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HYDE PARK HISTORICAL RECORD

WILLIAM A. MOWRY, Editor



. . VOLUME VI : 1908 . .

The HYDE PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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HYDE PARK
HISTORICAL RECORD

VOLUME VI—1908

WILLIAM A. MOWRY, EDITOR



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MRS MARY H. HUNT

MRS. MARY H. HUNT

BY MRS. HELEN A. GREENWOOD

President Hyde Park W. C. T. U.

Mrs. Mary Hanchett Hunt was born in South Canaan, Conn., July 4th, 1830, and died in Boston, April 24, 1906.

Through her mother she was a direct descendant of the English cavalier, Edward Winslow, an early governor of Plymouth Colony, also of the gifted and godly Thomas Thatcher, who was the first pastor of the Old South Church, Boston.

She was educated at Amenia Seminary and at Patapsco Institute, near Baltimore, Maryland; was a successful teacher of the sciences, especially of chemistry and physiology, and in 1852 was married to Leander B. Hunt of East Douglas, Mass.

In 1866, Mr. and Mrs. Hunt came to Hyde Park, which thereafter was Mrs. Hunt's home until 1893, when she removed to Dorchester.

A member of the First Congregational Church in Hyde Park, Mrs. Hunt for several years was an earnest and efficient worker and leader in many of its departments.

Of the three children born to Mr. and Mrs. Hunt, but one, Capt. Alfred E. Hunt, grew to maturity. He became a well-known scientific man, an expert chemist and metallurgist, and successful manufacturer of aluminum. In the prime of his manhood, he died in 1899 from disease contracted during the Spanish war.

In 1874-5, in connection with some of the scientific pursuits of her son while he was a student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Mrs. Hunt's attention was attracted to some British scientific studies of the nature and effects of alcoholic drinks. In them she saw the hope of saving the race from drink by in-

telligent conviction if only these and other facts about the true nature of alcohol could be made known. To do this preventive work on a large scale and effectively, she turned to the public schools with the conviction that by teaching these truths in the schools they would not only reach practically all the future citizens of the nation, but would reach them in the formative period of life before alcoholic habits had been established. Henceforth she was under the impelling power of the prophetic inspiration which became her motto: "If we save the children today, we shall have saved the nation tomorrow."

In 1879, Mrs. Hunt brought her plan before the National Woman's Christian Temperance Union Convention at Indianapolis and was made chairman of the Committee on Temperance Instruction in Schools and Colleges. The following year, 1880, the committee system gave way to departments. Mrs. Hunt became national superintendent of the department of scientific temperance instruction, and for twenty-six years thereafter, until her death, was the remarkable leader of a remarkable work. In 1887 she became the first superintendent of the same department of the World's Woman's Christian Temperance Union, and this position too she held until the end of her life.

Upon her appointment by the National Woman's Christian Temperance Union there began a unique and most magnificently conducted campaign. A letter written from Germany in 1906, by a Boston gentleman, expressed the opinion that "future generations of Americans will believe what many foreigners seem to think now, that Mrs. Hunt's success in the matter of scientific temperance instruction embodies the most important piece of constructive statesmanship which our day has brought forth."

Nearly three years, 1879-1882, were spent arousing public interest in the cause of temperance education from the public platform, before school boards, colleges, normal schools, etc., before she thought it wise to inaugurate legislative efforts. Then, in 1882, the first temperance education law in the world was enacted in Vermont. Twenty years later, every state in the United States and the National Congress had passed laws re-

quiring instruction in the public schools in physiology and hygiene including the nature and effects of alcoholic drinks and other narcotics. It was a wonderful tribute to the ability and persistent effort of Mrs. Hunt, who, during these years, had been the recognized leader of the movement which had the loyal support of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, and, to a large extent, that of other temperance organizations and of the churches. Very many of the legislative campaigns were conducted by Mrs. Hunt personally, whose wise generalship never faltered or hesitated.

The enactment of laws was in reality but the smallest part of the work. A hitherto unknown and undeveloped study had to be fitted into the school curriculum, adapted to grade, books had to be prepared and teachers trained. Hence, along with the constant legislative work Mrs. Hunt developed its practical educational application in the schools. As a basis of information as to the facts on the subject, she gathered what is probably the largest collection in the world of the results of scientific experimentation and investigation on the alcohol question.

These facts under her guidance were gradually embodied in school text-books for use by pupils of all grades. Courses of study were devised which not only have been widely used in the United States, but have been guides to other nations who are following the leadership of the United States in this branch of educational development.

With a vision which took in the whole world, Mrs. Hunt's eager mind reached out to the children of other nations, and correspondence with government officials and temperance workers opened the way to the extension of the principle of prevention through education.

Her attendance at the International Congress against Alcoholism, held at Brussels in 1897, under the honorary presidency of the King of Belgium, is said by one familiar with European temperance work to have been "epoch-making," because of the great stimulus given the European temperance education movement. She was made first vice-president of the Congress and received special consideration not only on the continent but in London,

where noted British citizens, at whose head stood the late Archbishop of Canterbury, met to do her honor.

Again, in 1903, Mrs. Hunt's presence at the World Congress against Alcoholism was urged, and with letters from Secretary of State Hay, Mrs. Hunt was received at this Bremen Congress with the honors of an official representative of her country. Her address was printed and widely circulated in Germany, and she was honored by the Empress by a private interview at which the Empress was an interested, sympathetic inquirer into the American plan for temperance education.

A most significant result of this visit to Europe was the movement started among British physicians which, in February, 1904, led 15,000 medical practitioners of Great Britain and Ireland to sign a petition asking that regular instruction in hygiene and temperance similar to that of the United States be given in all public schools of the kingdom. The work thus begun as a direct outgrowth of Mrs. Hunt's addresses and conferences in England, in 1903, is being pressed to a successful issue.

Mrs. Hunt's last days were spent at her home in Dorchester, where, despite increasing weakness, she continued her work managing it with her usual skill until the power of speech completely failed. But even in the last days she was greatly cheered by learning that the plans she had carried out in America were being adopted in Great Britain, Germany and other countries. As a result of America's example, scientific temperance instruction is being given to some extent in schools of Australia, New Zealand, Japan, China, British India, South Africa, most of the European countries; on this continent, in Canada, Mexico, Chili; and in Cuba, Porto Rico and the Bahama Islands.

Mrs. Hunt was a life director of the National Educational Association, and edited and published the *School Physiology Journal* for teachers.

She was an attractive and powerful platform speaker, whose spoken message was in demand to the very end of her life, and she probably addressed more legislative bodies than any other person of her day.



MRS. HUNT'S HOME IN HYDE PARK

An inspiring and successful leader, her own words were, "As a leader of the mighty hosts of godly Christian Temperance Union women, I have tried to follow the great Leader without whose guidance our efforts would have been in vain." But her leadership was not of a forlorn hope. The temperance education laws that she wrote are not only on the statute books of the national congress and all the states, but the teaching they require has been and is being written into the lives of the millions of children in the public schools and through them into the life of the nation.

"Her accurate knowledge, her clear vision, her forceful speech and facile pen, her reverence for God's truth embodied in natural law, her generous appreciation of her great and noble army of intelligent and efficient co-workers, her humble piety and prayerful faith in God, has placed her on record as one of the most unselfish and useful women of our time and has entitled her to the lasting gratitude of every lover of mankind."



CAMP MEIGS, READVILLE, MASS.

BY D. ELDREDGE

Read before the Meigs Memorial Association, 1906

Read before the Hyde Park Historical Society, 1906

PRELIMINARY.

I am here, my friends, at the request of the Meigs Memorial Association, to present to you, as best I may, in their name, the result of my labors in searching for and collating the facts in connection with the history of old Camp Meigs.

I have brought to them several photographs, comprising portraits and camp views, subject to such disposition or future display as they may see fit.

Of the search, much of which has been confronted by and surrounded with difficulties innumerable, I need not say that I have, like the gleaner Ruth, gathered here a little, there a little, or that where much was expected, little was found.

Crude in some parts, imperfect in others, I lay the facts before you.

CAMP MEIGS.

By way of prelude, away back in the forties, it was my fortune, as a very small boy, to live with my widowed mother, by the side of the pond at Readville—then known as Dedham Lower Plains—and to attend school very near the present site of the Damon School. My teacher was Rebecca Bullard, now gone to her rest. The house was near where the reservation apparently begins, under the hill near the woolen mills. It required considerable courage to cross the dam, for its roaring, to my boyish ear, was terrific.

Many of you readily remember John Farrington. I do, too, vividly, for he was, at the period I have mentioned, employed in

the mill, then a wholly wooden structure and insignificant in size compared with the mill of today. As I passed to cross the first bridge, it was John Farrington's delight to project his body far out from an upper window, and yell at me like a Comanche. Frequently I turned and went back to mother, whose reassurance of my safety again started me for school. A little later, in the early fifties, I was a youth at Mill Village, now East Dedham, and passed several years in that village, attending school, where the Avery School now stands. As a result of my residence as stated, I knew, practically, everybody, and became familiar with the geography of the whole town.

Years after I had removed from the town, the civil war broke out, and I became a minute part of Uncle Sam's great army.

This ends my prelude, only offered to show that I was, at least, partially equipped to take pickaxe and spade and dig up the facts concerning Camp Meigs.

I early directed my attention to

THE MONUMENT AT DEDHAM.

This branch of my subject may not interest everybody, but my research developed many items of value for preservation.

The Soldier's Monument at Dedham was erected by the state to the memory of the sixty-four men who died at Readville. But there this monument stood, calm, dignified, defiant, resisting all my early efforts to find its history. It is decorated each Memorial Day by the Post at Dedham, for which service the state pays the Post a small sum. But when was it erected? Who made it? Were there dedicatory exercises; if so, when and by whom? Were these men buried there in the order of their death?

Inquiry among the oldest inhabitants, and a letter in the local paper, followed a little later by an advertisement, all failed to produce anything satisfactory. A close examination of the State Auditors' Reports revealed the cost of the monument, but did not reveal the maker. Several critical examinations of the monument itself failed to reveal anything, even remote. At someone's suggestion, I took a fac simile of the lettering to a monument maker

in Boston, and he at once expressed his opinion that it was made in Taunton, and by one D. A. Burt. This is really not of superlative value. The latest death lettered upon the monument is that of Henry A. Gifford, of Co. C, 27th Mass., who died July 12, 1865, and his age is recorded as fifteen years. The earliest death shown upon the monument was that of Thomas Tracy, and the monument says, "Died Aug. 1, 1861, aged 33 years." No company, no regiment, because, although he went to camp to join the 20th Regiment, he met his death by drowning in the Neponset River before his opportunity came to be actually enrolled as a soldier, having arrived only the night previous. A very large proportion of the 64 names are of colored soldiers, of the 54th and 55th Infantry Regiments and the 5th Cavalry Regiment. I find that six died of small pox and were buried in the rear of the barracks that were erected first for the 44th Regiment, the spot being near the tracks of the New York & New England Railroad. These bodies were afterwards removed to the cemetery at Dedham.

In June, 1864, the state purchased the lot of Mr. Edward Stinson. It is long and narrow, being 15 feet wide by 165 feet long. This was a part of a considerable purchase by Mr. Stinson, and was next to the old cemetery itself, and practically became an addition, so called, and now one can observe no line to indicate where the addition begins. A study of the names shows that the monument was not made until after the last death recorded thereon, for the four sides are entirely symmetrical in having exactly sixteen names each.

There were presumably a few other deaths at the camp, but evidently relatives or friends took the bodies away. The receiving tomb was used prior to the time when the lot was ready, and there were a few burials in the old cemetery, later removed to the soldier's lot. I have made photographs of the monument—each of the four sides—and these I also present to the Association.

The State paid \$1,000 for the monument and its setting up, and \$450 for the lot. Finally it appears well established that each grave had originally a marker of wood, bearing the name,

etc., but time and weather so demolished them, that in 1892 the lot was graded, the graves levelled and resodded, the markers cast aside, and since then the entire lot is of one level, broken only by the beautiful monument in the centre.

BEFORE THE WAR.

