1829, aged 33.

**Eunice**, his wife died Jan 11, 1860, aged 63.

**Francies L.** Daughter of Aaron & Sarah Beers Died Jan. 28, 1854, Aged 15 Days.

But though thus early called to die  
To leave this world of care  
We feel that she is placed on high  
A glorious crown to wear.

In Memory of

**Isaac Beers** who died Oct. 9, 1829, aged 67 y'rs.

Also

**Jemima** his wife died June 17, 1832,  $\text{Æ}$ . 56 yrs.

**Lillian E.** Daughter of Abel R & Sarah S. Beers Born Sept. 22, 1862 Died May 9, 1891.

Because I live ye shall live also.

**Oliver Beers** Died Oct. 3, 1848, in his 50 yr.

My Wife

**Mary**, Wife of Wilson W. Beers Died May 21, 1887, aged 52 y'rs.

Asleep in Jesus.

**Noah Beers** Born Jan. 20, 1818, Died Aug. 17, 1864

In memory of

**Two Infant** Sons of Aaron & Hulda Beers died Feb. 27, 1830.

**Sarah L.**, daughter of Birdsey & Lucia Beers, died Aug. 10, 1849,  $\text{Æ}$ . 6 y'rs 8 mo. & 15 d's.

Dear child! we never can forget

The winning, frank, sweet smile

That played around thy rosy lip

And did our hearts beguile:

Heaven took thee from this evil world,

Thou wast our idol here:

And now thou dwellest near the throne,

Our hearts are with thee there.

Knowing that thou art blessed above,

Our sorrows we restrain

For who that saw thee pass away

Would wish thee here again?

And though thou canst not come to us,

Hope whispers when we're free

Thro' the abounding grace of God

That we may come to thee.

**Anson Bennett** Died Sept. 25, 1873,  $\text{Æ}$ . 79 yrs & 8 mo.

**Abigail H.**, wife of Anson Bennett, Died March 17, 1869,  $\text{Æ}$  52 y'rs & 6 mo.

Father.

**Burr Bennett** Died July 9, 1879,  $\text{Æ}$ . 70 y'rs 5 mo's & 4 d'ys.



## My Wife

*Nancy*, Wife of Burr Bennett Died Sept. 9, 1863, Æ. 52 y'rs 5 mo's.

*George B.*, Son of Burr & Nancy Bennett Died Feb. 27, 1859, Æ. 23 y'rs 9 mo's. & 15 D's

*Washington*, Son of Burr & Nancy Bennett Died Oct. 5, 1850, Æ. 5 y'rs & 6 mo.

*Esther L. Bennett* died Jan. 10, 1854, Aged 28 years & 6 mo's.

*Joseph H. Bennett* died Nov. 19, 1853, Aged 30 years & 9 mo's.

## In Memory of

*Joseph Bennett*\* who died May 30, 1844, in the 73d year of his age.

## In Memory of

*Justus Bennett* who died Nov. 6, 1847, Æ. 74.

## In Memory of

*Eunice Bennett* wife of Justus Bennett who died Sept. 20, 1823.

## In Memory of

*Sarah P. Bennett*, daughter of Justus & Annise Bennett who died Sept. 24, 1833, aged 34 years.

*Isaac Bennet* died May 2, 1860, Æ. 90 yrs & 9 mos.

## In memory of

*Mary Bennet*, wife of Isaac Bennet Esq. who died May 16, 1841, aged 71 years.

## In Memory of

*Mr. Isaac Bennett* who departed this Life December 10th A. D. 1791, in the 82d year of his Age.

## Here lyes ye Body of

*Mrs. Mary Bennett* Wife of Lieut Isaac Bennett who was born June 10th 1708 and died July 5th 1768, Aged 60 years.

## Here lies Buried the Body of

*Mr. Justice Bennett*, who Departed this Life Novmbr 23d 1772, In ye 25th Year of his Age.

## In Memory of

*Najah Bennett* who died Aug. 26, 1821, in the 80 year of his age.

## In memory of

*Mary*, relict of Najah Bennett who died Feb. 21, 1827, aged 83 years.

*Nathan Bennett* Died Nov. 14, 1878, Æ. 93 yrs & 8 mo.

*Sarah*, his wife Died Sept. 10, 1864, Æ. 76 yrs & 8 mo.

## In Memory of

*Mr. Nathan Bennett*, who departed this Life Septr. 20th A. D. 1777, In the 34th Year of his Age.

## Here lies Buried the Body of

*Mr. Stephen Bennett*, who departed this Life March 31st 1773, in ye 34th Year of His Age.

S. L. [on a field stone]

## Here lies Buried the Body of

*Deacon. William Bennett* who departed this Life Feby 15th A. D. 1788 In the 80th Year of his Age.

## In memory of

*Mrs. Catharine Bennet* Relict of Deacon William Bennet who died July 22d 1809 in the 88th Year of her age.

## In memory of

*Nathaniel Burton Bennit* son of William & Mary Bennet who died Aug. 13th 1795 aged 15 months & 8 days.

*Atauson B.* Son of Birdsey & Lucina Beers Died Nov. 9, 1870, Æ. 22 y'rs & 10 mos.

One less to love on earth  
One more to meet in Heaven.

\*For Naomi his wife see next to Stephen Gregory.



In memory of

*Abigail*, Daughter of Mr. Daniel & Mrs. Mary Blackman born Novr 2, 1782, died June 14th; 1796 in the 14th Year of her Age.

Little Robert

*Robert A.* Son of Charles W. & Frances E. Blakeman, Born Aug. 20, 1861, Died Sept. 5, 1861.

In memory of

*William Blackman*, Son of Mr Daniel & Mrs Mary Blackman born Decr 26th 1773, died Novr 25th 1795 Aged 21 Years & 11 months.

Behold as you pass by  
beneath these clouds I'm laid  
In this cold grave I lie  
in death's impervious shade.

In Memory of

*Josiah Booth*, who died Feb. — 1812, in the 64 year of his age.

In Memory of

*Sarah*, Wife of Josiah Booth who died Sept. 20, 1804, in the 55 year of her age.

*Mary P. Thorp*, Wife of David T. Booth Died Oct. 11, 1888.  $\text{Æ}$ . 37 years 2 mo's.

In Memory of

*Jerusha F.*, Wife of Charles Wheeler, daughter of Burr & Sarah Bradley who died April 9, 1827, aged 25 years 11 mo & 3 d's.

*Sybil*, Wife of Abel Bradley Died Dec. 25, 1855  $\text{Æ}$ . 75.

*Fred Braunschiger* Co. G 17 Regt. Conn. Vols. Died Oct. 20, 1873.

In Memory of

*Joannah*, Wife of Cyrus Brinsmade who died April 15, 1804.  $\text{Æ}$ . 26.

Also of their daughter

*Fanny*, who died Dec. 31, 1795,  $\text{Æ}$  5 y.

Sacred to the Memory of

*Mrs. Naomi Brinsmade*, wife to Mr. Joseph Brinsmade who departed this Life Sept. 21st 1776, in the 42 year of her Age.

*Harriet Bryan*, Wife of Titus A. Bryan, and daughter of Elijah & Patience Seeley, died Feb. 19, 1836, aged 21.

Strongest ties how soon they're severed  
Brightest prospects soon are gone  
Fairest blossoms soon are withered  
Borne by death unto the tomb.

*Alfred Burr* Died Jan. 8, 1861, aged 70 y'rs & 10 mo's.

*Martha*, Wife of Alfred Burr Died Aug. 21, 1883, aged 82 y'rs.

*Adeline*, Wife of William Burr Died May 4, 1871  $\text{Æ}$ . 37 y'rs 5 mo's & 2 days.

*Francis Irving Burr*, Son of Alfred & Martha Burr died June 8, 1836, aged 4 years & 2 mo's.

In Memory of

*Increase Burr*, who died Nov. 17, 1841,  $\text{Æ}$ . 82.

*Rhoda J.* Died Dec. 4, 1827,  $\text{Æ}$  6 m. & 7 ds.

*Joseph B.* Died Oct. 3, 1811.  $\text{Æ}$ . 1 y. & 10 mo.

*Dency*, Died Jan. 5, 1842  $\text{Æ}$ . 5 d.  
Children of David & Dency Burr.

In Memory of

*Marietta Burling* who died Jan. 19, 1860,  $\text{Æ}$ . 17 y'rs & 10 months.

*Mr. Benjamin Barton* died June 26, 1816, aged 27 years.

*Mr. Cyrus Barton* died April 15, 1812, in the 53 year of his age.

This truth how certain, when this life is o'er  
Man dies to live and lives to die no more.





## In Memory of

*Mrs. Anne Burton* wife of Mr. Cyrus Burton who died July 19th 1791, Aged 31 Years 1 Month & 11 Days.

[Field Stone. Probably a Burton.]

## In memory of

*Mrs. Elizabeth*, Relict of Mr. Cyrus Burton who departed this life Jan. 7, 1826, in the 68th year of her age.

*Mary Burton*, Daughter of Mr. Cyrus & Mrs. Anne Burton died April 26th 1798, Aged 4 Years 8 months & 13 days.

[Field stone. No lettering. Probably a Burton.]

## In Memory of

*Mr. Cyrus W. Burton*, Son of Mr. Cyrus & Elizabeth Burton who departed this life Nov. 10, 1827, in the 27 year of his age.

## In Memory of

*Jeremiah Burton* who died Nov. 5. 1827, aged 40 years.

## In Memory of

*Mary*, Wife of Jeremiah Burton who died Oct. 15, 1827, aged 34 years.

## In Memory of

*Silas C. Burton*, who died June 22d. 1844, aged 71 years.

Wrapt in the shades of death  
No more that friendly face I see  
Empty, ah empty every place  
Once filled so well by thee.

## In Memory of

*Anna*, wife of Silas C. Burton who died Jan. 11, 1836, aged 60 years.

## In Memory of

*Polly M.*, Wife of Aaron Beers & only daughter of Silas C. & Anna Burton, who died Sept. 19th 1827, aged 26 years

With joy she passed the dreary vale  
And soared to worlds on high.

## In Memory of

*Mr. Solomon Burton* who died May 1st 1821, aged 75 years.

## In Memory of

*Hannah*, wife of Solomon Burton who died July 23, 1835, aged 86 years.

*Amos Candee* Died Aug. 14, 1855, Aged 78 years.

"Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord."

*Lydia*, wife of Amos Candee, Died Nov. 25, 1878,  $\text{Æ}$ . 81 years & 8 mo's.

*Fletcher*, son of J. & C. A. Candee Died Mar. 16, 1867,  $\text{Æ}$ . 16 years & 3 mo's

He sleeps to wake again.

*Clara*, daughter of J. & C. A. Candee Died Jan. 19, 1867,  $\text{Æ}$ . 11 y'rs & 4 mo's.

Gone home.

*Lewelleyn* died Sept. 2, 1869,  $\text{Æ}$ . 1 yr & 3 mo's.

*Benjamin F.* died July 9, 1872,  $\text{Æ}$ . 2 mo's & 15 D's.

[on opposite side of the monument]

*Lewi & Benny*, Children of Jason & Caroline A. Candee.

*Wilber*, Son of Jason & Caroline A. Candee died Sept. 10, 1853, Aged 2 mo's & 10 ds.

Dear Wilber around thy tomb  
May sweet flowers forever bloom  
For while in dust thy body lies  
Thy spirit blooms above the skies.

*Lysander B.*, Son of Jacob B. & Julia Case, Died Aug. 5, 1865, aged 18 yrs & 10 mo.

Not lost but gone before.

*Mary Louisa*, wife of Charles S. Clark Died Dec. 19, 1889, aged 45 y'rs & 5 mo's.

*William Colley* Died Sept. 7, 1843  $\text{Æ}$ . 73 years.



*Rachel*, wife of William Colley  
Died March 25, 1843 .Æ. 71 years.

*Laura*, daughter of William & Rachel Colley Died Aug. 11, 1849 .Æ. 53 yrs & 4 mos.

*William*, Son of William & Rachel Colley Died in Ogdensburg Aug. 29, 1830 .Æ. 21 years.

*Charles*, Son of William & Rachel Colley Died Jan. 26, 1815, .Æ. 1 year & 7 mo.

*Clara*, Widow of Robert Curtis Died Aug. 12, 1872, aged 82.

In memory of

*Mr. Nehemiah DeForest*, who died Dec. 9, 1801, in the 58th year of his age.

The wise, the just, the pious,  
and the brave,  
Live in their death and flourish  
from the grave;  
Grain hid in the earth repays the  
peasants care,  
And evening suns set but to rise  
more fair.

*Henry G.* son of Levi L. & Ellen S. Disbrow Died Feb. 10, 1867 .Æ. 2 mo's & 8 d's.

Death seeking whom it may devour  
Came to our home one mournful hour  
And took away our little flower,  
Our Darling Baby.

*Levi L. Disbrow* Died Jan. 23, 1879, .Æ. 41.

In the sweet bye and bye  
We shall meet on that beautiful shore.

In memory of

*Isaac Downs*, who died Feb 21, 1853, .Æt. 74 y'rs.

*Sarah*, wife of Isaac Downs, died Feb. 10, 1857, aged 77 years & 5 months.

*Edward Duncomb* died Nov. 12, 1837. .Æ. 77 y'rs.

In memory of

*Anna*, wife of Edward Duncomb who died June 18, 1848, In her 87 year.

*Isaac Duncomb* Died April 3, 1878, .Æ. 84 y'rs

*Anna*, His Wife, Died Mar. 17, 1878, .Æ. 88 y'rs.

*Charles H. Edwards*, Died in Minneapolis, Minn. Feb. 12, 1879, aged 29 y'rs.

*David S. Edwards*, Died in New Orleans, La. July 19, 1863, aged 34 y'rs.

*John Edwards* Died Apr. 19, 1883, aged 86 years.

*Polly*, wife of John Edwards Died Feb. 9, 1838, aged 36 years

[A single stone]

In memory of

*Polly Edwards*, wife of John Edwards who Died Feb. 9, 1838, aged 35 y'rr & 5 mo.

In memory of

*Lewis Edwards*, who died May 13, 1815, in the 44 year of his age.

*Robert Edwards* Co. K 17th Regt. Conn. Vols. Died Feb. 12th, 1882.

*Eunice M. S. Ely*, Died Feby. 28, 1868, Aged 81 y'rs & 4 mos.

*Wheeler M. Everitt* Died Aug 13, 1879, .Æ. 63 y'rs 2 mo's & 25 Days.

So he bringeth them unto their desired haven.

*Sarah*, Wife of Wheeler M. Everitt, Died Jan. 31, 1864, .Æ. 59 y'rs & 20 D's.

Farewell to earth and dearest friends  
I bid you all adieu  
I'm going to dwell with Jesus  
And there may I meet you.



**Charles B.** only son of Wheeler M. & Sarah Everitt, Died Aug. 8, 1862,  $\text{Æ}$ . 26 y'rs 5 mo's & 9 D's.

Earth has his dust.  
Friends his memory  
And the Redeemer his spirit.

**Elizabeth Fillmore** Died March 29, 1842,  $\text{Æ}$ . 75,

Sister.

**Emma J.** daughter of D. S. & C. A. Fisher, Died Feb. 1, 1878, aged 20 y'rs & 5 mo's.

My heavenly home is bright and fair  
No pain nor death can enter there  
Its glittering towers the sun outshine  
That heavenly mansion now is mine.

Mother

**David S. Fisher** Died Nov. 5, 1886, aged 66 years

Buried at Middlebury, Conn.

His Wife

**Esther A.** Died Sept. 28, 1874, aged 57 years.

At Rest.

**Erastus B. Fisher** Died Feb. 3, 1879, aged 61 y'r 8 mo's.

**Mary E. Fisher** Died Aug. 25, 1875, aged 51 y'rs 11 mo's.

**Edson B.**, Son of Erastus B. & Mary E. Fisher, died Oct. 26, 1846,  $\text{Æ}$ . 1 y'r 4 mo & 22 d's.

**Turney Foot** died Nov. 3, 1825, aged 41 years.

**Jemima**, wife of Turney Foot, died Nov. 25, 1825 aged 32 years.

French [monument]

**Almon H. French** . . . . .

**Louisa L.** Wife of Almon H. French Died Oct. 14, 1887, Aged 72 years.

**Betsy B.**, Wife of Levi French Died Oct. 1, 1879,  $\text{Æ}$ . 60 y'rs 3 mo. & 18 d's.

Gone Home.

Galloway [monument]

**Laura E.**, Wife of Robert G. Galloway Died Feb. 18, 1890, aged 53 y'rs & 10 mos.

**Minnie A. T.**, Daughter of R. G. & L. E. Galloway Died Sept. 5, 1877, aged 3 y'rs 8 mo's.

**Albert S. Gilbert**, Late member of Co. H, 8th Regt. C. V. Died May 7 1861,  $\text{Æ}$  20 y'rs 7 mo. & 10 days.

When this atrocious rebellion shall have been subdued and the unwritten history of this struggle recorded, his name with others who gave their lives to secure to us the glorious inheritance handed down to us by the Father will receive the appropriate niche in the temple of fame.

**Henry Gilbert** Died Feb. 12, 1862,  $\text{Æ}$ . 55 y'rs 4 mo. & 14 days.

**Eliza**, Wife of Henry Gilbert Died Dec. 27, 1853,  $\text{Æ}$ . 49 y'rs & 6 mo.

**Emily S.** Daughter of Henry & Eliza Gilbert Died May 7, 1856,  $\text{Æ}$ . 19 y'rs 5 mo.

**Sarah R.**, Daughter of Henry & Eliza Gilbert Died Feb. 21, 1839,  $\text{Æ}$ . 17 D's.

**Sarah Gilbert** Died Sept. 16, 1878,  $\text{Æ}$ . 54 y'rs 3 mo's & 20 days.

**Reuben B. Gilbert** Died April 11, 1846, aged 44 years.

**Amanda Louisa**, daughter of Reuben B. & Catharine Gilbert Died Jan. 6, 1843  $\text{Æ}$ . 4 yrs & 10 mo's.

**Daniel B. Glover** Died Sept. 7, 1866,  $\text{Æ}$  83 y'rs 11 mo. & 22 d's.

**Eunice**, Wife of Daniel B. Glover, Died Mar. 17, 1873,  $\text{Æ}$ . 86 y'rs 7 mo.

**Lorenzo B. Glover** Died Nov. 3, 1856, aged 37 y'rs 3 mos 16 days.

**Edwin Godfrey** Died Oct. 17, 1880, Aged 62 y'rs.

Hope softly whisper we eball meet again.



Agnes and George

*Agnes R.* Died May 18, 1869,  $\text{Æ}$ . 7 y'rs 3 mo. & 10 d's

*George A.* Died July 11, 1869  $\text{Æ}$ . 9 y'rs 6 mo. & 22 d's.

Children of Edwin & A. M. Godfrey.

*John Gray* Died Sep. 6th 1887 Age 63 y'rs 1 mo.

*George W. Gray* died Sept. 2, 1888, aged 61 years.

Gone Home.

*Hattie A.* daughter of G. & E. Gray Died March 21, 1862,  $\text{Æ}$ . 6 mo's.

In memory of

*Abel Gregory, Esq.* who departed this life Jan. 23, 1823, aged 48.

In memory of

*Lydia*, Wife of Abel Gregory Esq. and relict of Aaron Sherwood, who departed this life Nov. 21, 1859, aged 81 y'rs & 7 mo.

*Charles C. Gregory* Died Jan. 2, 1888,  $\text{Æ}$ . 58 y'rs 11 mo's.

His Wife

*Mary M.* Died Apr. 24, 1883,  $\text{Æ}$ . 48 y'rs 5 mo's.

Our loved ones.

Cordelia and Fannie. We miss thee.

*Cordelia A.* Died Dec. 20, 1869, aged 14 y'rs 10 mo, & 8 days.

*Fannie J.* Died Dec 25, 1869, aged 6 y'rs & 18 d's.

Children of Charles C. & Mary M. Gregory.

*Lorinda*, widow of George Gregory, Died May 29, 1887, Aged 82 years.

In memory of

*George H. Gregory*, who died May 17, 1834,  $\text{Æ}$ . 27.

How short the race our friend has run

Cut down in all his bloom

And thus the Lord reveals his grace

The youthful love to gain

The soul that early seeks my face

Shall never seek in vain.

In memory of

*Eiza Ann*, Daught'r of Clark & Betsey Gregory who died April 1, 1806, aged 3 years.

In memory of

*Horace*, son of Clark & Betsey Gregory, who died April 2, 1812,  $\text{Æ}$ . 1 year & 8 months.

In memory of

*Stephen Gregory*, who died Dec. 2, 1817, aged 66 years.

In memory of

*Rhoda Gregory* wife of Stephen Gregory, who died Sept. 16, 1834, aged 80.

In memory of

*Stephen Gregory* who died Dec. 22, 1832, aged 44 years 7 mo.

*Naomi*, wife of Joseph Bennett Died Jan. 30, 1845,  $\text{Æ}$ . 72.

*Huldah*, wife of Stephen Gregory Died Nov. 23, 1846,  $\text{Æ}$ . 58.

In memory of

*Col. Abel Hall*, who died Dec. 30, 1836, Aged 64 years.

In memory of

*Sarah*, Wife of Col. Abel Hall who died Dec. 31, 1855  $\text{Æ}$ . 84.

Died Dec. 11, 1811.

*Eliza*, daughter of Abel & Sarah Hall aged 1 year & 5 mo.

*Benjamin Hall* Died Oct. 13, 1886,  $\text{Æ}$ . 87 y'rs & 1 mo.

*Rachel*, wife of Benjamin Hall, Died Feb. 15, 1859,  $\text{Æ}$ . 60 y'rs, 6 mo's & 16 D's.

Modesty and meekness adorned her in life  
Faith and hope supported her in death.

*Charles B. Hall* Died Sept. 26, 1874,  $\text{Æ}$ . 55 y'rs & 5 mo's.

*Charles E. Hall* Died Dec. 18, 1861, Aged 13 y'rs 1 mo. & 8 Days.





*Ebenezer Silliman Hall* Died  
Apr. 13, 1881, Aged 85 y'rs.

*Eliza Coley*, His Wife Died Apr.  
11, 1880, Aged 81 Y'rs.

In memory of

*Edson Hall*, who died Dec. 13, 1851,  
Æt. 26 y'rs 6 mo. & 20 ds.

We miss thee.

In memory of

*Ezbon Hall* who died Aug. 15, 1833,  
aged 80 y'rs & 6 mo.

In memory of

*Rhoda*, Wife of Ezbon Hall, who  
died April 5, 1850 aged 95 years

This grave is mine house,

In Memory of

*Priscilla*, Wife of Peter C. Oakley  
and daughter of Ezbon Hall, who  
died Sept. 25th 1815 Æ. 25.

The Almighty spake and she was gone.

In memory of

*Philemon*, son of Ezbon & Rhoda  
Hall who died May 23 1837, aged 35  
y. 2 mo. & 25 ds.

Ye holy angels guard my clay  
until the resurrection day.

*Rhoda*, Daughter of Ezbon & Rhoda  
Hall Died Feb. 10, 1888, Æ. 89 y'rs  
11 months

Gone Home.

*Ezra Hall* Died Nov. 3, 1876, Æ.  
84.

*Esther Hall* Died Jan. 3, 1872, Æ.  
74.

*Jennet Hall*, daughter of Ezra &  
Esther Hall Died April 22, 1852,  
aged 19 years.

Farewell within this vale of tears  
A little while we yet remain  
At most tis but a few short years  
Till kindred souls shall meet again.

In memory of

*Mary A.* wife of Harvey B. Hall,  
who died May 15, 1858, aged 38 y'rs  
& 4 ds.

*An Infant*, daughter of Harvey B.  
& Mary Ann Hall died March 21,  
1844, aged 2 d's.

Sleep lovely Babe  
And take thy rest  
God called thee home  
He saw it best.

*Caroline L.*, daughter of Harvey  
B. & Mary Ann Hall, died July 19,  
1851, Æ. 7 w'ks.

In Memory of

*Mary O.*, daughter of Harvey B &  
Mary Ann Hall who died March 31,  
1858, aged 13 y'rs 9 mo & 17 d's.

Sister

*Polly*, daughter of Aaron & Polly  
Gould Wife of Isaac Hall. Born at  
Greenfield Hill, Ct. Died at Easton  
Nov. 16, 1880, Æ. 74 y'rs.

In memory of

*Nelson*, Æ. 10 years.

In memory of

*Stiles*, Æ. 5 years.

&

*Infant*. [on Hall monument]

Sacred to the Memory of  
*Amanda B.* who died Dec. 6, 1822,  
aged 14 years 9 mo's & 3 days.

Daughter of Isaac & Polly Hall.

Reader behold as you pass by  
As you are now so once was I  
As I am now so you must be  
O then prepare to follow me.

In memory of

*Gideon H. Hall*, who died Jan. 22,  
1826, aged 53.

*Ruth*, wife of Gideon H. Hall Died  
Mar. 20, 1859, Aged 88 y'rs.

*Isaac Hall* Died Oct. 29, 1874, Æ.  
76 yrs 3 mos & 8 d's.

In Memory of

*Polly*, wife of Isaac Hall, who died  
Dec. 16, 1841, aged 47 y'rs



**James W.** Son of Isaac & Polly Hall died Oct. 18, 1858,  $\text{Æ}$ . 16 y'rs 3 mo. & 7 D's.

**Joseph B. Hall** Died Dec. 6, 1866, In the 74th year of his age.  
Prepare to meet thy God.

Died Sept. 6, 1823.

**Priscilla**, daughter of Joseph B. & Caroline Hall aged 3 years & 2 mo's.

In memory of

**Josiah B. Hall**, who died April 17, 1858 Aged 82 y'rs.

In memory of

**Elizabeth**, Wife of Josiah B. Hall who died Jan. 24, 1818,  $\text{Æ}$ . 72 y'rs & 6 mo.

In memory of

**Molly Hall**, who died Jan. 17, 1875,  $\text{Æ}$ . 71 years.

**Alma C.**, wife of Nathan E. Hall died Feb. 9, 1854,  $\text{Æ}$ . 26.

At last she has gone to rest  
We have laid her in the tomb  
But her Soul is not dead  
For God hath called it home.

**Mary E.** daughter of Nathan E. & Alma Hall Died May 20, 1857  $\text{Æ}$ . 6 y'rs & 9 mo.

I must weep when I do see  
These lines upon this Stone  
Since God was pleased to take away  
So dear a child of mine.

[A large field head-stone and foot]

**Polly Hall** died March 30, 1852, in the 51 year of her age.

In memory of

**Samuel<sup>2</sup> Hall**, who died Feb. 7, 1831, aged 22 years

Gain wisdom from this mournful stone  
And make the Christian cause your own.

In memory of

**Simon B. Hall** who died Nov. 2, 1848, aged 22 years & 9 months.

**Wildman Hall** died July 10, 1851, in the 86 year of his age.

In memory of

**Atley**, wife of Wildman Hall, who died Jan. 20, 1843, aged 78 yrs.

**Willett J.** Son of George & Adelia M. Hall, Died Dec. 31, 1855, aged 10 mo.

**Dr. Zalmon H. Hall,\*** Died July 25, 1867,  $\text{Æ}$ . 72 y'rs.

Wrapt in the shades of death  
No more that friendly face we see  
Empty, ah empty every place  
Once so well filled by thee.

**Charlie L.** Died Sept. 8, 1861,  $\text{Æ}$ . 1 yr. & 2 mo's.

**Annie M.** Died Aug. 23, 1863,  $\text{Æ}$ . 11 mo's & 23 ds.

Children of David H. & Sarah A. Hard.

**Mary Elsie**, Daughter of David H. & Sarah A. Hard Died March 17, 1858,  $\text{Æ}$ . 8 mo's.

Father take this babe  
Embrace it in thy love  
A flower too pure for earth  
Bud-d to bloom above.

**Harmon Hard** Died July 28, 1839,  $\text{Æ}$ . 46.

**Lydia**, Widow of Harmon Hard Died Jan. 12, 1874,  $\text{Æ}$ . 71 y'rs 8 mo's & 20 days.

"Till the day dawn and the shadows flee away."

**Eli Hard** Died Dec. 8, 1878  $\text{Æ}$ . 47 y'rs 8 mos. Co. D 23d Regt. C. V.

Our Darling Boy Charlie

**Charles Harvey**, Infant Son of Charles W. & Frances E. Blakeman died June 4, 1861.

**Ann Maria Heitzman** died Dec. 20, 1887,  $\text{Æ}$ . 72 y'rs 5 mo's 7 dys.

Rest in peace.

\* The beloved Physician. (R. B. L.)



*Andrew Heitzman*, Born Dec. 26, 1818, Died Dec. 13, 1880.

Rest in peace.

In memory of

*Catharine Hendrix* -who died May 22, 1840, aged 63.

In memory of

*Catharine Hendrix*, who died Jan. 4, 1837, aged 26 y. 9 m. 8 ds.

Adieu my dear mother, adieu

I love thee with feelings full well

O may we thy footsteps pursue

To meet thee in glory to dwell.

*Obidiah Hendrix* Died Jan. 8, 1855,  $\text{\AA}$ t. 70.

In memory of

*Abigail G.* wife of Obadiah Hendrix who died June 13, 1833 aged 52 y. 10 m. 8 ds.

*Esther*, wife of Obadiah Hendrix died April 19, 1864,  $\text{\AA}$ . 79 y'rs & 9 mo.

In memory of

*Aby Jenett*, daughter of Obadiah & Abigail G. Hendrix who died Oct. 7, 1839, aged 17 y'rs.

In memory of

*Mahala Hendrix*, daughter of Obadiah Hendrix who died Sept. 1, 1837, aged 26 years 1 mo. & 27 days.

In memory of

*Daniel Hill*, who died July 25, 1851,  $\text{\AA}$ t. 46 y'rs 8 mo. & 20 d's.

In memory of

*Elizabeth Ann*, Wife of Daniel Hill, who died Dec. 19, 1830, aged 26 y'rs 3 mo. & 16 days.

The sweet remembrance of the just

Shall flourish when they sleep in dust.

*Polly Betsey*, daughter of Daniel and Elizabeth Ann Hill died April 19, 1843, aged 18 years.

In Memory of

*Daniel Holmes*, who died April 4, 1828, aged 73 years.

The sweet remembrance of the just  
Shall flourish when they sleep in dust.

*Mrs. Mary Holmes*, wife of Mr. Daniel Holmes died April 29, 1813, in the 58 year of her age.

In Memory of

*Lydia Holmes* wife of Daniel Holmes who died Sept. 13, 1811, aged 65 years.

Behold and see as you pass by

As you are now so once was I

As I am now so you must be

Prepare for death and follow me.

*Lydia*, daughter of Daniel and Elizabeth Ann Hill, died Feb. 13, 1858, aged 29 years.

*David S. Hubbell* Died Nov. 26, 1847,  $\text{\AA}$ . 72.

*Phebe*, Wife of David S. Hubbell died Jan. 1, 1844  $\text{\AA}$ . 72.

Here Lyes Buried the Body of

*Mr. Ebenezer Hubbel* Who departed this Life March the 6th 1761 in ye 74th Year of His Age.

In memory of

*Mrs. Sarah Hubbell* who died May 20th 1788 in the 93d Year of her age.

An age which few Survive.

In memory of

*Polly*, wife of Harvey Hubbell, who departed this life Nov. 26, 1855, with full hope of a blessed immortality, aged 56 years.

*Charles Elliott*, son of Harvey and Polly Hubbell Born Feb. 26, 1825, died Jan. 24, 1854.

*Isaac Hubbell* Died April 22, 1873, Aged 76 y'rs 6 mos.



In memory of  
*Nathaniel Hubbell*, who died  
May 27, 1837, in the 91 year of his  
age.

In memory of  
*Sarah*, wife of Nathaniel Hubbell  
who died Dec. 8, 1835, aged 85 years.

*Rebecca*, daughter of Turney &  
Jemima Foote, Wife of Charles Eli-  
ott Hubbell, [Born] June 2, 1823,  
[died] Dec. 15, 1845.

In memory of  
*Stephen Hubbell* who died Feb.  
27, 1836, aged 91 years.

In memory of  
*Rhoda Hubbell* Wife of Stephen  
Hubbell, who died Aug. 15, 1826,  
aged 83 years.

*Eloisa Hull* died July 15, 1878,  
Aged 63.

*Hannah*, wife of Hezekiah Hull  
Died March 9, 1873,  $\text{Æ}$ . 81 y'rs.

In memory of  
*Adin Jackson*, who died Oct. 9,  
1815, aged 78 years 17 days.

In memory of  
*Sarah Jackson* wife of Adin Jack-  
son deceased, who died Aug. 28,  
1818, aged 75 years 1 month & 6  
days.

In memory of  
*John Jackson*, who died Sept. 17,  
1810, In the 80th year of his age.

In memory of  
*Jemimah*, wife of John Jackson,  
Jr. who died Feb. 26, 1841, aged 73  
years & 9 mo.

In memory of  
*Minor Jackson*, who died Sept.  
16, 1828, aged 57 y. 9 mo. & 28 ds.

In memory of  
*Joanna*, wife of Minor Jackson who  
died June 13, 1806, aged 29 years.

In memory of  
*Selene*, daughter of Minor & Joanna  
Jackson who died June 20, 1815,  
aged 11 years 4 months 14 days,

In memory of  
*Nathan Jackson* who died Dec.  
18, 1826, aged 80 years.

In memory of  
*Elizabeth*, wife of Nathan Jackson  
who died March 22, 1824,  $\text{Æ}$ . 79.

In Memory of  
*Rollin Jackson*, who died Jan. 21,  
1834  $\text{Æ}$ . 26.

*Samuel Jackson* Died Oct. 15,  
1874,  $\text{Æ}$ . 74 yrs 4 mo.

*Eliza*, Wife of Samuel Jackson died  
July 16, 1874  $\text{Æ}$ . 66 y'rs 8 mo.

In memory of  
*Elijah Jennings* who died April  
15, 1831, aged 36 years.

*Huldah*, Wife of Elijah Jennings  
died Dec. 10, 1881,  $\text{Æ}$ . 85 y'rs & 10  
mo's.

In memory of an  
*Infant* son of Elijah and Huldah  
Jennings who died Dec. 15, 1825,  
aged 17 days.

In memory of  
*Nehemiah Barlow* son of Elijah  
& Huldah Jennings who died Nov.  
12, 1832,  $\text{Æ}$ . 6 years & 14 days.

*John M. Jennings* Died Dec 2,  
1867,  $\text{Æ}$ . 32 y'rs 10 mo's & 23 ds.

*Ichabod Jennings* died Feb. 13,  
1864, aged 87 y'rs 2 mo. & 12 days.

*Sarah*, wife of Ichabod Jennings  
died May 30, 1840,  $\text{Æ}$ . 66 years &  
14 days

Our age to seventy years is set  
How short how frail the time,  
And if to eighty we arrive  
We rather sigh and groan than live.





**Moses**, Son of Ichabed & Sarah Jennings died June 16, 1820,  $\text{Æ}$ . 9 yrs 10 mo. & 6 ds.

In memory of  
**Isaac Jennings** who died July 26, 1851,  $\text{Æ}$ . 49.

**Esther**, wife of Isaac Jennings Died Sept. 12, 1878  $\text{Æ}$  74 y'rs 10 mo.

Our Daughter  
**Ida Lillian**, Adopted daughter of Charles & Betsey P. Jennings Died Nov. 3, 1872,  $\text{Æ}$ . 17 y'rs.

We call her dead but well we know  
She dwells where living waters flow  
Gone to her "Better Home" above  
A world of light and joy and love.

Our Babies  
**Infant** children of Charles & Betsey P. Jennings Born & Died April 14, 1857.

Precious gems laid up in Heaven.

**Rhoda Jennings** died Dec. 31, 1832, aged 57.

**Dea. Seth Jennings** Died Jan 31, 1870,  $\text{Æ}$ . 79.

Into thy hands I commend my spirit  
Thou has redeemed me O Lord God of truth.

**Caroline S.**, daughter of Seth & Caroline Jennings Died March 30, 1858  $\text{Æ}$ . 32 y'rs.

Asleep in Jesus, oh for me  
May such a blessed refuge be  
Securely shall my ashes lie,  
Waiting the summons from on high.

**Phebe**, daughter of Seth and Caroline Jennings Died Feb. 7, 1858,  $\text{Æ}$ . 23 y'rs.

That star went down in beauty, yet it shineth sweetly now

In the bright and dazzling coronet that decks the Saviour's brow;

She howed to the Destroyer whose Shafts none may repel

But we know, for God hath told us, He doeth all things well.

In Memory of  
**Stephen Jennings** who died March 26, 1834  $\text{Æ}$ . 62 years.

In Memory of  
**Sally**, wife of Stephen Jennings who died Jan. 28, 1840, aged 62.

We loved thee.  
**Hattie E.** Wife of Simeon H. Jennings, Died Dec. 21, 1866,  $\text{Æ}$ . 22 y'rs.

**Anna Carrie**, daughter of Joseph W. & Martha J. Johnson died Aug. 14, 1862, aged 1 yr. & 8 mo.

**Augusta A.**, daughter of Nathan B. & Areta A. Johnson died June 17, 1849,  $\text{Æ}$ . 5 yrs & 2 mo.

**James E.**, Son of Nathan B. & Arita A. Johnson died April 20, 1842, aged 1 yr. & 2 mo.

In memory of  
**Parmelia**, wife of Ebnr. Johnson who died Sept. 17, 1815, in the 39 year of her age.

In memory of  
**The Revd. James Johnson** first minister of the Church and congregation of the Presbyterian Society of North Fairfield who was ordained the 14th day of December A. D. 1763, and continued in the ministry until his decease which was on the 18th day of September, A. D. 1810, Aged 76.

He was a faithful Steward in the service of his Divine Master, labored assiduously for the Salvation of those committed to his charge.

He was an affectionate husband, parent and obliging neighbor, worthy Citizen, a warm and generous friend. Having finished his course he fell asleep in the joyful hope of a glorious Resurrection from the grave.

"Mark the perfect man and behold the upright for the end of that man is Peace."



Sacred to the memory of

*Mrs. Abiah Johnson*, Relict of the late Rev. James Johnson, who died January 14th A. D. 1822, in the 83d year of her age.

*Capt. James Johnson\** Died Feb. 25, 1851, aged 77 y'rs & 24 d's.

*Elizabeth Johnson*, wife of Capt. James Johnson, Died Oct. 12, 1849, aged 75 y'rs & 4 mo.

*Zenas Johnson* Died Sept. 20, 1874, .E. 72 y'rs & 9 mo's.

*Adelia Frances*, daughter of Zenas & Anna Johnson died July 5, 1837, aged 5 mo's.

*Two Infant* sons of Zenas & Anna Johnson, who died March 21, 1833, .E. 5 weeks & 2 d's.

*Aurilla*, Wife of Elihu Judd, Died Sept. 21, 1837, aged 39 years & 9 mo.

In memory of

*Betty Lacey*, wife of Zachariah Lacey, who died Dec. 9, 1841 aged 82 years.

In memory of

*Zachariah Lacey* who died Oct. 22, 1837, aged 83 years.

Here lyes Buried the Body of

*Mr. Edward Lacey* who departed this Life June ye 18th 1772 in ye 61st Year of His Age.

In Memory of

*Deborah Lacey*, Daut r of Mr. Edward & Mrs. Deborah Lacey who Died March 1, 1769 Aged 17 months.

*Eli Lacey* Died March 16, 1819, .E. 65 years 1 mo & 5 d's.

*Mary Munson*, wife of Eli Lacey, Born June 21, 1785, Died Dec. 30, 1855.

How glorious he who reigns on high  
Oh let all Heaven adore  
May we a full fruition find  
When time shall be no more.

Died Dec. 22, 1821

*Munson*, Son of Eli & Mary Lacey, aged 12 years

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil.

*Jesse Lacey*, Born March 7th 1789, Died Jan. 24, 1837.

*Edna Munson*, Wife of Jesse Lacey, Born Jan. 18, 1788,--Died June 4, 1814.

For more than twenty-five years unable to walk she bore affliction with real Christian heroism and eminently realized the ideal of the wise man of a true wife and mother.

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There is rest in Heaven.

In memory of

*Mabell*, wife of John E. Lewis who died Aug 23, 1843, aged 22 years. Modesty and meekness adorned her in life Faith and hope supported her in death.

*Polly Olmstead*, Wife of Hezekiah R. Lockwood Died July 6, 1884, .E. 82.

*Clark S.*, their son died Aug. 13, 1858, .E. 27.

*Cyrus B.* Son of Hezekiah & Polly Lockwood died Nov. 2, 1811, .E. 1 yr. 9 mo. & 10 days.

*Andrew Lyon* died Aug. 4, 1826, .E. 61 yrs & 11 mo.

Mark the perfect man and behold the upright for the end of that man is peace.

*Andrew B. Lyon* Died Jan. 30, 1861, aged 46 years & 3 mo.  
My friends, all is well.

\* Son of the Rev. James Johnson. (R. B. L.)



**Caroline E.** wife of Andrew B. Lyon Died Oct. 31, 1875,  $\text{Æ}$ . 56 y'rs 10 mo. 16 d's.

**Estella**, Daughter of Andrew B. & Caroline E. Lyon, Died June 20, 1876,  $\text{æ}$ . 24 y'rs 8 mo. 18 D's.

**Joseph B. Lyon**, son of Andrew B. & Caroline Lyon Died May 6, 1861, aged 19 years 3 mo. & 15 Days.

Here Lies Buried the Body of **Mr. Nathaniel Lion** who departed Life June the 29, 1773 in ye 63d Year of His Age.

In memory of **Nathaniel Lyon** who died May 23, 1837, aged 65 years.

**Katy**, wife of Nathaniel Lyon, Died Dec. 13, 1858  $\text{Æ}$ . 77.

**Nehemiah Lyon** died April 1, 1842, aged 70 years.

[A monument]

**Nehemiah W. Lyon** Died April 19, 1860,  $\text{Æ}$ . 100 y'rs 8 mo.

**Sarah**, Wife of Nehemiah W. Lyon, Died April 23, 1827,  $\text{Æ}$ . 67 y'rs 7 mo. & 18 d's.

[A single stone.]

In Memory of

**Sarah**, Wife of Nehemiah W. Lyon who died April 23, 1827, aged 67 years 7 mo's. & 18 d's.

**Julia Lyon**, daughter of Nehemiah & Ruth Lyon died Aug. 2, 1831, aged 28 y'rs.

**Ruth Lyon** wife of Nehemiah Lyon, died March 4, 1832, aged 55 years.

In Memory of

**George Frederick**, Son of George & Ann Jennette Lyon who died Sept. 17, 1834.  $\text{Æ}$ . 5 mo. & 25 d's.  
Sleep on sweet child and take your rest  
Thy God hath called, he thought it best.

**Morris Lyon** Died June 22, 1851,  $\text{æ}$  41.

**Samuel S. Lyon** Died Jan. 24, 1813, aged 24 years.

**Susan**, Wife of Hanford Lyon Died July 25, 1888,  $\text{Æ}$ . 70 years.

**Sherwood Lyon** Died Feb. 2, 1876, aged 78 y'rs 1 mo.

**Sally**, wife of Sherwood Lyon Died June 21, 1878, aged 76 y'rs 10 mo's.

**Walker Lyon** Died Nov. 23, 1873,  $\text{Æ}$ . 83 years & 6 mo's.

In memory of

**Eunice Lyon**, Wife of Walker Lyon Esq. who died August 12, 1850, Aged 60 years.

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord for they rest from their labors and their works do follow them.

**Emeline**, wife of Walker Lyon Died May 18, 1887,  $\text{Æ}$ . 80 y'rs 7 mo's & 10 Days.

**William Lyon** Died July 18, 1861,  $\text{Æ}$ . 77 y'rs 3 mos. & 21 D's.

In memory of

**Eleanor** wife of William Lyon, who died Oct. 31, 1829, aged 44 y. & 5 mo.

Jesus made her dying bed  
Feel soft as downy pillows are  
While on his breast she leaned her head  
And breathed her life out sweetly there.

**Priscilla**, Wife of William Lyon, died Feb. 17, 1851. Aged 61 years.

**Mr. Zachariah Lyon** died June 10, 1819 & was 74 years old the 19th of Sept. last.

**Mrs. Ruth**, wife of Mr. Zachariah Lyon, died July 19, 1805, and was 65 years old the 20th of Aug. last.

Time, how short,  
Eternity, how long.



In memory of

*Mary Lyon*, wife of Zachariah Lyon who died Aug 14, 1835, aged 80 years.

*Elmira J. Keeler* Died April 24, 1870, aged 36.

In memory of

*Rhoda Mallett*, wife of Seth Mallett, & daughter of Cyrus Silliman who died Oct. 27, 1841, aged 45 years.

*Albert B.*, Son of Christopher B. & Frances R. Marsh, Died March 5, 1889,  $\text{Æ}$  31 y'rs & 10 mo's.

May death's best slumbers occupy thy urn  
The turf that hides thee natures livery wear  
O be thou sacred in the silent bourn  
Till time rolls round the great Sabbath year.

*Florence L.*, daughter of Thomas A. & Sarah M. Marsh Died Oct, 26, 1876.  $\text{Æ}$  8 y'rs 7 mo's 3 days.

As the roses in the garden  
Fall and wither in a day  
So our darling little Flora  
Faded from our sight away.

*Caroline E. Mellen* Died May 7, 1870, aged 39.

*Zebina T. Mellen* Died Jan. 25, 1875,  $\text{Æ}$  42 y'rs & 10 mo's.  
"Not lost but gone before."

*Elizabeth*, Wife of James Millen Died Oct. 31, 1886, aged 77 y'rs 3 mo.

"Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord."

*Elizabeth P. Millin* Died Oct. 10, 1867, Aged 49.

In memory of

*Mary Ann Morehouse*, wife of Edson Morehouse and daughter of Cyrus Silliman who died Jan. 5, 1842, aged 36 years.

*Henry B. Nichols* Died March 11, 1889, Aged 58 y'rs.

At Rest.

*Celestia A. Hard*, His Widow, Died Jan. 16, 1890, Aged 55 y'rs.

Her end was peace.

*Polly J.* wife of Charles Nichols died April 12, 1859,  $\text{Æ}$  30 y'rs 8 mo. & 26 D's.

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.

*Medora J.* died Jan. 17, 1855,  $\text{Æ}$  2 y's 4 mo. & 12 d's.

*Charles F.* died June 28, 1858  $\text{Æ}$  1 y'r & 1 mo.

Children of Charles & Polly L. Nichols.

In memory of

*Harriet*, Wife of Jarvis Nickerson who died Feb. 4, 1813. Aged 23 y'rs. Also an Infant aged 7 days.

*Hannah*, Wife of Rev. L. D. Nickerson Died Mar. 25, 1832, Aged 65 years.

*Ann Olmstead* Died Feb. 28, 1869  $\text{Æ}$  80 y'rs.

*Susannah L.*, Wife of George W. Oliver, Died Aug. 3, 1864,  $\text{Æ}$  45 y'rs 7 mo & 16 d's.

Our mother, we loved her.

*Huldah Celestia*, daughter of George W. & Susannah L. Oliver, departed this life Aug. 9, 1819,  $\text{Æ}$  1 yr. 6 mo. & 24 days.

Suffer little children to come  
unto me and forbid them not  
for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven.

*Rosillia M.*, daughter of George W. & Susannah S. Oliver, Died April 25, 1864,  $\text{Æ}$  11 y's & 5 mo.

Early removed from life's embittering woes  
Beneath the clod her mouldering limbs repose  
Her spirit pure has wing'd her airy flight  
And soared to realms of unalloyed delight.

In memory of

*Anna Osborn* Daughter of Mr. Jeremiah & Mrs Anna Osborn who died Octr 25th 1793 Aged 4 Years 7 Months 1 day.





*Franklin Patterson*, Co. M I  
Regt. Art'y C. V. Died Sept, 22,  
1874.

Here lyes the Body of

*Mrs. Sarah Patterson*, Who de-  
parted this Life Nov. the 19th 1772  
in ye 29th Year of Her Age.

*Phebe A.*, Wife of Wm Patchen,  
Died July 8, 1885, *A.E.* 40 y'rs 10  
mo. & 20 Days.

*Thomas Peck* died July 14, 1813,  
*A.E.* 58.

Farewell my partner and children dear  
Prepare for death while I sleep here.

Mother

*Phebe A. Peck* Died Feb. 10, 1866,  
Aged 58 y'rs & 4 mo's.

Soon we'll meet thee.

*Mariette Peck* Died July 25, 1855,  
*Et.* 21.

We watched thee as thou wasted,  
Thou dear departed one;  
And fain would have lengthened  
The race so early run,  
Yet let there be no weeping,  
Thou'st gained a brighter sphere;  
We would not call the back again  
Nor shed for thee a tear.

*Harriet Hendrix*, Wife of Sidney  
B. Peckwell Died July 21, 1883, *A.E.*  
67 y'rs 7 mo's & 3 days.

In Memory of

*David Pendleton*, who died  
Feb. 11, 1826, aged 79 years.

*Alfred Perry* Died May 19, 1858,  
*A.E.* 52 y'rs & 3 mo's.

*Caroline Perry Sectey* widow  
of Alfred Perry Born Feb. 20, 1807,  
Died Dec. 26, 1887.

*Frank A. Perry* Died April 5,  
1885, aged 45 years.

*Harriet N.* Wife of John L. Perry  
Died Sept, 3d 1869, *A.E.* 29 years.

Hattie thou art gone to rest.

*Sadie S. M.* Infant daughter of  
John L. & Anna Perry, died June  
3, 1875.

In memory of

*Amos Platt*, who died Jan. 29,  
1856, Aged 88 years.

In memory of

*Hannah*, Wife of Amos Platt, who  
died Apr. 20, 1840, Aged 82 years.  
*E. L. B.*

*Joseph Platt* Died Sept. 2, 1858,  
Aged 54.

Triumphant in his closing age,  
The hope of Glory shone  
Joy breathed in his expiring sigh  
To think the race was run.

Mother

*Anna S. Platt* Died April 15, 1876,  
*A.E.* 76 y'rs 11 mo.

Asleep in Jesus blessed sleep,  
From which none ever wake to weep.

In memory of

*Sally*, wife of Josiah Platt, who died  
Oct. 8, 1830, *A.E.* 26 y'rs.

In memory of

*Alfred S.*, son of Josiah & Ruth  
Platt who died Oct. 24, 1831, *A.E.* 3  
y'rs & 5 days.

*Benjamin Porter* Died Dec. 22,  
1873, Aged 82 yrs.

Earth has his dust  
Friends his memory  
And the Redeemer his spirit.

*Eunice Porter* Died May 3, 1862,  
aged 60 years.

Earth has her dust  
Friends her memory  
And the Redeemer her spirit.

*Isaac Porter*, Died Jan. 3, 1872,  
*A.E.* 82 y'rs & 2 mo.

We loved him on earth  
May we meet him in Heaven.

*Betsy*, Wife of Isaac Porter Died  
Feb. 5, 1881, *A.E.* 87 y'rs & 10 D's.

Gone but not forgotten.



**Silas H. Porter** Died April 5, 1883,  
Aged 66 y'rs.  
Hope gently whispers "We shall meet again."

Sister

**Emma J. L.** Only daughter of  
Charles S. & Mary E. Powell Died  
Jan. 14, 1890, Aged 13 y'rs 7 mo's &  
11 Days.

**Sylvester** Died June 15, 1857,  $\text{Æ}$ . 6  
y'rs.

**Mary** Died June 25, 1857,  $\text{Æ}$ . 3 y'rs.

**Sarah** Died January 7, 1858,  $\text{Æ}$ . 8  
y'rs.

Children of David & Jane Powell.

**William Rowell** Died April 21,  
1863,  $\text{Æ}$ . 70 y'rs.

Mourn not dear wife that I am gone,  
Nor sorrow that you are left alone;  
But think of me, prepare to die,  
For sure you here with me must lie.

**Clarissa**, Wife of William Rowell  
died April 8, 1875,  $\text{Æ}$ . 89 y'rs 9  
mo's.

Gone home,

To be at rest in Heaven.

**William Rowell** died Oct. 17, 1840,  
 $\text{Æ}$ , 20.

In memory of

**Lois**, wife of Daniel Prindle who  
died Sept. 21, 1845, aged 46 y'rs.

In Memory of

**Joseph Prince** who died Oct. 28,  
1826, aged 87.

In Memory of

**Martha Prince** who died March  
13, 1818, aged 74.

In Memory of

**William Prince**, who died Feb.  
15, 1825, in the full hope of a happy  
immortality, aged 78.

Also of his wife

**Ruth Prince** who died Jan. 23,  
1780.

In Memory of

**Abigail**, wife of William Prince  
who died Nov. 1, 1797, aged 39  
years 6 months & 2 days.

**Thos. Henderson Raymond**,  
Died Jan. 20, 1876,  $\text{Æ}$ . 60 y'rs 3  
mo's 11 D's.

Father rests from his labors.

**Eunice Joanna Thorp**, Wife of  
T. H. Raymond Died June 19, 1883,  
 $\text{Æ}$ . 67 y'rs 5 mo's 6 D's.

Mother is at rest.

**Edgar Rich** was the treasure to us  
given

And pure we yield it up to heaven—

Our Angel boy.

In memory of

**Hezekiah Rowland**, who died  
June 8, 1837, aged 65 years 3 mo's &  
7 d's.

**Bulah**, Wife of Hezekiah Rowland  
Died Dec. 3, 1855, aged 82 years 2  
mo & 2 d's.

**John S. Rowland** Died Mar. 10,  
1886, aged 78 y rs 11 mo. 23 d's.

'Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord.'

**Daniel L. Sanford**,.....

.....

His Wife

**Anna Sanford** Died May 26, 1883,  
aged 57 y'rs 5 mo's & 21 D's.

Yet again we hope to meet thee

When the path of life is fled

Then with joy in heaven to greet thee

Where no farewell tear is shed.

In memory of

**Mr. Ebenzer Sanford** who De-  
parted this Life the 16th of April  
1786 in the 78th Year of his age.

In memory of

**Mrs. Sarah Sanford** who died  
March 20th 1809, In the 93 year of  
her age.



*Nathan Sanford.* (Near Mr. Ebenezer Sanford.)

*Ebenezer T. Sanford* Died Nov. 22, 1873, *Æ.* 79 years & 7 mo's.

In Memory of

*Sarah\* Sanford,* wife of Ebenezer T. Sanford who died Aug. 2, 1849, In the 57th year of her age.

In memory of

*Sully,* wife of Ebenezer T. Sanford who died Sept. 22, 1817, aged 24 years.

Also

*Joseph,* their son died Aug. 27, 1817, aged 13 months & 9 days.

In memory of

*Eunice Sanford,* who died Feb. 15, 1860, *Æ.* 89 y'rs.

*Hannah Sanford* Died Sept. 25, 1868, *Æ.* 77 y'rs 6 mo's.

Sacred to the memory of

*Mr. Josiah Sanford,* who departed this Life Aug. 7, 1811, In the 65th year of his age.

In memory of

*Mary Sanford,* wife of Josiah Sanford, who died Oct. 2, 1838, aged 81 years.

In memory of

*Nathan Sanford* Son of Mr. Josiah & Mrs. Mary Sanford who died Oct. 1, 1773 Aged 10 months & 20 days.

In memory of

*Mrs. Sarah Sanford* who died Feb. 25th 1809, In the 68 year of her age.

*Sylvia Alosia,* Wife of Stephen M. Sanford Died April 4, 1881, *Æ.* 28 y'rs & 3 mos.

*Aaron Seeley* Died May 3, 1864, *Æ.* 88

*Clarissa Seeley†,* Wife of Aaron Seeley, died Feb. 14, 1875, *Æ.* 90 years 5 mo.

*Esther,* Wife of Aaron Seeley Died July 16, 1824, *Æ.* 43.

Also an Infant, their son died July 10, 1824.

In Memory of

*Aaron S.* Son of Aaron & Esther Seeley who died Jan. 18, 1810, *Æ.* 10 days.

In memory of

*Anna,* daughter of Aaron & Esther Seeley who died Sept. 22, 1826, in her 19th year.

Farewell my lovely daughter  
I bid a short adieu  
You cannot come to me again  
But I must come to you.

*Eleanor A.* Wife of Bradley C. Seeley Died Feb. 15, 1857.

With us her name shall live  
Through long succeeding years  
Embalmed with all our hearts can give  
Our praises and our tears.

In memory of

*Dea. Ebenezer Seeley,* who died May 21, 1842, in the 82 year of his age.

He lived and died trusting in God.

In memory of

*Anna Seeley,* wife of Ebenezer Seeley who died April 14, 1813 in the 51st year of her age.

"Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea saith the spirit that they may rest from their labours and their works do follow them."

\* Daughter of Aaron Lyon of Rocking Ridge. (R. B. L.)

† She was a Summers, of Cow Hill, near Bridgeport. (R. B. Lacey.)



In memory of

**Eloisa**, daughter of Ebenezer & Anna Seeley, who died Sept. 10, 1815, in the 16 year of her age.

In memory of

**Philander Horace**, Son of Ebenezer & Anna Seeley who died Sept. 3, 1815 aged 8 years.

In Memory of

**Horatio N. Seeley**, Son of Ebenezer Seeley, who died Sept. 24, 1824 in his 20 year.

He was sincerely beloved and respected in life, and greatly lamented in death.

**Elijah Seeley** Died March 9, 1851, **E.** 81.

**Patience**, Wife of Elijah Seeley Died Feb. 20, 1863, **E.** 88 y'rs 11 mo. & 3 d's.

**Elijah**, son of Elijah Seeley Died Sept. 5, 1815, **E.** 13 y'rs.

**Eunice**, daughter of Elijah & Patience Seeley. Died May 9, 1861, **E.** 64 y'rs & 3 mo.

**Elnathan W. Seeley** Died Oct. 4, 1840, aged 52.

Be wise to-day.

Asleep in Jesus.

To the memory of

**Lucy Seeley**, Wife of Elnathan W. Seeley, born in Reading Conn. Dec. 3, 1794, died in New York Nov. 30, 1835.

**Emily Seeley**, Died March 1, 1884, **E.** 76 y'rs 4 mo's 8 d's.

Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord.

Here lies Buried the Body of

**Mr. Ephraim Selge** who departed this life Jan. the 8th 1763, In the 29th Year of His Age.

**Eunice Seeley** Died Nov. 27, 1848, **E.** 37.

In Memory of

**Ezra Seeley**, who died Jan. 31, 1814, in the 38 year of his age.

**Sarah**, daughter of Ezra Seeley, who died April 20, 1822, **E.** 18.

"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord."

Seeley [monument]

**Ezra B. Seeley** Died Feb. 29, 1864, **E.** 51.

**Eunice**, His Wife Died Mar. 2, 1863, **E.** 45.

**Emily Elizabeth**, daughter of Ezra B. & Eunice Seeley died April 16, 1841, aged 15 mo's.

**Harriet R. Seeley**, Wife of Ezra S. Seeley Died May 28, 1853, Aged 27 y'rs, & 6 mo.

Also Their

**Infant** son Died May 21, 1853.

Say do not weep

You'll all come soon.

To the memory of

**James Seeley** who was born Dec. 5, 1794, and died July 16, 1834.

His mind naturally strong he cultivated with diligence. He was an enlightened and upright man, an active and valuable member of society, firm in his principles, amiable, frank and generous in his disposition. From early youth he was a steadfast and devoted Christian, and distinguished for zeal and faithfulness in the discharge of every duty.

He was universally respected and beloved while he lived, and deeply lamented in death. To his bereaved widow and children, to his surviving father, brothers and sisters his memory will be precious, and the recollection of his virtues will long be cherished by all who knew him.

Let me die the death of the righteous and  
let my last end be like his.





*Ana Seeley*, Wife of James Seeley Died March 30, 1857, aged 58 years.

The record of her life, engraven on the hearts of her children and friends—  
a life of good deeds, kind words, and Christian example—is her best memorial.  
Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord."

*James H. Seeley*,.....

.....  
*Musie E. Banks* his wife, Died May 22, 1878, Aged 22 years.

In Memory of

*Judson W. Seeley* who died Dec. 26, 1822, aged 23 years 8 months & 20 days.

At the midst of life when all appears so gay  
He sends his summons forth and I obey  
I must die and leave the world behind  
Must for 'tis the doom of all mankind.

*Julia*, wife of Thomas Seeley, died June 2, 1861,  $\text{Æ}$ . 64 years.

Thy willing spirit glad obeyed  
The summons to the skies  
Suffering had weaned thee from the earth  
Prepared thee to arise.

*Julia Seeley* Died Jan. 5, 1877,  $\text{Æ}$ . 72 y'rs 7 mo.

There is rest for the weary.

Seeley [monument]

*Mallett Seeley*, Nov. 9, 1801, April 28, 1881.

*Caroline*, wife of Mallett Seeley, Jan. 22, 1801, Sept. 28, 1885.

In memory of

*Philander S. Seeley*, who was born in Weston Nov. 22, 1825, and died in New Haven, (while a member of Junior Class of Yale College) Sept. 19, 1847.

In the hope of a glorious immortality.  
His memory will be precious.

In memory of

*Mrs. Rebecca Seeley* Wife of Capt. Nathaniel Seeley who departed this Life Feby ye 16th 1773, in ye 62 Year of Her Age.

In memory of

*Roswell*, Son of Aaron & Esther Seeley who died Nov. 27, 1832, in the 20 year of his age.

Go home dear friends dry up your tears  
I must lie here till Christ appears  
My debt is paid my grave you see  
Prepare yourselves to follow me.

*Samuel Seeley*, Born Sept. 2, 1814, Died Nov. 23, 1874.

*Effie May*, Daughter of Samuel & Josephine C. Seeley Born Sept. 29, 1861. Died May 15, 1887.

At Rest.

*Sherwood Seeley* died July 30, 1858,  $\text{Æ}$ . 78 y'rs & 4 mo's.

*Mary*, Wife of Sherwood Seeley died Jan. 4, 1879, aged 96 yrs 6 mos.

Here lyes Buried the Body of  
*Mr. Stephen Seeley* Who departed this Life Jany ye 30th 1767, in ye 31st Year of His Age.

*William Seeley* died Nov. 24, 1880, Aged 81 years.

*L. S.*, [small marble stone]

*Wm. A. Seeley* Died Jan. 26, 1874,  $\text{Æ}$ . 25 y'rs & 4 mo's & 15 Days.

*Wm. H. Sharol*, Died May 17, 1864,  $\text{Æ}$ . 33 yrs 5 mo. & 20 d's.

*Ebenezer Sherman* died Oct. 23, 1822, aged 70.

In memory of

*Amy Sherman*, wife of Ebenezer Sherman, died Dec. 26, 1807,  $\text{Æ}$ . 51.  
Leaving an afflicted family to mourn an irreparable loss.

Thy dart'g O death that fly promiscuous round  
In such a victim may others wound.

In Memory of

*Mary Sherman* wife of Daniel Sherman who died March 10, 1799  $\text{Æ}$ . 73,



[Sherman monument]

*Philo B. Sherman* Died Oct. 6, 1885, Aged 77.

*Amelia* His Wife Died Nov. 7, 1871, Aged 61.

In memory of

*Mr. David Sherwood* who died Sept. 19, 1815, aged 36 years.

In memory of

*Polly*, Wife of Jonathan Gould, formerly wife of David Sherwood, who died Jan. 22, 1820, aged 40 y's.

In memory of

*Edson J.*, son of David & Polly Sherwood who died August 31, 1821 aged 11 y's.

In Memory of

*Mrs. Ann Sherwood*, wife of Mr. David Sherwood, who died July 30th 1803, in the 23d year of her age.

*David W.*, son of David W. and Harriet Sherwood died May 8, 1810,  $\text{Æ}$ . 1 y'r. & 8 mo's.

This lovely plant we wished to raise  
Resign it here we must  
Into the hands of God who gave  
And in his mercy trust.

*Charles G.* Son of David W. & Harriet Sherwood, Died Aug. 18, 1818, aged 5 years.

*Sylvia Antoinette*, only daughter of David W. & Harriet Sherwood died Jan. 6, 1847,  $\text{Æ}$ . 10 years & 3 mo.

Called sudden from her earthly home  
To heaven's immortal bowers  
Through all eternity to bloom  
A sweet and faithful flower.

*Mr. Daniel Sherwood* died June 2 1813 in the 53 year of his age.  
May angels with their guardian wings  
This dreary tomb o'er spread  
And guard until the close of time  
This mansion of the dead.

In memory of

*Mrs. Eunice Sherwood*, Wife of Mr. Daniel Sherwood, who departed this Life Febry 5th 1790, In the 22d Year of her Age.

*Daniel B. Sherwood* Died Jan. 16, 1878, Aged 78 y's 6 mo.

*Electa M. Sherwood* Died Oct. 12, 1866, Aged 61 y's 7 D's.

*Eleanor*, daughter of Amos O. & Betsey Sherwood, Died June 18, 1832, aged 4 y's 5 mo's & 20 d.

*Harriet J.* wife of Justus Sherwood Died Feb. 4, 1864, Aged 39.

In the midst of life we are in Death.

*Lillie M.* Daughter of J. & M. Sherwood Died April 24, 1869,  $\text{Æ}$ . 5 y's & 7 mo.

"Safe within the fold."

Sacred to the memory of

*John Sherwood Esq.*

Charity, Philanthropy & Urbanity united to make him beloved by his family, Esteemed by his friends & Respected by his acquaintances.

He died June 30th 1810.

*Mrs. Eunice Sherwood* relict of John Sherwood Esq. died Sept. 12, 1814, in the 76 year of her age.

In memory of

*Mr. John Sherwood* who departed this Life May 10th A. D. 1795, In the 25th Year of his Age.

*John Sherwood* Died at Chicago Jan. 1, 1855,  $\text{Æ}$ . 27.

*John Sherwood* Died April 6, 1858,  $\text{Æ}$ . 66 y's 5 mo. & 14 ds.

*Elosia*, Wife of John Sherwood, Died Sept. 9, 1868  $\text{Æ}$ . 72 Y's & 6 mo's.

Sacred to the memory of

*John Sherwood*, only child of Sherwood and Caroline Staples who died May 2, 1838, aged 7 years 5 mo. & 24 d's.



**Elizabeth S.**, Wife of J. W. Sherwood Died June 15, 1882, Aged 30 y'rs.

Asleep in Jesus.

Died April 29, 1808

**Samuel W.** aged 9 months.

June 13, 1811 an

**Infant** aged 3 days.

Sept. 1, 1827

**Charles E.** aged 1 year.

Sons of David & Anna Sherwood.

**James Irving**, son of David W. & Laura W. Sherwood died Dec. 7, 1846 Aged 10 mo. & 3 d's.

In memory of

**Julia Sherwood**, who died Sept. 8, 1842, .E. 30.

Farewell my partner child and friend  
Prepare for death while I sleep here.

In memory of

**Isaac Sherwood** who died May 28, 1838, .E. 41 y'rs 10 mo's & 1 day. \*

**Abigail Jordan**, wife of Isaac Sherwood, Died Dec. 28, 1876, Aged 77 yrs.

"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord."

**Eliza A.**, wife of Justus Sherwood Died Oct. 13, 1890, .E. 60 y'rs 10 mo's.

Not safe till saved in Heaven.

In memory of

**Abigail Sherwood** wife of Matthew Sherwood who died Sept. 28th, 1786, In the 29th Year of her age.

**A. H.** (At the left hand of Abigail Sherwood)

**Philo B. Sherwood** Died Sept. 24, 1887, .E. 73 years, & 5 mo's.

**Eugene W.** died Oct. 13, 1851, .E. 2 y's & 8 mo.

Also an

**Infant** daughter died 1846, .E. 3 ms.

Children of Philo B. & Jerusha Sherwood.

In memory of

**Phoebe A. Sherwood** who died Oct. 22, 1844, aged 25 y'rs.

Modesty and meekness adorned her in life  
Faith and hope supported her in death.

In Memory of

**Mr. Thomas Sherwood** who died Sept. 15th 1798, in the 70th year of his age.

In memory of

**Mrs. Anne Sherwood**, Wife of Mr. Thomas Sherwood, who died Decr 3d 1777 in the 52d year of her age.

**Walker Sherwood** died Oct. 15, 1826, .E. 26 years.

**Walker Sherwood\*** Died Oct. 21, 1863, .E. 81 y'rs 2 mo's & 6 D's.

Father, we miss him.

**Anna Sherwood**, wife of Walker Sherwood Died April 18, 1862, .E. 82 yrs 4 mo & 11 days.

Our mother, we loved her.

**Betsy Silliman** Died Sept. 20, 1858, .E. 73.

Here lies a friend of Jesus.

**Cyrus Silliman** Died May 6, 1864, .E. 51 yrs 1 mo. & 19 D's.

**Charles C.**, Son of Cyrus & Anna H. Silliman, Died March 21, 1871, .E. 16 Yrs 8 mos.

Meet me in Heaven.

In memory of

**Mr. Cyrus Silliman** who died Aug 12, 1842, .E. 72.

Precious in the sight of the Lord  
is the death of his saints.

\* One of Nature's noblemen. His wife was a Summers. (R. B. L.)



In memory of

**Mr. David Silliman** who died August 29th 1810, In the 73d year of his Age.

**Mrs. Lydia Silliman** widow of David Silliman died Dec. 28, 1816, aged 75.

In memory of

**Miss Anna Silliman**, daughter of David & Lydia Silliman, who died June 8, 1829, aged 32 years.

Once you must die and once for all  
The solemn purpose weigh  
For know that heaven or hell attend  
On that important day.

**David Silliman** Died April 23, 1853, Aged 88 years & 6 months.

**Clarissa**, Wife of David Silliman died May 19, 1855, Aged 81 years.

**Charles E.**, only son of David & Mary B. Silliman Died Oct. 5, 1852, Aged 13 years & 10 mo's.

In memory of

**Daniel Silliman**, who died Sept. 13th 1818,  $\text{Æ}$ . 66 years 2 months & 16 ds.

**Emily Silliman** wife of Ezra Silliman died July 11, 1838, aged 31 y'rs & 10 mo.

**John Silliman**, son of Mr. Cyrus & Mrs. Hannah Silliman died Feb. 8, 1815, in the 16 year of his age.

**Joseph Silliman** died June 18, 1819,  $\text{Æ}$ . 59 y'rs.

**Deacon Justus Silliman** De- parted this life April 30th 1839,  $\text{Æ}$ . 71 years & 10 months,

In memory of

**Ruth Silliman**, wife of Justus Silliman who died March 20, 1836, aged 70 years & 6 months.

In memory of

**Isaac Silliman**, who died July 8, 1840,  $\text{Æ}$ . 48 yrs & 4 ms.

In memory of

**Mary**, wife of Isaac Silliman, who died Nov. 21, 1825, aged 34 y'rs & 6 months.

**Lottie H.** Daughter of Nathaniel L. & Eliza B. Silliman, Born Jan. 17, 1859, Died March 10, 1862,  $\text{Æ}$ . 3 y'rs 1 mo. & 21 D's.

**Nathaniel Silliman** died Nov. 6, 1825,  $\text{Æ}$ . 33.

**Nathaniel L. Silliman** Died May 30, 1868, Aged 43.

**Carlton E. Smith** Died Dec. 11, 1871,  $\text{Æ}$ . 17 y'rs 9 D's.

Carlton dear one! thou art at rest  
God called him home He knew twas best  
We mourn thee, yet we know that soon  
We too may share thy heavenly home.

**James A.** Son of J. B. & C. Smith Died Dec. 12, 1868,  $\text{Æ}$ . 1 y'r 4 mo.

Our Jamie.

Tread softly for an angel band,  
Doth guard the precious dust,  
And we can safely leave our boy  
Our darling in his trust.

**Quam Smith** died March 30th 1860,  $\text{Æ}$ . 84.

**Ransom O. Smith** Died May 31, 1871, aged 54 y'rs & 9 mo's.

One less to love on earth  
One more to meet in heaven.

**Lucinda**, Wife of Ransom O. Smith Died July 27, 1883, aged 71 years.

**Sylvester B. Smith** Died June 16, 1886,  $\text{Æ}$ . 49 y'rs 1 mo. & 11 days.

**William W. Smith**, Died March 17, 1857  $\text{Æ}$ . 43 yrs & 1 mo.

Earth has his dust  
Friends his memory  
And the Redeemer his spirit.





**Wm. Wilmot**, Son of Wm. W. & Susan A. Smith, Died July 22, 1865, aged 14 y'rs.

Seek ye the Lord while he may be found.

We lived together.

**John A.** Son of Wm. W. & Susan A. Smith, died Sept. 6, 1851,  $\text{Æ}$ . 12 y's.

We parted but to meet again.

**William W.** son of Wm. W. & Susan A. Smith died Sept. 8, 1851,  $\text{Æ}$ . 10 y's.

In Memory of

**Sherwood Staples** who died Oct. 15, 1839, aged 38 years & 8 mo's.

In Memory of

**Caroline**, Wife of Sherwood Staples who died Oct. 12, 1888, aged 84 years & 4 d's.

Staples, Jennings, [monument].

**Mary R. Chappell**, Wife of Sidney Staples, Died May 6, 1848,  $\text{Æ}$ . 32 years.

In memory of

**Mr. Zachariah Summers**, who departed this Life May 28th 1787, In the 53d year of his Age.

In memory of

**Mrs. Martha Summers**, wife of Mr. Zachariah Summers, who died April 12, 1820, in her 87 year.

**Schuyler, N.**, Son of Samuel A. & Eliza A. Sweet, Died Nov. 6, 1875, Aged 17 y'rs.

We part to meet again:

Meet me in heaven.

Sweet rest in heaven.

**Barak Taylor**, died Sept. 27, 1838, aged 75 years.

In Memory of

**Abigail**, wife of Barach Taylor, who died April 23, 1829, aged 61 years.

In Memory of

**Mr. David Taylor**, who died May 5, 1805, In the 89th year of his Age.

**David Taylor**, Died July 26, 1848,  $\text{Æ}$ . 60.

**Mary N.** Wife of David Taylor Died Jan. 24, 1856,  $\text{Æ}$ . 63.

In Memory of

**Elihu Taylor**, who died Nov. 4, 1845,  $\text{Æ}$ . 55.

**Angelina**, wife of Elihu Taylor died Jan. 28, 1874,  $\text{Æ}$ . 81 y'rs 9 mo.

"Let me die the death of the righteous and let my last end be like his."

**Samuel E. Thorp**, Died March 10, 1875,  $\text{Æ}$ . 53 years 3 mo's & 16 days.

**Mary B.**, wife of Samuel E. Thorp Died April 22, 1885,  $\text{Æ}$ . 65 years 7 mo's.

**Isaac W.**, Son of Samuel E. & Mary B. Thorp, Died April 21, 1875,  $\text{Æ}$ . 17 years & 8 mo's.

Lelius [Monument].

**Floyd Tucker**, Died October 12, 1888, aged 83 y'rs.

His Wife

**Anna Tucker**, Died Feb. 24, 1891, aged 78 y'rs.

**Charles J. Baker**, son of Jesse & Anna Baker Died April 1, 1887, aged 56 y'rs.

**Dea. Albert Turney**, Died April 14, 1871, Aged 79 y'rs.

In memory of

**Hannah Turney** Wife of Dea. Albert Turney, who died Dec. 17th, 1839, aged 46.

**Lucretia**, Wife of Dea. Albert Turney died Sept. 1, 1868, Aged 82.

**Albert T. Turney** Died June 15, 1886, aged 70 years.



## In Memory of

*Clarissa Turney*, who died April 14, 1844, Æ. 78 y'rs.

*Cyrus Turney* Died Nov. 14, 1886, aged 69 years.

Blessed are the pure in heart  
for they shall see God.

## In Memory of

*David Turney*, who died July 25, 1829, aged 64 years 6 months.

## In memory of

*Mrs. Parthena*, wife of Mr. David Turney, who died Sept. 30, 1815, in the 47 year of her age.

## In memory of

*Sally Turney*, daughter of David & Parthena Turney, who died Nov. 25, 1834, aged 24 years 6 mo. & 23 d's.

## In memory of

*Thomas J. Turney*, Son of M. David & Mrs. Parthena Turney, who died Nov. 1st, 1805, in the 19th year of His Age.

*Willis*, Son of Mr. David and Mrs. Parthena Turney, born May 31st & died July 30th 1804, aged 2 months.

*Henry M.*, Son of A. T. & E. M. Turney, Died Oct. 29, 1877, aged 34 Years.

We miss thee.

*Edith*, daughter of A. E. & M. E. Turney died April 21, 1863, Æ. 4 mos & 3 dys.

*John Turney* Died Nov. 24, 1849, Æ. 81.

## In memory of

*Eunice Turney*, wife of John Turney, who died Oct. 4, 1831, aged 58 years.

Blessed are the dead who die in the  
Lord from henceforth; Yes saith the  
Spirit, that they may rest from their  
Labors; and their works do follow them.

## In memory of

*Anna Turney*, daughter of John & Eunice Turney, who died Dec. 17, 1833, aged 26 years.

*Stephen*, Son of John & Eunice Turney died Oct. 3, 1815, Æ. 2 y'rs. 9 mo.

*Zalmon Turney* Died Dec. 31, 1880, Æ. 80 y'rs 8 mo.

## In memory of

*Mary M.*, wife of Zalmon Turney, who died Nov. 15, 1835, aged 26 years & 8 mo.

*David B.* Son of Zalmon & Mary M. Turney died July 4, 1832, Aged 4 mo. & 13 ds.

## In memory of

*Sarah*, wife of Squire Turrel, who died Feb. 24, 1809, in the 24 year of her age.

*Lavinia*, wife of James J. Ward Died Nov. 15, 1880, Æ. 28 y'rs 2 mo's & 9 days.

*Mary*, wife of James J. Ward, Died Mar. 27, 1883, Æ. 21 years.

*Rev. John Warren* Died July 26, 1889, aged 74 y'rs 9 mo's.

## In memory of

*John Wells*, who died May 26, 1848, Æ. 75 y'rs.

## In memory of

*Hannah*, widow of John Wells, who died June 4, 1855, Æ. 79 y'rs.



## My Husband

*Andrew S. Wheeler* Died Oct. 26, 1870, Aged 23 years.

They call thee dead my husband, for the grave  
Now holds thy body in its cold embrace  
They call thee dead because the coffin lid  
Shuts out the sight forever from thy face.

