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# HYDE PARK HISTORICAL RECORD

WILLIAM A. MOWRY  
EDITOR



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HYDE PARK  
HISTORICAL RECORD

VOL. VIII—1912

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Compliments of the

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## CONTENTS OF VOLUME VIII

THE SPARK THAT KINDLED THE REVOLUTION	
<i>Charles G. Chick</i> . . . . .	5
PINE GARDEN. <i>Horace Sumner</i> . . . . .	25
HISTORICAL NOTES ON PINE GARDEN	
<i>Miss Mary A. Sumner.</i> . . . . .	28
READVILLE. <i>E. E. Williamson</i> . . . . .	40
LANDMARKS IN NORFOLK COUNTY. <i>Mrs. C. G. Chick</i> .	49
EDITORIAL . . . . .	51
THE STUDY OF HISTORY. <i>William A. Mowry</i> . . . . .	54
HENRY STURGIS GREW. <i>C. G. Chick</i> . . . . .	57
PROCEEDINGS OF THE SOCIETY . . . . .	59

## ILLUSTRATIONS

JAMES OTIS . . . . .	Frontispiece
PINE GARDEN . . . . .	Facing page 25
OLD ROUNDY HOUSE . . . . .	Facing page 32
E. E. WILLIAMSON . . . . .	Facing page 40
HENRY STURGIS GREW . . . . .	Facing page 57



JAMES OTIS

## THE SPARK THAT KINDLED THE REVOLUTION OR WRITS OF ASSISTANCE\*

By Charles G. Chick

It is gratifying to the public mind that so much time and effort are being used to keep alive the spirit of the men who stood about the cradle of our Republic and to have that spirit fully impressed upon the masses that are coming forward to control its future destinies.

The various patriotic organizations of today are joined in the work of repairing and protecting from decay the great underlying principles planted with so much of suffering and sacrifice by the men and women of 1776.

In order to do this effectively the public acts of the people of that time are being studied and placed anew upon historic records that our people may examine and know the characters and motives of the men who gained for us our independence. Of the many incidents leading to the severing of the Colonies from the Mother Country, I have been interested in "Writs of Assistance." This always seemed to me to be an indefinite term. As a boy in the country school trying to learn the causes of the American Revolution, I remember to have been able to use the name with precision and emphasis, but what the term meant or how or why these writs, of which I had no idea, should annoy the Colonists I did not know nor was I informed either by book or teacher.

The fathers complained of "Writs of Assistance"; the name was terrible enough to my mind and why go farther? For many years this term has appeared to me like a ghost of departed days and challenged me to vanquish it. I have, therefore, laid hold of the subject and while I disclaim having fully mastered it, I have a much better knowledge of the matter than before.

In the study of that period of our history just preceding the

\*NOTE, This paper has been read before The New England Historic-Geneological Society, several Historical Societies, and Chapters D. A. R.

opening of the Revolutionary struggle, one will be impressed with the thought that of the many acts complained of by the American Colonists, there are three which seem to be of marked influence in bringing on the War for Independence. I name them in the order of their occurrence rather than the degree of odium which they created: 1st, Writs of Assistance, 1760; 2nd, Stamp Act, 1765; 3rd, Boston Port Bill, 1774. Either of these subjects is a complete study.

I have read with much interest the Appendix to Quincy's Massachusetts Reports prepared by the late Horace Gray, Justice of the United States Supreme Court, in which is gathered a vast amount of information concerning the nature, purpose and result of writs of assistance. Very much of my information comes from that source. Indeed, it will be hard to find any avenue of information upon this subject that the late Justice did not explore. These writs are of ancient date and were issued by the English Courts and Magistrates for various purposes long before they were applied for in the North American Colonies.

The purpose for which they were issued here from 1755 to 1769 was the seizure of uncustomed goods, or, we might say, smuggled goods.

It must be borne in mind that the laws of trade fixed by Great Britain and executed by Commissioners restricted the Colonists to a trade with the Mother Country. These restrictions hampered and annoyed our merchants in a most discouraging way, I have no doubt. In fact, the records I have examined show that these laws were often evaded and set at naught.

It must also be borne in mind that the English Constitution is unwritten and the right of the courts to determine what was unconstitutional was not recognized as it is in our own country where our fundamental law is written.

In 1755 and for years afterwards the war existing between France and England spread to this country. The temptation to trade with the French neighbors often proved greater than the power of resistance. Frequent complaints were made that the Colonists here were furnishing supplies to the French across the border.

As early as 1755 there appears in the Massachusetts archives a warrant issued by Gov. William Shirley directed to John Greenleaf, Esquire, which reads in part:



"Whereas I have received information that one Follansworth who sails from Newbury has made a voyage already from thence to Cape Breton or other settlements near thereto with a load of Beef for their supply and is now fitting out for the same purpose in contempt of the authority of this Government and in contempt of his Mejesties interests" and directing him to make strict inquiry into the affair.

In Rhode Island this matter was carried much further, and it is well established that during the French War licenses to trade with the enemy were granted. In 1762 these being brought before the High Court of Admiralty were declared invalid. Nor is it certain that this practice was confined to Rhode Island as Governor Bernard of Massachusetts is said to have "done business the same way." However this may have been, Governor Bernard was constant in his complaints that the laws of trade were being evaded and it seems that he claimed that the example of Rhode Island was responsible for many infractions by the people of Massachusetts.

An extract from a letter written by him in 1761 concerning the Mississippi trade says :

"This will never be put an end to till Rhode Island is reduced to the subjection of the British Empire of which at the present it is no more a part than the Bahama Islands were when they were inhabited by the Buccaneers."

The record of events at that time surely shows that the people of "Little Rhody" cared very little for customs officers.

One incident may illustrate this spirit. A customs officer having been appointed for Newport, the Assembly forbade the Governor to swear him in and the Surveyor General was compelled to administer the oath in person. The presence of the Customs officer, however, had little terror for the Rhode Island mariner, for shortly after this appointment, a vessel from Providence passed the Custom House without reporting. For this she was soon after seized by a Providence officer, but "it signified nothing," for during the night a large number of people with blackened faces, gathered, entered the vessel, fitted her, loaded as well as they were able, and when morning dawnd, the

ship had gone to sea. The seizure by the Customs officer had been in vain.

There can be no doubt from the records of the times that the trade restrictions were evaded by the Colonists long before 1760-1, the date when James Otis made his great effort against writs of assistance. A careful examination of the Court records in Suffolk and Middlesex counties has shown that these writs were issued by Chief Justice Sewell to different collectors as early as 1755 and during the reign of George II.

The following is the form of the first of these writs issued here to Charles Paxton, Surveyor of the Port of Boston in 1755, and this will give a very good idea of the scope of the writ and of the power of the officer or person who held such a warrant:

“Province of the  
Massachusetts Bay

“George the Second by the Grace of God of Great  
Britain, France and Ireland King, Defender of the  
Faith &c.

“To all and singular, Justices of the Peace, Sheriff and Constables and to others our officers and Subjects within said Prov. & to each of you,

GREETING:

“WHEREAS the Commissioners of our Customs have by their Deputation dated the 8th day of Jan’y 1752 assigned Charles Paxton Esqr Surveyor of all Rates, Duties and Impositions arising and growing due within the Port of Boston in said Province as by said Deputation at large appears. We therefore command you and each of you that you permit ye said C. P. and his Deputies and servants from time to time at his or their will as well in the day as in the night to enter and go on Board any Ship, Boat or other vessel riding lying or being within or coming to said Port, such Ship Boat or vessel then and there found to view and search & strictly to examine the same touching the customs and subsidies to us due and also in the day time together with a constable or other public officer inhabiting near unto the place to enter and go into any vaults cellars, warehouses, shops, or other places to search and see whether any goods, Wares, or merchandises in ye same ships Boats, or vessels, vaults, cellars, Warehouses, shops or other places are or shall be there hid or concealed having been im-

ported shipt or laden in order to be exported from or out of said Port or any Creeks or Places appertaining to the same Port and to open any Trunks, Chests, Boxes, fardells, or Packs, made up or in Bulk whatever in wh. any Goods Wares or Merchandises is suspected to be packed or concealed and further to do all things which of Rt. and according to law and the Statutes in such cases provided is in this part to be done. And we strictly command you and every of you from time to time by aiding and assisting to the said C. P. his deputies and servants and every of them in execution of the Premises in all things as becometh. Fail not at your Peril.

“Witness Stephen Sewell Esqr &c.”

This writ was issued at the August Term of the Superior Court in Suffolk 1755 which the Docket shows was held by Sewell, C. J. Lynde, Cushing & Russell J. J.

- The Dockets of those times show that writs were issued  
 To Richard Lechemere, Esq., Collector of the Port of Salem, Middlesex January Term, 1758;  
 To Francis Waldo, Esq., Collector of Falmouth, Suffolk, February Term, 1758;  
 To James Nevin, Esq., Collector port of Newbury, Middlesex, January Term, 1759;  
 To Thomas Lechemere, Esq., Suffolk, February Term, 1759; and  
 To William Sheafe, Esq., Boston, same Term;  
 To George Cradock, Esq., Boston, Suffolk, and  
 To William Walter, Esq., Salem and Marblehead, February and March, 1760.

The Court was constituted substantially as at the time of the first writ, and these are all the applications to be found during the time of C. J. Sewell, who is said to have had doubts of the legality of the writs. Tudor's life of James Otis raises some doubts whether these writs were ever served.

You will carefully observe the scope of these writs. They were directed to any subject, so that any person could by possessing one demand entry into any house or place, open any box or bundle which he claimed was suspicious. The writ was issued without requiring the name of the informer. No oath was required. When once issued, there was no provision for their

return to the Court. They could be passed from hand to hand. Can it be wondered that citizens felt their homes were in danger? Indeed, these writs when issued would continue in force during the life of the King and for six months thereafter and could be served at any time by any person.

In 1763 commanders of all ships stationed on the American coast were authorized and directed to act as officers of Customs. This gave great offence and aroused higher the opposition of the people.

It seems proper to note here that John Adams in his autobiography states that the first to apply for a writ was James Cockle, Collector of Salem, November, 1760, and that Stephen Sewell was then Chief Justice. This must be an error as C. J. Sewell died on the 10th of September, 1760, and the dockets show writs issued, as I have stated, as early as 1755 to Charles Paxton and others.

As a matter of fact, the records do not show that James Cockle was ever granted a writ. In this connection a little of Cockle's history is of interest and shows the character of the men serving as Customs officers.

Mr. Cockle was appointed Collector of the Rates, etc., at the Port of Salem and Marblehead May 6, 1760, during the reign of George II. His commission was renewed July 24, 1762, under George III., George II. having died October 26, 1760.

In 1764 the Commissioners of Customs in London offered a reward to Temple, then Surveyor General at Boston, and others for the discovery of any persons conniving at the composition of duties. Temple visited Salem and removed Cockle for compounding for duties, etc., and "above all for the insult offered me by you in the tender of a bribe to pass over your proceedings without punishment." Governor Bernard was much displeased by this and accused Temple of being jealous of Cockle's influence with the Governor.

Paxton testified to Cockle's good character. The Governor, however, was forced to make this admission. He says: "In truth if conniving at foreign sugar and molasses & Portugal wines & Fruits is to be reckoned corruption there was never, I believe, an uncorrupt Custom House officer in America till within twelve months; and therefore Incorruption in the best of them must be considered not as positive but comparative terms" and he doubted whether his certificate of Cockle's char-

acter "is not too free to be laid before a Public Board altho it might safely and properly be communicated to every member of it." Temple, the Surveyor General, was greatly prejudiced against Governor Bernard and charged him with having shared Cockle's illegal gains. Notwithstanding Governor Bernard's friendship Cockle was never restored.

Writs of Assistance in the hands of such men who were seeking their personal gain, became very obnoxious and instruments of great oppression to the people, especially to the merchants.

In 1760 when the application referred to was made, Sewell was Chief Justice, but he died in September and the question of the right of the Court being in doubt, it is said the Crown was anxious to fill the vacancy by a person friendly to the writ.

The friends of Lieutenant Governor Hutchinson at once interested themselves to obtain the appointment for him. He was devoted to the Crown and already held the offices of Lieutenant Governor, member of the Council, Probate Judge. It is said that Governor Shirley had promised a place on the Bench to the father of James Otis, when a vacancy should occur. However this may have been, Mr. Hutchinson was appointed November 13, 1760, and was first commissioned December 30, 1760, and after the demise of the Crown the Commission was renewed April 15, 1761.