Again let us go back to the 40's and to the land under consideration. It was then called Sprague's Plain, and was one general whole prior to the building of the Providence Railroad. State musters were held in those far-off days, and it was here that the "striped pig" is said to have made its advent, or more properly speaking, it was here invented. To those who are uninformed, I will explain that it was a ruse to cover the clandestine sale of intoxicants. The tent which served as a cover to a bar bore the legend "Striped Pig." About 1840 there appeared this verse in a local paper:

In Dedham now there is a great muster,
Which gathers the people all up in a cluster;
A terrible time, and what do you think?
They've found a new way to get something to drink.

And now we come to the Civil War, and the occupation of these acres by soldiers.

Mr. Ebenezer Paul, living near Paul's Bridge, owned the land, it having been willed to him and another by his Uncle Isaac, who died in 1852. The will was a peculiar one—really full of peculiarities, but I only mention a few. The widow, Ebenezer's Aunt Lydia, was quite fully protected in her rights as widow, and apparently as having a "life estate." The boys were to milk the cows and carry the milk to the house; they were to cut wood for the widow's use and carry it to the wood house and pile it up, and in time to dry for use. They were to provide annually one and one-half tons salt hay, and carry on the farm in the interest of the widow.

These few points are sufficient for my purpose, in calling your attention to what happened later.

It is related that the first that Ebenezer Paul knew of any designs upon his land as a camping ground, was his sudden discovery one morn of two or three men sitting under one of the long rows of elms, a few of which are now standing, and his cows gazing upon them with interest. Later, it is said, they came and took the land, leaving him to apply to the State for compensation, which he did, and I am credibly informed that he received three hundred dollars per year rental.

The first call for troops—insignificantly small as it proved—was succeeded in May, 1861, by a second, this time for 500,000, and it was under this call that the first troops assembled "On Sprague's Plain near Sprague's Pond in the town of Dedham." I have quoted the language of the order of Governor Andrew dated July 2, 1861.

When it became known that troops were to occupy this field, the neighbors were apprehensive lest the cows would fall into the hands of military separators, or that the morning examination of the chicken coop would reveal the fact that many chickens had been foully slain, or that their vegetables would be ruthlessly removed from their beds at night; but nothing of the kind happened, for Col. Lee was a strict disciplinarian.

The first to arrive upon these grounds,—and they came within a few days after the 4th of July, 1861,—were the 18th and 20th Regiments, the latter commanded by Col. William Raymond Lee, who is credited with having selected the spot. The ground over which we now are was covered by the tents of the 20th, while a little farther away from Milton Street, near the Elms, the 18th pitched its tents.

Two companies for the 18th Regiment came from Dedham. One company was purely local and the other was from Wrentham. They had been quartered together in the hall of the old Agricultural Fair Building at Connecticut Corner. They were escorted all the way by the five fire companies of the town, and two brass bands, creating quite a furor as they marched along.

The press announced the occupation of the Camp and said the camp is fine. Col. Lee in selecting it had an eye to the comfort

and health of the men. The field contains twenty-four acres and is in the vicinity of Sprague Pond and Neponset River. The soil is light and no marshy ground. There will be ninety tents for officers and men, and one kitchen for each company, built of rough boards. The storehouse has already been built and furnished with provisions. A well has been dug and water will be pumped from the pond.

Another paper said the spot is the old Dedham Muster Field, twenty-four acres, nearly square, perfectly level, and the camp is within 50 rods of the station. The large storehouse is near the kitchens, and they are in a row across the further end of the field as one approaches from Boston. A deep tub has been set, into which water flows from the middle of the pond, for cooking purposes. Another account says on the left flank of the camp is Sprague Pond, and in the rear Neponset River. Adjacent is a field of thirty-four acres at the disposal of the (20th) regiment for drill.

I have been somewhat minute in details, at this initial occupation, for several reasons not necessary to relate at length.

In connection with the accounts of the 18th Regiment, the press announced that the camp would be called Camp Brigham, and the 20th named it Camp Massasoit. This shows that each regiment adopted a name for its own camp, and this method continued for awhile, until the general name of Camp Meigs was placed upon the whole. The name Brigham was in honor of the Commissary General of Massachusetts, Col. Elijah D. Brigham.

And now camp life is fully inaugurated on Sprague Plain. Two regiments are in tents, and all the busy preparations for war are going on. The drilling of squads, platoons, companies and regiments; the dress parade, the uniforms, the officers, and even the individual soldier, all upon exhibition, for there are hundreds of visitors daily. Later in the war there were thousands daily, a constant, never-ceasing stream, and upon extra occasions, like a review, it was a difficult matter for the camp guards to walk their beats.

Camp life goes on apace, The arrival of clothing, of arms, of

any sort of supply, created more or less excitement, and just the same if such did not arrive when expected or desired. There was then a general feeling among the men that each Company had a right to choose its officers, but this idea became modified as the war went on, and finally disappeared. But alas and alack, when confronted with the facts that their wishes would not be wholly met, they rebelled and indulged in verbiage replete with adjectives and many violent parts of speech.

Of the two regiments under consideration, the accounts show that the 20th regiment was the greatest sufferer. For when that regiment was mustered in on the 18th of July, the men of Co. B absolutely refused to raise their hands, because they had not been assured that the officers of their choice would be commissioned. The next day apologized, and on the 26th they were mustered in.

This records the first semblance of mutiny, and then not a very serious matter. Later in the war it would have had a different coloring, and been summarily dealt with.

Of the items of interest in this first encampment, many of which might be related, a few only are selected. About the middle of August, several men of the 20th Regiment went to Sprague Pond, ostensibly to bathe, but really to desert. They were captured at Mansfield. They were to join an Irish Brigade in New York.

A hospital was established, a little removed from the noise of the camp. The patients rested on comfortable couches and had mosquito netting. About the middle of August it was announced that the 20th Regiment had about 500 men and the 18th Regiment 641.

These two regiments have now been uniformed, armed, mustered in, and must be sent to war. The 18th left Readville on the 26th of August, by rail for Stonington, thence by steamer "Commodore" to New York.

And on the 4th of September the 20th Regiment left. Apparently these departures left the camp entirely vacant, but such was not the fact. The men for the 24th Regiment began to report at Readville about the first day of September, and not

many days thereafter there were three companies of cavalry there, destined to become with others the 1st Massachusetts Cavalry. The three companies were from Boston, Springfield and Bridgewater, in all about 300 men.

By the end of September, the men for the 24th Regiment had become quite numerous, and they adopted the name of Camp Hatteras, presumably from the general rumor that they were to be a part of the force destined to make a descent upon the coast of North Carolina.

On the first of October, the boys of the 24th raised and dedicated a flag staff, and a salute of thirteen guns fired from a small cannon from Sevastopol formed a part of the ceremonies. On the 19th of October, a newspaper said that stables had been completed for 600 horses, the rest will be completed this week, and that the camp was near low, marshy ground.

The 1st Massachusetts Cavalry had a taste of a local rebellion on the 6th of November. On that day it became painfully apparent to the men of the regiment, that their wishes as to whom should serve as officers were being ignored, and they raised a considerable rumpus, so that violent measures had to be used to maintain order. When the trouble was at its highest point, a call was made upon the 24th Regiment to assist in restoring order. That regiment came upon the ground on the double quick, but not early enough to take an active part in the proceedings. Order was finally restored.

The Cavalry Regiment numbered 1,029 early in December, and they had about 900 horses. The cold was such that small stoves were issued, for use in the tents, which were of the Sibley pattern (conical). On the 9th of December, the 24th Regiment left for the seat of war, and the 1st Cavalry left on the 25th, 26th and 28th of December.

Of the horses issued to this regiment, said to be the most unruly in the whole State, the bays were assigned to Companies A, B, C, and D, the sorrels and roans to E, F, G and H, the blacks to I, K, L and M, and the grays to the band.

We have now, in the narrative, arrived at the end of 1861, and

all the troops have departed, and the camp now a mere shell. The only visible things are the sheds that were erected for the horses, the tent floors left by officers, and the storehouse.

In my further relation of events, I shall not go so fully into detail, for cogent reasons. Of the regiments now departed for the seat of war, the 18th, 20th and 24th, and the 1st Cavalry, much might be narrated. Men in each achieved distinction and each regiment had an experience peculiarly its own. Capt. Carroll of the 18th was wounded at the second battle of Bull Run, August 30, 1862, and died upon the battle-field three days later. Again, the 18th Regiment, in the Fall of 1861, was given a French uniform complete, including, beside the French uniform, tents, mess chests, etc. This singular event was said to have been because of extraordinary proficiency in drill. I find that three regiments only participated in this remarkable gift, one of each of the three brigades of Gen. Fitz John Porter's division. The other regiments were the 44th New York and the 33d Pennsylvania. You ask what use could be made of such a gift, and well you may. The gift was bestowed at Hall's Hill, Va. Much fun was created. The men could not wear the uniforms nor use the accompaniments, being in active service, so they were soon boxed and sent to the storehouse at Norfolk. Some succeeded in obtaining them again, and many sent home parts of the gift. The company from Middleboro is said to have obtained them intact, and wore them on their arrival home, marching through Boston, attracting a deal of attention.

1862.

Our camp at Readville remains vacant, silent and solemn until August, when under the call of 2d of July for 300,000, we find at Readville the 9th and 11th Batteries and the 42d, 43d, 44th and 45th Regiments. The four regiments are nine months men, and it is currently reported that they are to go together to North Carolina, but such did not prove to be the case.

A 44th man thus expressed himself: "We arrived here the 29th of August, about 4 P. M., and here our trouble began. We had either come too soon or the carpenters had been too lazy,

for only three of the ten barracks were roofed and some were not even boarded."

I will ask my hearers to mentally note that these were the first barracks built, and in August, 1862, and on the west side, and for the 44th Regiment. Simultaneously a set were built on the east side for the 45th. He then continues: "So while the carpenters were at work outside, we went at it inside, putting up and fixing the bunk. A load of straw arrived at sunset."

I will here remark that the Quartermaster, Capt. McKim (now Judge of Probate), employed William Bullard, of Readville, as one of his agents to procure straw, hay, wood, etc. This 44th man, who was quite prolific in language (and I feel thankful that he was), said further: "We are on the ground between the Providence Railroad and New England Railroad, south of the junction."

It affords me pleasure to present this association with the other photographs, one embracing these ten barracks, the first that were here erected, and in the picture is also the Tower house.

Again the 44th man says: "The field is just east of the embankment of the N. Y. & N. E. R. R. The barracks are nearly at right angles with the railroad. Marched to the pond to wash our faces."

A letter of the 6th of September shows a friendly rivalry between the companies in the matter of flag poles, and a letter of the 13th admits that Company D's flagstaff is entitled to the prize, and that the boys have christened the several barracks with romantic names, such as "Squirrel's Nest," "Sleeping Beauties," "Penquin's Nest," "Damon and Pythias," "Siamese Twins," etc.

The 44th man says, "Our first night was a jolly one. Poor devils who depend upon good sleep and a good deal of it for what vitality they can muster, might probably have sworn. Not that the boys were riotous, not even obstreperous, but simply jolly. The inside musical performance opened with a barnyard chorus by the entire company, and this was followed by a rapid and unintermittent succession of dog, hog, cat and rooster solos, duets, quartettes, both single and combined, until the arrival of an officer, who unfortunately had no ear for music."

On the 8th of September, 1862, I find the first mention of "Camp Meigs," and in connection with the fact of the arrival at Readville of a company from Dedham for one of the nine months Regiments. This company started from Temperance Hall, Dedham, and a procession was formed of all the five engine companies ; next were young ladies from the grammar school, the selectmen, recruiting committee, and citizens, the whole led by the West Dedham Brass Band, and marshalled by Sheriff Thomas, mounted on a rebel horse captured at Fair Oaks. They all marched to Readville. They were formally received by Col. Holbrook and men of the 43d Regiment.

On the 9th of September, Governor Andrew, by his Special Order No. 790, appointed Brig. Gen. Richard A. Pierce, of the State Militia, Commandant of Camp Meigs, Readville, as a military rendezvous.