I saw thee wasting on thy couch of pain  
Stood by thy bedside when thy spirit fled  
Know what thou wast, canst not be again  
And yet! and yet to me thou art not dead.

## In Memory of

*Daniel Wheeler*, who died Feb. 11, 1844, aged 76 years.

Farewell my partner and children dear  
Prepare for death while I sleep here.

## In Memory of

*Anthia*, wife of Daniel Wheeler, Died Dec. 29, 1880, aged 96 years.

## In Memory of

*Sarah*, wife of Daniel Wheeler, who died April 27, 1817, .Æ. 51 yrs.

*Pollina* their daughter died Feb. 1806, .Æ. 10 mo's.

## In Memory of

*Ezra*, Son of Daniel & Anthia Wheeler, who died Sept. 18, 1826, aged 4 y'rs & 6 mo's.

*Phebe M.*, Wife of Daniel Wheeler died May 7, 1876, .Æ. 66 y'rs 7 mo.

Asleep in Jesus.

*Mary Augusta*, daughter of Daniel and Phebe M. Wheeler died Oct. 9, 1847, .Æ. 4 y'rs 6 mo & 12 ds.

*Sarah Jane*, died Nov. 27, 1811, aged 3 years.

*Nelson* died March 24, 1842, aged 8 mo.

Also an Infant,

Children of Daniel & Phebe M. Wheeler.

*Edwin Wheeler* Born Dec. 3, 1812, Died Nov. 29, 1870.

*Lucinda Wheeler*, wife of Edwin Wheeler, Died Jan. 17, 1875, .Æ. 57 y'rs.

## In memory of

*Eli Wheeler*, who died Aug. 5, 1845, aged 50 y'rs.

## In Memory of

*Hannah*, wife of Eli Wheeler, who died April 9, 1836, aged 44 years.

*Eleanor*, Daughter of Eli & Hannah Wheeler died Nov. 22, 1863, aged 43 y'rs 2 mos & 25 d's.

## In memory of

*Wakeman*, Son of Eli & Hannah Wheeler, who died May 27, 1814, .Æ. 1 year 10 months.

*Eunice F.* Wife of Henry K. Wheeler Died Nov. 28, 1876, .Æ. 45 y'rs 3 mo.

*Emmogene*, daughter of Joseph & Emily Wheeler died Jan. 30, 1852, aged 2 y'rs & 24 days.

*George Wheeler* Died Dec. 13, 1856, .Æ. 32.

## In memory of

*Susan Wheeler*, Wife of George Wheeler, who Died May 8, 1850, Aged 43 years.

*Henry Wheeler* Died April 10, 1876, Aged 41 y'rs 6 mo.

Afflictions sore long time he bore,  
Physicians' aid was vain  
Till God was pleased to call him home  
And free him from all pain.

*Hiram Wheeler* Born Dec. 9, 1802, Died Aug. 21, 1882.

*Anna*, Wife of Hiram Wheeler Born, Feb. 19, 1803, Died April 16, 1877.

*John Wheeler* died Jan. 10, 1820, .Æ. 65.



In Memory of

*Mrs. Abiah Wheeler*, widow of John Wheeler decd. who died July 4, 1828, aged 89.

*John Wheeler* died Feb. 3, 1819, in his 90th year.

*Sarah*, Wife of Jesse Wheeler Died Feb. 12, 1846, .E. 64 y'rs.

*Infant*, daughter of John A. & Ruth A. Wilson died Sept. 13, 1851.

Here lyes ye Body of

*Mrs. Ann Wheeler* Wife of Mr. John Wheeler, who departed this Life March ye 17th, 1767, in ye 38th year of Her Age.

In memory of

*Obadiah Wheeler* who died May 28, 1848, .E. 82.

In memory of

*Sarah*, wife of Obadiah Wheeler, who died Oct. 25, 1855, .E. 90 y'rs 6 mo.

In memory of

*Ruth*, wife of Jabez Wheeler, who died Sept. 30, 1827, in her 45 year.

In Memory of

*Samuel Wheeler*, who died July 19, 1833, in the 81st year of his age.

In memory of

*Esther*, Wife of Samuel Wheeler who died Jan. 5, 1860, .E. 99 y'rs 8 mo's & 29 d's.

*Sarah*, Wife of Samuel Wheeler died January 20th, 1795, .E. 44 y'rs.

In memory of

*Stephen Wheeler*, who died May 22, 1837, aged 67.

In Memory of

*Eleanor*, wife of Stephen Wheeler, who died Aug. 21, 1846, aged 72.

In Memory of

*Jerusha F.*, wife of Charles Wheeler, daughter of Burr and Sarah Bradley, who died April 9th, 1837, aged 25 years 11mo's and 3 d's.

*Burr Wakeman Wheeler*, Son of Charles & Jerusha Wheeler, died Dec. 9, 1838, aged 4 y'rs 9 mo's & 15 days.

In memory of

*Andrew J.*, Son of Charles & Jerusha Wheeler, who died June 7, 1848, aged 20 years.

He was at the time of his death a member of the Junor Class in Yale College.

In memory of

*Mable*, daughter of Stephen & Eleanor Wheeler, who died Dec. 5, 1850, aged 51.

In Memory of

*Naucy*, daughter of Stephen & Eleanor Wheeler, who died June 23, 1851, aged 50.

In memory of

*Perthena*, Wife of Stephen Wheeler, who died May 24, 1841, aged 72.

*William Wheeler* Died March 8, 1878, aged 65 y'rs 2 mos.

*Silas Wheeler* Died Oct. 10, 1864, .E. 83.

In memory of

*Deborah Wheeler*, who ended this mortal life July 5, 1846, .E. 65.

So one generation passes away.

Another soon follows.

*Isaac Whitehead* Died April 21, 1858, Aged 70 y'rs.

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.

*Anna*, Wife of Isaac Whitehead Died Jan. 14, 1864, .E. 79 y'rs & 6 mo.

*Sylvia A.*, Only child of Isaac & Anna Whitehead & wife of Benjamin T. Beers Died Dec. 3, 1856, .E. 33.





In memory of

**Hannah Wildman.** Formerly wife of Lewis Edwards, who died Oct. 29, 1862,  $\text{Æ}$ . 86 y'rs 4 mo & 20 D's.

**Eleanor Elizabeth.** Wife of George F. Wildman died Aug. 9, 1854, Aged 22 years.

**James I. Wilson** Died Nov. 2, 1879, aged 54 y'rs.

Asleep in Jesus.

**Lucinda A.** widow of William Wilson died Oct. 19, 1856,  $\text{Æ}$ . 86 y'rs.

At Rest.

**Joseph H. Wilson** Died Dec. 11, 1886, aged 60 years.

In memory of

**David B. Winton,** who died Jan. 19, 1849, aged 21 y'rs.

**Dea Ebenezer S. Winton** Died Nov. 10, 1867,  $\text{æ}$ . 54 y'rs & 1 mo.  
For me to live is Christ & to die is gain.

**David E.,** Son of Ebenezer S. & H. M. Winton, Died Sept. 25, 1849, aged  $8\frac{1}{2}$  mo's.

Happy infant early blessed

Rest in peaceful slumbers rest.

**Col. James Winton** Died Mar. 21, 1857, aged 78 y'rs & 11 mo's.

In memory of

**Jarris Winton,** who died Mar. 15, 1850, in the 29th year of his age.

In memory of

**Perthenia Winton,** who died April 13, 1850, aged 65 years 8 mo & 20 d's.

In memory of

**Ruama,** wife of Eli Winton who died Jan. 23, 1852,  $\text{Æ}$ . 40 years & 2 mo.

**Harriet Newell,** wife of Eli Winton, Died Oct. 13, 1855,  $\text{Æ}$ . 26.

Also

**George H.** their son Died Feb 22, 1856,  $\text{Æ}$ . 6 mo & 17 days.

Forgive blest Shade the tributary tear  
Which mourns thy exit from a world like this  
Forgive the wish that would have kept thee  
[here  
And stayed thy progress to the realms of bliss.



## CORRECTIONS.

Page 64, omitted

*Aaron Beers*, Died Aug. 16; 1886,  
Aged 83 y'rs 10 mos.

*Huldah*, His Wife, Died Feb. 1,  
1853. Aged 61 y'rs.

Page 66, Eunice Bennett for Annice  
Bennett.

Page 67, Wife of William H. Burr, for  
wife of William Burr.

Page 67, Jerusha F. wife of Charles  
Wheeler, misplaced and repeated on  
page 91.

Page 68, Clara only daughter of J. &  
C. A. Candee, for Clara, daughter  
of &c.

Page 69, Polly Edwards age, 36 yrs.  
for 35 yrs. 5 mos.

Page 70, Emma J. Fisher, Died 1868,  
for 1878.

Page 69, omitted

*David S. Edwards*, Died in New  
Orleans July 19, 1863, Aged 34 y'rs.

Smile softly skies down upon our loved one's  
grave,

Bloom brightly flowers! Angels! keep holy  
watch,

Cherished ones oft wander here, for he who  
Laid himself a sacrifice upon our  
Country's altar is numbered ever with  
its brave defenders,

A priceless offering

Here rests in glorious hope the mortal;

The immortal far from toil and strife,

Through grace divine rests with the

Prince of peace.

'Tis well our yearning hearts do say to Him

Whose will not ours be done. Forever free

From pain and sorrow, and each day each  
hour

Brings us nearer to his eternal home.



## THE PATENT OR CHARTER

of the Town of Stratford.\*

1686.

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Whereas the General Court of Connecticut have formerly Granted unto ye proprietors Inhabitants of Stratford all those lands both meadows and upland within these abutments viz upon ye sea on ye South on Stratford River on ye east & on Fairfield bounds on ye west and to run from ye sea on ye south ye whole breadth full twelve Miles and from ye norwest corner to run easterly to ye middle of Stratford River & abuts on ye wilderness on ye north the said land having been by purchass or otherwise lawfully obtained of the Indian native proprietors & whereas ye proprietors the aforesaid Inhabitants of Stratford have made application to ye Governour & Company of said Colony of Conecticut assembled in Court May 25, 1685, that they may have a patent for Confirmation of ye aforesaid lands so purchased & granted to them as aforesaid and which they have stood seized and quietly possessed of for many years late past without interruption now for a more full confirmation of ye abovesaid tract of land as it is abutted & Bounded aforesaid unto ye present proprietors of ye township of Stratford in there possession & enjoyment of the premises Know yee yt. ye said Governour & Company assembled in General Court according to ye Commission & by vertue of ye Power granted to them by our late soverraign Lord Charles 2d of blessed memory In his letters pattents bearing date the three and twentyeth year of said Majesties Raigne have given & granted & by these present doe give grant ratifye & Confirm unto Capt. Wm. Curtiss Mr Joseph Hawley Mr Isaac Nicholls Mr Jere. Judson Leut. John Beardslee Ensigne Stephen Burritt Sergt.

\* It was unfortunate that this charter was not printed in the History of Stratford, and partly to supply that defect it is inserted in this annual. In copying the record we have followed the original, without punctuation.



John Curtiss Mr Richard Blackleach Mr Timothy Wilcoxson Mr. John Wells Mr. Samuel Sherman & Mr Ephraim Stiles and all the rest of ye said present proprietors of ye Township of Stratford and theire Heires and assignes for ever and to each of them in such proportion as they have already agreed upon for the division of the same all yt aforesaid tract and percels of lands as it is butted and bounded together with all ye woods uplands arrable lands meadows pastures ponds havens portes waters rivers with all adjoining Islands therein fishings huntings fowlings mines mineralls quarries & precious stones upon or within ye said tract of lands with all other profits & comodities there unto belonging or in any wise appertaining: and doe alsoe grant unto the aforesamed Capt. Wm Curtiss Mr Joseph Hawley Mr Isaac Nicholls Mr Jeremy Judson Leut John Beardsly Ensign Stephen Burritt Sergt John Curtiss Mr Richard Blackleach Mr Timothy Wilcoxson Mr John Wells Mr Samuel Sherman & Mr Ephraim Stiles and all the rest of ye present proprietors Inhabitants of Stratford aforesaid there heires & assignes for ever yt the aforesaidtracts of land shall be for ever hereafter deemed reputed & bee an Intire Township of itself to have & to hold the said tracts of laud & premises with all & every those appertenances together with the priveleges Immunities & franchises herein given & granted unto ye said Capt. Wm Curtiss Mr Joseph Hawley Mr Isaac Nicholls Mr Jeremiah Judson Leut John Beardslee Ensign Stephen Burrit Sergt. John Curtiss Mr Richard Blackleach Mr Timothy Wilcoxson Mr John Wells Mr Samuel Sherman Mr Ephraim Stiles & all other ye present proprietors Inhabitants of Stratford there heires and assignes for ever & to ye onely proper use and behoofe of ye said Capt. Wm Curtiss Mr Joseph Hawley Mr Isaac Nicholls Mr Jeremy Judson Leuit. John Beardslee ensign Stephen Burritt Sergt. John Curtiss Mr Richard Blackleach Mr Timothy Wilcoxson Mr John Wells Mr Samuel Sherman & Mr Ephraim Stiles and all other the present proprietors Inhabitants of Stratford their heires successors & anssignes for ever according to ye tenor of his Majests Manor of east green-





wich in ye County of kent in ye kingdom of england in free & comon soceage & not in Capitee nor by knight service they yeilding and paying therefor to our sovreigne Lord ye king his heires & successors onely the fifth part of all ye oare of gold & silver which from time to time & all times hereafter shall be there gotten had or obtained in lieu of all rents services duties & demands whatsoever according to charter In witness whereof we have caused the seal of the Colony to be hereunto affixed this fowerteenth of May one thousand six hundred eighty & six in ye second year of ye Raign of our Sovereign Lord James the second by the Grace of God of England Scotland France and Ireland king defender of ye faith &c

Postscript note. Also yt ye Islands in said river belonging to Stratford are called by ye names of Mr Knells Brinsmeades the lower & upper Islands & Harvies Island in all five with all the wanted privileges of the river to have & to hold to ye said town of Stratford to them & their heirs for ever.

ROBERT TREAT *Governor.*

Pr Order of ye General Court of Connecticut signed pr John Allyn Secretary March 30th 1687 pr order of ye Governor & Company of the Colony of Connecticutt

Entered in the pub: records lib. P.  
fo. 158:159 May 19, 1686.

Pr JOHN ALLYN *Secretary*

Exactly Recorded from ye Original Assignmts & dilligently Compared there with this 22d Decembr 1688

Pr JOSEPH CURTISS *Recorder*

[of the town of Stratford]

Vol. 2 p. 489.



**BARNUM INSTITUTE**  
of Science and History.

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EXTRACTS FROM THE WILL AND CODICILS  
OF  
HON. PHINEAS T. BARNUM, DECEASED,

In Relation thereto, from the Records of the Court of Probate,  
District of Bridgeport, Vol. 51, pages 676, 690, 697.

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FIRST CODICIL, ART. 9, PAGE 676.

If my estate (exclusive of the show business and all property pertaining thereto) shall amount after appraisal to one and a half million dollars over my debts, then I give to the Fairfield County Historical Society and to the Bridgeport Scientific Society, corporations organized and existing under the laws of the state of Connecticut, and located in said city of Bridgeport, \$50,000, to be expended by said societies in erecting a building on a lot of land situate in said Bridgeport on the southeast corner of Gilbert and Main streets, and recently conveyed by me to said societies for the purposes hereinafter provided for. Said building is to be duly marked and forever known as Barnum Institute and used for promoting and carrying out the purposes respectively of said societies, and it shall be constructed so as to furnish suitable rooms for each of said societies with one large room or hall for meetings and lectures which may be used in common and by each society separately on such nights as they shall mutually agree upon. Each society shall have exclusive control of its own rooms.

Said building may in the discretion of the Trustees of said societies be so constructed as to allow stores on the first floor, and such stores and other rooms in said building as may not be required for the use of either of said societies,



may be rented for their equal benefit, except one room conveniently situated which shall be set apart for the sole use of the Bridgeport Medical Association for its meetings, its collection of pathological specimens, and all other necessary and useful purposes of said association. Said room shall be in size equal to 14x18 feet, and said Medical Association shall always have control of the same, and convenient access and right of passage to and from the same, and such a room shall be provided not only in said building but also in any building that may be erected in place thereof thereafter. In the division of rooms between the two first named societies and the management of the rest of the building, and the division of the receipts and expenses, each of said societies shall have equal interest, power accommodation and obligation, and if they cannot agree as to the same, or in any particular thereof then I hereby empower the Judge for the time being of the Probate Court of the district of Bridgeport, on the application in writing of either party with due notice to the other, to hear and determine the same, and all questions and controversies relating thereto, and the decision of said Judge on the premises shall be final, until for good cause shown the Judge of said Court shall make further order in the matter. Should I erect a building for said purposes in my lifetime, then in lieu of the above legacy, I give said building and premises to said societies, (Historical and Scientific) to be theirs forever as equal tenants in common, and should I begin and not complete said building before my death, then the amount if any expended by me on said building shall be deducted from the legacy above given, and I direct my executors immediately after my death to pay the balance of such legacy to said societies who shall forthwith use the same to complete such building. This gift is made on the express conditions that the said building and premises shall at all times be kept in good condition and repair, that all assessments, taxes, and charges of every nature on the same shall be promptly paid by the grantees, the said Historical and Scientific societies, and their successors forever, which shall apply all rents and incomes from the building and



premises first for the above purposes. The same conditions shall apply to any new building erected by them, or any other buildings taken by purchase or exchange by them, and they shall be binding on said Historical and Scientific societies and their successors forever.

FOURTH CODICIL, ART. 2, PAGE 690.

I give to the Fairfield County Historical Society and the Bridgeport Scientific Society, both of them being established and located in said Bridgeport, \$10,000, for the use and benefit of said societies, in accordance with the provisions of my said will and codicils. This gift is in addition to my previous gifts to said societies and is made for the same purpose and on the same terms and conditions as those heretofore expressed in my said codicils.

ARTICLE 3.

The special reason for making the above additional bequest and gift is, that the cost of erecting and constructing the new building contemplated, will be much larger than it would have been at the time of making my original gift, and my executors are directed and authorized to carry out my intentions accordingly.

EIGHTH CODICIL, ART. 1, PAGE 697.

Whereas I have recently accepted plans and made contracts for the erection of such a building on said lot in which building a large room is set apart for the said Bridgeport Medical Society, and said building is to be known as "The Barnum Institute of Science and History." Therefore it is my will that the said building when completed shall be in lieu of any and all other testamentary provisions by me made heretofore for the erection of said building, and if the same as now contracted for shall not be finished and paid for by me during my lifetime, then I direct and authorize my executors to finish and pay for the same out of my estate, and I hereby empower them to do all things necessary and proper to be done in the premises.

Date of last codicil, March 30, 1891.





## FAIRFIELD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

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### ORIGINAL ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION.

WE, whose names are hereunto subscribed, to wit: Rowland B. Lacey, William H. Noble, William B. Hincks, Nathaniel E. Wordin, George C. Waldo and Louis N. Middlebrook, all of Bridgeport, Fairfield County, State of Connecticut, do hereby form a Voluntary Association, under the laws of said State, for the promotion and encouragement of Historical, Antiquarian and Genealogical Investigation relating to said County and the towns composing it; the same to consist of the undersigned as present members thereof, together with such others as may be chosen by a unanimous vote of such meetings of said Association as may be hereafter held for that purpose; we the subscribers and our associates and successors, forever to be known as The Fairfield County Historical Society, and to be governed by such officers, rules and by-laws as may from time to time be established by said Association.

Subscribed by us at said Bridgeport, this February 4th, A. D., 1881.

ROWLAND B. LACEY,      GEORGE C. WALDO,  
 NATHANIEL E. WORDIN,      WILLIAM B. HINCKS,  
 WILLIAM H. NOBLE,      LOUIS N. MIDDLEBROOK.

Under the above Articles of Association the Society was formed, and continued down to the date of the following Act of Incorporation.



## INCORPORATING THE FAIRFIELD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

*Resolved by this Assembly:*

SECTION 1. That Rowland B. Lacey, George C. Waldo, William A. Beers, Samuel Orcutt, Richard C. Ambler, Nathaniel E. Wordin, L. N. Middlebrook, William B. Hincks, and Curtis Thompson, all of Fairfield County, present officers and members of The Fairfield County Historical Society, a voluntary association located at Bridgeport, in said county, together with such other persons as are now or may hereafter be associated with them, be, and they are hereby, with their successors, constituted a body politic and corporate by the name of The Fairfield County Historical Society, for the promotion and encouragement of historical, antiquarian and genealogical investigation relating to said county and the towns composing it, and for the preservation and publication of the same, and with power to purchase, receive, hold and convey real and personal estate to an amount not exceeding fifty thousand dollars, which together with the income thereof, used for the purposes aforesaid, shall be exempt from taxation; that said corporation may have a common seal, and may establish such rules and by-laws not contrary to this charter or the laws of this State or of the United States, as it may from time to time deem necessary, relating to all matters connected with the objects, membership and government of said corporation.

SEC. 2. Said corporation shall meet once in each year for the election of a president, secretary, treasurer and such other officers as may be designated from time to time by the rules and by-laws of said corporation; *provided, however,* that in case of a failure to hold such annual meeting, or elect its officers, said corporation shall not thereby be dissolved; but the officers of said corporation shall continue to exercise



the powers and duties of their several offices until others shall be duly appointed in their stead.

SEC. 3. The present by-laws and rules of said voluntary association, and the officers thereof, shall remain the by-laws, rules and officers of said corporation until others are adopted and appointed in their stead.

SEC. 4. The first annual meeting of said corporation shall be held in the Mayor's office in the City of Bridgeport, at such time as shall be designated by Rowland B. Lacey, the president of said voluntary association, one week's notice of the time, place and objects thereof being previously given by him in one or more newspapers printed in said Bridgeport.

SEC. 5. This resolution may be amended or repealed at the pleasure of the general assembly.

Approved, March 24, 1885.



BY-LAWS.

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## RULE I.

The officers of The Fairfield County Historical Society shall consist of a President, three Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary, who shall be chosen annually from its members by a majority ballot at the annual meeting of the Society.

The term of the officers of said Society shall be for one year from their election, and until others shall be chosen in their places; and their powers and duties shall be those usually appertaining to those offices, except when otherwise ordered by the Society.

Said officers shall also be the Executive Committee of said Society, and as such shall have charge of and direct all matters of executive, financial and clerical business appertaining to the management of the Society, except when otherwise ordered by the Society.

The President of this Society shall be, *ex-officio* Chairman of the Executive Committee.

Any vacancy occurring in any of said offices before the expiration of its term, may be filled for the unexpired portion thereof, by those of the Executive Committee of said Society, who shall begin the exercise of their offices at the time.

## RULE II.

The regular meetings of said Society shall be held on the second Friday evening of each month at the rooms of the Society.

The annual meeting of said Society shall be held on the second Friday of April in each year, and special meetings may be held whenever the Society shall so order, or when the President and Recording Secretary shall deem it necessary





to call the same. Notice of the annual and special meetings shall be given by the President and Recording Secretary of the time, place and purpose thereof, by three days publication in one or more daily newspapers, published in the City of Bridgeport, at least four days before said meeting.

RULE III.

The Chairman of the Executive Committee shall be the Auditor of the Accounts of the Society, and as such shall audit and approve all bills of expenses incurred by the society before the same shall be ordered paid, and only upon such audit, and an order of payment by the Society or Executive Committee, shall the Treasurer pay out any funds of the Society.

RULE IV.

The Treasurer of the Society shall be also Curator of the same so long as he shall be Treasurer; and the duties of the office of Curator shall be, to have the care, custody and preservation of books, papers, antiquities, and all other property of the Society.

RULE V.

The election of new members of said Society shall be by a unanimous vote, by ballot or otherwise, at any annual, regular or special meeting of the Society; the nomination of such new members having first been made at a preceding meeting and not less than one week previous to such voting.

RULE VI.

No application for membership of said Society shall be entertained or acted upon, unless accompanied by a written or printed request of the applicant, dated and signed by the applicant in person.

RULE VII.

An initiation fee of two dollars shall accompany each application for annual membership.

RULE VIII.

A due of two dollars shall be laid upon each annual member of the Society living in Bridgeport, Stratford, Trumbull



and Fairfield, and one dollar for all the others. This amount shall be paid to the Treasurer annually, during the month of July, unless excused by the Society.

Any member remaining in arrears for dues may be dropped from membership by a majority vote of the members present at any regular meeting of the Society.

#### RULE IX.

Any approved person may, upon election according to Rule V., become a Life Member on the payment of two hundred dollars, or a Patron member for five years on the payment of twenty-five dollars, and both Life and Patron Members shall be entitled to all the privileges of the Society. The Society may elect, according to the manner provided in Rule V, as Honorary Members, persons whose membership may be an honor or advantage to said Society, and they shall be entitled to all the privileges of the Society except voting.

All members other than Life, Patron and Honorary shall be known and designated as Annual Members.

#### RULE X.

These Rules and By-Laws may be altered, amended, repealed or added to, by a majority vote of the members present at any annual, regular or special meeting of said Society, notice of such proposed repeal, alteration or amendment having been given at a previous meeting of the Society, not less than one week before final action thereon is taken.

#### RULE XI.

The Rules of this Society may be temporarily suspended by unanimous consent of all the members present at any regular, annual, or special meeting of the Society.



## MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY.

NAME.	RESIDENCE.
ADAMS, F. C.,	Bridgeport, Ct., 25 Hough ave.
AMBLER, MRS. JENNIE B.,	Nichols, Ct.
BEARDSLEY, JAS. W.,	Bridgeport, Ct.
BURROUGHS, PROF. GEO. S.	Amherst, Mass.
BYINGTON, A. HOMER.	Norwalk, Ct.
BRONSON, FREDERICK,	Greenfield Hill, Ct.
BAILEY, J. M.,	Danbury, Ct.
BACON, JOHN W.,	Danbury, Ct.
BEARDSLEY, MORRIS B.,	Bridgeport, Ct., 231 Park ave.
BURTON, SILAS.	Bridgeport, Ct., 286 Stratford ave.
BISHOP, MRS. JULIA A.,	Bridgeport, Ct., 254 Was'ton ave.
BURROUGHS, JAMES R.,	Bridgeport, Ct., 500 Fairfield ave.
BRADLEY, CYRUS SHERWOOD,	Southport, Ct.
BURTON, HENRY EUGENE,	Middletown, Ct.
BREWSTER, LYMAN D.,	Danbury, Ct.
BUCKINGHAM, MRS. G A.,	Newtown, Mass.
BANKS, SAMUEL S.	Bridgeport, Ct.
CALEF, THOMAS,	Bridgeport, Ct., 170 Park ave.
CURTIS, ROBERT W.,	Stratford, Ct.
COMSTOCK, ALBERT S.,	18 Wall st., N.Y. A.M Kidder & Co.
CARTER, SAMUEL L.,	N. Y. City, 4 Irving Place.
CARTER, CHAS. H.,	N. Y. City, 138 West 43d st.
CRUTTENDEN, MRS. F. H.,	Bridgeport, Ct., 187 Stratford ave.
COMSTOCK, MRS. A. S.,	New Canaan, Ct.
COUGHLIN, PATRICK,	Bridgeport, Ct.
CHAPMAN, GEO. P.,	Bridgeport, Ct., 24 Park st.
COGGSWELL, H. C.,	Bridgeport, Ct., 101 Was'ton ave.
DEXTER, O. P.,	N. Y. City, Box 193.
DEACON, EDWARD,	Bridgeport, Ct., 77 Grove st.
DEFOREST, T. B.,	Bridgeport, Ct., 227 Main st.
FAIRCHILD, HORACE L.,	Bridgeport, Ct.
FAIRCHILD, THOMAS. B.,	Stratford, Ct.



NAME	RESIDENCE.
GOULD, JAMES L.,	Bridgeport, Ct., 21 Fairfield ave.
GARLICK, SAMUEL M., M. D.	Bridgeport, Ct., 256 State st.
HINCKES, WM. B.,	Bridgeport, Ct.
HAWLEY, ELIAS S.,	Buffalo, N. Y., 110 Franklin st.
HUBBELL, WALTER,	N. Y. City.
HAWLEY, ALEXANDER.	Bridgeport, Ct.
HAWLEY, MRS. ALEXANDER.	Bridgeport, Ct.
HILLS, MRS. AGNES,	Bridgeport, Ct. Public Library.
HOLDEN, ISAAC.	Bridgeport, Ct., 142 Stratford ave.
IRELAND, JOS. N.,	Bridgeport, Ct., 389 State st.
JENNINGS, OLIVER B.,	Fairfield, Ct.
JOHNSON, SAMUEL W.,	Mamaroneck, N. Y.
JONES, N. H.,	Bridgeport, Ct.
KINGMAN, SAMUEL C.,	Washington Depot, Ct.
LACEY, ROWLAND B.,	Bridgeport, Ct.
LACEY, MRS. ROWLAND B.,	Bridgeport, Ct.
LOCKWOOD, DAVID B.,	Bridgeport, Ct., 225 Noble ave.
LEAVENWORTH, MARK R.,	Bridgeport, Ct., 58 Harriet st.
LAMBERT, EDWARD R.,	Bridgeport, Ct., 236 Myrtle ave.
LEE, HENRY,	Bridgeport, Ct., 20 Fairfield ave.
LYON, HENRY W.,	Bridgeport, Ct.
LYON, FREDERICK H.,	Bridgeport, Ct.
LYON, HENRY M.,	Bridgeport, Ct.
LYON, WM. K.,	Bridgeport, Ct.
MIDDLEBROOK, LOUIS N.,	Bridgeport, Ct.
MAXEY, EATON W., D. D.,	Troy, N. Y.
MILLER, DAVID H.,	Georgetown, Ct.
MEAKER, EDWARD F.,	Bridgeport, Ct., 269 Fairfield ave.
MEAKER, ARTHUR E.,	Bethlehem, Pa.
MERRITT, DR. CHAS.,	N. Y. City, 39 West 42d st.
MORFORD, GEORGE,	Bridgeport, Ct., 175 Main st.
MORGAN, DANIEL N.,	Bridgeport, Ct., Washington ave.
MARSH, EDWARD W.,	Bridgeport, Ct., Fairfield ave.
NICHOLS, WARREN B.,	Bridgeport, Ct., 453 Fairfield ave.
NICHOLS, REV. G. H.,	Hoosick Falls, N. Y.
NICHOLS, HORACE,	Bridgeport, Ct., 99 Courtland st.
NICHOLS, REV. C. W. DE. L.,	Tottenville, N. Y.
NICHOLS STEPHEN,	Bridgeport, Ct.





## NAME.

## RESIDENCE.

NICHOLS, WALTER.	Bridgeport, Ct., 350 State st.
NICHOLS, REV. WM. F.,	San Francisco, Cal.
NOBLE, MISS HENRIETTA M.,	Bridgeport, Ct.
NOBLE, GEN. WM. H.,	Bridgeport, Ct.
ORCUTT, REV. SAMUEL,	Bridgeport, Ct.
PERRY, FREDERICK M.,	Bridgeport, Ct.
PERRY, WINTHROP H.,	Southport, Ct.
PHILLIPS, EBENEZER S.,	Bridgeport, Ct.
RELYEA, ALBERT,	Norwalk, Ct.
RUSSELL, ROBERT H.,	Stratford, Ct.
RYLANDS, HENRY C.,	Bridgeport, Ct., 64 West ave.
SCOFIELD, H. G.,	Bridgeport, Ct.
SHELTON, H. T.,	Bridgeport, Ct., 97 Courtland st.
SHELTON, JOHN C.,	Bridgeport, Ct., 1,068 Main st.
SHERWOOD, WM. L.,	Newark, N. J., Box 55.
SOMERS, JAMES, M.,	Bridgeport, Ct., 62 Park st.
STEVENS, FRED S.,	Bridgeport, Ct., 298 Lafayette st.
STEWART, AURELIUS,	Bridgeport, Ct., 110 Was'ton ave.
SEELEY, WM. E.,	Bridgeport, Ct., 399 State st.
TODD, CHAS. BURR,	Redding, Ct.
THOMPSON, CURTIS,	Bridgeport, Ct.
TORREY, MRS. HARRIET L.,	Bridgeport, Ct., 500 Fairfield ave.
THOMPSON, JOHN W.,	Stratford, Ct.
VANKEUREN, LOUIS N.,	Bridgeport, Ct.
WORDIN, N. E. M. D.,	Bridgeport, Ct.
WALDO, GEO. C.	Bridgeport, Ct., 85 Gol'n Hill st.
WELLS, NATHAN B.,	Stratford, Ct.
WILDMAN, FREDERICK S.,	Danbury, Ct.
WHEELER, GEO. W.,	Bridgeport, Ct.
WHEELER, NATHANIEL,	Bridgeport, Ct., 138 Gol'n Hill st.
WHEELER, MRS. MARY C.,	Bridgeport, Ct., 138 Gol'n Hill st.



## HONORARY MEMBERS.

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REV. BENJAMIN L. SWAN,	Mendham, N. J.
J. HAMMOND TRUMBULL, LL. D.	Hartford, Ct.
CHARLES J. HOADLEY, LL. D.,	Hartford, Ct.
A. W. MOREHOUSE,	Brooklyn, N. Y.
REV. C. RAY PALMER, D. D.,	Bridgeport, Ct.
MAJ. L. N. MIDDLEBROOK,	Bridgeport, Ct.

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## MEMBERS DECEASED.

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AARON B. HULL,	Danbury, Ct.
RICHARD C. AMBLER,	Nichols, Ct.
WILLIAM T. MINOR,	Stamford, Ct.
LEMUEL SANFORD,	Redding, Ct.
HENRY M. HOYT,	Bridgeport, Ct.
WILLIAM A. BEERS,	Fairfield, Ct.
WILLIAM SHELTON, D. D.,	Buffalo, N. Y.
STILES M. MIDDLEBROOK,	Bridgeport, Ct.
SAMUEL M. MAIN,	Brooklyn, N. Y.
BARZILLAI B. KELLOGG,	Brookfield, Ct.
JOHN D. CANDEE,	Bridgeport, Ct.
PLUMB N. FAIRCHILD,	Trumbull, Ct.
ELI T. HOYT,	Danbury, Ct.
PHINEAS T. BARNUM,	Bridgeport, Ct.
AMOS S. TREAT,	Bridgeport, Ct.
SAMUEL B. SUMNER,	Bridgeport, Ct.
SIDNEY B. BEARDSLEY,	Bridgeport, Ct.
MRS. MARY KATE PERRY,	Bridgeport, Ct.
OLIVER C. BULLARD,	Bridgeport, Ct.
JOHNSON T. PLATT,	New Haven, Ct.
REV. E. E. BEARDSLEY,	
D. D. LL. D.	New Haven, Ct.
REV. H. N. POWERS, D. D.	Orange, N. J.



## NECROLOGY.

## OLIVER CROSBY BULLARD,

Was born in Sutton, Mass., in 1822, the son of Dr. and Mrs. Artemus Bullard. He was liberally educated and studied for the ministry, but failing health compelled its abandonment. At the breaking out of the late civil war, his patriotic and humane nature was profoundly stirred, and he enlisted in the service of the U. S. Sanitary Commission, associated with Rev. Dr. Bellows, F. Law Olmstead and others, and continued through the whole conflict, until the affairs of the Commission were closed up in 1866 or 67. His work took him into some of the most famous battle fields of the war, and the story of his heroic service at Gettysburg and in the Department of the Gulf is most thrilling.

Naturally fitted therefor, he now gave his attention to landscape gardening, was a number of years engaged in the improvement and beautifying of Prospect Park in Brooklyn, N. Y., and the Public Grounds in Washington, D. C., under the advice and general direction of the celebrated F. Law Olmstead, whose confidence and friendship he enjoyed. He was a man of superior taste and executive ability, which was thus enriched and cultivated by an experience of the best sort. For six years he resided here, and had charge of our public parks, devoting himself most assiduously to their development and further improvement. Bridgeport was especially fortunate in securing so competent a man for the superintendance of her park improvements, in the formative period.

While he did not allow anything to interfere with his business and profession, he was a man of broad views and a wide culture. He was especially interested in historical and genealogical matters. He became a member of this society Nov.



11, 1887, and was counted one of its most valuable contributing members. He died after a very short illness, Oct. 25, 1890, in the midst of his usefulness, leaving the aroma of a lovely and unblemished character, deeply mourned and his loss regretted by all.

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#### PHINEAS TAYLOR BARNUM.

There is probably no man not a politician or statesman, whose name has been so universally known among English speaking people, as that of our late fellow citizen, Phineas T. Barnum. Born in an obscure village of our state, without advantage from birth or fortune, by his indomitable perseverance, his energy and Yankee wit he became world famous as the embodiment of American ingenuity and enterprise.

Gifted by nature with a faculty almost approaching to genius, whereby he turned to personal advantage those vicissitudes common to human life, under which so many fail, he snatched success from misfortune, and attained prosperity through disaster.

When at length as the reward of unabated effort assured success and wealth were his, Mr. Barnum did not lock up his generous impulses in his coffers, but with liberal hand was ever ready to aid and promote those laudable enterprises which commended themselves to his judgment.

It does not pertain to this brief notice to sketch the life of one so widely known. Through his autobiography, of which it is said upwards of a million copies were sold, the facts of Mr. Barnum's career can be readily ascertained; that which for the present purpose specially interests this society arises from his noble gift to this and our sister society, which will ever cause his name to be held in honored remembrance by them.

Feb. 13, 1885, Mr. Barnum was elected a member of the Historical Society. In the year 1886, he deeded to the joint societies a valuable lot situated on the corner of Main and Gilbert streets, Bridgeport, and anticipating the hope which had been felt, he supplemented this gift with a noble provis-





sion for the erection of a suitable building for the uses of the two societies.

It is unnecessary to enlarge upon the generosity which has placed this nearly completed and handsome structure to add to the beauty of our city and the utility of our institutions, the deed and its embodiment speak for themselves, as they will continue to speak we trust for many generations to come.

Mr. Barnum's eventful life, rounded out by this notable act, came to an honored close, April 7th, 1891, in the 81st year of his age. The rooms of the society exhibit numerous tokens of Mr. Barnum's lively interest in our work, a handsome book-case and a valuable set of furniture sufficiently testify to his desire to add to our facilities and increase our usefulness.

It would be well for the whole community were there more men of ample means with the large heartedness and public generosity of our late lamented fellow citizen and honored member, P. T. Barnum.

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#### RICHARD O. AMBLER.

It is with sincere regret that we here record the death of our late Treasurer and Curator, Richard C. Ambler, Esq., who passed away at the early age of 38 years, the 12th day of September, 1891.

Strictly conscientious, modest and retiring, yet a man of scholarly tastes and of literary ability, Mr. Ambler was held in high esteem by all who knew him. Born at Nichols, in the town of Trumbull, in 1853, a graduate of Yale Law School in 1878, he followed the pursuit most congenial to his taste, and won by the exercise of those qualities we have noted, that place at the Fairfield county bar which justified their high eulogium upon him. He was the son of Charles Ambler of the firm of F. P. Ambler & Son, who conducted a lucrative saddlery business during the late war.

After his graduation, he entered the law office of Seymour & Seymour of Bridgeport, but eventually opened an office for himself, and by industry and ability, steadily built up a



business of his own; he was much interested on behalf of his clients in the French spoliation claims, and labored faithfully for years to bring about an equitable adjustment for them. He married Miss Jennie Beardsley, (daughter of Stephen Beardsley, of Huntington) who and a little daughter survive him.

Mr. Ambler was a consistent member of Trinity Episcopal Church, Nichols, where he resided, and was ever active in the church work of his parish. In politics he was a Democrat, and though he never sought office was chosen to represent the town of Trumbull in the Legislature of 1889-90; he was also a member of St. John's Lodge, F. and A. M.

Mr. Ambler was one of the earliest members of the Historical Society, and was ever ready to lend his aid to advance its interests and add to its usefulness. He contributed some valuable papers which were read before the society upon the early history of Unity Parish, Stratford, with sketches of the labors of the Rev. Richardson Minor, first pastor, and Rev. James Beebe, his successor. An ancient chair donated by his widow, inscribed on a silver plate with his name and office, will serve to keep fresh his memory in the rooms of the Historical Society.

The funeral services were held in Trinity Church, Nichols, and were largely attended; his remains were deposited in the village cemetery Sept. 15th, 1891. In his death the society loses a valuable and useful officer.

#### MRS. MARY KATHARINE (BURROUGHS) PERRY,

Wife of Mr. Frederick M. Perry, of Bridgeport, died Feb. 23, 1892, leaving a husband and son, one sister and one brother, both married, and both members of this Historical Society.

Mrs. Perry was elected a member of this society, Sept. 9, 1887, and became at once energetic in forwarding its enterprises, and rendered special valuable aid in securing material for the unusually interesting paper published in the Society's Annual of that year, on Capt. Stephen Burroughs.

It was by a peculiar thoughtfulness, for a young lady, years before, on the occasion when a considerable quantity



of old manuscript books and papers, the accumulation of more than a hundred years in the Burroughs family were to be committed to the flames, that she rescued a large quantity and preserved them, and they proved to be mostly the account books and papers of Capt. Stephen Burroughs, the value of which may be seen in the paper above referred to.

The society regrets very sincerely, the loss of its members, but especially those in active life, who have a taste for hunting up and preserving material in the line of history; and it most cordially commends the example set by this, one of its early members.

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#### PLUMB NICHOLS FAIRCHILD,

Died March 14, 1892, at the Atlantic Hotel in Bridgeport, Ct., of pneumonia. He was born Nov. 12, 1809, and was 82 years 4 months and 2 days old. He left a good estate but no children, his wife having died a few days before him.

He was the son of Col. Lewis Fairchild, was born at the old homestead in Trumbull, Ct., and raised a farmer. In 1827, he engaged in the paper mill, near the homestead, then owned by his father and uncles, where he remained until 1847, when he and his brother, Daniel Fairchild, purchased the mill property, which they conducted successfully until 1861, when Mr. Horace L. Fairchild became a member of the firm, and they sold the same in 1886. He was a director in the Bridgeport National Bank many years.

Mr. Fairchild was a Republican in politics, and in 1847, represented the town of Trumbull in the Legislature. He had also held the office of Justice of the Peace, and was prominent in advancing all the public interests of his native town.

He was elected a member of this society Jan. 12, 1883, and gave it a cordial support until his decease.

In 1855, he married Jennett H., daughter of Charles A. Lewis, of Bridgeport, who died a few days before her husband.

Mr. Fairchild's great-grandmother on his father's side was Sarah Thompson, as recorded in the Stratford town records,



and he made considerable effort to ascertain her father's name but failed. This Historical Society would be glad to secure that information.

SAMUEL MERWIN MAIN.

Was born in the town of Weston March 14, 1813, the son of Joshua and Hannah (Gilbert) Main. His life was moulded in a pure, Christian home with such advantages of early education as his native place afforded. These were supplemented by his own unaided efforts in study and observation by which he became an educated man in the best sense. His special religious life he dated from his twentieth year when he connected himself with the Methodist Episcopal church. Later in life, during his residence in Brooklyn, N. Y., he joined a Congregational church, and was always an active Christian worker to the close of his long life—a temperance man in word and practice—a strong anti-Slavery man, to whom the fugitive could safely turn for aid and comfort. Youthful in spirit he was a member of the “Band of Hope,” and active in the Sunday School.

A true son of New England, the memories of its early homes, habits and institutions, had for him a peculiar charm.

He became a member of this Society April 22, 1882, and at once manifested his interest in its work in the interesting and important paper on the Stillwellite Methodists, prepared and read before the society, and in relics he collected and labeled with great care, and presented to the society, where they will be carefully preserved and exhibited, to interest and instruct coming generations, and keep his memory green. Mr. Main's occupation as a salesman, brought him into contact with a vast number of the busy, active men of the country, among whom he made a great many fast friends, indeed he was greatly respected and beloved by all. He was much interested in the new building now being erected for the Scientific and Historical Societies, and had planned a visit here during his summer vacation, but the Heavenly Father ordered otherwise. He ceased his labors May 5th, 1892, after a short illness, and passed on to other scenes and labors, no doubt even more congenial.





**REV. EBENEZER EDWARDS BEARDSLEY, D. D. LL. D.,**

Had been an honorary member of this society since 1884. He was the son of Elihu and Ruth (Edwards) Beardsley, and was born Jan. 8, 1808, in the village of Stepney, town of Monroe, Ct., and died at his residence in New Haven, Ct., Dec., 21, 1891, at the age of nearly 84 years. He was graduated at Trinity College, Hartford, Ct., in 1832, was ordained deacon August 11, 1835, and priest October 24, 1836; served as rector of St. Peters Church, Cheshire, Ct., from 1836 to 1848, when he became rector of St. Thomas' Church, at New Haven, in which he continued active service until his decease.

Trinity College conferred on him the degree of Doctor of Divinity in 1854, and Columbia College of New York, that of LL. D., in 1874. He published six volumes of history and biography, besides a number of historical papers of much value. He had long been prominent in the Episcopal Church, serving it in many responsible positions with great efficiency, fidelity and acceptability.



**CHART OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.**

The Chart of the *American Revolution* inserted in this Annual, was found by Mr. Orcutt, while searching for old books, papers and documents for the Historical Society. It was made by J. W. Barber, for a lady school teacher, of Oronoke, in Stratford, Ct., to accompany a small History for children, to be used in the public schools, and a small edition of the book including the chart, was issued by a Boston House, but no special effort made to sell the work. Some copies of the Chart remaining unused were secured for this Annual, as being especially appropriate, and of decided interest and value in the study of History.



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FAIRFIELD COUNTY  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

1893-4.



58-316.5

OFFICERS.  
OF THE  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

→1894←

PRESIDENT,  
ROWLAND B. LACEY.

VICE-PRESIDENTS.

GEORGE C. WALDO,            CHARLES BURR TODD,  
CURTIS THOMPSON.

TREASURER AND CURATOR,  
EDWARD DEACON.

RECORDING SECRETARY,  
HOWARD N. WAKEMAN.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY,  
JAMES R. BURROUGHS.

P,4528





## RESUME OF THE SOCIETY'S WORK THE PAST YEAR.

A very brief resume of the work of the Society during the past year includes two most interesting lectures by Hon. Henry T. Blake of New Haven, on the Conn. East India Company, (Wyoming Valley,) And an exceedingly valuable lecture by Captain Schley on the Greeley Relief Expedition, through favor of Capt. McNeil.

Other interesting and instructive papers have been read by Arthur D. Osborne Esq. of New Haven, on Captain Samuel Smedley, and by Cyrus S. Bradley Esq. of Southport, on the burning of the Lexington.

At the regular monthly meetings interesting papers have been read by the President on the old Berkshire Mills. By the Secretary, In memoriam of our deceased brother, F. S. Wildman of Danbury.

The Society was represented at the opening of the New Haven Historical Society building, Sept. 21st, 1893, and took part in the dedication of the Barnum Statute, July 4th last.

The room of the Society has been gratefully used by the Sons of the American Revolution and by the Daughters of the American Revolution for the purpose of inaugurating their respective orders in this community.

In accordance with the By-law, the room of the Society has been open in the afternoons of three days each week, and has been visited by upwards of four thousand persons, of whom 1362 registered their names in the visitors book.

Not only are all the Eastern and Middle States represented by these visitors, but also Canada, Georgia, Colorado, California, England and Turkey in Europe.

The Society has been the recipient of many valuable books, pamphlets, historical relics and other articles presented by 148 donors, testifying to the spreading interest in the work in which we are engaged. It is our sincere hope to be able to issue the usual publication of the Society during the present year.

A synopsis of the Treasurers account is herewith presented:

Received annual dues and entrance fees, - - - - -	\$375 00
"    donations from sundry friends, - - - - -	138 50
"    for sales of annuals and photos, - - - - -	5 00
Gross Receipts, - - - - -	\$518 50
Paid on account fitting up room, - - - - -	\$161 99
"    "    printing annual, books and binding, - - - - -	154 15
"    in full, attendant keeping room open, - - - - -	155 50
"    expenses, postage, stationery, etc., - - - - -	41 02
Gross Expenditures, - - - - -	\$515 66
Balance brought down, - - - - -	2 87
Add amount brought over from last year, - - - - -	29 00
April 15, 1894, Cash in Treasury, - - - - -	\$ 31 87
Dues unpaid this date, \$50 00.	



BY-LAWS.

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## RULE I.

The officers of The Fairfield County Historical Society shall consist of a President, three Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary, who shall be chosen annually from its members by a majority ballot at the annual meeting of the Society.

The term of the officers of said Society shall be for one year from their election, and until others shall be chosen in their places; and their powers and duties shall be those usually appertaining to those offices, except when otherwise ordered by the Society.

Said officers shall also be the Executive Committee of said Society, and as such shall have charge of and direct all matters of executive, financial and clerical business appertaining to the management of the Society, except when otherwise ordered by the Society.

The President of this Society shall be, *ex-officio* Chairman of the Executive Committee.

Any vacancy occurring in any of said offices before the expiration of its term, may be filled for the unexpired portion thereof, by those of the Executive Committee of said Society, who shall begin the exercise of their offices at the time.

## RULE II.

The regular meetings of said Society shall be held on the second Friday evening of each month at the rooms of the Society.

The annual meeting of said Society shall be held on the second Friday of April in each year, and special meetings may be held whenever the Society shall so order, or when the President and Recording Secretary shall deem it necessary to call the same. Notice of the annual and special meetings shall be given by the President and Recording Secretary of the time, place and purpose thereof, by three days publication in one or more daily newspapers, published in the City of Bridgeport, at least four days before said meeting.



## RULE III.

The Chairman of the Executive Committee shall be the Auditor of the Accounts of the Society, and as such shall audit and approve all bills of expenses incurred by the society before the same shall be ordered paid, and only upon such audit, and an order of payment by the Society or Executive Committee, shall the Treasurer pay out any funds of the Society.

## RULE IV.

The Treasurer of the Society shall be also Curator of the same so long as he shall be Treasurer; and the duties of the office of Curator shall be, to have the care, custody and preservation of books, papers, antiquities, and all other property of the Society.

## RULE V.

The election of new members of said Society shall be by a unanimous vote, by ballot or otherwise, at any annual, regular or special meeting of the Society: the nomination of such new members having first been made at a preceding meeting and not less than one week previous to such voting.

## RULE VI.

No application for membership of said Society shall be entertained or acted upon, unless accompanied by a written or printed request of the applicant, dated and signed by the applicant in person.

## RULE VII.

An initiation fee of two dollars shall accompany each application for annual membership.

## RULE VIII.

The Annual dues for members residing in Bridgeport, Stratford, Trumbull and Fairfield shall be three dollars (\$3) per annum and two dollars (\$2) for all members residing elsewhere. This amount shall become due and payable to the Treasurer annually on the fifteenth day of April, and any members remaining in arrears for more than six months shall be dropped from membership at any regular meeting of the Society upon presentation of their names by the Executive Committee for this purpose, which report shall be deemed conclusive unless a special vote be passed to excuse said delinquents.



## RULE IX.

Any approved person may, upon election according to Rule V., become a Life Member on the payment of two hundred dollars, or a Patron member for five years on the payment of twenty-five dollars, and both Life and Patron Members shall be entitled to all the privileges of the Society. The Society may elect, according to the manner provided in Rule V, as Honorary Members, persons whose membership may be an honor or advantage to said Society, and they shall be entitled to all the privileges of the Society except voting.

All members other than Life, Patron and Honorary shall be known and designated as Annual Members.

## RULE X.

The rooms of this Society shall be open on such week days and during such hours as the Executive Committee shall designate. A suitable person shall be in attendance to receive visitors and to protect the property of the Society, and at no time when open shall the rooms of the Society be left without the presence of such an attendant.

## RULE XI.

The Antiquarian exhibit of the Society shall be freely open to the public during the appointed hours, and the attendant shall give courteous welcome and information to visitors.

But the Library of the Society shall be exclusively reserved for the use of its members and no persons other than members shall be allowed access to the shelves for study or reference except by the permission of a member of the Executive Committee and the Curator.

## RULE XII.

These Rules and By-Laws may be altered, amended, repealed or added to, by a majority vote of the members present at any annual, regular or special meeting of said Society, notice of such proposed repeal, alteration or amendment having been given at a previous meeting of the Society, not less than one week before final action thereon is taken.

## RULE XIII.

The Rules of this Society may be temporarily suspended by unanimous consent of all the members present at any regular, annual, or special meeting of the Society.





## ANNUAL MEMBERS.

NAME.	RESIDENCE.
ADAMS, F. C.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
AMBLER, MRS. JENNIE B.,	Nichols, Conn.
BRONSON, FREDERICK,	Greenfield Hill, Conn.
BACON, JOHN W.,	Danbury, Conn.
BEARDSLEY, MORRIS B.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
BURTON, SILAS,	Bridgeport, Conn.
BISHOP, MRS. JULIA A.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
BURROUGHS, JAMES R.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
BRADLEY, CYRUS SHERWOOD,	Southport, Conn.
BURTON, HENRY EUGENE,	Middletown, Conn.
BREWSTER, LYMAN D.,	Danbury, Conn.
BUCKINGHAM, MRS. G. A.,	Newton, Mass.
BANES, SAMUEL S.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
BOUTON, EUGENE,	Bridgeport, Conn.
BURRITT, SARAH E.,	Stratford, Conn.
BANKS, EDWIN,	Bridgeport, Conn.
BEACH, MARTHA E.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
BOWSER, HENRY E.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
BROTHWELL, CHAS. R.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
BUCKINGHAM, JOHN. A.,	Newton, Mass.
CALEF, THOMAS,	Bridgeport, Conn.
CURTIS, ROBERT W.,	Stratford, Conn.,
COMSTOCK, ALBERT S.,	N. Y. City.
CARTER, SAMUEL,	N. Y. City.
CARTER, CHAS. H.,	N. Y. City.
CRUTTENDEN, MRS. F. H.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
COMSTOCK, MRS. A. S.,	New Canaan, Conn.
COUGHLIN, PATRICK,	Bridgeport, Conn.
CHAPMAN, GEO. P.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
COGGSWELL, H. C.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
CURTIS, STILES H.,	Cleveland, Ohio.
COE, DAVID,	Brooklyn, N. Y.
COMSTOCK, GEO.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
DEXTER, O. P.,	N. Y. City.
DEACON, EDWARD,	Bridgeport, Conn.



NAME.	RESIDENCE.
DeForest, T. B.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
Downs, Mrs. Alice M.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
Fairchild, Horace L.,	Nichols, Conn.
Fairchild, Thomas B.,	Stratford, Conn.
Fairchild, Alfred B.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
Foote, C. D.,	New York, N. Y.
Fairchild, Mrs. Mary L.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
Gould, James L.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
Garlick, Samuel M., M. D.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
Godfrey, Chas. C., M. D.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
Hincks, Wm. B.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
Hawley, Elias S.,	Buffalo, N. Y.
Hawley, Alexander,	Bridgeport, Conn.
Hawley, Mrs. Alexander,	Bridgeport, Conn.
Hills, Mrs. Agness,	Bridgeport, Conn.
Holden, Isaac,	Bridgeport, Conn.
Hatch, Daniel B.,	New York, N. Y.
Hall, Orlando B.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
Hollister, D. F.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
Hawley, Geo. B.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
Ireland, Jos. N.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
Jennings, O. G.,	Fairfield, Conn.
Johnson, Samuel W.,	Mamaroneck, N. Y.
Jones, N. H.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
Johnson, Joseph W.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
Kingman, Samuel C.,	Washington Depot, Conn.
Knapp, Howard H.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
Lacey, Rowland B.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
Lockwood, David B.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
Leavenworth, Mark R.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
Lambert, Edward R.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
Lee, Henry,	Bridgeport, Conn.
Lyon, Henry W.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
Lyon, Frederick H.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
Lyon, Henry M.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
Lyon, Wm. K.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
Lyon, Roger H.,	New York, N. Y.
Lockwood, Fred'k J.,	Bridgeport, Conn.



NAME.	RESIDENCE.
LORD, THOMAS,	Chicago, Ill.
LINEBURGH, WM. G.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
MAXEY, REV. EATON W., D. D.,	Troy, N. Y.
MILLER, DAVID H.,	Georgetown, Conn.
MEAKER, EDWARD F.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
MERRITT, DR. CHAS.,	N. Y. City.
MORFORD, GEORGE,	Bridgeport, Conn.
MORGAN, DANIEL N.,	Washington, D. C.
MARSH, EDWARD W.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
MAIN, SAMUEL A.,	Danbury, Conn.
MOORE, ELIZABETH W.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
MAIN, JOHN N.,	Middleboro, Mass.
NICHOLS, WARREN B.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
NICHOLS, REV. G. H.,	Hoosick Falls, N. Y.
NICHOLS, REV. C. W. DE. L.,	Tottenville, N. Y.
NICHOLS, REV. WM. F.,	San Francisco, Cal.
NOBLE, MISS HENRIETTA M.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
NICHOLS, FRED'K C.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
NICHOLS, WM. J.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
NEAR, JOHN N.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
PERRY, FREDERICK M.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
PERRY, WINTHROP H.,	Southport, Conn.
PHILLIPS, EBENEZER S.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
PARROTT, HENRY R.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
PARROTT, F. W.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
PARKER, ADELBERT C.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
PECK, MRS. T. I.	Bridgeport, Conn.
RELYEA, ALBERT,	Norwalk, Conn.
RYLANDS, HENRY C.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
RICHARDSON, GEO.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
SCOFIELD, H. G.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
SHELTON, H. T.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
SHELTON, JOHN C.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
SHERWOOD, WM. L.,	Newark, N. J.,
SOMERS, JAMES M.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
STEVENS, FRED. S.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
STEWART, AURELIUS,	Bridgeport, Conn.
SEELEY, WM. E.,	Bridgeport, Conn.



NAME.	RESIDENCE.
SILLIMAN, EUGENE R.,	Stratford, Conn.
SHERWOOD, CHAS.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
SMITH, JAS. H.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
STAGG, HENRY P.,	Stratford, Conn.
SILLIMAN, LEWIS B.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
SHERMAN, REV. HENRY MARTYN,	Bridgeport, Conn.
STERLING, JULIAN H.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
STERLING, EDWARD,	Bridgeport, Conn.
STAPLES, JAMES,	Bridgeport, Conn.
SANFORD, L. D.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
TODD, CHAS. BURR,	Redding, Conn.
THOMPSON, CURTIS,	Bridgeport, Conn.
TORREY, MRS. HARRIET L.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
THOMPSON, JOHN W.,	Stratford, Conn.
TALLMADGE, A. M.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
VANKEUREN, LOUIS N.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
WORDIN, N. E., M. D.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
WALDO, GEO. C.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
WELLS, NATHAN B.,	Stratford, Conn.
WHEELER, GEO. W.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
WHEELER, MRS. MARY C.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
WAKEMAN, HOWARD N.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
WARD, MRS. SARAH C.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
WREN, G. W.,	Bridgeport, Conn.

## HONORARY MEMBERS.

REV. BENJAMIN L. SWAN,	Mendham, N. J.
J. HAMMOND TRUMBULL, L. L. D.,	Hartford, Conn.
CHARLES J. HOADLEY, L. L. D.,	Hartford, Conn.
A. W. MOREHOUSE,	Brooklyn, N. Y.
REV. C. RAY PALMER, D. D.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
MAJ. L. N. MIDDLEBROOK,	Bridgeport, Conn.
PROF. GEO. S. BURROUGHS,	Amherst, Mass.
MRS. NANCY BARNUM,	Bridgeport, Conn.
BENJAMIN FISH,	Bridgeport, Conn.
REV. BEVERLEY E. WARNER,	New Orleans, La.
REV. C. M. SELICK,	Norwalk, Conn.





## MEMBERS DECEASED

NAME.	RESIDENCE.
AARON B. HULL.	Danbury, Conn.
RICHARD C. AMBLER.	Nichols, Conn.
WILLIAM T. MINOR,	Stamford, Conn.
LEMUEL SANFORD.	Redding, Conn.
HENRY M. HOYT,	Bridgeport, Conn.
WILLIAM A. BEERS,	Fairfield, Conn.
WILLIAM SHELTON, D. D.	Buffalo, N. Y.
STILES M. MIDDLEBROOK,	Bridgeport, Conn.
SAMUEL M. MAIN,	Brooklyn, N. Y.
BARZILLAI B. KELLOGG.	Brookfield, Conn.
JOHN D. CANDEE,	Bridgeport, Conn.
PLUMB N. FAIRCHILD.	Trumbull, Conn.
ELI T. HOYT.	Danbury, Conn.
PHINEAS T. BARNUM,	Bridgeport, Conn.
AMOS S. TREAT,	Bridgeport, Conn.
SAMUEL B. SUMNER.	Bridgeport, Conn.
SIDNEY B. BEARDSLEY.	Bridgeport, Conn.
MRS. MARY KATE PERRY,	Bridgeport, Conn.
OLIVER C. BULLARD,	Bridgeport, Conn.
JOHNSON T. PLATT,	New Haven, Conn.
REV. E. E. BEARDSLEY, D. D. LL. D.,	New Haven, Conn.
REV. H. N. POWERS, D. D.,	Orange, N. J.
FREDERICK S. WILDMAN,	Danbury, Conn.
JAMES W. BEARDSLEY,	Bridgeport, Conn.
OLIVER B. JENNINGS.	Fairfield, Conn.
MRS. R. B. LACEY.	Bridgeport, Conn.
GENL. W. H. NOBLE.	Bridgeport, Conn.
HON. STEPHEN NICHOLS.	Bridgeport, Conn.
REV. SAM'L ORCUTT,	Bridgeport, Conn.
NATHANIEL WHEELER.	Bridgeport, Conn.
HORACE NICHOLS,	Bridgeport, Conn.
J. M. BAILEY.	Danbury, Conn.



REPORTS  
OF THE  
Fairfield County  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Bridgeport, Conn.,  
FOR 1893-5.



Published by the Society.

1895.



*compliments of*

Fairfield County Historical Society.



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Nathaniel Wheeler,	LXVI	Alfred Hopkins,	LXIII
Oliver B. Jennings,	LXIX	James M. Bailey,	LXIX
Frederick S. Wildman, LXXII			





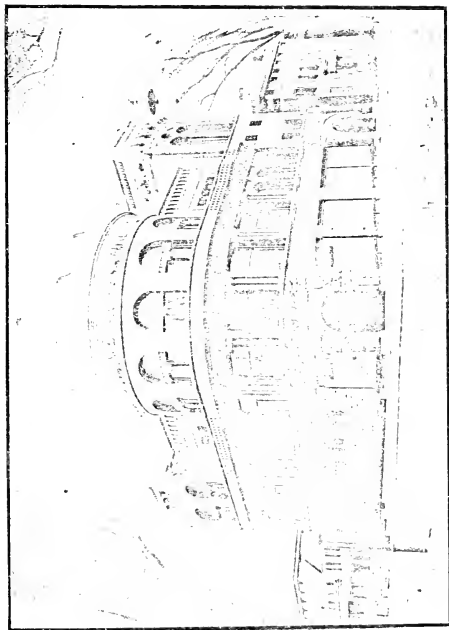
### ERRATA.

Errata—on page 39, 7th line from the top at the left, “*eras*” is superfluous. 8th line at the left, “*nials*” requires to be moved up on the 7th line as the terminal of Centen(nials.) The passage will then read—“Attention to Family History and Genealogy has within a few years received a great impetus—largely growing out of the occurrence and celebration of the notable series of Centennials connected with the Colonial and Revolutionary periods, culminating in the formation of Societies” &c.

In the 14th line from the top of same page read *Collated* for corrected.

In Appendix page LIX—In memoriam Gen. W. H. Noble, at the close of the first paragraph should be added (died) *January 18, 1894.*





BARNUM INSTITUTE.



# The Barnum Institute of Science and History.

## DESCRIPTION OF BUILDING.

---

The munificent gift of the late P. T. Barnum to the Historical and Scientific Societies of Bridgeport, of which we give an illustration, is at once an ornament to the city and a lasting monument to the beneficence and charitable character of our lamented and worthy fellow citizen.

As will be seen, it is an elaborate and ornate monument of architectural skill and a building that can always be pointed to by the citizens of Bridgeport with pride.

The architectural style of the building is pure Romanesque and one that seems to be especially adapted for such a structure affording ample opportunity for artistic ornamentation.

There are three floors, entirely devoted to the purposes of the societies. The ground floor with a principal entrance directly on the corner is occupied by the exhibit of the Scientific society; the floor above with principal entrance on the Main street front under the tower, consisting of a spacious room lighted on three sides by ample windows, is occupied by the Fairfield County Historical society, whose rapidly increasing library and museum can scarcely find room within the walls; an alcove within this room called the "Barnum Room" is devoted to the exhibition of the relics and memorabilia of the generous donor.

The upper floor consists of a fine Auditorium with seating capacity for several hundred persons, where the well-known and highly appreciated lectures conducted annually under the auspices of the Scientific society are delivered, as also other lectures and readings under the auspices of the Historical society.

This floor also contains rooms for business purposes and other conveniences. Access to all these floors is through the



main entrance on State street, by a handsome and wide stairway well lighted and of easy ascent. A fine room on the second floor facing on Main street is reserved for the uses of the Medical society.

The material of which the building is constructed is red sand stone laid up in rock faced work for the first story. Above the first story the ornamental belts, the clustered columns with their capitals and bases, the ornamental frieze hereafter referred to, the quoins and arches, are all composed of dark buff terra cotta, modeled from special designs of the architects.

The treatment of the great dome at the angle of the streets is especially good, the recessed balconies on either side carrying the rounded form to nearly two thirds its dimensions. The deep frieze between the circular windows of the third story and the cornice of the dome has received special treatment. The massivs square tower to the right, on the Main street front, contains the principal entrance to the building.

The historic frieze which contains figures of about one-half life size has been divided into five panels: the first with its group of Indians in the foreground, a canoe, the warrior on horse back with shield and spear represents Bridgeport during the year 1670. The next panel shows the early settlers reclaiming the virgin soil, hunters returning from the forest, farmers plowing the field, and the dawning life of civilization. This second panel indicates the period of 1760. The third and central panel shows Bridgeport in the year 1810 40, when schooners were sent on their coasting expeditions from this port, and when whaling vessels could often be seen in the harbor. The fourth panel indicates Bridgeport during the year 1861; volunteers have answered the call to arms, and Bridgeport's quota of brave boys are assembled ready to march to the scene of action. The fifth and last panel shows Bridgeport in 1870, beginning her career of prosperous manufacturing industry. In the distance may be seen the Howe sewing machine factories. In the foreground the Rosedale dock with its piles of freight, and the Housatonic train passing the docks.





The medallions between the panels contain portraits of representative men of the various periods mentioned. This frieze is modelled in bold relief, so as to be easily distinguishable from the street, and some of the most skilful workers in terra cotta in the country were employed to make it as perfect a work of art as is possible.

The slanting portions of the roof, the covering of the great dome and of the square tower are in red unglazed tile. The upper portion of the dome, also the upper portion of the tower are covered with copper.

The eagle on the apex of the dome is of copper, gilded with gold leaf, and is six feet from tip to tip of wings.

The round tower looming up in the background is designed for an observatory. The societies have as yet been unable to utilize this feature of the building, but the intention has by no means been abandoned, and it is to be hoped the time is not far distant when this portion of the structure shall be made as useful as the rest of it has been. The spherical shaped roof with its slit or opening running over from side to side, will then be constructed of steel covered with copper and will be made revolving. Special care was exercised in the construction of this tower in conformity with the requirements of astronomical science.

The main entrance is flanked on either side by two large massive columns, elaborately carved, as is also the soffit and in front of the arch reaching as high as the line of the first story windows.

The staircase hall is fireproof, and contains no plaster; the walls are lined with buff colored pressed brick.

The division wall between the flights of stairs reaching from floor to floor, is built of the same pressed brick and is perforated by arches and ornamental terra cotta columns.

In the southeastern corner and directly under the observatory is located on each floor, a large fireproof vault for the storage of such valuable relics and curiosities as the societies may deem necessary.

The building is heated by steam throughout, has ample



toilet and lavatory accommodations and is in all respects a complete and model building.

The cost of this beautiful structure with the land aggregates about \$85,000. The architects Longstaff & Hurd of this city are entitled to great praise for the skill and taste with which they have carried out the wishes of Mr. Barnum. The inscription which appears across the front of the building expresses the latest wish of the worthy donor, whose desire it was to found for the people of Bridgeport and for all time to come,

"The Barnum Institute of Science and History."



# OFFICERS

OF THE

FAIRFIELD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

---

PRESIDENT,

ROWLAND B. LACEY.

VICE-PRESIDENTS,

GEORGE C. WALDO,                      CHARLES BURR TODD,  
CURTIS THOMPSON.

TREASURER AND CURATOR,

EDWARD DEACON.

RECORDING SECRETARY,

HOWARD N. WAKEMAN.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY,

JAMES R. BURROUGHS.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,

THE OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY,

The President *ex officio* Chairman.

1894-5.



THE PUBLIC OPENING OF

"The Barnum Institute of Science and History"

Occured in the Evening of February 18, 1893,  
under the following

• † • PROGRAMME. • † •



QUARTETTE FOR PIANO AND STRINGS IN C MAJOR, *Beethoven.*  
ALLEGRO VIVACE.

INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS BY THE CHAIRMAN,  
REV. BEVERLEY E. WARNER, A. M.,  
PRESIDENT OF THE SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY.

PRESENTATION ADDRESS, CURTIS THOMPSON, ESQ.

ADDRESS OF ACCEPTANCE, REV. BEVERLEY E. WARNER, A. M.

SOLO FOR VIOLIN, "Gavotte" MR. FUESSEL, *Popper.*

ADDRESS ON BEHALF OF THE BRIDGEPORT SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY,  
EX-PRESIDENT ISAAC HOLDEN.

"AVE MARIA," MRS. BAKER, *Bach-Gounod.*

ADDRESS ON BEHALF OF THE  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY,  
BY THE PRESIDENT, ROWLAND B. LACEY.

TRIO FOR PIANO, VIOLIN AND 'CELLO IN D MINOR, *Mendelssohn.*  
OP. 49, ALLEGRO MOLTO AGITATO.

ADDRESS ON BEHALF OF THE  
BRIDGEPORT MEDICAL ASSOCIATION  
BY EX PRESIDENT, GEORGE L. PORTER, M. D.

CORNELIUS MARCH, *Mendelssohn.*

MISS M. PECK, ACCOMPANIST,  
MRS. CARRIE ALLEN BAKER, SOPRANO,  
MR. RICHARD FUESSEL, VIOLIN,  
MASTER FULLERTON WALDO, VIOLA,  
DR. LEONARD WALDO, VIOLONCELLO

STEINWAY PIANO USED.





THE FOLLOWING WERE OFFICERS OF THE SEVERAL  
SOCIETIES IN 1893.

The Bridgeport Scientific Society.

PRESIDENT,—REV. BEVERLEY E. WARNER, A. M.  
VICE-PRESIDENT,—CHARLES C. GODFREY, M. D.  
SECRETARY,—ALBERT N. STANTON.  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY,—HENRY F. NORCROSS  
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY,—MISS MARGARET SOMERSET.  
TREASURER,—GEORGE J. BROWN.  
ASSISTANT TREASURER,—C. B. AYERS.  
CURATOR AND LIBRARIAN,—DAVID P. SECOR.

Executive Committee.

PRESIDENT,—REV. BEVERLEY E. WARNER, A. M.  
D. N. MORGAN, ISAAC HOLDEN, DR. LEONARD WALDO,  
GEORGE L. PORTER, M. D., WM. E. BAILLIE,  
FREDERICK HURD, AURELIUS STEWARD

The Fairfield County Historical Society.

PRESIDENT,—ROWLAND B. LACEY.  
VICE-PRESIDENTS,  
GEORGE C. WALDO, CHARLES BURR TODD, GEN. WM. H. NOBLE.  
RECORDING SECRETARY,—HOWARD N. WAKEMAN,  
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY,—JAMES R. BURROUGS.  
TREASURER AND CURATOR,—EDWARD DEACON.

Executive Committee.

THE OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY.

The Bridgeport Medical Association.

PRESIDENT,—A. J. SMITH, M. D.  
VICE-PRESIDENT,—J. REED TOPPING, M. D.  
SECRETARY,—H. S. MILES, M. D.  
TREASURER,—F. C. GRAVES, M. D.

Executive Committee.

A. A. HOLMES, M. D., J. W. WRIGHT, M. D., CHAS. C. GODFREY, M. D.







# OPENING EXERCISES.

---

## INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS

BY

REV. BEVERLEY E. WARNER.

*Ladies and Gentlemen, Citizens of Bridgeport:*

It is unfortunate that the first words heard upon an occasion like this should be words of apology, inasmuch as I have to say that the announcement of an introductory address by the chairman is almost a mistake. There is no address to be made by the chairman of the evening, but simply the announcement of a few words, of the object of our coming together and introducing to you those who will enlighten you in relation to the objects and workings of the different societies.

The object for which we come together this evening is to receive from the donor of this building the building itself, to accept it on behalf of the different societies, and learn something of the nature of the work that has been thus far accomplished, and is to be accomplished in this building in the future.

I shall detain you no further than to introduce you to one who is well known in this community, and who, by his long connection with the founder of this institute knows whereof he speaks.

I will introduce to you Curtis Thompson, Esq., who will make the presentation address, in behalf of the representatives of the donor, P. T. Barnum. (Applause).

### MR. THOMPSONS' ADDRESS.

By your partiality, I am honored with the privilege of presenting to you this beautiful home: you already hold the muniments of title and the keys of possession. That this particular act of mine does not impoverish me nor enrich you cannot minify the importance of so remarkable event in the



life of our city. Leaving the representatives of these societies to speak in their behalf, permit me to direct your attention to the gift, the giver, and the obligations imposed thereby.

If P. T. Barnum were here, he would in his own rare and inimitable way, make an address pleasing and instructive. His remarks were usually of a retrospective and reminiscent character. He would pay the just meed of praise to those who had the industry, intelligence, scholarship and wise foresight first to organize and then to maintain these respective societies.

The founders of every worthy and successful institution for the advancement of learning, must ever receive as they deserve the highest regard. Fortunately these poor, struggling and always ambitious societies survived their early trials, and were in existence in 1883, when Mr. Barnum's attention was first drawn to them by Mr. Edward R. Lambert, a faithful member of the Scientific Society. Had they not been in being at that time, and afterwards, it is safe to say that they would not now hold the title and possession of this place.

The first recognition of them appears in his codicil of April 29, 1885, by a gift of \$1,000, each, to the Historical and Scientific Societies.

On June 14, 1888, he deeded to them the valuable lot on the corner of Main and Gilbert streets, reserving his life right in the same.

By another codicil of September 14, 1888, he gave them \$50,000, for the erection of a building on such lot.

These codicils were revoked by one made May 24, 1889, in which he describes the structure and provides a room therein for the Bridgeport Medical Association and gives \$50,000 for the construction of the building.

In 1888 and '89, much was printed about "The Gospel of Wealth," and the idea of wealthy men administering their estates, in their own life time, was planted in Mr. Barnum's mind. Such idea influenced him to buy this lot and erect this building, in order that it might serve the double purpose





of benefiting the community and of making a perpetual memorial of P. T. Barnum.

In the spring of 1890, flushed with the triumphs won in England, he returned to Bridgeport and spent the summer apparently in the best of health and with the confident hope of living many years.

Early in October, he visited his daughter in Denver, expecting to go on to the Pacific coast.

October 13, he wrote me from Denver, "This delightful climate makes me feel ten years younger than when I left home. I eat, sleep and walk like a boy of sixteen."

But, alas, a change was to come quickly, and as if with some premonition of it, he wrote again on October 20: "It's a short race at best, and he who does best is the best, and finds adequate reward." He returned home about November 1, and was up town daily, apparently as well as ever, until November 6, which was his last day out of Marina. When I saw him again, some weeks later, he said that he had an old heart and the doctors could not cure an old heart. He soon rallied from this attack and appeared much better. November 25, in another codicil he gave these societies \$10,000, additional, to cover increased cost of construction.

Plans and specifications were made and examined, and on March 16, 1891, Mr. Barnum signed the contract with Longstaff & Hurd for the construction of this building. I recall with pleasure the animation of his features on that day as he proudly contemplated the carrying out of his long-cherished plans.

By his last codicil made March 30, 1891, (eight days before he died) he ratifies the contract which he had made, and authorizes his exentors if the building should not be finished in his lifetime, to finish and pay for the same out of his estate. This simple record exhibits but little of his extraordinary interest in the great work, which was his last and crowning act of benevolence in behalf of this community.

He chose its name with the pardonable pride of a parent naming his offspring. Nor do I think the criticism just



which is sometimes made on thus perpetuating one's name. No one appreciated less the magnificent Park given to this city by the late James W. Beardsley, or the Widows' Home given by the Sterlings, because they bear the names of their generous donors.

Mrs. Pettengil christened her magnificent bequests "Burroughs," because, being the last lineal descendant of her honored father, Isaac Burroughs, and receiving her wealth from his family, she desired to preserve the name, and she did well. So long as the Library—and Chapel and Home—established by her splendid bequests shall be used and enjoyed, so long will the name of "Burroughs" be honored and remembered. I may be excused for now saying that in many interviews during many months with this modest and noble woman, while her will was being made, I was most profoundly impressed with her strong conviction, joined to an intelligent appreciation and sense of obligation and duty, that the riches which had been gathered by her kinsman largely from the prosperity of this community, and which had fallen into her control without her efforts, should be disposed of by her for the benefit of its people. The day after Mr. Pettengil's death, Mr. Barnum was among the first, told by me, of her gifts; and his joy was so intense that he spread the news far and wide. In this connection it can be said to Mr. Barnum's credit, and as a suggestion to all, that he never hesitated to help worthy institutions, bearing the name of other donors. In September, 1890, he said to me "I have looked over my will and find I have not given anything to the Burroughs Home. I will give it \$5,000." It was done accordingly. I have no doubt that the example of Mrs. Pettengil had a powerful influence on the will of Mr. Barnum. He had always been a liberal contributor to Universalist institutions, but his special contribution to Tufts College for a Museum of Natural History was not made public until 1884. A large and elegant building had been built, and the name of the donor had been kept secret.

At the commencement exercises of that year, President Capen announced that it was the gift of P. T. Barnum, and it



would be known as "The Barnum Museum of Natural History." It was accepted with enthusiastic shouts of delight and gratitude. Mr. Barnum was not present, but he wrote a letter to the president of the college, a part of which I will read to you.