Governor Hutchinson in his History of Massachusetts imputes James Otis's opposition to writs of assistance and his fervor in behalf of the Colonies to his desire for revenge for the slight put upon his father. John Adams and Tudor both deny this and speak with contempt of Hutchinson's position in regard to it.

The contest over the right of the Court to issue these writs now came on in earnest. The application by the Custom House officer at Salem having been filed in 1760, the citizens and merchants of Boston asked to be heard and employed James Otis to represent them. Mr. Otis had refused to act for the Crown and had resigned his position as Advocate General. He now stood forth in the public arena to plead the rights of the people. "This is the opening scene of American resistance." This is the spark that kindled the Revolution. It began in a Court-room and this young man with a "tongue of flame" came forward to demonstrate with great eloquence that these writs were uncon-

stitutional. The trial came on in February, 1761, Hutchinson, C. J., sat with four associates "with voluminous wigs, broad bands, and robes of scarlet cloth." The Court was held in the Council Chamber of the Old Boston Town House, "an imposing and elegant apartment ornamented with two splendid full length portraits of Charles II. and James II." Jeremiah Gridley opened the cause for the Crown. He was first replied to by Mr. Thacher, claiming that the rule in English Courts was not applicable to America.

Mr. Otis then spoke for four hours, pointing out that the special writ might be legal, but that general writs were not. The officer or person making service was required to make no return to Court of his doings and whoever executed it was responsible to no one. He might enter all houses and command all to assist him. None were secure.

"No act of Parliament," said he, "can establish such a writ. Though it should be made in the very words of the petition it would be void, for every act against the Constitution is void."

This argument did more than any one thing to set in motion the spirit of independence. John Adams, then recently admitted to the Bar, sat in the Courtroom and from it received the inspiration that made him such a power in after years. It is said patriots were made on the spot and Hutchinson refers to the more independent bearing of the Colonists after Otis had questioned the constitutionality of these writs.

James Otis was a native of Barnstable, says Bancroft, "whose irritable nature was rocked by the stormy impulses of his fitful passions, disclaiming fees or rewards, stood up amidst the crowd, the champion of the Colonies and the prophet of their greatness."

In May, 1761, the people of Boston elected him to the General Assembly. This caused a royalist to remark that "out of this, faction will arise that will shake the province to its foundation."

It seems that the four older judges were greatly impressed by his argument and had it not been for Hutchinson would have denied the writ, but the Chief Justice prevailed upon them to adjourn the cause and he wrote to England for definite instruction and for copies of the Exchequer Writ. In due time the answer came in support of Hutchinson's views and the writs were ever after granted in Massachusetts and New Hampshire, but

not elsewhere, until after St. 7 Geo. 3, ch. 46, enacted in 1767 which authorized these writs expressly.

Some extracts and quotations will give us an idea of the attitude of other colonies upon these writs:

The Boston Evening Post, April 29, 1769, says:

"We are well informed that the officers of Customs applied the last year to the Chief Justice or bench of Judges in several of the Colonies for granting them writs of assistance, but that those Justices from tender regard to the Constitution and the rights of American freeholders did actually refuse compliance with their demands."

In March, 1768, Hutchinson wrote to Jackson:

"The Commissioners showed me a letter from some of their officers in Conn. who by direction had applied to the Superior Court for writs of assistance agreeable to the late act of Parliament. S. 7, Geo. 3, C. 46. The officers say they were refused and the Chief Justice gave as a reason that the Court was of opinion that such writs were unconstitutional."

In May, 1769, Seymour as attorney for the King asked the Justices of the Superior Court of Connecticut for a final judicial decision concerning the issuing of writs of assistance, etc. Jonathan Trumbull was Chief Justice and among his papers appears this memorandum:

"Since this Mr. Seymour, attorney for the King by direction of the Board of Commissioners, has made application to me for Judicial determination of the matter, I have given him no answer nor do I intend to give any till next term which now soon comes on. I have taken care to find what courts of other Colonies have done, and find no such writs have been given except in Mass. & N. H. where they were given as soon as asked for."

"I believe," he says, "the Courts of the Colonies will be well united and as firm in this matter as in anything that has yet happened between us and Great Britain."

At this time Bancroft says:

"The subserviency of Hutchinson increased the public dis-

content. Men lost confidence in the integrity of their highest Judicial tribunal. Innovations under pretense of law were confirmed by judgments incompatible with English Liberties. The Admiralty Court, hateful because instituted by Parliament to punish infringements of the Acts of Trade in America without the intervention of a Jury had in distributing the proceeds of forfeitures violated the very Statutes which it was appointed to enforce."

In Pennsylvania, Chief Justice Allen was opposed to the writs and the records do not show that he changed his opinion. From William Shepard's statement hereinafter given, it would appear that a writ of assistance was issued.

In New York, one writ was ordered but there is nothing in the minutes of the clerk's records to show the form.

Maryland: As early as 1698, a petition for such writs was referred to His Majesty's lawyers to consult and make a report what sort of a warrant shall be granted but no report appears. 10 Maryland Council Rec. fol. 17.

As has been said, in 1767 Parliament passed new Statutes to Promote the Execution of Acts of Trade. The St. 7, Geo. 3, c. 41 authorized appointment of commissioners of customs to reside in America and chapter 46 of same Statute declared the highest court of justice in each province to be authorized to issue writs of assistance. (Opinion of Atty. Genl. De Grey.)

The Colonies did not even issue these writs after this Statute or if so, in but few instances. The Boston Gazette of September 11, 1769, says:

"To the Everlasting Honor of the Great and Worthy 'Squire Graspall [meaning Hutchinson] that man of truth and justice we are well informed that every Province in America, except Massachusetts Bay and Halifax have refused to grant General Warrants or writs of Assistance to the order of the Commissioners. Even the little Colonies of Georgia and Florida have absolutely refused."

The people greatly objected to these writs issued without giving the name of the informer and made efforts to get rid of them as first issued.

In February, 1762, the General Court passed "An Act for the better enabling the officers of his Majesties Customs to



carry the Acts of Trade in Execution." By this Act several courts named or the Justices thereof, or any Justice of the Peace, upon application of a Custom House officer were authorized to issue a writ of assistance but it required the application to be "on oath reduced to writing with the name of the person informing and the Place informed against and not otherwise and prescribed a form of writ which set forth the oath and name of the person complained against."

This bill passed the Council and was sent to the Governor who refused to sign it but requested an opinion from the Judges whether if this bill passed, the Superior Court as a Court of Exchequer could grant writs of assistance. The Judges answered that if the bill became a law the Superior Court would be restrained from granting writs of assistance as heretofore.

The Governor, writing of this to the Lords of Trade, says:

"The intention was to take away from the officers the writs of assistance granted in pursuance of the Acts of William III. and substitute in the room of it another writ which would be wholly inefficacious."

With these discussions in the Old Town House in Boston and elsewhere, there was begun in the minds of the people the questioning of acts of parliament, and with men like Hancock, Adams and Otis and a long list of their associates to teach them opposition to the oppressive measures of the Mother Country, it was not long before every town had the questions of the time well understood and in most cases the Town Clerks' records will show resolutions, adopted in town meeting, breathing resistance to parliamentary infringement upon the rights of English men as our fathers called themselves. Chief Justice Hutchinson, in his zeal to serve the Tory cause and sustain the power of his Court to issue writs of assistance, set in operation currents of thought and action that soon led to open resistance to the Court and the Crown.

The Massachusetts Archives contain accounts of the working of these writs. I select some incidents for illustration:

In September 1766, one Mr. Malcolm, a leading merchant and sterling patriot who lived in the north part of Boston, was to be subjected to a search by the officers having a writ. The Collectors were going to the cellar to seize uncustomed goods but, reaching the house, they were denied admittance by Mal-

colm and opposed with swords and pistols and threats of death if they should attempt to open the door. Whereupon they withdrew and reported the matter to the Council which was then in session. The Council advised the Governor to inform the officers "that this Board are willing to do what in them lies for the assistance of the officers in the execution of his warrant, when their interposition shall appear to be necessary, but that in their opinion that as the Sheriff has it in his power to raise a 'Posse Comitatus' any aid from his Excellency and the Board does not appear at present to be needful." The Collector and Comptroller accordingly went the next day with the Sheriff to the house but, the Governor subsequently informed the Council, "found the house shut up close and surrounded with a great number of people, some of the most creditable of which informed the officers that if they offered to force the house they would be in danger of their lives and they were thereby prevented from entering the house."

Testimony was taken. Otis was counsel for Malcolm. The character of the evidence shows how carefully the people were instructed upon the question at issue and as to the limit of resistance.

Stephen Greenleaf, the Sheriff, testified that he "left the officers of ye Customs and went singly up to a great number of people who were collected at the head of ye street leading to Malcolm's house & expostulated with them some time. That he was civilly treated by them but was assured that no admission into Capt. Malcolm's house would be suffered except the Custom house Officers would go before a Justice and make oath who their Informer was; the declarant then informed them, as he had before desired Capt. Nicholls to inform Mr. Malcolm that the Collector and Comptroller had both made oath before Mr. Justice Hutchinson that they had received such information as the warrant set forth and that he did not apprehend that the Laws obliged them to tell who their informer was; a reply was made from ye crowd, but by whom the declarant does not know, that they knew better, and that ye officers should sware to their informer before they should go into the house. The declarant then informed them that if the Custom house officers should think proper to force the house & should be opposed they knew it was his duty to command their assist-

ance, and he hoped no man would refuse it; to which ye general voice was that they hoped nobody would hurt him, they knew he was obliged to do what he did, but they believed he would have no assistance except the informer was discovered or delivered up; the declarent remembers to have heard one voice from behind him say: 'Aye we'll assist you;' but by the manner of pronunciation & tone of voice he took it to be ironical & either by way of Ridicule or threatening. The declarent says that it appearing to him that the people were determined & that any further expostulation would be fruitless returned to ye officers, (who were standing at a little distance) and observed to them that it grew late and night would soon come on, the streets were continually filling with people, that they must be sensible of the difficulty of the affair they were upon & that the warrant would not justify a forcible entrance into any dwelling house after sunset" and they then retired. 88 Massachusetts Archives 196-7.

The affair was taken up by the people as appears, for in October the Inhabitants of Boston in Town Meeting assembled appointed nine persons, among them being James Otis, John Hancock and Samuel Adams,

"a committee to wait on his Excellency the Governor in behalf of the Town, and to desire he would be pleased to give the Secretary Orders to furnish the Town Clerk, with copies of all depositions relating to the Informations given the Custom-House Officers and the Proceedings thereon that so the Town having knowledge of their accusers and of the Nature and Designs of the Testimonies taken, may have Power to rectify mistakes and correct the designs of any who would represent them in a disadvantageous light to his Majesties' Ministers." [Boston Gazette, Oct. 13, 1766.]

The Committee obtained the copies and took other depositions and reported a letter to the agent of the Town in England which was approved in Town Meeting and contained these passages:

"Whatever representations may have been made to our prejudice. which we think we have some good reason to suspect,

our most inveterate enemies dare not openly assert that the civil authority in this County & even thro' the province has not as good reason to be assured of the assistance of the people in the legal exercise of power as any County in England." "Mr. Malcolm admitted them into every apartment saving one which being let he told them the key was not in his possession. They threatened to enter by force which Mr. Malcolm told them they must do at their peril. However not having sufficient authority as they apprehended, they retired. Mr. Malcolm supposing they would return, determined to fasten his house that if they entered it should be forcibly, being assured by the person who hired the aforesaid cellar & his own knowledge of the apartments, that no contraband goods were there. The officers returned in the afternoon & after some attempts tho' without violence to get an entry they again retired and came no more." Boston Town Records 1766 p. 721-26.

The Boston Gazette of October 27, 1766, states "that there really were no goods in the house liable to seizure; and that as for the good people who were curious Spectators they behaved as orderly to use some of the words of the deponent as if they were in church."

From this event it is easy to see that the officer who attempted to search a house without giving the name of his informer received that kind of assistance from the people which hindered rather than helped.

Another incident may be cited: In May, 1765, it seems that Collector Robinson and another laid an information before the Governor; that after their seizure of a vessel and her cargo and while the searchers and landwaiter of Customs in Rhode Island and his servant in whose custody the vessel had been left, "were refreshing themselves on the shore within one hundred yards of the vessel," the cargo was carried away, and the vessel unrigged and scuttled by persons unknown.