The 9th Battery having left for the seat of war on the 3d of September, the troops at Readville found by Gen. Pierce to be under his command were the 11th Battery, 42d, 43d, 44th and 45th Regiments. Gen. Pierce established his headquarters near the station, and appointed his staff, taking nearly all from the State militia.

The photograph of the barracks of the 44th was taken on the 25th of September, 1862, and shows the flags at half mast. They were thus because of the funeral in Boston of Lieut. Col. Dwight of the 2d Mass., who had died of wounds. Six companies of the 44th attended the funeral. The barracks of the 45th are mentioned under date of the 27th of September by a 44th man, as having been constructed with more regard for light and air than were those of the 44th. This establishes the fact that the barracks of these two regiments were built simultaneously or nearly so.

The first to leave after Gen. Pierce took command was the 11th Battery, Major Jones, who died recently in Boston. They left on the 3d of October, and on the 22d the 44th left and on the 5th of November the 43d and 45th left. This left the 42d in sole possession, and they at once occupied the barracks vacated by

the 44th, and a little later were pleased to receive the 47th Regiment on the 11th, from Camp Stanton, Boxford, where they had been organized. They had been sent to Readville, where they could be better quartered.

And now we have two regiments only, the 42d and the 47th, both nine months regiments. At this time the weather had become so cold that stoves were set up in the barracks.

The stay of either of these two regiments was short, for the 42d left on the 21st of November and the 47th on the 30th.

Again we are viewing a vacant camp; again it is silent, solemn, desolate, but not like the end of 1861, for now there are two sets of barracks, one upon either side of the railroad.

1863.

The year 1863 starts in quite lively, the very first to organize and start for the seat of war from Camp Meigs being the 13th Battery, on the 20th of January, and this was soon followed by a detachment of about 350 for the 2d Cavalry on the 12th of February, and on the 9th of March the 15th Battery left, followed on the 11th of May by the rest of the 2d Cavalry.

Meantime the 54th Regiment had begun to form. This regiment was the first colored regiment organized in a northern state. Gov. Andrew received his authority to organize colored regiments in January, 1863, and apparently the first to arrive at Readville came on February 21st, and the twenty-seven men were assigned to the barracks first occupied by the 44th. This regiment had a unique experience. The twenty-seven men on the 21st of February had increased to 324 by the 21st of March and the regiment was filled and left Readville on the 28th of May, being sent to the Department of the South to operate against Charleston. Robert G. Shaw, who was made its colonel, was, with other young officers, chosen because of their firm anti-slavery principles, of their ambition, because they were superior to a vulgar contempt for color, and because of their military experience. The presentation of the flags, by Governor Andrew, on the 18th of May, was peculiarly impressive, the Governor taking occasion

to speak at length, and the occasion was otherwise marked. The regiment went to the Department of the South, in which department I was serving. They had been in the department but a short time when they were called to battle upon James Island, and following this, were suddenly called to Morris Island, and engaged on the evening of the 18th of July, 1863, in that memorable assault upon Fort Wagner. This regiment was placed in the forefront. My own regiment, the 3d New Hampshire, was also a part of the assaulting column. In the thick of the fight Colonel Shaw was killed, and next day buried in a trench, with the men whom he had led to their death. The beautiful monument upon Boston Common, opposite the State House, will testify to all generations to the valor of Colonel Shaw and his regiment. A school was established shortly after the close of the war, in Charleston, S. C., for colored children, in his honor, and named the Shaw Memorial School, and the city of Boston has also named one of its schools in the West Roxbury District in his honor. And thus the name and fame of Col. Robert G. Shaw are properly and appropriately perpetuated.

The 54th Regiment had scarcely gotten away when recruits for the 55th, also colored, began to assemble at Readville.

The next day, after the departure of the 54th, May 28th, the 11th Battery, Major Jones, returned from the seat of war, their term having expired. This marks the first return of the kind to Readville, and we must now be prepared to receive returning troops, as well as to bid God-speed to the departing. The 44th returned on the 18th of June, the 45th on the 8th of July, the 43d the 30th of July, the 42d the 20th of August, and the 47th on the 1st of September. Meantime the departures have been, on the 21st of July the 55th Mass., which was sent at once to the Department of the South and served with its mate — the 54th. The other departures for the year were the 2d Heavy Artillery on the 5th of September, four companies, and the two companies of the same regiment on the 7th of November.

In July occurred the trouble in Boston, New York, and other places, called the "draft riots." Boston dealt at once with the

case and in a manner producing the desired result. The Governor ordered General Pierce to send the men then in camp at Readville — men for the 2d Regiment Heavy Artillery and for the 2d Cavalry — to proceed to Boston at once by rail to maintain the peace of the city which was threatened with violence. Colonel Frankle (now of Haverhill) was placed in command of these men.

Thus, it may be seen that the camp at Readville furnished the armed force that suppressed this miniature rebellion in Boston, denominated in history as the "Draft Riot," and the command to fire the gun that dispersed the rioters was given by an officer from Readville.

Nothing further of interest occurred during 1863, and at the end we find the 1st Cavalry, 4th Cavalry, 56th, 58th, 59th, 11th Battery, 13th Heavy Artillery, and 5th Cavalry (colored.)

1864.

January 1st. But three camps now in Massachusetts: Camp Meigs, 2,270; Long Island, 1,086; Camp Wool, Worcester, 300; a total of 3,656.

On the 4th of February there were nearly 4,000 men in Camp Meigs, and on that day General Burnside reviewed them, accompanied by Governor Andrew and General Devens, each with his staff. A special train brought the reviewing party, arriving about 2 P. M., Jones' Battery fired a salute of thirteen guns.

The position of the troops was as follows: 4th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry, Milton street; 59th Regiment, 11th Battery, near barracks; 56th regiment, 13th Heavy Artillery, near barracks; 5th Cavalry, 58th regiment, west of railroad. Total 3,879.

THE STORY OF THE HOSPITAL.

In June, 1864, the barracks at Readville were ordered to be turned over to the Medical Department for conversion into a hospital. The barracks being in two groups, one east of the Providence Railroad, and the other west of it, I assumed that General Pierce exercised his judgment as to the scope of the order, and turned over to the medical department only those upon the east

side of the railroad, consisting of quarters for two full regiments, i. e., twenty barracks.

Barracks on the east side had been provided, up to that time, for only two regiments, but the barracks at Lakeville, near Middleboro, for the 3d and 4th regiments, then entirely out of use, were taken in pieces and removed to Readville by rail and there set up again. Consequently there were forty barracks as well as other buildings ready for conversion into a hospital. It shows that the cook-houses and officers' quarters were placed at the ends of the barracks, and thus forming porches, one at either end of the forty barracks, now wards, with a capacity of 1,000 patients. I find that the largest number was about 700 at any one time. All the accessories, whether of material, of buildings, or of medical officers, were supplied to make this a first class hospital, which finally embraced a library, gymnasium and chapel.

Again in 1864, a movement was started and gained some headway to have sick and wounded men transferred from the various hospitals to those in the states where they belonged by enlistment, and the establishment of this hospital at Readville was apparently in furtherance of that object. Dr. Frederick H. Gross was placed in charge. He was a surgeon of large experience. He had been with General Thomas, had been at Camp Parole, had been at various other points where ordered and needed, and his selection for this post was a wise one. At various times I find on duty with him as assistant surgeons: Doctors S. W. Langmaid, F. H. Brown, F. C. Ropes, George S. Stebbins, R. R. Clarke, J. G. Wilbur, G. S. Osborne, and as hospital steward, H. H. A. Beach, now Dr. Beach of Boston, and connected officially with the Massachusetts General Hospital. Doctors Gross, Clarke, Osborne, Wilbur, and Ropes have all died. As survivors, I find Dr. S. W. Langmaid, a throat specialist of Boston; Dr. Stebbins, Springfield; Dr. Francis H. Brown, Boston; Dr. Beach of Massachusetts General Hospital. I also find a son of Dr. Gross — Dr. Hermon W. Gross, surgeon at the Fore River ship yards, Quincy.

As to the work and capacity of the hospital, I find that in the middle of September, 1864, 350 convalescents were sent to the

field, and a little later about 400. On the 13th of December, 1864, there were 498 sick and 498 wounded, a total of 996. Early in May, 1865, there were 478 patients, cared for by 78 attendants, and on the 3d of June, 1865, there were 376 patients.

The guard duty, as was the custom, was by a company (B) of the V. R. C., and there were received in all 4,080 patients.

Of the many operations at this hospital, one requiring more skill than perhaps any other was that performed upon Private Paran C. Young, Company B, 3d Massachusetts Cavalry and now living in Provincetown, Mass. He had been severely wounded in the neck at Cedar Creek. He arrived at Readville, January 2d, 1865, and was at once reported upon the dangerous list. Four days later Dr. Langmaid performed tracheotomy upon him; and at a moment when he was presumed by the attendants to be dead, Dr. Langmaid knew better, and the result was that the man was almost literally snatched from the grave. A silver tube was inserted, and in all these years Comrade Young has breathed through it, and when he speaks, a hand is pressed in the proper place to permit speech.

On July 1st, 1865, it was ordered, the war having ended, that the hospital be discontinued, and the patients transferred to the Dale General Hospital at Worcester, and these orders were carried out with very little delay. The hospital having been discontinued, the supplies, such as beds, bedding, clothing and medicines were advertised to be sold at public auction on the 4th of October, but owing to the inability of Dr. Edgar, the Medical Officer (detained at Portsmouth Grove Hospital, R. I.,) who had special charge of the sale, was postponed to Monday, the 9th, when the sale took place. Mr. McGilvray, of Boston, was the auctioneer.

Having abruptly left my audience to trace the hospital, I now return to Camp Meigs. It must be borne in mind that upon the creation of the hospital, there became two distinct establishments, the hospital, wholly east of the Providence Railroad, and the camp, wholly west of said railroad. The latter comprised a set of ten barracks only, and it was in and near these ten barracks that all military operations were thereafter conducted, whether of de-

parting troops or of returning troops, and General Pierce had no authority in or with the hospital.

During 1864 there were so many organizations departing and others returning for muster out, that it is quite impracticable to more than mention them.

In this year there were organized at Readville about 27 companies of 100 men each, designated as "Unattached," and known by the numbers 1 to 27. These were, up to and including the company numbered 13, for ninety days, then up to and including No. 23 for 100 days, and Nos. 24, 25, 26 and 27 for one year. These companies were all for service within the state, notably on the coast, and were variously sent to Fall River, New Bedford, Provincetown, Salem, Marblehead, Gallups' Island, Fort Warren, Fort Independence and Gloucester. During the year 1864 the following companies left Camp Meigs:

January 8th, 2d Heavy Artillery (six companies); February 5th, 11th Battery; March 7th, 13th Heavy Artillery; 20th, 56th Regiment; 26th, 4th Cavalry (part); April 19th, 16th Battery; 24th, 4th Cavalry (part); 25th, 14th Battery; 26th, 59th Regiment; 28th, 58th regiment; May 6th, 5th Cavalry; August 1st, 60th Regiment (100 days). Unattached Companies: 90 day men, 4th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 11th, and 13th; 100 day men, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd; one year, 18th (re-organized).

Returned in 1864: 6th August 6th Unattached; 27th October 6th Regiment (100 days); 12th November 17th Unattached; 16th November 5th Regiment (100 days); 26th November 23rd Unattached. Returned in 1865: 12th May 18th Unattached; 12th May 26th Unattached; 12th June 5th Battery; 13th June 39th Massachusetts; 15th June 14th Battery; 16th June 11th Battery; 19th June 36th Massachusetts; 29th June 1st Cavalry; 30th June 40th Massachusetts; 2nd July 33d Massachusetts; 2nd July 37th Massachusetts; 6th July 34th Massachusetts; 12th July 23rd Massachusetts; 19th July 27th Massachusetts; 22nd July 56th Massachusetts; 26th July 2nd Massachusetts; 26th July 58th Massachusetts; 28th July 20th Massachusetts; 28th July 25th Massachusetts; 4th August 15th Battery; 9th August 57th Massachusetts; 9th August 59th Massachusetts.

