

## CHAPTER XIX.

NEWSPAPERS IN MILFORD - THE FREE LIBRARY – DEDICATION OF NEW TOWN HOUSE - THE FITCHBURG RAILROAD – PUBLIC WATER-WORKS - MILFORD HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY - DEDICATION OF A MEMORIAL STONE AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF OLD DUNSTABLE.

### THE FARMERS CABINET AND MILFORD ADVANCE.

As this paper became on the 9th day of July, 1891, an established Milford enterprise, it seems proper to give in this connection a brief sketch of its life for nearly one hundred years. Its first issue was produced in Amherst, November 11, 1802.

Three other papers had been published in Amherst during the seven preceding years, but the Cabinet has never failed to make its weekly appearance since the day of its first issue.

Joseph Cushing was its first editor and publisher, holding those positions something like seven years. In the autumn of 1809 Richard Boylston became editor and proprietor. January 1, 1851, Edward D. Boylston the of Richard, who had been connected with the paper a considerable portion of the time from the year 1840, became sole proprietor, the elder Boylston continuing as associate editor until 1856.

January, 1869, Albert A. Rotch, son-in-law of Edward D. Boylston (who had been connected with the office from 1850), became associate editor, and continued such to his decease, December, 1890.

July 1, 1891, William Boylston Rotch, a great-grandson of Richard Boylston, who had been connected with the *Cabinet* office from his boyhood, and having acted as associate editor of the paper, purchased the office and good will of the *Farmer's Cabinet*, and the *Milford Advance*, and Wilton Journal, consolidating all at Milford, as now published.

Under the enterprising management of Colonel Rotch, whose title was obtained by service as an aid upon Gov. George A. Ramsdell's staff during the years 1897-'98, the paper is a substantial addition to the business of the town.

In the early years of this century, and before the days of ample postal facilities, the Milford subscribers to the Cabinet were accustomed to take turns, as it was called, in going to Amherst for copies of the paper and leaving them at some convenient place in the village for distribution.

### OTHER PAPERS PUBLISHED IN TOWN.

No effort appears to have been made to establish a newspaper or printing office in town prior to 1847, when William Bradford commenced the publication of the *Weekly Mirror*. The anti-slavery sentiment in town was so strong and the demand for a paper advocating the distinctive tenets of the Free-soil party so strong, the name of the paper was changed to *The Standard*. This paper was published but a short time. Ten years later, January 7, 1857, the *Milford Republican* came into existence. Dr. Benjamin Colby, a botanic physician, was its editor and publisher. John Garfield, who had established a job printing office as early as 1853, printed the paper for Colby. Francis N. Boutwell, who afterwards became proprietor of the paper, set the first type on it. Dr. Colby's administration of the paper lasted but six months, when it fell into the hands of Garfield. In the autumn of 1858 Garfield took Boutwell into partnership, and, early in 1859, transferred the whole property to Boutwell, who managed the paper and job office until the summer of 1861, when the publication of the newspaper was suspended. The next year the job office passed into the hands of Garfield and he continued to manage it for a short time, or until he moved the material to Fitchburg. In 1867 Boutwell started another job office but at the end of a year sold the same to James M. Blanchard, a son of Bradley Blanchard and a native of the town. After a successful business of two or three years young Blanchard moved the plant to Fitchburg, Mass., where it became the nucleus of quite an extensive business under the management of Blanchard & Brown.

To build up a newspaper in the immediate vicinity of the Amherst *Cabinet*, which had so long substantially occupied this territory, was no easy task, and no other attempts were made until the year 1874. At that time Mr. George E. Foster, a native of the town and son of Deacon John E. Foster, undertook to establish a paper upon a permanent foundation. He was well equipped, having, in addition to a good education, considerable familiarity with newspaper work. His paper was called *The Enterprise*.

Mr. Foster not being a practical printer, for a short time the paper was printed by out-of-town parties. But this arrangement not proving satisfactory, Mr. William W. Hemenway, formerly editor and publisher of the *Bulletin*, Natick, Mass., was induced, in 1875, to undertake the mechanical work of the paper, bringing with him a well-equipped news and job printing office.

