

CHAPTER XVIII.

MASONRY IN MILFORD - ODD FELLOWSHIP – DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION – REMINISCENCES OF THE TOWN, BY JESSE HUTCHINSON, SR. – THE MILFORD LYCEUM.

MASONIC.

Benevolent lodge, No. 7, A. F. & A. M., was chartered by the M. W. Grand Lodge of New Hampshire, April 26, 1797, and was consecrated in the Congregational meeting-house in Amherst, August 10, 1797, by Nathaniel Adams, deputy grand master, and the following officers were installed: Brothers Samuel Dana, worshipful master; Luther Dana, senior warden; and Jonathan Gove, junior warden.

The meetings in Amherst were held for a few years in the southwest chamber of Dr. Matthias Spalding's house, being the large square house at the west end of Amherst Common, on the north side of the road leading to Milford, and later the meetings were held at other places, till 1822 when, to obtain better accommodations and for the convenience of the members, the removal of the lodge to Milford was agitated. This met with much opposition until the spring of 1826, when it was voted to remove the lodge to Milford on condition that it should be returned to Amherst whenever the majority of the lodge should so desire.

The lodge was located in Milford in June, 1826. Meetings were held for several years in the second story of the building now owned by Judge R. M. Wallace, upon the corner of Union square and South street. The hall in the Buxton tavern also furnished accommodation for the lodge for a considerable time.

In common with all Masonic lodges it felt the effects of the anti-Masonry agitation which was especially active from 1826 to 1833. Some work was done in 1828. The last return to the grand lodge was made in 1832, but meetings were held till 1835. The grand lodge declared its charter forfeited in June, 1840. The masters of the lodge previous to the forfeiture of the charter were as follows:

Samuel Dana, 1797-'98; Jonathan Gove, 1798~1800; Daniel Warner, 1800-'01; Charles H. Atherton, 1801-'04; Daniel Warner, 1804-'05; Thomas Beede, 1805-'08; Daniel Warner, 1808-'11; Aaron Whitney, 1811-'13; Thomas Beede, 1813-'14; Ephraim Blanchard, 1814-'16; Aaron Whitney, 1816-'19; Ephraim Blanchard, 1819-'20; Ira A. Wilkins, 1820-'22; Jedediah Holt, 1822-'23; Isaac Sawtelle, 1823-'25; Ensign Bailey, 1825-'28; Josiah Crosby, 2d, 1828-'30; Adam Dickey, 1830-'32; Thomas Bennett, 1832-'35.

The charter was reissued by the grand lodge, September 25, 1858. The lodge reorganized November 16, 1858, and District Deputy Grand Master Aaron P. Hughes of Nashua installed the following officers:

Isaac Sawtelle, worshipful master; Joseph A. Starrett, senior warden; Leonard Chase, junior warden; Joseph Tucker, treasurer; Daniel Russell, secretary; Bainbridge Wadleigh, senior deacon; William Washington Robbins, junior deacon.

The following brothers were also members on the restoration of the charter: Thomas Bennett, Ensign Bailey, Phineas Stimpson, Nathaniel Bruce, Mark D. Perkins, and C. R. Beard.

From the reorganization of the lodge till April, 1892, the lodge rented the hall of the Odd Fellows in the block at the corner of Union square and South street. During the winter of 1891 and 1892, the lodge, with King Solomon chapter, No. 17, Royal Arch Masons, secured and fitted up a hall in the third story of the public library building, which was dedicated and consecrated April 12, 1892, by the grand officers of the grand lodge of the state. In the evening of the same day there was a grand banquet, followed by an oration by Bro. Charles H. Burns.

The lodge rooms are furnished with heavy brussels carpet, solid mahogany furniture, the walls and ceiling being finely frescoed, with a large banquet hall on the next floor. There are few lodges that have so elegant, convenient, and comfortable a home.

Since the reorganization it has been prosperous in a marked degree, and has numbered among its members some of the most prominent men of the state, and has had a total membership of about four hundred and sixty-six.

The present officers are as follows: William Henry Quinlan, worshipful master; William Henry Weed Hinds, senior warden; Edgar Irving Kendall, junior warden; James Enoch Webster, treasurer; William Matthias Knowlton, secretary; Hubert Williams Amsden, senior deacon; Carroll Bruce Robinson, junior deacon; Hugh McDonald, senior steward, Arthur Robinson Webster, junior steward; Samuel Appleton Gutterson, tyler; James Cheyne, inside sentinel; Andrew Judson Hutchinson, chaplain; Henry Hiram Barber, marshal; Andrew Judson Hutchinson, representative.

The past masters since its reorganization have been: Isaac Sawtelle, 1858-'60; Norman Burdick, 1860-'62; Charles Francis Conant, 1862-'64; Nathan Hutchinson, 1864-'66; James H. Parmalee, 1866-'67; William Henry Weed Hinds, 1867-'70; James Means Blanchard, 1870-'72; William Matthias Knowlton, 1872-'74; George Henry Drew, 1874-'77; Charles Freeman Fisk, 1877-'78; William Washington Robbins, 1878-'80; Charles Edward Smith; 1880-'82; John McLane, 1882-'84; Frank William Richardson, 1884-'86; Royal Mansfield, 1886-'88; Henry Hiram Barber, 1888-'90; Albert Wellington Smith, 1890-'92; Frederick Willis Sawyer, 1892-'94; Henry Clay Buxton, 1894-'96; Andrew Judson Hutchinson, 1896-'98; William Henry Quinlan, 1898, and is present master.