"Deprived in my own youth of rare educational advantages, I have learned to appreciate their worth and to take solid delight in every evidence of greater enlightenment and progress. My interest in higher education has ever been constant and profound. Had my earlier educational advantages been greater, I might have achieved more. I have conscientiously labored to elevate and ennoble public amusements, which play no small part among the educational agencies of the times. I hope the college may possess for many decades to come, facilities sufficient to inspire its students to investigations in a branch of science which so wonderfully reveals in varied form the infinite wisdom and power of the Creator."

Mr. Barnum was upon the original Board of Trustees of Tufts College, and all that remains of the colossal "Jumbo" are in this museum, to which altogether he gave nearly \$100,000. It seems to me proper to advert briefly to some facts which have linked forever his name and fame with what he many times called, "my well beloved city of Bridgeport."

Born in Bethel, July 5, 1810, of pure New England stock—the best in the world—with a sturdy frame and a large brain, though illy schooled, he became by dint of constant application, tremendous force, and dauntless genius, a wonderful man. What he would have been had he enjoyed the benefits of a collegiate and university training, we do not know.

An irate parent after many complaints to the college faculty of his son's backwardness, was told by a professor that it was not worth while to give a \$5,000 education to a \$5 boy. P. T. Barnum was a \$5,000 boy with a \$5 education, and yet he met with grand success as a Lecturer: he won a high place as a Statesman in our legislative halls; he acquired a reputation as a Theologian; and he was always welcomed as a public speaker. Baffled in his early enterprises, at last in 1836, he found his true vocation. He afterwards said, "fame



and fortune awaited me when I appeared before the public in the character of a showman. I did not seek the position or character, the business came my way and far beyond any of my predecessors on this continent I have succeeded.

By force of a remarkable ability which aroused the community and won its patronage, and a lofty purpose to ennoble the business, he not only made it profitable, but also respectable and instructive.

Of special moment to us was his choice of this location as his permanent residence. In a speech in 1874, he said: "I first came to Bridgeport as an experiment in 1842. I preferred Bridgeport to any other place, and I have never changed my opinion. I had a pride in the place of my selection, and had no desire to expend my money elsewhere;" and with frankness he added, "I am glad to have it understood that mine is usually a profitable philanthropy. If by helping those who help themselves, I can do it without loss, and if by improving and beautifying our city and adding to the pleasure and prosperity of my neighbors, I can do so at a profit, the incentive to good works will be twice as strong to me."

October 30, 1846, Oran Sherwood sold him the land on which he built the famous "Iranistan" (then in Fairfield). Here Jenny Lind came in 1850. This oriental villa was a great attraction for many years. It burned down December 18, 1857. October 31, 1851, William H. Noble sold him interests in large tracts of East Bridgeport lands, and Barnum and Noble became promoters of that section of our city. These are the first purchases of land by Mr. Barnum in this vicinity. Volumes would be required to state his subsequent transactions in real estate, which he was always ready to improve, use and dispose of on fair terms. His first order to his agent after buying a new piece of land, was to plant trees, and long rows of beautiful shade trees, so planted, now form a delightful feature of our city streets. Our parks, hundreds of comfortable homes, and many factories, have been aided by him. The Gymnasium built expressly for that purpose, at the request of Henry E. Bowser, is said to be the best in New England, outside of the colleges.





My acquaintance with Mr. Barnum began in 1865, when we were members of the Legislature. The assembly of that year was noted for its eminent men, and for its important acts. Mr. Barnum astonished, delighted and convinced the assembly time after time by his eloquence, wit, and argument. His labors were untiring and his victories complete. As Mayor of our city he also won an enviable reputation. For many years my relations to him were very intimate, and I saw him frequently at his best. He grew more charitable and gentle as he grew older. Devotion to his family and kind words for all, marked the later years of his life. Had he died in 1882, he would have left in his will but \$5,000 for charitable purposes, and in 1891, when he died, he left (including the gifts to these societies and to Tufts College) nearly \$250,000 for such purposes.

Mr. Barnum stated in his will of 1882 as a reason for not giving more to charity, that a large share of his income for nearly 40 years had been devoted to the public and private charities of Bridgeport. That his mind during these years was much occupied by testaments, you may gather from his letter to me, of October 13, 1890, in which he says: "It being more than 10 days since I have made a codicil, I hope you will excuse me, as absence from home, and a busy time have prevented."

He was always loyal to his convictions. His patriotism never yielded to the claims of partisanship. In his wide and varied experience he mingled with men of all classes, and his wit, humor and characteristic originality, made him a welcome guest on all occasions. Among his loyal and devoted friends were such men as Greeley, Chapin, Colyer, and other distinguished men of his time. This indicates the versatility of his mind and the breadth of his attainments. The words applied to another great man can be applied to him. "He was not a type, he stands alone, no ancestors, no fellows and no successors."

Happily for himself and others, he was one of the rich in whom old age brings a deeper sense of stewardship, and having first provided liberally for the natural objects of his



bounty, he relished the pleasure of assisting others. His youthful and buoyant nature continued, and his interest in new thoughts, objects and enterprises, did not cease, but rather increased with advancing years.

The great Darwin at 59, wrote that his soul was too dried up to appreciate the "Messiah," as in old days, and that he was a withered leaf for every subject except science, but the lapse of time produced no such lamentable result in the mind of P. T. Barnum. To the very last, his active intellect was engrossed in developing original projects for the improvement of his adopted city. The night before he died, he said to me, "Have we everything in order?" I said, "Yes, I think so." He said, "There is the 'Emporium,'" which he desired to put upon the site of the Baptist Church, "that we will leave." He added, "I have to go, and I am ready. I have invited Dr. Colyer to preach my funeral sermon from the text 'Not my will but thine be done.'" I have never seen such a calm, perfect resignation in the hour of death. It was an ideal departure from this world. "Calmly he looked on either life, and here saw nothing to regret, there to fear." From Nature's temperate feast rose satisfied, "Thanked Heaven that he had lived, and that he died."

With the calm consciousness that he had only a short time to live his cheerfulness, courage, constancy and contentment were surprising and inspiring, and literally, he approached his grave, "Like one who wraps the draperies of his couch about him, and lies down to pleasant dreams."

He died April 7, 1891.

Two years almost have gone since his death and this unique, imposing and useful structure is finished. We have had in completing the same the active co-operation and assistance of Mrs. Barnum,—the executors, Wm. B. Hincks and Benj. Fish, and the agents, Charles R. Brothwell and Henry B. Bowser. You have examined its spacious halls, elegant rooms and ample accommodations. It will remain a most enduring monument to the memory of P. T. Barnum in the city he loved so ardently.

I welcome you, the students and promoters of science, his-



tory and medicine, to the occupation of this building and bid you take, use and keep it forever for the true uses and purposes for which it was conveyed to you: and may the permanent establishment of these institutions prove of immense value to the material, intellectual, moral and physical well being of the people of this city in all the ages to come.

Permit me in conclusion to make a single practical suggestion. It was ever the policy of Mr. Barnum in his public and private benefactions, to leave something to be done by the recipients of his bounty, believing that by so doing the greater interests would be aroused and better results obtained than would follow a gift which obviated the necessity of any active co-operation and assistance on the part of the beneficiaries. The gift of this building to these societies affords no exception to this policy. This building has been accepted with full knowledge of the responsibilities thereby assumed. He has left something, both for us, as members of these societies, to do, and for those who, although not members, are presumably interested in the worthy objects of these organizations.

The societies will soon be in need of a permanent endowment fund. Is it too much to expect that this generous and magnificent gift will be speedily supplemented by the establishment of such a fund? Already evidences of this interest have been clearly manifested.

It affords me pleasure to announce that a person, financially able to respond, has duly authorised me to make the following proposition: For the purpose of establishing an "Endowment Fund" of not less than \$40,000, to be held by Trustees, or otherwise, as these societies, Historical and Scientific, shall order and determine: the principal to be securely invested and the income thereof to be applied, first, to defray the expenses of heating, lighting, insuring, repairing and other charges on the property, and of a janitor; and, second, to use the surplus income for the general purposes of the societies.

Such person will give \$10,000, provided an additional sum of \$30,000 or more shall be raised on or before January 1, 1896.



## ADDRESS OF ACCEPTANCE.

*Rev. Beverley E. Warner, M. A., President of the Scientific Society:*

It is a very grateful and pleasant task indeed to accept, on behalf of the Scientific, Historical and Medical Societies, this Barnum Institute of Science and History. It is a very pleasant and grateful thought, to realize that the Scientific Society will hereafter have, what it has not had heretofore, a workshop for the potencies that are possible from the present moment. It is pleasant to think and to know that our collection, which in some respects is unique in this state, and in this country, has now a place within the rooms of the Scientific Society, on the first floor of this building, and will have hereafter an appropriate, dignified and convenient home for its exhibition. It is equally good to think that the Historical Society, standing for the past of this city, of this county, of this state, and to a certain extent for the past of New England, will have for its accommodation a handsome and pleasant home also, so that those of us descended from that ancestry; from those who came from the old country to people this new, and indeed made of this coast a "New England" without fear and without reproach among the nations; may have before us these pictures and stones of the past. It is a goodly, I say a grateful task to have charged upon one to receive such a receptacle for these reminders of the olden times and events, of that old and in some sense harsh life; but so full of such splendid possibilities and noble hopes, and to know that the Historical Society will have as its home a convenient place for its future work, so that the children of those who come here may see these evidences of that splendid past before them day by day, and take in some sense, heart and courage to live their lives in the 19th century along the moral lines of that life of which the collection of the Historical Society illustrates and typifies.

It is also a grateful task to receive, on behalf of the Medical Society, their worthy home, a place which will stand as a centre, not only for them but for the Medical Society of the county and state, a type of that constancy and force, which is





one of the highest types of which any community can boast. And we as citizens may be grateful that the Bridgeport Medical Society has in this building such comfortable quarters to which Bridgeport may point with pride as the home of that body of its citizens who act under the title of the Bridgeport Medical Society; for nowhere in the state, nowhere in the country is there a body of men to whom a community may look with greater respect, from whom a community may expect to receive greater help than to and from those who have their home in our midst, cradled between the homes of the Scientific and Historical Societies.

We receive this trust—I believe I am not stating the matter too strongly or going beyond the facts in the case too far when I say, we receive this trust not merely for the Scientific and Historical and Medical Societies—I think the intention of the donor of the Barnum Institute went beyond the mere acceptance of this building on behalf of these societies for their own accommodation. I think his far-seeing eye looking down the distant future would say this institute was built for the public good. I think that was his intention in its construction, from the foundation to the top pinnacle of this temple of science and history. It was along the line of making it minister to the people at large. If not, he builded better indeed than he knew. We receive this trust—I am sure I speak for the members of these societies who have so kindly delegated the task to me of receiving it and speaking for them—I am sure I speak for them, as I speak for myself, when I say I accept this building as a trust for the whole community. It is not a building which any one or two or three societies should occupy and run merely for their own convenience. It is not a building to be occupied by this or that handfull, labeled by this or that name; it is not to be occupied in the interest of any party or any society or any clique. Far beyond the possession, the legal possession of this building by the societies themselves, is the sacred idea that they hold it in trust for the people (loud applause).

Leaving, then, to the representatives of the different societies to explain the purposes and in some sense the workings



and the methods and the aim of these societies, let me ask you to note an answer to the question; just for what are we ministering this trust? In other words, just for what in this community does the Barnum Institute of Science and History, with all it involves, just for what does it stand! What is it we are to minister? Of what shall we give an account of our stewardship from time to time to the citizens of this community? And will it not be found to be in this: that this institute stands for the intellectual life, the higher life of this community? We have nothing like it in the city, we have nothing like it in the county or in the state. Surely in this community we cannot point to anything that may occupy, that is intended to occupy just this position, it being as it were a point of light upon the horizon, lifting itself into the higher intellectual atmosphere. Now leaving, as I say, the details to the representatives of the societies gathered here, let me say that this institute properly administered will give to the intellectual life of this community an impulse such as it has never had before.

Our stores mark the commercial development of the community, and, to a certain extent, stand for it. Our factories stand to mark that great light, that thrilling impulse to modern civilization, invention and the application of invention. They stand for that in the community, and wherever the name of Bridgeport is known at all, it is known chiefest of all perhaps, as one of the great manufacturing centres of the United States.

Our churches stand distinctly, whatever the name, for the religious idea; and they meet, and they unite upon the one plane of pointing man upward as regards the life of the soul and spirit.

Our schools stand for still another idea, which is the leading forth of the individual powers of childhood that they may be trained for the good of the whole.

The Barnum Institute of Science and History stands for something different from any of these. It may draw from them all, here and there and yonder, but it stands for something different still. Rearing its noble front above the chimneys of



our factories, and the walls of commerce, towering nearly to the spires of the surrounding churches, looking in a certain way, like some very fine building for purely educational purposes, it marks the high-water mark so far—of the intellectual life of this community. It looks upward. It stands for something that elevates man and lifts him upward.

Now will you say this is unreal and unsubstantial and will you say that the name of the Barnum Institute of Science and History, does not, after all, convey any strong idea of something definite? Let us enroll the history of all mankind and see what has been at the bottom, see what has been the moving force of every great thing, that has raised mankind—I care not in what form or plane of life it may be, I care not whether you bring the church or the schools or commerce or trade or literature or art of whatever nature; but wherever the force of progress has been potent, wherever the power of advance has taken root downward and borne fruit upward, that has been in some sense in its beginning, an unreal thing, an unsubstantial thing, an immaterial thing, and the great results that have been wrought for the best life of this age have sprung from those things which in the beginning were dreams. If not that, they have been things that you could not interpret in mere words. Let one undertake to interpret the flow of harmony from these instruments this evening. We receive the impression; the technical scholar can mark the movements. We get something that is intangible, and yet something that moves and stirs us. Perhaps we can use no better illustration than to say this institute stands for something that, to most of us, is perhaps just a mere name, and yet promises something that is far more than a name. I accept, then, on behalf of these societies, this building. I accept it in its work as a splendid dream. I accept it, if you will say so, as merely a noble hope. I accept it, if you will as a beautiful prophecy. Now a hope, a dream, a prophecy, are neither one of them tangible things; but out of them springs sacred things—noble lives, splendid accomplishments of the human race. And I say, fellow-citizens of Bridgeport, that we owe a great debt to the one who has



made it possible for us to embody in actual outward form, an aspiration to the higher life : and it is better, to fail along the line of striving to reach the higher life than it is to be satisfied with a low life.

Now, as we minister from time to time through the Scientific and Historical Societies to the community, remember that just at this point we are as it were in the condition of reaching the goal after a night of trial and hardship. Our purposes are still unformed, naturally our accomplishments are crude. Possibly, if you will, there is little to show in a tangible shape just for what this institute is to be made. But standing here, remembering it is the community's building, that it is the people's university, that it is the possession of the public for which we are as stewards and trustees: so let us try to see—I do see it in the dim distance—the morning coming, and this building one of the first points of light, flaming upwards on the horizon of a higher and better life for this community than has ever dawned upon it before, because some one had a brave enough soul, and strong enough hope, and keen enough prophecy and a belief in the achievements of his fellow men, to enable him to see what might be done, and so he laid his hand upon the ground and the temple sprang up to its full magnificence and its full beauty: but remember it is the gift of a trust which must be used and must not be abused; and let us trust this use may be what you and I long to see it, a real blessing and a real benediction and a real way mark on the new road of the higher life of this community we all love so well. (Applause.)

MR. WARNER:—On behalf of the Bridgeport Scientific Society, I have great pleasure in introducing one who has been long interested in its work, Ex President Holden.

#### MR. HOLDEN'S ADDRESS.

*Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:*

To say a word in behalf of the Bridgeport Scientific Society, upon an occasion like this, I esteem an honor and a high privilege. Would that I were possessed of the requisite ability and eloquence adequately to set forth in a few minutes,





the progress of that society from its foundation to the present time, the importance and value of the untrumpeted work it has done, wherein, too, it has failed to do those things which ought to have been done, and which remain to be done, the reasonable possibilities within its power of accomplishment, and its consequent legitimate claims for support—in short, to state clearly the reasons why it has a right to exist. Unfortunately the only qualifications I possess for the performance of any part of such a task are some experience in the society's affairs, and a sincere devotion to its interests. I shall not weary you with any historical or statistical details nor, with laudatory allusions to any particular persons, but invite your attention briefly to what seems the most important feature of the relations of the Bridgeport Scientific Society to the Bridgeport public.

It is self evident that an institution in any wise of a public character that by its operations continuously returns less in value of some kind than it expends in money and in the time and labor of its workers is a source of loss, and has no right to exist. On the other hand, an institution the returns of which exceed its expenditures is a source of profit. It pays, and is entitled to support.

But how shall the question of the relative value of cost and product be determined? How shall we compare the intangible results,—of which there is no unit of measure—with the definite sum of money involved in the cost.

It costs a certain, specific sum of money to support our public schools. The returns are intangible and incorporeal, an increment of unmeasured intelligence and mental power: but the public has decided in that case, without a shadow of doubt, that the upward difference between an ignorant and an enlightened community is worth all it costs. In any analogous case, although no rule of measure or comparison can be formulated, the judgment of an enlightened public, from which there is no appeal, may be relied upon with full confidence that a correct decision will be made.

When the ground upon which stands this temple of science and history was conveyed to the society whose property it



now is, the grantor, after executing the deed, said to me, "I have made this gift because the Bridgeport Scientific Society, as well as the Fairfield County Historical Society, is an educational institution. I confine my gifts now to educational purposes exclusively. Why, I would not run my circus another day if it were not a great educational institution." If I have mentioned this incident in public before, I think it will bear repetition, for the remark disclosed the motive and noble purpose of the giver, and at the same time illustrated his peculiar business bent.

Mr. Barnum was right. The Bridgeport Scientific Society is an educational institution, and on that ground only, I apprehend, can it lay claim to be worthy of support.

But what has it done in the way of education? You may read upon the programme for the current evening "Sixteenth Annual Lecture Course." This is beginning with what is in reality of the least importance, but perhaps the best known. The annual lecture course has usually consisted of from fifteen to twenty lectures or papers, mostly of a popular character, delivered in part by members of the society and other residents of Bridgeport, and in part by professional gentlemen of the highest standing from elsewhere, especially from Yale University and other seats of learning. The admission to these lectures has sometimes been free to the public, but more usually at a small charge averaging about ten or fifteen cents a lecture for the course. The attendance at these lectures has upon the whole increased year by year, and their appreciation is thus attested. The necessary conclusion is that these lectures pay. It must be admitted, however, that they are not of the highest educational value, for the reason they are not logically connected one with the other, and they require the attention of the hearer only for the time being. They may be edifying or satisfying, but they do not usually spur the audience to thought and action.

What is of much more importance, but I apprehend much less known, is the instruction which has been given to classes which have been formed from time to time under the auspices of the society for the study of special subjects, such as chem-



istry, electricity, mineralogy, geology, botany, entomology, etc. Not a few of the members of the society have given of their time and labor freely to the instruction of these classes, season after season.

The admission to these classes has been absolutely free to all comers, whether members of the society or not. The members of the classes have really been obliged to think and to work. They have not only learned something but they have acquired the ability to use their knowledge. But far too little has been done in this direction. Visit our museum on the first floor of this building and you will see a magnificent collection of great pecuniary value, and of much greater educational value, if rightly used. But it must be admitted that that collection is not, to any great extent, the direct result of the work of this society. With the exception of specimens of Connecticut minerals, a collection of birds of this vicinity and a herbarium of limited proportions, but which will certainly soon be materially increased almost the whole of that splendid collection has been donated to us, it having originated in the fields outside of our sphere of labor here. We trust we are not unworthy of it; we prize it: we appreciate it; but it is not the direct result of our own activity and labor. We should do something ourselves in the way of forming an educational museum of natural history.

Classes should be formed every season for the study of the different departments of natural history; and, if necessary, specialists from Yale University or elsewhere should be employed, at any requisite cost, to give the proper, systematic and progressive instruction to the students; and, above all, to teach them to work. Within the short radius of a mile we have a practically inexhaustible mine of wealth for study and research. One result of such work, though not the main purpose of it, should be the formation of a museum completely illustrative of the botany, the zoology and the mineralogy of this neighborhood, a museum outweighing in educational value for us anything that could be obtained from abroad. The study of natural objects, organic or inorganic, together with chemistry and physics, is undoubtedly best suited to the educa-



tional purposes of this society. The pursuit of the sciences of observation and experiment is peculiarly fitted to develop a multitude of capabilities and to afford unbounded satisfaction. They afford the best and most valuable means of rational recreation the best hobby-horse. The man who is in possession of a good hobby-horse, if he rides it intelligently, has a never failing source of happiness. I really pity the business man who is without one. But there is no reason why our efforts in the direction of education should be confined to the subjects or the methods which have been mentioned; quite the contrary. During the past year and the present season there have been formed classes, under the auspices of the Bridgeport Scientific Society, upon the plan of University Extension, with very gratifying results.

The lectures delivered to these classes are progressive and logically connected one with another. The members of the classes are actually required to do something to study, investigate and formulate results. In the accomplishment of the purposes for which this society exists, and to which we are pledged, let us avail ourselves of every legitimate resource that nature and human progress have placed within our reach. It is to be hoped that our Aesculapian friends, imbued with the spirit of Hippocrates, will lend a helping hand by giving instruction in anatomy, physiology and especially hygiene and the means of saving life which the lay-men may employ in cases of accident and other emergencies. Our efforts will undoubtedly be supplemented by the Historical Society, our natural ally.

In view of the motive which prompted the giver of the home which we now possess, and the promises which we have made to the public, it is incumbent on us to do everything in our power to promote the diffusion of knowledge and make this edifice the home of a public school of high order, a sort of popular university, as our president has happily put it. There is only one obstacle at present in the way, and that is a purely financial one. The expense of maintaining this building amounts to no small sum, and whatever schemes of education are carried out, they will involve the outlay of a considerable sum of money.





How are these expenses to be met? Fortunately, for about three years to come the way is clear, thanks to the generous subscriptions of many of our fellow citizens, and especially the munificent contribution of Mrs. Barnum. Those of us who have repeatedly had experience in begging, hope that at the end of three years it will not be necessary to resort to it again. It ought not to be so. The yearly dues of the Scientific Society amount to \$4, for each member. In this city of 50,000 inhabitants there ought to be members enough in that society alone to defray, from the annual dues, the entire cost of the maintenance of this building and the expenses of the society's proper work.

In this connection I would say that a large membership of ladies is particularly desirable. The time will doubtless come when this institute, or the societies which compose it, will be endowed. It was a gratifying surprise to me, as doubtless it was to every one of you, when an encouraging announcement was made in that direction from this platform this evening? Let us hope that such a desirable consummation may soon be accomplished; and in the meantime let us make a strenuous effort to support ourselves, to push forward vigorously the work to which we are committed, and return to the public more than we receive to the end that we may justify our existence, redeem our pledges and make the Barnum Institute of Science and History a worthy monument to our benefactor, and an honor to our city, our state and our country. (Loud applause).

MR. WARNER:—The next address upon the programme which you will listen to, I am sure with a great deal of pleasure, is that of President Rowland B. Lacey of the Fairfield County Historical Society. I have great pleasure in introducing Mr. Lacey. (Loud applause).

MR. LACEY'S ADDRESS.

*Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:—*

Though I feel my weakness most profoundly, I will not waste time in excuses—but proceed to say a word, 1st, about History in general, and, 2nd, about the Barnum Institute and its relation to History, especially to our local History.



"History" has been defined "A methodical record of important events which concern a community of men, usually so arranged as to show the connection of causes and effects."

The pre-eminent importance of the study of History does not need to be argued. That it has ever been thus regarded is attested by the honorable place accorded the true historian in ancient and modern times. The names of Herodotus, and Tacitus, Hume and Gibbon, Motley and Bancroft, are among the most illustrious of our race and will be cherished while time lasts.

History is made a prominent and essential part of the course of study, not only in all our colleges and higher educational institutions, but of our common public schools; and no one can be considered as accomplished and educated unless he is conversant, at least, with the leading events of both ancient and modern times.

Its uses are obvious. In short, we *learn* in great measure by experience. Hence the record by competent authority of the experiences and observations of those who have preceded us is one of the best sources from which we can derive wisdom for the guidance of our opinions and conduct. Then, history gives permanence. Facts, their connections and results, duly recorded, are made *available* and *useful* for all the generations following. But I must not enlarge.

We are met, as has already been stated, to receive and acknowledge the crowning contribution of one of our most liberal and honored fellow-citizens, to the well-being of this community and to Fairfield County.

"The Barnum Institute" has *already* entered into history. Its story and its relation to Science has been rehearsed. It is my province to speak of it in its relation to History, and in some slight measure, its uses. Would that my powers were equal to the dignity and importance of the occasion.

We are well apprised that P. T. Barnum was a practical man, and anything producing or fairly promising practical results of value, had a pull upon his recognition and generosity. Fairfield County was the stamping ground of his young life. He knew it in its length and breadth, and every nook and



corner, and Bridgeport came to be his peculiar treasure. Mr. Barnum's family was among the very early settlers of Norwalk, and in the first generation intermarried with the Thompson family of Stratford, and in the second with the Beardsley family of Stratfield, (now Bridgeport). They were among the first and most substantial settlers of Danbury and Bethel, and the generations and families are orderly and quite fully set forth by the historian of the Fairfield County Historical Society, the late lamented Samuel Orcutt, in his history of Old Stratford and Bridgeport, which we know was very much appreciated by Mr. Barnum.

P. T. Barnum himself began to make history quite early in life, and it grew in volume and interest to the very end of his long and eventful career. He more than most men knew and appreciated the value of the pen of the scribe, and the types that multiply the results of the labors of his head and hand. He knew the rich fields for historical research in his native county and state, and that for effective work this Society must have a home. His practical mind intuitively saw the beneficial and elevating effects of the study of history and application of the sciences, and, not least, of Medical science—the healing art divine. Hence he grouped science and history under one roof, covering a pile of such proportions, elegance and solidity as shall be his best and most enduring monument.

We are thus elegantly housed, and have a noble and necessary work before us, but we need the means to prosecute it. To give effect to the grand gift of Mr. Barnum, we must have the co operation of his and our fellow-citizens. We want and must have your names as members and a reasonable attendance upon our meetings for business and instruction. We need the pecuniary aid a large membership will give us. To give solidity and momentum to our progress, we need the appreciation and confidence of friends who have the means to contribute a fund, of not less than fifty thousand dollars, the income of which, with the annual dues of members, would enable us to gather up, record and publish history of great interest and vital importance.

It will be our object, as we may, and have the means, to



gather facts of history, their causes and results, from fields of widest scope, giving special attention however to our own county and Commonwealth. Pre-eminently, our field is local, extending over Fairfield County as we can secure the co-operation of interested parties in the various towns of the county. It is highly important that the ancient records of the old towns; also, old church records with their lists of marriages, baptisms and membership, be looked after, copied and indexed. The old records are fast fading out and going to decay. Their loss would be irreparable. These form the skeleton or frame work of our local history. They need to be supplemented, amplified, clothed or illustrated by personal and family sketches, specimens of implements and articles, useful and ornamental. The store rooms and attics of many old family residences in every town are the receptacles of books, papers and quaint articles, useful in their time, and exceedingly useful now as illustrative of the methods and industries of a century or two ago, and should be preserved to show the present and coming generations how our grand parents lived and worked. Numerous facts about our early history are now accessible on research, more or less diligent, which in a very few years will be beyond recovery.

If, to illustrate, we take the history of Stratfield. Here in this parchment covered book are the records of the foundation of this parish, the first, by the way, in the colony (of Connecticut) on lines other than those of the township. Ecclesiastical privileges were granted to the inhabitants on the western border of the town of Stratford, and on the eastern border of Fairfield with Division street (now our Park avenue) as a central line, and extending northward from the coast about four miles, covering substantially the territory of the present town and city of Bridgeport. It was first chartered under the name of Fairfield Village, subsequently changed to Stratfield, significant of the fact that it was partly from Stratford and partly from Fairfield. This grant rendered it, in most respects an independant community, having its own society's committee or Selectmen, as they were called, Recorder and Constable; its own minister and church privileges.





They managed their own schools, laid and collected their own taxes, &c. Here are the records of their doings, for a hundred years, many important deeds and family records, throwing a flood of light on the conditions and methods of those early times. But look at its condition. It was written in from both ends and there are some twenty leaves at either end which have become detached, torn and worn, rendering portions of the writing illegible. This book has been copied under the auspices of the Historical Society, and none too soon for the preservation of its contents. Another book of the same antiquated style is the special record of the Church of Christ in Stratfield, kept by the ministers or pastors of the church and parish, and covering about the same period as the first mentioned Parish record.

It commences with the formation or, as it is called, the gathering of the church in 1695, June 13, with nine male members, five of whom were previously the members of the first church in Fairfield and four were from the church in Stratford. On the tenth of July following, fifteen females were admitted, on letters from the churches in Stratford and Fairfield. Then followed the records of the votes and acts of the church concerning the strictly religious interests of the community, records of marriages, baptisms and memberships.

The Historical Society has made copies of these, alphabetically arranged, for its own purposes, which are frequently consulted and are found to be very useful. This work should be extended to every old town and parish in the county for convenience of use; also, for preservation and amplification now while that is possible.

Our plans of labor thus embrace local biography and history, in which we have made a good beginning. We may instance as subjects already treated—in Biography—Rev. John Jones, Roger Ludlow, Nathan Gold, Roger Minot Sherman of Fairfield and John Read the Colonial Lawyer, by the late William A. Beers.

Rev. Richardson Miner and Rev. James Beebe of North Stratford (now Trumbull), by the late Richard C. Ambler.

Rev. Gideon Hawley of Stratfield, an early missionary to



the Indians in Stockbridge, Mass., and in Central New York, afterwards an Indian Pastor at Marshpee near Plymouth, Mass., by N. E. Wordin, M. D.

Stephen Burroughs of Stratfield, Merchant, Mathematician and Astronomer, by Rev. Samuel Orcutt.

William Samuel Johnson, L. L. D., by Prof. W. G. Andrews, D. D.

Rev. Blackleach Burritt, by M. D. Raymond, Esq., of Tarrytown, N. Y., besides numerous shorter sketches of prominent deceased citizens, by the President of the Society.

Also the following historical subjects.—History of Newbury (now Brookfield, Conn.), and its first minister, Parson Brooks, by Rev. Asa C. Pierce.

History of the old Stratfield Baptist Church and its first elder, John Sherwood, by R. B. Lacey.

The Stillwell Methodists of Stratfield and vicinity, by Mr. Samuel Main.

Early Dutch troubles between New Netherlands and Connecticut, by William A. Beers.

Stratford, New Hampshire, settled from Stratford, Connecticut, in 1772, by Rev. Samuel Orcutt.

Sketches of the Bridgeport Churches in 1835.

History of the Bridgeport Bank, 1806–1884, and History of the Saddlery business, all by R. B. Lacey.

The Pilgrim Fathers of Plymouth, and what they wrought, by Rev. Charles Ray Palmer, D. D.

And notably "The History of Old Stratford and Bridgeport," in two vols., by Rev. Samuel Orcutt.

These with others unmentioned, constitute a record of history garnered, that we may point to with satisfaction. We mention them as showing what may be accomplished in one direction with very slender means. There is yet a rich field, which only needs to be worked to yield abundant harvest, for which adequate means are required.

Library and museum have already been alluded to. These are exceedingly interesting and important. Vigorous measures will be taken to awaken interest in gathering additions by loan or gift from the valuable old books, documents and relics now resting in secluded corners of attics and closets



in every part of the county. Their deposit with the Historical Society will insure their safety and avail ability for observation and study for all time.

Attention to Family History and Genealogy has within a few years received a great impetus—largely growing out of the occurrence and celebration of the notable series of Centennials, connected with the Colonial and Revolutionary periods, culminating in the formation of Societies of Colonial Wars, and the several societies of the Sons and Daughters of the Revolution and the American Revolution. This upheaval and search among the official and family Records and traditions, for evidence of eligibility to membership in these societies, brings out a great amount of data that will need to be collected, arranged, corrected and harmonized in consistent reliable history. Here is an immense field for the Society, requiring patient and expert labor, and all involving a liberal income in money for its encouragement and support.

We are right then, in appealing to our fellow citizens of all classes. Your membership and reasonable attendance are helpful. Those especially who are blessed with abundant means and are seeking a channel in which it may be useful and promotive of the well-being of society, we ask to examine the claims of the great objects represented in "The Barnum Institute of Science and History" and supplement the generous gift of its donor by a liberal endowment—thus making possible its highest usefulness.

MR. WARNER:—I don't know as I have ever been so solemn on a platform as I have this evening. The reason is I took up some casual remark and wanted to throw a little more light on the matter. I looked down the list and saw on the platform all were presidents or ex-presidents. I see one or two have left the platform because the seats were not comfortable, declining the historical chairs at a meeting of the Historical Society, which it seems to me is a thing a man ought to be ashamed of. (Laughter.) As they have declined them and as there are other ex-presidents to address us I shall refrain from the remark I was going to make and introduce Dr. G. L. Porter who will address you on behalf of the Medical Society. (Applause.)



## DR. PORTER'S ADDRESS.

*Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:—*

The province of medicine recognizes no hours: and if your introduction to the Medical Society is a little late to-night, you must remember that "midnight oil" is that which counts in the long run; although to-night I trust that the light thrown upon this medical investigation may not turn out all gas.

In common with our sister societies the Bridgeport Medical Society rejoices to-night in the possession of its new domicile, and our joy is only tempered by the thought that one who had looked forward to this inauguration with as many anticipations as any has been removed from us: and in the death of our president, Dr. Young, we feel that part of the joy of this meeting to our society is erased. His chair is draped with crape. It is indeed a badge of woe. There are drappings which a man may show, but we have that within our hearts which passeth show, in that we loved him as a man, we honored him as a physician.

As a happy home to the individual citizen, enriched by the labor of willing hands through years, and perhaps generations, enshrined in memory by the recollection of the joys of boyhood and the sorrowful and happy experiences of maturity is the best guarantee of loyalty to the country and the preservation of the state: so the development of a literary and scientific institution is best secured by the possession of a permanent home which may become the repository of its treasures and a rendezvous of its members. Therefore our hearts rejoice, owing to the beneficence and the practical generosity of Mr. Barnum, that the home our society has received, without restrictions, a local habitation and a name.

The members of the legal profession for their assemblages have provided for them rooms in our public buildings. For the meetings of our clerical brethren the congregations provide churches and vestries; but for the meetings of the Medical Society hitherto we have had only private homes or hired halls. This results from the failure to appreciate the proper relations which exist between the medical profession at large and the community, a matter of the very gravest importance.





The treatment and the cordial recognition of the services of the individual practitioner, by their respective clientage among the people of Bridgeport is a matter in which they are examples to others. But it seems to me in some respects they fail to furnish to the medical profession those opportunities of improvement which would largely redound to their personal and public welfare. I speak in a particular sense of the relation of public opinion to the medical profession, and not especially to the acts of the people of Bridgeport, for I remember that they deserve well of us for their liberal and generous contributions to our hospital, for their sturdy support of the action of the Board of Health, and for the wise and beneficent and intelligent enactments of our city officials, which has placed the medical profession in Bridgeport far ahead of any other city in the state and of the state itself, and as the result of what such an enactment may accomplish allow me to call your attention for a moment to the last return of the State Board of Health for the month of January, in which was stated the number of deaths to the thousand. In New Haven it was 26; in Hartford 27; in Stamford 34; while in Bridgeport it was 21; and of these 9 per cent. occurred from accident and violent deaths, a larger number from these causes than took place in any other part of the state.

The application of surgical appliances to the treatment of individual cases of sickness constitute the art of medicine. The discovery of the causes of disease, their action upon the organism of the body, means for their destruction and prevention elevates medicine to a science. Hence it is that today, among intelligent and educated people, the profession of medicine, if not the practitioner, occupies a higher plane than it has ever done before. The modern investigations which have shown us largely the causes of disease have contributed to this result. The "germ theory" fighting many desperate battles with doubt and deception, has finally earned a well won victory and established, the generally accepted theory that every disease has its specific seed. The germ of diphtheria, of typhoid fever, of consumption, of cholera, has



been shown as conclusively to be the causes of those several diseases as that the oak grows from the acorn, or corn or rye or wheat or any other grain requires the germination of its respective seed. This gives to the profession great power. Could they but learn those things that are necessary to be known, and which are now largely the subject of investigation, but which are not yet revealed so that it may be applied; could we have these methods of investigation placed within our power, we cannot realize how much the people at large would be benefitted by the prevention of those diseases and of the other active diseases to which our flesh is heir. Now public opinion, the intelligence of a community, is responsible, in the long run, for the general health of that community, and for the average attainment of its medical men.

The practitioner of medicine is required, or theoretically expected to be conversant with the action of disease upon the human body; but a perverted, ignorant and selfish public opinion deprives the medical man of almost the only accurate means of acquiring such knowledge. Should there be demanded by the public opinion of Bridgeport—not Bridgeport alone but of the whole country—that every cause of death should be examined there would be less sickness in the immediate family, there would be a much smaller number of deaths among the young, sudden deaths, and there would be very much wiser doctors. The logical result of depriving them of this knowledge is we have non-accommodated doctors; we have unnecessary funerals, we have the nonsensical certificate of death “heart failure.” New York is to-day more or less terrified by the typhus fever. It may extend to other cities. It is a matter, not only of personal, but of general danger. It is a disease more desperately dangerous than any other, it is more dangerous than the perils of battle. It is more dangerous than a trip to the north pole. As showing the evidence of the malignancy of this disease, let me cite a single instance. Not many weeks ago I was told by Mr. Wilson, the president of the Board of Health of the City of New York, that one batch numbering 220 of unfortunate tenants was taken from an old tenement house, and within ten days, of this 220, 190 had died.



It is the only disease that the courageous doctor fears. The list of professional volunteers, who have died in discharge of their duty, caring for patients with this disease, enriches the list of many hospitals.

But dangerous as this disease is, supported by public opinion, there are plenty of doctors who would gladly examine the cause of it, and probably stamp it out.

Why, you say, of course they have public opinion in behalf of so beneficent an object. Well, now, let us see. There was a right clever man in Providence, Doctor Miller, who was called in an emergency to a poor fellow who had been so severely injured in a railroad accident as to require amputation of the leg. He was surrounded by a crowd of sympathizing on-lookers who were urging the doctor to do the best he could for the poor fellow. The doctor was a quick man, and he was nettled. Said he, "words are cheap." Now I am going to give this poor fellow one hundred dollars and take the risk of losing my life from blood poisoning. What is the sympathy of this crowd worth in dollars and cents? This brought a ready response.

Now the support of public opinion means this:—That in our schools and colleges and universities and laboratories, the investigation of the diseases, their causes, their nature, their effect upon the human organism will be studied, understood and taught. It means that every community should require that whoever comes in their midst to practice should show that they are qualified for the performance of the sacred duties of the profession. (Applause.) It means that the intelligent action of the Board of Health should receive the support of the community in its exercise. It means that every practitioner in his public functions should receive from the State honors and emoluments commensurate with the importance of his grave responsibility.

We are ready for all this you say in Bridgeport. I mean the community at large through the republic. Is it so? Yellow fever, typhus fever and cholera terrify a community, create panics, and speedily demand medical interference. But there is a disease which annually destroys a larger number of persons than these three all put together. It is con-



stantly with us, and we have been informed officially that it is a preventable disease.

Now in a republic whose corner-stone is that each man has the inalienable right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness one might ask in such a community when life and the pursuit of happiness is imperiled by disease, would not public opinion demand that such preventable diseases be discovered and met, if assured by so eminent an authority as Dr. Austin Flint, author of the *American Physician*, that constitutions predisposed to consumption would never have the disease if it were not for tuberculosis bacilli, the particular germ of that disease. Would they not demand that by the national assistance they should seek out the cause of that disease and seek out the nature of its action, and its great tendency to produce this large loss of life. If assured by their official statistics that annually one hundred thousand of its citizens die of preventable diseases wouldn't they demand some official and national investigation? For a decade of years hundreds of thousands of unwilling victims have fallen under this juggernaut of ignorance and indifference. A father's care, a mother's love, a sister's affection and a brother's respect, a citizen's loyalty, a philanthropist's humanity, a philosopher's study, one and all have failed to arouse a nation to demand its rights. Against them all has appeared the handwriting on the wall, "mene, mene tekel upharsin," they have all been tried in the balance and found wanting.

Not many years ago in the memory of many of us, a poor tramp received from the benevolent in Bridgeport money and food to relieve his pains and sickness. But when it was discovered he was suffering from small pox that showed in his face, four weary hours he plodded our streets, his brain racked with sore pain, his body feverish with sore sickness. Women drove him from their homes, men fled from his presence. Oh it was pitiful. In that whole city of philanthropists, of friends he had none. As I watched by his dying bed I wished that every opponent of vaccination could have been with me. He was a man, when in health, much like the rest of us; but then moaning in pain or in delirium referring to the home of





his childhood. His face that had once been hallowed by the tears of a mother's affection, or dimpled with joy at a mother's smile, now so changed that none might know his name or family or lineage or race, without the hand of a father's love without a word of sympathy from a loved brother, without the care of a sister he died, no reckoning made, but sent to his account with all his imperfections on his head.

That death was unnecessary. If by his own fault he died, then it were a grievous fault, and grievously had that man answered it. If by the fault of his parents then did they doom him to a shameful and painful death. If by the neglect of the state, then was it a blunder which is worse than a crime.

Small pox, from a preventable has become almost a prevented disease. Till all preventable diseases receive a like quietus it is the duty of public opinion to demand that the means of that prevention shall be discovered. Says Prof. Merwin, every citizen of every state owes it to himself and the community and to those who are weak and wronged that they shall go to his assistance and help redress the wrong. If any law or social custom should inflict injury on any one, and that one of the humblest, then it is the duty of those who are stronger or know better to right or redress his wrong, and demand and fight for the repeal or correction of the law or custom.

We boast and boast rightly of our great Republic. But this Republic conferring upon its individual citizens liberty, demands a personal service. Throwing open all means for self improvement it imposes the greatest responsibilities. When then shall we look for this public opinion which may accomplish these beneficent results? As I look over this audience to-night, so representative of the financial and the political and the social institutions of this city I am reminded of that scene in the far east where the trusted advisor said, as Nathan said unto David, "Thou art the Man." (Loud Applause.)

MR. WARNER:—I have now an announcement from one who is deeply interested in the Barnum Institute, Dr. Godfrey.



DR. GODFREY:—Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:—The hour is late, I will detain you but for a few moments.

Mr. Barnum was always fond of surprises. That was one of the secrets of his great success, he always had something to surprise the great American public.

Mrs. Barnum has kept after him to some extent, and she thinks it is a good plan to have a surprise once in awhile. She has arranged a surprise for the members of the Scientific Society, by presenting to them the two beautiful globes which you saw in the lower hall, one being a globe of the earth and the other of the celestial bodies (applause) these are very accurate and will bear careful and patient study.

There is also another surprise, and this surprise is from Mrs. Barnum and to the Medical Society. It is in the form of a magnificent carved table which decorates their room.

A friend of the Medical Society who takes a deep and warm interest in it has also presented to it a beautiful skull (laughter), which will be placed in the hall, and has promised a skeleton which I trust will be interesting to the ladies (renewed laughter).

Before I close I would like to make a few remarks upon the surprise which Mr. Thompson mentioned at the close of his lecture. As I understand it some person will give \$10,000, provided the balance of \$30,000 can be raised for the support and running of this building. I don't think that people generally realize how much they owe to science. Within the last 50 years—I think I am correct—more has been done to promote our welfare, our happiness and our knowledge than in all the ages that preceded it, since the earth was first formed. There is not a pleasure that you enjoy, there is not an improvement that you have but what science has been at the bottom of it. The people of this commonwealth are noted the world over for their genius. They are a race of inventors. They depend upon science for the principles underlying these inventions. Now as we are a race of inventors and have given to the world the sewing machine and the telegraph and the telephone and all the modern scientific improvements which are for our benefit, I



think that each and every one of us owes something towards promoting any institution which tends to advance our knowledge on these subjects, and I hope that this \$30,000 will be raised almost at once and think that every one in the city of Bridgeport should contribute to it. I think they owe it to themselves and to this community to give something themselves, though it may be small. Let every one do something towards raising that fund.

MR. WARNER:—Just one moment more. Mr. Lacey has a surprise.

MR. LACEY:—We had given us by Mr. Barnum some time ago a bust of Jennie Lind, and you know the relation between Jennie Lind and Mr. Barnum. It has come to the knowledge of Mrs. Barnum that we had no proper pedestal to set the bust on in the nook or corner of the room below, which we call the Barnum room, and she very generously provided a pedestal which has been already seen and may be further examined by you as you go out.

I will not detain you further but there is something very interesting that might be said about the relation of Jennie Lind and Mr. Barnum, but you naturally will anticipate what might be said.

We have a great treat promised from Henry T. Blake, Esq., of New Haven, who is well known to this community, on the History and the Massacre of Wyoming, which has been delivered in New Haven with great effect. We shall have it here at a very early date and now give notice that you may be prepared for it.

MR. WARNER:—Thanking you very heartily and very warmly for your attendance and your attention we will give you the greatest and pleasantest surprise of the evening—we intend to let you go home before morning (laughter) after the performance of the last number of the programme. You are cordially dismissed, hoping you will be here very many times in the course of the next 40 or 50 years.



FAIRFIELD COUNTY  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY



1895.





## BY LAWS.

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### RULE I.

The officers of the Fairfield County Historical Society shall consist of a President, three Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary, who shall be chosen annually from its members by a majority ballot at the annual meeting of the Society.

The term of the officers of said Society shall be for one year from their election, and until others shall be chosen in their places ; and their powers and duties shall be those usually appertaining to those offices, except when otherwise ordered by the Society.

Said officers shall also be the Executive Committee of said Society, and as such shall have charge of and direct all matters of executive, financial and clerical business appertaining to the management of the Society, except when otherwise ordered by the Society.

The President of this Society shall be, *ex-officio* Chairman of the Executive Committee.

Any vacancy occurring in any of said offices before the expiration of its term, may be filled for the unexpired portion thereof, by those of the Executive Committee of said Society, who shall begin the exercise of their offices at the time.

### RULE II.

The regular meetings of said Society shall be held on the second Friday evening of each month at the rooms of the Society.

The annual meeting of said Society shall be held on the second Friday of April in each year, and special meetings may be held whenever the Society shall so order, or when the President and Recording Secretary shall deem it necessary to call the same. Notice of the annual and special meetings shall be given by the President and Recording Secretary of the time, place and purpose thereof, by three days publication in one or more daily newspapers, published in the City of Bridgeport, at least four days before said meeting.



RULE III.

The Chairman of the Executive Committee shall be the Auditor of the Accounts of the Society, and as such shall audit and approve all bills of expense incurred by the society before the same shall be ordered paid, and only upon such audit, and an order of payment by the Society or Executive Committee, shall the Treasurer pay out any funds of the Society.

RULE IV.

The Treasurer of the Society shall be also Curator of the same so long as he shall be Treasurer; and the duties of the office of Curator shall be, to have the care, custody and preservation of books, papers, antiquities, and all other property of the Society.

RULE V.

The election of new members of said Society shall be by a unanimous vote, by ballot or otherwise, at any annual, regular or special meeting of the Society; the nomination of such new members having first been made at a preceding meeting and not less than one week previous to such voting.

RULE VI.

No application for membership in said Society shall be entertained or acted upon, unless accompanied by a written or printed request of the applicant, dated and signed by the applicant in person.

RULE VII.

An initiation fee of two dollars shall accompany each application for annual membership.

RULE VIII.

The Annual dues for members residing in Bridgeport, Stratford, Trumbull and Fairfield shall be three dollars (\$3) per annum and two dollars (\$2) for all members residing elsewhere. This amount shall become due and payable to the Treasurer annually on the fifteenth day of April, and any



members remaining in arrears for more than six months may be dropped from membership at any regular meeting of the Society upon presentation of their names by the Executive Committee for this purpose, which report shall be deemed conclusive unless a special vote be passed to excuse said delinquents.

**RULE IX.**

Any approved person may, upon election according to Rule V., become a Life Member on the payment of two hundred dollars, or a Patron member for five years on the payment of twenty-five dollars, and both Life and Patron Members shall be entitled to all the privileges of the Society. The Society may elect, according to the manner provided in Rule V, as Honorary Members, persons whose membership may be an honor or advantage to said Society, and they shall be entitled to all the privileges of the Society except voting.

All members other than Life, Patron and Honorary shall be known and designated as Annual Members.

**RULE X.**

The rooms of this Society shall be open on such week days and during such hours as the Executive Committee shall designate. A suitable person shall be in attendance to receive visitors and to protect the property of the Society, and at no time when open shall the rooms of the Society be left without the presence of such an attendant.

**RULE XI.**

The Antiquarian exhibit of the Society shall be freely open to the public during the appointed hours, and the attendant shall give courteous welcome and information to visitors.

But the Library of the Society shall be exclusively reserved for the use of its members and no persons other than members shall be allowed access to the shelves for study or reference except by the permission of a member of the Executive Committee and the Curator.



## RULE XII.

These Rules and By-Laws may be altered, amended, repealed or added to, by a majority vote of the members present at any annual, regular or special meeting of said Society, notice of such proposed repeal, alteration or amendment having been given at a previous meeting of the Society, not less than one week before final action thereon is taken.

## RULE XIII.

The Rules of this Society may be temporarily suspended by unanimous consent of all the members present at any regular, annual, or special meeting of the Society.





## ANNUAL MEMBERS.

NAME.	RESIDENCE.
ADAMS, F. C.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
AMBLER, MRS JENNIE B.,	Nichols, Conn.
BRONSON, FREDERICK,	Greenfield Hill, Conn.
BEARDSLEY, MORRIS B.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
BURTON SILAS,	" "
BISHOP, MRS. JULIA A.,	" "
BURROUGHS, JAMES R.	" "
BRADLEY, CYRUS SHERWOOD,	Southport, Conn.
BURTON, HENRY EUGENE,	Middletown, Conn.
BREWSTER, LYMAN D.,	Danbury, Conn.
BUCKINGHAM, MRS. G. A.,	Newton, Mass.
BUCKINGHAM, JOHN A.,	" "
BANKS, SAMUEL S.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
BURRITT, SARAH E.,	Stratford, Conn.
BANKS, EDWIN,	Bridgeport, Conn.
BEACH, MARTHA E.,	" "
BOWSER, HENRY E.,	" "
BROTHWELL, CHAS. R.,	" "
CALEF, THOMAS,	Bridgeport, Conn.
CURTIS, ROBERT W.,	Stratford, Conn.
COMSTOCK, ALBERT S.,	N. Y. City,
CARTER, SAMUEL,	" "
CARTER, CHAS. H.,	" "
CRUTTENDEN, MRS. F. H.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
COMSTOCK, MRS. A. S.	New Canaan, Conn.
COUGHLIN, PATRICK,	Bridgeport, Conn.
CHAPMAN, GEO. P.,	" "
COGGSWELL, H. C.	" "
CURTIS, STILES H.,	Cleveland, Ohio.
COE, DAVID,	Stratford, Conn.
COMSTOCK, GEO.	Bridgeport, Conn.
DEXTER, O. P.	N. Y. City.
DEACON, EDWARD	Bridgeport, Conn,



NAME.	RESIDENCE.
DEFOREST, T. B.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
DOWNES, MRS. ALICE M.	" "
FAIRCHILD, HORACE L.,	Nichols, Conn.
FAIRCHILD, THOMAS B.,	Stratford, Conn.,
FAIRCHILD, ALFRED B.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
FOOTE, C. B.,	New York, N. Y.
FAIRCHILD, MRS. MARY L.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
GOULD, JAMES L.,	" "
GARLICK, SAMUEL M., M. D.,	" "
GODFREY, CHAS. C. M. D.,	" "
HINCKS, WM. B.,	" "
HAWLEY, ELIAS S.,	Buffalo, N. Y.
HAWLEY, ALEXANDER,	Bridgeport, Conn.
HAWLEY, MRS. ALEXANDER,	" "
HOLDEN, ISAAC,	" "
HATCH, DANIEL B.,	New York, N. Y.
HALL, ORLANDO B.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
HOLLISTER, D. F.,	" "
HAWLEY, GEO. B.,	" "
IRELAND, JOS. N.,	" "
JENNINGS, O. G.	Fairfield, Conn.
JOHNSON, SAMUEL W.,	Mamaroneck, N. Y.
JONES, N. H.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
JOHNSON, JOSEPH W.,	" "
KINGMAN, SAMUEL C.,	Washington Depot, Conn.
KNAPP, HOWARD H.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
LACEY, ROWLAND, B.,	" "
LOCKWOOD, DAVID B.,	" "
LAMBERT, EDWARD R.,	" "
LEE, HENRY,	" "
LYON, HENRY W.,	" "
LYON, FREDRICK, H.,	" "
LYON, HENRY M.,	" "
LYON, WM. K.,	" "
LYON, ROGER H.,	New York, N. Y.
LOCKWOOD, FRED'K J.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
LORD, THOMAS,	Chicago, Ill.
LINEBURGH, WM. G.,	Bridgeport, Conn.



NAME.	RESIDENCE.
MAXCY, REV. EATON W., D. D.,	Troy, N. Y.
MILLER, DAVID H.,	Georgetown, Conn.
MEAKER, EDWARD F.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
MERRITT, DR. CHAS.,	N. Y. City.
MORFORD, GEORGE,	Bridgeport, Conn.
MORGAN, DANIEL N.,	Washington, D. C.
MARSH, EDWARD W.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
MAIN, SAMUEL A.,	Danbury, Conn.
MOORE, MRS. ELIZABETH W.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
MAIN, JOHN N.,	Middleboro, Mass.
NICHOLS, WARREN B.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
NICHOLLS, REV. G. H.,	Hoosick Falls, N. Y.
NICHOLS, REV. C. W. DE. L.,	Tottenville, N. Y.
NICHOLS, REV. WM. F., D. D.,	San Francisco, Cal.
NOBLE, MISS HENRIETTA. M.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
NICHOLS, FRED'K C.	" "
NICHOLS, WM. J.,	" "
NEAR, JOHN N.,	" "
PERRY, FREDERICK M.,	" "
PERRY, WINTHROP H.,	Southport, Conn.
PHILLIPS, EBENEZER S.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
PARROTT, HENRY R.,	" "
PARROTT, F. W.,	" "
PARKER ADELBERT C.,	" "
PECK, MRS. T. E.,	" "
RELYEA, ALBERT,	Norwalk, Conn.
RYLANDS, HENRY C.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
RICHARDSON, GEO.	" "
SCOFIELD, H. G.,	" "
SHELTON, H. T.,	" "
SHELTON, JOHN C.,	" "
SHERWOOD, WM. L.,	Newark, N. J.
SOMERS, JAMES M.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
STEVENS, FRED. S.,	" "
STEWART, AURELIUS,	" "
SEELEY, WM. E.,	" "
SILLIMAN, EUGENE R.,	Stratford, Conn.
SHERWOOD, CHAS.	Bridgeport, Conn.



NAME.	RESIDENCE.
SMITH, JAS. H.	Bridgeport, Conn.
STAGG, HENRY P.	Stratford, Conn.
SILLIMAN LEWIS B.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
SHERMAN, REV. HENRY MARTYN,	" "
STERLING, JULIAN H.	" "
SEGEE, PHILIP B.,	" "
STERLING EDWARD,	" "
STAPLES, JAMES,	" "
SANFORD, L. D.,	" "
SEXTON, JR., JAMES,	" "
TODD, CHAS. BURR.	Redding, Conn.
THOMPSON, CURTIS,	Bridgeport, Conn.
TORREY, MRS. HARRIET L.,	" "
THOMPSON, JOHN W.,	Stratford, Conn.
TALLMADGE, A. M.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
VANKEUREN, LOUIS N.,	" "
WORDIN, N. E., M. D.,	" "
WALDO, GEO. C.,	" "
WHEELER, GEO. W.	Bridgeport, Conn.
WHEELER, MRS. MARY C.,	" "
WAKEMAN, HOWARD N.,	" "
WARD, MRS. SARAH C.,	" "
WREN, G. W.,	" "

## HONORARY MEMBERS.

REV. BENJAMIN L. SWAN,	Mendham, N. J.
J. HAMMOND TRUMBULL, L. L. D.,	Hartford, Conn.
CHARLES J. HOADLEY, L. L. D.,	" "
A. W. MOREHOUSE,	Brooklyn, N. Y.
REV. C. RAY PALMER, D. D.,	Bridgeport, Conn.
MAJ. L. N. MIDDLEBROOK,	" "
PROF. GEO. S. BURROUGHS,	Amherst, Mass.
MRS. NANCY BARNUM,	Bridgeport, Conn.
BENJAMIN FISH,	" "
REV. BEVERLEY E. WARNER,	New Orleans, La.
REV. C. M. SELICK,	Norwalk, Conn.






## MEMBERS DECEASED.


NAME.	RESIDENCE.
AARON B. HULL,	Danbury, Conn.
RICHARD C. AMBLER,	Nichols, Conn.
WILLIAM T. MINOR,	Stamford, Conn.
LEMUEL SANFORD,	Redding, Conn.
HENRY M. HOYT,	Bridgeport, Conn.
WILLIAM A. BEERS,	Fairfield, Conn.
WILLIAM SHELTON, D. D.,	Buffalo, N. Y.
STILES M. MIDDLEBROOK,	Bridgeport, Conn.
SAMUEL M. MAIN,	Brooklyn, N. Y.
BARZILLAI B. KELLOGG,	Brookfield, Conn.
JOHN D. CANDEE,	Bridgeport, Conn.
PLUMB N. FAIRCHILD,	Trumbull, Conn.
ELI T. HOYT,	Danbury, Conn.
PHINEAS T. BARNUM,	Bridgeport, Conn.
AMOS S. TREAT,	" "
SAMUEL B. SUMNER,	" "
SIDNEY B. BEARDSLEY,	" "
MRS. MARY KATE PERRY,	" "
OLIVER C. BULLARD,	" "
JOHNSON T. PLATT,	New Haven, Conn.
REV. E. E. BEARDSLEY, D. D. LL. D.,	" " "
REV. H. N. POWERS, D. D.,	Orange, N. J.
FREDERICK S. WILDMAN,	Danbury, Conn.
JAMES W. BEARDSLEY,	Bridgeport, Conn.
OLIVER B. JENNINGS,	Fairfield, Conn.
MRS. R. B. LACEY,	Bridgeport, Conn.
GENL. W. H. NOBLE,	" "
HON. STEPHEN NICHOLS,	" "
REV. SAM'L ORCUTT,	" "
NATHANIEL WHEELER,	" "
HORACE NICHOLS,	" "
J. M. BAILEY,	Danbury, Conn.
ALFRED HOPKINS,	Bridgeport, Conn.
MARK R. LEAVENWORTH,	" "
WELLS, NATHAN B.,	Stratford, Conn.



Annual Election of Officers

FOR THE

Fairfield County 

 Historical Society,



May 11th, 1895.



## ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The Special Meeting of the Fairfield County Historical Society for the election of officers for the ensuing year was held at its rooms in the Barnum Institute, May 11, 1895.

The meeting was very interesting and was largely attended. All the officers of the past year were re-elected as follows:—

R. B. LACEY, President.

Vice-Presidents,

GEORGE C. WALDO,                      CURTIS THOMPSON,  
CHARLES BURR TODD.

EDWARD DEACON, Treasurer.

HOWARD N. WAKEMAN, Recording Secretary.

JAMES R. BURROUGHS, Corresponding Secretary.

The report of the treasurer was an interesting document and gladdened the hearts of the members with the announcement that the society was entirely free from debt and had a balance in the treasury.

Previous to the business meeting, the audience enjoyed an interesting paper on the "Services of the First Battalion, Connecticut Cavalry," by Major L. N. Middlebrook. The paper was an excellent effort and was read in a manner which aroused enthusiasm. Many of the men present served on the same field, and the memory of those days of hardships and trials, was brought vividly to their minds. There were many Bridgeport boys in that courageous band of fighters and their record was a brilliant one. Maj. Middlebrook, was in command of Company D when it left Bridgeport, and it remained in service until the last gun was fired. His description of the many encounters was related in a thrilling manner. The talk was varied occasionally with a humorous incident that was appreciated by the veterans present. This was especially true of the exciting exploits with the guerrillas in the South. Major Middlebrook was frequently applauded and will favor the society again in the near future.



## REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

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We are met this evening on occasion of our 14th Anniversary. A little more than 15 years ago, six individuals met in the office of the Bridgeport Gas Light Company and subscribed Articles of Association under the laws of this State "for the promotion and encouragement of Historical Antiquarian and Genealogical investigation relating to the County of Fairfield and the towns composing it,—to be known as The Fairfield County Historical Society."

Thenceforward the institution had a name, but was some time without a local habitation. A tabernacle was at length found in Wheeler's Building at No. 446 Main street, occupying at first a single interior dark room, but sharing the light and privileges of the room occupied by the President. Here in quarters subsequently enlarged much good preliminary work was done and foundations laid for a future. The Society was incorporated by special act of General Assembly, March 24, 1885. It is not intended to occupy your time in rehearsing the details,—the history of those thirteen years. Suffice it to say, substantial progress was made upon which we may look back with much satisfaction.

We note with sorrow the first breach made in the group of original members, which occurred January 18th, 1894, in the death of Gen. William H. Noble,—long a Vice-President of this Society, a faithful friend and veteran worker in the cause of historic research. An appreciative account of his worth and valuable services will appear in the forthcoming publication of the Society, now in press.

For years the great need has been felt and it has been our constant aspiration frequently expressed, that some good friend of sufficient means would honor himself and promote the cause, by furnishing us with a suitable building for a permanent home.

Our liberal-minded and honored fellow citizen, the late Phineas T. Barnum, was inspired to provide for the erection of this noble structure as the joint property of the Historical





and Scientific Societies with provision therein for the Fairfield County Medical Society,—a full account of which, its dedication and formal opening will appear in the publication already alluded to.

We take a laudable pride and satisfaction in our Home thus provided. The fitting up of our new quarters and removal hither taxed our slender resources so thoroughly as to leave us little means for current work, and our advancement has been limited thereby. Nevertheless we have made and are constantly making progress. We have and maintain free to the public, a library and museum which we know is much appreciated by its numerous visitors.

The Treasurer, Recording and Corresponding Secretaries, will give briefly some account of our Resources and current work, and the Curator the additions to our Library and Museum—with valuable suggestions. Our forthcoming volume will contain the inscriptions on the stones and monuments in the oldest Cemetery in Norwalk from a careful canvass by Mr. David H. Van Hoosear, with illustrations. This has been secured and published as a part of our plan of work commenced by Rev. Samuel Orcutt, Historian, and which we deem of the highest importance. We invite from other towns similar data which the Society will print in connection with its future publications.

There are numerous attics of ancient Colonial residences throughout the county, which would afford more and richer copies of ancient books, newspapers, valuable old manuscripts, documents and papers—throwing a flood of light on our early history—specimens of articles of furniture and domestic use and manufacture, all liable to be soon destroyed or scattered to the winds.

We wish the co-operation of our friends in securing such articles as gifts, or loans to this society in trust for preservation and study. It is the intention of our Executive Committee to issue a circular to be widely circulated and followed up by personal solicitation, to the above ends.

R. B. LACEY,

President.



REPORT OF THE TREASURER AND CURATOR.

---

It was with no little trepidation that the officers of the society at the close of 1893, entered upon the year then opening.

At that time our Treasury was not only in a meagre condition, but a great burden of debt was hanging over us, clouding our prospects and threatening to hamper our usefulness. This debt, aggregating nearly four hundred dollars, was the inevitable result of what otherwise seemed a most auspicious change in our affairs: namely, our removal to the new quarters in the Barnum Institute. But with no surplus to draw upon, nor funds provided for the emergency, this radical change in our location and relatively in our position towards the public, entailed upon us an imperative outlay, in furnishing the rooms with necessary cases, fittings and paraphernalia requisite to enable us to utilize the facilities then placed at our disposal.

It did indeed seem as though we were about to be prostrated in the very hour of our triumph. Happily however, the consideration of our friends, calm deliberation, and the wise and kind judgment of the Trustees of the Institute, aided us in the solution of the difficult problem and enabled us to close the year with very different feelings from those with which it was begun.

We enter upon the year 1895, free from debt, and with all our prospective annual income available for our proper work.

Our membership is slowly increasing, but not at such a rate as we should naturally expect: when we entered the new building the Annual dues were increased by the written consent of a majority of the members, to Three dollars for residents in this city and vicinity, and Two dollars for those living at a distance, this was deemed necessary in view of the increased expense entailed upon us by our enlarged quarters and the consequent greater demands made upon us by the public.

Notwithstanding this increase, the entire amount annually



due the society is less than \$375, from which must be deducted about 15 per cent. for dues never paid and for losses by removals, resignation and death.

It will thus be seen that to make the work of the society really serviceable a much larger membership is requisite, and it should be the aim of every member to extend the influence of the society and induce others to join us, by creating a sentiment favorable to our aims and work.

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ANNUAL STATEMENT, APRIL 19th, 1895.

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Balance from last report,	-	-	-	-	\$	31	87
Received for annual dues,	-	-	-	-		291	00
"    from Joint Fund,	-	-	-	-		155	50
"    for sale of photos, &c.,	-	-	-	-		4	25
						<u>\$482</u>	<u>62</u>

CONTRA.

Paid printing and binding,	-	-	-	-	\$131	00	
"    Furniture and fittings,	-	-	-	-	205	00	
"    N. E. Genl. Register,	-	-	-	-	85	00	
"    Stationery, postage and sundries,	-	-	-	-	26	94	
					<u>\$447</u>	<u>94</u>	
Balance in Treasury,	-	-	-	-	\$	34	68

Liabilities, none.

Active Members, 137.

Honorary Members, 11.

As Curator and custodian of the Library and Museum, it is a pleasure to report a satisfactory growth in the number and value of the donations received during the past two years.

In consequence of the increase in the number of similar societies in other counties and states, which are desirous of exchanging publications with us, the library has been enriched by the addition of several valuable books which it would be otherwise difficult to obtain. Some authors and publishers



of historical works likewise, being desirous of placing their volumes where they will be appreciated and preserved, make a practice of donating copies to societies like our own, and it is gratifying to note that we are recognized as worthy of being included with some of the largest libraries in the country as recipients of these valuable gifts.

The Museum grows day by day as our society becomes more known, and it will soon be a question, not as to how much more we can get, but what shall we accept for exhibition; it is unnecessary to add that the more select and unique our Collection can be made, the more will its value enhance and its utility be demonstrated. Our rooms are open on the afternoon of every Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday free to the public, and have been visited by upwards of ten thousand persons, many of them from foreign countries. We have been pleased in receiving many expressions of commendation, evincing a growing interest in the objects for which we are organized.

The society's room is perhaps not the most satisfactory that could be planned, but we endeavored to make it attractive, and desire to make it more useful for the purpose of study by our members. At present our Library is scattered in numerous book cases, curious antique and interesting in themselves, but not well adapted for the purpose of arranging in scientific order a well assorted collection of books; we need a room set apart from the Museum, where our volumes can be arranged on convenient shelves, classified and indexed, and preserved from vagrant hands; a study provided with necessary tables and seating, and with convenient access to the library, where the student in local history or genealogy may make the best use of the treasures at his disposal.

This at present may be a dream, but we hope some morning to wake up and find it realized.

A list of the Donors to the Library and Museum since the issuance of the last publication of the society in 1892, will be found on another page.

EDWARD DEACON,

Treasurer.





## REPORT OF THE RECORDING SECRETARY.

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Since our last publication was issued in 1892, many changes have taken place in the work of the Society. During that period the home of the Society has been moved to its present quarters in the Barnum Institute. The work of the Society devolves on a few who take a deep interest in its welfare and growth. The people of this city should more heartily support this institution than they do, because the collection and preservation of the historical facts of this locality should be of interest to all good citizens.

Since our removal to the new building—we have listened to interesting papers from the following persons :

H. G. Blake, Esq., of New Haven read a paper upon the Connecticut East India Company or the Story of Wyoming.

A paper by A. D. Osborne of New Haven was read upon Captain Smedley, the first Collector of Customs, for this district.

A short paper upon the Berkshire Mills, was read by the President.

Cyrus S. Bradley recited a poem upon the Burning of the Lexington.

Captain Schley, the rescuer of the Greeley Arctic Expedition, gave a very interesting account of his adventures in those ice-bound regions of the North.

Dr. Spalding gave us an interesting talk on Photographs.

Mr. Lacey and Col. O. B. Hall gave us an account of Early Times in North Bridgeport—particularly in the vicinity of Thacher's Mills.

Mr. George P. Chapman read a paper upon the Battle of Lake Erie and the History of Perry's Fleet.

Morris Seymour, Esq., occupied an evening with us upon the Hiding of the Charter in the old oak at Hartford.

And Major L. N. Middlebrook read a paper to us upon the services of the first battalion of Connecticut Cavalry.

On the 4th of July 1893, the Society participated through



its representatives in the ceremonies at the unveiling of the Barnum Monument.

I have thus briefly alluded to this department of our work which we according to our resources shall endeavor to extend in the future.

HOWARD N. WAKEMAN,  
Recording Secretary.



## REPORT OF THE CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.

The correspondence of the Society during the past years of 1893 and 1894, consisted of the usual notifications of elections to membership; of appointments on committee work, and to some events of great interest to the Society.

In the Dedication of the P. T. Barnum Statue on July 4, 1893, members of the society participated in the parade and in the exercises following, at Sea Side Park.

An example of hearty response, in sentiment and enthusiasm, is evidenced by a copy of the following letter received:

BRIDGEPORT, JUNE 21st, 1893.

*J. R. Burroughs, Esq :*

Your favor of the 16th inst., received. I will with pleasure join with the members of the Historical Society to participate in the parade and dedication of the Barnum Statue on the 4th of July next, and hope every member (Ladies not excepted) will join on this occasion to honor the memory of him who has given us this beautiful and substantial edifice as a safe deposit for the history of the past.

Yours Truly,

ORLANDO B. HALL.

An acceptance was sent to the invitation of the New Haven Colony Historical Society for our President and delegates to attend the dedication of their new building: a memorial to James E. and Caroline A. English. The exercises were held in New Haven, Sept. 28th. 1893.

Francis Jelliff and Aaron Jennings of Southport, and of the rescue party, were invited to a meeting of the Society, on Nov. 10, 1893, to listen to a poem by Cyrus Sherwood Bradley, on the Burning of the Steamer Lexington in Long Island Sound, Jan. 13, 1840, at night. Rescue was made Jan. 14. Capt. John F. Bradley was expected to have been present, to relate his experience of the rescue of the survivors.

The invitation for the Society to co-operate in the Bi-centennial anniversary of the institution of the Parish of Strat-



field, in June 1695, to be celebrated June 1895, was accepted on Aug. 1, 1894.

The latest correspondence was in relation to the reading of a valuable paper, on May 11, 1895, by Major L. N. Middlebrook, upon the First Connecticut Battalion of Cavalry in the late war, which was a graphic account of valarous deeds in the service of our country.

**JAMES R. BURROUGHS.**

Corresponding Secretary.





## DONATIONS TO THE LIBRARY AND MUSEUM.

April 1892 to April 1895.

DONORS.	RESIDENCE	Library		Miscellaneous Articles for Museum
		Books.	Pamp'rs.	
<b>A</b>				
Ambler, Mrs. R. C.	Bridgeport, Conn.	2	6	.....
American Catholic Historical Society,	Philad Iphia, Pa	.....	4	.....
Anderson, Rev. Joseph	Waterbury, Conn.	.....	1	.....
Anon,		1	.....	.....
<b>B</b>				
Barnum, Mrs. P. T.,	Bridgeport, Conn.	4	.....	7
Beardsley, Morris B.,	" "	.....	14	.....
Beardsley, James W.,	" "	.....	1	.....
Beardsley, Mrs. Wm L.,	" "	.....	.....	1
Bedient, Stephen S.,	" "	1	.....	.....
Beers, Mrs. Wm. A.,	" "	1	1	.....
Benedict, Celest A. M. D.	" "	.....	.....	1
Bishop, Mrs. W. D.,	" "	.....	2	.....
Boardman, Miss Ellen L.,	" "	17	6	5
Bouton, Eugene	" "	1	2	1
Boston Record Commissioners,	Boston, Mass.	2	.....	.....
Bradley, Cyrus	Southport, Conn.	1	.....	.....
Bridgeport Board of Health,	Bridgeport, Conn.	.....	8	.....
" Board of Education,	" "	.....	5	.....
" Hospital,	" "	.....	10	.....
" Public Library,	" "	.....	5	.....
" Scientific Society,	" "	.....	6	.....
" Y. M. C. A.,	" "	.....	2	.....
Brothwell, Chas. B.,	" "	.....	.....	1
Buffalo Historical Society,	Buffalo, N. Y.	.....	8	.....
Buffalo State Hospital,	" "	.....	1	.....
Burus, Owen	Bridgeport, Conn.	.....	.....	4
Burroughs, George	" "	.....	.....	1
Burton, Henry E.,	" "	.....	1	1
Burratt, Sarah E.,	Stratford, Conn.	.....	1	.....
<b>C</b>				
Calef, Thomas	Bridgeport, Conn.	.....	2	1
Castle, Wm. M.,	" "	.....	1	.....
Candee, J. D.,	" "	.....	4	.....
" Mrs. J. D.,	" "	.....	7	.....
Cayuga, Co. Historical Society,	Auburn, N. Y.	.....	1	.....
Chapin, Geo. F.,	Bridgeport, Conn.	.....	1	.....
Chihans, N.,	" "	.....	1	.....
Clarke, Samuel C.,	Marietta, Ga.	.....	1	.....
Coe, David	Stratford, Conn.	.....	2	.....
Cole, Mrs. J. H.,	Bridgeport, Conn.	.....	4	1
Collins, Hodgebridge, O.,	Los Angeles, Cal.	.....	2	.....
Comstock, Mr. and Mrs. A. S.,	New Canaan, Conn.	.....	.....	4
Conn. Historical Society,	Hartford, Conn.	.....	8	.....
Conn. Humane Society,	" "	.....	2	.....
Curtis, C. F.,	Unknown.	.....	9	.....
<b>D</b>				
Day, Mrs. Mary B., (Rev. Geo. B.,)	.....	.....	.....	.....
Darling, Chas. W.,	Utica, N. Y.	.....	1	1
Deacon, Edward	Bridgeport, Conn.	.....	3	3
Dean, A. H.,	Philadelphia, Pa	.....	.....	1
Denton, A. L.,	Syracuse, N. Y.	.....	.....	1
Dexter, Franklin B.,	New Haven, Conn.	.....	1	.....
Derrick, Chas. L.,	Bridgeport, Conn.	.....	.....	7
Doolittle, E. T.,	" "	.....	3	1
Dorus, James H.,	" "	.....	2	.....