In 1875, the *Wilton Journal* was started by Mr. Foster, it being a special edition of *The Enterprise* to better accommodate the Wilton patrons.

Mr. Foster remained sole manager, proprietor, and editor until 1887, when the paper, or papers, passed into the hands of Mr. William Hemenway, Mr. Foster removing to Ithaca, N.Y., his former place of residence, to engage in newspaper work in which he has met with a large measure of success.

Capt. W. W. Hemenway, who had a most honorable record as an officer in the Civil War, a native of Lexington, Mass., with his son Rodney, became managers and proprietors of the paper, naming it the *Milford Advance and Wilton Journal*, and in connection with a good job office successfully conducted the paper until July, 1891, when it was consolidated with the *Farmer's Cabinet*, as before stated.

The promoters of the newspaper in Milford under its different names, from 1847 until 1891, deserve most honorable mention as workers for the best interests of the town. The moving of the *Farmer's Cabinet* from Amherst in 1891 was a natural result of the drift of business and population, and it will enter upon its second century with good prospects of increasing usefulness and value to the community.

It is said that for a few months during the war, a small daily paper was published within our limits, but little now seems to be known of it, and nothing which the historian feels called upon to record.

#### THE MILFORD DAILY POINTER

This daily paper was founded July 16, 1894, by Edward M. Stanyan, who is its editor and publisher.

Mr. Stanyan is a native of Milford, an able writer, and has been connected with several of the state's prominent papers. Few believed that a daily could live at the time the paper was launched, but its founder in the face of all discouragements pushed on and won. The paper was printed by the Nashua *Telegraph* until December 13, 1894, since which time it has been printed at Milford. The *Pointer* has a job printing office. The editor is Associated Press correspondent for Milford and many adjoining towns. This connection gives the paper unusual facilities in gathering news. The *Pointer* reaches 1,500 readers, daily. It is the ambition of the editor and publisher to give the public an independent sheet, ever open to all sides as well in local matters as matters religious and political. Although the name of Capt. John M. Stanyan, father of the editor and publisher, does not appear in the paper the reader is oftentimes reminded of the well-known fact that the Captain wields a vigorous pen whenever he undertakes a paragraph or protracted composition.

#### THE MILFORD FREE LIBRARY

At the annual town-meeting in March, 1868, the following resolution was passed with scarcely a dissenting vote, its passage having been urged by Col. Thomas L. Livermore, and others:

*Resolved*, That a free library be hereby established within and for the town of Milford; that the sum of five hundred dollars be raised by the town, and paid into the hands of the trustees hereinafter provided for, with which they shall, as soon as possible, purchase books and other necessary articles, provide a room, and do all necessary things for the establishment and continuance of the library herein provided for; and that the following articles shall govern in the erection and maintenance of said library.

ARTICLE 1. The government of said library shall be in a board of trustees, which shall consist of the superintending school committee of the town and two other persons, who shall be elected by the town; and, in default of election by the town, shall be appointed by the selectmen; and when any vacancy shall occur in said board between annual town-meetings, it shall be filled by appointment by the selectmen.

ARTICLE 3. The trustees shall be elected for one year.

The first board of trustees consisted of Moses Proctor, William Ramsdell, J. D. Tilton, T. L. Livermore, C. S. Averill. William Ramsdell was president, and Thomas L. Livermore secretary and treasurer.

The board made a report to the town at the annual meeting held March, 1869.

At the annual meeting of the town, held March, 1871, the resolves and articles establishing the library were amended to read as follows:

The government of said library shall be in a board of nine trustees, who shall be elected by the town, -three of whom shall be elected for one year, three for two years, and three for three years; and annually hereafter three shall be elected for three years, and in default of election by the town, shall be appointed by the selectmen; and when any vacancy shall occur in said board between annual town-meetings, it shall be filled by appointment by the selectmen.