The present membership is one hundred and forty-seven (1899).

KING SOLOMON CHAPTER, NO. 17, ROYAL ARCH MASONS.

November 26th, 1868, Nathaniel W. Cumner, grand high priest of the Grand Chapter of New Hampshire, issued a dispensation to companions Charles Henry Burns to act as high priest, Nathan Hutchinson to act as king, and William W. Giddings to act as scribe, empowering them to confer the mark master, past master, most excellent master, and royal arch degrees in Wilton, N. H. The first meeting was held December 16th, 1868. A charter was granted by the Grand chapter June 8th, 1869, and accepted by the chapter September 13th, 1869. The chapter lost all its furniture, jewels, and paraphernalia by fire, December 2, 1874, and a second time, January 20, 1881.

After the second fire the chapter held its meetings temporarily in Masonic hall, Milford, until May, 1885. It was then unanimously voted to remove to Milford permanently, and the Grand Chapter authorized the removal of the chapter to Milford.

The most excellent high priests since its organization have been: Charles H. Burns, Henry H. Barber, Nathan Hutchinson, John McLane, Stephen C. Fletcher, Albert W. Smith, William H. W. Hinds, Frank W. Richardson, George E. Neville, Henry C. Buxton, David W. Russell, Carl E. Knight, Isaac H. Carlton, Frederick W. Sawyer, William M. Knowlton, Andrew J. Hutchinson, Calvin H. Averill.

The officers for 1899 are: Andrew J. Hutchinson, high priest; William H. Quinlan, king; William M. Knowlton, scribe; Henry H. Barber, treasurer; Frederick W. Sawyer, secretary; Frank W. Richardson, captain of host; Isaac H. Carlton, principal sojourner; Benjamin F. Foster, royal arch captain; Hugh McDonald, master third veil; Fred J. Kendall, master second veil; William H. W. Hinds, master first veil; Edward L. Kittredge, senior steward; Abbott W. Turner, junior steward; Samuel A. Gutterson, sentinel; Rev. John Thorpe, chaplain. The present membership is one hundred and twenty-seven.

PURITAN CHAPTER, No. 29, ORDER OF EASTERN STAR.

In the latter part of 1897, through the influence and earnest efforts of a few Masons, interest became aroused in the organization of a chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star. A dispensation from the Grand Chapter was obtained and a charter membership of sixty-five secured, and on the 19th of January, 1898, Puritan Chapter, No. 29, O. E. S., was organized.

The chapter remained under dispensation until September of that year, when, at the annual meeting of the Grand chapter it was voted to grant a charter to the Milford chapter.

At the last regular meeting of the year, November 29th, the grand officers and the officers of Charity chapter, No. 25, O. E. S., from Wilton, who had assisted in its organization, visited Puritan chapter, at which time they instituted and consecrated it and presented the charter.

Andrew J. Hutchinson has been worthy patron, and Effie C. Hutchinson, his wife, has been worthy matron from the time of organization through the first two years of the life of the chapter.

The membership the first of May, 1899, was sixty-nine, two of the original members having left this chapter and six new members having been elected.

The present officers are: Effie C. Hutchinson, worthy matron; Andrew J. Hutchinson, worthy patron; Annie L. Heald, associate matron; Susan H. Kendall, secretary; Susan A. Bartlett, treasurer; Ada R. Huse, marshal; Mary C. Perkins, conductress; Annie F. Webster, associate conductress; Annie B. Holt, warden; George S. Stevens, sentinel; Edith W. Cheyne, Adah; Maude K. Hinds, Ruth; Fannie C. Averill, Esther; Blanche A. Bruce, Martha; Grace G. Jewett, Electa; Emlie H. Farnsworth, organist; Annie J. Warren, chaplain.

ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF BENEVOLENT LODGE.

The most notable event in the Masonic history of Milford and the life of Benevolent lodge occurred St. John's day, June 24, 1897, it being the day chosen for the celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of the Masonic lodge.

Tile public services were held in the Congregational church; introductory prayer by Bro. A. J. Rich, chaplain.

Worshipful Master Andrew J. Hutchinson, a native of the town and a descendant of one of the first settlers, made the following address of welcome:

BRETHREN AND FRIENDS: It is with feelings of deep joy and gratitude we hail this day on which we celebrate the founding in our midst of this ancient and honorable institution. Ancient, as having existed from time immemorial; honorable, as tending to make all men so who are strictly obedient to its precepts.

I count it exceedingly appropriate that we commence our exercises commemorative of this event in the house of God. Our ancient and honorable institution is founded on His Word, and all its teachings tend to lift men into closer likeness to their Divine Creator.

In behalf of Benevolent lodge, I, as worshipful master, do most heartily and sincerely welcome you all to our centennial celebration. May the exercises of the day and evening bring *to all pleasure* and serve to strengthen and extend the principles of friendship, morality, and brotherly love.

