

# THE HYDE PARK

## HISTORICAL RECORD.

VOL. I.

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JULY, 1891.

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NO. 2.

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# THE HYDE PARK HISTORICAL RECORD.

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*Henry Grew.*

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HENRY GREW.

HENRY GREW was born in Boston, May 30, 1808. In boyhood he was a pupil at the gymnasium of the famous Dr. Francis Lieber, at Phillips Academy, Andover, and was also a student under Warren Colburn, whose mathematical works still perpetuate his memory. At sixteen years of age, he left school and entered the store, in Boston, of James Read, then an extensive importer of dry goods. The village of Readville in Hyde Park was named in honor of Mr. Read, who was largely interested in the cotton mill there situated. In 1830, Mr. Grew became interested in business for himself, but finally retired from active participation therein in 1845.

In a letter to the writer he thus refers to his first visit to what is now Hyde Park: "In the summer of 1845, I was boarding at Jamaica Plain. A holiday excursion carried my wife, children and myself to Dorchester for the day. We stopped in the woods about half a mile from where I now reside, and, strolling about, unexpectedly I came to a point where I was much pleased with the view of the Blue Hills and the valley between. I saw a farmhouse and went to it and inquired if it was for sale. The result was a purchase of several acres of land, and on the first day of May, 1847, I moved to Dorchester (now Hyde Park). I then built my present residence, and moved into it, August 1, 1847."

An interesting extract, from an address delivered by Mr. Grew in 1872, describing our territory as it was in 1847, may be found in Hurd's History of Norfolk County (1884), page 896, and in the Memorial Sketch of Hyde Park (1888), page 12.

The place chosen for a residence had been known as the Noah Withington Estate, and prior to the Withington ownership was the property of a man named Luke Trott. The old Withington or Trott house stood on the site of the barn near where Michael Kiggen now resides. Mr. Grew designates his sightly residence as "Woodlands," and from the hillside upon which it stands is a charming view of Hyde Park nestling in the valley of the Neponset, and covering the westerly slope of Fairmount, and of Milton with its famous Blue Hills. From time to time he has added to his extensive domain until it now includes nearly all the several hundred acres known as "Grew's Woods." This land constitutes a very beautiful natural park, and has been thrown open by its owner for use by the public, he having, at his own expense, repaired the roads leading through it and bridged the streams.

Mr. Grew has always taken a lively interest in local matters, and was chairman of the first Board of Selectmen of Hyde Park. He was a member of that Board for the first two years of the town and served a third term in 1873-74. For many years he has been one of the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund. He has been interested in the religious growth of the town, and has paid particular attention to its educational interests. Our largest school bears his name. He was one of the original members of the Hyde Park Historical Society and has been one of its vice-presidents ever since its organization.

Long past the three score and ten years said to be allotted to man, the subject of our sketch is still vigorous and hale. Since his eightieth birthday he has crossed the continent and visited Alaska. No form is better known upon our streets than his, and he is one of our most venerated citizens.

The name is worthily perpetuated in our midst, two sons, Henry S. and Edward S. Grew, being well-known and esteemed residents.

Mr. Grew's father was a Boston merchant, and his mother, Ann Greene, daughter of Benjamin Greene, of Boston, was a descendant of John Greene, a "contemporary and associate with Roger Williams in the early days of Rhode Island history."

A brief genealogy of the Grew family may be of interest, and is of value because it relates to a name that will be familiar

to our citizens long after the present generation has passed away.

1. John Grew<sup>1</sup> of Birmingham, Eng., landed in Boston, July 8, 1795. He married Mary Coltman, of Leicester, Eng., June 24, 1777, and died in Liverpool, Eng., Jan. 23, 1800. His widow died in Boston, July 25, 1834, aged 78 years. Their children were:

2. i, Mary Grew,<sup>2</sup> born in Birmingham, Eng., Oct. 4, 1778, married March 12, 1803, Benjamin Greene of Boston, and died in Boston, Dec. 23, 1817.

3. ii, John Grew,<sup>2</sup> born in Birmingham, Eng., Aug. 15, 1780.

4. iii, Henry Grew,<sup>2</sup> born Dec. 25, 1781, married June 24, 1802, Susan Pitman of Providence, R.I., died in Philadelphia, 1862.

5. iv, Charles Grew,<sup>2</sup> born Feb. 14, 1784, died in Boston, Oct. 12, 1803.

6. v, Ann Grew,<sup>2</sup> born May 6, 1786, married June 5, 1813, Seth Terry of Hartford, Conn., died Oct. 22, 1835. (See Terry Genealogy (1887) for list of their descendants.)

7. vi, Elizabeth Grew,<sup>2</sup> born April 2, 1798, died in Hartford, Conn., Sept. 17, 1822.

2. John Grew<sup>2</sup> (John <sup>1</sup>) born Birmingham, Eng., Aug. 15, 1780, married Oct. 21, 1805, Ann Greene of Boston. He died in Boston, Sept. 21, 1821. Their children were:

8. i, John Grew,<sup>3</sup> born Oct. 29, 1805, died Sept. 21, 1821.