In connection with the report of the trustees made to the town in 1881, the following sketch of library organizations in town preceding the present was published:

The town was incorporated, January 11, 1794, and in the course of the second year thereafter, viz., June 1, 1796, there was an association formed under the style of "The Milford Social Library Proprietors." The meeting for organization was held at the house of Jotham Shepard, when it was agreed that the price of rights should be two dollars; that each associate should own at least one right, and that the money derived from the sale of rights should be devoted to the purchase of books. Assessments were voted from time to time, the interest in the institution increased, and June 12, 1801, it was incorporated, by an act of the general court, under the name of "The Social Library Association in Milford," Augustus Blanchard, Joshua Moar, James Wallace, Robert Campbell, and Amos Blanchard being the corporators named. Amos Blanchard was authorized to call the first meeting of the proprietors. The library was kept for many years at the house of Jonathan Buxton, Sr., and subsequently at the house of Caleb Turner. The organization continued upwards of thirty-five years, during which period many of the original proprietors had deceased, and the books having become old and worn, it was voted to dispose of them at auction, and dissolve the corporation. The town was without a public library till March, 1841, when school district No. 1 voted "that one hundred dollars be laid out in books for the use of the district," and Humphrey Moore, Solomon K. Livermore, and Daniel Putnam were chosen a committee to carry the vote into effect. In the course of the year the books were purchased, rules adopted, Daniel Russell chosen librarian, and the library apparently put in good working order.

In 1842, a further sum of seventy-five dollars was appropriated for the increase of the library, and the year following the sum of ninety dollars was appropriated to the library, its privileges extended to the whole town upon condition that those living out of the district pay a small sum for the use of each volume taken out, and the purchasing committee were instructed not to buy any strictly sectarian books. The library continued to receive appropriations from time to time till 1853, when the district was divided. Its decay then commenced. It, however, lingered till 1860, when the books were sold at auction, it having been in existence nineteen years. The year following that in which the district library was sold, the subject of establishing an agricultural library was agitated, and January, 1862, an organization was perfected. In 1869 the proprietors generously gave it to the town that it might be merged in the present library. In 1864 several ladies established a library, and the association was called "The Ladies' Library Association." When the free library was established, it was closed, and the very valuable collection was divided among the proprietors. In addition to the libraries mentioned, there has been a Sabbath-school library connected with the oldest religious society upwards of forty years, and with the next in age more than a quarter of a century. The value of the sunshine and the rain cannot be computed, neither can the influence of a well-regulated library; and could the enterprise, the love of order, the industry, the individuality of character, the benevolence, and the public

spirit for which the town has ever been noted, be traced to their source, much that is worthy of emulation would undoubtedly be found to be due to the influence of her libraries.

At the annual town meeting in March, 1891, the town voted to erect a library building on the lot at the east end of the town house, and appropriated \$15,000 for that purpose. A committee, consisting of John McLane, Frank W. Richardson, and Ezra C. Towne, was chosen to take charge of the work. Tuesday evening, June 28, 1892, the building was formally dedicated. Frank W. Richardson, chairman of the board of library trustees, made an address of welcome at the dedicatory ceremonies, in which he congratulated the town upon the completion of liberal accommodations for the library, contrasting the present commodious quarters with the anteroom in the old town hall and the selectmen's room in the new town house, which for twenty-five years had served for library quarters.

Following a selection by the orchestra, Hon. John McLane, in behalf of the building committee, turned over the keys of the building to the chairman of the board of selectmen, Mr. L. B. Dow, speaking in well-chosen words of the work accomplished, and saying that the building had been completed for the amount originally appropriated.

Col. Thomas L. Livermore, who was to have delivered the principal address, was unable to do so, by reason of the pressure of unusually important business, and Hon. F. T. Greenhalge, of Lowell, afterwards governor of Massachusetts, at his request, performed this service in a most satisfactory manner.

The exercises closed with benediction by Rev. A. J. Rich.

With the completion of the new library building, a reading-room was established in connection with the library proper.

The late Ezra M. Gay, with liberal forethought, provided in his will a fund of five thousand dollars, the income of which is available for the increase of the library. It also has another fund of five hundred dollars, the gift of Miss Nancy Averill. The library now contains (February 15, 1899) six thousand, seven hundred and seventy-three volumes, classified according to the Dewey system.

The library is now open every week day from 9 a.m. to 12 m, from 2 to 5, and from 7 to 9 p.m., legal holidays excepted.