It will be remembered that the medical supplies were sold on the 9th of October. The sale of the property used by the hospital, but actually belonging to the Quartermaster's Department, such as 217 stoves, six army ranges, horses, harnesses, wagons, etc., were sold on the 23d of October by Samuel Hatch, auctioneer. Next follows the sale of the buildings at Camp Meigs west of the railroad, on the 4th of January, 1866, consisting of ten barracks, ten cook houses, four officers' quarters, hospital building, guard house, four stables, three forage houses, in all about 280,000 feet of lumber, sold for \$3,100.

1866.

On the 13th of January, 1866, the *Dedham Gazette* announced that Mr. Ebenezer Paul had sold his entire farm to Charles A. White for the sum of \$20,000, including the old camp ground. "We had hoped," said the editor, "that the ground would have been consecrated to some public purpose."

Next came the Quatermaster's sale, 26th June, 1866, by Samuel Hatch, auctioneer, of the hospital buildings, forty of them 73x22 and twenty 46x15, seventy-one buildings in all, embracing store-houses, kitchens, laundry, etc. A conspiracy among the buyers was checkmated by the Quartermaster. The buildings brought from \$50 to \$400 each. The chapel, built and owned by the state, sold for \$480. Total sale, \$12,895.94.

Although the sale of the land was in January, 1866, we do not find the deed recorded until the 12th of April, 1867. The delay of over a year in date and delivery of deed was, by inference, caused by the peculiar will previously mentioned.

MEMORANDA.

1884. January 1. Deed Francis Bryant to Readville Homestead Association 1,665 feet.

1890. Hamilton Park Association organized.

1894. Changed to Meigs Memorial Association.

1897. May 30. Flag pole and guns dedicated, Post 121 G. A. R. officiating.

1903. January 4. Name of Hamilton Park changed to Meigs Memorial Park.

IN CONCLUSION.

Let me say that Hyde Park may well be proud of its delightful suburb, proud that so historic a spot is an integral part of the town. Proud may the dwellers at Readville be, for here, beneath our very feet, nearly fifty years ago, thousands marched up and down and upon this plain. The rattle of musketry, the bugle's blast, the rat-a-tat-tat of the drum, the clanking of the sabre, the neighing steed and the roar of cannon became familiar sounds.

Here the very flower of the youth of this good old Commonwealth of ours gathered themselves together as a mighty phalanx. Here they learned the art of war, bade fond mother and father, or wife, the sad good bye and marched away. Thousands never came back; other thousands perished upon the battle-field, or in the hospital or the dreadful southern prison. Yet other thousands of the wounded and the sick were sent here to the hospital that they might be near to those they loved and that they might be tenderly nursed.

May these memories, these facts, be kept green, and may the Meigs Memorial Association slack not its hand, but see to it that this and coming generations who make their homes here shall know that this is historic ground, that here was the largest military camp in New England, that soldiers went forth from here to a war such as no man had ever seen. And to you specially, as members of the Meigs Memorial Association, let me say, keep the subject of devotion to country before the people, fling the banner of the free to the breeze from yonder flagstaff upon every proper occasion, and keep bright the names of Meigs, and Shaw, and Carroll, till the last member will have drawn the drapery of his couch about him, and lain down to pleasant dreams. And finally, I offer you one and all, this sentiment:

To the soldiers who went from Readville,

For all they were,

For all they did,

For all they dared,

All honor forever

And for aye.

BIRDS OF HYDE PARK

BY HARRY G. HIGBEE

The inherent love of nature, born in every man, gives itself expression in various ways. Some will stand transfixed before a roaring cataract, lost in wonder at its mighty power. Others will find a peculiar charm in the study of the flowers and trees, and will be lured away by them to many pleasant and profitable hours spent in the woods and fields. Still others will sit by the hour at the seashore, watching the great waves come rolling and tumbling in upon the rocks, or gathering the tiny shells and mosses which abound along the beach. But whatever our particular hobby may be in the study of nature, there is that same charm and fascination which lures us on to investigate farther and farther into her hidden secrets, until we are lost in wonder and admiration at the marvellous works of the Almighty. The works of man are wonderful, but his most noble achievement is as nothing, when compared with the simplest flower, or the minutest form of animal life, in its beauty and perfection.

Nature opens up to us like a great book. We have but to study her in earnest and she will reveal to us many wonderful things. This study broadens our minds. It presents to us new avenues of thought, and new fields of pleasure; aside from the value of the healthful exercise which it brings to us, by the outdoor life and fresh air which comes from the pursuit of these studies—for nature should be studied first hand, in the woods and fields, and not from books, save only as a guide to identification, and to assist in personal investigation.

Nature study is now considered as a part of the child's education, and its adoption is becoming general throughout the public schools. The study of birds is an important branch of this general

topic, as they are of great economical value to us in keeping in check obnoxious insects as well as adding so much to the life about us by their beauty and song.

In studying the bird-life of any given section, the topography of the district must first be considered. There are many things which affect the distribution of the different species, such as climate, elevation, natural surroundings, and general habits of the birds.

While Hyde Park is fairly well proportioned in the variation of its geographical formation, its environment is not so good in this respect as in the towns immediately surrounding us. Consequently, not so great a variety of birds should be expected to be found. Surrounded as it is mostly by hills, this territory forms somewhat of a natural basin, being open on the northerly side toward the sea coast, from which it is about eight miles distant. Its elevation is slight, having no very high hills within its borders. Its area is about five square miles and it contains no large ponds, but the surface is pretty well broken up with swamps, small fields, meadows, and rocky hills. About a third of the area is wooded. The Neponset river, flowing through the town, is our only waterway, save a few smaller streams, and gives us a direct outlet to the coast. At the southern end of the town are large marshes, extending for some miles through the towns of Milton, Dedham and Canton; only a small portion of these meadows, however, coming within our borders. Consequently, few water birds are found here. To the west of us lies West Roxbury, entirely wooded along our border. These woods were the haunts of the naturalist Samuels, in the early sixties, and it was here that he procured much of the material for his well-known book, the "Birds of New England." To the north is Boston, and to the east Milton; both mostly residential near the boundaries.

Within this section have been recorded, as far as I have been able to ascertain, one hundred and fifty-one varieties of birds. These might be divided roughly into six groups. Twenty-four may be considered rare or accidental in this vicinity; thirty-three may be classified as scarce; twenty-five are migrants, and are

simply here for a short period in the spring and fall, on their way farther north, or south, as the case may be. Of those remaining, fifty-two are summer residents only, seven are winter residents only, and ten are permanent, or all-the-year-round residents. Of these one hundred and fifty-one varieties, I have observed personally one hundred and forty-one, having kept records and notes on the same for the past twelve years.

We will now take up in the order mentioned, these six groups. First, I will give some records of those which I have classed as rare, numbering twenty-four species as follows:

A dickcissel, or black-throated bunting, is recorded from Hyde Park in 1878 and Readville 1879. The usual habitat of this species, however, is in the middle states.

A prothonotary warbler was taken here on May 21, 1892.

A green-crested flycatcher was taken here with its nest and three eggs in June, 1888, and is the only specimen of this bird ever recorded from Massachusetts, being a more southern species.

The arctic three-toed woodpecker was abundant about Boston in 1860, and has been recorded from Hyde Park.

A saw-whet owl was taken here five or six years ago by Mr. Fred Downey, of this town.

A dovekie, or little auk, was found dead in the Fairmount district in 1902. A large flight of these birds was noted about here in September, 1872, and were probably driven in by a severe storm, as they are usually found only on the coast, and much farther north than this latitude.

A Bicknell's thrush, a bird usually found from northern Maine northward, was taken here on May 25, 1905, by Mr. Walter Zappey of Roslindale. Mr. Zappey has also taken the following rare birds here: Two alder flycatchers, which he took in the migrations of 1900, and a leach's petrel, which he found dead, floating in the Neponset river about ten years ago. The petrels are all ocean wanderers and this bird must have been blown in by a severe storm.

A yellow-bellied flycatcher was also taken here in the spring of 1900.

An orchard oriole was taken the same season by F. E. Webster, others being seen at the same time.

American herring gulls, kittewakes, and common terns are birds which I have rarely seen within our borders, being birds of the coast and occasionally driven inland by severe northeast storms.

The red-breasted merganser I have taken once on the Neponset meadows. This is a common bird on the coast. I also observed a least bittern on these marshes on one occasion. This was probably a not uncommon bird here years ago.

The snowflake I have seen here but once. This was during the severe winter of 1903-4, when I watched four of these birds for some time, feeding in the road near the Grew School. Mr. Zappey also observed a flock here about a week later. They are usually common on the coast, where they spend the winter.

The Connecticut warbler, Tennessee warbler, mourning warbler and bay-breasted warbler I have also taken here, but they are all rare.

The Lincoln's sparrow I have observed only once, and the house wren but once. This latter, however, was probably plentiful formerly, breeding in bird boxes until these places were usurped by the English sparrow.

I have also one record of the English goldfinch. I took a specimen of this bird on August 3, 1897. It was in company with another of the same species in the woods, and while it might possibly have been an escaped cage bird, yet the plumage showed no traces of it, and I believe that it was a wild bird, as it is known that a number of these birds have been introduced in different parts of the country.

Of the thirty-three species spoken of as scarce, the greater number are migrants, and are rather irregular in their visitations to this locality. These include such birds as the hairy woodpecker, gray-cheeked thrush, black-throated blue warbler, Wilson's warbler, and Blackburnian warbler. Others are found, perhaps fairly abundant in nearby towns, but the conditions are not just right for their habitat here.

As an instance of this, the long-billed marsh wren is found breeding plentifully on the Neponset marshes, but there being but a small part of these meadows within the limits of our town, the birds are therefore scarce here, as there are no similar conditions in any other portion of the town. With the warbling vireo the case is similar. This bird prefers the shelter of the great elm trees, such as are common along the roadsides of Milton. Here it hangs its pendant nest from the tip end of some long limb, and among its wide-spreading branches it finds ample food supply in the way of insects. Here it lives contentedly, warbling its sweet song throughout the day. Similar conditions would make these birds plentiful in our town. Other birds, as the woodcock and the purple martin, were formerly plentiful, but now, for various reasons, are scarce. Still others, as the pine siskin, redpoll, and pine grosbeak, are irregular winter visitants, appearing some seasons in considerable numbers, and perhaps not again for six or eight years.

The scarcity of birds is dependent upon many things and cannot always be accounted for. A few years ago the bluebirds became suddenly scarce and remained so for two or three years, causing general alarm among bird lovers throughout the state, lest this, the most loved, perhaps, of all the common birds on account of its endearing associations, should be doomed to follow in the path of the wild pigeon, which formerly roamed over this country in countless thousands, but is now practically extinct. Our fears were, however, happily without foundation, for the bluebird has re-appeared and is now as plentiful as ever. There was also a general scarcity of birds of all kinds during the season of 1903-04. Heavy storms prevailed during the spring migrations and in the early breeding season, causing the destruction of thousands of birds, especially those nesting near the ground. These conditions prevailed generally throughout the state. Purple martins were nearly exterminated in many places. The unusual severity of the following winter was also destructive to bobwhites and ruffed grouse, making them scarce the following season. The result of such conditions are entirely overcome, however, in a reasonable length of time, and nature again resumes her former balance.

The English sparrow is doubtless responsible for the scarcity of a number of birds which were formerly abundant about our houses. They have been driven back to places where, perhaps, they are more secure from their natural enemies. In this connection we must also consider the individual variation in species. Birds are like human beings. They have their likes and their dislikes, and while all birds of a given species follow, in a general way, the same custom, they are capable of a remarkable adaptability to change of circumstances; even, in some cases, changing their entire mode of living to suit the surroundings. This of course, would cause certain species to become scarce in places where they were formerly plenty. An instance of this change is shown by the breeding of the chimney swift, a bird which is supposed to have formerly bred in hollow trees in the depths of the forest, but now that the forests have been largely cut away in many places, it has adapted itself to the change, by nesting in chimneys. Last year I spent a month in the wilderness of northeastern Maine. Here I found chimney swifts plenty about the lakes, where they were probably twenty-five miles from a human habitation, and I have every reason to believe that they were breeding here in the forest, as they probably did centuries ago.