DONORS.	RESIDENCE.	Library.		Miscellaneous Articles for Museum.
		Books.	Pamphlets.	
<b>E</b>				
Enright, Mrs. J. N., Exchange,	Bridgeport, Conn.	.....	1	.....
		3	.....	.....
<b>F</b>				
Fitzgerald, J. N., Fairchild, T. B., Foster, Frank A., Foskit, Wm. A.,	Philadelphia, Pa Stratford, Conn. Bridgeport, Conn. " "	.....	1	.....
		.....	.....	1
		.....	1	.....
		.....	1	.....
<b>G</b>				
Gaylord, Mrs. Samuel Geo. C., Gilbert, Enoch H., Godfrey, Dr. C. C., Gold, T. S., Gordon, Miss Jane Graham, A. A.,	" " Los Angeles, Cal Norwalk, Conn. Bridgeport, Conn. West Cornwall, Conn. Columbus, Ohio.	.....	.....	1
		.....	.....	1
		.....	3	.....
		.....	1	.....
		.....	1	.....
<b>H</b>				
Halsey, Edmund D., Hansell, S. N., Hall, Stiles Harding, Henry Harper, Francis P., Harrington, Lois C., Hamilton and Hill, Heddenburg, F. J., Heminway, F. E., Hibbard, Rev. A. G., Hinks, Wm. B., Hoadley, Chas. J., Hooker, Edward Hopson, W. R., Hughes, John R.,	Bridgeport, Conn. Rockville, " Bridgeport, " " " New York, N. Y. Bridgeport, Conn. Boston, Mass. Bridgeport, Conn. " " Goshen, Conn. Bridgeport, Conn Hartford, Conn. Brooklyn, N. Y. Bridgeport, Conn. " "	.....	.....	2
		.....	.....	1
		.....	2	.....
		27	10	.....
		.....	1	.....
		.....	2	.....
		.....	3	.....
		.....	2	.....
		.....	3	.....
		.....	1	.....
		.....	.....	3
		10	.....	.....
		.....	.....	3
		.....	.....	2
		.....	1	.....
<b>I</b>				
Ireland, J. N.	" "	.....	28	.....
<b>J</b>				
Jones, Mrs. H., Estate of Jaynes, Mrs. M. O. S.,	" "	.....	2	.....
<b>K</b>				
Kaler, Edward Keeler, Emily C., Kingman, S. C., Kloppstock, Isaac Knapp, Geo. S.,	" " " " Washington, Conn. Bridgeport, " " "	.....	.....	2
		.....	.....	1
		.....	1	.....
		.....	1	.....
		.....	2	.....
		.....	.....	2
<b>L</b>				
Lacey, R. B., Lambert, F. R., Lathe, E. W., Lee, Henry Lee, Wm. H., Lewis, Geo. W., Lewis, Julia F., Lines, G. O., Lord, Thomas Lyon, Roger H.,	" " " " Charlton, Mass. Bridgeport, Conn. " " " " " " " " Chicago, Ills. Bridgeport, Conn.	.....	8	19
		.....	1	.....
		.....	.....	2
		.....	.....	1
		.....	18	4
		.....	.....	1
		.....	3	.....
		.....	.....	1
		.....	.....	1
		.....	.....	3
		.....	2	.....
		.....	1	.....
<b>M</b>				
Magri, Countess M Lavinia Marsh, E. W.,	" " " "	.....	.....	2
		.....	.....	2
		.....	4	2



DONORS.	RESIDENCE.	Library.		Miscellaneous Articles for Museum.
		Books.	Pamp'rs.	
<b>M</b>				
May, Wm. H., Massachusetts Institute of Technology,	Bridgeport, Conn.	1	.....	1
Meriden Scientific Association,	Boston, Mass.	.....	1	.....
Middlebrook, L. N.,	Meriden, Conn.	.....	1	.....
Morford, Geo.,	Bridgeport, Conn.	4	23	4
Morgan, D. N.,	" "	.....	.....	1
Morris, Chauncey R.,	" "	4	2	3
Morton, Mrs. Sarah T.	Hartford, Conn.	.....	.....	1
<b>N</b>				
Nebraska Historical Society.	Lincoln, Neb.	5	1	.....
New Haven Colony Hist Soc'y.,	New Haven, Conn.	1	1	.....
New London Co. Hist Soc'y,	New London, Conn.	.....	1	.....
Nichols, Horace	Bridgeport, Conn.	.....	1	.....
Nichols, Prof. Frederick	Nova Scotia.	.....	1	.....
Noble, Mrs. Wm. H.,	Bridgeport, Conn.	.....	.....	1
<b>O</b>				
Ohio Archaeological & Hist Soc'y..	Columbus, Ohio.	.....	1	1
Oneida Hist Soc'y.,	Utica, N. Y.	.....	1	.....
Orcutt, Rev. Samuel	Bridgeport, Conn.	10	2	.....
Osborne, Arthur D.,	New Haven, Conn.	2	1	.....
Osborne, Geo. R.,	Bridgeport, Conn.	.....	.....	1
<b>P</b>				
Palmer, Rev. C. R.,	Bridgeport, Conn.	5	8	.....
Park, E. W.,	New Haven, Conn.	.....	1	.....
Peet, F. C.,	Bridgeport, Conn.	.....	.....	1
Plumb, Capt. Chas.,	Stratford, Conn.	.....	2	.....
Phillips, E. S.,	Bridgeport, Conn.	.....	.....	1
Porter, Doctor G. L.,	" "	.....	.....	1
Potter, Arthur E.,	Torrington, Conn.	.....	.....	1
Price, Lee & Co.,	Bridgeport, Conn.	1	1	.....
<b>R</b>				
Raymond Mercurius D.,	Tarrytown, N. Y.	.....	1	.....
Roff, Adjutant H. C.,	Unknown.	.....	.....	1
Rylands H. C.,	Bridgeport, Conn.	.....	.....	1
<b>S</b>				
Savage, W. L.,	Bridgeport, Conn.	.....	.....	1
Scott, Mrs. P. R.,	Stratford, Conn.	.....	7	1
Secor, D. P.,	Bridgeport, Conn.	3	20	5
Selleck, Rev. C. M.,	Norwalk, Conn.	.....	1	.....
Senger, Louise	Bridgeport, Conn.	.....	.....	1
Setchell, Wm. A.,	Boston, Mass.	.....	.....	1
Seward, James	Bridgeport, Conn.	.....	3	.....
Seltsam, Mr and Mrs. Geo.,	" "	.....	.....	1
Sharpe, W. C.	Seymour, Conn.	.....	.....	1
Shelton, Jane DeForest	Birmingham, Conn.	.....	1	.....
Sherman, F. B.,	Bridgeport, Conn.	.....	.....	1
Sullivan, Mrs. E. B.,	" "	.....	.....	2
Sullivan, Ezra B.,	" "	.....	1	.....
Smith, F. C.,	" "	.....	1	25
Steele, Mrs. James Huntington	" "	.....	.....	1
Sterling, Edward	" "	3	.....	.....
Stevens, Frederick S.,	" "	1	.....	.....
Stiles & Tucker,	" "	2	.....	.....
Stiles, Henry B.,	" "	.....	1	.....
<b>T</b>				
Terry Mrs. Hattie E.,	Bridgeport, Conn.	.....	.....	1
Thompson, Curtis	" "	1	.....	.....



DONORS.	RESIDENCE.	Library.		Miscellaneous Articles for Museum.
		Books.	Pamp'ts.	
<b>T</b>				
Thompson, Geo.,	Bridgeport, Conn.			1
Tomlinson, Mrs. S. R.	" "	1	2	....
<b>U</b>				
U. S. Commissioner of Labor,	Washington, D. C.	...	1	.....
<b>V</b>				
Vance, R. G.,	Hartford, Conn.	2	.....	.....
Vose, Thomas	Bridgeport, Conn.	.....	.....	2
<b>W</b>				
Waldo, George C.,	" "	.....	19	.....
Watkins, Walter J.,	Boston, Mass.	.....	1	.....
Ward, Sarah C.,	Bridgeport, Conn.	.....	.....	1
Warner, Rev. Beverly E.,	" "	.....	.....	1
Wells, O. B.	" "	.....	.....	1
Westchester Co., Hist Soc'y.,	" "	.....	1	.....
White, Wm. J.,	" "	.....	1	7
Whitmore, H.,	Boston, Mass.	.....	1	.....
Wordin, Dr. N. E.,	Bridgeport, Conn.	.....	1	.....
Wren, Geo. W.,	" "	.....	1	10
Wright, Carroll D.,	Washington, D. C.	.....	1	.....
<b>Y</b>				
Yale University,	New Haven, Conn.	.....	2	.....
Young, W. G.,	Bridgeport, Conn.	2	1	.....





A Sketch from the Life

—OF—

Rev. James Beebe, A. M.,

Who from May 6, 1747 to Sept. 8, 1785

WAS PASTOR OF

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

AT NORTH STRATFORD.

WRITTEN AND READ BY

RICHARD C. AMBLER, ESQ.,

Before the Fairfield County Historical Society.



## Sketch of the Rev. James Beebe.

The records do not show any further attempt to continue the old Society of Unity after the discharge of Richardson Miner. The name of the society being changed from Unity to North Stratford about that time.\*

Under the date of May 5th, 1747, three years after, the following record is to be found upon the pages of the same old record book which was used by "The Church of Christ at Unity." There was a church gathered and settled at North Stratford and the same day was ordained there, and took the pastoral charge of that church the Rev. Mr. James Beebe, by Presbyters the Rev. Messrs. Hezekiah Goold of Stratford, Jedediah Mills of Ripton, John Grayham of Woodbury, John Bellamy of Southbury—North Purchase—David Judson of Newtown, and Thomas Canfield of Roxbury. And Mr. Woodbridge of Amity was present and preached ye sermon from ye first of Timothy 3-1, "This is a true saying if a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work."

Mr. Grayham was moderator. Mr. Goold made the first prayer. Mr. Mills gave the charge. Mr. Judson gave the right hand of fellowship. Mr. Bellamy made the last prayer. Mr. Cook present, but by sickness indisposed to business. Of these clergymen, Messrs. Hezekiah Goold, Jedediah Mills, and Samuel Cook, were present at the ordination of Richardson Miner, and at this time they respectively held the same pastoral charge that they did when Mr. Miner was ordained seventeen years before.

Mr. Beebe came to North Stratford from Danbury. He was born in the year 1717 of English ancestry. In assuming the charge of the "Church of Christ at North Stratford," many difficulties must have presented themselves to Mr. Beebe. The excitement in the community occasioned by the discharge of Mr. Miner was very great and in many instances resulted in personal quarrels carried on between members of

\*This paper closely followed one by the same author on Rev. Richardson Miner.



the same family. (Mr. Miner's discharge was occasioned in consequence of his espousal of Episcopal faith.)

There was not only this difficulty but there was a strong sentiment against the position held by the Puritan faith. The spirit of liberty and of resistance to everything that had a semblance to monarchical power was very strong with many of the people. The law of the commonwealth was such that every one must pay taxes to the support of the Congregational pastor or show by certificate that they were members of some other faith. The spirit of opposition, which in later years revolutionized the system, was at this time at work, and its effect was to chill the zeal even among those of the "standing order."<sup>\*</sup>

But this was not enough to discourage James Beebe. He belonged to an age that was characterized by the zeal of its ministry. His path though rough knew no turning back, his zeal knew no faltering. This is shown by his remarkable success in adding to the numbers of the society; 74 persons signed the articles of faith on the day of his ordination and 167 persons signed at subsequent times, making 242 persons in all. He baptized 1,112 persons. He married 359 couples.

A record not very much unlike a city parish of to-day was made up by Mr. Beebe in a society, the majority of which lived two or three miles from the "Meeting house" and of the minority in all probability not over ten families at the greatest lived within the radius of a mile.

Mr. Beebe was a man who lived up to the times and without much doubt was the fortunate possessor of the faculty of foreseeing to some degree the rapid strides the spirit freedom would take in the future. Some of the Congregationalists as they began to see their strength losing ground formed the idea of centralizing their power into consociations composed of several church societies of a county and the decision of this standing council, to be one from which there could be no appeal, thus meeting heresies and new doctrines with a bold front.

<sup>\*</sup>The theory was that every householder must pay his proportion towards the support of the institutions of Religion and Education and in the standing order—unless he was a member of some other regularly constituted religious society.



Washington was once asked in conversation what he thought of a retreat. The General replied saying, "I do not like retreats, but if I see that it is inevitable, then it is my policy to take a position ahead of my army and retreat as fast if not faster than they do, for in so doing I do not lose my command." Mr. Beebe felt that the day of Puritan absolutism in State affairs was fast becoming unpopular. He was a man of liberal mind and felt that those were not the means of attaining the end in view, "a circular letter was sent out calling the churches of this county to Bethel in the year 1772, for the settlement of a dispute which virtually involved the independence of the local church." Mr. Beebe and James Walker, Esq., went with the following instructions expressed by a vote of the church: "Voted *Nemine contradicente* by this church. That we are all willing to consociate for advice and counsel in all matters ecclesiastical, but *cannot* and *will not* join in that arbitrary claim of judicial authority in consociations to "judge and determine" in all matters ecclesiastical compelling all parties to abide by the judgment of such a judicial consociation."

In this vote we can see the spirit of opposition to Puritan arbitrary rule and on the other hand we can see that Mr. Beebe like the great commander was making an honorable retreat to gain a position not behind the demands of the times.

Mr. Beebe was very particular about making up his records, often to such an extent that while perhaps it satisfied the demands of his own conscience, still it does not satisfy those who are anxious to trace a genealogical connection, -e.g- he makes the following record: "The first day of February the Rev. Mr. Ross preached in this place and baptized two children, one for Ephraim Peet and one for Nathaniel Sherman." "July 10th, I exchanged labors with Mr. Ross of Stratfield," and he baptized a child for Samuel Gregory."

(By-the-way, Mr. Beebe served Mr. Ross a good turn only a few years before, for I find the following record: "Rev. Robert Ross of Stratfield, and Mrs. Sarah Hawley of Stratfield, were married Dec. 18th, 1753.")

Another peculiar record is as follows: "In the year 1747,





were admitted Robert Murray and his wife Rebecca, before I could get the church record to record them I forgot the month and the day they were admitted." February 23rd, 1751, the wife of John Thompson admitted to communion, Her first name I did not know then, but since understand it to be Elizabeth." "Oct. 28th, 1771, I baptized a child on the account of Joseph Beach and his wife, the names I can't remember at present There are many other instances of Mr. Beebe's good intention on record when it is evident his difficulty in remembering names interfered with his desires of making the record complete, but in nearly every instance he has left a full confession of the fact and an excuse for his neglect, hence I trust if any should see fit to hand in a decision against Mr. Beebe on this issue, that judgment at least will be suspended.

Mr. Beebe by the act of recording many incidents out of the natural order of events has not only shown that he had a kind and sympathetic nature, but it gives us an insight into many phases of life. His pen seems by impulse to leave a record in recognizance of some incident of joy or of woe in his little flock, and shows how dearly was Mr. Beebe bound to them by ties of love and of how from the heart he rejoiced with his people in their joy, and sorrowed with them in their sorrow. What a sad tale is conveyed in this record. "Mary, dau., of Thomas Sherwood and his wife, born in July, bap. Sept. 10th, 1749. The father and mother being both dead she was presented by her Uncle Daniel Sherwood," less than three months old, and left alone to fight this hard battle of life. A little farther on there is another record of sorrow. Sept. 5th. 1756. baptized Reuben, son of Jakin Treadwell." Four weeks after, he again opens the book and adds to the record "and died Oct. the 9th. Mr. Beebe's baby dau. Elizabeth died a short time before. Again he announces in a P. S. that one infant which he has just baptized is the first born child of its parents. Who would doubt that that household was a happy one and that the good pastor rejoiced with them?

July 11th, 1767. Mr. Beebe was present at a scene which shows how sacred the christening of a child must have been



held by our ancestors. Here he baptized an infant only fifteen days old and at the funeral of its mother.

After the record of the birth of James, son of Josiah Nichols, Mr. Beebe adds the following ambiguous clause, "whose father was killed by the fall of a tree about twenty-four hours after his birth."

Sept. 12th. 1779, Mr. Beebe who usually wrote in an indistinct cramped and almost illegible hand, made the following entry in large and plain characters, as if he were aware that the act which he recorded was sufficient in itself to make him famous. The record reads as follows: "Benjamin, son of Brig'dr Gen'l Gool Syllick Sillamin and his wife, born August the 3rd, and baptized Sept. 12th, (1779.) The Gen'l then being a prisoner on Long Island and his Lady fleeing from the conflagration of Fairfield took refuge in this society." Little did the good pastor think when, with his cheek flushed with pride as he recorded the birth and baptism of a son of a Brigadier General, that he had baptized one who in after years would become one of the greatest scientists of the world, Prof. Benjamin Silliman. Then truly did parson Beebe entertain an angel unawares. The grand old building, owned and used by the town of Trumbull as a Town Hall for several years, and which with ordinary care would have lasted for a hundred years longer, but was torn down during the past year by a prevailing spirit of vandalism, was the place of his birth.

A patriotic disposition followed this great event, and soon after he baptized an infant with no less a famous name than that of "George Washington Hall." It is perhaps unnecessary to add that I find no further mention of the youngster on the records. He must have died young or else the world would have heard of him too.

Toward the end of the record Mr. Beebe shows how his heart, which we have seen, was bound up with his people in their joys and sorrows could rise in indignant horror and fervent patriotism. He makes record of a birth in the following: "Belthela, daughter of Peleg Sunderland and Bethiah his wife," (and here he stops,) and as if his indignation knew no bounds, adds) "he left this life at that memorable event



when Tryon with a band of British butchers and murderers burnt the town of Fairfield." (then he finishes the entry.) "baptized July 29th, 1781." There is another sad tale here, for by turning to the record of marriages I find that on May 28th, 1778, only three years before Pelig Sunderland and Bethiah Hawley were united in holy wedlock by Mr. Beebe. No wonder as that good and kind-hearted man recorded the birth of that first born and fatherless infant, his sorrow and sympathy kindled the thoughts of righteous indignation he embodied in the words we find on the records.

In the time of Mr. Beebe many of the more prominent farmers owned slaves, among these were such men as Daniel Fairechild, Thomas Sanford, Ephraim Beach, David Booth, Jr., and Jonathan Curtis. They were not called slaves on the record however, but generally were designated as "negro boy" or "negro child," sometimes as "negro servant," as for -eg-"Negro boy and servant of Jonathan Curtis." In one place the entry, which sounds a little more of slavery, is made as follows: "Lid, a negro child of Daniel Fairechild, presented by the master and mistress, baptized Jan. 24th, 1759." The slaves were all brought to baptism, and were regular attendants of church, sitting in what were called the "contrary pews," close under the parson's eye, at the right or left of the pulpit. The entry is often made as follows: "Doreas a negro servant of Jonathan Nichols and his wife Mary." The Rev. James Beebe was also a slave owner. "Nero" and "Peg" were two faithful servants, and as near as I can determine were owned by Mr. Beebe and his wife Ruth (as the record has it) during his entire pastorate at North Stratford. They had six children, who were by Mr. Beebe baptized, their names are of some interest, and are as follows: Claret, Linde, Obid, Salone, Dinah, and the last, either to show his disrespect of the child or of the British general he named Peter Tryon.

Of Mr. Beebe's slave Nero a person living near where Mr. Beebe's house stood told the writer of this sketch the following narrative. Pointing from in front of his house to a fence running by a clump of apple trees standing a number of rods



below on the opposite side of the road, he said, "do you see that there is a length of rails in that fence much shorter than the rest? Well, Parson Beebe built that length of fence, and while he was doing it Old Nero, his slave came back to his work, and seeing that the parson had cut his rails much shorter than the rest, and that the symmetry of the lengths of the whole fence would be broken, exclaimed "Oh, Massa Beebe can't make de fence, better let Ole Nero build de fences and Massa Beebe do de preaching." That the parson finished that length of fence is evident, because there it stands as a monument of what Mr. Beebe knew about fences, but I judge that the rest of it was finished by Old Nero.

Some question arises as to where Mr. Beebe lived. The Rev. N. T. Merwin in a discourse delivered at the One Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary of the Trumbull Church, page 15, says: "Mr. Beebe's dwelling was a little east of the present parsonage on White Plains street, the north side, on land inherited by Captain D. B. Hinman. The old cellar is there still. Near it, and a smaller one, is a cellar too, over which stood the hut of Mr. Beebe's slaves "Nero" and Pegg." Rumor and tradition corroborate Mr. Merwin's statement.

The records show that Mr. Beebe rented the Sanford property. In the year 1767, Thomas Sanford a member of Mr. Beebe's society left by will, his house, barn and land to the North Stratford Society. Mr. Merwin in his anniversary discourse says that this property was situated "somewhere in Long Hill, Trumbull." The property was rented at a meeting of the society held at the house of the pastor, January 8th, 1778, by adjournment from Dec. 23d, 1777, and by the following vote of the society, "voted that the church would rent out the whole of the farm with the house and barn for three years to Mr. Beebe, pastor of said church for £20 for the first year and the two succeeding years to be left to a committee to set a price by the year, and if the committee and Mr. Beebe cannot agree to be left to the church." Mr. Beebe evidently had some trouble in paying his rent, for at a meeting held Nov. 15th, 1780, "voted that — pounds that Mr. Beebe has paid to the Deacons be accepted by the church





as five pounds hard money," voted that the church will receive and accept the remainder of what is yet due from Mr. Beebe to the church upon his last year's note at two per one." The next year at a meeting held February 28th, 1781, the church lands were again rented to Mr. Beebe for a term of two years from April 1st, 1781." The rent was reduced to £15 lawful money. "Voted that Ephraim Beach, David Middlebrook, Joseph Burton and Jabez Beach, be their committee with full power to give a lease to said James Beebe and take his security for the use of the aforesaid interest. At a meeting held May 12th, 1773, it was "voted that some part of the money for the church's interest (they sold the Sanford farm a short time before) be paid to Mr. Beebe for the support of the gospel to the amount of one penny on the pound. Voted that we give Mr. Beebe ten pounds upon consideration Mr. Beebe will discount what is due from the church towards his salary for the year past. At a meeting held March 3rd, 1775, "and after due deliberation the church unanimously voted that they would give Mr. Beebe, their Pastor, fifty pounds lawful money towards his salary, 2dly unanimously voted that their committee, viz. Mr. Ephraim Beach, Capt. Joseph Burton and Capt. Ephraim Sterling, pay the aforesaid sum to Mr. Beebe and take his receipt for the same."

It seems a little strange to the writer that a clergyman, should rent a large farm, together with the dwelling house and barns, and at the same time reside three miles away. Most of these business meetings were held at "the house of the pastor." From this fact we might conclude that the house of the pastor was near the church, but necessarily so, for a large portion of his people lived at Long Hill. This doubt as to his residence may be settled as was the story of the shield, for Mr. Beebe may have lived in both places at different times.

Mr. Beebe did not confine himself entirely to preaching for a living for in addition to farming, we find that he was the proprietor of a grist and saw-mill. Mr. Stephen Middlebrook of Long Hill, for several years kept a chronological record of events. Under date of June 1762, he records that the Rev.



Mr. Beebe's grist mill was raised. The mill was situated at Saganawamps. There has been much enquiry and some dispute as to the locality of Saganawamps. Some holding that it was the mill near the Trumbull Church, now known as Trumbull Mills, and some that it was the mills known as Berkshire Mills, and some have even held that it was either the Yellow Mill or Johnson's Mill. Now by a search of title deeds I find that none of these traditions are right, after the death of Mr. Beebe, one half of the Mill property came into the possession of his son James, who Dec. 21st, 1789, for consideration of £130 deeds one-half of grist mill and one half of saw mill situated at Saganawamps to Daniel Salmon. In deed of Feb. 24, 1797, to Daniel Salmon of two aeres more or less lying in Town of Stratford at a place known as Saganawamps—the boundaries are given as follows: North on laud of Jonathan Beers, West on the river and South on cross highway, leading from Long Hill to Daniels Farms, so-called. Hence the mill must be the same as that now known as Beers' Mill in Trumbull. This deed also is signed by James Beebe, son of the subject of this sketch together with his wife Mehetable, who was a daughter of Daniel Fairechild and Hepseba Lewis, and was born Dec. 18th, 1755. Daniel Fairechild lived at Nichols Farms on the west side of the Huntington Turnpike about opposite the Methodist Church. By consulting the North Stratford records I find in Mr. Beebe's handwriting the record of his son's marriage to Miss Fairechild as taking place June 4th, 1771.

I doubt if Mr. Beebe owned more than one half interest in the Mill property, at least he did not at his death, for in consulting the title records, I find that Daniel Salmon bought it all, besides the half interest he bought of James Beebe, Jr., he bought one-quarter interest of David and Stephen Beardsley; (By-the-way, this deed says Stephen is son of David Beardsley) and one-quarter right from his father Richard Salmon. The latter mentions in his deed that he sells all right and title which he got from William Pixlee and James French. There was one Samuel Beebe, (whether he was a near relative



of the pastor I know not) who had some right in the Mill property, which was also deeded to Daniel Salmon, who by-the-way was one of the most prominent men as well as one of the largest land owners in the community: too much land for his own good, for the fifty and odd thousand acres which he and Mr. Samuel Beebe owned together in Virginia, was one of the causes of his financial ruin.

Daniel Salmon among numerous other enterprises was a tailor and in his old account book we find an account with the Rev. James Beebe which may not be out of place, nor lack enough of interest to repeat here.

MR. JAMES BEEBE, PASTOR,		<i>Dr.</i>
Dec. 2d, 1795,	To making a pair of breeches,	£. s. 10 p.
	“ finding toe cloth,	.7
	“ 12 lbs. veal @ 4 p.	4.0
	“ 1 day tayloring,	2 8
	“ “ “	1.0
July 25th, 1779,	“ making pair breeches,	5 0
	“ finding two buttons,	.4
	“ cutting out pair breeches & jacket ;	1.0
		<hr/>
		147

March ye 12th, 1782. Then cast all accounts with Mr. James Beebe and find due to him two shillings and a penny.

JAMES BEEBE.

The account was thus balanced in accordance with the custom of the times. Mr. Beebe signing Salmon's book and Salmon signing Beebe's. The account then continues as follows :

Nov. ye 13th, 1782. MR. JAMES BEEBE,		<i>Dr.</i>
		£. s. p.
To making pair of drawers for Lewis,		3.0
“ one day myself,		2.9
“ making a pair of overhalls for Obid,		3.0
“ One sack of salt,		13.9
June ye 6th. 1794, weaving 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ yds at 8 p. pr. yd.		9. “

Obid for whom the overhalls were made was Mr. Beebe's slave, and Lewis was a son of Mr. Beebe, who was baptized David Lewis, according to his father's record “the first Sabbath in March 1763, born Jan. 16th,” as the



account of Mr. Salmon shows, he must have been commonly known as Lewis and not by his first name David. This was undoubtedly to avoid confusion of names. Mr. Beebe had a brother David as is shown in a note made on the North Stratford records whom I identify to be the same person as Dr. David Beebe with whom I find an account on the Day Book of Daniel Salmon. Mr. Beebe was chaplain in the army during a portion of the French and Indian war. On the record of births and baptisms in the year 1759, he records the fact on Nov. 9th, that "from 5th of May in this place were baptized while I was absent in the army and recorded by my brother David," and on a line or two below, he enters the birth and baptism of his daughter Sarah and adds "baptized by Rev. Mr. Ingersol of Ridgefield, her father being absent in the army at Ticonderoga."

A sermon which Mr. Beebe delivered about this time to soldiers who were about to set forth to the French and Indian war has been preserved by his descendants and was kindly loaned to the writer of this sketch through the kindness of the venerable mother of Col. H. B. Carrington, who is a grand daughter of the Rev. James Beebe.

The whole address is one of masterly skill, and one which could not but inspire his audience with redoubled zeal for the enterprise and patriotism for the cause. Not only a complete knowledge of what should constitute a good soldier must have guided Mr. Beebe's pen, but also he felt the responsibility of giving them the fervent christian zeal, of a warfare carried on by christian warriors. He takes his text from 1 Chron. 19-13, "Be of good courage and let us behave valiantly for our people and for the cities of God and let the Lord do that which is good in his sight." In showing that through sin war is a necessary evil he says, "had not sin drawn the sword of divine justice, men would never have drawn the sword against one another. There would have been no armies to confront or guard against, no passes to ford, no sieges to raise, no garrisons to storm, but unblemished innocency would have possessed mankind in perfect unity. The necessity therefore of this order of men is consequent upon this apos-





tacy and now they are absolutely necessary. Indeed they would not be so necessary if the principles of christianity were fully received and universally embraced and acted upon throughout the world, for peace is one of the blessings which the gospel actually tends to introduce among men. The religion of our Holy Jesus is wonderfully calculated to inspire men with the most sincere love and tenderness to each other. The principles of that blessed religion tend mightily to remove the causes of discord, war and contention, by checking those very lusts that draw the sword.

And from whence come wars and fightings among you' saith the Apost'e James, 'come they not hence even of your own lusts which war in your members?' and were the blessed rules of our holy religion enforced, it would expell those lusts, it would root out and kill the ambitious of aspiring monarchs. It would strike death to that hellish pride to which whole kingdoms have fallen as devoted nations." He teaches in a most forcible way the necessity for valor and courage, not alone for the battle but says "you will be called to long and tedious marches, burdened with the necessary weapons of defence and here you may be exposed to hunger and thirst, to heat and cold, and a thousand casualties and dangers which you will not be able to foresee, nor I able to forename and these may bring on aches and pains, sickness and weakness and even death itself, in all which circumstances you will have occasion for this valor and courage and for want of it, the least disorder in body may prove fatal. For as soon as a man's spirit sinks he becomes an easy prey to the gentlest fever and the most subtle disease alike. I don't tell you these things to terrify you or try your courage, but only to forewarn you of what may be, that you may fortify yourselves against the worst. Mr. Beebe did not picture downy beds of ease, nor did he by subtle rhetoric, coax boys into the battle field. No, in forming his soldiers he struck blows as would the sturdy blacksmith when he turned the plowshares and pruning hooks into implements of war, and as firm as the iron of the plowshare must have been the material that composed Mr. Beebe's audience or else they would



have quailed under the force of his words, and the vivid picture of the horrors of war which he draws. "And now the artillery begins to play, the cannon belching forth not only fire and smoke, but the massive ball and showers of fatal lead and those mingled with the horrid screeches of your foes, the hallooing of your heathenish enemies and wild savages, more blood thirsty than the hell hounds of Proserpena and Pluto, and all mingled with the sobs of the dying and groans of the wounded ready to die, and when you see that verified, which was prophesied by the evangelical prophet Isaiah, 9-5, 'for every battle of the warrior is with confused noise and garments rolled in blood: but this shall be with burning and fuel of fire.' But it is impossible to point out this bloody scene and fully depict the horror that results from this confusion, unless I could speak flames and smoke and sulphur. The howling of savages, the screaming of the dying—the rattling of the spears, the mangled bodies, the streams of blood and the horrors of death itself with words and syllables! and now in the midst of this horrible scene, who will not now need valor and courage? Who but the truly spiritual soldier will be able to bear up under all the hardships of this warm and affecting service with an unbroken and steady mind, however pressing may be the cause of God and his people. Who but the man of courage in this scene will be able to say with the good Nehemiah, 6-11, 'shall such a man as I flee? Nothing can be expected of soldiers who are destitute of this valor, but that they will betray the cause of God and their country in which they are engaged and bring a lasting reproach and infamy upon their own names.'" Mr. Beebe tells them to exercise this courage and valor in putting down "the shameful vices of the camps, swearing, debauchery, and the accompanying profanation of the name of God, His titles and attributes." He tells them to beware of idleness, for "by sloth the vigor of the soul is abated, and all the noble purposes of it dampened or destroyed." Again he says, "soldiers you should guard against slothfulness for it not only makes a man sick of himself but breeds a plague in the camp." Neat camps are always the healthiest and their



men are men of the best spirits and boldest courage." He finishes by admonishing the assembled people against doing anything that will tend to weaken the courage of the soldiers.

Thus do we see, how in those "times that tried men's souls" did the pastor throw on the garments of war, and like the druids of old, incite the warriors to go forth with courage and valor. As we picture that band of soldiers, surrounded by wives, mothers and children, all listening with singular eagerness and perchance with fear and trembling to the sincere words of that devout servant of God, listening as I fear few congregations of to day are taught to listen, can we not conceive that then was the planting time for those seeds of courage and valor which a few years later, yielded such a harvest that it carried a poorly clad and fed body of men through a Revolution which severed the American colonies from the most powerful nation of the earth.

The manuscript of the Rev. N. T. Merwin present pastor of the same society shows Mr. Beebe to have been in the Revolutionary war, he says "Mr. Beebe lived in the Revolutionary period and was a zealous patriot of the times. He preached the right of revolution against the mother country and went personally into the conflict. In the year 1776, asking leave of absence from his people for three months: he was gone eight months in service in the army. The church shared with the pastor the same spirit. They hire Rev. Joseph Barker, to supply the pulpit and the parish pay the expenses. A tribute to the patriotism of the parish is seen in the treatment of their soldiers who served in the Revolutionary war. A manuscript document by Stephen Middlebrook dated 1778, now in possession of L. N. Middlebrook, of Bridgeport, narrates a contribution from the 'Parish of North Stratford to the Continental soldiers of that parish, to Gen'l Washington's headquarters at Valley Forge.' This contribution consisted of money and provisions, the receipt of which is signed by Dr. James Beebe, captain." This James Beebe was a son of the Pastor and was an active officer during the war of the Revolution.

It is nearly impossible for us living as it might be truly



said in a cosmopolitan age, to picture the life of our ancestors as they lived One Hundred or One Hundred and Fifty years ago, when their wanderings seldom if ever, took them out of the limits of the sound of a church bell of to-day. They were a people entirely local in their habits, having customs and notions of their own, which were handed down from one generation to another, as were the rules by which society was governed. They rode on horseback to meeting taking their wives and small children on the pillion of their saddle. They went to mill in the same way carrying their bag of grist behind. The "meeting house" was not heated even in the coldest weather, but the old ladies and feeble took with them a foot stove, made of tin, in which was placed some burning wood coals, to place under their feet while the hour and a half sermon was preached. Fires were kindled not with matches but with the flint, steel and tinder, or often might be seen the thrifty house wife hurrying from the house of the next neighbor with a pan of burning coals, having been "after fire."

The church government in most matters was their local government, offenders were brought before the church, and the difficulties settled by vote of the church. "At a church meeting duly warned and held by adjournment on the 7th of September 1797. Whereas unhappy disputes had for a long time subsisted between two brothers of this church respecting the bounds of their land, viz.: David Nichols and John Burton, and particularly respecting some corn that said Burton took off from land improved there by sd Nichols in order to bring on a trial at law on account of which the sd Nichols thought himself aggrieved, and as the sd Burton declared himself willing to return the corn, it was voted by the church, as their opinion that the sd Burton ought in justice to return the sd corn or the value thereof to the sd Nichols. After the vote was taken and passed, both parties publicly declared their acquiescence in sd vote.

Mr. Beebe was a graduate of Yale College of the class of 1745. The following remarkable coincidence was related to the writer by Col. Henry Beebe Carrington, author of the "Battles of the Revolution:": James Beebe and Daniel Brins-





made, were both graduates of the class of 1745, at Yale. They were intimate friends and roomed together during their college course. Just one hundred years later, James Beebe Brinsmade and Henry Beebe Carrington, were members of the class of 1845 at Yale and chummed together. They are both great-grandchildren of James Beebe and Daniel Brinsmade. Mary, daughter of Rev. James Beebe, married Daniel Brinsmade May 9th, 1777.

Two years after coming to North Stratford Mr. Beebe married Mrs. Ruth Curtis of Stratford. They had seven children as follows:

Elizabeth, born March 17th, 1750, bap. by her father.

“ died Dec. 19th, 1754.

James, born Nov. 29th, 1751, bap. by his father.

Mary, “ Jan. 28th, 1755, “ “ her “

Elizabeth, “ July 19th, 1756, “ “ “ “

Ruth Anne “ Jan. 27th, 1758, “ “ “ “

Sarah, “ July 28th, 1759, “ “ Rev. Mr. Ingersol.

David Lewis, born Jan. 16, 1763, “ “ his father.

Mr. Beebe died at North Stratford, Sept. 8th, 1785, and his remains were buried in the little “burying ground” near where the church of Unity stood, near the foot of White Plains street. His wife died July 29th, 1818, at the advanced age of 95 years. Her grave is beside that of her husband. At a meeting of the North Stratford Society held in April 1794, it was “voted that the society’s committee procure a pair of grave stones for the Rev’d Mr. James Beebe and set them up.” At the head of the grave is a tablet with the following inscription, “This monument was erected by the church and Society of North Stratford, out of regard to the memory of Rev. James Beebe, A. M., who departed this life, September 8th, 1785, in the 68th year of his age. He was ordained to the work of the ministry over said church and society May 6th, 1747, and continued therein faithful as a pastor for thirty-eight years.”

The writer has labored to avoid the monotony in the chronicle of the life of the Rev. James Beebe, which must have existed in his every-day life, replete as it was with the duties



of his ever active parish work. "How often we fancy in passing a quiet village hidden among its orchards, that this at least must be the abode of peace and unambitious contentment. But alas, when we enter the cottages what do we find?—there, as everywhere else, distress and need, passion and unsatisfied longing, fear and remorse, pain and misery, and by the side of these, Ah, how few joys." I cannot but feel the application of this sentiment to Mr. Beebe's life.

We find by his long parish record almost a daily event recorded of a baptism or of a marriage. Of how many open graves he stood beside, as he committed "earth to earth and dust to dust" we know not, for it did not seem to be the custom to record those events of mortality, but we do know with a dreadful certainty that it must have been many. All this shows that he was unceasingly at his post of duty, and save the few months spent in the army (when he was absent because he was conscious of a stronger call of duty) or an occasional exchange with a neighboring minister he was ever toiling at his work as pastor. His whole life's work was spent in his charge over the North Stratford Society. As the life of a nation seems to be marked in stages of war beginning or ending with days of peace or quietude, leaving the intervening history of blissful days of peace to be told as that of one day, so are the days of the thirty-eight years of this faithful servant of God numbered almost as one unchanging, long day of struggle in his work for the good of his people.



## REVOLUTIONARY INCIDENT

READ BEFORE THE

### FAIRFIELD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

BY FAVOR OF MRS. EDWIN R. IVES,

A lineal descendant of Capt. Joseph Mansfield.

### THE FATAL SILVER BULLET.

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In the summer and autumn of 1777 while Sir Wm. Howe with a fleet and part of the royal army was lying at New York, General Burgoyne with his army was advancing from Canada towards Albany.

The object and design of the enemy was to possess themselves of Lake Champlain, with the whole of the Hudson, and thereby to cut off all intercourse and communication between the Eastern and Southern states. For the purpose of watching the motions and annoying the operations of the hostile armies. General Washington had directed small bodies of troops to be stationed at Fishkill, Redhook, Greenbush, and several other places on the East side of the river between New York and Albany, with strict orders to take up and examine all strangers traveling up and down the river,—either by land or water; and if detected in espionage, or employed in communicating information between the British armies, to be punished according to the rules of war.

About the first of September, a pedestrian passing northwardly, was hailed and stopped by a sentinel of the guard stationed at Redhook, commanded by Capt. Joseph Mansfield of Connecticut. The man was about thirty years of age, and clothed in the habit of a farmer. He was conducted to the guard-house. Capt. M., inquired of him his name,—the place of his residence, as well as that to which he was going, his business there, &c. He replied by giving a name and stated that he belonged to the place below Redhook, and was a farmer; that he was on his way to the next town above with a view to purchase a pair of oxen from a farmer of his ac



quaintance living there. He was asked whether he had about him any letter or other communication from Lord Howe, or any other British officer at New York, addressed to Gen. Burgoyne, or any officer in his army? To which he promptly answered in the negative. Capt. M., then told him that such were the orders of his superior officer, that it became his duty to search the person of every traveler under similar circumstances: to which he replied, he had no objection to being searched. Capt. M., then directed two or three of the guard to take off his coat and examine the pockets, folds, lining and every other part very critically. While this was doing, one of the guards observed the prisoner to pass his hand with a quick motion from his vest pocket to his mouth, and by the motion of his chin seemed to be swallowing something that "went down rather hard," as he expressed himself. The search, however, continued and was finished, without any discovery which would justify the further detention of the prisoner. Capt. M., was then informed of the suspicious circumstance noticed by the guard.

What was now to be done? Strong suspicion had attached itself to the stranger, but no positive proof had yet appeared against him. An expedient soon suggested itself to the ready thoughts of our Yankee Captain. He observed to the prisoner, "we have detained you on your journey for some length of time, and subjected you to pretty strict examination. I feel bound by the rules of civility to treat you to a bowl of toddy before you proceed on, and if you will drink with us you shall be made welcome." The man was pleased with the invitation and readily agreed to accept it. The Captain took upon himself the office of bar-keeper, and soon prepared the toddy. To make it genuine and answer the purpose for which he wanted it, he stirred in a good and sufficient dose of tartar emetic. Our stranger being thirsty and somewhat fatigued by traveling, drank very freely of the beverage, while the Captain and others present barely tasted and passed it around.

A free conversation soon commenced between the stranger and his new acquaintances. He inquired of Capt. M., the





number of men under his command and at the different military stations above Redhook, whether they were furnished with field pieces or any kind of cannon—what number of sentinels were placed on the watch at a time—how often,—and at what time in the night they relieved, &c., &c. About twelve or fifteen minutes after the toddy went round and went down, our guest began to grow pale and look wild,—“something,” said he “is the matter with me; I feel very sick at my stomach all at once.” He rose immediately from his seat and went out into the wood-yard, where a quantity of chips were lying, and soon began to evacuate his stomach. He was carefully watched by Capt. M., and several of the guard, and was seen by them to draw with his foot a parcel of the chips over the matter emitted from his stomach before he returned into the house. While he was rinsing his mouth in the house, Capt. M., directed a search to be made among the chips, where was soon found a silver ball of the size of a small musket bullet, made by two pieces of very thinly plated silver, bent round, and slightly soldered together. Inclosed in this fatal bullet, was found a letter on silk paper, signed by Lord Howe,—addressed to Gen. Burgoyne, giving information respecting the situation of the royal fleet and army at New York, and requesting advice from the General by the bearer, what progress he was making with the army under his command, at which place he expected to meet him. But the deciphering and reading the letter presented at first another puzzle for the Yankee Captain. It commenced “in the words and figures following,” (viz.) “M6 d21r S3r b6 th2 b21r2r y45 w311 l21rn,” &c. After a little examination and study, however, the difficulty was overcome. It was discovered that the arithmetical figures up to 6 inclusive, were substituted for our vowels, thus a1, e2, i3, o4, u5, y6. The key being now found immediately unlocked the whole contents of the silver bullet. The bearer of course was continued in custody, and a court martial speedily formed, by whom on the clearest evidence of guilt, the unfortunate prisoner was convicted, sentenced, and executed.

Captain Joseph Mansfield, (the hero of the foregoing in-



cident,) was for thirty years a resident of the town of Litchfield, parish of South Farms, and died here in 1822. He is spoken of by our elder citizens, as a true patriot, a prompt and efficient officer, and a most worthy citizen. He made many sacrifices for his country in the days of her peril, and lived to see her independent, prosperous and great. His name is worthy of being remembered among those who have done honor to our State, and as one whose history is linked with that of the nation for the welfare and glory of which he periled his life and sacrificed his estate.

—*Editor Litchfield Enquirer.*  
March 18th 1852.

## MARY SILLIMAN CHAPTER,

### DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

If, among the citizens of Bridgeport there are any who are inclined to forget the part taken by ancestors, in the great struggle for independence, who would think carelessly of the hardships endured by the heroic men and women who "made and kept" our country, and of the inestimable benefits that broaden and deepen with each succeeding year, the result of their efforts and sacrifices: a visit to the Historical rooms on an afternoon when the Mary Silliman Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution are in session, would certainly do much towards kindling to flame the smoldering fires of patriotism. The dullest soul would feel the influence, and the coldest heart would pulsate with the pride in a nation's glory that is at once its "foundation and turret," while listening to the songs and recitations, the original poems and the carefully prepared papers that tell so well the stirring story. Although organized in the Board of Trade rooms, the Chapter has held all its eleven meetings since, by courtesy of the Historical Society in its pleasant rooms; and grateful indeed, are all its members for the privilege so kindly extended. Surely not in the County, and perhaps not in the whole State could a more fitting place be found; easy of access, light and airy, with



abundant room for the steadily increasing numbers, and with convenient facilities for the social functions that have added such a charm to the gatherings, it is a source of continual congratulation that such delightful quarters have been provided. Surrounded on all sides by rare and curious relics,—china from which great-grand mothers sipped their tea; articles of furniture that once graced colonial homes; spinning wheels that in ye olden time hummed encouraging accompaniments to the day-dreams of matron and maid; guns, swords, and all warlike accoutrements that played a part in the long conflict; implements for farm and household, the workings of which would require explanation to be understood, quaint costumes and bullet pierced garments; continental money of various denominations; commissions, deeds and other valuable papers; old engravings and books and portraits, in the presence of which, one would almost think he had stepped back a century; what more could be desired to inspire enthusiasm?

To guard well these precious relics gathered from all parts of the State, and to learn well the lessons they would teach; to add to them when opportunity offers: to encourage every movement that would increase resources, as well as to keep in touch with the principle that governed our ancestors—in all these points, every one of the one hundred members of the of the Mary Silliman Chapter is at one with the honored President and other officers of the Historical Society, who have labored so faithfully to establish upon a firm basis an institution so far reaching in its interest to the community and who have so generously given to the young society a temporary home in their beautiful building.



A COMPLETE COPY

OF THE

INSCRIPTIONS

FOUND ON THE

Monuments, Headstones, &c.

In the Oldest Cemetery.

IN

NORWALK, CONN.

---

SEPTEMBER, 1892.

Dedicated to the Memory of Norwalk's First Ancestors

BY

DAVID H. VAN HOOSEAR,

WILTON, CONN.

(P. O. HURLBUTT STREET, CONN.)

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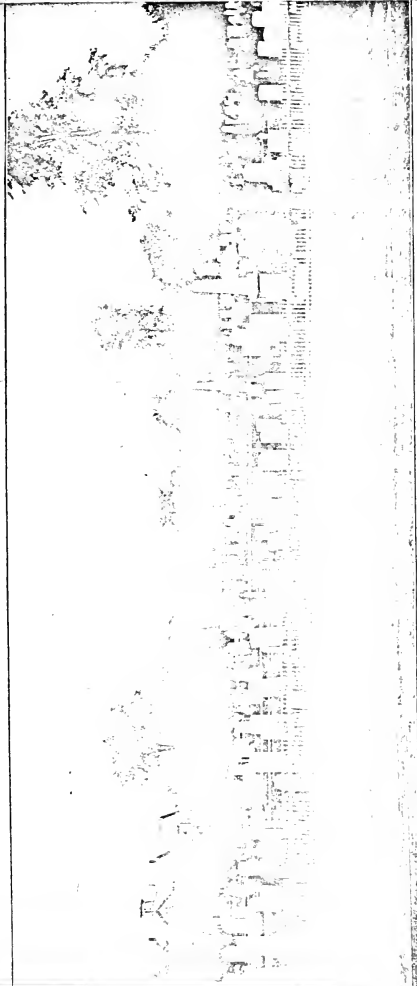
BRIDGEPORT, CONN.:

THE STANDARD ASSOCIATION, PRINTERS.

1895.







A VIEW OF EAST NORWALK CEMETERY AS SEEN FROM THE EAST ENTRANCE  
DOOR OF THE M. E. CHURCH IN THAT PLACE.



THE Cemetery from which this copy was taken is situated at East Norwalk in the old village where the first settlement was made, Home lots laid out, and a few rods South-east of the site of the first Church, which was on the North corner of East Avenue and Fort Point Road. The Cemetery is triangular in shape, bounded on all sides by highways and enclosed by a picket fence. There are many graves seen which are unmarked by Headstones, and very many more of the early ancestors remains were deposited in this burial place, of which no mark or tradition is left. Here rests one of our Colonial Governors, (Gov. Thomas Fitch) No. 230. Probably the first minister Rev. Thomas Hanford is buried here, (tradition says near the headstone of his son Thomas,) where is seen a "flat Brown stone" the inscription is wholly obliterated. The 2d minister Rev. Stephen Buckingham, (No. 209) and 3d minister Rev. Moses Dickenson (No. 234) a tutor of Yale college. Buckingham St. John (No. 20), a son of the 1st Pastor, Rev. Jedeiah Buckingham. Two deacons; one of 1st church.

Five militia Capt., one militia Col., a Rev. Soldier, a Col., two Capt., and seven soldiers in late war who have inscribed stones, a Master of Arts, M. D., an eminent Dentist, and many whose title has never been chiseled on the stone marking their grave.

The yard contains but one vault; (The Raymond.) In summer the flowers placed in this cemetery by descendents of deceased friends show that the memory of the dead here are not forgotten. It is well cared for. May this interest continue, and the forefathers be allowed to rest and remain where they are. The object of the undertaking is to preserve definite memory of these early ancestors of Norwalk.

"He is a public benefactor who gathers together from the crumbling monuments and preserves in printed form the memorials erected by their cotemporaries over the early fathers of the country."

[N. L. Coilamer, Wash. D. C.]

The reader may say where are *our* Earliest Ancestors? To this the answer must be within the above enclosure. It is true over fifty years had passed after the settlement of the town before the first inscribed headstone appears, yet we have no record yet found, no tradition still kept or known of, or evidence of the existence of any other. This was for the first church in the heart of the ancient settlement. Imported stones were costly, and in a few Graveyards, stones from the field were selected, with the initials and year of death roughly chiseled upon them. A number appear in Stratfield Cemetery (now Bridgeport, Conn.) before 1700, the earliest 1688 and one in Fairfield 1687. No well inscribed stone appear in either of these before 1700. From the above facts we are led to believe this is the first cemetery in Norwalk.

Each Stone is given a number commencing on the South side, and is copied in six sections between parallel lines from East to West so the small numbers are stones on the south part of the yard and so northward.



# THE INSCRIPTIONS

IN THE

## Cemetery at Norwalk, Conn.

As Copied in September, 1892, by David H. Van Hoosear, Wilton  
Conn.

**1—Samuel W. Potter,**

Died June 15, 1869, .Æ. 80 y'rs  
8 mo's & 7 days. Also, Sarah  
B. wife of Samuel W. Potter,  
Died April 1, 1894, .Æ. 76 y'rs  
& 12 days.

Father.

**2—Charles Dennis,**

Born July 6, 1829. Died April  
14, 1888. At Rest.

In Memory of

**3—Wm. St. John.**

Who died July, 1805, .Æ. 42  
years.

In Memory of

**4—Hannah, [St. John]**

Relict of Wm. St. John, who  
died Nov. 21, 1810, .Æ. 50 yrs.

**5—James Andrew,**

Died March 9, 1871, .Æ. 66 y'rs  
3 mo's & 19 days. Elizabeth, his  
wife, died Feb. 1, 1888, .Æ. 76  
y'rs & 5 mo's.

Mother.

**6—Elizabeth, [Silcox]**

Wife of William Silcox. Died  
March 7, 1890, .Æ. 47 y'rs 4  
days.

A light from our household is gone,  
A voice we loved is stilled,  
A place is vacant in our hearts  
That can never be filled.

**7—Delia, [St. John Thorp]**

Daughter of William and Han-  
nah St. John, and wife of David  
B. Thorp; died June 11, 1815,  
aged 50 years, 6 months and 17  
days.

In Memory of

**8—Maria P. St. John.**

Born May 18, 1794, Died De-  
cember 9, 1873.

Here Lies Interred the Body of

**9—William St. John, A. M.**

Who departed this life Feb'y  
1st, 1890, in the 56th year of his  
age.

Tremendous death, how awful is thy sway,  
Thy dreadful Summons Mortals must obey;  
In time of sacred ardor, seek the heavenly  
shore

Where joys forever bloom, and death shall be  
no more.

**10—David Burr Thorp.**

Born March 6, 1794. Died  
March 16, 1857, aged 63 years  
and 10 days.

**11—Our Little Zaydee Thorp.**

In Memory of

**12—Matthew C. St. John.**

Born March 16, 1792. Died May  
9, 1856.

In memory of

**13—Mary Esther St. John.**

Who died April 15, 1850, .Æ.  
97 y'rs. 5 mo's. & 2 d's.

"Thou shalt come to thy grave in a full  
age, like a shock of corn cometh in  
his season."

[Brownstone.]

In Memory of

**14—Mrs. Ann St. John.**

Wife of Col. Stephen St. John,  
who departed this life April 28th,  
1797, in her 64th year.



**15—Morris Jennings.**

Died Nov. 8, 1882, *A.* 58 yrs. 9 mo. and 9 d's.

Here lies interr'd the body of

**16—Mr. Hooker St. John.**

Who departed this life March the 10th, 1782, in the 40th year of his age.

All you who pass by may drop a tear  
O'er one who was as now you are.  
But now he's gone and paid ye debt  
The lot of all both small and great.

In Memory of

**17—Ellen St. John.**

Who died Oct. 27, 1849, *A.* 19 y'rs. Coloured.

**18—Edward F. Jennings.**

Died Aug. 10, 1885, *A.* 36 y'rs, 9 mos, and 9 Ds. At Rest.

[Marble Tablet.]

—d the body of

**19—Stephen St. John, Esq.,**

and —of the 9th Regt. of Foot —he State of Connecticut who departed this — May the 9th 1785, in the 50th year of his age.

Hark from the tombs a doleful sou—  
—and the cry  
—view the ground  
—must shortly lie.

The Grave of

**20—Buckingham St. John.**

A. B., late Tutor of Yale College in New Haven who was drowned in returning home on the 4th of May, 1771 in the 26th year of his age.

A youth adorned with strong mental endowments, cultivated with polite and usefull literature, but a sudden gust plung'd him in the sea Blast'd our horse and left his friends his country and science to bewail the Loss; And learn the Vanity of depending on fleeting dust.

[Slate.]

Here Lyes Buried ye Body of

**21—Mr. Mathias Saint John.**

Aged 37 years. Dec'd 1732

[Capt. Joseph St. John, s. of Joseph and Sarah B. (s) St. John and "probably" grandson of Mark Senton was born Nov. 5th, 1705, married Susannah — who was born 1709, d. Dec. 4, 1749, aged 40

yrs. 2 mo., and buried near Joseph's Tomb Table. Her inscription reads "Ye wife of Capt. Joseph St. John." He died 8 p. (probably) 1756 or 1760 aged 53 or 57 yrs. His residence was where now lives Wm. H. Earle, East nearly opposite the Governor Fitch, 1901. He was a rich man and large land holder, and after his death there was erected to his memory a brownstone Tomb Table similar to the Governor Fitch. Beyond the memory of the surviving the entire inscribed slate which was placed in the top of this table, was missing, and various traditions and rumors have been handed down of the cause of its removal, which abouts and disappearance. The author has thoroughly traced these to establish for whose memory this table was erected. At last he has in his hands a part of the original slate which was found while excavating a blind drain on the Wm. H. Earle's place, 1885. The St. John coat of arms is a shield, and the upper third has two stars and the motto is "Data Fata Secutus." The coat of arms engraved on the broken slate (which exactly fits in the socket for it in the tomb table bears a part of this motto ("Data Fata —") the "Secutus" being broken off. A large portion of the shield is seen. What remains to be seen of the inscription is as follows:]

The Rem—  
CAPT. JOSEPH—  
his here writ—  
Re-urrection of 8—  
He departed SEPT.—  
Aet. 5—

Hark mortals Hark what vol—  
Cones' closing thro—  
O my dear friends be wise  
While vital spirits animat—"

Here lies the body of

**22—Mrs. Susannah St. John.**

ye wife of Capt. Joseph St. John, who died December ye 4, 1749, aged 40 years and 2 months.

She that lies at rest within this tomb  
Ead by her face and Leah's fruitful womb,  
Abigail's wisdom, Lydia's faithfull heart  
With Martha's care we hope Mary's better part.

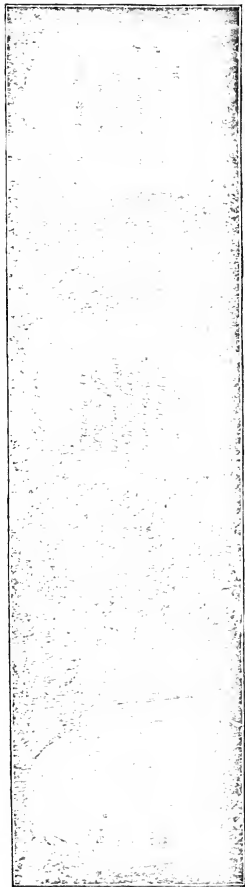
[Slate.]

**23—Sarah Saint John.**

Da't to Mr. Joseph & Mrs. Susannah Saint John, aged 7 years 4 mo & 12 Ds. Died April 18, 1741







(See Description Nos. 25, 26 and 27.)



[Slate.]

Here lies Buried the Body of

**24—Mrs. Sarah St. John,**

Wife of Mr. Joseph St. John,  
who departed this life Aug<sup>t</sup>  
26th 1755 in the 90th year of her  
age.

[Slate.]

Here lyes Buried the Body of

**25—Mr. Nehemiah Rogers,**

Who departed this life May ye  
30th, 1760, aged 42 years and 12  
days.

[Slate.]

Here lyes Buried the Body of

**26—James Rogers, Esq.,**

Aged 58 years & 5 mo. De'd,  
July ye 18th, 1733.

[Brownstone.]

Here lies the Body of

**27—Mrs. Frecklore Rogers,**

Relict to Capt. James Rogers  
Esqr, who died Jan'y ye 26th,  
1739, in ye 46th year of her age.

**28—Our Little Eddie,**

Died Feb. 18, 1873,  $\text{Æ}$  1 yr. 7  
m's 8 da.

[Slate.]

Here lyes ye Body of

**29—Sarah Saint John,**

Daut to Joseph Saint John, aged  
24 years. Dec'd Decr ye 23d 17--

In memory of

**29a—Job Bartram, Esq.,**

Who died July 13, 1813,  $\text{Æ}$  78.

—+—

**29b—Jane Bartram,**

+

Died Oct. 1, 1847,  $\text{Æ}$  33.

**29c—Henry S. [Bartram,]**

Born Feb. 5, 17, 1867.

**Jennie G.,**

Born Oct. 10 1837. Died Dec.  
14, 1875. Children of Charles  
J. and Elizabeth G. Bartram.

**30—Arthur R. [Underhill,]**

Son of Charles H. & Alice E.  
Underhill. Died Aug. 28, 1882,  
 $\text{Æ}$  21 y'rs & 20 days.  
He died trusting in Jesus.

In memory of

**31—Mr. Isaac Scudder,**

Who died March 5th, 1784, aged  
78 years.

[Slate.]

**32—Ruth,**

—N—O—DS—7.

[Brownstone.]

Here lies buried the Body of

**33—Mr. Samuel Gramman,**

Who departed this life Aug. ye  
21st, 1747, aged 53 years.

In memory of

**34—Mrs. Elizabeth Scudder,**

Relict of Mr. Isaac Scudder,  
who died Aug. 21, 1798, aged  
93 years.

Here lies ye Body of

**35—Mrs. Sarah Scuder,**

Wife to Mr. Isaac Scuder, aged  
30 yrs., 8 ms., 11 dayes, Dec'd.

[Brownstone.]

In memory of

**36—Rebeckah Gramman,**

Wife of Samuel Gramman, who  
died May 24th, 1790, in the 94th  
year.

**37—Clara Christerisen,**

Died March 9, 1892,  $\text{Æ}$  23 y'rs,  
7 mo's & 11 days.

**38—Baby Helene E. [Madden,]**

Daughter of Fred. H. and Susie  
Madden, born Dec. 22, 1890,  
died June 13, 1891.

[Brownstone.]

Here lies Buried the Body of

**39—Mrs. Lois Carter,**

Relict of Mr. Sam'l Carter, who  
died January ye 12, 1752, in ye  
82d year of her Age.



**40—Betsey Marvin,**

Widow of Allen Betts, died Jan.  
29, 1882, .Æ. 10 Yrs., 3 mo's &  
19 Days.

Here lies Buried the Body of

**41—Mr. John Gregory,**

Dec'd January ye 18, 1751, in ye  
75th year of his age.  
[Brownstone.]

**42—Seth Marvin,**

Died July 6, 1836, .Æ. 85 y'rs  
& 6 mo.

**Hannah,**

His wife, died Dec. 12, 1846,  
.Æ. 85 y'rs & 4 mos.

**43—Eliza Ann [Gay],**

Wife of Wm. Gay, died Mar  
25, 1835, .Æ. 29 y'rs, 3 mo. &  
11 d's.

He loved him because he first loved us.  
—John, 11, 19.

**44—Lucretia,**

Wife of Wm. Gay, died May  
26, 1852, .Æ. 52 y'rs & 14 d's.

But I trusted in thee, O Lord, I said,  
Thou art my God.—Ps., 31, 14.

**45—William Gay,**

Died March 4, 1864, .Æ. 62 y'rs,  
3 mo's & 1 Day.

[Brownstone.]

In memory of

**46—Seth [Smith,]**

Son of Hutton & Phebe Smith,  
who died of the Small Pox,  
Feb. 22, 1799, in the 14th year  
of his age.

**47—Isabell E. [Richards,]**

Wife of Frank H. Richards,  
died Dec. 9, 1879, .Æ. 25 y'rs, 7  
mo & 29 days.

[Brownstone.]

In memory of

**48—Sally [Smith,]**

Daughter of Hutton & Phebe  
Smith, who died of the Small  
Pox, March 24, 1799, in the 17th  
year of her age.

**49—James H. Brush,**

Died May 20, 1884, aged 33 y'rs,  
4 mo's & 14 Days.

—O:—

We shall meet beyond the river.

In memory of

**50—John E. King,**

A Mechanical Engineer, Died  
Sept. 19, 1881, .Æ. 35 y'rs.

**51—Henry Marvin,**

Died June 18, 1882, .Æ. 84 yrs,  
2 mo's & 15 Days.

"Who shall separate us from the love  
of Christ?"

**52—Harry [Youngs,]**

Son of Washington & Susie  
Youngs, died Dec. 2, 1881, .Æ.  
2 yrs., 10 mo's & 29 days. —  
Of such is the Kingdom of Heaven.

In memory of

**53—Phebe [Smith,]**

Wife of Hutton Smith, who  
died June 4, 1836, .Æ. 72 years.  
How in an instant she is called,  
Eternity to view;  
No time to regulate her thought,  
Nor bid her friends adieu.

**54—Phebe E. [Marvin,]**

Wife of Henry Marvin, died  
Jan. 1, 1892, .Æ. 89 y'rs, 2 mo's  
& 1 Day.  
The last enemy that shall be destroyed  
is death.

**55—Theresa J. [Marvin,]**

Daughter of Henry & Phebe  
E. Marvin, died April 24, 1845,  
.Æ. 2 years & 10 Days.

**56—Charles F. [Lockwood,]**

Died Feb. 20, 1871, .Æ. 6 mo's  
& 10 D's.

**Stephen A.**

Died Mar. 9, 1872, .Æ. 2 mo &  
10 D's, children of C. M. &  
M. F. Lockwood.

These lovely ones, so young and fair,  
Call'd home by earthly doom,  
Just came to show how sweet flowers  
In paradise would bloom.

**57—Mattie [Goodwin,]**

Daughter of William & Ann  
Goodwin, born Mar. 4, 1873,  
died Mar. 16, 1879.

She sleeps in Jesus.



In memory of  
**58—Hannah [Smith.]**  
 Wife of Founten Smith, who  
 died Aug. 8, 1824, aged 93 years.

In memory of  
**59—Hannah [Smith.]**  
 Wife of James Smith, who  
 died Aug. 20, 1811, .E. 57.

**60—John Austin,**  
 Born Aug. 16, 1798, died Sept  
 4, 1872, aged 74 years & 18  
 Days.

**61—William Goodwin,**  
 Died Aug. 20, 1885, .E. 52 yrs.  
 5th N. Y. Heavy Art'l.

**Ann,**  
 Wife of William Goodwin, Died  
 Feb. 7, 1892, .E. 58 y'rs.

In memory of  
**62—James Smith,**  
 Who died June 17, 1813, .E. 57.

**63—Mary Austin,**  
 Wife of John Austin, died Aug.  
 5, 1882, aged 69 years.

"She hath done what she could."  
 —Mark, 14:8.

**64—Nehemiah Ganung, Jr.,**  
 Co. F, 1st N. Y. Eng.

**65—Aaron Cook,**  
 Died Nov. 19, 1873, aged 67  
 Y's. 6 m's & 18 Days.

A native of Lancaster, Mass.

[Slate.]

HERE lyes ye body of

**66—Mr. Eliphalet Lockwood,**  
 Jun'r, aged 28 years, 3  
 MONTHS & 21 Days, dec'd  
 October THE 17th, 1734.

[Brownstone ]  
**67—Mrs. Abigail Lockwood,**

**68—Jacob Wetzenstein,**  
 Co. C, 75 Reg't., N. Y. Vols  
 died March 22, 1888.

**69—Charles E. [Pitzer,]**  
 Our Darling is Sleeping.  
 Son of Gustave & Augustine  
 Pitzer, born Sept 3, 1881, died  
 May 23, 1885.

**70—Henry J. Brush,**  
 Born, Jan. 15, 1816, Died June  
 20, 1884.

**Vesta A.,**  
 His wife, born Aug. 12, 1820,  
 died Apr'l 25, 1886.

[Slate ]

**71—Ruth Belden,**  
 Daughr of Lieut T John and  
 Ruth Belden aged, 14, years  
 died Jan'ry ye 21st 1704-5.

[Slate.]

—yes ye body of

**72—Ruth INGOLDSY,**  
 Died March ye 30 1729, in ye  
 23d year of her age.

**73—Sarah F. [Allen,]**  
 wife of Frank Allen Died Feb.  
 5, 1886. .E. 50 yrs, 3 mos & 3  
 Ds.

At Rest.

[Brownstone ]

Here lies the body of

**74—Peter [Hayes,]**  
 Ye son of Isaac and Margaret  
 Hayes who died Nov'r ye 17,  
 1750 in ye 8 year of his age.

**75—Alfred G. Corson**  
 Died March 14, 1887, .E.—36 yrs  
 2 mos. & 15 Ds.

At Rest.

Corson.

[Brownstone ]

**76—Mr. Samuel Hayes,**

[There is no No. 77 ]

**78—Mary Mildred [Corson]**  
 Wife of Alfred D. Corson, Died  
 Dec. 10, 1883, .E. 55 yrs 1 mos  
 & 26 D's.

Asleep in Jesus.





**79—Freddie [Kuske]**

Died Nov. 2, 1874, age 9 mos. & 20 Ds.

**Charlie**

Died Feb. 26 1888, age 16 yrs. & 24 Ds. Children of John & Caroline Kuske.

Safe in the arms of Jesus.

[There is no No. 80.]

**81—Annie E. [Beers]**

Wife of Wm. H. Beers. Died Oct. 2, 1885.  $\text{Æ}$  26 yrs 5 mo's & 11 D's.

Safe in the arms of Jesus.

**82—Emeline [Merrills]**

Wife of Addison Merrills. Died Mar. 20 1882,  $\text{Æ}$  35 yrs, 8 mos. & 2) days.

Dearest mother than hast left us,  
And thy loss we deeply feel;  
But 'tis God who hast bereft us,  
He can all our sorrows heal.

[Brownstone.]

In memory of

**83—Deborah [Hanford.]**

Wife of Hezekiah Hanford, who died Sept. 15th, 1803, in the 78th year of her age.

[Hezekiah the son of No. 94 was buried in this cemetery; His head-stone was standing within the memory of some living—but it is now absent. He was buried next to his wife Deborah (No. 83) He married Deborah Hayt dau of Caleb Hayt Oct 7, 1745. He served in the Coast Guards during the Revolution. His children were:—

- I. Daniel, b. June 26, 1744 Died April 12, 1797 [See No. 86.]
- II. Deborah, b. Sep. 26, 1746
- III. Samuel, b. Jan 7, 1748 d. July —.
- IV. Hezekiah, b. July 24, 1753.
- V. Melitabile, b. Oct 7, 1755, d. July —.
- VI. Josiah, b. Dec 19, 1755, d. July. —.
- VII. Lydia, b. May 27, 1759.
- VIII. Elizabeth, b. Feb 27, 1762
- IX. Grace, b. Oct 5, 1765 d. Mar 28, 1840
- X. Susannah b. Oct 7, 1768.]

**84—Joseph P. Hanford,**

Died Aug 10, 1870, aged 88 years.

[Joseph Platt Hanford—(84) married 1st Charlotte St. John (See No. 85). Their children were:—

- I. Daniel, who d. Sept 25, 1837.
- Winfield Scott Hanford (85) son is buried in Union Cem. Norwalk. His dau. Mary, C. married Hon. L. A. Woodward of So. Norwalk. Their child Lottie

Hanford Woodward is the 8th generation inclusive, of Wm and Mary Haynes, [No 96] 5 generations of which are buried in this cemetery.

**II. Charles.****III. Winfield Scott.**

Joseph Platt Hanford 2nd married Phoebe Northrop dau of Seth Raymond of W. Barn. Ct. (See No. 84). Their children:

Joseph Platt Hanford b. March 8, 1818  
Joseph P. senior d. Aug 10, 1870.]

**85—Charlotte [Hanford]**

wife of Joseph P. Hanford,  
Died Feb. — 1816,  $\text{Æ}$  30 yrs.

[Before marriage her name was Charlotte St. John. Sister to Chas. who married Nancy Marvin dau of Matthew Jr.]

In memory of

**85½—Daniel Hanford,**

who died April 12th, 1797 in the 51st. year of his age.

**86—Susannah [Hanford]**

Relict of Daniel Hanford, Died March 10, 1836.  $\text{Æ}$  86 yrs.

[Daniel Hanford, m. Jan 9—1773 Susannah Platt dau. of Capt. Joseph Platt, she was born Jan. 4, 1753 d. Mar 12—1836. He was Capt. of Militia and served in the active service for 3 mos in the Revolution. His children were:—

- I. Edward, b. Mar 3, 1774.
- II. Andrew b. Aug. 18, 1775, d. Oct. 16, 1776.
- III. Joseph Platt, b. Aug 23, 1777, d. Sep. 18, 1778.
- IV. Andrew b. Dec. 9, 1779.
- V. Joseph Platt, b. April 17, 1782 (See No. 84).
- VI. D. by, b. April 19, 1784

[There is no No. 87.]

**88—Phoebe,**

Second wife of Joseph P. Hanford, Died May 26, 1860,  $\text{Æ}$  74 yrs.

**89—Elizabeth [Toby]**

wife of William T. Toby, Died Oct. 17, 1872, aged 47 years.

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.

**90—S. P. Ellwood**

Co. Capt. 28th. Conn. INF.

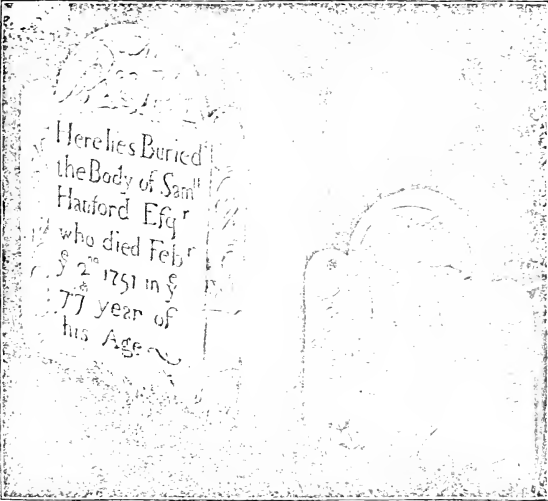
[Slate.]

HERE LIES YE BODY OF

**91—Mrs. Mary Haynes**

Wife to Mr. William Haynes aged 51 years. Died July ye 22d 1711.





Here lies Buried  
the Body of Sam<sup>l</sup>  
Hartford Esq<sup>r</sup>  
who died Feb<sup>r</sup>  
2<sup>o</sup> 1751 in  
77 year of  
his Age

(See Description No 94)



**92—Edwin Barnes**  
Co. F 17, Regt, Conn. Vols,  
Died Mar. 7, 1882.

[Brownstone]  
In memory of

**93—Deacon David Comstock**  
who died Nov'r. 19th, 1782 in the  
62d. year of his age.

[Brownstone]  
Here lies Buried the Body of

**94—Sam'l. Hanford Esqr**  
who died Febr. ye 2nd. 1751 in  
ye 77th year of his Age.

[Samuel Hanford was born April 5,  
1774 and d. Feb. 2d 1751. Married  
Isabel "Haynes," "Haynes," or  
"Hanes," &c. He was a Capt. of Militia,  
Justice of the Peace, &c.  
His children mentions in his will,

- I. Samuel, b. 1710, d. Mar 28, 1765.
- II. Thad-us.
- III. Haynes.
- IV. Elizabeth, b. 1722 d. May 2, 1812. Aged 90.  
[See his wife No 95.]
- V. William
- VI. Isabel Married Jonathan Hall of New  
Haven, died 1765.]

[There no No 95.]

[Slate]

Here Lies Buried the Body of

**96—Mr. William Hayes**  
aged 64 years. Died April ye  
2d. 1712.

[William Hayes 96, sail d fr m London Jan 8, 1685 on board the Betty,  
James May Captain. He made his  
will April 1st, 1712, which he bequeath-  
tions his daughter's 21<sup>st</sup> Feb. 1712  
John Burtlett, Isabel Burtlett, &  
Samuel Hunt 21, 24, and Mary  
Haynes who was 7, 10, 12, & 13  
last wife who died 1711. The Property  
to stand in the will was a  
val'd Nov 8, 1740. See his wife No  
95.]

[Brownstone.]

Here lies Buried the Body of

**97—Capt. Samuel Comstock**  
who Departed this life October  
the 26th. 1752 in the 73d. year of  
his age.

[Capt. Samuel Comstock also's name  
mentioned was a son in Law of Rev  
Thomas Hanford having married his  
youngest daughter Sarah Dec. 25,  
1705. She was born May 1677.]

**98—Sadie**  
Daughter of C. H. Hendrick

**99—Clarkie Hendrick**  
Son of C. H. Hendrick

[Brownstone.]

Here Lies the Body of

**100—Mrs Sarah Darrow**  
Wife of Mr John Darrow who  
died December 11, 1749 in the  
34th ye'r of her age

**101—Henrietta, D. Andrews**  
Born May 7th, 1833 Died Jan  
16th, 1886.

[Small Marble Monument.]

**101—Our Little Harry**  
Died Oct. 2, 1878, LE 6yrs 5  
mos. & 10 Days.  
The Lord giveth and hath taken.

**102—Willie Hendrick**  
Son of C. H. Hendrick

**103—Maria Davids**  
Born Aug. 21st, 1845, Died June  
8th, 1885.

[Slate.]

HERE Lies ye Body of

**104—Mary Warren**  
Wife of John Warren aged 75  
years. Departed This Life April  
ye 17th, 1729.

In memory of

**105—Sidney S. Kugler**  
Died Aug. 14, 1877, aged 20 yrs  
10 m's and 3 D's

[Brownstone.]

**106—Mrs Mary St John**  
the wife of — Mr James St John  
Died Oct'r 17th. 1749 in ye 56  
year of her age

[Brownstone.]

In memory of

**107—Polly Eversley**  
Daughter of John & Mary  
Eversley who died Sep'r 30, 1801  
aged 1 year & 8 mo.



In memory of  
**108—Daniel Eversley**  
 who died Sept. 23, 1825. Æ 85  
 years.

[Brownstone.]

Here lies the Body of

**109—Mrs Mercy Saint John**  
 Wife of Mr Moses Saint John  
 who died Nov'r ye 23<sup>d</sup>. 1748.  
 aged 37 years & 8 months

**110—Hannah. M. [Weed]**  
 Wife of Harvey S. Weed Died.  
 April 1, 1887, Æ, 62 yrs. 6 mos.  
 & 23 Ds.

Dear Mother at Rest

[Brownstone.]

In memory of

**111—John Eversley**  
 who died May 17th. 1798 in the  
 62<sup>d</sup>. year of his age.

In memory of

**112—Abigail Eversley.**  
 who died Oct. 9, 1821. Æ T,  
 84 years.

—:o:—

In memory of

**113—John Eversley.**  
 who died Feb. 22, 1836, in the  
 70, year of his age.

**114—Harriet A. [Camp]**  
 Wife of Rev Harvey Camp, Died  
 July 31, 1886.

[Stone fallen on ground.]

**115—John Eversley**  
 Died Aug. 26, 1818, Æ. 51 y's,  
 & 5 Ds.

—:o:—

[Brownstone.]

Here lies the Body of

**116—Mrs Deborah [Mead]**  
 the wife of Leut'n Nehemiah  
 Mead who died July ye 31. 1749  
 in ye 40th. year of her age

**117—Willis D. [Gregory]**  
 Son of George W. and Eliza J.  
 Gregory, Died Aug. 19, 1864,  
 Æ, 1 y'r 8 mo's. & 20 Days.

• [Other side of stone ]

**Our Willie**

Grand son of Rev. Z. & E.  
 Davenport.

[Stone Broken on the ground.]

In memory of

**118—Mary [Eversley]**  
 wife of John Eversley, who died  
 Aug. 21, 1857, in the 88th, year  
 of her age.

**119—John B. Gregory**  
 Died July 22, 1842, Æ. 59 y'rs.

[Little monument.]

**120—E. Edwin [Carman]**  
 Son of Samuel & Irene Carman,  
 Born May 13, 1884, Died Oct.  
 7, 1884,

Our Baby.

[Small marble monument.]

Our Darling.

**121—Zophar S. [Carman]**  
 Son of Samuel & Irene Car-  
 man Born Feb. 24, 1878. Died  
 Dec. 10, 1884.

**122—Mary, J. A. [Hoyt]**  
 Wife of William B. Hoyt Died  
 Feb 5, 1889.

"Precious Jesus"

**123—Bertha May [Eveden]**  
 Daughter of James & Elizabeth  
 Eveden. Born Dec. 18, 1882.  
 Died Feb. 17, 1891.

**124—George, F.**

**125—Mother**

**126—Olive**

Wife of John B. Gregory. Born  
 Oct. 18, 1785, Died Feb. 1, 1881.

**127—Bertha A. [Hine]**  
 daughter of U. W. & E. L. Hine  
 Died Jan. 9, 1888. Æ. 2 yrs.  
 & 7, mo's.

[Other side of stone.]

**Darling Bertha**

Safe in the arms of Jesus  
 Sister.





**128—Jane Stuckey**

Died August 15, 1881, Aged 28 years 10 months, and 15 days.

[There is no No 129.]

**130—Charles F. G. Gregory.**

Died March 5, 1845, aged 25 y'rs.

**Nancy.**

Wife of Charles F. G. Gregory, Died March 22, 1890, aged 75 y'rs.

**131—Charles F. Gilbert**

Died Aug. 10, 1881, .Æ 30 y'rs, 8 mo's. and 26 Days.

Lord remember me when thou comest into thy Kingdom

[Slate]

Here lie ye Remains of

**132—Mr. Seth Smith.**

Who departed this Life May the 7th 1772, aged 31 years.

[Quincy Granite]

**133—John G. Cooper.**

Born Sept. 19, 1828, Died Oct. 13, 1860.

**Margaret E.**

His wife Born July 23, 1833, Died June 2, 1891.

**Mary Emily**

Their infant daughter, aged 7 weeks.

In after-time we'll meet them.  
COOPER

In memory of

**134—Eliza S.**

Daughter of Capt. Samuel, and Elizabeth S. Page, who died Sept. 13, 1842. .Æ. 7 years 6 mos. and 10 Days.

A widowed mother's lovely child  
Last of my earthly Tie,  
I placed her in certain hope  
To meet her in the Skies.

**135—Samuel Page**

died May 12, 1835, .Æ 2 years 8 mo. and 12 days. Son of Capt. Samuel and Sarah E. Page

In memory of

**136—Charles L. White 2d**

who died Jan. 15, 1834, aged 25 ye, 7 mo. and 20 d's.

In memory of

**137—Mary L. (White)**

daughter of Charles L. & Sally White who died April 4, 1835, .Æ. 6 mos. & 4 ds

In memory of

**138—Harriet H. [Kelly]**

Daughter of William & Esther Kelly who Died July 21, 1839. .Æ 18 years

In memory of

**138½—Sally (Mallory) [White]**

Widow of Charles L. White, & daughter of John & Hannah, J Mallory who died July 31, 1855, aged 43 years 9 mo, & 17 days.

In memory of

**139—Samuel [Mallory]**

Son of John & Hannah Mallory who died June 1, 1810 .Æ. 1 mo. and 21 ds.

In memory of

**140—Mary Mallory**

who died Nov. 10, 1795. .Æ. 45 years  
wife of Matthew Mallory who was lost at sea 1781.

**141—Charles [Mallory]**

Son of Lewis & Anna Mallory died Jan. 31, 1800, .Æ. 6 years & 2 mo.

In memory of

**142—Lewis Mallory.**

who died July 21, 1828, aged 69 years 10 months & 10 days.

**143—Harriet (Hulin) [Mallory]**

wife of Rev. George H. Hulin and daughter of Lewis and Anna Mallory died April 1, 1836, .Æ. 25 years.

Doubting Christian cast thyself upon the divine assurance "My grace is sufficient for thee" then, as did she in thy dying day thou shalt have dying grace.



**143½—Florence, N. [Raymond]**

Daughter of Edward and Georgianna Raymond. — Died — Jan. 9, 1888. Æ. 8 yrs, 4 mo. & 13 days

Safe in the arms of Jesus.

**144—Polly Thorp [Mallory]**

Daughter of Matthew and Mary Mallory. Died August 4, 1868. Æ. 93 yrs. and 10 m's.