The Governor summoned the Council and Robinson filed a complaint against several Justices of the County of Bristol for not yielding him proper assistance in recovering the goods. The Justices replied that he would not submit his commission to them but "Immediately demanded a warrant to search the stores of Job Smith and all other suspected places without preferring any written complaint or offering to make oath to the

suspected facts." They told him it was new matter and they doubted their power to grant the warrant as he demanded and took time to consider, and further stated that Robinson had no writ of assistance or, if he had such, he did not show it to them.

The matter was referred to the Chief Justice and Attorney General who made a report, the original of which with the order thereon, both in Hutchinson's handwriting, are preserved in the Massachusetts Archives. This report finds that,

"Justices of the Peace are not obliged or impowered to grant warrants to break open stores or other houses to search for customable goods and we apprehend the only provision for that purpose is by a writ of assistance from the Superior Court, etc."

The Council, therefore, declared that the Justices were justified in doing as they did and the complaint was dismissed.

Otis's father was a member of this Council and it would seem favored the legality of these writs, but the right was soon openly contested and made one of the grounds of complaint. This report was in July, 1765.

About this time news of the Stamp Act was received in Boston and a determined spirit of opposition to its enforcement was aroused. So high was public indignation carried that the attempt of Mr. Oliver, the Stamp distributor appointed for Boston, to accompany the agent appointed for Connecticut to that State aroused such resentment that a few days later an effigy appeared upon "Liberty Tree" with labels indicating that the Stamp Distributor was intended. The Council in the interest of peace advised the Governor not to meddle with this image and it remained in view of all passers-by until early evening when it was taken down and borne through the Town House where the Council was in session, escorted by several score of tradesmen. It was followed by thousands down King street to Mr. Oliver's dock, where a building thought to be designed for a stamp office was "laid flat." Mr. Hutchinson says,

"The mob proceeded for Fort Hill but Mr. Oliver's House being in the way, they endeavored to force themselves into it, and being opposed, broke windows, beat down the doors, entered, destroyed part of his furniture and continued in riot until midnight before they separated."

This incident shows the temper of the people. Now, it appears from authority that some months before this depositions of Customs Officers had been taken and sworn to before Lieutenant Governor Hutchinson. Some party had inspected these documents in England and returning informed several leading merchants of Boston that their names appeared thereon as smugglers. This, of course, aroused the resentment of the merchants against the deposing customs officer and the magistrate administering the oath. Punishment was in order.

On the evening of August 26th, 1765, a mob collected on King street, called together by a bon-fire, and after some depredations against the registries of admiralty and plundering the wine-cellar of the Comptroller of Customs, they came to the Lieutenant Governor's house where the doors and windows were broken with broad axes, and the house immediately filled by the crowd. Mr. Hutchinson barely escaped before the house was entered, and as appears he sat the next day as Justice of the Superior Court in ordinary clothes, his gown having been destroyed. The mob continued in possession till daylight and sacked and destroyed everything that the house contained. The house was demolished, except the brick walls. These incidents serve to show the spirit of resentment stirred by writs of assistance.

It appears that a Town meeting was held in Faneuil Hall the day following the destruction of Mr. Hutchinson's house where by unanimous vote the Inhabitants declared their utter detestation of such violence. The Selectmen were requested to apprehend the rioters, some were arrested and imprisoned, but before the trial the people broke open the prison and set them free.

Hutchinson writes in September, 1765, "that the late Acts of Parliament for raising revenue on molasses and a duty on stamps have caused a great part of the people of the Colonies to run distracted," and further says, "The change in currency, writs of assistance and letters in favor of the Stamp Act are said to be reasons of my being particularly obnoxious."

The Governor and Chief Justice were very bitter against Otis and among their letters will be found such expressions as "Some of them talk as if this Town was to remain forever independent of the King's Government. One says let us see now who will seize Merchants Goods, what Judge will condemn

them; what court will dare grant writs of assistance. Meanwhile Otis (who perhaps is as wicked a man as lives) publishes every week inflammatory invectives against Governor and Government."

Following the lead of such men as Otis and Adams, the people soon utterly disregarded the search and seizure of articles under these writs and whenever goods were taken by Revenue Officers the people gathered and rescued them.

In a letter to the Board of Trade after a public rescue in the house of Enoch Illsley of Falmouth, Governor Bernard says,

"As often as seizures are made in this Province in its present state so often shall I have a proclamation of this kind to issue which is now become a mere farce of Gov't; since no one dares to discover or prosecute the offenders if they were so disposed and indeed the offenders are sometimes as in this case, the greatest part of the town: formerly a rescue was an accidental or occasional affair; now it is the natural and certain consequence of a seizure and the effect of a predetermined resolution that the Laws of Trade shall not be executed."

The opposition to these seizures was not by any means confined to Massachusetts, as will appear from a statement made by William Shepard to the Board of Commissioners in Boston, April, 1769, of his experience at Philadelphia on the first of that month: he says as an officer of customs:

"On Saturday 1st instant about Ten o'clock in the morning a seizure was made by the Collector in consequence of an order from the Inspector General of near fifty pipes of Madeira Wine, which was lodged in a store belonging to Mr. Andrew Hodge,—the supposed owner of the wine was one Capt. Caldwell. In about half an hour after the seizure was made, I received a letter from the Inspector General directing me to attend my Duty. I shew the same to the Collector who required me to go to the Store where the wines was, and take an account of the number of Casks therein, he gave me the key of the padlock which he had put on the Dore, when I got there I took the same off, but found the Store fastned with the lock that was on it before the Collector made the seizure, Upon which I went to Mr. Hodges House to get the key of the same, but was told that

he was not at home, and that they did not know where he was. I asked the Family for the key, but they said it was not in the House, and thath they did not know who had got it—\* \* \* about four o'clock in the afternoon, the Collector went down to the Store, but was denied admittance therein by a man unknown who had armed himself with Pistols, & swore that if he pretended to enter it he would blow his brains out or words to that effect, upon which the Collector retired and went to the Chief Justice & procured a writ of assistance and a number of Constables to assist him in the execution of his duty, and they returned to the Store about five o'clock in the afternoon, but they were not able to afford him any help, the Mobb being so numerous, they ordered the Constables off of the wharf, though I think they tarried there long enough to read the Riot Act or Writ of Assistance, but which I do not know—they likewise prevented the Collector's executing his Duty obliging him to go away, swearing they would shoot him if he attempted it, they pelted him with Stones, Glass Bottles, &c. one of which struck him in the lip and hurt it considerably, it was by this time near Dusk, the Collector not being able to proceed in the Execution of his Duty, communicated the same to the Inspector General, who thereupon waited upon the Governour & made him acquainted therewith, and renewed his desire for support & assistance, having about 5 o'clock wrote to him on that subject—This procured an order for Capt. & 50 men to assist the King's officers, but they did not get to the Custom House till ten o'clock that night, near an hour before which, the Lock which the Collector put on the Store was broke off by the Mobb, & the Door forced open and all the Wines therein taken out, and put on board three Lighters or Shallops and carried up the river, all the time they were transacting this matter they swore revenge and destruction against me taking it for granted that I was the cause of making the seizure." \* \* \*

The feeling ran so high against Mr. Shepard that he was afterwards assaulted in the street:—to quote from his letter:

"Upon my return home about a Quarter past Ten o'clock two men of a sudden came up to me, one of them without saying a word to me, struck me as hard as he could in the pit of my stomach which immediately deprived me of breath and I fell down, he took the advantage with some weapon I apprehend a



knife & slit my nose. I suppose his intention was to slit it up to my Eyes, he did not altogether succeed in this, tho he did in part, having cut the inside thereof considerably more than a quarter of an inch clear through." (Aspinwall Papers, Mass. His. Soc. Coll., Vol. X, p. 611-17.)

So violent was the opposition to him that he was forced to leave Philadelphia and return to Boston.

In June, 1768, the sloop "Liberty" belonging to John Hancock was seized for landing Madeira wines without paying duties. She was anchored under the guns of the Romany British Man of War. Hancock was arrested and gave bail. This occasioned a riot. The Massachusetts Archives contain full records of these proceedings. In 1772 at a meeting of the Inhabitants of Boston a Committee of twenty-one was appointed to state the rights of the Colonies. James Otis, Samuel Adams and Joseph Warren are the three first named. The reading of some parts of the report is very like Otis's argument upon writs of assistance. To quote:

"Thus our Houses and even our Bed Chambers are expected to be ransacked our Boxes Trunks and Chests broke open rummaged and plundered, by wretches whom no prudent man would venture to employ as menial servants."

The Massachusetts records furnish nothing later as other matters leading to the closing of the Port pressed rapidly on. With the Stamp Act came the closing of the Courts for a time, an interesting story of itself.

The close of the Justice Grey's appendix to Quincy reports says:

"A careful examination of the subject compels the conclusion that the decision of Hutchinson and his associates has been too strongly condemned as illegal and that there was at least reasonable ground for holding as mere matter of law, that the British parliament had power to bind the Colonies." \* \* \* "The remedy adopted by the Colonies was to throw off the yoke of Parliament, to confer on the Judiciary the power to declare unconstitutional Statutes void, to declare general warrants unconstitutional in express terms and thus put an end to general writs of assistance."

I conclude that a few of these writs were issued by the Court before Justice Hutchinson's time; that through the efforts of Otis the constitutionality of general writs was questioned to such a degree by the people that it became common for them to resist the officers and even rescue goods. In 1765 they had gathered confidence in themselves to resist the Stamp Act and had hung in effigy a stamp distributor, paraded the streets of Boston bearing the image to the Old Town House and gathering, sacked and destroyed the house of the Chief Justice who had sustained these writs.

From these acts the "Tea Party" and the Boston Massacre were but steps.

The Boston Port Bill through the Committee of Correspondence put Massachusetts in close touch and sympathy with every colony and brought about that union so much feared in England, but so successful in giving this Country its independence.

These events mark the steady advance in that onward march of patriotism leading to the open stand at "Lexington Green" and the "Old North Bridge" and broadening and mounting higher, set in motion the Old Liberty Bell on the Fourth of July, 1776, and reached its triumphant vindication at Yorktown with the surrender of Lord Cornwallis and the British Army.



PINE GARDEN

## PINE GARDEN

By Horace Sumner

Near the northern border of Hyde Park is a hilly tract of land, about the size of Boston Common. Fifty or more years ago this land was covered with a beautiful growth of pines and cedars, and owing to its many attractions was known as "Pine Garden." Among these attractions were the spring, the rock, and the beautiful dell or ravine below the spring. The place was the resort of many picnics.

In the traditional history of Dorchester we find that this was a part of the town's common lands and was used as a sheep pasture, the town hiring a shepherd to tend the flock. According to this tradition, he had a stone hut on one of the peaks, since known as "Shepherd's Tent." From here he had a fine view of the surrounding country. This peak is on the one hundred and eighty-foot grade, and is the eastern of two rocky hills. Except for the leaves the State House dome, Bunker Hill Monument and Roxbury standpipe can be plainly seen from here, while through the tops of the trees, Strawberry Hill standpipe, Quincy Bay, seems to meet the sky. The view of the entire Blue Hill range is always attractive, especially on a cloudy day when the wind is driving the clouds across the sun. Then to watch their shadows travel from one hill to another is especially pleasing. Sharon, with church spires and stand pipe, is the limit of the view on the south, while Hyde Park and Dedham are spread out in the intervening space.

When Hyde Park became a town, in 1868, twelve towns could be seen from this point. I shall never forget the sight from here during the great fire in Boston on Sunday, Nov. 10th, 1872. The great column of black smoke rose a little to the west of north and extended more than a quarter around the horizon and disappeared over the hills in Randolph.

The entrance to Pine Garden was at its south east corner on Back Street, now Wood Avenue, near the spot where once Joseph Birch's house stood. From here a cart path led by gentle turns through the grove to the neighborhood of the spring

where the picnic grounds were located. Here a nicely grassed level spot shaded by a few stately pines with rocks for seats and fireplaces, was the place usually sought.

A few steps from here towards the west is the top of "Pine Garden Rock," which is today widely known as "Sallie's Rock," a spite name given it by the Hermit Gateley, and taken up by the people in ignorance of any other. This rock or ledge is about one hundred feet in total height, beginning with a precipice on its southern end and extending about a quarter of a mile north where it gradually tapers off to the level of the ground.

Its top is covered with boulders, and the western side is a vertical wall of some sixty-five or more feet. The extensive view from the top of the rock covers most of Hyde Park and Dedham, and includes Big Blue Hill and some of the hills in Roxbury. To appreciate the grandeur of the rock it must be approached from the sand plain below.