As we review the one hundred years since our beloved lodge was instituted, our hearts warm with gratitude toward those who have labored to dispense true Masonic light and teaching in our midst and to support and maintain the constitution and general regulations of the most worshipful grand lodge, and to you, especially, most worshipful grand master, I extend a sincere Masonic welcome, and I assure you that the pleasure of this occasion is greatly enhanced by your presence and the honorable brethren of the most worshipful grand lodge. May your visit to Milford bring you pleasure and the assurance that nowhere in the old Granite state is there a lodge *more loyal* to the grand body than old Benevolent, No. 7.

We are honored by the presence of His Excellency, Governor Ramsdell and staff, to whom I extend a most cordial welcome. Milford may well be proud of our governor, who is a native of our town, and whom in honoring with the exalted position he so ably fills in our commonwealth, the people of New Hampshire have honored themselves. We are early taught in Masonry that we should never lose sight of the allegiance we owe to our country and the laws under whose protection we live. I assure you, honorable sir, you will find us, as true Masons, ever ready to hold up your hands in your official efforts for the suppression of evil and the attainment of good.

Brethren, the men who in the early history of Benevolent lodge labored and sacrificed for the principles of our beloved order have passed to their reward. I must think to-day that they with us look upon the result of their labors and with us rejoice in the completion of a century of usefulness and helpfulness. They have been gathered to the land of their fathers, but by the sprig of acacia we are reminded of that better part within, which never dies.

Let us see to it that we fill their places worthily. Let us be diligent, prudent, temperate, discreet, always walking and acting with a dignity becoming the high moral character of our venerable institution, ever remembering that we are traveling upon the level of time to that undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveler returns.

Following this address was the response of most worshipful grand master of the grand lodge, Henry A. Marsh, of Nashua.

The oration, which was given by Past Grand Master Henry E. Burnham of Manchester, was one of his most eloquent efforts, closing as follows:

Conscious that the past is secure and that the present is bright with the most cheering omens, you now salute with pride and joy the coming century, and deliver to its keeping this Masonic lodge, Benevolent in name and thrice benevolent in every deed and word and thought.

Voices from the past bid this beloved association Godspeed as it goes down the years; responses from the grateful heart of the present cheer it on, while the future, bidding it welcome, receives the blessed gift and will pronounce its benediction, as wisdom guides and controls its counsels, strength sustains and makes triumphant all its efforts, and beauty adorns and glorifies its perfect work, through all the centuries that are to come.

The historical address was given by Bro. Frank W. Richardson, and was worthy of the occasion. It was an exhaustive history of Masonry in Milford and vicinity for one hundred years, and indicated a thorough familiarity with the subject of the address. It was listened to with the deepest attention and at its close the author was complimented upon the masterly manner in which he had presented the subject of his discourse. Nothing but lack of space prevents the introduction of the entire address in this volume.

THE BANQUET.

At 5:30 o'clock the Masons and their ladies proceeded to the town hall, where covers were laid for five hundred. On account of the lack of time, the post-prandial exercises were abbreviated. Short speeches were made by His Excellency, George A. Ramsdell, and Hon. Charles H. Burns. The latter eloquently complimented the ladies for the abundance of good things with which they had loaded the tables.

RECEPTION AND BALL.

The reception tendered the governor and his staff (all of whom are Masons of high degree) and the officers of the grand lodge was in keeping with the entire programme of the day. The grand march was led by Worshipful Master Hutchinson and wife, followed by the governor and wife, members of his staff, officers of the grand lodge, visiting brethren, invited guests, and members of Benevolent lodge. Over one hundred and twenty-five couples were in line, and under the skilful management of the master of ceremonies, Col. F. E. Kaley, and his able assistants, everything passed off in an agreeable manner. It was not until two o'clock that the last strains of music were heard announcing the closing of this happy and most delightful event.

ODD FELLOWSHIP.

Custos Morum Lodge, No. 42, I. O. O. F.

In 1854 a dispensation was granted by the grand lodge of New Hampshire to E. G. Newton, S. C. Forsaith, F. C. Webb, David Cram, J. G. Savage, E. C. Batchelder, and N. W. Burke, to organize a lodge of Odd Fellows in Milford. They secured the attic in Wheeler's block, being the same floor the lodge now occupies, and fitted it for a lodge room. The lodge was instituted December 26, 1854.

The following brethren were duly installed by the grand master: Bro. E. G. Newton, N. G.; S. C. Forsaith, V. G.; N. W. Burke, secretary; J. G. Savage, treasurer.

The membership at the close of the first meeting was twenty-two. During the year following twenty-six were initiated, making the membership at the close of its first year forty-eight.

In 1867 the roof of the ball was raised, making a fine room 30 by 40, with large and convenient anterooms, all of which were newly furnished. In 1878 the rooms were again refitted with new carpets and furniture.