In memory of

**145—Anna Mallory**

wife of Lewis Mallory, who died Jan. 3, 1848. Æ. 75 yrs, 11 mo's. and 22 Days.

**146—George Lewis [Hulin]**

Son of Rev. George H. & Harriet Hulin. died Nov. 14, 1835. Æ. 4 months & 3 days.

In memory of

**147—Hannah Jarvis, [Mallory]**

wife of John Mallory, who died Sept. 7, 1851. Æ. 65 years 6 mo. & 2 Days

To the memory of

**148—Daniel [Mallory]**

son of John and Hannah Mallory who died July 7, 1838. Æ. 21 years 10 mos & 9 Days.

In memory of

**149—John Mallory,**

who died March 23, 1846. Æ. 66 years 9 mo. & 23 Days.

**150—William Mallory**

Died July 31, 1859, aged 51 years & 7 months.

Farewell, farewell, to the long and last adieu  
In death's dark hour, when earthly scenes are  
fading from thy view  
Thy blessed spirit, hovering near, shall soar  
with mine above,  
Where fadeless flowers forever bloom, and all  
is peace and love.

[Quincy Granite]

**151—Sarah Husted**

wife of Capt. A. B. St John. Died Sept, 23rd 1886.

"Dearest sister thou hast left us  
And thy loss we deeply feel,  
But 'tis God that hast bereft us  
He will all our sorrows heal."

In memory of

**152—Amelia E. Smith**

Daughter of John L. & Jane Smith, who died Feb. 7, 1839. In the 21. year of her age.

Jesus can make a dying bed,  
Feel soft as downy pillows are,  
While on his breast I lean my head  
And breath my life out sweetly there

**153—Jane**

wife of John L. Smith. Died Sept. 3d, 1887. Æ. 93 years.

**154—John L. Smith**

Died Dec. 7, 1872. aged 86 years 1 mo. & 2 Days.

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord

**155—Luther, M. Lockwood**

son of Sylvester B. & Emily F. Lockwood. Æ. 6 months & 20 days

Not lost but gone before.

**156—Thomas Cornwall**

Died Dec. 12, 1815. Æ. 75

—:—

So teach us to number our days that we  
may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

In memory of

**157—Mary B. Cornwall**

who died Feb. 20, 1826, in the 20 year of her age.

The hope of her eternal blessedness gives comfort and support, to an afflicted and bereaved solate mother.

In memory of

**158—Josiah Cornwall**

who died Feb 8, 1820. Æ. 34

**159—Francis B. [St John]**

Son of Oscar and Mary D. St John. Died Sept. 23, 1870. Æ. 1 yr 9 mo's and 25 Days.

[Other side.]

**Little Frank****160—Charles Cook St John**

Died Mar. 17, 1876. Æ. 61 years 11 mo's and 3 Days.

"Servant of God will done"



In memory of

**161--Elizabeth [McNiel]**

daughter of Robert. A. & Sarah Ann McNiel, who died July 1, 1845,  $\text{Æ}$ . 16 years 5 mo. & 26 Days.

Peace 'tis the Lord Jehovah's hand  
That blasts our joys in death,  
That mars that form to us so dear  
And gathers back the dust.

**162--Sarah A. [Rockwell]  
[McNiel]**

Widow of Eli Rockwell, and formerly wife of Robert A. McNiel. Died Aug. 23, 1886,  $\text{Æ}$  57 years 2 mo's & 10 Days.

**163--Mary E. [Richards] [McNiel]**

wife of Joseph S Richards, & daughter of Robert A. & Sarah Ann McNiel Died May 25, 1866, aged 32 years.

"In life beloved, in death lamented."

**Edward Townsend [Richards]**

only son of Joseph S. & Mary E. Richards. Died May 16, 1870,  $\text{Æ}$ . 4 y'rs & 7 m's.

**164--Robert A. McNiel.**

Died Feb. 3, 1837 in the 30th year of his age.

**Mary McNiel.**

died May 10, 1831,  $\text{Æ}$ . 2 years and 2 mo.

**David McNiel.**

Died Dec. 18, 1836,  $\text{Æ}$ . 7 mo. Children of Robert A. and Sarah Ann McNiel.

[Slate.]

**165--Mr. Samuel Hayes**

aged 72 years Dec'd April ye 7 1712.

[Slate.]

Here lyes the Remains of

**166--John Copp Esqr,**

Deacon of ye first church in this place, who Departed this Life May ye 16th Anno Domini 1751. in ye 78th year of his age.

When the archangel shall aloud proclaim,  
The total ruin of the worlds great Frame,  
And gastly Horrors seize this trembling ball,  
And frighted stars shall from their orbits fall  
Then the last Trump shall raise the conscious  
Dead

And thou bold man shalt hide thy guilty head  
Such humble saints shall wake with glad surprise  
To meet their Saviour from the b. & long sleep.

[Marble monument.]

**167--Martha, A Saxon**

wife of William E. Root Died July 11, 1876,  $\text{Æ}$ . 52 y'rs. & 10 mo's.

**Root**

Matthew Saxon

Died June 22, 1882.  $\text{Æ}$  58 y'rs & 9 mo's.

**Saxon**

Isaac T.

Died Aug 30, 1861.  $\text{Æ}$ . 12 y'rs & 1 mo's.

Mathew S.

Died Oct. 20, 1862.  $\text{Æ}$ . 11 yrs. & 7 mo's

Children of Wm. E & Martha A. Root

[Brownstone]

Here lies Buried the Body of

**168--Joseph Platt Esqr**

who Departed this life 12th June 1748 in the 76 year of his age.

[Slate.]

**168:- Easter Lines**

Dau to Benja'h & Easer Lines aged 2 Years 11 Mo & 12 Das Decb. May ye 22d 1722

[Granite monument.]

**169- Charles, J. Saunders**

Born May 15, 1791 Died June 6, 1874.

**O'India Saunders**

Born Oct. 10, 1810 Died Nov. 25, 1884

**170- Martha H. (Dishrow) Platt**

Wife of Henry G. Dishrow and Daughter of Alfred & Abigail Platt. Died June 8, 1882, In the 24 year of her age

Safe in the arms of Jesus



**171--Bertha [Platt]**

Daughter of Alfred & Abigail Platt. Died May 7, 1877, .E. 2 years, 7 mo's. & 10 Days.

Little Birdie,  
Beautiful Birdie,  
Lamb of the bl-  
st, Je-  
sus has taken thy  
pure spirit to rest.

**172--Reuben L. [Platt]**

Son of Alfred and Abigail Platt. Born Jan, 18, 1853, Died Nov. 25, 1872,

Our loved one.

**173--Jacob Reynolds**

Died July 17, 1885, aged 74 yrs. & 8 mo's.

--:0:--

**174--Lucinda [Reynolds]**

Wife of Jacob Reynolds Died Jan. 9, 1882, aged 69 yrs. 2 mo's & 8 Ds.

In memory of

**175--Rebecca E. [McLean]**

Daughter of Hugh & Angeline McLean who died July 21, 1827. .E. 1 year & 7 mo

An empty tale a morning flow'r,  
Cut down and wither'd in an hour.

**176--Sarah A. Fitch**

Wife of William E. Fitch. Born March 5, 1818, Died February 3, 1875.

**177--Samuel M. Fitch.**

Died Feb. 12, 1857, .E. 87 yrs.

**178--Betsey Fitch, [Roberts]**

Wife of David Roberts, Died May 2, 1869, aged 65 years.

--:0:--

**179--Mary A. Quin**

Died Dec 25, 1881 Aged 23 yrs. & 9 mo's,

**180--J. A. Ames**

Co. D 7th Conn. Inf.

**181--Emily. [Fitch]**

daughter of Samuel M. Jr. & Mary Fitch, Died Sept. 27, 1836. .E. 2 yrs.

**182--Samuel M. Fitch Jr**

Died May 18, 1854, .E. 54 yrs.

**183--Esther [Fitch]**

wife of Samuel M. Fitch, Died June 3, 1851, .E. 74 yrs.

**184--Rebecca E. [Fitch]**

Daughter of Daniel & Sarah Fitch. Died April 13, 1882, .E. 48 yrs 8 mo's.

Safe in the arms of Jesus.

**185--Sarah Fitch**

wife of Daniel Fitch, Died Dec. 1869, aged 60 years and 3 m's.

He giveth his beloved sleep.

**186--Daniel Fitch.**

Died July 27, 1885, aged 86 yrs. 3 mo's. and 25 D's.

He is not dead but sleepeth.

**187--Catherine A. [Fitch]**

Daughter of Daniel & Sarah Fitch. Died Feb. 6, 1839, .E. 3 yrs and 5 D's.

Then rest the loved one, rest  
Thy warfare soon was o'er  
We'll strive thee with the best  
Where sorrows come no more

In memory of

**188--Sarah A. [Fitch]**

daughter of Daniel & Sarah Fitch who died Aug 27, 1826, .E. 9 mo & 14 days

An empty tale a morning flower  
Cut down and withered in an hour

**189--Henry Fitch**

Died Nov. 10, 1868, .E. 65 yrs 9 mo. & 12 D's.

In memory of

**190--Ruth Whitney.**

Widow of Ebenezer Whitney, of Revolutionary memory Deceased who departed this life May 31, 1839, .E. 82 years 6 mo. & 16 Days.

In life of a meek and quiet spirit  
In death serene,  
Asleep in Jesus O for me  
May such a blissful resting place  
Securely shall my ashes lie  
Waiting the summons from on high





**191—Eben Whitney**

Born Nov. 19, 1783, Died May 22, 1859,

The law of truth was in his mouth  
and iniquity was not found on his lips  
he walked with me in peace and equity  
and did turn many away from iniquity

In memory of

**192—Emeline [Whitney]**

wife of Eben Whitney who departed this life Jan. 9, 1854, *A.* 48 yrs & 7 mos.

**193—Abby Fitch**

wife of Henry Fitch, Died Dec. 22, 1858, *A.* 83 y'rs 6 mo & 14 D's.

[Slate broken.]

In memory of

**194—Jonathan Fitch A. M**

who departed this life July 7th AD 1773 in the 30th year, of his age youngest son of Samuel Fitch Esqr.

**195—Edwin W. Fitch,**

Son of Daniel & Sarah Fitch, Died Aug. 2, 1870, *A.* 38 y'rs & 10 mo's.

Bless'd are those servants  
whom the Lord when he cometh  
shall find watching.

[Granite head-stone.]

**196—Theodore Wilcox**

died June 17, 1882, aged 45 yrs.  
9 mo. & 19 Days

"Be thou faithful unto Death"

**197—Frances J. [Fitch]**

wife of George W. Fitch  
Died June 21st 1888, *A.* 41  
years 5 mo's.

"The Lord gave, and the Lord hath  
taken away, blessed be the name  
of the Lord."

Mother.

**198—Elizabeth I. Van Name**

Died Jan 10, 1830, *A.* 62 years.

[Quincy Granite monument.]

**199—Lewis Raymond**

Born July 21, 1807, Died Nov. 20, 1881.

His wife

**Catherine Mecker**

Born Dec. 9, 1811, Died Nov. 18, 1871.

**Raymond**

Platt Raymond  
Born Dec. 3, 1774, Died Dec. 6, 1857.

His wife

**Hannah S. Benedict**

Born Jan. 4, 1779, Died April 27, 1844.

Their Children

**Jesse B. Raymond**

Born April 17, 1799, Died Aug. 8, 1872.

**Alfred Raymond**

Born Jan. 27, 1802, Died Oct. 20, 1828.

**Mehitable Raymond**

Born Oct. 25, 1804, Died March 29, 1888

Children of Lewis & Catherine  
M. Raymond

**Hannah M. Raymond**

Born Nov. 9, 1835, Died June 29, 1843.

**Charles, Raymond**

Born Dec. 21, 1837, Died. Jan. 5, 1839.

**200—William R. Knapp**

Co. C. 5, Regt. Conn. Vols  
Died Dec 28, 1891.

**201—Josephine [Knapp]**

Daughter of Charles & Hul-  
dah Knapp. Died Aug. 5, 1857,  
age 10 Days.

**202—Charles Knapp**

Died Aug. 24, 1860, *A.* 42 yrs  
& 3 mo's.

When trials do surround you,  
And troubles cross your way,  
Then cast your ears on Jesus,  
And dont forget to pray.



**203--Charles, E. Knapp.**

a member of Company D, 13th  
Reg., Conn. Vol. Died March  
18, 1862, Æ. 19 yrs. 5 mo's. and  
7 D'ys.

Sleep Soldier still in honored rest.  
Your truth and valor wearing:  
The bravest are the tenderest  
The loving are the darest.

**204--J. E. Lacey**

Co. C 25th Conn. Inf.

**205--Nathaniel Fisher**

Died Oct. 18, 1888, Æ. 58 years  
& 2 mo's

Our father at rest.

Sister.

**206--Anna Warren**

Sept. 29, 1847, Oct. 11, 1891.

She sought not her own comfort;  
but that of others.

In memory of

**207--Wm Francis [Hull]**

Son of Isaac P. & Henrietta  
Hull who Died Sept. 4, 1846,  
aged 7, years and 10 Days.

[Brownstone.]

Here Lyeth the Body of the Rever

**207½--Mr Jedediah Buckingham**

Late preachr' of The Gospel at  
the West Part of New ark in  
East Jersey Who Departed This  
Life March the 28th 1730  
Æ TATIS SU--24

[Quiney Granite monument.]

Hooker

**208--Mary Willett [Hooker]**

Daughter of Capt. Thomas  
Willett Who was the first mayor  
of the City of New York Wife  
of Rev. Samuel Hooker of  
Farmington Conn From her  
sons came all Hookers who are  
descended From Rev. Thomas  
Hooker First settler of Hartford  
Conn. Born at Plymouth Mass.  
November 10th 1637 Married  
at Plymouth Mass. Sep 22nd  
1658 Died at Norwalk Conn  
June 24th 1712

This stone is erected by her  
descendents 1890

[Other side is inscribed.]

Near here are buried

**Rev. Stephen Buckingham**

and his wife Sarah Hooker,  
Daughter of Rev. Samuel and  
Mary W. Hooker also

**Josiah Hooker**

and his wife Hannah he a  
great-grand son of Rev. Samuel  
and Mary W. Hooker.

[Slate broken--Supplied with an Iron  
Back.]

Here lyes buried the Body of the  
Rev'd

**209--Mr Stephe[n] Buckingham**

late Pastor of the 1st Church of  
Christ in Norwalk departed  
this life F--bry 3d 1745-6  
Æ tatis 70.

[Brownstone.]

Here lies the Body of

**210--Mr Thomas Hanford**

ye Eldest son of ye Revd Mr  
Thomas Hanford who died June  
ye 7 A D 1743 in ye 75 year of his  
his age with Hannah his wife  
lying at his rite hand who  
Dec'd Dec'r 28 1745 aged 78 years  
& 5 days

[The Rev Thomas Hanford was the 1st  
Pastor of the first church in Norwalk  
and was ordained 1672. (Cotton  
Mather says--he was Educated in  
England). His mother Eglin Han-  
ford aged 46 a widow come to Amer-  
ica in 1635. "She embarked at Lon-  
don 10 April 1635 on the Planter,  
Nicholas Trarice Master. She  
brought with her, two daughters  
Margaret aged 16 and Elizabeth aged  
14. She afterwards married Deacon  
Richard Seals of Situate, Mass." her  
son Thomas is known to have been  
in Mass in 1643--and taught school  
there. "Thomas Hanford married  
1st Hannah dau of Thomas Newbury  
of Dorchester, no issue is heard of  
by her; 2nd married Oct 22--1661  
Mary widow of Jonathan Ince the  
New Haven scholar." She d. 1723 or  
before. He did probably before  
1693, and is said to have been buried  
under a brown-stone tablet lyng  
close to the ground near where his  
son Thomas was buried (210).

His children were:

- I. Theophilus b. July 29--1662 "went to  
parts unknown [Probate Records].
- II. Mary b. Nov 30--1663 married John Ed-  
wards of Fairfield.
- III. Hannah b. June 28, 1665.



[Slate.]

Here lyes Buried the Body of

- 211—Capt. Elnathan Hanford**  
 who departed this life August  
 ye 24th 1764 in ye 58th year of  
 his age.

[Brownstone]

- 212—Mary [Hanford]**  
 the Daughter of Elna & Sarah  
 Hanford. Dec'd Novr ye 27.  
 1750 in ye 3rd year of her age  
 Oh now sweet Babe  
 Because twas best  
 God took you home  
 With him to Rest

[Slate]

- 213—Elizabeth Thatcher**  
 Daught'r of Mr Josiah & Mrs  
 Mary Thatcher Died Septembr  
 5 1743 aged 6 years 4 months &  
 10 Days

In memory of

- 214—Henrietta, [Hull Gibbs]**  
 wife of Isaac P. Hull &  
 daughter of Horace A. & Julia  
 Ann Gibbs who died April 24.  
 1842 .E. 26 years 7 mo & 26  
 Days,  
 Ther-for be ye also ready for in such  
 an hour as ye think not Son of man  
 cometh.—Mat 24, 44.

In memory of

- 215—Julia Ann Gibbs,**  
 wife of Horace A. Gibbs, who  
 died Feb. 4. 1833, .E. 38 years.

In memory of

- 216—Stephen St John**  
 who died Aug. 27, 1828, .E. 66  
 years.

In memory of

- 217—Sally, [St John]**  
 wife of Stephen St John who  
 died Oct. 22. 1825. .A. 59  
 years.

[Double Brownstone]

In memory of

- 218—Thomas Fitch Esqr**  
 who died Janry 16th 1795 [or 93]  
 in the 70th year of his age

In memory of

- Sarah**  
 wife of Thomas Fitch Esqr who  
 died Janry 27th 1795 in the 61st  
 year of her age

[Granite]

**Mabel**

- 219—Mabel, G. [Mead]**  
 Daughter of George E. & Ella G.  
 Mead, Oct. 21, 1882, Sept. 29,  
 1891.  
 Alas the fairest fade early.

[Slate.]

Here Lyes Buried the body of

- 220—Mrs Ann Thatcher**  
 wife to Mr. Josiah Thatcher  
 aged 34 years & 11 MO, Deed  
 Febry ye 25 1733-4

[Slate.]

In memory of

- 221—Mrs Mary Thacher,**  
 wife of Cap. Josiah Thacher,  
 who departed this Life April 6th  
 AD 1774, in her 68th year.  
 Who follow here, ye paths of truth,  
 Shall Bloom in everlasting youth,  
 Clad with new Glories they shall shine,  
 In charms immortal and divine.

[Slate.]

Here lyes Buried the Body of

- 222—John Betts Esqr,**  
 who departed this Life June the  
 7th 1745 aged 60 years & 11  
 months,

[Brownstone.]

- 222½—Mrs. Hannah Betts,**

[Brownstone]

- 223—Thaddeus Hill Fitch**  
 son of Tha's & Sarah Fitch died  
 Oct 21—1776 age 11 months

[Brownstone]

- 224—Hannah [Fitch].**  
 Daughter of Mr Thomas & Mrs  
 Hannah Fitch who Deputed  
 this life on the 24th of August  
 1714 in the [14 or 17] year of her  
 age is here buried



[Slate.]

**225—Giles Fitch**

son of Mr Thomas & Mrs Hannah Fitch who departed this life in April 1747 in ye 2nd year of his age and in here interred

[Slate.]

Here lyes Interred the Body of

**226—Ebruezer Fitch**

who departed this life Febr'y 23d AD 1762 in ye 33d year of his age

[Slate.]

Here lyes interred the body of

**227—Mrs Hannah Fitch**

who departed this life August ye 7th 1769 in ye 25th year of Her age.

Sic Tranait Gloria Mundi

[Slate.]

**228—Miss Esther Fitch**

Daughter of the Honble Thomas Fitch and Hannah Fitch Departed this life on ye 12th of March 1771 in ye 30th year of here age and is here interred

Blessed are ye dead that die in ye Lord

[Brownstone.]

Here lies what was mortal of

**229—Mrs Martha Paddock**

wife of Mr. Enoch Paddock & Daught of ye Revd Mr Moses Dickenson who died July 15 1752 in ye 18 year of her age

[A Tomb Table of Brownstone on 5 pillars and Slate inserted in the Table.]

**230—THE HONBLE THOMAS Fitch Esqr**

Govr of the Colony of CONNECTICUT Eminent, and distinguished among mortals. For great abilities, large acquisitions and a virtuous character; a clear, strong, sedate mind; an accurate, extensive acquaintance with Law and civil Government; a happy Talent of presiding; close application, and strict fidelity in the discharge of important Trusts; no less than, for his employments, by the vote of the people, in the chief offices of State, and at the HEAD of the COLONY. Having served his generation by the Will of God full as long July 18th, Ant: Bonomi, 1774. in the 57th Year of his age.

[Governor Thos Fitch was son of Thomas. He married Sep 4, 1724. Hannah Hall of New Haven the eldest dau of Richard and Hannah (Miles) Hall). The Honble Thomas was the Governor's assistant 1734-5 and from 1740 to 1754 when he was elected Governor, May, the same year and remained as such to May 1761 when he came back to Norwalk, Conn., and probably died, at what is now known as the old Fitch place, on East ave. a little south of opposite the East entrance to the road leading to Oyster Shell point. A large elm tree is seen in front of the house as a landmark undisturbed to his memory.

**231—Halsey Day**

Died Dec. 17th, 1883, Æ. 32 years 6 mo's. & 4 Days.

Papa

[Slate.]

RELIQUE

**232—Moses Dickenson**

HIC Deponuntur OBITI sep 16 1742 ÆTAT 20

[Slate.]

Here lyes what was mortal of

**233—Mrs Martha Dickenson**

wife to ye Revnd Mr. Moses Dickenson Who Died Decembr 15th Anno Domi 1755 Ætates 62

[Brownstone.]

Beneath this monumental stone lies interred the body of the

**234—Rev. Moses Dickenson,**

late pastor of the first Church of Christ in NORWALK, who departed this life May 1st, 1778, in the 33d. year of his age, and 31st to his Ministry in said church.

A man of a good Understanding, well improved by Study, Cheerfull in Temper Prudent in Conduct, and faithful to his trust. He came to his grave in full age, like as a sheek of corn cometh in his season.

In memory of

**234—Eliza F. Christian**

who departed this life November 26th, 1809 Aged 20 Years 7 months & 22 days

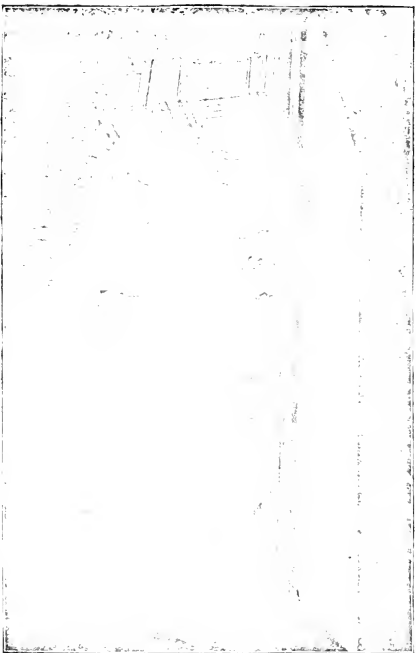
In memory of

**235—Timothy Fitch**

who died Sept 18, 1802 in the 67 year of his age







(See Description No. 230.)

HON. THOMAS FITCH, COLONIAL GOVERNOR OF CONN., 1754 TO 1766.



**236—*Esther [Fitch]***

Relict of Timothy Fitch died  
May 5, 1816. .Æ. 71.

In memory of

**237—*Cornelia, [Fitch]***

wife of Stephen Fitch, who Died  
Sept. 12, 1811, .Æ. 49 yrs.

**238—*Edward Fitch***

Died July 23, 1808, .Æ. 36 y's.  
Mary E. his wife Died Jan. 9,  
1841, .Æ. 67 y's.

This stone is erected by their child An-  
jinette Hall of Troy, N. Y.

**239—*Hannah [Belden]***

Wife of Azar Belden, died  
March 29, 1860, .Æ. 93 y'rs 6  
mo's & 14 D's.

[Granite monument]

**240—*Mr Samuel Marvin***

Died Nov. 8, 1820, .Æt. 80.

—:0:—

**241—*Susannah Fitch***

Died May 24, 1888, .Æ. 83 yrs,  
1 mo, & 11 Ds,

***James Fitch***

Died July 31, 1828, .Æ. 70 yrs, 3  
mos & 20 ds.

***Esther Camp***

His wife Died Sept. 9, 1846  
.Æ. 83 yrs, 6 mos, & 17 Ds.

***Julia Fitch***

Died June 23, 1857 .Æ. 57 yrs. 4  
mos. & 13 Ds.

[Granite monument]

**242—*Col. Henry Rogers***

Died Apr. 27, 1857, aged 71.

**243—*William Francis [Daskam]***

son of Capt. Samuel & Lucretia  
Daskam, Died Oct. 13, 1856, .Æ. 38.

He has gone to the grave as tenderly loved  
As any that ever from earth was removed  
And when the last call to us shall be given  
Oh may we be ready to meet him in Heaven.

**244—*Capt. Samuel Daskam.***

Died April 21, 1858, aged 71  
years 6 mo, & 11 Days

**245—*Theodolia [Fitch]***

daughr of Josiah H. & Ann P.  
Fitch, died April 30, 1816 .Æ. 17.

The fairest rock is now on high  
And for all nature he did die  
The fairest plant the fairest flower  
Cut down and wither'd in an hour.

—:0:—

**246—*Josiah H. Fitch***

Died Dec. 1, 1845, .Æ. 76.

ANN PLATT, wife of Josiah H.  
Fitch, died Oct. 20, 1845. .Æ. 73.

"They were lovely and pleasant in their lives,  
and in their death they were not divided,"

In memory of

**247—*Mary [Conklin]***

wife of Jonas P. Conklin, who  
died Aug. 19, 1832: .Æ. 24 years.

In memory of

**248—*Samuel Hanford***

who died Aug 7, 1833. .Æ. 58

**249—*Sarah [Hanford]***

wife of Samuel Hanford died  
April 14, 1823: aged 51 years.

In memory of

**250—*Hezekiah Hanford***

who died Jan 16, 1811: .Æ. 57.

—:0:—

[Stone Broken]

In memory of

**251—*Sarah [Hanford]***

wife of Hezk Hanford who died  
Dec. 25, 1811 .Æ. 59

**252—*Elnathan Hanford***

died Nov. 19, 1809, .Æ. 21

—:0:—

[He was son of Hezekiah.]

**253—*David Hanford***

died Dec. 15, 1815, .Æ. 27

—:0:—

**254—*Polly [Hoyt [Hanford]***

wife of Ira Hoyt, & widow of  
David Hanford, died Aug. 25,  
1820. .Æ. 10 years.



**255—Sarah [(Nash) Van Hooscar]**

wife of David V Hoosen

[David Van Hooscar]  
and widow of Elnathan Hanford [see 252] Died May 14, 1817: in her 30th year.

She was dau of Daniel and Frecklove (Wright) Nash—whose residence was Norwalk—[now Westport, Ct.] She died at "Grumman Hill" Wilton, Conn. As wife of Elnathan she had 3 children—Dennis—Mary—and Sally. Her only child, as wife of David Van Hooscar, was David Nash Van Hooscar born May 1st, 1817. Alive 1893. Res. Wilton, Ct.

**256—Elizabeth [Hanford]**

wife of Charles Hanford, died Feb. 20, 1831,  $\text{Æ}$ . 18 years.

**257—William H. Hanford**

born Feb. 7, 1849, died Nov. 1, 1866.

The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away.

**258—Mary Priscilla [Godfrey]**

Daughter of Silliman & Priscilla B Godfrey Died March 24, 1875  $\text{Æ}$ . 21 y'rs, 6 mo's & 7 days.

She sleepeth! so silently!  
In the last and peace full rest,  
Her sun has set, while yet 'twas day,  
Her gentle spirit has soared away  
For the angels loved her best.

**259—Thomas Fitch**

Son of Edward & Sarah Fitch & Grandson of Samuel M. & Esther Fitch Born Mar 13 1843 Died May 30, 1888.

Served his country During the war as Capt. Co. B 93rd N. Y. V. 3d Brigade 3d Division, 3d Army Corps.

**260—Francis Jones,**

Died March 21, 1845, aged 32 y'rs 3 mo's & 17 Days.

He served in Co. G, 28 Reg. Conn. Vols.

**261—Little Willie,**

Died June 27, 1872, aged 7 months.

[Double stone]

**262—Frank Howland]**

born Jan. 3, 1856, died Aug. 21, 1858.

**Elta A.**

born June 11, 1868, died Feb 16, 1872.

Children of J. H. & Nancy. J. Howland

"Suffer little children to come unto me,"

**263—Ida J.**

Daughter of Cornelius & Elizabeth J. Van Name Died Aug 3, 1872,  $\text{Æ}$ . 15 years 2 mo's & 23 Days

At B st.

[Waltham monument.]

Erected 1880

**264—T. Raymond****Edith****265—Edith May [Raymond]**

Daughter of F. M. & E. R. Raymond Died July 31, 1890,  $\text{Æ}$ . 7 Mo's & 9 Days.

**266—Eunice [Bradley]**

daughter of Clark & Mary Bradley, died Aug. 20, 1866,  $\text{Æ}$ . 17 y'rs 1 mo. & 10 D's.

Jesus to thy dear faithful hand,  
My naked soul I trust;  
My flesh shall wait for thy command  
And drop into my dust.

**267—Grace, M. [Smith]**

Daughter of Charles W. & Emily, H. Smith Died Jan. 28, 1882,  $\text{Æ}$ . 5 yrs, 10 mos, & 16 Days

Little Grace was our darling,  
Pride of all the hearts at home,  
But the Angels whispered softly  
Grace come,  
Little Grace

[Brownstone.]

Here lies the Remains of

**268—Capt. John Raymond**

who was Born Saper ye-18th 1664 and Put on immortality April ye 12th 1737

[Slats]

Here lyes ye Body of

**269—Mrs. Mary Street**

Relict to Mr Nathaniel Street who departed this Life March 7th 1762 in ye 67th year of Her age



[Slate.]

Here Lyes Buried ye Body of

**270—Mr Nathan'el Street**who Departed this life Sep 24,  
1748 in ye 56th year of his age

[Brownstone.]

**271—Elizabeth Street**ye Daughter of Mr. Nathaniel &  
Mrs Mary Street Dec'd March  
19—1738 aged 19 yrs**272—Edith May [Beers]**daughter of Wm. P. & Cornelia  
A. Beers Died Dec. 9, 1875.  
Æ. 5 yrs 1 mo. & 19 Days

Safe in the arms of Jesus

**273—Our Little Robbie [Jones]****274—Alice [Jones]****275—Edgar [Jones]****276—Fletcher [Jones]**[The above 4 are children of  
Henry Jones of East Norwalk,  
Conn.]

In memory of

**277—Mary, P. [Hoyt]**wife of James Winship, &  
daughter of Francis & Nancy  
Hoyt, who died Nov. 13, 1846  
Æ. 24 y'rs

In memory of

**278—Rosanna B. [Hoyt]**Daughter of Francis & Nancy  
Hoyt who Died July 25, 1851,  
Æ. 17 y'rs & 9 mo.**279—Amanda, L. Hoyt**wife of Titus K. Merrill, Died  
May 1, 1881, Æ. 57 y'rs, 2 mos &  
20 Days

At Rest.

**280—Titus K. Merrill**Died March 27, 1890 Æ. 84 y'rs,  
6 mo's. & 15 Days

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord

**281—Francis Hoyt**Died June 17, 1842 Æ. 44 y'rs  
4 mo's & 14 Days

In memory of

**282—Goold [Hoyt]**son of Frances & Nancy Hoyt  
who died Oct. 26, 1825, Æ. 2 mo,  
& 4 days, Also of*William Couklin,*who died April 11, 1828 Æ 1  
mo & 17 days**283—Henry, F. [Hoyt]**Died Sept 25 1832, Æ 1 mo &  
3 Days,*Marina, L.*Died July 9, 1835 Æ 6 mo & 10  
Days*Harriet A.*Died Sept 15, 1840, Æ. 13 mo.  
Children of Francis and Nancy  
Hoyt**284—Nancy Hoyt**Widow of Francis Hoyt, Died  
Jan. 26, 1866, Æ. 65 y'rs 6 mo's  
& 9 Days**285—Bertha Augusta, [Hantford]**Daughter of Charles & Mary  
Hantford Died Sept. 8, 1875,  
Æ. 11 mo's & 13 D's.For Jesus I nam'd a sweet child  
She was fair as roses half blown  
He came to my garden and smiled  
And tenderly took back his own**286—Anna M. Jones,**wife of Alex. Jones, Died March  
8, 1870, Æ. 24 y'rs 8 mo's. & 5  
Days.*Minnie E.*daughter of Alex & Anna M.  
Jones Died July 24, 1869, Æ. 10  
mo's & 3 days.

At rest in Heaven

**287—Henry B. Gorham,**Died Jan. 29, 1862, aged 30 Y'rs  
& 23 Days.*Mary E. Gorham.*wife of Henry B. Gorham, Died  
Dec. 19, 1882, aged 48 y'rs, & 22  
Days.Sleep on low'd ones take thy rest,  
God called thee home when he thought best,





**287½—Charles [Gorham]**

Son of Henry B. & Mary E. Gorham. Died Aug. 11, 1864, aged 6 yrs 3 mo. & 10 Days.

In memory of

**288—John H. Fitch:**

who died March 26th 1860, aged 65 years 5 mo. & 20 Days.

[Marble monument]

**289—Lucretia,**

wife of Hiram C. Jones. Born. Aug. 7, 1807

**Hiram C. Jones,**

Born Sept, 10, 1806, Died April 8, 1882

— + —

**Jones****Lewis Jones,**

Born June 17, 1844, Died Oct. 2, 1891,

A private in Co. E, 5th Conn. Regt. 1861.—1863.

In memory of

**290—Susannah [Fitch]**

widow of John H. Fitch who died Sept 26, 1881, aged 84 years & 10 mos.

In memory of

**291—James Davis, [Fitch]**

son of John H. & Susannah Fitch, who died Aug. 28, 1846, .E. 18 years 1 mo. & 9 Days.

In memory of

**292—Charles Fitch,**

son of John H. & Susannah Fitch, who Died Sept. 2nd, 1860, aged 36 years 10 mo. & 4 Days.

**293—Ella B. [Fitch]**

Died Aug. 24th, 1860, aged 8 mo.

**Emma B.**

Died Sept. 20th 1860, aged 8 mo. & 27 Days.

Children of George B. & Elizabeth H. Fitch,

He shall gather the lambs with his arm and carry them in his bosom.

Our Katie.

**294—Katie P. Trowson]**

Daughter of Edmund & Catherine Trowson Died June 28, 1874, .E. 5 y'rs 5 mo's, & 19 Days.

[Board]

In memory of

**295—John H. Smith**

Son of John H. & Sarah J. Smith Died Nov. 1st. 1872, aged 2 yrs — mo.

[Board]

**296—Willie H. [Campbell]**

Son of Augustus and Eunice Campbell who died July 16th 1872 aged 11 mo's & 25 days

[Board]

**297—Fredric, A. [Campbell]**

Son of Augustus and Eunice Campbell who died April 24th 1874 aged — mo's & 5 days

**298—Augustus Campbell**

Died May 8, 1873. .E. 32 y'es. & 5 mo's.

Waiting on the other side

**299—Cornelius S. Foubis**

Died Oct. 24, 1876, .E. 40 y'rs, 8 m'r's, & 24 days.

All is well.

**300—William Sheffield**

Died March 31, 1888, aged 33 years.

Faithfull unto death.

**301—George A. Raymond**

Born Jan. 6, 1807. Died Sept 29, 1888.

**302—Huldah Finch**

wife of George A. Raymond Died Jan. 22, 1890 .E. 81 yrs 6 mo's.

**303—Mary E. Raymond**

Born May 6, 1825 Died Feb 10, 1884

**304—Jabez Raymond**

Died Aug. 10, 1857, .E. 78 y'rs & 3 mo's.



**305—Sally [Raymond]**  
wife of Jabez Raymond, Died  
April 27, 1860, Æ. 76 y'rs. 2  
mo's, & 14 D's.

**306—Platt F. Raymond,**  
Died March 15, 1862, Æ. 58 y'rs  
& 7 mo.

**307—Huldah A. [Raymond]**  
wife of Platt F. Raymond Born  
Jan 30, 1823. Died Dec. 4 1880.

**308—H. M. Raymond**  
Co. G 10th Conn. Inf.  
[Buried in the Raymond Vault (the  
only one in the yard) in which it is  
estimated there are buried 26 more  
persons.]

**309—Lulu Beatrice [Day]**  
Infant Daughter of Frank F. &  
Annie B. Day. Died Oct. 17,  
1882. Æ. 7 mo's.

**310—Louie F. [Day]**  
son of Frank F. & Annie B.  
Day Died Oct. 2, 1890. Æ 6 yrs.  
8 mo's & 15 D's.

Safe in the arms of Jesus.

**311—Nicholas A. Everett**  
Born Feb. 7, 1812, Died March  
6, 1872.

**312—Sarah Ann, [Smith]**  
wife of Andrew Smith Died  
Nov. 15, 1884. Æ. 59 y'rs. 5  
mo's, & 16 Days

[Slate]

**313—RAYMOND**  
[Top broken off]

[Slate.]

In memory of

**314—Hannah [Raymond]**  
Daughter of Jabez & Rebecca  
Raymond who died Septemr  
23d, A. D. 1770 in the 31st year  
of her age.

In memory of

**315—Mary Kip,**  
who died Oct. 30, 1805, Æ 65

+

**316—Arthur W. [Stabell]**  
son of Frederick P. & Isabella  
Stabell, Died Nov. 22, 1876, Æ.  
1 year and 12 D's.

In memory of

**317—Mary, [Newkirk]**  
wife of John Newkirk, who  
died Sept. 27, 1817 in the 59  
year of her age

Let worms devour my wasting flesh.

In memory of

**318—John Newkirk**  
who died Jan. 14, 1818 in the 67  
year of his age.

Though now this flesh and heart hath fail'd,  
And mortal life hath ceas'd;  
I shall possess within the veil,  
A life of Joy and peace.

In memory of

**319—Garrit H. Newkirk**  
who died Feb. 1, 1831, Æ. 43  
years.

**320—Amelia Newkirk**  
Relict of Garrit H. Newkirk;  
Died Nov. 8th 1874, In the 87th  
year of her age.

In Memory of

**321—Polly [Raymond]**  
wife of Josiah Raymond, who  
died May 19, 1809, Æ 63 years  
& 8 mo.

**322—Mr. Josiah Raymond**  
died, May 25, 1824, in his 87  
year

—:o:—

**323—Clarinda [Raymond]**  
daughr. of Thomas & Eunice  
Raymond, died Jan. 1, 1825 Æ.  
26

Be ye also ready; for in such an hour  
as ye think not the son of man com-  
eth.

**324—Hannah Sophia [Han-  
ford]**  
wife of Dennis Hanford &  
daughter of Thomas & Eunice  
Raymond died July 8, 1826,  
Æ 20.

Crush'd as a moth beneath thy hand  
We moulder to the dust;  
Our feeble powers can ne'er withstand  
And all beauty's lost.



**325—Eunice [Smith]**

wife of Hezekiah Smith Born  
June 16, 1790. Died Sept. 7,  
1873.

**326—Julia Helme [Smith]**

wife of Hezekiah Smith Jr.  
Died Feb 9, 1882. Æ. 49 years  
& 4 mo's.

**327 — Emma P. [Staples  
(Fitch)]**

wife of Wm. B. Staples &  
Daughter of Walter J. & Huldah  
A. Fitch Died Sept 3, 1877.  
Æ, 24 y'rs, & 5 mo's

Our Loved one.

In memory of

**328—Silvester J. [Fitch]**

son of Walter J. & Huldah A.  
A. Fitch, who Died Aug. 16,  
1841. Æ. 1 year & 1 mo.

[Marble Monument.]

**329—Noah Mosher**

Died July 17, 1872. Æ. 64 y'rs  
8 mo's & 26 Days.

Mosher.

**J. H. B.**

**329A—Joseph H. Brown**

Died May 20, 1872. Æ. 38 years  
8 mo. & 17 Days.

**N. A. M.**

**329b—Naomic A. [Mosher]**

Daughter of Noah & Sarah E.  
Mosher. Died Mar. 26, 1876.  
Æ. 14 years & 8 Days.

**W. H. F.**

**329c—Walter H. [Fisher]**

son of Isaac & Damaris E.  
Fisher. Died Feb. 12, 1857,  
Æ. 1 year & 1 Mo.

**W. H. F.**

**329d—Willie H. [Fisher]**

son of Isaac & Damaris E.  
Fisher. Died Aug. 28, 1861,  
Æ. 2 Years & 1 Mo.

**A. M. M.**

**329e—Alonzo M. [Mosher]**

son of Omen E. & Sarah  
Mosher Died Dec. 8, 1865,  
Æ. 3 Yrs 2 mo. & 23 D's.

**S. M.**

**329f—Sarah [Mosher]**

wife of Omen E. Mosher. Died  
Jan. 5, 1867. Æ. 38 Y'rs 10 mo.  
& 18 D's.

**330—Lewis Wilson**

Died Sep. 1, 1885. Æ. 68 yrs. 6  
mos, 15 Ds. His wife

**Mary A. Eldred**

Died Apr. 20, 1868. Æ. 54 yrs.  
10 mos, 9 Ds.

At Rest.

In memory of

**331—Hannah M. [Ketcham]**

wife of Theodorus Ketcham,  
who Died March 12, 1881, aged  
71 years 1 mo. & 5 Days.

—:0:—

"Shall we meet beyond the river,  
Never to part again."

In memory of

**332—Jemima Eldred**

who died Oct. 30, 1878. aged 70  
years

—:0:—

She lived for others  
Her memory is precious.

In memory of

**333—Mary [Smith]**

widow of William Smith who  
Died Jan. 17, 1844. Æ 92 years  
& 8 mo

**334—Henry A. Smith**

Died Oct. 27, 1875. Æ 35 years

**Emily**

**335—Emily J. [Smith]**

Daughter of Henry A. & Emily  
J. Smith. Died Sept. 13, 1886  
Æ. 11 y'rs, 2 mo's. & 24 Days.

[Granite]

Mother

**336—Mary E. [Wilmot]**

wife of Isaac S. Wilmot Died  
Feb. 10, 1888. Age 68.



**337—Sarah [Smith]**  
wife of John Smith Died Oct. 9,  
1883. Æ. 90 years

In memory of

**338—John Smith**  
who departed this life Jan 18,  
1854. Æ. 78 y'rs & 5 Mo's

Sacred to the memory of

**339—Elizabeth [Smith]**  
wife of John Smith who died  
Feb. 24, 1836 aged 54 years.

In Memory of

**340—Eliza Snedicar [Smith]**  
Daughter of Hutton & Phebe  
Smith Born Feb. 16, 1807. Who  
Died Oct. 18, 1852.

In Memory of

**341—Elphouzo. [Snedicar]**  
The only child of Platt & Eliza  
Snedicar, who died March 29,  
1842. Æ. 2 years 7 Mo, & 29  
Days

'Tis hard indeed for me to part  
With my fair and gentle child  
To me so kindly given.

[Granite monument]

**342—Thomas Benedict**  
Died Sept. 13, 1883. Æ. 86 years

**Susan [Benedict]**  
wife of Thomas Benedict Died  
June 16, 1876. Æ. 77 years

**Mary & Elizabeth**  
Children of Thos & Susan Bene-  
dict

**Betsy Ann**  
wife of Thomas Benedict Died  
Nov. 11, 1879. Æ. 62 years  
Benedict

In memory of

**343—Ebenezer H. Smith,**  
who died Feb. 21, 1857. Æ. 76  
y'rs & 11 mo's.

Sacred to the memory of

**344—Susannah [Smith]**  
wife of Ebenezer H. Smith who  
died Aug. 19, 1828. Æ. t. 45  
years.

**345—Harriet N. [Benedict]**  
widow of David W. Benedict  
Died May 6, 1888, aged 59 years  
4 mo, & 16 Days.

"Waiting on the other shore."

**346—David W Benedict**  
Died Dec. 28, 1852, aged 24  
years 11 mo, & 25 Days.

Sacred to the memory of

**347—Ann Eliza, [Bergen]**  
wife of James Bergen, who died  
June 22 1839, aged 22 years.

**348—Francis A. Ralston M.  
D.**  
Died December 12, 1879. Æ. 34  
years.

**349—Nellie [Griswold]**  
Daughter of Chauncy & Frances  
W. Griswold, Born August 3,  
1859, Died March 19, 1879.

We shall all meet on the bright shores  
of immortality.

In memory of

**350—Sarah A [Keeler]**  
Daughter of Jonah C. & Henri-  
etta Keeler who Died May 16,  
1841 Æ 3 years & 6 mo.

In memory of

**351—Charles L. [Keeler]**  
son of Jonah C & Henrietta  
Keeler who died July 5, 1841.  
Æ 1 year 7 mo & 17 Days

In memory of

**352—Henry [Keeler]**  
son of Jonah C & Henrietta  
Keeler who died July 16, 1842,  
Æ 8 months 8 Days

**353—Phoebe W. Camp**  
Born Sept. 18, 1798. Entered  
into rest July 15, 1885.

**354—Nathan Camp**  
born May 22 A. D. 1795, died  
August 6, 1880.

A just man, he kept the faith to the end





## The Grave of

**355--Araty Raymond**

wife of Nathan Camp who  
calmly yielded up her spirit to  
God April 2, 1846.

Her trust was in Christ and her end was  
peace

## To the memory of

**356--A. J. Carter,**

a native of New Market Eng-  
land  $\text{Æ}$ , 22 years.

He was drowned in the Mill Pond while  
in the employ of Mr Thomas Benedict  
Dec. 6, 1834.

**J. L.**

Sacred to the memory of

**357--Joseph Loris,**

who died Mar 14, AD 1821,  
aged 51.

**358--Hezekiah Smith,**

Died June 8, 1852, in his 83 y'r  
Wrapt in the shades of death,  
No more that friendly face I see,  
Empty ah Empty every place.  
Once I'd so well by thee.

[Granite monument]

**359--William C. Wheeler**

Died July 3, 1889, age 59.

A member of Co. G, 23rd Conn. Vols.

'Twas Hard to give thee up  
But thy will, O God, be done.

Wheeler.

**360--George H. [Roberts]**

son of Nathan & Sarah A. Rob-  
erts Died March 25, 1872,  
 $\text{Æ}$ , 17 years 3 Mo's & 8 Days,

He doeth all things well

**361--George B. [Bennett]**

son of George & Mary D. Ben-  
nett, Died Dec. 20, 1871,  $\text{Æ}$  16  
y'rs 11 mo's & 26 Days

The Lord is my Shepherd

**362--Emily M. [Roberts]**

wife of Wm. O. Roberts Born  
March 19, 1844, Died March 8,  
1878.

Mother

## In memory of

**363--Betsey Jennings,**

widow of Zalmon Jennings who  
died Jan. 29, 1846, aged 73  
years & 26 Days.

Dearest mother thou hast left us,  
And thy loss we deeply feel  
But tis God who has bereft us,  
He can all our sorrows heal.

## In memory of

**364--Edgar [Clark]**

only son of William & Sally Ann  
Clark who died Aug 9, 1848,  
 $\text{Æ}$  23 y'rs & 5 mo.

"Shed not for him the bitter tear,  
Nor give the heart to vain regret;  
Tis but the Casket that lies here,  
The Gem that filled it sparkles yet"

## In memory of

**365--Mary Augusta [Clark]**

only daughter of William &  
Sally Ann Clark, who died Jan.  
1, 1855,  $\text{Æ}$ , 31 y'rs & 5 mo's.

And art thou gone my darling child,  
Oh; art thou, now, no longer mine,  
Thou wast to us a season given,  
But thy abiding place is heaven.

## In memory of

**366--William Clark**

who Died April 8th 1860, aged  
65 years 2 mo & 10 Days

But there's a land where death comes not,  
Far, Far beyond the tomb;  
When on life's ways no more we're tost,  
There may we meet the early lost.

## In memory of

**367--James E. [St John]**

son of James E. & Mary St.  
John who died Nov. 18, 1842  
 $\text{Æ}$  2 years & 10 Days

## In memory of

**368--Elisha, S. [Clark]**

son of Widow Sarah Clark, who  
died Dec 25, 1828,  $\text{Æ}$ , 15 years  
& 3 mo

Sleep on sweet child and take thy rest,  
God call'd the home when he thought best

## Our Mother,

**369--Sarah Clark**

Died at Portchester, N. Y. June  
18, 1860,  $\text{Æ}$ , 67 y'rs, 4 mo's & 4  
D's.

Our mothers gone and soon will we,  
Be called to follow on,  
We soon will ferry o'er death's sea  
and meet where mother's gone.



**370—George Frederick [St John]**

son of Reuben A. & S. J. St John, died July 6, 1851, .Æ 1 y'r 8 mo. & 15 d's.

Our George has gone and left us,  
And left this world a better,  
To show the world how fair a flower  
Can bloom in Paradise,  
Thus sweetly borne, he tries to rest;  
We know tis well, may more tis best,  
When we our pilgrims path have trod  
O! may we find him with our God!

— 70:—

In memory of

**371—Joel Smith**

who died Sept. 11, 1833, .Æ 69 y'rs.

In memory of

**372—Nancy [Smith]**

widow of Joel Smith who died Jan. 16, 1867, .Æ 84 y'rs.

**373—Melville F. [Raymond]**

son of Wm. M. & Sarah E. Raymond, Mar. 29, 1854, .Æ 11 m. & 12 d's

It grieved his loving parents sore  
With their darling child to part  
But think his sufferings now are o'er  
Be resigned give God your hearts,  
He is not dead but he McMill's sleeps  
In the gentle Saviours arms  
He the little lamb will keep  
And protect him now from harm

**374—Ruth Eliza [Raymond]**

daughter of Wm. M. & Sarah E. Raymond died June 2, 1847, .Æ 3 y'rs, 8 mos. & 22 d's

An early summons Jesus sends  
To call a child above —  
And whispers o'er the winged friend  
Tis all the fruit of love.

Tis on the Saviours bosom laid,  
And feels no sorrow there;  
Tis by a heavenly parent fed  
And need no more your care

**375—Sarah Eliza [Raymond]**

wife of Wm. M. Raymond Died March 7, 1882 .Æ 65 y'rs 2 mo's & 18 Days

**376—William M. Raymond**

Born Jan. 9th, 1809, Died July 5th, 1887.

**377—Nellie F.**

Her Daughter 1869-1881  
[Probably dau of No 378]

**378—Phebe A.**

wife of Harvey R. Brown. Born Feb. 3, 1810. Died June 29, 1870.

**Our Darling Josie**

Safe in the arms of Jesus

**379—Josephine A. [Raymond]**

Daughter of Henry W. & Hannah M. Raymond Died Oct. 6, 1878, .Æ 7 y's, & 23 D's

**380—Ollie [Dann]**

son of Charles J. & Jennie E. Dann Died Feb. 2, 1879, .Æ 3 years 9 mo's & 15 Days.

**Ollie**

suffer little children to come unto me,  
and of such is the kingdom of Heaven.

**Mark****381—Mark H. [Dann]**

son of Charles J. & Jennie E. Dann Died April 17, 1891, .Æ 18 years 18 mos. & 13 Days.

We dearly loved our boy  
our love was not in vain  
He gave us happiness and joy  
Our loss his heavenly gain.

In memory of

**382—Barr Smith [Hoyt]**

son of Francis & Angenett Hoyt who died Sept. 28, 1853, .Æ 27 y'rs 2 mo. & 8 d's

Brother thy name we bless,  
Thy probative word;  
Earth has a mortal loss,  
Heaven an angel more.

In memory of

**383—Susannah Hoyt**

wife of Charles Patrick who Died July 20, 1858, aged 29 y'rs 10 mo. & 20 D's.

The grave is now a favored spot  
To spirits who sleep in Jesus' bosom,  
For there the wretched trouble not  
And there the weary are at rest

**384—Capt. James T. Johnson**

Born July 17, 1819, Died July 19, 1873, aged 54 years & 2 Days.

He has made his last voyage over the sea of life  
An' t'ast anchor in a harbor of rest.

**384½—Ann M. [Johnson]**

wife of Capt. James T. Johnson Died Aug. 16, 1889, aged 57 y'rs 3 ms. & 25 Days.



Our little ones,

**385--Harry. [Camp]**

Born Jan. 18, 1848. Died Oct. 3, 1849.

**Henry**

Born July 11, 1849. Died Aug. 15, 1854

Children of Henry & Anna Camp.

**386--Artie [Fowler]**

son of Lewis G & Addie L Fowler Died Mar. 15, 1890, aged 7 years.

"Safe in the arms of Jesus."

**387 George S. Raymond**

Died May 30, 1886, aged 47 yrs. 6 mos. 27 Ds.

**388--Herbert [Hall]**

son of Abram D & Ella Hall Died Feb. 23, 1874, A.E. 4 yrs 11 mo & 23 D's

Herbible

**389--Emma G. [Sullivan]**

Daughter of Joseph & Cordelia P Sullivan Born June 5, 1847 Died August 18, 1881

**390--Cordelia P. Terry,**

wife of Joseph Sullivan. Born Feb. 1st, 1819. Died Nov. 18th, 1883.

A happier lot than ours, and larger light surrounds thee there.

Mother

**391--Margella Sullivan [Hall]**

wife of Abraham D. Hall. Born Oct. 1st, 1845. Died Nov. 6th, 1883.

Sheltred and safe from sorrow,

Mamma.

**392--Susan Isaacs [Hill]**

wife of Doctor Asa Hill Died May 11, 1890.

With the loved ones gone before.

**393--Doctor Asa Hill**

Died November 26, 1874. aged 59 years.

"He rests from his labors."

**394--Rebecca Isaacs,**

wife of Charles Isaacs. Died May 31, 1869. aged 72 years.

She sleeps in Jesus.

**395--Charles Isaacs,**

Died July 18, 1872, aged 77 years

**396--George Smith [Hanford]**

Died Nov. 12, 1849, aged 11 years 3 mo. & 23 Days.

**George Smith**

Died March 16, 1836, aged 3 Weeks.

Children of Daniel & Caroline Hanford,

**397--Daniel Hanford**

Died Sept. 25 1857, aged 53 yrs, 9 mo's and 6 Days.

**Caroline Smith**

His wife Died Mar. 23, 1888, A.E. 83 yrs and 7 Days.

"He giveth his beloved sleep."

**398--Charles E. Hanford**

Died May 17, 1883, aged 52 yrs, & 6 m's,

**399--Sarah [Lockwood]**

Relict of Stephen Lockwood (within) was born March 7, 1757, and ended a life of practical benevolence, Sept. 21, 1848, aged 91, among her children in Milan, Ohio, where beneath their joint memorial repose her remains.

[On the other side of this stone is seen the following]

In memory of

**399--Capt Stephen Lockwood**

who died Feb. 13, 1830, in the 76 year of his age.



**400—Sarah Betts**

wife of D. Fitch Betts, Died  
Nov. 30, 1854, *Æ*. 57 yrs 9 mo's  
& 6 D's.

[Lays on the ground]

**401—Sarah Esther Betts**

daughter of Henry & Rebecca  
Betts Born March 29, 1804,  
Died May 5 1867

**402—Rebecca Betts**

widow of Henry Betts Died  
Jan. 24, 1851, in the 80th year  
of her age.

**Henry Betts**

Died at Statten Island, N. Y.  
Aug. 18, 1815, in the 49th year  
of his age.

Died Aug. 31, 1832.

**403—Susan Isaacs, [Betts]**

daughter of Daniel F. & Sarah  
Betts, *Æ*. 3 years & 11 months.

**404—Uriah Hanford**

Died at Unadilla, N. Y. Dec. 24,  
1823, aged 56, years.

**Rhoda**

His wife Died Aug. 26, 1848,  
aged 80, years.

In memory of

**405—Franklin, [Hanford]**

son of Joseph & Jane Hanford  
who died Dec 31, 1843-8, *Æ* 2  
years & 5 mo

In memory of

**406—Emma, [Hanford]**

Twin Daughter of Joseph P. &  
Jane Hanford, who Died Aug.  
2, 1859, *Æ* 7 years & 10 mo

Of such is the Kingdom of Heaven

In memory of

**407—Phebe Ann, [Jennings  
Hoyt]**

wife of Henry B. Jennings,  
adopted Daughter of Ezra &  
Lucretia Hoyt, who Died Feb  
3, 1849, *Æ*. 26 yrs. 6 mo, & 18  
Days.

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the  
death of his Saints.—Ps, 116, 15.

In memory of

**408—Freddy, [Lockwood]**

son of Stephen D & Mary E.  
Lockwood, who Departed This  
life Jan. 1. 1861, In the 6th year  
of His age.

Weep not for little Freddy at home with the  
blest

When the notes of the angels lull him to rest  
His lay is now mingled with those in the sky  
With those robed in white in glory on high

**409—Lucretia [Hoyt]**

widow of Ezra Hoyt. Died Oct,  
3, 1876. *Æ*. 86 yrs & 16 Days.

She sleeps in Jesus

**410—Ezra Hoyt,**

Died April 23, 1871, *Æ*. 81 yrs  
8 mos and 6 Days.

Dearest husband thou has left us,  
And thy loss we deeply feel;  
But tis God who hath bereft us,  
He can all our sorrows heal.

[Marble monument]

**Brown****411—Addie J. [Brown]**

wife of Junius Brown Died  
Dec 28, 1887, *Æ*. 31 yrs. 3 mo's  
& 25 Days.

"Blessed are the dead who are in the Lord."

**Junius H.**

Their son Born Aug. 13, 1886,  
Died Oct. 4, 1886

"A bud on earth to bloom in H-aven."

**412—Abby F. Lobdell [Osborn]**

wife of Clark H. Osborn. Died  
Sept. 20, 1887, aged 67 years.

At Rest.

**413—Walter D. [Osborn]**

son of C. H. & A. F. Osborn  
Died Jan. 19, 1879, aged 27  
years.

Our loved one

**414—Carman Remson**

Born Oct. 17, 1822. Died July  
14, 1892.

our loved one, Husband  
and Father, has gone a  
little while before us.





Father

**415 - Francis Hoyt**Died April 27, 1880. *E.* 76 years  
2 mo's & 20 Days

Mother

**416 - Angenette Smith (Hoyt)**wife of Francis Hoyt Died June  
14, 1886. *E.* 83 years, 2 mos. &  
4 Days.**417 - Katie Amelia, (Remson)**Died Sept. 17, 1858. *E.* 2 y'rs  
3 mo's & 10 D's.**George Henry**Died Sept. 12, 1858. *E.* 6 w'ks.Children of Carman & Catherine  
A. Remson.Two little lambs in Heaven,  
In the dear Saviour's fold,  
Led by a gentle Shepherd,  
Where love can ne'er grow cold.

In memory of

**418 - Harriet Emily Webb  
(Saunders)**only daughter of Furr & Law-  
rinda Saunders, who departed  
this life Feb. 21, 1847. *E.* 19  
y'rs, & 2 d'sFarewell my dearest Emily far well  
My only daughter dear it was hard  
For us to part and when I write these lines  
It's with a broken heart, but we did last  
Part to meet again in that bright world  
Above where Emily and her mother can sing  
redeeming love.Death spares not one! the young the fair  
The good the gifted fall;  
How rich the harvest gathered there,  
Beneath the gloomy pall!Those who in childhood climbed our knee  
And kissed their infant bow,  
Laid in the silent tomb we see—  
The tomb that yawns for more;**419 - Miles Capstick**

Died May 6, 1850 aged 43 years.

"In the cross of Christ I glory."  
"Worthy is the Lamb that was slain."**420 - Fanny Capstick**Died July 19, 1877, aged 71  
years.

"At rest in Jesus."

[Double stone]

**421 - Mary Ann (Capstick)**Daughter of Miles & Fanny  
Capstick Died April 18, 1856.  
*E.* 24 years**Miles H. (Capstick)**son of Miles & Fanny Capstick  
Died Aug. 17, 1866. *E.* 29  
years.Another time not—now—will Jesus speak Those  
wonderous words he hath in store  
Not now but "afterward" will be revealed The  
precious fruit of peace and righteous-  
ness.**422 - Harriet S. Tryon**Died July 11, 1881. *E.* 49 y'rs. &  
2 mo's.

Asleep in Jesus.

Tryon

**423 - Chrissie L. (Fox)**wife of William J. Fox Born  
Oct. 23, 1830.**424 - William J. Fox,**Died Jan 17, 1882. *E.* 52, y'rs 4  
m's

Not dead but resting.

**425 - Sarah E. Jarvis (Chris-  
topher)**wife of Alfred P. Christopher  
Died July 26, 1878. *E.* 31 y'rs,  
1 mo & 21 Days.also infant sons, Isaac Jarvis, &  
Robert Edward, *E.* 16 Days.

Loved, Lamented, Blessed.

**426 - Isaac P. Jarvis**Died April 10, 1885, *E.* 73  
years & 4 Days.We thought him faultless  
Knew him to be charitable  
and beloved him crowned.**427 - Harriet Jarvis**wife of I. P. Jarvis Died April  
10, 1855. *E.* 39 y'rs 9 mo's & 10  
D's.Also an infant daughter of I. P.  
& Harriet Jarvis Died July 7  
1855. *E.* 3 mo's.



**428—Mary P. [Jarvis]**

died March 3, 1850 .E. 13 y'rs

How short the race our child has run,  
Cut down in all her bloom  
The course but yesterday began  
Now finish'd in the Tomb.

**Mary L.**

died Oct. 26, 1851, .E 1 year &amp; 6 mo's.

Sleep on little one  
And take thy rest  
God called thee home  
When he thought best.

Children of Isaac P. & Harriet  
Jarvis.

**429 Annie Elizabeth Jarvis,**

wife of G. W. Nantz. Died Feb  
18, 1866, .E 25 y'rs 9 mo's & 21  
D's.

A devoted Wife and Kind Mother

**Carrie E. Nantz.**

.E. 7 mo's.

A bud on earth, to bloom in Heaven.

**430—Caroline [Bennett]**

wife of Henry Bennett Died  
Jan. 24, 1892, .E 73 years, & 5  
months,

**431—Henry Bennett**

Died Sept. 6, 1875. .E 6 years &  
3 Days

**432—William Bennett**

Died Sept, 5, 1883, aged 31  
years.

**433 Charles H [Bennett]**

son of Henry & Caroline Ben-  
nett Died Sept. 16, 1849. .E 2  
y's, 6 mo & 18 d.

Though broken from the parent stem,  
A bud so sweet and rare,  
It blooms on high in fields of light  
More lovely fresh and fair

**434—Matthew Rawson**

Born Dec. 23, 1826. Died May  
9, 1882.



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## NECROLOGY.

### IN MEMORIAM.

The following memoir of the late Samuel Orcutt was read before the Historical society by the president, R. B. Lacey, on Friday evening, February 10, 1893.

#### REV. SAMUEL ORCUTT.

Samuel Orcutt was born in Albany county in the state of New York, April 12, 1824, the son of James and Salina (Crosby) Orcutt. The family removed to New York state, soon after the revolutionary war, from Tolland county, Conn.

Samuel was early engaged in such work as he could do on his father's farm, and attending the public district school a portion of each year. He became interested in the subject of personal religion at the age of 16. He pursued classical studies and higher mathematics in the academy at Cazenovia, teaching in the common schools at intervals while pursuing his theological course. His first appointment as a preacher in the Methodist Episcopal church was in Tioga county, when about the age of 21, years. He subsequently had appointments at Williams Bridge, near New York city, also at Patchogue and Greenport on Long Island. His last appointment in the Methodist connection was about 1865, in New York on Fifty-second or Fifty-third street and a church edifice was erected for his charge during his stay. Partly at least through dissatisfaction with the itinerancy he transferred his relations to the Congregational denomination and was engaged as acting pastor over the church of that order at Wolcott, in Litchfield county, Conn. Here he became interested in the early history of the church and of the town and its families, and receiving some tangible encouragement he prepared and published in 1874 the history of that town: the first of a series of town histories, which will be his lasting monument.

In 1875 he removed to Torrington, Conn., and during his





stay there, performed a like service for that town. Then followed the history of Derby, Conn., in 1880, which he prepared and published in connection with Dr. Ambrose Beardsley. He next prepared with more than usual satisfaction and published, the history of New Milford, Conn., in 1882.

During this period in New Milford and Derby he studied the history of the Indians of the Housatonic valley and of western Connecticut, and published in 1882 his valuable volume in reference to them.

In 1884 he came to Bridgeport, where after some prospecting among the ancient records of Stratford and the parish of Stratfield (now Bridgeport) he found a rich field for study and development, and with the slight encouragement that could be afforded, commenced the preparation of the history of the old town of Stratford and Bridgeport, in numbers. The first number of 186 pages was issued in 1884, and gave such satisfaction, and he received such encouragement that he went on, under the auspices of the Historical society, with individual aid and guarantees. The work grew upon his hands. The Rev. B. L. Swan placed at his disposal the result of his studies of the early history and genealogies of the old town, embracing Trumbull, Huntington, Monroe and much of Bridgeport, which, supplemented by his own labors, was a feature, not perfect, but of such immense interest and importance as he felt could not be omitted, though it involved him and his friends in unwarranted expense, beyond the original estimates. The fifth and final number of the work containing the genealogies and index, cost more for printing, than the original estimate for the entire work as first laid out. The work was completed and published entire in 1886, and though a pecuniary loss to the author and friends that stood by him, has taken its place as one of the best town histories of the state and could not be spared from the libraries in which it has found a place.

The ill-success, financially, of his last venture at the preparation and publication of town histories, weakened his interest in work in that line. Labor in the line of his clerical profession had more attractions for him, and his eye was directed



to Southern California as a field where he might be able to exercise his gifts usefully to others and with comfort to himself. Encouraged and aided by a son who had preceded him, he crossed the continent and spent several months sojourning at different points in Southern California. The rest and relaxation of this period, served to restore and tone up his jaded system and put new vigor into a constitution which suffered much from malaria early contracted.

At this period Mr. Elias S. Hawley, of Buffalo, N. Y., who for 40 years had been collecting and arranging the data for his "Hawley Record," came to need the help of a competent person, "to see it through the press," and inquired of the writer. It was my great pleasure to recommend Mr. Orcutt as just the man for the place and the work. A correspondence was opened resulting in his engagement which lasted for nearly or quite two years and brought out a work which, in its plan, scope and magnitude stands at the head of family genealogies in this country.

During Mr. Orcutt's previous residence in Bridgeport he had rendered some assistance in searching and setting in order the history and genealogy of the Tomlinson family. This work had further progressed under the hands of members of the family and as soon as Mr. Orcutt was at liberty they availed themselves of his services to complete and publish the work which bears date 1891, and does him great credit. This is the last of his series and it is safe to say he took more comfort and satisfaction in its preparation and results, than in almost any other one of his publications, possibly excepting that of New Milford.

Mr. Orcutt spent the winter of 1891-92, with his family friends in New York state, who express a great regard for him and to whom he was strongly attached.

In March last he was called hither by the sudden illness and death of his youngest son Herbert J., a bright and promising young man connected with the hardware establishment of T. Hawley & Co. This blow fell upon him with crushing weight, and he never ceased to mourn what he counted his untimely death.



Being here without special engagement he easily became enlisted in searching out and study of old records and correspondence, also the history and genealogy of several of our old families, viz: Burton, Burroughs, Wheeler and Beardsley. He spent considerable time in searching the old Stratford town records, with a view of locating the lands taken up by the early settlers, the highways laid out or provided for and the location of districts or neighborhoods mentioned; which for the most part are very obscure at this period. This work it is to be regretted he left unfinished. In his examination of the town records of Stratford and Fairfield during the period of the revolution, Mr. Orcutt found numerous items relative to the loyalist element of these communities, and reference to trials in the county court for open aid of the enemy, for refusal to respond when called to perform military or coast guard duty, &c. This led him to an examination of the records and files of the court. He spent several weeks in this labor, digging out much of very great interest, which he would have set in order, and given to the public through this society had his life been spared, thus throwing a flood of light upon one of the darkest and most difficult features of the history of our revolutionary period.

At the annual meeting of the society in April last, Mr. Orcutt was elected recording secretary, the duties of which position he performed acceptably, and gave extra time and attention to the preparation and packing of the books and exhibits of the society, in anticipation of their removal to the new building, "The Baruum Institute." The removal was mainly accomplished in two days, the 6th and 7th of January last past. The week following he spent with some assistance in opening and adjusting the exhibits, into which work he entered with great spirit. At 4 o'clock, P. M., Saturday, the 14th of January, he went to the freight office of the Bridgeport Steamboat company on South avenue pier to procure a valuable box for the society. He performed his errand, saw the box upon a truck and started briskly upon his return. As he came out to the railroad tracks, cars were moving and he was signaled to keep back. He did not heed the signals, but



rushed across the tracks and was nearly clear, when he was struck by the engine of a fast express train which it is probable he had not seen. was thrown quite a distance aside, and either by the engine or some other object with which he came in contact, his skull was crushed just back of the crown of the head, which caused almost immediate death. Thus suddenly and sadly was terminated a most valuable and useful life.

The following resolutions were adopted by the historical society and ordered upon the records.

#### RESOLUTION OF RESPECT.

At a special meeting of the Fairfield County Historical society, held January 16, 1893, to take proper action concerning the sudden, violent and startling death of its recording secretary, Rev. Samuel Orcutt, on Saturday, January 14, it was

*Resolved*, That the services rendered to this community and state by the deceased as a historian, entitles him to the grateful recognition of all who are interested in the collection and preservation of the annals of our state.

*Resolved*, That this society is under special obligations to him for his untiring zeal, abundant labors and great abilities so cheerfully and patiently exercised in its behalf.

*Resolved*, That his social and agreeable manners, his self-denying and modest deportment, his real merit and knowledge won our regard, and we deeply deplore his loss.

*Resolved*, That these resolutions be spread upon the records as a memorial of our appreciation of his worth.

H. N. WAREMAN,

Secretary pro tem.

Mr. Orcutt left a wife (with whom he had not lived for a number of years), a son Edward S. Orcutt, residing in Providence, R. I. a son William H. and a daughter with husband and five children in Crescent City, California. Mr. Edward Orcutt was immediately advised of his father's death and arrived here at 5 o'clock Monday morning, January 17 prepared to do everything requisite for the funeral and interment, but the society anticipated him, provided for the funeral as a testimonial of personal regard, which was largely attended at the First Congregational church, the Rev. Charles Ray Palmer, D. D., officiating, and the following gentlemen (members of the Historical Society) acting as pall bearers: Thomas Calef,





James R. Burroughs, Silas Burton, James M. Somers, N. H. Jones, E. S. Phillips. His burial was in a beautiful location in the old Stratfield cemetery, in which he had felt a deep interest, and to which he had given much time and labor.

The "kind and thoughtful attention" of his friends has been gratefully acknowledged by the children.

Mr. Orcutt was a member in good standing of the New Haven West Association of Congregational Ministers, embracing many of the professors and faculty of Yale college and Theological seminary, and was very faithful in his attendance upon its stated meetings when living within reasonable distance. From his early education and intercourse, as well as from study, he was not in sympathy with the severer features of a Calvinistic theology, but was sound in his belief and trust in Jesus Christ and him crucified as the only hope of a lost world.

He preached acceptably as an occasional supply in the churches of the vicinity and performed special labor in the Putney district of Stratford, which was much prized and was expected to be repeated this opening season.

He was much interested in the union daily prayer meetings held in the chapel of the First Congregational church and which he occasionally led.

Some extracts from a small journal or diary in the possession of the society, exhibits his character at this period in an interesting light.

Saturday, April 5, 1890.—Enjoyed the day very much at cousin ——, especially in reading old letters of my kindred.

Saturday, April 12, 1890.—A beautiful day, and this day I am 66 years old: a perfect astonishment to me, as I look back or think of the years that are past, which have gone, Oh so swiftly. I am in full vigor of body and mind, the energy and grasp of intellect being greater than in any former period. With great interest I think of and make preparations for the future of this life and the next.

Thursday, Nov. 13, 1890.—One of the most glorious mornings I ever experienced, and it will long be remembered.

Wednesday, Dec. 31, 1890.—Thus ends the year 1890, so far as I can judge, it has been to me, the most satisfactory



year of my life. I have had good health, worked steady about 9 months and traveled more (or in a vacation) than ever before. My reading and study have profited me more than any previous year, probably because I know what to read and how to use it.

I am truly thankful for life through this year to HIM who gives all life.

He was a very genial man socially and made many friends. The following are specimens of the letters received since his death, which bear testimony to the above fact and verbal expressions of a like tenor have been abundant:

MIDDLETON, Conn., Jan. 17, 1893.

*Monday a. m.*

*R. B. Lacey, Esq.:*

DEAR SIR:—I was really shocked on reading of Mr. Orcutt's tragic death in this morning's *Courant*. I had found him a gentle, kindly, lovable man, and had become much attached to him, and was anticipating many pleasant meetings and trips with him in genealogical searches.

I don't know when or where his funeral is to be, but if I can I shall attend it, and I shall surely remember and miss him, be my life long or short.

Yours truly,

HENRY E. BURTON.

HOOSICK FALLS, N. Y., Jan. 18, 1893.

*To the President of the Fairfield County Historical Society:*

SIR:—I have just read the statement that the Rev. Samuel Orcutt, secretary of the society, was almost instantly killed by the Consolidated railroad on Saturday evening. I am shocked and deeply grieved.

I have corresponded with him for years. Within the past month I have received two or three letters from him. In one he says "so many old friends have gone out of this life within the past year that I am almost heart broken." Again alluding to my own grievous afflictions, he says "I do not see how you and others have lived through such woes." There was a sadness pervading his last letters that impressed me. I was about sending some genealogical and biographical manuscript to him for his examination. I am indeed grieved, and feel that I have met with a personal loss. My intercourse with him was always most pleasant.

He has done a valuable work for the Fairfield County Historical society, and gathered and recorded material facts that no other person had done, and which, but for him, might have



been irrecoverably lost. Whatever action is taken by your society in reference to his tragic departure I hope to be informed of.

Very respectfully yours,

GEORGE HUNTINGTON NICHOLS.

SAVILLE, L. I., N. Y., Jan., 15, 1893.

*Dear Mr. Lacey:*

I read in to-day's paper the painful news of the death of our esteemed friend and office associate, the Rev. Samuel Orcutt. We shall feel quite keenly the void his death will make in the little circle, as a missing link in the chain of unalloyed friendship. My deepest sympathy is extended to all.

Very respectfully,

HENRY HARDING.

BUFFALO, N. Y., Jan. 20, 1893.

*My Dear Mr. Lacey:*

Your postal with its sad announcement reached me while in the very midst of the labors of a quarterly meeting of our hospital. I did not acknowledge its receipt, as I was so busy and expected soon the kind letter (of date 18) this month.

This is one of the very few incidents of the kind which have ever effected me in that peculiarly indescribable manner, which requires some word having in it the combined sense of respect, regret and sorrow, and the questions why and for what purpose.

There is no such word, and if I should attempt to convey to you my feeling on the event, I am certain the expressions would all appear a sad lot of conventionalities falling infinitely short of what I would desire to say of the character and ability of the Rev. Samuel Orcutt.

As you know, a two-year intimate association with him gave me abundant opportunity to become familiar with his personal traits, and if I were to write an obituary, it would draw heavily on the good side of the unabridged dictionary.

I enclose a draft to your order as president of the society. Please use one-half of it for funeral expenses and one-half towards a proper headstone, both as contributions of the "society."

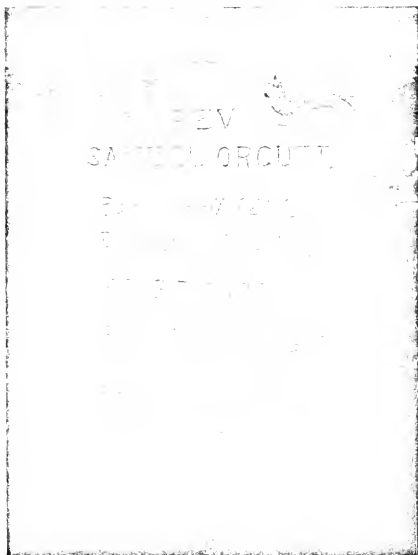
I am glad the remains are to be buried in old Stratfield ground. It is proper and fitting that a faithful and painstaking local historian should rest in locally historic ground.

The members of my family join with me in expressing deep regret for the sad end of a good friend and worthy man.

Very respectfully yours,

ELIAS S. HAWLEY.





This Stone marks the grave of REV. SAMUEL ORCUTT in the Old Stratfield Cemetery, near the corner of North and Clinton Avenues. It is centrally located on highest ground, in close proximity to that of the eminent Mr. Samuel Sherman, the emigrant ancestor of the Shermans of Old Stratford, Woodbury, Bridgeport and vicinity.

It is fitting that the remains of our friend and brother should rest in this Ancient and Historic burial place, upon which and the history it illustrates, he bestowed so much labor, and to which more than any other he became attached.





## IN MEMORIAM.

## HORACE NICHOLS

who died March 12, 1894, the result of a fall on Saturday, was a native of Greenfield in the town of Fairfield, Connecticut, born May 29, 1812, the son of Elijah and Julia (Banks) Nichols.

He had the advantage of the public school and academy of his native village, also the Staples Easton academy, and excelled in penmanship and mathematics, making navigation a specialty. He taught in the public schools and for a short time in the Fairfield academy. In the spring of 1836 he entered the Connecticut bank as teller and bookkeeper, succeeding the late George Burroughs, of excellent memory, who left for a better position in New York city. He served the bank faithfully until 1840. On the opening of the Housatonic railroad he became the assistant of Mr. Jesse Sterling, the first treasurer of that company, and on his early retirement Mr. Nichols succeeded him as treasurer.

He continued in this position until the organization of the Naugatuck Railroad Company in 1848, when he was elected secretary and treasurer of that company and was succeeded in the Housatonic company by Mr. Charles K. Averill. Mr. Nichols continued the faithful and efficient treasurer of the Naugatuck company until its absorption with the Consolidated company in 1888—a period of 40 years.