Paths from the rock, the cart path, and the picnic ground join at the spring, which used to be a little higher on the hill and somewhat nearer the rock than it is today. Then it nestled under the protecting roots of a great pine and its waters were clear and cool. Though it was only a small spring it was an active one. Until late years, when something has probably tapped its supply, it was never known to be dry. For several years it was the source of water for Newell's piggeries which extended on either side of where Huntington Avenue now is, from the rock, nearly east to River Street. Two storage cisterns were dug in the side of the hill just below the spring and a lead pipe conducted the water to the piggery building. These buildings were burned in the early fifties, but the cisterns with their plank tops and the wooden troughs leading from the spring were there for several years later. From these the brooklet ran straight down hill beside the path. The present channel to the left was dug by some one to water cows, and turns off not far from the lower cistern.

The path and brooklet descended through a beautiful dell or ravine under great trees that the sun scarcely ever penetrated. The descent was almost too steep for safety to the sand plain about one hundred feet below. On the right was an irregular, vertical wall of rock and the deep wood on the left—an ideal place to recall stories of Indians and bears. About three-fourths of the way down, the path crossed the boundary wall, and the

brook turned to the left, passed under a cart path and started for Stony Brook. From broad stepping stones at the wall the path passed to the level below the rock. This land was made up of a number of little sand hills and bogs between, covered with quite a growth of underbrush which extended over to Hyde Park Avenue. About 1872 this brush was cut and spread over the bog holes and then the sand hills were leveled over it. Mr. Freeborn, the teacher in the High School at that time, told the school that he had seen a great many things that had been venerated, but that this was the first venerated swamp that he had ever heard of. In the ages that these sand dunes were forming, the winds sweeping up the ravine had sand-cut all that end of the ledge, while all overhanging parts were undercut so that the entire surface is smooth to the touch.

In 1864 all the wood east of the cart path in Pine Garden had to be cut owing to a fire leaving the hill bare as in the days of the sheep, except for one "lone pine" that stood well up on the side of the hill. This tree was a fine specimen, the trunk being about forty inches in diameter. This trunk reached at least twenty feet before it branched, making a landmark for miles. A few years ago vandals made fires against it until it blew over. This was the fate of three large pines not far from the ledge in the field below.

The hand of man has destroyed much of the beauty of Pine Garden. Every cedar has been cut, most of them stolen for fire-wood or posts, and the pines are fast going. Someone thought that they could get more water by digging down the spring and they followed it back to a point where it came out of the rock, leaving it exposed to the surface wash after each rain, so that it is now little better than a mud hole. The trees that shaded the ravine are no more.

An attempt was made some years ago to blast the rock, but it proved too hard for the old-fashioned hand drills. Amateur geologists have defaced the rock with their hammers and now the gipsy moths and brown tails are taking their turn, unmolested by the present owners, as countless nests testify.

About the beginning of the last century a tunnel was blasted across the northern end of Pine Garden for the State high-level sewer. This tunnel was rough blasted about eighteen feet in diameter and then lined with birch and cement.

The operation of running the tunnel through the rock was

quite interesting; a shaft was sunk seventy feet—some distance to the east of Wood Avenue—and from here the headings were blasted east and west, a total distance of sixty-five hundred feet. Two elevators were placed in the shaft and car tracks ran through the tunnels, the stone at first being hauled by horses, later by a home-made locomotive. The operation took about three years.

For many years the German Rifle Club had a range at Pine Garden and several gun clubs have had shooting matches there.

Pine Garden is still a favorite resort. Many picnics are there on holidays and Sundays, while hundreds visit the rock and spring just for the stroll and view.

### HISTORICAL NOTES ON PINE GARDEN AND OTHER TOPICS.

Compiled by Miss Mary A. Sumner.

There seems to be no early record of the sale of Pine Garden, but the deeds of surrounding land show us that it belonged to the town of Dorchester until within a few years of the Ephraim Man deed. Sometime between 1764 and 1785, it became the property of Ephraim Man, who sold it to John Minot of Chichataubut Street, Dorchester. The husband of his daughter Martha, Lemuel Crane, had bought a tract of land, a short time before, of the town, and he now bought the land between that and Pine Garden of Ephraim Man. This sale seems to explain why the face of the ledge does not belong to the owners of the ledge. Pine Garden was willed by John Minot (will probated November 5th, 1855), to the children of his daughter, Elizabeth Sumner, deceased. Of these grandchildren, seven in number,—Elizabeth's share was sold by the sixth generation to Mr. E. N. Foss; Charlotte died before her father, and after his death her share was divided between his twelve children, or their heirs; William, Jr., deeded to his sisters and each sister in turn willed her share to her sisters until Clarrissia was the last to die. Miss S. R. Sumner, the last of the half-sisters, by these wills had the use of this land and it was sold by her executors to Mr. E. N. Foss. A portion of Charlotte's share still belongs to the heirs of William, Jr.

William Sumner b. at Milton Aug. 6, 1748; was a lieutenant-

ant in the Massachusetts line of the Revolution; m. in 1774, Elizabeth, dau. of John and Martha Minot (Vol. 1 of N. E. Hist. Register), of Dorchester.

Children:

Elizabeth b. at Dorchester March 17, 1777, m. Nov. 19, 1795, George Fessenden.

Martha b. at Milton May 24, 1779, d. at Dorchester July 10, 1847.

Lucy b. at Milton Nov. 20, 1781, d. at Dorchester March 3, 1855.

Charlotte b. at Milton Oct. 10, 1784, d. at Dorchester Feb. 4, 1822.

Clarissa b. (Greenwood House) Oct. 26, 1786, d. at Hyde Park Sept. 3, 1869.

William b. (Greenwood House) Dec. 27, 1788, m. Abigail Ford of Milton.

Abigail Minot b. at Dorchester May 18, 1792, d. at Dorchester Oct. 5, 1849.

His wife died June, 1792, and he married June 12, 1794, Mary daughter of Eliphalet Pond of Dedham. Children all born at Dorchester: (1) Mary, (2) Charles m. Jane, daughter of Dudley Walker, (3) Rufus Pond m. Susan, daughter of Noah Kingsbury, (4) Edward, (5) Sarah Richards and (6) Elvira m. Nathaniel Crane of Dorchester.

A part of the deeds of Ephraim Man to Lemuel Crane and to John Minot follows:

"For thirty-two pounds, paid by Lemuel Crane, of Dorchester, a piece of pasture land, twenty-six and a half acres, thirty-one rods. Bounded Northerly upon a brook, against land of Noah Davis, of Roxbury, Easterly upon land of Ephraim Man and a large quantity of rock, southerly upon land of Capt. John Homans, deceased, and Westerly upon land of Lemuel Crane, June 17, 1785.

"Ephraim Man of Dorchester, in the County of Suffolk and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, for the sum of seventy pounds, eight shillings, lawful money paid by John Minot, of Dorchester, a certain piece of land (Pine Garden) lying and being in Dorchester, and containing sixty-three and a quarter acres, mor or less. Bounded on the North, on land belonging to John Robinson, Easterly on a Road leading from Dorchester to Roxbury; Southerly on the land belonging to Capt. John Ho-



mans, deceased, and Westerly on land of Lemuel Crane. The thirteenth day of March, 1785, and the ninth year of the Independence of United States. Signed, sealed and delivered in person to Ephraim Capin and Francis Ingraham, Suffolk, April 5 1785. Personally approved by Ephraim Man and Sarah Man, before Ebenezer Clap, Justice of Piece, June 17, 1785. Certified and examined."

### THE LAND OF JOSEPH BIRCH.

South of Pine Garden on Wood Avenue, in the seventies, stood two fruit-bearing pear trees (the roots are alive now) and near where they grow was found, some sixty years ago, old bricks and the foundation of a house.

Although we find no record when the town disposed of the land, some later records seem of interest, as they show that Pine Garden was Common Land and one of these records shows that the land was on a cart way, while a later one says it is on a road from Dorchester to Roxbury. We were told that Wood Avenue, as we call the road today, crossed Pine Garden, following the high land and joining the Dedham road near Cleary Square. The River Street part of the road was only a cart way.

Joseph Birch, blacksmith, died intestate and in 1731 his son Samuel was appointed administrator. The inventory made June 22, 1733, shows about forty-three acres of land; and the first item in this list reads: "An old house and an acre and a half of land, valued at twelve pounds." Among the expenses he charges the estate thirty pounds for the care of his mother one year.

"Samuel Birch made application to the Superior Court, held at Boston, the second Tuesday in February, 1733," showing that the estate owed him forty-nine pounds, one shilling and six pence, "which the court granted," and ordered him to sell the real estate and pay the debt. "An Indenture made the fourth day of May, 1734, in the fourth year of our Sovereign, Lord, George the second, king of Great Britain, between Samuel Birch, yoeman of Suffolk, Administrator of his father's estate, Joseph Birch, Blacksmith, deceased, and Robert Spur, Jr., of Dorchester." Samuel Birch, "for twelve pounds in credit of the Province," sold Robert Spur, Jr., "one and a half acre of land. Bounded, Easterly on a cart-way, Southerly on land of John

Trescott, Westerly on land of John Trescott and Northerly on the Common land, belonging to the Town of Dorchester, with house, buildings, yard and garden."

The records of the town at one time had quite a little to say of members of this family and some of these statements may be of interest here.

The selectmen, in 1665, granted that Lewis Birch might live with his brother Joseph Birch "until further order." The General Court passed a law requiring young men to be looked after, "who were not under family government." The constable was ordered to notify all young men who came under this "rule to appear at the house of Capt. Foster, 'presently' after the next lecture Joseph and Thomas Birch were among those brought" to take inspection of their orderly walking and submitting to family government.

Samuel Rigby, constable for Dorchester, was given this "emphatic warrant":

"To the Constable of Dorchester—you are required in his Majestie's name, to repair to Joseph Birch, and require him, from the selectmen, to put himself in an orderly way of living, either by placing himself with some master, that may keep him in constant employment, so as to give satisfaction to the Court, or else to expect that he will be presented to the Court for disorderly living."

Joseph Birch was also called before the selectmen, in 1673, to answer for idleness. "His answer was, 'that at present he had no iron nor coals, but he would endeavor to reform.'" From this answer it appears that he was a blacksmith.

On the 16th of March, 1762, Samuel Birch sold to Thomas Hastings one and a half acres of land, with a small dwelling house, bounded Southerly and Westerly on land of John Homans, Northerly on Dorchester Common, and Easterly on a Road leading from Dorchester to Roxbury.

August 27, 1764, Thomas Hastings sold to Ebenezer Boardman one and a half acres of land, bounded on the South and West on land of Capt. John Homans, North on Dorchester Common and East on the road leading from Dorchester to Roxbury.

Here the records are broken, but the land became a part of Capt. John Homan's farm and was sold by his heirs to William Sumner in 1788.

The older part of the Roundy house was not built where it

now stands, on the bank of the river, but was brought on the ice from the Upper Mills (Mattapan). We were told that the ice was very thick on the river, unusually full of water that winter. This house, which was the home of James Boies in 1761, stood on the Milton shore, at the west of the highway (Blue Hill Avenue). This place is located by the Histories of Dorchester and Milton, also by old deeds.

James Boies had built a mill on the site of the old slitting mill and begun making paper there. On a voyage from England, he prevailed upon Richard Clark, expert paper maker, to come to Milton and work for his father-in-law, Mr. Smith, at his paper mills, at the Lower Mills. Here Clark worked about five years; and then went into partnership with James Boies. The latter in 1665, sold him one-half the mill, a house and a piece of land.

George, son of Richard, came from England, after his father, and for a while worked under him. Wishing to go into-business for himself, he bought of the town of Dorchester, September 29, 1773, fourteen acres of land and built this mill, just east of where the house now stands. His father's house was moved up the river, on the ice, and placed on the bank of the river facing south. Under the elm overlooking the river, was a favorite seat of the elder Richard. At the back of the house is the street, and the barn stood near it, quite shutting in the house. Richard Clark died April 20, 1777, and in 1779, his son George sold his share in the Boies Mill.

In 1766, George Clark married Lydia Sumner, daughter of Seth and Lydia Sumner, of Milton, and her brother William later became a partner in the paper business, first of George, and then of his son Richard, and upon the latter's death bought the business and the Clark house. Hayden's sawmill interfering in the paper manufacturing, Sumner bought the Homans farm, which adjoined his homestead, and with the permission of the town in 1789, placed the dam and mill on the site they now occupy.

In the Milton Cemetery are three stones marked:

George Clark, son of Mr. George and Mrs. Lydia Clark, Dorchester, died Mrch 21, 1770, aged 1 year.