Another thing to consider is the extreme restricted locality of some birds, while others are found over an extended area. In this relation I will mention the prairie warbler. I know of only two limited districts in Hyde Park where one would be likely to find these birds, yet they cannot be considered scarce, as I could nearly always find them by going to either of these places. The yellow-breasted chat is a bird of similar habits and its range is likewise extremely limited.

We must know, then, something of the nature and habits of a bird to know where to look for it. These facts, however, apply principally to the nesting habits, as in migrating many species are often found associated in the same flock, which ordinarily have nothing in common, and are also found in places totally unlike their usual habitat.

This leads to the consideration of the migrating birds. I

mean the birds which ordinarily simply pass through this locality, going north in the spring, and again going south in the fall. Of course nearly all the birds migrate from summer to winter quarters. Even with those which we call permanent residents, it is not always the same individuals which are present with us the year round.

The migrating of birds has always been one of the greatest problems of the bird student, and is today as unsolved in many respects as it was a hundred years ago. Because it is so mysterious it is therefore interesting and fascinating to study. Of these great questions concerning migrations, I will not attempt to speak, as this discussion in itself would make a lengthy document.

Our opportunity for studying the migrating birds is necessarily limited to a very few weeks, and sometimes to a few days in a season. Perhaps they are here one day and gone the next, and it is difficult in the time we have, to become very well acquainted with their songs and habits. Severe storms often drive migrating birds far from their course, destroying many, and causing others to wander to places outside of their usual range. The month of May is the usual time of the spring migrations in this locality; from the fifteenth to the twenty-fifth being the time of the greatest flight. Most of our birds migrate at night, resting and feeding during the day-time, and one may often hear the chirps of a passing flock on a warm night in the spring or fall. The food supply has much to do with the length of their stay. Also if the weather is not favorable the flight will be short.

Probably the most notable example of migration which we have is the flight of the Canadian goose. They usually migrate in the day-time, but often at night, like our smaller birds. Who does not recognize the loud honk! honk-a-honk! of this noble bird as he comes northward in the spring, the immense V-shaped flocks stretching across the sky? What a fine general is the old gander at the head of the flock, to preserve such perfect order and to guide them safely on their long journey northward to their summer home!

Our principal migrants here are some of the thrushes, sparrows,

and warblers, and of the twenty-five species mentioned, I will speak of three as interesting cases.

The red-breasted nuthatch is a common migrant, especially in the fall, and occasionally remains throughout the winter.

The Wilson's thrush is not uncommon in the spring, usually remaining here about a week. I have no doubt, however, that it sometimes breeds in this locality, as I have found it nesting in similar places nearby.

The blue-headed or solitary vireo is one of our spring and fall migrants, though not very abundant, and on one occasion I observed it nesting here. It was remarkably tame, I remember, and allowed me to remove it from its nest with my hand. An especially large flight of warblers was noted here in the spring of 1900, and prevailed generally throughout the state. This flight lasted from the ninth of May to the fifth of June. Fifty-two species I have classed as summer residents. These, of course, are the birds with which we are most familiar, as our opportunity for studying them is so much greater than with the others mentioned. They represent many different classes and families. Some, as the Baltimore oriole, red-eyed vireo, chipping sparrow, yellow warbler, and robin, are social fellows, preferring to make their haunts about our houses, or in the shade trees along our streets, and rarely venture very far into the woods. Others, like the kingbird, purple finch, least flycatcher, and bluebird, must be sought for in the orchards and fields. Still others, like some of the hawks, bittern, rails, swamp sparrow, and brown thrasher — birds which are more shy and retiring, must be looked for in the deep recesses of the woods and swamps, as they seem to avoid as much as possible the society and haunts of man.

What an endless variety is here presented to us for thought and study, or for pleasant recreation. You may watch the chimney swift as it hovers over the top of a dead tree, breaking off the twigs with which it builds its nest, never once alighting during the whole operation; or you may float down the river in a canoe through the marshes just at dusk, and if you sit motionless as a statue you will doubtless see the rails come silently out from

among the rushes and run about on the mud flats in search of insects, for they have been asleep all day and are just coming out for their nightly jaunt and revelry ; but if you make a motion, however slight, back they will dart into the shelter of the rushes, only to reappear, however, in a few moments. Or again, you may sit by the hour some beautiful May morning on the side of a rocky hill and watch the red-tailed hawk, as it soars majestically in ever-widening circles, rising higher and higher, till it is finally lost to vision in its dizzy height. One of these birds has been known to soar for five hours without once alighting. Who would suspect the great blue heron of such a trick as this ? Yet I one day saw one of these great birds rise up from the marsh, and launching itself into the air, it circled about, soaring with all the dignity and majesty of a hawk, rising up until it was a mere speck in the sky and finally disappearing altogether. Each bird has its own peculiar habits, and how remarkably it is adapted in form and color to its own particular needs. It takes a keen eye indeed to notice the ovenbird sitting within its dome-shaped nest upon the ground among the leaves, or to discover the ruffed grouse standing motionless in the swamp. Its protective coloration is perfect, blending so well with all its surroundings. Watch the woodpecker on the dead stub. What powerful muscles of the head and neck he has, and what a sharp, strong bill to bore deep into the wood for the insects there upon which he feeds. We find many things which puzzle us in the study of these charming creatures. Why does the wood thrush always adorn its nest with strips of old rags or bits of newspaper, woven in among the twigs and roots ? Why does the marsh wren build four or five nests, and then choose the one which it likes best for occupancy ? These and many other questions still remain for us to solve.

The arrival and departure of the summer birds may be looked for at stated periods, but of course will vary somewhat in different sections. A special instance is that of the Baltimore oriole, which makes its appearance every year about the eighth of May, and in the twelve years that I have observed it, has not varied more than three days in the time of its arrival here. The spring of 1899 may

be noted as an early spring, many of the arrivals being much earlier than usual. In some of the species the males arrive first, being from a week to ten days in advance of the females. I have noted this with the bluebirds, flickers and blackbirds. Others, however, particularly the late comers, are already mated upon their arrival here, and enter at once upon their domestic duties.

A few instances of birds failing to migrate are noticed, leading us to believe that food and shelter may be more prominent features in relation to this phenomenon, than is the climate or instinct. There is a certain hill in East Milton which is densely covered on one side with a thick growth of cedars, forming excellent shelter from the cold and storms, and providing a certain amount of food. At the foot of this hill is a spring which remains open throughout the winter. Here, most any day in winter, may be found flocks of robins, flickers, purple finches and myrtle warblers. A bittern has also wintered here for a number of years. Would not more birds remain with us through the winter if the food supply was sufficient? A few of the hawks remain with us through the winter, and occasionally flickers and song sparrows in small numbers.

Just before the departure of our summer birds in the fall, one may often note large flocks along the roadsides, containing robins, sparrows, thrushes and warblers. Thousands of swallows, too, will fill the air, and suddenly in one night they will vanish. We cannot find one the next day, and we are suddenly brought to the realization that summer has really gone.

The varied songs, plumage, and nesting habits give us ample material for study. I remember once finding a song sparrow nesting six feet up in a cedar tree in a high field. Why it chose this site instead of the usual ground nest in the middle of a swamp, I do not know, but it certainly must have been more than instinct, and I firmly believe, from the actions which I have observed in many cases, that birds possess certain powers of reasoning. A peculiar trait I have noted in the ovenbird, is that it is often heard to sing in the middle of the night, and I have also observed this in the indigo bunting, and the swamp sparrow.

Many of our common birds change their plumage in the fall, donning a new coat for their winter wear which is sometimes entirely different from that worn during the breeding season. Who would take the bright-colored goldfinch which we see on our thistles and sunflowers, like a very bit of the sun itself, for the same bird as that sombre, olive-gray fellow, which we see feeding with the flock in the birches by the roadside in winter? The scarlet tanager, too, loses his brilliant coat in the fall, and ere he leaves for his southern home, has donned a coat of dull olive-yellow similar to that worn by his mate during the breeding season.

Our winter residents are somewhat erratic in their appearance here. The slate-colored junco, tree sparrow, white-breasted nuthatch, golden-crowned kinglet, and brown creeper, may be met with most any winter's day in the woods, but the American and the white-winged crossbills are irregular visitants from the far north. During the severe winter of 1903-'04 these northern birds were much in evidence about here. Pine grosbeaks were also abundant for the first time in ten years.

How you laugh as you watch the nuthatch, as he clammers about the trunk of the tree in search of insects. He will jump broadside around the trunk, or head first down its perpendicular sides, with as much ease as he will either forward or backward. He apparently pays not the slightest heed to the laws of gravity, or equilibrium. You marvel, too, at the tiny golden-crowned kinglet, not much larger than a humming-bird, and wonder how he can withstand the severe cold. But how happy he is, flitting gaily about, finding his food among the pine and cedar trees, and now and then giving vent to his contented feelings, with a faint but cheery whistle. He is never still for an instant, and as he tips downward on the end of a cone, you catch glimpses of his pretty golden crown.

Adding our list of permanent residents to those which are winter visitants only, we have about seventeen species of which we might hope to make the acquaintance under favorable circumstances, in a winter's season.

There is probably more or less migrating of those birds which

we call residents. While the crow, for instance, is with us the year round, it is found in much smaller numbers in the winter than during the summer months. This is evidenced by the large flocks observed in both the spring and fall migrations.

On the whole I consider the birds as plentiful in this locality as they were ten years ago, and I have found their study a particularly fascinating one. Their acquaintance may be cultivated and their presence encouraged about the house, by providing food for them, especially in winter and in severe weather, and they should be protected by all lawful and proper means. It is not difficult for anyone to find and study the birds. During a walk of about two hours in the migrating season last spring, I observed forty-three varieties.

In conclusion, I would say that if you really want to know anything about the birds of Hyde Park, go out into the woods and fields at daybreak, and listen to their songs, or watch their home life in their native haunts. Make them your friends, and you will soon find that you have not only learned their habits and their songs, but that you have added to your resources, to your health, and to your pleasure, and that you are better prepared to go forth to solve the difficult problems of the day's work.



FRANK BOWMAN RICH

FRANK BOWMAN RICH

At a meeting of the Curators of the Hyde Park Historical Society, Mr. Erastus Edward Williamson, who was the postmaster of "Fairmount" in 1864 and 1865, Mr. H. S. Bunton, and Mr. S. E. Newell, were appointed a committee to prepare suitable resolutions on the death of the late Mr. Frank Bowman Rich. On behalf of the committee, Mr. Williamson reported as follows :

IN MEMORIAM
FRANK BOWMAN RICH
BORN FEBRUARY 18, 1860
DIED JANUARY 17, 1907

Mr. President : —

The wise author of Ecclesiastes gave to the world a great truth when he wrote that "There is a time to be born and a time to die." The circumstances which surround one's birth have, in most cases, wide influence in moulding the character and shaping the destiny of the individual. The year 1860 — the year of our departed friend's birth — was one of tremendous unrest and anxiety to the American people, both in the North and in the South. The people of the North, and those of this ancient commonwealth in perhaps a special sense, were filled with gloomy forebodings. Civil war was soon to burst with almost the velocity of a meteor's glare. The peaceful little village of Fairmount and Hyde Park, with only five years' brief and unimportant history as a settlement, was soon to be the close neighbor of a warlike military camp, and, instead of its local energies being centered on the development of the new enterprise of building here on the banks of the "Neponset" a beautiful and flourishing town, its citizens are watching with profound anxiety the dark cloud which was appearing in the nation's sky, and which was so soon to burst in the most awful war-tempest. A dark pall hung not only over Massa-

chusetts, but over the entire country ; and this peaceful locality, so lavishly favored by our Creator by its undulating scenery, was soon to become the camping ground of the volunteer patriot soldiers.