The Rev. Mr. Orcutt in his Derby history, among the more elaborate notices of several men, prominent in the inception and management of the Naugatuck railroad, has this to say of Mr. Nichols: "When the Naugatuck railroad was started, he was elected secretary and treasurer, and was continued therein a faithful, honorable, prompt and energetic officer, until the present time (1880.) He is unostentatious, scarcely allowing a notice to be made of him in public print."

Mr. Nichols had in his make up a vein of quiet humor, which would crop out and scintillate in witty and sage remarks, in his intercourse with those with whom he was somewhat familiar. In his early days he was proficient on the violin,



which he kept secluded under his bed in his room in the old Sterling hotel, but was occasionally induced to bring it out and regale his friends who had learned to appreciate his skill. He could blow the fife and beat the drum, and being liable for military duty, on occasion led the old militia company of that period under Captain George Thatcher, in its marches and evolutions, notably the exhibition of the "double quick" on Golden hill, past the residence of "Uncle Daniel" Thatcher.

In 1843 the Mutual Life Insurance company of New York was organized, and Henry W. Hubbell, son of Captain Ezekiel Hubbell of Bridgeport, was one of the original board of trustees. Mr. Daniel Thatcher, a relative by marriage, had succeeded Captain Hubbell as president of the Connecticut-bank, and took such interest in the new life insurance organization (then regarded as an experiment) as to act as local agent for Bridgeport. Other arrangements, however, soon led him to relinquish the agency, and he turned it over to Mr. Nichols fully 50 years ago, who has continued it in his quiet way all this long period, witnessing a prosperity and growth almost, if not quite, unparalleled.

Mr. Nichols was continued in the directorship of the Housatonic railroad company after his retirement from the office of treasurer many years.

He was among the original corporators of the Bridgeport Gas Light company in 1849 and was a director at the time of his death. One of the corporators of the City Savings bank he was elected a member of its first board of trustees in 1859 and has had a continuous and faithful service since; recognized in his advance to the presidency on the death of Mr. Ira Gregory in 1883. This position he retained to the day of his death and contributed his full share to its remarkable success.

He was an active director of the First National bank from 1867 to the present time and died in the service.

Mr. Nichols was also a member of the Fairfield County Historical society. He was much interested in its work and made several contributions to its library, among them several volumes of rare old mathematical works.



A wise and faithful public servant in all these relations, his removal makes a void difficult to fill.

The domestic features of Mr. Nichols's life were exceedingly happy. He was united in marriage October 28, 1850, with Miss Julia Bishop, a sister of Mr. Alfred Bishop, and soon settled in the pleasant home No. 94 Courtland street, which he has ever since occupied, a highly esteemed neighbor and friend. The union was blessed with a daughter (Clara), now the wife of Mr. George M. Baldwin, who with the widow survive him, and in their great sorrow have the deep sympathy of their large circle of friends.

Mr. Nichols had a great attachment for the parental home at Greenfield and tenderly cared for his venerable mother who continued to occupy it until a recent period, when she died at the great age of 92 years. It is still occupied by his surviving brother, William Nichols.

Mr. and Mrs. Nichols were early identified with the South Congregational church, during the pastorate of the Rev. Dr. N. Hewitt, of whom they were ardent admirers. They were prominent among the company which in 1853 organized the First Presbyterian church and society, of which Dr. Hewitt was the first pastor, and they have ever been among its staunchest supporters.

—*Republican Standard*, Mar. 16, 1894.

—*Daily Standard*, Mar. 13, 1894.

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#### IN MEMORIAM.

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#### GENERAL WILLIAM H. NOBLE.

General William H. Noble, so long one of the most prominent and esteemed men in Bridgeport's history and one whose commanding figure was known to all, died at 12:30 p. m., to day.

The general's physical condition was considerably weakened by wounds and prison life in the late war, where he made so brilliant a record. But his business activity has suffered little diminution until laterly when the weight of years have been



added to drain his strength, his form remaining upright and soldierly to the last.

During the recent fall, he has been comparatively well, has attended to his duties as park commissioner, and has been active in various ways. Last week Tuesday he took cold while superintending operations at the filling-in along the harbor, adjoining his property on Kossuth street. Grip ensued, and two days ago developed into broncho-pneumonia, since when his physician, Dr. C. H. Bill has had little hope. He died without suffering. His wife, his daughter Henrietta, his son, John F. Noble, and the doctor were at his bedside.

General William Henry Noble, son of the Rev. Birdsey Glover Noble, and Charlotte Noble, was born in Newtown, August 18, 1813, at the home of his grandfather, John Sanford. His father was then rector of Christ church, Middletown, and later was made a trustee of Trinity college, Hartford, then Washington college. General Noble was educated at the military school of Captain Alden Partridge, at Middletown.

He came to Bridgeport early in 1834, as a teacher of French and Spanish in the school of his father, who occupied a house on Golden Hill, afterward owned by the Rev. G. B. Day.

Very soon after he entered the law office of Judge Joseph Wood as a student, and was admitted to the bar of Fairfield county in 1836. In that year he was instrumental in securing the charter of the city of Bridgeport and the charter of the Housatonic Railroad company, and was secretary of that company for a number of years.

He was clerk of the courts in Fairfield county for several years and in 1839 he married Harriet Jones, daughter of Benjamin Brooks, Esq., of this city. In 1846 he was appointed the state's attorney of this county, and in 1850 he was nominated for congress from this district but was defeated.

It was about this time that he began the layout of East Bridgeport, in which work he was actively engaged for 10 years, building or assisting in the construction of houses, hotels and factories, opening the streets, setting out trees, and sharing with the city the cost of repairing the bridges,





leading to the center. He rendered invaluable aid to the churches erected in the settlement, gave money, land and a great amount of time to the city for nothing. In 1852, he, with the late P. T. Barnum, dedicated Washington park to public use.

It was in 1853 that he purchased the charter of the Bridgeport Water company in behalf of Nathaniel Greene and his associates, who carried out the undertaking. This enterprise becoming complicated with Mr. Greene's other affairs, fell into the hands of the bondholders, for whom Mr. Noble in 1857 obtained a grant of incorporation under the name of the Bridgeport Hydraulic company, under which charter the water supply of the city is now procured. He was a commissioner of both companies and sanctioned their bonds issued.

In 1856 he was instrumental with Francis Ives, Esq., in disentangling the affairs of the Jerome Clock company and Mr. Barnum, to admit of the Wheeler & Wilson Manufacturing company getting possession of the property of the clock company and subsequently removing to this city.

In 1860, as a Douglass Democrat, he took a prominent part in the organization of the Union party in this state, the election of Governor Buckingham and the support of all war measures. In 1862 he was commissioned by the governor as colonel of the Seventeenth Connecticut volunteers.

General Noble's war record is one of which this city and his friends were always proud. He received his commission on July 22, 1862, and within 30 days 1,000 men were ready for the front. They were mustered into service in August 28, and left for the front on September 3. The regiment was severely taxed by marches and countermarches but finally settled down into winter quarters at Brooks Station, Va., until the Chancellorsville campaign.

At the battle of Chancellorsville Colonel Noble's regiment bravely

WITHSTOOD THE TERRIBLE ONSLAUGHT

of Stonewall Jackson. Colonel Noble was wounded, having the main artery of his left arm cut by a minnie ball, being struck on the left knee by a fragment of shell and having his



horse shot under him. He was led fainting from the field, the fortunate clogging of the artery preventing his bleeding to death, but circulation having stopped in the lower arm he only saved his arm from immediate amputation at the field hospital where he was taken, by insisting upon waiting to see Dr. Hubbard, the surgeon of his regiment. Dr. Hubbard said the arm could be saved and the wounded colonel was given a furlough of 20 days.

His work throughout the war was marked by valor and perseverance. On July 4, 1863, he charged with his brigade into the town of Gettysburg early in the morning and recaptured it.

On December 24, 1864, he was captured by a band of guerrillas and taken to the horrible prison at Andersonville. He remained in confinement until the following April, when he with a number of other officers was exchanged. In 1864, for meritorious service, he was commissioned by congress as brigadier general by brevet, upon recommendation of General Grant, and was mustered out of service in July 1865.

Since the war, although much reduced in health, General Noble has followed his profession and filled

#### VARIOUS PUBLIC TRUSTS.

He has been a member of the council several times, was for years chairman of the board of park commissioners, and was a member of the state legislature in 1884.

At Hartford he was chairman of the military committee of the house and a member of the committee on ceremonies at the unveiling of Governor Buckingham's statue in the capitol. In the midst of a busy life he found time to devote much attention to horticulture and fruit growing, having, probably, the largest variety of pears in the state. At the request of the state pomologist, Gen. Noble exhibited specimens of his fruit in the Connecticut collection at the centennial exposition in Philadelphia and in the New Orleans exposition in 1884-5.

#### HIS HOME LIFE.

In the death of General Noble, Bridgeport loses another of her prominent and influential citizens, who has done much for her welfare, and whose record was always to her honor.



General Noble was among the first to foresee and appreciate the future of Bridgeport while she was still a small town, and in connection with the late P. T. Barnum to open up and render available the valuable portion known as East Bridgeport.

He was energetic, active and enterprising and although not so successful in his schemes at first as others, the developments of later years have fully vindicated his foresight and sagacity. In every walk of life he was honorable and distinguished and as a citizen and a soldier he bore himself above reproach. In his family he was the most lovable of men and only those who knew personally of his domestic life can appreciate his entire character. He was senior warden of Christ church, a position which he had occupied for many years and while physical infirmity had prevented his active participation in church affairs of late years, he was always generous and prompt in bearing his share of all the burdens.

General Noble was one of the early members of the Fairfield County Historical Society, and for many years, and up to the time of his death one of its Vice-Presidents. He took an active interest in its affairs and promoted its welfare in every way within his power.

Generosity and hospitality were prominent traits of his character, and he was endeared to a wide circle of friends by his open-handed liberality. He manifested these qualities in his dealings as a pension agent with his fellow veterans, whom he assisted in every way in his power. He cherished the recollections and associations of the service as sacred memories to be shared with all who had known them, and was beloved and admired by his associates of the army.

His wife and four grown up children survive him, the latter being John F. and Henrietta M., of Bridgeport, Clarence M., of New York, and Mrs. H. E. DePuy, of Philadelphia.

#### ALFRED HOPKINS.

Alfred Hopkins was born in Bridgeport, October 1831, the son of Mr. John Hopkins a well known shoe dealer for many years prior to 1860. His mother was Abigail Booth, daughter of Mr. James Booth of Stratford. His Grand Father John



Hopkins came to Stratfield from the North of Ireland in company with Mr. Patrick Keeler during the period of the Revolution and located on the Valley Road so called, a few rods from the point where it leaves the upper cross road leading from Truck street, (Clinton avenue) to the site of Toilsom Hill School House. His wife was Melitable Smith. Hopkins was a strong Presbyterian, while his friend Keeler was a firm adherent of the Church of England party. Though differing in religious sentiment in the times that tried men's souls, they ever remained fast friends and rest peacefully in close proximity, in the old Stratfield Cemetery. Alfred Hopkins had the benefit of the public and private schools of Bridgeport, especially of that notable teacher, Warren W. Selleck and thus became well grounded in the rudiments of a good business education. At proper age his father placed him as an apprentice with the firm of Porter & Booth, the leading tin ware and stove manufacturers of the place. Changes in their business released him before he attained his majority and he finished with the new firm of Lockwood & Zane, practical plumbers. This latter art had just come into prominence, through the introduction of a larger supply of public water.

In 1853 Mr. Hopkins started in business on Water street, just below State, in the brick store owned by Mr. N. S. Wordin, expecting to be joined by a fellow workman Alfred Gould, but he did not come to time. Edward Beardsley of Stratford was with him a part of his first year. After that he went on alone, until he was joined by his brother Lewis Miles Hopkins, now of 352 Main street. Mr. Frank Booth entered his employ in 1854 and remained with him through his whole business career of forty years. The late Daniel S. Stratton was also a faithful employee for nearly the same period.

Since the death of Mr. Hopkins, Mr. Frank Booth and his son Fred. C., a faithful clerk and business manager, have succeeded to the entire business. After the removal of the Rail Road Depot from its former location below State street to its present locality, business also moved up, and the Hopkins brothers bought out the firm of Ives & Wilmot on Wall street. Alfred located there, while his brother L. M., soon after





secured the store No. 352 Main street, and they conducted each a separate business in similar lines.

Mr. Hopkins interested himself in securing the location of the Wheeler & Wilson Sewing Machine Company in Bridgeport and became a stockholder in the company. He was a wide-awake plumber and easily made friends with the managers as also with the employees who shared in the great prosperity of the business. Shops and dwellings with all the latest improvements were multiplied and A. Hopkins was the plumber who, it was thought could put them in, in the best manner. In 1869-70 the north section of Wheeler building was erected and Mr. Hopkins purchased the site No. 454-456 Main street and erected the building in connection and in harmony with the other buildings of the same block. This was fitted up on several floors most elaborately, and stocked with a complete assortment of stoves, gas fixtures and House-furnishing goods, probably the largest and most complete in the State. As matters turned this became a burden and a moth in subsequent years. He gave special attention to steam heating of large structures as churches and school houses, and his work gave great satisfaction in economy, effectiveness and ventilation.

In the midst of his activities, without premonition death came very suddenly to Mr. Hopkins. April 25, 1894. He was invited by a friend to join him in attendance upon the auction sale of the George Hotel at Black Rock on the afternoon of the above date. Upon arriving the two gentlemen entered the hotel and Mr. Hopkins had just passed into the hall when he fell to the floor. In a moment his friend was at his side but found him unconscious. Death was instantaneous and was due to rheumatism of the heart. Mr. Hopkins was genial and popular as a man, and in business circles, a prominent member of the Master Plumbers Association. Kind and affectionate in his family—kind also to his employees and in his charities liberal almost to a fault. He became a member of this Society in 1892 and gave many evidences of his appreciation and interest.



## NATHANIEL WHEELER.

Nathaniel Wheeler, son of David and Sarah (DeForest) Wheeler, was born at Watertown, Connecticut, September 7, 1820.

His father being a carriage manufacturer, the son learned the same trade. When he was twenty-one years of age he took the proprietorship and management of a manufactory of carriages and also of light articles of hardware. By applying machinery in place of hand labor in the production of his wares, he reduced the price of some of them to less than one thirtieth of their former cost. Thus early in life he displayed the practical ability which marked his whole career.

Mr. Wheeler became interested in the earliest invention of Allen B. Wilson, whose patents of 1851, 1852, and 1854, covered the essential elements of the first rotary-hook, lock-stitch sewing machines as well as of a certain form of "feed" which has been almost universally adopted in sewing machines of all systems. The inventive genius of Wilson was assisted, supplemented and guided by Mr. Wheeler who really organized Wilson's devices into a practical, working mechanism.

In the year 1852 Mr. Wheeler formed with others a copartnership under the firm name of Wheeler, Wilson & Co., and under the general management of Mr. Wheeler, for the purpose of manufacturing sewing machines conformably with the Wilson patents. This copartnership was succeeded by the Wheeler & Wilson Manufacturing Company, organized in October 1853, and subsequently (June 1864) specially chartered by the Legislature of the state of Connecticut. Mr. Wheeler filled the office of president of that corporation continuously from 1855 to the end of his life.

Not only did Mr. Wheeler substantially found the Wheeler & Wilson Manufacturing Company, but he made its business a success by personally demonstrating the practical value of its machines for use both in the household and in the factory—away back in the times when the introduction of labor-saving machinery was regarded by many as an outrage upon laboring people: when it was predicted that the success of sewing machines would be the ruin of seamstresses.



Mr. Wheeler's services to his Company and his part in developing the art with which it is occupied, were not confined to executive and purely practical functions. His inventive ability was of prime importance and benefit. Many radical improvements in the Company's machines were due to experiments instituted and directed by him, to the consequent inventions of others put into practical shape by him and especially to original inventions of his own. In fact, the progress heretofore made in the art of sewing by machinery has been due to Mr. Wheeler personally in a greater degree than to any other one man. In recognition of his services in the foundation and development of that art and industry, he was decorated, at the World's Exposition of Vienna in 1873, with the Knight's Cross of the Order of Francis Joseph, and at the *Exposition Universelle*, Paris, 1889, he received the Cross of the Legion of Honor of France.

In 1856 the works of the Wheeler & Wilson Manufacturing Company were moved from Watertown to Bridgeport, and at that time Mr. Wheeler became a resident of this city. His life was one of intense activity. Aside from managing the affairs of the great corporation with which his name is inseparably connected, he was an inventor of important methods of wood-finishing, of refrigeration, and of ventilating public buildings and railway cars. He was director of the Willimantic Linen Company, the Bridgeport Hydraulic Company, the Bridgeport Horse Railroad Company, the City National Bank of Bridgeport, the Fairfield Rubber Company, and the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad Company.

He was directing Commissioner in the laying out and completion of our Seaside Park, of which he was one of the chief donors; also one of the Commissioners for building the State Capitol at Hartford, where was won the great distinction of having constructed a first class public building free from jobs and within the prescribed limits of cost.

Mr. Wheeler became a member of the Historical Society, April 10, 1885. The Society was born and was housed under his hospitable roof (Wheeler's Building) nearly twelve years up to January 1893, when it was removed to its present home



in the Barnum Institute. He was much interested in the work of the Society, especially family history and genealogy, tracing his own lineage among the numerous and honorable descendants of Moses Wheeler who came from County of Kent, England, and was in New Haven as early as 1641, and in Stratford in 1648.

He was repeatedly called by choice of the people to take part in the legislation of the State of Connecticut and in the administration of important public affairs. Besides filling lower offices, he was for a number of years a Senator of the state; but he declined more and higher honors than he ever consented to accept.

No resident of Bridgeport was more generally known or held in higher esteem than Nathaniel Wheeler. All knew him as an upright citizen, an enterprising and energetic man of affairs, an honest politician, a worker for the public good, and a man of munificent liberality. His courtesy as a gentleman, his steadfastness as a friend, his geniality as a companion and his generosity in dispensing private charity won the admiration of his more intimate acquaintances.

In the Summer of 1833, he was attacked by a disease which made steady progress and caused his death at his residence in this city on the last day of that year.

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#### MARK RUSSELL LEAVENWORTH.

The late Mark Russell Leavenworth was born in Bridge-water, Conn., in 1846. He learned the stove and plumbing business in the neighboring town of New Milford, serving a five year's apprenticeship. In 1869 he came to Bridgeport, and the following year started in business for himself, locating in Burke's block on the East side. A few years later he removed the business to 531-3 Main street, where he continued until the date of his death, Nov. 1st, 1891.

He was married in 1872 to Mary, the only daughter of William H. Perry, who survives him.

Mr. Leavenworth joined the Historical Society, Sept. 9, 1887, taking an active and enthusiastic interest in the Society's





work. He was particularly interested in, and made an exhaustive study of the genealogical records of many of Fairfield County's prominent citizens. In pursuing the study he accumulated a large number of rare and valuable books. He was also the possessor of several costly (and now hard to get) volumes of Revolutionary History. In the early history of our country, and especially of the two wars with Great Britain, he was unusually well informed, and took great pleasure in visiting historic places of interest. He was an ardent follower of the Masonic craft, making a close study of the history of the order. His valuable Masonic books are to be presented to St. John's Lodge on the completion of the Temple in this city. He had reached the 32d degree, and had he lived another year would have been Grand Master of the State. Mr. Leavenworth was possessed of a cheerful disposition, and ever ready to be helpful to any in need of help. His name will be held in affectionate remembrance by all who knew him.

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#### OLIVER BURR JENNINGS.

Son of Captain Abraham Gold Jennings and Anna Burr, was born at Fairfield, Conn., June 3rd, 1825. He went to California in 1849, and soon became one of the prominent merchants of the Pacific Coast. He retired from active business in 1865, and returning to Fairfield, made that his summer home.

Mr. Jennings was a man of genial, social qualities, and though possessed of great wealth, was very unostentatious. He was a member of a Commission appointed by Governor Bulkley in 1885 for restoring the winter quarters of the right wing of the Continental Army of 1778-9, in the town of Redding, Conn. He died in the early part of 1883, leaving a widow, two sons and three daughters.

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#### JAMES M. BAILEY.

James Montgomery Bailey, the "Danbury News Man," the pioneer of American newspaper humor, was born in Albany,



N. Y., September 25th, 1841. When two years old, his father having been accidentally killed; his mother married again a gentleman of Rome, N. Y. Young Bailey's boyhood was thus passed partly in both those cities and he attended school in both places. After a brief experience in a grocery store and a lawyer's office, the family removed to Danbury, Conn. in 1860, where he ever afterwards continued to make his home. In 1862 he enlisted in the Danbury company of the Seventeenth Regiment, and his literary instinct early manifested itself in a series of letters to local papers.

He was made a prisoner at the battle of Gettysburg and was for some months detained at Belle Isle. When the war was over young Bailey associated himself with a comrade whose acquaintance he had made in the army, who had learned the printers trade, and together, with the aid of friends they purchased the *Danbury Times*, a democratic paper of small circulation—success followed the venture and after acquiring the *Jeffersonian*, a republican rival sheet, the two plants were united and in March 1870, the new paper called THE DANBURY NEWS was established.

Ambitious and energetic, the young editor gave full scope to his talents, and the originality of his humorous sketches soon began to attract the attention of his contemporaries. From an insignificant circulation, his paper leaped forward with marvelous strides, until it reached some forty thousand copies each week. His wit was clean and free from coarseness. None were injured, but all were the better for the pure fun and spontaneous humor which effervesced in his writings.

When his fame was at the highest, Mr. Bailey was urgently solicited to remove to New York, but he was wise enough to recognise the fact that it is easier to make a reputation than to sustain one, and all such propositions were firmly declined. In due time numerous imitators sprang up on all sides, and scarce any newspaper of any pretension but had its humorist. But Mr. Bailey was a stranger to envy and exhibited no jealousy of his rivals. He believed that honors were fleeting and settled down to realize his ambition to own and conduct a live newspaper that should be a faith-



ful chronicle of the events of his town. During the years when *The Danbury News* was one of the best known papers published, Mr. Baileys income was not less than \$10,000 a year.

In 1873 Mr. Bailey took a trip to California, and a year later he visited Great Britain and France. His first book was published in 1873 entitled "Life in Danbury." This was followed by "The Danbury Newsmans Almanac" in 1874, and "They all do it" in 1878, "Mr. Phillips Goneness," and "The Danbury Boom in 1880.

In 1878 he commenced to deliver lectures under the auspices of the Redpath Lyceum Bureau, and was as successful a lecturer, as he had proved a journalist.

Mr. Bailey married October 4th, 1866, Miss Catherine W. Stewart, and three children were born to them, but none lived beyond infancy, his wife survives him.

Mr. Bailey was a democrat and a member of the Baptist church, in which he was ever a faithful and zealous worker, he was interested in the Sunday school and was for many years a teacher.

He is described as tall of stature, dignified of bearing, straight as an arrow, with the figure of an athlete. His features were handsome and bore an expression of geniality, tenderness and sympathy. He was noted for his philanthropy and unstinted generosity, and notwithstanding his profitable business died comparatively poor; his invariable rule being never to turn away empty handed any one in distress or need.

He was an enthusiast in all matters pertaining to the welfare of his town, and took a deep interest in all movements for the public good. He died lamented by all classes and conditions who had known him personally or by his writings Sunday morning, March 3d, 1894, and was interred in Wooster cemetery, Wednesday afternoon following.

He was an aide-de camp on the staff of the national commander, Union Veteran Legion; vice-president of the State board of trade; president of the Danbury board of trade; president of the Danbury Relief society, and a life member of the Connecticut Humane society. He also belonged to the Society



of American Authors, Connecticut Army and Navy club, Union Ex-Prisoners of War, Knights Templar, Mystic Shrine, Connecticut Historical society, Fairfield County Historical society, Connecticut Press association, Authors Guild, and Seventeenth Regiment Veterans' association. He was one of the founders of the Danbury Hospital and was its first president.

#### FREDERICK S. WILDMAN.

Frederick Seymour Wildman was born in Danbury January 20, 1805. He was the son of Hon. Zalmon and Mary Dibble Wildman. Both the Wildman and Dibble families were among the earliest settlers of Danbury, and he (Mr. Wildman) was pardonably proud of his ancestry. He attended the public schools of his native village, and later the academy at Greenfield Hill and took high rank among the pupils.

From his early manhood he was very active in business and financial circles. His judgment in such matters was unexceptional, and was much sought. He was at once keen, acute, sympathetic and scrupulously just. His memory was remarkably retentive, and his mind was a veritable store house of local information pertaining to Old Danbury. Naturally he was interested in the Fairfield County Historical society, and became a member in 1883. He was prominent in local affairs and was called upon to administer many estates. He participated in the organization of the Danbury Savings Bank, and was its first president, which position he retained to the day of his death. The same is true of his connection with the Danbury Fire Insurance Company.

He was a democrat in politics, and held many honorable positions within the gift of his party. He was modest and unassuming, invariably courteous, a thorough gentleman of the old school, and hospitable almost to a fault. Respected and beloved, he lived to a good old age, and died in full possession of his faculties, peacefully and painlessly October 16, 1893, thus closing a noble life.





REPORTS

—AND—

PAPERS.

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Fairfield County

Historical Society.

BRIDGEPORT, CONN.

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1896-1897



FAIRFIELD COUNTY  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY



1897.



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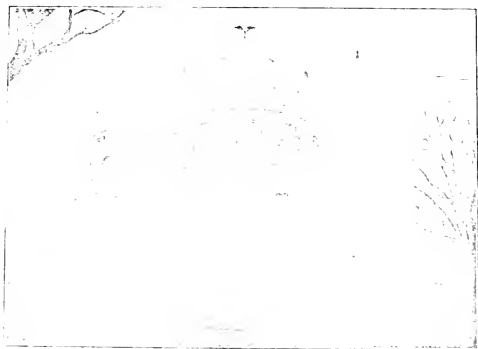
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THE FAIRFIELD COUNTY HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

Holds its Meetings and sustains its Library and Museum

in the

BARNUM INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE  
AND HISTORY,

Main Street, Bridgeport, Conn.

IT IS OWNER OF ONE-HALF OF THIS PROPERTY BY THE  
GIFT OF THE LATE P. T. BARNUM.



Its By-Laws provide for regular Monthly Meetings of the members.

It publishes every second year, a volume of valuable and interesting historical matter with its regular reports.

It gives a course of Historical Lectures during the winter months, delivered by some of the best talent in the country.

Its annual dues are three dollars for residents of Bridgeport and vicinity, and two dollars for non resident members.



OFFICERS

OF THE

FAIRFIELD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY,

Elected April 20th, 1897.

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THE OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY,

The President *ex officio* Chairman.

1897-98.





LINGOLN  
ANNIVERSARY

—AND—

HISTORICAL ADDRESS

—BY—

CURTIS THOMPSON, ESQ.,

MARCH 10th, 1896.







## LINCOLN ANNIVERSARY.

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The 36th anniversary of Lincoln's visit to Bridgeport was celebrated by the Society, March 10, 1896. The Lecture Room was appropriately decorated with flags and on the platform were placed portraits of Lincoln, the chair in which he sat while stopping at the house of Mr. Frederick Wood, and other historic reminders of the great President. The Wheeler & Wilson Band, which discoursed music on that occasion and one of whose members, Mr. Charles Kiefer, is still living and actively engaged with the band, participated in the exercises.

The President, R. B. Lacey, after outlining the purpose of the meeting and extending a welcome to all, presented Mr. Curtis Thompson, as the gentleman with whom originated the idea of the celebration, to preside over its exercises. The carefully prepared and interesting paper which follows, upon Lincoln and his visit, written by Mr. Thompson, was read to the meeting. Those members now living of the quartette who sang on that occasion, Mr. John S. Atkinson and Mr. Charles E. Wilmot, assisted by J. Howard Russell and Edward E. Lyman, rendered some patriotic selections which had been sung at that meeting in 1860. Mr. Henry R. Parrott, who was instrumental in getting Lincoln to visit Bridgeport, told the audience of his visit to New Haven as a representative of the "wide awakes," and the building of the wigwam near the Post Office. Major L. N. Middlebrook, who was the commander of the Lincoln Escort, gave an account of the duties of his company in marching from the house of Mr. Wood to Washington Hall and to the railroad station.

Emory F. Strong, Esq., one of the Vice-Presidents at that memorable meeting, related to the audience his impressions of Lincoln, of his awkward appearance at first and then how he held his hearers. D. F. Hollister, who was Collector of In-



ternal Revenue for this District during Lincoln's administration, told how he sat in the audience listening to Lincoln and the impression made on him, and the close attention given the speaker by the audience was never forgotten. Capt. S. C. Kingman, who was present at the meeting, made some remarks in a similar vein. Friend W. Smith, Esq., told a number of anecdotes of Lincoln and at the conclusion of his remarks presented to the society the commission issued by Lincoln appointing him Postmaster of Bridgeport. Dr. George L. Porter, who, although not in Bridgeport at the time of Lincoln's visit, knew Lincoln and told some interesting facts about Lincoln's times and his last days on earth and exhibited a letter written by Lincoln to Grant, March 24, 1864. Others were present who attended the meeting in 1860.

The singing of America by the quartette and audience accompanied by the band closed one of the most successful and interesting meetings the society has held.



ABRAHAM LINCOLN,  
AT BRIDGEFORT, CONN., MARCH 10, 1860.

AN HISTORICAL ADDRESS BY  
MR. CURTIS THOMPSON.

On North Avenue, in this City, is still pointed out a house at which George Washington is reported to have stopped.

The incidents of Washington's stay at that house have never been collected or substantiated, and yet at one time that could easily have been done.

Abraham Lincoln visited our City on March 10, 1860, and fortunately we are now able to gather some of the incidents of that visit.

I had the honor to suggest to the Historical Society the propriety of commemorating Lincoln's visit by holding a meeting on the 36th anniversary of that event; an event, I may say, the importance of which we now but faintly grasp; but our descendants will note and take pride in the fact that both Washington and Lincoln once trod our streets, and mingled with our people. Of course, in 36 years, many persons who could have furnished data, have died, but many are living, who remember his unique personality and his remarkable speech. It seems proper to make a brief reference to the situation and circumstances which brought him to Bridgeport at that time.

It was about a year before the war, and political feelings and passions were wrought up to the highest pitch by the vital issues of the day. One can hardly realize to-day how intense the divisions then were in politics, business interests, churches and families.

Lincoln had just passed his 51st year, and he was in the prime of life. In his debates with Senator Douglass, he had achieved a National reputation. In May, 1859, while he was at the state convention of Illinois, as an onlooker, two old fence rails were brought in bearing the inscription, "Abraham Lincoln, the rail candidate for the Presi-



dency in 1860." It was received with loud manifestations of approval. From that date he was recognized as a Presidential possibility, and when, in the fall of 1859, he visited Kansas and Ohio, he spoke always with great acceptance to vast throngs of enthusiastic people. These marks of appreciation, which he received in the West, did not escape the careful observation of the astute politicians of the East, where as yet he was personally almost unknown. In October, 1859, Lincoln accepted an invitation to speak in Henry Ward Beecher's church, but it was finally arranged that the speech should be delivered at the Cooper Institute in New York, on February 27, 1860. He took time to carefully prepare himself and then made what is considered by many, as the best and most elaborate speech of his life. William Cullen Bryant presided, and said in introducing Lincoln: "It is a grateful office that I perform in introducing to you an eminent citizen of the West, hitherto known to you only by reputation." The large audience, notable for its intelligence, cultivation and high character, was captivated.

The next morning, the four leading New York dailies printed the speech in full, and one of them said: "Mr. Lincoln is one of nature's orators, using his rare powers solely to elucidate and convince, though their inevitable effect is to delight and electrify as well. The tones, the gestures, the kindling eye, and the mirth-provoking look, defy the reporter's skill. The vast assemblage frequently rang with cheers and shouts of applause. No man ever before made such an impression on his first appeal to a New York audience." With such commendations, it is not surprising that nearly all New England read with avidity that great speech.

From the States, like our own, where elections were held in April, invitations to speak were showered upon him. It was not then generally known that he had spoken at a Whig Convention in Worcester, Mass., presided over by his relative, Ex-Gov. Levi Lincoln, for Zachary Taylor, a slaveholder, in 1848. By a strange coincidence, Sept. 22, 1848, in Boston, both Wm. H. Seward and Abraham Lincoln, from the same platform made Whig speeches. The Boston Atlas the next





day said: "Mr. Lincoln of Illinois next came forward and was received with great applause. He spoke about an hour, and made a powerful and convincing speech, which was cheered to the echo."

After the New York speech, Lincoln prepared to go to New Hampshire to see his son, Robert, who was then at Phillips Exeter Academy, preparing for Harvard. Cassius M. Clay, of Kentucky, was then on the stump in this State. Happily for Bridgeport, soon after Lincoln's New York speech, Henry R. Parrott, Esq., of this City, went to New Haven for the purpose of securing Clay to speak in this City, and while Mr. Parrott was there in conference with the State committee, he was asked to accompany them to the station to meet Lincoln, who, then on his way to New Hampshire, had consented to stop over and confer with the committee about his speaking in this State. Unable to secure Clay to speak, Mr. Parrott endeavored to get Lincoln to come to Bridgeport, but Lincoln could not at that time arrange it; however, after further appeals on the part of Mr. Parrott, Lincoln consented to speak in Bridgeport on his way back provided he could do so and leave for New York on an early train, and he promised to notify Mr. Parrott by telegraph, when he would come. On his return from New Hampshire, Lincoln spoke, March 5th, 1860, at Hartford; on the 6th at New Haven; on the 7th at Meriden; on the 8th at Norwich, and on the 9th at Woonsocket, R. I.

Mr. Henry T. Blake was also active in procuring Lincoln's visit. On the morning of March 8th, in New Haven, James F. Babcock, editor of the *Palladium*, introduced Mr. Blake to Lincoln. Mr. Blake writes: "Lincoln looked very tired and seemed to think that he could not take any more engagements in this State, but Babcock and I both urged the importance of Bridgeport, and he finally said that he was in the hands of the committee." Mr. Blake relates an incident which he witnessed at the New Haven depot. There was a great crowd present. It so happened, that when Cassius M. Clay got off the train he was recognized by Stephen D. Pardee, who brought Clay into the



presence of Lincoln. These two great leaders of the West had never before met. After introducing them, Mr. Pardee loudly exclaimed: "We are going to nominate Clay for President and Lincoln for Vice-President, or Lincoln for President and Clay for Vice-President, we don't know which;" at this there was a great shout. Lincoln said as soon as he could be heard: "I must tell you a little story." But the bell rang, both hurried into the cars and departed amid cheers.

On Thursday, March 8th, Mr. Parrott received a telegram stating that Lincoln would speak in Bridgeport on Saturday evening, March 10th, beginning precisely at seven and ending so as to enable him to take the 9:07 train for New York. Notice was therefore given in the Standard on that and the succeeding days, that the Hon. Abraham Lincoln, of Illinois, would address the citizens of Bridgeport in Washington Hall, precisely at 7 p. m., March 10, 1860. No other notice was required to secure for him a hearty welcome to this city.

Lincoln arrived at the old depot, then located at the foot of Union street, on the afternoon of the 10th, and was met by Mr. Blake and Mr. Parrott. Mr. Blake took Lincoln directly to the Sterling House, where he rested for awhile. Mr. Parrott prepared for the meeting. Afterwards Lincoln called at the office of Treat & Blake, in the Sturdevant Building, who about 5 p. m. took Lincoln to the Hon. Frederick Wood's residence on the corner of Washington avenue and Coleman street, where Mr. Charles H. Sanford now lives. In that house, still standing, Abraham Lincoln was most cordially received and entertained. He was nearly exhausted from the great strain of constant travel and frequent speeches, and he heartily appreciated the kindly and bountiful hospitality which Mr. and Mrs. Wood extended to him.

In his tired condition he gladly slipped into an easy chair, offered to him, in which he took so much comfort, that he remarked to his host on leaving, that he wished he could have the chair placed in the car going to New York that night, so that he could sleep in it and rest himself. That historic chair now belongs to Mr. Charles F. Wood, who kindly placed it on exhibition in the Historical Society's rooms.



One other incident of his stay illustrates that Lincoln was not unmindful of the pleasures of the table and that he possessed a discriminating palate. He ate with a great deal of relish some extra large and fine raw oysters. He took one up on his fork and incredulously asked: "Do I understand, sir, that that is a single oyster?" A few years afterwards, when Mrs. Wood attended one of his receptions in the White House and was introduced to him, he at once responded, "O, yes. I remember your house; that is where I got those fine oysters." He also remarked about those oysters to other Bridgeport people, all of which goes to show that our boasted bivalves made a strong impression upon him.

Washington Hall was the central part of the first floor of our present City Hall, and that evening the State street entrance was closed and the Bank street entrance left open, in order to make room for the expected crowd. Shortly after 6 o'clock, Marshal J. D. Alvord on horseback, and the East Bridgeport Club, headed by the then recently formed Wheeler & Wilson band, under their leader, Mr. Thomas, came down through the streets to the hall. Major L. N. Middlebrook commanded the Wide Awakes, who escorted Lincoln, in company with Wood, Treat and Blake, from Mr. Wood's house to the hall.

Long before the opening of the meeting the hall was packed, and hundreds of people were turned away.

Henry Elliott, Esq., promptly called the meeting to order, and the following well known citizens of that day, were appointed its officers:

President, Hon. A. A. Pettingill.

Vice-Presidents: D. H. Sterling, Silas C. Booth, Horace Nichols, Stephen Nichols, Clapp Spooner, William Staengel, C. B. Hubbell, Sherwood Sterling, Capt. George Wheeler, Bartlett Doten, F. W. Parrott, Samuel C. Trubee, James Wilson, Henry M. Hine, Capt. J. Gould, George Keeler, Frederick Wood, Morgan Seeley, Hanford Lyon, Abijah Hawley, Emory F. Strong, George B. Waller, Russell Tomlinson, John Conrad, Sherman Hartwell, S. Tomlinson, George Wade, J. D. Alvord, R. T. Buss, Lewis C. Segee, Stiles Hall, Charles Foote.



Secretaries : S. C. Kingman, J. T. Shelton, H. Elliott, H. R. Parrott.

A quartette consisting of Levi W. Eaton, John S. Atkinson, James W. Crossley, and Mortimer Griffith, sang a song, "Land of the West," in honor of Mr. Lincoln, and then followed music by the Wheeler & Wilson band, both pieces being finely rendered.

Mr. Pettingill was then the editor of the Standard, and a man of great force, integrity and ability. About his introduction of Lincoln to the audience, Mr. Roger H. Lyon, who was present, writes: Though brief it was so appropriate and impressive that I have never forgotten it. He said: "Fellow Citizens, I have the honor and pleasure of presenting to you the man who dared 'to beard the lion in his den: the Douglass in his hall.'" It was a happy allusion to the then recent debate between Lincoln and Douglass.

As Lincoln arose and faced the audience, his tall, gaunt, awkward form, his long arms and big hands, and his ill-fitting clothes elicited astonishment, smiles and cheers. In a slow, deliberate way, he stated his propositions so clearly, presented his reasons so cogently and humorously, and reached his conclusions so logically, that we were soon spell-bound, and forgetting all about his personal appearance were completely charmed by his forceful eloquence.

Having gone early and obtained a good seat near the stage, I was able to take it all in, and never before or since that time, have I heard a speech which so delighted and instructed me, as that masterly speech of Lincoln's.

Illustrative of the effect of the speech on the people, T. B. Fairchild relates that Seymour Curtis and James Booth, of Stratford, sat together at the meeting. When Lincoln stood up, Booth said: "Seymour, he is the homeliest man I ever saw in my life." While he was speaking, Booth carefully scrutinized him, and as he warmed up in his speech, Booth became very excited and he brought his hand down with a whack on Seymour's knee, and said to him: "I swear he is not so homely as he looked. He is good looking. He is handsome, and I swear he is the smartest man I ever heard."





The speech in Bridgeport was the same in substance as his famous New York speech; only it was more enlivened with humor and illustrations. I need not further describe it, as the same in effect has been frequently published.

When he closed tremendous applause shook the hall for Honest Old Abe, and the cause he so well advocated. The quartette sang another song, "Hurrah for Old New England," the band again played, and in a thrill of excitement, the crowd slowly dispersed, many following the band and the Wide-Awakes, who marched to the depot where more rousing cheers were given as the train with Lincoln thereon left for New York.

Both Julius S. Hanover, chairman of Town Committee, and B. W. Maples, then of Bridgeport, claim the honor of privately escorting Lincoln from the hall to the depot and remaining with him there until the train left.

Seymour Curtis and Lemuel J. Beardsley, of Stratford, after attending the meeting, hurried to the depot. While there, Lincoln came and took a seat near them. Mr. Curtis at once grasped his hand and shouted: "You will be the next President of these United States." Lincoln replied: "Oh, that is a long way off." Mr. Beardsley shook his hand and said to him: "If you are not, you ought to be." And Lincoln answered: "Ought to be? There are many men, who are able and capable of being President of these United States, but there are few who can place their hands on the pulse of the nation, and recognize the wants of all its citizens, North, East, South and West, and deal with them in accordance with justice and wisdom." An immense crowd then rushed in and until the train left kept Lincoln busy shaking hands. This was the last visit of Lincoln to New England.

On June 15, Lincoln was nominated for the Presidency, and in November, 1860, this State chose for its Presidential electors: Chauncey F. Cleveland, Roger S. Baldwin, Samuel Austin, Benjamin Douglass, Augustus Brandagee and Frederick Wood, who cast the electoral vote of this State for Abraham Lincoln which, with other votes, duly elected him President of the United States.



Hitherto, Lincoln had never held an executive office, nor handled large concerns. He was known to be honest and firm, and to have large views on public questions. He had won distinction as a matchless debater. Many had grave doubts as to his capacity to discharge the duties of the highest office in the world, especially in a time of such extreme peril. When Charles II, of England, was told that he never said a foolish thing, nor ever did a wise one, the King observed: "That is easily accounted for, my discourse is my own, my acts are those of my ministers." Our President can use no such subterfuge: both his speech and his acts are his own. It was a great risk, but time and events vindicated fully the confidence reposed in Lincoln. He showed even greater wisdom as an executive, than as a public speaker, and by common consent, H. W. Grady, a Southern orator, at a New England festival correctly voiced the impartial judgment of all intelligent and patriotic persons thus: "From the union of the colonists, from the straightening of their purposes, and the crossing of their blood, slow perfecting through a century, came he, who stands the first typical American, the first who comprehended within himself all the strength and gentleness, all the majesty and grace of this Republic, *Abraham Lincoln*."





Annual Meeting

FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY

OF THE

Fairfield County

Historical Society,

April 29th, 1897.





ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

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The annual meeting of the Fairfield County Historical Society took place April 29th, 1897, in the rooms of the society, Barnum Institute. The first vice-president, Mr. G. C. Waldo, presided, and the meeting was called to order at 8:30 o'clock. The minutes of the last annual meeting were read by Secretary Howard N. Wakeman, followed by the annual report of the treasurer and curator, Mr. Edward Deacon.

The annual report of the secretary was then read and accepted. Then followed the election of officers for the ensuing year. As first vice president, Mr. G. C. Waldo was in line for the presidency, and Mr. Curtis Thompson nominated him for the place. Mr. Waldo declined unconditionally, however, and in turn nominated Mr. Curtis Thompson, who was prevailed upon to accept. The following officers were then duly elected and installed:—

CURTIS THOMPSON, President.

Vice-Presidents,

GEORGE C. WALDO,                      OLIVER G. JENNINGS.  
ALEXANDER HAWLEY.

EDWARD DEACON, Treasurer and Curator.

HOWARD N. WAKEMAN, Recording Secretary.

JAMES R. BURROUGHS, Corresponding Secretary.

The resignation of Mr. Charles Burr Todd as vice-president and member, Mr. Todd having moved out of the state, was accepted, and Mr. Todd was unanimously elected an honorary member of the society. Mr. Henry T. Blake of New Haven was also elected an honorary member.

President Curtis Thompson presented to the meeting a minute upon the death of the late president of the society, Deacon Rowland B. Lacey, which was adopted and ordered spread upon the records.

The meeting then adjourned.





## REPORT OF THE TREASURER AND CURATOR.

Some extracts from the report presented at the annual meeting, April 29th last, may be worth preserving.

“Your Treasurer ventures to suggest the propriety of making our membership a matter of more value than it appears at present to be, by giving the members advantages not otherwise received.

For years past we have practically given the public, freely, all that the society is able to offer: Our lectures are public; our records are refused to none who ask to consult them; our rooms are open free to all. There being nothing more that we can offer, our membership becomes in a measure, of an eleemosynary character, and appeals to but a few in the community. Would it not be well to change this condition, and to see if we cannot give something in return to those from whom we receive.

Could not our Lecture Committee arrange a course of one lecture a month during the winter, to be given by noted professors or historians on imminent topics which would be free to the members by ticket, the public being admitted on a small payment, thus enhancing the value of membership?

Again, I would suggest that a portion of our exhibition room be partitioned off and devoted to the library; that the volumes be arranged scientifically and catalogued, and reserved for the use of members only, and students visiting us from distant places. It seems reasonable to suppose that by some such method steadily pursued, as here suggested, our membership would become of more value and its number increased.

In the past it has taken about all our available receipts to pay for publishing our report every two years. The society has now issued the following valuable publications, many of them illustrated:



- Rev. John Jones, March 10, 1882.  
 First Anniversary Report, April 14, 1882.  
 Roger Minott Sherman, Nov. 28, 1882.  
 Bridgeport Bank, Nov. 14, 1884.  
 Fourth Anniversary Report and Papers Read, April 10, 1885.  
 Fifth Anniversary Report and Papers Read, April 9, 1886.  
 Study of Locks by A. C. Hobbs, 1887.  
 Annual Report and Papers, April 15, 1887.  
 Report and Papers for year 1889.  
 Report and Papers, year ending 1892.  
 By-laws, Officers and Members, 1894.  
 Report and Papers for year ending 1895.

To carry out the suggestions previously noted, we need more funds. Our dues must be raised or our membership increased, or both. We have a splendid room, a fine exhibit, a growing library, an increasing constituency. It seems highly desirable that we retain our Autonomy intact, neither uniting with nor merging into any other society; pursue the line marked out for us at our organization, put our shoulders together and see if we cannot make a fair use of the great advantages we already have, and work for the best results. No one man or two men, however able, can do this; it is only by the co-operation of every active member contributing his own talent, that we can achieve success.

Respectfully submitted,

EDWARD DEACON,

Treasurer.



ANNUAL STATEMENT,  
FISCAL YEAR, ENDING APRIL 15TH, 1897.

Received from 84 members, dues, as follows :	
22 Country Members, \$2 00 each, - - - -	\$ 44 00
62 City Members, at \$3.00 each, - - - -	186 00
7 Arrearages Paid, - - - -	23 00
1 in advance 4 years. - - - -	8 00
Total, - - - -	\$261 00
Received from Daughters of the American Revolution	
for use of our rooms, - - - -	15 00
Received for sales of our annuals, - - - -	5 00
Total receipts, year 1896-97, - - - -	\$281 00
Add balance on hand from last annual report, - - - -	45 02
	\$326 02

DISBURSEMENTS.

Paid printing and mailing notices of meetings -	12 25
Paid express charges and stationery, - - - -	14 76
Paid for new show cases, tables, framing and shelving, etc., - - - -	24 16
Paid sundry small repairs and expenses, - - - -	4 70
Paid for books added to library, - - - -	3 50
Paid expenses for lectures, - - - -	5 25
Paid the Standard Association in full, balance of old bill for printing last annual, - - - -	186 85
Total disbursements, . - - - -	\$251 47
Leaving balance in hands of Treasurer, - - - -	74 55
Liabilities none. -	

Thirteen resignations have been received the past year, and the society has lost by death 3 members including our honored President.



## CARTER COMSTOCK FUND.

This fund was donated April 7th, 1892, by Mrs. Cornelia E. C. Comstock of New Canaan, Conn., "for the purpose of preserving the Carter Family Burying Ground, for the use of the members of the Carter family in the present generation, whose parents have been interred therein previous to the date of this deed, and their descendants."

The Carter Family Burying Ground was deeded to the Fairfield County Historical Society, 21st November, 1891. The fund was deposited in the Bridgeport Savings Bank, April 11th, 1892.

Principal sum, - - - - -	\$100 00
Accrued interest to January, 1, 1897, - - - - -	22 54
	<hr/>
Total, January 1, 1897, - - - - -	\$122 54

## CURATORS' REPORT.

Your Curator reports continued interest in the exhibit of the society as manifested by the number of 3379 persons who visited the rooms from April 1, 1896, to April 1, 1897.

The Library is in constant receipt of the publications of kindred societies, with whom we endeavor to exchange. We have received a total of 253 pieces, consisting of books, pamphlets and magazines during the year, by donation from societies and individuals. The Connecticut Historical Society, the American Catholic Historical Society of Philadelphia, the Oneida Historical Society, the Historical Society of Montana, are regular contributors to us. To these may be added, U. S. Department of Labor, Washington, and some of the patriotic societies, Sons of the Revolution, etc., likewise the Royal Academy of Sweden, Stockholm, Sweden, which has sent us 45 publications in the Swedish language. (Special notice of the Swan Library is given elsewhere.) The Museum is continually being increased by gifts of friends, who seek to add to its attractiveness. A list of donors to the society, since the last publication, will be found on another page.





Since the above was written, viz.: April 1, 1897, the exhaustion of the fund subscribed by our citizens for the maintenance of the Barnum Institute, has compelled the closing of our Museum to the general public, the limited funds accruing from the society's dues being insufficient to bear the expense of paying for a permanent janitor, an attendant and the cost of heating. As will be seen, this is after all largely in line of the suggestions made in the Treasurer's report, and may not be regrettable. There is no question, the society was organized for historical research and not to maintain a public museum. The facilities at the disposal of the society, are just as available to the members as they ever were.

An interesting and instructive lecture course for the season of 1897-8 has been arranged, the prospectus will be found published herein.

While unfortunately our doors have been closed to the public, the society has never been more active in its own proper work. With this publication, is issued a list of the inscriptions of the old Greens Farms Burying Ground, also smaller private grounds in Weston, this being a distinct addition to the literature on the subject. We have added to our records the inscriptions from 900 stones in the Coley Cemetery near Weston, and the Hull ground in Reading. One of our lady members is engaged in obtaining for us copies of the inscriptions in the Newtown Cemetery, and also in the Greenfield Cemetery, to which will be added in the near future, inscriptions from Stepney, and the East and West Cemeteries of Easton. We have on our list some nine separate grounds, all of which are being arranged to be recorded and the records placed in the rooms of the society. This work has all been done during the present year. Furthermore, we have added this summer to the manuscript records in our Library, a copy of the Episcopal Records, baptisms, marriages and burials, at Christ Episcopal Church, Tashua. We are also promised the opportunity to copy for our Library, the very valuable Registers of the church at Huntington. It may be well for the sake of reference to note here the copies of Registers already in the Library of the society, which are as follows:



North Fairfield Congregational Church, Easton :

Births, Marriages, Deaths and Membership, from 1763.

Episcopal Society of Fairfield :

Births, Marriages and Deaths, from 1785.

Church of Christ, in Unity and North Stratford (now Trumbull) :

Birth, Marriages, Deaths and Membership, 1731 to 1808.

Church of Christ, Stratfield :

Births, Marriages and Membership, from 1695.

Christ Church, Episcopal, Tashua :

Births, Marriages and Burials, from 1805.

It is our hope to have in time a complete record of all the Cemeteries in the county, and likewise copies of all the Church Registers, the value of which to future historians and genealogists will be inestimable.

EDWARD DEACON,

Treasurer and Curator.

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SWAN LIBRARY.

The venerable Rev'd Benj. L. Swan, so well and favorably known in genealogical circles, has presented the society with a valuable collection from his library, numbering upwards of 60 volumes, including a set of Savage's Genealogical Dictionary, now becoming rare. These are kept by themselves, the society having provided a separate bookcase for their preservation.



## REPORT OF THE RECORDING SECRETARY.

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The following is the report of the Recording Secretary for 1896-1897:

The work of the Fairfield County Historical Society since its last publication covering the years 1893, 1894 and 1895 has been carried steadily forward.

March 10th, 1896, the Lincoln Anniversary, a full account of which will be found in another part of this publication, was celebrated with great success.

June 5, 1897, Major L. N. Middlebrook read a paper upon Gen. Fremont's campaign in Virginia. December 15, 1896 Henry T. Blake, Esq., of New Haven, read a paper upon "New Haven Green as the Seat of Judicial Tribunals."

January 5, 1897, Phillip H. Smith, Esq., of Pawling, New York, read a paper upon "Acadia, a Lost Chapter in American History." February 23, 1897, Curtis Thompson, Esq., read a memorial upon the Life and Character of Thomas B. Fairchild, Esq., a recently deceased member, and Major L. N. Middlebrook read a paper upon Reminiscences of the War in Virginia, the Battles of Bull Run and Manasses Junction. The Daughters of the American Revolution have used the rooms of the society for their meetings. In March, 1897, the society lost by death its President, Mr. R. B. Lacey, whose faithful and devoted service to the society from its organization, and as its only President, made his loss keenly felt. Memorial resolutions upon his life and character were read at the last annual meeting of the society by Curtis Thompson, Esq., and placed upon the records of the society. This society needs the help and influence of those who are interested in preserving the local history of this vicinity and it is hoped that all will join and help sustain it in its present and future work.

HOWARD N. WAKEMAN,

Recording Secretary.



REPORT OF THE CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.

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The Corresponding Secretary adds the following brief report :—

In addition to regular routine work, the society appreciates and solicits more correspondence with other societies or individuals, upon subjects of historic interest and research, tending toward mutual benefit.

All relics and documents given for exhibition and preservation are valued, and will be kept to serve as object lessons to succeeding generations. They may awaken or stimulate desires for a more intimate knowledge of the customs, deeds, and events in the history of the past.

JAMES R BURROUGHS,

Corresponding Secretary.





## LECTURE COURSE.

1897-1898.

1897.

Oct. 19th. Witchcraft in the Colony of Conn.  
By the Rev. Frank S. Childs,  
Fairfield.

Nov. 16th. Old New England Days.  
By Prof. Anson Titus,  
Tufts College, Mass.

Dec. 21st. Lafayette.  
By Prof. A. M. Wheeler,  
Yale University.

1898.

Jan. 18th. Early New England Newspapers.  
By W. L. Stone, Esq.,  
New York.

Feb. 22d. "Washington Day."  
Symposium by distinguished speakers.

Mar. 15th. "Jackson Day."  
Historical sketch and addresses by  
local clergymen and others.



INDEX TO THE PRINCIPAL CONTENTS OF THE  
PUBLICATIONS OF THE FAIRFIELD COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY, FROM  
1882 TO 1897.

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1882. First Anniversary.  
Sketch of the Life of Richardson Miner, Pastor of the  
Church of Christ at Unity, 1730 to 1744.  
Account of the great fire in Bridgeport, 1845.  
Sketches of Bridgeport churches in 1835, with list of  
members.
1882. Biographical Sketch, Roger Minott Sherman.
1884. History of the Bridgeport Bank, with personal  
sketches of its President and early Directors.
1885. Fourth Anniversary and Reports.  
Some Dutch troubles in early Connecticut, 1609.  
History of the Porter property.
1886. Fifth Anniversary and Reports of Officers.  
John Read the colonial lawyer.  
Notes concerning the township of Stratford in New  
Hampshire  
The old Stratfield Baptist Church; Elder John Sher-  
wood.  
Paper concerning the bones discovered at Seaside Park.  
Historical discourse on the Consociation, Fairfield  
East and Fairfield West, 1736 to 1886.  
Necrology.
1887. Annual Report.  
Captain Stephen Burroughs and his times  
Stephen Burroughs the astronomer.
1887. Study of Locks, by Alfred C. Hobbs.
1889. Annual Report.  
William Samuel Johnson, and the making of the Con-  
stitution.



1892. Annual Report.  
 Rev. Blackleach Burritt.  
 The Welles family.  
 The Pilgrims Fathers and what they wrought.  
 Inscriptions in the cemetery at Easton, Conn.  
 Charter of the town of Stratford, 1686.  
 Extracts from the will of P. T. Barnum.  
 Necrology.
1894. Resume of the society's work.  
 By-Laws.  
 List of Members.  
 Necrology.
1895. Annual Reports.  
 Account of the dedication of the Barnum Institute ;  
 Opening exercises and addresses.  
 Sketch of the life of Rev. James Beebe.  
 The Fatal Silver Bullet, a Revolutionary story.  
 Inscriptions from the old Cemetery in Norwalk.
1897. Fifteenth Anniversary and Reports :  
 Lincoln Anniversary.  
 Wyoming or the Connecticut East India Company.  
 Inscriptions from the old Greens Farms Burying  
 Ground.  
 Inscriptions from the "Den" Burying Ground, Weston.  
 List of Church Registers in the Society's Library.

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Copies of most of the foregoing publications may be obtained upon application to the Treasurer. Price, 50 cents each, in paper ; \$1.00, in cloth.



DONATIONS TO THE LIBRARY AND MUSEUM,

APRIL 1895 TO NOVEMBER 1897.

| DONORS.                               | RESIDENCE.        | Library. |           |                                    |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|----------|-----------|------------------------------------|
|                                       |                   | Books    | Pamp'lets | Miscellaneous Articles for Museum. |
| <b>A</b>                              |                   |          |           |                                    |
| American Catholic Historical Society, | Philadelphia, Pa. |          | 13        |                                    |
| American Historical Ass'n.            |                   |          | 1         |                                    |
| <b>B</b>                              |                   |          |           |                                    |
| Balch, Edw'm S.                       | Philadelphia, Pa. | 2        |           |                                    |
| Barnum, Mrs. P. T.                    | Bridgeport, Conn. |          | 3         | 3                                  |
| Bartram, Mrs. Orlando                 | " "               |          |           | 1                                  |
| Bennett, Ferdinand                    | " "               |          |           | 1                                  |
| Blossett, Emmanuel                    | " "               |          |           | 2                                  |
| Boardman, Miss E. L.                  | " "               | 3        |           |                                    |
| Boston Public Library,                | Boston, Mass.     |          | 1         |                                    |
| Bowser, Henry E.                      | Bridgeport, Conn. |          |           | 1                                  |
| Boyd, Mrs. C.                         | " "               | 2        |           |                                    |
| Bullard, D. R.                        | Black Rock, Conn. |          |           | 4                                  |
| Buffalo Historical Society,           | Buffalo, N. Y.    |          | 4         |                                    |
| <b>C</b>                              |                   |          |           |                                    |
| Child, Rev. Frank S.                  | Fairfield, Conn.  | 2        |           |                                    |
| Coe, David                            | Stratford, Conn.  | 2        | 8         |                                    |
| Connecticut Historical Society,       | Hartford, Conn.   |          | 3         |                                    |
| Cowpens Centennial Committee,         | Charleston S. C.  |          | 1         |                                    |
| <b>D</b>                              |                   |          |           |                                    |
| Day, Mrs. G. B.                       | Bridgeport, Conn. | 14       |           |                                    |
| Deacon, Edward                        | " "               | 16       | 39        | 3                                  |
| Dexter, Franklin B.                   | New Haven Conn.   |          | 1         |                                    |
| <b>E</b>                              |                   |          |           |                                    |
| Exchange.                             |                   | 3        |           |                                    |
| <b>F</b>                              |                   |          |           |                                    |
| Fairchild, Mrs. H. C.                 | Bridgeport, Conn. | 1        |           |                                    |
| Fairbend, Mrs.                        | " "               |          |           | 1                                  |
| Fenner, Chas.                         | Los Angeles, Cal. | 2        |           |                                    |
| First Presbyterian Church,            | Bridgeport, Conn. | 70       | 34        |                                    |
| <b>G</b>                              |                   |          |           |                                    |
| Goode, Mrs. Mary                      | Stratford, Conn.  |          |           | 1                                  |
| <b>H</b>                              |                   |          |           |                                    |
| Hall, Stiles                          | Bridgeport, Conn. |          | 104       |                                    |
| Hawley, Mrs. Frederick B.             | " "               | 47       |           |                                    |
| Hewley, Chas. J.                      | Hartford, Conn.   | 16       |           |                                    |
| Hobart, Miss Hannah                   | Fairfield, Conn.  |          | 2         |                                    |
| Hooker, Edward                        | Brooklyn, N. Y.   |          |           | 2                                  |
| Hudson, Mrs. S. E. J.                 | Stratford, Conn.  |          | 1         |                                    |
| <b>I</b>                              |                   |          |           |                                    |
| Ireland, Joseph N.                    | Bridgeport, Conn. | 2        |           |                                    |
| <b>K</b>                              |                   |          |           |                                    |
| Keating, Bernard                      | Bridgeport, Conn. | 1        |           |                                    |
| Kelly, Michael                        | " "               |          |           | 1                                  |
| Ketcham, William E.                   | Yonkers, N. Y.    |          | 1         |                                    |
| Kippen, Miss                          | Fairfield, Conn.  |          |           | 1                                  |





| DONORS.                                  | RESIDENCE.        | Library. |           |                                          |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------|----------|-----------|------------------------------------------|
|                                          |                   | Books.   | Pamp'les. | Miscellaneous<br>Articles for<br>Museum. |
| <b>L</b>                                 |                   |          |           |                                          |
| Lacey, R. B.                             | Bridgeport, Conn. | 15       | 13        | 5                                        |
| Lacey, Miss H. B.                        | " "               |          | 2         |                                          |
| Lee, Henry                               | " "               |          | 51        |                                          |
| <b>M</b>                                 |                   |          |           |                                          |
| Marsh, Edward W.                         | Bridgeport, Conn. |          | 2         |                                          |
| McNeil, Capt. John                       | " "               |          |           | 6                                        |
| Montana Historical Society,              | Helena, Mont.     |          | 3         |                                          |
| Mowry, Wm. C.                            | Hartford, Conn.   | 1        |           |                                          |
| <b>N</b>                                 |                   |          |           |                                          |
| Nebraska State Historical Society,       | Lincoln, Neb.     | 1        |           |                                          |
| N. Y. Genealogical & Biographical Soc'y, | New York City.    | 1        |           |                                          |
| New Eng. Genealogical & Hist. Soc'y,     | Boston, Mass.     | 1        |           |                                          |
| New London Historical Society,           | New London, Conn. | 1        |           |                                          |
| Nelson, Miss Emily                       | Bridgeport, Conn. | 1        | 3         |                                          |
| Nichols, E. H.                           | New York City.    | 1        |           |                                          |
| <b>O</b>                                 |                   |          |           |                                          |
| Oneida Historical Society,               | Utica, N. Y.      |          | 2         |                                          |
| <b>P</b>                                 |                   |          |           |                                          |
| Pinkerman, John P.                       | Bridgeport, Conn. |          |           | 1                                        |
| Porter, Mrs. H. H.                       | " "               |          |           | 2                                        |
| Porter, Mrs. Fannie S.                   | " "               | 6        | 9         | 5                                        |
| Price & Lee Co.                          | New Haven, Conn.  | 1        |           |                                          |
| Purchase.                                |                   | 2        |           |                                          |
| Putnam, Eben.                            | Salem, Mass.      |          | 1         |                                          |
| <b>R</b>                                 |                   |          |           |                                          |
| Robb, W. C.                              | Keene, N. H.      |          |           | 1                                        |
| Rochester Historical Society,            | Rochester, N. Y.  |          | 1         |                                          |
| Rhode Island Historical Society,         |                   |          | 2         |                                          |
| Royal Academy of Sweden,                 | Stockholm, Sweden | 1        | 45        |                                          |
| <b>S</b>                                 |                   |          |           |                                          |
| Secor, David P.                          | Bridgeport, Conn. |          |           | 1                                        |
| Selsey, Clinton B.                       | New York City.    |          |           | 1                                        |
| Scott, Mrs. P. R.                        | Stratford, Conn.  |          |           | 3                                        |
| Shelton, Miss Jane De Forest             | Shelton, Conn.    | 1        |           |                                          |
| Silliman, Frederick E.                   |                   |          |           | 1                                        |
| Smith, Joseph P.                         | Washington, D. C. |          | 1         |                                          |
| <b>T</b>                                 |                   |          |           |                                          |
| Terry, Mrs. Hattie E.                    | Bridgeport, Conn. |          |           | 1                                        |
| Trubee, S. C.                            | " "               | 1        |           |                                          |
| Turner, Geo. S.                          | Stepney, Conn.    |          |           | 1                                        |
| Turner, Mrs. Geo. S.                     | " "               |          |           | 1                                        |
| <b>U</b>                                 |                   |          |           |                                          |
| U. S. Commerce Commission,               | Washington, D. C. |          | 1         |                                          |
| <b>V</b>                                 |                   |          |           |                                          |
| Van Hooscar, David H.                    | Wilton, Conn.     | 1        |           |                                          |
| <b>W</b>                                 |                   |          |           |                                          |
| Wade, Patrick                            | Bridgeport, Conn. |          |           | 1                                        |
| Warren, Henry Dexter                     | Boston, Mass.     | 1        |           |                                          |
| Wentmore, William H.                     | " "               | 3        |           |                                          |
| Worcester Society of Antiquity,          | Worcester, Mass.  |          |           | 1                                        |
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| Yonkers Hist. and Library Ass'n,         | Yonkers, N. Y.    |          | 1         |                                          |



# WYOMING

—OR—

Connecticut's East India Co.,

TWO LECTURES

Delivered before the

Fairfield County Historical  
Society,

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—BY—

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# Connecticut's East India Company; THE STORY OF WYOMING.



I have selected the title of this paper not because it is appropriate from a geographical point of view, but because I shall briefly sketch an episode in the annals of our ancient, and as some suppose, our prosaic commonwealth, which in its leading features will strikingly remind us of the great commercial corporation of England. Few among those who have been but cursory readers of Connecticut history are aware that there once existed within our borders a similar company which for more than a generation owned and occupied large and distant regions in which it founded and maintained colonies, established their governments and framed their laws; which made treaties with independent powers, sent its agents to represent it before the government of Great Britain, raised armies and carried on successive and successful wars against organized states; and which by its enterprise and military achievements brought under the political jurisdiction of Connecticut a beautiful and fertile province whose mountains of iron, hills of coal and subterranean rivers of oil vied with "the riches of Ormus and of Ind." But while the British Company, fostered and supported by the ambition and greed of England, has rewarded the mother country by swelling to fabulous proportions its wealth and power, that of Connecticut tardily recognised, feebly sustained and finally abandoned by the parent state, saw all its labors and expenditures end in failure and its own existence in extinguishment. Nothing now remains of the former vast possessions of the Susquehanna Company but a dozen musty volumes of records in the Historical Society collection at Hartford, and almost unknown is that tale of fortitude and adversity whose tragic pathos once stirred the heart of the world. A solitary echo of the interest it awakened across the Atlantic survives in literature; the mellifluous but incongruous poem by Campbell, "Gertrude of Wyoming."



## CHAPTER I.

The occasional traveller who strolls along the silent streets of the venerable town of Windham, meeting no inhabitant except perhaps a straggling cow, and hearing no sound but the hum of a drowsy insect, or the feeble croak of a town born frog, receives little impression of its activity and importance as a political and business center before the Revolution.

Then it was one of the wealthiest, most bustling and thriving towns of the Colony: gay with elegant social life and the home of influential leaders in Connecticut affairs. Within its limits were included as parishes several of the now adjoining towns. It had four well trained military companies, four meeting houses, a court house and jail and numerous stores. It furnished nineteen captains and more than sixty other officers and soldiers to the old French War

Its appearance was far more attractive than at the present time. At the head of its capacious public square stood the Congregational church elegantly painted in a brilliant yellow, and around the square stood public buildings and stores, and the handsome dwellings of the aristocracy. But in an evil hour, and in some mysterious manner a portion of the public square was allowed to be sequestered to private use. Let other communities hear the sequel and heed the lesson. The prosperity of Windham has departed, its glory has faded away, the ancient church and other public edifices have disappeared, and solitude and silence have taken possession of the streets.

The population of Windham in 1750 was 2400; the entire county contained but 13,000 inhabitants, and the rest of the state was peopled in a like proportion. On those rocky hill-sides where farming was the sole occupation, such a population was beginning to seem redundant, and was already looking for some outlet. Connecticut, it was thought had about reached the limit of its self-supporting capacity. The farming lands were all taken up, and there was no longer the same chance for the young men who were poor, to achieve prosperity as there had been for their fathers. The time had evidently arrived to begin the settlement of that vast tract





beyond the Delaware River which belonged to the colony by its Charter and extended west across the continent to the unknown shore of the Great South Sea. Adventurous explorers who had been to spy out its eastern end in the valley of the Susquehanna, brought back enthusiastic reports of its beauty and productiveness. It was a land flowing with milk and honey, waiting to be occupied by the chosen people. True the savage Canaanite inhabited the land: the Indian tribes who under French influence in case of war might be objectionable neighbors. There were suspicions too that the heirs of Wm. Penn, proprietors on the Southern border of the tract although it was not included in their domain might be unfavorable to its occupation as a part of Connecticut. But these considerations were easily disposed of. As to the Indians the land would be purchased from them in a fair trade, and should they attempt any subsequent treachery, so much worse for the Indians. Still less was serious trouble to be expected from the peace loving, non-resistant inhabitants of the city of brotherly love. Were they not all mild and harmless Quakers, too fair minded to question the indisputable title of Connecticut and too peaceable to make trouble for inoffensive neighbors who minded their own business and kept within their rights? Wherefore since the Saints shall inherit the earth, and we are the Saints, let us go up to the land and possess it.

An emigration fever sprang up which spread from town to town and from county to county like the California excitement of 1849. It only needed organization and direction to start the movement; capital and influence must combine to form a Company, purchase the title to the soil from the Indian owners and aid the first Colonists to remove and establish themselves; these in their turn would buy lands from the Company, and the abundant crops would support them until they could realize handsome profits by the sale of farms to future comers.

Full of such glowing anticipations the Susquehanna Company was organized at a large and enthusiastic meeting held at Windham July 18, 1753. Articles of agreement were signed by 250 subscribers. Eliphalet Dyer and Jedediah



Elderkin, two leading lawyers of Windham took a prominent part in the movement. Dyer and others were subsequently appointed a Committee to go to the Susquehanna valley and select the land; also to make the purchase from the Indians, and to receive and lay out the tract. Elderkin was appointed on another committee to collect and pay over the money required for the enterprise. Representatives of nearly every family in Windham and the neighboring towns were among the subscribers; Israel Putnam's name appears on the original list. An agent to sell shares or land rights was appointed in every county of the Colony. Two Spanish milled dollars was the price fixed per share, but applications were so numerous that in January 1754 it was raised to four dollars, and in May to five dollars, and at a later date to nine dollars until 1200 members had been enrolled. Nothing stirs the public mind like the rapid rise of stocks. The whole Colony and especially the northern counties invested heavily in Wyoming Rights, and patriotism and profits combined to boom the enterprise.

Nor was the excitement confined to the human population alone for just at this juncture the frogs of Windham broke out in that extraordinary demonstration which has rendered the old town famous and covered its batrachian inhabitants with imperishable renown. What was the cause or purpose of the uproar has never been discovered. The theories of a frog migration and battle have been discarded. That the prodigy had some reference to the Susquehanna movement was evident to the people of Windham from the cries of "Col. Dyer! Col. Dyer! Elderkin, too! Elderkin, too!" but whether it was a portent for good or evil was a matter of controversy. By some it was regarded as a warning of disaster by old croakers divinely inspired; by others, (and these were largely in the majority,) it was declared that the sign was sent like that of the frogs in Egypt as a call to let the people go.

In July, 1754, a Congress of delegates from all the colonies assembled at Albany to confer with the tribes of Indians inhabiting central New York, known as the Six Nations, in



order to secure their friendship in event of a war between Great Britain and France, then impending. These tribes claimed ownership and sovereignty over the Susquehanna lands, and Dyer and his associate agents of the Land Company resorted to the conference in order to effect their proposed purchase. The object of the Congress was accomplished, at least in appearance, as the Indians agreed to an English alliance. After the treaty was concluded, the negotiation on behalf of the Susquehanna Company was entered upon.

The Colonial delegates who were present from Pennsylvania interposed objections, claiming not a jurisdiction or ownership of the territory, but only a right of pre-emption and made overtures for purchasing on their own account. But the astute savages had heard of the modes of trading practiced by the heirs of Wm. Penn, and preferred to deal with Yankee customers. Under the persuasive influences of eloquence and fire water a purchase was soon effected in behalf of the Company for £2,000. A deed was executed; the cash was paid over to the Indians in a blanket and the noble red men immediately adjourned to a neighboring orchard where they divided the money and drank the rest of the fire-water.

The tract conveyed was bounded on the south and north by the parallels of 41° and 42° of latitude, east by a line parallel with the Susquehanna River and always ten miles distant therefrom, and west by a north and south line 120 miles west of the north end of the easterly boundary. It thus comprised an area of 60 miles in breadth north and south, by about 130 miles east and west.

In 1755 the Company in order to obtain the support of the Connecticut Colony in case of any friction with the Pennsylvania authorities, applied to the General Assembly for its approval of the purchase and for authority to lay out a township with forts and mills: to which application that cautious body gave "a ready acquiescence providing it should be his majesty's royal pleasure to grant such lands to the petitioners, humbly recommending them to his majesty's royal favor in the premises." In the meantime another company in Connecticut called the Delaware Company had been organized and



purchased all the land east of the Susquehanna tract between it and the Delaware River. This Company had little prominence in subsequent events, as it made but one small settlement on the Delaware River and had practically no separate history.

Thus by the year 1755 the promised land was ready to be occupied, but at this time the relations between Great Britain and France were so strained that war was immediately expected and the preparations for it in Connecticut together with the dangers to which new settlements on the Susquehanna would be exposed prevented any migration to that region. War was actually declared in the following year 1756 and continued till 1763, though for the last two years of that period hostilities were not very active. In this war many of the promoters of the Susquehanna Company, including Eliphalet Dyer, Israel Putnam, Zebulon Butler, Phineas Lyman and others took conspicuous parts as military officers, and the occupation of the Susquehanna region remained in abeyance with one disastrous exception. A colony of immigrants settled near the present site of Wilkesbarre in 1762, and in the same year was cut off by the Indians. More than twenty were killed and the rest fled through the woods back to Connecticut. This was the first expulsion of the Yankees from Wyoming. From this time no farther steps were taken in settling the valley till 1768.

The delay however was not entirely on account of the war. Ever since the purchase at Albany in 1754 the authorities of Pennsylvania had been busily occupied in striving to render it nugatory. They sent a remonstrance to the Governor of Connecticut inquiring whether the purchase had been made by authority of the Colony; to which that functionary rendered an evasive reply. They also commenced intriguing with the Indians to induce them to repudiate their sale under a pretence that they had been deceived. The operation was a long and difficult one as the Indians had some scruples against such barefaced mendacity, but by means of repeated conferences, abundance of presents and unlimited rum, and through the aid of Sir William Johnson, the savages in 1768 were finally





brought to declare their deed to the Susquehanna Company void, and to sell the same lands to the honest Quakers.

While these negotiations were going on the Susquehanna Company had also been endeavoring to fortify its title in another direction. The cautious approval of its purchase by the Connecticut General Assembly in 1755 upon condition that the Crown should grant permission to settle the territory had seemed to compel the Company to obtain such permission. During the early years of the war nothing could be done, but in 1760 at a joint meeting of the Susquehanna and Delaware Companies held at Hartford it was voted to send Col. Eliphalet Dyer to England as "Agent to the Court of Great Britain" with the magnificent salary of £150, and an allowance of his expenses for "all necessary extraordinary clothing and apparatus for his proper appearance." Jonathan Trumbull, Jedediah Elderkin, Hezekiah Huntington, David Edwards, Samuel Gray and George Wythe, (all but two from Windham), were appointed a committee to assist him. Col. Dyer departed to England in 1761 and found there a Pennsylvania Agent ready to contest his suit. The matter was first referred to the Attorney General, who rendered an opinion adverse to the Connecticut claim. An appeal was taken to the King and Privy Council, which it was understood might not be heard and decided for years, and on which in fact no decision appears ever to have been rendered.

In May, 1763 a resolution was passed by the Company, reciting in substance that, whereas, Mr. Penn has made opposition to our claim in the Susquehanna and has been actively inciting the nations to hostilities against our settlement, (referring to the massacre of the settlers there a few months previous), and has by misrepresentation obtained from the King an order inhibiting all entries on the Susquehanna lands till inquiries be made and precautions taken to prevent fresh troubles with the Indians, therefore out of high regard for our gracious Sovereign, &c., &c., Voted to suspend all settlement till his majesty's pleasure be heard therein.

In May, 1765 Dyer returned and reported the matter still in abeyance, and there being no one left in England to represent



the Company, John Gardiner, Esq., of the Middle Temple, London, was employed as its agent and attorney. Two and a half years later Gardiner having removed from London and the cause having made no progress the Company voted to "request Wm. Samuel Johnson, Esq., now in London, to attend to its prosecution." In Jan'y, 1768 at another meeting at Windham, nothing being heard from the case, it was voted that Col. Dyer go again to England, "to appear before the King's most excellent majesty and obtain his confirmation of our title."

In December of the same year, (1768), the Company had become tired of waiting on the convenience of the King's most excellent majesty and determined to proceed to business.

The Company held a meeting at Hartford, (meetings seem to have been held sometimes at Hartford and sometimes at Windham), and passed a lengthy vote which may be condensed as follows:—"Whereas, in 1763 his gracious majesty the King inhibited settlement on the Susquehanna lands till precautions had been taken to prevent trouble with the Indians, and we then suspended such settlement and have since taken care to satisfy the Indians and ensure their quietness, Voted that we now proceed to settle said lands." It was also voted that forty persons should set out by February 1st, and that 200 more should follow in the Spring, and £200 was appropriated for their outfit and sustenance. Also that five townships should be laid out, to belong to the forty and the 200. in addition to their share rights provided they would occupy and keep possession of the land for five years in the name of the Company, and not conduct themselves disorderly; and that if any of them should "be sued or prosecuted in the law by the proprietors of Penn, this Company will be at the cost of their defence."

The five townships were subsequently laid out and were named Wilkesbarre, Hanover, Kingston, Plymouth and Pittston.