9. ii, Henry Grew,<sup>3</sup> born May 30, 1808 (the subject of this sketch).

10. iii, Charles Grew,<sup>3</sup> born March 18, 1810, died March, 1832.

11. iv, Ann Grew,<sup>3</sup> born July 24, 1812, married James C. Alvord, and is now living.

12. v, Edward Grew,<sup>3</sup> born Aug. 18, 1814, died March 11, 1842.

## PEMAQUID AND MONHEGAN.

BY CHARLES LEVI WOODBURY.

[CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8.]

HERE let me interject! Weymouth had kidnapped and carried off some Indians to England, where Sir Fernando Gorges got two of them, and, when they knew enough English, drew from them a knowledge of the country, the tribes and their power, etc., which was of great benefit in the future. One of these, Skitwares, found his way back to the Bashaba; another had come with the expedition as interpreter, and their intercourse was easy, and became very friendly; another, Saggamore Nahandu, had also been in England. It was clear the beaver trade was good and profitable. The Indians east of the Penobscot were called Tarrantines, were enemies of the Bashaba, and held rather to the French.

In the autumn of 1608, the settlement at the Kennebec broke up and most of the settlers returned to England, but that did not close business operations. Sir Francis Popham, Gorges and others continued in the trade, and running the remarkably fine fishing, which the waters from Cape Newwagen to Pemaquid and to Monhegan afforded. Hither also the South Virginia Company soon sent vessels every year to fish for their own supply. In 1609, Zuringu notes one ship and a tender sailing for North Virginia, probably Sir Francis Popham's. The coast and trade were thoroughly explored on each side. Champlain's journals and maps were published in France in 1611, Lescarbot's history in 1609, and Martyn Pryng's admirable researches of 1606, and maps, were fully known to the North Virginia Company adventurers.

In 1610, Captain Argal, from Virginia, fished on the coast, in latitude 43° 40'. Another ship, his companion, was also on this coast.

In 1611, two captains, Harlie and Hobson, sailed for this coast from England. In this year the French visited the abandoned settlement of Popham at Fort St. George twice, under M. de Biencourt from Port Royal. Father Biard states they found some English sloops fishing, but did not attack them. The first collision took place this year, when a French vessel under Captain Platrier was captured by two English vessels, near



Emmetonic, an island about eight leagues from the Kennebec. These vessels were probably those of Mr. Williams, Popham's agent, and may have been those of Captains Hobson and Harlie.

1612. Williams is stated to have been on the coast this year also.

1613. The French had made a settlement at Mount Desert. Captain Argal, who was fishing from Virginia about Monhegan, heard of it and ran down, captured their vessels and many of the settlers, including Father Biard, broke up the plantation and took his prizes to Virginia.

1614. Argal also attacked the French settlement at Fort Royal. There was a resolute spirit astir under each flag. Perhaps its sole inducement was glory, but the value of the fishery and of the fur trade was practically held out to those who came the best armed and the best manned to partake in its profits. Neither side was disposed to invite the public into their confidence; it was too good a thing to be thrown open.

In 1614, John Smith came out with two vessels for trade, fish and whaling; also Captain Hobson was here with an interpreter; and in the fall Sir Richard Hawkins and two vessels came out to try the winter fishing and trade. They all came to Monhegan, and Captain Smith says that at Pemaquid, opposite him, was a ship of Sir Francis Popham that had traded there for several years. Smith states that he learned two French ships were trading about the Merrimack and that he did not go in sight of them, — judicious navigator!

Smith had the weakness of literature. He wrote well, and when he returned he wrote and published. Thus, what with him and Champlain, the trade secrets and profits of this coast were opened to the public, and a new era soon set in.

There was another effective cause also, which was the most important stimulus to the making of permanent settlements.

#### THE WINTER FISHERY.

The course of the English fishermen had been to leave home in January and reach Monhegan, or Damrel's Cove, in March, set up their stages and begin fishing. By June their fish were caught and by August or September dried, so that they could sail for Spain and obtain an early market. They brought out double crews, forty to sixty men, thus speeding their fishing. It

transpired that the winter fishing was the best in quantity and quality. As the adventurers were business people with an eye to profit, good grounds were opened to them for permanent establishments about these charmed fishing grounds, from Cape Newwagen and Damrel's Cove Islands to Pemaquid, and off shore to Monhegan,—where all the English fishing then was carried on. Sir Richard Hawkins was president of the North Virginia Council, and with his two ships wintered here, but in which harbor is now unknown, caught cargo for both ships, and sailed the following spring,—one ship for Spain, the other for Virginia. It was a success.

It is difficult to say how many vessels were yearly here before this, but Smith states he had six or seven maps given him before he sailed, which shows they were more numerous than have been recorded. The vessels anchored in harbors, built stages, fish-houses and flakes on shore, and sent out their crews in small boats daily to fish. Their fares were then brought to the stages, cleaned, salted and dried there, and shipped when ready for market. With the winter fishery the stages and small boats could be occupied all the year round, and the half crew left there be earning instead of lying idle.