Fairmount was the eastern part of the county, barely seven or eight miles from the State House, surrounded by the grandly beautiful and historic territory of old Dorchester, Milton, Roxbury and Dedham, including some of the finest suburbs of New England's metropolis. One could stand on Fairmount Hill, and the eyes could sweep across the lower harbor of Boston on the east, to the Blue Hills, which shut the horizon on the southeast, and away over the velvet-like valley of the Neponset to the south; and over to the west and north were prosperous towns. With such surroundings, on the surpassingly inspiring spot on Summit street, Fairmount, then a part of the rich township of Milton, Frank Bowman Rich was born.

He had excellent parentage. His father, Henry A. Rich, a man of sterling traits of character, born in 1833 in Hardwick, Mass., gave to our lamented friend, whom we hereby seek to honor, many of his habits of industry and his disposition to take interest in everything which had reference to his native village. His mother, Harriet F. Bowman, was born in Warwick, Mass., in 1832. She was of an intellectual cast of mind, and had received early mental training as a teacher in the public schools. It will thus be seen that the early childhood of the late Mr. Rich was guided by honest-hearted and highly intelligent home influences. His mother inculcated into the minds of her children studious habits and a deep love for the little village of Fairmount.

Mr. Rich's boyhood days were passed as might be those of any country-village boy. His was not the farmer-boy life — the best possible early life — but it was life in the country, indeed, and a beautiful country. He was scarcely more than five or six years old when his inherent penchant for gathering interesting items and clippings began to manifest itself, and before he was ten he had gathered interesting and valuable books and documents which bore on the local history of Fairmount, and works of authors

specially calculated to increase his love of home and native heath. In this he was very methodical, a characteristic more fully developed later in life.

"The child is father of the man," says the familiar proverb, and at school he was very industrious and proficient in his studies, and in 1873, at the age of thirteen, he graduated from the Fairmount School, afterward attending the Hyde Park High School. With this educational equipment, not especially remarkable, he entered the Bryant & Stratton Commercial College, of Boston, where he planned to fit himself for a purely mercantile career. But few of the occurrences of the now five-years' old town of Hyde Park escaped his attention. In this characteristic he inherited the industry of his honored father in gathering historical facts and in compiling day by day the most important happenings in this rapidly growing village, so that in later life, when he began to enter into the public affairs of the town, he was the best equipped man in the whole surrounding section regarding the personal and local history of the new municipality.

In 1879, when he was scarcely nineteen, he entered the wholesale dry-goods house of Lewis Coleman & Co., Boston, and began what he fondly supposed was to be a purely commercial career. In this he was to be mistaken. The immortal hymn by Cowper, written more than a century previous, fitly applies to this period in Mr. Rich's life.

"God moves in a mysterious way,
His wonders to perform."

I have received from the present postmaster of Medford, Mr. J. Henry Norcross, who hired Mr. Rich as a boy, the following interesting letter, which pays fine tribute to the young man then starting out in business life :

"Medford, May 1, 1907.

E. E. WILLIAMSON, Esq.

My dear Sir :

It is quite difficult to give full and strong recollections of Frank B. Rich of Hyde Park, as a member of the firm of Lewis Coleman Co., 9-19 Chauncy street, Boston. I hired him as a boy to learn the wholesale dry and fancy goods business. This must have been nearly thirty years ago. I distinctly

bear him in mind as mature from the very start, applying himself very closely, so noticeable as to receive quite rapid promotion, for he was earnest, ambitious, and a hard worker.

Sincerely yours,

J. HENRY NORCROSS."

As befalls most of us, unforeseen conditions and circumstances changed the whole course and trend of his earthly life. January 1st, 1886, after seven years' service with this firm, he tendered his resignation, and conjointly with his only brother, established the well-known dry goods business in this town under the firm name of Rich Brothers. In connection with his other business relations, he decided to establish a real estate and insurance agency, and in this, also, success to a marked degree crowned his efforts.

Never for a moment did he abandon his favorite pastime — the study of local history — continually gathering a fund of valuable historical facts for the fortunate future historian of this fair inland town.

In 1879 and 1884 his alumni association made him its president, showing that in these small affairs he was popular with his fellow-pupils. Again in 1883 he was influential in organizing the Young Men's Lyceum of Hyde Park, and was the first president of the same. It was this year, also, that he became the president of the Young Men's Republican Club, which really marks his entry into political affairs in Hyde Park.

In connection with his business, in 1883 he was honored by Governor Benjamin F. Butler with an appointment as justice of the peace, and he held that office by reappointment ever afterwards, receiving commissions from Governors Brackett and Wolcott. At the same he was taking great interest in the social life of Hyde Park. In 1884 he was the chief templar of Energetic Lodge, 125, of the Independent Order of Good Templars; but his social obligations and connections did not turn him aside from his pursuit of things nearest to his heart regarding the welfare and history of his town. We find him, in 1885, treasurer of the Republican Town Committee, and chairman of the Fourth of July celebration committee; and also, chief marshal of the parade, thus showing that he was honored by those who had these public matters in charge.

In 1887 he was elected a trustee of Hyde Park Public Library and served in that capacity for three years. On the 15th of March, 1887, he joined the Hyde Park Historical Society, which was organized at that time. All these things indicate his interest in local affairs, and his ambition to be useful to his native town. About this period the most interesting and important fact of his life thus far occurred — his marriage, December 13, 1888, to Miss Emma S. Young, of Jamaica Plain, Mass., and this marriage, which was an exceedingly happy one, covered the period of eighteen years, one month and four days. Three children were the result of this union, and no happier family existed within the limits of our town.

He was soon after, in 1896, appointed a notary public by Governor Greenhalge, and also became a member of Forest Lodge, 184, I. O. O. F., thus still further becoming connected with the manifold social elements of the town, and it may be said that in these fraternal organizations he found congenial companionships, and was ever one of the most popular and most welcome members of the several organizations to which he belonged. His patriotism and public spirit were well-known and appreciated, and it is not to be wondered at that in 1897 Timothy Ingraham Post, 121, G. A. R. elected him an associate member, and the Grand Army boys were always pleased to a high degree with his connection with their membership.

This year, as it proved, was to be a most important one in the life of Mr. Rich, for he was to be chosen to the board of selectmen, the most important position in the government of the town, and was re-elected to that office in 1898, 1899, 1900, 1901, 1904 and 1905, seven terms in all, and was chairman of four boards, those of 1898, 1899, 1904 and 1905.

He was also a member of Eunice Degree Lodge, 149, Daughters of Rebecca, in connection with his Odd Fellowship, and a member of Hyde Park Lodge, 138, Knights of Pythias, being a Past Chancellor, and, also, a member of Uniformed Degree Rank of the same order.

When the Hyde Park National Bank was organized in 1904, he

was chosen a director, and took great pains to secure the first bill issued by the bank, number one of the five-dollar denomination. He served as a director till his death. His church connection was with the Unitarian Society, and when the church edifice was erected he became an active member and retained his interest ever afterward, holding important positions.

Besides engaging in these various activities pertaining to the town, he essayed to enter more largely into the public affairs of the county, and aspired to become a county commissioner, for whose duties he was amply qualified by experience and natural aptitude; and while he did not then succeed in securing the coveted position, still, he made his name more familiar to the district comprising our county, and became acquainted in a larger field of political life.

All these official stations which he held, and the social position he easily attained, gave evidence of the fine, popular traits which he possessed, and had his span of life been lengthened, he would have gained larger opportunity for his abilities. None of us who followed him Patriots' Day, April 19, 1906, as he went from house to house through the Fairmount district, will ever forget the rare judgment he showed in narrating the history of the houses, nor his apt references to the original occupants of the places. His nature had a humorous side, and he could see the peculiarities of temperament and the varied characteristics of the early settlers, with whom he had associated as a boy and young man. Who of us who knew him well can ever forget his bright, penetrating eyes — the great human indicators — as they lighted up and fairly sparkled while he engaged in conversation, or became earnest in advocacy of anything dear to his heart? Hyde Park has seldom had within its borders a brighter or more comprehensive intellect with reference to business intelligence and historic research; and no man ever lived in Hyde Park who loved the town better, or knew more of its people, both early and latterly, or was more universally beloved, and few people would be so deeply mourned at their taking off.

There is a very pathetic side to the sudden death of this dear

friend. We see him in the vigor of health and manhood starting out on a bright morning in January, bidding his wife and children an affectionate good-bye, on the very threshold of his door, and even having them follow him down the walk, little dreaming that it was to be the last earthly greeting.

Nothing could be more pathetic. He could well exclaim with that writer of sweet songs, P. P. Bliss,

"I know not what awaits me,
God kindly veils my eyes.

* * * *

Oh blissful lack of wisdom,
'Tis blessed not to know;
He holds me with his own right hand,
And will not let me go."

On January 9, 1907, as he was walking the streets of Boston, in Park Square, he was suddenly stricken with apoplexy, and died January 17th following, at the City Hospital, Boston, never having fully regained consciousness. Thus was brought to a close an active, useful, industrious life. By some, it seems that such a sudden taking off is "untimely," but we hesitate to declare any death "untimely."

In June, 1865, when the whole northern section of our country was in mourning for the death of Abraham Lincoln, Senator Charles Sumner, one of the most distinguished orators of any time in the world's history, began his marvelously eloquent oration on Lincoln with these words, "In the universe of God, there are no accidents, from the fall of a sparrow to the fall of an empire, or the sweep of a planet; all is according to Divine Providence, whose laws are everlasting."

It was no accident that gave to the town of Hyde Park the services of the industrious local historian and patriotic citizen, whose memory we seek to honor, and in the light of what we believe to be God's infinite wisdom, we cannot properly affirm that his sudden and unexpected departure to another life was a mere accident.

"All is of God! If he but wave his hand,
 The mists collect, the rains fall thick and loud;
 Till, with a smile of light on sea and land,
 Lo! He looks back from the departing cloud."

The great mysteries of life and death are beyond our frail human knowledge. But this we know, none return who cross with the boatman.

"For none return from those quiet shores,
 Who cross with the boatman cold and pale:
 We hear the dip of the golden oars,
 We catch a gleam of the snowy sail:
 And lo! they have passed from our yearning heart,
 They cross the stream and are gone for aye.

We may not sunder the veil apart
 That hides from our visions the gates of day:
 We only know that their barks no more
 May sail with us over life's stormy sea:
 Yet, somewhere, I know, on the unseen shore,
 They watch and beckon and wait for me."

We, therefore, his fellow citizens, desiring to place upon our records our estimation of his life and character, do hereby adopt this portrayal of his life-work, and the following preamble and resolutions:

Whereas, in the infinite wisdom and providence of our Heavenly Father, one of our highly esteemed fellow-citizens, who became a valued member of this society at the time of its organization, March 15, 1887, FRANK BOWMAN RICH, has been called suddenly away by death; and,

Whereas, the Hyde Park Historical Society desires to make permanent record of its high regard for and deep appreciation of his many social accomplishments and civic virtues, be it therefore

Resolved: Firstly: That in the death of Frank Bowman Rich, his immediate family has lost a loyal and true husband, who loved and honored his home, and whose affections centered in it; an affectionate and indulgent father, whose profound love for his children called forth the deepest expression of tenderness and the most earnest exhibitions of paternal sacrifice; a brother, who always felt the right brotherly attachment, and indicated it in all his family and business relations; our town a citizen, who was exceedingly patriotic, and who loved with intensity the place of his birth, where he had spent his life, and spared no pains in preserving the precious record, both of persons and of places asso-

ciated with it; a public servant whose integrity and uprightness were never questioned nor doubted; whose ability was conspicuous, and whose industry and painstaking efforts on behalf of Hyde Park will be an enduring and pleasant memory; our townspeople a friend, loyal and confiding always, whose personal presence was an inspiration to good-fellowship and sociability; and lastly and comprehensively, we all are bereft of a modest gentleman, of genial personality and bearing, whose absence from our streets and from places connected with our social life and activities is felt by all who knew him, and his demise is regarded as a severe personal loss to his friends and to this community.

Resolved: Secondly: That the late Mr. Rich's example is an incentive to greater endeavors to build up our town and to augment a patriotic interest in its history and well-being, and to preserve its honorable transactions and local records for the generations to come.