There have been ten librarians: John Crosby, James M. Blanchard, Emeline Comstock, Appleton M. Hatch, George F. Burns, George E. Hatch, Albert A. Cochran, Elgin J. Burns, Nellie Cochran, Rebecca F. Doane, the present efficient incumbent.

The present board of trustees is made up as follows: William B. Rotch, W. F. French, Mrs. F. E. Kaley, A. J. Hutchinson, C.S. Emerson, Mrs. E. I. Kendall, Mrs. D. S. Dearborn, Mrs. A. W. Smith, J. E. Webster, G. A. Worcester, Caroline K. Fuller, Arthur L. Keyes; W. F. French, president; J. E. Webster, treasurer; Arthur L. Keyes, secretary. The library has proved all that its promoters anticipated for it, a powerful educational force.

#### THE NEW TOWN HOUSE

The corner stone of the new town house was laid with Masonic ceremonies July 3, 1869. The address was delivered by Hon. Charles H. Burns, a native of the town. William Ramsdell, Clinton S. Averill, and Robert R. Howison were the building committee. The cost of the town house exceeded \$55,000.

At the head of the first staircase, facing the entrance, is an elaborate and beautifully carved black walnut tablet case, five feet in height and eight long. The tablets are five in number, and on the die of one is this inscription:

THE  
TOWN OF MILFORD  
HAS CAUSED  
TO BE INSCRIBED UPON  
THESE TABLETS  
THE NAMES OF THOSE

WHO FELL  
REPRESENTING HER  
IN DEFENCE OF THE UNION  
IN THE WAR OF  
THE REBELLION OF 1861-1865.  
DEDICATED APRIL 27,  
1870.

On the other four are inscribed the names of Milford's heroic dead, fifty-three in number. It is a beautiful and eloquent memorial, and does honor to the heads and hearts of the citizens of the town.

The ceremony of delivering the keys was performed by the chairman of the building committee. After committing the building as a whole to the custody of the selectmen of the town, he closed as follows:

But, Mr. Chairman, there is another and a more sacred trust committed to you within the walls of this building than that to which I have alluded. We have caused to be inscribed upon the imperishable marble the names of fifty-three of our citizens who, at their country's call, laid down their lives in its defence, and when memory lifts the veil from those dark days in our country's history, and we see rising in the dim distance those sacrificial mounds, Gettysburg, Antietam, Bull Run, Malvern Hill, Fort Donelson, and Port Hudson, we may point to these tablets and say this one or that one of our citizens fell there. Guard then, with jealous care, this tribute to their memory erected by their fellow-citizens, and when, from year to year, as time rolls on, their relatives, friends, and surviving companions in arms, in grateful remembrance, entwine these tablets with the laurel and the cypress, their memory and their heroic deeds shall be transmitted from generation to generation.

The keys were received by William R. Wallace, chairman of the board of selectmen.

The oration was then delivered by George A. Ramsdell of Nashua, a native of the town. The address occupied an hour in its delivery and gave a history of the old town house, closing with some thoughtful suggestions as to what the town house had stood for and still stands for in free America.

The venerable Humphrey Moore occupied a seat upon the platform, having reached the great age of 98 years, and was alluded to as the only living person who had reached man's estate at the time of his ordination, which was in fact the dedication of the old town house in 1802.

As Dr. Moore entered and took his seat the entire audience rose and greeted him with prolonged cheers.

A poem of unusual merit and full of local allusions was read by its author, Capt. John M. Stanyan, a veteran of the Civil War.

An appropriate and eloquent address commemorative of the soldiers whose names are inscribed upon the tablets was delivered on behalf of Post Lull, G. A. R., by Col. Thomas L. Livermore. He was followed by Rev. F. D. Ayer of Concord, Rev. D. E. Adams of Wilton, and John L. Spring, Esq., of Lebanon, who made brief, stirring, and appropriate addresses.

At this point the speaking was relieved by the singing of an admirable dedication ode, written for the occasion by J. W. Pillsbury.

Letters were read from Rev. J. G. Davis, D. D., of Amherst, and Rev. Dr. J. G. Foster of Beverly, Mass.