Pemaquid was the best place for the fur trade, because of its proximity to the Bashaba; also it could in a great degree command the fur trade of the Kennebec. There is every reason to suppose that Sir Francis Popham's people built some block-house or trade station there, as he had traded there for several years, but no statement of the fact has come down to us.

In 1615, Smith states that four or five ships from London,—one sent by Sir Frances Gorges from Plymouth, and two under his command—sailed for Monhegan. Smith was captured in one of them by the French. How many came fishing from Virginia we do not learn. Smith wrote his book this year, and it was published in 1616. He was reproached bitterly for disclosing the secrets of the country. This publication gave impetus to the *voluntary fishermen*, not connected with the great companies, to come here and try their fortunes. In this year the Dutch sloop *Restless*, built at New York in 1611 by Adrian Block, came as far as the Penobscot on a trading voyage. Her captain, Hendricson, made a map of the coast.

The first vessel built in the country was the *Virginia*, built

1607-08, at the Kennebec settlement; the Restless was the next. Of course pinnaces had been taken out by fishermen and set up after arriving here, but these two were actually built here.

#### SETTLEMENT.

The contingencies of trade and the fishery were now developing the original purpose of the North Virginia Company. Sir Francis Popham's trading headquarters had been all this time at Pemaquid, as both Smith and Gorges state.

Sir Fernando Gorges now took up the matter of wintering there. Let me cite his own language, "I bought a ship for fishing and trade. I sent Vines and others, my own servants, with their provision, for trade and discovery, appointing them to leave the ship and ship's company for to follow their business in the usual place. By these, and by the help of the natives formerly sent over, I came to be truly informed of so much as gave me the assurance that in time I should want no undertakers, though, as yet, I was forced to hire men to stay there the winter quarter at extreme rates, and not without danger; for that the war had consumed the Bashaba," (and the plague, etc.), "notwithstanding Vines and the rest with him that lay in the cabins with the people that died, some more or less mightily, not one of them ever felt their heads to ache, and this course I held some years together."

This appears to make it clear that Pemaquid was occupied for trade purposes from the departure of the Popham-Gilbert Colony from the Kennebec in 1608, and at an early date permanently, with a view of establishing English settlements on the main land of the grant. Some writers say that it was at Saco that Vines with his men lay, during the winter of 1617-18. This plague raged about three years, killing nine-tenths of the Indians living between the Penobscot and Cape Cod.

In 1619, Captain Rowcroft left three men at Saco, who made their way eastward and crossed to Monhegan, where they were found in the spring. They must have had a boat, and probably the reason why they crossed from Pemaquid or Cape Newwagen was to join winter fishermen remaining there.

In 1616, Smith states four ships of London and two of Plymouth and Sir Richard Hawkins were again in these waters. He does not give the vessels from South Virginia. Vines also came in command of a ship.

In 1617, eight tall ships came there from England.

In 1618, six or seven volunteer ships came from the west of England, and those of the two companies. Captain Rowcroft also seized a French barque. Smith also states that in 1614, 1616 and 1617 he was prepared with ten or fifteen men to stay in the country, but his purposes were defeated. In 1619, he says one went from the West, those of London not stated.

In 1620, six or seven sail went from the west country, those of London not stated.

The prospect of establishing settlements was so flattering that early in this year the company applied for a new charter, obtained a warrant therefor, and the charter passed the Great Seal, November, 1620, creating them the Great Council of Plymouth, with boundaries from north latitude 40° to 48°, and powers of government, title to the lands, and also giving them a monopoly of the trade and the fishery. Before I pass to this charter I will continue the preceding subject.

In 1619, Gorges sent out Captain Dermer, who was to have met Captain Rowcroft, but found he was gone. Dermer took his pinnace and, with an interpreter, coasted as far as Virginia.

In 1620, he visited the harbor where the Pilgrims arrived in the following December. Captain Pryng had called it, in 1603, Mount Aldworth; Champlain, in 1605, had named it Bay St. Louis, but the Pilgrim settlers called it New Plymouth. Dermer went from here with his interpreter and squaw to a distance into the interior, and rescued from the savages two Frenchmen who had been shipwrecked in a French barque some time before. "Mourt's Relation" states that the Pilgrims, when on Cape Cod, found one or two plank houses. Possibly these were of the South Virginia attempts to establish their cod fishery.

This new monopoly, the Great Council of Plymouth, caused a great row. The South Virginia Company fought it in parliament, claimed they, too, spent £5000 in establishing their fishery on the east coast, and were now cut off by this grant. The voluntary fishermen fought it, both in parliament and on the coast, as a monopoly. Gorges defended the charter bravely. The House of Commons was against him, but the king and the House of Lords were for him, and the charter stood. The Pilgrims had a charter from Virginia, but their settlement was in the New England jurisdiction. Gorges obtained a charter for them here

and helped them. But this branch of history is not within the scope of this discourse.

The French ambassador also objected to the king against this charter, as an infringement on the territory of the French. The question whether it should be New England or New France was pressed with renewed vigor.