Seth Clark, son of Mr. George and Mrs. Lydia Clark, Dorchester, died Jan. 13th, 1771, aged 5 months.

In memory of Mrs. Lydia Clark, wife of Mr. George Clark of Dorchester, died Mrch 1st, 1776, aged 31 years.



OLD ROUNDY HOUSE ON THE NEPONSET

In the book of life devine,  
 May God inscribe my name,  
 There let it fill some humble place,  
 Beneath the slaughtered Lamb.

George Clark became the second husband of Elizabeth, daughter of Susanna and Jezaniah Tucker, and went to live in the east side of the old Tucker house on Brush Hill Road, her sister Waitstill owning and occupying the west half of house and farm.

Richard, son of George and Lydia, died Sept. 7, 1796, aged 29 years.

Lydia, dau. of George and Lydia, died Jan. 29, 1780, aged 6 years.

Elizabeth Clark died May 31, 1791, aged 52 years.

George Clark died Aug. 20, 1808, aged 65 years.

Jeremiah Smith Boies married Miss Clark. He built the Austin house, now the Morse Home, on Parkway, near the Matapan bridge. I think George Clark left four daughters. Jezaniah Tucker Clark, who had a reversionary interest in the paper mill, was the son of the second marriage.

### THE BUTLER SCHOOL.

[Here are three items of "ancient history" mostly reproduced from "The History of Dorchester," which was prepared by a committee of the "Dorchester Antiquarian and Historical Society" and published in 1851. They relate to the "BUTLER SCHOOL," heretofore considered in "The Record," LEMUEL CRANE, who flourished in the time of the American Revolution,—before and after,—and "Fortifying Dorchester Heights." They will all interest our readers.—EDITOR.]

(From the History of Dorchester, by a Committee of the Dorchester Antiquarian and Historical Society. 1851.)

In the year 1803 the town voted that "Ebenezer Trescott and others be allowed three hundred dollars to build a school-house." The year subsequently, a district was formed, called the fifth school district. It extended from Dedham line to Boies's Mills, afterwards "Dorchester Cotton Factory," now a starch factory, to Cole's Lane, now Madison Street, and to Roxbury line. The first district clerk was John Savels. The committee to superintend the building of the new school-house were Mr. Jeremiah McIntosh, Mr. Lemuel Crane and Mr. Jesse Ellis. The land was given by Mr. Crane for the purpose of a school-house, and for no other use. The district voted a tax of one

hundred and eighty dollars in addition to the three hundred dollars allowed by the town. The old house was sold for twenty-five dollars, making a fund of five hundred and five dollars with which to build the new house. It was built by Mr. Jesse Ellis, assisted by Mr. William Paul, carpenters. The amount of the bill from Mr. Ellis was three hundred and fifty dollars. The whole cost for house, fences, etc., was four hundred and seventy-two dollars and eighty-six cents. The building was neat and commodious, containing seats and writing desks for sixty scholars. A small addition and repairs were made in 1837, and the house is in good condition at the present time. Mr. William Sumner gave the district a stove, which was the only one in use for more than thirty years.

It may be well, in this connection, to give a brief account of the school, previous to 1803. It is situated in the southwesterly part of the town, and is now called the "Butler School."

In the year 1781, Nathaniel Weatherby and others petitioned the town "to excuse them from paying the School Tax." "The Article was dismissed." At the Murch meeting in 1783, the town voted, "That Ebenezer Trescott, Nathaniel Weatherby and others be allowed their proportional part of the school money—they using and improving it for the purpose of educating their children." Miss Polly Williams (who was afterwards the wife of Mr. Ebenezer Vose), a daughter of Deacon Isaac Williams, of Roxbury, kept the first school there, in a corn-barn, before any school-house was built. Miss Williams was engaged by Mr. Richard Clark, who moved the barn into his yard, opposite where the present school-house stands. This corn-barn, after being used for a school-room, was converted into a hen-house.

The town from year to year made small appropriations for the educational wants of the district. About the year 1786, a school-house was built near where the present one stands—"by Messrs. Trescott, George and Richard Clark, William Sumner, Lemuel Crane, Jeremiah McIntosh, and others, inhabitants of the district. It was one story in height, fourteen feet long, twelve feet wide, with no plastering or clapboards outside, and was only comfortable in summer. It had four small glass windows, and one without glass, closed with a wooden shutter. A door was in one corner with no porch or entry. It was filled in or lined, with brick, in the year 1791, but not plastered, and was sold," as has been stated, "for twenty-five dollars, in 1804."

Mrs. Hawes, wife of Joseph Hawes, Miss Gillespie, and other female teachers, taught there in the summer season. In the winter of 1790 and 1791, Mr. Lemuel Crane kept school in his own dwelling-house and afterwards in the school-house in winter, the building having been made more comfortable by the filling in before mentioned. Mr. Crane also kept an evening school, to teach the apprentices and other boys in the fundamental branches of reading, writing and arithmetic. In the year 1796, "Ebenezer Trescott and others were allowed one hundred dollars." The sums before this date were six, nine, fifteen and twenty pounds per annum. Miss Polly Crane, of Milton, kept the school in the summer of 1797; Dr. Gould of Dedham, in the winter of 1797 and '98. They were followed by Messrs. Nathaniel Heaton, Peck, Rev. William Montague, Perley Lyon and Griffin Child. The latter kept the school in 1803 and 1804, being the last teacher who taught in the old school-house. His salary was "thirteen dollars a month and board for the six winter months. The district paid two dollars a week for his board. Miss Martha Sumner kept the school in the summer of 1803." Mr. Griffin Child continued to teach the school in the winters of 1804-05 and 1805-06. He afterwards taught the school at Lower Mills. Miss Susan McIntosh and Miss Clarissa Sumner taught in the summers of 1805 and '06. Mr. Wm. Fox of Woodstock, Conn., taught the school about three years; Mr. Waldo Fox one year, until the spring of 1810. The town gave the district, in the years 1804, '5 and '6, the sum of \$226.39; in 1807, \$300. The latter sum was allowed each year, until about the year 1816, when another school-house having been built at the "Upper Mills" district, an annual school was established and kept in each house in proportion to the number of children east and west of "Capen's brook"—fourteen or sixteen weeks in the old house, the remainder in the new. This system continued until the district was divided. The westerly part was then called the seventh school district, and so continued till the district system was abolished by the town. The "new school," which is a larger one, is now called the "Norfolk School."

### LEMUEL CRANE.

(From the Dorchester History of 1851.)

Lemuel Crane, eldest son of Elijah and Sarah (Houghton)

Crane, was born in Milton, March 18th, 1757, and, with his parents, removed soon after to Canton, then a part of Stoughton. When he was eleven years of age, he went to live in the family of Rev. Samuel Dunbar, the minister of that parish, and continued there nearly seven years. Early in the year 1776 he came to Dorchester—was a soldier in a company of militia which was detailed to guard the troops of Burgoyne, when they were prisoners at Cambridge, and was called out on various alarms at other times. In the year 1782 he bought a tract of land in the westerly part of the town, being a portion of the "Dorchester common land," sold by the town about that time. He subdued and cultivated a large farm, and attended Boston market, occupying a stall in the westerly corner of Faneuil Hall building for many years. Mr. Crane was very fond of pomological pursuits, and a large number of apple trees, now in a thrifty and bearing state, remain as monuments of his industry and perseverance. The house and a part of the land owned by him is now in the possession of Mr. Elihu Greenwood. Mr. Crane taught the first school established in his neighborhood, in winter, from 1790 to 1797, and occasionally evening school for apprentices in the paper mill, and other boys, and also a singing school, for which he was well qualified. He was collector of town taxes for the years 1790 and 1792—selectman and assessor in 1793, 1803, '4 and '5; assessor, 1807-12; representative to the General Court in 1811—was usually one of the surveyors of the highways, and a member of the school committee of the district.

He married first, Martha, daughter of John Minot, who died leaving him one daughter, Nancy, now living; secondly, Elizabeth, daughter of Deacon Noah Davis, of Roxbury. By the latter connection, Mr. Crane had six children, four of whom are now living; one of these, Nathaniel, contributed the material for this sketch. To the same individual we are also under obligations for information concerning the Butler School.

Mr. Crane died on the 10th of November, 1817, in the 61st year of his age. His widow survived him twenty-two years, and died November 4th, 1839, aged 71. His father deceased in the year 1780; his mother, March 20th, 1819. As an instance of longevity in the family, it may be mentioned that his mother took him one day, when young, to see two grandmothers, two great-grandmothers, and one great-great-grandmother.

Mr. Crane was modest, and unassuming in his deportment,



firm in his opinions, industrious and enterprising in business, conscientious, tolerant and liberal in his religious views, republican in politics, a pleasant friend and an honest man.

### FORTIFYING DORCHESTER HEIGHTS.

As many people do not know that Washington once was in what is now Hyde Park, and that the marsh brush used for fascines were cut in the swamp between Pine Garden and River Street the following descriptions have been taken from the History of Dorchester of 1851 and from the Milton History.

The Dorchester History says:—For a long time the English officers had their attention fixed on what they denominated, on their plan, the twin hills, with the intention of fortifying them; but while they were waiting reinforcements enough to hazard it, the good judgment of Gen. Washington prompted him to secure the hills, and he improved the opportunity. The building of forts here, under his direction, for Congress, after serious debate, had given him authority to destroy it, notwithstanding the property and friends within it. Washington rode out to Dorchester and selected the farm of Capt. John Homans, in the upper part of the town, as a suitable place to obtain fascines, or bundles of white birch fagots, with which to construct a fort, which must of necessity be done secretly. It was March and the ground so much frozen that earth could not be used, even had there been time for it. A lieutenant and thirty men were detached to cut and make the fascines, and the citizens of this and the neighboring towns were called upon to cart them, on the night of the 4th, to the Height. About three hundred teams are supposed to have been employed for the purpose, under the special charge of Mr. Goddard, of Brookline, and Mr. James Boies, of Dorchester. The late Mr. William Summer, of Dorchester, so well remembered by many now living, drove one of the teams. He carried five loads before daylight, and remembered it with great satisfaction to his last days. No man was allowed to speak above a whisper, and thus the work went on silently, and unknown to the enemy, whose attention was, in the meantime, attracted elsewhere by a constant cannonade kept up from the American camps at Cambridge and Roxbury. It was one of the most formidable acts of the Revolution, and was accomplished in an incredibly short space of time. So sure was

Gen. Washington that this work would bring on a battle, that he had two thousand bandages prepared with which to dress the wounded. Gen. Howe wrote to Lord Dartmouth, that "it must have been the employment of at least twelve thousand men." He is also reported to have said, "The rebels have done more in one night than our whole army would have done in a month."

Dorchester Neck, in its topographical appearance was very uneven, abounding in hills and valleys. Nook's Hill, in the northwest part of it, less than half a mile from the Heights, was a very important location for a battery, on account of its proximity to Boston. Gen. Howe perceived this, and undoubtedly intended to occupy it, and to dislodge the continental army, or at least to prevent their use of it. The place where the hill then was, is the spot on which now stands the Lawrence school-house. It was an eminence fifty feet or upwards, above the sea. Washington made up his mind to fortify it, and on Saturday night, March 9th, sent a detachment for the purpose. It was one of those cold and blustering nights, so common at that season of the year, and the soldiers were so imprudent as to build a fire for their comfort. This was seen by the British in Boston, who opened a severe fire upon them, principally from their battery near what is now the corner of Washington and Dover Streets. Four soldiers and a surgeon, by the name of Dole, were killed, and their troops obliged to suspend operations for that time. Mrs. Adams, in her Letters, refers to this night in the following manner: "Sunday evening, March 10—A most terrible and incessant cannonade from half after eight till six in the morning. I hear we lost four men killed and some wounded in attempting to take the hill nearest the town, called Nook's Hill."

At a council of war held at the headquarters of Gen. Ward in Roxbury, it was decided to fortify this place, at whatsoever cost; and on Saturday night, March 16th, a large detachment was ordered out for the purpose. The British again opened upon them a heavy cannonade: but nothing daunted, they kept briskly at work and during the night erected a substantial fortification, which brought things to a crisis in Boston, and hastened the evacuation. In a history of the war, published in London, is the following:—"A breast work discovered this morning (March 17, 1776), to be thrown up by the American's at Nook's

Hill, on Dorchester peninsula, which from proximity had an entire command of Boston Neck and the south end of the town—a work which the king's troops had most fearfully dreaded." The next morning the troops left the town, and embarked on board their vessels for Halifax.

The History of Milton says:—"At the fortification of Dorchester Heights, which compelled the British evacuation of Boston, Milton turned out en masse."

