

shoulders, as you are a painter you might have given me a few cents to sit for my picture, but you would not have taken any notes for biography. I have written upon a large sheet, and compactly, hoping to have plenty of room, but I might add so much more.

Yours truly, .

“FRANCIS ALEXANDER.”

[Mr. Alexander married Lucia Gray, only daughter of Colonel Samuel Swett, of Boston. Her mother was a daughter of William Gray. See N. E. Hist. & Gen. Register, Vol. 21, [1867] p. 374. Francis Alexander died in Florence, Italy, March 27, 1880. Miss Larned, in her History of Windham County, Connecticut, [Vol. 2, pp. 542-3] speaks of him.]

The meeting was then adjourned.

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## ANNUAL FIELD DAY.

The Worcester Society of Antiquity observed its ninth annual Field Day on Saturday, June 11th, by visiting Princeton and Wachusett Mountain. Members and their guests left Worcester at 8.15 and arrived at Princeton station at 9 A. M. Taking barges the party arrived at Princeton center at 10 o'clock, passing on the route the oldest house in town, which claims the age of more than one hundred years, the Methodist or Goodnow village, and the Boylston burying ground.

As the procession of carriages reached the green at the center the bell in the Goodnow Memorial Building rang out a merry peal of welcome, and the party alighted to inspect the fine library building and the neighboring town hall, both of which testify well to Mr. E. A. Goodnow's regard for his native town. The objects of interest in and about these buildings were explained to the visitors by Messrs. Francis E. Blake and John Brooks of the Field Day committee, and John A. Dana, Esq., natives of the town.

The members of the party gathered in the library room of the Memorial Building, where Mr. Blake, the chairman of the committee, referred briefly to Mr. Goodnow's gift to the town in well received remarks. After inspecting the pictures, cabinet of natural curiosities, books and other objects, the visitors registered their names at the request of the librarian, Miss S. A. Davis, who, with her assistant, Miss L. N. Davis, was present. Mr. Goodnow, the donor, received many congratulations on the occasion for his well directed liberality to the town of his birth, and the excellent taste and beauty with which everything about these two model structures was arranged. The library now contains about 2100 volumes.

The excursionists then proceeded to the mountain, passing over Meeting House hill, where the first two meeting houses were located, opposite the oldest burying ground. The first house of worship was erected here in 1762, and the second one on the same site in 1795. The third structure of this old society was erected in 1838 on the center of the common, but was removed to its present location, fronting the east side of the common, after the old town hall, called Boylston Hall, was burnt, and before the present elegant town hall was built.

On reaching the Mountain House at the foot of Wachusett, a portion of the party left the barges, and proceeded on foot to the summit, the remainder following the roadway in the carriages. At the top of the mountain the visitors were given a cordial welcome by landlord G. H. Derby of the Summit House, and all made themselves happy for an hour in his broad piazzas and on the grounds around the hotel, in viewing the magnificent landscape presented to view on all sides, and which can only be seen to the best advantage on a clear, cool day, such as they were then enjoying.

At 1 o'clock came the welcome sound of the dinner bell, and all were ushered into the spacious dining hall. The following gentlemen were seated at the tables :

Francis E. Blake of Boston, President E. B. Crane, Stephen Salisbury, Hon. Amos Perry of Rhode Island, E. M. Barton, S. S.

Green, Prof. H. T. Fuller, S. E. Staples, John Brooks of Princeton, T. A. Dickinson, John A. Dana, Albert Tolman, E. A. Goodnow, R. N. Meriam, Rev. A. L. Love of Princeton, Rev. S. D. Hosmer of Auburn, C. G. Wood, H. M. Smith, C. C. Denny of Leicester, Israel Plummer of Northbridge, E. M. Wood, Daniel Seagrave, Alfred Waites, E. I. Comins, J. Lord, W. L. Clark, George Sumner, J. A. Smith, L. L. Pollard, Dr. F. C. Jillson of Sterling, Caleb A. Wall, J. A. Howland, Dr. W. E. Brown of Gilbertville, F. P. Rice, Ledyard Bill of Paxton, J. L. Estey, G. Estey, H. J. Wood, J. A. Farley, Gen. A. B. R. Sprague, H. W. Hubbard, A. S. Roe, A. K. Gould, J. C. Otis, E. Tucker, George Maynard, Hon. Velorous Taft of West Upton, B. A. Leonard and H. M. Fisk of Southbridge, H. H. Chamberlin, R. O'Flynn, W. F. Abbot, A. E. Peck, M. E. Barrows, H. A. Denny, F. G. Stiles, A. Stone, H. Wesby, H. A. Phillips, J. D. Chollar, W. H. Clark of Paxton, J. D. Gregory of Princeton, E. W. Shumway.

Chairman F. E. Blake of the Field Day committee of arrangements, presided at the tables, and the divine blessing was asked by Rev. A. L. Love of the Princeton Congregational Church, after which due attention was paid to the excellent dinner. This done, at 2.30 Chairman Blake called to order and bade the visitors welcome to his native town. He first called on President E. B. Crane of the Society, who spoke of the object and mission of this body, now in the twelfth year of its existence, the present being its ninth annual excursion, made, in connection with other work, to promote and perpetuate an interest in local history and gather additional facts.