Pemaquid became now the forefront of our array. A force of 1500 to 3000 armed fishermen, hanging on its flanks half the year, was more than ever impenetrable and imposing. The great profits of the fishing for all the round season drew settlements at convenient points. The Isles of Shoals, the Piscataqua, Saco, Casco, Monhegan and the Damrel's Cove Islands, even also Cape Ann, felt the balmy influence of profit and protection, and rallied settlers behind the overshadowing eyes of Pemaquid and Monhegan. Plymouth was not a good fishing place, nor was the Massachusetts, but on the eastern coast the fishermen rallied.

The younger Gorges came out governor for New England in 1623, and visited Pemaquid, but the council at home gave up the fishing monopoly and the voluntary fishermen thrived. I must not cumber you with details. The ships came to Monhegan or the Isles of Shoals and sent up to the bay in their pinnaces the passengers and freight due there. Those who wished to go to England generally sailed "down East" and took shipping there. For trade goods and fishing prior to 1630 Pemaquid was without an equal on the coast. The petition of the inhabitants there in 1684, to the Duke of York, concludes: "and that Pemaquid may still remain metropolis of these parts, because it ever have been so before Boston was settled." Grants were made at Pemaquid and Monhegan as early as 1623 surely; the Earl Arundel had this section assigned as his dividend in 1622, and Abram Jennings of Plymouth, who was then a member of the council, we recognize in 1626 as selling out his great trading establishment at Monhegan, and a flock of goats, which the Pilgrims and Mr. Thompson of Piscataqua came down and bought between them, also some £800 of goods.

We find Pierce with a patent of strange origin at Pemaquid, also Brown earlier than 1625, the latter rejoicing in a title deed from Captain John Somerset, the chief of that ilk, him whom the Pilgrims called "Samoset," who welcomed them in English and introduced them to one of Gorges' Indians, Tisquantum or

Squanto, who was afterwards their interpreter and diplomat for years among their neighbor tribes. There is no need to dwell on the land titles of Aldworth, Elbridge and Shurtz. There was a mechanic and farming population here, workers of iron, makers of clay pipes, tanners, shipwrights, adjunct to the fur traders and "ye fishermen," but the place being free had no archives. Mr. Shurtz, the Justice of Peace, appears to have been the total of government, unless they had also a town meeting. The Pilgrims, when starved near to death in 1622, saw a shallop come into the harbor which they feared was a French man of war. She proved to be from Damrel's Cove Islands. They followed her back in their own boat and got provisions from the generous fishermen to supply their needs. They had, states Bradford, the further benefit of finding their way there for future use. They came again in 1623, and when their boat was stove and sunk at Damrel's Cove Islands in 1624, the jolly fishermen joined in raising and repairing her for them. We infer that these voluntary fishermen were neither Brownists nor Puritans, as Phineas Pratt in his narrative states he arrived at these islands in 1622, and found that "the fishermen had set up a Maypole and were very merry." The Plymouth people soon set up a trade there and at the Kennebec, and supported their colony by its profits. They owed something to the merry fishermen as well as to Sir Fernando Gorges.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

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## MATILDA (WHITING) VOSE.

BY CHARLES F. JENNEY.

THE subject of this sketch deserves more than passing notice, even though full biographical sketches have already appeared in the local and city press. She was our oldest resident, and few, if any, now living in the county, had reached such advanced years.

Matilda Whiting was born in Greenlodge, Dedham, July 17, 1788, married Jesse Vose of Milton, February 15, 1807, and died in Hyde Park, February 25, 1891, at the advanced age of 102 years and seven months. She was a daughter of Joshua and Mary (Ellis) Whiting, and a descendant of Nathaniel Whiting,

who joined the church at Dedham July 30, 1641, was admitted a freeman of that town May 18, 1642, and married Hannah Dwight, November 4, 1643, in the following line: Samuel, son of Nathaniel and Hannah (Dwight) Whiting, was born December 20, 1649, married Sarah Metcalf, November 23, 1676, and died December 4, 1727. Jeremiah, son of Samuel and Sarah (Metcalf) Whiting, was born April 12, 1695, married Ruth Wells, November 13, 1717, and died February 1, 1774. Joshua, son of Jeremiah and Ruth (Wells) Whiting, was born about September, 1729 (baptized September 21, 1729), married Elizabeth Pond, August 5, 1756, and died October 3, 1780. Joshua, son of Joshua and Elizabeth (Pond) Whiting, was born February 21, 1758, married Mary Ellis, March 16, 1783, and died May 7, 1842. Mrs. Vose was thus connected with many of the oldest and most respected families of Dedham.

Three of her children still survive her, and two of these, Mary E. and Sarah M. Vose, reside in Hyde Park. The late Benjamin C. Vose, who will long be remembered and cherished, was her son.