In the meantime the amiable Quakers were informed of the movement and preparing to counteract it. All lands in Pennsylvania were owned in fee by the heirs of Wm. Penn, one of



whom, John Penn, was the Governor. These proprietors in pursuance of their custom not to part with the title to the soil, executed a lease of 100 acres at Wyoming to three persons for seven years on condition that they should erect an Indian trading house thereon, and defend the land from encroachment. These three persons were Charles Stewart, Capt. Amos Ogden and John Jennings, the latter being the high sheriff of the adjoining county. The three were also constituted a Chief Executive Directory to protect the proprietaries' affairs at Wyoming. Surely no 100 acres of land was ever leased on conditions which proved more arduous. The Executive Directory having notice of the coming of the first forty from Connecticut, hurried to the ground with half a dozen men and took possession of an old block house which had been left by the unfortunate Colony of 1763, and there awaited the arrival of the Yankees. It was the month of January, 1769; the country was covered with snow and the stillness of death brooded over the wooded valley.

## CHAPTER II.

Here beginneth the record of "the first Penny-mite War." From this time forth the whole population of Connecticut on the one side and of Pennsylvania on the other stood for 18 years on the tiptoe of excitement watching the vicissitudes of the contest which now commenced in the valley of Wyoming between the Penn proprietaries on the one side and the Yankee immigrants on the other for the possession of the territory. Few stories are more interesting than that of the battles, the sieges, the personal adventures and the alternations of fortune which marked its progress; yet, owing partly to the fact that its events occurred on the soil of Pennsylvania, partly to the circumstance that the only histories which fully narrate them are rare and now out of print, they have hardly been heard of by the present generation in Connecticut. In the following account I have drawn my materials from several sources, local and general, but chiefly from Miner's excellent history of Wyoming published in 1845. I shall follow the order and sometimes adopt the language of his narrative.



Behold then on the 8th of February 1769 the little garrison of Pennymites at Wilkesbarre glaring stealthily through the chinks of the old block house as the first company of forty doughty Yankees are seen to emerge from the snow clad forest. Imagine the chagrin of the forty after their long and weary tramp at finding their expected shelter in the hauds of an enemy. Recovering however from their first surprise they soon surrounded the fortress and demanded its surrender in the name of the Colony of Connecticut. The garrison considering that a dozen men were hardly a match for forty had recourse to strategy. A very polite and conciliatory note was addressed by Capt. Ogden to the commander of the besiegers respectfully soliciting an interview and a friendly conference on the subject of their respective titles. What could be fairer or more attractive to the Yankee mind, always ready for an argument? The proposition was immediately accepted and the three smartest talkers of the investing force were deputed to enter the edifice and present the points of the Connecticut case. No sooner were they fairly inside than Sheriff Jennings clapped a writ on the shoulders of each before he could commence his oration, arrested them all for trespass by authority of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and informed them that they must accompany him to Easton Jail. The old Roman who declared that laws are silent in the presence of arms had evidently never been brought up in Connecticut. When Sheriff Jennings emerged from the Block house conducting his three prisoners in the name of the law, the invading army was paralysed. They had bound themselves to the Company not to conduct themselves disorderly, and though numbering forty to ten, the thought of rescue or resistance never entered their heads: the majesty of the law overpowered all thought of opposition, and by common consent the three prisoners were escorted to Easton Jail sixty miles distant, the whole Yankee army following humbly in the rear.

At Easton and in fact throughout Pennsylvania the Penn Government was extremely odious. The custom of the Proprietaries to sell no land but to grant leases only, rendered the settlers practically serfs under a feudal aristocracy. The





Yankees on the contrary had come to establish democratic institutions on the basis of private ownership of the soil, and were viewed with general favor. Consequently it occurred that when the Sheriff and his troop arrived at Easton, bail was quickly found for the prisoners, and the reunited forty speedily took the back trail to Wyoming, this time without the companionship of the Sheriff, entered the empty block house and thus found themselves in bloodless possession of the field. But brief was their state of self-complacency. Sheriff Jennings having laid in a new supply of writs and summoned to his aid a more powerful posse of deputies soon appeared at the block house, stormed the doors and captured the whole party. Back to Easton Jail they marched, (the second expulsion of the Yankees,) again found bail, and then tramped back once more to their stronghold. Thus twice captured and sent to Easton, a distance of sixty miles within a month, they must have travelled going and coming in that period at least 240 miles in the depth of winter through a rugged and frozen wilderness. All legal resources against the invaders had now been exhausted without effect, and the dispossessed Ogden and Jennings left them for a few months undisturbed.

Spring slowly opened, and as the ice disappeared from the streams a new and priceless treasure was discovered in this earthly paradise, which caused the hearts of those men of Windham and Hartford to leap for joy. Shad began to swarm in the river and on beholding this clear proof that the region was within the rightful limits of Connecticut, the settlers were more firmly resolved than ever to hold it to the last extremity. Reports of the shad were sent back to Connecticut, and soon other settlers came pouring into the valley until 270 in all were on the ground, including women and children. A strong fort was built, half an acre in extent, which was named after its commander, Fort Durkee; huts were erected, ground cleared and crops planted. Meantime however the enemy had not been idle. Ogden and Jennings recruited their forces and in May appeared before Fort Durkee. Wisely concluding however on reflection that it would be madness to attack the Yankees in the height of the shad season, they retired and re-



ported to Governor Penn that the invaders had possession of the county, and were too strong to be dislodged by any force at the sheriff's command. Great was the indignation of the Quaker functionary at the news. Regardless of non-resistance principles, a military company fully armed and equipped with weapons of war was despatched from Philadelphia to make short work of the audacious intruders. The martial band in brave array with banners and music picked their way gallantly through the woods to Fort Durkee. They then took a careful look at the structure and promptly returned in excellent order by the same road they had come on.

And now the summer months passed rapidly by. New bands of settlers came on from Connecticut; homes were built, crops ripened and the harvest was ready for the gathering. Suddenly in September, the indefatigable Ogden and Jennings again appeared on the scene with an armed and organized military force of over two hundred men, including an artillery company with an iron four-pounder cannon—the first piece of ordnance ever seen in the valley and destined to become famous in the future history of Wyoming. By a lucky stroke the Pennymites surprised and captured Capt. Durkee while harvesting outside the fort and packed him off at once to Philadelphia prison. Then having invested the fort with his army and planted the grim four-pounder in a suggestive position, Capt. Ogden summoned the garrison to instant surrender. It did not take the Yankees long to decide. Their commander was captured; there were no supplies in the fort; their farms and families were outside at the mercy of the enemy. And as they contemplated the powerful array of besiegers, and gazed reflectively into the muzzle of that portentous four-pounder, they mutually confessed "their thoughts were turned on peace."

Articles of capitulation were agreed upon at once; three of the Yankees were held as prisoners, seventeen were allowed to remain to gather the growing crops. All the rest with the women and children were ordered forthwith out of the valley; a pledge being given however that their private property should be respected. "Taking up their melancholy march"



says Miner, sad as the exiles from Paradise, the men, their wives, and little ones with such of their flocks and herds as could be collected, with aching hearts took leave of the fair plains of Wyoming. No sooner had the mass of settlers been expelled than Ogden in violation of the articles of capitulation made pillage of all the property remaining; cattle, horses and sheep were driven to markets on the Delaware and the seventeen who remained, left without means to sustain themselves, were compelled to follow their exiled friends on their journey to Connecticut. Thus ended the Campaign of 1769 with the Yankees for the third time completely expelled, their crops, and live stock, and household goods confiscated, and their fort and houses in the possession of the Pennymites. The long procession of hopeless fugitives toiled painfully eastward toward Connecticut, while Ogden with his cohorts remained to gather up the plunder and to hold the valley."

In November when winter was at hand and all fear of a return of the Yankees had vanished, he disbanded his forces and leaving a garrison of twelve men to hold the fort, departed to Philadelphia to air his laurels. Great was the ovation which awaited him. The city of brotherly love was stirred to its foundations; bells rang, wine flowed, broad brimmed hats were tossed in the air and shad belly coats were embraced with exultation. Capt. Ogden flushed with triumph assured his cheering admirers that the victory was final and that no intruding Yankee would ever again confront that terrible four pounder on the banks of the Susquehanna.

In the midst of these festivities there came a disagreeable announcement. Capt. Durkee who had somehow escaped from prison, together with Capt. Stewart and another Connecticut forty had suddenly dropped on Fort Durkee, ousted its garrison of ten, and were in full possession: not only the fortress but the redoubtable four pounder itself with all its balls and ammunition, was in the hands of the Yankees.

The valiant Capt. Ogden though astonished was not dismayed. Hastily collecting fifty men he started for the seat of war and on his arrival took possession of the old block house near the fort which had been his former quarters. Durkee



marched out of the fort under the Connecticut flag to reconnoiter his position and Ogden with a deputy sheriff and posse attempted his old game of arresting the whole party. But the magic influence of the writ had been exhausted; the Yankees resisted; a fight ensued; one Connecticut man was killed and several wounded. Durkee withdrew to the fort and brought out the four pounder, and it was now the Pennymites' turn to recognise the persuasive influence of their old associate. Without standing on the order of their going, they got into their block house as quickly as possible and anxiously watched the besiegers operations. In the course of a day or two a log redoubt had been constructed about sixty rods from the block house. On this the "dread artillery" was mounted and opened fire; day after day it blazed away shaking the forest with its roar, knocking off limbs in every direction and hitting every object in sight except the block house. It was then moved nearer the building and the siege more closely pressed; the principal storehouse of the Pennymites was stormed and destroyed, but Ogden held out for a month hoping for reinforcements. Gov. Penn unable to raise them appealed in despair to the British commander at New York for troops but that official flatly refused to interfere. On the 29th of April Ogden capitulated, the Yankees took possession of their enemy's arms and supplies and immediately burned the block house to the ground. Ogden collected his discomfited followers, marched gloomily back to Philadelphia where he reported progress to the Governor, and the air was immediately blue with execrations and proclamations. Thus in May 1770 peace once more reigned in Wyoming. The joy-bringing shad came up the river in myriads and through the spring and summer, band after band of new settlers from Connecticut came pouring into the valley. Again the growing crops adorned the fields and autumn arrived at last greeted by a cheerful people and bounteous harvests. Gov. Penn meantime had been nursing his wrath and planning for new visitations of vengeance. Having finally succeeded by desperate efforts in raising about 140 men, he despatched them in September under command of the untir-





ing Ogden with the old accompaniment of deputy sheriffs and plenty of writs to make another attempt to break up the pestiferous Yankee settlement. Ogden marched so secretly that he surprised the hard working settlers in the fields and captured and arrested many of them separately. A few got into the fort and sent out messengers for aid but these were intercepted by the enemy. Ogden then made a sudden rush with his force, beat down the sentinels and captured the fort after a sharp struggle in which several lives were lost. All the principal settlers were forthwith sent to Philadelphia prison; the rank and file of the men were lodged in Easton Jail; the women and children were as before expelled from the valley; and as before the entire possessions of the unfortunate Yankees became the plunder of their Pennymite foes. The property thus lost was by no means inconsiderable and the soldiers of the successful party were richly rewarded by the spoil. This was late in October, 1770 and was the fourth expulsion of the Yankees.

Ogden remained through the Indian summer gathering and disposing of his pillage, till the last wretched Connecticut straggler had reached his home, then as snow settled down on the deserted valley he left twenty men to hold the fort, and returned to the re-jubilant Quaker city to spend the winter in feasting and revelry over the final termination of the war.

Alas for human expectations! On the 18th of December in the darkness of a winter night the slumbering garrison of Fort Durkee were aroused by a sudden shout of "Hurrah for King George!" and started from their sleep to find the fort again in the hands of the Yankees. Six escaped nearly naked to the mountains, the rest were unceremoniously expelled, and the fugitives making their melancholy way through the woods as best they could carried the painful news to Philadelphia. Dismay and gloom settled down on the city and quenched the festive Christmas jublations. The shad belly coats were turned into garments of mourning and the flowing bowl was filled with the spirit of heaviness. Thus ended the second year of the war and the campaigns of 1770.

As the year 1771 opened on the grief stricken Quakers it



soon beheld their melancholy harden into a spirit less consistent with their amiable principles. To turn their cheek to the smiter was forgotten as they reflected on the smiter's cheek. Proclamations and offers of reward for Yankee prisoners flew thick as hail, and one hundred men were levied as quickly as possible and despatched to the seat of war with Capt. Ogden at their head. When this force arrived before Fort Durkee they found it shut up tight and fast in the keeping of about fifty defenders under the command of Capt. Stewart, a former citizen of Pennsylvania who sharing in the popular hatred of the Penn Government had transferred his allegiance to Connecticut.

Ogden having erected a counter fortress in the immediate vicinity first resorted to the old but now played out method of sending a sheriff with a summons to surrender in the name of the law. Captain Stewart replied that he held the fort for the Colony of Connecticut and disrespectfully advised the deputy sheriff and the whole Colony of Pennsylvania to seek a warmer climate. A few days later Ogden made an assault with his whole force but was beaten off with the loss of his brother killed and three more wounded. But though successful in this encounter the garrison concluded that the odds against them were too great and being in no condition to stand a siege they decided not to prolong the contest. Capt. Stewart who as a renegade Pennsylvanian was specially obnoxious to the Penn government escaped with thirty followers by night leaving about twenty in the fort, which the next day surrendered to Ogden without resistance, and the twenty who were taken were sent at once to Easton Jail, charged with murder and other crimes.

It is worth mentioning here as an indication how strongly the general public of Pennsylvania sympathised with the Connecticut settlers, that on their trials the prisoners were all acquitted by the jury, and so far as it appears not a single conviction was ever had upon any of the complaints on which so many of the settlers had been arrested and imprisoned at Easton and Philadelphia.

Thus for the fifth time the Connecticut settlers had been



expelled from Wyoming, and now the persistent Ogden rendered wary by experience took up his abode in the valley, and set himself to strengthen Fort Wyoming so that it should be proof against either Yankee assault or strategy. But in vain did he search for its most precious treasure the mighty four pounder; it was gone, and when or how the Yankees had got it away was a mystery. Two months passed by in peaceful repose from the toils of war, when lo! early in April simultaneously with the first appearance of shad in the river, 150 doughty Yankees were seen emerging from the forest and making straight for the fortress. They were headed by the escaped Stewart, and with them also was a hero of a far higher order, the gallant Zebulon Butler of whom we shall hear more hereafter. More familiar and more awe inspiring to the cooped up Pennymites was the sight of the lost four pounder with a full supply of balls and ammunition; but most astonishing and portentous of all was a stupendous engine of destruction in the form of an enormous piece of artillery far larger than any known to exist in the world. It was mounted on a pair of wagon wheels and was dragged along with difficulty by the besiegers, It was in fact an immense pepperage log which had been bored and fabricated into the semblance of a cannon by an ingenious Yankee blacksmith. Painted a diabolical black, with a red murderous mouth, and bound about with iron bands the mysterious monster presented an appearance truly infernal and appalling. The garrison looked on with consternation while a redoubt was being constructed and the portentous 'what is it,' was mounted upon it. Then they beheld it carefully trained to bear on the fort, and then a slow match was applied and lighted. An awful moment followed: the besieged covered under their ramparts: even the besiegers scattered behind trees.

"There was silence deep as death  
And the boldest held his breath  
For a time."

Then a thousand thunders in one shook the hills and split the heavens. When the smoke had cleared away the fort to the astonishment of all was found to be standing unharmed;



but the cannon had totally disappeared. Not a vestige of it could be discovered until several months afterwards when one of its iron hoops was found hanging in the top of a tree half a mile away, across the river.

After this imposing demonstration the siege was conducted with implements of a less titanic order. The more humble four pounder was now brought into service, but with little better result, as the Yankee gunners proved far more skilful in making a noise than in hitting the fort. More effective work was done by investing the fortress so closely that Ogden was unable to send word of his situation to Philadelphia.

Three months passed away during which time the garrison remained thus bottled up while the besiegers had been quietly combining business with pleasure by erecting shelters, planting crops and showing a clear intention to fight it out on that line if it took all summer. Meantime provisions in the fort were reduced to the lowest point, and it was evident that starvation would soon compel a surrender unless a message could be sent to Gov. Penn.

In this emergency Ogden determined to carry the message himself, and achieved his purpose by a feat of remarkable coolness, skill and daring. Miner thus relates it: "A little past midnight on the 12th of July when all was quiet one of the Yankee sentinels saw something floating on the river which had a very suspicious appearance. A shot awakened attention and drew the eyes of every other sentinel to the spot: a volley was poured in but produced no apparent effect: the thing still floating gently with the current, the firing was suspended while still the wonder grew what the object could be. Capt. Ogden had tied his clothes in a bundle and fastened his hat on top; to this was connected a string of several rods in length which he attached to his arm. Letting himself noiselessly into the water, swimming on his back so deeply as only to allow his lips to breathe, the whole movement demanding extraordinary skill and self-possession, he floated down drawing the bundle after him. As he had calculated, this being the only object apparent, it drew the fire of his foes. He escaped unhurt and when out of danger dressed





himself with his drenched clothing and hat perforated with bullets, and with the speed of a roebuck was in the city on the third day, having accomplished 120 miles through a rough and inhospitable wilderness."

Instantly Philadelphia was in commotion, bells rang, drums beat and shad belly coats flew frantically to and fro. Three hundred pounds was quickly voted, and Capt. Dick was hurried off to the aid of the garrison with provisions and an escort. Capt. Morris with a full uniformed company with banners and music was sent immediately following Capt. Dick. Col. Clayton as commander in chief with another force came just behind, and Capt. Leslie was ordered to raise a fourth detachment and follow as soon as possible.

It was now August, 1771, the fifth month of the siege. Capt. Butler and his men prudent and indomitable intermitted neither their besieging nor their farming, and were getting ready to gather in both the corn and the Pennymites. Ogden's escape being known, they were on the outlook for reinforcements, and it was not long before the scouts announced the approach of Capt. Dick with his supply of food for the garrison. The train cautiously approached undisturbed and apparently undiscovered until it was quite near the fort; Then there was a sudden volley from an ambush, a whoop and a rush by the Yankees cutting the train in two, and quickly the pack-horses which were in the rear were flying toward Philadelphia, while the escort was hustling into the fort. The retreating provisions were soon in the hands of the Yankees while the garrison already starving found themselves with twenty more mouths to feed.

The news of Capt. Dick's discomfiture reached Philadelphia and aroused a feeling the reverse of hilarious. Three hundred pounds more were drawn with groans from the impoverished treasury; new recruits were called for, and Leslie was hurried on to overtake Clayton and Morris. Meanwhile Butler anticipating these results was pushing forward the siege by a series of vigorous attacks in which several of the garrison had been killed and wounded. By the time Clayton and Morris arrived the fort had capitulated, and those officers had the pleasure



of assenting to the terms of surrender. These were that the fort and the valley should be abandoned by the Pennymite forces and the Yankees left in full possession. Thus after three years of battle and siege during which the Susquehanna Company had waged war unassisted against the whole power of Pennsylvania, hostilities closed with the Company the acknowledged victors.

The tired Pennsylvania authorities desiring to know why this was thus, addressed a letter to Gov. Trumbull, inquiring whether these perverse proceedings were under his countenance or authority, or that of the Connecticut Assembly. The courteous Governor replied by letter dated New Haven, Oct. 14, 1771, which was more diplomatic than satisfactory. He assured Gov. Penn that "those persons had had no order or direction from him or from the General Assembly, and that the Assembly would never countenance violent or hostile measures by the Susquehanna Company in vindicating the rights which it supposed itself to have to lands within the limits of the Connecticut Charter. But "he understood that each of the contending parties charged the commencement of violence on the other, of which he was no proper judge." And with this reply, whereby Gov. Penn learned very little except that Connecticut regarded Wyoming as within its Charter limits, that functionary felt the spirit move him to drop the subject.

Here endeth the record of the first Pennymite War.

### CHAPTER III.

While the stirring events of these three years had been taking place in the Wyoming valley it will be easily understood that old Windham and its suburbs had not been indifferent or inactive spectators. The entire people of Connecticut had in fact been as fully aroused as the Quakers themselves. The fighting farmers who had poured into the valley had been drawn from all parts of the colony though chiefly from the northern and eastern counties. The Susquehanna Company had organized and forwarded them, and had



directed their movements, and by sales of its land rights and through popular subscriptions obtained by its agencies, had furnished them with both ploughshares and swords as well as other needed supplies; had assisted them when in prison and had aided their families when expelled, and now that peace and security had been reached, the tide of emigration to Wyoming set in like a flood.

"For the next two or three years" says Miss Larned the historian of Windham County, "that town alone sent scores of valuable families and leaders of the colony; these sent back such glowing reports to the rocky farms of Windham County that emigration raged like an epidemic and seemed likely to sweep away a considerable part of the population." The General Assembly now took more courage and although there was as yet no formal adoption of the company and its work, there was no longer any hesitation in claiming that the settlements were within Connecticut's Charter limits. Under this quasi recognition the stock of the company rose to \$100 per share. Population and prosperity flowed into the valley. New townships were located. New forts were also built and military companies were kept in training; for while the settlers trusted God they had not equal faith in the peacefulness of Quakers and meant to keep their powder dry. Commodious houses began to be erected; farms were planted and fenced, and mills and ferries established; there was shad fishing and shad eating, marriage and giving in marriage. There was however no organized government, all questions of polity or morals being settled by town committees to whose decrees all rendered obedience. Thus matters continued through 1772. Says Muer, "the year passed without justice or lawyer, judge or sheriff, don or constable, civil suit or crime; and from the representations of the old people-it may be considered as a season of wild, joyous, unalloyed happiness."

It was now time however that something in the nature of Civil Government should be established. Accordingly the Susquehanna Company at a meeting held at Hartford in 1773, adopted for the settlements what might be called a constitu-



tion but which was in fact a social compact pure and simple. By the terms of this instrument the settlers recognized themselves as under the authority of the King of England and the laws of Connecticut. They conferred all the local executive and judicial powers of each township on three directors for the purpose of keeping order and suppressing vice, with a constable to enforce their decrees and judgments. These several boards of directors were to meet quarterly in general court with a high sheriff in attendance, in order to hear appeals from the local boards and to try high crimes and misdemeanors. A system of taxation was established and a militia force provided for. It was also declared that this plan of government should continue in force "until the country should be annexed to Connecticut or some other form be provided by the King:" thus hinting at a possible independent colony if Connecticut should fail to adopt them.

This compact was accepted by all the townships in the Wyoming valley and was signed by every adult male inhabitant within their borders: every new comer was also required to subscribe to it.

In 1773 overtures were made by Connecticut to Pennsylvania for an amicable arrangement between the colonies for the occupation of Wyoming, but the men of peace and brotherly love refused to consider any propositions whatever. Thus repulsed the General Assembly caused a case to be made up presenting the Colony's claims and transmitted to England for the ablest legal opinions that could be obtained upon it. The case was submitted to Thurlow, Wedderburn, Jackson, and Dunning, the four highest authorities in England, who gave their united opinion in favor of the Connecticut jurisdiction. Thus fortified the General Assembly in October 1773, resolved that the Colony would recognize the settlements as under its protection, and further resolved that they would "make their claim to those lands and in a legal manner support the same."

In 1774 when two years had passed away without any attempt on the part of Pennsylvania to disturb the settlements the General Assembly took more formal and decisive action.





It passed an act erecting all the territory extending from the Delaware river to a point 15 miles west of the Susquehanna, between the Parallels of 41° and 42° north latitude into a town under the jurisdiction of Connecticut with the name of Westmoreland, and attaching it to the County of Litchfield, with two delegates to the General Assembly. Governor Trumbull thereupon signed a proclamation forbidding any settlement therein except under the Connecticut authority. The Governor of Pennsylvania followed with a counter proclamation against any such settlement without the sanction of Pennsylvania.

The town government of Westmoreland was speedily organized under the Connecticut Act and its delegates were annually chosen to the General Assembly for several years thereafter and regularly attended its sessions at New Haven and Hartford. New settlers kept pouring into the valley, churches and schools were organized and put in operation, flocks and herds and wealth increased, the shad continued abundant and savory, crops were plenteous, and thus prosperously passed away the year 1774 and most of 1775.

In the meantime the stormy clouds of the coming Revolutionary War had risen above the horizon, and a Continental Congress had assembled at Philadelphia. The settlers of Wyoming, true sons of Connecticut had voted in town meeting that they would support the Congress and would "unanimously join our brethren in America in the common cause of defending our liberty." Resolutions these, which in view of their frontier situation were full of danger, and which were afterwards sealed by devotion, sacrifices and sufferings unequalled by any other part of the nation in the course of that long and arduous struggle.

In September 1775 the Governor of Pennsylvania inspired with martial ardor by the events which had occurred at Lexington, Concord and Bunker Hill, and possibly in view of the fact that the attention of Connecticut was closely occupied in that direction, availed himself of an opportunity to seek for rival laurels in the Wyoming valley.

Two small settlements just started about five miles west of the township line, and out of reach of any fort presented a



tempting prize for the cupidity of any band which would take the risk of raiding them. Accordingly one Col. Plunkett, a conspicuous tory who had fled from England to escape prosecution for highway robbery, applied for and obtained orders from Governor Penn to break them up. Secretly collecting a strong force he surprised the settlements, killing one person and wounding several others, burned all the buildings and property which could not be moved, and distributed the remainder as pillage to himself and followers. All the men who were found were taken to Sunbury jail; the women and children were driven back to Wyoming. The authorities of Connecticut on learning of this proceeding and that preparations were being made for a general attack on the other settlements in the valley, appealed to the Continental Congress at Philadelphia to remonstrate with Pennsylvania against the repetition of such hostilities as "calculated and probably intended to break up the union of the Colonies." Congress at once complied, and by a formal vote entreated the Pennsylvania Assembly to take effectual measures against further conflict. The Assembly answered by directing Gov. Penn to give orders for a due execution of the laws of the Province in the Counties of Northampton and Northumberland. Gov. Penn without a day's delay sent a letter to Col. Plunkett dated November 25th in which he said, "I do most cheerfully order you to use your utmost diligence and activity in putting the laws of this Province in execution throughout the County of Northumberland; and you may depend on the faith of the House and my concurrence with them that every proper and necessary expense that may be incurred on the occasion will be defrayed. Thus commenced the Second Pennymite War.

Early in December a force of seven hundred men composed of several military companies and volunteers all under the charge of Col. Plunkett, fully equipped with warlike munitions including a cannon, were on their way in a fleet of boats up the Susquehanna river. The avowed purpose of their commander was to subjugate and disperse the entire Yankee population, and he encouraged his troops with the promise of an easy victory and plunder enough to enrich every man



in the army. For the Wyoming people the prospect was indeed alarming. The whole valley could not muster over three hundred men and boys and there were not arms enough for anything like that number. Numerous Tories and other disaffected persons had settled among them and were in secret sympathy with the invaders. During the previous four years of quiet and security the population had become diversified like that of an ordinary peaceful community with women and children, and the usual proportion of the helpless and infirm and the prospect of being driven from their homes in the depth of winter as on former occasions, and of seeing the accumulations of four years labor swept away in sack and flames, brought consternation to every face. An earnest appeal was forwarded to Congress to interpose in their behalf, at the same time every preparation was made for defence. The heroic Zebulon Butler whose valor and judgment had saved the settlements in the previous war was placed in command. The three hundred who could carry arms were collected, those who had no guns were furnished with scythe blades fastened to poles; and the approach of the invaders was anxiously awaited.

Meantime Congress had received and acted on their appeal. On the 20th of December it passed resolutions urging the cessation of hostile demonstrations as prejudicial to the common cause, "the restoration of all captured property and the release of all prisoners taken in this unhappy contest," and "the general restoration of the previous condition of affairs until the dispute could be settled in a legal manner."

The remonstrance came too late to be of any avail, if it would have availed in any case, and on the day it was adopted (December 20th, 1775) Plunkett with his army and fleet of boats was already approaching Wyoming. Capt Butler and his motley force were watching them and constructing a barricade of logs on the bank of the river just below the settlements. On the 23d Plunkett's army appeared before the breastworks prepared for attack and were saluted with a volley, fired over their heads. When the whistling of bullets was heard the advancing body showed such lack of



interest in the success of the movement that Plunkett withdrew his forces to a safe distance and determined to turn the the enemy's position with the aid of his fleet. A boat loaded with several men with a dog for a lookout was dispatched across the river to make a landing; but Butler had foreseen this manœuvre and as the boat approached the shore there was a shot from the bushes followed by a yelp from the dog which dropped to the bottom of the boat with a curtailed caudal appendage. With a simultaneous movement his human comrades followed his example, and the craft being thus left to steer itself was quickly caught in the rapids and whisked with violent plunges and gyrations helplessly down stream. After several narrow escapes from capsizing, it finally bumped against a rock and the naval contingent without waiting for orders scrambled safely ashore. This closed the first day's operations and Col. Plunkett very much exhausted drew off his army for rest and reflection. The next morning he again appeared and made a vigorous assault on the front of the breastwork while a picked body of men scaled the mountain side endeavoring to get unobserved to Butler's rear, but that vigilant and wary veteran of the French War was too old a campaigner to be caught in this way, and the flanking party soon found itself in front of a strong barricade where it met with a warm reception. A sharp contest ensued, several assailants were killed and the rest returned to Col. Plunkett with the report that the road in that direction was not a convenient one for public travel.

Mr. Miner accounts for the easy discouragement of the Pennsylvania troops in these several encounters, on the ground that they sympathized for the most part with the Wyoming people and were quite willing that the expedition should prove a failure. However this may be, the situation was now one which a better general than Plunkett though in command of a more zealous army would have found embarrassing. Wyoming was evidently not to be conquered without stubborn resistance. It was the 24th of December. He was not prepared for a winter campaign and was liable at any moment to be cut off by a heavy snow from either supplies or re-





treat. There was nothing to do but to withdraw, and the following day his army and navy retired down the river, escorted for same distance by the Yankees who cheered their parting guests by shouting their hearty wishes for a merry Christmas.

Col. Plunkett on reaching Philadelphia found Gov. Penn in a less amiable mood than he had shown on his departure. His expenses also were paid with less alacrity than had been promised and not without careful scrutiny and comments which were neither complimentary nor pious. Thus ended the Second Pennymite War, and with it the year 1775.

#### CHAPTER IV.

The year 1776 brought the full force of the Revolutionary storm and with it new and critical dangers to Wyoming. At the headquarters of the Susquehanna and within 24 hours journey lay the country of the Iroquois, the most warlike and powerful race of savages in America. It was known that Great Britain was making every effort to win them over to hostility against the Colonies. An uneasy, restless and threatening spirit had for months been displayed by them and was constantly increasing. Deputations of savages appeared in the settlements from time to time ostensibly to declare friendship, but in reality as was believed to quiet suspicion, and no reliance was placed in their good faith.

These apprehensions were fully justified. Before the close of 1776 the tribe had pledged themselves to a British alliance and took part in Burgoyne's expedition the following year. The situation of Wyoming was indeed critical.

There were in the valley about 2,500 inhabitants, hardly 300 of whom as had been shown in the Plunkett invasion, could bear arms and the supply of weapons was inadequate even for these; moreover thirty of the most capable men had since enlisted in the Continental Army and had taken the best of the arms with them. Suspicious persons had of late been settling in the valley in considerable numbers and erecting private stock houses or forts in the outlying districts. Many of these were more or less avowed Tories in their politics and were believed by the majority of the settlers to be secretly



engaged in plotting their destruction. Under these circumstances it was voted in town meeting to erect suitable forts for defence against the common enemy; every inhabitant to labor on them without fee or reward. The town also applied to Congress for aid and especially for arms. In reply Congress authorized them to raise two companies as a part of the Continental line, to be stationed in and about the town for the defence of the inhabitants, but liable to serve in any part of United States when called on. Under this very meager encouragement two companies of 84 men each were raised in sixty days, and it is supposed that arms were supplied to them by Congress.

Then followed what have been called "the dark days of the Revolution." Washington retreated through the Jerseys, his army diminishing daily. On the 8th of December he crossed the Delaware. On the 20th, Congress fled to Baltimore but not until it had passed an order for the Westmoreland companies to join Washington with all possible despatch. Before the end of December these companies were in Washington's camp and Wyoming was defenceless.

The year 1777 was one of anxious expectation in the valley, and domestic troubles. The smallpox broke out, a fearful visitation in those days, and spread through the settlements, raging for several months. The year previous the town had been promoted to be a county, and in true Connecticut fashion a controversy almost as violent as the smallpox began to be waged over the location of the county buildings. The hardly concealed plottings of the tories and the occasional suspicious visits of straggling Indians were constant sources of apprehension. Most of the able bodied men were in the army, and those who remained, together with all the old men and boys, exhausted as they were with other labors and special burdens from the sickness, worked unremittingly in strengthening the forts. Some of the more dangerous tories were expelled.

Scouting parties were kept constantly out to guard against surprise and these occasionally came into collision with roving bands of Indians and tories when lives were lost and prisoners taken on both sides. Meantime the two military companies



which had been raised for the defence of the valley were detained in Washington's Army. Under the command of Col. Zebulon Butler they were actively employed and did gallant service in several expeditions and engagements. They were known as the Independent Companies of Westmoreland, and not incorporated with any corps or regiment—it being understood that they were liable to be returned at any time to their homes

A letter from Col. Butler to Gen. Washington dated May 29th, 1777 thus speaks of their condition, "Many soldiers of the Independent Companies have received no clothes since they entered the service and are almost naked. Many of their arms are useless and some of them are lost. They are also destitute of tents and every kind of camp equipage. I hope Your Excellency will give special directions how they are to be supplied with these articles."

To appreciate the sacrifices and the defenceless condition of Wyoming at this time it should be known that Westmoreland's proportionate quota of troops for the Continental Army was 21 men. She had sent 180, and this at a time when every man was needed at home. The two Independent Companies had been raised with the express understanding that they were mainly for home defence, but now that they had been drawn into the army they counted as part of the general quota of Connecticut, and no great effort seems to have been made by the state authorities to relieve them by sending a substitute force. Notwithstanding the unequal burden of military service thus imposed on Westmoreland, its full proportion of state taxes was rigidly exacted and it was now called upon to send to Hartford an assessment of £2,000. This was nearly one pound to every inhabitant and in addition to this, county and town taxes were also levied.

Yet heavy as these financial burdens must have been, and wearing as were the excitements and anxieties of the people they did not lose their interest in education and literary improvement. An additional tax of a penny in the pound was levied for free school purposes, and money was raised by private subscription to establish a fortnightly post to furnish



the valley with the Hartford newspapers. In this year also for the first time a student was sent from Wyoming to Yale College, but as that institution then paid no attention to base ball, foot ball or other "athletics," it is probable that the young man derived little benefit from his college course.

Before we close the annals of this trying year one more vote of this impoverished people deserves to be recorded. It was passed at the last town meeting of the year, December 30th, 1777, and is in these words: "Voted by this town, that the Committee of Inspection be empowered to supply the Solger's wives and the Solger's widows and their families with the necessaries of life" When we consider the situation of these straggling frontier settlements, crippled by poverty, wasted with sickness, and worn with toil, anxiety and constant conflict with the savage foe, and recount their sacrifices amid it all, for patriotism, education and benevolence we may well ask, what community can show a nobler record?

The year 1778 dawned on a rejoicing and hopeful American people. Burgoyne had surrendered in the previous October and that great event had awakened universal anticipations of a speedy French alliance, and of an early and successful termination of the war. These patriotic exultations were fully shared by the people of Wyoming, but they could not conceal from themselves that the very circumstances which largely relieved the apprehensions of other parts of the country furnished ground for an increase of their own. The fierce warriors of the Six Nations who had been absent with Burgoyne's Army were now released inflamed with disappointment and eager for revenge to murder and plunder in other quarters. Early in January rumors came thick and fast that an expedition of Tories and savages was preparing for a descent on Wyoming. The two companies with their officers who were detained in the Continental line became more and more restless under the appealing letters which they received from their families, and clamored for release; but through some potent influence never explained their requests were unheeded.

Gen. Schuyler called the attention of Congress to the danger of attack on Wyoming, and the importance of prepar-





ation for it. The only action taken by that body was to authorize the town of Westmoreland to raise another company of foot for its own defence, the Company to find its own arms, accoutrements and blankets; not even powder was sent them and the women of the settlements in desperation scraped the ground beneath their floors and leached out saltpetre that their husbands and brothers might manufacture material with which to defend their lives.

In May the scouting parties reported that bands of Indians were hovering within 20 miles of the settlements. Soon after a party of scouts was fired on and one man killed. The people began to take refuge in the forts and frantic appeals were again sent to Congress to permit the two companies to come home. Still the appeals were answered only by obstinate neglect. But the men could resist the calls of their families no longer. Every commissioned officer but two resigned and with 25 of the men who left the ranks, leave or no leave, hurried to the valley. At last at the end of June, Congress authorized the remainder who were fast deserting, and who now numbered 86 to be formed into a single company and to march to Wyoming. But it was too late.

It was now the 1st of July. The forts were crowded with women and children; outside were their forsaken homes with all their possessions abandoned to the rapacity of the approaching foe. Every man and boy able to hold a weapon was under arms. The old four-pounder was at Wilkesbarre but there were no balls and it could only be used as an alarm gun. The greater part of the fighting force was collected at Forty Fort which was nearest the enemy, with Col. Zebulon Butler in command. On the 2d, the enemy numbering 400 Tories and Canadians and 600 Indians commanded by Major John Butler suddenly appeared at Wintermoot's block house, about 4 miles north of Forty Fort, a place long suspected as being a Tory headquarters, and took possession of it. On the same day they attacked another block house a mile nearer occupied by Connecticut men, and killed and captured its garrison of seventeen old men.

On the 3d a messenger was despatched by them to Forty



Fort demanding that the whole Wyoming Valley with all its forts and defenders and public property be unconditionally surrendered. The demand was refused. A council of war was then held in the fort. Col. Butler and the military officers generally favored awaiting the arrival of the company which had been just released from the army. The majority argued however that in the meantime the enemy would ravage the valley and overpower the other forts which were but feebly manned, and that the men in Forty Fort could not be held there while their families were being slaughtered around them. They believed it better to take a desperate chance; to risk everything on a single throw, and to attack the enemy in the open field. The chance was desperate indeed. Three hundred men and boys ranging from fourteen years of age to seventy, untrained and half armed to attack more than a thousand hardy fighting soldiers and warriors in their own chosen position. But human nature could not endure the suspense and agony which the other alternative presented and the minority yielded.

On the afternoon of July 3d the gates of Forty fort were thrown open and the little column of men and boys marched out to meet their fate. It comprised 230 enrolled men and 70 others of all ages. The judges of the court and all the magistrates, grand fathers, and school boys with their teacher were in the ranks: a few sentinels were left to keep the fort together with the weeping and trembling women and children whose prayers and tears followed the fated band of husbands and fathers and sons as they moved out to take their almost hopeless chances with battle and death.

The column marched about three miles before it found the enemy. These being fully apprised of its approach, had already taken position. A short pause ensued during which the little band formed in order of battle. Col. Butler spoke a few words only, exhorting the men to stand firm and do their duty. At four o'clock the battle commenced. The Connecticut men advanced firing by platoons, directly against the enemy's center which was composed of Canadians and Tories and commanded by John Butler in person, who was conspicuous



with a handkerchief tied about his head. As the Wyoming men pressed hotly forward this body gave way, but the great force of concealed Indians on both flanks was pouring in a murderous fire which soon made further progress impossible. For half an hour the Connecticut men endured it, their ranks rapidly thinning. An attempt was then made to face part of the line to the right so as to confront the hidden enemy on that side; some confusion occurred in trying to execute this maneuver and in an instant the savages rushed in with horrid yells: some one called out to retreat and the disorder increased. Col. Butler rushed to the spot and endeavored to rally the line, "Dont leave me, my children" he cried, "and the victory is ours." But the disparity in numbers was too great: those who stood still were cut down, every captain in the whole company had been slain and what were left of the men soon broke in hopeless rout.

The Indians crowded between the fugitives and the fort forcing most of them toward the river and followed their flight in that direction, killing and scalping by the score. At the river many were killed, a few swam to the island where they concealed themselves and escaped, others were lured from the water by promises of quarter and butchered. Lieutenant Shoemaker was thus murdered by a former neighbor whom he had often befriended.

Large numbers of captives were arranged in circles and held by savages while a hideous squaw known as queen Esther slaughtered them with clubs and tomahawk. Fourteen scalped and mangled bodies were afterwards found in one such circle and nine in another. These horrible scenes continued till darkness interferred: then the death fires were lighted and all night long the black sky was lurid with the flames at which most of the remaining captives were roasted while their shrieks rang in the ears of their friends and families in the fort. Of all the prisoners captured in the battle and the flight two only were spared: these were both carried off by the enemy on their return to Canada and one being too infirm to keep up was killed by the way.

While these dreadful scenes were being enacted the un-



happy occupants of Forty Fort were suffering the agonies of bereavement and despair. Col. Butler had succeeded in reaching the fort with a few survivors and at once hurried to Wilkesbarre about two miles distant to take measures for its defence leaving Col. Dennison in command. One hundred and sixty of his company had been lost. One hundred and forty escaped by swimming the river; some reached Forty Fort and some took refuge in the mountains. Immediately from all the other forts in the valley began a panic stricken flight; the woods were filled with women and children, and with the sick and infirm, without guide or protectors and without food, and some of them in desperate illness. The day after the battle the enemy sent flags to Forty Fort demanding the surrender of the entire valley. Col. Dennison having sent word to Col. Zebulon Butler at Wilkesbarre to escape with all the soldiers of the continental line, soon agreed to the terms of capitulation: these were that all the remaining forts in the settlement should be delivered up with all the continental stores, the inhabitants to remain on their farms and their private property to be protected so far as Major Butler's influence would avail, all Tories resident in the valley to be allowed to remain unmolested and the settlers not to take up arms again during the war.

The gates of Forty Fort were now thrown open and the arms and stores delivered up. Notwithstanding Butler's engagement to use his influence for the protection of private property his followers speedily began to pillage unrestrained and to destroy everything within reach, Butler declaring himself unable to stop it. Even Col. Dennison was stripped of his hat and coat. Butler remained in possession of the fort for three days; then finding his commands disregarded by his own men and foreseeing that the excesses of the savages continually increasing would soon grow beyond control he mustered as much of his force as was still amenable to discipline and withdrew from the valley, his followers loaded with scalps and plunder. A considerable proportion of the savages however broke up into separate bands and roved about the neighborhood for many weeks plundering, murder-





ing and burning until the whole district had been scathed with fire and slaughter. Those who could, fled from the county. Forty Fort was deserted and except a few inhabitants who collected at Wilkesbarre the whole people abandoned the settlements. Those who remained and some others who afterwards returned made an effort to gather in what little of the crops had escaped destruction. Interrupted constantly by the Indians, numbers were killed and but little of the grain could be secured. With the help of a few troops from the Continental line who were sent to their assistance, these marauders were finally driven out. It was not till the end of October however that the bodies of those who had fallen in the battle of July 3d, could with safety be buried.

The massacre at Wyoming aroused intense feelings of sympathy and indignation not only throughout this country but in every other. The story embellished with constantly growing details of barbarity and suffering was studiously circulated throughout Europe in the interest of the American cause. The inhuman course of Great Britain in its employment of savage allies in civilized warfare was used as a theme by orators, essayists and poets, until the British Government itself felt ashamed and sullenly charged that Butler as the commander of the invading force was responsible for its excessive slaughter and cruelty. Such was also the prevailing impression in this country for two generations, and it colored the narrative as given in all the earlier histories.

It is now well established however that while Butler justly merits execration for taking charge of such a fiendish foray, well knowing what the consequences must be, he was himself moved by the atrocities that he witnessed and granted easy conditions of surrender in order to prevent their renewal. The realities were dreadful enough, but not more so and on a much smaller scale than numerous horrors which have been enacted since that date in the warfare of so called christian peoples, and for which christian congregations have sung Te Deums in the temples of the Prince of Peace.

Such is war, that relic of human savagery; justifiable doubtless it often is, but only as a dire necessity in order to pre-



serve rights whose loss would be worse for the human race  
than even War's accumulated crimes and miseries. God  
speed the day when in any cause less sacred than this,

The warrior's name shall be a name abhorred

And every nation that shall lift again

Its hand against its brother, on its forehead

Shall wear forevermore the brand of Cain!



## SECOND PAPER.

## Connecticut's East India Company; THE STORY OF WYOMING.

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### CHAPTER V.

When Major John Butler withdrew from Wyoming valley after the dreadful scenes of slaughter and havoc which were related in the last paper, the larger part of his Indian allies went with him, but many bands remained in the vicinity, murdering, plundering and burning. Forty Fort was abandoned; and except a few destitute inhabitants who gathered at Wilkesbarre the whole people fled from the settlements. The crops of course were lost and the entire valley became the scene of widespread conflagration and ruin.

A month after the massacre while the whole country was still quivering with grief and sympathy over the shocking story, the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania in an address to the Assembly expressed itself as follows: "The late fatal catastrophe which has befallen the Connecticut settlers on the Penn Susquehanna, deplorable as it is, recollects the disputed footing on which these sufferers stood. Compassion for them as well as justice to this State require that they be reminded of the precarious nature of their tenure before they re-establish themselves." Notwithstanding this considerate warning against any attempt by the surviving victims to restore their ruined homes and fortunes, Col. Zebulon Butler and a few settlers with the aid of a small force obtained from the Continental line, began at once to expel the Indian marauders from the immediate vicinity. After three months of hard fighting this was so far accomplished that it became possible to bury the bodies of those who had been slain in the battle and the massacre. On October 19th, under a military



guard the mangled and unrecognizable forms, still lying where they fell, were collected and mingled in a common trench. The spot has since been marked by a plain and suitable monument.

No sooner had the Continental companies returned to the army than the savages renewed their devastations, and several families who had ventured back were slaughtered or carried off before the Spring of 1779. During the winter Col. Butler being left with only about 100 men, bands of Indians appeared about Wilkesbarre, repeatedly threatening and once attacking the fort. On this occasion the famous four pounder being called into play made its only recorded hit, actually killing the Indian chief who led the assault. The attack was repelled but it was impossible to follow the enemy with so small a force, and they retired, burning houses and barns and carrying off large numbers of cattle and horses. A few days afterwards they returned and in full sight of the Fort killed and scalped several inhabitants. A detachment of two hundred men sent from the Continental army to Butler's assistance, was surprised and barely escaped defeat. It reached the fort however and by its aid, Col. Butler was enabled to clear the open portions of the valley of the human wolves, though small packs of them still hovered in the forest and mountain passes murdering and plundering at every opportunity.

Gen. Washington now determined to make an inroad into the country of the Six Nations in order to punish and to check these hostile demonstrations. By his orders Gen. Sullivan assembled a force of about 3500 men at Wilkesbarre for the expedition. The enemy which consisted of Indians with British troops regular and irregular, were on the alert and while the expedition was preparing, hovered around the very edges of its encampment, attacking settlements and cutting off several small detachments of the Continental forces. Sullivan's army left Wilkesbarre July 31, 1779, and marched to the head waters of the Susquehanna harrassed all the way by the vigilant and active foe. At the Tioga River the enemy comprising about 2500 men under John Butler made a stand





behind fortifications. A severe battle ensued and the Indians and British were routed. The Indian country was immediately invaded and ravaged: every house but one wigwam was consumed, hundreds of cultivated fields laid waste and numerous peach orchards loaded with ripening fruit cut down. From the 29th of August till the 28th of September, the whole army was incessantly engaged in the work of destruction. Several captives from Wyoming, were discovered and freed, but besides these and one old squaw too old to be removed, not a human being was found, so totally was the country deserted.

When Sullivan's victorious army returned down the river it had a grand reception at Wilkesbarre: the village had already begun to be filled with returning refugees, and there was new hope that it would again be safe to reoccupy their desolated farms. The hope proved illusory. Sullivan's expedition did not end the Indians' ravages in the valley. Their invasions continued till the end of the war: and for three successive years Wyoming was the theatre of almost continuous carnage, plunder, conflagration and captures. Nevertheless during those years of terror such was the charm of the well loved spot that few settlers voluntarily left it, and many who had fled returned.

The population clustered for the most part about the fort at Wilkesbarre. The civil organization was resumed. Elections were held and magistrates chosen and representatives sent to the General Assembly at Hartford. In 1780 some of the more daring settlers began to re-occupy some of the outlying farms. Quickly the Indians reappeared in roving bands, and numerous and romantic were the exploits and adventures with which the annals of the settlements teem throughout this distressful and thrilling period.

In 1780 the General Assembly of Connecticut resolved that "in view of the great losses and sufferings of the people of Westmoreland all their taxes be abated:" and a committee was appointed to take account of their losses with a view to farther indemnification. During this year the Indian raids continued; almost every month several settlers were slain and



others taken captive. Thirteen men in one party were killed in September. The season was also excessively hot and sickly. Owing to the Indian ravages very little corn could be gathered or planted and the community suffered from a scarcity of food. A supply which was coming up the river for the garrison of the fort was stopped and confiscated by the Pennsylvanian authorities. In pleasing contrast with this inhumanity was the act of the parish of Dresden, Virginia, which sent \$180 for the relief of the distressed inhabitants. Faithful little Dresden! I have been unable to find it on the map, and its name so far as I know appears no where else in history. That kindly act, the only one of the sort which was extended at this time to afflicted Wyoming, is all that is known of it; shining across the years like a far off candle in the darkness—a good deed in a naughty world! Another friend which had often cheered and sustained the people also came nobly to the rescue. The Susquehanna River after furnishing its usual supply of shad in the spring, this year doubled its efforts and produced in the fall extraordinary swarms of eels. Fourteen thousand of these wriggling dainties were taken within three weeks—a welcome boon to the hungry people which they did not allow to slip through their fingers. In December came another Indian attack on one of the settlements and seven inhabitants, all prominent men and fathers of families were carried off. This ended 1780.

For the next two years, 1781 and 1782, the record is monotonous and melancholy of Indian ravages and bloodshed. In 1781 such was the insecurity and depopulation of the valley that less than 200 acres in all were cultivated. The tax valuation for this year shows less than \$7,500 as the entire rateable property of the settlements. Comparing this with the valuation of the year preceding the massacre, a diminution appears of nearly \$60,000, or about 92 per cent. Nevertheless the settlers kept up their courage during these arduous years, enlivening the time with scouting parties, and singing meetings and marriages, and by way of variety an occasional good old fashioned Connecticut divorce. The conservation of morals also by judicial proceedings was not neglected. A Son



of Belial who played cards was convicted and punished. It would appear that the game must have been solitaire as no associate in crime is mentioned. Mary Pritchard being found guilty of unnecessarily going from her place of abode on the Lords day was fined five shillings. It is not unlikely that these prosecutions were brought not so much on account of the acts complained of as for the purpose of discouraging continued residence by disagreeable members of the community, yet these are the most serious offences which appear on the criminal records of Wyoming at this period. Says Miner: "Disjointed as were the times, aroused as were the passions and unloosed as moral ties generally are during the prevalence of war, it is a just and pleasing tribute to Wyoming that neither tradition, the Court records, nor any memorandum found discloses a single crime that deserves the character of heinous. There never was a record for the same number of years less stained with guilt, its pages more pure and free from the taint of malignity and corruption."

In October 1781 Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown. The war was virtually ended, and the curtain now rises on new phases and new actors in the complex and animated drama of Wyoming.

Early in the Revolution the Government of the Penn family had been superseded in Pennsylvania and Governor John Penn had fled to England in 1776. In 1778 the Legislature sequestered all the proprietary lands except a few manors and thus the State succeeded to the claim of jurisdiction and ownership in Wyoming which the proprietaries had previously asserted. It had then proceeded to make grants in the valley, of lands already occupied by the Connecticut settlers: which grants were purchased by parties who speculated on their chances of getting possession of the lands through future judicial proceedings or direct state action. These land grants were now held by persons of influence with the State authorities and the first movement in their interest was quickly taken. Fifteen days after the surrender of Cornwallis the Executive Council of Pennsylvania, presented a petition to Congress praying for an adjudication under the IXth Article



of the Confederation of the respective claims of that State and the State of Connecticut to the Wyoming Valley. The State of Connecticut through its representatives in Congress concurred in the application. A commission of six was agreed upon by the delegates from the two states, and appointed by Congress August 12, 1782, and the commission opened its Court November 12, 1782, at Trenton, New Jersey. Wm. Bradford, Joseph Reed, James Wilson and Jonathan Sergeant appeared as Counsel for Pennsylvania. For Connecticut came Eliphalet Dyer, Wm. Samuel Johnson and Jesse Root.

Before referring to the action of the Court let us recur for a moment to the Susquehanna Company which we have so long lost sight of and inquire what it had been doing during the eight years which had elapsed since the town of Westmoreland had been established under the jurisdiction of Connecticut. In fact so far as the records of the Company show, not a meeting had been held since May 24, 1774, only two months after the township organization. No reference appears in the record of that meeting to the new political relations of the settlements, and no indication that the Company expected to abate its interest in their affairs, yet the next page of the volume is headed with the date of November 13, 1782, the day after the assembling of the Court at Trenton. The meeting was held at Hartford with Eleazar Talcott for Moderator and Samuel Gray for Clerk, and proceeded to appoint Col. Eliphalet Dyer, Wm. Samuel Johnson Esq and Jesse Root Esq, as its agents jointly and severally to act before that Court for the benefit of the Company. These gentlemen were already in attendance before the Court as counsel for Connecticut: but the controversy between Pennsylvania and Connecticut related to political jurisdiction only, while as against the company Pennsylvania also claimed ownership of the soil and the invalidity of all the titles which it had given or might give to settlers. It did not appear that this question of ownership of the soil would be at issue before the Court; but evidently the company feared it might be, and thought it prudent to fortify themselves by a special retainer of the same counsel on their own account. The gentlemen





named were therefore authorized "to transact all manner of business necessary to be done and transacted on behalf of said Company before the Commissioners appointed to try and determine the right, title and jurisdiction between the State of Connecticut and the State of Pennsylvania." Fifty shares of stock were authorized to be sold to pay expenses and one share was voted to each of the Counsel "as a gratuity," or in modern phrase "a retainer." A special committee was also appointed to obtain copies of certain documents from the State of Massachusetts to be used in evidence if required. Meantime however the question had been raised at the opening of the Court whether questions bearing on the ownership of the soil and the validity of private titles were to be considered on the hearing. The Court decided that they should not: on the ground that the proceeding was between the States alone, and related to political jurisdiction only. Another clause in the Articles of Confederation provided for the adjudication of ownership of the soil in disputed territory, as between the States and private parties interested, and this could therefore be made the subject of a separate trial should one become necessary.

The session at the Court at Trenton lasted 41 judicial days.

It does not come within the province of this paper to present the legal questions discussed before the hearing upon the respective claims of the two States to jurisdiction over the Wyoming Valley. As we have seen, whatever may have been the rights of Connecticut she had always been backward in maintaining them by recognition and vigorous support of the Wyoming settlements. On the other hand Pennsylvania had never failed or faltered in her persistent efforts to occupy the territory. Doubtless these contrasting facts had much influence on the Court, whose decisions was rendered December 30, 1782, in favor of Pennsylvania. There are grounds to believe that this decision was not entirely unexpected or even disagreeable to Connecticut, for reasons which do not appear on the surface. So many States had conflicting claims to Western territory that there was every prospect of inextricable confusion and controversy and possibly a disruption of



the Confederacy unless there could be mutual adjustment and compromise on this subject. That there was some secret understanding between Connecticut and Pennsylvania is indicated by the fact that immediately after the Trenton decree Connecticut ceded to Congress all her lands lying west of Pennsylvania reserving however a certain tract in Ohio since known as the Western Reserve. These Ohio lands were also claimed by Virginia, and if the title of Connecticut was bad to the Wyoming Valley it was bad for the same reasons to all land west of it. Yet on the question whether Congress would accept the cession and recognize the right of Connecticut to keep the Western Reserve, (a question which gave rise to much debate) Pennsylvania always voted with Connecticut and in one instance in opposition to all the other States. But whatever may have been the real grounds or secret influences which determined the decree, the fact remains that on the 30th of December 1782, the Court rendered its unanimous judgement, but without giving any reasons, that the State of Connecticut had no rights to the Wyoming lands in controversy and that the jurisdiction and pre-emption of all those lands did of right belong to the State of Pennsylvania. With this event so important to Wyoming, and as the sequel showed so fraught with new complications and direful consequences to its hapless settlers, the year 1782 came to a close.

## CHAPTER VI

The news of the decision brought consternation to the people of Wyoming. Within 18 days after it was issued they presented to the Assembly of Pennsylvania an eloquent and pathetic petition reciting the good faith with which they had sustained the claims of Connecticut under the encouragement of that Commonwealth, the increased value they had given to the land by their improvements, and the losses and sufferings they had endured. "If we have committed faults," they say, "we pray for mercy and forgiveness. If we have deserved anything we hope something from the gratitude of our country." "We are yet alive, but the richest blood of our neigh-



bors and friends, children, husbands and fathers, has been spilt in the general cause of their country and we have suffered every danger this side of death. We supplied the Continental army with many valuable officers and soldiers and left ourselves weak and unguarded against the attacks of the savages and others of a more savage nature. Our houses are desolate many mothers childless, widows and orphans multiplied, our habitations destroyed and many families reduced to beggary, which exhibits a scene most pitiful and deserving of mercy. If the greatest misfortunes can demand pity and mercy we greatly deserve them." "We are yet entitled to another trial for our particular possessions according to the Ninth Article of the Confederation, but reduced in every respect we are unable to maintain a trial against an opulent State. We therefore present a request which the laws of justice and policy suggest and which the dictates of humanity demand." "That your Honors of your abundant goodness and clemency would be pleased to grant and confirm to your Memorialists and those whom they represent, the inconsiderable part of the claim contested," [which we actually occupy] "to be aparted as they were before the decision. Thus will you increase the inhabitants of this flourishing State, will add to its wealth and strength, will give joy to the widows and fatherless.—Sure, these must be irresistible motives to a just, generous and merciful Assembly. Our only resource is in your decision. If that is unfavorable we are reduced to desperation; unable to purchase the soil we must leave our cultivations and possessions and be thrown into the wide world, our children crying for bread which we shall be unable to give them. It is impossible that the magnanimity of a powerful and opulent State will ever condescend to distress an innocent and brave people that have unsuccessfully struggled against the ills of fortune. We care not under what State we live if we can be protected and happy. We will serve you, we will promote your interests, will fight your battles; but in mercy, goodness, wisdom, justice and every great and generous principle do leave us our possessions, the dearest pledge of our brothers, children and fathers, which their hands have cultivated,



and their blood, spilt in the cause of their country, have enriched. We further pray that a general act of oblivion and indemnity may be passed, and that Courts of Jurisdiction be established according to the usages and customs of this State: that we be not only a happy but a well organized and regulated people; and that all judicial proceedings of the prerogative Courts and the Common law Courts held by and under the authority of the State of Connecticut be ratified and fully confirmed." An appeal to the same effect had already been sent to the Executive Council of Pennsylvania by the members of the Trenton Court in the form of a private letter urging that the Connecticut settlers be confirmed in their possessions, or at least that their respective titles be fairly tried as they had not been and could not be in the proceedings just had.

In response to these applications the Assembly of Pennsylvania passed an Act—non committal in its terms as to confirming the settlers titles, but staying ejectment suits against them and appointing Commissioners to proceed to Wyoming, to make full inquiry into the situation. They were also instructed to "confer with the Pennsylvania claimants as well as the Connecticut settlers; to endeavor to bring about reasonable and friendly compromises between such rival claimants and where they could not be done to consider of and report such plans of accommodation as may be most advisable." By an ominous addition to the Act two companies of Pennsylvania troops were ordered to Wyoming to garrison the fort, ostensibly as a protection against the savages—a circumstance which as the Indian annoyances had completely ended, awakened uneasy suspicion among the settlers.

The Commissioners arrived at Wyoming on the 15th of April 1783, accompanied by a Committee of the Pennsylvania claimants among whom the Connecticut men recognized some of their oldest and bitterest antagonists. They were cordially received however by the people and a communication was handed the Commissioners signed by the leading inhabitants as a committee of all welcoming their inquiries and offering "straitly, strictly and truly" to give every information. To





these overtures the Commissioners returned a cold and haughty response as if to a conquered foe. Almost its first sentence contained an intimation that no consideration would be shown them as respected their title to the land. "Although" said the Commissioners "it cannot be supposed that Pennsylvania will, nor can she consistent with her Constitution deprive her citizens of any part of their property legally obtained, yet willing to do everything in her power to promote the peace and happiness of her citizens, she wishes to be fully informed of your case: that if your peaceable demeanor and ready submission to Government render you the proper subjects of clemency and generosity she may be prepared to extend it to you." They then demanded a list of all the original settlers, alive and dead, also of the existing inhabitants with a description of their holdings.

The Wyoming Committee replied the next day in a conciliatory strain enclosing a list of the first settlers so far as they could be recollected, all records having been lost in the Indian ravages, and the names of the widows and orphans of those who had been slain. Two days later the Commissioners without making any farther inquiry or proposing to investigate the settlers titles, transmitted a letter "which" they say "has been handed to us by the Pennsylvania land owners' committee this morning," and required a clear and explicit answer thereto." The letter which was most bitter and insulting towards the Connecticut settlers set forth the terms which alone would satisfy the Pennsylvania claimants. These were in brief, that the settlers should at once relinquish in writing all claim of title to the lands they occupied. That in return for such relinquishment they should have liberty to occupy one half their farms for eleven months, giving up possession at once of the other half to the Pennsylvania claimants, and at the end of the eleven months abandoning the whole to their adversaries. Six months longer indulgence to be given to the widows of those who had been slain by the savages, and to the Rev. Mr. Johnson a full year. "If these terms shall be agreed to" wrote the Commissioners "and ratified by the contending parties we shall think it our duty to



recommend your distressed situation to the Legislature of this State." Such was the only olive branch tendered by this Commission of peace: confessedly at the dictation of the opposite party; and the cruelty of the terms was heightened by the insulting language of the letter in which they were conveyed. In a temperate reply the settlers protest against both the cruelty and insults and in conclusion say "As we conceive that the proposals of the Committee which they offer as a compromise will not tend to peace: as they are so far from what we deem reasonable, we cannot comply with them without doing the greatest injustice to ourselves and our associates, to widows and fatherless children. And although we mean to pay due obedience to the constitutional laws of Pennsylvania we do not mean to become abject slaves as the Committee of Landholders suggest in their address to your Honors." To this response the Commissioners curtly replied announcing that their efforts at conciliation were ended. They then immediately and without notice to the settlers divided the valley into three townships; established Justices of the Peace over them, selected from the most active and implacable of the Pennsylvania claimants, and adjourned having spent just nine days in their arduous efforts to bring about peace and good will in Wyoming. Four months later the Pennsylvania Assembly approved and confirmed their doings. The provisional law to stay ejectment suits against the Wyoming settlers was repealed. The terms offered by the Commissioners were styled "generous offers" and the Commissioners were complimented "for the laudable zeal and industry displayed by them in the execution of their mission." Two more companies of troops were ordered to be enlisted and these were at once sent to Wyoming where they were quartered upon the impoverished inhabitants, eight or ten men in some cases upon a single family, to be lodged in their already crowded little cabins, and fed from their scanty stores of food. The soldiers, crowded and hungry, became abusive and violent, took by force what they wanted and spread terror and distress through the community.

Among the Justices of the Peace who had been appointed



by the Peace Commissioners and confirmed by the Assembly was one Alexander Patterson. He was the Chairman of the Land-holder's Committee (the band of speculators who were endeavoring to get possession of the Wyoming lands), and had been a bitter and unrelenting foe of the Connecticut settlers from their first occupation of the valley. This man was now practically the supreme authority in Wyoming, and being free to employ his own methods of ousting the inhabitants from their homes he proceeded to exercise his powers legal and illegal, as if in a conquered territory. He first changed the name of Wilkesbarre to Londonderry. He then caused Col. Zebulon Butler for expressing indignation at the soldiers' brutalities to be arrested for high treason and sent 60 miles to Sunbury Jail. After some days detention Butler was released on bail, whereupon Patterson billeted twenty soldiers on his family although his house was very small and his wife critically ill. In October Patterson with a band of soldiers arrested eleven citizens of Shawney, some of whom were aged and others ill, and confined them in a wretched guard house having only a wet muddy floor to lie down upon. No charges were made and no explanation given, but during the eight or ten days that they were kept in confinement with little food and no fire, their families were all evicted from their houses, and creatures of Patterson placed in possession.

These and other outrages perpetrated by Patterson or with his sanction impelled the people at last to address a petition to the Legislature of Pennsylvania setting forth his lawlessness and brutalities and praying for protection. A committee was appointed to inquire into the matter which proceeded to Wyoming, took depositions and made a report fully substantiating the truth of the charges. Upon this report the Assembly took no action except to pass a resolution to the effect that the wrongs complained of were such as could be fully redressed by actions at law against the perpetrators and that the application to the Legislature for relief was therefore unnecessary and improper. The petition was accordingly dismissed and Patterson was continued in power, and with



this cold Christmas comfort the Wyoming people came to the close of the year 1783.

In January 1784 the despairing settlers turned to Congress for relief. They sent a petition to that body setting forth their unhappy situation and praying that a Court be instituted under the 9th Article of the Confederation to try the question of their private rights in the soil. The petition asked only for an undoubted legal right. It was supported by an appeal in its favor from the Legislature and Governor of Connecticut, but it was opposed by Pennsylvania, and after various delays and vacillations by Congress was dismissed late in the year. Meantime, in March as if Nature itself were in league to increase the sufferings of the unfortunate people, a great freshet carried away all the dams in the river and houses, barns, fences and cattle were swept away, farms were ruined and provisions, clothes and implements destroyed. As soon as spring opened Patterson and his cohorts began to remove the landmarks of private enclosures and to fence up highways. Many of the inhabitants were thus practically cut off from their wells; families who had been made homeless and starving by the freshet were forbidden to cut a stick of timber or to construct any shelter, and (unkindest cut of all) the people were prevented from spreading their shad nets in the abounding stream.

In May, while the application for a trial of right in the soil was still pending before Congress, Patterson and his troops at the point of the bayonet dispossessed 150 families at once, set fire in some cases to their dwellings and commanded them to leave the country forthwith. Says the historian Miner of this occurrence: "Unable to make any effectual resistance the people implored for leave to remove either up or down the river in boats; as with their wives and children in the then state of the roads it would be impossible to travel. A stern refusal met this seemingly reasonable request and they were directed to take the Laxawaxen road as the one leading most directly to Connecticut. But this way consisted of 60 miles of wilderness with scarce a house and the roads had been wholly neglected during the war. They then begged leave to





take the Easton or Stroudsburg road where bridges spanned the larger streams still swollen by the recent rains. All importunities were vain; and the people fled towards the Delaware, objects of destitution and pity that would have moved a heart of marble. About 500 men women and children with scarce provisions to sustain life plodded their weary way mostly on foot, the roads being impassable for wagons. Mothers carrying infants and women who were sick literally waded streams the water reaching to their armpits, and at night slept on the naked earth, the heavens their canopy with scarce clothes to cover them. Several of the unhappy sufferers died in the wilderness; others were taken sick from excessive fatigue and expired after reaching the settlement."

The news of this flagrant transaction sped apace and public indignation too long suppressed began to make itself felt even by the Government of Pennsylvania. A month later the troops in the Valley were summarily dismissed. Patterson immediately got together a band of land claimants to take their place, and set both the settlers and the State at defiance. The Sheriff of the County hastened to Wilkesbarre and despatched messengers to recall the scattered fugitives as far as possible, promising them protection. Gladly was the summons received, and such as had the strength, aided by charitable donations, crawled feebly back to their former homes. Here however they found that the Sheriff was powerless against the illegal and desperate forces of Patterson. Their houses were occupied by his bandits and the doors were shut against them. Thus situated they encamped on the mountain side. Patterson enticed some of the leaders back to their houses under pretence of a conference and then had them tied up and cruelly beaten with ramrods. The Sheriff left for assistance and the forlorn fugitives after remaining in their comfortless camp for a month removed to Kingston on the 3rd of July, 1784.

## CHAPTER VII.

Here beginneth the record of the Fourth Pennymite War. The patience of the settlers could endure no longer. Patter-



son's troops being neither paid nor recognized by the State hung around the settlements living on plunder. They soon became so formidable that the inhabitants for self protection repaired and garrisoned Forty Fort as a military headquarters. In July a party of settlers on their way to the grain fields were fired on by a detachment from Patterson and two were killed. The fire was returned and Patterson's men fled to their fort. A general rally of the settlers able to bear arms was the consequence.

Sixty-two armed men under Capt. John Franklin who was a survivor of the massacre and whom we shall hear of again, marched up and down the river on both sides, dispossessing every inhabitant who did not show a Connecticut title, and driving them all into Patterson's fort. The fort itself was then closely invested. The garrison made a sortie and set fire to 23 houses which were consumed. The fort mounted four pieces of cannon including the iron four pounder, famous in previous Pennymite wars, and the garrison of 100 men with plenty of small arms and ammunition defied the Yankees. Franklin having in vain summoned it to surrender made a vigorous assault but was beaten off with the loss of several lives on both sides. Finally the Yankees were compelled to retire and reoccupied Forty Fort. Soon after the Sheriff of the County appeared with warrants for the arrest of forty of Patterson's party who had been concerned in the previous expulsion of the inhabitants; but Patterson secure in his ramparts refused to deliver them up. The men however were subsequently taken and tried several months later, when, to use the language of Mr. Miner "the majesty of the laws was nobly vindicated. The culprits," he explains, "were convicted and severely fined. The charge of the Judge was long remembered for its just sentiments, its deep feeling and the impressive manner in which it was delivered; but the fines were never collected."

When the State authorities at Philadelphia learned that civil war had actually begun, they despatched three agents Hewitt, Martin and Mead, Justices of the Peace, with the Sheriff of the County to interpose and stop hostilities. They



also sent at once a force of three hundred men under the command of Col. John Armstrong\* and Hon. John Boyd to restore law and order in the district. Before the arrival of these forces another battle occurred at Locust Hill between a band of 30 settlers under Capt. Swift, and a party of men who were marching, as was supposed, to reinforce Patterson, but who were in fact Armstrong's advance guard. In this battle one man was killed and several wounded. Three days later Hewitt, Martin and Mead reached Wyoming in advance of Armstrong's army and at once commanded both parties to deliver up their arms to the Sheriff in the name of the Commonwealth. With this demand the settlers under Franklin promptly complied, stating in their reply, that they did so, "relying on your honors that we shall have the benefit of the laws of the State; and at the same time lamenting the neglect of the law in times past which has been the occasion of all the hostilities we are charged with." The band then dispersed in the presence of the Commissioners. Patterson's party however met the demand for surrender with an absolute refusal. The Commissioners reported the facts to the Governor and Council, adding an expression of belief "that had it not been for the cruel and irregular conduct of our own people, the peace might have been established long since and the dignity of the government supported." They also sent a similar message to Col. Armstrong advising him that the Connecticut party had dispersed but that Patterson and his people defied them and requesting that the militia might be brought forward as soon as possible. Meanwhile in view of Patterson's hostile attitude the Commissioners allowed Franklin's party to resume their arms for self defence until Armstrong's force should come up.

On the 8th of August Col. Armstrong reached Wyoming

\* Col. John Armstrong had been a major in the Pennsylvania line of the Continental army, and the year previous to this had made himself famous as the author of the anonymous Newberg Letters in which he urged the officers of the army to mutiny against Congress, and by force to compel it to settle their accounts. He was a brilliant writer after the style of Junius, and Washington in denouncing the unknown author of the letters had said "that he deserved more credit for the goodness of his pen than for the rectitude of his heart." He became a U. S. Senator from New York in 1800, and in 1804 was sent by Jefferson as Minister to Spain, and later as Minister to France. He was Secretary of War under Madison, but being censured by Congress for neglecting to defend Washington when it was captured by the British, resigned and lived in obscurity till his death in 1843.



with his troops. Finding the settlers strongly entrenched in Forty Fort he dared not hazard an attack upon it and therefore had recourse to stratagem. He issued a proclamation to the effect that he had come to repress violence on both sides and to maintain law and order, and commanded both parties to deliver up their arms. A conference with the Connecticut men ensued at which the latter expressed misgivings should they comply, "having" as they said, "experienced nothing but oppression and treachery." "But Col. Armstrong" says Miner "pledged his faith as a soldier and his honor as a gentleman that Patterson's band should also be disarmed and equal protection extended to all." On the faith of these assurances the Connecticut men paraded and grounded their arms; but what was their surprise and mortification when by order of Col. Armstrong they were immediately surrounded and made prisoners. Resistance was in vain, and escape hopeless. Not a musket was taken from Patterson's forces and these beheld the successful treachery of Col. Armstrong with unrestrained delight and taunting execrations." The thirty Connecticut men who had been in the fight at Locust Hill, were immediately bound with cords and thrown into the guard house charged with murder, and orders were given to shoot instantly any one who attempted to escape. As soon as irons could be obtained they were marched to Easton and committed to prison. Forty-six others were bound and confined with their hands tied behind them and so remained in great suffering till the next day when the cords were loosed. All were subsequently sent to jail. Says Miner "Thus 66 men of the Connecticut party were in prison; the conquest was complete; the work effectually done; the pacification of the Valley accomplished and tenants of the Pennsylvania claimants now took possession of the empty dwellings. The only difficulty that remained was how to get rid of the wives and children of those in jail, and of the widows and orphans whose husbands and fathers slept beneath the sod."

"Crowned with victory if not with laurel," (I am still quoting from Miner) Col. Armstrong returned to Philadelphia to report formally to the Council and confidentially to his real





though less ostensible employers the Pennsylvania Claimants the success of his mission. Scarcely had he time to receive the congratulations of friends on the promptitude and vigor with which he had brought the enterprise to a close, when the mortifying tidings reached the city that the Sunbury prisoners were all released on bail; also that the Locust Hill band had risen on their keepers and escaped, only eleven having been retaken, and the rest having returned to the contested district.\* With signal celerity Armstrong raised a force of 50 men and by rapid marches reached Wilkesbarre on September 20th and occupied the Fort."

The sufferings of the Connecticut settlers had by this time aroused indignation and sympathy throughout the country and volunteers began to arrive for their assistance. Among others came numerous hardy Green Mountain boys who had just gone through a similar struggle with the State of New Hampshire and New York and had successfully maintained their independence against both. An attempt made by Patterson's men to gather the settlers' crops was met and repelled. Forbearance had now ceased to be a virtue, and on September 23th the Connecticut men attacked a house occupied by Armstrong and Patterson. A battle ensued; the house was burned, several on both sides being killed and wounded, but the inmates escaped to the Fort. The Fort was then invested and a siege commenced. After a loss of several lives the Yankees were obliged to abandon the siege. Col. Armstrong immediately returned to Philadelphia where events were taking place to which we must now direct our attention.

The indignation which had long pervaded all classes of right minded men at the course of the Pennsylvanian Government toward the Connecticut settlers, was now breaking out in influential quarters and when Col. Armstrong returned to the city he found himself confronted with it from a new and unexpected direction. By the first Constitution of the State of Pennsylvania which was established immediately after the Declaration of Independence, a curious tribunal was

\* At the next session of the Court the Grand Jury refused to find bills against any of the Connecticut men who had been arrested and imprisoned; but indicted a large number of Patterson's party and these were tried and convicted.



created savoring of the classical ideas then so much in vogue, called "The Council of Censors." It was a body elected by the people and directed to meet every seventh year; and its duty in the language of the Constitution was "to inquire whether the Constitution has been observed inviolate in every part and whether the Legislative and Executive branches of the Government have performed their duty as guardians of the people or assumed to themselves or exercised other or greater powers than they are entitled to by the Constitution." In the discharge of these duties the Council had power to send for persons and papers, and also "authority to pass public censures; to order impeachments; and to recommend to the Legislature the repealing of such laws as appeared to them to have been enacted contrary to the principles of the Constitution." In 1784 this Council met at Philadelphia. It was composed of 26 of the most distinguished and upright of the citizens of Pennsylvania, Frederick A. Muhlenberg being its President. In September having received information of Armstrong's transactions at Wyoming, the Council immediately called upon the Supreme Executive Council and its legal advisers to furnish certain documents in relation to the proceedings at that place. Such documents as were in the possession of the lawyers were immediately delivered up, but as to the others, the Executive Council declared that they had been sent to the Assembly. On the following day the Council of Censors required the Assembly to furnish the papers. The Assembly refused to comply. The Council of Censors then issued a formal and peremptory mandamus to the Assembly to send the papers without excuse or delay. The mandamus was disregarded and unanswered. Thereupon the Council of Censors placed on record a solemn declaration of opinion with regard to the measures which had been pursued against the Wyoming settlers. The opinion was unanimous. It is not long and lest it should be suspected that the view I have given of the Pennsylvania proceedings has been colored by Connecticut prejudice, I will give the paper entire. It is as follows:

"It is the opinion of this Council that the decision made at



Trenton early in 1783, between the State of Connecticut and this Commonwealth concerning the territorial rights of both was favorable to Pennsylvania. It likewise promised the happiest consequences to the Confederacy, as an example was thereby set of two contending sovereignties adjusting their differences in a Court of Justice instead of involving themselves and perhaps their confederates in war and bloodshed. It is much to be regretted that this happy event was not improved on the part of this State as it might have been. That the persons claiming lands at and near Wyoming occupied by the Emigrants from Connecticut, now become subjects of Pennsylvania, were not left to prosecute their claims in the proper course without the intervention of the Legislature. That a body of troops was enlisted after the Indian war had ceased and the civil code had been established, and was stationed at Wyoming for no apparent purpose but that of promoting the interests of the Claimants under the former grants of Pennsylvania. That these troops were kept up and continued there without the license of Congress in violation of the Confederation. That they were suffered without restraint to injure and oppose the neighboring inhabitants during the course of the last winter. That the injuries done to these people excited the compassion and interposition of the State of Connecticut, who thereupon demanded of Congress another hearing in order to investigate the private claims of the settlers at Wyoming, formerly inhabitants of New England, who from this instance of partiality in our own rulers have been led to distrust the justice of the State: while in the meantime numbers of these soldiers and other disorderly persons in a most riotous and inhuman manner expelled the New England settlers before mentioned from their habitations and drove them towards the Delaware through unsettled and almost impassable ways leaving those unhappy outcasts to suffer every species of misery and distress. That this armed force stationed as aforesaid at Wyoming as far as we can see without any public advantages in view—has cost the Commonwealth the sum of £4460 and upwards for the bare levying, providing, and paying of them, besides other expendit-



nres of public monies. That the authority for embodying these troops was given privately and unknown to the good people of Pennsylvania, the same being directed by a mere resolve by the House of Assembly brought in and read the first time on Monday the 22nd September 1783, when on motion and by special order the same was read a second time and adopted. That the putting this Resolve on the Secret Journal of the House and concealing it from the people after the war with the savages had ceased, and the inhabitants of Wyoming had submitted to the Government of the State sufficiently marks and fixes the clandestine and partial interests of the Armament, no such condition having been thought necessary in the defense of the Northern and Western frontiers during the late war. And lastly we regret the fatal example which this transaction has set of private persons, at least equally able with their opponents to maintain their own cause, procuring the interest of the commonwealth in their behalf and the aid of the public treasury. The opprobrium which from hence has resulted to this State and the dissatisfaction and prospect of dissension now existing with one of our sister States, the violation of the Confederation, and the injury hereby done to such of the Pennsylvania Claimants of lands at Wyoming occupied as aforesaid as have given no countenance to but on the contrary have disavowed these extravagant proceedings. In short we lament that our Government has in this business manifested little wisdom or foresight—nor have acted as guardians of the rights of the people committed to their care. Impressed with the multiplied evils which have sprung from this imprudent management of this business **WE HOLD IT UP TO PUBLIC CENSURE** to prevent if possible further instances of bad government which might convulse and distract our new formed nation."