The following brothers have served as noble grands: E. G. Newton, S. C. Forsaith, S. Guild, O. O. Roberts, E. C. Batchelder, W. P. Buell, S. C. Coburn, O. P. Smart, J. M. Burdick, Abel Chase, Ira Holt, J. M. Stanyan, F. N. Boutwell, S. B. Emerson, T. J. Hartwell, James Blood, J. L. Spring, J. S. Masseck, R. Mansfield, Wm. M. Knowlton, J. P. Wood, D. F. Thompson, A. W. Heald, C. A. Kittredge, J. B. Heald, M. C. Rich, H. W. Spalding, J. B. Fretts, A. H. McIntire, J. C. Bennett, John W. Crosby, Milton Parker, C. J. Shaw, H. C. Shaw, C. P. Rossiter, C. R. Howard, M. S. Hall, F. I. Abbott, W. K. Emerson, Reuben Batchelder, J. M. Laws, R. H. Pierce, G. H. Needham, G. C. Farwell, D. N. Goodwin, Jason Hutchinson, H. S. Gilson, N. H. Brown, A. J. Hutchinson, Henry Kirby, G. E. Barber, Everett Stickney, B. F. Foster, J. A. Mixer, C. W. Dodge, Dustin Rideout, N. F. Brown, G. A. McIntire, G. H. Eaton, T. H. Frye, J. F. Osgood, Jr., L. L. Talbot, F. W. Barnes, A. A. Coffin, C. A. Langdell, C. S. Emerson. F. B. Wilkins, F. O. Loring, C. F. Hazelton, Geo. K. Boutelle, H. W. Amsden, Fred J. Kendall, John C. Hutchinson, William A. Guild, Samuel A. Gutterson, Edgar I. Kendall, Henry F. Warren, Charles L. Wilkins, Leon Z. Watkins.

Secretaries have been: N. W. Burke, C. A. Fifield, J. M. Burdick, W. P. Buell, I. Holt, J. E. Mackey, J. M. Stanyan, S. B. Emerson, J. S. Masseck, R. Mansfield, J. N. Lovejoy, Wm. M. Knowlton, J. P. Woods, J. A. Hall, A. W. Heald, M. C. Rich, H. K. Lancaster, H. W. Spalding, M. Parker, W. K. Emerson, H. C. Shaw, J. B. Heald, C. J. Shaw, C. R. Howard, M. S. Hall, G. E. Barber, E. Stickney, F. J. Kendall, W. M. Mills, P. A. Powers, C. A. Langdell, F. W. Barnes, J. W. Hutchinson, J. L. Langdell, A. A. Coffin, Charles A. Langdell.

The treasurers have been: J. G. Savage, J. Lancaster, Ira Holt, James Mellon, O. P. Smart, J. B. Fretts, S. Guild, S. C. Coburn, S. B. Emerson, J. M. Burdick, J. L. Spring, Wm. M. Knowlton, J. B. Heald.

Brother Knowlton held the office twenty-six years, and also served upon the board of trustees for a still longer term.

The total amount of money received since the lodge was instituted is	\$36,812.93
Paid for sick benefits	\$8,564.56
for burial of the dead	1,831.00
for charity	771.94
for rent	4,419.57
for expenses	13,836.02
The lodge had an invested fund	
Jan. 1, 1899, of	7,026.20
and cash on hand	363.64
	=====
making	\$36,812.93

The lodge has furnished three grand masters: Bros. W. P. Buell, O. P. Smart, and John L. Spring.

It is not known who selected the name "Custos Morum" (the Guardian of Morality), but her influence has helped to make men true to themselves, their homes, and their country.

Present officers, 1899: Leon Z. Watkins, noble grand; A. M. Wilkins, vice grand; Charles A. Langdell, recording secretary; Harry A. Wilkins, financial secretary; J. B. Heald, treasurer.

Present membership, January 1, 1899, two hundred and eleven.

Prospect Hill Encampment.

Early in 1873 a strong desire was felt on the part of ten members of Custos Morum lodge for an encampment which should confer the so-called sublime degrees of Odd Fellowship in Milford, and on December 24th of that year Prospect Hill encampment, No. 21, was instituted by Grand Patriarch John L. Spring, assisted by other grand officers.

Although the charter members were few and additions to their ranks during the early years were slow, yet a few were ever faithful and labored earnestly till Patriarchial Odd Fellowship was established on a firm foundation in town.

The encampment is now in a prosperous condition, having one hundred and seven members at the present time.

With funds increasing year by year and a good degree of interest among the patriarchs, there is every reason to believe that the encampment will continue to be an important factor in this branch of Odd Fellowship.

Present officers of encampment: John C. Hutchinson, chief patriarch; Fred J. Kendall, high priest; James H. Fay, senior warden; Fred W. Barnes, junior warden; David F. Thompson, treasurer; Frank O. Loring, scribe.

Past chief patriarchs: John W. Crosby, Charles J. Shaw, David F. Thompson, Milton Parker, John A. Hood, Benjamin F. Foster, David N. Goodwin, Jason E. Hutchinson, Henry A. Kirby, John Fletcher, Charles W. Dodge, Joseph F. Eaton, Charles R. Howard, Nelson H. Brown, Joel F. Osgood, Nathan F. Brown, Timothy H. Frye, Leroy L. Talbot, Charles E. Kendall, Everett Stickney, Dustin Rideout, Charles A. Langdell, George H. Eaton, Samuel A. Gutterson, Charles M. Willard, Abel A. Coffin, Jarvis S. Stowell, James B. Pettingill, Charles L. Wilkins, Charles F. Ober, Ernest A. Peabody, Clarence H. Wilson, Worcester L. Winslow, Richard M. Moore, David A. Vittum, Samuel E. Johnson, Charles S. Emerson, Hubert W. Amsden, Hugh A. Quigley, James MacDonald, Charles B. Heald, Harvey W. Donaghy.