As the ground was frozen, it became necessary to construct the breastwork in part from fascines. The fascines were cut from Capt. John Homan's (afterwards the Sumner) farm, about a mile from Mattapan, towards Dedham. General Washington, with his wonted foresight, selected this obscure spot to make ready materials for the anticipated emergency. In the fall of 1775 a lieutenant and thirty privates were engaged in cutting and binding the white birch and swamp brush. These were removed to Little Neck, and about three hundred teams were employed on that eventful night in transporting them to the Heights, and in other needful works. The teams of Milton were under the charge of Mr. James Boies of this town. Scotts Woods farmers were there. Brush Hill farmers vied with them in the faithful labors of that busy night. Not a word was spoken; the teams, with muffled chains and wheels, worked almost without guidance, seeming to take in the situation. Rev. De J. Thomas Tucker, grandson of Samuel Tucker, of Scotts Woods, in a recent letter says:—My grandfather was there with his team. I have often heard my father tell how well the oxen did their tasks in the enforced silence, without a word of direction or urging, as if they knew what we needed, and were glad to do it.

Capt. John Bradlee was there with a new company of Milton men. The fortification of Dorchester Heights was followed by the evacuation of Boston. General Howe's army of eight thousand troops and a train of adherents sailed for Halifax in a hundred and twenty vessels.

The brush was hauled through Back Street to Washington Village.

## READVILLE IN HYDE PARK, MASSACHUSETTS.

By Erastus Edward Williamson.

There is a mysterious Providence, wholly beyond human comprehension, which has in all the history of the human family, given an immortal name to various places on the earth. The glory of Thermopylae is as effulgent after twenty centuries as it was when Greece and her history illumined the known world. The heroic deeds performed at the Locrian mountain-pass will remain in the memory of mankind till the earth and our race disappear forever. Bunker Hill, Lexington, Concord, Saratoga, Valley Forge, Marston Moor, Naseby, are immortal spots of earth by Providential dealing. Hundreds of villages adorned the plains of Belgium on that memorable June morning in 1815; but there is only one Waterloo. When General Meade called his famous council of war in the little white-washed building on the Tarrytown road, at the close of the second day's battle of Gettysburg, after Hancock, and Slocum and Warren, and other generals had voted to stay and fight it out, he turned to them and said somewhat angrily, "Have your way gentlemen; but I tell you that Gettysburg is no place to fight a battle in." But the name of "Gettysburg" will live forever as the scene of the most awful conflict ever known. God laid the plan—not Buford, nor Reynolds, nor Howard, nor Warren, nor Meade. So it is, although, of course, in a lesser sense, that the village of Readville, which this brief article is intended to commemorate, will live in the memory as the camping ground for years of patriotic men who sprang to arms to uphold the Union of States comprising the mighty American Republic, with Abraham Lincoln guiding its affairs as President.

Readville has a proud, historic name. Let me take it to pieces, so that the people who use it may do it from now on intelligently, and with a proper sense of what it stands for.

Readville takes in the proper surname of James Read, a famous Boston merchant, combined with the French word "ville,"



ERASTUS E. WILLIAMSON

meaning town or village. It is a name always to be spoken with a just pride.

Mr. Read, the fourth of ten children of Joseph Stacey Read and Esther Goodwin, was born in Cambridge, Mass., on the 9th of November, 1789, more than one hundred and twenty-two years ago. He died at the age of eighty-one years, Dec. 24, 1870. He was a business man who really slunned public office. His record was most honorable, although he had his "ups and downs," like the rest of us, and even an honorable business failure. One needs only to examine carefully the face and features of this man. Honor, whole-heartedness, candor, truth—these are stamped into his benignant face. He was contemporaneous with the greatest merchants Boston ever had. With Amos and Abbott Lawrence, Chas. W. Cartwright, Mills, Paige, and others, such as used to honor and uphold Daniel Webster when he was in the greatest of his power. The story of Mr. Read's life is fascinating. I cannot in this connection give more than an incident or two in his career, when he was obliged to fail. He eventually paid nearly all his indebtedness.

The chief incident in his life, which I conceive will now interest Readville people, is his connection with the famous philanthropist, George Peabody, whom the writer well remembers. In 1869 a large reception was given in Boston to Mr. Peabody by his former partner, James M. Beebe, whom also I distinctly recall. When Mr. Read entered the room Mr. Peabody eagerly grasped his hand and exclaimed:

"Mr. Read, I want to say to you that you laid the foundation of my fortune. I came to Boston as a lad without a cent, but having heard of an opportunity to sell at a profit \$3000 worth of goods in Philadelphia, I went to you and explained the circumstances. Although you knew nothing of me, you let me have the goods on credit, and thereby started me on my career."

And what a vast career Geo. Peabody had! What an incalculable amount of good he did by his Educational fund in the Southern States, soon after the Civil War. Thus Peabody's stupendous fortune and endowments are indissolubly associated with the enduring name of Readville. I trust my readers will not forget this important historic relationship.

For nearly two centuries the locality now known as "Readville" was called "Low Plain," and when it afterward became a part of historic Dedham it was still known as "Dedham Low

Plain," and the school district had the same designation. As time passed the name seemed to be more or less distasteful to some of the residents, and about 1847 the locality was given the name which it now bears, in honor of Mr. Read. The Dedham Manufacturing Company was a flourishing corporation at that date, and the firm of Read & Chadwick was largely interested in it. The late Henry S. Grew, of Hyde Park, was at one time associated in business with Mr. Read.

It would be interesting for me to give the names of teachers of the Readville school, running back three-quarters of a century and more; but I have not now the space at my command in which to do it, and they appear elsewhere.

Readville has a topographical extent of only a few square miles, yet its environment really includes the Blue Hills, surely in its sentimental aspect if in no other. It has a population, I suppose, bordering on 2000 people, among whom are some of the best citizens of Hyde Park (Ward 26.) No community ever goes far astray when such men as I can mention off-hand dominate its especial interests and institutions. J. R. Corthell, H. E. Astley, Albert Davenport, F. E. Gray, E. S. Alden, J. S. McLean, Dr. S. T. Elliott, Richard W. Wright, E. M. Cundall, Frank L. George, J. E. Crowley, Benj. Clough, Rev. H. M. Dean, H. A. Pellett, Fred A. Wilde, H. P. Herr, E. P. True, Alexander W. Corbett, Isaac Bullard, Edwin D. Bither, William King, Thomas E. Horsefield, and many others I could name.

From Orient Heights in East Boston to the limits of Readville is, I am told, between thirteen and fourteen miles, giving Boston a long stretch of dimensions. The historic Blue Hills of Milton, capped with the Rotch observatory, is a scene of grandeur with which Readville residents can be always enchanted. It is 635 feet above the ocean's level, and is the highest point, within ten miles of the coast line, between Boston and Florida. The Blue Hills number eleven distinct hills in their range. The Hancock hill, in Milton, is 507 feet high, and was once the property of Gov. John Hancock. Swan's, or Fenno's, is 518 feet high, and there are traces of former inhabitants in abandoned cellars. The views from these great hills overshadowing Readville are most enrapturing and highly to be admired.

But the part of Readville which gives it its most historic interest is, of course, the Camp Meigs grounds. Before the Civil War, away, back in the 40's, it was, I think, called "Sprague's

Plain." At the time of the war, Ebenezer Paul owned the land. President Lincoln's second call for troops, in May, 1861, was for half a million men, and it was under this call that the first troops assembled "On Sprague's Plain, near Sprague's Pond, in the town of Dedham." These are the exact words in Gov. John A. Andrew's order, dated July 2, 1861. The first troops to arrive a few days after the 4th of July, 1861, were the 18th and 20th regiments, the latter under the command of Col. William Raymond Lee, who it is said selected the spot. Each regiment named its own camp at that time, and the 20th selected the name of the good and great Indian—Chief Massasoit, who befriended the Pilgrims at Plymouth and saved them from massacre. How well I remember Gen. Richard A. Pierce, in command in 1862, and Col. Holbrook, of the 43rd, the "tiger" regiment. Gen. Pierce and the colonels of the different regiments were strict disciplinarians. At first the neighbors of the camp-ground were afraid the soldiers would raid the hen coops and milk the cows on the sly; but never was a complaint recorded. The soldiers of those regiments had more serious business in hand. I have witnessed scenes on this camp-ground which will never be effaced from my memory, especially one when the "Tiger"—43rd—regiment was about to depart for the front.

It was an autumnal afternoon in October or November, 1862. The regiment was drawn up in dress-parade. The Rev. J. M. Manning, D. D., chaplain, one of the pastors of the Old South Church, of Boston, offered prayer, and such a prayer as I shall never forget. He was imploring divine guidance and blessing from the depths of his soul. It was no "lip service." He did not pretend to pray for everybody and everything in the wide world. If he had done it, the occasion would long since have passed from my memory.

It was about this time that the camp-ground, containing twenty-four acres, was first called "Camp Meigs."

On the 13th of January, 1866, Ebenezer Paul sold his entire farm to Charles A. White of Hyde Park, for \$20,000, including the old camp-ground. I remember Mr. White as the presiding officer the last time I made a political speech in Hyde Park. In 1890 the Hamilton Park Association was organized, and in 1894 it was changed to the "Meigs Memorial Association." January 4, 1903, the name "Hamilton Park" was changed to "Meigs Memorial Park."



I come now to give some interesting historical facts regarding the Readville Post-office. At the time of the establishment of the convalescent camp, or hospital, Cyrus Brewster was appointed post chaplain, and in the chapel a temporary post-office was provided, in which Mr. Brewster acted as postmaster. There seems to be very little known about Mr. Brewster. The letter published in this article from the Postoffice Department gives the dates of his holding the Postmastership of the "Readville Station." The following very interesting letter to me several years ago from the late lamented Alfred Downing, gives in detail the way Readville residents received their mail previous to the establishment of the Camp. I give Mr. Downing's own words:

"24 Milton Street, Readville, July 2, 1906.

"Friend Williamson:—Replying to yours of June 7 would say that I have no knowledge of Cyrus Brewster as P. M., or in any other relation. Enoch P. Davis and Charles Y. Paine (both now dead) are the only P. M.'s I ever knew at this end of the town. The history of the mail, or P. O. accommodation for Readville is as follows:

"The nearest P. O. to us till after the war was Dedham about 2 1-2 miles away. My father was agent at the mill here, and all his mail came to Dedham, where we had to go nearly every day for it. As a matter of accommodation to the mill hands and neighbors we used to have a little case in our counting-room, and bring all the mail there was for a circle of a mile or so, and distribute it from there gratis. After the camp was established and recruiting commenced, the letters began to come for the soldiers to our office, and made us considerable trouble. I finally told them at headquarters that I would take the letters there every day for one cent each. That they agreed to, and all went very well until the number increased and we had 200 or 300 a day, when they thought some of their men and horses might do the work and save the pennies. After that I did not go there any more. After the camp was broken up, and they had done using the barracks, the P. O. was located at the depot, and the station agent, Mr. Davis, appointed P. M. Mr. Brewster might have been P. M. at headquarters during the war. That I could not tell anything about. Hoping this will be satisfactory, I remain,

Yours truly,

"ALFRED DOWNING."

The following correspondence is highly valuable, interesting and self-explanatory:

Hyde Park, March 17, 1912.

Editor Gazette-Times:

Sir—In the interest of history, and as a matter of especial interest to the people of the Readville district, as well as to all the people of this section, I request the publication of the enclosed letter, which is a copy of one I received recently from the First Assistant Postmaster General. Mr. Brewster held the Postmastership of "Readville Station" at the time I held the Postmastership of "Fairmount," but the coincidence seems to have been forgotten by everybody in this section, not even the oldest citizens of Readville remembering it. He was the first Postmaster, E. P. Davis the second, and Chas. F. Paine the third. I feel glad to have been instrumental in setting this historical matter before the community as it really is.

Respectfully,

ERASTUS E. WILLIAMSON.

Post Office Department,

First Assistant Postmaster General,

Washington, March 13, 1912.

Mr. Erastus E. Williamson,

United States Navy Yard, Boston, Mass.

Sir—In reply to your letter of the 9th instant, which the Postmaster General has referred to me, you are informed that according to the records of this office Cyrus Brewster was appointed postmaster at Readville Station, Massachusetts, on July 21, 1864, and was succeeded by Enoch P. Davis who was appointed July 20, 1865.

The name of the post office was changed from Readville Station to Readville on October 29, 1879.

At the present time Readville is a station of the Hyde Park, Massachusetts, post office.