Resolved: Thirdly: That this rehearsal of the dominant features of his career, with the preamble and resolutions, be filed with the records of this Society, and a copy be sent to the family of the deceased.

Respectfully submitted,

ERASTUS E. WILLIAMSON,

HENRY S. BUNTON,

STILLMAN E. NEWELL.

Committee.

EDITORIAL

FICTION AND HISTORY

The American Republic is a nation of readers. Probably no other nation in the world is composed of such omnivorous readers. They may well be styled in the language of Horace, *heluones librorum* — gormandizers of books. The remarkable increase of publications — books, pamphlets, magazines and newspapers — indicates the rapid growth of this habit.

The question may naturally arise, Whence comes it? What is the cause of this wonderful growth of the reading habit? Various circumstances, doubtless, have contributed to this result, but it is perfectly safe to affirm that the principal cause was our civil war of 1861-5. Throughout the entire country some one from almost every family had joined the army and gone to the front. His family and friends were anxious to know what battles were fought and how it fared with the loved one. They therefore began to take the daily newspaper. Before the close of the war the habit of reading the papers was so fully established that it could not be broken off.

A few years before the war the writer was teaching in one of the most intelligent villages in the Old Bay State. At that time there were not half a dozen daily papers taken in the village. Since then the population has probably doubled. A few years ago, on a visit to that village, I inquired of the newsdealer how many daily papers he sold. After looking at his books he informed me that he sold on an average fifty copies of one of the Boston dailies, one hundred and fifty of another and three hundred and fifty of a third, besides local papers and other dailies.

This reading habit has caused a marvelous increase not only in newspapers, but in magazine literature and the entire range of

books of all sorts and upon all subjects. Massachusetts leads the world in public libraries free to all her inhabitants. It will at once be obvious that a large proportion of readers will call for light reading. Fiction will inevitably be the most popular, and hence will constitute a great part of the reading of the masses.

The question, therefore, will naturally arise, What is the effect of this light reading? Much of the popular fiction is chaff, sawdust, no nourishment in it. It is in reality deleterious. The general impression is that light reading tends to deterioration of character. There is much evidence, however, to show that the result is not always in that direction. Those who are really vicious in character will deteriorate, but the majority soon tire of sawdust and seek for something which has nutriment; hence they will refuse Mrs. Holmes, Mrs. Wood, and Oliver Optic, and will eventually read Mrs. Stowe, Hawthorne, Dickens, Scott and Stevenson.

After I left college an opportunity offered to buy a bookstore and circulating library, the proprietor having died. I scorned the proposition. A circulating library! Dealing out fiction for servant girls to read? Not I. The business was bought by a quiet, modest man, of good judgment and excellent moral character. Many years after, I had frequent conversations with him relative to the influence of novel reading. He assured me that he had studied the subject carefully, that he had observed the character of the book-takers and noticed the quality of the books taken from time to time by the same persons. He became thoroughly convinced that, where the character of the person was not already bad, undermined, the general tendency was to leave the lower grade of stories and take a better class of literature.

Now, What is, in general, the character of fiction? Fiction is often called stories, novels, romance. It is, in the main, imaginary history and biography. Its character, in one respect, depends upon how closely the narrative clings to nature. Walter Scott was always careful to follow nature. Herein is one of his greatest excellencies. It is related that on one occasion he and a friend strolled around a castle ruin about which he was writing, and he stopped here and there to note the kinds of flowers and shrubs

which grew there. His friend chided him and remarked that one kind of rose would do as well as another in a novel. But the poet author told him that we could not improve on nature, and it is safer to follow the real facts in describing natural scenery.

The substance of most novels is imaginary biography and history as the writer conceives it *might be*. The better class of fiction, especially historical novels, naturally leads to the reading of history, and *that* history is profitable which shows the progress of mankind, the elevation of the human race.

Well-written history is one of the most beneficial departments of human learning, and whatever aids and fosters history is commendable. One important difference in the study of our own country's history compared with the history of European nations, is that the genesis of our story is not involved in obscurity and mixed with myth and legend, as theirs almost invariably is. The sources of history are the chronicles of each and every period. It becomes necessary, therefore, that records should be kept of the life of the people in every decade. This shows something of the importance of the work of local historical societies, like ours. The following illustration is clipped from a recent Boston newspaper. It is full of suggestions as to the value of local history and of the importance of preserving it.

PRESERVE LOCAL HISTORIES

"The history of a typical New England town is a history in miniature of New England. When one of these old towns celebrates the centennial or some other important anniversary of its founding and brings back its sons who have won fame elsewhere to tell the story, a great deal is said that is of historic and literary value, with a flavor of folklore in reminiscences and anecdotes which rarely gets into more formal volumes. A good illustration lies before us in the collected papers and records of the celebration of the bi-centennial of the founding of New Milford, Ct. Men of national reputation in church and state have gone out from that town. The late Pres. Noah Porter of Yale was once the pastor of the Congregational church. One of the two sons of Connecticut whose statues are in the Capitol at Washington was Roger Sherman of New Milford, whose career was finely sketched in an address by Chief Justice S. E. Baldwin. Local characters which would grace a first-class novel are described in some of the addresses. The editor, Mr. Minot S. Giddings, has done his part well, and the collection with illustrations makes a comely volume of over 300 pages. The

present and coming generations will know more and care much more about their native town because this celebration took place and these records of it are preserved. It is a wise investment for any town with a worthy history to commemorate it and to keep in the minds of its citizens the things which have given it value. This is the more important for those New England towns whose native stock has been in large measure supplemented by immigration, and whose chief characteristics in this way may be preserved."

It is plainly the duty of our local Historical Society to record for future generations the current annals of our time, and of the town to give a liberal support to the work of the Society.



ELIHU GREENWOOD

BY HERBERT GREENWOOD

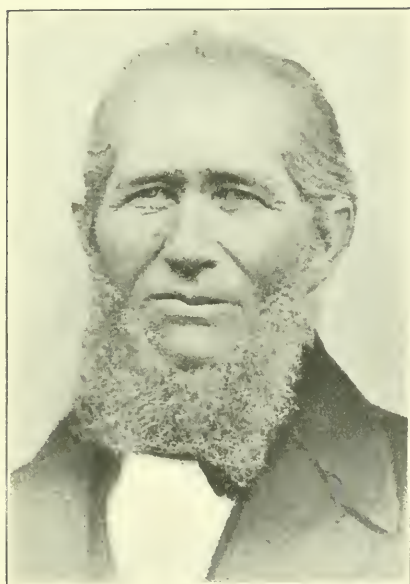
Elihu Greenwood was born in Sherborn, Mass., July 2d, 1807, the son of Reuben and Catherine Greenwood. His mother was Catherine Fuller, of Dover, Mass.

At the age of nineteen years he left home and walked to Boston with nothing of this world's goods but the clothes he had on and fifty cents in his pocket. He first obtained employment in the ice business; later in the Faneuil Hall market, where he stayed until he had saved money enough to purchase one of the stalls (Nos. 99-101) in that market. He and his brother Bela remained here until he bought the farm now bearing his name in Hyde Park, Mass.

On November 10th, 1833, he married Miss Phœbe Haley Chadbourn, of Kennebunk, Maine, at the residence of her brother, Seth Chadbourn, on Channing street, Boston, Mass. Seth Chadbourn was a member of the firm of Chadbourn Bros., of Hawley street. As a result of this union there were ten children, six boys and four girls. They went to reside in Brighton, Mass., and remained there until January 3d, 1842, when he purchased of Nathaniel Crane a farm of seventy-five acres in the western part of the town of Dorchester, Mass., now a part of the town of Hyde Park.

The old homestead is still standing at the corner of East River street and Metropolitan avenue.

Mr. Greenwood, with his family, attended the Orthodox Church at Milton Lower Mills, now known as the Village Church on River street, next to the engine house, this being the nearest church at that time. In the fall of 1863 he attended the Baptist Church in Hyde Park and made a public acknowledgement of that faith under the preaching of Lawyer Durant, of Boston, who was hold-



ELIHU GREENWOOD

ing services in Bragg's Hall with the Baptist and Congregational churches. The following July 17th, 1864, he and his wife were baptized in the Neponset river near the Fairmount Avenue bridge.

He was a member of the school board of the town of Dorchester. He was a public-spirited man, especially in his actions. He, and a friend of his, Mr. John Weld, of Jamaica Plain, were instrumental in having the County Commissioners lay out what is now known as Harvard and Hyde Park avenues from Fairmount avenue to Forest Hills ; in order that this should not fail, he gave all the land required for this across his farm from Westminster street to the brook this side of Clarendon Hills. He also gave one-half the land for Metropolitan avenue from East River street to Greenwood Square. He donated fifteen hundred dollars toward the erection of the Baptist church, and was one of the building committee of the same. A few years after his death his widow donated eighteen hundred dollars to the Methodist Church. The Greenwood School, Greenwood Avenue, and Greenwood Square, were all named in honor of him.

He commenced life penniless, and died March 16th, 1871, leaving a widow and four children and an estate valued at \$80,000, and not owing one cent to anybody, having paid 100 cents from the cradle to the grave.

CHARLES FREDERICK ALLEN

RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY THE HYDE PARK HISTORICAL
SOCIETY, FEBRUARY 20, 1904

WHEREAS, by a sudden and startling dispensation of Divine Providence to which we bow in humble submission, while we cannot fathom its inscrutability, one whom we all trusted and respected, and whom those of us who were permitted to know intimately loved — has been removed from the sphere of his earthly activities and influences, now

Therefore, the Hyde Park Historical Society, of which he was ever a devoted and active friend and member, desires to give utterance to the general feeling of sorrow at his removal, and to place on record some permanent expression of its sense of bereavement and loss.

Mr. Allen was a monumental character, a man of sterling integrity, which he inherited from a long line of upright and downright men and women of self-sacrificing public spirit and fidelity; one who recognized the duties of citizenship as no less imperative than its privileges are valuable, and who gave freely and intelligently of his time, his influence, and his pecuniary resources for the public welfare.

In his business life he filled many and responsible positions, and always with credit to himself and a broad-minded regard for the interests committed to his charge; and as a friend and counsellor, his genius, devotion and honest practical common sense made his advice valuable and his admonitions just and effective. When, to all those strong and positive traits of character are added the sweet graces of spirit and native kindness of heart, which endeared him as a personal friend and companion to those of us who were privileged to know and appreciate him in the more intimate and sacred walks of life, in his home and with his family, in prosperity and adversity — we realized in some adequate degree, our great love, and that is not straining the oft-quoted sentiment of the great master alike of ideas and their expression, to say of our beloved companion and departed friend,

“He was a man take him for all in all,
I shall not look upon his like again.”

“He was an honest, loyal friend in joy
And sorrow just the same;
Unselfish as the light of day, and faithful
Even in words of blame;

“Thoughtful of others, courteous, kind,
Of noble heart and generous hand;
No petty meanness stained his soul
And e'en his very faults were grand!”

(Signed)

SAMUEL R. MOSELEY,
G. FRED GRIDLEY,
CHARLES STURTEVANT.

A REVIEW OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE SOCIETY SINCE 1892

(CONTINUED)

1901.

The annual meeting of the Society was held January 14th, with an attendance of seventy-five members. President C. G. Chick presided.

The election of officers for the ensuing year resulted in the choice of:

President, Charles G. Chick.

Secretary, Fred L. Johnson.

Treasurer, Henry B. Humphrey.

Curators, A. H. Brainard, George L. Richardson, G. L. Stocking, George M. Harding, E. I. Humphrey, Charles F. Jenney, Frank B. Rich.

Vice Presidents, David Perkins, Henry S. Grew, Henry S. Bunton, Robert Bleakie, James D. McAvoy, Richard M. Johnson, Willard S. Everett, Isaac Bullard, James E. Cotter, Stephen B. Balkam, Samuel T. Elliott, John J. Enneking, William A. Mowry, William J. Stuart, Ferdinand A. Wyman, Samuel A. Tuttle, Henry B. Miner, Stillman A. Newell, Randolph P. Moseley, G. Fred Gridley.