Hon. Charles H. Burns closed the speaking with one of his happiest efforts.

After music by the band, the benediction was pronounced by the venerable Dr. Moore in the following words:

My friends, may the Lord bless you and cause his face to shine upon you, and when you are removed from earth may you be introduced into that hall above, where you may be blessed forevermore.

After the service of a bountiful dinner the president of the day introduced Albert E. Pillsbury, a native of the town, but little past his majority, as toastmaster. His administration of the position gave abundant promise of his future distinction as a speaker.

Letters were read from John W., Asa B. Hutchinson, and others. Responses to toasts were made by Timothy Kaley, J. B. Moulton, Clinton S. Averill, Miss Adeline Crosby, and by Dana W. King and Israel Hunt of Nashua.

The festivities of this notable occasion were concluded by a grand ball, held in the new town hall, in the evening, which was largely attended by the beauty and chivalry of Milford and its neighboring towns and cities. The best of music was furnished by Hall's band of Boston. The spacious gallery was crowded with spectators, and the balcony galleries by invited guests. The scene was one of unusual gaiety and brilliance.

#### THE FITCHBURG RAILROAD.

The opening of a railroad to a town is always an event to be celebrated. The opening of the second railroad connecting Milford with the outside world was an occasion of much interest, not only to those who were citizens of the town at the time of the opening, but to the older citizens who remember the controversy attending the location of the depot at the time the Wilton railroad was constructed to Milford in 1850. At that time probably a majority of the people of the town were in favor of placing the depot upon the east side of the pond very near the site of the present Fitchburg depot. But the fact that it was not then certain that the road would be extended to the West and that the business from a large section of country in that direction must be provided for in connection with the Milford depot, turned the scale in favor of its location on the west side of the brook.

In view of this protracted struggle, a struggle which could only be settled in favor of one party, the citizens of the town without exception hailed with delight the coming of a second railroad and the location of a depot at a point where half, and probably a majority, of the people of the town had desired it fifty years before.

The formal opening of the road from Brookline to Milford occurred on Thursday, November 15, 1894. The industries of the town were virtually suspended, and neither the accustomed ringing of the factory bell nor the chorus of steam whistles greeted the ears of the town's people that morning. The busy whirl of industry was silent, for it was known that the culminating events consequent upon the establishment of a new line of railroad communication were to be celebrated. At ten in the forenoon, under the direction of Chief Winslow of the fire department and his efficient associates, Marvel and Brahaney, the department with its apparatus was marshaled on the square and, headed by the Milford cornet band, preceded by a platoon of police, proceeded down South street to the station of the Milford and Brookline railroad. The station was open to the public, who availed themselves of the opportunity of inspecting it throughout, and no little praise was bestowed upon the commodious and artistic structure.

At a little before the time of arrival, the whistle of the regular train from Brookline was heard, and a minute later the first regular passenger train rolled in at the station, after which the special from Boston moved up, bearing the invited guests from points along the line. The arrival of the trains was the signal for such demonstrations as seemed fitting to the occasion, and amid the boom of cannon, stirring music by the band, the throng that had gathered were welcomed to the town and these events served to demonstrate the fact that the last rail had been laid, the last spike had been driven, and that Milford now in possession of another outlet to the outside world. The company included probably the most notable gathering of distinguished men that Milford has ever had the honor of entertaining upon any occasion. The town itself, in the person of Hon. John McLane, furnished the president of the state senate. The entire state delegation in both houses of congress were present. Several of the most distinguished citizens of Massachusetts, and an unusually large number of prominent New Hampshire men were in town for the day.

The procession was reformed and with the addition of the invited guests, many of them in carriages, the columns moved directly to the town house, where the visiting friends were given a reception.

At twelve o'clock it was announced that the banquet was in readiness in the town hall where some four hundred covers were laid. The chairs were soon filled and as good a dinner as was ever served in Milford, was for an hour heartily discussed and much enjoyed everybody present. Rev. H. P. Peck invoked the divine blessing.