June 1, 1719, Jeremiah Whiting, the great-grandfather of the subject of this sketch, with four others, bought a large tract at Greenlodge, now a part of Dedham, but then in Dorchester. By deed dated July 26, 1720, a partition was made of this land, and upon the parcel granted to Jeremiah Whiting he soon after built the house, still standing, in which Mrs. Vose was born. After her marriage she resided on the Brush Hill road in Milton until November, 1861, when she made her home in what is now Hyde Park, and there resided until her death.

During her lifetime took place the inauguration of all the presidents, and but three of them survive her. She had a vivid recollection of the wars in which her country has been engaged since the revolution. A girl of eleven at the time, she well remembered the death of Washington. Fulton's steamboat made its first voyage the year of her marriage, and when the first telegraphic message flashed over the wires, she had passed the half-century milestone. More than threescore and ten years of her life had passed away when the bonds were struck from the slave. She was a witness of the wonderful development of electricity from the crude experiments of the eighteenth century to the marvellous achievements of the present day.

## HYDE PARK IN 1788.

It is interesting to glance for an instant at the condition, at the time of the birth of Mrs. Vose, of the territory of what is now Hyde Park, and to note the marvellous change that has there taken place. It has been stated that this region was then a wilderness, but that is far from the truth. Although sparsely settled, it had long been a farming community. It is possible to tell with considerable exactitude the location of the dwellings then standing, and the owners of the same. At that time, what are now known as River street, Milton street (from Paul's Bridge to Sprague street), Sprague street, Readville street, Wood avenue and a private way very near where West street now is, were all the streets in existence.

On the part of Sprague street within our limits there were no buildings. On the northerly side of Milton street stood the residence of Ebenezer Paul, on or near the site of the house now owned by Dennis Mahoney; and also that of William Badlam. This latter house was probably occupied by said Badlam and his son Lemuel, and is supposed to be the house now owned by Pertia W. Aldrich. At that time, or very soon after, a small school-house stood at the corner of Sprague and Milton streets, for, in 1787, land there was conveyed for that purpose, and we know from other evidence that a school-house was there at a later period. Near this school-house was the residence of Jonathan Damon, standing at the corner of Readville street, and now well known as the Bullard Estate. On Readville street, near the present Damon school, was the dwelling of John Damon. All these were in Dedham.

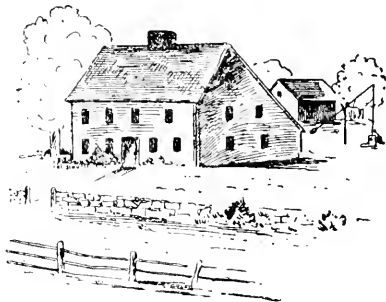
No house is known to have been in existence on River street from the present Dedham line northerly, until the residence of Abel Ellis was reached. This was on the westerly side of River street near Ellis street, and was in Dorchester. Next northerly and upon the same side of River street, was the Howe homestead standing near the residence of Charles L. Alden. This estate was in Dedham, and about this time was owned and occupied by Thomas Howe and Thomas Howe, Jr. This house has been standing within the memory of many now living. Nathaniel Wetherby lived very near the northerly corner of River and Cleveland streets. His house and all the residences hereafter mentioned were in Dorchester. Jeremiah McIntosh's



house stood where Miles and Morrison's store now is. A house now standing on the northerly side of Barry street is believed to be the same then owned by Mr. McIntosh. There were no other dwellings until what has since been known as the Jones house, standing at the corner of River and Webster streets, was reached. This estate was formerly the property of the Merrifield family, but was, in 1788, owned by Increase Sumner of Roxbury, and occupied by tenants. It is believed that there was also a house on the west side of River street and between Lincoln and West streets, the property of Ebenezer Trescott. There certainly was a house there in 1798. Next came the present Greenwood house, then owned and occupied by Lemuel Crane, a prominent citizen of Dorchester. Very near the present Butler School was the residence of George Merrifield, standing on land owned by the town of Dorchester. A small school-house stood about where the Butler School now is (see *ante*, page 9).

There was no mill upon the present location of the paper mill, but a little southerly of the present mill stood paper and chocolate mills, and upon the Milton side of the stream a saw mill. The paper mill was the property of William Sumner, Patrick Connor and Richard Clark. The chocolate mill was owned by the same persons and was at that time occupied by Dr. James Baker, who founded the extensive business now carried on at Milton Lower Mills under the name of Walter Baker & Co. The saw mill was the property of Col. Josiah Hayden, and was not within our territory. Near the paper mill stood a low, old-fashioned house, now standing under magnificent elms, and owned by Mr. Roundy. This, it is supposed, was then occupied by George Clarke and Richard, his son. The Sumner house was not then in existence, but opposite the present paper mill stood a house owned by William Sumner. At the corner of Wood avenue and River street, near the residence of Hiram J. Townsend, was the old Trescott place, then belonging to and occupied by the heirs of John Trescott. Just beyond the River street station, and upon the south side of River street were buildings owned by James Boies of Milton. Near what is now West street, upon the present Grew Estate, was the residence of Luke Trott, and upon the southerly side of Wood avenue there was, as late as 1764, a small house known as the Birch House, and at that time owned by Ebenezer Boardman. It is not known

whether this was standing as late as 1788. The Fairmount district was wholly unoccupied. In all, there were probably two school-houses, two manufacturing establishments and seventeen or eighteen dwellings.