An invitation was received from the Hyde Park Current Events Club to attend their public meeting held January 17th, in the Unitarian Church at 8 P. M. Col. Taylor of the Boston *Globe* addressed the club on "Modern Journalism."

A donation of programmes of different public exercises held at the Baptist Church in Hyde Park was received.

Curator Charles F. Jenney read a paper on "Hyde Park One Hundred Years Ago," giving many interesting facts about the families and locations of prominent houses in the territory of the present town.

Dr. Edward H. Baxter was elected a member of the Society.

MAY 2.

At a regular meeting held this date, about twenty-two members were present. President Chick addressed the meeting and paid a tribute of respect to the memory of the late Stephen B. Balkam, a vice president of the Society.

A committee of three was appointed to draft suitable resolutions — James E. Cotter, J. King Knight, Samuel T. Elliott.

A donation of books and papers was made by Mr. H. F. Kenney, of Philadelphia, through Mr. A. A. Folsom, of Boston.

In behalf of Mrs. Lora Pattee Jenney, Curator Charles F. Jenney presented to the Society a portrait of Henry C. Stark and gave a brief sketch of his life which is in manuscript and accompanies the portrait. It is as follows :

HENRY CLIFTON STARK

Henry Clifton Stark, son of the late Clifton Stark, was born at North Ipswich, N H. April 17th, 1849. He came to Hyde Park with his parents about 1869, and was educated in our public schools. For many years Mr. Stark was associated with the hardware firm of Fuller, Dana & Fitz, of Boston, Mass. He afterward was associated with his father in the stove business in this town, finally succeeding him in business. The store carried on by him is the one which is now occupied by Charles Lewis, Esq., and William E. Smalling.

In the early 70's Mr. Stark went West, and while there was severely injured in a railroad accident, and it was many years before he fully recovered from the same. A little later, however, he became very active in business and political circles. In 1879 he was elected a member of our board of selectmen, and was re-elected six times thereafter, serving as chairman of the board in 1881, 1882, 1885 and 1886. Although a Democrat in politics, he was elected in a strong Republican town, and received the support of our citizens irrespective of party.

In 1883 Mr. Stark was elected Representative to the General Court on the Democratic ticket and served on the Committee on Banks and Banking.

August 1st, 1885, he was appointed by President Cleveland,

postmaster of our town and served until February 11th, 1890. During his administration of the postoffice the service was greatly improved, the free delivery service being established October 1st, 1887. As a public recognition of his services as postmaster, the citizens of Hyde Park, irrespective of party, tendered him a public banquet in the Grand Army Hall on April 5th, 1888, which was attended by about one hundred of our best known citizens.

Mr. Stark was presented by the chairman, Orin T. Gray, Esq., with a gold-headed cane suitably inscribed. Complimentary remarks were made by many of our leading citizens, both political parties being equally represented.

In later years and up to the time of his death, Mr. Stark was engaged as a promoter in many large enterprises in Boston.

Ellen D. Lewis, wife of Charles Lewis, at present a resident of Hyde Park, is the nearest surviving relative. Maria Pattee Stark, Mr. Stark's widow, died October 3d, 1900, at their old residence, 213 West River street.

The crayon, which is this day presented to the Historical Society by Mrs. Lora Pattee Jenney, wife of Edwin C. Jenney, and neice of Mrs. Stark, was secured by Mrs. Stark in 1897, and hung in her home up to the time of her death.

Mr. George L. Richardson read a paper on the history of Stony Brook, giving a wealth of interesting details concerning mills, factories, damages, and improvements along its course from source to mouth.

OCTOBER 26, 1901.

A regular meeting of the Society was held this date, President Chick in the chair.

Mr. Charles D. Elliot, who was to have addressed the meeting, was unable to be present on account of ill health, and Dr. William A. Mowry kindly consented to take his place.

His subject was "Anti-slavery Days" and the cause that led up to the Civil War. His remarks were deeply interesting and were a real treat to those fortunate enough to be present.

Mr. Robert Scott, Jr., donated a portrait of his father, Mr. Robert Scott of Dana avenue.

NOVEMBER 12, 1901.

A regular meeting of the Society was held this date, but as Mr. Charles D. Elliot was still unable to appear and read his paper, the meeting was adjourned to the annual meeting in January, 1902.

JANUARY 7, 1902.

The annual meeting of the society was held on this date, with twenty members present. President Charles G. Chick in the chair.

Last year's officers were all re-elected, except that Frank O. Draper was elected vice president in place of Stephen B. Balkam, deceased.

Mr. James E. Cotter offered resolutions on the death of Mr. Balkam which were adopted. A memorial sketch of Mr. Balkam was printed in Vol. III of our Historical Record.

Mr. Robert Bleakie donated a volume, the "Annals of Hawick," Scotland.

A vote was passed allowing Mr. Harry Higbee to make a copy of the photograph of the hermit's house that stood in Grew's woods.

Mr. Charles D. Elliot read a paper on "John Winthrop and his house on the Mystic." This was a highly interesting paper and delighted those who heard it.

MAY 1, 1902.

A meeting of the Society was held this date in Weld Hall. Sixty members were present. This meeting was called to commemorate the thirty-fourth anniversary of the town. The board of Selectmen, the ministers of the various churches, and Representative E. Q. Dyer were invited to be present. Mr. Gordon H. Knott, whose name is closely identified with the early days of Hyde Park, was invited to attend, but was unable to come.

President Chick addressed the meeting, recalling incidents in the town's early history, and spoke of the great improvement in the town and of the large increase in population.

General H. B. Carrington, in behalf of Mr. Henry S. Grew, presented to the Society a portrait of Mr. Henry Grew, who lived on the beautiful Grew estate on West Street.

Mr. Charles F. Jenney, in behalf of Mr. Robert H. Vivian, presented a funeral badge worn in Boston on the occasion of General Zachary Taylor's funeral.

Mr. Jenney suggested that the society should procure suitable show-cases to hold articles of this sort, so that they may be more accessible to the members.

The speakers of the evening were then introduced, the first being Horace E. Ware, Esq., who spoke for the Milton part of the town (that part of Hyde Park which was originally in Milton). He spoke of the old mill on the Neponset river, and especially the powder mill which was built on the site of the Webb mill at Milton in 1674, and was blown up in 1774, after which another was built almost opposite.

Mr. Thomas F. Temple represented the Dorchester part of the town, and spoke of the Thompson who owned Thompson's island in the harbor, which was afterward granted to the town of Dorchester, and rented for twenty pounds a year for the benefit of a public school. He set forth the claims of Dorchester to the first church, first free mill and first public school in New England. Mr. Temple was town clerk of Dorchester in 1868, when Hyde Park was formed.

Mr. Julius H. Tuttle spoke for the Dedham part of the town, and of the work and influence of historical societies, such as the Hyde Park and Dedham societies, in encouraging the study of American history.

OCTOBER 28, 1902.

The regular fall meeting of the Society was held, with an attendance of fifty members.

Rev. Carleton A. Staples, of Lexington, Mass., spoke on the subject, "How the news of the battle of Lexington was received in England." Mr. Staples, well versed in colonial history, was greatly enjoyed by those present.

On motion of Mr. Charles F. Jenney, it was voted to appoint a new committee on publication. The chair appointed Dr. Wm. A. Mowry, Frank B. Rich and Fred L. Johnson. President Chick spoke of the revival of interest in the *HISTORICAL RECORD*, and

as funds would be needed to carry on the work, suggested that a loan exhibit of historical relics collected from the families of the town would be appropriate and interesting.

It was voted to appoint a committee of five to confer with a similar committee from the Current Events Club of the town to arrange for an exhibition of this kind, both societies to share expenses and proceeds equally. The chair appointed Mrs. S. A. Tuttle, Mrs. J. E. Cotter, Mrs. Chas. A. Fisher, Mrs. R. P. Moseley and Mrs. W. W. Wilde.

Received a picture of the house of Gordon H. Knott, taken in the '60s, and a group picture of the School Board of 1902.

JANUARY 6, 1903.

The regular annual meeting called for this date was adjourned to the 19th inst.

JANUARY 19, 1903.

An adjourned annual meeting was held this date, with President Chick in the chair. Twenty-five members were present. After the reading of the usual reports, the Librarian was instructed to examine the files of local newspapers which we have on hand, and confer with the Treasurer about means to bind those which are complete.

All the officers of the Society were re-elected for the ensuing year except the following: J. Roland Corthell elected Curator in place of George M. Harding, who was elected Vice President in place of J. D. McAvoy.

Mr. J. H. Crandon spoke to the Society on "Colonial and Revolutionary Social Life," more particularly in Boston. He was very interesting and held the close attention of the audience.

MARCH 23, 1903.

The meeting called for this evening was postponed to the 31st inst. on account of the weather.

MARCH 31, 1903.

A postponed meeting of the Society was held this date, with Vice-President Henry S. Bunton in the chair.

Curator Charles F. Jenney made a report on the proposed dedi-

cation of a memorial stone on the nineteenth of April at the site of the first house built in Hyde Park, and solicited donations to the amount of fifty dollars, nineteen having been pledged already.

Mrs. E. D. Swallow, of the Ladies' Committee, reported on a social and reception to be given in Weld Hall on the evening of the nineteenth of April, recommending that guests as well as members wear continental or colonial dress.

President Charles G. Chick read a valuable and interesting paper on "The Spark that kindled the Revolution."

APRIL 20, 1903.

The Spring meeting of the Society was held this day, and consisted of a walk to the East River Street district in the morning, and a reception arranged by the ladies in the evening at Weld Hall. A party of twenty members and their friends assembled at ten o'clock in the morning at the Library building, and under the guidance of Curator Charles F. Jenney walked to River Street station, stopping at a number of interesting historical houses and locations on the way. Mr. Jenney gave a description of each point of interest, and by the time the party had proceeded half the distance it had increased to sixty people.

The chief object of this walk was to dedicate a memorial stone erected near the site of the first house built in the present confines of Hyde Park. This stone is a granite slab placed at the northwest corner of the paper-mill yard and on the inner line of the sidewalk. The success of this effort was very largely due to Curator Jenney, who studied the records and prepared the historical matter which was necessary. President Charles G. Chick also added to the pleasure of the event by his historical address.

In the evening a Colonial Reception was held in Weld Hall. The receiving party were in costume and consisted of President Charles G. Chick and Mrs. Chick, Gen. H. B. Carrington and Mrs. Carrington, and Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Johnson. A large number were present and took part in the enjoyment of the evening.

OCTOBER 12, 1903.

A special meeting was held, and forty members were present.

Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Rice, of Hyde Park, presented to the Society an old seraphine made by J. G. Pearson, of Worcester, Mass.

Mr. J. Roland Cortshell, of Readville, presented the records of the Readville Improvement Association.

The records of the Butler Club, dated September 7th, 1871, were received by the Librarian.

Mr. Frank Smith, of Dedham, read a very interesting paper on the early settlers of Dedham, Mass. Mr. Smith sketched the life of the settlers from every standpoint—religious, social and political, giving a very full description of their home life and habits. The paper was well written and well read, and showed the results of a great amount of research by the author.

NOVEMBER 16, 1903.

A special meeting of the Society was held, about twenty members being present.

After the transaction of routine business it was voted to repair, tune, and otherwise put in order the seraphine in the collection of the Society.

Mr. George L. Richardson read a paper on "Going West in 1820," being the experiences of a party of gentlemen travelling from New England to Cincinnati, Ohio, and thence to Arkansas by water. Travel in those days was slow and tedious, but the opportunity to see the country and get acquainted with the people was unsurpassed. Along with the unavoidable hardship was a great deal of sociability, which is almost impossible in these days of quick transit and short journeys.

Mr. Frank B. Rich reported that Mr. A. L. Goding and his son had recently visited Hyde Park, after a long absence. Mr. Goding lived here from 1857 to 1861, occupying the house opposite the present post office, on East River street. Here his son was born May 1, 1858. They afterward lived in the house on the southeast corner of Harvard Avenue and Winthrop street. Dr. F. W. Goding, the son, now of Newcastle, N. S. W., requested to be admitted a member of the Society.