After ample justice had been done the banquet, the assemblage was called to order by Henry H. Barber, president of the board of trade, who welcomed the visitors in a most felicitous manner. He was followed by Hon. John McLane, Senator William E. Chandler, Senator Jacob H. Gallinger, Congressman Henry W. Blair, Congressman Henry M. Baker, Hon. Albert E. Pillsbury of Boston, Col. Daniel Needham of Groton, Mass., Hon. Henry B. Quinby of Laconia, Hon. Franklin Worcester of Hollis, a leading promoter of the enterprise, and others, in remarks congratulating the town upon the completion of the road. The speakers all referred to the probable extension of the road to Manchester, and of the advantages to accrue to the town from such connection. At the January, 1899, session of the legislature a charter was obtained authorizing the building of this connecting link, and at the present time (June, 1899) this connection seems to be an assured fact.

#### MILFORD WATER-WORKS COMPANY.

At the June session of the legislature, 1887, C. S. Averill and twelve others were "made a body politic and corporate by the name of the Milford Water-Works Company." -See c. 273, Laws 1887.

The charter passed through the hands of several parties, and at last was bought by John T. Langford of Boston, who made a satisfactory contract with the town of Milford, and built the works in 1889.

On the 17th day of September, 1890, at a special town meeting, C. S. Averill introduced the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the town purchase the plant and franchise of the Milford Water-Works Company at cost, in accordance with the right given the town in its contract with said water company. Yes, 374; no, 36.

October 1, 1890, the town bought the water-works for \$62,562.01.

Charter amended in 1891. -See c. 185, Laws 1891.

Water-works were run by the selectmen until the annual town-meeting held March 10, 1891, when by vote of the town they were placed under the direction and control of three commissioners. Brooks R. Came, Fred W. Sawyer, and Frank W. Sargent were appointed commissioners.

Charles L. Wilkins was appointed in place of Frank W. Sargent, whose term expired in 1895. F. W. Sawyer resigned in December, 1895, and John Hadlock was appointed in his place. These gentlemen have had charge of the water-works until March, 1899, when at the annual town-meeting a new vote was passed and six commissioners were appointed, viz.: John McLane and Arthur L. Keyes for three years, H. H. Barber and F. E. Kaley for two years, and Charles L. Wilkins and Carl E. Knight for one year.

The first annual report of the commissioners, in March, 1892, shows that in March, 1891, when they took charge of the works, there were 6.02 miles of mains, 170 services, and 43 hydrants, and that 20,354,000 gallons of water were consumed during the year.

The report of 1899 shows 469 services and 59 hydrants, and that 35,115,005 gallons of water were consumed. Total length of mains, 9.27 miles.

The largest demand is made on the works during the months of June, July, and August. The supply is from wells, situated on the westerly side of the highway leading to Federal hill.

There is a fine pumping station, equipped with two Davidson pumps having a daily capacity of 648,000 gallons each, which force the water to a standpipe on Gilson hill, giving a pressure of about 90 pounds. The capacity of the standpipe is about 55,000 gallons.

THE MILFORD HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY.

This society, which has already demonstrated its right to a place among the institutions of the town, was organized January 15th, 1895. Its name intimates the general purposes of the society. It has already commenced, in a substantial way, the collection of material which otherwise would pass out of the memory of the present generation.

The officers of the society (1899) are: Christopher C. Sham, president; John E. Foster, vice-president; Geo. A. Worcester, secretary; Rev. A. M. Pendleton, historian; Rev. Frank L. Knapp, auditor.

The society, during the first year of its existence, held an intensely interesting field day meeting, dedicating a memorial stone. The report of the proceedings of the day attracted the attention not only of citizens of New Hampshire, but also of Massachusetts, and well deserves a place in this connection.

#### DEDICATION OF A MEMORIAL STONE.

The Milford Historical and Genealogical Society, on the 21st day of August, 1895, dedicated a memorial stone at Jones's crossing, near the highway leading from Milford to Wilton, under the brow of Dram-cup hill and near the bank of Souhegan river. This stone, in order that it may attract attention, has been placed a few rods south of the original bound on the bank of the river at the northwest corner of the ancient town of Dunstable and the northwest corner of the Charlestown school farm, so called. It also marks the northwest corner of the dismembered town of Monson, which had a corporate existence from 1746 to 1770.