OLD WHITING HOUSE, GREENLODGE.

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## A REMINISCENCE OF GORDON H. NOTT.

BY ORIN T. GRAY.

THE writer remembers an amusing incident in which Gordon H. Nott, then one of the most prominent citizens of the new town, but who is now a resident of Chicago, was the actor. In the early autumn of 1868, having occasion to go to Boston on the first train in the morning, as the writer came up Summer street into Gordon avenue, he observed Mr. Nott dressed in a peculiar negligee costume, wearing a summer hat which had lost the better portion of its straw crown, trotting along the street in the peculiar manner habitual with himself, and finally stopping suddenly and stooping at the base of one of the beautiful maple trees near where Gordon Hall was subsequently erected. Mr. Nott had brought a hand-saw along with him, and immediately commenced in a vigorous manner to saw across the butt of one of the most thrifty and beautiful trees on the avenue. The writer was amazed that anybody could commit such an act as the destruction of so beautiful a tree upon the street, and, in a voice little less than a yell, in which, doubtless, both surprise and indignation were blended, demanded to know why he was

destroying that tree. Mr. Nott kept on sawing while he replied that the tree was dead, and he proposed to get it out of the way and set out a live one in its place. In language more emphatic than complimentary he was told that the tree was not only alive but one of the finest on the street. With a hasty glance into the foliage of the tree above him he discovered his mistake, and, with expressions about his absent-mindedness which were highly amusing but not adulatory, he quickly removed to the right tree, which was indeed dead, and which he started out to cut down, and begun to saw with vigor. The last words uttered by Mr. Nott, as the writer hurried to his train, were, "I would not have cut that tree down for one hundred dollars."

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## PROCEEDINGS OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

THE two most notable events, since the April issue of the *RECORD*, were the celebration of the twenty-third anniversary of the incorporation of the town and the Field Day at Lexington.

The former was appropriately observed April 30th, last, the anniversary of the first meeting of the new town, in Y. M. C. A. Hall. In the enforced absence of the President, Mr. Orin T. Gray presided. There was a large attendance of members and friends. The Corresponding Secretary, Charles F. Jenney, called the attention of the members to the work and growth of the Society, and urged the necessity of more commodious quarters. Alpheus P. Blake, of Boston, gave an interesting account of the inception and early stages of the present village. Hon. Charles F. Gerry, of Sudbury, related some interesting reminiscences of the early church and temperance work, and presented to the Society a number of interesting documents. Corresponding Secretary Julius H. Tuttle, of the Dedham Historical Society, and Secretary Frederic Endicott, of the Canton Historical Society, made brief remarks. There was also music, and readings by G. Fred Gridley and Dr. Charles Sturtevant. Refreshments were served at the close of the literary exercises. It was a most enjoyable occasion. Full reports will be found in the local papers.

The Field Day at Lexington, June 17th, last, in connection

with the Dedham Historical Society, the Canton Historical Society and Dedham Camera Club, was both interesting and instructive. In spite of the very threatening weather, nineteen representatives of this Society were present. A special committee of the Lexington Historical Society accompanied the visiting party and pointed out the historic places and gave interesting accounts of them. A souvenir was prepared for the use of the party, giving the inscriptions on the tablets and monuments, marking historic buildings and sites, and other valuable information. The thanks of the Society are most gratefully tendered to the Lexington Society for the hospitality so generously extended by its committee. The very interesting account of the trip published in the local papers was written by Mrs. Charles S. Norris.

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#### NECROLOGY OF THE HYDE PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

UNDER this title, it is proposed to print notices of all deceased members of the Society. These sketches will necessarily be brief, but all facts gathered and not printed will be retained in the archives of the Society for future use and reference. This department is under the supervision of Charles G. Chick.

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AUGUSTUS ASPINWALL PAGE, son of Edwin and Caroline M. Page, was born in Campton, Grafton County, N. H., June 6, 1840. When very young, his family moved to Brookline, Mass., where he was educated in the public schools. His father died when he was seven years old. In 1857, he entered the office of C. D. Head and T. H. Perkins, bankers and brokers on Devonshire street, Boston, where he remained twenty-one years. He then became a member of the firm of Hornblower & Page, brokers, State street, where he remained up to the time of his death, April 17, 1888. February 28, 1879, he was elected a member of the Boston Stock Exchange. He came to Hyde Park, May, 1872. He was a member of the Hyde Park Associates, also a trustee of the Hyde Park Savings Bank. September 17, 1868, he married Mary E., daughter of