Respectfully,

C. P. GRANDFIELD,

First Assistant Postmaster General.

The second postmaster, Enoch P. Davis, held the office several years, being succeeded by Charles F. Paine, both of whom

were station agents at the railroad station, where the office was located. When Mr. Paine relinquished his position as station agent he opened a store in Wolcott Square and transferred the post office there, where it remained until his death, five or six years ago. It was almost, if not quite, wholly through the energetic efforts of the Readville Improvement Association that the present commodious post office was secured; and it is most creditable to that organization that it was able to procure for the people of Readville such excellent accommodations regarding their postal facilities. The office is now under the excellent supervision of clerk-in-charge, Mr. Alexander W. Corbett.

There are two "meetin houses" in Readville: The First Union Church, on Readville Street, and the Blue Hill Evangelical Society—a religious society, and not a church. There is a most interesting and unique history connected with this society and its attractive "meeting house." In the first place it stands on a spot of earth made famous by the presence and drilling of more than 25,000 soldiers of this great Republic, between 1861 and 1865. For well nigh a quarter of a century men and women of Readville have in the most harmonious manner sought to elevate the community in everything which makes for righteousness. The story of this non-sectarian religious society is worthy to be read and exemplified everywhere where good things are sought after. Hundreds of different preachers, I suppose, have preached the gospel of Jesus Christ in this chapel since March 24, 1889. A Sunday School was organized March 31, 1889. The noble Rev. Phillips Brooks preached his last sermon in the Blue Hill Chapel, and a friend endowed the society with a library and reading room in memory of that powerful pulpit orator and beloved clergyman.

Readville has two schools: The "Damon" School and the "Hemenway." These schools do not fall below the high average of others in Hyde Park, and the citizens of Readville "point with pride" to the ample school facilities which they enjoy.

Hyde Park has a number of houses around which cluster historic memories. These places should never be permitted to decay, or to be destroyed. To be sure we cannot live on "sentiment," even if it is nearly the greatest thing in the world. In an elaborate and highly instructive address a few years ago by Judge Charles F. Jenney, of our superior court, he said, "The first house, near the limits of our town, was at Readville, and

probably was built shortly before 1639." But the so-called "Badlam house," on Milton Street, built in 1719, is the most venerable of all buildings in this locality. This house, and the Butler school-house, built in 1804, eighty-five years after, on East River Street, should be preserved.

Ward 26 is supposed to be one of the finest residential districts within a radius of ten or fifteen miles from the heart of Boston. But many manufactories, now giving employment to hundreds of skilled artisans, are located within the Readville district. It seems a pity that all of these industrious men cannot find suitable homes for their families near their places of employment, and thereby obviate the sending of train loads to other localities. Among the most prominent manufactories, as I recall them, are the Stafford Loom Works; the Leland, or Readville Color Works; the great repair shops of the railroad; the B. F. Sturtevant Works, with which the governor of the State is connected; B. B. and R. Knight Cotton Mill; George Wilcomb & Co., curled hair; the Frank Kunkel Company, carriage manufacturers and automobile garage headquarters; and the Standard Oil Company's fine plant on Wolcott Street.

Readville has the distinction of having one of the finest race-tracks in the world, and some of the most wonderful horses have demonstrated their trotting qualities over this renowned course. I am told that highly honorable gentlemen manage this trotting park, which assures the people of Readville of right conduct when large crowds attend its exhibitions.

No one can accurately prognosticate the future of any locality, be it town or nation. All depends on the character of the people who reside on the soil. That great French philosopher, Montesquieu, famous for his profound political and scientific works on government, two centuries ago, said, "A country is rich, not as it is fertile, but as it is free." Readville as a part of Boston will in large measure for many years to come, control its own destiny. The famous Blue Hill Chapel will continue to call to its platform clergymen whose words will have no uncertain sound. Their message will be the Gospel of peace, and will be given

"Not with the roll of the stirring drum,  
And the trumpet that sings of fame,"

to use the forceful and musical words of Mrs. Hemans.

The pulpit platform of the Blue Hill Chapel, open to Christian teaching in its broadest sense, may easily become the most potent factor for the promulgation of righteousness within the limits of this section of the enlarged city of Boston. Following such a guide, the honored name of Readville will be always a synonym for an intellectual and law-abiding community, its name always associated with the great events of the Civil War period from 1861 to 1865, the destruction of human slavery in the United States, and the saving of the Republic,—as Whittier has it in his poem—

“The gift of faith, the crown of song.”

## ANCIENT LANDMARKS OF NORFOLK COUNTY

By Mrs. Charles G. Chick.

A few years ago I was asked by an organization in which I was then interested to look up and name historic spots in Norfolk County for a publication at that time in preparation but which failed to issue. The spots found seem of interest and I give in the Hyde Park Historical Record such as I noted that they may be printed and the history thus preserved.

Looming up six hundred and thirty feet above the level of the ocean and plainly seen far out to sea are the Blue Hills of Milton. The tribal name of the Indians living around Great Hill was, among themselves, Massadchussuck; this anglicized plural, Massachusetts. The country came to be called by their name, the colony, then the state, took the same appellation.

In May, 1762, the Town of Dedham voted to have the Powder House builded on a great rock in Aaron Fuller's field near the Charles River on Dedham Island. The Powder House was finished in 1766 and still stands.

Mother Brook had its source about three quarters of a mile S. E. from Charles River and unites it with Neponset River. This canal is probably the first one ever made in this country and is known as "Mill Creek."

Across the street from the Court House on the Church Green in Dedham stands a square granite pillar about five feet high with a suitable inscription. This stone is the base of the Pillar of Liberty. It was originally surmounted by a wooden column on the top of which was a bust of William Pitt erected July 22, 1766.

In this manner the people testified their delight in the repeal of the Stamp Act.

On East Street, Dedham, is the well-known Fairbanks House, a quaint and curious looking structure, with gables and sloping roofs. Tradition says it was erected as early as 1636 with timbers brought from England. The correctness of this date, however, is seriously questioned.

Travelers journeying from Milton to Canton, come upon a house standing back from the street, a little south from the base of Blue Hill, kept as a tavern in 1726 and known as Doty's Tavern in 1774. A marquis slept beneath its roof; a general planned within its walls the freedom of a nation; a destined President of the United States, John Adams, baited his horse, and here the County Congress was held August 16th, 1774.

This Congress finished its labors and made its report in the Daniel Vose house in Milton, the birthplace of American Liberty. The Vose house stands near the Lower Mills Railroad Depot. Gen. Joseph Warren was Chairman of the Congress.

On the 20th of February, 1676, the Indians attacked and burned Medfield, destroying a large part of the town. Seventeen or eighteen persons were slain and some were carried into captivity. One house escaped destruction and is still standing. The Indians retreated across the river and there held a great feast in full view of the burning buildings. King Philip trees in Medway mark the historic spot.

Another place of interest connected with King Philip's war is "Indian Rock" in Franklin where in 1675 forty Indians were repulsed by thirteen settlers.

The Butler School House on East River Street in Hyde Park, erected in 1804 on a lot of land given by Lemuel Crane to the fifth school district in Dorchester for school purposes, is a familiar landmark to our townspeople. Near the building is the location where General Washington employed his men to cut the fascines that were used in the fortifications of Dorchester Heights in March, 1776. There are many more spots of interest which need not be mentioned here.

## EDITORIAL

It is the special province of a historical society to record and discuss events of the past. But it cannot wisely ignore current events, which make the history of the present time. It is certainly true that we are now making, with rapid strides, important history. Recent events in various parts of the world have occurred and are occurring which will loom large in future records.

### **Presidential Campaign.**

This year the people of the United States elect a president for the next four years, and the finances and the general business of the country are in such a state that it is difficult for astute statesmen to foresee what will be the outcome. Henry Ward Beecher is reported to have said, "The Presidential Election is the nation's schoolmaster," by which this great Republic learns the principles of popular government. The discussions which precede the voting for presidential electors are always exciting and earnest, but the present campaign seems to be more complicated than usual. However, we may trust the general good sense of our people.

### **Capital and Labor.**

The unprecedented relations of capital and labor are such as have never been seen prior to this period. It is impossible to tell at the present moment what the final outcome is to be.

### **Unsettled Conditions in Mexico.**

The recent revolution and present unhappy situation in the neighboring Republic of Mexico have interfered seriously with the business interests of this country.

### **The Italian and Turkish War.**

The war now being carried on between Italy and the Turkish Empire is another disquieting problem in the present condition of affairs in the world. The recent overturn in Turkey by which the government came under the control of "The Young Turks," was promising much; but now our country and the nations of Europe stand in doubt of what may happen to that great



empire, entangled as it is with the religious question of Christianity and Mohammedanism. Before this controversy with Italy, many conditions looked hopeful. At present it is impossible to tell whether Turkey will remain intact, or whether it will be split into fragments.

### **The Revolution in China.**

One of the most remarkable revolutions the world has ever seen is now going on in the great country of China. The Manchu dynasty has given way, the Emperor has abdicated and a Republic has been inaugurated. It is plainly evident that our "Western Civilization" is rapidly being introduced, including many of the principles of Christianity. To the Chinese mind the peculiar civilization of Europe and America, which they call "The Western Civilization," is so interlaced with the Christian religion that the two seem to them to be inseparable.

### **Philanthropic and Benevolent Movements.**

The recent growth of corporations and the consolidation of business into gigantic enterprises is entirely unprecedented in the history of the world. These new movements have had various results. One of them has been the amassing of large fortunes by a few men. But some of these men have made good use of their money. Millions for colleges, libraries, hospitals, missionary movements, and other philanthropic enterprises have resulted. In ancient times Croesus was called the richest man in the world, and it has been estimated that his entire wealth was not more than twenty millions of dollars. In our country, two men have within a few years given to philanthropic objects more than three hundred million dollars. And what these two men have done is only a drop in the bucket compared with what has been done by hundreds more. One of our most noble philanthropists Dr. D. K. Pearsons, died April 27, 1912. He gave to the smaller colleges of our country and other objects something like five million dollars. He died at the advanced age of about 92 years.

### **The Spirit of Good Will.**

It would seem that the spirit of good will is making gigantic progress throughout the world. Men are less antagonistic everywhere. Aggregation, consolidation, co-operation, all have the tendency to promote good will.

**The International Peace Movement.**

The human race in all its forms has been accustomed to wars and fightings in all ages. As civilization has advanced and men have become less brutish and more enlightened, the spirit of "Peace, good will to men" has received more and more attention. It is true that the principle of the Golden Rule has never yet characterized the diplomacy of any nation, but the United States in recent years has,—especially through the efforts of John Hay,—come nearer to it than any nation ever did; witness the return of the Chinese indemnity and its results after the Boxer war.

It is certain that the drift of public sentiment all over the world is rapidly tending to the abolition of all international wars. No good arguments are presented for their continuance, and the establishment of The Hague Court and the passage by the various nations of so many treaties of Arbitration are rapidly bringing about a condition which will soon make any war unnecessary and unjustifiable.

America has done, is doing, and will do, her part in bringing about so important a result.

**Home Affairs.**

Now let us turn our attention to our own affairs, here in Hyde Park. We, too, have been making history. The town of Hyde Park, in accordance with a majority vote of the people of the town, and the consent of Boston, was by an act of the Legislature, annexed to the city of Boston, January first, 1912, and became ward twenty-six. The town was incorporated on the twenty-second of April, 1868. Hence its history as a town covers nearly forty-four years. By its annexation to the city it increased the population of the metropolis of New England by about 16,000, and added to the valuation of the city something over \$15,500,000. We are now no longer a town, but a part of the city of Boston. This is by no means the first accession to the original city. Various annexations have heretofore taken place, by which Dorchester, Roxbury, West Roxbury, Brighton, and Charlestown were joined to the city. Doubtless other additions will sooner or later be made, and it is claimed by many that the city will become a large and important port of entry for our American commerce.

## THE STUDY OF HISTORY

By William A. Mowry.

This age may well be called the Renaissance of historical study. Our people have cause of gratitude that the study of history is so rapidly becoming popular. Especially is this true of the history of our own country, and our own people. Long ago the poet, Alexander Pope, expressed the sentiment, since so often quoted:—

“The proper study of mankind is man.”

This furnishes us the keynote to the study of history. History is the study of man. Primarily, it is not the study of dynasties, empires, nations. It is the study of the actors in these nations and empires. We should always bear in mind that that history only is profitable which shows the progress of the human race. The most valuable history is that which exhibits in the clearest light the most rapid advancement of the human race, the uplift of humanity, the progress of mankind.