The Charlestown school farm was a tract of valuable land containing about 1,100 acres, and extended down the river from this monument to the west line of the farm now owned by Matthias F. Crosby. Its width varied in different places depending upon the winding direction of the current of the river. This tract was given by the state of Massachusetts (which exercised jurisdiction over this section until 1741) to the town of Charlestown, Massachusetts, for the support of schools. The town held this valuable tract without income until the year 1745, when Benjamin Hopkins, then of Billerica, purchased the grant for a nominal sum per acre and settled upon it.

The Charlestown school farm grant antedated the grant of the town of Dunstable, and the monumental stones recently uncovered on the bank of the river two hundred and three feet north of the monument, were undoubtedly placed there by Jonathan Danforth, the surveyor who laid out the Charlestown school farm forty years after the landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth Rock. This was Danforth's first visit. It is not improbable that he was the first white man to look upon this spot. Dram-cup hill then had no name. Danforth, in his return to the general court of Massachusetts, speaks of it as "a great hill."

Fourteen years go by and again Jonathan Danforth is here; this time with a weightier commission in his pocket. He had been commissioned by the commonwealth of Massachusetts, which had made the grant the year before, to lay out the grand old town of Dunstable.

Danforth was commissioned, among other things, to see that all of the Souhegan farms on the south side of the river were included in the grant of Dunstable, and he determined to make the northwest corner of the farm the like corner of the town he was commissioned to lay out. The west line of the Charlestown school farm was not a due north and south line, but bore considerably to the east after leaving its northwest boundary. Danforth, in order to make sure that the entire grant of the Charlestown school farm should be included in Dunstable, decided when at the northwest boundary of the farm, which he marked as the northwest corner of the town of Dunstable, to make a bold push by a clue south course to Groton line.

Danforth, upon his second visit, found the same "great hill" which he had fixed upon as a nameless monument fourteen years before, but something had happened during this interval which had given the hill a name, and in his return to the state of Massachusetts in the laying out of old Dunstable, he speaks of it as "a hill called Dram-cup hill." What was the origin of the name? It certainly is not from an Indian source; and we shall never know how it came to be thus called; history is silent, and tradition gives us no information. I have met the word in some connections where it was spelled cap for cup, and reading "Dram-cap hill;" but whatever its origin, the hill, by the name of Dram-cup hill, will be remembered until everything connected with the renowned name of Dunstable perishes from the minds of men.

The dedication was had upon a beautiful summer day, and the exercises were held under the trees in the yard of William Jones, where at least three hundred people were present.

Christopher C. Shaw, president of the society, and a descendant of several of the early prominent settlers of the town, presided, and welcomed the assembled company, alluding to events connected with the history of this section.

Deacon John E. Foster, chairman of the memorial committee, gave an account of the proceedings leading up to the erection of the monument by the society. His address also contained much valuable information as to the history of Dunstable, and he spoke as follows of the recent finding of the old boundary stones on the banks of the Souhegan river:

For very many years it was supposed that the stones that marked this historic corner had been removed by some utilitarian as incumbrances to cultivation, but we are happy to declare to-day that the identical stones placed in position by unknown hands two and a quarter centuries ago, are still near the memorial bound planted by the Milford Historical and Genealogical Society. The ceaseless flow of the Souhegan has not disturbed them, and to-day we hope and trust they will remain to mark this historic spot till the angel shall stand upon the sea and upon the land and declare that time was, and time is, but time shall be no more.

Hon. George A. Ramsdell, the town historian, delivered the more formal address of the day. This address, with an account of the proceedings of the day, was published in full in the *Farmer's Cabinet* in the issue of August 22, 1895. After the address remarks were made by Rev. A. M. Pendleton, Dana W. King, and Virgil C. Gilman of Nashua, and A. E. Brown of Bedford, Massachusetts.

The memorial stone stands upon land donated to the society by Daniel W. Burns, a worthy descendant of the early settler, John Burns, and by purchase the society has title to a small plot of ground upon the bank of the river enclosing the original bound.