L. W. and D. Ellen Merrill. Of this union are two daughters, Mabel Augustus and Florence Gordon Page.

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WILLIAM THOMAS HART, son of William and Emeline (Thayer) Hart was born in Foxboro, Mass., October 8, 1850, and was educated in the public schools of his native town. He taught school two years in Foxboro after the completion of his school course. He was then engaged for three years as book-keeper in the straw factory of that town. Mr. Hart then came to Dedham and held the position of Master in the Endicott and Oakdale School for seven years, at the end of which time he resigned to accept a position as Master of the West School in Milton, Mass. At this time he removed with his family to Hyde Park, where he made his home until February 15, 1889, the date of his decease. Mr. Hart was married at Grand Barrington, Mass., August 1, 1878, to Miss Ella C. Hatch, daughter of Stephen L. and Mary (Couch) Hatch. He leaves two children, William Stephen, born June 1, 1879, and Mary Della, born August 16, 1887. Mr. Hart was a member of the Norfolk County Teachers' Association, holding the position of vice-president at his death. He was a member of the Baptist Church, both at Foxboro and Hyde Park, and was a member of the Hyde Park Historical Society and took a lively interest in its proceedings.

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## HYDE PARK BIRTHS.

COMMUNICATED BY EDWIN C. JENNEY.

1868.

[CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15.]

- June 8. Louisa H. Ryan, d. Lyford, b. Linden, Vt., and Fannie L., b. Vinal Haven, Me.
- " 10. Julia McDonough, d. John and Julia, both b. Ireland.
- " 15. Mary Ann Haley, d. Patrick and Margaret G., both b. Ireland.
- " 15. Benjamin F. Radford, Jr., s. Benjamin F., b. Portland, Me., and Anna M., b. Stillwater, Me.
- " 17. George C. O'Malley, s. Coleman and Mary C., both b. Ireland.

- June 17. Lilian E. Rogers, d. William, b. Oxford, N. H., and Nancy R., b. Boston.
- " 19. William J. McGorman, s. William and Mary, both b. Ireland.
- " 28. Florence H. Howland, d. Stephen, b. Plymouth, and Anne E., b. Newport, R. I.
- " 29. Herbert Bates, s. Joseph C., b. Eastport, Me., and Harriet A., b. Portsmouth, N. H.
- July — — Rowell, d. James and Francina S.
- " — James McCabe, s. James and Catherine, both b. Ireland.
- " 4. James W. Schofield, s. Joseph A., b. England, and Hannah F., b. Ireland.
- " 4. Charles L. Edwards, s. Charles L. and Eleanor W., both b. England.
- " 6. George W. Brooks, s. William and Catherine C., both b. Ireland.
- " 7. Joseph Pearson, (b. England), s. George and Ellen S., both b. England.
- " 28. Frank L. Grant, s. Edward L., b. Rockingham, Vt., and Julia A. H., b. Livermore, Me.
- " 26. Hanora Wallace, d. Richard and Mary B., both b. Ireland.
- " 22. Margaret E. Thompson, d. Robert, b. New Brunswick, and Harriet A., b. England.
- " 21. Albert Smalley, s. John and Alice D., both b. England.
- " 21. John F. Putnam, s. William M., b. Boston, and Bertha F., b. Sandwich.
- " 17. Marietta I. Hoogs, d. William H. and Hannah M., both b. Quebec.
- " 17. Alfred H. Smith (b. Brooklyn, N. Y.), s. Richmond, b. Little Falls, N. Y., and Eliza W., b. Washington, Ill.
- Aug. 2. Charles F. Hubbard, (b. Charlestown), s. Harlem P., b. Deep River, Conn., and Adelia C., b. Philadelphia, Pa.
- " 7. John W. Smith (b. Fisherville, N. H.), s. William and Mary E. S., both b. England.
- " 7. Mary A. Cannon, d. Michael and Winnaford H., both b. Ireland.
- " 7. Mabel L. Williams, d. John M., b. New Castle, Me., and Abbie M., b. Quincy.
- " 10. Arthur E. Campbell, s. Josiah, b. New Brunswick, and Caroline W., b. Dixmont, Me.
- " 11. Anna M. Fennell, d. William and Anna E., both b. Ireland.
- " 19. James Linsey, s. Isaac and Mary M., both b. England.
- " — John F. Bredt, s. Edward and Mary, both b. Ireland.
- " 25. Thomas Nash, s. James and Eliza M., both b. Ireland.
- " 28. Annie A. Grant, d. William and Margaret D., both b. Scotland.
- " 31. Joseph Henderson, s. William, b. Scotland, and Mary M., b. Ireland.