A letter was read from Senator George F. Hoar, regretting his inability to be present, as he had intended, his absence being compelled on account of his attendance at the funeral of George Draper at Hopedale.

Stephen Salisbury, Esq., Vice-President of the American Antiquarian Society, was introduced to speak for that organization in the absence of its President, Senator Hoar. Mr. Salisbury spoke of the interest which the older society had always taken in the progress and welfare of the younger organization, commend-

ing the good work being done by it in the preservation of the records of local history by such excursions as these, and in other ways.

Hon. Amos Perry, Librarian of the Rhode Island Historical Society, said it was an occasion of great interest to him. The society he represented had existed for sixty-five years, but had accomplished no more in that time than The Worcester Society of Antiquity had in twelve years. The Society deserved the highest praise for its enterprise, energy and industry, and its publications had gained for it an enviable reputation. Continuing, he said: "I am personally interested in Princeton because my mother's half-brother, Captain John Jones, raised a company here and in the borders of the neighboring towns in 1775, and tried to reach Lexington and Concord, but did not. He and his men, however, were at the battle of Bunker Hill, at the siege of Boston for a time, and then marched to Quebec in Colonel Doolittle's command under Montgomery. Captain Jones died at Crown Point on the return from Canada."

John A. Dana, Esq., spoke facetiously, introducing several apt quotations from the "dead" languages, with subtle allusions to those nearest him at the table.

Librarian Samuel S. Green of Worcester, said the last speaker was proud that he was a graduate of Yale, and it seemed almost a pity that he hadn't a Yale lock on his mouth. Mr. Green gave some facts about his ancestor, General Timothy Ruggles, and said his character had been misunderstood. His daughter, Mrs. Spooner, who was executed with others for the murder of her husband, was undoubtedly insane.

Remarks followed by Hon. Velorous Taft, Albert Tolman, Esq., Prof. H. T. Fuller, Librarian E. M. Barton of the American Antiquarian Society, Sheriff A. B. R. Sprague, and Samuel E. Staples, Esq., the first President of the Society of Antiquity. The latter made appropriate reference to the late Solon Wilder, a native of Princeton, and prominent as a musical composer and leader. Mr. Barton in his remarks referred to the attempt made sixty years

ago to change the name of Wachusett to Mount Adams, in honor of J. Q. Adams, then President of the United States, and presented to the Society three letters on the subject published in the papers at the time.

After dinner a short time was afforded for the further enjoyment of the prospect, and then the party reentered the carriages, and made their way down the mountain to Wachusett Lake. This ride was very enjoyable, and the view was surpassing.

Following round the lake Redemption Rock was reached at 5 o'clock. The inscription placed here by the Hon. George F. Hoar, tells the story of the spot: "Upon this rock, May 2d, 1676, was made the agreement for the ransom of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson of Lancaster, between the Indians and John Hoar of Concord. King Phillip was with the Indians but refused his consent."

At this place Mr. J. T. Everett of Princeton was presented to the party, and spoke interestingly of the rock and its associations. The neighborhood was one of the spots most frequented by the Indians in this locality. He ploughed up the skeleton of an Indian in his orchard forty years ago, buried in a sitting position. In an adjoining meadow, a short distance from the rock, was committed the first murder in this part of the county. Samuel Frost killed his father, but was acquitted on the ground of partial insanity. He afterwards killed Captain Allen and was hung. In another field near by the Keyes child was murdered by a man named Littlejohn. Mr. Everett related other incidents which make the place historic. The party and the rock were photographed by Mr. A. S. Roe and others.

From here the party took the route to the center of the town, passing many old residences recalling the names of Mirick, Osgood, Beaman, Merriam, Howe, Russell and others; and Mr. John Brooks's "Hillside Farm" was reached at 6 o'clock. Here an ample collation was served on the lawn, to which full justice was rendered. The lateness of the hour prevented an inspection

of Mr. Brooks's farm and stock, so widely known, and a visit to the (Ward Nicholas) Boylston estate.

From Mr. Brooks's the party rode to the railroad station, and at 7 o'clock took the cars for Worcester, with cheers for the Committee of Arrangements, and hearty expressions of pleasure at the success of the trip. In fact it was conceded to have been one of the most delightful excursions the Society has made.

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Regular meeting, Tuesday evening, July 5th.

Present: Messrs. Crane, C. Jillson, Dickinson, Meriam, F. P. Rice, Hubbard, Wall, Otis, Seagrave, W. A. Smith, G. Maynard, Barton, Stedman, C. E. Simmons, C. G. Wood, A. F. Simmons, Perkins, Estey, J. A. Smith, and one visitor.—20

Franklin P. Rice was chosen Secretary *pro tem.*

Rev. S. D. Hosmer of Auburn, and H. A. Phillips and E. J. Rockwood of Worcester, were admitted as active members of the Society.

The Librarian reported 228 gifts from 31 donors.

The President called the attention of the members to No. XXV. of the Society's publications,—“The Abolitionists Vindicated,” by Oliver Johnson—just issued. He said that both parties in this controversy concerning the character and influence of the Garrisonians, had been fully and fairly heard, and