CUSTOS MORUM REBEKAH LODGE.

The poet has said,-

“God never made an independent man,
‘T would mar the concord of His general plan.”

Acting in this belief Milford Odd Fellows began to agitate the formation of a Rebekah lodge, that the wives, daughters, and sisters might unite with them in promoting the good of the order.

A charter was granted, and on December 6, 1884, Grand Master Lewis Malvern instituted Custos Morum Rebekah lodge, with one hundred and ten charter members.

From this promising beginning has grown the largest secret organization in town, pledged to fulfil the obligation “to visit the sick, relieve the distressed, bury the dead, and educate the orphan.”

Bro. D. N. Goodwin, the first noble grand, was followed in order by Charles W. Dodge, Georgia A. Gutterson, Georgia E. Stickney, Eliza A. Talbot, Lydia A. Hutchinson, Nettie L. Goodwin, Esther M. Thompson, Meretta Parker, Julia M. Gilson, Hattie L. Farwell, Mattie I. Parker, Henrietta Shattuck, Jennie E. Ober.

In 1891 a degree staff was organized and paraphernalia purchased.

The lodge has ever been prosperous, and is striving to be a power for good in town by carrying out the principles of friendship, love, and truth.

The officers for the year 1899 are: Grace B. Baker, N. G.; Sarah L. Watkins, V. G.; Georgia E. Stickney, R. S.; Lydia A. Hutchinson, F. S.; Anna J. Warren, treasurer; Florence Amsden, warden; Carrie L. Parker, conductor; Alice Barker, I. G.; Leona Parker, O. G.; Julia M. Gilson, R. S. N. G.; Hattie Farwell, L. S. N. G.; Ella Stickney, R. S. V. G.; Belle E. Hill, L. S. V. G.; Blanche Woodman, chaplain; Georgia E. Stickney, D. D. G. M. for four years.

Whole number of members at present time, two hundred and eighty-four.

DAUGHTERS OF AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

The "Milford" chapter was organized October 19, 1893, the anniversary of the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown, with the following officers and charter members: Mrs. Susan A. Bartlett, chapter regent; Mrs. H. E. Foster, vice regent; Mrs. Josephine S. French, corresponding secretary; Miss Susan H. Kimball, recording secretary; Mrs. Maria Hamblett, treasurer; Mrs. A. R. Worcester, registrar; Mrs. Ellen McLane, historian; Mrs. A. K. Batchelder, Mrs. Fannie S. Wilkins, Mrs. Ella M. Wallace, Mrs. Sarah M. Kimball, Miss Caroline Crosby, board of management.

The society has grown steadily since its organization, and with its purpose to promote good citizenship, patriotism, to protect the memories and relics of the past, and to keep alive the precious family and social historic associations, it should be ranked as one of the essential organizations of the town.

INTERESTING REMINISCENCES.

Copy of letter by Jesse Hutchinson, Sen., published in the *Milford Mirror*, Dec. 23, 1847:

We are indebted to one of our oldest and most respectable fellow-citizens for the following interesting reminiscences of olden times, which we doubt not will prove highly entertaining to most of our readers. The writer is now nearly seventy years of age, but his manuscript is written in a bold and legible hand. He has a remarkable memory, and distinctly recollects events that took place nearly sixty years ago. He says:

I was born in the town of Amherst, south parish, Feb. 3, 1778, and have had an opportunity of knowing something of the progress that has been made during the last sixty-five years in said parish, which has been, for the last fifty-four years, called the town of Milford. Previous to the erection of the first meeting-house, which took place about sixty-three or sixty-four years ago, the inhabitants met on the Sabbath for divine worship at the house of Mr. Jotham Shepard, on the north side of the river, now owned and occupied by Mr. Pomeroy Rossiter. At that time, I think there was no other house on the north side of the river, until you come to the house of Esquire Peabody, now deceased, formerly owned by his father and grandfather.

When the first meeting-house was built I think there were only three houses in the village on the south side of the river, one where the tavern is now kept, one now owned by S. K. Livermore, Esq., formerly owned by Esquire Blanchard, and the one where Dr. Fuller has lived for many years. The latter house was occupied as a tavern stand more than fifty years ago by Mr. John Crosby. On Nashua street there was no other house until you came to the late residence of Benjamin Goodwin, deceased, formerly owned by Mr. Conant. I think there was no building on South street except the house of Mr. Marshall. On the road leading to Wilton there was no house (except the one above mentioned) until you come to the residence of Humphrey Moore. On the spot where Mr. Moore's house now stands stood an old building called the "Grimes House," afterwards owned by Mr. Porter Lummas, then by Benjamin Nichols. If I mistake not the place was bought for about \$1,200 by Mr. Moore about the time he settled as a minister of the gospel in this town.