In contemptuous reply to this manifesto the Executive Council and the Assembly forthwith promoted Col. Armstrong to the rank of Adjutant General, "as a token," they declared, "of extraordinary merit and valuable services." They also authorized him to raise a competent force of militia with which to proceed to Wyoming and to complete the work of





expelling the Connecticut settlers. President Dickinson of the Executive Council disapproved of this action and sent from a sick bed a strong remonstrance against it but in vain. The Council read the remonstrance and immediately voted that "the measures adopted be pursued," and on the same day issued a proclamation offering £25 for the apprehension of eighteen of the principal inhabitants, their names being given.

Fortified and encouraged by his promotion Col. Armstrong endeavored to collect the competent force of militia authorized by the Executive Council. But such was the popular sympathy with the settlers that the men generally refused to march, and it was with only 40 men that he reached Wyoming on the 19th of October. On the next day he attacked a post consisting of four block houses occupied by Connecticut men, but after a sharp battle of an hour was forced to retreat. On the day following he evicted 30 families who had returned to their farms, and set his troops to gathering in the harvest. A body of Yankees surprised this force, captured their arms and their stolen grain, and took them all prisoners. The garrison at the fort turned out to the rescue with cannon but the Yankees placed their prisoners in front as a shield and thus prevented an attack. More than 100 bushels of grain were thus saved—a supply of great importance to the settlers whose sowing and reaping had been almost entirely prevented during this disastrous summer.

Meantime too many influences had been working on the Pennsylvania Assembly to permit them to continue in a complete defiance of public opinion. The rebuke of the Council of Censors, the disapproval of the President of the Executive Council, the refusal of the militia to march, and the general sentiment of sympathy with the armed resistance of the settlers furnished a part of these influences. Besides this the petition of the settlers to Congress for a trial of their rights in the soil was pending before that body and was being vigorously pressed, with a prospect that it would be granted. Some show of conciliation could no longer be avoided. On the 15th of September an act was passed recalling Armstrong



and Patterson and ordering that the families who had been evicted the previous May should be allowed to occupy their former holdings. This was all—the act did not recognize the titles of the dispossessed families. Still less did it concede any rights to the general body of settlers. Nevertheless it was hailed at Wyoming as a sign that the tide had at last begun to turn, and as throwing a ray of hope on the gloomy situation. Two immediate results of the act, it concerns our story to mention. The first was an order of Congress dated September 25th, ten days after the passage of the act—repealing the resolutions previously passed which secured to the Wyoming settlers a trial of their rights to the soil. The second is tersely stated in a journal kept by Capt John Franklin at Wyoming as follows:—"November 27th, The Pennymites evacuated the fort. November 30th, The Yankees destroyed the fort."

Thus ended the Fourth Pennymite War. Says Miner, "It is true and honorable to those who effected it that the New England people were repossessed of their farms. But a summer of exile and war had left them no harvest to reap and they returned to their empty granaries and desolate homes, crushed by the memories of the Indian invasion, mourners over fields of more recent slaughter, destitute of food, with scarce clothing to cover them through the rigor of a Northern winter, while clouds and darkness shrouded all their future. Assuredly the people of Wyoming were objects of deepest commiseration and the heart must be harder and colder than marble that could look upon their suffering without a tear of tenderest pity."

## CHAPTER VIII.

The fiercest of the storm was apparently over, but the elements had been too long and too deeply stirred to subside at once into peace. Moreover clouds still hung threateningly in the sky. Pennsylvania had yielded nothing except repossession to a few evicted families from motives of humanity. It had made no provision and promised none for a general quieting of titles, and Congress had finally refused to grant the



only measure which could legally determine the settlers' rights. It was inevitable therefore that there should exist among the people so long oppressed by violence and outrage a strong resentment against the state which had subjected them to such sufferings, as well as jealousy and suspicion with regard to its future course. Among those who most strongly shared these feelings was Capt. John Franklin, a native of Canaan in Litchfield County, Connecticut, and one of the early settlers of Wyoming. He was one of the survivors of the massacre, a brave soldier, a fluent and impassioned speaker and an indefatigable champion of the Connecticut interests. In one of the conflicts with Patterson and Armstrong, as a comrade fell by his side he had seized the bloody rifle of the dying man and sworn a solemn oath upon it that he would never lay down his arms until the people were restored to their rights of possession, and a legal trial guaranteed to every citizen by the Constitution, by justice and by the law. During this year (1784) when he was not fighting in the field he was attending the Sessions of Congress, urging forward the abortive petition of the Connecticut people for a trial of their titles, or travelling back and forth between Wyoming and Connecticut addressing crowded meetings with fiery zeal, and pressing the cause of Wyoming on private individuals, on public officials, and especially on the Susquehanna Company. The Company immediately after the Trenton decree had protested against the result and declared its determination to pursue its just claim to the ownership of the lands which they had purchased from the Indian proprietors, and to protect the Connecticut settlers in their titles until Congress should have adjudicated the same, and had been active in pressing the unsuccessful application to Congress for such adjudication. Inspired by Franklin's appeals the General Assembly and the Governor had sent protests to Congress and to Pennsylvania in behalf of the settlers; hardy and adventurous volunteers were flocking into Wyoming to support their cause; and now the Susquehanna Company finding all hope of justice through Congress lost held a meeting at Hartford July 13, 1785, and took new and vigorous action.



In a series of energetic resolutions it declared "that the company had expended large sums of money in the purchase, settlement and defence of the lands on the Susquehanna river. That the purchase had been made in good faith under the Charter of Connecticut," which then it says "never had been and never ought to be called into question." The resolutions proceed to declare that "though the Court at Trenton by a decision which astonished the world gave Pennsylvania jurisdiction over the territory, yet our title to the soil is clear and unquestionable and we cannot and will not give it up." The company then arraigned the conduct of Pennsylvania as impolitic, unjust and tyrannical, and as having a tendency to interrupt the harmony of the States. It further declared "that the company would support its claim and right to the soil," and would support the settlers in their petition to Congress, and would protect them from all lawless outrage, unjustifiable and wanton depredations of property or personal abuse, whether under countenance of law or otherwise until their rights were justly determined." It did not confine itself to words, but proceeded to offer to every able bodied man, not exceeding 400 in all, who would repair to Wyoming before the 1st of the following October, and there submit himself to the orders of the company for three years, a half share right in the company. A committee was appointed to carry out this vote and 600 rights in the general tract of country were placed at their disposal to be used at their discretion.

To appreciate the significance of this manifesto which was little else than a declaration of war against Pennsylvania, and the movements which followed, let us recall the material and political condition of the country at the close of the Revolution. Back of a few seaboard towns the whole continent was a wilderness. Wyoming was on the extreme frontier, having only forests and savages on the North and West, and was separated from southern Pennsylvania by wild and almost pathless mountains. The jurisdiction of Pennsylvania over the valley had indeed been established by Congress, but Congress was then a body without power and almost without pub-





lic respect. The Confederacy was fast falling to pieces. The several states, unaccustomed to mutual action, were getting ready each to secure as much for itself as possible when the disruption should come and a general conflict with new arrangements of boundaries seemed almost inevitable. In such a case if Wyoming should be in rebellion, Pennsylvania which had been unable to enforce its claim hitherto, would be still less able to do so impoverished by the revolution and embarrassed by the danger of being embroiled with other states. The experience of New York with the people of the New Hampshire Grants, (now Vermont,) was fresh and instructive. For twenty years it had been vainly striving to bring them under its jurisdiction and had finally been compelled to recognise their independence. There was no reason why Wyoming should not with equal success throw off its allegiance to Pennsylvania supported as it would be by the resources and influence of the Susquehanna Company and perhaps the state of Connecticut, by bands of volunteers who were already moving into the valley and by the sympathies of the whole country including a large proportion of the people of Pennsylvania itself. Overtures could also if necessary be made to the state of New York, offering annexation as the price of assistance.

Such was the view held out by Franklin and accepted by the Susquehanna Company as the basis of its action. It followed up energetically its declaration of war. Wyoming began to swarm with able bodied men, old soldiers many of them, from the disbanded Continental Army, having arms in their hands and half-share rights in their pockets. Public meetings were held fiery with the spirit of resistance and independence. A militia force was enrolled and Franklin was appointed its commander. These ominous proceedings were not without effect on Pennsylvania. Late in December 1785, the Assembly enacted a law "to quiet disturbances at Wyoming, for pardoning certain offenders, and for other purposes therein mentioned." This law provided that all offences committed before November 1, should be pardoned and put in oblivion provided the offenders should surrender themselves before the coming April, and give bonds to obey the laws."



The act excited only contempt in those whom it was designed to conciliate. No notice was taken of it and it remained a dead letter on the Statute book. Thus close the annals of 1785.

The spring of 1786 found the Susquehanna Company actively pursuing its programme of defiance, with political separation in the background. At a meeting held at Hartford in May 1786 it reiterated its resolution "to maintain its own claims to the lands bona fide purchased from the Indians and to effectually justify and support the settlers holding under it." As a measure of policy and perhaps of contrast it recognized and confirmed the possession of all actual residents in the valley holding under Pennsylvania titles. It also appointed a committee consisting of Col. John Franklin, Gen. Ethen Allen, Major John Jenkins, and Col. Zebulon Butler to locate townships, establish titles, and admit proprietors in Wyoming. Gen. Ethan Allen was in fact already on the ground, loaded down with company shares, promising to settle in Wyoming and to bring with him his Green Mountain boys to assist in defending against Pennsylvania claims. But these were hardly needed. Hundreds of former settlers were returning to rebuild their former homes: new adventurers had come to purchase; farms were being restored and frame buildings erected on all sides, and upwards of 600 fighting men were enrolled ready and determined to "man their rights." The civil authority of Pennsylvania in the valley was but nominal. Its laws were not resorted to and the settlers governed themselves as before by a committee of magistrates which tried and punished offenders. The shares of the Susquehanna Company carrying rights to land were selling freely at about forty dollars a share. It was time for Pennsylvania to awake to the gravity of the situation and to adopt conciliatory measures quickly if she would save to herself this fairest part of her domain.

Happily wisdom at last prevailed. In September 1786 an act passed the Assembly for organizing the whole Wyoming district into the county of Luzerne, providing for elections there and appointing Zebulon Butler and others Commission-



ers of the county buildings. Owing to a defect in the law the elections could not be held that year so that the county still remained unorganized. Meantime the Susquehanna Company and its indefatigable agent Franklin, utterly irreconcilable in spirit toward Pennsylvania, were pushing forward their revolutionary schemes. The names which figure at this period in the records of the company's meetings, suggest the high character and powerful influence which were behind it, rendering it an important factor in the controversy. On December 26, 1786 Joel Barlow, three of the Wolcott family (including Oliver Wolcott, Jr.), Dr. Timothy Horner, Ebenezer and Samuel Gray and others were appointed commissioners to make out a list of all the persons entitled to lands in the valley with descriptions of their holdings as a full and complete record evidence of their titles, and to assign new locations to intending settlers. They were also constituted a court for the trial and settlement of all controversies at law, until "in the language of the vote" a form of internal government shall be established in the county: "and said commissioners, the vote significantly adds, shall likewise have full power to do and transact *any other matters and things* which they may judge necessary for the security and protection of the settlers on said lands and for the benefit of said company of proprietors." This vote was passed two months after the failure to hold the county election of Luzern county under the laws of Pennsylvania. On the same day the Pennsylvania Assembly passed a supplemental act which introduces a new personage of national distinction, and occasioned new and exciting episodes in the political drama.

This supplemental act provided that Timothy Pickering, Zebulon Butler and John Franklin should give notice of an election to be held in the county of Luzerne for county officers, February 1, 1787, and correct the defects of the previous election acts. The olive branch could hardly have been more conspicuously tendered than by naming John Franklin as one of the commissioners, engaged as he had been for months previous in openly planning and waging hostilities against the state. Zebulon Butler was also wisely selected



as the most eminent and able man among the settlers, whose influence over them would be paramount whether for conciliation or controversy, and whose sound and conservative judgement had kept him from taking part in the violent action of Franklin and the Susquehanna company. The addition of Timothy Pickering was a remarkable one, and indicated in the clearest manner that the disposition of Pennsylvania was now fully awakened to bring the unhappy condition of Wyoming to a close honorable to both parties. A native of Massachusetts, he had held during the war the important posts of Adjutant General, and Quartermaster General of the Army, and at the close of the war he had settled in Philadelphia where he was now residing, held in the highest esteem for his ability, integrity and moderation. At later periods he filled many conspicuous positions in the national and state governments. He was Postmaster General, Secretary of War and Secretary of State successively in Washington's administration. Then having returned to Massachusetts in 1801, he became Judge of a Massachusetts court, afterwards U. S. Senator and later still a member of Congress from that state. In 1786 he had had occasion to visit Wyoming and had interested himself while there to ascertain the real feelings of the inhabitants with regard to submission to Pennsylvania. Having become satisfied that the great majority would readily assent to it if their land titles could be recognized and quieted by the state he returned to Philadelphia and exerted himself to bring about an accommodation on that basis. By his influence with leading citizens he secured the passage of the supplemental act referred to and a pledge was given him that if the Connecticut settlers would accept it and organize the county under Pennsylvania laws, a statute should be passed quieting them in their possessions. He was selected as the head of the commission from confidence in his abilities, integrity and impartiality and because it was thought his New England birth would inspire confidence in the Wyoming people. Armed with the authority conferred by the act and with the assurances behind it, he returned to Wyoming and laid the matter before the Connecticut settlers.





The effect became speedily apparent. The more prudent and conservative class including Col. Butler were for conciliation and peace. Another party led by the fiery Franklin who refused to act under his appointment by the state, and including the newly arrived enlisted men of the company were for opposition and separation. The discord between the parties soon became rife. The cry was no longer "Peunymite against Yankee" but "old settlers against the wild Yankees and half-share men." Pennsylvania had succeeded in dividing the community and thus the first great step toward their absorption was accomplished.

A month after Col. Pickering arrived in the valley, notwithstanding the vigorous opposition of Franklin and his supporters the election was called and held. Says Miner "It was a day of high excitement even for Wyoming, indeed of riotous commotion. Many a stalwart Yankee was engaged in combat fierce, and sometimes bloody though not mortal, with a friend by whose side he had formerly fought. In the midst of the wild uproar Col. Butler mounted his war steed and rode up and down amid the crowd exclaiming "I draw my sword in defence of the law: Let every lover of peace and good order support me." In spite of the opposition the election was consummated and the County of Luzerne was organized under the laws of Pennsylvania. A petition headed by Col. Pickering was at once sent to the Assembly praying for a confirmation of the Connecticut titles, and in response thereto and in accordance with the previous understanding the Legislature on the 28th of March 1787 passed what was afterwards known as the Confirming act. By this measure the titles of all Connecticut claimants who were actual settlers before the decree of Trenton were confirmed and established to them and their heirs forever.

To show his confidence in the finality of this proceeding and in the future peace and prosperity of Wyoming, Col. Pickering took up his residence in the valley purchasing his land under the established Connecticut claims. He soon became a general favorite and employed all his influence in promoting harmony and good will. Franklin on the other



hand although he had been chosen at the election to represent Wyoming in the Pennsylvania Legislature was still as irreconcilable as when he swore hostility on the bloody rifle. Refusing to accept his appointment he moved from village to village and from house to house stirring up opposition to the new order of things, inflaming old jealousies and resentments and arraying all whom he could influence against submission to Pennsylvania authority. Party excitement and animosity increased from day to day, and the unhappy valley which had been so often torn in pieces by external foes was now rent with civil dissension, friend against friend and brother against brother.

By common consent to relieve the tension and soothe the turmoil, resort was had to that genuine yankee remedy for civil disorder, a general town meeting and a public discussion of the existing situation. It was called to take place in that spot so hallowed by the memories of common heroism and common suffering, the old "Forty Fort." Here on the appointed day assembled almost the entire population of the valley, all aroused to the importance of the occasion but unfortunately all inflamed with the passions of the hour and in the mood of mutual defiance. The meeting organized, and Col. Pickering supported by most of the older and more substantial inhabitants, the Butlers, the Hallenbecks, the Nesbits and the Deuisions appeared as the leading advocate of law and compromise. Earnestly and eloquently he appealed to the people to lay aside their doubts and suspicions of Pennsylvania: he pledged his honor that the State was sincere and that full faith might be reposed in its promises. "Your lips speak fair" cried one of his excited auditors, "but oh! that there were a window in that breast that we could read your heart!" Major Jenkins replied to Pickering: "What guarantee have we" he exclaimed in language long remembered afterwards, "that Pennsylvania will keep her plighted faith? She has forfeited her honor, time and again." If we accept the provisions of this law, when she finds we are tied hand and foot, she will repeal it and leave us without hope." Col. Franklin who was gifted with unusual popular eloquence



followed Jenkins with his utmost energy and bitterness. He dwelt on the justice of the Connecticut claims, both those acquired before and after the Trenton decree: he referred to the persecutions and suffering which the community had endured from Pennsylvania: declared the compromise hollow and deceptive and denounced Pickering and his supporters in vigorous language. Overcome by excitement Col. Hollenbeck drew his riding whip and aimed a blow at Franklin's head. Instantly the meeting was in an uproar. By a common impulse a rush was made to the neighboring woods for a supply of cudgels and amid the rapid play of these helps to calm deliberation, the meeting adjourned: but not until a vote had been taken and declared carried, to support the law and accept the proposed terms of compromise.

The crisis was imminent both for Pennsylvania and for Wyoming. The one was threatened with the loss of her fairest portion, and the other with the evils of a fratricidal war. The Susquehanna Company pushed forward its schemes of secession with unremitting energy. A constitution for the proposed new state had been already drawn up by Oliver Wolcott, Jr., having a preamble like that of the Declaration of Independence, and the Governor and Lieutenant Governor had been selected. Ethan Allen again appeared in the valley; this time arrayed in a cocked hat and regimentals openly declaring that he had already made one new state, and was ready with 100 Green Mountain boys and 200 riflemen to make another in spite of Pennsylvania. Col. Pickering and his associates now determined to take decisive action. A writ was taken out against John Franklin for treason, and in September he was arrested at Wilkesbarre after a violent struggle. Held on a horse by his captors he was taken to Col. Pickering's house, when he flung himself free, lustily shouting for help, and fiercely fought for liberty. The alarm being given and his partisans beginning to assemble, Pickering himself rushed out and held a pistol to his breast while six others replaced him on the horse and tying his feet beneath hurried him away and took him to jail at Philadelphia. His friends quickly collected and surrounding Pickering's house



threatened to burn it and to take Pickering prisoner. He had however already escaped to the woods and through the interference of Col. Butler the house after being searched for him in vain, was spared. Not daring to return to Wilkesbarre, Col. Pickering with one companion started on foot through the mountain forests for Philadelphia and although closely pursued by scouts succeeded in reaching his destination. Here he remained for several months. It was the memorable summer of 1787 when the United States Constitution was framed in Philadelphia and submitted to the States for their ratification. Col. Pickering was chosen by the County of Luzerne to represent it in the Pennsylvania Convention which was called to act upon its acceptance, and having performed this duty he deemed it safe in January 1788 to return to Wyoming.

But the troubled waters there were by no means quieted, Though the tide of conservatism and of submission to Pennsylvania was daily rising, and the loss of Franklin as a leader had crippled the revolutionary party, the latter was still numerous and its passions excited against Pickering as the principal agent in Franklin's capture. His return to Wyoming while their chieftain was kept closely confined in a Philadelphia jail loaded with 27 pounds of iron chain, sick with a fever, and unavailingly petitioning for release on bail, did not tend to allay their animosity. It was not however till June that this broke out in overt action. On the 26th of that month Pickering's house was burst open at night by an armed band. They took him from his bed pinioned his arms and led him off by a rope into the mountains. Here they kept him prisoner for three weeks, moving about from place to place, occasionally chaining him to a tree in retaliation for Franklin's fetters, but treating him on the whole as considerately as could be expected in view of the rough nature of the compulsory picnic. Meantime the militia had been rallied for his rescue and pressing hard on his captors occasionally exchanging shots with them or their scouts. During all this time every effort was made by the abducting party to obtain their captive's written request for Franklin's pardon and release, but in vain. At length





finding him decidedly an elephant on their hands, and being so closely pursued that escape could not be much longer possible, they set him at liberty on the 16th of July and he then returned to Wilkesbarre. In November of the same year, the first Pennsylvania Court was held at Wilkesbarre. Before this Court twenty-five of those who had been concerned in his abduction were indicted and all were sentenced to fine or imprisonment. Those who were imprisoned straightway broke jail and escaped, that is, returned to their homes without let or hindrance. The only one who obstinately remained in prison was pardoned in order to get rid of him. None of the fines were ever collected.

At the same term of the Court Col. Franklin having been brought from Philadelphia was arraigned for high treason in endeavoring to subvert the government of Pennsylvania and to erect an independent state in the room and stead thereof. It was no longer however the implacable Franklin of the year before, swearing defiance to Pennsylvania with his bloody ride in his hand. He had been in confinement more than a year and now returned broken in body and depressed in spirit to find his partisans scattered, the Susquehanna Company paralysed, and an overwhelming unanimity in the valley in favor of peace and quiet. Sensible as well as brave, he had already yielded to the inevitable and had virtually consented to submit to the laws. He was admitted to bail and the prosecution was subsequently abandoned. He became a prominent and trusted citizen of Pennsylvania; was repeatedly elected to the Legislature and was for some years High Sheriff of the County of Luzerne. Nevertheless he never ceased to defend with his voice and pen, the titles of his half-share partisans acquired from the Susquehanna Company and through whom unwilling justice had been wrung from Pennsylvania to the original inhabitants of Wyoming. His efforts however were in vain. "Separated from the old settlers who had borne the hardships of early emigration and the crimsoned severities of savage war, the new grants, though plausibly urged for a while, soon found little favor and sank into oblivion."

Thus by the Confirming act of March 1787 whereby Penn-



sylvania recognised the titles of the original Connecticut settlers, she succeeded in securing the support of the more conservative part of the Wyoming people and through their efforts and influence in establishing her authority throughout the valley. After thirty years of unavailing strife and violence, this, the first conciliatory overture had healed all wounds and in the very nick of time had saved to the state at least one-half its territory. Relying on the good faith of the state the settlers as we have seen, organized the county of Luzerne, suspended and suppressed all further opposition and devoted themselves to the quiet pursuit of peace and prosperity. The sequel remains to be told. It corresponds with all the rest of this strange eventful history. Just one year after the confirming act was passed the Pennsylvania Legislature suspended its operation. Two years later (April 1, 1790) it was totally repealed. Thus the prophecy of John Jenkins at the town meeting proved true and the Connecticut titles were again repudiated by Pennsylvania. The repeal was brought about by the old enemies of the Connecticut men, the Pennsylvania claimants. Col. Pickering who opposed it declared later that its purpose was to enable those claimants to get possession of the land through the courts and thus rid the state of the burden of compensation. If such was its purpose it had but little success. Such litigation presented but few attractions to the Pennsylvania claimants. They had experienced the difficulty of shaking off the grip of a Connecticut yankee on his farm, and were reluctant to make any new attempts even by legal proceedings. One such suit was brought in the United States Court, apparently as an experiment, and although decided in the first instance in favor of the claimant, yet an appeal being taken, the proceeding was not pursued and no attempt was ever made to put the plaintiff in possession. The influence of the Confirming act was still felt in the public conscience notwithstanding its repeal, and there was moreover a grim expression on the faces of the Connecticut holders which reminded Pennsylvania contestants of former days and discouraged a re-opening of the controversy. Meantime public opinion both within and without the state, with



constantly accumulating force, demanded that the pledged faith of the state to the old settlers should be redeemed. Col. Pickering even when no longer residing in the state constantly exerted his influence in the same direction. Finally in April, 1799, a decisive act was passed for the quieting of all disputed claims in the Wyoming Valley. By this act the state purchased the claims of its own grantees and issued new certificates of title to all Connecticut holders before the Trenton decree. This enactment was faithfully carried out and with its execution died out at last all distinguishing marks between an original Connecticut settler and a genuine native of the Keystone State.

But what in the meantime had become of the Susquehanna Company? It was dead. Dead as Julius Cæsar! The Confirming act of 1787, by separating the interests of the earlier settlers from those of the later comers and thus dividing the people into opposing factions, was the first effective stroke at its vitality. Nevertheless for months thereafter as we have seen, the company had vigor enough to put forth spasmodic and dangerous efforts to foment rebellion against Pennsylvania and the setting up of an independent state. The final and fatal blow to its existence was given by the establishment of the new national government under the Constitution of 1787. After that event successful rebellion within a state or war against it was no longer possible and nobody recognised this sooner than the Dyers, the Talcotts, the Hosmers and the Wolcotts of Connecticut. They were not the men to pursue a lawless and hopeless filibustering conspiracy and they quickly found new and more congenial fields for their political energies and ambitions.

And so as the reconstructed Republic like a new light house of constitutional freedom flashed forth its first rays on the sight of the nations, the great Connecticut corporation, a rudderless drifting hulk, struck on the shore and lay stranded at Hartford. Its career was finally ended. For twenty years it had gallantly breasted the waves of war and adversity. Again and again it had borne colonies to the promised land



and sustained them with its stores in their bitter days of poverty and hardship. But now, repudiated by those whom it had served, deserted by its officers and crew and left to its fate by the commonwealth whose flag it had so long displayed and whose interests it had so faithfully defended, it lay at last an abandoned wreck, soon to disappear beneath the sands of time from mortal view and remembrance. To-day its only relics are the musty record books in Wadsworth Atheneum: Connecticut has forgotten its very existence: and even in Windham where in 1753 its keel was laid with such hope and rejoicing, and where in 1769 it raised its colors and spread its canvas to the breeze, and set forth with its first forty brave spirits to found a new empire, the name of the Susquehanna Company is almost unknown and its memory has faded into oblivion.

And Windham itself with its silent and grass grown streets, its vanished social life and its shorn village square: all vestiges lost of its former importance and business activity, and even its ancient frog-pond drained and dried up, seems like a fitting grave yard for enterprises that are dead, and achievements which have failed and been forgotten.







NAMES AND DATES

FROM THE

OLD BURVING GROUND,

GREENS FARMS, CONN.,

From the Earliest Date

TO

1897.





## COPY OF NAMES AND DATES

FROM THE OLD

### GREENS FARMS BURYING GROUND,

Taken May, 1897.

Contributed by ROBT. P. WAKEMAN, Southport, Conn.

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- Hezekiah Lockwood, died April 22, 1887. Age 82 years.  
Frederick Elwood, died June 13, 1883. Age 55 years.  
Charlotte Lockwood, wife of Frederick Elwood, died Sept. 21, 1883. Age 48 years.  
Jennie, daughter of Frederick and Charlotte Elwood, died July 13, 1884. Age 5 years and 3 months.  
Mabel, wife of David Mills, died Feb. 1, 1883. Age 62 years.  
Ester, died Sept. 15, 1848. Age 7 mos., and 5 days.  
Lorenzo, died Sept. 25, 1851. Age 1 yr., 3 mos., 7 days.  
Children of David and Mabel Mills.  
Joshua Jennings, died Feb. 13, 1830, in his 71st year.  
Sarah, wife of Joshua Jennings, died Jan. 28, 1845. Age 75 years, 1 month and 29 days.  
Albert, son of Joshua and Sarah Jennings, died Dec. 4, 1831. Age 30 years.  
Ebenezer Jennings, died Jan. 15, 1879. Age 82 yrs., 1 mo., and 6 days.  
Helena, wife of Edwin B. Jennings, died May 29, 1865. Age 23 years, 11 months and 22 days.  
Abbey J., wife of Edward Jennings, died Jan. 9, 1868. Age 63 years, 4 months and 8 days.  
Edward Jennings, died Sept. 26, 1858. Age 56 yrs., 5 mos., and 23 days.  
Eliza J., daughter of Edward and Abbey Jennings, died Sept. 3, 1851. Age 15 years, 11 months and 9 days.  
Sally Wakeman, daughter of Peter and Sarah Jennings, died May 16, 1832. Age 19 years, 9 months and 10 days.  
Peter Jennings, died May 5, 1841. Age 78 years.



Sarah, wife of Peter Jennings, died July 13, 1857. Age 84 yrs.  
 Peter B Jennings, died Nov. 12, 1867. In the 71 year of his age.

Catharine, wife of Peter B. Jennings, died June 9, 1880. Age 81 years and 9 months.

Samuel Craft, died Dec. 6, 1872. Age 80 yrs., 3 mos., 11 dys.

Abigail, wife of Samuel Craft, died May 14, 1888. Age 92 years, 3 months and 26 days.

George, son of Joseph and Angeline Nash, died Oct. 18, 1857. Age 23 years, 8 months and 5 days.

Angeline, wife of Joseph Nash, died April 20, 1884. Age 78 years, 4 months and 20 days.

Joseph Nash, died March 12, 1886. Age 80 years, 4 months, and 10 days.

Eliphalet Stratton, born Feb. 7, 1779, died Jan. 7, 1849.

Sarah, wife of Eliphalet Stratton, born June 2, 1774, died Aug. 29, 1849.

Angeline Keys, daughter of Ezra (M. or N.) and Angeline Stratton, died Feb. 9, 1840. Age 1 month and 15 days.

John, son of Eliphalet and Catharine Stratton, died Dec. 13, 1845. Age 9 days.

William West, son of Eliphalet and Catharine Stratton, died Sept. 23, 1842. Age 1 year, 2 months and 7 days.

William, son of Eliphalet and Catharine Stratton, died July 22, 1839. Age 11 months and 7 days.

Sarah Ann, daughter of Eliphalet and Catharine Stratton, died Nov. 21, 1840. Age 8 yrs, 2 mos., and 29 days.

Amelia, daughter of Wm H & A D. Smith, died May 22, 1869. Age 18 years, 10 months and 11 days.

Ann, widow of Edward M Griffith, died Oct. 28, 1871. Aged 72 years, 1 month and 10 days.

Edward, son of Erastus P. and Myrtilla Smith, died Aug. 26, 1856. Age 1 year, 5 months and 25 days.

Myrtilla, wife of E. P. Smith, died Feb. 7, 1884. Age 58 years, 6 months and 13 days.

David S. Smith, son of Samuel S. and Betsey Smith, died April 15, 1841. Age 52 years and 17 days.

Henry L. Luff, died April 12, 1843. Aged 27 years, 2 months and 5 days.



Samantha, wife of Henry Luff, died Jan. 11, 1848. Age 28 years, 8 months and 22 days.

Daughter of Samuel and Betsey Smith.

Betsey, widow of Samuel Smith, died July 22, 1865 Aged 80 years, 3 months and 25 days.

Samuel S. Smith, died May 5, 1849. Aged 67 yrs. and 8 mos.

Esther, wife of Cornelius Winant, died Sept. 24, 1851. Age 45 years, 2 months and 23 days.

John Henry, son of Cornelius and Esther Winant, died Feb. 1, 1845. Age 20 years, 7 months and 27 days.

Cornelius Winant, died Feb. 2, 1855. Age 53 years, 2 months and 29 days

Samuel S. Smith, born Jan. 17, 1862, died Oct. 6, 1892.

Jennie, daughter of Geo. and Sarah Hale, died July 13, 1871. Age 3 years, 10 months and 5 days.

Ebenezer Baker, died Feb. 9, 1875. Aged 68 years and 10 months.

Elizabeth, wife of Ebenezer Baker, died June 19, 1883. Age 65 years, 3 months and 25 days.

Johnathan Nash, died Oct. 9, 1757. Age 43 years wanting 3 days.

Elizabeth, daughter of Jonathan and Sarah Nash, died Mar. 1, 1775 in the 19th year of her age.

Eliza, daughter of Joseph and Grace Whitehead, died May 13, 1861. Age 46 years, 5 months and 17 days.

Joseph Whitehead, died March 6, 1855. Age 84 years and 8 months.

Grace, widow of Joseph Whitehead, died July 27, 1863. Age 86 years.

Helen, daughter of David and Charlotte Jennings, died July 21, 1852. Age 17 years.

Charlotte, wife of David Jennings, died May 22, 1874 Age 82 years and 7 months.

David Jennings, died Oct. 4, 1850. Age 58 years

Abigail Jennings, consort of David Alvord, died Nov. 20, 1857. Age 78 years.

Talcott Jennings, died Nov. 3, 1861. Age 73 yrs. and 8 mos.

Eunice, wife of Nathaniel Dewey, died July 31, 1863. Age 73 years.





- Mary Augusta, daughter of Joshua J. and Mary Thorp, died Jan. 12, 1830. Age 1 year and 3 months.
- Abigail, wife of David Jennings, died Mar. 3, 1847. Age 94.
- Seth Meeker, her former husband, died in West Indies, 1794.
- David Jennings, died Feb. 12, 1831. Age 75 years.
- Eunice, wife of David Jennings, died Nov. 1798. Age 42 yrs.
- Paulina Craft, died Sept. 25, 1863. Age 70 years.
- Rev. Bradford Craft, died Oct. 10, 1827 in the 33d year of his age.
- Joshua Jennings, died Feb. 1, 1818. Age 90 years.
- Esther, wife of Joshua Jennings, died May 12, 1819. Age 85 years.
- Jennings Thorp, son of Capt. Eliphalet and Esther Thorp, died Aug. 28, 1804 in the 15th year of his age.
- Capt. Eliphalet Thorp, died Aug. 27, 1804 in the 40th year of his age.
- Esther Thorp, widow of Capt. Eliphalet Thorp, died April 12, 1816 in her 50th year.
- Eleanor Thorp, wife of Almon Alvord, died July 4, 1876. Age 79 years and 7 months.
- Almon Alvord, died Nov. 30, 1889. Age 86 yrs. and 10 mos.
- Abram Bulkley, died Dec. 26, 1838 in his 81st year.
- Jane, wife of Abiam Bulkley, died Nov. 4, 1838 in the 78th year of her age.
- Rachel Osborn, wife of Stephen Osborn, died Oct. 21, 1819. Aged 35 years and 5 months.
- Peter Bulkley, died May 12, 1804 in the 89th year of his age.
- Anna Bulkley, wife of Peter Bulkley, died April 11, 1795 in the 76th year of her age.
- William Bulkley, died March 4, 1787. Age 45 years, 5 months and 17 days.
- Grace, daughter of Peter Bulkley ye 2d and Anne his wife, died April ye 7, 1766 in ye 21st year of her age.
- Gideon Morehouse, died Aug. 5, 1829. Aged 83 yrs., 7 mos., and 18 days.
- Morehouse Jennings, died Dec. 31, 1863. Aged 70 years and 18 days.
- Sally A., widow of Morehouse Jennings, died Sept. 14, 1861. Aged 66 years, 4 months and 10 days.



- Mary B., daughter of Morehouse Jennings, died March 9, 1861. Aged 27 years, 9 months and 27 days.
- Samuel Taylor, died Jan. 27, 1805. Aged 71 years.
- Mary, relict of Samuel Taylor, died Mar. 29, 1815. Aged 85.
- Gershom Sturges, died March ye 15, 1762 in ye 32d year of his age, and his daughter Martha, aged 2 yrs., 9 mos.
- Abraham Morehouse, died Feb. 21, 1816. Age 53.
- Mary, wife of Abraham Morehouse, died March 29, 1842. Aged 82.
- Ebenezer Morehouse, died Jan. 5, 1829. Aged 86 yrs.
- Temperance, wife of Ebenezer Morehouse, died March 18, 1819. Aged 79 years.
- Daniel Meeker, died Sept. 20, 1784. Aged 45 yrs.
- Abigail, his wife died Sept. 10, 1789. Aged 45 years.
- Capt. Simon Couch, died April 10, 1770. Aged 72 years, 9 months and 13 days.
- Abigail Couch, relict of Capt. Simon Couch and daughter of Joshua Jennings, died July 14, 1765. Aged 65 years, 4 months and 15 days.
- Mary Morehouse, died May 18, 1854. Aged 81 yrs., 9 mos., and 19 days.
- Evelina B., daughter of Morehouse and Sally Ann Jennings, died June 25, 1838. Aged 3 yrs., 8 mos., and 20 days.
- Grumman M., son of Joshua and Sarah Jennings, died Oct. 2, 1792. Age 9 months.
- Hulda, wife of Grumman Morehouse, died May 19, 1815. Aged 71 years.
- Grumman Morehouse, died April 15, 1833. Aged 88 yrs.
- John Andrews, died Aug. 23, 1830. Aged 43 years.
- Thomas Andrews, died March 26, 1815. Aged 31 years.
- Mary, wife of Thomas Andrews and daughter of Talcott Banks, died Dec 19, 1820. Aged 30 years.
- Altheia, consort of William Hobby, and daughter of Thomas and Mary Andrews, died Nov. 15, 1836. Aged 25 yrs., 8 mos., and 22 days.
- Thomas Andrews, died July 30, 1801. Aged 40 yrs., 2 mos., and 4 days.
- Abigail, wife of Jeremiah Rowland, died Dec. 6, 1831. Aged 69 years.



- George Andrews, died April 9, 1791. Aged 26 yrs., 9 mos., and 24 days.
- Capt. John Andrews, died Nov. 19, 1777. Aged 46 yrs., and 9 months.
- Deacon John Andrews, died March 28, 1771. Aged 63 years, 7 months and 11.
- Mrs. Sarah Andrews, relict of Dea. John Andrews, died Mar. 9, 1783 in her 77th year.
- Sarah, daughter of Deacon Gideon Morehouse, died May 26, 1769. Aged 20 years and 30 days.
- Abijah, son of Gideon and Sarah Morehouse, died Oct. 14, 1751 in ye 4th year of his age.
- Sarah wife to Gideon Morehouse, died June 12, 1756. Aged 38 years and 3 months.
- Gideon Morehouse, died Jan. 29, 1771.
- John Morehouse, died June 13, 1753 in ye 26th year of his age.
- Gideon Morehouse, died May 12, 1753. Aged about 71 yrs.
- Burr Nash and Thomas Nash, sons of Joseph and Mary Nash, died in infancy 1816.
- Thomas Nash, died Jan. 20, 1844 in the 47th year of his age.
- Grace, his wife, died Sept. 12, 1845 in the 44th year of her age.
- Thomas, George, Mary, Mary Burr, Mary B., William B., children of Thomas and Grace Nash, 1819.
- Lieut. Samuel Morehouse, died Jan. 17, 1776. Aged 65 years, 3 months and 14 days.
- Abigail Gorham, 1st wife of Samuel Morehouse and 2d of Jabez Raymond and 3d of Shubael Gorham, died Dec. 9, 1800. Aged 77 years and 3 months.
- William Burr Nash, son of Capt. Thomas and Mary Nash, died March 6, 1783. Aged 8 years, 9 months and 17 days.
- Mrs. Mary Nash, wife to Capt. Thomas Nash and daughter of Wm. Burr of Stratfield, died May 20, 1784 in her 34th year.
- Capt. Thomas Nash, died June 8, 1748 in the 69th year of his age.
- Mrs. Sarah Nash, widow of Capt. Thomas Nash, died Feb. 20, 1760 in the 83d year of her age.
- Capt. Thomas Nash, Jr., died Aug. 2, 1769. Aged 61 years wanting 12 days.



- Mrs. Rebecca Nash, relict of Capt. Thomas Nash, died April 22, 1791 in the 84th year of her age.
- Mrs. Ann Ripley, died Dec. 26, 1830. Aged 66 years.
- Samuel Hazard, died July 24, 1794. Aged 38 years.
- Mrs. Tammissin Hide wife of Deacon Joseph Hide and daughter of Michael Dunning, died April 30, 1808 in the 69th year of her age.
- Deacon Joseph Hyde, died Aug. 28, 1811. Aged 86.
- Mrs. Betty Hide, wife of Mr. Joseph Hide and daughter of Samuel Sherwood, died June 13, 1785. Aged 53 years, 3 months and 20 days.
- Deacon John Hide, born Oct. 6, 1692, died Jan. 15, 1761.
- Rachel Hide, wife of John Hide, died Sept. 30, 1736 in the 37th year of her age.
- Mrs. Mary Kent, died Sept. 13, 1822. Aged 91 years.
- John Hazard, died March 29, 1771. Aged 52 years.
- Joseph Hazard, died Jan. 7, 1775. Aged 22 years.
- Mary Fish, died Dec. 3, 1769. Aged 77 years.
- Mary Wakeman, wife to Stephen Wakeman, died Aug. 16, 1741 in the 24th year of her age.
- Stephen Wakeman, died March 25, 1760 in the 44th year of his age.
- Jesup Wakeman, died Jan. 2, 1780 in the 32 year of his age.
- Mrs. Happy Wakeman, wife of Banks Wakeman, died June 16, 1794 in the 25th year of her age.
- Banks Wakeman, died March 29, 1835. Aged 65 yrs., 7 mos.
- Eleanor, relict of Banks Wakeman, died Mar. 25, 1861. Aged 84 years, 10 months and 25 days.
- Sally, daughter of Banks and Eleanor Wakeman, died Dec. 22, 1833. Aged 26 years and 10 months.
- Eleanor, died Feb. 15, 1809. Aged 5 days.
- Amelia, died Feb. 5, 1814. Aged 2 years and 7 months.
- Mary, died Aug. 9, 1819. Aged 2 years and 2 months.
- Children of Banks and Eleanor Wakeman.
- Also infant son of Charles and Elizabeth Wakeman.
- Eleanor, daughter of Banks and Eleanor Wakeman, died Nov. 14, 1836. Age 26 years and 9 months.
- Eliza Wakeman, daughter of Banks Wakeman, died April 5, 1887. Age 74 years and 4 months.





- Henry B. Wakeman, died March 30, 1892. Age 71 years, 11 months and 18 days.
- Willie H, son of H. B. and E. M. Wakeman, died Jan. 24, 1853. Age 1 year and 1 month.
- Ella Maria, daughter of H. B. and E. M. Wakeman, died Jan. 3, 1879. Age 16 years and 7 months.
- Ruth Penfield, daughter of Wm. J. and Mary R. Wakeman, died Sept. 26, 1892. Age 1 yr. 6 mos. and 21 days.
- Elsie Ruth, daughter of L. P. and J. S. Wakeman, died Feb. 15, 1880. Aged 1 year and 6 months.
- Edward Baker, died March 10, 1857. Aged 22 yrs, 7 mos., and 1 day,
- Talcott Banks, buried June 25, 1812. Aged 55 years.
- Eunice, widow of Talcott Banks, buried March 26th, 1831. Aged 70 years.
- Eunice, daughter of Talcott and Eunice Banks, died Oct 17, 1795. Aged 6 years, 3 months, and 22 days.
- Abigail, daughter of Talcott and Eunice Banks, died March 18, 1802. Aged 9 years and 24 days.
- James Jesup, son of Eben and Sarah Jesup, died Oct. 17, 1811. Age 22 months.
- Caroline, daughter of Ebenezer and Sarah Jesup, died Jan. 31, 1799. Aged 8 months and 8 days.
- George Weeks, died Nov. 20, 1850. Aged 47.
- Eleanor Weeks, his wife, died April 21, 1867. Aged 67 years, 3 months and 15 days
- Martha, daughter of George and Eleanor Weeks, died April 7, 1873. Age 37 years, 4 months and 15 days.
- William Squire, son of Melancthon and Emily Disbrow, died Aug. 27, 1860. Aged 10 months and 25 days.
- Mary J, daughter of Melancthon and Emily Disbrow, died Oct. 12, 1865. Aged 6 months.
- Rev. Sylvester Haight, born July 22, 1776. died April 6, 1864
- Mrs. Zerviah Darling, relict of Samuel Darling of New Haven, born at Framingham, July 1710, died June 9, 1790.
- Rev. Hezekiah Ripley, D. D., died Nov. 29, 1831. Aged 88 years, 2 months and 15 days.
- Dorothy, wife of Hezekiah Ripley, died Aug. 9, 1831. Aged 94 years.



- David Bradford, son of Rev. Hezekiah and Mrs. Dorothy Ripley, died Oct 7. Aged 1 year and 7 months.
- Aletheia Bartlett, died Jan. 13, 1859. Aged 93.
- Bradford, son of Rev. Hezekiah and Mrs. Dorothy Ripley, died April 19, 1874. Aged 1 year.
- Rev. Daniel Buckingham, died May 25, 1766 in his 55th yr.
- Mrs. Mary Buckingham, relict of Rev. Daniel Buckingham and daughter of Dr. Herpin of Milford, died June 6, 1766. Aged 47.
- Abigail Salome, daughter of Nathaniel Adams, born Aug. 30, 1828, died April 4, 1845.
- Jerusha, wife of Nathaniel Adams, daughter of Henry Bull of Milford, born March 27, 1798, died March 4, 1835.
- Nathaniel Adams, born Sept. 24, 1789, (Yalensis). Died April 7, 1837.
- Salome, wife of Nathaniel Adams, daughter of Joseph Hide. Died May 15, 1802. Aged 44 yrs. 8 mos. and 15 dys.
- Nathaniel Adams, died March 29, 1784. Aged 68 years.
- Ann Adams, wife to Nathaniel Adams, died Nov. 14, 1748. Aged 29 years and 16 days.
- Rebekah, the wife of Joseph Wakeman, died April 16, 1772. Aged 29 years, 10 months and 13 days.
- Joseph Wakeman, died Sept. 2, 1784. Aged 44 yrs., 5 mos., and 26 days.
- Elizabeth, daughter of Ebenezer and Angelina B. Disbrow, died May 15, 1862. Aged 37 yrs., 8 mos., and 19 days.
- Aletheia, daughter of Ebenezer and Angelina B. Disbrow, died Dec. 20, 1858. Aged 17 yrs., 1 mo., and 4 days.
- Clarissa, daughter of Ebenezer and Angelina B. Disbrow, died Dec. 6, 1857. Aged 26 yrs., 3 mos., and 4 days.
- Arthur, son of Ebenezer and Angelina B. Disbrow, died April 14, 1857. Aged 17 years, 7 months and 5 days.
- Angelina, daughter of Ebenezer and Angelina B. Disbrow, born Nov. 16, 1841, died Dec. 3, 1846.
- Seth Bartlett, son of Ebenezer and Angelina B. Disbrow, born Oct. 7, 1837, died Sept. 11, 1838.
- Ebenezer Disbrow, born June 1, 1798, died Sept. 2, 1868.
- Angelina, wife of Ebenezer Disbrow, died July 13, 1870. Aged 69 years, 6 months and 25 days.



- Deacon Abraham Sherwood, died Oct. 21, 1799 in the 36th year of his age.
- Mrs. Abigail Sherwood, died June 29, 1797 in the 29th year of her age.
- Eunice Burr, relict of Ephraim Burr, died May 1793. Aged 49.
- Ephraim Burr, died Dec. —, 1779. Aged 43.
- Mary, wife of Moses Sherwood and daughter of Denney Chapman, died Jan. 24, 1784, in the 31st year of her age.
- Mrs. Abigail Chapman, wife of Lieut. James Chapman and daughter of Deacon Sherwood, died Nov. 9, 1801, in the 49th year of her age.
- Deacon Jeremiah Sherwood, died Aug. 28, 1777, in the 52d year of his age.
- Capt. Samuel Sherwood, died June 2, 1762, in the 69th year of his age.
- Mrs. Jane Sherwood, died March 10, 1779. Aged 78 years.
- Mrs. Abigail Gold, widow of Rev. Hezekiah Gold and wife of Deacon Jeremiah Sherwood, died Sept. 3, 1804, in the 77th year of her age.
- Mrs. Hannah Clift, consort of Major Willis Clift, died Oct. 19, 1757. Aged 29 years.
- Major Willis Clift, died April 27, 1810. Aged 64 years, 11 months and 9 days.
- Miss Ellen Thorp, daughter of Capt. Stephen and Mrs Sarah Thorp, died Dec. 2, 1790, in the 24th year of her age.
- Capt. Stephen Thorp, died July 14, 1807, in the 69th year of his age.
- Marcy, wife of John Coley, died Jan. 29, 1773, in the 65th year of her age.
- Daniel Sherwood, died Dec. 19, 1828. Aged 67 years.
- Catharine Sherwood, wife of Daniel Sherwood, died Sept. 2, 1835. Aged 69 years.
- Ebenezer B. Sherwood, died May 10, 1860. Aged 71 years, 11 months and 10 days.
- Eleanor Andrews, wife of Ebenezer B. Sherwood, born Oct. 27, 1786, died Sept. 24, 1873.
- Ebenzer B. Sherwood, son of E. B. and Eleanor S., died May 10, 1821. Aged 3 years, 11 months and 19 days.



- Ebenezer B. Sherwood, son of E. B. and Eleanor S., died Nov. 12, 1852. Aged 29 years, 7 months and 17 days.
- Philander, son of Abraham and Mary Sherwood. born Oct. 22, 1830, died May 4, 1847.
- Francis, son of Abraham and Mary Sherwood, born Aug 1, 1835, died Aug. 10. 1835.
- William, son of Abraham and Mary Sherwood, born Sept. 27, 1841, died Oct. 13. 1841.
- Samuel Sherwood, born June 6, 1843, died Aug. 9, 1853.
- Abraham Sherwood, died June 27. 1873. Aged 71 years.
- Mary Sherwood, died Oct. 28, 1879. Age 74 years.
- Francis, son of E. B. and E. A. Sherwood, died Sept. 5, 1879. Age 49 years.
- Franklin and Jane Sherwood, died May 23, 1859. Age 12 years, 1 month and 24 days.
- Capt. Franklin Sherwood, died Sept. 9, 1888. Age 77 years, 10 months and 6 days.
- Jane Guyer, wife of Franklin Sherwood, died Nov. 11, 1882. Aged 63 years, 2 months and 1 day.
- Elsie May, daughter of John H. and Fannie L. Elwood, died Oct. 22, 1892. Aged 5 years, 9 months and 6 days.
- Mary, daughter of Talcott and Eunice Banks, died Jan. 21, 1791. Aged 7 years, 6 months and 1 day.
- Talcott, son of Talcott and Eunice Banks, died Sept. 6, 1792. Aged 6 years, 9 months and 17 days
- Eleanor Gray, wife of Samuel Gray, died Feb. 4, 1762, in the 58th year of her age
- Ellen C. Chapman, daughter of James and Ellen Chapman, died Nov. 23, 1810. Aged 3 years, 8 mos. and 14 dys.
- Lieut. James Chapman, died Sept. 6, 1822. Aged 72 years.
- Sarah, wife of Phineas Chapman, died Nov. 23, 1812. Aged 87 years.
- Capt. Phineas Chapman, died Nov 20, 1782. in the 66th year of his age.
- John Chapman, died June 2, 1757, in the 29th year of his age.
- Albert Chapman, son of Rev. Daniel Chapman and Mrs. Grizzel Chapman, died Oct. 28th, 1747, in the 26th year of his age.





- Rev. Daniel Chapman, died Nov. 28, 1741, in the 52d year of his age.
- Daniel Chapman, died Oct. 11, 1753, in the 37th yr. of his age.
- Mrs. Grizzel Chapman, died June 10, 1754, in the 57th year of her age.
- David Burr, died Aug. 29, 1792. Aged 73 years, 4 months and 5 days.
- Joshua Jennings, died Jan. 2, 1746. Aged 59 years.
- Hannah Jennings, widow of Joshua Jennings, died Nov., 1745, in the 83d year of her age.
- Mrs. Mary Burr, relict of Daniel Burr, died Oct. 11, 1748, in ye 59th year of her age.
- Edward Jesup, died Sept. 30, 1750, in the 54th yr. of his age.
- Sarah, relict of Edward Jesup, died Nov. 18, 1783, in the 84th of her age.
- Abigail, wife of Ebenezer Jesup, died March 14, 1787, in the 43d year of her age.
- Ebenezer Jesup, died Nov. 9, 1809, in the 53rd yr. of his age.
- Eleanor Jesup, wife of Ebenezer Jesup, died May 7, 1772. Aged 34 years.
- Ebenezer Jesup, died Dec. 8, 1812, in the 74th yr. of his age.
- Edward Squir, son of Edward and Esther Jesup, died Aug. 13, 1810. Aged 1 year, 5 mos and 19 days.
- Edward Jesup, died Dec. 21, 1844. Aged 35 years.
- Louisa A., daughter of Edward and Esther Jesup, died March 7, 1822. Aged 16 years.
- Lorinda Wood, daughter of Elizar and Eleanor Wood, died Sept. 1, 1822. Aged 28 years.
- Samuel Gilbert, died Dec. 9, 1848, in his 73d year.
- Ann, wife of Samuel Gilbert, died Aug. 1, 1850, in the 80th year of her age.
- Harriet B., daughter of Beal and Anna Bunnell, died May 17, 1819. Aged 24 years, 10 months and 25 days.
- Sarah Davis, died June 19, 1858. Aged 80 years.
- Mrs. Eunice Coley, daughter of John and Abigail Hyde, died Sept. 22, 1805, in the 30th year of her age.
- Widow Abigail Hide, relict of John Hide, died Oct. 15, 1817. Aged 88 years.



- John Hide, born Nov. 25, 1725, died Sept. 6, 1792.  
 William Rumsey, died Jan. 3, 1748 in the 41st year of his age.  
 Joseph Wakeman, died Sept. 23, 1762 in the 59th year of his age.  
 Abigail Wakeman, relict of Joseph Wakeman, died Jan. 1, 1804, in the 100th year of her age.  
 Susannah Hazard, died Jan. 24, 1800 Aged 1 year, 5 months, and 17 days.  
 Benjamin Rumsey, died Nov. 3, 1732. Aged 65 years.  
 Thomas Couch, died April 1, 1736. Aged 40 years, 9 months, and 22 days.  
 Thomas Couch, died Dec. 4, 1764 in ye 39th year of his age.  
 Elizabeth Couch, relict of Thomas Couch, died Nov. 25, 1815. Aged 87 years and 9 months.  
 Gideon Couch, died May 31, 1846. Aged 57 years, 7 months, and 12 days.  
 Gideon Couch, born Sept. 12, 1757, died Sept. 21, 1817.  
 Eleanor, wife of Gideon Couch, died May 21, 1846. Aged 84 years, 3 months and 21 days.  
 Eli Couch, died Sept. 3, 1796. Aged 5yrs, 3 mos., 2 dys.  
 Chary Couch, died Sept. 3, 1796. Age 3 yrs., 2 mos., and 1 day.  
 Children of Gideon and Eleanor Couch.  
 Mrs. Eliza Ann Staples, wife of H. Staples and daughter of Samuel and Anna Hull, died June 10, 1832. Aged 28 years, 3 months, 7 days.  
 Mary E., only daughter of H. and Eliza Ann Staples, born June 3, 1829, died April 7, 1880.  
 Capt. William Cowper Staples, born May 7, 1832, died April 29, 1891.  
 Chary, wife of H. Staples, born Feb. 11, 1802, died Dec. 23, '81.  
 Maria, wife of Harry Gregory, died Jan. 11, 1878. Aged 74 years and 5 months.  
 Dorcas Hyde, died Aug. 31, 1876. Aged 78 years.  
 Lynnette, wife of Henry Munroe, died Aug. 21, 1836. Aged 58 years, 5 months and 8 days.  
 Mrs. Kezia, wife of Samuel Pearsall, died June 19, 1793 in the 57th year of her age.



- Anna Hurlbutt, wife of James Hurlbutt, died June 15, 1779.  
Aged 17 years.
- Gideon Hurlbutt, died Sept. 30, 1775, in the 47th year of his age.
- Capt. Gideon Hurlbutt, died Sept. 13, 1775, in his 47th year.  
Harriet, his wife, died July 21, 1772. Aged 41.
- Hannah, wife of Capt. Gideon Hurlbutt, died July 21, 1772,  
in her 41st year.
- Margaret Hurlbutt, wife of Gideon Hurlbutt, died Feb. 28,  
1754, in the 54th year of her age.
- Gideon Hurlbutt, died March 9, 1757, in the 70th year of his age.
- Godfrey, died Nov. 20, 1790, in the 67th year of his age.
- Ebenezer Godfrey, died Jan. 9, 1793, in the 67th yr. of his age.
- Margaret Godfrey, wife of Christopher Godfrey, died Nov. 4,  
1759, in the 71st year of her age.
- Christopher Godfrey, died Aug. 20, 1758, in the 73d year of his age.
- Ephraim Bradley, died Oct. 3, 1748. Aged 45.  
And his daughter Ruth. Aged 6 years.
- Abigail, wife of Stephen Godfrey, Jr., died June 30, 1772, in the 22d year of her age.
- Isabel, wife of Nathan Godfrey, died May 26, 1772, in the 29th year of her age.
- Nathan Godfrey, Jr., died Oct. 28, 1775, in the 32d year of his age.
- Stone marked. T. M. 1740.
- Steven Bradley, died March 3, 1772. Aged 26 years, 6 months and 17 days.
- Molly, daughter of Steven and Abigail Bradley, died March 4, 1772. Aged 2 years and 10 months.
- Jabez Gorham, died Feb. 26, 1764, in the 46th yr. of his age.
- Martha, daughter of Jabez Gorham, died Sept. 17, 1788.  
Aged 35 years, 1 month and 4 days.
- Eleanor, daughter of Jabez Gorham, died June 28, 1789.  
Aged 25 years, 4 months and 21 days.
- Joseph Gorham, died July 8, 1779, in the 40 year of his age.
- Mary Coley, died Sept. 25, 1825. Aged 79.



- Phebe, daughter of Samuel and Phebe Gorham, died Aug. 21, 1804. Aged 10 years, 6 months and 11 days.
- Phebe, wife of Samuel Gorham, died Aug. 16, 1855. Age 88 years, 10 months and 17 days.
- Samuel Gorham, died April 8, 1842. Aged 76 years and 11 months.
- Thomas Sherwood, died Sept 11, 1748, in the 29th year of his age.
- Betsey Gorham, died June 4, 1865. Aged 81 years, 6 months and 4 days.
- Rachel, relict of Joseph Gould, died July 28, 1817. Aged 78.
- Almira, daughter of Alva and Almira Burr, died Dec. 17, 1806. Aged 6 months and 8 days.
- Mr. John Burr, died April 9, 1783. Aged 70 yrs. and 3 mos.
- Grace, wife of John Burr, died Feb. 21, 1772, in the 52d year of her age.
- Talcott Burr, died Oct. 17, 1802. Aged 56 years.
- Mindwell Burr, relict of Talcott Burr, died July 23, 1827. Aged 77 years.
- Abigail Burr, wife of Zalmon Burr and daughter of John Hyde, was born Sept. 12, 1779, died Dec 21, 1798
- Lucinda Scribner, daughter of Nathaniel and Phebe Scribner, died April 20, 1796. Aged 2 years.
- Shuball Gorham, died Nov. 20, 1807, in the 82d year of his age.
- Rebekah, wife of Shuball Gorham, died Feb. 27, 1799, in the 71st year of her age.
- John Stevenson, born at Durham, England, died Aug. 7, 1845. Age 62 years.
- Sarah Gorham, wife of John Stevenson, died March 21, 1862. Aged 76 years.
- Abby Gorham, wife of Dr. Bedient, died May 30, 1872. Aged 72 years.
- Mary W. Bennett, died July 14, 1888. Aged 61 years and 6 months.
- Rufus Bennett, died Oct. 20, 1885. Aged 70 years. 1 month and 17 days.
- Lydia, wife of Capt. Isaac Bennett, died May 9, 1842. Aged 62 years, 6 months and 8 days.





- Capt. Isaac Bennett, died Aug. 1, 1854. Aged 74 years, 6 months and 22 days.
- Sarah Bennett, wife of Capt. Joseph Bennett, died Jan. 6, 1786. Aged 38 years, 5 months and a few days.
- Nabbe, wife of Capt. Joseph Bennett, died Aug. 7, 1805. Aged 56 years.
- Mary, widow of Deliverance Bennett, died April 23, 1835. Aged 93 years, 5 months and 22 days.
- Deliverance Bennett, died March 7, 1808. Aged 69 years, 11 months and 28 days.
- Mary Bennett, daughter of William and Abigail Bennett, died Oct. 4, 1754. Aged 11 years and 29 days.
- William Bennett, died Sept. 16, 1772. Aged 62 yrs., 7 mos., and 26 days.
- Abigail Morehouse, formerly wife of William Bennett, died Dec. 30, 1800 in the 83d year of her age.
- Deliverance Bennett, died April 18, 1761. Aged 72 years, 3 months and 13 days.
- Mrs. Mary Bennett, wife of Deliverance Bennett, died April 14, 1761. Aged 72 years and about 6 months.
- Mary Dorothy, daughter of Benjamin and Rhoda Elwood, died Jan. 23, 1858. Aged 28 years, and 10 months.
- Willissayana Maranda, daughter of Benjamin and Rhoda Elwood, died Oct. 1, 1823. Aged 16 years, 1 month and 15 days.
- Thomas Bennitt, died June 5, 1781, in the 88th yr. of his age.
- Mercy Bennitt, wife of Thomas Bennitt, died June 8, 1771. Aged 60 years.
- Sarah Bennitt, wife of James Bennitt, died Oct. 28, 1779. Aged 39 years and 9 months.
- James, died Sept. 25, 1773. Aged 1 year, 9 months and 14 days.
- Sarah, died Sept. 29, 1773. Aged 5 years and 10 months.
- Gershom, died Nov. 11, 1773. Aged 3 years, 10 months and 11 days.
- Children of James and Sarah Bennitt.
- Moses Bennitt, died Dec. 20, 1796. Aged 69 years
- Eunice, wife of Moses Bennitt, died March 19, 1796. Aged 70 years, 2 months and 25 days.



- Sarah Allin, wife of John Allin, and daughter to Deliverance and Mary Bennett. born April 8, 1716. old stile, died April 18, 1761, new stile.
- Joshua Couch, died Feb 25, 1869. Aged 75 years, 6 months and 1 day.
- Mary Couch, died May 26, 1888. Aged 85 years, 1 month and 25 days.
- Sally Ann Patrick, died Jan. 18, 1888. Aged 86 years, 3 months and 12 days.
- Charles E. Couch, died Aug. 9, 1890. Aged 54 years, 2 months and 4 days.
- Patty, wife of Joshua Couch, died Oct. 11, 1851, in her 91st year.
- Joshua Couch, died Oct. 13, 1841, in the 84th year of his age.
- Rachel Couch, daughter of Joshua and Patty Couch, died Nov. 19, 1808. Aged 19 years, 8 months and 4 days  
Died Sept. 11, 1804, their son Joseph Couch. Aged 18 years, 8 months and 3 days.
- Samuel, son of Joshua and Patty Couch, died Sept. 30th, 1793, Aged 2 years wanting 5 days.
- Mariett, daughter of Hezekiah and Almira Couch, died Aug. 1, 1828. Aged 1 year and 10 months.
- Eldrei Couch, wife of Capt Samuel Couch, died Nov 24, 1737. Aged 63.
- Benjamin Couch, died Sept. 27, 1748, in the 47th year of his age.
- Solomon Couch, died Sept. 26, 1748, in the 36th year of his age.
- Abraham Higgins, died March 21st, 1757, in the 92d year of his age.
- Eunice Couch, died Feb. 9, 1849. Age 72
- David Couch, died June 20, 1816. Age 83
- Mary Couch, his wife, died March 26, 1822. Age 89.
- Capt. John Kuot, died July 11, 1756. Aged 74 years.
- Easter, daughter of Gabriel and Sarah Allen, died July 30, 1793. Aged 12 years, 10 months and 22 days.
- James Hull Allen, son of Capt. Gabriel and Sarah Allen, died Aug. 6, 1792. Aged 15 yrs. 3 mos. and 21 dys.
- Maria, daughter of Samuel and Rebecca Wood, died April 18, 1788, Aged 16 months and 2 days.



- Irene, daughter of Samuel and Rebecca Wood and wife of H. Phillips, died May 24, 1810, in the 26th year of her age. Her infant daughter died a few weeks after.
- Merinda, daughter of Samuel and Rebecca Wood, died Jan. 2, 1807. Aged 2 weeks.
- Mrs. Rebecca Wood, died Dec. 16, 1842, in the 83d year of her age.
- David Wood, son of Samuel and Rebecca Wood, died Nov. 26, in the 49th year of his age.
- Samuel Wood, a Revolutionary soldier, born April 12, 1758, died Aug. 13, 1843.
- Caroline Wood, daughter of Samuel and Rebecca Wood, born June 19, 1803, died April 23, 1865.
- Alathea, daughter of Samuel and Rebecca Wood, born May 14, 1797, died Dec. 25, 1881.
- David Lyon, died Nov. 22, 1764, in the 44th year of his age.
- William Thorp, died May 13, 1812, in the 84th year of his age.
- Mary, wife of Alexander McFarland, died Oct 9, 1849. Aged 55 years.
- Elnathan Allen, Co. E, 17th Regt , Conn. Vols , died June 26, 1883.
- Elias Disbrow, died Jan 12, 1832. Aged 81 years.
- William Allen, died Aug. 22, 1861. Aged 62 years and 9 mos.
- Jeremiah, son of William and Polly Allen, died Sept. 12, 1862. Aged 18 years and 11 mos.
- Burr S. Nash, died Jan 23, 1889. Aged 76 years, 9 mos.
- Harriet Chubs, his wife, died July 1, 1857. Aged 38 years.
- Susannah, wife of Abijah Elwood, died Jan. 5, 1852. Aged 85 years, 5 months.
- Lient. Samuel Elmer, son of Col. Samuel Elmer of Sharon, was killed at Fairfield, fighting for the liberty of his country, April 28, 1777, in the 25th year of his age.
- George Cable, died Sept 17, 1763, in the 60th year of his age.
- Thomas Bennett, died Sept. 28, 1863. Aged 80 years, 6 mos. and 10 days.
- Betsey, wife of Thomas Bennett, died Nov. 8, 1856. Aged 72 years, 2 months and 11 days.
- George Moyer, died June 3, 1835. Aged 78 years. Also



- Asenath, his wife, died Sept. 19, 1806. Aged 47 years.
- George Bennett, died Dec. 16, 1858. Aged 51 yrs. and 7 dys.
- Solomon Gray, died March 1, 1798, in the 58th year of his age.
- Mariam, wife of Solomon Morehouse, died March 19, 1824, in the 87th year of her age.
- Capt. Solomon Morehouse, died May 15, 1808. Aged 76 years, 5 months and 13 days
- Lydia, wife of Jesup Darling and daughter of Solomon and Mariam Morehouse, died July 28, 1814. Aged 51 years and 22 days
- Deborah, wife of Benjamin Allen, died April 7, 1810. Aged 68 years, 10 months and 7 days
- Benjamin Allen, died Feb. 16, 1848. Aged 75 years.
- Gideon Allen, died Dec. 14, 1829, in his 35th year.
- Jeremiah Allen, died May 4, 1843. Aged 57 years. Also Azor, son of Jeremiah and Lydia Allen, died June 21, 1816. Aged 5 years and 9 months.
- Sally B. Allen, born April 27, 1807, died Jan. 26, 1867.
- Charles Allen, died April 8, 1891. Aged 72 years.
- Clorynda, widow of George Polliett and wife of Gershom Allen, died July 22, 1879. Aged 66 years.
- Joseph Allen, born Jan. 28, 1819, died Dec. 27, 1881.
- Rhoda, wife of Benjamin Allen died Oct. 15, 1814. Aged 64 years, 1 month and 8 days
- Benjamin Allen, died March 27, 1827. Aged 80 years.
- Martha Ann, daughter of Jesse and Delia Ann Lynn, died Aug. 11, 1833. Aged 2 yrs, 9 mos and 11 dys.
- Polly, wife of Charles Allen, died April 27, 1887. Aged 63 years, 11 months and 7 days
- Polly, wife of Daniel Fairchild, died May 8, 1859. Aged 42 years and 6 months.
- Daniel Fairchild, died Aug. 6, 1883. Aged 70 years.
- Hezekiah Fairchild, died Sept. 1, 1862. Aged 82 years.
- Rhoda, his wife, died Sept. 20, 1854. Aged 77 years.
- Gould A. Murray, died Aug. 28, 1891. Aged 73 years, 10 months and 6 days.
- Sarah, daughter of Gould A. and Catharine A. Murray, died June 30, 1863. Aged 9 years and 8 days.





- S. Josephine Adams, wife of Charles S. Wakeman, died July 1, 1891, in the 52d year of her age.
- Frankie, son of Charles S. Wakeman, died March 21, 1878, in his 4th year.
- Talcott B. Wakeman, died Jan. 18, 1888 Aged 72 years.
- Sarah J., wife of William H. Couch, died April 24, 1873. Aged 39 years, 6 months and 14 days.
- John Andrews, died May 29, 1825, in the 66th year of his age.
- Lydia Andrews, wife of John Andrews, died Sept. 7, 1851. Aged 87 years, 8 months and 14 days.
- Shubel, son of John and Lydia Andrews, died in Alexandria, D. C. Age 29 years.
- Ebenezer Andrews, born April 30, 1795, died April 28, 1864.
- Rachel Hyde, wife of Ebenezer Andrews, born June 13, 1802, died Aug. 13, 1881.
- Benjamin Andrews, born March 22, 1788, died Jan. 19, 1850.
- Eliza Hobby, wife of Benjamin Andrews, born March 19, 1792, died Jan. 26, 1867.
- Abigail Andros, formerly wife of Simon Couch, died Sept. 14, 1730. Aged about 57 years.
- George G. Andrews, born Jan. 27, 1822, died Aug. 3, 1877.
- Hannah W. Dawson, wife of George G. Andrews, born Nov. 17, 1839, died April 18, 1891.
- Dr. Thomas D. Andrews, born Oct. 24, 1825, died Aug. 27, 1852.
- Philip Puuzelt, born July 27, 1806, died June 24, 1881.
- Mary Muller, his wife, born May 11, 1810, died June 11, 1870.

Children of above:

- Rosina M., born 1838, died 1876.
- Leonard, born 1841, died 1870.
- James P., born 1843.
- Edward, born 1845, died 1853.
- Frank, born 1848.
- George, born 1850.
- Mary M., born 1852.
- Margaretha, born 1832.
- John B., born 1835.
- Elizabeth M., born 1836.



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| "    Eleanor         | 90   |                        |      |
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| "    Louisa          | 90   |                        |      |
| "    Sarah           | 90   |                        |      |
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|                      |      | "    George            | 80   |
|                      |      | "    George            | 84   |
|                      |      | "    Grace             | 84   |
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|                      |      | "    Sarah (Mrs.)      | 84   |
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|                      |      | "    Leonard           | 98   |
|                      |      | "    Margaretha        | 98   |
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| " Jane                             |  | 88   | " Joseph                                 |  | 91   |
| " Jane Guyer                       |  | 88   | " Mary 2                                 |  | 85   |
| " Jeremiah (Dea.)                  |  | 88   | " Rebekah                                |  | 87   |
| " Mary                             |  | 88   | " Ruth Penfield                          |  | 86   |
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| " David S.                         |  | 80   | " Grace                                  |  | 81   |
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| " William                          |  | 80   | " Rebecca (Mrs.)                         |  | 96   |
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INSCRIPTIONS FROM THE  
Osborn-Gregory Family Burying Ground,  
WESTON, CONN.

Taken by R. K. Fitch, 1897.



- Knapp Osborn, died Dec. 17, 1831. Aged 27 yrs., 3 mos.  
Sarah, wife of Turney Osborn, died June 16, 1859. Aged  
75 years, 9 months and 18 days.  
Turney Osborn, died Sept. 12, 1855. Aged 73 yrs., 4 mos.  
Isaac Osborn, died March 25, 1850. Aged 74 years.  
Hannah, wife of Isaac Osborn, died Aug. 17, 1841. Aged  
61 years.  
Maria, wife of of Isaac Osborn, died Dec. 25, 1823. Aged  
78 years, 2 months and 14 days.  
Aaron Osborn, son of Isaac Osborn, died Sept. 8, 1807, in the  
27th year of his age.  
Seth Osborn, died June 13, 1818. Aged 43 years.  
Hezekiah Osborn, died May 12, 1812. Aged 78 years.  
Ruth, wife of Hezekiah Osborn, died Oct. 17, 1893. Aged  
59 years.  
Matthew Gregory, died Feb. 20, 1835. Aged 86 years.  
Sturges, 2d son of Sturges and Charlotte Bennett, died April  
26, 1836. Aged 8 months and 19 days.  
Adele, daughter of Sturges and Charlotte Bennett, died Mar.  
11, 1843. Aged 4 years and 10 months.  
Adele, 2d daughter of Sturges and Charlotte Bennett, died  
June 27, 1843. Aged 6 months and 25 days.  
Wm. Osborn, died Feb. 16 1795, in the 86th year of his age.  
Isaac Osborn, died Sept. 10, 1816. Aged 77 years.  
Wife of Wm. Osborn, died Jan. 6, 1796, in the 32d year of  
her age.



- Marian, wife of Samuel Higgins, died April 23, 1800. Aged 89 years.
- Comfort Osborn, died May 13, 1844. Aged 91 yrs., 2 mos., and 4 days.
- Eunice, wife of Matthew Gregory, died Nov. 2, 1828. Age 76 years.
- Mabel, wife of Matthew Gregory, died Nov. 20, 1818. Aged 25 years, 9 months and 18 days.
- Rebecca, wife of Lewis Lobdill and daughter of Joseph and Amelia Noys, died Sept. 6, 1826. Aged 32 years.
- Lewis Lobdill, died April 6, 1834. Aged 46 years, also Lewis his son who died May 20, 1834. Aged 6 mos.
- Sarah, wife of Barrabas Rider, died Feb. 3, 1820. Aged 38 years.
- Abba Jane, daughter of Moses and Hannah Jennings, died Sept. 15, 1834. Aged 17 years.
- Polly, wife of Matthew Bennett, died Sept. 21, 1849. Aged 54 years and 11 days.
- Matthew Bennett, died Jan. 7, 1851. Aged 80 years.
- Matthew Bennett, died Dec. 18, 1853. Aged 23 years.



INSCRIPTIONS FROM THE  
 (Private) "DEN" Burying Ground,  
 WESTON, CONN.

Taken by R. K. Fitch, 1897.



- Edmond Godfrey, died Feb. 15, 1836. Age 17 yrs., 6 mos., and 13 days.
- Monson, son of Priscilla Godfrey, died March 25, 1824. Age 1 year and 8 months.
- Levi Godfrey, died Aug. 19, 1821. Age 26 yrs., and 1 mo.
- David Godfrey, died Dec. 28, 1828. Age 67 yrs., and 9 mos.
- Salome, wife of David Godfrey, died Feb. 28, 1843. Age 82 years and 8 months.
- Eli B. Godfrey, died Sept. 11, 1844. Age 47 years 11 months and 3 days.
- Elias Godfrey, died May 2, 1830. Age 73 yrs., 9 mos., 21 dys.
- Eunice, wife of Elias Godfrey, died April 8, 1835. Age 75 years, 7 months and 18 days
- Eli, son of Anson and Milly Morehouse, died Nov. 19, 1827. Aged 12 years, 1 month and 19 days.
- Bradley Godfrey, died Aug. 12, 1839. Age 56 yrs., 1 mo.
- Nathaniel Hendricks, died Sept. 30, 1828. Age 83 years.
- Silas Smith, died July 10, 1841. Age 38 yrs., 8 mos., 7 dys.
- Eliza Smith, wife of Silas Smith, died Jan. 21, 1836. Age 33 years, 9 months and 20 days
- Hannah, wife of Isaac Godfrey, died Jan. 7, 1831. Age 87 yrs.
- Isaac Godfrey, died Feb. 12, 1831. Age 86 years
- Sarah, wife of Fanton Beers, died Dec. 6, 1827. Age 67 yrs., 10 mos., and 6 days
- Fanton Beers, died Sept. 26, 1847. Age 91 yrs., 9 mos., and 15 days.





## IN MEMORIAM.

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### ROWLAND B. LACEY.

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The following resolutions were adopted at the Annual Meeting,  
April 29th, 1897.

Whereas, The Fairfield County Historical Society has sustained a loss, which seems to be well nigh irreparable, by the death of Rowland B. Lacey, its founder, the first of the six persons who subscribed to its original articles of association and its first and only President from the date of its organization in February, 1881, to the time of his demise on the 31st day of March, 1897, therefore.

*Resolved*, That while he will be missed in other walks of life, in his home, in his church, and in his other associations, he will be especially missed by the members and friends of this society, for it is not too much to say that without his indefatigable efforts the society might not now exist and this temple might not have been built.

*Resolved*, That in the field of local history his work has been invaluable. He preserved the collections of his father-in-law, Isaac Sherman. He encouraged and greatly aided the Rev. Samuel Orcutt in the preparation and publication of the history of Stratford and Bridgeport. He wrote countless biographical notices, and articles treating on early business enterprises and events.

He was wonderfully equipped for this work by nature, by experience, by study and by an intense love for the subject.

*Resolved*, That we shall cherish his memory for his patient, kindly and courteous manner, for his labors and generous contributions, and we shall especially remember him as the pioneer in the local historical field and as the rescuer of many facts from oblivion.

*Resolved*, That these resolutions be placed on the records of the society, and that a copy of the same be sent to his family.



IN MEMORIAM.

---

REV. JOHN A. BUCKINGHAM

OF NEWTON, MASS

An old and respected member of the Society, passed away during the year after a brief illness.

Born in Boston, Nov. 16, 1816.

Died in Newton, May 4, 1897.

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