There are strong reasons for believing that the history of our own country takes a very high rank when compared with the story of other nations. A careful study of the principal actions and actors in the development of this nation will show rapid advancement, great improvement, and a healthy development along various lines of industry, mental progress and moral culture. In this study several important points challenge our attention.

The historical origin of the United States is not, like that of the leading nations of Europe, involved in myth and obscurity. While the prehistorical story of America and its aboriginal inhabitants is past finding out,—and that is a matter of no consequence whatever, so far as the history of our people is concerned,—yet the earliest as well as the later efforts for the colonization of these shores by Europeans is fully portrayed in reliable historical works. We have a credible history of the early colonies and of the subsequent development and growth of the

United States of America. This history, full and unusually accurate, places before us the deeds of noble men in every period from the beginning until now.

In the next place we should notice the rapid growth of our republic and its remarkable development in various directions. At the beginning the nation was limited in territory to the country between the Atlantic and the Mississippi river. It comprised a little more than eight hundred thousand square miles. Today it extends from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and on the western coast northward to the frozen seas of the Arctic. It has also added many island possessions, so that today the Stars and Stripes float over nearly four million square miles. Our population has increased from barely four millions of people to nearly one hundred millions, and is receiving a steady influx of immigrants, from all parts of the world, of a million a year, more or less. Its increase in wealth, intelligence, enterprise and thrift, has been equally marvellous. It has surpassed the world in invention. In labor-saving machines, and means of transportation and communication American inventions have been numerous and important.

Another consideration should interest us in relation to the value of our own history, and encourage us to study the doings of our leading actors. The Atlantic coast was first settled by immigrants from Europe. Then the great Mississippi valley was peopled from those previously living east of the Alleghanias. Finally, from both sections, there flowed over the Rocky Mountains hardy and vigorous pioneers, who have formed the several states now covering all that great area between the mountains and the Pacific. It is important that we study the doings of the pioneers and leaders in these great movements which have made North America what it is today.

But a history of deeds always implies doers. The true history—the vital, living, interesting and valuable history—is the biography of the actors, the doers of deeds, the makers of the history. Most people are interested in the lives of the great actors in the drama of life. To hold up to view, therefore, the lives of the makers of the republic, to make conspicuous the record of the men and women who have shown forth best of all the "Ideals of American History" is a praiseworthy work, calling for the highest commendation.

It is plainly the duty of all to become acquainted with the

lives and deeds of the important actors who have made America what it is today. Had our people been less intelligent and therefore less successful in voting aright and sending the right men to represent them in the councils of the nation, we should not have had the successful republic which is ours today. Hence we see the necessity for all to study our civil government and to learn the causes of our present growth and prosperity. This is best done by becoming familiar with what the leaders of thought and action have done heretofore.

What could be more inspiring than the study of the life and character of George Washington, "the man of few words and modest bearing"; of Jefferson, "the exponent of genuine Democratic simplicity"; of Marshall, "the jurist who cared for neither applause nor money"; of Grant, "the silent captain whose only self-assertion was command"; of Lee, "the unassuming genius of generalship, self-effacing, almost shrinking from attention"; or where will our youth find more entertaining reading than in the lives of Benjamin Franklin, at once the philosopher, scientist, inventor, diplomat, statesman and scholar; of John C. Fremont, the impulsive and adventurous explorer; of Abraham Lincoln, the boatman, the rail splitter, the statesman, President and restorer of the shattered republic; of John Hay, the poet, historian and most distinguished diplomatist of his age; of Henry Ward Beecher, "Stonewall" Jackson, Washington Irving, Longfellow, Whittier, Daniel Boone, Lewis and Clark, Manasseh Cutler, William McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt or William H. Taft.

Surely the history of this country of ours ought to be familiar to all our people everywhere. The historical societies, the public speakers, and our schools all over the land should redouble their efforts to make our own history more widely known.



HENRY STURGIS GREW

## HENRY STURGIS GREW

Henry Sturgis Grew was born in Boston on June 23rd, 1834, and was the son of Henry Grew and Elizabeth Perkins Sturgis Grew. He attended the Boston Latin School and for the next four years he was with Messrs. A. A. Lawrence & Co. In 1855 he went to China to enter the employ of the firm of Russell & Co., of which his uncle, Robert Sturgis, was a member. Mr. Grew remained there as a clerk and later as a partner until 1867, when he returned to Boston.

Since that time he has been actively identified with Boston and Massachusetts corporations as a director or other officer. He was a director of the Everett Mills, of the Hamilton Mfg. Co., the Pepperell Mfg. Co., and the York Mfg. Co. He was vice-president and trustee of the Suffolk Savings Bank and was a member of the corporation of the Provident Institution for Savings.

Mr. Grew was deeply interested in charitable and philanthropic work and was a member of the Board of the Children's Aid Society and also of that having charge of the Farm and Trade school on Thompson's Island in Boston harbor. The last named institution claimed perhaps Mr. Grew's greatest activity, as he was much interested in the welfare of those attending this school.

Mr. Grew in 1863 was married in Boston to Jane Norton Wigglesworth, daughter of Edward Wigglesworth of that city. The fruits of this marriage were four children, who now survive, Edward W. Grew, Mrs. J. Pierpont Morgan, Jr., Mrs. Boylston A. Beal and Mrs. Stevens V. R. Crosby.

The Grew estate, called by the family "Woodland," has long been one of the beauties of Hyde Park, and here Mr. and Mrs. Grew spent spring and fall of each year when not abroad.

He was a regular attendant at the Arlington Street Church and a member of the St. Botolph Club.

Notwithstanding Mr. Grew's many activities he kept his interest in the affairs of Hyde Park, and when possible for him to do so, attended Town Meeting and exerted himself for the Town's welfare. Especially was he a friend of the public

schools and generously assisted the industrial department, often contributing money for materials and tools for use in this work.

The Public Library and the Historical Society, of which he was a vice-president, always found in him a friend, not alone in name but in substantial support. Mr. Grew was a gentleman of rare disposition, kindly where kindness was needed, courteous upon all occasions and considerate of the welfare of all who proved to be worthy of his assistance.

He was a citizen whose character may well be emulated by those who are to follow.

CHARLES G. CHICK.



## REVIEW OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE SOCIETY, SINCE 1896

(Continued.)

1907.

### Annual Meeting, January 14, 1907.

The Annual Meeting of the society for the election of officers and the transaction of other business was held this evening in Weld Hall, with President Chick in the chair.

Mr. W. K. Watkins was the speaker for the evening and presented a paper on "Street Corners in Old Boston," which was highly interesting and very well received. A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Watkins.

Mr. Eugene Tappan of the Sharon Historical Society was present and gave notice of the celebration of Washington's birthday by that Society and invited our members to be present. He also made a donation of the publications of the Sharon Historical Society to our library.

The Secretary's report was then read and accepted.

The Treasurer's report, showing a balance in the treasury of \$88.97 was read and accepted.

President Chick addressed the meeting and reported that the matter for the Record was almost ready. He announced that he had invited the Mass. League of Historical Societies to meet with us on the 19th of April.

Voted to ratify the action of President Chick.

The report of the committee on nominations for officers of the Society for the year 1907 was read, and the Secretary was instructed to cast one ballot for the list of officers reported by the committee.

The ballot was cast and the following were declared elected:

President—Charles G. Chick.

Secretary—Fred L. Johnson.

Treasurer—Henry B. Humphrey.

Curators—George L. Richardson, Frank B. Rich, George L.

Stocking, Llewellyn S. Evans, Charles F. Jenney, Alfred F. Bridgman, J. Roland Corthell.

Vice-Presidents—Henry S. Bunton, Edward S. Hathaway, Robert Bleakie, William A. Mowry, Henry S. Grew, Henry B. Miner, James E. Cotter, Randolph P. Moseley, Howard Jenkins, Stillman E. Newell, David Perkins, Samuel T. Elliott, Samuel A. Tuttle, John J. Enneking, Ferdinand A. Wyman, G. Fred Gridley, Henry B. Terry, Edward I. Humphrey, John R. Fairbanks, Joseph King Knight.

Adjourned.

March 18, 1907.

A special meeting of the Society was held this evening, with President Chick in the chair.

President Chick called the attention of the Society to the loss of two of its members, Mr. Charles H. Crumett and Mr. Frank B. Rich.

Mr. Crumett was a member of long standing, having joined the Society in 1887 and gave it his constant support.

Mr. Rich was curator since 1901 and was much interested in the growth of the Society.

A committee on resolutions was appointed for Mr. Crumett as follows: Samuel R. Moseley, Henry B. Terry, Frank H. Dean. For Mr. Rich: E. E. Williamson, Henry S. Bunton, Stillman E. Newell.

President Chick read a very interesting paper on Samuel Adams and his influence on the country and course of events just before the Revolution. The paper showed scholarly research and intelligent understanding of the politics of the time.

Adjourned.

April 19, 1907.

The Annual Reception and Anniversary Meeting of the Society was held this evening.

No report of the meeting appears, owing to the absence of the Secretary and no one being appointed to act in his place.

October 21, 1907.

A special meeting of the Society was held this evening with President Chick in the chair.

President Chick addressed the meeting and spoke with much feeling of the loss to the Society of Edward S. Fellows.

A committee to draw up resolutions on Mr. Fellows was appointed as follows: James E. Cotter, Henry B. Miner, Frank H. Dean.

Donations to the Society were received as follows:

Book of the Hayes and Wheeler Club of 1876 from Randolph P. Moseley.

Guide to Old Cambridge, from Charles G. Chick, and sundry pamphlets.

Report of the committee on death of Mr. Frank B. Rich was read by Mr. E. E. Williamson.

Adjourned.

December 9, 1907.

A special meeting of the Society was held this evening, President Chick in the chair.

A committee on resolutions on the death of Mr. John G. Ray was appointed as follows: Charles F. Jenney, James S. Mitchell, Samuel R. Moseley.

It was decided to invite General Luther Stephenson to deliver a paper called "A day at Gettysburg" at the Annual Meeting of the Society to be held January 8, 1908.

Miss Weld of the Medford Historical Society read a paper on the "Royall House and Its People."

The Royall House, an interesting colonial relic in Medford, is the home of the Medford Historical Society. A rising vote of thanks was given Miss Weld for her splendid paper.

Voted to admit to membership David W. Murray and Fred G. Katzman.

Adjourned.

January 8, 1908.

The Annual Meeting of this Society was held this evening. In the absence of President Chick, Dr. William A. Mowry was chosen to preside. General Luther Stephenson was the speaker for the evening and presented a very valuable paper on "A Day in Gettysburg." After the paper was read, a vote of thanks was passed to General Stephenson. The reading of the Secretary's report was waived.

The Treasurer's report, showing a balance of \$149.20 on hand, was read and accepted.

The report of the committee on nominations for officers of

the Society for the year 1908 was presented and the Secretary was instructed to cast one ballot for the list as read.

The ballot resulted in the election of the present officers except that James S. Mitchell was elected a Curator in place of Frank B. Rich, deceased, and the choice of Alfred Foster, Vice-president in place of Samuel A. Tuttle.

Adjourned.

#### February 17, 1908.

A special meeting of the Society was held this evening with President Chick in the chair.

A committee on resolutions on the death of Arthur C. Kollock was appointed as follows: G. Fred Gridley, Fred L. Johnson, Charles Sturtevant.

Donations were received as follows:

Ten vols. of the works of John Adams, from Mr. Henry S. Grew.

All pictures of a historical nature in the possession of the Grand Army Post of the town to be placed in the custody of the Hyde Park Historical Society whenever the Post shall be disbanded.

A Dorchester directory containing Hyde Park, from Hon. Charles T. Jenney.

Voted thanks of the Society to these donors.

Mr. Chas. F. Read of the Bostonian Society delivered a very interesting paper on the "Old State House" in Boston.

Mr. Read's ability and scholarly attainments are well known and it is always a treat to hear him. A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Read.

Adjourned.

#### December 5, 1908.

A special meeting of the Society was held this evening to listen to a lecture by Mr. George B. Dexter of Brookline on "The Untrodden Paths of Italy."

The itinerary included the hill towns and other places of historical and artistic interest off the line of travel, which Mr. Dexter has visited in several trips to the Continent.

The lecture was illustrated by many lantern slides colored in a new and very successful manner by Mr. Dexter who orig-

inated the process. The effects were wondrous in their imitation of nature and gave the audience a most accurate and delightful idea of the beauty of Italian scenery.

Mr. Dexter's lecture was interesting throughout and at the close the Society passed him a vote of thanks for a most enjoyable entertainment.

Adjourned.