As I intended, when I commenced this article, to give an account of the ministers that have preached in this place since my recollection, I shall have to return, in order to carry out my purpose, to the early part of my life. When I was a mere child I went to the Jotham Shepard house with my parents to hear the Rev. Mr. Powers; he was considered an excellent preacher and a very godly man. After him came a man by the name of Bullen. From an occurrence which took place at my fathers when he (Bullen) was there on a visit, I conclude he was a meek and humble Christian. And it came to pass in those days that there came a man this way by the name of Hutchinson. He was somewhat arbitrary in his way, but he had an excellent memory, having much of the Scripture treasured up in his mind. The above-named ministers of the everlasting gospel (if such they were in truth), were somewhat advanced in years at the time of which I am speaking (1788).

After the meeting-house was finished, and the town incorporated, the people began to feel anxious to have stated preaching; they there-fore applied to such men as would be most likely to do the greatest amount of good and give general satisfaction. I will mention some of the divines that supplied the desk previous to the settlement of Mr. Moore. As I cannot recollect the order in which they came I must content myself by giving their names.

The name of Bingham will undoubtedly sound familiar to some of the older citizens of the town. Phineas Randall, a man greatly beloved, received an invitation to settle but gave a negative answer and took his leave. Daniel Merrill, a man who was not ashamed to stand upon a hogshead tub in the open air and sound the gospel trumpet to all who

would hear. Asahel Washburn, one of the best men of his time, became somewhat insane when out of the pulpit, but when in the pulpit no signs of insanity appeared. He then spake the words of truth and soberness, not holding man's person in admiration. I think there were the Revs. Mr. Abbott, Fletcher, and Beede; each one in his turn supplied his appointed time, and then retired.

Since Mr. Moore gave up the charge of the Orthodox church and society in this town there have been three others settled, either by ordination or installation. I must hope they were all such men as heaven will approve. Abner Warner, the only one with whom I have had much acquaintance, was a man to be held in high estimation, being free from the fear of man, and having, as it were, the word of the Lord shut up in his bosom. He *must* speak that he might be refreshed. If man would act in conformity with his preaching, laying aside all malice and guile, hypocrisy and evil speaking, and as newborn babes desire the sincere milk of the Word, there would be joy in heaven, in presence of the angels of God, and on earth there would be good will to men.

I trust that the object of the present minister (Mr. Kimball) is to hold up truth to the understanding of his hearers in such a striking and inviting light that every one may take warning and flee from the wrath to come. As I had little or no acquaintance with Mr. Salter, I may say with truth that I know no harm of the man. If he be a minister of Jesus Christ he will have boldness on the day of judgment, for the King will say to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant, thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee a ruler over many things; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

If any one notices any erroneous statements in the above, I should be pleased if he would rectify them.

A. TOWNSMAN.

Second Letter by Jesse Hutchinson in the *Mirror* of January 21, 1848:

In giving my first account, I made mention of but one denomination, the Orthodox. In former days it was called the "Standing Order." I shall now attempt, in my broken way, to give some account of the rise and progress of the Baptist denomination, since my recollection, and mention some of the names of the many ministers that have passed this way, together with those who have made a longer stay.

About sixty years ago there were a few Baptists in the towns now called New Boston, Milford, and Mont Vernon. At that time it was said of them as it has been since, and was in ancient time when Paul went to Rome, "As for this sect, it is everywhere spoken against." I well remember three of the Baptist ministers of that day, namely, Elder Ambrose, Mr. Vickery, and Mr. Jewett. They usually met for worship at the house of Capt. John Bradford, which stood on the ground which Mr. Luther Averill's residence now occupies.

One thing that makes me think Elder Ambrose was a man called by the Holy Spirit to preach the gospel of the kingdom is this: When he had gone through with his sermon and closed the meeting, his hearers were not in a hurry to depart, but would linger as though they were anxious to hear more about the kind Saviour who died on Calvary, and of his soon coming to judge the world; for this was a great part of his theme, to speak of the glory of Emanuel, to tell of his beauty, and use all his faculties to persuade men to fall in love with the Saviour before their feet stumbled upon the dark mountains of death. Mr. Vickery, it appeared, was a lover of Bible truth, and labored hard to convince his hearers of its importance. Mr. Jewett was a blind preacher. I think he was blind from his birth, but his spiritual sight appeared very bright. He laid the axe at the root of the tree, that anyone who did not bring forth good fruit might know that such a tree must be cut down, and cast into the fire.

This state of things did not continue many years, for the love of some waxed cold; some moved away, and some went and joined other denominations, so that in 1798 there were but very few Baptists in this vicinity.

"And it came to pass in those days" that the word of the Lord came to a young man whose name was Thomas; and he came into the hill country of Mont Vernon, and there, on Election day, preached that men must repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance. From that time to the present day (if he is still living), I expect he has been doing what he could for the good of mankind for the upholding of Emanuel's kingdom, and the downfall of antichrist.

In those days there was no little stir among the people in that region, for they preached a little as they did eighteen hundred years ago, saying, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, that your sins may be blotted out, when the time of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord."

The above-named Thomas has preached in Milford several times. There was Elder Buzzell, Elder Stone, and Dr. Crossman. It would make your nose tingle to hear them preach, there was so much *pinch* to it.

There was Thomas Paul, whom I shall compare to Apollos of old, for he was an eloquent man, and mighty in the Scriptures. Mr. Applebee remained here some time, and preached with as great earnestness as one would run if he were running for his life. Old Elder Perkins, a traveling preacher, came this way. He was very fond of making figures of speech in order to bring the attention of his hearers to bear upon the great subject of salvation.