- Sept. 5. Thomas Mullen, s. Thomas and Ann C., both b. Ireland.  
 " 15. Edith Eleanor Foster, d. Alfred, b. Kingsclear, Eng., and Sarah E., (Brown), b. Deer Isle, Me.  
 " 12. — Ventres, s. William H. S., b. Haddam Corner, Conn., and Eliza M., b. Brookline.  
 " 17. Joseph Hepburn (b. Dedham), s. James, b. Scotland, and Allace F., b. P. E. Island.  
 " 10. Isabella Loftus, d. Michael and Johanna G., both b. Ireland.  
 " 18. Ellen Sullivan, d. John, b. Boston, and Ann L., b. Ireland.  
 " 25. Gertrude A. Collins, d. Edward W., b. Portland, Me., and Hannah E. (Leseur), b. Homer, N. Y.  
 " 29. Anna E. Bradbury, d. Cotton C., b. York, Me., and Anna E., b. Milford, Conn.  
 " 22. Elizabeth Henderson, d. Robert and Mary C., both b. Scotland.  
 " — Mabel A. Thayer, d. Lucius M. and Antoinette E., both b. E. Douglass, parents' residence, Milford, Mass.
- Oct. 1. Thomas F. Dolan, s. Thomas and Hannah H., both b. Ireland.  
 " — Mary Ann Pierce, d. Abel M., b. Providence, and Mary R., b. —, R. I.  
 " 4. Mary A. Taft, d. Samuel and Charlotte E., both b. Uxbridge.  
 " 7. Margaret Rafferty, d. Michael and Catherine F., both b. Ireland.  
 " 12. Mabel Tupper, d. Albert, b. —, and Alveretta W., b. Johnston, R. I.  
 " 15. Elizabeth F. Piper, d. Samuel N., b. Walpole, and Abbie F., b. Warren, R. I.  
 " 26. Mary Allen, d. Thomas and Ann F., both b. Ireland.  
 " 27. John Barnwell, s. John and Mary N., both b. Ireland.  
 " 27. Grace E. Lindall, d. George and Louisa W.
- Nov. 9. Ellen Duggan, d. Michael and Ann O., both b. Ireland.  
 " 19. Jeremiah Corbett, s. Jeremiah, b. Ireland, and Ellen M., b. Stafford Springs, Conn.  
 " 19. Lillie M. Hamilton, d. Edward P. and Sarah E., both b. Nova Scotia.  
 " 27. Emma J. Sweetser, d. William S., b. Boston, and Almira E., b. —, Vt.  
 " 30. Mary E. O'Mealley, d. Michael and Eliza L., both b. Boston.
- Dec. 1. — Halliday, s. George W. and Lucinda B., both b. Boston.  
 " 1. Everett C. Angell, s. David, b. Deer Isle, Me., and Georgiana A., b. Sharon.  
 " 8. — Ingersoll, d. William H., b. Gloucester, and Susan A., b. Westport.

- Dec. 16. — Collins, d. Albert R., b. Providence, R. I., and Sarah S., b. Lansdale, R. I.  
 “ 19. Nathaniel S. Rogers, s. George A., b. England, and Susan P., b. Boston.  
 “ 21. — Wilkins, s. Andrew J., b. Carlisle, and Hannah B., b. Warner, N. H.  
 “ 25. Fanny Dillen, d. Henry T. and Anna T., both b. Ireland.  
 “ 25. George Kingston, s. Thomas and Bridget C., both b. Ireland.  
 “ 31. — Connolly, s. James and Bridget C., both b. Ireland.

## 1869.

- Jan. 8. Emma Otesse, d. Newell and Mary (Draent), both b. Canada.  
 “ 18. Ellen Condon, d. Daniel S. and Mary A., both b. Boston.  
 “ 20. Perley J. Whittemore, s. of Preston B., b. Foxboro, and Melinda C. (Loud), b. Cookshire, Canada.  
 “ 23. Florence May Enneking, d. John J., b. Munster, O., and Mary E. (Elliot), b. Newport, Me.  
 “ 24. Louisa Virginia Ellis, d. Joseph D., b. Fairhaven, and L. Virginia, b. Woodstock, Vt.  
 “ 26. Susan Cox, d. Hugh and Elizabeth (Hickey), both b. Ireland.  
 “ 29. Michael Barrett, s. Patrick and Sarah (Smith), both b. Ireland.  
 “ 29. Lactitia A. Watson, d. William and Adelaide M., both b. England.  
 Feb. 7. Frederick McGowan (b. Roxbury), s. Patrick and Margaret (O'Donnell), both b. Ireland.  
 “ 13. John Mahoney, s. Cornelius and Joanna (Maddock), both b. Ireland.  
 “ 25. Mary Jane Jackson, d. Thomas, b. Scotland, and Rosanna (Cooper), b. Ireland.  
 “ 28. Harriet Florence Mayo (b. Roxbury), d. Charles H. and Harriet N. (Parker), both b. Boston.  
 Mar. 6. Julia Sweeney, d. Timothy and Catherine (Reagan), both b. Ireland.  
 “ 14. Emma Meister (b. North Oxford), d. Gustavus and Caroline (Schneider), both b. Germany.  
 “ 14. Susanna Francis Cripps, d. Matthew A. and Mary (Quinn), both b. New Brunswick.  
 “ 16. Thomas Rogers (b. West Roxbury), s. Michael, b. Ireland, and Hannah (Cowell), b. Baltimore, Md.  
 “ 17. Rosanna Frances Downey, d. Thomas J. and Julia A. (O'Donnell), both b. Roxbury.  
 “ 23. Joseph Francis Galvin, s. John, b. Ireland, and Catherine (Seavy), b. Boston.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]



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**To Historical Societies.**

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