There was a young man by the name of Bates, who left the occupation of sail-making to sound the gospel jubilee to dead sinners. Mr. Lothrop was a man who possessed an extraordinary memory, for he could not only quote much Scripture, but could tell the book, chapter, and verse where it might be found. It was said that he was deserving of censure for some misdemeanor in after life. Dr. Smilee was a very good man, and a very fluent speaker.

I came now to almost the last, though not least, of the cloud of witnesses that preached in private houses and schoolhouses, as there was no meeting-house in Milford they could have until the Baptist house was built. I refer to the long-to-be-remembered William Eliot of Mason. I have no doubt he will be held in lasting remembrance by many precious souls who received their first serious impressions under his ministry. I think he did not hold the truth in unrighteousness or handle the word of the Lord deceitfully. He preached because he could not help it. He was called from the plough to work in the vineyard of the Lord; he did not take his theory from commentaries, but from the word of God, as it has been revealed to man. He did not appear to fix a very high estimate upon his services, but placed his whole dependence upon free, sovereign, unmerited grace for salvation.

I come down to the time the Baptist meeting-house was built and partially finished. I think Mr. George Evans was the first that lifted up the voice of prayer in that house. I believe there were some souls that fled from the city of Destruction, and set out for Mount Zion, through his instrumentality. Mr. Evans left Milford, and took up his abode in Manchester. His health has been so poor that he has been obliged to refrain from preaching for a number of years past.

I think Elder Bolles was next in order. He was an excellent speaker, and could say anything he wished with the greatest ease, and his hearers were almost ready to give him their eyes as well as ears; but, notwithstanding all this, after two or three years he thought fit to take his departure for a more genial climate.

The next, I think, was Samuel Everett. I thought he was a very good speaker, for he preached to the hearts and consciences of men, and some were made to rejoice under his ministrations. He left this town to preach the gospel in other villages. Some have supposed him insane for some years, because he was led to believe that the coming of the Lord was nigh at hand, even at the door, when the heavens would pass away with a great noise, and the elements would melt with fervent heat; when the earth and the things therein would be burned up, the judgment would be set, and the books opened; when the living would be changed, the dead raised from their sleeping beds and hurried to the judgment seat, to hear their destiny for eternity. If this is insanity, what is the insanity of those who say the Lord delayeth his coming, and begin to smite their fellow-servants, and to eat and drink with the drunken?

Mr. Mark Carpenter was the next. He was a very good speaker, orthodox in sentiment, kind in his intercourse with others, pleasing in his manners, and greatly beloved by many. I think there were some souls made willing to flee to Calvary for safety by his instrumentality. It was a grief to many to have him take his leave.

Mr. Remington was an extemporaneous speaker. He labored with great earnestness to persuade men to desert their old master and flee to Jesus Christ for protection without delay. Mr. John Richardson appeared to have a great regard for dying men, and labored hard to persuade them that there was no other way by which they could be saved but by repentance toward God, and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Mr. Stearns is the present minister. It is the desire of all good people that he may so handle the Word of the Lord that it may prove to all who hear as a fire and hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces.

THE MILFORD LYCEUM.

This institution, which was organized Nov. 7, 1831, deserves most honorable mention as one of the important factors in the educational development of the town.

At the preliminary meeting, Hon. John Wallace, Jr., presided and John W. Smith, Esq., was secretary.

The committee to draft the constitution consisted of Humphrey Moore, Solomon K. Livermore, and John W. Smith.

Adults of good moral character were admitted to membership on payment of fifty cents; those under eighteen could become members by payment of twenty-five cents.

The constitution provided for the holding of meetings for reading, discussions, and lectures illustrating the sciences, and their application to the common business of life.

It also provided (if sufficient funds could be raised) for a library, a collection of plants, insects, and minerals.

As the writer regards the organization of the lyceum as one of the most important events in the history of the town, the following list of original members, or those joining at a very early day, is given: Crawford Taylor, Robert Knights, Henry Lovejoy, David Secombe, Zephaniah K. Hutchinson, Thomas A. Livermore, Moses Howe, George Holt, George Danforth, Daniel Burns, Jr., James Hartshorn, Robert Fuller, Elijah Averill, Matthew Bolles, Daniel Putnam, Calvin Averill, John Mace, Phineas Stimpson, Humphrey Moore, Jonathan Buxton, John W. Smith, Frederic Lovejoy, William Holt, Josiah French, John Wallace, Jr., Francis J. French, Ben j. L. Willoby William Lovejoy, Thomas J. Johnson, A. Wells Lovejoy, Josiah Crosby, 3d, Samuel D. Knowlton, John Dickey, Sumner B. Mace, William Darracott, Jacob T. Fuller, Charles R. Wallace, Josiah Fuller, Daniel Russell, Ebenezer Pearson, Jr., Ezekiel Mills, Charles A. Burns, George Darricott, Solomon K. Livermore, Jeremiah M. Gooden, Richard Williams, Luther Hutchinson, William Ramsdell, Wm. D. Willoby, William Ramsdell, Jr., Levi Cummings, Abiel Lovejoy, Joseph Tucker, Pliney Whitney, Charles Ramsdell, Stephen Peabody, Frederic Stewart, William Taylor, Peter Burns, John Ramsdell, Adam Dickey, Josiah C. Kidder, William Buxton, Frederic Crosby, Augustus Hutchinson, Oliver Brooks, Freeman Crosby, Charles Chickering, Benjamin I. Conant, George Newhall, Davis Troy, Joseph H. Peabody, Adams Peabody, Joseph Crosby, Jr., Jacob Converse, Robert B. Wallace, Abel Spalding, Jr., Artemus Howard, John Muzzey, William Gutterson, Nathaniel Hutchinson, Milton V. Wilkins, William Wallace, Joseph C. Foster, Thomas H. King, Stephen Blanchard, George C. Jones, Eugene Combs, Isaiah Hutchinson, William C. Bolles, William Lovejoy, Samuel Goss, Humphrey M. French, William F. Whitmarsh, Benjamin Gooden, John V. Gooden, Abiel Gutterson, Charles Lovejoy, James B. Farwell, George W. Burns, Jonathan Bartlett.

The second meeting was held November 21st, and the following board of officers chosen: President, Humphrey Moore; secretary, John W. Smith; treasurer, Abiel Lovejoy; curators, Stephen Peabody, John Wallace, Jr., S. K. Livermore.

The first lecture was given by the president; subject, "The Advantages of Lyceums."

For nearly a score of years lectures were given by members of the lyceum, clergymen, lawyers, and teachers residing for the most part within the limits of the state.

Discussions were had of an intensely interesting character, affording an opportunity to the entire membership to become proficient in the art of extemporaneous debate.

The writer is of the opinion that in the Forties, and perhaps before and after, no town of its size had a larger number of citizens qualified to discuss intelligently and forcibly the burning questions of the times.

A paper, to which both sexes contributed, was read weekly by an editor, whose business it was to procure from members literary contributions.

These articles were subject to criticism at the close of weekly discussions. As a result large numbers of our people acquired a high degree of proficiency in the use of the English language. At one time the lyceum had an officer styled the critic. Any member could submit to him any production of his or her own in English composition. At a subsequent meeting the comments of the critic were made public.

As the professional lecturer came into existence, holding the field almost exclusively from 1850 to 1860, home lectures were largely superseded and discussions gradually ceased to be an important part of the lyceum work. The literary paper contested the field for a time with the professional lecturer, but as most speakers from a distance occupied an hour in the delivery of these most carefully prepared addresses, and as the number of occasional gatherings to which the people were summoned increased, not only the discussions of the lyceum, but its excellent paper, gradually became things of the past.

The entertainment furnished by these speakers of national reputation was of a very high order, and our people were fortunate in having an opportunity to listen to men who had been favorably received in all parts of our country, and some of them in foreign lands; but as a powerful agency in the development of the intellectual power of the town, the earlier days of the lyceum must be counted among its best.

Its last meeting was held December 2, 1837.

RECOLLECTIONS CONCERNING THE MILFORD LYCEUM.

By Rev. J. C. Foster, D. D.

The Milford lyceum is associated with early memories, which go back more than sixty-five years, in connection with that organization. There was hardly anything that took so strong a hold upon my youthful interest as the meetings of the lyceum during the years just after 1830. As often as the meetings might be held, I was importunate to attend them, and was not to be deterred by a solitary walk in wintry storms and bad traveling for the more than two miles from the Federal Hill neighborhood.

The prominent actors in those engaging scenes now rise vividly before me. The senior minister of the town, Humphrey Moore, is well remembered for the apt, pithy, sometimes sharply pointed and always weighty remarks, which never failed to fall from his lips when his voice was heard, as it often was, in the lyceum. So, also, the senior and for many years the only lawyer in town, Solomon K. Livermore, the "Squire," as everybody called him, is vividly remembered, and the pleasant dignity and great pertinency of his judicious and deliberate words are faithfully daguerrotyped upon my susceptible mind.

Nor is another early, active, and efficient actor in those meetings, William Ramsdell, forgotten, especially as one with whom I, as a mere stripling, at a later period, in the winter of 1837 and 1838, presumed to enter the arena of a somewhat spirited debate upon the "Hop Question," in one of the interesting discussions which at an early period constituted the principal part of the lyceum exercises. Others are pleasantly recalled, among whom are the intelligent and enterprising David Secombe, the well-informed and the practical Jeremiah M. Goodwin, and the learned and talented John W. A. Smith, a graduate of West Point. The latter, although not a native, was always among the foremost in all movements relating to the educational readiness as a public speaker. His early death is remembered as a serious loss to the literacy and scientific interests of the town, to which he was able and willing to render important service as a man of letters and a master of science.

Among others well remembered as contributing largely to the success of the lyceum I recall the names of Daniel Putnam, Leonard Chase, Charles A. Burns, J. W. Pillsbury, John Mills, George Daniels, Rodney M. Stimson, and Rev. Abner B. Warner. The literary paper of the lyceum was also well sustained, Jesse Hutchinson, Jr. and John Ramsdell contributing poems of positive excellence.

The lyceum was at its best at the time of renowned Hutchinson family came into the public notice as singers. They were attendants on the meetings of the lyceum and contributed to its success in many ways.

All honor to the founders of the village lyceum!